

Meredith & district News

OUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SINCE 1972

April 2016



Photograph by Theresa Harrison

GPX ✓

Meredith and surrounds laid out the welcome mat for the Golden Plains festival over the Labour Day long-weekend. Celebrating its tenth birthday, a rollicking good time was had by the 10,000 attendees in the early Autumn glow of the Nolan family farm, 15kms out of Meredith town, with many 'best evers' thrown about in the days following. A big part of that may have been the perfect festival weather: little to no wind, mild temperatures, with a tiny bit of drizzle that meant the notorious Meredith dust stayed under foot.

This year saw the return of the revered Eddy Current Suppression Ring, who played the very first Golden Plains back in 2007. The Melbourne band hadn't

Cont. On P. 16

inside



- Sporting Heroics at Elaine
- Paul Ryan Steps out of the Shop
- Conley's Reopens - after a 98 year Break!
- Is our River in More Trouble?
- Fire Brigade Gets a New Shed

...and the usual much more!

E: news@meredithnews.com.au **W:** meredithnews.com.au



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	\$14.00	
Quarter page	\$25.00	
Half page	\$40.00	\$100
Full page	\$80.00	\$180

Note: Colour not available for all issues, and a \$20 loading applies for preferred position. Classifieds are **FREE** for small, personal notices from residents. Otherwise \$7.50 or \$5.00 if paid on lodgement.

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you are outside our delivery area you can subscribe for \$35.00 p.a. (11 issues) and get the Meredith and District News posted to you anywhere in Australia.

CONTACT US

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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.

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	HISTORY GROUP ☎5286 8201
ANGLING CLUB ☎0419 423 960	LANDCARE ☎5286 1250
BLUE LIGHT DISCO ☎5286 1222	MEMORIAL HALL ☎5286 1545
BOOK CLUB ☎5286 8201	MOTOR CYCLE CLUB ☎0437 009250
CFA (000 for fire calls) Elaine ☎0417 533516	PLAYGROUP ☎5286 0700
Meredith ☎5286 1502	POLICE PADDOCKS ☎5286 1273
Morrison's ☎0417 770 765	RED CROSS ☎5286 8222
CHILDCARE ☎5286 0700	RSL ☎52861 452
COMMUNITY CENTRE ☎5286 0700	SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB ☎5286 8232
CRICKET Elaine ☎0418 535713	TENNIS Elaine ☎0448 291074
Junior Under 14 ☎0418535713	Meredith ☎5286 1211
Meredith ☎5286 1434	SEW 'N' SEWS ☎5286 0700
CUBS & SCOUTS Anakie ☎5281 9497	FRIENDS OF THE BRISBANE RANGES ☎5286 1252
FOOTBALL (seniors) ☎0408 545246	LIONS DISTRICT CONTACT ☎52 815391
(juniors) ☎0430 587674	
GOLF CLUB ☎5341 5748	

Police, Ambulance, Fire (from mobile phone)	000
Meredith Police Station	000 or 112
Power Failure	5286 1222
Nurse-On-Call	132 412
Mental Health Advice	1300 606024
Poisons Information	1300 280 737
Barwon Water	13 11 26
SES flood & storm help:	1300 656 007
24 Hour Helpline	132 500
24 Hour Drug & Alcohol	1800 629 572
Kids Help Line	1800 888 236
24hr 5-18yo	1800 551 800
Golden Plains Shire	1300 363 036
A.H.: all services	5220 7111
Bannockburn Vet	5281 1221
Golden Plains Vet	52812226
Pets and Horses 24/7	0421 617 238
Wildlife Rescue	0459 379915

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 Memorial ☎5286 1545	PRE-SCHOOL ☎5286 0722
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Elaine Rec Res ☎5341 5703	RECREATION RESERVE ☎0429 841399
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"The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage.."
- Mark Russell



Subscriptions now \$35

As from this issue, subscribers will pay \$35 instead of \$25 for a year's subscription to MaD News. We still give it away free, and this is purely to cover the hike in postal costs. It is also available to download free of charge at meredithnews.com.au from the second Thursday of the month.



COMMUNITY

Meredith Senior Citizens

Marg Cooper

The Seniors held their first bus trip for the year on March 21, 2016. A full bus headed off from Meredith to the Country Dahlia Farm at Winchelsea. The owners Jenny and Arthur Parish made us very welcome, and our group explored the two and a half acre Dahlia garden, which includes over 20,000 bushes of 2,350 different colours and 15 different types. The colours and formations of the flowers were very impressive.

Arthur also has a huge display of farm machines that he restored over the last 30 years, including tractors and two very large chain saws that I could hardly lift. Hours later we headed off for lunch at the Winchelsea Hotel. The Country Dahlia Farm is well worth visiting. Our members were certainly impressed. After lunch some of our group went op shopping and then we were back on the road again, headed for home. Everyone seemed to enjoy the day out.

Many thanks to Allan, our driver, who supports us on most of our trips. He is a great driver and a real gentleman.

Dear Reader...

You may be able to find spelling mistakes or other errors in this issue of *Meredith and District News*. This is because our policy is to try and please all our readers, including those who like to find fault.



HOW to POSE with a STATUE



ANZAC DAY 25th April 2015 Starting at 9.45am

ANZAC Day will be observed with our usual Service at the Memorial Hall Meredith followed by a march to the Cenotaph for the laying of wreaths.

Please bring a plate of food to share for morning tea. It will be very appreciated.



Job Vacancy Office administration

We are seeking a person to join our staff as a book keeper and general office administration assistant. The position is for 6 hours per week. Applicants with book keeping and MYOB experience preferred.

For further information and a position description please contact the Manager, Pam Ridd at learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au

Applications with cover letter and addressing the selection criteria close Friday 15th April.

Classifieds

First insertion of small ads are FREE to district residents

Church News



ANGLICAN

Weekly Services, baptisms, weddings, funeral, 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

St. Joseph's Parish Meredith Mass times for April/May

Winchelsea every Saturday @ 6 p.m. Inverleigh (Bannockburn)

every Sunday @ 9 a.m. Anakie @ 11 a.m. Sunday April 3rd/17th

May 1st/15th/29th Meredith @ 11 a.m. April 10th/ 24th May

8th/22nd. Mass at Bannockburn Aged Care facility Friday April

8th/ May 13th. Family Mass is celebrated at Inverleigh every first

Sunday of the month followed by morning tea.

Mother & Daughter Breakfast Saturday May 7th at
Back Creek Cafe Meredith at 9 a.m.

Giant Book Fair Sunday April 3rd at St. Joey's Op Shop
10 a.m. – 4p.m.

Great bargains, sausage sizzle and devonshire tea.

St. Joey's OP SHOP

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

Wednesdays and Fridays 10am -4pm

Great bargains-A wide range of baby furniture is available FREE- prams, cots, portable cots, change table etc. Get in early as these will not last.

Thank you for your donations but at the moment we are not in need of any more summer clothes.

Come and browse. Volunteers very welcome - Ring 5286 1230

Advance News

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea in Meredith

Watch future newsletters for date and venue.

Anyone wishing to help organize please contact

Di Ritchie 040859960



Hi Everyone,

It seems that we only just started and we are already finished the first term of the year. It has been very busy being a short term with some great activities happening. A group of us went down to Barwon Park to view the Dressmaker costume exhibition. We were fortunate to secure Anthony Hamilton Smith who was a set dresser for the movie to tell us about how he sourced many of the props right here in Meredith. We also enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea provided by Barwon Park.

Another "field trip" we did this term was a dry garden workshop with Ian Nash. He has a wonderful garden with a huge range of plants and lots of fun quirky ways of making his garden interesting. His garden is going to be included in a local open garden event later in the year so I for one will certainly be going back to have a look.

Another very successful class has been the Wordpress website class. Several of the participants are well underway to creating terrific sites. Once they have them ready to go I will give you the links on our Facebook page so that you can see what they have created.

Our brochure for term 2 has gone off to the printers. We often get calls asking if we are delivering First Aid and other accredited training courses which we have not done much of in recent years. In small communities it is difficult to offer these due to the small numbers and high cost of getting qualified teachers. We are going to offer First Aid in Term 2. We can only offer this type of course if we get sufficient support, so please if you need to obtain or update your first aid qualification please call us and enrol.

Moving into the 21st Century

We are very excited to be able to offer some classes online. The dates in our brochure are slightly different due to changes after it had gone to press, so make sure you give us a call or check our website or facebook page. You will have to enrol for these classes to receive the link to the online classroom.

We are in the final stages of setting up EFT for payments at the Centre as well and you will also be able to enrol and pay for your courses online and pay by EFT at the Centre.

We look forward to you seeing you soon

Pam

Meredith Community Centre
4 Russell Street Meredith 3333
Ph 5286 0700

learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au

Open: Mon, Tue, Wed, Thurs 9.00-3.00. Fri Closed

World Day of Prayer

Marg Cooper

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of all traditions who come together on the first Friday of March each year to observe a common day of prayer. Each year, attention focuses on one country. This year the country was Cuba and the venue was St Joseph's Church.

The Republic of Cuba is a tropical archipelago in the shape of an alligator, made up of 4,195 islands, cays and islets. According to the 2012 census of the 11 million population, 64.1% are white, 9.3% are black and 26.6% are of mixed race. The official and only language is Spanish, and the capital is Havana where 2 million people live.

Cuban women wrote the service, which included hymns, a procession of objects relevant to Cuba carried by people representing a grandmother, mother, young woman and several girls. These people read set passages that told about the lives of Cuban women. In Meredith we were fortunate to have Colin Smithyman from Steiglitz give us his personal insights of the country.

Colin loves to dance, has learnt dancing for many years and first went to Cuba to study Cuban style dance and enjoy the music and lifestyle. He got to know many people there and has now visited Cuba five times. He reports that the country is now slowly moving forward from the time he first visited, but this is not due to America removing the blockade. Many people in Cuba don't have any work and there is no social security. However, education and health care is free and reasonably good. Ration books are available for use at the Government stores and although the quality and quantity of food is not great, no one starves in Cuba.

For visitors, Cuba is very safe, but there is quite a lot of inter-family violence, fuelled by a lack of money, cramped living conditions and family breakdowns. Electricity and water supplies are inconsistent due to lack of maintenance. In heavy rain, buildings can collapse because of lack of maintenance. The old rundown American taxis belch smoke because owners can't afford repairs.

However, there is lots of music. There are many theatres, and schools of music and dancing. The citizens celebrate religious festivals - often in their backyards - with lots of music. The old buildings and the old plazas have extraordinary character. Even though conditions in Cuba have been difficult, Colin hopes that change comes slowly. He found that the Cubans are not good businessmen or tradesmen because the blockade has prevented market experience, and if the country opens up too quickly it won't help the poorer Cubans.

Anyone for a Salsa, Mumba or Cha Cha?



Meredith Playgroup

Meredith Playgroup meets every Thursday from 9.30am

Enjoy new activities every week. All welcome

Contact Community Centre for details 52 860 700

From the Mayor

Cr. Des Phelan



April is set to be another busy month for Golden Plains Shire Council. This month I'd like to share some of the great work that is happening around the Shire – but if you'd like information as it happens, please keep an eye on the 'latest news' section of our website, or follow us on Facebook or Twitter. If you have a question or feedback, please contact Council directly on 5220 7111 or email enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au – this way your request can be logged, tracked, addressed to the correct officer and managed promptly.

Improving food access in Golden Plains

Access to food is a basic human right – one that unfortunately, many cannot rely on having. In fact, following an analysis of Golden Plains Shire in relation to municipal food security, it was found that just over one in ten people who completed the survey had run out of food in the last 12 months and could not afford to buy more.

So Golden Plains Shire Council's Health and Wellbeing team have been working on improving food access in our communities and two food network groups have been formed to identify and work on local projects. Projects and ideas that have been progressed by the Food Network groups include Community Gardens, Festivals, Greengrocers, Emergency Food Relief and much more. For more information on these projects or to be involved, please contact Jacinta on 5321 1500.

The new website

We are developing a new, user-friendly website and we'd like to hear your thoughts!

The web address is the same - www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au - but the rest will be even better – a better search function, the ability to report an issue online, a news hub and a mobile-friendly design should make it easier for you to get the information you need, even quicker.

We will be launching a test version later this month, and we will be sharing it with residents for feedback, so keep an eye out on social media and in the 'latest news' section of Council's current homepage.

Bannockburn natural gas timing confirmed

I am very pleased to confirm we have been given timing for AusNet Services to commence the installation of a new natural gas network for Bannockburn. Construction is expected to take about 12 months with some residents able to connect to the gas network late in 2016. The majority however will be able to connect from early 2017.

While this is certainly a win for Bannockburn residents, please rest assured that Council continues to lobby for better infrastructure and services for **all** Golden Plains residents – this is an important function of local government and Council is committed to it.

Golden Plains Mobile Library

Is at the Meredith Primary School every Thursday from 9am to 10.30am



Recreation



Meredith Golf Club Results

On 14/2/2016, Stableford, Mike Colvin 37 points, Jeff Cooper 35 points. Nearest the Pin on the second Mike Colvin, nearest the pin on the fourteenth Mike Colvin.

On 28/2/2016, Stableford, Jeff Cooper 43 points, Denis Gear 32 points. Nearest the Pin on second Denis Gear, nearest the pin on fourteenth Jeff Cooper.

On 6/3/2016, Stableford, Mike Colvin 36 points, Jeff Cooper 34 points. Nearest the Pin on the second Danny Jury, nearest the pin on fourteenth Danny Jury.

On 13/3/2016, Stableford, Danny Jury 38 points, Murray Cooper 35 points. Nearest the Pin on second Jeff Cooper, nearest the pin on ninth Jeff Cooper, nearest the pin on fourteenth Murray Cooper. Competition Golf is on each Sunday. Play starts at 10.30 am.

The Annual Meredith Golf Club Trip is on in late June to Cobram/Barooga Golf Resort.

PHOTO OMITTED FROM ONLINE VERSION

Above, One Day A Grade champs: (Back row L. To R.) Kyle Ettridge, Brendon Gleeson, Joel McArthur(captain), Hayden Leehane, Ben Miller, Gerard Maher, Jonathan Leehane, Nicholas Pantzidis (Front row) Dylan Bray, Luke McArthur, Tye Anderson, Seamus Dunne, Cade Arnel and son Jackson

PHOTO OMITTED FROM ONLINE VERSION

Winners, from Ear to Ear

Elaine sports teams have had a great summer. The Tennis Club C5 team is the 2015/16 Buninyong & District Tennis Association Premiers, Elaine Cricket Club is the Ballarat Cricket Association 2015/16 A grade one day competition premiers and the juniors won the Ballarat Cricket Association Under 14 Seconds grand final. What an amazing effort for a small country district. Congratulaitos everyone. And here they all are in a mass dental display.

PHOTO OMITTED FROM ONLINE VERSION

Congratulations to tennis champs (L to R) Lily Colla, Grace Colla, Alex van der Veen, Matilda Dunne, Peetha van der Veen. Elaine defeated Ballan blue 3-23 to 1-13.

and...

As well as champion teams, there were a number of individual champions during the season as you will read in the Club Awards report on the next page. Cade Arnel was also nominated the BCA Best Player in the one day competition, and Nicholas Pantzidis won the Association's Best Player award in the Under 14's category (photo next page.)

Junior cricket champions, (Back row, L. To R.) Rory Ludenman, Trent Miller, Ron Read(committee), Murray Arnel(president) Lachlan Baker, Cade Arnel(. Committee), Shane Dunne (secretary), Arron Miller, Kyle Ettridge (Middle row) Dylan Lyons, Kade Wells, Tom Flood, Seamus Dunne(vice captain) David Flood (coach)Nicholas Pantzidis(captain) Angus Hogarth, Brodie Wells, James Parkinson Front row mascots are Ryan and Jackson Lyons

Elaine Cricket Club 2015-2016 Awards

Seniors awards

Senior batting Aggregate & Average Cade Arnel 837 runs @ 93.00

Senior bowling Aggregate & Average Jayden Alexander 28 wkts @ 16.43

Senior Captains Award Julie Pantzidis

Senior player of the finals Ben Miller

Club Awards

Ron Read Award -Joel Mc Arthur

Best Club person - Julie Pantzidis

Junior awards

Junior Batting Aggregate & Average- Nicholas Pantzidis 431 runs @ 431.00

Junior bowling aggregate- Seamus Dunne 12 wkts @ 12.58

Junior Bowling Average- Kyle Ettridge 11 wkts @ 12.09

Junior most improved-Angus Hogarth

Junior Coaches Award-Dylan Lyons

Best Player of the season (Voted by the players) Nicholas Pantzidis

Junior Player of the finals-Nicholas Pantzidis 13 medallions

Junior coach of 2015-2016 David Flood

A GRADE One Day Trophies

Performance awards: Batting

Cade Arnel 149no v Darley 10/10/2015

Cade Arnel 149no v Darley 13/02/2016

Cade Arnel 123 ret no v Coronet City 7/11/2016

Ben Miller 107no v Coronet City 7/11/2015

Ben Miller 103 no v Mt Clear 6/02/2016

Most Runs: Cade Arnel 837

Best Average: Cade Arnel av 93.00

Performance awards: Bowling

Jayden Alexander 6/7 v Darley 10/10/2015

Jayden Alexander 5/51 v VRI Delacombe

Most Wickets: Jayden Alexander 28

Best Average: Jayden Alexander 16.43

PHOTO
OMITTED FROM
ONLINE
VERSION

Nicholas "Chicka" Pantzidis Won the Ballarat cricket association under 14 vote count for best & fairest on 21 votes, also the batting aggregate on 431 runs with an amazing average of 431, being not out retired on 50 runs 8 out of 9 games. This is the 3rd year in a row that he has won both of these awards. Seamus Dunne came runner up in the

BCA U 14 bowling with 12 wickets for the season.

Nicholas Pantzidis won the Ballarat Cricket Association U14 best player award and the batting aggregate. Seamus Dunne came runner up in the U14 bowling aggregate in the BCA.

Seamus Dunne was also runner up in the U14 Ballarat Cricket Association best player awards with 10 votes

Thank You Paul

Marg Cooper

Paul Ryan took over the Elaine shop business on 31 March 2005 because it was about to close and Elaine would have lost its post office, newspaper outlet, milk bar, emergency grocery supply and petrol station.

Paul transferred ownership of the business on 23 March 2016, one week shy of 12 years. Originally, he intended to get the shop up and running as best he could over 2 years and then let someone take over and do more. But time slipped away! He has employed over 32 people in the shop, all locals. Paul spent his days off from his trucking business serving in the shop, mostly working Saturdays and Sundays. Paul tells of the time he worked 12 hours in the shop, drove his truck for 12 hours during the night and opened the shop next morning. He has been known to go to sleep on the chair behind the counter. He has also been accused of sleep walking or of being asleep while he walked! It has been quite a family affair with his father Kevin opening the shop in the mornings and his mother Shirley shutting the shop at night as well as buying needed supplies.

Paul says that he is the 13th shopkeeper. Older residents of Elaine tell that Ted East built a garage on the corner using timber from a shed that had housed a battery at a gold mine on the Elaine to Mt Doran Road. He later shifted a hut from near Wells' property and erected it beside the shed. His wife Flo started selling drinks from a table in the corner of the garage. George Grant had a welding business there and Paul tells that they got the shop going. There was a separate Post Office in Elaine but it moved to the shop 39 years ago and apparently the hotel once sold groceries. Eberharts was another store in Elaine and they sold everything!

According to Paul, the shop has always returned a profit, but it has been a tie and has limited the amount of truck work he could do. His ambition now is to build a better truck business. Can he still be Elaine Mayor if he is not in the town centre regularly?

Thank you Paul.



Paul Ryan with new owner, Armit at the Elaine Shop & Post Office



Chris McKenzie's

Garden Notes

It seems that the home gardener must be an optimist by nature and, after a number of years in the same district, one falls into the cycle of the seasons, knowing instinctively the tasks that accompany turns in the weather. Now the effects of climate change are making themselves felt with scanty rainfall so far this autumn, the dam is a muddy pool and the very warm days seem to stretch on and on. The old gardening cycles are not as reliable now and we all need to consider how we can best use our available resources.

Once we have a few chilly autumn nights the French beans will be on their way out and it will be time to plant broad beans. This is the one cool weather bean even tolerating frost. Broad beans provide a bountiful, nutritious crop and as a bonus they fix nitrogen in the soil. Cooler days are also the signal to plant green peas. I start the peas off in the shed as mice and birds love the seeds if I plant directly into the earth. A friend taught me a lovely seed raising method for peas and French beans. Collect all the cardboard tubes from toilet rolls, stand them together in a tray, fill with your seed raising mixture, and plant a seed in each. The tubes give the roots a good long space to grow in and when the plants are sturdy enough to withstand the perils of life out in the garden, simply bury the entire tube in your well-prepared composted bed.

The cooler weather means that it is time for the brassicas that will grow through autumn into winter and nourish us until late spring. In my garden I have given up growing caulis and cabbages as the few I have success with come at such a cost of time, water and energy. I would rather go to the local farmer's market and buy glorious organic vegies at a ridiculously low price - considering the labour that has gone into their production, and support the vegie farmer. I bought strong healthy seedlings of two varieties of broccoli at the farmer's market several weeks ago, the large-headed one and the broccolini, delicious and you can eat the entire stem and small tops. Nurtured with kitchen water, mulch and some shade they are now well on their way. I thought I had left it too late to grow them from seed and once again I want to support those who are doing this for a living, not for pleasure and no profit as I do.

Luckily I am always able to wander around the garden and pluck a bunch of silver beet, my favourite vegetable. The various kales – red Russian, Tuscan black and a new deep blue variety – also self seed all around and seem to survive harsh conditions.

Make sure you slip in some flowers for colour and sweetness in the vegetable patch. Pansies, marigolds and the old fashioned pinks and dianthus will bloom with little care and cheer up a tired gardener.

Happy gardening.

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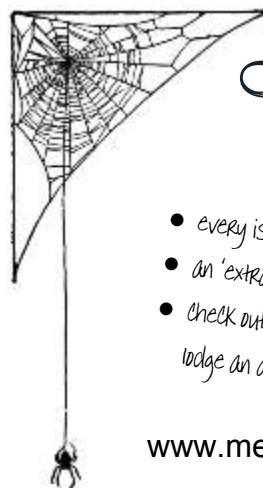
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www.meredithnews.com.au

Oven Fresh

Diane Dunn


Meredith Baking Co has finally opened its front of house in Staughton St to the public following the (near) completion of works to establish a commercial kitchen, cafe space and garden seating.

Meredith Baking Co is owned and operated by Meredith resident, Diane Dunn. It is fundamentally a wholesale bakery during the week providing high quality cakes, slices and biscuits to a number of busy cafes on the Surfcoast and Geelong city. Previously operating from Diane's home as "Sophisticakes", the move into town became necessary to allow the expansion of the wholesale business with a new retail space.

Currently, the shopfront is only open on Saturdays to provide locals and passing traffic with locally made breads and a variety of in-house baked goods. However, the plan is to gradually expand the days of opening - offering light lunches and other occasional special events.

The cafe has some indoor seating, but the majority is situated in the delightful outside garden amongst flourishing fruit box wicking beds under the shade of a large oak tree - a wonderful space to relax





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Meredith Baking Co is now open! We are an artisan bakery producing a variety of breads, pastries, tarts, donuts, and scrolls. Relax and enjoy our rustic garden surrounds.

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Well it's been a very short and very busy Term one for all our kinder children and staff and we are looking forward to a little break for Easter time and holidays. Congratulations to Alexis and her family who won the Easter raffle prize from Sarah Hendersons Office, I'm sure it will be savoured or maybe devoured very quickly..

This term we have really been focusing on building relationships with our groups and families and noting interests and activities that are popular! Our kindergarten group are amazing at doing puzzles, we have been changing and adding to this table all term with some really difficult ones already accomplished. Our 3 year old group have been on a Bear Hunt and had a teddy bears picnic and are enjoying some Easter crafts to finish the term and an egg hunt for their last day. We had a lovely family BBQ night in early March with many families attending and bringing delicious food to share, it was a relaxed friendly atmosphere with plenty of conversations flowing.

We are encouraging all the children to help water our plants and young trees whilst we wait for more rain?! Fingers crossed there is a lot more to come but while it stays dry we have the watering cans out. Thank you to the Meredith Primary school for the vouchers to compensate for the loss of our trailer which sadly was never returned, we have used these recently to purchase indoor plants, herbs and palms for the deck. Thanks you to Wesley for doing a great job organising all our volunteers who helped out at the Golden Plains Music Festival, it was another fabulous weekend, perfect weather and of course great music..C.W Stoneking was a highlight!

Have a hoppy happy Easter, enjoy the holidays and we will see you back at Kinder on Monday 11th April.

Jodie, Kylie and Leanne



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These new classes introductory
classes will be free.

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Date: Wednesday June 8th
Time: 9.30am to 12.30pm
Cost: \$ 25.00

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and anaphylaxis training.
Cost: 170.00 per participant
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Tuesday From April 19th
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BANNOCKBURN –Desma
@ Family Services Centre
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5-6pm & 6-30-7.30pm
10 weeks @ \$115.00 \$13 casual
TEESDALE TAI CHI-Desma
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may have missed out on. Please let
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know what you are planning to
complete **BEFORE** the class so that
Lyn
can bring along any notes you





COLLECT ME

Healthy **easy** and **delish****Grandma's Tomato Sauce**

- Prep time 30 minutes plus overnight
- Cooking time 5 hours Makes about 4 litres

Ingredients

4.5 kg tomatoes (ripe ones work very well)
 60g garlic, peeled
 680g onions, chopped
 680g granny smith apples, peeled and chopped
 60g salt
 2 teaspoons powdered ginger
 680g white sugar
 1 x 375ml bottle Ezy Sauce (available in supermarkets)

Method

1. Chop onions and tomatoes. Combine in a bowl, cover with plastic wrap and leave overnight (optional).
2. Boil onions, tomatoes, apples, ginger and garlic for 3.5 hours.
3. Add $\frac{3}{4}$ cup Ezy Sauce, sugar and salt.
4. Simmer for an extra 1.5 hours, stirring frequently so sugar does not burn.
5. Puree to desired consistency then pour into clean, sterilized, hot bottles.

Note: Depending on the moisture content of the tomatoes that you use, you may need to simmer the sauce for a longer period of time. Longer cooking time will result in a thicker tomato sauce.

Recipe From: Best Recipes

Rail, Paddle and Plate

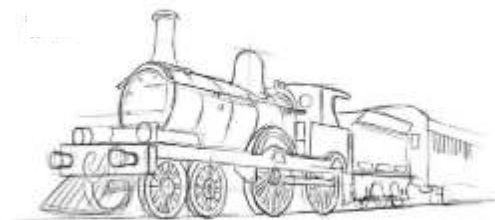
Raymond Kelly

On the second Saturday of each month, Rail Motor Number 58 that once saw service on the Geelong to Ballarat line in the 1930s passes through Meredith.

Retired in 1980 after almost 50 years' service with the Victorian Railways, the Rail Motor was subsequently acquired by DERMPAV, a group that was formed to restore the motor at their Newport depot. It is now used to take tours around the state.

The trip on the Geelong to Ballarat line is advertised as a Rail, Paddle and Plate Dinner Tour. Guests experience a heritage train ride from Geelong to Ballarat and dinner on the paddleboat on Lake Wendouree. Details are on www.dermpav.net.au or phone 0418352153.

Watch out for the Rail Motor on the railway line on the second Saturday of each month!

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Conleys is Back

Written by the Owners.

Conleys B & B at Elaine re-opened for business on July 5, 2015 after a 98 year break. Around 1867 Conley's Hotel was built and commenced operation at Elaine when Victoria's gold rush era was in full swing. It had 13 rooms and is believed to be one of the earliest buildings erected in Elaine. Mr James Conley was the proprietor. It would have been on the original Cobb and Co route from Geelong to Ballarat and an important rest and accommodation hotel for weary travellers. Many meetings of the Elaine Coursing Club were held at the hotel. This was a very popular sport involving greyhounds chasing hares. Conleys was a thriving hotel in the halcyon days with miners, councillors, graziers and early settlers frequently adjourning there.

Sadly on January 13, 1917 the hotel burnt down. The site of the hotel was approximately 80 metres to the west of today's Conleys B & B. The garden area on this 2 acre block is believed to have been a rest area for horses of hotel patrons. It is thought that there were stables also on the site.

After Conleys burnt down, the then owner, Mr Higgins, applied for a licence to rebuild. However he was unsuccessful with police declaring that one hotel in Elaine was sufficient to service the district. The other hotel was the current Railway Hotel. The building was insured for a sum of £500 and the contents were insured for £130. Mrs Hickey was the licensee at the time.

Some years later the land changed ownership. Over the next 95 years there were only 2 different owners. They were Mr Cooper and Mr Crowe in partnership, followed by the Bowers family. Archie and Lorna Bowers farmed the land for many years running sheep for wool production. They retired from the farm in 2013, when Archie was 91 years old.

The 100-year old house you see today was relocated onto the site in April 2014. It came from 22 Bloomfield Avenue, Ascot Vale, Melbourne. Work began immediately and extensive renovations have been made to transform the building and grounds. The idea was to create an establishment that suited the surrounding country side, to pay tribute to the original Conleys Hotel and to create a place that could be enjoyed by many, just like Conley's Hotel all those years ago.

Unfortunately there is no one alive today who can remember Conley's Hotel, so many of the stories and tales have been lost, but we have managed to gather some information. There is only one known photo of the Hotel exterior and no photos of the interior.

Numerous glass bottles and old artefacts have been found on site after works began in 2014. A gold mine was situated approximately 60 metres east of the house where the lone gumtree stands. It is not known if the mine had a name.

If you stay at Conleys you may dream about a bygone era in front of the wood fire, enjoy a drink on the veranda or a hearty stew at the kitchen table, and maybe share a tale or two just like the old folk of the horse and cart days.

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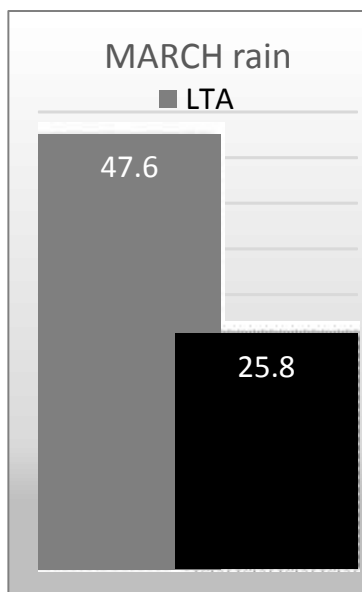
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rainfall



It's true, we are a little bemused by the fact that for the purpose of measuring daily rainfall, the day ends at 9.00 am. But it did prompt our rain man to share this observation:

I know you object to the 24 hour rainfall to 9 am all being allocated to that day. Did you happen to see Livinia Nixon's explanation of maximum and minimum temperatures on Tuesday evening at the end of channel 9 news? Apparently the overnight minimum ends at 9 am but the daily maximum starts at 6 am. On Tuesday

we had the situation where the Monday overnight minimum of 27.7 occurred at 8.37 am on Tuesday morning, Tuesday's maximum of 29.7 occurred two and a bit hours earlier at 6.17 am. As they say in the classics "go figure".

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GP Festival Report *(from page 1)*

performed for six years (apart from a warm up gig in Belgrave a few days prior) and, before the lineup was announced a few month back, many fans had been unsure if they'd ever get to see them play live again. It was a homecoming that lived up to the excitement, and then some, their garage rock sounds sending the crowd into a state of near delirium, the performance entering festival folklore even before the last notes of a rare encore had subsided.



Top left: Matt High, John Nolan, Greg Peele and Mary Nolan share the moment where Chris Nolan declared the festival open with a "long blink"; his way of saying "yes". Greg and Chris started the very first Meredith Festival and Matt joined them the following year. They've been running both Golden Plains and Meredith festivals ever since.

ALL PROFITS TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



Smiley Face photo by Dane Tucker, all other photos this page by Theresa Harrison, and next page by Ty Johnson.

The story in pictures: its fun,
it's good for us, and it's
beautifully rural.



US rock band Sleater-Kinney (who played Meredith way back in 2002) delivered a rousing display of power, emotion and smarts that had many in the amphitheatre getting out their air guitar and grinning from ear to ear. Other musical highlights from the weekend included the sublime talents of Icelandic based, American born singer John Grant, whose sentimental yet barbed songs were accompanied by what was some sophisticated dancing from a man who gets around in a beanie and tracksuit pants. There was also a strong West African contingent with the joyous sounds and dance moves of Songhoy Blues, a band from Mali, and Seun Kuti and the Egypt 80, the son, and band, of legendary Afrobeat pioneer Fela Kuti.

Chris Nolan stole the show once again during the opening ceremony when he took to the stage with parents Mary and Jack. Chris, who suffered a multi-organ collapse in 1996, is a co-founder of Golden Plains and has opened the festival with a long blink from atop the stage since the very first one. It was an especially emotional moment this year, as Chris brought in the tenth birthday with a huge grin across his face and a resounding cheer arose from the assembled crowd.

Chris was (and still is in some cases) heavily involved in several of the groups who come together each festival to run the Meredith Community Tucker Tent. An amalgamation of the cricket, footy, golf and tennis clubs along with volunteers from the kindergarten, primary school, memorial hall and rec centre, the Tucker Tent raises vital funds that have in the past gone towards things like new crash mats for gym class at the primary school, new nets and markings for the tennis courts, and a fresh coat of paint for the hall. Wes Humpage, who helped coordinate and manage up to 45 volunteers during the kindergarten's shift behind the BBQs, reports that with the new renovations of the kindergarten now complete, the funds raised from this years festival will be going towards a new outdoor play area. Wes also got to check out a couple of bands, giving an emphatic thumbs up for both Eddy Current and the Violent Femmes.

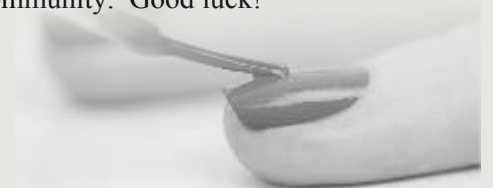
Country Beauty

Marg Cooper

It has taken Joe four years to find a suitable location to open her country beauty therapy salon. She found it in Meredith in the newly renovated premises at 30 Staughton Street and opened her salon there before Christmas.

Joe lives in Shelford with her husband and three daughters and a son. After school she completed an internship and was then paid to study for a Degree in Business while she worked in an office for the government. However, because she could see that beauty treatments for three daughters would be expensive she studied a Certificate 3 course in beauty at the Gordon Institute in Geelong. Rather than just being a money saving exercise, beauty treatment has become a passion and this year she has enrolled to gain further qualifications by studying for a "Diploma in Beauty" at a university in Melbourne. Joe has now worked in the beauty industry for five years.

Joe only uses products derived from nature. Her new salon consists of two treatment rooms, a reception area and a nail treatment area and is beautifully appointed, spotlessly clean and attractive. And Joe is friendly, passionate and keen to support the local community. Good luck!



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The Future of our River

Ian Penna

The future of the Moorabool River will be decided over the next few months through the development of Victoria's Water Plan. The Discussion Paper for the Plan was released in mid-March, and follows the Government's order for 50 gigalitres of water from the Wonthaggi desalination plant for next summer.

According to the State Government, this order will increase the amount of water that can be moved through Victoria's water pipeline grid, and improve water security for Melbourne, Geelong and Ballarat. It is the government's response to analyses and advice that examined current water storage levels, the likelihood of low inflows, dry conditions and forecast demand.

Lisa Neville, Victoria's Minister for Water said recently: "We're taking action so that kids don't have to play on rock hard ovals, so gardens and sporting ovals are green and will ensure a secure water supply for schools, hospitals and homes from Melbourne to Ballarat."

Geelong can access increased water from Melbourne's storages, which will be boosted with desalinated water from Wonthaggi. So an option under serious consideration for securing more water for Ballarat is piping some or all of Barwon Water's allocation for Geelong from the Lal Lal reservoir into Central Highlands Water supply network.

Currently, Barwon Water's allocation is released from Lal Lal's Bungal Dam and flows down the Moorabool River, to be extracted at the She Oaks weir, then treated and piped to Geelong, Meredith and areas in the Golden Plains shire.

The possibility of this change has concerned the local river protection group, People for A Living Moorabool (PALM). Its coordinator, Cameron Steele said: "The Moorabool is arguably the most flow stressed river in the state with up to 90% of its flow taken in summer. Geelong's share of the

water flows down a nearly 30 km stretch before being extracted at She Oaks. If the river were to lose this vital watering it would be a disaster for the Moorabool."

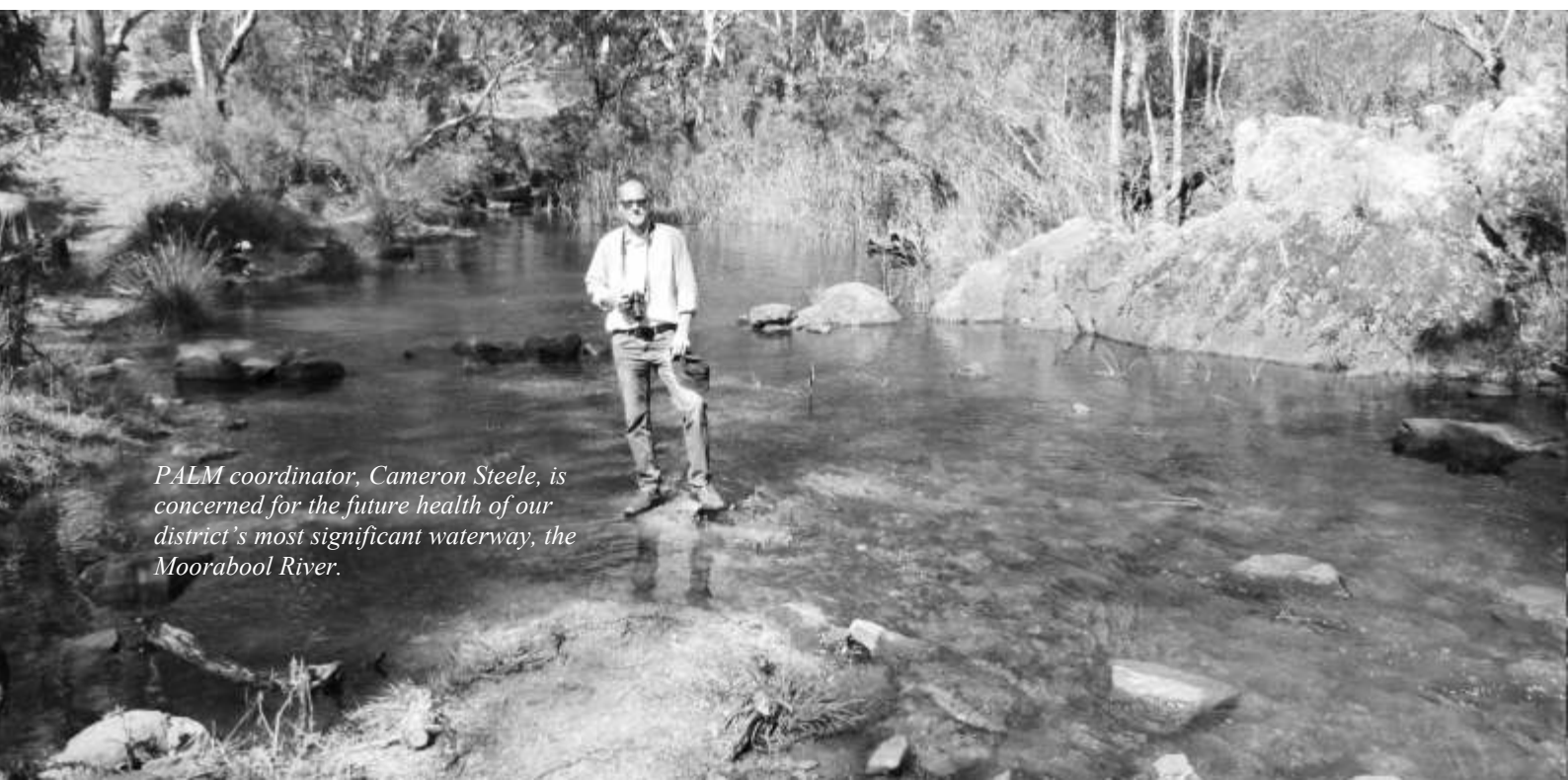
Mr Steele said that the relatively small environmental flow granted to the river in 2010 has been important for the Moorabool all the way to Batesford.

"Careful coordination between Barwon Water and the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority over the past years has meant environmental releases could be piggy-backed on those of the water authority benefiting over 100km of river. Without the Barwon Water allocation for Geelong, the lower reaches would be in an even worse state."

He continued: "While the augmentation to the state's water supply is supposed to take pressure off stressed rivers, PALM thinks that there is a very real risk that the possible changes for Geelong and Ballarat will have the opposite impact on the Moorabool River."

PALM is seeking more information from Victoria's Minister for Water, Lisa Neville about the Government's plans for the river.

The Government's Discussion Paper "Water for Victoria" is available to read and download from the following site: haveyoursay.delwp.vic.gov.au/water-for-victoria. Community members can make a submission to the Government on the Discussion Paper, and/or take part in community workshops. The nearest ones to Meredith will be in Ballarat (13 April, 6-8 pm) and Geelong (18 April, 6-8pm). Register on-line at the above web site. Public consultation will take place until 29 April, while the Government expects that the final Water Plan will be released in mid-2016.



PALM coordinator, Cameron Steele, is concerned for the future health of our district's most significant waterway, the Moorabool River.

The State Government has released a new WATER PLAN
for Victoria ...

What does this mean for the MOORABOOL RIVER?

Information Session

Tuesday 12th APRIL 7PM, Meredith Memorial Hall, 61 Staughton St, Meredith

- Even less water in the Moorabool?
- Proposed changes to Riparian Rights (stock & domestic)
- Find out how you can have your say...

Speakers: **Saul Vermeeren** Corangamite Catchment Management Authority; **Cameron Steele** PALM (People for a Living Moorabool); **Angus Ramsay** Southern Rural Water

Enquiries/RSVP: Peter Stray 0438 572 797

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Brigade's New Shed

Chris Jones Captain, Meredith Rural Fire Brigade

The new shed nearing completion at the Meredith Fire Station has been made possible by public donations in special 'helmets' at the Corner Store and the Royal Hotel, proceeds from Fire Brigade members being on 24 hour duty at the Meredith Music Festivals, and a State Government Grant on a two for one basis.

Planning and construction of the shed by a contractor has been under the watchful eye of Lt Robert Cooke while other members used their own equipment to clear and level the site which has been leased from Golden Plains Shire on a long-term basis. Also, Tim Wood generously provided his time and equipment to trench and install drainage pipes plus conduit for power lines.

The shed will provide a storage area for the brigade trailer pumper and, in the future, additional fire-fighting equipment

Summer

I take this opportunity to thank the Meredith Community for its care and responsible attention during this past Summer. While the Meredith Brigade was very active during the season in neighbouring areas, we encountered no fires within our area. Several false alarms and a car fire were attended but none was significant.

Meredith Brigade was very active at the Scotsburn Fire for several days having sent both Brigade Tankers along with Meredith West private tankers (Cookie's ex - CFA tanker and the Meredith Music Festival's ex - CFA tanker). As Captain of the Meredith Brigade I could not be prouder of the members who attended this fire. Their actions contributed significantly to stopping the spread of the fire as well as protecting infrastructure and saving the lives of many livestock at Narmbool. The fire had real potential of spreading well into the Meredith district.

Meredith Brigade responded later in the Summer period to another fire in Dereel. The crew on Meredith's Tanker 1 again contributed significantly to the successful stopping of the fire. Again, this fire had real potential to impact the Music Festival site and the Bamganie area.

As we send off Summer, it is time for all of us to prepare for the colder months ahead. All households should have smoke alarms checked and change batteries now that daylight savings has ended.

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Meredith Primary School News

Term I with the Meredith PS Preps

What a wonderful first term the Preps have had at school. They have made friends with the older students who have helped them in many ways to settle into school life and its various routines.

They had an informative visit to the Meredith Interpretive centre where Mrs Cooper and Mr Harty showed a fascinating collection of items from the old days. There was an old fridge with hessian down the sides, a mincer, a record player, old irons and working moneyboxes. We concluded that before electricity, you needed to wind a handle to work nearly everything. On our return to school we had an interesting time polishing silver, washing with a washboard, having tea parties, wearing bonnets, ironing doilies and building with the wooden blocks (no Lego in those days).

An exciting time this term was the arrival of the cubby and fort. We thank the kinder very much for these additions to our playground. Our parents worked very hard to install them and put the softfall underneath. The Preps have enjoyed giving the cubby a fresh coat of paint and one particular conversation between two children went like this: "I love painting." "Yes, I love it, too." "It's better than an iPod!"

The excursion to the Ballarat Wildlife Park gave them a close look at some beautiful Australian animals and they saw many different ones they don't normally interact with in Meredith.

Along with these adventures, they have read together and chosen books for their special book boxes, counted and measured, had library sessions with Mr Donnelly, sport sessions each week with Mr Edwards, Chinese with Miss Li and wonderful times in the playground. We are looking forward to many more happy learning and discovering times together next term after our Easter break.

Rosemary Gargan and Kerrie Brown

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'Gambling is Not a Game'

Monday 6 June from 6.00 – 8.00pm
Bannockburn Cultural Centre

These days you can gamble anywhere, anytime; and with the internet, smart phones and tablets, we can carry a casino in our pockets. With opportunities to gamble increasing and advertising enticing us to gamble more often, experts are concerned that this normalisation of gambling will inevitably lead to an increase in problem gambling, especially among young people.

Golden Plains Shire Council is responding to this increasing issue by facilitating a 'Gambling is Not a Game' community training event. The keynote speaker for the evening is media personality, former AFL player and former gambling addict, David Schwarz. The event will be held Monday 6 June from 6.00 – 8.00pm, at the Bannockburn Cultural Centre (27 High Street, Bannockburn).

The event aims to raise awareness of the risks associated with gambling and provide sport, recreation and community groups with the information and tools to create and promote environments that prevent or minimise problem gambling, particularly for young people.

Council will host the event in partnership with ReSPIN Gambling Awareness and Ballarat Child & Family Services (CAFS). David Schwartz will discuss his own personal battle with gambling and the positive impact that sport and recreation clubs and groups can have in their community.

Council will provide a 40 seater bus to transport people from the North of the Shire. Bookings are essential and numbers are limited.

To register for this event contact Caroline Jordan, Volunteer Coordinator on Ph: 5220 7216 or caroline.jordan@gplains.vic.gov.au by Friday 6 May 2016.



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Nurturing our Vital Spirits

We are all familiar with the essential balance between our mind, body and spirit in order for us to feel happy and content. So, how do we manage to keep our spirits in balance?

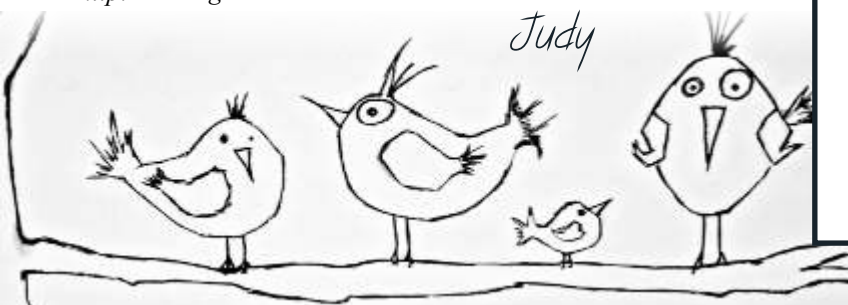
Learning how to nurture and recharge our vital spirits is important. It is well researched that those who maintain a healthy level of balance between mind, body and spirit fare much better when faced with adversity.

There are several ways in which we can learn how to nurture our vital spirits on a regular basis in order to maintain a healthy balance. Every one of us is different and we will all seek out our own individual routine of reviving our spirits.

Here are some suggestions on how to lift your spirits;

- **Nature** whether it's seeking solace at the beach, bush and river or in a garden and even spending time with pets, being close to nature certainly soothes our soul.
- **Music** is a lovely way to lift our spirits. Listening to a favourite song or instrumental piece playing an instrument, or just having a sing, are all fantastic activities.
- **Social connection** this is important for many of us and having friends or family to cheer us up and provide support. Likewise it lifts our spirits whenever we can be of help to someone else in time of need.
- **Exercise Outdoors** try fishing, gardening, walking the dogs, surfing, swimming, bike riding, skating, rowing, horse riding and skiing. All outdoor based activities are refreshing.
- **Meditation and Yoga** are powerful activities that enrich our mind, body and spirit. They are highly promoted by health professionals as essential tools for maintaining mental, physical and spiritual health in order to treat pain, stress, depression, anxiety and bereavement.
- **Prayer** many of us find great comfort in various forms of religion. Belief and faith in a higher power, attending church and praying regularly is how many people revive their vital spirits.
- **Natural or Holistic Therapies** in modern times there is a vast move towards natural and holistic therapy as a method of nurturing our spiritual soul. Therapies ranging from reiki, psychic readings, herbal remedies, massage treatments, health retreats, kinesiology, mantas, chakras and gemstones. One of these may be for you.

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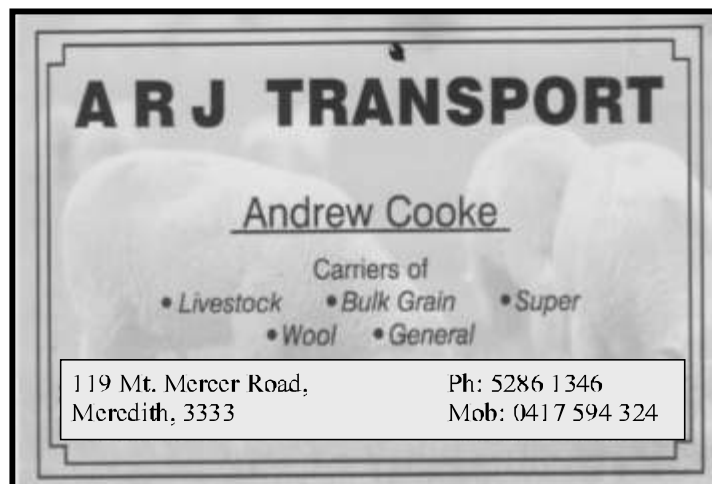
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SARAH HENDERSON MP

Corangamite Community Update

NBN fast broadband vital for regional communities



With Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull at a local NBN construction site.

After much lobbying, I am delighted that NBN fast broadband will be under construction or available to **more than 70,000 Corangamite homes and businesses by 2017.**

Some great news on our NBN rollout with fixed wireless construction to begin in **Meredith, Lethbridge, Teesdale and Inverleigh** in 2017. NBN fixed line

construction is underway in **Bannockburn.**

With our government's strong focus on growing smart jobs and the digital economy, this investment will open up a whole new world of opportunities.

NBN infrastructure is being provided at no cost; only monthly data and usage plan charges will apply.

Community boost for Meredith

It was wonderful to recently open the **Meredith Community Learning Hub.**

This is a terrific community achievement with **\$480,000 delivered by the Turnbull Government.**

The hub provides early childhood care, educational services, maternal and children's health services, a space for community

activities, consultation rooms to facilitate allied health, family support and counselling services.

It is terrific that **all members of the Meredith community** are able to access this exciting space and the many programs the hub has to offer.



With local children at the opening of the new Meredith Community Learning Hub.

3A/195 Colac Road, Waurin Ponds Vic 3216 (03) 5243 1444 SarahHendersonMP
sarah.henderson.mp@aph.gov.au sarahhenderson.com.au @SHendersonMP



Authorised by Sarah Henderson, 3A/195 Colac Rd Waurin Ponds Vic 3216

A Long Jump to 80

Marg Cooper

Leonard Broom grew up in Lethbridge. His bedroom was a section of the front veranda which a bed would have completely filled. His parents and Auntie and Uncle ran the general store in Russell Street. He can remember when it went up in flames and they built a new shop. After he married, he built a house behind the family home where he still lives.

He went to Lethbridge State School as had his parents. He won the Boy's Open Championship at the interschool athletics competition at Bannockburn when he was in Grade 6 and still has the medal. He travelled by train to St Joseph's College in Geelong where he also excelled at athletics. He still holds the school's Under 14 years, Long Jump record of 16 feet 6 inches. He was always on the athletic team at St Joseph's.

Len joined the Geelong Guild (later to be called Geelong Athletics) after he left school and was a foundation member of Geelong Cross Country Club - he was second in a cross-country race at Lethbridge and first in a race at Moorabool. Len and Raymond Kelly remember travelling by train to the Stawell Gift to watch runners who were trained by the man who trained the St Joseph's school athletics team.



After Len left school he worked in the family store. When business got slack after supermarkets started, he worked at Brinton's Carpets, then took a better job at Fords in the clerical department. He took redundancy when he was in his 50's and retired. He and his wife Yvonne have bred dogs. In 1983 they won The Best Gun Dog at the Royal Melbourne Show with a Golden Retriever. In 1984 he featured in an advertisement for Pal dog food with their dogs. He has a collection of items resulting from his metal detecting, he's been selling his stamp collection on ebay and has read 1000's of books.

On his 80th birthday, Majella from the corner store in Lethbridge, presented him with a big slice of chocolate cake that she had made specially. He travels to the store each day to pick up the newspaper on his scooter. He also visits his dog friends and gives them treats. He has been known to travel long distances on his red scooter that has a basket on the front and a roof to protect him from the rain.

The family celebrated his 80th birthday at Batesford Hotel. The whole family came, including 5 sons, 9 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Len is a quiet, calm and friendly man who knows a lot about Lethbridge and seems to be related to most of the residents.

Happy Birthday, Len.



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IN OUR NATURE

wendy cook

A small grey head peeked out of a nestbox, disturbed by voices below. It looked down with large dark eyes. The nestbox, built in 2013 by children from Meredith Primary School, had been attached several metres up the trunk of a tree in the Meredith Police Paddocks. Members of the Meredith Police Paddocks Support Group were talking while they enjoyed a picnic lunch in the shade of the swamp gums. Someone noticed the watcher. Out came the binoculars and cameras. The bird, with black stripes over its head, and whiskers around its beak, was identified as an Australian owllet-nightjar. Out of sight, its grey tail and body, which was paler on the front, were covered in faint horizontal black lines. Its pink feet gripped the edge of the entrance as it perched, leaning forward for a better view.

Australian owllet-nightjars are Australia's smallest nocturnal bird. Despite their name, they are not related to owls or nightjars. Although they are common, they are rarely seen. Their eyes do not reflect torchlight, so they are difficult to see at night. They spend most of their days inside a tree hollow, and are most likely to be seen when they become curious about happenings outside, or sunbake at the entrance to their home. They are territorial and find a permanent mate, so at least one owllet-nightjar has settled in the Police Paddocks. At night they come out to hunt. They catch flying insects in the air, or sit on a branch and pounce on insects in the tree or on the ground. They are more often heard than seen, with a fairly sharp and high-pitched territorial call, and a slightly lower, longer call of two or three notes. Owllet-nightjars live in areas with trees containing hollows, across most of Australia. Inside the hollow, in late winter or spring, they make a nest of leaves and lay between two and five eggs, which they incubate for nearly a month. The chicks can fly one month later, but remain with their parents for a few months.

Another common nocturnal bird found around Meredith, that is also not an owl, is the Tawny frogmouth. It too is difficult to see during the day, but for a different reason. They are solid looking birds with silvery grey feathers, dark vertical streaks on their front and a darker pattern of brown, grey and black on their back. They have grey feet and a wide strong grey beak, surrounded by whiskers. During the day they perch on a tree branch, often low down. If they feel threatened, they close their large yellow eyes and tilt their head so the point of their beak is uppermost. They remain motionless and with the colouring and patterns of their feathers are perfectly camouflaged as a broken-off dead branch. They choose their roost with care. Not only must they be well-disguised as part of the tree, but they need to consider the weather. In summer, they will choose a place with plenty of shade, and may breathe faster, pant, and increase blood flow to their mouth to keep cool. In winter, they roost in a sunny place on the north side of a tree, huddle next to their mate and sunbake on the ground. When the weather is coldest, and there is less food to be found, tawny frogmouths and owllet-nightjars will enter torpor for a few hours at a time. Their heart rate and metabolism slows, lowering the body temperature by up to ten degrees, and conserving their limited supply of body fat and energy.

Tawny frogmouths are found throughout most of Australia where trees are present, including suburban parks and gardens, but not dense rainforest. At dusk they begin hunting. They eat mainly insects, spiders, snails and slugs, but also other invertebrates and small birds, mammals, reptiles and frogs. They have soft feathers which allow them to pounce silently from their perch. Their feet are weak, so they catch their meal with their beak and carry it to a branch to kill and eat. They catch some insects, such as moths, while in flight, and are occasionally killed by flying in front of car headlights, chasing food. Tawny frogmouths breed from late winter to early summer. Like owllet-nightjars, they mate for life and stay in their territory. They build a fragile nest of sticks in a tree fork and line it with leaf litter and grass stems. The female lays up to three eggs, which the male sits on during the day. They share the job at night. Both find food for the chicks which fledge at about one month old when they are half the size of their parents.



Wendy



Hard to see, but it can see you. A rare sighting of an owllet night jar at the Police Paddocks. (Above: a Google pic.)



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Lessons to Learn

Do you remember what it was like when you were learning to drive? The terror of starting up the car for the first time, trying to remember where the pedals were and which gear you should be in? I can imagine that the fear of venturing out of the quiet streets of a university carpark and onto roads with real cars made your face pale and your hands sweat, making keeping a good grip on the wheel a little bit difficult. You probably can't recall. It all comes as second nature to you now, right? I'm recounting these feelings to you because I am experiencing them now. Perhaps a little further down the lines than I have just depicted here, but the fear is the same.

You see, at the age of twenty-something, I am still on my learners permit. I have been urged and urged over the last few years to get off my backside and get my licence already! Like getting behind the wheel of a heavy metallic object and rolling it at great speeds towards other heavy metallic objects was nothing to be afraid of. But, with the looming embarrassment of my learners expiring (that's right...ten years of L's and eight years of trying not to blush as I held it out for nightclub bouncers' inspections) I have finally decided it is a necessity to move up in life and graduate to my P's.

You might question how a girl living in a country(ish) town manages a life without a car? Well, as some of my other articles would suggest, I have scheduled my whole social and work life around the bus timetable. Which, if you are familiar with the service, you will understand it is not exactly the most convenient thing to be reliant on. And when that failed me my poor parents, siblings and partner have struggled through years of picking me up at ungodly hours, or taking me to work at times of the morning that I am sure had them wishing me ill.

So filled with a new ambition to not sit my learner's test again and a desire to stop angering my family and friends with my lack of independence, here I am. I have just finished a lesson on reverse parking, where some poor soul had to watch out of their house windows as an RACV drive school car with rather obvious L plates practiced the ins and outs of reverse parking using their brand spanking new orange vehicle as a marker. I have begun to tackle lane changes (I would suggest keeping your distance if you see a learner resembling the above photograph; minus the bangs), and have even mastered the headcheck! All done while being filled with fear and a knotted stomach.

Why am I telling you this embarrassing information? Now that I have written my lack of adult independence into history, I have no choice but to follow through. Watch this space!

Gemma



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Ma Mooney at the Royal Hotel

Marg Cooper

It seemed to Josie that everyone came into the kitchen and were served with a hot cup of tea and everything happened in the kitchen including sewing, ironing, polishing, cooking and washing up. Often people came into the kitchen for some support, if they were in difficulty or needed to talk to someone. Non-drinkers often came into the kitchen. She remembers that Jack Bowman who was a short man did all the odd jobs, inside and outside at the hotel.

The postie would stay 10 or 15 minutes. He left mail there for many people from outlying areas. They would come in and ask Grandma if there was mail for them. She'd reply, "I think that there are a couple of letters for you. Have a look in the box over there". The newspaper was delivered to the hotel daily after arriving on the early train.

When her mother Kath was about 14 years old, in Grade 8 at St Joseph's Catholic School in Meredith and about to leave school their teacher got sick. Father Bourne asked Kath to take over so she ran the school for 6 months. Kath could turn her hand to anything and never raised her voice, even at home with her nine children.

She remembers sale days at the saleyards opposite the hotel. A three course meal that was served in the dining room. Ma put the plum pudding on the stove at 6 am, set the tables with starched tablecloths, serviettes and silver cutlery and cooked a roast dinner with the help of her daughters and their friends who loved to help and be involved in the fun. Sometimes the youngsters took over the kitchen and gave Grandma a rest.

Her table was as good as at the Windsor. A cruet set, which was like a merry-go-round sat in the middle of the table. It was made of silver which was polished every week at the kitchen table. Josie called it a "la pern" and it held the salt, pepper, mustard and Worcestershire sauce. Josie also remembers the gravy boats with the delicious gravy that Grandma made. Josie tells that the children and boarders ate in the kitchen. The dining room was only used for sale days, weddings and parties. The hotel didn't serve counter meals, every day as hotels do now.

And she remembers Christmas. All the family came for Christmas. There was Irene and Tom Lewis and their daughter Rita, Christopher, Mena and Rix Brady and their daughter Margaret, {when stationed at Broadford with the railways they came at Easter rather than at Christmas} Kath and Les Graham and their children, John, Josie, Carmel, Kathleen, Kevin, Graham, Les, Chris, Peter and Allan and Gert and Dinny Ryan and their daughter Doreen.

The front bedroom which at other times was used as the town morgue was locked. Everyone went to Midnight Mass in their new dress and hat. They'd walk home under the magic of the stars. They were put to bed and told to go to sleep immediately because Santa was on his way.

On Christmas morning the children got up early and Ma sent them to wake Uncle Chris, who slept in the back bedroom which was beside the kitchen. While they woke Uncle Chris, Ma Mooney lit hundreds of small candles on the branches of the Christmas tree so when the children came back and she opened the door, a wondrous sight greeted them of a big, decorated tree with many presents under it, many presents from everyone.

Presents were not wrapped in those days, but her grandmother was very generous. One year Josie and her brother got a new bike each. Another year Aunt Mena made beautiful rag dolls for the girls.

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Marg's BOOK REVIEW

Religion for Atheists by Alain de Botton

Alain de Botton is a Swiss born, British based philosopher, writer and television presenter who was brought up as an atheist. He has written various books, started "The School of Life", launched "Living Architecture" and in August 2009 became "writer in residence" at Heathrow airport. The post involved sitting at a desk in Terminal 5 and writing about the comings and goings of passengers over a week.

In this book de Botton describes problems in society, discusses how religions have attempted to solve these problems and then proposes secular alternatives. The book is divided into ten chapters: Wisdom without Doctrine, Community, Kindness, Education, Tenderness, Pessimism, Perspective, Art, Architecture and Institutions. He tells that he was liberated by the thought that there might be a way to engage with religion without having to subscribe to its supernatural aspects. He didn't want to give up the music, buildings, prayers, rituals, feasts, shrines, pilgrimages, communal meals and illustrated manuscripts of the faiths.

The book does not argue whether religion is true or not because de Botton believes that "no religions are true in any God given sense". Instead, he studies what effects religious practices have in people's daily lives, most importantly satisfying the need for community and consolation in the face of life's problems. He calls for secular institutions to adopt religion's pedagogy, to mimic their rituals, habits and teaching techniques that churches, mosques and synagogues perfected over centuries. In the chapter about Architecture he admits that sacred architecture is a reminder of sacramental truths. One of his secular suggestions is a "temple of perspective", whose structure would represent the age of the earth with each centimetre of height equating to a million years, with a tiny gold band a mere millimetre thick standing for mankind's time on earth. He proposes that the tower would have a therapeutic perspective giving capacity that would stir awe. "Being put in our place by something larger, older, greater than ourselves is not a humiliation; it should be accepted as a relief from our insanely hopeful ambitious lives."

Alain de Botton finishes the book with the statement that "Religions are intermittently too useful, effective and intelligent to be abandoned to the religious alone."

This book is stimulating but in my opinion, nowhere does he suggest secular alternatives that could replace what thousands of years of advice assembled by the world's great religions have created.

The book for discussion in April is "Far from the Madding Crowd" by Thomas Hardy



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it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

Morrison Tableland Honor Roll

You are invited to the Morrison Fire Shed on Sunday, April 24 at 1.30 pm for the official unveiling of the re-created Morrison Tableland No 2086 WW1 Honor Roll. It was displayed in the State School until the school closed in December 1951, in the hall until the hall was demolished in the late 1960's and at the Recreation Reserve. After the tennis players hung up their racquets, it was lost. Luckily Ballan Shire Historical Society had taken photos of the very ornate Honor Roll which contained the names and photos of over 40 soldiers who went to WW1 from the Morrisons district. It has been lovingly re-created by members of families represented on the Roll. It is beautiful and there are lots of stories about the school, the soldiers, the families and the re-creation process.

MHIG received a "Restoring Community War Memorials" grant from the Victorian State Government for this project of the Morrisons Community.

Annual Meeting

The annual Meeting was held on Sunday, March 6 at the Golf Club. After reports and election of office bearers - Marg Cooper as President, Peter Griffiths as Vice President, Jan Crump as secretary and Fay McFarlane as Treasurer - several speakers talked about the "parcel of land" that was gazetted as a site for racing and general recreation on February 26, 1866. The gazette in which this announcement appeared was dated March 6, 1866 exactly 150 years, to the day that we met on the land to discuss that particular land.

Peter Macdonald has been a Trustee for almost 50 years and told us about the role of the trustees, what the minute books tell and many interesting facts including a description of the old golf clubhouse and how golf club members managed to fund the new clubhouse fairly economically.

Jan Crump, as the judge's clerk told about the murder of William Purcell by Thomas Dawson. The hut where the Dawson's lived, on the north-west corner of the Racecourse Reserve was constructed of bark, held together by saplings fastened with string, hoop iron etc.. On each side of the hut rank grass grew to a height of 2 feet whilst the moss growing on the roof gave the place a romantic and antiquated appearance. We do not know what sentence Thomas Dawson received!! Did he hang?

Jan McDonald, as an early racegoer complete with fascinator, summer frock, high heels and Meredith Race Club Official Programme, told about the races she attended from March 1861. She came from Melbourne by train and she arranged a carriage to take her the ¾ mile to the Meredith Racecourse from the station. She wasn't sure when the last race meeting was held because she had died by then and it was all a bit vague!

John Cameron with the help of his brother Neil told about the beginnings of the golf club. John had drawn a map of the first 9 hole course that Martin Smith of Bell Park Golf Club designed. The professional recommended tussocks be planted on the course because bunkers would not work at Meredith. The tussocks were dug from "Glenspean" by their father and other early golf club members and replanted on the course.

Unfortunately Miss Meredith couldn't come but I reported that Dorothy Mitchell is still pretty and sweet over 60 years after she

won the title, twice. Joan Shell did come and she is pictured in the 1954 Weekly Times photo with the other contestants for Miss Meredith.

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

THE ACCIDENT AT THE MEREDITH RACES: CORONER'S INQUEST.

An inquest was held yesterday at the Hospital on the body of John Carroll, deceased, who came by his death under the circumstances detailed.

Richard Knott, constable at Stieglitz, sworn—I saw the deceased, John Carroll, on the 15th instant, at Meredith race-course in charge of a race horse which he had mounted to ride a race. Saw him start and heard afterwards one of the jockeys say as they came round that he had fallen off. Found him on his back stunned. With the assistance of others helped him up, and then gave him brandy and water, and poured vinegar and water on his head, and then went for the doctor who was not at home. Deceased was then taken in a cart to the hotel, and left in charge of Mr Sharman, and immediately he was under the treatment of Mr Pardey. When deceased mounted the horse he appeared to be under the influence of liquor. I saw that the horse bolted from the course, and that in endeavouring to avoid a tree, the saddle turned round and the deceased fell to the ground.

William Pardey deposed—Saw the deceased start from the weighing stand and go round to the starting post. He was not sober. After the accident the inspector asked witness to go to the hotel and see him, and witness returned stating that he was only a chemist; but, finding that there was no medical man available, witness went to the hotel and found deceased recovering his senses....witness advised his immediate removal to the hospital. He seemed to sit his horse well when he started. Dr Reid stated that John Carroll, the deceased, was admitted into the hospital on the 15th March. It was evident then that his spine was fractured high up, and that it was a fatal case. He died the next day....Deceased had been a wardsman in the hospital until lately, and had to be discharged for irregular habits.

The verdict returned was, that John Carroll whilst riding on the Meredith Racecourse fell from his horse, in consequence of his saddle not being properly girthed, he being under the influence of drink, by which fall he fractured his spine, of which fracture he died.

To this conclusion the jury added a rider—that in their opinion, blame was attached to the stewards of the said racecourse, for permitting a man in the state that deceased was represented to have been, to ride a racehorse on that occasion.

Geelong Advertiser Tuesday 20 March 1866

Jan McDonald, Meredith History Interest Group



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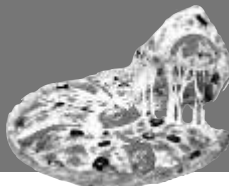
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Twenty Six Bridesmaids

Marg Cooper

According to Imelda, it is hard to get married late! By that time all your siblings have children who all want to be in your wedding. Twenty six bridesmaids dressed in shimmering orange and twenty six groomsmen dressed in black slacks and white shirts with orange ties and buttonholes attended Imelda and Shane for their wedding in the Philippines. They were married in Australia in June 2009 and at the Cathedral in the Philippines in November 2009 by the Bishop and 3 Monsignors. Two hundred and fifty guests celebrated with them.

Imelda came to Australia in 1989 as a migrant. Immigration required her to answer questions and be interviewed in Manilla. Although her qualifications as a midwife were not recognized and she found it difficult to understand the interviewer, she passed. Her first job was at the Regent Hotel in Melbourne, moving to the Gold Coast in 1991 and then to Perth in 2008. She got a job at a remote mining site, but didn't like the small aeroplanes and gravel landing strips. So she worked at nursing homes in Perth often doing the "graveyard shift".

Imelda was looking for a man who didn't have children and hadn't been married, and found him on an internet dating site. Imelda was cautious, but because Shane was so persistent she flew to Newman to meet him. Her fears of meeting a crocodile were unfounded! She quickly became known to his workmates as she ironed his clothes meticulously and sent delicious food back with him.

Shane grew up in rural Western Australia, left home when he was 15 years old with \$5, a pound of apples and a push bike. He soon got a job, but lived in the bush with a blanket until he could rent some accommodation. He says that he was a workaholic and always had itchy feet, so didn't settle until he met Imelda. He worked in the mines for over 22 years, gold, copper, iron ore and nickel. He worked hard and paid his first house off in 5 years. In his later years at the mines he completed a Mechanical Fitters apprenticeship and then an Electrical apprenticeship.

Imelda and Shane bought a house in Nuttall Street last Christmas, and are busier than they have ever been. Because Imelda had relatives in Victoria who were ill and needed help they decided to relocate from Perth to Victoria, although Shane didn't really want to come. They drove across the Nullarbor in 7 days with all their belongings and came to Meredith because they knew Father Herman. They had lunch at Mirepoix and Father Herman drove them around town to look at houses for sale. The first service they attended at St Josephs was the Healing Mass of last August. They love the country life of Meredith and the friendly people.

Welcome to Imelda and Shane Ross

'Connected. Heard. Celebrated.'

Golden Plains youth share their stories

"I don't want to be a bystander anymore. I want to be heard." Ailish, 16 years old.

Ailish is part of an exciting youth committee established to lead the National Youth Week celebrations in Golden Plains Shire. They have decided this year the theme will be 'CONNECTED, HEARD, CELEBRATED.'

The youth committee has chosen the traditional power of storytelling to connect the community, remind everyone about what's important and to celebrate our differences. This will be expressed through the National Youth Week Story Project.

Matt, a 17 year old member of the committee, says, "We want to fit in, but we also don't want to become lost in another person's shadow."

Mayor, Cr Des Phelan, says Council is in full support of the program. "Council is completely on board – it is important that Council and the community support our young people to take the lead."

To bring the committee's chosen theme to life, Council has partnered with Sophie Weldon of Humankind Enterprises. Sophie specialises in harnessing the power of stories to bring communities together through a unique blend of traditional and new media storytelling techniques.

Caitlyn, a member of the Youth Committee says, "We're excited to connect the community and expand what people know about each other."

National Youth Week Events

National Youth Week is from Friday 8 April – Sunday 17 April. Throughout that week, stories of young people will be shared through the Golden Plains Youth Facebook page.

An exhibition and celebration of the stories will be held on Friday 13 May in Bannockburn.

The afternoon of activities will include the opportunity to record your own personal stories in a special pop-up video booth.

Guests will hear from social entrepreneur and young change maker, Sophie Weldon, who will share the power of storytelling and how individuals and communities can create change from the inside out, simply by listening to one another's story.

For more information or to get involved in the National Youth Week Story Project, please visit: goldenplains.vic.gov.au/youth or facebook.com/goldenplainsyoungpeople or contact Sarah Dalton, Youth Development Officer, on 5220 7177 or by email: sdalton@gplains.vic.gov.au.





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Naturopath starting soon!

We are very excited to announce that once we have our new consulting room built we will have a Naturopath available for private consultations in the Pharmacy.

We will have Karah McLaren available for private 1-on-1 consultations in the Pharmacy.

Karah graduated from the Southern School of Natural Therapies with a Bachelor of Health Science Naturopathy.

Karah has a keen interest in treating digestive complaints. Karah specialises in treating irritable bowel syndrome, reflux as well as general bloating and abdominal discomfort. Educating coeliac sufferers after diagnosis and helping them with diet planning, is an area which Karah is passionate about.

Karah believes in the concept of 'food as medicine' as part of her treatments, helping people obtain optimal health through ensuring they are consuming a diet that suits their needs.

To be kept up to date when Karah will be starting with us, please like our Facebook page as we will be posting updates there.

Farewell Cindy & Welcome Kasi

We would like to wish Cindy all the best as she leaves us on maternity leave to have her 2nd baby at the end of this month. We will put on our Facebook page when Cindy has her baby along with names, weight, pictures etc.

We would also like to welcome Kasi Dellow to our team. Kasi has never worked in Pharmacy before so she will be undertaking her traineeship through the Pharmacy Guild. Kasi is a very friendly and outgoing person and we encourage you to welcome her and say "Hi".

Consulting/Beauty Room

You will have seen above that we are in the process of building a consulting room in the Pharmacy. The purpose of this consulting room will be to offer extended health services e.g. naturopathy. We also plan to use this room as a beauty room so we can offer beauty services, massage, and also do ear piercing.

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