



THE DINGLEY DOSSIER

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HOMELESSNESS WEEK MONDAY 4 AUGUST - SUNDAY 10 AUGUST



Despite the common perception of a person experiencing homelessness as an older male who sleeps in an inner-city park or street, there is no 'typical' experience of homelessness.

People of all ages and backgrounds are at risk of homelessness but according to data from the Census, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, children and older women are more vulnerable to homelessness than other groups in society. In 2022, 3 million people were at risk of homelessness, where one setback like job loss or illness could mean losing their home — up 63% since 2016.

Homelessness and the risk of homelessness in Australia is getting worse every day. A home is not just somewhere with walls and a roof. It is a place where people can feel safe and secure.

Access to safe and secure housing is a basic human right but unfortunately many people in Australia live in temporary dwellings such as refuges, crisis accommodations, cars, caravan parks or motels.

What is hidden homelessness?

In Australia, most people experiencing homelessness are hidden from sight, they move between the homes of family members or, as is often the case with young people who 'couch surf', a series of friends.

Some stay in refuges, boarding houses, cheap motels, caravans and even cars. These are the "hidden homeless".

Did you know 'rough sleepers' only make up approximately 6% of Australia's homeless population?¹ (ABS, 2021)

Who is homeless?

- On any given night, 122,494 people in Australia are experiencing homelessness¹
- One in seven people experiencing homelessness are children under 12¹
- 23 per cent of people experiencing homelessness (almost one in 4) are children and young people between 12 and 24¹
- One in five people experiencing homelessness are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people¹
- One in seven people experiencing homelessness are over 55 years¹



What causes homelessness?

Life can be unexpected and is full of circumstances outside of our control. People who do not have strong support systems or are in financial, emotional or physical strain can be more vulnerable to losing their homes.

Common causes of homelessness are:

- Domestic and family violence
- Sudden life changes that trigger homelessness
- Lack of affordable and social housing
- Mental health challenges

Effects of Homelessness

Homelessness can take an enormous toll on a person's health and wellbeing and impact their mental health, employment, education, and connection with community. Homelessness also comes at a high social and economic cost to our society, which is why prevention is so vital. Homelessness services are stretched beyond their limits and unable to keep up with growing demand. Thousands of people who need urgent help are being turned away every year.



What can you do?

- Donate money or usable clothing and personal care items to Homelessness Services
- Support local fundraisers for homelessness services
- Support initiatives to build more social and affordable housing.

You can get help to find crisis accommodation by calling **1800 825 955** (free call, 24 hours).

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census data. Information in this article provided by Mission Australia and Homelessness Australia

FARMERS' MARKET

SATURDAY 16TH AUGUST | 8:30AM - 1:00PM



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, and pay our respects to them, their culture, their Elders past, present and future and uphold their relationship to this land and the important role all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play within Australia.

WHAT'S ON AT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE?

31B Marcus Road, Dingley Village. 8512 0505 admin@dvnc.com.au

LIVING IN DINGLEY VILLAGE

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

City of Kingston:
1300 653 356

Emergency: 000

Police: 131 444

Crime Stoppers:
1800 333 000

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Suicide Call Back Service
1300 659 467

SES: 13 25 00

Poisons Info: 13 11 26

Emergency Relief
(MADDV) 9551 1799

MensLine:
1300 789 978

WIRE
(Women's Information and
Referral Exchange):
1300 134 130

Safe Steps:
1800 015 188

Nurse on Call:
1300 60 60 24

Tip Smells & Dust:
EPA 1300 372 842

Aircraft Noise:
1800 802 584

Neighbourhood Centre:
8512 0505

Community Association:
dvcasecretary@gmail.com

Men's Shed:
9551 5892

**VicRoads Faults
and Hazards:**
13 11 70

RSPCA
9224 2222

Justice of the Peace
Marion Harriden 9551 1799
Allan Harris 9558 2591

Document Signing Station
Springvale Library
1300 630 920

Music with Mummies

An interactive and personable experience for both you & your child. Ages: 6 months -3 yrs, Wednesdays in the Library Meeting Room 2. All enquires contact Emma: Ph: 0412 796 424 or email: musicwithmummies@gmail.com



Teens Games Group

Fun environment for teenagers from 13 - 17 to enjoy games together. Strategy, fantasy & sci-fi style board & role-playing. Friday 5.30 - 7.30 pm in DVNC meeting room 4.5 & 6. **Free event.**

Dingley Village Playgroup

Now on Monday and Tuesday from 9am to 11am. Fee per term is \$40.00. In the new playgroup room in the new DV Neighbourhood Centre & Early Years services building



Zumba Gold with Norma

Zumba Gold is a low- impact dance fitness class perfect for beginners of all ages and fitness levels. Thurs, 9.30am -10.30am in the Harold Box Hall, \$10.00 per class. No need to book just come along.



Seniors Body and Balance with Norma

This class focusses on balance, ranges of motion and coordination. Thurs, 11am-12pm in the Harold Box Hall, \$10.00 per class No need to book just come along.

Social Table Tennis with John

Catering to all skill levels both men & women. Come along and join this friendly group. Mon, 9am & Wed 12.30pm in the Harold Box Hall \$3.00 per session. New members Welcome. No need to book just come along.



Pilates

Mums and Bubs Pilates Tuesdays 11.15am-12pm \$12 session. Mat Pilates Tuesdays 12.30 - 1.15 pm \$12 per session in the Harold Box Hall but please pay at reception first. Need to bring Yoga Mat, Water bottle and towel. All enquires please contact admin@dvnc.com.au or Ph: 8512 0505.

Knit, Craft & Natter with Marlene

Have a knitting or any other craft project lying around or want to learn how to knit. Thursdays 10am -12pm in DVNC meeting room 4 & 5. Free Class, no need to book- Just come along.

Chatty Café with Sue & Jo

The Chatty Café Scheme aims to get people chatting to build and encourage social connections within the local community, and to help reduce social isolation and loneliness. Let's keep our community connected! Wed 10am to 12pm in the staff room in the new DV Neighbourhood centre. **Free, just some along.**



Collection Point

You can drop off the following items at the Centre: prescription glasses/ hearing aids, stamps & unused toiletries from hotel rooms. These items are then recycled for use by local service groups.

Taekwondo with David

Mon & Thurs 5 -7pm in the 'Harold Box Hall'. If you are interested in joining, contact David on 0439 304 579.

Tai Chi

Tai Chi aids the reduction of anxiety of stress; it also helps increase flexibility and balance. Sessions are held in the Harold Box Hall. Tuesdays from 9am -11am. Wednesdays 6.30pm-9.30pm Contact James: 0430 570 460.

Agna Yoga with Sneha

NEW class starting on May 16th, weekly on Fridays from 6pm-7pm. Yoga & Meditation class in the Harold Box Hall: All enquires to agnayogawellness@outlook.com or Ph: 0421 876 858

Sound Healing with Danielle

Bio tuning session weekly on Tuesdays from 7pm-7.45pm in the Harold Box Hall. All enquires contact Danielle at Biofieldbayside@outlook.com or Ph: 0478 736 675.

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COMMUNITY

Slow down for law enforcement, emergency and incident response vehicles

You are now legally required to slow down to 40km/h when passing emergency, incident response and roadside assistance vehicles that are stationary or moving slower than 10km/h and have flashing lights or an alarm sounding.

You don't need to slow down if you're traveling on the opposite side of a road separated by a median strip. Tow trucks, breakdown support and freeway or tollway incident response vehicles are included in this road rule, as well as emergency and enforcement vehicles.



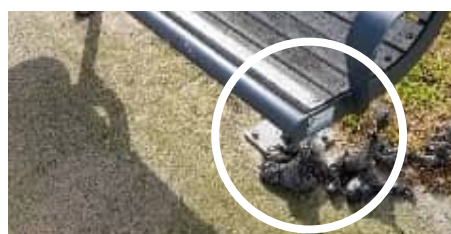
Gardening Guide

The Dingley Dossier is pleased to announce a new monthly article called Gardening Guide. Thank you to Mario Diaco from Diaco's Garden Nursery in Heatherton. Mario is a third-generation nurseryman with extensive knowledge and experience who is looking forward to passing on information and tips to assist local gardeners. The August article further in this edition, is about Native plants for the garden.

What's the Point

To the Dog owners who go to the trouble to take a dog waste bag when walking their dog, then leave the used bag discarded on the ground. You haven't helped the environment, or helped keep open space clean and enjoyable for everyone, which is the point of dog waste bags.

This is an ongoing problem at Spring Rd Reserve and likely occurring elsewhere. Park users have had enough, put the dog waste bag in a bin, can't find a bin, take it home with you and put in your red lidded rubbish bin.



Financial Counselling

Make A Difference Dingley Village (MADDV) has provided great support for many experiencing financial crisis. Many have arrived with outstanding debts, credit cards limited, and mortgages in danger and our Financial Counsellor has actioned plans for many that had outstanding results. The City of Kingston has both supported and resourced our work and we will be able to continue our services in the future, thank you to the Councillors for this ongoing support.

Contact MADDV on: **03 9551 1799**
Mon – Thurs: 9am – 3pm

Special Dates in August

4th – 10th August: National Stroke Week

Know the signs and you could save a life.

- Face Check their face. Has their mouth drooped?
- Arms Can they lift both arms?
- Speech Is their speech slurred? Do they understand you?
- Time Is critical. If you see any of these signs call 000 straight away.

A stroke is always a medical emergency



4th – 9th August: Homelessness Week

Everyone deserves to live in a safe, secure and affordable home. But that is not the reality for more than 122,000 people who were experiencing homelessness on Census night in 2021. Homelessness Week is an annual awareness-raising week to highlight that too many Australians who are homeless on any given night.

11–15 August: Bullying No Way Week

Bullying No Way Week is Australia's key bullying prevention initiative for schools.

It provides an opportunity for schools to create a shared understanding about bullying behaviours and share their bullying prevention policies and strategies. Together, we can foster practical approaches to prevent bullying in Australian schools.

3rd August: Tisha B'Av * Judaism

Tisha B'Av is a day of mourning to remember events such as the destruction of the First Temple and Second Temple in Jerusalem, it is the saddest day on the Jewish calendar.

6th August: Hiroshima Day

Hiroshima Day commemorates those who lost their lives in the bombing of Hiroshima, Japan on 6 August 1945, and to pray for lasting world peace.



16th August: Krishna Janmashtami** Hinduism

Krishna Janmashtami is one of the most important Hindu festivals. This day celebrates the birthday of Lord Krishna, believed to be the eighth reincarnation of Lord Vishnu, who gave the vital message of the Bhagwat Gita – the guiding principles for every Hindu.

21st August Daffodil Day

Daffodil Day is the Cancer Council's most iconic and much loved fundraising campaign. 1 in 2 people will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85, so it takes all of us to give hope for better treatments and better outcomes. The more hope we give, the more lives we can save. That's why the Cancer Council is encouraging you to give it your all by registering to fundraise or by donating this Daffodil Day.



29th August: Wear it Purple Day

Wear it Purple Day is an annual LGBTQIA+ awareness day especially for young people, based in Australia. Supporters wear purple to celebrate diversity and young people from the LGBTQIA+ community.

* Holy days (mainly Jewish, Islamic and Baha'i) which begin at sundown on the previous day listed.

** Local or regional customs may use a variation of this date.

**Dingley Village
Neighbourhood Centre
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Dingley Village Police Update



Crime Stoppers (1800 333 000)
To provide crime information, it can be anonymous.



neighbourhoodwatchkingston



www.nhw.com.au



NOT SURE WHO TO CALL?

TRIPLE ZERO - 000

FOR EMERGENCIES OR LIFE THREATENING SITUATIONS

POLICE ASSISTANCE - 131 444

IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF A CRIME

CRIME STOPPERS - 1800 333 000

TO REPORT CRIME INFORMATION

Neighbourhood Watch & Victoria Police would like to remind everyone to always securely lock your vehicle and never leave valuables visible.

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Don't need full time childcare, working part-time, working from home, home schooling or just need a few hours child free, then we have the answer. We have **6** hour sessions available for pre-school aged children.

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Monday - Friday

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Dingley Village Community Hub

31B Marcus Road, Dingley Village

Email: lvcc@dvnc.com.au

Our caring, nurturing staff invite you to check out our new modern Childrens' Centre



DINGLEY VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

DVCA Annual General Meeting: 12th August

The DVCA Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th August 2025 at 7:30pm at the Dingley Village Library, 31b Marcus Road Dingley Village. All residents of Dingley Village, young & old, are welcome to attend. Please come along & see what we do at the DVCA to help keep our village a great place to live and work in.

Great News - Recycle Soft Plastics Waste at Woolworths Dingley Village

The good news is that a soft plastic collection bin is now available at Woolworths Dingley Village, as shown here. This is part of the trial soft plastics recycling collection service initiated by the Soft Plastics Taskforce, whose current participants are Woolworths, Coles and ALDI. Please make the effort to take your soft plastics waste to the Woolworths Dingley collection bin for recycling.

What Can We Drop Off for Recycling at Woolworths Dingley Village?

Clean Household Soft Plastic (empty & food-free):

- Bags
- Bread Bags
- Vegetable Bags
- Biscuit Wrapping
- Toilet Paper & Paper Towel Wrapping
- Nappy Packaging (Not the Nappy)
- Chip Packets
- Sweet/ Lolly Packets
- Cling Wrap

What Can't We Drop Off for Recycling at Woolworths Dingley Village?

- Other Materials, including:
- Glass
- Cans
- Plastic Bottles
- Plastic Containers - such as hard plastic take away food containers.
- Paper Bags
- Coffee Cups, etc

Including other materials (such as paper shopping bags, hard plastic, nappies, etc) can result in possible contamination of the plastic waste in the Woolworths collection bin. When this occurs, the plastic waste may then be required to be sent to landfill instead of being recycled.

Why Is It Important to Recycle Soft Plastics?

Whilst plastics are a convenient and easy to use material, our large-scale use and current disposal methods of these materials, is producing major plastic waste and pollution on a massive scale, such as:

- The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, located halfway between Hawaii and California, estimated to be 1.6 million square kilometres in size, an area three times the size of France. This has an estimated 1.8 trillion plastic pieces floating in it –equivalent to 250 pieces of plastic for every human in the world.
- "As much as 51 trillion microplastic particles – 500 times more than stars in our galaxy – litter the seas." United Nations SDG February 2017



Recycling your plastic waste is important as it helps to:

- Reduce the amount of plastic waste in our environment, polluting our ecosystems and oceans, and prevent plastic waste entering the marine ecosystem and affecting the human food chain.
- Protect wildlife, by keeping plastic out of habitats, protecting wildlife from entanglement, ingestion, and habitat destruction.

Dingley Village's Farming History

Our unique village has a proud history. Agricultural settlement was established here in the 1850s, with hundreds of acres of market gardens cultivated to produce a variety of vegetables for Melbourne, which were sold at the Queen Victoria Market. One hundred and seventy years on, the remaining market gardens around our village continue to provide Dingley's 'country feel'. Many of our residential street names are from the pioneer farming families who settled here, such as:

- **Tootals Road** - Alfred and Eliza Tootal 1855
- **Kingston Drive** - John and Eliza Kingston 1852
- **Gartside Reserve & Cannery Place** - John Gartside and Sons, market gardeners who also established a Canning Factory business here in

Dingley to process their produce employing 50 locals.

In 2013 Council commissioned our 'Tillage' Sculpture, at the roundabout on Centre Dandenong Road. Designed by Paul Johnson, to reflect our village's agricultural heritage. Tillage; "embraces the fundamental process of preparing the soil for agriculture in a series of mounded furrows arcing above the ground in shapes that evoke working metal tools, wheels, discs and farm machinery.

This notion of agricultural labour is further emphasised by curved, custom designed, laser cut images of cart wheels into Corten steel sheets resting upon the tops of the five arcs. At ground level is a matching series of furrows, created from low planting, that reaches from one side of the roundabout to the other. As the sun fades the arcs are illuminated by yellow-orange ambient light."

DVCA Contact Info:

Contact us by email at dvcasecretary@gmail.com or come to our monthly evening meeting. Meetings are held in the Library Meeting Rooms, on the second Tuesday each month, February-November, at 7:30pm. located at 31b Marcus Rd.

New members are most welcome to attend. For further information please contact the DVCA Secretary at dvcasecretary@gmail.com.

OUR COUNCIL

Cost of living support at the heart of Kingston's budget

A \$2.3 million cost of living support package headlines Kingston's 2025/26 budget, delivering much needed relief to residents doing it tough in today's challenging economic climate.

The package provides a range of practical, targeted support measures, including:

- Rates hardship assistance
- Discounts for business support programs
- Discounted pet registration
- Reduced fees on aged care services to help vulnerable elderly people
- Free and low-cost community activities and events
- Discounted leisure centre fees
- Vital community services to help those in need

Mayor Georgina Oxley said the budget and cost of living package was developed through three rounds of consultation and in direct response to our community's needs and reflects our strong focus on compassion, inclusion, and financial responsibility. "These are really challenging economic times, and that is reflected in the cost-of-living relief we're providing," Cr Oxley said. "This support package makes it simple and easy for people to access help - whether it's with rates, aged care, or staying connected through affordable community activities."

The budget commits \$103.6 million to capital works, including major upgrades to roads, parks, sporting and community facilities, and the continued development of the Mordi Aquatic Centre. It also includes the revitalisation of the Edithvale Shopping Strip, a swath of playground improvements, and important access upgrades along the foreshore.

Cr Oxley said the budget is the result of strong community input and responsible planning. "Investing your rates wisely means continuing to deliver the services needed, renewing and maintaining our facilities and key infrastructure, and delivering new projects in a collaborative, considered and cost-effective manner, as outlined in this blueprint for the year ahead," she said.

"This is a financially responsible budget that focuses on delivering key community services and renewing and maintaining vital infrastructure to ensure it continues to deliver

for the community well into the future - while still looking out for those that need a little more help."

Expanding support for emergency relief services

Mayor Georgina Oxley with the team from Chelsea Community Support Services. Kingston is proud to be expanding support for our local Emergency Relief (ER) Services, with a new two-pronged approach designed to strengthen the delivery of vital services across the city.

Firstly, the services currently receiving an Operational and Partnership Grant will see their funding boosted by 10% for the next two years, before a new tiered funding model comes into effect from July 2027. These important changes are aimed at boosting the capacity and sustainability of our local ER agencies in response to the growing community need and rising cost of living.

ER agencies across Kingston have long been a crucial safety net, providing food, material aid, case management, and referral services to residents facing financial hardship. As demand continues to rise, we are wanting to ensure these vital services are sustainable



and effective. Mayor Georgina Oxley said the new approach means council's support will be targeted where it can have the greatest impact. "Our emergency relief agencies are

on the frontline, supporting people doing it tough," Cr Oxley said. "This new model is about recognising and backing the incredible work of agencies who not only meet immediate needs, but also help build stronger futures."

Under the proposed funding model, ER agencies will be able to apply for funding based on the type and scope of support they provide to the community - ranging from basic food relief to holistic wrap-around services. This is reflected through four funding tiers:

- **Basic** - up to \$15,000
- **Basic Plus** - up to \$50,000
- **Comprehensive** - up to \$80,000
- **Holistic** - up to \$110,000

Mayor Oxley said the new model recognises the changing landscape of community need and the importance of a strategic approach to local support services. "Kingston's ER agencies do an incredible job supporting people when they need it most," she said.

"We're backing the agencies who can meet immediate needs while also empowering people to get back on their feet."

The new model would take effect in line with the next round of triennial Operational and Partnership Grants. ER agencies will be eligible to apply under the updated framework starting January 2027, allowing ample time for preparation and transition.

"We're committed to supporting those who support our community - this two-step approach is about fairness, effectiveness, and long-term impact," Mayor Oxley said. "This is a well-considered, forward-looking move that will help us build a stronger, more resilient Kingston for all."

Information in this article provided by City of Kingston

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LOOKING AT LOANS



7 Key Questions to Ask Your Mortgage Broker

In the March 2025 quarter 76.8% of all new residential home loans in Australia were settled via mortgage brokers, a record high market share. Given the industry was threatened with extinction not too long ago, with concerted efforts by the banks to undermine the mortgage broking industry, that is a massive number.

Why has the broker share grown so large?

For most, purchasing your home is the largest financial transaction ever made. It is of large dollar value and is a 30-year commitment with ongoing long-term consequences. Not like choosing between types of milk at the local shop!

Having a skilled professional by your side at such times is invaluable. Mortgage brokers are equipped to guide you through your property journey, amidst constantly changing market conditions.

We compare a wide range of lenders and products to find a loan that fits your needs. Brokers work in your best interest, not the banks. Here are seven key questions that we encourage you to ask us.

How much can I borrow?

Your borrowing capacity is influenced by various elements including your deposit, savings history, income, expenses, equity, and credit score. It is also important to note that every bank has different rules and parameters, which are constantly being amended and changed. We can undertake detailed analysis to obtain a clear picture of your borrowing capacity options.

Is now the right time to buy a property?

Whether you should buy now depends on your specific financial situation and goals. Whilst being in the market sooner rather than later is generally preferable, some may be better to wait; let's discuss your circumstances and your goals.

How do I use my home equity?

If your home's value has gone up or you've paid down what you owe on it, you might be able to use that equity to fund renovations or purchases such as an investment property or share portfolio. Long term wealth creation is often built on such discussions.

How does bridging finance work?

Bridging finance might be a suitable option if you're in the process of buying a new property while awaiting the sale of your existing residence. It can also provide funding to construct a new home while you reside in your current home. However, it can be complex, risky and expensive. It is very important to understand your options before putting yourself into the position of needing it. For some bridging is the answer to their dreams, for others may be their worst nightmare.

Should I consider fixing my interest rate?

Choosing between fixed and variable rates is a personal decision, influenced by your financial goals and market outlook. Locking in a fixed rate might seem appealing for budgeting your repayments. However, this decision should be made with a clear understanding of the terms, including potential limitations and fees for early exit.

What first home buyer benefits are available?

We see many who have tried to research this on the web who end up with incorrect information due to regional differences and the constant changes. We can explain the different kinds of government assistance, grants and concessions you may be eligible for, specific to your situation.

Should I refinance?

When you first bought your home, you did the research and put time into choosing the right home loan for you. But what's changed since? Of course, the interest rate is of primary importance, but it is not only about the rate.

With changes in the economy, or to your personal circumstances, your best option then may not be your best option today.

We can compare the market for you, assess if your current mortgage still serves your best interest and explain whether refinancing may be financially worthwhile.

Integrity Finance Australia has been serving the Dingley Village community since 2006. If you have any questions on the issues raised in this article or borrowing capacity or your home loan in general, then please email support@ifafinance.com.au, or call us on **03 9511 8883**.

Daryl Borden, your Dingley Village Mortgage Broker, ACL 392184
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ecumming@barryplant.com.au

Barry Plant Bayside
barryplant.com.au/bayside
9586 0500
bayside@barryplant.com.au



Top Native Plants for Every Garden Purpose: Screening, Edging, Colour and More

Every garden should be both beautiful and built to last. One of the best ways to achieve that is by planting Australian natives. Whether you're creating a structured space or going for a more natural look, native plants are adaptable, hardy, and full of life. In this guide, we've put together our top picks for a range of garden jobs. From hedging and edging to colourful climbers and edible delights, there's a native plant for every purpose—and every patch of soil.

Why choose natives?

Native plants are made for our climate. That means less watering, less fuss, and more resilience in heat and drought. On top of that, they support local biodiversity, attracting native bees, butterflies, birds, and even frogs. And with so many textures, colours, and forms to choose from, going native doesn't mean giving up on beauty or variety. Here's how to match the right native plant to the right job in your garden.

Screening and privacy

If you want to block out the neighbours, reduce street noise or create a lush green boundary, screening plants are the way to go.

- Lilly Pilly (*Syzygium australe* varieties like 'Resilience' and 'Bush Christmas') are fast-growing and dense, with attractive red new growth and soft white flowers. They take well to pruning and suit both formal and informal styles.
- *Callistemon viminalis* 'Slim' is a narrow-growing bottlebrush that's ideal for tight spaces. Its bright red flowers are a magnet for birds.
- Blueberry Ash (*Elaeocarpus reticulatus*) has a finer texture and pretty pink or white flowers in spring. It makes a softer screen for shadier spots.

Keep screening plants shaped with light, regular pruning, especially in their early years.

Formal garden structure

For gardeners who prefer a neat, controlled look, there are plenty of native options that respond well to shaping.

- *Westringia fruticosa* (especially dwarf forms like 'Grey Box' and 'Zena') are tidy, rounded shrubs with soft grey-green foliage and delicate flowers. They're ideal for low hedges or clipped borders.
- Coastal rosemary (another *Westringia* variety) is another excellent choice for structured planting. It naturally holds its shape but can be pruned into balls or square forms.
- *Lomandra* 'Tanika' adds a soft, grassy texture to formal designs. It looks great in repeated patterns or planted along paths and driveways.

These plants bring structure without the high maintenance demands of traditional hedges.

Flowering impact

If you're chasing flowers, there's no shortage of colour and drama in the native plant world.

- Grevilleas like 'Robyn Gordon', 'Superb', and 'Ned Kelly' offer year-round blooms and thrive with very little attention. Their nectar-rich flowers bring in birds and pollinators.
- Kangaroo Paws (*Anigozanthos* 'Bush Gems' series) are ideal for sunny spots and provide long-lasting flowers in vibrant colours.
- Native hibiscus (*Alyogyne huegelii*) is a fast-growing shrub with stunning purple or blue blooms. It adds a tropical touch to garden beds.

These flowering plants are perfect for adding seasonal interest and attracting native wildlife.

Groundcovers for mass planting

Low-growing native groundcovers are brilliant for filling gaps, softening edges, and suppressing weeds.

- *Myoporum parvifolium* spreads quickly and forms a dense mat, making it excellent for sunny, dry spots.
- Native violet (*Viola hederacea*) loves a bit of shade and will spread gently, adding a pop of purple and green under trees or along paths.
- *Hardenbergia violacea*, in its ground-hugging form, creates a tough, flowering carpet. It's ideal for slopes or as a low feature near the front of garden beds.

Groundcovers work well between stepping stones or as living mulch around larger plants.

Edible natives

Want to grow something you can snack on? There's a growing range of native edibles that are both ornamental and useful.

- Finger Lime (*Citrus australasica*) produces small citrus fruits filled with juicy pearls of flavour. It can be grown in pots or in the ground.
- Midyim Berry (*Austromyrtus dulcis*) is a low-growing shrub with sweet, speckled berries and a soft, bushy form.
- Warrigal Greens (*Tetragonia tetragonioides*) is a groundcover that can be harvested like spinach. It thrives in full sun and is often used in bush tucker gardens.

These plants add a sense of purpose to the garden while keeping things uniquely Australian.

Climbers and vertical growers

If you've got a wall, fence, or archway that needs some green, try a native climber.

- *Hardenbergia violacea*, also known as False Sarsaparilla, is a vigorous grower with purple, pink or white pea-like flowers.
- Wonga Wonga Vine (*Pandorea pandorana*) has attractive bell-shaped blooms and lush foliage, making it perfect for pergolas or trellises.
- Native jasmine (*Jasminum suavisimum*) is a softer, lightly scented option that suits more delicate designs.

Climbers are great for adding softness to hard surfaces and creating garden 'rooms' with overhead cover.

Feature plants and topiary

For something bold and beautiful, consider a native feature plant.

- Grass Trees (*Xanthorrhoea* spp.) are slow growing but striking, with a sculptural look that suits both natural and contemporary gardens.
- Banksias, such as 'Birthday Candles' or 'Sentinel', offer unusual flowers and textured foliage.
- Lilly Pilly can also be clipped into topiary balls or spirals, giving you the structure of classic topiary with the benefits of native hardiness.

Use feature plants as focal points at entrances, at the end of sight lines, or in large pots.

Matching plants to garden styles

Whether your space is big or small, wild or formal, there's a native plant that fits. For wild gardens, layer taller shrubs like grevilleas or melaleucas with mid-height flowering plants and native grasses.

For formal designs, choose symmetry and repetition

Clipped westringias, repeated lomandras, and shaped lilly pillies can give a very polished look. For courtyards and small spaces, go for compact varieties that thrive in pots—like finger lime, dwarf bottlebrush, or smaller grevillea types.

The key is to choose plants that suit your lifestyle and your space. Native plants are tough, but they still appreciate the right light, water, and soil conditions.

Wrapping Up

No matter your garden style—wild and rambling or neat and structured—there's an Australian native plant that can bring it to life. From hardy screeners and formal hedges to bright blooms, bush tucker and low-maintenance groundcovers, natives are the smart, sustainable choice for Aussie gardens.

Check out more gardening advice and tips at www.diacos.com.au/garden-guide.

Happy gardening

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SAFE COMMUNITIES

Cyber crime and real-world crime are converging in a dangerous new way – here's how to stay safe.

THE CONVERSATION

Academic rigour, journalistic flair

Published: July 10, 2025, 10:56am AEST

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It starts with a call from someone claiming to be your bank. They know your name. They know your bank. They even know your credit card number. There's been "unusual activity" on your account, they say – and they just sent you a one-time passcode to verify your identity so they can assist. You read out the code and feel reassured. Moments later, your funds are gone and the bank refuses reimbursement, citing a breach of terms because you voluntarily shared your passcode. This is not a niche or isolated scam. It's part of a growing pattern we're seeing across Australia and beyond: cyber criminals are merging digital and real-world tactics in ways that make these frauds more convincing, harder to stop, and far more damaging.

It starts with stolen data

These scams don't begin with a phishing email or fake app. They begin with data – your data – stolen in one of countless breaches, such as the latest Qantas incident that exposed the details of up to 5.7 million customers. Sometimes the personal data has been sold through third-party data brokers. Names, phone numbers, emails, even card details are routinely leaked and traded online.

Once they have this information, scammers get to work. The phone call mimics a real interaction with a bank, perhaps with a spoofed caller ID. Victims are pressured in urgent language to "verify" their identity, often by reading out a one-time passcode that, unbeknownst to them, is authorising a transaction using their own card details. We refer to this as a "convergence scam" – where online data leaks, psychological manipulation and weak enforcement come together. It's a sophisticated hybrid of digital theft and physical-world exploitation, and it's on the rise.



Devastating and personal

These scams are deeply personal and can be financially devastating. But what makes them even more alarming is the system-wide failure surrounding them. For starters, many credit card fraud insurance policies contain clauses that exclude coverage when the customer "voluntarily" provides account credentials – including one-time passcodes – even if they did so under duress or deception. One victim we spoke to lost nearly A\$6,000 after a scammer posing as their bank prompted them

to read out a passcode over the phone. The transaction was verified using that code, and the bank later refused to reimburse the loss. In a formal response, the bank stated that by voluntarily sharing the one-time passcode, the customer had breached the e-payments code, even though they were manipulated into doing so. As a result, the customer was held liable and ineligible for a chargeback.

Law enforcement may not help

Even when the criminals leave a physical trail, follow-up is rare. Law enforcement rarely investigates. In the cases we've seen, reports are acknowledged but not pursued. Officers don't explicitly say the case is too small or not worth the effort, but their inaction suggests it, especially given how resource-intensive most cyber-crime investigations tend to be. In many instances, particularly when the total loss isn't deemed significant, victims are simply told to follow up with their bank, based on the assumption they'll be reimbursed.

In one case we reviewed, stolen card details were used in-store at major Australian retailers such as Woolworths and Coles – indicating that a cloned card had been physically used. These purchases could, in theory, be tracked back to in-store CCTV footage. But no investigation was launched. This reluctance to act, even when the evidence is tangible, sends a dangerous message: that scammers can operate with near impunity.

Meanwhile, banks and regulators are slow to update verification systems. One-time passcodes are still widely used, even though scammers now exploit them routinely. There's little recourse for victims, and minimal accountability for data brokers whose records fuel these scams.

What can we do to protect ourselves?

For individuals, the first line of defense is simple but vital:

- Never share a one-time passcode or security code over the phone, even if the caller seems legitimate
- If in doubt, hang up and call the bank directly using the number on your card
- Be cautious about where and how you share your personal information, especially online through websites or social media. Only disclose what personally identifiable information you have to.
- The true answer is systemic change
- Banks and other institutions need to put into place stronger identity verification systems that don't rely solely on SMS codes. We need greater transparency and regulation of data brokers.

Crucially, we also need active enforcement of cyber-enabled fraud, especially when there's physical evidence, such as in-store purchases and CCTV footage. Banks should also reassess their policies and procedures on how they communicate with customers. If scam calls closely mimic real ones, it's time to change the script. More proactive education, clearer warnings, and redesigned verification processes can all help prevent harm.

The real danger of these convergence scams isn't just financial loss. It's the erosion of trust: in our banks, in our security systems, and in the institutions meant to protect us. Once that trust is gone, it's not easily recovered.

Disclaimer Statement

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PARENTING

So your primary school child has a 'boyfriend' or 'girlfriend'. Should you be worried?

THE CONVERSATION

Academic rigour, journalistic flair

Published: May 16, 2025 6.20am AEST
Cher McGillivray - Assistant Professor
in Psychology, Bond University



If you have a child in primary school you may not be expecting to help them manage romantic relationships. Surely this is an issue for the high school years? While young children do not experience romantic love in an adult sense, they can still express interest in having a "boyfriend" or "girlfriend". Some children may talk about a "crush" or even say they are "dating" another child. Is this normal? Why do kids do this? And what are some healthy boundaries to talk about?

Why do kids do this?

It is quite normal for children in primary school to engage in playful relationships or express interest in having crushes or a "boyfriend" or "girlfriend". This is a way for children to explore their world.

At this stage of their development, different types of social interactions help children work out emotions and social norms in a safe and imaginative way. It also helps them practice social bonding (how we form close attachments to others) and understanding interpersonal dynamics. So, just as children might play games such as "mums and dads" or "sisters and brothers", they might also play at having a boyfriend or girlfriend, or even stage a mock wedding ceremony.

Are there other reasons?

Children are of course also influenced by the movies, fairy tales, books and the TV they consume and by watching older siblings or students at school. Seeing Ariel and Prince Eric fall in love in *The Little Mermaid* may prompt children to act this out. Similarly they might act "spinjitsu" moves in the playground after watching *Ninjago*.



Psychologist Erik Erikson has also suggested children aged 5-12 are at a stage where they seek approval from adults and peers (approval from friends becomes even more important in high school). Having a "boyfriend" or "girlfriend" may be a way for children to feel socially competent and accepted. There could also be peer pressure involved. For example, "all the other Year 4 kids have a boyfriend at the moment, so I will have one too".

So what are some healthy boundaries to encourage?

While playing at having boyfriends or girlfriends is quite normal during pre-puberty, it's important to make sure children are staying within healthy boundaries.

If they are expressing physical affection – such as hugging or holding hands – it's important this is appropriate and everyone is consenting. The old playground game of "catch and kiss" is no longer OK, given kisses are effectively being forced on the player who is caught.

Once children start puberty, childlike feelings of attachment can give way to romantic feelings and more intense relationships. This is when you might start to see children having "proper" relationships.

At any stage of development, keep talking about what consent looks like, feels like and sounds like. This will vary depending on their age, but the basic principles remain the same. Throughout these conversations, emphasise no one ever has to do anything or be in a situation that makes them uncomfortable.

How can you talk to your child?

When you are talking to your child, do not to make fun of their feelings or be angry with them.

If they are exploring their feelings or being curious about relationships, it's important they feel safe to do so without judgement. They should be able to talk about big or complex things without shame, embarrassment or fear of getting in trouble. Remember, a certain behaviour may not be appropriate, but the child themselves is not "weird" or "bad". If a child feels as though they can't talk about these feelings or issues, they may feel as though they are the problem or they are "wrong". This can lead to poor self-esteem.

You could ask "what do you like about that friend?" to try and remove the label of boyfriend or girlfriend. It could help to talk about your own experiences, for example, "I had a few close friends in primary school and we did everything together rather than having a 'boyfriend' or 'girlfriend'". If you are worried something inappropriate is happening, you can talk to the parent of the other child or the school to get them to help encourage new boundaries for all the children involved.

Disclosure statement

Cher McGillivray does not work for, consult, own shares in or receive funding from any company or organisation that would benefit from this article, and has disclosed no relevant affiliations beyond their academic appointment. This article is republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons license. <https://theconversation.com/au/>



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What is cancer?

Cancer is a disease of the cells, which are the basic building blocks of the human body. The body constantly makes new cells to help us grow, replace old cells and heal injuries. Sometimes this process goes wrong, and the cell becomes abnormal. The abnormal cell keeps dividing, making more abnormal cells, which can gather together and form a lump called a tumour.

There are two kinds of tumours:

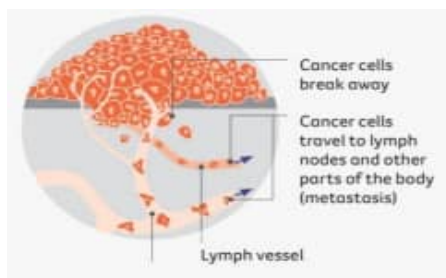
Benign tumours are not cancer. They do not spread to other parts of the body. Malignant tumours are cancer. They can spread to other parts of the body.

Where cancer starts

As our body is made up of cells, cancer can start anywhere in the body. Some common places for cancer to start, include the skin, bowel, breasts, prostate and lungs. The place where the cancer first starts is called primary cancer. Sometimes the doctors can't find where the cancer first started. This is called cancer of unknown primary.

How cancer spreads

Sometimes cancer cells move to other parts of the body. Cancer that has spread and developed into a tumour somewhere else in the body is called a secondary cancer or metastasis.



Risk factors

Cancer can happen to anybody. Some things put people at a greater risk of getting cancer include:

- getting older (half of all cancers are diagnosed in people aged 75 or over)
- smoking tobacco
- drinking too much alcohol

- not doing enough exercise
- eating unhealthy food
- being overweight
- too much sun
- family history
- some chemicals and asbestos
- some viruses, such as the human papillomavirus (spread by sex).

Injury or stress does not cause cancer. Cancer is not caused by being a bad person and it does not mean that you or your family are bad people. Cancer is also not contagious. People can't catch it from someone who has it, and it is safe to be near someone who has cancer.

Most common cancer types

Prostate cancer: Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in Australia, apart from non-melanoma skin cancers.

Breast cancer: Although it is most common in women, anyone can be affected by breast cancer.

Melanoma: You can reduce your risk of melanoma by using good sun protection and being aware of UV.

Bowel cancer: It is most common in people over 50, but it can occur at any age.

Lung cancer: Smoking is the biggest risk factor and is linked to most cases, but there are many people with lung cancer who have never smoked.

Diagnosis

Sometimes, doctors find cancer because the person is feeling unwell and has symptoms. It is important to know what is normal for your body, and to see your doctor straight away if you notice changes, including:

- lumps, sores or ulcers that don't heal
- breast changes, such as lumpiness, a thickened area, unusual nipple discharge, a nipple that turns inwards, a change in shape or colour, or pain
- skin changes, such as moles that change shape, size or colour, or bleed
- a cough that won't go away
- finding it hard to breathe or voice changes
- losing weight without trying
- nausea or vomiting that doesn't go away
- diarrhoea or constipation that doesn't go away or you can't explain

- for women, loss of blood from the vagina that is not normal, even if it's a few spots between periods or after menopause
- blood in your poo or wee
- unexplained pain in the body that does not get better.

Many of these symptoms can be caused by common health problems, not cancer. You should see a doctor about any changes or persistent symptoms.

Getting checked

While cancer is common, many cancers can be treated by a doctor if they are found early. It is important to go to cancer screening programs. Screening for breast, bowel and cervical cancer saves lives because cancer can be found earlier, when it is easier to treat.

Treatment

Cancer won't go away without treatment. Cancer treatment depends on the type and stage of the cancer (how much it has grown and spread) and commonly includes chemotherapy, radiation therapy, surgery and immunotherapy. Each person is different, and some people have more than one type of treatment.

If the cancer can't be treated, it is possible that your doctor will give you palliative treatment to make you feel better by controlling your symptoms. With these types of treatment, you might feel less pain and have a better life.

Support and Resources:

Cancer Nurse, Cancer Council Helpline:

13 11 20 is the national helpline for cancer information and support.

Cancer Council Online Community:

An online platform for people affected by cancer to connect and support each other. www.cancercouncil.org.au/get-support

Canteen: Canteen provides support services for young people affected by cancer.

www.canteen.org.au

Information in this article is provided by the Cancer council Victoria and is of a general nature only and should not be substituted for medical advice. It does not replace consultations with qualified healthcare professionals to meet your individual medical needs. If you have any concerns about your health, see your doctor.



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Cataract Awareness

June marked Cataract Awareness Month, an important opportunity to reflect on one of the most common causes of vision loss in Australia and around the world.

As optometrists, we see first-hand the impact cataracts can have on people's lives, but we also know how treatable and manageable they can be with timely intervention. A cataract is a clouding of the normally clear lens inside the eye. This gradual change can lead to blurry or hazy vision, difficulty seeing at night, increased sensitivity to glare, and even a noticeable dulling of colours.

Cataracts tend to develop slowly over time, which can make the early changes subtle and easy to overlook. Many patients simply put their symptoms down to "just getting older," but it's important to understand that vision loss from cataracts doesn't need to be accepted as a normal part of aging.

While aging is the most common cause of cataracts, other factors can contribute to their early development. Health conditions such as diabetes, excessive exposure to sunlight over many years, long-term use of certain medications, a history of smoking, or previous eye injuries can all increase the risk. Cataracts can affect one or both eyes, and their progression varies from person to person. Your eye health. Regular comprehensive eye exams are key to detecting cataracts early and monitoring their progression.

Early detection allows us to refer patients for surgery when the time is right, ensuring the best possible outcomes and preserving quality of life. If you've noticed recent changes in your vision—particularly increased glare, cloudiness, or difficulty seeing clearly in low light—it may be time to have your eyes checked. Don't ignore the signs.

Cataracts are highly treatable, and restoring clear vision can be life-changing. We're committed to supporting your eye health through every stage of life. Your vision matters, and we're here to help you keep it as clear and vibrant as possible.

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When: Wednesday 20th August 6.30-8pm

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Contact: Geraldine Howley

Geraldineahowley@gmail.com 0449 150 415

MENS SHED



Men's Sheds and Council Work Together

There are four (4) Men's Sheds in the Kingston Local Government Area (LGA). From time to time the council needs a variety of items which can be made or provided by these Men's Sheds.

As each of the Council and Men's Sheds are primarily providing a service to the community it should not be a surprise to find that they often work together to improve the benefits enjoyed by the whole community serviced by the Council and the nearest Men's Shed.

Such occasions include certificate frames for awards to recognise businesses and individuals who themselves provide their valuable efforts, especially involved in recyclable materials. Specially designed easels used by council staff and others when explaining important updates or new plans which will improve council services to the community.



The benefits here are:

- Firstly, the service or item is needed to improve our community.
- Secondly, it provides the opportunity for local retired men who might otherwise be non-productive to make a worthwhile contribution and
- Thirdly, a community resource is harnessed which makes the enjoyment of all residents just that much better.

All this is achieved at very little cost, so the net result is a win for all concerned. The four Men's Sheds in the Kingston LGA are Kingston (Clayton), Dingley Village, Mordialloc and Chelsea.

There are more than 360 Men's Sheds throughout Victoria so the total benefit to the various communities they serve and who are fortunate enough to have their own local Men's Shed is considerable.

Geoff Hergt - President
Dingley Village Men's Shed

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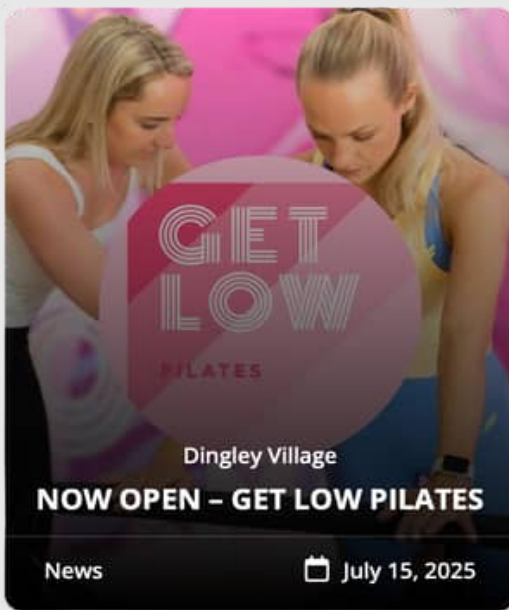


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VILLAGE REFLECTIONS

Christ Church: Dingley

This photo shows Mary and Thomas Attenborough in the newly established garden at Christ Church, 1876.



On September 21, 1873, what was described as 'the vision and enterprise of Miss Mary Attenborough' became a reality with the dedication of Christ Church at Dingley. The first Anglican Bishop of Melbourne, the Right Reverend Charles Perry officiated at the service attended by Mary, her brother Thomas and 180 friends.

A memorial tablet on the west wall records, "In memory of Robert Attenborough, of Braybrooke, Northamptonshire, England, this church is erected by his grateful niece, A.D. 1873" Mary Attenborough stipulated there was to be no artificial lighting in her Church and as a result only one daily service was held in Christ Church for some thirty years. It was in 1911 that permission was gained to install acetylene lighting and until those arrangements were completed Hurricane lamps, Miller lamps and other suitable forms of lighting were hung temporarily to allow evening services to commence.

In October 1929 electric lighting was connected. Mrs Hilda Martin recalled becoming a member of Christ Church in 1903 when she was twelve.

"Near the front door of the Church was an underground brick well with a pump which collected the water from the Church spouting. This was thoughtfully provided by Miss Attenborough, not only for the Church people, but for the benefit of those who travelled on foot. Water was most precious in those days. Near the stable, which was situated near the Sunday School, was a 'mounting-block' used by women who rode a horse to Church, as only side saddles were in use for women."

In the 1960's the church was classified by the National Trust of Victoria as a building worthy of preservation in terms of its historical value. There are several stain glass windows in the church which are memorials to the Attenborough's.

From: Kent, P (1973) Christ Church Dingley: 1873-1973 a centenary review.

The Dingley Village Historical Society has a collection of documents, photographs and information on the history of Dingley Village and its early families, we are always looking to add to our collections and would welcome any information people would like to share with us. If you would like information or would like to share any information with us, please contact: The Dingley Village Historical Society enquiries@dvhs.com.au or visit us at 31A Marcus Road, Monday, Tuesday or Thursday from 10am to 12.



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LOCAL SPORTS



Dingley Football Netball Club



The football season turned for home on June 10 in Round 10, with a visit from middle of the table Bentleigh.

The Senior side didn't disappoint, winning by 52 points, fifteen goals to seven. Young Jack Ferraro put on a clinic with seven goals, enhancing his growing reputation. Veteran Arryn Siposs was also a focal point in a lethal forward line which was fed all day by a dominant midfield of Stretton, Peet, Ferguson and Barnes. Job Done.

This set up our long awaited trip to old rivals Springvale District in Round 11. With our worrying list of injuries and some known absences because of overseas travel plans and despite our unbeaten run, Springvale completely overwhelmed their guests to the tune of 52 points.

There were no excuses as it seemed that we simply 'didn't turn up' against a worthy opponent. The fact that our best four players were our hard working defenders, in Cochrane, Lator, Duscher and the hard

working Cam Dickie, said a lot about a bad day at the office. A game to put to one side but only for now. Sixteen year old Judd Lemon made his debut and more than held his own.

The importance of the next challenge was etched on the faces of the senior group all week approaching the Cheltenham visit to the Dingo Den in Round 12.

Some wins mean twice as much as others, especially when recovering from a bad loss and the Senior side's response to the previous week was immediate and inclusive of the entire twenty two players, who fought out a tough physical encounter in what was our best win of the year, and against one of our most bitter rivals.

Our leaders stood up as usual and young first year ruckman Marcus Toussaint was best on ground. A great win for all. The comp went to a bye on July 12, giving us a chance to possibly recover some injured and prepare for East Brighton and the Murrumbidgee to finish off July.

Those results will be in next month's Dossier.



The Reserves remain undefeated to this stage.

Round Thirteen of Netball saw six wins and a massive celebration on the annual Ladies Day luncheon on July 5. With three rounds remaining this is where Netball sits. A1-top, A5-5th, A4-top, B2-3rd, B4-3rd, C1-top, C2 -8th and D4-3rd. Exciting times lay ahead for the remainder of 2025 for both sports.

The club urges all Dingley sports fans to get on board for all future games.

Go Dingoes

CAN YOU HELP!

Heatherton Dingley Uniting Church,
“The Little White Church on the Corner”,
of Kingston Rd & Old Dandenong Rd,
is now certified by
The Dingley Village Historical Society as
“THE OLDEST BUILDING”
in Heatherton & Dingley.



A Reward of \$100 is being offered for a legible
-photograph of the original Foundation Stone
of the building (then called The Heatherton
Methodist Church), which was laid in 1861.

Note this was only 27 years after the settlement of Melbourne.

If your Parents, Grandparents or Great Grandparents attended this church between 1861 and 1933, after which we think the original foundation stone disappeared, then please check any old photographs you may have of their baptisms, weddings or funerals to see if you can claim this reward?

Some prominent early families at the Church were the Follet, Dunlop, Baguley, Mills and Burgess, so if these were your ancestors, we ask that you please check their old photos?

A 50th anniversary celebration was held at the Church in 1908 and 265 people attended so we hope someone will have a photo taken then too?

You may ask why we want this photograph? Well, it is because we want to replicate the old Foundation Stone when we have a new one made, for placement at the 165th Anniversary, being held on Sunday afternoon, 22nd March 2026, when we expect to break this record of 265 attending on the day, so please mark that date in your diary to visit The Oldest Building in Heatherton & Dingley?



When you find a photo of
the original Foundation
Stone, please call Bob
Lorraine on **0418998712**
to claim your reward.



Bugle McCoy

We all knew him as Bugle McCoy. Wherever there was an opportunity he would blow that bugle, usually pretty well. Not always in company and when it suited him. Some said he had a disordered state of mind, but I was never certain about that. What's sanity anyway?

I recall that Bugle was distant and very different to anyone I knew in Ararat but the troubles and tribulations of a struggling small town in regional Victoria wouldn't seem to be the ideal platform for establishing who was unhinged or not. It was a psychologists' larder.

Bugle and I did Grades One and Two together at Ararat Primary. Academically I didn't challenge the scorers very much and bumbled along as best I could but Bugle, however, was in a different league. His manner and approach didn't lend itself easily to the challenges, sniping and shaping that is the school experience, either in the classroom or outside in the schoolyard. If I was on the lowest rung of the scholastic ladder, he was hanging on by his fingernails.

But Bugle had a refuge. In the schoolyard, when the other kids weren't poking fun at him, Bugle would haul his little copper bugle out of the black, oversized, worn-kneed tracksuit pants that he wore every day and proceed to blow tunes that pierced the atmosphere of our noisy schoolyard. Often, I recall just stopping to listen as his notes soared and slackened. He seemed to be able to select a tune that synched with the mood of the day. Windy and rainy days brought tunes in ebbs and flows like they were washing the yard while in fairer, warmer, sunnier weather his mood rose and his music with it. In and around the town, the local football and cricket, he was heard everywhere. We always knew he was coming and we always knew where he was headed. He was smarter than he was given credit for, and I knew that he was aware of the local commentary that accompanied his brassy extravagances. I lost contact with him when I left to attend secondary school and then university in Melbourne.

It was 1975 and Bugle was my age, seventy, when I saw him next. I had returned to Ararat for a reunion at the school and spied him in the far corner of the newly refurbished gymnasium. I was surprised he was there. He looked up at me as I approached.

I find it odd that most people just assume that you don't recall them after an absence and especially when you are a few decades older. Bugle remembered me though – he surprised me with a welcoming smile and an outthrust hand. The basic pleasantries that we exchanged comprised the longest conversation we had ever had. It grew when I asked him about his life. The surprise grew.

"Oh. Some people cut hair or do fingernails, maybe become a doctor, plumber, drive a truck or slice chicken. I tried a few things after you left but work wasn't a good fit for me. The workplace was just another schoolyard for me. Not my sort of music." I asked what he did. "The only time I feel a part of this race is when the mouthpiece of my bugle smacks my lips, the tunes that follow are my passage."

"Why the bugle," I said. He hesitated. "No one ever asked. They all thought I was Looney Tunes, so I played along in my own little way. I got better at it. It was easier for me that way."



I remember how nice you were to me and how you would stop to listen." He continued with a sad glint in his eyes. Revealing the old, battered bugle from under his coat he told me that his dad gave it to him when he was a little boy. "I was about five, I think. We lived alone in this old, isolated place near Sheepyard Flats. Dad showed me how to play, sitting on the small veranda of our house that looked out over the scrub. Strangely, he never played but I noticed that whenever I did, he would become very sad and often cry. I asked him the reason and offered to stop but he insisted that I continue."

"Did you find out why", I asked. Bugle looked past me at the other former students mingling, laughing at the front of the room. "Yes. It took a long time but eventually he opened up. I had known little about Dad's early life; he only really offered me tidbits from time to time. He told me one night, before he checked out for good at the Hospital. It was a bit like the Last Post."

"He told me he had served in the Army in World War 2 and that he had been on the Burma Railway for three years." "Dad told me that he was the bugler."

Warren Duncan, 2019



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CIRCLING THE CLUBS



Country Women's Association Dingley Village



Our next stall is all about baking!! Hope to see you at our annual Father's Day stall, Bunnings Keysborough on Saturday September 6.

CWA members donate their time as well as the goods used in raising funds. All monies raised are distributed to charities in regional and remote communities including Blaze Aid, Royal Flying Doctor Service, Angel Flight and locally, Food Bank.

CWA Dingley Branch meets at the Dingley Village Neighbourhood Centre on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 10am. If you need any further information about CWA or would like to consider becoming a member, please contact Sue **0434 879 875**.

Dingley 60 Plus Social Group

Our gatherings adjacent to the Sports Bar of the Dingley International Hotel are being held only on the 2nd Thursday of the month so the next one will be on the 14th of August and the September one is on the 11th.

Starting time is 7.00 -7.30 PM and meals and snacks are available. Of course you have the usual wide choice of beverages being dispensed for your indulgence.

Our regular dinner is held on the last Saturday of the month and the August one will be on the 30th. Advice of future activities and venues are made at the Thursday gatherings and to facilitate bookings you can indicate which particular events you wish to attend. A number of 60 Plussers were entertained by Marceau Camile at the Keysborough Seniors Club in July.

Our activities are suitable for those in the 60 plus age group and provide an opportunity to socialise with your peers. Events can be proposed by members and those interested can get on board. We are more than happy to welcome new members to the Group and enquiries can be made to Graeme on **9551 3462**.

PS -Was the author AWOL on the 10th of July?

Probus Club Dingley Central



The guest speaker for our July meeting was author Laraine Stephens. Laraine resides in Beaumaris, and has worked in secondary schools as a teacher librarian and Head of Library for nearly 40 years.

On her retirement she became a writer of historical crime fiction. Laraine presented a very interesting insight into the historical background of her novels, which are set in the 1920s in Melbourne.

She has written a series of 4 novels and readers are transported back in time, with an intriguing set of characters, led by the flamboyant investigative Reggie da Costa. Laraine also spent 5 years as a volunteer guide at the Melbourne Goal.

Activities planned for August: Happy Hour, Legs and Morning Coffee, Wine Tasting, Camera Club, Morning Melodies, Dine Out, Film Day, Craft Group, Ladies Lunch and Games Day.

Our meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month, at the Salvation Army Kingston Centre, 13/12-16 Garden Boulevard, Dingley Village. New members are always welcome. For further information please contact Jean on **0438 272 232**.

Website: dingleycentralprobus.wix.com/dingleycentralprobus

Dingley Village Senior Citizens Club Incorporated

The Dingley Village Senior Citizens Club Inc meets every Monday from 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM and new members are most welcomed.

Mark your calendars for AUGUST 2025 as we have some fantastic activities lined up for you:

- **4th** - Games, Cards, and Dominoes. Monthly Executives meeting
- **11th** - Bingo
- **18th** - Lunch @ Long Beach RSL
- **25th** - Special General Meeting

For more information, feel free to reach out to our President, Margaret, at **9580 4321**, or our Secretary, Asha, at **0417105646**

Dingley Village Historical Society



DVHS aims to document and collate information regarding our local history. The society holds information on early families of Dingley Village and the surrounding areas as well as the market gardens, farms, clubs and societies in the area. We welcome any information or photographs of Dingley Village through time that we can copy.

Located at 31A Marcus Rd. (near the library) we are open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 10am - 12pm. We are also open on the third Saturday of the month during the Farmers Market and other times on request.

Contact by email: enquiries@dvhs.com.au

Dingley Village Men's Shed



Opening Hours and General Activities:

Day of Week	Open Hours	General Activities
Monday	9:00am - 1:00 pm	Metal Work, Wood Work, Art, Bicycle & Car Maintenance
Tuesday	9:00am - 12:00 pm 1:30pm - 3:30pm	A' Team workgroup & Bike Riding Group Photography
Wednesday	9:00am - 12:00 pm	Bike Riding Group & Music Group
Thursday	9:00am - 12:00 pm 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	A' Team workgroup Pool / Snooker
Friday	9:00am - 1:00pm	Members Muster This is our main day!

Every Friday Morning (except holidays as designated). come along, enjoy a cuppa, a chat & meet with your fellow shedders.

We also hold a great Raffle (fundraiser) for members & visitors, and also a Golf Putting Comp. Other Activities from time to time include Golf Days, Special Event Days e.g., Cup Day & Australia Day BBQs, plus, the occasional outing to places of interest. The Dingley Village Men's Shed is in Cypress Drive, Braeside Park (near Visitors Centre), Lower Dandenong Road.

Ph. **9551 5892**, E-mail: info@dvms.org.au
Web: www.dvms.org.au



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Lions Club of Dingley Village



If anybody has any of the following items, they can be left at the Dingley Village Neighbourhood Centre. Pre-loved spectacles, sunglasses and hearing aids and used stamps are still needed. Thank you to all who have donated, please keep them coming in.

Our meetings are held on the 4th Monday at 7.00pm at the Dingley Village Neighbourhood Centre, 31B Marcus Road, Dingley Village (Public Holidays excluded). These meetings are informal and friendly.

For any enquiries, please contact Lynne – 9551 3770 / 0488 004 809. dingleyions@gmail.com

Rotary Club Noble Park – Dingley



Active Rotarians – making friends and making a difference.

The Rotary Club of Noble Park-Dingley has an active social and project program. Our members love being part of our club and enjoy participating in our activities. Once you get to know us you might like to join us in being part of a network of 1.2 million Rotary volunteers worldwide.

We meet at 6.30pm on the first three Thursdays of each month at the Keysborough Golf Club in Hutton Road. Please email info@npdrotaryclub.org.au for more information.

Dingley Cheltenham VIEW Club (Voice Interest Education of Women)



New members are most welcome to join our monthly meetings and learn from our guest speakers and enjoy our monthly social outings. VIEW (Voice Interests, and Education of Women) Clubs support The Smith Family and their Learning for Life Programme which provides education for vulnerable Australian children. Australia has over one million children living below the poverty line.

Dingley Cheltenham VIEW Club are currently sponsoring 7 Children with their education. Women from all walks of life are most welcome to join us please contact Fran Thomas for further information. franniet@gmail.com or 0419 309 931.

Meeting: Second Tuesday of the month at 10am. Where: Keysborough Golf Club, 55 Hutton Rd Keysborough, easy parking.

Italian Senior Citizens of Kingston - "La Baracca"

The Italian Senior Citizens of Kingston offer a two course homecooked lunch with coffee and biscuits every Wednesday and Sunday at 12 pm.

\$17 for members, \$20 non-members.
New members welcome.

All are welcome to socialise, play billiards, bocce and cards and once a month Sunday Bingo. The first Sunday of every month we hold a lunch dance at 12pm offering a three course meal with coffee and a live band. Booking essential Giovanna 0421 045 648.

Braeside Park Walking Group

We need more walkers. Friendly mixed group meets Tuesday and Friday at the Visitors Centre Carpark. Arrive 9.20am for a 9.30 start to Circuit 5 km or shorter. Stay around for a chat afterwards, no booking just come along.

Keysborough & District Multicultural Senior Citizens Inc.

This over 55s club is located at the Rowley Allan Reserve 352 Cheltenham Road Keysborough and the following activities are available for members and visitors:

Tuesdays – Bingo on the 1st, 2nd and 4th of the month 1pm to 3pm. \$3.00 entry and \$1.50 per book. **Concerts** with professional entertainers are on the 3rd and 5th Tuesday of the month 1pm to 3pm. \$3.00 entry.

Wednesdays – Line Dancing 1pm to 3pm \$3.00 entry.

Thursdays – Ballroom dancing from 1.00pm to 3.00pm. Entry \$3.00.

Club members and visitors enjoyed an afternoon with Rick Charles giving us a heap of Rock and Roll and popular songs.

Future entertainment for members and visitors: 19 August, Lone Star (following AGM). 16 September, Alex Matthews and 30 September, The Two of Us

Contact is Julie on 0428 561 694.

Spring Park YWCA Golf Club



A friendly welcoming group of ladies of varying standards meet at 7.45am for an 8.00am start on Monday mornings at Dingley's Spring Park Golf Course. Cup of tea & biscuit is shared after the round.

We play 9 holes & provide an excellent starting point for those who have completed golf lessons & are ready to hit the fairways.

Further information: Jillian Sanders 0419 501 365 (Captain), Julie Westcott 0438 269 622. (President), Jan Boyes 0497 096 377 (Secretary).

Mordialloc/Chelsea Evening VIEW Club

Mordialloc/Chelsea Evening VIEW Club is on the lookout for new members who want to give back to their community and make new connections with women in the area.

"We are always looking for women of all backgrounds and ages to join us and look forward to welcoming new faces at our next monthly meeting," said Club President Rhonda.

Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at The Bridge Hotel 1-4 Nepean Highway Aspendale at 6.30pm, includes dinner and a guest speaker RSVP Myra 0407041734. Anyone interested in becoming a member can call Maria on 0419507384 or Helen on 0418557358 or visit www.view.org.au for further information

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Kingston City Church



Our Vision: Connecting People To Jesus Christ

Our Mission: Reach, Restore, Relate, Resource And Release.
Ph: **8551 6600**, Fax: **8551 6690**.
Web: www.kcc.crm.org.au
Email: admin@crm.org.au

Senior Pastor: Dan Parker

Sunday Services: 10am Service has Children's Ministry.

Our Kids Ministry at Kingston City Church is called, KINGDOM KIDS! Our program runs during our Sunday morning service at 10am. We have four rooms running each week. The Creche, Toddler/Kinder Room, the Primary Room and the Parent Room - for parents who want to listen to the service while their kids are playing and occupied.

Each week we have a team of dedicated leaders and youth helpers sharing the Word of God with the children and praying with them. We have also been encouraging the children in each room to sing praises and worship together. Our vision is to see the children grow in their faith and have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ; to know their Heavenly Father and be touched by the Holy Spirit.

We have also been breaking up the children into smaller discussion groups for prayer and ministry time. We are very glad to see our older primary kids reading the Word of God together, sharing and praying for each other in their groups. We are praying for the touch and the move of the Holy Spirit in the hearts and lives of the children in our Kids Ministry.

Pauline Martin-Nathaniel
Kids Ministry Leader

Heatherton-Dingley Uniting Church



Cnr. Kingston and Old Dandenong Roads, Heatherton. Sunday services at 10.00 a.m. Sacrament of Holy Communion second Sunday of the month at 10.00 a.m.

All enquiries phone Kaye on **0438 873 784**
www.heathertondingley.uca.vic.tas.org.au

Our Vision and our Mission

To seek to connect people to God and each other. Heatherton-Dingley Uniting Church - Meeting U at the Crossroads of Life.

What's On

Wednesdays - Prayer meeting, if you have a concern that you would like prayed about, ring Margaret on **0401 392 772**

Know Your Bible 9.30 - 11.00 a.m.

An interdenominational study of the Bible for women. For further information contact Kaye **0412 715 363**.

Second And Fourth Thursdays Of The Month

Unleash the Music in You - 7.30 p.m. at the Church. For further information contact Bob Lorraine on **0418 998 714**

Third Saturday On Odd Months Of The Year

Bark And Chat - This is an informal group of dog lovers who bring their dogs along for a chat and short information session on different topics relating to dogs, followed by morning tea. For further information contact Margaret on **0401 392 772**

Village Church Inc.



Address: 7-9 Fiveways Blvd Keysborough 3173

Pastor: Rodney Hole
Elders: Andrew Weston & Warren Dean

Church Office: **8712 8254**
or admin@villagechurch.org.au

Visit our website: www.villagechurch.org.au

Village Church has been in the Dingley and Keysborough areas since the 1930's and exists for the purpose of the advancement of the Kingdom of God as we seek to obey our Lord's command to go out and make disciples of all people.

Village Church offers the following ministries to 'Inspire People to Discover and Develop Life in Christ'.

Sunday Morning 10am Worship Service

In person or can watch livestream on our webpage.

The church service includes:

- Bible teaching through expository preaching.
- Pastor Rodney Hole is currently preaching through the book of Hebrews.
- Communion is held twice a month for those who know Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and Lord.
- Kids Church - Younger Primary (4-8 years old) and Older Primary (9-12 years old).
- Little Blessings Preschool Program (0 - 4 years old)
- Tea and coffee are served after the service.

Life Groups

Meets for Bible study and fellowship in various suburbs on a fortnightly basis in Springvale, Narre Warren, Pakenham, and Lyndhurst areas.

Ladies Bible Study

Meets regularly to work through an entire book of the Bible, alternating between the Old Testament and the New Testament. Previously studied are the books of Ruth, Philippians, Genesis and James and a video teaching series on "War of Words" by Paul Tripp based on his book. We are currently studying through the book of Daniel and Martha Pearce's "The Excellent Wife".

Men of Faith

Meets once a month at Village Church on a Sunday evening for a BBQ and men's Bible study.

Village Church Youth Group (Years 7 -12)

Meets weekly on Friday nights from 7-9pm during the school term for Bible study and fellowship.

Street Ministry

Village Church partners with 'Bought with a Price Ministry' here in Melbourne. Every Wednesday and Friday from 5pm to 7pm, a team witnesses at either Dandenong, Noble Park, Glen Waverley, Ringwood, or Springvale areas.

Marriage and Family Support

At Village Church, our heart is to serve the surrounding community to support the growth of families. Families and marriages are under attack, and we are committed to helping you out in any way. We have many gifted and equipped members who would love to listen, encourage, and give sound advice to you. Please call the church office if you need help.

Christ Church - Anglican Church Dingley Village



Vision: From within you shall flow rivers of living waters" John 7:38

SPECIAL EVENTS

Men's Breakfast:

8-9am, McDonalds Braeside
Guest speaker, a la carte menu.
Rom 8:14 "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God." NKJ.
Next Breakfast: Saturday 30th August.

Faith-Science Discussion:

Sunday 27th July 2-4pm
Christ Church Dingley
To be led by Physicist, Emeritus Professor John Pilbrow; Meteorologist Christie Johnson; and Rev. Dr Chris Mulherin Executive Director of ISCAST [Christianity in Conversation with Science].
Theme: Science as a gift from God.

All are welcome.



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Weekly Sunday Services

8.30 AM (Heritage Church) Holy Communion Service. 10.30 AM (Auditorium) Worship Service with Kids' Church.

Next Combined Service

Sunday 1st August at 10am

Life Groups for Bible Study

For more information, please contact our office.

Youth Group Saturday

Youth Group returns to Friday nights. Lots of fun and engaging activities for ages 11 to 17 years. Drop off 6:30 pm, pick up 9 pm (sign-in essential) Please contact our office for details.

Pleasant Tuesday Service

2pm, 2nd Tuesday Each Month

Traditional Holy Communion Service with favourite hymns in the Heritage Church followed by a social afternoon tea. Please contact our office for transport IF needed.

Next Service: 2pm, Tuesday 8th July.

Weekly Prayer Meetings

Wednesday 10:30am for worship then 11am for prayers in the Prayer Rooms Saturday 8 AM in the Atrium. Healing, Deliverance & Prayer Ministry available upon request.

Roundabout Op Shop

Supports communities Locally, Nationally, and Internationally. Offering many bargains (good quality clothing, books, bric-a-brac, toys. Volunteers Welcome!

Opening Hours:

Wednesday - 9.30am - 4.00 pm

Thursday - 9.30am - 1.30 pm

Saturday - 9.30am - 1.30 pm

Donations: We take clean, useable items but cannot accept electrical goods, or baby/child equipment. Please bring donations during opening hours. Thank you.

Supported Missions

CCD supports: Make A Difference, Dingley Village; Common Grace; Hands At Work, Africa; BCA; CMS; NCIC.

Food Parcels Available

For those in need, upon request.

Prayer Ministry

Please contact our parish office for details and bookings.

Senior Minister: Rev. Richard Loh

Parish Office: 03 9551 7871

Email: admin@ccd.org.au

Website: www.ccd.org.au

St. Mark's Catholic Church

511 Lower Dandenong Road, Dingley Village, 3172.

Phone: 9551 6930 or 9547 4877

Email: Springvale@cam.org.au

Website for further information:

ST JOSEPH SPRINGVALE | Catholic church
Parish Priest: Fr. Joseph Truong Nguyen
OFM Conv.

Mass Times

- Saturdays, 5pm
- Sundays, 9.30am
- Confession 4.30 - 4.50 pm before Mass on Saturdays

The Salvation Army Kingston City 'You Belong'



13/12-16 Garden Boulevard,
Dingley Village. Office Phone:
(03) 9558 2045.

Facebook.com/KingstonCitySalvos
www.salvationarmy.org.au/kingstoncity/
Corps Officers (Ministers): Major Jennifer Cloke and Major Andrea Elkington.

Hours of operation

10:00am - 4:00pm Monday to Friday
or by appointment.

Our Mission

The Salvation Army Australia is a Christian movement dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus, by caring for people, creating faith pathways, building healthy communities, & working for justice.

Our Vision

Wherever there is hardship or injustice, Salvos will live, love and fight alongside others to transform Australia, one life at a time, with the love of Jesus.

Emergency Relief | Casework

The Salvation Army Kingston City Doorways team offers assessments for emergency relief. Please phone **9558 2045**, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays between 10am - 4pm to make an appointment.

Echo Church

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heaven to earth

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50 Tootal Rd. Dingley Village

info@echochurch.org.au

www.echochurch.org.au

Sundays at 10AM

Senior Leaders: Justin & Leigh Box

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Affiliated with No's Taekwondo
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Ph 9583 5680 or 0439 304 579

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Or contact us directly and find out just how easy it is to live locally among friendly, supportive folk.

www.greenwoodvillagemews.com.au

52-70 Centre Dandenong Rd, Dingley Village VIC 3172, (03) 9558 3322, gvilleage@tpg.com.au

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ABN: 71 463 442 675

Editor: Pam Gates

Publisher: Dingley Village Neighbourhood Centre Inc.
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