

Meredith & district News



DECEMBER 2015

*We Wish All Our Readers
a Joyous Festive Season
& a Safe Summer*



inside



Pictures that tell stories.



WHAT'S ON @



TELEPHONE 5286 1100

SAT. NIGHT 19TH DEC. 7PM

BRIAN MANNIX - UNCANNY X MEN

SCOTT CARNE - KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

DALE RYDER - BOOM CRASH OPERA

TICKETS \$40

**BOOK YOUR XMAS
PARTY NOW**



SUNDAY

24TH JAN

2PM

TKTS \$40



SUNDAY 21ST FEB
2PM TICKETS \$48



SUNDAY 20TH MARCH
2PM TICKETS \$30



SUNDAY 24TH APRIL
2PM TICKETS \$30



BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW



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:

	B&W	colour
Business Card	\$14	
Quarter page	\$25	\$60
Half page	\$40	\$100
Full page	\$80	\$180

Note: Colour not available for all issues. A \$20 loading applies for preferred position Classifieds are **FREE** for personal notices up to 25 words 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. (Cond. apply)

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

CONTACT US

Post Office, Meredith, 3333

(BH ONLY please)

Editorial: Trudy 0429 430646

Advertising: Ian 0409 016815

Accounts: Dawn 0428 861274

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We do not publish children's photos online.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 online 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
☎0419 423 960

BLUE LIGHT DISCO
☎5286 1222

BOOK CLUB
☎5286 8201

CFA
(000 for fire calls)
Elaine
☎0417 533516
Meredith
☎5286 1502
Morrisons
☎0417 770 765

CHILDCARE
☎5286 1348

COMMUNITY CENTRE
☎5286 1348
CRICKET
Elaine
☎0418 535713
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

FRIENDS OF THE BRISBANE RANGES
☎5286 1252
LIONS DISTRICT CONTACT
☎52 815391

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 flood & storm help: 132 500
24 Hour Helpline 1800 629 572
24 Hour Drug & Alcohol 1800 888 236
Kids Help Line
24hr 5-18yo 1800 551 800

Golden Plains Shire 1300 363 036
A.H.: all services 5220 7111
Bannockburn Vets 5281 1221
Golden Plains Vets 5281 2226
Injured Wildlife 1300 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 P Ryan Elaine 0409 861 296

SERVICES

CEMETERY TRUST
☎5286 1550

MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH
☎5220 7230

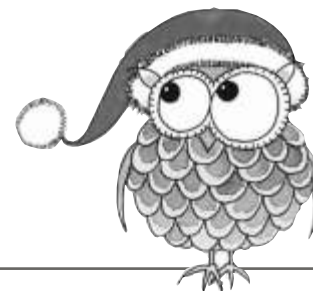
HALL HIRE
Meredith I
☎5286 1545
Elaine
☎5341 5596

PRE-SCHOOL
☎5286 1227

Elaine Rec Res
☎5341 5703
LIBRARY VAN
☎5272 6010

PRIMARY SCHOOL
☎5286 1313

RECREATION RESERVE
☎0429 841399



The alternative to a holiday is to stay home and tip every third person you see.

~Author Unknown.



COMMUNITY

Geelong Library and Heritage Centre for Shire Residents

Golden Plains Shire residents will benefit from the magnificent new \$45.5 million Geelong Library and Heritage Centre.

Having access to the new Centre is a great opportunity for Golden Plains residents to be even better connected: to services, books, e-learning opportunities and the world.

Visitors will be able to access state-of-the-art learning opportunities and resources.

For more information, visit www.grlc.vic.gov.au/glhc



Meredith Seniors: The Final Bus Trip for the Year

Jim Hynds

On Monday, November 9, a full bus headed for Melton Country Club for Morning Melodies. We were entertained by two impersonators, Connie Francis and Bobby Darin. The show went for two hours with some fabulous songs performed. Some of our more agile members soon jumped up to rock and roll and twist the morning away. Tea and coffee and a fabulous array of slices and cakes were provided for morning tea.

Our group decided to stay on for lunch. A two course meal was on offer at a reasonable price and proved very popular with our members. We had an afternoon tea stop at Ballan with members exploring the township after the tea and cake. This trip was rated by the members as one of the best trips we have had all year.

We are now planning for our Christmas Break-up dinner which will be on Monday, December 14. Live entertainment and a two course Christmas dinner is planned. If you would like to attend please contact Jo Primmer or Jim Hynds.

Best Wishes to all for Christmas and the New Year and keep safe.

Meredith Music Festival Traffic Management

We are writing to notify you about the traffic management plans for Meredith Music Festival scheduled to occur on Friday 11 December – Sunday 13 December, 2015.

The summary of the plan is outlined here.

- We will implement one-way traffic on Mount Mercer Road from Bamganie Road to Cameron's Road from approximately 4am on Friday 11 December to approximately 7pm. Traffic within the one-way zone travelling to Meredith will be diverted down Cameron's Road.
- We will implement a speed reduction on Mount Mercer Road and Cameron's Road from Thursday 10 December – Saturday 12 December.
- We have assigned traffic controllers to the corner of Staughton Street and Midland Highway on Sunday 13 December 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.

Once again, thank you for your support.

Festival Planning Team



**Christmas
at
Meredith**

Come and join the Community to celebrate
Christmas 2015 in our town.

**MEREDITH INTERPRETIVE CENTRE
GROUNDS**

SUNDAY DECEMBER 20TH

**MEREDITH LIONS CLUB IS HOSTING A
SAUSAGE SIZZLE AT 6.30 P.M.**



Kinder News

Ho Ho Ho we are making preparations at Kinder now to celebrate the end of a momentous year that was full of change and new beginnings. We have settled in now and enjoy the daily interactions with Jo and Bec in Occasional care and Pam and Trudy in the Community Centre. The kindergarten children have been busy attending their school transition days and we have popped up to visit the Primary School now that it's just a hop, skip and a jump away, it makes excursions easy. The pre-kinder group are enjoying the longer session this term with more time to play with friends and eat lunch with their teachers. Both groups have had a wildlife incursion from The Roo Keepers with Michael bringing in his lizards, snakes, wallaby, owl and dingos. The children love being up close and having a safe opportunity to touch them and learn about the different habitats etc.

Christmas concerts are being organised and the excitement is building in the room as the fairy lights go up! Our Educators Kara, Kylie, myself, with relief staff Pauline and Janine have been wonderful and a fun, hard working team which in turn has provided the children with a happy and successful year of learning and friendship. We wish all our Kinder families a successful transition into Prep next year and we look forward to greeting our new Pre-kinder children and families.

We had our AGM with a small turn out this year, thank you to Jo Kemp and the Committee for all their support and efforts moving Kinder this year, congratulations to our new members and Kristy Cochrane the new president for 2016. A few end of year thank you's to Mrs Cooke for your input and running the book club again successfully. To Christian and Rosemary at Meredith Primary for their support and lending us the projector for different special events. To our service provider Golden Plains Shire and Heidi and Cheryl for their continued support and guidance! It was such a busy year, I think we are all ready to put the feet up and relax over the holidays, but not before we go and work a shift at the tucker tent and enjoy some great music to get into the festive spirit! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, I'm looking forward to starting fresh in 2016!

Jodie

Golden Plains Mobile Library

Is at the Meredith Primary
School every

Thursday from 9am to 10.30am



Outdoor Gym Opened

Marg Cooper

An enthusiastic group of school children surrounded the "Outdoor Gym" or the "Outdoor Exersite" on Tuesday, November 17 after Breanna Doody, the Health and Wellbeing Team Leader from Golden Plains Shire had declared the gym officially open. The younger children watched Joel Edwards, the Grade 1 & 2 and Physical Exercise teacher from the school, explain and demonstrate the six exercise stations. Some Grade 6 students helped him to demonstrate and seemed to enjoy the workout.

When the children arrived at Pioneer Park after their walk from the school they played a number of different ball games in the shade of the trees in the park. They then assembled with the adults who were present, for the opening ceremony. Breanna congratulated Advance Meredith on their efforts to raise the money, to organize the erection of the gym and to have the foresight to see that an outdoor gym would be a valuable asset in the recreation reserve area.

A fresh healthy lunch was then enjoyed by all. Bottles of water were very popular as were the strawberries and watermelon.

Thanks must go to Meredith Music Festival and Golden Plains Shire for funds for the project.

Breanna was so impressed that she thought she would call in for a workout on her way to work in Bannockburn from her home in Ballarat, instead of paying to go to a gym. The children were encouraged to tell their parents about the gym and suggest they make a family visit to the new facility.



Lions Club of Meredith and District

Invite you to participate in the:

Town-wide Garage sale
Saturday 5th December
8am to 3pm

The concept is that Lions will promote the event and print a map of all participating addresses to hand out to visitors. This way we get more people into the town and at our sales than if we individually promoted our garage sales.

For more information contact
Jarna on 0438 102139
or Andrea Cameron 0407523575

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 James. Morrisons:

Contact: 0429 146 566 or 5368 2730. The Rev. Glen Wesley

1st Sunday of the month at 5pm and 3rd Sunday of the month at 9am.

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 9.30 at Buninyong Uniting Church

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

Mass times for December

Winchelsea every Saturday @ 6 p.m.

Bannockburn @ Inverleigh every Sunday @ 9a.m.

Anakie @ 11a.m. Sunday December 13th/ 27th

Meredith @ 11a.m. Sunday December 6th/20th.

Christmas 2015 Carols and Masses

Friday 11th 11am Bannockburn Nursing Home

Sunday 13th 6.30 p.m. Inverleigh Sacred Heart Church

Tuesday 15th 2pm Winchelsea Nursing Home

Christmas Eve

Thursday 24th 6pm Bannockburn (@Bann .Cultural Centre)

Thursday 24th 8pm Anakie Thursday 24th 10pm Meredith

Christmas Day

Friday 25th 8.30 am Winchelsea

Friday 25th 10.30 am Inverleigh/Bannockburn

Christmas Carols

Saturday 12th 5pm Winchelsea (Barwon Park Mansion)

Monday 14th 7pm Inverleigh Public Hall

Sunday 20th 6.30pm Meredith Interpretive Centre for bbq and Carols afterwards.

Sunday 20th. 7p.m. Winchelsea InterChurch Carols

Thursday 24th 7.30pm Anakie (Before Mass)

A Christmas message from Fr. Boy Galdo and the Parishioners to the Community. Christmas time calls us to rejoice and to share that joy by reaching out in love to family, friends and strangers. This sharing helps to ensure that our Christmas is a joyous and peaceful one. Wishing all the community the peace and joy of the Christmas season. You are warmly invited to join us at any of our Christmas celebrations.



St. Joey's OP SHOP

Rear of St. Joey's Hall. Lawler St. Meredith

Wednesdays and Fridays 10am -4pm

Great Christmas bargains, children's summer clothes, Christmas decorations, novels and books on every topic \$1 and \$2.

Come and browse...cheapest op shop you will ever find

Closed from December 18th to January 13th.

Wishing all our customers a wonderful Christmas and

New Year and thank you for your support in 2015.

Hilary and her Team.

Come and browse. Volunteers very welcome - Ring 5286 1230

HESED COTTAGE

High St. (next to Sorelle's)

(St John's Op Shop, Bannockburn)

Lots of Christmas bargains in store.

Open Tuesday to Friday 10am-4pm Sat. 10am-1pm

Last trading day for 2015 will be:

Saturday 19th December 12 noon.

Reopen: Wednesday 27 Jan 2016

From your friendly staff at Hesus Cottage, thank you to all who have supported our shop this year, may you have a blessed & joyous Christmas,

Meredith Uniting Church Christmas Service

Christmas Eve,
24 December. 10 pm
Supper will follow.
All most welcome.



An Important Announcement about Announcements

Our Community Announcements Policy, which forms part of our Publication Guidelines, provides for free and discounted advertising for community organisations operating in the district. These guidelines ensure the newsletter continues as a viable project, and all community advertisers are treated fairly and consistently. In broad terms, eligible organisations are entitled to a single, free ad up to a ¼ page for each event or announcement or a discount equal to the cost of a ¼ page ad on a larger ad. Conditions do apply and we retain discretion in respect to such ads. (Please contact us or refer to meredithnews.com.au for full details.) The Newsletter Committee, which oversees our operating policies, would be very pleased to receive any suggestions as to how these guidelines could be improved in the interests of all parties.

From the Mayor

Cr. Des Phelan



Season's greetings! In a special meeting in early November, I was honoured to be re-elected by Council as Mayor for the next year. The last year has held significant challenges and great achievements for Council and over the next year Council will continue to focus on serving the community.

To this end, Council also wanted to make sure Golden Plains residents know about the different ways they can provide feedback to Council, and let them know about opportunities to have input into the 2016-17 Strategic Resource Plan and Budget – you can find our feature in this newsletter, or on our website www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au

As the festive season grows nearer and the weather heats up, I'd like to encourage you all to ensure you are fire ready. As you know, Golden Plains has experienced devastating bushfires in the last couple of years – fire preparedness is particularly important in a rural shire. Council endeavours to provide residents with as much key information as possible, as well as links to valuable and potentially life-saving resources.

Vic Emergency is Victoria's combined source of emergency information and warnings – you can visit their website at www.emergency.vic.gov.au or follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/vicemergency. We have also provided a special feature in our December edition of the Gazette on being bushfire ready, and a supporting story on what to do if you have received a Fire Ready Notice.

Finally, this is the second year Council has supported White Ribbon Day, the national campaign to end men's violence against women. You may have seen the signs around the Shire, or seen the white ribbons on the Bannockburn Shire Hall and Customer Service Centre. Council also held an event for business and community supporting groups with White Ribbon ambassador and campaigner Phil Cleary as our guest speaker. Council is proud to be involved, and I encourage our residents to speak out against violence against women.

And finally, on behalf of Council, I'd like to wish all our residents a safe and happy festive season and summer.



The final report for 2015 brings a reflective tone to this article. As most of you will know it has been a big year for the Community Centre. We started the year located in the little house opposite while we watched the new building being constructed. We managed to keep functioning and running our usual programs through this process and we thank all of our users for their patience throughout.

In July our admin moved in to the new building and we were able again to use our old rooms for classes and activities. We had to wait a little longer for our Occasional Care to move in as well which was more to do with bureaucracy than the building completion. Finally in October the Kinder joined us and we have all been comfortably co-located since then. It has been great having a whole lot of new people coming into our space and getting to know us and what we do. The Meredith Community Learning Centre is a vibrant busy place with programs and activities for little children with the Playgroup, Occasional Care and Kindergarten right through age groups to senior members of our community.

We are looking forward to 2016 with lots more interest already in our Occasional Care. We are planning to run some longer 5 hour sessions and also a short bridging session between the end of Kinder at 2.00pm through to 3.15pm where kinder children can then go across to the School after hours program or just so that parents can do just a pick-up for School and younger siblings. If these interest you please call in to the Centre to register. We also plan to go to 5 days if there is the demand for us to run the program on Thursdays as well. I think it is a credit to our Occasional Care educators Jo and Rebecca that people recognise the quality of the program they are running.

Finally I would like to thank my Committee for their valuable assistance and contribution to the running of the Centre and my wonderful staff Trudy, Jo and Rebecca as well a number of tutors and childcare assistants who have helped out this year. Without all of these people we could not offer the Community the programs and services we provide. Wishing you a safe and Happy Christmas and New Year. We will be back with lots more happening.

See you in 2016

Pam

MEREDITH CONSTRUCTIONS

GEOFF L. HARDY D.B.U 15273

Registered Building Practitioner For

New Homes Renovations
Additions Ground Floor
2nd. Storey Bathrooms
Kitchens Decking
Painting Tiling
Plans etc. Pergolas

All aspects of concreting
Phone 0409 850 611 8am - 5pm

**The Meredith Community Centre's
phone number is now 5286 0700**

Meredith Community Centre
5 Russell Street Meredith 3333
Ph 5286 0700

learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au
Open: Mon, Tue, Wed, Thurs 9.00-3.00. Fri Closed

Classifieds

First insertion of small ads are FREE to district residents

Recreation



Elaine Cricket

Shane Dunne

'Chicka' Nicholas Pantzidis, pictured left, 53 retired and Seamus Dunne made 50 retired against North Ballarat on Saturday in the U14's in the Ballarat Cricket Association. Seamus was taken to hospital with acute stomach pain just before the start of the match at 8.30 am due probably to long term use of antibiotics for tonsillitis according to the doctors (3 year waiting period for removal of tonsils in the hospital system) and returned at 10am and bowled 4 overs (0 wickets for 10 runs) and made 50 runs retired.



Jonathan Leehane, Cade Arnel, Hayden Leehane Not only did the Leehane brothers take six wickets between them in this game last month, they also caught a sheep on the Elaine Cricket Ground. The sheep was returned & the boundary fence fixed!

PHOTO OMITTED FROM ONLINE EDITION

Elaine Tennis Courts Opened

Marg Cooper

On Saturday, November 7 at 12.30 pm the junior tennis teams had finished their match, the junior cricketers had finished the first day of their game and the new, blue Plexipave tennis courts were opened before the senior cricketers started play in the afternoon. It was a busy place!

The President of Elaine Tennis Club, Debbie Mair, welcomed all the past and present players and supporters and explained how Elaine Tennis Club had been able to improve their tennis courts. She acknowledged the attendance of politicians Geoff Howard, Catherine King and Simon Ramsay (who was on his way), representatives from Tennis Australia, representatives of Buninyong and District Tennis Association, representatives of Buninyong Bank and everyone else, before she introduced Councillor Tom Sullivan from the Moorabool Shire Council to formally open the courts.

PHOTO OMITTED FROM ONLINE EDITION

Tom was honoured to cut the ribbon across the gateway to formally open the new, blue acrylic tennis courts. He acknowledged the years of hard work by the people associated with the Elaine Tennis, Cricket and Recreation Reserve. He added that Council was always ready to help.

Joyce Stanley recalled that when she started to play at Elaine as a teenager the two courts were made of bitumen and fairly rough on the skin if you fell over. Jim Connell described how, not that long ago, the courts had bullrushes growing out of them.

After the formal proceedings a free barbeque was enjoyed by all with Ron Read claiming that all the sausages he cooked were eaten. He considered himself be a very proficient barbeque chef!.

The committee are keen to attract further funding to enable them to upgrade the cricket pavilion.

Back row L to R, Bob Campbell-Burns(Sports Central), GeoffHoward MP, Brady Dunne(Vice President), Natash Ford, Ken Barton(Tennis Victoria), Debbie Mair(President), Tom Sullivan(Moorabool Shire Councillor) Catherine King MP, Aaron Bosse (Tennis Victoria) middle row L to R, Hannah Farhall, Megan Farhall, Montana Mair, Sam Platt, bottom row L to R, Molly Dunne, Sharni Bilston, Sophie Mair, Matilda Dunne

Meredith Golf Club

Marg Cooper

The golf club held their Annual Presentation Dinner on Saturday, November 7 in the clubrooms.

A small crowd, including Life Members Janet Cooke and George Colclough, enjoyed the presentations of both ladies' and mens' trophies for the year and a roast meal followed by pavlova and fruit salad. It was special to have Janet Cooke present as she has not been well. Her son Robert presented the W.L. Cooke trophy to Vin Drew and Danny Jury. Janet has attended the dinner each year since her husband, Lloyd, died, in order to present the trophy donated in his memory.

On 11/10/2015 Stableford: Danny Jury 30 points. Denis Gear 29 points. Nearest the pin on the 2nd, Danny Jury.

On 25/10/2015: Stroke & Monthly Medal, Danny Jury, 72 net, Alan Slocombe 78 net. Nearest the pin 14th, Alan Slocombe. Least Putts, Alan Slocombe, 24 putts.

On 1/11/2015: Stableford, Mike Colvin, 31 points, Danny Jury 29 points. Nearest the pin 10th, Danny Jury. Nearest the pin 2nd hole, Danny Jury.

On 8/11/2015: Stableford, Denis Gear 34 points on a count back from Danny Jury 34 points. Nearest the pins 9th Denis Gear. Nearest the pin 2nd, Alan Slocombe. Nearest the pin 14th Mike Colvin.

Meredith Community Hub Officially Opens

The Meredith Community Hub official opening will be held on

11 am Monday 7th December.

The opening will celebrate the redevelopment of the facility and be attended by Member for Western Victoria Gayle Tierney and Member for Corangamite Sarah Henderson, Community groups, community members and Mayor and Councillors of Golden Plains Shire Council.

The Meredith Community Learning Hub has been up and running since July and offers a kindergarten, occasional care, playgroup, maternal and child health services, a community space and a Community Centre. The service delivery capacity has also increased to 34 children.



Christmas Lights Competition

Marg Cooper

You are encouraged to "DECORATE YOUR HOUSE or BUSINESS" for Christmas.

You may just hang some tinsel and baubles or go way out and create a Christmas scene with Santa and his sleigh. Last year there were more places decorated than ever before and if you ventured out after dark you would have seen some magical displays. Judges organized by Advance Meredith will indeed venture out after dark on Christmas Eve and award winners will be decided.

Christmas Sheep

The mob of sheep are just being rounded up and will appear in Meredith shortly. If you have sheep in your shed please spruce them up and display them on your fence. There was no money allocated by Advance Meredith for new sheep in 2015 but you are invited to trace the image of one of the sheep and cut out some more. MDF board is easy to cut and easy to decorate. Say "Happy Christmas" with a sheep!





Peaceful Gardening

Recently I spent several hours in the cool air of early morning up in the garlic plot lifting the bulbs and laying them on top of the earth. For the next couple of days the bulbs remained in the sun beginning the all-important curing process. I lifted the garlic (*Allium sativum*) earlier than usual this year as the lower leaves had browned off and some tops had fallen over signaling that the growing period was over for this crop. No spring rain to speak of and a week of unseasonably hot weather in October have made for a somewhat diminished yield but enough for the family and friends with the best cloves stored to replant in autumn for next year.

The next stage in preparing the garlic for storage is to hang the bulbs in a dry and airy place for four to six weeks. This job is time consuming but I find it a good time to be still and to reflect. I sit on the old bed in my shed, surrounded by boxes of garlic, with two old brushes, one has soft bristles and one is a large soft artists' paintbrush. I trim the roots of each bulb close to the base of the plant and gently brush any earth off the bulb with the bristle brush followed by a soft dusting of the artists' brush. I then gather together six to eight clean bulbs, tie them with string and hang on a drying line out of direct sunlight. In this way around 800 and more garlic bulbs have passed through my hands. I have explained this in unnecessary detail I suppose, not supposing ignorance on your, the reader's part, but to draw you into the small world of this work that is spread over several days. It is repetitive and could be mindless and this is the thing, while I notice each bulb and its particularities – variety, size, colour, too damaged to keep – I am focused and this ritual becomes a peaceful and quieting occupation.

Gardening is much more than turning the earth, planting seeds and watching them germinate and grow into food and flowers. The garden is a great teacher. I learn so much through the small daily acts of observing and tending, bending over to look closely at the various unknown flying creatures, stretching up and looking into the distance for the change in the weather, waiting patiently for the first cherry to ripen or bud to open, investigating the treatment for a diseased plant.

I am reminded of a story told by the French writer Colette that speaks to those of us who are dedicated to the gardening life. She quotes from a letter written by her elderly mother Sidonie in response to Colette's invitation to come and stay with her for a few days. Sidonie answers that she would dearly love to see her daughter, however she writes: *I am already a very old woman, and if I went away when my pink cactus is about to flower, I am certain I shouldn't see it flower again.*

Chris



This Summer, have your essential **"Take it With Me"** pack ready to grab and go. And make sure it includes...

- Webster Pack* and spare scripts
- Change of clothes for at least 2 days
- Keys to your home
- Mobile Phone
- Bottled water
- Torch
- Snacks
- Phone numbers you might need - family, doctor
- Spare battery if you have a scooter
- Pets – Can of Pet food, water bowl
- Important documents
- Cash
- Pension Card
- Soap, face washer, towel

**The Multi Dose Webster-pak is a sealed weekly calendar pack designed to help people take their medication correctly, according to their doctor's orders. All regular medication that needs to be taken each week is sealed within the blister compartments.*

Supplied by CFA Victoria

GO XMAS CRACKERS

Here's a few cracker jokes so you can practice your groaning for the big day.

Did Rudolph go to school? – No. He was Elf-taught!

What is the best Christmas present in the world? – A broken drum, you just can't beat it!

What kind of motorbike does Santa ride? – A Holly Davidson!

What song do you sing at a snowman's birthday party? – Freeze a jolly good fellow!

How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas? – One that's deep pan, crisp and even!

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? – It's Christmas, Eve

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? – Tinsilitis!



Goodbye Fr. Herman & Hello Fr. Galdo (Boy).

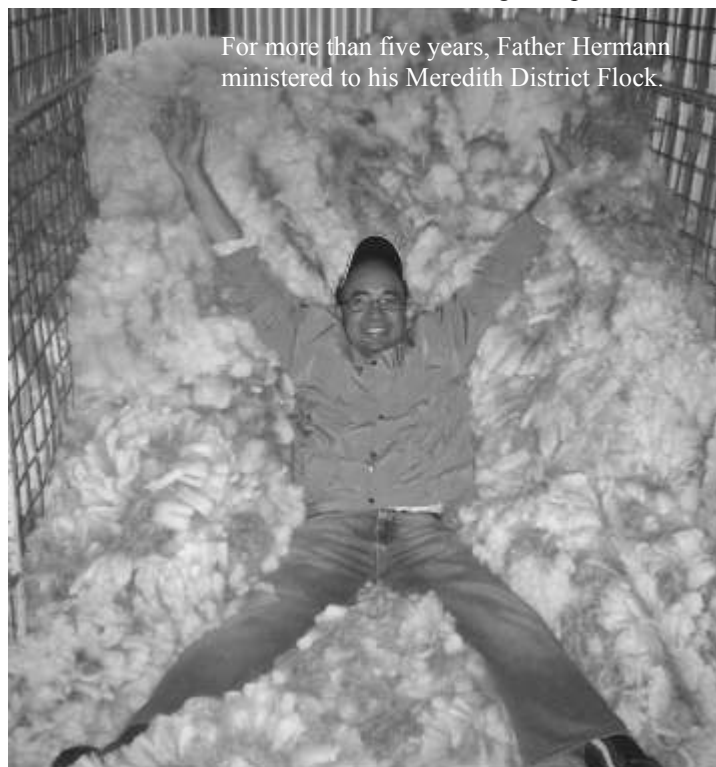
Marg Cooper

Goodbye to Father Herman and Hello to Father Florentino Galdo (Boy).

Father Herman Licayan was farewelled by hundreds of people on Sunday, November 8, at a Mass and a family picnic in the grounds of St Josephs Church at Meredith. He has gone back to the Philippines after almost 5 years 8 months as Parish Priest of the Meredith Parish. On the Friday before leaving he told a kitchen full of people at the Presbytery about his early life, his education, his family and the history of the Philippines. He kept them enthralled for a couple of hours. What a history lesson!

He told us that the Philippines had a long history of civilization before the Spanish occupation and before the Americans purchased the Philippines from Spain in 1901. He described how there are two main islands, Luzon and Mindanao, and over 7,000 smaller islands. He said he grew up on a farm where his family were tenant farmers who grew rice, bananas and coconuts. He went to elementary school in the village for six years and high school in another village for four years. All the children in his family hated the subsistence farming and struggled to get a better education. At 17 years of age he joined the seminary as an intern and received a Degree in Philosophy after five years, a Degree in Theology after another five years and was ordained a Deacon after another year. He assisted a Parish Priest and taught at a university before coming to Australia on January 13, 2010.

It is interesting that Father Boy comes from a village on Mindanao not far from where Father Herman grew up.



For more than five years, Father Hermann ministered to his Meredith District Flock.

Visit to the Holy Land

Father Herman was the leader of a group of twenty two people who recently made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Many of them belong to churches in the Meredith Parish. They flew into Amman in Jordon and immediately began visiting places which they had heard of from the Bible, including Mt Nebo where

Moses viewed the promised land of Israel and a Byzantine Church which has a mosaic on the floor that depicts a 6th century or the earliest map of the Holy land.

The next day they crossed the heavily fortified check point into Israel and travelled straight to Jericho, a very important Biblical city. In the afternoon, they went to the Sea of Galilee where Jesus spent a lot of his time. From there they could see Syria, Golan Heights and Lebanon and they viewed a boat from the time of Jesus. They found the area very peaceful. The group visited many places on their trip to Jerusalem and Bethlehem including Capernaum with its narrow streets where Jesus spent a lot of time teaching, Mt Hermon, Mt Carmel, Caesarea Maritima and Bethany.

After a few days in Galilee, they headed off to Jerusalem where they visited many churches including one church which had the Lord's Prayer written in every language on panels on the walls. The Franciscan Order maintained the churches and the holy grounds. They felt very emotional when they walked the Way of the Cross at the Via Dolorosa in the Old City. In the last few days they were around the Dead Sea and were amazed to see where the population had lived in caves and they swam or paddled in the Dead Sea. They were petrified when a storm blew up while they were on the cable car going up to see Masada, King Herod's Fortress. Back in the Old City of Jerusalem, men and women were segregated to visit the Western Wall.

Father Herman said Mass nearly every day but the Mass in the small space under the Holy Sepulchre was extra special. Helen Dunne and Diane Ritchie said that Father Herman knew the history very well and as well as the guides, he helped the group to understand the significance of what they saw. Both agreed that it was a life changing experience.

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Volunteer Grants Program.


Grants of up to \$5,000 are available in competitive grant funding for volunteer organisations in Corangamite under the Federal Government's Volunteer Grants 2015 program.

All volunteers deserved to be recognised for their valuable work in the community. "Volunteers in Corangamite participate in such a diverse range of activities, whether it's in the Country Fire Authority, SES, Rotary or local surf lifesaving clubs.

Grants between \$1,000 and \$5,000 are available to help not-for-profit community organisations support their volunteers through practical measures such as the purchase of small equipment items, reimbursement for volunteers' fuel and transport costs, and contributions towards the cost of training and background screening checks.

The Volunteer Grants 2015 Application Pack is available from the Department of Social Services' website at www.dss.gov.au/grants., the Volunteer Grants 2015 Hotline on freecall 1800 183 374

"I encourage organisations to read the Application Pack thoroughly before submitting their applications," Applications for Volunteer Grants 2015 close at 2pm on Wednesday, 9 December 2015.



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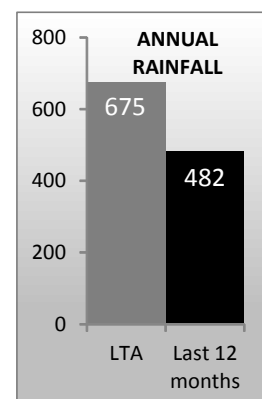
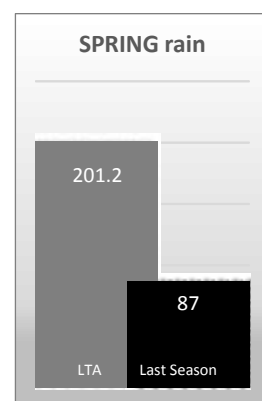
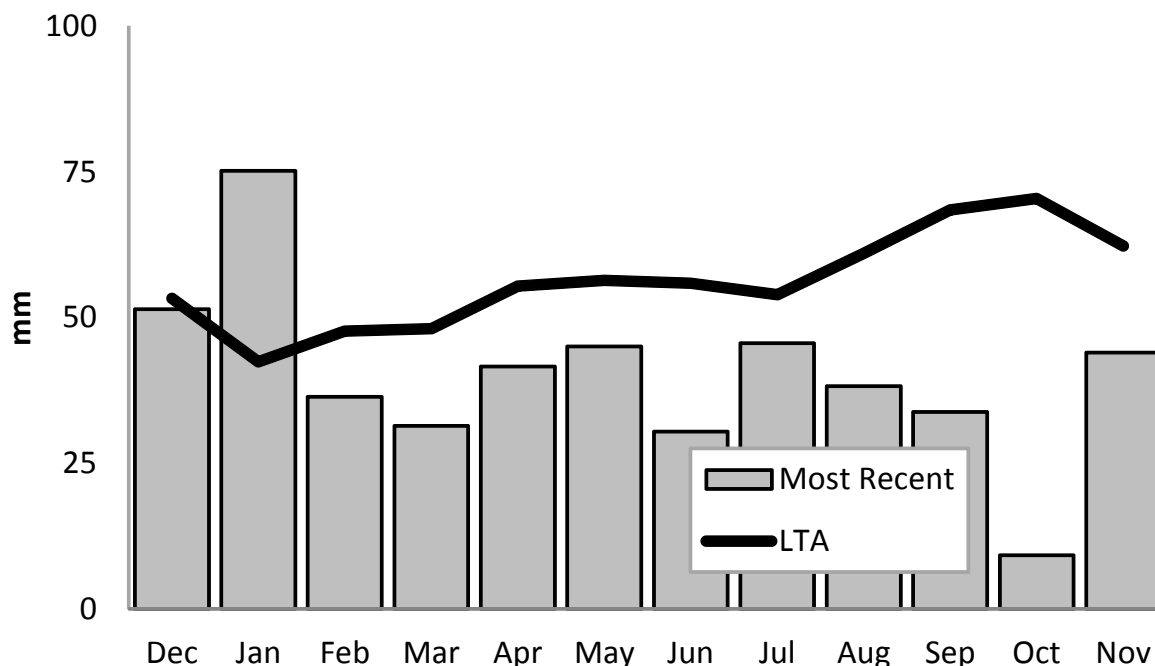
Shaun Bubb
email: shaun.bubb@bigpond.com
66 Brunel St. Lethbridge 3332

The (very little) Rain Report

The graph well illustrates the dry year we have had to date. All that space between the black line and the grey columns represents the difference between long term average (LTA) rainfall and what we have actually received. Numerically, it is a 191 mm shortfall, and November is the 11th month in a

row that has been below average. And spring, typically our wettest season, was the driest of the year, receiving only 43% of the LTA.

This is an uncomfortable starting point for summer, so be sure to have your water saving practices in place.





Bannockburn Pharmacy Newsletter

Proprietors: Scott Wilkes & Damian Bennett

6 High Street
Bannockburn VIC 3331
Phone: 5281 1519

We have your Christmas shopping covered

Well it's hard to believe that Christmas is less than 8 weeks away! Most of us will be thinking "Don't remind me" and there will be others who will have already started their Christmas shopping. If you haven't already started your Christmas shopping, then why not kick start it at our **Christmas Shopping Night** on **Thursday 19th November**? We have had a lot of new gifts arriving during the past few weeks so we are stocked up and have gifts for everyone. We also offer lay-by and free gift wrapping, and don't forget if you are a member of our free Loyalty Club you are entitled to your member discount.

Christmas Shopping Night

Don't forget our annual Christmas Shopping Night will be held at the Pharmacy on **Thursday 19th November** from **6:30pm to 9:00pm**. Last year we had a huge number of people attend the evening that had a great time. Again this year there will be lucky door prizes drawn every 30 minutes and there will be in excess of \$3000 worth of prizes to give away on the night! Plus there will be finger food and drinks provided throughout the evening. On the night will be offering our Gift Club Members **30% off all gifts!!** Remember to join our FREE Loyalty Club so you get this fantastic discount on the evening if you aren't already a member. This will be a great chance to kick start your Christmas Shopping if you haven't already started! Please bring your friends and family and join us on what will be another fun and enjoyable evening on Thursday

19th November from 6:30pm to 9:00pm.

Toy Christmas Catalogue

Our annual Toy Christmas Catalogue is out now!! There is a great range of toys available for children of all ages. If you don't receive a catalogue in the mail then please call into the Pharmacy and collect one and have a look at what's available this Christmas.

\$1 Co-Payment Discount

You may, or may not, be aware that the 6th Pharmacy agreement has been finalized between the Government & Pharmacy Guild of Australia. There are many changes within this agreement but a significant change is the **"Optional" \$1 co-payment discount** that Pharmacies can pass onto customers for medicines that are **fully subsidized** by the Government **from 1st January 2016**. Currently customers with a pension, concession, healthcare or repatriation card pay a co-payment of \$6.10 per prescription & the government pays the rest.

From the 1st January 2016, all Pharmacies will have the **"choice"** if they want to give customers a \$1 co-payment discount or not. So instead of paying \$6.10, concessional customers will only pay \$5.10 only if the Pharmacy chooses to pass on the discount. I have to stress that this is **NOT mandatory** for all Pharmacies to pass on this \$1 co-payment discount. If a Pharmacy doesn't want to give this discount to customers they don't have to.

From 1st January we WILL be offering this \$1 co-payment discount to our customers on fully subsidized medicines.

I hope this makes sense. If you have any questions regarding this please do not hesitate to call into the Pharmacy and have a chat with Scott who will be able to answer your questions.

Pharmacy Features:

- **Medela (we hire Breastpumps)**
- **MooGoo**
- **FREE Home Deliveries**
- **Natio**
- **Homy Ped shoes**
- **Sukin Organic Products**
- **Nude by Nature**
- **Diabetes Australia Agency**
- **Kate Morgan Weight Loss Centre**
- **Giftware for all ages**
- **Salt & Pepper**
- **Digital Photo printing**
- **Passport photos**
- **Darrell Lea Chocolates**
- **Baby section**
- **Vitamins**
- **Webster-paks**
- **Home Medicine Reviews**
- **Free gift wrapping**
- **BYS Cosmetics**
- **Fragrances**

Opening Hours:

Monday: 8:30am - **6:30pm**
 Tuesday: 8:30am - **6:30pm**
 Wednesday: 8:30am - **6:30pm**
 Thursday: 8:30am - **6:30pm**
 Friday: 8:30am - **6:30pm**
 Saturday: 8:30am - 1:00pm
 Sunday: Closed
 Public Holiday's: Closed

Open to 6:30pm weeknights



122 hours

That's about how many volunteer hours go into producing our newsletter **every month**. In this, the last issue for the year, we thought we would acknowledge and honour this remarkable contribution from a wonderful group of local residents who share their time and talents with all of us.

Here's how that time is spent:

- 55 hours** Our seven regular writers spend this time researching writing and reviewing their monthly contributions
- 20 hours** One volunteer spends this time putting every issue together, laying out the ads and editorial, and managing the hundreds of emails we get each month.
- 25 hours** The editor spends this time conferring with contributors, designing and implementing the appearance of the finished product, which involves sourcing incidental content, rifling through every page to make sure spaces are filled and everything fits.
- 3 hours** Our proof readers read every word, (a task that has grown manifold in recent years) mark up the errors and send it back to the editor.
- 2 hours** A volunteer spends this time to pick up the many boxes of printed newsletters in Geelong, count out a number of piles and deliver them to outlets throughout Meredith as well as Lethbridge, Elaine and Bannockburn.
- 6 hours** This time is spent sending out invoices to all our advertisers, keeping books, preparing reports to the Newsletter Committee and banking receipts
- 7 hours** Another two volunteers spend this time dealing with advertisers and sending out subscription copies
- 4 hours** This is how long the six member committee spends planning, overseeing operations, reviewing and monitoring publication policies and the continuing financial viability of the publication.

& why they do it...

I enjoy it very much. I got involved because I wanted to write with purpose and contribute something to the community that (hopefully) can get a laugh or make people smile and resonate with something I have produced.

I'm happy to write about social issues, mental health and well-being. I believe it helps people to be informed and resourced about these issues. I regularly receive positive feedback

It is good to have a commitment that forces me to the desk once a month to ponder not simply the garden and its pleasures, but also the art of writing for an audience.

I enjoy giving back to the community. I have been stopped a couple of times and told that such and such a recipe was fantastic. Comments like that, although few, make it worthwhile

I enjoy writing and learn from the research. I find that as a result of thinking about subjects for articles I am more observant of things going on in nature around me. I also hope to inspire people to appreciate and enjoy nature.

A few years ago Jim Elvey came to an "Advance Meredith" meeting and told us, for the newsletter to survive more people needed to contribute articles and he asked if some of us could help. I had contributed an odd article but from that time I have made it my business to contribute a number of articles each month because I think that the newsletter is valuable to the community and because I love stories

I enjoy presenting positive ways local people can take charge of their future to achieve positive outcomes for themselves and our collective environmental sustainability.

I was at a one member police station conference this week and have encouraged other "one-manners" to engage there local news letters where possible as the benefits can be great.

I do enjoy my part of the newsletter team. I'm just happy to help out.



We love our volunteers, and we would love you to become one. If you like writing, taking photographs, drawing, computers, talking to people, playing with numbers, watching movies or ???... then maybe you could. Just put up your hand.

...& Mollie's back in 2016 :-)





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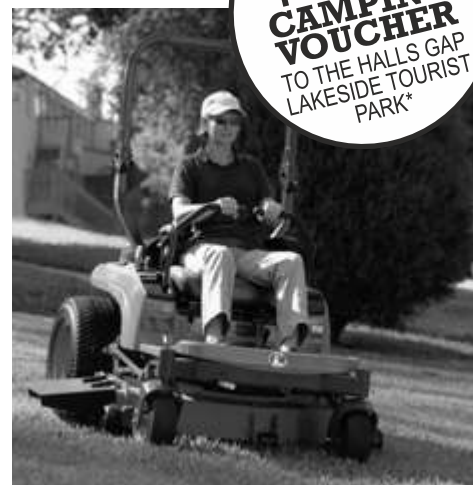
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Here Comes 2016

Rosemay Gargan

What a wonderful time we have had welcoming the kinder children into our school. Early last term, the Prep/One grade started a "Come and Play" session on Monday afternoons. We timed our Investigations activities and selected many of our favourite ones to share. There were drummers drumming, ukulele players strumming, builders constructing with our many and varied sets, scientists experimenting, crafters cutting and pasting, book lovers reading and being read to, puzzlers solving puzzles and gamers playing games. Of course, along with this, many friendships were made and there was lots of fun.

We enjoy having the kinder so close to us in the Community Hub. On sunny days we can stroll over for a visit where Jodie, Kylie and the children always welcome us in. "Talking through the fence" is a new lunchtime activity and we like connecting with brothers, sisters, cousins and friends.

The kinder children have also been to visit us and we have swung and jumped in the playground, excavated and built in the sandpit, carrying buckets of water back and forth and played with the sports equipment.

There have also been two visits where mums and dads have left the kinder children at school with Rosemary and Kerrie so they can see what school work is all about. At the end of these sessions there were parents loaded up with school bags and uniforms – such an exciting time whether it's child number one or number eight! We can't wait for school to start in 2016.



Clockwise from above, Harry, Brodie, Patrick, Lachlan, Zoe and Jayden and Matilda.



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My name is Joe and I am excited to announce the opening of Meredith's only beauty salon.

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For a list of services please stop in and grab a service menu. We are also a stockist for Arbonne which fit our environmental values.

I have made our Meredith salon as environmentally friendly as possible as I believe that we all need to be careful what we do to ourselves as well as to our natural environment.

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our webpage: www.countrybeautytherapy.com
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2015 Mini Foxie Club

Charyn Steel

The 2015 Mini foxie club of Australia show held at Elaine Recreation Reserve on Sunday 8th was a lovely fine Spring day.

Entries were down by a few on last year, but this didn't stop the member from having fun with their dogs, with members coming from as far as Mornington and South Australia.

Our judge was Mr Steve Sapseed, who did a wonderful job.

Best Handler : Sophie Sutton

Best Headed: Calamity Park Court Jester

Breeders Group: Staughton Kennels

Best Natural Bobtail: Mungarra panda

Best Coloured in Show: Luvena Lira

Best Desexed in Show: Dajackie Xavier

Best In Show: Willido of Colins Park

Doreen Thompson of Meredith entered 5 dogs in the show. Janice Robertson and Joy Fox aided her on the day. She was delighted with the many events that her dogs won including Reserve Challenge Bitch, Best Open Bitch, Best Veteran Dog, Natural Bob Tail, and Best Parent and Progeny. Especially entertaining was "Best Fancy Dress Mini Foxie and Dog/Owner Lookalike.

Below: Jenny Lyon from Narracorte, who won Best in Show with her dog Willido of Colins Park. Congratulations to all the winners.



Shire Gets Graffiti Prevention Funding

Golden Plains Shire Council has successfully secured a grant to develop four murals within skate parks in Dereel, Enfield, Haddon and Lethbridge.

The Skate Park Graffiti Prevention project will receive \$23,400 funding from the Victorian Department of Justice and Regulation Graffiti Prevention Grants program. The Council-led project will involve an artist working with local young people and community members to improve the visual appearance of the existing skate parks by designing and producing murals on the skate park surfaces.

It is hoped that this project will increase local ownership of the skate parks, which will reduce the presence of graffiti and decrease anti-social behaviour. Mayor, Cr Des Phelan said, "This is an exciting project for Golden Plains Shire and will build on the successful work that has already taken place at the Bannockburn, Smythesdale, Teesdale, Rokewood and Linton skate parks." "We will be holding community workshops in early 2016 to prepare the designs and community members will then be actively involved in painting the murals."

"It is important that we continue to work with our young people. I'm looking forward to seeing what our creative and innovative residents come up with."

... and some for Public Safety

Golden Plains Shire Council has made the most of 2014/15 Public Safety Infrastructure Fund grants from the Department of Justice.

The grants, designed to assist councils in increasing community safety and confidence in public places, were awarded in May 2014 and works were completed on eight Golden Plains facilities by July this year.

The project involved installation of lighting and security infrastructure at five recreation reserves and three community facilities, with the aim of reducing crime and improving community safety and confidence.

Council worked with community groups and committees of management from the facilities to determine the areas where improvements were most vital.

Works were completed on the following facilities: Inverleigh Amenity Block, Inverleigh Sporting Complex, Leighdale Equestrian Centre, Linton Recreation Reserve, Meredith Interpretive Centre, Smythesdale Well, Teesdale Recreation Reserve and Woody Yaloak Recreation Facility.

Mayor, Cr Des Phelan, reinforced the importance of community safety to Council, "It is essential that we continue to be active in ensuring our growing community feels safe in public facilities."

"These works provided an additional benefit of improving safety for community members and volunteers leaving the facilities at night," Cr Phelan said.



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR ARRANGEMENTS 2015-2016

CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRES

Bannockburn and Linton Customer Service Centres

Close Thursday 24 December 2015 at 1.00 pm, re-open on Monday 4 January 2016 at 8.30 am.

GARBAGE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION

No collection Friday 25 December 2015. Collection which was to take place on 25 December will be collected one day later than usual.

LANDFILL

Rokewood – Closed Sunday 27 December.

The Landfill will be closed on DECLARED DAYS OF TOTAL FIRE BAN.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Roads & Drains	Works Superintendent	Ph. 5220 7111
Dogs & Livestock	Community Protection Officer	Ph. 5220 7111
Garbage & Recycling	Clean Away	Ph. 1800 230 130
Rokewood Landfill		Ph. 0427 051 996

COUNCIL MEETING CYCLE 2016

At its Special Meeting on 2 November 2015, Council resolved the following dates for Council Meetings in 2016. Meetings are usually held on the fourth Tuesday of each month commencing at 4.00pm.

27 January	Bannockburn Shire Hall
23 February	Linton Customer Service Centre
22 March	Bannockburn Shire Hall
26 April	Linton Customer Service Centre
24 May	Bannockburn Shire Hall
28 June	Linton Customer Service Centre
26 July	Bannockburn Shire Hall
23 August	Linton Customer Service Centre
27 September	Bannockburn Shire Hall
18 October	Linton Customer Service Centre (3rd Tuesday)
2 November	Bannockburn Shire Hall (Special (Annual) Meeting of Council)
22 November	Bannockburn Shire Hall
20 December	Linton Customer Service Centre (3rd Tuesday)

Councillors and staff at Golden Plains Shire Council wish residents a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe 2016.

ROD NICHOLLS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Heathyeasy *and* delish

selected by Stefania Parkinson



Aussie Barbecued Ham

- Prep time 15 minutes
- Cooking time 1 hour 45 mins
- Serves between 8 and 12 people

Ingredients

- 7kg cooked leg of ham
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 2/3 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup pineapple juice
- 1/2 cup sweet sherry
- 1/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar, extra
- 2 cloves of garlic, halved lengthways
- 1/4 teaspoon ground clove

Method

1. Cut through rind about 10 cm from shank end of leg in a decorative pattern; run thumb around edge of rind just under skin to remove rind. Start pulling rind from shank end to widest edge of ham; discard rind.
2. Using sharp knife, make shallow cuts in one direction diagonally across fat at 3cm intervals, then shallow cut in opposite direction to form diamonds. Do not cut through top fat or fat will spread apart during cooking.
3. Place ham in a disposable aluminium baking dish; rub with combined mustard and sugar. Place ham on heated barbecue. Cook covered using indirect method, 1 hour.
4. Meanwhile, combine juice, sherry, extra sugar garlic and clove in a small saucepan; stir over heat until sugar dissolves. Reduce heat, simmer uncovered, about 10 minutes or until glaze reduces by half. Brush ham with glaze, cook covered, using indirect method, 45 minutes, brushing several times with glaze during cooking.

Cover ham with foil; stand for 15 minutes before serving.

Recipe From: Women's Weekly – Christmas Cooking

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Santa receives thousands of letters from children all over Australia with requests for all sorts of things, including toys, pets and even world peace.

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Trip Down Memory Lane at the Information Centre

Marg Cooper

The exciting old fashioned kitchen scene is almost complete. The display case is full of lamps, irons, butter churns, a separator, decorative tiles, a big family Bible, mincers, photos in old fashioned frames and much more. Around the room are bigger items such as a wood stove complete with pots and kettle and several cupboards for keeping food from flies. Would you wear the hessian overskirt or the apron made from sugar bags?

Come in for a trip down memory lane! There are 20 items in a glass covered case which you may be able to identify. Do you remember? Are you old enough?

A table decorated with a handmade tablecloth displays a set of pale blue canisters, a hand operated cake mixer and crockery and cutlery of a bygone era. What a wonderful collection that we intend to decorate for Christmas.

Coordinators Meeting

A meeting of Meredith Co-ordinators will be held at the Information Centre on Tuesday evening, November 24 at 5 pm followed by an Advance Meredith meeting. All welcome. Community events can be advertised on the town sign by contacting Diane Ritchie on 52 861291.



A well-earned thirst.

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GET PREPARED.

For more information on how to prepare for fire, visit emergency.vic.gov.au or call **1800 240 667**

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Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

We invite you to attend this special event helping families and friends to prepare for Christmas

Time to Remember...

for all who have experienced grief and loss

Monday 30th November 2015
6.45pm for a 7pm start

Tuckers Funeral Chapel,
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A Dream Job

Marg Cooper

Anthony Hamilton-Smith always liked to make, build, draw and paint.

His Meredith and Ballarat school teachers encouraged him to create as did his mother, Dorothy, who was a very talented painter.

After he left school Anthony did many jobs including buying wool for his father's business and cooking in restaurants. While in the UK, he helped convert a hospital into a hostel and made items to decorate it, including shields, swords, armour and tapestries. Returning to Australia he studied design and architecture at RMIT and for his thesis project, made a bicycle trailer set up as a "slow kitchen" which won him a National Design Award.

Anthony was asked to design some sets for a short film being made by a friend of his. He thoroughly enjoyed the experience with his sets being applauded for their originality and workmanship. His first "big job" was helping to create the set for the film "Gallipoli". That job involved designing and building sets and collecting and displaying props.

Anthony described the gully near Werribee where the battle scenes of "Gallipoli" were being shot. Arriving early one morning, he walked up the hill and was confronted by hundreds of distorted bodies lying haphazardly across the landscape. He quickly realized that they were latex bodies ready for the next scene to be shot. The distant bodies were only shop dummies splashed with lots of tomato sauce.

Anthony worked on the recent film "The Dressmaker", hiring some period items, including kitchen utensils, from an old Meredith house for the film. A ragged tea towel which had hung on a three pronged rack for over 50 years was very suitable for the 1950's kitchen scene. Some rusty tanks, vintage shearing gear and cupboards were among the other items borrowed from Meredith people. He is now working on the film "Tomorrow when the War Began" as well as helping his father Graeme fit out his Staughton Street shop.

Anthony described his job as a little like being a shearer in that if you do a good job, you will be invited to do another. Although the work is spasmodic and doesn't pay well, he relishes the experience as it satisfies his creative spirit.

Anthony's "slow kitchen".



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Meredith Goes Old Skool

Geelong based car club, Old Skool Steet Cars, held its fourth annual "Meredith Car Show and Family Day" last month. Lining the streets of Meredith, there were over 450 cars and 170 motorcycles, most of them superb examples of painstaking and highly skilled restoration work. Hundreds of people, many of them locals, were drawn to this impressive spectacle. And it really was a Family Day, with plenty of activities for kids. David Rochow, Club member and one of the show organisers, said the Club loved coming to Meredith as many of Club members rarely ventured too far north of the city, and it was an attractive setting, well suited to this popular annual event. The Club hopes to be back next year.



*All photos by Gary Rochow,
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Outside my back door, lavender is flowering, intermingled with bright pink stalks of red valerian flowers, all creating a wonderful attraction for insects. Honey bees are common visitors. So are butterflies. Some are mostly white, such as cabbage whites. Others, such as the Australian painted ladies, are brown with intricate black patterns. Occasionally the plants attract more colourful butterflies. As the bushes become busier over summer, predators arrive. Little spiders hide amongst the flowers, waiting to pounce on the smaller pollinating insects. A praying mantis sits patiently on a lavender stalk, ready to reach out its long arms and grab an unwary bee or butterfly.

Among the more interesting visitors are the native blue-banded bees. They are similar in size to a honey bee and partly brown, but with four or five stripes of very pale blue on their black abdomen which is curled downwards. They dart between flowers, then appear to hover in front of them. These bees have a special way of releasing pollen from flowers. It is called buzz pollination. The bee holds the flower and moves its flight muscles quickly, causing the flower to vibrate, releasing the pollen. For some flowers with pollen held in place very tightly, this is the only effective way to be pollinated. Wind, honey bees or other insects may remove some pollen, but most will stay in the flowers. Tomatoes are one plant which requires buzz pollination, so blue-banded bees are under investigation as a means of efficiently pollinating tomatoes grown in glasshouses. At the moment many of these plants are pollinated mechanically. Some growers wish to import bumblebees which can also buzz pollinate, but if they escape there is a risk of environmental havoc, such as is caused by foxes, rabbits and cane toads.

Blue-banded bees are different from honey bees in other ways. Unlike honey bees, they are native, and like most native bees they are solitary, living an independent life, although they may live close to others of their species. Females dig a nest in soft sandstone, which may become full of bee tunnels, or in river banks, mud bricks or mortar. In each cell at the end of her tunnel, the bee lays an egg and provides a mix of pollen and nectar as food for the larva when it hatches. While the females live in their burrows, males spend the night outside clinging to a plant stem.

Australia has over 1500 species of solitary bees, which range in size from 2mm to 2.5cm. They are often considered economically unimportant as they do not produce honey, but they are extremely important in the pollination of plants, both native and introduced, including crops and garden flowers. They collect nectar and pollen for food for themselves and as a larder for their larvae. As they travel from flower to flower they spread pollen that has attached to their bodies. Blue-banded bees will forage up to 300m from their nest and have a preference for blue flowers, but will visit others, such as my lavender. Although they can sting they are less aggressive than honey bees, so if you find them in your garden, you can fairly safely watch them as they go about their business.



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Meredith Primary School News

BALLARAT SHOW

Congratulations to all of our students who participated in the various Ballarat Show activities. We had a number of children receive recognition from the show committee; it's great to see our children achieving high marks in the community. Please come in after you've collected your children and look at the display our staff created. Well done to the following children on these outstanding results:

Woodwork

1st: Kenneth Medlyn

Archibald Portrait/Poster

Highly commended (in their section): Logan Nettleton, Matilda Cooke and Josephine Ceballos

3rd (in their section): Harley Murfitt, Will Reichman and Cheyenne Macauley

2nd (in their section): Nelly Griffiths, Jayden Vermeend, Maxee Mullane and Peetha Van Der Veen

1st (in their section): Taylah Cochrane and Kirsty Roberts

Writing

Highly commended: Phelan Van Der Veen, Lilly Parkinson and Isabella Gaussen

2nd: Emma Downie

1st: Allarah Ceballos

Collage

3rd: Matilda Flood and Emily Speirs



ROADHOUSE DOOR

Well done to all of our students who developed a wonderful large art work which will hang on the door of the Meredith Roadhouse. This was a great community project that gave our students the opportunity to have a real world application of their talents. Special thanks to Rebecca at the roadhouse for letting us complete the project and to Ralph Holtz, who did an amazing job of co-ordinating the project and installing the final product. Terrific stuff

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Traditions

Christmas time again! Who can believe how fast this year has gone? But before we get too stressed-out about the last minute presents, the tree, the food and drinks, and the thought of the impending noise-induced headaches and over-eating belly bulges, let's think about the traditions and rituals in the lead up to the big day that make it all worth it (even if they highlight the craziest sides of ourselves and our loved ones).

I'm not sure when my family's tradition started but I can trace it back to a time when video tapes were still in their prime and I very likely still was hanging onto the hope that the Spice Girls were still cool.

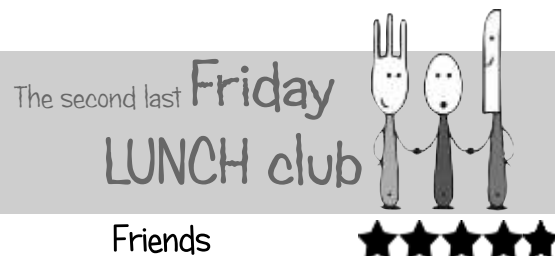
Every year, at the time when Christmas merriness is reaching its pre-big-event peak, we pop on arguably the best festive movie of all time: *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (starring Jim Carrey, of course). We settle in and watch while I, much to the annoyance of everyone else, sing along to every song. We wait in anticipation for our favourite bits and point out when they are about to come up, even though we all already know it all off by heart.

If you have your own Christmas traditions, then you would perhaps understand the desire to force these traditions on to other people in your life. Sometimes it works and steadily your quirky 'thing' becomes an annual event of joy. Most times, however, it will prevent your partner from setting foot in your house for the whole start of December until your tradition has been undertaken and he can safely come back into the abode without fear of being forced to watch it. I could never understand this refusal to just conform until I went to work in a shopping complex on the first of November. The carols weren't so bad, nor the decorations that appeared two months in advance. It's the Santas that got me.

Maybe you or someone you know makes a yearly ritual out of getting their kids to have photos with Santa, but I, I avoid him like the plague. This tradition is something that I cannot condone. Call me Grinchy but there is something about people in Santa costumes that sends my heart racing and my feet running in the other direction. So this year while you are stressed about last minute gifts, Christmas menus and a spotless house, remember to embrace your traditions and feel fine shunning other peoples. Because while you're in a panic about everything else, you can rest assured that at least you don't have an irrational fear of Santa. All three of them. Residing in your workplace.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Gemma



Last month we wrapped up our eating out adventures for the year at a venue you have almost certainly been to many times: friends. Yes, instead of going to a restaurant or café, we did that most hospitable of things: freeloading on friends at their place. (Well, it's a matter of perspective – for half of us, the “freeloadees” there was quite a bit of work involved.) Of course, it would be quite un-Australian or just plain ungrateful, if you didn't return the gesture, so there is no free ride here.

We started with nibbles and drinks in a cosy sitting room which went quite well, although the host did mess up one of the drinks orders. This was soon put right, and off we sailed into the evening. By the time we got to the dining room, we were all feeling quite affable (there's a tip for you, especially if you want to cut corners on the catering!) But no corners cut here. Our meal was a mild Thai Curried Chicken, or something like that, and quite delicious. Servings were generous and included plenty of veges. (And they weren't offered as an extra as is so often the case these days.)

It was followed by fresh fruit and homemade custard dessert which was equally well received, albeit by a by now even more affable table. Drinks were of a high standard, but this is optional. You decide by bringing something of your own and the host will usually respond by matching the quality of yours. (But watch out here for wines poured out of the room, or already open bottles – some hosts have been known to test the visiting palates at price points that should be reserved for unwelcome relatives.

But, based on our experience, we highly recommend eating at “Friends” where we got the three G's: Good Food, Good Wine, Good Company.

Be mindful though, that you will have to phone ahead with any dietary requirements, as Friends usually offer just two choices: eat it or go hungry.





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The Continuum of Love

I am often asked 'what is love?' and think it is a relevant topic to discuss this Christmas Season. I believe that love exists on a continuum which includes a broad range of expressions, emotions and expectations. For example, Challenging love, Good enough love, Unconditional love

Love is forever changing along the continuum between these phases. It can be fantastic and it can also be very challenging at times. Similar to a candle it can burn brightly or dimly depending on what fuels it. Love is very dependant on how it is fuelled it needs constant nurturing, commitment, perseverance and a good deal of compromise.

Love can be wonderful or tiring and difficult depending on how much we invest in it. There are ways to grow love and ways to erode love.

What grows love

- acts of kindness, helping each other either voluntary or whenever requested a kiss or hug to say 'hello', 'goodbye', 'goodnight' or 'thank you'
- thoughtfulness towards each other, doing something nice to please the other, praise, affirmation and encouragement goes a long way quality time together and enjoying each others company on a regular basis
- maintaining respect even during tough times good communication and sharing with each other

What drains love

- hurtful behaviours, breaking promises, being unreliable
- calling each other names, being critical and putting each other down
- resentment and blame not spending time together
- not talking

- living separate lives
- growing apart
- withholding affection
- not compromising or finding middle ground
- punishing each other

When it's outlined like this it is clear that our behaviour and treatment towards each other is most important. I urge you all to invest more into growing love and remember that you must put in to make any gains. If you have been trapped in the phase of challenging love on the continuum then begin to aim for good enough love. Good enough will sustain any relationship and from that phase you can work together towards enhancing love.

Wishing you all a very safe and jolly Christmas season!

For more information see <http://www.5lovelanguages.com/>

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Happy Birthday Joan Taylor

Marg Cooper

Joan had a wonderful 80th birthday and the celebrations are ongoing! On Sunday, November 22 the family met for a party at the home of their daughter Anne. Another daughter Sally and her family made the special trip from Western Australia to be with Joan for the party. Joan explained that the party was for both her and her husband Roy because for one week in November they were both 80 years of age. Roy celebrated his birthday during the following week. Joan travelled to Tasmania with her two sons for a holiday and Roy and Joan have recently holidayed at Yarrawonga. They also travelled to Canberra on a Probus trip and, as well, she had lunch with a group of her friends.



Joan is a sweet, gentle woman who is extremely compassionate and caring - a perfect nurse! She recalled responding to people of Meredith who needed medical attention but was often only required to reassure them. But for all her sweetness and charm she is also a very strong person and has strong views on many subjects.

Joan and Roy retired from the farm and moved to Belmont in October 2001. Joan continues to be very busy with her family, friends and her community. She swims weekly, attends church at Waurm Ponds, is a member of CWA, enjoys the activities of the Probus Club and having coffee with friends.

A very special lady who left an indelible mark on Meredith.

Joan married Roy in 1957 and they built a new house on the family farm on Taylors Road and called it "Fairbank". About 1975 they bought and moved to a farm on the Midland Highway called "Menari". From here it was easier for their children to get to school and to their many activities. Joan and Roy were very community minded, being involved in most activities in Meredith and often holding official positions.



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Having your say

Golden Plains Shire Council

As we mentioned in the December edition of the Golden Plains Gazette, in response to feedback from residents, Council is working on improving the way it consults and engages with the community.

As a part of this, it's important to keep you informed about the different ways you can provide feedback to Council.

Contact Golden Plains Customer Service

You can let Council know about your feedback or enquiry by contacting Customer Service by phone, email, online, by fax, mail or in person. This way, your feedback or enquiry will be logged, tracked and assigned to the appropriate person who can help answer your query or deal with the issue you have raised.



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Have you tried our 'Have Your Say' online tool?

Have Your Say is an online tool Council has created to help you have your say online.

For example, currently you can participate in the website redevelopment survey, the @ the heart Bannockburn project, and the Golden Plains Shire Council Community Engagement Strategy survey (from 30 November). You can also view project updates and past projects here. www.goldenplainsdigital.com.au/consultations



Have your say on the 2016-17 Budget and Strategic Resource Plan

Council is currently undertaking planning for the 2016-17 Budget and Strategic Resource Plan (which is part of the Council Plan and provides an overview of Council's proposed key actions over the next four years). As part of this Council would like your input. Outlined below are opportunities for you to participate.

Nov/ Dec 2015	Three focus groups with broad community representation to be held. A summary of findings to be provided on Council's website.
Jan/Feb 2016	Council to develop draft Strategic Resource Plan.
February/ early March 2016	Draft Strategic Resource Plan to be released for public comment: Opportunities for community feedback will include an online Have Your Say survey. Further details will be released in the February edition of the Gazette and on our website.
March/April 2016	Council to take community feedback into consideration and further develop the Strategic Resource Plan and budget. A summary of findings and Council's actions to be provided on Council's website
May 2016	Golden Plains Shire Council 2016-17 Budget to be published for public comment under the submission process prescribed by legislation (section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989). <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Public Notice of the proposal be given in newspapers (the Geelong Advertiser and Ballarat Courier) and be posted on Council's website.• Written submissions can be lodged on the proposal within 28 days of the advertisement appearing.
Early June 2016	Council will hold a special meeting to hear submissions.
Late June 2016	Council will prepare its formal 2016-17 Budget for adoption.

Focus on the future

Council is working on its Community Engagement Strategy for 2016-20. The Strategy will demonstrate Council's commitment to improving the way it plans, delivers and evaluates community engagement activities. It will highlight opportunities for meaningful engagement with the Community over the next four years. There will be a number of opportunities for you to contribute to the Strategy. Council is also introducing a 'Report an issue' function on its new website, which is due to roll out in the first half of next year.

my Favourite Book this year was...

Meredith Book Club members share this year's favourite read.

Linda Burnett

The Light Between Oceans

- M. L. Stedman

Having survived WWI Tom Sherbourne takes a job as a lighthouse keeper on remote Janus Island off the coast of Western Australia. Tom and his young wife Isabel live in isolation and have little contact with the outside world. They are desperate for children to complete their family however Isabel suffers numerous miscarriages. When one morning a boat washes ashore carrying a dead man and a crying baby, a decision is made by the couple that will change lives forever. Only years later do Tom and Isabel discover the devastating consequences of the decision they made that day. This decision has widespread impact on the rest of their lives.

I enjoyed this book as the author captured the experience of loss for Isabel, her inner turmoil and how this effects her ability to make a decision. In contrast, it captured Tom's love for Isabel, his guilt and his sense of what is right and wrong. It also showed how a child brings light and joy to it's family and the devastation of losing a child.

Jenny Colvin

How Green Was My Valley

- Richard Llewellyn

I recently read this for the third time. A story of a mining valley in South Wales at the beginning of the 20th century, it is narrated by Huw, the youngest son of the Morgan family. The lyrical quality of the writing, with the Welsh idiom, is a pleasure to read, and the book resonates with the music of

the Welsh. The story follows the family through their everyday life over the following years, the harsh weather and the loves and tragedies of ordinary family life all give a realistic picture of mining life in the decade before World War 1. We follow marriages, births and deaths, the birth of the mining trade unions and strikes to better the workers conditions, and the greed and corruption of many of the mine owners. Throughout the narrative the strong characters of the parents, the love of family, and the influence of the chapel in the life of the village come through strongly. I look forward to my fourth read of this fine book.

Sylvia Wojtaszek

The Light Between Oceans' was definitely my favourite book in 2015. This book includes the reader actively in the story in that it forces the reader to think about decisions he or she would have made given the situation. It involved you emotionally on almost every page, and it truly represented the good and bad side of people regarding aspects such as love for your partner, commonly agreed on ethical principles as well as human nature in general. A beautiful but demanding read

Jan McDonald

Girl on the Train

- Paula Hawkins

I thoroughly enjoyed "Girl on the Train." It was an easy enjoyable read with enough surprise factor to make it an "un-put-downable" book. This chilling story is told by Rachel, the girl on the train. Each day, from the train, she sees what she imagines to be the perfect couple living in their ideal house. Then, unexpectedly,

things change. Someone is hurt. Someone disappears. Rachel knows something is horrifically wrong. But who will believe her? Rachel is a liar. She is unemployed and has a drinking problem. She is an unreliable witness – or is she?

Marg Cooper

Crocodile on the Sandbank

- Elizabeth Peters.

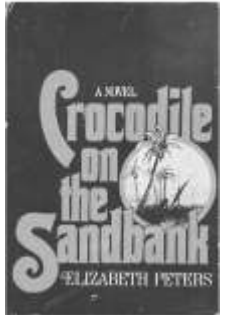
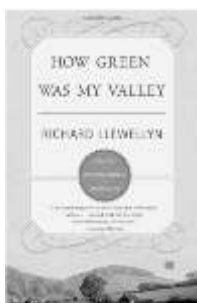
A friend lent me this book which is the first in the "Amelia Peabody" series. The timeline begins in the 1880's with Amelia's decision to see the world as an unexpectedly-wealthy, feminist spinster and ends with the discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb in late 1922. There are over twenty books in the series and they all relate to the "Golden Age" of Egyptology. Amelia is an archaeologist extraordinaire, a feisty turn of the century detective who has a propensity for peril and the courage to wear pantaloons which contain gadgets to rescue her from any situation. Wonderful, light hearted books with extraordinary characters including Amelia, the man she marries, Emerson and their son Ramses. I have just finished book seven in the series "The Snake, the Crocodile and the Dog".

Rosemary Hart

"WARTIME" is the official magazine of the Australian War Memorial. It is a fascinating read, coming out 4 times/year. It comprises a series of short stories, each meticulously researched. Many of the photographs are archival and great efforts are made to identify each person.

The Spring edition featured the Korean War with material representing both the Koreans and the Australians. Last year the Nursing services had prominence. These magazines are available by post directly from Canberra, or on request from your Library.

...and yours?





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Marg's BOOK REVIEW

"Crossing to Safety" by Wallace Stegner

Wallace Stegner published his first novel in 1937. "Crossing to Safety" was his last book published when he was 78 years old and we are told "written with the wisdom of age".

He tells about two couples who form a lifelong bond extending from the Great Depression to the 1970's. Larry and Sally Morgan are poor but Larry's literary career is promising. Charity and Sid Lang are wealthy, smart and magnetic. Through the eyes of Larry we follow the couples through better, worse, richer, poorer, sickness and health of their marriages, careers and families. They take different paths in life but spend much of their summer holidays together in a small Vermont town where Charity's family have been holidaying for decades.

It is Charity who starts the friendship and then dictates much of what ensues. She is a very strong character and continues to control until and after her death.

The book is reflection on the complex nature of the emotional web of human relationships. Wallace Stegner's descriptions of landscape and nature are wondrous, his depictions of characters are wonderful and his gems of wisdom are pearls.

"Death is as natural as being born. Even when we stop being the individuals we once were there is the immortality of organic molecules that's absolutely certain. To think we'll become part of the grass and the trees and animals and that we will stay right here where we loved it while we were alive. People will drink us as their morning milk or pour us as maple syrup over their pancakes."

"Talent, I tell him, believing what I say is at least half luck. We are lucky in our parents, teachers, experience, circumstances, friends, times, physical or mental endowment or we are not. Born to the English language and American opportunity we are among the incredibly lucky ones. What if we had been born Bushmen of the Kalahari? What if our parents had been undernourished villagers in Uttar Pradesh, and we faced the problem of commanding the attention of the world on a diet of 500 calories a day, and in Urdu?"

The book for next month is "The Little Coffee Shop of Kabula" by Deborah Rodriguez.

PS: St Joseph's Op Shop have set up a book room in the Parish Centre. They invite all keen readers to visit, to peruse the shelves and to buy some of their books. Most are for sale for \$1 each.

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Dr Cameron Profitt: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Dr Andrew Bell: Monday, Thursday, Friday

Dr John Henderson: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

Dr Margaret Somerville: Wednesday

Dr Dheeraj Pawar: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

Dr Benjamin Fry: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Dr Amir Rahimi: Alternate Sat (bookings taken in advance)

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it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

Last month we visited Steiglitz and were treated to a marvellous talk and walk and a delicious afternoon tea.

We met at the hotel in Regent Street and were welcomed into the hotel by the owners Peter Sharp and Chris McKenzie. Peter had prepared a talk which involved a time-line, maps and a display of history. His time-line which stretched from 60,000 years ago when the Aborigines were resident in the area until 1930 when Mr Harriot mined under the hotel, really placed Steiglitz on a world map. Peter described mines (to which we later walked) called "Copenhagen" and "Waterloo". "Copenhagen" was the horse which the Duke of Wellington rode in the battle of Waterloo and that that horse was descended from a horse called "Eclipse". Peter also talked about how the Scott family, who owned the hotel for many years, came to Australia on the "Great Britain" which was the first ocean-going ship to be built of iron that had a screw propeller. After a few years in Australia the Scott family went back to England on the same ship and then returned to Australia on her again. The ship was the longest ship in the world when launched in 1843, was designed by Brunel and she operated on the England to Australia route for over 30 years. Peter also mentioned Jason and the Argonauts, Cook's first voyage, Otway and his Chilian Mill and much more. The day finished with Peter leading us on a walk along the creek and through his property. We certainly discovered that there was much more than gold at Steiglitz. A huge thank you to Peter and Chris for their hospitality and sharing their knowledge.

Best Wishes for the Christmas season to all the supporters of MHIG. We look forward to an exciting year next year and maybe a permanent home! The annual meeting will be in February when we would love any recent arrivals to the district or township (especially those with an interest in history) to join us.

The last Thursday of the month is the day when we meet to catalogue

THE MINING COMPANIES OF VICTORIA, 1865. Subjoined we give a complete list of the whole of the public Mining Companies of Victoria, which, has been carefully compiled by Messrs Baillie and Butters, of the Victorian Stock Exchange. The list gives the names of the several companies, the number of shares, the nominal capital, the paid up capital, the locality where the company's operations are carried on, and the name of the manager. It cannot fail to prove extensively valuable to all who are in any way connected with the mining industry of the colony: (*companies listed in the Meredith, Steiglitz area are shown**)

Name	where		
Albert Edward, Quartz		New	Chum, Steiglitz.
Australasia, Gold		StoneyRisesBorhoneyghurk,	
Ballaarat, Quartz		Steiglitz	
Clifton, Quartz		Steiglitz	
Excel, Quartz		Italian Reef, Steiglitz	
Electra, Quartz		Ballaarat Reef, Steiglitz	
Follow the Leader		Boxing Reef, Steiglitz	
Golden Rivers		Middleton Teatree	
Creek, Morrison's			
Lal Lal Basin, Gold		Lal Lal	
Prince of Wales, Quartz		Steiglitz.	
Princess Alice, Quartz		Yankee Reef,	
Royal Charlie, Gold		StoneyRisesBorhoneyghurk,	
Royal George, Gold		Stoney Rises, nr Steiglitz.	
Sailors' Reef, Quartz		Steiglitz	
Steiglitz Redan, Quartz		New Chum, Steiglitz.	
Steiglitz, Quartz		Steiglitz	
The total number of companies here given is 842....			

The Age Thursday 11 May 1865 Compiled by Jan McDonald

**The extract included share details and the manager's name. Let us know if you would like this information. – Ed.*

An accident of a rather peculiar character occurred at Steiglitz on Saturday at the Gibraltar Quartz Company's claim. Two men were coming up the shaft in a large bucket. One of them addressed some observation to the other, but got no reply; and upon arriving at the top of the shaft, it was found that the poor fellow's head had come in contact with a beam on the passage up, and it had completely severed the head from his body—the latter still lying in the bucket, and the head was found at the bottom of the shaft.

Geelong Advertiser Tuesday 29 April 1862

"A flourishing debating society of 170 members has been established at Meredith, and affords the wit and intellect of the district abundant opportunity of shining forth during the discussion of grave subjects of national importance. In fact the combined intellect of Meredith has developed into something even beyond a mere local parliament, and the most careful consideration is given to the Rabbit Suppression Act, or the law relating to the exclusion of aliens, before the debating club's policy in regard to matters of each moment is decided upon. As the present assembly rooms is becoming too limited serious attention is being given to the advisability of erecting a suitable hall and furnishing a well-stocked library."

Geelong Advertiser, Thursday, May 21, 1891

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A Public meeting was convened in the Lethbridge schoolhouse for the purpose of taking steps to prevent the removal of the Police Station....The population of Lethbridge and surrounding localities, dependant on police protection at this time was estimated to be 800. It was pointed out the great want of protection of life and property, especially as goods were left exposed at the railway station overnight.... The meeting moved a deputation be sent to the Hon. Chief Secretary in Melbourne to give the views of the meeting. Some present expressed regret that they did not possess a little of the "rowdyism" attributed to their Meredith neighbours, as in that case there was no danger of the station being removed.

Geelong Advertiser September 1867 (provided by Fay McFarlane)

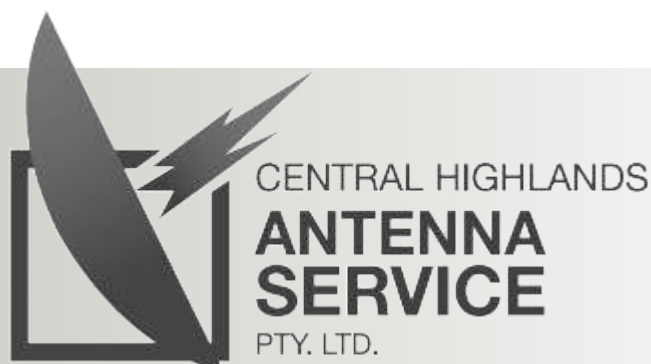
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Art Exhibition

Kerry Thomson

Artists from Meredith and Anakie Community Houses are part of an exhibition at the Shearer's Arms Gallery in Aberdeen Street, Geelong from 10th December to January 16th. Organized by tutor Emma Hollard, the exhibition is showcasing skills and talents of local people who attend north western neighbourhood houses of the Geelong region. Works vary from bold oil landscapes and delicate watercolour flowers to abstract acrylics and the intricate line work of Zentangles (plus some surprises).

Please drop in and check out our artist endeavours. We are all amateurs and would love more people to join our groups where you can develop your skills, engage in lively discussion (not always about art!), attend outings to other galleries and exhibitions and extend social networks with like-minded people. Don't be afraid to take that first step to a lot of fun. Contact the Community House nearest you for more details.

Opening night is 6pm – 8pm on 11th December with normal gallery hours Tues- Fri 11am – 3pm and Sat/Sun 1pm - 4pm.

Kerry Thomson's painting of a fleece will be among those exhibited by local artists at the Shearer's Arms Gallery.



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Birth of a Lions Club

Jarna Kelly

In late September, Meredith and District Lions Club came into existence as the newest Lions Club in Victoria. The Charter Dinner was a well-attended evening presided over by Lions Council of Australia Chairman and past District Governor Philip Johnson, and Lions District governor Wayne Oakes, with special guest Mayor Des Phelan. We had over 100 attendees including local community members, local business representatives and many Lions members from all clubs in the V201V2 district, representing a wide region from Thomastown to Dimboola and across to Colac!

We had an evening of lighthearted formalities and amongst it all we found that Lions are very sociable and supportive and we came away from the evening with many new supporters and friends from across Geelong and the Western region of Victoria.

Thanks to the Meredith Cooking Club for an excellent three-course meal to over 100 guests, as well as the volunteers and crew behind the scenes. The Cricket Club ran the bar for us with their usual no-fuss smiling and laughter.

Coming Lions Events

The Meredith and District Lions Club aims to raise funds that can be put back into our community, and hold events that benefit our community. There are already a few things coming up:

- Meredith Garage Sale (*see notice in this issue*)
- Sausage Sizzle at the Christmas Carols
- School supplies for Vanuatu
- Lions Licola Camp

You may also find us behind the scenes in local events - we've already worked on the gate at the Geelong Show, and will be part of the clean up crew at the Meredith Music Festival.

We meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month, and we're always looking for new members. If you're interested in becoming involved in the Meredith and District Lions Club, contact Mary Foster on 0424 037 542



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Did you know that according to the song, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer", Santa has twelve reindeer? Sure, in the introduction it goes "There's Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen, Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen..." That makes eight reindeer. Then there's Rudolph, of course, so that makes nine. Then there's Olive. You know, "Olive the other reindeer used to laugh..." That makes ten. The eleventh is Howe. You know, "Then Howe the reindeer loved him..." Eleven reindeer. Oh, and number 12? That's Andy! "Andy shouted out with glee." The proof is in the song!

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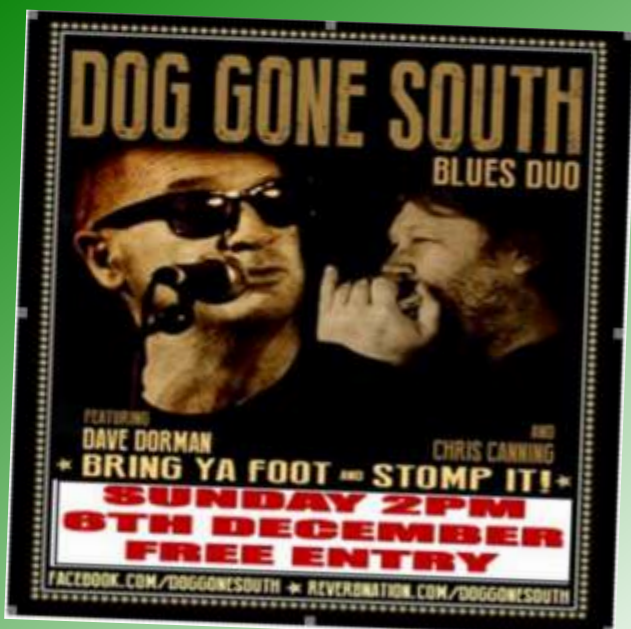
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Merry CHRISTMAS

*We hope you enjoyed your
community news in 2015 & we look
forward to 2016, when we will again
bring you news of district people,
places & events, along with our
wonderful array of columns*

Historic Sugg's Hardware Store at Steiglitz (mirrored for our purposes) is seen here, in Lindy Allenson's photograph, dressed up for the recent *Airing of the Quilts* festival.

We'll be back in February 2016!