

Meredith & district News

April 2017

Our FREE Community Newsletter since 1972



**COMMUNITY
CENTRE COURSES
BROCHURE
INSIDE**

inside



- **FREE** Golf Clinics
- MCC Premiers
- Vale Richard Sergent and Tributes to John Nolan
- A 70 and three 60s - Two Birthdays and an anniversary

...and the usual MUCH MORE!

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

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advertising@meredithnews.com.au

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accounts@meredithnews.com.au

WEB

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

ONLINE PHOTOS

We do not publish children's photos online.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

DISCLAIMER

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

connect

**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

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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 (from mobile phone)	000
Meredith Police Station	000 or 112
Power Failure	5286 1222
Nurse-On-Call	132 412
Mental Health Advice	1300 606024
Poisons Information	1300 280 737
Barwon Water	13 11 26
SES Emergency - flood & storm	1300 656 007
24 Hour Helpline	132 500
24 Hour Drug & Alcohol Counselling	1800 629 572
Kids Help Line	1800 888 236
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

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PRIMARY

SCHOOL

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RECREATION

RESERVE

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The years teach much which the days never knew.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson





Community

Meredith Senior Citizens

Jim Hynds

Meredith Seniors gathered at Hearn's Hotel for a luncheon on Monday, March 23. It was a somewhat sad occasion as news was received of the untimely passing of Rick Sergeant, husband of Dawn and son in law of Betty. He was well known and a popular identity in our community. He will be missed by so many. Our condolences go to Dawn, her family and Robert.

We must again thank Hearn's Hotel for a fantastic meal. There was a great variety of dishes to choose from and the tea and coffee and after dinner mints were a great bonus.

We are looking forward to our trip to the Shell Club in Geelong for the Morning Melodies Tribute to Elvis Presley and friends, next week and our up and coming bus trip that we are planning.

"Go Seniors"

Meredith Landcare

Members and non members are invited to the next meeting for Meredith Landcare on
Wednesday 19th April, 7pm
at the Meredith Community Centre.
All Welcome.

Notice of Annual General Meeting of Meredith Community Centre Inc.

Monday 22nd May 10.00am
at Meredith Community Learning Hub
4 Russell Street Meredith

The Last Photo in the Camera



ANZAC DAY

Tuesday 25th April 2017

Starting at 9.45am

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

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



Easter Message

Happy Easter!!! If Christmas is a time for joy, then Easter is the superlative: the time for most joy.

It is Easter which confirms for us that we are loved more than we can possibly imagine – purely and simply for who we are regardless of what we might do. Welcomed any time we want to turn to our loving God and say hi – any time any where any situation.

God bless, Fr Charles
Parish Priest, Catholic Parish of Meredith
5286 1230 parishofmeredith@bigpond.com

Our cover photo from our March issue to usher in autumn was an unusual pose of a grounded wedge tailed eagle, taken by Ian Penna at his Meredith property. And thank you to Lindy Allinson for the Steiglitz photos that graced our February cover and inside pages. We didn't acknowledge them at the time. And this month's front page is, of course, the Golden Plains Festival, held last month before a large and happy crowd. This photo was taken by Theresa Harrison

Our editorial deadline for next month is
Thursday April 27th.

Classifieds

First insertion of small ads are FREE to district residents

Church News



ANGLICAN

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

Service Times;

Church of Epiphany - Meredith.

11.00am 4th Sunday each month, Holy Communion at Anglican Church.

11.00am 2nd Sunday of month, Holy Communion at Uniting Church

St James. - Morrisons:

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

1st Sunday of the month at 5pm, 3rd Sunday of the month at 9am.

UNITING CHURCH

Monthly Combined Holy Communion services.

2nd Sunday, 11am at Meredith Uniting Church

4th Sunday at 11am at Meredith Anglican Church

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

Enquires Doug McFarlane 52861283.

Rev. Lindell Gibson 53413 200

SERBIAN ORTHODOX : Fr. Theodore—Ph. 5341 5568

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

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA.

St. Marys House of Prayer - Elaine

Solemn mass Sundays 10.00am.

Rosary and Vespers Saturday 5.00pm.

Confessions by appointment Fr. James Ph. 5341 5544

St Josephs—Meredith - Mass times for April/May

Winchelsea every Saturday @ 6 p.m.

Inverleigh every Sunday at 9 a.m. (except last Sunday of the month which is at the Stadium in Bannockburn)

1st Sunday of the month Family Mass in Inverleigh.

Anakie 11 a.m. Mass Sunday April 9th/ 23rd May 7th/ 21st.

Meredith 11 a.m. Mass Sunday April 2nd/ 30th May 14th/ 28th.

St. Joseph's Parish Meredith Easter Ceremonies 2017

Holy Thursday 13th April : Mass of the Lord's

Supper Winchelsea 7.30 p.m. Good Friday 14th April:

Ecumenical Way of the Cross Meredith 10.a.m. Ecumenical

Way of the Cross Winchelsea 10.30 a.m. Solemn Good Friday

Liturgy Bannockburn 3.00 p.m. (Bannockburn Sports Stadium

adjacent to the Primary School) Holy Saturday 15th April : Easter

Vigil mass 8.00 p.m. Mass Meredith

Easter Sunday 16th April : Winchelsea 8.00 a.m.

Inverleigh 9. 30 a.m. Anakie 11.00 a.m.

Mother & Daughter Breakfast on Saturday May 13th .

Join all mothers, grandmothers, aunties and nieces to celebrate motherhood with a morning of lovely food and pampering at the Station Café in Bannockburn.

Details ring Parish Office 52861230 or watch May newsletter.

St. Joey's Op Shop

We have a quantity of good furniture and bric a brac. Specials for this month are a large range of electrical items all tagged and tested by a qualified electrician . Great prices.

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



Meredith Community Centre

working for your community

Making dreams come true. That's what we try to do every day. Whether it is something small like helping out with your CV and job application or something larger like gaining the skills to help you on the next step toward a job or further study or learning a completely new skill. It might be simply an opportunity to have time to do other things while your child attends occasional care. Every day someone comes through our front door with a dream or a need, some we can do straight away, others may take some time. What might your dream be? Can we help you make it come true?

We have had some great classes this Term. I was pleased to be able to deliver the Word class, the students were really pleased to get some tips and tricks for working with some of the lesser known features which make working with word much quicker and easier. Next term we will continue our technology classes including a staying safe online class. You may think these days this is not really necessary, but I recently had a call from a person who had had been duped into giving them control of her computer. Fortunately she became suspicious and disconnected them, but it does show how important it is to be informed and prepared. With winter coming on you can come along and learn to knit and crochet including learning the tricks to knitting cosy socks. The dates for these and all our other classes are in our Course Guide.

We have changed the distribution of our Course Guide by including it in the Newsletter as the centre insert. We hope you will find this a better way of receiving it. Please flip over to the centre of the Newsletter to view our classes and activities.

Jo and the childcare staff have been really busy with occasional childcare this term with all of our sessions well subscribed and busy, we have a few spaces so give us a call whether you looking for a regular booking or just an occasional spot.

Wishing you a safe and happy Easter from myself and the staff.

Till next month.

Pam

Meredith Community Centre

4 Russell Street Meredith 3333 Phone 5286 0700

learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au

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

Fri Closed

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

Recreation



Elaine Cricket

James Parkinson

The last game for the season was a loss against Golden Point over two days at Victoria Park in Ballarat. Although it wasn't the best game we have played all season, there were some wins and losses by the team. At the start of the season, we only had 9 players for the first two games, but we recruited some players from around the Buninyong district. They played the game correctly with a few no balls and wides when bowled. We had an amazing year from day one to the very end. It was a bit disappointing when the team didn't make the finals but we look forward to starting fresh next year.

The under 14's played an outstanding year, with them making it into the semi-final but then losing against Wendouree. I got to field for them. They played a great game and it was really close, but Wendouree were a bit more experienced in the under 14 firsts.

Thanks Elaine CC for a great season and thanks to all the people who help around the club making it a great place to be. I am looking forward to the end of season celebrations at the Elaine Rec Reserve. I can't wait to play another season with Elaine CC.

Elaine Auskick



4.45 pm to 5.45pm Thursdays from 27th April 2017 at the Elaine Reserve

The Auskick program makes learning to play AFL fun, safe and easy for boys and girls. Through weekly coaching children will learn the skills vital for future physical activity and how to interact with other children as part of a team in small group activities. The NAB AFL Auskick program is for primary school aged children 5 to 12. (Children must turn 5 in the calendar year to participate) For further information visit aflauskick.com.au/

Meredith Cricket Club 2016/17 Premiers

Terry Hart



The Meredith Cricket Club has won its first senior premiership since 1997 with a thrilling 2 wicket victory over Sth Barwon in the Geelong Cricket Association, Division 1, One Day Competition.

Meredith captain Brendan Rayner won the toss and sent Sth. Barwon in to bat on a difficult batting wicket. Early wickets to Jack Beggs and Rhys Scott had the opposition in early trouble at 2 for 14, but some quick boundaries took the momentum away from the Meredith side. Some tight bowling from the Hart boys, Aaron and Joel in the middle overs put the pressure back on Sth Barwon and wickets began to fall at a steady rate. The opposition were eventually bowled out for 112 runs in the 36th over. Jack Beggs- 3/47, Rhys Scott- 2/24, Aaron Hart-2/11, Joel Hart- 2/14 and Terry Hart- 1/14 were the only bowlers used in the innings.

The Meredith run chase got off to a shaky start with our boys being in early trouble at 2 wickets down for 6 runs. A steady partnership between Vice Captain Aaron Hart (27) and Tim Delany (21) had the Rams closing in on victory. A flurry of wickets however, saw the Rams slump to 7 for 86, still requiring 27 runs for victory with 6 overs remaining. When Rhys Scott was run out with 10 runs still required, a thrilling finish to the game was on the cards. Co-Vice Captain Jack Beggs (28 not out) had batted sensationally to get the Rams within sight of victory. With 8 balls remaining in the innings and 8 wickets down, 4 runs were needed to bring home the flag. Enter Patty Lannen who proceeded to smash a 6 over mid wicket and finally win that elusive premiership for the Meredith boys. Fair to say the Rams celebrated long and hard after 20 years without Premiership glory.

(Award winners next page.)



Back Row- Brendan Wild (President), Terry Hart, Rhys Scott, Lachie Cameron, Joel Hart, Euan Cahir, Damian Brunt. Front Row- Shane Grinter, Brendan Rayner (Captain), Jack Beggs (Vice Captain), Aaron Hart (Vice Captain), Pat Lannen, Tim Delany



Meredith Cricket Club Award Winners


The following members of the Meredith Cricket Club received performance awards for season 2016/17.



Top: First XI Award Winners
Aaron Hart, Terry Hart, Joel Hart,
Pat Lannen and Shane Grinter

Above: Second XI Award Winners
Damien Brunt, Will Young and Luke Young

Photos by Cathie Boer



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Normal Trading Hours Monday - Friday 9am - 5.30pm

Saturday 9am - 1pm

Come in and Visit us for store specials



have you heard this one?

This could be most contrived joke you will ever hear, but we love it anyway - Ed.)

Mick Jagger's son, on his way to a party, dressed as a frog, goes to a bank to get a loan. He is interviewed by Loans Officer, Patrick Black, who is concerned that the small ornament offered as collateral is inadequate. He asks his manager for advice. The manager considers the situation, and says: "Knick Knack, Paddy Black, give the frog a loan. His old man's a Rolling Stone."

**GOOD FRIDAY at ST JOSEPHS
14TH APRIL**

**ECUMENICAL WAY OF THE
CROSS**

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US

10AM HOT CROSS BUNS

10.30AM WAY OF THE CROSS

**MEET AT ST JOSEPH'S HALL,
LAWLER STREET MEREDITH**




Meredith Golf Club

The Meredith Golf Club is running the lessons detailed on the next page. This is a great opportunity to experience this wonderful game that combines sport, exercise and social interaction, so why not give it a go.

We are also seeking “active” members to our club - members that play in club competitions at least 4 weeks out of 5 and are prepared and able to assist with keeping the club operating. It is felt that we need at least 10 new “active” members to continue operating. Failure to do so will in all probability result in the club closing in June this year.

So, if you have any interest in exploring golf as a regular activity, **NOW** is the time to act on it.

A large, out-of-focus image of a golf ball sitting on a tee, serving as a background for the contact information.

Denis Gear
Secretary/treasurer
Enquires ph. 0353 415 748

Give Golf a Go



PlayGolf



Meredith Golf Club

Midland Highway,
Meredith

Equipment provided

Dress comfortably (flat shoes)

Beginner Golf Clinics

4 weeks Play Golf

***Sundays 30th April,
7th, 14th & 21st May 2017***

Time: 10.00am - 11.00am

FREE

***For enquiries or to register,
please contact:
Tony Collier on 0408 519 628***

from the MAYOR



Cr Des Phelan
Mayor, Golden Plains Shire

Greetings and best wishes for the coming month.

At the first Council meeting for 2017 a new Local Law was adopted. This will bring changes for residents, particularly in terms of dog-on-lead areas, use of shipping containers on private property, and operation of recreational motor vehicles.

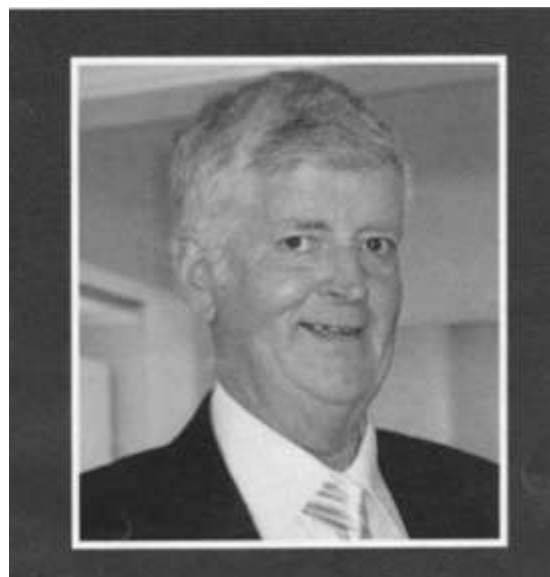
Prescribed dog on lead areas have been defined in the townships of Bannockburn, Inverleigh, Lethbridge, Linton, Meredith, Napoleons, Rokewood, Smythesdale and Teesdale. Signage will be placed in relevant areas where dogs are to remain on leads with further information available on Council website.

Council will be conducting a review of the locations and numbers of shipping containers across the Shire. Individual residents will be contacted regarding arrangements to ensure compliance with the local law.

Various restrictions have been put in place around the allowed use of motorised recreational vehicles in residential and rural areas. Council officers will be working directly with residents to resolve any potential ongoing issues.

To find out more about the local laws and how they may affect you, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au. Alternatively you may view a copy of the local law at the Council offices in Bannockburn or Linton. If you wish to discuss a particular aspect of the Local Law please contact Council's Environment Services Team on 5220 7111.


Vale to Richard John Sergent



At 10.30 am on Friday, March 24 a service was held in the Meredith Memorial Hall to celebrate the life of Richard John Sergent. Sadly he died on Friday, March 17th as a result of tractor accident on his farm in Marchments Road, Meredith. An article printed in the last issue of the newsletter described his shearing career but Chaplain Neil Galbraith told of many of his other interests including water skiing, aviaries of birds, fishing, fox hunting, his love of horses, his whippet dog, caravan holidays and his cat Herbert. He was a gentle giant and a hard worker. His children Neil and Lisa told that they had happy childhoods and that their father cared deeply for his family and adored his five grandchildren.

Rick's brother Robert who was eleven years younger, told how as brothers they had their 'ups and downs' but that Rick and Dawn had cared for him since he came to live on the farm in a unit. Rick had his first heart attack in 2009 and another attack in December 2016.

The welcome Music "Click Go the Shears" sung by Slim Dusty was a fitting song to play to welcome Rick's family and friends and all his shearing shed mates.



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Year 12 Leaders

From Meredith Kindergarten to Meredith Primary School to Ballarat Grammar

Three young students who have been attending the same school, and Kinder for 14 years have now become proud Year 12 school leaders at Ballarat Grammar. Max, Harriet and Jacob started in 3 year old Meredith Kinder, went onto Meredith Primary School and then all started at Ballarat Grammar as Year 7 students.

Ballarat Grammar celebrate Founders' Day with a service that was held on Friday 24 February. This day reflects on the history and culture of the school as we know it today. All of those present felt connected to the journey and toil of our founders, developing greater insight into how Ballarat Grammar has evolved and who has been influential in creating the school. The day also inducts the Year 12 student leaders who said their oath of leadership in front of their peers adding meaning and purpose to this tradition. Those leaders inducted are School Captains, School Vice-Captains, School Guardians, House Captains, and Round Square Captains.

Congratulations to Max Kocon – Butler House Co-Captain, Harriet Macdonald – Hayhoe House Vice-Captain and Jacob Heard School Vice-Captain and Guardian.

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Max, Harriet and Jacob



Chris McKenzie's Garden Notes

You notice things when you're working in the garden. When down on hands and knees you see insect life at close range - those that nibble and suck at the fresh green shoots and others that may well be eating the nibblers. Close by the friendly Superb Blue Wrens feast in the newly turned earth, even risking a chop with the trowel. As I prepare the vegetable beds I have been paying attention to the soil texture. After a welcome downpour of rain the earth is moist and crumbly and it looks rich despite the long dry spell.

Soil is a wondrous and complex ecosystem and is home to an abundance of microbial and bacterial life. There is a school of thought that suggests that deep digging of the earth is disruptive to all this invisible teeming life, organisms that are a vital component of the natural growing environment. If you are building a garden bed on ground that has not been worked for ages or the soil has been greatly compacted by constantly being walked over or by the use of heavy machinery, then it will need some deep digging to loosen it up and enable oxygenation and water penetration. However once the growing beds have been developed then the no-dig method encourages us to dig less and use other ways of enriching and nurturing the soil. Composted plant material, well-rotted manures and, depending on your soil and what you want to grow, additives such as lime and potash are layered to create nutrient rich growing conditions. Worms also do the job of aeration and improving soil quality.

Weeding is an issue in all gardens and weed seed banks can lie dormant deep in the earth waiting for the best conditions to flourish - soil disturbance and watering. By now we all know the value of mulch for maintaining soil condition and moisture content and for smothering weeds. So layer your well prepared beds with mulch, water in well and on the morning walk around the garden pull emerging weeds out by hand. I can hear you moaning perhaps at the time and stress on the knees required. However I have found that over time a well-tended plot throws up fewer weeds each season. Naturally unwanted plants pop up that have been brought in by mulch, compost, or dropped by birds. But this is the life of the gardener isn't it?

Consider planting a green manure crop if you have the space. I am gathering together all my out of date seed packets - peas, beans, mustard greens (particularly good for nematode infestations), salad greens. These I will scatter on the lightly scarified earth. A slight raking and watering in will result in a thick green patch in coming weeks. By late winter this 'crop' can be broken down and lightly dug into the soil. Your spring vegetable plantings will benefit from the organic and nitrogenous nourishment provided by the composted greens.

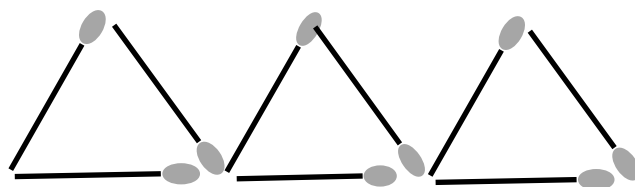
This month as well as starting to plant out the large garlic crop, I will plant out more broccoli seedlings, green endive, snow peas, and once again I will attempt to grow Brussels sprouts, a vegetable that I have consistently failed to grow well. The delicious sprout is my garden challenge. Maybe this will be the year I succeed.

Happy gardening.

Chris

Can You...?

...create five triangles by moving only three matches?



You will need some visual skills and patience to solve this one. If that doesn't work, try page 46.

ADVERTISE with US

Advertising in the M&D Newsletter is a great way to let district residents know about your business.

Full colour ads available in the March, June, September and December issues.

Ring Ian on 0409 016815

Please submit in jpeg format, if available.
See inside front cover for more details.

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What we know about...

...April

April is a mysterious beauty. The first month of the year to have 30 days, the origin of its name is unclear. The two most popular theories are that it was derived from a Latin word which means 'to open' drawing connections to the Northern Hemisphere's spring but has no relevance to us, the second being that the word Aphrilis is derived from the goddess Aphrodite thus making it her month. Whatever the origin, the first of April is a day to be on your guard and watch your trust issues amplify as the world celebrates April Fool's Day. This year it also has the privilege of hosting Easter and therefore can be thanked for chocolate-induced weight gain.

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John Edward (Jack) Nolan 28.5.1939 – 23.2.2017.

John tripped and fell at farm on Sat 18 Feb and, on road to recovery, died very suddenly and peacefully at St V's Pte on 23rd. I spoke with him half hour before on my way down in the tram and his voice was happy and bright. He was joking with the nurses and when he said he had chest pain, nurse said, 'Are you serious?' Within minutes, with all the resources of modern medicine, his time had come.

Soon after, we arrived with Chris and carers, and friend Dr John Daffy. It was very special to be able to hear from doctors and nurses who were with him and then to sit with Jack for some hours. He looked beautiful and so peaceful. I have a strong sense of his presence and peace. And grateful his last ride on the farm was on his beloved new blue tractor!

John was the love of my life and husband of almost 53 years. Loving father of Mary Louise (1966 – 1988) and Christopher (Mouse) born 1968. Much loved by his brother Willie, extended family and people of all ages.

He was second child of Jim Nolan and Bessie Bowman – sister Mary Esther died as infant, and twin brothers James (Willie) and Peter (died 2007) – the 3 brothers the closest I've even known. Grandparents John Nolan and Mary O'Neill and John Bowman and Esther Brady. Great grandfather Peter (married to Alice Halfpenny) was son of Patrick and Margaret Nolan who arrived in Melbourne in Rienzi in April 1855 with 7 of 12 children from Tuam Galway – original settlers on this land.

In the hard post war times of 1940's and with petrol rationing, 13km was a long way. So John boarded weekly with relatives all his school life in Meredith and later Geelong.

Hospitality, Bessie and Jim built sleep out bedroom for themselves as the house was usually full of people (including about 6 Woodburn PS teachers who boarded with Nan Nolan). Later John and I looked after several oldies including our parents, aunts, uncles one of who was 'old Johnnie Nolan' who returned home after 50 years on the road

At 14 with his father unwell, John had to leave school to run the farm – dashing his dream of engineering or mechanical. Hard times. He was a great fix it man of machinery and buildings, farmer, shearer, loved cars and machines. Mischief and fun – whitewash in town NY eve. Played bagpipes in Newtown and Chilwell pipe band. Several locals helped him and invited him into local organisations – St Joseph's church groups, Young Farmers, Hall Committee, CFA – youngest ever Captain Meredith CFA. This led him to encourage others. A few weeks ago, John was awarded his 60 year service medal having previously received National Award for Community Service 100th Anniversary celebration in 2013. He felt his lack of formal education but was a man learned in life.

Fun, devilment, short sheeting beds, dances, music, cards. Ferreting and spotlight shooting for rabbits for ourselves and dogs (no dry dog food in that era), restoration of erosion of land and gullies, tree planting, 1st direct seeding field day of indigenous species we collected. Transformed the farm.

My Gleeson forbears from Tipperary arrived in April 1854, and settled in Gordon as farmers. So we shared similar roots and culture of hospitality, fun, music and faith.



We started to 'go out together' when I was 16 and John 21, married April 1965 after I finished radiography. Moved in to almost finished Marajon John worked on with Alec McDonald and John Vanstan on Nolan land. With our children Mary Louise 'Lou' (1966 - 1988) and Christopher John 'Mouse' (1968 -) we became people of our place. Murph came from St Augustine's Orphanage in 1967 and lived and worked with us for 6 years. We were then in partnership with Jim and Bessie, and Willie and Helen. Several others came over years to stay a while in the rhythm of land and life with us.

Drought, 18% interest on land we bought, off farm work - me as radiographer, John as 'gas man', bus driver. Organising building, renovating included St Joseph's Parish Centre, houses, Woodburn tennis

court, Memorial Hall toilets, annex and replacing back stage wall with doors to enable more people. Dances, Balls - John and I both presidents, so some competition to get best band, Founder Port Fairy festival played early gigs in our woolshed and hall, Hawking brothers, country and bush music. Ballarat Chiodo, Hi Tone trio, 'after parties' at Marajon. Meredith Catholic Balls with up to 25 Chris's friends from Uni joining locals dressing in theme. Often John driving local bus to transport them to and from farm.

Active in getting kindergarten in Meredith, Woodburn Creek PS, closing St Joseph's PS and shifting and renovating the building to now Parish Centre, Cub leader, golf club member (enjoyed the social scene and working bees), Landcare and 1st direct seeding field day with Dept people in 1991 – local seed we had collected. Passionate Geelong supporter and member. Interchurch events and Christian Life Community (CLC) 1983 on.

Hospitality, fun holidays at Anglesea in a old bond wood caravan John bought at a clearing sale, kids birthday parties in bush at farm, bus trip with Lou and local coffee shop young people to ABCTV Countdown, later drove bus, cricket trips, another to Adelaide for 'buck's party' for friends of Chris as best man for his mate David Munro.

Chris called us Jack and Mims, and so the names stuck. He was mostly John in Meredith and Jack to other networks.

Cuppas, meals and yarns around kitchen table. And BBQ shapes. Hopeless cook! Would light the BBQ and wait..... Generous, calm presence, 'farmer of happiness' (Peelie), always

had time, rich diverse mix of friends, good mind and listener always attentive for ways to help others (as he had been helped).

After Mary Lou's death in a car accident in 1988, we wondered if we would survive, to lose one's child is such profound loss – we could not be there for one another. Sustained and carried by people and love, we gradually got back into life.

Very proud of Chris as St Patrick's College 1985 Captain, then his graduation Monash Economic/Law, employment as lawyer and move to Hanoi in 1995. After Chris's illness and life change in 1996 which left him 'locked in' and communicating non verbally, but unable to move speak or see much, life changed dramatically for us. We decided to keep Chris in Melbourne where he had people who could help him, and great network of friends, I moved to live mainly there, while Jack ran the farm. So Chris's life change came very hard (for all three of us) but somehow we were carried and sustained again by people, love and prayer, and our love and resilience grew and networks expanded. We knew Chris was hearing and understanding. A health worker by profession, I could not believe the plight of young people with very severe brain injury in Nursing homes. So began a long journey to make change. In the past 20 years we have achieved much and Chris is regarded as quite exceptional, that would have been impossible without Jack holding the fort at home. We commuted between city and farm and talked at least twice daily on phone. I called him the hidden hero. He joked our marriage survived because we had lived apart for past 20 years!

1st Meredith Music Festival in 1991 was a fun time with about 250. Early years Chris said to Jack, 'This will be bigger than the farm one day', and it is! It has enabled us to continue to live on this land we love. And we've loved having it and all who come with it. But it has also brought so much happiness, joy and peace to tens of thousands of people who come to this place, survival for some local groups, and much to Meredith community. Never got Johnny Cash there, but Jack/John Nolan was a well known and loved presence.

The funeral was at the farm in a paddock we call Lou Pine (Mary Louise had planted pine trees around perimeter with Jack in 1987 the year before she died in a car accident) and was a wonderful celebration of a man and life who had touched so many people of all ages, stages and places. All had stories of Jack which illustrate his qualities and the essence of the spirit as embodied in him. May we carry into our often uncertain world echoes of Jack and all he was.

Thanks to all who made it so special especially all from the festival for who nothing was impossible. He would have loved it!

Mary Nolan AM 29.3.2017

You can watch the Funeral Mass at :youtube.com/watch?v=SqLOKGGHUuA&feature=youtu.be. And please email your Jack stories, photos, etc. to storiesofjacknolan@gmail.com. You can watch the 2017 Golden Plains festival Opening Ceremony : youtube.com/watch?v=DmWFOk8EkQE&t=5s and a Chat with Jack MMF 2013 is at aunty.mmf.com.au/supernatural-amphitheatre/nolans-chris-nolan-jack-and-mary-nolan/-



It's an impossible task to put into words how we feel about Jack, and how we feel about his passing.

All of the festival team loved Jack. He had so much time for everyone, we loved seeing him at the Staff Kitchen, enjoying a beer or better still a good whiskey. He would talk to anyone for as long as they wanted, he never seemed to need to rush off anywhere. And everyone wanted to talk to him.

Jack was as big a part of the festivals as anyone. It was he who found the original site for the Meredith Music Festival back in 1990, and he again who found the current site when it needed a new home in 2001. Jack seemed like part of the land, the farm, like it was his natural habitat. He, Mary and Chris were the most gracious hosts you could wish for; that the festivals exist at all and bring so much happiness and joy to tens of thousands of people each year is testament to the generosity and welcoming nature of those three.

In the early years it was Jack that did a lot of the heavy lifting – literally and figuratively. He was the one who solved so many of the practical problems we faced, usually by saying "I think I've got something in the shed that might work". Although he was a generation older than us, he treated us like peers and we thoroughly enjoyed working - and playing - with him, as friends.

It's still a shock that he has gone.

It's hard to stop thinking about the last three weeks, and the last thirty years. We take comfort from Mary saying she feels a strong sense of peace and rest for Jack.

Apart from a sense of sadness and loss, and a fearful awe of the ruthless march of time... there's a vast, palpable sense of wonder and beauty about Jack, the farm, Mary, Chris, the festivals. It feels like lifeblood, like nutrition for the soul. The feeling that life can be incredible. That feeling is bigger than any one person, but it wouldn't exist without Jack.

Jack was a humble man, who routinely deferred to others. He would have little sense of how far and deep and wide his gentle, generous traits have radiated and how many lives now carry a bit of the best part of him with them. It's a lot.

We miss him. We really miss him. He will be a part of the festivals for as long as they exist.

Jack Nolan, one of the world's most wonderful humans.

*- Peelie and Remy (Greg Peele and Matt High)
Co-organisers, Meredith Music Festival, Golden Plains Festival*

Two 60th Birthdays Celebrated

Marg Cooper

A luncheon party at the Meredith Hall on March 5th celebrated the 60th birthdays of both Patrick and Helen Banks. Pat's birthday was on Tuesday 7th and Helen's birthday was on Monday 13th.

Lots of people attended; including Pat's nine brothers and sisters. They, and their sister Colleen who is deceased, grew up on a Soldier Settlement Block at Rokewood. Pat's Prep and Grade 1 teacher was also at the party. She taught him at Rokewood before he transferred to St James in Sebastopol. His siblings were travelling to Ballarat to secondary school so he also went on the bus with them. It saved the parents an extra school run. Helen was the eldest of seven children and grew up in Bendigo. Three of her siblings attended the party and some nieces and nephews. Pat went to St Patrick's College and then to East High School. His school friend Jeff came to the party, some of his friends from when he worked at Telstra and several of his Young Farmer friends.

Helen was a student teacher at Aquinas in Ballarat when she met Pat. They used to hold lots of balls in the Civic Hall but because there were more girls than boys at Aquinas, Pat's sister who was at Aquinas with Helen asked Pat to bring some of his Young Farmer friends to a ball in 1977. Pat remembers taking two local girls in case the Aquinas girls didn't appeal to them!

After Helen graduated she taught at Shepparton for two years before transferring to Mercia which was a new school in Geelong. They married in January 1980. (Their children, Mark, Elizabeth, Lucy, Tom and Isobel, husbands and wives and two grandchildren, Nevaeh and Evelyn, were at the party.)

When they first came to Meredith in 1983 Pat and Helen rented the house on Bill Stephen's and were looking for land around Meredith but bought a farm about five minutes from where Pat grew up. Helen and Pat both studied wool classing and Pat completed four years of external agricultural study at Glenormiston Ag College and farmed before buying Woolabrai from Graham Smith in 1993. Graham was at the party and Ken who worked for Graham but who has worked for Pat and Helen for 17 years. Even the Westpac Bank Manager they met 35 years ago came to the party and acted as MC and entertained the crowd with his singing.

Neighbours also came from Wingeel Road where they live and from Shelford Road where Pat and Helen have a block of land. Lions Club members came to the party and other friends they have made during the last sixty years. Pat and Helen each cut a cake. Their daughter Liz had made a chocolate cake with rolls of chocolate on top for Pat and a cake with flowers on top for Helen and many members of their family helped to supply a delicious lunch.

Happy Birthdays.



Thank you

We would like to thank our family, friends and community members for the kind wishes, gifts and good health wishes on the occasion of our 60th Birthdays.

We had a great time— loved every minute

Pat and Helen Banks



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Meredith POLICE news



Hello to all readers of the Meredith and district newsletter.

In last month's edition I reported that a burglary and theft was committed at an address in Davies Road, Meredith where a significant amount of property was stolen. I have followed the progress of this investigation by Geelong Detectives very closely indeed, and I can report that a 32 year old female from Norlane has been charged with that burglary. She will appear in the Geelong Magistrates Court at a date to be set. I can also report that the investigation is ongoing with regard to at least one other male suspect.

On Tuesday the 21st of March, 2017 I arrested a 20 year old male from the Clarendon area for a series of thefts from a local Meredith business over recent months. This male was interviewed at the Meredith Police Station and will be charged on summons with theft of a large quantity of diesel fuel.

This Friday night the 31st of March will see the first **blue light disco** back at Meredith for some time. Due mainly to the unavailability of "Disco Des" from Ballarat, it's been a little while since I have been able to get the disco up and running again. But it will be great to have a new bunch of primary school kids involved.

As always I would ask people to be vigilant with suspicious vehicles around the district. I know that since I have been doing my best to get that message across, I have seen amazing responses from locals which have in many cases led to arrests for various offences. I would continue to ask that residents with information contact me at the Meredith Police Station on 52 861222 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333000.

Greg KITCHEN

Officer in Charge – Meredith Police Station

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Help to Get Young People Job Ready

from media release

Young people in Corangamite will soon be able to access Employability Skills Training to help improve their chances of finding and keeping a job.

The federal government is investing \$188.3 million over four years in Employability Skills Training (EST), to help more young Australians into work. Seven Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) will deliver training in the Geelong region under Youth Jobs PaTH (Prepare, Trial, Hire), to help young people aged 15-24 years gain the skills employers are looking for when hiring staff in entry-level positions.

These organisations are Australian Employment and Training Solutions, Encompass Community Services, South West Institute of TAFE, Train Australia, Westvic Staffing Solutions, Career Options Training Australia and Gordon Institute of TAFE.

I would like to congratulate the successful training organisations on their new role and looked forward to the program starting this April.

Employers are already able to hire young Australians by accessing a Youth Bonus wage subsidy of up to \$10,000 (GST inclusive) per employee. From April, young people will be able to undertake a voluntary internship of 4-12 weeks to gain work experience and further boost their job prospects.

For more information on EST and other support available for young people, visit: employment.gov.au/youth

Go on...smile!



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Council has received VicHealth funding to deliver this campaign



Kinder

It's been a lovely month at Kindergarten with the children busy exploring and playing with a variety of activities and forming new friendships with each other. Thank you to Wes and Sinead for the coordination of the tucker tent shift and to all our volunteers at the Golden Plains Festival, it was another great weekend of music and perfect weather!

The Kinder children have started their regular outing to the Community Garden to do some planting and to take care of the apple trees and other herbs. We hope to build on this as the year progresses. We have been able to purchase new trikes, bikes and road signs with a grant we received late last year so our bike path is getting used frequently now and we will focus on more road safety topics next term. Kylie and Leanne have been helping the pre kinder group settle in each Wednesday with many fun play spaces set up, the 3 pigs story is popular with their group as well as block play and water play.

Both groups are doing a few Easter activities in our last week of term 1, and then its holiday time and we return to start Term 2 on Tuesday 18th April. Have a happy Easter and enjoy your family time over the holidays.

Jodie

Golden Plains Mobile Library



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A Rare Find

Ballarat Environment Network Reserves Manager, Roger Thomas, recently discovered a rare plant growing in the Police Paddocks. This led to a State government grant to undertake works to help foster and preserve the plant, as well as protect it from competing weeds. Here is Roger's account of the find.

The Large-flowered Cranesbill was thought to be extinct until the year 2000, but it has now become better known and has been found in several localities. Most populations are very small, and all are on basalt soils. There are two populations at the Meredith Police Paddocks, one on each side of the creek, with about 140 plants on the east side, and 40 on the west side. These are significant populations for this endangered plant.

This native Geranium (Geranium sp. 1) is a member of a group of similar species, and the current suggestion for its official name (yet to be formally adopted) is Geranium carolinii. It is a sprawling plant to 80cm or more wide and about 20cm tall. It is best distinguished by its large flowers, which are about the size of a \$2 coin. This is much larger than the three other Geranium species found at the Meredith Police Paddocks.

The flowers appear in October and last until the heat of summer. October and November are the best months to see it at its peak. The flowers can be any colour from white through to rich pink. Most are pale pink. When not flowering, the plant is difficult to locate and difficult to identify from the other native Geraniums



Photo: Roger Thomas






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History of the ANZAC Biscuit

(from the Goulburn Post)

During World War 1 the wives and girlfriends of the Australian soldiers were concerned for the nutritional value of food being supplied to the troops. Food was transported across the sea at a maximum speed of ten knots, or 18.5kph by ships of the Merchant Navy.

The majority of these ships did not contain refrigerated facilities, so any food that was sent had to remain edible for at least two months. This is when the Anzac Biscuit was invented, based on the Scottish recipe using rolled oats, sugar, plain flour, butter, golden syrup, bi-carbonate of soda and boiling water. All these items did not spoil readily and were easily maintained. Some soldiers also used crushed biscuits to make porridge.

A point of interest was the lack of eggs used to bind the Anzac Biscuit mixture together. This is largely due to poultry farmers joining the services in the war, thus the eggs were scarce.

Eggs, that were sent long distances, were coated with a product similar to Vaseline and then packed into air tight containers and filled with sand.

At first the biscuits were called 'Soldiers biscuits' but after the landing on Gallipoli in 1915 they were dubbed Anzac biscuits.

As the war carried on many groups like the Country Women's Association, churches, school and other women's committees would devote a great deal of time to making Anzac biscuits.

Anzac Biscuits

RECIPE

1 ¼ Cups plain flour, sifted

1 cup rolled oats

½ cup castor sugar

¾ cup desiccated coconut

2 tablespoons golden syrup or treacle

150g unsalted butter, chopped

½ teaspoon bicarb soda

METHOD

Preheat oven to 170 c

Place flour, oats, sugar and coconut into a large bowl and stir to combine.

In a small saucepan place the golden syrup and butter and stir over low heat until the butter has fully melted.

Mix the bicarb soda with 1 ½ tablespoons water and add to the golden syrup mixture.

It will bubble whilst you are stirring together so remove from the heat. Pour into the dry ingredients and mix together until fully combined.

Roll tablespoons of mixture into balls and place on baking trays with non-stick baking paper, pressing down on the tops to flatten slightly.

Bake for 12 minutes or until golden brown.

From: taste.com

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We wish everyone a safe and happy Easter and look forward to seeing you after the break!



And They Lived Happily Ever After

Marg Cooper

They met at a Garden Tea at the Windsor Hotel. This was a pre wedding party for relations who were about to be married. Neil Cameron drove June Upjohn home. They enjoyed a busy social life with weekends at Sorrento, lots of theatre and visits to Glenspean at Meredith before they became engaged in 1956.

They celebrated their engagement with an intimate dinner at the Chevron Hotel. June remembers Neil proposing several times until, finally, while at the property at Meredith, she answered "I don't see why not!"

They were married at St George's Church of England Church, Malvern by Archdeacon Danne at 6.30 pm on Thursday March 14, 1957. At the pre wedding talk the Minister warned them that their first argument would be about money. He was correct! June wore an off white, long sleeved frock made of faille lined with vilene that had buttons down the back and a bow where the pleats began about knee level. (The then fashionable merry widow bra, helped the silhouette.) A veil of "convent limerick lace" that had been especially made for Neil's mother was worn over a tulle veil, held in place by a circle of orange blossom. A report featured in the Woman's Weekly.

A Dinner dance was held at 9 Darling Street after the wedding. The bridal party lined up in a reception line to welcome all the guests as they filed past. Neil refused to have formal photos taken after the church ceremony because it would take too long, but a cousin took photos at the reception. Because it was also Race Week, unexpectedly all the South Australian relatives came.

June's going away outfit was purchased from Miss Mooney's in Collins Street and consisted of a pretty blue dress, a fashionable velvet coat and a hat. Neil changed out of his dinner suit into an ordinary suit. He had been regaled with stories of what might happen so he had a pocket full of safety pins ready when he discovered someone had cut all the buttons off the fly of his trousers. These were the days before zips! Mysteriously confetti had been added in large quantities into their suitcases and the remnants managed to flutter down at embarrassing moments on their honeymoon.

A Hansom Cab was ordered and paid for by June's brother to take the newly wedded couple from Darling

Street to the Windsor Hotel for the night. Neil paid the driver when they alighted and June's brother in law paid the driver again the next day. The Hansom Cab was well paid for! It was heavily decorated with signs such as "Just Married" by June's sister. It has become a family tradition to have "a different going away vehicle". Members of the family have used a tray truck complete with couch, a stock crate and even a tandem bike.

They honeymooned in New Zealand and June remembers visiting two cattle studs there. Then they came to live at Glenspean and that's another story.

Congratulations also to Sandy and Julie Cameron who celebrated thirty years of marriage on February 14.





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Kindred matters

Judith emond FAMILY THERAPIST

Judith invites readers to raise life issue questions with her. This example, based on case notes, is an example of how she will deal with queries. As this demonstrates, it is an opportunity to get general, but professional advice on a matter that troubles you.

Dear Judith,

You seem to have a lot of experience with people that may be depressed and I am just wondering if my partner of 15 years is suffering from depression? We have children and he is a great father but some days my partner is very happy and then other days he seems extremely agitated and detached. Is this a sign of depression? I try not to take it personally but sometimes it's very hard. What do you think?

Thank you for your letter I want to acknowledge how worried you are for your partner's well-being and how distressing this is for you. 15 years together is a great achievement. It does sound like it could be depression but given that he experiences happy times it might be in the mild-moderate range rather than the severe-extremely severe range. This is important to know as many people dealing with day to day life stressors tend to have a mild to moderate amount of psychological distress.

The good thing is that when people are in the mild to moderate range we can support them to take action to reduce life stressors in order to prevent the depression from becoming severe.

Finding time to connect with your partner and talk to him about your concerns is important as he might need your support to work out a plan to reduce the stressors he is currently managing. So consider spending some quality time together without the kids on a regular basis and perhaps organise a weekend away together?

Most importantly looking after yourself is paramount particularly as you have a carer role for your partner as well as being a mum.

Here are two excellent services that are available to support you and your partner. Both have 24/7 phonenumber support and excellent website resources including onlinechat.

SANE has Guides and resources for families, friends and others caring for someone with a mental illness

sane.org/families-carers Helpline 1800 187263

BEYONDBLUE has 'The Beyondblue Guide for Carers'

beyondblue.org.au/supporting-someone/supporting-someone-with-depression-or-anxiety or phone 1300 224636 to gain support 24hrs/7days a week or use the chat online service 3pm -12am/7 days a week.

Remember you can also talk to your GP and perhaps attend with your partner to his GP for advice.

Warm regards

Judy

Got a Question for Judith?

Send your own life issue questions directly to Judith at her offices: Suite 5/84 Gheringhap St Geelong 3220. While she cannot undertake to answer all questions, those that can be dealt with in this column in a general sense, and without breaching confidentiality, may be used to provide general advice on the issue raised. You can, of course, choose to remain anonymous.

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Dr John Henderson: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

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Bannockburn Pharmacy Newsletter

Proprietors: Scott Wilkes & Damian Bennett

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Welcome back Cindy!

We would like to welcome back one of our pharmacists, Cindy, from maternity leave. Cindy will be starting on Wednesday 19th April and she will be working every Monday and Wednesday. Tracey will still be working as well on Tuesday's and Thursday's. We will have 2 pharmacists available from Monday to Thursday in-store. If you have any documents that need signing or certifying, then Monday to Thursday's will be the best days to come in. We will be ensuring there will always be a pharmacist on the floor when there are 2 pharmacists working so we can help you with your healthcare needs.

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little
GEMS



Conclusions

Sometimes things happen that make you realise just how violently we can jump to irrational conclusions. But sometimes that's just what happens in the heat of the moment.

Just imagine. You've decided to retire for the night and tuck up in bed with a good book. You make it to your room and switch on the light and, in one of your rare moments of self-realisation, you see clearly just how messily you have been living. Now you have to do something about it. (I know...this story is starting to sound a little familiar. But believe me, I don't live like this most of the time). This time, it is not so much untidiness but more tidiness that has not quite come to fruition. It's tidiness in the form of folded clothes that have managed to be wrangled into neat little shapes where the intention is to put them in drawers. But you got side-tracked and now there is a pile of clean clothes on your desk waiting to be put away.

As you are efficient, you start separating the pile into smaller piles categorised by the drawer they live in. And of course the best area to do this is your bed. So you start sorting. Throwing neat piles together quickly because you're real keen to continue that book. You go to throw some socks on their designated pile and as they land on the doona something flies off them. Your heart freezes. What was that? And where is it now?

Stealthily, like a tiger eyeing its prey, you step closer and zoom your focus in on what appears to be a slightly under-formed huntsman. Okay. You can deal with this, yes? Careful not to make any sudden movements because you can't remember if spiders are like flies who can sense the slightest movement and run for their lives, you lean down and grab a shoe. Your comfortable foam walking shoes. You inch closer and raise the shoe before making a violent movement, smashing the shoe square on top of the creature. Wait a moment. And slowly start peeling the shoe away from the mattress. It shoots out from under the shadows and disappears down the side of the bed. Apparently squishing something between two luxuriously soft items does not in fact end in squishing.

Now the spider has disappeared and you start to panic. What am I going to do? Where am I going to sleep? What am I going to wear?! I'm going to have to live on the couch for the rest of my life until I can burn the mattress, the bedspread, and the frame without causing too much environmental damage. I'll have to move house!

Just as you're jumping to all sorts of extremes, it pokes its furry head over the corner of the bed and makes a break for it. You swap shoes to the more reliable thong and come back fighting. You will not be made to live on a leather couch!

Silly, I know. But these are the conclusions that can appear in the heat of the moment. If you had thought about it logically, all you would have had to do is bug bomb the place into oblivion.

Gemma

Judy Hullin

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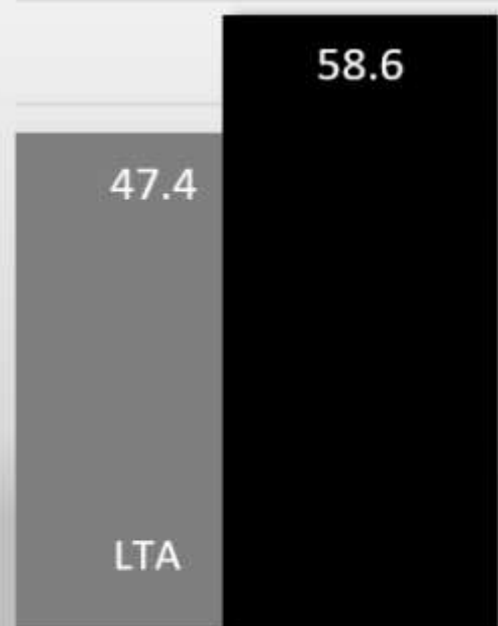
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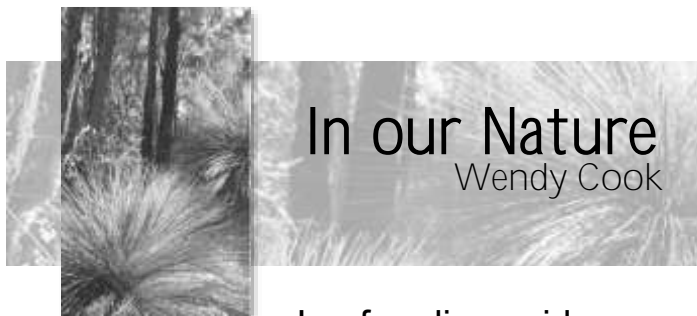
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MARCH rain





Leaf-curling spiders

Delicate pieces of carefully woven architecture have appeared in my garden, at least forty of them, each following a similar design. The lower portion of the structure is three-quarters of a typical orb web built of fine, nearly invisible, silk. In the gap at the top is a curled up brown leaf. Around and above the leaf is a three-dimensional structure divided into a range of abstract shapes, reaching out and anchoring the web to surrounding vegetation. If a wide gap must be bridged, a few threads supporting the whole structure will be thicker and stronger, giving them a white colouring. The leaf, which its owner has hauled up on a line of silk from the ground, is curled vertically and the edges stitched into a tunnel, often sealed at the top. The size of the leaf appears to be the most important factor in choosing a home. In my garden, eucalypt, oak, quince and camellia are among the leaves selected. Usually, at least the tips of two slender brown legs are visible at the gap at the bottom of the leaf. Its inhabitant, a leaf-curling spider, is hiding inside, safe from weather, birds and wasps.

I watched a spider, her orange-brown head and thorax visible at the opening of her leaf. Her front legs twitched the web repeatedly, perhaps to entangle her insect prey. She emerged cautiously, revealing her large, rounded abdomen with a pattern of dark brown and white blotches. She dashed across the web to a tiny fly, which she grabbed and held close. She let go of the web, swinging from a thread spun from silk-producing spinnerets at the end of her abdomen, and attached to the leaf. She hastily climbed this strand and retreated backwards into her home. Later, I saw the same spider at her entrance rotating a small black beetle in her jaws. A few minutes later, she partially appeared, and with those slim legs, flicked her finished meal to the ground.

Suspended between a large grevillea and tall grass heads growing up through a scrambling rose bush, another curled leaf shows two sets of legs, one at the gap at the bottom of the leaf, and a smaller pair at an unsealed opening at the top of the leaf. The smaller spider is a male. His abdomen is yellow with a rust-coloured pattern of a central stripe with triangles on each side. He moved into the leaf of an immature female and lives above, while she lives below. When she has moulted and matured, he will mate with her. I hope to find her egg sac inside another curled leaf, stitched up with silk and hung away from the web. After their babies hatch, they will each create their first home from a small green leaf. When they are larger, they will use dead leaves from the ground.

Leaf-curling spiders are not the only spiders using the webs. In one web I watched a white and black spider, so

tiny I could barely see it, steal a fly of about its own size, and swing outwards on its own line, from the main web which was not quite vertical, to enjoy its meal. In another web, a complex of very fine strands of silk has been woven among the scaffolding at the top of the web. Its creator is brown and about 2mm long, dwarfed by its 1.5cm host hiding in the leaf below. During the day, the larger spider will only come out to catch food, but after dark she ventures forth and makes repairs to her web. If her web is badly damaged she replaces it. It requires energy to create silk, so she recycles it by eating her old web before she spins a new one. She seems only to replace the lower orb portion of her web. Meanwhile, her tiny companion has expanded its weavings down beside her leaf, and the two species are living together peacefully.

Two weeks later, some of the curled leaves are empty, and the webs are no longer maintained. Perhaps, despite the spiders' careful hiding, birds found them. Others feed well, their webs full of discarded wings of insects that appeared on a rare wet day and flew through the wrong gap between bushes. One of the deserted webs in a sheltered spot has its scaffolding still in place. One evening, I saw an unfamiliar spider emerge from the curled leaf. It is benefitting from a well-made home, no longer needed by its creator. As I walk around my garden, I keep watch on the spiders, looking out for my next discovery.

Wendy

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Words as Weapons



George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend.... if you have one." -

Winston Churchill, in response.

"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second.... if there is one."

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Eloy Turns 70

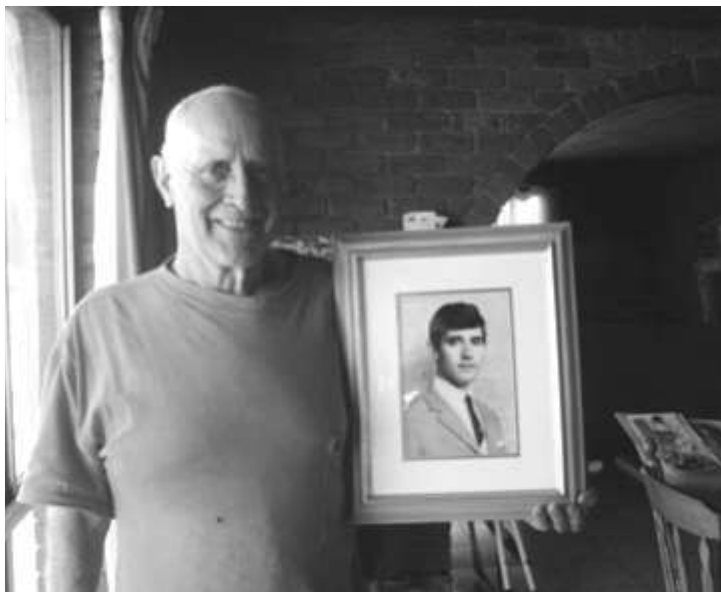
Marg Cooper

From Congosto del Bierzo in the north of Spain to Meredith has been an interesting trip. The Civil War had just finished when Eloy Corral was born in 1947. Times were tough. He fished in the nearby lake, caught fish and sold them to neighbours, recalling that the fish shop didn't like him. He went to school but the teacher belted the 40 to 60 students in his class and pulled their ears so, Eloy didn't like going to school. All his learning was from private lessons mainly held at night. A man who worked the telephone exchange taught him arithmetic between phone calls. Eloy's father was Superintendent on the Railways but there was plenty to do at home with grapes to grow and turn into wine and lots of animals to care for.

Eloy was one of eight children (one died early) and the family wanted him to be a priest. They were not particularly religious but it was a means to get an education. When he was about 12 years old he undertook a sort of apprenticeship in mechanics, doing book learning in the mornings and practical work in the afternoons for six days a week earning only tips. He did that for five years.

Eloy's sister and her husband worked in Switzerland and when they came home with a leather jacket for Eloy and a transistor radio for his father Eloy wanted to also work there. No-one in his town owned a jacket like his, the girls chased him and at the festivals they thought he was the rich mine owner's son. When his sister went back to Switzerland she obtained a contract for Eloy. You had to have a contract to enter the country which meant you had a job to go to, accommodation and promised to stay for two years. Eloy was to work in a hotel. He was 17 years old and the day after he arrived he started work.

He started washing dishes in a machine. The first month he slept in a dormitory at the hotel with six beds and received all his meals. He earned 600 francs a month which was 200 francs more than his father earned as a Superintendent. Eloy sent money home to his mother.



Before he was there for two months he saw the manager of the 5 Star Hotel, a woman who stood 6 ft 4 inches tall, and asked if he could progress to work in the kitchen. She told Eloy to learn another language and make his request in that language when he saw her next time. He learnt Italian and after about five weeks he revisited the manager and asked her in Italian, if he could work in the kitchen.

His first job was to deliver orders to the chefs. The orders came on paper down a shute system and Eloy had to deliver each order to one of about forty chefs - for example, if it was a pasta dish it had to be delivered to the pasta chef. The hotel served up to 5,000 meals a day. Eloy said when he left a job he organized for the contract to go to his brother so he could also work in Switzerland. Eloy graduated to become a waiter, chief waiter and then was offered a job in the Patisserie.

Cakes, mixed by hand, were a speciality and chocolates with liquid inside. Eloy learnt all the skills needed because he concentrated and was a good

listener. President de Gaulle visited and wanted to meet the maker and the English Embassy often ordered 500 patty cakes. He earned 800-1000 francs a month plus food and accommodation and says it was like living in Hollywood, but he had itchy feet. *(Next month: What Happens Next.)*

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it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

Opening:

On Sunday, March 26 the opening of the Meredith History Centre took place with the cutting of a scrumptious carrot cake by the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. We couldn't quite replicate the official opening of the Meredith Shire Offices on October 30, 1878. They had a banquet followed by a mystic dance.

We deemed that Meredith History Interest Group are hanging up their shingle. Many organizations and people have used or been closely associated with the building over the nearly 140 years including voting, the charwoman, Clerk of Courts and Magistrates, singing master, tennis players, dances and balls, Military Drill, ANA meetings, religious services, Fire Brigade, RSL, Guides, Baby Health Centre, Youth Group, School, Pre-School & Kindergarten. A collection of artefacts had been collected to represent all the organizations who had previously hung up their shingle!

If you know of any others, please let us know.

Annual Meeting:

The Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, February 26 at our new home, the old Shire Hall or the old Kindergarten. Marg Cooper was elected as President, Peter Griffiths was elected as Vice President, Jan Crump was elected as Secretary and Fay McFarlane was elected as Treasurer. After the President's Report, the Financial Report and General Business we learnt about the early days of the Kindergarten.

Jill Buchanan who was the first Secretary told how the first meeting was at Marj Turner's shop in August 1969, how money was raised by debentures, fundraising and donations, how the blocks came by train and had to be painted and how another committee person and herself travelled to Spring Street in Melbourne to try and get the Pre-School to start in February 1970.

Jenny Colvin described how the Pre-School was updated to Pre School Kindergarten in October 1970 and she became the teacher, how Carmen Powles who lived next door would set mouse traps in the Kindergarten after Jenny left and empty them next morning before she arrived because Jenny hated mice and how, when she retired in 1999, she was teaching children of the children she first taught. Jean Breguet said she was assistant to Jenny. Veronica Naylon was assistant for 10 years, Michaela Lunnice for a short time and Wendy Cooke was assistant for several years.

Amanda Molesworth explained how she dropped her son Pete off one morning, waved goodbye as he went in the gate and when she returned after shopping in Ballarat found him playing with blocks. It was only then that Jenny told her it was a holiday. Marg Parkinson, the first Treasurer, had to pay the teacher as well as manage the debentures and fundraising money.

Dawn McDonald (the first President), Veronica Naylon (the first assistant) and June Cameron (mother of an early kindergarten child) could not attend the meeting but each wrote some memories which were read out at the meeting.

Lots of hard work, enthusiasm and determination started the Kindergarten despite lots of early opposition including from Phyllis Hearn, the Meredith State School Prep teacher. Generations of children have benefitted from this educational institution and after a couple of years Phyllis was delighted that her Preps knew how to sit, listen and learn when they started school.

Catalogue:

The job of cataloguing continues on most Thursdays from 9 am. We'd love to see and hear about your family and look at your family tree on any Thursday morning.

MEREDITH. GREYHOUND KILLED.

Master Dudley Ward, who is now attending the Geelong Technical School, had the misfortune to lose one of his best coursing dogs last week. He had been out for a run and was coming home at dusk when a rabbit jumped up and the dog jerked away and gave chase, before going far the leash caught in a stump and threw the dog heavily, the result being fatal.

DUCK SHOOTING.

Messrs A. Wells and party of six shooters visited Terang for the opening of the duck season. The party state that there were about 700 shooters on the swamp, and the sport was very fair; their bag at 9 a.m. was 60 ducks. Messrs T. Grant and E. Ward visited the same locality and secured 50 birds of different varieties; the former also shot at the Kerang Galah champion meeting, and won the event; so taken all round the Meredith shooters had a very successful opening.

TENNIS CLUB.

The next effort on behalf of Tennis Club funds will be held on Friday evening, 2nd March, in the Mechanics' Hall, Meredith, and will take the form of a progressive euchre tournament and dance. Many novelties will be introduced, and a good night's entertainment is in store for all. The three ladies who are organising this effort are Mrs. G. Musgrove, Mrs Alf. Wells, and Miss Grant. The mixed doubles tournament was concluded on Tuesday evening last, when Mr L. Graham and Miss C. Scanlon (scratch) defeated Mr Geo. Bell and Mrs Bowie (owe 30). 9 — 7. Sixteen couples competed, and much enjoyment was derived from all of the matches played in connection with it. The prizes will be presented at the close of the euchre tournament in 2nd March. *The Ballarat Star (Vic. : 1865 - 1924) Wednesday 21 February 1923*

Jan McDonald, Meredith History Interest Group

Jan McDonald

Pension changes are coming for retirees



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Golden Plains 2017

Chris Wallace

With heavy hearts, and, a bit after midnight the first evening, heavy rains, Golden Plains took place on the Nolan family farm over the March long-weekend. Only a couple of weeks after the passing of Jack Nolan, whose funeral was held in a paddock that also doubles as a campground come festival time, 10,000 odd people converged upon Meredith for the festival's eleventh outing.

A 'farmer of happiness', as festival co-founder Greg Peele described Jack during the opening ceremony, the sadness of Jack's passing and the enormity of his character took every emotion and moment to another level, and precipitated tears at various times across the weekend.

It began with Geelong punks Ausmuteants, a hard-hitting, up in your grill kind of band whose energy transferred immediately to the crowd assembled close to the stage.

Cash Savage and the Last Drinks, the fourth act to hit the stage, were an early contender for festival hit, with many shoes raised in approval well before Cash and her band had drawn their set to a close. Growing up in a very small country town in Gippsland, Savage's take on the country, pub rock genre was equal parts nuanced and severe, her pacing back and forwards and abrupt change from quiet to howling keeping the crowd glued to her every move.

Later in the evening Chilean New Yorker Nicolas Jaar, drenched in darkness and mystique, played with the crowd's mood and expectations, drawing out the tension to an almost tortuous point before providing brief respite with some dance inducing sounds that gave the crowd, in fits and starts, the release it was looking for.

Not long after the heavens opened up and the layer of orange dust that had accumulated on tents and cars was quickly washed away as punters either withdrew to their tents, or embraced the wet before the first night ended with Brooke Powers.

The second day began with Kardajala Kirridarra, all the way from Marlinja and Elliott in the Northern Territory, a mere 2979 kilometres from the Supernatural Amphitheatre. Featuring acclaimed singer/songwriter Eleanor Dixon, the group brought a weary crowd, still drying out from the night before, back to something resembling life with their beats and hip hop influenced songs about bush life in central Australia.

An array of different bands and genres took the festival through the morning and into an afternoon in which the clouds came and went, keeping the piercing sun at bay with regular pass-overs. Returning to Meredith for the first time since 1998, when he appeared with his band The Make-Up, Ian Svenonius stole the late afternoon show with his more recent group Chain and the Gang. At times absurd, at others enlightening, the band tried to collapse any distinction between performer and audience, Ian's constant presence on and over the punter barrier keeping the security guards busy and straining the voices of his devoted fans with some classic call and response madness.

By nightfall a beautiful stillness has fallen across the site, and with the sun farewelled from atop Sunset Strip by an adoring crowd, the mood shifted from elated to something

more nostalgic with the arrival of Neil Finn. Last seen here for Meredith 2010, Neil had a full band in tow this time around. Although at times they could barely be heard above the deafening sound of 10,000 people belting out some classic Crowded House and Split Enz songs at the top of their weathered voices, and hugging anyone within arm's reach.

By festival end the giant message board spelling out Jack was completely covered with longings, missives and plain gratitude addressed to Jack and the Nolan family. It was both a strange time to be there without Jack and a fond farewell to a gentle soul, or wise old owl, as one friend described him, whose presence will remain hovering above farm and festival for many years to come.



photo by Theresa Harrison

Heritage Grants Open

Community Heritage Grants of up to \$15,000 are available for community organisations such as public libraries, museums, historical societies, Indigenous and multicultural groups to help preserve and protect nationally significant collections.

These grants help local communities to preserve and display culturally important material such as artefacts, letters, diaries and photographs.

The program also offers collection management training workshops in the regions to assist staff and volunteers preserve significant items.

The Community Heritage Grants Program helps small community groups manage natural, historical and Indigenous heritage collections and enables collaboration with national cultural institutions such as the National Library of Australia.

The program is an important way of protecting culturally significant items in our regions and connecting community groups with our national institutions to share their knowledge and expertise.

Since the program started over 20 years ago, it has provided over \$6 million to more than 1,200 groups and communities.

The Community Heritage Grants Program is administered by the National Library of Australia, with support provided by the Department of Communications and the Arts, the National Archives of Australia, the National Film and Sound Archive and the National Museum of Australia.

Applications close on Monday, 8 May 2017. The guidelines and application form are available at nla.gov.au/awards-and-grants/chg



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Avalon Airshow

Marg Cooper

The operators of the Avalon airshow (Airshows Downunder) invited the Geelong Sports Aviators club (which is based at the Lethbridge airfield) to participate in the recent airshow by exhibiting their aircraft and the club activities at Avalon this month.

In total 27 aircraft owned by club members flew into Avalon on the Tuesday and Wednesday before the airshow, remained on display on the ground, and flew back to Lethbridge after the airshow on Sunday.

Local resident, pilot and club member Don Atherton was one of those who participated in the event by flying his plane into Avalon. Don said "it was quite a daunting experience to fly into such a busy airspace for the first time. Normally recreational pilots are not authorized to fly into the busy controlled airspace around major airports. In this case the club was invited to fly in after all participating pilots were fully briefed by the air traffic controllers and event organisers prior to the event and had to adhere to strict protocols and procedures.

The club also organized separate training and information sessions and organized a practice fly in at Lethbridge to ensure the pilots were familiar with following each other on a set route from take off and back to landing on the field using the protocols mandated by Air Traffic Control."

"The 27 participating aircraft left Lethbridge for Avalon at 2 minute intervals and in 2 separate groups at the allocated timeslot. All went really well until we arrived at the entry waypoint into the controlled airspace when the air traffic controller turned us away because the prior show activity hadn't finished and there were aircraft still flying over the field at Avalon. So after flying around in circles for 5-10 minutes the controller called us into airfield one by one, albeit not in the same order that we left Lethbridge."

"The small country airfields we normally use are usually 600 – 1000 metres long so we will try to land reasonably close to the start of the runway. The runway at Avalon is 3000 metres long so you need to pick the landing spot close to the exit taxiway, otherwise you can face a 2500 metre taxi which can cause big problems for following aircraft wanting to land. The Avalon runway is almost wide enough for our little planes to land crosswise!"

"Flying out after the airshow was a lot less daunting, but there were long delays because of the number of departing aircraft, and other aircraft being shuffled around on the ground."

"It was a very enjoyable experience" Former Meredith resident, and now resident of Mildura, Jeremy Miller, also participated in the airshow by thrilling the crowd in a dazzling display of his aerobatic skills in his Super Decathlon aerobatic aircraft.



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The expansion of the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme (NEIS) and a number of other measures introduced late last year, help people wanting to turn their business idea into reality.

Recent changes to the eligibility criteria and the opening of new places in NEIS will provide even greater opportunity for young entrepreneurs.

An additional 2,300 NEIS places per year bring total number of places available annually to 8,600. This expansion is accompanied by extra support for entrepreneurs, including:

SelfStart Online (jobactive.gov.au/selfstart) - a starting point for young people wanting to explore and develop their ideas into a successful business. SelfStart connects young people to services and programs, as well as provides information assisting them to start a business.

Exploring Being My Own Boss workshops — workshops to engage potential entrepreneurs and provide them with a taste of what is involved in self-employment. Workshops are delivered nationally by New Enterprise Incentive Scheme providers, with 1,000 places available each year.

For more information about the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme, please visit employment.gov.au/youth. You can also download the "First Business App at moneysmart.gov.au/tools-and-resources/calculators-and-apps/mobile-apps/first-business?youngadultslaunchmediarelease20172802 and find valuable information at business.gov.au/Info/Plan-and-Start/?youngadultslaunchmediarelease20172802.



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Marg's Book Review

"The Dry" by Jane Harper

The drought overshadows everything that happens in this story. In some ways it could almost be said to be a character in its own right. Severe drought has plagued the small town of Kiewarra in remote country Victoria for two years and the town is on edge. As well as the drought, several factors contribute to this unease: Luke Hadler has apparently murdered his wife, his son and himself and, almost twenty years ago Ellie Deacon drowned and no one has been found responsible. Right from the start you can feel the tension!

Federal Police investigator Aaron Falk returns to Kiewarra for the funeral of his childhood best friend and has to confront the people who rejected him twenty years earlier because they thought he had killed Ellie. Luke's parents beg him to stick around and to look more deeply into what really happened to their son and family. Reluctantly he stays and becomes the target of abuse.

With the help of local policeman Greg Raco, Falk begins to suspect a link between Ellie's death and the Hadlers'. As he relives the painful events of the past he begins to come to different conclusions about both cases and realises that all along he has been backing the wrong horse. At the core of the novel is the idea of secrets and lies and the reasons why people keep them.

The book is beautifully crafted with its sunburnt country, an apparent murder/suicide, a cast of characters who might be witnesses, suspects or simply red herrings and two mysteries to be solved. The book has beautiful word pictures: "Now older, fatter and with the faint whiff of chronic ill-health on the horizon, the bitterness seemed to seep from his pores" and "The first kiss was better than he imagined and he pushed back, wanting to taste more, feeling the fizz and pop of pure joy".

The prologue describes the drought: "It wasn't as if the farm hadn't seen death before, and the blowflies didn't discriminate. To them there was little difference between a carcass and a corpse. The drought had left the flies spoiled for choice that summer. They sought out unblinking eyes and sticky wounds as the farmers of Kiewarra levelled their rifles at skinny livestock. No rain meant no feed. And no feed made for difficult decisions, as the tiny town shimmered under day after day of burning blue sky".

"The Dry" won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an unpublished manuscript in 2015 and a production company is planning to adapt the book into a film. A great read.

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A Grander Entrance

Jim Elvey

Last month the Meredith Police Paddocks Support Group undertook a second working bee on the new entrances for the Police Paddocks Reserve. This time, they installed all the railing and, although more work is required to landscape the sites, as well as build and install gates, the project now gives a good impression of the finished job. Both Champion Road and Nuttall Street entrances provide handsome “front doors” to the reserve, and complement the signage already installed. Be sure to take a look. And if you walk along the path from one entrance to the other, you will also get a glimpse of the site's natural beauty.

Early this month, the Group is hosting a visit from Wathaurong Elder, Uncle Bryon. This will afford an opportunity for the keen historians in the group to get some expert insights into aboriginal use of the site.

If you would like to join this enthusiastic group of volunteers, or just be put on the mailing list to be kept up to date on developments, contact Jim Elvey on 5286 1273.



Above and below: a few of the volunteers installing one of the entrance constructions last month. (Including the author, top, far right, doing what he does best.) Bottom: the (near) finished project.



Photos by Emily Noble



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Roy Potticary (Part 2)

Marg Cooper

Roy Potticary came to Meredith when he was thirteen years old in 1961. The family emigrated from England as £10 Poms, applying to go to the country in Queensland but, instead, being sent to Broadmeadows for a few weeks before moving to Glenroy for a several months. His father worked at Fords. Melbourne had been their last choice! They soon moved to country Meredith and rented the residence attached to Mrs Fraser's shop, then rented the old police station at 38 Staughton Street. The old police station had three loose boxes in the back shed so they obtained a couple of horses and Jack Powles broke in a smoky coloured pony for them. Jack also bought them an Illawarra Shorthorn calf which they reared on the bucket and later milked for a house cow. They tied her up on the street or put her in the paddock where the Meredith Pharmacy now is. She'd be taken yearly to Lownes in a horse float to visit the bull.

Roy's father Ted got a job at the Waterworks and rode his bike to work before the workers such as Jim Duggan and Boy Lowne, carpooled. The Potticary's then bought the house at 46 Staughton Street, west of Turner's shop from Mary Ward. (They later lived at the Waterworks.) Roy went to West Tech. and was first on the bus in the morning. He remembers riding a motorbike without a motor and billy carting down the hill in the Police paddock and trying to dam the Coolebarghuk Creek with Ron East, rabbiting with their dogs and ferrets with Doozey Henderson, racing his horse with Rick Sergeant and playing Polo Cross with Rex Saffin.

He left school on the day he turned fourteen years of age and worked for Mr Taylor digging post holes with a crow bar and shovel for a new fence down the back on the Moorabool River and cutting wood with an axe. He admits to putting his watch on so they knocked off early but he loved Mr Taylor's horses. He worked for Bill Stephen cutting thistles and bagging oats, then for Roy Taylor on his farm, for Chris Mooney the shearing contractor and dagging sheep for Mary Ward. His other jobs included working at a foundry which was "close to hell", on the railway gang at Meredith when they replaced the line and driving sheep around the Yendon area during the drought. He remembers the dances at Bannockburn, Lethbridge, Elaine, Meredith, Morrison and the Palais in Geelong.

Roy did a lot of jobs for Jack Powles including riding his horses and described how his affinity with animals developed during those years and what he learnt from Jack was invaluable. He never got paid but Jack sent him to Raelene's house with a message for her father and gave him \$20 to take her out. Roy and Raelene married in Tara in Queensland, Roy worked on properties, bought a bare block of their own and developed it at Oakey, bred quarter horses, broke in about forty horses a year, competed at rodeos in steer wrestling and calf roping, was a shearer, worked at Beef City feedlot and meatworks and had twelve years as Agricultural Assistant at a local school. The father of a student had started sheep dog trials so Roy became a member. At his first trial he was disqualified.

When working for Roy Taylor at Meredith, Roy was shown a slide of land on the Darling Downs. He immediately said that that was where he wanted to go - the best country in the land!



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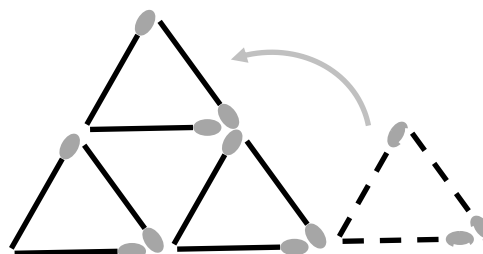
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The Page 12 Puzzle

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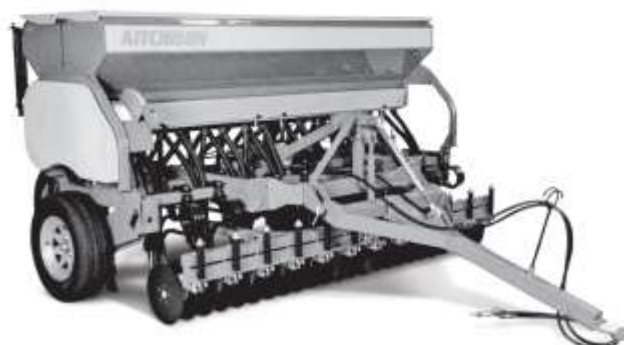


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