

# Meredith & district News

March 2016

*It's Autumn!*

OUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SINCE 1972



Renowned country singer, James Blundell, performed at the Royal Hotel last month, and turned on an impromptu performance for the school kids. Now, that's a nice bloke!

## inside



- Wire Knot?
- Even Ugly Dogs Can Run
- Albie Smith's Achievement

...and the usual *much more!*

**E:** [news@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:news@meredithnews.com.au) **W:** [meredithnews.com.au](http://meredithnews.com.au)



# Meredith & district News



Meredith and District NEWS

# CONNECT

# EMERGENCY

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

## NEWS & VIEWS

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

[news@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:news@meredithnews.com.au) or deliver to the Meredith Corner Shop.

## DATES AND DEADLINES

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

## ADVERTISING

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

|               | B&W     | colour |
|---------------|---------|--------|
| Business Card | \$14.00 |        |
| 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 \$25.00 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](http://meredithnews.com.au)

## ONLINE PHOTOS

We do not publish children's photos online.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

## DISCLAIMER

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

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.)

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>ADVANCE MEREDITH</b><br>☎5286 1291                        | <b>HISTORY GROUP</b><br>☎5286 8201                  |
| <b>ANGLING CLUB</b><br>☎0419 423 960                         | <b>LANDCARE</b><br>☎5286 1250                       |
| <b>BLUE LIGHT DISCO</b><br>☎5286 1222                        | <b>MEMORIAL HALL</b><br>☎5286 1545                  |
| <b>BOOK CLUB</b><br>☎5286 8201                               | <b>MOTOR CYCLE CLUB</b><br>☎0437 009250             |
| <b>CFA</b><br>(000 for fire calls)<br>Elaine<br>☎0417 533516 | <b>PLAYGROUP</b><br>☎5286 0700                      |
| Meredith<br>☎5286 1502                                       | <b>POLICE PADDOCKS</b><br>☎5286 1273                |
| Morrison's<br>☎0417 770 765                                  | <b>RED CROSS</b><br>☎5286 8222                      |
| <b>CHILDCARE</b><br>☎5286 0700                               | <b>RSL</b><br>☎52861 452                            |
| <b>COMMUNITY CENTRE</b><br>☎5286 0700                        | <b>SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB</b><br>☎5286 8232           |
| <b>CRICKET</b><br>Elaine<br>☎0418 535713                     | <b>TENNIS</b><br>Elaine<br>☎0448 291074             |
| Junior<br>Under 14<br>☎0418535713                            | Meredith<br>☎5286 1211                              |
| Meredith<br>☎5286 1434                                       | <b>SEW 'N' SEWS</b><br>☎5286 0700                   |
| <b>CUBS &amp; SCOUTS</b><br>Anakie<br>☎5281 9497             | <b>FRIENDS OF THE BRISBANE RANGES</b><br>☎5286 1252 |
| <b>FOOTBALL (seniors)</b><br>☎0408 545246                    | <b>LIONS DISTRICT CONTACT</b><br>☎52 815391         |
| (juniors)<br>☎0430 587674                                    |   |
| <b>GOLF CLUB</b><br>☎5341 5748                               |   |

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

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>CEMETERY TRUST</b><br>☎5286 1550                 | <b>MATERNAL &amp; CHILD HEALTH</b><br>☎5220 7230 |
| <b>HALL HIRE</b><br>Meredith Memorial<br>☎5286 1545 | <b>PRE-SCHOOL</b><br>☎5286 0722                  |
| Elaine Mechanics<br>☎5241 5596                      | <b>PRIMARY SCHOOL</b><br>☎5286 1313              |
| Elaine Rec Res<br>☎5341 5703                        | <b>RECREATION RESERVE</b><br>☎0429 841399        |
| <b>LIBRARY VAN</b><br>☎5272 6010                    |  |



## ...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.

"Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree."

- Emily Bronte





# COMMUNITY

## Celebrating GP Youth

*media release*

At Golden Plains Shire Council, we believe everyone has a story to tell, everyone deserves to be heard and everyone deserves to be celebrated.

This year National Youth Week will be held from 8 – 17 April and Golden Plains is ready to join the largest celebration of young people in Australia.

A group of young people have come together to organise the National Youth Week celebrations in Golden Plains. They are on a mission to improve the connection of young people with their home community, give young people a voice, and celebrate the diverse young people in Golden Plains.

The National Youth Week Committee will meet every Wednesday at the Bannockburn Cultural Centre and residents are welcome to join this celebration and help to connect young people to their community.

To get involved in National Youth Week activities, please visit [www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/youth](http://www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/youth) or Facebook/goldenplainsyouth.

For more information, contact Sarah Dalton, on 5220 7177 or [sdalton@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:sdalton@gplains.vic.gov.au).

## Memorial Hall AGM

The Memorial Hall Committee would like to invite visitors to the Annual General Meeting to be held Tuesday 22nd March, 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall. All positions become vacant on the night and an election to fill the positions for the year is conducted along with the Annual Financial Report being presented.

A short committee meeting will then conclude the evening. Visitors and friends of the Hall are most welcome.  
Sandra Pearce 52861545

## Meredith Senior Citizens

*Jim Hynds, President*

The first luncheon for the year was held at Back Creek Café in Meredith on Monday, February 8, 2016. The seniors were made most welcome and there was a good roll-up of some 26 members and guests. We enjoyed a well presented array of main courses and lots of desserts. The staff looked after the members with a great deal of efficiency and care. Many thanks from the seniors. It's not easy to feed 26 in one group. Our members spent the afternoon catching up with each other after the long summer break. In all, it was a very pleasant day.

We are looking forward to an exciting year with bus trips planned and lots of lunches in the pipe line - so call us and come along, you will be most welcome.

## 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

## Golden Plains Mobile Library

Is at the Meredith Primary School every

Thursday from 9am to 10.30am



## HOW to POSE with a STATUE



## Want a JOB that COUNTS?

The Australian Bureau of Statistics is seeking motivated and community minded project managers to work on the 2016 Census. More information from [abs.gov.au/careers](http://abs.gov.au/careers)

## Classifieds

First insertion of small ads are FREE to district residents

**Wanted** Meredith Primary School students are looking for pre loved cubby houses in reasonable condition to add to the school grounds. Please contact 0413 332 062 or the school on 5286 1313 if you can help.

*The front cover photo was taken by Stefania Parkinson*

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

### St James. Morrisons:

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

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at 5pm and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 9am.

### UNITING CHURCH

Monthly Combined Holy Communion services.

2nd Sunday, 11am at Meredith Uniting Church

4th Sunday at 11am at Meredith Anglican Church

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

Enquires Doug McFarlane 52861283.

Rev. Lindell Gibson 53413 200

**SERBIAN ORTHODOX** : Fr. Theodore—Ph. 5341 5568

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

### CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA.

St. Marys House of Prayer Elaine Solemn mass Sundays 10.00am.

Rosary and Vespers Saturday 5.00pm. Confessions by appointment

Fr. James Ph. 5341 5544

### ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PARISH

Mass times for February/ March 2016

Bannockburn, Inverleigh Anakie and Winchelsea

Mass times for March/ April 2016

**Winchelsea** every Saturday at 6 p.m.

**Bannockburn(at Inverleigh)** every Sunday at 9a.m.

1st. Sunday of the month: Family Mass, Produce stall & morning

tea. Last Sunday of the month (weather permitting) : Tent mass

on the site of St.John's Bannockburn

Anakie at 11 a.m. Sunday March 6th/ 20th and Easter Sunday

March 27th Sunday April 3rd/ 17th

Meredith at 11 a.m. Sun March 13th/27th Sun April 10th/24th

### Easter Ceremonies :

Wed 23rd. March : Reconciliation Service Inverleigh 7.30 p.m.

Thurs 24th March : Holy Thursday Mass : Winchelsea 6 p.m.

Meredith 8 p.m.

Frid 25th. March : Good Friday Ecumenical Way of the Cross

10 a.m. Meredith

Ecumenical Way of the Cross 10.30 a.m. Winchelsea

Solemn Good Friday Liturgy : Meredith 3 p.m.

Sat 26th March : Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass

Bannockburn (Inverleigh) 6.30 p.m.

Winchelsea 6.30 p.m. Meredith 8.30 p.m.

Easter Sun 27th March : Bannockburn(Inverleigh) 9 a.m.

Anakie 11 a.m.

### 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 is only the beginning of the year but we are already half way into our short first term and planning for the next.

Our new facility has opened up lots more opportunities and space to provide classes and activities. So we are looking for ideas and suggestions about what we can provide for you. With that in mind we also need people interested in sharing their skills and talents either in a voluntary or paid capacity. We are looking for people who can teach natural skin care products, dog training, composting and worm farms, using android smart phones and tablets and outdoor pizza oven cooking or any other skills you think others might be interested in learning. If you or someone you know is interested please give us a call. We are also planning to send out a survey to seek your ideas and suggestions in the near future so please make sure you give us your feedback.

We still have some classes and events coming up in March. If you want to keep up with what we have happening make sure you visit our website [meredithcommunitycentre.com.au](http://meredithcommunitycentre.com.au) or our facebook page.

Occasional Care continues to go from strength to strength thanks to Jo and the wonderful staff. The new sessions are proving very popular and we have waiting lists for some days. There are still a few places available so give us a call if you would like a break from your little ones for a few hours. Jo and Rebecca are very committed to providing an enriching program for the children.

If you have not already had the chance please come and visit and check out the beautiful new community facility. The foyer area has tea and coffee making and is designed to be a community meeting space so you are welcome to call in sit down and have a chat anytime we are open.

Till next month.

*Pam*

Meredith Community Centre  
4 Russell Street Meredith 3333  
Ph 5286 0700

[learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au](mailto:learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au)

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



Welcome to all our families attending Meredith Kindergarten for this new year, we are already half way into our first term and what a whirlwind it's been so far! This is the beginning of a new chapter for our Kinder with our 3 year old pre kinder and Kindergarten group starting off fresh at the start of the year in the new building. Educators are fresh from holidays and are feeling more settled, it's a nice thought to know we don't have to pack up or move ever again! We have set up our room to be an inviting and interesting play space for the children to explore and using the deck area as a wonderful space for children to be able to play and spread out with the train sets, duplo and use the water troughs on our hot days. We have many children interested in puzzles, trucks and cars, play dough, fairies and building with tools. Kylie and I are enjoying spending time getting to know all the children individually, it's a lot of hard work in Term one and, I admit, some days have been exhausting! We have a very energetic Kinder group this year so we are lucky to have an extra assistant, Leanne Davies, over a few weeks to help us settle the children into a good routine.

Leanne is already a familiar face at Meredith as she is also working as the relief assistant with Kylie in the 3 year old pre kinder group. The pre kinder group have settled in very well and are getting to know their teachers and new peer group. They have been going "on a bear hunt" and exploring the outdoors each Wednesday morning.

We have had a few hiccups with the shade sails and our new climbing fort so we have to wait a few more weeks until this is all in place, but the children will benefit greatly once it's all set up. Our family BBQ is on Thursday 3rd March at 5.30pm, hopefully many of our families will come along and enjoy a social evening together.

We welcome back Mrs Cooke and hope she visits us regularly throughout the year! Mrs Cooke is continuing on with the Book Club so hopefully our families order lots of books this year and we get credits to purchase new books for our growing library.

We have one space left in the kindergarten group and a few spaces free in our pre kinder group. Please contact the Kindergarten for any enrolment information.

We have the Golden Plains Music Festival coming up in a few weeks and the Kinder have a shift in the tucker tent on the Sunday. Thank you in advance to all our volunteers. I'm looking forward to enjoying some great music with friends after working the shift. It's such a great atmosphere and we are so grateful to be a part of it for another year. It really helps keep our Kinder growing and able to afford some new equipment and materials which benefits all the children.

Cheers

*Jodie*

## From the Mayor

Cr. Des Phelan



### Representing your needs to State and Federal politicians

Over February and March, the CEO and I met with nine Federal and State government politicians, including Sarah Henderson MP (Federal Member for Corangamite), The Honourable Catherine King MP (Federal Member for Ballarat) and The Honourable Jaala Pulford (State Minister for Regional Development and Agriculture).

In these meetings, we work hard to represent issues and projects that are priorities for the Shire's residents and businesses. Some of the priorities discussed included the importance of developing the Bannockburn Civic Heart Precinct, the demand for improved telecommunications including mobile phone and Broadband Internet access, as well as the need for improved roads across the Shire.

### Community Engagement update

I would like to thank everyone who completed the Community Engagement Survey, we received over 500 responses from residents across the Shire. Our next steps in the development of the Community Engagement Strategy will be to collate the information and analyse the results, which will feed into the development of the first draft of Council's Community Engagement Strategy 2016-2020.

### Join us in March at the Golden Plains Provedores' Picnic

In celebration of the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival, the Golden Plains Farmers' Market will host a Provedores' Picnic on Saturday 5 March from 10am-2pm. Explore the market, buy gourmet fare from market stallholders to share with friends and family while enjoying live music, roving entertainment, activities for the kids and much more.

It costs \$5 per group of five or less – simply turn up and pay on the day.

The April Farmers Market is on Saturday 2 April.

### Explore the Shire and have an arts adventure at the Golden Plains Arts Trail

The popular and inspiring Arts Trail returns on Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 March from 10am-5pm (most venues) – and best of all, it is a free event! Catch the live performances at the Royal Hotel in Meredith and don't miss the opportunity to catch Circus Oz, conducting a workshop and performance @ the heart.

To find out more, visit the website at [artstrail.com.au](http://artstrail.com.au) and for the latest news, visit the Golden Plains Arts Trail Facebook page. See you on the Trail!

Cr Des Phelan Mayor,  
Golden Plains Shire Council

## Recreation



### Meredith Golf Club Results

- On 3/1/2016 Stableford: Jeff Cooper, 34 points, Charlie Osborne, 32 points.
- Nearest the Pin on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Danny Jury: nearest the pin on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Danny Jury.
- On 17/1/2016 Stableford: Charlie Osborne 38 points, Vin Drew, 38 points.
- Nearest the pin on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Danny Jury: nearest the pin on the 9<sup>th</sup> Vin Drew: nearest the pin on the 10<sup>th</sup>, Vin Drew: nearest the pin on the 14<sup>th</sup> Danny Jury.
- On 7/2/2016 Stableford: Danny Jury 35 points, Denis Gear 34 points.
- Nearest the pin on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Denis Gear: nearest the pin on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Danny Jury.

*NB: The Annual meeting of MHIG is at the Golf Clubhouse on Sunday, March 6. Maybe a game of golf before the meeting at 1.30pm!*

PHOTO OMITTED  
FROM ONLINE  
EDITION

*Playing in the C1 team are left to right Molly Dunne, Hannah Farhall, Megan Farhall and Sharni Bilston.*

Elaine Tennis Club have received a \$1000 uniform grant from the Department of Health and Human Services. Players now have new Tshirts, jumpers, hats and raincoats!

*Below: Nicholas 'chicka' Pantzidis & Seamus Dunne from Elaine Cricket Club both made the Ballarat Cricket Association U14 team in 2015/16 season. Congratulations boys!*

## Rowing Success

*Marg Cooper*

KimbaLee Slade and her horse compete in “eventing” during winter, a combination of dressage, show jumping and cross country. Her mother Kerry proudly describes how KimbaLee has always been good at sport, playing played both netball and football in Meredith junior teams. She was asked to play football in Geelong for the under 18’s team and Lethbridge wanted her to play cricket , but she chose to row.

She only started rowing this season but her team from Damascus College won the Year 9 girls race at a Ballarat Regatta on the first weekend in February and won their race at a Geelong Regatta earlier in the year. They are soon to compete in another Regatta in Geelong and the Head of the Lake in Ballarat .

Rowing is a big commitment for Kim and her parents. She is on the water at Wendouree at 6.30 am on four mornings a week, including school holidays. It is a team sport and if you don’t train, don’t perform at your absolute best or don’t turn up you let everyone down! Kim rows in second position in a team of four plus a cox. The team of Ellie, Kim, Ally, Grace and Macy certainly look fit and keen. Well rowed Kimberley and team!

PHOTO OMITTED  
FROM ONLINE  
EDITION



## Ruby Wedding Anniversary

Marg Cooper

Everyone in Altona was into horses, including Linda Armytage. She was riding her horse down Pearce Street one day when a young man in bare feet ran past. She asked if he wanted a lift because it was obvious that his feet were suffering on the hot pavement. He replied that he was nearly home! That was how Linda met Jimmy Hynds. She was sweet seventeen and Jimmy was twenty three years old.

On their first date they walked on Altona pier. Everything was going well until Linda realized what time it was and that her Dad had told her to be home early. She ran the three kilometres to her home with Jimmy running behind. Can I see you again?

The Altona mob of young people regularly visited Myrniong on a Sunday because they were bona fida travellers if they signed in and had a meal. They met at the Altona Park. There, they decided how many were going, what cars were going and who was travelling with whom. Jimmy asked Linda if she would like to go and she readily accepted. The owners had constructed a pit fire in front of the huge open stables with cobbled floor behind the hotel. A large tray of massive T bone steaks was delivered to the mob who then cooked them over the fire and ate them with salad.

Jim remembers that every time he called to pick up Linda she was out the back with her horses. Linda had several horses that she tethered anywhere there was feed or put in any paddock that was fenced. Jimmy had hired horses from the riding school. It seemed that his interest in horses developed because it was a method of meeting girls.

They married on February 21, 1976 at the Presbyterian Church in Altona and their honeymoon was a tour of horse studs all around Victoria. They had made wonderful friends

at the many horse shows including the Melbourne Show. Linda and Jimmy each took annual leave from their jobs to stay at the showgrounds for ten days of the show. One of their horses "Chango" won his class at Melbourne Show for ten years in a row and Reserve Champion Pony. Overall their horse won 300 supreme awards in lead classes, harness and under saddle.



*Jim & Linda Hynds' wedding photo.*

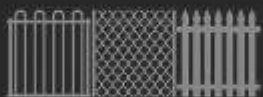
They bought forty acres on Coopers Road just before they were married and travelled up nearly every day to check their horses, before they moved into their new house about a year later. Then Jimmy travelled to Williamstown and Linda to Geelong to work for years. After forty years of marriage they still have an interest in horses and a love of animals. Linda and Jim take their pony out in the cart a few times a week and their Chihuahua dog is utterly spoilt. They are celebrating with a holiday. Of course they're taking the dog!



## Horse Rug Repairs

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0419 335 751

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Chris McKenzie's

## Garden Notes



What to do when strife and sadness strike. If like me you have the inclination and some time to potter, then getting out into the garden is a boon. As I must go out every morning and feed the chookens (my grandchildren's nomenclature) the gloom begins to lift a little when I approach the chook yard. Chickens reward the poultry lover well, not only with the gift of fresh eggs, but with the rich fertiliser they drop and, not least, with the distraction of observing their fascinating behavior and social activities. After a spell of chook watching on these troubled mornings I wander around the garden with secateurs in hand and snip at dead twigs and spent flower heads while sifting through thoughts of what might be done to alleviate the current dilemma.



Raking is another absorbing garden activity that soothes this anxious gardener. I enjoy raking the gravel, not to the extent of making patterns in the Japanese style, but simply following a rhythmic motion that gathers up the twigs and leaves and chicken droppings. It is more satisfying than housework, but with a similarly pleasing result. One of my favourite writers Marilynne Robinson says 'At a certain level housekeeping is a regime of small kindnesses, which, taken together, make the world salubrious, savoury and warm. I think of the acts of comfort offered and received within a household as precisely sacramental.' I add to this: garden work is balm to a worried person.

For example the pumpkins that have grown themselves from the compost now extend in a broad swathe of giant green leaves like lotus pads floating on a wetland, their great egg yolk gold trumpet flowers hidden beneath. During the intense heat of the day the leaves wilt utterly and as soon as the air cools they unfurl once more like a magician's silk hanky drawn out of a hat. And then suddenly out of nowhere it seems, tucked away under the leaves appear huge grey green pumpkins. One of my plants has sent runners far and wide, even climbing up and through the chicken wire fence and small pumpkins are growing here, hanging by a slender neck from the main stem. I wonder if the plant will be able to support the suspended weight of the full sized pumpkin?

Garden produce occupies the mind also. When we came to this place there were a few fruit trees including a Granny Smith that died soon after and the glorious old white perfumed peach that continues to thrive beside the house. I cannot bear to waste a single one of these fruits which are not especially good for bottling or drying. They are best

eaten straight from the tree, perfectly ripe, warm from the sun and succulent. So, I climb in under the netting and gently pluck the fruit which I regularly deliver in carefully arranged baskets to friends and neighbours. This all takes time, but it is the kind of time that allows for reflecting on other matters so I do not mind.

By the way, some advice for growers of stone fruit. These trees are best pruned and cleaned up as soon as you have picked the last of the fruit while there is enough warmth and dryness to heal the wounds of the cut branches. This avoids diseases entering. Cut back new growth by about half on peaches and nectarines as next season's fruit will grow on this wood. Also, rake up under and around your trees, cleaning up every last stone and leaf matter and dispose of so that lurking creatures carrying disease will not return to the trees. Letting the chooks out for a scratch beneath the fruit trees is also a good way to control unwanted garden bugs.

Happy gardening.

*Chris*



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## What we Know About Broadband

Jim Elvey




Early last month, a team of consultants associated with the NBN roll-out visited Meredith to answer residents' questions and explain the process ahead. In case you didn't make it (and a lot did) here are some interesting points we picked up.

- We will be served by a combination of "fixed wireless" and satellite delivery
- Fixed wireless is designed to deliver service to a fixed number of users at a relatively stable bandwidth. That is, it shouldn't fluctuate with the number of users online.
- It is planned to deliver fixed wireless from a tower built on private property immediately east of the railway line on the Meredith-Mt. Mercer Road
- Typically, towers will service residents within two or three kms by "line-of-sight".
- When installed, technicians visit all premises to assess if reception is adequate for connection to the wireless system. Otherwise, they will be offered a satellite service. Both the wireless antenna and the satellite dish are funded by the NBN.
- NBN will balance the wireless and satellite service in the area to ensure both receive similar broadband capacity, which is up to 25 megabytes per second (Mbps).\*
- The proposal is presently subject to council approval and, all going well, may be operative by the end of the year.

Want to know more? Call 1800 687 626 or visit [nbn.com.au](http://nbn.com.au)

*\*By comparison, ADSL1, which is the copper wire connection available from the Meredith exchange, is usually offered at speeds up to 1.5 megabytes per second but will rarely deliver this. (Right now, my download speed is .84 Mbps.) And, as we all know, it does fluctuate according to usage.*





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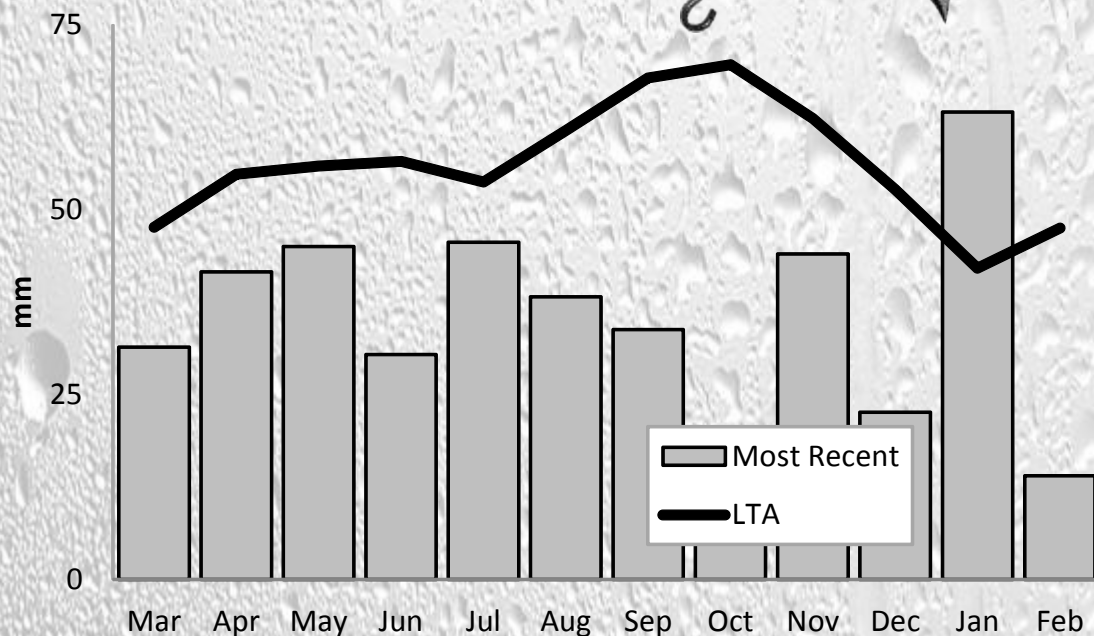
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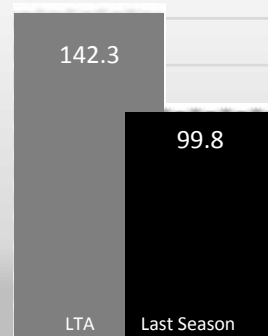
**5221 4788**

## the quarterly RAIN report

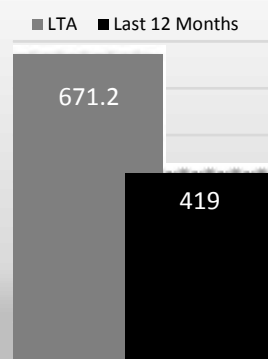


Based on BOM data. The long term average (LTA) is calculated from 1875 to 2015

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- Prep time 15 minutes
- Cooking time 15 minutes • Serves 4

#### **Ingredients**

450g desiree potatoes, peeled  
 350g sweet potato  
 160g parsnip, peeled  
 2 eggs lightly whisked  
 2 tbs quinoa flour (or plain flour)  
 200g grape tomatoes, halved  
 1 fresh red bird's eye chilli, halved lengthways  
 1/3 cup olive oil  
 ½ teaspoon castor sugar  
 400g can chickpeas, rinsed and drained  
 2 green shallots thinly sliced  
 2 tps balsamic vinegar  
 60g baby spinach leaves

#### **Method**

1. Pre heat oven to 180C and line a baking tray with baking paper. Use a food processor fitted with the grater attachment to grate the potato, sweet potato and parsnip. Place half the vegetable mixture in a clean tea towel. Squeeze to remove excess moisture. Transfer mixture to a bowl. Repeat with remaining vegetable mixture.
2. Add the egg and flour to the vegetable mixture. Season well. Mix until combined.
3. Place the tomato and the chilli cut side up on the prepared tray. Drizzle with 2tps oil. Sprinkle with the sugar. Season. Roast for 15 minutes or until lightly caramelised and tender. Finely chop the chilli.
4. Meanwhile, heat quarter of the remaining oil in a large non-stick frying pan over medium heat. Place three ¼ cups full of vegetable mixture in the pan. Use a spoon to spread to 5mm-1cm thick. Cook, turning, for 4 minutes or until golden and cooked. Drain on paper towel. Keep warm. Repeat in three or more batches, with the remaining oil and vegetable mixture to make a total of 12 cakes.
5. For the salsa, combine the tomato, chilli, chickpeas, shallot and vinegar in a bowl. Divide spinach and cakes among plates and top with salsa.

*Recipe From: Taste.com*

## **Wire Knot?**

*Marg Cooper*

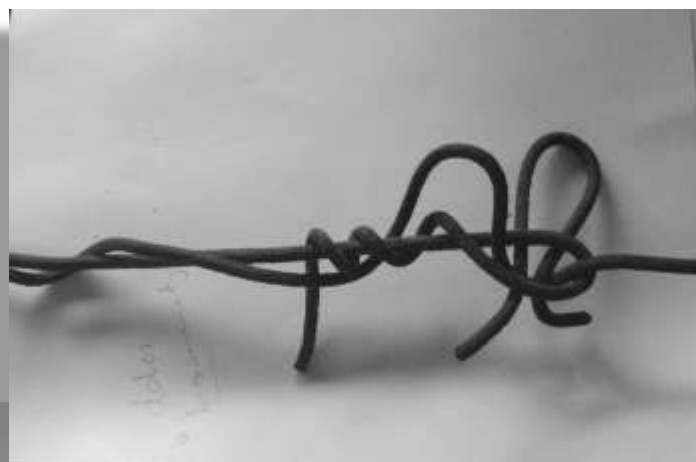
What can a wire knot tell us? A perfectly executed wire knot was cut neatly from a length of wire. The length is 20 centimetres long. The wire is number 8 wire, strong and straight. One end of the wire has been looped and then turned around the other at least 9 times to join two wires. It is now rusted but as strong as ever.

It is believed to have been executed by Archie Bowers. He would have used a key to turn the wire. It needed power, strong hands and patience. It is a relic of times long gone. Wire was almost unbendable and men had pride in their work.

It was recently cut from fence at Narmbool that had been damaged by the bush fire that raged through the area on December 19, 2015. Mike Colvin recognised the skill demonstrated by the knot. He saved it to add to his collection. Even though he was down and dirty repairing his own fence line that had been damaged as a result of the fire he recognised the value of the knot. His action was all the more remarkable because it would seem that his circumstances were not conducive to thinking about history. (On his knees amidst burnt trees and pasture, surrounded by piles of burnt trees, beside a road that was mostly dry powdery bull dust with trucks going up and down, in the heat, by himself, pulling and attaching wire netting).

Mike and Derek Colvin were delighted to be later joined by Bruce and other volunteers from Blaze Aid. Not only do they lend a hand, they provide companionship and a connectedness. They were most impressed by the knot.

PS. Archie's small shearing shed on Sand Road, at the back of Narmbool was burnt to the ground in the fire. It is now a pile of twisted iron. People say Archie, who died in 2015, had a "spiritual" connection to Narmbool but his memory is retained in his "work of art" wire knot.





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# Mollie's

## COLUMN



### Under Pressure

The fourth week of medical school is almost over, and it's hard to remember what life was like before the endless lectures, the hours in the library, the litres of coffee with new friends who are just as excited and exhausted as I am. I've fumbled and stumbled through clinical classes, wrinkled my nose over dissected specimens, and spent an entire afternoon learning how to wash my hands. In four weeks we've flown through the heart, the lungs, the kidneys, the digestive system, and somehow still had time to laugh and eat and draw silly pictures on the whiteboard.

A few weeks ago a bunch of kindly second years set up a session to give us a taste of 'real doctoring', a world away from the brightly coloured plastic models and bizarre mannequins we'd started to tentatively prod in class. They bravely offered up their reflexes and blood pressure for testing, their pulses for taking and their heartbeats for listening to, though no one was very keen on getting stitched up – we had blocks of foam for that. After years of sewing and knitting, I was feeling a bit cocky when I sat down with my suturing kit. One wobbly line of uneven stitches later, I wasn't quite so confident. Sweat pored down my forehead and a few muffled curses escaped from between my clenched teeth as the needle slipped out from the little forceps, the thread tugged awkwardly and the foam tried to leap off the table for the 12<sup>th</sup> time. Even the big fat chunk of unfeeling, uncomplaining foam was trying to escape! Real patients would be running out of the hospital. The second years praised my dodgy knots and told me not to worry, I only needed practice.

"Probably not on people though, just yet".

The neurological exam, where we flashed lights in each other's eyes, and swung with lots of enthusiasm and little accuracy at each other with tendon hammers, settled my nerves a bit. Despite being extraordinarily hungover, my pretend patient's responses were perfect. When she dashed off to be sick, I was pretty sure it was due to too many wines, not too many smacks with a tendon hammer.

Off to the blood pressure station, where I'm sure my own blood pressure skyrocketed. A sweet volunteer watched me put a stethoscope on backwards, twice, and was still brave enough to be my guinea pig.

"Now remember, you're listening for the tap tap tap first, and the silence second".

It seemed too late to tell her that in the noisy hall echoing with the excited chatter of a hundred first years and their tolerant mentors, "listening for silence" through a rather dodgy stethoscope might be a problem. The cuff was on, pump pump pump. I gently released the valve as she'd shown me. Down, down, down went the gauge –

Tap tap tap! Silence!

I just about fell over. It worked! I did it! Much too excited by this tiny triumph, I gabbled about the result and didn't notice myself steadily pumping the cuff right back up, instead of releasing the valve.

"Fantastic!" the second year yelled above the noise. "Now let the valve go before my arm falls off!"

Case summary: thank goodness real patients are still far away!

Mollie

### Found

Marg Cooper

*"In 1934 the residents of the district discussed the need for a school in the immediate area. After a meeting at "Fern Hill" a request was sent to the Education Department for the Bamganie school building to be moved to Mr A.G. McNaughton's land some five miles away as Bamganie school had been closed for some time. This request was refused but the Department offered to provide a teacher if the residents provided a school building and this was agreed to.*

*Mr McNaughton had a one room building erected on two acres of his land, the site approximately one mile west of the original Woodburn Creek School. Mr John Bowman of Meredith built the school and it was opened by Mr Charles Holden, M.P. in 1935.*

*Owing to falling enrolments the school closed in 1946 and the building was used as a hay and store shed until it re-opened in 1953. As the school building was still leased by the Education Department and was without power or septic toilets and in need of repair, the School Committee approached the Department about providing a new building. With the assistance of Hon. J. Rossiter, Mr W. Stephen M.P. and others a new building was moved onto the site in 1971 and the land was acquired by the Education Department."*

*(From the book, "Woodburn Revisited").*

But, what happened to the old building? In January 2016 Jeff and I visited Russell Coad and his wife Joy at Barunah as he had told me that the old Woodburn school building was on their property. Back in the 1970's, Mr Black who shifted their bulldozer on his low loader told them that he had a building on his truck that they could have for \$100 as he had nowhere for it to go. It was unloaded amidst their shedding and converted to shearer's quarters complete with a basin, shower and toilet in the entrance porch and a front door where a window had been. When we stepped into the building memories came flooding back to Jeff. He enjoyed reminiscing about his days in the school room at Woodburn. The building has been found!

### Australia Day at Woodburn 2016

Marg Cooper

Australia Day was celebrated at Woodburn with a meeting of friends and neighbours from 6pm. Patriotic flags were displayed, food was shared and consumed, some Australian poetry was recited and read, tunes were whistled and the night was enjoyed with talking and catching up. June Cameron had made her delicious Australian shaped fruit cake and a toast was raised to Neil and John Cameron who had started at the school 80 years ago. A number of past students related their experiences of the Woodburn School building that we had just found, including Neil and John and Neil's son Sandy.

## Even Ugly Dogs can Run

Marg Cooper

In the backblocks of Elaine a family is expanding its very successful business. Many fences, sheds, yards and tanks have been recently built. The existing house overlooks the development which is neat, straight and extensive. The scene is peaceful among the gum trees.

George Dailly said his father came to Western Australia from Scotland where he had had an interest in greyhound racing. When greyhound racing began in Western Australia in 1974 his father acquired a couple of dogs and so started a love affair with the dogs for George and his twin brother. Since 1994 they, with his brother's wife Andrea, have been full time greyhound trainers. Prior to that they were part time trainers.

Their business has been situated at Anakie for about 20 years but last year they decided to expand their breeding facilities to some land at Elaine. The new facilities illustrate the new approach to dog breeding and training. There are big runs, large paddocks so they can run and "free gallop" to keep fit whilst having sheds for protection. George sends the bitches to South Australia to "get in pup" by implanting sperm surgically. By this method the success rate is phenomenal. They feed the dogs on dog kibbles in the morning and beef, chicken and bread in the afternoon and he believes it's important to keep the diet consistent and simple. They teach the dogs to chase a "squeaker" on a drag lure. A stationary car engine drives a lure on a wire around a long rectangular fenced area. At 14 to 15 months of age the dogs will go to Anakie for more intensive training and hopefully the race track.

In 2015 a dog they trained won the Melbourne Cup and another dog they train was the first dog to earn over one million dollars in prize money. George says they have been fortunate to train dogs for the Wheeler family of NSW who breed good dogs. They race dogs in Melbourne, especially at the two top tracks of 'Sandown' at Springvale and 'The Meadows' at Tullamarine as well as in all states of Australia. George said it often costs more for the dogs to fly to far flung capital cities than it costs them to fly.

The dogs love racing, love the competition and are placid—lying down and sleeping when transported by trailer or aeroplane. But, laughs George, it's hard to tell from the look of the dog if they will be a champion since plenty of ugly dogs can run!



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# Meredith Primary School News

In week two of school we held our speech day for our Grade 6 leadership roles. We only have a small group of Grade 6s this year, and all were lucky enough to be elected to a leadership role. Congratulations to our school leaders for 2016:

|                               |                                  |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>School Captains:</b>       | Trent Miller and Kynan Munday    |
| <b>Sports Captain:</b>        | Kade Wells                       |
| <b>Equipment Managers:</b>    | Alex Van Der Veen and Jacob Dean |
| <b>Community Captain:</b>     | Jhye Nixon                       |
| <b>School Spirit Captain:</b> | Kirsty Roberts                   |

Well done!

## Grade 5/6 BIOlab excursion

All the grade 5/6s went for an excursion to Geelong to visit BioLab, where you do loads of science things about the human body.

We extracted DNA, studied body parts and did lots of experiments about the brain and body heat.

We measured our body heat for our palms, inner arms and foreheads. One of the BioLab teachers, Fiona, came around and measured our core heat with an ear thermometer.

They measured Dillon Wood and Charlotte Lindorff's body heat on a TV for rest, using a thermal camera. Then Dillon rode on a bike and Charlotte rowed on the rowing machine. After we did that for 3 minutes and they measured their body heat again. Then Dillon and Charlotte got to wear ice vests that cooled them down very quickly.

We looked at the different layers of the skin and where it is thickest and thinnest. We also extracted human DNA (strawberry DNA) with all sorts of different chemicals and at the end we looked at it on a microscope attached to a computer.

Finally, we had lots fun, did lots of experiments and learned of lot of things and would like to go back again.

*Right: Some of the earnest young researchers at BIOlab.*

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**WESTAG**

## A visit to the Dressmaker costume exhibition

*Shirley Rees*

My interest in fabrics and sewing began in my early teens. I taught myself to sew on my Mother's always broken "damn machine". I learnt to thread the thing and set the tensions right and for me it was never broken! My father's Granny had been a dressmaker and I own the sewing machine used by my Maternal Great Grandmother to make my Nana's baby clothes. So it was with great anticipation and excitement that I went along to see the movie 'The Dressmaker'. Within the first few minutes I was mesmerised and, needless to say, went back and saw it twice!

Barwon Park, a gracious mansion, is the ideal venue to showcase the outfits from 'The Dressmaker'. We were not allowed to touch the displays but could get up very close and read about what each garment was made from. It read a bit like the who's who of the fabric world: silks, satins, brocades, wool, chiffon, cotton, tulle, taffeta and lace. Sequins, crystals, feathers and ribbons were used as trims. All the beautifully crafted hats were on display too.

The outfits were amazing and revealed clever use of colour and style. Many of the dresses had been hemmed by hand and hints of petticoats were under every dress. There were all in one bra/corsets made of satin and bones that laced up at the back to create an hour glass figure effect.

I was intrigued by the outfits worn by Tilly's mother Molly because in the movie they looked so old, shabby, moth eaten and stained, you could almost smell them. Yet that look was achieved by distressing the garments in their creation and by using fabric paint. (There was no smell)!

Sergeant Farrat had a whole room dedicated to his clothing; highlighting his quirky taste for fine, expensive fabrics. He revelled in the quality and beauty of everything that came out of Tilly's fabric box. She even made him a pair of pink satin slippers!

A stunning woman wearing a lovely dress is one thing but an outfit made up so beautifully that it makes the wearer look totally feminine and gorgeous is quite another. The scene at the football match where the game almost came to a standstill because the men were so busy 'gawking' at beautiful Tilly in her red dress was really funny. Even in her everyday dresses Tilly looked elegant and stylish.

Then came the dance where no one could take their eyes off Gertrude when she appeared in the most glamorous, figure hugging dress imaginable. Its colour and embellishments were carefully chosen and the effect transformed her from the dull and rather plain person that she was into a gorgeous and attractive woman. This was in stark contrast to the most unflattering wedding dress made for her by Una; Tilly's rival. The cheap fabrics used and bad design did absolutely nothing for Gertrude. Thankfully Tilly came to the rescue with another stunning creation. Both outfits were beautifully displayed.

It was wonderful to view first hand the work of our very talented Australian designers and seamstresses.

The exhibition is open from Wednesday to Sunday from 11 December 2015 to 20 March 2016 (excluding Saturday 27 February) at Barwon Park Mansion.



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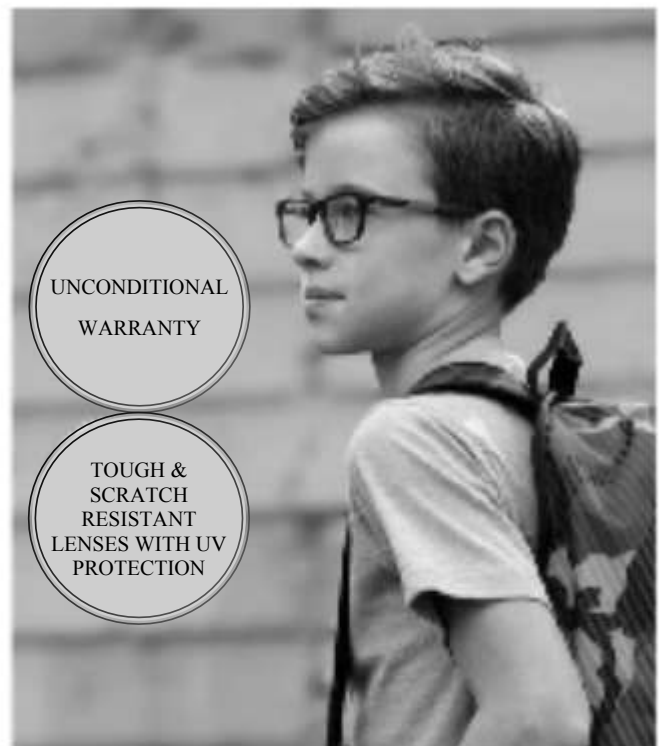
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### When past experiences hold us back

Many of us have experienced hurtful times and suffering in our lives, in fact we could say that no one is immune to the hardships of life. Whether our pain stems from trauma in childhood or adulthood it has the capacity to hold us back for the rest of our lives. In our society we are encouraged to put the past behind us and move on, sayings such as 'you can't change the past so no use worrying about it' are used frequently but are not always helpful because it is not that simple.

So how do we learn to live in the present and manage the pain of our past?

It is possible and many of us have found a way to do integrate the past with the present and live well. However, most of us really struggle and tend to apply the notion that 'time heals all wounds' and hope that in time life will get better. Unfortunately, this rarely occurs and we continue to be tormented by our past and no matter how hard we try and put it behind us it continues to take over and prevent us from living well and enjoying a full life. Often when this happens we can experience, low self-worth, mental health problems, substance abuse, relationship problems and/or social difficulties. The key to managing this dilemma is to learn how to live with past hurt and trauma, separate it from the future and control it whenever it creeps into present life.

### VISUALISE

- Visualise the past as a chapter in your life that has ended and you have survived. The present is your current chapter and the future is the next chapter with a clean slate ready for you to determine.

### AVOID

- Avoid 'bottling up' feelings, this can lead to anger outbursts, high blood pressure, mental health problems or other stress related illnesses

- Avoid comparing your life to others, and becoming fixated on the past, try and keep a rein on this as bad things happen to all of us

- Avoid overuse of alcohol and other drugs, this can actually prevent you from achieving meaningful goals

- Avoid trying to cope with it alone, especially if you are not making progress or feel 'out of control'

- Avoid putting yourself down or blaming yourself for past traumatic events. In most cases we have had bad things done to us rather than us doing them to ourselves

### DO

- Do think of yourself as a Survivor of the difficult chapters in your life from the past and remind yourself that you are no longer back there, everyday forward creates new chapters

- Do your best to check how much time you spend thinking about the past, keep most of your time focusing on the present and creating a meaningful future.

- Do try your best to express and talk about your feelings with those you trust. It may feel uncomfortable but it can be really helpful especially when you are feeling tired and need time out to re-charge.

- Do get out and visit friends on a regular basis even when you do not feel up to it. Prevent isolating yourself from others

- Do set meaningful goals to work towards, make some future plans even if you set yourself something to do once a month.

- Do seek professional help if you are struggling they can help you to learn how to manage and control past pain and suffering and help you focus more on the present and future.

- Do learn as much as you can about trauma, abuse and grief and how it impacts on human beings. As already mentioned bad things happen to all of us and there are great websites that provide information and many excellent self-help books available.

*"Everyone has a right to have a present and future that are not completely dominated and dictated by the past"* Karren Sakivitie

Books to consider; *8 steps to trauma recovery* Barbette Rothschild, *self-compassion* Kristin Neff or *Healing through the dark emotions* Mark Williams

Websites; [www.psychology.org.au](http://www.psychology.org.au), [www.sane.org.au](http://www.sane.org.au) or [www.anxietyaustralia.com.au](http://www.anxietyaustralia.com.au) or search the topic of trauma recovery or post traumatic growth

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## A Certified Achiever

*Marg Cooper*

Mt Doran's Albie Smith was presented with a Certificate of Achievement at the Moorabool Shire's Australia Day Celebrations at Ballan for his voluntary work at the Morrisons Cemetery. He was accompanied by his daughter Helen, his son and daughter-in-law and grandchildren.

When I caught up with him to talk about his work and the award, he was grubbing a pine tree stump out of the ground with an axe on the side of the road, west of the cemetery. His utility with trailer and tools was parked nearby and his dof and constant companion, Blackie, was by his side. After his wife Eileen died in 2007 and was buried at Morrisons Cemetery, he started to clean up around her grave. He kept visiting her and within 12 months he had cleaned up across the whole cemetery. He had plenty of time, he liked to be there and it kept him fit.

Since that time he has cut out scrub at the northern end of the cemetery and on the lane and with the help of Cemetery trust members they have cut down large pine trees, taken out dead trees and got the long grass around the fence lines, under control. Some graves were hidden in the scrub that, Albie recalls, was over 20 feet tall. Albie does the small 'stuff': mows, poisons, rakes up branches and scrubs out stumps. Sometimes Albie and Blackie even act as cemetery guides for visitors. The Cemetery Trust give him the run of the cemetery but help him out when needed. He only has to ask.



Eileen and Albie Smith came to live at Mt Doran in 1989. They had lived in Norlane for over 25 years but they had always come to the McGillivray house at Mt Doran to see Eileen's aunts. When Dorothy and Ian McGillivray, who had inherited the property, wanted to sell it, Eileen was adamant that Albie and her buy it. She was delighted to live in the family cottage and to keep the family connection with the area.


Albie humbly says "there is nothing flash about him". Because he has a damaged spine he works at a slow pace. If he can't do it today, he'll do it tomorrow. But, over the years, he has gradually improved the cemetery and it is a credit to him. Congratulations Albie. Great job!



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A wonderful sound – rain on a corrugated iron roof – and enough of it to cause excitement to people, plants and animals. Plants were refreshed, roots sucking water from the previously parched ground, leaves no longer wilting. Mosses on logs and on the ground, and lichens on branches and rocks rehydrated, unrolled and revived. A day later, a small dam that had been dry, was raucous with rejoicing frogs. A week later, a tinge of green returned to paddocks as grass responded to moisture in the soil.

Grasses are tough. Many of them can survive drought, cold, fire, grazing, mowing and trampling that would kill other plants. Most plants grow from buds at the top of the plant. Grasses have well protected growing points in the bases of their leaves or just below the ground. If the top of the plant is removed, the grass is stimulated to grow. Some grasses form dense clumps, which create hiding places and homes for many creatures, including small mammals, reptiles, spiders and insects. Other grasses can spread by horizontal stems on or underneath the soil surface. They send up new leaves from these stems, with each young shoot protected by the leaf base forming a sheath around it. The leaf extends into a flattened blade. This makes them ideal plants for grazing, creating a food source for farm animals, the massive herds of bison in America and the antelopes in Africa, which encourage growth by fertilizing the grass. It also makes some of them into highly successful weeds, difficult to control. The same characteristics can make them ideal for preventing erosion, or helping eroded land to recover.

Grasses grow across most of the world. The only lands where they aren't found are central Greenland and most of Antarctica. There are different species that grow in the tropics, in deserts, on mountains and near the sea. There are huge plains of grass in the savannas of Africa, the steppes of central Asia, the prairies of North America and formerly, the western basalt plains of Victoria. Some grasses are annuals, sprouting from seed each year. Others are perennials, continuing to grow, possibly for hundreds of years. Those in drier climates, create food by photosynthesis, as do most plants, but use a slightly different method that is more efficient and involves less loss of water. They may also be tough for grazers to eat, by including silicon in their leaves. These leaves can be wearing on teeth, rough enough to cut skin, and hard to digest.

Grasses flower, although their flowers are not obvious. Their pollen is spread by wind, so they have no need of showy petals or perfumes to attract pollinators. They develop seeds, which are another source of food for birds, rodents and other animals. The seeds of some grasses, such as wheat, barley and rice, are major food sources for people, as well as a basis for

alcoholic drinks. Sugarcane is a large grass, grown to produce sugar. The largest grass is bamboo, which is used for scaffolding, building, fencing, furniture, food, clothing, musical instruments, fishing rods and many other purposes. Grasses can also be used for thatch, paper, fuel, insulation and weaving baskets and mats. Nomads follow supplies of grass to feed their animals. Growing crops, such as wheat and rice, meant that people ceased being hunter-gatherers and settled in villages. So grasses have had a major influence on human life and the development of our planet.

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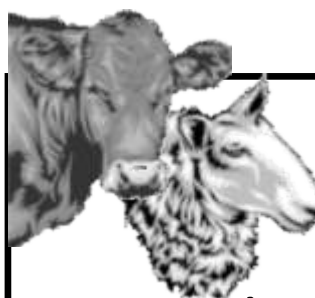


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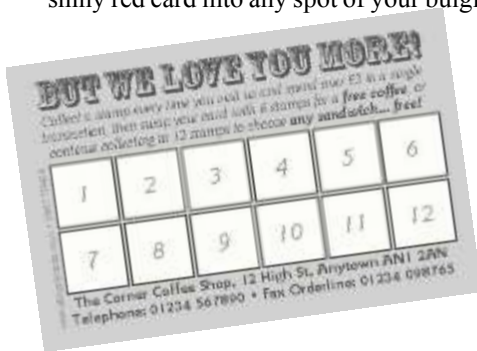
I hate to bring it to your attention, but there is a concerning epidemic happening. You may not have noticed it at first because you were just happy to accept it and become a part of something that could possibly generate into a freebie or at least a generous discount, but all that you have been left with is a wallet full of cards and an inbox full of junk mail. That's right, I'm talking about the seemingly harmless loyalty card. Offered at cash registers in your favourite shops or simply at the supermarket, you gladly accept because hey, you spend money here anyway so you might as well get something free out of it. It starts innocently enough, you collect a few here, collect a few there and it doesn't seem like it could turn into anything other than beautiful rewards. However, eventually after saying yes after reckless yes and signing-up your life away, you notice that there's no more spots in your wallet to place the new cards or that you've already doubled them up to the point where you can no longer close the wallet.

As you continually yearn to become a part of the loyalty community, you take more pieces of shiny plastic and feel the possibilities expand before you – only nine more boxes of \$15 tea before I can get a free one! But then you begin to see the cracks appear. You can't find your Priceline card, what are you going to do!? The money you spend today won't go towards your voucher. Your groceries won't appear on your card either because you gave it to your husband and he never gave it back! The rewards are dwindling away as you fail to find card after card and you begin to question why you even left the house without checking for the cards of shops that you might've entered for a harmless browse while running errands. But it's okay, most places can look you up on their system. Phew.

So you get home, groceries, books, skincare etc. in arm, having proven your true loyalty and settle down for a cup of tea (only eight more boxes to go) and a browse on the computer. You decide to check your email and are bombarded with message after message from the places you've just visited and more. You probably don't even remember signing up for half of these companies but there they are saying 'Hi Gemma, haven't seen you in a while. Here, have a voucher' or informing you of the latest sales that you can practically save money on (but only if you have a loyalty card, sign up now!).

What makes it worse is when you are actually personally responsible for convincing hundreds of soon-to-be-holidaying customers that they need this loyalty card in their lives. But let me tell you, I get a sense of satisfaction seeing you trying to shove our shiny red card into any spot of your bulging wallet that is available.

Gemma



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## Ma Mooney at the Royal Hotel

*Marg Cooper*

Every eighteen months or so when her mother had a new baby Josie Podbury (Graham) was sent to stay with her grandmother, Ma Mooney, at the Royal Hotel in Meredith. She was called Ma by everyone. Her name was written as M.A. Mooney, hence Ma Mooney. Her name was Mary Ann.

She remembers her as a beautiful, gracious old lady who had class. She was tall (about 5 feet 6 inches), thin and wore black dresses with a black apron. She wore lisle stockings, black shoes and put a hat on to go to church. She often



*Ma Mooney with two of her daughters.*

forgot to take it off. She was predictably Irish. She staked everyone, ran hotels and was red hot Catholic. She had a tremendous relationship with everyone with whom she did business and was loved by the whole town. Everyone came to say goodbye before they went off to the war and over ninety cars were at her funeral in 1954. She lived at the hotel until she was 84 years old. Three months later she died.

The hotel was a busy place and everyone there had a role to play. Josie was just a kid and enjoyed it all. Mrs Moran would have a chat with Grandma, Mrs Brown lived two blocks up the road, Mrs Fraser and Miss Synot had shops up the street, Mr Nicol was opposite and Josie became best friends with his daughter Beth and boarders stayed in the guest bedrooms at the hotel. Josie's whole time at Grandma's was magic!

The hotel had many more rooms than it has today. Men entered the bar from the front door which was on the corner of Wallace and Staughton Streets. The dining room was next door to the bar on the west side with a separate entrance. Josie remembers sitting on the veranda outside the dining room on Staughton Street talking to John Lasseter who had a long white beard. Josie thought that he was Father Christmas. Sometimes they'd just sit. There was a lounge north of the bar, before a hall, veranda and the morgue. In from that veranda were a number of bedrooms with a bathroom at the most northerly end. There were three parlours but Grandma's Parlour was in the middle, between the bar, lounge, kitchen and dining room and one only entered her parlour if invited by Grandma. The priest went into Grandma's parlour. Father Clifford was a tall Irish man very like Grandma in build, with an almost regal walk.

Her parlour had "Private" beautifully written on both doors in writing about 9 inches high. A doctor set up in Grandma's Private Parlour for half a day about once a month. Appointments were made with Grandma. It had a sofa under the window with a curled back of beautifully carved wood and was stuffed with woven horsehair. It was a chaise lounge which could seat three people but was uncomfortable because the upholstery was worn and the horsehair poked out and scratched one's legs. The kitchen naturally was adjacent to the dining room and opened onto the fenced yard. Josie remembers the chip bucket and the heaps of wood to fuel the kitchen stove and the open fires.

Josie also remembers the fenced yard behind the hotel where children could play with strict instruction to "keep away from that tank children". An axe head hung on a rope, the weight of which automatically shut the gate. Upside down, cream coloured ginger beer bottles bordered the garden outside the kitchen door. They looked good with the geraniums that grew there. Josie also remembers that her mother used one of these bottles as a hot water bottle which kept her bed warm all night. A hessian bag was hung in the little veranda outside the kitchen door and on hot days a bucket of tank water thrown on it now and again, cooled the air entering the kitchen. A Coolgardie safe hung in this area.

Josie recalls how her grandmother washed in front of the warm kitchen stove every night before she went to bed, by the light of a lamp, the fire or a candle.

**Go on...smile!**



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## Marg's BOOK REVIEW

### *Krakatoa: The Day the World Exploded*

What a privilege to listen to an author read a book that he has researched and written. Simon Winchester has just read me his book about Krakatoa. He read for 11 hours 37 minutes and it was magnificent. I borrowed it from the Library Van and listened to it as I travelled in the car.

On August 27 1883 the most terrifying volcanic eruption occurred on the island of Krakatoa, five miles off the western tip of Java. After several months of coughing, this terminal cataclysmic hack was so huge that it sent an atmospheric shockwave seven times around the Earth. The bang was heard 2,968 miles away. It raised tsunamis that wreaked havoc along Indonesia coastlines killing nearly 36,000 people. The effects were felt around the world, and for the first time the world was equipped to record the rumbles and atmospheric anomalies, the unusual tides and unearthly sunsets, and to tie these global phenomena to the single cause that was Krakatoa's demise. The world shifted, geographically, politically and socially. The author claims that the destruction wrought by the volcano was the catalyst to a dramatic and bloody uprising of the region's Muslim community against their Western Colonial masters.

Simon Winchester has included rigorous historical detail with dramatic tension and storytelling. He read a book published in 1965 about the volcano but, at this time, there were no scientific explanations: it was one enormous series of mysteries. But today we are armed with the knowledge to understand why Krakatoa exploded, why it had done so with such unimaginable ferocity and what effects it had. The eruption is believed to be the loudest sound ever heard by human ears.

So, after considerable research, Winchester wrote this book about Krakatoa: yesterday, today and tomorrow. He included a broad range of information ranging from the seventeenth century pepper trade, the geological processes that cause continents to drift and collide, and the scientists and their research, through to the re-colonisation of the islands by different plants and animals.

Other epic books by the author are *"The Map that Changed the World"* (about English geologist William Smith and his great achievement, the first geographical map of England and Wales) and *"The Surgeon of Crowthorne"* (about the making of the Oxford English Dictionary).

***The book for discussion in March is "Religion for Atheists" by Alain de Botton.***

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Monday to Wednesday: 8.30 am – 7.30 pm  
Thursday & Friday: 8.30 am – 5.30 pm  
Saturday: Emergency Session from 10.00 am (no appt required) and a regular session from 10.00am-12.00pm with appts taken in advance.

Dr Cameron Profitt: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
Dr Andrew Bell: Monday, Thursday, Friday  
Dr John Henderson: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday  
Dr Margaret Somerville: Wednesday  
Dr Dheeraj Pawar: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday  
Dr Benjamin Fry: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday  
Dr Amir Rahimi: Alternate Sat (bookings taken in advance)  
We are a teaching practice with Victorian Metropolitan Alliance and Southern GP Training. Dr Jeremy Phillipps and Dr Samantha Buchholz are with us.

Fees are payable at the time of consultation by cash, eftpos or cheque.

Streamline Clinics will be offered 3 days/week to enable better access to Doctors for simple repeat scripts, simple repeat referrals or flu vaccinations. The appointments in a streamline clinic will be strictly 6 minutes or less; the appointments in the Streamline Clinic will be bulk-billed to medicare.

Bookings are available and we are accepting new patients living in the Golden Plains Shire. Every effort will be made to accommodate your preferred time and preferred doctor.

### ADVERTISEMENT

## For Meredith, Steiglitz and district.

As your local State Member of Parliament, I am here to represent your interests in the Victorian Parliament.

I would like to hear from you about the important issues that affect our community.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can assist you with a State Government matter.

**Geoff Howard MP**  
State Member for Buninyong



15 Main Road, Ballarat VIC 3350 Ph: 5331 7722  
Email: [geoff.howard@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:geoff.howard@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Authorised by Geoff Howard MP, 15 Main Road, Ballarat VIC 3350  
This advertisement is funded from Parliament's Electorate Office and Communications budget



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After Hours by Appointment Only



## Meredith History Interest Group

### Annual Meeting

You are invited to the Meredith Golf Clubhouse for the Group's Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 6 at 1.30pm. After the meeting we will explore the history of "this parcel of land" that was gazetted as a "site for racing and general recreation" on February 26, 1866. You may meet a trustee, the wife of a murderer, an early racegoer, Miss Meredith, a pony clubber, a motor cyclist and some golfers. If you have any information or memorabilia about the 'use of the land', please bring it along. Have you got some antique golf sticks? Have you got newspaper reports of races, gymkhanas or golf? Have you got a Meredith Race Club booklet?

### Who Lived in My House

We continue to collect information. Recently an aerial map of Meredith was acquired which will help us to identify houses and blocks of land. We are investigating a grant to digitise the old rate books. We are organizing a training day at the Public Record Office in Ballarat, to be taught how to find information about our district and the Electoral Rolls from 1903 to 1980 have been copied. They list everyone who was eligible to vote in the electorate so are valuable as they tell us who lived in Meredith and when.

*We catalogue and talk history on the last Thursday of each month at the Anglican Church hall from 9am. MHIG needs people who would like to catalogue on cards or computer. Some of these tasks can be done at home!*

"There was a good muster of sportsmen at Meredith yesterday, to follow the Geelong hounds although much disappointment was expressed at no one attending from Ballarat. About 30 gentlemen started from Goslings Hotel at half past eight o'clock, and the dogs having found at Munroe's Station the quarry ran down the Leigh, then back up to the station again, at a splitting pace.

In the evening, the huntsmen dined at Gosling's Hotel, where all the luxuries of the season had been provided in abundance for their especial comfort. The party and the pack remained there all night, as a second day's sport was to take place this day."

*The Argus, Monday, September 3, 1860.*



Mary O'Loughlan when she was Miss Meredith.

### DRY DAYS

The dry weather continues, and many of the residents are out of water. The early pea crops have been a complete failure, the drought and the late frosts having destroyed nearly all the crops, and the onion crops are badly in need of rain to save them from total failure. The waterholes are nearly all empty; grass is getting scarce, and unless rain soon falls the outlook for the coming summer will be bad.

The drought of 1914 will be long be remembered in Lethbridge as the worst that has ever taken place in its history. But in no part of the district have its effects been so disastrous as in the Moorabool Valley, which at this time of the year should be blossoming like the rose, but is now nothing but desolation. The crops on its rich flats are not six inches high, and are fast dying. From the Maude bridge for miles down there is hardly a blade of grass on the rich volcanic slopes; the river has nearly stopped running, and has never been known to be so low at this time of the year. The bleaching bodies of dead cattle lying on the flats and the short fast-dying crops all speak of the terrible effects of the drought in the Moorabool Valley.

*The Ballarat Star Saturday 10 October 1914*  
**POORCROPPROSPECTS.MEREDITH,Thursday.**  
 The whole of this district is suffering severely from the drought, and one of the most adversely affected parts is Morrisons. The dams having dried, stock have to be taken long distances for water. The crops have failed; oats are coming out in head, though only a few inches high, while the onions have died off owing to lack of moisture, and on the hills, owing to the high winds. A few early potatoes are showing above ground.

*The Age Friday 23 October 1914*





## GOLDEN PLAINS VET PRACTICE

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Saturday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Emergencies: 24 hours a day

**Appointments: 5281 2226**

**2 Bruce Street, Bannockburn Vic 3331**



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# MEREDITH ROADHOUSE

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SATURDAY: 7am - 7pm

SUNDAY: 8am - 7pm

Phone orders welcome everyday.  
Phone 5286 1556 for all your  
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- 1 Crop and livestock tracking, farm budgeting and forecasting tools that work with Xero.
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Figured plus Xero ensures the farming team knows exactly where the farming operation stands – and where it's heading. Figured works hand in hand with Xero Figured delivers the farm management information and Xero provides the accounting platform. Information flows seamlessly between the two, creating one financial platform with everything at your fingertips..

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| * Shearing Items              | * Electric and Rural Fencing Supplies  |
| * Farm & Garden Chemicals     |  |

**Normal Trading Hours Monday - Friday 9am - 5.30pm**

**Saturday 9am - 1pm**

**Come in and Visit us for store specials**





## **Bannockburn Pharmacy Newsletter**

**Proprietors: Scott Wilkes & Damian Bennett**

6 High Street  
Bannockburn VIC 3331  
Phone: 5281 1519

### **Brand New Giftware now in-store**

Last month we went to the Sydney Gift Fair and we have lots of brand new gifts arriving into the Pharmacy. In the 9 years we have been here at the Pharmacy this would have to be the best range of giftware we have had yet. A snapshot of what we have to offer includes:

- New range of ladies Handbags & Wallets
- Scarves
- Adorne Jewellery and Hair Accessories
- Baby gift packs
- Book seats (sit on your lap)
- Didgeridoo products
- Scented soap bars, bath salts & scrubs
- Men's & Ladies Handkerchiefs
- New range of men's, ladies & children's watches
- New range of frames
- Thermos products (thermos, lunch boxes, food warmers, baby/children products, etc)
- Large range of individual/statement gifts to choose from.

Plus we are starting to branch out and offer a service where you can order high quality bed linens at very affordable prices (ask in-store for details and a catalogue to view).

Don't forget if you are a member of our **FREE Loyalty Program** you receive a **16% discount** off all our Giftware plus an additional 5 cents for every \$1 you spend goes on your loyalty program to spend next time, or accumulate for as long as you would like.

We also offer complimentary luxury gift wrapping!

Come in and check out all of our new gifts.

### **Darrell Lea Easter**

Don't forget that Easter is at the end of this month (Sunday 27th March). We have our Darrell Lea Easter products now available in the Pharmacy. There are all of the leading favourites to choose from.

### **Passport Photos**

Did you know that we take passport photos? The system we use is the same that they use at the passport office and leading travel agencies. Key features of our system is:

- Takes less than 2 minutes.
- Can take photos for international passports (e.g. USA, Canadian, UK, New Zealand, etc)
- Don't have to wait if someone is using our Kodak digital kiosk as the new system is separate.

Our prices have remained the same for \$13.99 for 8 Australian passport photos & No Appointment is necessary.

To save you time did you know that passport applications can be completed and printed online, but not lodged? Then you can have your photo taken at our Pharmacy and lodge it at a Australia Post outlet.

Go online to: <https://www.passports.gov.au/Web/Forms/EntryPoint.aspx>

The same applies for a Working with Children Check, go online to:

<https://online.justice.vic.gov.au/wwccu/onlineapplication.doj>

### **Pharmacy Features:**

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

### **Opening Hours:**

|            |                        |
|------------|------------------------|
| Monday:    | 8:30am - <b>6:30pm</b> |
| Tuesday:   | 8:30am - <b>6:30pm</b> |
| Wednesday: | 8:30am - <b>6:30pm</b> |
| Thursday:  | 8:30am - <b>6:30pm</b> |
| Friday:    | 8:30am - <b>6:30pm</b> |
| Saturday:  | 8:30am - 1:00pm        |
| Sunday:    | Closed                 |

**Open to 6.30pm weeknights**

# WHAT'S ON @



TELEPHONE 5286 1100

**FRIDAY**  
**11TH MARCH**  
**7PM FREE ENTRY**



**SATURDAY**  
**19TH MARCH**  
**12-4PM FREE ENTRY**

**VIKTOR CEBERGS**  
**CHAINSAW SCULPTURE**  
**ARTIST**

**SATURDAY**  
**19TH MARCH**  
**5PM FREE ENTRY**

**ZANE CARROLL**  
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**SUNDAY**  
**20TH MARCH**  
**2PM TICKETS \$25**

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★THE INXS TRIBUTE SHOW★

**COMING UP**  
**IN APRIL**

**CORY**  
**HARGREAVES**





# PAINT THE SKATEPARK

## Lethbridge

### Street Art Workshop:

1 April 2.30pm – 4.00pm

16 and 17 April 10.00am – 3.00pm

Join renowned street artist Stuart Walsh to paint the Lethbridge skate park. Food, drinks and all safety equipment provided.

### Register at:

[www.goldenplainsdigital.com.au/youth-blog](http://www.goldenplainsdigital.com.au/youth-blog)

 /goldenplainsyouth

[youth@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:youth@gplains.vic.gov.au)

5220 7111

## MAKE YOUR MARK