

March Madness!!!!

Can anyone tell me where February went?
 What a busy start to the year we have had and March is going to be just as busy!

Lockwood Ward By-election

The Marong Community Action Group have organised a Candidates forum, to be facilitated by Dallas Coghill. Dallas is a Marong local and the CEO of Inglewood and District Health Service.
 Our community meeting with the eight (8) candidates will be held at the Marong Hall on Thursday 5th March starting at 7pm.
 Everyone welcome and encouraged to come along.
 The by-election for a new ward councillor is conducted by the VEC, and voting is compulsory for everyone who is enrolled. Voting will take place via a postal vote, with ballot packs to be mailed out between Friday March 6 and Thursday March 12. Voting closes at 6pm Friday March 27.

Pancake Breakfast

As usual, our free Pancake Breakfast on the first Monday each month of the school term continues. Drop in for a free feed and gossip with other locals between 8:30 and 9:30am.
 The breakfasts for next Term are:
 4th May
 1st June

Labour Day Holiday

The Neighbourhood House and the Op-Shop are closed on Monday 9th March for this public holiday.

Easter Colouring Competition

We are holding a colouring competition for ages 5 to 9 years. If you would like the colouring sheets please pop in and see us or we can email them to you.
 Completed colouring sheets are to be returned to Marong Neighbourhood House by Monday 23rd March 2026.
 Winners & Prizes announced on Monday 30th March 2026.
 Childs name and age, parent name and phone number are required on each sheet entered in the competition.

Solstice Energy Customers

City of Greater Bendigo and DEECA have planned drop-in sessions here at Marong Neighbourhood House for Marong residents that need assistance with the changeover.
 The remaining drop-in sessions are:

CoGB Sessions

Friday 6th March 1pm - 3pm

—Janine.

In this edition:

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Recycling Programs

Book of the Month

Recipe of the Month

Activity Page

Community Information

Lockwood Ward Candidates Meeting

From City of Greater Bendigo Website

Shelbourne Garage Sale

Lisa Chesters MP



Find the Palm Tree

Somewhere located in this newsletter is a hidden Palm Tree from our logo, are you able to find it?

[February on page 10.](#)

Opening Hours (we open only during school terms)

Term	Start	Finish	Marong Neighbourhood House	TOFS Op-Shop
Term 1:	27 Jan	02 Apr	Mon: 9.00am to 3.30pm	Mon: 9.30am to 12.30pm
Term 2:	20 Apr	26 Jun	Tue: 9.00am to 3.30pm	Tue: 9.30am to 12.30pm
Term 3:	13 Jul	18 Sep	Wed: 9.00am to 5.00pm	Wed: 9.30am to 12.30pm
Term 4:	05 Oct	18 Dec	Thu: 2.00pm to 6.00pm	Fri: 9.30am to 12.30pm
			Fri: Closed	Sat: 10.00am to 12.00pm

Activity Program

M O N	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Craft Circle	Bring along your current craft project and supplies. Enjoy a cuppa and chat while crafting. \$4 per session.
T U E	9:00am - 11:00am	Playgroup	Children can play or participate in a friendly safe environment, facilitated by Ro. Bring along your own snacks. \$4 per family per session or \$20 for 6 sessions.
	9:30am - 10:30am	Walking Group	Meet at the Clubhouse at Malone Park. All ages and abilities welcome. Friendly, well-behaved dogs on leads also welcome. No cost.
	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Family History	Kath can help you research your family history. Computers for research are available if required. Cost \$4 per session.
W E D	10:00am - 11:00am	Over 60s Exercise Class	BO <input type="text" value="BOOKED OUT"/> lity Exercise Class. Cos
	1:30pm - 3:00pm	Art Class	Artist Rob shows you how to create your own piece of art. Materials and equipment supplied. \$4 per class.
	7:00pm - 8:00pm	Yoga	Dedicated instructor Nerissa leads a class suitable for all fitness levels. Cost \$10 per class.
T H U	9:00am - 11:00am	Playgroup	Children can play or participate in a friendly safe environment, facilitated by Ro. Bring along your own snacks. \$4 per family per session or \$20 for 6 sessions.
	12:30pm - 6:00pm	Tech Support	We are available if you need assistance with your smart phone, tablet or laptop. We are also able to assist with completing online forms.
F R I	9:30am - 4:00pm	Machine Embroidery	Fridays. Please call for dates. Bring your machine, supplies and lunch. \$4 per session.
S A T	10:00 - 3:00pm	Sewing Workshop	Judith and Shirley teach sewing, ideal for beginners. Bring your own machine. Usually fortnightly. Please call for exact dates. Cost \$4 each per class.

Contact Details



39 High St
Marong
Victoria, 3515

Phone: 03) 5435 2486
Mobile : 0494 102 904
Email: marongnhh@gmail.com



[Marong Neighbourhood House Page](#)



[Marong Neighbourhood House Group](#)



[Marong Neighbourhood House Playgroup Group](#)



[Marong Neighbourhood House - Op-Shop Page](#)



Website: www.marongnh.com.au



Op-shop website: marongnhh9.wixsite.com/marongopshop

Services Offered

Photocopying & Printing

For a small charge per page, document photocopying, printing of digital photographs, or printing documents in most popular formats can be done:

	A4	A3
B&W	\$0.20	\$0.30
Colour	\$0.40	\$1.00

Laminating

Documents can be protected by having them laminated. The fee per sheet is:

- \$1.50 for A4-size
- \$2.50 for A3-size

Binding

A4-size documents up to 80 pages costs \$2.00. Plastic & Card cover sheets are 50 cents each.

Community Garden

Our community garden plots provide food share for the community.

Our worm farms, herb beds and fruit trees (apricots & plums, lemons & limes) are well established. If you'd like to grow your own produce, but don't have the room, plots are available for rent at \$10/year plus \$10 deposit for a garden key.

Computer Use

It is assumed that everyone has computer and internet access these days but that it not the case for everyone. We have computers with internet access available for use.

Please drop in during open hours for this service.

Free Wi-Fi

We offer password-protected Wi-Fi internet. When you drop in just ask for the password.

TOFS Op-Shop

Our Op-Shop (The Old Fire Shed Op-Shop or just TOFS), is located at 16 Cathcart Street, Marong.

All items are affordable and in excellent condition.

Details of opening hours are on page 1.



Free Library

We now have included childrens books.

It is free to borrow from the thousands of books.

Drop in and have a look during our open hours.

See the "Book of the Month" on page 5.

Have a look at the cataloges on our [website](#) or via QR code



Venue Hire

The Marong Neighbourhood House is available to hire at the following rates:

- Meetings: \$10.00
- Group Bookings: \$50.00
- Birthday Parties: \$50.00

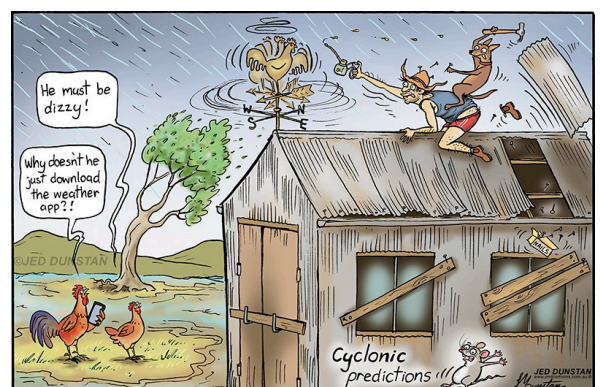
There is a limit of 50 people inside the building. Please contact us for further information.

Recycling

We are a recycling drop-off point for the CoGB e-waste programme, soft plastics, blister packs, and Mobile Muster. More details on page 4.

IT Assistance

Now days everything is online and we understand that not everyone knows how to navigate the internet. We provide assistance with safely accessing online services for everyday requirements e.g. MyGov, Centrelink, Super.



The newsletter can be emailed or posted to you at no charge. Please provide us with your details either by email, phone, or in person and we will add you to our distribution list. Your details will be kept confidence.

Spotlight



Playgroup

This month our Spotlight is on our amazing Playgroup Co-ordinator Ro.

Ro has been our Playgroup Guru for seven (7) years on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Ro has seen so many of our little people grow into wonderful children.

Our Playgroup provides various activities for the little people from painting, playdough, colouring, Paw Patrol track & figurines, dress-ups, bikes, cars and much much more.

Ro is now volunteering her time on Tuesday mornings. We have not had any funding increases to cover wages for several years, due to this we planned to drop one of the Playgroup sessions however Ro said that is vital to keep the two mornings running for our mothers.

We acknowledge and give a huge shout out to our lovely Ro for her commitment towards our Playgroup and families.



**Tuesday
&
Thursday
9am to 11am
\$4 per Family**



Recycling Programs



CITY OF GREATER
BENDIGO

**CLOSE
THE
LOOP**

We are a drop-off point for soft plastic waste. Three bins for soft plastics are situated beside the pathway at the side of the House.

An arrangement has been struck between the City of Greater Bendigo and the Close the Loop company. The plastics we collect are taken to the Council collection point at Eaglehawk, and from there it is passed to Close the Loop for recycling into pallets, crates, trolleys, and road-base additive.

Nobody wants to pick the plastic out of the bin piece-by-piece, so **please** drop it off in see-through bags. Thank you.

If you drop your old mobile in to us, we will get it started on it's recycling journey in an official MobileMuster satchel. MobileMuster and their recycling partner companies then recover over 95% of the materials—glass, aluminium, precious & rare metals, plastic—even the paper and cardboard of the packaging are all saved from land-fill.



 **EUFS**
Pharmacies Est.1916

The Pharmacy that supports your Community!

 **pharmacycle™**



Thanks to EUFS sponsorship, we take all brands of used, over-the-counter medication blister packs and Webster packs for recycling. Please ensure your blister packs are completely empty and dry before dropping them off. The programme accepts only the actual blister packs – do not include anything else. The blister packs are sent to Pharmacycle, then the metal foils are re-smelted and the plastics are melted down for reuse.

E-waste recycling

The City of Greater Bendigo has provided Marong Neighbourhood House with one of their small e-waste stations. Drop your e-waste items into us anytime—the e-waste station (bin) is under cover on the side verandah—and we will make sure they don't end up in landfill. We accept any small to medium sized mains or battery powered items, as well as:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Small <u>taped-up</u> batteries | Cables and leads |
| Printer cartridges | Computer keyboard & mouse |
| Optical disk drives | Chargers |
| Double adapters & power boards | Multi-adapter plugs |
| USB memory/SD cards | |



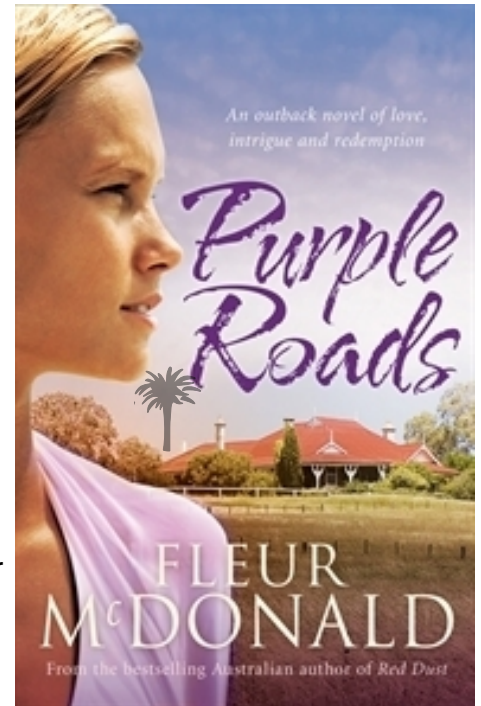
Book of the Month

Purple Roads Author: Fleur McDonald

Genres: Romance, Crime Fiction, Australia.

When Anna and Matt finally buy their dream farm, their struggles aren't quite over, in an exciting new novel full of romance and mystery from the author of *Red Dust* and *Blue Skies*.

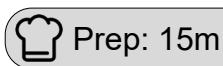
Anna and Matt Butler were childhood sweethearts with a dream of owning their own land, a dream they achieved through hard work and determination. But as the seasons conspire against them and Matt is involved in a terrible accident, the couple face financial ruin and the loss of their farm. As they fight for everything they hold dear, they suddenly find themselves caught up in events much bigger and more dangerous than they could ever have imagined. This is a story about maintaining faith in yourself, staying true to your ideals, and, most of all, the belief that some things are worth fighting for.



Recipe of the Month

Ham, Cheese and Veggie Bake

This Ham, Cheese and Veggie Bake is a simple, comforting dish packed with vegetables, melted cheese and smoky ham — perfect for easy family dinners, brunch or make-ahead kids lunchbox ideas.



Ingredients

20g Butter
1 onion, chopped
1 cup grated zucchini
1 cup grated carrot
1/4 cup corn
4 slices ham, chopped
1 cup grated tasty cheese
6 eggs, beaten
125g self-raising flour

Instructions

Step 1

Preheat the oven to 180°C. Grease & line a 28 x 20cm tin.

Step 2

Melt the butter in a medium fry pan over a medium heat. Add the onion and cook for 4-5 minutes or until the onion softens and starts to smell yummy! Transfer into a large bowl to cool.

Step 3

Once cooled, add all the other ingredients to the bowl. Use a big wooden spoon to mix everything together. Pour the mixture into the tin.



Step 4

Transfer the tin into the oven to bake for 30 minutes or until the bake has puffed up and is golden. Remove from the oven and cool for five minutes before cutting into eight big squares.

Step 5

Eat straight away or refrigerate it then pack it in your lunchbox with an ice brick to enjoy at school or work.

Activity Page

Sudoku

	1		2		5	7		8
	2			8	6			5
3		8	7				2	
6			3			4		
		7		6			5	
	3			9			6	
		2			7			3
8			4			5		
	7			2			1	

Marong Sporting Clubs & Organisations

U	S	T	R	M	E	N	S	S	H	E	D	I	R
B	U	L	C	L	O	T	S	I	P	U	O	U	P
N	E	S	I	P	H	O	U	S	E	M	H	H	I
H	A	L	L	C	O	M	M	I	T	T	E	E	F
O	P	I	A	C	T	I	O	N	G	R	O	U	P
S	N	E	Z	I	T	I	C	R	O	I	N	E	S
H	D	O	O	H	R	U	O	B	H	G	I	E	N
T	E	N	N	I	S	A	S	S	O	C	I	A	T
O	R	N	U	R	I	F	L	E	C	L	U	B	G
U	N	I	T	I	N	G	C	H	U	R	C	H	H
S	L	W	O	B	S	R	E	H	T	N	A	P	R
U	R	A	C	I	N	G	C	L	U	B	P	C	T
R	P	O	H	S	P	O	G	N	O	R	A	M	T
C	B	U	L	C	S	N	O	I	L	S	M	L	I

- NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTIONGROUP
- UNITINGCHURCH HOUSE
- MARONGOPSHOP
- MENSSHED
- LIONSCLUB
- HALLCOMMITTEE
- RACINGCLUB
- PANTHERSBOWLS
- SENIORCITIZENS
- RIFLECLUB
- TENNISASSOCIAT
- PISTOLCLUB

Aussie Women Movie Stars Famous Faces Quiz



1. _____

2. _____



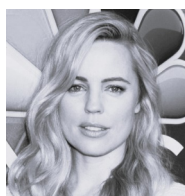
3. _____

4. _____



5. _____

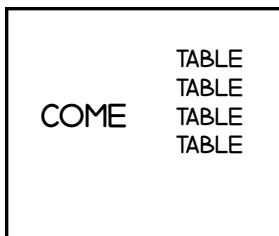
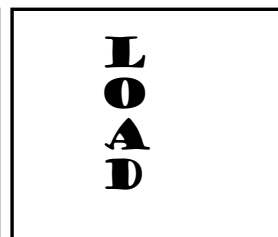
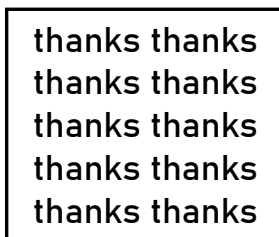
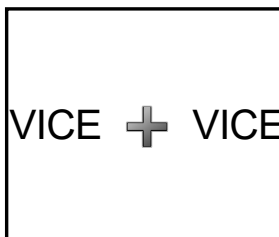
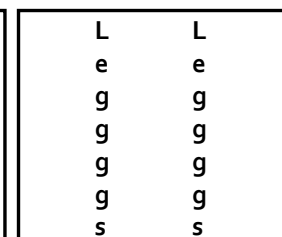
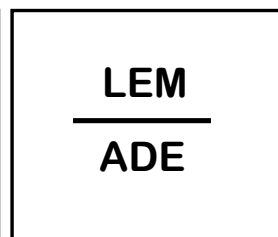
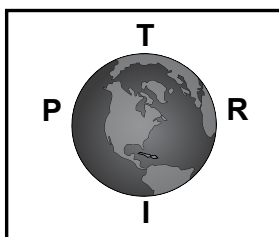
6. _____



7. _____

8. _____

Brain Teaser



Come meet the Candidates for our next Lockwood Ward Councillor

**Thursday March 5th
7pm**

Marong Community Hall

Come along and have a cuppa and chat.



Community Information

From City of Greater Bendigo Website

Have your say on the allied health support services at the Marrungi Wayaparra Kindergarten



Have your say on letstalkgreaterbendigo.com.au

The Marrungi Wayaparra Kindergarten building includes two allied health consult rooms. To use these spaces, we want to know which support services the Marong community would like us to advocate for.

Please share your thoughts by completing the short survey on Let's Talk Greater Bendigo.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!



You can find more information and leave your comments on Let's Talk Greater Bendigo at www.letstalkgreaterbendigo.com.au or via the QR Code by March 9, 2026.



GREATER BENDIGO



Discover the **new** Eaglehawk Recycling Centre

Have you discovered the new Eaglehawk Recycling Centre located at the front of the Eaglehawk Landfill in Upper California Gully Road, Eaglehawk?



On November 1, the City of Greater Bendigo took over the operation and management of the former Eaglehawk Recycle Shop (ERS) site following a decision by the ERS Board to cease operations due to financial constraints.

While the facility now has new management and a new name – the Eaglehawk Recycling Centre – it's still business as usual at the facility.

Just like the City's other recycling centres located in Strathfieldsaye, Heathcote and Goornong, residents can also dispose of many recyclable items for free via the drive-through drop off point at the Eaglehawk Recycling Centre.

Items accepted for free include:

- E-waste (any item that has a plug, cord or battery)
- Taped household batteries
- Clean clothing, linen and yarn
- Cardboard, paper, foam boxes and polystyrene packaging
- Scrap metal
- Paint and tins
- Recyclable household items, furniture and more

Residents can also purchase a great range of second-hand items at bargain prices from the centre.

For more information on what you can dispose of at the Eaglehawk Recycling Centre visit go.bendigo.vic.gov.au/recyclingcentres

9	1	6	2	3	5	7	4	8
7	2	4	9	8	6	1	3	5
3	5	8	7	4	1	9	2	6
6	9	5	3	7	2	4	8	1
2	8	7	1	6	4	3	5	9
4	3	1	5	9	8	2	6	7
1	4	2	6	5	7	8	9	3
8	6	3	4	1	9	5	7	2
5	7	9	8	2	3	6	1	4

U	S	T	R	M	E	N	S	S	H	E	D	I	R
B	U	L	C	L	O	T	S	I	P	U	O	U	P
N	E	S	I	P	H	O	U	S	E	M	H	H	I
H	A	L	L	C	O	M	M	I	T	T	E	E	F
O	P	I	A	C	T	I	O	N	G	R	O	U	P
S	N	E	Z	I	T	I	C	R	O	I	N	E	S
H	D	O	O	H	R	U	O	B	H	G	I	E	N
T	E	N	N	I	S	A	S	S	O	C	I	A	T
O	R	N	U	R	I	F	L	E	C	L	U	B	G
U	N	I	T	I	N	G	C	H	U	R	C	H	H
S	L	W	O	B	S	R	E	H	T	N	A	P	R
U	R	A	C	I	N	G	C	L	U	B	P	C	T
R	P	O	H	S	P	O	G	N	O	R	A	M	T
C	B	U	L	C	S	N	O	I	L	S	M	L	I

Famous Faces Quiz Answers

1. Holly Valance
2. Isla Fisher
3. Portia de Rossi
4. Teresa Palmer
5. Naomi Watts
6. Nicole Kidman
7. Melissa George
8. Toni Collette

Brain Teaser Answers

1. Trip around the world
2. Lemonade
3. Long legs
4. Advice
5. Spaceman
6. Big bad wolf
7. Many thanks or thanks a lot
8. Download
9. No idea
10. Comfortable
11. Forty years
12. Excuse me

Community Information

Community Garage / Car Boot Sale!!

Saturday 18th April 8am – 12noon

(Cash sales only - No early Sales)

East Shelbourne Reserve

(Bendigo – Maryborough Rd C277)

East Shelbourne.

Stall Holders Welcome

Sites \$5, \$10 or \$20.



More information / site bookings contact:

Chris 0488 992 714

Lisa Chesters MP, Federal Member for Bendigo

Pensioners receive a boost from Federal Labor Government

Every person receiving the age pension will receive a boost in their payments when indexation takes effect from 20 March 2026.

Aged pensioners, disability support pensioners and carers will receive about \$22.20 extra in their fortnightly payments which will help them make ends meet.

The boost to payments will make annual pensions \$5545 better off since Federal Labor formed Government after the 2022 Federal Election.

People receiving Commonwealth Rent Assistance, JobSeeker, ABSTUDY (aged 22 and over), and Parenting Payment will also see an increase to their payment.

These increases are putting more money into the hip pockets of local pensioners who rely on the social security system for support, and that's a good thing.

Increasing rent assistance, freezing the cost of PBS prescriptions and support through home care packages is also how our Government is making sure all older Australians live their twilight years in dignity.

The complete list of payments to increase as of 20 March 2026 can be found on the Department of Social Services website.

If you are experiencing challenges with navigating Service Australia, you can also contact my office on 5443 9055 or Lisa.Chesters.Mp@aph.gov.au



Marong Neighbourhood House acknowledges that we work and live on the country of the Dja Dja Wurrung people. We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Custodians of the land and waterways, and pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging. We celebrate the rich heritage and the continuing culture of the First Peoples of this nation.



Marong Neighbourhood House celebrates, values and includes people of all backgrounds, genders, sexualities, cultures, bodies and abilities.