

OUR FIRST
52
PAGE ISSUE

Meredith & district News

December 2013



Our Community Newsletter since 1972

Distributed FREE to district residents

We Wish all our Readers a Joyous
Festive Season & a Safe Summer



Be Fire Ready This
Summer



NO Kinder
Surprises Please!



...and the Elaine
Transport Lift-Out

For Meredith, Steiglitz & district.

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

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

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

Geoff Howard

Authorised by

GEOFF HOWARD MP
STATE MEMBER FOR BALLARAT EAST

15 Main Road, Ballarat P: 5331 7722
E: geoff.howard@parliament.vic.gov.au



The staff at the ROYAL HOTEL would like to wish everyone a MERRY XMAS & a safe & happy new year.



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, Trudy Mitchell, Stefania Parkinson and Ian Penna

NEWS & VIEWS

Subject to the conditions outlined below, contributions accompanied by the contributor's name (which will also be published) and contact details, are most welcome. Please email to news@meredithnews.com.au or deliver to the Meredith Corner Shop.

DATES AND DEADLINES

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

ADVERTISING

Advertising in the M&D Newsletter is a great way to let district residents know about your business. Contact us 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
Ph: (BH ONLY please) Jim 5286 1273 or Dawn 5286 1274.

WEB

You can check back copies and lodge comments at meredithnews.com.au

ONLINE PHOTOS

We do not publish children's photos online. If you would like any other photo that you appear in withheld from the web edition, let us know in writing by the second Thursday of the month of publication.

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

Junior

Under 14

☎0418535713

Meredith

☎5286 1434

CUBS & SCOUTS

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 8222

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
Pets and Horses 24/7	0421 617 238

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 1550

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.



"Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childhood days, recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth, and transport the traveller back to his own fireside and quiet home!"

Charles Dickens



Meredith Senior Citizens Day Out

Jim Hynds

Because a bus was not available on November 4, a car pool was organized by Jo Primmer for our final day out for the year. About twenty seniors left from Jo's and went to Ballarat to the Market Hotel for lunch. By all reports the 3 course meal was top notch and was enjoyed by all.

The group headed for the Ballarat Botanical gardens, for a leisurely stroll around the gardens followed by afternoon tea at the Green House. Many of the group purchased plants and there were many comments of how well the gardens looked.

By 4 pm the seniors reassembled and headed for home after enjoying a great day out. Plans for the Christmas Party are all finalised for December 4.

Meredith Racecourse Reserve

A public meeting will be held on Wednesday 18th December 2013 at the Meredith Community Centre at 8.00pm for the purpose of electing no less than three and no more than nine persons to the Committee of Management of the above Reserve for a period of three years.

Peter Macdonald (Hon. Sec.)

Job Vacancy

Meredith Community Centre has a vacancy for a computer tutor in 2014. The applicant will need computer skills across a broad range of software and their application for business and personal use. We teach skills over many areas including Microsoft Office applications, internet and email, blogging, very basic websites, online communication tools and other applications depending on interest.

Certificate IV in Training and Assessment would be desirable but not essential provided the applicant can demonstrate skill and knowledge in teaching adults.

This position would be a sessional position with hours dependant on course enrolments commencing in mid February 2014.

If you are interested please call Pam Ridd at the Centre on 52861348. (Please note we are closed during School Holidays)



Classifieds

First insertion of small ads are FREE to district residents

Free White cot with mattress. Good condition.
ph. 0439860726 or 52 861 427.

Free Air conditioner and heater, suitable for shed or garage.
Ph 52 861 352

Meredith Community Centre, Inc.

This is the final report for 2013 and almost the end of my first year as Coordinator at the Centre.

With the end of the year approaching most of our Courses are finishing in December. We have had some great courses running this year with the most popular being our technology programs. With the rate of change in this area it is great to be able to provide the opportunity for both newbies and more experience users to expand their skills. Probably the most popular course has been the Introduction and advance iPad classes, and we have also been pleased to run this course at Bannockburn and Anakie. We have had some great cooking classes using our fantastic new kitchen and look forward to more of the same next year. The staff love these classes because the aroma of cooking creates a very welcoming feeling to the Centre and we get to sample some of the results like fresh bread, scones and homemade cheese.

We have lots of participants in our Tai Chi class who tell us what a difference it makes to their health and feelings of wellbeing.

We continue to provide a venue for user groups including Red Cross, CERT, Golden Plains Art Group and many others.

Occasional care has gone from strength to strength this year under the wonderful management of Jo Vermeend. Jo is really fantastic with the children and really cares about making the experience enriching for the children. We have added an extra session on Mondays and hope to continue that next year provided we have sufficient enrolments.

This year has seen some significant changes at the Centre with myself as the new Coordinator and sadly some very long serving staff members leaving us. We would like to thank Desma Blow, Donna Murrell and Cathie Boer for their loyalty and service to the Centre over the last 10 years or more.

Finally the Staff and Committee of Management would like to everyone a very happy and safe Christmas and prosperous New Year.

We are working on our programs for 2014. If you have any programs which you would like us to deliver in 2014 or you have a skill you would like to teach others, please contact us.

We hope you will come and see what we have to offer you in programs in 2014.

Pam Ridd

4 Russell Street Meredith 3333
Ph 5286 1348 Fax 52861 563
learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au
"Working for our community"

Community

Bamganie/Meredith Landcare Meeting



Meredith & District Red Cross.

A meeting is to be held on THURSDAY December 12th at 9.30 am at the Meredith Community Centre.

Carol Holding, our Regional Representative will be attending. The results of our survey will be discussed. All welcome. R Hart Chairman 52868222

Bamganie/Meredith Landcare Annual Subscriptions

The annual subscription of \$44 including GST was due in July 2013. For this members are entitled to the use of the Group's equipment which includes tree planting tools, a ripper mounder, a bait layer, a spray unit, and a microscope for faecal egg counts before drenching, as well as insurance for Members when using the equipment. Members do not have to pay a hiring fee but are expected to return the equipment in the condition in which it was lent out, and any problems are to be reported to the Group.

Please use the form below and send to: *the Treasurer, Phil Rendell, 85 Glenetive Rd. Bamganie 3333*

A meeting of the Bamganie/Meredith branch of Landcare was held on the 13th. November at the Meredith Community House. Jenny Ryle the coordinator of the Leigh Catchment Group of which our branch is a member, was in attendance. Jenny produces an email which advises members of workshops and other items of interest.

She reported on various workshops which are taking part in the area, including a Chemical Users course which is required for a certificate required by anyone using agricultural chemicals including 1080 for rabbit and fox control. **Venue at Bacchus Marsh. November 30th. and Sunday 1st. December. Contact Nicole Gammie 045 966 884**

email:

nicolegammie@ppwcma.vic.gov.au

"Back from the Brink" November 30th. Learn how to identify disappearing species and how to collect the seed responsibly and grow them. Contact Jenny Ryle for both these workshops 0409 400 520 Or email leighcg@ncable.net.au If you were not at the meeting and would like to receive her email news contact her. She will reports on what grants (if any) and workshops are available. Eg **Free Seed Collection Workshops Sessions Mid to Late February 2014.**

She also told us that a brochure will be circulated to all landholders in our district with information about Landcare and the contact details for our Office Bearers. This is being distributed by Golden Plains Shire.

There will be a **workshop in December** on future projects which Landcare members would like to work on. This might be a project for an area or for an individual property.

It was also decided that our group would hold a **workshop in March 2014 on how to use the microscope which we own.** The microscope was obtained some time ago so that sheep flock owners would be able to conduct a faecal egg count in order to establish the necessity and timing of drenching.

Next meeting Wednesday February 5th 2014 8pm at Meredith Community Centre

2013 LANDCARE SUBSCRIPTION: \$44.(includes GST)

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

PHONE:.....**ABN:**.....

ENCLOSED:.....

Send to Treasurer: Phil Rendell, 85 Glenetive Rd. Bamganie 3333

meredith**Police**news

Leading Senior Constable Greg Kitchen

it is again very pleasing to report that there have been very few isolated incidents of crime within the Meredith area. I have had recent reports of males loitering around businesses at the southern end of the Meredith Township late at night. It is a timely reminder to lock up vehicles and remove items from view and to secure garages where possible when you are not at home.

As reported in my last two articles, the Automated Number Plate Detection, ANPR vehicle has been operating in our area. On the 17th of October, the unit scanned 1350 vehicles which resulted in 11 offenders processed for driving unregistered motor vehicles and 3 vehicles for alcohol interlock checks. Numerous other offences were also detected. It is anticipated that the vehicle together with a new mobile version will be operating on the Midland Highway

As of the 25th November, 2013 the Penalty for using a mobile telephone while driving will now increase from \$289 to \$433. This will now also incur a 4 demerit point loss. I would urge anyone, and in particular inexperienced probationary drivers, to be very mindful of these changes. Victoria Police will be focused on enforcing these laws into the future.

On Monday the 18th November at about 2.30 pm a motor vehicle collision occurred in Staughton Street, Meredith where an offending learner driver, with no fully licensed driver seated beside her, allegedly failed to give way at an intersection while travelling along Read Street, Meredith.

It is extremely fortunate and amazing that no person was injured as a result of the collision which clearly could have been avoided. I have received occasional reports at varying times of drivers crashing through the intersections at Read and McLeod Streets and it is surprising that more collisions have not occurred.

Unfortunately this year has only seen the one Meredith Blue light run. A variety of issues have restricted more events being run in 2013. However I have met with Leading Senior Constable 'Disco' Des this week and we have nearly confirmed 4 discos for 2014. These dates will be locked in to coincide with the completion of each term and all of the details will be published in the next Meredith News Letter.

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank the Meredith Community for its on going and dedicated support over the past twelve months and as Christmas approaches, I encourage people to be safe on our roads.

Greg KITCHEN - Leading Senior Constable
Meredith Police Station.

Kinder

- Still on the Drawing Board

Jim Elvey



The future of the Meredith Integrated Community Hub is unclear as the Shire awaits advice as to whether the federal government's contribution of \$480,000, announced by the previous government in May this year, will be honoured.

We previously reported this project, which of all recent town projects is the one most needed in the community, is to be built on school land, immediately to the east of the Community Centre and will provide facilities for a new kindergarten, long day care and ready access to Early Childhood Intervention Services, maternal and child health services and family support services.

The new building will also allow the pre-school to operate on a more viable footing, unconstrained by the space limitations imposed by its present home in the old Shire Hall.

We are encouraged that the Shire has proceeded with an invitation for tenders for architectural services to ensure the project is on track for a June 2014 commencement. At the same time, the community must be concerned the project could be significantly compromised if there is a funding shortfall. The Shire's promotion of this project is consistent with its strategic plans for the area and several indicators that point to service deficiencies in the town. Consulting rooms, which were to be part of the Hub, are essential to attracting visiting clinical services, including a doctor. And its integration with the Community Centre opens up many other options for community use and support.

We are also encouraged that newly elected federal member for Corangamite, Sarah Henderson, has thrown her weight behind the project in urging Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, Warren Truss, to secure federal funding support. In response, he has indicated it is under "active consideration." Ms Henderson clearly recognises the importance of the Hub, so we remain hopeful the new government will also commit to this joint project. Given the \$725,000 funding secured from other sources, it certainly represents a good return for the federal dollar.



Church News



ANGLICAN

Weekly Services, baptisms, weddings, funerals, pastoral care, bible studies.

Contact: Rev. Elizabeth Bufton, 5281 2224; 0437524864

Church Office, Byron St. Bannockburn 5281 2553

Service Times;

Church of Epiphany Meredith.

11.00am 4th Sunday each month, Holy Communion at Anglican Church

11.00am 2nd Sunday of month, Holy Communion at Uniting Church

St John's Bannockburn

10.00am 1st & 3rd Sundays

Holy Communion

10.00am 2nd Sunday

Family Service

6.00pm 4th Sunday

Prayer & Praise Service

11.00am 1st Wed. each month, Holy Communion Bannockburn Aged Care

Enquiries, Fay McFarlane, Parish Secretary. 5286 1283; 0407502794

Morrison

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.

Christmas Services:

St John's Bannockburn :Sunday 22nd Dec.

Join Mary & Joseph's "Journey to Bethlehem". Meet in car park (back of Hotel) @ 5pm. Concluding with a family service at St John's Church, Byron St.

Christmas Day Dec 25th

St John's Church 9.00am Holy communion

Meredith Uniting Church

Christmas Eve Service 10.00 pm

All Welcome. Service will be followed by supper.

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PARISH

Winchelsea every Saturday @ 6 p.m.

Bannockburn every Sunday @ 9 a.m.

(Please note change of Sundays)

Mass @ Meredith @ 9 a.m. followed by blessing of graves

Mass @ Bannockburn @ 12 noon followed by blessing of graves

Mass at Winchelsea @ 6 p.m. preceded by blessing of graves @ 5.30p.m.

Christmas Services:

Reconciliation Service

Bannockburn Wednesday 11th December 2013 at 7.30 pm

Masses At Aged Care Facilities

Bannockburn Aged Care Friday 13th Dec 2013 at 11.00 am

Winchelsea Aged Care Tuesday 17th Dec 2013 at 2.00 pm

Christmas Carol Service

Meredith Sunday 22nd Dec 2013 at 8.00 pm St Joseph's

Christmas Masses:

Inverleigh Sunday 15th December 2013 at 6.00 pm

Winchelsea Christmas Eve 6.00 pm

Bannockburn Christmas Eve 6.00 pm

Christmas Day 10.00 am

Anakie Christmas Eve 8.00 pm

Meredith Christmas Eve 10.00 pm

Father Herman wishes everyone the Peace and Joy of Christmas and wishes to warmly invite everyone to join with us in celebrating the birth of Christ at any of our services.

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 : 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



Hesed Cottage

OPEN Tuesday – Friday 10.00am-4pm

Saturday 10.00am – 1.00

High St Bannockburn

We invite you to drop in for a chat, browse, or grab a bargain. If you are Spring cleaning, downsizing, or just feeling generous,

Your “trash” may be someone's “treasure”

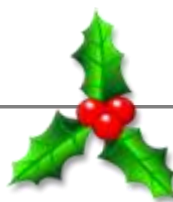
This is an initiative of The Anglican Church.

To serve our local community"



FREE HEARING TESTS

A **FREE** 15 minute examination is available to all residents of any age. Bookings preferred but not essential. Phone 5333 0200
17th Feb 2014 10.00 am to 4.00 pm
MEREDITH COMMUNITY CENTRE



CHRISTMAS CAROLS at MEREDITH

Sunday 22nd December 2013 at 8.00 pm

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH,
Lawler Street, Meredith

ALL WELCOME

Followed by supper afterwards
Please bring a plate

Chris and the 4WD

23rd MMF is almost here and last week won best festival in The Age music awards. It's very different now from the first in 1991 with bands playing on the back of a truck and co-founders Chris, Peelie and Marcus having as much fun as those who came! The tucker tent was born about 3 years later as Chris offered local groups the opportunity to cater and raise money for their organisations. And help keep the town alive. That's been key to a great connection between the festival, punters and local community. Chris (*Mouse* as he was known by many and still loves to hear locals call him that!), Jack and I are very pleased with what the tucker tent has become. And grateful for how it now benefits Chris.

Life changed dramatically for Chris in 1996 in Hanoi with a multi organ collapse and resulting very severe acquired brain injury (ABI). Six months in coma in St Vincent's and he woke up laughing at a funny story his cousin told about a photo of Chris and Jack in his old tip truck at previous MMF.

17 years on he's still leading us amid huge advances in neuroscience and ABI (with a key factor being an enriched environment). Chris has had many more 'best evers' this year. He continues to surprise with his small but significant improvements underpinned by courage, humour and determination. Using his long eye blink yes to choose teams, he won the footy tipping with a score comparable with tipsters in sports pages. He loves the MOTomed recumbent computerised cycle which he uses most days for 30 – 60 mins at rate of 15 revs per minute (rpm). Generally he's content to cycle 1-2 km. But he now self pedals some days and also gets rpm up – best so far is 42 mins self pedalling in one 55 min session and he's got it up to 40rpm! No-one expected this. Competitive, he loves his numbers!

A few months ago, a trial of a new 4WD wheel chair exceeded all expectations. Chris got to the river he loves for the first time since 1996! His usual wheel chair bogs in any soft surface (and takes 3 or 4 people to pull it out), so access to the farm was very limited. 4WD means he can now get most of the places on the farm he loves. Thanks so much to Meredith Community Tucker tent for money which helped to purchase it. Chris has been home for 13 weekends or longer this year so will really enjoy this access and freedom.



Chris Nolan, sporting his 'Movember Mo' with a friend at a Leonard Cohen concert.



Meredith Music Festival Traffic Plan

SOME CHANGES TO THE FESTIVAL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

I am writing to notify you about the traffic management plans for the 2013 Meredith Music Festival scheduled to occur on Friday 13 December – Sunday 15 December.

The summary the plan is outlined here.

- School buses will undertake their normal route.
- We will implement one-way traffic on Mount Mercer Road from Bamganie Road to Cameron's Road from 4am on Friday 13 December to approximately 7pm. Traffic within the one-way zone traveling to Meredith will be diverted down Cameron's Road.
- We will implement a speed reduction on Mount Mercer Road and Cameron's Road from Thursday 12 December – Friday 13 December.
- We have assigned traffic controllers to the corner of Midland Highway and McLeod Street on Sunday 15 December to assist vehicles turning left or right onto Midland Highway.
- We will install a no-parking zone along Mount Mercer Road and some surrounding roads.

It is also important to note that due to state-wide legislation changes that came into effect on 1 Jan 2010 cigarettes can no longer be sold from the festival site. We have notified the public via the festival website and pre-festival email that they should bring what they need with them however we do anticipate some people will drive into Meredith over the festival weekend to stock up. We will be providing a shuttle bus service to help decrease additional vehicles on the roads.

If you have any comments or ideas about any matter related to Meredith Music Festival please contact me on 0430 091 120. This number is operational 24 hours over the festival weekend should you need to contact us.

Thank you, Kristie Walker
On behalf of the Festival Organising Team

sports



Meredith Golf Club

Presentation Dinner 9/11/13

It has been a busy time around the golf club at the completion of the 2013 season. We held our AGM on the 4th Nov. and renewed our positions for the year to come. Well done to Glen Wilkins who has taken on the role of Club President for another year and I'm sure he will continue the work behind the scenes. Denis Gear has again been appointed club Treasurer/Secretary and without his outstanding contribution I'm sure we would be struggling even more than we are now. Vincent Drew is Club Captain for the second year and I look forward to the support of all our members. And congratulations to all the people who have taken up positions on our committee.

The grounds are looking fantastic at the moment. There has been more dirt delivered to cover up the old pine stumps and more is on its way. A big well done to Jeff Cooper, Peter Rees, Denis Gear, Danny Jury and Reg Dawes and anybody else who has contributed to the upkeep of our course and surrounding gardens.

We held the Presentation Dinner on the 9th Nov. and we had a turnout of about 30 people. It was a great night with everybody enjoying a spit roast meal with dessert afterwards. Well done to Glen for organising the caterers and everybody who helped to set up the evening. A big thank you to the ladies for cleaning up the aftermath and



2013 Meredith Golf Club Champion Danny Jury.

for their contribution throughout the year. Also, well done to Jana for the pre dinner nibbles.

Nancy O'Brien and Kathy Rosch started the formalities with presentations to the ladies weekly winners. Glen

Wilkins and myself presented the trophies to the men and congratulations go to the following players:

Club Champion	Danny Jury
B Grade Champion	Denis Gear
C Grade Champion	Mario Macri
The W.L.Cooke winners	Vin Drew and Paul Schillier
Captains Trophy	Vin Drew

I would like to extend a big thank you to all members for your ongoing assistance. Even the weekend hacker who likes to come along and have a hit. It is for people like you that the course is kept going and I would like to see more people using it. I look forward to the 2014 season and whatever it brings. In the mean time may all your drives be straight and your putts short.

Good golfing Vin Drew (Captain)

MEREDITH GOLF CLUB

MEMBERS URGENTLY REQUIRED

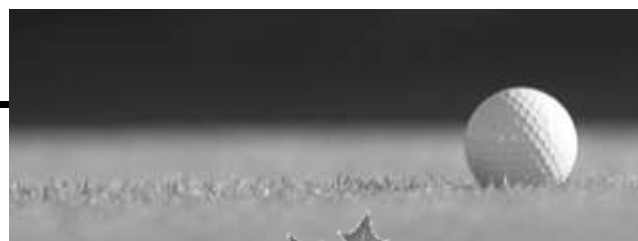
Meredith Golf club is urgently seeking new members. The course is maintained by a dedicated bunch of people who do a magnificent job of looking after the course. At present it is in the best condition it has been in for a long time. However, we are running out of people to use it.

If you are interested in playing competition golf we offer a weekend comp. for people who have to work on Saturday or are involved in other sports.

Tee off is at 12.30 on weekends for men and 9.30 am on Tuesdays for women. Memberships are very cheap at only \$140 for a full adult membership.

Green Fee players are always welcome and it only costs \$10 for all day golf.

Contact (Mens) President Glen Wilkins 0408220178 or Captain Vin Drew 0404026453 and (Ladies) President Nancy O'Brien 52861217 or Captain Kathy Rosch 53415595



sports

Elaine Cricket Club

Nicholas Pantzidis from Elaine/Meredith u14 has made the BCA u12 representative side! The district towns have never before had a junior represent BCA before in the u12 as the towns have never had a junior u14 team until the past two seasons!

Congratulations Nicholas !

PHOTO
OMITTED
FROM ONLINE
VERSION

An Inspiration!

Marg Cooper

Jess Dunstan is a new girl. She has transformed herself. She is now an attractive, bright, confident and focused athlete.

Jess and her sister Sam have both lost at least half their original body weight and have also become fit.

They recently began "Golden Plains Bootcamp" at Meredith and Bannockburn.

Jess who works at Meredith Corner Store tells that in 2009 she made a major decision to lose weight and to increase her fitness. She started the process by enrolling at a gym and engaging a personnel trainer.

The trainer encouraged Jess and with a change in diet, running and gym sessions Jess started to lose weight and in 2012 she obtained her first goal which was to run 5 km; even if it was a struggle!

Now she runs 6 kms every day with her dog as well as doing gym work 6 days a week. She also eats clean. Unless she prepares the food she doesn't eat it.

Her new trainer encouraged her to do body building and she aims to be "on the stage" in October next year in competitions in Melbourne. Training involves a lot of repetitive work and lots of cardio work.

The aim is to make the muscles fatigue to make them strong so the more work an athlete does the bigger and better their muscles get.

Jess tells that women competing in body building competitions wear bikinis and high heels.

Jess and Sam, who last month obtained her goal to run a half marathon are working towards more Fitness Certificates so maybe in the future they can be personal trainers and inspire others to get healthy.

Jess tells that on her facebook page she tries to encourage others to start the journey. Anyone who sees Jess must be inspired!



Probationary Drivers and Mobile Phones

It is illegal in all Australian states and territories for learner and probationary drivers to use a hand-held mobile phone while driving. This includes talking, texting, playing games, taking photos/video or using any other function on your phone.

Using a hand-held mobile phone is also illegal when your vehicle is stationary but not parked e.g. when you're stopped at traffic lights.

All drivers face tougher penalties for illegal use of a mobile phone or interacting with other units that have visual displays while driving (eg. DVD players or tablet computers) that are not driver's aids.

Fully licensed drivers

Using a mobile phone while driving is prohibited, except to make or receive a phone call or to use its audio/music functions provided the phone:

- is secured in a commercially designed holder fixed to the vehicle, or
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Learner, P1 and P2 drivers, are prohibited from using a mobile phone at all while driving. This includes hands-free and hand-held, and messaging of any kind.

Reference: <http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/Home/SafetyAndRules/RoadRules/MobilePhonesandvisualdisplayunits.htm#rule>

STAY SAFE THIS SUMMER

Meredith Kindergarten News

Jodie Trevaskis Director/ Educator



We are as busy as ever at Kinder with Christmas just around the corner and school transitions, weekly orientations and Christmas festivities, it's all happening this Term.

Back in October we went through Accreditation and our Assessment and Rating process with the Department of Education, it was a bit stressful at the time and a lot of written work but with lots of support and effort and I'm proud to report we got an overall rating of Exceeding which is the highest rating. So well done to us!! and thank you to everyone who offered and helped to get things organised in the short space before the visit.

We have been enjoying our deliveries of new furniture that have been purchased from our Community grant money from the Golden Plains Shire. We have a new Tee-pee to use outside, it's a cosy spot for reading a book or escaping the noise. We are getting a dressing table next for the home corner so the children can role play hairdressers and see how gorgeous they look in the mirror! We have also bought a fabulous little wooden outdoor setting (children's size) with an umbrella to keep the sun off.

We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Buchanan for her generous donation to our kinder. The children love to play with water any chance they get so we have purchased the best water trough big enough for 8 children to play around and we got a bonus box of water toys to go with it! The children helped put it all together and we will get plenty of use out of this for years to come.

Thank you's also go to David Jones who keeps our lawns mowed and looking neat and trim throughout the year.

To Mrs Cooke, we value the time you come in to spend with us, the children love having you here and helping on our excursions. You do a great job of being our lollypop lady with the stop sign when we go to Meredith school too. Thank you for organising and running the Scholastic book club this year and adding to our great children's library, we hope to see you back again next year.

Enrolments for next year are being organised and letters/ orientation packs have been sent to all our prospective families of both groups. Due to an increase in our 4 year old numbers, we are running a rotational 4 year old program next year.

Four Year Old rotational kinder sessions will be on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.00am- 2.00pm (children attend 3 sessions)

Three Year Old kinder session : Wednesday 9.00am – 11.30 am

We have spaces left in both groups and we are still taking on any new families. Sue Joos and Sharlene Jury will be running the 3 year old group in 2014. We will have some new staff members next year to take on the 4 year old Friday teaching role and a new assistant for the 4 year old group. Thank you to our educators Sue Joos, Sharlene Jury and Kylie Vanderkley for all their time, effort, ideas, passion and support throughout this year.

We had our annual AGM a few weeks ago, thank you to

Rosemary Gargan and Ben Gallagher from Meredith Primary school who came along to talk about school readiness and the use of technology in the classroom. I know some of the children are going to really enjoy learning more about their world using technology next year. We have had the IPAD in our room this term with lots of educational apps on there for the children to explore and have fun with. It's all new for me too but I have downloaded some great interactive stories to use at group times which has been fun! I must thank Martin Peters who came in to help fix an internet problem and set up a new wi-fi for us so now we can access the internet quicker and easier.

Our AGM was a good night, it was great to see some new faces, new families and vote in a new committee for 2014., congratulations to all our new members and to Kristy Cochrane our new President. Thank you to this year's committee who have played a wonderful, active and supportive role and made a very good name for themselves with their delicious food and catering jobs. Thanks to Andrew Cooke for organising the tucker tent at the Meredith Music festivals, to Kelly Murfitt for all the fundraising events, to Matt Reichman for being a great handyman, to Pip McLane for keeping all the notes, to Jo Kemp for balancing our budget, Rachel Buchanan for enrolments and all the general committee members for turning up to meetings, working bees and special events. A special thank you and goodbye to our outgoing President Stefania Parkinson, I've only had a year with Stef but I can see what a vibrant, passionate and positive influence she has been at Meredith Kinder over the last 4 years and I know she will be greatly missed.

Over the last 3 weeks of term the children will sparkle and smile as they make their Christmas gifts for their families and prepare and practise songs for their end of year concerts. The glitter will be out in full force and our lovely cleaner Sam will have her work cut out for her trying to clean it up every day!! (Impossible) I still can't believe it's nearly the end and very soon we have to say goodbye and Merry Christmas!

It's been a wonderful year of fun and learning for everyone at Meredith, so to all our families who are leaving us to go onto school in 2014, we wish you the very best, it's been a pleasure playing a small part in your child's big learning picture and we know you'll have an exciting year ahead of you. To all our new and returning families we wish you a happy Christmas and we look forward to starting a fresh new year of learning and fun with you in 2014.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all the Educators at Meredith kindergarten

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MOLLIE'S

COLUMN



Last Christmas

Every family, I'm guessing, have their own Christmas traditions. Maybe it's the stockings hung from the mantelpiece, the plum pudding Granny makes, or Uncle Bill and Auntie Sally's annual shouting match. In the Flood house, we seem to have three big ones: no store bought decos on the tree, no one sleeping in past six on the big day, and no time for a rest as we madly dash from one gathering to another. At my own home, where I've lived for almost three years now, I didn't really think Lucy and I had any Christmas traditions, apart from stumbling in on Christmas night in desperate need of a nice lie down.

Still in that awkward time between jumping out of the family nest and hatching chicks of our own (chick hatching can wait a decade or two!), Christmas can be a bit less exciting than it used to be for lots of the young single people I know. Without shrieking kids flinging wrapping paper around, Christmas is still a wonderful excuse to stay home from work and eat ridiculous amounts of food, but some of that old magic is lost. How do you find that magic again, apart from borrowing children to eat too many lollies and tear the house apart? You find Christmas traditions of your own. And in our house, that means setting up the plastic tree, plugging in the fairy lights...and listening to Wham!

It all started with the discovery of a cheesy compilation CD of Christmas songs in amongst our music collection. You know the kind, a couple of old fashioned carols sprinkled among a silly assortment of vaguely Christmas-themed tunes recorded by British pop groups. Track 1, Disc 1 is the classic "Last Christmas" by Wham! and sad but true, we've been known to play it on repeat. It's accompanied, of course, by suitably tragic dance moves under the twinkling fairy lights.

So that's our Christmas tradition, and slightly mad as it is, at least it doesn't involve being up before six! Have a happy and safe Christmas and New Year, and however your family spends the day, be it wonderful, whacko or Wham!-related, enjoy it.



Frank Parnell the Athlete

Marg Cooper

Frank was in Real Estate in Meredith for about sixteen years. After a number of invitations to sell Real Estate over a number of years he accepted the offer of Jolly's Real Estate to take over their office in Meredith.

Frank grew the business from a small desk in the corner door of Meredith Corner Store to a purpose built modern room on the front of the former Elders building.

He sold the Meredith building in 2012 and has built a brand new, smart office at 109 Mair Street, is still selling Real Estate and is happy with his move.

But he had been a teacher. After finishing Secondary School at St Joseph's in Geelong, Frank went to Geelong Teachers College and his first posting was to a Rural School at Upper Lurg in Kelly country.

Although his Uncle, {who he lived with} told him that he wasn't to go to that outback posting, Frank wrote a letter to the School Committee, threw his bike on the train, paid £6 fare and off he went. He loved it! The school, the district, the sport and the salt of the earth people were fantastic and Frank still keeps in touch with some of them.

Frank tells that he helped to coach children in athletics at the schools where he taught. It was amazing how they blossomed with some enthusiasm and instruction.

But his passion was always athletics, especially running and long jump. Frank turned professional soon after leaving school.

He came third in a Victorian State Championship in long jump. George Pell beat him in a race once and after he won heats in the Bendigo 1000, Len Templar of Ballarat, who had played football for North Melbourne offered to coach him in athletics.

Frank accepted the offer and moved to teach at schools around Ballarat including Invermay, Bungaree, Yendon, Brown Hill, Special Education, Redan, Melton and Buninyong.

But his aim was to win the Stawell Gift. Frank tells that Len coached a winner in every race at Stawell, was Frank's coach for his whole career, coached Frank's sons also and was an incredible coach.

Frank was beaten by ½ inch in the semi final at Stawell on a cold Monday when he couldn't warm up and the runner who beat him was beaten by ½ inch in the Grand Final.

Frank does not run anymore but rides his bike to keep fit!



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Meredith VIC

Vale to Thomas Daniel Lynch

Marg Cooper

How do you describe a man who lived such a long life and who was adored by so many, especially his family? The family describe him as humble, generous, caring and kind, loving and definitely resilient.

He was the only child of Robert and Mary Lynch of Maude. Fortunately for him, he lived close to his uncle Bill Lynch, who had 14 children. Everyday he walked 3 miles to and from school across paddocks with some of his cousins. He left school at 13 with a Merit Certificate and started working on the farm with his father.

In 1939 Tom and his parents moved to the current farm at "Five Mile" where they milked cows, ran sheep and grew onions, peas and oats. He always enjoyed hard work, being outdoors and animals - especially, in later years, his "Smithfield" dogs for which he was renowned. Tom, a country boy, married Kathleen Considine, a university educated Melbourne girl, in 1961. They had a family of Mary, Margaret, Robert and Therese.

Tom was very involved in the local community of Maude as well as a keen sportsman. He played football and tennis locally for years and supported and coached his children. He was a Geelong supporter and told that he was asked to train with Geelong during the war. He didn't though as the farm always came first.

He used to transport the new rams home from Barunah Plains in the back of the Austin 1800 with the back seat removed and chaff bags over the heads of the rams. So the rams were standing up behind him as he drove. No need for a trailer.

He never complained about anything and had an unnerving pain tolerance. In 2004 after he had been trapped under his tractor for 4 hours and his leg was split from ankle to knee he refused pain relief. He didn't want a fuss made.

Unfortunately, Tom needed to go into Bannockburn Aged Care just before his 90th birthday. His son Rob regularly took him home to the farm at Maude and still an expert, a couple of weeks before his death, he was advising Rob about rams. His daughter Margaret visited every day {except 2} in the 3½ years he was at Bannockburn and looked after his needs.

He had a strong Catholic upbringing and was very involved in the Meredith parish. He was deeply religious which gave him great comfort during times of loss and hardship.

The family are comforted that he is now with the great love of his life, Kath. A celebration of Tom Lynch's life and love was held at St Joseph's Church, Meredith on Thursday October 24. He was a kind, beautiful man who was deeply loved and will be sorely missed.

 Seasons Greetings



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The Show Winner!

Marg Cooper

Joan Simpson scooped the pool with her knitting and crocheting at both the Geelong and Ballarat Shows.

At the Geelong Show she won a First and Best Exhibit with a shawl that is 135 cm square and crocheted using 3 ply white wool. In the Jean Greenhowe Dolls Section a 50 cm high Clown she had knitted got First Prize, her 20 cm high Puss in Boots got Second and a Set of Knitted Mice got Third in another Section.

Joan had knitted the clown for her sister's 60th birthday and it features a "60" embroidered on it, a bunch of roses, a bottle of bubbly and a cake with candles hat. The knitted Puss in Boots is especially intricate and features knitted feathers on the hat, a cape, a black belt with buckle and two tone boots. At the Ballarat Show she won a First and Best Exhibit with her Puss in Boots. She also won five Firsts in other sections for her clown, a kangaroo, a teddy bear, a dressed baby doll and the shawl.

Joan tells that she was the eldest of eight children and she joined her mother and aunts to knit jumpers for all the children from when she was four years old. Her mother never used a pattern and told Joan what to do. She also taught Joan how to crochet. But when Joan got older and wanted to knit more complicated designs she taught herself to read patterns.

Joan has knitted a number of Nativity Scenes and sets of Dickensian Mice. They are amazing in detail and quality.

She uses only pure wool, usually from Bendigo Woollen Mills and knits on finer needles than normal for the ply. She tells that she doesn't sit idle, that if she goes to the doctor she takes her knitting and that new projects seem to turn up. Some of her productions are commissioned, some are sold and many she gives as presents. Joan tells that the prize money awarded at the Shows is negligible but that she enters for the fun and the honour.

Joan has one "Nativity Scene" left for sale. If you are interested she can be contacted on 52 861559.



Mini Foxie Dog Club Show at Elaine

Marg Cooper

On Sunday November 10 about twenty five dogs and their owners gathered at the Elaine Recreation Reserve for the annual dog show.

The show is run by the Mini Foxie Club of Australia and to show dogs at the show, the owner must be a member of the club and the dogs must be registered. Also in attendance were prospective buyers, the judge from Bendigo and interested spectators.

Doreen Thompson took six dogs and two friends, Joy Fox and Janice Robertson to help her to parade her dogs. She was delighted to win five blue ribbons, three red ribbons, one white ribbon, three purple rosettes, a red and white rosette and a long sash.

Five dogs from her Staughton Kennels won awards and in a special event for one year olds, her female won two plates featuring blue wrens and kookaburras.

Two pups that Doreen had reared and sold were paraded in the novelty section. One of these dogs wore a cape which was a good idea to protect it from the cold wind.

Doreen took her trophies to Senior Citizens on Monday November 18th where they were displayed for all to see.

She was congratulated by all!

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PLAN & PREPARE FOR FIRE THIS SUMMER

media release

You've cleared the gutters, cut back the grass and tackled the undergrowth – but that might not mean that you are fully prepared for fire this summer.

CFA Chief Officer Euan Ferguson said research showed Victorians were great at carrying out the easy to do preparation tasks in the lead-up to the fire season.

"But it's actions like talking to your CFA brigade about the risk where you live and making a decision with your family about when you'll leave and where you'll go that could save your life," he said.

Fire risk varies from city fringe areas next to grassland to rural areas close to grass or bushland. For information on the risk in your area and tips on leaving early, you can talk to your local CFA brigade or visit cfa.vic.gov.au.

Fire planning and preparation should include a conversation with your household at the start of summer about when you will leave before a fire and where you will go. You also need to decide where you will shelter if you get caught out and cannot leave your property or area.

"Make sure everyone you live with knows these plans, so you're all clear about what you'll do on a fire risk day," Mr Ferguson said.

"You should also pack an emergency kit at the start of summer so you're ready to go any time. This should include important paperwork and essentials like mobile phones, medications, change of clothes and water. If your kit is already packed, it's easier to grab it and go.

"Finally, remember to talk to friends, family and neighbours who may need help leaving early before a fire," he said.

"The responsibility for surviving the fire season is shared between emergency services and the community – we all share the responsibility for our community's safety," he said.



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Be Fire Ready This Summer:

- Do you understand the fire risk where you live? Talk to your local CFA brigade and find out your level of risk, or visit cfa.vic.gov.au
- Talk to your household about what you're going to do on a fire risk day, where you'll go and when you'll leave
- Pack an emergency kit so you're ready to go. For more information on what to include, go to cfa.vic.gov.au
- Download the FireReady smartphone app
- Plan ahead so you don't have to make decisions at the last minute

For more information on planning and preparation this summer, go to cfa.vic.gov.au or call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667



in my garden

Happy gardening.

As usual, no matter what the weather, some plants flourish and others do not. The lawns are looking very lush indeed. The additional time spent on the lawn mower is not so welcome. The elm trees on the nature strip are spectacular. They are completely restored from being on the brink of extinction just 6 years ago. The great majority of trees are looking beautiful: the birches, claret ashes, crab Apples, flowering cherries and liquid ambers to name just a few are all flourishing. The various callistemon are simply spectacular, and the Manchurian pears always look good. The fruit trees are also bearing good crops.

On the other hand, there are the duds: the immature Plane trees, after several attempts to come into leaf, seem to have decided that the struggle is too much. I have already removed one and the other two will suffer the same fate. Many of the trees and shrubs that are growing near the 'widow makers' (swamp or black Gums) are struggling. However this is nothing to do with the weather. Preventing black spot on the roses is always more challenging during periods of good rainfall and has required a strictly two week schedule of spraying.

In relation to the 'widow makers' I have come to an important decision. Because they are such magnificent trees providing important dabbled shade from the hot westerly sun, their place in my garden is ensured. Although they were never part of my garden aspirations and the space they occupy was intended to be the birch woodland, I have decided that the birch woodland will be elsewhere. The

widow makers will be the mainstay of a lush (I hope) wooded area that will accommodate a variety of plants, including tree ferns that will happily coexist with the eucalypts. Many of the birches in this area of the garden are looking very poorly or have died. Even when dead, birches retain their charm. I have planted some climbers, including clematis at the base of the still beautiful birch frames, in the hope, that these birches will continue to contribute through the leaf and flowers of the climbers that will clamber up their trunks.

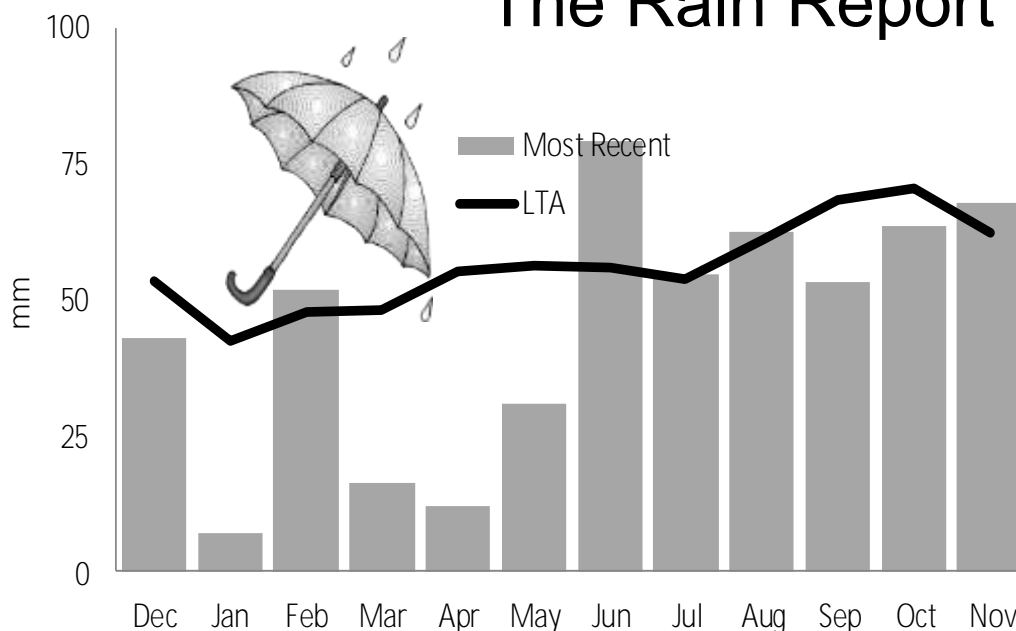
The summer vegetables, to date, are a sad story. It has been far too cold for them to grow. I have had to replant the continental cucumbers. The tomatoes are just holding their own, neither going forwards nor backwards. The zucchini and pumpkin seedlings are just sitting in the ground doing nothing noteworthy. I have not been at all successful in getting capsicum seeds to germinate even though they are in the greenhouse. The length of the growing season is very important for summer vegetables that have a relatively long maturing phase. Consequently the pumpkins may not realise a winning weight and quality. Any hope of being able to produce a prize winning pumpkin for the biggest pumpkin competition is rapidly evaporating. The eggplant seedlings remain in the greenhouse growing on, but will need to be planted out very soon, as does the basil, chillies, coriander and Italian parsley.

Christmas is almost upon us and my thinking is turning to cut flowers for the Christmas table and colour for the garden. I do love red and white petunias for Christmas garden colour but will need to get them in directly if they are to achieve their potential for the day. The choice for picked flowers from my garden for the table is usually limited to hydrangeas, roses, and white and blue miniature agapanthus.

Must go now, have lawns to mow. Until next time happy gardening.

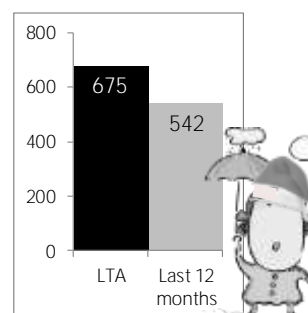
Robyn

The Rain Report



Rainfall to 9.00 am 30/11/2013

November rain was slightly above the long term average (LTA) for the month and spring's rainfall around 92% of the LTA. As the side chart shows, the last 12 months registered a deficit compared to the LTA of about 20%





Spring is over, but for some plants early summer is the time to grow and flower. Among them is the rosy hyacinth orchid, which is indigenous to this district. It can grow to 1m tall, with many pink flowers growing on its brown stalk. The petals have darker pink spots, apart from the petal at the base of the flower which has darker pink stripes. It is an eye-catching plant!

It is also an interesting one because it has no leaves. Most plants have green leaves, and often green stalks. The green colour is caused by chlorophyll, which helps plants to convert sunlight, water and carbon dioxide from the air into food.

How does the hyacinth orchid make food, so it has the energy to grow? It was thought to get its food from dead plants and animals, such as leaves and insects in the soil. Many fungi do this and play an important role in cleaning up the world and changing dead matter into soil, so it can be used by plants. All part of the amazing cycle that keeps the world going!

More recently, scientists have changed their minds about the hyacinth orchid. They have decided that it is partially parasitic, so it is making some of its food, and getting some from another plant. Its stem does contain chlorophyll, so it can use sunlight to make some of its food. The stem also contains purple pigments, creating the brown colour.

The parasitic part of its food collection is more complicated. Australian soils are poor in nutrients, so many plants get help from fungi. To find all the minerals a plant needs from the soil it would have to grow a huge network of roots. The soil is full of threads of fungi. Helped by special bacteria, the plant roots and the fungi join. The fungi find minerals for the plant. In return, the plant gives some of the food it makes by photosynthesis to the fungi. A plant may have several fungal helpers. This type of partnership where two different types of organisms help each other in some way is called symbiosis. The fungi can be joined to more than one plant, which can be joined to more than one fungus, creating what has been called the 'wood wide web'!

Orchids are among the plants that need fungi to help them grow. The hyacinth orchid does this too, but it takes advantage of the fungi, which may have formed a partnership with a eucalypt. The tree is giving food to the fungi, and the orchid takes some of this food to help its own growth.

In other ways, the hyacinth orchid is like other native orchids. Its flowers are pollinated by small bees, and change into swollen brown seed capsules which hang from the stalk which once held up the flowers. Splits form down the sides of the capsules allowing the dust-like seeds to fly on the wind to grow new plants. Then the flower stalk dies and the orchid survives the rest of the year underground as a tuber, until it is time to flower again. Aborigines ate tubers of hyacinth orchids, as well as those of other orchids and lilies. Hyacinth orchid tubers could be eaten raw or roasted.

Like all orchids, it is illegal to pick the flowers of hyacinth orchids. They are beautiful, so if you find one, admire, then leave it to grow seeds, so there can be more plants which can be admired by other people.



Still on that Growth Path

This issue of our community newsletter is a whopping 52 pages, albeit with the help of a four page lift out. It's a far cry from the 24 pages of only a few years ago and wraps up a year that produced 456 pages over the eleven issues, compared to 372 in 2013, also a high growth year. We sort of hope this won't continue, as the small team of volunteers that produce it are sorely stretched already and today's 48 page issue is twice the work of the 24 page issues of only three years ago. But at the same time we are excited by its growing popularity and the opportunities it gives us. It is driven by advertising demand, but we take care to keep a roughly matching amount of editorial and community news. To this end, we have recruited three new columnists this year, and broadened our content so that there is plenty to interest all our readers.

Beyond the two who produce and edit the newsletter and the third who looks after accounts, we are grateful to the volunteers behind the scenes that keep it alive. Foremost among them is Ralph Holtz who every month brings the 950 copies to Meredith, allocates and distributes them to all the collection points. It's a big job. Cathie and Peter Boer are our watchful proof readers and Kerrie Thomson helps out with the subscription mail-out.

We are very grateful to our regular contributors in Marg Cooper, Mollie, Jan McDonald and our local policeman, Greg Kitchen. We thank and welcome our new columnists to the newsletter this year: Robyn, with her charming account of life in the garden, Judy Emond who writes about the important issues of dealing with life's difficult times, and more recently, Wendy Cook has been giving us some insights into the beauty and marvels of nature around us.

And finally, a very sincere THANK YOU to all our advertisers and readers over the past year, for your fantastic support.

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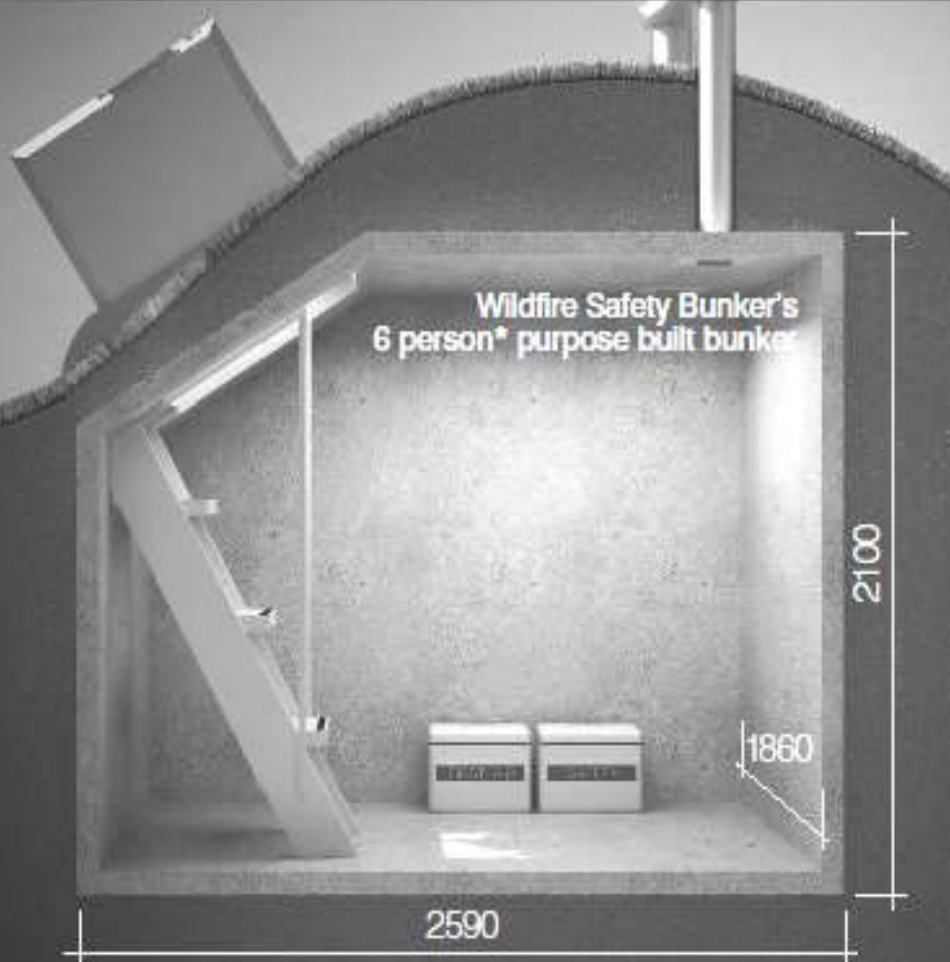
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One From Down the Track

Raymond Kelly.

On November 10th a Rail Motor went from Newport in Melbourne to Ararat via Lethbridge and returned later in the day.

One of these motor trains was introduced to run the services between Geelong and Ballarat in July 1931. Mary Perdrisat, a resident of Lethbridge for many years, recalls welcoming the arrival of the first rail motor at the Elaine Railway Station on the evening service from Geelong to Ballarat. Mary's parents had the Elaine Hotel at the time.

The Rail Motors were later withdrawn but returned again in the early 1950's before the introduction of a Walker 280HP diesel rail car.

The majority of these old Rail Motors are still in existence with Railway Preservation Groups, and the one I saw on November 10th had been restored by railway enthusiasts led by Colin Carter at the Newport Railway Workshops where the Motor is housed.

They were called PERM's, short for petrol electric rail motors with a 220 hp Winton petrol engine that made a lot of noise, in driving a generator to supply power to the traction motors.

When the driver eased off the throttle to coast into the station the area around the exhaust on the roof became engulfed in flames.

It made a spectacular sight at night!

They were re-engineered in the early 1950's with twin GM diesel engines and they became known as DERM's short for diesel electric rail motors.

They differed from the present day rail motors in that they could be coupled to other rolling stock, to a guards van or to carriages.

It is interesting that the Rail Motor didn't run between Ballarat and Geelong on Monday mornings. The steam train ran and picked up wagons containing livestock to take to North Geelong where the saleyards were close by.

About fifty rail enthusiasts paid \$129 for their trip on November 10th which included lunch and entry to the Railway Museum at Ararat.



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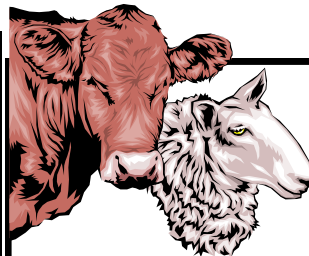


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Marg's Book Review

"Chocolat" by Joanne Harris

A delicious book! A delightful read, almost like a fairy story.

Joanne Harris has taken for her main ingredients, one small dullish village in France, a controlling brooding priest, a feisty old woman, one battered wife and a handful of snobs, cowards, reactionaries and bullies. She has added a beautiful single woman who loves to charm and please, her love child, an almost invisible rabbit and a boatload or two of party loving gypsies and voila- fireworks!

The single woman, Vianne, and her child settle in the village and open a chocolate shop. She calls the shop "La Celeste Praline"- "Heavenly Praline". Vianne has some special powers and intuits the secrets of her customers and can match their needs to her wares. She is passionate about celebrating the joys and flavours of nature, food, love and friendship and the villagers are drawn to her and her shop's voluptuous, aromatic display of delicious chocolates. "Chocolat" has been called a fairy tale and Vianne has some powers of a white witch. The priest embodying conformity, disapproval and punishment dislikes and disapproves of Vianne and her shop and through the book we view the battle from both sides.

The priest has lost the capacity for human kindness, is a classic fanatic, who's need to dominate his flock becomes pathological. Disappointments and sexual frustration have soured his nature to such an extent that he can justify the committing of crimes to remove obstacles to his power. There are a number of themes in the book including "tolerance versus bigotry", "denial versus pleasure" and "the free versus the bound spirit".

As in every good fairy story, good triumphs over evil, kindness, compassion and affection triumphs over brutality, intolerance and unkindness. The book was made into a film but the plot and the personality of some characters was changed for the film.

It is a delicious book about a town and a chocolate maker extraordinaire who has a dash of sympathetic powers of a white witch or an angel.

The next book for discussion is "Saturday" by Ian McEwan.

Bookclub members have enjoyed a variety of books from CAE since 1982. In 2014 we will enjoy a variety of books from Bannockburn Library for free! "The Number 1 Meredith Ladies Bookclub" will start in February 2014. We need new members for this new beginning! For Information ring Jan McDonald 52 817264 or Marg Cooper 52 868201.

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Meredith PS teacher, Fairlie Pritchard, has collected up some of the most groan-worthy jokes her class can muster. Here's one of them.

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Meredith Kindergarten's New Office Bearers

Stefania Parkinson

Recently we held our AGM for 2013 which incorporated an information session for 2014. It was a terrific night and wonderful to see so many new faces. We enjoyed presentations by Rosemary Gargan and Ben Gallagher (Mr G) from Meredith Primary School as well as an update from Matthew Dawson, Golden Plains Shire regarding the cluster and new Hub. Once the formalities were over, everyone enjoyed a fabulous supper and chat.

This is my final year as President of the Meredith Kindergarten Parent Committee and I congratulate and welcome the following 2014 Parent Committee Members.

They are –

President – Kristy Cochrane

Treasurer – Jo Kemp

Enrolments Officer – Claire Downie

Fundraising – Pip McLane

Tucker Tent – Christine Fairchild

General Members – Matt Reichman, Jo Klein, Sheryl Nettleton, Louise Cooke and Sandra Theron.

The positions of Vice President and Secretary will be filled in the near future.

I wish them all a wonderful, fun and successful year at the kinder in 2014.

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DOGS DIE IN HOT CARS

RSPCA Victoria urges pet owners to be aware of the dangers of leaving animals in cars over the coming hotter months, reminding owners that it takes just six minutes or less for an animal to suffer severe heat exhaustion in a car and die.

Temperatures inside a car can reach over 40C on a 23C day. In this heat, your pet can die in less than six minutes.

If you find a pet left in a hot car, please call Victoria Police on 000. Police are equipped to dispatch officers quickly from the nearest police station, which is critical under these circumstances.

Tests conducted by Melbourne's Metropolitan Ambulance Service on a 29 degree day with the car's air conditioning having cooled the interior to a comfortable 20 degrees, showed it took just 10 minutes for the temperature to more than double to 44 degrees. In a further 10 minutes it had tripled to a deadly 60.2 degrees. As with humans, exposure to these types of temperatures can be extremely dangerous.

Dogs are particularly at risk as they cool themselves by panting. If the air around them is too hot - particularly if they don't have access to water - dogs are physically unable to regulate their body temperature. In the time it takes to pick up a few things for dinner at the supermarket and get through the check-out, a dog left in a hot car could have already died an agonising death.

Even if parked in the shade, the temperature inside a car on a hot day can reach hazardous levels. The RSPCA urges owners to reconsider whether they should take a pet out in the heat as it is often kinder and more responsible to leave the dog at home with water and shade.

RSPCA reminds pet owners that even if car windows are left down, an animal will find it difficult to cope with the heat inside the car. It is worth considering that if it feels hot to a person sitting in a parked car; it will feel much hotter to an animal covered in fur.





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It's hard to believe another year is coming to a close and Christmas isn't many sleeps away now. Firstly we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very safe and Merry Christmas. We thank you for all your support in 2013 and we look forward to 2014!

We have all your Christmas Gifts covered

Before you drive into Geelong or down to Melbourne where all the Christmas shopping crowds are, take the time to come in and see what gifts we have to offer this year in a more relaxed environment. We have an extensive range of high quality gifts at affordable prices for all ages. Don't forget if you are a member of our **FREE Gift Club** throughout December you will receive an effective **25% discount off all Gifts!** We also offer free Christmas Gift Wrapping.

Christmas Shopping Night

We would like to thank everyone who attended our Christmas Shopping Night last month. We had a great turnout this year with everyone grabbing some great Christmas gifts with 30% off all giftware on the night! Everyone enjoyed the drinks and nibbles available not to mention the \$3,000 worth of lucky door prizes given away on the night! There were many happy people on the night winning some fantastic prizes, but there were also some who only just missed out. Again thank you to everyone who attended this night and helped make it a very enjoyable one. We will be running it again next year so we look forward to another great night then!

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it's History

submitted by Meredith History Interest Group

“FATAL FIRE AT MEREDITH. ROYAL HOTEL DESTROYED. ELDERLY WOMAN PERISHES.

Geelong, Sunday: An elderly woman was burnt to death at Meredith early this morning through failing to escape from the Royal hotel, which caught fire between 2 and 3 o'clock. It was a three-storeyed place, containing about 25 rooms. The flames were first noticed by a neighbor, who roused the inmates, and within an hour the building, which burnt like tinder, was totally destroyed.

It is believed that the fire started in the room of a domestic servant named Zee, who is a married woman. When the flames were at their highest, consternation was caused by a report that this woman was still in the building. A search amongst the ruins later on revealed the charred remains. The licensee of hotel was James Bourke, and the building was insured. Other occupants of the hotel had an exciting experience, for they just had sufficient time to escape in their night attire. Only a few articles from the ground floor were saved. The conflagration was plainly visible for many miles around.

From Mortlake Dispatch Wednesday 22 April 1914

Meredith Music Festival Site Tour

Marg Cooper

The Meredith Music Festival site amazed many of the people who attended the tour on Sunday, November 24.

We gathered in the nerve centre of the Festival site to listen to Greg Peel, one of the original organizers tell us the history of the Music Festival from its inception in 1991.

Chris Nolan and Greg wished to have an event in the country where city people could listen to alternative bands. The first year the music was played on the back of a truck, 250 people attended and it ran at a loss. But they had a great time!

In 2014 the 24th Meredith Music Festival will be held, all tickets have been sold and the festival still runs on the original principles.

After Greg's talk he walked us around the site and explained the infrastructure that is being added to all the time.

This year the “Green Rooms” have been extended and a roof has been built between them to create a lounge area so performers can change clothes, have something to eat and drink and get ready for their performance away from the maddening crowd.

The rows of composting toilets are impressive and it was awesome to stand on the stage!

Come along and talk history or come and help to catalogue on the last Thursday of the month at the Anglican Church Hall from 9 am.



What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus? Claustrophobic

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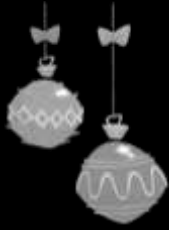
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To celebrate the fun and enjoyment of photography, we publish a selected photo each month. If you have a funny, beautiful or interesting photo, send it in. See page 3 for contact details.



pic of the
month



Photo by - Izy Emmlin



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Muddy Waters

Every quarter, we will be reporting water quality of the Moorabool River at Slate Quarry Road, using a measure of salinity. While this is a good overall indicator, Waterwatch volunteers also measure turbidity, pH, phosphorus, and oxygen to gain a more complete picture of river health. Here, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority Waterwatch Coordinator, Deirdre Murphy, explains turbidity.

Turbidity measures the clarity of water which decreases as the amount of suspended particles in water increases and takes on a muddy appearance. These particles, which include fine clay, silt, organic detritus and plankton, contribute to sediment which impacts on habitat. Sediment will smother rocky bottoms, coat snags and fill deep pools reducing the available habitat and affect the feeding and breeding of fish and aquatic invertebrates.

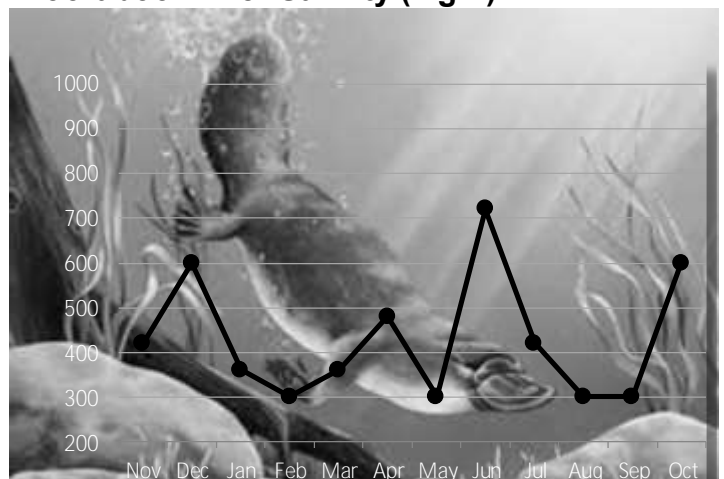
The amount of available light is reduced when the water is turbid, reducing the growth of submerged aquatic plants. Lack of light also makes it difficult for predators like fish and birds to hunt successfully. Turbid waters absorb heat and increase water temperatures, adversely affecting the growth of plants and animals.

Sediments are also an important method of transport for contaminants.

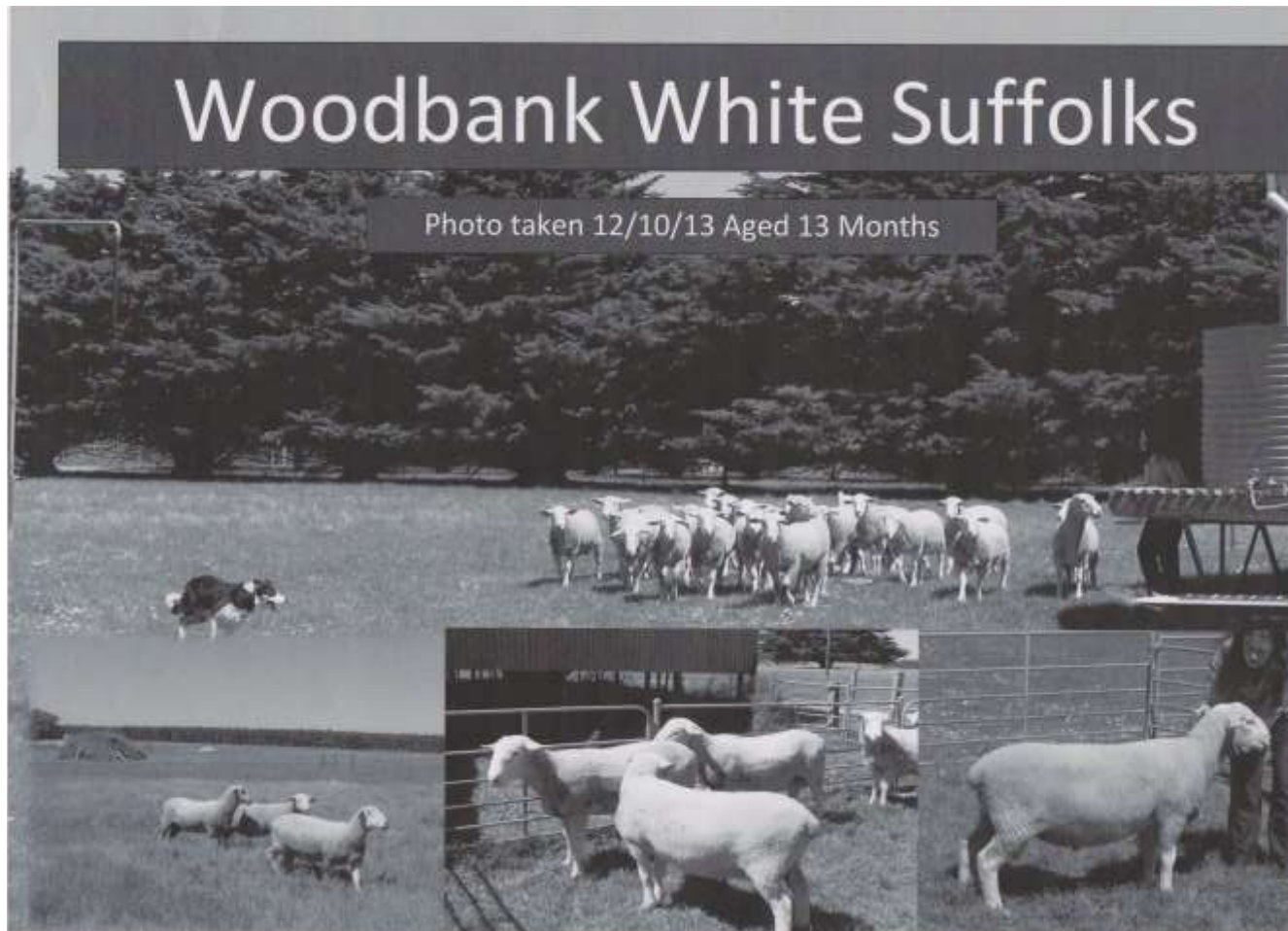
Most sediment in rivers and streams comes from catchment and stream bank erosion. This is a natural process that defines the shape and depth of our waterways. But human land use can result in excessive disturbance of soils and sediment runoff. For example, unsealed roads can contribute substantial quantities of sediment to waterways.

Visit vic.waterwatch.org.au/monitoring-and-data/1011/ for more information on water quality measures and go to the on line extras link at meredithnews.com.au for Dierdre Murphy's full article on turbidity.

Moorabool River Salinity (Mg/L)



Derived from readings taken at the Moorabool Bridge, Slate Quarry Road



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Kindred matters



Judith Emond, Family Therapist

Managing the stressors of Christmas- Dec 2013

Tis' the season to be jolly. This is true as we all look forward to family gatherings, watching children unwrap their Christmas presents and indulging in festive treats. Whether you are religious or not the festive season provides us with time to enjoy our relationship with those we love. It is a time to uphold family traditions and most importantly it is a time to reflect on the meaning of life.

When thinking about my childhood experience of Christmas I have very fond memories. It is the simple things that I remember the most, such as, Christmas carols playing on the record player and finding 5 cent coins in the pudding.

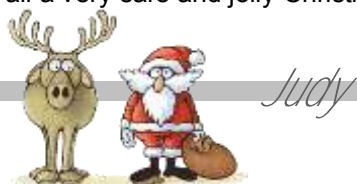
These days the lead up to Christmas day can be very stressful and even distressing for families. There are many factors which determine whether Christmas time will be a *jolly* experience or not.

The following suggestions may help to ease some of the stressors of Christmas;

- * *Finances and shopping-* develop a budget and list for presents and food. Set a limit on spending and cut costs by creating a family Kris Kringle with a price limit or agree to buy for children only. When food shopping buy the non perishables and stock up prior to Christmas day. Try to avoid the chaos of supermarkets by going early in the morning and allow extra time for shopping to find a park and get through the long queues at checkouts. Also ask others to bring a plate to share rather than bare the whole cost yourself.
- * *Family relationships-* Some families find this a very distressing aspect about Christmas day. There maybe conflict from family members around how the day should be spent and resentment to deal with. Consider celebrating your family Christmas on a day other than the 25th Dec. These days more and more families are doing this which allows for them to be free to spend Christmas Day how they please. It also works well if families are separated and the children have to celebrate Christmas with both parents. Being with certain family members at Christmas may not be a pleasant experience. Consider restricting the time spent with them, call in for a quick visit, leave after the meal or avoid being alone in their presence.
- * *Celebrations prior to Christmas day-* remember when attending work functions or events with friends to drink responsibly and refrain from driving. Such celebrations can leave us feeling exhausted so it is important to pace oneself and be mindful not too over do it. You may consider taking multi vitamins during this period.

For more ideas about managing well over the festive season go to www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au or a great site for men at www.theshed.org.au

Wishing you all a very safe and jolly Christmas season!



Judy

did you find
an eror?



"YES" was the resounding reply from A. Nonny Mouse, who wrote ...

Dear Editor

Am I reading the last newsletter correctly?

- Pg 43 Meredith Primary school asks parents to enrol for 2014 - what about the children?
- Pg 39 Australia Post will return incorrectly addressed mail - how do you ever know to fix the address if the mail does not turn up
- Pg 27 Daryl Wells - winter sowing needs - its end of Spring nearly Summer
- Pg 12 - Lethbridge quarry - no EFPOS is that the same as no EFTPOS
- Pg 18- In our nature comments that only nests that have fallen out of a tree are collected - the photo shows a nest with half a tree attached!!

An impressive effort from Mr. Mouse, but the prize will jackpot another month as, to get a perfect score, he would have had to also pick up the misspelling of the word "error" on page 37. (And really Nonny, as a practicing pedant, we are deeply concerned with your inconsistent capitalisation and use of punctuation.) This month your challenge is *dodgy apostrophe's*.

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The Ladies Brigade of Elaine

Marg Cooper

On Sunday, November 10, thirty years after the creation of the Elaine Fire Brigade Ladies Auxiliary, over sixty people gathered at the Elaine Hall to unveil an Honour Board and for afternoon tea. The names of the Foundation members and the Office Bearers of the Elaine Fire Brigade Ladies Auxiliary are inscribed on the Honour Board.

The board was unveiled by Gladys Hastie who was the first president in 1983, Shirley Ryan who was the last president and Gwen Hunt who with Shirley Ryan are the only two members who were members from the start until the Auxiliary disbanded in 2000. The Honour Board will be hung in the Elaine Fire Shed.

A public meeting was held at Elaine in 1983 after the Elaine fire truck had been at Mt Macedon for two weeks and after Ash Wednesday.

A number of privately owned tankers were on standby during that fire season but the community felt that Elaine needed another fire truck.

The Elaine Fire Brigade Ladies Auxiliary was created at the public meeting and Gladys Hastie was elected President, Nola Musgrove was elected Secretary and Wendy Pitcher was elected Treasurer.

The first fundraising function was two Thursday nights of table Tennis at the Elaine Hall. It was 20 cents to get in and supper was provided.

Members remembered many functions that were organized to make money including Indian and Chinese progressive dinners and catering for funerals and clearing sales.

After nine months of fundraising they bought a truck for \$7900. They continued to raise funds to buy equipment and to help the running costs until in 2000 the Elaine Fire Brigade Ladies Auxiliary disbanded and the ladies became members of the Fire Brigade.

Go on...smile!



"I bought my brother some gift-wrap for Christmas. I took it to the Gift Wrap department and told them to wrap it, but in a different print so he would know when to stop unwrapping."

Steven Wright

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We hope you enjoyed your
community newsletter in 2013 &
thanks to everyone who made this
another good year for the...



Meredith & District News



we're back in February 2014

(Copy deadline is 30th January)

Cover photo—Kerrie Thomson