SCHOOL NUMBERS SOAR

Education is set for another big year as school numbers grow with the influx of new families across the region.

Biggest growth is at Marist College in Maiden Gully where the student numbers have risen from 615 last year to over 800 this year.

Smallest school in the region is Lockwood South where the numbers have gone from 30 in 2017 to 33 students this year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>STUDENTS 2017</th>
<th>STUDENTS 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marist College</td>
<td>615</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crusoe College</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maiden Gully Primary</td>
<td>553</td>
<td>580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Square Primary</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Monica's Primary</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Hill Primary</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kangaroo Flat Primary</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marong Primary</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lockwood Primary School</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Development School</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lockwood South Primary</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BELGRAVIA LEISURE TO MANAGE OUR POOL

The City of Greater Bendigo has appointed Belgravia Leisure to manage the new $31 million Aquatic and Wellbeing Centre in Kangaroo Flat.

When completed in mid 2018, the complex will feature an eight lane 50-metre swimming pool, hydrotherapy/warm water pool, spa/sauna, children’s splash/learn to swim pool, gymnasium, group fitness and multipurpose rooms, cafe, change rooms and child minding facilities.

As part of its efforts to connect communities with leisure facilities, the leading aquatic, fitness and recreation contract manager will continue to work closely with the City of Greater Bendigo to strengthen the community and ensure locals have access to exceptional facilities.

Welcoming the new contract Chief Executive of Belgravia Leisure Nick Cox says his company is thrilled that the City of Greater Bendigo selected Belgravia Leisure to help deliver the goals of the community and promote water safety and wellness across the region.

Belgravia Leisure has also successfully renewed its long standing contract to manage the Barnard Street Pool, Long Gully Splash Park, Brennan Park Pool, as well as pools at Heathcote and Marong.

The existing Kangaroo Flat Pool located in Dower Park will close for the last time on Saturday 17 March 2018.

The community is encouraged to go for a swim all day between 10am – 7pm.
Editorial

Welcome to our FEBRUARY 2018 edition

The Kangaroo Flat Community Enterprise is proud to bring you our 102nd edition of FLAT MATTERS.

Thanks to Mulqueen Printers for being a great partner in the production of our community newsletter which is read far and wide across our region and we trust you will enjoy the subtle changes that we have made in 2018.

As another year dawns it is fitting that our prime project, the $31 million Aquatic and Wellbeing Centre is just months away from opening.

The project was first mooted in 2009 with the development of the Kangaroo Flat Community Plan which identified in a survey of residents that the number one need for our community is a new swimming complex to replace the very tired pool located at Dower Park.

There were many hurdles to jump along the way but the Kangaroo Flat Community Enterprise led the way with this project and very soon we will see the fruits of their labour.

Even when sections of the City of Greater Bendigo council and a few uniformed local residents wanted to limit the pool size to 25 metres, the Kangaroo Flat Community Enterprise took a stance. We wanted the very best for our community.

Backed by the Principals of all of our local schools we were able to convince the council that the only option was to be a 50 metre pool.

The Kangaroo Flat Community Enterprise should also be extremely proud to commit to raising $1 million from the local community as part of their commitment towards the project.

We look forward to seeing a huge crowd at the opening of the region’s most exciting project, the biggest ever undertaken by the City of Greater Bendigo.

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.

I am excited and grateful for this wonderful opportunity to represent regional cities and their communities, and advocate on their behalf to State and Federal Governments. I believe my extensive corporate experience working throughout rural and regional Victoria and Australia, along with company directorships across the water, health and vocational education sectors has helped me to understand the differing needs of regional cities. Their challenges and opportunities are unique, so it will be important to represent these fully.” She said.

Regional Cities Victoria comprises the Mayors and Chief Executive Officers of the 10 largest cities in regional Victoria.

“Under the national road rule a yellow line may be painted along some local Bendigo roads and around fire station driveways with more expected in the future.

City of Greater Bendigo Engineering Manager Brett Martini said while even the most knowledgeable drivers may not realise what the yellow lines mean, a national road rule has existed since 2009.

“Under the national road rule a yellow line may be painted along a kerb to indicate no parking in that area.

This yellow line may be used in conjunction with a no stopping sign or used instead of one, so drivers should not assume just because there is no sign that they are allowed to park there. The yellow lines are used to ensure the safety of all road users and no parking areas at locations where parking will impair visibility for other motorists, the road is too narrow for parking or it is too close to an intersection or a slip lane.

The yellow lines were introduced to decrease the number of road signs and clutter on streets, which can sometimes distract and confuse motorists.

The City is urging motorists to familiarise themselves with the yellow line rules to avoid receiving a fine. Stopping in a zone with indicated yellow lines will result in a parking fine in most locations and a fine and the loss of two demerit points in a school zone.

Yellow lines will also be installed by VicRoads along sections of the new duplicated Napier Street.
TOP PRIORITIES AHEAD OF 2018 STATE ELECTION

The City of Greater Bendigo has listed its priority projects for State and Federal Government support in a new advocacy booklet.

The projects will rely on partnerships between the City of Greater Bendigo, State Government, Federal Government and, in some instances, private investment to be delivered.

The projects are listed in no particular order but include funding for the Bendigo Law Courts, ‘Gov Hub’, Golden Dragon Museum expansion, Central Deborah Goldmine redevelopment, Bendigo Railway Station and precinct redevelopment, Bendigo Creek restoration, key freight intersection upgrades, a range of regional sporting facilities and regional community hubs.

The projects are listed under the headings of City centre revitalisation; Vibrancy and culture, Connecting Greater Bendigo; Healthy heart of Victoria; Thriving regional communities; and Innovation.

Creating the world’s most liveable community – Greater Bendigo priority projects for government and private sector investment has been released to coincide with next year’s State election but it will also be used to advocate for Federal Government support.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Applications for round two of the City of Greater Bendigo’s 2017/2018 Community Grants Program will open on February 1 and close on February 22, for projects starting from June 1.

Grants of up to $5,000 can be applied for under the following categories:

• Active and Healthy Lifestyles
• Arts
• Community Development
• Community Events
• Environmental Sustainability
• Print and Digital Publications

Acting Director Community Wellbeing Caroline Grylls said a recent survey about Council’s grants programs demonstrated they were very important to our community.

“More than 300 community members took the time to complete the survey. The survey results indicate Council’s grants programs enable a diverse range of local groups to achieve many great outcomes, which in turn make Greater Bendigo a wonderful place to live and visit.”

For more information go to www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/grants

STUDENTS TO REIMAGINE BENDIGO CREEK

In an Australian first, the City of Greater Bendigo will partner with La Trobe University to bring the successful ‘CityStudio’ project to Bendigo.

Created in Vancouver, CityStudio is “an innovation hub where City staff, students, and community co-create experimental projects”.

In Bendigo, CityStudio will see 20 students from a range of disciplines try to come up with ways to reimagine the Bendigo Creek.

La Trobe University will run a subject worth double credit points in June and July 2018.

Students will be based in Bendigo, working closely with City staff, agencies and the community.

Regional Sustainable Development Manager Trevor Budge said Bendigo would be the first place in Australia to implement the program.

“The idea is to get a broad mix of students from a range of disciplines including business, engineering, community development, urban planning, history and archaeology, to focus their collective skills and knowledge on a problem or project that is real, not abstract.

We have chosen the reimaging of the Bendigo Creek as the project to focus on as its one of the City’s largest and most important public assets.

At the end of the subject, students will present their ideas to the Mayor and Councillors. This project is great for students because it gives them an opportunity to apply their skills in a real life situation, not just in the classroom. And it’s good for the City because we get to tap into a range of skills and ideas we may not otherwise have, as well as create pathways for young people who may seek a career in Local Government.”

He Said.
BENDIGO FOR SUNSHINE, BUSINESS AND PLEASURE

A new exhibition at the Post Office Gallery showcases Bendigo’s history as a destination for visitors for both business and pleasure.

Running through until April 29, 2018, Bendigo for sunshine, business and pleasure features an eclectic collection of brochures, photographs, souvenirs and other items which show how Bendigo was promoted to entice visitors from far and wide.

From the earliest postcards promoting views of Sandhurst, to the transformation of Bendigo’s gold mining history and tramways into thriving tourist attractions, the exhibition shows how the city’s self-image and its aspirations have evolved over time.

Bendigo Art Gallery City History and Collections Curator Emma Busowsky Cox said Bendigo was once known as ‘the golden city’ and the ‘gateway to the north’.

“The exhibition features mementos dating back to the late 19th century, when the city was established following the gold rushes of the 1850s,” Ms Busowsky Cox said.

“The earliest promotional material projects an image of Sandhurst, as Bendigo was initially known, as a city rich in industry, culture and grand Victorian architecture, alongside open parks and gardens.

“Sites such as the Central Deborah Gold Mine were later transformed from their original purposes into cultural attractions, and Bendigo’s parks, gardens and lakes as well as the sunny climate itself continued to be equally promoted as amongst the city’s greatest assets.”

The Bendigo City Council publication Bendigo for sunshine, business and pleasure of 1916, describes the ease of travelling to the city, and its agreeable climate.

“Bendigo and the surrounding districts are well served with Railways…the roads are good, and week-ending in and around Bendigo is both a pleasure and a tonic. The Winter climate is unsurpassed even by the famous Continental resorts of Europe, and many people of wealth and leisure leave the coastal district for Bendigo and sunshine during the Winter months,” the brochure reads.

The exhibition is on at the Post Office Gallery at the historic Bendigo Post Office on Pall Mall.

Pod’s World of Mine Safety

Not many workers in Kangaroo Flat get the opportunity to travel the world let alone discover some of the great mining sites around the globe.

But the globetrotting lifestyle is a breeze for Escapeway ladder installer, Pod Brereton.

He works out of the SAFESCAPE office in Allingham Street, Kangaroo Flat Pod has been clocking up the frequent flyer points as he flies to mine sites across Australia and around the globe.

Just before Christmas Pod Brereton, a former Kangaroo Flat footballer was working in the freezing conditions in Yukon in Canada where temperatures plummeted to “minus 31.”

Then it was time to fly home to celebrate the festive season in Bendigo with the family and he encountered temperatures around a hot 40 degree mark!

Pod is one of the team when it comes to installing the Safescape Laddertube.

It is a state of the art escapeway system designed specifically for use in underground mines.

It is a fully enclosed durable polyethylene product that is not impacted by water, salt or other mineral deposits and Pod Brereton says it is designed specifically for mine rescue operations.

“It is a job i absolutely love. I travel the world and in 2017 I installed ladders in mines in Chile, Phillipines, Ghana, Congo and Canada. Next month I am off again to Yukon in Canada.

The company has now installed over 24,000 metres of ladder tube in 14 different countries in 85 mines both here and abroad. Personally, I have chalked up 8,000 metres of installations. The longest installation has been a 400 metre vertical escapeway at Cracow mine in Queensland which is basically the same size at the Empire State Building.

Our company is chasing more work around the globe this year and it is great that a Kangaroo Flat business is enjoying amazing success.” Said Pod.

CRUSOE TRANQUILITY

Crusoe Reservoir provides wonderful opportunities for water activities this summer including swimming, fishing and non-powered boating.

The entire park covers an area of 210 hectares and has an abundance of inviting natural, cultural heritage and recreational facilities.

Picnic and seating facilities are found throughout the park and these make for ideal outings for the family and social outings.

Features of the park include:

**Fishing** – Tench, Redfin, and the reservoir is stocked with Yellowbelly and Murray Cod.

**Settling Ponds** – Historic filtration system used to settle outb sediment for drinking water, over a million bricks were used in it's construction.

**Swimming** – the reservoir is ideal for all forms of water fun, swimming, canoeing, and small scale sailing.

**Cycling** – Crusoe loop track is 3.3 kilometres with both water and bush views, the link track to Number 7 is 1.7 kilometres.

**CRUSOE NUMBER 7 PARK**

This is a very important part of the regions gold mining history.

The cleverly designed reservoir and water purification system was the first of it’s kind in Australia in supplying treated drinking water to Bendigo's gold miners of the 1860’s. The infrastructure used including the settling ponds, basin, and channel system can still be seen today.

As you journey around an interpretive walk surrounded by box ironbark forest.

You can also check out the frog ponds, the paddler, picnic area whilst a spacious car park.

Also includes disabled and bus parking.

Crusoe and Number 7 Park is open 24 hours a day 7 days a week for pedestrian and bike access.

Number 7 car park is open at 8am and closes at sunset every day.

Support your local businesses because... Flat Matters
MAIDEN GULLY GROWS

Walking and cycling paths, safer streets and roads as well as better lighting are among the priorities in the Maiden Gully Community Plan.

City of Greater Bendigo Deputy Mayor Jennifer Alden says a team from the Maiden Gully Progress Association have worked hard to develop a plan in consultation with the community.

“During the development phase the group carried out a community survey and also provided other opportunities for the community to have input in to the draft plan. In addition, the Progress Association have also provided opportunities for community members to meet each other and to have their say about what is important for the future development of the Maiden Gully Community.”

Among the priorities are plans to present one or two larger community events each year in Collaboration between local community groups.

There are also plans to improve community safety and also improvements to public transport options to Maiden Gully.

Cr. Jennifer Alden has encouraged community members to learn more about the Community Plan for Maiden Gully and to get involved in one or more of the action areas.

“The community’s goals are in line with those set for the whole municipality through the council’s vision of creating the world’s most liveable community. The 2016 Australian Census highlighted the recent population growth in Maiden Gully which is expected to continue in to the future with an increase of young families in the area which makes planning their future very important.” she said.

MAIDEN GULLY FIRE BRIGADE NEWS

Maiden Gully Fire Brigade has been serving the community since 1998 and is inviting local residents to become firefighters with one of the best-equipped brigades in the district.

Over recent months, a number of active members have moved out of the area and there are vacancies in firefighting roles. The Brigade is looking for both males and females, who are over the age of 16 and live in Maiden Gully to become part of an amazing and supportive team.

Training and protective clothing are provided and all that is needed is a time commitment. You do more than train and fight fires; you can be involved with administration, maintenance, community education and some fundraising.

To find out how you can get involved, a special information evening will take place on Monday, February 19th commencing at 7.30pm at the Maiden Gully Fire Station in Beckhams Road. It is an opportunity for interested Maiden Gully residents to find out more about volunteering with CFA.

For more information check our website (www.maidengullycfa.org.au), find us on Facebook or phone David Mustey 5449 6340 (after hours).
Support your local businesses because... FlatMatters

SCHOOL SANCTUM

MAIDEN GULLY PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS
By Craig Arrowsmith = Principal
Our school was delighted to receive a Defib Unit from Alan Besley representing the Kangaroo Flat Community Enterprise.

The defibrillator has been provided through the many pledges that the school collected from parents who have agreed to link their Bendigo Bank accounts to the Kangaroo Flat Community Enterprise.

Whilst it is hoped that we will never need to use this device, we are extremely pleased to have a Defib unit at our school and located within the Maiden Gully Community.

This unit will most likely be installed in the foyer of our gymnasium and will be readily available to all users of this facility.

A Defib is used to treat life threatening conditions and involves the delivery of an electronic shock to the heart which causes the heart muscles to re establish normal electrical impulse.

We are truly grateful to the Kangaroo Flat Community Enterprise for this vital life saving equipment.

DEFIB FOR LOCKWOOD PRIMARY

The Defib For Life Program is gaining momentum across the region and recently a Defib unit was delivered to Lockwood Primary School.

25 residents from the area pledged their banking with the Bendigo Bank and the result sees this vital equipment available to the school.

The Kangaroo Flat Community Enterprise has been working closely with a number of schools and organisations to provide the equipment at no cost.

The delivery also includes training for key members of staff.

KANGAROO FLAT RESIDENTS AND FORMER RESIDENTS

Annual Reunion 2018

Where: Kangaroo Flat Bowling Club
Station Street, Kangaroo Flat

When: Sunday, 11th February, 2018

Time: From 11:00am

Official Opening: 1:15pm

Guest Speaker: John Morvell

B.Y.O. Lunch – Tea and Coffee provided

This year we would like to make a special effort and ask people to encourage family and friends to attend, in particular the next generation of families. Likewise, if you are aware of any current or past residents of Kangaroo Flat, please feel free to offer an invitation.

As many are aware, our group was formed subsequent to the ‘Back to Kangaroo Flat’ in 1973 that celebrated the centenary of both the Fire Brigade and the original State School 981. Over the years, through the generosity of people, we have gathered quite a display of memorabilia capturing the history of Kangaroo Flat. Please feel free to bring along memorabilia on the day to be placed on display for people to browse.

This year our guest speaker will be Mr. John Morvell, a former resident of Kangaroo Flat who will deliver a presentation on World War 1. John’s presentation will touch on Kangaroo Flat’s contribution to the War effort with some memorabilia on display.

On behalf of the committee, we look forward to seeing you in February.

Regards,

Joyce Alexander

lawnbowlers@gmail.com or phone 5447 7595

Other Contacts:
Noel Hindson 5447 7195
Helen Hodge 5447 3216
In November 2017, the Rev Tracey Wolsley was inducted as Rector of St Mary’s Anglican Church Kangaroo Flat. The Service was the last official engagement by the Right Reverend Andrew Curnow AM, the Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Bendigo. Nine days later at St Paul’s Cathedral Bendigo, he officiated at his last Service – the laying up of his staff as the Bishop of Bendigo. Reverend Tracey chose the hymns and the assembled clergy, wardens and presenters entered to the rousing strains of “There’s a light upon the mountain”. The church was filled to overflowing and extra seating arranged at the last minute. In his address, Bishop Andrew spoke reflected on the common experience of fire – for Rev Tracey her time at Eaglehawk after the 2009 bushfires and St Mary’s tragic loss of the old church in 2008. He reminded us that good things come to those who wait and whilst recognizing the valuable service to the Parish provided by Rev Roger Rich, Rev Heather Vander Reest and assisting clergy, the waiting is over for both Rev Tracey and the Parish with this new appointment.

Bishop Andrew went on to talk about an Induction Service being like a marriage. A commitment is being made to work together, symbols of ministry are presented as signs of this new relationship. He referred to the common symbol presented by the two readings chosen by Rev Tracey – the light that shines in the darkness. Isaiah 58.6-12 talks about God as the light; and the Gospel according to John 1.1-5, 10-14 – Jesus is the light. Bishop Andrew concluded by reminding Reverend Tracey that as a priest, in this day and age, she is to live out that light and that Isaiah tells us what that looks like. His concluding words, “Tracey and the people of God at St Mary’s, may you be light – like New Dawn!” This is an exciting time! Indeed, a new beginning.

FROM THE RECTOR

It is quite unusual to begin a new ministry at the end of November. Usually shifts are made at the very end of the year or mid-way when things are not so busy. To start off however, as the Rector of St Mary’s in a season that waits with anticipation for the celebration of the birth of our Lord, was very special. I have lived in Kangaroo Flat, the gateway to Bendigo, for almost 8 years and thrilled to finally work locally, with ‘my community’. St Mary’s is a wonderful community of people and has a rich history of faithful, dedicated people who sought to serve God in this area over many years. In fact, I was touched reading in a history book recently, that when the gold miners first settled in the area, they were not satisfied until they purchased and marked out God’s acre! I love it. As I sit and write this, I thank God, I am doing so in God’s acre dedicated to making his love, grace, peace and hope known in the world. My prayer is that we will continue that faithful service in our community and indeed shine as a light in the world and bless our community.

IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP

• 1st February – Merry Music resumes (songs and fun for preschoolers)
• 13th February – Shrove Tuesday Flippin’ Pancake Supper, 6pm @ St Mary’s
• 14th February – Ash Wednesday Service, 7pm
• 18th February – Annual General Meeting, 10.30am
• 20th February – First lunch of St Mary’s Fellowship Group for 2018

Come and join us!

For more info on what’s happening at St Mary’s visit our website at www.stmaryskangarooflat.com or call the Parish office on 5447 7427. You can also contact us by email, anglicankf@tpg.com.au
Group Gatherings

**GROUPS & CLUBS**

**Alcoholics 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 5440308

**Bendigo Evening VIEW Club**
“Voice, Interest,Education for Women” Supporting The Smith Family by raising funds to help disadvantaged students with their education needs.
Dinner meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday each month.6.30pm for a 7.00pm start.
$22 for a meal including tea or coffee. Kangaroo Flat Sports Club, McKenzie Street West.
For info ring Elaine on 0419 508 932 or bookings Cheryl on 0439 316 021

**Bendigo Garden Club inc.**
3RD Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the McKinnon Pavilion, no meetings during the months of January, July, December.
Contact: Laurelle Smith - Secretary, 5447 0017
New Members Always Welcome

**Bendigo Gem Club Inc.**
10 Galvin st, BENDIGO 3550 Ph 5442 3961 Lys mng
Website: gembendigo.org.au BGC meet every Tuesday and Thursday Tuesday 5pm-9pm Instruction in facetting and cabochons 5pm-7pm Kids club 6pm-8.30pm Silversmithing with Experienced Silversmiths Thursday 10am-6pm 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 MyHealth@mentoronline.com.au

**Bendigo Legion Angling Club**
Meet each Monday 6pm for 6.30 start to the Rotary Function Centre (opposite Apco), New members welcome
Contact: 54479783 or www.facebook.com/rotarykangarooflat/

**Bendigo Radio Controlled Aircraft Club**
Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month. 6.30pm for a 7pm start.
Come and Try - Every Mon and Friday from 11am. Contact Lorraine 54477511 or Don 54486332

**Greater Bendigo Danceland Inc.**
A Social Dance every Saturday night at 8pm. Venue - St. Andrew’s Uniting Church Hall, 28 Myers St, Bendigo.
Contact Barb 5443 5380.

**Heartbeat Bendigo Branch**
A support group for cardiac patients, family & friends. Fundraising for cardiac equipment through public and social events. Meetings held bi-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 – Community Wellbeing Walkers**
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 0418678836 myhealth@mentornoironline.com.au

**Kangaroo Flat Baptist Church**
“Come and Chat Group” Knitting for missions – a welcome cuppa and good conversations. We support a girl in Nepal. Enjoy good company every Monday 9.30am till midday. All Welcome!

**Kangaroo Flat Community House**
21 Woolcock Avenue, Kangaroo Flat Open Monday – Thursday, 9am-3pm Ph 5447 9667

**Kangaroo Flat Fire Brigade**
Meet First Thursday of each Month. Fire fighter Training Time: 7.30pm Venue: Kangaroo Flat Fire Station Helen Street, Kangaroo Flat Contact: 54470204

**Kangaroo Flat Men’s Shed**
Open Mon-Fri 9am to 4.30pm approx. Located at 56 Thomas Street Kangaroo Flat (behind the cemetery)

**Kangaroo Flat Scout Group**
Outdoor activities for boys and girls aged 6 – 18 years old. Please contact Group Leader Craig Whan on 5444 4114.

**Lions Club**
2nd Wednesday of each month, Business meeting, Lions Club Rooms, Dower Park – 7.00pm. 4th Wednesday of each month, Dinner meeting at varying locations - 6pm for 6.30pm start.
President Heather Gartsde Secretary Brian Ede 03 54478618

**Maiden Gully Fire Brigade**
First Tuesday of each month Firefighter Training Time: 7.30pm Venue: Maiden Gully Fire Station 5 Beckhams Road, Maiden Gully Contact: 5449 6340

**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 - 3.00pm. Fees $3 plus lucky door. Phone: 5449 6977 or 5449 6759.

**Maiden Gully Scout Group**
Maiden Gully Scouts meet every week during the school term at the Maiden Gully Scout Hall, Cor Beckhams Rd and Calder Hwy, Maiden Gully: Joey Scouts (6-7yrs) Tuesday 5.30 – 6.30pm Cub Scouts (8-11yrs) Thursdays 7.30-8.30pm Scouts (11-15yrs) Thursday 7-9pm To find out more contact Cate on 0405 381 611

**Needles & Threads**
Meet the 1st Friday of each month from 10am to 12noon. Please phone Janet Clark for Yearly list of dates. Bring your knitting or crochet. New members welcome.
Venue. St. Mary’s Anglican Church Hall, 193-195 High Street, Kangaroo Flat. Enter from Church Street, Kangaroo Flat. Enquiries to Janet Clark – Ph: 54479783

**Partners of Veterans Assoc**
3rd Monday of the month, at 11.30am at the RSL

**Playgroup for under 5’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 (Blazed) Inc**
Every 2nd Wednesday each month 9.45am St. Mary’s Church Complex High St, K/Flat. Contact: Lida Garton 5447 8351, St. Mary’s Church Complex High St, K/Flat.

**RAAF Association-Bendigo Branch**
1st Thursday each month February - December. 11.00 am. to 12 noon with lunch afterwards. At Bendigo District RSL, Havilah Road, Bendigo.

**Rotary Club of Kangaroo Flat**
Meet each Monday 6pm for 6.30 start at the Rotary Function Centre (opposite Apco), New members welcome
Contact: 54479783 or www.facebook.com/rotarykangarooflat/

**RLS**
Contact Craig Chilver (03) 5447 8312 Meeting held at 10am on 3rd Tuesday of the month. Light refreshments supplied. Day Club meet 1st Monday each month at 10.30am
New members welcome. Station Street, Kangaroo Flat.

**Special Olympics Group**
Pam (President) 0418 304 927 John (Ten Pin Bowling Coach) 0400 641 405 Michele (Barcuduas Swim Coach) 0409 173 856

**Spring Gully Dance**
Dancing every Saturday night 8pm - 12pm, and Monday nights from 7.30 - 9.30pm. Venue - Spring Gully Hall, 135 Spring Gully Road, Bendigo. Contact Keith 5449 2953

**The Little Chimps Playgroup**
Commencing on the 8th October at 396 High Street Golden Gully in the Seventh Day Adventist church hall. Every Wednesday during school term from 10.30am - 12.00pm. Contact Kerryn Greaves 0432 354 617. Please see enclosed a flyer for further information.

**USA Bendigo**
Life-long learning and activities for mature aged people. Gathering: 4th Wednesday of month. Website: http://home.vicnet.net.au/~u3abgo BLOG: http://u3a-bendigo.blogspot.com.au/ Email: u3abgo@bigpond.com or Phone 5444 0362

**Un Finished Objects Craft Group**
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 6893.

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

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

Proudly Distributed by Kangaroo Flat Licensed Post Office, IGA Maiden Gully, Lansell Plaza, Golden Square Post Office & the Kangaroo Flat Sports Club
**Church Corner**

**Kangaroo Flat weekend church services**

- **Uniting Church** cnr Church & Camp Streets, Sunday 9:30am – Minister 0448 591 421
- **St. Mary’s Anglican Church** 193-195 High Street, Kangaroo Flat, 9am Traditional and an 11am Family Service 5447 7427 (Golden Square - Sunday 9am & Maiden Gully - Sunday 4pm)
- **St. Monica’s Roman Catholic Church** cnr Station Street and High St, Kangaroo Flat Saturdays at 6pm and Sundays at 9am. Phone 5443 6969
- **Baptist Church** Church Street, Sundays 10am, and the Karen language service each Sunday at 2pm.
- **Southern Gateway Christian Church**, Y’S Mens Hall, 8 Lockwood Rd Kangaroo Flat Worship Sunday 10am. Phone: 5441 3527 / 0413 682 999
- **Common Ground Church**, Maiden Gully Community Hall, Calder Hwy, Maiden Gully. Sundays at 10 am. Phone 0423 700 770
- **Enjoy Church**, 10 Phillips Dr, Kangaroo Flat, Sunday 10am - Ps Martin 0403 266 008

**SOUTHERN GATEWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

We have just celebrated three baptisms at church. It was a great Sunday together. Our church is a Spirit filled church preaching the Word of God. Each first Sunday we share a meal after the service which is at 10 am in the Y Community Hall opposite Aldi in Kangaroo Flat. In February we will add to our list of communion ministry. All are welcome to share time with us. Please contact us for prayer needs.

Ps Peter Pritchard 0413 682 999.

**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.

We invite all women, young and old, to become a member. Learn heritage skills and teach your skills to others. Connect with other women of the community in a friendly, respectful and supportive network. Kangaroo Flat Branch recently had Helen a very inspiring speaker from Annie North Inc.

A collection of toiletries were presented to her from the Branch and visitors. Members from around Victoria were on Family Food Fight on Channel 9 judging the contestants. Did you know that the CWA of Victoria has a kayak team? The team, Chicks With Attitude, kicked off another Murray Marathon. They’re raising money for Crohn’s & Colitis Australia! The Group Conference and AGM will be held at the Dingee Hall on Saturday 17th February. 9.30 am for a 10am start.

The topics and entry form for the 2018 State Photography Competition are in the November magazine. Entries close March 9th.

Singing the CWA song at our Group Christmas Breakup.

CWAbendigonorthernbranch on Facebook for updates
**YOUR GOOD HEALTH**

**BY ALAN BEAUMONT HALL**

**SODA = SUGAR SWEETENED BEVERAGES**

New research suggests that excess sugar -- especially the fructose in sugary drinks -- might damage your brain.

Researchers in a recent study found that people who drink sugary beverages frequently are more likely to have poorer memory, smaller overall brain volume, and a significantly smaller hippocampus -- an area of the brain important for learning and memory.

Researchers are quick to point out that these findings demonstrate correlation but not cause-and-effect.

While researchers caution against over-consuming either diet soda or sugary drinks, more research is needed to determine how -- or if -- these drinks actually damage the brain, and how much damage may be caused by underlying vascular disease or diabetes.

These studies are not the be-all and end-all, but it’s strong data and a very strong suggestion.

It looks like there is not very much of an upside to having sugary drinks, and substituting the sugar with artificial sweeteners doesn’t seem to help.

Maybe good old-fashioned water is something we need to get used to!

Excess sugar has long been associated with cardiovascular and metabolic diseases like obesity, heart disease, and type 2 diabetes, but little is known about its long-term effects on the human brain. It’s difficult to measure overall sugar intake in the diet so sugary beverages act as a proxy in the investigation.

Diabetes, as a group, drink more diet soda on average, as a way to limit their sugar consumption, and some of the correlation between diet soda intake and dementia may be due to diabetes, as well as other vascular risk factors.

These results bear a caution for those of us who have enjoyed soda with or without sugar or artificial sweeteners.

At Healthworks = We Take Care Of Your Health

---

**BY CHRIS ANNETT**

(Podiatrist @ n8 health Group)

**WARTS ON THE FEET. WHAT ARE THEY AND HOW DO YOU TREAT THEM?**

Plantar warts, also known as a verruca plantaris, are warts that occur on the soles of your feet.

A wart is caused by the human papilloma virus (HPV). The virus takes over the dermal and epidermal layers of skin and forms a growth on the skin. The growth is sometimes a rough plaque (cauliflower appearance) or can be smooth. It can be raised or flat and can have small black dots on the top (these are small capillaries/blood vessels). Plantar warts can occur at any age but they are more common in children, during pregnancy and in the elderly.

So how do we treat warts and make them disappear? There is no known cure for the human papilloma virus, however, the warts that appear can be treated and often will disappear with frequent treatment. Because plantar warts are caused by a virus which is systemically within your body, sometimes they can vanish without no treatment. The longer the wart has been on your feet, the harder it is to treat and the stronger the treatment must be. Treatments provided by Podiatrist will vary depending on your practitioner and depending on the size of the wart and how long it has been there.

Almost all plantar warts will have a layer of callus on the top of it. The callus will be debrided or removed by your Podiatrist.

In a background of isolation, flood, fire and drought. See the list below to try some other bestselling Aussie Rural romance authors. Once you start you won’t be able to stop!

**BY KINTA WALKER**

Come and meet best selling Australian author Nicole Hurley-Moore introduce her brand new novel “White Gum Creek” at Kangaroo Flat Library on Wednesday 21st February at 6.00pm.

Nicole is a successful author of both Rural Romance, known as Chook Lit, and general Romance novels. She will speak about her books, writing and life at this free author talk. Enjoy a cuppa and eats while you’re there.


If you haven’t discovered Chook Lit (Rural Romances) yet, you haven’t lived. Based primarily in outback and regional areas of Australia, Chook Lit is full of rich Australian characters that search for happiness and love in a background of isolation, flood, fire and drought.

See the list below to try some other bestselling Aussie Rural romance authors.

Meredith Appleyard
Rachel Treasure
Sarah Barrie
Cathryn Hein
Jennie Jones
Nicole Alexander
Fleur McDonald
Marilyn Forsyth
Alissa Callen
Jennifer Scoullar
Mandy Magro
Loretta Hill
Fiona Palmer
Helene Young
Jenn J. Mcleod
Karly Lane

At Healthworks = We Take Care Of Your Health
KANGAROO FLAT RSL NEWS

We are now up and running at the Kangaroo Flat R.S.L. with many things happening in the first half of 2018. The kitchen is looking wonderful with new lighting, fresh coat of paint, new bench tops and new appliances.

The Social Group will meet on Monday 5th February at 10.30am at the hall, then for lunch at the Windermere Hotel at 12 noon. The Tuesday and Thursday Open Days for members will commence again on the 13th February. The A.G.M. will take place on Tuesday 20th February at 10 am. On Tuesday 27th February we are having a Bus Trip for our Veterans and Widows to Castlemaine Gardens for morning tea then onto Kyneton R.S.L for lunch.

On the 19th January the Kangaroo Flat R.S.L. sponsored 6 local children to attend the Portsea Camp. Thank you to the Volunteers who went down on the train with them and brought them home on the 25th January.

We have made a booking for Fabulous Feast to once again come and cater for a Christmas in July. This will be held on Saturday 21st July at the R.S.L. Hall.

We at Kangaroo Flat owe a big thank you to Bunnings Kangaroo Flat for allowing us to fund raise through their sausage sizzle program. These fundraisers help us to help our Veterans enjoy life.

Lest We Forget

2018 CITIZEN AND YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

The City of Greater Bendigo 2018 Citizen of the Year is Andrew Reid and the Young Citizen of the Year is Jontee Brown.

Mayor Cr Margaret O’Rourke congratulated the pair and wished them well.

“These awards represent what it truly means to be a great community member and are the highest honour the City places on two worthy recipients each year.

The City is pleased to acknowledge Andrew and Jontee. They demonstrate the values of hard work and giving back, and serve as fantastic role models for people of all ages to look up to.

Andrew is a proud member of the Eaglehawk community and is an active member of the Eaglehawk Development Group.

In this role he works closely with Empowering Eaglehawk, the Eaglehawk YMCA and the Rotary Club of Eaglehawk.

He is also a committee member with the Eaglehawk Football Netball Club and is passionate about men’s health and improving mental health through sport.

Jontee is a member of the Victorian wheelchair basketball team and recently represented Australia.

He has reactive arthritis that has caused ankylosing spondylitis in his lower spine, which means he manages his disease with the use of crutches and a wheelchair for longer trips.

He coaches junior basketball and football, and shares his message of inspiration during his many visits to schools. He is a great example that you can do anything in life.

Congratulations to both Andrew and Jontee on your outstanding contribution to our community and best wishes for the next 12 months as you serve as ambassadors for Greater Bendigo.”
Support your local businesses because...

Let’s build a stronger community

The Community Enterprise program is underpinned by a desire to help communities generate long-term prosperity. Through this program, Bendigo Bank works with the Kangaroo Flat and District Community Enterprise who will engage with residents, businesses, schools, sporting clubs and community groups to achieve a common objective.

By doing something as simple as your banking with Bendigo Bank you can generate money for our community — and the more business we do with the Bendigo, the more money we’ll receive — and there’s NO catch.

To find out more about this great initiative, visit the Bendigo Bank branch at 126 High Street, Kangaroo Flat, phone 5447 9244 or visit www.kfce.com.au.

We (Kangaroo Flat and District Community Enterprise) ABN 61 131 539 163 may receive remuneration from Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited (Bendigo) if you open a new account with the Bendigo Group or request an existing account to be linked to us. Remuneration is paid monthly by Bendigo. We are entitled to a commission of between 0.05% and 0.15% per annum calculated on the average monthly account balance. For example, for an account with a $50,000 balance, if commission is 0.15% we will receive a payment of $6.25 for that month. This commission is not charged directly to you. It is paid from the product fees applicable to the financial product you acquire. (S49148) (07/14)

FLAT MATTERS DISTRIBUTION

Our region newsletter FLAT MATTERS has been increased in size and now provides 16 pages of local News and Sport.

Residents are reminded that FLAT MATTERS will now only be available at special outlets:

Kangaroo Flat Post Office, IGA Kangaroo Flat, Leo Treble Accountants, Bendigo Bank, Kangaroo Flat Library, Entrances at Lansell Square, Beacon Lighting, Golden Square Post Office, IGA Maiden Gully, St. John of God Hospital, Kangaroo Flat Sports Club, N8 Health, Lansell Square Post Office, Feelgood Fitness, Raphael Centre, Bendigo Community Health, Bendigo Property Plus, Healthworks, Crusoe College, Kangaroo Flat Primary, St. Monica’s Primary, Big Hill Primary, Marist College in Maiden Gully, Benetas, Living Well, Aviva Communities, Rosedale, RSL Village, Abbott Supply, Bendigo Special Development School, Kangaroo Flat Storage, The Cabbage Patch, Greencross Vets, Royal Freemasons Aged Care.

According to Planet Ark, Australians are among the highest users of new technology in the world, which means that we’re constantly upgrading the devices we have.

This creates a growing problem of where to put the e-products we no longer use.

Landfill is not the answer because this type of waste does not break down over time.

This is why the City has made the e-waste bin available to make it easier for residents to properly dispose of small e-products for free.

It will also assist residents to comply with new State Government legislation that will be introduced from July 1 this year and bans any e-waste from being placed in landfill."

To dispose of computers, televisions, printers, fax machines and other large e-waste items, take them to the Eaglehawk Eco-Centre Recovery Yard, located on Upper California Gully Road, Eaglehawk.

The City plans to place more e-waste bins across the municipality in the coming months.

BFL SEASON LOOMS

The Bendigo Football League will kick off on Saturday 14th April and Kangaroo Flat will get one of their road trips done and dusted early.

The Roos venture south for their opening round clash with Gisborne.

The club has been working hard over the summer both on and off the field and with a new look committee are hoping to turn their fortunes around. The players hit the training track back in November and look in good shape for a strong year in the BFL competition.

BFL DRAW - APRIL

Sat April 14
Gisborne v Kangaroo Flat
Sandhurst v Golden Square

Sat April 21
Kangaroo Flat v Kyneton
Golden Square v Maryborough

Sat April 28
Sandhurst v Kangaroo Flat
Castlemaine v Golden Square
SERVING MEALS FOR OUR NEEDY

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.

ANOTHER WIN FOR GOLDEN SQUARE BOWLS CLUB

Following the recent Kangaroo Flat Community Enterprise grant to help with their kitchen refurbishment – Golden Square Bowling and Croquet Club is now the proud owners of a ‘new’ computer.

Croquet Section President Carolyn Smith twisted the arm of the family business, Lansell Homes (already a sponsor of the club) to donate a replacement.

Son Jeff, who recently joined the family business after 20 years in the computer industry, located an updated modern computer to do the job.

Steve Drummond, the club’s ‘statistician’, is absolutely rapt to get a modern computer with all the whistles and bells.

“It will be so much easier to record and communicate all the performances and results, and maybe even encourage them to bowl a bit better.

The Club is very proud to have such generous sponsors as members. It is great that we are now able to work from the Club office … and we acknowledge the generosity of Lansell Homes with this donation.”

ROOS FOOTBALL NEWS

By Scott Mitchell = President

Time to give residents an update on what is happening at the Kangaroo Flat Football Netball Club for the upcoming season.

Our Co - Coaches Shawn Filo and Corey Greer have been working feverishly since the end of last season looking for improvements within the current list as well as talking with potential new players and pre season resumed in mid January following the festive season break.

We welcome to Kangaroo Flat Julian Renshaw as our Reserves Coach. He will be assisted by Steve Shatwell, a club legend.

We also welcome back to coaching Jason Stevens who is taking on the Under 18 coaching role and well as being the Junior Development Officer for the club. We have good numbers and some fantastic talent coming through the junior ranks and our junior football committee are already planning for another big year.

On the subject of Women’s Football, we have indicated to the league that Kangaroo Flat would like to run a Senior team in 2018.

This means that we will need your help! If you know anyone who wants to play, coach, or manage our womens team then get in contact with the Kangaroo Flat Football Netball Club and let us know your thoughts.

We encourage you to get in early and be part of history as we become one of the first BFNL clubs to form a team.

The Roos Committee have been busily finalising reports from 2017 and planning for 2018.

Our focus has been on the club finances and procedures with the demands of AFL, Local, State and Federal laws and legislation putting more demands on football/netball clubs.

The support offered to me by current and past players, coaches, supporters and committee has been fantastic and I look forward to learning more about everyone and their aspirations.

Please feel free to email me with ideas, information or concerns.

I am always interested in other views.

GO ROOS

Scott Mitchell = President

president@kangarooflatfnc.com.au
**WE NEED MORE MAJOR SPORT**

*By Alan Besley*

Sport plays a major role in all of our lives and over the years we have seen some huge crowd drawing events conducted across our region.

But crowd numbers have been dwindling on some of our so called “major events” and people are asking the question = "WHY"

In recent times we have seen the crowd numbers at the Bendigo Jockey Club cup day extravaganza on the decline and last month there was a much smaller crowd at the Bendigo Pacing Cup which could have been attributed to the heat of the day but none the less the once packed venue was always a must attend event but sadly has been found wanting in recent years.

Then of course there has been the annual Madison cycling and athletics carnival and even this has been on the wane in recent years.

Does all this mean that people are getting tired of the same old = same old regime and a new marketing approach is needed to get these events back on track.

Now there is a theory that maybe Bendigo needs something different to rejuvenate interest for sports lovers across Central Victoria.

Is cricket the answer?

The QEO has been a crowd drawer over the journey and even the West Indies and England have played on this ground but in recent times it is not in the hunt when it comes to attracting big crowds to our sporting events. But, now the cycle has turned and Ballarat is gaining huge publicity through their support of the Western Bulldogs Football Club and hosting an AFL match for the population to enjoy.

Cycling is also making giant inroads in the Begonia City as shown recently with television coverage of the Australian Road Cycling Championships and the consequent backing from the Federation University.

Maybe a new sporting stadium on the outskirts of Bendigo with the support of the AFL and Cricket Australia can be the catalyst for a sports revival in this city.

Use it only for major sports events that could include Football, Soccer and Cricket and involving the national women’s teams at such a venue as well. Only then will we see the needs for major sports become a beacon on our radar and a challenge for all levels of government.

**PENNANT BOWLS SEASON**

The summer pennant bowls season has resumed after the traditional Christmas /New Year break and Kangaroo Flat will be aiming to hold their position near the top of the ladder at the business end of the season.

The Roos showed some very good early season form prior to the break of the pennant competition and they are looking to play a major role in the finals next month.

**THE ROAD AHEAD...**

February 3
- Bendigo East v Kangaroo Flat
- South Bendigo v Golden Square

February 10
- Golden Square v Castlemaine
- Kangaroo Flat v South Bendigo

February 17
- Inglewood v Kangaroo Flat
- Bendigo v Golden Square

February 24
- Golden Square v Inglewood
- Kangaroo Flat v Eaglehawk
With a new look coaching panel in place and a solid try out campaign behind them the netballers at the Kangaroo Flat Football Netball Club are aiming for a solid season in the BFNL.

The coaching appointments for the 2018 season:

Head Coach: Jayden Cowling  
A GRADE: Jayden Cowling  
A RESERVE: Jayden Cowling  
B GRADE: Nina Cass  
B RESERVE: Laura Brooks  
17s: Chelsea Sartori

Development: Bridget Chambers

Head Coach of the Roos Jayden Cowling, told FLAT MATTERS that the whole club is looking forward to an exciting era with a new look coaching group and a number of new faces taking to the Dower Park courts.

*After having Jannelle Hobbs’ services for the last 6 years, it’s going to be a very different looking Kangaroo Flat squad.

In 2017 we finished the season shorter than what we would have liked but with a great challenge of a different looking playing group and new coach we cannot wait to go further in 2018. We have no pressure of being premiers this year so we are excited work extremely hard to exceed any expectations that other teams may have on us. In November 2017, we had our try outs for our teams. After a huge turnout for both juniors and seniors we are thrilled with the squad we have picked. We had over 100 girls attend our try out process, unfortunately we only have room for around 40 girls so it’s always hard having to say goodbye to a number of talented girls.

In saying that I think we have picked very strong squads that will give our club success in 2018. We have lost a few players from our 2017 playing group which is sad to see, but we have also welcomed in some new players and returning players from previous years. We have almost every senior player returning from last year and junior players who are stepping up to senior level.

We welcome back gun goaler Annie Spear and Bree Bentley and welcome Georgia Martin and Melanie Politis who are shifting to Bendigo for work and uni commitments.

We began pre season on January 30th with a range of challenging sessions for the girls. We will have a number of fitness testing sessions, practice matches, gym sessions, triathlon, training sessions with the footballers and even a session with Collingwood Netball coach Rob Wright.

The girls will be hard at training on Tuesday and Thursday nights until we begin our season against Gisborne.”
A big year coming up for the Bendigo Pioneers in the TAC Cup competition.

The club had several players drafted to the AFL ranks late last year and they will be hoping for a much more competitive season in 2018. Several Kangaroo Flat footballers have been invited to train with the club over the summer months.

The Bendigo Pioneers kick off their season with a match against Ballarat on March 24.

One of the district’s oldest swimming pools is set to close. Saturday March 17 will be the closure date of the Dower Park pool in Kangaroo Flat.

The pool will be open from 10am till 7pm and it is a great opportunity for locals to come back just one last time and enjoy this special day.

In the eighties and nineties the local Kangaroo Flat Swimming Club conducted major swim meets at the complex and many schools have used the pool over the years.

But with the new Aquatic and Wellbeing Centre being built just up the road the “old pool” becomes obsolete.

Golden Square Cricket Club has received a great response from former players as they prepare to host celebrations to mark “100 Brilliant Years” in Bendigo cricket.

A group of local cricket enthusiasts have been working hard for many months to track down former players of the club as they prepare for the centenary dinner to be held at the All Season Hotel on Saturday 17th February.

Local golfer Lucas Herbert who grew up at Ravenswood is planning on a huge 2018.

After playing alongside the likes of Jason Day and Sergio Garcia last year the 22 year old is keen to play in some major tournaments around the globe this year.

Several of his family and friends will be making the trip to the Millbrook course in New Zealand next month where Lucas Herbert will tee off in the $1 million New Zealand Open.

The Maiden Gully YCW Eagles are set to become a force in the Loddon Valley Football League this season.

With new facilities at the Marist College the Eagles are attracting plenty of new talent and with the amalgamation with the Maiden Gully Junior Football Club there is now a pathway for the players of the district to begin their playing career and then progress through the various age groups and on to senior level at the Maiden Gully YCW Eagles.

Any sporting clubs wanting to secure a DEFIB UNIT should make contact with the Kangaroo Flat Community Enterprise.

Just 25 Bendigo Bank “Pledges” are required and your club receives “FREE” a DEFIB UNIT valued at $2,500.

Simply go to the Kangaroo Flat Community Enterprise website and complete a grant application form.