



PHOTO
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FROM
ONLINE
VERSION



New Tanker for Meredith CFA

David Jones

Meredith CFA has taken delivery of a new tanker. The tanker was formally handed over to Meredith CFA Captain, Chris Jones, on Saturday 10th May 2014 by Simon Ramsay, State Member for Western Victoria, who also presented National and Long Service Medals and a Certificate to members of the Meredith Brigade. The new tanker is the latest in the CFA fleet and provides much better fire attack capabilities as well as improved safety features for the crew. The Meredith Brigade contributed \$57,000 towards the total cost of \$380,000 with the remainder provided by the State Government and the Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP). The new tanker should be available for any fires or other incidents for more than 20 years. The ceremony was attended by Bob Barry and Wayne Aylmer from CFA Geelong HQ, Councillor Andrew Cameron representing the Mayor, Golden Plains Shire as well as members and families of the brigade.

Some of the locals and officials who turned out to welcome Meredith's new tanker.

Members to receive awards were: Lieutenant Mick Jury, National Medal; Matt Burgess, 15 Year Clasp; Max Heard, 30 Year Clasp; Ed Molesworth, 15 Year Clasp; Ralph Holtz, 10 Year Medal; David Jones, 40 Year Medal; and Les Kocon, 5 Year Certificate. The presentations were followed by a BBQ lunch.

inside



- Our Biggest Morning Tea
 - Meredith Community Auction
 - Vale Grace and Dorothy
 - From the Mayor
- ... 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

...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.



"Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow."

— Helen Keller



Community

Cards Anyone?

Seeking others interested in setting up a regular (weekly/fortnightly/monthly?) card games group in Meredith, playing one of Canasta/Bolivia/500.

Please contact Jarna on 5286 1264 or 0438102139 or jarna.kelly@gmail.com to discuss further.

Meredith Seniors

Jim Hynds

A crowd of 28 Meredith Seniors met on Monday, May 12 for a delicious lunch provided by the PFA followed by social games and talk.

On Monday, May 26 another group of Seniors gathered for lunch and a social afternoon.

There is much excitement about the forthcoming bus trip on Monday, June 2 to the Werribee Zoo.

The zoo report will be in the next issue of the newsletter.

Meredith Historical Plaques

Marg Cooper

Advance Meredith is replacing the 20 historical plaques in the town and district with enamel plaques that will last for a long time. We are inviting people to sponsor a plaque. For \$400 their sponsorship will be recorded on the plaque.

Of the 20 plaques: 8 have been replaced, 3 are OK at this stage, 2 have been promised and there are 7 plaques needing sponsorship.

They are: *Railway Hotel, Huntsmans Inn, Samuel Kenedy Blacksmith Shop/ Garage, SH Mayo, General Store, Steiglitz Cottage and Meredith State School.*

If you would like to sponsor a plaque please contact Diane Ritchie on 52 861291 or Marg Cooper on 52 868201.

You may also like to sponsor a new plaque to commemorate another important part of the history of Meredith (for example: the Free Presbyterian Church or the Butter Factory & Creamery).

Red Cross film night
Thursday 26th June 7.30pm
Come along and see
"Philomena"

At the Meredith Community Centre
in the Studio

Thanks Kerry

Kerry Thomson is our
guest editor for this
month's issue.



Hub Update

Stefania Parkinson

Early last month a further stakeholders' meeting was held to review plans for the Integrated Community Hub. A very robust and open discussion followed. Questions were asked and comments made about the plans and, to his credit, the architect answered them in a frank and honest manner. It was interesting to note that the plan presented was still only preliminary and the purpose of the meeting was to make sure stakeholders were happy with 'the boxes on the page' and if so, more detailed designs would follow which would include the outdoor space and other areas.

The purpose of several rooms was questioned during the meeting and it was explained that under the funding agreement a certain number of specific rooms and spaces must be included in the final design. As can be expected in a multi-use facility, not all elements were to everyone's liking, but it was good to have it explained.

When the detailed plans are available further discussions will follow. And it will be at this point that I think the community will get a better sense of what the new facility will offer to the town and look like. There are still many questions to be asked and details to be finalized but any construction on this scale in the town has got to be a positive step forward.

It is also true that there will be considerable disruption while the build is taking place and this will cause major interruption to users of the existing Community Centre. I am confident however that we will be able to overcome these by working together.

I am also hopeful, seeing the number of stakeholders who were present at the meeting and their evident enthusiasm for the project, we will ensure that every cent of the funding is used effectively. Likewise, I am sure, council will remain true to its word and listen to the community, so that the very best possible outcome is reached for the Kindergarten, Community House, School and all potential users of the new facility.

Classifieds

First insertion of small ads are FREE to district residents

For sale

Solid wooden dining table and 6 chairs. Table needs sanding and revarnishing \$100 Call Mary 52 861 459

For Sale

Bench press heavy duty 6 foot bar, leg ext arm curls, dumbbells, lots of weights \$200

Ph 52 861 254 0448 861 254

Wanted to Rent

Local single mature woman, with employment, looking for a house to rent, or house share, or granny flat, in the Meredith district. Willing to upkeep a farm property and/or monitor stock if required.

Please contact Sam on 0488 182 996.

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.

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. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PARISH

St. Joseph's Catholic Parish (Anakie, Meredith, Bannockburn, Inverleigh, Winchelsea)

Mass Times for June/ July

Winchelsea every Saturday @ 6 p.m.

Bannockburn every Sunday @ 9 a.m. Sunday June 22nd 2 p.m.

Meredith @ 11 a.m. June 1st/ 15th/ 29th July 13th/ 27th

Anakie @ 11 a.m. June 8th/ 22nd. July 6th/20th

Inverleigh Friday June 27th @ 5.30 p.m. - Feast of the Sacred Heart- Patron of the Inverleigh Church

First Holy Communion : Winchelsea Saturday June 21st @ 6 p.m. Bannockburn Sunday June 22nd Feast of Corpus Christi @ 9 a.m. Mass and 2 p.m. Mass

Healing Mass and Lunch @ St. Joseph's Meredith Saturday

12th Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals, Pastoral Care

Father Herman Licayan 52861230

St. Joey's OP SHOP

OPEN Wed & Fri 10 to 4

REAR OF St JOSEPH'S PARISH CENTRE

DONATIONS WELCOME

We're now stocked with lots of treasures!

Tell us if you have any
Community News,

...and we'll tell the
Community!

See info panel on page 2 for contact details.



Hi everyone,

We are coming to the end of a beautiful and balmy Autumn and I am sure we will all feel the effects of a wintery blast when it finally arrives. Most of our classes for this term are well under way and we are busy again thinking ahead for term 3. The new brochure will be released at the end of June. Our Zentangle class was a great success and the Saturday art group have been creating some beautiful work as a result. We are planning to run another class later in the year, so make sure you don't miss out: it was a lot of fun and you don't need to be artistic to be able to do it.

As well as our broad range of classes don't forget the Centre also offers other services including internet access; our staff is on hand if you need some assistance. You can also get your photocopying and laminating done and we have rooms available for hire. Just call in and see us for assistance.

Jo and Rebecca have been really busy with occasional childcare. They offer a great program for the children which is clearly appreciated by our parents and shows by the demand for places.

Meredith seems to be experiencing something of a baby boom with quite a few new babies and their mums at our playgroup. We welcome any new participants on Thursday mornings.

We encourage learning across all facets of life for anyone who wants to engage not only their mind, but also with their community and expand their life experience in a welcoming friendly environment.

Community Centre brochure delivery. Due to changes by Australia post we are looking at alternatives for our Term brochure delivery. If you are interested in doing a brochure drop in Meredith, Elaine and/or Lethbridge please give us a call.



computer tips

Computer maintenance –

To keep your computer running well it is well worth the time on some simple regular actions to keep everything running smoothly. It's kind of like cleaning and organizing your house. When everything is put away in the right place, and all the junk and clutter is cleaned up, it makes it much nicer to be there, and much easier place in which to work and play. You should be managing your files and programs by deleting unused items, keeping your anti-virus up to date, cleaning out your email inbox and temp files as well as defragging your hard drive. If all of this sounds like another universe to you we are planning to run a computer maintenance class next term so watch out for that in the new brochure at the end of June.

Bye for now... *Pam Ridd*

4 Russell Street Meredith 3333

Ph 5286 1348 Fax 52861 563

learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au

"Working for our community"

A Message from the Mayor

Cr Jen Blake Mayor, Golden Plains Shire Council

Meeting with local residents throughout the year and recently during the 2014-15 Draft Budget period, I am aware that there are some areas of misconception and misinformation being peddled in our community around Council's role and how it goes about the business of managing the municipality. It is my role as Mayor, and my privilege always, to assist any ratepayer or resident if they have questions about Council or its services.

I was extraordinarily disappointed at the sustained and vicious attack on our CEO Rod Nicholls at a recent public meeting. Let me say publically that from time to time Mr Nicholls and I have very robust discussions and we do not always agree but in my role as Mayor I travel the country and meet with Councillors, CEOs, State and Federal politicians and business people and I can assure you that Golden Plains is envied for having a long term, committed CEO who is a resident of the Shire who continues to work for the future of our municipality. I see some CEO's following personal aspirations serving endlessly on unimportant committees and I appreciate that our CEO is here in Golden Plains, often locked away in his office, head down and bum up, working to ensure that your future is secure. Sure he may not always take your call because it will be directed to the most appropriate person who can give the best, most informed answer rather than taking unnecessary time of the CEO who truly needs to be in touch with every issue, in the community. Our elected Councillors should be able to follow through and source any reply to your problems or issues if not they need to be called to account. The CEO and staff are there to implement Council policy, we the Councillors are here to serve you and make that policy!

Council's aim is to provide strong leadership, encourage sustainable development, ensure quality services and continue to improve the quality of life of residents.

The Draft Budget includes an item for a roundabout in High St in Bannockburn. As most residents in the area know, there is a supermarket complex expansion being planned by a local, long-term investor in the development of this municipality, one who has vision and commitment to see this region grown to meet the needs of the community. Through the planning process the development triggered with VicRoads the need for a roundabout to cater for increased traffic numbers. In this case the developer, State Government and Council will share the cost of this important piece of road safety infrastructure. The Minister for Roads, Terry Mulder MP, has endorsed the proposal to use some 300K of State Country Roads and Bridges funding to build this roundabout because the timber and grain will continue to make its way through Bannockburn. Our little people and others who cross the main road need to be protected and cared for in this fast growing town. In the long term it will provide an improved outcome for the community. Council needs to have the vision, and more importantly the guts, to make hard decisions that are not always supported in our community.

The Municipal Charge found on Council rates is also an item of confusion for some people. The Municipal Charge is the 'base rate' that all rateable properties pay, regardless of the property value. It has been included to provide a more equitable distribution of costs across all ratepayers. The municipal charge covers some of the essential operating costs of Council. It is not utilised to fund the provision of services.

There are many places that information about Council can be found particularly Council's website goldenplains.vic.gov.au. Residents can also follow Council on Facebook and Twitter or call 5220 7111. Your Councillors and I are also available.

Meredith Kinder news

Jodie, Erin & Kylie

After our holidays and Anzac public holiday the children have all settled back into kinder and routine. Along with our 3 year olds who each come on one day through the week, we welcome our newest 3 year olds William and Isabella. The month of May has been all about autumn and Mums and horses and trains and Vets. The children were busy at the start of the month making their mummies a special gift and card for Mother's day, and then we held a Mother's Day morning tea over a couple of days. Our mums got a chance to play with some special activities and the children made a marshmallow and strawberry morning tea to share, it was a lovely morning all together.

With this unusually warm weather we have been enjoying longer playtime outdoors, we have quite a few children who are interested in horse riding so our A-frames have become the horse and the children have added wool for the mane and tails and used skipping ropes for the reins. We have all observed our trees losing their leaves and the changes in the colours which have inspired a lot of autumn pictures and colours at the easel and art areas. We plan on doing an autumn walk in the next week around the town to collect and see more trees and their leaves.

On Friday the 23rd we had a special excursion out to Bannockburn cultural centre to see a show called "The Flying Book Worm". Thank you Barbara who drove the children there by bus. They all thought that was pretty good fun and for some it was their first time on a bus! The show covered 3 stories; *The Bear Hunt*, *The 3 Billy Goats Gruff* and *The Gingerbread Man*. It was a wonderful show with plenty of opportunity for the children to join in and take on some of the roles. The feedback was very positive from the children.

Next week we have an incursion with living Safely with Dogs which teaches children how to be safe around dogs. We are hoping to set up some activities soon to foster interests in the big wide world and different countries, culture and people. Our resources are a little scarce so we would appreciate any donations from the community of old souvenirs from your past travels? Or dress ups, or pictures, posters of other countries.

Just a reminder we are always taking new enrolments for 2015 for both groups. Just give us a call!



sports



Meredith Golf Club –Ladies

Tuesday 13th May Stableford 9 hole

Winner C Powles 21 pts, Runner up N O Brien 17pts
NTP 10th K Rosch

18 hole comp Stableford

Winner K Rosch 30 pts
Runner up M Diffey 24 pts

Tuesday 20th May. Ambrose Comp.

Winners C Powles & N O Brien

Tuesday 27th May. Match Play Comp.

Winners C Powles & K Rosch def
E Edmiston & M Diffey 1 up.



Winter School Holidays in Golden Plains

The winter school holidays can come with a certain amount of dread. How will you keep the children entertained for two weeks? The Golden Plains Youth Team have developed a jam packed program of activities to help keep those aged 8 – 18 entertained. There are several activities on offer throughout the Shire that are sure to keep the winter blues away. The kids can get creative in one of the art and craft workshops offered in Smythesdale, Bannockburn and Haddon.

If you're looking to leave the area then jump on the Youth Moves FREE bus and head into town. If the kids are wanting to let off a little more energy then they can get involved in a full day of interactive games at the YMCA recreation stadium in Bannockburn. Or, if none of the above takes their fancy then, they can connect with their mates in a console gaming session, including computer and Xbox games.

To register or for a full list of school holiday activities visit www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/youth or contact Sarah Dalton, Youth Activities Officer on 5220 7177 or email sdalton@gplains.vic.gov.au

2014 Golden Youth Awards

The 2nd Annual Golden Youth Awards were held at the Bannockburn Cultural Centre during National Youth Week. Young people from across the Shire were recognised and rewarded for their efforts in a range of categories. Award winners included:

Anna Peet (Music and Art) for her contribution to the Berringa Bulletin, Ricky Howling (Sport and Recreation) for his leadership at with the Bannockburn Cricket Club, Mick Grant (health and wellbeing) for his support of local initiatives including the redevelopment of the Bannockburn Skatepark, Toby Ford (Community Involvement) for the development and growth of junior cricket through the delivery of Milo Cricket, Paul Mooney (mentor award) for his enthusiasm and dedication to Scouts in Golden Plains.

These people contribute an enormous amount of time and effort into their community and this was a great event to recognise all that they have done. Another highlight of the night was the presentation from international guest, professional surfer and wheelchair skater Christiaan 'Otter' Bailey. Bailey spoke about overcoming adversity and rising to any challenge that may come your way. Be sure to nominate a young person doing tremendous things within our community when nominations for the 2015 Golden Youth Awards open at the end of the year. See the website for details www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/youth or contact Sarah Dalton on sdalton@gplains.vic.gov.au for more information.

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Vale Hilda Grace East (Wiseman)

Marg Cooper

Grace was the daughter of Hilda and Samuel Wiseman of Meredith. Her siblings were, brothers Cecil d.13 years, William (Bill), Eric, Donald and Cliff and a sister Phyllis. On September 29, 1947 she married Thomas Reginald East and they lived on a farm at She Oaks. Myra and Gavin are Grace's two children and she was a dear Granny to grandson, Brody.

Grace was an enthusiastic sporting woman playing tennis, golf and bowls. She enjoyed people, was a fun loving woman who always shared a joke and who thrived on being involved in many organizations in Meredith and Maude.

She supported Tom when he was a Shire Councillor and a member of the Masonic Lodge. Tom and Grace attended church regularly and were committed Christians.



Grace was featured in the newspaper some years ago in an article titled "Grace's Tips for Candied Peel and Condensed Milk". "Mrs Grace East of She Oaks relies both on favourite recipes passed down by her mother and on her own good cooking ideas. Grace grinds her own flour, makes her own bread and enjoys cooking. Her popularity as a cook is also well known in the community-Grace is catering convenor for the Meredith Branch of the Country Women's Association, Meredith Red Cross and the local golf club.

She has been a member of the Meredith CWA since its inception in 1946 and has been President of the branch twice. Grace is a firm believer in home made foods."

The newspaper published her three favourite recipes for condensed milk, candied peel and chocolate cream pie and couldn't resist publishing her recipe for home made soap made from fat taken straight from the sheep.

In 2002 Grace suffered a stroke and moved to a nursing home in Geelong. She died on April 10, 2014 and a grave side service was held at Steiglitz Cemetery on Tuesday April 15 to celebrate her life.

Calling Young Musicians

The Golden Plains FReeZA Youth Team are calling for young musicians to get involved in the 2014 Push Start Battle of the Bands. This year's Golden Plains Heats will be held in Meredith in August.

FReeZA Push Start is an annual **Victorian Battle of the Bands** competition for people aged 14 – 25. It provides important opportunities for young musicians and emerging artists to gain local exposure and live performance time. It doesn't matter if you have never played a gig before or if you are a seasoned musician, you get to play on stage to a local audience. Golden Plains winners play at the Regional Finals, pick up prizes and are in the running to play at the Grand Final at the annual Push Over festival. There is also music industry skill development at annual FReeZA Summit on Tuesday 1 July from 10.30am to 1.30pm in Camperdown. Transport is available on request.

For more information and to apply contact Sarah Dalton, Youth Activities Officer

E sdalton@GPLAINS.vic.gov.au

or phone 5220 7177 or

visit www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/youth

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Police Paddocks Activities



**Ballarat
Environment
Network**

Hedley Thomson, Executive Director, Ballarat Environment Network

The 20 ha Meredith Police Paddocks (MPP) Reserve, located on Campion Road, immediately to the east of Meredith township, is one of 50 parcels of Crown Land managed by the Ballarat Environment Network (BEN) as 'biodiversity' reserves. Well known to local people, the reserve has a long history of use for the spelling of police horses, beginning in 1867 and ending in 1988, as well as being the site of the original Meredith police station. The reserve is a delightful place, with the Coolebarghurk Creek valley the chief feature, its picturesque old swamp gums setting off the open grasslands of the upper reserve. The reserve also contains a number of rare plant species, including Clover Glycine.

Since becoming the formal committee of management for the reserve in 2007, the chief task for the Network has been dealing with the very extensive weed problem, both in terms of number of species and extent. The MPP has the invidious distinction of being the most weed infested of the 50 BEN reserves – and that's saying something! The reserve 'features' at least a dozen virulent species, including good old gorse, blackberry, spiny rush and the terror of them all, blue periwinkle. Great strides have been made in bringing the weed problem 'under control' but the task remains considerable – and annual!

Meanwhile, lots of other things have been happening with the support and initiative of the management support group, led by Jim Elvey. Here's the scorecard:

- Extension of the paths network: a mown path down to the Creek from the end of the main path was added (ably maintained by Doug McFarlane and other members of the support group) and the main network surfaced with crushed rock – both big improvements.
- More detailed research of the reserve's koori and police history: BEN is researching the koori heritage of all its reserves but with a focus on 'the big 4' – Meredith PP, Bannockburn Bush, Winter Swamp (Ballarat) and the former Skipton Common. Three of these four have water frontages, which makes a big difference to their significance in terms of indigenous culture and daily life. David Steel and other members of the support group continued to discover new information about the use of the reserve by the police force, with confirmation of the site of the original police station a focus of attention – expect more news on this front over the next 12 months.
- Grazing of the northern end of the reserve has reduced exotic grass growth considerably in this area.
- Five information signs were installed along the main walking route in February, together with two large signs at the Campion Rd and Nuttall St entrances in March. The signs describe aspects of Koori and European history and the biodiversity features and values of the reserve.

And for 2014-15, as well as continuing projects:

- Creation of a small wetland inside the Nuttall St entrance to take advantage of an area that gets very wet, in part because it picks up stormwater runoff from Nuttall St.
- Establishment of wildflower patches along the main walking paths to highlight the reserve's diverse indigenous flora.
- More community education activities, including fauna monitoring and educational walks (e.g.: 'scats and tracks', flora monitoring) involving Meredith Primary School and community generally.
- Exploring the potential to introduce art installations into the reserve – the environment of the reserve provides great inspiration for artistic creations.

If anyone is interested in being involved with the care and management of the Meredith Police Paddocks, contact either:

*Jim Elvey, on 5286 1273/elvey@aapt.net.au or
BEN Executive Officer, Hedley Thomson, on
0428 027 895 or hedleythomson@gmail.com.*



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Vale Dorothy Mary Hamilton Smith

Jan Crump

Dorothy was born into the Benyan family and lived in the leafy suburbs of Melbourne. From an early age, Dorothy showed an artistic bent and trained as a graphic artist. Like so many young people of the late sixties she travelled to London and was part of the Earl's Court scene. Her art talent ensured employment and funded travelling around Europe on a shoe string.

Returning home, Dorothy worked at Channel 9, but then she met Graham, they married and settled down in Surrey Hills. Later with two small boys in tow, Dorothy and Graham decided to move to the country and expand Graham's business. Luckily they chose Meredith. They rented a house owned by Mrs Taylor (Roy's mum) whilst their house was being built. Then Mrs Taylor wanted to move into town so Dorothy and Graham had to move into the unfinished house – no water, no electricity and few walls - a real shock to a girl from Camberwell. But Dorothy's needs were simple: a church for Sunday and a hair dresser for Friday and she coped beautifully with the new lifestyle.

Country people are car dependent and the Smiths were no exception. Graham was passionate about European cars, but Dorothy drove a blue Nissan people-mover that closely resembled a wine box with sliding doors, affectionately called the 'Biscuit Tin'. It was a familiar sight in Steiglitz Road. The Crump's ancient Morris Minor often refused to start, so the Crump kids would stand on the roadside and wave down the 'Biscuit Tin' to get to school. The next Crump car was equally unreliable so the 'Biscuit Tin' rescue and taxi service continued for a good while.

Later on Dorothy was the proud owner of a bright blue Peugeot coupe that she drove in the true French manner, until the fateful day when she was waiting to turn at the bottom pub corner and the Shire grader backed across the road and squashed the beautiful blue pug. Luckily Dorothy leapt out but the car was no more! Other cars have followed but none could match the classy blue sports car.

Throughout her life art was Dorothy's great love. She was a gifted artist with a wonderful eye for design and colour. Her home was filled with beautiful works that reflected her talent. A favourite subject was ducks. Dorothy liked them much better than chooks and produced a number of duck paintings. Thursday was art group day in Ballarat and Dorothy was inspired by these very talented artists. She was particularly delighted when the group held an exhibition in Ballarat and her landscapes were well received. She also touched up and



reworked some of the artwork in St Joseph's and restored them to their vibrant best.

Among her many talents Dorothy was a wonderful cook. She was the proud owner of a magnificent stove, a symphony of cast iron. She produced wonderful meals. In the kitchen she was unflappable, taking disasters and failures in her stride (actually not many of those). The Smith's were generous hosts; meals were memorable and wine flowed. Good times and laughter were always on the menu.

Her greatest joy was her family, especially her two beautiful grandsons, Charlie and Tom. She delighted in their games and talents even framing one of Charlie's first art works and hanging it in pride of place. Even when quite ill, Dorothy organised and hosted Tom's third birthday party and thoroughly enjoyed the chaos that ensued.

Dorothy was diagnosed with lung cancer in Dec 2013. She faced her illness with a resilient strength and acceptance but she was determined to make the most of every minute and continued to enjoy her life, chatting to the art group on Skype, playing with Charlie and Tom and enjoying her many visitors.

And so on a lovely autumn day filled with all the colours of nature, the Meredith community and hundreds of friends came to St Joseph's to farewell and honour a very special lady and we will all miss Dorothy very much.

Water Watch: "Phosphorous"

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

Phosphorus (P) is one of the many elements needed by plants. There are several chemical forms phosphorus can take, but the major form in our waterways is phosphate (PO₄³⁻). Phosphate can be adsorbed to suspended particles, associated with organic material, or dissolved in the water (also called reactive phosphorus). Waterwatch testing measures the reactive phosphorus component in water using a field testing kit.

Why measure it? In Australian streams it is often the limiting nutrient. Also, excessive plant and algal growth often results from increased levels, resulting in habitat smothering and dissolved oxygen troughs.

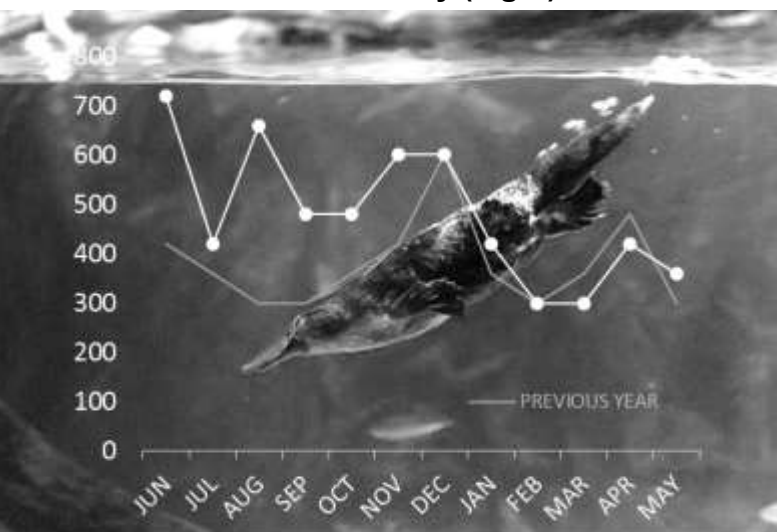
Natural sources include weathered rock, organic material from plants and animals and re-mineralised by bacteria. Human induced sources include fertilisers used in agriculture, dairying, poor land management, sewage effluent and stormwater runoff.

Expected range of total phosphorus, ie the sum of all forms of P present in the water, is <0.02mg/L in upland streams and <0.045mg/L in lowland streams. (It was .015 at Slate Quarry Road last month.)

Visit vic.waterwatch.org.au/monitoring-and-data/1011/

for more information on water quality measures

Moorabool River Salinity (Mg/L)



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

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4 plus 8 equals 12. 12 is a foot.

A foot is a ruler. A ruler was the Queen Mary.

The Queen Mary was a ship.

The ship sailed the sea in which there were fish. The fish had fins.

The Finns fought the Russians.

The Russians are red and fire engines are always rushin' and that's why they are red.

(from the 1960's)

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in my garden

This past month of May has been just about perfect for gardening: not too hot nor too cold; not too dry; not too wet; and not too windy: a beautiful period of mild weather that has been ideal for undertaking just about any gardening job on the list.

Of course, we have had a number of frosty mornings and my thinking immediately turned to the collection and storage of pumpkins. While there are a number of different schools of thought about just when pumpkin harvesting should occur, I don't think that there is any point in delaying the harvest beyond the first few frosts. In fact, I think that to delay harvesting further exposes the pumpkins to an increased risk of damage from assorted vermin that lurk in the garden both day and night. Two dozen nice sized Queensland Blue pumpkins are now safely stored in a well ventilated corner of my garage. This year they sit atop a table covered with an old piece of carpet in nicely spaced rows so that there is good air circulation. Each pumpkin has been picked with its stalk intact, so hopefully they will sit there happily for several months.

While on the subject of pumpkin harvesting, I am very pleased to be able to advise that the best pumpkin competition will be judged on Monday, the 23rd June at 1:00 pm. The venue is the supper room at the Meredith Memorial Hall. There will be three categories of entries: the heaviest Queensland Blue; the heaviest pumpkin of any other variety; and the biggest pumpkin overall. Judging will be objective and based on weight only. I have one entry only but doubt that it is a winner. I have heard on the grape vine that another local vegetable gardener has a whopper which will be a certain winner.

This mild weather is also perfect for weeds and I have an absolutely bumper crop of all types. My response to this state of affairs has been varied and has included much hand hoeing; chemical treatment of heavily infested grassed areas (not lawns) with a weeder and feeder product; hand weeding of lawns; mulching of garden beds with pea straw, compost and autumn leaves focussing on areas that are badly infested; and chemical treatment of gravel paths with a weed killer. I find that weed control is a constant battle as weed seeds, in abundance, enter the garden from far and wide. This completely undermines my best efforts to prevent weeds from setting seed - the mainstay of weed control.

Yet another garden dilemma has emerged: what to do with 100 nicely rooted (strictly used here as a garden term) English box cuttings. Anyone that has tried to emulate the look of an English garden, with its manicured beds bordered with carefully trimmed box hedges, will know how expensive it is to purchase sufficient plants to do the same in a large garden: hence

the cuttings were taken. I have since discovered, through experience, that the leaves of English box burn easily on days of extreme heat, spoiling their appearance, and they do not recover quickly. English box are simply not suited to our summers. A different type of box will need to be sourced, but in the meantime a decision needs to be made with what to do with the cuttings that have lots of lovely new leaves, are taking up scarce room in my nursery and need to be dealt with now. I may transplant them to pots which could be placed in sheltered areas not exposed to extreme heat.

My frog pond is a work in progress. The easy part is digging the hole and filling it with water. The challenge is to create a balanced and healthy environment where water plants flourish, birds will visit and frogs are happy to set up home. To this end, my latest addition to the pond has been six quite large comet gold fish. I understand that they will grow to about 30cms in length and are robust enough to outwit birds that fancy a quick meal. However, just about everything I do in the garden has an unanticipated downside, and in this case, I have discovered that gold fish can be great time-wasters. It is now impossible to walk straight past the pond. Instead I am drawn to the pond edge to view the fish. This is not necessarily a simple thing as these fish are masters at hiding under anything growing on the pond. It can take 10-minutes or so before I have managed a single sighting. Nonetheless, I am very happy with their addition to the garden and wait impatiently for their breeding season to begin in the Spring.

There is much to be done in the garden, so I must go: until next month, happy gardening.

Robyn

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School holidays like no other. Mormon Youth undertake historic pioneer trek in Meredith.

Marg Cooper

Last month a group of 60 youth from Melbourne, aged 14 to 18, had a school holiday experience unlike any of their friends. The group are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (often known by the name "Mormons"). In order to appreciate what many early members of the church experienced, they set aside their every-day twenty-first century life, left their modern homes, went without mobile phones and probably most difficult for many of them, were cut off from social media. Dressed in 1800's attire with bonnets and hats they walked for up to 12 hours a day through State Forest and across paddocks at Bamganie pulling timber carts loaded with supplies.

This trek was about re-enacting an experience unique in American History. *The 19th century Mormon migration began in 1846 in Illinois via Iowa and Nebraska, eventually to a place of refuge in what is now Utah, in the Rocky Mountains. It is one of the most remarkable episodes of the United States great western migration. The Mormon pioneers migrated involuntarily - the result of expulsion from Illinois and Missouri by hostile neighbours. During the mid-nineteenth century thousands of Mormons travelled the 2,000 km trail now known as the "Mormon Trail".*

The Mormon travellers used two-wheeled handcarts to carry their belongings. These were cheaper and, surprisingly, quicker than wagons. On the brink of the "Indian Territory" the immigrants built handcarts, put in about 250 kgs of supplies, organized themselves into companies and pulled and pushed the handcarts to Great Salt Lake Valley [Utah].

In April 2014 the young people walked from Deans Road through the Bamganie Bush to Bamganie Road, then through paddocks to "Kialla" on Coopers Road. [On a one day trial trek a few weeks before the actual trek the participants arrived at their designated camp site at 4 o'clock in the morning.] It rained gently all day on the first day of the 'pilgrimage'. The youth trekked a considerable distance each day with their provisions and camped out for 4 nights. During that time they didn't see anyone. The only concession to modernity was a toilet that was delivered to their camp site each day before they arrived.

The handcarts pulled by the young people were exact replicas of those used by early members of the church in the 1800's. The carts have two large wheels, are 1.2m x 1.5m in size and weigh about 250kg when loaded. They are pulled by people stepping into the yoke in place of horses and oxen. Pushing and pulling the handcarts through the bush, over creeks and hills was arduous, especially when wearing yesteryear's garb. The group carried and prepared their own period meals, including soup and damper cooked in historic



iron pots. As well as connecting the youth with their heritage, the "trek" experience was immensely character building, showing them that they can do hard things and overcome the trials that we all face in life. The yoke of the handcart is the hardest place to be. Besides being physically difficult, those in the yoke have to steer and make decisions. The two people inside the yoke learn to work together and to trust each other. The experience developed leadership, team work and service.

The Australian membership is 136,000 and the Mormon Church has consistently been one of the fastest growing Christian denominations in Australia.

[The trek also brought some media attention to the Meredith area with coverage by The Age and 3AW radio in Melbourne.]



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in Our Nature

Wendy cook

A mystery with one clue – a soft furry tail at the foot of a tree. The tail is grey near its base, black towards the tip and has black tips on the grey hairs in the middle. Too small for a brushtail possum, and too furry for a ringtail possum and lacking a white tip. What else lives around here?

A few evenings ago, I saw a sugar glider near where the tail was found. It was a still night, and I heard rustling in the top of a eucalypt. Silhouetted against the sky was a small possum, bouncing lightly between branches, stopping regularly and briefly to groom.

Then it glided to a neighbouring tree. It ran up branches, higher into the tree and glided again. On the third glide it was above me and off to one side, so I had a clear view of its body with the skin stretched between front and back legs. I lost sight of it in the next tree. Did the tail belong to it or another member of its group?

I looked in a book of Australian mammals. The tail was right for a sugar glider. So how was it left on the ground? What nocturnal predator can catch a sugar glider, neatly cut off its tail without damaging it, and eat the rest of the animal? Among the native mammalian predators, antechinus are too small. Brush-tailed phascogales are a similar size to sugar gliders, and may eat one given the opportunity, but probably wouldn't leave a neatly removed tail on the ground. A feral cat would find them difficult to catch, so perhaps an owl? I know of two species of owls living here - the southern boobook with its familiar mopeke call, and Australia's largest owl, the powerful owl. What do they eat?

Southern boobooks mostly eat insects and small mammals, such as mice and bats. I found mention of them catching sugar gliders by pushing them downwards as they glide, but no mention of tail removal.

Powerful owls mainly prey on ringtail possums, brushtail possums and sugar gliders. They swoop silently among trees and catch them in their talons. They may snip off and drop the tails of animals they have caught. It seems likely that this was how the tail came to be on the ground.

Occasionally, powerful owls can be seen during the day, roosting on a branch holding their prey with one foot. It may be partly eaten and ready for the owl's next meal. The owl has a sharp curved beak, designed for gripping, cutting and tearing. It eats everything, including fur and bones. It cannot digest these, and regurgitates them as pellets, which may be found on the ground.

Powerful owls nest in large tree hollows, and eat two or three large possums each week, or more animals if they are smaller, like sugar gliders. They have a large home range of at least 1000 hectares, which they need to keep them supplied with food. It is likely that we have one pair in the

area, dining on the local possums.

A few nights later, I heard a sugar glider's yapping alarm call. The sugar gliders were out of their small tree hollow home, feeding on sap, wattle gum and invertebrates, and watching out for hungry owls.

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Carmel's Yummy Sausage Rolls

INGREDIENTS

500g of lamb or beef mince
2 tbsp. of tomato sauce
2 tbsp. of Barbecue sauce
2 tbsp. of
Worcestershire
sauce
1 egg, whisked
Sesame seeds
Puff pastry

Sneak some veges in
by adding finely chopped
parsnip, carrot and
parsley.

METHOD

Pre-heat oven to about 180 to 200 degrees
combine all ingredients except the sesame
seeds
Roll out pastry to form sheets about 12 cm
wide
Arrange meat mixture along pastry and close
pastry over to form a continuous roll Brush
with melted butter and sprinkle with sesame
seeds Cut into portions and cook for about 30
minutes or until golden brown.

It's winter, and sausages are on a roll. Here's a couple of options for you. First, is Carmel's **YUMMY** Sausage Rolls (made famous through Kinder Catering) which will involve you in about twenty minutes work. Or, just pop into the supermarket and buy some ready-mades. And with them you get a **bonus extra 28 ingredients!** Of course, they don't taste so good and some of those bonus ingredients warrant a little research,, so we think it might be 20 minutes well spent.

Party Sausage Roll 6 Pack

INGREDIENTS: Sausage Mince [Beef, Mutton, Fat, Flour, Water], Flour [Vitamin(Thiamin)], Water, Margarine [Vegetable Oil, Water, Salt, Emulsifier(322(soy),471,476), Antioxidant(306(soy)), Food Acid(330), Preservative(202)], Bread Crumbs [Flour, Water, Wholemeal Flour, Bakers Yeast, Salt, Gluten, Canola Oil, Vegetable Fibre(soy, wheat, oat), Soy Flour, Vinegar, Emulsifiers(481,472e,471), Milk Solids, Perservative(282), Sugar, Vegetable Gum, Tuna Oil, Sesame Seeds, Vitamin(Thiamin)], Onions, Flavour [Salt, Flavour Enhancer(621,635), Flavour(Wheat derived), Vegetable Fat, Maltodextrin, Chicken Powder, Onion Powder, Colours(Caramel I, Turmeric), Spices, Sugar, Herb Extracts], Black Pepper, Salt, Glaze [Water, Milk Solids, Sugar, Mineral Salts(450), Colours(102,124)].

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Upgrades for major and country roads



Upgrades on major connections like the Western Highway and Princes Highway are underway from one end of the state to the other. A record investment of more than **\$500 million** is being spent on road maintenance. And \$1 billion over 10 years is being invested on safety upgrades for more than **200 country roads**.

East West Link



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Anglican Church turns 100

Fay MaFarlane

Meredith's Anglican Church, the 'Church of Epiphany' celebrated its 100th birthday on March 23rd 2014. Over 100 guests shared in the Holy Communion service officiated by Right Reverend Bishop Phillip Huggins. Assisting was Archdeacon of Geelong, The Ven. Neil Hicks and Vicar of Church of Epiphany, Elizabeth Bufton.

The official party proceeded up the aisle as the church bell rang out as it had 100 years ago. Church Warden, Fay McFarlane, welcomed the official guests; past and present parishioners; and former Clergy. She related a brief history of the building, designed by Architect Alex North, of Tasmania, and welcomed David North and his sister Susan, two of Alex's great grandchildren.

As it was in 1914, the church "was taxed to its utmost limits" as past parishioners gathered from all parts of Victoria and interstate, to worship and give thanks. The Church was beautifully adorned with fresh flowers. Alison Roberts and Anne Shirley officiated at the organ, and the Parish choir lead the melodious singing.

A scrumptious afternoon tea was enjoyed in the church hall, with lots of reminiscing. The oldest member of the church, Jean Winter, cut the centenary cake, assisted by a younger member, Jamie Blackney.



Archdeacon Ven Neil Hicks; Rt. Rev. Bishop Phillip Huggins; Vicar Elizabeth Bufton



Margaret Cooper; David North & Susan (great grand children of Alex North, Architect of Epiphany); Neil Cameron.

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Double Celebrations

Marg Cooper

Denise went to the Dendy Picture Theatre with a girlfriend who lived next door and her boyfriend when she was 14 years old. A young, handsome 14 year old lad who was sitting in front of her asked if he could sit next to her because he couldn't see very well from his seat – even though there was no-one sitting in front of him! That's how Denise met Geoff Hardy.

They married on May 23, 1964 at St Peter's Church in Brighton. Denise describes how she was 19 years old, wore a silk coat dress, her twin brother and her sister were their attendants, their reception was held at her parent's home in Brighton and that they honeymooned at Warrnambool. They had a night in a motel and the next two nights they stayed with friends. Geoff had taken his gun and went fox shooting with his friend for the next two nights.

Denise recalls that they lived in a flat behind her parent's home before they bought a house in Brighton which Geoff renovated. They have three children, Natalie, Karl and Katrina and four grandchildren, Beau, Brielle, Mitch and Ruby. Denise says that she speaks to her children every day, visits them often and that they are a close family.



Denise and Geoff bought a property at Coopers Bridge on Steiglitz Road about thirty six years ago and they used it as a weekend get-away. The children loved it. Geoff hated living in the city and eventually convinced Denise to move to the country permanently. She tells of how she cried all the way

up as she followed the furniture van and that the first year was hard but she realized that she had to go out to meet people because people don't come to you. She now declares that country people are fantastic and very caring and that she is now very happy living in the country (although she does get lost now and again!).

Denise and Geoff and their family are all went to Port Fairy to stay in a large house for the weekend for the double celebration. Denise and Geoff celebrated their 50 years of marriage on May 23 then two days later Geoff's 70th birthday. Wow! Because of their love of

the 1970s the children organised that everyone had to dress in 1970's gear for the birthday tea on the Saturday night. One wonders if Denise found her hot pants and Geoff his floral flares!

Denise laughs when she tells that their friends never thought that their marriage would last and that her girlfriend from next door, who she went to the pictures with, married her boyfriend and they are also still married happily.

Many Congratulations to you both.

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Thirty Years Later

Marg Cooper

In 1984 after the birth of her daughter, Nan Ward was looking for something to do that would give her an interest outside her home. Father Dargan regularly walked with Nan's husband to get him to exercise and one day he mentioned that he wanted someone to type the church newsletter. Nan had worked as a secretary for a Senator in Geelong so she offered and started about November that year.

Nan recalled that she first typed the stencil of the newsletter on a portable typewriter that was carried in a zip case. In winter she worked in the kitchen of the Presbytery in front of the wood stove to keep warm. Father Dargan composed the one page newsletter and Nan remembers that he always inserted a joke at the end.

The foolscap sheet was printed on a Gestetner that was inky, dirty, spat ink and flooded if it wasn't charged with ink the right number of times, before printing started. It was a two man job to print. Father Dargan guided the stencil on the machine so it wouldn't crease and Nan turned the handle to print about one hundred copies. She remembers that Pop Gargan would invite her over the road for a cuppa and biscuit and a chat after she had finished the newsletter.

When Father Tom came he updated the equipment to an electric typewriter and he leased a photo copying machine. The one page of foolscap changed to a book format and pages had to be put through twice.

Father John liked big print but the electric typewriter was used until Diane Ritchie became co-ordinator and introduced computers. Nan was terrified of the computers for a start but after two basic computer courses at the Gordon Institute and some tips from other people she has become very capable and is glad that she has gained new skills and kept up with technology. The newsletter is now called "The Bulletin" and features a logo on the top.

Father Herman has taught Nan how to print into boxes and to make the production more interesting and attractive. Every Friday Nan attends the Presbytery to produce the newsletter. She says that she thoroughly enjoys it, she has met many nice people and it allows her to contribute to the church and the community. She also seems to be able to talk to the sometimes irritable photocopier to get it to work!

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Creatures of the Night

Imagine you are in a blissful dream. You're surrounded by warm fuzzy feelings and subconscious apparitions. As you're having a date with the Sandman, all is quiet, all so quiet. And peaceful until... your darling dog's bark breaks through the silence with heart-racing results. And suddenly he becomes a creature of the night. A protector from dark shadows and holographic-eyed monsters. A rather undisciplined Spiderman if you will.

During the day he is a reasonably docile, sometimes huggable best buddy (depending on his state of energy) and barely a peep escapes him unless he's reminding you to throw the ball or announcing the arrival of the mail. He doesn't dig holes or tear the clothing off the clothesline (anymore) and loves to have a good sunbake. When the sun goes down however, he becomes a different animal. He's psychic. He cannot only tell when the whole household is in bed, he can tell when you're all asleep. And apparently, this is the opportune moment to commence the loud protection of my people's territory. It starts with a low, guttural growl that I will admit is easy to sleep through. The progression in to all-out vigorous barking combined with fast, heavy running across the verandah and down the steps is certainly another matter. To hear it, you would think you owned a quick-footed baby elephant.

So now that your dog has turned into a grey skinned calf with immense vocal capabilities, you're awake. You're annoyed at first. You push your pillow over your ear and find that it in fact does not hinder your hearing abilities. It's quite agitating that he thinks he can do this to you. It's probably just a rabbit after all! But as the barking persists, perhaps you become a bit paranoid. What IS he barking at? What if it's a poisonous snake? Or an unusually large and rabid fox? OR a gang of rifle-wielding robbers?!

Oh no, now you're going to have to go out and save him. In your dressing gown and slippers of all things! You get up and peek out of the bathroom window, hoping that you have excellent night vision. No such luck. You head to the front door with your hand hovering over the light switch, hoping that once you switch it on there won't be a menacing human face in the glass panel. Still can't see. You switch on the light...phew, nothing there.

You open the door hoping that your brave guard dog hasn't been maimed by a night monster when all of a sudden he comes bounding into the reach of the light. He bounds up the stairs and promptly sits on your feet, head gazing up adoringly. For a moment you couldn't be happier to see him. After a pat and a warning he wouldn't understand, you head back to bed, curl up in your warm blankets and close your tired eyes...just as the guttural growling starts anew.

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The wind was a torrent of darkness
The Highwayman (extract) Alfred Noyes

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“Behind the Beautiful Forevers” by Katherine Boo.

From November 2007 until March 2011 the author, who was an American who married an Indian, regularly visited the Annawadi slum which is on land near Mumbai Airport. She documented the experiences of the residents and read more than 3,000 public records before she wrote this book.

The author described how many of the people were overworked and spent their days working silently with waste so that their everyday language tended to be transactional. They didn't immediately convey their deeper feelings and intelligences which eventually emerged over the course of the four years that she visited the slum.

Over several years the book follows the inter-connected lives of several residents including a trash picker, a second generation trash picker, a female “slumlord”, an emotionally troubled woman with one leg, a scrap-metal thief and a girl who wants to be the first female resident of Annawadi to graduate from college.

Annawadi is a slum that was settled initially by migrant workers who had come to work on the airport in 1991 and stayed behind. The workers reclaimed a piece of airport land that was marshy and otherwise unusable.


It quickly grew to a sprawling, densely inhabited zone of makeshift shacks filled primarily with recent migrants to Mumbai from all over India and Pakistan. The residents experience many stresses and problems such as poverty, hunger, disease, dirt, ethnic strife, violence, corruption, fatigue and weather. They also live with the constant fear that their homes will be bulldozed and the interpersonal conflicts that are augmented by being forced to live in close quarters with many others.

We learn that the slum is bordered by a lake of sewage, that corruption is rife (including the allocation of foreign aid), that the people are very superstitious, hospitals are where people are sent to die, poor people don't unite and cooperate and there are rats. Everyone gets bitten by rats. The horror of such a life is conveyed clearly in the description where one inhabitant was bitten on the head with the bite turning into boils that erupted with worms.

The story also tells of Abdul, the garbage sorter, who is falsely accused of a shocking tragedy: that of burning Fatima the woman with one leg. Abdul is hard working, keeps to himself and tries to keep out of trouble. He compares himself to ice. He tries to keep the ice from melting but he is gradually becoming dirty water. In the under cities that are governed by corruption, where exhausted people vie on scant terrain for little it is terribly hard to be good.

The book carries the reader headlong into one of the 21st century's hidden worlds and into the lives of people impossible to forget.

*The book for discussion in June is
“The Dinner” by Herman Koch.*



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Bannockburn Pharmacy Newsletter

Proprietors: Scott Wilkes & Damian Bennett

6 High Street

Bannockburn VIC 3331

Phone: 5281 1519

What's happening at the Pharmacy this month?

Welcome Louise

As many of you will know Cindy left us last month on maternity leave to have her first baby. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Louise to our team. Louise will be working as a Pharmacist in the Pharmacy every Monday and Tuesday. We will also still have Tracey here every Thursday.

Darrell Lea

Many of you will probably have noticed we are undergoing some small changes within the Pharmacy. One of those changes is we have moved Darrell Lea and we will also be getting a brand new Darrell Lea stand. Darrell Lea is now located inside the Pharmacy near our sales counter on the wall. We are in the process of having a new stand delivered which we anticipate will be here during this month. In the meantime we are still stocking and selling all of the top selling Darrell Lea products but they just aren't located as soon as you walk in the door anymore.

Homy Ped shoes

As part of moving Darrell Lea further into the Pharmacy we have now moved our Homy Ped shoes to the front of the store where Darrell Lea use to be located. You will notice we have brand new fixtures and fittings here where all of our Homy Ped shoes, slippers, etc are all now displayed.

MooGoo Skincare

Don't forget 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.

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- you can accumulate your Chemmart Cash for as long as you want & spend it whenever you want.
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 Friday: 8:30am - **6:30pm**
 Saturday: 8:30am - 1:00pm
 Sunday: Closed
 Public Holiday's: Closed

Don't forget we are open weekdays until 6:30pm



it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

Meredith Cemetery Walk & Talk

We were fortunate to have Fay and Doug McFarlane to lead us on the walk around the cemetery on Sunday, May 25. No one would know more about the Meredith Cemetery as they have had a long association with the cemetery. Doug has been a Trustee for over 40 years and regularly mows and maintains the grounds and they both helped map the cemetery a few years ago which involved lots of research.

In her introduction Fay told us a lot about the Meredith Cemetery including about the first cemetery in Meredith, the first burials in the new cemetery, that it is divided into 4 quadrants for different religions, the new addition for the burial of ashes, how they mapped the cemetery and about some people who have served as Trustees or Secretaries.

We then followed Fay (and Jeff Cooper who wheeled the public address system on his golf buggy) around the cemetery as she told us interesting stories about some of the people buried there.

She pointed out many graves including the grand monument to the McKinnon family who owned "Moreep": the grave of Isabella Searle who drowned in the underground tank at the Royal Hotel in 1917: the large grave surrounded with a wrought iron fence but with no headstones where Mr and Mrs Mitchell and 6 of their children who died before they were 9 years old are buried: the grave that records McKay mother, father and brother but with no names and, the grave of Mary the wife, Mary the daughter, Mary the new wife and Mary the daughter of the second marriage.

Several others offered information including John Grant who is related to over 30 people in the Presbyterian Section, Peter Griffiths whose aunt Gladys was over 100 years old when she died and Paul Ryan who spoke of his uncle and the Robbins from Elaine.

Medal Sought

A medal was minted in 1902 for the Coronation of King Edward VII by Stokes. "The coronation prompted major celebrations in Australia and it was an opportunity for the new nation to reaffirm its pride in being a member of the British Empire. Over 40 medals were produced around Australia and one of the medals was produced by the small town of Meredith which developed during the gold rushes." The article mentions that in 1902 Meredith was in decline.

Has anyone got one of the medals? It is 39mm high, 27 mm wide and weighs 8.7 g.

It was commissioned by the Meredith Town Council and depicts King Edward VII on one side and HM Queen Alexandra on the other side.

Caroline Chisholm Camp - Pioneer Ridge Rd

The next excursion for MHIG is to this camp at the end of Pioneer Ridge Road on Sunday, July 13. If you know anything about the area, the development of the land, the first people who bought and built there, the river or the reservoir please let us know.

Golden Plains Heritage Trail

On Saturday May 17 the towns of Linton, Smythesdale, Inverleigh, Meredith, Steiglitz and Lethbridge had historical activities and entertainment. MHIG displayed a lot of history in the Anglican Hall including shoes from various eras. Some volunteers also manned the Information Centre.

Catalogue Day

On the last Thursday of the month from 9am at the Anglican Hall.

Leo Leverett: Musician

Marg Cooper

Leo Leverett came back to Meredith on Friday, March 21 for the funeral of Jimmy Duggan with whom he used to work at the Stoney Creek Reservoirs. He attended Mass at St Josephs on Sunday 23 and had time to play a few tunes on the harmonica including a rendition of "Danny Boy". He also attended the Centenary Celebration of the Church of Epiphany.


Many locals remember Leo, the beautiful music which he created and how they romanced and danced the night away while Leo played and watched from the stage.

One of 9 children of William Joseph and Theresa Leverett (Carmody) Leo grew up in Beremboke. Leo was reared next door to the Stoney Creek Reservoirs. His grandfather worked there, his father worked there and Leo worked there. His mother was a teacher who had been appointed to Beremboke State School No 1017. She married the local farmer. In 1952 St Josephs School in Meredith was without a teacher so Father McCarthy asked Mrs Leverett if she would consider filling the position. She taught at Meredith until 1956. She was very musical and taught piano after she retired from school teaching.

Leo's mother taught him to play the piano. He could play the mouth organ from the age of 6 years and the saxophone from the age of 12 years. From the age of 14 he was the pianist for dances at Ballan, Blackwood and other local halls. His sister had dance bands in Melbourne and he played in them until he came back to Beremboke in 1952 after his father died. Leo worked the farm with his mother until it was sold in 1956.

In 1956 he married a well known pianist, Molly Grant, and moved to Meredith to live with her. They lived in the Grant family home on the corner of Wallace and Wilson Street which locals now affectionately call "The Pink House". Molly played the organ at St Josephs for years and her mother, Mrs Grant, had played it for years before that. Sometimes they got a drummer to join their band whilst at other times they were joined by two musicians, a drummer and a trumpeter from Geelong. Nearly every weekend they played at a dance or ball in the Meredith district. Leo recalls that a good crowd always attended Mt Wallace dances. Ballan dances could flop, Meredith dances could flop but Ballan and Meredith people loved to mingle at Mt Wallace. Leo remembers that some of the hall pianos were in terrible condition and may have been opened only once a year.

Leo drove a school bus from Meredith to Geelong for Trans Otway. Molly died in 1969 and Leo left Meredith in 1971. Ray Grant still lived in the Grant home. Leo moved to Melbourne where he drove buses and played music. He married Carmel Brown who was a Western District girl and they lived at Frankston in a 22 foot caravan with annexe for 21 years before moving into a Co-operative Housing Scheme. He retired in 1976 after 35 years of bus driving and 25 years with Peninsula Bus Lines. He continued to play music around Frankston and the Peninsula until he suffered a stroke which affected his hands. Sadly he can't work his fingers to play a saxophone but, fortunately, he can still manage the mouth organ. It was a good job that Leo played music as he laughs and says that he can't dance a step!

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selected by Stefania Parkinson

Chunky Beef and Vegetable Pie Serves 8 • Prep 40 min Cooking 2 hours

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1.5 kg gravy beef, but into 2cm pieces
- 60g butter
- 1 medium brown onion chopped finely
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- ¼ cup plain flour
- 1 cup (250ml) dry white wine
- 3 cups (750ml) hot beef stock
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 2 celery stalks cut into 2cm pieces
- 2 medium potatoes cut into 2cm pieces
- 1 large carrot cut into 2cm pieces
- 1 large zucchini cut into 2cm pieces
- 150g mushrooms quartered (optional)
- 1 cup frozen peas
- ½ cup chopped flat leafed parsley
- 2 sheets ready rolled puff pastry
- 1 egg lightly beaten

Method

1. Heat oil in large saucepan; cook beef, in batches, until browned all over.
2. Melt butter in same pan; cook onion and garlic, stirring, until onion softens. Add flour, cook, stirring until mixture thickens and bubbles. Gradually stir in wine and stock; stir until mixture boils and thickens slightly.
3. Return beef to pan with paste, celery, potato and carrot. Bring to the boil. Reduce heat; simmer, covered, 1 hour.
4. Add zucchini and mushroom, simmer, uncovered, about 30 minutes or until beef is tender. Add peas; stir until heated through. Remove from heat; stir in parsley.
5. Preheat oven 220C/200C fan forces.
6. Divide warm beef mixture between two deep 25cm pie dishes; brush outside edge of dishes with egg. Top each pie with a pastry sheet; pressing edges to seal. Trim pastry; brush pastry with egg.
7. Bake about 20 minutes until browned.

from Women's Weekly family favourites

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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 Marg Cooper



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Kindred matters



Judith Emond, Family Therapist

Status- Single

We have many single folk living within our community due to a range of different factors. Some of us are single by choice others become single through relationship breakdowns or due to the death of a loved one. Regardless of the circumstances we face it takes time to adjust and embrace living without a partner or companion.

Unfortunately, our society places considerable pressure on people to be in a relationship. Those of us who are single often experience concern or judgement from family and friends about our status. For example, at the annual Christmas family gathering you may experience comments such as, *Have you got yourself a partner yet? Why are you single? There are plenty of fish in the sea? You must be too fussy*, and so on. You may even experience family and friends taking on the quest to find you a partner and match-making whether they have your consent or not.

Of course they all mean well but there is absolutely nothing wrong with being single, in fact it can be a great deal of fun. Most people embrace their single status and enjoy a happy and fulfilling lifestyle. Sure that does not mean that they give up on finding love in the future but they tend to make the most of their situation.

Here are some tips for gaining the most out of being single;

Embrace it as an opportunity to try out new things. Live a little and have fun along the way. You may wish take up a new hobby or travel to somewhere exotic.

Seek out companionship within your own social/family network on a regular basis connect with others in person, by phone, on the net or by text. You may also like to extend your network by joining clubs or interest groups further a field than within your existing community.

Pets provide unconditional love, loyalty and great companionship.

Blind dates arranged by friends/family may become a calamity so set boundaries and say no if you are not interested.

Foster friendships with both men and woman. We all need good reliable friends from both gender groups.

Give it time. If you find yourself 'newly' single you will need time to get used to enjoying your own company and it will take time to establish new interests and create new social networks.

Consult other singles and talk to them about how they survive and gain enjoyment.

Remember singles who embrace their status and participate in new opportunities have the capacity to enjoy a quality of life which will leave their "coupled" family and friends green with envy.

Check out the yellow pages for social and sport clubs to join within your region or Google search the net to discover new opportunities further a field.

Judy

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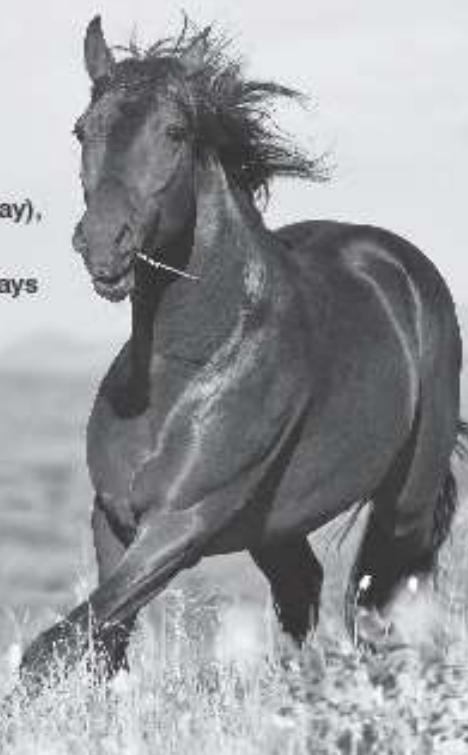
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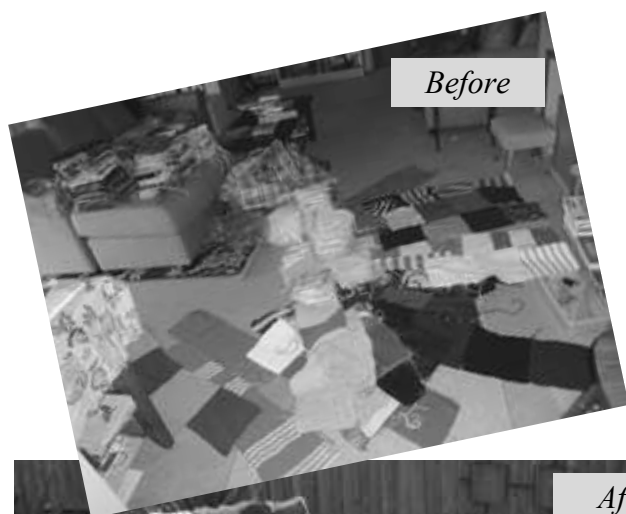
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A knitting project for charity

Kay Allen

Working at Leopold on the mobile library one Monday last year I happened to mention to Amanda at The Naked Sheep knitting shop that I enjoy knitting for various charities. From the back room she produced a bag of squares that had been donated to her. The bag was enormous and I could barely carry it. At home I sorted through everything and began the long task of putting rugs together. Through the summer I worked, putting patterns together and sewing them into knee rugs. I finished them off with a crocheted edge. 26 rugs later, I took them to the Andrew Love Cancer Centre and the Special Care Nursery at the Geelong Hospital where they were gratefully accepted. It was a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding project.



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Have You Heard
This One?



The Parable of the Four Worms

A minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon.

Four worms were placed into four separate jars.

The first worm was put into a container of alcohol. The second worm was put into a container of cigarette smoke. The third worm was put into a container of chocolate syrup. The fourth worm was put into a container of good clean soil. At the conclusion of the sermon, the Minister reported the following results:

The first worm in alcohol Dead. The second worm in cigarette smoke . . . Dead. Third worm in chocolate syrup Dead. Fourth worm in good clean soil . . . Alive.

So the Minister asked the congregation, "What did you learn from this demonstration?" Maxine was sitting in the back, quickly raised her hand and said . . . "As long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!"

That pretty much ended the service!

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea....Meredith Style

Di Ritchie

On Thursday May 24th 40 Meredith & District residents gathered together for a cause close to most people's hearts.... to raise funds for research into finding a cure for cancer.

St. Joseph's Hall was set up for "high tea" with round tables and tiered cake stands adorned with lots of yummy morning tea. Herbal teas, brewed coffee and hot chocolate added to the atmosphere. Raffles, competitions and silent auctions with lots of donated prizes amounted to a great total of \$1,200 - our largest amount raised for many years.

Winner of the major raffle of \$100 lunch voucher for Clyde Park was Pam Ridd Co-ordinator of Meredith Community Centre, second prize two bottles of Lethbridge Wine and Meredith Cheese was won by Billie Elder, and third prize was two bottles of Clyde Park Wine won by Margaret & Maureen Giles of Anakie.

Our sincere thanks to our donors - Meredith Nursery, Royal Hotel, Meredith Hotel, Meredith Dairy, Clyde Park Winery, Lethbridge Winery and Meredith BP Roadhouse.



Margaret, Maureen, Fay and Carmen



These lovely hats were supplied by Billie Elder and belonged to Lady Bolte.



Joyce, Nancy, Billie and Nan



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Meredith Community Auction 2014

Di Ritchie

The forecast of howling southerly winds, thunder, lightning and buckets of rain sent more than a shiver down our spines as we prepared the site at St. Joseph's for the 2014 Auction after an absence of 3 years. Some contingency plans were made if the dire predictions eventuated and many prayers were said that somehow the promised weather event would bypass Meredith. And our prayers were answered the day dawned fine and sunny and that sun lasted until the last item was auctioned and then down came the rain!

Lots of items were offered for sale amazingly almost every item found a new home! Some very interesting tools and antiques were on sale and thanks to Colin Beel, the auctioneers and his assistant from HF Richardson & Co., prices were good. Mowers Galore always have lots of mowers and motorbikes on offer and these were quickly snapped up. The atmosphere of an auction/clearing sale never changes people poring over items, others looking for that elusive item or bargain and it seems everyone from the district comes to have a look and a chat. Children were well catered for with a great sandpit, giant noughts and crosses, craft activities and face painting.

The food also was good the smell of the onions drawing people towards the very busy barbeques. Delicious fluffy scones were piled high with berry jam and lashings of cream topped off with a steaming cup of tea or coffee. Our new addition for this year was the Asian food stall featuring spring rolls, fried rice, bowls of noodles and popcorn chicken. Yum!

A big thank you to Woolabrai for the use of their cool room, to Foxy's for sponsoring our sandpit, to the members of

the Old Skool car Club and to all those wonderful community minded people who offered their assistance beforehand and on the day to make the auction once again a social and financial success.



Matt Burgess and Mick Jury selling raffle tickets.



Robbie Sergent and Father Herman



Mark Houston, Terry Parry and Lola the dog. Members of Old Skool Street Car Club who were volunteer security for the day.

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