

December 2011

Meredith & district Newsletter



Our Community Newsletter since 1972

Distributed FREE to district residents

We Wish all our Readers a Joyous
Festive Season & a Safe Summer



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Pre-Xmas Bells
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Ryan 16

Meredith & District News

The Meredith and District News is published by a volunteer sub-committee of the Meredith Community Centre comprising: Jim Elvey, Trudy Mitchell, Dawn Macdonald and David Jones.

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 mchnews@netconnect.com.au or deliver to the Meredith Corner Shop.

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 M&D Newsletter is a great way to let district residents know about your business. Contact us or go online for full details and lodgement forms. Rates are:

Business Card	\$14.00
Quarter page	\$25.00
Half page	\$40.00
Full page	\$80.00*
Classifieds	FREE**

*\$20 loading for preferred position

**For small, personal notices from residents. Otherwise \$7.50 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 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: mchnews@netconnect.com.au
Ph: (BH ONLY please) Jim 5286 1273 or Dawn (accounts) 5286 1274.

WEB

You can check back copies and lodge comments at meredithnews.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.

Maternal Infant & Childcare Nurse

Call 0409 900 224 to make an appointment at the Meredith Community Centre
1st, 15th, 29th Dec. 12, 26th Jan

Geelong Regional Library Van

At the Meredith Community Centre
1-3pm 2nd, 16th, 30th Dec. 13, 27th Jan
www.geelonglibraries.vic.gov.au

Senior Citizens

Meet at the Meredith Memorial Hall
Ph. Jim 5286 8232 5th December.
New members are always welcome

Justices of the Peace

Mr R Cooke Meredith	52 861 346
Mr H Woerner Meredith	52 861 402
Mrs S W Dynon Steiglitz	52 819 223
Mr G Leslie Bannockburn	52 811 854
Mr P Ryan Elaine	0409 861 296

Next **DEADLINE**: Wed. 25th Jan 2012
PLEASE NOTE: NO JANUARY ISSUE



Community Contacts

Community Centre-Joan	5286 1348
Primary School-Doug	5286 1313
Kindergarten-Kim	5286 1227
Police Station- Greg	5286 1222
Red Cross- Mel	5286 1558
CWA-Joan	5286 1559
Tennis Club-Julie	5286 1211
Jnr Footy Club-Jaron Munday	0430 587674
M'bool Valley Masters- Mick	0408 545 246
Recreation Reserve- Gordon	0429841399
Memorial Hall-Lynn	5286 1566
Hall Bookings-Sandra	5286 1545
Golf Club- Denis	5341 5748
Senior Citizens-Jim	5286 8232
Cemetery Trust-Dawn	5286 1274
Motor Cycle Club- Mark	0437 009250
Angling Club- Daryl	53 543 879
Advanced Meredith-Di	5286 1291
CFA- Robert Cooke	5286 1346

Let us know if you want your Community number added or changed, or you know of one that should.



Emergency Numbers

Police, Ambulance, Fire (from mobile phone)	000 or 112
Meredith Police Station	5286 1222
Power Failure	132 412
Nurse-On-Call	1300 606024
Mental Health Advice	1300 280 737
Poisons Information	13 11 26
Barwon Water	1300 656 007
SES Emergency - flood & storm help:	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	1300 363 036
A.H. emergencies	0408 508 635
Ranger	5220 7111 or 0409 830 223
Bannockburn Vet	5281 1221
Injured Wildlife	13000 wildlife

ELAINE NEWS & EVENTS

Elaine CFA Scrap metal collection as a fundraiser Ph David 0418 993239

Junior Fire Brigade Training every Mon. 5.30 pm. Ph Viv 0428 518675

Elaine Mechanics Hall Committee - Jayne 53415596

Hall for Hire Heating and Cooling

Elaine Recreation Reserve

Committee Try out the tennis courts, bring your own racquet.

Room with facilities for Hire

Ideal for meetings Contact Ron 53415703

Elaine Tennis Club

Contact Shane 0448 291 074

Anakie Cubs and Scouts

Cubs: Meet School Term Wed. 6.30 - 8.00pm Amanda 03 5281 9497

Scouts: Meet School Term Tue. 7.00 - 9.00pm Bruce 03 5284 1257

Staughton Vale Hall, Staughton Vale.

"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

Farewell Miss Kimberley

Stefania Parkinson, President 2011

Kimberley Westlake has been employed at the Meredith Kindergarten as Kinder Director / Teacher since 2007, and it is with sadness and warm wishes that at the end of the year we will farewell our much loved Miss Kimberley. Kimberley has decided to further her studies and become a Primary School Teacher.

While at the Kinder, Kimberley has built wonderful and nurturing relationships with all the children she has taught and I know many of them will be very sad to say goodbye to her. Our Kindergarten has been very fortunate to have had such a wonderful, gentle and caring teacher.

Kimberley has a lovely nature that has enabled her to connect with all families and children and we will be very sorry to see her go. We wish her every success with her future endeavours and thank her sincerely for providing our children with such a wonderful education foundation.

On behalf of myself, the Committee, Mrs Sharlene, kinder families and especially the children, thank you for your dedication, commitment, warm smile and wonderful teaching nature. We wish you every success for the future.



FAREWELL MISS KIMBERLEY



Kimberley is leaving our Kinder at the end of the year.

Please come and join us for afternoon tea
and farewell Miss Kimberley on

*Monday 19th December at the
Meredith Memorial Hall
From 1.30pm.*

For further information and catering please call
Stefania Parkinson on 5341 5570



Meredith Kindergarten is provided by Golden Plains Shire & Meredith Kindergarten Inc.



Meredith Community Village

Diane Ritchie, Chairman

At last the Meredith Community Village committee has been informed that Catholic Home are unable to continue with the initial plans to investigate the construction of the first stage of the Community Village on the Catholic Church land in Meredith. Catholic Homes having done all the investigation necessary into this project have said that they are unable to consider this project in Meredith at this time, mainly due to the uncertainty and downturn generally in all developments of this type of project. The committee will now check the other possibilities they have in mind before having to find a way of using the money, that they control, within our local community. While this seems to have taken a very long time to reach this stage, the community can rest assured that the money which has been fundraised from the Auctions, dinners etc has been well invested and is waiting to be used !!

Meredith & District Red Cross

Rosemary Hart, Chairman

The Unit met for the last meeting of 2011 and have decided to hold a Film night in February at the Meredith Community Centre. Numbers will be limited, but keep an eye out for the date, which will be announced in the February Newsletter. If you are a Blood donor, or have been a donor in the past please think about giving some Blood before Christmas when it is needed so much because of the holiday times. Both Geelong and Ballarat have Red Cross Blood Banks and they always need your donation. !!!

Wishing everyone a Happy and Safe Christmas.



Meredith Kindergarten Mutton Muster 2011

The Meredith Kindergarten would like to thank all the local farming families who generously provided a sheep or donation to the mutton muster. We raised \$1000 from this event which will directly support the purchase of our new outdoor playspace. Special thanks to Bernie Nevins of HF Richardson- Livestock, and Robert Cooke for their assistance.

Meredith Christmas Carols

**FRIDAY 23rd December
8 pm- 9 pm**

**St Joseph's Church
Lawler St Meredith**

**Followed by Supper in the Church Hall.
Everyone Welcome**



Church News

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Rev Elizabeth Bufton, Vicarage: 52651284;

Church Office 52812553; Mob. 0437524864.

Service times:

Meredith

11.00am 2nd Sunday at Uniting Church, Holy Communion

11.00am 4th Sunday Anglican Church Holy Communion

Bannockburn

10.30am 1st, 3rd Sundays Holy Communion

10.30am 3rd Sunday Family Service

6.00pm 4th Sunday Prayer & Praise

Inverleigh

8.45am 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays Holy Communion

10.00am 4th Sunday Morning Prayer

11.00am 5th Sunday Holy Communion

Parish Office, Byron St. Bannockburn. Open Wed; call in for

cuppa & chat. Enquiries, Parish Secretary, Fay McFarlane;

Office 52812553, Home, 52861283; Mob 0407502794.

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.

UNITING CHURCH

Monthly Service Times: 2nd Sunday Meredith 11am Uniting

Church; 4th Sunday, Meredith 11am Church of The Epiphany

1st and 3rd Sundays 9.45 am Buninyong Uniting Church

Enquiries Doug McFarlane 52861283 or Jean 52817479

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

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MEREDITH & ANAKIE CATHOLIC CHURCHES

Baptisms, weddings, funerals, pastoral care. Father Herman 52861230

St. Joseph's Catholic Parish Meredith

Bannockburn - Mass every Sunday @ 9 a.m.

Winchelsea - Mass every Saturday @ 6 p.m.

Meredith- Mass @ 11 a.m. Meredith 4th & 18th Dec.

Anakie - Mass @ 11 a.m. Sundays 11th 25th Dec.

Christmas Eve

6.00pm - Bannockburn

8.00pm - Anakie

10.00pm - Meredith

Christmas Day

8.00am - Winchelsea

10.00am - Bannockburn



Meredith Community Centre, Inc.

4 Russell Street Meredith 3333

PH 5286 1348 Fax 52861 563

"Working for our community"



SEASONS GREETINGS AND HAPPY 2012

from
MEREDITH COMMUNITY CENTRE



The Committee of Management and the Staff of the Meredith Community Centre would like to wish all members of our district community a safe and happy holiday season.

We thank you for the support and participation in the classes and programs offered over the past year. We look forward to your involvement in our new and exciting 2012 program.

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meredithPolice**news**

Leading Senior Constable Greg Kitchen

During the past month, I am unhappy to report that we have had a number of incidents of crime which have been committed both in and around the Meredith township. During the past month, we have seen both the Meredith Golf Club and the Meredith Recreation Reserve broken into. Due to the circumstances which surround these burglaries, it is clear that both were committed by the same offenders. In both instances, the bar areas were targeted and items that were stolen would clearly indicate that youth offenders are involved.

On the evening of Friday the 18th of November, 2011 the cricket pitch which is covered with a synthetic surface was severely damaged by fire. A small container of lighter fluid was located at the scene and the damage to the surface affected the cricket club and its members. I would again like to take this opportunity to strongly encourage any parent or community member who may have any information at all no matter how small or seemingly insignificant to get in contact with me. Any information received will be treated with the upmost sensitivity.

On a separate note, Victoria Police is running operation RAID (Remove All Impaired Drivers). This operation is being run between the 18th November and the 11th December, 2011 and is a state wide initiative targeting alcohol and drug effected drivers together with speed and traffic related offences.

On Monday the 21st November whilst engaged in this operation I checked a vehicle travelling towards Geelong in Meredith at 137 kilometres per hour whilst overtaking dangerously. The probationary driver was arrested and conveyed back to the Meredith Police station where he has been interviewed for a number of offences. I need to urge all drivers and especially young or inexperienced drivers of the importance of safe travel on country roads. Only last month did we see the death of five young country people in a horrific accident scene.

In closing this months report, I would like to wish everyone the very best for the approaching Christmas season and to be mindful of taking care on country roads and while socialising throughout the Christmas and New Year period.

Regards Greg Kitchen.

5 Years On and Still a CERT!

Lynne Heard

The Meredith and District Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is still playing a very important role in our community, five years after its establishment.

With around 40 to 50 emergency calls each year, the team covers the communities of Mt Doran, Morrison, Durdiwarrah, Steiglitz, She Oaks, Maude, Lethbridge, Shelford, Bamganie, Mount Mercer, Elaine and Meredith, the CERT Team plays an important role in the health and well being of district residents.

Community First Responders do an extraordinary job by providing basic emergency pre hospital care within the community before Ambulance arrives. When 000 is called for an ambulance, the CERT team is dispatched at the same time as a paramedic crew. With local knowledge of the area and members who live in the area, the CERT team is usually first to arrive.

Our members do their best to cover a 24 hour, 7 days a week roster, but there are some times when volunteer members are not available and we only ask volunteers to do what they can.

Why Not Join Us?

We are currently looking for more volunteers to come on the team and if you are interested in becoming a CERT volunteer, please contact a team member or phone Lynn Heard (Team Leader) on 5286 1566. Becoming a CERT member is not only helping your community, it also gives you a skill for life – emergency first aid.



Local CERT members, Rob and Kat Rudland and, at the wheel of the team's new ambulance, Cathie Boer.

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Meredith Cricket Club



Craig Lines up for Australia

Local Meredith cricketer Craig (Dougie) Whitehand represented Australia in the Tri-Nation Cricket Series for athletes with an intellectual disability. Competing against England and South Africa, Dougie (to all his team mates) was taking part in his fourth Tri Series, having represented Australia in South Africa in 2005, in England in 2007 and in Melbourne in 2009. Australia won each of these series, but didn't fair so well this time round.

Thirty eight year old Dougie plays for Meredith as a leg spin bowler and middle order batsman and is one of four Victorians in the team.



Meredith Cricketer, Craig (Dougie) Whitehand

Elaine Cricket Club Inc.

Shane Dunne

35 boys and girls have registered for Milo Cricket (boys and girls aged 5-10 years old) The kids receive a t-shirt, backpack, milo, hat, ball and cricket bat.

Thank you to Gary Mitchell for donating white paint for the boundry line at the Elaine Cricket Ground. Much appreciated. Milo Cricket is held at Elaine Cricket Ground Fridays at 5:30pm-6:30pm. Cost \$70

Milo Cricket is a great way of introducing kids to the game of cricket. For more info please phone Coordinators Les Kocon 0405266778 Daryl Hunt 0437322232 Shane Dunne 0448291074



Meredith Golf Club



The Club held its annual dinner and presentations on Saturday, November 19 at the Golf Club. The clubhouse was decorated with glorious flowers, the tables were set attractively and sherry and nibbles were served before a delicious dinner. Janet Cooke, George Colclough and Eric Miller were welcomed as Life Members before the presentation of trophies to the winners of annual events.

Alan Slocombe the Men's Captain announced that the Pennant Team finished 3rd, Meredith won the Rokewood Challenge and that a Meredith team won the Dunsmuir Plate.

Men's Awards

The A Grade Club Championship was won by Simon Wilson, The B Grade Club Championship was won by Bert Moritz, The 54 Hole Nett was won by Paul Schillier. The Putting Competition was won by Dennis Gear. The WL Cooke Trophy was won by Michael Colvin and Dennis Gear. Janet Cooke presented the trophies. The Captain's Trophy was won by Glenn Wilkins. The Mixed Event was won by Janice Donghi and Dennis Gear. The Eclectic was won by Paul Schillier.

The Monthly Medals were won by Alan Slocombe, Gary Sedgemen, Jeff Cooper and Danny Jury.

Women's Awards

Club Championship :	Sandra Watson
C Grade	Shirley Rees
D Grade	Sarah Molesworth
54 Hole Nett	Sandra Watson
Eclectic	Sandra Watson
Least number of Putts	Kathy Rosch
Monthly Medals	Shirley Parkinson
	Kathy Rosch
Annie McNaughton Trophy	Shirley Parkinson & Shirley Rees
Captains Trophy	Sandra Rees
Silver Spoon	Sandra Watson



A Grade Club Champion, Simon Wilson



The Future Meredith

Jim Elvey

Golden Plains Shire took its Facilities Mapping Project for Meredith a step further last month, when it held another round of community consultations. Around thirty people over two sessions responded to a mail drop and public notices, inviting participation in the formulation of this important planning tool for the township.

Community Development Officer, Damian Waight, provided an outline of the Facilities Map which, importantly, located the kindergarten alongside the primary school, and community centre. Although this will be subject to funding and a range of approvals, it at least identifies a future permanent home for the kinder, currently operating out of cramped quarters in the modified, 19th century former Shire Office.

The focus of discussion however, was on the proposed Visitors' Centre to be built on the highway at the corner of Lawler street. Its purpose has now been defined as follows:

- Encourage visitors to stop and provide a place to show off the district
- Present tourism and historical information
- Highlight local produce
- Provide a community display and exhibition space
- Toilets

Three questions were put to the meetings:

- How to accommodate the designated purposes?
- What other elements should be included?
- What is the best operating model?

The project stems from a community group's suggestion to establish a memorial to the late Sir Henry Bolte, a former long serving premier of Victoria and district resident. There is no clear plan as to how this is to be achieved. Indeed, there is no clear plan about how any aspect of the proposal is to be achieved. The Shire now has the unenviable task of realising a project that will be used and valued by the community. How this is realised will also clarify how it will be maintained.

Some points did arise from the meetings that will help in this process.

- Design should have regard for flexibility and sustainability
- Capacity to sell local produce (Which could add a commercial operating element.)
- The needs and expectations of visitors should inform the design, information content, etc.
- Buildings to reflect rural/agricultural style
- A north bound public bus stop and shelter should be incorporated. (Replacing the present, unsheltered stop near the service station.)

This provides a framework for developing a detailed proposal. A primary consideration in this next step should be the establishment of a built facility that will be admired by locals and visitors alike. In a facility that is aimed at visitors and passing traffic, this will ensure we make a good impression and have a prominent, main street structure to be proud of.

Although the formal consultation period is concluded, if you have strong views about any aspect of this project, register them now with the Shire.



Meredith Cemetery News

Dawn Macdonald Hon Sec /Treas.

The Meredith Cemetery Trustees are the guardians of a new Ride on Mower!! This has been purchased with money from a Government Grant, which will save the volunteers from walking the whole area of the Cemetery with a push mower. Doug McFarlane, the Trust Chairman, who we know has walked many miles behind mowers over the years is now to be seen sitting on the new mower, perhaps enjoying the job.

The Meredith Cemetery is getting a new front fence and so with the trees being tidied up and the grass cutting made a bit easier, plus the Information Board providing all the information we have about the Graves, many that have been there since the 1850's, the Cemetery will remain an important place in our Shire for future historian, and all families who have relatives interred there.

The Meredith Cemetery Trustees have also received advice that they are to receive another grant from the Department of Health. This grant is to cover the purchase of computer and printer for the keeping of the historic and current records of the burials and mapping of the Cemetery and also to purchase storage for the equipment.

All Trustees are appointed by the Government to carry out the legal side of burials and Ashes placements, the keeping of records etc as well as to keep the area in an acceptable condition. Over the years many local people have served as Trustees for long periods of time, providing a very necessary service to the community.

If you are interested in history there are several headstones in the Cemetery well worth having a look at, many family names are still around the district, which is why any cemetery is an important part of local history.



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Meredith's new primary school is now replete with a stylish decked play and seating area for pupils. Built on the site of the demolished section of the old school, it adds to the facility of the new school and marks the completion of the rebuild project.

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Elaine Mechanics Hall Centenary

Paul Ryan

The Centenary celebrations of the Elaine Mechanics Hall was held on Sunday, November 13, 2011. The large gathering was made up of many locals and a lot of people coming back to the district for the day.

A plaque was unveiled by Mr James Connell to celebrate the milestone and a tree was planted by Peter {Keith} Wells who is the grandson of John Robbins who donated the ground to build the hall on.

After the tree planting there was an official group photo taken of all the people who were there on the day. A scrumptious and abundant afternoon tea was served during the afternoon.

The event was enjoyed by everyone attending and a lot of old friendships were rekindled.

Centenary Coffee Cups are still available for purchase at the Elaine Store for the price of \$10, while stocks last and an album of the photos taken by Daryl Hunt will be in the store soon, for the public to order from.

The Hall's History

The Elaine Hall is certainly a part of our local history having been the meeting, dancing and general socialising place for several generations. There are a wealth of memories associated with this building. I have put together a history of 100 years of this hall by looking at bookwork, papers and speaking with residents of the district.

In May 1909 there was a meeting held at the Railway Hotel chaired by Mr W Martin. It was decided to try and erect a Mechanics Institute. There was a lot of communication with the Government seeking grants and looking for a site. It eventually granted a site in the Railway reserve, but with strict terms.

At a public meeting held at Randall's Hall on September 16, 1909 chaired by Mr A A Austin it was decided that they could possibly get a better site. It was at this meeting that John Robbins spoke up and said that he would donate a block of ground to the people of Elaine to build a public hall on.

In 1910 construction of the hall began by building contractors James & Ewart from Ballarat.

On a weekend, during the building there was a storm with winds of great strength. When the builders returned on the Monday morning it was found that the structure had been damaged.

Some believed that it should have been dismantled and reconstructed but the contractors decided to simply push it back into position with two steam engines and then they continued building.

It appeared at a later date that there was some movement in the hall and the community placed bush stays against the walls which were later replaced by mill-sawn stays that had been delivered to Elaine by a steam train. These stays were still there before the renovations were started in the 1980's.

The Official opening of the hall was a concert and a ball which raised £25.

In 1924 they lined the inside of the hall with the present lining boards. The funds were raised by concerts, dances and activities held at the hall. As it was called a Mechanics Institute Hall there was a library at the hall in the supper room.

During the 1930's, 40's and 50's the hall was a hive of activities. In 1950 Martin Sharkey became the Chairperson and

held that position for twenty years. He always held an active role at the hall including running the dances and being the MC.

His voice was famous!

At one dance when it came time for supper at 11 pm the hall filled up with smoke and people could not see each other on the dance floor. Someone had got out the back and put a bag over the chimney. Martin soon called for order in the house and got the band to play for an extra hour whilst the smoke left the building. (A man at the centenary celebrations recalled this event and remembered who the prankster was!)

The youth Club was formed in the 1950's and used the hall as their home base. In 1951 the Table Tennis Club was established by the wives of the Soldier Settlers. Teams played on Thursday nights in the Mt Wallace Association for nearly 50 years, until the 1990's. The Football Club ran dances and pie nights after training.

In 1967 there was a public meeting held to investigate building another hall. At that time it was \$9,000 for a dollar for dollar grant to build a new hall. The public thought that there was no support for a new hall and the money could be better spent on the existing hall.

In 1976 the Centenary Ball for the school was held with a packed house. The school was a regular user of the hall for school concerts at Christmas time until the school closed in 1998. These events were always well attended by the community.

In October 1985 many members of the Committee of Management wanted to retire at the end of their term and the hall was really showing its age. It took a week to get another committee, which avoided closure of the hall. The new committee worked very hard for the next few years to make the hall more acceptable and beneficial to the whole community. The Elaine Historical Society was formed for fundraising, running garden shows, trivia nights, bingo, dances, car shows etc.

On August 6, 1989 the Elaine Hall was officially closed for renovations. The hall was restumped, painted inside and outside, toilets were built, the floor was sanded, improvements were made to the kitchen etc and the hall was officially opened on May 16, 1992 after completion of renovations.

Work still continued on the hall building and the pine cypress trees were removed by pulling them over with tractors. Many people would stop and look with amazement when they saw three tractors hooked to a tree with the tractors bouncing up and down on the spot on their back wheels.

The hall has been painted again during the last ten years.

On August 31, 2006 four people were made Life Members of the Elaine Mechanics Institute Hall for their contributions: Kevin Pitcher, Viv Barrie, Shirley Ryan and Albie Smith.

Many people can look back on the history of the hall by their involvement with its activities. And even today we are making history by celebrating 100 years of the hall.



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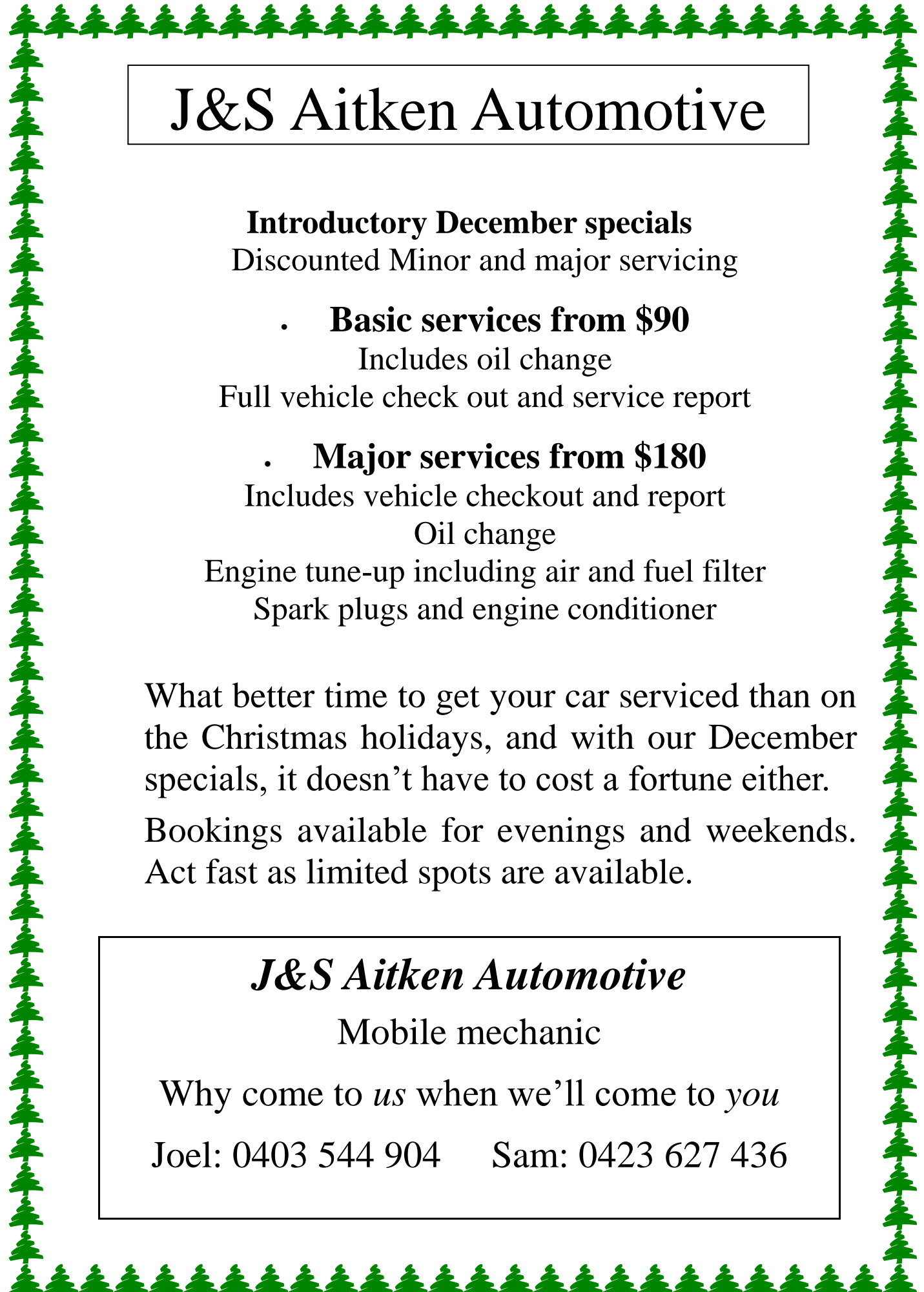
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Meredith Senior Citizens Jaunt to Maryborough

Jim Hynds

Spirits were high as twenty two seniors set off on November 14, by bus to Maryborough. On arrival for a pit stop at the historic town of Clunes we were treated with tea, coffee and loads of cakes and slices. We then had a stroll around the famous town where many films have been made, including Ned Kelly. After a pleasant drive in glorious weather we arrived at Maryborough. We had time for a drive around the town.

Dianne Stevenson, our Treasurer had produced a flyer about a shop called Steptoe & Sons {Ring a bell?}.

It was soon located and the group streamed into the shop that was filled with an assortment of weird and wonderful things and believe me, many were purchased. It was all aboard for our lunch destination the Park Hotel. After a great lunch and a bit of chatter the group split into two groups.

A group of shoppers were dropped off in the main street and the rest of us headed for the

historic railway station where we spent hours exploring the beautiful station and antique shops. All too soon we boarded the bus again and went to pick up the shoppers and sightseers. They looked quite weary. I wonder why!

A great drive home with much laughter and the weary travellers arrived back at Meredith at 5 pm. The seniors agreed that a great time was had by all. A special thanks to Mr Gary Groot our bus driver for a job well done.

The Seniors Christmas Party will be on Monday December 5th with Christmas dinner and entertainment.

Below: A bus load of smiles.



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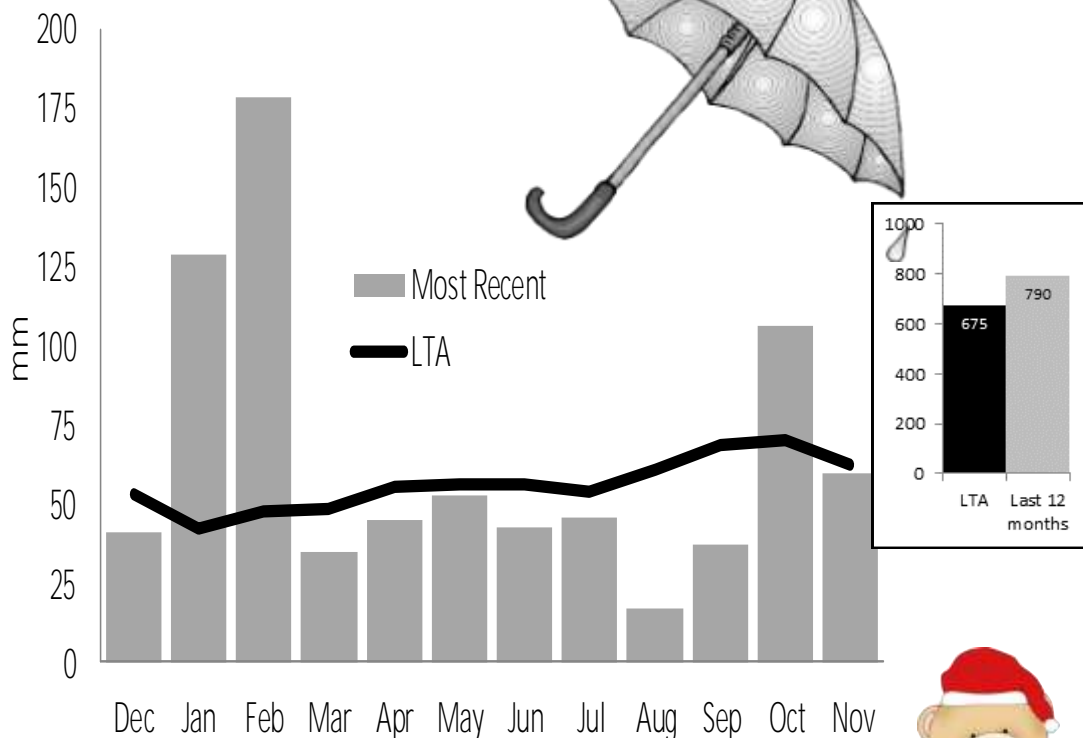
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Well Sprung

Spring's rainfall was about the same as the long term average. Nothing to complain about there!

As a result, the last 12 months continues to show an improvement over the long term figure. (If more rain is an improvement for you.)

Interestingly though, this has been achieved through three especially wet months and the remaining nine have all been below average.



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A Garden Wedding Garden

Seeta Roberts and Ryan Bull were married on Saturday, November 12 by Civil Celebrant Joan Duffy in the gardens of Joyce and Ron Read at 704 Mt Mercer Road, Cargerie.

Seeta was attended by Mindy Bombell, Becky Austen, Kylie Fahey, Alicia Hunter and Sarah Roberts who wore purple frocks.

Ryan was attended by Andrew Jan, Tristan Terry, Heath Atkinson, Kyle Johnston and Robbie Hickey.

Seeta, who wore an imported A line dress hooped at the hem, arrived at the gardens in a horse drawn buggy. By contrast, the men arrived in a two fast, sleek cars, a Cobra XC and an XY GT.

Seeta's grandmother, Val Edwards, gave her away and her young niece and her daughter were carried behind by her mother and Ryan's mother.

The gazebo in the gardens was decorated with ribbons and roses for the wedding and the reception for about 90 people was held in the Elaine Hall. The new bride was overwhelmed with the help and good wishes they received from the Elaine Community

Victoria turned on 4 seasons for guests, many of whom were from the Gold Coast.

A 40th Wedding Anniversary

Marg Cooper

Sandra & Barry Pearce celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary on 15th October 2011.

They were married at Christ Church Anglican Church in Geelong on Friday 15th October 1971 by Rev. Fawell, who also performed the wedding service for Sandra's three sisters and her brother. The reception was held at the Shell Club in Corio and a great night was had by family and friends.

Sandra and Barry met in 1966 and became engaged in December 1970. Readers can find that story in a web book called 'Geelong to Nui Dat and Back' which is a free download at the Creative Ministries website cmn.unitingchurch.org.au

Both grew up in Geelong, but in 1968 Barry was transferred to Melbourne by the State Savings Bank to work in the Chief Inspectors Department. In 1969 he was conscripted into the army and served a year in South Vietnam returning to Australia in May 1971 and was discharged in July 1971.

On returning to civilian life Barry resumed his position at the Bank and after they were married, Sandra joined him in Melbourne, firstly living in Preston and then buying their own home in Bundoora.

Between 1972 and 1975 Sandra and Barry's family grew to two boys and a girl. Life was going along smoothly until 1977

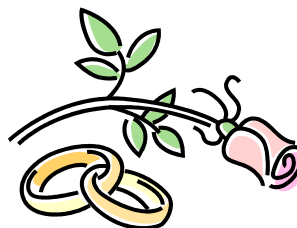


when Barry was the victim in an armed holdup in Northcote. This made him think about his future and he started to seek other employment. In 1979 Barry was accepted into the Community Welfare Training Institute in Watsonia and completed his Certificate in Welfare Work. In 1980 Sandra decided to also return to study and completed her HSC at Diamond Valley Learning Centre. This started a period of study and learning for both Sandra and Barry and they both went on to complete tertiary studies.

In 1985 the family moved into North Melbourne and the three children completed their secondary studies at University High School. Barry was then working in homeless persons services in inner Melbourne and Sandra commenced working with Community Services at the City of Melbourne.

By 1994 the family had grown up and were ready to leave home so Barry and Sandra moved into the house they had built at Meredith in 1989. Barry then worked for the Brotherhood of St. Laurence at Lara and Sandra continued to work in the Home and Community Service sector with a number of providers.

Barry left St. Laurence in 2001 and worked for a while in the funeral industry and then tenancy work. In 2004 they started a Funeral Celebrant business. Due to health issues Barry and Sandra have now retired from but still enjoy their volunteer work. At all stages of their journey Barry and Sandra have been active participants in their local communities.



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Welcome to MEREDITH PRIMARY SCHOOL!

The school year is quickly coming to an end, and plans for 2012 are in full swing. A quick reminder to those people who intend to enrol their children in the school, please pop in and fill out an enrolment form. The earlier we know our numbers the easier it is to plan our grades and programs for 2012.

As you may have heard, our illustrious Business Manager,

Joy Spikers, is hanging up the phone at the end of the school year and will be retiring to the quiet life. Joy has been the face of Meredith Primary School for the past 16 years and has seen many students and families through the school.

Joy has also been a big part of our school community, running netball, being our nominated netball umpire, our resident nurse, chopper of fruit for the after school activities, purchaser of items for special lunch days, organizer of flowers, Senior Citz co-ordinator (some may say she'll be the one being served on from now on!!), member of the PFA, plumber, cleaner, shoulder to cry on and many other things.

The school community will be holding a special 'Day of Joy' on Friday December 2nd where the children will be dressing up as 'Mrs Spikers' in one of her many roles. The Junior School Council will also hold a disco for the students on the day to raise money for some new playground equipment. Entry will be a gold coin donation. We all know how much Mrs Spikers loves to dance. A sausage sizzle lunch will also be provided by the PFA. If you are out and about on this day and would like to pop in and say your farewells, please feel free! You are very welcome.

We have had two visitors in our school recently who have been working in the Grade 5 and Grade 6 classrooms. Grade 5 has made Mr Tristan Dixon very welcome and the Grade 6s have enjoyed their time with Mr Sam Corden. They are teaching students from Ballarat University and have been undertaking a four week teaching round at the school.

It seems that both of them have proven to be pretty handy during lunchtime cricket on the bottom oval – giving Mr Colbert a run for his money!

In early December we start our two week intensive swimming program which we will be doing at Leisurelink in Waurin Ponds. While swimming is lots of fun, there will certainly be a lot of tired children at the end of the program. Our time at school will be spent rehearsing for our Concert as well as doing a range of Christmas activities. The Grade 6s have also been busy raising money for their special Graduation Day in the last week of school. We are also looking forward to celebrating their achievements with their parents on Graduation Night.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FAMILIES WHO HAVE SUPPORTED US THROUGH THE YEAR, OUR HARDWORKING PFA FOR RAISING VALUABLE FUNDS TO ASSIST WITH THE RUNNING OF THE SCHOOL AND TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY WHO HELP US IN MANY WAYS.

HAVE A GREAT CHRISTMAS AND A TERRIFIC START TO THE 2012 YEAR!

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Mollie's COLUMN

That Time of Year

When I was little, an entire lifetime seemed to stretch between one Christmas and the next. It would take me hours to get to sleep on Christmas Eve, thanks to the giddy combination of the sun setting so late outside my window, Carols by Candlelight still audible on the telly and the breathless anticipation of Santa's sleigh landing on the roof some time later in the mysterious night. I'd climb in to bed reluctantly in my nicest pyjamas after leaving carrots for the reindeer, button my eyes up tight and wait for the faraway morning, dreaming of jumping out of bed to find a pile of presents taller than I was.

These days, I'm much more likely to be found with a pillow over my head on Christmas morning, grumpily insisting on another hour of sleep. It feels like just a few busy weeks have passed since I last fought my way through crowded stores, drove to see my family through baking heat and bad temperedly waded through seas of wrapping paper and overtired, sugared up children. So when I gracelessly plonked myself down in my family's kitchen last week and demanded to know what presents everyone wanted, my heart was not exactly overflowing with Christmas spirit.

'Time,' was my mother's answer. 'No presents, I want time.'

1950 Debutantes

Marg Cooper

Marj Powell {Ward} and Peter Wells met at the Elaine Hall centenary celebrations and remembered when they partnered each other in the debutante ball at Elaine Hall in January 1950. The debutante set was trained by Irene Lewis {Mooney} and was organized by CWA.

The photos were taken in a big room in the home of Flo East in Elaine by Phil Spielvogel who was a photographer with Lascelles Photograph Studio in Ballarat at the time. Marj and her husband were farmers at Windermere until they retired into Ballarat and Peter farms at Mt Egerton.

Joyce Stanley tells that she was only 16 years old when she made her debut at Elaine partnered by Ron Hearn. The other debutantes were Tonie Brown, partnered by John Vanstan, Kath Jordan, partnered by Jim Angee, and Netta Pitcher, Lorraine Eason and Betty Irvine partnered by their brothers Kelvin, George and Sam respectively. The flower girls were Anne Smith {Dunne} and Margaret Wells {Randall}.

She wasn't asking me to extend daylight hours, to turn every clock back and squeeze a few more minutes in to her busy day. It was my time she was asking for. An afternoon helping her out in the garden, or a few hours in the kitchen baking up a storm. It's not something I can wrap up, not something I can queue up for with aching feet and a scowl firmly in place. It is something I've always had a lot of, but in this past year time hasn't been something I've given freely and generously. Time has become something I've hoarded rather jealously to myself.



In my defence, it's certainly been a busy 12 months. Between uni, work, family, friends and the many tiny things that somehow eat up every day, I always seem to be rushing, often frowning, usually getting nowhere. From delayed trains to heavy books to the million things that should have been done yesterday, I've reached Christmas feeling like I don't have much to

give. It's been a good, productive year, but it's also left me completely tuckered out.

So this Christmas, I'm giving time. Time to the friends I haven't seen enough of, time to the family I've skipped too many Sunday night dinners on, and time to myself. Time to recharge, enjoy the company of the people I love, and make up for everything I've missed out on while rushing through life with no time to stop and appreciate the good things.

Merry Christmas, everyone. Take the time to enjoy it.

And on behalf of her many readers, we thank Mollie for taking the time to share her life experiences in her monthly column. Her sharp and witty observations would be at home in a metro magazine and we are lucky to have her amusing tales for our enjoyment. - Ed.



Debs a half century ago, Peter Wells and Marj Powell (Ward)

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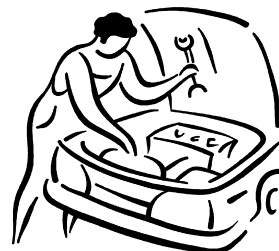
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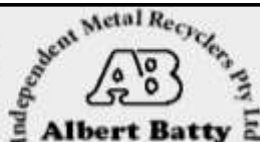
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Meredith History Interest Group

Marg Cooper

Bamganie WWI Soldiers Re-dedication was held on Sunday, November 6. (See report below) Thanks to everyone who helped, to those who gave information, helped get the hall ready, create the displays, the speakers, singer and caterers and to those who cleaned up the hall. We have told the story; the story will not die!

Railway Line 150th

Plans are taking shape at all towns along the line for exciting events, displays, children's activities etc. Railway enthusiasts are planning bus trips to look at engineering features of the line, train trips, signals, workshops etc.

The Governor has been invited to take part in a re-enactment of the opening of the line with other dignitaries and a dinner is planned at the Mechanics Institute in Ballarat.

If you have any ideas or would like to help, come to the next meeting on January 9 at 7 pm at Meredith Community Centre or let us know.

MHIG Annual Meeting

The annual meeting is planned for Sunday, February 26, 2012. This will be held at the Masonic Centre at 1.30 pm. Please bring ideas for talks, walks and events.

Enquiries

We have many enquiries for family history information. Some families we have been researching recently are the Atchison family at Morrison, the Grant family who had family at Bacchus Marsh, Henry O'Brien who established the bottom shop and the Callaghan or O'Callaghan family.

We will not catalogue in December or January but will return to the task on Thursday, 21st of February.



McCOLL.- Killed In action on the 8th August, 1915, after nearly four months in the trenches at Gallipoli (previously reported missing), Private William Albert McColl, 14th Battalion, A.I.F., loved youngest son of John and Mary McColl, of Bamganie, and brother of Jean, Maud, Han, Marg., Geo., and Hugh (on active Service), and loved grandson of George Gillett, Warrambeen, aged 20 years and 5 days.

For King and country.

from The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848-1954) Saturday 20 May 1916

Compiled by Jan McDonald, Meredith History Interest Group

Bamganie WWI Soldiers Re-Dedication

Marg Cooper

The re-dedication ceremony was held at the Meredith hall on Sunday, November 6, 2011. The Bamganie Honour Roll stood on the stage with a photo of Charles Wyatt surrounded by 15 cut-out pine trees and a huge bowl of red poppies with the Red Ensign and the British Flag draped on the back wall of the stage.

A collage on canvas of each of the 15 Bamganie soldiers stood on tables along the back wall of the alcove with other photos and a diorama of a battle field complete with soldiers, guns etc and a display of uniforms and medals were in the alcove.

The crowd heard the remarkable story of Doug Henderson and

his association with the Bamganie school, the pine trees planted for the soldiers, the plaques and the Honour Roll.

Mike Whittle then sang his own composition "The Last Man From Dunolly" which is a haunting song about a man about to return to Dunolly from the war without all his mates, who were all killed at Fromelles. This song is available on a DVD of Macca's Top 100 Songs, at ABC shops.

A short history of each soldier was told and Kathy Vivian spoke of her great grandfather Frederick Thomas Worland and Rebecca Kearney told about her grandmother's brother Charles Wyatt. Their talks were very emotional as in both families we heard how the deaths of these soldiers deeply affected the relations at home.

Mayor Ian Barnes, a military historian told about World War I, the number of casualties and deaths on both sides and he told about the medals issued to soldiers and their families.

Maisie Erwin (Elliott) was invited to unveil the sign. Maisie is 94¾ years old and was a student when she planted a tree at Bamganie State School in 1923 for the soldiers. She remembers that they had to cart water from home to water the trees as the soil was very sandy.

Barry Pearce read some poignant verses from the poem "For The Fallen" by Laurence Binyon. The verse which starts "They shall not grow old" has been adopted as the RSL Ode. John Parkinson and David Jones stood with Barry and represented the RSL.

We thank the Victorian Government who supplied a "Restoring War Memorials" grant to Meredith History Interest Group to erect a sign at the Bamganie State School site and to have a ceremony and afternoon tea.

I encourage you to pass by the Bamganie State School site on Bamganie Road to see the sign.

In 2011 we have acknowledged the deeds of the Bamganie community of 1923 in planting trees. In having an Honour Roll made to remember the 15 soldiers who went to WWI from Bamganie we have also acknowledged the service and sacrifice of those soldiers.

The book "Bamganie State School, Scholars Serving in the European War, 1914-1919" written by Marg Cooper is available from her. Cost is \$25. Ring 5286 8201.



"1923 Tree Planter" Maisie Erwin with Janeen Shillier

Mini Foxies Show Off at Elaine

Marg Cooper

The Annual Show for members of the Mini Foxie Club of Australia Inc was held last month at the Elaine Recreation Reserve. Dogs came from Echuca, Scarsdale, Smythesdale, Elaine, Hoppers Crossing, Geelong, Werribee and Meredith to be judged in 40 different events by Annette Hamilton from Sydney.

Doreen Thompson (Pictured left in the photo) took six dogs every one of which got a placing. She was also rewarded with many small ribbons, five rosettes of different colours and a large ribbon for "Best of the Breed, Advanced Division" won by her dog "Taradale Clancy." Last year her dog "Mungara Panda" won this top award.

Also showing their dog Jester, was Robyn Mavity with her twin boys Daniel and James. Robyn is pictured far right holding Jester. James (with hat) holds Madison and Daniel holds Muppet. James and Daniel came 1st and 2nd in the 8-10 year old dog handling class. Jester won runner up Best Of Breed and also won the Challenge Novice Dog.

Congratulations to our local winners.



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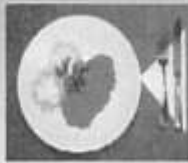
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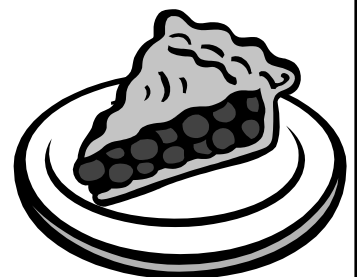
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"The Rainbow" by DH Lawrence.

DH Lawrence wrote many books from 1910 through the 1920's including "The Rainbow", "Sons and Lovers" and "Lady Chatterley's Lover".

"Throughout his life, Lawrence remained a controversial writer, partly because of the sexual overtones in his writing. Controversy over his work continues.

His book, "The Rainbow", charts the history of three generations of the Brangwen family and is about time and change. But in this huge pattern of time and change it is the importance of the individual that matters.

Where is he to find stability, permanence and peace?

Lawrence concentrates on marriage and on sexual relationships and proposes that marriage is the heart of human civilization.

Tom Brangwen marries a Polish Lady, Lydia and they live at Marsh Farm. The life of their daughter Anna is then documented. She marries Will and is content to be a mother to her many children but her eldest daughter Ursula wants more out of life. She wants an education, lives a more urban life and has a growing articulacy and self-realisation.

After rejecting a marriage proposal and losing a baby she sees a rainbow and this is the vision of a new beginning for her.

Various religious beliefs and passions are also thrown around and tested.

Lawrence's prose is wordy, half-poetic and sometimes difficult. He tries to tell the story from the soul of each character.

He tries also to give us what a character thinks simultaneously with what is going on in the personality that is submerged below consciousness. He can take three pages to tell about a kiss!

The edition reviewed has "Notes on the Author and Editor", a "Chronology of Lawrence's Life", an "Introduction" etc before the story. After the story are "Notes" or explanations of unusual words in each chapter, "Lawrence and his Critics" and a "Text Summary" of each chapter.

The book for discussion in December is "Billie's Kiss" by Elizabeth Knox.



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Bannockburn Pharmacy Newsletter

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Avoid the Christmas rush and shop locally

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 2011 and we look forward to 2012!

Farewell Julia!

If you haven't been into the Pharmacy recently you may not have heard that Julia is sadly leaving our Pharmacy to take an exciting and rewarding opportunity of moving to Cambodia to do volunteer work in an orphanage. Julia will be missed by both staff & customers and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Julia for all that she has provided our Pharmacy and wish her all the best for her next venture!

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 to use your **FREE Gift Club Membership card** where throughout December you receive a **25% discount off all Gifts!** We also offer free Christmas Gift Wrapping.

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 30% off all giftware on the night! Everyone enjoyed the drinks and nibbles available not to mention the \$4700 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!

Congratulations to Gayle Paice!!!

Last month Gayle, from Bannockburn, was the lucky recipient of a **\$500 Eftpos Gift Card** thanks to Chemmart Rewards. Gayle entered the September Chemmart Rewards national major prize draw to win 1 of 20 \$500 Eftpos Gift Cards. She received an entry code when she used her Chemmart Rewards Card in our store and was one of the lucky winners! Congratulations Gayle!

Christmas Trading Hours Commencing Monday 19th December we will be opening extended hours until Christmas. We will have our opening hours over the Christmas & New Year period posted on the windows of the Pharmacy if you would like to know when we are open & closed during this period.

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 Sunday: **Closed**
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We hope you enjoyed your
community news in 2011 &
thanks to everyone who made
this another good year for the

Meredith &
District News



back in February 2012

(Copy deadline is 26th January)

The Ibis Walk - photo Jim Elvey