



Paddocks Talk

Jim Elvey

Meredith Police Paddocks can now tell their own story with signs that lead the visitor through the uses and values of this historical site. Easily accessible from Nuttall Street and Campion Road, where there is also a constructed car park, its all weather track offers a delightful walk through a dramatic landscape right within the township.

Signs welcome visitors at both entrances, then cover early use, the golden years, the environment and early police buildings. They are the final component of a project that also included drainage and the construction of the walking track, funded by a Golden Plains Shire Community Grant (\$5,000), the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (\$4,100), Ballarat Environment Network (\$2,000) and Meredith Community Coordinators (\$1,000). It also involved many hours of voluntary work from an enthusiastic group of locals who form the Meredith Police Paddocks Support Group. This covered all aspects of the project from research, (Fay McFarlane and Chris Baird), composing sign text and seeking expert verification, through to fabricating sign frames and fittings (thank you Vaughan Reeves) and the (very) hard task of digging 900 mm deep holes in hard summer clay. There are many others involved in the project, but special thanks to Paul Galea, Doug McFarlane, Colin and Wendy Cook, Barb Baird, David Steel and Peter Baird for their unflagging support and hard work.

The results speak for themselves and readers are encouraged to visit this beautiful natural asset on our doorstep, well, in our living room really! A very enjoyable walk is now a richer experience for the information provided on these handsomely presented signs.



Barb Baird watches Vaughan Reeves put the finishing touches to one of the new interpretive signs installed last month at the Meredith Police Paddocks. If you would like to get involved in the Support Group, or just learn more, contact Jim Elvey on 5286 1273.

inside

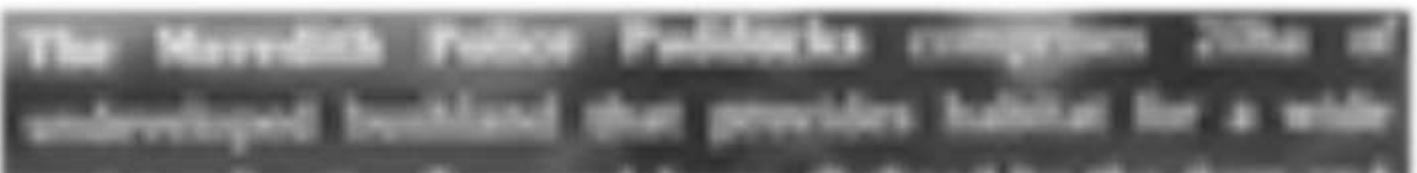


- The Poppy Tile Project.
- Elaine Back-to-Back Winners
- Mark and Melanie Marry
- Three Artists Found on the Trail
- Vale Jimmy Duggan
- The Mayor on Bumpy Roads
- Gemma on the Futility of Resistance
- ... and we've even got a real wine writer!

... plus the usual much more

E: news@meredithnews.com.au

W: www.meredithnews.com.au



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

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

FILM GROUP

☎5286 1274

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



"Moral indignation is jealousy with a halo."

- H. G. Wells

...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.





Community

Meredith Kinder News

Jodie

It's the end of the term and gee it's come around quickly! We enjoyed the Golden Plains Music Festival over the long weekend, thanks to Christine who is the organiser this year for the Kinder. I was able to work a shift in the tucker tent along with some of our parents and other volunteers, it was a lot of fun and it's such a great event to be a part of and raises much needed funds for our little kinder, I'm looking forward to the next one.

The children have been engaging in a variety of activities this month with much of their play being outdoors. Children are trying out new things, challenging themselves in climbing the trees, using pipes in the sandpit, running with the wheelies, having a go at riding the two wheel bike, painting with wet chalks and generally having a great time together. We are taking notice of the change in seasons and the start of autumn & the coloured leaves dropping. With holidays coming up we are doing some Easter crafts as we will miss this but it won't stop us from making bunny ears & having an egg hunt!

On the 21st March we attended the Golden Plains conference with special guest Marc Armitage, it was an inspiring day focusing on the "DO approach to Play. We came away with many new ideas on how best to set up our kinder environment to create inviting play spaces that evoke a sense of wonder and interest. Rosemary Gargan was also there and gave me a lovely work book and hand written sheets that her students had made for us.

This week Kylie and I were able to go down for a visit to Meredith Primary school to thank the children for their work and see all the familiar faces from last year who are now in Prep and also the grade 1's. We were greeted warmly by all the children, lots of hugs which made us feel very special being there. We hope to visit Lethbridge School next and see the preps soon.

Next Term we are joining the pre kinder 3 year old group with the 4 year old group for the rest of this year. Our numbers were too low to continue it on so Sue and Sharlene will be redeployed into other positions within the Golden Plains shire until the end of the year. We are all looking forward to our new big hub/kinder being built next to the school and we will be involved in the concept/design and decision making process as much as possible.

Happy Easter & holidays to everyone, Kinder resumes for Term 2 on April 22nd. See you then.



ANZAC DAY 2014



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

Please note a plate of food to share would be appreciated.

Historical Plaques

Marg Cooper

The Historical Plaques around the town are being replaced with enamelled signs that will endure the weather. some of the new signs are already in place.

There are 20 plaques. People have kindly sponsored 8 and 3 more have been promised. The cost of each plaque is \$400. If you would like to sponsor one, your donation will be acknowledged on the plaque and Advance Meredith would be closer to completing their project.

It is planned to reprint the Heritage Walk Book and to promote the Heritage Walk with new brochures that will be available at the new Meredith Information Centre.

We expect more people will be walking the town so it is important that all the plaques are readable and attractive.

Cheques can be made to "Advance Meredith" and delivered to Doug McFarlane at 5 Lawler Street, Meredith, 3333. Thanking You!

Meredith Community Village

Di Richie

A general meeting of the Committee was held last month. The Committee now meets six monthly to accept the Financial Report and re examine the strategy that was adopted at the meeting in June. This strategy was to amalgamate the 3 accounts into one investment account of \$100,000 with the Bendigo bank for a period of 2 years. A working amount of \$1,892 remains in the cheque account at the Bendigo Bank. A further meeting will be held in June. At the end of the investment period the project will again be re- examined. Any enquiries Diane Ritchie Chairperson on 52861291.

Classifieds

First insertion of small ads are FREE to district residents

For sale Play Station 2 \$50 25 games at \$1 each Phone Mary Foster 52 861 459

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 **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.

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PARISHMass Times for April and May 2014

Winchelsea every Saturday @ 6p.m.

Bannockburn every Sunday @ 9 a.m.

Anakie Sun April 13th/27th @11 a.m. Sun May 11th/25th @11a.m.

Meredith Sunday April 6th at 11 a.m.

May Sunday May 4th/ 18th @ 11 a.m.

Easter Timetable

Monday 14th April @ 7.30 p.m. The Passion of Christ according to St. Luke @ St. John's Winchelsea Musicians and Winchelsea Combined Choir

Wednesday 16th April @ 7.30 p.m. Reconciliation Service @ St. John's Bannockburn

Thursday 17th April Mass of the Lord's Supper

Winchelsea @ 6 p.m. Bannockburn @ 7.30 p.m. Meredith @ 8 p.m.

Good Friday 18th April Ecumenical Way of the Cross

Meredith @ 10 a.m.

Solemn Good Friday Liturgy Bannockburn @ 3 p.m. Winchelsea @ 3 p.m.

Holy Saturday 19th April Easter Vigil Mass

Bannockburn @ 6 p.m. Meredith @ 8 p.m.

Easter Sunday 20th April Bannockburn @ 9 a.m.

Winchelsea @ 10 a.m. Anakie @ 11 a.m.

We wish you all the happiness and joy of the celebration of Easter and invite you to come and join with us at any of our Easter celebrations. Happy Easter to everyone! Father Herman Licayan

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

Good Friday Way Of The Cross

Meredith's Ecumenical Way of the Cross will commence at St. Joseph's Hall at 10 a.m. with Hot Cross buns. At 10.30 a.m. we will walk around the streets of Meredith with the cross and stopping at all the churches. Invite your friends and family to join us for a cuppa and hot cross buns and the walk.

**Meredith
Community Centre**

We are very quickly closing in on the end of our first term for 2014 and busy planning our program for next Term.

We have had some great classes this Term. I was pleased to be able to participate in the Macro photography course which was great fun and I learned heaps from our great tutor Kristina. Kristina knows lots about photography and is industry trained, we are very lucky to be able to offer her classes at such a reasonable price. The last centre I worked in the photography classes were 3 times the price. She is going to come back next term so watch out for our new Course Guide for details, the classes fill quickly so don't miss out.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter we have secured a teacher for the Zentangle class and looking forward to offering this next Term.

Jo and Rebecca have been really busy with occasional childcare this term with all three sessions filled and busy. The children last week had a great time celebrating 40 years of the Very Hungry Caterpillar with Jo reading and lots of colouring and painting as well.

One of our main funding bodies has just launched a new website for Learn Local providers across Victoria. As part of the launch they are offering a competition to win a new iPad air (wish I could enter). If you want to know more go to learnlocal.org.au you can find out all about Learn Local centres across the state and enter the competition.

Wishing a safe and happy Easter from myself and the staff.

Bye till next month.

Pam

Top tips for computer beginners

Perseverance makes experts of us all

1. Be patient with yourself – everyone finds it difficult and frustrating to learn how to use computers
2. Ask for help at any time, but especially if you:
 - can't see the screen clearly
 - can't use the mouse
 - haven't used a keyboard before.
 - Computers are there to enhance your life. Think: what would I like to do better, do easier or do more of in my life? Then ask someone for advice on how a computer can help you achieve that goal.
 - Try to be selective about who you listen to. Those who are negative about computers may be scared themselves or maybe the digital world is just not for them. Don't let your enthusiasm be dampened by them.
 - Go at your own pace – don't compare yourself with anyone else. Everyone comes to computers with a different background and experience, and everyone learns to use them at a different pace.

Bye for Now

Pam Ridd

4 Russell Street Meredith 3333

Ph 5286 1348 Fax 52861 563

learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au

"Working for our community"

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

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, May 14th 2014 at 9.30am
4 Russell St., Meredith 52 861 348

WWI Poppy Tile Project

Between 1914 and 1918 some 112,399 Victorians enlisted to fight in the First World War. Those who died from causes associated with battle are commemorated by the War Graves Commission. However, those who returned and then lived out their lives in the community, and are buried in our cemeteries, are not recognised unless their family has recorded this fact in their inscription.

In recognition of this and to commemorate the centenary of World War I, the Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (GMCT), in conjunction with the Returned Services League of Australia (RSL Victorian Branch), has produced a special poppy tile that can be affixed to headstones and cremation niches to indicate that someone served their country during war.

GMCT wants to encourage families to renew their links to their family members, particularly those who enlisted in the Great War, and to urge them to place a permanent record of their service on their gravesite.

The Centenary Poppy Tile is a decorative packed kit that contains two small, highly glazed Australian-made white porcelain tiles with a striking red Flanders Poppy printed onto the surface in a slightly raised finish. The packaging features the original Flanders Poem plus the Ode of Remembrance. The package has been designed with the assistance and support of the RSL.

These commemorative tiles may be fixed to a headstone or cremation niche using a self-adhesive patch that is already applied to the tile. The larger tile is suitable for headstones and the smaller for cremation niches.

The price for the package is \$10 (+GST). This is expected to cover production costs, and any profits will be donated to charity.

For further information contact poppytile@gmct.com.au. Orders by individuals or by those who wish to sell the package can be placed by visiting www.poppytile.com.au. Or order through Meredith Cemetery Trust. PO Box 22

NOTE: The Centenary Poppy Tile is designed for those who returned from war and lived out the rest of their lives in their communities. Those who died as a direct result of war are already officially recognised by the Office of Australian War



Leigh Catchment Group

Free Workshops

Farming landholders will have recently received an information card from Leigh Catchment Group, the local Landcare network. This has the contact details of your local Landcare Group in Bamganie/Meredith as well as two other groups nearby. The card also lists details of **free landholder workshops** to be held in April at Warrambeen, Inverleigh and Meredith (please note the change of venue for the Meredith workshop to the **Royal Hotel, Meredith**). These workshops are intended to inform you of the latest opportunities for involvement in projects that could benefit your farm.

Thursday 3rd April Warrambeen Landcare Centre Breakfast 7 for 7.30-9am

Thursday 10th April Inverleigh Hotel Supper 7 for 7.30-9pm

Wednesday 16th April Was Meredith Hall NOW Royal Hotel Meredith Breakfast 7 for 7.30-9am

At each of these workshops there will be speakers from Southern Farming Systems (SFS), Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA) and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI).

Amongst the topics to be presented are soil monitoring trials (soil acidity, soil biology, understanding soil function), maintaining ground cover (pasture cropping, rotations for year-round productivity, no-till mentoring), grazing management (improved management practices on grazed land). There will also be information on farmers' groups and some new biodiversity initiatives. By attending the workshops there is no obligation to participate in anything. There will be time to ask questions and an opportunity to sign up for any trials that are of interest to you. **If you cannot attend these workshops there is still an opportunity to submit expressions of interest in the above programs.** Please contact: Jenny Ryle Landcare Coordinator PO Box 167 Buninyong Victoria 3357 Tel 03 5341 2364 Mob 0409 400520

Email:

leighcg@ncable.net.au

Website: www.leighcatchmentgroup.org

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Rec: 00582

sports



Meredith Golf Club

Vincent Drew, Captain

Well with the long dry behind us it is a great time to get the kids onto the golf course. The ball is running that far that they will think they're hitting like Adam Scott and one of the best things about teaching kids at Meredith Golf Course is that there isn't really all that many people around and you won't have to worry about holding people up like you do at some of the busier courses. Besides, it's fun and doesn't involve sitting in front of a computer.

Well the Men's and Ladies seasons have started and it's nice to see some new faces around the club. Though we still need a lot more support. The weekend competition season started on the 1st of March with a game of Stableford and well done to Lyn Drew who had a great win with 44 points. This was Lyn's first game after obtaining her handicap. That night we had a BBQ which was attended by about 20 people and we had an excellent meal cooked by Denis Gear. Well done to all who helped and we are trying to make this a regular event.

Men's Pennant season is starting this weekend the 20th of Mar so good luck to all the players involved there.

We had a working bee on the 18th March to re-sand all the scrapes. A big thank you to Jeff Cooper who organised this essential task for us and also to Mike Colvin, Denis Gear and myself for helping out. It really is a big task and the more hands the better.

As it is early in the season there isn't much to inform you of. We still need more members so please if you have any thought of getting out in the great outdoors and would like to meet interesting people then come along and give golf a go.

So until next time. Happy Swinging

Meredith Men's Golf

01.03.14 Stableford Season Opener

Winner Lyn Drew 44pts Runner up Vin Drew
NTP 2nd & 9th S Wilson 14th V Drew.

08.03.14 / 09.03.14 Stableford

Winner M Emmlin 36 pts Runner up L Moait 34 pts
NTP 2nd L Moait, 14th M Colvin

Meredith Ladies Golf

04.03.14 Monthly Medal 18 hole Round

Winner C Powles 33 pts Runner up on c/b M Diffey 30 pts

18.03.14 18 Hole Stableford

Winner N OBrien 37 pts Runner up C Powles 31 pts
NTP M Diffey 10th hole

25.03.14 Stroke Round

Winner N OBrien 51 (2+) Runner up K Rosch 46 (1+)



Moorabool Valley Crocs

Karen Prichard

Well the Footy season is nearly upon us (Ya hoo!). Training is held on Wednesday night from 6pm. We've had good numbers at training but would always love to see more there. We are having a practice match against Geelong at Myers Reserve Bell Post Hill on Saturday April 5th. Our game will follow the GDFL game, Bell Post Hill V Inverleigh. It will be a great game and everyone is welcome to come and support us.

Our first over 35's game for the season will be a Twilight game on Saturday 3rd May against Murray Masters and will be played at Bell Post Hill or Bannockburn, after their GDFL game. Keep an eye out for flyers around town closer to the date. Our first home game for the over 45's will be on Sunday 4th May against Gippsland. Our next home game will be on Sunday 1st June, we will have two games against Geelong.

It means a lot to the club to see so many locals attending our games, supporting us and enjoying a great day out. We are always looking for helpers and local people to be involved with the Club. If you'd like to become more involved with your local footy club, The Crocs, give Chris Hart (President) a call on 0417370681. "GO CROCS"

Meredith Auskick

Auskick will be starting Wednesday April 2nd, at Meredith Recreation Reserve from 4-5pm.

Enrolment is online at Auskick website. \$65 for ten weeks. Any questions call Mat Fisher 0409 862326.



Upgraded Skate Park Opened

from media release

The Bannockburn Skate Park, enlarged and improved through a \$200,000 upgrade, was officially opened last month. Half of that cost was contributed by Golden Plains Shire with \$4,000 coming from community fundraising. The State government contributed the a further \$100,000.

Member for Polwarth Mr Terry Mulder, in his opening remarks, said the new park features bring it up to competition standard providing skaters and riders with, new and challenging elements.

"Skate parks are a great place for young people to connect and develop new friendships while demonstrating their skill and creativity" Mr Mulder said.

Elaine Cricket Win

Marg Cooper and Murray Arnel

Any ideas of winning back to back premierships in its first years after rejoining competitive competition was never on the radar when the Elaine Cricket Club reformed 18 months ago.

But for the most ardent supporters who dared to dream that their small community would once again field teams in competitive sport those dreams were fore filled many times on Sunday March 23.

In fact on Saturday, March 22 which was day 1 of the best of 3 days of the Grand Final Series, Elaine defeated Mt Clear by 109 runs and on Sunday which was day 2 of the best of 3 days of the Grand Final Series, Elaine defeated Mt Clear by 8 wickets which meant that Elaine was the Premiership Winners in the BCA Division 5.

A highlight of the day for Elaine was juniors Nicholas Pantzidis and Seamus Dunne both aged 11 years who each took turns in the field after both had played in the Seniors XI for most of the season.

The Under 14 Cricket Team made the semi finals for the 2nd year running and, although they didn't win, it was a great effort. And congratulations to Nicholas Pantzidis for taking out the best player award in the u14 red competition.

PHOTO OMITTED FROM
ONLINE VERSION

And Tennis Champs Too!

Just to cement Elaine's reputation as a sporting powerhouse, it's junior tennis team won the 2013/14 C1 Division Premiership, breaking a 22 year drought. Well done to team members, Jacob Heard, Brady Dunne, Max Kocon, Harris Mitilaneous, and Fraser Mitilaneous

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Outside the Square

Marg Cooper

About 34 years ago Ros Langford started taking physically and intellectually disabled people on supported tours all over the world. After training as a teacher, Ros lectured at RMIT then worked in Special Education and at CAE. In the year of the disabled in 1981, when every department was asked to “do something,” she volunteered to take people who had always lived in institutions to do “something normal”. The Director encouraged her. Camps were advertised through CAE and sometimes they were inundated with applications. Some camps had 80 people for 16 days duration. It was not always easy but Ros realised that that there was a huge need for assisted travel and that no-one was doing it. Many critics said that it couldn't be done!

Assist Travel was established in 1981 as a travel Agent/ Tour Operator catering to tourists with special care needs. Travellers enjoy a more relaxed pace, multi night stops, access and an appropriate ratio of support staff who are there to assist. Ros's long term plan was to encourage independence and education for disabled people.

In 1984 Ros was featured on “Sixty Minutes” when taking a tour of six mini bus loads of clients around New Zealand. The crew were with the tour for twelve days and remarked that the tour ran very well and that there were no dramas.

Ros and her partner Jeff, a qualified nurse (and staff if necessary) take clients on ten to twelve tours per year. Every year they tour to America and the Gold Coast and every second year they go to Tasmania and New Zealand. Their next tour leaves on March 1 to Tasmania. About three times a year they send a newsletter to over 400 people who have travelled with them but they haven't advertised for 18 years. They visit new customers at their home before a trip and like word of mouth recommendations for new clients.

Ros admits that she was always in trouble at school, that she likes a challenge and she believes that every problem has a solution. Her family tell that she has “oppositional defiance disorder”. She certainly thinks outside the square! She fell in love with camels about 6 years ago and now has 7 that all have a story and a personality. The “Morrison Camel Farm” is about to be established with lots of exciting infrastructure, adventures, education and events planned.

Ros and Jeff have been everywhere and know how to organize tourism. And a wedding! After 30 years together Ros and Jeff married at Elaine last month, and will again on a cruise with some of their clients/friends in November. The female clients are all going to be bridesmaids and the male clients the best men.



Ros Langford, with friends

Maude Fire Brigade Trash, Treasure & Craft Market



Where?

Maude Rec Reserve
Steiglitz Rd, Maude

When?

Sunday 4th of May 2014 9.00am

- * Sausage Sizzle
- * Pancakes
- * Food & Produce Stalls
- * White Elephant
- * Clowns

Free Sites Stall Holders Required Donations Optional

Inq. & Site Bookings: Kath: 52 819 301 or Bev: 52 828 952
Donations of your unwanted goods gratefully accepted for Brigade Stall. (Sorry, No Electrical Goods or TV's.)



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Marg Cooper profiles three local artists who exhibited in last month's Golden Plains Arts Trail



Louise Corral Louise's work included oil, pastel, acrylic and watercolour paintings. (She also had greeting cards her famous quince paste!) She started her painting career about ten years ago when she was unwell and feeling the need for a new interest. She enrolled in an art class at the Gordon Institute in Geelong before attending the Meredith Community Centre where she was tutored by Ros Spierings. She went on to enrol at the Shearers Arms Gallery in Geelong.

Louise likes to paint local landscapes and views of Spain where she and her husband came from, but she particularly excels at portraits. She had on display a portrait of a clairvoyant she met called "Apple Blossom", a portrait of her parents and another of Nelson Mandela. She paints from her feelings and says that every subject she paints has to touch her heart.



Gary Dahlstrom Have you noticed the metal sculptures on the corrugated iron fence at 46 Staughton Street? Reeds in a pond or metal vegetation, a kangaroo flying over a fence, an emu and a waterfall are featured, so far! Garry Dahlstrom has only recently discovered his abilities to create but never really thought of it as Art. He sketches and has display books full of pages of his often quirky drawings. He draws what is in his mind at the time. They include scenes looking down, family groups, himself and his feelings.

Garry has made sculptures from scrap and he welds sculptures from lengths of rod. He has a windsurfing wombat and an echidna with an ant in its mouth in his porch. As well, he has created a Demon with tusks and horns over his shed which is illuminated at night.

The waterfall on the fence is an imaginative piece that depicts a dragon fly over a stream with images of his children. He has draped the waterfall sculpture that he calls "Reflection" with fairy lights. He says that at night it sparkles like water falling.

Garry is a self taught musician, writes songs and has performed country and blues sessions at hotels. He is proud that his art is individual and original but says that he doesn't need look at the art of other people or to read books for inspiration. He produces his sculptures in his back porch with no fancy equipment. It seems that Garry, who drives a road sweeper in Geelong, is enjoying his new found talent. Watch for more sculptures on the fence!



Mandy Pattenden Mandy is a very talented textile artist. Her Massage and Healing rooms at 48 Staughton Street Meredith were decorated with many of her art works when she opened the rooms for the Arts Trail. Her art is different and one has to admire her originality and her skills in being able to create such works. She mostly uses recycled materials to produce art works that express her feelings and to tell a story. One piece featured a variety of small pie dishes lined up on a framed board and each dish held a different coloured pie made out of material. Mandy says that this art work represented her dislike of cooking!

She displayed spoon books made from teaspoons tied together with messages written on each one. Her hot air balloons, where she had machine coiled silk material to make the baskets, were very imaginative.

From a creative family, she enjoyed graphics and art at school and completed a Visual Arts Course at TAFE. She is inspired by Annemieke Mein and recommends the magazine "Cloth, Paper, Scissors".

Another innovative approach to Mandy's artwork is through recording ideas in her "Smash" Journal. It is an artistic person's answer to scrap booking. The journal is made with pages of different colours, textures, prints etc and comes with a fine liner pen that writes on all textures and a twisty glue. When Mandy feels the need to express some of her feelings she turns to a page and lets loose. There are no rules for the journal! It is a way to relax and to be creative!



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Congratulations Mark & Melanie

Marg Cooper

Mark Banks and Melanie Guthridge married on Saturday 1st March down by the Warrambine Creek on Woolabrai Farm at Shelford. The creek was dry, the grass was yellow but some of the 80,000 trees that had been planted by the Banks' family on their property made a perfect backdrop for the ceremony.

A track was graded to the creek, an area was mown in a natural amphitheatre and a red carpet was laid to the wooden arch made and carved with hearts by Mark for the occasion. The couple stood beneath the arch with their attendants, Kate, Lisa and Antoinette dressed in long silver dresses and Leon, Tom and Aaron dressed in black suits with black satin trim. Marriage celebrant Lisa Ubergang conducted the ceremony.

The bride looked amazing in a frock that featured a gold embroidered bodice with buttons down the back.

When Aaron said that he had dropped the ring everyone thought that he was joking but he really did drop the ring - luckily it didn't disappear down one of the large cracks that are in the Shelford ground at the moment.

The guests gathered on the back lawn of the Banks' home for drinks before the reception was held in a marquee that was set up on the tennis court. Mark's sister Elizabeth decorated the marquee with arrangements of native flora and also created the bridal bouquets. For their contribution to the wedding Lucy Banks and her partner Daniel created a hay bale sculpture featuring a bride and groom at the gateway of the banks property so the guests knew where to turn in. An arch made of gates decorated with flowers and greenery that was positioned at the doorway to the marquee was created for the day by the lady who supplies gates to sell at the Woolabrai store in Meredith.

Family and friends delighted in seeing the couple wed after over eight years together and enjoyed the country setting and the relaxed atmosphere.

Mark and Melanie have gone trekking in South America and then down to Mexico for their honeymoon and will live in Bannockburn.



Vale to James Oswald Duggan

Marg Cooper

James (Jim) Oswald Duggan died on Tuesday, March 18 in the Ballan Hospital. A graveside service to celebrate his life was held at the Lethbridge Cemetery on Friday, March 21 and was conducted by Fr. Herman Licayan. Jim was buried with his mother.

Jim, who was born on August 28, 1936, lived on the family farm on Duggans Road, went to school at She Oaks until he was 12 years old and then spent 2 years at Meredith State School. Jim said that he was the last of the She Oaks Duggans! His great, great grandfather, Dan Duggan, had come there in the 1860's from Ireland. His uncle, Fab Duggan, sold the farm in 1948 and Jim told him it was a bad move and they would regret it. Jim remembered helping on the farm to grow onions, garlic, peas, grain and sheep.

Jim didn't even get to leave school before he was handed an axe! He believed that he was the last generation to be handed axes! The next generation were wiser. Jim cut wood around Steiglitz, Meredith Common and Bamganie and in his time cut thousands of posts. Each day they tried to cut 6-

8 ton of wood in 4 foot lengths. In later years they had a saw bench and cut the wood into 1 foot blocks which were delivered to merchants in Geelong.



When the SEC power was put through about 1960 Jim was employed to clear land for the electricity lines. After this he got a job working for Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust (now Barwon Water). He had intended to work there for 2 or 3 years and then go to Western Australia to work in the mines, but stayed for 28 years. Jim did all sorts of maintenance including clearing timber to plant plantations, building gateways to the dams, building a meter house and clearing and repairing water channels. He even cut wood at weekends.

Jim and his family lived in Lawler Street. About 1970 Jim shifted a railway house from near the Railway Station to Russell Street and pulled the old house down. For recreation Jim did a lot of trout fishing and hunting ducks, foxes and rabbits. He owned curly retrievers for more than 30 years.

Jim retired in 1989 and worked with wood in his workshop, creating many pieces of furniture and children's toys. He had health problems over the last few years but with the assistance of local people he enjoyed a trip to New Zealand last year and managed to stay in his own home until a few months ago. A quiet, reserved man, Jim was a good bloke.

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in my garden

The long hot summer has finally come to an end it would seem and the daily grind of hand watering is over. Although the rains have yet to materialise in the volumes that this gardener would like, the milder temperatures mean that the results of hand watering last a lot longer and thus the frequency of hand watering is reduced to once every two to three days. This has been very liberating. The long list of other garden activities and chores that have been on hold can now be actioned.

I think that autumn weather is the best time to plant most trees and shrubs. The pots of hydrangeas that I have had on my back veranda for the summer were the first to go in under the trees in my long border. These have been followed by an assortment of by now well rooted cuttings and seedlings: hebes (with a variegated leaf and a pretty pink flower called Abbey Rose which was bred by son-in-law and named after my granddaughter); white roses; a few more viburnum because they do well which were grown from seed; oak trees (grown from Staughton Street acorns); arum lilies (planted where the soil is inclined to be boggy); silver birch trees (well away from the gum trees); star jasmine; and a few photinias to replace those that have not survived. I also saved my polyanthus from last year and put them in the greenhouse for the summer and they have done wonderfully well. They too are being put back into the garden.

The greenhouse has been wonderful and extends the life of many plants that would be only annuals if left in the garden. As an experiment I have grown tomatoes in pots in the greenhouse for the purpose of seeing how long the plants will live if not exposed to frosts and the biting cold of winter. The answer is well over 12-months with the plants continuing to fruit for the entire period.

There are signs of renewed vigour and recovery everywhere in the garden – it is so pleasing and comforting to this anxious gardener who fears that plants damaged by the extreme heat may not be able to recover and all may be wiped out. The young crepe myrtles, the maples, the English box, the roses and the silver birches all have lovely new growth. The sedums are flowering, as are the more mature crepe myrtles and other assorted bits and pieces. The jonquils have emerged and thus the cycle of garden life continues.

The first signs of autumn colour have emerged in the leaves of the Virginia creeper, the Manchurian pears and the crab apples. The Virginia creeper develops the loveliest pink tones and looks spectacular. Because this creeper is permitted to go where it wants, there are beautiful pink leaves adorning the branches of the trees it has climbed into, under the trees, up the walls of the house and over the water tank. The pears and the crab apples take on more vivid tones of pink, orange and red.

A visit to the Melbourne Flower and Garden show has been one of the highlights of the past month. This year the show was at its best. It has been a long held desire to grow a banana tree and there they were, a dwarf Cavendish which fruits under cold climate conditions, and on sale for \$15. At that price it would not be a wrist slashing event if it did not survive. However, I am going to place it in my greenhouse to protect it from frosts and extreme conditions so I am very hopeful that it will be happy and thrive. Paul Bangay was also on hand to sign copies of his latest book 'The Garden at Stonefields', and I could not resist. Although I do not think that his style of gardening with its miles of carefully clipped hedges and expensive landscaping is practical for the ordinary gardener like myself, there is something fantastic about his gardens and he is to be admired for his work.

Autumn is a wonderful time in the garden and I am looking forward, very much, to the next few weeks of gardening.

Robyn



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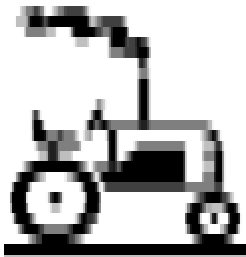
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World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian people of all traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer on the first Friday of March each year.

This year's service was prepared by the World Day of Prayer committee in Egypt and was called "Streams in the Desert". "Water" was the theme. Prayers were offered to God whose love and mercy flows among us like streams in the desert and who was asked to pour on us the water of forgiveness.

In the procession four people who carried objects that represented old Egypt to the new Egypt spoke about their Egypt.

One of the Hymns was called "Peace is Flowing like a River", the lesson taught that Jesus offered the living water and the Blessing offered that "may you be like a spring of water whose waters never fail".

The service at the Uniting Church on Friday, March 7 was attended by both men and women and performed ecumenically by members of the various churches in Meredith.

Lyndel Gibson, the Uniting Church Minister invited everyone to partake of a drink of refreshing water. She poured water from a jug into small glasses and the congregation went forward to accept them. A particularly simple act that summed up the message perfectly!



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My favourite animals that I see on our farm are the swamp wallabies or black wallabies. They have very dark fur on their back and feet, and red-brown fur on their front and around their ears. Their faces are grey, sometimes with white around the muzzle. Many have a white tip at the end of their long black tail, which is noticeable as they hop away with their head down and their tail held out behind them for balance.

These wallabies don't live in mobs, although occasionally, there is a mum and joey. They live where they can find food and shelter, liking to be near streams and steep slopes, so I often see them in a creek valley. Sometimes the wallaby watches me, with big dark eyes, as I watch it. On other occasions, it hops up a steep slope, maybe pausing for another look at me, before continuing. If the wallaby has a half-grown joey with her, they may flee in different directions, before meeting again later. This may be a strategy to distract predators, giving the wallabies a few precious seconds to escape. Sometimes, the wallaby disappears into the nearest dense undergrowth, commonly the reeds in the creek bed, and I see little more than a dark flash and hear a crash in the vegetation, then silence and stillness.

As with kangaroos, its tail is broad at the base, forming a tripod with its hind legs, so it can sit up tall for a better view, or balance itself for a sparring match. It also uses its tail like an extra leg, while moving slowly forwards when feeding. They eat grass and a wide range of plants, including shrubs, bracken and other ferns, small flowering plants and rushes. They eat underground fungi which help trees to grow, and spread the spores. They can also eat introduced plants, such as pine seedlings and hemlock, which is poisonous to people and stock.

Swamp wallabies can breed throughout the year. They do this in areas where joeys are commonly lost to predators, such as dingoes. In Victoria, they breed mainly in spring and summer. The joey is born after a pregnancy of a bit over one month. Like all marsupials, it is born tiny, blind and bald. Its front legs are well developed for its size, and it uses them to pull itself through its mother's fur to her pouch. It attaches to a teat, and stays there as it grows, not leaving the pouch until it is eight or nine months old. It continues to suckle until about fifteen months old. The mother becomes pregnant again eight days before the joey is born! The second embryo doesn't develop unless the older joey leaves the pouch or dies. She can produce milk suitable for a newborn from one teat, and milk for an older joey from another.

Swamp wallabies are common and may be expanding their range to the west. Their main threats are dogs and cars, although my observations suggest they have more road sense than the local kangaroos. A wallaby on the roadside will usually watch a car go past, or even continue to feed, ignoring passing traffic. Of course, some make mistakes or get unlucky.

There are often swamp wallabies in the Meredith Police Paddocks. If you walk quietly, you may be lucky enough to see one of these lovely animals, but please keep your dog on a lead, or even better, leave it at home.



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(Ages: 12+)

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(All Ages)

Thursday 10 April 7pm – 9.30pm

Bannockburn Cultural Centre

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(All Ages)

Monday 14 April

The Park or Westfield Geelong

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WHEELIN' AROUND

(All Ages)

Friday 11 April 10am – 5pm

Bannockburn Skate Park

Skateboarding Australia will deliver a series of skate clinics suited for all abilities. See demos from wheelchair skater Christiaan Otter Bailey. Activities also include wheelchair basketball, live music and skate deck painting.

DIY CRAFT

(Ages: 8+)

Tuesday 15 April 10am – 12pm

Haddon Community House

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CONFETTI CRAFTS

(Ages: 8+)

Wednesday 16 April 10am – 12pm

Bannockburn Cultural Centre, Youth Lounge

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on the vine ...in our own backyard

Michael Vince is a wine writer and broadcaster, hosting a weekly radio show called "Heard it Through the Grapevine" on Vision Australia Radio. He is also a long time friend of Meredith residents, John and Robyn Galichio. Here is an extract from Michael's recent broadcast following a visit to the area last month.

Today we are going to visit Clyde Park at Bannockburn near Geelong and Moorabool Ridge Vineyard at Lethbridge and sample some ripper Victorian wines at a dinner in Meredith.

Had a wonderful lunch recently at Clyde Park Vineyard & bistro on the Midland Highway at Bannockburn near Geelong – which comprised delicious snapper with Kipfler potatoes, salt & pepper calamari, and a succulent roasted pork belly, (not all eaten by me) there were four of us. The food, service and atmosphere were exemplary; likewise the wines – including a beautifully balanced 2013 Clyde Park Estate Pinot Gris and a medium bodied flavoursome 2013 Estate Rosé. No hesitation in recommending both the venue and the wines. For details visit www.clydepark.com.au

Also popped into Moorabool Ridge Vineyard just down the road in Lethbridge – and was impressed by the 2010 Oscar Cabernet-Merlot-Shiraz blend with its complex, spicy, rich layers of fruit and satisfying, lingering aftertaste. Moorabool Ridge is owned and operated by Tim Harrop and Katarina Romanov-Harrop and while you are at the small cellar door you can nibble on a trio of home-made dips and say hello to the vineyard dog, Noggins.

Had a fantastic dinner recently at a friend's place in downtown Meredith - on the Midland Highway about midway between Geelong & Ballarat.

The wines were

- Pizzini 2010 Pinot Grigio (King Valley)
- Philip Lobley 2012 Pinot Noir (Yea Valley)
- A magnum of Cobaw Ridge 1997 Shiraz (Macedon Ranges)
- T'Gallant 2012 Moscato (Mornington Peninsula)

There were 8 at the table and almost everyone brought a Victorian Pinot Grigio so we were nearly drowning in the stuff (not a bad way to go!).

All the wines drank well with the 1997 Cobaw Ridge and Philip Lobley's 2012 the memorable reds of the evening and a very chilled T'Gallant 2012 Moscato the perfect accompaniment to a crème brulee with fresh strawberries and poached pears dessert.

Thankfully we stayed overnight as the trip from the dining room to the bedroom was as much as I could negotiate after such a splendid dinner – the best part being the exceedingly convivial company.

Who knows this occasion may be chronicled in the thriving local paper The Meredith and District News?

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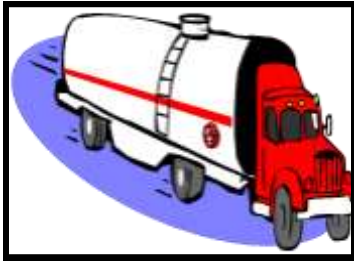
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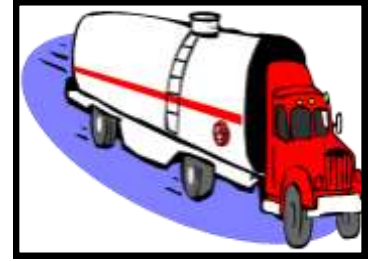
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The Burden of History

A local resident had an interesting experience recently when selling a Victorian era house in Ballarat. Having been less than pleased with the agent's efforts, he asked to see the advertising material before printing. (Who would think to do that?) And just as well. He read that his house was "stooped in history". Worse still, the agent defended the use of the word. It is worrying when our modern era's greatest creative writers loose their grasp of the language.

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Marg's Book Review

"Bereft" by Chris Womersley

The Great War has ended and the Spanish flu is rampant when Quinn Walker returns to the country town in NSW where he grew up. He fled from the town ten years earlier after he was wrongly accused of killing his beloved sister, but returned knowing that his father and uncle would surely hang him if they caught him. Whilst hiding in the hills he visits his mother who is dying of the flu.

He meets a mysterious orphan girl who possesses extraordinary survival skills and knows more about everyone than she should. She encourages him to seek justice.

Quinn slowly emerges from the state of fear inflicted in the trenches until he has the courage to face the aggressor.

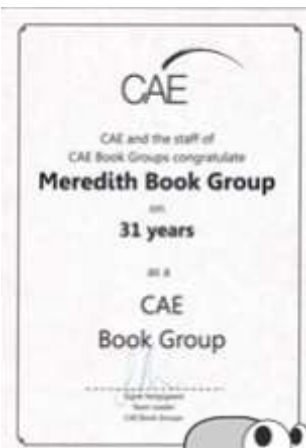
The author has been described as a daring and original talent in the landscape of Australian literature. He has married the big drama of the human horror of war with a cruel act committed in peacetime.

"They huddled underground in trenches, in hollows, in ruins, many of them so muddied and grey about the gills they might have been fashioned from the earth itself."

"By this stage they didn't fear death so much as they feared living this way forever."

The author has described superbly the thoughts and feelings that a man just home from the trenches may have had and also has beautifully captured details of the Australian bush and the impoverished lifestyle of a small country community in 1919.

The book for discussion in April is "Austerlitz" by W.G. Sebald.



Meredith Bookclub started in 1982. For 31 years books have been supplied by the Council of Adult Education in Melbourne. From February 2014, they come from the Bannockburn Library at no cost.

Who started the book club in Meredith? Who were the original members? Who was the first Secretary? If you can answer the above questions or if you would like to become a member please ring Marg Cooper on 52 868201.

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Gravel Roads

media release

Council conducts an annual grading program of 712km of road network within the Shire. The program provides for each gravel road to be graded on average twice per year. In practice, some of the lightly trafficked roads will receive one grade per year, while those that have higher traffic volumes may be graded up to four (4) times.

During periods of dry weather, the surface layer of a gravel road dries reducing the cohesive elements that hold the gravel pavement together, corrugations often then begin to form.

Cr Jenny Blake, Golden Plains Shire Mayor explains, "The main problem is the lack of rain, we can't grade roads that are too dry. If we grade roads when they are too dry, the gravel is non-cohesive after it's graded and it becomes a loose mass of gravel that cars can skid on."

Road corrugations are more prevalent during periods of prolonged dry weather. As we reach the end of Summer there are many of the Shire's gravel roads developing corrugated sections.

Best practice requirements for grading of gravel roads requires that the grading be undertaken after rain when the gravel is holding good moisture, this maximises the compaction levels that can be achieved. Carting water to dampen gravel is not practical or cost effective in the grading of gravel roads.

During periods of prolonged dry weather it is sometimes necessary to grade roads in their dry state; the grading technique used at these times varies and involves grading by cutting to the bottom of the corrugations. Due to cost and safety issues associated with this technique, it is only applied where corrugations are severe.

In dry conditions, Council undertakes limited grading of its gravel road network focussing on those roads that are severely or heavily corrugated. The grading program increases as soon as weather conditions allow.

"As soon as there is a significant rain event, the graders will be able to commence their regular scheduled gravel road maintenance work," Cr Blake said.

Road users are encouraged to drive according to the prevailing road conditions.

"Everyone should take every precaution to stay safe on our roads. For those of us who regularly use gravel roads, we must drive slowly and accelerate gently to reduce the rate that corrugations form and also to keep good control of our vehicles," Cr Blake said.



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MooGoo & Medela products now available

MooGoo Skincare

We are pleased to announce that we are now stocking MooGoo skincare products for adults and infants!

MooGoo is an Australian company with an entire range of natural and safe products that are made with effective ingredients designed for people with skin and scalp problems.

You will find within the Pharmacy that we have a stand with the MooGoo products on them plus a section in our Mother & Child section in the Pharmacy.

All of our prices are below the RRP plus don't forget you can use your Chemmart Rewards Card when making a MooGoo purchase.

For further information, please call in to see the range of products available.

Medela products

We are also pleased to announce that we are now stocking the Medela breastfeeding products plus we have Medela Symphony Electric breastpumps for hire.

Medela products are made in Switzerland, therefore they are of the highest quality. Medela's goal is to give mothers and babies the best possible support for a great and long lasting breastfeeding experience. Medela invest in continued research to learn more about breastfeeding. Working with researchers from around the world, they have intensively studied how breastfeeding works. From the anatomy of the lactating breast to the mechanism of milk removal by the baby, Medela have conducted extensive research to best support mothers in maintaining breastfeeding for as long as they wish.

Medela have double and single pumping breastpumps with research-based 2-Phase Expression technology, innovative feeding solutions like Calma and many accessories support mothers through challenging breastfeeding times.

All of our prices are well below the RRP you will find anywhere in Geelong so come in and see what we available.

If you would like to know more about the hiring of Medela Symphony Electric Breastpumps then please ask us for more information.

Amber baby necklaces & bracelets

Did you know that we are now stocking Amber baby necklaces and bracelets?

Our Baltic amber products provide natural pain relief from the symptoms of teething. It is a natural analgesic when worn on the skin, as it warms it releases healing oils which help the child to stay calm and relaxed.

The Baltic amber teething necklace has been designed to ensure the safety of your child by knotting before each bead so in the event that the necklace does break (it will break if excessive force is applied) only one bead will come off and the remaining beads will stay intact. The clasp is made from amber/plastic, with a plastic screw mechanism. The clasp is laboratory tested to release if excessive force if applied to the necklace, which ensures the highest safety. Unlike traditional clasps on children's necklaces (parrot clasp and ring) which does not release, they rely on the ring or necklace breaking to release.

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 Friday: 8:30am - 6:30pm
 Saturday: 8:30am - 1:00pm
 Sunday: Closed
 Public Holiday's: Closed

Medela Electric Breastpump Hire: \$30 per week / \$90 per month



it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held at the Anglican Hall on Sunday, March 9. Marg Cooper was elected President, Fay McFarlane, Secretary and Peter Griffiths, Vice President.

The meeting offered various suggestions for activities and events for the year including a Talk Fest about Taylors Road to try and determine where the original roads to the goldfields were. It was also suggested that members should consider what they can do to help MHIG. Some people now help by telling information, by donating documents, by offering copies of their historic photos, by collecting newspaper articles about Meredith and by researching specific subjects.

Would you like to interview people and tape the conversation?

Would you like to take photos of property names and collect them in a folder?

We were delighted to welcome Judith North who is the great granddaughter of Alexander North who was the architect of the Church of Epiphany in Meredith.

She had several items that had belonged to her grandfather and lots of memories and information about him.

She told that he was an innovative architect that he experimented and built the first reinforced concrete house in Tasmania, that he was interested in botany, that he appreciated the lovely Tasmanian timbers and was one of the first men to try to save Tasmanian forests.

He was born in 1858 and lived mainly in Tasmania. The first building that he designed on the mainland was the Church of the Epiphany which he designed in 1912.

The church is a reflection of Alexander North; the design, the use of Tasmanian wood and the expert workmanship. A history of Alexander North by John Maidment tells that "The screen was carved in Launceston and then sent by steamer and rail to Meredith. In design it corresponds with the sanctuary windows: exquisitely carved in Tasmanian Oak by most skilful hands, finished with a dull rich polish and then very carefully placed into position by the contractors; it is the crowning joy of the whole edifice".

Judith told that when asked as a child what she wanted to do she replied that she wanted to build houses like her Gapa. She is an architect, her husband is an architect and their daughter is also an architect.

She brought the history of the beautiful church, that is about to celebrate 100 years since its dedication, alive.

She tells that it is an honour to be connected to our town's story.

Taylors Road Talk Fest

It is believed that what is now Taylors Road was one of the early roads through Meredith. William Watson set up his Golden Fleece Hotel on the eastern side of Coolebarghurk Creek 30 miles from Geelong on the Buninyong Road from as early as 1846. It is believed that traffic crossed the Creek a little further

north of the Hotel.

In preparation for the Talk Fest, later in the year, you may like to talk to people about the road, look up old documents and maps or travel the road and imagine what it would be like to ride a horse along it or drive a bullock wagon.

Sir Henry Bolte

For the Opening of the Information Centre a display is being collected of many of the "Openings" that Henry Bolte performed. He opened Sovereign Hill, detonated an explosion to start work at the Bungal Dam, turned the sod with a gold shovel to start works at Alcoa etc. If you have any photos, newspaper reports or memories of other openings please let us know.

Catalogue Day

The last Thursday of the month at the Anglican Church Hall from 9 am. You are most welcome to call in to talk history, to suggest future events or to help catalogue.



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- 1 teaspoon garlic & herb seasoning
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- ¼ cup plain flour
- 400g firm white fish
- Low-fat tzatziki and mixed salad to serve

Method

1. Preheat oven to 200 C/180 C fan-forced. Line a baking tray with baking paper. Place breadcrumbs, parmesan, lemon rind and seasoning in a food processor. Process until well combined.
2. Transfer breadcrumb mixture to baking tray and spread out evenly. Bake 15-20 minutes, stirring halfway through, or until golden and crisp. Transfer to food processor and pulse to break up any lumps formed during baking.
3. Place breadcrumbs on a plate. Whisk egg, milk and garlic together in a bowl. Place flour on a plate. Cut fish into 3cm x 10cm strips/pieces. Coat in flour. Dip in egg mixture. Coat in breadcrumb mixture. Place on baking tray.
4. Spray both sides of fish lightly with oil spray. Bake for 10 minutes. Turn over. Bake for a further 5 minutes until crisp and fish is just cooked through. Serve immediately with tzatziki and salad.

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We celebrate the fun and enjoyment of photography by publishing a selected photo each month. If you have a funny, beautiful or interesting photo, send it in. See page 2 for contact details.



pic of the
month



photo by Kerry Thomson



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We welcome Gemma Hanan's first contribution to the M&D News. A district resident, Gemma recently completed her Bachelor of Arts in Professional and Creative writing at Deakin University, sub majoring in Anthropology. (So she probably knows a thing or two about writing and people.) We hope you enjoy Gemma's article. - Ed.

Resistance is Futile

I've always been resistant to change. Changing even the slightest thing in my life takes me months to decide upon and there's no end to the grief I give my family with the constant questions of 'should I or shouldn't I?' But, as I grow older, I've noticed this resistance is starting to annoy others more than the idea of change itself annoys me.

When my cute, compact iPod Nano decided to start retiring from its long life (and by that I mean two years old) I was distraught. But still, my father was more annoyed than I was about that fact that I couldn't go back to the menu and was stuck listening to the same few David Bowie songs that I had been listening to before the button broke. At approaching birthdays and Christmases, I had to reiterate that no, I did not want a new iPod, I wanted something that didn't require replacing another thing. And, to this day, I still haven't replaced it. Instead, I use my iPhone which replaced my old mobile...again with much resistance. The thing was literally forced upon me.

This brings me to my latest force-induced change. All throughout my university degree, I was reliant on a compact laptop that was smaller than my books. It was reliable and got the job done. But, conveniently, at the end of my degree last year, it became slower. The Microsoft Office subscription had packed it in and it took the better part of half an hour to boot up. For months, I was badgered by my boyfriend to give up on the poor struggling dear and buy a better, faster, stronger machine. And for months I resisted. 'NO! This one is perfectly fine!' I'd say while silently suppressing the urge to kick the thing across the room because it wasn't loading the internet.

So, after finally admitting to myself that something was indeed undeniably wrong with my dedicated uni buddy, I begrudgingly hopped in the car and went to the shops, utterly clueless as to what I was looking for. When I walked through the doors I decided the best port of call would be the bank of laptops that bore the same brand name as my current one. Here I found something that I could definitely work with. It came with the latest Microsoft Office package (no need for the lengthy installation process) and was the exact same size. I bought it before I could find a reason not to and carried it proudly home. I took it out of its package to compare with my old one and instantly realised the extent of my almost obsessive problem. While I was overjoyed with it being aesthetically identical to my original one, I noticed one horrifically obvious difference that reinforced my aversion to change. It was touch screen!



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Kindred matters



Judith Emond, Family Therapist

When someone takes their own life

Death by suicide does not discriminate against whether someone is famous, has stable mental health, or is rich or poor. The incidence of suicide is widespread across the globe and has been occurring in societies for a very long time.

Unfortunately for those people left dealing with post suicide grief much stigma and shame still exists in our community. The shame stems from past faith and legal systems and practices whereby those who died through suicide and their families were ostracised. For example, it was considered a sin and those who suicided were refused burial in church grounds. It was also deemed a criminal offence.

Thankfully we now have several suicide prevention programs and awareness raising movements that support families bereaved by suicide and provide education to communities. Their aim is to stop the stigma and shame which still exists and causes considerable damage to families.

Suicide bereavement is a very difficult experience as it leaves us wondering "WHY" and what we could have done to prevent it. Profound feelings of failure, self blame, rejection and anger are extremely common reactions. It is important to know that there is a great deal of support in our community to help us to manage such intense emotions. The most important message to understand is that we do not have to deal with it alone.

Support groups are reported to be very helpful as they provide education, bereavement support and connection to others also impacted by suicide. Individual and family counselling with a qualified bereavement counsellor can make a difference. Bereavement counsellors have specialist training and experience working with those of us bereaved by suicide. There are also really good websites that offer support and helpful interventions.

You may choose to connect with the following state wide services that can then link you into supports in your local area;

Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement- Suicide bereavement information and referral service 1300 664 786 or www.grief.org.au

Support After Suicide- Online information and support, DVDs, books and support groups (03) 9421 7640 or www.supportaftersuicide.org.au

Compassionate Friends Supporting Family after a Child Dies- (including the death of adult children) Information and support for parents, grandparents, siblings, support groups and online support toll free 877 969 0010 or www.compassionatefriends.org

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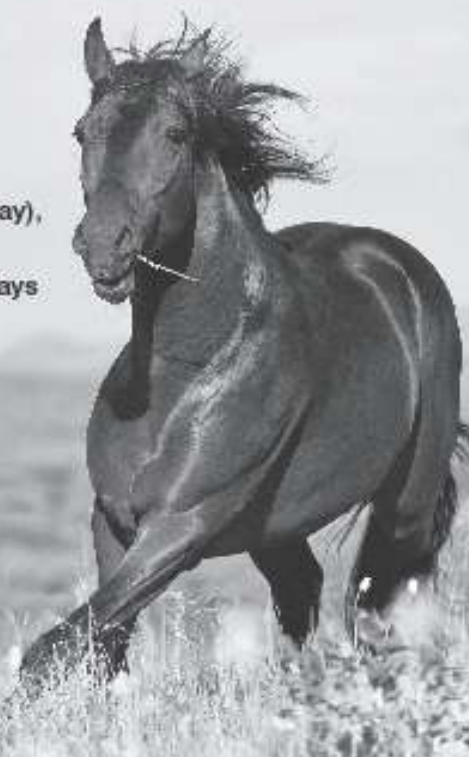
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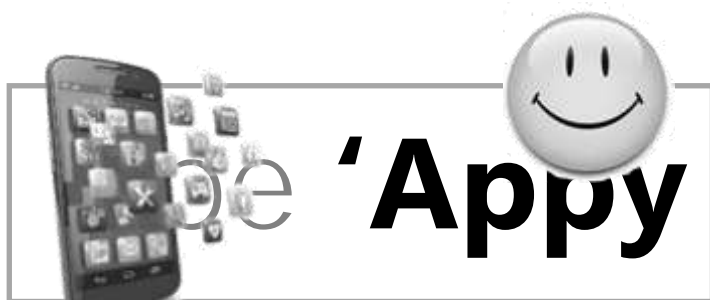
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