

# House.



## WHATS BEEN HAPPENING?

Our House has been up & running for a term now and we're enjoying seeing our groups meeting & folk popping into the House.

A big thank you to Vikki & Emily for working so tirelessly in the garden this Summer. The garden is weed free, tidy with the addition of small flowering natives around our House rose. Vikki pressure washed our picnic tables & found an umbrella so now we can enjoy meeting in the garden for a chat.

## BUS EVENTS.

Our Community Bus has been tripping around Gippsland, the Dandenongs and into the City. Folks have ventured to Cruden Farm, Yarra Valley Chocolaterie, Alberton Cemetery, Old Melbourne Gaol, Queen Vic Market, Arthurs Seat & Coolart Homestead. Popular trips will be repeated throughout the year however if you have a suggestion, let us know, we love new ideas!



### Why does Jen love driving our bus?

'It gets people out of the house, they meet new people and see things they don't see all the time. Every term we try and create something different and interesting, so people have a range of experiences. I love being around people.'

## STAYING IN PLACE - A COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP.

Recently, Leongatha Community House has been working on an exciting project with **HomeMade** and **Mable**. We're thrilled to announce that we have partnered with these providers to become a service provider for people with Support at Home packages (formerly known as Home Care Packages).

### What prompted this partnership?

"One of the core groups we support at the Community House is retirees. I've often heard people struggle to find providers with available capacity or the right services for their needs. When this opportunity came up, we were really excited to give it a go and offer that support to our community." Maddison

### How can Leongatha Community House help?

If you have a Support at Home package and are looking for a service provider—or want to change providers—come and see us! Partnering with Mable gives you full choice and control over the people who support you.

If you don't yet have a Support at Home package but need these supports, we can help you start the assessment process. Come in and talk to us—we're here to support you every step of the way.

### How the partnership works:

- HomeMade: The registered Aged Care Provider that ensures all compliance requirements are met.
- Mable: Provides the workforce. Anyone with the right to work in Australia who meets Mable's requirements can register.
- Leongatha Community House (LCH): We act as the local coordinators. We handle your intake, set up supports, and organise the workers and services you receive. We are your direct point of contact.

This model of care truly reflects choice and control, and we love that it's all about 'locals supporting locals.'



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## WORKSHOP RECAP.

### Make-up Artistry with Poppy

We had several women from the wider community visit Leongatha Community House to learn how to prepare their skin and use their products for everyday wear. Poppy talked through the use of their products, what could be added to their kit & then Poppy demonstrated applying the products on herself.

Poppy works at Terry White Chemist and is one of their experts in skincare & their piercing specialist.

Below are a few snaps from the morning:



Poppy is planning to run another Workshop in Term 3.

## PROGRAM UPDATES.

Our **Stitch & Sip** Wednesday morning group has started up & is a great way of meeting others in the community that 'stitch' (any stitch!) have a cuppa & a chat. You are most welcome to bring your machine sewing also.

Both the **Going Solo Social Group** and the **Storytelling** group are ready to start with more interest. Feel free to drop into the Office & register your interest.

## FEATURE STORY: INTERVIEW WITH ROY FISHER - PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

### How long has the Photography Group been meeting at LCH?

'A few years now. The group is made up of 6-12 people. It's a casual, relaxed & informal gathering.'



Some members have followed me from my time running camera classes at the local 3LC & TAFE since the late 90's.'

### Why does the Photography Group meet?

'The group meets to share their love of photography. Sharing the art maintains people's enthusiasm & it's a great way to meet people that have the same hobby.'

### What does the Photography Group do when they meet?

'Members bring photos that they have taken, on a memory stick, to show the group & receive feedback, guidance & technical help. The technical help might include how to improve your position, lighting, camera speed, etc.'

### Is the Photography Group open to others joining?

'Absolutely. It's a great place to meet, have a chat & enjoy talking about photography'

### What is your journey into photography?

'In 1954 as a 13 year old I ventured into photography at the Salisbury Rd Secondary Modern School in London. In those days we developed film in old air raid shelters. They were perfect because they didn't have windows. After leaving school I had several clerical jobs but always had photography as a hobby. In the August of 1961 I moved to Australia with my wife. Initially I learnt photography using an old box camera now I own two dozen film & digital cameras. In 1993 I took up Professional Glamour Photography and travelled throughout Victoria, NSW, Queensland and overseas to Singapore, opening 3 studios'

**Meet Roy & group members, every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed of the month from 7-9p at LCH**



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## WORKSHOPS -UPCOMING.

### Making Macarons with Annette - Sat April 25

Create the perfect macaron with a delicious cream, guided by an experienced cook.

**Only 6 places available. Bookings essential.**

### Decor Styling with Julianne - Friday May 1st

**1 Hour Workshop: 2pm - 4pm**

Join our friendly class to learn how to design your own stylish space while considering ways to reduce costs. Discover practical tips to create a room you love without breaking the budget.

**Dream It. Design It. Live it! Bookings essential.**

### Banish Clutter and Transform Your Home

with Julianne - Friday May 8th

**2 Hour Workshop: 2pm - 3pm**

Join our friendly class to take control of your space. You're the boss of clutter – not the other way around!

A step-by-step guide to help you declutter, organise & achieve lasting results in your home.

**Dream It. Design It. Live it! Bookings essential.**

### Calligraphy Copperplate Class with Jenefer

Enjoy the timeless art of calligraphy using your own basic equipment & materials.

**Saturday May 16, 12-4pm. Bookings essential.**

### Crochet Flowers with Cris

Make beautiful crochet flowers; roses, lilies or tulips to give as gifts or create bouquets for special occasions. Tuition in basic techniques including wire work.

**Bookings essential.**



## VOLUNTEERS STORY.

They say “everybody needs a village”. I believe this to be true, but when you have mental health struggles, a village feels so unattainable. Building a village requires trust. It requires “putting yourself out there”. All the things that I’m terrified of. Last year I came to the conclusion, along with a significant birthday, that it was now or never. I decided to drop into the Community house to see what groups or classes they might be running. Something to stop me getting old, by myself. There was so much activity in the house. I started thinking that maybe I could do ‘something little’ to help out.

That ‘something little’ has resulted in a new ME! I have a village! I was in fact needed and appreciated. I started helping our other volunteer in the garden and we have been a huge encouragement to each other.



I have always struggled at Christmas time. So many people rushing around. Everything seems louder. It wasn't for me. But this year was different. I was putting myself 'out there' and it just became normal to pop into the supermarket to grab a few things.

I had the opportunity to speak to Maddison, about the difficulties I have at Christmas. I explained how this year was already different and much better. I had made so much progress but I was scared of my new lifestyle ending when the school term ended. So I “put myself out there” again and asked if I could do some gardening over the break. So over December and January I came to the house 3 times a week, to do a bit of weeding, clean up after any wind storms, check the doors and windows. I couldn't believe it - my request to ‘help myself’ was appreciated. I have not had to start this year the same as all the past ones - rebuilding myself to function in the new year.

So, to all the past people who said that ‘I just had to put myself out there’ you were right. Becoming a volunteer has been a life changing experience. Sure, I have learnt new skills, but now I have a whole tribe of new friends. VB



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## EVENTS IN OUR AREA.

### Railtrail Community Market 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month: 8:30am-1pm

'This market is a celebration of local culture, creativity, and community spirit, bringing together artisans, farmers, and food lovers'

[visitsouthgippsland.com.au/event/leongatha-community-market/](https://visitsouthgippsland.com.au/event/leongatha-community-market/)



### Gippsland Hills CWA

#### 71<sup>st</sup> Exhibition, April 17th-19th

Come & witness a brilliant showcase of works created by members.

Light refreshments, trading stalls & skill demonstrations during the show.

[facebook.com/CWAGippslandHills](https://facebook.com/CWAGippslandHills)



### Meeniyen Easter Makers Market

#### Saturday April 4th 10-2pm

Browse beautiful handmade art & design pieces, enjoy a classic country treat with the CWA's famous Devonshire teas

[www.meeniyen.org.au/whats-on/meeniyen-easter-makers-market](https://www.meeniyen.org.au/whats-on/meeniyen-easter-makers-market)



### Fish Creek Tea Cosy Festival:

#### May 16<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> 2026

The biggest tea cosy festival in the world! Celebrating creativity, resourcefulness & hospitality. Enjoy craft workshops, gallery exhibits, high tea, devonshire tea and the Bendigo Bank Market Day.

<https://teacosyfestival.com.au>



## WHOS WHO IN THE OFFICE

Meet our Office Staff & Volunteers!



Maddison Redpath  
Manager



Melanie Denness  
Admin



Jennifer Fleming  
Volunteer



Amanda Rowley  
Student



Michelle Koralewski  
Student



Vikki Bradford  
Volunteer

## COMMITTEE OF GOVERNANCE 2026



Peter McAlpine  
President/Volunteer



Annie Trese  
Treasurer



Cris Green  
Secretary



Lucinda Young



Lanie Verboon



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PROGRAM:

