

# Meredith & district News



your FREE Community Newsletter since March 2018

It's Autumn!

## inside



- Ruby's a Hot Shot
- Jan's Inspiring Trip to India
- "Flock of the Year" Renamed
- Some Really Dry History
- Const. Fitzpatrick Revisited

...and the usual  
MUCH MORE!

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



# FarmPlan21 Workshop

## Meredith, March 2018

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA



## Update your whole farm plan or create a new plan

Identify options to improve farm productivity, sustainability and resilience to climate variability. Easy-to-use mapping software will be used to develop a digital map and plan for your farm.

### The course covers:

- ✓ Vision and goal setting
- ✓ Soil productivity and soil health
- ✓ Land capability
- ✓ Farm water supply
- ✓ Grazing and pasture management
- ✓ Risk management (e.g. biosecurity, climate and fire)

### Course length

Sessions run every Friday for four weeks (from 9.30am to 3pm). Some sessions will have presentations from guest speakers while others involve visits to local farms.

**When:** Friday 2, 9, 16 and 23 March (Arrangements can be made for attendees that can't make all the sessions)

**Where:** Meredith Community Centre, 4 Russell Street, Meredith

**Cost:** \$100 per business (lunch provided)

### Register your Interest

For information or to register contact Heather Field, Agriculture Victoria, email: [heather.field@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:heather.field@ecodev.vic.gov.au), phone 0438 391 210.

# 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, Jarna Kelly and Ian Penna.

Editor: Jim Elvey

## NEWS & VIEWS

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

## DATES AND DEADLINES

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

## ADVERTISING

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

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

Note: A \$20 loading applies for preferred position. Please submit in jpeg format, if available.

Classifieds are **FREE** for small, 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

Post Office, Meredith, 3333

**Editorial:** Trudy 0429 430646

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

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

## WEB

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

## ONLINE PHOTOS

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

## DISCLAIMER

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

# connect

**ADVANCE  
MEREDITH**  
5286 1291

**ANGLING CLUB**  
0419 423 960

**BLUE LIGHT DISCO**  
5286 1222

**BOOK CLUB**  
5286 8201

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

**CHILDCARE**  
5286 0700

**COMMUNITY  
CENTRE**  
5286 0700

**CRICKET**  
Elaine  
0448291074  
Junior  
(U16,U14,13)  
0448291074  
Meredith  
5286 1434

**CUBS & SCOUTS**  
Anakie 5281 9497

**FOOTBALL**  
Seniors 0408 545 246  
Juniors 0430 587 674

**GOLF CLUB**  
5341 5748

**HISTORY GROUP**  
5286 8201

**LANDCARE**  
0409 862 326

**MEMORIAL HALL**  
5286 1251

0435 312 984  
**MEREDITH LIONS**  
0473 380 552

**MEREDITH  
RECREATION  
RESERVE**  
0412 647 013

**MOTORCYCLE CLUB**  
0437 009 250

**PLAYGROUP**  
5286 0700

**POLICE PADDOCKS**  
5286 1273

**RSL**  
5286 1452  
**SENIOR CITIZENS**  
5286 8232

**TENNIS**  
Elaine  
0448 291 074  
Meredith

5286 1211  
**SEW 'N' SEWS**  
5286 0700

**FRIENDS OF THE  
BRISBANE RANGES**  
5286 1252

## ..or start something.

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

# emergency

Police, Ambulance, Fire	000
(from mobile phone)	000 or 112
Meredith Police Station	5286 1222
Power Failure	132 412
Nurse-On-Call	1300 606024
Mental Health Advice	1300 280 737
Poisons Information	13 11 26
Barwon Water	1300 656 007
SES Emergency	-
flood & storm	132 500
24 Hour Helpline	1800 629 572
24 Hour Drug & Alcohol Counselling	1800 888 236
Kids Help Line	
24hr 5-18yo	1800 551 800
Golden Plains Shire	1300 363 036
A.H. emergencies	0408 508 635
Ranger	5220 7111 or 0409 830 223
Bannockburn Vet	5281 1221
Golden Plains Vet	5281 2226
Injured Wildlife	0429 430 646
Pets and Horses 24/7	0421 617 238

## Justices of the Peace

Mr Don Atherton.	0409 869 960
Mr P Ryan Elaine	0409 861 296

# services

**CEMETERY  
TRUST**

5286 1550

**HALL HIRE**

Meredith Memorial

5286 1251

Elaine Mechanics

5341 5596

Elaine Rec Res

5341 5703

**LIBRARY VAN**

5272 6010

**MATERNAL &  
CHILD HEALTH**

5220 7230

**PRE-SCHOOL**

5286 0722

**PRIMARY**

**SCHOOL**

5286 1313

**RECREATION**

**RESERVE**

0429 841399

*"A stranger stabs you in the front, a friend stabs you in the back, a boyfriend stabs you in the heart, but best friends only poke each other with straws."*

.... unknown





## Community

### Meredith Senior Citizens

The first get-together for 2018 was held at the Royal Hotel on Monday, February 12. An excellent turn up of 22 seniors were treated royally by Damian and Claire. We were made very welcome and served with delicious meals. Everyone enjoyed the apple strudel with ice cream for dessert and catching up after the long Christmas break.

### Meredith Playgroup

Meredith Playgroup meets every  
Thursday from 9.30am

During the School Term

Enjoy new activities every week. All Welcome

Contact Community Centre for details 52 860 700



### Bamganie-Meredith Landcare

The next meeting of the Bamganie-Meredith Landcare Group will be

Tuesday 13th March 7:30pm

at the Meredith Community Centre.



Landcare is a community based movement made up of people who share similar land management issues, and who want to find solutions to these issues. We are currently planning for the next twelve months and it would be great to hear your ideas about how Landcare could help you. All welcome.



Meredith Community Centre  
4 Russell Street Meredith 3333 Phone 5286 0700  
learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au  
Open: Mon, Tue, Wed, Thurs 9.00-3.00.  
Closed Fridays and school holidays

## Golden Plains Festival Traffic Management

Here is a summary of the traffic management plans for the Golden Plains Festival scheduled to occur on Saturday 10 March - Monday 12 March 2018.

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](mailto:auntym@mmf.com.au). These contacts are also operational 24 hours over the festival weekend.

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

Thank you for your support.

Festival Planning Team

Our editorial deadline for April 2018 is  
**2pm Thursday March 29th**

## Classifieds

First insertion of small ads are FREE to district residents

**FREE** - Tumbling Composting Bin. It's missing a couple of bits, but is a quality unit on a sturdy frame. Ph 5286 1273

# Church News



## CATHOLIC

### **St. Joseph's Parish Meredith Mass Times**

Parish Priest Father Charles Balnaves phone 52861230.

Mass Times:

Winchelsea every Saturday at 6pm

Bannockburn/Inverleigh every Sunday at 9am at Inverleigh except last Sunday of the month which will be at 9am at St. Mary MacKillop School.

Anakie at 11am Sunday March 11th/25th.

Meredith at 11am Sunday March 4th/18th.

Masses Meredith 11am Inverleigh 7pm Winchelsea 9am

Enquiries phone the Parish 52861230.

World Day of Prayer Friday March 2nd. At St Joseph's Meredith. At 10am.

## 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

## ANGLICAN

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

Service Times;

### **Church of Epiphany - Meredith.**

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

### **St James. - Morrisons:**

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

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

## UNITING CHURCH

Monthly Combined Holy Communion services.

2nd Sunday, 11am at Meredith Uniting Church

4th Sunday at 11am at Meredith Anglican Church

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

Enquires Doug McFarlane 52861283.

Rev. Lindell Gibson 53413 200

## SERBIAN ORTHODOX

Fr. Theodore—Ph. 5341 5568

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

## **Alwyn (Murph) Emond**

Condolences to Jenny Emond and her family on the death of Murph on February 5, 2018. A funeral service was held at Geelong Memorial Park, Mt Duneed on February 9 followed by a get-together in Murph's garden at Meredith. A Vale to Murph will be in next month's newsletter.

## **Got a Pile of Tyres?**

Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) is warning businesses and landholders of the hazards of keeping piles of waste tyres.

Abandoned tyres form a breeding ground for vermin, tyres can decay and contaminate soil and groundwater, and a tyre fire generates toxic smoke and is difficult to extinguish.

EPA regulations allow storage of waste tyres if you have a genuine use for them, but urges you to dispose of unused waste tyres in landfill or at a recycling facility.

See [www.epa.vic.gov.au](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au) for advice on what's legal, and if you suspect someone is illegally stockpiling, dumping or burning old tyres, call EPA's 24-hour

## **Meredith Drop-In Support for Families**

Barwon Child, Youth & Family will be holding a drop in service, half a day a month, at the Meredith Community Centre. The next drop in will be

**1st March and 5th April 2018 from 9am.**

Louise and Raquel from BCYF will be available to discuss any areas of support that you may need in relation to Drug and Alcohol or parenting issues.

Please feel free to call in and have a chat. All conversations will be strictly confidential. Looking forward to having a chat and perhaps a tea or coffee with you.



# Hot Shot

Marg Cooper

Nancy and Kevin O'Brien are very proud of their Hot Shot! Their seven year old granddaughter Ruby O'Brien was one of 170 ANZ Hot Shots participants to step onto Centre Court at the Australian Open Tennis Tournament to toss a coin at the start of a match and to meet some of the world's best players. She tossed the coin on the first Tuesday.

Ruby who is daughter of Paul and Natalie O'Brien, is a Hot Shot at Mt Prospect Tennis Association in Creswick. She received a commemorative coin after her debut on Centre Court as part of the ANZ Tennis Hot Shot program caters for children aged between three and twelve.

Nancy said Ruby was also chosen to present the cheques to the Ladies winner and Runner-up. She may have been chosen because she is a cute Australian kid with freckles, teeth missing in the front, glasses and blonde plaits.

Ruby was nervous but she performed the presentation admirably. Ruby had a fantastic night and was nervous/excited about meeting the tennis stars. She was also able to fist pump with Billie Jean King who is a lovely lady and made Ruby very comfortable. Shane Elliott, the CEO of ANZ, also was fantastic with making Ruby comfortable on stage. Paul managed to get seats for their sons at a reduced rate from \$800 per seat but Nancy and Kevin watched their granddaughter on television. Her parents and grandparents are extremely proud of the way Ruby presented herself.

PHOTOS OMITTED FROM ONLINE ISSUE

Ruby with Australian Open winner, Caroline Wozniacki and, partly obscured, Billie Jean King.



*This month's cover features the lower Moorabool River, and is from a photo taken by Ian Penna, while taking part in an activity aimed at learning more about the values of the Moorabool River and land around it.*

*Thanks Ian*



## A Welcome to Autumn

Jim Elvey

Well, the summer past wasn't so harsh, and here we are in the first weeks of another autumn. For many, it is their favourite season. While spring gives us release from winter as well as a burst of growth and colour, autumn is a gentler transition between the extremes. It is when our days most noticeably cool and shorten. We change our wardrobes and bed covers. Heaters are enlisted, firstly just at the ends of the days. Eventually, the rains come, bringing relief for farmers and gardeners alike. And we can all delight in the re-greening of the landscape. Of course, footy's back. It's also a lovely time just to be outdoors. The crisp, or sometimes misty mornings, the still, perfect days when it is neither too hot nor too cold to be out, and not sharing our bush walks with snakes, are all cause for cheer. It is autumn that fosters a love of European trees, even amongst those that prefer natives, when the rust, plum, yellow and red leaves paint a stunning landscape.

For most of us, even our diet changes. Gone are the fabulous fruits of summer, and we take comfort in the hot pies and casseroles, summoned by the colder weather.

We have friends and family who prefer a chill free climate. But to us, the price is too high. To feel and respond to the changing seasons is one of the principle pleasures of life. And of those seasons, autumn is perhaps the least punishing and most rewarding.

Have an enjoyable autumn.

## Golden Plains Mobile Library



At the Meredith Primary School  
Thursday 9am to 10.30am



Invitation to the First Ever

# Showcasing Our Community



## Meredith 3333

### and Community Planning Forum

**Ever wondered about what is available in Meredith?**

Here is your opportunity to find out about  
local sporting & community groups,  
organisations & businesses.

**Friday 16th March 2018**

**from 6 to 8.30 pm**

**Meredith Community Learning Hub**

**4 Russell St Meredith**

*" It's all about making a  
connection with your community"*



**Supper Provided**



Ph 52860700 or [learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au](mailto:learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au)

## Recreation



MEREDITH  
ANGLING  
CLUB  
INC A0030221M



### The Meredith Angling Club

The Meredith Angling Club is open to all persons, regardless of their level of experience, who share an interest in fishing, and who are willing to share lively fellowship and fishing knowledge and who are willing to abide by the clubs code of practice. The club encourages families to get outdoors and enjoy the fun of inland fishing. we have monthly competitions and once a month we have a meeting in the old RSL hall at Meredith. for more information ring club phone on 0419 423 960.

Lyn King (secretary) Meredith Angling Club.



The young announcer at a university cricket game played between the medical faculty and the engineers, picked up the microphone and announced ..."the next batsman in, is Pathogen."

After a pause and a crackle, he came back on to say "Sorry, I think that should be Pat Hogan."

### Meredith Golf Club



#### 9 HOLE GOLF COMPETITION

Starting 8th April 2018

WHERE: Meredith Golf Course

WHEN: Every Sunday Morning

Competition 1: 9:00am Tee-Off

Competition 2: 12:00pm Tee-Off

(18 hole competition 9:00am Tee-Off also)

ENTRY FEE: \$4:00

PRIZE: All entry fees go into the prize pool

STABLEFORD

RULES: Player with the most points wins prize pool  
If you do not have an official handicap the club will provide one.

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

**Peter Nemtsas - 0407 795 342**

**Scott Crighton - 0430 480 156**

**Paul Mitchell - 0448 523 821**



**ELAINE CRICKET CLUB PRESENTATION DAY  
& OFFICIAL OPENING OF OUR REFURBISHED  
CLUBROOMS**

**WHEN: SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

**WHERE: ELAINE CRICKET CLUB**

**TIME: 11.30am for Opening of Clubrooms @12pm**

**Cricket club Presentations start @ 12.30pm**



**LUNCH, TEA & BREKKY  
THE NEXT MORNING  
BYO ALCOHOL**



**BRING YOUR SWAG  
OR TENT TO CAMP  
TO CAMP THE NIGHT**



**JUKEBOX**

**BRING YOUR BATHTUBS &  
TOWEL FOR THE WATERSLIDE**



**JUMPING CASTLE**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**





## **Bannockburn Pharmacy Newsletter**

**Proprietors: Scott Wilkes & Damian Bennett**

6 High Street Bannockburn VIC 3331

Phone: 5281 1519

### **Vaccination Clinic available at the pharmacy**

Don't forget that two of our pharmacists, Cindy & Tracey, are accredited to provide and administer **flu** and **whooping cough** vaccinations in the pharmacy. You don't need a prescription from your Doctor. Our vaccination clinic is open during the following times:

- **Monday: 8:30am - 5:45pm**

- **Thursday: 10:30am - 3:00pm**

To secure a time that best suits you we recommend that you make an appointment through the pharmacy. You can either phone the pharmacy on 5281 1519 or you can book online through our FaceBook page <https://www.facebook.com/bannockburnpharmacy/>

You can also just walk in but there may be a wait if someone else is already having a vaccination done.

### **New Gifts arriving this month from Sydney Gift Fair**

Last month we went to the Sydney Gift Fair and we have bought up lots of new gifts that will be arriving from this month. We are excited to bring to you the new gifts & homewares. Don't forget that as part of our Free Loyalty Club we give you a 20% discount off all of our gifts.

### **Parcel Point**

Do you love shopping online, but find it difficult to receive parcels at home or work?

We are pleased to advise that we can sign for your deliveries until you are ready to collect at a time that suits you.

How it works:

- **SHOP** online at your favourite sites
- **SEND** your parcels to Bannockburn Pharmacy Parcelpoint
- **COLLECT** when it suits you

To register a parcel for Shop & Collect, just follow these simple steps:

1. Visit: <https://parcelpoint.com.au/shop-and-collect>
2. Choose Bannockburn Pharmacy Parcel Point for your delivery
3. Fill in some details about yourself and your delivery
4. Pay \$2.95 via credit card
5. Click "Register New Parcel".

If you would like to know more about Parcel Point then just call into the Pharmacy.

### **Pharmacy Features:**

- **Vaccination Clinic**
- **Naturopath**
- **Glasshouse Fragrances**
- **Ear piercing**
- Medela (we hire Breastpumps)
- MooGoo
- **FREE Home Deliveries**
- **Roogenic teas**
- Natio
- Sukin Organic Products
- Nude by Nature
- Diabetes Australia Agency - NDSS
- Giftware for all ages
- Salt & Pepper
- Digital Photo printing
- Passport photos
- Darrell Lea Chocolates
- Webster-paks
- Home Medicine Reviews
- Free gift wrapping

### **Trading Hours**

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

**Follow us on Facebook and Instagram**

## To India and Back

Jan McDonald

In January local resident, Jan McDonald, in a party of five volunteers, went to India for 10 days. A holiday? Time for relaxation? Perhaps a sightseeing tour?

No, it was a life-changing challenge.

Four of the five people had suffered from Polio as infants or small children before Polio vaccine became available in Victoria in 1956, and today suffer from the late effects of this disease.

Gary Newton, from Geelong, created "Gary's Polio Project for India" to travel there to help with awareness, immunization and rehabilitation.

Why India?

Because India has the highest number of unvaccinated children in the world. Though it has not had a case of Polio for seven years, but Pakistan is just across the border, and with 26 million newborns each year, just one case could spread swiftly through the unimmunized population. It is essential that immunization is maintained to protect India as well as the rest of the world. In Australia, people forget that before the advent of vaccine in the 1950's a very real fear was generated during polio outbreaks - schools, swimming pools and picture theatres were closed, and people avoided churches, and public gatherings.

The group visited New Delhi and Vishakhapatnam, where they helped administer polio drops to children, spoke about vaccination and living with the late effects of polio, and hopefully encouraged polio survivors with their own stories, emphasising the need for the formation of groups to help each other and lobby for more aid. They visited a school and slum areas to help create awareness of Immunization Day, spoke at Rotary and polio support group meetings, visited a proposed site for a survivors rehabilitation hospital. The group met several people who

are more than inspirational – a young heart surgeon, Dr Nischal Pandey, who operates on young slum children for free; he has also set up "roadside schools" where any child can learn by just arriving. His vision is to help young women who have had polio improve enough to be able to marry and live a "normal" life. Hosts, Sai Padma and her husband, Anand, work tirelessly for the treatment and rehabilitation of polio survivors and are in the process of setting up a centre for polios. The group was able to help with a donation for this.

India is an enigma.

In the bedlam and uproar of life small groups of people are working for a better life for the disadvantaged. Amidst the smog and poverty people are seen quietly sweeping their little patch of dust. In the chaos of traffic moving in all directions the drivers remain calm and move over for others. Young polio survivors, unable to bring their crutches into a Rotary/Global Aid meeting – all for the want of rubber stoppers on them to stop them sliding on hard surfaces – "good-naturedly" left them at the door and crawled swiftly across the floor instead. In one area a road along the waterfront was closed to traffic from 6 to 7.30 each morning so that people could walk, exercise, and meditate before the day started. At 7.30 traffic bedlam erupts again, and life continues.

An amazing inspiring emotional journey!

*(The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will match two-to-one, up to US\$35 million per year, every dollar Rotary commits to reduce the funding shortfall for global polio eradication through 2018).*

*Jan McDonald (centre of photo) with project instigator, Bay FM's Gary Newton - front with glasses. Also in photo, front row 3rd from left in wheelchair, is Sai Padma, founder of Global Aid who, last year, was named by the BBC as one of the 100 influential and inspirational women around the world.*



## The Things We Say

Gemma Hanan

### "Bite the Bullet"

Sometimes, you've just got to bare something a bit unpleasant in order to get through a situation or reap later benefits. However, when that 'something' is undergoing a surgical procedure without anaesthetic, you're going to have to be a bit more literal about the whole thing or risk the prospect of biting off your own tongue. Before anaesthesia, patients would bite down on pieces of wood to avoid breaking their teeth. The 'bullet' part of this saying has murky origins but is widely attributed to soldiers biting on lead bullets while undergoing surgery. But like all good origin stories, there is no evidence to back this up.

## GARGAN WATER CARTAGE

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with your enquiries and  
funeral care needs.

Ebony is available to  
guide you through  
funeral planning  
and arrangements  
as well as provide  
obligation free funeral  
advice and information.

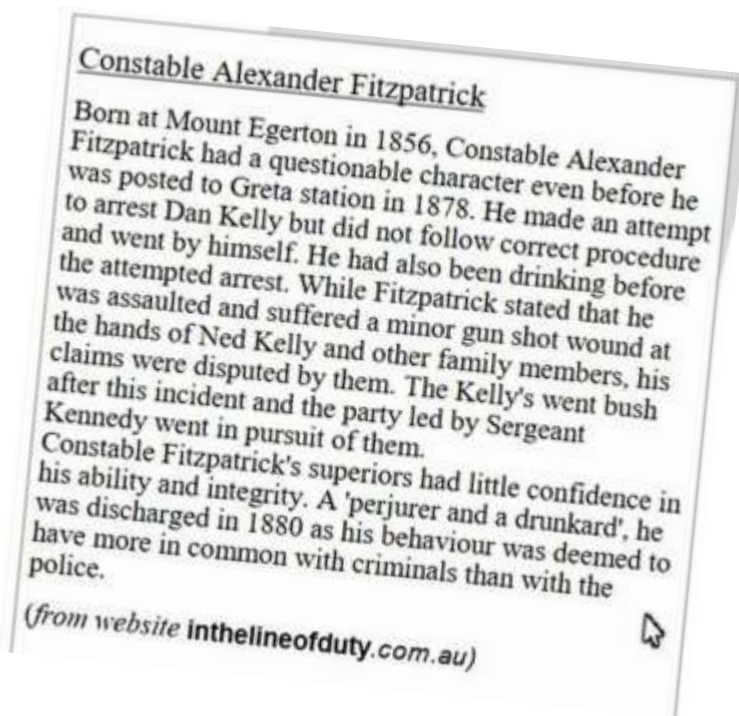
*...for a life worth  
celebrating.*

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Funeral & Bereavement Service

[www.tuckers.com.au](http://www.tuckers.com.au) **5221 4788**



*Our May 2017 issue carried the accompanying piece on Constable Fitzpatrick's attempted arrest of Dan Kelly. It caught the eye of Monash University academic, Dr Stuart Dawson, who has researched and written on the true character of Fitzpatrick. Dr Dawson kindly gave us a summary of his research findings, relevant to this issue.*



## Const. Fitzpatrick & Ned Kelly

*Stuart Dawson, History affiliate, Monash University.*

In April 1878, Constable Alexander Fitzpatrick was shot and wounded by Ned Kelly at the family home while attempting to arrest Ned's younger brother Dan for horse stealing. The incident triggered the 'Kelly outbreak', that elevated Ned Kelly to the status of Australia's most notorious historical figure. For the last 140 years, Fitzpatrick's testimony about that event has been slammed as fanciful and unlikely. It is said that he broke an order by going to the Kelly house alone, that he acted illegally by not having a warrant for the arrest, that he was drunk, and that he tried to molest Ned's sister Kate. It is also said he that was a "bad apple" from the start, and that he was eventually sacked from the police force as a liar and perjurer. However, recent research shows that all these claims are wrong.


There was no official order or instruction that policemen must not go to the Kelly house alone, and the intended arrest was known and approved by his station Sergeant. Dan Kelly was listed as wanted for horse theft in the Police Gazette. Police needed search warrants to search houses, but did not need to have a warrant on them to arrest a wanted person. According to witness accounts, Fitzpatrick did not spend time drinking in a hotel on the way to the Kellys, other than one brandy and lemonade, when he called briefly at the Winton Hotel to ask for information on the way. There is no evidence that he was ever a "suitor" of Kate Kelly, and Ned himself denied that Fitzpatrick had tried to molest her. In sum, Fitzpatrick's attempt to arrest Dan Kelly was approved, proper and legal. Dan had agreed to go with Fitzpatrick under arrest

after finishing his meal, when Ned burst in and fired his revolver at Fitzpatrick. A fracas began, in which Fitzpatrick was shot in the wrist, held for several hours, then released. Warrants were then sworn out against those involved, which resulted in the conviction and gaoling of Mrs Kelly and two associates.

What is not widely known is that Fitzpatrick's Record of Service was spotless well past the attempted arrest of Dan Kelly, and he was rated as "an efficient constable" several months later. His record went downhill the following year, while he was on temporary duty in Sydney. When he was sacked later that year, there were two petitions signed by over 100 leading residents of Lancefield, his current district, to have him reinstated in the police force as an efficient and respected constable. Some leading historians have taken negative comments about Fitzpatrick, that were made long after the Dan Kelly arrest incident, and wrongly applied them to his whole career. Fitzpatrick's reputation has been wrongly smeared for over a century. A recent article reconstructs, corroborates and vindicates Fitzpatrick's version of events after 140 years of denigration. *To read it for yourself, simply google "Redeeming Fitzpatrick: Ned Kelly and the Fitzpatrick Incident", and download it.*



*Dr. Dawson points out this picture of Const. Fitzpatrick also displays the new "Bobby" style helmet that came into issue in 1877, shortly before Fitzpatrick joined the police force.*



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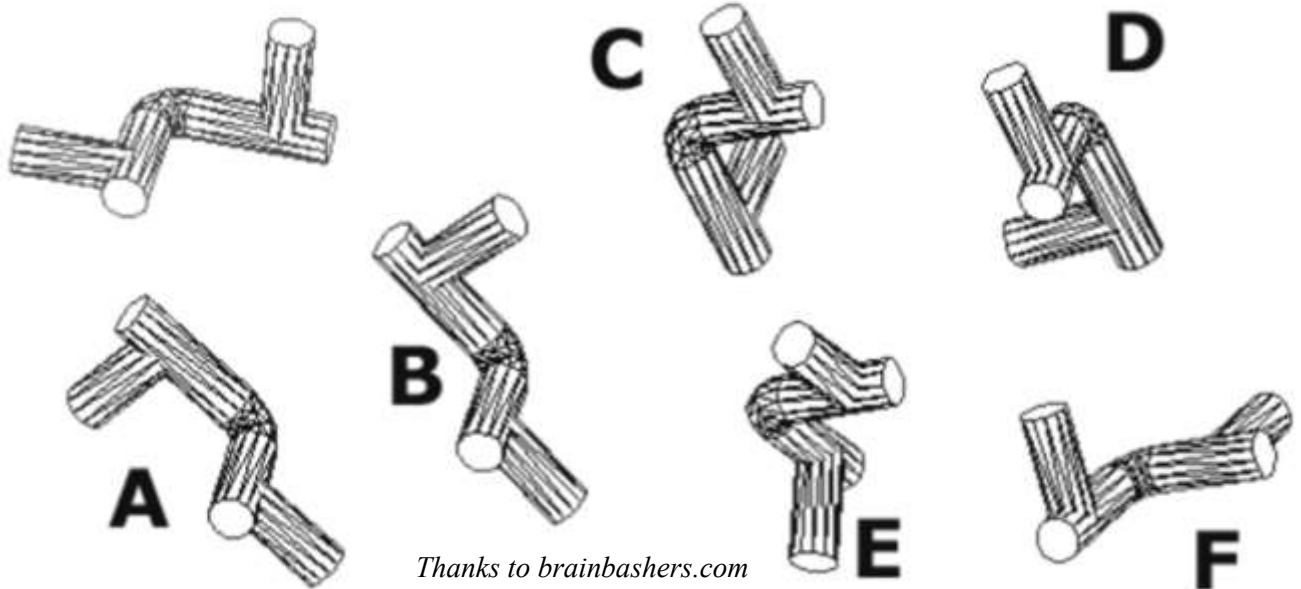
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# Can You...?

...work out which of the six, lettered shapes are identical to the first one. (There may be more than one.) Too tricky? The answer is on page 36.



*Thanks to brainbashers.com*



Meredith Community Learning Centre

## What's on in March

### Paint Pouring with Rosslyn

Monday 19th March 10-1pm. This class will be \$40 plus an extra \$15 for option one or Option 2 is \$20 extra. This class was lots of fun last time and very messy, so wear old clothes.

We would love to see you at the Centre so call to book your place or find out more details.



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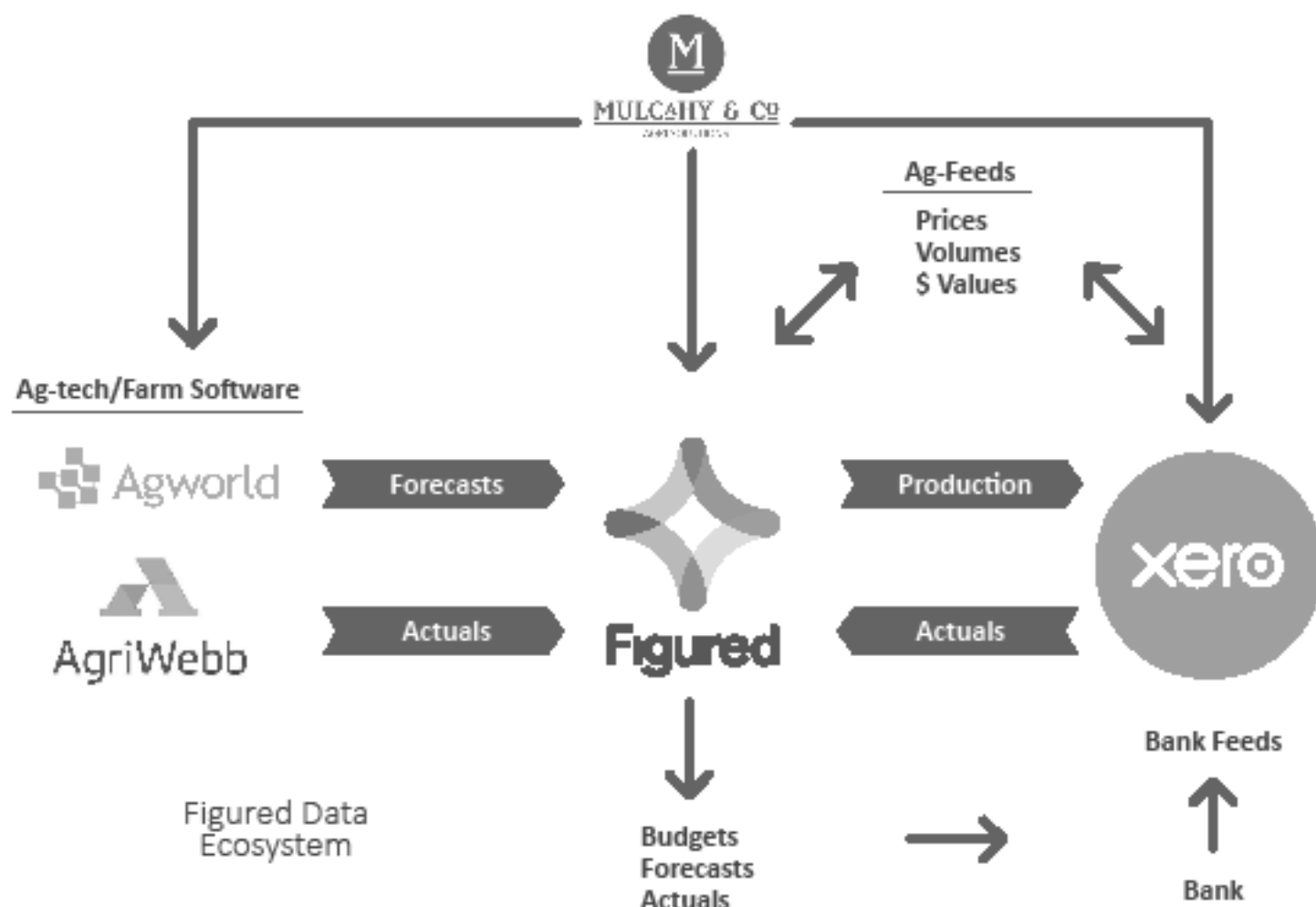
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If you wish to order anything, I have left books at the Meredith Community House and the Elaine Store or you can phone or text me if you would like a book dropped off to you,

Thanks, Karen Pritchard

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We are looking for volunteers to assist with checking pouches/injured wildlife along the Midland Hwy.

To help with the increased workload of our wildlife volunteers we are looking for someone to check the area from Bannockburn to Meredith and from Meredith to Elaine.

Training will be offered. For further information please call Sandi on 0428 341 368 or Trudy on 0429 430 646

## A Soft Landing

*Marg Cooper*

After owning and running a café at Mooloolaba in Northern NSW for over 5 years Jed Sayers has come to Meredith. He flew down on New Years Day and started work the next day at Hearn's Hotel as the new chef. Two weeks later he picked the cat up from the airport. His wife and son arrived a few weeks later after the long drive.

Jed grew up in Melbourne and says he always took an interest in food although he didn't start his chef apprenticeship until he was 27 years old. He remembers that the first dish he cooked was fried eggs and he had to stand on a chair. He dabbled in various occupations including wrought iron but from the age of 15 worked in kitchens as a dish hand or food preparer. There was a spot for an apprentice at a café in Clifton Hill, Melbourne in 1998 and friends suggested he apply.

Jed describes how chefs tend to be nomadic. As an apprentice he wanted to learn from the best so he worked at many venues. At one time he was obsessed with meringue so he bought books, studied and worked with experts until he thought he'd learnt all he could and then he moved on to learn ice-cream, pastries and Middle Eastern food and much more.

When Jed and his wife went to Mooloolaba they went up for a break for 12 months. But they bought a café and worked crazy hours catering for regulars, patrons who attended lots of festivals in the area and day trippers. They did create something unique and managed to stay in front, financially but they needed a change.

Jed intends to serve what the Hearn's Hotel customers want. His philosophy is to strive for perfection and a full dining room of satisfied customers. He said commercial kitchens can be intense places and there is an art to moving without touching people among stoves, knives, sinks and heat. At Meredith he will enjoy having a kitchen almost to himself. He is also enjoying living at Cargarie on a farm where it is quiet and pretty.

Jed visited Meredith in 1993 or 1994 when he played harmonica with "Powder Monkeys" at one of the early Music Festivals. Welcome back Jed.

## Go ON....SMILE!



A woman in labour suddenly shouted, "Shouldn't! Wouldn't! Couldn't! Didn't! Can't!"

"Don't worry," said the nurse. "Those are just contractions."

- Brandon Specktor



## Golfing with Footballers

Marg Cooper

At an auction at the 'Gentlemen of Geelong' Lunch in December 2017 Daryl Wells, Nigel Parkinson and Jim Knight bought a game of golf with Tom Hawkins at Curlewis Golf Club.

The lunch held at the 'Flying Brick Cider House' on the Bellarine Peninsula is a fundraiser which also aims to encourage men to talk about things historically off limits, such as their health. The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual lunch held in December was hosted by Ian Cover and the guest speaker was Kevin Sheedy. The web site records that 220 men were present - many sporting moustaches and RM Williams gear!

So, a couple of weeks ago, the young Meredith men found some golf sticks in the back shed, a pocket of tees and a few balls and headed for Curlewis. They played a game of Ambrose against another group who had also bought their game at the auction that included footballer Mitch Duncan playing with Sandy Cameron, Andrew Morrison and Steve Fenwick.


Nigel says he hit a few alright and that although Tom Hawkins plays off a handicap of 4, a few times the team needed his shots because Tom hit into the rough or behind trees. They ended up even but Mitch Duncan's team won scoring 4 or 5 under par.

Tom Hawkins asked about their farming activities at Meredith and was particularly interested in the shearing achievements of Daryl. He was even more interested when Nigel and Daryl offered to shear his 100 or so sheep as he'd found it hard to get a shearer.

Nigel was sore the following day and doesn't think he'll take up playing golf but he and Daryl may be taking up shearing again!!



*A happy gathering (with shadowy faces!) including Tom Hawkins, third from left.*

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# A Way of Life

by KERRIE KRUGER



## A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO A MORE SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE

In early February , we had the privilege to attend David Holmgren's (Permaculture Pioneer) "Retrosuburbia" book launch. With people from all ages and backgrounds ,we listened to David discuss how and why of this amazing book, we got down to the music of the Formidable Vegetable Sound System and heard from Costa about ,well heaps, but mainly how individuals can make a difference to the way our society is travelling. One of the points that hit home to us ,is that we can't expect change to come from the top down... it just won't. Change in our consumer based and intrinsically linked to spending/earning society needs to be a grass roots change.

As Costa says, we need at this time, to assess our habits and our action , our visions and our intentions, to step away from our consumerist lifestyle and plan how to be self-reliant as individuals and communities.

A self-reliant lifestyle needs to address the issue of waste. All that rubbish doesn't just disappear!

Think about how much rubbish our society makes , one use water bottles and coffee cups, all the packaging that is thrown out and the list goes on , because we live in a very disposable society.

But sitting back and accepting all this waste is not the answer.

Why should it be someone else's responsibility to deal with our rubbish?

It's about not producing any, or as much rubbish. Living a zero waste lifestyle does involve forethought in the everyday living, it is about changing habits and being accountable. For us zero waste is very much an important part of the self-reliance lifestyle that we are transitioning to live. Some of the changes that can be made include:

Taking lunch including keep cup for coffee, better still get out the thermos.

Replace paper towels with reusable rags

Ditch gladwrap, invest in reusable beewax wraps

Always bring your own shopping bags.

Use paper to line your bin or just wrap anything messy up in paper and wash bin when smelly.

Reusable or crochet dishcloths that can be washed and reused.

Buy in Bulk- ditch individual yoghurt pots and wrapped cheese slices.

Fruit & Vegie scraps should be feed to chooks or composted

Save jars and reuse as storage containers

Shopping second hand saves good clothing from a landfill

White vinegar and bicarb soda for cleaning . These all-

purpose all natural alternatives stop the need for individual bottles of cleaning products.

Use a cake of soap to wash hands.

There are many ways to live with zero waste and it is a good starting point for living a self-reliant lifestyle.

I am currently reading Retrosuburbia, and pondering its words and concepts and how they can make a difference to us, in our plan to transitioning to living a even more self-reliant lifestyle.

Small changes can equal enormous outcomes when individuals make changes that filter up , rather than wait for change to filter down.

Slow Down, Connect & Enjoy

*Kerrie*

Seeds should generally be sown at the beginning/middle of each season so they have time to establish.

Some suggestions for AUTUMN are:

Broad Beans Broccoli, Cauliflower, Garlic, Globe Artichoke, Lettuce, Nasturtium, Pea, Radish, Spinach, Spring Onion, Strawberry, Rocket, Turnip.

### A few gardening tips...

- Ensure your planting is suitable for the season, makes success so much easier.
- Build raised beds for better drainage and root growth, essential out here with our heavy water holding soil
- Build up your soil. Try using chicken or cow manures and compost
- Use water wisely, yes you can drown your seedlings. Too much of a good thing can be a bad thing!
- It is always suggested to plant your vegetables in rows to make weeding easier I agree in theory but doesn't stop my messy but productive style. Pete doesn't think I know what a straight line is !!
- Absolutely mulch on top of the soil to reduce moisture loss and reduce weed growth. Just love organic sugarcane as there are no unexpected wheat, oats or pea plants , but I do use these bales, as they are local, and just weed and feed to chooks just means more work)
- Get hold of some good garden tools. A hoe is great for weeding in between crops and saves your back.
- Use companion plants to attract beneficial insects, don't forget shallow water bowls for your important garden visitors.
- Rotate the crops in your vegetable beds, yes write down what you have in each bed each season.. you will not remember !
- Compost your vegetable scraps to reuse on your garden, via chook pen , much easier and quicker.



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## McLennan-McColl Flock of the Year

*Marg Cooper*

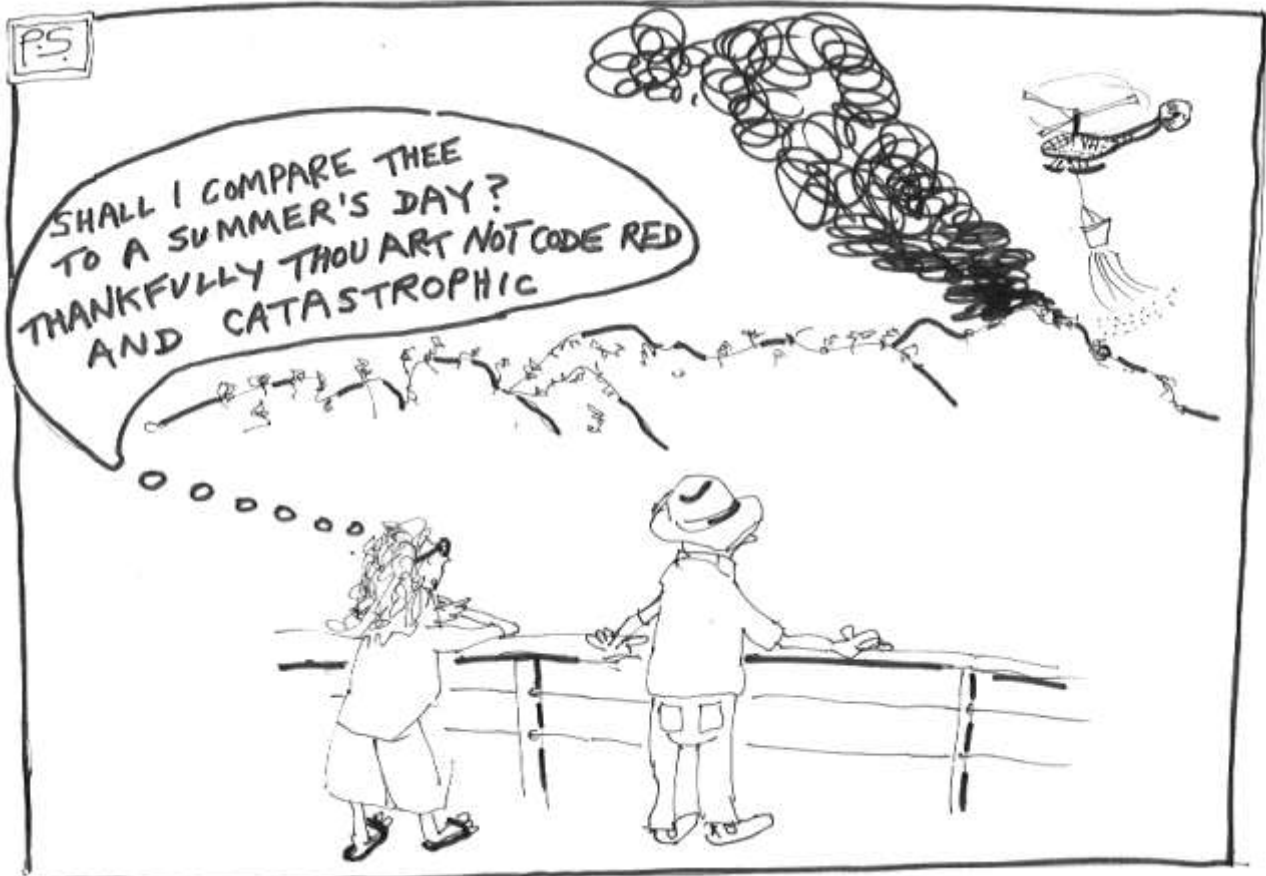
An article in The Weekly Times announced that The Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria's McLennan-McColl Flock of the Year competition would open to commercial merino producers in Bendigo, Ballarat and Serpentine regions in 2018. The competition was launched in December 2014 as "Flock of the Year" but renamed in early 2015 in honour of two of the Merino industry's most respected identities. They were wool producer, Neil McLennan and sheep classer Keith McColl. The award celebrates and assists with improving the quality of Victoria's merino ewe flocks. Judging will take place in March 2018 by Mr John Crawford of "Rockbank Merino Stud" and Mr Daniel Rogers of "Mt Yulong Poll Merino Stud". The winner receives a \$1500 cash prize and a plaque.

Keith McColl started as a jackeroo at "Moranghurk" near Meredith in 1929, riding the boundaries on a horse, and was manager of "Moranghurk" for 20 years, before it was subdivided for soldier settlement in the early 1950's. He then spent 20 years with Dennys Lascelles working on stud sheep sales and as a sheep classer.

Keith travelled all over the country classing flocks and attending ram sales and was highly respected wherever he went. He judged at the Royal Melbourne Show, was a judge for the Sheep Breeder's Association, received a Meritorious Service Award from the Ballarat Agricultural Society and was instrumental in the creation of Arcadian Wool Co.

Following his retirement he still classed about 20 flocks per year including "Wurrook" at Rokewood, "Montrose Hill" at Illabarook, "One Oak" in the Riverina, "Salt Creek" at Woorndoo, "Barwon Leigh" at Inverleigh and "The Poplars" at Murghebuloc which are some of the finest merino studs in the country.

Keith, a bachelor, carried on the family property "Braeside" on Deans Road west of Meredith. He ran a flock of fine wool sheep and ran a fine merino stud that he began with "Moranghurk" ewes bought at their dispersal sale and "Wurrook" rams. Keith was awarded an O.A.M. for his services to the wool industry and now has the honour of having the R.A.S.V. Flock of the Year Competition named after him.



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## Picnic at the Falls

Mark Cauchi

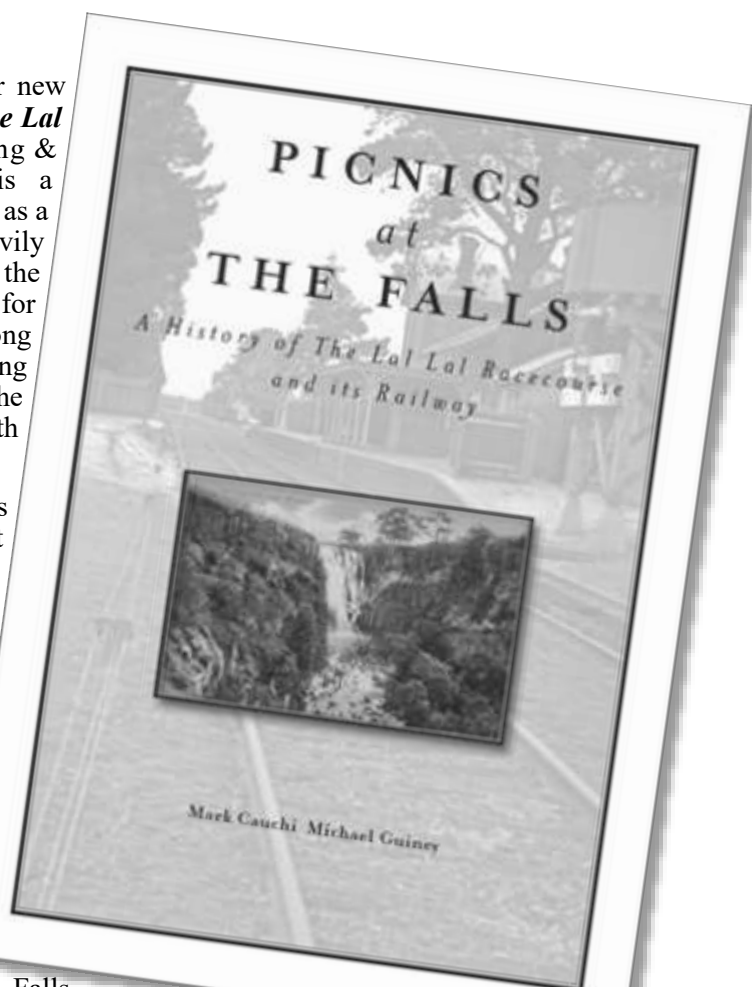
Michael Guiney and Mark Cauchi launched their new local history *Picnics at the Falls - A History of the Lal Lal Racecourse and its Railway*, at the Buninyong & District Historical Society on Thursday. It is a definitive history of the falls and the Lal Lal Races as a major tourist attraction. This publication is heavily focussed on the history of the local area and the annual New Year's Day races were an institution for the people who lived in the towns and villages along the railway between Geelong and Lal Lal, including Meredith from which special trains were run to the racecourse for the benefit of the local Meredith population. This is well-covered in the book.

The New Year's Day races at the Lal Lal Falls Racecourse was for many years one of the most popular holiday events in the colony of Victoria. The picturesque falls nearby was the natural attraction and the race meeting at its peak during the late 1880s, drew in excess of 30,000 holidaymakers to this scenic and remote location.

There was no other activity that found such a universal attraction - horse racing was indeed a community affair and it played an important role in bringing people together, especially in rural areas. The local races became a meeting place where friends and family could share a day out and so public holidays became synonymous with key picnic race meetings. The annual New Year's Day meeting at Lal Lal Falls was a typical Australian holiday festival happily combining these national tastes for racing and picnicking.

Built as part of the famous Railway Construction Act of 1884, the branch line railway that served this racecourse was at one stage said to be the most profitable in the colony. This is the story of how a fledgling race meeting became the Melbourne Cup of the country and the role the railway played in its popularity and success. It is also the story of how the racing club committee took their success and well-deserved reputation for granted which, when challenged by rival attractions, resulted in the gradual decline and demise of the racing club, their annual race meeting and the branch railway.

For more information, or to order the book, write to: [lal.lal.races@gmail.com](mailto:lal.lal.races@gmail.com) or call Michael on 0408 034 118



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STEVE and PETE GOAT

### Pete Goat

PETE GOAT hasn't got a lot to report, which isn't saying that he's been in a cultural desert....and even in a desert there's lots going on in little bits and pieces. But he should have a good story to tell next month after going to Canberra to see the Seven Sisters Dreaming at the National Museum of Australia, a mighty cultural project spanning the continent and crossing many deserts.

Till then, Chew The Cud

### Steve Goat

In the last few articles we have talked about big cultural events like Shakespeare and the Archibald exhibition. This month let's turn our sights on the local scene:

### THE MEREDITH COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRE - OUR CULTURAL HUB.

Originally the Community House, managed for 17 years by Joan Brick, the Centre has been expanded with Pam Ridd as Manager/Coordinator for the last 4 years. With a background in Training and Community Service, Pam came to us from the Clunes Neighbourhood House. These days she coordinates both the pre-accredited and hobby/interest courses. The current Course guide was in last month's Meredith News, and is available at the Centre. Have a look- you might find something that interests you. it is amazing the breadth of choices: Tai Chi, Bee Keeping, Computers, Painting and even an upcoming Work Ready course (contact Pam if interested in this one!) If you are not familiar with the Centre the upcoming special event is a must:

### COMMUNITY SHOWCASE EVENT FRIDAY MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup> 6-8.30PM

The first ever, local only, event to showcase local organisations, businesses, sports clubs including displays and demonstrations. This should be a great night, DON'T MISS IT!

### Coming Up

**GOLDEN PLAINS ARTS TRAIL:** Over two weekends, this March: 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> in the North, and 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> in the South of the Shire. Most venues open 10am-5pm, FREE entry to all venues. Get the guide map at the Shire offices and the Community Centre. Over 25 Galleries and Exhibition spaces

**TRIENNIAL at the NGV, Melbourne.** A huge exhibition over 4 levels of the Gallery, till April.

This has received rave reviews on radio and in newspapers

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- ☒ Minor surgery, on-site pathology
- ☒ Home Visits (a service Fee applies)

**We are looking forward to meeting members of the local community and assisting with their health care needs.**



little  
GEMS



## Level Up

Growing up. Coming of age. Adulthood. No matter what you call it, for most of us aging is a hard pill to swallow. While I can only offer insight up to the age that I am myself, I feel like there are certain milestones in life that mark your progression to the next category of age. Teenager. Young adult. Adult. Middle age. Senior. Progressively certain things happen until you realise that you've been pushed unceremoniously out of the previous bracket and into a new one that has unfamiliar rituals. Sometimes, you come to realise that a whole load of benefits come along with it.

Getting your ID checked marks many an occasion as you grow up. The first M rated movie that you're allowed to see without your parents comes with a proud flash of your student ID card to prove that yes, you are finally deemed old enough to see movies with swear words and gory violence. Eventually, the customer service assistant behind the counter becomes younger than you and you no longer have to prove that you're old enough to watch people become possessed by the ghosts of bitter brides. Instead, you get to 18 where you now have to prove that you're old enough to buy certain drinks and enter certain venues. But like the cinemas, ultimately you reach a certain degree of visible ripening that grants you freedom from having to disclose your age.

Independence seems to be a rite of passage that marks growing into young adulthood. This stage can be identified in times such as when you're sitting alone in the dentist's waiting room, forcing yourself not to run screaming out of the door in fear of the incessant drilling noise like your mother used to do for you. You even had to ring to book the appointment yourself. And then pay for it with your own hard earned cash.

In the later stages of young adult, the noticeable shift comes when you realise that the generation below you is literally speaking another language. This language changes at alarming speeds from abbreviations that allow public swearing without consequence, to words such as 'flek' and 'lit' substituting actual adjectives. The fact that these words are now about two years out of trend prove how out of the loop I have become. When you have to ask your younger brother to decipher social media posts for you, a shift has unquestionably occurred.

Moving on from young adult to adult is also a sudden jolt when you find yourself in a conveyancer's office, nodding along as they point at pages and pages of tiny, scarily legal writing. You pick up the pen with feigned confidence and sign on the dotted line only to walk out the door ten minutes later wondering what you've just signed up for.

However, despite these noticeable changes, not having to worry about leaving ID at home, taking care of your own health and being at peace with the fact that there's many things you'll never understand are all aspects that give us the 'wiser' that comes along with the 'older'.

*Gemma*



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# Yes, History Can Be Dry!

Jim Elvey

We recently saw some old rainfall records from Darra, a district property which has been an official recording site since 1875.

Les Austin (grandson of Thomas Austin, who established Barwon Park) owned the property from 1921 to 1959, and must have wondered if it had a future when, in 1923, rainfall was so poor, he was reduced to recording fog!

Peter Macdonald, who also owned the property for several decades, has undertaken some analysis of the data to reveal some interesting aspects. For example, the lowest rainfall in a calendar year, was in 1967, when only 356.5 mm fell, and the highest, which was 1,108 mm, was recorded only three years later.

It is also interesting, if not disturbing, to note the impact of recent falls on the long term average. For example, the average annual rainfall between 1875 and 2001, was 683.8mm. By extending that period to 2014, the average drops to 672.4mm. Adding just three more years to 2017, drops the average a further 3mm to 669.4mm. So, when we show recent rainfalls against long term averages, those averages are themselves declining. For an additional 16 years to drop a 124 year average by 14mm, or more than 2%, is quite dramatic.

24	W		S	S	Tu	Th
25	Th	36	S	S	2	W
26	F		M	M	Th	S
27	S		Tu	Tu	F	S
28	S		W	9	W	M
29	M	8		Th		Tu
30	Tu	4		F	M 1/109	W
31	W	18		S	1	Th

## One-Stop Shop For Financial Complaints

*from media release supplied by  
Sarah Henderson, Member for Corangamite*

Consumers and businesses will have access to free, fast and binding dispute resolution as a result of the establishment of the Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA.)

The AFCA will provide a one-stop shop to ensure consumers get a fair deal in resolving disputes with their banks, insurers, super funds and small amount credit providers, without the expense, inconvenience, and trauma associated with going to court.

The Commonwealth Government is also expanding access to the dispute resolution service. For example, small business primary production producers – defined in accordance with the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 – will be able to bring a dispute to AFCA and be able to access compensation of up to \$2 million for credit facility disputes.

AFCA will start receiving disputes from no later than 1 November 2018 and will replace the existing Financial Ombudsman Service, Credit and Investments Ombudsman and the Superannuation Complaints Tribunal.

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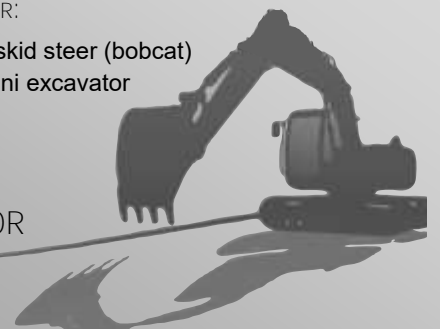
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## Meredith Primary School

### Meredith Primary School

Hi everyone, we have certainly hit the ground running for a brand new year here at Meredith Primary School.

This year we have 4 classes operating across the school:

Prep/1 – Mrs Gargan and Mrs Brown

Grade 2/3 – Mrs Daglas

Grade 4/5 – Mrs Edmiston and Mr Sachse

Grade 5/6 – Ms Pritchard

Art and Physical Education – Ms Grigg

MARC van – Mrs Walker

PHOTOS OMITTED FROM  
ONLINE ISSUE

### NEW PREPS

This year we have 5 wonderful little preps starting school here at Meredith Primary School. They have all started to settle in to our normal school routines and It has been amazing to see their growth over the last few weeks.

### MINI GOLF

We recently completed a mini-golf putting green here at school. The kids have certainly been having a great time using this at school. We currently have invited members of the school community to construct some small obstacles that students could use on the course. Check out some of the obstacles we have received so far.



### STUDENT LEADERS

Our Grade 6's did an amazing job preparing and presenting their leadership speeches. Our leaders for this year are:

**School Captains** Olivia Murfitt and James Parkinson

**Community Captains** Freya Jones and Abbey Fisher

**Sport Captains** Brodie Wells and Jatza Gorsuch

**ICT Captain**

**Library Captain**

**Enviro Captain**

**Arts Captain**

Seb Raftery

Amelia Love

Isabelle Wood

Ronan Macauley

PHOTOS OMITTED FROM ONLINE ISSUE

## How Andrea Became a Caterer

*Marg Cooper*

Maude Valley Catering emerged from a labour of love with Andrea involved in local community groups providing catering for many different occasions. Andrea's interest in food started with home economics at school but she never dreamed of cooking as a career.

Andrea's mother, Phyll Hart, was a typical good country cook. With the family being involved in many sporting clubs she was always making food for afternoon teas, casserole teas and for all those events where you "took a plate". Phyll was always happy to have help in the kitchen and Andrea's interest in food started at a young age.

Catering began when Andrea's daughter Georgia started at kindergarten in Meredith and Andrea helped the kindergarten cater for Senior Citizens lunches. The kinder was asked to cater for many funerals for local community members and other jobs soon came their way. This earned good money for the kindergarten. Andrea Spiller became the contact person for catering jobs after other parents moved on from the kindergarten.

When Andrea's youngest son Blake finished kindergarten and went to Lethbridge Primary School Andrea started the catering to raise money for the school. She asked Jacqui Ferry, who was contact person for the Meredith Kindergarten, if they had any jobs they couldn't do, if she would refer them on to the Lethbridge school. The first job was an information session run by Council at Lethbridge Recreation Reserve. For four years Andrea organised and earned money as fundraising for the school.

Friends suggested that she should be earning money for herself so early in the year after Blake finished Grade 6 "Maude Valley Catering" was created and registered. Andrea is intrigued with how word of her catering branches out and who contacts her.

She caters for many Shire Council events and has travelled to Point Cook to cater for a 40<sup>th</sup> birthday, to Torquay for a 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, to Bacchus Marsh for a 60<sup>th</sup>, a 90<sup>th</sup> in Geelong and was disappointed when a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration didn't proceed due to the passing of the guest of honour before the big day. She has catered for four weddings, including a beautiful wedding at the winery next door to her home and another earlier this year across the valley at Maude, twenty firsts, engagements, high teas and many other functions.

Andrea is very particular about food presentation and has access to a variety of equipment to serve the food on for all sorts of occasions including

silver service, which she used at one of the weddings. In some cases she will plate food after she arrives at her destination to make sure presentation is at its best. It is amazing how her slices, cakes, quiches etc are cut the same size with perfectly straight edges. She provides as many "home-made" products as possible and has a large range of food she can make. Andrea says she is always open to new recipes and loves watching cooking shows on television for ideas.

We tend to forget that catering involves negotiating with clients, shopping, planning including for different dietary requirements, making, carrying to venue, presenting, serving and the paperwork which is required to make it all happen. All this she very capably moulds around family and a game of tennis.



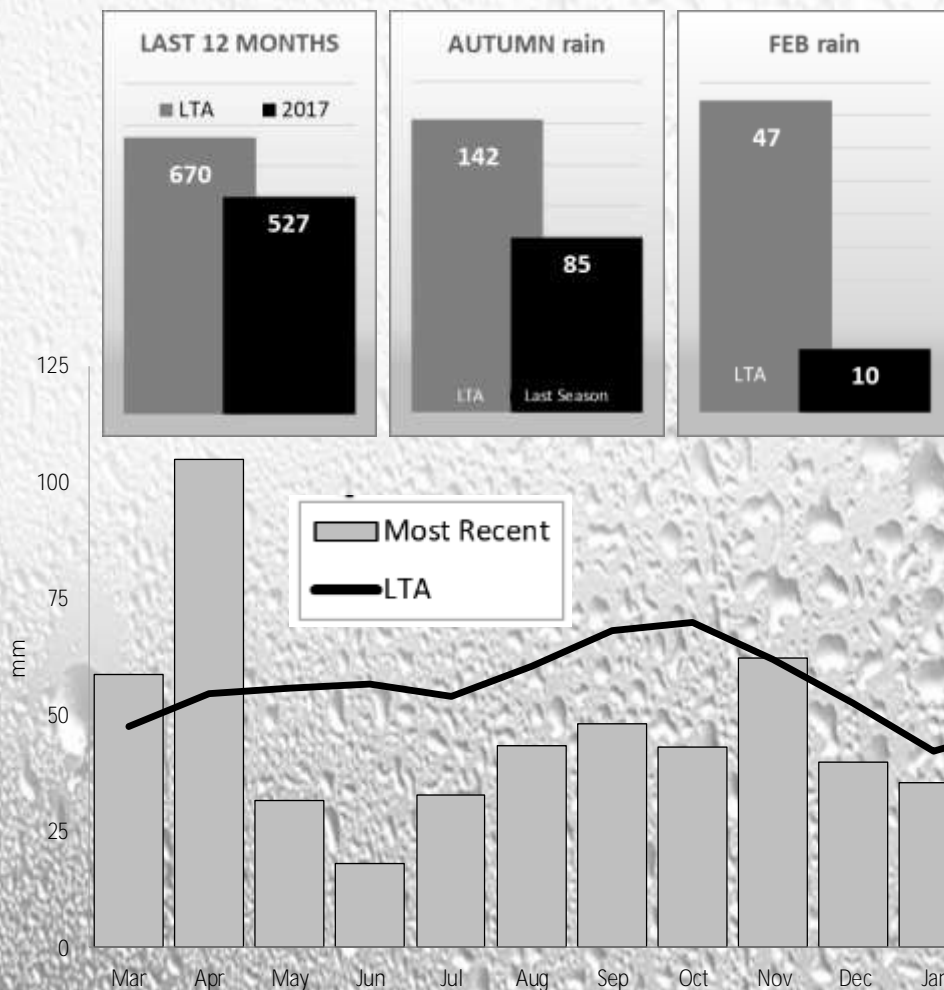
We are flying through this short term with both our groups going along very well with just a few children still settling into the kinder groove and finding their place. This term is all about making connections and developing relationships to support children's sense of belonging.

We encourage our families to bring in a family photo to display around the room. The sunny weather has been lovely to enjoy the outdoor space with water play and lots of SunSmart children keenly exploring the yard. Discoveries have been made with a little frog and a few snails to study closer. We have a full group in our Kindergarten program and 15 in our Pre- Kinder program so it's going to be a busy year for all of us. Luckily we have Mandy on board who is really enjoying the Thursdays teaching and I'm enjoying the extra time to do some other things. Staff are taking note of children's connections and interests and our programs aim to support individual needs and developmental levels.

Thank you to the Kinder Committee ladies for organising, setting up and hosting the family BBQ last Thursday, we hope everyone enjoyed the evening and the delicious food, I'm sorry I missed it this year. We have had a little delay with the scholastic book club but hopefully we will have the catalogues out to you for March, keep a look out in the parent pockets.

For every order you put in, the Kinder gets a credit which goes towards purchasing new books for the Kinder children's library! I am looking forward to the Golden Plains festival over the long weekend, thank you to all our volunteers and to Wes Humpage for organising the Kinder shift.

*Jodie Meredith Kindergarten*



# rainfall

You will read elsewhere in this issue how declining rainfall in recent decades has dropped the long term average. The last 12 months continues this trend with only 79% of that average being registered. Similarly, summer falls are only 60% of the LTA for that season, and February worst of all, registering only 20% of the LTA for that month.

ONLY RAIN TO 9.00 AM 25TH FEBRUARY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT - ALL MEASUREMENTS ARE IN MILLIMETRES



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*Prep time 10 mins + Cooking Time 40mins*

*Makes 3 Cups*

### Ingredients

- ¾ cup soft brown sugar
- ¾ cup apple cider vinegar
- 2 tps finely grated ginger
- 2 tps garam masala
- 2 tps mustard seed
- 1 tps salt
- 1 cinnamon stick
- ¼ tps dried chilli flakes (optional)
- 1kg nectarines, washed, stone removed and chopped
- 1 red onion, chopped

### Method

Place all chutney ingredients into a heavy-based saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium high heat, reduce heat to a simmer and cook for 35-40 minutes or until thick and syrupy.

Remove from heat and set aside for 10 minutes. Transfer to a large sterilized jar. When cool, seal with lid. Keep in the fridge for up to 1 month.

*Recipe from –Woolworths Fresh Magazine*

*Stefania*



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## Meredith-Bamganie Landcare

The first meeting of the Meredith-Bamganie Landcare group for 2018 was held on Tuesday 20th February at the Meredith Community Centre.

Please note our new email address –  
meredithlandcare@gmail.com

### BREAKING NEWS: GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Up to \$50,000 is available to community, environment, and other groups under the National Landcare Program - Environmental Small Grants to undertake eligible natural resource management activities that improve the quality of the local environment. The grants are intended to support the National Landcare Program objective which is to work in partnership with local communities to protect and conserve Australia's water, plants and animals and the ecosystems in which they live and interact. This is a great opportunity for our community to receive funds to improve the quality of our local environment. We would like to hear your ideas about how the funding could be used if we were successful in applying for this grant. Applications close on 19 March 2018. Please come to the next meeting, or if you are not able to attend the meeting, please outline your ideas in an email (email address above).

### OTHER NEWS

- Updating member contact details. The group is currently in the process of updating the contact details of members. We would particularly like to update members' email addresses to allow speedy circulation of information about workshops, courses and field days, grant opportunities, and other events within our Landcare Network. Please use the new email address to forward your contact details. New members are of course always welcome!
- Expressions of interest were received from 13 Landcare members for funding to help control gorse. The funding provided a rebate of up to 50% towards the costs of controlling gorse.
- First aid course – we have been successful in obtaining funding to run a first aid course. Details of the course will be available shortly, watch this space!

### DISTRICT LANDCARE ACTIVITIES

The Leigh Catchment Group, in association with Agriculture Victoria, is running a FarmPlan21 Workshop at the Meredith Community Centre in March. The course runs over four weeks on Fridays, from 9:30am to 3pm, and includes an opportunity to update your whole farm plan or create a new farm plan, to use mapping software to develop a digital map and plan of your farm, as well as helping identify options to improve productivity, sustainability and resilience to climate variability on the farm. For more information, or to register, contact Heather Field, Agriculture Victoria, email [heather.field@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:heather.field@ecodev.vic.gov.au), phone 0438391210.

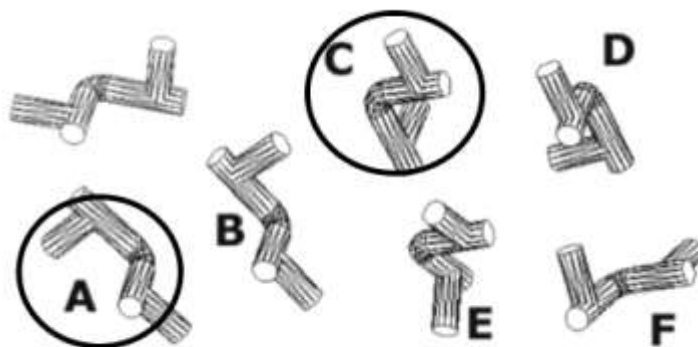
### NEXT MEETING

The next Bamganie-Meredith Landcare meeting is on Tuesday 13 March at 7:30pm at the Meredith Community Centre.

The major item for discussion will be our application for funding from the Environmental Small Grants program. Come along and have your say about how this funding could be used. All current members as well as new members are very welcome.

# did You...?

...work out that both **A** and **C** are identical to the first shape?



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# MAN COOK EAT



Steve Duffy

## Preserving

The garden is bursting with produce, both fruit and vegetables, and it's time to preserve the excess. There are lots of methods and styles available. You may have your old favourite recipes and references, but these days I find myself going online to find something new or unusual.

There is a range of agents you can use: salt, sugar, yeast, vinegar, spices. Let's have a look at some:

### Jams, Jellies and Marmalades:

Aside from the essential ingredient: sugar, the critical thing is to make a jam that is set sufficiently. The key is the pectin content of the fruit. Pectin is available as an additive that can be bought, but why not use real fruit. Lemon is often used in this capacity, but skins and cores can work too: add them in a muslin bag while cooking, then remove before bottling.

### Pickles and Chutneys:

The main watchpoint here is that if your recipe requires you to salt the ingredients to remove the excess water, make sure you fully rinse off the salt with at least a couple of rinses. Once you add the other ingredients, it becomes impossible to get rid of any excess salt. Again, go easy on the sugar as well. If using spices, roast the whole spices, then grind; your chutneys will really impress.

### Fermented Foods:

The method of preserving is becoming more popular. Gut flora and gut health is looming as the biggest

influence on modern cuisine, even though fermenting is an ancient method of preserving. Kim Chi and Sauerkraut are familiar examples of very old ferments. But many fruits and vegetables can be used for these type of preserves. I have used Zucchini, Radish, Khol Rabi and even Blood Plums. The trick is letting you ferment develop, tasting it often, and then refrigerate it when it's just right.

### Drinks:

There is always the traditional lemonade and sugar syrup drinks, but is it really a good idea to consume so much sugar? Excessive sugar intake is being linked to all sorts of health conditions: from the obvious like obesity to even Alzheimer's.

Kombucha is growing in popularity is easy to make. Basically it is just fermented tea. There are many suggestions available online.

### Canning:

Preserved bottled fruits and vegetable have been part of our lives for many years. The big name is Fowlers, but there are several kits and equipment out there. Each of these come with instruction and watch points. And don't those big glass bottles look delicious!



*Stefania has an easy recipe for Spiced Nectarine Chutney on page 34, that will get you started - Ed.*



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## it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

### Annual Meeting

You are invited to the Annual Meeting at the History Centre, 31 Staughton Street on Sunday, March 4 at 1.30 pm. After the meeting Peter and Anne Bongiorno will tell us about their time at the "Top Shop" when it was the centre of the Universe! We were trying to remember who had owned the "Top Shop" and who had worked there over the years. We'll try and do a list on March 4.

### EWE READ Street Library

The idea is that a would-be reader can borrow a book, keep it or return it, while anyone can donate books. It's all FREE. An article in *The Weekly Times* gave us the idea. Don Van Beusichem {Dutchy} made the library, Bev and Marg painted it, Fay donated some books to start it off and Jeff attached it to the fence outside the History Centre. Nic Lowe who lives in Sydney and made his money from a "car sharing tech start-up" now dedicates his time to community social enterprises. Street Libraries was his idea. He explains how it builds a level of community ethos, helps literacy and that books offer an escape. We have registered the EWE-READ Street Library on his web site and may receive a number. Recently on the television program 'Gardening Australia' the Street Library they created was No 800. Please open the doors and EWE READ!

The Spirit of Progress at Lethbridge

"A good number of residents and children assembled by the Railway Station at Lethbridge to inspect the new train "The Spirit of Progress" which stopped here about fifteen minutes on Friday." (Refer to article in February Newsletter.)

From: The Ballarat Courier, Wednesday, November 24, 1937.

### Link with Burke and Wills

Thomas James Wills, who joined the Victorian Railways on November 7, 1861 as a Goods Clerk in Melbourne, was a link with the ill-fated Burke and Wills expedition which in 1860-61 made the first crossing of Australia from Melbourne to the Gulf of Carpentaria. He was the only brother of William John Wills, second in command of the expedition. When the Geelong to Ballarat line was opened on April 11, 1862 Thomas was one of the original staff at Ballarat. Later he was promoted to Stationmaster and served at Castlemaine, Geelong and other stations. He retired on June 30, 1893 at the age of 56 years. (Refer to Book Review in February Newsletter.)

From Raymond Kelly research.

### Pioneer Park

On leaving Meredith Wendy Cooke asked that someone "take up the mantle" of talking to campers at Pioneer Park. Since the park has been designated for free camping Wendy has befriended many travellers and helped them with directions and information on the local area. We thank her for her community service and hope that someone else will now become the face/voice of Meredith.

## Lasseter

*Not many people realize that Lewis Hubert (Harold Bell) Lasseter of "Lasseter's Lost Reef" fame was born at Bamganie in 1880. His father, William John, had a grazing license in the area.*

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.... the water reserve being held under grazing license by W. J. Lasseter... *The Colac Herald* (Vic. : 1875 - 1918) **Tuesday 25 June 1889**

*The story goes that after his mother died when he was 8yrs old he ran away from home, a small stone cottage on the banks of the Woodburn Creek, west of Meredith.*

LASSETER. — On the 27<sup>th</sup> October, at Meredith, Agnes Jane, the dearly beloved wife of W.J. Lasseter, aged 45. *The Age* **Wednesday 31 October 1888**

*By 1890 father William Lasseter was the Rabbit Inspector in the Colac area.*

...W.J. Lasseter, rabbit inspector, complaining of rabbits...between the properties of Messrs A. Egan and M'Laren,... Cundare,... *The Colac Herald* **Friday 21 November 1890**

*And in 1893 Lewis was still in the wider area as he won a basket-making prize at a local show:*

BEEAC CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW.

... Six Lady's Dress Bouquets, not over 9 inches. Prize 2s. Miss L. C. Lasseter...Basket, made by boy. Prize, Pocket Book (gift of Mr C. Lumsden). Lewis Lasseter... *The Colac Herald* (Vic. : 1875 - 1918) **Tuesday 16 May 1893**

*At the tender age of 16 years Lewis committed a burglary at Colac.*

A plea of guilty was entered at the general sessions court yesterday by a youth named Louis Lasseter, and Henry Boreham, an individual of more mature years, who were placed at the bar for burglary at Colac a few weeks since.... offenders had not been in trouble before.... Lasseter was committed to the reformatory.

*Geelong Advertiser* (Vic. : 1859 - 1926) **Wednesday 7 October 1896**

*In 1914 Lasseter's father won a prize at the Meredith Catholic bazaar:*

R.C. BAZAAR. In connection with the bazaar recently held in aid of the Presbytery Fund the following prizes were awarded :— Clock, Miss Ada Rowett, Ballarat; sleeve links, Mr Lasseter, Meredith;... *Berringa Herald* **Saturday 10 October 1914**

*In 1929, Lasseter claimed to have discovered a fabulously rich gold reef, an entity now known as "Lasseter's Reef", in central Australia.*

*Lasseter perished in the Petermann Range, Northern Territory in early 1931 after he separated himself from an expedition that was mounted in an effort to rediscover the supposed reef.*

Lasseter's father still survives him. His present place of residence is in the Meredith district, where he has resided for some considerable time, and is most highly respected by all whose pleasure it has been to become associated with him. *Camperdown Chronicle* (Vic. : 1877 - 1954) **Thursday 1 March 1934**

*Jan McDonald, Meredith History Interest Group*



## Eric in Numbers

*We ran a piece in the last issue on the cricketing exploits early last century of former Meredith Resident, Eric Mayo. We didn't have room then for a more complete account of his achievements, so here is now, thanks to Will Rice - Ed.*

**Meredith:** 4,107 runs @ 82.14 (15 x 100s, High Score 203), 310 wickets @ 7.01 (Best Bowling 8/12, 28 x 5 wicket innings, 8 x 10 wicket match hauls).

**Ballarat Footballers:** 1,196 runs @ 66.44 (4 x 100s, High Score 119), 44 wickets @ 16.00 (Best Bowling 6/29, 2 x 5 wicket innings).

**Geelong College:** 961 runs @ 40.04 (3 x 100s, High Score 173\*), 22 wickets @ 16.95 (Best Bowling 5/54, 1 x 5 wicket innings).

**Representative Games:** 595 runs @ 66.11 (1 x 100, High Score 164\*), 13 wickets @ 10.00 (Best Bowling 6/11, 1 x 5 wicket innings).

**TOTAL:** 6,751 runs @ 66.84 (23 x 100s, High Score 203), 387 wickets @ 8.74 (Best Bowling 8/12, 32 x 5 wicket innings, 8 x 10 wicket match hauls).



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## In our Nature

Wendy Cook

Autumn is a time of change, of slowing down for the lovers of heat, and revival for the lovers of coolness and dampness. This can be seen in gardens where blue tongue lizards and small skinks are still busy. As the weather cools, they will become less obvious and less active, but will continue to enjoy their diet of insects and small fruits, as they prepare for harder times ahead. Life also slows down for invertebrates, such as insects and spiders. As well as enduring cold weather, rain can make life difficult. These small animals can hide under sticks, bark, leaves and bracket fungi, which form shelves on trees throughout the year. Some spiders living in underground tunnels prepare an emergency shelter, a silk-lined side tunnel sloping up from the main burrow, ending in a chamber. An air bubble is trapped here when the tunnel floods, leaving the spider with a safe retreat until its home dries out.

Larger animals may also shelter in burrows, or in tree hollows or hollow logs. For many mammals, autumn is a busy time. Female koalas and kangaroos have small joeys, born in summer, in their pouches. Brushtail possums will be giving birth, as will ringtail possums at the end of autumn and in early winter. Late autumn is a time of mating for brush-tailed phascogales. After a few weeks of frantic activity, all the males die of stress-related illnesses, leaving the females to rear the next generation. Bats still hunt flying insects at night, until the weather becomes too cold and they hibernate. Large moths, emerging from underground pupae after rain to mate and lay eggs, provide them with a new fatty food source. Bats use sound which bounces off objects in their flight path and returns to their large sensitive ears. In this way they can avoid trees, but also detect their prey. You may have heard the high-pitched chirping echolocation calls of white-striped freetail bats, the only Victorian bat audible to people. Many birds also continue to hunt insects, and while some leave for warmer places, others such as the scarlet robins and flame robins arrive, to perch on trees and fences as they seek food on the ground below.

As the weather cools, insectivores and carnivores have greater difficulty finding invertebrates and reptiles. However, for grazers such as kangaroos, and browsers such as wallabies, autumn is a time of increasing food. After autumn rains, seeds begin to

germinate. Plants such as lilies, orchids and sundews, which died back to tubers to survive the heat of summer, sprout. They send up leaves to make food from sunlight, so they can grow, flower in spring, then die back to larger tubers or multiple tubers next summer. Dehydrated mosses, crisp and brown, absorb water and become green and soft, as their season for growing begins. Rain also revives shrivelled lichens and the fruits of some fungi.

Autumn is the time for seeking fungi, as their fruiting bodies appear in lawns and garden beds, on wood, and in the bush. Many are joined with root systems of trees, expanding the area from which the trees collect water and nutrition, and receiving food in return. These fungi come in many shapes, sizes and colours, from those that look like mushrooms, in colours ranging from dull brown to bright reds, yellows and purples, to less familiar shapes, similar to orange cauliflowers, yellow tentacles, brown cups, tiny bird's nests containing eggs, and red smelly starfish which attract flies. Fungi feed animals of all sizes, from wallabies down to minute creatures only visible with a microscope. While you're enjoying the fungi, remember to look for small native flowers. Although spring is the season when many bloom, sharp eyes will find daisies, heaths, bluebells, golden grevilleas, hakeas and correas. Careful observation, and perhaps a hand lens, will allow you to admire the tiny orchids of autumn, such as colonies of small mosquito orchids (which don't sting!) but have brown flowers growing on a slender stalk above a heart-shaped leaf, green above and purple below, or tiny greenhoods, each green and white striped tubular flower bent over at the top, helping to guide insects inside to pollinate it. In some areas, when you look up from the ground, you will see the hard grey furrowed trunks of red ironbarks. High above, their flowers, on some trees creamy, on others pink, provide another food source for the remaining insects and birds, and when shaken by the wind or snapped off by parrots, create a colourful carpet as they fall from above.

Wendy



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## Marg's Book Review

### Love in the Time of Cholera by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

The book is a novel by Nobel prize winner Colombian author Gabriel Garcia Marquez first published in Spanish in 1985.

Florentino Ariza and Fermina Daza fall in love in their youth. They exchange several love letters. However, once Fermina's father finds out, he forces his daughter to stop seeing Florentino and they move in with his deceased wife's family in another city. Regardless of the distance, Fermina and Florentino continue to communicate by telegraph. Fermina later realises that her relationship with Florentino was nothing but a childish dream so she breaks off their engagement and returns all his letters.

The book begins with the death of Dr Juvenal Urbino, the husband of Fermina for 50 years, 9 months and 4 days. After the funeral Florentino proclaims his love for Fermina once again and tells her he has stayed faithful to her. In fact he had been rather promiscuous with what he called "street love" but he only ever loved Fermina. By the end of the book Fermina comes to recognize Florentino's wisdom and maturity, and their love is allowed to blossom during their old age.

Garcia Marquez's main notion is that lovesickness is literally an illness, a disease comparable to cholera. Florentino suffers from this just as he might suffer from any malady. In the city, throughout a turbulent half century between 1880 and 1930, death has proliferated everywhere both as Cholera the fatal disease that sweeps through in terrible intermittent epidemics and as la colera defined as anger which taken to extreme becomes warfare. There have been 9 civil wars in 50 years. Dr Urbino becomes a leader in the battle against cholera promoting public health measures obsessively, heroically.

The book contains some marvellous insights, many of them relating to old age. "She read his letter. It was a meditation on life, love, old age, death: ideas that had often fluttered around her head like nocturnal birds but dissolved into a trickle of feathers when she tried to catch hold of them." "She bought, when overseas every article that attracted her attention because of its novelty. They were worth not their price in gold but in the fleeting moment when someone from her local world would see them for the first time." "As men aged they blossomed in a kind of autumnal youth, they seemed more dignified with their first grey hairs, and they became witty and seductive above all in the eyes of young women while their withered wives had to clutch their arms so as not to trip over their own shadows."

This was a most interesting read which promoted lots of discussion. It was very detailed, set in the Caribbean and full of romance, passion and magic realism.

The book for discussion in March is "*The Trap*" by Melanie Raabe.

### "The Midnight Cowboy"

Marg Cooper

While talking to several people last year a "black pony" kept popping up. His antics made him memorable! Peter Morrison wrote about the horse for the *Woodburn Revisited* Book in 2007. Here is an extract.

#### "The Midnight Cowboy"

Remember all the cowboy and Indian films around in the 1950's? Weren't they appalling! Anyway, I wanted to be a cowboy and, sure enough, for Christmas one year when I was about 7, Santa kindly came to the party with the appropriate outfit. Actually it was almost appropriate. There were no guns for the holsters. I'm not sure if that was because the wool prices were bad that year or because Mum didn't like guns. I remember making do with a couple of gate post hooks over which the chain ring passed to secure a farm gate. This was probably a good thing really because it made me reluctant to participate in any shoot outs.

The "horse", a Timor pony, was jet black and Dad gave him the name "Midnight". We were never great friends. He was very cunning and difficult to catch and never warmed to the idea of being ridden. Biting, pigrooting (kicking up heels to buck you off) and dead stops from full gallop were but some of his endearing tricks.

At one stage I began riding to school and during the day kept him in a temporary yard in the school grounds. One day I decided it would be fun to ride around at lunch time and chase the kids. Mr Beck thought that was a really bad idea. Another bad idea was to try and race Mrs Barber's Austin A40 ute home after school. I remember riding flat out over the rough ground next to the fence beside the road. I have to give Midnight full marks for being surefooted.

There was one occasion when the four of us, David, John, Elizabeth and myself put our heads together and decided that because Midnight didn't like being ridden, perhaps pulling a buggy might be more his thing. So we hauled out the buggy (I think kindly donated to us by McNaughtons) which we had never used and which we knew nothing about. Somehow we coaxed Midnight between the shafts and did up lots of straps and buckles in preparation for the stately ride around our sheep station.

Unfortunately, Midnight had other ideas whereupon he suddenly bolted, buggy and all leaving the four of us flat footed and speechless. We watched in dismay as he headed directly for the dam, flat out. He must have chickened out at the prospect of a swim and swerved just in time to miss the water only to be confronted by a barb wire fence. At this point options were diminishing rapidly! He was no show jumper even without the buggy, we were thinking as we watched. I think I may have blacked out but my brother remembers that Midnight actually made it over the fence but firmly attached to the buggy, which did not. As I reflected on what happened it occurred to me that this had been another bad idea."

More about "Midnight" next month.

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She Oaks resident, Kerry Thomson, took this photo of a clutch\* of small bats, huddled under her verandah. It's a different kind of cute!



*\*In fact, the collective noun for bats, is "colony", but there does seem to be a lot of clutching going on here.*

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The rose is a rose,  
And was always a rose.  
But the theory now goes  
That the apple's a rose,  
And the pear is, and so's  
The plum, I suppose.  
The dear only knows  
What will next prove a rose.  
You, of course, are a rose –  
But were always a rose.

- Robert Frost



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