

## Flower & Garden Bus Trip

It's officially autumn this month, and the last full month of the current stretch of daylight saving. Most of us are looking forward to some slightly cooler days, I'm sure. There's plenty to report in this newsletter edition.

### Pancake Breakfast

Of course, our free Pancake Breakfast on the first Monday each month continues; drop in for a free feed and gossip with other locals between 8:30 and 9:30am on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March or 7<sup>th</sup> of next month.

### Reminder: Public Holiday

The Labour Day holiday falls on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March. Both the House and the TOFS Op-Shop will be closed for the day, but both will be re-open on the Tuesday.

### Melbourne Bus Trip

The much-anticipated bus trip to the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show will take place on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March. **It will be a long day.** The 'early-bird' tickets have all gone now, so the total price for the return bus and entry to the show is \$42.17 each, which includes \$5 for the subsidised bus. For the complete day's itinerary, see the poster on the back page.

### Kindergarten Progress

Since we last mentioned the new kindergarten project, the foundations have been poured and currently the framework is going up. Steady progress is being made now, with the expected opening in January 2026.

### TOFS Op-Shop

The Op-Shop is being flooded with donations at the moment, and we are trying our best to sort through things. You may find a sign advising we aren't accepting donations temporarily; if you do, please try again in a week or so. The Marong Primary School has donated some uniforms for us to sell – jumpers, dresses, shirts, but no pants.

We guarantee they will be cheaper than anywhere else. The month of March is our \$5 fill-a-bag month, so do please drop in.

### Community Hall Portrait

The City of Greater Bendigo has provided the Marong Community Hall with an official Head of State portrait, a photo of King Charles III. He joins previous Heads of State in the meeting room.

### Musical Chairs

We are buying some replacement chairs for the Neighbourhood House, and are offering the old ones for sale at \$20 each – that's 80% off. If you aren't familiar with the chairs here, they are black with chrome legs, the kind often seen in waiting/visit rooms, and are still in good condition. Just to be clear: they don't play music. 😊

### Fashion Parade

The second Marong Op-Shop Fashion Parade will be held on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May. Everyone had so much fun at our first parade in 2023. Our models dressed up... and hammed it up too! Join us at 7pm at the Marong Community Hall with a gold coin donation for entry. All the clothes modelled will be available at Op-Shop prices after the show. All funds raised at the Fashion Parade will benefit the Community Garden.

### Reminder: Daylight Savings

Daylight Savings Time ends on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April. Three o'clock in the morning AEDT becomes two o'clock AEST. This is the only occasion this year when we can legitimately turn back time – and the extra hour of sleep might be handy!



—Janine.

### In this edition:

Regular Programs

Spotlight on  
Family History Classes

MNH Services Offered

Recycling Options

Recipe of the Month  
Pear & Date Parcels with Orange  
Ricotta Cream

Word Detective

Community Information  
Marong & District Tennis Association  
Flower and Garden Bus Trip

## Opening Hours (we open only during school terms)

Term	Start	Finish	Marong Neighbourhood House		TOFS Op-Shop	
Term 1:	28 Jan	04 Apr	Mon:	9.00am to 3.30pm	Mon:	9.30am to 12.30pm
Term 2:	22 Apr	04 Jul	Tue:	9.00am to 3.30pm	Tue:	9.30am to 12.30pm
Term 3:	21 Jul	19 Sep	Wed:	9.00am to 5.00pm	Wed:	9.30am to 12.30pm
Term 4:	06 Oct	19 Dec	Thu:	2.00pm to 6.00pm	Fri:	9.30am to 12.30pm
			Fri:	Closed	Sat:	10.00am to 12.00pm

# Regular Programs

<b>M O N</b>	1.00pm - 3.00pm	Craft Circle	Bring your craft project and supplies. \$3 per session.
<b>T U E S D A Y</b>	9.00am - 11.00am	MNH Playgroup	Children can play or participate in a friendly, safe environment facilitated by Ro. Bring your own snacks. Costs \$3/session/family or \$20 for 8 sessions.
	9.30am - 10.30am	Walking Group	Meet at the Clubhouses at Malone Park for a leisurely stroll; all ages and abilities welcome. No cost.
	1.00pm - 3.00pm	Family History Lessons	Kath can help you research your family history. Computers for research are available if required. Cost is \$3 per session.
<b>W E D</b>	10.00am - 11.00am	Over 60s Exercise Class	Bookings required. Over 60s strength & mobility exercise class, \$5/person, 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct to 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec, limited places.
	1.30pm - 3.00pm	Art Class	Each week, artist Rob shows you how to produce your own masterpiece. Materials & equipment supplied. \$3 per class.
	7.00pm - 8.00pm	Yoga Class	Dedicated instructor Nerissa leads a class suitable for all fitness levels. \$10 per class.
<b>T H U</b>	9.00am - 11.00am	MNH Playgroup	Children can play or participate in a friendly, safe environment facilitated by Ro. Bring your own snacks. Costs \$3/session/family or \$20 for 8 sessions.
	12.30pm - 6.00pm	Computer & Phone Help	Technology is good when it's understandable and it works, but things do go wrong sometimes. Free assistance with your phone or laptop is available at MNH.
<b>F R I</b>	9.30am - 4.00pm	Machine Embroidery <b>Changed venue</b>	Fridays, but please call for dates. Bring your machine & lunch along to this all-day session at the Marong Neighbourhood House. \$5 per session.
<b>S A T</b>	11.00am - 4.00pm	Sewing Workshop	Judith teaches sewing (bring your own machine), usually fortnightly. Please contact us for exact dates. Costs \$3.

## Suggestions

If you have any suggestions or ideas for classes or sessions you would like at MNH, please call, email or pop in to see us.



The newsletter can be emailed or posted to you at no charge. To take advantage of this service, please provide us with your details—either by email, Facebook message, or in person at the Neighbourhood House—and we will add you to our distribution list. Your details will be kept in-confidence.



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.



# Spotlight on: Family History Classes

Marriage celebrated at the Roman Catholic Church of St. Nicholas in the Parish of St. Nicholas in the County of Derby

Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the Time of Marriage	Father's Name and Surname	Rank or Profession of Father
Henry Orange	24	Single	Labourer	St. Nicholas	Edward Orange	Labourer
Harriet Mable	24	Single	Labourer	St. Nicholas	William Mable	Labourer

Witnesses: Henry Orange, Harriet Mable, John Walsh, CC, Agnes Munnich



[www.bdm.vic.gov.au](http://www.bdm.vic.gov.au)

Researching your family history can seem daunting – where on earth do you start? The simple answer is ‘with yourself’, but all kinds of things – family bibles, photo albums, even nicknames or spelling variations – could be signposts along the path. At the Family History classes, Kath uses her knowledge and extensive experience to get you started and make you aware of many free resources to comb for vital clues and information. Kath also knows where common errors can creep in, and nips those in the bud. The Family History classes are held every Tuesday 1-3pm, and cost \$3.



# MNH services offered

## Photocopying & Printing

Photocopying documents is provided for a small charge:

- A4-size colour originals are 40 cents per copy (10 cents for monochrome)
- A3-size colour originals is \$1.00 per copy (20 cents for monochrome)

Electronic copies of photographs or documents in most popular formats—PDF, MS-Office—can be printed for a small charge:

- A4-size colour printing is 40 cents per page (10 cents for monochrome)
- A3-size colour printing is \$1.00 per page (20 cents for monochrome)

## Laminating

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

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

## Binding

We now have a comb binding machine to give your A4-size documents that professional touch. Binding up to 80 pages costs \$2.00. Plastic cover sheets are 50 cents each.

## Community Garden

Our community garden plots have had a year or two to get established now and we've had several successful crops. We now have a couple of worm farms, as well as some fruit trees: apricots & plums, lemons & limes. 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. At the main entrance to MNH, there is sensory/herb garden with interesting textures and aromas.

## Short-term Computer Use

Nowadays, there is a common expectation that everyone has computer technology and internet access around the clock, but the reality is sometimes different, especially in country areas. While we don't exactly offer 24-hour help in these areas, during open hours MNH has computers available for short-term use. The internet-connected computers are of the Windows variety with software to suit the majority of uses. If

you need temporary use of a computer or just internet access, please come and see us at the neighbourhood house.

## Library

At any time during MNH open hours (see front page), books may be borrowed from the 1,000+ titles in our library. There is no charge for library borrowing.

## Op-Shop

Our Op-Shop (The Old Fire Shed Op-Shop or just TOFS), at 16 Cathcart Street, is excellent value—most items are just two dollars! Detailed opening times are on page 1.

## Venue Hire

The Marong Neighbourhood House is available to hire for functions, meetings, parties, etc. at the following rates:

- Functions/meetings: \$10.00
- Group Bookings (half day): \$30.00
- Birthday Parties: \$30.00 for regular members, and \$50.00 for non-members

There is a limit of 50 people inside the building. Hiring the venue is subject to availability. If required, Public Liability insurance is available **on application** at no additional charge.

Please contact us if you would like further information concerning hiring MNH.

## Free CoGB Wi-Fi

The City of Greater Bendigo provides free Wi-Fi internet access at the Neighbourhood House—no password required. Please note that this service is NOT secure, and is therefore unsuited to sensitive activities such as internet banking.

## MNH Wi-Fi

In addition to the free CoGB Wi-Fi, MNH offers password-protected Wi-Fi internet. Please ask for the password. Fees for access to MNH Wi-Fi are at present waived.

## Recycling

MNH is a recycling drop-off point for the CoGB e-waste programme, soft plastics, blister packs, and we participate in the Mobile Muster programme for old phones. More details are on the following page.

# Recycling Options



CITY OF GREATER  
**BENDIGO**

**CLOSE  
THE  
LOOP**

MNH is 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 MNH, 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!*



**pharmacycycle™**



Thanks to EUFS sponsorship, MNH also takes all brands of used, over-the-counter medicinal 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 MNH 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 batteries

Printer cartridges

Optical disk drives

Double adapters & power boards

USB memory/SD cards

Cables and leads

Computer keyboards & mice

Chargers

Multi-adapter plugs

Light bulbs



# Recipe of the Month

## Pear & Date Parcels with Orange Ricotta Cream

Crisp filo parcels with a warm, spiced filling and citrus cream



Serves: 4 Prep: 15m Cook: 25m Difficulty: Easy

### Ingredients

4 large pears, peeled, cored and thinly sliced  
1/3 cup date, chopped  
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon  
2 Tbs grated orange rind  
100 ml freshly-squeezed orange juice  
6 sheets filo pastry, at room temperature  
olive or canola oil spray  
250 g reduced-fat ricotta cheese  
1 tsp honey

### Variation:

Substitute pears with nashi fruit or apples.  
Fruit can be cooked, covered, in a heat-proof microwave-safe dish on HIGH (100%) for 12-15 minutes, stirring occasionally.

### Method

1. Preheat oven to 200°C (180°C fan forced).
2. Place pears, dates, cinnamon, 1 teaspoon rind and 60 ml juice into a large saucepan over a moderate heat. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 10 minutes until pears have softened.
3. Place a sheet of filo flat on a clean surface. Spray with oil then repeat with two more sheets. Cut the stack in half to form 2 squares and set aside. Repeat with remaining sheets of filo.
4. Put 1/4 pear mixture into the centre of each filo square. Bring up corners and gently pinch filo above fruit mix to shape into a pouch. Lightly spray with oil. Bake on a tray lined with baking paper for 12-15 minutes until crisp and golden.
5. Using a stick mixer or electric beaters, blend ricotta with honey and remaining juice and rind in a medium bowl until smooth.
6. Serve parcels immediately with ricotta cream mix on the side.

Courtesy [www.livelighter.com.au](http://www.livelighter.com.au)

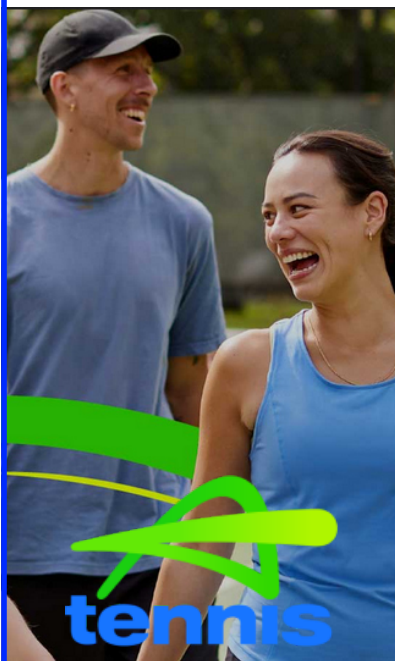


ABLOOM	FRUIT	PETALOID
ACAI	GARDENING	PLANT
BACK	GRANADILLA	PLOT
BANANAS	GROUND	PLUME
BREADFRUIT	HORTICULTURAL	ROSES
CHRYSANTHEMUM	LANDSCAPING	STONE
CONSERVATORY	LAVENDER	TRIM
EFFLORESCE	LOTUS	VINE
ENJOYMENT	MARKET	WATER
FEIJOA	NUTRITION	YARD
FIELDS	OUTDOORS	YUZU
FLORIBUNDA	PASSION	
FLOWERING	PEDUNCLE	

S R O O D T U O E S Q P K J P A G  
G R O U N D S W K W D C Q L L D N  
P A S S I O N P E T A L O I D N I  
P E L C N U D E P B W T E C O U R  
B A N A N A S C C V I N E I F B E  
R Y R O T A V R E S N O C R F I W  
E T N A L P G N I N E D R A G R O  
A N U T R I T I O N J R P N N O L  
D T R I M A F R U I T O O L Q L F  
F Y U Z U C S E S O R F Y L U F I  
R W I X X A B L O O M B V M F M S  
U M U M E H T N A S Y R H C E F E  
I A L L I D A N A R G S B J E N E  
T L A N D S C A P I N G T I I T T  
T K P D R A Y S U T O L J O I U C  
L A R U T L U C I T R O H K N C H  
D W L A V E N D E R A M A R K E T

# Community Information

## MARONG & DISTRICT M.D.T.A ASSOCIATION TENNIS



## ARE YOU KEEN TO PLAY TENNIS IN THE MARONG DISTRICT?

Then we would like to hear from you!

Some of our clubs are looking to attract new players.

Our clubs are:

- Derby (Bridgewater)
- Harcourt
- Lockwood
- Marong
- Newbridge
- Wilsons Reef
- Woodstock-on-Loddon

The competition runs from mid-October to mid-March and play is approximately 1-5pm, Saturday afternoons. Our Association team's format consists of 6 women and 6 men across A & B grades, with each player playing 3 sets of doubles, including 1 mixed set. The number of players per team makes for a social environment, ideally suited to families and friends alike.

If you are interested, or wish to find out more information, please contact Association President Brent Taylor on 0492 906 199 or refer to individual club contact lists on the website below. The MDTA is affiliated with Tennis Victoria.

<https://play.tennis.com.au/maronganddistricttennisassociation>

## Lions Christmas Cakes and Puddings



Mini cake  
\$2.00

1½kg cake  
\$20.00

1kg cake  
\$16.00

900g pud  
\$16.00

**GONE**

### Contact Details

Marong Neighbourhood House  
39 High Street  
Marong  
Victoria 3515

General enquiries no.: 03 5435 2486  
Co-ordinator (Janine): 0494 102 904

Email: [marongnhh@gmail.com](mailto:marongnhh@gmail.com)

Marong Neighbourhood House page & group

Marong Neighbourhood House Playgroup page

Marong Neighbourhood House - The Old Fire Shed Op-Shop page

MNH web page: [www.marongnh.com.au](http://www.marongnh.com.au)

TOFS web page: [marongnhh9.wixsite.com/marongopshop](http://marongnhh9.wixsite.com/marongopshop)

# Community Information



## Bus Trip Info and Itinerary

- Bookings required!!!
- Cost per person: \$37.17 ticket + \$5 bus = \$42.17
- Departs MNH (39 High St., Marong) on  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 8:00am
- Loo break at Calder Park Service Station
- Garden Show opens 9:45am
- Depart Garden Show at 5:45pm
- Evening meal at Calder Park Service Station
- Back on the road around 7:15pm
- Expected arrival at MNH 8:45pm
- Call us on 03 5435 2486 to book!