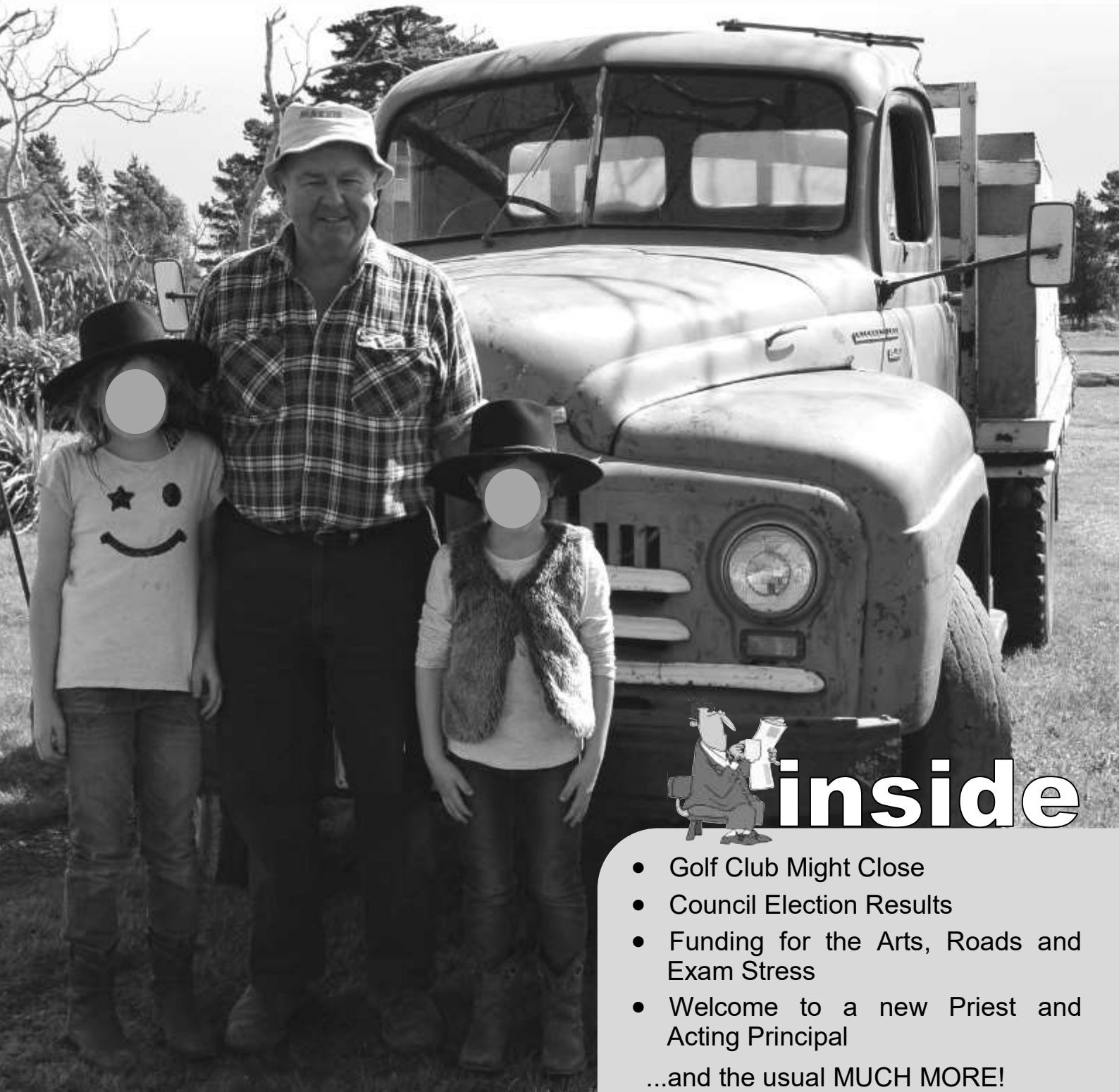


# Meredith & district News



November 2016

Our FREE Community Newsletter since 1972



## inside

- Golf Club Might Close
- Council Election Results
- Funding for the Arts, Roads and Exam Stress
- Welcome to a new Priest and Acting Principal

...and the usual MUCH MORE!

*Robert Cook with his granddaughters and his infamous 1952 AL160 Fire Truck. See inside for the full story.*

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

# Meredith & 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](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: A \$20 loading applies for preferred position. Colour only available in February, June, October and December issues. Please submit in jpeg format, if available.

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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**Editorial:** Trudy 0429 430646

[news@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:news@meredithnews.com.au)

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[accounts@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:accounts@meredithnews.com.au)

## WEB

You can check back copies and lodge comments at [meredithnews.com.au](http://meredithnews.com.au)

## ONLINE PHOTOS

We do not publish children's photos online.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

## DISCLAIMER

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

# connect

**ADVANCE  
MEREDITH**  
5286 1291

**ANGLING CLUB**  
0419 423 960

**BLUE LIGHT DISCO**  
5286 1222

**BOOK CLUB**  
5286 8201

**CFA**  
000 for fire calls  
Elaine  
0417 533516  
Meredith  
5286 1502  
Morrisons  
0417 770 765

**CHILDCARE**  
5286 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

**MOTORCYCLE CLUB**  
0437 009250

**PLAYGROUP**  
5286 0700

**POLICE PADDOCKS**  
5286 1273

**RED CROSS**  
5286 8222

**RSL**  
5286 1452

**SENIOR CITIZENS**  
5286 8232

**TENNIS**  
Elaine  
0448 291074  
Meredith  
5286 1211

**SEW 'N' SEWS**  
5286 0700

**FRIENDS OF THE  
BRISBANE RANGES**  
5286 1252

**MEREDITH LIONS**  
0473 380 552

**..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 .

# emergency

Police, Ambulance, Fire	<b>000</b>
(from mobile phone)	<b>000 or 112</b>
Meredith Police Station	5286 1222
Power Failure	132 412
Nurse-On-Call	1300 606024
Mental Health Advice	1300 280 737
Poisons Information	13 11 26
Barwon Water	1300 656 007
SES Emergency	-
flood & storm	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	5281 2226
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
Mr P Ryan Elaine	0409 861 296

# 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**  
0429 841399

"The trouble with being punctual is  
that nobody's there to appreciate it.

- Franklin P. Jones







## Community

### Meredith Community Coordinators Update

*Di Ritchie*

The Golden Plains Shire set up the Community Coordinators Program in 2000. We now have 130 community volunteers in 29 locations, working on 22 community plans. The aim of the program is to foster a sense of community spirit and pride and increase residents involvement in community life. The coordinators are usually nominated during the process for the next community plan. If you are interested in contributing to your community watch the newsletters for further information. One project the current coordinators are working on, in conjunction with the Arts and Cultural Officer from GPS and the Arts Officer from the City of Ballarat, is the possible repurposing of the Meredith Interpretative Centre into an arts hub.

The Meredith Community plan for the next 3 years is due for renewal and the process will commence in November with a survey. This will be your opportunity to voice your ideas for things you would like to see happen in the community. The survey will be out in the third week of November, with paper copies available at various venues in Meredith. The link to an online version of the survey will be available on the Meredith VIC Residents Facebook page.

If you are interested in becoming a coordinator please ring Di Ritchie 0408599602

### 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**



**HOW to POSE with a STATUE**

### Meredith Music Festival Tickets for Locals

*Kristie Walker*



An allocation of tickets for the Meredith Music Festival is available on a first come first served basis for locals living between Elaine and Lethbridge. Purchase tickets from the Meredith Corner Store (15 Wallace St, Meredith) from 10 am on Monday 21st November until sold out. There is a three ticket per person limit. Please bring proof of residential address.

For more information contact us on 0430 091 120 or via [auntym@mmf.com.au](mailto:auntym@mmf.com.au) and at [aunty.mmf.com.au/locals](http://aunty.mmf.com.au/locals)

### Meredith Music Festival 2016 Traffic Management

The traffic management plans for Meredith Music Festival scheduled for Friday 9 December - Sunday 11 December 2016 are as outlined below.

- We implement a speed reduction on Mount Mercer Road and Cameron's Road from two days prior to the festival through to the day prior to the festival.
- We implement one-way traffic on Mount Mercer Road from Bamganie Road to Cameron's Road from approximately 4am the day prior to festival to approximately 7pm on the first day of the festival. Traffic within the one-way zone travelling to Meredith will be diverted down Cameron's Road.
- We assign traffic controllers to the corner of Midland Highway and Staughton Street on the final day of the festival to assist vehicles turning left or right onto Midland Highway.
- No-parking zones are installed along Mount Mercer Road and some surrounding roads.

If you live or work along Mount Mercer Road, Bamganie Road or Cameron's Road and you would like a vehicle pass please email Aunty.

If you have any comments or ideas about any matter related to either Meredith Music Festival please get in touch by phone/text 0430 091 120 or by emailing via [auntym@mmf.com.au](mailto:auntym@mmf.com.au). These contacts are also operational 24 hours over the festival weekend.

The festival website is [www.mmf.com.au](http://www.mmf.com.au) and other information for locals is available at [www.aunty.mmf.com.au/locals](http://www.aunty.mmf.com.au/locals).

Thank you for your support.

### Classifieds

First insertion of small ads are FREE to district residents

**FOR SALE:** Ford Focus sedan 2002 Complete front end damage. Rear, cab & interior OK. \$300- 5286 1508

**FOR SALE:** Maktec (Makita) drill - 14.4V with 2x1.5 mAh batteries and charger \$20, Ryobi biscuit joiner with manual \$20. Call 0409 163169

# Church News



## ANGLICAN

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

Service Times;

### Church of Epiphany Meredith.

11.00am 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday each month, Holy Communion at Anglican Church.

11.00am 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month, Holy Communion at Uniting Church

### St James. Morrisons:

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

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at 5pm, 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

St. Joseph's Parish Mass times for November/December:

**Meredith:** 11 a.m. Sundays - November 6<sup>th</sup>/ 20<sup>th</sup> and December 4<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>

**Winchelsea:** 6pm Saturdays - November 5<sup>th</sup>/ 12<sup>th</sup>/ 19<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup>.

**Inverleigh (for Bannockburn):** 9 a.m. every Sunday - except Sunday November 27th which will be at Bannockburn.

**Anakie:** 11 a.m. Sundays - November 13<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> , December 11<sup>th</sup>.

### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

**Christmas Eve, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

- Bannockburn 6pm Family Christmas Mass at Bannockburn Cultural Centre.
- Anakie 8pm
- Meredith 10pm

**Christmas Day, Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

- Winchelsea 8.30am
- Inverleigh 10.30 am

### PARISH THANKSGIVING AND COMMISSIONING MASS

Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup> at St Joseph's Meredith at 11am followed by BBQ lunch under the gum trees in the gardens of the parish house.

Confirmation catch up for all young people who made their confirmation to be held at Bannockburn Cultural Centre on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November from 5pm to 6.30pm. A chance to view all the photos of the day and catch up with your friends for next year. Please bring your parents with you.

## St. Joey's OP SHOP

Rear of St. Joey's Hall. Lawler St. Meredith  
Call in on Wednesdays and Fridays between

10am and 4pm.

Lots of great furniture, clothes, ornaments , toys  
and books. Special this month on recipe books.

## HESED COTTAGE

(St John's Anglican Op Shop)

Shop 1 - 38 High St Bannockburn (next to Sorelles')

Open: Tuesday - Friday 10am - 4.00pm

Saturday 10am - 1.00pm



Meredith Community Centre

## What is this Learn Local branding?

As the Coordinator of the Community Centre I am often a jack of all trades. One of my “hats” is a member of a branding strategy group for Learn Local organisations across the state. At a recent meeting it hit home for me that many people may not know what that Learn Local branding means for us and for you as a learner at Meredith Community Centre. We are Government registered to provide quality training programs designed to help you gain the confidence and skills needed to look for a job or go on to further study. They might include courses in communication, job search skills, getting ready to go back to work and literacy and numeracy depending on the requirements of the local community. To deliver pre-accredited training, an organisation must be registered with the Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFE) Board. The quality and structure of all pre-accredited programs is regularly reviewed by the ACFE Board.

## Yes but what does that mean for me?

So that is a whole lot of Government speak but what does that mean for you right here in Meredith. It means if you are not ready to take a leap into going to a large institution like a TAFE, if you want to acquire some skills to get you back to work, skills for your job, if public transport is an issue, we can provide quality reviewed training programs right here in your own backyard. We can help you, just let us know what you need.

## And what else is happening?

We are now well into our Term 4 classes with interest in our small business and social media classes and creating a website. Our personal interest and health programs continue to attract our regulars as well as welcoming new faces.

## Occasional Childcare

Our childcare service has had lots of changes this year with changes to session times to meet the needs of our parents. In the planning for next year is longer sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday with 3 hour sessions on Tuesday and Thursday. As well we will continue the bridging session between Kinder and school pick up time which has been really popular. If you think you will be interested in using the service next year please pop in and collect an expression of interest of form from the staff to help us with our planning. We have now been 12 months in the new Meredith Community Learning Hub and it has been a whirlwind exciting time with lots of new people getting to know us and what we do. We are looking forward to more people coming in and joining in on our classes and programs.

Bye for Now

Pam

Meredith Community Centre

4 Russell Street Meredith 3333 Phone 5286 0700

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

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

Fri Closed



*Jodie Trevaskis*

There is a buzz in the air this term and its not the bees, its our kindergarten children getting excited about going to school and eagerly role playing this in home corner. Term 4 flies by and November is already full with many school transition activities and visits. The children in both groups have made drawings for the annual kindy tea towel, its very cute and a lovely keepsake for families. We are enjoying the sunny days outside with the children and have been using more of our outdoor equipment. Thanks to Bevan for fixing our tepee and outdoor easel.

Our committee and community Centre have purchased a wonderful washer/dryer which makes our laundry roster redundant, very handy for our weekly wash and cleanliness. We have had a few cases of illness amongst the children and staff so we are being extra clean and vigilant in ensuring proper hand washing to prevent further infection. It's no fun being sick!

Our 3 year old group is enjoying the longer 5 hour sessions this term with Kylie and Leanne. They all went on their first excursion during Children's Week to see the Micmacs show, catching a bus down to Bannockburn and thoroughly enjoying the experience.

Our AGM is on Thursday 3rd November at 7pm. Kinder parents can collect their enrolment packs and come and meet the staff and other families for next years' groups. We have the Roo Keepers coming for a special end of year incursion for both our groups which will be a treat for the children to be able to touch/pet and learn about our beautiful Australian animals.



## Watch That Hay!

*Peter Stray Maude Fire Brigade*

Hay sheds are empty, the ground is wet, the crops are heavy and the weather is dodgy. This year, conditions are rife for haystack fires!

Anyone making hay must make sure that hay is dry and properly cured before baling. The consequences of not doing so can be high. At best, damp hay will become mouldy which can cause animal health problems. At worst, damp hay can heat and spontaneously combust, burning the haystack, the shed and potentially the whole district.

Hay curing will be very slow this year. Moisture in the soil, heavy crops and cool, damp weather will mean that cut hay will need to lie on the ground for an extended period. Therefore, there is a high chance of hay getting wet before it is baled.

Conditioning hay can significantly reduce curing time. However, if conditioned hay gets wet, it will soak up rain like a sponge. All hay that has had rain on it needs to be properly dried before baling, right to the centre of the straw and to the bottom of the windrow.

So how can we reduce the risk?

- \* Consider making silage. Decide early though, as it is an expensive process and late cutting will make a poor product. Silage is best cut before seed heads emerge.
- \* Some glyphosate products are now registered for use on hay. Spraying before cutting will reduce or eliminate the problem of regrowth being plucked off by the rake or baler and being blended in with the cut hay (this can raise the moisture content of the hay significantly). Spraying has the additional benefit of stopping seed set. Obviously, this is not for use on permanent pasture or where the regrowth is required for grazing.
- \* Resist the temptation to bale to "beat the rain". If it's not ready, it's not ready!
- \* Ensure hay is dry right through before baling. Hay should "rattle" when handled. Watch out for damp patches on corners where the rake may not have turned the windrow properly.
- \* Monitor suspect bales carefully. Bales that sag, heat quickly or are heavier than they should be must not be stacked!
- \* If you are not confident that your round bales are stackable, you may be able to row them in the paddock. Leaving small gaps between each bale rather than shoving them up tightly will allow the bales to breathe and dissipate heat without the ends of the bales being weather damaged.
- \* Large square bales that have had a significant amount of rain on them are virtually impossible to dry and must not be stacked.
- \* Small square bales that are suspect should only be stacked in low, loose stacks and monitored frequently. Pull bales out if they start to heat.
- \* Hay that is going to burn will usually do so within six weeks. Monitor for at least two months to be sure.
- \* Reduce or eliminate fine fuels (grass) from around hay stacks. Bare gravel is preferred. If the worst happens it is better to contain a fire to the stack.

If these tips are followed, hay fires should be avoided, but there are no guarantees. Hay making is an art and a science. Just another example of farming not being as easy as it looks!

## Christmas in Meredith

*Advance Meredith Assoc.*

Yes it's nearly that time of year again to start preparing to celebrate Christmas in Meredith.

**Christmas Carols:** Sunday December 18th at the Interpretive Centre. A Lions Club BBQ will begin at 6pm together with Face Painting and children's activities. Carols will begin at 8pm.

**Christmas Lights/Decorations Competition:** Entry forms will be available in December from local businesses and the Meredith Community Centre.

**Christmas sheep:** available for you to decorate at a cost of \$10 each. Ring Marg Cooper at 5286 8201.

**Christmas Trees:** Watch out for the new Christmas Trees in Staughton St, decorated by the school, kinder and playgroup children!

*For more information, phone : 0408 599 602*



## Recreation



### Meredith Golf Club

**Annual General Meeting**  
Monday 21st November, 2016  
7.30 pm at the Meredith Golf Club

At the AGM, the **closure of the club** will be discussed and a decision made. Anybody interested in keeping the club going is strongly encouraged to attend.

For enquiries contact Denis Gear  
(Secretary/Treasurer) on 53 415 748.

### Elaine Cricket Club

Wet weather washed all the matches out last week. 1st match this Saturday. We are still looking for more u13 cricket players. No experience necessary as it's a beginners grade. Big thanks to Nigel Parkinson for coaching the u13's and David Flood for coaching the u14's Enquiries Shane 0448291074

### Seniors Bus Trip

*Jo Primmer*

We left at 9 am with the sun shining. Our first stop was the Creswick Woollen Mills. It was fascinating to see all of the different fleeces. The mill still works and sells fantastic articles of clothing like jumpers, coats and rugs. We enjoyed a lovely morning tea of scones with jam and cream. We all had a great time.

We then went to Stoney's in Bacchus Marsh for lunch and played a bit of pokeys. Our trip home took us past the Lal Lal Falls which are flowing beautifully. We got home at 4.30 pm.



CREATORS &  
CRAFT MARKET  
BANNOCKBURN

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2016

FROM: 10.00am - 2.00pm  
( farmers market site )

STALL HOLDER ENQUIRIES CONTACT NOELINE ON:  
0427 923 934,

### Our New Councillors

#### GOLDEN PLAINS

Twelve candidates stood for election to seven seats as Councillors for Golden Plains Shire last month. Successful were:

Joanne GILBERT  
Owen SHARKEY  
Helena KIRBY\*  
David EVANS  
Nathan HANSFORD\*  
Des PHELAN\*  
Les ROWE

The unsuccessful candidates were:

Cameron STEELE  
Bill McARTHUR\*  
Greg VAUGHAN\*  
Marlene RYAN\*  
Peter KRUSIC-GOLEB  
\* Sitting Councillors

#### MOORABOOL

Three of the four Wards were determined at the time of going to print. In East Ward, where there were four vacancies, Tonia Dudzik, Jarrod Bingham, John Keogh and David Edwards were successful. Pat Toohey won the single vacancy in Woodlands Ward and Tom Sullivan was the only candidate for the one vacancy in West Ward, In Central Ward, where a single vacancy was contested by two candidates, counting was continuing.

Full details at [vec.vic.gov.au/Results/](http://vec.vic.gov.au/Results/)

**HYDRAU-TECH**  
FLUID POWER

Suppliers of hydraulic parts & components  
for farm machinery

Rebuilding of hydraulic cylinders

Pump & Motor resealing, pressure testing

Suppliers of oil & grease for farm machinery

**HYDRAULIC  
SALES &  
SERVICE**

18 Wiltshire Lane. Ballarat

"Over 20 years of combined  
hydraulic experience"

**03 5336 2266**

## Meredith Rural Fire Brigade

*Chris Jones, Captain*

*Meredith Rural Fire Brigade*

Greetings to all, I am pleased to write in after the Meredith Rural Fire Brigade had a very quiet winter and spring period. We have responded to only a few minor incidents and false alarms, the most significant of which was a CO2 gas leak at the Elaine Hotel. Members on Meredith Tanker 2 utilized Breathing Apparatus to isolate the leak while members from Elaine Brigade isolated the area and assisted in ventilation.

As you would have noticed by now, the Meredith Brigade has a new storage shed. The shed enables the Brigade to store equipment previously stored on Brigade member's properties as well as the ability in the future to store a Brigade Ute. It was opened on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> of May with members from Meredith and neighboring brigades attending. Over a beer and snag very well deserving members were presented with service medals as well as a very unexpected National Emergency Medal issued to me for my service during the Black Saturday Bushfires 2009 where I served with the Australian Army and the Meredith Brigade.

Members of the Meredith and Morrisons Fire Brigades along with many other Brigades across the state have been extremely active in a fight against the United Firefighter Union's attempt to take over our proud Volunteer organization. We have actively defied all attempts to silence those Brigades that oppose the UFU's attempted take over. We have done this by attending rallies, displaying signage at our stations and on our trucks as well as running high exposure in all forms of media.

Our Brigades have received some of the most impressive support by many members of our community. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported the Meredith and Morrisons Rural Fire Brigades. We appreciate it so much. We volunteer our time to defend and protect you and your properties and it makes everything we do so much more worthwhile when we receive the support that we have.

Our brigade has been very fortunate to have 8 new

members join our ranks during the spring period. Each of them brings various new skills and abilities that continue to make our brigade such a diverse and enjoyable place to be.

I encourage anyone interested in becoming a member from ages 16 onwards to come down and have a chat with one of our members and see if it's for you. Members of the Meredith Fire Brigade are treated equally and as one big family.

We are at the station most Sunday mornings from 8:30am to 9:00am.



As we move into the last month of spring it is time for all of us to start thinking about the coming fire season. Although we have had substantial rainfall over recent months and the area is still very wet, we need to remember that with the rain comes substantial growth of fuel loads that will remain through the summer period causing a very high risk of fire.

If you haven't got a household fire plan I strongly encourage you to get on to the CFA website ([cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au)) and utilize the materials available to assist you.

I also ask that if at anytime you are planning to conduct a burn off you give your neighbors reasonable notice as well as notify the Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) on 1800 668 511 to avoid the brigade being called which is an unnecessary use of members time.

In closing, I would like to again encourage the members of the community to continue the good work in sensible fire prevention this summer. Last summer saw an extremely low number of fires in our district and I hope that we can achieve the same outcomes this summer period.



Download your  
**FIRE READY KIT** at


[cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fire-ready-kit/](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fire-ready-kit/)

## Inverleigh and District Good Friday Appeal and Fun Day

Over the past 20 years the Inverleigh and District Good Friday Appeal and Fun Day has been raising much needed funds for the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne whilst entertaining thousands of people. This Day is run by a dedicated group of volunteers. We are looking for more volunteers to join our team for the 2017 event. If you are a community minded person who enjoys having fun while helping sick children in need then this is the project for you.

**Go on, have a heart - Lend a hand - Help save a life.**

For further information contact Daniel on 0437 07 22 60 or Ian on 52 811 946 or 0499 411 380.



# JOSIES

## CONCRETING & Excavation Work

**Colin Jose**

Garage floors • Foundations  
Paving • Driveways • House slabs • Free quotes

**MOBILE 0412 402 924**

## New Arts Program a Big Win for Regional Communities

*from Media Release*

Member for Western Victoria, Gayle Tierney MP is encouraging arts groups, societies, venues and local councils to apply for funding to attract the best performances in an effort to strengthen regional touring in more places across the state.

The Small Regional Presenters program will be available to support regional arts presenters – including not for profit arts groups and societies, venues and local councils – to present professional arts events and experiences in their communities.

Grants of up to \$15,000 will be available to support the presentation of a single show or live event, a series of shows or an annual program.

Small Regional Presenters builds on existing programs that support Victorian arts companies and producers to embark on regional tours.

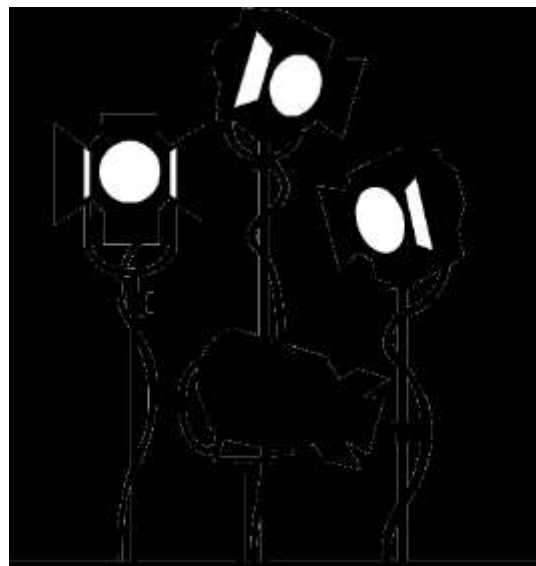
It provides a focus on the other end of the touring cycle by supporting regionally-based arts groups and venues to attract shows to their area.

Small Regional Presenters is part of the

Government's \$20 million Regional Arts Package, delivered in the 2015/16 Victorian Budget.

Funding will be offered through three grant rounds in 2016/17. Applications to the first round close 5pm, Wednesday 16 November 2016, for shows taking place from 31 January 2017 onwards.

Community presenters seeking to apply must be members of Regional Arts Victoria. For details, visit [creative.vic.gov.au](http://creative.vic.gov.au)



# Be Fire Ready.

## THE REASONS ARE BLACK AND WHITE.

### Fire Action Week

The Right Time To Prepare

1. Plan what you'll do in the event of a fire, talk to your household and know where to access information on high risk days.
2. Keep grass short. Fire can ignite and travel quickly through long grass.
3. Get rid of dry grass, leaves, twigs and loose bark around your home.
4. Remove or prune shrubs near windows and well away from branches of mature trees.
5. Cut back overhanging tree branches close to property – no branches within 10 metres.
6. Keep gutters and roof areas clear of leaf litter (if you are physically able to).
7. Remove all materials from around the home that could burn, such as boxes, furniture and woodpiles.

[emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au) | VicEmergency app - launching November

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## Nominations Open for Australia Day Awards

*from media release*

Do you know someone who has gone above and beyond for their community? Or an event that has brought people together for the benefit of the community?

Nominations are now open for the Golden Plains Shire Council Australia Day Awards.

Council would like to encourage residents to celebrate those who make an outstanding contribution to the Golden Plains Shire in fields such as community service, arts and culture, environment, business and economic development.

Golden Plains Shire Council CEO Rod Nicholls said that Golden Plains is home to many community superstars.

"Council is always hearing about people who go above and beyond and give their time and passion to their community. We also have some of the best events in the State!"

"Don't miss this great opportunity to formally acknowledge extraordinary individuals and community groups – I'm sure we all know at least one."

"We've made the process of nomination even easier this year, with nominations available online – it only takes 5 minutes."

Last year's winners were David Bruce of Teesdale, Jill Wheeler of Linton, Matthew Kinnia from Bannockburn and **'Live @ Turtle Bend 2015'**.

The Australia Day Award categories are: Citizen of the Year (28 years of age or over), Young Citizen of the Year (up to and including 27 years of age), Senior Citizen of the Year (55 years of age or over) and Community Events of the Year (an event staged within the past year).

Nominees must be an Australian Citizen, who either lives or works in Golden Plains Shire, who has made a noteworthy contribution during the current year and/or given outstanding service to the local community over a number of years.

Nomination forms are in this issue and available from Council or online at [www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/forms/australia-day-awards-2017](http://www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/forms/australia-day-awards-2017).



## Federal Funding Gets Bannockburn Heart Beating

*from Media Release*

Sarah Henderson MP, Federal Member for Corangamite today announced a \$1.2 million National Stronger Regions Grant for Golden Plains Shire Council to deliver Stage One of the Bannockburn Civic Heart Precinct.

The plans for the Civic Heart were developed through extensive community consultation and reflect the priorities and desires of the local community.

Golden Plains CEO Rod Nicholls praised the Federal Government for their vision and support.

"The Bannockburn Civic Heart Precinct is a visionary project that will transform and improve the livability and amenity of Bannockburn."

"I would like to thank Sarah Henderson and the Federal Government for this fantastic contribution to the ambience of Bannockburn and sustainability of this important community hub."

"This project has been a focus for Council as we know it will deliver so many benefits to the people of Bannockburn and surrounding communities and it is great that the Federal Government recognises this as well."

"Stage One of the Bannockburn Civic Heart Precinct will deliver an enhanced community space, including a paved plaza for events and gatherings, public toilets, a play space, paths and walkways and landscaping."

"The Heart will also deliver an enhanced site for Council's popular Golden Plains Farmers' Market, including landscaping and creation of more space to expand the market by an additional 25-50 stallholders."

Stage One of the Bannockburn Civic Heart Precinct is a \$2.4 million project, including today's announced \$1.2 million National Stronger Regions Grant with a matched \$1.2 million from Council

## Black Spot Funding

*from Media Release*

Golden Plains Shire will receive \$2.075M in blackspot funding under the Federal Government's Infrastructure Investment Program.

The funding will address four projects which were identified by Council through road reviews and community feedback, one of which is a 2.3km section of Meredith Steiglitz Road between Pioneer Ridge Road and Eclipse Road at Meredith: \$475,000 to seal shoulders and install edge lines and raised reflective pavement markers, install guard fence installation with rub rail, upgrade delineation and signage and reduce speed to 60kmh.





from the CEO

You may note that this is once again a 'CEO message' this month, rather than a 'Mayor message'. At the time of writing, Council election results were not known – please visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/news](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/news) after 2 November to find out who your new Councillors are!

### Federal funding gets Bannockburn heart beating

Sarah Henderson MP, Federal Member for Corangamite announced in October a \$1.2 million National Stronger Regions Grant for Council to deliver Stage One of the Bannockburn Civic Heart Precinct.

Bannockburn's first ever family-friendly outdoor civic precinct will take shape on the Golden Plains Farmers' Market site and Bannockburn Cultural Centre area. The space will undergo an amazing transformation, and will include a paved plaza for events and gatherings, public toilets, a play space for the kids, paths, walkways and attractive landscaping. We are delighted for Bannockburn and surrounding communities! This project complements a list of recently completed or in-progress projects, including the Smythesdale Oval upgrade, the Smythesdale Hub extension, Dereel Community Hall refurbishment, and construction of the Dereel Men's Shed, Woady Yaloak Female Change Rooms and Lethbridge Play Space.

To find out more about Bannockburn Heart, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/news/federal-funding-gets-bannockburn-heart-beating](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/news/federal-funding-gets-bannockburn-heart-beating)

### Nominate someone for council's Australia Day awards!

Nominations are now open for the 2017 Golden Plains Shire Council Australia Day Awards. Don't miss this great opportunity to formally acknowledge extraordinary individuals and community groups – I'm sure we all know at least one person or group who has made an outstanding contribution to Golden Plains in fields such as community service or events, arts and culture, environment, business or economic development.

Nomination forms are available from Council or online at [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/forms/australia-day-awards-2017](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/forms/australia-day-awards-2017).

### Help us shape our council plan 2017-2021

Over the next few months we will work with the Golden Plains community to determine our strategic directions and objectives for a new four year (2017-2021) Council Plan. The Plan describes Council's strategic objectives, ways to achieve the objectives, indicators for measuring progress and the resources required to implement the Plan for at least four years. In short, it is a roadmap to how we can get to where we want to go. Keep an eye on our website and social media accounts to see how you can get involved.

Rod Nicholls

### Detox your home—Ballarat and Geelong

Get rid of toxic household chemicals and free some space at one of Sustainability Victoria's 'Detox Your Home' chemical collection points. The next opportunity to dispose of unwanted chemicals is on Saturday 3 December at the Ballarat Transfer Station on Gillies Street South from 10am to 2pm. Geelong will hold its collection on Saturday 11 February at the Corio Operations Centre, 299 Anakie Road, Lovely Banks from 8am to 4pm.

Rod Nicholls

CEO, Golden Plains Shire Council

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# Meredith Primary School News

It is hard to believe that it has only been four weeks since I first arrived at Meredith Primary School as Acting Principal. In that time, I have been on our Grade 6 Urban camp, attended a number of professional development sessions, organised a staff curriculum day and spent time getting to know many of the wonderful people connected to our great school.

Growing up in many different areas of Western Victoria, I was keen to start my teaching career in a small country town. I was fortunate to land my first teaching job in Edenhope, and it was there that I started my leadership career. Since then I moved to Geelong with a young family and I have basically spent the last ten years teaching at Western Heights College.

It was about three years ago that I decided that I wanted to start preparing for a leadership role within the primary school system. This had its challenges, as I had to set out and prove to people that despite most of my leadership experience being within a secondary setting, I could be just as effective and influential in a primary school setting. When I was approached to look at taking on the Acting Principal role for term 4, I jumped at the chance. This was my opportunity!

Reflecting back over my time here over the last four weeks, I can't help but think my experience at times has been very similar to what I experienced when I first started teaching. Although it was quite overwhelming during the first week, what I quickly learnt was that I was surrounded by some wonderful and supportive people. I look forward to the journey ahead.



*Acting Principal Mr Shane Sachse with Trent and Eliza*

## Melbourne Experience Grade 6 camp.

Our Grade 6s have just returned from their week-long Melbourne Experience camp. It was a busy week filled with visits to a number of Melbourne landmarks. We visited the Eureka Skydeck, MCG, ACMI, Queen Vic Market, the State Library, Old Melbourne Gaol, the Museum, the Shrine of Remembrance, State Parliament and the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre. We also ate in Chinatown, Lygon St, Southbank and Crown! The children experienced tram rides, the Melbourne public and walked a total of 67km for the week! It is a fantastic opportunity for our students to have and they were awesome representatives of Meredith Primary School.

*Acting Principal, Shane Sachse*

*Kirsty* - I really liked the Queen Vic Market because there was so much cool stuff. The MCG and Museum were also awesome.

*Kynan* - My highlight was the MCG because I had never been there before and it was amazing to see the ground.

*Alex* - I liked the Old Melbourne Gaol because it's got so much history.

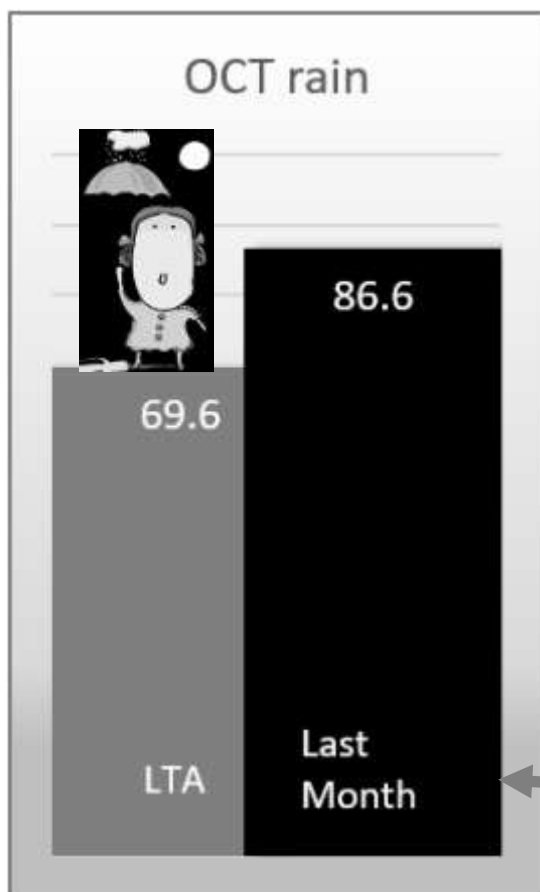
*Mye* - My highlight would have to be the Eureka Skydeck because it was such a nice view and the Edge experience was really fun.

*Trent*: My favourite was the wave pool at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre because we also got to go on the waterslides as well.

*Kade* - My favourite was the MCG because of the cricket and footy history at the ground.

PHOTOGRAPH OMITTED  
FROM ONLINE EDITION





What a contrast! In October last year, we registered only 13.2mm - That's about here!

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*Pictured: Marita Seaton (representing Community Event of the Year), Matthew Kinnia (Young Citizen of the Year), Jill Wheeler (Senior Citizen of the Year) and David Bruce (Citizen of the Year).*

## DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WORTHY?

### 2017 Australia Day awards – nominations now open!

The Australia Day Awards are an opportunity to formally acknowledge extraordinary individuals and community groups who make an outstanding contribution to Golden Plains Shire in fields such as community service, arts and culture, environment, business and economic development.

All nominees must be an Australian Citizen, who either lives or works in Golden Plains Shire, who has made a noteworthy contribution during the current year and/or given outstanding service to the local community over a number of years.

### 2016 Australia Day winners

Citizen of the Year	Young Citizen of the Year	Senior Citizen of the Year	Community Event of the Year
David Bruce	Matthew Kinnia	Jill Wheeler	Live at Turtle Bend 2015

### How to nominate

**Post** this tear off to Events Officer, Golden Plains Shire Council, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn 3331

**Email** a scan of this tear off to [events@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:events@gplains.vic.gov.au)

**Go online** at [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/forms/australia-day-awards-2017](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/forms/australia-day-awards-2017)

**More information:** Contact Golden Plains Shire Council's Events Officer on 5220 7245

**Nominations must be received by 5pm, Wednesday 30 November 2016**



For more information, please contact  
Golden Plains Shire Council

☎ 03 5220 7111    ✉ [enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au)    💻 [goldenplains.vic.gov.au](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au)

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# 2017 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS NOMINATION FORM (PART 1)

Please list your details as the nominator:

Full name	
Contact telephone or email address	

Please select the category that best represents the person you are nominating:

- ☐ **Citizen of the Year**  
(28 years of age or over)
- ☐ **Senior Citizen of the Year**  
(55 years of age or over)
- ☐ **Young Citizen of the Year**  
(Up to and including 27 years of age)
- ☐ **Community Events of the Year**  
(An event staged within the past year)

All nominees must be an Australian Citizen, who either lives or works in Golden Plains Shire, who has made a noteworthy contribution during the current year and/or given outstanding service to the local community over a number of years.

Please list the details of the person/event you are nominating:

Full name			
Email address			
Address			
Telephone		Mobile	

Please turn over to record why your nominee should be considered.

For more information, please contact  
Golden Plains Shire Council

☎ 03 5220 7111    ✉ [enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au)    🌐 [goldenplains.vic.gov.au](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au)

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Australia Day

# 2017 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS NOMINATION FORM (PART 2)

## Contribution/s to the community for which the person/group/event is nominated:

Summarise the reasons why your nominee should be considered.

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## Other significant contributions and achievements:

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## Background information about your nominee/group/event/ community/professional bodies you nominee/group/event has been involved with:

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**If you require additional space to talk about the person you are nominating, please write on a separate sheet and attach to the form.**

### How to nominate

**Post** this tear off to the Events Officer, Golden Plains Shire Council, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn 3331

**Email** a scan of this tear off to [events@gpplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:events@gpplains.vic.gov.au)

**Go online** at [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/forms/australia-day-awards-2017](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/forms/australia-day-awards-2017)

**More information:** Contact Golden Plains Shire Council's Events Officer on 5220 7245

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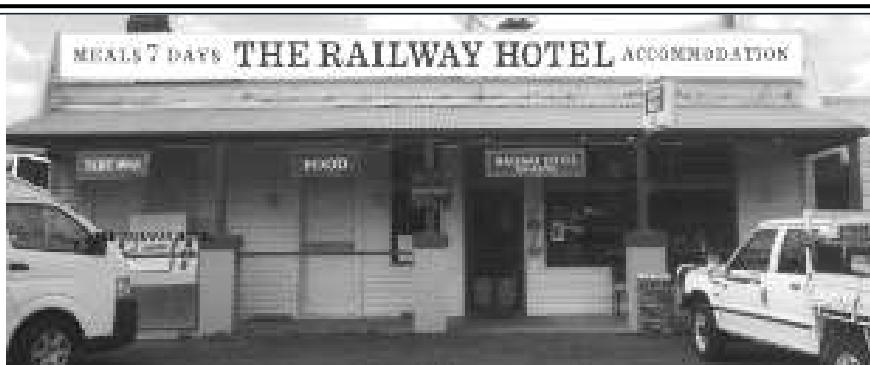
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## Celebrating St. Joseph's New Parish Priest

*Diane Ritchie*

On the evening of 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016 a celebration was held for the Installation of the twenty-second Parish Priest of the Meredith Catholic Parish, Father Charles Balnaves, by Archbishop Denis Hart DD, in front of a full church of parishioners, representatives of other denominations and friends.

Meredith is a historic parish with priests and bishops travelling through the area on horseback as early as 1845, and the first Mass said to have been celebrated in Meredith by Fr Smyth in 1853.

In 1875 Meredith was made a separate parish, having previously been part of St Mary's Mission. Boundary changes have occurred throughout the ensuing one hundred and forty-one years and the Parish now consists of Mass Centres of: Meredith, Anakie, Bannockburn, Inverleigh and Winchelsea and many small towns in between. Fr James Hegarty was appointed the first Parish Priest and in the ensuing years twenty-one parish priests and eight administrators have faithfully served the parish.

It has been nine years since Meredith Parish has had a Parish

Priest, so as Archbishop Hart presented Fr Charles Balnaves with the keys of all the churches, and led him to the other important and significant parts of the church, spontaneous applause broke out. Archbishop Hart entreated Charles to always be a loving Father, a gentle shepherd and a wise teacher of his people, so that he may lead them to Christ.



Father Charles Balnaves has had a unique journey to the priesthood. Growing up in Canberra he studied Applied Mathematics and Computer Science, becoming a petroleum engineer and project manager for BHP Billiton for more than thirty years. He was married to Tania for thirty-seven years and has two sons, James and Michael. After leaving BHP Charles first worked as a Pastoral Associate before quiet words from respected priests and friends led him to study for the Diaconate. After caring for his wife Tania during her illness for 37 years and her subsequent death, Charles was lead again by quiet murmurs of the heart to his ordination to the Priesthood in June 2015, sent to the Melton Parish as an Assistant Priest and then in July 2016, appointed Parish Priest of the Meredith Parish.

A three course smorgasbord dinner, catered for by parishioners from the far corners of the parish, completed a wonderful celebration.



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## Food Network Meeting

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- Great opportunity to meet likeminded people, share ideas and experiences
- Find out about, and become involved in local community projects designed to increase access to food
- All welcome!
- Catering and transport provided. RSVP essential.

**When:** Wednesday 7 December 2016

**Time:** 7:00pm-9:00pm

**Where:** Dereel Hall, 14 Swamp Road, Dereel 3352

**Transport:** Departing Bannockburn Cultural Centre at 6.15pm and returning by 9.45pm  
Departing Smythesdale Well at 6.15pm and returning by 9.45pm

RSVP  
Contact Jacinta on  
5321 1500 or  
email:  
jacinta.walsh@  
gplains.vic.gov.au





## GP Shire's New Local Law

### Media Release

Golden Plains Shire Council is developing a new Local Law to replace Local Law No. 2 – Public Amenity, Roads and Streets and invites the community to have their say.

Local Laws are made by Councils in response to identified problems and are designed to mitigate or eliminate existing or foreseeable problems. The review of Local Law No. 2. was driven by issues arising from community feedback and Council reports and the revised draft aims to allow Golden Plains Shire residents to enjoy a safe and healthy environment.

The draft Local Law addresses issues concerning people and property, legal disposal of waste, animals, matters concerning general activities on roads, parking, livestock on roads, standpipe management and administration of the local law.

Golden Plains Shire Council CEO Rod Nicholls says this is a great opportunity for the community to have their say as submissions regarding the draft Local Law will be considered by Council and may inform changes to the final document.

“Local Laws are important because they are tailored to meet the specific needs of the Golden Plains community. The issues covered are close to the heart of our community and this is their opportunity to have their say.”

“Golden Plains Shire is a wonderful place to live and work, and Local Law No. 2 – Public Amenity, Roads and Streets is designed to protect and support our growing

communities. I encourage those interested to review the Explanatory Report and Local Law.”

“The revised draft is the result of a comprehensive process of document development and review. The draft Local Law have been informed by common community complaints, internal workshops, investigations and general compliance activities. The draft Local Law No. 2 was reviewed and formatted by Harwood Andrews Lawyers and was considered at two recent Councillor workshops.”

Golden Plains Shire Council has developed an Explanatory Report which provides further detail, including a plain English explanation for the drafting of a new local law, an introduction to the content and key objectives of the proposed local law and a summary of the public notification and approval procedures.

Any person may make a written submission to Council under section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989. Written submissions must be received by Council by 5.00pm on Monday 14 November 2016. Written submissions should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Golden Plains Shire Council and sent by mail to PO Box 111, Bannockburn, VIC 3331.

A copy of the Explanatory Report and the proposed local law may be inspected at the Bannockburn Customer Service Centre, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn, VIC 3331 and Linton Customer Service Centre, 68 Sussex Street, Linton, VIC 3331. Alternatively, a copy of the proposed Local Law is available for review on the Golden Plains Shire website at [www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/local-laws](http://www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/local-laws)

*(See Public Notes at Right.)*

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## REVIEW OF LOCAL LAW 2. PUBLIC AMENITY, ROADS AND STREETS

***Golden Plains Shire Council is developing a new Local Law to replace Local Law No. 2 – Public Amenity, Roads and Streets.***

The draft Local Law No. 2 – General Public Amenity has been prepared with reference to the State Governments Guidelines for Local Laws Manual.

There are a broad range of matters that are addressed by the proposed Local Law:

- People and property
- Animals
- Disposal of waste
- Matters concerning general activities on roads
- Management of parking
- Livestock on roads
- Standpipe management
- Administration of the local law.

### **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Pursuant to section 119 of the Local Government Act, Council must provide notice of the proposed local law in the Government Gazette and a public notice stating the purpose and general purport of the proposed local law.

### **Accessing the draft Local Law**

A copy of the proposed local law may be inspected at the Bannockburn Customer Service Centre, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn, VIC 3331 and the Linton Customer Service Centre, 68 Sussex Street, Linton, VIC 3331.

Alternatively, a copy of the proposed Local Law is available for review on the Golden Plains Shire website and can be accessed at [www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/local-laws](http://www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/local-laws)

### **Lodging submissions**

Any person may make a written submission to Council under section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.

**Written submissions must be received by Council by 5:00pm on Monday 14 November 2016.**

Written submissions should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Golden Plains Shire Council and sent by mail to PO Box 111, Bannockburn, VIC 3331.

Any person who has made a submission under section 223 of the Act and has requested to be heard in support of their written submission is entitled to appear in person or to be represented by a person specified in the submission before the Council. The proposed Local Law will be considered at the ordinary meeting to be held on 20 December 2016. The time and place of the Council meeting will be advised in writing

Any person making a written submission under section 223 of the Act is advised that under regulation 11 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2004, the Council is required to make available for public inspection all submissions (including personal information) received in accordance with section 223 of the Act during the previous 12 months. Details of submissions may also be included within the official Council Agendas and Minutes which are public documents and which may also be made available on Council's website.

Council will consider any written submissions in accordance with section 223 of the Act.



## A Snip in Time

How satisfying it is to watch an artist at work; a person who knows their craft and loves practicing it. Recently as I stood washing up at the sink I watched a young fellow outside in the garden pruning a pear tree. My instructions to him were to shape the tree with a view to its form in a hundred years or so hence. I fancy this pear when it is covered in a swarm of delicate white flowers and standing as an ancient gnarly tree throwing shade and dripping with delicious juicy fruits for future generations whoever they may be. I visit such an old pear in the bush nearby, no doubt planted well over a hundred years ago by an early white settler craving gold. I also instructed my visiting garden artist to prune the tree in such a way that children may want to clamber up inside it and hide on a hot summer day, and eat pears and read a book as I used to around a hundred years ago.

It was satisfying to watch the pear tree take shape. I appreciated the way the pruner took some steps back to consider his handiwork from time to time, much as an artist stands away from the easel and thinks about the work. Then stepping forward again into the tree the pruner made several decisive cuts with the saw and the long-handled pruners. The pruned canes were later settled into a bucket of water where they continued to expend their energy and we were rewarded with thickly blossomed stems.

Of course the domestic garden is a construct and often a glorious one. These are gardens in which the artistry is subtle and they provide visitors and inhabitants with endless pleasure and produce.

But I want to pay tribute to my fellow columnist of In Our Nature, Wendy Cook, and the gardens she explores each month, those growing largely without the intervention of human artists.

I have spent hours in recent weeks crawling through the bush on all fours with my magnifying glass and ID book, on the hunt for the spectacular native orchids of the Brisbane Ranges. These creatures spring up in the most barren and unexpected places and their flowers tell an intricate and enthralling story of reproduction – allure and seduction. The artistry of the natural world cannot be beat.

When I am out in the bush I ask myself why I spend so much of my day groaning under the weight of the wheelbarrow filled with weeds, fretting about the late frost biting my green beans and the tips of persimmon tree when out in nature I experience the world entire.

Happy gardening.

Chris



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## A Treasured Bible (Cont'd)

Marg Cooper

*(This is a continuation of last month's article about the treasured bible of Matilda Muir, and Matilda's descendants - Ed.)*

Maria Murdoch, the daughter of Matilda and James Murdoch, married John Robbins at Elaine on December 9, 1891. Maria shifted about 400 yards from the south side of Morrisons Road to live in a house on the north side of Elaine/Morrisons Road between the school and the creek. John Robbins' mother died young leaving a family of three girls and two boys. The extended family looked after the girls but the boys were sent to the Ballarat Orphanage. Both boys were later apprenticed to various bakers in Elaine and North Geelong.

John Robbins was a man before his time. He read and liked new ideas. He was a republican when no one talked republican. He did many jobs. He shifted dirt from mullock heaps close to Elaine to build the platform at the railway station, he did a bit of mining, he had a chaff cutter and a stationary steam engine, he was an agent, he bought and sold, he was a contractor, he was a good blacksmith and with W.H. Glover he roasted sand from the tailings of gold mining batteries in ovens and produced iron oxide which they sold in bags to the Victorian Railways to paint their rolling stock. Alan Parkinson says they did this behind where his family lived on the Elaine/Morrisons Road. The shed was dismantled and used to build Ted East's workshop in Elaine. It was all red! John Robbins had a T Model Ford car. He could turn his hand to anything. He made pastry slices shaped like gum leaves. He made cuts in the pastry like veins and dotted them with sultanas and raisin which his grandson, Peter Wells, loved to eat!

In his day, Mechanic's Institutes were places of learning with extensive libraries, where a lot of knowledge was absorbed. John Robbins donated the land for a Mechanic's Institute in Elaine. Jack Eberhart and Sam Pearson were hall-keepers at various times and the books were kept under the stage.

Maria and John Robbins had two children Rupert b. 1894 at Elaine and Vera Eileen b. 1895 at Elaine.

Maria and John are also buried in the Meredith Cemetery. She died on July 3, 1943, at 86 years and John Robbins died August 18, 1952 aged 82 years. Their graves are just north of Maria's father, mother and step-father in the Presbyterian Section.

Keith Robbins Wells known as Peter is the son of Vera (Robbins) and Albert (Jappy) Wells.

## Wendy's Walk

I went for a walk in the Police Paddocks this afternoon and made a list of the things I saw:

Two people weeding a wildflower patch

Another with a brush cutter

A man mowing the paths

Someone spraying weeds

Near the old swamp gum: Two tree martins or fairy martins, two eastern rosellas and a starling

Dragonflies, four yellow-tailed black cockatoos flying over. I saw Caper white butterflies, Australian painted lady butterflies, a small butterfly which may have been a greenish grass-dart. Plenty of little butterflies or moths

Beetles on the hawthorn

A Blackbird, a Red wattlebird and a small skink at the edge of the creek

Honeycomb and bees in a nest box by the creek

Bees flying in and out of the nest box where we last spring saw the owlet-nightjar

A juvenile crimson rosella halfway out of a nest box, with an adult on a nearby branch making encouraging noises (*Damn! Forgot I had a camera in my back pocket until after the bird was out of the nest box!*)

Other birds that didn't wish to be identified

I heard the calls of Horsfield's bronze-cuckoo and Shining bronze-cuckoo

And some plants flowering:: two lovely patches of chocolate lilies (*Arthropodium strictum*), one on each side of the creek

A patch of yellow bulbine lilies (*Bulbine bulbosa*)  
Sheep's burr (*Acaena* sp.)

Bidgee-widgee (*Acaena novae-zelandiae*)

Cotton Fireweed (*Senecio quadridentatus*)

Geranium

Geranium retrorsum (beautiful)

Drooping mistletoe (*Amyema penula*)

Sweet hound's-tongue (*Cynoglossum suaveolens*)

A lovely gate with an echidna, an ant and a small bird



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## ARANCINI BALLS

Makes 16

### Ingredients

2 ½ cups chicken stock  
 1 tablespoon olive oil  
 1 small brown onion chopped finely  
 1 clove garlic crushed  
 ½ cup Arborio rice  
 ½ cup dry white wine  
 ½ cup frozen peas  
 40g ham, chopped finely  
 ½ cup finely grated parmesan cheese  
 60g mozzarella cheese  
 1 egg lightly beaten  
 Plain flour  
 1 egg beaten lightly, extra  
 1 tablespoon milk  
 1 cup packaged breadcrumbs  
 Vegetable oil for deep frying

### Method

1. Bring stock to the boil in medium saucepan. Reduce heat to low and keep hot.
2. Heat olive oil in medium saucepan, add onion and garlic, cook stirring until onion is soft but not coloured. Add rice, cook stirring 2 minutes. Add white wine, cook stirring until liquid has evaporated.
3. Add about 1/3 cup of hot stock, cook, stirring until all the stock has been used. Total cooking time will be about 25 minutes.
4. Stir in peas and ham, and remove from heat. Stir in parmesan cheese. Transfer risotto to medium heatproof bowl and cool.
5. Chop mozzarella into 16 pieces.
6. Stir egg into risotto. Roll 2 level tablespoon portions of risotto mixture into balls. Press a piece of mozzarella into the centre of each ball, roll to enclose. Toss balls in flour. Shake away excess flour. Dip into combined extra egg and milk then coat in breadcrumbs.
7. Heat vegetable oil in deep saucepan, deep fry arancini in batches until browned and heated through. Drain on absorbent paper.

*Recipe From: Women's Weekly Party Food*

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## Hazard Reduction for Bushfire Safety

*Julie Lee*

There are many things that the homeowner can do to make their homes safer. You can clear around your house for 10 metres to removed trees that otherwise would overhang gutters. If you are under a Bushfire Management Overlay (higher risk areas) then you can clear the undergrowth for 50m from your home. In the lesser risk areas known as Bushfire Prone then you can clear the undergrowth for 30m from your home. This is allowed under the planning scheme if your house was constructed prior to 2009. Houses built after the Bushfire regulations came in will have a required amount of defendable space that they must maintain.

If you are unclear whether you are in a Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) or Bushfire Prone you can check on this website ( <http://www.land.vic.gov.au/> ) or call your local council.

Clearing your site is imperative to lowering your bushfire risk as it reduces the fuel to an approaching fire. Studies have shown that just 1m clear around your house can dramatically lower risk.

Many of our drier forest do not have a large proportion of elevated plants (grow from 1-5m). These provide a ladder for the fire to reach the canopy; there are many weeds that invade forests that fall into this category. Golden Plains Shire has a few pamphlets on Declared and Environmental Weeds that help you to identify these plants (<https://www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/residents/my-home/environment/weeds-and-pest-animals>). You should remove these weeds.

Understanding what burns and why, aids landscaping around your home. Planting succulents and herbaceous (non-woody

plants) will reduce the fuel load as they don't burn like our native forests. In our forest, there are the surface fuels such as fine twigs and leaves both are light weight. Their surface to weight ratio is high enabling them to combust easily. What this means is that anything under the thickness of a pencil and leaves need to be removed as these combust easily. Large logs will smoulder after a fire has past and some areas will burn on the surface but it is the fine fuels that are your biggest issue.

When clearing around your home you need to think like a fire. Is there fuel that the fire can use to reach my house? Look at garden edging, mulch, retaining walls, chairs, decks these burn too! Do you have an open subfloor under your house with wood and debris/fuel stored? Can my gas tank fall over and become a missile? These issues are readily seen in bushfire areas and after fires. There were many timber retaining walls in the recent Wye River fire that contributed fuel and many houses had items stored below that could also burn. Use rocks for mulch around the house, use stone or steel for retaining walls, use decks that are fire rated. Always have your gas tanks chained in an upright position so that they cannot fall over and the vent is pointing away from your home.

Don't become complacent and inspect your property and those of friends and neighbours. Fire prevention needs to be community driven and assisting neighbours is important.

Local Government, Emergency Management, CFA and building regulations can only do so much to educate and build more resilient homes. Your safety and is your responsibility.

Next month we will look at why houses are lost in bushfires.

*Julie Lee holds qualifications in Planning, Conservation (Native Vegetation) and Bushfire Planning and can be contacted at [julie@nrlinks.com.au](mailto:julie@nrlinks.com.au).*

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## High Tea at Raffles to a Mug in a Bamganie Shearing Shed

Marg Cooper

One week we were enjoying High Tea at Raffles in Singapore and the following week it's smoko in the shearing shed at Bamganie. What a contrast! From elegant dining in an iconic Grand Hotel that was built in 1887 in colonial style, to a mug in our humble shearing shed! Raffles was named after Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles who came to Singapore in 1819 and established a trading post for the British East India Company. The delightful practice of afternoon tea, which the British brought to Singapore, has been faithfully retained at Raffles and is a most memorable and satisfying experience for tourists. The turbaned Sikh doorman and the meticulously attired waiters attend to your every need. Guests are offered savouries and sweets complemented by a large selection of teas to drink. Delicate finger sandwiches, mini pastries and warm scones with thick clotted cream and homemade jams are offered as are small slices and cakes. These adorn a silver three tier afternoon tea set as along with warm local delights that allow guests to discover the flavours of Southeast Asia.

We were most impressed with Singapore. It is a modern city with outstanding architecture, and the scale of building is monumental. Older buildings have been faithfully restored and repurposed and some structures like the Gardens by the Bay are "just amazing"! Singapore is spotlessly clean and in 1963 the government began

"greening" or establishing parks, gardens and nature reserves. Singapore is a global commerce, finance and transport hub serving some of the busiest sea and air trade routes. Its economy is based on external trade and human capital. There are approximately 5.5 million people living on the main island, only 278 sq miles, and 63 smaller islands. Since independence in 1965 extensive land reclamation has increased the total size by 23%. Being only one degree from the equator Singapore has no seasons, it is hot and wet all year round.

Singaporeans we met seemed extremely proud of Singapore. It has one of the lowest rates of drug use in the world, there is a low rate of alcohol consumption, and over 90% of permanent residents own their own home. Due to the scarcity of land however, over 80 % live in subsidised high rise apartments. Everyone who can, works because there is no dole.

We were particularly interested in the history of Singapore during WW 11. We visited Changi Museum and the POW retaining areas as well as the underground bunker on Fort Channing where the British surrendered to the Japanese in February 1942. In the folders of POW names we managed to find Peter Campbell Lamb who was a prisoner for 3½ years in Changi and later became a Soldier Settler at Meredith.

*Eliza Emmlin and Marg Cooper travelled to Singapore on September 17.*



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## Meredith Cooking Club

*Fiona Cameron*



After having missed a few months of the Cooking Club, I finally got there for the October session. And what a night to go! Our lively group of eight got together in the kitchen at the Community Centre to concoct a veritable feast of delicious Thai food, something I would certainly never have contemplated at home – my fellow cooks were more than likely of the same opinion.

Arriving at 6:30, we immediately launched into a flurry of chopping, slicing and sizzling. The aromas emanating were exotic, very tantalising and promised of the meal to come. Jarna had cobbled together a range of six dishes for us to prepare – a Red Curry Paste, Hot and Sour Coconut Chicken Soup, Stir-fry Lemongrass Beef, a Duck Red Curry, Prawn Pad Thai and to top it all off, a dessert of Coconut Sago with fresh mango.

The components took a little longer to prepare than anticipated, much to do with searching for the ingredients which were arrayed in profusion on the bench but also most of us were unfamiliar with dealing with some of those ingredients. I overheard several of the group saying they had never had Thai food, never used or eaten chillis and so on. But gradually, the meals came together.

The worst of the cooking implements were washed and put away, the table wiped down and set and finally we all sat to enjoy the feast. The soup was absolutely fantastic but then so was each dish in its turn. None of the food was overly "hot" but all was delightfully zingy to the point of



being subtle. I might add that I am accustomed to eating spicy food so subtle may not be a word others would use but I heard no one say that they couldn't handle the level of spiciness. As is normally the case, we don't eat a

huge amount of any one dish but rather a modest serve of each – how else could we manage six different components. I think my favourite was the sago dessert as the encore. It was simple, sweetish and finished the meal perfectly.

Another flurry at the sink with wet tea towels all over the place and we retired to our homes. November will see a preliminary cooking session preparing some of the Christmas staples – plum pudding, short bread, truffles perhaps and other bibs and bobs that can be prepared ahead of December.

### Next Dates :

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## Marg's Book Review

### “Flesh Wounds” by Richard Glover

“Who’s got the weirdest parents?” is a dinner party game that Richard Glover often played. He usually won by regaling guests with light hearted anecdotes of his parents, of their neglect and indifference. However what started as amusing entertainment at dinner parties became a journey into his past, which he records in this book.

His mother was so cold she boasted that she’s never had sex with her husband, and that the birth of her son was due to a visionary gynaecologist, thus rendering Richard the “first test tube baby born in Australia”. His mother fabricated a posh family background, changed her name several times, put on airs and graces, was a compulsive cleaner, abandoned her siblings and parents, ran off with Richard’s English teacher and neglected her child.

His father was a distant alcoholic, who ran through a gamut of wives, yachts and failed dreams. Both parents made it clear that looking after Richard was a burden. They didn’t really behave like parents to him or as partners to each other.

Richard eventually accepted that the only way to make sense of the present was to go back to the past. The book is about his parents and his relationship with them. He calls it an imperfect childhood and he calculates that maybe 40% of people don’t get the parents they ordered. But he also recognises the resilience of human beings. Some get crushed but most find the love somewhere else. Not having the perfect parents is not the end of the story.

Richard experienced adventures and misadventures while growing up and both were probably the product of an adolescence unencumbered by parenting. Some were great and some were quite awful, including being preyed on by paedophiles. The way his life has flourished is testament to not being a victim. He believes that a story like this comes out of your heart and onto the page on the shelf and then you can walk away from it.

Richard Glover is a broadcaster, columnist and author. He is happily married with two sons. A review described Richard Glover as having joined a fleet of scribes whose talent has swelled as a consequence of trauma.

Truth can leave wounds – even if they are only Flesh Wounds!

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### **Hurry before it's too late!!**

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To celebrate our 10th birthday we are giving away a holiday to the **Gold Coast** valued @ **\$2,384!!!**

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Over the next few months we will work with the Golden Plains community to determine our strategic directions and objectives for a new four year (2017-2021) Council Plan.

The Plan describes Council's strategic objectives, ways to achieve the objectives, indicators for measuring progress and the resources required to implement the Plan for at least four years. In short, it is a roadmap to how we can get to where we want to go.

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You do a quick check of your reflexes and find everything in relatively good working order. You wonder if your competitors are doing the same. Have they got butterflies bumping aggressively against the wall of their stomachs? Have they got friends behind them, ready to jolt them into action if they get too nervous to react fast enough? The faceless, nameless competition bugs you while you wait.

Your mind races. Is there time to go the toilet? No, definitely not. Should I retest the equipment to ensure perfect reliability? Don't be ridiculous! Everything about this moment is reminding you of grade six athletics when you were poised at the starting line, knowing that some of the other kids were faster than you but hoping that there were plenty more that were slower. You knew that certain children had an unfair advantage but you tried to push that from your mind as you waited for the starting gun. Three minutes left.

Your fingers are itching to go. You triple check that everything is in position. You begin to block out the noises around you as people gather behind you, waiting to see what will happen, hoping that you come off the winner and bring victory to all those with something riding on this moment.

Now there is nothing but silence. You get into your starting position and watch the timer. It moves agonisingly slowly. Just the way time does when you watch the water boiling through your new glass kettle and discover that not only does a watched pot never boil, but you also may very well be adhering to the 'small things, small minds' phrase. Anyway...you pull yourself back into the moment just in time to see the numbers click to zero.

You jolt into action. You smack down the button on the mouse so hard you think you may have broken it. The web page refreshes and your heart beats hard against your chest. No time for butterflies now. The page loads, the tickets are there. As fast as your hands will allow you click '2' from the drop down menu before simultaneously clicking 'best available' and picking up your credit card. There is an anxious moment while you wait for the screen to reload. You unconsciously cross your fingers and hear your audience's breath stop.

The screen loads. Your heart drops. There are four ominous red words on the screen 'sorry, no tickets left'. You glance unbelievably at the clock. It has been thirty seconds since you took off at lighting speed. The people behind you gasp with disappointment and you know that despite kind words, they are silently cursing your ticket-buying ability.

*Gemma*

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A creamy coloured egg, the size of a pinhead, drifted down through the water. It slowly sank to rest on the brown rotting leaves lying on the mud at the bottom of the still pool. Over the next day, it became yellow-brown. A day later, eyespots appeared. After two weeks, the egg was dark orange, ready for hatching. When the larva emerged, it was encased in a sheath, from which it quickly escaped. It had a broad head, with an eye on each side and short antennae. Behind its head, attached to the thorax were six jointed legs. Its abdomen was wide with eleven segments, each covered by a plate across its body. Inside the end of its abdomen were its gills. The larva, known as a nymph or mud-eye, pumped water over its gills, extracting oxygen, then expelling a jet, allowing it to dart rapidly through the water. The mud-eye hid among the reeds at the edge of the pool, where it was less obvious to predators, such as fish, frogs and waterbirds. It waited. A wriggling mosquito larva swam closer and closer. The mud-eye darted towards it, its jaws extending rapidly as it struck the wriggler and ate it.

Over the next year, the mud-eye moulted ten times, as it grew. It caught larger prey, including tadpoles, aquatic beetles and small fish. After its last moult, the mud-eye ceased feeding. Its body began to change. One morning it crawled up a reed and out of the water for the first time. Its claws held the stalk as its skin split open down its back. Over the next hour, an adult emerged, his long body soft and dull, his wings crumpled. His skin hardened. Air expanded his body. His transparent wings spread as he pumped blood-like fluid into the veins. The brown shell of his last moult remained clinging to the reed as the dragonfly flew away.

The dragonfly soon left the water, chased away by an aggressive male. Over the next few days his body colours brightened with patterns of yellow, brown and black. His two large compound eyes and three smaller ones gave him excellent vision in most directions. His four wings, capable of moving independently, allowed him to hover and fly in any direction, including up, down and backwards, and to change course abruptly. He was a predator of smaller insects, catching them easily in his legs as he flew.

When he had matured, the dragonfly returned to the water. He entered another dragonfly's territory. The younger dragonfly was larger and after an aerial skirmish, noisy with whirring wings, he chased away the former owner of twenty metres of the reedy shoreline. Now he patrolled his territory constantly, chasing away any intruding males, feeding and waiting for females to

arrive. At night, he rested on a reed. He needed to be warm in the morning sun before flying. When a female, ready to mate, approached, the male grasped her behind her head, with the end of his abdomen. The female bent her body under his to collect sperm from under the front of his abdomen. They flew in this wheel position. When the female was ready to lay eggs, she let go of the male, but he continued to hold her, guarding her from other males. She laid her eggs in the water of his territory, using his sperm to fertilise them. When she had finished, she left the water to hunt away from the males.

One night while the dragonfly rested on a reed, it began to rain heavily. By morning the water level had risen. Dragonflies are cold-blooded. Before he had a chance to warm up sufficiently to fly, he was seen by a frog in the water among the reeds. The frog swam closer and flicked out her sticky tongue. The dragonfly stuck. He was pulled off the reed, into the frog's mouth and swallowed. Another male would take over his territory.

In the water nearby, dark orange eggs were ready to hatch. More mud-eyes emerged.



*Wendy*

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## Book Launch

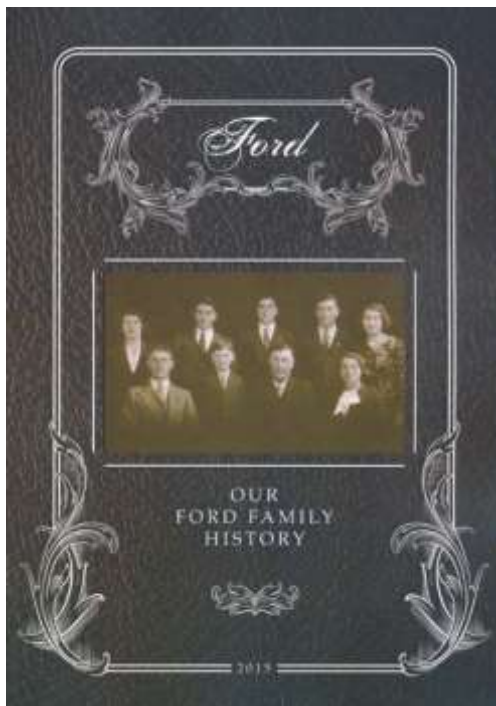
*Marg Cooper*

On Sunday, September 25, 2016 the book "Our Ford Family History" was launched at a bbq lunch at Elaine Recreation Reserve. The date was chosen because it was the Sunday following Grandma and Grandpa Ford's wedding on the 21/9/1910. The venue was chosen because it was where Grandma Ford's Sunday School had been relocated. {The club room near the tennis courts was formerly adjacent to the Anglican Church at Elaine and Mrs Ford taught Sunday School in it.}

After a Ford family reunion in 2012 Carmel Bant {Ford} rang Gaye Welford {Ford} to suggest that the family stop talking about putting a family history together and actually do it. The reasoning was that as many of the rellies had spent quite a bit of energy researching, their efforts should not be wasted and that the cousins were all getting on in age and if they didn't get onto it soonish then it would be too late.

So Bev, Robert, Joan, Gaye, Carmel and Jenny met nearly every month around the kitchen table at the home of Joan McMillan in Ballarat. Her co-ordination and generous hospitality kept the group coming back for more and more. Alva, Lindsay and Lyle Ford had started the process of researching and recording. They were three of the seven children of Robert and Alice Ford

{Brawn} who farmed at Morrisons on the farm established by Robert's parents Charles and Frances Ford {Ferguson} who had travelled from Ireland and arrived in Geelong before moving up the Moorabool River to take up land at Morrisons.



The "Our Ford Family History" book that was launched is a credit to all concerned including Gabrielle Quirk who prepared the book for printing. It contains 270 pages of both Brawn and Ford family details, photos, memories, recollections and reminiscences and a page at the back which is headlined "And now it's over to the next generation" which invites younger family members to write their story. Copies of the book had been ordered by family members and copies were kindly donated to Meredith History Interest Group and Ballan Historical Society.

Bev Way, daughter of George Ford, the eldest child of Robert and Alice Ford, told how she was thrilled that the collection of family history, stories and photos was now in print. Although she grew up in Melbourne she remembered the many holidays she spent at Elaine staying with Grandma Ford. She congratulated and thanked all who were involved with the

production of the book.

On Sunday, November 23, 2014 descendants of Charles and Frances Ford gathered at Morrisons Cemetery to unveil a plaque which commemorates one of the five original families who settled in the area over 150 years ago.

**Opening Hours:**

**Monday to Thursday:**

8.15am to 8pm

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## it'S HISTORY

Meredith History Interest Group

### Car and Truck Show and Tell

Locals with interesting vehicles were invited to display, dress up and talk about them at the Meredith Golf Club on Sunday, October 2. Eleven vehicles lined up on the south side of the clubhouse, out of the wind and on high ground.

Geoff Hardy brought his 1938 Ford Truck. The Australian Government bought 500 of this model and sold them to Primary Producers after the war. Geoff told that they did have a fuel problem and a cable brake system problem. Sometimes the cable stretched, then there were no brakes!

Adrian Mohr brought his 1968 Bedford Truck. It was a Corio Shire Truck before Harry Mohr bought it in the early 1970's. It is still used on "Morbroke" and has been used as a fire truck during the summers.

Don Atherton brought his 1947 Model M Bedford Truck. The Red Beddy was manufactured in Luton and imported and assembled by GMH in Fishermans Bend. It was first owned by a farmer at Branhholme near Hamilton. It has only done 47,000 miles since new. Don has had the truck fully restored so now the Red Bedford is in arguably better condition than when it left the factory 69 years ago.

John Stevens brought his 1957 Ford Customline. It was bought new in 1966 by Chris and Kit Mooney of Meredith from Eclipse Ford in Ballarat. John has owned it since his Aunt died in 1988.

Warwick Pitcher brought his 1975 Oldsmobile Delta 88 Royal, 2 door convertible. It was sold new in Idaho Falls, USA, then went to Los Angeles, then Brisbane, then to Warwick. The original spare tyre is still in the boot, it's great to drive and still smells like a new car.

Sam brought his prototype Holden Sedan. It is interesting that Sam now works with the Ford Designing Team.

Nerene Backhouse brought her 1956 Austin A30 which she calls Annie Austin. It was made in Birmingham, imported to Australia as a CKD {completely knocked down} Kit. The car has lived in Ballarat all her life, the first owner was a school mistress and Nerene is the sixth owner. Nerene tells that Annie travelled slowly back to Ballarat after the event on October 2, into driving rain and a strong head wind.

John Parkinson brought his 1926 Willey's Whippet. It was made in America and was the first car to have four wheel brakes, engine lubrication and an enclosed reticulated water pump system. He remarked that the back seat is bigger than the front seat because a chauffeur would have driven and the owners would have sat comfortably in the back.

Roy Ritchie brought his 1967 1300 Volkswagen. It was sold new by Cam Dawson, Geelong, is all original and has only had two owners. Roy has owned it for twenty five

years.

**Robert Cook brought his 1952 AL160 International Truck.** Trans Otway first used it to pull a small semi-trailer from Geelong to Melbourne daily then used it to deliver beer barrels around Geelong before Graham Baker, then Ron Lowne then Lloyd and Robert Cooke owned it. Ten years ago it became famous when it saved property in the Anakie fires with a crew of Robert, Doug McFarlane and Kevin Parkinson.

Michael Stafford brought his 1958 Jaguar Mark 8 sedan. It has had three owners, has done 43,000 miles and has been repainted but is largely original. Michael has owned it since 1986.

Thankyou to all who brought vehicles, dressed up and prepared information to tell to the crowd.

### MHIG has moved...again!

We are delighted to announce that we now have a permanent home. We have now begun the huge task of moving into the old Shire Hall, formerly the Meredith Kindergarten. The building has been cleaned, re floored and new carpet laid. Significant damage to the walls has yet to be fixed but hopefully will be finished in time for our annual general meeting in February next year.

Many thanks to Fay and Doug McFarlane, Marg Cooper and David Steel who managed the move from the Anglican Church Hall. A wonderful effort considering the volume of material that MHIG has collected in a very short time.

We are very grateful to the Meredith Anglican Community who generously made the Hall available so we were able to continue collecting and cataloguing while we waited for our new home. Thank you very much.

We now face the task of bringing order and unpacking the collection and will be very grateful for some help. We usually meet on the last Thursday of each month from about 9 am but until we get organised, we will probably be there more frequently. So if you drive past and see cars parked outside or the door is open, please stop and come in. Love to see you!

*Jan Crump, Hon Secretary.*

**2017 Calendar.** Marg Cooper has created a calendar for next year containing local content. The calendar will be available at local shops in the near future, at MHIG's new home at the old Shire Hall (when open) and from Marg on 52 868201. Proceeds will help pay for storing and cataloguing equipment for MHIG. A "Meredith" Calendar will be a great Christmas present!!

**Golden Plains  
Mobile Library**  
At the Meredith Primary School

Thursday 9am to 10.30am



## Meredith Floods

Meredith, Friday. A frightful thunderstorm broke over this district on Thursday night. The storm lasted without intermission from 11 o'clock p.m. to 3 a.m. Rain fell in torrents; the roar of the thunder was deafening. Reports have reached me today of bridges in the shire being carried bodily away; two at Bamganie, and one at Steiglitz. I enclose a note I just had from Mr Robinson, the Shire Engineer, who has been for some time confined to his bed. The following is the letter referred to:—

" I think you had better come across— the flood last night swept away the bridge —on the Meredith road, below Cahir's; and I don't know what other damage is done, but from all accounts there must have been a great deal. Collins came in this morning, and told me that the flood ran over the concrete dam—a greater body of water than ever was seen since it was built. He does not know, but I am afraid of the bridges below. Six and a half inches of rainfall at his metre! J. Anderson's house flooded; half filled with mud! Old Johnnie missing; poor fellow, I fear for him. New Chum gully half washed away; not a particle of our bridge left; no communication across the creek. I am trying to get down to it; come. (Signed) Allan Robinson."

*Geelong Advertiser (Vic. : 1859 - 1926) Saturday 10 February 1883*

Rain has fallen since Thursday evening without ceasing, and is still falling (Saturday). Rivers and creeks are flooded and all dams are overflowing. The railway reservoir is full, for the first time since it was constructed six years ago. People refused to cross Slate Quarries' Bridge on the Moorabool River on Saturday, as the flood was within a foot of the decking, and the structure was shaking. It is reported that the bridge known as Spiller's, at Maude, has been washed away, but the report lacks confirmation. Total points since Thursday, 466.  
*Geelong Advertiser (Vic. : 1859 - 1926) Monday 25 September 1916*

*Jan McDonald, Meredith History Interest Group*



*Some of the old charmers at the Show and Tell*



Sadly...



We didn't get a report on the Back to Steiglitz last month, but we heard it was well attended.

## Help with Exam Stress

*Sarah Henderson, Federal Member for Corangamite.*

As over 1,000 Year 12 students in Corangamite commence Year 12 exams this week, leading digital mental health organisation ReachOut Australia, supported by the Australian Government together with private and corporate donors, has released resources to support students and their parents through this stressful time.

The formal exam period commences on Wednesday 26 October when VCE English will be held.

ReachOut's, There's Life After Year 12 campaign, features prominent Australians including actor Rahart Adams, journalist Sarah Harris and Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, with video messages of support for this year's Year 12 students.

The campaign is designed to help Year 12 students and their parents know how to manage stress and anxiety during exam time.

We all know exams are pretty stressful at the best of times, and they can be really overwhelming if you feel your whole life depends on the results.

Coping with stress, and school and study problems are the issues that concern young people most. ReachOut can provide advice and support and last year more than 130,000 people accessed study and stress related content.

ReachOut now has new content available to help parents too.

Parents can also experience exam stress and want to know how best to support their teen without adding to existing pressure or projecting unrealistic expectations. Stress around exam time can not only impact a teenager's mental health but also their physical health and general wellbeing. Knowing how to help teenagers manage their stress in the lead-up to exams can help them to study and also reduce the tension at home.

I wish current Year 12 students all the best for their final exams. It's important to remember that your marks don't define you. There are many different options, opportunities and career paths – there's not just one path to your future.

More info: [au.reachout.com/](http://au.reachout.com/)



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## What's on this Month!



**Saturday 5th November -**

**Live Music with "Bittersweet Remedy"**

*Playing a vast selection of songs from all eras, including current hits and classic party favorites, they cater for all types of functions. Starting at 9pm*

**Friday 18th November - Back by popular demand**

**"Steno & Gracie"**

*Heath Stenton & Bret Grace play all styles of music - with Heath playing his much loved Maton acoustic guitar & Gracie playing his Tenor Saxophone these guys sing cruisy ballads through to energetic country songs! Always a great night kicking off at 9pm!*

**Sunday 20th November**



**Don't miss the Meredith Car Show**



*Kicking off at 10.00am - 3.00pm this is a day not to be missed!*

*Held at the Meredith Cricket Club - with only a gold coin donation to enter!*

*Hearns Meredith Hotel kitchen will be open all day from 12.00pm onwards.*

*Why not come along for a meal or a cold beer after the car show!*

*Meal specials will be advertised on the day!*

**Friday 25th November - Live Music with "CHIC" from 9pm**

*This duo plays over 500 numbers from 50's through to present time. Singing songs from, Robbie Williams, INXS, Dragon, Daddy Cool, ABBA, Blondie, Cher, Tina Turner, K.D. Lang, and of course all of the greats such as Elvis, The Beatles, Neil Diamond, Johnny Cash, Tom Jones, and Rolling Stones to name just a few.*

**51-53 Staughton Street, Meredith.**

**For Bookings or enquiries phone: 52861311**

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**Your Hosts: Caz Hearn & Family**