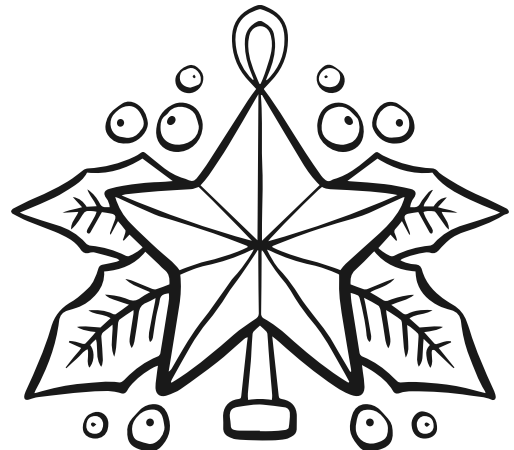
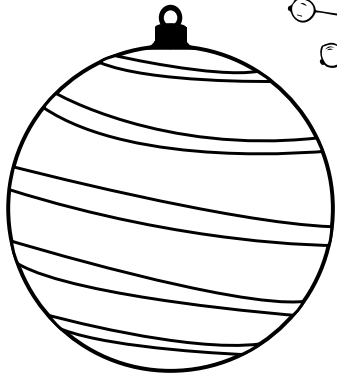
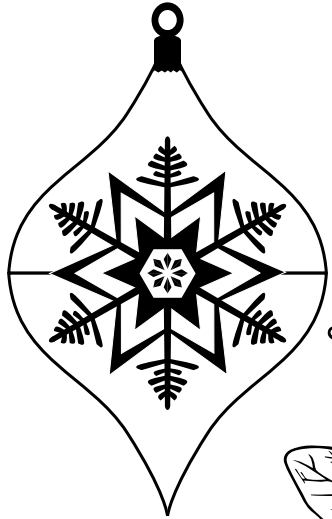
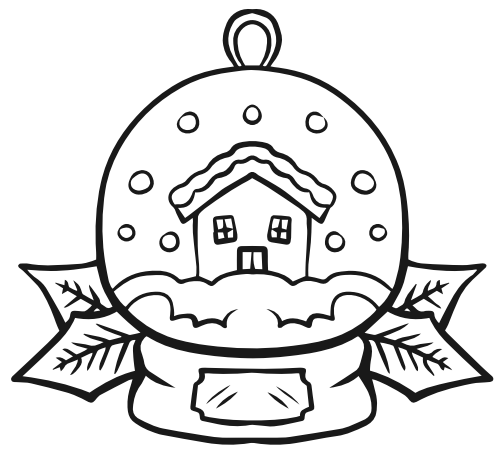
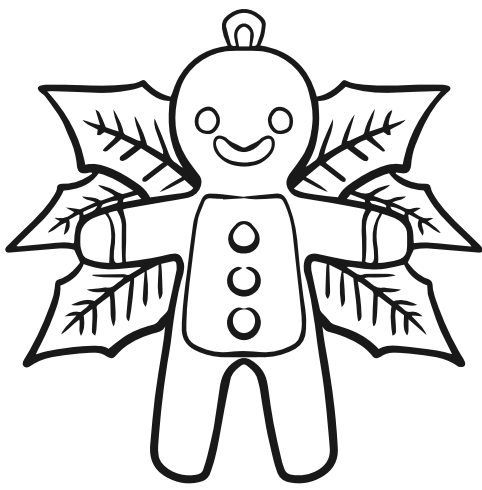


Season's Greetings!

*Marong Neighbourhood House
wishes you a happy, relaxed
festive season and a bright &
successful new year 2026.*





Busy as Christmas Nears

December is always a busy time – there's so much happening at MNH before Christmas arrives.

Pancake Breakfast

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 final breakfast this year is on the 1st of December.

"Keep Our Doors Open" Campaign

Unfortunately, funding of Neighbourhood Houses in Victoria hasn't kept up with wage and operating costs, and next year we will be forced to cut some of our programs and activities. Neighbourhood Houses Victoria (NHVic) are running a **Keep Our Doors Open** Postcards Campaign (see flyer on page 8) in urgent pursuit of an increase in funding. Please come in and sign a postcard if you wish to support us. All postcards will be hand-delivered to our local Ministers.

Toyworld Toy Drive

The Toyworld toy drive is on again, and Bendigo Neighbourhood Houses are very lucky to be distributing the generously-donated toys. We thank Toyworld Bendigo for their continued generosity, and for providing us with this amazing opportunity to help our community. See the poster on page 11.

Power Saving Bonus, 5th Round

Applicants for this round of the Power Saving Bonus must hold a concession card. The bonus is one payment of \$100, paid by cheque or directly into your bank account (EFT). Applications can be made online or we at the Neighbourhood House can assist you. To apply, you will need a copy of your latest electricity bill, your concession card, some ID, and your bank details if you prefer payment by EFT.

Art Show Evening

On Thursday 11th of December, we are holding an art show evening. Starting at 7.00pm, MNH is showcasing selected artworks created by the talented students of the Art Class. There will also be light refreshments at the event, which is open to everyone in the community; see the flyer on page 8.

Carols at Malone Park

Following the popularity of last years' Christmas Carols at Malone Park, they return this year on the 14th December. This family-friendly evening, featuring live music, carols, and of course Santa, begins at 5.00pm. A gold coin donation is requested upon entry. See the last page for details.

Garden Party BBQ Tea

Come to a barbecue tea in the MNH Community Garden (16 Cathcart St., behind TOFS Op-Shop) on 17th of December, at 6pm. It's free & open to everyone; see the poster on page 9.

CFA Marong Christmas Raffle

The Marong CFA are having a Christmas Raffle with some great prizes, please support if you can (poster on page 10).

Season's Greetings

Finally, please enjoy your time off, stay safe, and travel safely too. On behalf of all the staff and volunteers at MNH, I wish you a happy, relaxed festive season and an outstanding 2026. We will be closing at the end of term (our last day is the 18th), and will re-open on the 27th of January. If you need assistance urgently over the break, give me a call on the Co-ordinator mobile number (on page 7).

—Janine.

In this edition:

Regular Programs

Spotlight on Art Classes

MNH Services Offered

Recycling Options

Recipe of the Month
Healthy Seasonal Veggie Tart

Word Detective

Community Information

Changes to Bulk-Billing
Lions Fruit Cakes & Puddings
Evening Art Show
Keep Our Doors Open
Free Garden Party BBQ
Marong CFA Christmas Raffle
Toyworld Toy Drive
Christmas Carols at Malone Park



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

M O N	1.00pm - 3.00pm	Craft Circle	Bring your craft project and supplies. \$4 per session.
T U E S D A Y	9.00am - 11.00am	MNH Playgroup	Children can play or participate in a friendly, safe environment facilitated by Ro. Bring your own snacks. Costs \$4/session/family or \$20 for 6 sessions.
	9.30am - 10.30am	Walking Group	Meet at the Clubhouses at Malone Park for a leisurely stroll; all ages and abilities welcome. Friendly, well-behaved dogs on leads also 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 \$4 per session.
W E D	10.00am - 11.00am	Over 60s Exercise Class	Bookings required. Over 60s strength & mobility exercise class, \$5/person, places are available , but limited.
	1.30pm - 3.00pm	Art Class	Each week, artist Rob shows you how to produce your own masterpiece. Materials & equipment supplied. \$4 per class.
	7.00pm - 8.00pm	Yoga Class	Dedicated instructor Nerissa leads a class suitable for all Sorry, no yoga this month. Returning in January.
T H U	9.00am - 11.00am	MNH Playgroup	Children can play or participate in a friendly, safe environment facilitated by Ro. Bring your own snacks. Costs \$4/session/family or \$20 for 6 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.
F R I	9.30am - 4.00pm	Machine Embroidery	Fridays, but please call for dates. Bring your machine & lunch along to this all-day session at the Marong Neighbourhood House. \$4 per session.
S A T	10.00am - 3.00pm	Sewing Workshop	Judith teaches sewing (bring your own machine), usually fortnightly. Please contact us for exact dates. Costs \$4.

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.



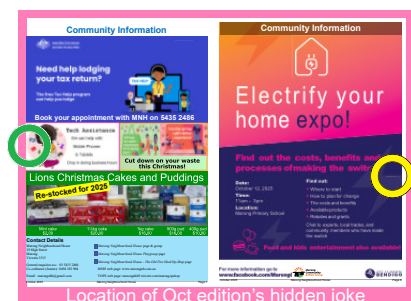
The newsletter can be emailed or posted to you at no charge. To take advantage of this service, please provide us with your details—either by email, Facebook message, or in person at the Neighbourhood House—and we will add you to our distribution list. Your details will be kept in-confidence.



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: Art Classes

These impressive works are on display at MNH, and were created by Rob, who demonstrates and coaches the techniques during our Art Classes.

The classes are run over about ninety minutes on Wednesday afternoons, taking a relaxed format for people of all skill-levels. Each class costs \$4, which includes materials and equipment.

Attendance every week is not necessary – occasional participants are welcome. Come along to reach your creative side, and you could well surprise yourself. Of course, you can take your masterpieces home afterwards. You could even display your work in our Art Show at the end of year!

Rob is an experienced artist with his own sign-writing business. Take a look at some of his larger handiwork – the murals on the outside of the TOFS Op-Shop.



MNH services offered

Photocopying & Printing

For a small charge per page, document photocopying, printing of digital photographs, or printing documents in most popular formats (PDF, MS-Office) 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, 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.

TOFS 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 three 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.



KEEPING OLD MOBILES OUT OF LANDFILL



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 taped-up 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

Seasonal Vegie Tart

An easy and tasty tart for your next morning tea or picnic.

 Serves: 6  Prep: 15m  Cook: 20m  Difficulty: Easy



Ingredients

8 sheets fresh filo pastry (from the fridge)*
 spray olive or canola oil spray
 ¾ cup reduced-fat smooth ricotta cheese
 ½ cup reduced-fat feta cheese
 3 tomatoes, sliced
 pepper, optional
 fresh basil or rocket, to serve, optional

*Note:

Frozen filo pastry often needs to be defrosted in the fridge overnight (or according to packet instructions). Filo found in the fridge section of the supermarket is ready to use and is less fiddly.



Method

1. Preheat oven to 200°C (180°C fan forced). Line a large baking tray with baking paper.
2. Lay the first sheet of filo on the tray, lightly spray with oil. Lay the next sheet over the top and lightly spray with oil again. Continue layering filo and oil spray until all 8 sheets are laid out. There's no need to spray the top layer with oil. Lightly press the stack down.
3. Gently spread the ricotta evenly over the filo, leaving a small border of bare pastry.
4. Crumble feta and lay tomatoes over the top of the ricotta. Season with plenty of cracked pepper.
5. Bake for 20 minutes or until filo is crispy.
6. Let cool slightly on the tray, then cut into pieces and sprinkle with freshly torn basil leaves or rocket if desired.



Courtesy www.livellighter.com.au



ANTLERS	DASHER	ICELAND	REINDEER
ARCTIC	DEER	MONGOLIA	RUDOLPH
BLITZEN	DONNER	MOOSE	RUSSIA
BOREAL	ELK	NORWAY	SPECKLESS
BULLS	FEARLESS	PACER	STEADY
CANADA	FINLAND	PEERLESS	SUBARCTIC
CARIBOU	FLOSSIE	PRANCER	SWEDEN
COMET	FUR	RACER	TUNDRA
COWS	GLOSSIE	RANGIFER	USA
CUPID	HERD	READY	VIXEN
DANCER	HOOVES	RECKLESS	

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

Community Information

BULK-BILLING INFO

from Lisa Chesters MP – Federal Member for Bendigo

Your GP can Bulk Bill you

As of the 1st November 2025, every Australian will be eligible for bulk billing visits if your GP chooses to bulk bill you.

Prior to this date, GPs were only paid the bulk billing incentive if you were a concession card holder or child under 16, that's about to change.

Bulk billing is the beating heart of Medicare and from the first of November, every time a GP bulk bills a patient, there's no gap fee the patient is forced to pay.

Locally, doctors and practices are making the shift to go to 100% bulk billing because they know it's good for patients, and it is good for their bottom line.

Lisa Chesters MP

Federal Member for Bendigo



Lions Christmas Cakes and Puddings



Mini cake
\$2.00

1½kg cake
\$20.00

1kg cake
\$16.00

900g pud
\$16.00

400g pud
\$10.00

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

[f](#) Marong Neighbourhood House page & group

[f](#) Marong Neighbourhood House Playgroup page

[f](#) 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

Class Of 2025

Free

Event

Art Show



Dec 11th



7:00pm

Drinks & Nibbles Supplied



39 High St, Marong



5435 2486



MARONG NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

KEEP OUR DOORS OPEN

PICK UP A POSTCARD HERE
AT YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD
HOUSE ASKING FOR THE
MINISTER'S SUPPORT

KEEP OUR DOORS OPEN

STRONG
COMMUNITIES
START HERE



Neighbourhood
Houses Victoria™

Community Information



JOIN US FOR OUR

Christmas GARDEN

FREE

EVENT

PARTY

DECEMBER

17

AT 6:00 PM

BBQ - Salads - Dessert supplied
BYO DRINKS

39 HIGH ST, MARONG

RVSP TO 5435 2486

LET'S CELEBRATE 2025.



The poster features a green background with white and gold snowflakes. At the top, the text 'Marong CFA' is in large, white, rounded letters with a red outline, followed by 'CHRISTMAS RAFFLE' in the same style. To the right is a small red and white checkered logo with 'CFA' below it. Below the title, it says 'Prizes Drawn Sunday 14th December'. On the left is a red fire truck with a 'CFA' logo. To the right is a large red raffle ticket with '\$5.00' on it. Below these are four red Christmas ornaments hanging from gold strings. The first ornament (numbered 1) lists: 'Toro 60v Recycler Cordless Self Propelled 43 cm Lawnmower', 'Marong Family Hotel Dining Voucher'. The second ornament (numbered 2) lists: 'Wheelbarrow with Garden Hamper', '2 Extreme Golf Vouchers', '6 pack of Balgownie Estate wine and Food hamper'. The third ornament (numbered 3) lists: '\$500 Bunnings Voucher'. The fourth ornament (numbered 4) lists: 'AND MANY MORE FANTASTIC PRIZES'.

Marong CFA CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Prizes Drawn Sunday 14th December

\$5.00

1 Toro 60v Recycler
Cordless Self Propelled
43 cm Lawnmower
Marong Family Hotel
Dining Voucher

2 Wheelbarrow with
Garden Hamper,
2 Extreme Golf Vouchers,
6 pack of Balgownie
Estate wine and Food
hamper

3 \$500
Bunnings
Voucher

4 AND MANY
MORE
FANTASTIC
PRIZES

With many thanks to our special donors of these prizes

Toro Australia, Leed Engineering & Construction Pty Ltd, Balgownie Estate, Connor Park Wines, Marong Big 4 Holiday Park & Bendigo Lifestyle Village, Marong Family Hotel, Marong Post Office, Riordan Fuel, The Elmore Bakery-Marong, Graham Morris, Marong General Store, Marong Men's Shed, Marong Produce and Maiden Gully IGA

TOYWORLD

where the best toys come from

★ Bendigo

Toy Drive

This year, the generously donated
toys will be distributed by

Community & Neighbourhood Houses

Toys can be dropped off at any of your local and friendly
Community & Neighbourhood Houses mentioned below:





CHRISTMAS *Carols*

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND SEE YOU AT THE MARONG
COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP CAROLS
AT MALONE PARK, MARONG

ENJOY VARIOUS SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:

- LIVE MUSIC & CAROL SINGING
- SAUSAGE SIZZLE & FOOD VANS
- A SPECIAL VISIT FROM SANTA!

ENTRY: VOLUNTARY
CHARITABLE GOLD
COIN DONATION

14 DECEMBER 2025
FROM 5.00PM

COME AND ENJOY THIS FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENT

THANK-YOU TO OUR PROUD SPONSORS:
CITY OF GREATER BENDIGO
BIRCHGROVE PROPERTY

