

OUR FIRST
44
PAGE ISSUE

Meredith & district News

December 2012



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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Paddocks'

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 news@meredithnews.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: news@meredithnews.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 52207230 to make an appointment at the Meredith Community Centre

13th Dec: 10, 24 Jan '13 7th, 21st Feb '13

Geelong Regional Library Van

At the Meredith Community Centre

1-3pm 14th Dec. For later dates, check

www.geelonglibraries.vic.gov.au

Senior Citizens

Meet at the Meredith Memorial Hall

Ph. Jim 5286 8232 3rd December.

New members are always welcome

Justices of the Peace

Mr R Cooke Meredith 5286 1346

Mr H Woerner Meredith 5286 1402

Mrs S W Dynon Steiglitz 5281 9223

Mr G Leslie Bannockburn 5281 1854

Mr P Ryan Elaine 0409 861296

Next DEADLINE: Thu. 31st Jan 2013

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	0429 841399
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	5354 3879
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	000
(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

Elaine CFA Scrap metal collection as a fundraiser Ph David 0418 993239
Junior Fire Brigade Training fortnightly on Mon's 5.30 pm. Ph Sam 0417 533516

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

Elaine Cricket Club

Murray Arnel 0428264103

U14 Elaine/Meredith cricket

Rod Armstrong 0400 078 752

ANAKIE

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.

"Maybe Christmas, the Grinch thought, doesn't come from a store."

Dr. Seuss

New Meredith Community Plan

The new Community Plan for Meredith is currently under discussion. Several meetings have been held with the Community Coordinator Christine Wallis based on the previous plan which was produced in 2010. It is now important that the residents of Meredith and District have their opportunity to contribute. A summary of the plan will be posted by the Golden Plains Council to all residents in the 3333 postcode area within the next two weeks. The full plans will be available for people to study at three locations, Coco Monkey Café, Foxies and the Meredith Community Centre. The final Plan which is for the following two years, is due for release in February next year.

On December the 13th. at the Meredith Community Centre residents are encouraged to come and contribute their comments and suggestions. The consultation will be from **1pm till 3pm.**

Seniors Bus Trip to Daylesford

Jim Hynds

Some 18 members boarded the bus on November 5, introducing themselves to our new volunteer driver Alan, as they went on. On arrival at Daylesford we visited the lake and had a stroll around to stretch our legs.

We then went to Glenlyon Road to view a Memorial and a beautiful roadside garden in memory of three children who died in 1867.

William Graham, 6 years, Thomas Graham, 4 years and Alfred Burman, 5 years decided to look for wild goats in the forest beyond Wombat Creek on June 30, 1867. Despite a massive search of the area their bodies were not found until 3 months later. They had passed away huddled together in a hollow tree near where the Memorial stands today. A sad story indeed!

Then off to Daylesford for lunch and a walk around the Mill Market. Some members found some interesting things to purchase including a pair of red braces and a doll and pram.

A pleasant afternoon tea was enjoyed by all before heading for home. A great day was had by all. Many thanks to our new driver Alan for a job well done.

The Seniors Christmas Party is being held on Wednesday, December 5 at the Meredith Hall.



Landcare

June Cameron

At the recent meeting of the Bamganie/Meredith Landcare Group it was reported that Roger Macraill the Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party Extension Officer has been active in the district. Other weeds reported in the area include Texas Needle Grass which has come up the highway during roadside mowing and is now appearing in paddocks, and a crop weed Flax Leaf Fleabane which was first seen in Queensland has also been seen in crops in the district.

The Leigh Catchment Group of which we are a member is having a Christmas function in Buninyong on December 11th. Details are available from Jenny Rile at the Buninyong office 5341 2364

RABBIT ERADICATION PROGRAM MAUD LANDCARE GROUP. Our group will not be conducting a campaign but Maud has agreed that our landholders can join them. Pick up will be at Maud Recreation Reserve. Pindone and 1080 will both be available. A current Chemical Users Certificate is required for those ordering 1080. Prices for carrots are not known at this stage but it is expected that they will be the same as last year. The dates for their campaign have been confirmed for **February 2013 starting on Friday 22nd then Monday 25th and Thursday 28th.** Further details from. Lex Stray 52819293, or Elaine Johns 52819395

Our bait layers are available for use by members and may be hired by non-members.

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 12th February 2013 at the Meredith community Centre 8pm

Classifieds

FREE

Free to a good home: Second hand wooden baby cot Call Claire- 0439 347 503

FOR SALE

Chickens for sale from \$5.00. Ph. 0430 282430

Did We Say 40?

OUR FIRST
44
PAGE ISSUE

Our December issue cover had to go to the printer before the copy deadline. At that stage, we thought we were going to have our first 40 page issue, and said so. We were wrong...it's our first **44 page** issue!

A very warm *thank you* to the many contributors and advertisers that make it possible for us to grow.



Church News

ANGLICAN

PARISH OF INVERLEIGH BANNOCKBURN MEREDITH

Weekly services, baptisms, weddings, funerals, pastoral care. 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 Combined Holy Communion services.

2nd Sunday, 11am at Meredith Uniting Church

4th Sunday at 11am at Meredith Anglican Church

1st & 3rd Sunday at 9.45 at Buninyong Uniting Church

Enquires Doug McFarlane 52861283.

SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH: Fr. Theodore—Ph. 5341 5568

Holy Liturgy 10am every Sun, Sat & 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

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PARISH

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.

Anakie Mass @ 11 a.m. Sunday Dec 9th/23rd and Jan 6th/20th

Meredith Mass @ 11 a.m. Sunday Dec. 2nd/16th/30th and Jan.

13th/27th



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Uniting Church: Christmas Eve, 24th Dec. 10pm a combined service at Meredith Uniting church. All most welcome.

Anglican Church: Meredith: Sunday 23rd Dec 11am-combined Holy Communion service at Meredith Anglican Church.

Bannockburn: Christmas Eve 24th Dec- "The Christmas Story" photo shoot by the youth at 5pm. Meet in pub car park, come dressed as a Sheppard, angel or a Galilean. Followed by a family service at St Johns Anglican Church, Byron St at 6pm. Enquires Wendy Wood 52 841 492

Inverleigh: St Pauls- Christmas Eve 24th Dec Service 8pm.

Bannockburn: Christmas Day 25th Dec. St Johns Bannockburn. 9am

St. Joseph's Parish:

Christmas Eve, December 24th

Bannockburn Family Mass 6.00pm

Anakie 8.00pm

Meredith 10.00pm Carols 15 minutes before

Christmas Day Tuesday December 25th

Winchelsea 8 a.m.

Bannockburn 10 a.m.

Meredith Community Centre, Inc.

4 Russell Street Meredith 3333

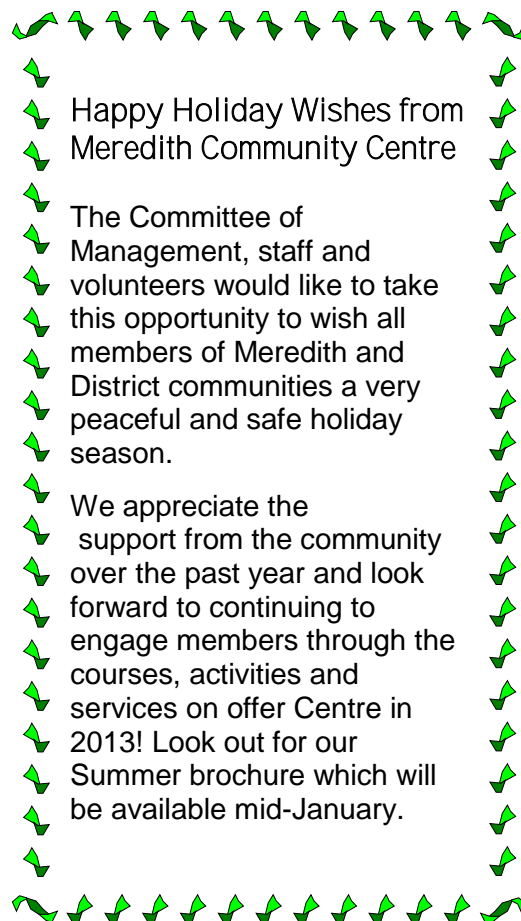
PH 5286 1348 Fax 52861 563

"Working for our community"



mch@netconnect.com.au

www.meredithccc.com.au



Happy Holiday Wishes from
Meredith Community Centre

The Committee of
Management, staff and
volunteers would like to take
this opportunity to wish all
members of Meredith and
District communities a very
peaceful and safe holiday
season.

We appreciate the
support from the community
over the past year and look
forward to continuing to
engage members through the
courses, activities and
services on offer Centre in
2013! Look out for our
Summer brochure which will
be available mid-January.

CHRISTMAS IN MEREDITH

Join with your community to help celebrate Christmas 2012 by coming to Meredith's Ecumenical Christmas Carols at St. Joseph's Church Lawler Street, Meredith on Sunday December 23rd at 7.30 p.m.

Children are invited to come dressed as their favourite Christmas bible character. Supper provided.

Meredith Playgroup

*Come & visit us every Thursday @
Meredith Community Centre from
10am until 12 noon.*

*Mums, Dads, Grandparents & Carers all welcome.
\$2 per family a week. Play, craft, organized
For more info all Jo 0418 125 250*



meredithPoliceNews

Leading Senior Constable Greg Kitchen

Since the publication of the October police article I have had some annual leave and was unable to report in the November Newsletter. I am however fairly happy to be able to report that crime seems to have slowed somewhat within the area.

On Monday the 8th October at about 2.30 a.m., two offenders were disturbed committing a burglary at the Elaine general store. These offenders had gained entry via a side roller door where they were disturbed thankfully without stealing any property. This matter is currently being investigated by detectives at the Moorabool CIU and we are confident that offenders will be charged very shortly in relation to this matter.

On Saturday the 10th November sometime after 10.30 p.m., a white coloured Holden utility which was reported as stolen collided with a fence in Wallace Street, Meredith when believed to be travelling towards Ballarat. This matter is also under investigation at present.

As Christmas and the holiday season rapidly approaches, Victoria Police will be running a series of traffic operations which will target driver behaviour and drink driving. Recently, on Thursday the 1st November, I ran an operation in Meredith which involved the use of the ANPR (Automated Number Plate recognition). Approximately 1300 motor vehicles were checked from about 3 pm until 7 pm. Several vehicles were detected for offences including unregistered and outstanding warrants. I will be running another operation prior to Christmas.

The final Meredith 'Blue Light' disco will be held again at the Meredith Hall on Friday the 30th November. Disco Des from Ballarat will be there again and we will be giving away kids bikes and other great prizes to some lucky kids.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all a very safe and prosperous Christmas and new year and please stay safe while on the roads.

Greg KITCHEN Leading Senior Constable

Meredith Police Station.

Golden Plains Shire's New Council

Golden Plains Shire Council's representatives, successful at the triennial elections in October, include three returning councillors, two new faces and two former councillors. They are:

Nathan Hansford (new)
 Greg Vaughan (former)
 Bill McArthur (returning)
 Jenny Blake (returning)
 Des Phelan (former)
 Andrew Cameron (new)
 Helena Kirby (returning)

Golden Plains Shire CEO Rod Nicholls congratulated the successful Councillors and said the Council and the community held high expectations for the newly elected team.

Cr Blake was elected Mayor at a subsequent meeting.

(from media releases)

Kindergarten News

Jodie, Sue and Sharlene.

The term is flying by and we are getting prepared for Christmas activities and planning our end of year concerts. Ho! Ho! Ho! Here comes the glitter and sparkles!!

The 4 year old group has been on two excursions, walking up to Meredith primary school to meet with Rosemary and some of the school children. We have been shown around the school, met some teachers and had a great time playing in the playground. The children are very happy and relaxed about starting school next year. It's been a positive start to the transition process especially with the help and encouragement from Rosemary Gargan and the Grade 5 & prep children. It's lovely to have such a strong connection between kinder and school. The 4 year old group have been discovering colours over the past month using the primary colours to explore the different shades and hues. We are using wood materials for our collage and doing bright pastings at the easel. Our home corner is a Post Office where the children can practise letter recognition and writing notes to post in envelopes.

The 3 year old group have been doing marble painting, play dough, collage and loving the dress ups again. They are all excited about the Christmas concert and are hoping they get a special visit from Santa.

We had a lovely surprise visit from our neighbours, who have a beautiful big lemon tree that we can see out the window. They did an act of kindness and picked a whole basket full of lemons for us to use. We have made lemon scented play dough and lemon prints and we are going to make lemonade and lemon cake this week. Yummy! What a lovely thing to do.

Both groups are practising songs at group time for the Christmas concert, the children are starting to talk about the end of year and some don't want it to end, they love kinder so much!

A big end of year Thank You to Stefania and the whole committee for great support to the teachers and helping in a variety of ways; we really appreciate it.

We sadly say good bye and good luck to our lovely cleaner Louise, who is finishing up. Louise is a talented artist and will be spending more time doing what she loves best, painting!! We look forward to inviting her back for a few art lessons with the children next year.

Thank you to Mrs Cooke who has been a great organiser of the scholastic book club this year, she also does a great job helping to cover our new books with contact for our library.

We are looking forward to the colourful Christmas celebrations with the children and families and wish all our families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

See you in 2013

(See President's Report on page 10)

The Sod is Turned

from media release

Putting Meredith on the tourist map is one step closer this week after construction commenced at the site of the local Meredith Visitor Information Centre.

Golden Plains Shire CEO Rod Nicholls was pleased to see the project underway with such strong community support. "This project was developed by the Meredith community through the Golden Plains Shire Community Planning Program and it is exciting to see onsite works commence," said Mr Nicholls.

Council resolved to award the contract for construction of the Meredith Visitor Information Centre to Q Construction at the September ordinary meeting of Council. Q Construction has recently completed successful projects with the City of Ballarat and St John of God Hospital.

Preliminary site preparation has been completed with the program of works scheduled to take place over the summer months.

(See page 11 for further report)

Below: With Shire Community Projects Officer, Paul Ryan, Advance Meredith members Faye McFarlane, June Cameron and John Diffey at the sod turning ceremony.




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sports

A Golf Champion

Marg Cooper

David Rees is a 31 year old who grew up at Lethbridge and started playing golf with his father Peter at the Meredith Golf Club when he was 11 or 12. By the time he was 16 he was Meredith's Junior Champion and after winning a club event he had the honour of representing Meredith in a mixed competition at the Victorian Golf Course to play for the Queen Elizabeth Trophy with his Dad as caddy.

It was a great experience for him. David also played tennis, a sport in which he excelled often travelling around Victoria with his coach Les McInerney to play at various events. He played mixed netball and cricket for Lethbridge and it was clear that he loved sport.

Then came a few wild, fun years at university where David continued to enjoy netball and tennis while adding football and soccer to his list of sporting activities.

David then lived overseas for a couple of years, including five months in Zimbabwe where he played cricket and enjoyed fishing with his relatives and 6 months working in the ski fields in Colorado where he got the hang of skiing and snow boarding in his spare time.

He then spent a year in England before coming back to Australia and resuming his interest in golf. Last year he won the Inverleigh Open and was runner up in the Bannockburn Open.

His dedication to golf has seen him mow a large piece of council land in Port Melbourne where he lives so he can practice his chipping and it has paid off because 2012 has been very successful for him. He has won 5 major events at his home club Lakeside in Albert Park. He also played for Lakeside's winning division one pennant team where he was able to keep his cool and beat his opponent 7/6. His opponent was off a handicap of 1 and David was off 3. His latest achievement was to win the Victorian Golf League Championship where he received the Dennis Farrell Memorial Shield.



Congratulations Golf Champ!

Right: A smiling David Rees shows off another one for the cabinet.

Did you know that according to the song, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer", Santa has twelve reindeer? Sure, in the introduction it goes "There's Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen, Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen..." That makes eight reindeer.

Then there's Rudolph, of course, so that makes nine. But then there's Olive. You know, "Olive the other reindeer used to laugh..." That makes ten. The eleventh is Howe. You know, "Then Howe the reindeer loved him..." Eleven reindeer. Oh, and number 12? That's Andy! "Andy shouted out with glee."

The proof is in the song!



Meredith's Teacher of the Year

Doug Cations

Meredith Primary School staff member, Ben Gallagher, has been named Victoria's IT Teacher of the Year for his work within the information & communication technologies (ICT) area. He has provided the students of Meredith Primary School with outstanding learning opportunities, having introduced a range of innovative practices into the school such as the "Digital Sandpit" and "iLearning." He was selected to take part in the *Innovating with Technology Game-Based Learning Research Trial* in 2011 and, as a result, he and Meredith PS colleague, Fairlie Pritchard, were selected to be a part of an Education Department Case Study, looking into the work that they have done within the ICT area. Further on from this, Ben took up an opportunity to write for the Department's "Playing for Real" teacher resource game that will be part of its "FUSE" teacher resource web site.

Ben presented at the Victorian Information Technology Teachers Association Conference last year and this year at the "International Society for Technology in Education" Conference in San Diego.

The school now receives regular visits from teachers throughout the state to see what Ben is doing in the information technology field. While he is right to point out the planning, work and support provided by his Meredith colleagues, his efforts certainly deserve to be recognised.

Below: MPS teacher, Ben Gallagher, with a group of interested students at the leading edge of ICT in education.



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Wilma Webb Celebrates her 80th

Marg Cooper

Wilma's mother ran a Post Office at Mead between Kerang and Cohuna. Her father was officially the Post Master but he worked as a contractor and blacksmith. When he died, Wilma's mother moved the family of nine children to a dairy farm near Kerang where she share farmed and supplied most of the town with fresh milk.

After leaving school Wilma learned dressmaking and tailoring in Melbourne. She met Ron Webb, they married, built their first house in Kerang, worked in a local store and had two daughters, Trudy and Kylie.

They moved to Colac to run a Newsagency and then bought a Newsagency and Post Office in North Burnley.

They were there for 16 years before buying the Alphington Post Office.

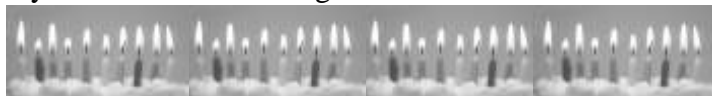
Wilma says it was like semi retirement at Alphington after the long hours, from 4 am-7.30pm at Burnley. She also relieved in the Post Offices at Bannockburn and Meredith.

In 1986 they bought about 40 acres at Bamganie with a hayshed, only five trees and overlooking the Leigh River. They built a garage and camped in it at weekends, before building a house. They planted hundreds of trees and a garden and planned to retire there.

Ron had always been a CFA volunteer so while living in Melbourne he was invited to help at the Fire Museum in East Melbourne. This became a life long passion for Wilma and Ron. Wilma helped on stalls, cooked and used her tailoring skills to dress bears as firemen which sold for about \$70 each to raise funds for the Museum. She only stopped dressing the poplar bears two years ago. Wilma is a Life Member of the Museum.

Wilma and Ron retired in 1997 and moved to their country retreat. Sadly Ron was diagnosed with cancer a week after he retired and died in that year.

Wilma celebrated her birthday with a party for 80 invited guests in the Meredith Hall on Saturday, October 27. The guests were encouraged to dress in 30's gear and they enjoyed a buffet lunch catered for by the Meredith Kindergarten.



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Another Busy & Successful Year

Stefania Parkinson

It has been another busy and successful year at the Meredith Kindergarten. Recently we had our 2012 AGM and following are a few extracts from my report.

At the beginning of the year there was much anticipation and excitement surrounding the commencement of the new Director. At the same time we welcomed a temporary three year old group teacher.

It would be remiss of me not to mention that the first half of this year was not stress free and without incident. I also believe that reflecting on the past is counter-productive and therefore I would like to focus on the positives and the overall wonderful year that we have had.

At the beginning of third term we welcomed Jodie Trevaskis our 4 year old teacher and Sue Joos our three year old teacher. Immediately the kinder returned to the wonderful, welcoming environment that we all expect.

Sharlene Jury is the 'glue stick' of our kinder and we are incredibly lucky to have her. We appreciate everything that she does and thank her for her efforts during the year.

Earlier this year we saw the last of our major projects, being the erection of shade sails, completed. Working bees during the year ensure that the space is always neat and tidy and we sincerely thank Joel Aitken and more recently David Jones for keeping the grounds mown and weed free.

Thank you to Wendy Cooke for her continuous work helping out with many tasks. Thanks also to Martin and Jo Peters who continue to look after our IT problems. Matt Reichman, Terry Collins and Matt Fisher for doing odd jobs, James and Janie Knight for always donating their pork sausages and Emmanuel & Sandra Theron who recently volunteered their time and expertise to take all of the kinder children's photos.

I wish to thank Louise our cleaner who unfortunately has decided to hang up her mop at the end of the year. Louise has been cleaning our kinder to an extremely

high standard for 13 years. We thank her for her contribution and wish her well for the future.

We have been extremely fortunate to have a very talented and enthusiastic fundraising coordinator for the past two years, Kelly Murfitt. Her efforts are tireless and this can be seen through the many projects that she undertakes.

In addition to catering, other fundraising for the year included the KPV Raffle and the Bunnings Ballarat BBQ just to name a few.

Kelly is also in the process of organizing three Market Days to be held at the Hall next year. We also acknowledge the Meredith Music Festival which is held in March and December. Andrew Cooke has been our Tucker Tent coordinator for the past two years. There is a significant amount of work associated with organizing a shift at the festival and we thank Andrew sincerely for donating his time.

I'd also like to thank Matthew Dawson and Heidi Preston from Golden Plains Shire.

Finally I would personally like to thank each of the active committee members of 2012. I wish the incoming committee a very happy, productive and successful 2013.

Congratulations to the following new Committee Members for 2013.

President	<i>Stefania Parkinson</i>
Vice President	<i>Kristy Cochrane</i>
Secretary	<i>Pip McLane</i>
Treasurer	<i>Jo Kemp</i>
Enrolments Officer	<i>Rachel Buchanan</i>
Fundraising Coordinator	<i>Kelly Murfitt</i>
Tucker Tent	<i>Andrew Cooke</i>
General Members	
<i>Ben Murfitt, Louise Cooke, Sharon Rabusin Judith Wood, Chris Wood, Sandra Theron, Claire Downie, Matt Reichman and Sheryl Nettleton</i>	

Merry Christmas to the Meredith Community and thank you for supporting the Meredith Kindergarten.

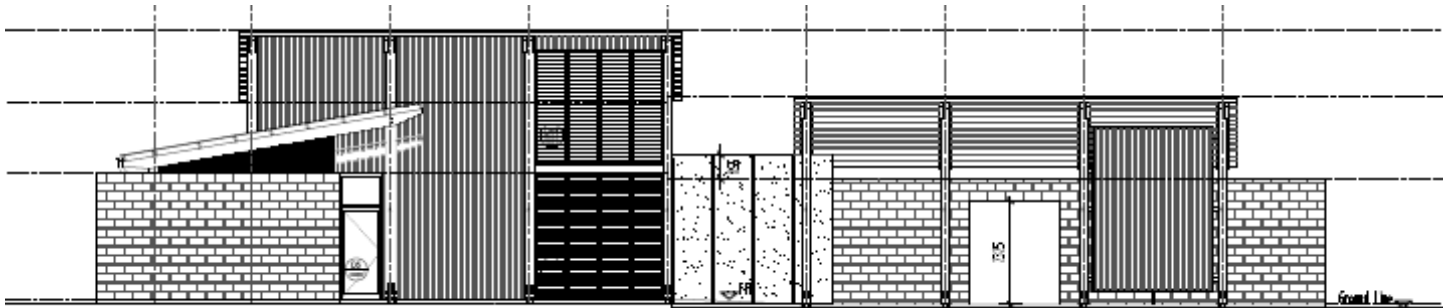


It's on it Way

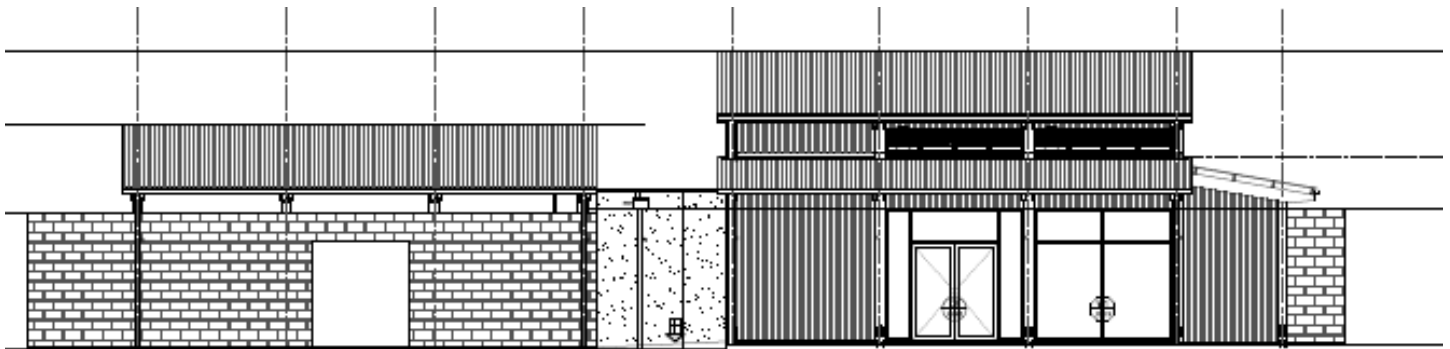
After spending a lot of time on the drawing board, the Meredith Visitors' Centre is at last underway and will be open for business not too far into the new year. Council is currently going through the process of seeking planning approval for its use in readiness for setting up an operational building. There will be

further consultations with residents as this display and information facility finds its place in the community.

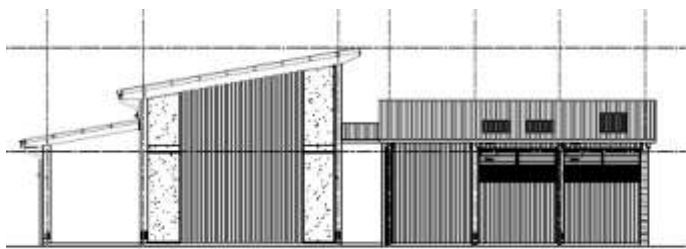
From the drawing board, the elevations below give a sense of the finished building which will certainly enhance the presentation of the town to passing travellers.



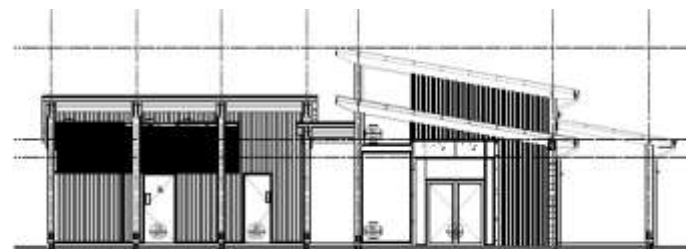
South Elevation



North Elevation



West Elevation



East Elevation

Is That the Time?

December has five Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays. According to an internet flyer we received, this only happens every 834 years. "So what" did you say? Well, the flyer explains - and the web is a highly regarded

information source - the Chinese call this phenomena "The Money Bag". (We can only be thankful someone has remembered this, all that time!) According to the principles of Feng Shui, you have to forward this on within four days to receive money. (We've noticed Feng Shui applies to a lot of web flyers!) Well, good luck.

Another piece of temporal trivia we have noticed ourselves - and not yet a legend, (but be patient) - is that this month your German digital clock will read **20:12 20:12 2012**. Something like this has been happening every year for a while now, but it won't happen again until 9.01 pm on the 21st January, 2101, about 83 years away. And the good news is, you don't have to tell anyone about it - although nothing good (or bad) will necessarily happen to you.

Note: This soon-to-be-legend does not apply in the USA.



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Marg Cooper

Readers may remember that Cathy of "Apricot with Attitude" at Lethbridge made special biscuits and cakes to celebrate the queen's Diamond Jubilee after her English penfriend sent her crown cookie cutters and jubilee patty pans.

Raymond Kelly encouraged Cathy to write to the Queen to congratulate her and to explain how Lethbridge had celebrated and how they remembered her visit on the train in 1954.

Raymond found the address and the procedure to write to the Queen, and although it took a little time, the Queen replied!

Cathy and Raymond are absolutely thrilled and Cathy's penfriend Jan thinks that she is famous in Lethbridge, for making this all happen.



Cathy and her letter from the Queen

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Mollie's

COLUMN

'Tis the Season

'Tis the season of secrets and spice, ribbons and wrapping, family and food...and maybe the odd fight. Christmas has crept up again, and once more I find myself wandering around in that state of blinking bewilderment that hits every year when the calendar flips to December. Where on earth did the rest of the year get to? I was going to start my Christmas shopping early this year!

At home in Bamganie, the school forms and dentist appointment reminders that cover the fridge door through the rest of the year have been replaced by lists scrawled in coloured texta. The younger kids have written pleading letters to Santa in the hopes of unwrapping that one coveted present, while the teenagers' lists are a little more prosaic and to the point (one particularly shrewd sister has produced an itemised list, in order of preference, complete with prices and store locations).

Being the 24 year old daughter of a Christmas-loving family definitely has its pros and cons. On the one

hand, I don't have to stick a lovingly written list on the fridge, because Santa usually sends me a sneaky text asking what I'd like for Christmas. I have been sent, for my approval, photos of potential gifts as Mrs Claus hits the stores.

Some years, when the elves were busy doing the Christmas cooking, or just needing to retire for a nice nap with the blinds down, I've been enlisted to wrestle with wrapping paper and sticky tape. On the other hand, though, there are no surprises. When Mrs Claus is yelling 'Well, which one do you want? Hurry up and decide!' over the phone, with the scuffling and squabbling of several hundred frenzied shoppers in the background...well, a little bit of the magic disappears.

My family don't really do the picture-perfect TV Christmas. We hurry from one gathering to the next, kiss the cheeks of once-a-year relatives, sit on mismatched chairs around mismatched tables, and awkwardly try to relax while keeping track of who's cross with who this year. But then, finally, just the eight of us head for home. We're smiling tiredly because at the end of that one day of stress and strain, we feel lucky. We've got each other. We've also got a whole 12 months to recuperate.

Merry Christmas!



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Lolly Pop Lady Recycled

Marg Cooper

Dot Hearn is once again protecting State School children as they cross the Midland Highway in Meredith. She first did the job in the early 1980's when her youngest children, Craig and Susie were attending the School.

In those days the crossing had to be manned during the lunch hour as some children went home or to the shop for their lunch. Dot's children would have their lunch with her in the car at the crossing. She believes that she may have been the first ever School Crossing Supervisor in Meredith. Back then, she didn't have a shelter to protect her and there were no railings, into the crossing.

When she got to the Post Office each morning, to her next job, Lorraine Fink would have hot coffee ready to thaw her out.

Dot delivered mail to the Meredith town but when she won the contract to deliver mail to Bamganie she had to resign as the Crossing Supervisor as she couldn't guarantee that she could be back in time. Dot was a terrific Mail Lady for over 29 years, delivering through rain, hail, sleet and snow. She delivered newspapers, groceries and anything that was required to be taken out including repaired tyres.

She also worked in shearing sheds and was once a film star!

\$600K for Pre-School

The State government announced last month that \$600,000 has been allocated to Golden Plains Shire for the construction of a new pre-school centre on Meredith Primary School land, next to the Community Centre.

Committee President, Stefania Parkinson, says the new facility will allow for increased numbers and a sustainable service. It will comprise two early years rooms, sessional consulting space, storage, amenities and outdoor play spaces, and include additional space for Maternal and Child Health and other early years, health and community services. Project details and timing are not yet known.

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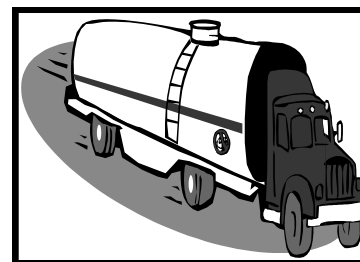
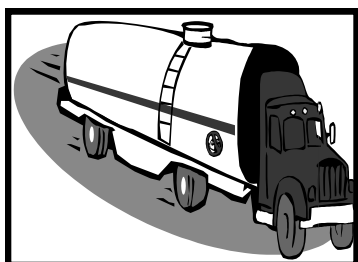
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Welcome to

MEREDITH PRIMARY SCHOOL



Once again, the school year is quickly coming to an end as we head into a very busy December. We have our 2013 prep orientation sessions, year 1 & 2 tea/sleepover, year 3 to 6 Ball Games, year 6 graduation day and school concert-just to mention a few things!

November was also a very busy time with a range of camps and other activities taking place. *Our year 4 students headed off to camp at Anglesea* for three days and had a great time. From all reports the activities and food were terrific. The camp has a range of facilities including trampolines, low ropes, beach volleyball, rock climbing and a flying fox that were all very popular. It was great to hear how they enjoyed catching up with friends they have made from the other schools (Anakie, Inverleigh, Lethbridge, Little River

PHOTO OMITTED FROM ONLINE EDITION

& Shelford) who take part in our camping program

We also had 6 students from years 5 & 6 take part in *Somers Camp* this year. The camp ran for 9 days and again there were many exciting activities and challenges provided for them. Bronwyn, from year 5, said her favorite activity was surfing. She said she was homesick every now and then but because there was so much to do she quickly got over it. She also made new friends who go to schools such as Skipton, Mt Clear and Bannockburn.

PHOTO OMITTED FROM ONLINE EDITION

We heard terrific things about our students' work that was entered into the *Ballarat Show*. Parents and staff members have been full of praise and pride about what they saw. The children from all grades entered lots of work. Their work ranged from handwriting, paper quilling, drawing, painting and collages and decorated shoes. Staff member and parent Simone Edmiston said, *"Walking into the Art & Craft Exhibition at the Ballarat Show and seeing all the artwork and handwriting from Meredith Primary School was fantastic. There were many excited children from Meredith searching for their piece of work on display. Many of the students' work had been recognised with an award or a place in various competitions. As a parent it was lovely to see my proud children looking for their work and pointing out the friend's work and achievements. What talented children we have in the art & craft area at Meredith Primary School!"*

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 2013 YEAR!

Doug Cations, Students and Staff of Meredith Primary School.

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News from Meredith CERT Team

David Mackay

Meredith CERT President

Recently a number of members of the team (Martin, Cathie, David, Jo and Mary) spent the weekend at Halls Gap in the Grampians for the annual Volunteers' Conference. This conference is a chance for CERT members from across the Barwon South West and Grampians regions to get together to share experiences and add to their knowledge in developing their skills (and to have some fun as well).

The conference was opened on Saturday morning by Greg Sassella, CEO of Ambulance Victoria (AV). Greg outlined some of the strategic directions AV will take in coming years. He also showed us what our new 'blue' uniforms will look like. The first day concentrated on *Health and Wellbeing*. That is, the health and wellbeing of our volunteers. All members were invited to have a workplace health check from an attending health professional. Each member was asked to outline their daily diet, if they smoked, and had their blood sugar and cholesterol levels assessed. A computer program then assisted the professional in advising whether or not they were at risk (e.g. of diabetes, heart attack etc). The second part of the health check applied only to men-you guessed it-a prostate check (for those that still have one!!)

A very open and moving presentation of life after prostate cancer was made by Tony Walker, Executive General Manager of AV. He spoke of his experience in being diagnosed with prostate cancer, how he reached his decision of having it removed (by a robot!!) and of the importance for men having their prostate regular checked by their GP. He emphasised it is not just a disease of *old men*. Young men under 40 have contracted this disease. He also spoke openly of how his libido was affected following the operation. He also stressed, to the women in the room, to get the men in their lives to visit their GP for the check.

Saturday's session also included a presentation on Stroke Management. The essential management being recognition of someone having a stroke (FAST)* and getting them to hospital within 4.5 hours for administration of a clot-busting drug.

Sunday's session was most informative. It concentrated on the use of illicit drug-taking within the community. Alan Eade pointed out that alcohol abuse and its dependence is increasing in Australia. Its cost to us is over \$15 billion per year, and results in around 3,000 deaths. This he compared to the road toll of fewer than 2,000 deaths per year. Alan went on to talk about other illicit drugs including GHB or Gamma Hydroxybutyric Acid-(date rape drug) that is derived from circuit board cleaner. He also mentioned a new drug recently being imported from the UK called *bath salts* (other names include White Lightning or Snow Leopard-not to be confused with the Macintosh operating system of the same name).

The frightening statistic he quoted was that of all presentations to hospitals for drug abuse, 80% are for prescription drug use, while 20% are for illicit drugs. About 15 years ago, these percentages were reversed. We read in the paper where some of our Seniors are selling their prescription drugs to people to make money-presumably to supplement their incomes. This is an alarming consequence.

Overall, the conference was a great event. As a CERT group, Mary and Jo allowed themselves to be entered into a competition to win a baby *resus annie* (a baby doll for practicing CPR on). Despite their best efforts (see picture), our team came second (we should have won according to the audience) and received two very large boxes of chocolates for us all to enjoy last training night.

Finally, at the time this edition of the Meredith News hits the stands, CERT will be about to open its new home. Thanks in part to winning a Community Grant from BlueScope Steel, Meredith CERT is able to build its new headquarters (for the car) next to the Community Centre, on the Primary School land. The shed will be officially opened by Ambulance Victoria on the 14th December, in conjunction with other financial providers including the Golden Plains Shire, FairDinkum Sheds, and of course you, the people of Meredith.



Mary and Jo strutting their stuff

*F.A.S.T.

FACE ARM SPEECH TIME

Check their face. Has their mouth drooped?
Can they lift both arms?
Is their speech slurred? Do they understand you?
Is critical. If you see any of these signs call 000 straight away

(Source: National Stroke Foundation)

Local Grey Nomads on the Move

Fay McFarlane

(Yes, "Local Nomads" *is* an oxymoron, but you get the gist. - Ed.)

It is on a cold wet morning in June, with caravan in tow, Doug & Fay McFarlane headed up the Sunraysia Highway, destination North Western Australia. We joined the Mallee Highway at Ouyen, caught up with Wes Bird, (ex-local) at Murrayville, into SA at Pinnaroo, and up the 'Stuart' to Katherine.

Into WA at Kununurra, up the Great Northern Highway to Derby and Broome, having had a chance meeting with Trevor Jones (ex-local) at Timber Creek. Followed the coast to Port Hedland, then inland to Marble Bar in 32⁰ heat, to find the swimming pool closed for the winter. Newman and Tom Price, where we caught up with Caroline Russell (ex-local). Back to the coast at Karratha, Onslow, Exmouth, Carnarvon, into Denham and Kalbarri, and onto Geraldton. From here we followed the coast road to Cevantes, then inland to New Norcia, and down to Perth and Fremantle. At Clackville we spent an enjoyable time with Ken East (ex-local) and Denise Taggart (ex- bottom shop).

The highlights were numerous, the ever changing terrain, rugged coastline, abundant fauna, especially the Southern Right whales with calves, dolphins and wildflowers we still dream about. National Parks were a favourite, as were the informative museums and historical buildings to please any historians heart.

After four months and 18,000 kms, it was great to get home. The greatest pleasure was the people we met and the friends we made along the road.



In the top left hand corner at Dampier, is this statue of the legendary Red Dog, which became the subject of Nancy Gillespie's book and a recent movie.

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Venue: Meredith & District Memorial Hall

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Henham Rous, Operations Manager, "Mt Fyans Black Angus"

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Main Street Development - but Which One?

Jim Elvey

with contributions from Peter Boer & Carmel Boyce

A “walkshop” held last month discussed how best to spend \$450,000 on Meredith’s main street. One of the first issues encountered was to question what is the “Main Street”? Those with a memory and a sense of history insist it is Staughton Street west of Wallace Street (the highway) while others maintained it is Wallace Street. It does raise an interesting question: “what is a “main street”? We would usually think of it as the one with the most commercial and civic activity. Not too long ago it could be argued it was still Staughton Street with its bakery, hardware, milk bar, post office, butcher and other businesses. These have all gone - some to Wallace Street - and, while other businesses remain, it is the highway businesses that generate the most traffic - local and passing. So, is a main street still a main street when it is no longer the main street?

This could be enjoyed as a rather idle question if there wasn't nearly half a million dollars of improvements riding on the answer. Well, in fact that is not quite the case, as the consultants conducting the program are of the view that *vicinity* is the more important concept and much attention was given to treatment of the “hub”, being the intersection of the two streets.

It is more important that the outcome of this significant investment contributes to a place that residents enjoy that is also a source of civic pride. (And such an outcome is likely to also encourage travellers passing through the town to stop for more than a toilet break and a tank of petrol.)

The *walkshop* was attended by some 19 townspeople, and conducted by consultants CT Management who were represented by Carmel Boyce and Perry Mills. Working with them was David Engwicht who has had an international influence on better design practices for streets, place making and promoting active community use of streets. The Shire's Community Projects Officer, Paul Ryan, opened the session before David lead the group on the “walkshop” down Wallace Street to the Staughton Street corner, making a number of observations along the way.

A key message was to make town spaces into places where people want to go or linger, something he calls “linger nodes”.

The group returned to the community centre for an activity called “speed dating” which consisted of two rows of people facing each other with one row having an idea and the person opposite helping with suggestions. Then one row moved up one person, and the ideas were further embellished as the process continued. Several good ideas came out of this activity. These included storm water drains covered by timber

decks to form outside eating areas, treasure hunt type trails, historical treasure hunts, randomly placed rocks, outdoor seating, and decorated wheelie bin covers.

The consulting team was delighted with the turnout and very pleased with the warm and engaged response. And they could tell Meredith residents are good neighbours by the closeness of their noses throughout the “speed dating” exercise.

There will be another workshop on Saturday February 9th at 9.30am to progress some of the ideas and priorities that flowed from the first session. Be there to take part in this important project or contact Paul Ryan - pryan@gplains.vic.gov.au or 5220 7138. And follow the project at <http://goldenplainsmainstreets.wordpress.com>

...and the outcomes were?

The group found consensus on the following points:

- General agreement that the priority should be on Staughton St as the ‘main street’, not the highway;
- General agreement that underground drainage is not a community priority;
- Bluestone drains in Staughton St do need bridges for access and there are drainage issues on Staughton St that do need to be fixed, however there was general agreement that the bluestone gutters should be retained due to the value they contribute to the town’s character;
- Priorities for the main corner – lighting, flowers, creating linger nodes;
- The opportunity needs to be considered to create a town square, public space, on the garage site. The property owners (the Parkinson family, in attendance) stated they would consider taking fence down, but are concerned about litigation and maintaining opaque privacy screens or paint on the building windows. There was consensus that it would be appropriate to spend project resources on this space even though it is private land, as it is “a perfect opportunity”.
- Connect new information to the township with paths, perhaps a right-turn-only exit so they have to loop around other streets, trail of ibises or sheep to follow? David recommended creating curiosity, have an incentive (treasure hunt?) to get visitors to stay longer.



Consultant David Engwicht engaged “walkshop” participants with his urge to think laterally in making Meredith more of a place to linger.



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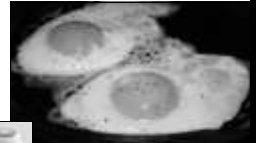
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The Three That Got Away

Marg Cooper

On 5 am on November 28th Jim Hynds, his son Anthony and friend Geoff Hardy set off for their annual fishing trip to Jindabyne with high hopes of a good catch.

After enjoying the scenic trip the team arrived and met up with Matt Daniels, an ex Meredithite who now lives in Canberra.

Jindabyne Jim, Walrus, Lunger and The Fly quickly prepared the boat and got out on the water but after 5 hours they retired to their cabin, disappointed but not beaten.

Over the next 6 days a 1½ kg brown trout was caught by The Walrus but most of the catch was undersize.

Some skulduggery though produced plenty of fun and laughs. Attempting to land a fish Jim's St Kilda hat flew off and when it was retrieved from the water it was placed on his head, full of water; Jim's wet weather gear went missing on the day it rained and the boat left without Jim one afternoon.

While all good things come to an end, the team left Jindabyne with 16 fish, a million laughs and a vow to return for the 19th year next November.



When it comes to fishing, there is a fine line between predator and prey.



Memorial to Move (Again!)

David Jones

Readers may recall that earlier in the year a project initiated by Vietnam-Veteran Barry Pearce, who sadly has since lost his battle with cancer, was successful in obtaining a government grant to relocate the Meredith War Memorial from its present spot close to the highway in front of

the old RSL building to a new location at the Meredith Memorial Hall.

A sub-committee of the Memorial Hall has been established, planning is well under way and local Ex-Army identity Tim Woods has been contracted to undertake the removal. Unfortunately, the relocation will necessitate the removal of most of the native shrubs beside the Hall but the Memorial will add significantly to the ambience of the Hall and provide a more suitable area for ANZAC Services. The grant provided also for the cleaning of the memorial and relocation of the associated flagpole. Work is planned to be completed early in the new year.

MP Calls on Paddocks

Jim Elvey

Member for the Upper House seat of Western Victoria, Simon Ramsay, was in Meredith last month to inspect and learn something of the Police Paddocks. Arranged by Ballarat Environment Network, (BEN) Mr Ramsay toured BEN's four main reserves. While in Meredith he took a stroll around the one km loop track that is due to be constructed this summer, before lunching at the Community Centre. There, he was given a short presentation on the context, attributes and potential of 'the Paddocks'

Mr Ramsay congratulated the 20 member local Support Group and BEN on their achievements to date and expressed an interest in keeping in touch with future developments.



Simon Ramsay, MLC with BEN Executive Director Hedley Thomson and Support Group members Doug McFarlane and Barb Baird on a tour of the Police Paddocks.

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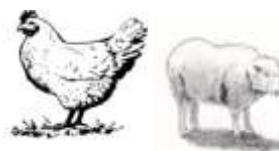
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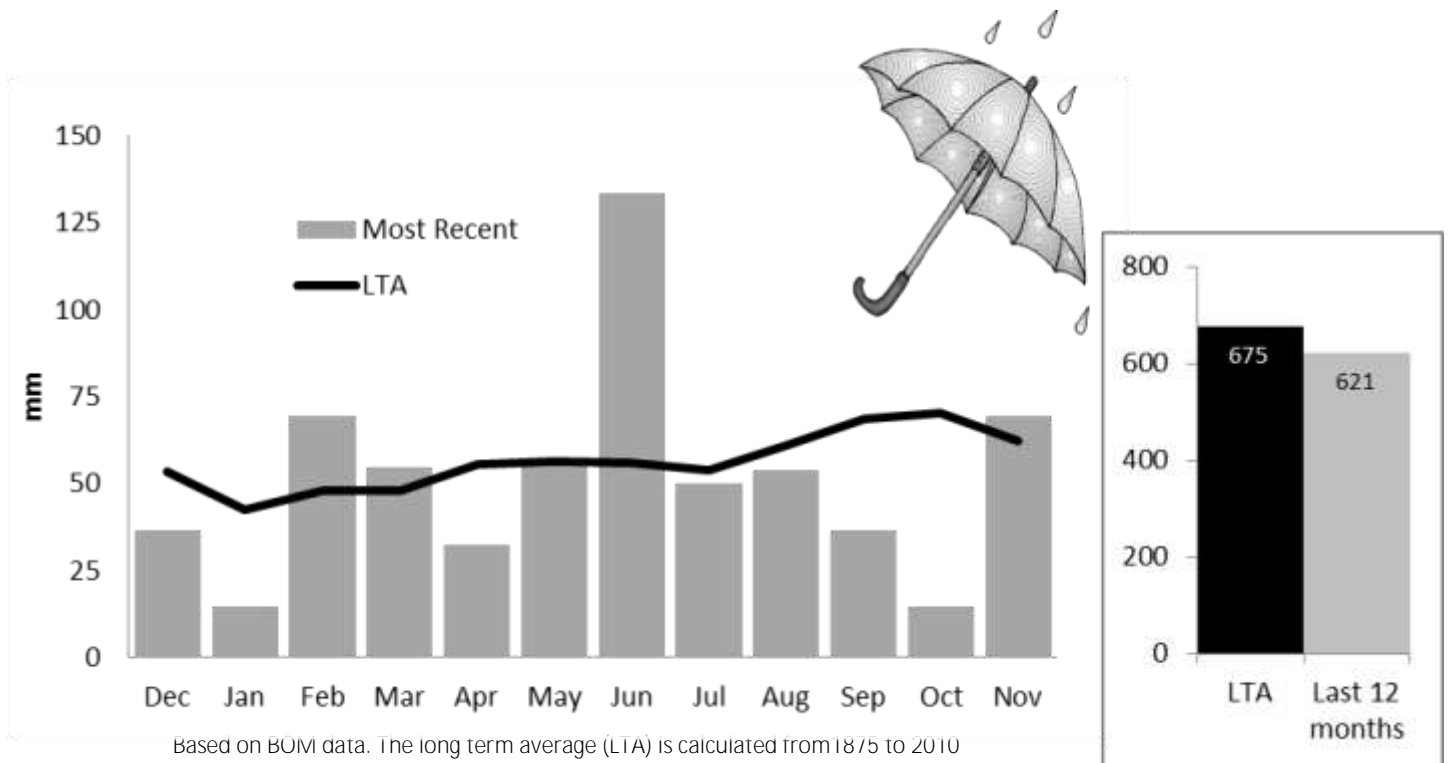
Almost Like Spring

Jim Elvey

Spring lived up to it's reputation on most counts by being windy, hot and cold. But it wasn't especially wet. Its 102 mm of rainfall is only 60% of the long term average (LTA) and pulled figures for the last 12 months below the LTA (to 92%) for the first time in over a year. But that's not the full story. We take our readings from the closest regularly maintained site. It

lodges readings taken at 9.00 am each day that are considered by BOM to be the readings for that day. As a consequence, the approximate 20mm that fell on the last day of the month - much of it frozen - is not included.

Not that this matters in the scale of things; it was the below average falls for September and October that have given us a less than ideal entry into summer.



Doreen's Dogs on Show

Marg Cooper

Once again local enthusiast Doreen Thompson excelled at the Annual Mini Foxie Show held at Elaine last month. She exhibited 7 foxie dogs, winning seven Firsts, two Seconds, a Third, seven Rosettes from seven events and three sashes.

She is especially proud of Tamara View Kelly Royal who at 10 months of age won the Supreme Puppy Event.

There were about 50 events in the show including Best of Breed, Best in Show, Best Natural Tail, Best Tan and White and Best Parent and Progeny.

Doreen says a Judge from Sydney attended and that her friends Joy and Janice helped her to lead her dogs. They were so impressed that they vowed to compete against her next year. Doreen was sincerely grateful for their help and interest.

There was once a great Tsar in Russia named Rudolph the Red. He stood looking out the windows of his palace one day while his wife, the Tsarina Katerina, sat nearby knitting.

He turned to her and said, "Look my dear, it has begun to rain!" Without even looking up from her knitting she replied, "It's too cold to rain. It must be sleeting."

The Tsar shook his head and said, "I am the Tsar of all the Russias, and Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear!"



(For those concerned with historical accuracy, the Tsar had red hair! - Ed.)

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A Legacy of Barry Pearce Lives On

Sandra Pearce

Recently two organisations that Barry was involved with for over 2 decades have given him homage for the service he rendered to people in need.



Creative Ministries Network – Veterans Faith and Wellbeing Support sponsored a Remembrance Eve dinner incorporating the inaugural Barry Pearce Peace Memorial Lecture, for war service and national service veterans, spouses and friends at the Prahran Mission in Melbourne.

The guest speaker Gordon Traill spoke on War Service and Christianity. Barry met Gordon as a retired soldier who had served with the Australian Army for almost thirty years. In 2004, Gordon undertook a tour of duty in Iraq as part of the Security Detachment (SECDET4) that was responsible for the security of the Australian Ambassador to Iraq. Gordon is a Past National President and member of the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans Association (APPVA) of which, Gordon is today actively involved in helping younger veterans returning from the Iraq/Afghanistan wars. It was those interests that brought Gordon and Barry together along with the proximity of both men having lived in Geelong and met their wives from the same town to raise their young families.

Then a week after Remembrance Day, the Corps of Commissionaires, an ex-serviceman's association, met to conduct their AGM and to present eligible members with a Certificates of Recognition. It was for this reason that I was being presented Barry's certificate from the Association for the 24 years of service in various capacities on the Committee and for the long and dedicated commitment and service. I received with great pride the certificate and it was at this function that the President announced a Youth Community Service Award has been named in honour of Barry and this award will be presented next year to a successful young applicant for their contributions of service to their community.

On both of these occasions, I was proud to receive and hear these compliments about Barry's involvement, as he freely gave his opinions and skills

hoping to assist. At both of these functions people spoke of Barry with an affection of sincerity and they also admitted that Barry could be very strong and forthright with his opinions, which at times was difficult for others to receive. Our 3 adult children and our grandchildren heard with integrity how people from diverse interests had come together to befriend their father and grandfather throughout those two decades and still give him homage.



Advance Meredith

Christmas in Meredith

Yes it's that time of the year again! Time to let your light shine out to welcome everyone! You are invited to "Light Up Your House or Business" for Christmas. Prizes will be awarded to winners and runner-ups!

Time to get your Christmas sheep out of the shed, give them a new coat of paint, some new decorations and display them around the town. Look for all the new sheep!

Heritage Signs

The images on the Meredith Heritage Walk plaques have mostly disappeared. We have researched signs from Melbourne to Broome and have found that enamel signs are the way to go. Tim Wood kindly donated the funds to reproduce the MHW sign at the Meredith Memorial Hall which relates the history of the Hall.

Advance Meredith would like to reproduce all the 20+ signs and invite you as a Meredith Business, a Meredith Family or as a Meredith Individual to sponsor a sign. The cost is \$400 per sign. The signs are important as they relate the history of over 20 sites in Meredith; they link with the Heritage Walk Book and the Heritage Walk.

Please phone Diane Ritchie 52 861291, if you are keen to help with this project..

Middleton Walk

The Middleton Walk was declared open on Saturday, November 24. Jeanette Middleton undid the ribbon to reveal the new sign on Steiglitz Road near Coolebarghurk Creek.

Ken Middleton was Shire Engineer of the Bannockburn Shire 1964-1994. He envisaged the development of the passive recreational area along the Coolebarghurk Creek, encouraged the development of the walking track and took an active part by helping to plant trees and remove stones.



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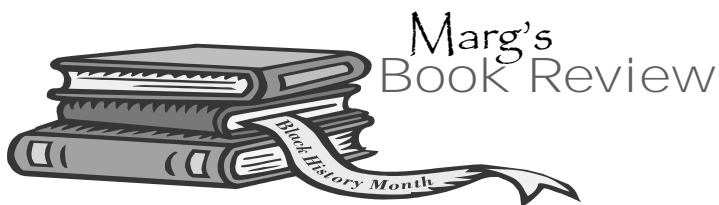
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It was 1934 and he was 19 years of age.

He carried a small rolled up tent, a violin in a blanket, a change of clothes, a tin of treacle biscuits and some cheese.

He was propelled by traditional forces that had sent many generations along the road away from the small tight valley closing in, the local girls whispering “marry me” and settle down and the cottage walls narrowing like arms of iron.

He set out to walk to London but detoured to get his first sight of the sea, worked for some time in London then because he knew one Spanish phrase he decided to see Spain.

For a year he tramped through the country in which there were many signs of impending civil war but he wandered and enjoyed the people and the land, experienced many situations and played his violin to earn money.

Thirty years later Laurie Lee wrote this book and captured the atmosphere of the Spain that he saw with all the freshness and beauty of a young man's vision, creating a lyrical and lucid picture of the beautiful, backward and sometimes violent country.

This book is important because it recalls the last years of a way of life when frontiers were lines on a map when a boy with a violin tucked under his arm could walk through Europe without passport, visas or inoculations, with few questions and almost no travellers.

The book for discussion in December is “Nine Parts of Desire” by Geraldine Brooks.



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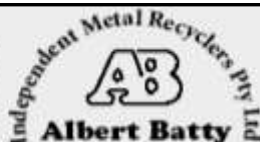
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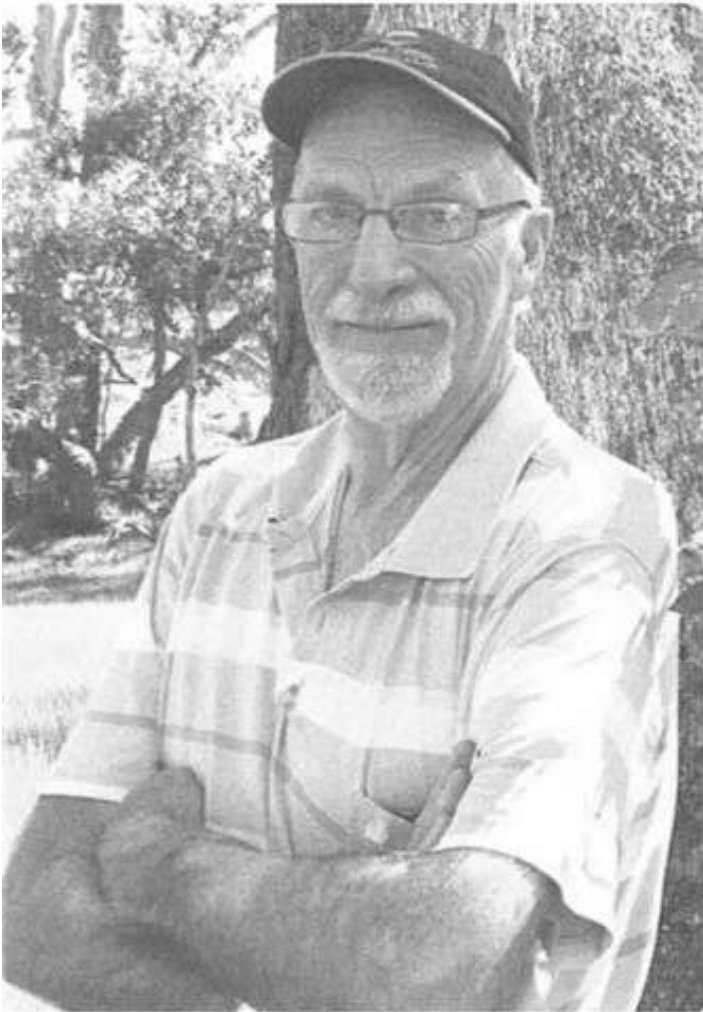
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Vale Ray Hewitt

Marg Cooper



Former Meredith resident, Ray Hewitt died on Saturday, October 20 after a short illness. He was farewelled with an 11 am service at St Arnaud Hall on October 29 followed by a private burial.

Ray and Aileen Hewitt bought a small farm in Bamganie Road in 1986 and, while they lived in Meredith, he worked as an Air Traffic Controller at Avalon. Their children Tracey, Claire and Andrew attended Meredith State School.

Ray was a very capable man; whatever he did he did well and made the most of every opportunity.

Family say he was the first student at Wedderburn to pass the Leaving Certificate and that he could answer most questions on quiz shows such as "Sale of the Century".

He was Secretary of the Cricket Club in Meredith and he initiated and planned many social events including a huge reunion dinner in the Meredith Hall and annual Melbourne Cup Events where the fillies of Meredith were given nicknames and phantom races were called. "Tassie Turtle" was the nickname of his

wife.

He also wrote informative and entertaining reports for the newsletter.

This was at the time when the Cricket Club was booming, winning flags and a host of young local men were having a good time.

In 1972 Ray trained as an Air Traffic Controller at Launceston, Hobart and Melbourne. In 1975 he was transferred from Melbourne to Avalon and worked there for 18 years. In 1993 he went to Albury Tower, in 1997 he returned to Melbourne Tower and he retired in 2000 after 29 years of service.

Ray and Aileen bought the old Malcolm Inn at Stuart Mill for their retirement project, restoring the building beautifully to live in and as a Bed and Breakfast. Ray also bought some land as he always wanted to be a farmer.

He was elected as a Northern Grampians Shire Councillor in 2005 for the Bolangum Ward and became Mayor in 2010-2011.

The Shire reported that Ray was a true gentleman, a great civic leader who relentlessly lobbied for better deals for businesses, families and farmers. He had instigated and contributed to a lot of projects at St Arnaud, near where he grew up and Stuart Mill where he retired to.

Ray was a great contributor to his community, wherever he lived!



Community

Tell us if you have any
Community News,

...and we'll tell the
Community!

See info panel on page 2
for contact details.



it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

Moving Out of the Masonic Centre

The History Group held its first meeting in 2008 in the backyard of St Joseph's Presbytery in Meredith, sitting on outdoor furniture in the sun. Meetings were held in St Joseph's Parish Centre until the Masonic Lodge members invited MHIG to use their facilities.

The Masonic Centre was ideal because it was an historic building, most Meredith people had never been in it, it was suitable for storage and had facilities to hold meetings and events. When the Masons moved their meetings to Lara, a clearing sale of their furniture was held and the building was offered for sale.

Last month MHIG was advised that a sale was imminent and we had to vacate. An urgent meeting was called and a number of suggestions made for new accommodation. The storage of the collection and the furniture were the most imminent problems and thanks to kind hearted and helpful members all was relocated.

MHIG express its thanks to the Masonic Lodge for the use of their Centre for a number of years.

George Enoch Mayo

A large photo of George Enoch Mayo dressed as Master of the Masonic Lodge has left the Masonic Centre after many years.

Records are not available that tell when he was inducted as Master but he died in March 1912 so the photo would be over 100 years old. He was initiated into the Buninyong Lodge on 31/8/1898 and resigned from there on 2/1/1901. Mr Mayo had the Railway Store

RIGHT: These ruins of a stone cottage are about half way down the Woodburn Creek, between the Woodburn Cutting on Mt Mercer Road and Henderson's Road. Can anyone help us with any information about who lived there?

in Staughton Street Meredith and it is known that he was in the shop by 1901. He married Lillie in 1908 and records indicate that his brother Samuel Henry Mayo was in a store in Wallace Street from 1901 to at least 1928.

MEREDITH - There were more visitors to Meredith than usual this Christmas. The Moorabool and Leigh rivers are handy to the township, and both attracted many tourists -- -Mr. I. Hall of Meredith, who is leaving the district, was entertained and presented with a travelling outfit.

The Argus Melbourne, Wednesday 2 January 1924

MEREDITH - Mr. P. Parker, of Lal Lal, caught a trout weighing 4½lb in the basin at Lal Lal Falls. Messrs. A. Wells and C. Mooney have been elected secretaries for the carnival week to be held in Meredith at Christmas.

The Argus Melbourne, Friday 4 December 1925

MEREDITH - It rained all day on Saturday and the cricket match between Inverleigh and Meredith had to be postponed until next Saturday.

From the Back to Meredith celebrations £200 was obtained.

The Argus Melbourne, Thursday 10 January 1935

Compiled by Jan McDonald, MHIG





Bannockburn Pharmacy Newsletter

Proprietors: Scott Wilkes & Damian Bennett

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Bannockburn VIC 3331
Phone: 5281 1519

Avoid the Christmas rush, shop locally & save 25%!!

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 2012 and we look forward to 2013!

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. 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 \$3,200 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!

Chemmart Gift Cards

If you can't decide what to buy someone whether it is for a birthday, Christmas or just to say "thank you" then why not buy someone a Chemmart gift card. The Chemmart Gift Cards have the same appearance as EFTPOS card and there is no minimum amount that you have to load onto the card. Gift cards are valid for 12 months and you don't have to spend the entire amount in one transaction. You can use some now and more at a later time. Also a Chemmart Gift card can be used at any Chemmart store. The only item that cannot be purchased using your gift card are prescriptions. So if you are stuck what to buy someone come in and let us show you our Chemmart Gift cards.

Christmas & New Year Trading Hours

Monday 24th December:	8:30am - 6:00pm
Tuesday 25th (Christmas Day):	CLOSED
Wednesday 26th (Boxing Day):	CLOSED
Thursday 27th December:	8:30am - 6:00pm
Friday 28th December:	8:30am - 6:00pm
Saturday 29th December:	8:30am - 1:00pm

Monday 31st December:	8:30am - 6:00pm
Tuesday 1st January (New Years Day):	CLOSED
Wednesday 2nd January:	re-open as normal

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- In Essence Aromatherapy
- Natural Instinct
- Baby section

Opening Hours:

Monday:	8:30am -6:00pm
Tuesday:	8:30am -6:00pm
Wednesday:	8:30am -6:00pm
Thursday:	8:30am -6:00pm
Friday:	8:30am -6:00pm
Saturday:	8:30am -1:00pm
Sunday:	Closed
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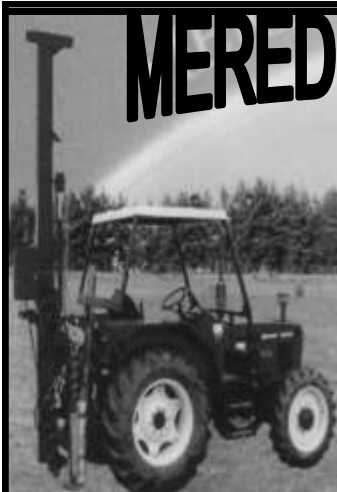
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We hope you enjoyed your
community news in 2012 &
thanks to everyone who made this
another good year for the

