



# THE DINGLEY DOSSIER

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## COUNTING THE VOTES

Australia's much-admired, manual system of federal elections has one of the most complex and time-consuming counting operations in the world. While it can at times require patience, the federal election counting process delivers integrity to the results, concentrating on accuracy in a highly transparent manner.

Whilst we may have an indication of the result on election night, either an outright win by a political party or a hung Parliament, the result is not official until a process is followed to declare a candidate has been elected—in some divisions this may be a week or more after the election.

When all polls in a State or Territory have been declared at a general election or when the poll has been declared for a division subject to a by-election, the Electoral Commissioner certifies the name of the successful candidate for each division or the division, and forwards the writ to the Governor-General or Speaker. A writ is both the authority for an election to be held and the authority by which the successful candidate is declared elected.

### House of Representatives counting process

There will be 150 House of Representatives seats contested in the 2025 federal election. A significant proportion of ballot papers for each seat are counted on election night.



### Election night counting

After a polling place closes at 6pm on election night AEC polling officials open and empty House of Representatives ballot boxes. Ballot papers are unfolded and checked for formality.

All the number '1' votes (first preferences) are put into separate piles for each candidate and counted. A significant proportion of votes cast at early voting centres are also counted on election night. This activity is also undertaken in central AEC counting centres.

**Formality:** Ballot papers that are not completed correctly are referred to as informal ballot papers. Informal ballot papers are placed in their own pile and counted separately.

Following the first preference count, AEC staff then conduct what is called a two-candidate-preferred (TCP) count. This involves the distribution of every formal ballot paper to one of the two candidates predicted to be the leading candidates in the contest (whoever has the higher preference).

The TCP count is a mandatory requirement. It is conducted to give an early indication of who is most likely to win each seat, as this is not always clear from first preferences.

### TCP selections

**Transparency:** As with all stages of the counting process, the election night count is fully open to party-appointed scrutineers and all results are published on the AEC's tally room in real time.

### After election night

The days and weeks after election night include not just standard counting activities but also a significant amount of secure transport, enrolment validation and secondary verification counts (fresh scrutiny).



### Secure transport

Transport takes time and, in the days, following election day millions of votes cast away from home (declaration votes) are securely packaged, transported back to the relevant AEC counting centre and validated against the electoral roll.

In addition, hundreds of thousands of postal votes will be delivered to AEC counting centres each day. These are then receipted and validated against the electoral roll before they are counted.



### What is a declaration vote?

In addition, hundreds of thousands of postal votes are delivered to AEC counting centres each day to be receipted and validated against the electoral roll before they can be counted.

*Article continued on next page...*

## FARMERS' MARKET

SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY | 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.*

### 'Fresh scrutiny'

Every single House of Representatives ballot paper is rechecked and recounted. This mandatory secondary count is a process called fresh scrutiny, which provides validation of the original, indicative count. Fresh scrutiny commences from the Tuesday after election night.

### Formal results

The AEC must declare a formal result for a seat once the result is known. This often occurs a few days after election day. The latest it can happen is the scheduled return of writs date, although it must occur before the writ is returned to the Governor-General. The timeframe for determining a formal result is dependent on the margin in the seat and the number of votes received.

Once the votes are counted and a successful candidate has been determined there is a public declaration of the result for each House of Representatives seat.

### The declaration test

To be able to legally declare a House of Representatives result, the margin in a contest must be greater than the potential number of votes left to be received and counted – AND the AEC must have completed the mandatory secondary count on those votes.

For the House of Representatives, the Electoral Commissioner will return the writs with the name of the successful candidate for each seat in the House of Representatives to the Governor-General for endorsement.

### Senate counting process

The Australian Senate count is among the world's most complex upper house counts. There are a number of security measures and checks in place at every step of the process.



### What is counted on election night?

Following the House of Representatives count, polling officials open and empty the Senate ballot boxes. Ballot papers are unfolded and all the number '1' votes (first preferences) are put into separate piles and counted.

The ballot papers are sorted into first preferences for each party/group (regardless of whether the number 1 is in the group's above-the-line box or within a candidate's box below-the-line). Separate piles are created for first preferences allocated to each ungrouped candidate.



**Formality:** Ballot papers that are not completed correctly are referred to as informal ballot papers. Informal ballot papers are placed in their own pile and counted separately.

### The secondary count of first preferences

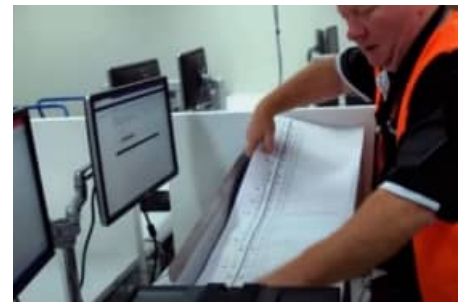
After election night, Senate ballot papers initially counted at polling places are securely packaged and delivered to central AEC counting centres where they are received, and first preferences are counted again (fresh scrutiny).

These Senate ballot papers are then securely re-packaged and sent to the Central Senate Scrutiny (CSS) site in each state and territory.

### Central Senate scrutiny

The CSS site in each state and territory is where all Senate ballot papers are scanned to capture the millions of further preferences, ready to distribution. The semi-automated process captures preferences using a combination of optical character recognition software and manual verification by a human operator.

Once captured and verified, preferences are stored in electronic tamper-proof files and progressively published on the AEC tally room.



### Scrutineers

As with every stage of the Senate count, scrutineers may view the entire verification process. At the Central Senate Scrutiny, the scrutineers may raise challenges for further adjudication.

Once all ballot paper data is received at the AEC it is transferred to the AEC's Senate counting software where the distribution of preferences is run, and final results are determined.

This method of distributing Senate preferences allows Senators to be elected in time to take their seats in Parliament and has been successfully applied for previous federal elections.

### Final Results

The final Senate results cannot be calculated until the state or territory-wide total of all votes is known and is used to determine the quota – the proportion of votes required by a candidate to be elected.

It is only possible, therefore, to get an indication of Senate results on election night. While the AEC won't be able to make a formal declaration for some time after election night it is not uncommon for electoral analysts and others to predict the successful candidates for four or more candidates in a Senate contest from the AEC's initial publication of first preference results.

The full distribution of preferences will occur up to five weeks after the election.

After each electoral event, the AEC completes an assessment of the event, including identifying areas for improvement. From this the systems used are upgraded and fully tested prior to the next election.

*Information and images provided by Australian Electoral Commission*

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# 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

### 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 Free event.

### 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.

### Writing for Pleasure

Beginners to Established. People write for many different reasons. Would you like to explore your creativity in a supportive group. Tues, 10am to 12pm. Free drop-in group.



### Pilates

Mums and Bubs Pilates Tuesdays 11.30 am – 12.15pm \$12 session. Mat Pilates 12.30 – 1.15 pm \$12 per session

### 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 the Centre. Free Class, no need to book- Just come along.

### Chatty Café

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 'Harold Box Hall in the Foyer'. 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.

### Playgroup Victoria for Dingley Village

Monday & Tuesdays 9 am – 11 am. Contact Neighbourhood Centre for more details.

### Taekwondo with David

Mon & Thurs 5.30pm -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 and stress, it also helps increase flexibility and balance. Wednesday 6.30 – 8.30pm. Contact James on 0430 570 460.

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Ph 9583 5680 or 0439 304 579

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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



## STOPIT

Harassment comes in many forms - none of which are acceptable.

Everyone has the right to feel safe on public transport, so if you experience or witness something that doesn't feel right, text STOPIT to 0499 455 455.

STOPIT is a discreet and easy to use service to report anti-social and unwanted sexual behaviour on public transport. STOPIT is not monitored live.

For immediate police assistance, call Triple Zero (000).

<p><b>UNWANTED SEXUALISED COMMENTS ARE HARASSMENT</b></p> <p><small>EXPERIENCE OR WITNESS IT? REPORT IT TO POLICE. TEXT STOPIT TO 0499 455 455</small></p>	<p><b>UNWELCOME TOUCHING IS SEXUAL HARASSMENT</b></p> <p><small>EXPERIENCE OR WITNESS IT? REPORT IT TO POLICE. TEXT STOPIT TO 0499 455 455</small></p>	<p><b>RACIAL SLURS ARE HARASSMENT</b></p> <p><small>EXPERIENCE OR WITNESS IT? REPORT IT TO POLICE. TEXT STOPIT TO 0499 455 455</small></p>	<p><b>HOMOPHOBIC REMARKS ARE HARASSMENT</b></p> <p><small>EXPERIENCE OR WITNESS IT? REPORT IT TO POLICE. TEXT STOPIT TO 0499 455 455</small></p>
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Neighbourhood Watch & Victoria Police would like to remind everyone to always securely lock your vehicle and never leave valuables visible.

## Little Villagers Childcare

Commonwealth Childcare Subsidy Approved Provider

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.

You do not have to be eligible for Commonwealth Childcare subsidy for your child to attend, we offer affordable fee for service rates.



**Open 9 am - 3 pm**

Monday - Friday

**8512 0509**

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



# COMMUNITY

## Mother's Day

To all the mums, grandmothers, step mums, foster mums, mums-to-be, mother figures, surrogate mums and all the men doing both the mother and father roles, wishing you all a wonderful day filled with love and laughter.



## 2026 Kindergarten

Sessional kindergarten registrations for 2026 open on Thursday 1 May!

- You can register your child if they turn three or four before April 30 in the year they attend.
- Registration is free.
- Use one form per child.
- You only need to register once per child (if you register your child for three-year-old kindergarten, you do not need to register again for four-year-old kindergarten).

To register go to [www.kingston.vic.gov.au](http://www.kingston.vic.gov.au) click on Services select Families & children, select Childcare and kindergarten then click on Kindergarten when page loads.

## Get your Flu shot and COVID booster

Did you know you can get the Flu vaccine and a COVID booster at the same time. The flu vaccine is the safest and most effective way to help protect against flu. Protection against COVID wanes over time. Booster doses help you strengthen immunity against COVID.



## Special Dates in May

### 11th – 17th May:

#### National Palliative Care Week

National Palliative Care Week campaigns aim to raise awareness about palliative care and its benefits, and advocate to ensure quality palliative care is available for all, when and where they need it.

### 27th May – 3rd June:

#### National Reconciliation Week

National Reconciliation Week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.



### 11th May: Mother's Day

Mother's Day is a celebration honouring the mother of the family or individual, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society.

### 12th May: Vesak/Buddha Day \*\* Buddhism

Vesak (Wesak) is the major Buddhist festival, celebrating the birth, enlightenment, and death of the Buddha. Also known as 'Vishakha Puja' or 'Buddha's Day'. The dates of this celebration vary significantly among Buddhist cultures and communities.

### 23rd May: Declaration of the Bab \*

#### Baha'i

This date marks the anniversary of the Báb's announcement of his mission in 1844. The Báb is a prophet and is considered one of the founders of the Baha'i faith.

### 26th May: National Sorry Day

National Sorry Day acknowledges and raises awareness of the history and continued effect of the forced removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from their families, communities and culture.



### 28th May: Ascension of Baha'ullah \* Baha'i

Ascension of Baha'ullah observes the anniversary of the death of Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i faith, on May 29 1892 CE.

\* 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.



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# DINGLEY VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## Kingswood Golf Course Redevelopment

DVCA and SAVE KINGSWOOD would like to thank the community of Dingley Village for their participation and enthusiasm in having their say about this development. At the time of writing, over five hundred submissions have been received by the government.

We also would like to thank our elected local representatives:

- Kingston City Councillor, Caroline White, who created, directed, and commented in a video made for the DVCA Facebook page
- State Member for Clarinda, Meng Heang Tak, for printing the more than 5000 flyers and delivering some of them to the local community
- Federal Member for Isaacs, Mark Dreyfus, for a letter of support with objections to the development plan.

Also, we would like to thank and acknowledge Woolworths Dingley Village who have played a major role in our marketing plan to alert the residents of Dingley Village about opportunity to have their say about this development. Our gratitude also goes to the DVCA members and families who letter-boxed the flyers.

DVCA isn't against the residential development of the golf course, however, the DVCA does not support Satterley's outrageous decision to place 941 houses in such a small space.

Many of the objections from residents we spoke to had genuine and realistic concerns about the flooding (on both sides of Centre Dandenong Road); major traffic congestion and the density of the development as it has subdivided blocks as small as 4.5 metres in width. Furthermore, there is no plan for additional infrastructure, such as schools, including an Early Learning Centre, a Medical Centre and an active sports field.

Residents have been rightly concerned regarding access in and out of the development, especially for emergency services such as ambulances, the fire brigade, council rubbish collection and the ability to park owner vehicles at their properties.

Therefore, this development translates into NO Community Net Benefit for all Dingley residents.

The Victorian Government Minister Sonia Kirkenny will now assess the submissions along with her department. This is the most important planning decision ever for the future of Dingley Village.

### Dingley Village Historical Society

The DVCA attended a meeting recently of the DVHS. It was great to see the amazing effort being made to preserve our past. Special gloves, tape, cloths and even masks are all part of their tool kit. The walls are adorned with many pictures, some of which are of Phar Lap's stables, the men who built the Dingley Village Football Ground, and there are also many images of the original buildings which have since been demolished.



If you have time Tuesday or Thursday morning after 10:00 a.m. you are welcome to drop in and have a look for yourself. They are a really friendly group, and they might even offer you a coffee.

### Rowan Road And Westall Bypass

Works are now being undertaken to install traffic lights at the corner of Rowan Road and the Westall Bypass. It is expected that this work will be completed soon.

### Snap/Send/Solve

This App continues to be a positive method to improve our Village. Residents are reminded that they can use this App to send a photograph of a local problem to the appropriate authorities. This could be in relation to the uneven footpaths, traffic hinderances, damaged infrastructure and so on.

### Bottle Refunds – Reminder

If you are a local resident who would like to help the DVCA, but you don't know how, one option is to contribute your recycling bottles and cans to our 'Return It' CDS Vic Depot fund by using our Barcode number, C2000009985. We welcome everyone's support and contributions.

### DVCA Contact Information

Contact us by email at [dvcasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:dvcasecretary@gmail.com) or come to our monthly evening meeting. Meetings are held in the library, on the second Tuesday each month, February – November, at 7:30 p.m., located at 31b Marcus Road. New members are most welcome to attend.

For further information please contact the DVCA Secretary at [dvcasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:dvcasecretary@gmail.com) or visit [www.dvca.info](http://www.dvca.info)





# OUR COUNCIL

## Grab some free plants and help us green Kingston

Green thumbs of Kingston rejoice – our autumn plant giveaway is back for 2025. These free events allow residents to collect up to five free tube stock native plants per household.

Mayor Georgina Oxley said we are committed to expanding our biodiversity and increasing our canopy cover and vegetation across the city. "Unfortunately, we have seen a decline in our tree canopy cover over the past decade and we are very keen to turn that around," Cr Oxley said.

"The giveaways are one measure we are taking to achieve this, along with undertaking a major planting program, supporting community-led initiatives and school-based programs, and developing a community education program.

"Our community understands the importance of our urban forest, but there is work to be done to shift the way we think about, value, protect and enhance it.

"A great place to start is picking up some trees, shrubs, grasses or groundcovers and adding to your garden."

The plant giveaway program is open to all Kingston residents. You do not need to register – just attend one of our events and bring along your proof of address (a drivers licence, rates notice, or utility bill with your address).

We will be giving away approximately 1000 plants at each event on a first in, best dressed basis. 2025 Giveaway Events.

- **Saturday 3 May** - 9am - 12pm, The Grange Reserve, Clayton South
- **Friday 9 May** - 9am - 12pm, Carrum Indigenous Nursery, Patterson Lakes
- **Tuesday 13 May** - 9am - 12pm, Carrum Indigenous Nursery, Patterson Lakes
- **Saturday 17 May** - 9am - 12pm, Kingston Heath Reserve, Cheltenham

For more information head to [kingston.vic.gov.au/free-plants](https://kingston.vic.gov.au/free-plants).



## Protecting our waterways

Every year an estimated 100 tonnes of sediment is prevented from entering our bay by our 197 raingardens. Raingardens are vegetated areas that remove pollutants (including heavy metals and oils from our roads) from stormwater runoff by trapping litter, leaves and sediment.

Renewal works are underway on these water clearing gardens, with 88 undergoing upgrades and the rest to be completed in the next few years. We're enhancing soil layers, flushing associated pipes and replanting native plant species.

We are leaders in stormwater management with raingardens and integrated water strategies playing a crucial role in protecting the bay. Our water planning and management have been recognised as among the best in Australia winning a national award in 2024.

## Community Connections

Welcoming, versatile spaces across Kingston are hives of activity, fun and learning. Our hubs, neighbourhood houses and community centres are there for you to use in so many ways. They are central to our neighbourhoods, offering opportunities to meet new people, build friendships and learn new skills.

They also have rooms of various sizes for hire and some have study spaces, printing facilities, free wi-fi and children's corners. Call in to your local hub to see how we can support your wellbeing.

Call **8551 1200** or visit [kingston.vic.gov.au/community/activities-and-places/community-hubs](https://kingston.vic.gov.au/community/activities-and-places/community-hubs) or [chn.net.au/kingston](https://chn.net.au/kingston)



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# LOOKING AT LOANS



## Avoiding Underinsurance

Cyclones, fires and floods are all massive threats to property owner wealth. Insurance is the protection, however access to and cost of adequate insurance is always an issue.

Under all bank loan contracts, building replacement insurance is compulsory. Once the loan is paid out insurance is no longer compulsory, however it is sensible!

Assuming you have insurance, are you 'correctly' insured? Unfortunately, underinsurance is very common in Australia. The Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) estimates up to 80% of homeowners are underinsured, making it very difficult for those effected to resume their standard of living – whether it's rebuilding their home or replacing belongings to the same standard – if their property is badly damaged or destroyed.

### What is underinsurance?

If your insurance policy doesn't cover the current cost of rebuilding or replacing the contents with new items, then you're underinsured.

### Why are people underinsured?

There are many reasons why homeowners are underinsured. Some have simply underestimated the rebuild costs. Inflationary pressures in the building industry both from the labour and material side have been substantial; it can be difficult to keep up with current costs! There are lots of free online calculators available that can help with that.

Other issues include ignoring renovations, extensions or additions. Some people are deliberately underinsured to reduce their premiums, a financial gamble with what is probably your largest asset.

In general, most homeowners tend to underinsure their homes due to a lack of information about the current costs of rebuilding and replacing their homes.

### What are the consequences of underinsurance?

Underinsurance doesn't just apply to a total loss – it also applies to partial losses. If you are underinsured, your insurer will only pay part of your claim depending on the percentage shortfall, leaving you out of pocket and having to fund the balance. This will delay and may even prevent the rebuilding or repair of your home at often the worst time.

### How can you avoid underinsurance?

The number one rule is to take care! Assess your requirements without shortcuts.

- Use a building and contents calculator online. Most insurers have these on their websites. The result will be a guide only, but it will provide an estimate start point. Sums insured should be based on the cost of rebuilding your property and not on the purchase price or market value.
- Adjust the cost to allow for the standard of fit out you have.
- You also need to consider the location of your property. Is it in an area subject to builder shortages with higher costs? Is it on a block difficult to access?
- Also consider the cost of demolition, whether it has asbestos and any architect and government fees.
- Most importantly remember to regularly review, revise, and increase your sum insured.

### In Summary

In the recent years, we have experienced bushfires, floods and rapidly rising rebuilding costs.

Having the correct insurance policy and avoiding underinsurance is the best way to keep your life on track.



In the event of substantial damage to your home, you want to be able to have repairs or rebuilding authorised quickly.

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## Medicare Urgent Care Clinics (Medicare UCCs)?



Medicare UCCs are where you can go to get urgent health care that doesn't require an emergency department. Medicare UCCs are usually run by GPs. They are open 7 days a week with extended hours.

Medicare UCCs offer walk-in care, which means you don't need to have an appointment beforehand. A referral from your GP is also not required to attend Medicare UCCs. Medicare UCCs provide bulk billed healthcare, which means you don't have to pay out of pocket for health services.

Medicare UCCs can help if you have urgent medical problems that can't wait for your GP, don't need a hospital emergency department, for example minor infections, coughs and colds, gastroenteritis, sprains and back pain. They can't help in emergencies, if you are very sick or have longstanding medical conditions, for general check-ups, regular prescriptions or referrals.

### What type of health issues can Medicare UCCs help me with?

Medicare UCCs can help when you need to see a doctor because you are sick or have an injury that can't wait for you to get an appointment with your GP. They will treat you for urgent health problems that aren't serious enough for you to need to go to a hospital emergency department.

### When should I go to a Medicare UCC?

Examples of health conditions that you can get treatment for at a Medicare UCC include:

- minor infections, including urinary tract infections (UTIs), sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and gastroenteritis ('gastro')
- mild burns
- small cuts needing stitches or glue
- insect bites, stings and rashes
- coughs and colds (respiratory illness)
- minor eye and ear problems
- minor broken bones (fractures) and sprains, sports injuries, and neck and back pain



### When shouldn't I go to a Medicare UCC?

Medicare UCCs cannot provide emergency or life-threatening care, and cannot help with general health care.

Examples of emergency or life-threatening symptoms include:

- chest pain or tightness
- breathing difficulties
- uncontrollable bleeding
- severe burns
- poisoning
- numbness or paralysis
- unconscious, unresponsive or having seizures
- ongoing fever in infants

If you or someone in your care has a life-threatening injury or illness, call triple zero (000) or go to your nearest emergency department.

If you have a long-standing health problem that is stable, book an appointment with your GP.

If you need a general check-up, non-urgent mental health advice, family planning advice, vaccinations, prescriptions or referrals your GP is the best person to speak to.

## URGENT CARE CLINICS



### Monash Children's Urgent Care Clinic

246 Clayton Road, CLAYTON, VIC 3168

Phone: **9284 2716**

Mon - Fri: 6 AM - 11.00 PM

Sat: 12.30 PM - 11.00 PM

Sun : 11 AM - 11 PM

### Frankston Medicare Urgent Care Clinic

49 Beach Street, FRANKSTON, VIC 3199

Phone: **9119 1077**

Mon - Sun: 8 AM - 10 PM

### Dandenong Medicare Urgent Care Clinic

134 Logis Boulevard, DANDENONG

SOUTH, VIC 3175

Phone: **9579 7933**

Mon - Sun: 8 AM - 10 PM

### Mount Waverley Medicare Urgent Care Clinic

408 Huntingdale Road, MOUNT WAVERLEY, VIC

3149

Phone: **8827 0740**

Mon - Sun: 9 AM - 11 PM

Information in this article provided by Healthdirect a government-funded service, providing quality, approved health information and advice.

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Authorised by Mark Dreyfus MP, ALP. 566 Main Street Mordialloc 3195.



## Palliative Care

Palliative care is person and family-centred care provided for a person with a life limiting illness, for whom the primary goal is to optimise the quality of life. Palliative Care is not the same as Voluntary Assisted Dying. Palliative Care does not aim to cause death. It aims to improve the person's quality of life but accepts when death is inevitable.

Palliative care, is care that helps people live their life as fully and as comfortably as possible when living with a life-limiting or terminal illness. Palliative care identifies and treats symptoms which may be physical, emotional, spiritual or social.



### What it entails:

Because palliative care is based on individual needs, the services offered will differ but may include:

- Relief of pain and other symptoms e.g. vomiting, shortness of breath
- Resources such as equipment needed to aid care at home
- Assistance for families to come together to talk about sensitive issues
- Planning for future medical treatment decisions and goals of care

- Links to other services such as home help and financial support
- Support for people to meet cultural obligations
- Support for emotional, social and spiritual concerns
- Counselling and grief support
- Referrals to respite care services

### Who is Palliative Care For?

Palliative care is for people of any age who have been told that they have a serious illness that cannot be cured. Palliative care assists people with illnesses such as cancer, motor neurone disease and end-stage kidney or lung disease to manage symptoms and improve quality of life. For some people, palliative care may be beneficial from the time of diagnosis with a serious life-limiting illness. Palliative care can be provided alongside treatments given by other doctors.

### Where is Palliative Care Provided?

Palliative care is provided where the person and their family want, where possible. This may include:

- At home
- In hospital
- In a hospice
- In a residential aged care facility



Anam Cara House

### Who is in the Palliative Care Team?

Palliative care may be provided by a wide range of people, this may include your GP, aged care worker, cardiologist and any other health care provider, as do family and other carers. They are supported by specialist palliative care services if symptoms become difficult to manage.

### What does palliative care cost?

Most palliative care services are free. There may be some costs for medicines or supplies depending on your needs, if these are not fully funded by Government. Private palliative care services charge fees. It's a good idea to ask about costs. If you have health insurance, ask if they cover palliative care.

### How do I get Palliative Care?

For help and information ask your:

- Doctor
- Aboriginal Health Worker
- Nurse
- Social worker
- Phone Palliative Care Victoria for support in accessing a referral

### For More Information

To find out more please explore the Palliative Care Victoria website or feel free to call at (03) 9662 9644 to discuss your specific information needs.

*Information in this article is provided by Palliative Care Victoria and is intended as general information only and not as medical advice. If you have any concerns about your health, see a health professional.*

# VILLAGE REFLECTIONS

## Dingley Village War Memorial

In 2008 the Rotary Club of Dingley Village and the Springvale Sub-Branch of the RSL put forward a proposition for a piece of public art to be installed in Dingley Village as a memorial to ex-service men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice in defense of this country.

The aim of the project was to unite local schools and community to give recognition to Australia's involvement in the international conflicts that make up the history of Australia. This proposal resulted in the construction of the Dingley Village War Memorial. Funding for the memorial was received from: Bendigo Community Bank, City of Kingston Community Grant, Department of Veteran Affairs and the Rotary Club of Dingley Village.

The War Memorial was dedicated in a ceremony on 29 March 2012. Designed by Ben Fasham, the sculpture elements reflect the symbolism of the ANZAC spirit. The rising sun symbolizing the eternal hope that Australia will remain a free country where families can live in peace. The spear pointing forward representing eternal hope with the half circle representing the rising sun.

The plants around the sculpture are the Rock Rose (*Cistus* sp.) reflecting the plants from ANZAC Cove, Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) for remembrance and native gums for Australia.

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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## The State of Optometry in Victoria: The Battle Between Corporate Chains and Independent Optometry

Optometry in Victoria has undergone a significant transformation in recent years, largely due to the aggressive expansion of corporate chains.

While these corporate giants have made eyewear more accessible, their rise has come at a significant cost to independent optometry and, ultimately, patient care. Independent optometrists provide a level of expertise, personalised service, and ethical patient-focused care that corporate chains simply cannot match.

### How Corporate Optometry Has Devalued the Profession

Corporate optometry operates on a high-volume, low-cost model, prioritising sales over genuine eye care.

### This business-driven approach has led to:

#### Shortened Consultation Times

Corporate chains often enforce strict time limits on consultations, sometimes as short as 15-20 minutes. This rushes the optometrist, reducing their ability to conduct thorough eye exams and detect serious eye conditions like glaucoma, macular degeneration, and diabetic retinopathy at early stages.

#### Focus on Sales Over Health

Many corporate optometry businesses push optometrists to meet sales targets for glasses and contact lenses. This creates a conflict of interest, where practitioners often feel pressured to prioritise selling products over providing comprehensive eye care.

#### Standardised, One-Size-Fits-All Approach

Corporate chains often use generic testing

methods and standardised prescriptions, neglecting the fact that every patient's vision needs are unique. This mass-market approach results in suboptimal treatment and dissatisfaction among patients who require specialised care.

### Undermining Professional Expertise

With the rise of corporate optometry, many optometrists are treated more like salespeople than healthcare providers. This has devalued the profession and discouraged new graduates from pursuing careers in optometry and expanding expertise, limiting patient access to high-quality personalised care.

### The Advantages of Independent Optometry

Unlike corporate chains, independent optometrists operate with a patient-first philosophy. They are dedicated to providing high-quality, ethical care without corporate influence. Here's why independent optometry is the superior choice:

#### Comprehensive and Personalised Care

Independent optometrists take the time to thoroughly assess their patients' visual and ocular health. Longer consultations mean early detection of serious eye conditions, leading to better health outcomes.

#### Freedom to Prescribe the Best Solutions

Without sales-driven targets, independent optometrists recommend eyewear, lenses, and treatments based solely on what's best for the patient, not what will generate the most profit.

#### A Wider Range of Eyewear Choices

Unlike corporate chains that are tied to a limited range of brands, independent practices offer a diverse selection of frames and lenses, including high-quality

boutique brands and innovative lens technologies.

### Continuity of Care

Patients at independent clinics often see the same optometrist for years, building a trusted relationship that results in better, more personalised long-term eye care. Given poor working conditions, optometrists tend to leave corporate practices/locations within 1-2 years.

If patients want high-quality eye care that prioritises their health and not just sales, they should consider supporting independent optometry. By choosing an independent practitioner, patients receive better, more personalised care and help maintain the integrity of the profession.

As corporate chains continue to expand and prioritise profit over patients and optometrists themselves, it's more important than ever to advocate for independent optometry as the gold standard in eye care.

Dingley Eye Centre - Insightful Eye Care™  
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## How can I tell if my child is too sick to go to school?

### THE CONVERSATION

Academic rigour, journalistic flair

**Published:** March 28, 2025 6.11am AEDT  
Liz Sturgiss  
Professor of Community Medicine and  
Clinical Education, Bond University

As a GP and mum to two boys I have many experiences of trying to navigate the school morning when my boys aren't feeling well. It always seems to happen on the busiest days. None of us want to send our child to school when they are not well - I hate the thought of my kids feeling sick in the classroom and also the idea they might make other children sick.



Lots of families have someone for whom illnesses are more dangerous. They might have a weakened immune system because they are going through cancer treatment or suffer from another illness.

But it can be hard to tell. A child might be dramatically crying "my tummy HURTS" one minute and racing around with their sibling the next. Or you might wonder if they are angling for some time off in front of the TV.

### How can you tell if your child is too sick to go to school?

#### Symptoms to look out for

In school-aged children here are some symptoms to consider.

**Fever:** if your child feels hot to touch, or you have a thermometer showing a fever (a temperature above 38 degrees), then they shouldn't attend school. This is even if you are giving them regular paracetamol or ibuprofen to keep their temperature down. Your child won't feel comfortable at school with a fever and they have a high chance of making others unwell.

**Vomiting and diarrhoea:** children should stay home until it is at least 24 hours since their last vomit or runny poo. This is to reduce the spread of viral gastroenteritis (or stomach flu) and to make sure your child can stay hydrated and well. If your child is vomiting or has diarrhoea, it also is important to keep a close eye on them to make sure they are improving and to seek medical care if they are getting worse.

**Runny noses:** a runny nose without a fever might be a sign of hayfever, especially if your child has other symptoms like itchy eyes or sneezing. On its own, this is not a reason to stay home. But a new runny nose with a fever is a reason to stay home.



Many infections, including influenza, COVID and even measles can start with a fever and runny nose, although usually it signals a common cold. The common cold needs rest, fluids and encouraging your child to keep their nose clear with gentle blowing or saline sprays. And a reminder, the annual flu vaccine is an excellent way to protect your family from the serious consequences of the "proper flu".

**Cough:** there are many different reasons for a child to cough. This includes infections such as COVID, whooping cough and influenza and non-infectious reasons such as hayfever and reflux. If your child has developed a new cough, and especially if they are also feverish, this is a reason to keep them at home. A cough that doesn't go away after two weeks should also be checked out by your GP.

**Tiredness:** mostly on Fridays, my kids are tired after a busy week - much like me! Tiredness can be an early sign of a lurking infection or some other health issue. But on its own is probably not a reason to keep your child home. However, ongoing tiredness is a good reason to have your child checked out by your GP as there are many causes from poor sleep to iron deficiency.

**Poor appetite:** kids' appetites can vary so wildly, especially when they move into growing phases. Not wanting to eat breakfast in the morning might be an early gastro infection, a sign of constipation or nervous butterflies for the day ahead. If your child is otherwise OK, with no tummy pain, fever or tiredness, then a lack of appetite for breakfast is not a solid reason to stay home.



#### Watch out for school refusal

I find it helpful to let my child know if they stay home, they will need to stay in bed with no screens to rest and get well. This

tends to separate the "truly feeling unwell" days from the "just hoping to have a rest" days. But feeling unwell in the morning, particularly in the tummy, tiredness or unexplained headaches, can be an early sign something might not be going smoothly for your child at school or home.

School refusal is a serious problem where a child is completely overwhelmed and unable to attend school. It can come on gradually or suddenly. Talking with your child's school is a critical first step if you are concerned about school refusal - it should be a conversation that happens promptly and your school should have procedures for helping you to manage it.

#### Phone a friend

If you're not sure, consider giving a trusted friends or family member a quick call to talk things over. You can also contact Healthdirect on **1800 022 222** (or 13 Health if you are in Queensland). This is a national phone service open 24 hours for anyone who has symptoms and needs advice on what to do next.

#### Disclosure statement

Liz Sturgiss receives funding from the NHMRC, MRFF, RACGP Foundation, Diabetes Australia and VicHealth that is unrelated to this article. She is affiliated with Australian Journal of Primary Health (CSIRO), Australian Prescriber, RACGP, NAPCRG, Guidelines Development Committee for the review and update of the Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Overweight and Obesity in Adults, Adolescents and Children in Australia and Australasian Association for Academic Primary Care.

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## Dingley Football Netball Club



Our Football and Netball seasons kicked off on April 5 with exciting results, which seems to indicate that the club will again be a force in Southern football league in 2025. The Senior football team thumped reigning Premiers Cheltenham by more than ten goals in Round One.

Defender Nick Lloyd celebrated his 100 senior game against Cheltenham. His strength, reliability and leadership has made him one of the first picked each week. Fine player, good bloke and great company. Well done Nick.

They then comfortably accounted for Port Melbourne Colts, also away from home by 21 points the following week, despite the absence of our two key 'marking forwards'.



As our club growth continues, eight new players made their debuts or return to the club from 2024 in those first weeks. Included in those names were youngsters Jack Ferraro, Scanlon Lynch in the senior team and Judd Lemon in the Reserves; sons of three of DFNC's most celebrated past players. Well done to our recruiting staff for getting them into the red, black and gold.

The Reserves continued their unbeaten 2024 premiership form with two strong opening wins. Dingley netballers have recorded great results from their first outings and are looking forward to a great year, fielding teams in eight grades of the competition.

Special congratulations go out to Georgie O'Brien and Allie Davidson, who are representing Victoria in the National Netball Championships in Sydney this month, under Dingley and Victorian Coach, A.J Ballantyne. Our Thirds side has recorded a win and a loss in its first two games.



Despite strenuous efforts and despite our previous announcement, we are unable to field an Under 19s team this year.

Along with a number of others football clubs around the country, it was clear in recent years, that many of 'Covid Year' 2020's 13 and 14 year old's, who were denied access to sporting activity at that time, would not return to sport.

Advance five years and unfortunately many sporting organisations are now seeing that shortfall in numbers in the older teens group. We now look forward to our first 2025 home game against old rivals Springvale Districts on Good Friday, followed by resurgent East Brighton on Saturday May 3.

We hope to see you there at both games to support your club and to enjoy the fabulous new Dingley Pavilion.

Go Dingoes in 2025.

## WRITERS CORNER

### New Neighbours

Sam had been testy all morning, he hadn't slept well, a pattern that had continued since the party on Friday night. He was galloping down the last of a now cold expresso when the front door bell went off.

He chose not to answer it. "Bloody hawkers," he said.



Maybe it was those irritating new neighbours from next door who are so excruciatingly nice and want me to be their friends. Why me? I wouldn't visit me, he thought.

That's not gonna happen this time, he snorted to himself, and headed in the opposite direction, the back door where Champ was always positioned looking for a quick snack or a walk.

As he reached the door, silently so he could pretend the charade that he wasn't in, he forgot. He forgot that there was a loose board near the door that was always proud to announce its presence with a loud squeak. He's never noticed that irritating, piercing tone so much before. Sam swore, softly. Maybe they had gone by now, he thought, encouraged a little by the blank silence.

Slowly he lifted his foot from the offending plank. No sound from the front line, "I got away with it," he whispered. He smiled weakly and commenced another step toward the door. His right foot had hardly breached the board before a voice reverberated through the house.

That ever cheerful sweet voice that should have allowed a little ray of sunshine into his sometimes dark interior. Her voice sliced through the house like a sharp knife through ice cream.

"Mr Gleeson, are you in. We can hear you. We have some pie." The bell erupted; it must have been nearly off its hinges.

Sam's foot was still amidst poised over the plank not certain whether to run or give in. He bristled and then he made a decision. He decided then and there that he have to move.

### Warren Duncan 2024

*The Dingley Village Writing For Pleasure Group meets each Tuesday from 10am to 12pm at the Dingley Village Neighbourhood Centre. Our small group is comprised of members with varying talent and experience. Some have never written at all prior to joining us.*

## Are you due to lodge your Certificate of Compliance?



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## Managing Debt as You Approach Retirement: A Smart Strategy for Australians Aged 50–70

For many Australians nearing retirement, debt can feel like a looming shadow over what should be a rewarding and carefree stage of life. Whether it's a lingering mortgage, credit card balances, or a personal loan, carrying debt into retirement can significantly affect your financial security, superannuation strategy, and even your age pension entitlements.

If you're aged 50 to 70 and planning the next stage of life, now is the time to take a serious look at your debt—and what to do about it.

### Why Managing Debt Matters Before Retirement

During your working years, repaying debt is more manageable thanks to a steady income stream. But in retirement, income typically shifts to a mix of superannuation drawdowns, government benefits, and personal savings. Servicing debt with reduced income can strain your finances—and may compromise your lifestyle.

Eliminating or reducing debt before retirement can provide peace of mind, improve cash flow, and offer greater spending flexibility.

### Types of Debt: What to Prioritise

Not all debt is equal. As you near retirement, review what you owe and develop a strategy to reduce or eliminate it.

- **High-interest debt:** Credit card balances and personal loans carry the highest interest and should be paid off first.
- **Mortgage debt:** Home loans are common for older Australians. Though interest rates are lower, repayments still reduce retirement income.
- **Investment loans:** Debt on investment properties or margin loans may offer tax deductions but come with market risk.

A Financial Adviser can help assess whether paying off certain debts—especially using super or savings—is worthwhile."

### Should You Use Superannuation to Pay Down Debt?

It's tempting to use your super to wipe the slate clean. But be cautious—super is designed to provide income throughout retirement, and drawing a large lump sum early can reduce long-term financial stability.

### Consider:

- **Accessing super:** Once you reach preservation age and retire—or turn 65—you can access your super. But taking a lump sum may reduce future income.
- **Opportunity cost:** Super is concessional tax and often earns more than the interest on home loans, especially in a low-rate environment.

- **Cash flow relief:** On the other hand, eliminating debt might ease monthly expenses and reduce stress—sometimes justifying the trade-off.

Speak to a Financial Adviser before deciding. They can model different scenarios to show long-term impacts.

### Debt and the Age Pension: How Centrelink Sees It

If you plan to rely on the age pension, know how debt affects your eligibility. Centrelink assesses your assets and income, but not all debts reduce your assessable assets:

- **Secured debt – Investment property:** This reduces the net value of the asset. A \$700,000 property with a \$200,000 mortgage is assessed at \$500,000.
- **Secured debt – Own home:** Your home is exempt from Centrelink's asset test, so debt against it does not lower your assessable assets.
- **Unsecured debt (credit cards, personal loans) -** These do not reduce your assessable assets, which could result in a lower pension entitlement.

**Be aware:** using lump sums to pay off unsecured debt may not improve pension eligibility and could reduce your cash reserves without increasing benefits.

### Balancing Debt Repayment and Retirement Living

Managing debt isn't just about the numbers—it's about maintaining your desired lifestyle. While paying off debt feels satisfying, don't leave yourself asset-rich but income-poor.

### Ask yourself:

- Will repaying debt reduce my retirement income too much?
- Are there more tax-effective or strategic ways to manage liabilities?
- Do I have an emergency buffer if I use all spare cash on debt?

The best solution often lies in balancing reduced financial obligations with enough resources to enjoy retirement comfortably.

### Final Thoughts

Approaching retirement with a clear debt strategy can mean the difference between financial stress and financial freedom. Take the time to assess your situation, prioritise your debts, and weigh the impact on your superannuation and Centrelink entitlements.

Professional advice tailored to your specific needs can help ensure that any decisions you make today will support a more secure and enjoyable retirement tomorrow.





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# SENIOR SUPPORT SERVICES

## In Home Care

Home is a special place. For many of us, it's where we feel safest and happiest. Understandably, it's where most of us would like to grow old, surrounded by photos and memories from a long life well lived. In order for many older Australians to achieve this goal, they will likely need the support of in-home care services at some stage. Thankfully, government subsidised support is available to help more Australians live independently at home for longer.

### What is in-home care?

As we age, it's natural for it to become more difficult to do certain things around the house. The purpose of in-home care is to assist older people with some of these everyday tasks to help them continue living safely and independently in their own home. In this way, in-home care is different to traditional aged care, where a person has moved out of their home and into a residential aged care facility, or nursing home.

Exactly what in-home care looks like will differ from person to person. Some people may need help with housework, meal preparation or shopping, while others may need assistance with such daily activities as dressing and showering. Others may even need modifications made to their home, such as having a ramp installed, to ensure they can continue to move around safely. Australia's federal government subsidises the cost of many in-home support services, with different levels of care available depending on the amount of support you need.

### AccessCare

AccessCare is an experienced provider of home care and support services managed by Kingston City Council in Melbourne. AccessCare provides a wide range of support services, to assist people to live independently in their own home. Exactly which support services you can access will depend on the level of cover you have been approved to receive.

### Home care

Whether you need a little extra help around the house or more substantial care, AccessCare can provide personalised services to help you maintain your independence.

**Housework and laundry:** General cleaning and washing.

**Meal preparation:** Support to cook healthy meals at home.

**Personal daily tasks:** Including tasks such as showering and dressing.

**Home modifications and maintenance:** Installing ramps, rails or hand-held showers, and completing small jobs around the house.

**Home safety checks:** Ensuring there is always someone looking out for you, to help you maintain your independence and prevent falls.

**Care management:** Expert advice and guidance provided by knowledgeable healthcare professionals.

### Healthcare

Our team of qualified and experienced nurses is committed to supporting our clients to live life with dignity and on their terms.

**Nursing services:** We offer support in areas such as medication management, wound management, continence management, dementia care and more.

**Specialised healthcare:** We connect clients with the specialists they need in areas such as podiatry, physiotherapy, pain and chronic disease management and more.

**Respite care:** We provide carer support through in-home respite services.

**Reablement:** Reablement assists you to regain any loss in your ability that may have resulted from a fall, operation or other situation and improve your independence. It is short-term assistance that is targeted towards your specific goal.

### Community care

In addition to supporting you around the home, AccessCare is also committed to helping you to remain active in your community and socially connected.

**Delivered meals and shopping:** We offer escorted and unescorted trips to the grocery store, or we can deliver nutritious meals directly to your door.

**Transport:** We can support you to attend appointments, shopping and social activities through taxi cards and our volunteer transport service. **Social outings and connections:** Our community bus helps socially isolated people to attend luncheons, day trips and fun group activities as a part of our social calendar. We can also connect clients with different social clubs and other services aimed at combating loneliness.

If you have any questions about In Home Care or would like some free and confidential advice regarding your personal situation, please contact the AccessCare team on **1300 819 200**.

**Office hours are 8am–5pm, Monday to Friday**

*Information in this article provided by the City of Kingston*

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# CIRCLING THE CLUBS



## Country Women's Association Dingley Village



"All women, all ages, all places. grow, connect, improve."

**SAVE THE DATE!** The CWA Dingley Village Annual Mother's Day Stall on Friday May 9th from 9am to 3pm (unless sold out) at the Woolies Supermarket in Dingley Village. This year, along with our famous plain and date scones, we will be selling savory scones. Delicious cheese, chives and bacon, perfect to have with soup or buttered with a cuppa.

We have so many things on offer, so make sure you come early! From Mother's Day gifts to scones (of course!), baking, preserves, craft, and baby knits, we have you covered. Don't miss out on the perfect opportunity to spoil your mum this Mother's Day with unique and special gifts from our stall! Remember, cash only. Come along and say hello!

If you would like to know more, please contact Sue on **0434 879 875** for more information.

## 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 8th of May and the June one is on the 12th. Starting time is 7.00 -7.30 PM and meals and snacks are available if you want to make a night of it. 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 May one will be on the 31st. 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 Col Perkins and Jennifer Lee at the Keysborough Seniors Club in April. Some members are busy organising their overseas travels and it is possible that there will be future meetings in Hawaii, Spain or Japan?

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 have had a few phone enquiries but still no new faces so don't be shy as we are more than happy to welcome new members to the Group. Enquiries can be made to Graeme on **9551 3462**.

PS – make the most of any remaining Indian summer!



## Probus Club Dingley Central



The guest speaker at our April meeting was Phil Walla volunteer member of the Chelsea SES unit for 22 years, and holds the position of Deputy Controller for Community Engagement, and also units Police and Media Liason Officer.

In 2010, Phil was named Victorian SES Volunteer of the Year, and in 2019, he was awarded the National Medal by the Commonwealth Government of Australia for 15 years service to the community, also he received his 15 year and 20 year long service medals from the Victoria State Emergency Service.

Phil's daughter Kimba has also been a full member of the Chelsea SES Unit for 2 years, and is the first person with Down Syndrome to do so.

Phil presented a most informative insight into the operations of the Chelsea Unit, providing graphic photos of storm damage and floods in our local areas. He also advised not to ignore wind and storm warnings, and never park cars near trees on these occasions.

**Activities planned for May:** Happy Hour, Camera Club, Legs and Morning Coffee, iPad Group, Wine Tasting, Morning Melodie's, Dine Out, Mens Lunch, MTC, 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](http://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.

March was full of fun and activities, members enjoyed the bus trip to Kallista Tea Rooms for morning tea. We then travelled to Ferntree Gully Hotel for a feast. As usual, the fifth Monday was special with a trivia quiz, prizes, and a light lunch.

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

- **5th** - Games, Cards, and Dominoes
- **12th** - Mother's Day Celebration and Lunch at Sandown Dogs
- **19th** - Games, Cards, and Dominoes
- **26th** - Bingo

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](mailto:enquiries@dvhs.com.au)

## Dingley Village Men's Shed



Opening Hours and General Activities:

Day of Week	Open Hours	General Activities
<b>Monday</b>	9:00am - 1:00 pm	Metal Work, Wood Work, Art, Bicycle & Car Maintenance
<b>Tuesday</b>	9:00am - 12:00 pm 1:30pm - 3:30pm	A' Team workgroup & Bike Riding Group Photography
<b>Wednesday</b>	9:00am - 12:00 pm	Bike Riding Group & Music Group
<b>Thursday</b>	9:00am - 12:00 pm 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	A' Team workgroup Pool / Snooker
<b>Friday</b>	9:00am - 1:00pm	<b>Members Muster</b> 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 BBQ's. 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](mailto:info@dvms.org.au)  
Web: [www.dvms.org.au](http://www.dvms.org.au)

### 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. dingleylions@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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Col Perkins and Jennifer Lee giving us a heap of popular, country and Rock and Roll songs.

**Future entertainment will be:** 20 May 25, Freddie G 17 June 25, Rick Charles.

Club membership for F/Y 24/25 is \$10.00. 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](http://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](http://www.kcc.crm.org.au)

Email: [admin@crm.org.au](mailto:admin@crm.org.au)

**Senior Pastor:** Dan Parker

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

At Kingston City Church (KCC) we have an active women's ministry comprising of a women's prayer group and a women's link group every fortnight.

The KCC women's team are pressing into GOD to see each woman hear, know and move into their GOD given calling and use and develop their gifts for Kingdom purposes, building up each other and going deeper.

Our events once a quarter are planned with prayer, purpose and allowing GOD the space and time to minister to each woman uniquely and individually. We invite women to join us who are seeking a deeper connection with GOD, other women and who love good company, belly laughs and food.

I leave you with Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"

Jade Mason

## 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 **0431 244 561**.

[www.heathertondingleyuca.org.au](http://www.heathertondingleyuca.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 at the church 9.00 – 9.30 a.m. 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 & Malcolm Crouch

Church Office: **8712 8254**

or [admin@villagechurch.org.au](mailto:admin@villagechurch.org.au)

Visit our website: [www.villagechurch.org.au](http://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 Peace'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: Sat 3rd March.

#### What's on your Mind?

Youth Alpha starts Friday 9th May.

For Youth, by Youth. Please contact the

office on [admin@ccd.org.au](mailto:admin@ccd.org.au)

or **9551 7871** for details.

#### Ladies' Fellowship Lunch

Saturday 21st June at 11am

Christ Church Dingley

Guest speaker. Cost: \$10

RSVP: 19th June 2025

[admin@ccd.org.au](mailto:admin@ccd.org.au) or 95517871



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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:

Sun 1st June and 15th June 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 13th May.

### 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.

### 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](http://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](mailto: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/](http://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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"Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." - Matthew 6:10

50 Tootal Rd. Dingley Village

[info@echochurch.org.au](mailto:info@echochurch.org.au)

[www.echochurch.org.au](http://www.echochurch.org.au)

Sunday's at 10AM

Senior Leaders: Justin & Leigh Box

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# THE DINGLEY DOSSIER

ABN: 71 463 442 675

**Editor:** Pam Gates

**Publisher:** Dingley Village Neighbourhood Centre Inc.  
31B Marcus Road,  
Dingley Village. 3172

**Phone:** 8512 0505

**Email:** [dingleydossier@dvnc.com.au](mailto:dingleydossier@dvnc.com.au)

## Community items:

We appreciate contributions from the community. Please contact us for details.

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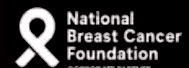
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