

It's winter!



# Meredith & district News



June 2015

YOUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SINCE 1972

## the HUB is here

The new Meredith Hub is a building bringing together the Meredith Kindergarten with the Meredith Community Centre Occasional Care and the Centre's other activities. It will provide space for local organisations and community groups to meet for a range of activities, programs and services. The new modern facility has ample space for people to meet casually or to join one of our many classes and activities. With additional space freed up in our old building it will give us the opportunity to expand our programs in new directions.

We hope the Hub will be more than the traditional community centre and will include more extensive services like health care and social support and a meeting space for community groups. It will become a place that encourages social gathering and provide spaces for people to congregate and meet together in both planned and incidental ways where people feel welcome to come in and feel included.

*Pam Ridd, Meredith Community Centre*

The Meredith Integrated Community Hub will make a significant and positive impact on the Meredith community.

The facility will not only be a state of the art community house, with meeting rooms and community event space, it will offer a range of services, including kindergarten and occasional care. Maternal and Child health services will also operate from the Hub in addition to other primary health services.

Identified as a priority for Meredith in Golden Plains Shire Council's Early Years Infrastructure Plan (2011), this \$1.27M project is an exciting addition to the Meredith community.

The Hub will be up and running mid-June.

*Steph Chapman,, Golden Plains Shire*

*more pics inside*

## inside



- Our Local Artists  
...with brush and steel
- 25 Year Old Sew & Sews
- Vale Gerry Smith  
...and the usual *much more!*

We had a sneak preview of the modern, spacious interior of Meredith's new Integrated Hub. Be sure to have a look when it opens for public use later this month. We think you will agree, Meredith has gained a valuable community asset in this vibrant building that will find many uses in the years ahead. Here's a couple of pics to give you a sense of the interior design.



## **RED GUM & MIXED GUM** split & delivered

- 20 Kg bags of briquettes
- 20 Kg bags of wood
- Firelighters

## **JC PLANT HIRE**

Call JOHN 5286 1378





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](mailto: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, and 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](http://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 EMERGENCY

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  
☎0428 264103

**Junior**  
Under 14  
☎0418535713  
Meredith  
☎5286 1434

**CUBS & SCOUTS**  
Anakie  
☎5281 9497

**FOOTBALL (seniors)**  
☎0408 545246  
(juniors)  
☎0430 587674

**GOLF CLUB**  
☎5341 5748

**HISTORY GROUP**  
☎5286 8201

**LANDCARE**  
☎5286 1250

**LIFE DRAWING**  
☎0430 318322

**MEMORIAL HALL**  
☎5286 1545

**MOTOR CYCLE CLUB**  
☎0437 009250

**PLAYGROUP**  
☎5286 1348

**POLICE PADDOCKS**  
☎5286 1273

**RED CROSS**  
☎5286 8222

**RSL**  
☎52861 452

**SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB**  
☎5286 8232

**TENNIS**  
Elaine  
☎0448 291074  
Meredith  
☎5286 1211

**SEW 'N' SEWS**  
☎5286 1348

**FILM GROUP**  
☎5286 1274

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

Police, Ambulance, Fire	<b>000</b>
(from mobile phone)	<b>000 or 112</b>
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 Vet	5281 1221
Injured Wildlife	13000 wildlife
Pets and Horses 24/7	0421 617 238

## JUSTICES of the PEACE

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

# SERVICES

**CEMETERY TRUST**  
☎5286 1550

**HALL HIRE**  
Meredith Memorial  
☎5286 1545  
Elaine Mechanics  
☎5241 5596  
Elaine Rec Res  
☎5341 5703

**LIBRARY VAN**  
☎5272 6010

**MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH**  
☎5220 7230

**PRE-SCHOOL**  
☎5286 1227

**PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
☎5286 1313

**RECREATION RESERVE**

☎0429 841399



"In what you say of another,  
apply the test of kindness,  
necessity and truth, and let  
nothing pass your lips without a  
2/3 majority."

Liz Armbruster,



## COMMUNITY

### The Meredith Senior Citizens

*Jim Hynds*

On April 27 the Meredith Seniors had their first bus trip for the year. A full load left Meredith and stopped at the Geelong Botanical Gardens. Unfortunately the weather was dismal so a visit to the Mill Market was suggested and quickly organized. After two hours of wandering there and a few purchases we headed for the Wool Museum where we saw an exhibition of woman's attire that had been worn during World War 1. It was a very interesting display but in no time lunch was on our minds so we headed for the Fyansford Hotel where members enjoyed a special pensioners' menu and a lot of chit chat.

Because we still had time to spare our popular and obliging driver, Allan, decided to take us on a tour of the Mt Mercer Wind Farm. The turbines are massive structures up close and well worth seeing. We arrived back in Meredith about 4.30 pm after a leisurely drive from Mt Mercer. A great day was had by all.

A note of interest: I caught up with our neighbour Wally Tabone on the weekend. He is a horse enthusiast from way back. He recently spent ten days with a group riding horses around the Snowy Mountains. Most of the group were in their 60's with a sprinkling of people in their 70's. On Anzac Day they were at Bradley's Hut, some thirteen hundred metres above sea level where they held an Anzac Day Service. It may be a record for the highest place in Australia where an Anzac Day Service was held. Well done Wally and the group of horse enthusiasts.

### At the Interpretative Centre

*Di Richie*

Want to know what "The School of the Future" will look like? Students at the Meredith Primary School worked together to build a futuristic school from Lego. It was created for an Exhibition in Ballarat. You are invited to visit the Interpretive Centre now to see the model school. You can also google "Mr G's Grade Lego Trek" to see the school's Lego Movie by To complement the Lego some older types of building toys are displayed. Many visitors will remember wooden blocks, wooden jigsaws with paper pictures glued on, brick red blocks, soft plastic coloured blocks, wooden blocks with stamps, meccano sets and more. If you have any other building toys we would love to display them also.

A display about J.J.G. Colclough DCM has been set up in the display cabinet. His daughter and granddaughter are coming to see the display and his daughter Jan is going to tell about his life on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> at the Anglican Church Hall at 1.30 pm.

A walk around town started from the Centre on Friday, May 22. Steve and Laura two of the consultants who work for the

Golden Plains Shire assisting all the Community Coordinators in the Shire brought Bill along. Bill has worked as an artistic adviser on many projects including the Westgate Bridge Park and Docklands. He was extremely interested in the Meredith projects. It will be interesting to what he may advise for Meredith?

There are a number of publications available at the Centre including "What's on Geelong and Surrounds", District Maps, The Geelong Advertiser publication "Our Place", GPAC programs and Local History Books. If you would like to display any information about your business or coming event please drop in to the centre and let us know. The centre is open Mondays 10 a.m.- 1 p.m, Thursdays 10am- 3p.m., Fridays 10am- 1p.m. and Saturdays 1p.m.- 4 p.m. If you have a few hours to spare and would like to volunteer please call in at any of these times and give us your contact details.

Volunteers at the centre are changing the messages on the "What's On" Sign. If you would like to display a message please text the message to Diane Ritchie on 0408599602 at least two weeks before the event. We hope soon to have new letters and some equipment to help us and then we hope that the children from the school may be able to assist in letting the community know what's on!!!

### Men's Health



When it comes to health, men generally prefer to cross their fingers and hope for the best rather than take precautions and look after themselves. But it's important for men to be aware of the health issues they may face so any problems can be detected and treated early.

To raise awareness of men's health issues and encourage men to be proactive about their health, the Golden Plains Shire Health & Wellbeing team will be providing a free three course meal, health checks and a speaker, Dr Don Moss at the Dereel Community Centre. Dr Moss describes himself as a '**Plumber of People**', he will speak on all aspects of men's health an area that has long been his passion.

**When: Tuesday June 9<sup>th</sup> 6-9pm**

**RSVP June 2nd**

To register for the evening please contact Bennita on any of the contact details below.

For more information contact: Bennita Hough, Community Nurse, Dereel. 53461521/0427095998 or [commnurse@bdnh.com.au](mailto:commnurse@bdnh.com.au)



I would like to give a big thankyou to all the friends and neighbours that have helped and supported me over the past months, and of course our great Cert group, always such a relief to see them arrive, thankyou to you all. - Joy Smith.

Our thanks to the staff at the Meredith Roadhouse/Servo last week when we had car trouble. They were most helpful and we enjoyed a good coffee while we waited for the RACV. There is nothing like good country kindness and hospitality. Well done and thanks so much.  
- Carmel and Cliff Dunstone Newtown Geelong.

We would like to thank the following Businesses for their fantastic support of vouchers and goods for our "car show/swap meeting." Royal Meredith Hotel, Happy Hens Meredith, Meredith Corner Store, Woolabrai P/L, Mortimer Fuel Meredith, Cafe Mirepoix Meredith, Meredith and District News, Doug Cations, Bannockburn Hotel, Bannockburn Hardware, Faggs Mitre Ten Geelong, Coats Hire Geelong, Plaster Master Geelong, Mt Zero Holdings P/L Meredith, Bursons Geelong, Super Cheap Auto Hoppers Crossing, also thank you to Gordon Primmer.

Approximately \$2400.00 was raised for Paceline. \$400 was donated to prostate Cancer Research. Last but not least we donated \$280 to the Moorabool Crocs Football club also thank you for the support of the Meredith Community.

Karl, Geoff and Rob "The Meredith Mancave Madness Crew"

## Classifieds

First insertion of small ads are FREE to district residents

2 x single fold-out portable beds inc mattress \$35.00 each  
1 x sewing cabinet/table (lockable portable unit) \$60.00  
Please call Jenny 0419 164 745



Hi Everyone,

This newsletter finds us with high expectations that we will shortly be moving in to our new home at the Meredith Integrated Community Hub. The builders have almost finished, our old building has a new coat of paint to blend with the new building and we are waiting for the landscaping of the children's outdoor area. I know the Kindergarten is looking forward to the new premises as much as we are. Unfortunately we have had to postpone some of our planned activities due to the mess outside in the last couple of weeks. Our open day with visitors will happen later in the year and also our Drugs forum will return when we can arrange the guest police speakers.

The event that was really successful for our Neighbourhood House Week was the children's nature walk, everyone had a ball and I think the measure of success was lots of muddy boots and smiles from the children. Many thanks to the Children's Services department from the Golden Plains Shire.

Although we are well into this Term we still have some great classes coming up or you can drop in any time to one of our regular groups including the Friday painting class, Saturday art group and Monday Sew n Sews group. At all of these you can work on your own projects and get support and ideas from the rest of the group. Our Sew n Sews group have just celebrated 25 years of meeting together with a reunion lunch with a display of some of the lovely work and lots of reminiscing with old friends. We will have some pics up on our web page soon. I hope you have had a chance to look at our new website. The new web address (URL) is [www.meredithcommunitycentre.com.au](http://www.meredithcommunitycentre.com.au). Our website and Facebook page are great places to find out what is happening around the Centre. We do our best to keep an update in the news section of the website.

Occasional care continues to go from strength to strength. Jo and Rebecca are always busy providing great activities for the children.

Please feel free to call in for a chat and a cuppa to find out what we have happening at the Centre. Till next month.

Bye till next month.

*Pam*



## Meredith Playgroup

Meredith Playgroup meets every Thursday from 10am.

Enjoy new activities every week

All welcome

Contact Community Centre for details 52 861 348

Meredith Community Centre  
5 Russell Street Meredith 3333  
Ph 5286 1348

[learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au](mailto:learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au)  
Open: Mon, Wed, Thurs 9.00-3.00 Fri 9-12.30



## 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 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday each month, Holy Communion at Anglican Church. 11.00am 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month, Holy Communion at Uniting Church

### Morrison

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

### UNITING CHURCH

Monthly Combined Holy Communion services.

2nd Sunday, 11am at Meredith Uniting Church

4th Sunday at 11am at Meredith Anglican Church

1st & 3rd Sunday at 9.30 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

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, pastoral care

Father Herman Licayan 52861230

Mass times for the Meredith parish for May/June

Winchelsea every Saturday @ 6 p.m.

Bannockburn every Sunday @ 9 a.m.

Anakie Sunday @ 11 a.m. June 14th/28th July 12th/26th

Meredith Sunday @ 11 a.m. June 7th/21st July 5th/19th

First Eucharist @ Winchelsea Saturday June 6th @ 6p.m.

@ Meredith Sunday June 7th @ 11 a.m.

@Bannockburn Sunday June 7th/ June 14th @ 2 p.m.

Inverleigh Mass for Feast of the Sacred Heart Friday June 12th at 7 p.m.

Marian Mass @ Bannockburn @ 10 a.m. Saturday June 6th/ July 4th.

Healing Mass and Lunch @ Meredith @ 11 a.m. Saturday July 25th

Meredith Parish will celebrate 140 years as a Parish with a series of events all over the Parish culminating in Mass at St. Joseph's Meredith on Sunday August 16th at 2 p.m. followed by afternoon tea. All welcome.

## Lions Club for Meredith



After a few months of hard work , persistence has paid off !! The Great news for Meredith and district is that a Lions Club will be formed . The next meeting of the group is on Tuesday June 2nd at 7.30 p.m. at the Royal hotel and the next meeting after that will be Tuesday June 16th. If you would like to be a charter member of this new club please just come along to the meetings or contact Claire Kelly at the Royal Hotel or Jarna Kelly at Mirepoix .

## Australia's Biggest Morning Tea Meredith Style



*Di Richie*

Last Thursday May 21st Meredith locals gathered to once again work for this cause so dear to the hearts of so many families- research into a cure for cancer.

St. Joey's Hall was beautifully decorated with round tables , lace cloths, vases of flowers and the most delectable array of sandwiches , cakes and pastries on tiered plates . Our very young residents - the playgroup children were brought along by their mums to also enjoy the morning, adding a special dimension to the day. Lots of fun competitions and raffles and silent auctions meant that the grand total of approximately \$1400 was raised- our highest ever. Special thanks to the quilting ladies for the wonderful quilts, Royal Hotel, Meredith Nursery, Elaine Farm Supplies, Mortimers Fuel, Poppies Florists of Bannockburn, Mirepoix and King Broccoli of Bannockburn for their valuable support. Thank you to all who helped organize this very pleasant morning and to those who donated and to those who came along. See you next year.!



## AGISTMENT WANTED

Agistment wanted, on the eastern side of the Midland highway, close to the township of Meredith. I am looking for a well fenced and easily watered, preferably 2 acre plus paddock, with shade/shelter. For a 12 year old quarter horse/ arab cross gelding, with the possibility of another horse as well.

Daily oversight by an experienced horse owner

Robyn: 0425719452

## RED CROSS FILM NIGHT

Last Thursday of the Month 800pm

Come along and see our next movie at the Meredith Community Centre in the Studio.  
(Donation Appreciated).



## St. Joey's OP SHOP -

Open Wednesdays and Fridays 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Great range of coats and jumpers available. New book room open ..lots of books all \$1.well worth a visit  
Volunteers very welcome - Ring 5286 1230

## Meredith POLICE news



Welcome again to all readers of the Meredith and District News Letter. I have made many references in previous articles requesting readers to report any suspicious behaviour to me to Crime Stoppers and to record as much information as possible with regard to vehicle behaviour and registration details. I know that this message is having a great effect as I have received some great information in recent weeks.

Over recent months, both the Meredith and Bannockburn and surrounding areas have been the target of increasing crime. Much of this crime has been committed with offenders using stolen utes from the Geelong area. This has been confirmed via footage from various locations.

On Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> May, I was returning from processing an offender at the Ballarat Police Station at 10.30 p.m. when I received information of a white ute that had committed a petrol theft on the Midland Highway, Bannockburn. After making further enquiries, I ascertained that the ute had been stolen from Newtown in Geelong only one hour prior. A short time later I located the vehicle on the Midland Highway near Meredith.

Following a brief police pursuit, I arrested two male offenders from the Geelong area. These offenders were charged with a variety of offences including theft of a motor vehicle, theft and initiating a police pursuit. One offender was remanded into custody while the other was released on bail. These offenders made reference during their respective interviews that they intended on "running a muck" in the area.

After a spate of recent motor vehicle collisions within the area where people have lost their lives or been seriously injured, it astounds me to see that a minority of road users are still prepared to drive either at speed or under the influence of alcohol or drugs and place themselves and others at risk.

I am currently investigating the actions of a local probationary licence holder. On Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup> April. I intercepted this male driver in the Meredith township at 9.50 p.m after he was observed by people who were horrified by what they saw and contacted police. Statements have now been taken from those witnesses and this matter is under investigation. A male will be charged on summons with serious traffic offences resulting from this incident.

I encourage people in the community to keep up the great work where matters have been reported to me relating to suspicious behaviour within the community.

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

## Message from the Mayor

*Cr Des Phelan Golden Plains Shire Mayor*

May was a good month for Council and the residents of Golden Plains Shire.

The State Government Budget included funding for the new P-12 School in Bannockburn, the Federal Government announced a double payment of Roads to Recovery funding which will give Golden Plains \$1,900,420 in the 2015-16 year followed by \$950,000 each year for the following 4 years. This funding will provide a real boost the roads program in our Shire.

Council's Draft 2015-16 Budget was out for public review until 1 June and, at the time of writing this report, a number of submissions had been received from residents. There was also a good deal of engagement in social media about the draft budget, the budget process and how rates are spent. We appreciate all feedback from our residents. Follow Council of Facebook to keep up to date on news and events.

We also celebrated the contributions of Council's volunteers at an event on 12 May as part of Volunteers Week. Special guest speaker Sue Noble, the CEO of Volunteering Victoria, spoke about the range of benefits volunteers gain by volunteering; outlining the significant benefits to volunteers' health, wellbeing and social connectedness. If you are interested in joining fellow volunteers in your local community, feel free to contact Volunteer Coordinator, Jordie, on 5220 7111.

Council also celebrated the launch of a new Community Library Project which commenced in Rokewood this month. The Community Library Project is giving members of the Rokewood Planned Activity Group access to magazines, books and audiobooks as well as DVDs and music CDs. Residents receiving this service may not otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy these resources and this is why the project is such a fantastic initiative.

Looking ahead there are more ways for residents to get involved, Council has a number of surveys and consultations running over the next eight weeks and is seeking public comment. Please make sure you visit the website [www.goldenplainsdigital.com.au/consultations](http://www.goldenplainsdigital.com.au/consultations) and have your say. Lastly, your kerbside collection service will be changing as of 1 July, all ratepayers should receive a 'Let's Get it Sorted' pack in the mail mid-June which will include a range of information to assist you with the transition to the new collection service. This pack includes a General Waste and Recycling Booklet, a Collection Calendar identifying your collection week, a Fridge Magnet and Bin Sticker identifying the items which can be recycled. If you have not received your pack by the end of June, please contact Council's Customer Service Centre on 5220 7111 to have a copy mailed out to you.

## Recreation



### Elaine Cricket Club Inc

Annual General Meeting elected office bearers 2015/16  
President Murray Arnel Vice President Daryl Wells  
Secretary/Treasurer Shane Dunne, Assistant secretary Julie Pantzidis.

Committee Members: Ron Read, Ian Goulden, Yvette Ludowyk, Nigel Parkinson, Cade Arnel, Joel McArthur, John Baker, David Flood.

### Elaine Tennis Club Inc

#### Annual General Meeting

Monday 15th June 7.30pm at  
Elaine Recreation Reserve - All welcome

### 25 Years for "Sew and Sews"

Geraldine Baker



Wow, how time has flown and who are the "Sew and Sews"? The Meredith and Community Craft Group of course and they celebrated their 25 years of community fellowship on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2015 with a light luncheon, cuppa and a chat. Members of the club have been meeting on a regular weekly basis since starting in 1990. The celebration was attended by many past and present members.

A highlight of the afternoon was a short speech from Desma Blow, a founding member, on how the club was started. She was approached to provide her expertise in the art of patchwork quilting. From that initial approach the club blossomed into many other forms of craft, including embroidering, knitting and spinning just to name a few of the activities. Over the years we have seen many extraordinarily talented members produce some beautiful craftwork many going into exhibitions and winning prizes.

*The "Sew and Sews" meet every Monday afternoon at the Meredith Community House, all are invited and welcome to come along, but be warned before you know it, you too will be turning out your own masterpieces and dare I say enjoying the fellowship as well.*

### Local Artists Catch the Eye

Kerry Thomson

#### Marion East

Local artist **Marion East** has recently had more success with her oil paintings in two different exhibitions. As part of a 10 woman group at Karingallery from 17<sup>th</sup>– 30<sup>th</sup> April she showed 10 small works, mostly depicting local landscape scenes. From May 23 – 30<sup>th</sup> Marion had many of her larger works on display at The Wintergarden in

Geelong. These evocative paintings captured the moodiness of stormy night skies through the treetops to colourful, energetic interpretations of the Brisbane Ranges bush. Wonderful pencil drawings of dogs also reveal another side to Marion's talent.

#### Amanda Hyatt

World renowned local watercolourist **Amanda Hyatt** recently starred as the feature artist on the Channel 74 program "Colour in your Life" (7.30pm Sat. or Sun 6pm) hosted by Graeme Stevenson. As well as espousing her 5 keys to a good painting she demonstrated plein air (in the open on site) painting as she produced an amazing interpretation of the view over the Moorabool Valley from the newly opened Bunjil Lookout at Maude. (some excellent advertising for the area!).

Amanda's demonstration can be seen on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJIQ95P99-E>. If you are really keen, she also runs workshops in different parts of the world. Earlier this year Amanda taught in Tasmania for two weeks and has recently returned from a teaching trip in New Zealand. Later this year Amanda is taking a workshop cruise through the Balkans. More of Amanda's fabulous paintings and details of workshops can be seen on her website: [www.Amandahyatt.com](http://www.Amandahyatt.com)

*On 27<sup>th</sup> June Amanda is featuring a second time on "Colour in your Life". Don't miss it.*

*Amanda Hyatt (below) with her beautiful rendition of the Moorabool Valley. Right: Marion East's atmospheric bush tree line*







Recently scammers have been cold calling, claiming to be from energy providers, telecommunication providers or even government departments. Scamwatch have received reports of these phone calls demanding payments for overdue accounts and using the threat of disconnection to try to convince people to pay. These calls are targeting both individuals and businesses. On some occasions it has been reported that the caller was from Centrelink and that pension payments would be stopped unless the debt was paid. Other examples

include threats of arrest or court action for unpaid fines or bills or the threat of disconnection to essential services. What appears to be common to all these scams is the use of threats to create a sense of urgency so the recipient of the call doesn't have the time to check the authenticity of the demand.

If you receive any phone calls claiming you owe money for your energy or phone bill you should investigate this independently. You should call your provider using the phone number found on your bills or on their website. Do not provide any personal or financial details over the phone.

#### How these scams work

- You receive an unexpected phone call from a person claiming you owe money for your phone or energy bill.
- The phone numbers they use will appear local but this doesn't make the demand any more legitimate.
- The caller may be very threatening saying that if you do not pay you will be disconnected, receive a fine or your government benefits will cease.

• The scammer will provide some bank account details that they want you to pay to or ask you to pay by wire transfer.

#### Protect yourself

- If you receive a phone call asking to pay an overdue account, check its legitimacy by contacting your supplier using telephone numbers you know from bills you have received, the phone book or that you have found independently from an online search.
- Never give your personal, credit card or online account details over the phone unless you made the call and the phone number came from a trusted source.
- If you think you have provided your account details to a scammer, contact your bank or financial institution immediately.
- Do not send money via a wire transfer to pay a bill.

Source: ACCC <http://www.scamwatch.gov.au>



*Black and White, oil on canvas, 2012*



## Vale to Gerald Francis Norman Smith

*Marg Cooper*

Gerry was known far and wide as "The Rocking Horse Man". He estimated that he made over 1000 rocking horses or hobby horses during the 18 years that he lived in Meredith and that the horses have travelled to all parts of Australia. A photo was sent to Gerry and Joy showing one of his horses on a wheel barrow. It had been unloaded from a small aeroplane on a station on the border between Northern Territory and Queensland which was considered by the School of the Air to be the most isolated cattle station in Australia. The owners of the horse sent the photo as testament to the sturdy construction of the horse since it had travelled by car, truck, boat and plane since leaving Meredith.

Gerry was born in Castle Combe, Wiltshire in England in 1936. He joined the Air Force after leaving school. In 1961 he married Joy and following the birth of their three sons they decided to emigrate. "Westinghouse Brake and Signal Company", for whom Gerry worked, offered him a job in New Zealand. The family took this opportunity and lived for some time in a newly renovated house on a New Zealand dairy farm where the boys could fish in a river, swim in the sea, help on the farm to learn skills and earn pocket money and drink lots of milk. When the boys were getting to the age when they needed jobs Gerry and Joy decided that Australia offered more opportunities so the family shifted to Williamstown and Gerry once again worked for "Westinghouse Brake and Signal Company".

Chris recalled the individuality of his father. He explained how Gerry chose to buy older vehicles and repair them and that one time he bought two old cars to make one good one out of them. He was a handy man who renovated houses, built furniture and mended anything that needed a mend. Gerry was strict about table manners and swearing, a practical joker who liked to grizzle a bit and enjoy a smoke. About eight years ago he suffered his first stroke but continued to make rocking horses with help from friends until the effort became too much. One of the delights of his last years was the weekly Sunday visit of Peter Nemstis to talk about their Air Force service and to taste test beers from all over the world.

Gerry died on March 27, 2015 and a service of remembrance was held at Geelong Memorial Park at Mt Duneed on Tuesday, March 31 followed by afternoon tea at the Royal Hotel at Meredith. His memory will forever live in the 1000 rocking horses being ridden around Australia.



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# Winter

School Holiday Program

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE FREE

## MATERIAL WORLD

Monday 29 June 10.00am – 2.00pm

The Well, Smythesdale

Join the Cuppa and Craft group and learn new skills, creating great craft and textile

## COSY CAMPFIRE TALES

Tuesday 30 June 10.30am – 11.30am

Bannockburn Regional Library

Join us around the campfire for a special story telling session. Come along and share tales, play games and have a good ol' campfire sing-a-long

## ABSTRACT SELFIE

Thursday 2 July 2.30pm – 4.00pm

Bannockburn Regional Library

But first let me take a selfie! At this hand-on session we will create inspired artistic selfies

## THE PUSH SUMMIT

Tuesday 7 July 10.30am – 3.30pm

Ballarat Town Hall

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## MAKING PUPPETS AND PUPPET THEATRE

Wednesday 8 July 11.00am – 3.00pm

Haddon Community Learning Centre

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## COOKING MADE FUN

Wednesday 8 July 10.00am – 1.00pm

Bannockburn Cultural Centre

Have fun in the kitchen learning easy recipes you can make for the family or your school lunch box. In partnership with Barwon Health, the Men's Kitchen, and the YMCA

## MOVIE MANIA

Thursday 9 July 2.30pm – 4.00pm

Bannockburn Regional Library

Join us for a wintry movie that will be sure to leave you feeling warm and fuzzy



Register at [www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/youth](http://www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/youth) or phone (03) 5220 7111



Chris McKenzie's

## Garden Notes



I love the winter garden. In June the last leaves fall from the deciduous trees and vines and we often have clear blue sky days after the early morning frost has thawed. On these glorious mornings I like to wander around the garden secateurs in hand and snip away at the perennial herbs and ground covers. It's a kind of walking meditation and a tidy up but the pruning also removes old foliage and makes way for new growth, some of which is already pushing through the earth. Now is a good time to divide perennials and share with friends or plant out in other parts of the garden. Slice down through the plant with a sharp edged spade, lift the divided clump of roots and earth and find another spot for it to grow. This is such a simple way to grow plants. Try this with the mints, the marjorams, oregano, the achilleas, the thymes, comfrey.

My garden is replete with plants grown in this way, many I have carried around for years from garden to garden, each one a memory of a friend or an old aunt who grew the original. A memory garden is an enchanted place. As I wander around I recall Auntie Chris who grew the crinum, Auntie Ivy who grew the Madonna lilies and a friend who shared that unusual marjoram with me. But - I'm wandering in the garden again and must get back to the gardening column.

Another reason for my pleasure in the winter garden is that I can see its shapes clearly without the foliage, observe the bare bones as it were. Not that our garden is planned, it has grown like topsy to a degree but this is a good time to decide which plants could be moved to a better or more suitable position. Don't be too timid about digging up a shrub or even a small tree at this time of year. Cut through the roots with a sharp spade around the drip edge and irrigate with seaweed concentrate mixed into a couple of buckets of water. In a week or two the roots will have healed and you can lift the plant gently, including as much of the root system as possible, trim off any torn roots and replant in a well watered hole with some healthy compost or loamy soil.

We are plucking broccoli heads now and have broad beans, green and snap peas and silver beet

growing strongly now, but it's not too late to plant these vegies. In fact we will continue to put in more of these seeds so as to stagger the harvest. A bright green crop of nettles has appeared in what was a bare patch a couple of weeks ago. I'm fond of nettles as I've heard they indicate healthy soil and I give myself a sting now and then in the belief that the sting is good for my arthritis. Certainly I will make nettle soup which is delicious and probably healthier than the sting. I haven't room for a recipe here but this is a good one: [rivercottage.net/recipes/nettle-soup](http://rivercottage.net/recipes/nettle-soup)

Happy gardening *Chris*

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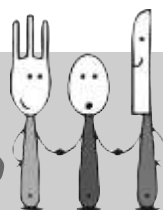
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The second last **Friday**  
**LUNCH club**



Jimmy's Bar ★★★★★☆

The Friday Lunchers got a bit adventurous this month and wheeled it all the way to Daylesford for a bit of mid-day nosh. Jimmy's Bar is the flash part of Frangos and Frangos at the top of Vincent Street. (So don't expect to get a nearby park any time after daybreak!) We booked to make sure we got an indoor table overlooking the delightful courtyard – a recommended practice but, amazingly, we were the only diners on this cold and heartless Friday in late autumn. Maybe it was the prices, as it certainly wasn't cheap. At \$40 a plate with wine prices to match, it is a (very) special treat venue.

Restaurant staff were missing when we turned up, and we were greeted by a terrified cleaner with vacuum cleaner in tow. They soon made up for it though with plenty of gush and carry on befitting a venue of this standard. Now to the food.

It is only a small selection but very, very stylish. With a focus on local produce – the suppliers are listed on the back of the menu – every dish brought together some fabulous ingredients. Like: "Slow Braised Pork Belly", comprising chestnut soil (that's what it said!) turnip, brussell sprouts and orange glaze. The very helpful waiter explained the new French chef had been taken on a tour of the suppliers' farms and the setting he found the pigs in provided the inspiration for plating the dish. (Sounded dangerous to us!)

But all the dishes – we also had Wagyu Steak and Fish of the Day - were beautifully presented and a joy to eat. Unsurprisingly, the coffee was excellent.

This is certainly only an occasional indulgence for most people – and never, for some – but if you can afford it, it is a very worthwhile treat. (You could even buy a pie at the bakery across the road, then pop in for a \$20 entrée and coffee – you will feel just as special.)

*Two of the Lunchers decided to go even further afield, missing this treat, in favour of lunch at the Cunnamulla Pub, (literally, the back of Bourke) where a Surf and Turf sets you back \$38 but the wedges and sour cream is much more reasonably priced at \$18. (Until you remember it's a plate of chips for goodness sake!) Then, of course, there's the petrol costs.*

*We would love to hear about your eating out experiences too. Nothing unduly derogative of course, but an honest appraisal of your dining adventure would be most welcome. - Ed.*

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## Food for thought....

Are you interested in growing, sharing, selling or eating food?

Council is currently gathering information about the food system in the Golden Plains Shire, to inform future actions to improve food access and security for our community.

As part of this project we would like to hear from community members about how you currently access food for yourselves and your families, if you have any problems getting enough good quality food, and if you have any ideas or solutions to improve food access and security in the Shire.

We are encouraging all community members to take the short Food Access survey at <https://www.goldenplainsdigital.com.au/consultations> before the 19<sup>th</sup> of June 2015 to help us to gain a better understanding of our local food issues. Everyone who completes a survey will go into the draw to win one of four \$50 Supermarket vouchers. Individuals can also visit The Well, Dereel Community Centre, Northern Community Centre, Linton Shire Office or Bannockburn Cultural Centre to provide their feedback.

Once we have gathered this information we will be inviting all interested organisations, businesses, community groups and individuals across the Shire to come together at a local Food Forum to come up with ideas together about how we can improve the food experience for our communities. For more information contact Belinda Hynes, Community Wellbeing Officer on 03 5342 7000 or email [bhynes@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:bhynes@gplains.vic.gov.au).

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# Y112 Steam Engine

*Raymond Kelly, passenger on Sat., May 9.*

On Friday evening May 8, 2015 a special train consisting of steam locomotive K153 hauling six passenger carriages, plus steam engine Y112 built in 1889, with diesel engine T353 providing assistance in the rear, came through Meredith.

The train was being transferred to Ballarat from the Steamrail Depot in Newport for the Ballarat Heritage Festival weekend. On each day of the festival Steamrail Victoria ran five trips departing from Ballarat station to Lal Lal and returning.

On Saturday when the 1pm shuttle pulled into number two platform at the Ballarat station it contrasted enormously with the 2.31 pm Velocity train standing in number one platform. The latter included VL56 the newest Velocity train to enter service with V/Line.

Over three thousand passengers travelled on the shuttles over the weekend. The train departed from the Ballarat station at 6.45 pm on Sunday evening minus Y112 which remained in Ballarat with the T class diesel leading the train to Nth Geelong and steam locomotive K153 leading from Geelong to Newport.

*[Twenty Y class steam locomotives were built about 1889 by the Phoenix Foundry in Ballarat, including Y112. It is now owned by Sovereign Hill and is leased to Steamrail, Victoria.]*





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## World Elder Abuse Awareness Day


**June 15 2015**

June 15 2015 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), an annual day recognised by the United Nations.

Elder abuse is any act which causes harm to an older person and is carried out by someone they know and trust such as a family member or friend. The abuse may be physical, social, financial, psychological or sexual and can include mistreatment and neglect. While elder abuse is vastly under-reported, it is estimated 1-10% of older people suffer from it worldwide.

Please join us in saying "no" to elder abuse by holding your own awareness event for WEAAD. To find out more, and register your event, visit: <http://elderabuseawarenessday.org.au/>

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## Mar BOOK REVIEW

### *"Cutting For Stone"* by Abraham Verghese

"My brother Shiva and I came into the world in the late afternoon of the twentieth of September in the year of grace 1954. We took our first breaths in the thin air of Addis Ababa, capital city of Ethiopia." The miracle of the birth of identical twins Shiva and Marion took place at Missing Hospital in Operating Theatre 3 where their mother Sister Mary Joseph Praise, a nun of the Diocesan Carmelite, Order of Madras spent most of her working hours with their father, surgeon Thomas Stone.

The story that follows evolves because their mother dies of complications from her hidden pregnancy and their father immediately disappears. They are raised by Dr Kalpana Hemlatha and Dr Abhi Ghosh, both immigrants from Madras and both doctors at the hospital. They grow up amid the political turmoil of Ethiopia. The twins who are almost supernaturally close as children but become more distant as the novel progresses and are dramatically reunited at its end through the mysterious agency of their long vanished father, Thomas Stone. The title is puzzling until we are told that "I will not cut for stone" is part of the Hippocratic Oath which translates to "I will leave this operation to be performed by practitioners, specialists in this art". The twins become doctors who specialise, their father is a specialist as are the doctors at Missing Hospital. The surname "Stone" also puzzles the mind as to the title.

The author was born and brought up by Indian parents in Ethiopia. He qualified as a doctor in Madras and in 2009 was Professor of Medicine at Stanford University, California. He has written several books. Some reviews of the book describe it as absorbing, exhilarating, exhausting and baggy! He tries to cram in every last fact including medical facts and practices. In 2011 President Barack Obama chose "Cutting For Stone" as one of the five books on his summer vacation reading list.

*Bookclub members enjoyed reading this book and were particularly interested in the medical cases. The book for discussion in July is "Life after Life" by Kate Atkinson.*

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## the **L2P** Program

Golden Plains Shire in partnership with Vicroads, the City of Greater Geelong and Ballarat United Way has embarked on its first L2P Driver Mentor Program.

The L2P program is an innovative mentoring program helping learner drivers get their P's. The program offers young people between the ages of 16 and 21, who don't have the support and resources (eg no access to a car or supervising driver) the opportunity to achieve 120 hours of driving experience required to obtain their probationary drivers licence.

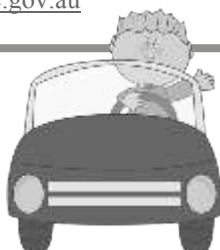
The purpose of the program is to connect young people with community mentors (supervising drivers) to facilitate safe driving practices and engagement with the community.

Young drivers engaged in the program will:

- have access to up to seven FREE lessons with a registered driving school throughout their time in the program to assess progress. Learner drivers will need to demonstrate basic car control before beginning driving sessions with their volunteer mentor.
- be matched to a trained volunteer mentor who will guide their development as safe drivers.
- obtain their mandatory 120 hours of driving practice required by VicRoads in a variety of weather, traffic and road conditions, under the supervision of their mentor.

We have 5 places available immediately for any young person residing in the Shire (4 south and 1 in the north).

If you are a young person who lives in the shire, who meets the criteria and who would like to participate then please contact Caroline Jordan, Volunteer Coordinator, Golden Plains Shire on 52207216 or [caroline.jordan@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:caroline.jordan@gplains.vic.gov.au)



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## Steel Comes Alive

Marg Cooper

Daniel McDonnell is alive with imagination and ideas. His business "Steel Alive" creates artistic pieces for your house, for your garden and for your business. His business also does a wide range of heavy engineering and maintenance, fits out containers and builds fences and balustrades etc.

Daniel grew up in Grovedale and hated schoolwork but liked building, designing and making things. He was Dux at Grovedale Secondary College for his ceramics work. He started an apprenticeship as a boiler maker when he was 14 years old and started to make sculptures from scraps of steel during his lunch breaks. He first made a dog. His girlfriend, now wife, Bianca worked at a nursery and she displayed and sold his creations.

His hobby became a business six years ago when Daniel and Bianca opened a show room in Separation Street, North Geelong. This indoor/outdoor area is artistically crammed with extraordinary art works that look great, are skilfully made, suitable for every situation and cover every topic. There are candle stands, screens, life like figures, fire pits, boxes, birds, seats built like a butterfly, water features, musical instruments and furniture. Daniel says they will build anything for clients. If they come in with an idea, we're always up for a challenge.

Daniel and his family came to live at Pioneer Ridge 12 months ago which he says is the best thing that they have ever done. He and Bianca run together, the children have a big yard to play in and the family has room to ride their motor bikes. Daniel competes in Off Road Championships. They have also started to landscape their yard with rocks, life size metal dinosaurs and other sculptures. But their gates are a masterpiece!

The "Tree of Life" in steel. Daniel is keen to bring some of his art to Meredith as both street art and for art at your place.



Daniel and Bianca with some of their "Industrial Art."

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# healthSAVE pharmacy

## **Bannockburn Pharmacy Newsletter**

Proprietors: Scott Wilkes & Damian Bennett

6 High Street  
Bannockburn VIC 3331  
Phone: 5281 1519

### **A New Pharmacy Brand & A New Look!**

We are excited to announce that we are now a HealthSave pharmacy!!

As mentioned in last month's newsletter the main change that has occurred is we can't automatically bring all of our customers across from our old rewards program to our brand new one. This is because we are changing brands. Having said that, I would like to thank all of our customers for their support during this transition phase over the last 3 months, whether you chose to spend the money you had accumulated or transfer it to our new rewards program. We now have our brand new Pharmacy Loyalty program up and running!

Below is some information around our new Loyalty program:

1. For those of you who chose to transfer your money across to the new program, we have done that for you and it is now ready for you to spend or keep accumulating.
2. If you spent your money, all you need to do is come in and sign up in-store. We will obtain some basic information from you and you will be ready to go. None of the information gathered is provided to third parties.
3. Our new program runs exactly the same as our old program. For every \$1 spent in-store you receive 5 cents cash back on your loyalty program (excludes prescriptions).
4. There is no expiry on the money you accumulate. You can spend as much or as little as you choose when you want to.
5. We have decided that we won't be issuing cards as many of us prefer not to carry another card in your wallet or purse. We will be able to quickly look you up in-store when you are making a purchase.
6. A great feature with our new Loyalty program is we can link multiple family members to the one Loyalty program. Previously each family member would need their own card.

If you are a member of our FREE Gift Club you will still receive a 16% discount off our RRP and 21% off during the month of December.

You will see that the look/signage of our Pharmacy has changed but you will still see the same friendly and helpful staff members.

We always value any feedback you have so please do not hesitate to let us know if you would anything improved, items stocked that we previously haven't stocked, etc as our goal is provide as many products and services as possible to save you having to travel.

Thank you to everyone once again for your support during this transition.

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

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# Heathyeasy and delish

selected by Stefania Parkinson

## Lamb & Date Tagine with Couscous

• Prep time 27 minutes • Serves 6

### Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 6 lamb shanks
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 tablespoon ground cumin
- 2 teaspoons fresh ginger, grated
- 2 teaspoons paprika
- 2 cups chicken stock
- 750g sweet potato, peeled, cut into 2.5cm pieces
- 2 parsnips, thickly sliced
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup pitted dates cut in half
- $\frac{1}{3}$  cup coriander leaves
- 2 cups of water
- 2 cups of couscous
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

### Method

1. Preheat oven to 160C. Heat oil in a large flameproof casserole dish over medium heat. Cook the lamb shanks in batches, turning occasionally until browned. Transfer to a plate.
2. Add the onions to the pan and cook for 5 minutes or until brown. Add the garlic, cumin, ginger and paprika. Cook, stirring for 30 seconds. Stir in the stock. Return the lamb to the pan. Cover and bring to a simmer.
3. Transfer the pan to the oven and cook for 1 hour. Carefully remove from the oven and turn the lamb. Add the sweet potato, parsnip and dates and cook for a further 1 hour.
4. To make the couscous, place water in a saucepan. Cover and bring to the boil. Turn off the heat. Add the couscous and quickly replace the lid. Swirl the pan to combine, then stand for 5 minutes or until the water is absorbed. Uncover, drizzle with the oil and fluff with a fork to separate the grains.
5. Sprinkle the tagine with coriander and serve with the couscous.

Recipe From: Taste.com

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 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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## IN OUR NATURE

wendy cook

The old log is green, covered in a minute world of lichens. There are slowly spreading circles of light green, flat and crinkly. Bright olive-green clumps branch like corals. Pale green flattened branches reach out beyond the edge of the log. Many spikes of dull green end in specks of brown, or broaden to flat discs, or have a bulge of startling bright red on the top. There are delicate miniature shrubs of pale green. Between these larger lichens, where they can find space, are tiny scales of grey-green and grey, some with hints of pink, and specks of green lichen waiting to develop.

Attached to the lichens are a few incredibly thin white stalks, ending in white pointed football-shaped eggs. These were laid by a lacewing, an insect with a soft body and clear wings covered in a lacework of veins. When they hatch, the predatory larvae will roam the lichen forest, preying on the herbivores that graze there. In the miniature world on the log, lichens provide shelter for many tiny, even microscopic, creatures. Mites, snails, caterpillars and others live here, protected from drying out, and able to hide from larger predators outside the world of the log.

The log may look like it is covered in a forest of miniature plants, but lichens are not plants. They are specialised fungi that can only grow in partnership with algae or a type of bacteria called cyanobacteria. The algae or cyanobacteria can create food from sunlight in the same manner as a plant. It uses some of the food, and some is used by its fungal partner. The fungus holds the lichen in place, contributes nutrients from the log and prevents its partner from drying out. In hot weather, lichens become very dry and far less noticeable. When it rains, lichens quickly rehydrate.

Different partnerships lead to different species of lichen, which have different colours and shapes. Lichens that look like small bushes or hang down from tree branches are called fruticose lichens. Those that are flatter, but not completely attached to the surface are foliose lichens. Crustose lichens are flat and stuck firmly to the surface on which they grow, sometimes creating patterns of grey, yellow or orange on rocks.

New lichens can grow from broken off fragments of a lichen. Some lichens produce clumps of cells from both partners which can grow into new lichens. Lichens also produce spores, often in dark discs on the surface of the lichen, but also on cups or coloured shapes on the ends of spikes. The spores are only from the fungal partner. They can be spread by wind, water or animals. To grow, the spore must find an algae or cyanobacteria, with which it can form a partnership.

Lichens colonise new habitats. As well as growing on logs, they can be found on soil, where they can help to prevent erosion, on trees and smaller plants, rocks, bones, roof tiles, roads, abandoned cars, gravestones, metal and many other surfaces. Different species of lichen grow on different surfaces. They help to break down the substrate on which they grow, so that it and the lichen eventually become part of the soil creating a place for new lichens or plants. Some lichens are very sensitive to air pollution, while some can happily live in cities. This makes them useful indicators of air quality. Lichens manufacture some unusual chemicals which have been used by people as medicines and dyes.

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## Police Paddocks' Treasures

*Jim Elvey & Sarah Hibberd*

Ballarat archaeologist, Sarah Hibberd, visited the Meredith Police Paddocks last month to inspect the building remnants revealed by recent burn-off and grazing activities. Some of these remnants are thought to date back to the mid-19th century, when police and mounted trooper facilities started appearing on the site. Sarah will research her observations to establish if anything can be learned from the bluestone and quartz introduced into the site, as well as the many fragments of slate tiles, bricks and crockery.

Equally interesting to Sarah, who is currently studying geology, were the site's rock forms. She was particularly intrigued by the hole and "pipe" formations in several large basalt boulders in the creek bed. Described as "vesicular basalt" meaning that the basaltic flow had a high gas content trapped within it, (creating air bubbles as it became a solid rock) was likely formed any time between 4.5 million to a mere 5,000 years ago during the Newer Volcanics in the Quaternary. The unusual formations, such as the one pictured below, probably exhibit what are known as "plant casts" where trees may have been trapped in the first lava flow. They then disintegrated and left depressions in the rock which was then filled by a later more vesicular flow.



*Above. One of the unusual rock formations at the Police Paddocks and right, Sarah Hibberd inspecting them with Support Group members.*

## ...& Getting a Handle on that History

The Meredith Police Paddocks Support Group met last month to explore and reconcile the many fragments of historical information unearthed by members and others relating to the Paddocks' use. We'll have a report of their findings in the next issue.



We are having a wonderful time with our kinder children this term with many great learning opportunities happening all around us every day. The 4 year old group went on an excursion down to the Bannockburn Cultural Centre to meet up with the Inverleigh Kinder children to see the Flying Bookworm Show, this has become an annual event and the children love seeing a live show outside of kinder and going on the bus is even more exciting.

For Mother's day we had a morning tea for our mums, the children requested lots of pink activities so we put out the pink paints, bead making and Kylie made cup cakes with the children for morning tea. We have had Brooke from Hesse rural health come in to talk to the children about how to be safe on a farm which was very relevant to many in the group. The 3 year old group have had a teddy bears picnic and are having a visit from the CFA and police very soon. Over the past few months we have been discussing some aspects of the indigenous culture and reading different Dreamtime stories, the children's favourite is Warnayarra the rainbow snake. We acknowledged Reconciliation Week and National Sorry Day. The children wanted to make their own Warnayarra snakes, so they have been drawing and painting these on long pieces of paper then painting with stripes and colours.

We also made Damper, handprints and painted on bark and leaves, discussing how nature provides so many things we can use creatively. The mud patch at the back has been providing many children with a messy sensory activity to explore and have fun with, we purchased some wet weather overalls to allow children to really get into it without worrying about being in wet clothes.

Our new Kinder and hub building is finished on the inside and looks great. The outdoor space has been creatively designed and will be built and landscaped next and once this is finished we can move on over. It's going to be a big move but we are all really looking forward to setting up and playing in our new space.



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## **Ibis Walk Pergola Needs Help**

*The handsome and unusual structure that has adorned the Ibis Walk for around a decade is in need of repair. And it is at risk of losing a lot of its distinctive charm in the process.*

Golden Plains Shire Arts and Culture Officer, Deb Sansom, is pursuing the possibility of Council carrying out essential maintenance work on the pergola and Ibis statues in the *Walk of the Ibis* along the creek at the back of the Primary School. This was identified as an early action by the interest group assembled by the Community Coordinators to develop the "Coolebarghurk Creek Project."

Council have costed the replacement of the lapped timber with a Colourbond roof and also the cost of dispensing with the fabricated steel ornamentation that currently decorates the pergola (due to its height and shape, this may entail a crane/boom).

We are hopeful that this striking piece of public art will be saved, and we are currently negotiating with Council about the possibility of them providing timber (which volunteers could install for the roof) and a community member about how we can best go about restoring the ornamentation for the top.



The handsome Ibis Walk pergola and (inset) detail of the roof top ornamentation.



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## Unbelievable Crazy Low Prices !!!

Okay, I have your attention, but I am not going to try to sell you anything ... and in fact, I am going to advise you not to buy ... at least not yet ... But I have exciting news about prices.

For the last couple of years the Solar Industry has been hyping the adding Batteries to Grid-Connected Solar Power Systems as the next big thing ... The reasons are obvious: while the sun is shining and a Solar Power System is generating power, the majority of households in use very little power because Mum & Dad are at work and the Kids are at school. Power is really needed in the evening for cooking, heating/cooling, lights, television, etc ... Batteries allow the capturing of solar energy at lunchtime for use at dinnertime.

Previously State Governments created incentives to "Go Solar" by mandating generous subsidized Feed-in Tariffs Schemes under which households sold power back to their Electricity Retailer during the day for at least the price they could buy it for, earning Credit that could be used to buy power in the evening. But the current feed-in rate in Victoria is now only 6c/kWh with no guarantee into the future that there will be any mandated minimum feed-in tariff at all ...

So while the technology already exists to deliver the solutions, the price of the Batteries has made the Value Proposition (despite what some players in the Industry might tell you) economically unexciting – breakeven over the life of the equipment at best and not something that will save you money. But that is all about to change.

Many people are aware of the Tesla Electric Car Corporation in the USA. Telsa knows that the key to popularizing their Electric Car is getting the price of Batteries down. In 2014, Telsa announced their huge new GigaFactory for Batteries designed to reduce prices by increasing production volumes. The other obvious market to grow demand for Batteries is Grid-Connected Solar Power. And in May 2015, Telsa has announced their Grid-Connected Battery Storage solution - "The PowerWall".

Tesla is so good at Razzle-Dazzle Marketing that many media reports seem to suggest that Telsa invented off Grid-Connected Battery Storage with Solar. They didn't. But what they have done is release the PowerWall into the US Market at an *Unbelievable*

*Crazy Low Price* – less than half the price of competing solutions. For me, this is the long-predicted beginning of fierce competition between manufacturers to bring their prices down to compete.

I would not be investing in Batteries yet ... but I would be watching this space very carefully and expect exciting economic returns from Batteries within five years and possibly in just one or two.

More details about options for adding batteries to Solar to follow next month. Cheers,

Simon

Send your queries to [simon@breaze.org.au](mailto:simon@breaze.org.au) or visit [breaze.org.au](http://breaze.org.au)



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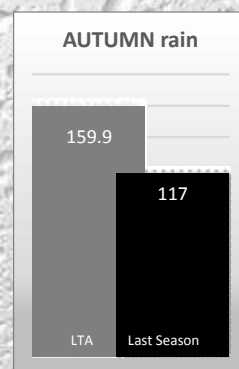
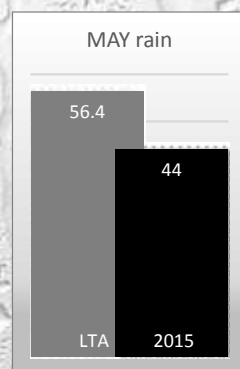
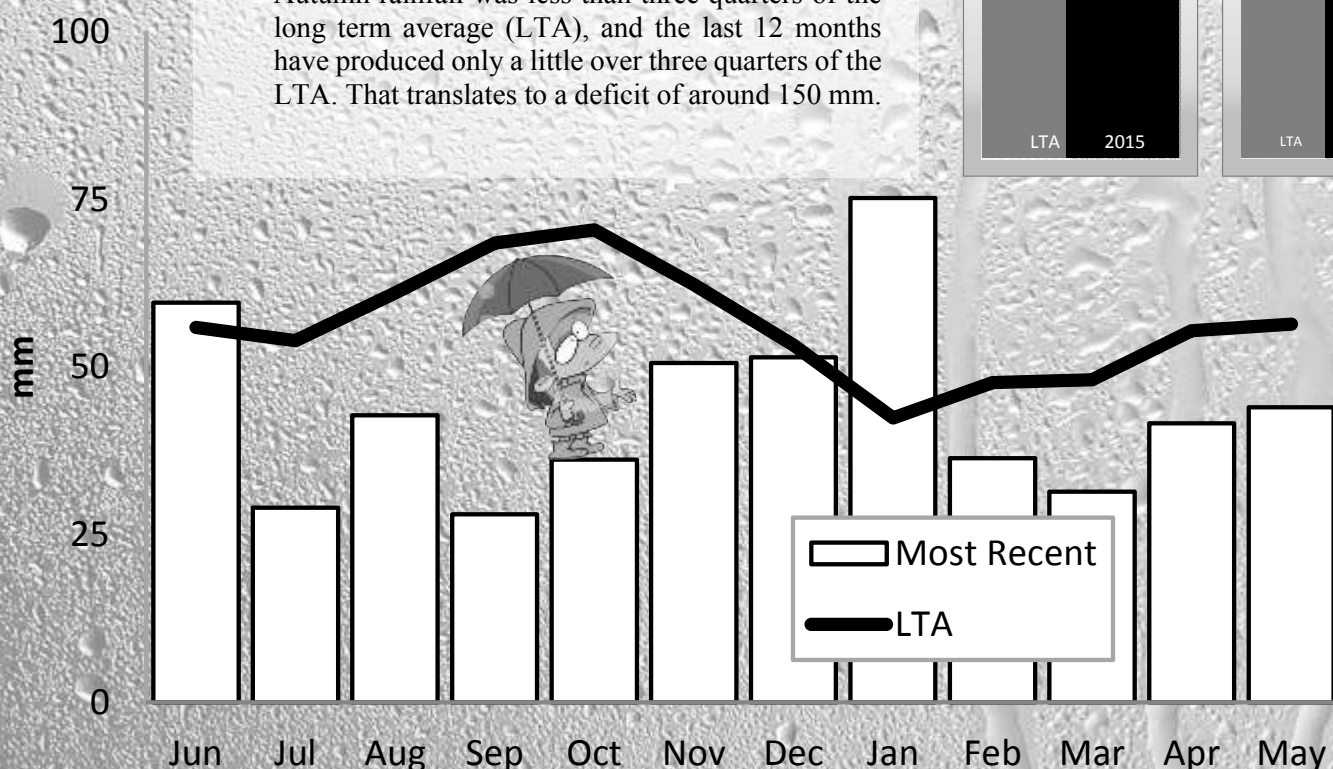
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### the AUTUMN RAIN REPORT

Autumn rainfall was less than three quarters of the long term average (LTA), and the last 12 months have produced only a little over three quarters of the LTA. That translates to a deficit of around 150 mm.







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## Weekend Warrior

Days off. There just never seems to be enough of them does there?

A regular two day weekend is always met with frivolity on a Friday night after work and then a sad melancholy sets over you on the Sunday when you realise tomorrow you have to start the working week all over again. Everybody will tell you how quick they go. And I fully understand. As I have already stated, there isn't actually a lot of relaxation time if you've got to fit in all your fun between Friday night and Saturday, before Sunday rolls around with its lugubrious demeanour.

I mean you can still have fun on a Sunday of course, but it's always going to have a sad shadow cast over it by the looming Monday. So you decide to have less fun, because time flies when you have too much of it and we definitely don't want that.

I work in retail and most retail employees rarely get a 'regular' weekend, our days off are generally split during the quiet weekdays, leaving one day off peppered here and there. Always separated by work days.

Thinking about this led me to realise that all of my days off are actually misplaced Sundays.

In a constant state of dwelling over the fact that I have to go and face angry customers the next day, I believe I have perfected the art of stretching out The Day Off. My secret to success? Begin in the morning with some exercise and breakfast before showering. If you get up early enough, you should have a few hours to kill before lunch time. Fill this space with reruns of *Friends* and then contemplate what you will make for lunch. This generally takes me a long time. My thought pattern here is that because I'm home today I MUST have a lunch that doesn't consist of bread or Vegemite. Then I usually settle for Vegemite toast.

After doing some minor chores, mope around for a little bit or binge-watch your favourite TV series while deploring that fact that every one of your friends and family are at work, leaving you alone and bored.

Start to learn a new language and take a sense of pride in the fact that you can now ask where someone lives in another tongue. Because that would be one of the most important things to ask when you first encounter a foreigner.

Think about dinner a little bit. But not too much because then your boredom will convince you you're hungry and you'll devour everything in the pantry.

At 5.30, rejoice in the fact that your family has returned from work and bask in the light of other peoples' presence.

So in conclusion, the best way to spend your day off without it going too quickly? Be as bored as possible.

What do you call two  
young married spiders?  
Newly webs.



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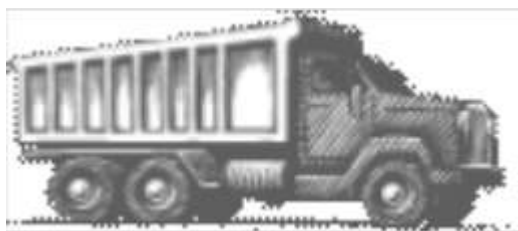


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## Meredith History Interest Group

### John James Graham Colclough

On May 31 J.J.G. Colclough's daughter, Jan Dimmick from Melbourne, was at the Meredith Anglican Church Hall to tell us about her father. He attended Scotch College before playing football for Melbourne and later farming at Meredith. Mr Colclough was very involved in the Meredith community; eventually marrying two Meredith girls (not at the same time!) from established families. After serving in World War 1, he was welcomed home by residents and the State School students.

### The Bluestone House on Steiglitz Road

On Sunday, May 3 2015, a crowd of people visited the bluestone house to view the house, kitchen building, huge trees and the block of land and to hear about the history. The owner, David Steele, has done extensive research and collated significant amounts of information which he presented as an interesting sequential history that contained mystery, hidden money and crime.

Part of the land was part of the former pound site. It has been owned by a number of people including Thomas Connor, John Davies, Charlie Davies and Norm McDonald. Charlie Davies married Ellen English and her niece and nephew lived there as well as her sister Grace. It was later known as Creeds. Neil Cooper lived there with his family in the 1940's after they moved from their farm at Bamganie.

The bluestone house was built using the bluestone blocks that were removed from the Catholic Presbytery in 1889. The house has an inner wall made of bricks that supported the roof and plaster lining. Some of the building is floorless and one bluestone wall has a precarious bend in it. If only the walls could talk!

### Heritage Walk Book

MHIG received a grant from the Golden Plains Shire to re-design and re-print the "Heritage Walk Book" and leaflet. The book was originally produced in 2004 as a project of Meredith Town Team and Meredith Community House. Initiated by Lyndsay Fink it was launched at an event in Pioneer Park on November 14, 2004. High Tech Printing have done a wonderful job to re-design and re-print the book. The little book now has a laminated, modern cover, is bound rather than being stapled and is for sale for \$10. The leaflet or flyer matches the book cover and is free to people who wish to walk around Meredith and discover the historic sites. Both are available at the Interpretative Centre.

### A Meredith Soldier

George Francis Moir was born at Morrisons near Ballarat on March 6, 1867. He was the second son of Reverend John Strachan and Margaret (Stephen) Moir and was educated at The Geelong College. After matriculating he entered the Colonial Bank, then was a clerk to Mr McKechnie, St Arnaud and Secretary to Mr McBride in his candidature for Parliament. Later he went to Western Australia and Sydney. George married Helen Armstrong in 1896 and they had a son James who was born on July 2, 1897. His father had been Reverend at the High Church in Bendigo and before that had been Presbyterian Minister at Meredith. George had a number of siblings who were born at various locations including Brighton, Tarr., Morrisons, Moorabool, Melbourne and Sandringham.

When he enlisted on June 27, 1915 George was working as an accountant in Sydney and the family lived at Wahroonga, NSW. He embarked with the 9<sup>th</sup> Reinforcement Group on HMAA A8 Argyllshire on September 30, 1915 for Egypt and joined the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on January 6, 1916. He arrived at Marseilles on March 30 and served as a stretcher bearer for his battalion in France where he was killed in action at Pozieres on July 24, 1916, aged 48. He is commemorated on the Villers Bretonneux Memorial, France. His son James Moir enlisted on September 11, 1916 and served with the 13<sup>th</sup> battalion for almost three years after the death of his father.

In *Mapping Our Anzacs*, George Francis Moir is listed as being born at Meredith. He is commemorated on Panel 41 at the Australian War Memorial.

The service of Private George Francis Moir, no. 2865, is described in a book by James Affleck about Geelong Collegians at the Great World War.

*You are welcome to join us on the last Thursday of the month at the Anglican Church Hall from 9.30 am. Last month we had several visitors*



## Bamganie in the 1920s

Nineteen subscribers have been connected to the new telephone exchange at Bamganie.

*The Argus Thursday 5 November 1925.*

It is nearly 30 years since deer was seen in the Bamganie Ranges but a herd of nine fine animals was seen in the holidays by Mr. E. (F?) Lowne. On Tuesday a fine stag with large antlers was seen at Woodburn Creek by Mr R Grant.

*The Argus Thursday 7 January 1926*

Miss McDonald has been appointed relieving head teacher at Bamganie in the place of Miss E. Hessford.

*The Argus, Saturday 30 January 1926*

The residents of the Bamganie district have subscribed £56 towards the cost of construction of the proposed Taylors ford, over the Leigh River at Bamganie.

*The Argus, Monday 15 February 1926*

Lethbridge, Meredith, Bamganie, She Oaks, and Steiglitz State Schools are holding a combined sports meeting on March 27 to raise funds for the group scholarship. Two trophies for Schools' championships will be awarded.

*The Argus, Wednesday 3 March 1926*

*Contributed by Jan McDonald*

*The growth of our community newsletter over recent years has enabled us to support some worthy community initiatives. And what could be more worthy than this first project, which aims to engage children in the arts as a lifetime interest? - Ed.*

## Something for the Kids

The Newsletter Committee has reached agreement with the Meredith Primary School to sponsor an annual "Literary Workshop". The first, will be conducted in third term by renowned children's' book illustrator, Craig Smith.

Our objective in this project is to foster a love of literature and other forms of art including creative writing, poetry, music, drama painting and drawing.

Craig is a good choice, as he is also well experienced in working with children. We look forward to seeing and sharing the results with our readers.

## The Birth of a Township

*Fay McFarlane*

" *The new township of Meredith is already progressing at railroad pace.*" So claimed a Geelong Advertiser reporter on 19<sup>th</sup> October 1853, when he reported on the laying of a foundation stone for a new hotel in the township. This new building was situated on the corner of Wallace and Wilson streets. (Currently the service station). On this great day on the towns calendar, Henry Gosling laid the foundation stone for Gosling's Hotel. Present at this observance were, Edward and Richard Gosling, Proprietors; Robert Coxon Young, Architect; Messrs. Pearce, Clark, and Matthews, Contractors. A number of coins of the reign of Her Majesty, were put into a bottle, and placed, and a lead plate with an inscription engraved was mortared onto the foundation stone which was then laid by Henry Gosling.

Henry in his address to those gathered, remarked "*... it was not only the foundation stone to Gosling's Hotel they were laying, but it was also the foundation stone of the new township of Meredith, and he hoped it would prosper, and all connected to it.*"

Captain Berry then proposed the success of the new Hotel with Champagne, and three cheers were given to the proprietors. The company then adjourned to Mr. Watson's Hotel, who it was thought intended to shortly lay another stone to the foundation of the new township of Meredith.



One of Craig Smith's illustrations from *Countdown* by Janine Fraser, Koala Books 2000)

## Artists Fly Again

Marg Cooper

Eleven members of the Meredith Saturday morning art group flew to Port Stephens, New South Wales, and stayed in a large house on the waterfront at Lemon Tree Passage, looking out to Bulls Island. Lemon Tree Passage is on the tip of a peninsula that fronts Tilligerry Creek, a wide body of water that enters Port Stephens at this point.

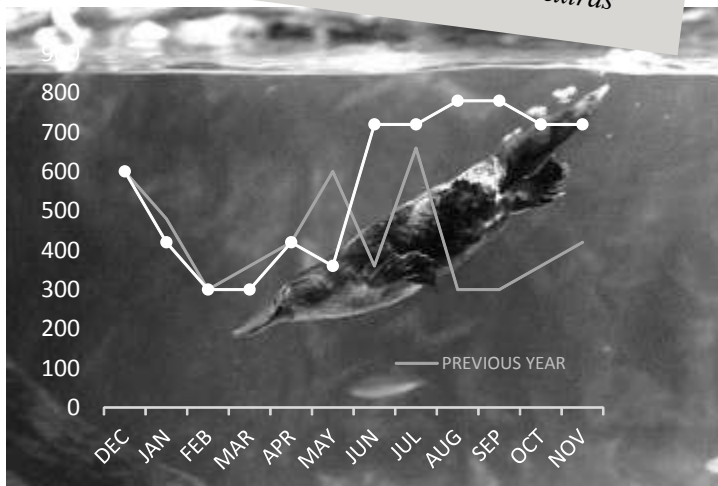
The group flew to Newcastle and drove the hired bus to discover a part of Australia that most of us had not previously visited. Three weeks before our visit the area had suffered cyclonic winds and a deluge of rain. There were piles of branches on most front lawns, many fallen trees and buildings that had been damaged. But the weather for us was fine and warm and perfect for riding camels on Stockton Beach, exploring Mungo Brush on Myall Lakes and Mungo Beach, cruising from Nelson Bay looking for dolphins, sampling wines from the Hunter Valley, visiting Stroud and its buildings that were constructed by convicts as early as the 1820's, tasting at the Chocolate Shop and walking in the Barrington National Park.

As well as these activities we enjoyed walking, music in the bus, movies each night, the friendship of our party, the friendly people at Port Stephens, shopping and eating. There was one afternoon devoted to drawing and painting and we all gained inspiration for future works.

For information [whereis.com/nsw/lemon-tree-passage-2319](http://whereis.com/nsw/lemon-tree-passage-2319)



Every quarter, we report the quality of the Moorabool River at Slate Quarry Road, using a measure of salinity. While this is a good overall indicator, Water Watch volunteers also measure turbidity, pH, phosphorous and oxygen to gain a more complete picture of river health. You can read more about each of these elements at [meredithnews.com/online/extras](http://meredithnews.com/online/extras)



Meredith artists seek inspiration from an unusual vantage point. A camel hair brush?







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