& **Meredith** district News

April 2018

Community Centre Program Lift-

- Vale to Murph Emond
- Sliding Doors our new column
- Opening of "The Long Room".and the usual MUCH MORE!

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

HEARNS MEREDITH HOTEL Whats on in April 18



HUMP day is RUMP Day - Rump Steaks cooked to your liking with your choice of gravy & chips & salad or Veg including a free Pot! Only \$19.00 Every Wednesday!

FRIDAY 13TH - JAZZ & HOGES 8.30pm This dynamic duo has a diverse range of music, varying from relaxed acoustic favourites through to todays top 40 chart

toppers! Jazzi's talent as a vocalist is complimented by Hoges' skill as an acoustic vocalist & guitarist. Together they are amazing! Always a fantastic night so book now to avoid disappointment!

COME & GET SCHNITZ FACED EVERY THURSDAY! Chicken Schnitzels only \$14.50 & Parmas only \$18.50 both with Chips & Salad or Veg including a Free Pot!

FRIDAY 27TH - LUKEY LUKE With a voice as big as Everest, clean, rich & reaching for the skies you can expect the unexpected with Lukey Luke! With a twist of Rock and plenty of Roll, catch him if you can! Lukey kicks off at 8.30pm. One not to be missed!



51 STAUGHTON ST. MEREDITH. VIC. 3333 PH: 0352861311 Open Wed - Sun from 11.00am for lunch & dinner www.facebook.com/hearnsmeredithpub/



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. 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 or deliver to the Meredith Post Office or Meredith 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 \$25.00 Quarter page 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 Advertising: Ian 0409 016815 advertising@meredithnews.com.au Accounts: Dawn 0428 861274 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

ADVANCE MEREDITH 5286 1291

ANGLING CLUB 0419 423 960

BLUE LIGHT DISCO 5286 1222

BOOK CLUB 5286 8201

CEA 000 for fire calls Elaine 0417 533516 Meredith 5286 1502 Morrisons

0417 770 765 CHILDCARE 5286 0700

CENTRE

COMMUNITY

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

..or start something.

lf you have a special interest you would like to share with like minded people, let us know and we

GOLF CLUB 5341 5748 HISTORY GROUP 5286 8201

LANDCARE 0409 862 326

MEMORIAL HALL 5286 1251 0435 312 984

MEREDITH LIONS 0473 380 552 MOTORCYCLE CLUB

0437 009 250

PLAYGROUP 5286 0700

POLICE PADDOCKS 5286 1273

> RSI 5286 1452

SENIOR CITIZENS 5286 8232

TENNIS Elaine 0448 291 074 Meredith 5286 1211

SEW 'N' SEWS 5286 0700

FRIENDS OF THE BRISBANE RANGES

Connect emergency Police, Ambulance, Fire 000 (from mobile phone) 000 or 112

Meredith Police Station Power Failure Nurse-On-Call Mental Health Advice Poisons Information **Barwon Water** Emergency SES flood & storm 24 Hour Helpline 24 Hour Drug & Alcohol Counselling **Kids Help Line** 24hr 5-18yo Golden Plains Shire A.H. emergencies Ranger

Bannockburn Vet Golden Plains Vet Injured Wildlife Pets and Horses 24/7

5286 1222

1300 606024

1300 280 737

132 412

13 11 26

Justices of the Peace

Mr Don Atherton.

0409

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

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."



- Maya Angelou



You may be familiar with the product called Mushrooms in a bag or some such. These are easy to look after, just keep them moist and in the dark and you'll have a feast of mushrooms of the type you get at the green grocer or supermarket. There are other interesting species.

Last month, I was given the opportunity to grow some Oyster Mushrooms at home. Geelong Funghi on Facebook gave away some free samples as part of the start-up of their business. I'm not here to promote this outfit, but it did spark my interest in home grown mushrooms. And these are not the only ones available in Victoria. It is now possible to order online several species, ready to propagate at home. Let's have a look at how you can go about growing these tasty and healthy funghi.

Mushrooms contain essential B group vitamins and are very low in sodium; but above all they are very tasty. The fifth taste, Umami (or savoury) is forefront in mushrooms. With the internationalisation of the Australian Cuisine, many new varieties are being used. BUT, perhaps now is the time to raise a significant safety warning. If you go collecting wild mushrooms, make sure you know what species are which. The one that has been in the news is The Death Cap: the name says it all, but it happens to look very much like other edible species only differing with a slight yellow juice. If you are not completely sure, DON'T EAT 'EM! Death or organ failure may ensue.

The Spores you can get online are safe. Although they may seem expensive (more on that later), you have access to the different flavours that you can enjoy with total confidence.

It is possible to grow Oyster Mushrooms in used coffee grinds. Spores can be ordered online, but save your coffee grinds first, you'll need quite a bit. They are not so light sensitive and must be kept moist.

But there are other types of mushrooms that can be gown on/in wood logs. Shitake and several types of Oyster mushrooms (grey, pink or white) can be obtained in small wooden dowels which have been inoculated with the Mycelium of the species you want to grow. A range of host wood can be used but growers recommend Ash and Oak, although some success has been had with some Eucalypts. Contact your supplier for more advice on this. Prices vary, but be prepared to pay up to \$50 for 100 dowels. These could produce many harvests over time.

The fresh sawn log, once cut should be sealed with water based paint as soon as possible. This is to exclude any ambient spores from the atmosphere, while you wait for the natural defence of the live wood to subside as it dies. After a couple of weeks, it is time to introduce the mycellium you have purchased online. This is done by drilling holes of a size to suit the dowels along the log, about 10 to 15 cm apart. Gently drive the dowels into the holes and seal with melted beeswax. Now the waiting game starts. The logs should be stored in a shaded damp place. The time will depend on the density of the wood, but heavier wood will produce your funghi for longer, even several years.



Showcasing Meredith

Showcasing Meredith 3333 and Community Planning Forum was held at the Community Centre on Friday March the 16th. The Planning Committee thanks the many business and community groups who came along and supported this event. Most people seem to appreciate the opportunity to network with each other and community members. We also thank all the community members who attended, we had a bigger crowd than we anticipated and it did get a little crowded at times, but hey it was so good to hear heaps of conversations and laughter as we connected as a community.

The Community Planning Forum was held with some good ideas discussed and votes made. Look out for a more detailed report as to what made the top recommendations for our Town's Community Plan for next 3 years.

We started the evening with Cheese and Wine donated by Meredith Cheese and Clyde Park and beautiful samples of muffins and Danishes from Dorothy's Kitchen, then finished up with a supper of sandwiches, scones and slices, tea and coffee supplied by the team from Advanced Meredith Association.

Feedback has been good with have few business owners and community groups suggesting that we have another Showcase Meredith 3333 next year, but in a bigger venue. Stay Tuned.



...and from Nicole Langtip, Community Planning Facilitator: "The Draft Version of the Community Plan has been completed. A follow up meeting for all Community Coordinators and interested community members is being held at the Community Hub on Monday 9th April at 6pm.

At this meeting we will review the Draft Plan and hopefully have time to allocate SEED funding. Any enquiries, please call me on 0432558119.



Meredith Senior Citizens

Jim Hynds

On Monday, March 19 eighteen seniors journeyed down to Bannockburn for a luncheon at the Bannockburn Hotel. Some twenty three members sat down and enjoyed a two course meal there. The menu was huge and varied and by all reports was well received. There were comments like: huge serves, scrumptious and delightful. Many thanks to the staff of the Bannockburn Hotel.

On Monday, March 26 members met for the first luncheon/meeting at the Hall. Carrying on from last year Kylie and the ladies from the school committee produced an excellent meal. Well-fed members sat around catching up and enjoying Easter eggs all round.

Your truly received a special egg to celebrate my coming birthday.

We welcomed two new members, Anne and Jenny and hope they enjoyed their time with the group. Linda and Betty are back with us after being on the sick list.

A bus trip is organized for Monday, April 16 when eighteen members will travel to Colac Botanical Gardens and other places of interest in the Colac area. Many thanks from members to Dianne and Carol for doing a fantastic job with the Easter eggs, the raffles and the Easter egg gifts.



For more information, please contact Louise on 0408 920 599

Community

SEEKING YOUR ASSISTANCE

The Memorial Hall Committee elected Jim Baker as the Chairman at the recent AGM to lead a small but enthusiastic group of locals for the next 12 months.

It is anticipated later in the year that a community celebration of an "Armistice Dance" at the hall would acknowledge the end of WW1 (100 years ago), by inviting families & friends of service men & women to join with the younger generations of the Meredith district.

Anyone interested in helping with this project, please contact; Jim 52861251 or, Sandra 52861545.

Thank You

On January 15, 2018 the Area Manager of Australia Post notified the Elaine Post Office that all the mailbox mail from Meredith would be coming to Elaine to be distributed, because the Meredith Corner Store and Post Office had suddenly closed.

Abhi and his wife Nisha embraced the influx of people coming up the road from Meredith and managed the situation excellently. They enjoyed meeting a lot of new people, were happy to know more customers from Meredith, and that now those people know that the Elaine shop exists.

The Meredith Post Office reopened in early March. A big thank you Abhi and Nisha for your service with a smile.

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

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

Classifieds

First insertion of small ads are FREE to district residents

For Sale Fully furnished three-storey pink and white dolls house 1.4 m high - \$50. One small, furnished dolls house with matching bus \$30. One child's plastic slide \$10. All in good condition phone 0439 860 726

Church News

CATHOLIC

St. Joseph's Parish Meredith Mass Times

Parish Priest Father Charles Balnaves phone 52861230. Mass Times:

Winchelsea every Saturday night at 6 p.m.

Bannockburn(at St. Mary MacKillop School) at 9 a.m.: Sunday April 8th/ 29th May 6th (Family Mass) / May 27th

Inverleigh : Sunday April 1st at 9.30 a.m. 15th/ 22nd at 9 a.m. May 13th/ 20th. At 9 a.m.

Anakie : at 11 a.m. Sunday April 8th/ 22nd May 6th/ 20th

Meredith at 11 a.m. Sunday April 15th/ 29th May 13th/ 27th.

Mother and Daughter Breakfast Saturday May 12th at Station Café Bannockburn.

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 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

 1^{st} Sunday of the month at 5pm, 3^{rd} 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.

The Auxiliary Bishop

Marg Cooper

Mark Edwards visited Meredith for a week in late February. He is the Auxiliary Bishop of the Melbourne Diocese of the Catholic Church, is based in West Footscray and looks after the western region. Three other Auxiliary Bishops look after the Eastern, Southern and Northern regions of the Melbourne Diocese. Mark explained that being an Auxiliary Bishop involves confirmations, visiting parishes and attending meetings. With forty eight parishes to visit, over a four year plan he visits twelve a year. His aim is to learn about the dynamics of each parish, its Mass communities, its churches and its schools; to offer encouragement to the parishes and help strengthen connections within the parish and with authorities within the church, and to get a feel for each district.

On one day Father Charles took Mark for a long drive around the Parish which they had marked on a map that covered the lounge floor in the Presbytery. It was the first time he had explored this area. Almost every road was new to him. He was impressed with the great sense of community and the beautiful country. He believes that it is aptly named as Golden Plains although he is only seeing the golden stubble and paddocks of dry grass.



We are busy, bouncing bunnies at kinder with Easter and school holidays upon us now at the end of term one. The children have been role playing Easter rabbits, mums with babies, pirates, school teachers and ninjas so a real mix! There has been dancing, guess who games, yoga, insect discoveries, block building, slime, mud pies, colour mixing and new languages being learnt. We had a visit from the grade 5/6 class children who came to play and our kindergarten group are joining in the Meredith Primary School's Easter celebrations for their last day. Our 3 year old pre kinder group had a teddy bears' picnic to celebrate Harmony Day and have been a lot more settled this month. We'd like to acknowledge and say thank you to Michaela for assisting Kylie with this group of children over the last couple of months and supporting them separating from parents and adjusting to the routines. We will have a new staff member joining Kylie as the assistant at the start of Term 2. We also say farewell to a couple of our kinder children and families who are leaving at the end of this term, we wish you well for the future. Both kinder groups will participate in an Easter egg hunt on their last day of term and to a promote a healthy aspect around all this sweetness, each child will receive a free toothbrush and toothpaste! We hope everyone has a wonderful Easter time and happy holidays and we look forward to seeing your smiley faces for term two.

- Jodie, Mandy and Kylie



Meredith Golf Club

April 29th, May 6th, 20th and 27th.

10:00am - 11:00am

\$20 for 4 weeks

Suitable for beginners-Intermediate golfers.

Bookings and enquiries: Please phone Tony Collier on 0408 519 628





In the wake of the fires in our neighbouring region over the weekend I would like to thank and acknowledge all emergency services personnel involved; especially those from our Shire. Assisting situations like fires, severe weather events and accidents is a huge effort and can be extremely dangerous, and your efforts are so appreciated. Our thoughts are with those affected.

The Council Conversation Post at the CFA Thankyou Day in Rokewood last Sunday was a great success, where five of us connected with more than 80 people over the course of a day. We as Councillors enjoyed it as it is another way we can connect, meet with and listening to residents from across the Shire.

For those with pets, I'd like to remind you that the annual pet registration date of 10 April is fast approaching and to make sure your animal friends are registered. We are also running a 'first in, best desexed' campaign to try to promote responsible cat ownership and cat safety.

And lastly, congratulations to all involved on a very successful Golden Plains Arts Trail over two weekends last month.

Cr Helena Kirby - Mayor

and from Another Mayor...

Marg Cooper

Peter Bongiorno first came to Meredith in 1959. He was friendly with the Nolan twins, Peter and James and stayed at their home at Cargarie. He was chastised by Constable Jack Powles for driving Nolan's ute to Meredith, without a licence. Don't let me see you in this town again!

Peter and Anne and family came to Meredith on July 1, 1976 to take over the mixed business on the corner of Staughton and Read Street, known as the "Top Shop". It had been raining cats and dogs for weeks, the shop and residence was built 4 inches below ground level and nothing worked. John Nolan stayed up all night to help them, Jim Cole helped them get the stove going and Joan Taylor brought them a casserole. They had previously been in a fruit shop in Portarlington.

The "Top Shop" soon became the centre of the town's activities and Peter got involved in many organizations in town. They sold fruit, vegetables, meat, groceries, lollies, ice-creams etc. In the early days Peter had a ute and covered trailer and he picked up everything in Geelong once a week. Sometimes his load was so heavy he had difficulty coming up the road. They sold newspapers that had to be picked up from the Railway Station early each morning. Peter picked up three Heralds at night from the station and delivered them to the Bottom Shop, the Bottom Pub and the last one to the Top Pub. Peter tells that after a social drink and chat pocket. he was well out of They were agents for Pyramid Building Society and had a dry cleaning agency. In the early 1980's the TAB agency in Meredith moved to the "Top Shop" from the "Bottom Shop".

They sent papers and groceries on the mail runs and ran monthly accounts. They

supplied Moreland High School Camp in Steiglitz, North Geelong Camp at Morrison, Rob Eason's shearing team and the 40 or so workers at Meredith Engineering with food and groceries.

They sold raffle tickets, ball tickets and people cut sandwiches in their kitchen for fires.

Peter tells that the biggest job he took on was the Fire Reporting Service and Group Communications officer, looking after 10 Brigades for the CFA. He recalls that the hardest job was attending accidents and deaths.

Peter was editor of the Meredith Newsletter for 10 years. Information and items for the newsletter were submitted at the shop and he organized typing rosters of volunteers and printing.



Peter was elected a Shire Councillor in 1983 and was President of the Bannockburn Shire in 1985. He became a Justice of the Peace in 1982 and sat on the bench of the Geelong Magistrates Court for three years in a voluntary capacity. Peter was on the Committees of the Tennis Club, Memorial Hall, Scouts, Recreation Reserve and School Council. He was on the Golf Club Committee and first President of the Social Club which organized a big fund raising day at Bolte's to raise money for the new clubhouse.

He started the golf trip to the Murray River which many golfers have enjoyed over the years. He introduced the "Top Shop" versus "Bottom Shop" Golf Competition. He cut sides of beef, lamb and pork up for locals.

Pater and Anne thought Meredith was like a big family and a great environment for their children to grow up in. There was a lot of give and take in business and both Peter and Anne made a huge contribution to the community in the $10\frac{1}{2}$ years they were here.

Peter and Anne and family went into the Kardinia Park Motel after Meredith. They have had 13 businesses in all. They now live in Geelong and visit their friends at Meredith quite often.



Our Cover

Thank you Bronwyn Peters for our lively front cover this month. It shows students at play on the newly installed artificial turf court at Meredith Primary School.

healthS+VE

Bannockburn Pharmacy Newsletter

Proprietors: Scott Wilkes & Damian Bennett

6 High Street Bannockburn VIC 3331

Phone: 5281 1519

After a very bad flu season last year be prepared this year by having your flu (influenza) vaccination done this month. Two of our pharmacists, Cindy & Tracey are accredited to provide and administer **flu** and **whooping cough** vaccinations in the pharmacy. Our vaccination clinic is open:

Monday: 8:30am - 5:45pm

Thursday: 10:30am - 3:00pm

Everything is done from start to finish within the pharmacy. The vaccination only takes a maximum of 30 minutes as it is requirement for your safety that you need to rest in the pharmacy for 15 minutes after your vaccination has been administered.

FLU VACCINATION

- No prescription is required from your Doctor

* cost - \$25 (\$15 for the flu vaccination + \$10 for the administration of the vaccine by one of our accredited pharmacists)

 FREE flu vaccine + \$10 for the administration by one of our accredited pharmacists if you fall into one of the following categories:

(i) Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children aged 6 months to <5 years.

(ii) Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander persons aged ≥ 15 years

(iii) All persons ≥ 65 years

(iv) All persons ≥ 6 months who have certain medical conditions which increase the risk of influenza disease complications; for example, severe asthma, lung or heart disease, low immunity or diabetes

(v) Pregnant women

WHOOPING COUGH

- No prescription is required from your Doctor

Cost - \$50 (\$40 for the whooping cough vaccine + \$10 for the administration of the vaccine by one of our accredited pharmacists).

 FREE whooping cough vaccine + \$10 for the administration by one of our accredited pharmacists, if you fall into one of the following categories:

(i) pregnant women from 28 weeks gestation during every pregnancy

 (ii) partners of women who are at least 28 weeks pregnant if the partner has not received a pertussis booster in the past 10 years

(iii) parents/guardians of babies born on or after 1st June 2015, if their baby is under 6 months of age and they have not received a pertussis booster in the past 10 years.

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 bookonline 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.

Pharmacy Features:

- Vaccination Clinic
- Naturopath
- Glasshouse Fragrances
- Ear piercing
- Medela (we hire Breastpumps)
- MooGoo

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- 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: | 8:30am - 6:30pm |
|------------|-----------------|
| Tuesday: | 8:30am - 6:30pm |
| Wednesday: | 8:30am - 6:30pm |
| Thursday: | 8:30am - 6:30pm |
| Friday: | 8:30am - 6:30pm |
| Saturday: | 8:30am – 1:00pm |
| Sunday: | CLOSED |

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

OUR VEW COLUMN



We welcome new writers for the interest and diversity they bring to the News. This is a special case though, as Andrew Howard is our first, regular, creative writer. Of course, all our writers are creatives, whose columns begin with a blank page, at least metaphorically. But Andrew's work is fictional, producing literary vignettes, that are works of his imagination. But, like all good fiction, they aim to do more than entertain. Enjoy. - Ed.

Beauty. He has no idea. Appreciation of beauty, a subconscious ability to see it in any form doesn't come naturally to him. Never has. He has always defaulted to a lazy excuse of a working-class upbringing. Lazy. Life is fleeting, far too fleeting to dismiss an appreciation of beauty with a lazy excuse.

In contrast she is the pure expression of beauty. She is beauty. She is beautiful, she sees and appreciates, connects with beauty however it may present. No conscious thought, no effort. Somehow, they have always been connected, her and beauty; co-existing. A natural and innate connection that came easily and naturally, like breathing.

Somehow, despite this difference, they had loved each other for a lifetime, both able to accommodate such a yawning gulf through love alone. A purity of love as natural as beauty was to her and equally foreign to him.

Then in one moment everything changed. They were both in their 78th year, just one of the synchronicities that had always defined their togetherness. Unlike the beauty thing, where there was no synchronicity.

But this moment was different. Another surprise gift, another in a lifetime of surprise gifts; sourced and given with love. But not, ever, beautiful.

Despite a lifetime of effort, not once had his surprise gift been met with an appreciation from the receiver noting the beauty of the gift. Always deeply, truly appreciated; but never kept for display or further celebration. Always quickly packed away with the treasure trove of past gifts that jarred her sense of what is beautiful and worthy of proud display.

This one, at last, was different. She slowly removed the delicate wrapping to reveal this latest expression of flawed beauty.

As this gift revealed itself, she smiled, a tear welled in her eye, her heart skipped a beat or two. Finally.

It was beautiful.

Editio Horribilis*



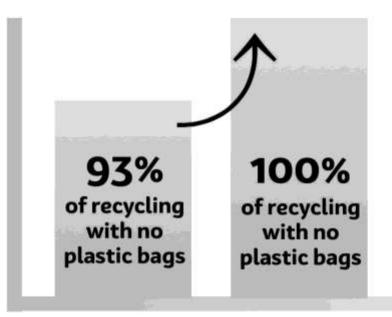
Producing the newsletter each month is always a demanding, deadline driven task, but this issue was a shocker. Firstly, two of the three volunteers normally involved were overseas. Then, on the production week, when we collect all the editorial material submitted, we were locked out of our email server because our email address had been commandeered by a third party to distribute spam. When we finally recovered access, we found over 42,000 *returned* emails. (they are the ones that weren't correctly addressed.) Goodness knows how many were dispatched.

Then, after two days of work, the newsletter file and back up file were corrupted and made inaccessible, necessitating a rework. With the need to squeeze some time in for family over Easter, it all meant we couldn't print a copy for our proof readers. So please, be kind.

*forgive the hammy Latin, but you get the idea.



Aiming for zero plastic bags in our recycling bins.



93% of us recycle correctly. We do not put plastic bags in our recycling bin. No plastic bags.



FIND US EVERYWHERE! (f) GoldenPlainsShire

Vale to Alwyn (Murph) Emond

31/1/1949 - 5/2/2018

Murph was born in Geelong, the third of four children born to Rita and Alan Emond. When he was three years old he contracted meningitis which caused his deafness. As a young boy he loved fishing in the Barwon River, going ferreting with his father, going down hills around Fyansford on cardboard boxes and catching frogs and racing them. He also had a paper run and sold newspapers on the T&G street corner. Murph left school when he was about fourteen and began labouring work around Geelong which included working on the Great Ocean Road with a crew including Tommy Wells, who came from Meredith.

Murph met Jenny Pankhurst who, at the time, was separated with two small children (Rob and Judy) and also caring for her younger siblings. Jenny recalls that in her youth you were either a surfie or a bodgie. Murph was definitely a surfer and got the nickname "Murphy the Surfie"!

They married on January 31, 1975 with Murph embracing Jenny's family as his own. Murph and Jenny had two more children, Debbie and Caroline. They lived in Margaret Street, North Geelong where Murph bred Australian parrots, loved spending time in his shed and became very involved in the children's sport. Because the children had horses, Murph and Jenny moved to acreage at Meredith in 1988. It was here that Murph established a beautiful garden including gum trees his father had grown. He also had bird aviaries and a shed into which he would retreat which held a pool table, dart board and full beer fridge. The family loved to go camping. Murph loved the outdoors especially sitting by an open fire and drinking a stubby or two.

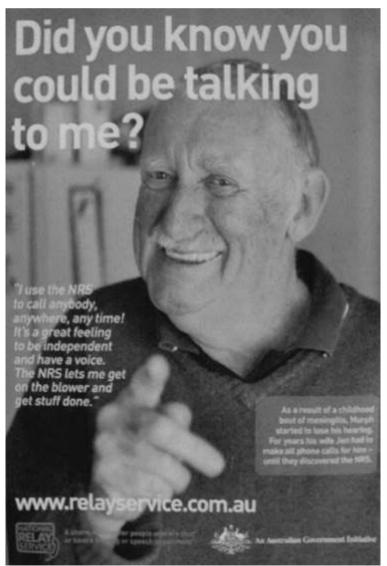
Murph became a house husband in his mid 30's when he had to stop work. He was an early riser and would always light the fire and bring breakfast in bed to Jenny. Judy said Murph cooked dinner every night but that his menu was quite limited and the kids looked forward to Fish and Chips on Friday nights and going to the Chinese restaurant.

By nature Murph was a very engaging person who made friends easily. He was an exceptional lip reader and enjoyed meeting people on their extensive trips around Australia. They joined the Toyota Landcruiser Club and learnt to travel "off road" and often travelled for three months of the year. They drove across the Nullabor fifteen times and often bush camped. Murph also loved family gatherings at Meredith especially Christmas Day when Jenny's family visited and Boxing Day when his side of the family visited.

Murph enjoyed playing bowls at Bannockburn, played golf at Meredith and coached junior football at Meredith and previously at North Shore. He punted on the horses and was once part of a racing syndicate that owned a horse named "Magic Happens".

You may remember when Murph and Jenny featured in a TV advertisement for the National Relay Service. Jenny says that being able to use the telephone really changed his life. He travelled to Canberra in 2010 to receive a "Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his important contribution in alerting people who are deaf or have a hearing impairment or speech impairment about the availability of the National Relay Service".

Ten years ago Murph was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. As his health deteriorated Jenny, along with the family, cared for him. He wrote notes to them telling them how much he appreciated their loving care. After being admitted to Geelong Hospital Murph died peacefully surrounded by his family. A service celebrating his life was held at Geelong Crematorium Chapel on February 9. After the service his friends and relations adjourned to Meredith to the garden he had created and loved.



Murph was the face of the National Relay Service a project to enable people with impaired hearing to use the telephone.

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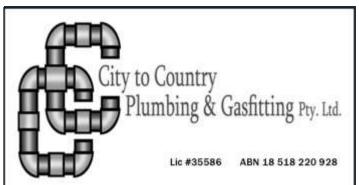
Obsolescence

As humans evolve, there are many things that we leave behind in the wake of technological advancement. As products are designed for easier use, to be lighter in weight, and to be coloured in the hottest colour trend for right now (still rose gold), their predecessors are chucked to the curb. It seems that products today are developed with planned obsolescence in mind. The fact that our family fridge is older than me and is still going strong would be inconceivable by today's standards of durability. Not to mention that companies now make products that are constructed to break down just in time for the latest model release. The landfill crisis has never been so bad. We just have to watch the latest in the *Thor* franchise to get a sense of how the dystopian world depicted in it is not too inconceivable.

But that's not what this article is about. You see, I am a collector. A collector of what most people would consider rubbish or clutter. Not in an I-need-my-own-TV-show way, but in a way that means I inject items with a lethal dose of sentimentality. I love my things. And so far, they've loved me back. I can make things last a lot longer than they are supposed to. Plus I have a change complex. Four years ago, I started out this column by explaining how hard it was to swap my laptops and that, to ease the burden, I purchased one that was exactly the same. Guess what I'm typing this on?

However, I have long harboured the desire to possess something older. Something that time had forgotten. Something that I could inject for at least the second time in its life with sentimentality. Whether it was because I was having nostalgic memories of playing with my parents' typewrite as a kid, or because I felt like becoming a cliché, I become overwhelmed with the urge to be seated at a desk with an old typewriter, hearing the clicks and chimes of something antiquated and full of romanticism.

I scoured old (and overpriced) antique shops looking for the perfect specimen. I searched these large sheds filled with items that people had long ago discarded and that sat there gathering dust, perhaps hoping that one day someone would come and pick them up and give them a new life. It was in a corner tightly-packed with murderous looking china dolls and mould-scented books that I found it. A murky green Kmart typewriter with an inked-up ribbon and a working bell to boot. I took it home and spent ten minutes trying to feed paper into it, knowing full well that it was ridiculous for me think that it would work. I gingerly tapped the four keys 'HELLO'. It worked! It certainly isn't a trendy colour, and it weighs about a quarter of my body weight, but I'd like to see my old laptop do that after 55 years. There's just some things that never go out of style.



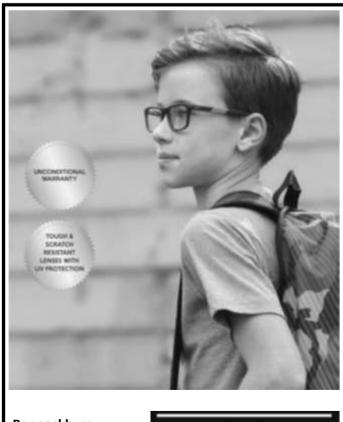
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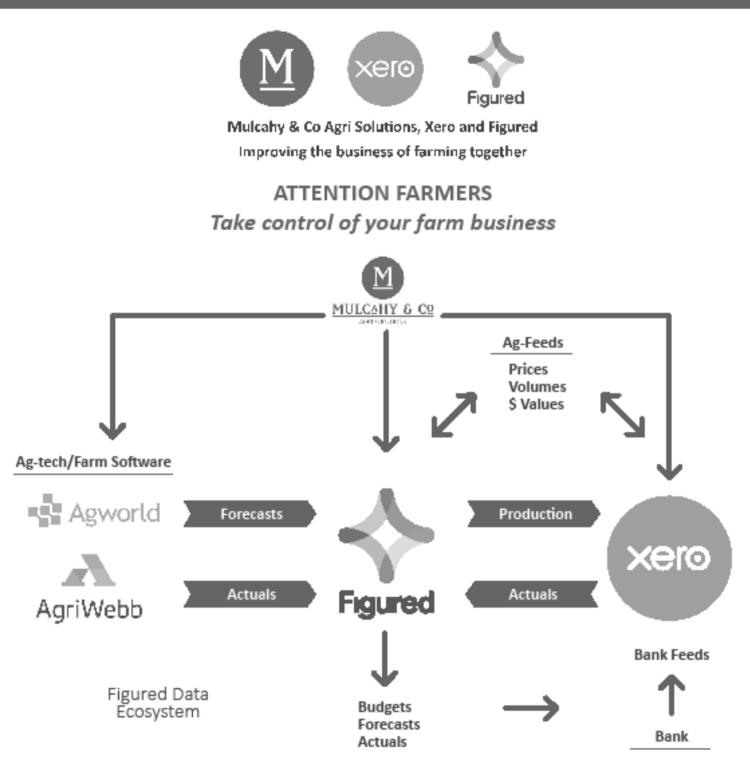
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Opening of "The Long Room".

On Saturday, March 24 a ribbon was cut by Catherine King, Federal Labour Member for Ballarat, Ron Read, curator and Julie Pantzidis, President of the Cricket Club, to officially open the refurbished Elaine Cricket Clubrooms.

It is estimated that the former football change rooms are over 100 years old, and were described before the refurbishment as a dirty storage area filled with cobwebs. Football finished in Elaine in 1970 and there was no cricket for 12 years before Shane Dunne and Ron Read decided to get cricket going again. This bright idea came while Shane was shearing for Ron in 2012. With the club's success over the past few years winning two Senior Premierships and two back to back Junior Premierships, everyone was keen to transform the old shed into cricket rooms to be proud of.

The club has a lot of dedicated people coming up with ideas, applying for funding and being hands on to make the dream a reality. Julie thanked everyone including Catherine King for funding, Mark and George Gallo from Lara Glass for donating and carrying out all of the work to renovate the rooms, Murray Arnel and Daryl Wells, past President and Vice President for starting the project, Shane Dunne for organizing the project, Moorabool Wind Farm & Elaine Wind Farm for funding for the fridge, oven and new storage area, Ron Read, Jimmy Connell, Nigel Parkinson and Mark Casano for their renovating work and many others, including youngsters who cleaned, stained wood and laid carpet.

The Long Room features a kitchen in the east end, tables and seating throughout, windows and doors facing the oval, a bar at the west end called "Lara Glass Bar" in appreciation of the work of Mark and George with a drop

down serving window. The walls are adorned with pictures to bring history to the newly renovated rooms and the Recreation Reserve is now connected to the town by a new pathway so the kids can walk safely to training. The players and committee members all looked very smart in jackets and training shirts purchased from a grant from Bendigo Bank Buninyong.

Following the opening there was a presentation by the Community Engagement Manager from Moorabool Wind Farm, lunch was provided, there was a presentation of trophies, jumping castles, Doug Cations and Peter Blacklock played music and sang and a raffle donated by Vic. Tennis was won.

Shane Dunne commented that it is still a tin shed but is now a comfortable room where players, supporters and all committee members can enjoy for many years to come. With the club being in a small town it is really the hub not only for players and parents but for the local community. It's great to see the club bringing everyone together.

Anyone who would like to play tennis or cricket is welcome, no experience needed. Ring 0448292074.

For the Lexophiles

Lexophile: (Noun) a lover of words, one who derives pleasure from various uses of words, who appreciates the nuances surrounding different words, and who is alert to synonyms, antonyms, homophones, and homonyms, often using them for effect, sometimes in humour. (definition-of.com)

.. A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.

.. With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.



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Living in this district, you will know the Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoo. Although not as ubiquitous as their rowdy cousins, the Sulphur Crested Cockatoo, will always draw an admiring glance for their softer calls and their often low, slow and majestic flight. And, like their white feathered cousins, they are very handsome birds. Kaitlyn Church's photograph, taken over Steiglitz, invokes an appreciation of these delightful locals.



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A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO A MORE SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE

Is it just me but seems to have been such a long hot summer with very little rain. I hope the Autumn break has arrived by the time you are reading this and its starting to green up. Between the heat and the wind the garden has had a rough time of it these past few months. We live in a very exposed spot, so it is very hard to keep moisture up to the fruit and vegies to get a bumper crop so we can have surplus to preserve. We have planted many wind break trees but need to be patient, till they are big enough to make a difference. If this weather pattern continues we will need to think about physical wind and sun barriers to ensure we can grow enough to keep as fed over the winter months in the future.

The cooler Autumn months will bring:

- Relighting and welcoming the wood cooker "Mabel" back into our lives.
- Bread baking and homemade crumpets with butter and local honey
- Fire wood collecting
- Freshly cut flowers or herbs on the kitchen table.
- Our own farm produce being preserved
- Surplus fresh eggs, as the girls finish their moult and get on with the job of laying
- Reading in a spot of sunshine.
- Sunlight streaming in windows that don't make me want to pull the blinds down to keep out the heat.
- Laundry that comes in soft, not stiff as a board.
- Walking the farm without fear of snakes.
- The quiet nights without TV.
- Meal planning starting with available, seasonal meals
- Knitting.
- Planting out the winter vegie garden
- Bulb planting, with anticipation of spring flowers.
- Footy on the radio.

This April we are off to the Off Grid Living Festival, camping out with two dogs and three chickens and spending time with the most amazing and inspiring people. So, I will have heaps to share with you next month - till then be still, be calm, stay true to yourself, and most importantly hug someone who makes your heart sing.



Seeing the (too much) Light

Kerrie Kruger

As we passed this year's March Equinox with a simple moment of reflection, we honoured our Earth by respecting the ethic of Earth Hour. Earth Hour is a worldwide movement that is held yearly encouraging us to turn off non-essential electric lights for one hour, as a symbol of commitment to the planet.

We usually show our support by spending the evening by candle light, but this year we attend an Earth Hour Evening at the Ballarat Observatory. Here we looked at sky objects and the first quarter Moon. We observed and pondered the beautiful night sky and gave thanks that we could.

Did you know that in less than 100 years, we humans, have created an environment where millions of children will never experience seeing the Milky Way where they live? The increased and widespread use of artificial light at night is impairing our view of the universe, and it is also adversely affecting our environment - ecosystems, our energy consumption and our health.

Earth's predictable rhythm of day and night is encoded in the DNA of all plants and animals and humans have radically disrupted this cycle by lighting up the night; we have created Light Pollution - the inappropriate or excessive use of artificial light.

Light pollution is a side effect of industrial civilization. Its sources include building exterior and interior lighting, advertising, commercial properties, offices, factories, streetlights, and illuminated sporting venues. Components of light pollution include: Glare, skyglow, light trespass and clutter lighting.

Do you know all life relies on Earth's daily cycle of light and dark rhythm to govern life-sustaining behaviours such as reproduction, nourishment, sleep and protection from predators?

Artificial light disrupts these ecosystems- one example is the impact light pollution is having on the Sea Turtles that live in the ocean but hatch at night on the beach. Hatchlings find the sea by detecting the bright horizon over the ocean. Artificial lights draw them away from the ocean. In Florida alone, millions of hatchlings die this way every year.

We humans need to adhere to our circadian rhythm, a sleep-wake pattern governed by the day-night cycle. Research suggests that artificial light at night can negatively affect human health, increasing risks for obesity, depression, sleep disorders, diabetes, breast cancer and more. Did you know our bodies produce the hormone melatonin in response to circadian rhythm? Melatonin helps keep us healthy. It induces sleep, boosts the immune system, lowers cholesterol, and helps the functioning of the thyroid, pancreas, ovaries, testes and adrenal glands. Night time exposure to artificial light suppresses melatonin production.

This discussion has lead me to investigate/read more about the effects of light pollution on ourselves and the ecosystems of those we share our planet.

For more information check out darksky.org

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Daily walking benefits the mind as well as the body. It improves selfesteem, mood and sleep quality, and it reduces stress, anxiety and fatigue. Active people have an up to 30 per cent reduced risk of becoming depressed, while staying active helps people who are depressed recover.



Walking is suitable for people of all ages and fitness levels. It be done just about anywhere and is free. Walking also has a very low risk of injury as it is low impact (not jarring on the joints) and doesn't require any special equipment or training.



There's a reason why walking is one of the most popular forms of activity in Australia. Walking helps to reduce stress, be more alert, have a healthier body and build strong relationships. Join the Prime Minister's One million steps to become more physically active and walk for the opportunity to win.

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PETE

Having not had much to report in the way of cultural events last month, I've now nearly got an overload. First there was the SONGLINES :SEVEN SISTERS DREAMING experience in Canberra at the National Museum. This was overwhelming, as expected. Not only was it an incredible aesthetic expression of culture but it was specifically conceived to preserve a cultural knowledge for future generations.

Groups of elders, primarily women, from many different language groups, from NW West Australia right down through the deserts, across the Canning stockroute and Maralinga , collaborated to put together this massive integration of many works in many media to represent this songline which stretches from the Pilbara to the east coast.

The Seven Sisters, represented by the constellation known also as the Pleiades, are pursued across the night sky by a male sorcerer represented by the constellation also known as Orion, the Hunter. This story is told in different ways in many cultures around the world, and also in many different aboriginal language groups across Australia.

Woven into the story in this songline as it unfolds is not just the knowledge required geographically to travel its length but how to survive, where to find water, what hazards to avoid , what food can be found, what ceremonies must be performed, what rituals and customs must be observed before entering country according to the relationship that the traveller has to that country and its people. Entwined throughout is the tension of the gender politics of the man pursuing the women, but the women refusing to oblige except on their terms.Procreation is as vital for a people as finding food and water but if the culture is violent then it may destroy itself or be displaced.

The Songline was realised in multiple different forms and media, in paint, stone, fibre, metal, in wood, on wood, on canvas, with light projections, film and sound. Probably the most engrossing element was the central dome where ,lying on your back you were immersed in a journey into a cave whose roof and walls were covered with 3000 years of painting with projected animations of the sisters and the sorcerer.

A whole day at the Songlines was only just enough to take it all in. I look up at the Pleiades and Orion now with new thoughts.

Then there was the GOLDEN PLAINS ARTS TRAIL over the last two weekends. It seems a good idea to split into the two areas as the distances are considerable and this structure allows us to be able to do justice to the event.

I managed to get around most of the Northern section starting at Dereel ,which for a small and quite isolated community had such a diverse and plentiful offering. From beautiful hand-bound books to watercolours from a life well lived to bird photos of extraordinary quality ,range of species and variety of actions, the exhibitions really did express their makers' creativity and interests. On to Smythesdale and Linton where the forge and printing press were in full swing and popular.

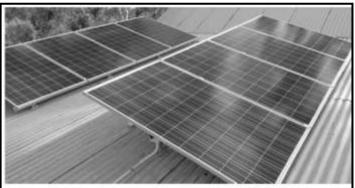
Last weekend I was away and only managed to get to one site, at Steiglitz . In the little church Lindy's striking installation tryptych brought to mind Gustav Klimt' s Three Ages of Woman whilst on the smaller scale were Tania's expressive work , Isobel's fine line and detail and Kaitlyn's handsome album of lyrical photographs taken in and around Steiglitz.

The shot she caught of yellow tailed black cockatoos wheeling over the township was very popular. (See p.18 - Ed.)

So thanks to all those who contributed to the Arts Trail. It is one of the few things that bring the extremities of this odd shaped shire together.

Like the Archibald exhibition in Geelong there was something there for everyone and it does get people out to have a look. As much as anything it gets those of us who live at one end of the shire to visit the other and see what they are up to which I for one don't do very often.

(Cont. next page.)



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STEVE

We have many cultural icons in Australia. They are many and varied. "Football, meat pies and Holden cars" has even been used in marketing campaigns. These idiosyncratic, Aussie touch stones are the things that give us our quiddity. Our icons have changed over time. The Australia of the Bulletin and Henry Lawson have long since evolved. The significance of winning and sport seem to have replaced more traditional belief systems. In these modern times of social media and the internet, external influences are greater than ever before. As Peter Goat recently pointed out: our culture is constantly changing.

But this week a challenge to our cultural truths has been writ large on an international front. An ugly, truly surprising event has shocked the mainstream. The sense of disbelief is palpable. The Australian Test Team has not only been accused of, but has openly admitted to ball tampering in the 3rd Test in South Africa. Yes....we are CHEATS!

Cricket is not just a TV sport. Participation is widely spread across the country and across all age groups. I image this is a hot topic of discussion in many clubs throughout Australia. But, let's not forget that this is ONLY sport! For some, in this age of fake news and political division, sport is the ultimate escape. The expression; "a level playing field" has entered the lexicon. All may be fair in love and war, but the fairness of sport has been sacrosanct. Up till now! The myth of our fairness is once again being challenged. This is not the first time! Remember an underarm ball delivered by the Chappell brothers. Cricket, and indeed all sport, is an expression of our wider culture. There have been many examples of entitlement and unfairness right through our history. Now maybe an appropriate time look at fairness throughout our culture. I don't think it would do us any harm to rethink all aspects of fairness in our wider world. Time for a real fair go!

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2 tps olive oil
1 brown onion, finely chopped
1 carrot, grated
1 garlic clove, crushed
500g lean pork & veal mince
40g packet reduced salt, chicken noodle soup mix
2 tbs barbecue sauce
1 egg, lightly beaten
1⁄2 cup finely chopped, fresh flat leafed parsley
1⁄2 cup tomato and basil pasta sauce, warmed

Method

Preheat oven to 180 c. Lightly spray a 9cm x 19cm loaf tin with oil.

Heat oil in a non-stick frying pan over medium high heat. Add onion and carrot, cook stirring for 5 minutes or until softened. Add garlic and cook stirring for 1 minute. Transfer to a large bowl. Cool for 5 minutes.

Add mince, soup mix, sauce, egg and ¹/₄ cup parsley to onion mixture. Season with salt and pepper. Mix until combined.

Spoon mince mixture into prepared tin, pressing down firmly. Cover with foil and bake for 25minutes. Remove foil and turn meatloaf out onto a baking tray lined with baking paper. Bake for 10-15 minutes or until meatloaf is cooked through.

Thickly slice meatloaf. Serve topped with pasta sauce and sprinkled with remaining parsley.

Recipe from -WW Simply Delish



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Restoring the Steiglitz WW1 Honor* Roll

Chris McKenzie

In 2017 Kathy and Ralph Nordin, members of the Back to Steiglitz Association, undertook responsibility for the restoration of the Steiglitz State School WW1 Honor Roll. The restored Honour Roll hangs in the Steiglitz Courthouse. The restoration work was completed under the supervision of the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Materials at the University of Melbourne.

The work was assisted by a grant of \$1040 from the Department of Premier and Cabinet as part of the program Restoring Community War Memorials and Avenues of Honor under the ANZAC Centenary Community Grant Program of the Victorian Veterans Council Grants.

Kathy and Ralph were the perfect people to take on this important job as they have a passion for WW1 history and Kathy's grandfather served in France in WW1. They turned up some interesting local history while working on the restoration of the Honour Roll. They discovered that in the late 1890s the population of Steiglitz was approximately 2000 and by 1914 at the beginning of WW1 the population had dwindled to less than 100. Of these 100 residents, 50 enlisted and went to the war. This seems so shocking now, that half of such a small town's population went to fight overseas. Out of these 50 enlisted men, 41 survived and returned.

Some were highly awarded:

William R Boardman was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) in WW1. He had enlisted as Wilfred Nash as it may have been that his father did not want him to enlist. William fought in Gallipoli and then France and won the DCM in France in 1918.

On his return home in 1919 Mr Boardman was presented with a small gold medal by the people of Steiglitz. (He went on to enlist in WW11 as William Boardman.)

R Barrett won the Distinguished Conduct Medal and F Sands won the Military Medal. There are many more stories to be found about the men listed on the Steiglitz Honor Roll and we hope in time to uncover more details about these lives and



*Doesn't look right, does it? Australian English spelling is "honour" with an o-u-r. But it is hard to argue with the board itself - it is a Roll of <u>Honor</u>, after all. So we thought we would honour honor that spelling. - Ed.

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Kindred matters

Dear Judith,

Things are really bad for me and my family at present. I'm not coping because I'm way behind with paying bills it's so stressful I don't know what to do.

Hi financial distress is very hard to cope with particularly at this time of the year. Many families are struggling as they recover from Christmas spending, school holidays, school fees and their usual household bills. It is not uncommon to be in debt and overwhelmed as expenses mount up and there is not enough money to cover every bill.

The impact of financial distress on our health and well being can cause physical ailments and trigger anxiety and depression. It's certainly not good but there are services that can help.

There are free face to face financial counselling services available in Geelong and Ballarat, as well as some online services that charge reasonable fees.

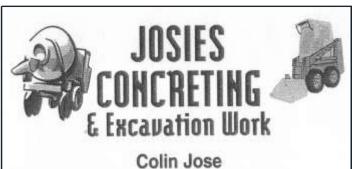
The excellent benefit of financial counselling services is that you can authorise them to consult with banks and utility companies on your behalf. This takes so much pressure off you and relieves a great deal of distress. They will also help you to set up affordable payment plans, consolidate debts and manage household expenses. You will be surprised at how many ways they can suggest to limit unnecessary spending.

Check out the following services and know that there is help available;

- Financial Counselling Australia
 financialcounsellingaustralia.org.au/Home
- National Debt Helpline 1800 007 007
- Bethany Geelong- 5278 812
- Diversitat Geelong 5221 6044
- CAFS Ballarat 5337 3333
- Salvos Ballarat 5337 0600
- Money Help .moneyhelp.org.au/



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.



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it's **History**

Meredith History Interest Group

Life with Sheila:

You are invited to the History Centre on Sunday, April 22 at 1.30 pm to learn about Life with Sheila Molesworth. Her granddaughter Emma Muir (Molesworth) is going to tell us about her life and the special relationship they had.

Because Sheila lived at "Ballark" which is about half way between Meredith and Ballan she was involved in both communities. Sadly she died in a car accident.

Annual Meeting:

The Annual Meeting of MHIG was held on Sunday, March 4 at the History Centre. The Office Bearers for the next year are President: Marg Cooper, Vice President: Tony Scott, Secretary: Jan Crump. Treasurer: Fay McFarlane, Committee: Jan McDonald and Paul Ryan.

The new Aims and Objectives of MHIG were circulated before the meeting and adopted without any alterations. The committee felt that the aims and objectives, created in 2008 when MHIG began, were outdated and didn't reflect the organization we are today.

The guest speaker was Peter Bongiorno who entertained the crowd with anecdotes of his time in the "Top Shop" in Meredith when it was the Centre of the Universe. We all wondered when he had time to work in the shop because he became involved in nearly all the organizations in Meredith, had a vibrant social life and a growing family. His wife Anne was an important part of the "Top Shop" and with her nursing qualifications she was called on to give injections, take out stitches and sometimes act as agony aunt. More about Peter and Anne in another article in the Newsletter.

The History Centre is open every Thursday from 9 am until mid-afternoon. We would like to open the History Centre on Saturdays for a few hours. If you have time and an interest in history you may be able to help us!!



Gold Found During Road Construction

"While walking along the main track, close to the old Wellington mine at Bamganie, today, Mr A. House picked up a nice specimen of gold, weighing several pennyweights. The ground had recently been ploughed for the formation of a road formation. Several dishes of the surface soil was tried and some "colors"* were found. The gold is alluvial, and the scene of the discovery is on the east side of the Wellington lode."

The Age, Wednesday, December 30, 1914

*On page 30, we were bemused by the spelling of "honour" on the Steiglitz "Roll of Honor". This spelling of "colour" from a similar time, suggests we are missing something. Any etymologists out there? - Ed.



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"The Trap" by Melanie Raabe

The author describes how, one evening at dinner, a friend told her about an article she had read about a reclusive author who never leaves her house. On her way home from the dinner her imagination started running wild. Why doesn't this woman leave the house? What happened to her? What would need to happen for her to leave the house again? That was the origin of *The Trap*.

The author set her mind on writing about a woman who had not left her house in 11 years and who lived very much in her own head. She was a very lonely woman who lacked all the correctives people have, she didn't communicate with others on a daily basis and she very much lived in her memories and in her imagination. She was destined to have distorted thinking. The premise is intriguing.

Linda Conrads, the protagonist, is a wealthy, 38 year old bestselling novelist who suffers from anxiety disorder and debilitating panic attacks as a result of her sister's murder. The only people she sees regularly are her publicist and friend, Norbert and her assistant Charlotte. Linda has parents but no longer sees them. She believes that they think it was she who murdered her sister. She has an endearing dog called *Bukowski* due to the fact that he is unkempt and cool.

Linda has never forgotten the killer's face and one night she recognizes him on television. He is a journalist. She decides to set a Trap for him the only way she knows how. She writes a thriller called *Blood Sisters* about the unsolved murder of a young woman. When the book is completed she grants just one interview, which comes with strict conditions. It will take place in her home and the man whose face she has etched on her memory must be the interviewer.

The author uses two layers of unreliable narration to keep everything out of kilter. Linda is constantly questioning herself and her own motives as the plot unfolds. And it is unclear how much the crime thriller she has written, reflects the reality of the sister's murder or merely her idealised version of the event, its aftermath and her part in it. Because of this the story is able to play out in ways the reader does not expect.

The concept of a woman living in a house without venturing out for 11 years is intriguing. "I was in Italy when the earthquake came on Tuesday. I travel frequently. For an entire week I retreated to three spare rooms upstairs and named them Italy. I put on Italian music, watched Italian films, immersed myself in documentaries about the culture and customs of the country, leafed through coffee-table books and had delicacies from various regions of Italy delivered by caterers."

The book for discussion in April is "First Person" by Richard Flanagan.



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Recently, my family and I climbed Mt Noorat near Camperdown. With a summit only 310m above sea level. Mt Noorat is not famous for its height, although it does stand up well above the surrounding plains. A short walk up a steep dirt path through paddocks of dry grass brought us to a viewing place. We could see across the countryside around us, but the real view was in front, looking down inside the mountain. Mt Noorat is an extinct volcano and we were looking into an impressive crater, 150m deep, shaped like an inverted cone and reaching down to below the level of the surrounding plain. Its sides were covered with straw-coloured grass, contrasting with the scattered dark green wattles, eucalypts and occasional pine trees, as well as an area of green bracken. At the bottom were patches of dark grey basalt rocks, and an outcrop of this rock was also visible towards the top of the crater. The circular rim of the volcano appeared as a series of undulating hills above us, as we stood at its lowest point. As we watched, a cyclist rode the circle, slowly up then speeding down, as he made his way around, silhouetted against the blue sky.

Our journey back to Meredith was across the Victorian Volcanic Plains, an area where basalt is the commonest rock. These plains extend north and west of Melbourne most of the way to the South Australian border. We passed through the stony rises country around Lake Corangamite, and past small hills that would once, perhaps briefly, have been active volcanoes. Closer to Meredith, Mt Mercer, Mt Anakie and Mt Wallace are all extinct volcanoes. The Victorian Volcanic Plains formed over the last six million years, with the most recent eruptions being recorded as stories of the local aborigines. It is thousands of years since the last volcanic activity in the area which is now considered inactive. However, these volcanoes have created much of the landscape we see around us.

When Victoria's volcanoes were active, molten rock inside the Earth melted its way to the surface. It flowed as lava from volcanoes such as Mt Wallace, covering the surrounding countryside, perhaps filling valleys and burying other landscape features to form a smooth plain. It solidified to form basalt, the dark blue-grey rock often known as bluestone, which was used in the construction of many buildings including the old schoolhouse and shire hall in Meredith. Over time, wind and rain erode basalt. Valleys form, and so does soil. In areas where the pressure in the lava flow varied, it cooled into rises and dips. As it erodes, this basalt breaks up into smaller pieces, creating small hills and valleys covered in rocks, that in Victoria are known as the stony rises. In the relatively dry conditions of western Victoria, the basalt plains support grass and scattered trees. The grasses die and compost into the soil which becomes black with organic matter. The early settlers found this to be good farmland, so little of the original vegetation remains.

Mt Noorat, Mt Mercer and Mt Anakie are scoria cones. Their eruptions would have been more dramatic than that of Mt Wallace, with ash, lava and mostly melted lumps of rock known as bombs, thrown high into the air, perhaps covering an area of several square kilometres. Some of the lava became small lightweight pieces of basalt known as scoria. The iron in this rock turns red when exposed to oxygen, and it may be quarried and used in landscaping. Mt Anakie possibly includes a maar,

another form of volcanic crater common in western Victoria. but rare elsewhere in the world. Maars are shallow and form when molten rock comes into contact with large areas of groundwater, causing a violent eruption of lava and steam. The crater usually fills with water forming a lake, such as at Tower Hill near Warrnambool.

If you observe the countryside around Meredith and further west and north, you may notice hills that were once volcanoes and see basalt rocks that formed from their lava flows. If you would like to see part of this history at close hand take a walk in the Meredith Police Paddocks. On the eastern side of the creek, you will find a sign describing the exposed layers of rock, including the basalt boulders

Wendy

An Artist from Russia In Love With Australia

Marg Cooper

Natasha Ber exhibited her artworks at the Meredith Community Centre on the weekend of March 24 & 25, 2018 as part of the Golden Plains Arts Trail. Several of the Art Group who meet every Saturday morning (and one from the Friday group) displayed in the studio and seven artists displayed at the BOP.

Natasha Ber born in Crimea in 1987. She completed a Bachelor of Food Engineering and a Bachelor of Economics in Crimea. She has mainly worked in the wine industry, first in France, then in America before immigrating to Australia in 2011.

She remembers that when she alighted from the plane in Adelaide she loved her first breath of Australian air it was so fresh. She also loved the colour and the feel of Australia and the birdlife, especially the parrots.

Natasha has always had a passion for Art so made the decision to leave her employment in the wine industry to study art at Deakin University. She completed her Bachelor of Arts in 2018. Currently she works at The Metropolis Gallery in Ryrie Street, Geelong. Natasha paintd in oils and

watercolour, manly focusing on Australian Landscapes and Portraiture.



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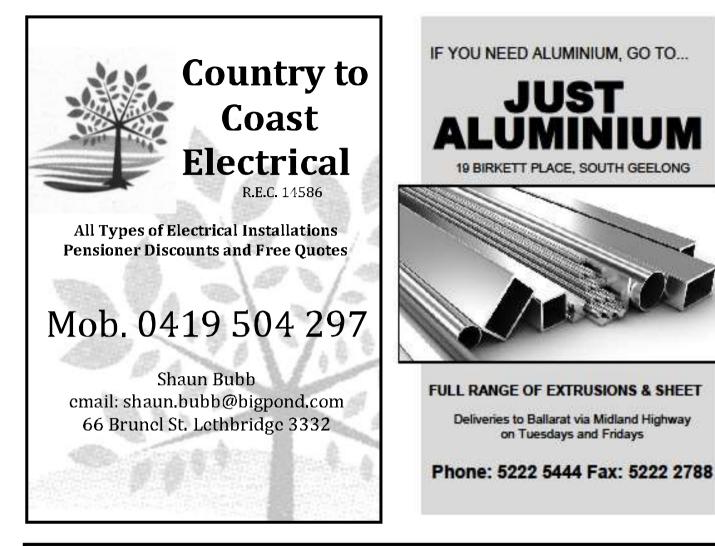
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The Things We Say

"Mad as a Hatter"

While this saying conjures up visions of a strange character living in Wonderland, the origins of this phrase are widely attributed to the 17th-19th centuries. The use of mercury in hat making during this time apparently made hat makers tremble and appear insane. Alternatively, some attribute this phrase to the fact that mercury could cause anti-social and aggressive behaviour in the hatters, with 'mad' being a reference to anger rather than insanity. Numerous less probable origins have been attributed to this saying over the years but all point to the same conclusion; that being mad as a hatter isn't as magical as Alice made it seem.

Gemma Hanan

47

LTA

MAR rain



Two beautiful pics: Cathy Boer's watchful kookaburra and Kerry Thomson's bejewelled sundew.

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Haddon Community Centre: Monday 23rd April, 30th April, 7th May, 14th May, 21st May, 28th May

Meredith Community Centre: Tuesday 24th April, 1st May, 8th May, 15th May, 22nd May, 29th May





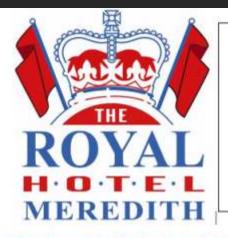




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