The Ravenswood Interchange has opened to traffic, giving drivers on the Calder Highway safer and less congested drive south of Bendigo.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Michael McCormack said the $86 million Ravenswood Interchange project would benefit freight operators and motorists alike.

“This important upgrade will improve the efficiency and safety for motorists travelling between Mildura and Melbourne, allowing vehicles to continue through the interchange safely without stopping,” Mr McCormack said.

Design plans for the new interchange were first released in August 2014 and the works started in 2015 and completed within the expected time frame.

Victorian Minister for Roads, Road Safety and Ports Luke Donnellan said the project had delivered a grade-separated interchange at the intersection of the Calder Highway and Calder Alternative Highway and two new freeway carriageways from Bullock Creek to Ravenswood Creek.

“The project widened existing bridges and culverts, constructed new service roads and removed various uncontrolled at-grade intersections, vastly improving safety at what was previously a challenging junction,” Mr Donnellan said.

Victorian Member for Bendigo East Jacinta Allan said the new circular design will cater for an expected 60% increase in traffic across the nearby road network over the next 30 years.

“This innovative design is a Victorian first, boosting safety for drivers and ensuring the interchange meets our community’s needs now and into the future,” Ms Allan said.

Victorian Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards said the project complemented the nearby upgrade of the existing Jock Comini Rest Area.

“This is fantastic news for drivers and industry across central Victoria, by providing a safer, less congested and more efficient connection for the whole community,” Ms Edwards said.

The interchange, located 16km south of Bendigo, forms part of a vital connection linking many regional centres across Victoria’s north.

The Australian Government committed $45 million and the Victorian Government a further $41 million to fund the Calder Highway – Ravenswood Interchange project.

With major works now completed, some ongoing minor works, including landscaping, will continue on-site until mid-2018.
Support your local businesses because... FlatMatters

Editorial

Welcome to our APRIL 2018 edition

The Kangaroo Flat Community Enterprise is proud to bring you our 104th edition of FLAT MATTERS.

The story of the month has been the long awaited closure of the old swimming pool at Dower Park.

It was pleasing to see so many councillors and council staff in attendance at the LAST HURRAH held on the 17th March.

The community was invited to come along for one last dip and they turned up in their hundreds.

There were no placards, demonstrators and no sign of traditionalists wanting the pool to stay open.

It was just a great mood amongst residents that the local pool had reached it's retirement time and the day was about reflection of a bygone era.

The LAST HURRAH also gave many former swimming club members the opportunity to see some of the old photos still gracing the walls of the tin shed that were once their clubrooms.

The mood was about remembering the past, and focus towards the future, with the local swimming club set to be rejuvenated when the new Aquatic Centre opens in August.

In closing, we at FLAT MATTERS would like to thank the many sponsors and community organisations that contribute to our “new look” community newsletter FLAT MATTERS which is distributed in the Kangaroo Flat, Golden Square, Maiden Gully, Marong, Lockwood, and Big Hill region.

For news stories and advertising details email us at a.besley@bigpond.net.au

FAMILY TRADITION CONTINUES

A new look salon and a change in ownership signals a new era for Cut & Color Express in Lansell Square at Kangaroo Flat.

Original owner of the shop Dot Lynch started the salon under the name of Cutting Express back in August 2004.

Now Dot says it is time to hand over the business to her daughter Bianca Coutanche and the duo were on hand to see the doors open late in March under the new name of Cut & Color Express.

The phone contact number is still the same...54 477 888

New owner Bianca says she is really pleased with the new fit out of the salon.

“It was great that staff members were able to provide valuable input into the design of this new salon. It was important to have the thoughts of our key staff in the layout and design as they are the ones with the experience and then we had great trades people from CTB Davis Constructions in completing the fit out.

Customers will be really pleased with the new look salon that we have provided.”

Bianca says the salon will have eleven staff and is operating seven days a week at the Lansell Square Shopping Centre.

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GOLDEN SQUARE DEVELOPMENT

Plans have been revealed for a resort style accommodation village in Golden Square.

The yet to be approved plans show the lifestyle village on the old caravan park site which covers an area of four hectares.

A clubhouse with bar, pool room, library, lounge, gym, sauna and steam room a lap pool, outdoor area and bocce court.

The plans say long and short term accommodation will be available.

The proposed development will be on the site which was previously used as a caravan park which had over 90 residents.
COUNCIL CALLS FOR GREATER AUTONOMY

Greater Bendigo City Council’s submission to the Local Government Act Exposure Draft Bill supports the recognition of councils as a distinct tier of government, but argues for less prescriptive regulation and greater autonomy.

Council supports three overriding objectives for the new act, which are:

• Victorians will better understand and value the role of councils as democratically elected bodies.

• Councils will drive reform across the state by being more autonomous and outcome-oriented.

• The Act will be a living document that tells people clearly what councils do and how to get involved.

However, Council’s submission states that “it is the right of democratically elected bodies to make decisions suitable for, and answerable to, the community that elects it, with state intervention limited to extreme circumstances”.

Mayor Cr Margaret O’Rourke said Council supported the principles of increased efficiency, transparency and community engagement.

“People need to understand that the State Government is trying to do more with less,” Cr O’Rourke said.

“Greater Bendigo City Council is committed to providing high level of service to our community when it comes to planning and governance. The amount of waste diverted from landfill saw a big increase, which is mainly due to the introduction of kerbside organics waste collection service. Our time taken to decide planning applications is better than average and the percentage of Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT was also higher than average, which shows we are providing a high level of service to our community when it comes to planning. Our performance shows improvement and is consistent with last year’s results, which means we are providing sustainable, high quality services that represent good value to residents.”

To access the results, go to www.knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au.

FIRST BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

Greater Bendigo has become the first community in Australia to become a Bicycle Friendly Community, accredited by CycleLifeHQ.

Bendigo’s silver accreditation recognises Bendigo’s community engagement and bicycle education, the inclusion of bicycle facilities as part of road infrastructure projects, maintenance of off-road cycling facilities and the integration of bicycle planning with community facilities.

The Bicycle Friendly Community accreditation program has been run in the United States for more than two decades by the League of American Bicyclists, with more than 430 Bicycle Friendly Communities recognised in the US. Canberra cycle tourism business CycleLifeHQ is responsible for Bicycle Friendly certification in Australia and New Zealand.

City Regional Sustainable Development Manager Trevor Budge said recognition as a Bicycle Friendly Community was fantastic news for Greater Bendigo.

“The City aspires to lead the way as Australia’s regional cycling capital, and we have had our vision honoured with our silver award status. The City has worked hard in recent years through the development of the Connecting Greater Bendigo: Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy (ITLUS), creating shared walking and cycling paths and providing bike parking facilities.

We have created a number of bike underpasses to link our suburbs together with off road bike paths as well as constructing the O’Keefe Rail Trail to Heathcote in the last few years.”

PUBLIC SPACE PLAN

Greater Bendigo City Council has released the draft Greater Bendigo Public Space Plan for community comment.

The plan guides the planning, design and management of Greater Bendigo’s public spaces, covering everything from parks to streets and creek corridors.

Some of the main actions outlined in the plan include:

• Create a network of shared paths to connect parks, streets, creek lines and rail lines

• Make more pedestrian-friendly town centres

• Plan a recycled water network to support irrigation and water use in public spaces

• Build walkable neighbourhoods with wider and better connected footpaths, pedestrian only or shared zones and safer street crossings

• Increase shade by improving tree cover and adding more verandahs and awnings to buildings

• Balance public space investment across communities including purchasing strategic sites for community spaces

Director Strategy and Growth Bernie O’Sullivan said the plan set out a clear vision for Greater Bendigo’s public spaces.

“This plan has been created with the help of our community and other agencies, and provides high level actions to improve our public spaces in the short and long term,” Mr O’Sullivan said.

“There is a lot in this plan; something for everyone and every community.

“We are keen to hear the community’s input and encourage people to have a look at the plan and let us know what they think.”

The plan will be open for public comment until Friday May 4, 2018. To view the plan, go to www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/publicspaceplan

A series of listening posts will be held throughout April. For dates, please go to the website.
**END OF AN ERA**

It was billed as the last hurrah and hundreds of locals turned out for the last day of use of the iconic Kangaroo Flat Pool located in the Dower Park Recreation Reserve.

Mayor Margaret O'Rourke spoke to the gathering about the importance of having a local pool and acknowledged that the pool had served its purpose for many generations.

President of the Kangaroo Flat Swimming Club Mick Mulqueen told those in attendance of the work being done to rejuvenate the local swimming club as it prepares to move in to the state of the art Aquatic and Wellbeing Centre now under construction in Browning Street Kangaroo Flat.

President of the Kangaroo Flat Community Enterprise Jack Lyons advised residents how they can be involved in the local $1 million fundraising drive and to make a donation through any branch of the Bendigo Bank. The Enterprise has been the driving force behind the establishment of the new Aquatic and Wellbeing Centre which was first mooted with the establishment of the Kangaroo Flat Community Plan back in 2009. or online at www.bendigoeasterfestival.org.au

**NEW POOL READY IN AUGUST**

Our new state of the art Aquatic and Wellbeing Centre is set to open in August.

This is welcome news to the many people who fought so hard to secure this much needed facility in Kangaroo Flat.

The push to establish an aquatic and wellbeing centre began in 2009 following the release of the Kangaroo Flat Community Plan.

This plan was devised with the assistance of community groups like the Kangaroo Flat Community Enterprise, several local residents, service clubs and local school students.

Now the $31 million Gurri Wanyarra Wellbeing Centre is rapidly taking shape and it is the largest project ever undertaken by the City of Greater Bendigo.

In it's first year of operation business studies point towards more than 430,000 visits will take place at the centre in it's early years, given the rapid population growth forecasts for Bendigo and surrounding centres.

Our community is looking forward to seeing an amazing facility that will include a 50 metre FINA standard competition pool, hydrotherapy/warm water pool, sauna and spa, learn to swim pool, kids splash area, wellness centre, gymnasium, crèche and kiosk.

**BUSINESS CAN BACK POOL VENTURE**

As the Aquatic and Wellbeing Centre takes shape in Kangaroo Flat there are a number of ways in which the business sector can become involved in the project and along the way, assisting their employees to enjoy the facilities on offer.

The Kangaroo Flat Community Enterprise is leading the charge to raise $1 million locally towards the project and right now great promotional opportunities exist for local business organisations.

Council estimates that there will be over 400,000 visits to the new Kangaroo Flat Aquatic and Wellbeing Centre will occur on an annual basis once the pool is established in early 2018.

Just imagine having your business squarely in front of visitors and what additional revenue you can achieve from such a level of exposure.

As part of $1 million community donation towards the project we are keen to maximise the benefits to local businesses and the Kangaroo Flat Community Enterprise are currently working with the City of Greater Bendigo to develop a range of packages which can maximise the benefit to local businesses within our communities.

Now the main Aquatic centre building is up, it’s a prime time to participate in a guided tour of the facility and view the many possible spaces available that your company could support with your own advertising.

Naming areas in great locations within the building are available at the moment, but great interest is being shown by some local companies. You will need to be quick.

The best opportunities will exist for those who jump on board early and to that end we recommend that local businesses and corporate bodies wishing to be involved contact Jack Lyons on 0417 341 253 to arrange further discussion.
MAIDEN GULLY FIRE BRIGADE NEWS

By Andrew Howlett

Following last month’s recruiting drive, five new members have begun training with the Maiden Gully Brigade. Currently, they are learning about the vehicles and equipment housed at Maiden Gully before commencing a CFA recruit course in May.

The Brigade expects to have all five qualified by mid-June and becoming regular responders. Late last year, local MP Maree Edwards officially handed over the keys of a CFA Light Pumper to Brigade Captain David Mustey.

In describing the event, David Mustey says the Pumper fills a huge gap in the firefighting capability with regard to building fires.

“Our community is growing rapidly with two new sub-divisions underway, expansion at Marist College and the Maiden Gully Primary School along with the development at the Great Stupa. These structures and the homes of our residents will be better protected now we have this vehicle.”

The addition of the Light Pumper, means that Maiden Gully now has four firefighting vehicles for use in Maiden Gully and surrounding communities.

NEW EARLY YEARS CENTRE FOR ABORIGINAL FAMILIES

More Aboriginal children and their parents in Bendigo will get access to culturally responsive services and care thanks to an Andrews Labor Government funding boost for a new Early Years Centre.

Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards MP announced the Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-Operative would receive $800,000 through the Labor Government’s Regional Health Infrastructure Fund.

*Aboriginal people know what works best for Aboriginal people.

The Bendigo And District Aboriginal Co-Operative is leading the way in ensuring care and services are culturally safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal children. We are putting patients first and revamping our rural and regional health services so more patients can be treated closer to home.”

The $200 million fund – the largest of its kind in Victorian history – will rebuild rural and regional hospitals to ensure all Victorians can access the high quality care and facilities they need, no matter where they live.

The funding boost for Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-Operative will go towards building the second stage of the service’s $1.7 million state-of-the-art Early Years Centre.

This will include facilities to cater for 22 three-year-old kinder places and 66 four-year-old kinder places.

The new Early Years Centre will boost access to these holistic and integrated services that improve the health, wellbeing and safety of Aboriginal children, focusing on prevention and early intervention.

BENDIGO NORTHERN GROUP CWA KANGAROO FLAT BRANCH

Monthly Meetings are held at the Uniting Church, Church Street, Kangaroo Flat, 3rd Thursday of the month, 1.30pm and open for anyone to come along, have a ‘cuppa and a chat’ and see what we are doing in the community. Times may change for functions.

Kangaroo Flat Branch enquiries, Gwenda 54497781.

CWA of Victoria is celebrating 90 years this year.

Our Social Issues Focus this year is on Elder Abuse. We hope to conduct an information session in Bendigo during the year. This will be open to the community.

Kangaroo Flat Branch did well in the competitions at the recent Group Conference held at Dingee with 1st in the Corsage, 2nd in the Lemon Slice and a 3rd in the Tea Cosy sections.

Our new Group Executive are from left, Group Secretary, June from Kangaroo Flat Branch, Group President, Marilyn from Bendigo Branch and Group Treasurer, Gwenda from Kangaroo Flat Branch. Congratulations ladies.

Kangaroo Flat member, Kaye, carried the Queen’s Baton on Feb 14th.

Members are looking forward to being at Groovin the Moo and meeting the public. Please come and say ‘hello’ to us.

CWAbendigonorthern group on Facebook for updates
Support your local businesses because... FlatMatters

BIG YEAR FOR MARIST COLLEGE

The school year is well underway and Marist College welcomed their first crop of Year 11 students at the annual College Mass.

Students from Prep to Year 11 gathered at Sacred Heart Cathedral to ring in the start of the school year.

The school now has year 11 classes and caters for prep and year one students as well as years five to eleven.

Marist College at Maiden Gully has over 800 students this year and plans to expand even further to have 1200 students at the site by 2021.

LOCKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

By Sally Rule = Principal

At Lockwood Primary School, the process for selecting our student leaders does not involve students “nominating” themselves to be on the Junior School Council. Instead, in our process, peers nominate classmates who consistently model our school values of Learning, Caring, Laughing and Sharing in their daily words and actions. These nominations are tallied and the students in Grades 3-6 with the most nominations are offered a place on the Junior School Council. We’ve found that this process unearths fantastic leaders, some of whom are too modest to ever put themselves forward for nomination and others who have a lot of confidence. The most important thing is that they ALL demonstrate the values of the school in their daily lives. It’s incredibly affirming for students to be acknowledged in this way by their peers.

Our team of 2018 Junior School Councillors have many responsibilities, with the most important being acting as positive role models to all members of the school. The Junior School Council members run assembly every Friday, attend School Council meetings and undertake a wide range of activities to capture student voice and opinions about school operations – as well as organising fundraising events. They learn the craft of public speaking on the job and, by the end of the year, they’re guaranteed to be seasoned public speakers.

It’s an annual tradition for Crusoe College Student Leaders to attend a special assembly to present the Lockwood PS Junior School Councillors with their official badges, in February each year. The photo below shows our student leaders at the Badge Presentation assembly and Brooke with the 2018 Crusoe College Captains.

Congratulations to our Junior School Council for 2018: Koby, Milly, Charlie, Tayah, Jazmin, Ebony, Ashley, Isabelle, Tristan, Brooke, Steven, Summer and Emanuella.

BIG HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Over the journey many students who attended Big Hill Primary School also got the opportunity to swim at the Kangaroo Flat Pool located in Dower Park.

So it was fitting that in the final days of the old pool being open the students headed down the road for their last dip in the water.

It was a journey that these children will be able to tell future generations as they will always fondly recall the days when they swam in a old pool in Dower Park Recreation Reserve.

MARONG PRIMARY SCHOOL

By Russell Jeffrey = Principal

A special project that the Marong Primary School is currently pursuing will be part of a potential facilities upgrade here at our school.

We are currently working with an architect to develop concept plans ready for Tender to construct new classrooms, staffroom and significant outdoor landscaping. We are also proposing to build an activity centre that will allow school assemblies to take place in addition to specialist programs such as physical education lessons, Science, Art, Music etc. The school is currently consulting with the City of Greater Bendigo to see if we may be able to apply for a joint facility grant.

To build an activity centre that is big enough for an assembly of all our staff and students and parents, the school will be required to contribute funds.

Hence the school council believes we could make the facility available to external groups outside of school hours. We see this as benefiting local football, netball, sporting groups, personal trainers, craft groups, pretty much anyone that feels our activity centre would suit their needs.

We will keep our school community informed of any new developments.
ST MONICA’S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Wednesday, we were joined by George Otero and Jenny Griffiths (Catholic Education Office – CEO) for a ‘Step Further - into Learning’. George, a consultant in Parent Engagement from New Mexico, USA.

What exactly is Parent Engagement?

Parent Engagement is about connecting and supporting the role parents/carers and families play in supporting their child's education.

Ongoing research shows that family engagement in schools improves student achievement, reduces absenteeism, and restores parents’ confidence in their children’s education.

Parents were invited for a learning walk throughout all the classrooms. As they roamed parents were asked to reflect on the following questions.

What did you see?

- classrooms full of colour,
- positive affirmations/reinforcements/messages
- common areas with no boundaries,
- positive energy
- parts of the school I’ve never seen
- artworks everywhere,
- learning through games,
- focus- concentration and power being given back to children.
- quiet settled kids even at 3pm

How does it make you feel / think?

- satisfied, happy as a parent,
- an ever- evolving school,
- confident their child was in the ‘right’environment,
- teachers allowed to be ‘individual’ teachers,
- positive passionate teachers,
- children getting the attention at points of need.

I wonder….?

- about distractions,
- how composite classes work,
- how cross age teaching builds confidence,
- how do we get more parents in the classroom
- would parents feel more comfortable if learning walks were led by parents.

This feedback is just a sample of the great questions offered by parents during and after our Learning Walk.

DOES YOUR CLUB HAVE A DEFIB UNIT

The Kangaroo Flat Community Enterprise can assist organisations across our region to have a Defib unit readily available at your clubrooms.

In recent times we have had local schools, retirement villages, sporting groups, church groups, and local meeting venues install these life saving units.

We make this service available to save lives...so take up our offer and complete an application Form on the website of the Kangaroo Flat Community Enterprise website. Go to www.kfce.com.au and complete the application form.

CRUSOE COLLEGE

We would like to welcome our student school captains to the community.

Brock Burns  10F
Ozzie Harwood  10F
Annalee Phillips  10B
Zoei Saab  10B

Our student school captains are very keen to begin their leadership journey at Crusoe College. They have many ideas for the college and are keen to have input.

YEAR 8 GEOGRAPHY EXCURSION

Thursday 8th March
Kaylene Matotek, Humanities Leader

Our Year 8 excursion saw 112 Crusoe students and 6 staff travel down the Calder Highway to visit three regional landforms. The students got to walk around and study the landforms of Organ Pipes National Park, Hanging Rock and Turpin Falls.

Our students drew each landform, described it and the landscape and used visitor information to find out how the landforms were formed and how it is being affected by weathering and human impact. The fieldwork was an important part of their Humanities Key Assessment Task. It was a day of walking, climbing and enjoying nature. We brought home lots of tired kids but had a great day.
**Group Gatherings**

**GROUPS & CLUBS**

**INCLUDE YOUR GROUP OR CLUB MEETING TIMES BY CONTACTING FLAT MATTERS**

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**Alcohols Anonymous**
8pm each Sunday @ RSL Hall, Station St, Kangaroo Flat Ph 5435.3167 www.aabendigo.org.au

**Bendigo Coin & Collectables Club Inc.**
Meet every Friday fortnight at 7.30 pm Venue - Quarry Hill Community Hall, Hamlet St, Bendigo.
New Members Welcome
Contact Pam Baker 03 54440308

**Bendigo Evening VIEW Club**
“Voice, Interest,Education for Women” Supporting The Smith Family by raising funds to help disadvantaged students with their education needs.
4th Wednesday of month at 6pm for 6.30pm
NOTE NEW TIME!
At the Kangaroo Flat Sports Club,
1c Station Street, Kangaroo Flat.
Meals $23.
Bookings Robyn Bird 0429 368 272
Or for all enquiries re club Cheryl Scully 0439 316 021

**Bendigo Garden Club Inc.**
0439 316 021
Or for all enquiries re club Cheryl Scully
Bookings Robyn Bird 0429 368 272
At the Kangaroo Flat Sports Club,
NOTE NEW TIME!
Lockwood Road, opposite ALDI.
Bendigo Radio Controlled Aircraft Club
www.facebook.com/bendigopositivebirthing
Only 10mins walk to Bendigo Station.
New wheelchair access Sponsored by
Committee meetings third Thursday of the month.
10am-4pm Adult tuition in all aspects of this
Thursday 6pm-8:30pm Silversmithing with
5pm-9pm Instruction in faceting and
BGC meet every Tuesday and Thursday
Website: gembendigo.org.au
Ph 5442 3961 Lv msg

**Bendigo Gem Club Inc.**
10 Galvin st, BENDIGO 3550
Ph 5442 3961 Lv msg
Website: gembendigo.org.au
BGC meet every Tuesday and Thursday
Tuesday 5pm-9pm Instruction in faceting and cabochons
5pm-7pm Kids club
6pm-8:30pm Silversmithing with
Experienced Silversmiths Thursday
10am-4pm Adult tuition in all aspects of this craft, BYO Lunch.
7pm-10pm Experienced users who can work on their own.
Allied crafts when available
GEMARAMA second weekend in September Field trips, Rock swaps, Social events and BBQ’s.
Committee meetings third Thursday of the month.
New wheelchair access Sponsored by
Fosterville Gold Mine.
Only 10mins walk to Bendigo Station.

**Bendigo Legion Angling Club**
7.00pm 1st Monday of the month.
RSL Hall, Station Street, Kangaroo Flat.

**Bendigo Positive Bihuring**
www.facebook.com/bendigopositivebihuring for more details phone: 0447 453 644

**Bgo Radio Controlled Aircraft Club**
monthly meetings last Monday of month
7:30pm in the Y Community Hall, Lockwood Road, opposite ALDI.
Club’s web site on www.brcac.asn.au
Venue - Quarantine

**Community Enterprise**
Last Thursday of each month, 6pm, Sports Club Dower Park

**CWA Kangaroo Flat Branch**
C.W.A. Kangaroo Flat Branch
3rd Thursday of March
1.30 pm at Uniting Church Hall, Church Street, Kangaroo Flat.
Interesting speakers & Monthly Craft Day.
All Ladies Welcome - Afternoon Tea
More Details 5446-8323
Look up the web for complete overview
www.cwaofvic.org.au

**Enjoy Church**
Phillis Drive, Kangaroo Flat
Details: http://enjoy.church/kangaroo-flat.
Contact: Campus Pastor Martin Oravec on 0403 296 006

**Friends of Cruseoe No. 7 Park**
Meet first Wednesday of every 2nd month (starting Februarys) at the Rotary Gateway Park at 7pm.
Contact Hans at fo@7@gmail.com

**Golden Square Croquet Club**
Come and Try - Every Mon and Friday from 11am. Contact Lorraine 54477511 or Don 54468332

**Greater Bendigo Danceland Inc.**
A Social Dance every Saturday night at 8pm. Venue - St. Andrew’s Uniting Church Hall, 26 Myres St, Bendigo.
Contact Barb 5443 5830.

**Heartbeat Bendigo Branch**
A support group for cardiac patients, family & friends. Fundraising for cardiac equipment through public and social events. Meetings held b-monthly on 3rd Sunday. Jan, March, May, July, Sept, Nov. 2pm at Chum Street Uniting Church hall. Enquiries to President Frank Ward - 5447 4545 or 0407 855 685.

**Heart Foundation Walking Group**
Thursday
Every Tuesday 11.15
Meet at Lifestyle Choices, the corner of Neil and Station street Kangaroo Flat -30 minute walk along the Bendigo Creek Track. All welcome contact Jennifer 0419878836 myhealth@mentornline.com.au

**Kangaroo Flat Baptist Church**
Kangaroo Flat Baptist Church
1st Maiden Gully Scout Group
Maiden Gully Scouts meet every week during the school term at the Maiden Gully Scout Hall, Cnr Beakmans Rd and Calder Hwy, Maiden Gully.
Joey Scouts (6-7yrs) Tuesdays 5.30 – 6.30pm
Cub Scouts (8-11yrs) Thursdays 7-8.30pm
Scouts (11-15yrs) Thursdays 7-9pm
To find out more contact Cate on 0405 381 611

**Needles & Threads**
Meet every second Monday of each month from 10am to 12noon. Please phone Janet Clark for list of class details.
Bring your knitting or crochet. New members welcome.
Venue. St. Mary’s Anglican Church Hall, 193-195 High Street, Kangaroo Flat.
Commencing on the 8th October at 396 Station Street, Kangaroo Flat.

**Kangaroo Flat Community House**
Meet at Lifestyle Choices, the corner of Neil and Station street Kangaroo Flat -30 minute walk along the Bendigo Creek Track. All welcome contact Jennifer 0419878836 myhealth@mentornline.com.au

**Kangaroo Flat Fire Brigade**
Firefighter Training - Time: 7.30pm
Venue: Maiden Gully Fire Station 5 Beckhams St, Maiden Gully
Contact: 5449 6340

**Kangaroo Flat Scout Group**
Maiden Gully Scouts meet every week during the school term at the Maiden Gully Scout Hall, Cnr Beakmans Rd and Calder Hwy, Maiden Gully:
Joey Scouts (6-7yrs) Tuesdays 5.30 – 6.30pm
Cub Scouts (8-11yrs) Thursdays 7-8.30pm
Scouts (11-15yrs) Thursdays 7-9pm
For more information please contact Cate on 0405 381 611

**Partner's of Veterans Assoc**
3rd Monday of the month, at 11.30am at the RSL

**Playground for under's**
Every Monday during school term from
9:30 – 11:00am, at Kangaroo Flat Uniting Church, cnr Church & Camp Streets.
Contacts: Sheryl 0438413533 or Anne 5447 8430

**Probus Club of Kangaroo Flat (R стол) Inc.**
Every 2nd Wednesday each month 9.45am
St. Mary’s Church Complex High St, K/Flat.
Contact: Lida Garton Phone 5447 8351,
Pam (President) 0418 304 927
John (Ten Pin Bowling Coach)
Pam (President) 0418 304 927
Maiden Gully Ladies Carpet Bowls Inc
Come and enjoy friendship and laughter when you join us for a social game of carpet bowls at the Maiden Gully Community Centre. Every Tuesday except Christmas break. 1.30 - 3.00 pm. Fees $3 plus lucky door. Phone: 5449 6877 or 5449 6759.

**Un Finishef Objects Craft**
Meets every Tuesday 10am till 2pm at 29 Bay Street, Golden Square. $3 entry. BYO Lunch. Hot Drinks Provided.
Ladies, come along for fun and friendship and work on your current project or start a new one.
The group contributes to Asian Aid and The Biggest Morning Tea.
Further Details: Janine 5447 2543 or Shirley 5449 6883.

**Volunteer Calisthenics**
Maiden Gully
Classes: Recreational and competitive teams.
For participants age 3 and over. Contact Volaire for class times. Phone: 0437 343 656

**Y’s Service Club (Women)**
2nd Tuesday of the month, contact 0409 179 485 for venue details

**Y Service Club of Bendigo South**
2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. Y’s Clubrooms, Lockwood Rd. at 12 noon.

**Y Service Club of Kangaroo Flat**
every Wednesday at 6.30pm Y Community Hall, Lockwood Rd opposite ALDI.
ph 5447 1587

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**FLAT MATTERS**
Support your local businesses because...
SOUTHERN GATEWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

April embraces the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus after his death on the Cross. Our Sunday service on April 1 recognises the glorious victory of Jesus over evil forever. Stella Johns will be receiving her first credentials to become a pastor soon, and we congratulate her for reaching out into ministry. Alida Robinson will lead worship on April 29 as a visitor.

Our list of people has grown who have stepped forward assisting in church. Prayer each first Wednesday at Pastor Peter’s home at 10 am. Ladies scripture study on the second Wednesday at 10 am in Stella’s home. Ladies lunch on the third Wednesday. We invite you all to come and be saved by Jesus, be healed by Jesus and to grow in the Lord at our 10 am service each Sunday in the Y community hall opposite Aldi. Prayer needs to Ps Peter Pritchard on 0413 682 999.
YOUR GOOD HEALTH
BY ALAN BEAUMONT HALL

VENOM RESEARCH

Worldwide, an estimated 4.5 million people are bitten by snakes annually, 2.7 million suffer crippling injuries and more than 100,000 die, most of them farmworkers and children in poor, rural parts of India and sub-Saharan Africa with little healthcare.

The existing treatment requires slow intravenous infusion at a hospital and costs up to $100,000. And the antidote only halts the damage inflicted by a small number of species.

Current anti-venom is very specific to certain snake types. The new discovery seems to show broad-spectrum ability to stop cell destruction across species on many continents, and that is quite a big deal.

Zeroding in on protein families common to many serpents, researchers demonstrated that they could halt the worst effects of the toxic bites of Cobras in Asia and Africa, as well as pit vipers in North America. The team synthesized a polymer nanogel material that binds to several key protein toxins, keeping them from bursting cell membranes and causing widespread destruction.

Venom – a “complex toxic cocktail” evolved over millennia to stay ahead of prey’s own adaptive strategies – is absorbed onto the surface of nanoparticles in the new material and is permanently sequestered there, “diverted from doing harm.”

Thanks to the use of readily available, nonpoisonous components, the “nanodote” has a long shelf life and costs far less. The existing antidote is made by injecting horses with venom, waiting weeks for the animals to develop antibodies, then extracting their blood and shipping it from Mexico or Australia to places that can afford it.

In contrast, the new treatment costs pennies on the dollar and, unlike the current one, requires no refrigeration.

Since publishing their findings, the researchers have discovered that scorpion and spider bite infections may also be slowed or stopped via their invention. Additionally, a synthetic antidote has been discovered for bee melittin – the ingredient in stings that can kill people who have an allergic reaction – using similar methods.

Clinical trials for this discovery are now in process.

At Healthworks = We Take Care Of Your Health

BY CHRIS ANNETT
(Podiatrist @ n8 health Group)

TOE DISCOLOURATION

Are you embarrassed by a discoloured toe nail or multiple discoloured toe nails?

Here is a possible explanation as to why your toe nail may be discoloured...

The nail appearance will always be different for each person. The colour of a healthy toe nail is generally clear and often the nail plate (hard part of the nail) will have a healthy light pink tone to it which is the underlying nail bed (tissue under the nail), it may also appear a similar colour to the colour of your skin.

Sometimes our nails aren’t always this desired appearance and hence why this article will touch on the issues of nail discoloration.

Nail discoloration problems may appear like the following colours: yellow, white spots, green, brown or dark grey and sometimes have a dark streak. If your toe nails are discoloured, there is usually an explanation. Sometimes nail discoloration can reflect a problem with the nail itself, or even be secondary to an underlying systemic health issue.

Some examples of causes of nail discoloration are: fungal nail infections (onychomycosis), impact trauma (this can be from 1 significant knock to the nail or repetitive trauma from ill-fitting footwear), systemic skin conditions such as psoriasis or eczema, history of chemotherapy, reduced circulation/oxygen supply to the toes or a subungual melanoma.

Occasionally the cause of nail discoloration is unknown or unexplainable.

Treatment of nail discoloration will depend on the underlying cause. A nail that is discoloured from trauma may not return to normal appearance but requires frequent management to prevent a secondary issue such as an ingrown toe nail. If the discoloration is caused by a fungus, then the fungus is treated, however, the nail may take more than 18 months to return to normal appearance. If it is caused by a systemic condition then the treatment will involve treating the underlying systemic condition.

Nail discoloration can be difficult to diagnose. It is important to have any toe nail colour problems assessed by a podiatrist. If left untreated some toe nail problems can result in significant health issues. A podiatrist is trained to assess and treat toe nail problems and can also assist with general nail care.

If you have a toe nail colour issue contact our Podiatry team at n8 health Group, 505 High St. Golden Square.

LOCAL LIBRARY UPDATE
By Kinta Walker

Do you want an easier way to access the library catalogue to reserve your next book or DVD than by using our website (www. ncgrl.vic.gov.au)? Then download our app onto your phone or tablet for fast, free access to the catalogue and your account!

It is called “Spydus Mobile” (Spydus is the name of the computer system we use!)

Get Started!
1. Download the free “Spydus Mobile” app from Google Play (Android) or iTunes (Apple)
2. Select Goldfields Libraries as your library
3. Enter your library card and pin to access the features below

- Login once and stay logged in
- Reserve items from the catalogue
- Scan the barcode of an item outside the library to find out if it is available in the catalogue. If it is, reserve it instantly.
- Access your library account to view your loans, see if you have any reservations ready to collect, check if any of your loans are overdue, view your personal details and more.

If you need help installing or using our app, just call into Kangaroo Flat Library, and the friendly staff will help you!
Motorcyclists riding through northern Victoria will soon benefit from road safety improvements along seven popular routes. The $2.3 million investment package will see works to improve cushioning and add rub rail protection to existing barriers, as well as rescaling work to smooth out the pavement and to prevent loose gravel getting onto the road from side access roads and driveways.

VicRoads Acting Regional Director, Northern Region, Brian Westley says that motorcyclist safety is a priority in Northern Victoria and motorcyclists deserve the safest environment possible.

“Issues that seem small for a driver can be disastrous to a motorcyclist, like gravel on the road or an uneven road surface, particularly at corners. I know these simple measures will significantly improve motorcycle safety across our region.”

The upgrade is part of the Victorian Government’s plan to improve motorcyclist safety across hotspots around Victoria and is part of the Motorcycle Safety Levy. The Motorcycle Safety Levy was introduced in 2002 in response to the increasing number of motorcyclists being killed or seriously injured.

Since 2002, $75 million in levy funds have been committed to dedicated on-road and non-road motorcycle safety projects, including more than 194 road improvement projects at identified motorcycle black spots. The projects funded from the levy are over and above the annual motorcycle safety programs conducted by the TAC, VicRoads and Victoria Police.

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CITY EMBRACES SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

The City of Greater Bendigo is going green and has purchased its first plug-in hybrid car to help further reduce greenhouse emissions from its vehicle fleet.

The City already has six electric bikes and has recently installed two new public charge points for electric vehicles in the Bendigo CBD.

The charge points are located in the Hargreaves Street multi-storey car park and the Edwards Street multi-storey car park.

There are currently nine public charge points around Bendigo.

The City now has 14 hybrid vehicles in its vehicle fleet.

The City’s bike fleet is also steadily becoming more popular, with the number and length of bookings increasing significantly from 2013 to 2017.

The average length of trips is now 3km-4km and more than 6,600 kilometres have been travelled since 2013.

Director Strategy and Growth Bernie O’Sullivan said the City wanted to support and encourage the use of hybrid vehicles, as well as bikes.

“More and more people are using plug-in and hybrid vehicles, and seeking more sustainable modes of transport. Placing these outlets around our high use car parks makes sense and we hope it will support plug-in hybrid vehicle users in our community.

Transitioning the City’s fleet to hybrid or fully electric vehicles, as well as using bikes for short trips will help to meet our greenhouse gas emission reduction targets as well.

We need to do everything possible to meet our emissions target and lead the uptake of a range of sustainable transport methods.”

Publicity registered charge points are listed on the PlugShare site www.plugshare.com.

INCLUSIVE TOWNS PROJECT

The Inclusive Towns project is creating opportunities where people with a disability are leading change in their local community.

Following a successful trial in 2017, the project has successfully recruited six support officers with a lived experience of disability who will be working in Eaglehawk, Inglewood, Bridgewater and Maldon, alongside local businesses to promote inclusive practices.

The Inclusive Towns project is a partnership between the City of Greater Bendigo and Loddon and Mount Alexander Shire Councils with funding provided through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

City of Greater Bendigo Community Partnerships Manager Steven Abbott said he welcomed the support officers to the City’s team.

“Inclusion is so much more than physical access, the project helps business improve their communication, physical environment and awareness of disability. Everyone with a disability is a potential customer for local businesses.

Forty per cent of adults have some form of disability or long term health condition.

The support officers will be advising businesses on changes they can make, which can be as simple as installing a doorbell and sign for customers who may require assistance entering their premises. Inclusive communities are communities that thrive, and towns adopting inclusive practices become more attractive options for migration and tourism.

One of the biggest barriers to inclusion is employment, without employment it becomes much harder to participate in community life.

As well as providing employment opportunities for persons with a disability at the City, the Inclusive Towns project is raising awareness and promoting employment opportunities for persons with a disability in the wider community.”

He Said.

Participating businesses can be recognised by the Inclusive Towns sticker in their front window and business owners, managers and staff members are encouraged to get involved by contacting the City’s Disability Inclusion Team on 5434 6000 or inclusivetowns@ bendigo.vic.gov.au

ENTERPRISE OFFERS GRANT MONEY

The Kangaroo Flat Community Enterprise is keen to here from schools, local groups and organisations that need financial assistance to proceed with a special project.

Over the years the Kangaroo Flat Community Enterprise has provided over $250,000 to local groups for a couple of players. Our 17 and Under BSNA team consists of players from our LVFNL 15/U side as well as players that missed out on selections this year. It is great to able to offer more to these players.

Our Junior 17 and Under and our 15 and Under Loddon Valley Football Netball League teams have been training very well and are looking to be very competitive this season.
The Kangaroo Flat Community Kitchen continues to provide superb meals for the needy in our community.

The Kangaroo Flat and District Community Enterprise in conjunction with Kangaroo Flat Rotary, Bendigo Bank staff and the St. John Of God Hospital are proud to support this worthy project for our community.

The Community Meals are served at the Kangaroo Flat Rotary Clubrooms in Gateway Park, Kangaroo Flat between 5.30pm and 6.30pm on Wednesday evenings.

Memberships for 2017/18 now available
Join now to enjoy playing on your great local golf course
For information - phone: 03 5435 3370
email:bpgc@bigpond.com  |  www.belvoirparkgc.com

SUPPORTING THE SALVOS
Our stores are always looking for great quality donations - the kind of item that you ask yourself if you would be happy to give it to a friend or family member or even buy it second hand yourself.
If you answer yes to these questions then it’s good for donating.
As we’re approaching the cooler weather, we’ve an increased demand for winter clothing - jackets, knitwear, winter boots.
Our Kangaroo Flat store is open Monday - Saturday 9am - 5pm and donations can be made to the store during these opening hours.
If you can’t make it at this time, we encourage you to give us a call to organise a free home collection.

SAVER PLUS PROGRAM HELPS LOCAL FAMILIES
Families in Bendigo are tackling school costs by joining the education savings program Saver Plus, delivered locally by Brotherhood of St Laurence.

Bendigo resident and single dad Adrian, joined Saver Plus in 2016. With his oldest daughter Cloe in her final year of primary school, Adrian’s goal was to save for her high school expenses.

“I have been able to save for my daughter’s laptop and pay for her school books and new school uniform”, he said.

Saver Plus has also taught Adrian useful and lifelong financial skills, through attendance at the financial education workshops. When asked how the program has helped him feel better prepared for large expenses, Adrian replied:

“My saving habits have improved since joining the program. I have learned to create a budget and stick to it. Saver Plus has helped me to develop strategies in paying and saving to pay utilities”.

Many participants begin the program feeling like they’ll never stop living pay cheque to pay cheque. Building a savings habit breaks that cycle and gives them confidence as they make goals for their family’s future.

Saver Plus is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government. At Kangaroo Flat ANZ local Branch Manager Phillip Bouchard says his staff are incredibly proud of the positive impact Saver Plus has in the local community.

“The Saver Plus program is something we are really proud to be in partnership with. It is great to meet the participants in the final weeks of the program and hear their stories about the positive impact the program has had on them, and their family”.

Participants must have a Centrelink Healthcare or Pensioner concession card, a child at school or be attending vocational education themselves, and regular household income from paid employment.

For further information about joining Saver Plus, please contact Carol Gledhill 5434 3908 or 0439 935 516, or visit www.saverplus.org.au.
CHLOE FLETCHER MAKES N.T. TEAM

Former Crusoe Secondary College Student Chloe Fletcher, now residing in Alice Springs, has been selected in the Northern Territory 19 & Under State Netball team.

The talented 17-year-old, 182-centimetre-tall Goal Shooter who can also play in defence, has had a stellar 2017 season playing for her Alice Springs based Rovers Netball Club.

Chloe, voted best on court in her local association Under 17 Grand final and voted most valuable player for her team, was also awarded the Rovers club’s most improved player for the Senior A reserve team where she also played during the season.

Following her outstanding form during the Northern Territory Regional Netball Championships, Chloe was invited to attend selection trials for the State 19 & team.

Making the Initial squad of 30 players Chloe took part in a demanding training program and a number of selection camps held in Darwin and Alice Springs which culminated in Chloe being selected in the State team.

The team were in Melbourne for a training camp and a number of practice matches against Victorian teams as they prepared for Australian Netball Champion ships to be held in Adelaide in April.

Mum, Sara is a very proud of Chloe’s netball achievements. Chloe is the Granddaughter of well-known local sports identity Bob Gartside.

GLENN’S MISSION

Bendigo raised sailor Glenn Ashby has seen plenty of the world as he chases more victories to add to his impressive list but there are still more challenges ahead.

Ashby was the face of the Team New Zealand crew that won the 35th America’s Cup in 2017 and earned him praise in yachting circles world-wide.

The popular sailor was back in Bendigo for the Sports Star of the Year Dinner in February where he was named as a joint winner of the award along with Richmond star Dustin Martin.

“It was great to come home and attend the Sportstar Awards and to catch up with some familiar faces. Some of the people there is had not seen for many years.

It was great to win another award and now my focus will be leading the Team New Zealand defence for the next America’s Cup.”

Entries for challengers for the next America’s Cup will close on 30th June.

The America’s Cup World Series will be held in 2019 and 2020 with a CHRISTMAS Regatta in December 2020.

The Challenger series will be held in January and February 2021 with the America’s Cup match locked in for March 2021.

Glenn says BRING IT ON!

END OF ERA

A chapter of local swimming has ended with the closure of the Kangaroo Flat Pool in Dower Park last month.

Several former members of the Kangaroo Flat Swimming Club came along to see the pool in action for one last time and they too will be looking forward to the opening of the $31 million Aquatic and Wellbeing Centre now under construction in Browning Street.

Mick Mulqueen the Kangaroo Flat Swimming Club President is excited to see the amount of interest being generated by the new complex and the number of people wanting to be part of the new look swimming club.

“As the end of an era of competitive swimming at the Kangaroo Flat Swimming pool came to a close the Kangaroo Flat Swimming Club wishes to celebrate its past and also to inform potential new swimmers of the exciting opportunities which the new pool facility will offer to our club members.

The new swimming complex to open in August will offer swimmers of all ages and abilities the opportunity to train in a world-class facility unmatched within regional Victoria.

We have been providing information to potential swimmers and we welcome all prospective swimmers, parents and former club members to celebrate our clubs history and to consider being involved in our future.”

The Kangaroo Flat Swimming Club website is now up and running and any questions or information can be answered by Mick Mulqueen on 0408506716.
BELVOIR PARK GOLF CLUB NEWS
By Jan Gunn

Long serving members were recognized on March 17 ‘Opening Day’. John House received a 40 year Medallion. John was a tireless worker & was instrumental in the introduction & completion of the sand scrapes to greens and manager of Work for Dole Program.

Bruce Pain received a Certificate indicating that he has had 68 years as a member. Bruce joined at the age of 16 years, has held President position and although he doesn’t play much golf now he still keeps a very active interest, coming out most weeks & riding around in a cart.

Bruce’s wife Patti, (a past Ladies President) presented husband & wife, Frank & Merrilyn Kinsman also with 50 + years Certificates also. Bendigo Advertiser weekly results reporter for many years and has been instrumental in contacting members of the club in their sickness or absences, a position which they are both so ably suited to. (see photos below from the awards day)

2018 Pennant has commenced with Belvoir Park GC submitting 5 strong teams in the Mens and 1 Ladies team. We have the feeling that this year will be a good year for us.

Another new big cart shed is soon to be erected at the course to house more members carts, so anyone looking at joining Belvoir Park Golf Club can now be assured of having a place to keep their cart handy, safe & secure.

We are still holding our social golf mornings each Friday, so grab a friend or come on your own and have a go with other early learners. Phone Brenda on 0418 317 429 if interested for more information.
Golden Square Cricket Club had a great response from former players and officials to their Centenary Celebrations. The event attracted some old faces back to the club and many came from far and wide. The Hall of Fame was the taking point of the night. Some legends of the games were inducted and a centenary book has been produced.

Great to see so many former members of the Kangaroo Flat Swimming Club gather at the Dower Park pool for the Last Hurrah.

It was a time for many families to reflect on the good old days when swimming carnivals were part of the calendar. Family generations were well represented at the Last Hurrah!

Golfer Lucas Herbert continues to amaze as he makes takes to fairways around the globe.

His latest adventure took him to Canada during March where he got his card for the McKenzie Tour.

With a China Tour card also in his pocket the boy from Ravenswood is set for a huge year including a start in the McKenzie Tour.

With the cricket season over for another year and some clubs throwing out old gear it is great to hear of one BDCA club that takes the time to actually save some vital items to be sent overseas to more needy clubs to use.

Given the poverty of some cricket clubs overseas these donations are really welcomed by the locals. Pity that some cricket gear currently ends up in landfill out Eaglehawk way!

Great to see some old faces at the 8th Annual Kangaroo Flat Community Golf Day held at the Belvoir Park Golf Club.

Some of the golfers showed some form in the Kangaroo Flat Football Club jumper many years ago. Players of the calibre of Chris Treloar, Trevor Curram, Gary Collins, Barry Pitson, Craig Jennings, Snowy Needs, Vallon Gibson, Geoff Annand, Robbie Williams, Ian Robertson and Barry Linehan were among the stars to perform on the day.

Looking forward to seeing plenty of new developments at Dower Park.

Netball and Tennis courts are likely to start later in the year and then of course there will be the new changerooms to cater for the increasing numbers participating in women’s football. These new changerooms will be built under the Sports Club. All these new facilities are great for the growing number of sports participants here in Kangaroo Flat.

Super Pin Holes around the course with some incredible shots in the conditions.

Super Pin Winners: $100

- 3rd Hole Charlie Bowyer (Sponsored By Beck Legal)
- 5th Hole David Conley (Sponsored By Clark Rubber)
- 8th Hole Mark Alford (Sponsored By Mulqueen Printers)
- 11th Hole Scott Darrigan (Sponsored By Captive Developments)
- 16th Hole Leigh Crapper (Sponsored By Kangaroo Flat Sports Club)

Second Shot To The Pin Winners: $100

- 1st Hole Denis Cooper (Sponsored By Queens Arms Hotel)
- 4th Hole Paul Nelson (Sponsored By Strategem)
- 6th Hole Mal McIntosh (Sponsored By Race Hire)
- 7th Hole David Conley (Sponsored By Higgins Coatings)
- 15th Hole Ian Nelson (Sponsored By Bendigo Service Centre)