



# MAIN RIDGE BOWLS & PÉTANQUE CLUB INC - NEWSLETTER



Vol21/Issue 8

Christmas Edition 2021



We wish every  
club member a  
very Happy  
Christmas and a  
healthy 2022

## Petanque player deemed not out at Cricket Match - a salutary lesson

David Markey went to peculiar lengths a few Sundays ago summoning a helicopter to the AR & F Ditterich oval. The reason was not an early visit from Santa rather a medical evacuation. David had been up on the roof fixing an old skylight, when wife Gaye had to leave, admonishing him, *not to fall off the roof*. The resounding crash she heard shortly afterwards alerted her to the fact that all was not well. The new first responders at the Main Ridge fire station were quickly on the scene and David was assessed and the helicopter called and medevacked him out in true MASH style.

I guess you will be aware that the end of the story is not quite as dramatic, fortunately David bounced back although he did sustain some very painful injuries. See first-hand account on page. 7.



## Christmas Party – SAG committee did us proud!



A smaller than usual group set out to celebrate Christmas but this did not stop SAG rolling out the proverbial red carpet. SAG committee comprises Dee, Raelene, Margaret, Rhonda and Bill and they organised a great spread - no one went home hungry! This year SAG elves included, Cathy, Elaine, Freda, and Carol H. Andrea made yummy mince pies, Jonathan and Robert were on bar duty and Sue B set the table decorations whilst the Donaldson's once again presented a beautiful tree. Also, in tune with the times Robert kept a check as the Covid Marshal. Bill Shearer and Bernadette Touhey won the door prizes and Bill Brown and Kevin Wyatt were winners of the raffle. Serendipity sang their way through many golden oldies, and after all the costs were taken into account, a profit was made! Thanks to all the volunteers who gave so freely of their time to make for a good party.

## President's Ramble

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Well, what a year it has been. You will recall we commenced the year on a positive note with club activities really picking up as restrictions eased. Good numbers were back playing petanque and Friday



Nights were very well attended. The pennant bowls season finished and we conducted a very successful Autumn Bowls Classic in March. Also in March, we hosted a very successful Eagle staff awards night for fifty of their staff.

The next lockdown saw the club closed once again for almost three months. We were able to open up again in July when club activities resumed under strict Covid protocols. A very enjoyable Sponsor's dinner at Max's was very well attended. We were able to celebrate life member Jane Zammit's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The next lockdown closed us until well into October and since then the club has gradually come back to life. The pennant bowls season got under way in mid-November with both our Tuesday and Saturday sides well placed at this stage of the season. Whilst the club is now open to all activities there is still some hesitancy for some to fully participate. This is understandable given what we have been through and the increased uncertainty that the new Covid variant Omicron has brought.

We all hope that 2022 is a year in which Covid ceases to have such a significant impact on our daily lives.

Over the past six months the executive has been turning its attention to enhancing the overall governance of the club. We have been working on the development of a Strategic Plan and a review of the current Privacy Policy. Both will be finalised and publicised early in the new year. In addition, the Executive has signed off on a Club Code of Conduct which also will be publicised early in the new year.

My many thanks to the work of the Executive members and members of the Bowls and Petanque Operating Committees. A huge thanks to the Friday night kitchen and bar volunteers for the nights when we were able to operate. Thanks to Carole and Sue for their work in organising and coaching our mah-jong participants. Our bowling green volunteers have done a terrific job all through the year and many thanks to them.

Finally, a special thanks to Sue Brown for all the work she has put into the production of those many newsletters over the past two years. A sterling effort to produce so many and of such high quality. Sue is wanting to gradually step down from this role so we are seeking someone with the energy and interest to take it on. She is more than prepared to assist in the beginning. It is most likely that we will now revert to quarterly newsletters for the coming year.

Compliments of the season to all members, their families and friends. Have an enjoyable and safe Christmas.

*Editor's note: Our President is currently sporting a moon boot as a result of an accident and will be out of action on the bowling green for some time. Our sympathy concerning his frustration and we hope he will get better soon. On the up side it does excuse him from the Christmas chores.*



## Community Day

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In keeping with our club's ethos of community involvement, Robert Hudson successfully applied for a grant from the shire for a community day in early 2022. Andrea Gillies is coordinating the event and if you can help, have ideas etc. please contact her on [andrealeegill@gmail.com](mailto:andrealeegill@gmail.com) As Andrea emphasizes it will be a (much) smaller event than the last charity day the club was involved with but "the purpose is to celebrate and give thanks to the community". Details will be circulated in the new year so watch this space.

## Bowls Update

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The first game of the season demonstrated that Lee and Johnathan had lost none of their skills over the break. Cesare now 99 yrs led as did a lady from the opposition who was a mere 91 years of age. Must say something about the benefits of playing bowls. The season is now in full swing with twilight bowls and competitions on going.



## Petanque Director Report – Jock Macmillian

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The November Club Championship Friday on the 19<sup>th</sup> had one of our smallest number of contestants. Only fifteen enrolled for the three timed games with competition rules. It may have reflected post-lockdown hesitancy. However, over 20 players QR'd for the first Friday in December. For the record, Kay Millis won the ladies section and Michael Phillips the men's. Kay is a first-time winner of this monthly competition and Michael was the only player to have three wins on the day with an excellent delta of 25.

It was the first occasion that Jean Claude's Excel scoring program was used.



Every Club Member who has indicated that they will play petanque at some time during the year has their name listed. On a competition Friday, each player simply has their name added to the day's player list. Once each game score is entered, the program works out the results as well as identifying the ladies and men's winners. This monthly championship is an excellent opportunity for every petanque player to learn the rules as they apply to tournament competitions. Friday, the 17<sup>th</sup> December is the date for the next monthly competition. The results from the January and February third Fridays in 2022 will be included in the calculations to identify the 2021 Club Champion.



## Hidden Heroes – Petanque & Social Club – Les Iapozzuto



Les is truly a local; born in Main Ridge his family originally farmed apples on today's winery T'Gallant. Except for a short sojourn to New Zealand he has remained in the area, working for a local company before retiring. A keen cricketer he was a long-term member of Main Ridge Cricket Club, captaining the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> teams as an opening batsman and he played over 470 games in his time. He was also the treasurer for many years and can still be inveigled to join a team. It was just over three years ago when attending a community day on AR & F Ditterich oval that he discovered Petanque. It did not take too much arm twisting and with the encouragement of his wife, Heather, Les soon caught the bug and has become a vital member of the club ever since. Its thanks to Les that the piste and surrounding areas are in in such good condition and his enthusiasm for the sport is infectious. He is a past Director of Main Ridge Petanque so I asked one or two of his fellow players what they thought would encapsulate Les as a person, one replied, 'one of kindest people I know, he goes out of his way to help those who could do with a bit of lift'. Another commented, "he is meticulous in anything he does" and went on to say he can be relied upon to support the club in so many ways. Thanks Les.

## A letter from the French Connection – Jean Claude Dufroux

Hope you are all well enjoying summer time in Australia

Today I attended an initiation session held by 3 pétanque world champions in my home town of Angers with:

Bruno Leboursicaud

Damien Hureau

Philippe Quintais

I learnt a few interesting exercises which I will apply during my next coaching sessions in Australia. Of course, I gave them some wine from my village to thank them for their kindness... Feeling like a world champion now.... cheers



## Mah-jong

Mahjong takes a break over the summer period but will resume again on the 17th January. Please contact [mrbpcmahjong@gmail.com](mailto:mrbpcmahjong@gmail.com) for further information. All members and their friends are welcome to join. Even if you have never played before it's not a problem as there are plenty of members on hand who are keen to help with the learning process. The only requirement is a sense of humour.

## Social activities group – Raelene Shearer



Back to normality – A great evening was spent at the Sponsor's evening event at the Epicurean



Just as a heads-up. Rosters to assist in the Friday night snacks will need to be circulated in the New Year, please put your hand up to assist in any way you can. You do need a Food Handlers certificate, to prepare the food – maybe we should run an evening with a bring your own computer so we can sign up more folk once the short questionnaire for certification is completed. The club is a *not for profit* organisation and is reliant of volunteers.

### Hidden Heroes –Social Club – Bob & Freda Donaldson



Every year Bob and Freda dress the club Christmas tree for all to enjoy. Long term members of the club both Bob and Freda give of their time in so many ways. We have mentioned previously the Donaldson's commitment to the Peninsula Riding for the Disabled and they are both active members of Dromana Rotary. I first met Bob at Dromana U3a and for a short time we participated in the same writing group. Bob at the time had taken on the very onerous task of Dromana U3a President and it was a nice surprise to join him on the piste one day. Always supporters of the club, both Freda and Bob put their gardening expertise to use around the club and Freda helps on the Friday night rosters. Both contribute significantly to the community and are valued members of the club, thank you once again for bringing this year's Christmas cheer to the club house.



## I thought I could do it - David Markey

Twas just last week I sat and reminisced  
Of skills I once had and have never diminished!!  
Hell, no one else was going to do it  
I'll just get on the garage roof you'll see I can do it

A fine day it was to replace aged skylights  
I am sure success will bring me delights  
A man comfortable with his abilities in his castle  
Not once was failure considered or thoughts of a debacle

Conquering the Everest of garage roof heights  
The 360 degrees view were an absolute delight  
Mountain airs filled my voracious lungs  
On completion there surely would be songs to be sung

One of the skylight required some effort  
Need to move the body for better effect  
Alas no one told him of the skylight over the ridge  
He moved his feet to secure a foot bridge

Age can lessen one's once sharp vision  
That old camouflaged skylight the cause of my derision  
Fall I did through the roof, undermining my decision  
My racing mind recalls acrobatic precision

Sadly, mind and body are not always in sync  
Acrobatic skills relegated to the kitchen sink  
3.5 metres did I desperately plunge  
Landing in my own pile of manly grunge

Luckily consciousness never left me  
I call my precious to a gallant rescue  
Her language on seeing me made me blush  
An ambulance was dispatched in a fevered rush

Paramedics were amazed that I survived  
3.5 metres surely he should have died  
Arguments continued 'what to do now?'  
Finally a Chopper arrived to end the great row

Royal Melbourne Hospital the destination  
A Trauma team commenced a serious deliberation  
X-rays and scans were the order of the day  
Thankfully no other probing was made to delicate foray

Scans cleared my brain of any damage  
To tell the truth Im not sure how that was managed  
The Trauma Eleven cheered a hooray 🎉  
Bones mend, slowly, I thought I heard them say on the day

Broken shoulder with three ribs was the tally  
Spine excellent so no need to miss the next Main Ridge Rally  
But just on the QT there are some advantages, really  
The wonderful hospital drugs and young nurses all rallied

The staff and trauma eleven were simply amazing  
Thank god my misadventure occurred in Oz and not elsewhere  
As I slowly heal and my once sharp mind does ponder  
Those skylights are still needing replacement..... I wonder?



# Out and About



The Big Blow



Rose lady, Ailsa



Bill Shearer John & Jane Preston John Schmoll



Sponsors David & Fran Barke



Kate and Chris Southall's new foal (2 days old) by Fleet Review out of Trystadore.



Summer: Local cow cools off!

## Wine Drops

Jean Claude is still in France as Champagne levels drop. I have no idea if these two facts are mutually exclusive but Dan Murphy's have put out a warning that French bubbles are rationed to one case per person. So this is the season for red bubbles:- For those feeling they should be lucky, lucky, lucky Kylie Minogue Signature Prosecco Rose 750mL can be found for \$20.00 at First Liquor, along with Moet & Chandon Rose Brut NV 750mL \$78.00 for the Francophiles. Firm Christmas favourite Andrew Garrett Sparkling shiraz have a special price for two at \$22.00 a pair. Or Majella sparkling from Coonawarra \$38.00 at Rosebud BWS.



Local Wineries to visit and take your visitors include practically next door!!

**Poplar Bend Winery**, 465 Main Creek Rd, Main Ridge VIC 3928. Small, intimate winery offering carefully hand-crafted Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Shiraz. This label features the famous painting of Chloe. Open 12 noon to 5pm first weekend of the month.



**Pier 10** has two Christmas offerings one a red diamond shiraz with hints of cherries

and raspberries and the second a Ruby Pinot Noir with subtle strawberries and hints of black Forrest cake!



Mornington Peninsula's Garbagiest Cuvée de Coeur Sparkling made from Pinot Noir might be worth a look at for a high-quality tippie. On trend it has received many accolades, but difficult to find- try Merricks and/or the Redhill Wine collective.

If you are looking for a special present you might like to consider an Epicurean gift card under the tree. Starting at \$50.00.



Please mention the club if you purchase wine from Poplar Bend, Pier 10 or any of the Epicurean restaurants. Keep your slip and place it in the specially allocated box to the right of the bar for an opportunity to win the annual draw.

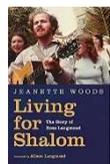
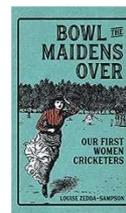


Don't forget to keep slips when you purchase items from any of our sponsors, and add your contact details. Entry for the draw worth \$250.00 is valid when you spend a minimum of \$25.00. This applies to purchases from July 2021. The draw will take place in May 2022 at the AGM. See the list of sponsors at the end of the newsletter

## Stocking fillers – Local Peninsula authors

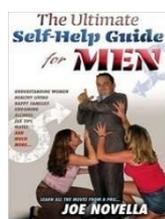
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**Bowl the Maidens Over: Our First Women Cricketers** by Louise Zedda-Sampson. An account of the very first women's matches from the selection of uniforms, to mentoring by the prestigious Bendigo United Cricket Club.



Retired School principal, Jeanette Woods with her background in education, and theology writes on the charismatic teacher and leader Ross Langmead in **Living with Shalom**. Her previous book, **A Voice for Veronica** (2019) is a meticulously researched story of murder victim, Veronica Knight.

Poetry lovers may like to dip into Julia Kaycocks latest book **Child of the Clouds**. A memoir in verse of adoption, trauma and recovery. She is also the co-editor of **“Messages from the Embers”** an anthology of poems that detail and articulate the devastating 2019-2020 bushfire crisis.



Local author Joe Novella delivers a comprehensive guide for all men who are tired of trying to find their feminine side. **The Ultimate Self-Help guide for Men** will bring a smile over the festive season and perhaps much needed help to survive.

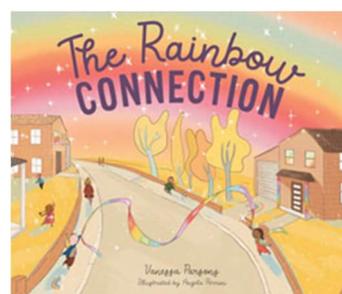
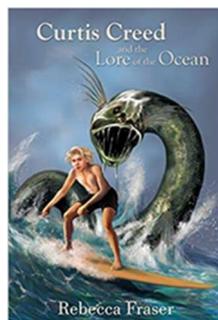
Liz Hicklin's debut novel is a story of two people who meet by chance in 1948. Time and distance take the two lovers in different directions; however, Hubert cannot let go of Audrey and enters into a state of **Limerence**, hence the title. Liz has led a fascinating life and recently donated her love letters from the poet, Ted Hughes to the British Library; hopefully she will write that story soon.



All books are available from local book stores, including Farrell's in Mornington and online at Amazon and/or Booktopia.

## Young adult and children's books by Peninsula authors

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## Christmas: Past, Present and Future

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Marley was dead, to begin with. There is no doubt whatever about that. All the necessary forms had been completed and the coroner had signed off on the burial.

Scrooge's long-time partner, Marley, had a quiet funeral, it had been in the morning and Scrooge saw no reason to close down the accountancy firm when there was a holiday the next day. He switched off his computer and looked around. His staff were not working; their minds already on the celebrations of the next day.

"Bah Humbug", he said as his phone pinged.

All the heads popped up from behind their screens looking expectantly at him, he dismissed them with a sweep of his hand.

"Happy Christmas" they called out cheerily but no response came from Scrooge, he remained at his desk, his face implacable. They quickly changed to "Happy holiday" in deference to their Moslem colleague who could not have given a toss, but no one had ever asked him.

Bob Cratchit, his p.a., looked like he was about to expire from the heat of day as he checked the office. He was in a rush as his youngest son, Tiny Tim had a new song he wanted to record. He went home via the market and looked around for a tree but there were none to be had; real trees were scarce and synthetics considered environmentally unacceptable.



Meanwhile wiping the sweat from his brow, Scrooge too had left the office and slowly made his way home. It was even hotter inside than out and he wondered if he should run the air conditioner but decided against it. It was very expensive and he had not invested in solar panels, considering them a passing fad.

He stretched out on the couch and quickly dozed off when suddenly he felt a presence. It was Marley who seemed inexplicitly to be wrapped in chains. Not usually one for fetish, Scrooge was perplexed.

Marley spoke, "I come to warn you dear friend, this evening you will have three visitors: the green ghosts of Christmas past, present and future, heed them well.

The next minute Scrooge felt himself to be walking through a thick fog. He saw before him a house lit up with many lights and as he opened the door to the cool room, he saw a huge Christmas tree. Underneath its boughs were many presents, he begins disconsolately searching the piles for gift vouchers or money envelopes. Then his beloved girlfriend Belle enters the room. He welcomes her enthusiastically and points to a large beautifully wrapped present under the tree. Her eyes sparkle as she begins to unwrap the gift,

"Something for our new home together", murmured Scrooge lovingly.

As she removed the wrapping the first thing which caught her eye was a label stating this was the most economical washing machine on the market. Bella left.

Scrooge was then moved on to the present, and found himself sitting in Bob Cratchit's house. Tim was in isolation due to COVID and Bob had just returned with a family pack of KFC. The kids were ecstatic, "thanks Dad", they chorused and hugged him one by one. As the day progressed, they tired of their

jolly games and began to cough, falling victim to the plague commonly experienced by those living in low socio-economic housing.

For the first time in his adult life Scrooge felt a twinge of empathy. There was no time to dwell because he soon found himself whisked off by the Christmas yet to come.

The spectre before him was bleak, the landscape bleak, the people bleak. Tiny Tim was propped up against an abandoned tower block next to an unmanned Centre Link office. He pointed out a lonely piece of ground where someone had fashioned a pile of rocks and written on a piece of plastic: 'Ebenezer Scrooge 2050'.

Ebenezer woke up with a jolt and he knew exactly what he must do.

The very next day he went on line and bought a one-way ticket to Mars

(Apologies to Charles Dickens)

## Local Clubs

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### Dromana Rotary

Those last-minute Christmas needs can be found at the Rotary Twilight Christmas Market. There are many fabulous stalls and refreshments are on offer.

### Lions Christmas tree Festival

On display last Saturday, the Lions' Christmas tree competition which proved a great community success. Local organizations around the peninsula demonstrated considerable initiative and creativity in their tree making and decorating.

An eclectic sample of entries pictured here are from, Redhill scouts, the tennis club, and primary school



## Happy Christmas to the CFA

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A heartfelt thank you to the CFA and the new Ambulance team. from all the residents and visitors to Main Ridge We wish you a Silent Christmas and a quiet New Year at the station.



## Brainiac - Compiled by Penny Liddiard

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HOMOGRAPHS = words with same spelling, but different pronunciation and meaning.

1. female hair decoration; front of a ship.=.....
2. between; to place in a grave/tomb =.....
3. moving air; to roll into a ball -say=.....
4. nearby; to shut .....
5. null and void; weak or sick.....
6. to injure badly; wove one's way=.....
7. private; to suggest or hint at =.....
8. to be solo on an island -say; dark brownish red =.....
9. a month; causing feelings of admiration/respect =.....
10. a particular piece of work; to throw =.....

## From the Editor – Sue Brown

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This will be my 21st and last newsletter now the lockdown “conversations” are no longer needed and we get back together. Time to hang up my pen and ink and let the sports writers take back their domain. Thanks to all of you who contributed and supported the newsletter during COVID times, it has been great fun putting it together. My special thanks go to Bill Brown, Raelene Shearer and Robert Hudson without whose help the newsletter would never have arrived in your in-box. In this edition photographs were by Gaye Markey, Dee Hudson, Kate Southall, John Schmoll, Kevin Wyatt, Redhill Lions, Matt Gallace, Lee Mellett, Jean Claude Dufroux and Sue Brown. A sincere thanks to all those who previously sent in photographs, recipes, reviews, stories, poems and jokes! I know from feedback they were greatly appreciated and enjoyed. Have a very Happy Christmas and all the best for 2022, see you at the club.

# Major sponsors of MRB&PC



KAY & BURTON



Please support all our sponsors and let them know you are members

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Quattro Manton Creek		Bloom Hearing Specialists	10-16 Nepean Plaza, Rosebud VIC 3939
Epicurean Emu Bottom		David Barke Appliances Click & collect	263 Point Nepean Rd Rosebud (03) 5986 5544
Johnny Ripe		McGuinness Legal	3 Eighth Ave, Rosebud 5986 6445
Max's Restaurant		Otzi Balnarring	
Pier 10 Restaurant and Winery		Red Hill Garden & Farm Supplies	
Poplar Bend Winery		Redhill Pharmacy	
Sportspower Rosebud		Red Hill Pumps and Irrigation	0498 691 105
White Lady Funerals		Rosebud Auto Sales	

## Answers to Brainiac

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HOMOGRAPHS = words with same spelling, but different pronunciation and meaning.

E.g. moped= sulked; moped = small scooter.

1. female hair decoration; front of a ship.=..... **Bow**
2. between; to place in a grave/tomb =.....**Inter**
3. moving air; to roll into a ball -say=.....**wind**
4. nearby; to shut .....**close**
5. null and void; weak or sick.....**invalid**
6. to injure badly; wove one's way=.....**wound**
7. private; to suggest or hint at =.....**intimate**
8. to be solo on an island -say; dark brownish red =.....**maroon**
9. a month; causing feelings of admiration/respect =.....**August**
10. a particular piece of work; to throw =.....**Project**

