Meredith &^{district}Newsletter

July 2012

Our Community Newsletter since 1972

Distributed FREE to district residents



PHOTO OMITTED FROM ONLINE PUBLICATION



School's Open (and Out)

School's on term break now, but just before break up, Meredith's new primary school was officially opened by local federal member Darren Cheeseman. The ceremony, conducted by school captains, Harriet Edmiston and Fraser Mitilineos, spoke of some of the new building's benefits.

The new buildings have created more space and allowed the teachers to provide different types of learning situations and learning is more fun because of this. "We are now warmer in winter and cooler in summer," the students said, "because the rooms have been designed really well. We even have windows that can be opened Above: Posing in front of the official plaque are school captains Fraser Mitilineos & Harriet Edmiston (centre), and vice captains Phoebe Cameron & Mitch Miller. Left: Enjoying the fun of Pyjama day on the last day of term at Meredith Primary School are students, Abbey, Bethany, Rachel and Isabelle (front) and Kristen (behind).

to let in fresh air. The design of the rooms allows us to change the layout and do all sorts of activities."

School vice-captains Phoebe Cameron & Mitch Miller also spoke which is especially fitting, given Mitch, is a fourth generation student at the school.

The building's architect attended the ceremony, and complimented the school on its clean and tidy presentation.

in this issue....



- Lost and Bogged in the Bush
- Golden Plains Shire wins national award.
- Staying Sunny in Winter
- Vale Viv Barrie

... and the usual more! e: mchnews@netconnect.com.au

W: www.meredithnews.com.au

Meredith and District News

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

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 for full details and lodgement forms.

Rates are as follows:				
Business Card	\$14.00			
Quarter page	\$25.00			
Half page	\$40.00			
Full page	\$80.00*			
*\$20 loading for preferred position				
Classifieds	FREE**			
**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 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.

Community

Emergency Phone Numbers



13000 wildlife

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

Bannockburn Vet Injured Wildlife

ELAINE NEWS & EVENTS

Elaine CFA Scrap metal collection as a fundraiser Ph David 0418993239 Junior Fire Brigade Training every Monday 5.30 pm. Ph Viv 0428518675

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

<u>Cubs:</u> Meet School Term times Wed. 6.30 -8pm Amanda 03 5281 9497 <u>Scouts:</u> Meet School Term times Tue. 7.00 – 9pm Bruce 03 5284 1257 Staughton Vale Hall, Staughton Vale.

"As you walk down the fairway of life you must smell the roses, for you only get to play one round.. Ben Hogan

Maternal Infant & Childcare Nurse

at the Meredith Community Centre

12th & 26th July 9th & 23rd Aug.

www.geelonglibraries.vic.gov.au

Meet at the Meredith Memorial Hall

-AGM 11am July 16th. Hall -16 July

New members are always welcome

52 861 346

52 861 402

52 819 223

52 811 854

5286 1348

5286 1313

5286 1227

5286 1222

5286 1558

5286 1559

5286 1211

0430 587674

0417370681

5286 1566

5286 1545 5341 5748

5286 8232

5286 1274

53 543 879

5286 1291

5286 1346

0437 009250

0429841399

0409 861 296

Senior Citizens

Ph. Jim 52868 232

Mr R Cooke Meredith

Mr P Ryan Elaine

Mr H Woerner Meredith

Mrs S W Dynon Steiglitz

Mr G Leslie Bannockburn

Next **DEADLINE**

Community Centre-Joan Primary School-Doug

Jnr Footy Club-Jaron Munday

M'bool Valley Masters- Chris

Recreation Reserve- Gordon

Kindergarten-Ruth

Red Cross-Mel

Tennis Club-Julie

Memorial Hall-Lynn

Golf Club- Denis

Senior Citizens-Jim

Hall Bookings-Sandra

Cemetery Trust-Dawn

Angling Club- Daryl

CFA- Robert Cooke

that should.

Motor Cycle Club- Mark

Advanced Meredith-Di

Let us know if you want your Community

number added or changed, or you know of one

any **NEWS** or **VIEWS**?

mchnews@netconnect.com.au

CWA-Joan

Police Station- Greg

Wed. 25th July 2012

Earlier submissions appreciated &

Community Contacts

necessary when our input is required.

Justices of the Peace

Geelong Regional Library Van

At the Meredith Community Centre

1-3pm 13th & 27th July 10th & 24th Aug.

Call 0409 900 224 to make an appointment

The Meredith Community Emergency Response Team Inc (CERT) Is holding it's AGM at the Meredith Community Centre classroom on Tuesday 21st August 2012.



New Development Strategy

Golden Plains Shire will produce a five-year Economic Development Strategy to guide and foster development opportunities including a new High School and expansion of the Bannockburn shopping centre.

The Strategy, which will take account of opportunities associated with the National Broadband Network, will be funded by a \$75,000 state government grant and a \$25,000 council contribution.

Work on the strategy will begin later this year with consultants seeking feedback from local traders, businesses and other stakeholders who want to have their say in shaping the direction of the strategy.

from media release

Water's Going Uphill

Barwon Water has announced new tariffs which will increase charges across residential and non-residential sectors by 8.69%. This is on top of a 3% increase to cover the cost of the new Melbourne to Geelong pipeline, to take effect when the pipeline is able to supply water, expected to be October this year.

For a customer using 165 kilolitres a year, the combined increases will add nearly \$100.00 to their annual bill. Only 1.58% of these increases is attributable to CPI.

Against these changes, \$167 million will be spent on capital works over the next 12 months.

Sewerage charges will not change.

from media release

Can You Help?

A reader has suggested we publish a 'community calendar' each month, identifying known events and activities. The aim would be to inform, but also to identify committed dates to help others plan for their events. (Some will remember the 'Claim Stakers' from years past.)

The problem is, this takes time to do properly, and our two person production team is flat out with their current production workload. So if you think you have the time to round up and compile the information every month, let us know.

...and what gives?

Editorial space is at a premium, so a 'community calendar' may require us to reduce the size of the many regular entries of church and community events we currently carry. Is this a good idea?

Give Jim Elvey a call (5286 1273) if you can help or if you have a view on this.

Meredith Senior Citizens

Jim Hynds

On Monday June 18 the Meredith Seniors met at Morrows Hotel. Our planned bus trip was cancelled and future trips are in turmoil!! Cath and Steve provided us with a marvellous 2 course meal, a big open fire and plenty of tea and coffee.

Twenty two members were well fed and well satisfied and in a joyful mood. Some of the members played a game of bingo and others played a pool competition.

There was lots of chatter and laughter and a great day was had by all. Thanks to Cath and Steve from the Top Pub for their great support and thanks to the Committee for working to reorganize our bus trips.



Share your best moments, photos, jokes, stories by simply emailing them to mchnews@netconnect.com.au

Letters

I read in the latest Meredith newsletter that you were after feedback about broadband use in the area.

Late last year I finally got internet access for our house. Being so far from Meredith (>10km) it was pointless trying to get anything via the phone lines. The only option open to me at the time was wireless and, being where we are, Telstra NextG was about the only choice. Phone reception about the home is pretty patchy, so apart from the modem I got a directional antenna and had it installed on the roof.

Reception is usually very good, but occasionally bad weather such as the heavy rain we had last week can interfere with the signal and I get dropouts. The plan we have doesn't put a limit on download speed, only size (we have a limit of 4GB per month). According to the Speedtest website (<u>http://</u><u>www.speedtest.net/</u>), we usually get download speeds around 5 Mbps. I could probably improve this a bit by tweaking the direction of the antenna, but there's not much point.

If anyone has to resort to satellite, there are some issues with it that I am familiar with. Wendy's parents have a satellite connection, as the Strathbogie Ranges has no mobile coverage. While their download speeds (bandwidth) are about what they pay for, they still have problems with some websites because of a very slow ping time. Ping speed is a measure of how quick your computer communicates to the server where the internet page you are looking at is hosted. If you are using a satellite connection, the distances involved are very long and are usually slower. I have a ping time of about 60 milliseconds. Satellite can have ping times of 1 second or more. Imagine if a page you are looking at required 20 separate communications between your computer and the server. If each of these takes longer than 1 second, then the whole process takes a while. Once you start downloading a file, the speed should be OK (this is determined by bandwidth).

Colin Cook

Classifieds

For Sale

Safe n Sound, Maxi Rider Convertible Booster Seat. Excellent cond. \$30.00. Phone 5341 5570.

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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: <u>Meredith</u>

11.00am 2nd Sunday at Uniting Church, Holy Communion 11.00am 4th Sunday Anglican Church Holy Communion Bannockburn

10.30am 1st, 3rd Sundays 10.30am 3rd Sunday 6.00pm 4th Sunday <u>Inverleigh</u> 8.45am 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays

Holy Communion Family Service Prayer & Praise

8.45am 1st, 2nd, 3rd SundaysHoly Communion10.00am 4th SundayMorning Prayer11.00am 5th SundayHoly CommunionParish 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 Sun, Sat & Major Feast Days. CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA. St. Marys House of Praver Elaine Solemn mass Sundays 10 00am Rosary and Vespers

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.

SAVE THE CHILDREN, AUSTRALIA <u>BORN TO KNIT CAMPAIGN WINTER'12</u>.

ARE YOU A KNITTER OR A KNITTING LEARNER WHO WOULD LIKE TO HELP BE PART OF THE BORN TO KNIT CAMPAIGN MAKING WARM BLANKETS TO DISTRIBUTE TO CHILDREN IN AUSTRALIA AND OVERSEAS? THE PROJECT IS SIMPLE. SQUARES IN PURE WOOL (IT IS WARMER AND FIRE RETARDANT) ARE NEEDED TO MAKE INTO BLANKETS. SQUARES NEED TO BE 20CMX20CM IN 8 PLY WOOL KNITTED ON 4MM NEEDLES. ONE SUGGESTION IS Knitted Blanket Guidelines:

Dlassa usa /mm naadla

•

• Please use 4mm needles

Please use 8ply 100% pure wool



• A perfect-sized blanket is made up of 16 knitted squares

• Each square should be about 20cms x 20cms (44 stitches wide, 88 rows high) The final blanket size should be around 80cms x 80cms

OTHER VERSIONS OF SQUARES KNITTED IN PLAIN KNITTING ARE ALSO WELCOME. LIKE TO KNOW MORE? ASK LYNNE, SUE OR MARGARET AT THE MEREDITH ROADHOUSE OR RING 52917202. KNIT ONE SQUARE OR KNIT A LOT THEY ALL HELP. SQUARES WILL BE COLLECTED AND DROPPED OFF AT SAVE THE CHILDREN IN COLLINGWOOD WHERE THEY ARE SEWN TOGETHER AND DISTRIBUTED. LOTS OF INFORMATION AND PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE ON BORNTOKNIT.COM.AU

Meredith

Community Centre, Inc. 4 Russell Street Meredith 3333 PH 5286 1348 Fax 52861 563 "Working for our community"



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

Moorabool Photographic Group



Our second annual photographic exhibition/ competition is on **August 25/26th 2012.**

Open to Public:

25th: 10 am - 4 pm 26th: 10 am - 4 pm . 25th: Official Opening & Presentation of Awards 2 p.m.

Admission: \$2 per person.

Entries

Maximum of 10 Prints per entrant. Print sizes, min "6 x 8", to max "16 x 20" inclusive matted or card/board. All Photographs must be taken by the entrant. Fee. \$1 per print. Entries close **Friday 10th August** and must be submitted with an Entry Form. (Ring Kristina Kitchingman for an entry form or visit lallalphotogroup.yolasite.com) Judging: Friday 24th. P.M.

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at the Lal Lal Soldiers Memorial hall, Lal Lal. 7 pm. All welcome

What fruit has its seeds on the outside?





Leading Senior Constable Greg Kitchen

Well overall it has been an extremely quiet month with very little to report on with regard to crime within the area. There has been no reported burglaries or other serious criminal offences reported. I have however received two reports of shire wheelie bins being stolen in the past month.

One of the bins was stolen in the early hours from the Midland Highway in Meredith and the other was stolen from out the front of an address in Meredith – Shelford Road also in Meredith

On a positive note, Friday the 1st of June saw our first 'Blue Light' disco being run in Meredith. In total, approximately 90 primary school aged children attended and had a great night. I believe that the night was an overall success with many parents also staying to watch on.

The 'D.J' on the night was Leading Senior Constable Des HUDSON from the Ballarat Police Station. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Des and his wife for donating their time.

The next scheduled 'Blue Light' disco will be held on Friday the 14th September and will again be held at the Meredith Hall. Information will be posted well prior to the event at the Meredith Primary school and general store. It would be great again to see the same numbers of kids attending.

Regards again Greg KITCHEN

Red Cross Unit Meeting

Dawn Macdonald

A general meeting of the Unit is to be held on Thursday 19th July at 9.30 am at the Meredith Community Centre. As there are many changes happening in Red Cross at Unit level this meeting will be important as to the future operation of Red Cross in our district.

Enquiries to Rosemary Hart 52868222 or Dawn Macdonald 52861274.

Monthly Film Night.

Dawn Macdonald

On the last Thursday of each month a film is shown in the Studio at the Meredith Community Centre, at 7.30 pm. Due to limited seating bookings can be made by ringing Dawn Macdonald 52861274 prior to the

night. A donation to Red Cross is the entry cost..... with tea and coffee supplied.

So far we have seen South Solitary, Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy, War Horse and The Help.

Everyone welcome to come and enjoy!!!



That Coco Monkey

Marg Cooper

Bill and Susie Weeks have opened the 'Coco Monkey Café' in Meredith. Bill is CEO at Happy Hens and Susie, who Bill affectionately calls 'Monkey' was an anaesthetic Nurse in Geelong. They came to live in Meredith last August and Susie wanted a job close to home and family in Ballarat and Geelong

With a fresh décor of red and black and a counter of reclaimed timber, they have plans for a children's play areas and outside eating at the café.

Hanging in pride of place on the wall behind the counter is a patchwork that features the name of the cafe on monkey material. Julie Jury sewed the hanging and Mick Jury made the wrought iron hanger, presenting it to Bill and Susie

Lost and Bogged in the Bush

Marg Cooper

The computer technician local resident, Jenny McDonald arranged for, was to visit her Bamganie Road home between 2 and 4pm on Wednesday. When he hadn't arrived by 4.30 pm she rang the service phone number in India. They gave her a Sydney contact who advised that the service man had got lost!

He had left Ballarat where he lives and travelled to Geelong to get the parts required. To get to Jenny's home he followed the instructions of his GPS which sent him down Deans Road and through the Bamganie Bush.

He thought it was not right but by that stage after slipping and sliding he was hopelessly bogged in the firm's one week old car.

A weak phone signal still allowed him to ring emergency services before lunch time. He and sat and waited to be rescued.

By about 4pm it was starting to get dark and he thought that he'd better walk out of the bush to Meredith. He estimated that he walked about 10 kms before the police picked him up in town and took him home to Alfredton.

On Thursday he drove his own car to Meredith but couldn't find the bogged car.

On Friday he finally did find the bogged car and retrieved the parts for Jenny's computer, as well as his tools and did repair Jenny's computer. (A tow truck had gone into the bush but the operator had refused to touch the car.).

The many perils of technology!





Meredith Golf Club

Ladies

5.06.12 Ladies played 3rd Rnd of Championships Winner: M Diffey 61-21 1/2- 39 1/2

Runner up C Poweles 57-17-40 Putts M Diffey 13 **Final of the Championships**

Club Champion: K Rosch "C" grade M Diffey 306 45 hole nett: C Powles 198 "B" grade K Rosch 278 Putts: C Powles 74

Mens Championships

"A" grade winner S Wilson "B" grade winner D Gear "C" grade winner M Macri Stableford winner M Colvin 37 pts

Monday June 18 2012

Ladies played the Parker McKean Bowl.

12 teams played Winning team- Bunninyong: Berry Parnell, Helen Hovey, Helen McSparron 79 pts

"A" grade winner Helen Haintz-Ballan 29pts c/b Helen McSparron.

"B" grade winner Barbara Bellman-Mt Zavier 29pts

"C" grade winner Joyce Daffy-Skipton 19pts

NTP 2nd-Helen Hovey. 9th-Dawn Macdonald. 14th- Gai Skinner

The Parker-McKean Bowl

Dawn Macdonald

This annual event was held at Meredith on Monday 18th June. Fourteen teams of three players from Ballarat and South Western districts competed for the cup. Both Flora Parker and Ess McKean had been members of the Meredith Golf Club for many years and donated this trophy in the late 1960's.

It has been keenly contested over all those years with Bunninyong Golf Club winning the event this year.

Elaine Tennis Club AGM

Elaine Tennis Club Inc 2012 A.G.M is being held on Wednesday 11th July at 7pm at the Elaine Recreation Reserve.

All welcome Enq. ph Russell Ford 53415605 or Carol Bodnar 53415766

Elaine and Meredith juniors

Shane Dunne

Junior cricketers, boys and girls aged between 9 and 14 with no experience necessary wanted for a combined Meredith-Elaine U'14 Cricket Team starting later this year in the Ballarat Cricket Association. The grade entered is for beginners. All training provided with the help of Campbell Waring from Cricket Victoria and a bowling machine will be there for all to use. A cricket open day with free BBQ and give-aways will be held on the 4th August at 12pm at the Meredith Cricket Ground. If the weather is wet indoor activities are planned. The cricket clinic will run till 2pm. Interested persons are strongly encouraged to phone to register your interest,

Rod Armstrong 0400078752 Meredith Cricket Club Inc Shane Dunne 0448291074 Elaine Cricket Club Inc

Meredith Jnr Football Club News

Campbell Mavity, President ,Meredith Junior Football Club.

What a year of football we have had, we have had the highs of victory, to the lows of losing gracefully, to the heart ache of a draw which is all the fun, and learning of playing junior football. On the 3rd of June we played Teesdale at home with a heart breaking draw with the score at 7-4-46 a piece, our defenders keep the ball in play at Teesdales forward goal square in the dying seconds, with Damien Bartolo taking a high pressure mark in the goal square ensuring the game was drawn, either way both sides were happy, unfortunately for Teesdale it was their second draw in as many weeks.

On the 17th of June we travelled down to Lethbridge to play in some chilly conditions but football is a winter sport. The game was played in a hard contest with only Lethbridge getting away from Meredith towards the last quarter Lethbridge 4-12-36 to Meredith 2-1-13. During the game I was able to witness one of the bravest tackles I have ever seen, Jim Kennedy on the half back flank tackled a player nearly twice as big him, he stopped the play, and caused a turn over. Very brave indeed.

On the 24th of June the Junior Crocs travelled away to Inverleigh, were the ground was quite a bit larger than our ground, our midfield ran their hearts out but to no avail, Inverleigh 9-11-65 defeated Meredith 2-4-16 the score doesn't reveal how hard the side tried, and played. Inverleigh



won the Round Robin last year, and are still a strong side the Crocs peg away each time they play. Our captains worked extremely hard during the game, we also had the Mavity brothers combine on the wing with Daniel marking the ball, and then kicking it to his brother James, they normally just fight each other. Our second year players have stepped up, there has been some awesome passages of play when, all the grade four boys combine. But not to be outdone our first year players also step into the play, and contribute at crucial times, all the players skills have improved through the year so it is a credit to the Coaches to keep the standard improving, at training, and during the games.

The club had a pie night on the 27th of June Cooper Simpson, and Fraser Mitilineos were presented with thirty game medallions. Mitch Emmlin was presented with thirty, and fifty game medallions, Mitch is also the leading goal kicker in the league at the moment.

We have four games left in the season we are away on the 1st of July, for the draw rematch at Teesdale. Then on Sunday the 22nd of July we play Lethbridge at Lethbridge. On Sunday 29th of July we play Inverleigh at Meredith, we start at 9.30am to start a triple header of games with both Senior Crocs playing after the Juniors, so get down to the ground that day to support your local clubs. On Sunday the 5th of August we play Teesdale home at Meredith, then to finish off the season we play the Round Robin at Inverleigh on Sunday the 12th of August, it is all happening.!

Landcare A.G.M.

June Cameron

The AGM of the Bamganie/Meredith Landcare Group was held on May 2^{nd} . The election of office bearers was held, with all positions vacant. Wilma Webb announced that she would not be standing for re- election, and was thanked for her time as treasurer when it was a position that was difficult to fill.

The Office bearers for 2012-13 are <u>President: Matt Fisher</u> ph: 0409 862 326 <u>Vice President: Rob Mc Coll</u> Ph. 5286 1449. <u>Secretary: Maddie Mc Coll</u> Ph.0424 754 179 <u>Treasurer: Phil Rendell</u> 52868242 or 0409 973 016. <u>Publicity (Newsletter):</u> June Cameron: ph. 5286 1250. <u>Committee Members:</u> Roy Ritchie, John Nolan & Russell Ford. <u>Auditor: Elisha Edgar.</u>

A general meeting of the Bamganie Meredith Landcare Group was held on June 5th. The business of the meeting was the \$5000 grant which was available to the district for Gorse Control. Unfortunately the closing date for this was July 3^{rd} which did not coincide with the Newsletter for notices, so it was decided to place notices in various locations round the town.

<u>The next meeting will be held on Tues. 10th July at</u> <u>8pm at the Meredith Community Centre.</u>

All interested people welcome.

Meeting date has been changed to the 2^{nd} . Tuesday of the month to coincide with the Newsletter publication availability. A reminder that Annual Subscriptions are due. Please use the Form in this Newsletter.

The annual subscription of \$44 including GST is now due. For this members are entitled to the use of the Group's equipment which includes tree planting tools, a ripper mounder, a bait layer, and a spray unit. (Members do not have to pay a hiring fee but are expected to return the equipment in the condition in which it was lent out, and any problems to be reported to the Group)

*Please fill in the Subscription Form and send to the treasurer: Phil Rendell, 5 Glenetive Rd. Bamganie 3333

GP Shire Wins National Award

Golden Plains Shire Council has won the 2012 National Award for Excellence in local government.

Announced last month by Minister for Local Government, the Hon Simon Crean MP, before 850 delegates from across Australia at the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly in Canberra, the Shire was chosen from a field of 370 local government entries vying for the prestigious award.

Mr Crean said the national awards recognised Council's ingenuity, resourcefulness, and self-reliance.

"It stepped outside the square and has embraced digital technology in order to stimulate the tourism industry and support the regional economy," said Mr Crean.

Mayor Geraldine Frantz said she is "...delighted that the Golden Plains tourism smartphone app and website digital infrastructure project has received national recognition for innovation and excellence."

The app connects visitors to businesses and attractions in the region with one simple touch and enables visitors to self-navigate their journey in Golden Plains,

The App is free to download from Council's websites, the Android marketplace and the Apple iTunes store.

from media release

Fencing All Types Horse Fencing, Yards, Arenas Post Driving, Post Hole Digging Landcare Fencing, Ripping for Plantations New & Repair Work Insurance Work No Job Too Big or Small Free Quotes Ph: Derek mobile 0408 527 518

> D & S Morgan Rural Fencing Pty Ltd Ph: 5342 0965

2012 LAND	CARE SUBSCRIPTION: \$44.	
NAME.		
ADDRESS:		
 		LANDCARE COUNCI
<u>PHONE:</u>		•••••
<u>ABN:</u>	<u>ENCLOSED:</u>	
Send to Treasurer: Phil Re	endell, 85 Glenetive Rd. Bamganie 333	3

Cabaret Night 2012 Sat August 4th 7.00 - 11.30 Staughton Vale Hall Featuring the 'Debut' performance of our own Home Grown, Bluegrass Band "Onion Grass" Be prepared for hand clapping, toe tapping and a lot of hoedown dancing. Also entertaining you will be our fantastic MC & DJ 'Mr John Karounos' A Multitude of Raffle prizes to be won. Many Great items to be bought in the Silent Auctions **BYO Drinks and Nibbles** A Light Supper will be provided throughout the evening.

Bookings are Essential, So

get in Quick Big-uns \$12 (Adults) Little-uns 5-16 Teenies under 5

\$6 (Children) \$free (preschool) To reserve you tickets

Phone Kath 52819301 or Lex 52819293

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REC 11212

0438 815133



Meredith Sourdough Bakery...

My deep thanks and kind regards; to all the supporters of the Meredith Sourdough Bakery!

I thank each and every person, that tried our products and spoke about the experience. I also thank those that gave us credits for having a crack at an idea created here in the bakery, with Chris Kinley (executive chef- with a history of food in his DNA) and "mine host" Ron Budd.

> We have created a "Talking Wall" within the new premises. It will allow for anything of relevance or importance in Meredith, to be **NOTED and DISPLAYED** within the new bakery!

We also wish to invite everyone from Meredith to participate in an ongoing association, with that which we are. Meredith Artisan Sourdough Breadmakers will continue to live here at 'Henry's Corner' and continue my passion- Meredith.

Just a footnote for our supporters - Coco Monkey cafe and Meredith Roadhouse

will continue shortly with a great range of our Bakery Delights!

Ron Budd Meredith Artisan Sourdough Bakery

Raymond Kelly's Birthday

Marg Cooper

On Tuesday June 19 Raymond Kelly celebrated a significant birthday.

On the previous Friday he had brought a passionfruit sponge cake to St Josephs and at lunch time "Happy Birthday" was sung and the cake was duly cut and enjoyed by all.

On the Friday before that he also brought a passionfruit sponge cake to St Josephs to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. On that occasion he also brought a Union Jack flag, a picture of the Queen from the Herald/ Sun Souvenir Booklet and gold candles.

At lunch time on that day "God Save the Queen" was sung, three cheers were given and the Queen was toasted with a glass of wine!

Raymond tells that he was disappointed that shops and homes were not decorated to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, that it was extremely difficult to find a Union Jack flag in Geelong but that the Apricot Shop at Lethbridge had cup cakes and biscuits decorated with crowns etc. Raymond remembers the Royal Tour in 1954. He saw the Queen in front of the Geelong Town Hall and tells that the train she was on stopped about 3 kms after Lethbridge for her to have her lunch. Where the train stopped was inaccessible to people and traffic, so privacy was assured. Raymond has added to his railway display in the Apricot



Shop and has included details of all the Royal Tours in Victoria.

He has even included a timetable of the trains that brought children from every corner of the state to the cities to see the Queen.

Raymond worked all is life on the railways in the pay department in Geelong. He has an intense interest in and a huge knowledge of the railways. He appears to be a quiet, shy man but his demeanour belies a man who regularly travels on adventures, who researches and collects, who is witty and who thinks deeply about issues.

Happy Birthday Raymond.

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Meredith & District News

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Vale Vivian Charles Barrie

Marg Cooper

Viv Barrie was born on July 21, 1954 to Margaret and Edgar Barrie and grew up with his 3 siblings Jennifer, Susan and David on the family property "Darlingsford" at Melton.

They were the third generation to call "Darlingsford" home.

Viv was a naturally timid child and the added difficulties caused by his eyes led to him being a very quiet, unobtrusive person but always considerate and with great empathy for others.

From a young age Viv would be out on the farm, binding and stooking hay, building haystacks etc.

School was not a high priority and strong encouragement was needed to maintain attendance until he returned to the farm in 1970 after a short stint at Glenormiston Agricultural College.

The farm was sold in 1973 to make way for the new freeway and the family purchased the farm at Elaine as an interim property.

Plans changed when Edgar died in 1975 and Viv took over running the farm, aged 21.

Viv's knowledge and skills grew to meet the needs of farming in different climates of Melton, Elaine and later Kerang.

He loved tinkering with machinery and had enthusiasm for one day "doing a vehicle up".

Viv inherited his strong community spirit and involvement from his parents.

CFA has been integral in Viv's life from a child when his father helped to establish the Melton Fire Brigade.

His involvement included being Captain and Treasurer with Elaine Brigade.

Viv and Carolyn grew up as friends in the same area.



A romance later developed but with Viv at Melton and Carolyn then at Dookie it was all getting a bit hard so Carolyn told Viv that she wanted to break up. He replied "Do you want to get married?"

They married on March 16, 1985 and on returning from their honeymoon moved into the farmhouse at 111 Mt Mercer Road, which hadn't been lived in for 10 years.



They expanded their farming enterprise by buying a property at Kerang in 1988.

Carolyn tells that life was busy, working farms at Elaine and Kerang.

Richard's arrival into their family in 1992 as a 20 month old was the greatest joy of their lives.

Viv became Mr Mom when Carolyn returned to work.

Viv took it in his stride and was gentle and wonderful with him. Richard grew up on Viv's lap on motor bikes, headers and

tractors. In 1999, after 3 years living at Kerang and 2 years at Euroa the family took a caravan trip through the centre of Australia before returning to live at Elaine.

They bought a farm at Cargerie and Viv and and his brother, David worked together doing a lot of contract farming.

In August 2009 Viv was diagnosed with a brain tumour. The next $2\frac{1}{2}$ years was an amazing and complex journey.

Carolyn tells that she admired the way Viv handled his diagnosis and journey.

He used to say "Life is Good", everything is "just amazing".

Viv died on May 23 and was buried at Clarendon Cemetery on May 28 before a Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for his Life at Buninyong Uniting Church.

An avenue of CFA members lined the road in the Cemetery and paid tribute to him during the service there, as well as Masonic Brethren from Melton.

Viv was a kind gentle soul. He was committed to people and community.

He was so committed that he urged Carolyn to organize the "Biggest Morning Tea" at Elaine and attended it on Saturday, May 19 before he went into Gandarra.



July 2012

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Chemmart Pharmacies in conjunction with Swisse Vitamins are excited to have a promotion exclusive to Chemmart Pharmacies only! **Buy any Swisse product until** 22/8/12 to go into the draw to win a trip to the 2013 Tour de France, or 1 of 5 BMC bikes! Plus during this promotional period we are taking 50% off the RRP of Swisse Vitamins (excludes Swisse Professional range). For full terms and conditions of this exciting promotion refer to our current catalogue or in-store.

Bag Sale

During this month Chemmart Pharmacies will be having another Bag Sale. For those of you not familiar with this promotion prior this promotion you will receive in your letter box, or can be collected in store, a Chemmart promotional bag. Anything you can fit in this bag you will receive 20% off. There are some exclusions which are listed on the promotional bag. This is a fantastic promotion to stock up on those items you might be running low on. Keep an eye out in your letter box or in-store for this exciting promotion.

Kate Morgan Promotion

(Free Membership & 20% off all Meal Replacements)

During the month of July we have a fantastic Kate Morgan promotion for our Pharmacy only. If you are a new member to our Kate Morgan Weight Loss Centre we are offering **FREE membership**. This is a saving of \$15! Plus for <u>all members</u> (including existing members) we are offering <u>20% off all meal replacements</u>. So if you have fallen off the Kate Morgan band wagon then now is a terrific time to kick start your weight loss campaign with 20% off all your meal replacements. If that wasn't enough motivation for you a recent study found that 50% of men and 40% of women put on an average of 5kg during Winter! Don't let that happen to you this winter. If you would like to know more about the Kate Morgan Weight Loss Program please come in and speak confidentially to one our fully qualified Kate Morgan Consultants.

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We have demonstration model at the Pharmacy which you can borrow for up to a week to try for yourself with no commitment to buy. Plus until the 14th July Actegy Health is offering customers a **\$50 cash back** when they purchase the Revitive Circulation Booster.

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Saturday Night in Steiglitz.

Marg Cooper

Part 2 of a very descriptive scene printed in The Steiglitz Miner, August 1, 1894 written by The Fossicker.

A bar full of men; 50 voices speaking at once; a babel of sound in an infinite variety of tones; flying bar-tenders and clattering silver. Suddenly a stamping of feet and an inrush of spectators. A fight in the stowshing corner.

It is all over in a minute with no worse result than a bloody nose or two, and the two principals, surrounded by admiring friends, are drinking eternal friendship.

Only, out of this drinking, a second row arises. One man is on the floor and another man is over him, sanguinary and demonstrative. Then, swiftly, a long grey coat and a black helmet flashes in the door-way. The noisy one, caught by the scruff of the neck, is dragged from the fighting. The belligerent gathers himself up and, in obedience to a curt signal, takes the new Chum road, without looking behind him.

By this time, of course, we are in Clow Street, in danger, every step we take, of slipping on the sidewalks that slope two ways and wants gravel badly.

Clow Street being the principal business thoroughfare of the

township, makes a really good appearance with its bright and well dressed shop windows, and there are married couples shopping there-but not many.

Here and there may be seen lanterns dancing like will-othe-wisps in the night. They are wise people who carry lamps to light the pathway "It would be hard to believe, did one not hear it that there could be so much genuine talent amid the rough surroundings of the goldfields."

in Steiglitz. Their boots take less cleaning in the morning.

After inspecting the billiard rooms and having a 50 up with the marker-these rooms by the way are well warmed-we, by a natural and easy transition, find our way to the free-and-easy in the Alfred Hall.

This is one of the institutions of Steiglitz, and deserves a separate notice-which some day it will have. It would be hard to believe, did one not hear it that there could be so much genuine talent amid the rough surroundings of the gold-field.

"Jolly good songs, and very well sung" can well be applied to the Saturday night minstrelsy in the Alfred Hall. Good singing, good music, and an intelligent, well dressed audience form the chief features of this weekly entertainment-which is one we have every reason to be proud of.

But, by and bye, the concert is over, the pubs are closed and there is only one thing left to do, and that is to go and have a hot pie and coffee. Hot pies and coffee form another of the institutions of Steiglitz, and for these also, we have every reason to be thankful.

Steiglitz hot pies are not to be beaten anywhere, and the best feature of the hot-pie shops is that they are to be found open at

the time you most want them-which is between the hours of 11pm and 1 am.

As we linger, in twos and threes, the miners drain their cups, sweep the last crumbs and commence the homeward walk up New Chum or towards the Mariners, to be ready for work the next day. So it is. Pleasure and revelry to-day, toil and sweat tomorrow.

And the world moves on its endless round, careless of either.

There is no Saturday night now, for the morning has come in with the unannounced midnight and with drifting rain-and we have no more to do but go home.



...and Making News at the Same Time...

STEIGLITZ, TUESDAY. Scott's Hotel has changed hands for the second time during the past nine months. Mr. M'Dougall, the present lessee, has disposed of the business to Mr. Brown, of Geelong; £3,500 is the amount mentioned as having been paid.

The Argus Thursday 28 June 1894

A rather novel spectacle was to be seen today on the Ballan road in the shape of a five roomed cottage on jinkers. This is one of a number recently purchased in the Melbourne suburbs for removal, and is to be placed in Ballarat South. Mr. Scottney, carrier, of Fitzroy on whose jinkers the removal is being made,.. will shortly be removing others to Steiglitz, via Geelong. He says that at the rates at which they are now purchasable they can be landed here at half the amount they would cost to build.

The Argus Saturday 7 July 1894

Yesterday afternoon a child named Gilford Wallace was killed under peculiar circumstances at the United Albion mine. (Steiglitz) It appears that the boy, with others, when proceeding to the Sunday school, stayed to ride on the bobbox of the pump, which was at work. Apparently in getting off he was caught between the box and a brace-beam, and killed instantly.

The Argus Tuesday 10 July 1894

Railways and Conveyances. Steiglitz Mines, 10s. 6d. return, steamer, coach combined. Tickets agents, Cobb and Co., Cook's, Hutchinson's, Huddart, Parker. Coaches also leave Leigg-road arrival first Melbourne train; return, 5s.

The Argus Thursday 12 July 1894

Another fatal accident occurred at the United Albions mine last night, which makes the third within two weeks. Alfred Pinnock, a miner at the 850ft. level, was coming up at midnight, and had reached the top of the winze when by some means he slipped, and fell to the bottom, a distance of 60ft. He sustained a fracture of the right thigh, as well as injuries to the spine and other parts of the body, which caused death within two hours. The deceased was about 47 years of age, and leaves a wife and seven children at Geelong. An inquest is to be held.

> The Argus Monday 16 July 1894 Jan McDonald, Meredith History Interest Group

Meredith History Interest Group

Marg Cooper

On Sunday, June 17 MHIG organized a ceremony to unveil a sign at Cavey's Corner at Cargarie. The present owner of the property, Troy Neal had suggested that we commemorate the Cavey family. He built a cairn from bluestone from the Cavey house and a sign telling some history of Cavey's Corner was positioned on top. Because the weather was inclement, the crowd gathered in Troy's carport to listen to the speeches before walking to the cairn to witness the unveiling.

Janene Shillier told us about the early history of Cargarie and how her father had a ceremony in 1978 to change the name of their property from "Yoolburra" to "Cargerie". The Bakes property was about 190 ha. of the original 260 ha issued to the first owner, George Frederick Read as a pre-emptive right.

Delcie Robinson told us about the Cavey house, outbuildings and trees and about what her Grandmother did and wore. She wore an undershirt, a boned corset, an overshirt buttoned to the neck, at least 3 peticoats under her ankle length skirt and a pair of bloomers in summer and winter. Neil Cameron told us that Emmett Cavey had worked at "Glenspean" for the Cameron family for most of his life. While Neil Cameron Snr was at WWII Emmett had a sherry with Mrs Cameron each evening and they discussed the farm work. Emmett kept foxie dogs, built ladders in bottles and lived on in the Cavey house after his parents died. Delcie Robinson and her sister Mavis Peoples and their brother Keith Humphries unveiled the sign and then the many Cavey relations gathered around the cairn to have photographs taken. Delcie, Mavis and Keith are children of Priscilla Cavey who was a sister to Emmett.

It is believed that William Barlee Linford and Herbert Edward

Large set up a store on the corner prior to 1850. They supplied travellers and miners with supplies.

The store was converted to a house and the property was given to Emma Linford as a wedding present when she married Edward Cavey in 1880.

The Ship "Six Sisters"

The ship arrived at Geelong on January 13, 1853.

A reunion of descendants of passengers from the emigrant ship "Zes Gesusters" or "Six Sisters will be held on Sunday January 13, 2013 at Geelong, Vic to celebrate 160 years since the arrival at Point Henry from England. Ron Newland and Liz Seaton, who are descendants of passengers on that ship tell that they wish to develop the story of the ship and her passengers, to acknowledge and celebrate their ancestors arrival and lives and to mount a plaque in a significant place in Geelong to perpetuate their memory.

Even if you are unable to attend, any information, stories etc that you have about your families' voyage will be greatly appreciated for inclusion in the proceedings.

For more information please contact reunion organizer Rob Newland at <u>robjnewland@yahoo.com.au</u>

Hasn't anyone got a photo of **Ernie and Arnie Schefferle?** A letter was received from Sandra. She would also like a photo of their mother Sara Schefferle.

Last month we congregated in the church to catalogue, rather than the extension at the back. We kept warm with some bar heaters and the atmosphere was great and everything we needed was at hand!

We catalogue at the Masonic Centre on the last Thursday of each month. You are welcome to visit to talk history, to help catalogue or to contribute to the collection.

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Neil (Happy) Cooper

Marg Cooper

Neil lived on the farm "Wattle Vale' on Coopers Road with his mother Annie, father Ernest George, brother George b 29/6/1938 and twins Keith and Betty b 13/7/1939.

The children went to Woodburn State School and were taught by John Duggan, Mrs Elcock and Mr Duffy who boarded at Robinsons.

Their father drove them 10 kms to school in a horse and cart or in their old Chev or Plymouth car which Neil adds, would have been vintage now.

Neil's father became ill. He went to hospital in Ballarat and the family shifted into Meredith when Neil was about 11 years old.

He went to State School in Meredith for a couple of years before leaving aged 14.

They lived at Charlie Davies bluestone house on Steiglitz Road which was then owned by Norm McDonald.

Neil believes that nobody lived in the bluestone house immediately before or immediately after they lived there.

Mum, her brothers and Uncle Arthur got the house shifted from the farm to 9 Wallace Street.

The block of land was bought from George Mayo and it had previously had sale yards on it.

Neil used to do a lot of rabbiting around Meredith including down Taylors Road with his ferrets and one foxie dog.

He made his own rabbit nets.

He would hang the gutted rabbits on a wire beneath the cypress trees over the road from their house at the Church of England and cover them with a long piece of hessian.

Les Dellar came from Ballan once or twice a week to collect the rabbits. Lots of kids were catching rabbits and making good money. Neil tells that he gave all his earnings to his mother to put food on the table.

When Neil left school he did odd jobs around like rouseabout for Norm McDonald and Archie Hearn.

He worked for Ernie and Arnie Schefferle picking peas and weeding onions with a dutch hoe.

Neil cut wood in 4 foot lengths to sell. He worked with Boy Lowne and Bob Friday. They worked for Archie Hearn.

Neil wanted to end up buying his own farm so he went to Wingeel to work on a farm for a Mr McDonald. He stayed for about 5 years, driving tractors, fencing, doing sheep work etc.

It was a Soldier settlement block and he lived in the back end of the car shed and had his meals with the family.

He got paid £ 7/10/- plus his keep per week when he started and was being paid £14/-/- when he left.

After 5 years there he didn't think he was getting ahead so he came back home.

Neil used to go fishing with Jim Brown who was the CRB Foreman. His Uncle Bill Cooper worked on the CRB. Neil was offered a job on the CRB. He worked for the CRB until was retrenched. He wished he could have worked for 5 or 6 more years.

Neil has maintained the house well. He seems to be always giving it a new coat of paint. All the sheds on the block he has added and some he has built himself.

They have cement floors and lots of shelving.

He belonged to the fishing club. He liked to catch red fin and blackies but he hasn't been fishing since the drought.

He is a keen gardener and the whole of Meredith appreciates his

display of gladiolus in summer and his tulip display in spring in his front garden.

He used to grow a lot of vegetables but admits that he hasn't done that since the drought.

He used to have a huge pile of wood in his backyard.

His hobby now is restoring vintage motor mowers. He has too many to count!

Neil attends church services at the Church of England and mows the grass around the church.

The Good Moos

Mandy

It's that time of year again, colds, flu, aching joints, winter blues. It's Winter at it's most glorious but we don't often feel at our cheerful best in these colder months.

It can be a struggle through winter to keep our body, mind and spirit nourished and active but there are things we can to do help ourselves embrace the colder months and keep our energy and spirits high.

Mind: It's important that we keep our mind active so as not to let any negative self talk sneak in which can result in depression and anxiety. How can we do this?

- Stay focused. Keep your mind on what you are doing right now, if your thoughts start to wander, bring your focus back to what you are doing.
- Positive self talk: If you notice that your thoughts are becoming negative for example: 'I hate winter.' 'I always get sick during winter.' 'I don't want to go out.' Counteract those thoughts with positive self talk: 'I am healthy and happy and today is a great day, it just happens to be raining.' 'I choose to feel good today.'
- Activity: Do things! Puzzles, crosswords, board games, computer games that make you think, meditation, chanting, singing, reading: they are all great activities to keep your mind active.

Body: It can be really easy to stay indoors, with the couch calling you like a siren to the sailors and eating comfort food, leaving you blaming the washing machine for shrinking your jeans! Winter weather is not very enticing to get outside and exercise but there are other things we can be doing to keep our bodies active and keep those winter grams from sneaking their way to our hips!

Indoors: workout DVDs are great during winter. You can get all sorts of workouts: yoga, dancing, aerobics, pilates and you don't have any gym fees or have to travel anywhere!

Dancing is a great fun way to keep active. There are no rules: just whack on a CD of choice and let your inhibitions blow away with the wind!

Get a massage! Massage is a wonderful way to keep the blood and oxygen flowing freely in the body whilst flushing out the toxins in the body. It will help keep muscles and joints mobile and flexible and you will feel physically better.

Meredith & District News

Go outside!!! Yes, I said it! Go outside. We need to get some Vitamin D during the winter months so rug up, leave your head and face uncovered if you can, and go outside! Go for a walk, bike ride, jump in puddles (it's very liberating...kids know it and we should let our inner child have some fun too!)

Spirit: Ensuring your spirit is nourished is something that will be different for us all. It really depends on what gives you joy. If you are creative, then creating will give you joy and nourish your spirit. Other activities that nourish the spirit may include: meditation, chanting, prayer, singing, painting, exercise, good company/socialising, cooking, writing etc.

Do something nice for someone else: when you make it about something bigger than yourself, you are allowing your spirit to connect to your higher self. So take some muffins to your neighbour, give someone a lift, offer an umbrella to someone who is walking in the rain, volunteer somewhere, visit an old folk's home and make someone's day simply by sitting and talking with them!

Nourish your spirit by doing things that give you joy!

So, there are so many ways we can keep our body, mind and spirit active and nourished through winter.

Love and approve of yourself. Be gentle with yourself and others.

Love and light to you. - Moo.



For Meredith, Steiglitz and district.

"As your local State Member of Parliament, the most important part of my job is to keep listening to your concerns.

I can assist with anything relating to the Victorian Government and provide you with information and advice.

I would also love to know what you think are the most crucial and important issues facing our community. And of course I am keen to be as available to you as possible."

Howar

Geoff Howard MP State Member for Ballarat East

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Meredith & District News





Dancing Queen

It's awfully chilly in Bamganie this time of year. I shiver my way through another Sunday night family dinner in my coat, beanie and two pairs of socks, standing as close to the fire as I can get without actually climbing in to it. The tougher members of my family, seemingly oblivious to the dangers of frost bite, are wandering around in t shirts. My mother, always the first to bark 'Put some socks on!' the second anyone lets a bare toe hit the floorboards, is barefoot. Before I have a chance to shout at anyone to put some socks on, the wii is fired up and Tilly's 'Just Dance' game starts. The living room is filled with grooving Floods. My coat and beanie hit the floor. I'm no longer freezing. I'm dancing. Well, making an attempt.

If you've ever seen my parents at a party or down at the pub, you might have noticed they've got the moves. Sadly, like my dad's height and my mum's slender frame, it's a characteristic I didn't inherit. Having seen my grandparents dance, and regretfully recognising myself in their 'click and step' moves, I wonder if the ability to groove skips a generation, and any children of mine will turn out to be ballet prodigies, finally fulfilling my childhood dreams.

I was enrolled in dance classes as a little girl, but from the beginning they weren't exactly what you'd call a success. For one thing, I was quite convinced I had a future as a ballerina, and knew for a fact that the silly 'jazz ballet' classes I was being driven to were not teaching me classical ballet at all. For another, I was slightly more interested in sliding on the slick wooden floors and falling about in my Minnie mouse leotard than actually listening to the teacher. Finally, I realised over time that I simply lacked certain abilities vital to a dancer. The ability to move with any coordination. The ability to tell my right from my left. The ability to take myself, the ridiculous routines and any song by the boy band '5ive' seriously. My dancing career was a short one.

These days, 'dancing' is more likely to refer to me bouncing ungracefully around my lounge room than a country hall stage. I've been known to take 'dance like no one's watching' to a new level, joyously adding 'sing like no one's listening'. As weddings become more frequent I find myself expanding my repertoire of uncool moves (I call them retro), with my current favourite being the shopping trolley. At festivals, of course, the only real move is staying upright in the crush of sweaty bodies, and shaking your hair when beer spills from a precariously held cup.

When 'Just Dance' winds up for the evening, and we all fall in to chairs with glowing faces and bursting lungs, I know I've finally proved without a doubt that I, too, have the moves. Just not, you know, the cool ones.

The Intrepid Adventurer

Marg Cooper

The members of the Friday Gang at St Josephs enjoyed a passionfruit sponge on Friday, June 20 to welcome Dennis Peters of Lethbridge, home from his overseas trip. He was also presented with a card to Welcome him home. Dennis has recently been on a 17 day bus tour of Eastern Europe and a 14 day bus tour of Spain with Trafalgar Tours.

He travelled to many countries and admired the scenery and buildings, learnt a lot of history and enjoyed meeting many different people. He particularly mentioned Lake Bled and the beautiful Catholic Church on the island, the Berlin Wall, Auschwitz, salt mines and caves and in Spain, the fast train, swimming in the Mediterranean, bull rings, flamingo dancing and Paella. The two tours are his 5^{th} and 6^{th} overseas tours.

Jimmy and Linda Hynds have recently returned from a visit to Ireland and a cruise around the Greek Islands. It seems that a lot of others from Meredith have migrated north for the winter. Is there anyone left?



GP Rural Womens' Network

Marg Cooper

The Golden Plains Rural Women's Network had its origins in a small committee founded during the recent drought to assist rural people cope with the issues drought brings to families. After the drought finished they decided to continue to help rural women by organizing friendly, informative functions in different areas. This small committee is made up of women from across the Shire .with new members always welcome.

At the Grenville Hall on Sunday May 20 the Network hosted a lunch with three speakers from the local area.

Martin Scuffins gave a talk and a visual presentation of his work with injured raptor birds. He told that his passion for birds of prey began when he was a boy. He has travelled and studied trained birds of prey and he also is a wildlife artist of world renown who specializes in depicting the birds of prey.

Jeanette Skrokov gave a talk about iris plants. She told that the iris flower was often depicted in documents from ancient history. She has managed to develop some new varieties of iris by cross pollinating. She sells iris rhizomes from her home on Mt Mercer-Buninyong Road. She is also a talented artist.

Judy Dalton then spoke about her tennis career and the tennis circuit today.

She competed in 18 Grand Slams and was successful in 10. Amongst these were the Australian, French, Wimbledon and US Open Ladies Doubles Titles and Australian and Wimbledon Mixed Doubles.

She told of losing to Billie Jean King in the final at Wimbledon. She told of travelling in the early days of the tour and the friendship between all the players.

Jenny Blake tells that they need more helpers to organise a Disability Fun Day in Lethbridge for October or November. If you can help please email Jenny on jennyblake1@bigpond.com.



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"About a Boy" by Nick Hornby.

This book has been made into a film of the same name and bookclub members who had seen the film, highly recommended it. Both are very funny

The book explores parenthood, depression, suicide of public and private figures, bullying and society's need for members to conform.

Nick Hornby tells the story of a boy who moves to London from Cambridge with his mother. His mother is depressed and suicidal at times. The boy starts at a new school and is bullied, thanks partially to his mother's determined non conformity and partially to his own habits and personality

He meets a man called Will who doesn't have to work because his father wrote a song "Santa's Super Sleigh" and Will lives off the royalties. Will lives an aimless life, he doesn't have ordinary life-worries, he resists entanglements of family and work, he judiciously plans his days with toilet breaks between reading newspapers, crosswords, soap operas and fantasy. He wants eternal youth and a self contained uncluttered life. He doesn't have any relationships with other people except an occasional girl friend.

Marcus befriends Will and is rejected. Marcus persists and persists and the 12 year old demonstrates some of the most responsible behaviour of all the characters in the book.

He looks after his mother ensuring that they don't watch anything on television that might upset her.

Marcus's father is as self involved and adolescent as Will, clinging to the culture of his hippie youth and having difficulties accepting the responsibilities of raising a child approaching adolescence.

The book has a cast of dysfunctional character who are maybe drawn just a little larger than life! Maybe not!

The book for discussion in July is "Case Histories" by Kate Atkinson.

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