

Meredith & district NEWS

Our FREE Community Newsletter since 1972 DECEMBER 2017



56 pages - OUR
BIGGEST ISSUE YET!

Have a Great
Festive Season
& a Safe
SUMMER

inside...



Sheep at Meredith



Archies at Geelong



Zombies at Stelglitz

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Meredith & district NEWS



The Meredith and District News is published by a volunteer sub-committee of the Meredith Community Centre comprising: Jim Elvey, (Chair and Editor) Dawn Macdonald, David Jones, Trudy Mitchell, Stefania Parkinson, Jarna Kelly 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 the 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. Please submit in jpeg format, if available.

Classifieds are **FREE** for small, single insertion 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.

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WEB

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

ONLINE PHOTOS

We do not publish children's photos online. If you would like a 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
0448291074
Junior
(U16,U14,13)
0448291074
Meredith
5286 1434

CUBS & SCOUTS
Anakie 5281 9497

FOOTBALL
Seniors 0408 545 246
Juniors 0430 587 674

GOLF CLUB
5341 5748
HISTORY GROUP
5286 8201

LANDCARE
0409 862 326

MEMORIAL HALL
5286 1251
0435 312 984

MEREDITH LIONS
0473 380 552

MOTORCYCLE CLUB
0437 009 250

PLAYGROUP
5286 0700

POLICE PADDOCKS
5286 1273

RSL
5286 1452

SENIOR CITIZENS
5286 8232

TENNIS
Elaine
0448 291 074
Meredith
5286 1211

SEW 'N' SEWS
5286 0700

**FRIENDS OF THE
BRISBANE RANGES**
5286 1252

..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 .



Christmas, here again.
Let us raise a loving cup;
Peace on earth, goodwill to men,
and make them do the washing up!
...Wendy Cope

emergency

Police, Ambulance, Fire	000
(from mobile phone)	000 or 112
Meredith Police Station	5286 1222
Power Failure	132 412
Nurse-On-Call	1300 606024
Mental Health Advice	1300 280 737
Poisons Information	13 11 26
Barwon Water	1300 656 007
SES Emergency	-
flood & storm	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	0429 430 646
Pets and Horses 24/7	0421 617 238

Justices of the Peace

Mr R Cooke Meredith	52 861 346
Mr P Ryan Elaine	0409 861 296

services

**CEMETERY
TRUST**

5286 1550

HALL HIRE

Meredith Memorial

5286 1251

Elaine Mechanics

5341 5596

Elaine Rec Res

5341 5703

LIBRARY VAN

5272 6010

**MATERNAL
CHILD HEALTH**

5220 7230

PRE-SCHOOL

5286 0722

PRIMARY

SCHOOL

5286 1313

RECREATION

RESERVE

0429 841399





Community



Letters

Meredith Senior Bus Trip

Jim Hynds

Meredith Seniors left Meredith on November 13, 2017 on our final bus trip for the year. Blessed with fantastic weather, we headed down the coast for our first stop for morning tea at Portarlington. Our bus driver, Allan, found a lovely spot on the beach front, well shaded and close to amenities. We were treated to tea, coffee and a fantastic array of sandwiches, fruit cake and scones, jam and cream. What more can one ask for? A fantastic job done by Dianne and Carol.

Well-fed we set off for a lovely drive to our destination of Queenscliff. The coastal drive is a truly wonderful drive with extraordinary views but to our dismay we didn't see any seals. After a drive around Queenscliff we decided to have lunch at the ferry precinct. Some of us had a burning desire for fish and chips by the sea. I might add that it was the best fish and chips that I have ever had!

After lunch members set off to explore the area and some went to use the amenities. At this stage I need to use some decorum but I am sure that we have all had this experience using the toilets. Our lovely Nancy came out and had the feeling that all was not right and you guessed it, she was being followed by half a toilet roll!! Nancy has got a great sense of humour and could not stop laughing. There were many quips including that she had run out of toilet paper at home, that she needed it to write her grocery list and that she had received a fax. God love our Nancy she could not stop laughing!

All too soon we headed home with a stop at Wombat Gully Nursery for afternoon tea at the Fig and Hoe Café. Not surprising the back of the bus looked like a garden when we left. A brilliant day voted one of the best trips yet!

On behalf of the Meredith Seniors we wish all our supporters and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Our editorial deadline for February 2018 is

Thursday January 25th.

Reminder we don't have a January issue.

"I was delighted to see the review by Steve Duffy about the Meredith Baking Co and feel that many more compliments should be given to Dianne Dunn. I am up there at 10.30am every Saturday morning, drooling over the produce (not literally you'll be pleased to hear) and contemplating the choice on offer.

It's so hard to decide that I am tempted to get one of everything. After my purchase I carry the numerous bags, in near religious adoration, back to the car, place them carefully on the seat and drive home slowly where the superlatively delicious pastries, cakes and breads are consumed over the course of the day. I would just like to compliment Dianne and believe we are very, very privileged to have such an amazing *chef pâtissière* in such a small Australian town. It is an unbelievable treat, surprise and eating pleasure and I hope people are now coming from far and wide to experience this world class food. Dianne is an artist!"

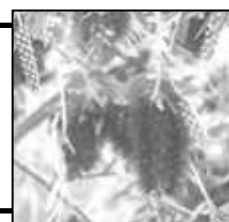
Amanda Hyatt

Thank you

Nan, John, James and Belinda Ward would like to thank everyone for the love and support shown after the sudden passing of Barney.

Thankyou for the flowers, cards, gifts, phone calls, words of comfort. To Fr Charles, Diane and St Joseph's parishioners and op shop volunteers for all the preparations for the funeral and refreshments afterwards, the Meredith Seniors, Bannockburn Men's Kitchen Group and friends from Meredith, Lethbridge and surrounding areas. We have been overwhelmed by your love and support.

Our beautiful cover is from a photo taken by Cathie Boer. This is one of those cheery red Callistemon that flower so profusely this time of year, heralding the Christmas Season.



Art Exhibition

Two locals, Kerry Thomson and Trudy Mitchell, along with other artists from the Anakie area, will be exhibiting several of their paintings at The Healing Web Cafe, 229 Roslyn Road, Highton. The exhibition opening is Friday 15th December from 5.30 - 7pm then continuous through until the end of January.



Classifieds

First insertion of small ads are FREE to district residents

For Sale Honda CRF 50 Motorbike

Good condition. Well looked after.

\$1,350 O.N.O Phone 0498 623 532. Morrisons Area.

For Sale 2 Furphy's farm water cart, barrels as new.

1 complete set of wheels and axle, spoked 3 axles, 11 wheels solid. Collars lids tap \$8000 the lot. Ph. Geoff 0429 084 655

Situations Wanted Lawn mowing whipper snipping for household blocks New Toro zero turn mower for larger blocks Free quotes Ph Shane Dunne 0448291074

Church News



CATHOLIC

St. Joseph's Parish Meredith Mass Times

December and January

Winchelsea Saturdays @ 6 p.m.

Inverleigh / Bannockburn Sundays @ 9 a.m. at Inverleigh except the last Sunday of the month which is at the Bannockburn Stadium .
Anakie @ 11 a.m. Sunday Dec 3rd / 17th / 24th / 31st. January 14th / 28th

Meredith @ 11 a.m. Sunday Dec 10th Jan 7th / 21st.

Christmas Mass Times Christmas Eve

Bannockburn at Bannockburn Cultural Centre @ 6 p.m. Adults are invited to bring their own outside chair and children are invited to dress as angels, shepherds or Kings. Refreshments provided afterwards.

Meredith @ 9 a.m.

Please note no Mass at Anakie this Christmas Eve.

Christmas Day

Winchelsea @ 8.30 a.m.

Inverleigh @ 10.30 a.m.

Christmas Carols/ Reconciliation Services

Winchelsea: Saturday 9th December 7p.m. Town carols by the River

Sunday 24th 7 p.m. Uniting Church

Inverleigh

Monday 11th December 7 p.m. at Inverleigh Public Hall

Meredith :Sunday 17th December 6.30 p.m. BBQ and 7.30 p.m.

Carols and Santa @ Interpretive Centre

Reconciliation Services

Meredith : Tuesday 12th @ 7.30 p.m.

Winchelsea : Thursday 14th @ 7.30 p.m.

Advance Notice for 2018

Enrolment for any children who wish to make the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation for 2018 will take place on Wednesday February 21st from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

At St. Mary MacKillop Primary School Bannockburn . BBQ tea provided.

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

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.

Christmas 2017

One morning some years ago a baby, Jesus, was born and he grew up and lived some years, spending his last few years proclaiming that we must love God and love each other as God loves us. He was crucified, died and rose again. In the process it became evident that this was God among us, completing our understanding of how God works with us.

We are again approaching that moment of the year when we marvel that God would come to us and journey with us so that we can journey to God. Yet 'Christmassy' things have been around for months and free-to-air TV announcing the real meaning of Christmas and what Christmas means to people – without once mentioning Jesus the Christ and who he is.

I don't want to sell you anything. I just want to give you a gift of God's blessing through me: "May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit come down upon you and remain with you this Christmas!

PS: please seriously consider joining us for an Advent and a Christmas service and hearing a little about the God who loves you. And by the way you can and may call us if you need some help: we can't fix all problems but who knows how we can help if you don't ask.

God bless, Fr Charles

Parish Priest Catholic Parish of Meredith 5286 1230



Meredith Parish Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve:

Bannockburn Cultural Centre 6.00 pm - *Children invited to dress as angels, shepherds and wise men.*

Meredith: 9.00 pm

Christmas Day:

Winchelsea: 8.30 am

Inverleigh: 10.30 am

Wishing you Christmas blessings and joy and happiness throughout 2018



All welcome to celebrate
Christ's birth at the
Uniting Church, Meredith
Sunday 24th December - 10pm,

Golden Plains Mobile Library



At the Meredith Primary School
Thursday 9am to 10.30am

Farewell to the Cookes

An opportunity to farewell the Cooke families – Robert and Wendy and Andrew, Louise and their children. And to say thank you to them all for their friendship and service to their community over so many years and to wish them well for their new beginning.

**SUNDAY JANUARY 7TH AT
MEREDITH MEMORIAL HALL
2 P.M.- 5 P.M.**

Please bring a plate of afternoon tea and BYO drinks.
Tea/ coffee provided.
Advance Meredith Association 0408599602

Meredith Lions Christmas Cakes & Puddings



The Meredith Lions Club are selling Christmas Cakes and Puddings to raise money for local community projects.

1kg Cake \$13, 1.5kg Cake \$17, Puddings 900gms \$13.

Available for pick up at the Meredith Community Centre before Monday 18th December. Cash only please. They will also be available at the Meredith Christmas Carols on December 17th.

The Lions Club of Meredith and District would like to wish everyone a Safe and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

St. Joseph's Op Shop

Hilary, John, Pete and Anne thank you for your donations throughout the year and hope that they have been able to assist you as well in finding that elusive bargain.

We have fantastic bargains at the moment : lots of good work wear and an outstanding display of vinyl records of every genre imaginable as well as a great library of children's books, fiction and books on every subject imaginable.

Come in and grab a bargain. Shop will close for the Christmas break on Friday December 15th at 1 p.m. and reopen on Wednesday January 17th.

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and a wonderful 2018.

5286 1201



0407 931 711

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- Land Clearing
- Site Leveling
- Conservation Work
- Building Demolition
- General Earth Moving

4113 Midland Highway, Meredith, Victoria 3333

Recreation



Eric Mayo - a Past Champion

If the Great Depression and other events of the time did not occur, there was a chance that Eric Mayo may not have played in the Ballarat, Molesworth, Meredith and Leigh Cricket Associations during his adult years and instead seen him potentially play for Victoria and even Australia.

Mayo (born in March 1907) grew up in Meredith and played his early cricket for Meredith (when availability allowed) whilst attending Geelong College between 1923 and 1926. Mayo's talent was seen early, seeing him play in the Geelong College 1st XI for three years (captaining the 1st XI in his last year) and saw him play against future Australian Test players in Ted a'Beckett and Hans Ebeling. In one match in 1925, Mayo scored unbeaten innings of 94 and 168 in the same match against Melbourne Grammar, outlining his class with the bat. However, a pair against Scotch College the following week brought him back to the pack a little.

After playing at Meredith (then playing in the Molesworth Association), his cricketing ability saw him move to play in Ballarat for four seasons with the Ballarat Footballers team. Eric's brother Samuel was also playing in Ballarat at the time for North Ballarat as an opening bowler. During this time, interest was shown by St Kilda (who offered him a trial) and the Victorian Cricket Association (as part of the Country Colts side in 1929/30) to play in Melbourne, but work was hard to come by at the time (coming into the start of the Great Depression). This saw Mayo stay in Ballarat and showcase his wares for four years (Mayo did play in 1931/32 for Meredith after a knee injury, playing in Meredith's premiership that season scoring 108 and taking 6/61).

As a result, Mayo's form warranted selection for the Ballarat XII against the touring English Teams of 1928/29 and for a Victorian Country XII against the infamous 'Bodyline' squad of 1932/33. Although Mayo struggled with the bat in these two matches, he had a claim to fame when dismissed in the 2nd innings of the 1928/29 match by the legendary English batsman Jack Hobbs who was on his last tour to Australia as a player.

When Meredith joined the Leigh Association in 1933/34, Mayo was coerced back to his home club from Ballarat Footballers to play for the rest of the 1933/34 season. Some early form was found with the ball (Mayo was a more than handy bowler in Ballarat, but proved to be dynamite in the Leigh Association), but it wasn't until he scored his maiden century (129 against Sheldford) that his ability with the bat was seen in the Association.

Over the remainder of the 1933/34 season and the following two seasons, Mayo set records in the Leigh Association at the time, such as:

- Highest Individual Grand Final Score (162* vs Teesdale in 1933/34);
- Most Runs in a Season (888 runs @ 148 average in 1934/35);
- the first player in the Association to score a double century (203 retired vs Sheldford in 1934/35 – one of only three players to reach the milestone).

When Meredith was expelled from the Leigh Association for failing to attend a League Meeting at Bannockburn prior to the start of the 1936/37 season, bowlers in the Leigh Association breathed a huge sigh of relief as they did not have to bowl to a player of his stature again. Although he only played in the Leigh Association for 3 seasons, Mayo's record beggars belief: 1,708 runs at an average of 122 and 120 wickets at an average of 7.3.

Mayo still played in the new competition that was formed after Meredith's expulsion from the Leigh Association for the next two seasons, with the highlight being an innings of 198* in the final for Meredith North against Meredith South in 1937/38. After this time, the trail for Mayo playing cricket goes cold, but there is an article that is available where Mayo did partake in a Meredith Past Players match against the Meredith team of the time in 1956 (via the Ballarat Courier).

Available records that have been compiled by the author from opposition scorebooks and newspaper reports of the day have indicated the following information:

There can be some arguments to say that Eric Mayo was the best cricketer to have ever come out of the area and the Meredith Cricket Club can be 'blessed' to have seen a cricketer of his caliber in their ranks during their proud history. Mayo died in 1980 aged 73.

***Note:** Work is underway on compiling a history document on the former Leigh Cricket Association. If anyone has any anecdotes, photos, scorebooks or other forms of memorabilia that can be supplied and used for this resource please contact Will Rice on 0417 644 775 (after hours) or willrice_shelford@hotmail.com. All items supplied to the project will be returned to their respectful owner/s and recognition of this information will be provided in the publication.*

Meredith Golf Club

Paul Mitchell Vice President

On 13th November 2017 the Meredith Golf Club held their Annual General Meeting and the following positions were filled:

President - Peter Nemtsas

Vice President - Paul Mitchell

Secretary Treasurer - Scott Crighton

3 Committee Members - Maureen Diffy, Denis Gear, Charlie Osbourne

Club Captain - to be determined.

General Business:

The new President thanked the outgoing committee for their commitment to the club and especially thanked Denis Gear, and Danny Jury for their hard work at keeping the club running. The general consensus at the meeting was it is hoped the club would continue to run and it was acknowledged that this will take a lot of work, the main points were attracting players to the course.

Discussions were held in regards to making the club more attractive to players which would hopefully attract more members. It was agreed a lot of work would be needed around the course to maintain it and this would require more people to be involved. It was also mentioned that it is difficult to see the sign for the club and the course itself from the highway by passing traffic. These areas will be a focus going forward.

In-line with keeping the club running, discussions were held with a local car club in regards to sharing facilities. The car club have indicated they wish to be actively involved in maintaining the golf club facilities and helping to ensure the golf club continues to operate. They have some ideas for improving the club going forward and will submit a proposal to the committee in the near future which they believe will be mutually beneficial.

Course Fees

Members Annual Subscriptions - \$140

Juniors Annual Subscriptions - \$20

Green Fees - \$10

The ladies have a dedicated group playing midweek on a Tuesday and there is a club game on Sundays at 10:30am.

Anyone interested in playing or finding out more, can just come along, or you can call Paul on 0448 523821

Longest Day Golf Marathon

Scott Crighton

I am participating in a Golf Victoria/Cancer Council initiative to raise awareness and fundraising for Skin Cancer, which is the Longest Day Golf Marathon 2017, playing 72 holes of golf on one day (about 12 hours of golf straight).

The Longest Day event is an endurance golf event designed to test skill, strength and stamina. The challenge is to successfully complete four rounds of golf on a single day, whilst raising funds for skin cancer. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world with more than 750,000 people treated each year. Cancer Council Victoria needs \$200,000 to fund vital research at Monash University that is investigating immunotherapy for more effective skin cancer treatment. This project will explore whether a patient's immune response can be enhanced, and thus help stop malignant tumours growing and spreading throughout the body.

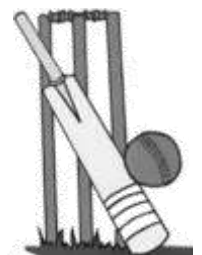
We have all been affected in some way or another by some form of cancer, whether it is family or friends, this is one way I can help by doing something I enjoy and raising as much money as I can along the way.

I will be participating in this challenge on Sunday the 17th of December at the Meredith Golf Club, if anyone would like to donate to this great cause they can go onto the below link or call me direct (0430 480 156) for a cash donation and I will deposit to the Cancer Council. Thank you in advance for your generosity. (all donations are tax deductible)

More information at: longestday2017.everydayhero.com/au/scott-1

Elaine Cricket Club

Elaine Cricket Club is taking a bus to see the Melbourne Renegades v Sydney Sixers at Kardinia Park on January 3rd. Be quick as tickets are limited Ph Shane 0448291074



Elaine Tennis Club

Elaine Tennis Club is taking a bus to the Australian Open at Rod Laver Arena on January 15th 2018. Tickets phone Shane 0448291074



The Sheep of Meredith

Kerrie Kruger

Saturday 18th November members of Lions Club of Meredith and District and the BOP Arts Co-op & Advance Meredith assisted community members decorate their Christmas sheep.

Nov 2017 also saw 51 MDF and 35 corrugated Christmas sheep be added to the towns flock.

The Christmas sheep of Meredith 2017 was a joint community project of Lions Club Meredith and District, The BOP Arts Co-op, Advanced Meredith, Meredith Community Centre.

The Project leader Kerrie, would particularly like to thank Doris, Annamarie, Liz, Bev, Samantha and Marg for their time on the day and Doris and Liz for earlier help in painting sheep.

A extra special thanks to Pete for hours spent cutting out all the Christmas sheep .

And of course young Nick for all his help and patience with this Christmas sheep project.

You can post your photos or follow on facebook - Christmas sheep of Meredith



Me-e-e-rry Christmas from the Sheep of Meredith.



Support for Paddocks

Jim Elvey

The Bannockburn and District Connected Communities, an organisation supported by Bendigo Bank, has provided a \$919 grant to purchase a brushcutter and associated safety gear for the Meredith Police Paddocks Support Group. This will be a valuable tool for the volunteers who maintain the paths and walking tracks around the 20 ha site. A growing number of visitors use the Paddocks all year round for recreational and fitness walking, so keeping the tracks in good shape is a priority.

The Support Group is extremely grateful to the Bank for its valued support and to the Lions Club of Meredith and District, which facilitated the grant application.

If you have an interest in the site's history, environment or community use, why not join this friendly and productive group? Or, you can just join the Paddocks email list for a regular update of activities and plans. Either way, contact Jim Elvey on 5286 1273.



There's more Police Paddocks news on page 23.

A.D.F.

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Meredith

FIRST POINT BULK BILLING CLINIC MEDICAL CENTRE

Ph: 5274 9090 or 5286 1369



NEW
PATIENTS
WELCOME

First Point Medical Centre opens its Rural branch in Meredith and shall be fully operational from 1st November 2017. It's supported by Doctors & staff from its Main Medical Centre in Corio-Geelong .

Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday : 9am to 5 Pm

We offer Appointment & accept "Walk In"

Services:

Chronic Disease Management

Womens Health, Childhood immunization, Health Checks, Pap Smear, Minor Procedures

Location:

32 Staughton Street-Meredith, Vic-3333

Doctors:

Dr.Swati Mitra

Dr.Neha Gupta

Dr.Ganes Kuniidapaadhum



Meredith POLICE news

Greg KITCHEN



A very warm welcome to all readers of the Meredith and district newsletter as we rapidly approach Christmas and the festive season.

Over the past two weeks I have attended two separate fires in our area which raises serious concern. The first occurred in Deans Road, Meredith on the 6th November, 2017. Although the fire only burnt a small section of grass to the side of the road, the cause could not be established. It is possible that a careless driver discarded a cigarette butt however this is only a possibility.

In a separate fire at a property in Lethbridge the 29th November 2017 a property owner ignited dry grass on his property causing a substantial fire with multiple CFA appliances in attendance.

It is in the best interests of all community members in country environments to be careful at all times when using machinery around grass land and to be aware of when equipment can be used in fire restriction periods. I would encourage people to be vigilant over the coming months as to any suspicious behaviour, such as a car parked on the side of the road in a remote location on days of extreme weather.

In an overview of the past 12 months I am very happy to report that we have not seen burglaries and serious crime in our area at a level of the preceding two years. I certainly contribute a lot of that to two offenders that targeted our area over a long period of time being apprehended and charged with multiple offences so I hope that they will not return. Over recent weeks I have taken phone messages from people reporting minor thefts. Unfortunately the callers have not left names, addresses or phone information. When reporting a crime it is the best initial option to call "000" which will always get a police response.

Of interest on the roads I recently attempted to intercept a local motorist for exceeding the speed limit in a 80 kph zone. After turning around I quickly realised that the motorist had accelerated to a very high speed in an attempt to evade police. As I travelled towards where I last observed him I located his Holden Ute on its roof while observing him running from the vehicle. He was arrested and will face a multitude of charges including driving whilst disqualified and evading police. He will appear in the Geelong Magistrates Court on Summons in early 2018.

As always I would ask people to be vigilant with suspicious vehicles or activity around the district and I continue to ask that residents with information contact me at the Meredith Police Station on 52 861222 or on Crime Stoppers on 1800 333000.

Kindest Regards
Greg KITCHEN
Officer in Charge – Meredith Police Station.

TEESDALE
Twilight Market & CAROLS

FEATURING THE MIK MAKs

\$2 ENTRY / ADULT

LOTS OF STALLS AND FOOD

A VARIETY OF ENTERTAINMENT

TURTLE BEND RESERVE
20TH DECEMBER 4PM - 8PM

CALL 0447 873 763 FOR MORE INFO
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TEESDALE.EVENTS

FreeZA Youth Space opens 4pm-8pm
*Free entry, food and drink available for all children and young people

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CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR ARRANGEMENTS 2017-2018

CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRES

Bannockburn and Linton Customer Service Centres

Close Friday 22 December 2017 at 1.00 pm, re-open on Tuesday 2 January 2018 at 8.30 am.

GARBAGE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION

Council's waste and recycling collection service will experience changes over the Christmas period. Waste and recycling bins normally collected on Monday 25 December 2017 (Christmas Day) will be collected on Tuesday 26 December 2017 commencing at 3am through to 6pm.

Cleanaway's commencement time of 3am is to ensure all scheduled collections are completed. Residents are advised, bins must be placed at the kerbside the evening before the above scheduled 3am collection, ensuring no missed services.

All other scheduled collection days will remain as normal including New Year's Day.

ROKEWOOD TRANSFER STATION

The Rokewood Transfer Station will be closed on Sunday 24 December and Sunday 31 December 2017. The site will reopen for its normal operating hours of 10am-3pm on Sunday 7 January 2018.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Roads & Drains:	Works Superintendent	Ph. 5220 7111
Dogs & Livestock:	Community Protection Officer	Ph. 5220 7111
Garbage & Recycling:	Cleanaway	Ph. 1800 230 130

COUNCIL MEETING CYCLE 2018

At its Special Meeting on 8 November 2017, Council resolved the following dates for Council Meetings in 2018. Meetings are usually held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 4.00pm.

23 January	Bannockburn Shire Hall
27 February	Linton Customer Service Centre
27 March	Bannockburn Shire Hall
24 April	Linton Customer Service Centre (Wednesday)
22 May	Bannockburn Shire Hall
26 June	Linton Customer Service Centre
24 July	Bannockburn Shire Hall
28 August	Linton Customer Service Centre
23 September	Bannockburn Shire Hall
23 October	Linton Customer Service Centre
7 November	Bannockburn Shire Hall (Special (Annual) Meeting of Council) (Wednesday)
27 November	Bannockburn Shire Hall
18 December	Linton Customer Service Centre (3rd Tuesday)

Councillors and staff at Golden Plains Shire Council wish residents a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe 2018.

ROD NICHOLLS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

A Way of Life

by KERRIE KRUGER



A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO A MORE SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE

Have you ever smelt a summer garden?

As you water your summer vegies in the cool summer evenings, take the time to really smell your garden. Slow down time, for me it is a moment in time for all my senses to relax. So grab the hose and meander around the garden.

A sprinkling of water on the tomatoes, basil, and lemon tree releases an amazing strong fragrance, so deep that it immediately calms me.

Then over to the mint patch where the heady minty scent including the spearmint provides a clearing fragrance especially when combined with the subtle chocolate mint and the spicy Vietnamese mint.

In the herb patch the water releases a hint of fragrance from the thyme, oregano & parsley plants.

A few steps and wow a heady onslaught of lemon from the lemon verbena as I brush past on my way to water the curry plant, and what a strong hit of curry, it nearly overwhelms.

Then with senses still reeling, the subtle scent of the last broad bean flowers mingles with the wormwood and lavender, and it restores my mind back to relaxing and letting go of the days worries and business.

Summer also brings a sense of vigilance to the garden. There can be white fly in the tomatoes & carrots, they suck plant juices, causing weak plants, yellow leaves, wilt and leaf drop. They are easily dealt with by hanging yellow sticky cards just above plant tops to capture bugs and insecticidal soap or neem oil are effective whitefly controls.

Slugs and snails enjoy a munch on most plants. Encourage birds & frogs as they eat slugs and snails. Copper strips placed around plants prevent feeding due to a chemical reaction with the slime produced by slugs and snails. A favourite nighttime activity at our place, is with a torch and bucket head out into the dark and handpick slugs & snails, drop them into a jar of soapy water (compost in the morning). Beer traps also work, but the beer should be emptied and refilled daily. Another option is ducks. As Bill Mollison, founder of Permaculture, says: *You don't have a slug problem, you have a duck deficiency!*

Another major pest is the Harlequin beetle, which sucks plant juices, especially from berries. They are probably the toughest veggie/fruit pest to control as products don't work. We have found collecting them manually in a bucket of soapy water is the only effective way of controlling numbers.

Summer gardening is about heat, moisture and bug control but it is so worth the trouble for your health - mind, body and soul.

The Summer Solstice 22nd Dec the longest day of the year and we like to celebrate the light and nature by working in the garden and then enjoying time with our family & friends as the sun sets into the shortest night of the year.

Merry Christmas, Happy Solstice & Blessings To All

Kerrie

Summer in the Vegie Garden



December & January it's about planting small numbers regularly, so that are easy to care for and to stagger your harvest period.

December – you can still be planting : basil, bush & runner beans, capsicum/chilli, carrot, celery, cucumber, eggplant, parsnip, potatoes, radishes, silverbeet, sunflowers, tomatoes, sweetcorn, zucchini,

January – mid to late – is the time to be thinking about autumn harvest

basil, beans bush, beetroot, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, fennel, lettuce, parsnip, radish, silverbeet, turnips.

Planted as seeds or seedlings, they will need TLC, water & shade over the hot days, so plan your garden planting around any holidays. There is nothing so heartbreaking to come home to a garden of wilting, dried out and dead seedlings.

Harvest over Summer Months:

You will hopefully be harvesting in small manageable numbers if you got the planting schedule correct in late winter early spring. The only time you want a glut, of fruit or veggies, like tomatoes, is if you want to preserve as sauces, jams or stewed fruit for winter months.

Vegetables & Herbs:

basil, beans, beetroot, capsicum, carrots, chillies, corn, eggplant, lettuce, onions, parsley, peas, potatoes, rhubarb, silverbeet

Fruit:

apricots, berries, cherries, figs, grapes, Valencia oranges, peaches, pears, plums, strawberries.



Prince Philip looks out of the window on Christmas Eve: 'That's some reindeer' he says. The Queen replies: '63 years. Yes, it is a lot.'



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Little Miseries in Meredith

Kristian Hilton and Trudy Mitchell

Photos Kerry Thomson

Little Miseries, an independent post-apocalyptic drama, is being shot on location in Meredith & surrounding areas. It is a collaboration between Ballistic Ink Productions, Taymaynari Productions and Lone Viking films.

It follows Ashlyn Walker & her zombie-fied husband Cole through the bush wastelands of Australia in order to find a cure. But when he disappears one night, Ashlyn must now confront her worst fears and a man from her past.

Upon hearing about the films plans to shoot scenes in our own backyard Trudy and Kerry decided this was something we must see with our own eyes.

On arriving we were greeted by film Armourer John Fox who had an array of prop weapons ready for action in the films closing scenes, he led us further into the Meredith bushland, where sure enough a brutal scene was being played out as a renegade zombie has chewed and munched his way through some actors, after the director yelled "CUT" John introduced us to the most polite grotesque young zombie gentleman (Local Stuntman, Kristian Hilton). He explained a little about the story & his involvement as one of the films lead roles, he was cast due to his background in stunts as the role of COLE who was involved in several action heavy scenes. This is being produced on a 10k budget.

The film stars a cast of Melbourne and Geelong actors; Brooke Moss, Kristian Hilton, Vincent Kos, Loraine Fabb, Oliver Midson, Trinity Seach Marell and Christopher Craven. You can also check out our IMDb.

Kristian will be part of the FriYAY extravaganza being held at the Meredith Community Centre on the 15th December. Full details are on the flyer in the centre of this months newsletter.



Above, local stuntman, Kristian Hilton, having a bite and below, preparing for a scene with actor Vincent Kos




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Taken some good photos lately?

In 2018 we will need more good pics, so next time you go "Wow, that one turned out well!", think of us.

Contact us, or have a look under **Extras** at meredithnews.com.au for our "Click Clique" guidelines. You will also find some tips for taking better photos.

Hope we hear from you soon.



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Gem's a Leader

Gemma Hanan, one of our talented contributors to these pages, has, for the last two years, been studying communications at Swinburne University. The university offers an "Emerging Leaders Award" to students who successfully complete four out of eight different awards ranging from career development to diversity awards. Gemma has just been awarded her second such award.

Well done Gemma!



Bethany Giving Tree at the Meredith Community Hub



The Meredith Kindergarten Committee together with the Meredith Community Hub are hosting the Bethany Giving Tree Appeal. 🌟

This Appeal is aimed at providing gifts for men, women & children, who may otherwise go without this Christmas. 🌟

We can accept donations of 'unwrapped' gifts, to be placed under the Christmas Tree @ the Meredith Community Hub up until Friday December 15th. We thank you in advance for your donations & generosity.

@BethanyCommunitySupportVictoria and bay 93.9 and use #givingtreeappeal2017.

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Summer in the Bush

The weather is warming. Grass is browning. Daylight hours are lengthening. In my garden, skinks dart into hiding places, spiders weave their webs and butterflies visit the flowering lavender bush. Summer is on the way. Nature is preparing, some species to revel in the warmth, and others to withstand the heat and the dry. For ectothermic animals, such as reptiles, frogs, insects and spiders, which need warmth from their environment, summer is the time for activity. These animals can start the day by crawling out into the sunshine and basking. The sun's warmth provides them with the energy they need to go about their daily lives, hunting, avoiding predators, finding mates and raising offspring. If the day becomes too hot, they seek shelter in the shade, or a pool of water or underground in a burrow.

For endothermic animals, those such as mammals and birds which generate their own heat, summer can be a more difficult time. They face the risk of overheating. They adapt to the heat by being active at night, or at dawn and dusk, and resting in a cool place during the hottest part of the day. They may use evaporative cooling by panting or sweating. In some animals blood vessels bring warm blood close to the body surface where the heat radiates into the air. Kangaroos aid this process by licking their wrists. Koalas stay cool by hugging a tree trunk or sprawling along a large branch as these are colder than the surrounding air. Bats fan themselves with their wings. A tree hollow or a hollow log provides a cool refuge. Water becomes a precious resource as creeks stop flowing and dry to a series of waterholes. As the climate dries, animals such as koalas which formerly found all their water needs in gum leaves are being forced to the ground to seek a drink. You can help by leaving out a bowl of water with a stick or a rock in it, allowing any visiting small creatures to clamber out and avoid drowning.

While it is difficult for most mammals to travel long distances, some birds fly to cooler places such as the coast, the mountains or Tasmania. Others arrive, finding this to be a cooler place. The vocal cuckoos which visited in spring depart. Grey shrike-thrushes remain but no longer sing their melodious springtime songs. Eastern spinebills, small brown, black and white honeyeaters with a long curved beak arrive, as do sacred kingfishers, the flash of their blue-green backs visible as they fly between trees. If there is sufficient food some birds will attempt to rear another batch of chicks. Late in summer many birds begin to moult, often leaving beautifully coloured or patterned feathers on the ground.

Plants, mosses, fungi and lichens also feel the harsh heat and lack of water. Mosses, lichens and the fruiting bodies of some fungi can dry out and shrivel up, revitalising after rain. Some plants avoid dry and heat by dying and waiting for autumn rains to germinate their seeds, or to signal that it is time for their tubers to sprout. Other plants minimise water loss by having small thick leaves, or a coating of wax or hairs on their leaves, or by opening their pores to take in carbon dioxide at night. In summer, many plants produce seeds or berries that are spread by the wind or by animals which use them as a food source.

On hot days, the bush sounds different, with the shrill calls of cicadas replacing the chatter of birds. There are still a few flowers to be seen including yellow rush-lilies, hyacinth orchids with tall brown stalks covered in pink spotted flowers, dainty blue-purple bluebells, small shrubs of blooming Mitchell's wattle, some eucalypts and large bushes of sweet bursaria covered in little white perfumed flowers. These provide food for insects which are preyed upon by lizards and spiders, all of which are eaten by birds and small mammals when they come out in the cooler evening.



Wendy

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Australian Superfine Wool Growers Association

Sherrie and Tom Spielvogel

Tom Spielvogel is now an Ararat/Barunah region delegate to the Australian Superfine Woolgrowers Association committee (ASWGA).

The ASWGA is an international association of superfine wool growers and processors founded to promote and further the development and marketing of superfine wool. The organisation represents Australian superfine wool growers as well as some of the most famous and prestigious international processors and manufactures.

Tom said having a local voice in the association was a great step forward for wool producers in the Elaine and Meredith area. He acknowledged the benefits of being a grower member of the ASWGA as it had allowed him to have a voice in their industry and to be up to date with current industry research and trends.

Another benefit was of being a ASWGA member was through the participation of members in the annual Ermenegildo Zegna Wool Awards. The financial rewards for all wool producers who entered this competition were significant as all the entered wool was purchased by the Ermenegildo Zegna at well above market prices. Prizes for the winners and place-getters were fantastic and Tom said he'd love to be on that podium one day.

Tom encouraged anyone who was interested or curious to know more about the ASWGA or the Ermenegildo Zegna competition to give him a call on 0408 861 451.



Tom Spielvogel, Count Paolo Zegna, and David Rowbotham at a recent ASWGA function.

Vale Marjorie Alice Wray.

Marg Cooper

Marj Wray passed away on November 2, 2017. She was the loving wife of Lance (deceased) and mother of Gail, Jan and Sandra (Mabes), grandmother to Simon, Lanon, Bindy, Gemma and Melanie and great grandmother to Harryson, Jaxson, Lauchlan, Charlotte, Willow, Hugo, and Chloe. A private memorial service was held in Geelong.

Marj Kimpton married Lance Wray in February 1951. Marj and Lance lived at "Clipswood Park", a property of 1400 acres on Eclipse Creek at Morrison which Lance had bought in 1950. Marj was a city girl, being raised in Drumcondra, Geelong. She adapted quickly to country life, clearing stubble in the front paddocks, rousabouting in the woolshed and being shearers cook. Both she and Lance worked hard to establish pastures, establish a fine Merino Sheep Stud and produce fine wool.



In her earlier years, Marj played tennis with Morrison. She was an active member of the Morrison CFA auxiliary. She was a great cook and scones were her specialty. Marj had a keen interest in cars and even in her

80's she would leave many a car salesman stunned by her knowledge of what was under that car bonnet. In her leisure when not planting trees, she would be found at the piano. She had the ability to hear a song on the radio and within 15 minutes would have nussed it out on the piano. She loved to play Glen Miller songs, Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, The Andrews Sisters - especially *The Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy*, with her daughters boogying around the piano as she played.

Lance died in 2012. Marj spent her last years at Ocean Grove and returned to Morrison to see family and attend to her beloved garden whilst still in her 90's. She annually returned to Meredith for the Anzac Services and would be seen heading to the supper room with a plate of scones and sandwiches in hand.



Meredith Community Learning Centre

Term 4 2017



The Staff and Committee at Meredith Community Centre would like to thank everyone who has helped and participated in our activities in 2017.

We would like to wish you all a safe and peaceful Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you all again in 2018.

DATES

**Occasional Care last day
- Dec 15th**

Centre Closes - Dec 20th



**The Centre will re-open
on 22nd January 2018**



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Motorcyclists Have Your Say

VicRoads wants to hear from Victoria's 198,000 strong motorcycling community on ways to enhance safety on Victorian roads. Riders and enthusiasts can help steer the future direction of the Motorcycle Safety Levy program, by participating in the 2017 Motorcycle Safety Survey.

The Motorcycle Safety Levy was introduced in 2002 in response to the increasing number of a motorcyclists being killed or seriously injured. Since 2002, \$75 million in levy funds have been committed to dedicated on-road and non-road motorcycle safety projects, including more than 194 road improvement projects at identified motorcycle blackspots.

The projects funded from the levy are over and above the annual motorcycle safety programs conducted by the TAC, VicRoads and Victoria Police.

Safe System Road Infrastructure Program Director, Bryan Sherritt, said the feedback would help VicRoads determine how funds from the Motorcycle Safety Levy should be used across regional and metropolitan Victoria. "We want to hear the views of motorcyclists on their biggest safety issues, so we can deliver improvements that will prevent motorcyclist being seriously injured or killed on our roads," he said.

The Victorian Government's **Towards Zero** Action Plan aims to achieve a 20 per cent reduction in deaths and 15 per cent reduction in serious injuries on our roads by 2020. It is being delivered in partnership between the TAC, VicRoads, Victoria Police, the Department of Justice and Regulation and the Department of Health and Human Services.

The survey will be available via the VicRoads website and from VicRoads offices across the state until 15th December.



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Locals Donate Quilt to Flying Doctors

Marg Cooper

Meredith Sew N Sews is a group of women who meet on Mondays at the Meredith Community Centre. In the studio from 1.30-3.30 pm they work on their craft projects together. Many of the women are skilled in patchwork quilting and spinning fleece and recently combined their talents to make a quilt that featured panels with a Christmas theme.

The group decided to donate the quilt to the Royal Flying Doctors Service for them to raffle or sell to help raise funds. As a consequence, they invited representatives from the Bayside Auxiliary of the Royal Flying Doctors Service to come to Meredith to accept the Christmas quilt and another quilt made and donated by Anna Marie Londish.

On Monday, October 30th, the Sew N Sews and a number of their friends gathered in the studio where Janice (pictured) told the story of Rev. John Flynn who started the Flying Doctors which now has 23 bases in Australia, covering 7 million square miles and has progressed from a canvas covered aeroplane to include a jet aeroplane.



It was interesting to learn that there are 200 transports of patients in Victoria per day and that aeroplanes travel from Mildura to Melbourne twice daily. Today it is not only for those in the outback and all services are provided free.

Fundraising is vital for the service to continue. The Bayside Auxiliary was established more than 20 years ago, raising more than \$300,000 through street stalls, fashion parades, an annual luncheon and by visiting groups like Meredith Sew N Sews to accept gifts, to sell merchandise and to promote the cause. The raffle raised \$136 for the Flying Doctors. The basket of mainly local produce was won by Marg Cooper, who was most surprised and appreciative.

Wendy and Janice both wore small gold aeroplanes on their lapels. When questioned about these adornments they admitted that they had both been awarded them for their service to the Flying Doctors Auxiliary. They said it has also been named the most reputable charity for six years in a row.

So Mardi, Fiona, Erica, Isobel, Gwen, Anna Marie, Carmel, Freda, Geraldine, Betty, Doreen, Cheryl, Joyce and Dorothy (with the help of Judy who quilts their productions) can be congratulated on their skilled work, their generosity and for organizing a social day to learn about the Flying Doctors and to meet together.

They say they knit, sew and "solve the world's problems" but they also do a project for charity each year which was warmly received.



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GEMS



Selfie Service

As always, December brings out my obligatory Christmas related post. Usually about scary Santas and the hells of working in retail at this time of year, I have decided to explore yet another technological phenomenon that has spread like a disease throughout shops across the globe. Whether to the betterment of humanity or not.

It was as I stood in front of the recent release CDs in a large retailer the other day that I thought with embarrassment of what I was there to purchase. For some reason, I had become attached to the music of a certain songstress that ordinarily was reserved for a younger audience. Or one that had grown up listening to her music without inhibitions. I stood looking at this CD and its neighbours on the shelf and thought 'I really don't want to see the look on the cashier's face when I hand this over'. But despite my better judgement, I picked it up and strolled towards the registers, carefully running over a witty comment that would see the absolution of my embarrassment through the magic that is the Christmas Kris Kringle; 'Ahh the things kids listen to these days, eh?' (Insert awkward chuckle with sales assistant here).

As I approached the registers that I had been visiting sporadically over the last however many years I had been earning my own wage, something seemed off. The line I was used to spending extraneous amounts of time in at this time of year was gone. There were no employees shouting "Next!" in uninviting tones. There were no computers telling me which register was free. There were no registers. It was like stepping into a silent, alien world.

While I was struggling with the realisation of what had happened here, I also sensed a ripple of relief come over me. There were self-serve machines everywhere. The unsmiling faces of employees who had long ago forgotten the meaning of good customer service had been replaced by screens that had models pretending to be employees smiling like I had never been smiled at there before. I didn't have to explain to her why I had this CD. I just had to scan it and get on with my life. No one need ever know my secret shame.

After the stress of navigating a new system that hundreds of other of people had undoubtedly touched with all manner of germmy fingers, I left with my purchase. I hid it in my bag so no one could see what I had just bought and reflected on the state of our world. Yes, these machines can be handy. But technology fails where humans do not. Yes, they can be quick. But shove someone technologically impaired in front of one and there in begins a backup of angry shoppers just wanting to get home and cook their dinner. Yes, we now have the option to spare ourselves the embarrassment of human interaction. But where's the fun in telling a computer that this isn't for you? You should have to earn your embarrassing purchases.

Gemma

Vale Helen Jones

Helen Jones passed away on 20th October, 2017. Much loved wife of David, mother of Michelle, Stuart, Trevor, Victoria and Christopher, and grandmother to 14 cherished grandchildren, Helen had been an active contributor to the Meredith community and beyond. These involvements included:

- President of the Meredith Kindergarten Committee
- Leader of Meredith Cub Scouts
- District Commissioner of Pony Club Victoria
- Member of Meredith Branch of the RSL
- Member of Project Hope, dedicated to horse rescue
- Member of Meredith C.E.R.T.

Professionally, Helen continued to work as a theatre nurse until recent times.

This district was a better place for her involvement in so many aspects of community life.



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At the Paddocks

Jim Elvey

It has been a fruitful year for the Meredith Police Paddocks Support Group. With a grant from the Shire's Community Grants Program, it was able to buy the materials to build handsome post and rail structures at both Campion Road and Nuttall Street entrances. This required nearly \$5,000 worth of labour on our part, so it was a big job over several working bees and lots of small team visits for particular tasks. But the results show it was well worth it. Visitors will know they are entering somewhere special before they even encounter the magnificent views and the unfolding story on the interpretive signs.

And if that wasn't enough, there were sufficient funds left over, together with some donations from the Ballarat Environment Network (BEN) and Group members, to purchase material to build and install a picnic table and several viewing seats along the ridges. The picnic table is already installed on the southern creek flats, accessible from the cut path near the Campion Road entrance. If you feel like a walk up picnic, then you will find this a very attractive and shady venue.

We also established more copses of trees, shrubs and wildflowers, all of which are thriving. This will build on older plantings to create a substantially treed walk that provides excellent small bird habitat, and an extensive display of wildflowers native to the area. This work has been supplemented by plantings along the main path of native tussocks, which members have themselves propagated.

Alongside this work, BEN and its contractors have been working to control the ever-present weeds and rabbits.

As part of its role, BEN will be shortly be cutting a 10m fire break along the western boundary.

A recent meeting of the Group mapped out its plans for next year, which will see the continued enhancement of this valuable district asset.

If you have an interest in the environment, history or recreational opportunities at the Paddocks, you should consider joining the Support Group. There is absolutely no pressure to take part in everything or even anything. You can even just sign up for the regular updates on activities and plans. But the real fun is getting involved with this friendly and dedicated group. Call me (Jim Elvey) on 5286 1273.



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These beautiful nature close-ups were taken by Bronwyn Peters (left) and Kerry Thomson.



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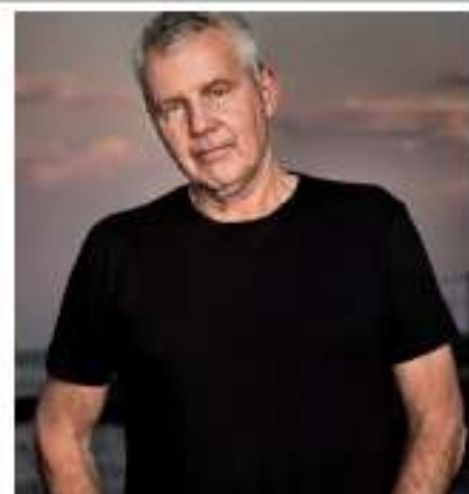
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the Cultured Goats

HURRY, HURRY, HURRY! Rattle your dags, Billys, Nannies & Kids. The Archibald Portraiture Prize Exhibition at the Geelong Gallery closes on the 10th of December. Probably Australia's number one Art Prize, the Archibald is named after the historic editor of the Bulletin at the turn of the 19th/20th century. Each painting is complemented with a short bio or back story.

Peter Gost

My strongest impression of the Archibald is again, as it has been when I've seen it in Sydney, that it is so different from any other show in the way the viewing public reacts. I think this must be because there is always something there for everyone, in style and content. Everyone can go, confident there will be something there they will recognise, like and understand – and they can say so. There will also be stuff they can say they are uncomfortable with, so there is an audible buzz in the place unlike the hushed tones of a blockbuster Old Master or challenging contemporary show.

This Archibald reflects the moment, with the complex impact of the Seven Sisters Dreaming and the clear simplicity of the openly gay female sports star.

My other favourites: Vincent Namatjira's hilarious selfie, the Peter Powditch mixed materials and the Jessica Ashton's Clown.

Steve Gost

The Exhibition is made up of over 40 canvases. They vary in size, materials and certainly style. I will not try to describe them all.

- The first that really stuck me was the self-portrait by Jessica Ashton. The artist depicts herself as a clown. I found it moving, because the expression has hints of sadness and introspection.
- By far the largest painting is Marcus Wills' portrait of Thomas M Wright. The subject is shirtless and looks ready to go, as a labourer might be. He seems ready to walk out of the canvas and into the world.
- The image that appears here is of Andrew Lloyd Greensmith's small and intimate rendering of an aged Eileen Kramer. When she sat for this work she had just turned 102 years old. A beautiful face cupped in fine hands. For me it portrays her spirit.
- The most unusual portrait displayed here is one that challenges our concept of portraiture. Especially when one considers the history of this Portrait Prize and the



Andrew Lloyd Greensmith's rendering of Eileen Kramer (Image reproduced with the permission of the Geelong Art Gallery)

editorial policies of the original Bulletin magazine of the late 19th Century. The Magazine certainly was not accepting of Aboriginal Culture or the cultural/artistic expression of it. Called Seven Sisters Dreaming, this canvas by Tjungkara Ken is a wonderful splash of the reds of the Red Centre.

Do take the time to get down to the Geelong Gallery; it's well worth a look. And stick your head into the Who's Who Portrait Show next door, featuring Geelong senior students' works – equally diverse and as strong as the main show.

Coming up...



Christmas Noel: Basilica of St Mary of the Angels, 136 Yarra St, Geelong, presents a Program that includes J.S.Bach's Christmas Cantata. Performers: The Wildfire Choir and Orchestra, and The Geelong Youth Choir. On Friday December 15th. Tickets \$35/\$30, children and students are free. Book at trybooking.com/GOSS, or at the door. A very Special Event!

The Golden Plains Art Trail: Don't forget to register for the March 2018 Event. See GPS Website for more info.

Ballarat Gallery: The Romancing the Skull Exhibition continues.

Christmas Carols by Candlelight: see local papers for details.

Spring in the Shire Exhibition

Samantha Thompson



Arts and Culture Officer, Golden Plains Shire Council.

We had a packed house at the BOP on Saturday, November 25 with over 90 people enjoying the opening of "Spring in the Shire". Local wines, nibbles and live music added to the event and wonderful selection of finalists work. The collection will be hung in the Bannockburn Cultural Centre for 2 months for the community to enjoy.

Congratulations to the winners of "Spring in the Shire" photography competition:

First prize: Chris Pearce.

Young Adult: Quinn Colins

BOP Prize: Jade Gore

Children's Prize: Jessica Richens

Thank you to our wonderful judges, Mayor Kirby, Sara Taylor Photography and Tas Wansbrough.

Thank you also to the sponsors, Bendigo Community Bank, The BOP Arts co-op, Bannockburn Pharmacy and The Pink Carnation Florist.



Overheard at a department store when a boy asked Santa for a train set. "If you get your train," Santa told him, "your dad will want to play with it too. Is that all right?"

The boy became very quiet, so Santa asked "What else would you like Santa to bring you?"

The boy promptly replied, "Another train."



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Steve Duffy

Spices Part 2

Last month, we talked about some of the changes in the foods we eat in the last couple of decades : how spices feature more and more in the modern Australian Cuisine. This group of flavours have not just been used for eons for both taste and nutritional purposes, but also to preserve and control microbial growth, especially in the equatorial countries. Notice how chilli features strongly in the cuisines in these hot climates. There are several herbs spices that are being recommended these days for their health benefits. Let's look at some of the history.

Way back, during the Roman Empire, spices were imported from Asia and Africa. There is not a lot of information about recipes from the Roman Empire; and available ingredients have changed drastically. The recording of recipes in Europe came with the rise of the ruling classes in Medieval times. It has been said the Indian spices like Cloves, Ginger and Cinnamon were used to mask poor quality meats. But researchers seem to agree that availability and status were more important. Marco Polo features as one who introduced foreign tastes to Europe. These spices were costly and seen as a statement of class. Perhaps the palette at these times was different: wines were super sweet and beers were freshly made and full bodied. For example, a lamb or beef casserole like a Lancashire Hot Pot, originated with a lot more spiciness including Mace, Cloves and Pepper. Next time you cook a stew add a little more of these spices and throw some beer or stout into the mix. That will give some Medieval insight.

Then came the printing press about 500 years ago. It brought on a revolution just as life changing as the digital revolution of our time. Books had arrived! I'm sure that recipes and food writings were a tiny part of this enormous change, but we can look back and discover facts about the food of those times, much more than what had gone before.

Not only was that huge change happening, explorers like Columbus and Vasco De Gama were sailing off in all directions, both East and West: the Americas and the Far East. And they brought these new tastes home. Imagine Ireland without potatoes or Italy without tomatoes and capsicums; not to mention the food of the gods: chocolate from Mexico! The New World supplied many of these new flavours and spices. The Indian spice trade had really picked up thanks to the Dutch East India Company and the like. Sir Walter Raleigh even introduced tobacco (Thanks for that Walt! That worked out well!). By the 1600's European Cuisine became more expansive and more divergent. Again, led by the rich and royal households, local foods included more use of Ginger, Galangal, Star Anise and many more exotics. The Saffron market boomed in Spain, being originally from Iran.

A very dominant spice: Pepper: green black and white, was being used all over Europe. Interestingly, this is from the same plant, picked and processed at different stages in the berries' development. These days every table has pepper as a staple. The spices may have come from faraway places with strange sounding names, but the foreign cuisines were not imported, although their influence began to show. The big

changes in Europe were driven by gastronomy, with greats like Brillat-Savarin and later Escoffier. Spices were employed to enhance the stronger flavours of wild and game meats: Rabbit or Venison with Juniper Berries, Cloves, Mace or Cinnamon are but a few examples. Try them cooked with honey and mustard as well as the spices.

The real revolution in the use of spices was yet to come. The French included Creole flavours from Africa and central America. The British Raj, over several centuries, assured the acceptance of spicy dishes called curries into the western taste. By the time my copy of the Coronation Cookery Book was published in 1937, recipes for curries and chutneys were included. Although entries were dominated by English, Irish and French style recipes. Some other European influences are there as well.

With the influx of various European people after the second World War, we started to become familiar with Italian and Greek cuisine, among others. They were using herbs and spices in an unfamiliar way, but we took it on board.

There is no greater example of this than the now ubiquitous Spaghetti Bolognese; probably the most common and popular family meal in Australia today.

Wishing all our readers a safe and happy holiday season. Cook up a storm over Christmas! And put a bit of spice in it!



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Steve



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Before you drive into Geelong or down to Melbourne where all the Christmas shopping crowds are, take the time to come in and see what gifts we have to offer this year in a more relaxed environment. We have an extensive range of high quality gifts at affordable prices for all ages.

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- Watches

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Saturday:	8:30am - 1:00pm
Sunday:	CLOSED

2018 Calendars now available – FREE!



Kindred matters

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Listening to our Head, Heart and Gut

This topic is about creating more awareness of our bodies and the importance of listening to our *heart* and *gut* more. All of us are guilty of listening to our *head* and what it tells us which can at times take control and lead us 'up the garden path' or into a state of despair. Some of us live in our *head* most of the time. Consequently if we spend too much time in this place it can literally 'do our head in' creating distress and ill health such as, insomnia, fatigue anxiety, depression, gastric disease, pain, blood pressure or cardiac problems, etc.

The key to good health and well being is to spend some time listening to our *heart* and *gut* and what they too are telling us. If we ignore these areas of our body and we focus only on problem solving with our *head* alone we will often become unwell. So, whenever we are faced with making an important decision or we find ourselves feeling unhappy and out of sorts it's helpful to tune into our heart and gut for answers. For example, we are told by our friends and family to 'follow our heart and dreams' and they encourage us to tap into our intuition by asking 'what is your gut feeling?' This advice is fantastic as it guides us to get out of our *head* and tune into the rest of our body.

When we tune in to our *heart* and *gut* we create more capacity to problem solve and overcome obstacles, make good choices and live with less distress.

Here are some helpful tips to assist you to take more time to listen to your *heart* and *gut*;

Find a quiet place where you can relax with out distractions. Put your hand on your *heart* and listen to what it needs right now or desires in future. Do the same for your *gut* and listen to how it guides you. Then check in with your *head* notice if your *gut* and *heart* agree with each other or not? You may need to repeat the exercise several times over a few days or more before you achieve alignment with all three.

If you find that your head is not listening effectively to your *heart* or *gut* and you find it arguing with them - try writing it down. Ask yourself and write down the answer 'what is my heart telling me?', 'what is my gut telling me? And 'what is my head saying about my heart and gut?'

Sometimes consulting with someone that you are close with and trust that they have the very best intentions for you can be helpful. They will be more able to guide you or point you in the right direction. Remember though ultimately at the end of the day only you can take charge of the situation.

Our *heart* leads us to where we need to be in regards to our lifestyle but please be prepared that it may take time to reach our destination. I often recommend that we allow a five year period to get to where our heart desires, That way it's a bonus if we manage to get there earlier. For example, saving for a deposit on a home or overseas trip, changing career, establishing a successful business or finding love.

Our *gut* tells us when we are not being true to ourselves, when we are causing self harm or are in danger. It is the source of knowing what we need well before we realise it. For example, knowing when we are drinking too much, not getting enough sleep, not being fair to someone.

Our *head* has the job of making sense of what our *heart* and *gut* are saying. When it listens carefully our *head* finds a way to act accordingly. It will come up with all of the answers. Remember though if your *head* is only coming up with excuses or reasons not to listen to your *heart* or *gut* it is important to identify that it is not really listening or it is simply not ready to hear it.

For more reading about this topic go to;

themindfulnesssummit.com/sessions/head-heart-gut-check/spinalresearch.com.au/three-brains-head-heart-gut-sometimes-conflict/
theperformancesolution.com/three-brains-leadership/

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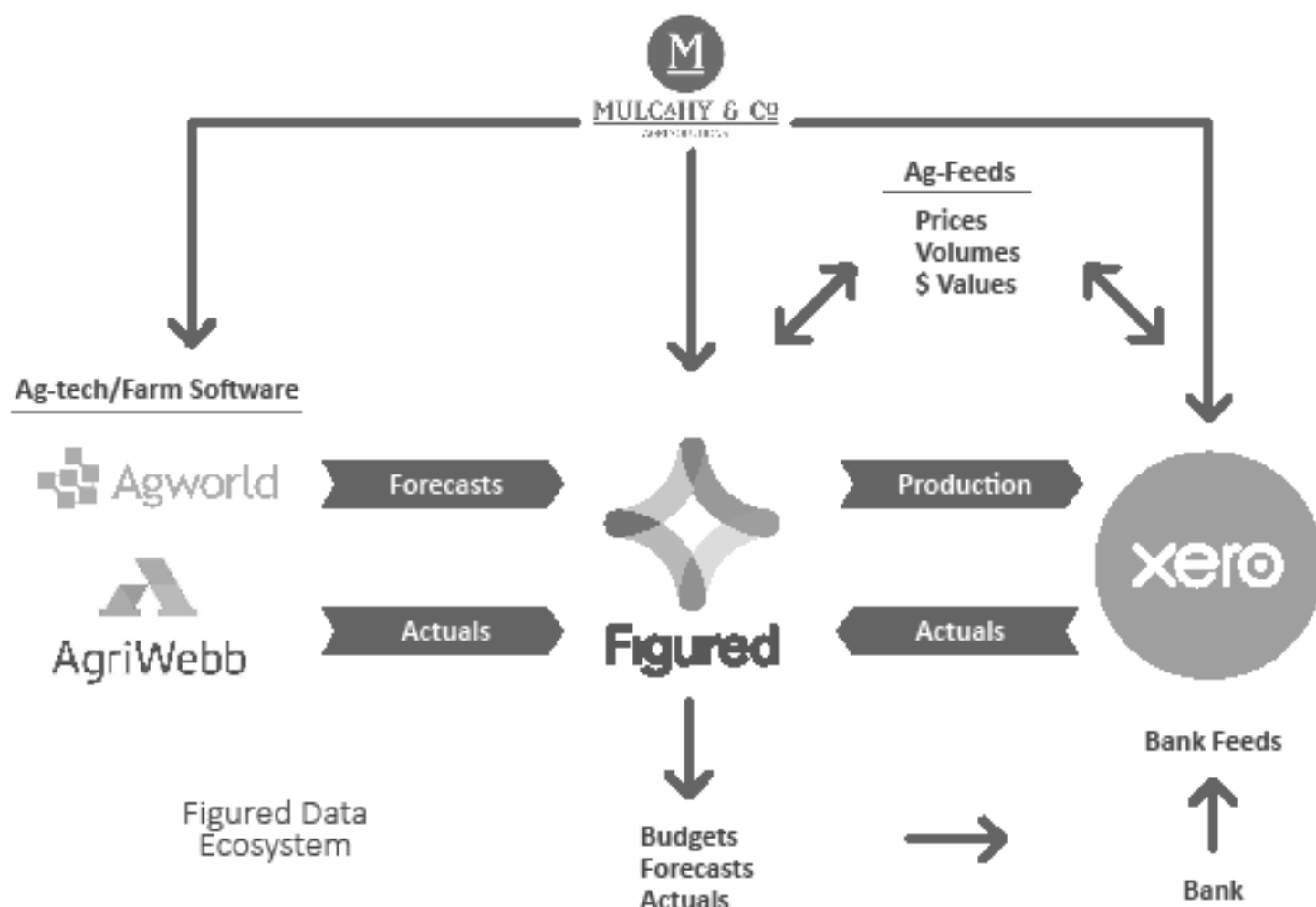
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Makes 16, Prep time 10 mins, Cook time 30 mins

Ingredients

395g Can sweetened condensed milk

130g butter, chopped

1 tps vanilla paste

¼ cup cocoa

½ cup desiccated coconut

1/3 cup brown sugar

1 cup plain flour

1 tps baking powder

½ cup white choc bits

½ cup dark choc bits

1 cup frozen raspberries.

Method

Pre-heat oven to 160 C. Grease and line a 20cm square tin.

In a medium saucepan, add condensed milk, butter and vanilla paste. Stir over low heat for 5 minutes or until the butter has melted, then take off the heat.

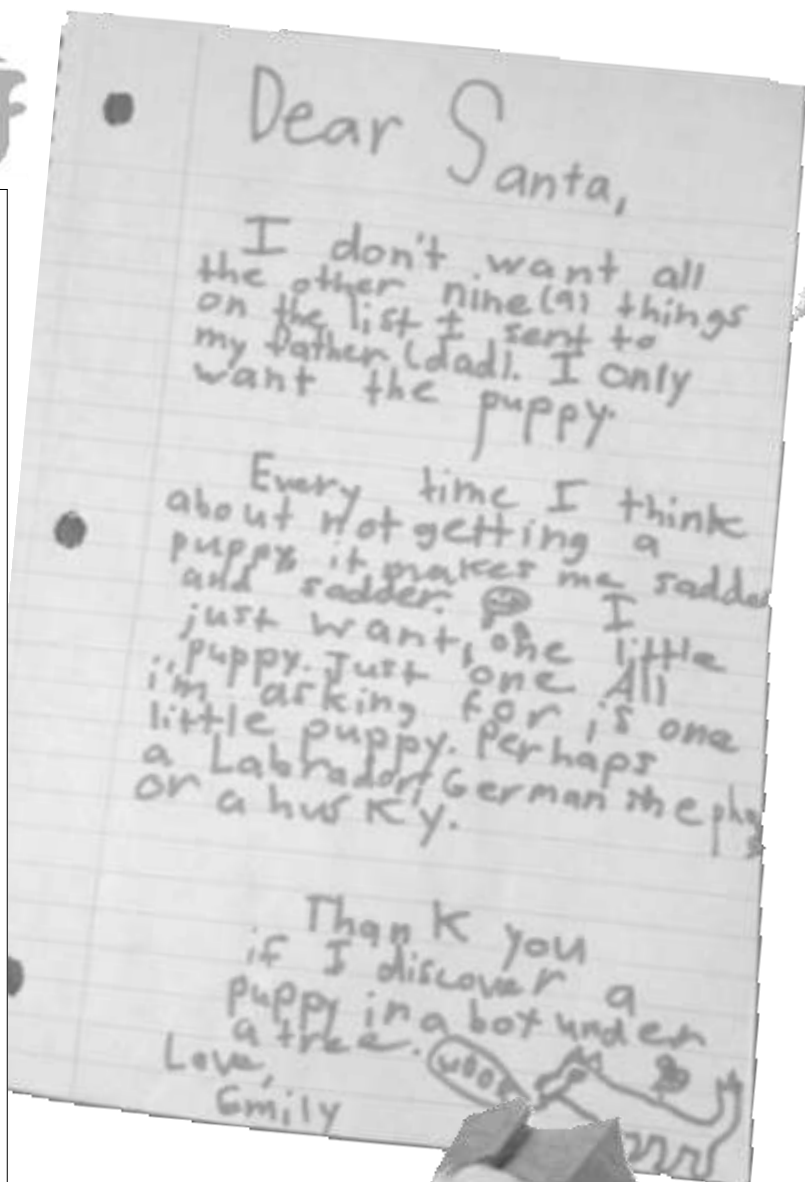
Add cocoa, coconut, sugar, flour and baking powder and stir until combined.

Fold in choc bits and raspberries. Spread the mixture into a prepared tin and bake for 25 minutes. Turn off oven but leave brownie mixture in the oven for a further 5 minutes. Cut and serve.

Recipe from – Better Homes and Gardens Magazine

Merry Christmas Everyone

Stefania



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First Point Medical

Marg Cooper

On November 1, 2017 32 Staughton Street, (which has also been a bakery, a private home and Mirepoix Fine Foods Café) opened as First Point Medical Centre. Ganes and his wife established the First Point Medical Centre in Corio seven years ago and because many of their patients come from Bannockburn, Lethbridge and Meredith they decided to establish a rural practice in Meredith. They will offer primary health care with the more complicated procedures being able to be done at Corio. Dorevitch Pathology have agreed to be at Medical Centre two days a week.

Dr Ganes Kuniidapaadhum and his wife Dr Swati Mitra trained in India to be doctors and worked in rural areas of India before accepting an offer to work for the Ministry in Mauritius. After four years they had all their documents ready to go to England but at the last moment decided to make Australia their new home. Ganes and his wife will each attend Meredith for one session a week. At the moment the building is being renovated to accommodate a medical Centre. Ganes respects that the building has a history and intends that the alterations are complementary.

Dr Neha Gupta put her hand up to be in Meredith for five days per week and already she loves the rural atmosphere, the street, the cafes and the friendly people. She came to Australia in 2012 from India after training to be a doctor, passed the Australian Medical Council exams (as all foreign trained doctors have to do) and is now preparing for exams to obtain her Fellowship in General Practice. She also has a Diploma in Child Health from the University of Sydney and has a special interest in child health. She married her childhood sweetheart who came to Ballarat University to study after completing secondary school and now works in Geelong and they have a young daughter. Neha started with First Point Medical Centre in 2014.

The doctors studied medicine in India at universities set up during British rule. They studied in English and said everyone learns to speak the English language although they have different accents depending on where they come from in India. Ganes commented that it was handy to speak English and to have studied in English if you globe trot!

Welcome to Meredith. It is a long time since a doctor regularly came to Meredith, but that's another story!





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Mini Foxie Dogs

Marg Cooper

The Mini Foxie Dog Club of Australia held their Annual Championships at Elaine Recreation Reserve on November 12, 2017. On a beautiful sunny day 39 dogs from four states of Australia competed in many events in a large ring marked out on the oval before the discerning eye of the judges. Many of the participating owners had travelled long distances, explaining that, while they know each other on Facebook, it is nice to meet face to face. Some attended, looking for breeding stock.

Doreen Thompson took four of her dogs and won Best Open Bitch and Challenge Bitch with "Kelly Royal", Reserve Advanced Dog and Veteran Dog with "Panda" and a second placing with "Lady Ruby of Staughton" and a third with "Tarkdale Clancy".

Doreen is understandably very proud of her dogs!

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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT..!

MEREDITH NOW HAS IT'S OWN (VICROADS REGISTERED) CAR AND BIKE CLUB

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Come and support / Join your local Car and Bike Club..!

We are running a CAR / BIKE SHOW & SWAP MEET on February 25th 2018 at the Meredith Golf Club / Car Club Grounds (Midland Hwy Meredith Vic 3333) with all proceeds going to "Tour de Cure" Australia's leading Cancer Research, Education & Prevention Charity.

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it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

Lethbridge Airport:

On Sunday, November 26 we visited the Lethbridge Airport. We heard from the man with the vision, Gary Baum. He described how he searched for land on which to build an airport and how, 27 years ago, he bought the farm at Lethbridge which had formerly been Laurie Tipper's Soldier Settler block. We also heard how he has worked to establish the airport and his plans for future developments including a terminal building and an area where people can view aeroplanes "landing and taking off" from their cars.

Gary then took us on a tour of some hangars. What impressed us was the size, the cleanliness and the facilities built into the hangars, usually upstairs to make them comfortable for eating etc. Gary also insisted that we walk around his garden and view the improvements he has made to the soldier settler house.

I'm sure that all who attended were impressed by his passion and what he has achieved.

Watts Family:

Isobel rang us to ask if we knew anything about her relatives who lived in Meredith. James Joseph Watts was born in 1866 at Meredith. He married Anne Cecilia Bennett and they had two daughters, Agnes Cecilia and Catherine. Both girls were baptized at St Josephs in Meredith. Catherine Doreen Watts married Frederick Burvill. If you know anything about the Watts family: where they lived, what work they did, what activities they were involved in etc please contact us.

Meredith Calendar:

This year the calendar features "Backyard Sheds" of Meredith. They have character and all serve or have served a purpose. The calendar is available from most shops in Meredith for \$15.00. The profits go to MHIG. May I suggest that the calendar is an inexpensive Christmas present with local content?

Catalogue:

We catalogue every Thursday from 9 am. You are invited to join us. There are many, many different tasks that can be done to record our history including photographs, video, writing, interviews, displays etc.

Merry Christmas:

We wish you all a happy, healthy holiday period and thank everyone who has been in any way involved with MHIG during the past year.

GOOD FISHING.

During the holidays Messrs B. Lownes, C. Smith, W. Grant and J. Marsh spent several days at the Moorabool. The party camped on the river bank, and report that the fishing was good and close on 400 were taken, comprising perch, mountain trout, black fish, and eels.

The Ballarat Star Wednesday 9 January 1918

MEREDITH

There were more visitors to Meredith than usual this Christmas, and it is evident that this district is becoming more popular as a holiday resort. It is certainly an ideal spot, as there are the Moorabool and Leigh rivers at a handy distance from the town, besides numerous creeks and dams, so that there is good fishing to be had, besides shooting, and the bush provides some beauty spots for the lovers of nature. Being handy to the city by road and rail, this place should soon become very popular to those who enjoy a holiday in the country.

A dance was held in the Mechanics' Hall on Boxing night, and a good crowd attended, the proceeds being in aid of the tennis court, which is undergoing improvements. Mr. J. Moran carried out the duties of M.C., and Mrs. R. Grant supplied the music.

Geelong Advertiser Monday 31 December 1923

Jan McDonald, Meredith History Interest Group

Spirit of Progress 80th Anniversary Tour

By Raymond Kelly who saw the train go through Lethbridge

On Saturday November 25, 2017 a special train passed through Meredith in a re-enactment of a similar trip the same train made 80 years ago on Saturday November 19th 1937 when The "Spirit of Progress" passed along the Geelong to Ballarat line.

The "Spirit of Progress" was Australia's first completely air-conditioned, streamlined, all steel train. It was constructed at the Railway Workshops, Newport, Victoria and placed in service between Melbourne and Albury on November 23, 1937.

Prior to commencing regular service the train was available for Public Inspection in Melbourne and the main regional centres.

The special train included a dining carriage, sitting carriages, parcel van and parlour carriage from the 1937 train. The only missing link from the 1937 train is the S class steam locomotive that pulled the train for sixteen years before being replaced by diesel locomotives in the early 1950's. All the S class steam locomotives were subsequently scrapped. The train was pulled by diesel locomotives B74 and S303. The Seymour Rail Heritage Centre who arranged the tour now has the carriages under their care.

Farrelly Family Research

Fay McFarlane

During November we had the pleasure of welcoming Lynne Farrelly and her sister Trish who drove from Hastings, to research the Farrelly family. Their Great Great Grandfather, Martin Farrelly arrived in Meredith in 1848. He was born in 1824 in County Cavan, Ireland. Martin married Ellen Gissane nee Foley (formerly married to Michael Gissane). They had five children born in Meredith.

Martin owned land around the township of Meredith, and was also a road making contractor, gravelling roads and constructing culverts and gutters, for the Meredith Shire. In 1871 he applied to the Shire for a license to operate the Toll Gate on the main road. He acquired 100 acres of land in the Parish of Meredith in 1873, his death certificate notes his occupation as "Farmer". Reportedly he grew the best potato crops in the district.

Martin was a colourful character who appeared in the Meredith court many times for being drunk and disorderly. However, on one occasion he was the victim, when he was assaulted by Antonio Rosen outside the Railway Hotel (now Hearn's Hotel) although he did admit that he was drunk at the time. Rosen was sentenced to one month's gaol. Martin Farrelly has also been named as having assisted Peter Lalor of Eureka fame, to escape arrest in Meredith. Lalor, who was badly wounded, made his escape to Geelong to avoid the Government soldiers, through Meredith.

Martin and Ellen's eldest son Martin, married Grace Elizabeth Ruffin in 1893 at Woods Point, Grace died at Romsey in 1897, the same year their son, also named Martin, was born. Most of his family moved to Box Hill where they are buried. Martin lived in Meredith from 1848 until his death in 1908. While his blocks of ground are known, the location of his house is currently unknown. Martin is buried with two of his young children in an unknown location in the Meredith Cemetery.

If you have any information on Martin and Ellen Farrelly, please contact the Meredith History Interest Group.



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Kinder News

Ho Ho HO, the end of year is near and it's all hands on deck as we prepare our groups for their final weeks of fun at Kinder. The Kinder children have been visiting their prospective schools for transition days and are ready for their learning journey to continue into school. Staff are winding down as the big clean up begins. We had our parent information session for our new families with a good attendance and the Committee held the AGM separately this year. Congratulations to Keely Bubb, Jen Cromer, Kylie Smith and Louisa Liddicoat who are elected for 2018 and to all the general members who have joined. Thanks to Sinead Tamis who will take on the Scholastic book club from Mrs Cooke. Thanks to Kylie.S and Joy for always keeping our Kinder space spotless and tidy and not complaining about the glitter!

We say a very fond farewell to Mrs Cooke who has been a huge part of our Kindergarten for so many years now. Thank you for running the Scholastic book club and building up our library resources and thank you for volunteering your time to join us on excursions and in the sessions to help with activities.

We are also saying farewell to Leanne Davies who is finishing up in the Pre Kinder group, thanks for being a part of Meredith Kinder and great support to families and Kylie and we wish you well.

Our Concert ideas are flowing now and practise is underway with both groups. Our Kindergarten Concert is on the 12th Dec at 12.30pm and the Pre- Kinder concert is on the Wed 13th at 12.00pm.

On behalf of all the staff we would like to thank Cheryl Jenkins at GPS for being our rock of guidance and support all year long!

Thanks to Jo, Kate & Hannah next door at Occasional care for being happy all year round and to Trudy and Pam for their support and reminders to write my newsletter each month!!

Thanks to Leading Senior Constable Kitchen who popped in for a timely visit with the kinder group to talk about keeping safe over the holidays. Have a happy Christmas time and fun over the holidays, best of luck to our families who are going onto school, It's been a pleasure playing a little part in your child's journey and please pop in for a visit sometime. If you have any queries about start dates, orientation dates/times please call Kinder before Dec 19th, otherwise you can call Council over the holidays as Kinder will be closed until Jan 29th.

Jodie Meredith Kindergarten

Pioneer Park Project

Kerrie Kruger

The project team from Lions Club of Meredith and District are getting excited as the end nears and the playground takes shape.

They are putting as many hours as work & family commitments allow, to have the playground open and ready to be used in the Christmas holidays.

The project team would particularly like to thank Tim from Wood Excavations and Nick from Nick Bainbridge Landscape Architect for all their assistance with this project.

You can follow the progress on Facebook page Meredith Pioneer Park Project



The background of the entire page is a grayscale photograph of a recycling facility. In the foreground, a worker in a hard hat and safety vest is sorting through a large pile of waste. In the background, another worker is visible, and a conveyor belt system is transporting material. A large semi-transparent circular graphic is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**“Please, no
plastic bags.”**

It is not safe for workers at the recycling facility to open plastic bags. They go straight to landfill at a cost to Council and the community. All of your good efforts go to waste.



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Vale Max Le Maitre

Marg Cooper

Max Le Maitre passed away peacefully on 31st October, aged 91. He was surrounded by his loving family. He was devoted husband to Nancy (dec) and father of Dirleen and Bruce. A private cremation preceded his memorial service at King's Chapel, Newcomb on November 8th.

Max was the fourth and youngest child of John Henry and Jessie Lillian Le Maitre. He was raised at "Borhoneyghurk", on a farm near Elaine, attended Elaine Primary School in 1932 and left at Grade 8 after getting his Merit Certificate. On his last day he finished up mid-morning and then stooked hay for his uncle until sunset.

He married his sweetheart Nancy Paulden in May 1953 and they farmed at Elaine for over 30 years before retiring to Clifton Springs and later to Geelong Grove Retirement Village.


Max played a prominent role in the Elaine community becoming a Life Member of the CFA, Football Club and Cricket Club. He was an accomplished tennis player, represented Mooney Cup at Country Week Tennis over a long period of time and won the Mooney Cup Singles Championship in 1947 and 1948. He was also a handy footballer and was a dedicated Cats fan. He took up cricket after he stopped playing tennis, he played competition table tennis and played bowls at a high level with Drysdale Bowls Club. He just loved playing and competing in team sports.

His mantra with sport, which he passed down to his family, was to enjoy playing and have fun, be competitive, never give up, play hard but fair, have enormous respect for your opponent and win humbly and lose graciously. After Nancy died the family installed Foxtel and he quickly became an expert in all sports!

Bruce said that he and his sister had a tennis racket in their hand as soon as they could walk. As they grew up they played for hours on their court at the farm where their father coached them. Max was of another era in that he never had a passport, never used a computer, had never been outside Australia, never set foot in an aeroplane, never had a credit card and only had a basic mobile phone.

He had an absolute devotion to his wife and family, a happy go lucky nature and a long life of 91 years.

Taken from the eulogy written by Bruce LeMaitre.



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Have you... got a ripper story to tell, joke to share, photo to display or some news for your community?

Then let us have it! (Contact details on page 2.)


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from the MAYOR



Cr Helen Kirby

Last month I was elected Mayor for Golden Plains. I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for placing their confidence in me and electing me to represent and serve the Golden Plains community as Mayor.

Thank you Cr Des Phelan

I would like to congratulate Cr Phelan on his five terms as Mayor of Golden Plains Shire Council in total, and overall for his contribution to Council and to Golden Plains over many years.

On behalf of Council and the community I thank him for his efforts.

As some of you may know, I live and work in Rokewood, operating a small business as well as now being on Council.

Living in this smaller local community gives me the chance to hear direct from locals about a whole range of issues, including how well or otherwise Council is meeting their expectations.

I do not forget that Golden Plains is made up of over 50 of these small communities, which deserve good service just as much as the larger towns.

The year ahead

2018 holds many unknowns but we do know that as a Council...

- We have a four year Council Plan and strategies in place to meet our objectives
- We want to focus on the big picture, we want to be innovative and sustainable
- We promise to consult and collaborate more with our community
- We will be courageous in our decision making - because we want to provide residents with a wonderful place to live and work

With this plan, we will have to work hard as a team - a team with my fellow councillors and as a team with the organisation management - to combat the challenges that no doubt lie ahead – and to make the most of the opportunities that will also arise.

Golden Plains Shire Council Leaders

We bid long-standing CEO Rod Nicholls farewell as he retires this month after 23 years as CEO of our organisation and 47 years in the service of local government. His has been a long and distinguished career and we wish him all the very best for his retirement.

And on that note we are very pleased to have appointed Eric Braslis as our new CEO. He brings enthusiasm and experience to the role and we look forward to working with him.

Cr Helena Kirby

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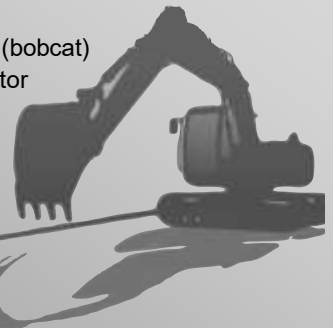
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Below: Cr Phelan congratulates Cr Kirby on her appointment as Mayor of the Golden Plains Shire.





Meredith Primary School

It has certainly been a very busy term 4 here at Meredith primary school. We have already completed a number of camps, excursions and sporting events, and there is still lots more to do before the end of the year. You may have noticed that we have a brand new synthetic soccer pitch thanks to the hard work of our school council and parents. We also have our school concert coming up on Wednesday 13th December. We would like to thank everyone for their support of the school this year, we hope you all have a safe and wonderful Christmas!

Our time at Artvo while on Grade 6 camp *By Peetha Van Der Veen.*

Everyone was blown away at Artvo with all the tricks the photos played on our eyes. When we were there, we could do anything, from surfing the biggest waves to slamming down Thor's hammer, from swinging shopping bags around to climbing giant bamboo with pandas. We could be mermaids in the deep, blue ocean, or trying to get away from a hungry shark. We could be stuck in the talons of a giant eagle, or holding open the jaws of a scaly crocodile on the rocky shores of the beach. The only limit was our own imagination.

PHOTO OMITTED FROM ONLINE ISSUE

2018 Prep Transition

We have been excited to have our 2018 prep students visiting the school lately in preparation for their transition into primary school. What a wonderful group of kids they have been!



Grade 4 Camp Acrostic Poem

By Robert Fisher

PHOTO OMITTED FROM
ONLINE ISSUE

Surfing
Playing
Echidna
Cool
Teachers
Awesome
Camp
Unstoppable
Loud
Anglesea
Really Good

Vale May Stephen.

Marg Cooper

May Stephen passed away peacefully at Mercy Place, East Melbourne on October 25, 2017 in her 103rd year. She was a devoted wife to Bill (deceased) for 70 years and mother of Jan, Jim, Donna and Tony.

May Waters married William F. Stephen in February 1947. She was a former R.A.A.F. nursing sister who had been Matron of the R.A.A.F. Broome hospital where they first met, while Bill was serving in WW11. May's family background was farming as her father was a pioneer farmer in Western Australia.

In 1953 Bill Stephen arrived in Meredith to take up Block 5 on the First Subdivision of the Moranghurk Estate. He stayed at the Royal Hotel until 1954 when May and their three children returned from Perth, where they had stayed with May's mother, to find their house almost completed. In 1964 Bill was elected for the Liberal party in the Legislative Assembly seat of Ballarat South in the Victorian Parliament and in 1965 they moved to Ballarat. In 1972 they reluctantly sold their property "Willa-Mar" as Bill was also busy with Stephen Pasture Seed business which he first established when at Meredith. He retired from politics in 1979 and died in 2013.

Why Xmas Makes us Crackers!

One of the dubious pleasures of Xmas, is the reading of the cracker jokes. (It's why we put brandy in the pudding!) So, we see it as a community kindness to help you prepare, and have lined up a few groaners - just to get you in the spirit, as it were. 😊

What do you call a line of men waiting for a haircut?
A barberqueue

Why was the snowman looking through the carrots?
He was picking his nose

What did Cinderella say when her photos didn't arrive on time?
One day my prints will come

Why are Christmas trees very bad at knitting?
Because they always drop their needles

Why couldn't the skeleton go to the Christmas party?
He had no body to go with

Why did no-one bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on eBay?
Because they were two deer

How did Mary and Joseph know that Jesus was 3.6 kg when he was born?
They had a weigh in a manger



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MOORABOOL Wind Farm

Moorabool Wind Farm

Community Reference Group – Expressions of Interest

December 2017

Moorabool Wind Farm is seeking expressions of interest from community representatives from Morrison and Elaine to serve on the Community Reference Group (CRG). In selecting community representatives, preference will be given to candidates who can represent the concerns of a variety of interest groups.

Selection criteria include:

- willingness to contribute constructively;
- experience and ability to provide feedback to the community and stakeholder groups; and
- current residence in the local area and / or awareness of local and other relevant issues.

The aim of the CRG is:

- To provide a formal stage for communication between community representatives and Moorabool Wind Farm about the project.
- To allow representatives of the CRG to pass on information about the wind farm to others and convey information from the community to Moorabool Wind Farm in an open and transparent manner.
- To devise a methodology and guidelines by which the community benefit fund will be administered and distributed once the wind farm is operational.
- To consider applications for the community benefit fund and make recommendations on allocation of funds to Moorabool Wind Farm.

General Information:

Membership of the CRG is voluntary.

Term is for up to 3 years.

Frequency of meetings is every 3 months currently which may increase.

Applications close on **Thursday 21st December 2017.**

More information can be obtained at www.mooraboolwindfarm.com or by calling 1800 019 660.

Nick a Wolf

On Thursday 9th October the Lethbridge Cub Scouts welcomed its first Grey Wolf, the highest award in the cub-scout section, to Nick Kruger.

Congratulations Nick - An award well earned and very well deserved!



Above: Nick is flanked by Scout leader, Ruth Gilbert and Cub leader, Amanda Gordon-Young (Red Wolf.)



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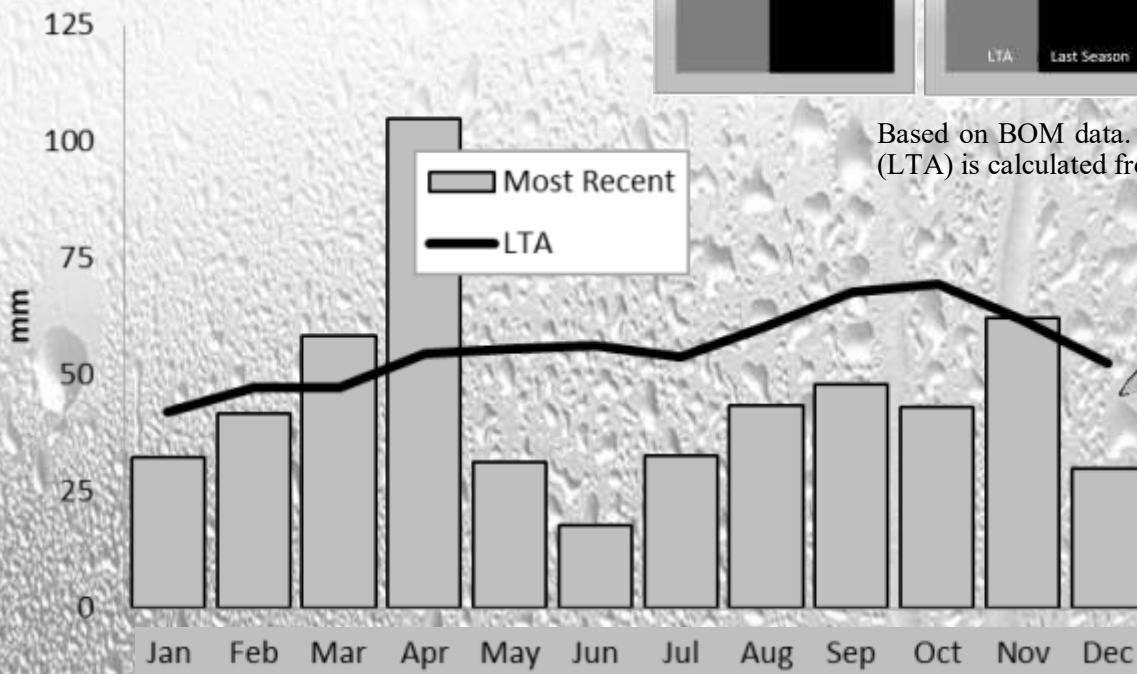
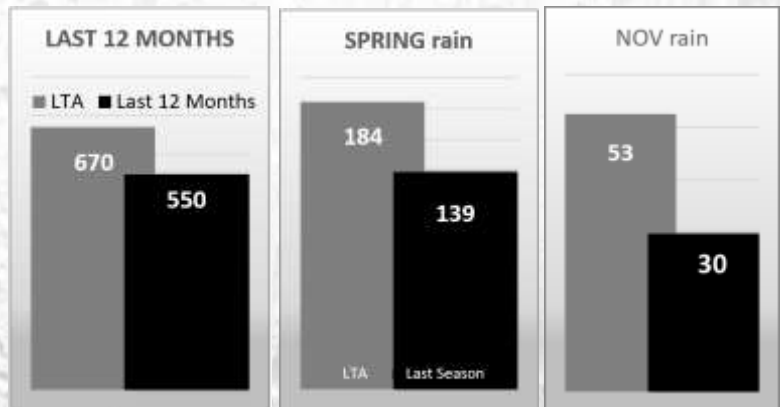
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rainfall

Yet another *below-the-line* outcome for the season past, with Spring registering only 139mm or 76% of the Long Term Average (LTA). This leaves us about 120mm short of the LTA over the last 12 months. Interestingly, November was a very dry month, with half of its rainfall occurring in the first two days and the other half in the last two days. But, as we write this, we know at least Summer has got off to a wet start.

ALL MEASUREMENTS ARE IN MILLIMETRES



Based on BOM data. The long term average (LTA) is calculated from 1875 to Jan 2017



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Mr Minsky

Marg Cooper

John Watson has played piano at Minsky's Piano Bar at Cremorne in Sydney for 34 years. When patrons meet him they call him Mr Minsky. He has played there since 1983 and the children of his original patrons now enjoy his music. In the early days there would be up to 300 people in the smokey, hot bar, drinking and singing along with their feet stuck to the floor where drinks had been spilt. A huge vibe of energy filled the huge room full of people enjoying themselves including generations of nurses from a nearby hospital, generations of state cricketers who train nearby, generations of policemen stationed nearby and members of the armed forces from their base nearby. Other patrons include Princess Mary, Tom Waterhouse, Tom Oliver (from Neighbours & Number 96), Brett Lee and Mark Waugh.

John and his wife Veronica have come to live in Lethbridge and John still commutes to Sydney to play piano at Minskys and all around the country to perform at other events. John thought that work opportunities would dry up as he approaches retirement age but is surprised every day with jobs offered him. They grew up in Melbourne and thought they missed home, often visited Warrnambool to see Veronica's father, enjoyed the country and decided to look for a house not too far from Melbourne and Avalon Airport. They found their house at Lethbridge and "love the lifestyle to bits".

This lifestyle includes visiting Meredith for coffee. They admit that it does not include many visits to Melbourne. John and Veronica would like to get more involved in the local community by teaching piano and performing as John has a hell of a lot of experience to pass on. They would do this by organizing regular shows as they could bring quality acts or by performing at your event.

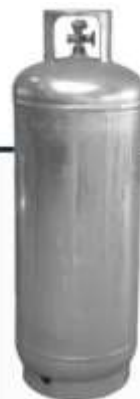
John started learning piano at 6 years of age and his first job was working at Allan's Music Store at 276 Collins Street, Melbourne in 1973. A band from Kalgoorlie came in, John left to play with them touring Australia and has been a professional musician ever since. John and his twin brothers who played bass and drums and his first wife Jenene, as singer, formed the band "The Watsons" in 1979 and decided to move to Sydney because that was where it was all happening. Bernard King took them under his wing and arranged a job for them in Paddington. Warren Mitchell (*Alf Garnett*) often dropped in to sing and play clarinet with them. Other patrons included Michael Parkinson, Billy Connolly and even Dick Sargent (Darrin from *Bewitched*). They played many gigs including *The Mike Walsh Show*, *Don Lane Show*, *Parkinson in Australia*, Darryl Somers and Peter Couchman Shows as well as clubs and private functions. If they wanted a holiday they played on a cruise ship. They also supported *Gladys Night and the Pips* when they toured Australia as well as Vera Lynn and Neil Sedaka. John says it was a "pretty magic time" although they were not making a lot of money. They were waiting for the big break! But they were never going to be another *Beatles* as they played a more sophisticated and classy type of music.



John and Veronica have amazing connections and relationships with the rich and famous and it was absolutely incredible to hear about these people while sitting in a little café in Meredith. John was musical director for *Maria Venuti* for many years and has accompanied many others including Doug Parkinson, Kamahl, *Human Nature* and Barry Crocker. He has played at Belvoir Hill on an 1830 piano which may have been played by Chopin, he played for Glenn McGrath and Brett Lee's 40th birthdays and several times for the Pratts. He also spent a day and night playing at Alan Jones's country property. One day an email offered them a cruise on the Rhine for 8 days. It was not a scam as they first thought. John hasn't got an agent, doesn't promote himself and all jobs are by word of mouth.

He says that what we do is totally stupid but we love it!

What extraordinary talent we have in the district!



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WALK TO SCHOOL MONTH

Congratulations to the fourteen Golden Plains Shire primary schools that participated in VicHealth's Walk to School month.

This year, all primary schools in the Shire took part, which is a great achievement – well done to the community!

Walk to School is held each year in October to encourage students and their families to consider ways they can incorporate walking, riding or scooting to school into their regular routine.

While walking to or at school was the key activity, students and local families were able to participate in a range of fun initiatives, such as the 'Golden Plains Rocks' treasure hunt for hand-painted rocks. Families also got involved in community walks and the 'Walk the Shire' challenge, and weekly fruit was delivered to students and staff!

ACHIEVEMENTS IN GOLDEN PLAINS

- Over 20,000 walks were conducted during the Walk to School period
- 1,320 local students participated
- 8,000 pieces of fruit were delivered to schools throughout the Shire
- 8 'park and walk' locations were identified and promoted by schools
- 155 members joined the Golden Plains Rocks Facebook page thanks to a partnership with Haddon Community Learning Centre
- Woody Yaloak Primary School Ross Creek campus saw all classes completing the Walk the Shire challenge (congratulations to the grade 3/4 class who completed 350km first!)
- Teesdale Primary School completed 3,000 walks
- Lethbridge Primary School did a fantastic job in their promotion and involvement in Golden Plains Rocks
- Haddon Primary School participated for the first time this year, with students and families walking before and after school.

Golden Plains Shire Council received funding from VicHealth to support schools to participate in Walk to School. If you have any ideas about walking initiatives to engage your school community in active travel, please contact Belinda Hynes, Community Wellbeing Officer on 5321 1500.



Marg's Book Review

The book for discussion at Bookclub in November was **"The Whites" by Richard Price**. I must admit that I didn't read it although it was described as the "most powerful crime novel published in 2015". The jargon of the cops in New York was like reading another language! Bookclub members agreed that the book had no literary merit at all.

Instead I read two delightful books about pianos.

"The Piano Shop on the Left Bank" by Te Carhart. Carhart's book is the story of his relationship with a piano restorer whose craftsmanship and love for his instruments seems to belong to another century. Carhart wishes to buy a used piano and initially receives a polite rebuff but he persists and eventually obtains the trust of the piano restorer and is allowed into his workshop to share their passion for beautiful pianos and to meet a curious assortment of people. Between the story is a potted history of the piano and of the composers whose music developed alongside the technical advances of the instrument. The book is rich with understated evocations of Paris. This is a gentle, meandering book, a collage of images, memories and history.

"The Piano Tuner" by Daniel Mason.

In 1886 a shy, middle-aged piano tuner receives an unusual commission from the British War Office, to travel from London to remote jungles of northeast Burma to repair a rare Erard grand piano belonging to an eccentric army surgeon who has proven mysteriously indispensable to the imperial cause. The piano tuner is launched into a world of seductive loveliness and nightmarish intrigue. As he embarks on his first trip abroad, the beauty and mystery of Burma, its entrancing landscapes, its customs and music and an exotic woman cast a spell that he cannot resist. The author has imposed an imaginary story with invented characters with historical figures and the politics of Burma in the 1880's when Britain was consolidating its position there. *"The piece began low, in the bass strings, and as it increased in complexity, soprano voices entered and Edgar felt his whole body move toward the right and remain there, a journey across the keyboard".*

Our December read is **"All That I Am"** by Anna Funder.

Of interest! The first meeting of the Reading Group was held on March 4, 1980 and the book selected to be read was "The Hobbit"

The first discussion night was held at Mrs June Cameron's home "Glenspean" on April 9, 1980. The Secretary was Jan Crump and Bookclub welcomed Jenny Colvin in November 1982. So this month Jenny has been a valuable member for 35 years!

Happy
Summer Reading



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What we know about...

...December

Originally the tenth month of the year,
A month filled with festive fun,
December brings us Christmas cheer
And diets come undone.

There will be shopping and cooking galore,
And New Year's resolutions start taking shape.
So while stressing in department stores,
And daydreaming of escape

Remember on the 14th day
Take time to rest for say an hour,
Because it isn't just Santa on the way,
Watch for the Geminids meteor shower.

Narcissus symbolises good wishes and respect,
And is December's birth flower here.
Finally, a heartfelt wish at you I'll direct:
Have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

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Whats on for

December



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TIM TOT FRIDAY 8TH
from 8.30pm



HEATH STENTON SAT 23RD
Our final night for the year - from 8.30pm



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We wish everyone a very Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year
and look forward to seeing you in 2018

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We trust you enjoyed your community news in 2017 & we look forward to having your company in 2018, when we will again bring you district news along with entertaining columns from our band of talented writers; all seasoned with a little fun and nonsense.



See you in February 2018! (Copy deadline: 24th)