

Meredith & district Newsletter



We wish
ewe a Woolly
Winter!

June 2013

Our Community Newsletter since 1972

Distributed FREE to district residents

More Good News

Late last month, local Federal MP's Catherine King (Member for Ballarat) and Darren Cheeseman (Corangamite) jointly announced funding of \$480,000 to complement existing commitments and ensure the construction of the \$1.2million Meredith Integrated Community Hub.

The Hub, to be built on school land, immediately to the east of the Community Centre, 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 co-location of this range of complementary services along with a fully functioning community space for local activities will also enhance community wellbeing and foster a connectedness between the families and children that live in and around the Meredith township.

The "Hub" concept derives from the collection, on one site, of pre-school, primary school and community education, together with an array of related community services and facilities.

The new building will also allow the pre-school to operate on a more viable footing, unfettered by the space limitations imposed by its present home in the old Shire Hall. Of course, the move will also free up that building for another use.

Current planning indicates the existing Community Centre will be retained and linked into the new building, increasing options and facilities available to the Centre. Finalisation of plans will be undertaken and expected to allow work to start before June of next year.

PHOTO OMITTED FROM ONLINE VERSION



Darren Cheeseman, M.P., Cr Jenny Blake and Catherine King, M.P. get some client input from Lilly and Taylah

Artist's impression and preliminary layout plans on pages 20 and 21



in this issue....

- Seniors Let off Steam
- School mates catch up - after 69 years!
- Ross Family Reunion
- 14.5 \$K for History Signs
- Lots of history
- ... and the usual more!

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, 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

Meredith

☎5286 1434

Junior

☎0400 078752

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

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

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Elaine Mechanics

☎5241 5596

Elaine Rec Res

☎5341 5703

LIBRARY VAN

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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 .

"Electric communication will never be a substitute for the face of someone who with their soul encourages another person to be brave and true.

Charles Dickens



Community

Christmas is Returning to Meredith



This year a few Parents are very keen to organise "Christmas in Meredith"

at Pioneer Park like we had a few years ago.

A BBQ was provided for tea, a band played Christmas Carols & Santa arrived with lollies for the kids. If you came to that you will know what a great night was had by all.

We are currently looking for volunteers to organise this night.

If you are interested please give
Mandy Pattenden 0433 092 112 or
Karen Pritchard 0400 152 869 a call.

catch us on the WEB

meredithnews.com.au

Rabbit Poison at the Paddocks



Readers are advised that poisoned carrots have been laid at the Police Paddocks to control the rabbit population breeding there.

Please take care when walking pet dogs at the site.

Call Ballarat Environment Network on 5331 7831 for more information.



Di Richie

Thursday May 23rd was the day that all over Australia people gathered together to have morning tea, raffles, competitions, listen to guest speakers and generally have a great time whilst raising funds for cancer research.

At the Meredith Community Centre, 35 residents and friends from Meredith and district and Geelong came to help the cause. We had visits from the Mayor of Golden plains Shire, Cr. Jenny Blake, the Federal member for Corangamite, Mr. Darren Cheeseman (who was also announcing a Federal government grant of \$14500 for the Meredith Visitor Information Centre).

Our Guest Speaker Bill Weekes, from Coco Monkey Café, gave us an inspirational and entertaining talk on making the most of life – a great topic for this day. There were lots of raffles and silent auctions with a myriad of prizes and competitions which tested our brain-power. The grand total raised was \$800 for Cancer research – so thank you to everyone who donated money and prizes and also for your presence. We look forward to cracking the \$1000 barrier at next year's morning tea.

Wicking Bed Workshop

FRIDAY MORNING 28TH JUNE
AT MEREDITH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Wicking beds are a water wise way to garden - come along and join the staff and children making 8 small wicking beds and plant them with a variety of winter veggies, herbs and companion flowers.

EVERYONE IS VERY WELCOME to participate or just watch and have a cup of tea afterwards.
For more details or if you have any questions, please phone the school on 5286 1313 and speak to Carol Cations or Rosemary Gargan.

Thank You

I would like to thank all my friends and relatives who sent cards and flowers, etc. and supported me during recovery from my recent accident. - Lila East

Classifieds

For Sale

Spiney Leaf Stick Insects For Sale Five Dollars Each,
Call 0419835592 Robyn



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 2nd Sunday at Uniting Church, Holy Communion

11.00am 4th Sunday Anglican Church Holy Communion

Bannockburn

10.30am 1st, 3rd Sundays Holy Communion

10.30am 3rd Sunday Family Service

6.00pm 4th Sunday Prayer & Praise

Inverleigh

8.45am 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays Holy Communion

10.00am 4th Sunday Morning Prayer

11.00am 5th Sunday Holy Communion

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

MORRISONS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

UNITING CHURCH Monthly 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 every Saturday @ 6 p.m.

Bannockburn every Sunday @ 9 a.m.

Anakie Sunday June 9th/23rd @ 11 a.m.

Meredith Sunday June 2nd/16th/30th @ 11 a.m.

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

St. Joseph's Catholic Parish Meredith

Go on...smile!



"I'm good friends with 25 letters of the alphabet ... I don't know Y." —Chris Turner

Meredith Playgroup Term 2

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

Biggest Morning Tea

The Meredith Community Centre and the Ladies from the Catholic Diocese got together this year for Australia's Morning Tea. We would like to thank all of our generous sponsors, workers and everyone who came along for a great and very successful morning. We raised over \$800.00 for this great cause. We are already planning for bigger and better things next years.

Meredith Community Centre

We are already half way through the term and have had some great classes happening. We have enjoyed the wonderful aromas of our bread makers and enjoyed a hearty lunch with our students with the results of their labours. The ipad students have discovered all sorts of new knowledge and skills and our Computer apps ladies have a much better understanding of the heaps of useful features of Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Publisher.

Our classes coming up in June are

ABC open - Photo editing- Wednesday June 19th

1-3pm

MYOB - Intro to payroll- Wednesday June 12th

6.30-9pm

Create yourself a free website- Wednesday June 12th

1-3pm

We are already planning for our offerings in term 3 and welcome your suggestions or requests for classes.

Don't forget to keep an eye out for what is happening at the centre on our website and facebook page.

We will be announcing the winner of our Likes competition on the page after the end of the month.

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

Hello again all. I was on annual leave during the May edition of the newsletter, but I did place an article in relation to a Malvern Star bicycle which I have at the Police Station as yet un claimed. I also currently have a large piece of new farm machinery or a machinery attachment which was handed in recently. This item has fallen from a truck or trailer on the Rokewood Road at Shelford. The item is aluminium and it has been fabricated for a certain application or purpose. I have no doubt that someone will be missing the item.

Although crime has remained at a very low level for some months now, I am concerned that there are active offenders operating in and around the Bamganie area. On the 5th May, a local resident reported that various items, including a Metabo drill and assorted hand tools including pliers, had been stolen from a tool cabinet attached to the rear of the ute. These offenders disturbed the owner's dog, where the owners initially believed that the dog may have been disturbed by a fox. The offenders have made their way some distance into the property to access the vehicle which was parked next to the house. This follows on from a battery stolen from a tractor only two months prior in the immediate area. It would be sound advice to lock up sheds and vehicles.

Recently, I have received some reports from residents who have received phone calls from offenders purporting to be from financial institutions, while attempting to gain access to bank and or personal information to use for financial gain. This is a situation that is no doubt on the increase and I strongly urge anyone that receives calls of this nature to be vigilant at all times for these types of offenders. It is sound advice to never give personal or bank information to any person over the phone or without being totally confident of who you are speaking with. (See "It's a Scam" on page 6 - Ed.)

Well kids, as we now have 'Disco Des' back on deck from extended leave, I'm hoping to have the first Meredith Blue Light Disco planned for Friday the 28th June. This is as yet to be confirmed but I will relay all information to Mr Doug Cations at the Meredith Primary school and there will be flyers about town shortly to confirm this. I really hope to see as many kids as possible in attendance and there will be plenty of prizes and giveaways as well.

Kindest Regards

Greg KITCHEN - Leading Senior Constable
Meredith Police Station.

Meredith Kindergarten

Jodie, Sue & Sharlene & Kylie

We have all embraced the sunny Autumn days at Kinder this month by being outdoors and very active. Both of our groups have enjoyed an excursion walking around the community collecting Autumn leaves, acorns and other natural objects, thank you to all our parent helpers who joined us too. Our 4 year old group has just been on a special excursion by bus (thank you Barbara) to the Bannockburn Cultural centre where they met up with Inverleigh Kindergarten and saw a wonderful show from Melbourne called "The Flying Bookworm". The show had two actors who played out 3 favourite children's stories "The Bear Hunt", "Goldilocks" & Three Billy Goats Gruff" and some of the children were included as a part of the show. They had a captive audience and we enjoyed sharing in such fun with Inverleigh children too. In a few weeks time we have the Roo Keepers coming in for a education session with the children and we recently had an incursion about "Safety with Dogs" so we have had a few special things on at kinder this month.

Thank you to the families who attended our working bee a few weeks ago, we all worked as a team to get most of the jobs done!! 11 bags of leaves is a fair effort with the Kinder grounds and shed looking a lot more organised and inviting for the children to play. We will have another one at the end of the year so hopefully a few more families can attend.

The 4 year old group have been making puppets, discovering colour mixing, building with the wooden blocks to make tunnels and tall structures and using the listening post/headphones to hear some favourite stories. We also have a new Assistant Kylie who will be working with the 4 year old group every Monday. The children are have been enjoying games of SNAP! and bingo and are learning to Wait!! & take turns. The 3 year old group welcome Huon. They have been playing dinosaurs, blocks and using Autumn colours and natural materials in their Art works.

In a few weeks time the children will have an incursion with the local Policeman coming to visit. Rex the toy dinosaur takes turns to visit the children's home and stay overnight and then they get to share in his adventures when he comes back to Kinder. The 3 year old group also enjoyed a special visit from some baby chicks, they got to hold them and feel how soft their feather were, a lovely experience for all. We are now heading into Winter so it's nearly time for a PJ day and movie day before the end of Term. Stay warm!!

Elaine CFA

Scrap metal collection
as a fundraiser
Ph David 0418993239



sports



Meredith Junior Football Club

Campbell Mavity President.

We have had a good start to the season. The players have been in training for some weeks now - when they started there were quite a few skinned knees. As with most of the country, we are waiting for rain. I would like to thank our new sponsors who have supported our club, and our regulars who have continued with their support for the Junior Football.

The club is in the process of upgrading the kitchen facilities, with the help of a grant from Bendigo Bank Bannockburn. We are also chasing a council grant to replace the goal posts, as they are very dated. We are also looking to install nets behind the goals this year, I have talked about it enough so we are chasing a grant for this, and we will also need a council permit for the construction.

The club is hosting the Round Robin at the end of the year so it would be great to have the facilities upgraded before then. We played our first match on Friday the 3rd of May against Lethbridge under lights. The Meredith side were the victors on this occasion with five players making their debut, our third year players stepped up as they are now the senior players of the club. We also had a lot of players do the noble thing of playing for Lethbridge as well, as early in the season Lethbridge don't yet have full side. Meredith scored five goals, seven behinds thirty seven points to Lethbridge one goal, three behinds nine points. On the tenth of May the Crocs played the Teesdale Roos at home. Meredith scored fourteen goals, ten points ninety four points to Teesdale zero! On Sunday the 19th of May Meredith played Inverleigh at Inverleigh: Meredith five goals, seven points thirty one points, defeated Inverleigh three goals, six points twenty four points. This is by far the best game the Crocs have played in the last two years. It was a hard game to umpire, as it was very scrappy, and junior football doesn't always flow. It was a whole of team effort. They just chased, pressured, and wouldn't quit. A good reward for the players work ethic.

The Meredith Crocs have been on the receiving end on some very large losses from Inverleigh over the past two years, and they have been unbeaten for the last few years so it is a feather in the cap for the Meredith players.

On Friday the 31st of May the Crocs play Lethbridge at home starting at seven pm. On Sunday the 16th of June we are hosting Inverleigh at home, starting at 10am, this will be a great game to come, and watch. On Sunday the twenty third of June we are hosting Teesdale starting at 10 am. Come, and support your local Junior Football team,

GO CROCS.

Meredith Golf Club

Men's 25th & 26th May

Stableford

Winner D Jury 33 pts On C/B from V Drew

NTP 2nd Shot : 9th - M Macri 10th - P Rees

It's a SCAM!!!

A reader reported receiving a call last month, claiming to be from the Federal Government, Department of Reclaims (which they - and we - have never heard of). They were going to refund about \$5000 in fees that our reader's bank had been overcharging. Suspicion was heightened when it became evident they didn't even know her bank. She is convinced they were definitely after bank account details.

If you get bothered by calls like these, be sure to register on the Federal Government's "Do Not Call" register. (donotcall.gov.au or 1300 792 958). It won't stop off-shore nuisance calls, but we have found they usually hang up when you politely interrupt their patter with a polite: "...we are on the Do Not Call register. Would you mind telling me how you got our number?"

And if you want scam alerts from a reliable source, subscribe to ACCC's email service at scamwatch.gov.au

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**Golden Plains
 Farmers' Market**

9am – 1pm, Saturday 15 June
 Historic Precinct, Glenelg Hwy, Smythesdale



Visit the new Golden Plains Farmers' Market. You will find a range of quality fresh produce and wine from local growers and farmers. See you at the market on the third Saturday of every month.



golden plains farmers' market
deliciously golden

goldenplainsfarmersmarket.com.au
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winks
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Seniors Let Off Steam

Marg Cooper

The Seniors gathered at the Memorial Hall on the morning of May 15. The day dawned bleak and wintry but we all rugged up and boarded our bus and headed across country to the historic town of Castlemaine.

On arrival at Castlemaine the ever reliable Dianne served the group with hot cuppas and a range of slices and cake supplied by the ladies. Thanks Dianne and ladies.

We then went to the railway station, purchased our tickets and waited for the steam train to arrive. No sooner had we walked onto the platform, than the authentic steam train arrived, bellowing smoke and steam.

We had been allotted our own historic carriage which was very comfortable even by today's standards. All Aboard and we were off to Maldon!

Mid journey the proverbial ticket inspector arrived and punched our tickets.

All too soon we arrived at Maldon where our bus driver Allan awaited us and took us the short distance into Maldon where we had lunch and explored the historic town and of course did some shopping in many of the old antique shops. By mid afternoon it was time to board the bus for the trip home.

All agreed that they enjoyed the authentic steam era experience and had a wonderful day. Many thanks to Allan our bus driver for making our day a great one.



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Coco Monkey Café

MEREDITH 5286 1113

The Coco Monkey Cafe would like to ask you to please join our weekly news and events update e-mail list. You can do so by sending us your e-mail address, in return we will send you a weekly newsletter with lots of interesting information for your reading enjoyment.

- weekly specials
- community announcements
- music nights
- events
- contests and drawings
- entertainment

Every reply that we receive will be put into a drawing for a free lunch and coffee up to the value of \$50.00.

We promise that it will always be kept confidential, and that under no circumstances will you be a victim of spam or abuse.

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Meeting after 69 Years*Marg Cooper*

Sixty nine years ago Kevin Parkinson and Dick Bunting attended Morrison State School together for 42 days. Last week they reunited for the first time since then.

Dick had stayed with his grandfather Richard at Morrison for a holiday and had attended school while he stayed there in 1944.

Kevin recalls there were many children who attended the school for short durations.

He remembers woodcutters who camped in tents in the bush at Dolly's Creek who stayed for a summer, a winter and another summer before departing. Kevin suggests that they couldn't face another winter at Morrison in tents.

Another family stayed with relations because their property up north was in drought. Kevin remembers the mother telling the school children how their sheep were dying, how the sheep ate the bark off the trees and about the mice plague.

Dick told Kevin that he especially remembered Kevin and his sister June Parkinson.



Dick and Kevin - 69 years after their school days together.



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Welcome to MEREDITH PRIMARY SCHOOL



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VERSION

May or mayhem! May has been a very busy month with students being involved in a range of activities in and out of the school. After our year 3 to 6 children competed in the **Moorabool Valley Cross Country at Teesdale**, we sent 10 students (out of a possible 24 places) off the Geelong Grammar on Friday May 10th to compete in the **Corio Districts Cross Country**. They were: **Leah Canavan, James Mavity, Seamus Dunne, Amy Canavan, Ruby Hart, Annie Klein, Riley Buchanan, Ginny Molesworth, Jess Crighton and Kimbalee Slade**. Well done kids! Amy Canavan and

Ginny Molesworth went on to compete at the next level at Eastern Gardens. Both girls put in great efforts with Amy once again winning her age group and she will be going on to compete at the state titles on June 6th. It was also very pleasing to see one of our former students, **Stephanie Ferry**, doing so well and she will compete with Amy at the state titles too. (We'll still claim her as a Meredith student!).

We had a number of **year 5 & 6 students** taking part in the **Corio Districts Lightning Premiership**. This year our Moorabool Valley teams in Football, Netball and Soccer were split into two teams with Meredith combining with Teesdale. It was terrific to see how well both schools played together and we had some great results. The football team ended up winning the competition, narrowly defeating the other Moorabool Valley team (Inverleigh & Lethbridge) by 4 points. Mr Gallagher was terrific as the coach ensuring that everyone had plenty of game time and a chance to play in a range of positions. I would like to give a special mention to these boys though. **Tom Flood, Angus Hogarth, James Mavity and Brendan Wardlaw** missed out on getting into the team but still came along as emergencies with their football gear. They began the day helping me with various tasks, and then when we found out that one of the schools didn't have enough players, they were more than happy to play for them and in most games were in the best players. Great effort boys and I am very proud of your sportsmanship and attitude!

I am extremely lucky to have the opportunity to go into grades on a daily basis to see what students are doing and work with them. One of the things I have enjoyed the most, especially since we have moved into our new building, is how all the various spaces within the buildings (including the portable, bluestone and the shed) are being used by the students and staff. The areas provide an enormous amount of flexibility for students to work on a wide range of activities. Within these spaces, and the activities being provided, it is great to see students of all ages and abilities working together. Sometimes it's the older students working with and assisting younger ones or it might be that some students may have a talent within a certain area and are able to share their expertise with other students. We are planning some more open sessions for parents and the community so keep a look out for these dates.

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Mollie's

COLUMN



Ice Age

It's Monday morning and I'm up before the sun. Shivering violently in layer upon layer of clothing, a giant woollen coat, gloves, scarf and hat, I timidly open my front door and get smacked in the face by a blast of icy Ballarat air. Numb hands deep in my pockets, I scurry along the slippery path and out to my car, which is, predictably enough, frozen solid. Luckily I keep a full watering can tucked behind the front fence for the daily defrosting, but by the time I've managed to wrangle my frozen fingers in to picking it up, spilled half the icy water over my boots and cleared a patch to peer through on my glittering windscreen, the 6.47 train is long gone.

Up, spilled half the icy water over my boots and cleared a patch to peer through on my glittering windscreen, the 6.47 train is long gone. At least the customary stamping and cursing warms me up a bit. Thoroughly defeated, I retreat back in to the house, make a pot of tea and prepare myself for round two.

When I finally reach the station, I'm a few minutes early for the 7.36. I join the huddle of chilly commuters, with their beanies pulled low and coffee cups cradled to their chests. They swap tragic tales of icy roads, frozen cars, frosty fingers caught in doors. 'It's May!' they wail. 'What'll we do in August?' I pull my coat around me a little tighter, and think sadly about how much I'll miss my fingers and toes when they're lost to frostbite.


Have our winters got colder? Climate change science would suggest that it's really a matter of me getting more delicate. Spoiled by overheated lecture theatres, offices and labs, I've forgotten what it was like to survive a real winter up on a hill in Bamganie, when arctic winds roared around the house, rattling the windows and whistling down the chimney. Late at night I'd bravely leave the luxurious warmth of the fireside for the frozen tundra of the hallway and my icy bedroom beyond, thinking nothing of the 20 degree drop in temperature other than 'gosh, it's a bit nippy tonight. Better put on a fourth pair of socks'. I'd wake to mornings sparkling with frost, barely able

to shift the enormous pile of blankets I was huddled under, half expecting to look out the window and see icebergs floating by. I never worried about my toes falling off, because I hadn't been able to feel them since April anyway. When we whinged about the cold,



Dad said things like 'Back in my day, we walked four miles barefoot through the snow just to get school...', and we stuck a beanie on our heads and got on with things.

There's no doubt about it, I was brought up to be lot hardier than I am now. I have noticed, though, that things have changed in Bamganie since the winters of my childhood. Bedrooms are heated, the howling wind can't find its way in, and even the most cold-sensitive of city guests can take off their coats without risking hypothermia. Everyone wanders round in just one pair of socks, and sleeps under one doona, not seven. Luxury! Back in my day, we walked four miles barefoot through the snow just to get to school.



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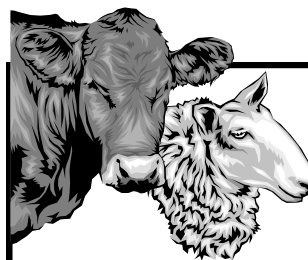
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in my garden

I love April and May in the Garden. The constant work of watering is all but over and the winter weeds have not yet emerged. There is time to sit and enjoy the autumn spectacle of the ornamental garden.

I always think that the deciduous garden puts on its party dress for the last hurrah before the many weeks of winter dormancy. The best dressed autumn trees this year are without a doubt the Manchurian Pears, the Liquidambar and the Crab Apple trees. The Silver Birches are putting on a more subdued display, while the flowering cherries, maples and claret ash have failed to develop the depth of colour that they did last year. The Plane trees are also underachievers in the coloured leaf department. Finally, the roses, while not capable of producing coloured leaves, have put on a final colourful flourish.

I love the look of autumn leaves on the lawn, and am even reluctant to mow the lawn while leaves gather in quantities. My favourite job is raking the autumn leaves onto the garden beds. (You may be thinking at this point, and possibly quite correctly, that I should get a life.) They make such beautiful mulch and the plants will reap the benefit next spring and summer. In addition to enriching the soil, the autumn leaf mulch assists in keeping the soil moist and suppresses weeds. The sound of autumn leaves blowing along the ground is also delightful. On a day when there is a gentle breeze you can hear the leaves falling gently to the ground and I am always overcome by an overwhelming sense of wellbeing at this unremarkable act of nature.

As autumn progresses, so does the gradual unveiling of the evergreen garden. The garden as a whole takes on an entirely different appearance and the opportunity presents to enjoy other shrubs and trees. The Callistemons (bottlebrushes) and Correas are flowering. They really are spectacular bushes especially when planted in groups. The variegated Hebes are head turners even though they are not in flower.

The end of autumn is also the time to think about harvesting pumpkins that have been nurtured for the many weeks of spring and summer and early autumn and are now coming of age. Immediately after the first frost 'my'

pumpkins were proudly removed from the vine. This year, I was fortunate enough to have two crops of pumpkins: one share crop grown with my neighbour Kevin (a beautiful crop of Queensland Blue pumpkins) and one crop grown from buried vegetable scraps containing pumpkin seeds (very nice medium sized Butternuts). In addition to the constant harvesting of vegetables on an as needs basis, I have also continued to harvest cabbages - now small ones that have grown from the stumps of cabbages previously harvested during the summer and allowed to regrow.

Autumn is also time to think about winter and spring vegetables. I think that it is much easier to grow vegetables during the cooler months when the earth is soft and moist: no, or only occasional watering required and easier tilling, planting and weeding. Because much of my vegetable garden is grown from seed, planning needs to start early with seed raising. In the greenhouse I have seed trays of Tuscan Kale (seed from last year's crop), various onions, leeks, raddichio, celery and Italian parsley. I also have pots of tomatoes that I hope will continue to fruit well into the winter. Herbs, that might not survive the first frost, are also grown in pots in the greenhouse. Much of the seed that I use is seed saved from the previous years crops. The remainder of the seed is usually obtained from the Diggers Club. Several weeks ago I planted out Brussels sprouts (grown from seed sown in punnets many weeks ago). I have also planted broad beans (grown from beans saved from last years crop); rhubarb; Italian lettuce (can self seed); rainbow chard and rocket (seed saved and planted directly into the garden underneath deciduous fruit trees and elsewhere); Italian parsley (self sown and then transplanted to desired location). I am keeping an eye on the maturing seeds of black raddish and broccolini with a view to saving the seed for future sowing.

It is very satisfying growing vegetables that can be harvested for the table literally just minutes before consumption and have cost very little to grow. Further, an assortment of garden vegetables means that the larder is never empty.

Happy Gardening All.

Robyn

Kindred matters



Judith Emond, Family Therapist

Managing the 'winter blues'

Winter is certainly upon us as we brace ourselves to endure many cold rainy days and less daylight hours. Some of us face travelling to and from work each day in darkness and all of us end up spending extensive periods of time indoors. Many dread the onset of winter and find it rather depressing. If this sounds familiar then perhaps you may be experiencing Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) which is more commonly known as the 'Winter Blues'.

Research confirms that SAD occurs due to the reduced number of sunlight hours over winter, which causes disturbance to our 'body clock'. Some of the symptoms include; low mood, withdrawal from usual activities, lack of sleep or over sleeping, reduced motivation, lethargy, craving carbohydrates or sugar, as well as, feeling distressed or anxious. Feeling 'blue' at some stage during winter is common for most folk and there are a number of strategies that help to keep it at bay.

In order to beat the 'winter blues' you could consider the following interventions;

- Spend as much time outdoors as possible. If you work indoors try eating lunch outside or take a brisk walk around the block. Any time spent outdoors is terrific but apparently exposure to dawn and early morning light helps best to regulate our 'body clock'.
- When spending time indoors expose yourself to as much natural light as possible. Place furniture accordingly, open blinds daily and cut back trees or shrubs from windows to ensure the maximum entry of light. The use of pastel colours and indoor flowering plants can also help to lift mood.
- Eating well is very important, particularly when we tend to indulge in comfort foods when the weather is frosty. Limit alcohol intake and consider taking vitamin supplements.
- Holiday in a warmer climate, this has become a trend for many and a great opportunity to catch up with relatives who live interstate.
- Monitor your mood and notice the warning signs of depression. You may choose to keep a diary and record the number of 'blue' days. As a general rule, if your mood does not improve or becomes worse over a period of two weeks, then seek advice from your GP or health care professional. The sooner you seek help and treatment the quicker the recovery.

For further information about depression or SAD contact Beyond Blue on **1300 224 636**. They are available to talk 24hrs/day and also have web chat daily between 4pm and 10 pm. www.beyondblue.com.au

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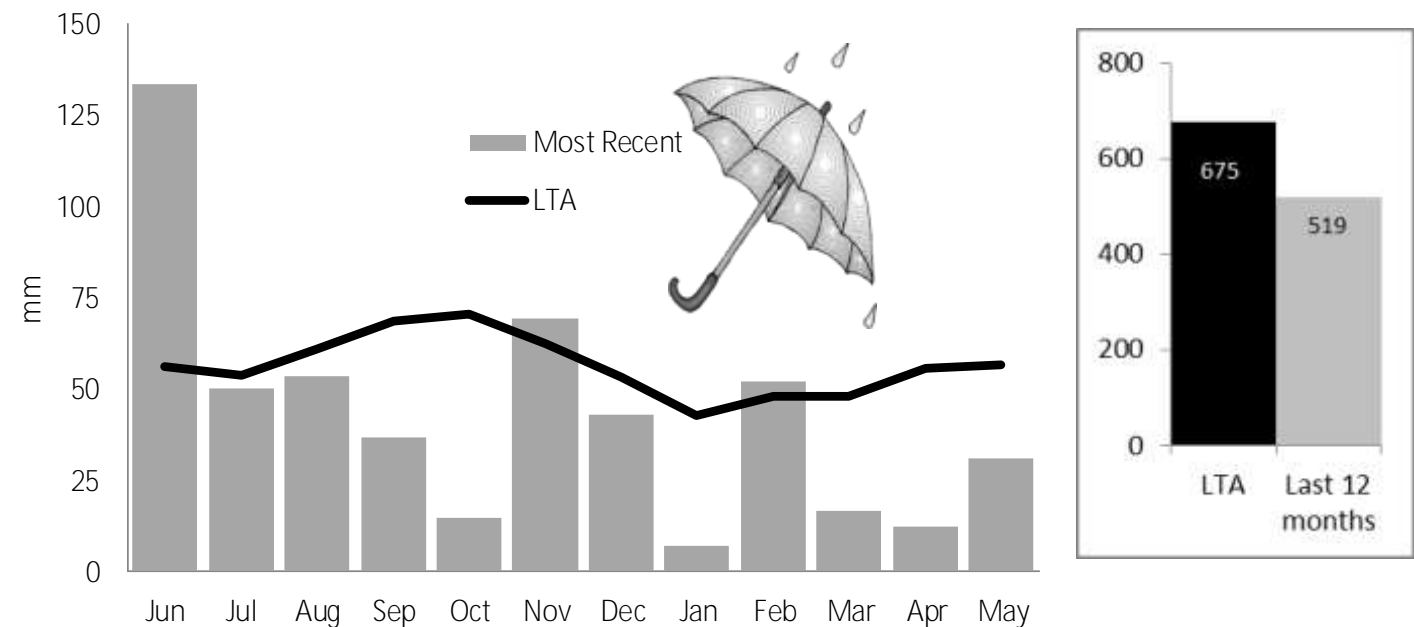
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The (very little) Rainfall Report

You won't need a rainfall chart to tell you it's been a pretty dry autumn. What the figures do reveal, is that the falls over the last three months represent only 37% of autumn's long term average. That's a deficit of around 100mm in one season. And the last 12 month's falls, as shown in the side bar chart, are now well below the LTA too with a shortfall of around 156 mm or 23%.



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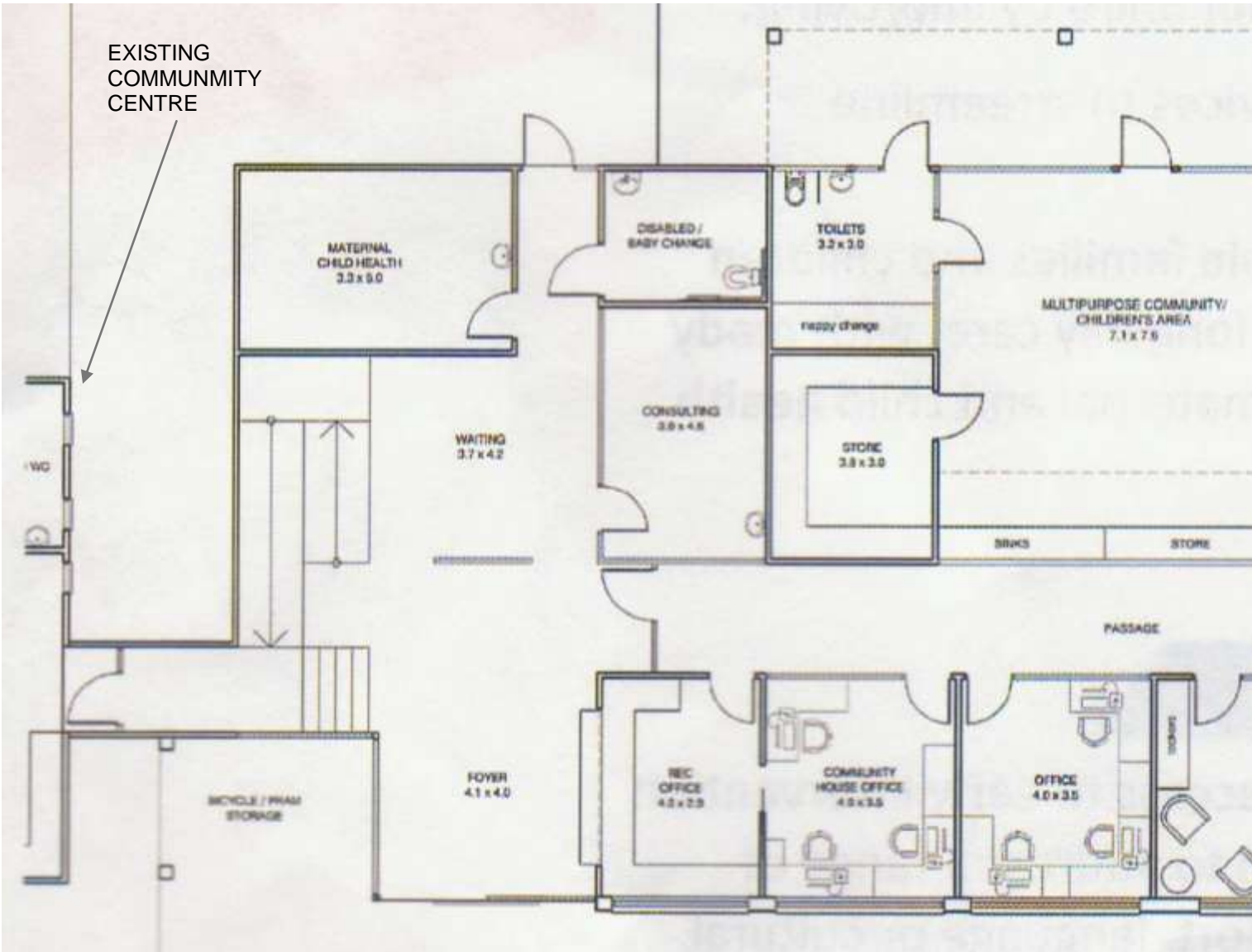
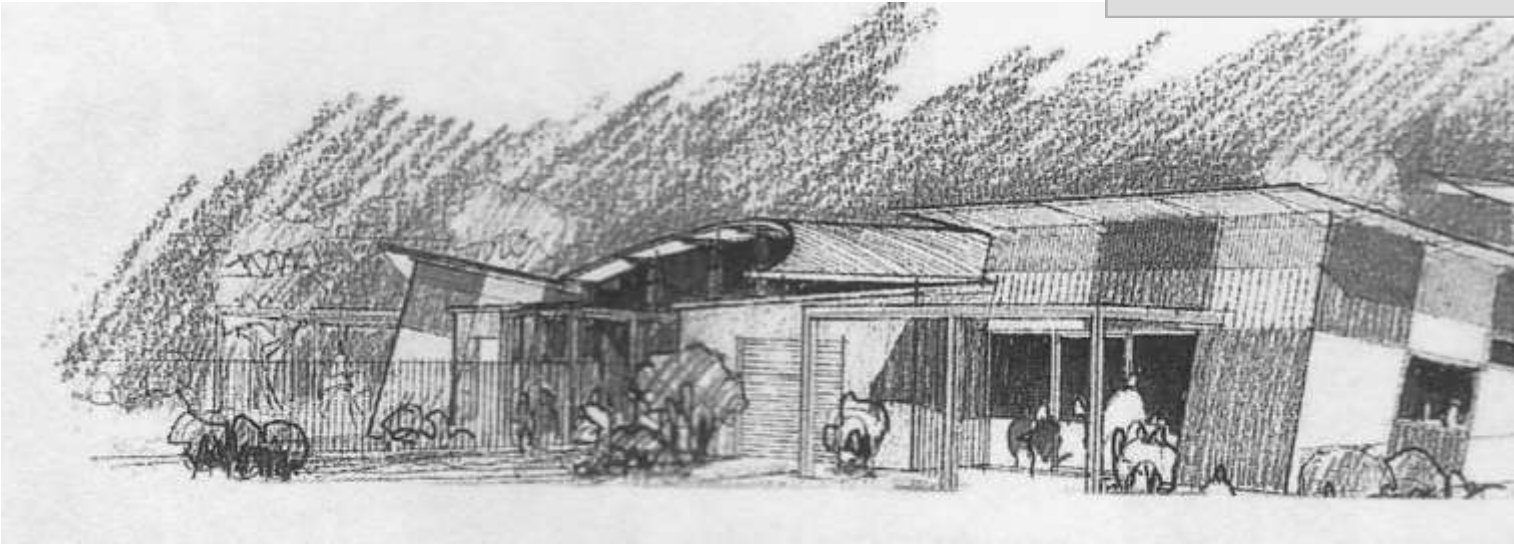
This offer not available on Tuesdays.

The Hub

The planned Meredith Community Hub promises, as the name suggests, to become the focus of community activity for the Meredith district, as well as complementing the existing Community Centre and the new school to create an “education precinct.”

Because of its importance, we have reproduced below an artist’s impression of the new building and a preliminary floor plan. Even though these are by no means final, and there will be further consultation before the design is resolved, these illustrations give a good impression of the proposed building’s facilities and utility.

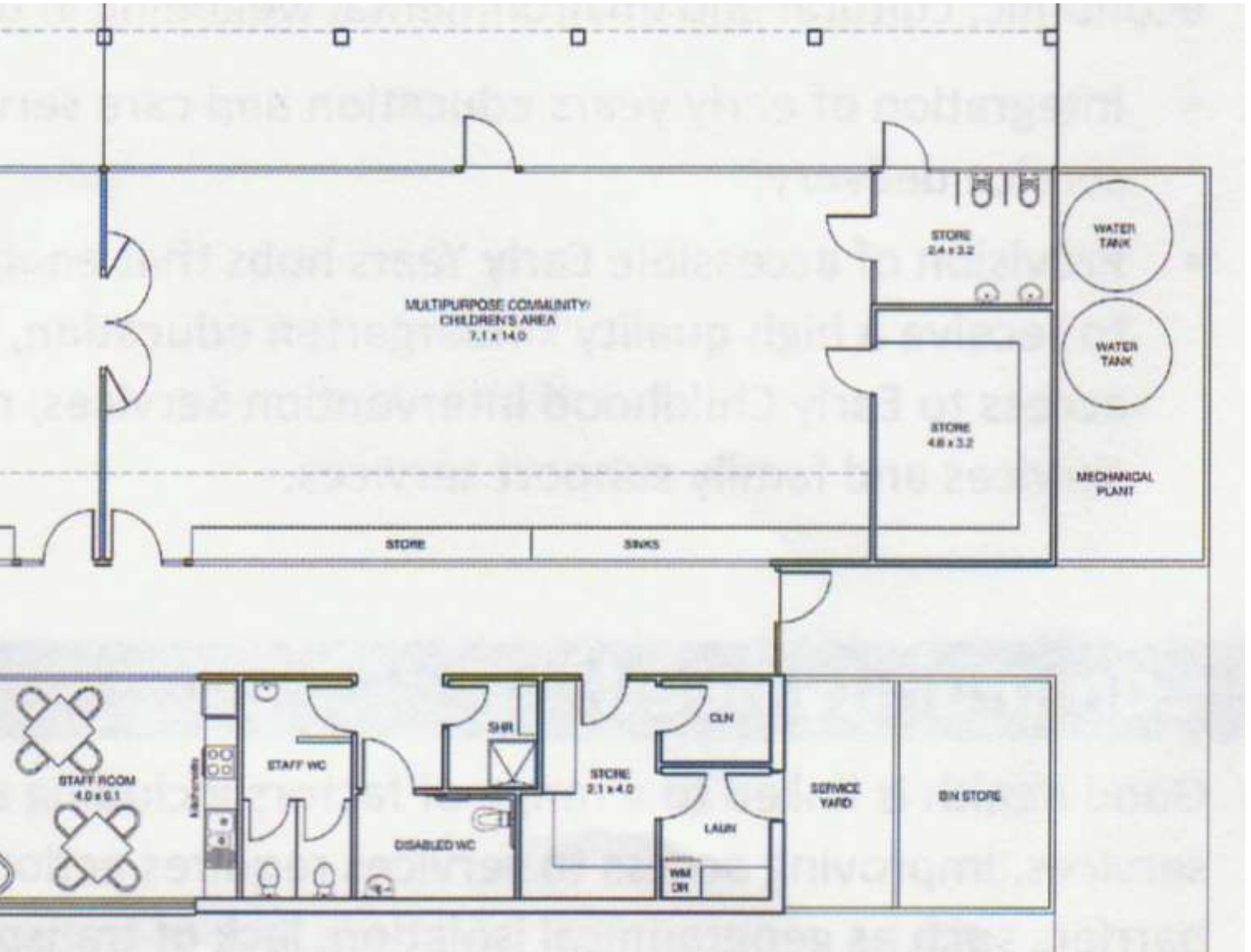
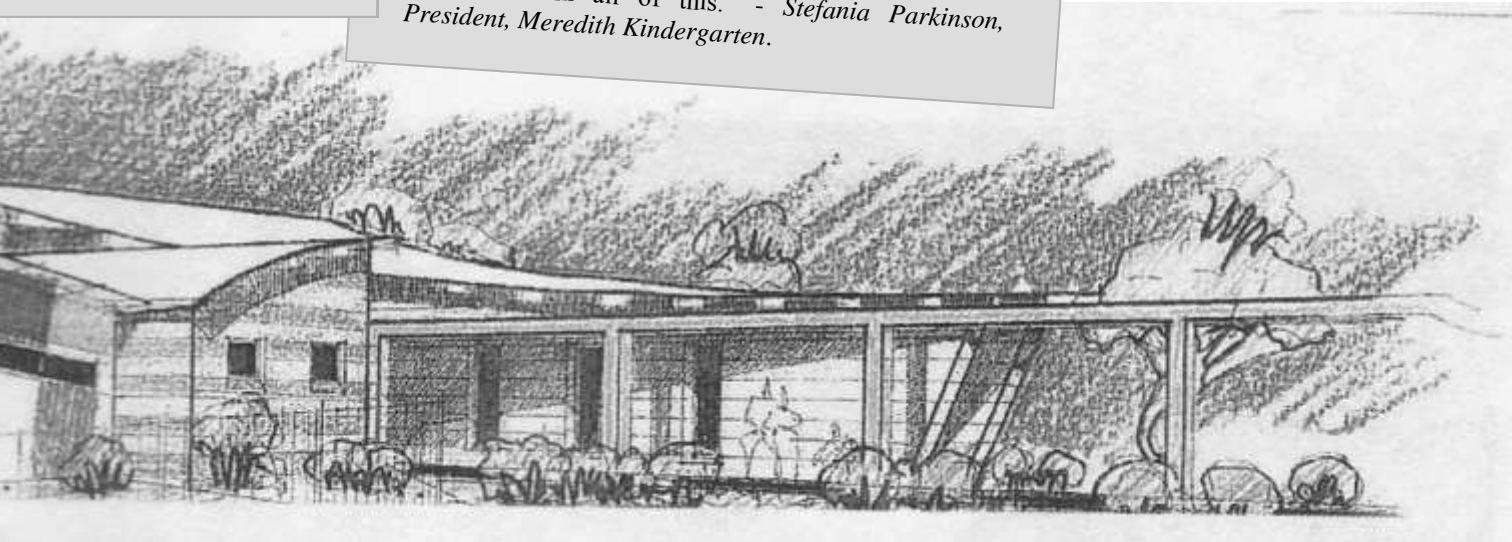
Infrastructure projects in Meredith have been announced in recent times, a wealth of good news. In addition to the new school, the Interpretive Centre (Visitors’ Centre) and the Main Street Library are due to enter the construction phase. It is much to transform the town’s



Meredith either constructed or amount to around \$3 million in addition to the Hub, the new centre (known briefly as the In Streets Project, which is in phase soon, will all do appearance and amenity.

“The committee and staff are very excited about the new project and look forward to working with the various groups to help create a kindergarten and community centre that will meet the needs of a growing community while giving our kids access to the very best pre school facilities we possibly can. This funding has come about from a lot of hard work and lobbying over several years by many kinder parent committees. I want to acknowledge previous committees for their contribution in all of this.” - Stefania Parkinson, President, Meredith Kindergarten.

“I’m really pleased that the kinder will be co-located with the school and that we can then provide greater support to the kinder staff and community which in turn will greatly enhance the transition process.” - Doug Cations, Principal, Meredith Primary School





Marg's Book Review

"Truth" by Peter Temple

The blurb tells that "Truth" is a novel about a man, a family, a city. It is about violence, love, murder, honour and deceit. During my years in bookclub I have finished reading almost every book that has been selected.

I have to admit that I didn't get past the first few chapters in this book! I couldn't understand the language, there were many characters introduced but not developed, a crime scene was described and then forgotten and another introduced etc. Some bookclub members did finish the book but also found it difficult.

"A Whispered Name" by William Brodrick

A Gilbertine Monk is allotted the task of determining what really happened, that resulted in a field court martial of a young Irish volunteer, Joseph Flanagan who apparently had deserted- a capital crime, in WWI.

The horrors of Passchendale in 1917 are described. Just how much can a man take before he must simply walk away? What kind of strength enables a man to lay down his life for another? One of the Officers presiding over the court martial, who has his own demons, tries in vain to intervene.

The details of the case are unravelled as the Monk delves into the carnage of war. It is only at the end of the book that the reader discovers who was the old man who came to the Monastery, who stood weeping amongst the trees near the Cemetery, who came to find out what really happened.

It is a novel of moral complexity, superb characterisation and above all, profound humanity. A much recommended read, beautifully written, easy to read and completely compelling!

The next book to be discussed is "Handle with Care" by Jodi Picoult.

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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.

home GROAN



What happens when you cross a dinosaur with a parrot?

Nobody knows, but if it spoke, everyone would listen!



Tai

Know This Shed?

Colin Cook provided this photo of a small, but heavily built tin shed in use in a Parks Victoria depot. A Ranger thought it had been there for more than 25 years after being used as a smokehouse in Meredith. It is thought to have been a portable police lock-up before its conversion to culinary purposes. It is understood that such lock-ups were in use in the mid-19th century, but so far, there is no record to confirm there was ever one located at Meredith.

Perhaps you knew it as a smokehouse and where it was located? If so, please let Colin know on 5286 1252.



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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 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



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Ross Family Reunion at Lethbridge

Ross Bradbury, great grandson of Alexander & Willamina Ross

I decided that instead of trying to visit individual relatives I would set a date to hold a reunion of the family in a public place and everybody could catch up with everybody else. We have done this for about 20+ years.

And so I organized the family to meet at the Recreation Reserve at Lethbridge to view family history, to listen to Raymond Kelly to tell about early Lethbridge and to lunch before a driving tour to visit places of interest to the Ross family in Lethbridge.

Alexander Ross was born in Scotland in 1824, arrived in Australia in 1852, moved to Lethbridge in 1854, married Willamina Ross in 1857 and they had 3 children, Christina b. 1860, George b. 1862 and William b. 1865.

Willamina died soon after the birth of William and is buried at Lethbridge Cemetery. Willamina's mother, Isabella, is also buried at Lethbridge (1870).

As well as being a storekeeper in Lethbridge Alexander was the first Postmaster and held that position for 20 years from 1857 to 1877, his daughter Christina was

Postmistress from 1877 to 1883 and his son George was Postmaster from 1883 and 1884.

Alexander was an enterprising man, he built an imposing 2 story bluestone store/house on the south side of the main road, he owned a quarry at Lethbridge, he bought blocks of land at Footscray in 1860, he bought farming land near Lethbridge, he and John Martin wrote to the Government requesting a State School, he twice stood for the Bannockburn Council, he had a lot to say but no-one seconded his motions and he tendered to supply materials to build the railway line from Geelong to Ballarat.

He was also the electoral Registrar for Lethbridge from 1872 until 1880.

He sold many items in his store including wheelbarrows that may have been made by John Martin next door.


In September 1872 Alexander had to declare himself insolvent due to bad debts and stock losses but by January 1873 he had repaid his creditors 20 shillings in the pound.

He remarried to Annie Beck in July 1874, they had 5 children and they moved to

Swan Reach in Gippsland where he was a storekeeper and ran a hotel.



In all their splendour, William, Christine, Alexander and George Ross.



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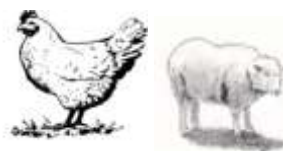
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MEREDITH COMMUNITY PLAN 2013 UPDATE



The purpose of Community Plans for towns in Golden Plains Shire is to:

- a) Improve the town and environs for the community
- b) Build a healthy and happy community
- c) Inform Council decision making
- d) Grab opportunities when they come
- e) Minimise the need for additional consultation

The plans are reviewed every two years and the process for developing the new Meredith Plan commenced in December 2012. A suggestion sheet was sent to ratepayers in the district in January 2013. Thank you to all residents for your input and comments into the new plan which is to be presented to Council soon.

MEREDITH COMMUNITY PLAN 2013 UPDATE

Your responses have been reviewed at several meetings by residents called Community Co-ordinators and organised into themes for the new plan. We again ask for your input. The aim is to make Meredith the most liveable town in the Golden Plains Shire, with an emphasis on wellbeing and fitness and accessibility for all. Golden Plains Shire has made seed funding available up to \$5,000 to be spent on achieving priorities in the Community Plan.

The Community Planning Group proposes this seed funding be allocated to fund the priority of a fitness station with twelve exercises to be built at Pioneer Park.

THEMES

1. A Walking Town – fitness track in Pioneer Park and walking tracks around town and link with Police Paddock.
2. Town Infrastructure – eg. Wallace Street/Staughton Street intersection - Beautify Staughton Street/Wallace Street – Street lighting – Bluestone gutters improved and Staughton Street sealed to gutters – More sealed footpaths – Parking improvements at General Store – Old time street signage – Flashing lights at school crossing – Welcome signs at all entrances to town.
3. Outer Areas – Dual highway Bannockburn to Buninyong – Meredith/Shelford Road fix potholes and blind bends near Lower Plains Road – Meredith Mt Mercer Road, narrow seal should be widened from top of Woodburn Cutting to Hodges Creek, bitumen edges are dangerous - Seal Pioneer Ridge Road – **Contact 'V' Line to improve rail crossing.**
4. Community Facilities/Arts & Culture – Art designs made by community members eg. Metal, Corrugated Iron, Topiary, Farm Animals/Implements, etc – Shaded playground at Visitor Information Centre – Upgrading of playground at Pioneer Park – Flower boxes – Flower Show – Art Show – Scarecrow Competition – Promote town markets – Promote music events – More Shire support for town during Meredith Music Festivals.
5. Tourism – Develop a town based tourism strategy – Research proposals for tourism features – Steam trains and miniature railway – Large water feature (could be man made)– A wetland and Community park in connection with Golf Club – Railway dam noting the historic potential.

The Co-ordinators will progressively work on the themes and actions and welcome feedback on the themes further suggestions on the slip below. **You can leave your suggestion at Meredith Community Centre; Foxy's or Meredith Roadhouse until 30 June 2013.** For further information about the Community Planning Program, please call Damian Waight, Golden Plains Shire 5220 7111 or dwaight@gplains.vic.gov.au

Name/Contact: _____

Comments: _____

\$14,500 to Help Show Off History

from media release

Australian government funding from the *Your Community Heritage* program will allow interpretive signs to be installed around the Meredith Interpretive Centre telling the story of the prominent events and people from the Meredith District.

Federal member for Corangamite, Darren Cheeseman, M.P. announced the grant in Meredith recently, saying "The Meredith History Interest Group has done a lot of work on this project. There is a lot of history in Meredith around the Gold Rush and beyond. As a key town on the way to the Gold Fields there is a great History that will now be enhanced with this project."

"Community heritage is about making sure we preserve the stories of our community which attach to particular places," he said. "To really appreciate the story of our country it's not just the milestones that are in textbooks, it's the stories that live and breathe in every community."



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Sandy Celebrates a Fruitful 90 Years

Marg Cooper

Alexander (Sandy) Connecannon joined the Light Horse Regiment in 1941 and then joined the Air Force when he was 18 years old. On his 21st birthday Sandy arrived in Yorkshire, England to join 102 Squadron as an air gunner for a tour of operations in WWII.

A pilot who, like Sandy, grew up at Lucindale South Australia, picked Sandy to be part of his crew as air gunner and together with a wireless operator, a navigator, a bomb aimer and an English engineer they formed a crew that flew 35 sorties over Europe in 1944.

Bomber Command had tremendous losses and the air gunner who sat in the turret, was very vulnerable! He was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross for valour, courage and devotion.

Sandy was allocated Block 4 in the No 1 Portion of "Moranghurk" Soldier Settlement. The successful applicants were met at the Railway Station and Sandy lodged with George Lloyd and Les Frankel in Les's garage.

They slept on bare stretchers. There was a six inch gap between the walls and the floor and it was freezing., so they put canvas horse rugs over them because water was dripping off the ceiling.

When Sandy's garage was built, his wife Edith and sons Jamie 3 years and baby Andrew came to Meredith. Sandy rigged up a 12 volt plant to give them lights. They had a kerosene refrigerator.

A contractor from Geelong built the house and the family moved in after living in the garage for twelve months.

The land was vacant, undeveloped, and had all the trees ripped off it and would run about ½ a sheep per acre. There were a few old falling down fences and what is now Boundary Road was an unmade track. Sandy and his family had no income for 2 or 3 years.

The Soldier Settlement Commission paid a small amount to the settlers to fence and to do other jobs for SSC. The settlers worked hard to improve the land with mostly old second hand equipment.

When Sandy sold the farm in 1979 it was running 5 sheep per acre.

Sandy and Ede had three more sons born at Meredith, Craig, Michael and Peter and became very involved in the community. Sandy played golf and encouraged Ede to do so by offering to work around the house on Ladies' golf days and mind the boys.

They retired to Leopold although Sandy continued to travel back to the farm and worked for the new owners, Gail and Keith Dempsey for a number of years.

Sandy celebrated his 90th birthday with a party at the Leopold Sportsman's' Club on Saturday May 11. A crowd of family and friends gathered to congratulate him and to wish him well.





it's History

“Glenetive”

The ongoing story of the life of a district property

Marg Cooper

On April 2, 1934 Robert A Bailey agreed to purchase the property of “Glenetive” containing 2172 acres, more or less from Mr Adrian Vanrenen.

Sheila Mitchell, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs JB Bellair of “Yamba” Riddles Creek became engaged to Mr Robert Anderson Bailey of “Glenetive” Meredith on May 15, 1937. They married on August 12, 1937 at the Presbyterian Church in Toorak, the ceremony was performed by the Moderator General, the Right Rev Dr John McKenzie.

Sheila was attended by three bridesmaids: Misses Beth Anderson (cousin of the bride), Maroa Molesworth and Janet Landale. Robert was attended by Robert Molesworth as Best Man, Mr Geoffrey Bailey and B Reid.

Sheila carried a posy of orange blossom set in a silver holder which had belonged to her maternal grandmother. Locals tell

that they were given a race horse as a wedding present. They called it August twelfth. It should have been called April first as it ran fairly slowly!

“Bob offered Sheila the choice of a lighting plant or a slate roof. She chose the slate roof and they dined by candlelight!”

On Thursday March 17, 1938 The Argus newspaper featured a description and plans of the new homestead built for Mr and Mrs Bailey at “Glenetive”.

“With no restrictions as to space, the architect, in planning a farm or station homestead, is able to spread his plan in any direction on the site so that the best aspect is obtained for all the rooms. This has been done with the new homestead illustrated which has just been completed for Mr and Mrs RA Bailey at “Glenetive” near Meredith.”

The Californian style of architecture was adapted to suit local conditions, the external walls were built of roughened brickwork and painted ivory white, the roof is covered with green blend slate, the window shutters are mustard colour and the whole house comfortably fits into the landscape.

The wide open paved terrace sheltered by two wings serves as an open air room and the twenty six feet long main living room has the windows grouped to take full advantage of the views to the north east. Locals tell that Bob offered Sheila the choice of a lighting plant or a slate roof. She chose the slate roof and they dined by candlelight!

Bob Lowne tells that Bob Bailey and his brother Dick and their wives caught the train to Melbourne from Geelong after their final leave from the Army. At Werribee the men got off for a toilet stop, wandered over the road to the hotel and missed the train's departure. Two well dressed men offered them a lift to

Melbourne in their hearse. They arrived at Spencer Street at the same time as the train so they could meet their wives. The undertakers commented that Bob and Dick were the only people ever to get out of the back of the hearse, alive!

The family sold “Glenetive” to Mr and Mrs Dean from South Australia.

Meredith History Interest Group

Who Lived in My House?

This project aims to record both the building and social history of the town through the sharing of photos, stories and documents. At the next catalogue meeting on Thursday, May 30 we will begin to collate the Staughton Street information that has been collected. We then plan to contact the residents to collect more information and to share the information we already have with them.

The “Staughton Street Walk” was the launch of the project and a place to start this BIG project! The DVD of the “Staughton Street Walk” is available for purchase now for \$10.

If you have photos, stories, documents, if you have time to collate or to collect, if you would like to examine the old rate books or copy information from Trove: we'd love you!

Trove

This is an absolute treasure trove for researchers. Many newspapers have been digitised and are available on the internet under the title “Trove”. Simply google “Trove”, enter a topic and many, many references to that topic will appear. The Argus newspaper has been the most prominent newspaper and it is amazing what “Meredith” news did appear in the early Argus's. The exciting news is that some editions of the Geelong Advertiser have recently been digitised and many others are about to be added.

You can search for family history, property history, town history but be warned: it is addictive!

Treasure Time

You are invited to the Church of Epiphany in Meredith on Sunday, July 14 at 1.30pm. Bring a “Historical Treasure” and to tell about your “Treasure”. It may be an object, a photo, a document. It may be a scrapbook, a photo album, an autograph book. It may be a brick, a fence post, a flag or a plant!

If you haven't got a treasure, come along and bring a small plate of afternoon tea.

Moranghurk Soldier Settlement

The unveiling of the plaque and the launch of the book will be on Sunday, September 15. The plaque is going to be erected adjacent to the gate to “Moranghurk” on the Midland Highway.

Keep the date free as this day will be quite a reunion of soldier settlers, their families and the community members.

Catalogue Thursdays.

We catalogue on the last Thursday of the month in the Anglican Church in Meredith. You are invited to call in to talk history, to donate items, to look at the collection or to help.

A Walk to a Wall

Colin Cook

On the 28th April I conducted a guided walk to the Lower Stony Creek Reservoir as part of the National Trust Heritage Festival. The theme for this year's festival was Community Milestones and the reservoir certainly represents a significant milestone to the area. Located in the Brisbane Ranges, the Lower Stony Creek reservoir was built between February 1873 and June 1874 to supply water to the growing city of Geelong. It has the distinction of not only being the first concrete dam built in Australia, but only the third such dam in the world. Its successful completion gave Geelong its first reliable water supply which was essential for its industrial and commercial growth, for public health and protection from fire.

A troubled history

Construction of the Upper Stony Creek storages 6 kilometers upstream and of the reticulation system to Geelong commenced in 1866, but water was not supplied from this system until 1873. The Upper Stony Creek reservoir was an earthen wall with a clay puddle core. Design and location faults led to the slumping of the dam wall as soon as it began to fill. Major leaks also occurred in the brick-lined aqueduct intended to carry water from the reservoir to a pipe-head reservoir at Anakie. The failure of the Upper Stony Creek dam wall and the subsequent loss of any water storage capability until it could be repaired, resulted in the decision to construct a second water storage in the area.

A new dam

This site was chosen for the new dam based on the size of storage which could be achieved, the ease with which a dam wall could be constructed, and the nature of the ground on which the dam wall was to sit, as poor choice in this last matter had contributed to the failure of the Upper Stony Creek dam wall.

Novel design

The design of the dam wall was undertaken by George Gordon, the newly appointed Chief Engineer for Water Supply. Gordon applied recently developed principles for dam wall stability to achieve the desired wall strength without excessive construction costs. At the time, civil engineers relied more on rules of thumb than on sound mathematical principles. Gordon's design represented a significant contribution to dam design, and served as an example to other engineers around the world.

Innovative construction

The engineer selected to carry out construction of the dam wall, Edward Dobson, made a brave decision in light of the scrutiny his works would have been under: the dam wall would be constructed with concrete. Standard British practice at the time was to build earth embankment dams, and all the dams built up to that time in Victoria followed this practice, so the use of a concrete structure represented a significant innovation. At the time, Portland Cement concrete was only beginning to be used as a major construction material. The alternative material, masonry, was ruled out due to the cost and the length of time required to construct a strong enough dam wall. The wall was constructed of a mixture of cement, sand and metal screenings mixed on site and carted to the dam wall by hand barrow. The dam wall

was built up layer by layer, with each course being thoroughly rammed down to ensure complete bonding to the layer below. At completion, the total volume of concrete mixed, barrowed and poured was 5096 cubic yards (3900 cubic metres).

Pipeline history

The reservoir required a pipeline to connect to the existing pipe-head reservoir at Anakie, from where it would flow to Geelong. However, laying a cast-iron pipe through Anakie Gorge presented numerous obstacles for such a short distance. There were six tunnels with a total length of 1915 metres, twenty-one creek crossings with sixteen stone weirs, two heavy rock side cuttings and two retaining walls across gullies. A considerable amount of road-making was required before the pipes could be distributed along the pipe-track. The pipes, weighing up to ½ ton each, were initially brought by horse teams to the summits of the leading spurs. Transport was then undertaken by bullock teams, with the drays being hauled into the gorge with trees lashed behind them to check the speed of the descent. The main tunnel from the end of the gorge to the pipe-head reservoir ran through the Anakie Gap and is 1733 metres long, but only 2 metres high and 1 metre wide. When laying the mains through this tunnel, the pipes were lowered down vertical access shafts and then hauled to position on a temporary tramway. Dobson, the engineer, drily reported that the confined space made this work "somewhat troublesome".

Graceful retirement

The dam was completed in 1874, with no delays from strikes, accidents or construction failures. It served as an important, though relatively small, part of Geelong's water supply for over a century. In 1998, upgrades to the water supply system meant that the Lower Stony Creek reservoir was no longer required. Barwon Water began negotiations with Parks Victoria for transfer of the reservoir and its catchment land to the Brisbane Ranges National Park. Formal handover occurred in 2010.



A view of some of the construction team, and below, the Lower Stony Creek Reservoir. Australia's first and the world's third concrete dam wall.



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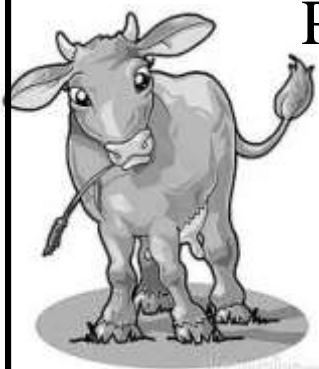


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Evelyn Grey(Wiseman) from She Oaks

Marg Cooper

Evelyn is the daughter of George and Annie Wiseman and grew up on Duggan Road at She Oaks.

On the family's 60 acre bush block, George built a house of two big rooms out of Ford boxes. There was no such thing as a bathroom. A big tub in front of the stove was where the family washed. The toilet was miles away down the paddock! They had a small tank set in the ground and they dipped water out of the top of the tank.

Evelyn remembers her mother and her taking 44 gallon drums on the trolley pulled by a horse to the river at the clearing beside the road, to get water. Evelyn dipped water out of the river and her mother poured it into the drums. They had a copper, troughs and a long clothes line between posts with a prop post in the middle of the line.

Later they bought a house at Beremboke and shifted it to She Oaks. That increased the size of the house, 3 bedrooms were added and a large lounge room with an open fire.

They had 2 or 3 house cows and one year when "Nance" came on season she ended up at Maude. Mum milked the cows, separated the milk, made butter and had a huge vegetable garden. George cut wood and Abby Trotter carted the wood to Geelong for him. He cut trees down with an axe, cut them into long lengths with the axe, carted the wood on the low 4 wheeled trolley pulled by a horse and cut the wood into one foot lengths on the saw bench which was powered by a stationary Lister engine.

The wood went to Mr Northfield's yard in Geelong West or was sold privately.

George and Anne had 4 children, Keith, Doug, Evelyn and Ron. The children attended the She Oaks School and were taught by Miss Randall. She rode her bike to catch the train and sat up very straight on the bike. She boarded at Allens during the week and went home to Elaine at weekends.

She had dark red hair and wound it in a roll from ear to ear. She was very strict but a very good teacher and was good to her students. She had a strap but only used it on the boys! The children called her "Old Katey!"

Evelyn remembers that the only prize she ever won for running was at the school sports when she got a third. There were 4 girls in the race and Margaret Drayton from Steiglitz fell over and Evelyn came third.

After the war ended Mrs Matheson of "Moranghurk" put on a party at Lethbridge School for all the local children. She was very generous! The family moved to Warrenheip then later moved to a dairy farm at Yendon.

Evelyn had worked there about 6½ years before she married Wilfred Grey. She had "finished with men forever" after a failed romance but started writing to a man

from "Gringegalgona" near Balmoral. He had advertised for a penfriend in the Weekly Times.

His name was Wilfred and she presumed that he was short and whippy! When she met him he was 6 foot 4 inches tall and certainly not whippy. They lived at Gringegalgona when they first married but moved to Yendon with their few cows to help Mum and her brothers.

They bought a house and 20 acres of their own over the road from the dairy farm for £2500. Evelyn and William Grey had a son Lindsay and a daughter Lindy. Evelyn still lives in the house and reckons the road should be called Wiseman Road as her brothers, her nephews, her son and herself live beside each other along the road.

She fondly remembers her youth at She Oaks and the characters that lived in and around Meredith.



Evelyn Grey nee Wiseman.

More Funding for Ag Project

from media release

The State Government has announced it will contribute \$2.94 million toward an \$11.78 million water supply project. The plan is to construct a 12.5km water supply pipeline to service 110km² land area for intensive agriculture west of Lethbridge. Barwon Water and Golden Plains Shire have also confirmed contributions to the scheme, which now relies on a further \$4.17 million from the Australian government.

Did you know that the Golden Plains Shire already produces, each week:

- 4,000,000 eggs
- 600,000 chickens (breeders & broilers)
- 1,000 pigs
- 28,000 litres of goat milk

source: Golden Plains Shire

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