



The Croaker

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The Croaker is a not for profit, monthly, voluntary publication and is for general information purposes only. Alternative points of view to those expressed in opinion articles are encouraged and welcomed. Please send news, comments and queries to Renee - email: deansmarshartstudio@bigpond.com or on-line <https://www.facebook.com/thecroaker/>



Hi Locals,

I am that annoying woman who is relentlessly posting profiles on local FB groups of animals that need forever homes! In the last few years due to my love of animals, I became a qualified Small Animal Herbal Practitioner. I also completed a manufacturing and dispensing qualification to make balms, tinctures and other herbal products. I was making them for dogs and cats and people started becoming interested, wanting to purchase them for humans - but could not cope with 'Jac Zak Animal Remedies' on the side of the package.

With some encouragement from a few local ladies I decided to launch a people business! The balms have all the same ingredients but I have structured them to appeal to people. I hand make the balms myself from local beeswax and extra virgin olive oil. I use herbs such as arnica, dandelion, plantain, chickweed and calendula.

I made some lip balms, balms for Mums, 'Baby Bottom Balm' and 'Nursing Mama Boobie Balm', Arnica, Calendula, Beard Balm and I am about to launch a 'Cuticle and Nail Balm' made with dandelion flowers.

I grow all the herbs myself apart from certified organic arnica, which I have to purchase at this time before I grow my own.

I do not use essential oils of any kind due to people's sensitivities. I also do some vegan friendly balms using candelilla wax instead of beeswax as I like to cater for all!

I have several locals retailing my products, including our very own 'The Store' in Deans Marsh, 'The Black Pearl' in Winchelsea, 'Dymond & Dymond' in Birregurra, Moriac General Store, 'Magic Meadow' in Lovely Banks and a few others who are about to stock. I am still looking for more stockists if anyone is interested. As we are about to hit Christmas there are some unique gift ideas for you to choose from, and it is always great to buy locally. You can purchase from these stores or from my website.



I wanted to thank those that have supported me on my herbal quest and I have had some amazing feedback and some humbling results, but as I always say, it is the herb that has done the true work not me.

I love what I do and I am passionate about herbs and herbal medicine. How wonderful to finally find my calling!

Green blessings,
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NEWS FROM THE SWAMP

After a long and chilli winter in the Marsh, the 'Swamp Rats' have emerged from their hibernation to field, what this scribe regards as, an heterogenous and eclectic first eleven.

Newly elected president Tom Ryan's message to his followers was simple, 'Go out there and have some fun'. The return of past players, young upstarts, seasoned and tested participants, and a fridge mechanic from Armstrong Creek, have guaranteed a starting eleven each Saturday.

After five matches the 'Rats' remain mid table with two crushing wins and two narrow losses, and an absolute hiding in the first game against Irrewarra. There have been many impressive performances. Josh Goddard has amassed 200 runs, avg 40. Josh Rigg, Tom Ryan and Rob Phillips entertain. Dylan Brown, Jez Zdybel and Rob Staley have all bowled well, supported by some outstanding fielding and catching.

The crowds have returned to support the 'Rats' at their home games, to enjoy the atmosphere and sample the afternoon epicurean delights. We hope to see you down there.



Home Games:

8th December 2018 - Deans Marsh v South Colac

15th December 2018 - Deans Marsh v Colac West

12th January 2019 - Deans Marsh v Irrewarra

2nd February 2019 - Deans Marsh v Birregurra

Proudly Sponsored by the Deans Marsh Community Cottage

Carols in the Marsh
2018

Sun 16th Dec from 6pm
@ Deans Marsh Cricket Oval

OMM Choir + Performers- Dogs on leads
Jumping castle -Bbq & Bar open - Byo Picnic, rug and chair

TWO
VIC MARKET
SHOPPING TRIPS

With

Otway WINERY TOURS

Friday 14th December
Saturday 15th December

Leaving Deans Marsh Cottage at
9am - Returning 5pm
\$30 - Bookings: 0438 743 120

EXCITING TIMES AT THE COMMUNITY COTTAGE!

Without doubt one of the best things about living in Deans Marsh is the strength of our local community. One only needs to stand outside the Community Hall and look out at; the oval, the tennis courts, the skate park, the bike track, the pizza oven, the sculpture, the play equipment (and the list goes on!) to see just how community minded the people of our hamlet really are.

We are also very fortunate in Deans Marsh to have a government funded Community Cottage. As most of you would know the Cottage, and our wonderful Cottage coordinator Lisa Jarvis, acts as a type of central hub to help support and coordinate many of the other community groups and events that happen around the hamlet.

On November 21st there was a changing of the guard at the Cottage with 8 new members elected to the Committee for the coming 12 months. The new Committee is keen to get to work and contains an excellent blend of experience, age, and backgrounds. Photos of the new Committee members, and lots of other interesting stuff, can be seen on the Cottage's exciting new website www.deansmarsh.org.au (Hats off to local Renee Wigley and Tony Phelps from Winch Websites for their excellent work on the new website).

At this point I would also like to offer a big thank you to the outgoing Committee members for their past contributions. In particular to the outgoing Chair Megan Peacock for her excellent work with the Cottage over the past year.

So a new Committee, a new Chair and a new year. What does the year ahead hold? Well the most exciting project the Cottage will be undertaking is enabling the creation of a Community Plan for Deans Marsh.

Few of us would be unaware of the significant changes happening in our part of the world. Not least of these changes is the rapid growth in population. Just think of the amount of development happening at Waurnd ponds, Torquay and now, just down the road, at Winchelsea.

There is a feeling within the community that if possible we should have a say in how our hamlet and the surrounding area changes over time. To this end the Cottage wants to undertake an extensive and inclusive process, to create a plan of what we want our community to look like moving forward.

More information will be available about the Community Plan in the new year. So keep your ears open and maybe even start thinking, and talking, about what sort of Deans Marsh you would like to live in.

James Maund
Chairperson
Deans Marsh Community Cottage

DEANS MARSH PRIMARY SCHOOL

RESPECT, RESILIENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY

This term, students have been exploring local wetlands. We are very lucky to have access to the Bambra Wetlands as well as our own school wetlands. In partnership with Land Care and supported by our school community, students have been involved in placing nesting boxes, planting native plants, recording bird species, as well as creating a fire pit and floating pontoon. Here's what some of our students had to say:

The birds are very, very, very native to our wetlands. The wetlands are very special. You are not allowed in the wetlands without a teacher. - Pat

We've been planting. We made damper and we went on the raft and it doesn't break easily. - Paddy

We hopped on the pontoon. We got to toast marshmallows. - Taya

We've been planting trees, we've been making damper and we've been looking at birds and different types of bugs in the water. - Layla

Russell Taylor-Shaw
Principal



Deans Marsh Primary School



Deans Marsh Red Cross are calling for Help

Each year we have our Christmas Lunch, but with few members we are asking if anyone could supply food, a raffle prize or Christmas gifts and help us on the day.

This may possibly be the last function that we will hold.

Please contact Heather Smith on 0409 953 585 as soon as possible if you can assist.

Thank you!



Australian Red Cross
THE POWER OF HUMANITY



The Croaker wishes you all a Very Merry Christmas

Hope you have a Hopping Holiday Season!

Interested in Event Management?

Would you like to learn the basics of organising an event in the Surfcoast Shire and assist The Cottage with staging our events?

Contact us at *The Cottage*

cottage@deansmarsh.org.au



WHAT'S ON: DECEMBER 2018

Victoria Market - Shopping Trip with Otway Winery Tours

and:

Deans Marsh Cricket Oval - **Carols In The Marsh**

Friday 14th December, 9am - 5pm

Saturday 15th December, 9am - 5pm

Sunday 16th December, from 6pm

* Please note **Film Night** for December has been postponed for the Festive Season