

# ANAKIE ADVOCATE

## Anakie Community Day



The weather for our Anakie Community Day on Sunday 22 March was a lovely 29 degrees! We loved seeing so many happy faces on the day. A big thank you to all of our stall holders and the community for getting behind this event! Anakie Primary School, Anakie Football & Netball Club, Koala Clancy, Anakie Cricket Club, Ella George MP, Cora Connections, Anakie Fire Brigade, Geelong Memorial Brass Band, Two Left Boots Boot Scootin', Prestique Events and Izzy's Jumping Castles.



Produced by: Anakie & District Community Group  
03 5284 1359 | [hello@anakecommunityhouse.org.au](mailto:hello@anakecommunityhouse.org.au)  
[www.anakecommunityhouse.org.au](http://www.anakecommunityhouse.org.au) | @anakecommunityhouse



The Anakie Advocate is proudly printed by Ella George, State Member for Lara.

## Anakie Fire Brigade News

Happy Easter! We hope you enjoy the break and the arrival of the cooler autumn weather. While the crisp mornings are a welcome change, it is important to remember that the landscape remains dry and the risk of fire has not yet passed.



## Fire Danger Period Still In Force

While the weather is cooling down, the Fire Danger Period (FDP) is still in force until 1:00 AM on Friday, May 1, 2026, for the Greater Geelong, Moorabool, and Golden Plains Shires. Until this date, fire restrictions remain in place. Even after May 1st, if you are planning a burn-off on your property, you must register it to prevent unnecessary call-outs for our volunteers. **You can register your burn-off online: [firepermits.vic.gov.au](https://firepermits.vic.gov.au) or call 1800 668 511.**

## Now's the Time to Check Your Smoke Alarms

With daylight savings ending on Easter Sunday, April 5th, it is the perfect time to check your smoke alarms. A functioning smoke alarm is your primary line of defense, especially as we begin using heaters and electric blankets again to ward off the evening chill. Please take a moment this weekend to ensure your alarms are tested, the batteries are working, and the units themselves are less than ten years old. Learn more at: **[cfa.vic.gov.au/smokealarms](https://cfa.vic.gov.au/smokealarms)**

**We wish the entire community a safe, relaxing and happy Easter break.** For those traveling over the Easter weekend please drive safely and stay patient on the roads.

For a life-threatening emergency, call 000. Out of mobile service area, call 112.

Stay safe and enjoy the break,

**Edward Atkin**

**Community Safety & Engagement Officer**



## Anakie Community House

### Office Hours:

Mon, Tues, Thurs 9am - 4pm

Weds 12pm-5pm

**03 5284 1359 | [hello@anakiecommunityhouse.org.au](mailto:hello@anakiecommunityhouse.org.au)**

## Term 2

**20 April - 26 June**

## Happy Easter!

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter and term break. We are closed over Easter and will reopen on Tuesday 14 April.

We are looking forward to offering some exciting new workshops & programs in Term 2. To stay in the loop subscribe to our newsletter, or follow us on Facebook.

### Be Connected Digital Literacy training

We were lucky enough to be the recipient of a Good Things Foundation grant to offer free local learning opportunities for over 50s to help close the digital divide.

We will explore topics like avoiding scams, using smartphones and other essential digital skills.

If you are over 50 and needing to improve your technology skills get in touch!



### Social Outing - Bus Trip to Ballarat - Monday 18 May

Come and hop on the bus! We are rebooting our social outings and our first one will be to Avalon Nursery in Ballarat followed by lunch at Market Hotel and a visit to Gail's Patchwork Emprorium.

Meet at the House at 9.30am and you will arrive back at around 3pm. Lunch is at your own cost but the bus is free!



### Anakie Community House Services

#### Hairdressing with Joedy

Tuesdays from 9am-1pm

Ladies Cut: \$35, Men's Cut: \$25

#### Free Loan

Mobility Aids - wheelchairs, walkers and crutches.

#### Library

100's of books available to borrow

#### Technology

Use our laptops or printer/

Photocopier.

Smart phone help.

#### Room Hire

Find out about hiring our spaces

#### Volunteers

Do you have a few hours to spare each week? We would love to hear from you. There is always so much to do!

## Anakie CFA Roster - April

Date	Tanker 1	Tanker 2	Anakie FCV	Ultra Light	Station	Radio Call
5 Apr ...	Shane H	Kate C	John M	Ben H	Ian M	Lethbridge
12 Apr...	Declan H	Rhiannon H	Mitch P	Andrea B	Paul M	Little River
19 Apr...	Matt P	Jackie P	Pat C	Adam J	Clinton E	Lovely banks
26 Apr...	Russell B	Neil G	Carol B	Liam H	Edward A	Maude

**Please contact my office for any assistance with any State Government matters.**



**Ella George MP**  
Labor Member for Lara

 ella.george@parliament.vic.gov.au   
  Ella George MP  
 03 5275 5888   
  @ellageorgemp  
 Level 1, Circle Village Shopping Centre, 120-122 Barkly Street, Ballarat, VIC 3240



**Anakie Rainfall**  
**Feb 2026: 22mm**

Recorded by Cambria Parkinson



### Geoff's Shed Clearance

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 9am – 3pm

2461 Geelong-Ballan Road, Anakie



Deceased Estate Sale, All Items to be Sold

- Metal Lathe
- Key Cutting Machine
- Registered Boats with Registered Trailers
- Postie Motorbike
- Mechanical Tools
- Electronics
- Fishing/Camping Gear
- Pipe Bender plus Dyes
- Mill Drill
- Petrol Motor
- Steel Tool Trailer
- And A Lot More

## Community Day 2026

It was great to be out in Anakie again recently and to have an opportunity to meet with locals and discuss the things most important to you.

A big thank you to Kate and the team at the Anakie Community House for arranging the Community Day.

It was a beautiful day, and I really enjoyed chatting to everyone. I picked up some baked goods from the Anakie Primary stall with the intention of taking them to the office on Monday – I reckon about half of what I bought made it in!



## Road Safety

As I mentioned in last month's Advocate, a priority that I am working on for the Anakie Community is improving safety along Ballan Rd, especially near Anakie Primary School. You might have seen new 60km signs installed a bit further south on Ballan Rd. I welcome any suggestions from the community about how we can improve road safety.

## Community House Garden Project

Thanks to everyone in the community that has been working on the Community House Garden project, including those people who attended the recent working bee. It is fantastic to see the garden take shape and change the landscape of the Community House so beautifully.

I am so proud that thanks to the Victorian Labor Government's Tiny Towns program, we supported this redevelopment with a grant of \$19,000.

**Please get in touch** with my office if there is any State Government matter in which we can be of assistance.

Call 5275 3898 or email [ella.george@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:ella.george@parliament.vic.gov.au).

**Ella**

**Ella George MP, State Member for Lara**

 Level 1, Corio Village Shopping Centre Cnr of Bacchus Marsh Rd & Purnell Rd, Corio VIC 3214

 5275 3898  [ella.george@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:ella.george@parliament.vic.gov.au)   EllaGeorgeMP

## Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

Learn about Serrated Tussock - a scourge of our area. BRLG is holding a meeting to explain how to correctly identify serrated tussock and how to effectively control it.

Please come along and participate in a discussion about what we can do together. Supper provided afterwards. All welcome.

Anakie Community House  
Thursday April 17th  
7:30-8:30pm

See our [Facebook page](#) for more info or contact Robert on 0401 404 899



## Friends of Brisbane Ranges



Friends of Brisbane Ranges aims to learn about the environment, ecology, flora, fauna, and history of the Brisbane Ranges National Park and Steiglitz Historic Park.

[www.fobr.org.au](http://www.fobr.org.au)

Events, park walks, information and newsletters.

Contact Diedre 0400 128 578

**This is what millions of serrated tussock seeds look like.**  
**They remain viable in the soil for 15 years!**

**If you don't control your serrated tussock** ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡ **It blows next door.**

**Be a good neighbour,**

**CONTROL**  
**TUSSOCK!!**

The background image shows a large, dense pile of dry, brown serrated tussock grass blowing in the wind. In the background, there are trees and a clear sky.

This project was funded through a Victorian State Government Pest and Partnerships (PAP) grant.



## **The Golden Days of Steiglitz**

### **Sunday 26th April | 10am - 2 pm**

**Come enjoy this free, fun event right in your own backyard!**

The not-for-profit Back to Steiglitz Association (BtS) has been invited to host an event as part of this year's Australian Heritage Festival. Guided by the theme "Change," the event reimagines how we experience local history.

Rather than focusing solely on Steiglitz's 1800s goldrush past, we're shining a light on the strong women who remained after the mining era –those who made this rugged landscape their home: the matriarchs of our community.

Bring the family and take a short trip down the road for a day of delicious home cooking, heritage building strolls, local art, stories and photographs, poetry, guided tours, and the chance to experience a Forest Bathing workshop. *Smiles, Lindy J*

**Tour & Workshop bookings:** [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-golden-days-of-steiglitz-tickets-1982594757289](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-golden-days-of-steiglitz-tickets-1982594757289)

**Art Exhibition entry:** contact Angela - [a.hicksorb@gmail.com](mailto:a.hicksorb@gmail.com)  
or phone: 0499 198 716.

**Enquiries:** contact Lindy 0470 208 086.



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**TWO LEFT BOOTS  
BOOTSCOOTIN'**



**HAVE YOURSELF A  
BOOTSCOOTIN'  
FUN TIME!**

**TUESDAY NIGHTS  
6:30pm – 8:30pm**

**\$10 entry, Anakie Hall**

**Bring your Boots bring your friends  
& Let's Dance!!**

No partner needed – just a smile & your Dancing Boots  
[www.facebook.com/groups/1320485496342086](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1320485496342086)

## Aiki Jujutsu Australia KOBUKAN

A not-for-profit organisation established  
to practice this traditional this traditional  
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Class every Thursday  
based on School Terms

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**0419 432 472**

**Website: aikiaustralia.com.au**



**BALLIANG  
ANZAC  
DAY**  
MEMORIAL HALL

**11:00Am Service • Saturday, 25th April 2026**

**BBQ Lunch provided  
Drinks available for purchase \$\$**

- Contest for the best Anzac biscuits, get baking! 🍪

**1265 Bacchus Marsh-Balliang Rd, Balliang VIC 3340**

## FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

APRIL 2026

I'd like to start by acknowledging all the fantastic community events that have taken place across the Shire recently.

Councillors and I have attended the Shelford Duck Race, Inverleigh Dachshund Derby, Golden Plains Festival and a number of local Community Plan launches. The volunteers and groups who run these events truly do a fantastic job bringing the community together, and it's been great for Councillors to celebrate these fabulous events with everyone.

Council has been actively advocating for stronger public transport connections across the Shire. Engage Victoria, on behalf of the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), is now seeking community feedback through the Geelong, Bellarine Peninsula and Bannockburn Bus Network Review, which notably lists Bannockburn as the only Golden Plains Shire township included.

Last month, I joined the "Long Wait" at the Bannockburn bus stop to draw attention to the ongoing challenges faced by residents due to the towns limited bus services.

Council is using the Bus Network Review to push for better public transport between Bannockburn and central Geelong. With only four weekday services — and even fewer on weekends — Council is calling for more frequent buses, including hourly peak-time services from 7am, two-hourly off-peak services, and an expanded weekend timetable to meet the community's growing needs.

Residents are increasingly reliant on cars just to reach work, education, loved ones or even basic services in Geelong, placing real financial strain on households, while older community members are being left isolated from essential health care and social connection due to inadequate bus services.

This lack of accessible transport also makes it harder for small towns to attract workers, visitors and new families, reinforcing what our Growing

Places Strategy makes clear: there is a strong need and a strong opportunity for more diverse, reliable and sustainable transport options across the Shire.

I encourage residents to have their say on the Bus Review which is open until Sunday 12 April. You can find more information on our website: [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/news](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/news).

Lastly, Council is beginning to highlight our priority projects coming into the 2026 State Election. More information will be provided on this in the next newsletter, and I encourage residents to keep an eye on our website and social media channels for updates.

In the lead-up to the election period, Council is calling for bipartisan commitments to deliver essential community infrastructure and vital services across the Shire. We remain dedicated to advocating for the needs and priorities of our growing community.

**Yours in community,**

**Owen Sharkey  
Mayor**

*Pictured below: Mayor Cr Owen Sharkey and Deputy Mayor Cr Emma Robbins at the Shelford Duck Race*



## LATEST ISSUE OF THE GAZETTE OUT NOW!

The first issue of the Golden Plains Shire Council Gazette for 2026 is now available.

This issue is full of important news and stories from all corners of the Shire.

Read the issue at [goldenplains.vic.gov/publications](https://goldenplains.vic.gov/publications).

To sign up for the Gazette, scan the QR Code or email [enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au).



## Commemorating 25 Years: Kobukan Australia Embu and Seminar

A 25th anniversary Embu demonstration for Daito-ryu Aiki Jujutsu Australia (Kobukan Australia) was held on March 15 in Geelong, attracting around 30 participants from across regions and six members from Japan led by Shihan Kawabe. The event drew a full audience of students, families, and locals, creating a lively and welcoming atmosphere.

Demonstrations included performances by children, various branches, and visiting Japanese members, concluding with an impressive presentation by Shihan Kawabe that highlighted technical depth and body mechanics. The strong unity, hospitality, and dedication of the local members, under President Mr. Dicker, left a lasting impression.

A three-day seminar followed, covering core and rarely practiced techniques such as footwork, knife-taking, and umbrella-taking. Emphasis was placed on executing techniques without brute strength, reinforcing the importance of relaxation. Social gatherings further strengthened connections, making the anniversary event both technically enriching and socially meaningful.



Find out more, contact: Leigh Dicker 0419 432 472

Website: [aikiaustralia.com.au](http://aikiaustralia.com.au)



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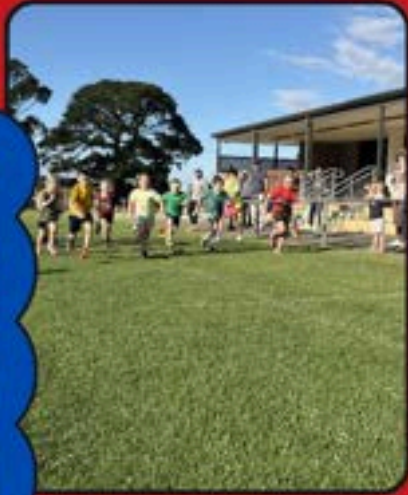
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Clinic: 380 O'Neils Lane, Anakie

Anakie Natural Therapies is an agent for **Sigvaris** compression garments. Compression Stockings measured, fitted and supplied.

**Foot & Hand Care** home visits can be arranged for elderly

Anakie residents: ring Carole for details.

### Good King Henry: (*Blitum bonus-henricus*)

also known as poor-man's asparagus or perennial goosefoot. It is a native of Europe and was cultivated for hundreds of years as a reliable alternative food source. Unfortunately it is known now mostly as a weed but seeds can be obtained from specialist nurseries in Australia. Grown in spring, new shoots can be thinned out as they appear and then cooked like asparagus. The flower buds can be cooked too and are steamed in a similar way to broccoli. Flavonoids derived from Good-King-Henry have shown some neuro-protective properties. It can also be used as a skin emollient and gentle laxative. Complementary medicine uses it to treat skin inflammations, abscesses and anaemia.



**Carole Hofflin**

# Anakie Community Information

## Anakie & District Community Group (Anakie Community House)

(ABN 59 938 073 014)

2115 Geelong-Ballan Rd, Anakie, 3213

Phone: 5284 1359 Email: [hello@anakiecommunityhouse.org.au](mailto:hello@anakiecommunityhouse.org.au)

### Office hours

Mon, Tues, Thurs 9am-4pm

Weds 12pm-5pm

**Vision:** Locals caring for the local community

**Mission:** To be a welcoming and caring community house that reaches out and supports people

**Values:** We are committed to being: Welcoming, Inclusive, Helpful, Safe, Friendly, Fun

## Anakie Hall Hire

Call Adrian 0425 798 938

[anakiehall@gmail.com](mailto:anakiehall@gmail.com)

or call the Community House 5284 1359

Ideal Venue for gatherings, meetings,  
parties and events

## Do you have weed problems?

Hire a spray trailer from  
Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group  
with 2 hand guns a boom spray  
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Contact Jacki 0438 350 121

## Sewing Alterations

Zip replacement, hems taken up  
on dresses and trousers.

Reasonable rates

Pauline

**0427 183 832**

## Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group

Meets the third Thursday of the month usually  
at 7:30pm at Balliang Hall.

Interested residents are welcome - come and find  
out about the benefits of membership!

[rambling2robert@gmail.com](mailto:rambling2robert@gmail.com)

## Anakie Community Garden

Monthly social gathering  
First Tuesday of the Month  
9.30am to 11.30am



email: [Helena.lindorff@bigpond.com](mailto:Helena.lindorff@bigpond.com)  
[anakiecommunitygarden.wordpress.com](http://anakiecommunitygarden.wordpress.com)

## Friends of Brisbane Ranges

Get to know and help our local National  
Park! Everyone welcome

[www.fobr.org.au](http://www.fobr.org.au)

Events, park walks, information and  
newsletters.

## WILDLIFE SHELTER

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Is this your space?? Advertise with us, see more on pg 15.

## Local organisations contact details

**Anakie CFA**  
**Anakie Community House**  
**Anakie Football & Netball Club**  
**Anakie General Store/Post Office**  
**Anakie Hall**  
**Anakie Primary School**  
**Balliang District Rural CFA**  
**Balliang Memorial Hall**  
**St George's Anglican Church**

Adam 0410 886 567  
 Kate 5284 1359  
 Heath 0488 438 648  
 Ruby/Andrew 52841 177  
 Adrian 0425 798 938  
 Principal, Karina 5284 1291  
 Campbell 0439 611 031  
 Steve 0400 419 024  
 Andrew 0490 831 427

### Advocate Advertising Costs

Paid in advance, NB prices are ex GST.  
 Please contact Anakie Community House for more information.

11 issues a year, no issue in January

	12 issues	monthly
1/8th page	\$80.00	\$8.00
1/4 page	\$150.00	\$15.00
1/2 page	\$250.00	\$25.00
full page	\$400.00	\$38.00

Deliveries to: Anakie, Staughton Vale, Balliang and Steiglitz.

Also available from: Anakie shop, Anakie Community House and online [www.anakiecommunityhouse.org.au](http://www.anakiecommunityhouse.org.au)

**Submissions for the next issue must be received by 21st of month prior.**  
**[hello@anakiecommunityhouse.org.au](mailto:hello@anakiecommunityhouse.org.au)**

The Anakie Advocate is proudly printed by Ella George, State Member for Lara.

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Healthy indigenous plants ready to go.  
 Check out the list of available species on our website [www.birdsinthebushnursery.com.au](http://www.birdsinthebushnursery.com.au)  
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**610 Staughton Vale Road, Balliang**

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- Blooms in the Bush
- \_bloomsinthebush\_
- [bloomsinthebush.com.au](http://bloomsinthebush.com.au)

Flower Gate Flowers for Sale  
 405 Staughton Vale Road, Staughton Vale

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[anakiecommunityhouse.org.au](http://anakiecommunityhouse.org.au)





## Anakie Rural Supplies

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Albert 0425 731 294

[albert@anakieruralsupplies.com.au](mailto:albert@anakieruralsupplies.com.au)

Carole 0425 731 295

[carole@anakieruralsupplies.com.au](mailto:carole@anakieruralsupplies.com.au)

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For Enrolments

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# How the State Government is helping with *the cost of living*



Supporting families with **free glasses** and **free dental check ups** for kids, **school Breakfast Clubs** in every government school and support for **camp, excursions, school uniforms and textbooks.**



Delivering **Free TAFE** and creating more employment opportunities.



Enabling **pharmacists to treat more conditions** without needing a prescription or a trip to the GP.



**Free public transport** for all under 18s, and for seniors, carers and disability support pensioners on weekends.



Delivering **Free Kinder** for 3 and 4 year olds, saving families up to \$2,700 per child each year.

**Ella George MP** State Member for Lara

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