



*Photo Sandra Pearce*

## A Moving Memorial

*David Jones*

The Meredith War Memorial (Cenotaph) has been successfully moved from the old RSL Hall to a new position at the Meredith Memorial Hall. The Cenotaph was originally located on the site of Frank Parnell Real Estate but was moved to the RSL Hall about 20 years ago. The move at that time was effected by Barry James Cranes from Ballarat and they again provided the necessary equipment and expertise under the watchful eye of Tim Wood, who was contracted by the Hall

Committee to undertake the relocation.

Paul Jakubauskas and Andrew McLeod were the operators of the Barry James crane and they and Tim Wood are to be congratulated on the completion of the difficult and sensitive operation. Tim will now complete the finishing touches to the Cenotaph in readiness for our annual Anzac observance.

The relocation of the Cenotaph was the inspiration of

*Cont. Page 16*

## Constructive Kids

*Jim Elvey*

Late last month, Ballarat arborist, Rob Amor, visited Meredith Primary School to work with a Grade 5/6 group to assemble nesting boxes for local native birds wildlife.

Mr Amor began with a discussion about those birds that need hollows to nest in and the difficulty they sometimes have finding them. Trees can take sixty years or more to produce natural hollows, which is why the boxes are so important in retaining and increasing bird populations.

Then it was off to the shed to assemble the boxes, which were purpose designed for a variety of wildlife known to be indigenous to the area.

A second session will be held in the new term to finish them off with roosting perches, drainage holes and a coat of paint. Then they will be installed at the Meredith Police Paddocks where they will play an important role in fostering bird populations. The students may even have an opportunity to play an ongoing role, monitoring the boxes.

Not only was this an important environmental project, but also a highly successful school/community collaboration.

*Cont. Page 7*

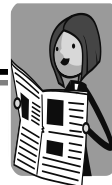
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- The Fungi Bug
- The 140 Y.O. Dog!

*... and the usual more!*

**e:** [news@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:news@meredithnews.com.au)

**w:** [www.meredithnews.com.au](http://www.meredithnews.com.au)



40  
PAGES

## 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

[news@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:news@meredithnews.com.au) or deliver to the Meredith Corner Shop.

### DATES AND DEADLINES

The Newsletter is distributed on the **first Thursday** of each month (except January). All advertisements and submissions must be lodged by the **last Thursday** of the preceding month, but earlier is **really** appreciated.

### ADVERTISING

Advertising in the M&D Newsletter is a great way to let district residents know about your business. Contact us 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 \$25.00 p.a. (11 issues) and get the Meredith and District News posted to you anywhere in Australia.

### CONTACT US

Post: Post Office, Meredith, 3333

Email: [news@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:news@meredithnews.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](http://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.



## connect

There are lots of special interest groups in the district. Make a call and **connect** - *you'll be glad you did.* (And let us have any corrections or additions.)

#### ADVANCE MEREDITH

☎5286 1291

#### ANGLING CLUB

☎5354 3879

#### BLUE LIGHT DISCO

☎5286 1222

#### BOOK CLUB

☎5286 8201

#### CFA (000 for fire calls)

Elaine

☎0417 533516

Meredith

☎5286 1502

#### CHILDCARE

☎5286 1348

#### COMMUNITY CENTRE

☎5286 1348

#### CRICKET

Elaine

☎0428 264103

Meredith

☎5286 1434

Junior

☎0400 078752

#### CUBS

Anakie

☎5281 9497

#### CWA

☎5286 1559

#### FILM GROUP

☎5286 1274

#### FOOTBALL

(seniors)

☎0408 545246

(juniors)

☎0430 587674

#### GOLF CLUB

☎5341 5748

#### HISTORY GROUP

☎5286 8201

#### LANDCARE

☎5286 1250

#### LIFE DRAWING

☎0430 318322

#### MEMORIAL HALL

☎5286 1545

#### MOTOR CYCLE CLUB

☎0437 009250

#### PLAYGROUP

☎5286 1348

#### POLICE

PADDOCKS

☎5286 1273

#### RED CROSS

☎5286 1558

#### RSL

☎52861 452

#### SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

☎5286 8232

#### TENNIS

Elaine

☎0448 291074

Meredith

☎5286 1211

#### SEW 'N' SEWS

☎5286 1348

## emergency

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

### 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

## services

#### CEMETERY TRUST

☎5286 1274

#### HALL HIRE

Meredith Memorial

☎5286 1545

Elaine Mechanics

☎5241 5596

Elaine Rec Res

☎5341 5703

#### LIBRARY VAN

☎5272 6010

#### MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

☎5220 7230

#### PRE-SCHOOL

☎5286 1227

#### PRIMARY SCHOOL

☎5286 1313

#### RECREATION RESERVE

☎0429 841399



### ...or start something.



If you have a special interest you would like to share with like minded people, let us know and we will help you get it started .

"Rejoice while you are alive; enjoy the day; live life to the fullest."

- Horace (65 BC to 8 BC )



## Community

### Elaine Rec. Reserve

Is hosting a TRIVIA NIGHT at the  
ELAINE HALL  
on SAT 6TH APRIL, AT 7.00 PM.  
during the evening the Elaine Tennis Club will hold a  
SILENT AUCTION. BYO. Drink & Nibbles

\$10 admission. Tea & Coffee supplied.  
Proceeds from the Trivia will go towards the  
Kitchen Update in the Pavilion.  
To Book or for further information phone  
Diane – 53415707.

### Meredith Visitor Information Centre

The excitement is growing as our architect designed Visitor Information Centre nears completion. Now is the time to start preparing for its management and operation.

Last month we asked for anyone interested in being a volunteer for a few hours per week and being part of something new and exciting in Meredith.

A management committee is needed to run the operation of the centre so if you are interested in being part of this committee please phone Di Ritchie 52861291, Marg Cooper 52868201 or John Diffey 52861551

### SAVE THE DATE Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

This year Meredith's "Biggest Morning Tea" to raise funds for cancer research will be held at Meredith Community Centre on Thursday May 23rd.

If you would like to help in any way please ring Di Ritchie 52861291 or Mary Foster 52861459.

### ANZAC DAY 2013



ANZAC Day will be observed with our usual Service at the Memorial Hall followed by a march to the Cenotaph for the laying of wreaths. As the Cenotaph is now located at the Memorial Hall the annual march will be on new route around the block via Synot's Sweets and the Rec Reserve to return to the Cenotaph at the Memorial Hall. The Service will start at 10am after a parade. Following the Service, morning tea will be served in the Hall Supper Room. Ladies are invited to bring a plate; thanks, in anticipation.

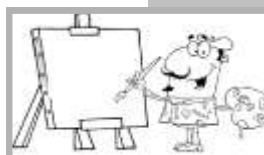
### Road Plan Open for Comment

*from media release*

The purpose of the Golden Plains Shire Road Management Plan (RMP) is to assist Council with its commitment to providing a safe and efficient road network. Golden Plains Shire is home to an extensive local road network comprising 971 kilometres of sealed local roads and 726 kilometres of gravel local roads. There are also approximately 167 kilometres of unmade fire access tracks, unformed tracks and unused road reserves within the Shire and 359 kilometres of "Arterial Roads" including the Glenelg, Midland and Hamilton Highways and Steiglitz Tourist Road. A recent review of the Road Management Plan has resulted in a number of proposed changes.

The most notable is the inclusion of a suite of assessment criteria which will guide Council in making decisions about which local roads should be managed and maintained by Council or not. Residents are now invited to review the proposed plan for comment. The plan can be located on Council's website in 'Latest News' or by visiting the Bannockburn or Linton Customer Service Centres. Submissions are due by Tuesday 9 April.

For more information visit [www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au](http://www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au) or call Golden Plains Shire Council on 5220 7111.



### Painting & Drawing Workshop Weekend at Moronghurk

May 4th and 5th

For details contact Marion on 5281 9381

### Thank You

Cheryl Lewis would like to thank everyone who helped out when she had her accident on the highway on the 1st March Thank you again.

### Classifieds

#### For sale

Black pony saddle 15 inch bought new used 3 times. Pony saddle blanket used 3 times. New clogs with saddle. New pony head stall. Pony lead bridle.  
\$210 o.n.o the lot. Call M Clune 52 861 367

#### Alpacas for sale

Wethers from \$350, Females from \$800. Packages - 3 pregnant females \$2500, 7 Pregnant females \$5000  
Ph Audrey 0418 841 841



## Church News

### ST JOHNS ANGLICAN CHURCH

Weekly services, baptisms, weddings, funerals, pastoral care. Rev Elizabeth Bufton, Vicarage: 52651284; Church Office 52812553; Mob. 0437524864.

Service times: Meredith

11.00am 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at Uniting Church, Holy Communion

11.00am 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Anglican Church Holy Communion

#### Bannockburn

10.30am 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays Holy Communion

10.30am 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Family Service

6.00pm 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Prayer & Praise

#### Inverleigh

8.45am 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays Holy Communion

10.00am 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Morning Prayer

11.00am 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Holy Communion

Parish Office, Byron St. Bannockburn. Open Wed; call in for cuppa & chat. Enquiries, Parish Secretary, Fay McFarlane; Office 52812553, Home, 52861283; Mob 0407502794.

### MORRISONS ANGLICAN CHURCH

Contact: 5368 1342. 9am every 2nd & 4th Sunday and a combined service at one of our three churches on the 5th Sunday in the month.

**UNITING CHURCH** Monthly Combined Holy Communion services.

2nd Sunday, 11am at Meredith Uniting Church

4th Sunday at 11am at Meredith Anglican Church

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

**(9.30 pre-service singing)** Enquires Doug McFarlane 52861283.

Rev. Lindell Gibson 53413 200

**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

Winchelsea Mass every Saturday @ 6 p.m

Bannockburn every Sunday @ 9 a.m.

Meredith Sunday April 7th/21st @ 11 a.m.

Anakie Sunday April 14th/28th @ 11 a.m.

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

St. Joseph's Catholic Parish Meredith

### Meredith Playgroup

*Come & visit us every Thursday @*

*Meredith Community Centre from 10am until 12 noon.*

*Mums, Dads, Grandparents & Carers all welcome.*

*\$2 per family a week. Play, craft, organized*

*For more info all Jo 0418 125 250*

### Meredith Playgroup Term 2

18th April – Grass heads. Plant them today and watch all term as they grow (hopefully!)

25th April – Anzac biscuit making & face painting.

2nd May – Mother's day / Grandmother's day Crafts.

9th May – Playgroups Plus (strategies for fussy eating - all welcome, childcare provided)

16th May – Paper plate craft

23rd May – Excursion @ Fun For Kids, Level 1, 57 Church Street, Geelong West

30th May – Box day, B.Y.O. box! Come make a cubby, a car or a robot – it's up to your imagination

6th June - Winter Day

13th June – Make a mask

20th June – Kids collage day

27th June – Music / Dance / Nursery rhymes

## Meredith Community Centre, Inc.

4 Russell Street Meredith 3333

PH 5286 1348 Fax 52861 563

"Working for our community"



## Centre News

I am sure we and many parents are all saying where did this term go to. My first term as Coordinator has flown and I am starting to find my feet. We have had some great programs happening and a buzz about the place and looking forward to more great programs next term.

Our beginner's iPad class has had many participants asking for more. So we are running a much more in depth program next term which will give you the opportunity to explore the myriad of uses for this great tool to suit your own needs.

We are also working with the University of Ballarat on their Digital Enterprise program which will provide free training to business and community groups for anything digital. So, whether it be MYOB, creating websites, social media, computer applications like MS applications, Photoshop and much more please talk to us about your needs. This program also has mentoring available either 1 on 1 or small groups for up to 4 hours for eligible participants.

Finally our Learn Local is going to be delivering the Intel® Easy Steps digital literacy program in the coming months. If you are brand new to computers or need to build your basic skills this will be ideal for you.

Our new term program is being printed at the moment but if you want a sneak preview you can download a copy or view it online at our website or scan the QR code for a direct link.

*Pam Ridd, Coordinator.*

## Tutors Needed

The Meredith Community Centre is looking for a Tutor to deliver some of our computer classes. If you have skills in Microsoft and or Open Office applications or other areas of general computer knowledge and would be interested in teaching these skills to others we would love to hear from you.

If you have a skill that you think others would be interested to learn we would love to expand the variety of classes we run at the Centre in Meredith and also in Bannockburn.

Please call us to talk about it.

Call our Coordinator Pam Ridd on 5286 1348 (office hours) or 0432 909 156

meredithPolice**news**

Leading Senior Constable Greg Kitchen

Since the last Meredith Police Report, we have seen the running of the annual Golden Plains Music Festival which was held on the Labour Day weekend with an attendance of approximately 9,500 people. All in all, I can report that most young people attending at the festival were extremely well behaved with only one serious situation where a young female was transferred to the Ballarat Base Hospital. Increasingly however, there has been a problem with young people taking their chances on gaining entry to the festival by hiking in via surrounding properties without a valid ticket.

At this years event, 15 young people were detected by security unlawfully entering the festival, all of whom were handed over to police on site. All were interviewed at the festival for wilful trespass to a private place and all will be summonsed to attend court with the next few months.

Crime in and around the Meredith area has been extremely low during the past month and as a result, there is nothing to report. This pleases me no end.

Over the past few months, I have had numerous reports of wondering stock on roads. This includes the Midland Highway Meredith, the Shelford – Meredith Road and Bamganie Road, Bamganie. On each occasion, I have attended at the time or as soon after as possible. I know that the overwhelming majority of land holders do their very best to maintain the quality of there fences however I seem to be continuously attending the same locations over and over, where fences are very poorly maintained allowing for stock to wonder at will. I am now looking at ways to effectively police this problem in an attempt to minimise the chance of motorists being involved in collisions with stock.

As per my last report and on a really positive note again with regard to traffic, it has been great to see no major accidents within the area over the past month. I do spend a large portion of my time patrolling the Midland highway and surrounding roads and rarely detect vehicles speeding with the moving mode police radar. Police will be utilizing the Automated Number Plate Recognition Unit from Melbourne. This vehicle is used stationary and is able to detect offences of varying degrees from unregistered vehicles to theft and outstanding warrants.

**Blue Light Disco** - Unfortunately, the first term disco could not be run due to 'Disco Des' being unavailable. I'm anticipating that I'll be running a disco on either Friday the 21st or Friday the 28th of June, 2013. Kids, this will be confirmed in the next news letter and at the Meredith Primary School.

Kindest Regards

Greg KITCHEN - Leading Senior Constable

## Another Try to Upgrade Signs

A petition has been launched to establish electronic speed limit signs for Meredith Primary School, with copies located at various points around the town. At present, the town has the standard installation for a 60 km/h zone.

VicRoads guidelines provide "roads with a speed limit of 70 km/h; higher speed roads which carry more than 500 vehicles each day; and roads with a speed limit of 60 km/h with high traffic volumes, will use electronic variable speed limit signs." ([vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://vicroads.vic.gov.au))

School zone electronic speed limit signs cost around \$70,000 and a previous application for electronic signs was not successful.

*Below: A group of locals with school crossing supervisor, Dot Hearn, show their support for a sign upgrade.*

IMAGE OMITTED FROM ONLINE VERSION

## \$450K - the What, When & Where?

*Jim Elvey*

Golden Plains Shire's Community Project Officer, Paul Ryan, says the public exhibition of the draft master plan, that will outline the proposals for use of the \$450,000 allocated for enhancement of Meredith's "main street", will go on exhibition in the second week of April *somewhere in Meredith* (not decided when going to print) and *in the print media* (not yet defined when going to print). It will also be lodged on the Shire's and the project's websites, so we can only urge you to remember to check in on one of those in time to lodge your comments within the two week exhibition period.

*For more information, visit...*

*[goldenplainsmainstreets.wordpress.com/meredith/](http://goldenplainsmainstreets.wordpress.com/meredith/) or*

Elaine CFA  
Scrap metal collection  
as a fundraiser  
Ph David 0418993239





# sports

## A Good Season for Rams

*Heath Bush*

In a very successful year for the club it was a very disappointing end to the season with the 1<sup>ST</sup> 11 going down to Bell Park over the last weekend of March in the Grand Final

Winning the toss and batting first Meredith were looking like putting the previous two low batting totals behind them sitting at 3/81. But as it has been in the earlier finals, Meredith lost clumps of wickets for not many runs, leaving them with a total of only 135 to defend. Troy Bott 38, Heath Bush 25 and Marty Barbaro 20 were the top scorers.

Meredith had 26 overs to make inroads into Bell Parks top order but could only manage 2 wickets before stumps with Bell Park 2/41 overnight. But the biggest blow for the side was losing Coach and strike bowler Andrew Forster in less than an over

into his spell. Andrew left the ground shattered with severe damage to his back and side.

Bell park were looking like getting the total with some ease at 3 for 73, but a sharp catch from Captain Heath Bush from the bowling of Terry Hart saw the game turn. Terry bowled magnificently with figures of 3 for 36 off 23 overs.

But, unlike throughout the season, Meredith dropped four relatively easy chances late in the game sealing the fate of two grand final losses in a row.

A disappointed group gathered in the rooms after the game where, though it was disappointing to not bring the silverware back, in the whole, the year was a big success. The club finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the club championship and fielded four sides for the first time in the club's history.

To cap off a great season for the 1<sup>st</sup> team, Ty Watts was awarded the best player in the competition by the umpires, best all-rounder of the competition and also won the association 1<sup>st</sup> eleven batting average.

The club has its presentation night on April the 5<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately time has run out for booking tickets but the club is looking forward to a great night at the Batesford Hotel to cap off the season.



*The A Grade Division 3 Meredith Cricket Club, before competing in the Grand Final at Winchelsea.. Back row: Terry Hart, Jack Beggs, Tim Bailey, Troy Bott, Nathan Bush, Nathan Watts, Front Row: Heath Bush- Captain, Michael Hammond, Ty Watts, Martin Barbaro, John Boljkovac, Andrew Forster -Meredith Cricket Club Coach.*



## Elaine C.C. Premiers



**1st team back in 12 years and we won the flag!**

*Back row left to right Joel McArthur, Scott White, Graeme Lench, Adam Arnel, Heath Anderson (Vice Captain), Nathen Hocking, Cade Arnel, Beau Ketchen, Jayden Alexander, Second Row, left to right, Tim Free, Brendon Gleeson, Murray Arnel, (secretary/treasurer), Tye Alexander, (Captain), Neville Moller, ( President), John Gleeson, Shane Dunne, (Vice President) Bottom row, Seamus Dunne*

## Constructive Kids *(from Page 1)*

The students, Mr Amor, the school principal and teachers involved were all delighted with the exercise.

*If you are interested in learning more about nesting boxes, and perhaps building your own, there is plenty of helpful information at your library or online, including: [birdsinyard.net/Nest-Box-Plans](http://birdsinyard.net/Nest-Box-Plans) or [birdlife.org.au/images/uploads/education\\_sheets/INFO-Nestbox-technical.pdf](http://birdlife.org.au/images/uploads/education_sheets/INFO-Nestbox-technical.pdf)*

IMAGE OMITTED FROM ONLINE VERSION

IMAGE OMITTED FROM ONLINE VERSION

*Left: Visiting arborist Rob Amor working with Grades 5/6, and above, one proud team displays the result.*

### SOLD SOLD

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email: [indmetal@bigpond.net.au](mailto:indmetal@bigpond.net.au)





*Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April*

*10am-3pm*

*at St Joseph Church grounds*

*Lawler Street, Meredith*

*Outside entries are welcome- \$10 per site*

*Limited number of tables available*

*Large items accepted*

*BBQ and Devonshire tea*

*All unsold items must be removed*

*Some church pews for sale*

*Enquiries: Diane Ritchie 52861230/52861291  
or Mary Foster 52861459*



## St Patrick's Day at Elaine

Marg Cooper

Meredith Parish Priest, Father Herman, reiterated in his homily that the people are the church and not the building. With the crowd that flocked to Elaine on Sunday, March 17 it was evident that there are many people who cherish their ties with Elaine and with St Patrick's Church at Elaine, which is soon to be sold.

One in attendance was Kath McKenzie who is the oldest parishioner to still live at Elaine. Kathy tells that her mother and father and their nine children often walked three miles from their farm on Mt Doran Road to church, or came in the horse and gig.

She was christened at St Patrick's, had her first communion at St Patrick's and tells that if you didn't get to church early you had to stand up. Kath and her sister Nola agreed that it is a "damn shame" that the church is to be sold.

The present church building at Elaine was built by Smith Bros. It is a weatherboard building on brick foundations and features four feet of Kauri round the walls. The building was opened on Sunday, November 28, 1909 by the Very Rev Dean Phelan, VG. It is interesting that there have only been 12 weddings in the "new" church in over 100 years. The original church building was moved to the Lewis farm.

Brian Dunne welcomed the crowd on March 17. He said

the church was a major part of his family's life and that he once travelled with Father McCarthy in his new Lagonda car. Brian was scared because he went so fast. The priest commented that "God would look after them!"

Tom Cleary recalled during his childhood years, when he lived in Elaine, St Patrick's Church was a significant social aspect of their lives. Times were less complicated and the church was the meeting place to fraternize with friends as well as a place of worship.

He also remembered Father McCarthy as one of the most delightful and gentle men that he has ever encountered. He enjoyed fishing, euchre, flash cars, a quiet beer and the Geelong Football Club. He often visited the Cleary's home.

A slide show of photos of people of the church aroused much interest as congregation members recognized themselves and others as youngsters at their first communion, at weddings or at other events.

Several families have been associated with the Catholic Church for many generations including Ryans, Clearys, O'Briens, Dunnes and McKenzies.

Kevin Ryan thanked all the people who had organized the service and afternoon tea and thanked the crowd for coming. A delicious afternoon tea was served in the Elaine Hall and the crowd mingled and enjoyed catching up.

## Paddocks Group Plan the Year Ahead

Jim Elvey

The Meredith Police Paddocks Support Group met last month to review its strategic plan and resolve action for the year ahead.

One of the outcomes was to decide on a master pathway network and determine that future pathways will generally be unconstructed "bush paths" to better integrate with the environment. It will also avoid extending paths through the creek valley area to minimise visitor impact on wildlife. Instead, it will eventually develop a perimeter path that will offer a challenging walk\* and extensive views over the whole area.

The meeting also agreed on plans for weed control, fire hazard abatement, (including CFA managed burn-offs) revegetation, historical research, publicity and community engagement, information signs, revegetation, a new web site and a wetlands development.

For more information, or to join the Support Group, contact Jim Elvey on 5286 1273

*\*There is already a well constructed and gently graded path that offers a great view of the dramatic valley cut through the site. Take advantage of the mild autumn weather to get to know it.*



### Coco Monkey Cafe

### Open Microphone & musical talent night

**Thursday 11th of April @ 6:30 pm**, the  
Coco Monkey Cafe will have its first of  
many open Mic and Musical Talent Nights.

Anyone wishing to have the opportunity to play an  
instrument, sing a song or a combination of both, is  
welcome to sign up.



We are encouraging anyone,  
any age, to come and share their  
passion for music with us.



## Horses with a View

Marg Cooper

It was spectacular! It was not scary! It was good! It rained the whole time! Local resident, Jimmy Connell, has just returned from 11 days in Sydney where, as one of a group of about 200 people who go to the Inter Dominion every year he attended the Inter Dominion Harness Racing Grand Final on Sunday March 3.

Between horse races, the visitors saw the sights including boating up the Hawkesbury River, ferrying across the Sydney Harbour, visiting the Don Bradman Oval at Bowral and climbing the bridge.

The group of about 20 that attempted the bridge climb were provided with waterproof jackets because it was raining, and earphones so they could hear what the guide told them. They received a certificate and had their photo taken in the most spectacular scenery anywhere.

It started in 1974 for Jim when he went with a group from Ballarat to Perth for the Inter Dominion and thought it was a good way to have a holiday.

He has just enjoyed his 39th trip, has been to every state of Australia and to New Zealand 8 times.

Sometimes he even wins some money on the races!



Jim Connell on the top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge

## Country Picnic

Marg Cooper

The Art Group enjoyed a country picnic banquet at "The Country Emporium" on Saturday March 2 to celebrate Izy's birthday. This was the first food event at the new venue that Robert and Andrew have hosted at what locals call *Fay's shop* at 30 Staughton Street.

It was totally derelict when they bought it in 2011 but they have worked tirelessly to re-construct and repair a building that consisted of rotten timber, rotted foundations, ivy holding the west wall up, rusted iron and warped windows. The result is an elegant space presented with style and panache!

While digging to form a garden they discovered cement paving and then moved a foot of loam from this area to reveal a courtyard. A giant oak tree, a big pear tree, an apple tree and an underground tank in the backyard are now surrounded by green lawns, topiaried Lilly Pilly's in apple boxes, box hedges and a bed of succulents. A fountain is also planned for their this green oasis and proposed garden café/wine bar.

The Art Group sat at a long table in the centre of the garden on newly upholstered elegant chairs. The table settings, the crockery, cutlery, glasses and service made the group think that they were in Italy rather than rural Meredith. The food was plentiful and delicious although it was admitted that the kitchen had been renamed Fawltly Towers.

Robert Varela and Andrew Nash have not quite finished the resurrection of the building, have not yet installed a licensed kitchen and have not got regular staff. And they had not brought their cutlery until the night before. But because the Art Group was so keen to come, they got special permissions and worked extra long hours to prepare for the country picnic.

And it was delightful!



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# Welcome to MEREDITH PRIMARY SCHOOL



## **Where did the first term go? It's been a very busy one-but very enjoyable. Here are some of the highlights**

The year 3 to 6 children had a great time at the *Earth Ed Centre at Mt Clear Secondary College*. The students took part in range of activities including a rock class, where they learnt about various rocks culminating in a **"Rocklympics"** where they had great fun working in teams. They also completed a fossil activity. The resources at the Earth Ed Centre are outstanding and this whole experience, including travel, was fully subsidised by the college. One of the educators from the centre visited the school prior to the excursion to prepare the students for the day.

IMAGE OMITTED FROM ONLINE VERSION

IMAGE OMITTED FROM ONLINE VERSION

For the second year in a row we took out the *district athletics title*. Even though we had some excellent individual performances, *Amy Canavan winning the 11 year girls champion*, the key to winning these standardized events is having consistent & good performances from all students. Every time a student competes in an event they have the chance of scoring 1, 2 or 3 points. The total point score is then divided by the amount of competitors each school sends to ensure schools with larger enrolments **don't have an unfair advantage. We had many students scoring 2's and 3's in each age group giving us a higher overall score.** It was terrific to see all students really putting in and wherever possible supporting not only Meredith students but encouraging students from other schools.

The last week was also a very busy one with an open day for parents and the community, Easter activities, Lego Animation Filmfest, grade cafes and our lap-a-thon/cross country day that ended with a healthy lunch. It was terrific to see the large number of parents and grandparents who attended the *Open afternoon* on Tuesday. The students were very keen to show off what they have been doing in the term and it was also a terrific opportunity to see the students at work. We also had a very large gathering of parents and grandparents again on the last day for the *lap-a-thon/cross country day* and everyone had the opportunity to have a healthy lunch provided by our great Parent and Friends Association. **We also had some "extra big kids" battling it out on the downball courts!**

IMAGE OMITTED FROM ONLINE VERSION

## Vale Louis William McCormack

*Marg Cooper*

Lou McCormack b. 1926 was the 3<sup>rd</sup> youngest of the seven children of William and Margaret McCormack of Gnarwarre. He left school at 14 years, worked with his father and shored sheep, locally and at distant locations. He played football and was a pretty good dancer.

He married Margaret Malone of Modewarre and 5 children were born to them while they lived at Gnarwarre: Leonie, Carmel, Eileen, Gavin and Damian. After 12 years they moved to Moriac to manage a property. Here they had two more children, Marita and Noelene. The family experienced drought and the bushfires of 1968 when the house was saved only because of a wind change.

The farm, called "Flaxbourne", was sold and they moved to Gheringhap where Lou managed a farm on the Moorabool River. Many a year the river flooded over the river flats sown with lucerne which was welcome, but now and again the floods threatened the house and outbuildings.

After 12 years there the family moved to Meredith. Lou took up work around the district including shearing for Osbornes, Kents, Nolans and Marshalls. Lou and Margaret found the Meredith Community to be welcoming and supportive. The younger daughters played tennis and Margaret and Lou attended St Joseph's Catholic Church.

They placed great importance on Christian values, family, education and encouraged a strong work ethic.

In 1998 Margaret and Lou moved to Geelong, finally settling in Grovedale. They were involved in the Nazareth Church Community and Grovedale Senior Citizens Club. Lou always loved to cook; in particular his own bread and the Sunday roast.

Keeping up with the news and politics and reading the paper was important, as was having his family visit and the Geelong Football Team.

Lou had 86 happy years and was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and will be greatly missed by them all.

## Vale Alvie Lavinia Wiseman

*Marg Cooper*

Alvie died on February 18, 2013 and was buried in Meredith Cemetery on the morning of Monday February 25. A service to celebrate her life was held at the Barrabool Hills Centre. Alvie was the wife of William (Bill) Wiseman, mother of Geoff, Ross and Rhonda, mother-in-law of Sandi, Linda and Robert, grandmother of Trent, Liam, Carissa, Cara, Adam, Sam, Emma and Hannah and great grandmother to Arrabella, Poppy and Lilly.

Emma and Sam, on behalf of their mother Rhonda said Alvie was always a caring and supportive mother who loved her family. She was always interested in the activities, friends and travels of her extended family, kept

in touch by mail and phone and was proud of them all.

Geoff and Ross said Alvie worked hard for her family, cooking for them until a few weeks before her death. She saved wherever she could which sometimes caused some embarrassment. Of the 1,000 boys at West Tech, they were the only ones with hand knitted jumpers!

Jack Connell said Alvie milked a cow and separated the milk to get the cream to make butter. Alvie would give the handle of the separator, which was in the wash house out the back, a few brisk turns and then run away to do another job and be back to turn again before it stopped. She repeated this many times during the separating. He wondered how she didn't get thick and thin cream! (Alvie was probably the last person in Meredith to milk a house cow.) Marg Cooper told that Alvie adopted her and Jeff after Jeff bought the cartage business from Wisemans in 1966.

He started driving the trucks but nothing much else changed. Alvie's house was still headquarters of the business, Alvie took the phone calls and often organized loads, times etc with the clients. The trucks were still parked on Wiseman land around Meredith, Alvie recorded the jobs in a ledger book and helped Jeff send out the accounts and she fed him and Marg and often ordered him to have a rest before the next job. We were always grateful for her help and care.

Joan Taylor said Alvie had been a loyal and enthusiastic member of CWA since its inception in Meredith in 1946. She always brought a bottle of milk to meetings, homemade scones or apple slice and also attended the craft group regularly. Alvie was unique! She was "down to earth", "salt of the earth" with an immense commitment and energy to do her work.

A few weeks before she died when she was battling with her health, she said "she was alright while she was in the kitchen" and that she "hated sitting around doing nothing"!



*Alvie with her grandson Adam, who plays for South Barwon, and his daughter Poppy. Alvie attended all Adam's matches.*



## **Bannockburn Pharmacy Newsletter**

**Proprietors: Scott Wilkes & Damian Bennett**

6 High Street  
Bannockburn VIC 3331  
Phone: 5281 1519

### **Naturopath now available in-store**

We are very excited to welcome Leiset Kersten to our Pharmacy. Leiset is a fully qualified Naturopath & she will be working every Thursday in our Pharmacy starting on Thursday 11th April. She will be available to answer any questions you have about natural medicines every Thursday and will also be available for a private 1-on-1 consultations if you would prefer to discuss any health concerns in more detail. We encourage anyone who like to know more about vitamins and supplements to come in and speak with Leiset.

### **Congratulations Tracey!!!**

I would like to congratulate Tracey, and her husband Simon, on the safe arrival of Ellie Matilda. Ellie was born on the 18th March and weighed 7lb 14oz.

### **Welcome Cindy!!**

I would like to extend a welcome to Cindy McGregor to our team. Cindy is a Pharmacist and will be working at the Pharmacy every Monday, Tuesday and Friday. Cindy previously worked at Priceline in Corio so we would like to welcome Cindy to our Pharmacy.

### **Farewell Patricia**

I would extend a farewell and thank you to Patricia Riccardi. Patricia has been working Saturday mornings at the Pharmacy for many years and she has left us to start up a new business venture in Bannockburn. We are very excited for her! Patricia will be owning and running le Due Sorrell Café in High Street at the new car wash site. We wish Patricia all the best and tremendous success in her new café!!

### **Mother's Day - Sunday 11th May**

Don't forget Mother's Day is on **Sunday 11th May**. We have lots of gifts for our special mums ranging from perfumes, to handbags through to Glasshouse Candles/Diffusers. Don't forget Dad's that we offer FREE gift wrapping so you can take credit for the beautifully wrapped gift that is given!!

### **Pet Care Products**

We are pleased to announce that we now stock pet care products for your cats & dogs. The brands we stock are: Advocate, Advantage, Frontline Plus, Heartgard, Drontal, Rapigel, Profender, Sashas Blend, Capstar, Revolution & Aloveen. Don't forget you can use your Chemmart Rewards card when purchasing these products?

### **Pharmacy Premises**

You may have heard we have leased a shop down at the new car wash site. This is correct but the Pharmacy won't be moving down there like some people think. We will eventually move our existing Pharmacy within the new shopping centre development to bigger premises. This shop at the car wash will remain vacant until we decide what to put into these premises.

### **Pharmacy Features:**

Natio  
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Sukin Organic Products  
Burt's Bees  
Nude by Nature  
Diabetes Australia Agency  
Kate Morgan Weight Loss Centre  
Giftware for all ages  
Digital Photo printing  
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Darrell Lea Chocolates  
Baby section  
Vitamins  
Webster-paks  
Home Medicine Reviews  
Medicare Access Point  
Free gift wrapping  
International Protein  
BYS Cosmetics  
Fragrances  
SMS prescription reminder service

### **Opening Hours:**

Monday: **8.30am-6:00pm**  
Tuesday: **8.30am-6:00pm**  
Wednesday: **8.30am-6:00pm**  
Thursday: **8.30am-6:00pm**  
Friday: **8.30am-6:00pm**  
Saturday: **8.30am-1:00pm**  
Sunday: **Closed**  
Public Holiday's: **Closed**

**In-store Naturopath available Thursday's 10:00am – 5:00pm (starting 11<sup>th</sup> April)**

# MEREDITH COMMUNITY CENTRE, INC.

## AUTUMN PROGRAM ~ 2013

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### COMPUTERS

#### \*FLEXI COMPUTERS

Date: Mon. April 29th–June 17th  
 Time: 12:30-3pm (7 weeks)  
 Cost: \$55(Tuition \$22/resource \$33)

#### \*COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

Date: Mon. April 29th–June 3rd  
 Time: 9:30-12.00pm (6 weeks)  
 Cost: \$55(Tuition \$22/resource \$33)

#### \*MYOB FOR BUSINESS INTRO

Date: Wed. May 1st– June 5th  
 Time: 6.30-9pm 6 weeks  
 Cost: \$115

#### \*INTRO TO PAYROLL

Date: Wed June 12th 1 week only  
 Time: 6.30-9pm  
 Cost: \$25

#### GET THAT JOB

Date: Mon April 29th- June 17th  
 Time: 10-12.30pm  
 Cost: \$55(Tuition \$22/resource \$33)

#### \*CREATE A WEB SITE

Date: Wed June 12th  
 Time: 1-3pm  
 Cost: \$25

#### \*IPADS BASICS FOR SENIORS

Dates: Thurs May 1st June 5th  
 Time: 1-3pm  
 Cost: \$55(Tuition \$22/resource \$33)

• **These courses are free for eligible participants under the Digital enterprise program. Please see our website for details.**

### BANNOCKBURN CLASSES

#### STAR SURPRISE QUILT

Dates: Wed May 29th  
 Time: 10-3pm  
 Cost: \$50 collect mats list  
 Venue: Bannockburn Hub

#### TAI CHI FOR INNER HEALTH

Date: Thurs April 18th-June 27th  
**9.30am-10.30am**  
 Cost: \$110 for 10 weeks  
 Venue: Bannockburn Hub

#### TAI CHI FOR INNER HEALTH

Date: Tue Apr 23rd-June 25th  
**6-30-7.30pm**  
 Cost: \$110 for 10 weeks  
 Venue: Bannockburn Hub

### Bookings for classes essential.



### CRAFT & HOBBY

#### LABYRINTH MAZE QUILT

Date: Thurs May 23rd  
 Time: 10-3pm  
 Cost: \$35 Collect mat. List

#### SCONE MAKING

Dates: Wed May 15th  
 Time: 9.30-11.30am  
 Cost: \$15 incl materials

#### COLOUR, CLOTHES & STYLE

Date: Thurs June 6th 7-9pm  
 Thurs June 20th 10-12pm  
 Cost: \$12

#### CREATIVE PAINTING—FOLK ART

Date: Fri. Apr 19th-June 28th  
 Time: 9.30-11.30am  
 Cost: \$10 per class

### \*\*NEW\*NEW\*NEW\*\*

#### WINTER BREAD AND SOUP

Dates: Mon May 6th & 13th  
 Time: 9-12pm (2 sessions)  
 Cost: \$10 incl. ingredients

#### THE ART OF COLOUR

Dates: Mon May 20th  
 Time: 9.30-12.30pm  
 Cost: \$40 Incl materials

#### ABC OPEN WORKSHOP: EDIT YOUR PHOTOS

Dates: Wed June 19th  
 Time: 1-3pm  
 Cost: FREE  
 Learn how to edit, adjust, resize and filter your photos using a free photo editing program. Come along to this free workshop and find out how you can share your photos with ABC Open.

#### CAMERA HANDS ON

Dates: Sat May 4th-May 25th  
 Time: 10-12pm 4 weeks  
 Cost: \$50

### HEALTH & WELLBEING

#### AUSTRALIAN HEARING

Date: Mon April 29th  
 Time: 11-3pm  
 Cost: FREE  
 Bookings are essential for this free hearing assessment from one of the largest hearing services in Australia.

#### AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST

MORNING TEA  
 Thur 23rd May from 10am.  
 At Meredith Community Centre

#### GROUP PERSONAL TRAINING

Date: Fri Apr 19th–June 28th  
 Time: 2-3pm  
 Cost: \$88–11weeks /\$10 casual

#### ADVANCED TAI CHI

Date: Tue Apr 23rd-June 25th  
 Time: 11.30-12.30pm 10 weeks  
 Cost: \$85

#### TAI CHI FOR BEGINNERS

Date: Tue Apr 23rd-June 25th  
 Time: 9.30-10.30am 10 weeks  
 Cost: \$85

#### PRACTICAL WAYS TO RELAX

Tutor: Jo Tasic  
 Date: Wed April 24th-June 26th  
 Time: 10-11am  
 Cost: \$125 (10 weeks)

#### SELF DEFENSE FOR WOMEN

Date: Mon April 29th-June 3rd  
 Time: 7-9pm  
 Cost: \$150 Concession \$120  
 6 classes incl 1st one FREE

### TRAINING COURSES

#### CPR AND/OR FIRST AID L 2 (HLTFA301B)

Dates: TBA  
 These practical certificate courses fulfils the requirements of those needing this qualification. Workbook exercises need to be completed before practical part of class.

#### ANAPHYLAXIS (22099VIC)

Dates: TBA  
 This cert course deals with treating adults/children with severe allergic reactions. Please call with expressions of interest to the Centre on 52 861 348



## Mollie's

COLUMN

### The Final Hours

Of all the disagreeable things I put my parents through in my teens, I think my short-lived passion for performing arts was the worst. It only lasted three years, till I realised that while being on stage was a lot of fun, it certainly wasn't going to pay any bills. But they were three years of sleep I think my parents are still trying to catch up on. The family Tarago turned in to a taxi as I was ferried to and from an endless stream of rehearsals, costume fittings, shows and closing night parties. They'd sit, bleary-eyed and shivering, in the school car park at midnight, waiting for me to come skipping blithely out of the auditorium with my dramatically-inclined pals. They dealt with jitters, tantrums and tears, and sat smilingly through all my productions, even the agonisingly ridiculous ones. But what I really loved them for was coming, many times without complaint, to my school's Easter play, *The Final Hours*.

"If I remember rightly, there was also an awful lot of eyelash fluttering at the older boys who played the roman centurions"

My family isn't religious, so attending a traditional, solemn Easter play (complete with hymns blared through a loud speaker) was never exactly going to be a rollicking good time. It was outdoors, late at night, in the freezing Ballarat autumn. Icy winds whipped through Mt Clear and roared around the old concrete school buildings, chilling the audience through their thick coats and beanies and freezing us, in our cotton robes and sandals, to the bone. We'd all shiver in frozen sympathy when the time came for the boy playing the part of Jesus to drop his tattered, bloodstained robe and be hoisted up on to the cross in his loincloth, his breath foggy in the night air.

The audience marvelled at our quiet reverence as we moved from station to station, but behind the scenes was quite a different matter. We might have been dressed up as saints and apostles, but underneath it all we were still 16 and 17 year olds. As soon as we were out of sight, we'd giggle, shriek and romp our way to the next scene, huddling together for warmth and chattering away manically until the signal was given to slip silently in to our next tableau, composed and serene. If I remember rightly, there was also an awful lot of eyelash fluttering at the older boys who played the roman centurions – we gave 'passion play' a whole new meaning.

I went back to my old school last month, to see a new generation of students act out this age-old story. Easter doesn't have a spiritual or religious meaning for me, but watching the play as an adult was a moving experience. I felt hot tears splash down my cold cheeks at the sight of a mother holding the still, broken body of her son. I felt wonder at the lights shining on glittering gum leaves in the steady rain, and voices echoing across the night. I smiled when we rounded a corner and saw the cast so peaceful and still, when just a moment before I'm sure they'd been hugging and giggling. Watching *The Final Hours* again gave my Easter a meaning – a meaning of peace, and the sheer joy of laughing, crying and living.

# A.D.F.

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# Kindred matters



Judith Emond, Family Therapist

## Managing Loneliness

I assist many adults and young people who are lonely and are seeking out friendships, love, someone to share their life with or simply desiring more social interaction. Not having friends, family connections, a partner, access to employment, transport or social and recreational activities can damage our soul. *"No man is an Island"* Each of us need some level of companionship in our lives to survive.

Loneliness can fill us with a sense of fear and doom. We may feel lonely at times for a number of reasons, such as, being single, living alone, being isolated from family and friends, or when we spend long periods of time by ourselves. During such times it is common to become overwhelmed, distressed and scared about being alone. Most people struggle to cope on their own if they do not know how to enjoy their own company.

Enjoying your own company and knowing how to fill in spare time is the first step to managing loneliness. Once you have found a way to *'play happily on your own'* it becomes much easier. The next step is to then reach out and seek the company of others (including animals).

Here are some tips to overcome feeling lonely;

- Discover how to occupy your time when alone, recall those times when you were a child and could *'play happily on your own'* I suggest that you let your imagination run wild and see where it leads you!
- Pets provide companionship, love and enjoyment. It is well known that pets can be more comforting and understanding towards us than we are with each other.
- Reach out to others and embrace opportunities to socialise. Remember we are social animals. Visit the local Meredith Community Centre and drop in for a cuppa, try out an activity on offer or perhaps consider becoming a volunteer or member of an interest group. (See *"Connect"* on page 2 - Ed.)
- Keep in contact with friends and family or seek out companionship through facebook, skype, and internet social sites. Those not comfortable with this level of technology may wish to pick up the phone or write a letter.
- Place yourself *'amongst the pigeons'* so to speak. Visit places where it is not unusual to see other people by themselves. For example, go to a busy café and blend in with the crowd, you will not be the only patron dining alone but you will feel the company of others vicariously.

Lastly, I'll share a practical strategy my grandmother used to feel less alone. She tuned into talk back radio on lonely nights and claimed that it was the best company ever!

Resources: <http://au.reachout.com/All-about-loneliness>

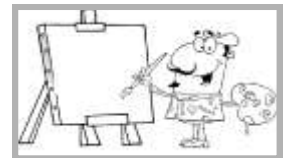
Judy

## A Moving Memorial (from Page 1)

Barry Pearce after the RSL Hall had been donated for use by the Meredith Angling Club. The Meredith RSL Sub-Branch is almost defunct and exists only to conduct the annual ANZAC Service.

Barry was aware that the Memorial Hall was in fact a memorial in the true sense as it contains Honour Boards to honour members of the Meredith community who had served in defence of their country and was a natural setting for the Cenotaph. He successfully applied for a grant for the relocation of the Cenotaph but sadly did not survive to see his project achieve fruition.

Thanks are extended to the Meredith Memorial Hall Committee who accepted the role as auspice for the management of the Grant.



## Festival Gallery

Marg Cooper

A showcase of works by local artists was featured in the "Top Shop" in Meredith over the Labour Day long weekend with a banner hung across the front of the shop proclaiming the building to be the "Festival Gallery".

Local artists invited to display some of their works included Marion East, Louise Corral, Marisa Corral, Amanda Hyatt, Roz Spierings, Helen Peppard, Pam Klaassen, Marg Cooper, Eliza Emmlin & Wendy Madigan.

The art works were hung on display panels and the abundance of natural light allowed them to be seen at their best. The works included a wide variety of styles and media. The largest piece was a two panel, modern oil painting of the bush. There were also portraits in pastel, animals portrayed perfectly, abstract etchings on bark, impressionistic watercolours and some mixed media, bright works on canvas.

Meredith's former Annual Art Show, held in conjunction with the now defunct Country Music Festival, was of a high standard. Regretting its demise, Wendy said she wished to help some of the many local artists to display their works and chose the long weekend thinking that the gallery might be an appropriate adjunct to the Golden Plains Music Festival.

She manned the gallery over the weekend and enjoyed meeting the people who visited and overwhelmingly expressed their support for the project. She also enjoyed the art works, finding the more she looked at them, the more she liked them.

Marion East thanked Wendy for having the idea for the gallery and following it through, congratulating her on the professional way that it was organized and ran. All participating artists were very appreciative.

## MEREDITH RURAL FIRE BRIGADE



### CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

Name?

Robert Cooke

How many years have you lived in Meredith?

65 Years

How many years have you been in the CFA?

55 Years

What made you join the CFA?

To help one another in times of need as many hands make light work

What is your most memorable CFA moment?

At a local burn off a certain member had a few heated words to exchange when was asked to do something different, his reply

**"this is how we have always done it" and stormed off.....The event still creates laughter to this day amongst brigade members**

What would you like to see happen for the Meredith Fire Brigade in the future?

More involvement from the community as many hands make light work, especially at fires.



Name?

Kevin Parkinson

How many years have you lived in Meredith?

47 Years

How many years have you been in the CFA?

Around 60 Years

What made you join the CFA?

Threat of fire in the area was always high so it was the done thing **to do for the community...**

What is your most memorable CFA moment?

Pioneer Ridge fire in 1982 as Captain having responsibility for the brigade, we had some very hairy moments. Dutchie was invaluable to me with his wealth of knowledge of the area. Local knowledge is important above all else.

What would you like to see happen for the Meredith Fire Brigade in the future?

More involvement from the members of the community.



Meredith Tanker 2 carries a crew of three and 1500 Litres of water. It is a small and versatile 4x4 suited to bush areas. Although it isn't well suited to the Meredith area, when we bought it in 2003, it was all the brigade could afford. We are fortunate to be replacing it this year with a much larger and more capable tanker as described in the previous newsletter and this tanker will be given to another brigade.

#### WE NEED YOUR HELP.....

The Meredith Fire Brigade is seeking information, photographs, memorabilia, past records or newspaper cuttings related to the Brigade or of fires in the surrounding district.

We are planning to celebrate our centenary later in the year.

Please forward information to Doug McFarlane.

Phone: 52 861 283 or Email: faymcs@bigpond.com

## Pitch in Some Hay to Help Dereel Farmers

(from media release)

In the aftermath of the Dereel bushfire, which razed 16 houses and burned through 1,300 hectares, help is being sought by way of donations of hay to feed remaining livestock.

Member for Western Victoria, Simon Ramsay MP, who toured the site with Victorian Premier, Denis Napthine, urged farmers with excess hay, be it a single bale or many, "...to consider donating it to the Dereel farmers who now face real hardship." *Hay donations can be delivered to the Dereel CFA site or contact Jill Evans at Golden Plains Shire on 0427 633 255.*



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## Funeral Planning

Information, Options & Advice



Providing information and practical advice, Alyson Burchell is available for a free appointment at the Bannockburn Family Services Centre on the last Wednesday of each month.

*...for a life worth celebrating.*

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"Last night me and my girlfriend watched three DVDs back to back. Luckily I was the one facing the telly." – Tim Vine

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Next Shoot: Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2013  
Location: **"BALLARK"**  
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Nominations: 10.30am  
Event Start: 11.00am  
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Dr Alexandra Pearce BVSc (Hons), MPhil has worked in both mixed and equine practices in Victoria and as an Intern in Equine Medicine and Surgery at the Equine Centre in Werribee. Alexandra is an authorised Australian Stud Book veterinarian.

Contact: Dr Simon Pearce on 0421 617 238 or Dr Alexandra Pearce on 0437 467 097

## Phascogale vs Possum

Kerry Thomson

The phascogale in the photograph was in its natural habitat in the bush when my dogs (on lead) and I disturbed it at the base of this tree stump. It raced up the stump only to be greeted by the resident possum who took umbrage and whacked at it with its paw. After being beaten down and racing back up several times and trying the hollow as well, the phascogale finally gave up and jumped about 6 feet to a neighbouring tree. It was an incredible sight to witness and fortunately my photographs were successful.



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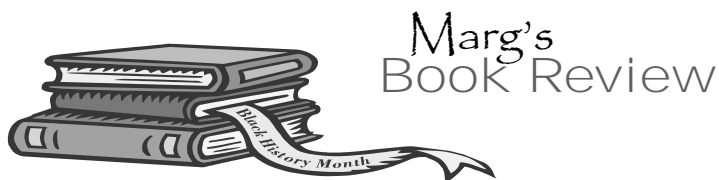
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### “The Book Thief” by Markus Zusak

The action of the story takes place in Germany between 1939 and 1943 and begins with Liesel Meminger and her brother Werner being taken by train by their mother to a foster family in another town.

Her brother dies and is buried beside the train. By her brother's graveside Liesel picks up an object that is partially buried in the snow. It is The Gravedigger's Handbook, left there by accident.

It is her first act of *theft* and it changes her life.

Against the backdrop of the emerging “Holocaust”, Liesel begins a love affair with books and words. Her kind, accordion playing foster father teaches her to read at night after she wakes from her nightmares.

Soon she steals some books from Nazi book-burnings, the Mayor's wife's library and wherever there are books to be found.

The Hubermanns, her foster family, hide a Jewish fist-fighter, Max Vandenburg, in their basement. He creates books for Liesel using house paint on pages from Hitler's Memoir “Mein Kampf”.

She reads to Max in the basement, she reads to terrified neighbours in the air raid shelter and watching Liesel silently read becomes a balm for Ilsa Hermann, the Mayor's wife, whose library has been dead for many years.

The narrator of the story is “Death” or the *grim reaper* who collects the souls. He is gentle and caring and tells that he travels the globe, handing souls to the conveyor belt of eternity.

He carried children in his arms, he loosened a person's soul and carried it gently out, he saw humans at their best and worst. He envied humans because they died, but noting war is death's best friend. At times he carried them ...*in his fingers like a suitcase*.

When Liesel loses faith in the power of words after Max is marched to Dachau, Ilsa brings an empty book for Liesel to fill with her own story.

The last act of thievery in the novel is “Death” taking Liesel's recorded story and carrying it through time to present it to the reader.

The book celebrates the power of language and the pleasure of literature and gives a history of ordinary people and their everyday experiences in Germany under the Third Reich.

*The book for discussion in March is “Charles Dickens, A Life” by Claire Tomalin.*

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## Seniors Blossom at Flower & Garden Show

*Marg Cooper*

A full bus of seniors left Meredith on a Thursday last month for the Garden Show at the Exhibition Buildings in Melbourne. We had all been looking forward to this trip for some time. Our volunteer driver Alan Beachly soon got us to Melbourne and found parking a few metres from the entrance. Our group set out and agreed to meet back at the bus at 3 pm. We wandered around the site of approximately 10 acres and saw some magnificent and some quirky displays and gardens. The blooms, flowers and greenery were a sight to see and a far cry from our gardens at Meredith at this time of the year.

We had a quick stop for lunch and then continued to wander about trying to see everything that was there. The weather was getting worse by the minute, the wind was getting stronger and it was becoming very unpleasant so reluctantly we boarded the bus and headed home via the Bolte Bridge and over the Westgate Bridge. This afforded us great views of Port Phillip Bay and the Queen Mary 2 in port at Docklands. Twenty five weary and footsore Seniors arrived back at around 5 pm, clutching their purchases from the show.

Thanks to Alan our driver for transporting us safely especially in such severe weather conditions.



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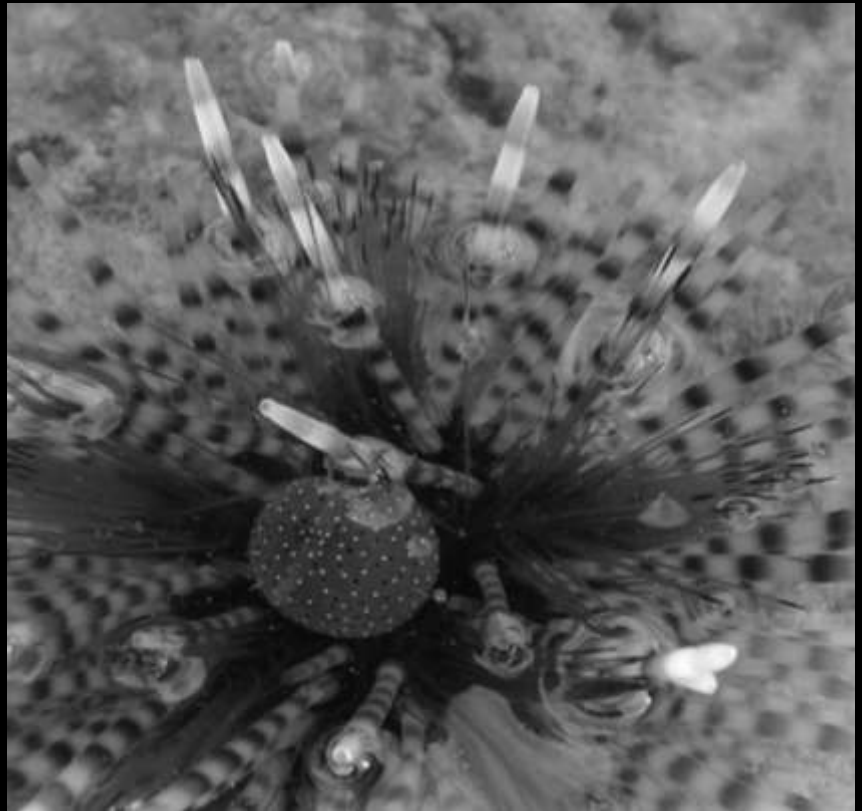
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To celebrate the fun and enjoyment of photography, we will publish a selected photo each month. If you have a funny, beautiful or interesting photo, send it in with the photographer's name. High res jpeg's preferred. Or we scan your prints, preferably while you wait, as we can't otherwise guarantee their safe return. Also, keep in mind, your photo will be reproduced in greyscale, so contrast will be important. See page 2 for contact details.

pic of the month



Sea Anemone, West Timor

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## Catching the Fungi Bug

Alison Pouliot

Foraging for fungi is becoming ever more popular in Australia. The last few decades have seen the spawning of various fungi interest groups, a succession of field guides and the formation of Fungimap ([www.fungimap.org.au](http://www.fungimap.org.au)).

The central highlands are a hotspot for the diversity of fungi. Hundreds of species have been documented in the region and hundreds, possibly thousands more are likely to exist. These include the familiar mushroom to the more bizarre forms of those shaped like cups, clubs, corals, jellies and lattice-balls.

Although many of us only become aware of fungi during the autumn when mushrooms push through the soil, fungi are conducting their extremely important business throughout the year, in the unseen realms of the sub-terrain. Here in the underground they play an incredibly important role in maintaining the health of ecosystems through their associations with plants and by decomposing organic matter. They also make an autumn stroll through the forest more enjoyable with their bright colours and interesting forms.

If you enjoy foraging for edible species, the rule is simple: never eat a wild fungus unless you are absolutely certain of its correct identification. If you're interested in identifying fungi, Wombat Forestcare has produced a new guide – 'Fungi of the Wombat Forest and Macedon Ranges'. The guide contains colour photographs of 108 of the more familiar local species. It will be launched on Thursday 18 April at 7pm at the Trentham Neighbourhood House followed by a seminar about local fungi by ecologist, Alison Pouliot. Refreshments will be provided and entry is by gold coin donation. Bookings are essential: [info@wombatforestcare.org.au](mailto:info@wombatforestcare.org.au). Or if you'd like to partake in a fungi foray, workshop or feast, the

autumn fungi workshops program can be found at [www.alisonpouliot.com](http://www.alisonpouliot.com)

*For details of the many fungi workshops and lectures in the district over April and May, follow the Current Projects/Workshops links at [alisonpouliot.com](http://alisonpouliot.com). And while you are there, enjoy a selection of Alison's delightful fungi photographs like the samples right and below.*



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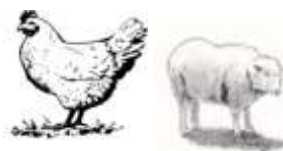
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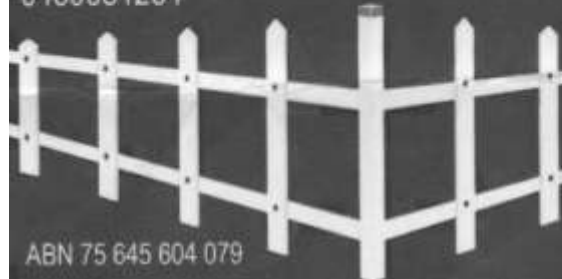
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## Shade, Our (Old) Blue Dog

*The Mitchell's*

Meet Shade or *Shadey*, owned by the Mitchells for a very, very long time. She came to us at about two years old. She is a blue heeler and has been superbly loyal and protective. We have worn out many tennis rackets, balls of all sorts, sticks and anything else that could be thrown, chucked or kicked. *They* say heelers live to be maybe 12 years of age. *They* had no idea! *We* thought she might slow and settle down when she was 8 or 10 or 12 years old, but that wasn't the case.

It's only been in the last year or so, that our girl has slowed down. Thankfully she doesn't hear the thunder and gunshots anymore and run away.

Her appetite has never failed, her eyesight is still good and she bounces around for a minute until she remembers *Oops, I'm not 5 years old anymore.*

Not bad for our bluey dog, who is 20 years old (Is that 140 in human years??). We think she deserves a discount on her dog registration, don't you?

Well done Shadey.



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## it's History

### Meredith History Interest Group

#### "Glenetive"

The Argus newspaper reported on April 18, 1934 that Mr AD Vanrenen sold 2,200 acres with all stock and plant to Mr AR Bailey, son of the late Mr N Bailey of "Terrinallum" Station. It stated the station had been in the possession of the Vanrenen family for 65 years or since 1869.

The Vanrenen family have a complex, interesting and exciting history in South Africa, India and Australia. Henry Pohlman Vanrenen came to Australia from South Africa in 1852 to be a policeman. He went to the goldfields instead and then drove coaches or supply wagons between Geelong and Ballarat.

In 1857 he married Mary Ann Parsons of Lethbridge. Her father Edward William Parsons had the Victoria Hotel in Lethbridge and had a lease on 320 acres of land at Bamganie, Allotment 1, Section A. A note tells that "Parsons left Lethbridge for Meredith where he is carrying on as a bootmaker".

Henry Vanrenen bought "Lucknow" station in Gippsland and a receipt of August 5, 1854 proves that he was already dealing in horses.

He also took up land at Bamganie and the land that had been taken up by Edward Parsons, which adjoined his land on the west, was transferred to Henry Vanrenen in 1874.

A small map of the areas drawn in 1883 to show details of the fencing being constructed by William Henderson for Henry Vanrenen shows the spot where "I am building the house here, 20 chains from the fence".

He bought 152 acres from John Cruickshank in 1881, which adjoined his land on the east boundary, paying £2/7/6 per acre. J Sutherland had been leasing this land and John Cruickshank was living in New

Zealand.

He also bought part of Mrs McKay's land, being 31 acres for £96/12/- and in 1882 he bought "Avoca Forest" Station at Logan out of St Arnaud.

Henry Vanrenen bred remounts for the Army in India and family tell that at one time he owned 6,000 mares.

He often travelled overseas and in August 1881 he employed John McColl to "look after the property to the best of his ability" and paid him £30 per annum. The agreement expired after shearing in 1883.

Mary Ann Vanrenen died while he was in India in 1867 and was buried at Lethbridge. Henry Vanrenen married Catherine Short and they had 6 children. Henry Pohlman Vanrenen died in 1907 at St Arnaud



*The last load of "Glenetive" wool clip to be transported in 1925 by J Musgrove's team.*

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aged 73 years.

His sons Henry Beaugard Vanrenen b 1884 and Adrian Deneys Vanrenen b 1875 took over the "Avoca Forest" property but in 1922 AD Vanrenen sold his share to purchase "Glenetive" at Bamganie which adjoined "Leigh Park" a property acquired by HP Vanrenen in 1871.

When Adrian Vanrenen sold "Glenetive" to Bob Bailey in 1934 it consisted of 2,172 acres and another 500 acres of adjoining land was leased for £100 per year.


There had been quite a buy up of land by Vanrenens between the 1890's and 1934!

THE LIFE OF MELBOURNE. Party for Sister. .  
IN honour of her sister, Mrs Edmund Kurtz, Mrs R.A. Bailey of Glenetive, Meredith, entertained about 80 guests at afternoon tea at Menzies Hotel yesterday. Mrs Bailey wore a frock of black woollen with a quaint little black bonnet shaped hat....

*The Argus Thursday 8 June 1939*

DEAN (nee Mocatta).—July 15, at Ballarat, to Frances and William Theyer, of Glenetive, Meredith, Vic.—a son (Colin William).

*The Argus Saturday 30 July 1949*



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## Advance Meredith Annual Meeting

*Marg Cooper*

The meeting was held on Saturday, March 23, 2013.

The office bearers elected were President: Diane Ritche, Vice President: Marg Cooper, Secretary: Jenny Doles and Treasurer: Doug McFarlane.

The President reported on the activities and planning that went on in the previous year. This included the replacement of the historical signs around Meredith with enamel signs that should last a lot longer.

Businesses and residents are invited to contribute to this project by sponsoring a sign. You could have a tax deduction of \$400 and help the town!

The abysmal lack of lighting in Meredith was discussed, the street scape project by the Shire was discussed, the fitting out of the Information Centre was discussed and many new initiatives were discussed to brighten the town and to involve residents in interesting activities.

The meetings for 2013 are planned for Saturdays, May 18, July 20, September 21 and November 16.

At the moment the meetings are held in the Parish Centre but it was suggested that they be held at the Information Centre after it is opened.

Come along!!!

## Have You Heard This One?



A true story\* from the pages of the Manchester Evening Times.

Last Wednesday a passenger in a taxi heading for Salford station leaned over to ask the driver a question and gently tapped him on the shoulder to get his attention.

The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb and stopped just inches from a large plate window. For a few moments everything was silent in the cab. Then, the shaking driver said "are you OK? I'm so sorry, but you scared the daylight out of me."

The badly shaken passenger apologized to the driver and said, "I didn't realize that a mere tap on the shoulder would startle someone so badly." The driver replied, "No, no, I'm the one who is sorry, it's entirely my fault. Today is my very first day driving a cab. I've been driving a hearse for 25 years."

*\*Well, maybe...we couldn't find evidence of a Manchester Evening Times! There is, however, a M.E. News - Ed.*



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