

Meredith & district Newsletter



May 2012

Our Community Newsletter since 1972

Distributed FREE to district residents

Visitors' Centre Design Near

The Meredith Visitor Centre has reached the final phase of detailed design after considering 150 resident suggestions.

A key theme arising from consultations was a desire to incorporate rustic materials in the project construction. Exposed timber posts, polished concrete, corrugated iron materials will be used to deliver a building in keeping with this theme.

Final drawings for tender documentation are being prepared by architect Stewart Seaton and include enclosed space for tourist information, local and historic displays such as Cobb and Co., Sir Henry Bolte and more recently the Meredith Music Festival. It will also showcase local events, identify areas of significance and promote local businesses.

The visitor centre will incorporate new public toilet facilities and low maintenance landscaping terraces to connect with surrounding open space. Residents involved in community planning have commenced planning for the volunteer led operation of the facility. It is expected the enclosed space in the facility will be open at peak visitation times such as weekends and around special events.

For further information regarding the implementation of the visitor centre, contact Paul Ryan, on 5220 7138.

(from media release)

Funding for Main Street Upgrade

\$450K earmarked for Meredith

Golden Plains Shire has secured funding through the State Government's Regional Growth Fund for main street upgrade projects for Haddon, Meredith, Teesdale and Rokewood.

Council officers, in the first instance, will discuss the projects with Community Coordinators who manage and implement Community Plans. A key part of this discussion will be who else should be included in the planning of these projects.

Opportunities for residents to have input into the projects

will be advertised in local media and notice boards in the coming months.

Concept development, survey, design, plan and specification preparation will be undertaken in this current financial year for all four towns at a cost of \$150,000.

The works in Meredith and Haddon will depend on the outcome of further consultations but may include:

- Infrastructure improvements (storm water drainage, kerb and channel improvements, pavement improvements, school crossing);
- Water sensitive urban design opportunities (improving storm water and opportunities for community use);

Continued p. 16

Below: A large crowd of locals braved a chilly Autumn day to observe Anzac Day in Meredith. Story p. 11



in this issue....

- Shire Rates up 7.8%
- A Tribute to Donna Burt
- One artist exhibits; others go to a party!
- Two 80th Birthdays & a 150th!

... 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
17th, 31st May 14th & 28th June

Geelong Regional Library Van

At the Meredith Community Centre
1-3pm 4th, 18th May 1st, 15th, 29th June
www.geelonglibraries.vic.gov.au

Senior Citizens

Meet at the Meredith Memorial Hall
Ph. Jim 52868 232

7th May-Bus Trip 4th June-Hall Social
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. 30th May 2012

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- Chris	0417370681
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



"Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much."

Oscar Wilde

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.

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

**Wednesday May 30th, 2012 @ 10.30 at
St. Joseph's Parish Centre, Lawler Street, Meredith**

You are invited to help to raise funds for the Cancer Council by coming to Meredith's version of Australia's Biggest Morning Tea- please bring along a friend, your favourite or most special cup and saucer and your craziest teapot, and a plate of morning tea.

LOTS OF GREAT PRIZES

Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Please ring Mary Foster 52861459,
Jessie Osborne 52861260, Diane Ritchie 52861291
if willing to assist or donate prizes or vouchers.

Meredith Recreation Reserve

The Meredith Recreation Reserve Management Committee would like to thank Mr Ray Kelly for the years of maintenance and cleaning of the recreation reserve hall. Ray has retired from this role and his efforts will be duly missed.

The Management committee and Meredith Sport Clubs are investigating opportunities to purchase mowing equipment to maintain the lawns of the oval. If anyone in the Meredith Community can help in any way toward the purchase of mowing equipment, please contact Gordon Primmer or Julie Cameron 03 52862000

GP Shire Budget on View

\$32m exp. & 7.83% rates increase

The budget, with total expenditure (operating and capital) of almost \$32million dollars, will deliver a broad range of services, programs and infrastructure projects including:

- \$8.2m allocated to the construction and maintenance of road and street infrastructure;
- \$7.5m to support and develop our recreation and community spaces and groups;
- \$5.9m to human support services, including children, aged, disability and maternity support; and
- \$3.3m to managing Council's environmental and land use planning responsibilities.

The proposed total increase in its rates and charges is 7.83%.

Copies of the budget can be inspected at Council offices or online. Submissions will be received until 1st June and more information can be obtained from Richard Trigg on 5220 7111.

from media release



The Newsletter Committee

The Meredith and District News is an undertaking of a sub-committee of the Meredith Community Centre. Membership of the sub-committee will be determined at the Centre's Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday 9th May. Persons wishing to serve on the Newsletter sub-committee must be members of the Community Centre and nominate at or prior to the meeting. All current members of the sub-committee have renominated.

Meredith Seniors Coast Trip

Jim Hynds

We were blessed with fantastic weather on April 2 for our trip to Lorne. Twenty two seniors gathered at the Memorial Hall at 9 am to board the bus. The mood was great with a lot of laughter and talk. After a leisurely drive we stopped at Aireys Inlet for morning tea.

Coffee, tea, slices and cakes were soon consumed and after a 30 minute stroll we were on our way along the Great Ocean Road. The scenery is still fantastic so we made several stops to take photos. Soon Lorne loomed in sight and Arthur, the driver, parked beside the beach and close to shops and cafes.

Our group dispersed to find lunch and to do some sight seeing. As the group had spread far and wide, it took some time to round them up.

Some were on the beach paddling, some were enjoying coffee in the shade and some were cruising the shops.

Due to the burn offs our planned trip home had to be altered.

We decided on a route that took us through the forest on a dirt road to Deans Marsh where we stopped for refreshments, photos and to stretch our legs.

We arrived in Meredith about 5 pm. We agreed that it was a fabulous day.

Special thanks to Arthur our bus driver for a job well done.

Classifieds

For Sale Large navy blue couch (3 and half seater). Fully removable cover, inc. cushion covers. Extremely comfortable. Some fading on rear. Can send photo. \$500.00. Dimensions: 2.3 long., .8m height, and .95m width. Ph Diane 0419 137 815

For Sale Cubby house with some furniture, \$600 ONO. Phone Michele 0405056156

For Sale Simpson washer 7.5kg top loader. As new cond. \$320 Ph. Les 0405 266778



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.

St. Joseph's Parish Mass Times for May

Bannockburn every Sunday at 9 a.m.

Winchelsea every Saturday evening at 6 p.m.

Meredith at 11 a.m. May 6th (this Mass has been transferred to an outdoor Mass at Inverleigh followed by the Parish Olympics) /May 20th.

Anakie at 11 a.m. May 13th/ 27th

Meredith Community Centre, Inc.

4 Russell Street Meredith 3333

PH 5286 1348 Fax 52861 563

"Working for our community"



The Committee of Management
of Meredith Community Centre Inc.
cordially invites interested members of the
district community to our



Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, May 9th, 2012 at 7.00pm for 7.30pm
4 Russell St., Meredith

**Please join us as we celebrate the events and
activities of 2011**

Our Guest Speaker for the night is

Mary Nolan

"Life's Journey and the Human Spirit"

**Mary will share her reflections on the power of the
human spirit in the midst of one's life journey**

Please join us afterwards for supper
RSVP May 2nd, 2012 on 52861348

COURSES AT A GLANCE...

May

Sat. 5th-Fabulous Fabrics

Mon. 7th-Elsa's flowers

Wed. 9th-Learn about Crystals

Wed. 16th -Thai pastes/sauces

Sat. 19th- Fabulous Fabrics Pastels/Ipads -Tablets

Wed. 23rd Novelty Cakes

Thur. 24th-Overlockers/sewing

Sat. 26th-ABC Open stories

Tues 29th-Adv. Digital Photos

Wed.30th-Hypnotherapy

June

Sat. 2nd Picassa/Pastel Painting

Wed. 13th-ABC Open Stories

Thur. 14th-Relaxation/stress

Mon 18th Ipads/Tablets

Wed. 27th-Olive Oil

CLASS
BOOKINGS
ESSENTIAL

Meredith Community Centre AGM

The Meredith Community Centre, Inc. is extending a personal invitation to members of the Community to be a part of this vibrant local organisation by joining our Committee of Management. The Community Centre looks to encourage and support the educational, social, recreational and health goals of all community members. We are seeking people who are willing to help plan and set the direction for the organisation now and in the future. In addition to the skills and interests that you can bring to our Centre, we also provide you with the opportunity to learn new skills as well as meet new people within our community. It is through community involvement in the management of organisations such as the Community Centre that we can exemplify true community spirit and engagement with all people living in our local region. You are invited to part of the Meredith Community Centre at our AGM which is on Wednesday, May 9th at 7 for 7:30pm. Please feel free to contact the Community Centre on 52861348 for further information. We look forward to your attendance and involvement!



meredithPolice**news**

Leading Senior Constable Greg Kitchen

It is a pleasure to be able to report that crime with regard to Burglaries and Thefts within the Meredith area during the past month has been fairly much non existent.

We still are unfortunately having some rural thefts occur with a brand new 9 metre X 5 metre garage in kit form being stolen from a property in Duggan Road, Meredith. The shed was delivered to the address on Friday the 13th April and it was stolen a few days following. It was colour bond and the walls are 3.3 metres tall. The thieves have cut packing tape and loaded it onto a trailer or truck before travelling back towards Meredith after leaving the address. If anyone has seen anything at all which may assist me in recovering the garage, please contact Crime Stoppers and remain anonymous or me direct at the Meredith Police Station on 52861222.

I think that it is very important however to bring to peoples attention an unfortunate event that occurred in Bannockburn on Monday the 26th March. I was re called to duty at 5.30 a.m. at which time I attended at house in Earl Crescent, Bannockburn in relation to a reported burglary.

On arrival, the 89 year old female complainant reported that she was woken in her sleep to see a male offender in her room who was searching through her hand bag on the floor. I determined that the male had spend considerable time within the house

where he stole a quantity of cash and a credit card. When the victim woke, she disturbed the male who had his face and head covered with a hooded top and who fled the house.

Approximately two hours later, I arrested that male and an accomplice in Bannockburn in High Street. Both were officially charged with Aggravated Burglary and Theft and both were remanded into custody at Geelong on that day. One offender has since been sentenced to 6 months imprisonment. I arrested and consequently charged another male with trafficking amphetamine and a host of other serious offences. He was driving the vehicle that conveyed the males to Bannockburn and he also was remanded into custody and to face the Geelong Magistrates Court on the 30th May.

The elderly victim left her house unlocked during the evening whilst she slept. All three males travelled from Corio to Bannockburn to commit these offences, targeting unlocked cars and houses within the area. Prior to the burglary, one of the males was stealing cash from unlocked cars parked in house driveways and in the street nearby.

Although we all live in a very safe place, I do urge people to be mindful of vehicle and household security. Please don't leave cash or items of value in cars in the street.

'Attention kids of primary school age.' The Meredith Blue Light disco is not far away now. We will be staging the first one at the Meredith Hall on Friday the 1st of June. Full details are available at the Meredith Store and the Meredith Primary School. I hope to see as many primary school kids from Meredith, Elaine and the surrounding areas as possible at the 'Blue Light'.

Regards Greg Kitchen.

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.

For more info
Call Jo
0418 125 250



Play, craft,
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more



Meredith Cricket Club

Chris Hart



Skipper scoops the pool

The **Meredith Rams** wrapped up the season formalities with Presentation Night which was well attended by players and families from all grades. Captain/Coach **Ty Watts** made off with the majority of the awards on offer for the first eleven, securing the batting and bowling averages and consequently the allrounder. Ty also claimed the Club Champion honour comfortably ahead on points from two other firsts players: Heath Bush and Chris Moreland who alternated for second and third in both the batting and bowling. Ty's success as club champion confirmed his status as GCA Div 3 Champion Player which had been bestowed on him during Grand Final week.

Michael Mitchell took home the second eleven bowling award on aggregate and average from **Darcy Osborne**. Darcy's late season panache with the bat secured him the batting average as well as the allrounder.

The third eleven batting average was most deservedly won by **Brendan Rayner** who clearly accumulated the most runs for the season, earning him promotion for games in both the first and second grade teams. **Warren Sheehy** narrowly claimed the bowling average from Nathan Lewis and Jack Beggs and added to his aggressive batting earned him enough points for the allrounder.

The club's most prestigious non-playing award- the Norm MacDonald Best Clubman Trophy was presented to **Damian Brunt** in recognition of his outstanding contribution this year. Damian's work for the club from before the first preseason ball was bowled through to the conclusion of the grand final wake ensured he was a most worthy recipient.

Coaching Appointment

On the same night, the club was pleased to be in a position to announce Andrew Forster as coach for next season. Andrew has been charged with the responsibility of further developing the clubs younger players and ultimately securing ongoing premiership success which narrowly eluded the club this past season. Andrew returns to the club after a break of six years during which time he won a Div 1 firsts bowling average, opening the bowling at Bell Post Hill. Ty, having completed his two year tenure as coach, is staying on as a player as are the entire senior playing group from last season. New to the club next year will be Tim Bailey. Tim recently achieved his second GCA Div 1 thirds Champion Player award on the back of his outstanding all-around skills. A patient top order batsman and highly skilled strike bowler, Tim will add remarkable depth and additional penetration to the Rams lineup. Nathan Bush, a most accomplished all round sportsman, will return to the club after recently winning the State Open Singles Lawn Bowls Championship. Nathan previously played for the club in the mid-2000s and is another fine all rounder. The club is also in discussions with several other well credentialed players considering a move to Meredith as well as the return of a number of recent past players which must ensure that the club will have unprecedented depth through all grades.

Season 2012-13 has the promise of great things to come!

Moorabool Valley Masters F.C.

Chris Hart

Crocs on the board with early win.



The mighty Moorabool Valley Crocs kicked off their 2012 Super-rules season with a resounding win over the visiting Bendigo B52s.

Played under blue skies and in front of an enthusiastic crowd the rampant Crocs put the visiting Bombers to the sword, running out 30 goal winners. Fantastic contributions from all who pulled on the blue, white and gold with club song belted out with gusto upon the final siren.

Newcomer Christian "Macca" MacFarlane was the best of the Crocs kicking eight goals from centre half forward. "Plugger" Wilkes moved down back after slotting 3 early majors and then lead the charge out of defense while Nigel "Nudge" Trezize, another new face in 2012, dominated the rucking duels. The Crocs rotated 8 players through the bench with a good mix of new recruits and seasoned veterans overpowering the Bendigo boys who did well to assemble a crew of 18 so early in the season. Congratulations to the new coaching panel of Troy "Nappies" Kollegger and Phil "Doopa" Cranage on their debut win.

Round 2 found the Crocs on the road to Gisborne where the club was to field its inaugural over 47s side as a curtain raiser to the over 35s. Gisborne have been the yardstick of the competition in recent years and two intense struggles were eagerly anticipated.

The "seniors" were quickly out of the blocks through the dominant midfield work of Sid Jones, Gazza Polglaze and Shaun Keys. The air down back was being ruled by (a slightly underage) David Flood while the rest of the miserly defense conceded only 4 behinds in the half. Terry Hart was providing the attacking option across half forward and only inaccuracy around goals prevented the Crocs lead extending beyond five goals at half time. Sandy Cameron's move into the ruck during the middle stages of the game provided additional run and drive around the ground with the veteran warrior not afraid to spill some blood for the team. Gisborne were able to score a couple of consolation second half goals but the Old Crocs ran out comfortable winners by over 50 points. A great team effort to kick off a new era for the club: all 18 who took the field providing valuable contributions on the day.

The "juniors" were involved in a titanic arm wrestle from the opening bounce. Gisborne were able to wrest the early lead and defended it grimly for the majority of the match. More than two goals rarely separated the teams as the momentum almost imperceptibly swung from one to the other. Ashley "Grippa" Perkins and Doopa along with ex-AFL legends Peter Riccardi and Shane Robertson were the most influential of the Crocs players. A drop off in clean disposal was possibly the difference in the wash-up as Gisborne hung on the record a hard fought 3 goal victory. The Crocs were able to field a strong squad of 23 players but with many of them meeting in the change rooms for the first time, unfamiliarity and a

Meredith: On the Rampage

sports

consequent lack of cohesion was probably as telling as any factor in the loss. None the less: a great opening road trip for the club and a more than solid foundation on which to build for the rest of the season.

The Crocs will be off to Wodonga for round 3 (with one team) in late April before their next home game on May 20th a double head fixture with Gippsland.

There is still plenty of room in both teams for additional players. Anybody interested in a game is invited to join in training at the Rec Reserve from 6.00 on Wednesdays.

The Crocs will also be celebrating "a decade of dominance" with a 10 year reunion at Capri Receptions in North Geelong in late July. All past players, their partners, officials and supporters are invited to attend (details available from the club). Anybody with photos, video or other interesting pieces of memorabilia are requested to contact the club asap.

GO CROCS

Meredith Tennis Club

Julie Cameron

Congratulations to Meredith Junior Tennis teams C 6 Red, C6 White & C 5 for reaching the Buninyong and District Tennis Association finals for the 2011-12 season. Unfortunately the teams didn't reach the Grand Finals played at the new Buninyong tennis courts.

The C1 team played well this year but just missed out on finals. I would like to thank the Meredith Tennis Committee, players and parents for their hard work, team spirit and good sportsmanship.

The Tennis committee is looking forward to another fantastic season starting later this year.



Meredith Walking Tracks

June Cameron

Meredith now has a number of walking tracks, and there is a vision that one day it will be possible to walk from Pioneer Park to the Police Paddock and eventually to Middleton Walk. There is a proposal to have a fitness component to the walk in Pioneer Park where people will be able to stop and follow instructions for a particular activity. Volunteers are doing a great job at the Police Paddock track, with a programme of weed eradication, revegetation and mowing. Strategically placed seats will encourage you to stop and enjoy the views. The Shire has repaired the walking footpath at the Middleton Walk which includes The Way of the Ibis, and with the grass mown it is a very attractive walk, particularly on a sunny day.

It is perhaps timely to remind equestrians that these are pedestrian walking tracks. For example Middleton Walk has lovely grassy surrounds to the gravel path, but horse's hooves have cut up the gravel pathway and deposited manure on the track. Please enjoy your ride, but keep to the grass which I'm sure your horse will enjoy too and pedestrians will have a pleasant walk.

Meredith Junior Football Club

Karen Prichard



Well our season is off and running. We played our 1st game last Friday night at home, against Lethbridge and WON (Yahoo). It was a great night for footy, with the rain holding off. We had a lot of people from around town, turn up to support the Junior Crocs, which is fantastic.

Lethbridge turned up without a full team so Barra (our coach), asked our players if anyone would volunteer to play for Lethbridge. We had about 6 of our players volunteer. Well done to those players for showing great sportsmanship. The final score was Meredith 7 goals 3 points (45) to Lethbridge 4 goals 10 points (34). Our goal kickers were, Mitch Emmlin (4) Lachlan Baker (2) and Seamus Dunne (1).

Overall it was a fantastic team effort.

Our next home game should be on Friday 18th May at 7pm. This could change to Sunday 20th May at 10am but keep your eyes on the noticeboard on highway for more info. We look forward to a great crowd coming to cheer on the Junior Crocs again but, we can't promise the same half time entertainment (chopper landing) as last time.

GO CROCS

Meredith Golf Club

Ladies

17.04.12 9 Hole Stableford

Wining : M Diffey 17 pts o/c B Perry 17pts

!st Round Annie McNaughton-Match play

S Watson, K Rosch def C Powles, E Edmiston 3/2

Mens

01.04.12 Stableford

Winner: M Macri 41 pts Runner up S Wilson 40 pts

Birdie Balls M Cooper 10th & 12th, M Macri 12th

P Rees 7th & 12th

Weekend Easter Comp Stableford

Winner: A Slocombe 39 pts R-up G Brown 38pts

NTP 14th M Colvin. Eagle 12th D Jury

 <h1 style="margin: 0;">MEREDITH FENCING</h1>	
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*Original Art

*****MOTHER 'S DAY GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE!!*****

Mandy would love to see you at Labeccamoo!

Open: Wednesday-Friday: 10-4ish. Weekends: 10-5ish.

*Evening appointments available.

Ph: 0433 092 112. 48 Staughton St, Meredith.

Vale Donna Anne Burt

Marg Cooper

A service was held at Meredith Cemetery on Monday April 23 to pay tribute to and to celebrate the life of Donna Burt. It was conducted by Civil Celebrant, Judy Hullin, a neighbour and friend of Donna's. The following tribute is taken from her service notes.

Donna Anne Burt was born in Sydney on May 26, 1965 to Thomas and Robyn Burt. She had an older step brother David and later had younger siblings Deborah, Scott and Mandy.

They were brought up by their mother and lived in the Mt Druitt area. They attended the Whalan Primary and High Schools. They were poor and often when they got home from school their mother would tell them to put on their "church clothes", as she called them and they went from one church group to another to get enough food vouchers so they could put food on the table.

There were times when Donna and her younger sister would busk on the street to get money for food.



None of the children finished high school. Donna at the age of 14, left home and went to work in a restaurant at Australia Square in Sydney.

She learnt to work hard from an early age and she vowed that when she got old enough she would own and drive a car because as children they had to walk for miles and miles.

Donna had been with her partner Phil for

many years and she had 3 children Tammy, Samara and Nathan, a step son Eric and a grandson Seth.

Her love was unconditional and her efforts were tireless.

She was only five foot tall but she was larger than life. She had spunk. She swore like a trooper. She was loud. She was open and honest. She worked hard and played hard. She used many endearing words to greet people. She called us darling, sweetheart, sugar or honey.

The staff, past and present from Mortimer's Meredith Roadhouse offer their sincere condolences to family and friends on the loss of Donna.

They all have fond memories of the happy times shared and the full of life presence.

We'll miss you so very much.

Gone but not forgotten.

Donna will be missed and remembered by the Meredith Music Festival and Golden Plains Festival team. Deepest sympathy to Phil, Seth and family.

Rest Peacefully Darling.

Love, Rebecca, Leonie, Sue, Mary, Whitney, Laura, Maddie, Shaye, Lyn, Margaret, Kaitlyn, Jazzy, Zoe, Krystal and Eliza.

We will miss her cheery welcome, her passion, her efficiency and her helpfulness.

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A Big Thankyou.....

Jackie and Michele would like to thank all the people who assisted with either their time or baked goods for the refreshments served after Donna's Funeral.

It was great to see the support from the community on this day.

Thank you again to you all.

Jackie and Michele



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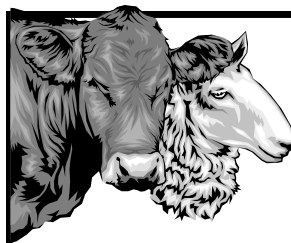
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Lucy Turns 80

Marg Cooper

Lucy Koostra grew up in the Eastern Netherlands in a town about eight kms from the German border.

She worked in a Textile Factory that was about 3 kms long producing blankets and sheets.

Her boss told his son about the pretty girl who had started work at the factory. Next day the son who had done his apprenticeship at the same factory went to see the new girl. He was suitably impressed and each day would walk by and give her a little glance and a smile.



"The best thing we did was to move to Meredith".

Lucy married Wally Kootstra on 21/4/1950. When they couldn't get a house to rent in Holland, Wally got his dander up and went by bike to the big city and applied to go to Canada, then changed his mind to Australia as it was a warmer country. Lucy and Wally say Australian promotions promised "The World!"

They arrived in Melbourne on March 16, 1953 with no idea where they were going. Bonegilla Migrant Camp was depressing, the food was dreadful and the huts had cardboard thin walls with big holes in them. Wally accepted a job as a spray painter at Fords in Geelong and in May the family transferred to Norlane Hostel.

At Fords, Wally was moved to a different department to take over from a man who was retiring. Wally Harvey asked his name. He replied "Wietse". Australians find "Wietse" very hard to pronounce as did Wally Harvey. So Wally announced that the new worker was going to take over his job and his name. So Wietse became Wally!

One Sunday the family went for a drive. Their car stopped near Coopers Bridge and all attempts to start it failed. A man stopped to help and offered to tow the car to Kevin Parkinson's Garage in Meredith. Parky fixed the car and a very happy Wally drove back to pick up his family and vowed to retire to Meredith.

They unsuccessfully looked for houses to rent or buy in Meredith but realised the best place to get news was at the pub, so they turned around and went to the Top Pub. Barney Kerger advised that the house round the corner was empty. They went for a look. The door was open, it was horrible inside but the paddock and big trees around were attractive.

They travelled to "Fern Hill" to speak to the owner of the house. Annie McNaughton met them and said, "What can I do for you good people?"

When they asked about the Meredith house she told that the McNaughtons intended to break it up. Wally asked if they could rent it and Annie agreed to \$2 rent per week. Later their son Fred bought the house from Annie.

Wally began to repair the house. Two more children, Tim and Sonya were born to Lucy and Wally after they came to Meredith. Lucy joined many organizations including Lethmere Fellowship, Church Guild, CWA, Community House and the

Fire Brigade. Wally has a certificate recognizing his 28 years of service.

Lucy is a caring, compassionate and mothering person. She reared nine children of her own and helped many other people at different times.

When they moved to Winchelsea she vowed not to join any organizations. When I called Lucy was pickling onions for the Hospital Auxiliary Stall!



ANZAC DAY 2012

David Jones

ANZAC Day dawned with very cool blustery wind, light showers of rain and the forecast of heavier rain later in the morning. Fortunately the rain did not eventuate and the ANZAC Service was able to proceed without changes. The Service started with a parade comprising an Army Cataflaque party, RSL members and Service families, Scouts and Cubs, CERT members and CFA members. The parade was inspected by the Mayor of Golden Plains Shire, Cr Geraldine Frantz, prior to marching into the Memorial Hall. Music was provided by Donna Murrell on pipes who had also entertained the crowd prior to the parade.

There was no guest speaker this year but this role was capably met by the Mayor as she spoke about the tradition of ANZAC prior to reciting the ANZAC Prologue. The Meredith Primary School Captains spoke about their feelings on ANZAC and this was warmly applauded. The crowd of 200 plus joined in singing the National Anthem and several appropriate hymns. Music was provided by Dawn Macdonald on keyboard and Kim Ivory on guitar. Meredith RSL President, David Jones, spoke about ANZAC Services in Meredith. He also announced that, thanks to many hours of work by Barry Pearce, a grant had been approved to recondition the memorial, presently located in front of the old RSL building, and relocate it to a new site at the Memorial Hall. This was in preparation for the centenary celebrations of ANZAC in 2015.

The Service concluded with singing 'God Save the Queen' after a rousing rendition of 'We Are Australian' by the Meredith Primary School, supported by Headmaster Doug Cation and vocalist Kim Ivory. A march to the memorial was led by the Cataflaque party, RSL members, Scouts and Cubs from Anakie, Bannockburn and Lethbridge, and many members of the general public. Donna again played the pipes. At the memorial wreaths were placed by many local organisations and individuals. The Service ended with playing the 'Last Post' and 'Reveille'. Morning tea was enjoyed by all in the Supper Room of the Meredith Memorial Hall. Once again, a memorable day in the spirit of ANZAC.

A Personal Arts Trail

Kerry Thomson

Local artist Marion East is currently producing a series of black and white oil paintings and charcoal drawings for a July exhibition at the Art Gallery of Ballarat. Inspired by the early morning winter light on eucalypts, her work captures those moments just after dawn when the trees are silhouetted against streaky, clouded skies.

With several works under way at any one time, she relies on detailed journals, sketches and photographs for supportive material. Her preference, however, is to work in the field and immerse herself in her surroundings. She is passionate about her art and her environment, responding to the landscape in which she finds herself.

Marion was born in the district and throughout her early life drew constantly with coloured pencils. As a young woman married to a construction worker she spent ten years living in a caravan and travelling throughout Australia. She started painting in 1973 when her daughter was a baby but it was when she moved to Canberra and, after trying for three years and five interviews, was accepted into one of only eight places in the Bachelor of Arts (Visual) Printmaking course at the Canberra School of Art, Australian National University from 1989-92 that her skills really developed. As a mature-aged student she was challenged with new ways of thinking and seeing and learned skills in print-making, lithography, etching, Japanese wood-blocking and a great deal about the nuances of different papers and screen printing. This course was very regimented with outcomes arising from great planning and



organisation which contrasts with the fluidity and freedom of painting.

Over the years Marion has participated in many short courses with local art groups, attended weekend or weeklong trips in places such as Apollo Bay, Queenscliff, Flinders Ranges and in Kalgoorlie and completed part-time sessions at Geelong Fine Art School. Teaching has also been part of Marion's development as an artist and her passion comes through in this area. She is currently working with disabled artists in Geelong.

Marion has been Artist in Residence at Arthur and Yvonne Boyd's Bundanon Trust in NSW as well as having several solo exhibitions since her first in 1997 in the ACT. She has also been part of many group exhibitions throughout Victoria, NSW and ACT.

Despite the anxiety of preparing work for exhibition, the rush at the end and consequent exhaustion it's a wonderful feeling to be able to challenge herself and complete a display with which she is happy and proud. Art has enabled Marion to surpass her wildest dreams years ago and has taken her to places she would never have thought possible – far beyond the boring, depressing same old same old routine of full-time work!

It will be a pleasure to view this series of paintings and drawings during the month that they will be on display at the Art Gallery of Ballarat.

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Geelong to Ballarat Railway 150th

Marg Cooper

Tad Woznica, wearing his Assistant Station Master hat and uniform, stood on the Meredith Station Platform as the vintage train thundered through last month. A crowd of people who were on the platform to relive the times when passenger trains ran regularly on the line were delighted to have a real Assistant Station Master welcoming the train. It was just like old times!

Meredith celebrated 150 years of the railway line on the weekend of April 14 and 15. This was part of celebrations from Geelong to Ballarat, including events at Bannockburn, Lethbridge, Elaine, Lal Lal, Yendon, Navigators, Buninyong and Ballarat.

On Tuesday April 10 a special heritage train for invited guests departed Geelong Station for Ballarat at 10.20, after an interpretative sign unveiling ceremony and with brief ceremonies at Lethbridge and Lal Lal arrived in Ballarat for lunch on the No 2 Platform and another interpretative sign unveiling ceremony, before returning to Geelong. This train journey re-enacted the official opening of the railway line on April 10, 1862.

For those who didn't get to Meredith on Saturday or Sunday there were: two big model train set ups, historic display of articles related to the railway, display boards of information relating to Meredith and the railway, shearing shed brands display, stalls selling related memorabilia a "Meredith Express Train", blinking Crossing Lights, children's activities and competitions in the Memorial Hall.

The "Pick the Numbered Train Competition" was won by Coral Van Beusichem and Denise Farrugia who each won train travel vouchers to the value of \$200 donated by V Line. The "Guess the Number of Choo Choo Bars in the Jar Competition" was won by Prue Van Raaphorst.

Visitors could walk around the Meredith Railway Station and gardens, buy railway memorabilia, see vintage engines, trucks and cars, have their face painted, have their photo taken, buy fairy floss and sweets, ride the "Tootle Express" and hear the bagpipes and the Town Crier welcome the crowd.

The fine, warm weather welcomed many visitors and locals including a bus load from Geelong who travelled the railway line to observe the engineering features.

Meredith History Group invited some "Meredith Living Treasures" to come and to wear a badge that invited visitors to talk to them as they walked around. Tad Woznica came from Moe for the day. When the train was due he donned his Assistant Station Master hat to match his blue shirt, railway tie and neat blue trousers. When the train approached he was on the platform, blowing his whistle, prompting one visitor to remark it was *just like when he was stationed here from 1958 until 1964*. At that moment standing beside him was Ross Wills, a train driver from 1951 until 2001, driving trains on this line for many years.

Tad had prepared a DVD of his history with photos of Meredith Station, his family and his time in Meredith that was also shown during the weekend. While not a "mad" railway fanatic, he did enjoy giving service to the public.

There were many magic moments as other "Meredith Living Treasures" including Jack Connell and Marj Powell {Ward} talked about the station and train travel and met up with locals and ex locals. Just standing on the platform with them was nostalgic!

Lethbridge celebrates Geelong to Ballarat Railway 150th

Ray Kelly

There was a display of railway history at the Lethbridge Railway Station on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th April 2012 hosted by Michael Menzies who is President of the Geelong and South Western Rail History Society Inc.

A steady number of visitors viewed the station, railway line and platform, read the information on display and talked railways with Michael.

Lethbridge Railway Station came to life on Tuesday April 10 when the Golden Plains Shire Council members and guests boarded the vintage train there and again on the weekend with the display.

The display can now be viewed at "Apricot with Attitude" at 2714 Midland Highway, Lethbridge



Above: The real deal - former railway men, Ross Wills and Tad Woznica. Below: On a different track, Mitch Emmlin, Matilda and Georgie Cooke pose with the school train.



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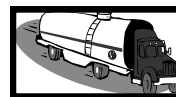
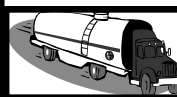
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The Huckers are Off to Cobram

Marg Cooper

David and Diane Hucker have enjoyed living in Meredith for 20 years but are looking forward with eager anticipation to moving to a new house with a smaller yard, to a warmer climate and to a new town. They consider the move to be another new adventure in their lives.

David's brother John had been in Australia for six months before they immigrated to Australia with their eldest daughter, as £10 Poms in 1966. They arrived in Sydney and lived in half a Nissan Hut, for 9 weeks. It was comfortable, they had clean bedding and were fed well. When David was employed by Ford Motor Co, they moved to Geelong before building a house in Lara.

A couple they met on the ship shared their first rented home and went into a Milk Bar business with them at East Geelong, for about three years. The couple even built next door to them at Lara.

David and Diane often visited brother John and his wife Pip in Meredith and considered Meredith to be a soaking wet, miserable place. Never the less they looked around for a house to buy in Meredith. Diane and David Devlin had moved a house from Gheringhap to McLeod Street and then had sold that house to the Keating family, to move another house onto a small farm on Bamganie Road.

When the Huckers looked at the house, the owners were doing renovations. There was a lot of work to do but the price was good so David and Diane moved to Meredith after 20 years in Lara. They spent a lot more money on the house than they expected, even though David did 90% of the work himself, including installing a new kitchen. The house is a credit to them: neat as a pin, comfortable, surrounded by a lovely garden and picket fence .

After 25 years with Ford Motor Co, David was one of many over 50 year old employees made redundant. He then worked as a storeman at Cavalier Art Supplies until he retired to look after Diane when she became ill. Her ill health continued for six years but is now well and feels that a warmer climate will be good for her. They have loved living in Meredith and have made many great friends.

Easter Friday 2012 was a joyous, special occasion for David and Diane When their family of three daughters for the first time and their families met David's son from his first marriage who lives in England. He and his wife are in Australia on holidays and his son is working in Melbourne. Everyone got on famously!

David and Diane are moving to a Lifestyle Village in Cobram and will live next door to a couple they grew up with in Bristol.

Kenny lived around the corner from David and Diane. They have always kept in touch and visited Melbourne yearly to see Kenny and his family but were recently invited to see their new home at Cobram.

David and Diane were impressed with the village and its position in Cobram. The village is close to the shops, hospital and doctors, so they chose the block next to Kenny to build their new house. Kenny and his wife are overseeing the building and preparing the block for the arrival of their friends.



Main Street Funding *(from page 1)*

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The Meredith works, expected to cost around \$450,000, won't be undertaken until 2013/14 although timing, costs and projects are all subject to change.

For more information or to get in touch with your Community Coordinators contact Damian Waight, on 5220 7159.

(from media release)

Farewell and Thank You

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our friends we have made over the 20 years while living in Meredith, we have had some great times and have enjoyed living in Meredith but we now find the old home getting a bit too much to handle so we are going to live in Cobram near the Murray.

I would like to say a big thank you to some really close friends who helped Diane and myself when Diane was told she had bone cancer, without your help one wonders how we would have got through the ordeal. You know who you are, again a big thank you.

During the years we sadly lost some really good friends but we will always remember them. My only regret is that the units in Lawler street did not get built, one wonders why? Even though it was stated that in 2007 the 1st sod was to be turned, answers may be given one day. Again many thanks.

Dave and Di Hucker



Welcome to

MEREDITH PRIMARY SCHOOL

This picture omitted from online version

A busy term finished with a special "Colonial Dress Up" day. The students looked terrific in a range of "early Australian costumes" and they took part in a variety of activities

including, bush cooking, bush dancing and traditional games. It was a great way to finish the term! Term two is also shaping up as another busy one with the

students already taking part in a range of activities including a special performance of the "Little Mermaid" at the Memorial Hall. The performance was a great experience as it provided the students with the opportunity to see a "full production" that included

full sound & lighting, costumes and scenery. It also had messages about bullying and making good choices. Thanks again to the PFA for providing the funds to make this a free excursion.

This picture omitted from online version

We also ran the *Lapathon* (yrs P to 2) and *Cross Country* (yrs 3 to 6) up at the recreation reserve. Students from years three to six will be selected from the Cross Country run to represent the school at the district Cross Country at Teesdale on Friday April 27th. The students were provided with a "healthy lunch" back at school where they were able to make their own

sandwiches. Once again thanks to the PFA for providing the ingredients and serving the students.

This picture omitted from online version

This picture omitted from online version

Members of the *Jim Stynes "Reach Rookys"* (yes, *this is how they spell rookies*) program were at the school on the first Thursday of term. This program aims to build resilience and

acceptance amongst peers for the older students. The students took part in a number of ac-

Pictured are school captains Harriet and Fraser with one of the performers.

tivities to help deal with different emotions and coping with bullying. They will be visiting again next term.

This picture omitted from online version

It was great to see the large number of families who were able to attend the ANZAC DAY service. Each year more and more students want to take part in the service and enjoy singing

"WE ARE AUSTRALIAN." Once again the school captains, Harriet Edmiston and Fraser Mitilineos delivered a terrific speech that they prepared with the vice captains, Phoebe Cameron and Mitchell Miller.

It gave a great perspective on their view of ANZAC Day. The students were able to take part in the march to the cenotaph in the main street where the captains and vice captains placed a wreath.

Some of the students who attended to ANZAC service Meredith

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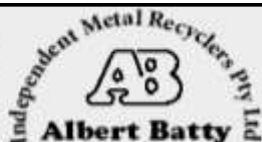
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Meredith History Interest Group

Marg Cooper

Geelong to Ballarat Railway 150th

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Meredith celebrations of this event. At the final meeting of representatives of towns along the line on Monday April 23 they all reported successful events and enthusiastic visitors to their towns.

A thank you was offered to Michael Menzies who had the vision to celebrate the 150th, who initially called the representatives together and who kept us all on track. {!!} A photo album was presented to him by Lal Lal, Navigators and Yendon of the celebrations in their towns and a photo of him at Lethbridge with the display was presented to him by Raymond Kelly.

Postcards

We have Postcards of old Meredith buildings available for purchase. They proved very popular at the railway 150th. Watch out for them!

Catalogue Meeting

You are invited to help catalogue the collection on the last Thursday of the month at the Masonic Centre from 9 am. Come along to research or just talk history.

Research

Thomas Dawson murdered William Patrick Purcell in Meredith in March 1879. (An account of the murder is in "Memorable Men of Meredith".) A relation of Thomas Dawson is trying to determine where the Dawson house was situated. The house was ½ mile from Meredith township, ¼ mile from the main road, stood at one corner of a ¾ acre allotment that was a miners right, was within 20 yards of the curve of the racecourse, the ground was part of a closed road that had been rendered useless by the construction of the railway line and had been included in the Racecourse Reserve. Mrs O'Brien lived 440 yards distant, the whole ground was under cultivation for vegetables and poplar trees grew along the border fences and a few stunted fruit trees. It seems that the family came to Meredith in 1861 and came to the hut/house in 1867.

The Site for Racing and General Recreation was gazetted on February 26, 1866. The Golf Course and Motor Bike Club are now on this Racecourse Reserve.

If you can help please contact Fay McFarlane or Marg Cooper.



It's History

The fate of the missing guard of the Ballarat train has been ascertained; he has had a very narrow escape, but suffered only a few bruises. It appears from information I have received, which I believe to be authentic, that the verandah of the Meredith Station had been finished but a short time previous to the arrival of the train of which the missed man was the guard. On starting away from that station, the van in which he was standing caught the corner of the newly finished verandah, which, it is alleged, projected two inches too far, and, of course, tore it away. The guard was struck by one of the pieces of timber, and knocked on to the platform, the train proceeding without anyone in it being aware of the accident that had happened.

From The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956) Thursday 24 April 1862 Jan McDonald, Meredith History Interest Group

Art Class in Paradise

Marg Cooper

The Meredith Art Class ventured to Broome at the invitation of Mardi Wall to celebrate her birthday. What an invitation!

Mardi reached the milestone of her 80th birthday on April 11 and her daughter Vicki decided to take her to her favourite resort and to invite the Art Class.

We stayed at luxury accommodation at Cable Beach and enjoyed the architecture, the gardens, the ambience, the pools and spas, the massages, the Buddhist Temple, the Sunset Bar and the friendly service. Several times Mardi got lost in the resort complex and after asking for help was driven in a golf like cart to her room.

She enjoyed meeting the friendly, young international staff and learning about them. Each day some of us walked on Cable Beach in the early morning, then after a delicious smorgasbord breakfast overlooking the sea and beach we ventured to discover Broome until the heat drove us back to the resort and poolside.

Broome is a town of contrasts: red dirt and luxurious gardens, corrugated iron and red and green lattice, young workers and older tourists, the harsh land and climate and the pearls from the sea and an exciting future and a history of rugged adventurers.

Mardi loves the camels and sent us on the sunset camel ride on Cable Beach. We rode for an hour on pristine beach as the sun disappeared over the sea and the sky glowed red and all the hues of the rainbow. Plenty of inspiration to paint!

Seven individuals of the Art Class aged from 80 to 16 had a glorious Broome Time.

And we arrived home with an extra: Lynne adopted a puppy through the SAFE - Save Broome Animals From Euthanasia - program!

Where to next?



The well travelled art class: Marg, Lynne, Izy, Yvonne, Mardi, Vicki and Joyce.

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Mollie's COLUMN

Digging In

Over Easter, I had a uni break. Not as exciting as school holidays, or as lazy as a long weekend, this little break was shaping up to be a five day study session that just might lead to a breakdown. After opening my statistics textbook and bursting in to slightly hysterical tears for the third time in one day, I decided it was time for a little Easter holiday. Desperate for some fresh air and a glimpse of something other than my somewhat untidy living room, I threw my books aside and headed out in to the Great Unknown – our gloomy, neglected and chilly suburban backyard.



“...the poor little basil seeds I’d scattered about so joyfully would probably never see the light of an icy Ballarat day.”

Peering warily beyond the carport and the clothesline, I saw that there was a whole other world – a rocky, weedy one, yes, but it was there. Filled with curiosity, I explored what our rental property manager optimistically referred to as ‘the garden’. I looked up at the straggling trees and the dismal shrubbery, tripping over crumbly concrete edging and stirring up some mystified ants. There seemed to be a lot of stony rubble where good brown soil should have been, but an enormous weed flourishing happily in a sad old garden bed sparked an idea in my foggy head. If that weed could so obviously succeed all by itself, what could happen out there if I was armed with a watering can? That afternoon, I started a vegetable garden.

Filled with enthusiasm and the arrogance of youth, I hit my local nursery. Politely declining help from the gruff salesman, I grabbed what I felt was a great

selection of seeds, a few punnets of seedlings and hurried home again to get planting. A second assessment of the garden soil in my little plot made me quite happy to put down the shovel, haul the potting mix out of the boot and turn my attention to some old pots I’d scavenged out of odd corners. I had a fantastic afternoon sowing seeds and fetching water, coaxing seedlings out of punnets and getting potting mix in my hair. My housemate looked a little concerned when she got home and found me sitting amongst a jumble of pots, my dress caked in dirt and my face smudged with mud, but I’d never been more cheerful. Until, that is, she gently pointed out that a few of the seed packets were very firm about planting times, and the poor little basil seeds I’d scattered about so joyfully would probably never see the light of an icy Ballarat day.

Happily, my day of muddy enthusiasm was followed up by a serious bout of extensive reading, and my ideas on what to plant when are now a lot more orthodox. Rocket seeds I planted have taken off like...well, rockets, spinach is

thriving in the chilly weather, and though I fight a daily battle to keep horrid fat slugs off my lettuces, I’m predicting a very productive winter in my little green corner of ‘the garden’.

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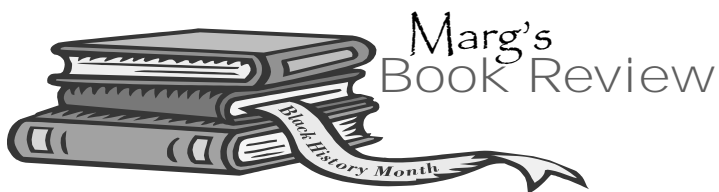
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"Mailman" by J Robert Lennon.

The book promised to be a sad, funny and brave journey of a man who has a breakdown while at University so takes a job as a mailman until he can return to study. But it proved to be difficult and uninteresting read.

"Past The Shallows" by Favel Parrett

This is Parrett's first published novel. It tells of three brothers growing up in the remote south coast of Tasmania. Their lives are shaped by their father's moods. Like the ocean he fishes, he is wild and unpredictable. He is a bitter man, warped by a devastating secret. The oldest brother Joe escapes from his father's clutches and Miles tries his best to watch out for the youngest son Harry but he can't be there all the time. Harry is often alone and finds joys in small treasures he discovers, in a kelpie dog he befriends and a secret friendship with a mysterious neighbour. Miles is forced to go ocean fishing on a decrepit boat, by his father.

An easy book to read, the reader can feel the anguish of the boys and can visualise the sea and coast of southern Tasmania. Recommended.

The book for discussion in May is "Shadowboxing" by Tony Birch. It is a collection of 10 linked stories of a boy growing up in Fitzroy during the 1960's.

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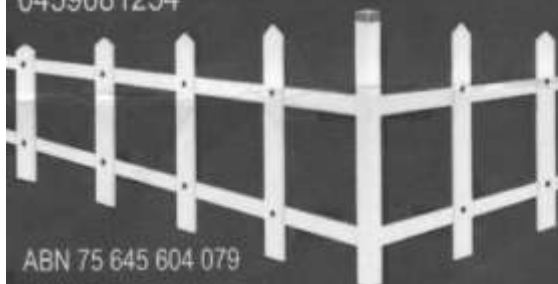
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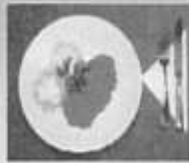
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