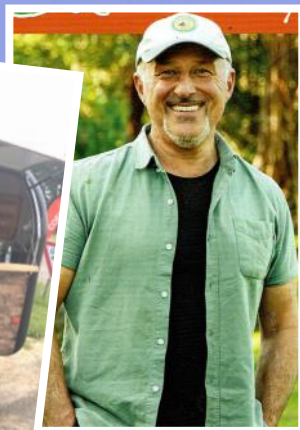


DECEMBER 2020

# Meredith & district News

Our FREE Community Newsletter since 1972



Christmas, Coffee and reason to smile!

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

December 2020

### Moorabool North Wind Farm

#### Progress to date

- Installation of all fifty (50) turbines complete
- Energisation of substation complete
- Commissioning of forty-eight (48) turbines complete
- Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) Registration complete

#### Look ahead

- Ongoing commissioning of turbines
- AEMO Compliance (Hold Point testing) to commence – Staged Operations

### Moorabool South Wind Farm

#### Progress to date

- Fifty-Three (53) turbines fully installed
- All access tracks, hardstands and substation complete
- Energisation of substation complete

#### Look ahead

- Ongoing turbine installation works will continue
- Road maintenance and repairs will continue as we monitor regularly
- Beginning of commissioning of turbines
- Demobilising of three (3) main cranes from site



*Image – Installation of Turbine 15 at MSWF*

## Seeking Community Reference Group Members

Moorabool Wind Farm is seeking expressions of interest from community members to serve on the Community Reference Group (CRG).

Meetings are currently held locally, every three (3) months in the evening. Attendance can be in person or via Zoom.

For more information and to submit an expression of interest please visit the project website <https://mooraboolwindfarm.com/community/community-reference-group/> or call 1800 019 660.

**Applications close on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 at 3pm.**



## Christmas Shut Down Period

Both Moorabool north and Moorabool south wind farms will be closed from **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December until Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021**. Commissioning and Testing will occur during this time; however, no construction activities will take place.



# Meredith Community Christmas Carols

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Venue: Paddock adjacent to Meredith Sharing Shed\*

Time: 7.30 pm

**BYO Chair/Rug/Nibbles**

\*Formerly known as the Interpretative Centre

**Covid19 Regulations Apply**



# BANNOCKBURN SURGERY

16 High Street Bannockburn VIC 3331

Tel: 03 5281 1481 Fax: 03 5281 1978

[www.bannockburnsurgery.com.au](http://www.bannockburnsurgery.com.au)

Dr Cameron Profitt

Dr Andrew Bell

Dr John Henderson

Dr Benjamin Fry

Dr Margaret Somerville

Dr Samantha Buchholz

Dr Carolyn Grigg

Dr Rupali Jain

## COVID 19

During these times our practice opening hours vary significantly. Please phone the clinic or book online for all available appointments.

Bannockburn Surgery is a fully accredited medical practice that provides comprehensive GP services and has been practising in the community for more than 30 years. Bannockburn Surgery is the largest practice in the shire.

We are an accredited teaching practice, training future GPs. Our current Registrar doctor is

**Dr Veronica Stubbs**

We also offer the following services

Diabetes Education: Jessica O'Shannassy

Podiatry: Peter Angelucci & Stephanie Bennetts

Speech Pathology – Ceri Webb

Q fever (Testing & Vaccines)

Yellow fever (Vaccine)

Visiting Specialists

Orthopaedic Surgeon: Dr Chatar Goyal

Gynaecologist: Dr Saj Rathnyake

**NEW PATIENTS WELCOME**

Laura and Chael  
adding a bit of colour  
to one of the school's  
planting boxes.



# Meredith & district NEWS



The Meredith and District News is published by a volunteer sub-committee of the Meredith Community Centre comprising: Jim Elvey, (general editor and chair) Dawn Macdonald, Stefania Parkinson, Ian Penna, Mike Palmer, Sue Higgs and Alex Hyatt. Production is undertaken by alternating teams comprising Pam Ridd, Peter Boer, Don Atherton and Jim Elvey.

## NEWS & VIEWS

Subject to the conditions outlined below, contributions accompanied by the contributor's name (which will also be published) and contact details, are most welcome. Please email to [news@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:news@meredithnews.com.au) or deliver to the Meredith Post Office or Meredith Hub

## DATES AND DEADLINES

The Newsletter is distributed on the **first Thursday** of the month (except January). All ads and submissions must be lodged by 9.00 am on the **last Thursday** of the preceding month, but earlier is **really** appreciated.

## ADVERTISING

Advertising in the M&D Newsletter is a great way to let district residents know about your business. Contact us for full details and lodgement forms. Rates are as follows:

	B&W/Colour
Business Card	\$14.00
Quarter page	\$25.00
Half page	\$40.00/\$100
Full page	\$80.00/\$180

A \$20 loading applies for preferred position. Please submit in jpeg format, if available.

Classifieds are **FREE** for small, personal notices from residents. Otherwise \$7.50 on invoice or \$5.00 if paid on lodgement. Community Groups can have a 1/4 page ad for free or a \$25.00 discount on larger ads. (conditions apply)

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you are outside our delivery area you can subscribe for \$35.00 p.a. (11 issues) and get the Meredith and District News posted to you anywhere in Australia.

## CONTACT US

Post Office, Meredith, 3333

**Advertising:** Ian 0409 016815

[advertising@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:advertising@meredithnews.com.au)

**Accounts:** Mike 0419 307044

[accounts@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:accounts@meredithnews.com.au)

**Editorial:** Jim: 0409 163169

[news@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:news@meredithnews.com.au)

## WEB

You can check back copies and lodge comments at [meredithnews.com.au](http://meredithnews.com.au)

## ONLINE PHOTOS

We do not publish children's photos online. If you would like any other photo that you appear in withheld from the online edition, let us know in writing by the second Thursday of the month of publication.

## DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the publishers. The publishers may edit or reject contributions and accept no responsibility for errors or omissions

Issue Editor: Jim Elvey

# connect

- ADVANCE MEREDITH 5286 1291
- ANGLING CLUB 0419 248 660
- B'BURN ART GROUP 0410 808 483
- BLUE LIGHT DISCO 5286 1222
- BOOK CLUB 5286 8201
- CFA 000 for fire calls  
Elaine 0409 861 296  
Meredith 5286 1502  
Morrisons 0417 770 765
- CHILDCARE 5286 0700
- COMMUNITY CENTRE 5286 0700
- CRICKET  
Elaine 0448 291074  
Junior (U16,U14,13) 0448 291074  
Meredith 5286 1434
- CUBS & SCOUTS  
Anakie 52819497
- ELAINE HALL [elainetownhall@gmail.com](mailto:elainetownhall@gmail.com)
- FOOTBALL  
Seniors 0408 545 246  
Juniors 0430 587 674
- GOLF CLUB 0407 795 342
- HISTORY GROUP 5286 8201
- LANDCARE 0409 862 326
- MEMORIAL HALL 5286 1545  
0409 662106
- MEREDITH LIONS 0491 061640  
0419 757965
- MOTORCYCLE CLUB 0437 009 250
- PLAYGROUP 5286 0700
- POLICE PADDOCKS 5286 1273
- RSL - 5286 1452
- SENIOR CITIZENS 5286 8232
- TENNIS  
Elaine 0448 291 074  
Meredith 5286 1211
- SEW 'N' SEWS 5286 0700
- FRIENDS OF THE BRISBANE RANGES 5286 1252

# emergency

- Police, Ambulance, Fire **000**  
(from mobile phone) **000 or 112**
- Meredith Police Station **5286 1222**
- Police non emergency **131 444**
- Power Failure **132 412**
- Nurse-On-Call **1300 606 024**
- Mental Health Advice **1300 280 737**
- Poisons Information **13 11 26**
- Barwon Water **1300 656 007**
- SES Emergency - flood & storm **132 500**
- 24 Hour Helpline **1800 629 572**
- 24 Hour Drug & Alcohol Counselling **1800 888 236**
- Kids Help Line  
24hr 5-18yo **1800 551 800**
- Golden Plains Shire A.H. Emergencies  
Ranger **1300 363 036**  
0408 508 635  
52207111 or
- Bannockburn Vet 0409 830 223
- Golden Plains Vet 5281 1221
- Pets and Horses 24/7 5281 2226  
0421 617 238

## Justices of the Peace

Mr Don Atherton. 0409 869 960

Mr Paul Ryan Elaine 0409 861 296

# services

- CEMETERY TRUST** 5286 1550
- HALL HIRE**  
Meredith Memorial 5286 1545  
Elaine Mechanics [elainetownhall@gmail.com](mailto:elainetownhall@gmail.com)  
Elaine Rec Res 5341 5703
- LIBRARY VAN** 5272 6010
- MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH** 5220 7230
- PRE-SCHOOL** 5286 0722
- PRIMARY SCHOOL** 5286 1313
- RECREATION RESERVE** 0429 315 575

## ..or start something.

If you have a special interest you would like to share with like minded people, let us know



"One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas Day. Don't clean it up too quickly."

Andy Rooney

dear readers...

# The VIRUS and US

## Breathe Easy!



Here is a summary of the provisions for face masks, as at the time of going to print:

- Face masks remain mandatory in some settings, unless you have a lawful reason not to wear one.
- Face masks are no longer mandatory when you are outdoors, if you can stay 1.5 metres away from people that you don't live with.
- Use of face masks outdoors is required if you are unable to stay further than 1.5 metres away from people you don't live with, such as at public transport stations, outdoor markets, walkways and thoroughfares. Face masks remain mandatory when indoors – for example the supermarket or on public transport.
- You must continue to carry a face mask with you at all times.

For current and more detailed information, please visit [dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](http://dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus).



We can all breathe a little easier, now that Covid restrictions have been eased. When you consider the dangerous and worsening situation in many parts of the world, we can be thankful to be living in Australia where the virus has been substantially contained. Of course, we must not lose sight of those who have been severely impacted and will face financial hardships for time to come. And we must remain vigilant to keep our hard-won freedoms.

But we can also rejoice in those freedoms, and catch up with the family and friends we've missed so much, pick up those loved activities we could no longer take part in and, best if all, see the smiles on each others faces.

So, get out there and do some smiling!!



### Home Covid Test\*

1. Pour a glass of red wine and try to smell it.
2. If you can smell it, then drink it to find if you can taste it.
3. If you can smell and taste it, then you don't have Covid.

Last night I did the test three times and, thank goodness, all were negative.

But I will do the test again tonight, because this morning I woke with a bit of a headache and I feel like I might be coming down with something.

*\*Because so many people have trouble recognising it, we feel obliged to point that this is not an approved test. It is Fake News" We mean REAL Fake News. That is to say, it is not true, as distinct from the news you don't want to be true.- Ed.*

# THIS MONTH...

...we meet the Walkers of Meredith, the *real*/ Very Hungry Caterpillar, our newly elected councillors, and Vasili, the entrepreneurial gardener. We confront our summer fears: fire and snakes, make a Chocolate Peppermint Slice and plan our Gorse attack. Phew! Stay happy, and enjoy the read .

SENDING YOU A SOCIALLY-DISTANCED HUG\*



\*Real hugs coming soon.



# Community



Meredith Community Centre  
*working for our community*

## What's On



### DECEMBER EVENTS



#### The Meredith Giving Tree

Community members are invited to place unwrapped new gifts under our tree.. you can write a personal message to go with your gift to really bring a smile at Christmas! Donations accepted until **December 16** and will be distributed to nominated families in our community

### WEEKLY EVENTS

#### TAI CHI

Tuesdays @ Meredith with Sandra - 9:30 - 10:30  
Thursdays @ Teesdale with Desma - 9:30 - 10:30  
Starting 2021 - Beginners @ Bannockburn with Desma

#### STEADY FEET with Ane'

Wednesdays - 9:30 - 10:30

#### ACTIVE EXERCISE with Ane'

Wednesdays - 10:30 - 11:30 (FREE)



Be Connected  
Every Australian online.

### FREE EVENT!

Tuesday December 15,  
11:00- 1.30

Stay Connected with your loved ones this Christmas! -  
Or pop in for some tech help with your device!  
Hampers to be won and Lunch is provided  
RSVP - admin@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au  
by December 9



We are on Facebook & Instagram  
@meredithcommunitycentre



[www.meredithcommunitycentre.com.au](http://www.meredithcommunitycentre.com.au)

[learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au](mailto:learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au)

[www.facebook.com/MeredithCommunityCentre](https://www.facebook.com/MeredithCommunityCentre)

4 Russell St. Meredith Vic. 3333 Ph. 5286 0700

Opening hours: Monday - Thursday 9am to 3pm - Friday Closed

### OCCASIONAL CARE

#### Session Times

Monday - 9:15 - 2:15

Wednesday - 9:15 - 2:15

Friday - 9:15 - 2:15

## Kindergarten News

It's been a Topsy- Turvy year at Kinder to say the least with COVID-19 impacting us in many ways with low attendance numbers, special activities cancelled and no Bush kinder. Throughout the year we continued to provide an interesting and rich program for the children attending and maintained regular contact with families who were engaged in learning at home. In Term 4 it was lovely to have most of our children return, and we are now only a few weeks away from Christmas and the end of Kinder. The children are busy making special gifts for their families and preparing for the end of year celebrations which will just be a party with the Teachers !! Sadly we cannot have the annual family BBQ and celebrations at Kindergarten this year to say our goodbyes....so we would like to wish all the families and children who are heading onto start the school journey all the very best . We are really looking forward to starting a fresh new year in 2021 , fingers crossed it's Covid free and we can open the doors again to families, visitors and plan for many special activities.

Have a wonderful magical and exciting Christmas and safe sunny holidays.

Happy New Year

Jodie and Kylie

## Meredith Senior Citizens

Finally, at last, the Seniors were able to get together! We met at the Bannockburn Hotel for a luncheon on Monday, November 16.

Sitting in a marquee at the front of the hotel it was, at times, quite hot but, nevertheless, heart warming to see the members catching up with each other. I think we stretched the rules a bit re social distancing because members were so excited to see each other.

Many thanks to the Manager and Staff of the Bannockburn Hotel for their understanding and support.

We are in the process of organizing a meeting in the near future at the Hall for our AGM and hopefully to also organize a Christmas breakup party.



The deadline for copy is  
**9.00 am on the last Thursday**  
of the preceding month



## Marg Cooper

Marg Cooper is known for her regular contributions to the Meredith newsletter, as well as for her service (in numerous capacities) to the Meredith community. Her passion for history is legendary but less well known is what drives this interest, where ideas for projects arise and that she has a creative side as well.

Born and educated in Ballan with her final schooling in Ballarat, Marg was not particularly interested in art. She studied for two years then taught primary school for two years at which time she married Jeff and then, as per the rules at the time, had to resign. Whilst raising three children, Marg followed in her mother's footsteps becoming very involved in community service and being creative in her garden. She played golf for years, holding many office bearer positions. Part of the original Meredith Book Club and History Group, Marg has also been involved in positions in the church, Advance Meredith Group and Saturday Art Group. Marg also had something to do with those Christmas Sheep that appear around town during December! In 2019 Marg was Golden Plains Shire 'Citizen of the Year' in recognition of her community service.

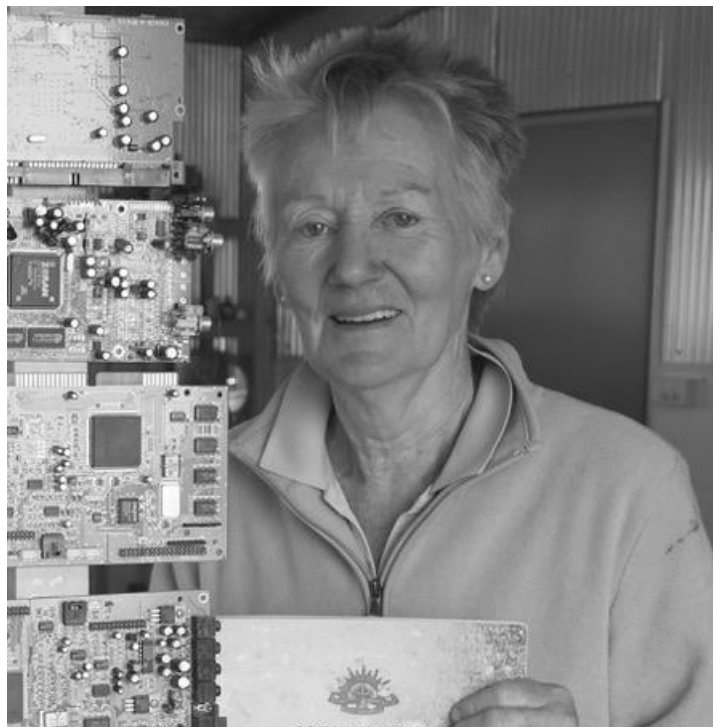
Curiosity for and interest in people, things and events has inspired Marg's pursuits. This is one of her strengths and, combined with her love of conversation, has meant she has become a real 'sleuth' when it comes to research. It is important, she believes, to tell people's stories and record events so that they are not lost. Observation is important, so Marg always carries a camera and notepad to capture images of interesting 'things'. Seeing possibilities and inspiration everywhere she is always looking for ideas to follow up or be her next research project. For instance, a partly hidden old dunny on a local property caught Marg's eye and so began the writing and publication of a book called "Dinkum Dummies of Meredith" featuring more than 60 local outhouses.

Attending the Community Centre in 2000 to 'learn computer' was life changing for Marg. It became a way to streamline a lot of her ideas and opened new possibilities for presentation. Marg loves writing which 'just comes to her'. Being very ordered and organised, Marg describes herself as 'liking to get things done!' and so, with her new computer skills, she has produced cards, leaflets, pamphlets, brochures and information sheets. But, by far, her biggest achievement has been the production of 10 books relating to local history/interest. Her first major publication was 'Meredith History Walk' (updated in 2015), followed by 'Significant Women of Meredith' then 'Significant Men of Meredith'. The finding of an Honour

Board initiated the story of 'Bamgannie State School'. Other books are 'Woodbourne Reunion', 'Meredith World War 1 Soldiers', 'Moranghurk Soldier Settlement', 'Poetry of Alison Erwin' and 'Significant Trees of Meredith'. Along the way Marg has produced calendars featuring corner posts, old cars in paddocks, property names and doors (for 2021). Marg also likes writing book reviews for the greater freedom of expression which it allows.

Marg's creativity has been expressed at the launch of each book. She likes to think 'a bit outside the square' when it comes to these events. For instance she gained a grant to have a sheep/plaque placed at Mornangurk on the Midland Highway with 350 people attending the property for the launch. The MHIG ran an art competition attracting over 40 entries to celebrate the life of the local policeman buried in the Meredith cemetery - with Marg producing an earthy cross-section of the site showing the coffin and the policeman's feet sticking out (very left field!!) With Bev Loveday, Marg organised a 'Shoe exhibition and art show' at the Interpretive Centre and with Kerrie Kruger has a book and display on 'The hotels of Meredith' ready to go.

Interest in art developed when Marg's granddaughter Izy came for regular Saturday visits. This allowed her to 'be a kid again and play all day'. Remnants of these days - beautiful, colourful feather duster dolls and numerous decorations/adornments - brighten the shelves of Marg's history room. Izy was a regular attendee with Marg at the Art Group where Marg continued her artistic endeavours. She 'can't draw realistically' but loves free form and abstract styles, creating art for fun and would describe her work as experimental, abstract expressionist. Currently Marg is using Yupo paper with alcohol ink for its unexpected nature. Computer painting is something new she is trying and is opening up a whole range of possibilities. Marg is energetic, busy and always looking for new challenges and not afraid take them on head first!



*If you are a creative, and would like to share your story, please let us know. (Or maybe you know someone creative in the district.)*



## Our Cover

David Whelan's stunning photo of one of our most attractive birds, the Sacred Kingfisher, taken on Eclipse Road, makes a glorious end-of-year cover. You can see more of David's work on page 24 and at [wildpix.com.au](http://wildpix.com.au).



Why not share your favourite pics with us? You might even make the front page.

# IS YOUR SOLAR FEED-IN TARIFF BEING CUT BACK?

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## Church News



**Anglican** Parish of Inverleigh, Bannockburn, Meredith

Services have recommenced each Sunday:

St Paul's Inverleigh 9.00am  
 St John's Bannockburn 11.00am  
 Epiphany Meredith 5.00 pm  
 Enquiries: Rev. Tim Smith - 0412 673152

### Meredith Uniting Church

Services have recommenced. 11.00 am 2nd Sunday each month. Enquiries: Rev. Carlynne Nunn 0409 285182

**Catholic Archdiocese of Australia** Elaine - 5341 5544  
 Serbian Orthodox - 5341 5568



Meredith Uniting Church

**CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

**Thursday 24th December, 10pm**

Everyone is most welcome



Be MERRY

### St Joseph's Catholic Parish of Meredith

Parish Priest: Fr Charles Balnaves 0417 319556  
 Office 5296 1230. Office open Wed & Fri 9:30am to 4:30 pm

Masses have resumed inside with some limitations on numbers. When needed Mass will be celebrated outside to accommodate numbers.

For the period till New Year, regular Mass times are given below. Mass times in 2021 should be similar but check with the parish (ph 5286 1230). Note: the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is available before or after any Mass or by appointment.

#### Regular Masses:

**Saturday:** Winchelsea St John the Baptist Church 5 Mercer Street 5:00 pm

#### Sunday:

- Bannockburn St Mary MacKillop Church 4 High Street 9:00 am
- Anakie St Brigid's Church 2439 Ballan Road 11:00 am
- Meredith St Joseph's Church 28 Lawler St 1:00 pm

**Monday:** No Mass

**Tuesday:** Bannockburn St Mary MacKillop Church 24 High Street 9:00 am

**Wednesday** Meredith St Joseph's Church 28 Lawler St 11:00 am

**Thursday:** Mass in school

**Friday:** Meredith St Joseph's Church 28 Lawler St 11:00 am

#### Christmas / New Year Masses:

**Sunday 13th Dec** Inverleigh Sacred Heart Church 70 High St 4:00 pm

#### Thursday 24th Dec – Christmas Eve

- Bannockburn St Mary MacKillop Church 24 High Street 6:00 pm
- Meredith St Joseph's Church 28 Lawler Street 9:00 pm

#### Friday 25th December – Christmas Day

Winchelsea St John the Baptist Church 5 Mercer St 8:30 am

Bannockburn St Mary MacKillop Church 24 High St 10:00 am

#### Friday 1st January 2021 – New Years Day

Bannockburn St Mary MacKillop Church 24 High Street 9:00 am

#### Other Sacraments:

Reconciliation, anointing, Baptism, Matrimony, Funerals: call 5286 1230 for details.

Sacramental program (Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation) will be operating. Call the office on 5286 1230 for details/timing/enrolment.



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- Cyber Crime & Liability
- Management Liability Insurance

OFFICE: 31 ARMSTRONG STREET SOUTH, BALLARAT VIC 3350

PHONE: 03 5333 5222

WWW.BALLARATINSURANCEBROKERS.COM.AU

AFSL: 241365

It's Free, it's Local and it's our Community

So pop along and check out  
**Christmas in Meredith**  
corner of Staughton & Wallace St  
proudly brought to you by the small team at  
Advance Meredith Association  
supported by St Joseph's Parish.  
Then go for wander and see if you can find  
the Christmas Sheep out grazing all over  
Meredith.

REJOICE  
AND BE GLAD

*Merry Christmas!*

## Landcare News



For more information about this program visit: <https://landcareaustralia.org.au/landcarefarming/about-landcare-farming/>

### COVER CROPPING IN SOUTH WEST VICTORIA

#### Maude *Lex Stray*

How are your rabbits? Not too well I hope! But in case they are fighting fit and numerous, and breeding like, well, rabbits, you may be interested in the news that the Maude & District Landcare Group is planning to hold our next rabbit poisoning campaign in February 2021. We feel that we should be able to run the usual campaign safely under the present COVID restrictions, but if it proves too difficult, then we will have to rethink our plans.

As usual, it will be run electronically, but you can give us a call if you want to speak to a real person. The dates are Friday, 5th February, Monday 8th February and Thursday 11th February 2021. We do not have the details of costs yet, but if you get in contact at [maudeanddistrictlandcare@gmail.com](mailto:maudeanddistrictlandcare@gmail.com) or call Elaine Johns, 5281 9395, or Lex Stray, 5281 91293, details will soon be available regarding costs.

Please note that you must come to Maude to pick up your bait on all three days. We will be using Pindone poisoned carrot only.

#### Bamganie-Meredith *Nerida Anderson*

##### NEW LANDCARE FARMING PROGRAM

Landcare Australia, supported by the National Landcare Network through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, has launched a new Landcare Farming Program. The aim of the program is to help farmers build resilience to a changing climate by increasing awareness, knowledge and participation in the adoption of best practice. The program will do this by strengthening connections between Landcare, researchers and the agriculture sector, providing farmers with a means to easily access and connect with university and industry-led research and extension programs. The program will provide producers with partnership opportunities, tools and resources to help build more climate resilient enterprises.

Six themes have been developed to help identify and align the right research and resources with Australian producers. The themes focus on maintaining and improving soil, water health and/or improve biodiversity outcomes and include vegetation, managing pasture, managing carbon flows, building drought resilience, increased biodiversity and farm business management skills.

Cover cropping is the practice of growing a crop as ground cover to protect the soil during periods when the ground would otherwise be bare or fallow. Establishing a cover crop helps protect the top soil from erosion, suppresses weeds, increases water infiltration, slows evaporation and can improve soil carbon and soil nitrogen. At the same time cover crops can provide valuable feed for livestock in summer and autumn, while also supporting beneficial insects and pollinators.

Two webinars focusing on cover cropping in south west Victoria are now available to view on you-tube. Facilitated by Karen O'Keefe, the Corangamite CMS's Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator, the webinars discuss learnings and farmer findings for cover cropping for the 2020 season. For more information about cover cropping and links to the webinars go to the Corangamite CMA website and follow the links to: What we do – Sustainable agriculture – Current projects.

##### NEXT MEETING

This has been a very quiet year for the Bamganie and Meredith District Landcare Group due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Planning is now underway for a more invigorated 2021. In the meantime, we wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to launching our new program in the February Meredith Newsletter. If you would like more information about the group please see our Facebook page or contact us at [meredithlandcare@gmail.com](mailto:meredithlandcare@gmail.com).





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- Fence contracting per hour OR per metre (all materials available in store)

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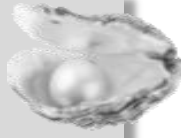
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## Acceptance

Much like the weather, I've realised that the impact of age has suddenly become the default topic for people of similar ages to myself.

I'm not sure when talking about the impending heat wave or rain being good for the garden was replaced by the need to point out that something you used to be able to do doesn't come so easily anymore. Or that you slept funny and haven't been able to turn your head properly for four days.

Perhaps it makes it more personal? Strangers can talk about the weather, but acquaintances can talk about their imminent existential crisis or experiences of nostalgia? Whatever the reason, these conversations have highlighted things that I need to accept on account of the fact that I am approaching a time when

"I genuinely want socks for Christmas."

it is unacceptable not to identify as a 'proper' adult:

In the same vein as hurting yourself in your sleep, I've discovered that I can no longer stay up into the wee hours of the morning with friends without feeling sub-par the next day. Even without the late-night chinwags, waking up every morning seems to start with a quick body scan: why do I feel like rubbish? Did I drink? No. Did I have a poor sleep? No. Then why do I feel like I've crawled through a desert and slept on a rock? Just because.

Feeling morally superior because I chose to go to the dentist instead of being forced to go is something I apparently do now. Getting on top of your health before something is wrong now feels like an accomplishment worthy of bragging to family and friends.

Items that I used to have when I was a child are now being sold at 'vintage' markets with eyewatering price tags. I am still unable to reconcile the fact that these items are really decades old and might actually be valuable, and instead explain it away by labelling the stall holders as swindlers.

I genuinely want socks for Christmas.

8pm is too late to start a movie.

I'm running low on embarrassing old photos to post on friends' Facebook pages for their birthdays because I've used most of them over the course of 10-15 years. This photo-birthday trend also makes you realise that some of these images are literally from half your age ago.

Coffee stains on teeth is now a legitimate fear.

Whether we can start to accept the changes age brings to our lives or not, I guess the more we recognise them and see the funny side, the more we have to talk about? Or maybe it's just time to find new acquaintances.

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## Looking to the Future

Reading the Saturday Paper last week, as I worked my way through stories on Refugees incarcerated for 11 years and Federal Ministerial malfeasance AGAIN. A separate lift out fell from the centre pages. It was titled "What Matters to Young Australians?" I flipped it open.

The few pages presented several short works written by school age children on some serious topics. They were winners in a writing competition sponsored by the Whitlam Institute at Western Sydney University. Lisa Wilkinson as Patron presented the works. Only a few of the winners had been printed in the lift out, but the other entries are available to read at [whitlam.org/what matters](http://whitlam.org/what matters).

These young writers were tackling the big issues in their writings: Aged Care, Indigenous Child Suicide, and even Digging Wells in Third World Countries. Very impressive work and I recommend them to you. These are certainly signs of hope for the future, a future that will belong to these young stars.

If you are a young person interested in writing, you can get more information on next year's National Writing Competition by contacting [info@whitlam.org](mailto:info@whitlam.org).

Steve Goat

## Walkers of Meredith

When Julie Jury and Marina Podnar were photographed they were on a circuitous walk to Tai Chi in Pioneer Park. This exercise has continued throughout Covid 19 for free in the park. They walk every day for half an hour to forty minutes. They vary their route often taking the Ibis Walk along Coolebarghurk Creek but avoid the corner of Wilson and Wallace Street when the magpie is swooping. They walk to maintain their fitness and Julie says walking helps improve her balance. She often leads her dog but he gets sick of being on a lead for longer than about forty minutes.




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Cathie and her dog Whisky go for a walk most days, except when it is very hot or wet.

As Whisky has just had his thirteenth birthday, their walks are much slower and shorter than in the past.

However, Whisky is still very keen to go for a walk, and gets excited when Cathie gets the lead out. Hopefully, he will still be able to walk for a long time to come.





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Most of us are familiar with the children's picture book 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle. In this story, the caterpillar hatches out of his egg on a warm sunny morning, then has to hunt for food. He eats through an apple, pears, plums, strawberries and oranges, before sampling a range of human foods which give him a stomach ache. The next morning, he feels much better after eating a nice green leaf. One week after hatching, he is no longer hungry. He is a big fat caterpillar, who builds himself a cocoon. More than two weeks later, he emerges as a beautiful butterfly.

While the life-cycle in the story, of egg, caterpillar, cocoon and butterfly is accurate, what about the details? Do caterpillars have to search for their meals, and do they eat such a wide variety of foods? What happened inside the cocoon, to turn the big fat green caterpillar into a slender butterfly with beautiful coloured wings? What will he do next? What journey have the butterflies in my garden been on, and what happens to them now?

Outside, some species of butterflies are visiting flowers. A butterfly will pause at one, uncurl its long straw-like mouthparts and suck up nectar, before curling up its straw and flying to a neighbouring flower. While doing this, it spreads pollen from one flower to the next, a service which butterflies provide to plants in return for a meal. Other species of butterflies eat little, relying on the energy they stored as a caterpillar. These butterflies may only live for a week or two, while those that feed regularly may survive for months.

The main aim of the butterfly's life is to reproduce. To do this, they need to avoid predators, such as birds, spiders, praying mantises and lizards, and find a mate. In some species, male butterflies seek females which have recently emerged from their cocoon and have not yet mated. In other species, butterflies find mates by hill-topping. As The Very Hungry Caterpillar was a male, he may have joined other males patrolling a particular hilltop to which the males in the surrounding area are attracted every year. The females visit them there, to choose a mate. After she has mated with one of the males, a female leaves. She goes in search of the right type of plant on which to lay her eggs. When she finds one that will be good for her caterpillars to eat, she may perch on a leaf, curve her abdomen under it, and glue a single egg to its underside, before moving on to another leaf, or she may lay a cluster of eggs on a stem of the plant. The eggs she lays, will have ribs or spikes and a colour, which are distinctive for her species.

Unlike the caterpillar in the story, the larvae which hatch from her eggs will not have to hunt for their food. First, they will eat the egg from which they hatch, then the plant that they are on. This is the only species of plant that they will eat, and if they leave it, they will either starve or not develop properly. These young caterpillars, like the one in the story, eat and eat and eat, and like him, they are soon

much bigger. However, they are not ready to build a cocoon. Instead, they shed their skin. They now have a new skin with room to grow. Each caterpillar will do this four or five times. When it is ready to pupate, it will make a pad of silk on a stem or the underside of a leaf, attach itself, and either build a cocoon of silk around itself, or shed its skin again to reveal a pupa.

Inside the pupa or cocoon, strange things happen. Most of the caterpillar dissolves into liquid. In this liquid are discs, one for each part of the butterfly's body, such as its legs, wings, mouthparts and eyes. Around these discs, the body parts form. It may take two weeks or longer, depending on the species of butterfly and the weather. When it emerges from its pupa, its wings are soft. They are pumped full of liquid to harden, and then, away flies a beautiful butterfly!

'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' is a fun and colourful book designed to teach young children the life-cycle of the butterfly. After reading the book, go outside and look for butterflies and caterpillars. What do real caterpillars in your garden like to eat, and what colours can you see on the butterflies' wings?

*Wendy*

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## 2020 The Covid Year

*Doris Robinson*

This year started out just like any other, but who could have imagined what was in store.

We started the year with a trip to Western Australia in February to visit our grandchildren. After a couple of weeks with them the first news broke about a virus outbreak which had originated in China. My son and his partner would come home every night from the hospital (where they both work) with more news on how things were getting worse. At first we were sure it would be over quickly and we were making jokes about how we might not be able to go back home and have to quarantine in a tent in their backyard. Little did we know how rapidly our life would change. After we'd only been back for a few days WA closed their borders. Shortly after that Victoria started measures trying to keep this virus under control and we still thought this would be over soon.

Lockdown was introduced and we could only leave our home for valid reasons. At first this was actually quite enjoyable in a surreal sort of way. Jobs around the house got done, cupboards cleaned out and wardrobes sorted. But, after a while, we started missing our family and 'hanging out' with friends. It was hard not even being able to see our daughter, who had moved to Melbourne to be close to us. We saw her for the last time in March and this week was the first time we were able to catch up with her and her fiancé. Seeing grandchildren on FaceTime is just not quite the same as the real thing - you can't cuddle and kiss on a screen! I guess we should call ourselves lucky to have this way of connecting. I think for me the hardest thing this year was not being able to see family and friends and not even being able to go out for a casual cup of coffee. I can't begin to even imagine what it must have been like during the world wars when you couldn't see your loved ones for years.

Certainly we didn't spend much money on clothes or at local markets this year. Instead we spent a lot of time in Nurseries and at Bunnings. Our garden has never looked this good.

It was also very hard on me not to be able to attend church on a regular basis. We had to celebrate mass via Facebook which, again, was not quite the same but it certainly helped in getting through this hard year.

One thing I am certain of though is that it has changed my outlook on life. Many people have been kinder to each other and we can only hope that this will continue even after things get better.

I know we've had a hard year with Covid, but when you look at the rest of the world we should be grateful and proud about how we've handled this pandemic.

I'm looking forward to a Merry Christmas although it will not be with the whole family as originally planned. We look forward to being reunited with friends and family in other states and overseas.

## A Coffee Van

*Marg Cooper*

Pauline and Dean from Lal Lal had an idea for a new business. Pauline was experienced in hospitality having worked at Ruby's Café at Federation University. She liked baking and mocha coffee and, as well, had completed a business course. Dean was a fitter and turner by trade but is a general handy man. They originally considered converting a horse float to house their business but bought the shell of a generic food van from China. It was then fitted out with water tanks, shelving, a coffee machine and grinder and then painted and decorated.

The shape of the van (a domed bread loaf shape) exactly suited a gypsy theme so Pauline sewed, painted and decorated it in bright colours. However, their son, who is a graphic artist, thought the decorations suited an ice-cream van! He suggested that, if they wanted to be recognized seriously for their coffee, they had to redecorate in timber and black - but the plants stayed on the front and the Mexican tiles behind the sink!

A display of flour sifters on the shelves represents their business name "Sifted Cake & Coffee". Their mission is to present high quality food using local products served with a smile and a friendly hello.

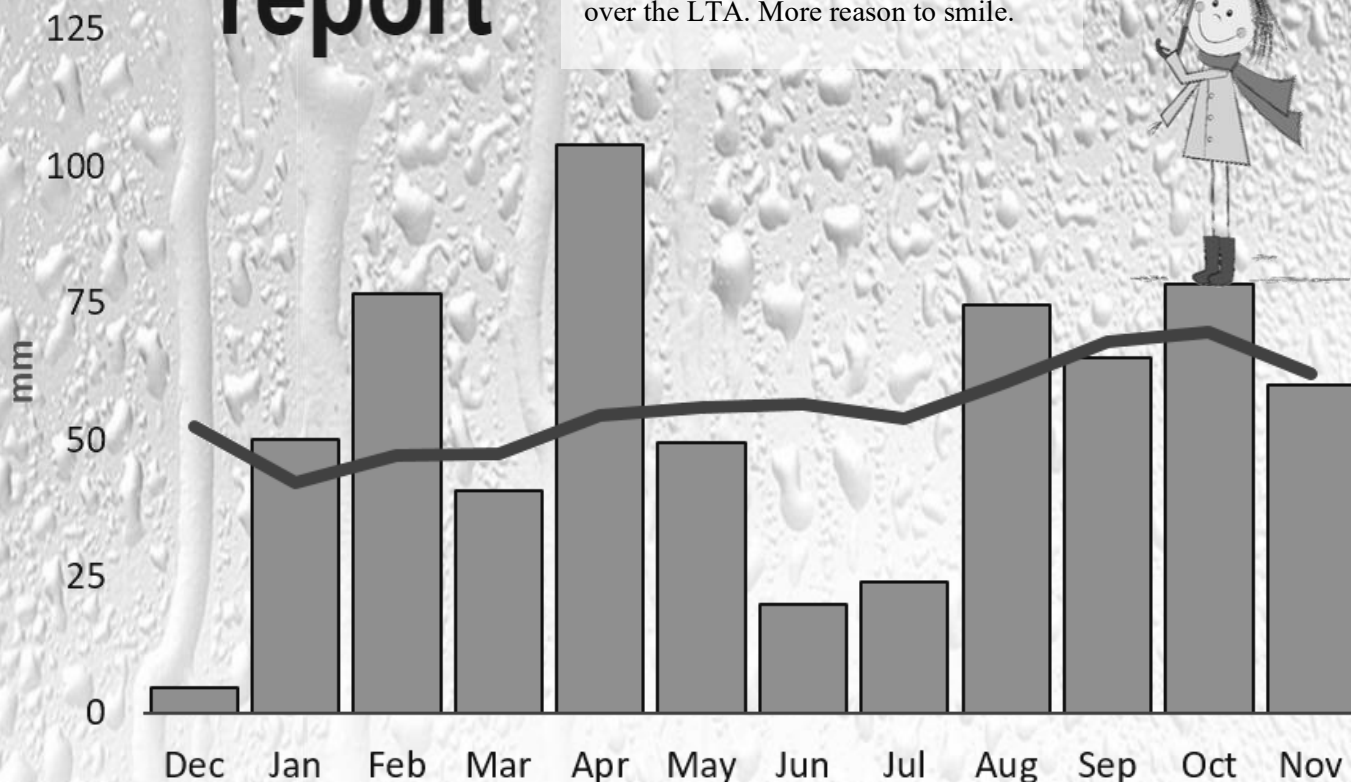
Pauline and Dean started the business at the end of 2018 and although Covid 19 has slowed them down over the last few months, they have taken their van to many different scenarios. At Meredith they enjoyed selling at Steel Art before the café opened and at the Community Centre for an event. In Elaine they've been at the Farmgate Shop and supplying food to the men building the wind towers. Whilst in Lal Lal they were located at the Pub and the Falls. Caravan Parks, Gyms and Markets were venues used in Ballarat and they served at Ballan Vintage Rally. They also attend special events.

Pauline and Dean love meeting people and are as bright as their amazing coffee van.



# the rain report

November's rain was 2mm short of the long term average (LTA) so Rain Girl has kept her smile. But a big round of applause for the 23rd, when nearly 50mm of that fell. And in another close call, spring registered 204mm, just 4mm over the LTA. More reason to smile.



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## Vasili's Garden

*Marg Cooper*

Vasili is living the dream in Lethbridge. He is involved in a business about which he is passionate! It was set up so he can work, for the most part, from the beautiful serene environment of his home surrounded by other family members who are also involved.

Vasili's father Ilias Kanidiadis arrived in Melbourne in 1962 to reunite with his teenage sweetheart Elini from Greece. The family lived in Coburg and in 1966 they opened their first fish and chip shop. They had three children Sue, Vasili and George.

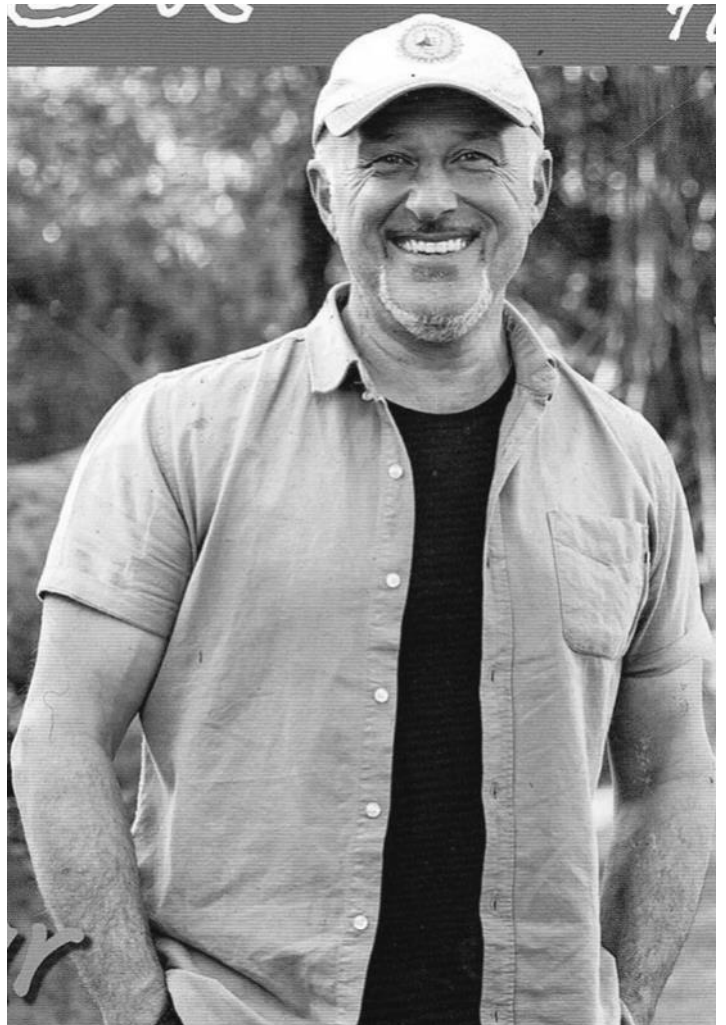
At university Vasili studied structural engineering and when designing an extension to a garden centre he had a "light bulb experience". He decided to set up his own garden centre. Using his engineering experience, he then travelled Victoria examining the design of garden centres and taking photos of what worked and what didn't work.

In 1993 when Vasili was only 20 years old, he and his father opened Munro Street Nursery in Coburg, on the property that was once also the site of their family home. The business did well and they expanded. Vasili had grown up surrounded by the gardens of enthusiastic European gardeners, who often bought the house next door to where they lived, knocked the house down and planted more garden. But he thought he should get some qualifications, so he enrolled at Burnley to do a Horticulturist Course. The pace was slow and steady so he quit and fast tracked the course at home using the assigned texts.

His media career started when his friend Ross offered him a half hour spot on radio, talking about gardening. Vasili had never presented before, was somewhat nervous but the show "hit a nerve" and he gained a lot of followers. Next they made a TV Show. A man who had never used a camera was teed up and they travelled around visiting private gardens and talking to the owners. This formula was very entertaining and inspiring and more radio and television followed.

Vasili says his four children were born into TV and they are now his production team. His son is the Producer, his eldest daughter is a Presenter, his next daughter does voice over and his youngest daughter is the Managing Director. Together they produce a half hour show for television each week. As well, Vasili writes a blog for members of 'Vasili's Garden to Kitchen Club' and they produce a short video each morning. They produce an informative, attractive quarterly magazine and books. A lot of contractors and a huge support team are involved in manufacturing and distributing Vasili's garden products.

Vasili expounds what may be termed "old fashioned" principles. He listens to what people say, doesn't script his productions, shares failures and successes and promotes organic gardening and healthy eating. The program doesn't show only pristine gardens and he involves his family (including the star of the show, his Mamma) in his business. His motto is 'people, real gardens and real food'. Equally important is 'recycle, re-purpose and re-claim'. He also works hard. Vasili calls it his 'song and dance'.



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*Pictured (left to right): Clayton Whitfield, Helena Kirby, Brett Cunningham, Owen Sharkey, Gavin Gamble, Les Rowe and Ian Getsom.*

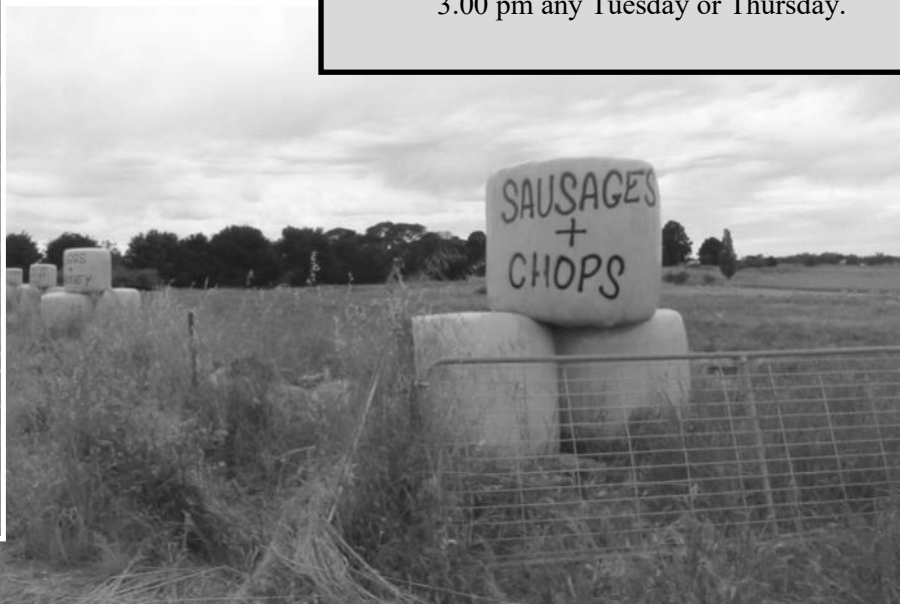
Cr. Kirby has been elected mayor and Cr. Getsom the Deputy Mayor.

*From Media Release*

**Moorabool**  
 The new Moorabool Shire Mayor is Cr Tom Sullivan and Deputy Mayor Cr Rod Ward.

## Entrepreneurial Chops

Mark and Simone Dunn have demonstrated their entrepreneurial flair in building up a thriving business from their Farm Gate Shop in Elaine. It's on show again in these arresting signs south of the town. Dozens of bales of silage have been stacked along their fence line and lettered to promote the shop's many offerings. And to wish all passing motorists a Merry Xmas.



## Stories if COVID

The Meredith History Interest Group wants to collect residents' stories about how this year's Covid restrictions impacted on them as individuals, families, community groups or businesses. You are invited to take part by writing a story, a poem or a report; making a video or audio recording, a painting or drawing or taking photos.

How did you cope? Funny happenings. Frustrations. Reflections. What surprised you? What do you like/dislike? What did you learn? Have you or how you live changed?

Send your submissions to [meredithhistoryinterstgroup@gmail.com](mailto:meredithhistoryinterstgroup@gmail.com), post to 31 Staughton Street, Meredith or drop it in between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm any Tuesday or Thursday.







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## Are You Summer Ready?

Living in the country brings an awareness of the challenges of summer. But it remains important to renew our focus each year on those actions and behaviours critical to our safety. So visit [cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare) to take a refresher course on your summer readiness.



### Am I at risk?

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### Leave early

Leaving early is the safest option to protect yourself and your family. But what does it mean?

## Snakes

### Some wise words about snake avoidance

Make your house and property less attractive to snakes. Remove any debris or woodpiles, cut back long grass and shrubbery, remove leaf litter and block any holes around the outside of your house that may look like a safe spot to hide.

Keep pests under control. Rodents are a good food source for snakes – less food means less snakes.

Bird aviaries and chook pens can be very attractive to snakes. Keep your enclosure secure, clean and free of rodents. Ensure you have a fine mesh or shade cloth around the outside of any aviary so our snake friends don't get stuck in the wire.

Keep your pets safe. Unfortunately, our pets don't deter snakes. If possible, keep cats inside (and protect our native wildlife in the process), and snake avoidance training for dogs can literally be a life saver.

Check twice (if you can do so safely!). Often, blue-tongue lizards and other lizard species get mistaken for their long lost snake cousins. Lizards are a gardeners' best friend and are a welcome visitor in your yard. Legs, ears, eyelids and a broad tongue are good indicators that you've got a mini, snail destroying Godzilla in your yard.

Call a professional. Never attempt to catch or kill a snake. This is illegal and snakes are incredibly important to the local ecosystem. There are a lot of great snake catchers who will safely and humanly relocate your new friend.

Snake identification can be tricky. A snake that is brown in colour may not be an eastern brown snake. If someone does get bitten by a snake, it is not necessary to catch or kill the snake first. Perform first aid and go straight to the hospital. If the bite is from a venomous snake, the hospital can test the bite site to determine who the culprit is and treat the patient accordingly.

Stay up to date with current snake bite first aid for humans and pets and keep a snake bite kit on hand. If you still think sucking the venom from a snake bite is the correct first aid, it might be time for a refresher...


Lastly, if you are ever lucky enough to see one of our scaled friends, don't panic. Back away to a safe distance. Your unexpected visitor will move on because, contrary to popular belief, snakes don't want anything to do with people. A snake will only bite if it feels threatened; they are much smaller than we are and a bite or a strike is their only defence if they can't get away first.

Source: [www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/wildlife/2017/11/snake-safety-tips/](http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/wildlife/2017/11/snake-safety-tips/)

### And a reminder, if you should get bitten by a snake...

1. Call an ambulance immediately. ...
2. Don't panic and don't move. ...
3. Leave the **snake** alone. ...
4. Apply a pressure immobilisation bandage and splint. ...
5. Don't wash, suck, cut or tourniquet the **bite**.

Source, and more information: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/news-events/news/what-to-do-if-you-get-bitten-by-a-snake>



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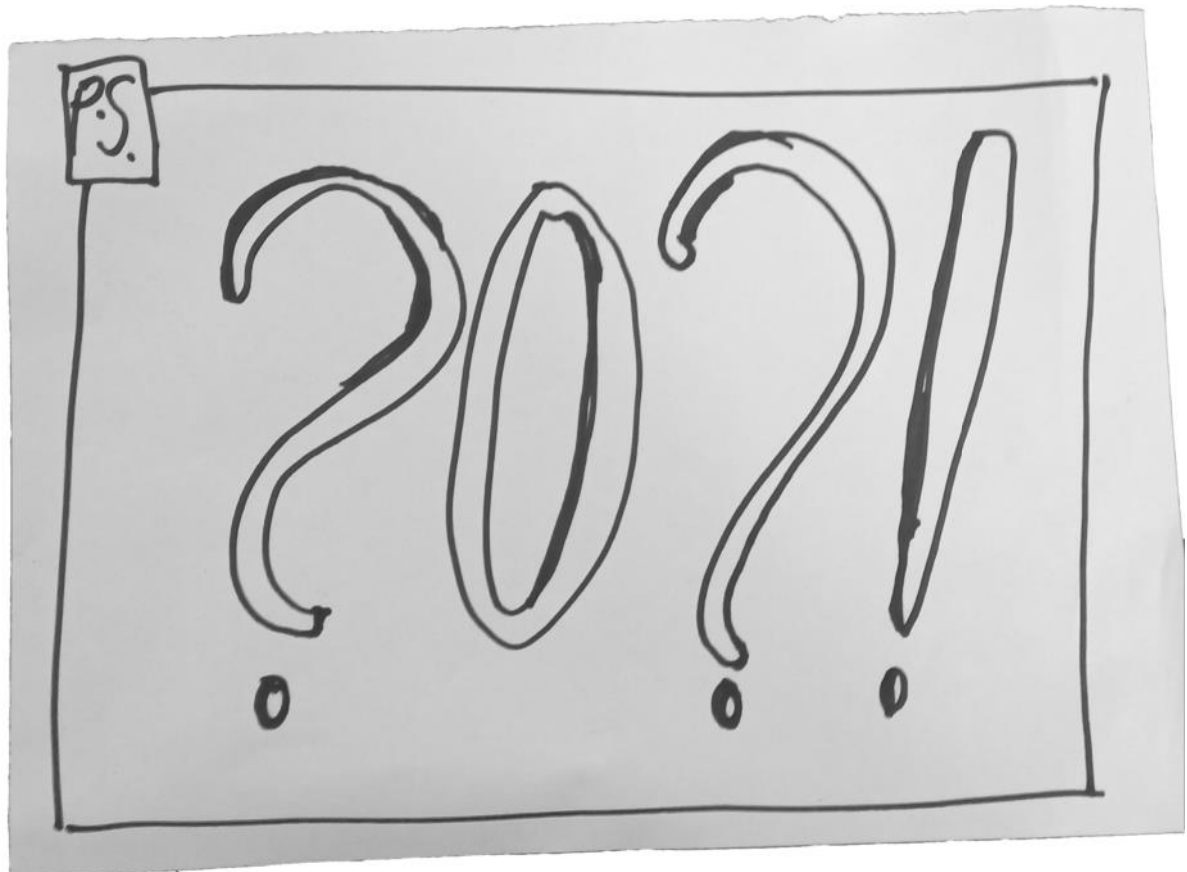
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## Marg's BOOK REVIEW

### “The Chemistry of Tears” by Peter Carey

It's a novel that will amuse or challenge some and frustrate others.

Catherine Gehrig is a middle-aged horologist working in the Swinburne Museum in London. For the last 13 years she has been in love with her married colleague, Matthew Tindall, and when he suddenly dies she is distraught. Her boss, Eric Croft, moves her to the museum annexe and gives her a recent acquisition to assemble. He gives her a box of intricate clockwork parts which appear to be the remains of a nineteenth-century automaton: a complex mechanical toy but also a beautiful mechanical bird. Croft hopes that Catherine will be led towards recovery by the task. She slowly becomes entranced by the story contained in the diaries of the man who commissioned the machine and the reconstruction of the duck/swan that ingests fish, digests, excretes and repeats.

Catherine states “it has been tantalizing to stare through a glass darkly, to see or intuit what had taken place in Furtwangen so long ago. One learned to live with fuzziness and ambiguity in a way one never would in life.” It seems to her that the diaries have been written especially for Catherine's eyes, for her alone to read. While reading about the attempts to construct a mechanical toy that would appear practically alive Catherine feels herself turning into a machine; ingest, digest, excrete and repeat.

The story is told in sections that alternate with Catherine's own story and Henry Brandling's story. When Henry's son fell ill and all the usual Victorian therapies had failed, Henry became convinced that a foreign entertainment might heal him. So Henry travelled to Furtwangen in Germany and commissioned the duck just like the one Vaucanson had constructed a century before. It seems that this may have been the start of mechanics and computers.

One review describes ‘how, through the clockwork bird, Henry and Catherine confront the mysteries of creation, the power of human invention and the body's astonishing chemistry of love and feeling’. Another review explores the idea that ‘the novel is awash with grief, some of it Carey's; for the breathless faith in our own perfectibility that has degenerated into environmental disaster. Perhaps that is the origin of Carey's title, these days we really do weep chemical tears.’

Peter Carey's books are never easy to read. This book seems to be a box of intricate clockwork parts that the reader puts together: magic, love, madness and science .

## The church (St Joseph's Parish) and Covid-19

I feel odd talking about “the church under lock-down” when I can only really talk about our experiences as the St Joseph's Catholic Parish of Meredith, but here goes.

Just before Easter 2020! Diane, Mary, Denise and I were sitting in St Joseph's Church, in Meredith, finalising plans for the major Easter ceremonies: how would we cater for the three hundred people across the parish who would participate and how would we make this celebration of Christ's death and resurrection special.

As my memory tells me, we had just finished when heard for sure that we would be going into lock-down. Easter services would consist of myself and no more than four others. Isolation!

Jesus Christ spent his days going around the towns of what is now Israel, gathering people together. In towns, in the open, by the lake, on mountain sides, around the dinner table. Jesus is intrinsically communal: and now we were not allowed to be together at the most important moment of the church year.

But! As I found, though not to my surprise, people are loving and creative and willing to act.

We started calling around checking on people, saying hi. Though our lists are woefully out of date (a fault we are correcting) we contacted something like two hundred people directly who also talked to people they knew. We live-streamed prayer/Mass using ‘simple’ technology (my phone or iPad via Facebook) and were able to share the celebration of Mass, often with a direct audience of 40 and up to 400 views sometimes at the depths of lock-down. We sent letters to people we knew were especially affected. We prayed. We held funerals – though because of lock-down other winter illnesses were reduced and funeral numbers have been down, way way down. We delivered food / hampers when needed, though this was far less needed than we anticipated (due to Job-keeper/seeker payments I suppose).

We worked with the broader church, seeking to help other churches (though this proved to be limited due to the geographic spread of the parish of Meredith, from Lal Lal to Wurdiboluc / Batesford to Wingeel) – but we tried). And we stayed home and sanitised and sanitised and stayed home. And children shopped for older parents, friends helped friends.

The church under Covid-19 lock-down did what Jesus Christ wanted: it cared, it prayed and it turned prayer into action wherever we found a need. Many of our actions were similar to the actions of those not associated with ‘church’ – but the inspiration for us was the Holy Spirit, calling us to hope and to action. Indeed, that same Spirit is non-denominational and called our whole state / country to act generously and caringly.

During ‘2nd lock-down’ we celebrated Mass outside, under marquees, at temperatures of from 6o to 12o C with wind gusts up to 65 kph. And people came. Often up to the limit of 10 people – day after day. They came wearing parkas and woollen coats and blankets and carrying hot-water bottles. Risking getting drenched when water

suddenly flooded from the roof of the marquee. Nearly frozen on the day it snowed (six inches of snow at our place that day).

I am proud of how our state and country have lived Covid-19 (as opposed to merely stopping) during this year of lock-down. I am even more proud of how St Joseph's Catholic Parish of Meredith showed the Mercy and Compassion and Love that should characterise Christians.

Perfect? No! Clearly disciples of Jesus Christ? Yes! God bless, Fr Charles

And if we missed contacting you or helping you, I am sorry, perhaps call me on 5286 1230 and we can meet / talk / help.

## ADVERTISE with US

Advertising in the Meredith & District Newsletter is a great way to let district residents know about your business.

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See inside front cover for more details.



### MEREDITH CEMETERY TRUST

The Meredith Cemetery Trust is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified members of the community who would be interested in becoming honorary trust members. Women and those from a diverse background are actively encouraged to seek appointment to ensure that the trust's membership accurately reflects the composition of the community it serves.

Cemetery trust members are appointed by the Governor in Council for a term of up to five years and are responsible to the Minister for Health for the proper and efficient management of the public cemeteries under the control of the trust, including the provision of future cemeteries services and the preservation of local history.

Being appointed to a cemetery trust provides successful applicants with a unique opportunity to develop their competencies as a board member. In addition, the Department of Health and Human Services provides free governance training to all trust members.

Current and previous cemetery trust members may apply for reappointment as part of a competitive selection process.

More information about the role of cemetery trust members is available at: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/cemeteries-and-crematoria/cemetery-trust-appointments/class-b-cemetery-trust-appointments>

**To register your interest please contact the Secretary of the Meredith Cemetery Trust as follows within two weeks of the date of this advertisement:**

**p. 5286 1550**

*The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring that government boards and committees reflect the rich diversity of the Victorian community. Applications are welcome from people of all ages, genders and sexual orientations, people with disability, Aboriginal Victorians and Victorians from culturally diverse backgrounds.*

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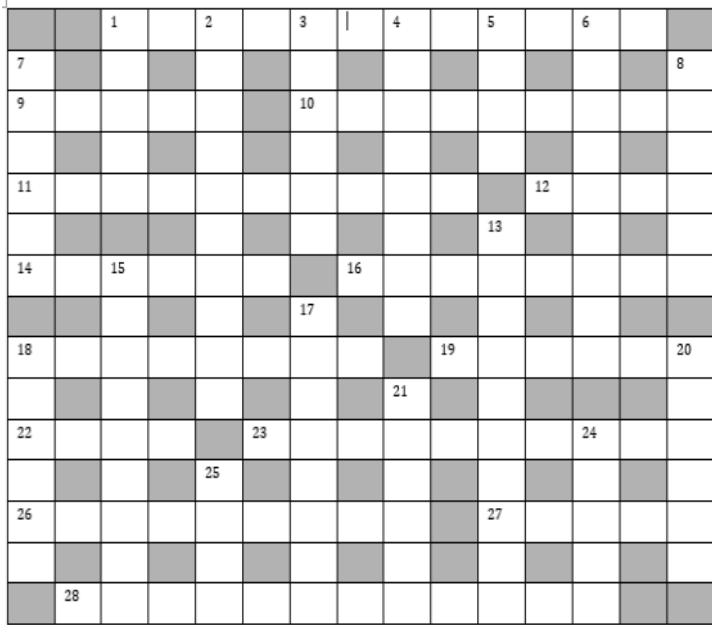
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**ACROSS:**

1. This tabloid: Meredith & \_\_\_\_\_ covering an area of all points of the compass (8,4)
9. Twelve doesn't sound (like a baker's) minus one (5)
10. \*Reluctance to say in Latin "Retro nec, nec iter est" (9)
11. \*Car with repetition difficulty backfiring from engine part which regulates fuel and air mix (U.S spelling) (9)
12. \*Rutting animal regurgitated reed (4)
14. Transfer temporarily to another job coming after the first (6)
16. Ruminants with long necks of fire discovered in bloopers (8)
18. What 15 dn would be as a café with tea and black coffee (Fr.): (4,4)
19. \* Korean Corporation all going back to Sir Henry Bolte's property (6)
22. \*Famous UK college sent back brief letter (4)
23. Noble old city, after hoon trashed it, holding power (British spelling)(10)
26. I guess miner is missing mixture of pavlova and pie toppings (9)
27. \*Square cart taken back to large area of land (5)
28. His 9 ac. is 13's game in Gheringhap locality and road (6,6)

**DOWN:**

1. Not so heavy sleeper suits this heavy machinery (5)
2. Bus running not so well, so suffering from radiation (10)
3. Cheated right or bear right? (6)
4. All-embracing denomination of St Joseph's (8)
5. Jim Elvey's take on CROSS is neat (4)
6. \*Now rising up, Red somewhat full of admiration (9)
7. \*In recession side holds court decrees (6)
8. It's true she ran the Meredith Hotel (6)
13. Measured and allocated 5/9 cover of the balance (10)
15. Institutional watering hole, The Royal, in fact A1 eatery's first order (9)
17. Prints from lino blocks or reprints of loin strap (8)
18. \*Picture theatre's return of "Amen" and "I, Captain" (6)
20. A man's go-between (6)
21. Cat, good hunter, jiffy addict (6)
24. Courageous Indian (5)
25. As soon as you get on with former reference to Meredith's Epiphany church (4)

**The Ploys**

Cryptic setters use several ploys and Graham will explain one each month. Or you can find them all online at [meredithnews.com.au/extras](http://meredithnews.com.au/extras).

Regular font: the definition. *Italics: cryptic support*. Today's cryptic ploy introduced is **REVERSALS** (letters are read from right to left). Nine clues, which include reversals below, are marked \*. Indicators are underlined.

E.g. **Clue:** \*Artist returns to get remuneration. (6) **Solution:** Reward (Artist = drawer. Drawer reversed is reward.) **Indicators:** For across clues: *returns, back, retrospectively, westerly...* For down clues: *up, rising, northerly ...* (See [meredithnews.com.au/extras](http://meredithnews.com.au/extras) for more details and other cryptic ploys.)

**SOLUTIONS:** Across. 1. District News 9. Dozen 10. Reticence 11. Carburator 12. Deer 14. Second 16. Giraffes 18. Café noir 19. Kialla 22. Note 23. Honourable 26. Merlins 27. Tract 28. Bakers Bridge **Down:** 1. Dozer 2. Sunburning 3. Rorted 4. Catholic 5. Nice 6. Wonderful 7. Edicts 8. Hearms 13. Callibrated 15. Cafeteria 17. Lino cuts 18. Cinema 20. Agents 21. Mouser 24. Brave 25. Once

**FEEDBACK WANTED***Media Release*

Golden Plains Shire Council is seeking public feedback on its Draft Community Engagement Policy as part of its commitment to improve how engagement is undertaken by Council.

At its November Meeting on Tuesday, Council endorsed the Draft Community Engagement Policy to go out for public exhibition and feedback from today to 11 January 2021.

As part of new requirements introduced under the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act), all councils are required to adopt and maintain a Community Engagement Policy, and have one adopted on or before 1 March 2021. .

Residents are invited to provide written submissions on the Draft Policy until Thursday, 11 January 2021. Golden Plains Shire locals can have their say on the Draft Community Engagement Policy, by:

- Email to [enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au); or
- Mail to Golden Plains Shire Council, PO Box 111, Bannockburn, VIC 3331.

The Draft Community Engagement Policy is available at [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations). Residents can also request a hard copy of the document at a Council Customer Service Centre at 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn or 19 Heales Street, Smythesdale or by calling 5220 7111.

Council will consider the final documents for adoption at its February 2021 Meeting of Council. For more information about the Draft Community Engagement Policy, email [enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au) or call 5220 7111.

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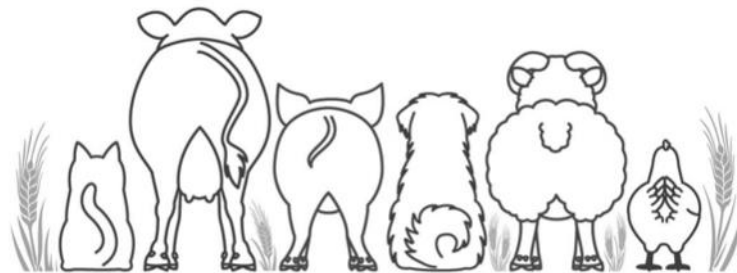
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## Chocolate Peppermint Slice

Serves 16

Prep time 15 min plus 6 hours chilling

### Ingredients

- 1 cup almond meal
- 2 cups desiccated coconut
- ½ cup Dutch cocoa
- ¼ cup honey
- 1/3 cup extra virgin coconut oil, melted
- 1 tsp peppermint essence
- Mint leaves, to garnish, optional

### Chocolate Icing

- ½ cup Dutch cocoa
- ½ cup extra virgin coconut oil, melted
- 2 Tbsp maple syrup

### Method

Grease a slice tin with oil, and line with baking paper.

Put almond meal, coconut, cocoa, honey, coconut oil and essence in the bowl of a food processor and pulse until the mixture comes together. Press firmly into prepared tin to form a smooth surface. Freeze for 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, to make the icing, combine all the ingredients in a small bowl, stirring with a fork until combined, then pour over the slice and chill for 6 hours or overnight. Cut slice into 16 pieces and garnish with mint leaves if desired.

Recipe from – *Better Homes and Gardens Christmas*

Stefania



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## it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

### Annual Meeting:

MHIG propose to hold the Annual Meeting in late March as per usual.

We hope that we are permitted to have a crowd in the History Centre by then.

Please think about MHIG, about events and displays we could hold, people we can involve, information we can source, collect and spread and office bearers.

### Calendar:

The 2021 calendar featuring Doors of Meredith & District has been printed and will be available from MHIG and local shops very soon. The same format has been used as in previous years with photos of different doors decorating the pages for each month. The majestic doors of the History Centre framed in the columns feature on the front cover but there are also religious doors, café doors, towering doors, sombre doors, angelic doors, cupboard doors, back doors and more.

A great keepsake, a great gift, a great useful local item at the low price of \$15.00.

### Street Nursery:

We hope that all the plants that you have bought have grown magnificently. Please keep them watered. We would like to thank all the people who gave us plants to sell and all the people who bought plants in 2020. The money is being used to pay the lawn mower and to keep the grounds neat and tidy.

We have a special Christmas Sale on Saturday, December 5 from 1 pm which will include plants in unusual pots suitable for Christmas Presents.

### Covid 19:

These have been unusual times which we think need to be recorded for history. (Please see our request elsewhere in the Newsletter.)

### Christmas:

We wish everyone all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

## Christmas Crackers



Why was the snowman looking through the carrots? He was picking his nose!

What do you call a bunch of chess players bragging about their games in a hotel lobby? Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!

What did Adam say the day before Christmas?  
"It's Christmas, Eve!"

What carol is heard in the desert? 'O camel ye faithful!'

What is the standard form of measurement in Santa's Workshop?  
Santametres, of course!



### TOWN TALK

The estates of Beremboke, Lindisfern, and Ballark—with the exception of about 1000 acres round the latter homestead—all the property of Mr D.S. Wallace, have been disposed of for the respectable sum of £101,000, the purchasers being a syndicate of which Mr James Mirams is the visible head. It will be remembered that negotiations were entered into some months ago with the hon. T. Bent, and an arrangement arrived at for the sale of the same properties. For some reason or other, Mr Bent allowed the transaction to fall through. Had he not done so, Mr Wallace would be between £18,000 and £20,000 the poorer man now, he having realised that amount over and above the amount agreed upon with Mr Bent.

*Geelong Advertiser 25 June 1888*

### Ford Garage for Meredith:

*A start is being made with the building of the new Ford Service Station which is being erected on the main road in Meredith.*

*From Geelong Advertiser, July 29, 1925.*

### Petrol Supplies:

*For the first-time petrol in bulk was delivered in Meredith during last week when Mr Graham had his bowser filled from the large motor truck.*

*From: Geelong Advertiser, November 4, 1925.*

### BALLAN SHIRE COUNCIL.

T.J. Michell, rabbit inspector, reported that active measures are still being taken in connection with rabbit destruction. Mr D.S. Wallace is getting the wire netting put *all* round his estate. There is no person in charge of the land lately purchased by Mr Mirams at Ballark or Berem-boke, and in consequence it has not been possible to serve fresh notices.

*The Ballarat Star 18 July 1888*



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## Gorse Control

Janene Schillier

### Part 2 of 4 Planning the Attack

Walking on foot is a good way of finding where your gorse has germinated. Larger infestations or older large bushes can be seen easily without walking. This month will look at planning your attack on gorse at your property and surrounds. Getting a plan is a good start with the idea of halting the seed bank as soon as possible and getting access to the area if large. There can be up to 40,000 gorse seeds or 400 million seeds per hectare under a mature gorse bush at any one time. They are mainly in the top 2.5 cm of the soil but can be down to 15cm. Establishment does not occur from more than 8cm depth.

Gorse has a wide range of impacts, from land use reduction to fire risk as it is highly inflammable. It invades native vegetation and reduces carrying capacity significantly and prevents movement of stock. Around 10% of gorse seed in the soil germinates at a given site in a given year. Assuming no new seed input to the soil, it would take 30 years for a typical gorse seed bank at a site to decline to 1000 seeds per square metre. If the annual germination rate increased to 50% at the same site soil seed would reduce to near zero after 10 years. 99% germination of soil seed per year at the same site would eliminate soil seed after only four years.

These figures have implications for management because some gorse control methods can increase germination above the natural 10% level. Fire may cause 50% germination in soil seed depleting the soil seed bank and turning seeds into seedlings which are then vulnerable to follow up control. (Follow up is essential once any control plan is implemented).

- ◆ Define problem areas - make a map.
- ◆ Determine priorities - easier areas, upstream infestations, uphill & downhill areas on slopes.
- ◆ Determining spread, effects on neighbours, burning hazards / seasonal considerations.
- ◆ Decide on a financial plan for each year (a lot can be done by the landholder by deciding on the attack).
- ◆ Schedule plan and stick to the follow up.

It is encouraging to see results by starting with small areas - stopping the gorse from seeding is a great start. Observation at flowering time around September / October allows you to see where the gorse is and attack the young plants before the seeds form. More about this is next month's contribution on carrying out the plan.

*Helpful website : Victorian Gorse Taskforce - podcast of Introduction to Gorse zoomed on 24 November 2020 plus other resources and strategies.*

*Reference: Gouldthorpe.J (2009) Gorse National Best Practice Manual (Second Edition) Department of Primary Industries and Water Tasmania*

## Thank You Grass Cutters

Among the volunteers who form the Meredith Police Paddocks Support Group, are those who, this time of the year, wrangle the heavy duty mower around over 2 kms of tracks so that visitors have an easy walk around this beautiful reserve. Foremost among them is Doug McFarlane, who does most of this work, and to a very high standard. On behalf of the site's many visitors, Thank you Grass Cutters.

AS A LITTLE GIRL CLIMBED ONTO SANTA'S LAP. SANTA ASKED THE USUAL. "AND WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FOR CHRISTMAS?"

THE CHILD STARED AT HIM OPEN MOUTHED AND HORRIFIED FOR A MINUTE. THEN GASPED: "DIDNT YOU GET MY E-MAIL?"



THE  
THINGS  
WE SAY

GEMMA HANAN

## Keen as mustard

This may just challenge everything you thought you knew. We all have a tub of Keen's mustard or curry powder in the back of our cupboards, ready for Tuesday's curried sausages – but contrary to popular belief, this brand isn't the origin for this saying. Meaning to be enthusiastic, as keen as mustard's first usage appears in 1672, decades before Keen & Sons was founded. Being as eager as a condiment came about because of the association of vigour with the zest and flavour mustard gives to food.

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*Keerie Krueger*

As I write this, we can travel again, borders are opening up, venues increasing capacity and people are speaking of 'freedom'. But it is only another step on the long and ever-changing path of attaining a new normal.

So, after being home for months except for trips to Ballarat for essentials, do I want to venture out? Yes, as far as a cuppa catch up with friends, to reconnect with my 'tribe', Nick being able to hang out with his mates and both Pete & Nick to get back to CFA training.

As to Christmas holiday plans I think we will be staying close to home, who says you must getaway to have a holiday? So, starting with Christmas, a day with family or friends- of catching up and laughter, I am sure that is what we all have on our Christmas wish list this year! But don't clutter it up with stuff and have expectations of being perfect. Just Keep it Simple.

*May you have the gladness of Christmas which is hope; The spirit of Christmas which is peace; The heart of Christmas which is love.*

*Ada V Hendricks*

The plan is to decorate the house and garden with twinkling lights and natural simple decorations and celebrate with yummy fruit and a barbecue with a prawn or two. As the Holidays continue to the New Year to eat fresh from the garden, potter in the early morning and cool evenings, watering, weeding and harvesting and most importantly relaxing. After a nearly a year of being in a state of mind, where you are constantly looking outside yourself for answers, has been exhausting and frightening at times.

*"Christmas will always be as long as we stand heart to heart and hand in hand."*

*Dr. Seuss*

My tips on relaxing:

- Breathe deep, breath the scent of the garden,
- Just sit and not talk
- Listen to music that feeds your soul and lifts your spirit
- Read, include books in gift giving and stock up from the library,
- Learn and practise slow crafts knitting, whittling, sewing, welding, mending handcrafts that will be of value in coming years.
- Plan a few day trips or just pick a direction and head off on an adventure (pack your food and essentials so you can stop in just the right place for lunch)

*"What is Christmas?"*

*It is the tenderness of the past, courage for the present, and hope for the future."*

*Agnes M. Pahro*

So my Christmas wish for all is to hold on to the simple things, to listen to our inner voice and to follow our intuitions, because after such a tumultuous year (and heading into the unknown of 2021) it surely is a blessing to be able to do so.

## IT GRANTS FOR LOCAL KINDERS

*Media Release*

Golden Plains Shire Council welcomes the Victorian Government's recent IT grants to five local kindergartens.

During Council's Election Period in late September, the Victorian Government announced Golden Plains Shire Council would receive \$6,958 from the Building Blocks Improvement 2020-21 Information Technology program. This funding will provide new IT equipment at five Council-operated Kindergarten Services in Golden Plains Shire. Council's kindergartens in Teesdale, Inverleigh, Meredith and Bannockburn will purchase new computers, and the Rokewood kindergarten will receive a new iPad and printer.

This grant funding will ensure improved access and support children's learning in the kindergarten environment, and enable Council's dedicated educators to connect more effectively with families in supporting the continuity of children's learning at home.

Golden Plains Shire CEO Eric Braslis welcomed the funding and the benefit the new equipment will bring to the Council's kindergarten services.

"Our educators have done an outstanding job during this challenging year, and with new computers, iPads and printers, they will be able to better connect with families and support the continuity of children's learning in the kinder or at home.

"Council thanks the Victorian Government for this valuable funding grant to support kindergarten services in Golden Plains Shire."

Released by: Eric Braslis, CEO, Golden Plains Shire Council

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## NEW BRIDGES

### Media Release

Two more bridges in Golden Plains Shire will be replaced following a recent funding announcement from the Federal Government.

During Council's Election Period in late September, the Federal Government announced Golden Plains Shire Council would receive \$1,150,000 towards the replacement of Slate Quarry Road Bridge in Meredith and \$350,000 for the replacement of Geggies Road Bridge in Rokewood from the fifth round of the Bridges Renewal Program.

Slate Quarry Road in Meredith is the major link between two arterial roads: Midland Highway and Geelong-Ballan Road. The existing bridge is currently load limited to 15 tonne on a road network that connects many local businesses. The new \$2.3 million unrestricted bridge will eliminate a 20km detour for an estimated 25 heavy vehicles per day, equating to 130,000km saved each year. With bushland to the northeast of Meredith, the new unrestricted bridge will provide emergency services access to this important route for response vehicles, significantly reducing travel times in emergencies.

The current 2.5 tonne load-limited Geggies Road Bridge in Rokewood prohibits future expansion of existing livestock businesses in the nearby area. The \$700,000 new unlimited bridge will benefit approximately 30 primarily farming and grazing properties, allowing light and heavy vehicles full access to these important work sites. Families who use the local school bus will also benefit, with the new bridge to cut out the current 10km daily detour to avoid the existing old bridge.

Both bridge replacement works are partnership projects between Golden Plains Shire Council and the Federal Government, with Council contributing the half the costs of the two projects. Construction on both this projects will begin by early 2021, with the new bridges to open in mid to late 2021.

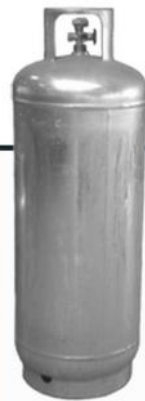
Golden Plains Shire CEO Eric Braslis welcomed the grant funding from the Federal Government.

"Council welcomes the two grants totalling \$1.5 million to help replace another two old and load-limited bridges in our Shire. Following Council committing 50 per cent of the funding in this year's Budget, we can now get on with delivering these two important bridge replacement projects for the Rokewood and Meredith communities.

"Home to 138 bridges, replacing and maintaining important local bridge and major culvert infrastructure is a key priority for Golden Plains Shire Council, and Council actively lobbies for government funding support in this area. We thank the Federal Government in partnering with

Council to deliver these two much-needed bridge projects."

This year, Council has completed four bridge replacement or upgrade projects, including the \$1.6 million new Coopers Bridge in Meredith, a partnership project with the Victorian Government; the \$620,000 upgrade of Barwon Park Road Bridge in Inverleigh, a partnership project with Surf Coast Shire and the Federal Government; the \$607,000 new Wall Bridge in Teesdale; a partnership with the Federal Government with funding from a previous round of the Bridges Renewal Program; and the upgrade of Steiglitz-Durridwarrah Road Bridge in Steiglitz. Works are nearing completion on the City of Ballarat's \$3.6 million replacement of Franklin Bridge in Napoleons, which includes Golden Plains Shire Council's contribution of \$575,000.



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## December and January in the School Garden

Here we are in early December already. The seasons are marching on and the bountiful rain we have had has been followed by sunny, and sometimes, very hot days. The seeds we have been nurturing have started to sprout and have excellent root growth right to the bottom of the pots, so we have planted sugar snap peas and bush beans, two types of tomatoes and two types of pumpkin. One of these is the Newsletter Challenge Giant Pumpkin, and we look forward to getting out the big wheelbarrow to transport our award winning specimen.

Something you might be interested to know is we have three different types of vegetable gardens at school: there is one large 'scarecrow garden' filled with soil and dug and planted in the traditional way. Another bed was made with the 'no-dig' method of layering newspapers, lucerne, compost and straw. This is where our pumpkins are planted.

The other eight smaller beds are wicking beds. These wicking beds are not watered from the top in the usual way but a reservoir at the bottom is kept filled and the plants wick the moisture up. These beds enable us to keep our summer crops going over the school holidays when the weather is often dry and there is no-one at school to keep an eye on them. A band of wonderful volunteers tops up the reservoirs once a week and, along with a good mulch, this is all they need.

By the middle of December there is more excitement in the garden when the next lot of seedlings goes in - our corn, sunflowers and zucchini. The sunflowers are a lot of fun because they are so tiny when school finishes towards the end of December and when we return in Late January, giants have taken their place.

Don't worry if you don't have your seeds in, as sunflowers, corn and beans can all be planted through till January. Spinach, silver beet and cucumber seedlings can also go in and remember that tomatoes love their friend, basil.

Another little project we have completed is to pop in some colourful flowers to attract the pollinating bees and just because they look so cheerful. Orange and yellow marigolds, red petunias and blue lobelia are in with the lush green marjoram and lemon thyme.

Because the school was closed during winter planting time, we missed out on our usual crop of broad beans, however, I've heard there are many thriving plants in the district so you might like to try one of our regular recipes we love at school. Usually the children eat the young beans, pods and all, straight off the bush but there are always plenty of larger ones left for making dip.

Enjoy summer in your gardens, especially relaxing outside under a shady tree if you are lucky enough to have one. We'll be back with more school garden news in February and hopefully a photo of our giant pumpkin.

### Broad Bean Dip

#### Ingredients

- 2 1/2 cups podded broad beans
- 100g feta
- 1 garlic clove
- 1/2 lemon, juiced
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped mint leaves

#### Method

- Cook the broad beans in boiling water, or steam. No need to double pod.
- Process with the feta, lemon juice and garlic clove until almost smooth.
- With the motor running, drizzle in the olive oil.
- Add the mint and process till well mixed.

You can add 1/4 teaspoon chilli powder to the mix or sprinkle with a pinch of paprika or sumac if you like a bit of spice.

This is delicious cold from the fridge with carrot and celery sticks and toasted pita bread.

*Below: A team of Green Thumbs planting out one of the school's wicking beds.*







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# MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS



On behalf of all Councillors and Council staff, Golden Plains Shire Council wishes all residents and visitors a Merry Christmas and a safe, Happy New Year.

**Golden Plains Shire Council will have altered hours during the Christmas and New Year holiday period.**

The Customer Service Centres at Bannockburn and Smythesdale will close at 5pm, Thursday 24 December 2020, and will re-open at 8.30am, Monday 4 January, 2021. Essential services will be available in this period, in case of an emergency. If you need urgent assistance, please call 5220 7111 and follow the prompts.

## ROKEWOOD TRANSFER STATION

The Rokewood Transfer Station will be closed on Sunday 27 December, 2020 and re-open for normal operational hours on Sunday 3 January, 2021.

For more information on holiday operations and services including aged care and Maternal Health and Child Health, please visit Council's website in mid-December: [goldenplains.vic.gov.au](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au)

## GARBAGE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION

There are changes to Council's waste and recycling collection service over the Christmas and New Year holiday period. Refer to the table below for your revised collection day during the festive season, and please remember to place your bins out the night before your collection day.

Normal Collection Day	Christmas / New Year Collection Day
Wednesday 23 December, 2020	<b>Wednesday 23 December, 2020</b>
Thursday 24 December, 2020	<b>Thursday 24 December, 2020</b>
Friday 25 December, 2020	<b>Saturday 26 December, 2020</b>
Monday 28 December, 2020	<b>Monday 28 December, 2020</b>
Tuesday 29 December, 2020	<b>Tuesday 29 December, 2020</b>
Wednesday 30 December, 2020	<b>Wednesday 30 December, 2020</b>
Thursday 31 December, 2020	<b>Thursday 31 December, 2020</b>
Friday 1 January, 2021	<b>Saturday 2 January, 2021</b>



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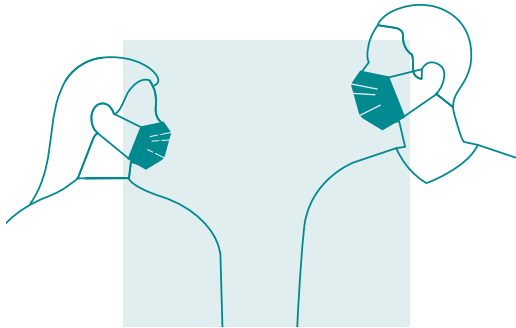


David Whelan's extraordinary photos of a Wedge Tailed Eagle and its kill - a Sulphur Crested Cockatoo - give some indication of this magnificent bird's strength. It makes you think the magpies that so often harass a preying eagle, are taking a bit of a risk.

And below, Marion East's photo of a mob of kangaroos grazing in She Oaks is, by contrast, a tranquil scene of district wildlife.



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We hope you found your community news a comforting distraction during this difficult year. We look forward to sharing a more socially connected 2021 with you, when we will again bring you district news along with entertaining columns and cartoons from our dedicated team of talented contributors.



See you in February 2021

