

This is Part 7 of Deans Marsh Community Stories, covering the 2000s – the Naughties as they were known. Music@the Marsh makes a big impression in the district and beyond, the Community Cottage gathers momentum, the former Deans Marsh Football Clubhouse gets restored and the Deans Marsh Dogs Trials begin.

The 2000s

62. 2000 **Tai Chi** began in the Hall organised by Seona Gunn and auspiced by the Cottage.¹ It continues in 2020 – or will after restrictions ease.

63. 2000 November 25 The new **Community Cottage facilities at the Hall** were opened by the Victorian Minister of Community Services, Christine Campbell.

The Colac Herald, Wednesday, November 23, 2000 – Page 7

Deans Marsh Community Cottage to open its doors

Deans Marsh residents will celebrate the opening of a new community cottage on Saturday.

The Deans Marsh Community Cottage, part of an extension of the town's hall, will house services such as regular child-care and adult education programs.

Co-ordinator Baiba Lowther said the new cottage would provide Deans Marsh residents with a range of services usually not available in a small town.

"It's just fantastic to have something like this available to the community," Ms Lowther said.

"There are no local facilities in Deans Marsh other than this, so it draws the community together."

Deans Marsh Primary School established the original community cottage in 1985 in the old head teacher's residence, but expanding pupil numbers saw the school take over the building again in 1999.

After a year in a small portable building next to the hall, Ms Lowther said she was thrilled to move into the new facility.

Business Victoria and Surf Coast Shire jointly funded the extensions, with services to include adult and community education courses and computer training.

"There's a great need for adult education in rural communities," Ms Lowther said.

"We'll be running a lot of computer courses, especially for farmers, because changes to the tax system have meant a lot of them are using computers for the first time."

As well as the community cottage, new facilities in the hall will include a kiosk, which services the cricket ground, as well as upgrades to the stage and kitchen.

Human Services Minister



MOVING: Community Cottage chairperson Karen Rayner and co-ordinator Baiba Lowther are looking forward to moving in to the new centre after a year of working in "a container out the back" of the hall.

Christine Campbell will officially open the cottage and hall extensions at 1.30pm on Saturday. The ceremony will also feature the unveiling of a new curtain for the stage, created by members of the Deans Marsh community.

Special free activities next week will include a breast screen information session, yoga, cheese making classes and a felt making workshop.

DON'T MISS THIS

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¹ Details received from Seona Gunn August 15 2020

² Deans Marsh Community Cottage archives



64. And on the same day the new **Deans Marsh Hall curtain was celebrated:**



The Cottage was saved and relocated to the extended Hall after a sustained community campaign to lobby locals, SCSC and Victorian government agencies: petitions, media coverage, fundraising social events, offers for new buildings from Lorne and Warrnambool, and finally Council and State government agreement to fund the necessary facilities but ONLY as extensions to existing Hall. While this meant that the Cottage survived and thrived, it has had ongoing, serious and negative effects on our Hall itself.⁵

³ Deans Marsh Community Cottage Archives

⁴ Deans Marsh Community Cottage Archives

⁵ Deans Marsh Community Cottage archives and 2022 Deans Marsh Community Hub proposal documents and process – see also <https://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/About-us/Your-Say/Deans-Marsh-Community-Hub-Facility-Development-Plan>



The Deans Marsh Curtains

During World War II, the women of the Deans Marsh community constructed the Deans Marsh Curtains. Sugar bags were sewn and embroidered over a period of nine years and used as curtain panels in the community hall. See Making the Original Curtains for more detail.

In 1991, due to the inevitable deterioration of the work, the community approached The National Wool Museum for assistance in preserving it. The Wool Museum stored the curtain and it was exhibited in 1994. It has since been relinquished to the Museum of Victoria and is displayed in the new facility.

Local resident, Margaret Stewart, was keen for the new and original residents of Deans Marsh to be united and learn of the history of the area. Through her tenacity, a project to create new curtains for the hall was initiated in 2000 with the help of a grant from Arts Victoria and textile artist Jan Preston.

The brief for the new curtain was: it should reflect the history of the area, focus on the present and look forward to the new millennium. It should immortalise the potato and pea growing along with agriforestry; the indigenous floral and fauna; the eagle and the snake to represent the first people, the Wathaurong; the panther that roams the local forest; the original town buildings; a reference to Marjorie Lawrence, an internationally famous opera singer who grew up in the area; Ron Millard, puppet maker and puppeteer; and the Ash Wednesday fires.

On 25th November 2000, the new Deans Marsh Curtains were hung. In all, 7200 hours of voluntary community input had been recorded. Open Days for public viewing of the curtains are held.

2000-2001 NYE Space themed – yes around **2001 A Space Odyssey** New Year's Eve. Also that year locals were successful in obtaining a small grant which allowed the purchase of a portable PA system ...⁶ which eventually lead to - see M@TM in the next installment ...

⁶ Interview Mandy Baker July 27 2020

2001 a Space Odyssey

* * * * *

New Year's Eve
at the hall

BYO nibbles & drinks

Grown ups dance in the Hall, Kids do their thing in the cottage – space videos & games etc. Don't miss out 2001 is a once in a life time opportunity! Dress spacey or not we don't mind as long as you come. Gold coin donation for all the expenses. This is a non profit activity for YOUR pleasure!!! Camp over & don't drive home. Join in the Family Sports day New Year's Day on the Oval.

DEANS MARSH
COMMUNITY CAROL NIGHT
AND BUSH DANCE
FRIDAY 14TH DECEMBER

Start 7.30 p.m.



To
All Deans Marsh
Community Cottage
members.



You are invited to celebrate Christmas and the end of the school year at the Deans Marsh Hall on Friday 14th December evening. Local groups and clubs, (in fact the whole town!), have been invited to participate in a combined community evening, starting with self catered BBQ (if you wish), singing of Christmas carols, led by the Deans Marsh singers, then a Bush dance with caller to finish the evening.

The Primary School will be using the night as their end of year breakup, so the whole family is invited, plus Santa will be in attendance. If you would like to have any further details, or have suggestions (the format is fairly flexible), please contact the School or the cottage.

School 52363264 Cottage 52363388
TELL US YOU ARE COMING!!

65. 2001 Deans Marsh Community Cottage and a rather familiar-looking newsletter logo...

Deans Marsh Community Cottage Inc.



10 Pennyroyal Valley Road, Deans Marsh, Victoria, 3235

PHONE: 52 363 388 FAX: 52 363 227

E-Mail: dmcottage@deansmarsh.org

Website: www.deansmarsh.org

Welcome to this our November community catch ups.....

We look forward to the final months of the year enjoying all our regular happenings in addition to some key events. As you know we have been in the process of hiring a new coordinator and we are pleased to inform you that one has been appointed. We give Helen Hunter (yes another Helen, so it is easier to remember) a warm welcome to our community and hope that she enjoys her experience with the Cottage and the Community of Deans Marsh and surrounds. If you are passing, please drop in and say hello.

ACMI Film Night

The film nights have been a great success, with uncertainty that we would be able to continue as ACMI have changed their lending policy. However it appears that we will still be able to continue. We would like to thank Soena Gunn and Paul Smith for their instigation of the Movie Group, and for their ongoing support in this program. These nights have been very enjoyable.

Childcare

Childcare is continuing to operate every Tuesday to Thursday 9.15am - 12.15pm. The cost is \$10 per child and is supervised by experience staff. Newcomers are welcome to visit and talk with our Childcare Coordinator Saffron Bell. Don't forget that the childcare service will be closed over the xmas school holidays. The last day for term 4 will be Thursday 18th December and care will resume on Thursday 29th January.

Etching Workshop

Local artist Veronica Phillips held an Etching Workshop in the Footy shed. A collage has been created and is being framed for its installation in the Footy shed.

2001 and ongoing Cottage courses and activities included organic gardening, fresco painting, digital photography and a Men's Den.

TERM 1 2001

- Tai Chi** Mondays Feb 12 > 6-7pm
- Intro to Computers & Internet** Mondays 12Feb > 7-10pm
- After School Activities with Astrid** Tuesdays 3.30 - 5.30pm
Thursdays 3.30 - 5.30pm
- Bible Study** Tuesdays 9.30 am
- Playgroup** Tuesdays 9.30-noon
- Belly Dancing** Tuesdays 7.30 -9.30pm
- Drama Workshop** Wednesdays 7.30 - 9.30pm
- Natural Basketry** Wednesday March 21 10-3 pm
Wednesday March 28 10-3 pm
- Build a Web Page** Wednesdays Feb 21 > 9-noon
- Singing Group** Wednesdays 7.30- 10pm
- Victoria Market** Thursday 22 Feb 8.45-5.30
Thursday 22 March 8.45-5.30
- Do Your Own Thing** Fridays 1-3.30pm
- History Afternoon** Sunday 4th March 2.30pm

Coming up at the cottage:

Whatever you want! All you need to do is let us know what activities/classes you want or need. We'll do our best to get them organised, up and running. It's YOUR Community Cottage!

Music at the Marsh. A new and exciting initiative for later this year

Trivia Night Christmas in July! Enjoy a night out testing your trivia knowledge and feasting. July 28 (more information later, but start organising your team and training now!)

More Classes- Computer (Quicken/Myob, Wordprocessing, Spreadsheets etc), Life Drawing, small machinery maintenance and much much more!

LOTS OF INTEREST FOR EVERYONE

After School Activities with Astrid Each Tuesday & Thursday Astrid will run a session for kids after school. A variety of activities to suit a range of ages and interests 3.30-5.30pm

Bible Study Meet with other committed people to discuss how the scriptures affect our lives. Tuesday mornings from 9.30 am.

Singing Group Meets each Wednesday evening to practice accapella.

Hall Committee Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 8pm.

Red Cross Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 2pm. New members are always welcome. Come and do your bit for the community!

Cottage Committee of Management Meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Time as arranged to suit most members.

Victoria Market Take part in a regular trip to the Market, one Thursday each month. Make sure the kids are booked into Astrid's Activity so you can pick them up when you get back!

Friday afternoon Do Your Own Thing What unfinished project have you got at the back of the cupboard? Drag out that jumper, drawing, bedspread, mosaic, (whatever), bring it down to the cottage and spend a bit of time doing your own thing! Time: 1-3.30pm
Cost: \$2.00

Playgroup Meet with other parents of young children to share the joys and trials of parenthood while your children engage in play and creative activities. A great way to network and establish new friendships
Date: Tuesdays 9.30-noon
Cost: \$2 per family, plus a snack

Walk and Talk The cottage is part of VicFit's Walk and Talk Program. Walkers are urgently required to be activators and to provide inspiration for ideas as to where group walks can be held locally. Watch out for news of interesting walks soon! These will be advertised separately

History Afternoon Sunday 4th March The Anglesea historical society is visiting Deans Marsh on to view the Curtains. Come along to join them for an afternoon tea and discuss the history of the Deans Marsh and its Curtains.
Cost:\$2.50

Computer Hire and Internet Access
Available during office hours or by arrangement
Cost: \$3.00 per hour + 15c per page printing

**DEANS MARSH
COMMUNITY
COTTAGE
WHAT'S ON?**



**TERM 1
PROGRAMME
2001**

To book a place phone
52363388

Skills.net is here! Free internet classes are now available!

Skills.net is an initiative of the Victorian Government's "Connecting Communities" program, which aims to ensure that the benefits of online technologies are shared across the entire Victorian community.

- Do you have the Internet at home?
- Have you accessed the internet for more than 5 hours in the last month?
- Do you use the Internet as part of your work?

If you can answer no to two or more of these questions, you are eligible to become a skills.net member. (Cost - \$5.00)

Members receive 5 hours training and 5 hours internet access PLUS:

- Introduction to the Internet
- How to search the Internet
- How to surf the Net
- How to use email

Skills.net members can browse the web, pay their bills online or send emails. Members are also provided with own free web-based email address so they can email friends and family

Skills.net will also provide "Train Small Groups" training (at a cost) for those who wish to become tutors. This is an accredited module of Certificate IV in Workplace Training and Assessment and carries credits should you wish to do the entire certificate at a later date. The Cottage will introduce people who wish to do this course and become tutors at the Cottage in future.

This skills.net project will need more tutors in the future. If you are interested, ring 52363388 for further details.

Computer Classes

Introduction to the Internet @ Birregurra*

Learn what the Web is and how it works, how to search it and surf it. Learn how to use email and set up your own email address.

Birregurra School
Mondays 7-10pm
October 22 - 5 November
(3 x weeks)
Tutor: Keith Maxwell
Cost: \$18

OR
November 19-3 December
(3 x weeks)
Cost: \$18

Ring the Cottage to find out if you are eligible to become a Skills.net member and receive this training component of this course free

Introduction to the Internet @ Deans Marsh*

Learn what the Web is and how it works, how to search it and surf it. Learn how to use email and set up your own email address.

Deans Marsh Community Cottage
Mondays 1-4 pm
October 22 - 5 November
(3 x weeks)
Tutor: Keith Maxwell
Cost: \$18

*Ring the Cottage to find out if you are eligible to become a Skills.net member and receive this training component of this course free!

General Interest Classes

Hand Crèmes, Lip Balms and Lotions

Mejissa Vella will demonstrate and assist you to make your own hand cream, lip balms lotions using natural ingredients and essential oils. A lovely Christmas present for someone special.

Mondays
19th & 26 November
1-3 pm
\$20 + \$10 materials

Make your own Hand Crème

Mejissa Vella will demonstrate and assist you to make your own hand cream, using natural ingredients and essential oils. (A lovely Christmas present for someone special.)

This session is aimed to allow Older Primary and Secondary school students to attend.

Deans Marsh Community Cottage
Tuesday, December 4
4.30- 5.30pm
\$10 + \$10 materials

Sponge Queen

Learn how to make a light and fluffy sponge. Secrets are revealed. Be amazed at how easy it really is!

Deans Marsh Community Cottage
Thursday, October 25
7-9pm
\$7.00

Health and Well-being

Tai Chi

Levels 1,2 & 3 This is a gentle form of cardiovascular meditation that is suitable for all ages and fitness levels. 10 x sessions. It is best done before sitting, so plan to have dinner afterwards. Learn these cool techniques are welcome

Cost: \$50.00
Date: Monday 8 Oct > 10
Time: 6-7.30pm
Venue: Deans Marsh Hall

Massage (Myotherapy)

Debra Rubin is a highly trained and registered Myotherapy and massage practitioner. She is offering Massage sessions at the Cottage on Wednesdays 6.30-9.30 (fortnightly) from October 17.
Cost: \$25/30 mins
\$35/45 mins
Bookings need to be in advance so ring the cottage on 52 363388 for your appointment time.

Table Tennis

1 weekly evenings 7.30 pm
At the Cottage
\$1.00 per person

Neuro Emotional Technique (NET)

Is a methodology used to normalise emotional, physical and/or behavioural patterns that have become "fused" in your body.

Sonia Crowder is an NET practitioner who is trained to assist your body's own healing process by identifying and eliminating your unresolved repressed emotional complexes. An introductory workshop will be held on

Wednesday November 14 10am-12.30pm to explain and demonstrate the technique. Sonia will then be at the Cottage on a monthly basis starting Wednesday 6.30-9.30pm

Bookings essential. Ring the cottage for an appointment, or leave your name and number on the answering machine to have one organised

Brunch for Breast Cancer

Tuesday 6 November 11 am

The Cottage is hosting a free Brunch for Breast Cancer. The Brunch will include a forum for discussion about breast health issues and will be followed by Cup Day activities

Red Cross Christmas Luncheon

Wednesday 6th December

Smorgasbord Luncheon served at 12 noon

All welcome

Craft stall, Santa

\$7.00

7 All Cottage newsletter images copied from Deans Marsh Community Cottage Archives

66. 2001-5 **Music @ the Marsh was the start of something big for the Marsh.** It operated regularly – monthly nine or ten times a year from 2001 to 2005, and with great success. Mandy Baker, a key organiser, reports “We had busloads of people from all over the Surf Coast and Colac Otway - Forrest and Gellibrand and beyond”. Music @ the Marsh [M@TM] ran successfully until **Martians** – restaurant, coffee bar, take away and petrol stations – transformed from the former garage - opened and itself embraced music performance as one of its key attractions. **Check media**

M@TM evolved not from an existing community group but from a group of music lovers drawn from the community. Despite its *ad hoc* beginnings, the group became ‘a proper organisation with structured meetings and careful organisation where each person involved added their skills to the range of tasks: arranging music acts, catering, running the bar, decorating the hall, providing the necessary documentation from state or local government, volunteering on the night

Although M@TM events were either gold coin donation or, later, \$4 per adult – kids free; no funding was received to run - apart from an initial small grant which was used to purchase the PA system for the Hall. As popularity grew, M@TM was also able to donate money to the Hall Committee for stage lighting and other needed maintenance.

The first M@TM event was held in conjunction with the local Upper Barwon Landcare Network in 2001. At each event the white board had a prominent place – anyone and everyone could put their names on it and have a go at performing – music of all sorts or even poetry. The money raised on the night paid the main band and the support act but others performed for free. Kids and others came in fancy dress – and a wide range of talented locals performed regularly. Each year there was special Youth Night when bands and solo acts from schools in the wider district came to perform – these ran in conjunction with Surf Coast Council Youth initiatives and therefore there was no bar operating on those nights – [but locals could BYO!]

Most of the M@TM events attracted 100 to 150 people – kids were welcome and so were those who weren’t into the music but loved chatting to friends outside around the fire cauldron and having a coffee and cake or occasional BBQ managed by the Community Cottage crew– all home-made by the M@TM team – probably 20 community members who were the core of our efforts. As Mandy Baker puts it ‘Music in the Marsh really was a community-wide event – no one was ‘in charge’ - we all were’.⁸

⁸ Mandy Baker interview July 27 2020

music @ the Marsh

SHOWCASING THE YOUNG MUSICAL TALENT OF THE OTWAYS

FRIDAY 22 OCTOBER

FEATURING VERY SPECIAL GUESTS
THE VASCO ERA
DEBUT CD 'LET IT BURN' OUT NOW

UNDECIDED APOLLO BAY
JOHN WALLER LORNE
PERRY CASSIDY & TOM JUDD ANGLESEA
KRYPT APOLLO BAY
VANILLA APOLLO BAY
AMY HOOPER-TRAVERS MODEWARRE
69 REASONS AIREY'S INLET/LORNE
COUNTERFIT APOLLO BAY
JAKE RAINFORD APOLLO BAY
HYPOTHERMIA APOLLO BAY
TREEHOUSE REVOLUTION FORREST
RAPID TRANSIT LORNE

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY
THE SURFCOAST SHIRE & THE FALLS FESTIVAL

Come and enjoy the music diversity of the Otways
 Refreshments available (no grog). Concert begins 7pm sharp. Info: 5236 3203
 \$5 adult admission, \$3 secondary students. Deans Marsh Hall.

2004

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Surfcoast People

Fun keeps coming at the Music@the Marsh

by Mike Robinson-Koss

people behind the scenes hope Marjorie is enjoying the vibe! Showcasing many hands, performers, poets, and dancing troupes in all genres of the musical spectrum, the event especially concentrates on performers from the Otway region (which is bubbling over with a rich and varied array of musically artistic people).

When the mood rises and the budget rises, performers from far-flung afield grace the Deans Marsh Hall. Marcia Howard, Howlin' Wild, Hilary Edkhamer, Dave Steel, The Ploughboys, Tarzan Paddy and Fabio to name a few.

Music@the Marsh is held monthly at the Deans Marsh Hall. It's licenced and entry is \$4. Enquiries to 5236 3203





Giuseppe's Cafe



149 Pakington Street, Geelong West
 Melways Ref: Map 451 J2 ph: 5223 2187

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⁹ Deans Marsh Community Cottage archives

¹⁰ Surf Coast Living April May 2003 p.7 in Deans Marsh Cottage archives



FANTASTIC NEW MENU
STARTS TONIGHT

TONIGHT DISCO
FRANK WILL BE REVEALED

ARCHERS AND BUNNY
PROMO
HEAPS OF GIVEAWAYS
1AM LOCKOUT APPLIES

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE BAND
- RUXTON

\$3.00
MUDSHAKES ALL NIGHT!

1AM LOCKOUT APPLIES

KNOW YOUR HORSES?
Enter our punters competition every Saturday and you can win the pool. Only \$2 entry. See our bar staff for details

THE UNION CLUB HOTEL
110 Murray Street, Colac Phone 5231 5644

the Middle East. DONNAFRIZC

Gypsy songs at Marsh

Deans Marsh will move to beat of African drums and gypsy sounds during a monthly Music at the Marsh concert at Deans Marsh Community Hall tonight.

Percussive musician Greg Heart from alternative band Bonnah Sound will stir audience members into activity with an interactive musical performance.

Heart draws inspiration from the African djembe and conga, pounding beats on his hand-made drums.

Heart has made up to 200 drums using Colac and district timber.

Audience members will add to Heart's energetic rhythms with body percussions, including clapping hands and stamping feet.

Melbourne band Zarafa will follow Heart, performing traditional and original music from across Europe and the Middle East. Zarafa will mix up a cocktail of storytelling, songs and fiery dance tunes using traditional acoustic instruments.

Band members Pin Bada and Mark Planigale lead the group and draw on their Eastern European heritage to select and arrange music from Turkey, Greece, Macedonia, Albania and Croatia.

The group draws on traditions such as the Hungarian gypsy violin, Macedonian brass bands and North African belly dance.

The group is renowned for its colorful, live performances, which capture the soul of gypsy music.

Irish folk sounds

Irish folk artists will tug the heartstrings of visitors during a performance at Apollo Bay on Sunday.

Native Irish speaker Mossie Scanlon will sing traditional songs of love and history from the Emerald Isle.

Scanlon has performed across Australia and Ireland since releasing his acclaimed debut CD *Yeoman Ori - Come Away: Songs and Music from My Two Lands*.

Scanlon credits his love for Irish music to early influences, including his aunt and uncles who would sing Irish music on visits home from America.

He said he sung most songs on his CD in Irish because it was the language that came naturally to him while growing up.

Scanlon has described the language of his music as sean-nós, a specific style of singing in the Irish language.

"I never formally learned to sing, just picked up that style which is still beloved of the people of West Kerry," he said.

There are three main styles of sean-nós, relating to three regions where residents still speak the Irish language.

The regions include the Gaeltachtaí of Munster, Connacht and Ulster.

Munster Gaeltachtaí includes parts of Cork, Kerry, and Waterford, the Connacht Gaeltachtaí are on the west coasts of counties Galway and Mayo, and the Ulster Gaeltacht is in county Donegal.



SPRITUAL: Harpist Jane Belfrage will accompany Irish singer Mossie Scanlon.

Melbourne harpist and composer Jane Belfrage will accompany Scanlon.

Belfrage is a descendent of Irish immigrants from County Clare and professes a love for the "spiritual depth and exquisite melodies" of the repertoire she and Scanlon perform.

Apollo Bay Arts Inc will host the duo in the town's Anglican church.

CH p22 18.6.04

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2002

Deans Marsh Community Cottage
Presents

"ALL THAT JAZZ"
AGAIN



AT THE DEANS MARSH HALL
7:30PM
FRIDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER
3 COURSE MEAL \$20 PER HEAD B.Y.O DRINKS

JAZZ MUSIC BY
"THE GORDON JAZZ BAND"

COMPLEMENTARY CHAMPAGNE

DON'T FORGET YOUR COINS FOR THE LATVIAN
LUCKY LOTTERY!!

BOOK NOW TO RESERVE YOUR SEATS



Deans Marsh Community Cottage Ph: 363388

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¹¹ Colac Herald June 18 2004 p.22 see Deans Marsh Cottage archives

66. 2003, 2004 and 2010: **Pizza ovens x 3** The first two pizza ovens were built over summer times as part of community projects auspiced by the Community Cottage and supervised by Rob Phillips; one was later removed due to placement of the new playground area. The third one was built by Rob himself, under the hexagon shelter made with bush posts and locally milled timber, and paid for by the Hall Committee.

67. 2003 **Skate park project completed.** After three years of hard lobbying, frenzied fundraising and great support from the local and wider communities, the local group of parents and kids, determined to have a skate park created on community grounds, celebrated its triumph of cooperation with the Surf Coast Shire staff, the Deans Marsh Hall, the Community Cottage and the community, with the opening of the Deans Marsh skate park on November 2 2003.¹³

After the initial lobbying by locals, the SCSC agreed to match funding dollar for dollar. Energised parents ran raffles, market stalls and persuaded a host of sponsors from Lorne, Colac, and Winchelsea as well as local businesses to make this dream come true. A total of \$9000 was raised and matched by SCSC, and then the team of skate park designers came to work.

The building team too were supported by the Deans Marsh community, as they worked in the bleak winter weather, with many coffees and cakes provided by grateful locals. In the end it was a combined effort with community, Council and the designers themselves all contributing to make our Deans Marsh skate park bigger and better than the actual funds raised!¹⁴



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¹² Deans Marsh Cottage archives

¹³ Personal communication Patricia Dressel

¹⁴ Phone interview Patricia Dressell August 15 2020

¹⁵ Deans Marsh Community Cottage archive

68. **2003 FOOTY SHED RESTORATION** In 2002 after preparation of a Deans Marsh Memorial Park Master Plan, the SCSC Council wanted to demolish the Shed but met with stiff and energetic opposition from community members and the Deans Marsh Community Cottage. The submission for restoration of the Shed to Heritage Victoria by those groups under the umbrella of the Deans Marsh Football Pavillion Action Group was noted as the best submission it had ever received.

Pavilion sparks small town fight

NICOLE MAYNE

A BATTLE is brewing over the possible demolition of the historic Deans Marsh football pavilion.

The Surf Coast Shire will vote tonight on whether to knock down the dilapidated 1929 structure at Deans Marsh Recreation Reserve.

Officers have recommended council approve demolition of the old pavilion, but local residents yesterday vowed to fight to preserve the building.

Deans Marsh architect Seona Gunn said a petition

in favour of reconstruction had attracted 80 signatures.

"It is the original building that was built on the site and for that reason alone I think it's worth trying to preserve," Ms Gunn said.

"It also has strong memories for the community from when they used to play there.

"If it is demolished it will have enormous impact on the look of the oval."

The building is identified in the Surf Coast Heritage Study as being of local significance, but is

not included in a heritage overlay.

A recent building surveyor's report found the pavilion was not suitable for occupation, with damaged asbestos wall sheeting, decaying floors, lack of support structure under external walls and evidence of termites.

The council report estimates it would cost more \$100,000 to retain and reconstruct the pavilion.

Under the recommendation to the council, the existing building would be photographed before

demolition for potential replication in the future.

But Ms Gunn said the community had received pledges from people to restore the shelter to its former glory.

She has offered to use her architecture skills to develop drawings with heritage advisers and local builders have volunteered.

Ms Gunn, who has contacted Heritage Victoria about the possibility of funding, hopes the council will defer its decision.

"If not, we will be there chained to the veranda posts," she said.

GEELONG ADVERTISER
TUESDAY 6th MAY 2003

Rebuild call for historic pavilion

A Surf Coast Shire Council heritage adviser has urged the council to rebuild a dilapidated football pavilion at Deans Marsh.

Dr David Rowe performed a heritage assessment at the pavilion and recommended the council replace "deteriorated building fabric".

A council meeting this week postponed a decision about the pavilion's future for three months and agreed to restrict access to the building for public health and safety.

A municipal building surveyor's report revealed the building was unsuitable for occupation.

6th MAY 2003

Deans Marsh pavilion wins backers

AN action group is being formed to help save the historic football pavilion at the Deans Marsh recreation reserve.

The group is being set up under the auspices of the Deans Marsh Community Cottage but will operate independently, and will submit a report to the Surf Coast Shire on options for the building before the end of August.

Earlier this month, the shire council voted against demolishing the 1920s-era building, which is in poor condition, in favour of further public consultation.

Councillors gave pavilion supporters three months to come up with an alternative to demolition, along with sources of funding for renovations.

Community cottage committee secretary Paul Smith said about 22 people met last week to form the action group and also to discuss future uses for the pavilion.

He said several local artists planned to run a raffle of artwork to aid the restoration

While the Footy shed was experiencing its community-led rebirth, the Cricket Club Pavillion – named in honour of long-time President Colin Smith - was also benefitting from a makeover. Local builder Brook Smith created the wet area and bar, created a concrete patio in front and added a verandah roof – doubling the usable space of the facility. The new improved Cricket Club house – now much loved and used by the community - was opened in 2005 during Tom Reid’s first reign as President [2004-5].¹⁶

69. 2003 **The Untitled Chronicles** a community newsletter edited by Paul Smith and supported by the DM Community Cottage had at least 3 editions in June July and August. Was this the start of what is now **The Croaker?** Details please from those who remember!¹⁷

2004 February 13 The Victorian Planning Minister announced that the state government would provide \$77,200 towards the rebuilding of the Deans Marsh Football Pavillion.¹⁸

-The Colac Herald, Monday, February 16, 2004



SHED IS SAVED: Deans Marsh Action Group member Paul Smith is photographed with the historic football pavillion in July last year. 0402139L002

Footy pavilion scores \$77,000

The Deans Marsh community is celebrating the State Government's allocation of \$77,200 to restore its historic football pavilion as a community centre.

Save Our Footy Shed spokeswoman Seona Gunn said the committee was "ecstatic" about the grant that would enable the pavilion's restoration to proceed.

"We are all very excited," Ms Gunn said.

She said the restored pavilion in the Deans Marsh Memorial Park and Oval would be a multi-purpose community facility.

Ms Gunn said the Deans Marsh Cricket Club, Deans Marsh Primary School and Deans Marsh Pioneer Festival would be among users of the pavilion.

"It will also be available as an arts facility.

"People also want to use it for rehearsing bands.

"It will be open to the community," Ms Gunn said.

She said the primary school might use the pavilion as a changing area for school sports.

Surf Coast Shire Council considered demolishing the dilapidated pavilion before a community effort to save it led the council to consider other options.

Heritage Victoria provided the \$77,200 grant, part of \$2.4 million in funding for heritage work across Victoria.

Ms Gunn said the grant would be backed by volunteer labor from the community, lifting the total value of the project to about \$120,000.

Ms Gunn is an architect and will draw up plans for the pavilion's restoration.

She said the committee would work closely with Surf Coast Shire Council on the project.

Ms Gunn said the project showed what a community could achieve when it worked together.

Ms Gunn said Heritage Victoria was impressed with the extent of community support the project had attracted.

Residents will install fire cement sheeting to replace asbestos wall cladding at the pavilion, replace the corrugated iron roof, repair windows and doors and undertake general internal repairs and refurbishments.

The pavilion was built in 1929 and played an important role in the history of the former Deans Marsh football club and in community events.

Ms Gunn said Heritage Victoria appreciated the pavilion's social significance to Deans Marsh.

"A lot of community history surrounds the Memorial Park and oval and the pavilion and the football team," she said.

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¹⁶ Tom Reid interview May 8 2023

¹⁷ **The Untitled Chronicles** no.3 August 2003 see Cottage Archives

¹⁸ Victorian Heritage Program Funded projects 2003-4 p.9 of 31 see Cottage Archives.

70. 2005 **Farmers Markets and other markets** organised and run by Community Cottage: a Deans Marsh Markets committee operating under the auspices on the Community Cottage 2002-3 Former two-time Cottage co-ordinator Baiba Lowther 'remembers her days at the Cottage: 'Some things don't change – we as a community we have always done thing ourselves it seems - from Hall Committee to the Deans Marsh Progress Association to the Community Cottage - now it was interesting working with the Shire and getting them to be supportive instead of opposing everything.'

71. 2006 **Frog Mosaic** created during the Deans Marsh Festival by a team of local artists, lead by Veronica Phillips using locally-found objects – funded by the SCSC.

2007 January 25 [see 68 above] Reopening of the beautifully restored Football Pavillion.²⁰

72. 2008 **Deans Marsh Sheepdog Trials begin formally.**²¹



The Deans Marsh Sheepdog trials began in 2006 with a one-day demonstration event. In 2007 rain and flooding marred the event, but by 2008 the Deans Marsh Trials had been included formally into the Victorian Trials Schedule and were official. A film made in 2008 introduces us to key officials, experienced triallers and the Deans Marsh initiators and organisers, Mark

¹⁹ **Colac Herald** February 16 2004 page unknown Deans Marsh Community Cottage archive

²⁰ See Deans Marsh Community Cottage archives for a DVD of photos of the day.

²¹ See Lisa Jarvis DVD film of 2008 Sheep Dog Trials. Deans Marsh community archives.

Fagan and Jill Stewart. Originally held in November, the Deans Marsh Trials are now held in January – less flooding, but alas potential heatstroke!

73. 2008 **Footy Shed Fish mosaic** created by community members after a workshop conducted by Veronica Phillips and funded by a SCSC Small Grant auspiced by the Community Cottage.

74. **2008-9-10 Maternal Health Clinics** started around 2008.