



In the Fast Lane

Marg Cooper

On a Saturday night last February, local youth Anthony Young won the Feature Race at Simpson Speedway in his Toyota Corolla. Points are allotted to each car according to where they finish in each heat, and the car with the most points after the heats is allocated the best position to start the final. Races consist of 8 to 10 laps. He came second in the first heat, came third in the second heat, came second in the third heat and won the final for young drivers aged from 10 years to 17 years old. He was presented with a blue sash and prize money and, needless to say, was over the moon!

His father Mark said that the car developed some mechanical issues during the night but Anthony managed it well. Anthony is sponsored by Garden City Auto Wreckers and Proflow Geelong. He previously had gained a 4th and a 6th position in finals so this is his first win.

Mark and Anthony are members of Redline Raceway but travelled to Simpson on Saturday because the dam at Redline is empty and the course can't be watered. Mark has raced since the mid 1990's and Anthony has been going to speedway since before he was born. Mark races an AU Falcon in the Street

Stock Class. He guts the cars out, fits roll cages, window nets, race harness and mesh for a windscreen. He does all the mechanical work and often has to do adjustments between races according to the state of the track. They wear fire proof underwear, a triple layer race suit, neck brace, gloves and race shoes just like the professional race drivers.

At a race recently Mark was ready to race, sitting in the dummy grid with all this gear on, in 40 degree heat.

Mark says that it can be an expensive hobby. Fuel costs for a night are often over \$100. He is sponsored by Spencer Race Engines, Pro Flow and the Royal Hotel in Meredith and says that this is the first season that they have had proper sponsors. Before this year they displayed some stickers of businesses of friends. Mark displayed his car in front of the Royal Hotel recently and the photos that were taken appear on the slide show on the television in the Royal Hotel. Damian and Claire's son especially enjoyed sitting in the race car!

Anthony's sisters Tiffany and Renae, with their mother Melissa, attend all the meetings and Melissa says that she "freaks out" and finds it very stressful especially when watching Anthony race. She videos the races but admits that she doesn't always capture the crashes. When agitated she points the camera up, down, anywhere! It is supposed to be a non contact sport!! Anthony enjoys the racing and being part of the close knit family of racing people but he wants to be an electrician when he leaves school. Well Done Anthony.

inside



- Steiglitz and Lily Snag Awards.
- Zoe's Big Adventure
- Lions Stalking Meredith
- A Mickey Mouse Holiday

(as well as a letter from a dog!)

... 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

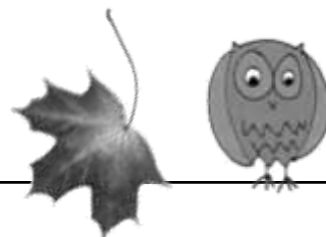
☎5286 1313

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 .



"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."

— Albert Camus .



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

Australia Day Awards 2014

From Media release

2014 Community Event of the Year was awarded to 'Steiglitz Airing of the Quilts' an event held in October 2013. While there are many benefits to living in a rural community there can also be issues relating to isolation and lack of opportunity, so the Back to Steiglitz Association created this event to knit the community together. With quilting displays, workshops, historic displays, home cooking, music and stalls the event saw over 800 visitors and locals attend. The event was incredibly successful in strengthening community ties and networks in a fun and relaxed environment.

2014 Young Citizen of the Year is Lily Dunn of Meredith. Lily has undertaken volunteer work with the youth school holiday program, become a member of the FReeZA committee and assisted in many youth events. Lily has a wonderful positive attitude, has excelled both academically and in sport on the hockey field. The past two years saw Lily suffer from a debilitating illness but as she recovers Lily has actively sought to become a role model and mentor to young people with mental health issues. Lily seeks to create awareness and the understanding of mental health in the community. Lily is awarded for her attitude and commitment to youth affairs in Golden Plains.



The Golden Plains Shire Health and Wellbeing Team conduct monthly walks along paths and trails in the shire with a support bus (to and during the walk) to encourage walkers of all abilities and fitness levels to participate. We usually get 30-50 walkers with some walkers breaking records and others walking for a kilometre or two and then getting on the bus. We always end with a cuppa and chat before everyone returns home. We have planned a walk in June in the Brisbane Ranges starting from the Court House at Steiglitz and includes a bus pick up in Meredith to support local participation. I am sure we will get a cool day for the walk and we can hope that it will be sunny.

For more information, or to take part, contact Kim Boyd on 5342 7000 or at kboyd@gplains.vic.gov.au.

Meredith Seniors

Jim Hynds

Our group gathered at the Royal Hotel on Monday, February 10 for our first social luncheon of the year.

After arriving we were soon seated and were invited to choose from a two course meal order. Judging by the silence after the meals arrived they were indeed well received. A great job was done by Maddy McColl and staff who looked after us superbly.

The rest of the afternoon was spent discussing the program for the rest of the year with plans for a number of bus trips, luncheons and social meetings in the hall. The program will be finalized in the near future.

If you would like to be a part of Meredith Seniors please don't hesitate to contact any of the Office Bearers: Robyn Gallichio on 0407683892, Jim Hynds on 52 868232, Jo Primmer on 0490172038 or Sandra Pearce on 52 861545. You can be assured of a great time!

Thanks again to Maddy McColl and the staff at the Royal for providing a successful day. Ps. Damian, the owner of the Royal and his family were on holidays.



**catch us on the
WEB**

meredithnews.com.au



Elaine CFA
Scrap metal collection
as a fundraiser
Ph David 0418993239

Classifieds

First insertion of small ads are FREE to district residents

For sale Long square bale stockfeeder EC. \$150.00, Electric fence pulse box \$60.00, Large quantity h.p. black hose pipe (offer), Pine fence posts (offer), Star Picket posts (offer), Large amount timber, various lengths (offer), 2 petrol tank stands (offer) Call Jen Coburn Mob. 0408822844

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 March

Winchelsea every Saturday evening @ 6 p.m.

Bannockburn every Sunday morning at 9 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.

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

Anakie Sunday @ 11 a.m. March 2nd/ 16th/30th.

Ash Wednesday March 5th Mass : W/sea 5 p.m. B/burn 7p.m.

Sacramental Program

First Communion class Bannockburn Tuesdays 3.45 p.m.

Reconciliation Grade 3 commences Term 2 Confirmation class

Bannockburn commences Wednesday March 12th

Enrolments essential Please ring Parish office 52861230

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

World Day of Prayer FRIDAY MARCH 7 TH 2014

10 A.M. MEREDITH UNITING CHURCH

On Friday March 7th more than 3 million people in over 170 countries and islands will be praying together during a globe-encompassing annual day of prayer, using a service prepared by Christian women of Egypt. The theme is "Streams in the Desert"

Please come along to join in this service to pray for the issues facing the people of Egypt; the suffering of women and children in a struggling economy, the needs of widows, education for girls and the political instability. Morning tea will follow.

Meredith
Community Centre

Our programs at the Centre are now well under way for the first term. Tai Chi is very popular with classes in Meredith, Bannockburn and Teesdale in the daytime and evening.

Our occasional care program has had a busy start to the term with vacancies filling fast and children settling into the routine of Occasional care. With so many ideas running through our heads we have launched into different ways of experimenting with paint and colour. By using the children's interest in transport we have been able to freeze cars, trucks, tractors and planes in blocks of coloured ice and watch these emerge as the ice melts in our water trough. Once thawed out we have brought these toys inside and driven them through paint to see the lines and tracks that are left behind. It has been interesting and exciting experience.

We still have some great classes coming up including: Olive oil soap making, cheese making and macro photography – this class is almost full

In our work here at the Community Centre we no sooner start our programs each term that we are thinking about what is coming up next term. We have had interest from teachers to teach polymer clay jewellery which is easy and lots of fun and Zentangle. What on earth is that you say, although the teachers get offended my description I would call it creative doodling, take a look at the picture. If you are interested in participating please give us a call.



An example of Zentangle, Call the Community centre for more details about this class.

RESPONSIBLE SERVICE ALCOHOL CLASS

Dates: Thursday 3rd April

Time: 6.00 –10.00pm Cost: \$80

This is the official Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor regulation accredited program designed to equip participants with the skills and knowledge necessary to contribute to a safe, enjoyable environment in licensed premises.

This is the certificate accepted by the hospitality industry in Victoria and is essential if you are working in, or intend to work in the sector.

Phone Meredith Community Centre to book your place.

Bye for Now

Pam Ridd

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

As we have travelled through January and into February, our local Meredith Roadhouse has been the unfortunate victim of two burglaries. On the 2nd of February at approximately 11.40 p.m., offenders smashed through the front door causing considerable damage. Cigarettes were the target of these offenders who left the scene in a small car believed to be a Mitsubishi Magna with no head lights on.

A second burglary was committed after this incident where offender were apprehended on the Midland Highway travelling towards Ballarat. Two Corio male offenders have been charged as a result of this second incident.

As summer draws to a close, I would like to encourage everyone to remain safe on the roads and always be aware of the amount of alcohol you have consumed prior to driving. It is unfortunately still a large contributor to motor vehicle accidents and something that is very avoidable.

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
 FRIDAY 5th DECEMBER – Term 4.

These dates will be confirmed shortly but it is most likely that these will be the dates. We hope to have many kids there having plenty of fun and prizes to be won. Any enquiries to me here at the Meredith Police Station.

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



sports



Meredith Golf Club

9th February Stableford

Winner D Gear 401 pts Runner up V Drew 35 pts
 NTP 2nd & 14th D Gear

15th & 16th February 2 Person Ambrose

Winners D Jury & C Osborne 78-12 3/4-65 1/4
 Runner up J Cooper & R Dawes 84-12 3/4-71 1/4
 NTP 9th M Macri, 2nd & 14th, 2nd shot D Jury

22nd-23rd February Men's Stableford

Winner D Jury 40 pts on C/B M Colvin
 NTP 14th M Colvin 2nd shot

Ladies Ambrose– Stroke. Opening Day

Winning Team C Powles, E Edmiston 46-9.5-36.5
 Runners up N Obrien, M Diffey 46-9-37

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

Moorabool River Watering Plan

The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority is hosting a community information session on **Tuesday 18 March** from 6.30 to 7.30 pm at the Meredith Memorial Hall to discuss the 2014/2015 Seasonal Watering Plan for the Moorabool River downstream of Lal Lal Reservoir.

One week prior to the information session a copy of the Draft Moorabool River Seasonal Watering Proposal will be online at: ccma.vic.gov.au/Home.aspx.

To attend please RSVP by Thursday 13 March by calling 5232 9100 or to robert.bone@ccma.vic.gov.au

From the Mayor's Desk



The past few months have seen real challenges for some residents with the job losses at Ford, and Alcoa. If you are experiencing difficulties, know that there is support available. Community Health Services offer excellent counselling and support services and can be called on 5338 4500.

These recent changes in manufacturing employment have had an effect on the whole region but Council is pursuing some exciting and innovative ways to address the challenges locally. The Golden Plains Food Production Precinct and the Lethbridge Airport Upgrade together look to provide more than 1000 jobs in the next five to 10 years.

Our region will see many new workers move to the region as a result and we must, through good planning and sustainable management, ensure Golden Plains has the infrastructure and services to accommodate them and their families. Council continues to strongly advocate for a new school for Bannockburn and improved education opportunities across the Shire.

On a personal note, I recently underwent a cataract operation and have only praise for the wonderful health services and facilities accessible to those of us living in Golden Plains, whether they be hospital services in Ballarat or Geelong. Council's community transport program too is a most valuable service for residents who find themselves unable to drive. Call Council on 5220 7111 to find out if you're eligible for this service.

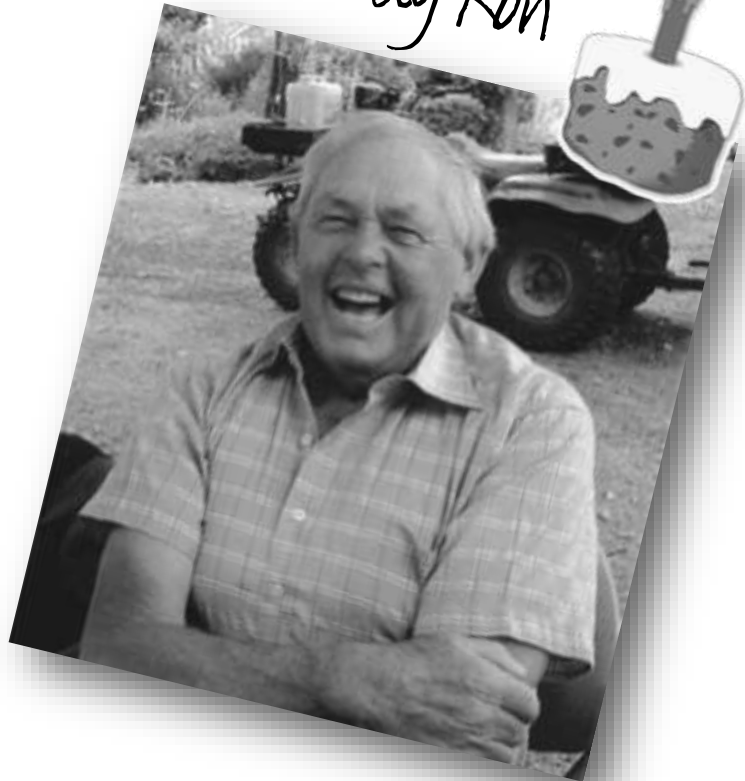
To advance our health services further, it was good to see the first sod turned for an ambulance station in Bannockburn in February – this will provide an invaluable service for our whole Shire.

If you are looking for an activity to get you out and about – consider volunteering. Volunteering is great for meeting new people and making a positive difference to the lives of others. Our community transport drivers are an excellent example. Call Council on 5220 7111 if you think this could suit you.

Buy yourselves and your kids a job, buy Australian.

Councillor Jen Blake, Mayor, Golden Plains Shire Council

Happy Birthday Ron



Ambulance rep Mick, local resident Isla Adamson, Minister Davis, Minister Mulder, Member for Western Vic David Koch and GPSC Mayor Jenny Blake.

Ronnie Celebrates 80 years

Marg Cooper

A lunch party on a beautiful summer day, under the spreading trees in his backyard was held to celebrate Ron Read's 80th birthday on Sunday, February 16.

Many members of his family, his wife Joyce's family and their friends enjoyed the delicious lunch and drinks and the company and conversation. The birthday cake consisted of a table of cupcakes decorated as sheep, pigs and ducks and a fruit cake decorated as a farm. A fence surrounded the cake that featured a green tractor in a field. The work of art was created by Carol, Joyce's daughter. Many of the friends who attended were friends from Ron's shearing days - owners of properties, co shearers, rouseabouts, wool classers and wool buyers were all there.

Ron started under his father's guidance in a shearing team aged 14 years. For his first job they travelled from Melbourne to

Adelaide by train, stayed a night in Adelaide then went by train to Broken Hill, where the station truck met the train. The team of 10 shearers, station hands, roustabouts, classers, pressers, cook and father plus cases of beer, food and supplies were all taken 70 miles to the station on the tray truck. There were 30,000 sheep to be shorn which took 3-3½ weeks. The team stayed in the shearer's quarters with gate beds, candles, kerosene lamps and drop toilets. The walls were of tin and if a fellow coughed 10 huts down everyone heard him!

Ron started as a board boy, one of 3 for the 10 shearers. They had to pick up the fleeces and throw them on the table for the classers to class and also had to sweep the floor. Ron worked for 5 years as a board boy before he started as a learner shearer. Ron got a learner's pen in one of Chris Mooney's teams at "Boabula" between Deniliquin and Hay. There were 14 shearers and 2 learners to shear 30,000 sheep. For 10-15 years Ron followed the work in the shearing sheds and rarely came home.

Ron ran his own team after the man Ron had worked for 17 years had a heart turn and offered Ron the team and the work. Ron ran the team for over 20 years (sometimes 2 teams) and mainly within 50km radius of Geelong. Ron lived in Geelong with his family during those years. Contractors were paid by the sheep, so large numbers quickly shorn were important to the contractors. Ron says that it was satisfying to know that your team had done a good job and that the owner wanted you back again.

Ron was never sorry that he became a shearer. He has been everywhere and he made a lot of loyal friends – many of whom came to his farm at Cargarie on Sunday to wish Ron a Happy Birthday.

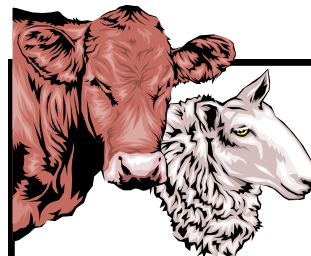


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In Case Someone Calls...

from media release

Annually, Golden Plains Shire Council has the opportunity to take part in a community satisfaction survey coordinated by the State Government.

The Community Satisfaction Survey provides an excellent opportunity for Council to strengthen communications with residents who, through the survey, are able to provide detailed feedback on Council's performance.

Golden Plains Shire Council has participated in the survey since it commenced more than ten years ago. The survey results include valuable information about how performance is rated by the communities Council represents. The annual survey provides a consistent benchmark which assists Council with future planning and development.

JWS Research has been appointed by the State Government to complete the 2014 survey state-wide. JWS Research commenced interviewing in Golden Plains on 20 February. Surveying in the Shire will take up to 3 weeks to complete.

The survey is being conducted by Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) with 400 residents over eighteen years of age. The survey attempts to achieve a representative sample of age and gender through a random sample via landline and mobile phones. Participants will be asked about Council services and facilities, community issues and the resident's likes and dislikes about living in Golden Plains Shire.

For more information about the survey visit dpd.vic.gov.au/localgovernment or call Council's Organisational Development Manager, Kim Manley, on 5220 7181.

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Kinder News

Jodie Trevaskis/ Director



We are having a lovely start to the year with the children and we welcome all our families to our wonderful little kinder community, everyone has settled into the daily routine and rotational groups. We also welcome our new teacher Erin Douglas who runs the Friday group and Kylie Vanderkley our new assistant for the 4 year old group. Sue Joos and Sharlene Jury run the 3 year old group on a Wednesday morning; it is a small number to start the year off so they have lots of quality time with their little group. They are doing an excursion to the oval this week to have walk around the community and a play. During term one all the educators focus on getting to know each individual child so we can discover the interests and support the learning and social connections within the peer group.

When it's a hot day at Kinder we go outside in the mornings to play, we provide lots of cool activities that involve water play! Our new water trough is getting used frequently and the children are helping out watering the garden. Water painting is popular, washing dolls, washing trucks, making a pool in the sandpit and using water and sand for cooking. Inside the children are playing in the home corner role playing mums and dads and the Snow White fairy tale is a favourite for some.

Our easel painting is always busy but we have taken it away to make room for the children to lie on the floor on some paper and be traced around with a pen by another child. Then they get to paint their shape and we are hanging them around the room, this fosters a sense of belonging and encourages the children to work together. We held our annual family BBQ on Tuesday night, it was lovely to see so many families there mingling and children

playing. Thank you for your contributions of food and thank you Stewart Kemp for cooking on that flaming BBQ!! Next is the Music festival and the tucker tent over the long weekend, a big job ahead. Hope to see you out there enjoying the music, the atmosphere and buying a sausage to support our kinder.

ELGAS

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131 161
www.elgas.com.au



Kinder Catering

Meredith Kindergarten is again this year providing a catering service for local events.

No event too big or too small, please contact Pip or Kristy to discuss your needs.

Pip McLane – Fundraising Co-ordinator: 52 861 238
Kristy Cochrane – President: 0418 574 246

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

Zoe's Big Adventure

The fibreglass zebra that surprises and delights passers-by, went missing from David and Jo Neilson's She-Oaks Road property in mid-February. At the time, David and Jo were distraught to have lost this much loved icon, and asked for help in tracking her down.

Happily, Zoe was found by neighbours laying down on the roadside nearby. By the time they recovered her, she was even back on her feet, admiring John Tantau's wildflower stall (as food or decoration, we don't know,) Zoe only suffered a fractured leg, and David reports she will be back on the paddock duty very soon.



GOLDEN PLAINS FESTIVAL CHANGES TO LOCAL TRAFFIC CONDITIONS

Golden Plains Festival is scheduled to occur on Saturday 8 March to Monday 10 March, 2014.

The summary the traffic management plan for the Festival is outlined here.

- We will implement one-way traffic on Mount Mercer Road from Bamganie Road to Cameron's Road from approximately 4am on 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 on Mount Mercer Road and Cameron's Road from Friday 7 March to Saturday 8 March.
- We have assigned traffic controllers to the corner of Staughton Street and Midland Highway 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 have any questions or concerns please contact us on 0430 091 120.

Thank you everyone for your support.
Golden Plains Festival Team



Why is it important for our children to play?



Golden Plains Shire Council is proudly hosting Marc Armitage, an independent UK consultant, researcher and writer on children's play and the wider social world of children and young people for an evening titled "More Play" On Thursday 20 March from 7 - 9pm.

When: Thursday 20 March, Lethbridge Recreation Reserve, Stephenson Street
Attendance: FREE for residents of Golden Plains Shire. \$50 non-residents (places subject to availability)
Registration: Essential
Contact: Kim Roberts on phone: 5220 7230 or email: kroberts@gplains.vic.gov.au

*A light supper
will be
provided*



Barwon South Western

SKATE PARK SERIES

2014

Friday 14 March

Bannockburn

Skate Park, Moore Street

4pm – 9pm

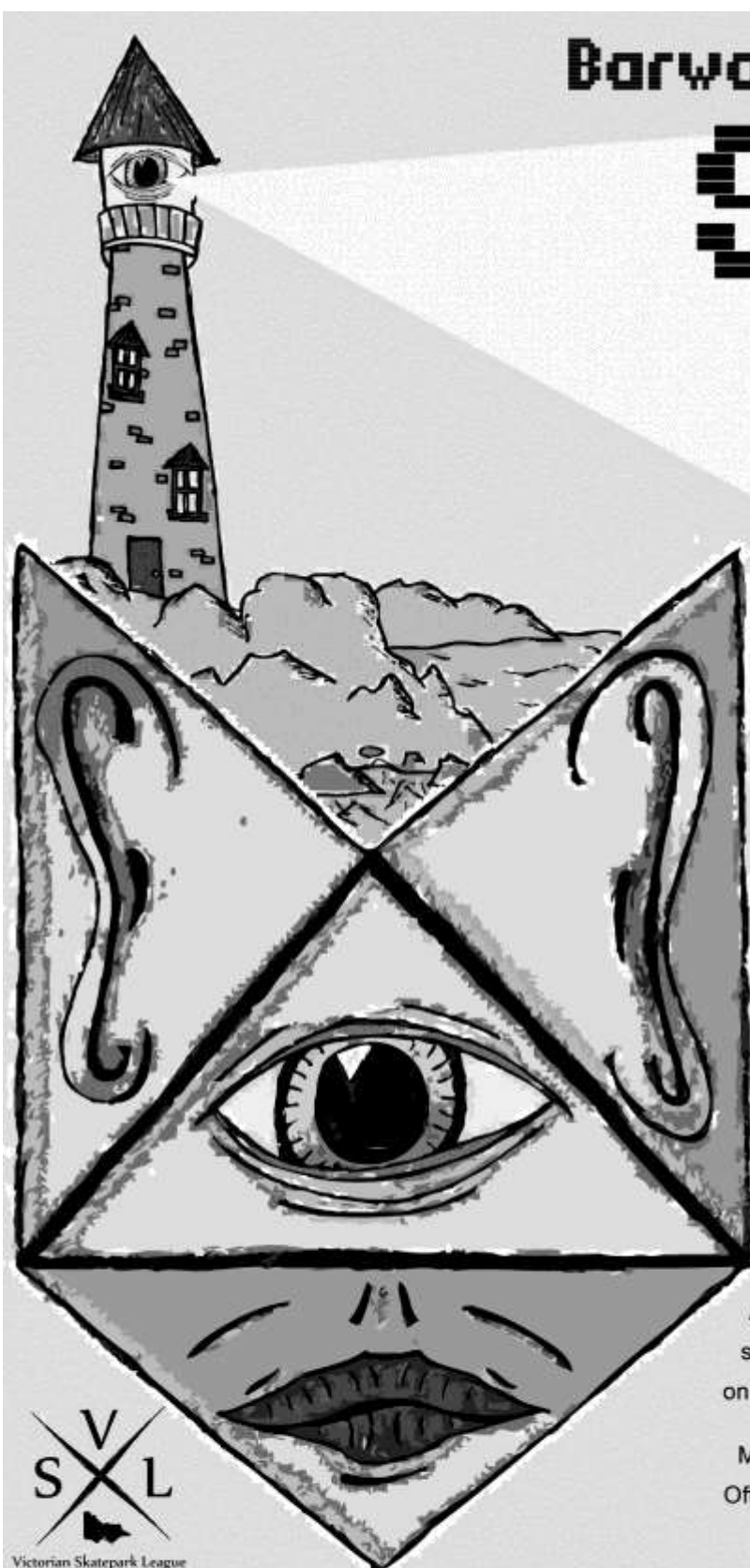
Registrations at 4pm

12 & under, 16 & under
open male & female

Competition open to all abilities

All entrants under 18 must have a parent or guardian
sign their competition entry form. Entry forms available
on the day or online at www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/youth

More information contact Sarah Dalton, Youth Activities
Officer on 5220 7177 or email sdalton@gplains.vic.gov.au


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Waste Time

Golden Plain Shire officers could well have thought that they were not using their time fruitfully when they recently hosted a public meeting in Meredith about the Shire's review of waste management services. We understand that only one person turned up!

Perhaps if the meeting was publicised a little earlier and more broadly, it may have attracted more interest. But no matter: you can still have your say by contacting the Shire or visiting surveymonkey.com/s/QMNDT6B.

There, you will be asked to rank the three choices shown in our graphic below. For urban areas, there is no choice, as all three options involve a weekly 120 litre bin pick up for garbage, and a fortnightly, 240 litre pick up for recyclables. For rural residents however, there are additional options of 240 litre fortnightly garbage pickups and, for recyclables, 2 x 240 litre monthly pick ups. So, if you live in the country, you choose between the problem of bin odours caused by a longer pick up cycle for your



garbage - not such a problem if you keep the lid properly closed, and certainly not if you remove compostable material - and the advantage of a larger bin to get rid of bigger items of garbage.

We don't yet know when the new arrangements, due to commence in July 2015, will be announced.

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1. Rank your Waste Collection Service selections here; from most preferred (1) to least preferred (3)

- OPTION A - Garbage Service Urban: 120 litre waste bins collected weekly / Garbage Service Rural: 240 litre waste bins collected fortnightly / Recycling Service Urban and Rural: 240 litre bins collected fortnightly
- OPTION B - Garbage Service Urban: 120 litre waste bins collected weekly / Garbage Service Rural: 240 litre waste bins collected fortnightly / Recycling Service Urban: 240 litre bins collected fortnightly / Recycling Service Rural: 2 x 240 litre bins collected four-weekly
- OPTION C - Garbage Service Urban and Rural: 120 litre waste bin collected weekly / Recycling Service Urban and Rural: 240 litre bin collected fortnightly



Do you know a young person doing great things in the community?

Why not nominate them for the 2014 Golden Youth Award?

**Nominations
are open
in group or
individual
categories**

**Art and Music
Sport
Health and Wellbeing
Community Involvement
Adult Working with Young People**

**Nominations
close
12 March**

Nominations are now open for people aged 10–25 who live, work, recreate or go to school within Golden Plains Shire.

**The Golden Youth Awards Ceremony will be held on Thursday 10 April 2014
at the Bannockburn Cultural Centre.**

Nomination forms are available at www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/youth

Enquiries: Sarah Dalton, Youth Activities Officer, Golden Plains Shire Council
P 5220 7177 | E sdalton@gplains.vic.gov.au



An Australian, State, Territory and Local Government Initiative





in my garden

Not everything in the garden has suffered during the extreme temperatures of February. You would think that all living things should, in some way, be impaired, or at least fail to thrive. But no, not in my garden: pests of all sorts have flourished.

To begin with, I observed one morning that the kikuyu lawn had developed rapidly expanding brown patches. A reasonable person might think that this is to be expected given the heat and the lack of rain, however, as all my lawns receive some regular water (bore), I did not think that a lack of water was the problem. Before I had time to think further about this alarming situation, flocks of little birds swooped down and scratched in those brown areas until all that was left was bare earth. I now understand that it was not the dead grass that attracted these birds but what lay beneath: the dreaded lawn beetle grub which I assume is a delicacy for these pesky birds. The sum result was large areas of bare earth that looked as though it had been recently scarified; an eyesore; a ruined lawn.

An immediate response was needed. I have lots of things stored in my garden shed but did not have anything that would get rid of these lawn grubs. Given the dire state of the lawn, an urgent trip to the nearest hardware shop was required to purchase a specific remedy. The treatment was applied without delay and after a couple of days I could see that the treatment was effective. I know that it is not the ideal time to sow lawn seed, but I could not bear to look upon the damaged areas and so lawn seed was sown. Of course, this has required daily hand watering, and as I write I await the first signs of germination. I wondered why the lawn beetle grub has confined its interest to the kikuyu lawn and has not invaded the tall fescue lawns. When the rain comes I will investigate further.

Tuscan Kale is normally an easy care plant but over the past four weeks the plants have been attacked twice by aphids, and once by green grubs. One day the kale was looking

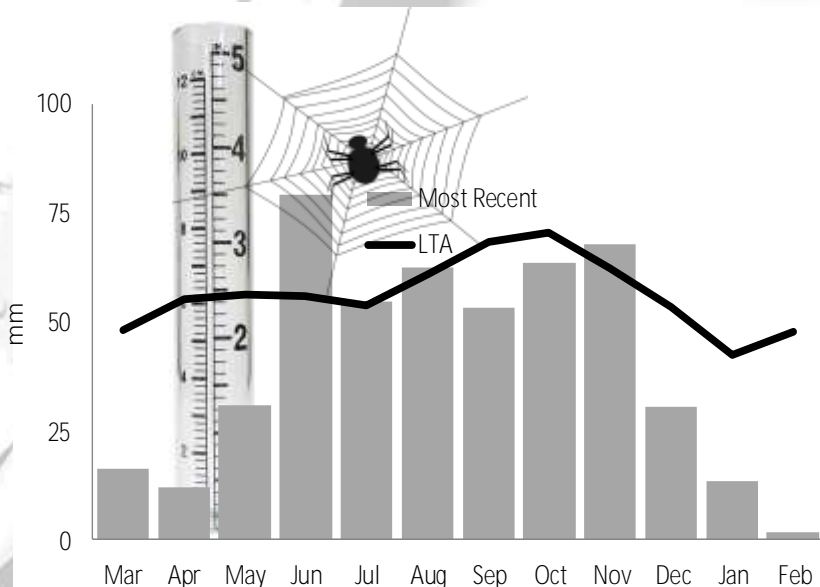
magnificent, and the next the leaves were a ragged mess of holes. It was difficult to see what the problem was but a close inspection revealed hundreds of grubs. No time to waste, to the garden shed for the spray. Next day the grubs were gone and the kale is recovering. Several days after spraying, all the ruined leaves were picked and fed to the chooks. (They love kale.)

Several times a week I pick an armful of kale for the chooks. It was while picking kale leaves that I discovered the aphids. Aphids are minute creatures that are much the same colour as the Kale leaves and are only detected when in close proximity to kale leaves. If the green grubs, mentioned above, numbered hundreds then the aphids numbered millions. They have shown more resilience than the grubs in the face of spraying, as they staged a comeback, and repeat spraying was required. I am confident, though, that I have gained the upper hand now.

My greenhouse is usually a pest-free zone, but not this hot summer. Watercress thrives in this moist, warm environment and overnight it became a very tasty treat for more green grubs, hundreds, perhaps thousands of them gorging on the delicate leaves. More spraying – grubs defeated. Watercress looked as though it has just survived a locust plague. There is more: possums. These little blighters are rarely seen but their presence is very much apparent. In one corner of my garden, they eat every tender leaf in sight. There is an apple tree which cannot even get one leaf to maturity. Of course, this tree does not have a single apple on it. All the new growth on the roses has been chewed back to wood. I fear these roses will die, because how many times can a rose stage a comeback. If the rose bushes are protected by an enclosure of chicken wire, they grow quite nicely but surely there is another answer. Chicken wire is not pretty, and I am trying my best to create an attractive garden. There has to be another answer. When the rain comes I will investigate further.

Meanwhile, I am waiting, with increasing impatience, for the rain. I spend several hours each day watering the one acre garden at the expense of other activities. A daily visit to the Bureau of Meteorology website is a ritual looking for the first sign that the hot and dry weather pattern might be about to change. Despite all this, I love my garden and working in it. Until next month, happy gardening. Robyn

Robyn



The (What?) Rain Report February's Record Low

It will not surprise anyone that summer's rain was a dismal affair. Although it is traditionally our driest season in this part of the world, the 46 mm registered last summer is only 32% of the long term average (LTA). A damp enough start in December was cruelled by poor rainfalls in January and an even worse February. In fact, the 1.8 mm registered at our BOM station was not only a miserable 3.8% of that month's LTA, it was the lowest on record since records began in 1875.

So, if you have cobwebs in your rain gauge, that's why.

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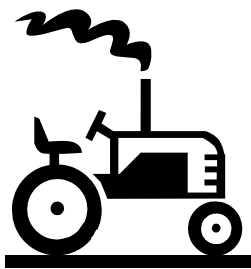
Saturday May 3rd 2014



TO BE HELD IN THE GROUNDS OF ST. JOSEPH'S LAWLER ST MEREDITH



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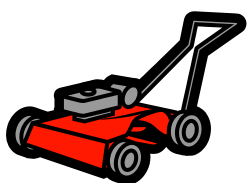


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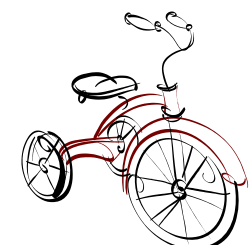


- * RENOVATION OF ST JOSEPH'S HALL


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A & R Durran**Bricklaying****OVER 15 YEARS EXPERIENCE****Phone/Fax: 03 5281 9403****Anthony Mobile: 0409 524 438****426 Sheoaks Road, Maude 3331****ABN 63 614 843 881****Don't Treat Us Like Mushrooms***Alison Pouliot*

FOR some, the word fungi inspires a feast of tasty fresh-picked field mushrooms. To others, they have sinister associations with witches, gruesome poisoning deaths and hallucinogenic happenings.

Indeed fungi have suffered bad press in Australia relative to Europe where they are deeply embedded in cultural traditions. But beyond the kitchen and the mythology, fungi are also the connective fibre of our world.

While we often only think about fungi when we see their reproductive structures or mushrooms push through the soil, it is the underground network of fungal fibres known as mycelia that underpin soil and plant health. Every eucalypt in our landscape relies on underground fungal partners that help maximise water and nutrient uptake.

These clandestine fungal partners also protect tree roots from soil pathogens. Eucalypts often form these beneficial relationships with multiple fungal species. It is these relationships that enable the maximum growth and health of the great majority of trees and other plants. Looking after trees therefore means looking after their fungal partners as well.

Leaf litter, woody debris and understorey plants are often regarded only as 'fuel'. While recognising that such organic matter can be highly flammable, it is also leaf litter that helps retain moisture in soils, increasing their resistance to the impacts of fire. It is also leaf litter that supports a multitude of fungi that in turn support trees making them more resilient to drought and landuse impacts. Many fungi secrete enzymes that break down leaf litter thereby providing essential nutrients for all biodiversity. Retaining litter around old trees could provide a very simple way to maximise soil moisture and maintain nutrient supply. Minimising impacts that potentially damage tree-fungal relationships would allow fungi to do their job in supporting tree health.

Hundreds, possibly thousands of species of fungi exist in Victoria's woodlands and farmlands. Most of these are yet to be formally named.

The Haddon Neighbourhood House will be holding a special workshop this autumn to help participants correctly identify fungi and also learn about their important roles in ecosystems.

For further information visit: www.alisonpouliot.com or for bookings: Haddon Neighbourhood House 5342 7050.

Around the World to Visit their Son

Marg Cooper

Sarah and Lindsay McLane are visiting their son and his family at Cargarie for 6 weeks and staying at Meredith in a bluestone house that is well over 100 years old. Sarah and Lindsay live on a farm in England, about twenty miles north of York. Their house is over 300 years old and a piece of their land is on a 999 year lease from King Charles 1st.

Their three sons travelled to New Zealand for their gap years but their son Duncan stayed, studied Agricultural Science at Lincoln University, worked on a number of farms to pay his way and married Pip, a New Zealander. Since their first trip in 2002 Sarah and Lindsay have visited New Zealand 12 times and they have also visited many relations as Sarah's grandfather's brother migrated there and her father always corresponded with his cousins. They remember touring with Duncan in his "old student car", the splendid scenery in New Zealand, staying at back packers and his graduation ceremony.

On their first trip to Australia they flew from winter in England to 40+ degree heat in Adelaide. Duncan and Pip were touring and Sarah and Lindsay joined them for a three week trip from Kangaroo Island to Cargarie via the Great Ocean Road. Then they spent another three weeks repairing the bluestone house at Cargarie. Duncan, Pip and their children live in "Glenbuckie" and manage the goat dairy at "Fern Hill" for Meredith Dairy.

Lindsay is a handy man who is good at ticking off jobs. Last year's project was the kitchen and the year before Lindsay was invited to visit to help to build a cabin for visitors. This is used for accommodation for family and back packers who want to work. Sarah says that Duncan and Lindsay often talk farming on the phone, invent things and plan projects.

Lindsay also enjoyed his hobby and piloted a glider at Benalla for a few days. He thinks the skies in Victoria are clear and bright and are terrific compared to the UK. Sarah and Lindsay attended the Australia Day picnic at Woodburn for the second occasion. They are almost locals!

Welcome (back) to Australia!

'Church of Epiphany' 100 Years.

Fay McFarlane

We read in the Geelong Advertiser "Christ Church Meredith had served its day as a church building, and the day had arrived when a more suitable and commodious building had to be erected". (Geelong Advertiser 17 March 1914). A new Church building was erected and dedicated by the Archbishop of Melbourne on 14th March 1914. Alex North of Tasmania was chosen as the architect and designed a building quite unique in church architecture for a small country town, the interior being lined with Tasmanian Blue Gum. Because the church was built during the church season of Epiphany, it bears the name "Church of Epiphany". The Vicar of that year, Rev. H.P. Finnis M.A., and his congregation, are to be congratulated on their efforts to rebuild the House of God on such a grand style, and at the completion of the build it was debt free.

The successful tenderers for the erection of this grand building were Messrs. Burn Bros, of Geelong, who entered into the spirit of the design, and from first to last employed skilled workmen and the best of material, completing a really noteworthy building. The church which is 60 feet in length and 22 feet wide was taxed to its utmost limits when some 200 people gathered from all parts of the district to take part at the dedication service 100 years ago.



Church of Epiphany Meredith
100th Anniversary Celebration

*Sunday 23rd March
2.00 pm*

*Bishop Phillip Huggins Officiating. Service
followed by Afternoon tea*

All Welcome

RSVP for catering, Fay McFarlane. 52861283.
0407502794. faymcs@bigpond.com



Hosts Claire & Damian Kelly

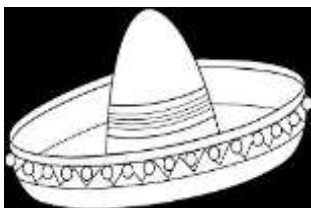
Ph. 52 861 100

Beer Garden Open on Weekends (Subject to Weather)

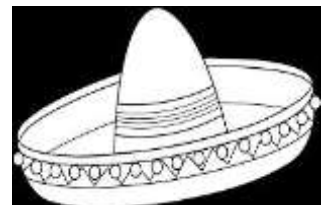
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Lions Stalking Meredith

Lions International is exploring the possibility of establishing a club in Meredith. Here, Lions Club member, Lou Scholten, offers an oversight of the Club and the benefits of membership.

We serve. We have more volunteers in more places than any other service organization in the world. And since 1917, Lions clubs have offered people the opportunity to give back to their communities and help those in need.

Whenever a Lions club gets together, problems get smaller. And communities get better. That's because we help where help is needed – in our own communities and around the world – with unmatched integrity and energy.

Organizing a new Lions club gives more people the chance to make a difference, assist those in need and introduce new projects to local communities. There is no limit to where or how many community-based clubs can be formed. Where there is need, a Lions club can help.

Over the years, as community needs have increased, Lions have broadened their focus toward humanitarian efforts.

Each Lions club is autonomous, and therefore may choose projects and activities that fit the lifestyle of its members and impacts the community the greatest.

The following information provides general guidelines to help you organize new Lions clubs in your area.

Member Benefits

There are many reasons to become part of a Lions club. As a Lion, you'll:

- Help your community and gain valuable skills
- Make an impact on people's lives – locally and internationally
- Learn to be a leader – and lead a respected organization
- Network with business people in your community and around the world
- Energize your life and have fun
- Receive a subscription to LION magazine
- You'll grow personally and professionally. And you'll know that what you do is worthwhile and appreciated.

Explore the web side at www.lionsclubs.org.au or call Lou on 0409 331271



Go on...smile!



"Sometimes I wake up grumpy;
other times I let her sleep. ."

- Anon. (very wise!)

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WATER CARTAGE

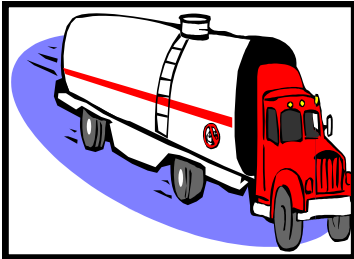
water tanks, swimming pools

Don't want a Big Tanker?
Can't get it in?

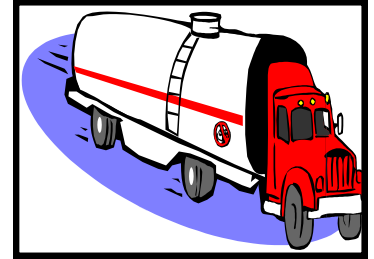
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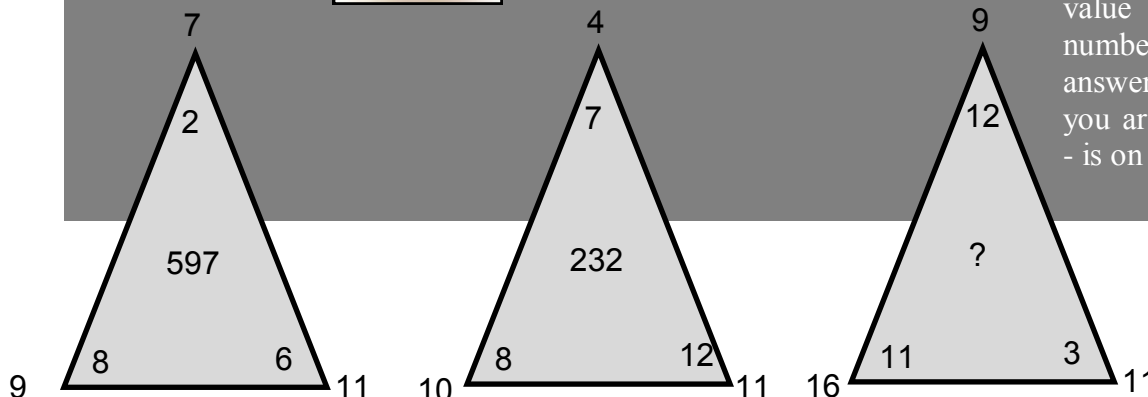


numbers in tumble
partners in dance
twirling possibility
and flat footed chance
Anon.

brain
gym



How's your number sequencing skills? Using the first two pyramids, discover the value of the missing number in the third. The answer - just to check you are right, of course - is on the next page.




What's on at the Y Bannockburn Recreation Centre

| | | | | | |
|--------------|--|--|--|--|------------------------------|
| Mon | Soft Tennis 50+yrs 10.30am-11.30am | Junior Netball- Un 13's Comp 4.00pm-7.00pm | Senior Mix Basketball 7.00pm-9.00pm | | |
| | Steady Feet 50+yrs 10.30am-11.30am | | | | |
| Tues | Rookie Sports Multi-sport program 3-6yrs 9.30am- 10.15am | ●NEW Term 2 Futsal Competition Beginning 29th April (4.15pm-6.00pm) Un7, Un9, Un11 5 per side competitions | Ladies Netball - Social Competition 6.30pm- 9.30pm | | |
| Wed | | ★Futsal Fun Intro 4 week Soccer Program 5-10yrs Commencing 12th March 4.15pm | Netta Netball Modified Netball games 8-9 yrs 5.00pm | Junior Basketball Training Un 10's 4.00pm-5.00pm Un 15's 5.00pm-6.00pm | Basketball 16+ yrs 6.00pm |
| Thurs | | Aussie Slammer- Intro to Basketball 5- 10yrs 4.00pm-4.45pm | Men's and Ladies Basketball Social Comp 6.30pm- 9.30pm | | |
| Fri | Rookie Sports Multi-sport program 3-6yrs 9.30am- 10.15am | Soft Tennis 50+ yrs 10.30am-11.30am | Girls only Basketball 5-8yrs 4.00pm-5.00pm | Junior basketball 5.00pm | |
| Sat | EdGym- Intro to Gymnastics Preschool aged Children Bannockburn Community Sports Stadium- High St Bannockburn | | Intro Gym Modified Gymnastics circuit for 5-7yrs Bannockburn Community Sports Stadium- High St Bannockburn | | |



First class is FREE!

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

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



Geoff Howard MP
State Member for Ballarat East



15 Main Road, Ballarat VIC 3350 **Ph: 5331 7722**

Email: geoff.howard@parliament.vic.gov.au



| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| | Zumba 7:00-8:00pm Bannockburn Community Sports Stadium |
| | Karate 6:15-7:15pm Bannockburn Community Sports Stadium |
| all Training 0pm-7:00pm | Zumba 7:00-8:00pm Bannockburn Community Sports Stadium |
| | Yoga 7:00-8:00pm Bannockburn Community Sports Stadium |
| all Comp (Mixed) -8:30pm | |
| burn | |

Bannockburn Recreation Centre
2 Milton Street, Bannockburn 3331
(03) 5281 2316
geelong@ymca.org.au
www.geelong.ymca.org.au
www.facebook.com/YmcaGeelong

BRAIN GYM: The answer is 1,188, which is derived from deducting the total of all the inside corner numbers multiplied together, from the outside corner numbers multiplied together. Don't anyone say "too easy"!



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Marg's Book Review

"Ned Kelly" by Peter Fitzsimons

Once again a huge volume released for Christmas by Peter Fitzsimons! But what a read!

The book in Part one chronicles the early years of Ned Kelly where he attended school briefly but became the breadwinner at age 12 years when his father died. It explored what it meant to be born a Kelly, to be poor and to be part of a large rough family. The troubled times he lived in, including the tensions between the squatters and selectors in the land war that was still raging, and the bad treatment of the Irish by the police and the public were also key elements.

The book in Part two chronicles the shootings at Stringybark Creek and the bank robberies at Euroa and Jerilderie which were committed by Ned Kelly, Dan Kelly, Steve Hart and Joe Byrne. It also tells of the gang being pursued by police.

The book in Part three chronicles the preparation and then the siege at Glenrowan and Part four chronicles the trial and hanging.

An epilogue chronicles what happened (after Ned's hanging) to many of the characters involved in the Ned Kelly story including family, policemen and the judge, how the reward was distributed, the Royal Commission enquiring into the circumstances preceding and attending the Kelly outbreak as well as a report upon the state of the police force, what happened to the body of Ned Kelly and how changes were made to land reforms.

On the last page Peter Fitzsimons sums up his opinion of Ned Kelly,

"Ned Kelly was not born bad, and nor did he choose criminality out of some whimsical, evil desire to break the law. In another environment, he really would have made a first class soldier, if not officer, if not general. He was born into a sea of troubles, and really did take arms against them. He was both a product of his times and an extraordinary product thereof, an Australian creation forged in wrought iron, whose deeds and misdeeds have no parallel in human history. He was an exceptional man."

Peter Fitzsimons goes on to say that the public, while judging, should remember that the darkest life may have a bright side and that if a man is allowed to tell his story, even in his own rough way, perhaps there will be as many excuses as he would plead for himself.

Peter Fitzsimons must have included everything ever recorded and researched about Ned Kelly. He brings history to life weighing in on all the myths, legends and controversies generated and he writes in the present tense, as if the reader was there and part of the story. He brings incredible details into the story such as when Ned was captured at Glenrowan. Ned was lying back without his armour when he was offered a drink of brandy. Some dropped on his beard. He lifted his handcuffed hands so he could reach the precious drops. It is an extraordinary read, a wonderful tribute to Ned Kelly: an Australian original!



Denise not the only one!



Inspired by Marg Cooper's account in last month's edition, of Denise Hardy's circuitous route home from a Meredith Art class, we have this story from a reader of a similar loss of direction. The author's name is withheld to protect the embarrassed. - Ed.

When the happy couple first moved to the area they took a bike ride to Meredith for a coffee.

"There's a short cut this way," said the wife as she suggested an alternate route home.

"I'm sure Slate Quarry Road was the way to go," hubby hesitantly commented.

"No. No." There's definitely a turn off ahead that joins Eclipse Road," she insisted.

After much pedalling, weary legs and the sun low in the sky she finally conceded that she might have got it wrong. Seeing a farmer in his drive-way she asked his advice only to find that it was just 4km to Ballan. Oops!!

Wife not as fit as she thought, no lights on the bikes, getting dark and miles from home - options? Not many. So, into Ballan they rode. A glance at the map provided by the local milk bar showed, though he was willing to ride home and get the car, hubby couldn't do it in the dark. Down to the local caravan park where the astonished owner hid a smile as this lycra-clad couple asked for a van for the night. With fish and chips and a blanket wrapped around them it was relatively warm and cosy - just like a second honeymoon: very romantic!!

Early next morning they headed off, found the 'short cut' and were soon home to be greeted by hungry dogs. They'd had an 'adventure' to remember which had also given hubby an opportunity for "I told you so".

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A Mickey Mouse Holiday

Peter Blacklock

On December 30 the Blacklock family, with one boyfriend, one girlfriend and one Mickey Mouse loving grandmother, embarked on their National Lampoon Vacation to the west coast of USA. (Ten of them!) The first 4 days were spent at beautiful Venice Beach with all its “interesting” sights. On New Year’s Eve we went to the Staples Centre to watch the LA Lakers play Milwaukee in a very entertaining game of basketball. Listening to 20,000 Americans sing their National Anthem would make the hair stand up on anyone’s neck. We welcomed in the New Year on Santa Monica Pier!



Moving on to Anaheim, we then stayed opposite Disneyland. I had tears in my eyes when finally, after 53 years, my family and I got to visit the place that was the dream of all of my generation who, as children, had watched Disneyland on television every Sunday night. Two full 13 hour days were spent with not one boring moment. The kids were “blown away” by what they thought was going to be a bit better than Movieworld. They could not believe the detail, colour and atmosphere of the “happiest place on earth”.

Whilst in Orange County, some family members caught a bus to San Diego for the day, whilst the cultural amongst us visited the two Presidential Libraries of Ronald Reagan and Richard Nixon. We then moved to Las Vegas. Vegas is big, bold, crazy and lots of fun. We journeyed out to Grand Canyon where we boarded a helicopter to fly to the floor of the canyon. When the pilot approached the rim he lowered the chopper and tilted it over the edge. The first sight took our breath away. A stop at the Hoover Dam on the way gave us a chance to view an engineering masterpiece of its time.

Our next leg was to fly to San Francisco, a beautiful city with very hilly streets, “cool” inhabitants and cosmopolitan dining. Grandma Myrt, still overwhelmed from meeting Mickey Mouse, refused to eat the Shitake mushrooms in her soup because “I don’t eat toadstools!” We

visited Alcatraz, rode cable cars, visited Beat Poet Museum, ate clam chowder at Fisherman’s Wharf. But perhaps the highlight of the whole trip was when we hired bikes and rode over the Golden Gate Bridge to Sausalito, had lunch then rode along the coast to the Redwood Forest. For the patriarch of the family to ride at the back of the pack and observe his family laughing, squealing and wobbling along was indeed a special moment.

It was three weeks of amazing shirts and tee-shirts weather, great food and lots of crazy fun. As families grow older and venture into different directions I think a family holiday every couple of years is a great bonding experience. On this trip 15 to 71 year olds interacted together with no arguments except we couldn’t get grandma away from that bloody Mickey Mouse.



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Sounds of summer – shouts and laughter from children splashing in water, buzzing flies, the hum of air conditioners and the shrill drone of cicadas. As anyone trying to sleep near them knows, cicadas sing most at night, or on hot mornings. These are the male cicadas calling for a mate. Each species of cicada has a distinctive call. The most common cicada in much of Victoria, and probably around Meredith, is known as the greengrocer. Greengrocers are found in cities, forests and gardens. They are a large cicada, about four or five centimetres long. Their body is mostly green. They have two large eyes on the sides of their head, with three smaller eyes between them. Their wings are transparent with obvious veins. Like all insects, they have a hard outer shell which serves as a skeleton. On each side of the male cicada's shell is an area of thin membrane. He can move this membrane in and out extremely quickly, creating a noise. His abdomen and some other parts of his body are hollow, so the sound is amplified creating the call that we hear. The male stands with his abdomen raised and wings away from his body, so that his call can be heard as far away as possible.

After his calling has attracted a female, they mate. She lays hundreds of eggs on twigs and branches of plants that will provide food for the babies. They take around four months to hatch. The young cicadas drop to the ground and burrow into it, where they feed on sap sucked from roots. They spend the majority of their life underground, eating and growing. Like many insects they moult their hard outer skeleton regularly to allow room for growth.

After seven years, in warm weather, often after rain, they burrow out of the ground, leaving tunnels as evidence of their digging. They climb, usually into the safety of a tree. Here they change into adults, and undergo a final moult, emerging from their outer skeleton, which they leave as a thin brown shell on the tree. After a day or two, the males are ready to find a good place to start calling for a mate. The adults feed, using a long tube to suck sap from plants, but only live for about six weeks after emerging from the ground.

Cicadas are part of a food chain. They are eaten by birds, and if they land on water, may be eaten by fish. In some parts of the world, they are also eaten by people. Now that autumn has arrived, the nights have become quieter, but there are still many young cicadas living underground, where we are unaware of them, until it is their turn to be the noise-makers of summer.

Leaving her Farm Reluctantly!

Marg Cooper

A farm on the Shelford Road has been home to Maureen Cowburn for over thirty years and she loves it. She has been a dedicated breeder of Suffolk sheep, the real black faced Suffolk that have a history over three hundred years old and, according to Maureen, are excellent sires for prime lamb production, good sires for any breed of ewe and reliable at replicating themselves.

Their wool is not valuable but good for socks, they are good mothers and they are a very good meat sheep and are good at getting the meat in the right place. If you bake a leg from a Suffolk lamb you know why!

She belonged to the Suffolk Sheep Society and the British Breed Society, went to shows and became more *au fait* with the breed as she met people involved and read information.

She was very humane in her care of the sheep, boiling towels and linen to use if help was needed at birthing, not ear tagging young lambs and feeding her sheep a diet of grass, lucerne, hay and pellets.

She bought ewes and rams from Tasmania to start her flock and always knew exactly who was who. She was driven to get it right all the time. She wove collars for her sheep. Each newborn lamb received a collar with a numbered tag to identify it.

Maureen says her husband Ray was dedicated to the Air Force and when he retired on his fifty fifth birthday she took a strong hand and they bought a small farm at Nayook in Gippsland to give him an interest and extra income. He went from being a pilot to a shepherd!

At that time Maureen was still working at Monash University but would go to Nayook every weekend to care for her sheep and Ray and youngest daughter Nichole. They wanted more room for sheep so sold the farm at Nayook and their house in Melbourne and bought two hundred and ninety five acres at Meredith in about 1983. It had town water, was close to family in Geelong and Maureen's work in Melbourne and in the centre of a sheep district.

In time Maureen retired to become a full time farmer. Family tell that the sheep were more important than the kids and that one year they shore on Christmas Day.

Maureen has had many health problems over the last few years and the time has come to move. The property was sold in November and Maureen and her daughter Jenny who has been caring for her for the last five years plan to move to Bowral.





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Vale to James Gerald Ryan

Marg Cooper

The life of Jim began on Australia Day 1945 in Hamilton where he was born to Tom and Ann Ryan. His father had just served in World War II and worked as a farmhand and his mother worked in a shop.

A sister Joyce (Joy) was born in 1948 and another sister Yvonne (Jackie) was born in 1952.

Tom gained a Soldier Settlement block on Henderson's Road at Meredith and they called it "The Selma". The whole family travelled from Hamilton on the wettest day in February 1954 in a little Prefect car that should have been towed up and over hills. In Ballarat, on the way, Tom bought 100 rabbit traps to add to their luggage and he sold the Prefect and bought a Dodge ute. To fit in the ute, Jim's mother nursed Jackie, Joy sat in the middle whilst Jim sat in front of her.

Jim went to school in Meredith until he was thirteen years old, did some schooling by correspondence and then worked with his father, helped out on other farms, worked at Meredith Engineering and drove trucks carting hay and livestock for his mate Jeff Cooper. He played tennis and football for Meredith and attended local dances and balls. In 1969 Jim met Raelene at a dance in Ballarat. John McKellin (Macka), after hearing of this meeting, made a bet with Jim that if Jim married Raelene he would grow a beard and not shave it off!! They married in May 1970 with Jim calling Raelene his "Mallee Hen" as she came from Mildura. Macka still has the beard!

Jim and Rae set up house on the Midland Highway near Meredith. In 1972 Lyndal was born and then Kerry in 1973. In 1975 the family moved to the Drysdale area and Jim worked for the family in a mixed business. Jim had been diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis in 1974 and farm work became too hard for him. In 1980 they moved into a new house in Clifton Springs where their third daughter, Debra, arrived in 1983. Jim retired in 1987.

Jim enjoyed travelling, music, documentaries, talk back radio, crosswords, reading the paper and Geelong Football Club. He was often more up to date with celebrity gossip than all the women in his family!

As his health declined he thrived on the visits of family and friends and especially the visits of his three young grandsons. In December 2013 a family gathering was held at Jim's home with Raelene, daughters, grandchildren, sisters, nieces, nephews and spouses. Family recall that it was a wonderful day and Jim loved chatting and sharing stories with all.

Jim was a brave man with a good sense of humour. He was intelligent, interested, he loved to talk about old times and his family always came first. Jim's family thanked Raelene for her love and devotion to their brother and uncle and told that she was truly an inspirational woman.

Jim died on January 20, 2014 and a funeral Mass was held at St Thomas' Catholic Church, Drysdale on Friday January 24.



Jim and Raelene Ryan

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it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, March 9 at the Anglican Church hall in Meredith at 1.30pm. 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? What would you like to learn? Where would you like to go? 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 using the best of materials. It is truly a very attractive church. A small plate of afternoon tea would be appreciated.

Who Lived in my House?

We continue to collect and collate information about the buildings and blocks of land in Meredith. A MHIG member has recently researched the hotels of Meredith and has unearthed a huge wealth of information. A lot of this history about the owners, licensees, builders, hotel positions and events that happened in the hotels has previously been unseen by us. The time-line she then created gives us an overview of the how, why, when and who of the hotel industry in Meredith. Great research!

Mr Walter B. Wilkinson

An advertisement for Rhenwest Cartidges was recently given to MHIG that featured the name, photo and details of the shooting trophies won by Mr Walter B Wilkinson. Seventeen first places are listed including Commonwealth Pigeon Championship of 1935, Interstate Pigeon Championship of 1936 and Commonwealth Clay Bird Championship of 1936. Three second places are listed including Commonwealth Skeet Championship 1935 and one third place in the Victorian Clay Bird Championship at Seymour in 1936. He also won twenty four other outright trophies and won or divided 171 cash events.

Walter Wilkinson lived in Staughton Street in Meredith in his later years. Locals tell that he was an expert in the extraction of gold using cyanide and that he had worked at many goldfields in Victoria including the Bamganie and Steiglitz goldfields. Does anyone know of him or of the process of extracting gold using cyanide?

Catalogue Day

This is held on the last Thursday of the month at the Anglican Church Hall from 9 am. You are welcome.

Bell Family Request

Does anyone remember Tom and Alice Bell and their son Colin who lived in Meredith many years ago?

Colin attended the local school in 1926 when he was 11 years old. The bakery in Staughton Street was run by his uncles William, Andrew and Archibald, I think!

I would love to hear from anyone who remembers, or knew the "Bells" mentioned above.

Any information would be helpful to me.

I am trying to trace the family tree with the invaluable assistance of the Meredith History Interest Group.

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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



Ducks, just out of the Ovens (Bright) - photo by Jim Elvey



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Post- Adoption, Donor Conception and Forgotten Australians Services

The film 'Philomena' and the new TV series 'Love Child' provide us with insight into the long lasting emotional and psychological effects of post adoption for both mother and child. In the late 60's early 70's society placed much shame upon unwed mothers and adoption rates soared. 1971 had the highest number of adoptions ever recorded.

We now know that these practices as well as those for Forgotten Australians (former wards, children raised in institutions or foster care) were damaging and abusive. The Australian Government last year made a formal apology to the Forgotten Australians and those affected by adoption practices. They have also provided additional funding to services in our community which assist people to search and connect with lost family members.

Similarly, people affected by donor conception can experience emotional and psychological difficulties and may wish to search for other related persons. It is also important to know that these services are for both men and women to access and it is becoming more common for men to trace their children or relatives.

The main aspect that links post- adoption, donor conception and forgotten Australians is the innate desire to 'know' their family of origin. There are many physical and mental health problems associated with 'not knowing' our children, parents, donor parent and other relatives. Hence, the following support services are there to assist.

Family Information Networks and Discovery (FIND)

– assist people to seek records or family connected to a former ward, an adoption or donor conception. The FIND duty worker can assist on **1300 769 926** or email findduty@dhs.vic.gov.au

Or website www.dhs.vic.au/find

Vanish – is a search, information and support service for people affected by adoption, donor conception and forgotten Australians. Vanish is a self help non profit community organisation and most of the staff have experienced adoption or separation from their family of origin. They also run a number of support groups in regional areas. Ring **1300 826 474** or email info@vanish.org.au or website www.vanish.org.au

ARMS Association of Relinquishing Mothers is a self help group which provides a caring, non –judgemental atmosphere for women dealing who have lost a child or children to adoption. They also run support groups in regional areas. Ring **(03) 97690232** or email

arms@armsvic.org.au or website www.armsvic.org.au **ATAPS (access to allied psychological services) counselling-** after the apology the government provided additional funding to this counselling program specifically for those affected by adoption or state ward as a child. It is a free service and counsellors are available in both Geelong and Ballarat. Talk to your local doctor for a referral to ATAPS.

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COLLECT ME

Grilled Tandoori Chicken (serves 4)

preparation time: 10 minutes (plus marinating time) cooking time: 15 minutes

- 1 cup low fat plain yoghurt
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tsp finely grated fresh ginger
- 2 gloves garlic – crushed
- 1 tsp caster sugar
- 1 tsp paprika
- ½ tsp ground cumin
- ½ tsp ground coriander
- ½ tsp ground turmeric
- pinch chilli powder
- 4 x 200g chicken breast fillets

Tomato, red onion and coriander salsa

- 2 small tomatoes, chopped finely
- 1 small red onion, chopped finely
- 2 tsp sugar
- 2 tbsp finely chopped fresh coriander

1. Combine yoghurt, juice, ginger, garlic, sugar, paprika and spices in a large bowl. Add chicken and coat. Marinate and refrigerate several hours or overnight.

2. Grill chicken, brushing with marinade, until browned on both sides and tender. Serve chicken sliced thickly, with tomato, red onion and coriander salsa, and steamed rice, if desired.

Tomato, red onion and coriander salsa.

Combine all ingredients.

Water Watch - the Acid Test

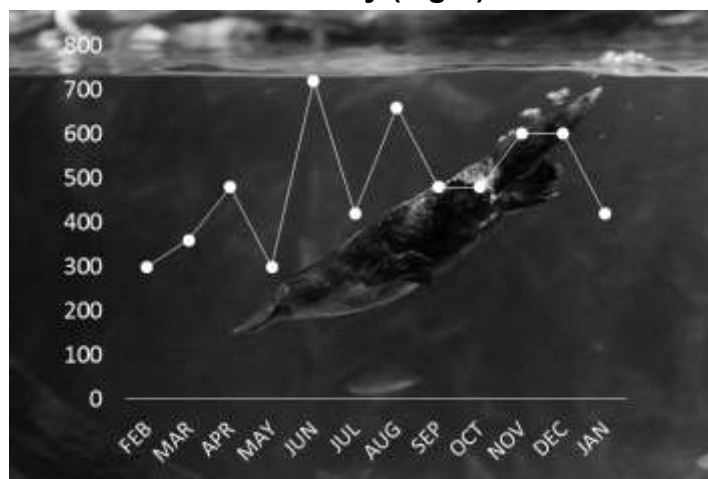
Every quarter, we report water quality of the Moorabool River at Slate Quarry Road, using a measure of salinity. While this is a good overall indicator, Waterwatch volunteers also measure turbidity, pH, phosphorus, and oxygen to gain a more complete picture of river health. Here, Corangamite Catchment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

When we measure pH, we measure how acidic or alkaline the water is. The pH scale is from 0-14, pH of 7 is neutral, zero is the most acidic and 14 is the most alkaline. Animals and plants are very sensitive to changes in pH. When a pH value changes by a unit of 1 eg from 6 to 5, it equals a change in strength of 10 times. So it follows, a pH of 5 is 10 times more acidic than pH of 6. A pH of 14 is 10 times more alkaline than a pH of 13 and a 100 times more alkaline than a pH of 12. So a large increase or decrease in pH outside the normal range of a stream will have a dramatic effect on the number and diversity of species found within the waterbody. To maintain a healthy diversity of life, pH must be kept within range of the natural variation for the waterbody.

The pH of natural waterways is largely determined by the biology and soil type of the catchment area. The biological activity of plants and algae can also cause significant variation in daily pH values. This occurs through photosynthesis as plants remove CO₂ from the water.

Typical range of pH in healthy waterbodies is 6.5-8.0 and pH may cause ecosystem damage when ≤ 5 and ≥ 10

Moorabool River Salinity (Mg/L)



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



Visit vic.waterwatch.org.au/monitoring-and-data/1011/ for more information on water quality measures

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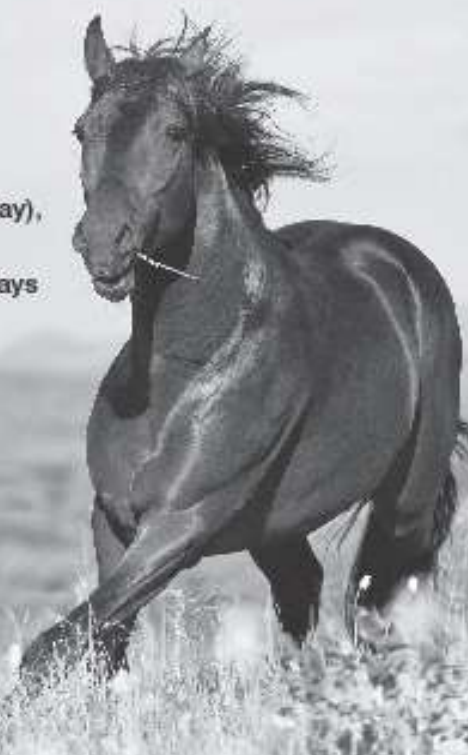
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Losing Sheep

Last month Marg Cooper reported on some of the Meredith Xmas sheep finding their way to Sebastopol. We received a letter from Bob the Kelpie on the subject (We get a lot of animals writing to us; just in the last few months we've had correspondence from two mice, a cat and a dog!)

Bob suggests where else we might look.



Re: Xmas Sheep

If some of the sheep have escaped from Meredith, may I suggest looking at Clover Flat, Grassmere, Jumbuk, Merino, Sheep Hills, Shearwater, Shepherds Flat, or Wool Wool, but you would be wasting your time looking at Bo Peep.

Bob the Kelpie

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Wendy Abraham's cool Ap alert for your iOS device. But Android users should check the Play Store anyway - many of these apps are there too.

An iPad can replace many of the tools we are used to relying on. Here are a few examples:

Phone Directory, Contacts List

As well as the built in Contacts App, have a look at White Pages. You can set up your own directory within the app and add names or businesses as you locate them. For businesses, search by type of business, name or location. You can then see a map of the business location, further information and contact details. Add the business to your Personal Directory or add it to your iPad Contacts list.

Radio

All the major stations have their own apps. The ABC app is huge, including access to ABC TV and radio, weather, news, repeats of scheduled programs and a built in radio alarm that you can set to go off just once or as a regular event. Choose to wake up to the news or to whichever ABC station you prefer.

Clock

The built in Clock App does more than just tell time. Check what the time is in any of dozens of cities around the world, which you can select to display, as well as seeing the temperatures there. Use the timer to remind you that the cake needs to come out in an hour or the stop watch to time your exercise routine. OK that isn't one I am likely to use, but maybe you will. This app also has an alarm, and you can select which sound you want to wake you.

All these apps are free and all are worth exploring. Remember that there is very little you can do with your iPad that will cause any damage, so explore and have fun

Wendy



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