We wish all our Readers a Joyous Festive Season & a Safe Summer.

Inside...

Visitors’ Centre Approved - $400K committed to new town facility.

Impressions of Meredith - a new arrival finds some surprises.

Frocktober - a local teacher and a national movement that’s caught on.

Plus 32 pages of local news, events and traders.
Meredith and District News

The Meredith and District News is published by a volunteer sub-committee of the Meredith Community House comprising 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 send to archives@meridcon.net or deliver to the Meredith Centre Shop.

PHOTOS

We only publish children’s photos with the written consent of a parent or if supplied by a school or club that has obtained that consent. All children’s photos are removed from the web version. Other photos can be re-sent on the written consent of the subject.

DATES AND DEADLINES

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

ADVERTISING

Advertising in the MD Newsletter is a great way for local businesses to promote their goods and services. Contact us for details and advertisement forms. Rates are as follows:

Business Card $14.00
Quarter page $25.00
Half page $40.00
Full page $80.00

Two pages FREE

$20.00 for the preferred position

For small, personal notices from residents, otherwise $7.50 or $5.00 if paid on lodgement.

Community Groups may 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 only $10.00 p.a. (11 issues) and get the Meredith and District News posted to you anywhere in Australia.

CONTACT US

Post: Post Office, Meredith, 3333
Email: mnews@meridcon.net
Ph: 010 1100 (from mobile) 5286 1279 or 03 5286 1274
WEB: You can check back copies and latest comments at meridcon.com.au

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.

The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other.

Burton Hills
Landcare

June Cameron

The final meeting for the year was held on 5th October at the home of Rob. McColl, owing to some confusion about opening the Community Centre. A reminder that the large Spray Unit is available for hire. $33 for members. $66 for non members.

Please take note of the next meeting as this is the last Newsletter before the first of our quarterly meetings. Circle it now in your new diary, calendar or planner.

1st FEBRUARY 2011 8pm at the MEREDITH COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Happy Christmas and wishing everyone a good harvest, a safe summer and good seasons and prices in the New Year.

Christmas Sheep:

Marg Cooper

Decorate your sheep NOW and display them on fences around the town. If your sheep are in the back paddock or back shed please get them out, brighten them up and display them. With 60 new sheep to add to the flock this year, Meredith should look spectacular and especially Christmassy for travellers and locals.

2011 Calendar:

A Meredith Calendar has been produced featuring the “Underground Tanks of Meredith”. Did you know that Meredith has many underground tanks!! The calendars are available in A4 size for $12 or A5 size for $7. They are shiny, informative, historical, interesting and a great present for anyone for Christmas.

If anyone knows how the tanks were built, who built them, when they were built or if you have an underground tank that hasn’t been documented please contact Marg Cooper on 52 868201.

Senior Citizens Outing

Jim Hynds

On Monday, November 8 a group of Meredith Seniors went by bus to Maryborough. The day was sunny and warm.

We stopped at Clunes for morning tea of coffee and tea and lovely slices provided by the ladies of our group. We were very impressed with the facilities in the park at Clunes.

Then we travelled onto the Maryborough Bowling Club for lunch.

We were provided with an excellent two course meal. After lunch we had two hours to explore the shopping centre or play the pokies before we went to the Maryborough Railway Station.

We explored the antique shops and looked at the beautiful railway station building before we wearily climbed back on the bus and headed home.

Everyone enjoyed the outing to Maryborough.

Meredith Motorcycle Club Robbery

Heather Broad

Between October 23rd 2010 and October 31st 2010 our non profit club was broken into. We are all very sad about this as our volunteers work very hard. All our lollies, cartons of fizzy drinks, chocolate bars, boxes of Gatorade and potato chips were stolen. Also 2 large gazebos and a fold up camp bed. If anyone has any information about this can they please contact our Vice President Matty Burgess on 0438 005 823 or The Bannockburn Police.

Letters

Reduce Your Electricity Bill

A Victorian town, Somers, has managed to drastically reduce electricity bills for local residents. They have done this by banding together and asking power companies to tender for their business. This is only possible if the majority of users agree to it.

If you are interested in investigating this further for Meredith I envision having a meeting in February. If there is enough interest we can then approach power companies for a competitive supply and usage charge. To register your interest you can contact Bob Eibl and contact will be made in the New Year.

Bob Eibl, Box 47, Meredith 3333

Phone: 52861276 or email: meredithenergy@hotmail.com

Classifieds

For Free

The Memorial Hall Committee wants to give away 45 tan vinyl seated stainless steel framed chairs. Please contact Sandra Pearce 5286 1545.

For Sale

Young miniature pigs for sale. Male $100.00
Female $150.00 Enquiries: Jenny 0419 164 745
Note: Christmas services are in bold.

MEREDITH ANGLICAN CHURCH
2nd Sunday 11am with & at Uniting Church
4th Sunday 11am with Uniting at Anglican Church of the Epiphany

MORRISONS ANGLICAN CHURCH
Contact: 5368 1342
9am every 2nd & 4th Sunday and a combined service at one of our three churches on the 5th Sunday in the month.
Christmas Eve, joint Anglican / Uniting service at Meredith Uniting Church at 10 PM.
Christmas Day, St John's Bannockburn 9 AM
Please note there will not be a service at Epiphany on Sunday 26 December. Enquiries Fay McFarlane 52861283.

MEREDITH & ANAKIE CATHOLIC CHURCHES
Contact: 5368 1320
Baptisms, weddings, funerals, pastoral care.
Father Herman 52861230
Catholic Church Mass times for December/January
Meredith at 11 a.m. Dec 5th/19th Jan 2nd/16th/30th
Anakie 11a.m. Dec 12th/26th Jan 9th/23rd
Christmas 2010
Christmas Mass Times Christmas Eve Friday 24th December
Bannockburn 6pm. Anakie 8pm. Meredith 10pm.
Christmas Day. Winchelsea 8am. Bannockburn 10am.
Father Herman wishes all residents of Meredith and District the Peace and Joy of Christmas and warmly invites all to attend any of the Masses listed.

SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH:
Fr. Theodore—Ph. 5341 5568
Holy Liturgy 10am every Sunday, Saturday & Major Feast Days.

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA
St. Marys House of Prayer Elaine
Solemn mass Sundays 10.00am
Rosary and Vespers Saturday 5.00pm.
Confessions by appointment Fr. James Ph. 5341 5544

UNITING CHURCH TIMES
The Meredith Uniting Church, St. Andrews, recently became part of the Parish of South Ballarat, with our closest worship centre at Buninyong. This coincides with the closing of the Uniting Church in Lethbridge, but we will still be worshipping in Meredith, sharing services with the Anglicans.
Christmas Eve, joint Uniting / Anglican service at Uniting Church Meredith 10 PM.
Service Times: 2nd Sunday of the month Meredith 11am with the Anglicans at Meredith Uniting Church 4th Sunday, Meredith 11am with the Anglicans at the Church of The Epiphany 1st and 3rd Sundays Buninyong
Uniting Church 9.45 am
Enquiries Doug

Public Internet Access
Public internet Access...FREE!
Days: Tuesdays 10-12pm
Wednesday 10-2pm Thursday 10-2pm
Public internet access is available to community members on the above days and times. Bookings are recommended as limited computers are available for this service.
This service made possible through State Govt. funding.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
The Committee of Management and Staff of the Meredith Community Centre, Inc. would like to thank you all for your support and participation in our 2010 programme.

We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a safe holiday season

Meredith & District Playgroup for December
The occasional care room at Meredith Community Centre will be offering a playgroup like experience each Thursday until the end of term.
If you are interested in meeting other parents within the community and easing the isolation that can come with caring for young children, then come along and share your experience. Your children can explore age appropriate toys and experience while you enjoy a cuppa and a chat in a relaxed and informal setting. Beginning 2nd December at 9.30am - 11.30am.
Please call the centre for details. 52 861 348

Birthday Invitation
Everyone young & old are invited.
Join us to celebrate the joy of Jesus’ birthday.
A joint Uniting/Anglican service.
St Andrews Uniting Church, Meredith
Friday 24 December 2010, 10 pm.
Green Light for $400K Centre
Jim Elvey

Mid last month, a hastily arranged gathering of locals and Shire representatives led by Mayor Cr Jenny Blake, heard Geoff Howard, Member for Ballarat East, surprisingly announce a grant of $300,000 for a Visitors’ Centre in Meredith. Equally surprising, the grant was not an election promise, but an approved allocation from the Government’s Small Towns Development Fund. Together with a $100,000 Shire commitment, this will fund the new centre, which will likely be built during next year.

Indicative plans displayed after the ceremony, showed the facility could house display space, a meeting room, public toilets and parking. The final development and its location are subject to further community consultation, but it could be sited either on Shire owned land on the Midland Highway on the corner of Lawler Street, or at Pioneer Park.

Meredith has always been a “Highway Town” and although it now has a significant resident population, it is still a recognised stopping point for travellers. The gathering heard there are around 1.5 million traffic movements a year through the town and the new Centre will help promote local features, history and produce to this large travelling population.

For further information, contact the Shire’s Damian Waight on 5220 7159

Kindergarten News
Wendy Cooke

This month we have been very busy watching things grow. We made faces on stockings, filled them with grass seed then sand and stood them in a jar of water. All now have a full head of grass and are ready for a hair cut. Alan Paxton brought in his incubator, some eggs and some chicks. Over the last three weeks 14 chicks have hatched in various colours. Charlotte and Max brought in some tadpoles and the children have watched them grow. Miss Kimberley has displayed many photos of different frogs on the wall and we have a puzzle which tells the life story of the tadpoles and books beside the tadpole tank. Two of our tadpoles have developed into tiny frogs.

The veggie garden has been fertilised and dug over. We have planted some tomatoes, lettuce and onions and are looking to tasting these when ready.

The children were excited when grandparents’ day arrived. The “grands” were busy playing with the playdough, building with blocks, enjoying some outdoor activities and playing snap with their grandchildren. “Thank you to Chris Fairchild who made yummy muffins for the grandparents and snacks for the children.

Last week we went on an excursion to the Ballarat Wildlife Park where we fed the wallabies, met Rose the Koala, saw the Tassie Devils and the Wombats. The reptile house was also a very popular spot. A very special thank you to our parent helpers, Jacinta, Sarah, Marita, Carmel, Lahnee and Jackie and our bus driver Mr. McFarlane

Meredith Kindergarten 2010 40th Anniversary Cook Book

We are happy to announce the publication of our cook book. It contains approximately 100 tried and tested recipes from past and present families, drawings from current students and a short summary of the kinder in its very early days from former teacher Jenny Colvin. Thankyou to all who supplied their favourite recipes and a big thankyou to Kelly Murfitt who typed all the recipes into book format.

If you would like to support the kinder with this fundraiser and purchase a copy they will be available locally for $10 each at the corner store, service station and Foxy’s. Or through the kinder via Kelly Murfitt on 0417287118
The Elaine Tennis Club
Committee and players thank the following...

MAJOR SPONSORS:
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Foxys Pizza Café & Garden Ornaments
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Daryl Wells Contract Sowing, John Zaina Temporary Fencing
Avis Rent A Car Ballarat, Tuckers Funerals
Ross Creek Stock Services, The Good Guys Ballarat

ENCOURAGEMENT AWARDS SPONSORS
Bakers Delight Sebastopol, Hungry Jacks Ballarat
McDonalds Ballarat, KFC Sebastopol

DONATIONS FOR RAFFLE
Meredith Wool Company (Lambs Wool Blanket)
Woolabrai(Dog Food), LaPorchetta(Meal Voucher)

DONATIONS
Elaine General Store,
Browns Confectionary Ballarat
John and Gladys Hastie Elaine, Mrs Oakley Elaine
Mrs Greeves Elaine,

We also thank the following people for their help in re-establishing the club:
Ron Read and the Elaine Recreation Reserve Committee,
Carmel Bant (fundraising), Joyce Read, Narelle Tucker (photographer), Viv Barrie, David Wells, Gary Bodnar, Shirley and Paul Ryan, Julia Duncombe, Herbie Platt, Elaine C.F.A., Neville Molley, Kellie(our coach) Julie Cameron (helping with coaching), Marg Cooper, Karen Hogarth and David Flood for helping with coaching, Kelvin O’Donnell, Dianne Cooke, Jim Connell, Adam and Kelly McGregor, Tania McAuley, James Millineos (Artwork)

We thank the Meredith Tennis Club for the use of their courts for coaching and the Moorabool Shire for our grant of $5000 towards our court upgrade.

Committee
Our Current committee is President Evan Tucker, Secretary Shane Dunne, Treasurer Carol Bodnar, committee members Mark and Melissa Young, Ian and Jane Farhall, Lyn and Rod Heard, Darren and Bindi Emmlin, Trevor and Cheryl Gladman.

Players C5 Red, Kurt Bodnar, Brady Dunne, Wade Hearn, C5Green, Anthony Young, Tiffany Young, Haylee Earl, Mitchell Emmlin, Lachlan Emmlin

C6 Seamus Dunne, Molly Dunne, Mahayla Gladman, Samantha Platt, Riley Parkyn

Elaine Tennis Club practice is every Wednesday at 430pm and there are BBQ facilities available. Any new players are welcome and any kids too young to play competition tennis but still want to learn are more than welcome to attend.

For further information contact Evan 5341 5857, Shane 5341 5602 AH or Carol 5341 5766 AH

Editor’s Note: we do not normally give such extensive coverage to sponsorship, but we do so in this case in recognition of the amount of work carried out by so many people in the district to re-establish the club. Congratulations to everyone involved.

Meredith Golf Club
Annual Presentation Dinner

A delicious 3 course dinner was prepared by President of the club Janice Donghi and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Janice commented that the season had been difficult because of the tree removal, the wet conditions and the preparations for the water pipeline to go through.

The Ladies and Mens Officials thanked everyone who helped at the club during the year.

Ladies President, Nancy O’Brien and Ladies Captain Sandra Watson announced the winners of the Ladies Competitions over the year.

The Royal Melbourne Hospital 4BBB was won by Maureen Diffy and Carmen Powles. The Annie McNaughton Trophy was won by Nancy O’Brien and Janice Donghi.

The Captains Trophy was won by Sandra Watson.

The A Grade Championship was won by Sandra Watson, B Grade by Carmen Powles and C Grade by Shirley Parkinson. The WJV Silver Spoon was won by Carmen Powles.

The 54 holes and eclectic was won by Sandra Watson.

The putts was won by Carmen Powles and Shirley Parkinson.

The A Grade Championship was won by Sandra Watson, B Grade by Mike Colvin and the C Grade by Sam Calvert. The 54 hole competition was won by Mike Colvin.

The Gordon Clancy Cancer Trophy was won by Darren Armstrong.

The Mixed Competition was won by Janice Donghi and Denis Gear.

Chicken Runs are on the 1st Friday of each month
Everyone is Welcome!
**Christmas Carols in Meredith**  
**Sunday December 19th  6pm**  
**At Pioneer Park**

You are invited to come along, bring your family and friends  
Share the Christmas spirit.  
Meet other “Meredith-ites”

**Enjoy food and entertainment**  
**FREE BBQ, salads, sweets, icy poles and lollies**  
**Listen to the band on the night**  
**Come and meet Santa**

We would like to thank the Golden Plains Shire for funding this event.

Light up Meredith for Christmas Competition.  
Advance Meredith encourages you to decorate for Christmas.  
Best decorated house  
Best decorated business  
Best decorated farm gate or farm house

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For more information
Summer Ready
Golden Plains Shire has provided a useful check list of actions to be taken now to ready your home for summer. Read it at meredithnews.com.au/on-line-extras

Froking for a Cause
Rosemary Gargan
In 2007 Meredith PS teacher Fairlie Pritchard and a group of friends wore frocks to a pub, passed around a hat and raised $200 for ovarian cancer research. The next year, a committee was formed, a group was set up in Perth and “Frocktober” was launched, raising an impressive $20,000 in its first official year. Another $35,000 was raised in 2009 and by 2010, groups were active all around Australia, including Canberra, where pollies wore their Fabulous Parliamentary Frocks (see frocktobercanberra.blogspot.com) as well as the U.K. and New Zealand. In Geelong there was even a “Frock Exchange”
The project has been taken up with such enthusiasm that Frocktober’s many committees this year have raised over $100,000.
Fittingly, Fairlie and a fellow founders Kathryn Kelly and Lisa Mounsey, were among the “50 Fabulous Women” named by their old school, Sacred Heart College in celebration of its 150th Anniversary.
The focus for 2011 will be to raise awareness of ovarian cancer and promote positive body images.
Fairlie and her friends have turned a good hearted, bright idea into a national movement making a significant contribution to a very worthwhile cause. Well done!
Impressions of Meredith
Herman Licayan

Back in the Philippines, “Meredith” is my female grade four classmate. It took three times for the Bishop to mention Meredith when he was telling me about my new assignment before I got it that indeed it is a place. I arrived here in the afternoon of the 8th of April this year and there was nobody in the church and presbytery, not one I can even see walking in the streets outside. Considering my Filipino mindset, my immediate impression was that this town is empty.

I spent the rest of the afternoon unpacking my stuff; it is now getting dark and still I did not have any idea what sort of town is this. Naturally my immediate concern was security. I looked at the huge glass window pane without any grill on it which could had been very easy for burglars to break into. There are houses around but I don’t see anybody; it seems people are not getting out from their houses, I don’t know why. If I am sick with crowds in Manila before, now I am at a loss of being alone. After taking my tea, I really cannot endure spending the whole night without talking to at least some locals so I head off to the police station which is just four blocks away. There seems not to be any policemen stationed there but I still pressed the door buzzer and after a few moments there is no sign of people inside, and so I got back to the car. It was when I was searching for my keys in my pocket when I heard two kids passing by so I asked them if there are some police in the station but they said that the whole town has only one policeman and he is on holiday. That worries me a bit. So I told them that I just moved in from Melbourne and I don’t have any idea how safe is the place so I was just wanting to tell the police that I am here.

“Oh, there’s nothing to worry here, this is a perfectly safe town, you can just leave your house unlocked, and nothing will happen”, the kids assured me and they added, “except when there are some stupid kids from Geelong…”

Indeed I breathed a sign of relief as I headed back to the presbytery. I failed to see the police but I achieved my purpose. It was a telling encounter of an unknown stranger in an unknown place assured by the unknown kids. That does not happen everywhere.

Seven months in Meredith now, and still I have not seen those kids again but everyone I come to know resembles them. People make me feel assured, no longer just for safety reasons, but to be a member of the community, and to be part of their lives. The word ‘welcoming’ I supposed is a lesser description. In so far as I am concerned, people don’t just merely welcome, they let me even feel needed. The peace and serenity of the vast paddocks and beautiful valleys dotted with sheep and cattle greatly impressed me whenever I am driving around; the birds, rabbits, and hares all around in my backyard entertains my solitude. To appreciate everything around truly leaves one to harness much of his/her imagination. The beauty of the place and the warmth of its people truly capture what it means to live.
Vale George Morris Lloyd

Mary Cooper

George was born at Berwick on March 24, 1917 and died on October 27, 2010.

A Service of Thanksgiving for his Life was held on November 1 at Leopold Uniting Church, followed by interment in the Leopold Cemetery. George left instructions about his funeral, including the list of hymns, he wrote his story for the obituary and he had asked various people to speak.

George lived a long and full life with many different chapters in it. He was the second son in a family of 6 children. The family lived around Mickleham and his father grew hay and made chaff and supplied it to carriers in Melbourne for their horses.

George took on contract work and share farming when he left school at 15 years of age. During the depression he travelled the countryside by push bike with his swag on the back. He milked cows for 10/- per week plus his keep. He drove a tractor at Staughton Vale for 30/- a week plus keep.

He drove a milk cart in Essendon and then went driving stock trucks at Newmarket.

The three brothers Syd, George and Jack Lloyd enlisted and were called up on June 6, 1941 and when they arrived at Royal Park camp they asked not to be separated.

All went into the 2/12 Field Regiment and went into action at El Alamein.

Sometimes they would see each other every day and sometimes not for a few weeks. None of them was seriously wounded and the three of them caught the same ship home.

After a training camp in Queensland they were sent to New Guinea and Borneo.

George served 1725 days, 1026 days outside Australia and was discharged on March 1, 1946.

He married Olive Williamson on April 6 1946. Olive had gone to school with George at Greenvale and had kept in touch with him all through the war years.

George share farmed around Mickleham and Broadmeadows until he was allotted a Soldier Settlement block on the Moranghurk Estate.

George and Olive and their three children, Margaret five years, Colin two years and Lesley a few months old, moved to Boundary Road in March 1952.

They had 560 acres of open country in one big paddock, one dead tree, plenty of tusocks, stones, snakes and rabbits.

George ploughed the country and levelled out the crab holes and the rabbit warrens with a hydraulic grader that he built. He picked up the stones and sowed grasses and crops.

George always liked tractors and machinery, buying his first tractor at a clearing sale when he was still at school.

In 1967 a fire came through from Lal Lal and burnt the farm out. Their house was saved but the extra work after the fire caught up with George’s health, so in 1972 they sold the farm and moved to Leopold. He spent four years working at the Corio Shire.

In retirement he started collecting antique tools and small machinery. This kept him very busy, buying at clearing sales, repairing and restoring all the items back to working order, arranging displays and taking his collections to shows etc.

He spent time at the Church and played bowls at Senior Citizens twice a week. George had no time for sitting down and growing old!

Meredith and District Red Cross News

Dawn Macdonald

The Meredith Unit met in November and has planned another Wine and Cheese evening, combined with a Photography exhibition, to be held at the Lethbridge Winery next May. There will be limited tickets, so watch the Newsletter for this event next year.

Red Cross also has an ongoing program that encourages any one who knits to use up any 8 ply wool , in any colour, to create Trauma Teddies which are used in hospitals , ambulances etc to give to children to keep and help them through any traumatic situation. This program has been going for many years, with probably thousands of Teddies having been given away. You only have to knit, the stuffing and face is put on by the ‘experts’. There are some rules re the eyes etc to make the toy safe for any age child. If you would like the pattern please call at the Meredith Community Centre or contact Dawn Macdonald 52861274. Next Red Cross meeting will be held on Thursday February 10th 2011.

Wishing everyone a Safe and Happy Christmas.
New Arts Directory Out Now
A comprehensive directory of artists, art groups and organisations in the wider region was launched at the Torquay Golf Club on 9 November.

The Arts Directory makes it easy for residents to get in contact with a wide range of artists and arts organisations covers a variety of art forms including music, visual art and dance as well as galleries, writing groups, performing arts spaces, art schools, funding bodies, networks and information resources. The Directory is available from Bannockburn Shire.

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We Need You

Meredith Golf Club has been in continuous operation since the 1930’s. Our first recorded club champion was Sir Henry Bolte in 1937.

Due to the large amount of rainfall in the last few months, the course is in magnificent condition and is a delight to play.

However, like many country golf courses, we have been experiencing a steady drop-off in membership over the last 10 years or so and there are only about a dozen regular players left at the club and the average age is now over 60.

If we don’t attract new members, then within the next few years, the club will have to close. So we are appealing for interested people to come forward and try a game of golf or two.

It doesn’t matter if you haven’t played before, we’ll teach you the game and you will be given an amateur handicap which is valid anywhere in Australia or overseas.

Our annual membership fee is $140.

For more information contact;

Alan Slocombe
0408 519 797
(Men’s Captain)

Kathie Rosch
5341 5595
(Ladies captain)
Hello there!

Are you tired of people teaching computer skills in a way that bamboozles you?

Do they teach too quickly for you to get what they mean?

Do you want to learn more about your computer, but feel you are too old?

I can teach you at your place on your computer.

Hello, I am Amanda Gordon. I live locally and I have been teaching older people for the past 6 years at the Lara Community Centre.

My rates are very reasonable at $15 per hour.

You can contact me on 03 5281 9497

Or

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Funeral Information Options & Advice

Inverleigh resident and local Funeral Director Ebony Hovey, can help with all your funeral inquiries and information on local cemetery and cremation options. Ebony believes that, "...having the ability to present unique venues, much loved music, special words or verses, and family memorabilia in a sensitive and individual way is the most rewarding part of being able to assist in remembering a person's life."

Ebony is able to provide all information discreetly in the privacy of your own home.
For a no obligation appointment call 5221 4788.

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A Very Meredith Christmas

As the days grow longer and the weather warms up, my thoughts turn to summer in Meredith. Driving to the beach in a hot car and driving home sandy and sunburned, buying ice creams and cold drinks at the local shops, heading out to the music festival, and of course Christmas under the blazing sun. When the paddocks get drier and the cheery decorated sheep start to pop up around town, it begins to look a lot like our kind of Christmas. It’s time to get the presents wrapped and the tinsel on the tree, gobble up the chocolates in the advent calendar, and give the house a good tidy before the family starts pouring in. Sitting in among a pile of my first half dozen bags of Christmas shopping, I was attempting to study for my last exam one hot day when I was distracted by an internet link a friend sent me. Curious (and desperate to get away from dull Philosophy study), I clicked it, and found myself watching a video of Paul Kelly performing at last year’s Meredith Music Festival. As the hot December sun set behind the stage he sang “How to Make Gravy”, his song about a man’s Christmas wishes for his family while he was away from them in prison.

The camera recording the performance wasn’t fixed on the stage, but out on the crowd and around the festival grounds, catching the smiles on thousands of faces as they sang along with the sweetest, saddest Christmas song ever written. Girls sat singing in trees, dirty bare feet swinging. Friends with their arms wrapped around each other belted out the words, clutching their hearts. One group up the front of the crowd, up close to the stage, were even attempting to make gravy in a Tupperware container (they remembered the dollop of tomato sauce), flour flying everywhere. I found myself grinning as I caught sight of people I knew dancing in the crowd, even getting one brief glimpse of the spot where I was standing in the middle of a group of friends, much too short to be seen under all those reaching hands and waving shoes. I couldn’t see myself, but I could imagine the look on my face – a big silly sentimental smile just like the one I was wearing as I watched the video. It wasn’t just a Christmas song everyone was singing, their full hearts clear on their bright faces. It wasn’t just a Christmas song Paul Kelly wrote, but a love song. A love song between Joe in prison and every member of his family. A love song for the Christmases he remembered and the Christmas he would miss.

Standing in the dusty Supernatural Amphitheatre in my gumboots I was surrounded by people who were a bit too young to have bought Paul Kelly’s early records, but they all knew every word. Maybe it was a song their mother played in the car, or something their Dad sang in the kitchen, till that one bittersweet song became a Christmas love song for their families, just like it is for mine. Maybe in amongst all the noise and heat and wrapping paper and family drama they sit there on Christmas Day with a big silly smile on their faces, just like I do, because at Christmas nothing matters so much as just being with your family.

Wherever you and your family are this Christmas, may it be a merry one.

CHRISTMAS CAKE BALLS

Serves 40+ Preparation time 15 to 30 minutes

INGREDIENTS

- 800gm dark fruit cake
- 250gm dk chocolate
- 2 Tbs rum, brandy or orange juice
- 1 tsp very finely chopped citrus peel or orange zest (optional)

ICING

- White glace icing or 250gm dark chocolate
- Silver cachous or glace cherries

METHOD

Melt the butter and chocolate in a bowl over hot water. Crumble the fruit cake into a large bowl. Add the rum, brandy or orange juice and mix it through. Stir in the melted butter and chocolate mixture until it is combined and then pour it into the cake mixture. Mix well until all is combined. Line baking trays with greaseproof paper. Roll out a teaspoon of the mixture into a ball and place on the trays and continue for rest of mixture. Refrigerate for 1-2 hours to set.

Make white glace icing or melt the chocolate. Ice the balls allowing it to trickle down the sides. Put a small glace cherry or a silver cachou on top of each one and return to the fridge to set. Can be left for one or two days to let the flavour develop. Also great as a gift.
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Bannockburn
“One Good Turn” by Kate Atkinson

The book is set in Edinburgh at the time of the Annual Festival. A man is lost, driving in Edinburgh, a Honda car runs into the back of his car outside a theatre where people are queuing for a lunch time show, the Honda driver assaults the lost driver and Martin throws his laptop computer at the Honda man.

The following chapters tell of Martin and many other people who are affected by the incident in Edinburgh. The near homicidal attack changes the life of all involved including the wife of an unscrupulous property developer, a crime writer, a washed up comedian, a policewoman, her son and his friend and an actress and her boyfriend.

The author builds the book like a set of nesting Russian dolls, each character’s story contains a kernel of the next. The novel addresses issues of great seriousness while often being very amusing.

This is a detective novel with an interesting cast of people and was enjoyed by the Bookclub members.

The book blurb calls it “an intriguing labyrinthine mystery”.

The book for discussion in December is “Saving Jessie” by Imogen Clark.

MND Support Group

Motor Neurone Disease (MND) is a disease in which the nerves controlling the voluntary muscles gradually fail causing muscle weakness, wasting and paralysis. Speech, swallowing and breathing are affected so a sufferer can be unable to eat, speak or breathe without medical aids. Because intellect, vision, hearing and sense of touch are retained in most cases, awareness of their condition is very real to them. In Australia, on average, more than one person is diagnosed every day. There is no remission and no cure, with a life expectancy of 2-3 years. It is no respecter of persons as it strikes randomly and at any age.

MND Victoria is devoted to helping sufferers and carers of this baffling disease by supplying them with the many varied needs for the multiple conditions it causes. Also much money is needed for research into the cause and for a cure for MND.

MND Barwon Support Group was formed to support this cause. We will lunch together at Cafe Bannockburn at 12 noon on the 6th December and would welcome anyone to come and have a chat with us about MND and our activities. One money raising effort is the sale of corks to purchase wheelchairs. We appreciate any contribution of used corks at all. And would be happy to collect or receive any at any time. Phone me on 5281 2086 or call at 15 Victor St, Bannockburn. We also have a collection point at Dan Murphy’s in Geelong West.

Tombstone Country at Shaws Road, Teesdale is a regular Country Music fun afternoon which, on Sunday 12th December, will donate proceeds to our MND support group.

We offer them care for today and hope for a future.
Audrey Marshall, Barwon Regional Support Group.
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Police Paddocks’ Progress  
Jim Elvey  
The Local Committee advising the Ballarat Environment Network (BEN) in managing the Meredith Police Paddocks, met last month to review progress to date and action plans for the immediate future. High on the list was fire abatement and, following unsuccessful attempts to find someone willing to slash and bale selected areas, key perimeters will be slashed. It is hoped that some fuel reduction burns with CFA help will be possible in future seasons.

It is expected DSE will carry out follow up gorse control this summer and BEN will be spraying blackberry and briar rose.

The trial pathway route was considered satisfactory and is getting good use by local people. No changes will be made to its location. The meeting also noted the draft Structure Plan proposal for a walk along Coolebarghurk Creek, linking with other reserves and the town. Committee members are continuing investigation into the history of the site to provide information for possible use on interpretive signs and in a brochure. Funding will be sought for the signs.

The meeting heard Council had agreed to extend the Campion Street access road this summer, as well as establish a car parking area.

A fourth planting round will be carried out in Autumn. Notice will be given and members of the public are invited to take part.

Make a regular walk along the Police Paddocks Path part of your routine - it’s a healthy activity and you will never tire of the beautiful outlooks and the ever changing vegetation.

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Vale: Lyndsay Allan Fink
Marg Cooper

A Funeral Service was held at Doveton Park Funeral Centre for Lyndsay on Thursday November 18.
Rev. David Leach led the service, David Jones of Meredith R.S.L. led the R.S.L. Service, Tom Jobling led the Legacy Service, family members Ross, David, Mark and Melani told about Lyndsay in the Eulogy and the Grandchildren, Madeleine, Zachery, Samuel, Alasdair and Lachlan read readings.

Lyndsay and Lorraine and daughters, Allison, Julie, Jenny and Merrilyn came to Meredith in the early 1970’s after farming at a block allocated to them as Soldier Settlers at Heytesbury.
Lyndsay had grown up in Gippsland, left school at 14 years of age and joined the RAAF in 1942 when he was 18 years old.
He was sent to New Guinea as a “cipher assistant” ie he coded and decoded messages sent by wireless telegraphy to his unit.
The highlight of his service was being on duty when a message came from General Macarthur’s Headquarters telling all units to “cease hostilities at midnight”.
This message signalled the end of the war.
Lyndsay worked in the Post Office at Meredith and delivered mail on the country run for a few years then he got a job with the Ballarat City Council as a gardener.
Lyndsay always had a nice garden and in Meredith he specialized in daffodils and roses and won many awards at the Meredith Daffodil Show.
He was a member of the Field Naturalist since the 1950’s, firstly in Melbourne, then at Timboon and then at Ballarat.
He had extensive knowledge of plants and often took tours to Brisbane Ranges to observe native flora and fauna.
He was a foundation member of the Lions Club of Timboon, a member of RSL and Legacy and a member of the Lions Club at Ballan.
He always had an interest in history and had an absolutely amazing knowledge of history of Meredith, family and general history.
Lyndsay and Lorraine moved to Ballarat in 2002. Lyndsay then did a lot of historical research, tended his garden, went to computer classes, socialised and “just poked around”.
Lyndsay was a very caring man, a quiet man who carved his own place in life.
He was a man who loved a joke and had a wicked sense of humour and as told at the funeral, a man who told jokes badly.
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The Bannockburn and District Community Enterprise is encouraging Meredith residents to become involved in efforts to improve facilities and projects in their area. It is a voluntary group whose aim is to help provide improved community and sporting facilities for the region.

The Community Enterprise earns a commission from the business of every supporter who does their banking with Bendigo Bank or signs their business telecommunications up with Geelong Community Enterprise. Grants are allocated four times a year – in February, May, August and November. The closing date for applications is the end of the preceding month.

Recent grant recipients include Teesdale Recreation Reserve Committee, which received $13,500 for materials to construct a covered area of decking to enable increased use of its facility for social functions. Also in 2010, Inverleigh Cricket Club was granted $1000 for a scoreboard for its second oval; Leaighdale Pony Club received $2350 for safety equipment; Teesdale Primary School was granted $891 for a sign; and Golden Plains Parents Support Group received $2000 toward conducting its Disability Family Fun Day.

Grant application forms are available at the Bannockburn branch of the Bendigo Bank or at the Bannockburn and District Community Enterprise website – www.bannockburndce.org.

Meredith residents wishing to support the concept can do so at the Bannockburn branch of the Bendigo Bank, where their accounts can be linked to the Community Enterprise, increasing the income stream.

(media release)

Vic Dog Show at Elaine

Marg Cooper

The Mini Foxie Club of Australia held their Annual Victorian Dog Show at Elaine on Sunday November 14. The Judge Christine Crawford came from Sydney for the event.

It was a busy scene as the owners prepared their dogs for each event, paraded their dogs before the Judge, had their dogs inspected by the Judge, received their awards, put those dogs away and prepared their next dog for the next event. Enthusiasts came from many places including Geelong, Morrison, Scarsdale, Ballarat and Meredith. The show was organized by Charyn Steel of “Calamity Park Kennels” at Morrison.

There were many events to enter in the show including “Most Obedient Mini Foxie”, “Best Headed in Show”, “Best Long Tail”, “Best Marked in the Show” and “Best in the Show”.

The local exhibitor Doreen Thompson of “Staughton Kennels” had 6 dogs at the show and won 7 blue first ribbons and rosettes, 4 red second ribbons and 2 white third ribbons. Her dog “Mungarra Panda” won “Sire & Progeny”, “Challenge Dog in the Novice Division”. “Best of the Breed in the Novice Division” and “Best in the Show”. Her dog “Micah Mini” won “Reserve Challenge Bitch in the Novice Division” and “Staughton Rexy” won “Best Open in Show in the Novice Division”.

Doreen was delighted and is to be congratulated.

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Meredith & District News

The Soldier Settlers of Meredith

Marg Cooper and Fay McFarlane

Meredith and its surrounding districts were founded on “Gold”, continued to grow from “Wool” and its expansion is largely due to the Soldier Settlement Scheme that was established in 1945.

Soldier Settlement Schemes were established throughout parts of Australia for discharged soldiers under schemes administered by State Governments. The Soldier Settlement Commission was supported by all political parties and received a strong input from the Returned Serviceman’s League. {RSL}

The Commission bought and subdivided the land, chose the farmer, and financed him. Once a returned soldier had been allocated a block, he commenced the “Developmental Stage” which involved erecting fences, sheep/cattle yards, sinking dams and generally preparing to stock the farm.

Then followed the “Interim Lease Stage”, the settler was required to pay rent for a period of up to 6 years.

Then came the “Purchase Lease” which was the start of the capital repayments.

Farms could not be sold for at least 6 years after commencing the Interim Lease.

While the Commission initially financed the improvements, it was a loan that the “settler” had to repay at low interest over a 55 years period.

The Commission bought up large land holdings on which to settle the “diggers”.

On the “Moranghurk Estate” 16,833 acres was bought and 26 farms were developed.

The arrival of the settlers in 1953 created a “Boom” time for this quiet township of Meredith.

All facilities within the town and district expanded, new roads and bridges were built, a health centre and kindergarten were established, as school and church numbers swelled, businesses welcomed the new settlers as well as sporting clubs and organizations, as the settlers integrated into all facets of “life on the land”.

These “Diggers” who helped to “grow” the district have long since retired and sadly many have now deceased. Many of their descendants remain in the district however, or have not moved too far away; here are some of their stories:

Jim Ryan: A Settlers Son

Jim Ryan came to Meredith with his parents Tom and Ann Ryan and sisters Joyce and Jackie when he was 8 years old in 1954. After WW11 Jim’s father was allotted a block on Hendersons Road, Bamganie and they came to view the block, along Shelford Road, along what is now Meeks Road, left their vehicle at the Leigh River, clambered through the water and saw river flats, 2½ mile of river frontage, little rock and paddocks with picturesque gum trees and they were impressed.

Jim tells they arrived on the wettest day in February 1954 after driving from Hamilton in a little Prefect car. In Ballarat on the way, Jim’s father bought 100 rabbit traps to add to their luggage and he sold the Prefect and bought a Dodge Utility.

Jim’s mother nursed Jackie, Joyce sat with her back against the back of the seat and Jim sat in front of Joyce in the cabin of the Dodge utility.

Rhonda Hughan: A Settlers Daughter.

After Dad was demobbed in September 1945 he went to Dookie Agricultural College and then worked on a farm before being allocated a block of 600 acres on one side of the Midland Highway between Meredith and Lethbridge and 30 acres over the road.

The back of the property had steep hills to the Moorabool River, the soil was heavy and black and stuck to everything when wet and the whole place was covered with rocks, scotch thistles and snakes.

A cow was given to us by a farmer at Macarthur, sent by train from Hamilton to Meredith, carted by Archie Hearn to the block and milked by Dad on the 30 acres over the Highway. He carted the milk over the road to Mum who separated it. I remember her chasing the dish of cream as it blew away with everything else that wasn’t tied down.

Joyce Harriage: A Settlers Daughter.

Joyce was 8 years old when her family arrived on their block on the Midland Highway south of Meredith on her father’s birthday March 22, in 1955. She remembers how wet and cold it was. It rained all night! They were living in a shed. They were used to hot days and wearing light shifts at Tesco, near Swan Hill. Jack and Ethel Bird called their 800 acre block “Morokko”, meaning “more rocks”. Joyce believes that the block had been offered 3 times to ex-servicemen and had been refused 3 times. The gully of the Coolebarghurk Creek ran at the back of the house block, some of the land was south of the Highway and some was south of the railway line.

The five settler families on the Midland Highway shared the school run to Meredith State School, each taking and collecting one day per week. Sometimes it was quite a squash with 10 children in a car but on the back of Woolstencroft’s truck in the Ford box there was plenty of
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December 2010

The Story of a Small Town

Marg Cooper

The launch of Lyndsay Fink’s Book “The Story of a Small Town, A Story of Meredith” was on Sunday November 14.

Sadly Lyndsay died about 2 am on Sunday November 14, after a short illness.

The family decided that the launch should go ahead as planned and three of his daughters bravely attended.

Marg Cooper told the crowd about Lyndsay’s life and how she offered to type and put in order the many notes he had on Meredith History.

The typing and talking continued for many years, as he did a lot of research at the Ballarat Library when he moved to Ballarat and began to arrange his collected material into a book.

His daughter Julie paid tribute to her father and launched the book.

Fay McFarlane told the crowd about the “archaeological dig” on their property by Dr Vincent Clark Associates employees, Annie, Jasmine, Tim and Helen, in early September.

The four young archaeologists found bluestone foundations including a raised bluestone feature with a paved floor, extensive traces of burning adjacent and significant quantities of artefacts including glass and ceramic fragments, shell, bone and metal.

The site also contained the remains of further bluestone walls including a curved, semi-circular stone wall adjacent to the raised structure.

The site is a significant part of the History of Meredith and although it has not yet been established what the building was, many suggestions have been put forward and more history of the Green Tent area has been discovered.

People were interested in the old maps, the photos and the drawing of the site by the archaeologists, which Fay had displayed.

The book by Lyndsay Fink is available from Marg Cooper and from Meredith Community Centre.

The Meredith History Interest Group Inc. have applied for funding through the Public Records Victoria “Local History Grants Program”, to publish a book recording the history of Soldier Settlers and allowing the settlers to tell their stories; to erect a monument in their honour and in honour of the Commission who worked tirelessly to afford our “Diggers” an opportunity to carve a living on the land.

The MHIG thanks Meredith & District News for the opportunity to participate in Victoria’s 175th Anniversary celebrations through this community newspaper history project.

John McKellin: A Settlers Son.

John began school in Harrow where his father worked on a farm. His father James and mother Hazel came to a block on Shellow Road and they lived in “a little tin shed in a big paddock”. They called their farm “Karakarabeek” being aboriginal for “black soil-good earth”. There was a gravel road to their gate and a mud track towards Shellow.

Two daughters were born to them and a son was born in 1964 just weeks before Jim McKellin was killed when his blue Chev car was hit by a train at Gherinhap. John, who was 17 years old, left school and ran the farm for his mother until the younger children were grown up. John tells that his mother didn’t drive and that their neighbours were very helpful to her with her young family and they helped John to become a farmer.

This photo of the State School Mothers Club in 1950's contains many wives of settlers.

Back Row: Lila East, Rita Henderson, Maureen Henderson, Gay Tansley, Lorna Trotter, Hazel McKellin, Edna Levy, Alma Miller, Marj McFarlane, Betty Stein, Olive Hall.


Author, the late Lyndsay Fink.
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Avoid the Christmas rush & shop in comfort

It’s hard to believe another year is coming to a close and Christmas isn’t many sleeps away now. Firstly we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very safe and Merry Christmas. We thank you for all your support in 2010 and we look forward to 2011!

We have all your Christmas Gifts covered

Before you drive into Geelong or down to Melbourne where all the Christmas shopping crowds are, take the time to come in and see what gifts we have to offer this year in a more relaxed environment. We have an extensive range of high quality gifts at affordable prices for all ages. We will be open extended hours again this year to allow you plenty of time to come in and do your Christmas shopping. Don’t forget we also offer free Christmas Gift Wrapping and you can use your Chemmart Rewards card when purchasing your gifts either to accrue cash on your card, or you can use the cash you have on your card to purchase your Christmas gifts.

Christmas Shopping Night

We would like to thank everyone who attended our Christmas Shopping Night last month. We had a great turnout this year with everyone grabbing some great Christmas gifts with 15% off all giftware on the night. Everyone enjoyed the drinks and nibbles available not to mention the $3200 worth of lucky door prizes given away on the night! There were many happy people on the night winning some fantastic prizes, but there were also some who only just missed out. Again thank you to everyone who attended this night and helped make it a very enjoyable one. We will be running it again next year so we look forward to another great night then!

Christmas Trading Hours

Our extended Christmas hours and New Year Trading Hours will be as follows:

- Friday 17th December: 8:30am - 7:00pm
- Saturday 18th December: 8:30am - 5:00pm
- Sunday 19th December: 10:00am - 4:00pm
- Monday 20th December: 8:30am - 8:00pm
- Tuesday 21st December: 8:30am - 8:00pm
- Wednesday 22nd December: 8:30am - 8:00pm
- Thursday 23rd December: 8:30am - 8:00pm
- Friday 24th December: 8:30am - 6:00pm
- Saturday 25th (Christmas Day): CLOSED
- Sunday 26th (Boxing Day): CLOSED
- Monday 27th (Xmas Day Holiday): CLOSED
- Tuesday 28th (Boxing Day Holiday): CLOSED
- Wednesday 29th Dec: 8:30am - 6:00pm
- Thursday 30th December: 8:30am - 6:00pm
- Friday 31st December: 8:30am - 6:00pm
- Saturday 1st (New Years Day): CLOSED

Pharmacy Features:

Diabetes Australia Agency
- Kate Morgan Weight Loss Centre
- Vitamins
- In-store Naturopath every 2 weeks
- Webster-paks
- Home Medicine Reviews
- Medicare Access Point
- GMHBA Payment Agency
- Community Notice Board
- QFL Photo Developing
- Digital Photo printing
- Giftware for all ages
- Free gift wrapping
- Darrell Lea Chocolates
- Natio
- Revlon
- Xint Cosmetics
- Fragrances
- In Essence Aromatherapy
- Natural Instinct
- Baby section

Opening Hours:
- Mon: 8.30 am-6:00pm
- Tue: 8.30 am-6:00pm
- Wed: 8.30 am-6:00pm
- Thurs 8.30 am-6:00pm
- Fri: 8.30 am-6:00pm
- Sat: 8.30 am-1:00pm
- Sun: Closed

Public Holiday’s: Closed

Open extended hours this Christmas
The Rain’s Good
The 296 plus mm* we registered in Spring is the highest recorded for a long time (in Ballarat’s case, since 1992) and is nearly 50% above the 200mm long term average for the season. This gives us 735mm over the last 12 months, well over the 674mm LTA. In other words, it’s been an excellent season for gardeners (and even a good one for farmers.)

* Doesn’t include rainfall after 9.00am 28/11

Data supplied by BOM’s ‘Darra’ Rain Station - Averages based on records from 1887

MEREDITH COMMUNITY CENTRE, Inc. SUMMER 2011
SOCIAL AND EDUCATION PROGRAMME
4 Russell St., Meredith 3333 Ph. 52861348 Fax 52861563
E-mail: mch@netconnect.com.au
http://www.meredithcc.com.au

“Working for our Community”
A0018310T
Office Hours
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9-3pm
Closed Tuesdays
Friday 9-12pm
“Learning is lifelong”

COMPUTERS

*INTRO COMPUTABILITY
Date: Mon. Feb 7th–Mar 21st
Time: Mon. 9.30-12.00pm
Cost: $55 (7 weeks)

*FLEXI /ADV COMPUTABILITY
Date: Mon. Feb 7th–Mar 21st
Time: Mon. 12.30-3pm
Cost: $55 (7 weeks)

COMPUTERS BY NIGHT
LAPTOP, TROUBLE SHOOTING & MAINTENANCE
DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED

TRAINING COURSES

RSA, FIRST AID, CPR, FOOD HANDLING AND AGED CARE
These will all be offered term 1 2011. Please call for details.

BUS TRIPS

MILL MARKET TOUR-INCL.
BALLARAT, DAYLESFORD & RED BEARD BAKERY
DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED

CRAFT

QUILT– CHINESE LANTERN
(Stitch and Skills)
Date: Thur. Mar 24th
Time: 10-3pm
Cost: $30 Collect mat. list

BASIC SEWING CLASS
Date: Thur. Feb 24th
Time: 10-3pm
Cost: $30

DECORATIVE PAINTING & FOLKART
Date: Fri. Feb 4th-Apr 8th
Time: 9.30-11.30am
Cost: $10 per class

**NEW*NEW*NEW**

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW CLASS- WHAT ABOUT?

Family Tree History
Small engine maintenance
Floral Art
Jewellery making
Intro to Permaculture
Your digital camera & taking better photos

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR ALL CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

ZUMBA & PILATES - Look for details in January 2011

GOLF LESSONS
Date: Thur. Mar 3 & 10th
Time: 9.15-10.15am
Cost: FREE (2 Weeks)

CIRCUIT CLASS – Wed. 6-7pm
Date: Wed. Feb 2nd–Apr 6th
Time: Wed. 6-7pm
Cost: $80 for 10 weeks
$10 casual visit

CIRCUIT CLASS – Fri. 2-3pm
Date: Fri. Feb 4th—Apr 8th
Time: Fri. 2-3pm
Cost: $80 for 10 weeks
$10 casual visit

TAI CHI
Date: Tue. Feb 1st—Apr 5th
Time: 11.30-12.30pm
Cost: $85.00 for 10 weeks
or $10 casual visit
If you live in this area you are risk from the fire and need to understand how fire can impact you. Planning ahead can save you and your family from being killed by fire.

You must:
- Prepare your property now
- Decide what you are going to do on fire risk days
- Have a written and practised Bushfire Survival Plan

CFA encourages you to make a decision now to save your life.

To learn more, attend a free information session about:
- The bushfire risk in your area
- How you can prepare your house
- Developing a Bushfire Survival Plan
- Knowing your trigger to leave
- Information and alert messages during a bushfire
- Having a back-up plan and knowing where to go if caught out
- Personal survival and how you can protect yourself

Remember, preparation is the key to survival. You need to be informed and know your options.

You will have an opportunity to ask questions about bushfire safety and can register your attendance at www.cfa.vic.gov.au

FIRE READY VICTORIA WORKSHOP

(Please bring along a pen)

Wednesday 8th December 2010 at 6:30 pm
Meredith Hall, Staughton Street Meredith

(BBQ to follow)
We hope you enjoyed your community news in 2010 & thank you to everyone who made this such a good year for the Meredith and District News.