

FALLS CREEK & MOUNT BEAUTY

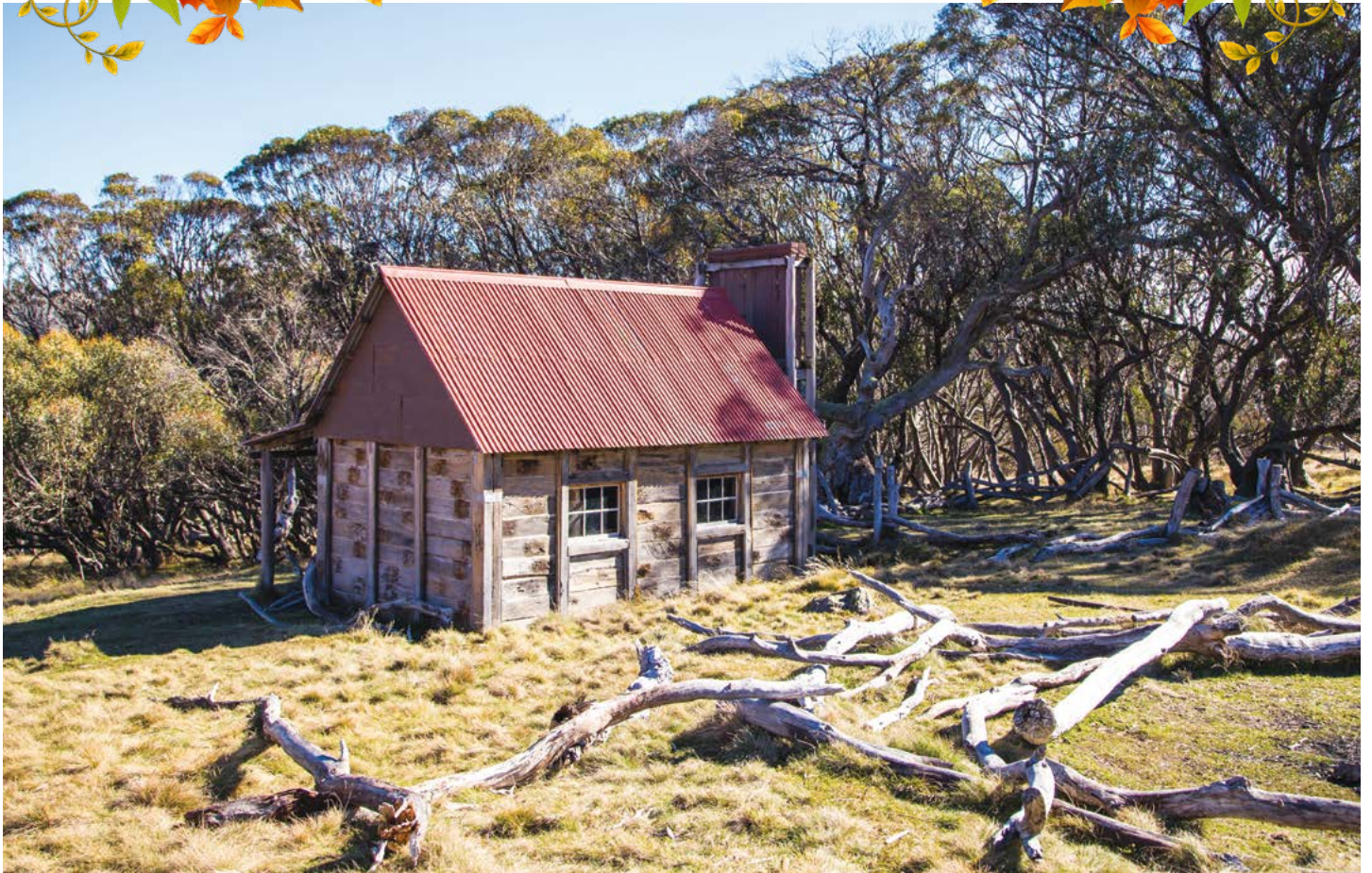
THIS WEEK

PRICELESS

AUTUMN EDITION NINE

FRIDAY 17TH MARCH 2023

So Much To Offer!



Main: The original Fitzgerald's Hut was built in 1903, burned down Wednesday 27th November, 1991 – since replaced by this fabulous hut.
Pic - Roslyn Ann Photography

Left: The ladies are going to love this weekend's MTB de Femme at the Big Hill Mountain Bike Park. Pic – Charlie Brown

Right: Round Two of the Vic Enduro Series last weekend required toughness and talent as shown by Georgina von Marburg. Pic – Matt Rousu

RESILIENT COMMUNITY PICNIC

By **CRAG & MBNC Inc**

Mount Beauty Neighbourhood Centre and the Community Resilience Action Group (CRAG) invite you to attend their Autumn Resilient Community Picnic Day on Saturday, 25th March at the Mount Beauty CFA Station, Lakeside Avenue, Mount Beauty.

This FREE event program runs from 10am to 1:00pm.

There will be a variety of activities and demonstrations designed to be fun and educational for adults and children. Importantly, there will be free coffee and a sausage sizzle!

A series of readiness, response, and recovery activities are being planned, including CFA demonstrations of a real fire in a controlled environment, Forest Fire Management's fire table, Ambulance Victoria 'Call-Push-Shock' demonstrations, Australian Red Cross children's activities, SES emergency ready resources, a demonstration of how to run a generator in a power outage, Beyond Blue/Wellways making stress balls, Alpine Shire's community trailer, and more.

North East Water will be distributing free water bottles, and the organisers will be handing out sample bags with information on bushfire preparedness and free giveaways.

Community picnics are a great way for individuals and households to come together and learn about what they need to



A good crowd attended last year's Resilience Day and enjoyed the many displays. Pic – Glenda Waters

prepare for, in the event of an emergency. An emergency could be a power outage or worse, because of storm, bushfire, landslide, or flood.

Picnickers will have the opportunity to learn about what's happening in their community to help build resilience in times of disaster, including the importance of preparing for an emergency and where you can get information and free legal advice in the wake of a disaster.

It's also a great opportunity to chat with community leaders, Alpine Shire emergency management coordinators, youth representatives, environment sustainability advocates and health and safety professionals from a variety of agencies.

Alpine FM 96.5 will be attending with their brand new outside broadcast van and interviewing picnic participants.

We encourage you to join in and bring family and friends to this FREE autumn event in beautiful downtown Mount Beauty.

Picnic information is available online at www.mountbeauty.org.au. If you want to know more, please contact Glenda Waters at Mount Beauty Neighbourhood Centre (Tuesday to Friday), email: project@mountbeauty.org.au or call 5754 1166. •



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FALLS CREEK HOURS THIS WEEK See below!

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\$475 Season Resort Entry 2023



And Social Gathering

Red Cross was one of the first agencies on the ground helping and supporting the community of Falls Creek following the landslip that closed the Bogong High Plains Road 12th October 2022. And they're still making the effort supporting those in need.

The landslip and road closure have isolated the normally close communities of Falls Creek and Mount Beauty for nearly six months now, and there has been uncertainty about the road reopening due to the complex nature of the landslip and the works required to remove the debris and stabilise the slope. The road closure, the isolation, lack of business and the uncertainty has had a major impact on the two communities.

Jai Edwards was working as a Red Cross Bushfire Recovery Officer in Alpine and Towong Shires and the nearby alpine resorts as part of his work on the 2019/20 Bushfire Recovery Program when the landslip and road closure occurred, and was therefore able to quickly step up and assist the Falls Creek community. "Red Cross is on the ground helping communities before, during and long after disasters occur. We understand how disasters impact communities and how they affect individuals and families," said Jai Edwards. "I personally saw first-hand the impact that isolation, separation and the loss of control was having on community members in both Falls Creek and Mt Beauty."

Red Cross is currently working with the Alpine and Falls Creek communities to provide face to face psychological first aid and advocacy on behalf of the community with a range of stakeholders and Government departments to get further assistance and support. Red Cross has also

connected and referred locals to a variety of community service providers such as financial counselling, mental health referrals, financial support, and philanthropic sources to provide grocery and fuel vouchers.

In the days leading up to Christmas, the Tawonga South Red Cross members were out and about delivering Christmas gifts to families experiencing hardship. Many locals have attended one of the free Red Cross community events such as the fortnightly sausage sizzles in both Falls Creek and Mount Beauty to bring community members together, and the online session with clinical psychologist and disaster recovery expert, Dr Rob Gordon, where he spoke about the emotions that people might be experiencing and provided a number of coping mechanisms.

There's also lots that Red Cross has been doing behind the scenes, including providing leadership support and mentoring for the teams at Falls Creek Resort Management and Alpine Shire Council with one of Australia's most respected disaster recovery specialists, Anne Leadbeater.

Red Cross been working to build agency and the community capacity through providing practical skills such as Recovery Basics and Communicating in Recovery training to assist them to more effectively help those experiencing trauma or compounding trauma in some cases, and the importance of self-care. As the Community Recovery Committees finds its feet, Red Cross is ready to provide support with evidence based programs, workshops and resources, alongside providing psychosocial support and wellbeing activities.



Getting together and having a chat can be a priceless activity – and Red Cross are driving this activity – with more to come. Pic – Courtesy Jai Edwards

Red Cross will now be hosting trivia nights in both Mount Beauty and Falls Creek. Get a team together with up to six players and get ready for a night of free trivia at Settlers Tavern in Mount Beauty on Wednesday, 22 March 2023 and Frying Pan Inn in Falls Creek on Thursday, 23 March 2023.

Full details and registration for either (or both!) events is online at australianredcross.eventbrite.com.au or call Jai Edwards on 0499 281 929. •

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2023 HUME REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

A Great Experience

On Wednesday, the 1st of March, 15 primary school students from the Upper Kiewa Cluster competed at the Hume Regional Swimming Championships in Shepparton. The Upper Kiewa Cluster consists of Dederang Primary School, Falls Creek Primary School, Mount Beauty Primary School and Tawonga Primary School. Prior to this competition, students swam in the Upper Kiewa Cluster Carnival at the Mount Beauty Swimming Pool (8th of February) and then in the Upper Hume Division Carnival in Wodonga (17th of February).

Here is what some of the competitors had to say about the experience:

What did you have to do to qualify to compete at Regionals?

First you had to compete in our Cluster Carnival at the Mount Beauty Pool and swim a qualifying time for Division. At the Division Carnival at Wodonga Waves, you had to finish first or second in your event in order to qualify for Regionals in Shepparton.

What different events did swimmers from the Upper Kiewa Cluster compete in?

Mac Taylor competed in the 50m freestyle and the 50m butterfly. He came second in the butterfly! Rowan Jones competed in the 50m breaststroke. Tully Duggan competed in the 50m butterfly. Luella Pask, Annabelle Panozzo, Cleo Sanders and



Our fun loving bunch of talented swimmers who did themselves proud at the recent Regional Swimming Championships. Pic – Courtesy Amanda Harvey.

Evelyn Taylor were in the 200m freestyle relay (10 and Under); Sophie Bretherton-Lee, Tom Gardner, Scarlett Stroud and Sam Svarc were in the 200m freestyle relay (11 year olds) and Freya Erikson, Nina Fallon, Zoe Redmond and Bianca Perri were in the 200 m freestyle relay (12/13 year olds). All three relay teams finished fourth in fields of eight teams. No one qualified to advance to State as you had to finish first in your event for that but we were all still happy with our efforts and proud of ourselves and one another. It was so great just to make it to Regionals!

What were the highlights of the day?

One of the best parts of the day was the bus ride to and from Shepparton. We left at 7am

and were feeling a bit sleepy until the music started. It energised us and we were having tons of fun requesting songs and singing along. After the speakers died, we had a blast singing karaoke-style!

Everyone cheering on the pool deck and encouraging each other during their races was also great. Lots of us also really enjoyed buying merchandise such as hoodies, caps and socks.

How did it feel to compete?

Well, most of us were really nervous waiting for our races but it was sort of a good nervous, one that gives you energy. The water was freezing and so that was a bit of a shock to the body! But, as soon as we started swimming, the nerves disappeared and you didn't feel the cold water anymore. Overall, it was really exciting and lots of fun! •

Written by Mount Beauty Primary School students Sophie Bretherton-Lee, Freya Erikson, Nina Fallon, Annabelle Panozzo, Luella Pask, Bianca Perri and Cleo Sanders

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Closing date for applications is 5pm, 1st April 2023






MT BEAUTY EDITION
SAT, 18TH & SUN, 19TH
MARCH 2023

MOUNTAIN BIKING FOR WOMEN

MTB de femme, 2023 is coming to Big Hill MTB Park, Mt Beauty for this year only.

The event is all about women riding the mountain bike trails in a friendly, fun, relaxing and safe environment.

You will meet like-minded riders become a confident rider and have a heap of fun in the process.







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Upper Kiewa Valley
Regional Arts

Mount Beauty has been selected to be part of the tour of a new Melbourne Chamber Orchestra String Quartet led by the new Director of the MCO, Sophie Rowell. Sophie is one of the most respected violinists in Australia, former Orchestra Leader of the MSO and winner of the ABC's Young Performer Award in 2000.

The concert in Mount Beauty, on Friday 24th March at 8 p.m. in the Mount Beauty Community Centre, is called "Inspirations", comprising Hayden's String Quartet No. 67, Caroline Shaw's Entr'acte and Beethoven's String Quartet No. 11. Hayden and Beethoven, composed in the same period, around 1800, and who inspired whom is a moot point, though Hayden is regarded as the father of the string quartet. Shaw is a contemporary American composer, inspired by both, hence the title of the concert.

Inspirations

Sophie Rowell leads a quartet of Melbourne Chamber Orchestra musicians performing music by Haydn, Beethoven by Haydn, Beethoven and Pulitzer Prize winner Caroline Shaw.

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TICKETS
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Tickets at \$30 and \$20 concession, are available on-line at Trybooking or at the door on the night. The usual bar will open before the performance and at interval.

Friday 24th March, 8pm at the Mount Beauty Community Centre.

For further information contact Rollo Kiek, Secretary, UKVRA. Ph. 03 57541750 or secretary.ukvra@gmail.com.

Mount Bogong
Conquestathon

The birds were up early as were the runners and hikers for the much-anticipated return of The Mount Bogong Conquestathon. A change in date to one weekend earlier than the long weekend didn't hinder the entry numbers with a total of 213. Initially some had questioned the date change, but with 20 odd volunteers needed to successfully run the event, finding 'vollies' on the long weekend was becoming harder. Along with the clashing date of the Bicycle Network Three Peaks bike ride, the committee is delighted to see that the date change was a big success.

The introduction of a competitive/ race category was popular with approximately 40 entries in the field. The first three crossing the line all being under 20 years of age! Likewise, impressive is that First, Second and Third in Open male, Open female, U18 male and U18 female were all locals. Highlight and special mention of the event goes to Tory Thomas of Mount Beauty who smashed the women's record time held by Belinda Ralph of 2hr 39mins with a new time of 2hr 31mins.

The weather was just about perfect with a light but chilly wind at the summit giving participants the opportunity for a quick bite to eat and a photo at the iconic Summit Rock Cairn before starting their descent.

The event director would like to thank the committee for their many hours getting the event back up and going, attending meetings and running errands in the lead up to the day. He also thanks all of the volunteers and course marshals who are the 'face of the event' for making the day safe, fun and cheerful. Lastly thank you to all the sponsors who through our random spot prize draw kept the weary ones smiling.



Good numbers attended this year's Conquestathon – the first for a few years!
Pic – Courtesy the Conquestathon committee.

We look forward to participants returning in 2024, growing the entry list and encouraging families to enter in what can truly be a challenging, yet great day out in the mountains. •

PLACINGS:

Open Male: Hayden Barnett 2:03,
James Barnett, Matt Cooper

Open Female: Tory Thomas 2:31,
Virginie Bernard, Kristie Ilett

U18 Male: Alec Franke 2:07(3rd overall), Eddy Franzke, Baylin Ford

U18 Female: Rosie Franzke 3:51,
Nina Fallon, Bethany Franke.

AGL Hydro

The Bogong Power Station Information Centre is closed until further notice due to the landslide.

For more information:
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FALL LINES

BHP Road Landslip

This is the biggest landslide Victoria has seen in 40 years and is therefore a massive job – our crews are working seven days a week on both sides of the landslide to manage these recovery works.

-Major Road Projects Victoria spokesperson.

The good news is that: Subject to favourable weather and ground conditions, single lane access should be available for all vehicles from 25th April 2023.

Background

Since taking over the management of the landslide recovery works Major Road Projects Victoria (MRPV) has carefully assessed the situation and is now confident

that it will be able to provide at least a single lane of access to through traffic in late April, ahead of the coming winter 2023.

So far, we've cleared all of the loose debris from the slip which is over 45,000 cubic metres of material. We have over 30 heavy earth-moving machines and trucks on site removing the debris.

Over the past month MRPV, along with construction partner Whelans Group Investments (WGI), has brought in a fleet



A recent photo of the landslide site showing four excavators working the site and loading trucks. Pic – Courtesy MRPV

of specialised machinery and has continued to remove the debris from the landslide.

Crews are now working seven days a week on both sides of the landslide and are on schedule to provide access in time for pre-season preparations. •

As your editor, I am trusting and believing that the announcement of an 'opening' by the 25th April – ANZAC Day is the 'understate and over-deliver' attitude. I can't imagine that the company would put their name to a date if they weren't pretty confident they could deliver.

By the time you are reading this (Friday 17th March) we still have three weeks (actually 20 days) before Easter. Wouldn't it be a bonus if we could get the road open by Easter

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Alpine Radio (Fires & Floods)	96.5 FM	Wangaratta	5723 0600
ELECTRICITY		REGIONAL ROADS VICTORIA	133 778
Faults & Emergencies	13 17 99	Falls Creek	5758 3287
FIRE		RACV	
Falls Creek/Mount Beauty/ Tawonga	000	Falls Creek/Mount Beauty	5750 1230
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2022-23 SUMMER PUBLICATION SCHEDULE & RATES

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:
Ed 10 * 31.03.23 * Easter Lead In. Vic School Hols start 6th April. (C)
Ed 11 * 06.04.23 * School Holiday and Easter Activities. ANZAC Day prep. (C)
Ed 12 * 21.04.23 * ANZAC Day services. Trade Fair @ Falls Creek. (C)
Ed 13 * 05.05.23 * Preparations for Winter. Trade Fair Wrap. (C)
DISTRIBUTION: • All accommodation houses, restaurants, businesses, club lodges & apartments in Falls Creek, Bogong Village, Mount Beauty, Tawonga South, Tawonga & Dederang, plus the RMB's between Dederang & Tawonga & selected venues in Bright & Myrtleford.
ONLINE: • Available in PDF form at: www.fallscreek.com.au/whatson/
WEBSITE: • www.thisweekinfallscreek.com.au

ADVERTISING RATES:
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• 1 column (6cm wide) = \$16.00 per cm. 4cp = \$20.00 per cm.
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MTB de Femme

From the first MTB de Femme in 2016, the popularity has grown. It is therefore no surprise that just over 100 female mountain bike riders took to the trails at Falls Creek in March last year for the annual MTB de femme event, the first since 2019.

The landslip on the BHP Road has forced the decision to move the event to the Big Hill Mountain Bike Park in Mount Beauty which is renowned for its fabulous trails and its proximity to town – and all of the action takes place this weekend - Saturday, 18th & Sunday 19th March 2023.

All Ride MTB Founder, Jo Prothero says “We can’t wait to welcome 40 participants to this year’s MTB de Femme at Big Hill MTB Park. Obviously, it is disappointing not to be in Falls Creek this year but we wanted to bring the event to the region to ensure women had the opportunity to get together and ride bikes. Our hope is that the participants learn skills to become more confident and safe, in a fun and supportive environment. For those wondering, we will be back in Falls in 2024.”

Check All Ride MTB on Facebook for more detail and your entry or call Mb: 0449 293 008. •

Harley Owners Group

“We are the Yarra Valley HOG Chapter out of Harley Heaven Ringwood and we have approx. 240 members.

We are a family orientated club who support all riders including woman with 75 ladies as current members and approximately half of the ladies ride.

Yarra Valley Chapter do roughly 85 rides a year and that includes long Monthly rides, a ride where we welcome new members, a BBQ ride and a twilight ride every Wednesday night in the daylight saving months.

Overnighters and Rally’s are very big in our chapter and we always get large numbers attending these events.

We love travelling to new destinations and supporting local country towns by staying in their accommodation, booking the local pub and going the cafes/bakeries etc.

All members are very passionate about their bikes and we welcome all riders regardless of what they ride or their ability



The Yarra Valley Chapter of HOG will be visiting West Peak Hotel Saturday 18th.
Pic – Courtesy HOG.

This Saturday 18th the Yarra Valley members will be visiting West Peak Hotel and we are happy to invite community members to the West Peak Beer Garden to have a look at the Harley’s from midday, plus listen to live music and enjoy the atmosphere all while sipping West Peak’s Mountain Monk brews & having a bite to eat!.

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WISE WORDS

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– John Stuart Mill

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PHYSIOTHERAPY

Kiewa Valley Sports & Spinal Therapy, 5A Hollonds St, Mount Beauty. Out of Hours & Home visits available. HiCaps. Ph: 03 5754 1270.

SAFETY SCAFFOLD

Mount Beauty and Falls Creek area. Ph: 0418 578 500.

SECURE STORAGE

From 2m x 2m through to 3m x 7m. Ph: 0418 578 500.

SPORTS MASSAGE

Book On-Line: impactmassage.com.au

STORAGE

Caravans, Vehicles, Pallets, Large Lock-Up Units. Ph: 0428 361 497. www.alpinewarehousing.com

MOUNTAIN MONK BREWERY

A Bold Venture in Town

Many of us who enjoy the occasional ale will know – or know of – someone who has dabbled in home brew kits – which usually resulted in a product best described as an ‘acquired taste!’

But some really keen home brewers have gone on to bigger and better things – realising that home brewing is not about saving money – it’s about producing a product that you and others can be proud of and thoroughly enjoy. This has happened in Tawonga South, and now it’s the turn of the team at West Peak Hotel with their new installation and operating under the name of Mountain Monk.

The idea of putting in a brewery was floated several years ago – and it has been a long yet rewarding process to the point where the beers are filling glasses and being enjoyed.

An early step was getting the knowledge – and one important point was being able to secure the services of Neal Cameron. Neal has a degree in chemistry and a post Grad in Brewing Science. He started the highly successful Australian Brewery in Sydney on 2010.

Neal also has vast experience working with many Australian breweries and cideries on diverse projects encompassing brewery build project management, product development and quality improvement.

Neal is also Technical Director for Brewtique, specialising in brewing equipment installs around Australia and Asia and is the teacher at TAFE NSW for the newly developed Certificate III in Microbrewing. Neal has been involved in close to 55 brewery installations around Australia and was appointed Chief Judge at the Royal Sydney Beer & Cider show in 2013.

Partner in the West Peak business, Mick Bellman spent 12 months away at Uni studying brewing. Third member of the brewing team is Anthony Brewergray, local resident and cricket tragic. Anthony has a keen interest in brewing and has been producing a decent product at home for many years. Being involved in this new venture is right up his alley and the keenness to produce a quality tasty product is very evident.

Your editor dropped in during the week to find the team (and a few family volunteers) flat out ‘canning’ their first batch 375ml cans.

If you would like to know more, or would like to sample, West Peak now have on tap their American style Pale Ale, a German Lager (brewed last week), a hazy Pale Ale mid-strength 3.5%, an Indian Pale Ale (with a bigger malt flavour) 6.1% and a Pilsener at 4.5% with more beers to come.



The creative team at Mountain Monk, (from left), Neal Cameron from Brewtique, with Mick Bellman and Anthony Brewergray, our local team producing the product. Pic – Ken Bell

On Wednesday 29th, West Peak are putting on a Meet the Brewers beer tasting and Brewery Tour from 5pm – 7pm with nibbles, live music and some give-aways. •

WHAT'S ON IN 2023

Falls Creek has been severely impacted by the land slip on the Bogong High Plains Road at Bogong Village and subsequent total road closure. Below is a list of planned activities and events and their potential future dates.

- NOV 26-28** Alpine Challenge, Falls Creek & the Bogong High Plains
Moved to 22 – 23rd April 2023
- MAR 18 & MAR 25** Park Run. 8am at Bicentennial Park, beside the library in Lakeside Avenue. All Welcome. Enquiries to 03 5754 1118.
- MAR 18** Yarra Valley Chapter of the Harley Owners Group visit West Peak Hotel and will have their bikes on display in the carpark. Enjoy a look, the music and something to nibble on for a pleasant afternoon. Ph: 03 5754 4985.
- MAR 18-19** MTB de Femme Mount Beauty Edition. Check it out on FB – All Ride MTB.
- MAR 25** Australian Grand Traverse – Falls Creek to Mt Hotham. 6:30 briefing at Falls Creek. 7am Start. Finishes at The General, Mt Hotham. Visit <https://www.peakadventure.com.au/agt>
- APR 6** Start Victorian School Holidays and the Easter Break
- APR 9** Mount Beauty Community Market. 8am to 1pm in Hydro Park beside the Swimming Pool and next to West Peak Hotel and Mountain Monk Brewery. Enquiries: Ph: 03 5754 1118
- APR 7-10** Mount Beauty Art Group annual Easter Art Show at the Mount Beauty Community Centre. From 10am daily.
- APR 22-23** Alpine Challenge – running the Bogong High Plains over distances of 100 mile, 100km, 60km, 42km, 25km, 16km, 10 km – either as individuals, Teams or in a relay challenge.
- APR 25** ANZAC Day March and Service 9:45am at the Cenotaph followed by the traditional celebrations at West Peak Hotel.

For further details on coming events, got to: <https://www.falls creek.com.au/whats-on/events-activities-summer/>

WHAT'S ON @ WEST PEAK



- Fridays:** 3pm - 11pm • Dinner from 5:30pm
Woodfire pizzas from 5:30pm
Community Raffles from 5:30pm. Draw begins at 7pm.
17/03 Mount Beauty CFA • **24/03** UKV Lions Club
- Saturdays:** 12noon - 11pm • Lunch 12noon - 2pm • Dinner from 5:30pm
From around 1:30pm: Dragon Boat Festival Presentations and After Party Chinese Youth Society presents Dancing Dragons
Saturday Arvo: Live Entertainment 3pm – 6pm
18/03 The fabulous 'Halo!' • **25/03** Ever pleasant 'Tarry & Charlie!'
- Sundays:** 12noon - 11pm • Lunch 12noon - 2pm • Dinner from 5:30pm
Mondays & Tuesdays - CLOSED
Wednesdays: 3pm - 9pm • Dinner from 5:30pm
Thursdays: 3pm - 9pm • Dinner from 5:30pm | Texas Hold em Poker • 7pm start
- Sat 18th March: Harley Owners Group - On Show - from 12noon**
Wed 29th March: Meet the Brewers - Tastings, nibbles & live music! 5pm - 7pm

1 Lakeside Ave, Mount Beauty **03 5754 4985** www.westpeakhotel.com.au

MEDICAL SERVICES - Upper Kiewa Valley

MOUNT BEAUTY MEDICAL CENTRE

- WHERE** 2D Tawonga Crescent.
- WHEN** 8:30am - 5pm Mon - Friday
10am - 12noon Saturdays.
- HOW** **Ph: 03 5754 3400**
for appointments
- WHO** Doctors: Mark Zagorski OAM, Jeff Robinson, Libby Garoni, Skye Delaney, Laura Zagorski, Angela Stratton, Lauren Cussen, Damian Heman, Daniel Florisson & Andrew Mason.
- WHAT** Fully accredited General Practice with 42 years of service to the Upper Kiewa Valley.
- CONTACT** Ph: 03 5754 3400
Em: enquiries@mbmc.com.au
Wb: <https://www.mbmc.com.au/>
- Falls Creek Medical Centre is currently closed!**
If you need to see a doctor please contact Mount Beauty Medical Centre on 03 5754 3400. You may be directed to a doctor for a tele-health appointment. Our Doctors are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week from Mount Beauty.

Your local practice – supporting the community!