

Meredith & district Newsletter



March 2012

Our Community Newsletter since 1972

Distributed FREE to district residents

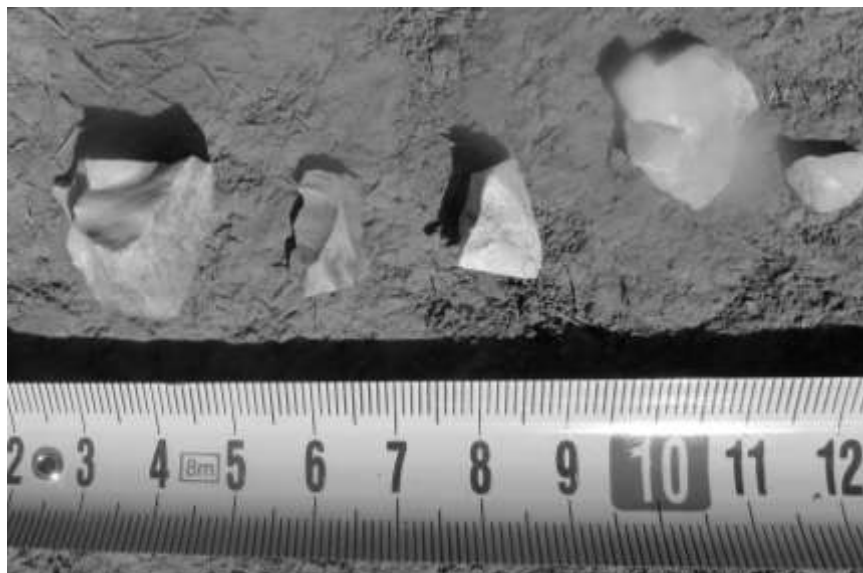
Old 'Footprints' in the Paddocks

Jim Elvey

Members of the Wathaurung (Wadda Wurrung) language group conducted a brief field survey of parts of the Police Paddocks last month. They had no difficulty finding evidence of stone tool making by aborigines once occupying the area.

Such finds are important as they provide a link to the pre-European past and build on the Police Paddocks' historical significance.

The three officers involved are mapping sites on both private and public land in conjunction with Victoria University. They have recently undertaken surveys of other nearby sites, including the route of the recently completed Lethbridge to Meredith pipeline, and will conduct a more extensive survey of the 'Paddocks' when the heavy grass and weed cover is depleted.



Above: Remnant chips from tool making at the Police Paddocks, (Long before they were "Police Paddocks")

New Faces

Stefania Parkinson

After a very festive end to 2011 and a fond farewell to Miss Kimberley, the kinder community has been eagerly awaiting the beginning of the 2012 to welcome our new Director and Preschool (4 year old) Teacher, Ruth Schofield-Smith. Ruth joined the kindergarten in February and we are fortunate to have someone with such a vast teaching knowledge. Ruth is from Geelong and has settled into her new role with ease. She has already spent many hours at the kinder making sure the children have a nurturing and complete learning environment. The committee and kinder families warmly welcome Ruth into the Meredith Community.

We would also like to welcome our Kindergarten (3 year old) Teacher, Leonie Weaver. Leonie will hold this position until a permanent replacement has been found. Leonie is from Ballarat and we are grateful and fortunate to have such a caring teacher.

See Ruth's Hello' on p.3

PHOTOGRAPH OMITTED FROM ONLINE VERSION

in this issue....

- Five Generations of Schooling
- Festival Traffic Plan
- An Old Sharp Shooter Finds Fame
- Painter Inspires Art Group
- The Story of Sugar

... and the usual more!

e: mchnews@netconnect.com.au **W:** www.meredithnews.com.au





Community

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.

Maternal Infant & Childcare Nurse

Call 0409 900 224 to make an appointment at the Meredith Community Centre
8th, 22nd Mar. 4th & 19th April

Geelong Regional Library Van

At the Meredith Community Centre
1-3pm 9th & 23rd Mar 6th & 20th April
www.geelonglibraries.vic.gov.au

Senior Citizens

Meet at the Meredith Memorial Hall
Ph. Jim 52868 232

New members are always welcome

Justices of the Peace

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

Next **DEADLINE**

Wed. 28th March

Earlier submissions appreciated & necessary when our input is required.



Community Contacts

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

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

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

mchnews@netconnect.com.au



"The best place to store surplus food, is in a friend's belly."

African proverb

Emergency Phone 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 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

Cubs: Meet School Term times Wed. 6.30 -8pm Amanda 03 5281 9497

Scouts: Meet School Term times Tue. 7.00 - 9pm Bruce 03 5284 1257
Staughton Vale Hall, Staughton Vale.

MEREDITH JUNIOR FOOTY CLUB CAR BOOT SALE

NEW & USED GOODS WELCOME
SAUSAGE SIZZLE

SAT 24th MARCH 8am - 1pm

PIONEER PARK

SITES ARE BOOKING OUT FAST

BOOK YOUR SITE NOW

Phone Karen - 0400152869

Meredith & District Memorial Hall ^{Inc.} 2012 Annual General Meeting Invitation

The Memorial Hall's AGM is to be held on Monday 5th March, starting at 7.00pm at the Memorial Hall to;

- Confirm Minutes of the previous AGM
- Adopt 2011 Audited Annual Financial Report
- Declare Office Bearer Positions Vacant &
- Elect 2012 Office Bearers & Committee

Committee Meeting & Supper will be held after AGM.

VISITORS ARE MOST WELCOME!

Sandra Pearce-Secretary 5286 1545.

Meredith Recreation Reserve

A new management committee was elected in 2011 representing all of the user groups of the Recreation Reserve.

Any enquiries can be directed to Julie Cameron or Gordon Primmer: ph 52862000 or 52861211(AH)

There are a number of tables & chairs missing from the Rec Reserve hall. Can these be returned ASAP. Any information in relation to the whereabouts of this furniture is eagerly sought.

Please contact any sports club rep or ph 5286 2000

Hello

Hello Meredith Community and all the people in The Golden Plains Shire who read this paper.

My name is Ruth Schofield-Smith and I am the new Director of this beautiful old kindergarten. We welcome Leonie

Weaver to educate our 3 year old kindergarten group. We welcome back Sharlene Jury to assist us. But most importantly of all we welcome our new kindergarten group and our preschool group whom I educate.

The children are busy and we are developing Safety Rules to keep each other safe. Above all – we each are having fun.

Community Garden

Expressions of interest are invited regarding the establishment of a Community Garden in Meredith. The vision of this project is to build community interaction and a reconnect with seasons and food production. There are many reasons to do this and enormous scope for what this project could be. To discuss this idea in detail please contact Jo Klein on 0438 828 042.



Meredith Senior Citizens

Jim Hynds

The Meredith Senior Citizens kicked off the year on February 6 with a social day at Henry's Corner Hotel, Meredith. A group of some 31 members attended and the mood was great.

Our host, publican Ron Budd, supplied the seniors with a great choice of lunches. Before long the lunches arrived in quick succession, well presented and deliciously good. Well done Chef! Our appetites were well and truly satisfied.

The group settled down to much chatter and laughter and a hilarious joke from Denise Hardy had us in fits.

The planned roster for this year was handed out and there was much excitement.

Ron then brought out afternoon tea of delicious cakes and gourmet slices from the Meredith Bakery and unlimited tea and coffee. Nobody seemed to care about their waistlines!

PS. Our next meeting is at the Meredith Hall on Monday, February 27. Come along for a great time. Special Thanks to Henry's Corner Hotel for having us on Monday 6th.

Classifieds

Wanted

An old corrugated water tank to convert into raised veggie beds. Contact Helena ph: 5284 1363.

For Sale

Baltic pine hall table with one drawer. L:118cm W:41cm
Good condition ph 0419 860 726 5286 1427

Wanted

to buy - small caravan - no leaks, ph 5286 1483

Wanted

to swap or buy - Fresh produce for locally made chutneys, jams, sauces & relishes. Please call Jenny on 5286 8219 or 0419 164 745.



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 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 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.

Meredith - Mass @ 11 a.m. Meredith 11th & 25th Mar.

Anakie - Mass @ 11 a.m. Sundays 4th & 18th Mar.

CELEBRATE EASTER 2012

Wednesday 4th April Reconciliation Service

Bannockburn 7.30 pm

Holy Thursday 5th April Mass of the Lord's Supper

Bannockburn 6.30 pm Winchelsea 7.30 pm Meredith 8.00 pm

Good Friday 6th April Ecumenical Way of the Cross

Meredith 10.00 am

Stations of the Cross

Bannockburn 10.30 am

Solemn Good Friday Liturgy

Bannockburn 3.00 pm Winchelsea 3.00 pm

Holy Saturday 7th April Easter Vigil Mass

Bannockburn 6.00 pm Winchelsea 7.30 pm Meredith 8.00 pm

Easter Sunday 8th April

Bannockburn 9.00 am Anakie 11.00 am

Father Herman and the parishioners of St Joseph's Catholic Parish Meredith which includes the Mass Centres of Bannockburn Anakie & Winchelsea wish you the joy of Easter and invite you to join us for the ceremonies.



EASTER TIMES

6 April, Good Friday, St Pauls Inverleigh, 3.00 pm

8 April, Easter Sunday, St Johns Bannockburn, 10.30 am.

For the Uniting Church.

6 April, Good Friday, Sebastopol Mission Centre, 10.00

am 8 April, Easter Sunday, Buninyong, 9.45 am



Meredith Community Centre, Inc.

4 Russell Street Meredith 3333

PH 5286 1348 Fax 52861 563

"Working for our community"



Meredith Community Centre & The Golden Plains Shire

proudly invite you to share in
**CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY OF
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

**Wednesday March 8th, 2012 from 7-9pm
at**

The Meredith Community Centre

**Spend an informal evening
celebrating all local women
and their achievements!**

**International Women's Day
is a global day celebrating the
achievements of women past, present
and future.**

**Enjoy an evening of with friends, food,
displays and great company!**

RSVP 52861348 for catering purposes

**International
Women's Day**



Meredith Community Centre

COURSES AT A GLANCE...March

- Wed. 7th-Thai cooking
- Wed. 7th-Basic mechanics
- Thur. 8th-Making kids clothes
-International Women's Day
- Thur. 15th- Making kids clothes
- Sat. 17th-Camera to computer
- Sat. 17th-Jewellery making
- Sun. 18th- Feta x 2 , yoghurt
- Sun. 25th- Blue cheese, sour cream
- Thur. 22nd- Flexi patch

meredithPolice**news**

Leading Senior Constable Greg Kitchen

Crime within the region has been very low I am extremely happy to report. There has been a steep decline in the number of Burglaries and thefts being reported within the area. I would however like to bring to people's attention that there has been a car trailer stolen from a yard within the Meredith Township between Monday night the 20th February and Tuesday 21st February. The trailer is very distinctive and there is a photograph of it below.



It is possible that the offenders are not local but spotted the trailer from the Midland Highway on passing. It is a timely reminder that items need to be secured when in clear sight of the road. If any person within the community has seen anything opposite the Hotel on this evening, I would greatly appreciate a call with any information. It is my understanding that the owner is offering a monetary reward to any person who may supply information which would lead to the trailer's recovery.

It is of great benefit to police in solving crime if owners of property of value etch or stamp their drivers licence details on items such as mowers, chainsaws, tools of value and trailers. Search warrants are regularly executed by detectives and uniform police where stolen property is regularly recovered in large quantities. It is an easy process to return property to owners when driver's licence numbers are located on the item. I have an engraver of my own which I am only too willing to loan out to any person within the community for this purpose.

I have unfortunately attended three motor vehicle accidents within the past month. Thankfully none have been life threatening or within the Meredith area however I can report that two drivers were conveyed to hospital following a recent two vehicle collision in Elaine. In a separate collision in Lethbridge, a driver will be charged by way of summons for driving a truck whilst his licence is suspended as a result of this accident.

Both of these collisions occurred in the event of a driver failing to give way at an intersection. It is easy to become complacent while driving in the country and it only takes a momentary lapse of concentration to become involved in a life altering event. Victoria Police will be targeting alcohol and drug effected drivers through the month of March.

The March 'Golden Plains Music Festival' is closely upon us and will be held between the 10th and the 12th of March. The

organisers and I are confident that traffic management and event planning is coming together very well.

Finally, I can report that I am progressing towards having the first of the 'Blue Light' discos up and running hopefully by mid year. I am currently in discussions with Ballarat police members who run these events in Ballarat. I am currently seeking assistance in getting things up and running.

Regards Greg Kitchen.

A Certified Aussie

Marg Cooper

At the Australia Day Awards Ceremony at Bannockburn on Tuesday, January 24 Sue Woerner became an Australian Citizen.

Sue decided to become an Australian Citizen because she has got Aussie kids, she has Aussie grandkids, because she barracks for Australia in international events and she thought it was time.

Her application was approved and she was invited to attend the ceremony at Bannockburn where she pledged to be a loyal Australian.

She received a framed certificate, a coin, a copy of the pledge and a native Australian plant from Mayor Geraldine Frantz.

Sue tells that her parents and their 5 children came from England on SS New Australia in 1956 as £10 Poms!

They had lived in a small village in a semi detached house with Grandad, with a Nana across the road and Uncles and Aunties a short distance away.

But her father had decided that he wanted a better life for his children.

They arrived in Adelaide and he went to the job he had been allotted at a petro chemical plant, north of Adelaide in the middle of the desert. He refused to take his family there so they were transferred to Norlane where they were housed in the Norlane Hostel and he got a job at Shell Refinery.

They moved to a commission home in Norlane where Sue and her siblings frog spawned in the creek in wheat fields that is now the suburb of Corio.

Below: Sue, on the right, with her family before leaving England for Australia.

PHOTOGRAPH OMITTED FROM ONLINE
VERSION

sports



Elaine Tennis Club Inc. Proudly Presents Local Band Mid Life Crisis

ELAINE HALL (Heating & air conditioning)
31st MARCH, 8pm till late
\$10 adults, concession \$8, children 16 and over
\$5, under 16 free. Tickets at the door.
BYO alcohol
Supper provided
Great entertainment for the whole family! All
welcome.

Enquiries ph Russell 53415605,
Shane 0448291074, Carol 53415766

Elaine Tennis Club

Results Round 15

A4 seniors Elaine lost to Buninyong by 4 games.
 Owen Lewis, Darren Emmlin, Bindi Emmlin, Kelly
 Murfitt, Zen Rantall, Lynn Heard

Juniors C2 Elaine 2-19 lost to Napoleons 2-21
 Kurt Bodnar, Jacob Heard, Wade Hearn, Brady Dunne

C3 Elaine 4-24 defeated Napoleons 0-13
 Max Kocon, Lucas Kocon, Lachlan Emmlin, Mitchell
 Emmlin

C5 Elaine 0-6 lost to Dunnstown 4-24
 Laclan Baker, Seamus Dunne, Natasha Ford, Ash
 Williams

C6 Elaine 3-23 defeated Napoleons 1-13
 Molly Dunne, Sam Platt, Emily Kocon, Megan Farhall,
 Hannah Farhall

Meredith Golf Club

Ladies Opening Day Tuesday 14th February 2012

For our Opening Day 14 ladies attended and played a
 9 hole Ambrose, followed by a lovely luncheon.

Our new season started off with a few new players
 and great company. Anyone interested on playing 9
 holes 18 holes, just drop in on a Tuesday morning
 (9am for a 9.30 tee off)

If you have any questions ring our secretary Carmen
 Powles on 52 861 322.

Tuesday 14th Feb. 9 hole Ambrose– Opening Day

Winners: M Diffy, B Perry, E Edmiston,
 K Rosch– 42-10 1/8-31 7/8

Runners up: K Macdonald, J Black
 T Mitchell—46 - 11 1/4 - 34 3/4

NTP 10th hole K Rosch

Tuesday 21st Feb: 9 hole Stableford

Winners: S Parkinson 23 pts

Runner up: K Rosch 22 pts

NTP: B Perry.

11.02.12 / 12.02.12 Stableford

Winner: P Rees 39pts on a C/B from Murray Cooper

NTP: 9th P Rees, 14th: M Cooper

18.02.12 / 19.02.12 Stableford

Winner: D Jury Hcp16 42pts

Runner up: M Cooper Hcp 8 39 pts on a C/B from
 C Osborne. Hcp 34.

NTP: 14th hole J Cooper

catch us on the
WEB

Read the M&D News online, incl. back
 copies, lodge ads & articles and more.

meredithnews.com.au

Advance Meredith

The annual Meeting of Advance Meredith is on Saturday,
 March 24 at 1.30 pm at St Josephs Parish centre.

Exciting things are happening in our town.

Lots of interesting people are moving to Meredith and new
 businesses are opening in Meredith. Plans are being discussed
 for many projects including walking tracks with exercise
 stations, linking walking tracks, improving streetscapes and
 street lighting and the Henry Bolte Interpretative Centre and
 Information Centre. Advance Meredith Group aims to do just
 what it says: to advance Meredith forward and to make
 Meredith a place that is enjoyable to live in.

Everyone is invited to come to the Annual Meeting with their
 ideas.

A Fifth Generation Steps Up

Matilda's great great grandmother Catherine Louisa Deans (McKenzie) went to Meredith State School. She was raised by her grandmother who was a bush nurse and midwife and they lived near the railway line beside McLeod Street.

Matilda's great grandmother Janet Catherine Cooke (Deans) also went to Meredith State School. She lived at "Kyloe" on Deans Road with her parents, younger brother Bob and her step brother Keith Tanner.

When Janet started school Keith and her rode a horse called "Dolly", left the horse in the paddock behind the railway houses that faced onto Staughton Street and left the saddle and bridle over the Post Office fence. When Bob started school Keith was given a bike, which he left at Wards fruit shop, and Janet and Bob rode "Dolly". As with siblings there were a few arguments while riding the horse and the parent's punishment was for Janet and Bob to walk the 12 kms to school and back the next day.

Matilda's great grandfather Lloyd Cooke also went to Meredith State School. His family lived in the house of the local corner store before moving to the farm on Slate Quarry Road in 1929.

Matilda's grandfather Robert Cooke started at Meredith State School aged 4½. The Headmaster was Bill Henderson and Robert remembers the local teacher Miss Lorna Wells hitting him over the knuckles and breaking her 15" plastic ruler for some minor misdemeanour!!!!

Matilda's father Andrew commenced school in Meredith in 1982 joining his two sisters Joanne and Fiona. Matilda's teacher, Mrs Gargan, also taught Joanne and Andrew.

PHOTOGRAPH OMITTED FROM ONLINE VERSION

Festival Traffic Plan

Kirstie Walker

The 2012 Golden Plains Festival traffic management plan has been approved by VICROADS, the Golden Plains Shire and Victoria Police. The summary of the plan is outlined here.

- We will implement one-way traffic on Mount Mercer Road from Bamganie Road to Cameron's Road from approximately 4pm on Friday 9 March to approximately 7pm on Saturday 10 March. Traffic within the one-way zone travelling to Meredith will be diverted down Cameron's Road.
- From approximately 4pm Friday 9 March – 7pm Saturday 10 March we will implement a speed reduction to 40kms per hour on Mount Mercer Road near Bamganie Road, on Mount Mercer Road approximately 3kms South of the festival site, on Mount Mercer Road immediately South and North of the festival site and on Cameron's Road.
- From approximately 7pm Saturday 10 March – 7pm Monday 12 March we will implement a speed reduction to 40km per hour on Mount Mercer Road at Bamganie Road and on Mount Mercer Road immediately South and North of the festival site.
- We have assigned traffic controllers to the corner of Midland Highway and Mount Mercer Road on Monday 12 March to assist vehicles turning left and right onto Midland Highway from Mount Mercer Road.
- We will install a no-parking zone along Mount Mercer Road and some surrounding roads.

It is also important to note that cigarettes can no longer be sold from the festival site. We have notified the public via the festival website and pre-festival email that they should bring what they need with them however we do anticipate some people will drive into Meredith over the festival weekend to stock up. We will be providing a shuttle bus service to help decrease additional vehicles on the roads.

If you have any comments or ideas about any matter related to Golden Plains Festival please contact me on 0417 593 876 or on 0430 091 120 (operational 24 hours over the festival weekend should you need to contact us).

Once again, many thanks,

Kristie Walker On behalf of MMF Pty Ltd www.goldenplains.com.au

Hall of Fame Induction

Marg Cooper

On Tuesday, March 27 at Wagga Wagga William Grant will be inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Australian Clay Target Association for his expertise in clay pigeon shooting prior to 1940. They hold an annual evening where they induct one or more Clay Target Shooters during their National Trap Championships.

William and his brothers Samuel (Tommy), Richard, James and Robert were expert shooters. Their father Richard Grant worked on "Golf Hill Station" where all the boys did, was shoot! Tommy Grant and his wife Clara (Wells) lived on Coopers Road.

Yvonne Broom, daughter of Tommy thinks that William was the best shooter in the family. He never married and even declined an invitation to go to Monte Carlo to shoot because he wasn't keen on boat travel. He worked around Gippsland before he died.

In August 1898 William, then living in Meredith, secured absolute possession of the Melbourne Sparrow and Pigeon Shooting Club's trophy with a score of 21 consecutive kills.

In September 1898 he won the Sparrow Sweepstakes at the Melbourne Sparrow Club.

He won the Commonwealth Sparrow Championship in 1911, 1912, the Victorian Sparrow Championship in Bendigo in 1912, the Victorian Pigeon Championship in Ballarat in 1912, the Commonwealth Pigeon Championship in 1912, the Cootamundra Pigeon Championship in 1912, the Commonwealth Starling Championship in 1913 and many more championships and in 1914 he won the Sparrow Championship of the Wimmera.

If you are passing through Wagga Wagga after March 27 call at the RSL and pay respects to a man from Meredith.

Uh oh! We fly over
Wagga Wagga.



SOLD SOLD

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looking for
REAL ESTATE IN----

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MT DORAN, MT MERCER,
SHEOAKS, LETHBRIDGE

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Streets
Meredith 3333
Tel: 5286 1415
Mobile: 0407 508 510

JED'S

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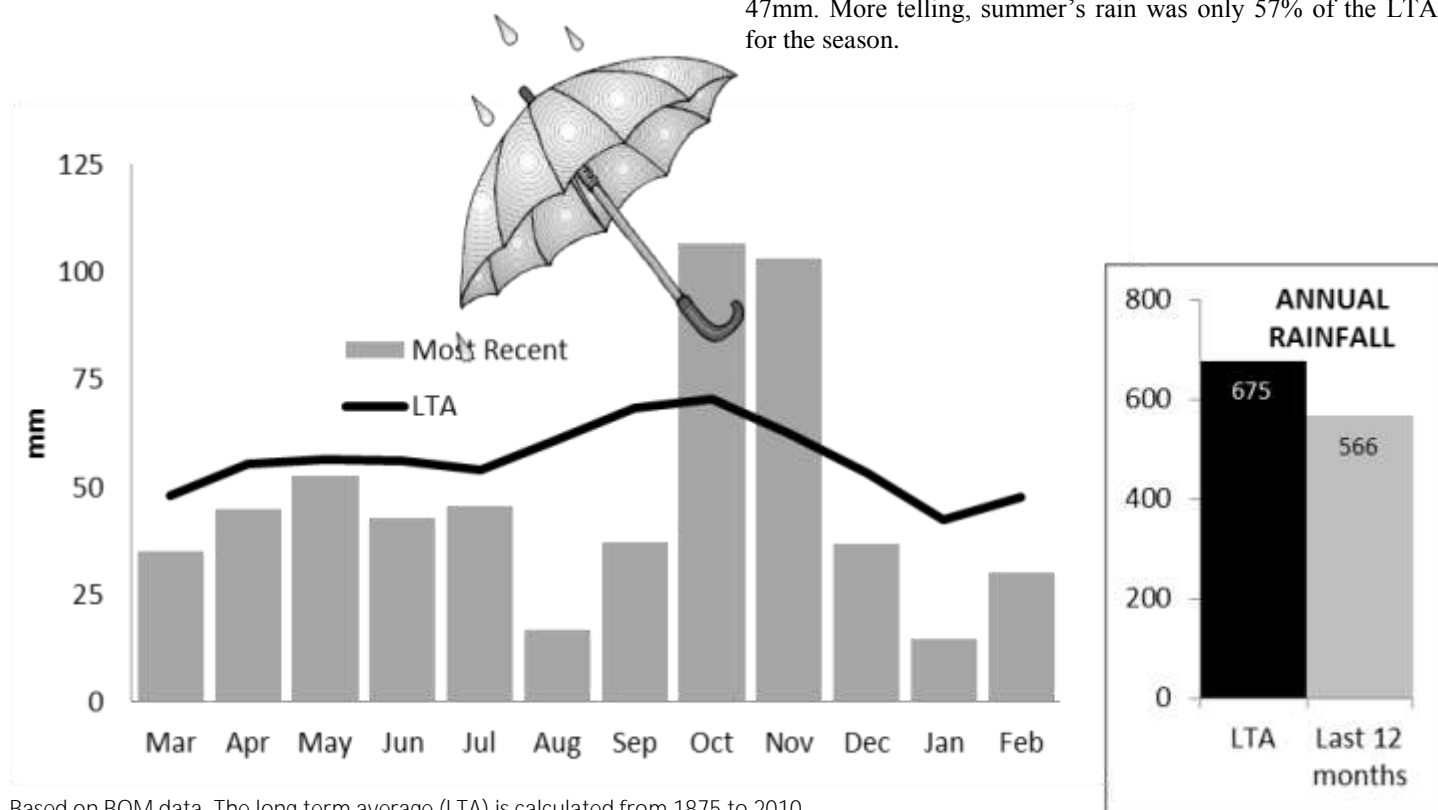
- Home, Office, Shops.
- Rugs & mats, Local pick up & delivery.
- Window cleaning & other cleans available.

CALL 0417 520 560 FOR A FREE QUOTE.

The Rain Report

Our rolling 12 month review sees the comparison fall below the long term average (LTA) for the first time in a while,

thanks (?) to low summer falls. In stark contrast with the 308mm of January and February last year, this year it has been a paltry 47mm. More telling, summer's rain was only 57% of the LTA for the season.



Based on BOM data. The long term average (LTA) is calculated from 1875 to 2010

Just a grassfire or a deadly inferno?

Don't risk your life on a last minute decision.

Make your plan at cfa.vic.gov.au or call 1800 240 667. It could save your life.

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.
FireReady 



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JRP provides specialized accounting, taxation and financial planning for small business and individuals.

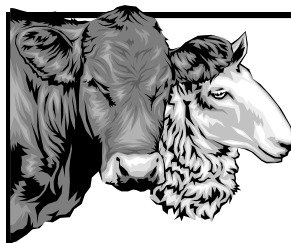
- **GENERAL ACCOUNTING**
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- **BUSINESS COMPUTER SYSTEMS and IMPLEMENTATION**
- **BUSINESS ADVICE and SOLUTIONS**
- **TRAINING SERVICES**

JRP is able to provide its services either on site or off site. Contact JRP to discuss all of your needs. The initial consultation is FREE of charge.

Contact John: Telephone/Facsimile: (03)52821082

Mobile: 0408 821 082

E-mail: jrpaccounting.com.au



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0409 861 296 & 5341 5575



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Painter Inspires

Warwick Fuller has been a professional *plein air* painter for 34 years and a fellow of the Royal Art Society of NSW with paintings hung in private, corporate and institutional collections in Australia and overseas as well as prominent galleries in Sydney, Blue Mountains and London. He has won numerous awards and held over 30 one man exhibitions. This accomplished painter, who is also an occasional art judge, advisor and teacher, came to the Meredith Art Group last month to demonstrate his techniques.

Warwick is renowned for his ability to capture the light and colour of the Australian landscape. A contemporary impressionist, his brushwork is bold and fresh; often an indicator of painting with speed and confidence: necessary attributes to capture the rapid changes dictated by nature.

Warwick has been staying in the district for the past 2 weeks painting the local landscape.

Many of these works will be included in his one man London exhibition in April.



Our local Art Group was very fortunate to have Warwick come along and tutor on February 18. The ladies were treated to an inspirational morning of art work and their enthusiasm has been elevated by having the opportunity to learn some new techniques and use of oil paints.

He stood on the east side of the Community House and painted the scene towards the shearing shed on the hill, complete with trees, sheep and fences.



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Siting the Visitors' Centre

We reported last month Golden Plains Shire had been petitioned to review the location of the proposed Meredith Visitors' Centre. The 50 petitioners promoted the RSL Hall site, demolishing the current building and reusing material in the construction of the new Centre. They also petitioned:

1. When the Meredith Kindergarten located into new premises, the old Shire Hall be incorporated into the site
2. It be a cooperative venture with the adjoining service station for parking and access purposes, and
3. No commercial activities be undertaken on the site.

Council directed officers to further investigate siting options which led to the senior management group undertaking an on-site inspection last month. Their report, which is expected to report the RSL site to be a viable option, went to Council's meeting at the end of last month.

In the meantime, the Shire advises the Centre is due for completion by the 15 May 2013 and Stewart Seaton has been appointed as the architect for the project. He is now preparing final draft detailed designs which will be communicated back to residents.

Oops! ...or was it?

It's a curious human trait, but we do relish discovering the errors of others. We recently were amused by the misspelling of the word 'poisonous' in the Melbourne Age - and that was in a heading! So we weren't too surprised when we found an anonymous message on our answering machine, pointing out the error on the front page of our last issue. You saw it of course: Lawler Street had become *Lawton* Street.

Of course the caller overlooked it was a cryptic reference to the siting of the proposed Meredith Visitors' Centre. Initially proposed for the corner of Lawler Street and the Midland Highway, Council is having a rethink after being petitioned to use a site with frontages to the highway and Staughton Street. "Lawton" is an amalgam of *Lawler* and *Staughton*.

And, in case you are still a tiny bit suspicious, and to protect the innocent, we should point out the article was a last minute inclusion, *after* the proof reading.

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Ray (Sugar) Harris

In 1960 when Con O'Brien broke his ankle, Ray Harris was asked if he'd like to work on the railways.

Ray accepted the offer and became a "repairer" on the railway line between Elaine and Meredith.

Rex Brady was the "ganger" and Ray, Ned Watts, Jack Shell and Jack McCormack were repairers in his gang.

Ray thought Rex Brady was a great bloke and good to work with. Arty Johnson from Elaine joined the gang later.

Ray would walk or drive his Holden Station Wagon to Elaine Railway Station each morning, put the trolley or trike on the line and hand push/pull it to Meredith.

Ray tells how hard it was to push/pull it back to Elaine from Meredith on a windy day. It would test your arms out! There was no protection from the weather on the open trolley, no roof or windscreen.

Later the trolleys had 4 seats rather than 2 seats and 2 pairs of men pushed and pulled.

The gang patrolled the railway line each day and on Saturday morning from Meredith to 1½ miles north of Elaine.

They checked for broken rails, movement in the gauge ie if the lines had spread in or out from the regulation 5 foot 3 inch between the lines and for any other trouble.

They regularly burnt a fire break beside the line, first one side then the other side depending on the wind.

The railways usually ploughed a fire break against the fence line before the burning. They were supplied with knapsacks and beater: a long handle with a piece of canvas attached to the end.

The gang repaired what they could using the tools they carried in a tray on the trolley. This included "...a jigger, or that's what Rex Brady called it" ... to hand bore holes in sleepers for bolts. A 10lb sledge hammer was another tool often used by the gang.

Con O'Brien returned to work after recovering from his broken ankle and Ray made up time working around local farms and in shearing sheds. Con O'Brien had a hut near where the Fire Station now is at Elaine and then later a new hut was built for him near where Lara Glass is now.

But Con O'Brien got crook and Ray restarted as a repairer and stayed for 17 years. AC Grossman from the Office of the Road Foreman wrote Ray an excellent reference when he left the job on 26/8/1977.

The gang would go to the Railway Station for information about train times before they set out on the line. If they didn't get the

correct information and heard or saw a train coming, they would have to get the trolley off quick.

It was hard to get the "fairly heavy trolley" back on the tracks on your own but Ray could do it. If they knew that a train was coming they'd remove the trolley at a "take-off".

A "take-off" consisted of 4 sleepers adjacent to the line where the trolley was removed to.

Ray remembers that a flat top trolley loaded with 1 ton of anchors, which were placed against sleepers to stop the line from slipping across, started to careen down the railway line, away from their gang, gaining speed.

The gang members fell off between Meredith and Lethbridge and sustained some

injuries but the trolley continued.

They rang from a nearby farm house to warn the Station Masters to stop the train from Geelong.

Ray tells that if the trolley would have hit the Rail Motor at a big speed, the anchors would have flown through the windows and caused huge damage to the passengers and the train.

Sleepers were put across the line at Bannockburn to stop the trolley but the trolley leapt over them. The trolley came to a halt at Gheringhap and three days later it was towed back to Meredith.

An inquiry was held and the gang were asked to explain why the trolley got away from them.

Ray tells that the men took their food for the day and often cooked sausages for lunch on the shovel.

He tells that they didn't wear a uniform and that he wouldn't have worn it if he'd been given it.

He tells that many wildflowers grew along the line especially north of Elaine.

Ray and his brother Max remember Elaine as a busy Railway Station and that it had a wide bull nosed veranda and attractive steel gates. They believe that the Station Master's house was removed to Lethbridge and the wooden Station building was bulldozed, one night.

There was a big goods shed, a waiting room, toilets, a big wood yard and sheep yards opposite where Lara Glass is now. They remember cream cans on the platform and that the wagons of wood went to Geelong every Thursday.

Elaine was then a booming town with lots of people coming and going from the station in horse and carts.

"... the men took their food for the day and often cooked sausages for lunch on the shovel."



Moving to the Country

Marg Cooper

Mandy and John and their family were living in Werribee but wished to move back to the country.

They looked everywhere for a house.

Some were too big and some were too small and they couldn't find anything suitable so they decided to stop looking.

The day after they stopped looking John found just what they wanted at 48 Staughton Street: a shop front for Mandy's business, a shed for him and a yard big enough for their children and a few chooks.

Mandy and John are delighted with their new house, feel content in the country atmosphere and are enjoying the friendly community.

They had previously only come to Meredith for a relaxed Sunday meal at the Royal Hotel.

Mandy had a Grand Opening of her business "Labeccamoo Massage & Holistic Healing" on Saturday, February 18.

I encourage you to visit Mandy "when the flags are out" for a massage or reiki healing, to buy from her range of gifts, to borrow books from her library and to view her art works.

Mandy tells that she is doing further study in holistic counselling and complementary therapies and that she operated her massage business in Werribee out of a caravan that was painted purple that she knick named "Blossum".

Welcome to Meredith.



Mandy helping a customer in her new shop Labeccamoo Massage and Holistic Healing in Meredith.

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Welcome to

MEREDITH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Welcome back! It has been a terrific start to the 2012 and the students settled in very quickly into the school routine. This will be our first whole year in our new buildings and grounds, something we have looked forward to for a long time. The teachers have been in over the break and had the rooms very well prepared. We did a lot of cleaning up both inside and outside of the school during the long break. Our cleaner Debbie Holtz once again did a great job and **we've had one of our parents Kath Mitilineos** as well as locals David Jones and John Chambers mowing lawns and moving gravel and generally giving the yard a freshen up. We also had a dedicated group of parents who came in and watered over the break.

Our new preps had a staggered start this year with half coming in on the first Thursday and the other half starting the next day on the Friday. Our hard-working PFA provided morning tea and a chat for our new parents as well.

We also welcomed Mrs Carol Cations to our staff as the new office manager. Carol has worked at a range of schools throughout the district, most recently Bannockburn PS, and brings with her a wealth of experience. Carol has been looking forward to working at Meredith and has enjoyed her first few weeks meeting the children and parents.

We had an exciting morning early in February with the year 6 students presenting their speeches for school captains and other leadership positions. The speeches were of a very high standard and left the year 3 to 5 **students with difficult decisions to make. We had a ballot booth set up for "private ballots" to be placed.** I am very pleased to announce the student leadership positions for the 2012 year.

Captains: Harriet Edmiston & Fraser Mitilineos

Vice captains: Phoebe Cameron & Mitch Miller

Community captains: Alison Kemp & Riley Jones

Sports captains: Haylee Earl & Mitch Emmlin

As a part of their roles this year, they will be spending a day at the Young Leader's day at the Melbourne Conference Centre in March.

For those in the community who haven't seen the new facilities, don't be frightened to give us a call and come in and have a look around.



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Mollie's COLUMN

Back to School

The weather might still be beautiful, but now that autumn's rolling in, the sky looks a little more grey to me. My long, lazy summer is over, and though school's been back in for about a month, uni students like myself are just starting to haul themselves out of bed and back to class.

When I was at primary school, I was always full of mixed emotions when February started to creep up on me. On the one hand, there was a lot to be anxious about – my new teacher might be scary, my new hair cut would probably be a disaster, and my new uniform would definitely be too big. On the other hand, as much as I might mope and groan, I secretly loved school. Stationary gave me a thrill and piles of unread books left me giddy with excitement (no, I was not very cool). I'd scuff along in my ugly clunky school shoes, eyeing off shiny t-bars and aching with jealousy and pre-teen angst, but then the smell of fresh sheets of paper in exercise books and newly



sharpened pencils would reach my freckled little nose and everything would seem so much better.


Now I'm starting my sixth year of uni, I've become a lot more casual about stationary, and don't obsess too much over making sure my pencil case and folder are colour coordinated. Piles of new books are more likely to fill me with panic over my impending financial ruin, and catching

the 6.15 am train to Melbourne almost makes me long for the noisy, smelly old school bus I used to take every day, shrieking and jostling as we bounced over pot holes. Of course, there are also some fantastic things about being at uni – it's highly unlikely these days that I'll ever find a sandwich from last week at the bottom of my bag.

The books are bought, the timetable is printed, the train ticket is stowed safely in my wallet and my alarm is set for an hour I haven't seen for months. I'm all set...and that's the moment my beloved,

battered laptop groans and blinks feebly at me before shutting down for the last time.

As I groan and mentally prepare to part with a small fortune so I can get my homework done, I find myself thinking wistfully of newly sharpened pencils and exercise books.



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Who knew George?

GEORGE HENRY CROFT was born in Emu Bay (Burnie), Tasmania on the last day of December in 1858, the eldest child of George and Mary.

His father had been convicted for larceny and arrived in Van Diemen's Land in 1842. His name was GEORGE CRAFT - however a new start came with a new name and his six children and descendants would all carry the name CROFT.

George Henry came to Meredith, with his parents and younger sisters, Mary and Letitia, sometime between 1862 and 1864, with his father buying his first piece of land in Meredith in 1864; Lot 1 of Section 1, on the corner of Dawson and Read Streets, near the Coolebarghurk Creek. Three other siblings were born in or near Meredith between 1865-70: Thomas, Bridget Teresa and Margaret.

George and Mary CROFT lived in Meredith for the rest of their lives; they were illiterate but their children must have attended schooling and George Henry seems to have been a sociable person playing his violin at the wedding of William and Ellen Lowne (Austin) in 1879 and playing again for them on their 50th wedding anniversary in 1929.

After 1879 George Henry went to NSW where he worked as a Modeller (Plasterer) in Sydney and it was here that he married his first wife, Margaret Connelly in late 1881. Two of his eleven children were born in Newtown, NSW – the others all born in Prahran or South Yarra, Victoria from 1886 to 1903.

His sister, Letitia Croft married a local lad, Louis De Grandi in 1882. He had trained in the saddlery business and was a crack rifleshooter, who stayed in Meredith until 1890 and was eventually to open a cycle and gun shop in Warrnambool in 1897. This family owned and operated Sports Store celebrated its 100th year in May 1997.

George Henry must have spent most of his time working in Melbourne to support his large family yet he seems to have retained strong connections to Meredith and when his father died in 1892 it is George Henry who, as a resident of Meredith, was the informant on the Death Certificate. He is also appointed as sole executor of the Will and is the sole beneficiary of all the property, etc. acquired by George senior, after his wife Mary's death.

Mary Croft died in 1910, a horrible and lingering death after being burned on the back and abdomen when her clothing caught fire. She was 83 years old and once again, George Henry is the informant on the Death Certificate.

It seems likely that he may have been living permanently in Meredith prior to his mother's death as he is on the Electoral Rolls for the area in 1903 and 1909. Certainly from 1910 he was in Meredith while his wife Margaret and children continued to live in Melbourne – several of these children being still quite young. Margaret outlived him by a year, dying in 1945.

In 1921 at the age of 63 years, George Henry married Mary Ellen Coakley at St Patrick's Cathedral in East Melbourne and they lived in Meredith, presumably at the house that was described in the Inventory of his father as scarcely habitable!

In 1943 George Henry wrote a short piece on the early days of Meredith, as he remembered them. It has since been adapted and is on the current 'History of Meredith' website.

Mary Ellen died in 1934 at the age of 60 and he died in 1944 at the age of 85. They are buried at the Meredith Cemetery in the Catholic Section together with his parents; a simple four-section gravesite with a granite gravestone bearing a marble plaque – "In Loving Memory of"

By the time of George Henry's death in 1944, he owned 11 Lots of land stretching on both sides of the Midland Highway – 'with an extremely old four-roomed weather board dwelling-house'. All were sold in 1945 for the princely sum of £230.0.0. Most of this money was left in equal shares to two of his sisters, Letitia De Grandi and Bridget Plant.

An interesting man, an enigma of a man – many questions unanswered!

Who knew George Henry Croft of Meredith?

Lorraine Siska, (Great Grand-daughter).



Have you heard this one?

During a recent password audit, it was found that an employee was using the following password:

"MickeyMinniePlutoHueyLouie
DeweyDonaldGoofyMelbourne"

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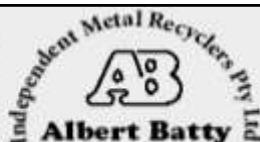
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and important issues facing
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course I am keen to be as
available to you as possible."

Geoff Howard

Geoff Howard MP
State Member for Ballarat East



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Meredith History Interest Group

Marg Cooper

Railway Line 150th Celebrations

On Tuesday, April 10 a vintage train will run from Geelong to Ballarat carrying dignitaries, to re-enact the trip of the first train to go on the line on April 10, 1862.

WATCH OUT for this TRAIN which will run through Meredith late morning on Tuesday, April 10 and WAVE!!!

On the weekend of April 14 & 15 all the towns along the line are holding celebrations ie Bannockburn, Lethbridge, Meredith, Elaine, Lal Lal, Yendon, Navigators, Warrenheip and Buninyong will have a display in the Buninyong Town Hall on Saturday 23.

COME to the HALL and RAILWAY STATION at MEREDITH on 14 & 15 April for historic displays, town crier, model trains, vintage engines, children's rides and face painting etc all to celebrate 150 years of rail travel.

WATCH OUT for ADVERTISING with more details on POSTERS, LEAFLETS, WEB SITES and NEWSPAPERS.

It is planned that TRAINS will be running through Meredith on the weekend. GO TRAIN WATCHING!

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was on Sunday, February 26 at the Masonic Centre. A talk Fest on Dinkum Dummies followed. An entertaining book featuring photos of over 60 local dummies is available for sale.

Queries

Thomas Donovan married Catherine Kay in Creswick in 1885. He was a miner in the Bamganie/Meredith area and then moved to Mt Egerton where he died in 1903. He was a talented sportsman and his grandson Thomas Donovan Arklay captained Geelong Football Club in the 1940's.

Henry Saville was a Mounted Policeman in Meredith in 1856-57. He was also a policeman at Steiglitz, Moorabool, Winchelsea, Inverleigh and Steatham. He retired in 1877 from the police force and took up land at Pyramid Hill. He was presented with a timepiece by the members of the Moorabool Viaduct Temperance Society on June 1, 1860 for taking active part in the cause of Teetotalism. It seems that Henry was a policeman at Moorabool when the railway line was being built. If anyone has any information about Thomas or Henry please let us know so we can help their families with their research. We catalogue on the last Thursday of the month at the Masonic Centre from 9 am. You are welcome to join us for a quick visit, a short time or stay all day.



Australia Day

Marg Cooper

A picnic tea was held at Woodburn to celebrate Australia Day. Many families congregated at the Woodburn school site in the evening, sat around tables and shared delicious food and conversation. Janene had slaved over a hot stove all day, Nancy produced her famous yo-yos and ginger fluff and Lesley and Eileen brought the biggest pavlova smothered with cream and berries. Yum! Yum!

June Cameron read Dorothea Mackellar's, "I love a Sunburnt Country" and the traditional Australia shaped fruit cake, made by June was ceremoniously cut and eaten.

The children played cricket and the adults talked until darkness approached when all packed up and went home to watch the tennis on television. An Australian Tradition!



It's History

TENDERS are invited and will be received at the office of the undersigned up to noon on March 30, 1912 for the PURCHASE as a going concern, of the PLANT, Office Buildings, and Goodwill of the BUSINESS (exclusive of book debts) of the "Meredith Sentinel" newspaper. Tenderers are to make their own inspection and inquiries at the office of the newspaper, at Staughton-street, Meredith.

CHARLES H. BIRDSEY, Ryrie-street, Geelong, solicitor to the estate.

From The Argus, Thursday 14 March 1912

Jan McDonald,

'It is with deep regret that the site chosen for the new Court House for this township is not only beyond the boundary of Meredith but at a corner remote from the bulk of the inhabitants and at the extreme end from the principal entrances into the township.

The site chosen lies in a low swamp spot, that the building would have to be raised and the mile or so entrance from the road into it would be a work of considerable expense.'

Abbreviated from a July 1859 letter from 'your memorialists' and signed by William White, John Bell, P O'Keefe, Wm McAdam, Henry O'Brien, Michael Ward, John Lewis, Wm Henry Robinson, Thomas Connor, Thomas Linehan, Geo Reckey, Peter McLean & R Gosling.

The memorialists suggested the Court House be erected on said Government Reserve opposite Block 3 in Wallace Street. Apparently construction had already started close to the Police Pad-dock in what is now Nuttall Street.

In October 1875 the Geelong Advertiser reported that the wooden Meredith Court House erected 15 years ago on an elevation, a slight distance from the township was said to be a disgrace but still in use.

Marg Cooper

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23 years ago...

...When Legends were Born

The A grade played Lethbridge in a one day game and Lethbridge batted first making 133 runs. Terry Hart turned in a great bowling performance taking 4 for 16 while Andrew Edmiston was also very economical. Meredith's batsmen started brightly scoring quick runs to keep ahead of the required run rate, but losing wickets along the way.

Marcus Ritchie, playing his first senior game, was batting steadily and with Tom Parkinson playing some fine shots Meredith were proceeding comfortably.

However a couple of wickets fell and the run rate stalled putting the- pressure back on. With one over to go Meredith needed 5 runs and in an exciting finish, "Edmo" hit the winning runs with a magnificent straight drive, and Marcus Ritchie finished 21 not out.

Robert Cooke was unable to take his place in the selected side due to a "mystery virus". Apparently this virus can be contracted only from bottles of.... *(let's stop there so as not to tarnish another "legend". - Ed.)*

Meredith Newsletter, 20th Dec., 1988

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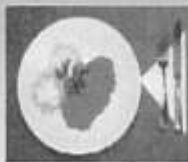
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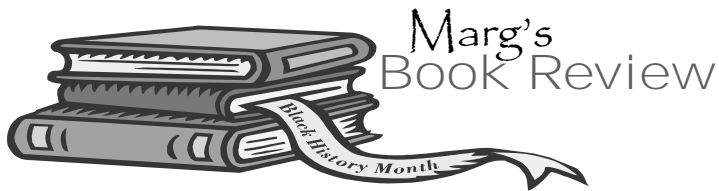
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“The Guernsey Literary Potato Peel Pie Society” by Mary Ann Shaffer.

Apparently her sister set up a writing group with a couple of close friends to force Mary Ann to write a book as she found writing difficult.

Sadly her health had started to fail before she finished the revisions so her niece Annie Burrows completed the task.

The book tells the story through documents, particularly letters.

The book is set in Guernsey in 1946, only 8 months after the official end of the war.

Most of the details of Guernsey during the occupation are conveyed in the book by Islanders telling their own stories to Juliet who is a London based writer.

We learnt much about the occupation including that England didn't defend the Islands but offered to evacuate the children to England with notice of one

day. The children returned after 5 years.

During the German occupation of the Channel Islands in World War II the residents formed a bookclub.

The act of reading served as a crucial bond for a group of people trying to bear the unbearable.

Despite the dark threads of war stories this is a feel good novel which seduces the reader with the Society's literary journey of discovery.

Juliet visits Guernsey after corresponding with many members of the Literary Society and soon becomes one of their community.

Her positive role, both personally and as a chronicler of the Islanders' experiences, achieves healing and catharsis within her new community.

There are many themes in this book including the war, literature and human connection. It is a captivating book, the tone is light and the characters are interesting.

The book for discussion in March is “Nothing but Gold” by Robyn Annear. (I notice that the notes are by Peter Hiscock who was Director of Sovereign Hill and now lives in Buninyong.)

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Bannockburn Pharmacy Newsletter

Proprietors: Scott Wilkes & Damian Bennett

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What's happening at the Pharmacy?

We have had a lot happening over the past few weeks at the Pharmacy and we have an exciting couple of months ahead of us as well! One of our most recent changes to the pharmacy is that we now have a second Pharmacist working in the Pharmacy with Scott on Monday's and Friday's. Richard Maguire has recently completed his studies to become a fully qualified Pharmacist and has moved back to the Geelong area to continue his career. If you are in the Pharmacy on a Monday and Friday please take the time to introduce yourself to Richard as he is keen to get to know everyone. As we continue to grow we are mindful that we want to make sure that there is always a Pharmacist available to attend to your needs.

New Giftware

Over the past months you will have seen we have had a large gift clearance with 70% off the marked retail price. We still have a few gifts left attracting this great discount. So now we have lots of room to fill those shelves with brand new gifts. Last month we visited Salt & Pepper to preview their new range for 2012 and Scott has purchased lots of great new gifts which have already started to arrive and will continue to do so over the coming weeks. Also at the end of February we flew up to the Sydney Gift Fair where we have purchased a lot of brand new gift lines. These will arrive throughout this month so come in and see what we have to offer. Don't forget to join our FREE Gift Club where you receive 20% off all gifts all year (25% off during December) off our already low retail prices. We also offer FREE gift wrapping so why shop online or in Geelong when you can get great gifts, at low prices with free gift wrapping?

FREE Hearing Tests

On **Monday 16th April** from 1:30pm to 4:00pm we have Australian Hearing visiting the Pharmacy where they will be conducting **FREE** hearing tests. For further information and to make a booking please phone the Pharmacy on 5281 1519.

Facebook page

Do you use Facebook? If you would like to be kept up to date regularly with what's happening at the Pharmacy, health advice, special events, promotions, etc then search **Bannockburn Chemmart Pharmacy** to find our new Facebook page and click "**like**" and you will be kept informed what's happening at the Pharmacy.

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