

Mansfield Social Inclusion Action Group

Media and Communications



SIAG
SOCIAL INCLUSION
ACTION GROUP

Community groups share nearly \$82,000 in social inclusion grants

Twenty-one Mansfield Shire community organisations have received a share of nearly \$68,000 in grants aimed at strengthening social connection and mental wellbeing across the region, with a further \$14,025 allocated to local First Nations group Gadhaba.

The funding was approved by councillors at last month's April shire council meeting, under an initiative stemming from the 2021 Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System.

The commission recommended that every local government area establish a community collective - a locally-led group tasked with promoting social inclusion as a foundation for good mental health.

Mansfield's Social Inclusion Action Group has been operating since February 2024, bringing together local leaders and community members to



JUST A FARMER: Robert Taylor in the movie depicting the resilience of the farming community to be screened at MAC.

PHOTO: IMDB Facebook

support grassroots activity across the shire.

The grants range from small equipment purchases to community events, with recipients

spread across the shire from Woods Point to Jamieson, Bonnie Doon to Barjarg.

Among the funded projects are a post-fire community day

for Goughs Bay (\$5000), a bush dance for the Jamieson and Howqua/Macs Cove communities (\$5000), a basketball ring and court for Maindample's lo-

cal park (\$5000), and a barista and food handling course for Bonnie Doon to support employment pathways (\$4750). Mansfield Armchair Cinema

received \$4800 for its "view, chat and chew" sessions - discounted movie screenings paired with conversation over food - while Mansfield Badminton Association (\$4500) and the Mansfield Let's Talk group (\$2800) also received support, the latter to deliver free Mental Health First Aid training to the community.

Pickleball featured prominently in this year's round, with the newly incorporated Delatite Pickle Ball Club (\$1500), Mansfield Tennis Club (\$1300), and Merton Community Group (\$1500) all receiving funds for equipment.

Gadhaba's \$14,025 allocation will support a range of cultural activities including teaching sessions using Wandana artefact kits in local schools, a mural at the Youth Centre, a cloak to be displayed at the new museum, and a film screening during Reconciliation Week.

Mansfield Courier

Incorporating High Country Times

Wednesday 20 May 2026

edit.mcourier@nemedia.com.au

mansfieldcourier.com.au

\$2.50 Inc GST



BETTER TOGETHER

(From left) Saskia Van Bever from Activate Community, Mansfield Shire coordinator community strengthening Simon Donohoe, Mansfield Adult Community Education CEO Kylie Richards, Community Bank - Mansfield & District branch manager Phil Camilleri, and North East Media advertising sales manager Leah Scott at the launch of the new Community Connect Mansfield Initiative.

STORY PAGE 4



Haines responds to budget

Page 5



Education feature

Pages 21-30



Eagles tough day out

Sport

people@nemedia.com.au

Community connections at family pizza night



KEEPING CONNECTED: More than 50 residents and guests gathered for a highly anticipated family pizza night at the Goughs Bay Caravan Park.

The Goughs Bay Caravan Park was a hive of activity on Saturday 9 May, as more than 50 residents and guests gathered for the highly anticipated family pizza night.

The event, which has become a staple for fostering community spirit, combined music, crackling fires, and fresh food for an evening of shared laughter and high spirits.

Central to the night's success were the staff at Red Fin Cafe, who worked tirelessly to host the event and keep the pizzas coming for the hungry crowd.

The cafe, a popular fixture within the caravan park, provided the perfect backdrop for the lively gathering.

The evening was made possible

through the support of the Goughs Bay Area Progressive Association (GBAPA), with the pizzas themselves funded by a Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG) grant.

SIAG grants are specifically designed to boost community-led initiatives that promote social connection and well-being.

"It was a cracker of a night," said one attendee.

"Between the music and the great company, the Progress Association is doing exactly what the community needs to stay connected."

The organisers extended their gratitude to everyone who attended, noting that the turn-out highlights the strong sense of belonging within the wider Goughs Bay area.



UNITED: Community groups and individuals came together last Friday to walk against family violence. **PHOTOS:** Lynn Elder

Walking for domestic violence awareness

By LYNN ELDER

The median strip in High Street, Mansfield was turned into a sea of purple once again for a walk against domestic violence last Friday afternoon as a show of support and a continuation of a campaign initiated by the local Rotary Club last year.

"The Rotary Club of Mansfield is looking to get the community together and create awareness around Domestic and Family Violence and show the different bodies and organisations that are out there helping in this space", said Mansfield Rotary president, Stephanie Hart.

"By doing our free BBQ and wearing our purple shirts we want the community to know we care, and whilst we are not counsellors, we hope that by making people aware of this scourge not just in the Mansfield community but across the country that we can help people feel they can seek help," she said.

Cr Mandy Treasure who joined the walk said, "family violence comes in many forms and impacts on many people".

"We want families in the shire to be in a safe place... and we are playing our part by



SUPPORT: Cr Mandy Treasure spoke of council's support for the Rotary campaign to keep families safe.

stepping up," Cr Treasure said.

She encouraged people to be aware of the integrated services that council offered and to reach out for assistance.

Invited to say a few words was the president of the Mansfield Let's Talk mental health group, Michele Padbury.

She stressed that the role of the group was not to replace professional services but to reduce the stigma around mental health and encouraging people to have the conversation.

With a 23-year background in financial counselling, Ms Padbury is well aware of financial abuse in family violence situations.



SPEAK UP: President of Mansfield Let's Talk Michele Padbury urged anyone impacted by family violence to access help.

With the assistance of a financial counsellor, many victims have had thousands of dollars of debt removed from their names, she said.

Ms Padbury urged anyone needing help should reach out to the National Debt Line.

The Mansfield Shire employs a financial counsellor two days per week.

Following the walk and short speeches, walkers were invited to a free barbeque.

The Rotary Club thanked the shire's Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG) for sponsoring the barbeque.

For anyone needing help contact 1800RESPECT 1800 737 732.

If in danger call 000.



DOGS TALE: Bianca Hurle with Missy (left) with Story Dogs volunteer Denise Skinner and Poppy and Taylor Jordan.



INCLUSIVE: SIAG committee members Sally Small council's project officer community strengthening (left), Michelle Harmer and Daniel Carter.



BODY PARTS: Understanding different medical procedures was part of the display by the Mansfield District Hospital.



HANDS ON: Mansfield District Hospital's CEO Michelle Spence one of many staff and volunteers at the expo last week.



VOLUNTEERS: Well-known faces around town Nola Evans and Nola Andrews.



LEGACY: Mansfield Historical Society members Di Williams (left), Graeme Stoney and Jenny Delaforce serving up a good old fashioned afternoon tea.

PHOTOS: Lynn Elder

Expo draws strong interest in local services and volunteering

Expo draws strong interest in local services and volunteering

By LYNN ELDER

The second annual Mansfield Health, Community & Volunteers Expo 2026 provided the ideal opportunity to gain more information and network with the various groups in our district last week with the consensus that there were a lot of new enquiries this year.

The expo in the main street was supported by the Mansfield Shire, the local Social Inclusion Action

Group (SIAG) and the Mansfield District Hospital who were extremely grateful to all the community groups and organisations who had a presence.

And they also thanked those who attended to find out more about getting involved in local groups, seeking volunteer opportunities and engaging with the various Mansfield health services.

The Mansfield District Hospital was one of the larger organisations

at the expo with "a multi-faceted" and health-related display.

"The expo is about connecting the hospital with the community," said CEO Michelle Spence.

"It is also great for our staff to showcase what they do."

Ms Spence said it was important to create a "safe space" for individuals who wanted to access the hospital's services and get feedback from the community on how they could do better.

Volunteers initiated a coffee and chat area at the expo as a drop in opportunity and intend to continue the sessions on a regular basis on the front lawn outside the hospital according to Ms Spence.

There was a diverse range of stallholders with a handy booklet available with the contacts for all those represented.

The free barbecue was kept busy as people wandered in from 2 to 6pm.

"The expo really illuminates the many groups that work tirelessly behind the scenes to support our community," said Mayor Cr Steve Rabie.

"We might be a small shire, but we're a kind shire."

"We have more than our fair share of volunteers and community groups here."

"It's great to see the service they provide the community being recognised and celebrated."



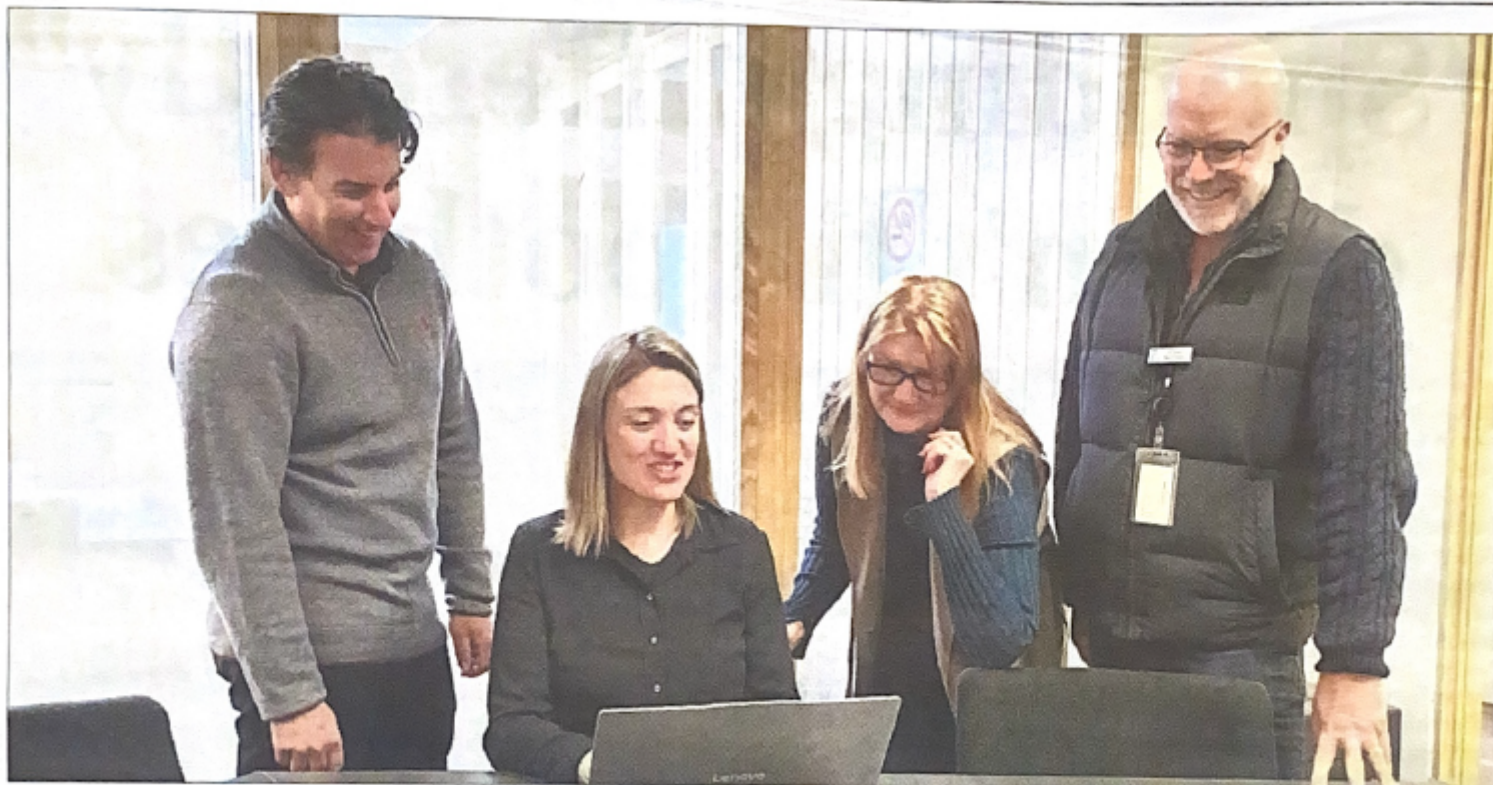
OPPORTUNITY: Neet Godber (left) and Maureen McKay both volunteer at Rosehaven and would love to see some new faces.



LET'S TALK: Keeping the conversation going around mental health is Lorraine Corpe (left) Bryn Jones and Deb Mims.



ACTIVE: Beolite Village residents Barryne Wilson (left), Irene O'Meara and Marg Atley promoting the various activities available to all community members.



Community groups will soon be invited to create their organisation profiles, enabling them to promote their activities, reach new members and access future education, networking and funding opportunities as the project grows.

Community connected

Mansfield Adult Community Education (MACE), in partnership with Mansfield Shire's Social Inclusion Action Group and Bendigo Bank Community Bank - Mansfield & District, has launched Community Connect Mansfield; a new initiative to strengthen local connections and make it easier for people to engage with community life.

At the heart of the project is a central, interactive online Community Directory, providing residents, volunteers and local groups with a simple way to discover organisations, activities and networking events across the Mansfield Shire.

Designed and delivered by Activate Community Consulting, the new platform will be housed on the MACE website.

The first stage of the Community Connect program will deliver an interactive Community Directory, a dedicated volunteer

New Mansfield initiative aims to bring locals, volunteers and community groups together

Facebook group, networking events, and one-on-one mentoring for community organisations, with future stages potentially introducing a volunteer job board and community skills database to further support local organisations and volunteers.

A printed version of the Community Directory will also be made available in partnership with the Mansfield Courier as part of their annual Mansfield Community & Business Directory release in the new year.

MACE CEO Kylie Richards said the initiative responds directly to a long-identified community need and will help remove barriers that often prevent people from participating

in community activities.

"Unlike existing static directories, this will be a live, accurate platform that creates one reliable place for people to find information and connect with local opportunities, making it easier for individuals and groups to find each other, share skills and collaborate," Kylie said.

Community Bank - Mansfield & District Branch Manager Phil Camilleri said the initiative reflects the shared commitment of local organisations to building a connected and resilient community, and builds on the previously funded "Unlock Your Organisation's Full Potential" program delivered by the Community Bank to support com-

munity organisations across the region.

"Community Connect Mansfield will help match volunteers with local needs while creating a welcoming pathway for both new and long-term residents to engage with clubs, services and social groups," Phil said.

"By strengthening connections, we're supporting the long-term sustainability of our community."

Community groups will soon be invited to create their organisation profiles, enabling them to promote their activities, reach new members and access future education, networking and funding opportunities as the project grows.

Residents and organisations are encouraged to join the Community Connect Hub and become part of the expanding local network by registering at: <https://www.mace.vic.edu.au/community-connect>

Come and try tennis and pickleball at Tolmie

The Tolmie Tennis Club in conjunction with the Tolmie Recreation Reserve Committee, will be holding a come-and-try open day at the Tolmie tennis courts on Sunday afternoon 24 May from mid-day until 4pm.

It is also very much an opportunity to connect with other locals, who might share an interest in tennis or pickleball.

Since the courts were revamped with a synthetic surface in 2024, the Tolmie tennis club has seen a significant increase in club membership and usage by both members and casual users.

A new "Igloo" locking system also allows easy online booking, payments and access.

With the growing interest in the sport of pickleball, another quite recent development, has been the marking up of the second concrete court at Tolmie, as a pickleball court.

The open day will include a BBQ lunch while Tennis Australia representatives lead



MATCH READY: Allan Agar painted the lines on the court ready for the pickleball action.

kids' Hot Shots tennis activities, along with cardio tennis for the adults.

Pickleball will be explained

and demonstrated, as well as rolling social games of both pursuits.

Tennis Club president,

Linda Terry extended thanks to the Mansfield Social Inclusion Action Group and Mansfield Shire Council for their

financial support to put on the day.

"It is a great opportunity to bring community members

with a shared interest together," she said.

"While our membership is growing, we don't have the numbers to run comps and therefore don't get to meet each other as a group.

"I'm sure there are also many individuals, or families in particular, who might be interested in tennis or pickleball, but who just don't quite know how to make use of our local courts.

"This fun afternoon will be a great introduction and will answer any of their questions."

Linda went on to thank Tennis Australia rep Jo Maples and members of the Delatite Pickleball Club who will be giving support on the day - and especially Allan Agar for his help with painting the lines on the court.

The day is free and all are welcome.

To assist with catering, those interested in attending, are asked to register with an email to tolmiereserve@gmail.com or via Facebook event posts.

Mansfield SIAG 2025 Funding Opportunity

Applications are now open for the Mansfield Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG) 2025 funding opportunity!

If you are part of a community group organising new or existing programs, we invite you to submit your funding request for consideration.

We encourage all community groups, regardless of size or scope, to take advantage of this opportunity to make a positive impact.

Applicants can apply to receive up to \$5,000. For more information and to apply, please visit the Mansfield Shire Council website.

Paper applications are also available at the Mansfield Shire Council office.

Applications close 1 August 2025.



"Let's Talk Mansfield"

Free

Mental Health First Aid Training

11 AM - 5 PM THURS 23 & 30 APRIL REGISTER

BONNIE DOON COMMUNITY CENTRE 75 ARNOT ST

NOTE: THIS IS A 2 DAY COURSE

Further information: mansfieldletstalk@gmail.com

Cost: Free - \$50 fully refundable deposit on completion of both Thursdays of the 2 day course.



Proudly supported by:



Mansfield Shire



MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID Australia



Hats off to show society

By LYNN ELDER

Between offering refuge for livestock and being a depot for hay donations, the Mansfield Showgrounds have been a hive of activity during January even managing to host two hat felting workshops.

The workshops on two Saturdays, 17 January and 24 January which were run by the Mansfield Agricultural and Pastoral Society were both a great success.

"People relished the chance to learn about wet felting and to make their own hat from the process," said Mansfield A&P Society's president Amanda Swaney.

"Workshop convenor Sue Thompson Pabst collected a spectacular array of coloured merino wool and through a series of simple steps she taught the enthusiastic students how to make the felt material and then to shape on a block," said Ms Swaney.

The process was lengthy but at the end of the day everyone left with a handmade and stylish hat with a brim, hatband and a huge smile she said.

The workshops have been supported by the A&P Society and the Mansfield Shire Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG).

SIAG funding grant enabled two split system cooling/heating units to be installed in the Luncheon Pavilion.

"They have been a very welcome addition to the showground facilities, comfortably enabling activities to take place in high and low temperatures," Ms Swaney said.



ALMOST DONE: A felting workshop participant adding the finishing touches to her hat. PHOTOS: Supplied



NEW SKILLS: Workshop convenor Sue Thompson Pabst explaining the process of felting to a participant at last month's session.

mansfieldcourier.com.au

Mental health training support post fires



LET'S TALK: Mansfield mental health support group is hosting training to support the local community post fires. PHOTO: Supplied

By LYNN ELDER

Post bushfires there has been plenty of conversations around mental health and what we can do as individuals to support our community which makes the upcoming free Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training at Bonnie Doon this month timely as we head into the long haul of recovery.

The two-day course being hosted by Mansfield Let's Talk group fits with its vision of equipping people with the ability to intervene through conversation and other resources that MHFA can provide.

MHFA training aims to equip individuals with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to recognise, understand, and provide initial support to someone experiencing a mental health problem or crisis.

The primary goals are to preserve life, prevent harm, reduce stigma, and promote recovery until professional help is received.

Let's Talk was approached by the Mansfield Shire's Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG) to run this training in the post bushfire period.

The group has been fortunate to engage the services of trainer David Mellington who has more than 25 years working in the mental health space including post bushfire recovery support and training in the King Valley.

David has an education background and is currently employed by Odyssey House as

a Drug and Alcohol and Family Reunification Clinician after having delivered Psychoeducation at a Therapeutic Day Rehabilitation Consortium with Goulburn Valley Health and Salvocare.

Prior to this David developed the Coach the Coach Program at FamilyCare as the education and training coordinator.

This program was designed to reduce suicide in young males and delivered a range of mental health interventions to football and netball leagues throughout regional and rural Victoria.

The Bonnie Doon MHFA training will have an overlay referring specifically to the effect a catastrophe event such as bushfires has on individuals and their lives.

The course is ideal for first timers or those who have participated in previous MHFA and safeTALK training wishing to do a refresher with a different emphasis.

The two-day training will run on Thursday 23 and 30 April from 11am to 5pm both days at the Bonnie Doon Community Centre, 75 Arnot St.

Limited places available so booking as soon as possible is recommended.

Cost is free but a \$50 fully refundable deposit is required and will be available on the completion of both days.

For further information and bookings email mansfieldietstalk@gmail.com or contact MACE on (03) 5775 2077 who is also supporting the training.

QR CODE: Anyone interested in booking in for the free Mental Health First Aid Training two-day course at Bonnie Doon can book using the code to the right.



ADVERTISEMENT

mansfieldcourier.com.au

THE COURIER, Wednesday, April 8, 2026 • Page 7

Your local news. Anywhere, anytime.

Check out our digital editions!

mansfieldcourier.com.au/digital-editions

4th Tyre FREE*

on selected Bridgestone car, SUV, 4x4 and van tyres.

Fuel saving.
Bridgestone Ecopia car, SUV and van tyres.

High performance.
Bridgestone Potenza car tyres.

Hard working.
Bridgestone Dueler 4x4 and SUV tyres.

We offer wheel alignments, mechanical repairs and much more!

Mansfield
The Workshop Mansfield
201 Mansfield-Whitfield Rd
☎ 5779 1001

*Offers apply to participating stores. 4th tyre FREE on Bridgestone Dueler A/T 697 is valid between 01/04/2026 to 31/05/2026. 4th tyre FREE on other Dueler patterns (excluding Dueler A/T 002) valid until 30/04/2026. All other offers are valid between 01/04/2026 and 30/04/2026. Excludes Potenza R6-7105. T&Cs apply. Images for illustration purposes only. See bridgestone.com.au for details.

Local volunteers celebrated at National Volunteers Week event

The Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG), in collaboration with Mansfield Shire Council, proudly celebrated the incredible contribution of local volunteers at a dinner last week.

Coinciding with National Volunteers Week, the event was held at the Mansfield Golf Club and brought together more than 100 volunteers representing a wide range of community organisations from across the shire.

The evening recognised the vital role volunteers play in strengthening the Mansfield community, from supporting sporting clubs and emergency services to delivering social programs, events and community initiatives.

Mayor Cr Steve Rabie, who attended the event with Cr James Tehan and Cr Mandy Treasure on behalf of Council, highlighted the fact that volunteers are integral to many local services, events and community connections.

"Volunteers are the backbone of our community and they add so much to life in our shire," he said.

"When I see their generosity and community spirit in practice, it makes me feel incredibly proud to be part of



CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS: More than 100 volunteers gathered at Mansfield Golf Club for the Volunteer Thank You Dinner during National Volunteers Week.

this special community.

"This event was an opportunity for SIAG, Council and the community to say thank you and acknowledge the enormous impact volunteers have across every part of our shire."

The event featured renowned Australian comedian and actor Colin Lane as host and MC.

He brought humour and warmth to the celebration

while Mayor Cr Rabie delivered special acknowledgements to volunteers for their ongoing dedication and service.

SIAG member Michelle Harmer also addressed attendees on the evening, acknowledging the importance of recognising volunteers and the role they play in fostering community connection and inclusion.

"SIAG is passionate about

supporting projects and events that help people feel connected, included and engaged within the community," Ms Harmie said.

"The Volunteer Thank You Dinner was a fantastic way to celebrate the people who give so much of their time to support others across Mansfield Shire."

"SIAG also provides community grants of up to \$5,000 to support local initiatives



PUT TO THE TEST: Colin Lane invites volunteers onto the stage for a quiz.

PHOTOS: Supplied



MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT: Mansfield Steiner School musicians Scarlett and Thea perform during the dinner.



CREATIVE CONTRIBUTION: Local musician Reiley Schelfhout was also among the performers on the night.

that strengthen social connection and inclusion.

"We're always keen to welcome new members and encourage anyone interested in joining SIAG or applying for future funding opportunities to contact siag@mansfield.vic.gov.au for more information."

The event was funded through SIAG, community-led group auspiced by Mansfield Shire Council and

funded by the Victorian state government that supports initiatives promoting social inclusion, participation and wellbeing across Mansfield Shire.

National Volunteers Week is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteering and recognises the millions of Australians who generously contribute their time to support communities across the country.

It's all about community in Jamieson



JAMIESON ON THE LINE
with Carmel Dixon

The Jamieson Community Welcome Packs for new residents launch, was a very successful Social event on Sunday 5 October.

The idea was the initiative of community group members and committee.

With the support of the Mansfield Shire and financed by the Social Inclusion Action Group the event was well attended.

Over 50 residents attended the luncheon with Mansfield Shire CEO Kirsten Alexander.

The memorial hall was resplendent with a long table of luncheon treats created by Alana and Lucy from Jamieson café The Topsy Trout.

The superb refreshments were from local Jamieson Winery, Mount Terrible Wines.

Chris Badrock, Jamieson Community president, addressed the attendees introducing the welcome packs, handing them to very happy recipients.

A very happy social introduction for new residents to meet and be welcomed by local residents into the community, with a welcome pack full of current and important information, to help with local knowledge and a smooth integration into the friendly community.



▲ COMMUNITY SUPPORT: Enjoying the Launch of the Jamieson Community Welcome Packs, on Sunday in the Jamieson Memorial Hall were from left Rev Alan Jarrod, John Gilson and Trish Gilson.

Local resident Pam Stacey enjoyed her daughter-in-law's, 50th birthday party in Melbourne on Saturday evening.

Amanda Stacey was delighted to have over 60 friends and family celebrate her special birthday at home.

It was a very happy occasion and many family members and friends with their children enjoyed the reunion.

Last Sunday the Rev Alan Jarrod conducted the Eucharist Service at Saint Peter's Anglican Church in Jamieson.

There were a group of

attendees who with Rev. Alan joined the welcome pack launch party and mingled with the other residents meeting the new Jamieson families, enjoying the hospitality and ambience of the day.

Last Wednesday 1 October the Jamieson community lunch was held at the Jamieson Brewery and Grill, it was very successful with a large number of diners enjoying the atmosphere and the meal, with neighbours and friends catching up for a friendly chat.

The number of diners at the brewery was quite pleasing, as it was the last days of school

► WELCOME TO JAMIESON: Jamieson Community Group president, Chris Badrock addressing attendees at the launch of the Jamieson Welcome Packs. This event was well attended with a number of new residents welcomed and meeting with other local residents over a bountiful lunch. PHOTO: Freddie Leong

holidays and dining out mid-week was a real treat.

On Monday the Jamieson CFA Brigade meeting was held planning the agenda and preparing for the general CFA members meeting to be held on Wednesday.

With the fire season officially active now, all of the training for the active CFA fire fighters, over the winter and early spring has stood them in a good position to be ready to answer the call.

The Jamieson Community meeting will be conducted on Tuesday evening at 7pm in the memorial hall.



The monthly meeting embraces the community from Jamieson, Mac's Cove, Howqua and Kevington.

The meetings are informative and welcoming with resident input welcomed.

It is a very popular event with ideas being proffered and many achieved with local pride.

The Jamieson Autumn Festival Thank You Afternoon, will be held on Saturday 18 October from 4pm to 7pm.

In case of inclement weather, the function will be held in the memorial hall. The event is to thank the

volunteers for the superb job they did at the 2025 Autumn Festival.

Contact the committee by 10 October for catering requirements, as dinner and a welcoming drink will be provided.

This event is a family friendly occasion; families of the volunteers are welcome if you would like to attend the social afternoon event please contact the Autumn Festival committee.

If you would like to volunteer at the 2026 Autumn Festival, please contact the Jamieson Autumn Festival committee.

Volunteers are the core of this annual celebration and your commitment and involvement are vital to the smooth running of the event.

Email: jamiesonautumnfestival@gmail.com

This weekend the annual Jamieson High Country Rod Muster will be coming to Jamieson.

It is a much looked forward to weekend of fabulously presented cars, fun, food and games.

There will be a display of these cars along Perkins Street, a Show-and-Shine, live music, a duck race and a grand parade.

There is something for everyone along with a CFA Sausage Sizzle and much more.

Social Inclusion Action Group's funding recipients announced

Successful grant recipients have been announced for the Mansfield Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG) small grants round.

Eighteen local community groups will receive funding to support initiatives that improve social inclusion and connection within Mansfield Shire.

The successful applicants for 2025 are:

- Arts Mansfield
 - Beolite Residents Committee Incorporated
 - Bonnie Doon Community Group
 - Code Club Mansfield
 - GADHABA
 - Gentle Transitions Advocacy and Support
 - MACE
 - Mad Potters
 - Mansfield Agricultural and Pastoral Society
 - Mansfield District Soccer Club
 - Mansfield Tennis Association
 - Rotary Club of Mansfield
 - Rural Australians for Refugees Inc Mansfield
 - The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc - Mansfield Branch
 - WiNE Network
 - Yooralla Mansfield Community Hub
 - Mansfield Social Soccer
 - Ancona Hall Social Committee
- Mayor Cr Steve Rabie congratulated the recipients.

"Well done on submitting a successful funding application and congratulations to all those who have successfully been selected for grant funding in this round," said Cr Rabie.

"We're excited to be able to support SIAG to deliver this funding to such worthy initiatives with the potential for great community outcomes," said Cr Rabie.

"Throughout this year, I've watched as the recipients of last year's grants have taken their funding and created opportunities for our community to get together, which strengthens our whole community."

The Mansfield SIAG is a group of community members and leaders who work together to deliver initiatives that boost social inclusion and connection.

By promoting diversity, equity and accessibility, they aim to create spaces and experiences where everyone feels valued, respected and included.

Funding applications were open to all local community groups and not-for-profits who were developing new or existing initiatives to address these goals.

SIAG group members collectively evaluated each application and are pleased to be able to offer all applicants a grant this year.

The funding is provided by the Victorian State Government, who selected Mansfield Shire Council as one of the SIAG program pilots in 2022.

"Council look forward to seeing the impact that their initiatives will have on our community, and the future opportunities for social inclusion that will arise as SIAG continues to grow," said Cr Rabie.

If you'd like to learn more about Mansfield SIAG, visit the Mansfield Shire Council website, email siag@mansfield.vic.gov.au, or call (03) 5775 8555.

MANSFIELD SIAG 2025-26 Social Inclusion Funding Opportunity



If your not-for-profit organisation or community group is planning new or ongoing projects that promote social inclusion, we invite you to submit your funding request for consideration.

We highly value and encourage innovative and creative ideas!

SIAG provided funding to 12 different community groups in 2024!

Applicants can seek funding of up to \$5000!

Applications open: 23 June 2025 Applications close: 1 August 2025

What is the Mansfield Social Inclusion Action Group?

The Mansfield SIAG is a dedicated group made up of community members and leaders working together to deliver initiatives that boost social inclusion and connection.

Our goals for Mansfield Shire are to:

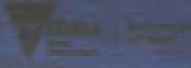
- Prevent social exclusion
- Increase social inclusion
- Increase social connection

For more information or to apply visit our website

mansfield.vic.gov.au/Community/Residents/Social-Inclusion/SIAG-Action-Group

siag@mansfield.vic.gov.au

03 5775 8555



Community day at the Estate

The Goughs Bay Area Progress Association is continuing to promote social inclusion and wellbeing by hosting events for the community.

"We recently held an event at the High Country Estate, previously the High Country Maze," said Gail Hart from the association.

"This event not only brought community together but provided the opportunity to welcome the new owners of the High Country Estate and savour the wonderful food they had on offer."

The event was well attended with 35 local community members attending.

The event was subsidised using the Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG) grant that was received from the Mansfield Shire Council via the Victorian State Government's SIAG program.



STRONG TURN-OUT: Goughs Bay residents visited the High Country Estate which was previously the High Country Maze.



IN THE SHADE: The Goughs Bay Area Progress Association held an event at the High Country Estate.

Goughs Bay fundraiser for the CFA

Recently, Fernleigh Cottages kindly offered the use of their venue to host a fundraising event for the CFA.

"It was great to see the local community supporting this event, with more than 100 people in attendance," said Gail Hart from the Goughs Bay Area Progress Association.

A traditional barbecue dinner, cooked by community volunteers, was provided for a small charge, with funds

going toward the cause.

The Goughs Bay Area Progress Association also contributed to the dinner using part of its Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG) grant.

Live music was provided by the Freebirds, with plenty of laughter and dancing throughout the evening.

The event raised \$1,750.09, which will go toward the purchase of a generator for the CFA to be used during emergencies.



YOGA WITH A VIEW: The Goughs Bay Community Hub has opened at the Goughs Bay Boat Sport and Recreation Club with yoga one of the activities on offer.

HUB IS OPEN AT GOUGHS BAY

THE Goughs Bay Area Progress Association has finally opened the Goughs Bay Community Hub at the Goughs Bay Boat Sport and Recreation Club.

This was made possible by a generous grant of \$60,000 from the Bendigo Bank-Community Bank Mansfield and District and a \$1.5 million grant from the Victorian Government.

A number of regular activities have been organised, including yoga, Bay Book Club and line dancing.

Further activities will be added over the coming months.

The events that are subsidised are a result of the Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG) grant of \$5,000 from Mansfield Shire Council.

The SIAG was established by the Victorian Government to deliver initiatives that boost social inclusion and connection.

Yoga is held at 6pm Mondays and 9am on Thursdays.

Line dancing is at 10.15am Thursdays and the Bay Book Club is the fourth Thursday of the month at 7pm.

A gold coin donation is all that is asked to attend these activities.



18/12/2026

BAREFOOT BOWLS:

The Goughs Bay Area Progress Association is continuing to promote social inclusion and wellbeing by hosting an afternoon at the Mansfield Bowling Club. The community members who attended were taught the rules and nuances of barefoot bowls. After playing for two hours we were provided with a lovely BBQ meal prepared by volunteers of the Mansfield Bowling Club. This event was well attended and everyone had a great time. The event was subsidised using the Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG) grant that was received from the Mansfield Shire Council via the Victorian State Government's SIAG program.

4, 2025 24/12/2025

CELEBRATIONS

The Goughs Bay Progress Association recently held its community Christmas party. Rain on the day called for a change of location, with the association moving festivities from Picnic Point to the newly refurbished Goughs Bay Boat Club and Community Hub. The Progress Association also hosted a High Tea at the Red Fin Cafe, Goughs Bay Caravan Park. Both events were well attended by community members and enjoyed by all. The events were subsidised using the Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG) grant that was received from the Mansfield Shire Council via the State Government's SIAG program.



SIAG funding to boost community connection and inclusion across the shire

Community groups and organisations are encouraged to apply for the 2026/27 grant round through the Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG), which supports initiatives that promote social inclusion, connection and wellbeing across the Mansfield Shire.

Mayor Cr Steve Rabie said he was pleased to see another round of funding in the Mansfield Shire community.

"Strong, connected communities don't happen by chance - they're built through the efforts of passionate people and organisations working together to ensure everyone feels welcome and valued," said Cr Rabie.

"In Mansfield Shire, community-led programs play a vital role in bringing people from all walks of life together, fostering a sense of belonging and contributing to positive mental health and wellbeing outcomes for residents of all ages and backgrounds."

The SIAG grant program is one way council continues to support this vision.

Grants of up to \$5000 are available for both new and existing programs that strengthen participation and connection across the community - whether that's through social events, support networks, cultural activities or other inclusive initiatives.

Applications are open as of 1 June 2026 and close on 10 August 2026.

For more information on eligibility and how to apply, visit council's website at www.mansfield.vic.gov.au/SIAG.

Hard copy application forms are also available from council's main office.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



COMMUNITY BUILDING: The Goughs Bay Area Progress Association is continuing to promote social inclusion and wellbeing by hosting events for the community. "We recently held two events including an afternoon at Ros Ritchie Winery and a dinner at the Goughs Bay Boat Club and Community Hub," said Gail Hart from the association. "Both events were well attended. "These events were subsidised using the Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG) grant that was received from the Mansfield Shire Council via the State Government's SIAG program."

JRIER, Wednesday, September 24, 2025 - Page 5



WINING AND DINING: The Goughs Bay Area Progress Association continues to promote mental health and wellbeing by hosting activities and events addressing social inclusion and connection. Over the last couple of months it has hosted get-togethers at the Curry Garden, Bangkok Corner and Jamieson Brewery. These events were subsidised using the Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG) grant that was received from Mansfield Shire Council via the State Government's SIAG program.



BUILDING COMMUNITY: On Easter Sunday the Goughs Bay Area Progress Association hosted a community get-together at the High Country Maze. The event was well attended with 24 community members attending including three new residents to the area. The event was subsidised using the Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG) grant that was received from Mansfield Shire Council via the State Government's SIAG program.

Rotary raising awareness around family violence



CHAMPIONS: Mansfield Rotarians Robyn Bassanelli (left), Steffi Hart and Denise Skinner say no to family violence.

PHOTO: Lynn Elder

By LYNN ELDER

Inspired by a speaker from the NSW Ballina Rotary Club, Mansfield Rotarians have launched their own campaign of "Say no to domestic and family violence" last month.

A passionate advocate for the campaign is Mansfield Rotary Club's Steffi Hart who with fellow Rotarians Denise Skinner and Robyn Bassanelli attended a group meeting in Albury when they heard the story behind the campaign earlier this year.

Realising the enormity of the problem in our communities across Australia including our own district and the urgent need to address the issues driving it, Ms Hart was pleased that the first phase of the campaign was underway.

The campaign launch at a special Mansfield Rotary Club meeting on 23 July where community members were invited to attend highlighted some sobering figures in relation to violence against women.

Figures provided by the

Australian government stated one in four women have experienced violence by an intimate partner (compared to one in 14 men), regional and rural women are one and a half times more likely to experience partner violence than women in cities especially after natural disasters (drought or flood), and 80 per cent of women are likely to experience financial abuse following violence.

"The Ballina Rotary group said that in a quarter of houses there was some form of abuse," said Ms Hart.

As a new initiative Ms Hart said Mansfield Rotary Club was applying for various community grants to fund the campaign goals.

There are four main goals covering increased community awareness of domestic and family violence, youth education around respectful relationships, consent and empathy, promotion of available services and resources, and finally encouraging victims and bystanders to seek help and support.

Ms Hart stressed that violence against men was also

recognised as part of the campaign.

Education in schools through programs such as "Love Bites" which runs in Benalla was another way for students to learn about respectful relationships, said Ms Hart.

"It is really about empowering children to say mum or dad that is not OK," she said.

It is about recognising that "enough is enough".

Ms Hart said it won't happen overnight, but generational change was possible.

While it is early days for the Mansfield campaign, various events are planned for later in the year working with the shire, police, local businesses, schools, and individuals.

It is about having a campaign vision of advocating for a safer, more respectful, and united community by raising awareness, providing local education, and empowering regional voices to stand against domestic and family violence by working together.

Anyone interested in getting involved can contact the Mansfield Rotary Club.

Goughs Bay raising funds for the CFA

The Goughs Bay Boat Club and Community Hub recently held its inaugural reverse auction fundraiser, which was attended by more than 200 people.

There was great food, refreshments as well as live music from Marty Jones, which certainly had everybody up dancing.

A silent auction was also held to raise funds for the Boorolite and District CFA and Goughs Bay-Howes Creek CFA, where \$3000 was raised.

"This was a great effort from our local community," said Gail Hart, secretary of the Goughs Bay Boat Club and Community Hub.



STRONG TURN-OUT: The Goughs Bay Boat Club and Community Hub recently held its inaugural Reverse Auction Fundraiser which was attended by over 200 people.

"The staff and volunteers did a wonderful job looking after everyone's needs.

"The first, second and third place winners decided to pool the prize money and split it evenly.

"Our thanks to our wonderful donors, FoodWorks, IGA, Fernleigh Cottages, High Country Estate, the Saunders family, Eastern Valley Plumbing, Steel-

water Pools, Dr Twycross, Alpine Garden Supplies, Amanda Hysted Textile Artist, G and K Rako and Paul Diamond for their generous donations.

"Finally, our thanks for the SIAG [Social Inclusion Action Grant] from Mansfield Shire Council, funded by the Victorian government, which is used to facilitate social inclusion and wellbeing."



"Powerful documentary...
insightful and deeply
personal."
- Lisa Nystrom

LEFT *write* HOOK

Silence is no longer an option

6.30PM TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER



Mansfield
Shire

MANSFIELD ARMCHAIR CINEMA
FREE ENTRY - DONATIONS WELCOME



SIAC
SOCIAL INCLUSION
ACTION GROUP

Register with Mansfield Rotary

<https://mansfieldrotary.org.au/singleemail/contactus>

MANSFIELD SHIRE *Steps Up* AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE

5PM FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER
Walk with Rotary

ALL WELCOME

Assemble on median strip @ IGA for 5pm start
Walk is up and down the median strip

Together we say

YES *to* **RESPECTFUL**
RELATIONSHIPS

**Join us after the event for a
FREE BBQ
ALL WELCOME**

STEP UP SPEAK UP BE A VOICE FOR CHANGE

Organised by Rotary Mansfield

Rotary
Mansfield



Mansfield
Shire

Enquiries: steffibest@hotmail.com

www.mansfieldrotary.org.au

Disclaimer: All participants acknowledge they do so at their own risk. The event organisers are not responsible or liable for any bodily injuries, accidents or damages, be it mental or physical.

Creative Arts and Crafts

Looking for something enjoyable, social, and a little creative?
Why not come along and see what we're up to!

Our sessions are a relaxed and welcoming space where residents can:

- Try something new or continue a favourite hobby
- Share ideas and learn from others
- Work at their own pace—no pressure, just enjoyment

What's happening now?

The sessions are going really well, with several residents already participating and producing some fantastic projects, including:

- Model building
- Wood burning
- Making and painting decorative items
- A variety of individual creative projects

Everyone is welcome!

Whether you'd like to join in, have a look, or simply chat and gather ideas, we'd love to see you there.

Feel free to bring along:

- Your own project
- A creative idea you'd like to explore

Or just yourself and your curiosity!

Come along, get inspired, and enjoy the company!

Where

At the Activities/Hobby Shed next to the community garden

When

1st and 3rd **Tuesday** of the month - 10AM to 12PM

Every Saturday morning - 10AM to 12PM

Please note that one of the designated organisers, Tony, Sandra, Chris or Bev must be in attendance to oversee activities.

For more information

Chris Wilson 0408565760

admin@beoliteres.org.au

With generous support from
Bendigo Bank - Community Bank Mansfield & District
Mansfield SIAG and Mansfield Shire Council

Community Bank
Mansfield & District
Bendigo Bank

