

Meredith & district News



July 2016

YOUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SINCE 1972



inside

- \$30K for Meredith Playground
- Our new Pharmacists
- NBN is HERE! (for some)
- GPS Council adopts unchanged budget

e: news@meredithnews.com.au

w: www.meredithnews.com.au

Meredith and District News



The Meredith and District News is published by a volunteer sub-committee of the Meredith Community Centre comprising: Jim Elvey, Dawn Macdonald, David Jones, Trudy Mitchell, Stefania Parkinson and Ian Penna

NEWS & VIEWS

Subject to the conditions outlined below, contributions accompanied by the contributor's name (which will also be published) and contact details, are most welcome. Please email to

news@meredithnews.com.au or deliver to the Meredith Corner Shop.

DATES AND DEADLINES

The Newsletter is distributed on the **first Thursday** of each month (except January). All advertisements and submissions must be lodged by the **last Thursday** of the preceding month, but earlier is **really** appreciated.

ADVERTISING

Advertising in the M&D Newsletter is a great way to let district residents know about your business. Contact us for full details and lodgement forms. Rates are as follows:

	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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news@meredithnews.com.au

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advertising@meredithnews.com.au

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accounts@meredithnews.com.au

WEB

You can check back copies and lodge comments at meredithnews.com.au

ONLINE PHOTOS

We do not publish children's photos online. If you would like any other photo that you appear in withheld from the online edition, let us know in writing by the second Thursday of the month of publication.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the publishers. The publishers may edit or reject contributions and accept no responsibility for errors or omissions.

connect

There are lots of special interest groups in the district. Make a call and **connect** - *you'll be glad you did.* (And let us have any corrections or additions.)

ADVANCE MEREDITH

☎5286 1291

ANGLING CLUB

☎0419 423 960

BLUE LIGHT DISCO

☎5286 1222

BOOK CLUB

☎5286 8201

CFA

(000 for fire calls)

Elaine

☎0417 533516

Meredith

☎5286 1502

Morrison's

☎0417 770 765

CHILDCARE

☎5286 0700

COMMUNITY CENTRE

☎5286 0700

CRICKET

Elaine

☎0428 264103

Junior

Under 14

☎0448 291074

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

MEMORIAL HALL

☎5286 1545

MOTOR CYCLE CLUB

☎0437 009250

PLAYGROUP

☎5286 0700

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 0700

FRIENDS OF THE BRISBANE RANGES

☎5286 1252

LIONS DISTRICT CONTACT

☎52 815391

emergency

Police, Ambulance, Fire	000
(from mobile phone)	000 or 112
Meredith Police Station	5286 1222
Power Failure	132 412
Nurse-On-Call	1300 606024
Mental Health Advice	1300 280 737
Poisons Information	13 11 26
Barwon Water	1300 656 007
SES Emergency -	
flood & storm help:	132 500
24 Hour Helpline	1800 629 572
24 Hour Drug & Alcohol Counselling	1800 888 236
Kids Help Line	
24hr 5-18yo	1800 551 800
Golden Plains Shire	1300 363 036
A.H. emergencies	0408 508 635
Ranger	5220 7111 or 0409 830 223
Bannockburn Vet	5281 1221
Golden Plains Vet	52812226
Injured Wildlife	13000 wildlife
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

services

CEMETERY TRUST

☎5286 1550

HALL HIRE

Meredith Memorial

☎5286 1545

Elaine Mechanics

☎5341 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



...or start something.

If you have a special interest you would like to share with like minded people, let us know and we will help you get it started .

"Rejoice while you are alive; enjoy the day; live life to the fullest."

Horace*

*Some advice is timeless. Horace, a Roman poet, said this more than 2,000 years ago. - Ed.



Community

Wisey Muster

Stewie Turner

On the last Friday in May, another impressive attendance of quality people turned out for the 9th annual Wisey Muster held at the Sawyers Arms Tavern in Newtown.

The main aim of the night founded in memory of Meredith's own Steve Wiseman, is simply to catch up with family and friends and remember a True Blue mate.

This annual event, organised by friends of Steve's also raises funds for the Barwon Health's Andrew Love Centre for cancer treatment and research. Steve was cared for at ALCC during his illness and only had praise for the specialised staff who looked after him. Thanks to the generosity of several individuals and businesses, a hoard of quality prizes were donated towards a monster raffle and auction.

Amongst these were a Fishing Charter aboard "Snag a Fish", A Supagas pizza oven and a table at the Channel Nine AFL Footy show. The auctions, expertly conducted by James Gordon, Stock and Station agent from Ballarat culminated with 'The Wisey Shears' selling for \$5000.

The much appreciated ongoing support from the Clatworthy family and businesses like Circle Media and Pelagic adventures, saw the event raise more than \$13,000 on the night. This now brings the total donated to ALCC in memory of Steve to over \$128,000 Anyone and everyone is invited to attend the event with the next date pencilled in for Friday the 26th of May 2017

HOW to POSE with a STATUE



Meredith Senior Citizens

Jim Hynds, President

After another disappointing cancellation of our planned bus trip, members were invited to a luncheon at the newly reopened Top Pub. Some 28 members (new and old) were made very welcome by Caz Hearn and her family. A warm open fire set the scene for a great day. A well-priced 2 course meal with several options was on offer. The members placed their meal orders and settled in for a chat with each other and our newest members Kevin and Maureen. In no time at all our meals arrived in quick succession, well presented and of high quality. Our well-fed members enjoyed tea and coffee and spent the afternoon chatting and enjoying the company. Well done to Caz and her team.

Members are reminded that our next meeting is the Annual General Meeting on Monday, July 11. Members are encouraged to attend. A bus trip is planned for Monday, July 25 so members please book your seats early.

Artists Inspired by Clifton Beach

Marg Cooper

The house is terribly important! "Calypso Corner" was an ordinary house from the outside with a white picket fence but when we crossed over the threshold it was "Wow!" There was ample accommodation for the twelve members of the Art Group, with every bedroom having double doors that opened onto the deck. The large living area had bi-fold doors which opened the inside up to the outside and to the salt water swimming pool. Surrounded by tropical gardens that attracted butterflies and birds which sang. It was a paradise and there were no pestering flies!

But even though we enjoyed the house, the pool and walks through rainforest to Clifton Beach we ventured out each day in a fourteen seater bus to see the sights. We visited the Port Douglas Sunday Market, went to Mareeba via the train and back on the sky rail above the rainforest, saw a coffee farm in Atherton, walked over spectacular granite rocks and enjoyed a sip at Mt Uncle Winery. Another day we luxuriated in massages and shopping whilst other trips included a visit to a wood working shop and Herberton Historic Village, seeing an amazing fig tree and exploring a bird/animal sanctuary. The weather was perfect for outdoor eating. Breakfast at nearby Palm Cove was popular; lunch was wherever we were at the time and dinner at night was a barbeque on the beach, a meal at Calypso Corner or dancing and eating on our last night at a beach front resort. We didn't seem to have time for any art but we have plenty of inspiration from our holiday to Clifton Beach via Cairns.

Classifieds

First insertion of small ads are FREE to district residents

Church News



ANGLICAN

Weekly Services, baptisms, weddings, funerals, pastoral care, bible studies. Contact: Rev. Elizabeth Bufton, 5281 2224; 0437524864 Church Office, Byron St. Bannockburn 5281 2553 Service Times;

Church of Epiphany Meredith.

11.00am 4th Sunday each month, Holy Communion at Anglican Church. 11.00am 2nd Sunday of month, Holy Communion at Uniting Church

St James. Morrisons:

Contact: 0429 146 566 or 5368 2730. The Rev. Glen Wesley 1st Sunday of the month at 5pm and 3rd Sunday of the month at 9am.

UNITING CHURCH

Monthly Combined Holy Communion services.

2nd Sunday, 11am at Meredith Uniting Church

4th Sunday at 11am at Meredith Anglican Church

1st & 3rd Sunday at 9.30 at Buninyong Uniting Church

Enquires Doug McFarlane 52861283.

Rev. Lindell Gibson 53413 200

SERBIAN ORTHODOX : Fr. Theodore—Ph. 5341 5568

Holy Liturgy 10am every Sun, Sat & Major Feast Days.

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA.

St. Marys House of Prayer Elaine Solemn mass Sundays

10.00am. Rosary and Vespers Saturday 5.00pm. Confessions

by appointment Fr. James Ph. 5341 5544

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PARISH

Winchelsea every Saturday at 5.30 p.m. **Inverleigh** (for Bannockburn) every Sunday at 9 a.m. except the last Sunday of the month when Mass is held in the foyer of the Basketball stadium (adjacent to the school) at 9 a.m.

1st Sunday of the month is always Family Mass with the Families for Christ youth band followed by morning tea and a produce stall.

Anakie at 11 a.m. Sunday July 3rd/17th/31st. August 14th/28th

Meredith at 11 am. July 10th/24th. August 7th/21st.

Confirmation will take place at Holy Spirit Church Manifold Heights on Sunday August 21st at 2p.m.

Our 20th Annual Healing Mass and Lunch will be celebrated on Saturday July 16th at Meredith at 11 a.m. followed by lunch in St. Joseph's Hall.

On Wednesday July 27th Father Boy Galdo who has been the Administrator of St. Joseph's Parish since November 2015 will be transferring to Niddrie Parish.

Father Charles Balnaves has been appointed the 23rd. Parish Priest of St. Joseph's Parish and will take up his pastoral role on July 27



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



Hi everyone,

With winter well and truly upon us we have been planning some great classes in Term 3. As well as our brochure distribution at the beginning of the Term we are now planning to advertise just the courses coming up in the Newsletter hopefully this will jog your memory to book in. We often have people call in or tell us after a class has happened that they wanted to attend but had forgotten.

Do you notice how often you see small business start-up and then after a short time they have gone. A large % of business close in their first year. I often see people who have not understood the product they are offering or the location and quickly go by the wayside. Our small business course will help you with the planning and preparation for your business. We will be covering planning, finances, marketing and lots more with expert guest speakers and facilitators who have run their own businesses. Also we have some funding available to subsidise the cost of childcare while you attend the classes.

By popular demand we are going to start running a fitness class in the evenings this term. Week night workouts will be an instructed fitness class for people of all ages who cannot make it through the day due to work or family. Instructed by Michael who has a background in Exercise Science, he aims to provide classes that are fun as well as physically challenging. If you want a creative outlet we are running our very popular pattern drafting class again. I was fortunate to participate in our last class and although it seems expensive, it is a 2 day class with lunch provided and the kit can be used to create basic patterns for all of your family and friends. When I think of the amount of money I have spent over the years on commercial patterns it is really a great money saver. We also have a basic sewing class and learn to knit or crochet. A perfect time of the year to be turning out a warming scarf or beanie.

This is just a few of the courses we have on offer so don't forget to check our brochure for more details. Don't forget the Centre also offers other services including internet access; our staff is on hand if you need some assistance. You can also get your photocopying and laminating done and we have rooms available for hire. Just call in and see us for assistance.

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

Bye till next month.

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



Meredith POLICE news



Greetings to all readers of the Meredith and district newsletter.

Well after taking a month's annual leave it's somewhat disheartening to return to work and learn that both the Meredith Roadhouse and Meredith General Store have been both targeted by offenders on the 18th June. Dumped draws located in Steiglitz may indicate that offenders have come from the Corio or Geelong area and a significant quantity of property was stolen from the Meredith Roadhouse as a result.

Thankfully apart from these matters there has not been a great deal to report in relation to other crime around the immediate area.

After a lengthy stretch of minimal issues on the roads around the area, it seems to have changed in the past month with a variety of collisions being reported to police. It is certainly a timely reminder for road users to take care at all times while on the Midland Highway and other roads. Future traffic operations will be run in Meredith and surrounding areas between now and Christmas, which will target driver behaviour.

I continue to encourage people in our great community to keep up the great community work as we travel through 2016. Any Information that people may like to report can be given to me directly either by phone message or by leaving a note under my police station door or anonymously. Alternatively contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Kindest Regards

Greg KITCHEN

Officer in Charge – Meredith Police Station.



Our beautiful cover photo was taken by Colin Cook and features a local fungi known as *Mycena epipterygia*. The yellow stalk is distinctive. It grows on dead wood, bark and leaf litter, and breaks down whatever it is growing on, so it becomes soil (a recycling fungi). It appears when weather conditions are right, ie, when there is sufficient moisture, rather than at a particular time of year.

*We welcome readers' photo contributions, and you may even like to join our **Click Clique** - a group of local photography enthusiasts who share with us their favourite photos for publication.*

From the Mayor

CR. Des Phelan



July is the mid-point of winter, so we're approaching the warmer weather! I certainly hope that our primary producers across the shire have had enough rain to help them continue to grow and create products that Golden Plains can continue be proud of. Much of that produce can be found at the Golden Plains Farmers' Market, held on the first Saturday of each month in Bannockburn. If you live in the north of the Shire, it's well worth the drive to get premium meats, cheeses, wines and more.

REGISTER TO 'HelpOUT' DURING EMERGENCIES

Emergencies can become overwhelming for emergency services, who take hundreds of calls from people volunteering to help. These offerings are a testament to our community spirit, however can be difficult to manage.

HelpOUT is an emergency volunteer database that helps relieve some of this pressure – it coordinates a list of volunteers who have registered to be contacted in future emergencies. So if an emergency happens, people don't have to call up busy service providers to register as volunteers – they're already registered with HelpOUT. To register or find out more, please visit www.volunteeringvictoria.org.au/helpout

TELL US WHY YOU LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

As part of Council's Events, Marketing and Communications Strategy, we are planning to develop profiles for our towns and communities, and feature one profile in each Gazette. While Council knows a lot about our Shire, we want to hear what you love about where you live – what is special about your local area? If people were to visit, what is a must-see or must-do? Is there a local mystery or mind-boggling fact people should know? How can new residents get involved in the community? Answer these questions and address them to the Communications and Marketing team, either by emailing enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au or posting them to Golden Plains Shire Council, PO Box 111, Bannockburn Victoria 3331.

SHOULD YOU STAND FOR COUNCIL?

Local Government elections will be held in October. Golden Plains Shire Council, in conjunction with the Municipal Association Victoria, is holding 'Stand for Council' briefing sessions which are all about helping you find out everything you need to know about standing for Council and local government. For example, you could be a Councillor if you are:

- interested in improving your community
- an Australian citizen
- 18 or over on election day
- a resident or ratepayer of Golden Plains Shire Council.

I encourage anyone interested in standing for Council to attend these useful sessions. You can find out more at www.standforcouncil.com.au

Cr Des Phelan

Mayor, Golden Plains Shire Council

Recreation



Meredith Golf Club Results

On 1/5/2016 Stableford: Danny Jury 30 points, Denis Gear 28 points. Nearest the Pins: 2nd Denis Gear; 14th Jeff Cooper.

Captain's Trophy Match: Mike Colvin defeated Jeff Cooper 3/2

On 7/5/2016 Stableford: Danny Jury 30 points, Jeff Cooper 26 points.

Captain's Trophy Match: Vin Drew defeated Charlie Osborne 6/5

On 15/5/2016 Stroke: Danny Jury 75 nett, Mike Colvin 77 nett. Nearest the Pin: 2nd Danny Jury. Least Putts: Vin Drew 27 putts.

Captain's Trophy Match: Denis Gear defeated Alan Slocombe 1 up.

On 29/5/2016 Stableford: Jeff Cooper 22 points.

Captain's Trophy Matches: Mike Colvin defeated Vin Drew, Danny Jury defeated Denis Gear.

On 5/6/2016 Stableford: Jeff Cooper 32 points, Denis Gear 32 points. Nearest the Pins: 2nd Denis Gear; 14th Jeff Cooper.

On 12/6/2016 Stroke: Mike Colvin 71 nett, Danny Jury 74 nett. Nearest the Pins: 2nd Danny Jury; 14th Mike Colvin.

1st Anakie Scout Group.

Amanda Gordon Young

This term we visited Krugers Sheetmetal Workshop thanks to the generous gesture by one of our parents. Our cubs got to observe a metal folding machine and got to see some of the amazing things they have been asked to build! *Yes Byron, we know the masks make it hard to breathe! Can you hear me? Great ear plugs!* Each cub got to make a fantastic metal 'thingy' where they learned to bend it, attach a copper nameplate to their metal base plate and stamped their name into the plate!

Thanks for the very generous 'Cub Cake' supper provided by Kerrie Kruger.

We had our first pack council at Foxys Café in Meredith on Friday 17th June. We have been planning activities and achievement badges for our whole pack for next term. *Yes Nick, I know the ginger beer was delicious!*

Stay tuned for the exciting adventures of 1st Anakie Scout Group in the next issue. *Yes Isabelle a trip to another cub pack is a great idea!*

Red Wolf and Sahi

It may be football season but the ECG is being prepared for another cricket season starting in October. Elaine Cricket Club created history with an historic double with both the senior A grade one day team and the U14 team both winning the premiership in the Balarat Cricket Association in 2015/16.

Curator Ron Read preparing the Elaine Cricket ground for the 2016/17 season



Advertisement

Avoid an unnecessary fine...

Get your 2016 Local Government Election postal vote in on time!



- A Postal Election will be held for the Golden Plains Shire Council election.
- Ensure you are enrolled to vote at the Local Government Elections by 4.00 pm on Friday 26 August 2016.
- Ballot packs will be posted to enrolled voters by the Victorian Electoral Commission from early October.
- Don't forget to vote or you risk a fine.

Authorised by Rod Nicholls, CEO, Golden Plains Shire Council, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn 3331



Meredith Memorial Hall

Sandra Pearce- Secretary

At a recent Memorial Hall morning tea, Sarah Henderson, MP for Corangamite, visited the Committee to confirm funding from Stronger Communities Programme to paint the external Hall walls.

This is the Committee's major project for the next 12 months under the leadership of President, Robyn Gallichio. A further project in progress is the surrounding garden around the monument that includes metal sculptures to compliment the area.

The Committee is scheduled to meet twice this year; Wed 14 Sept and 7 Dec, 7.30pm. If you would like to hear of further progress please come along or call me on 5286 1545.

\$30,000 for Meredith Playground

Diane Ritchie

The Meredith Lions Club has received a \$30,000 grant from the Geelong Community Foundation to start the building of a new multi-stage playground at Pioneer Park.

The playspace will eventually cater for children from pre-school through to pre-teens. The Lions Club has been working very hard with the Meredith Playgroup and Meredith Community Centre with the assistance of the Fund for Rural and Regional Renewal (F.R.R.R.) to provide an adventure playground to challenge and engage the imagination of the young people of the district, and to provide risk-taking opportunities in a safe and family oriented space.

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phone David Mortimer on **0418 524 219**



Bannockburn Pharmacy Newsletter

Proprietors: Scott Wilkes & Damian Bennett

6 High Street

Bannockburn VIC 3331 Phone: 5281 1519

New look Dispensary & Dispensing Robot

We are very excited to announce starting this month that we will be building a brand dispensary in the pharmacy plus we are putting in an automated dispensing robot! This automated dispensing technology leaves the picking/selection of the medications to the robot which means our Pharmacists have more time to provide consultations and better health outcomes for our customers. The majority of the time taken to dispense a medication is taken up with selecting medication from the shelves and this new robot will do this for us, and will only take a few seconds to accurately select the product for us. A member of our dispensary team still has to dispense the prescription through our dispensing software to ensure the correct medication is prescribed, etc, but then the robot will select the medication for us and we complete the final labelling and checking process. We already pride ourselves on our efficiency but this automated dispensing robot will dramatically reduce the wait times for your prescriptions. A picture of the robot we will be having installed can be seen below:



Loyalty Program

Are you a member of our **FREE** Loyalty Program? This is a program that we have had for many years in our Pharmacy & is something we like to provide all of our customers to thank you for your loyalty. If you don't know how it works below is a summary of the benefits of this program:

5% of all non-prescription sales goes onto your Loyalty program (legally we cannot offer this on prescription sales) e.g. spend \$50 & \$2.50 goes onto your loyalty program.

There is no expiry on what you earn.

You can spend as much or little as you want, when you want. The choice is yours.

There is no card. Everything is on our computer system, so 1 less card in your wallet.

You can have multiple family members linked to the same Loyalty program.

- We also give you a **16% discount** off **ALL Giftware** all year, and we increase this to a **21% discount** in **December**.

Pharmacy Features:

- **Naturopath**
- **Cosmetic Tattooist**
- **Ear piercing**
- Medela (we hire Breastpumps)
- MooGoo
- **FREE Home Deliveries**
- Natio
- Homy Ped shoes
- Sukin Organic Products
- Nude by Nature
- Diabetes Australia Agency - NDSS
- Giftware for all ages
- Glasshouse Fragrances
- Salt & Pepper
- Digital Photo printing
- Passport photos
- Darrell Lea Chocolates
- Webster-paks
- Home Medicine Reviews
- Free gift wrapping

Trading Hours

Monday: **8:30am - 6:30pm**

Tuesday: **8:30am - 6:30pm**

Wednesday: **8:30am - 6:30pm**

Thursday: **8:30am - 6:30pm**

Friday: **8:30am - 6:30pm**

Saturday: **8:30am - 1:00pm**

Did you know we offer FREE Weekday Home Deliveries to Meredith?

Chris McKenzie's Garden Notes



I am writing these notes for June from a warm and sunny spot in New South Wales in the midst of a glorious patch of temperate rainforest. Sitting on a verandah surrounded by green, dense green foliage that drips with the heavy dew that has fallen during the night my thoughts turn to our garden at Steiglitz. The contrast could not be greater. I have been following the weather and see that precipitation in our district has been light, if at all during my absence. The vegetative growth in this northern clime is astonishing and I swear that the fern fronds have sprouted and unfurled overnight. All plant life here is bigger, lusher and brighter. However paradise has its limitations and I am looking forward to getting back to my own plot for in the end, the satisfaction of a garden lies in the making and doing, especially after being inspired by the creations of other gardeners.

It is not difficult to make a garden from nothing, and these days it is appealing, not only from a financial point of view, but also in the interests of the 'reuse, recycle, reduce' way of living lightly on the earth. Propagation of plants by cuttings is a simple and rewarding way to grow those plants that you have admired in a friend's garden, or even plucked from a plant poking through a fence. You have probably heard reference made to softwood, semi-ripe and hardwood cuttings. These terms refer to the best time of year to take the cuttings, and there is a logic to the terminology: 'softwood' cuttings are taken in spring when the growth is young; summer is the time to take 'semi-ripe' cuttings while the growth is still fresh, but you are able to pull away a 'heel' - the part of the main stem to which the new growth is attached and from which new roots will form when potted up.

Here June and July are the ideal months to take hardwood cuttings from deciduous shrubs and trees when as the term suggests, the stems are woody. I have successfully propagated grape vines, roses and red currants and you will be able to strike cuttings from fruit trees such as quince, pomegranate and figs using this method. Cut several stems of pencil thickness, trim them at the base to just below a node or bud, and trim any soft growth from the tops, leaving cuttings of about 15-20cms in length. Some gardeners like to 'wound' the cuttings by making a slight cut at the base of the cut stem on either side to encourage more root development. Dip the base end in honey or one of the commercial cutting products. Make a hole in your well-drained growing medium, either in pots or place directly in a prepared trench in the garden. Position the cuttings gently in place and firm the potting mix around them and water. They will require little attention over the colder months. Make sure to label your cuttings clearly and then be patient as hardwood cuttings can take a long time to strike. In three to six months you will have several plants ready to plant out or give away to friends. Take care when transplanting as the newly developed root systems will be quite fragile.

Happy propagating!

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Namesake

If you are anything like me then there is a good chance that you have a ridiculous but justified fear of using people's names. It's not that I am antisocial or hate the formality of using names, it is because I am genuinely scared that I will use the wrong one. In addition, it could also be because your name has slipped my mind completely and we're doomed to live a life where I never say or write your name because it is too far gone past the polite stage to ask.

Working in customer service, I find that most people want to use your name because it immediately establishes a relationship, and perhaps you do this too. You think that it creates familiarity and trust and that the person is more likely to cooperate with your requests as a result. That's fine, I am required to wear a name badge for this very reason. But the problem is, you're not wearing one. You mentioned it as soon as you walked in the door but I was so focused on wondering what I can do for you that I never quite caught it.

As for my own name, I tend to mumble or answer the phone too quickly and people miss the first few letters of my name or the last half which is baffling because it is only five letters long. I have been called everything from Jennifer and Jess to the more understandable Emma and Jenna and perhaps the most ridiculous...Hannah from people who have read my last name and have decided to rearrange and add letters to create a totally unrelated one.

I'm not sure when this anxiety started but I have a justification. When you attempt use people's names, you're bound to get it wrong at some point. Unfortunately there are times when you simply can't avoid it. Like when you have to call customers in order to remind or inform them of something and you need to confirm that you have in fact called the correct person. You may make ethnicity assumptions based on spelling resulting in you pronouncing Che with a hard CH only to be told, no, it's Shae. You also may have asked a so-called expert colleague whether to pronounce a name spelt with J as a H or a Y only to be told when you actually made that call that, no, it is most definitely J and you've now had to absorbed somebody else's mistake as your own.

This fear has resulted in me travelling through Europe in a group of 50 people and never once calling more than four people by name because the horror of getting it wrong was too intense and, after a month of travelling together, it would be too rude to ask. But, I'm reassured in the fact that it can't just be me, because when I discreetly asked someone what their new friend's name was they replied: 'I have no idea'.

Gemma

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Want to HelpOUT in an Emergency?

Golden Plains Shire Council invites residents to register on the HelpOUT emergency volunteering service database to better equip local communities in emergencies.

HelpOUT is a Volunteering Victoria initiative being piloted in the G21 region, delivered in partnership with Volunteering Queensland and Volunteering Geelong. It involves coordinating a large database of volunteers to better prepare the State for emergencies. So if Golden Plains Shire is affected by an emergency, Council and other key organisations will have access to this invaluable resource to help support its communities.

Mayor, Councillor Des Phelan said this was the best volunteering service initiative he's seen. "Unfortunately, emergency situations are quite familiar to Golden Plains Shire residents, and this is why Council is so delighted to be involved with HelpOUT. It has the ability to revolutionise how we help residents during and after an emergency situation.

Emergencies can become overwhelming for emergency services, who take hundreds of calls from people volunteering to help. These offerings are very helpful, but when they all come at once it can be difficult to manage.

"HelpOUT helps relieve some of this pressure because it coordinates a list of volunteers for future emergencies. So if an emergency happens, people don't have to call up busy service providers to register as volunteers – they're already registered

with HelpOUT.

"When an emergency happens, Council and other organisations have access to this database, which is extremely valuable. It will provide emergency authorities with a host of ready-volunteers to help support our communities," said Cr Phelan.

HelpOUT is a resource for authorities and organisations as well as an agency for people who enjoy volunteering, matching people with rewarding volunteering opportunities that support identified community needs. If you would like to register (it only takes a few minutes) or learn more at volunteeringvictoria.org.au/helpout



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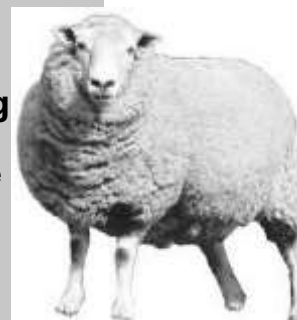
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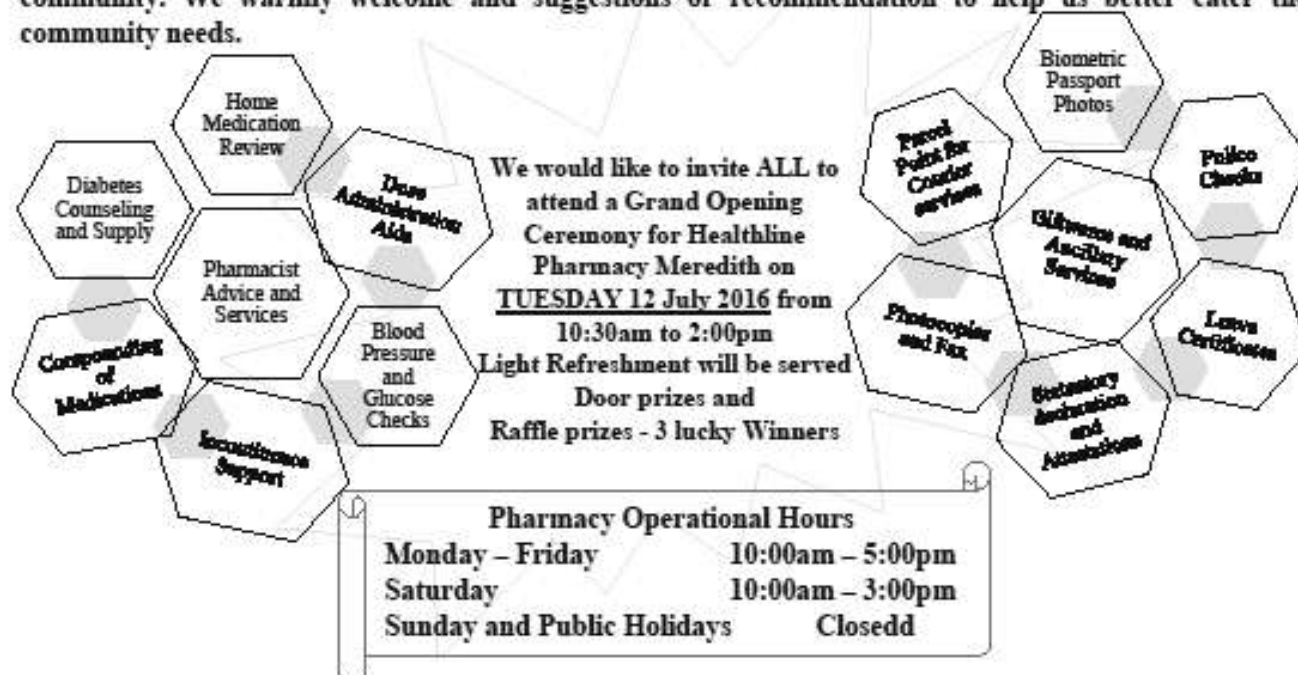
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We are delighted to announce that Healthline Pharmacy Meredith has been operational since 8th June 2016 and would like to convey our sincere thanks for the overwhelming support. Community health is our priority and we aim to provide convenient and affordable healthcare services to all. We have listed our services in the diagrams. We are ready to expand the services and accommodate to the needs of the community. We warmly welcome and suggestions or recommendation to help us better cater the community needs.



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Battery-Ready Solar Power (Pt. 2)

Last month I stated that Solar Power Systems with Batteries will become the norm for households connected to the mains grid; that this trend, which is starting now, will pick-up speed in 3 to 5 years as the price of Batteries falls; and that householders installing solar power now rightly want their system to be “Battery Ready”. But that those two words do not always mean the same thing - the Devil is in the Detail !!! So it pays to ask what functionality you are actually getting from the solar equipment that you purchase. To explain, I will need to get technical.

A typical grid-connect solar power system has two major components: the solar panels and one or more grid-connect solar inverters. What is a grid-connect solar inverter? There are two basic grid-connect solar inverter technologies: string inverters and microinverters. The pros and cons of these is a whole discussion in itself, but for our purposes here we can simply say that they both convert the direct current (DC) produced by the solar panels into the 240 volts alternating current (AC) that is supplied by the mains grid for our typical household appliances. A typical “grid-connect” solar inverter is one that is designed to and required by safety regulations to act as a “slave” of the mains grid and will shut itself down when the mains grid goes down providing no backup.

Adding batteries to a grid-connect solar power system requires two more components: a battery inverter-charger and an import/export meter. The battery inverter-charger both charges the batteries by converting AC from the solar inverter (or possibly the mains grid) to DC to charge the batteries and takes DC from the batteries converting it to 240 volts AC. The import/export meter tells the battery inverter-charger when solar power is about to be exported so it can decide when to charge and discharge the batteries.

If I am already losing some readers in the technicalities, they probably won't want to hear that it gets more complicated because:

The battery inverter-charger can be:

- a standalone/off-grid product that is also capable of being connected to the mains grid, providing full backup when the mains grid is down and allowing you to go completely off-grid.
- an on-grid only product that provides some limited backup when the mains grid is down.
- an on-grid only product that provides no backup and shuts down when the mains grid is down.

A grid-connect solar inverter and a battery inverter-charger can be packaged up in the same box – and referred to as a “Hybrid” Inverter by the Solar Industry. I call it a “One Box

Solution”. Conversely, a Grid-Connect Solar Inverter and a Battery Inverter-Charger can be in separate boxes – unsurprisingly, I call that a “Two Box Solution”.

Over coming instalments, I will explain where each of these approaches is most appropriate and cost-effective ...

Cheers, Simon

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Henry's Ford

Marg Cooper

We have no idea who Marg is talking about here, but probably not herself. We could be wrong, but we don't see her fitting "neoprene air bags inside the rear coil springs on the Galaxy to form up the suspension". We are sure you will enjoy the story, nonetheless. - Ed.

It was a very cold Gippsland afternoon in early June when we finally said our farewells to friends and family in Traralgon, Victoria. The year was 1976 and just a few months earlier we had taken delivery of a 26 foot custom built Millard caravan with a raised roof built by Latrobe Valley Caravans at Morwell. We had ordered the van especially built for a trip to far north Queensland, initially for an exploratory look.

I recall when ordering the van some six months prior to delivery, the manager had tactfully told me a van that size could not be towed with a car. At that stage he had not seen the car which I had purchased in 1974 from a dealer in Moe who had purchased the car from the State Government Tottenham Auctions. The car, a 1971 Galaxy Ltd, was previously owned by Sir Henry Bolte and I was informed that it was almost always chauffer driven. The car itself was built in the US and was converted to a right-hand drive in Melbourne. It had a free standing chassis with a 6.2 litre V8 engine and a C 6 auto transmission. Yes, this car with a Hayman Reece fitted towbar and caravan accessories could comfortably accommodate our new caravan. Prior to departing Traralgon I had leased and operated a tyre outlet/motor garage at 154 Princess Hwy. I had fitted neoprene air bags inside the rear coil springs on the Galaxy to form up the suspension. When I took delivery of the van at the Hayman Reece factory at Dandenong and test drove it with the Hayman manager, I knew it was perfect.

It would be fair to state then that I was very experienced in driving and operating large machinery. The Galaxy with caravan in tow measured almost 50 feet which meant of course one could not park exactly where one wanted and in 1976 our rig did receive more than the casual glance. It was almost dark when we arrived at a small Caravan Park at Bacchus Marsh on the first day of our Travelling North. First, though, we had to visit my wife's parents and family in the Adelaide Hills, South Australia. I was taking their daughter, Marlene (my wife), together with our four children and our young Labrador dog far away.

There was a thick white frost upon awakening that second morning and my body ached for a warmer climate. I had come down with flu like symptom just prior to leaving Traralgon. After almost a week in Adelaide and revisiting Marlene's many relations and friends we departed, heading north through Dubbo and then, after a very long day's driving through Cunningham's Gap, finally pulling over and collapsing in our beds in the van very late at night.

The sun shone magnificently through the van windows the next morning and we found ourselves on the outskirts of Pine Rivers. This was the furthest North we had ever been but we soon got underway and passed through Gympie, Bundaberg and Rockhampton. Travelling with a dog meant we sometimes had to stay at less than the best van parks but the lure of the tropics was uppermost in all of our minds. I recall listening to the radio in our dairy when the ABC would be broadcasting from places like Tully, or Innisfail and I conjured up a vision of what

life may be like there. It was not until we came over the Cardwell ranges and looked across the Hinchinbrook Passage that we knew we had arrived. This was what I had dreamed about for years: tropical islands closed in reef, rainforest and coconut trees in abundance. We looked up some dear friends (ex Victorians) in Tully and then pushed on to Cairns. The winter warmth was what appealed to us plus the pace of life which in 1976 was fantastic compared to Melbourne. The car had been fantastic, no problems and we passed almost everything apart from petrol stations. After 18 months living in Cairns and leasing a motor garage we moved to Port Douglas. That was in 1978 and we had the Galaxy until 1987 whereupon I gave it to our son Jim. The car was used as the bridal car for daughter Lynette who married in 1984.

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The Scotts of Steiglitz

Tony Scott

I have been interested in genealogy for over 20 years, and during that time gradually acquired a substantial amount of information on my forebears, both maternal and paternal, although my researches into the latter have been more productive.

I was living in Perth when the bug first hit me and joined the WA Genealogical Society where I began to learn about research methods and all the various sources that can be utilised in this fascinating hobby. But with all my ancestors having been Victoria based, progress was often quite slow and rather clumsy, although I did have the benefit of a genealogy relative in Victoria who was very helpful.

Eventually I decided to put together a small volume on my mother's forebears and although it was a very modest affair of 50 A5-size pages I was mightily encouraged to receive a Highly Commended in the 2004 Alexander Henderson Awards for family history writing conducted by the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies. I then directed my efforts towards my paternal lineage, particularly concentrating on my great-grandfather James Mills Scott who was born in Geelong in 1855 but grew up in Steiglitz and then became a school teacher. One of the great benefits of having an ancestor who was a public servant is that there is likely to be a good deal of information available on them, either in government publications such as the Government Gazette or in departmental correspondence.

This is indeed the case with teachers. I was fortunate to be able to access over 350 documents in the Education Department files at the Public Record Office, many of them being original letters written by James—a really incredible treasure trove! The resulting biography, *An Obedient Servant: The Life of Schoolmaster James Mills Scott 1855–1934*, obtained a Special Mention at the Alexander Henderson Awards in 2006. The book contained a fair amount of information on Steiglitz and on James's family, particularly his parents James and Christiana Scott, because I thought it would be my last and therefore should contain a fair amount of my research material. However during my inquiries on James I also amassed a substantial quantity of information on all of the hotels that had once operated in Steiglitz. This prompted the publication of *The Pubs and Licensees of Steiglitz* in 2007.

By this time my interest in genealogy had begun to wane and, believing that my writing days were over, I turned my attention to other things. But several relatives kept asking when I was going to write up James and Christiana's lives until I finally wilted under the pressure and decided to do just that. I also considered that, having spent a lot of time and energy gathering many documents and photographs over the years, it was wasteful not to collate them into a cohesive story for the benefit of other family members. Even though I had included some of James and Christiana's history in the previous two books, I still had plenty of additional material plus enough on their four sons to be able to come up with an interesting story. The result is the volume published early in

2016 entitled *The Scotts of Steiglitz: James and Christiana*.

James Scott and Christiana Dean were married in Yorkshire in 1852 and within a few months embarked on a perilous journey to Australia, but we have no way of knowing what prompted this 21-year-old couple to take such a momentous step. They sailed on the first purpose built ocean liner *SS Great Britain* on its maiden voyage to Australia. After arrival in Melbourne, where they suffered the loss of their first child, they moved to Geelong and thence to Steiglitz where James carried on his occupation of butcher. He quickly developed an interest in gold mining and acquired numerous shares in companies as well as becoming a part owner of several local claims.

His next move was a shrewd one when he purchased the Steiglitz Inn in 1861, one of only three hotels operating at that time, soon to become widely known as Scott's Hotel. The 1860s were busy years in Steiglitz but the town had no suitable building where dances, concerts, receptions and meetings could be held, so James built a hall beside the hotel in 1868 and named it the Alfred Hall. It was a popular venue until its demise in the 1920s.

Unfortunately James's love of mining caught up with him and he died in 1875 at the age of only 43 from phthisis (the miners' lung disease). Christiana took over the business but had to contend with the loss of her savings in the 1892 bank collapse, destruction of the hotel by fire the same year, and the death of one of her sons in dubious circumstances in 1896. By all accounts she was a hard-headed businesswoman who knew how to put unruly patrons in their place. She also appears to have been rather short on normal motherly instincts.

Of Christiana's four sons, the eldest James was a teacher who was posted all over Victoria, forever battling against substandard accommodation, limited resources and an overbearing bureaucracy. Thomas was the only one to make a success of his life: initially a teacher but later becoming a grazier who acquired substantial land holdings, he was a local councillor and a prime mover of many sporting and social organisations in the Steiglitz–Meredith district.

Frank left school at about fourteen and commenced coach driving. He then learned the butcher's trade before settling in Tungamah where his marriage foundered and he went bankrupt. He returned to Steiglitz as a general dealer, but was always short of cash. The youngest sibling, Edward, went into the civil service and eventually rose to the position of private secretary to the Victorian premier. However his marriage also turned sour and his traumatic death at the age of only 33 came in the Kew Lunatic Asylum.

The writing of my family's history turned out to be a most satisfying undertaking as it has provided a greater understanding of the lives of my forebears and helped to strengthen the bonds of kinship with them. The book contains 132 pages and includes about a hundred photographs, most of which I was fortunate to obtain from family members who were very supportive of the work.

Copies of this book and the other publications mentioned above can be obtained by contacting me on 5428 1099 or tonyandlynne@bigpond.com.



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GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE



Beyond Prescriptions

Marg Cooper

"We care beyond prescriptions" is the slogan of the newly opened Healthline Pharmacy at 44 Staughton Street Meredith. And so it seems with Anitha and Rajesh Dudhani opening a fully stocked pharmacy. Both husband and wife are fully qualified pharmacists keen to employ local people and engage other health workers, including a doctor. They are also wanting to support young locals to become pharmacists and are eager to help the community.

Anitha and Rajesh studied together in India from 1990. They started their career in Pharmaceutical manufacturing industry followed by teaching, hospital pharmacy, and community pharmacy. They lived and worked in Saudi Arabia for six years where their two daughters were born. They wished for a safer, more reliable, socially secure environment which was a good place for their daughters to grow up so they applied to come to Australia as skilled migrants. Raj passed his first stage overseas qualification equalization exam and was granted permanent residency in 2005. Before they moved to Australia they took their daughters to India for eight months to introduce them to Indian culture.

After arriving in Australia, Raj underwent training and several exams to get registered as pharmacist in Australia. He bought his first pharmacy in 2011 at Coburg and Anitha then proceeded to have her qualifications recognized. In 2014 they bought a second pharmacy in Oak Park. Raj has been an Honorary Justice

of Peace since 2010 and also an Accredited Consultant Pharmacist. Raj and Anitha are very happy with their decision to choose Australia as their destination and thankful to the Australian Community for welcoming their family.

On June 8, 2016 they opened the doors of their newest pharmacy at Staughton Street, Meredith. Raj says they have an opportunistic approach and found that the area needs health services. There are plenty of regulations as to where pharmacies can be opened and, in fact, in Melbourne it is almost impossible to open a new pharmacy. But Meredith was ideal because it is more than 10 km in every direction from another pharmacy, as the regulations demand in the country. It took over twelve months of preparation, with repairs to the shop, documents to the pharmacy authority, fitting out and stocking.

Raj does not expect it to be "a million dollars a day" business but he sees that health care services are critical and very much needed in an area such as Meredith and its hinterland and he intends to help the community as much as he can. There is to be a Grand Opening on 12th July 2016. They are ready to fill in the gaps as per the needs of the community, with no boundaries.

We wish the Dudhanis well in their new business: a very welcome addition to the district.



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Landcare Report

Bamganie Meredith Landcare held their first meeting for some time on Thursday 9th June. Nick McKinley, co-ordinator of the Leigh Catchment Group and Roger MacRaild the Moorabool Catchment facilitator were in attendance. The fact that some of our members are in the Moorabool Catchment and some are in the Leigh River Catchment has caused confusion in the past, particularly when funding opportunities arise.

The next meeting of the Bamganie/Meredith Group will be held on Thursday August 18th at 7.30pm in the Studio at The Meredith Community Hub.

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Battle of the Bands @ Meredith...get involved

Young musicians are invited to apply for the 2016 FReeZA Push Start Battle of the Bands Competition.

FReeZA Push Start is an annual Victorian Battle of the Bands competition for people aged 14-25. It provides fantastic opportunities for young musicians and emerging artists to gain local exposure and live performance time. The first round of the competition will be held at the Meredith Memorial Hall in September. Meredith has played host to the Battle of the Bands since 2012, with over 60 musicians having competing in the competition this time. The top band gets a great opportunity as the event is supported by the Meredith Music Festival. In competing, bands have the chance to win a spot in the Moomba Festival line up. The Battle of the Bands competition is organised by a local group of dedicated young people who make up the FReeZA Youth Development Committee. Young people aged 14-21 are welcome to join the team and help organise this fantastic event. Participants will learn from music industry professionals to gain the adequate skills necessary for organising the competition. The first meeting will be held at the Bannockburn Cultural Centre on Thursday 14 July from 4.30pm - 6.30pm.

Musicians and other young people can apply to be involved in the competition, or join the FReeZA Youth Development Program, by visiting www.goldenplainsdigital.com.au/youth-blog

For more information contact Sarah Dalton, Golden Plains Youth Development Officer on 5220 7111 or email youth@gplains.vic.gov.au

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Multiple ARIA and CMAA Award winner, James Blundell, returns to Meredith on August 11 for another performance at the Royal Hotel. (See ad in this issue for details.) After his visit earlier this year, where he surprised & delighted locals with his friendly & laid back nature, James can't wait to return. After visiting Meredith Primary School for an impromptu performance, during his last visit we wonder what surprises he has in store this time.

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NBN Creeping in Quietly

Colin Cook

Australians who live in capital cities can buy unlimited data for as little as \$60 per month, but in regional areas some people have reported paying more than \$300 per month to access 60 gigabytes. Recent results from the University of Canberra's annual regional wellbeing survey revealed that of 13,000 regional Australians surveyed, 48 per cent reported that their internet was "very poor". Only 37 per cent rated their internet as 'OK' or 'good', with most being on the 'OK' end, not 'good'.

Given all the fanfare earlier this year when it was announced that the NBN rollout was finally making its way to Meredith, you could be forgiven for thinking that the powers that be must be a bit embarrassed by one aspect of the rollout. The Sky Muster satellite service became operational in April and retail providers have been offering plans for various levels of service. However, there has been little announcement of the fact that you can now apply to one of the retail providers and gain access to the Sky Muster service.

A good overview of the plans on offer can be found at <https://birraus.com/satellite/satellite-providers/>. Satellite plans have a couple of options available which it is worth noting. Firstly, download speed can be set to a maximum of 12Mb/sec download and 1Mb/sec upload (12/1), or 25Mb/sec download and 5Mb/sec upload (25/5). The 25/5 plans generally cost an extra \$5/month. Most plans are shaped, in that if you exceed the monthly limit you will be restricted to a maximum download speed of 128kb/sec.

Secondly, satellite plans have a peak and off-peak download limit. Off-peak is designated as between 1AM and 7AM. While these are uncivilised hours for most of us, there may be some users who can take advantage of the greater download limits and cheaper cost of off-peak data. For some software, there is also the possibility of scheduling downloads to occur during off-peak periods (as long as your device is turned on). See <https://birraus.com/2016/05/10/how-to-use-your-off-peak-data/> for some useful tips. For example, you can use the Chrono Download Manager for Google Chrome to schedule large downloads in the wee small hours and actually make use of the off-peak data allowance. Download schedulers are also available for most Android devices, so if you have a Wi-Fi router you can also update these devices using off-peak data. Apple devices can have updates scheduled if you have iOS 9 or later installed on your device.

As an example, my current plan with a Telstra wireless connection has a download limit of 8GB/month for a cost of \$49.95. For the same price, I can get a download limit of 30GB peak and 50GB off-peak. I have applied to one of the retail providers for access and was told that installation of the necessary equipment (free) will take 2-3 months, depending on the availability of technicians. Whether you can get access to the Sky Muster service may depend on your address, as you may not get access if you live in an area which will be serviced by other NBN connections at a later date.

It's probably too early to tell whether the reliability and download speeds will match the pre-deployment marketing hype and how the system will cope once it starts to be used by a large number of customers. However, it's an improvement on what some of us currently have and we can only hope that incremental improvements will occur.

Back to Steiglitz Festival & Reunion

Sunday October 23rd

Here are just some of this year's new attractions:

- A Cobbler, who's beautiful one-off shoes takes approximately 1 year to make. Why? Because every element of the shoe (even the thread he uses) is made by him self. Now that's fascinating, isn't it?

- A bell maker... watch him make a bell during the Festival.

- Witness tools being hand-forged by an expert artisan.

- The 'Sew-What' hand crank sewing machine competition. It's free, fun and great to watch. Plus, all who enter have the chance to win a beautifully restored antique hand crank machine. Details and entry form are on our webpage.

* Toyota have been making sewing machines for years... who knew? As it's coming up to their 70th anniversary, this year they're going to be involved in the 'Sew What' exhibition. How? You'll have to wait and see on the day. Though they're so excited, they have donated a new sewing machine as a raffle prize this year.

So be sure to mark it on your calendar as a 'must see'... Sunday 23rd October. The day starts at 10 am, prizes and trophies presented at 3 pm, and packs up by 4 pm.

With stalls, billy cart races, kid's games, historical society, musicians, and great country cooking, there's definitely something for everyone.

www.backtosteiglitz.org.au



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wendy cook

High-pitched creaking overhead attracts my attention. I look up to see a flock of large black birds, their wings flapping slowly and gracefully, creaking and chattering to each other, sometimes sounding quite conversational. I can see the yellow patches on the sides of their heads. Their long tails, yellow in the middle, black at the end, give them their name – yellow-tailed black cockatoo. At least one hundred birds stream overhead in groups, flying north in the morning towards the pine plantations, where they will spend the day feeding, tearing apart pine cones with their strong curved beaks, and feasting on the seeds. Sometimes they stop at the row of pines on a nearby hilltop, where they settle in the trees, rip at cones and chatter, the whole group rising and creaking in protest if disturbed, and with their slow wing beats and noisy calls, leaving for another source of food. In the evening, they return, often stopping to rest in gum trees, where I can admire these birds, Australia's largest cockatoos, before they continue to their night roost, perhaps in native forest, their preferred habitat.

Occasionally, a small group of yellow-tailed black cockatoos will settle in one of my planted hakeas, usually giving it a good pruning that it didn't need, and biting into the woody seed pods to eat the seeds. They leave a pile of spiky branches and broken pods on the ground around the bush. Unlike the pines which they have learned to enjoy, hakeas are one of their natural foods, along with seeds from other woody fruits, such as those of banksias and she-oaks. They also use their beaks to gouge into tree branches in search of insect larvae, which have bored their way into the tree, seeking food and shelter. Although from a distance the males and females look identical, there are subtle differences. Males have darker beaks, and a pink circle of skin around each eye, which may darken when they feel aggressive or are courting. The females and young birds have grey around their eyes. When the male is courting, he fluffs up his short crest, expands his tail to show off his feathers, and bows to the female, while making a soft growling sound. Together they make a nest in a large tree hollow. They scrape wood off the inside of the hollow to make a soft nest for the eggs. The female lays one or two eggs and incubates them while the male brings her food regularly. When the chicks are born, they are covered in yellow fluff and have pink beaks. The second egg to be laid, a few days after the first, is slightly smaller, and often the chick does not survive. By the time a chick learns to fly, aged three months, it has black feathers and a grey beak. It remains with its parents until the next breeding season.

Outside of the breeding season, yellow-tailed black cockatoos form the large flocks, sometimes of hundreds of birds, that we see in autumn and winter, and will move around, looking for food. Although these cockatoos seem numerous, their numbers are decreasing, due to loss of habitat. Clearing of forest means fewer places to feed and roost, and the removal of large trees leaves them with fewer places to nest. However, these birds have at least partially adapted to the human world. They are often seen in Melbourne and Sydney, and pine plantations provide them with a secure food source.



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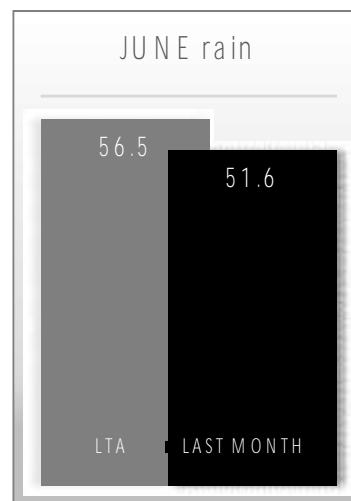
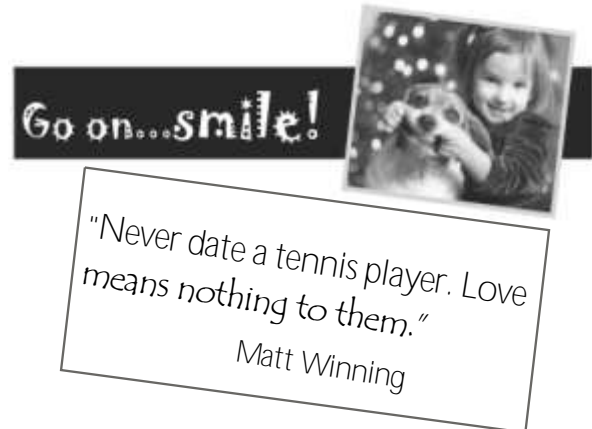
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Lethbridge Play Space Open

Geoff Howard, Member for Buninyong, officially opened the "Lethbridge Youth Unstructured Play Space" project in Golden Plains Shire on Thursday 16 June.

This multi-use play space provides an area that can be used for a range of fun recreation activities for local people; including basketball, netball and a rebound wall for sporting activities.

The location of the Play Space makes it an even more valuable addition to the community. Located in the centre of Lethbridge, it is close to existing play equipment, public toilets, the skate park, the Lethbridge Recreation Reserve and Lethbridge Primary School.

Golden Plains Shire Council Mayor, Cr Des Phelan, said creating opportunities for Golden Plains families is very important to Council.

"Families can use this space to enjoy quality time together in the great outdoors; in a way that promotes physical activity, fitness and fun. Kids can get involved in physical activity without having to plan or pay and they meet other children and build friendships while they are there."

"Play spaces often complement club-based activities, like tennis, cricket and junior football – these are great opportunities for people of all ages to keep active and feel part of the community."

The Lethbridge Unstructured Play Space is a \$33,000 project, jointly funded by Sport and Recreation Victoria, contributing \$20,000, and Golden Plains Shire Council, contributing over \$13,000.

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 600g potatoes, cut into 3cm cubes
 500g pumpkin, cut into 3cm cubes
 125g bacon, chopped
 1 brown onion, finely chopped
 1 zucchini, grated
 ½ cup grated tasty cheese
 Salt and pepper

Method

Preheat oven to 200c (180c fan forced). Grease a deep 25cm x 20cm oven proof dish. Wisk eggs and milk in a jug. Season with salt and pepper.

Boil, steam or microwave potato and pumpkin until tender. Drain.

Heat a frypan over high heat. Add bacon and onion and cook, stirring for 5mins or until onion has softened.

Place potato, pumpkin, zucchini and onion mixture in prepared dish. Toss to combine. Pour over egg mixture and sprinkle with cheese. Bake for 40 minutes or until golden and set.

Serve with side salad.

This recipe can be enjoyed hot or cold. It makes a great lunch or afternoon snack. You can also leave out the bacon and replace it with mushrooms.

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Council Budget Unchanged

Golden Plains Shire Council last month adopted its Budget for the 2016-17 financial year and 2013-2017 Council Plan (which also includes the Strategic Resource Plan).

It includes \$12.1M to support and develop Council's recreation and community spaces and groups, \$8.3M to support children, aged, disability and child health services and \$16.5M allocated to construction and maintenance of roads and street infrastructure. Mayor, Cr Des Phelan said Council spent a lot of time discussing the balance between community wants and needs, and meeting the State Government's rate cap. "We asked the community where their priorities lay and they told us, and that was invaluable in shaping Council's development and review of the draft Budget," said Cr Phelan.

Council received 10 submissions and heard from three submitters at a special meeting of Council in mid-June. As some of the issues have been already put into effect, while others were not appropriate as a short term action, but will be considered by the next Council, when drafting the next Budget. Accordingly, no changes were made as a result of the submissions.

"Council was also committed to meeting the State Government's new Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) which has capped average rate per assessment increases at 2.5 per cent.

"Council is working hard to look at ways we can save money but still deliver a good range of high quality services. We have our eye on the future and a 'Community First' attitude, and I think that will help us continue to provide 'best value' for our residents and ratepayers," said Cr Phelan.

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Elaine Railway Hotel - Part 2

Marg Cooper

Mary Phillips loved going to the football in her father's T Model Ford. She hated Meredith Football Team! If her father went to the football she went too but she had to sit in the car during the match. She'd toot the horn if Elaine got a goal and if the game got really exciting she'd stand on the running board to cheer her team on. Mary says that the T Model Ford went through "Hell and High Water"!

Mary vividly remembers seeing the Motor train on its first trip on the Geelong-Ballarat Line. Mr O'Mara, the station-master who she remembers had a big family, told everyone that the new train was coming through that night. For ages after, Mary would take the Hurricane lamp and go over the road to the Railway Station to see the train go through towards Ballarat between 6.30 and 7pm. Later she went to school in Geelong on that Motor train.

Elaine Hotel was a terribly cold place. There were fireplaces in most rooms and a big one between the Parlour and Dining Room. Mary remembers roaring fires and big blocks of wood being put on. She remarked that cars in those days were not sedans. They had canvas hoods, plastic type side windows, no heating and plenty of gaps for cold air to enter.

Meat was delivered to the hotel in a van from Buninyong and the man called Mary "Sav" because he knew she loved saveloys. The van had doors at the back that opened out like a book and a set of scales for weighing the meat. They delivered twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays. Meat was also purchased from the Meredith butchers. Bread came from the Meredith Bakery. Coles brought fruit and vegetables from Morrisons and Jack McKee delivered spuds in a horse and cart. Milk was bought from Bowers until her father purchased a cow. Mary had pet sheep, Lenny and Pudgy. They also had a dog called Ned, a cat called Tom, chooks, geese, ducks and reared a pig on scraps from the kitchen that every now and again was despatched and salted in the barrel near the back door. The pig was always called Sylvia and would grow very fat, in fact "as fat as a publican's pig".

Her mother made jams, pickles and sauces. A home lighting plant supplied power for lighting to the hotel. A series of batteries were charged by a generator. One had only to press a button to turn on the light which would dim if the charge in the batteries got down. Reg East from next door was very good if there were any malfunctions in the "power house".

Mary remembers that they had two radios, a small one sat on a ledge near the slider between the kitchen and the dining room and a bigger one in the Private Parlour. They were powered by batteries charged in the "power house". The wireless or radio was only turned on to listen to certain shows. Mary remembers racing home from the train to listen to "Dad and Dave" at 7 pm "a George Edwards production brought to you by Wrigley's, makers of spearmint, peppermint and penny juicy fruit".

Monday was washing day when the linen and clothing was boiled in the copper. Mary often helped Mary the cook, to prepare vegetables in the kitchen. She said her mother's brother Uncle Ted lived with them a lot of the time and helped with all the chores. Sis (Mary) Connell was the waitress. Mary recalls that her mother was the hotel housekeep-

er and was very particular!

Mary Craven the cook, Sis Connell and Uncle Ted, her mother's brother, each had separate bedrooms.

Beer was delivered in a horse and cart. Mary remembers "Burlington Bertie from Bow" which was a statue of an English Gentleman which stood on a shelf above the door. There was no ice and bottles of drink were kept in the cellar with the barrels of beer. Women drank stout and lemonade, portergaffs or pony size beers. If one was ill or thirsty a shandy (beer and lemonade) was enjoyed.

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It's history

Meredith History Interest Group

School Days Talk Fest

On Sunday, June 19 we met to share recollections of our school days. One had had a governess and several had attended kindergarten prior to school and Joanne actually was sitting next to her Kindergarten teacher at the Talk Fest, Jenny Colvin.

Many had attended several schools because they moved or schools closed. Jim had attended Cargerie, Woodburn and Elaine State Schools.

Some travelled to school by pony, Alan was dinked to school on his first day on his father's bike and told that he was to walk home "in that direction", Doug went by ferry, others walked up to five miles and John boarded firstly in Meredith to go to St Joseph's and then in Geelong.

Some disliked school and volunteered to distribute milk and fill ink wells, others enrolled at 4½ so the sewing mistress could be kept on and others begged to go to school early.

Many remembered the teacher's strap. Alan Caddy's teacher wore the strap over his left shoulder. The teacher called his strap by the name of "Jezabell".

Ones who grew up in the city swapped lunches with new Australians and rural students had pies delivered by the mailman. Many had satchels or cases to carry their books and lunch but George took nothing. He didn't have homework and he went home for lunch.

Some used slates and slate pencils in early grades, some learnt to read with "John & Betty" and Fay brought a book given to her by Mrs Matheson of Moranghurk. Some classrooms had open fires, some had gas heaters or chip heaters and some had no heating. Christine's class did exercises before class to warm up!

Some remembered trench drill during the war and bunnies and school excursions to see the Queen in 1954 and to the Olympic Games in 1956.

And some got up to mischief: Alan and Joyce pushed the hands of the school clock forward so they got out of school early, Geoff grabbed the strap as the female teacher in stiletto shoes tried to strap his hands and one got the strap on his first day for using "pea paddock" language!

Catalogue Day

We catalogue on the last Thursday of the month in the Anglican Church Hall from 9 am. Come along and bring some history and your personal heater!

A Fourpenny Tale

Marg Cooper

May 1855: Harry made quick haste after escaping from the two troopers who were escorting him from Ballarat to Geelong. He travelled across country, passing Mt Buninyong on his left, heading easterly. His intention was to re-unite with some mates who, when he last heard of them, were trying their luck panning for gold in the Moorbool River at Morrisons.

When he made enquiries at Morrisons as to the whereabouts of Joe and Tom he was told that they had had no luck and had walked on to Steiglitz. So, Harry headed in that direction. Up over the hills he went but as it was approaching night fall he made camp by a small creek. Because he had been a prisoner he didn't have any food or blankets so he lay down on the ground and listened to the wind in the branches and the twinkling of the running water and relished his freedom.

The troopers had been strict when they had collected their prisoner in Ballarat but had purchased bottles of alcohol in Main Road and begun to imbibe. Their saddle bags held several bottles and as they rode they drank. They re-supplied at a roadside inn at Buninyong and continued on, intending on reaching Meredith by afternoon and to stay at the police buildings there and put their prisoner in the lock up overnight.

When Trooper Johnston fell off his horse on the way up Mt Buninyong and the other trooper got off to help him remount Harry took the opportunity to gallop away. He found out later that the troopers didn't notice that their prisoner was missing until they neared Meredith.

Harry was also surprised to learn that Trooper William Dunbar Johnston died from a fall from his horse on that same day, May 29, 1855. [It seems that he was a colourful character sent to Australia by the Indian Army to buy horses. He had joined the mounted Police soon after his arrival then married Mary Banks in Geelong in 1855 but ... he had a wife and son in India. Police authorities recommended that he "be in a position where his duty could not fail to be noticed" (if intoxicated) and he owed a considerable amount of money. His burial is the first documented burial in the first Meredith Cemetery according to the Victorian Pioneer Register.

As Harry stood to leave his camping spot in the morning a very small coin which had squeezed through a small hole in his pocket, fell unnoticed to the ground. He rode to Steiglitz looking forward to meeting up with his mates, having a feed and staying away from the long arm of the law.

April 2016: Wendy Cook found a small 1843 coin on the slope above Eclipse Creek. William Dunbar Johnston and another trooper did lose their prisoner near Buninyong and William Dunbar Johnston did fall off his horse because he was intoxicated and died on May 29, 1855 and was buried in the first cemetery at Meredith. Their prisoner may have camped on Eclipse Creek!

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Marg's Book Review

'Lola Bensky' by Lily Brett

Maybe this novel could simply have been called 'Lily Brett'. It seems that it is very much the story of the author who, at the age of eighteen, was offered a job as a journalist writing for the soon to be iconic rock magazine *Go-Set*. She confessed that she had no real ambition to become a writer but became caught up in the heady music scene of the 60's and became enamoured with her typewriter. The novel she has written is described as "a loosely bound, fictive reimagining of that time, the most exciting era in pop music history".

Lola Bensky is a curious, self-conscious, naïve and neurotic Jewish girl. She is sent to London and LA in 1967 where she meets and interviews many of the upcoming rock stars including Mick Jagger, Jim Morrison, Jimmy Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Mama Cass, Sonny & Cher, The Doors, The Monkees and Otis Redding. The author uses the interviews with these personalities to talk about herself. She is very preoccupied with her weight and planning diets and the traumatic past of her parents, both of whom are survivors of Auschwitz. A review suggests that this is Lily Brett's way of coming to terms with the past and her quest for self-understanding.

Within an entertaining story the book tells us that we are products of our family history. Lola's parents lost their families in the death camps. Without goodbye's they remained locked in a dialogue with the dead. They couldn't afford to be idle because at those times errant, aberrant and abhorrent thoughts would seep into their minds. Lola had a mother who was locked in another time and felt guilty for surviving. Lola's mother was obsessed with Lola's weight and had anxieties about body functions. Lola felt that she, as a journalist, asked a lot of questions that made people sad. She believed that this was because of her parents past.

In the latter part of the book Lola tells about the early deaths of many of the musicians she had known in the 1960's. She comments that Cher and Mick Jagger survived and thrived. Lola married Mr Former Rockstar and has three children. Eventually Mr Someone Else steps into Lola's life as something else wonderful, they move to New York and Lola writes detective novels. It seems that Lola and Lily survived and thrived, lost weight and became slim.

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V Line Bridge Upgrade

Raymond Kelly

The iron girder and timber decking on the bridge which carried the railway line over O'Connor Road in Lethbridge have been replaced by precast concrete beams. A crane with a lifting capacity of 200 ton was engaged in the operation. To enable the work to be carried out the roadway under the bridge was closed to traffic from 6 am on Friday May 20 until 6 am on Monday May 23, 2016. The concrete beams were precast by Gippsland Precast at Maffra and transported to the work site by road. Clearance under the bridge has increased from 3.9 to 4.2 metres. The bluestone bridge was built in 1859.



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An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen.

The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, 'Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great. . . I would recommend it very highly.'

The other man asked, 'What is the name of the restaurant?'

The first man thought and thought and finally said, 'What is the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know... The one that's red and has thorns.'

'Do you mean a rose?'

'Yes, that's the one,' replied the man. He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, 'Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?'



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