

Meredith & district News

January 2017

Our FREE Community Newsletter since 1972

inside

- Our New Distribution Arrangements
- Australia Day Awards
- Moving the Steiglitz School. (Our cover story.)
- A Royal Quest
- New Program for Unemployed Youth

...and the usual MUCH MORE!

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

Meredith & district NEWS



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

NEWS & VIEWS

Subject to the conditions outlined below, contributions accompanied by the contributor's name (which will also be published) and contact details, are most welcome. Please email to news@meredithnews.com.au or deliver to the Meredith Corner Shop.

DATES AND DEADLINES

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

ADVERTISING

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

	B&W	colour
Business Card	\$14.00	
Quarter page	\$25.00	
Half page	\$40.00	\$100
Full page	\$80.00	\$180

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

Classifieds are **FREE** for small, personal notices from residents. Otherwise \$7.50 or \$5.00 if paid on lodgement. Community Groups can have a 1/4 page ad for free or a \$25.00 discount on larger ads. (conditions apply)

SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you are outside our delivery area you can subscribe for \$35.00 p.a. (11 issues) and get the Meredith and District News posted to you anywhere in Australia.

CONTACT US

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news@meredithnews.com.au

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advertising@meredithnews.com.au

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accounts@meredithnews.com.au

WEB

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

ONLINE PHOTOS

We do not publish children's photos online.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

DISCLAIMER

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

connect

**ADVANCE
MEREDITH**
5286 1291

ANGLING CLUB
0419 423 960

BLUE LIGHT DISCO
5286 1222

BOOK CLUB
5286 8201

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

CHILDCARE
5286 0700

**COMMUNITY
CENTRE**
5286 0700

CRICKET
Elaine
0428 264103
Junior (under 14)
0448 291074
Meredith
5286 1434

CUBS & SCOUTS
Anakie 5281 9497

FOOTBALL
seniors 0408 545246
juniors 0430 587674

GOLF CLUB
5341 5748

HISTORY GROUP
5286 8201

LANDCARE
5286 1250

MEMORIAL HALL
5286 1545

MOTORCYCLE CLUB
0437 009250

PLAYGROUP
5286 0700

POLICE PADDOCKS
5286 1273

RED CROSS
5286 8222

RSL
5286 1452

SENIOR CITIZENS
5286 8232

TENNIS
Elaine
0448 291074
Meredith
5286 1211

SEW 'N' SEWS
5286 0700

**FRIENDS OF THE
BRISBANE RANGES**
5286 1252

MEREDITH LIONS
0473 380 552

..or start something.

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

emergency

Police, Ambulance, Fire	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	13000 wildlife
Pets and Horses 24/7	0421 617 238
Wildlife Rescue	0459 379915

Justices of the Peace

Mr R Cooke Meredith	52 861 346
Mr H Woemer Meredith	52 861 402
Mrs S W Dynon Steiglitz	52 819 223
Mr P Ryan Elaine	0409 861 296

services

**CEMETERY
TRUST**
5286 1550

HALL HIRE
Meredith Memorial
5286 1545
Elaine Mechanics
5341 5596
Elaine Rec Res
5341 5703

LIBRARY VAN
5272 6010

**MATERNAL
CHILD HEALTH**
5220 7230

PRE-SCHOOL
5286 1227

**PRIMARY
SCHOOL**
5286 1313

**RECREATION
RESERVE**
0429 841399

"Why do men fear the dark?
Because darkness is ignorance made visible.
And do men despise ignorance?
No, they prize it above all things, all things!
But only so long as it remains invisible."

R. Scott Bakker





Community

Meredith Memorial Hall AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Memorial Hall will be held Wednesday 8th March, 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall.

All positions are vacant and an election will be conducted to fill the 2017 term positions. The Annual Financial Report is presented and a short committee meeting will conclude the evening.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

Sandra Pearce 52861545

Meredith Senior Citizens

Jim Hynds, President

On December 12, 2016 Meredith Seniors held their Christmas Party at the Meredith Hall. The event was well supported with some thirty members and guests attending. The tables were beautifully decorated by some of our members. Kylie, Jackie and Julie provided a fantastic roast lunch with the school children serving it out to the seniors. Many thanks to all the ladies and children; a job well done.

The entertainment was provided by the band "Whiskey River". Sadly a technical hitch put a bit of a damper on the entertainment but the raffles that were drawn throughout the afternoon were very popular. There were some very lucky winners indeed!

The seniors would like to thank businesses in Meredith for the many kind donations they made towards our raffles including Woolabrai, Hearn's Meredith Hotel, Meredith Healthline Pharmacy, and Dorothy's Kitchen. B.G.G. Trees of Batesford also contributed and there were many donations from members themselves. The massive amount of donations made the day for so many members. Lucky them! In all a great day was had by all the members who are now looking forward to a great year of seniors activities in 2017.

Twilight Market

Elaine Mechanics Hall

Saturday 25th February 2017

4.00pm-10.00pm

arts, crafts, produce, beer garden and music.

All welcome."

The Last Photo in the Camera



Golden Plains Festival

Traffic Management & Contacts

The traffic management plans for Golden Plains Festival scheduled to occur on Saturday 11th March-Monday 13th March 2017 are outlined here.

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

If you have any comments or ideas about any matter related to Golden Plains Festival please get in touch by phone/text 0430 091 120 or by emailing via auntym@mmf.com.au. These contacts are also operational 24 hours over the festival weekend.

The festival website is www.goldenplains.com.au and other information for locals is available at aunty.goldenplains.com.au/locals.

Thank you for your support - Festival Planning Team



Golden Plains Festival Tickets for Locals

An allocation of tickets for Golden Plains Festival is available on a first come first serve basis for locals living between Elaine and Lethbridge to purchase from the Meredith Corner Store (15 Wallace Street) from 10am on Tuesday 21 February until sold out. 3 per person limit. Please bring proof of residential address. For more information contact us on 0430 091 120 or via auntym@mmf.com.au. The festival website is www.goldenplains.com.au and information for locals is available at www.aunty.goldenplains.com.au/locals.

Inverleigh & District Good Friday Appeal

Family Fun Day Committee meeting

Wednesday 8th Feb at Inverleigh Hotel 7.30 pm

All Welcome Good Friday is 14th April 2017

Daniel 0437 072 260 Ian 5281 1946 or 0409 411 380

Classifieds

First insertion of small ads are FREE to district residents

Church News



Meredith Community Centre
working for your community

ANGLICAN

Weekly Services, baptisms, weddings, funerals, pastoral care, bible studies. Contact: Rev. Elizabeth Bufton, 5281 2224; 043 7524864
Church Office, Byron St. Bannockburn 5281 2553

Service Times;

Church of Epiphany Meredith.

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

St James. Morrisons:

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

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

UNITING CHURCH

Monthly Combined Holy Communion services.

2nd Sunday, 11am at Meredith Uniting Church

4th Sunday at 11am at Meredith Anglican Church

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

Enquires Doug McFarlane 52861283.

Rev. Lindell Gibson 53413 200

SERBIAN ORTHODOX: Fr. Theodore—Ph. 5341 5568

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

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA.

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

Rosary and Vespers Saturday 5.00pm. Confessions by appointment Fr.

James Ph. 5341 5544

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH MASS TIMES AND NEWS

Mass times for February/ March

Winchelsea every Saturday at 6 p.m.

Inverleigh every Sunday at 9 a.m. except Sunday February 26th
and Sunday March 26th where the 9a.m. Mass will be in the foyer
to the gym in Bannockburn.

Anakie at 11 a.m. Sunday February 12th/ 26th and March
12th/26th.

Meredith at 11 a.m. Sunday February 5th/19th and March 5th/ 19th.

Pancake Weekend

Pancakes at all Masses on the weekend of February 25th/26th.

Ash Wednesday :Wednesday March 1st Mass and distribution of
ashes Meredith 11 a.m. and Inverleigh 7 p.m.

Registration night for children making their sacraments this year
will be held at the Bannockburn Cultural Centre on Wednesday
February 15th at 5p.m. Registration will be followed by a
barbeque tea.

St. Joey's Op Shop

Grand reopening after the long Christmas break

Wednesday February 1st at 10 a.m.

Lots of great new summer stock, clothes, toys, household goods
and a fantastic selection of books.

BIG NEWS

For the 4 Saturdays in February the Op Shop will be open from
10a.m.-2p.m.

Come along to browse the bookshop, grab a bargain and a free
coffee !!

HESED COTTAGE

(St John's Anglican Op Shop)

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

Open: Tuesday - Friday 10am - 4.00pm

Saturday 10am - 1.00pm

This newsletter coincides with the end of holidays and the beginning of the year. It promises to be as busy and productive as the last.

I hope by now you will have received your copy of the new Course Guide for the First Term. Did you make a New Year Resolution to get fitter and healthier this year? Our Friday full body workout fitness class is designed to provide an individual program for each participant according to your needs and capabilities. Also you asked for an afterhours fitness class now on Wednesday evenings. Our Tai Chi classes are going from strength to strength as more people realise the fantastic benefits of this gentle and relaxing form of exercise. We now have classes at Meredith, Bannockburn and Teesdale this year.

The Community Centre wants to be a place to visit and participate in our programs for all members of our Community. This year we are focussing on programs for young people. The first of these is a collaboration with Golden Plains Shire, Tech Tea and Tales. This is a fantastic opportunity for young people to become a Tech and Story Helper and be employed to help older people in the community learn about technology, and to record their life stories and experiences on film. The Shire will be advertising for applicants. You can see a flyer on our Facebook page or call in to obtain a job description. Applications close Feb. 8th. If you are a senior who would like to participate in the program please contact us.

Our Small business class has been broken into 2 different parts. Brainstorming the name and business concept gives you the first step, and a focus to move into the more detailed business planning and preparation.

We also have our very popular computer and technology classes. Learn relaxation massage, backyard chooks and several classes to fulfil your creative side. Take a look at what is available in more detail here in the newsletter, in our brochure on our website or Facebook page.

Jo and the Childcare team are back on 6th Feb and looking forward to seeing the children again. We are already experiencing heavy bookings for some days and we are also running sessions all 5 days for the first time. Call us if you want to book your child in.

Look forward to seeing you at the Centre in 2017.

Bye for Now

Pam

Meredith Community Centre

4 Russell Street Meredith 3333 Phone 5286 0700

learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au

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

Fri Closed

Recreation



Elaine Cricket Club

Elaine Cricket Club and Elaine Tennis Club had a Christmas break up with a very lively Santa arrived with his reindeers and landed on the Midland Highway. He was duly picked up by the Elaine CFA truck and taken to the Elaine Recreation Reserve

where all the local children were very surprised to see him.

A tug of war was held and the parents accidentally lost their grip (*it happens!* - Ed.) and sent the kids flying! A big thanks to Julie Pandzitis and Karen Pritchard for organising the night. Also a big thanks to Nigel Parkinson for coaching our inaugural U13 team and David Flood for coaching our U14 1st X1. The enthusiasm shown by our young cricketers is quite astonishing and a highlight for these young lads will be a bus trip with their parents to see Australia play Shri Lanka at Kardinia Park in a T20 match on Sunday 20th February 2017.



Elaine Cricket Special Report

James Parkinson

We finished 2016 off with a T20 match against Napoleons/Sebastopol at Victoria Park in Ballarat. Napoleons/Sebas 6/155 and Elaine 4/133. We lost by 22 runs.

Our first game for 2017 was at home (Elaine) and we were playing Buninyong. We are looking forward to playing Creswick Imperials at home.

We train at Elaine nets every Thursday night and our coach is Nigel Parkinson who happens to be my Dad. Dad lets us decide on the batting and bowling order for each game. Dad used to play for Meredith and Elaine and is an 'alright' cricketer. Dad often tells me stories on the way to cricket about how he was such a good cricketer and wicket keeper. I do believe that he is telling me stories but at the time I think he thought he was pretty good. It's good that my coach is my Dad because he tells me what we are going to do each game.

Thanks Dad for coaching Elaine Under 13's.



Begonia Quilters Exhibition 2017

Ballarat Mining Exchange
12 Lydiard Street North
Sat 11th – Mon 13th March
10.00 am to 5.00 pm \$5.00 Entry
Trade Tables, Crafts, Light Refreshments
Email: ballaratbegoniaquilters@gmail.com

Meredith Playgroup

Meredith Playgroup meets every
Thursday from 9.30am



Enjoy new activities every week. All Welcome
Contact Community Centre for details 52 860 700

Classifieds

First insertion of small ads are FREE to district residents



Cricket Success

PHOTO OMITTED FROM
ONLINE PUBLICATION

Above, local lads Nicholas 'Chicka' Pandzitis and Seamus Dunne represented Ballarat U15 at Country Week cricket at the Eastern Oval Ballarat and won the premiership. Ballarat defeated Gisborne

And right, Angus Hogarth from Elaine Cricket Club made the Ballarat U14 combined side.



PHOTO OMITTED
FROM
ONLINE
PUBLICATION

Celebrating the leaders of tomorrow

At a special Meredith Primary School Assembly late last year, local Federal Member, Sarah Henderson presented Trent Miller with the Corangamite Medal 2016, which celebrates the leaders of tomorrow.

The award is presented to one primary student in each participating school who demonstrates a high standard in attitude and achievements; leadership skills, care and compassion for others and positive contribution to all aspects of school life. Ms Henderson initiated the award to recognise one exceptional student in each participating primary and secondary school.

Flanked by Sarah Henderson MP and Acting School Principal, Shane Sachs, Trent proudly displays his "Corangamite Medal"

PHOTO OMITTED FROM
ONLINE PUBLICATION


Vacancies

Store Manager

A manager is required to run a small produce store in Meredith. Opening hours are Thursday to Sunday and duties would include helping source the best fresh produce from our local area, and running the store on a daily basis.

You would need to have experience in food handling and be keen to expand the existing business. Salary and profit sharing are negotiable.

*Apply to Dorothy's Kitchen P.O.Box 26 Meredith 3333 or email mwc@netconnect.com.au. by **24th February 2017***



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A Huge Thank You

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write as a member of the Ulysses Club ride, when travelling from Meredith to Anakie via Steiglitz on the afternoon of 30 Nov 2016.

On the 2nd last corner of the first descent out of Meredith, the rider preceding me, missed the bend and ended up about 30 metres into the scrub, about 20 feet off the road having traversed a deep gutter of the road and sharply rising terrain and came to rest on his side having crashed through the main trunk of a fallen tree. I was first on the scene having almost missed the accident, just catching a glimpse of the fallen bike's mudguard amongst a cloud of dust as I passed by. Luckily for the rider the tree trunk was full of dry rot and disintegrated when his body hit it; else things may have been much worse.

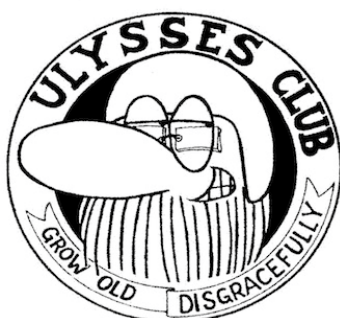
I write not to discuss the accident but rather to extend the thanks of our group and our individual selves for the excellent turnout of emergency services. There was no mobile coverage in the area and a local passer-by (Les) offered to help by going back up the hill towards Meredith to contact an ambulance.

Very shortly the rest of our group returned having missed us at the next marked turn and almost immediately a local council truck arrived which had been operating nearby and organised some traffic control. The Local Community Emergency Response Unit was quickly on the scene and gave initial help and assessment of our fellow rider. An ambulance and two police cars were quickly on the scene also and a further ambulance arrived a short time later. The Ulysses men were able to walk the damaged bike out and Les offered to use his horse float and take it to his house for safe keeping until Macca (our injured member) could arrange to retrieve it. The remoteness of the site meant that the ambulance litter could not be accessed and as Macca's injuries were limited to broken ribs and bruising the ambos assisted him to the ambulance where he was "stabilized" (if that is the right word) before they took him off to Ballarat hospital.

All-in-all I believe the exercise was classic text book and was most efficiently and professionally carried out by all members of the emergency services including the council workers and they should all be thanked and congratulated.

I ask that you convey our most heart felt appreciation to all who took part and attended to the needs of our mate Macca.

Yours sincerely,
Jim Atkinson, (Tail End Charlie on the day)



This is How We'll Do It.



We announced in our last issue for 2016 that the mail contractor can no longer deliver the newsletter to the rural residents around Meredith. Well, since then, we have been researching how we can overcome the problem because, if you can't get it, all our efforts are a bit pointless.

We are pleased to announce that, in fact, we have come up with an even better distribution arrangement. Starting with this issue, many of our rural readers will be getting a paid delivery and, for the first time, this will include Elaine district residents, through an arrangement with their mail contractor. If you live in Meredith or Elaine townships, you will still be picking it up from one of the many local businesses who stock it. (And that now includes Elaine Farm Supplies.)

Thank You to all the people and all the businesses who help us with distribution - it's is really appreciated.

It's Been Since...

In February 2007, we published our first monthly issue. From 1972 up until then, it was a weekly, fortnightly or twice monthly publication. (Can you spot a trend there?)

Yes, we went to a monthly publication to ensure our tiny band of volunteers didn't burn out. But we also made up our mind that the monthly issue would be much better and bigger than any of its predecessors. So we set about recruiting some regular contributors and made sure we continued to look after our advertisers.

We must have got something right - that first monthly issue was 24 pages and for several years now we have regularly published between 40

and 52 pages. And we are proud of the fact that the huge growth in advertising support has been balanced by even more, high quality editorial content. We are even more proud that the News plays such an important role in supporting a community conversation. Our last issue, for example, included 26 community organisation contacts, 20 emergency service numbers, 13 community service contacts, 19 notices of community events, 27 contributed articles and 74 advertisements for local goods and services. And you can be assured we will endeavour in the years ahead, to keep the News an enjoyable and an informative read.



Not the first monthly cover but October 2008, the first one for which, we have an image.

Jim Elvey, Editor.

Senior Citizen of the Year

Marg Cooper

On Tuesday, January 24, 2017 Carmen Powles was presented with the Senior Citizen of the Year Award for the Golden Plains Shire at the Shire Offices in Bannockburn.

Carmen has been a resident of Golden Plains Shire (previously Bannockburn Shire) for nearly 60 years.

She first came to Meredith as the wife of the local policeman. As the Meredith Police station was a one-man operation Carmen soon became unofficial back up, phone answerer, and confidante to many people. The time spent at the police station was from April 1958 to 1980 - even though it was not going to be a permanent placement!

Carmen is the mother of 7 children, grandmother to 15 and great grandmother to 9. For her children, she has tirelessly fed, clothed, driven them around, made their clothes, attended all their school, social and sporting events, and been the 'go to' person for myriads of things - and she continues this with the younger generations. Her service to the community involves:

Community organiser for local food catering service for the Meredith Music Festival for 25 years. Member of the St Joseph's Catholic Church since arriving in Meredith. Many years' involvement in St Joseph's Primary School (Meredith) and then the Meredith Primary School.

Player and committee member of the Meredith Golf Club for 40 plus years Member of the Meredith Tennis Club 30 plus years. Inaugural member of the organising committee for the Meredith Netball Club from 1973-1985.

With daughters in Girl Guides, Carmen volunteered her time and was an Australian Red Cross Annual Door Knock fundraiser from the late 1960's-1980's. Carmen is an active participant and helps organises the local Annual Women's World Day of Prayer from 1970 to date. She is also a member and great supporter of the Meredith



Carmen receiving her award from Australia Day ambassador Tony Cavanagh.

Community House/ Centre from its inception in 1988.

Carmen has always supported the many sporting, church and cultural activities of Meredith. She made cakes or things for events, and always attended them to show her enthusiasm. She is a great advocate for the town and is often the first person to welcome new people to the town and invite and encourage them to meet the townspeople. She is kind and generous with her time and does many kind and thoughtful acts without making a fuss about it. Many of these acts involve visiting sick or lonely people, taking people shopping and to medical appointments in Ballarat, Geelong or Bannockburn, cooking meals for people and delivering them, or just popping in because she hasn't seen them around for a while. Carmen epitomises the true spirit of a small town and we are very proud to nominate her for Senior Citizen of the Year 2017.

Congratulations Carmen for the award and for your special birthday.

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from the MAYOR



Cr Des Phelan Mayor, Golden Plains Shire

Greetings and best wishes to all Shire residents for a healthy and fulfilling 2017.

Community Grants Now Open

Applications for Council's Community Grants Program 2017/18 open on 1 February 2017, offering grants of up to \$5,000. The Community Grants Program enables community groups to further meet the needs of the wider community in a partnership with Council.

Grants of up to \$5,000 are provided on a matched basis with the community group's contribution provided in-kind or in cash.

Applications close Tuesday 28 February 2017 and can be submitted online via www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/communitygrants or contact Community Recreation Officer, Paul Owen on 5220 7111

Arts Trail March 25 and 26

The Arts Trail is an exciting collaboration between artists, community, local businesses and Council. The last weekend in March will see artists and makers from across Golden Plains open their homes and hearts to visitors from near and far.

The 2017 Arts Trail will see 69 artists exhibiting from 26 studios across Golden Plains Shire, with two Trails covering the North and South of the Shire. With an anticipated attendance of over 2,500 visitors, it's a boost for regional tourism and a great way for artists to promote their work. More information is available at www.artstrail.com.au or collect a map and brochure from local shops or galleries.

Immunisation Clinics

We invite families with young children to view the schedule of 2017 Immunisation Clinics, delivered by the City of Ballarat in Bannockburn, Rokewood, Linton and Haddon. Help protect your family from preventable diseases. Check out the Schedule at www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au - search 'Immunisations'

Fast Broadband is Coming ...very slowly

Jim Elvey

We reported last year on an NBN community meeting held in Meredith in February 2016 to announce plans to install NBN Wireless Broadband in Meredith. At the time we were told that an application was before Council for approval to build a transmission tower on the western edge of town which would supply all properties within an approximate 2 km radius. Beyond that, residents would be supplied by satellite service delivering equivalent speeds. (Around 26 Mb/s) We were also told that the service should be up and running by the end of the year or early this year.

We have also reported district residents were already signing up for NBN satellite services and reporting mixed, but mostly favourable outcomes. And yet there is still no sign of the tower. This prompted us to contact Golden Plains Shire who advised us:

- The Meredith NBN Fixed Wireless facility has been granted planning approval by Council but is not yet operational.
- The NBN Fixed Wireless facility at Meredith receives connectivity back into the network via radio transmission links in a chain from NBN Fixed Wireless facilities at Lara, which then connects onto Lovely Banks, then to the tower at Lethbridge and then onto Meredith at the end of the transmission "chain".
- On behalf of NBN, (consulting engineers) Aurecon lodged a Planning Permit Application with Golden Plains Shire Council on the 14 December 2016 for the proposed NBN tower at Lethbridge and subject to Council approval, this will link the Meredith tower into the NBN network once the Planning Application has been processed and the Lethbridge tower has been built.
- Aurecon advised that it is difficult to provide a definitive date for the Meredith NBN facility to be operational because of the uncertainties in the planning application process, however they currently forecast (is) that the tower will be operational in the 4th Quarter of the 2017 Calendar Year.

So, there you have it. The Lethbridge link which, seemingly, no one thought of this time last year, is the problem. For once, the rural residents are first in, best dressed, and the townies will have to contend with the pedestrian ADSL 1 and very limited capacity copper wire connections for some time yet.

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What we know about...

This year, we're all going to learn about the origins and significance of the months that make up our year. Gemma Hanson will be researching and reporting her findings in her usual engaging style. And, as they say on the networks, we kick off the season with a double episode!

...January

We all know January as the first month of the year. The month where we make resolutions with good intentions and break them with slightly guilty faces and a nonplussed shrug of the shoulders. Latin in origin, popular assumption is that it is so named for the ancient Roman god, Janus who presided over doors, gateways and beginnings. Often depicted as having two faces looking in opposite directions, Janus symbolises looking to the past and the future. Before Julius Caesar got his hands on the calendar year, January had only 29 days...so you can thank him for the two extra days of sunnier.

and February

This tricky little month likes to throw a spanner in the works every four years and deliver us an extra day, leaving some people with the awkward scenario of choosing when to have their birthday. As the last month of summer we hang onto it with nostalgic longing for days at the beach and skin stained with Acroguard. From the Latin word meaning 'month of purification', nowadays we could probably attribute it to the month after we have to stop blaming our over-eating and drinking on the festive season. Before 450 BC, February was considered the last month of the year before being promoted to one of the top spots.

January and February were brought to you by Gemma Hanson



The Metal Market Place

Marg Cooper

A shearing shed stands almost on the corner of Sheldford/Meredith Road and Green Tent Lane. It is surrounded by a row of silos, cattle yards, sheep yards, machinery and an accumulation of bits "that could be handy in the future". It is known by locals as Kilsby's. Ken Kilsby and his family came to the Soldier Settlement Block 13 in the "Moranghurk Estate" in mid-1953. The shearing sheds were built with a skillion for machinery but most farmers put a floor in the skillion for sheep pens. Of interest in this shed is that the gates were joined with dowl {no screws or nails} and the shorn sheep slid down "let-out shutes" and went out under the shed.

Kruger's Sheetmetal has recently transferred their business to this shearing shed from the Bannockburn Industrial Estate. Peter Kruger tells that he is enjoying being there as the shed is a historical building with a unique character, it is quiet which allows him to concentrate and think clearly, it has a wooden floor which is kind to his feet and the views are amazing across the plains. Peter has had 35 years in the business. He served his apprenticeship as a sheet metal fabricator at J.H. Stephenson & Sons and in 1996 went out on his own and worked out of his garage and carport in Lethbridge. He tells that a lot of his work now are bespoke items. He has recently made rain water heads for "Barwon Park", an authentic reproduction galvanized corry tank with a cone top for Daylesford Spa Country Railways from 1942 drawings and a large copper dome for the pizza oven at "Clyde Park" Bannockburn. He tells that he is also here for farmers and willing to perform small maintenance jobs. They also manufacture 'The Chicken Feeder' a treadle operated chicken feeder for backyard hen houses that are sold throughout Australia.

Peter started collecting old machines when he was still an apprentice, such as a "jenny machine" that puts decorative beads on buckets. He is particularly proud of a small machine that is operated by a handle, that was made by Stow Manufacturing Co, Connecticut, he believes, in 1870. He tells that not a lot of people know how to work the old machines and the skills are now "lost trades". In fact Peter was in the last group at Stephenson's that were taught original soldering techniques.

Peter has also recently attended blacksmithing course in NSW and is now in the process of sourcing equipment. He has the forge and anvil and is looking forward to fine tuning this new skill. Peter and Kerrie are planning to run classes in 2017. They include, making a bucket course, a introduction to welding course, a refresher welding course and a plasma cutting course so you can make wall art. Kerrie looks after the books and the advertising/marketing and her office is in one of the catching pens. A perfect place to work!

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Chris McKenzie's

Garden Notes

It is February and 'officially' we are in the last weeks of summer. So far the days have been pleasant with few scorches to burn up the garden. But I remember how hot the first weeks of school can be, and bushfires in February and March. In the cool of evening I set the hose to trickle water around the citrus trees a couple of times a week and give them a good deep drink. This is when I enjoy the garden and I like to dream about what needs to be done to prepare for autumn. It's a lovely time to clean up the herbs and perennials that have finished flowering. Cut these plants right back and in time new growth will appear. This is also a good time to take stock and begin preparing some patches for autumn planting. Weed the spent beds and dig organic materials in then cover lightly with mulch to protect the earth from the burning heat that is sure to come. This year we grew several patches of broad beans and green peas and these have now been turned into the earth and will form the basis of healthy soil for this year's garlic crop.

So far the tomatoes, salad greens and sweet basil are offering up their best for our lunch. It can be a challenge gardening through a hot summer and we have decided to grow only a few edibles over these months. We have a large store of garlic and onions harvested in early summer, and these together with tomatoes and salad vegetables, cucumbers, celery, the ubiquitous zucchini and fresh eggs make delicious meals.

I'm sorry that I only managed to plant a few beans in spring, and will try to get a few more plants going now. It's not too late to plant a few vegies such as french beans, salad greens, kale, silver beet. If you are inclined to buying in seedlings then look around for fresh looking punnets of young plants. Erecting a few simple shade covers over the greens keeps watering to a minimum. It is easy to put together some temporary sun shelters made up of shade cloth over an old table frame, or pegged out on a fence. If you are able to shade new seedlings from the intense heat of day with a shelter, a light mulch and a drink in the evening gives them a good start even in hot weather. I prefer to plant seeds. I save my own most years, and have just stripped off the last of the sweet pea and the green and snow pea seeds that have dried in their pods. Some of these particularly the sweet peas will germinate in odd spots around the garden where I will leave them to grow and flower in their own time and place. If you have young children around or visiting now and then as I do then planting bean seeds is fun. I try to get those colourful Jack and the Beanstalk seeds such as Borlotti that the children love to plant and watch grow – up and up they twine their strong stems around what ever is at hand.

Each summer I keep a few treasures alive in pots. If I go away for a few days they sit in a tub of water in the shade and then I bring them close to the house where we sit to eat in the shade of a canopy of hop plants. I pick sweet smelling gardenias and the heady intoxicating perfume of lilliums scents the evening air after the sun goes down.

Happy gardening,

Chris



Golden Plains Shire Community Grants 2017/18

from media release

Applications for Council's Community Grants Program 2017/18 open on 1 February 2017. Grants of up to \$5,000 are provided on a matched basis with the community group's contribution provided in-kind or in cash.

To be eligible to apply, organisations must be:

- Not-for-profit or equivalent
- Incorporated or managed as a Council or Crown Committee
- Have no outstanding projects or evaluations from the Community Grants Program pre 2016/17

Applications close Tuesday 28 February 2017 and can be submitted online at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/communitygrants

If you would like further information regarding this program please contact Community Recreation Officer, Paul Owen on 5220 7111 or email enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au.

Go on...smile!



I was sitting at the computer the other day drafting my will and I called out to my wife, "When I die I'm going to leave everything to you, love." She shouted back, "You already do, you lazy sod!"

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Golden Plains Shire



Australia Day Awards

Mayor, Cr Des Phelan was honoured to present awards to three outstanding citizens and one fantastic local event and the hardworking residents who make it happen at today's Golden Plains Shire Council event.

- **Citizen of the Year for 2017: Stewart Seaton**

Stewart received this award in recognition of his years of service to the Teesdale community, including as co-founder of the Teesdale Turtle Bend Events Committee, volunteer and supporter of the Golden Plains Hockey Club and FreeZa, and former member of the Teesdale Primary School Council and the Don Wallace Reserve Committee.

- **Senior Citizen of the Year for 2017: Carmen Powles**

Carmen has been involved in almost every community and sporting group in Meredith over many years, including the netball, tennis and golf clubs, church and primary school groups. One of her biggest volunteer jobs is coordinating the local catering for the original Meredith Music Festival over the last 25 years.

- **Young Citizen of the Year for 2017: Katrina Andresek**

As a Bannockburn resident, Katrina has been a valuable member of organizing committees for events including Battle of the Bands, People of Golden Plains and the Youth Lounge Art Mural. Katrina was also a major contributor to the new art mural displayed in the Bannockburn Cultural Centre.

- **Community Event of the Year: Teesdale Twilight Market and Carols**

Held on 22 December each year this event attracts around 2,500 people who have a choice of 40 different market stalls. The event is the culmination of many months of planning by the Teesdale Community Events Committee and includes an exciting fireworks display.

See P. 18 for a report on Moorabool Shire Australia Day Awards.

Newsletter a Little Dizzy?

If you live in the Meredith Rural Delivery zone, your newsletter may be feeling a little dizzy this month, and from now on. It was sent electronically from Meredith to the Geelong printers, where it was picked up by our volunteer and brought back to Meredith. Then it was taken by the postal service back to North Geelong, identified as Meredith mail and taken to Bannockburn for collection by the delivery contractor. Finally, it was brought back to Meredith and taken out to your place.

Phew! We recommend you rest it in a quiet, calm location for a few minutes, before reading it.



As many locals would know, Diane, the owner and baker at Meredith Baking Co., has been unwell, but is now undergoing treatment.

This business is her passion and we intend to continue to open and produce gorgeous food, coffee, bread and hopefully more! However as Diane undergoes treatment there may be some weeks that we will be unable to open.

We will be letting people know if we (unexpectedly) won't be open via the sign on our door, website and social media accounts - which you can find links to below. We recommend that you check one of these sources before you make the trip to ensure that there is a great coffee waiting for you on the other end!

www.meredithbaking.co

[instagram.com/meredithbakingco](https://www.instagram.com/meredithbakingco)

[facebook.com/meredithbakingco](https://www.facebook.com/meredithbakingco)

Thank you for your continued support.

Meredith Baking Co

Vale Basil Neal William Stafford 18/1/1934–2/1/2017

Marg Cooper

At the Funeral Service for Neal that was held in Ballarat on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 Rev. Geoff Sprott, brother of Neal's wife Jenny conducted the service and several people spoke about him. Six year old Olivia Pullen read a letter that she had written about her step grandfather. She wondered why he had tomato sauce on his meals and hoped that it was lovely in heaven.

Bev Thompson spoke about the adventures that her mother and aunt, who were cousins of Neal, had, when they visited the farm at Morrison when they were young. They remembered Neal's parents Basil and Jane Stafford and that Richard Stafford came to the area to work building the railway line.

Roy Taylor told that he sat with Neal in Grade 8 at Meredith State School in 1947 and that they travelled by train to Geelong Technical School together for the next few years. Neal's mother drove him to Meredith to catch the 7.45am train and if the train didn't run she'd drive them to Geelong. Roy told that they had great fun grabbing briquettes and trying to throw them in the river when the train went over the Moorabool Viaduct. At dinner time they'd walk to the CMS café and enjoy a three course meal for about 2/- and after school would fill in time and eat a pie at the station before catching the 5.15 train home.

John Parkinson lived near Neal and his parents and worked for him at times. He first remembered Neal and his father who were big men, squeezed into their Morris ute filling the whole inside. John told that Neal had an amazing memory for dates, prices etc, that he was scrupulously honest and liked to do jobs as his father had done them.

Matthew Pullen, step son of Neal told of the impact he had on the lives of Jenny's four sons, David, Kingsley, Roger and Matthew. Neal married Jenny in October 1989 when

Matthew was 17 years old. The boy from Ringwood was amazed on their first visit to the farm at Morrison, how Neal had lots of vehicles that were all functional and for specific purposes and of Neal's encyclopaedic knowledge of the surrounding farms and their inhabitants. Matthew admits that they were enthusiastic helpers on the farm but gradually only progressed to slightly better than useless.



Matthew told that Neal was a private man, often described as quiet but he thinks he was too polite to interrupt. When he had a chance to speak he had plenty to talk about and a library of memories to draw on. He took his time, slow and steady even in Melbourne traffic. He had a steely resolve and good eating habits but had an Olympic ability to put away sweets. He was a methodical person and took his time with any task he undertook and was a man with great values and principles and was a rock solid support.

Rev Geoff Sprott told that Neal met Jenny when Neal's father was in hospital in Melbourne in the same room as Jenny's husband. Neal's mother became friendly with Jenny's mother and they corresponded. Neal, being the gentleman that he was called to pay his

respects after Jenny's mother died. A sad beginning led to happier times.

The 'Barry Pearce Memorial Award'

The late Barry Pearce, a former Meredith resident, was a highly regarded member of the Corps of Commissionaires Association and the author of "Geelong to Nui Dat and Back", a memoir of his involvement in the Vietnam conflict. In recognition of his war service related work, the Corps established the "Barry Memorial Award". This year, the Award was made to Lauren McIlveen, a Camperdown student for an essay she wrote on the Vietnam War.

The Corps' web site states "Barry Pearce worked tirelessly for veterans, his community and The Corps and this is a fitting way to remember him."

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Moorabool Shire Australia Day Awards

Young Citizens of the Year - Ms Natasha Ford, Mr Tristan Mair, Mr Brady Dunne, Mr Anthony Young Mr Matthew Wetherall

Each young person trained as a Junior CFA Member in District 15, and were nominated as a group because of their commitment to protecting their community during the Scotsburn Fires. They had only just completed their recruitment training a couple of months prior to the fire. The training allowed the group to stay calm and focus on what had to be done, while working as little as 100m from the main blaze. They displayed exceptional team work, communication and courage and saved a number of properties as a result.

Citizen of the Year 2017 – Mr John Molesworth

Mr Molesworth was nominated for his contributions to a number of volunteer organisations, including:

Ballan Cricket Club Captain – Life Member (50 years)
 Ballan Football Club – Past President
 Ballan Jockey Club – Committee Member
 Ballarat Turf Club – Committee Member
 Ballarat Agricultural & Pastoral Society – Life Member
 Morrisons CFA – Voluntary Member (50 years)

Mr Molesworth has been instrumental in raising over \$400,000 for organisations and charities including the Ballan Football Club, Ballan Cricket Club, Ballan and District Health, Ballan and Meredith Schools, Morrisons/Mt Wallace Fire Brigades and many other organisations.

Below (L to R) Young Citizen of the Year Award winners, Tristan Mair, Brady Dunne, Natasha Ford, Anthony Young, Mathew Wetherall



Vale Deb Barrett

23/3/1920-2/12/2016

Marg Cooper



During the last few days of her life in a voice ever so soft Deb said to her daughter “when I was born my Irish grandfather looked into the cradle and said, well I suppose she’ll be of some use to someone... one day!” 96 years and 8 months later at Deb’s funeral her daughter Bernadette shared what “use” she was to many people during her lifetime. Deb was the second child of Jo and John Egan and sister to seven siblings. She attended Bunding State School (near Ballan) and Daylesford Convent as a boarder. After one year of secondary education she was beckoned home to help raise the younger children and work on the farm. It was this responsibility that fashioned her into becoming role model, leader, decision maker and Boss!

At age 18 she pursued her wish to become a nurse, training at St Vincent’s Hospital. She met Gerard Barrett in Geelong immediately after WW11 and they married in 1948 They had two children’ Leon and Bernadette. Deb nursed part time at Avalon Airbase and Gerard managed his aunt’s hotel in central Geelong before they took over the Royal Hotel in Meredith in 1964.

Deb liked people and described herself as adaptable. Ged was generous with time and money and everything in Meredith revolved around the hotel when Ged and Deb were there. Football Club meetings, dinners, tennis and cricket functions were held at the hotel. Deb described Geelong Football days as so busy that they couldn’t fit a sardine in the place. She often served tripe or steak and kidney pie on those days to the footy enthusiasts from the Mallee and Wimmera, who made Meredith their place to stop! Bernadette recalls that, although their home had to be shared with the public, her mother managed to maintain the warmth and comforts of a home. Dad would hold the “fort” so to speak, while Mum would attend every school and sporting function as well as entertain and accommodate their friends.

Ged and Deb left the Royal Hotel in 1972, lived for a year on O’Neill’s farm on Mt Mercer Road, then went to Lake Bolac into a hotel. They had 20 years at Mt Helen relieving and doing stock takes at hotels before retiring to Torquay. Deb moved into Rice Village at Marshall and tried to fit a life time of clutter into her room. She was still slim and beautifully groomed and a dedicated Catholic of very strong faith. A Funeral mass was held at St Theresa’s Catholic Church, Torquay on Friday, December 9.

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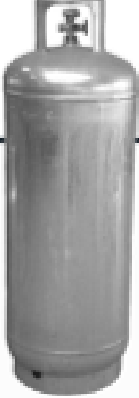




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Moving School

Lindy Allinson

Seven years ago, the Back to Steiglitz Association (BtS) discovered the historic Steiglitz School, nestled in remote bushland, was at risk. If it was to be saved, relocation was needed urgently. Since then BtS has been on a frustratingly long and tiresome journey. Our first member to take up the challenge (Chris Kempers) kept at it for 3 years. But being tossed from one government department to another left her dizzy & disheartened, so she quit.

Next, I took up the challenge and, four years on, my head felt bruised from all the brick walls I kept hitting. Like Chris, I began to feel my efforts were futile...this school was never getting moved. That is, until about a year ago, when things started to come together. And at 10 am, on the 18th of January, 2017, representatives of Golden Plains Shire (GPS), Parks Victoria, BtS, National Trust, CFA, various Professors and numerous locals all met at the Bert Boardman Recreation Reserve. The sole aim was to find 3 relocation sites for the School in the township of Steiglitz itself!

You should have seen us all. Led by Greg Anders and Jill Evans (GPS), we armed ourselves with maps, hats, sensible shoes, great big grins, and icy cold water (thank you Joanne Burns of GPS), then set off.

A quick look at the school surprised some, like Lyn & John Pierotti (National Trust), who imagined it the cute little cottage many schoolhouses of that era were. Whereas, built to cater to a bustling gold rush town, the Steiglitz School is huge. So, after a moment of awed silence and appreciation, photos and measurements were taken. When everyone's home, Steiglitz has a population of 7, which meant our band of 30 strong was a sight to behold. With ancient maps, local knowledge, and expert input on history, permits, fire and Parks issues, our conversations were fabulous.

At one point the town's largest mullock heap offered Stuart Lardner & Paul Roser (Parks), Maude local Dr Fiona Gray (Deakin Uni), Kathryn & Dr Justin Oakley, and Steiglitz locals Bill & Roz Speirings, the perfect viewing point to discuss the lay of the land. While Cooper's Orchard offered another perspective for our Maude, She Oaks, Steiglitz Community Planning Group reps (Alan & Pauline Tournier) and animated BtS members, Kathy Mar, Sue Roden, Gill Dickson, Chris McKenzie and Jack Boardman. (My husband, Terry, said he was talking with the other too, though his stained hands make me think he'd snuck off to enjoy Mrs Cooper's mulberries!)

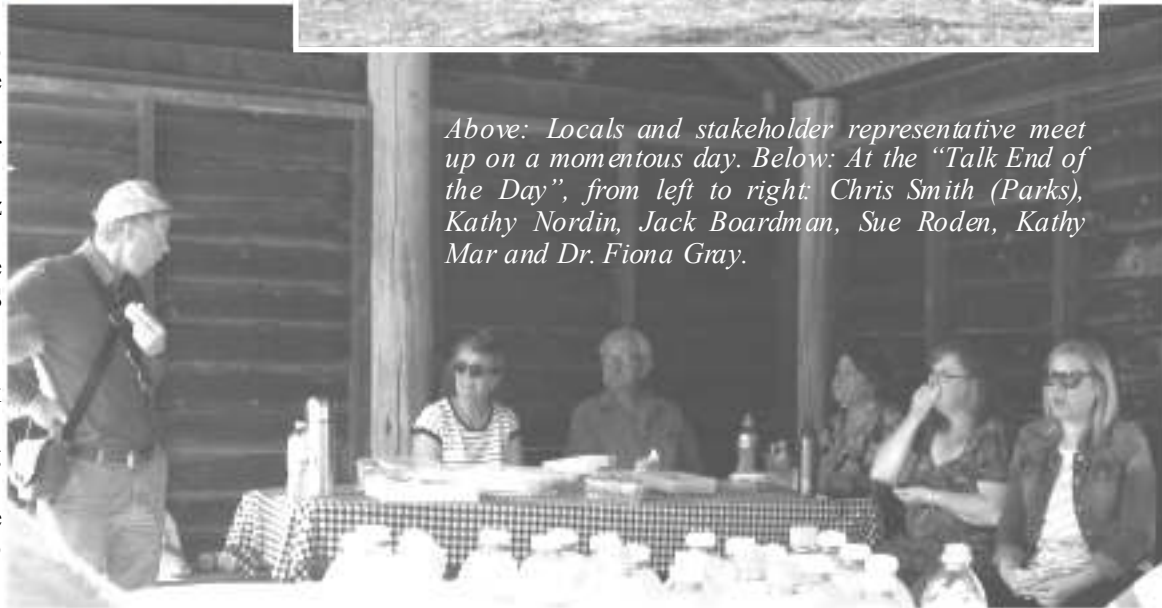
At no other point in the 7 years had all these groups come together, or even come close to working as smoothly as we all did that morning. Suddenly, we were as one. What, for years, couldn't be decided upon, was nipped out in minutes.

This isn't just a BtS achievement, it's a community achievement. Many of you reading this right now had a hand in making such a special moment happen.

Lots of people contributed to this success. Among them, young Thomas Welsh. Thomas, a Grovedale lad (and newest BtS member), seems to have taken the BtS under his wing. For while most young boys would be playing outside during their holidays, Thomas was helping our plight by 'sending letters to politics to save the school', as his Christmas card told us.

As to our favourite relocation site, there's a smile-inducing twist. Turns out Steiglitz residents had been trying to get this very same school moved into town more than a hundred years ago. We found their original petition, showing they wanted it moved to the very same site!

If you'd like to keep up with exciting School developments, get involved yourself, or even become a BtS member, check out our webpage: www.backtosteiglitz.org.au



Above: Locals and stakeholder representative meet up on a momentous day. Below: At the "Talk End of the Day", from left to right: Chris Smith (Parks), Kathy Nordin, Jack Boardman, Sue Roden, Kathy Mar and Dr. Fiona Gray.

The Real Food Festival

Media Release

Celebrate the quality produce of the Golden Plains Shire at the inaugural Real Food Festival from 4-18 March 2017.

Over a two-week period, the region's best farmers, growers and makers will come together to host a series of events across the Shire from workshops and special interest talks to lunches and high teas.

With something to suit everyone from dedicated foodies to the home cook, the Festival will showcase the high-quality produce for which the Golden Plains Shire has become well known.

Bec Cameron who opened Farmer's Daughter Produce Store in Inverleigh in 2015 said she is thrilled to be able to share her love of fresh food.

"As a small business owner and someone passionate about supporting our local farmers and food suppliers I am excited to be a part of the inaugural Real Food Festival in 2017. What a great way to showcase what we have to offer in the Golden Plains," Bec said.

The Festival will run over a two week period and will involve numerous events in wineries, olive groves, cafes and local produce outlets.

Tickets will be booked for individual events, for more information look out for the Festival programme which will be available in February 2017.

With support from the Golden Plains Shire Council, The Real Food Festival is an initiative of a group of locals who are passionate about fresh, local food.

The Real Food Festival will be launched at the Golden Plains Farmers Market on 4 March 2017.

For more information visit www.trff.com.au/ or follow on Facebook at: [therealfoodfestival/](https://www.facebook.com/therealfoodfestival/)



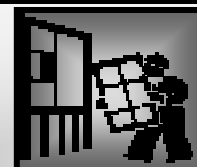
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BAKED FISH WITH TOMATOES, OLIVES & CAPSICUM

Serves 4

Ingredients

- 600g baby chat potatoes, halved
- 1 tbs, extra virgin olive oil
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 600g any firm white fish fillets
(ling, snapper, blue-eye)
- 1 yellow capsicum, cut into 2cm pieces
- 125g cherry tomatoes, halved
- 12 large green olives, pitted and quartered
- 2 tbs coarsely chopped parsley
- Lemon wedges to serve

Method

Preheat oven to 200c or 180c fan-forced. Place potatoes in a bowl and toss with half the oil. Line a baking tray with baking paper. Place potatoes on prepared tray and bake for 30-35 minutes or until golden and cooked. Add garlic and toss to coat. Bake a further 5 minutes.

Meanwhile, line a baking dish with baking paper. Place fish in a single layer in prepared dish and top with capsicum, tomatoes and olives. Drizzle with remaining oil. Bake with potatoes for the last 15-20 minutes of cooking or until the fish is cooked through.

Sprinkle fish with parsley and serve with potatoes and a green salad dressed with balsamic vinegar and olive oil.

Recipe From – WW 'Cook Hearty'

Stefania



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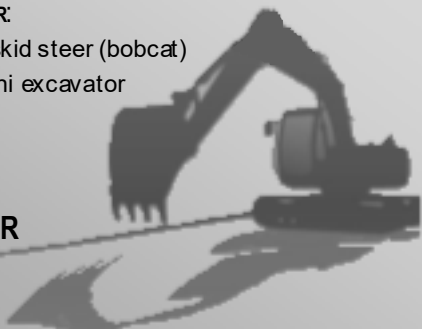
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Tech, Tea and Tales

Golden Plains will be the first Shire in Australia to introduce an exciting new program for youth and seniors called 'Tech, Tea and Tales'. The program will employ young local jobseekers to provide one-on-one technology help to seniors in the Shire, and to record their life stories and experiences on film. The 6-week program aims to build meaningful connections across generations, by providing a unique opportunity for young and older people to come together and share skills, knowledge and experience.

Applications are now open for jobseekers aged 16-25 who live in the Shire and who would like to be employed as a Tech and Story Helper in the program. Older people across the Shire are also invited to participate in the free program, which will be offered at Bannockburn library, Haddon Community House, Meredith Community House and for residents at Estia Health.

The program has been designed by Lively and Humankind Enterprises in collaboration with local youth and the Golden Plains Shire Council. Lively and Humankind Enterprises first launched Tech, Tea and Tales in Melbourne during the 2016 Victorian Seniors Festival, and received overwhelming positive responses from the young and older people who participated.

"We want to provide meaningful, paid employment to young people, as well as give them access to role models in the community who have rich experiences and wisdom to share. Younger and older people have so much to offer each other and this program really celebrates that", said

Sophie Weldon from Humankind Enterprises.

The program kicks off on 28th Feb and concludes during National Youth Week. If you would like to apply to be one of the young Tech and Story Helpers, or if you are an older resident looking to get your technology questions answered and to connect with some inspiring local young people, get in touch with Anna Donaldson on 0430 661 405 or at anna@lively.org.au. Applications close for young people on 10th February: www.goo.gl/hyxgrA

No prior experience necessary.



Harriet chatting with Shirley

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Marg's BOOK REVIEW

"Journey of a Lost Manuscript"

by Lorraine Smith

When a visitor to her second hand book shop in Warrnambool picked up a well-worn 1924 edition of *Alice in Wonderland* in January 2014 and a calf skin document was discovered between the pages, it started a journey back through time to 1583.

At first Lorraine Smith did not know what to do with the document but her daughter in Brisbane who has a special interest in the Tudor period had it authenticated, convinced Lorraine that it was rare and that it had a story. It took Lorraine and her daughter a long time to transcribe the document which was written before standardised English was established in the 1700's. A professor in Brisbane transcribed the first ten lines and left Lorraine and her daughter to decipher the rest but Lorraine contacted a company on the Isle of Man who specialise in transcribing old manuscripts and they were engaged to scrutinise high quality photos of the deed and check their translation.

Lorraine spent two years researching the document, found that it spent most of last century clipped inside a book called "The Story of Morley" which features a photo of the document and was brought to Australia in 1924. The document is "an indenture for the transfer of two meadows between Robert Popeley of Popeley and Robert and George Appleyerde of Gildersome in Yorkshire". The book and document were handed down to family members all over Australia before it accidentally found its way to "Spectrum Books" in Warrnambool.

Lorraine has written an enthralling book of the document's travels from Gildersome, Yorkshire in 1583 to Warrnambool in 2013. She has met many people who had a relationship to the document and has travelled interstate and to Morley and Gildersome in England researching. Next year she is going back to England, taking copies of her book and giving a talk in the library there. Lorraine is excited that the rare document ended up in her shop in Warrnambool - from the 16th Century. She describes it as a journey with so many twists and lucky escapes it should be a novel - but this is a true story, about solving a Tudor mystery. If you wish to buy the book, ring Spectrum Books in Warrnambool on 55 617893 or email books@spectrum-oz.com.

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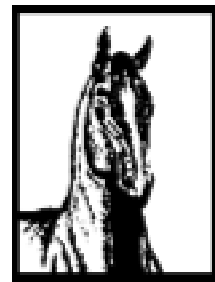
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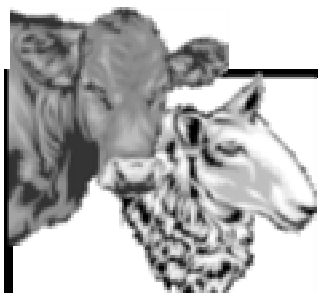
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FINALLY!!!

Stefania Parkinson

After years of lobbying by parents and friends of Meredith Primary School and the local community, it appears that school zone flashing lights have recently been installed on either side of the Midland Highway near the school. I look forward to seeing them in action when school returns Tuesday 31st January.

All I can say is that it's about time! And to whoever approved their installation, thank you.



Bannockburn Surgery

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Tel: (03) 5281 1481 Fax: (03) 5281 1978
www.bannockburnsurgery.com.au

Monday to Wednesday: 8.30 am – 7.30 pm

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Saturday: Emergency Session from 10.00 am (no appointments

required) and a regular session from 10.00am-12.00pm with appointments taken in advance.

Dr Cameron Proffitt: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Dr Andrew Bell: Monday, Thursday, Friday

Dr John Henderson: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

Dr Margaret Somerville: Wednesday

Dr Dheeraj Pawar: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

Dr Benjamin Fry: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Dr Amir Rahimi: Alternate Sat (bookings taken in advance)

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



Kindred Matters

Judith Emond FAMILY THERAPIST

Got a Question For Judith?

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

Preventing Suicide

In the last newsletter our local Policeman, Greg Kitchen talked about the risk of suicide over the Christmas period. This has prompted me to provide more information about this social problem in our region. We have higher rates of deaths from suicide and self-inflicted injuries in the Golden Plains Shire 14.7% compared to Western Victoria 12.2% and the whole of Victoria rate of 9.4% (WestvicPHN Health Profile 2016). It is very concerning that in our community we clearly have some members who are struggling and in need of support.

You may have heard in the media recently that more people die from suicide than road accidents every year and much more government funding goes towards the prevention of road accidents compared to the prevention of suicide. Thankfully the government is taking action and they recently announced a 10 year suicide prevention strategy. This is great news and we can expect more support services for community groups, individuals and families in future.

Current suicide prevention services

We already have a number of great suicide prevention services and programs in place, but the aim now is to grow more awareness within local communities, individuals and families. Often it's not until someone close to you or someone in your community dies from suicide that you then discover the array of services for suicide prevention and support. Please familiarise yourself with the following services as more awareness is the key.

Suicide Help Lines

Lifeline 24 hour crisis support - 13 11 14

Hold On To Life 24 hour support - 1800 HOLDON (1800 465 366)

Suicide Callback 24 hour support – 1300 659 467

Other Things You Can Do:

Your GP Talking to your doctor about your feelings is a good thing to do. They are also well familiar with agencies that can help.

Talk to someone you trust telling someone you are experiencing thoughts to end your life and are struggling is ok. Often you will be very distressed and perhaps not able to contact services yourself. A trusted neighbour, friend, family or community member will help you to get the support you need.

Look Out for Your Mates in rural communities this is really important. Call a friend if you haven't heard from them in a while. Visit or check in with neighbours or those you know who live alone. Keep a close watch over your mate if you notice they are acting differently.

For more information on suicide prevention check out the following sites;

suicideprevention.com.au/

twitter.com/SuicidePrevAU

facebook.com/SuicidePreventionAustralia/

beyondblue.org.au/the-facts/suicide-prevention

lifeline.org.au/get-help/topics/preventing-suicide

A Royal Quest

Marg Cooper

Did you know that "Royal Hotel" is the most popular name for pubs in Australia? According to the web site titled "The Royal Quest" there are 162 of them: 2 in Western Australia, 4 in South Australia, 99 in New South Wales, 27 in Victoria, 29 in Queensland and 1 in Tasmania.

The Royal Hotel at Meredith recently received a visit from five men in their quest to conquer all Royal Hotels in Australia and "to bring the patrons and guests of all Royal Hotels, together". They arrived unexpectedly (because they like to see hotels as they really are) and intended to enjoy the hospitality and move on to the Daylesford Hotel but it is reported that they enjoyed themselves so much that they stayed the night in the barn out the back. Claire said the men are mainly school teachers and that it all started as a bet. They now spend part of their holidays visiting Royal Hotels all over Australia.

They have a web site that lists all the Royal Hotels in alphabetical order from Adelong to Yeoval with information about each hotel and town. People can post comments and created dialogue between Royal Hotels.



Royal Questers Josh Perizzolo, Martin Blake, David Thomas, Simon Wright, and Blair Newham and the team at the Meredith Royal.

Judy



Bannockburn Pharmacy Newsletter

Proprietors: Scott Wilkes & Damian Bennett

6 High Street
Bannockburn VIC 3331 Phone: 5281 1519

We want your feedback

We are about to head up to the Sydney Gift Fair on Saturday 18th February and we would love your feedback as to what gifts you like so we can do our best to continue to for everyone's needs in 2017. We have got some exciting ideas on the direction we would like to take this year but we would love your feedback.

Are you a member of our FREE Loyalty Club?

Have you joined our FREE Loyalty Club yet? There are lots of benefits for joining. Here are 6 reasons why you should join, if you haven't already:

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Keep up to date what's happening at the Pharmacy

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



little
GEMS



Online Interaction

'They' say that online shopping is taking away from our economy. That we're spending money overseas for a cheaper price and to avoid the human interaction associated with purchasing purely with your credit card and a keyboard. But when the big chain stores seem to have a prerequisite that prospective employees need to have terrible customer service skills, then who can blame us?

Personally, I love it because I can do it in my pyjamas (for the record – I am referring to morning shopping. I am most definitely out of my PJs by ten). I love not having to put on makeup, brush my hair or even worry whether I put my shirt on inside out. Yes, I realise that that last one probably isn't very relatable. I mean I can't say I've ever done it, but you'd be surprised at the amount of people I encounter each week in my job that have not managed to put their shirts on properly.

It's nice that the prices can be up to half the price of those in the shops and that the little autobot chat box is always polite and has a smile on its little animated face. And the best part of all is that you can forget about purchasing something, only to come home to the lovely surprise of a little box containing your newest addition to your already rather bulbous book collection – making any day just that little bit brighter.

But what about the negatives? Like when they take your credit card number but don't come through with a confirmation email. What on earth have I just paid for?! There is never a phone number, only emails that seem to take days to get responses from. There's the case of it not quite being like the picture. I once bought a dress online which I realised after it arrived that the model must have been made up of a head sitting directly on legs, because once I added my torso I can tell you that it certainly wasn't anything that could be remotely categorised as a dress.

And then there's the fact that the three delivery people that turn up to my doorstep an embarrassing amount of times a month (the online shopping addiction is not just mine) quite often catch me on my days off before ten am (re: pyjamas). *So to three people who frequent the Golden Plains area I am the girl who never leaves home and never wears normal clothes or brushes her hair. In my defence, I'm not a slob. I study online and am most productive as soon as I wake up and can be on a roll for hours.*

So, in conclusion, maybe it is better to brave the surly shop assistants and rebuff their bad attitudes with unusual brightness. At least then I'll be wearing day clothes and if there's a problem, I can go back and really make their day.

Gemma

Art Display Winners

Marg Cooper

The Scotsburn Art Exhibition was planned to experience "the creativity of the community and view photographs, sculptures and other art pieces which captured the Scotsburn fire event and the resilience of the community and the countryside. The organizers sought photos, sculptures and other objects resulting from the fire to display as part of the exhibition which was held from December 11 to December 16, 2015 at the Village Place, Buninyong. It was a diverse, striking, poignant collection of art that did indeed show the devastation of the fire and the resilience of the people affected.

The Scotsburn Community Recovery Committee was established to strengthen the community after the Scotsburn fire on December 19, 2015. They received a grant to support community events which included art. Several free workshops were held throughout the past year, were led by professional artists and were open to all community members which allowed them to create, share stories and experiences.

In the days following the fire the Wells family including Amy and Lucas drove through their property and the surrounding area to assess the fire damage. Amy and Lucas took photographs which helped them to process and reflect on what they had seen and experienced. They entered their photographs in the Scotsburn Art Exhibition and won first and second prize in their age category. Congratulations.



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Koalas

When my daughter was four, she attended childcare in Werribee one day a week. The class had a small soft toy koala called Little Nell, who visited each child's house accompanied by a scrapbook in which parents wrote of her adventures. Little Nell usually visited suburban homes, so when she stayed with us, we took her for a walk along our road which is lined with mature eucalypts to show her a real koala. We saw them often, so I was confident that we could find one, and we did. My daughter is now thirteen. If we went for the same walk, we would be excited to see a koala. It is now uncommon to see one and we rarely hear the grunts of the males or the screams of the females at night.

Koalas are in trouble. When Europeans arrived in Australia, there were millions of koalas. Millions were shot for the fur trade until they became a protected species in 1937. The koala's numbers could increase again, but because there were fewer to start this growth, they have problems with inbreeding, which leads to a less healthy population. They suffer from diseases, especially chlamydia which can cause infertility. Now koalas have a whole set of new problems. Much of their forest habitat has been cleared for farmland or destroyed by logging. In some areas, particularly along the coast, their habitat is being subdivided for housing. The territory of an individual koala which was all forest, may now contain houses and roads. They must spend more time on the ground to move from one tree to another, and during that time, they are vulnerable to harassment or attack by dogs or may be hit by a car. As well as this, our climate is becoming hotter and drier. Koalas in the past could get all their moisture from the leaves they eat, but now on hot days they need to come to the ground to find water. Bushfires will become more common and koalas are generally not capable of escaping from them. Increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will cause plants to grow faster, but the leaves will be less nutritious, causing malnutrition or starvation. The IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) which keeps an eye on the risks to animals and plants, has listed koalas as one of the ten species most at risk from climate change. We hear stories of koalas overpopulating areas like the Otways and Kangaroo Island (where they were introduced) and eating so many leaves that they kill trees. The population starts to run out of food, becomes unhealthy and starves. In the past animals would have been able to move out of the area and disperse to new territories, but now they are surrounded by impassable barriers, such as large expanses of paddocks or water. Moving koalas to new areas often doesn't work as their stomachs are adapted to their familiar species of eucalypt. In many areas, such as around Meredith and the You Yangs, koala numbers are dropping dramatically.

Dire as this list of woes sounds, not all is lost. There are things that all of us can do to help koalas. It is unlikely that koalas will have the adaptability to live with a changed climate as some animals can, but given the chance many populations can gradually move south or towards the coast. The most important thing for koalas is their habitat. We need to look after areas of

forest and stop logging them. Keep trees, including in paddocks. An old tree standing on its own may be a vital resting place on the way from one patch of bush to another. Most urgently, we need to plant more trees. We need to create habitat links, corridors of suitable food trees between one patch of bush and the next, so that koalas and other animals and birds can move around with ease. They can find food, mates and new territories.

We can look after our local koalas. Drive carefully in areas where you know that koalas may be seen. Koalas are timid and easily stressed. If you see one, watch it quietly. Don't touch the tree and keep dogs away. If you're with a group of people, keep them close together, so the koala doesn't feel that its tree is surrounded. On hot days, leave a bowl of water at the base of the tree. Place a rock or one end of a stick in the bowl, so any smaller animals coming for a drink can climb out. If you find a sick or injured animal, contact a local wildlife carer, or Wildlife Rescue Emergency Service on 0427301401, or Wildlife Victoria on 1300094535 or via their website. For further information see the Koala Clancy Foundation website <https://koalacancyfoundation.org.au/research/koala-research> started by Echidna Walkabout, an ecotourism company based at Staughton Vale, and the Australian Koala Foundation's website. You can submit sightings of koalas at the Atlas of Living Australia website.

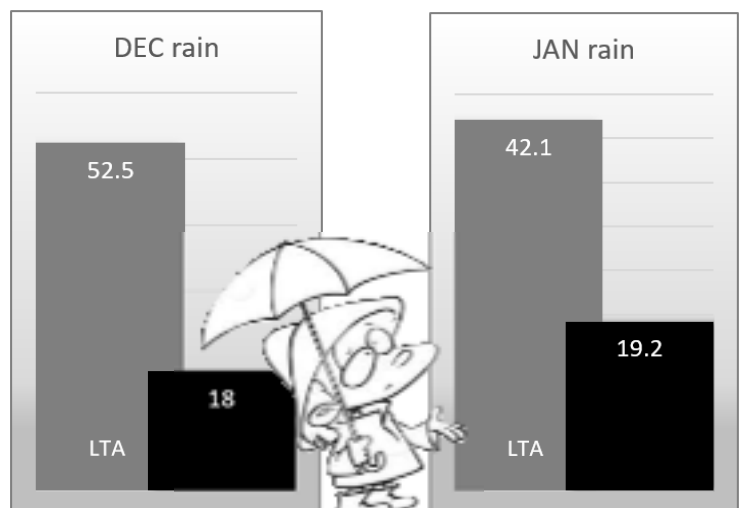
Wendy



Many of us will have observed the decline in the number of koalas visiting the town in recent years. It was particularly pleasing therefore to spot this big fella in the Police Paddocks just into the new year.—Ed.

(photo Bow Tasic)

The Rain Report



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Earth Watch

Wendy Cook

Earthwatch, set up in 1971, is a worldwide not-for-profit organisation that encourages anybody and everybody to be involved in scientific research. Their aim is to create a sustainable planet for all species, and they believe that everyone has the ability to help. To decide how to handle climate change, scientists need lots of data about what is happening in nature. They want to know if a change in climate causes changes in behaviour, such as some birds laying eggs earlier. This may mean that seeds or insects to feed the chicks are not available yet. If scientists know about the problem they can seek ways to help these birds. In parts of Europe and Asia, scientists already have this information. The Japanese have been recording the timing of their beloved cherry blossom for over one thousand years. The Marsham family in England recorded signs of Spring – plants, birds and insects - from 1736 to 1958. Australia lacks this kind of data. In September 2009 Earthwatch launched ClimateWatch, a project that enables everyone to collect information about the activities of animals, birds, plants and marine life. All you have to do is take note of what you see and hear and record it at the easy-to-use ClimateWatch website or via their app.

I stumbled across ClimateWatch recently while trying to identify a butterfly. It was the best site I found. It told me how to identify the butterfly, accompanied by excellent photos, information about their behaviour, lifecycle, caterpillars and eggs. There were further tabs below the photos, telling me what ClimateWatch would like me to look for, which includes presence, mating, egg laying and emerging from a cocoon; when and where to look for them; the effect climate change is

predicted to have on this species; and sources of further information. A few days later I registered with ClimateWatch so that I could contribute observations. The online form, found from their homepage, is simple to fill out, as is the form to enter your sightings. You can save the details of locations you visit regularly, such as your garden, and can upload photos. You can view and edit your sightings and profile. The information you provide about plants and animals is kept in a database, and submitted to the Atlas of Living Australia, where it can be viewed by anybody seeking knowledge of any Australian species.

If you would like to be involved in the ClimateWatch project, their webpage is <http://www.climatewatch.org.au/>

If you click on the word About near the top of the page, you can read responses to Frequently Asked Questions and learn about the scientists who will benefit from your sightings. If you click on the word Species, you can choose a group of plants or animals of interest to you, such as birds or insects. You can also choose All Species, then select species from Victoria that are likely to be seen in the current month. Some species to look out for in February include black swan, welcome swallow and willy wagtail (birds), silver banksia and sweet bursaria (plants), common brown butterfly (insects), garden skink (reptiles), white-striped bat (mammals), Christmas or jewel spider (spiders) as well as many marine species if you visit the beach. There are also introduced plants and animals such as jacaranda, honey bee, European wasp and common blackbird. There is a ClimateWatch app so that you can record sightings from your phone. Getting involved with ClimateWatch is one way that you can help scientists to help our planet, and a great way to learn about some of the plants and animals around you.

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it'S HiStoRy

Meredith History Interest Group

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 26 at 1.30 pm in the old Shire Hall/Kindergarten at 31 Staughton Street. You are invited to come along and see the historic building which is now the new home for MHIG. We intend to have a quick meeting and then some speakers will relate the later history of the building. Before the meeting please think! We would like ideas for events for the year and we would like to know what MHIG can do to help you and what you can do to help MHIG. By moving into a permanent home and into a building that is so suitable (its history, position, the ambience of the space, its kitchen and bathroom facilities, grounds and its storage spots including the "vault") it seems that at last MHIG has become an adult rather than a child. Things become more serious when you become an adult.

There is a space that needs to be organized, we would like to open regularly and we would like to mount historic displays. There is now room for several people to work at different tasks at the same time.

MHIG collect history, record history, catalogue history and aim to create an interest in history. What a great building as a home for this task!

Formal Opening

We are planning an Opening in March or April, although we don't promise that our formal opening will be as Grand as the opening in 1878. (See below.)

What do we do when we catalogue? A document needs to be catalogued so it can be found when required! We catalogue using pencil and paper and a card filing system. When you require information, for example, about the Shire Hall, you look up the file cards named Shire Hall, look at the brief information of each entry, select one, go to the appropriate folder and find the document. It is very easy to learn!

We also have started to catalogue on the computers, we have a quantity of newspaper cuttings that need to be pasted into scrapbooks, photos need to be scanned and saved on USB's, there are displays to be collated, the kitchen needs organizing, the grounds need a tidy up and so on.

Can you help? We'd love your assistance. Come along on a Thursday from 9am. Ring Fay McFarlane 52 861283, Jan Crump 52 861337 or Marg Cooper 52 868201 for more information.

"The formal opening of the new Meredith Shire Hall was celebrated yesterday afternoon by President (Cr O'Keefe) of the shire giving a banquet to commemorate the occasion. Between 80 and 90 invitations had been sent to the leading residents of the district, also to parliamentary representatives. About 50 gentlemen partook of a very excellent banquet, provided by Mr Ward of Ballarat in the caterer's best style. There were numerous toasts including a toast to "the Health of the Australian Eleven Cricketers". After the banquet a ball was held in the new hall, over 100 ladies and gentlemen having been invited to enjoy themselves in the mystic dance. Mrs Smith of Elaine presided at the pianoforte and played the music for the terpsichorean."

Geelong Advertiser, October 31, 1878.

BURNING OF THE MEREDITH SHIRE HALL.

Inquiries made regarding the destruction of the Meredith shire hall, which was found to be in flames at an early hour on Tuesday morning, have not resulted in anything definite being learned as the origin of the fire. An irreparable loss has been sustained by the municipality through the fire, which consumed the whole of the shire records, as well as those of the old-time borough of Steiglitz, all of which were stored above the ceiling of the lobby within the front entrance. The fire evidently originated in the front portion of the premises, and swept right through the hall, only the stone walls enclosing a heap of ashes being left standing. The theory advanced by the shire secretary regarding the disaster is that some burning material was blown from a fire which had been left in the yard outside by the woman engaged to clean the hall, found a lodgement beneath the roof, and ignited the nests of the sparrows which built in large numbers. The fire, he says, after smouldering for some time probably communicated to the mass of papers stored above the ceiling of the lobby. The pine laths of the plastered ceiling in the hall proved ready fuel for the flames, and the whole building was soon in a blaze from end to end.

The secretary and Senior Constable Arnold, of Steiglitz, left the office at half-past 8 o'clock, everything being then apparently safe. A charwoman engaged in cleaning out the premises burnt a large quantity of old papers within a few feet of the walls. When those who first noticed the conflagration arrived upon the scene, the fire lighted by the charwoman was still smouldering, and the wind was blowing in the direction of the front office. The whole of the secretarial books were lost, but some cheques and the insurance policy over the premises were recovered from the safe after the fire had died out. The furniture of the hall was also saved. The loss is covered by insurance to the amount of £800 in the Colonial Mutual Office.

The ordinary meeting of the council which was to have been held yesterday, has been adjourned till Wednesday next.

Geelong Advertiser Thursday 17 January 1895
Compiled by Jan McDonald

Vale Allan Maxwell Parkinson

13/2/1931–17/12/2016

Marg Cooper

He bought, collected, restored, researched, showed and talked engines. His interest started when he and his father, Abel, sawed wood on a saw bench using a “4 horse power Waterloo Boy gasoline engine”. They cut trees down with an axe, snigged the cleaned trees to the saw bench with a horse and cut the trees into 1 foot blocks and 2 foot blocks. They cut 1000 ton of 2 foot wood for the railways, over 3 contracts and delivered it to Elaine Railway Station in the 1940's in their Chev truck. The stacks were measured, loaded onto railway trucks and sent all over Victoria to be used for the waiting room fires, to light the fires in steam trains (once lit they then ran on coal) and to fire the engines during the coal strike. Herb was always intrigued by engines which ran shearing plants and thrashing machines. He once described a thrasher which lost control coming down Slate Quarry Hill. It consisted of a traction engine with ½ day of wood on it, towing the thrasher, and an elevator wagon, and a hut, and a filthy water tank and an A Model Ford ute at the rear.

What a sight it would have been!

Herb rode his bike to Elaine State School and rode his bike with the light on to Elaine to catch the bus to junior Tech in Ballarat. This was the first bus that took children to school in Ballarat from Elaine. He left school the day he was 14 years old and rode his bike to Mt Doran to cut wood. He loved splitting wood with an axe. A few months before he died he was splitting kindling with what he said was an almost new axe. Aggie Grant had owned the axe and didn't use it much. She gave it to Jack Grant who didn't use it much. The axe would have been 100 years old but was almost new! Herb started collecting engines in 1968. He quipped that it was too late! Before that people were throwing engines away, but then everyone started collecting and engines increased in price. The first engine Herb bought was a Ronaldson Tippet 6 hp engine for \$10. Herb's family asked what he was going to do with it. He replied that he was going to play with it! He played with engines ever after! His favourite engines were Hornsby engines. Herb was a member of “Lake Goldsmith Preservation Society” and attended swap meets, rallies and sales. His hobby opened up a world of travel, knowledge, friendship and interest to Herb and his wife Shirley.

Herb lived around the Elaine/Meredith area all his life and had amazing knowledge and interest in the history of the area. He related many stories with his characteristic wit. He noticed natural phenomenon as only old timers do, eg he knew from the colour and smell of the smoke what fuel a fire was burning and knew exactly from what point water ran where. People knew him to be “gruff” but underneath the exterior was a sensitive, caring, interesting, successful man.



Alan Parkinson (back right) with the chaff cutter when he volunteered at Sovereign Hill.

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The Marmalade Fair

Patron of Buninyong Marmalade, Lady Potter is travelling up from Melbourne with her daughter, Primrose to open the **Buninyong Marvellous Marmalade Fair on Saturday 28th January in the Buninyong Town Hall at 1:00pm.**

The CWA Judges will again assess the entries that come in from all over Australia and score each out of 20 points. The great thing about the event is that anyone can come to learn how to make better marmalade from the helpful CWA Judges' comments as well as by talking to the winners like the Prewers from Tasmania who did well last year, winning Best in Show and best Man-made marmalade.

The judges will give their comments immediately prior to the presentation of Certificates to the prize-winners in each citrus Class. Also, those selected for the Australian XI, comprising eleven jars plus 12th jar, will be presented with their Certificates and the team will subsequently be airfreighted to the International Marmalade Awards in Cumbria, northern England, for judging against the England XI.

At the 2016 international competition, the Australia versus England XI resulted in a draw for the *Marmalades* trophy even though The Hon Alexander Downer, Australia's High Commissioner in London, was called in to be one of the four adjudicators to try to separate these formidable rivals.



Lady Potter will officiate at the Marmalade Fair. Does that make her Lady Marmalade?

So for now, while Australia still holds a slight lead with three wins to England's two we have to concede that England actually holds both cricket's Ashes and technically the *Marmalades* as well. This contest will thus be closely watched in March when the teams again go head to head at the International Marmalade Awards.

Australia will be trying every tactic - such as presenting some citrus varieties, like our native finger limes and Red Centre limes, that the Brits have never even heard of as all their citrus is imported. Anything to beat our friendly adversaries the Poms at that quintessential English tradition of marmalade.

All entry fees are donated to Hospice and palliative care organisations and to date just under \$5000 has been donated mainly to Ballarat Hospice who do a tremendous job in looking after community members in their care.

Free entry and all welcome - Buninyong Town Hall doors open at 1pm on Saturday 28th January.



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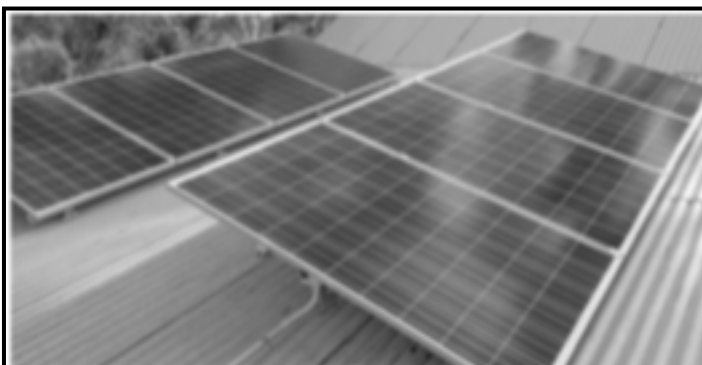
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Aunty 26

Wally Wallace

The 26th Annual Meredith Music festival took flight on the second Friday in December at the Meredith Supernatural Amphitheatre. The overcast conditions and slight breeze that greeted punters upon arrival were actually a welcome change after the fierce winds and squalls of rain that battered the festival site the day prior.

After the early arrivals engaged in the obligatory game of cricket and a few enthusiastic folk kicked around a soggy football, the Amphitheatre came to life with Melbourne band Cable Ties. They were nearly as excited to be on stage as the crowd was to let their hair down for another end of year party on the Nolan family farm.

Also performing on the first evening were the reformed Triffids, without, of course, deceased front-man Dave McComb. Performing in his place was an array of lead singers, including Gareth Liddiard of Meredith favourites the Drones. The bands sounds were certainly not out of place in the flat and yellowed lands that extend out the back of the farm, past the mullock heap on the other side of the Yarrowee towards Dereel and the volcanic plains.

The second day kicked off with a performance from the Ballarat Municipal Brass Band, appearing for their 12th consecutive year. The band performed various brass classics as well as some modern pop numbers, and led the assembled early risers on a lap of the Amphitheatre.

Other highlights on day two included Canadian band Badbadnotgood, legendary Australian singer-songwriter Archie Roach and an absorbing display from Angel Olsen. Ross Wilson, who will be playing at the Royal in early Feb, had the crowd singing themselves hoarse with some classic Aussie tunes.

The skies finally cleared with the rising of the sun in the early hours of Sunday as the last DJ, Ben UFO, brought his set to a close. After the tranquillity invoked by Sunday mornings Tai Chi session, the bands were back on stage, including rhythm & blues combo the Breadmakers.

Before the final band of the event, a couple of tumbles and a blood nose were had in the Meredith Gift, the nude running race around the Amphitheatre. MC Judith Lucy had competitors getting down in a series of yoga poses before heading off in their heats, a disturbing sight after three full days of partying and camping.

The Meredith Community Tucker Tent was again in full swing throughout the festival. Probably the most extravagant sausage sizzle you're likely to find, the Tucker Tent is run and staffed by members of a whole bunch of groups from Meredith and the surrounding area. Among them, are the Primary school, the Memorial Hall, and the Elaine Tennis Club, whose young member Matilda Dunne had a starring role in the festival program handed out at the gate.



Photos by Jordan Kaye

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Friday 24th Feb - Live Music with "Lukey Luke"

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