



Project Watch

We have been monitoring three major Meredith projects announced by Council over the last 18 months and compiled this update based on information provided by the shire of Golden Plains.

Meredith Integrated Community Hub

We reported in our December issue that doubt hung over the federal government's commitment to funding for this project. Days after we went to print, this was dispelled with an announcement the coalition government would provide \$480,000 to complete the funding package necessary to bring this project to fruition. Since then, the Shire has advised tenders for architectural services are currently being evaluated with an appointment due to be made soon. Consultation is a key role of the brief and this will happen during Feb/March. Key stakeholders are in this project, according to the Shire, are:

- Learning Centre Committee & staff
- School Principal
- Community members
- Program staff
- Service users
- DEECD

Tenders for construction will be called in June 2014 with work commencing in Aug 2014 with practical completion expected in March 2015.

Meredith Streetscape

This project was funded under the Victorian Government's Regional Growth Fund Consultation program and made \$450,000 available for streetscape improvements. After an intense round of public consultation nearly a year ago, a number of minor projects for Staughton St and the Midland Highway were exhibited. Golden Plains Shire is now saying detailed landscape design work will occur in early 2014 with residents having the opportunity to provide input into identifying preferred plant species, quantities and locations. Consultation opportunities will be promoted locally. Damian Waight is the Shire's contact person here, at either dwaight@gplains.vic.gov.au or 5220 715900

Meredith Interpretive Centre

This building, the exterior of which at least, was completed at least nine months ago, has had locals scratching their heads wondering when it was going to be



A glimpse inside the soon to be opened Interpretive Centre

inside



- Arts Trail Feature
- The Aftermath of Lightning
- "Meredith" the Festival
- Wicking Bed Gardening Explained
- Hello to Two New Columns

(and goodbye to an old one)

... and the usual much more



E: news@meredithnews.com.au

W: www.meredithnews.com.au



...plus tips for staying safe and cool on extreme heat days.

(Cont. on page 23)

Meredith and District News



The Meredith and District News is published by a volunteer sub-committee of the Meredith Community Centre comprising: Jim Elvey, Dawn Macdonald, David Jones, Trudy Mitchell, Stefania Parkinson and Ian Penna

NEWS & VIEWS

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

DATES AND DEADLINES

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

ADVERTISING

Advertising in the M&D Newsletter is a great way to let district residents know about your business. Contact us for full details and lodgement forms. Rates are as follows:

Business Card	\$14.00
Quarter page	\$25.00
Half page	\$40.00
Full page	\$80.00*
*\$20 loading for preferred position	
Classifieds	FREE**

**For small, personal notices from residents. Otherwise \$7.50 or \$5.00 if paid on lodgement.

Community Groups can have a 1/4 page ad for free or a \$25.00 discount on larger ads. (conditions apply)

SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you are outside our delivery area you can subscribe for only \$25.00 p.a. (11 issues) and get the Meredith and District News posted to you anywhere in Australia.

CONTACT US

Post: Post Office, Meredith, 3333
Email: news@meredithnews.com.au
Ph: (BH ONLY please) Jim 5286 1273 or Dawn 5286 1274.

WEB

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

ONLINE PHOTOS

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

DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the publishers. The publishers may edit or reject contributions and accept no responsibility for errors or omissions.

connect



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

ADVANCE MEREDITH

☎5286 1291

ANGLING CLUB

☎5354 3879

BLUE LIGHT DISCO

☎5286 1222

BOOK CLUB

☎5286 8201

CFA (000 for fire calls)

Elaine ☎0417 533516

Meredith ☎5286 1502

CHILDCARE

☎5286 1348

COMMUNITY CENTRE

☎5286 1348

CRICKET

Elaine ☎0428 264103

Junior Under 14 ☎0418535713
Meredith ☎5286 1434

CUBS & SCOUTS

Anakie ☎5281 9497

CWA ☎5286 1559

FILM GROUP ☎5286 1274

FOOTBALL

(seniors) ☎0408 545246

(juniors) ☎0430 587674

GOLF CLUB

☎5341 5748

HISTORY GROUP

☎5286 8201

LANDCARE

☎5286 1250

LIFE DRAWING

☎0430 318322

MEMORIAL HALL

☎5286 1545

MOTOR CYCLE CLUB

☎0437 009250

PLAYGROUP

☎5286 1348

POLICE

PADDOCKS ☎5286 1273

RED CROSS

☎5286 8222

RSL

☎52861 452

SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

☎5286 8232

TENNIS

Elaine ☎0448 291074

Meredith ☎5286 1211

SEW 'N' SEWS

☎5286 1348

emergency

Police, Ambulance, Fire	000
(from mobile phone)	000 or 112
Meredith Police Station	5286 1222
Power Failure	132 412
Nurse-On-Call	1300 606024
Mental Health Advice	1300 280 737
Poisons Information	13 11 26
Barwon Water	1300 656 007
SES Emergency - flood & storm help:	132 500
24 Hour Helpline	1800 629 572
24 Hour Drug & Alcohol Counselling	1800 888 236
Kids Help Line	
24hr 5-18yo	1800 551 800
Golden Plains Shire	1300 363 036
A.H. emergencies	0408 508 635
Ranger	5220 7111 or 0409 830 223
Bannockburn Vet	5281 1221
Injured Wildlife	13000 wildlife
Pets and Horses 24/7	0421 617 238

Justices of the Peace

Mr R Cooke Meredith	52 861 346
Mr H Woerner Meredith	52 861 402
Mrs S W Dynon Steiglitz	52 819 223
Mr G Leslie Bannockburn	52 811 854
Mr P Ryan Elaine	0409 861 296

services

CEMETERY TRUST

☎5286 1550

HALL HIRE

Meredith Memorial ☎5286 1545

Elaine Mechanics ☎5241 5596

Elaine Rec Res ☎5341 5703

LIBRARY VAN ☎5272 6010

MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

☎5220 7230

PRE-SCHOOL

☎5286 1227

PRIMARY SCHOOL

☎5286 1313

RECREATION RESERVE

☎0429 841399



...or start something.

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



"When I die, I want to go peacefully like my grandfather did—in his sleep. Not yelling and screaming like the passengers in his car.

Bob Monkhouse



Community

The Ballan Art Show

Council Chambers
Stead Street
Ballan Vic 3342

Opening Night - March 21st 7:30pm to 10pm
Saturday March 22nd – 10am to 5pm
Sunday March 23rd – 10am to 4pm

Criss Canning—Art Show Judge

Meredith and District Red Cross

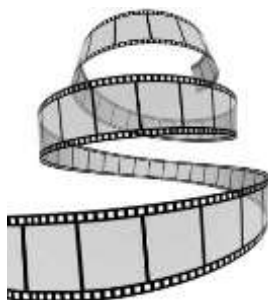
A meeting will be held on THURSDAY 13th February 2014 at 2 pm at the Meredith Community Centre.

The Regional Chairman will be in attendance and will have the recent survey results. All current members will have a vote as to the future of the Meredith Unit. All enquiries to Rosemary Hart 52868222 or Dawn Macdonald 0428 861274.

Meredith Monthly Film Nights

On the last THURSDAY of each month a film will be shown at the Meredith Community Centre. February 27th will be the first one for the year. Everyone welcome... Entry by donation. Starting time 7.30 pm.

Enquiries through Community House 52 861 348 or 52 868 222.




**catch us on the
WEB**

meredithnews.com.au



FREE HEARING TESTS

A **FREE** 15 minute examination is available to all residents of any age. Bookings preferred but not essential. Phone 5333 0200

17th Feb 2014 10.00 am to 4.00 pm
MEREDITH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Meredith Seniors' Christmas Party

Jim Hynds

The Christmas Party kicked off on December 4 with thirty five members and guests ready to celebrate. A wonderful two course meal was provided by the Golf Ladies and set the scene for a fantastic day. A local band called "Whiskey River" entertained us all day long with sing-alongs and fabulous music.

Local rockers Geoff and Denise Hardy added to the entertainment with songs and Rock and Roll dancing. By mid-afternoon the party was in full swing and Jo Primmer dressed in a pink fairy outfit had everyone splitting their sides with laughter. Well Done Jo.

Many raffles were drawn and won, the band continued to play our favourite songs brilliantly and afternoon tea was served. By late afternoon the party was still going strong and no one wanted to go home, but like all great times they come to an end and someone has to clean up. The clean up itself became part of the party because the band continued to play.

Many thanks to our members who stayed back to help and special thanks to Joe and Heather and members who worked tirelessly to make the day a huge success. Well Done to All!

PS. It is the first time I've been chased around the hall by a pink fairy!!

We are planning many exciting activities for 2014.

Christmas Sheep

Marg Cooper

Did you see the Meredith Christmas Sheep in Sebastopol?



Thank you to all the people who displayed their Christmas sheep including the person in Sebastopol.

Many positive comments have been received and the Ballarat Courier did a small article in December.

Notice has been taken of Christmas displays in other towns including Skipton, where Santa's sleigh which carried a bale of wool was pulled by sheep (cut out of corrugated iron).

Have you any ideas for next year?

Classifieds

First insertion of small ads are FREE to district residents

For sale

Alpacas, a variety of colours. For any enquiries please contact Chris or Paul 0418 578 593

Church News

**ANGLICAN**

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

Contact: Rev. Elizabeth Bufton, 5281 2224; 0437524864

Church Office, Byron St. Bannockburn 5281 2553

Service Times;

Church of Epiphany Meredith.

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

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

St John's Bannockburn

10.00am 1st & 3rd Sundays

Holy Communion

10.00am 2nd Sunday

Family Service

6.00pm 4th Sunday

Prayer & Praise Service

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

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

Morrison

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

Date for the Diary: The Anglican Church of Epiphany, Meredith is celebrating its 100th birthday this year. Yes, that wooden building has been standing for 100 years. A service of thanksgiving lead by Bishop Phillip Huggins, will be held on Sunday 23rd March 2014 at 2.00 pm, followed by afternoon tea. You are all are most welcome to join us on this memorable occasion.

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PARISH

St. Joseph's Catholic Parish Mass times for February

Winchelsea every Saturday evening @ 6 p.m.

Bannockburn every Sunday morning at 9 a.m.

Anakie Sunday February 2 nd/ 16th @ 11 a.m.

Meredith Sunday February 9th/23rd @ 11 a.m.

Enrolments for children making the Sacraments of Reconciliation,

First Eucharist and Confirmation will take place on Sunday February

9 th at 9 a.m. Mass at Bannockburn and 11 a.m. Mass at Meredith.

Ring parish office 52861230.

Ash Wednesday Mass Winchelsea 5 p.m. Bannockburn 7 p.m.

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

St John's Op Shop Bannockburn

High Street, next to 'Sorelle's'

We are open again after the Christmas/New Year break.

Thank you one & all for your support. Your generosity enables us to serve our local community together -

Donations including, furniture, books, bric-a-brac are always most welcome. (leave during opening hours please).

Tues - Frid 10.00am - 4.00pm

Sat 10.00am - 1.00pm.

Meredith Community Centre

This newsletter coincides with the end of holidays and the beginning of the year. It promises to be as busy and productive as the last. February is the first anniversary of my role as Coordinator of the Community Centre and I would like to acknowledge the fantastic staff, Committee of Management and the great community who support the Centre's activities, you have made my role rewarding and enjoyable. I am looking forward to another great year.

I hope by now you will have received your copy of the new Course Guide for the First Term. You will notice that we have changed the format in the interests of cost and sustainability. If you want a copy of the full guide it is available electronically or you can get a printed version at the Centre or we can post it to you. Just give us a call.

Did you make a New Year Resolution to get fitter and healthier this year? Our new Fun and Fitness class is designed to provide an individual program for each participant according your needs and capabilities. Call us to arrange an individual assessment.

Look Forward to seeing you at the Centre

Bye for Now

Pam Ridd

computer tips

If you use Microsoft office applications you can make things you use often quickly accessible using the Quick Access Toolbar. It is located along the upper left side in all of the Microsoft Office programs. This handy toolbar is very easy to customize. I like to add the New and Open for a start and then any other options I use regularly depending on the application.

Adding items to the toolbar couldn't be easier.

Move your mouse on the down triangle on the right side of the Quick Access Toolbar and click. A menu of the most popular tools will appear. Click as many of these tools as you would like. If you don't see your favourite tool listed then click on the "More Commands" option. Every single command is listed here.



By adding icons to the Quick Access Toolbar, they are visible no matter what your current tab might be and you don't have to change tabs. I hope customizing the Quick Access Toolbar makes it easier and quicker for you to use the Microsoft Office programs.

If you want to learn more about Computers you can enrol in one of our classes. Take a look at what is available in the Course guide here in the Newsletter.



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



meredithPolicenews

Leading Senior Constable Greg Kitchen

Well I must say that it has been an extremely busy start to the new year for both me and my Golden Plains police colleagues for 2014 with crime being committed in the area, fires, serious motor vehicle collisions and a variety of other jobs.

On or within a day of Saturday the 11th of January 2014 a colour bond garage located on a 150 acre property was broken into in Deans Road, Meredith. Offenders have entered the property on foot from Deans Road and accessed the building by smashing the lock on the personal access door.

Offenders stole a brand new Karcher brand pressure washer and a Stihl chain saw. If any one may have information or have seen unusual vehicles or activity on that day or Friday the 10th of January I would encourage them to contact me at Meredith Police Station on 52 861222. Please feel free to remain anonymous and to leave me a detailed phone message if I am not on duty.

On Saturday the 11th January we unfortunately saw what can only be described as a horrific but avoidable accident in Eclipse Road, Meredith. A 10 year old girl was very seriously injured and air lifted as a result of the accident which is under investigation by detectives from the Major Collision Investigation Unit at Brunswick.

On Tuesday the 14th of January the female driver of a small station wagon rolled her car on an un sealed section of Mount Mercer Road at the intersection with Arthurs Road. In the car were 2 very young children and another male. Amazingly none of the occupants sustained injuries.

On Thursday the 9th of January, I again utilised the Automated Number Plate Recognition Vehicle from Melbourne with assistance from the Moorabool Highway Patrol. It was so pleasing to see that there were only a very small number of vehicles detected committing offences with over 1000 vehicles checked. I anticipate that more of these days will be run throughout 2014.

Hey kids, at this stage we can confirm that the Meredith Blue Light Disco's are locked in for the following dates in 2014 –

FRIDAY 28th MARCH – Term 1
 FRIDAY 27th JUNE – Term 2
 FRIDAY 12th SEPTEMBER – Term 3

Kindest Regards, Greg KITCHEN
 Officer In Charge – Meredith Police Station.

Expressions of Interest

In 2015 across the nation, Australian's will be acknowledging the contributions that young men and women made during WW1: 1914-1918.

Our local community has an opportunity to create a local project through the (*Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program*) to honour the service of those who answered the call, and to highlight the social impact of families on the home-front.

If you are interested in creating & implementing a project - Please contact Sandra Pearce 52 861 545.

Your contributions will be greatly appreciated.

BALLARK & DISTRICT GUN CLUB



Next Shoot: Sunday 2nd March 2014

Location: **"BALLARK"** Ballan – Meredith Rd

Nominations from: 10.30am

Shoots Starts: 11.00am sharp

Good food, refreshments and prizes.
 Come Along and Support your District & Club.

Enquiries: Brian Smith 0428 608 238
 Marc Canavan 0432 237 389

NOTICE!

Proudly presenting a play, by the community for the community:

CAPTAIN CAT'S THEATRE

ALL profits go back into the community as part of the Dereel Bushfire Recovery. Light three-course meal as part of ticket.

FOR FIVE (5) SHOWS ONLY

DEREEL	Valentine's Day Friday 14 February 2014, 7pm (doors close at 6:50) Dereel Soldiers Memorial Hall, Swamp Road
ILLABROOK	Saturday 15 February 2014, 7pm (doors close at 6:50) Illabrook & Rokewood Junction Memorial Hall, Cape Clear-Rokewood Road
MEREDITH	Sunday 16 February 2014, 12noon (doors close at 11:50am) Meredith Memorial Hall, 61 Staughton Road
SCARSDALE	Friday 21 February 2014, 7pm (doors close at 6:50) Scarsdale Public Hall, 23 Scarsdale-Pitfield Road
CORINDHAP	Saturday 22 February 2014, 7pm (doors close at 6:50) Corindhap Memorial Hall, 4 Hall Road

ONLY \$25 per ticket / \$20 concession.

\$5 rebate if you come in 1980's period clothing!!

FREE if you lost your home in the 2012-13 fire season in Districts 7 & 15.
 Discount if fire affected last season. Discuss your discount eligibility and dietary needs when booking. Bookings close 1 week prior to each show.

To find out more and to book your tickets, contact
 IAN on 0408 103 634, captaincatsattheatre@gmail.com
www.captaincatsattheatre.info

Not suitable for children under 12 years of age. STRICTLY NO LATE ADMISSION!

WILL BE CANCELLED IF A TOTAL FIRE BAN

sports



Meredith Junior Football Club

Karen Prichard

Well, it's that time of the year again. Footy season is nearly here. The Junior Crocs will have their first training session on **Wednesday 5th March 4.30-6pm**

We know there is still cricket and tennis being played but for the kids who don't do those sports and kids who are eager to get back to footy we will start training now. We look forward to welcoming back all our previous players and can't wait to meet all our new players.

If you haven't played footy before, come up to our training session and see if you like it.

We are a very fun family oriented club which is all about the kids having fun while playing footy.

Registration forms will be available on the night and a sausage sizzle will follow the training session.

Every year we kick off the season with a family fun day. Games are played and all family members are welcome to participate.

The family fun day will be held on Sunday 23rd March at 10am.

"Go Crocs" Premiers 2013.



Auskick Volunteers Needed

We require suitable volunteers to manage Auskick at Meredith during the 2014 season. If Auskick does not get interested people to fulfil the role, your closest Auskick Venue will be Bannockburn, Buninyong, or Anakie.

Auskick will be run separately from the Meredith Junior Football Club, but will have support from the Club. Interested persons please call Campbell Mavity 0417846293 Evenings Please, (ASAP) so it can be organized with start dates.



Meredith Golf Club

19.01.14 Stableford

Winner D Gear 37 pts, Runner up V Drew 35 pts
NTP 2nd G Wilson, 9th D Gear, 14th J Cooper

25th/26th January Stableford

Winner D Jury 35pts on c/b from Runner up M Emmlin
NTP 2nd 2nd shot D Jury. 14th 2nd shot M Emmlin

CLYDE PARK
BANNOCKBURN

golden plains arts trail

**Spend the weekend
exploring open studios
and creative spaces.**



15 & 16 March 2014

Presenting 60 artists and 24 eclectic art venues

Special feature – Nebula @ Inverleigh

From the Flames – Community Exhibition @ Dereel.

FREE entry to all venues.

- Pick up an official map from Councils customer service centres, cafes or download on:
www.artstrail.com.au



Enquiries: 03 5220 7212 • Trail Bus bookings: 03 5220 7135



60 artists from across the Golden Plains region are set to throw open the doors to studios, gardens and town halls to share their amazing work and talent on the weekend of 15 and 16 March 2014.

Golden Plains Arts Trail 2014 - the most eclectic mix of artists yet!

The Clyde Park Golden Plains Arts Trail held on March 15 and 16 Arts Trail will see 60 artists exhibiting across the length and breadth of the beautiful landscapes of the Golden Plains.

Artist Profile

Dean Smith, aka "Dancing Bear" always introduces himself as an artist by trade. The Smiths, a working class mob from the west of Melbourne regard 'trade' as a chief designator of who you are. Dean was an artist from day one, recognised and encouraged by his Nan. He was drawing and singing and cleaning bricks to build the family home by the age of three. In the 1970's you had to clean a lot of bricks to buy a Star Wars figure!

Dean now finds himself in Staffordshire Reef. The "sculptor by trade" from the west, Dean Smith Dancing Bear, is making a significant contribution to life, his art and the physical world around him. In his own words, he's "cranking it."

Dean will be exhibiting his incredible sculptures at the Courthouse Hotel in Smythesdale on March 15 and 16 for the 2014 Golden Plains Arts Trail. For more: www.artstrail.com.au or call 5220 7111.



Dancing Bear, left, (and again, "right").

Nebula has landed@Inverleigh !!

Golden Plains Shire Council, Arts Access Victoria and Golden Plains Arts Inc. have joined forces to make the 5th Clyde Park Golden Plains Arts Trail accessible for all.

Nebula, Australia's first portable arts space created considering the needs of artists with a disability is set to visit the picturesque town of Inverleigh, 20 minutes from Geelong for the 2014 Golden Plains Arts Trail.

Everyone is welcome to come along and take part in 'My Place' Photography and drawing workshop. Tell us your story using words, photography and drawing.

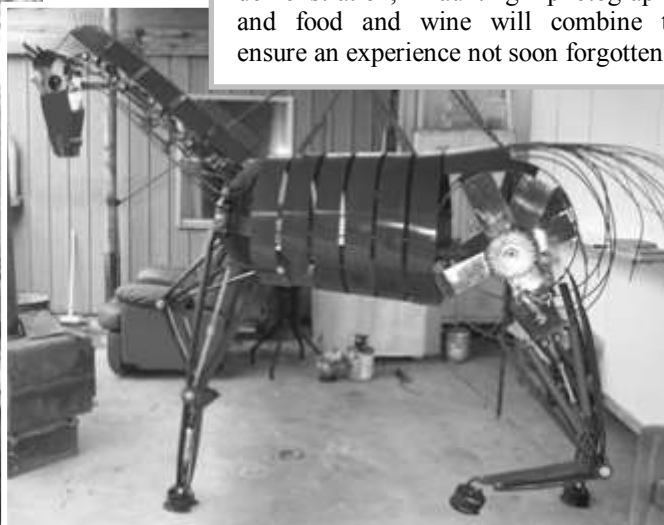
Nebula is cataloguing stories from regional Victoria to be compiled into an exhibition later in 2014. Don't miss your chance to see this innovation in design while indulging your taste buds with some delicious homemade goodies from the fabulous Red Door Café or Matt Dempsey's award winning restaurant, Gladioli or the Inverleigh Hotel.

More information on Nebula go to <http://artsaccess.com.au/artistic-program/nebula/> More information on Workshops: 5220 7212.

'From the Flames'

The Arts Trail will feature, 'From the Flames', the Dereel Bushfire Community Recovery Exhibition. 'From the Flames' is a celebration of survival and renewal presented by Dereel artists and residents. The works of Jeffrey Kirsten, who creates unique sculptures using debris from lost houses and sheds, will be featured. Caroline Everett will exhibit works inspired by nature's amazing capacity for recovery. Lisa Hunter uses photography and poetry to explore the reflection of human experience in the beautiful surrounding bushland.

Community exhibition, poetry, art demonstration, haunting photography and food and wine will combine to ensure an experience not soon forgotten.



"Red Horse" created by Jeffrey Kirsten with debris from houses and sheds lost in the 2013 Dereel Bushfire.



Part of Your Community.

Inverleigh resident and Funeral Director, Ebony Hovey can assist you with your enquiries and funeral care needs.

Ebony is available to guide you through funeral planning and arrangements as well as provide obligation free funeral advice and information.

...for a life worth celebrating.

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Saturday by appointment
No EFTPOS on premises

Hay, You Guys!

Marg Cooper

While driving to Ballarat from Meredith you can't miss the "people" created from bales of hay on a small rise in Well's paddock just before Williamson's Creek.

Amy and Lucas Wells with the help of their cousin and their father and some big machinery constructed the three people. (Last year they had one person.)

The children cut shapes for the mouths, eyes and noses from old signs and attached them to the bales with wire. Net wrap was attached to each of the people for hair. You will notice that the girls have long hair and the boy has short hair.

Amy tells that they had great fun creating the hay art and wished to make travellers happy.

Maybe next year Dad will also be represented in the creation as well as Mum, Amy and Lucas.

Love it! Well Done!



GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

2014 ENROLMENTS

EXPLORE CREATE LEARN

Meredith Kindergarten is currently accepting new enrolments for 2014.

Our enthusiastic and dedicated staff, provide an excellent program to cater for the needs and interests of all children. Our classroom and large outdoor playspace provide an exciting and fun learning environment for your child.

Vacancies for 3yr old and 4yr old sessions are now available.

To arrange a tour or to enrol your child, please contact the Meredith Kindergarten.

Kindergarten: (03) 52 861 227

Enrolments Officer: (03) 52 861 464

Meredith Kindergarten is provided by Golden Plains Shire Council in partnership with Meredith Kindergarten Inc.

Lightning Strikes Spark Beginning of Fire Season:

Chris Jones Captain Meredith Rural Fire Brigade

On the evening of 15th January 2014, Meredith and surrounding districts experienced a high volume of lightning strikes. Several of these strikes caused a large number of fires which kept Meredith, Elaine, Morrisons, Mt Wallace and various other brigades extremely busy over the following 24Hours.

The first fire reported was at approximately 3:30pm on the corner of Cameron Rd/Meredith – Mt Mercer Rd, but thankfully a light shower of rain followed the lightning which halted the spread of the fire. Responding tankers mopped up the smouldering edges and the fire was deemed safe a short time later.

Around 9pm another large storm front passed through the area which sparked what was to be an extremely busy few hours for our brigade. Several reports came through at the same time of fires along Shelford Rd, another on Davies Rd and one on Green Tent Rd. Thankfully a heavy shower of rain followed through the area just after the fires were reported so again, the spread was minimal.

Just when our tankers were back in the shed at approximately 10:30pm, a call came through of a fire in a Pine Plantation, Morrisons. Meredith Tankers responded, along with Robert Cook and his private tanker, to what would become a long night fighting fires. Once the tankers found where the fire was (given its isolated location) crews from Meredith, Morrisons, Elaine, Mt Wallace and Mt Edgerton fought hard to contain the spread of the fire to a track well overgrown in the middle of a dense pine

plantation. A fantastic job by each and every member on scene.

The next morning, Meredith Fire Brigade was on alert knowing that there was certain to be undetected strikes from the night before. As expected, at around 11am Meredith responded to a report of smoke showing from behind a property on Slate Quarry Rd, Meredith. Lightning had struck on a ridge above the Moorabool River behind properties and was spreading into light bushland. Tankers from Meredith, Elaine, Morrisons, Mt Wallace, Maude, Lethbridge and Bannockburn were quick to stop the spread of this fire and a short time later it was deemed safe.

As the tankers were returning a call came in of smoke showing from the Brisbane Ranges, at the same time Meredith received a call to a fire spreading towards Pioneer Ridge from Coopers Bridge on the Meredith – Steiglitz Rd. Upon arrival a call was made for multiple tankers and thanks to the quick actions from a private unit and the Meredith, Elaine & Morrisons Tankers a small holiday house was saved from being razed by the spreading fire. The fire took a lot of hard work to contain and black out. Other tankers attended from Maude, Lethbridge, Ballan, Mt Wallace, Buninyong and several other neighbouring brigades. As the fire was controlled tankers were sent to Anakie where there was a fast moving bushfire that caused Evacuation and Warning alerts to be issued to townships in its path. The Coopers Bridge fire was deemed safe at approximately 4pm.

Sometime between 3:30 and 4pm Meredith again responded to a call of fire rapidly spreading on Slate Quarry Rd. Thankfully, with the assistance of a Helicopter and the response of both private units and CFA Tankers,

(Cont. next page.)



Clearing work being undertaken to control one of the many lightning strike fires last month.

- photo: Gary Sanford

Chris's article reminds us of the dedication and commitment a small group of volunteers bring to the difficult and dangerous task of protecting us and our property from the ever present danger of fires. At this time of the year especially, but all year round, we have reason to be grateful for this service. A sincere "Thank You" to all district CFA volunteers.- Ed.

the fire was quickly halted. A bulldozer put a containment line in around the edge of the fire which gave crews a good chance to get in and around the whole fire's edge. Again tankers attended from Meredith, Elaine, Morrisons, Mt Wallace, Lethbridge, Maude and Bannockburn.

The weather was forecast to get a lot worse on the 17th, so the members of the Meredith Fire Brigade manned the station to allow for a faster response should we have received a call.

A call came in of smoke showing at 7:30am along the Meredith-Ballan Rd just north of the township. Thankfully, it was a false alarm as there were harvesting contractors working in the area, throwing up a lot of dust.

At 5:30pm, Meredith received a fire call along Coopers Rd, Bamganie for smoke showing in the area. Again it was a false alarm.

Meredith received some 17 calls over this period which is around our average for the whole year.

All the members of Meredith, Elaine, Morrisons and surrounding communities should be extremely proud and thankful to have such dedicated fire fighters who are willing to give up time from their families, farms or work to serve and protect our community when emergencies arise. I am extremely proud of each and every member of the Meredith Rural Fire Brigade and to lead such a dedicated and competent group of people. I also extend my thanks to the families of all my members. Without your support our brigade would not survive.

The Art of Getting Lost!

Marg Cooper



When Denise Hardy came to Art at the Meredith Community Centre on a Friday in December, after the horrific accident on Coopers Bridge, she had to take an alternative route because the bridge was closed. Out of her driveway she turned left onto the Steiglitz Meredith Road, left onto Eclipse Road, left at Slate Quarry Road and into Meredith. No Trouble!

On leaving the Community Centre she intended to return home via the same route and to be home in about 15 minutes. She kept driving, driving... She didn't recognize any landmarks, but because she'd only travelled the new route once, she thought that maybe she was on the right road.

After a good half hour of driving she thought that she had better ask someone, so she drove up a long driveway and into a farm house. A woman came out of the house and told Denise that she was at Ballan and she had never heard of Meredith!

Denise kept driving for another half hour, hoping that she wouldn't run out of fuel when she spied a sign to Meredith. She was so delighted that she nearly kissed the sign!

After a one and a half hour trip she arrived home having seen lots of new country and with a good story that has been told many times and has created lots of laughs.

Vale Neil George Hart

Compiled from Eulogy by Terry Hart



Neil was born on December 8, 1933 at Carlton and was the first child of George and Lorna Hart of Malvern. He left school at 15 to take up a plumbing apprenticeship and attended night school at Caulfield Tech, completing his Junior Technical Certificate.

As a youngster, he always had a strong interest in ballroom dancing and at age 15, he and his sister Elaine became dance instructors at Harvey's Dancing Academy in Oakleigh.

He married Pauline in the early 1950's and they had a daughter Dianne. After the marriage ended he lost contact with Dianne for nearly 32 years. In 1985 they reunited and Neil met her husband and their 6 children.

In 1957 he travelled to the Wimmera to help build a house. He fell in love with the Wimmera and its people and decided to stay on. He met Phyllis Stehn at a local dance and she became his life long dance partner. They married in 1960 and relocated and renovated a house on the family's property at Minimay where they lived until 1974. During this time they had 3 delightful children and some of the happiest times of their lives.

During this time he converted from being a plumber to being a farmer, learning how to shear, obtained his wool classing certificate and embraced his new life on the land.

He played tennis, cricket and football at Minimay and was President of the Border Districts Football Club in 1972 and 1973.

In 1974 Neil and Phyllis made the tough decision to move the family to Meredith where they built a new home on a 90 acre property just out of town and Neil transformed from being a farmer to a builder.

Apart from kids' sport which occupied a fair amount of Neil's time, he played a little cricket and enjoyed playing golf. He held many executive positions at the Golf Club including being President for 2 years and he played a major role in the construction of the current club house. He was President of the Hall Committee, a School Councillor, was actively involved in the Catholic Church and the Bannockburn Lions Club.

In later life he developed a passion for lawn bowls, playing at Bannockburn Bowls Club where he was President for 2 years and later at Geelong Cement Bowls. He loved being involved in the local community, was always willing to put his hand up to help out where required and was good at organising social functions.

The last function he organised was a Deb Ball for seniors where Phyllis finally made her own debut after they had trained 25 deb sets together.

Neil and Phyllis retired to Geelong in 1997. When Phyllis's health took a turn for the worse in 2005 Neil devoted himself to her care until she died in 2007. Neil had his own health issues over the last 30 years but continued to follow the sporting endeavours of his family, have a beer, a laugh and enjoying being with his family and friends.

He died on January 13 and a Funeral Mass was held at the Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Manifold Heights on January 22.

Bruce and Marion Young celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on Sunday 12th January. They were married at the Uniting Church in Rupanyup in 1974 and honeymooned in Yarrowonga.

Happy Anniversary
Mum and Dad

Together you set such a wonderful example of things that really matter in life. On your anniversary we want to thank you for the closeness we have as a family, all the good times we share, and especially for the first and best lesson you *taught us... how to love.*

Love always, from Mark & Melissa, Rebekah & James, Rachel, Luke (dec), Emily & Scott, & Lisa & Christian. And grandchildren - Natalie, Emily-Jane, Anthony, Tiffany, Samuel, Renae, Lillian (dec), Madelyn, Xavier, Darcy, Savannah, Kobi, Delta & Charlie.



Community Co-ordinators EOY Celebration at Meredith

Marg Cooper

Late last year Golden Plains Shire held the Co-ordinators End of Year Celebration at the Meredith Hall. Co-ordinators from the many districts in the shire attended and had an opportunity to tell everyone what their community had achieved during the year and what plans they had for the future.

This is a valuable exercise in that it inspires the other co-ordinators and allows communities to share their expertise and knowledge. The night is also an opportunity to talk with councillors and staff about goals for their communities. You never know where these conversations lead!

The guest speaker was Bruce Esplin who has had over 20 years of leadership in emergency management and other public sectors and who is now with Arts Victoria. He has a passion for the arts and how to inspire and uplift communities.

With a few stories he told how each community's history and culture can initiate and enhance local projects that can be enjoyed by locals and visitors alike.

The evening was hosted by Community Facilitators Steve Axford and Christine Wallis and a celebratory supper and drink was enjoyed by all.

Be Fire Ready This Summer:

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

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



...and see page 35
for our tips on
keeping cool.

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in my garden

There is nothing like a spot of extreme weather to bring out the extreme in this usually well balanced (mentally - my assessment of course) and happy gardener. While rational and well adjusted people are carefully ensuring their own health and well being during an extreme heat event as advised by authorities, the obsessed and irrational gardener becomes focussed on the health and wellbeing of their garden. Of course, the wellbeing of this gardener is intricately tied to the wellbeing of the garden: this gardener cannot possibly hope to achieve a sense of wellbeing in the absence of a healthy and resilient garden. So looking after self has its foundation in looking after the garden.

Fortunately, these days we have a weather bureau that has lifted its game considerably and provides reliable weather warnings. This allows the obsessed gardener time to prepare a strategy to manage the garden under such conditions. Clearing the calendar and cancelling all events away from the home during the period of extreme weather is the first essential step. One must be available to the garden throughout to monitor and respond to any plant distress. Extreme heat, in my opinion, can only be mitigated by building and maintaining the resilience of the garden. Essentially this means providing water and shade in quantities that will keep plants well hydrated throughout. The entire garden needed watering daily and some parts of the garden twice or more times daily. The greenhouse and potted plants are especially vulnerable and received extra attention, as did the pumpkin patch. Although I have water in volumes that permit this, it is not easy to achieve because of the size of the garden, and it does require the obsessed gardener to spend considerable time outside in the heat attending to the various tasks involved in watering the garden: moving hoses to connect to poly pipe watering lines or sprinklers, and a significant amount of hand watering. I did wonder how our CFA men and women manage to fight fires under such conditions because it is not easy being out in the heat.

Providing additional shade is also challenging. I do have some shade cloth that I pull out for such times but this is supplemented with garden umbrellas and old sheets that are pegged to various structures erected around the plants that require additional protection. Although it is not a good look, and a visitor to my garden may very well think that I had hung the entire contents of my linen cupboard out in the garden, it is essential and effective. All hydrangeas and fuchsias receive this treatment.

The apricots ripened rapidly in the heat and these needed to be picked before the birds had eaten the entire crop. Obsessed gardeners are also often obsessed about using the produce from the garden

and consequently there is pressure to put all the picked apricots to some culinary use. In this case it is apricot jam, bottled apricots and frozen apricot puree. Of course, they are beautiful eaten fresh but I would not recommend that anyone eat more than 6 per day.

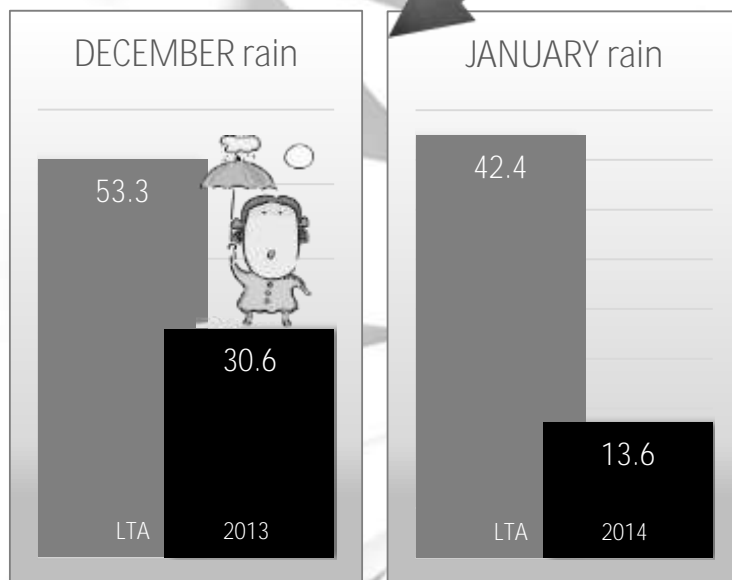
The post extreme weather event inspection and cutting back is now in full swing. It seems that nothing was lost to the heat but there are some partially scorched leaves and flowers which are now being cut back. I was delighted and simply amazed that the most advanced flowering cherries came through absolutely unscathed. What a treasure of a tree. I am pleased to advise that the pumpkin I hope to enter in the biggest pumpkin competition continues to do well and may have even had a growth spurt during the heat. I think that I will start measuring its circumference to chart more closely its growth.

Yes, it has been a busy start to the gardening year. I am looking forward very much to the coming seasons.

Until next time, happy gardening.

Robyn

...and this is why you have had to be there for your garden.



...and if you are spending a lot of time at the Meredith standpipe because of the low rainfall, read our helpful tips on page 26.

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Vale to Gay Tansley

Marg Cooper

Gay grew up on a farm at Wal Wal, near Horsham. In 1950 she married a handsome young stock agent Ted Tansley who had gone to school in Geelong with her brother. They started their life together as a married couple on the Mulligan farm at Wal Wal.

His job involved many relocations and Gay worked hard to make a home wherever they went until Ted was allocated a Soldier Settlement Block on the Moranghurk Estate at Meredith in 1955.

Gay and their two daughters, Jo and Jen, stayed with her parents until Ted had the garage ready for them to move into, prior to their house being completed. She made it comfortable with curtains for walls, second hand cupboards and second hand sisal matting for flooring.

She recalled 1955 was a very wet year and they couldn't get their Ford Pilot into the yard. Gay had to wear gumboots to get to the car, which was parked on the roadside to go to hospital to have their son Jack.

She remembered boiling nappies in a bucket made from a kerosene tin on the wood stove and the bush shower that Ted erected in the corner of the garage.

Gay was very involved in the community at Meredith. She served as Secretary of Red Cross for over ten years, was a member of Mothers Club, Treasurer of PWMU, and Handicap Manager of the Golf Club. She joked that she had to leave town to get out of the jobs!

Gay and Ted sold their farm at the end of 1969 and built a home on five acres at Wallington. After Ted died in 2009 Gay moved into Ocean Grove.

In 1975 Gay joined the Barwon Heads Golf Club where she served on the committee for several years and regularly played golf. Family tell that it was her second love after family and friends. It was whilst playing golf with friends on November 26, 2013, that she had a tragic accident.

Gay's health was excellent for an 85 year old and her death was unexpected.



Photo of Gay Tansley (2nd from right) at Moranghurk Soldier Settlement Plaque Unveiling with Keith Black, Owen and Fay Cooke, and Sandy Concannon.



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MOLLIE'S

last COLUMN



Sadly, we have already read Mollie's last column. With a move to Melbourne, and a full time job ahead of her this year, she has decided it is time to leave behind her monthly musings of a young woman leaving home and finding her way in the world. We will miss her amusing observations of everyday life, and affectionate insights into a family life full of incident and character.

Mollie's first column, in our March 2008 issue, was titled "46 Reasons to Slow Down" and dealt with the serious issue of road trauma. By May though, she was on to far more weighty material with "The Trouble with Scones". Her many devoted readers will miss her column, always reliable in its wit and charm, and will want to join the Newsletter team in wishing her happiness and success for the future. (We feel she is well equipped for both.) And, of course, thank you Mollie for the reading pleasure you have given us over the years.

And to end on a sweet note, here are a few Mollie wisdoms. (With more time, we could write pages of them.)

The Editor

It's a lot harder to remember than 3333, and it's a little embarrassing for me when I am asked for my address. Reeling of 661bamganieroadmeredith has had to stop in favour of stumbling my way through 'somewhere in Highton...you know that street, the big one, with the lights?' (April 2009)

Some op shops are staffed by the sweetest ladies, who potter around with cups of tea, call you 'darling' and charge you 50 cents for everything. (Sept 2009)

Last year I asked several strangers, in a slightly shrill voice, if they thought the pencil case I was clutching in Big W was cool enough to give to a girl who was about to start secondary school. Of course it wasn't, but those strangers were just as stressed and sweaty as me, trying to decipher brand names and technological jargon on lists scrawled by teenage boys... (Dec 2009)

Apparently what you really need to do to achieve any kind of happiness is wage war on your body. (Feb 2010, railing against advertisements promoting how to get the perfect figure.)



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Time: 9.30-10.30am 9 weeks

Cost: \$105

AND

Date: Thurs. February 6th–April 3rd

Time: 9-10am 9 weeks

Cost: \$105

Meredith Evening

Date: Wed February 5th–April 2nd

Time: 7-8pm 9 weeks

Cost: \$05.00

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Date: Tue February 4th-April 1st

Time: 11.30-12.30pm 9 weeks

Cost: \$105

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Date: Thursday February 6th-April 3rd

Time: 9.30am-10.30am

Cost: \$100 for 9 weeks

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Date: Friday January 31st-April 4th

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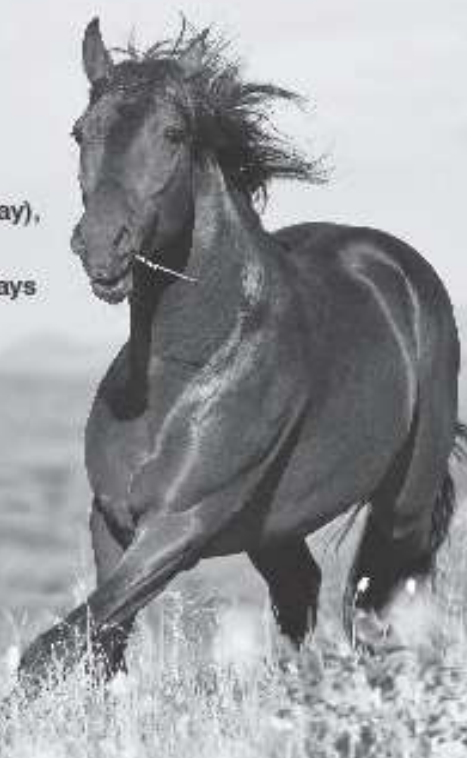
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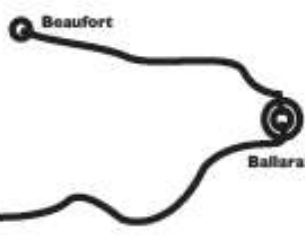
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FESTIVAL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

I am writing to notify you about the traffic management plans for Golden Plains 8 scheduled to occur on Saturday 8 March – Monday 10 March. We will be implementing the same plan that was in place for Golden Plains Lucky 7 last year.

The summary the plan is outlined here.

- We will implement one-way traffic on Mount Mercer Road from Bamganie Road to Cameron's Road from 4am Saturday 8 March to approximately 7pm. Traffic within the one-way zone traveling to Meredith will be diverted down Cameron's Road.
- We will implement a speed reduction to 40km per hour from Friday 7 March – Monday 10 March on Mount Mercer Road near Bamganie Road and on Meredith Mount Mercer Road immediately South and North of the festival site.
- We have assigned traffic controllers to the corner of Midland Highway and Staughton Street on Monday 10 March to assist vehicles turning left or right onto Midland Highway.
- We will install a no-parking zone along Mount Mercer Road and some surrounding roads.

If you would like more information or you have any comments or ideas about any matter related to Golden Plains Festival please contact me on 0430 091 120. This number is also operational 24 hours over the festival weekend should you want to contact us.

Thank you,
Kristie Walker, on behalf of The Festival Team

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What is a Wicking Bed

Rosemary Gargan

You might remember the photo on the front page of the July Meredith and District Newsletter. Two busy 'bees' were filling one of our school garden wicking beds with scoria and soil ready to plant. Before the Christmas holidays we harvested from metre high broad bean plants, picked lettuces, snow peas and parsley.

Our eight wicking gardens have been a great success and we are now up to some summer produce. There are more lettuces, little green tomatoes starting to ripen and beans, zucchini and capsicum on their way.

So, what is a wicking bed? It is a way of growing plants in which the plants access the water by wicking it up from an underground reservoir. The reservoir is a layer at the bottom of the garden filled with a coarse aggregate like scoria, which is filled with water. The next layer is the soil layer where the plants are grown.

How do you make a wicking bed? Any container that holds water can be used or you can line the container, like we did, with pond liner plastic. Lay a slotted piece of pipe along the bottom and a filling pipe up the side. Put in the scoria layer, top up with the soil layer, fill up the reservoir via the filling pipe and start planting. If this sounds a bit confusing, come to school and have a look and a chat.

What are the advantages of gardening this way? There is an increase in production because plants have continual access to water and nutrients. Water use is reduced by at least half. Less frequent watering is required. Evaporation is significantly reduced and so is time spent watering because the beds are not watered from the top but on a weekly basis by putting a hose in the filling pipe.

At school, this is particularly important because the wonderful summer growing months, which are also our hottest and driest, are over the summer holidays. Our roster of waterers only needed to pop in once a week and top up the water reservoirs. There have been no more limp, thirsty tomato plants waiting for a drink.

We were fortunate to receive a grant from the Bannockburn Bendigo Community Bank to fund the purchase of the gardens and a solar pump so we can use the water collected in our two large water tanks. Bunnings in Geelong supplied the pipe fittings for us and some plants to get us started. The gardens were supplied by Aussie Wrinkly Tanks in Moolap by way of Kruger's Sheetmetal in Bannockburn. One of our parents, Helena Lindorff, supplied the know-how, taking a workshop beforehand, sourcing the makings of the gardens at affordable prices and leading us in our whole-school and community garden-making day.

You are very welcome to come and have a look at our school gardens – we have eight wicking beds, one no-dig garden bed and a traditional bed. Give us a call on 5286 1313 just to make sure there is someone available to give you a tour. If you have any excess seeds or seedlings we would be very grateful to have them. You might even like to plant them yourself – you will have plenty of helpers!

AND...



Project Watch *(from page 1)*

put to use. We are now advised the fit out and landscaping will be completed in February.

The Centre is an initiative of the Meredith Community Planning Group (which comprises community coordinators) and is funded from a variety of sources:

Building Construction

- \$300,000 - Regional Development Victoria (Victorian Government)
- \$150,000 - Golden Plains Shire

Internal Fit Out

- \$14,400 - Department of the Environment – Federal Government (Your Community Heritage Program)
- \$12,000 - Geelong Community Foundation
- \$5,000 - Sovereign Hill
- \$5,000 - Golden Plains Shire Community Grant

The Meredith Community Planning Group chose the name of the facility and also researched much of the content included in the fit out. The facility has public toilets and outdoor pavilion with picnic tables open at all times and an information centre staffed by volunteers at key times. This is likely to be weekends and other, high visitor times. Opening times will be confirmed subject to volunteer availability and an official opening date will be determined in the near future.

Go on...smile!



"The universe implodes. No matter."

- Liam Williams

This year we have some exciting gardening news for you: Helena is forming a Gardening Group at school. On the second Monday of each month, anyone who would like to come along and garden with the children, teachers, parents or friends of the school, is most welcome. There will also be art projects to work on through the year and any suggestions or special skills would be very welcome. The first get-together is Monday 10th February at 1.15pm. After the gardening session, there is afternoon tea and a chat in the staffroom for everyone, and the finishing time is 3.15pm at the end of our school day. We hope to see you there.



Marg's Book Review

"Saturday" by Ian McEwan

The book tells of one day, Saturday February 15, 2003, in the life of an individual man and his family. Henry Perowne is a contented man, a successful neurosurgeon, the devoted husband of Rosalind and a proud father of two grown-up children.

He wakes before dawn and observes from his window an aeroplane, on fire, descending. He assumes it is a terrorist weapon heading for Heathrow. He finds later that it is a cargo plane that radioed for permission to land in London after a fire broke out in one of its engines.

This event and the street march against the Iraq War sets the background for the day that develops to unexpectedly involve Henry and his family in a threatening situation.

Henry's day involves a minor road accident after trying to avoid a street march, confrontation with the driver and his two friends, a visit to his mother in a nursing home, shopping for ingredients for a special dinner, a game of squash, the welcome of his daughter from overseas, attending a music recording session of his son, his father in law and the driver's hostage of his family and revenge.

Henry Perowne is not only the main character but the centre of consciousness in the novel. All the events of the long day are filtered through his mind. Through the kaleidoscope of Henry's thoughts and activities in the course of this day, the author gives us a sense of the role and importance of work in our daily lives and of a long and happy family life.

The hostage scene most dramatically shows the fragility of even the happiest lives.

"Saturday" is described as a humane, life-affirming novel. Bookclub members enjoyed this book and found "the thoughts recorded" reflected what thoughts run through each of our minds, sometimes at extraordinary speed in various situations.

The book for discussion next month is "Coda" by Thea Asthley

Let's read "Winnie needs a Poo"

Lily, Aged 3

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I have just received my copy of the December Meredith News and I thought I must drop you a line to say what an excellent issue it is. You guys always do a great job but this bumper edition is really an impressive product and your hard work is evident. Well done! - Felicity

Nice of you to say so.



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Vale to Fritz Teven

Marg Cooper

Fritz died suddenly while holidaying at Phillip Island on January. He had a “stent” inserted in October 2013 and told friends and family how he had instantly felt better and that his energy levels and enthusiasm had returned, so his death was something of a shock.

A Memorial Service was held at Lethbridge Recreation Reserve and tributes were given by his son Mark, a brother and a friend of his wife, Marilyn and Fritz’s grandchildren Kaleb and Tylah.

His ten grandchildren had each written something about what they had done with their Pop that was special to them.

Fritz grew up at Portarlington after his parents and their eight children came from Holland when he was 9 years old. He attended Portarlington State School and Geelong High School before he started work with the PMG as a local postie and telephonist at Portarlington. He then worked on the Radio Lines for the PMG, building telecommunications towers all over Victoria and as far away as Broken Hill. Fritz and his crew built the tower on Mt Buninyong.

He married Marilyn in 1971 and they travelled around the country to wherever he was working for about five years, staying in a caravan. They built a house in Portarlington when the children, Darren, Mark and Kelly arrived. Marilyn then stayed home and Fritz came home at weekends.

About twenty years ago Fritz was supplementing their income by being a “garbo” over the summer when he met a man at the Portarlington Caravan Park who wanted to sell a property at Meredith.

Fritz had always aspired to own some land so he bought the property and then had room to break in horses, run some cattle, tinker with machinery, ride motor bikes etc. He worked at Happy Hens and went to Portarlington at weekends. As the children were moving out and establishing their own lives Marilyn decided to move to Meredith. They sold the house at Portarlington and bought “Castlewood” on Coopers Road.

As well as running his farm Fritz worked at Meredith Dairy then later became a fencing contractor. He had recently purchased more land between Bamganie Road and Coopers Road to make his holding almost 1,000 acres.



Fritz loved horses, playing darts, being on his farm, fixing things and talking. He was never idle, couldn’t sit still and had sometimes been described as “a ferret on steroids”. He was a “jack of all trades” and could do whatever he set his mind to. He was tough and never complained, even after he crushed his hand in the

post driver, he was stubborn and he had a loud voice and was always yelling. When a horse rolled on him and he was yelling for help no one took any notice because they were used to him yelling!

Marilyn says the only time he would relax was when they travelled in their Motorhome. They intended to do more of that after he turned sixty five years old next April.

One of Fritz’s last jobs was to dig the holes for the signs at the Police Paddocks.

did you find
an error?



Avid readers of the MaD News - and aren’t we all? - will be aware of recent correspondence with A. Nonny Mouse on the subject of errors. Mr Mouse thought he found them all with an impressive list drawn from the November issue. We declared he fell one short however, for having overlooked the misspelling of the word “error”

A Mr Tom Cat (no, we’re not making this up, although we have a slight suspicion he is) has jumped to Mr Mouse’s defence (now there’s a mental image). Mr Cat asserts in a further letter to the editor, that an error is only an error if unintentional and that we meant the misspelling. He cites no lesser authority than *The Online Dictionary* and feels Mr Mouse was right not to include that in his list of errors.

Well, aside from the feeling we have been drawn into a game of *cat and mouse*, Mr Cat cannot know the editor’s capacity for genuine, dictionary compliant error, and we must once again declare Mr Mouse unsuccessful. In short, we insist on our right to be wrong!

Further correspondence on this matter might be entered into. - Ed.



On a cool sunny day in late December, my friend, Vicky, and I went for a bushwalk in the northern part of the Brisbane Ranges National Park. The start of our walk went through an area that has had several control burns in recent years. We could see how slowly the shrubs grow back, due to the poor soil. Beside the track we found an old pair of boots. I believe that people should take their rubbish home with them, but these boots had become part of the environment. The soles had fallen off, lichens were growing on the leather, and they looked as if they could provide useful shelter for small animals such as lizards and beetles.

We arrived at a small dam, its water black from decaying leaves. It was surrounded by eucalypts and had shoulder high reeds around its edges. Dragonflies flew over the water and among the reeds, which were fresh and bright green, with small tufts of brown flowers towards their tops. Although it was not obvious to us, the insects knew that these flowers were in full bloom. Some brown butterflies rested in groups near the dam, while others fed on the flowers. I saw one sitting on a reed with its long tongue deep in a flower. A small shiny fly and many beetles of different colours, shapes and sizes were feeding at other flowers. All this insect life attracted small

spiders. They ignored us as we admired their carefully woven webs. The spiders were beautiful, of different shapes and colours with amazing patterns of spots and stripes on their abdomens.

We walked to the edge of the flat plateau that forms a large part of the north of the park. As we approached the edge, we left the dark-trunked rough-barked stringybarks and ironbarks, and entered an area of gum trees with smooth pale grey bark. I sat on a large fallen trunk and looked from the rocky hilltop down to the green valley far below, and at the steep slope across the creek. I listened to cicadas and watched birds and beetles fly between the trees. On the steep rocky slope below me, Vicky explored and found a track made by wallabies hopping along the valley.

Our track followed the edge of the plateau for a while, with views into valleys below. We walked along a shallow gully, lined with purple daisies. We investigated a small cave above the track which appeared to be a regular shelter for wallabies. We could see the prints of their tails in the dust at the wide cave entrance. The second entrance, too small for their use, was covered in leaf litter.

We walked across the plateau, seeing some summer flowers, including small shrubs of Mitchell's wattle with pale yellow flowers, and a patch of rarely seen small duck orchids, their tiny flowers looking like black-headed ducks flying on the tops of their stalks. We followed a steep path down the side of the plateau, noting the continuing changes in the plants around us, as the soil and slope changed. The end of our walk was beside a deep dry creek bed, surrounded by bushes of yellow and white daisy flowers, finishing with lunch in the shade at a picnic ground beside the creek.

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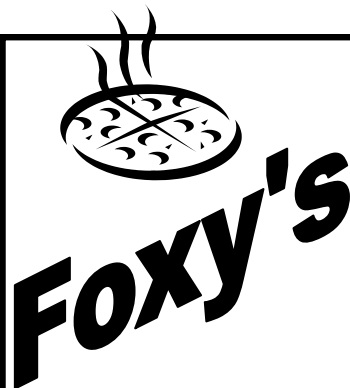
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5 things to do while filling your water tank.

The Meredith standpipe has been throttled back to a drizzle, to help counter water theft. So we thought these suggestions might be useful.

- Read *War and Peace* again - and this time, no skimming.
- Develop a plan for a buoyant economy and a healthy environment (and still have time to list all the things the Demons will have to do to win more than two games this year.)
- Join the Yarn Bombers and knit a jacket for one of the cypress trees
- Work out the flow rate. (Recommended only if you are in a cheerful frame of mind.)
- Do your pelvic floor exercises - *for the year ahead!* (Multi-tasking types will be able to combine this with any of the first four activities.)





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Welcome to 2014!!

With this being our first newsletter for 2014 I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a very enjoyable Christmas and a safe New Year Year. For those of you who have made your new year's resolution and are still following it, a big congratulations. For those of you who may have already found it too difficult to continue, why not start again? On average if you change your habits for 40 days you won't revert back to your old ways. If your new year's resolution was to quit smoking, lose weight, or just improve your health and lifestyle by making healthier decisions in life then we have a lot of products and services available at the Pharmacy to assist you with your resolution. If you would like any assistance or have any questions please do not hesitate to ask Scott or one of the girls.

Giftware

Following our post-Christmas sale we now have lots of new gifts arriving in-store. At the end of January we visited Salt & Pepper in Melbourne to preview their brand new range of products. These will be arriving in early this month. Also on the 15th & 16th February we will be flying up to Sydney to visit the Sydney Gift Fair where will be buying a lot of new gifts for the Pharmacy. We may still be a little light on for gifts at the beginning of this month please be assured there will be lots of exciting new gift lines arriving throughout the month. Also don't forget that if you are not a member of our FREE Gift Club to join up. We are now combining our gift club with our Chemmart Rewards card so you use the money you accumulate on your Chemmart Rewards card towards your gift purchase. Plus it saves you having to have 2 different cards. Don't forget we also offer FREE gift wrapping!

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Have you got your brand new Chemmart Rewards Card yet? If not come into the Pharmacy and we will swap it over for you plus you will get 10% off your purchase while in-store. Also if you provide us with your email address you will get a 10% off voucher emailed to you to use on your next visit! One of the advantages with our new system is if you leave your card at home, or a family member comes into the Pharmacy, we can search you online and still add the sale to your Reward card. We are also incorporating our Gift Club Membership card into our new Rewards card which means you will now only have to show 1 card for everything. During the year for all gift purchases you will receive a 16% discount (21% in December) at the till plus you will get your 5% as Chemmart Cash on your Rewards card. Don't forget you can now use your Chemmart cash that you have accumulated on your card towards your gift purchases as well.

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submitted by Meredith History Interest Group

it's History

Who Lived in my House?

We continue to collect and to collate information about the buildings and blocks of land in Meredith. The Ballarat Courier has started regular articles called "Ballarat at Home, Inside the City's Intriguing Houses" and it invites people who want to see their house featured in the Courier to contact them.

We invite someone who is interested "to research and to write about Meredith houses" to contact us. It would be a feature in the newsletter and would add information to the MHIG project.

A lot of the buildings have an interesting history; the house that came from Forrest, the house that had timber from the C of E Vicarage to make an extension, the house that has a wall from the Meredith Creamery etc.

Bridges

Members of the Stow family have asked us to contact the Golden Plains Shire to ask them to replace the sign on Stow's Bridge. The bridge that was there has been replaced with two big pipes under the road and travellers probably don't realize now that they are even crossing a waterway. On closer inspection though, the banks of the creek leading to and from the pipes have been stoned beautifully and extensively. Was this stone paving there when the old bridge was there? Do you know the history of other bridges, crossings, fords, swing bridges etc in the district?

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 9 at the Anglican Church Hall in Meredith at 1.30 pm. You are invited to come to the meeting and to tell us what activities and events you would like to be held in 2014. What would you like to see? Where would you like to go? What would you like to learn? After the meeting we will inspect the Church of Epiphany, listen to some history and look at the Architect's plans.

The Archbishop of Melbourne dedicated the church in March 1914 and praised the builders for the unusual design and for employing skilled workmen and the best of materials. It is truly a very attractive church.

Catalogue Day

This is held on the last Thursday of the month from 9 am at the Anglican Church Hall. It would be great to have at least 6 people to catalogue each month. It is interesting and easy!

Attempted Robbery near Steiglitz.
Death of the Robber. -- While M. Paterson and Birdsey were prospecting over the new Gold-field at Steiglitz they came upon the body of a man wrapped in a blanket, and quite dead, apparently from a stab in the neck. While they were turning over and examining the body up came the landlord of the hotel, and an old shepherd, whose name we could not learn, although well-known in the neighbourhood, as a quiet inoffensive man, who confessed he had killed the deceased in self-defence. The facts of the case, as far as we have been able to learn, are as follows:-- Two men, named Hammond and Robinson, called at the Steiglitz Hotel, on Sunday last, on their way to Balaarat. At Steiglitz they met a shepherd, with whom they had been slightly acquainted, and who agreed to go with them to the diggings. Hammond and Robinson had no money, so the shepherd treated them at the hotel, showing as he did a roll of bank notes. He spoke to them in the most friendly way, and promised to take out licences for them when they got to the diggings. After refreshing themselves at the hotel, Hammond pressed his mates to proceed at once, while Robinson and the shepherd wished to stay till next day; ultimately Hammond and the shepherd went on, leaving Robinson behind. The shepherd says, that after proceeding some distance Hammond turned round, seized him by the throat, and demanded his money. The shepherd managed to disengage his arm, got hold of a knife and inflicted the fatal stab in the neck, and at once returned to the Steiglitz Hotel and reported the occurrence. The police were sent for from Meredith, and the shepherd taken into custody; Robinson was also apprehended. The statement of the occurrence by the shepherd, though of course only ex parte, bears every appearance of truth, but both he and Robinson are very properly detained till an inquest shall have been held. Robinson and Hammond were lately employed as labourers on the Fyans' Ford Road.

*The Courier, Hobart, Friday 4 August 1854
Compiled by Jan McDonald,
Meredith History Interest Group*



it's History

MEREDITH

WAR SAVINGS GROUP.

At the annual meeting of the Meredith war savings group the report of the year's activities revealed that there were at present 39 members—16 being school pupils. The total amount subscribed during the year was £212/14/6; the school members subscribing £92/15/6.

EUCHRE PARTY.

Euchre party in St. Joseph's Hall on Saturday night was well attended. Winners were Mrs Barwick and Mrs Mooney, Mr Miller and Mrs King. Supper was handed round by the ladies' committee. The competition was won by Mr Grant.

*The Ballarat Courier, 15th July, 1941
Contributed by Paul Galea*

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pic of the
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- Drink more fluids
- Stay indoors and, if at all possible, stay in an air-conditioned place. If your home does not have air conditioning, go to some place that does – like a friend's house or a public building.
- Electric fans may provide comfort, but when temperatures reach high 30s, fans will not prevent heat-related illness. Taking a cool shower or bath, or moving to an air-conditioned place is a much better way to cool off.
- Wear lightweight, light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing.
- Visit adults at risk at least twice a day and closely watch them for signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Infants and young children, of course, need much more frequent watching.

If you must be out in the heat:

- Limit outdoor activity to morning & evening hours.
- Protect yourself from the sun by wearing a wide-brimmed hat (also keeps you cooler) and sunglasses and by putting on sunblock

from bt.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/heattips.asp

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CHICKEN AND VEGETABLE ROLLS

Makes 16 • Prep: 30 min • Cooking: 20 - 25 min

Ingredients

- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 500g chicken mince or chicken breast chopped finely
- 2 green onions or sml brown onion chopped
- 1 garlic clove crushed
- 1 ½ cups frozen mixed vegetables (peas, corn, beans, capsicum, carrot)
- ½ cup light and creamy evaporated milk
- 125g tin creamed corn
- 4 sheets frozen puff pastry partially thawed
- Tomato sauce to serve

Method

1. Heat oil in a large frying pan over medium-high heat. Add chicken. Cook, stirring with a wooden spoon to break, for 8 minutes or until browned.
2. Add onion and garlic. Cook, stirring for 1 minute. Add frozen vegetables, milk and corn. Stir, cooking for 5 minutes or until sauce has thickened slightly. Remove from heat. Cool.
3. Preheat oven to 200 C/180 C fan forced. Grease 2 large baking trays. Cut each pastry sheet into 4 squares. Spoon 2 tablespoons of chicken mixture over 1 half of 1 pastry square. Brush edges with beaten egg. Fold over 1 side of pastry to enclose filling. Press edges together with a fork to seal. Place on prepared tray. Repeat with remaining mixture, pastry squares and egg. Brush tops with egg.
4. Bake for 20 minutes or until pastry is golden and puffed, swapping trays halfway during cooking. Serve with tomato sauce and a side salad if desired.

from taste.com.au

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The Eagle

He clasps the crag with crooked hands;
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The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;
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Lord Tennyson

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The Right Services for Men

Navigating the service system can be frustrating especially when you are a bloke in need. Some men find going to visit the doctor (GP) or dentist a terrifying experience let alone accessing support from a counsellor or other health professional. It takes a lot of strength for a man to reach out and seek help and in order to avoid disappointment some knowledge about where to begin or what to expect is useful.

Learning how to seek out the right professional help in time of crisis or need can make a huge difference and enable easier access to services.

Important FACTS for blokes about getting the right help:

Crisis telephone lines- there are several crisis telephone services for men that operate 24/7. They have trained professionals who will listen to your problem, provide on the spot suggestions, information and offer to refer you to the closest service in your area. The crisis number you call may not be what you need at the time and they could direct you to another service. You may find yourself repeating your story as you navigate the system. They will provide you with the contact details of the most suitable service you can access in your local area. It is important to understand that you may have to make several phone calls the next day during business hours to arrange appointments to see someone face to face. Some services may not be able to see you for 2 weeks or longer depending on waitlists. However, most of the free specialists counselling services in our community have emergency appointments available for crisis situations. You may have to request an urgent appointment and it is ok to ask for the crisis line staff to refer you directly to a service if you prefer.

Your local GP- there is no better person to direct you to the right service you need. They have information about local community services and private counselling services. Your GP can also offer to see you weekly until you can begin treatment with the right service. Many GP clinics are now operating outside of business hours to cater for men who work.

Internet websites and online counselling services- most of these services are easy to navigate and at your finger tips 24/7. Just be careful about some of the information you access. Try and stick with reputable sites and remember that the Web is to be used as a guide or Encyclopaedia NOT a bible. Please avoid self diagnosis instead seek an assessment with your GP or specialist.

If you are a bloke with a problem you are not weak if you are in need of help. In fact it takes much courage and strength to face up to a problem and ask for help than it does to avoid it. The right service may take you a few steps to find but once you get the assistance you require you will be well on the road to resolving any difficulties.

(See panel for reliable support services for men.)

Judy

HELP for MEN

- Mensline - 24hr support for men & their families - 1300 789 978
- Suicide call back service - 1300 659 467
- Beyondblue- 24hr information and referral - 1300 224 636
- Dads in Distress - 1300 853 437
- Lifeline- 24hr crisis service - 13 11 14
- www.beyondblue.org.au
- www.manhood.com.au
- www.menshealthaustralia.net

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Dressed for the Occasion!

Marg Cooper



Neil Cameron wore the outfit that he had worn to his brother's wedding sixty two years ago, to the recent opening of the Ballarat Yacht Club season. Last year he joked that sailing on Lake Wendouree was quite tame and that one could do it in a Dinner Suit! So, in late November, for a bit of a lark he wore his Morning Coat, Striped Trousers, Waistcoat, Shirt, Black Shoes, Top Hat and a Tie featuring little pigs (to be a little cheeky) to the opening.

Because he was the only one who was "properly dressed" he invited Samantha McIntosh who was representing Ballarat City to accompany him in his boat for the sail past. Much to Neil's delight she accepted. The Commodore Lesley Davies, Neil smartly dressed and Samantha McIntosh were photographed standing in Neil's boat that is called "Manana Two".

There was only one hick-up when the boom that swings from side to side knocked Neil's Top Hat off and it floated away. Luckily it was rescued by the rescue boat.

Neil and his brother John are members of the Ballarat Yacht Club but have sailed at Sorrento for over sixty years. On the Australia Day weekend they both competed in the Australian Jubilee Championships at Sorrento. With Top Hat?



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Velocity Trains on Geelong Ballarat Line

Raymond Kelly

With the three week closure of the Melbourne to Ballarat Railway Line via Bacchus Marsh to enable work on the Regional Rail Link, velocity trains have been seen passing along the Geelong to Ballarat line in order to be serviced at the velocity servicing facility in Ballarat East.

The velocity trains pass through Lethbridge travelling towards Ballarat in the early afternoon and after

servicing overnight return to Melbourne the following morning.

Work on the Regional Rail Link commenced in 2011 and the project is due for completion in 2016.

A total of 80 rail line closures are scheduled which include six major rail line closures and 74 weekend closures.



Australia Day Picnic at Woodburn

Marg Cooper



A balmy night, plenty of food to be shared, convivial company and a perfect setting amongst the gum (and pine) trees on Australia day. An Australian picnic!

On Sunday evening we met at the former site of the Woodburn State School to celebrate Australia Day and to meet the people of the district and to enjoy a shared delicious meal.

The adults mingled, shared news and predicted who was going to win the tennis while the many young children scampered through the trees and around the site as the school children used to do when the Woodburn School was there.

Janene welcomed everyone and dressed in her Driza-bone and Akubra with billy and bedroll she recited a few verses of "I Love a Sunburnt Country" and some Banjo Patterson and led us in a spontaneous rendition of Waltzing Matilda.

As darkness approached we packed up and headed home to watch the last sets of the tennis.

A night to be remembered! An Australian picnic!



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Meredith 2013

For many thousands of people, "Meredith" isn't a town, or even a person; it's an event. An event that is always musical and sometimes a little magical. Here Kristie Walker and the Festival Team, give us an insight into last December's "Meredith"

Meredith23 will be fondly remembered by many as one of the finest Meredith Music Festivals in the event's

history. Blessed by near-perfect festival weather, a very enthusiastic crowd piled into the festival site. The festival was made deliberately smaller by the organizing team this year – by 500 people – and it was clear that this move created more space in the campgrounds and the amphitheatre.

Meredith-goers these days come well-prepared. They set up tents, often camp *communally*, with friends. Some circle the wagons – park their cars in a circle or arc and pitch multiple tents inside, often with a 'lounge' area with a tarp or two strung across car roofs or available trees. Some arrive in motor homes, or bring caravans; there's a converted old bus or two. Some simply sleep in their cars.

Once camp is made they head down to the amphitheatre, where this year some of the most wonderful moments took place. The biggest crowd reaction was for Nile Rodgers and Chic. Nile's career started as a songwriter and band-member of Chic in the 70s, who had a string of disco hits including "Freak Out". He then produced some giant hits for artists like David Bowie, Madonna, and lately Daft Punk. He played all the hits with his amazing band, and the crowd danced and sang and went crazy for an hour and a half. Nile had played at Golden Plains a couple of years ago, and loved it so much he asked to come back. His return was a total triumph.

Because the festival has just one stage, a variety of music happens on the stage. In the mornings, more gentle artists play. On Saturday morning the City of Ballarat Brass Band pumped out some winners to an appreciative crowd; hours later the hardcore metal of US band Helmet would pound the amphitheatre. The hip-hop of Hermitude then got them dancing, Spiderbait thumped out a great set, then after Nile Rodgers DJs kept everyone dancing until dawn.

One of those DJs, Tim Sweeney, is a world-renowned dance music expert who lives in New York, but loves Meredith Music Festival so much he times his annual holiday to be able to perform there. It was his third time. After Tim, legendary US DJ Derrick May was on – he is credited with inventing the musical genre known as 'techno' in the 80s, now hugely popular all over the world.

Sunday, as usual, saw a more gentle feel on the stage, starting with a Tai Chi masterclass from the stage with Master Song, a former Chinese National Tai Chi Coach. The country sounds of the Davidson Brothers were a winner for many. In the afternoon, actor Angus Sampson was the guest commentator for The Meredith Gift, after which the mass exodus commenced.

The festival site was green and lush after the wet Spring, and though no rain fell during the event, temperatures never rose above high 20s, and the nights never freezing cold. Perfect camping weather really.

All in all, another terrific year for the Meredith Music Festival – next year will be her 24th.



NEW for 2014, Wendy Abraham will be drawing our attention to some cool aps (and cool anything is welcome this time of the year!) for iPads and iPhones. Wendy has many years experience as an IT teacher at secondary level and has been taking adult iPad classes for the past year.

And if you hang out with androids, check the Play Store anyway - many of these aps are also available for Android.

Having fun with your iPad? On those hot days when you are stuck inside, here are three apps worth a look. All can be downloaded from the App Store, and all are free.

TED is a collection of short talks by entertaining, inspiring people from all over the world. The app organises the talks in a number of ways and offers suggestions based on the ones you have already watched. Listen to a poem, watch a fascinating new discovery being demonstrated, hear what some wonderful people are doing to make this world a better place.

The Internet Movie Data Base, usually just referred to as IMDB, has all the information about movies and TV shows than you could ever want. Who was the star of that show? What were the best quotes? What else did she direct? The site is easily searchable and even has links to independent film reviews.

Yahoo Weather Wondering how long the hot weather will last? You will need to tap yes when asked if the app can use your location, then you will see a simple summary of today's weather where you are. By sliding your finger up the screen you will see lots more detail including wind speed, moon phase, humidity etc .

And a reminder that if you are interested in exploring your iPad further, the Bannockburn library will host a six week course starting shortly. Details from the Meredith CC or the Bannockburn library.

Wendy

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