

FREE

Avoca

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so we can add it to the calendar.
avocacommunity@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/VisitAvoca

AVOCA ANGLE

Community Newsletter

GVBR Arrives in Avoca - What a Weekend!

**Congratulations to all involved with hosting the Great Victorian Bike Ride
In Avoca on Sunday / Monday.**



Edition 60
Dec 2015



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03 54611255

The town looked amazing with its array of colorful, welcoming bicycle decorations and it was a buzz with riders & their support crews and event organizers by midday. The golf club's 4th & 5th fairways were transformed into an accommodation haven with tents large & small popping up everywhere.

No doubt the business houses were run off their feet and it was great to see so many people mingling and sampling the variety of wines and goodies in the Pop Up Village in Cambridge St.



A BIG THANK YOU must go to the members of the Welcoming Committee for creating a wonderful atmosphere for the riders— they really appreciated it. Thanks also to the many volunteer organisations who provided a variety of services, food and entertainment over the two days. It was a huge undertaking and was carried out brilliantly. We trust you made a few dollars for your group.

Thanks and congratulations must also go the organisers of the GVBR who once again did an amazing job and assisted the locals with all the planning during the year. BUT the biggest thanks must go to the riders for entering the event and coming to the Goldfields region. The participants were friendly, engaging, polite and neat and tidy— there was not a piece of rubbish to be found—and they even helped tidy up in the shops after eating...so I was told by one business owner!



"We really appreciate your support of small communities like ours and we trust you enjoyed your short stay in our town. We look forward to your return visit when you have more time to experience all that our region has to offer. **Travel Safely!**"



Reducing road
trauma is a shared
responsibility.
There's no one
someone won't miss.

Avoca Health
Service Auxiliary
will be
**Selling Yummy,
Homemade
Biscuits**

Saturday 5th Dec
from in front of the
Newsagents from
9am

**Make sure you buy a
bag for morning tea!**

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Avoca Swimming Pool

The Avoca Pool opened in time for the GVBR and the committee welcomed many tired riders and locals for a dip in the chilly water. Let's hope members of FOP raised some great funds while charging the bike riders' phones, so they can purchase solar heating for the pool. Please support the Friends of the Pool to ensure that the pool is there for our community for many years to come. The pool will be open 2-7pm on week days and 11am—7pm school holidays, weekends and public holidays.

VicSwim Summer Kidz Program is on again this summer. Sessions will be held week days 18-22 January from 2-5pm. Check the website for details
www.vicswim.com.au



Avoca & District Christmas Street Party Christmas Eve Thursday 24th Dec



Commencing at 6pm with a BBQ Tea
provided by the Avoca CFA— for a small cost
6:30pm Avoca PS entertainment
7pm Visit from Santa and children's games
7:45pm 'Singing Santas' & local musicians
8:30pm Drawing of community raffles.

There will also be face painting, a jumping castle
and dunking machine.

"A great time to catch up with family & friends"

This year presented by the Avoca Football Netball Club with support
from Avoca Business & Tourism Inc and the Avoca Fire Brigade



Tai Chi for Arthritis Program,

commencing in Avoca at the Primary Care Meeting Room
12/10/2015 at 2pm It will run Mondays and Wednesdays
at 2pm depending on numbers till the week before Christmas.

Cost \$ 4.00 per session.

Participants can contact us: MDHS 54610333



EXTREME HEAT DAYS

During very hot and extreme heat conditions, the community is at greater risk of health problems, especially those over 65 years, newborn infants & young children, and people with Chronic Conditions.

Prevention is Best: drink plenty of water, stay out of sun, limit activity, check on family & neighbours, have a Buddy System, have goods home delivered, stock the pantry, arrange for medications & store correctly, develop a Medical Action Plan with your GP, be FIRE READY and have a medical plan.



Important Contacts:

IGA AVOCA Home Delivery 54653095

Lalor's Depot Avoca 54653385 Mb Priceline 54605999

Avoca Gold Chemist 54653021

Nurse on Call 1300 606 024 &

After Hours GP Hotline 1800 022 222

In an emergency : Ambulance 0 0 0



Pyrenees Community Food Pantry

The Pyrenees Community Food Pantry is seeking donations to help 'top up' their Christmas hampers. Any Christmas themed items such as mince tarts, decorations, or long life custard would be much appreciated. Items can be left at the Avoca Information Centre but must be in by the 11th Dec

Or maybe you would like to share in the joy of Christmas in a different way. If you have been given any gifts which you may not be able to use, you might like to consider donating them to the Food Pantry. Such gifts will either be given to someone who has good use for it, or be used as part of a raffle prize, with proceeds going directly to purchasing food for clients' hampers. Any such 'unwanted items' would also be greatly appreciated..



Also, please note, we have changed our open day from **Friday the 1st January to Thursday 31st December**, which means we will be open on New Years Eve instead of New Years Day. Same times will still apply 1-3pm. We apologies for any inconvenience.

Lastly, we would like to thank everyone who has supported / helped us through the year. May you all have a wonderful Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

If you are interested in participating in this community initiative, please call Annelies on 041912068

Dec Dates:
4th, 18th, 31st

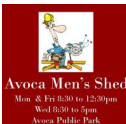
Avoca branch open from 1pm—3pm every 2nd Friday at its office, 13 Liebig St. Next to Tristar Clinic)
Phone: 0419 120 687.

Avoca Men's Shed @ the Recreation Reserve

The Men's Shed will be closed after 18th December until 13th January, 2016. Then it's back to the same ol' same ol'.

Don't forget the next PAPER DRIVE: **5th December**

Please have papers out by 8am.
Australia Day Breakfast will be held on
Tuesday 26th January 2016
More details soon.



MOBILE BLOOD BANK

Next Visit to Maryborough : TBC for 2016

Thank You to all those who donated in August

Call 13 14 95 to make an appointment & check operating times or visit www.donateblood.com.au for more information. Do something special. Give blood.



AVOCA

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Term 1 classes for 2016 will commence in February. Our **CHRISTMAS BREAKUP** is on Thursday Dec 17th Time: 6pm Venue: Lions Park riverside BBQ Recreation area. U3A will be supplying sausages, bread, veggie burgers, onions. BYO drinks, sweets, salads, chairs, repellent, hats. RSVP by December 10.

Book Club: (incorporating Social Issues) has now successfully morphed with our Social Issues Discussion Group. Always interesting, good natured, eclectic and often vocal. Every 3rd Tues of the month from 2-4pm @ AIC.

Photography: 2nd & 4th Tues 10-12noon. 4th is a Field Trip TBC

Computer : Wed 10-1pm :suits beginners and those with minimal to medium computer experience.

Ring Mark on 0417-375-677

Line Dancing: Now only on Thur 2-4pm ASCC

Mahjong: Friday 2-4pm AIC

Excursions: Contact Judy Quinn if you have ideas for excursions in 2016 — 0429811346



Pyrenees Shire News

Mayor: Cr Michael O'Connor was elected Mayor for 2015-16. **The December Shire Community Newsletter** is available on the Shire website: http://www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au/News_and_Media/Community_Newsletter

Immunisation in Avoca : Wednesday 9th December 11:30am to 12 :00 at the Primary Care Centre Avoca.

Maternal & Child Health Centres: Closed from 1pm Thursday 24 Dec 2015. Service resumes Monday 4 January 2016. For assistance during this time call the 24 hour Maternal & Child Health Helpline on 132 229 or Nurse on Call on 1300 606 024.

Shire Holiday Arrangements: Opening hours for Council's Beaufort Office over Christmas: Wednesday 23 December 8.30am-1pm . Closed from 1pm Thursday 24 Dec 2015. Normal opening hours resume 8:30am Monday 4th Jan 2016 Council's Information and Resource Centres in Beaufort and Avoca are open seven days a week, and will only close on Christmas Day. For urgent issues contact 53491100

Community Christmas Day Lunch at Beaufort: If you have time to volunteer to assist with, cooking, setting up, serving, cleaning up for this special event please ring 53491100

Australia Day Award Nominations for Citizen of the Year, Junior Citizen and Event of the Year close Friday 4th Dec The Pyrenees Shire Australia Day celebrations will be held at Waubra on the 26th January 2016.



Avoca Community Gym Dates for 2016 @ Avoca Recreation Reserve

Please Note the Updated Gym Hours for 2016.

Monday and Wednesday - Gym - 9am till 11am

Tuesday and Friday - Outdoor Circuit - 9.15am Cost \$5

Also there will be NO gym during the school holidays, resuming on Monday February 1st 2016

Contact Steph Wardlaw for more details 0417 575 689
Seasons Greetings to All and Welcome Back in 2016

Avoca Business & Tourism Inc

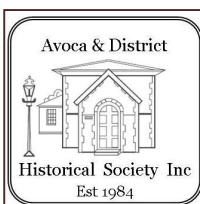
Meetings: are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7 pm. Venue : RTC Meeting Room at the rear Avoca Information Centre. Enter from Rutherford St
OUR NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: 17th January 2016.



AB&T Christmas Break Up: this year AB&T and Business for Beaufort will have a joint get together at the Tapas Bar in Avoca on Monday 7th Dec at 6:30pm. This will be a great opportunity to share ideas and celebrate our successes.

GVBR: Congratulations to all involved with the bike ride. No doubt businesses appreciated the influx of people into the town on Sunday and will benefit from the positive enthusiasm displayed by the riders—they are sure to want to revisit Avoca soon. AB&T will survey businesses to gauge the impact on the town of such an event.

There will be NO Shop Local (Lucky Shopper) campaign this year.



The Avoca & District Historical Society Inc's Museum and Archives in the former Court House at 85 High Street will be closed from mid-December to the end of January, except by appointment. Contact is 03 5465 3118 or Email : adhsinc@bigpond.net.au

St Kevin's Catholic Church, Avoca.

Christmas Eve Mass (Thursday 24th Dec) at St Kevin's Catholic Church. We are having carols at 6.00 pm and Mass at 6.30pm.

Avoca Primary School News



Congratulations to all involved with preparing the two teams for the RACV Energy Breakthrough and special congratulations to the HVP team "Avoca Fury" for winning Section

1 Overall winner and the Pushcart team "Avoca Rush" for their joint win in the Display & Presentation section 1.

Upcoming Dates:

Dec 14th Thank you to our 2015 Volunteers Afternoon Tea at Avoca Primary School 2pm, all welcome

Dec 17th Big Breakfast 8am, 9:15 Celebration of Learning Assembly 9:15 all welcome at Avoca Primary School

Dec 18th : Last day of Term 4

We are looking for a painter to paint the exterior of the historic building. Please contact the school and submit a quote if you are interested in painting our 1878 building.



Avoca Playgroup



Playgroup Christmas Party in the Park – Wednesday 16th of Dec 2015 at the Avoca Lions Club Park from 10am.

Santa will be there with surprises for the kids.

Bring a plate of food to share.

The last day for Playgroup in the Centre will be on Wednesday 9th of December and we will be cleaning up the centre on this day.

Playgroup will resume in February when Kinder starts back in 2016.

Spotlight on GROUPS

AVOCA GIRL GUIDES: The Avoca Girl Guides held their presentation evening on Tuesday 1st December 2015. Three girls received their Silver Endeavour, three received their Junior BP and 11 received their Bronze endeavour.



Avoca Girl Guides currently have 20 enthusiastic girls in the unit and recently their beloved Leader 'Kelpie' Heather Cameron announced her retirement due to hectic work commitments. The guides thank Heather for her dedication over the past 5 years, along with her daughter Lara as a Junior Leader over that time.

Attracting new leaders is always difficult however the Avoca Girl Guides are delighted to have a new Leader. Abbey (nee Freeman) Robinson is going to run the 1st Avoca Girl Guides in 2016. She will be assisted by Lara Bucknall who is going to do her girl guide leader training and Heather Cameron will be attending when she can.

The 1st Avoca Girl Guides will also be utilising our fantastic parent helpers. If you wish to find out more or you can assist in any way please ring 0428 378 194.

Casablanca Movie Club Avoca Hall

IS PROUD TO PRESENT OUR AVOCA MOVIES ON SATURDAY 12th DECEMBER, 2015

1.00 – 3.00 p.m. "The Last Road to Darwin." *****2015.

Stars Emma Hamilton, Michael Caton, Jacki Weaver, John Howard, Ningali Lawford.

Based on a true story of a taxi driver in Broken Hill who is diagnosed with a terminal disease and his journey to Darwin, with a view to ending his life but there are a few twists and turns ahead for him on the way. A wonderful movie not to be missed.

3.15 – 5.15 p.m. "White Christmas" ***** Stars Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, Vera Lynne. A classic Christmas feel good movie.

Admission: Members \$7.00 per person for 1 show. \$12.00 per person for 2 shows. Refreshments will be available.

Avoca Senior Citizens: The trip to Warrnambool in October was a wonderful success special thanks to our bus driver, John Lever.

Our first **Bingo** afternoon was enjoyed by all and will continue on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Our Christmas luncheon will be held on Wednesday 9th of December. Merry Christmas to All.

For more details contact Lorraine 54653661 OR Christine 0447808969

Watch This Space !

Avoca's BIG Weekend in April

Plans are underway for a big weekend of Fine Food, Wine, Art and Racing

23rd, 24th & 25th April 2016

The weekend will include :

Pyrenees Grapegrowers & Winemakers (PGW) 'Avoca River Festival'

PGW Dinner & Wine Auction

Avoca Living Arts Festival & Art Show

ANZAC Day Services

Avoca ANZAC Day Races

Flag the date on your 2016 calendar!

The Avoca Community Website Online

www.avoca.vic.au

We are still adding items to the website so please bear with us...and please send your news and upcoming events so they can be added to the events calendar

Contact :
avocacommunity@gmail.com

The editor is back from holidays and thanks those groups who sent items for this months edition. I look forward to your continued support in 2016



The CFA declares the Fire Danger Period for each municipality /shire

Fire Restrictions came into force on 2nd Nov 2015 in the northern end of the Pyrenees Shire & will remain until 1st May 2016. Check the website for updates and permit information.

What's On in Town !

DECEMBER 2015	
5th	Men's Shed Paper Drive: Papers Out 8am
6th	Pyrenees Historic Vehicle Club –Break up
8th	Avoca RSL Annual Meeting: 7:30pm
9th	Immunization : Primary Care Centre
9th	Senior Citizens Christmas Luncheon
12th	Casablanca Movies: Avoca Hall
16th	Playgroup Break up & Santa : 10am Lions Park
17th	BIG Breakfast at Avoca PS : 8am
17th	U3A Break Up: 6pm Lions Park
18th	Last Day of Avoca Primary School year
24th	Avoca Christmas Street Party : 6pm
CHRISTMAS DAY	
27th	Avoca Riverside Market TBC
JANUARY 2016— Happy New Year	
1st	NEW YEAR's DAY
18-22	VicSwim: Avoca Pool– 2-5pm
24th	Avoca Riverside Market
26th	AUSTRALIA DAY: Breakfast in Avoca: 8am
26th	Pyrenees Shire Australia Day: Waubra.



The Pyrenees Historic Vehicle Club will host its 2nd annual Motor de Pyrenees Historic Vehicle Display at Natte Yallock Recreation Reserve on Sunday 20th March 2016. Flag the Date- there will be over 150 historic vehicle on display!

What's On in the District !

DECEMBER 2015	
5th	Beaufort Market
5-6	Garage Sale Moonbeam Cottages M'Bel
6th	Alice in Wonderland: Mt Mitchell : 11- 4pm
12th	Boating Licence Course: Ararat 6 pm Bookings essential 0422 438 732
18th	Beaufort Christmas Carols
20th	Talbot Market
25th	Community Christmas Lunch : Beaufort
JANUARY 2016— Happy New Year	
1st	New Year's Day
10-15	Cave Hill Creek Summer Camp: Chn 8-14
17-22	Cave Hill Creek Summer Camp 2: Chn 8-14
17th	Talbot Market

"Alice In Wonderland"
Join Alice and the White Rabbit in the wonderland of Mount Mitchell.



Location:
Mt Mitchell Estate,
3056 Sunraysia Highway,
Lexton. **Start: Sun 6th Dec.**
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

THE BIG AVOCA DO will return to Avoca in March 2016.
More Details in the New Year

Monthly Meetings

Week 1	Mon: 1.Breast Cancer Support :11am - AHSMR 2. Avoca Men's Shed : 10 am - APP 3. ADHS Meeting : Avoca Court House 4. Health Service Auxiliary : 2pm - AHSMR Wed: Senior Citizens Lunch/Meeting:12noon ASSC
Week 2	Tue: 2. RSL Sub Branch : 7:30pm RSL Hall Thur: 1. CWA :1:30pm AHSMR Tue Avoca & District Landcare:7 pm RTC Room
Week 3	Mon: 1. Probus : 10 to 12 noon - RTC 2. Avoca Business & Tourism :7pm— RTC Tue: U3A Book Club— 2-4pm Wed: Avoca Masonic Lodge : 7:45pm Thur : 1. Avoca Carer's Group : 1:30pm AHSMR 2. U3A : Meeting 11:00 AI&CC - Lunch : 12 noon Venue Varies
Week 4	Sun:1.Avoca Riverside Market : 9am to 1pm 2..ADHS Garage Sale : 9am—182 High St

AHSMR : Avoca Health Service Meeting Room.
RTC : Meeting Room behind Avoca Information Centre
ASSC: Avoca Senior Citizens Centre
APP: Avoca Public Park
RSL: Returned & Services League Hall
ADHS ; Avoca & District Historical Society
AI&CC : Avoca Information & Community Centre

Weekly Events

Mon	1.Walking Group: 9:30am Meet at Avoca Health Service Car Park 2. Community Gym: 9:00 to 12:30 @ APP 3. Men's Shed : 9 am—12:30 pm (APP) 4. Community Gym: 5:30
Tues	1.Patchwork Group 10am – 2pm CFA Shed 2. Strength Class — 9-10am & 10-11am @ Senior Citizens Centre 3. Community Gym: Outdoor circuit –9:30am (@ APP) 4. Avoca Cub Scouts : 5pm - Scout Hall 5..Avoca Guides : 6:30pm - Guide Hall
Wed	1. Craft Group—Merryl Clifford : 54 653 358. 10-12 2. Avoca Historical Society Open — 10:30 am to 4pm 3. Avoca Playgroup :9:30 -11:30am— Children's Centre 4. Men's Shed : 9 am to 5pm : — APP 5. Community Gym: 9:00 to 12:30 @ APP 6. RSL Bias Bowls—7:30pm @ RSL Hall 7.Senior Citizens Bowls / Cards 1pm to 4pm 8. U3A Computer Club 10am to 1 pm - AI&CC
Thur	1.Strength Class— 9 -10am & 10 -11am @ Senior Citizens Centre
Fri	1. Men's Shed : 9 am to 12:30 - APP 2. Community Gym: Outdoor Circuit 9-10 Gym10:00am to 12:30