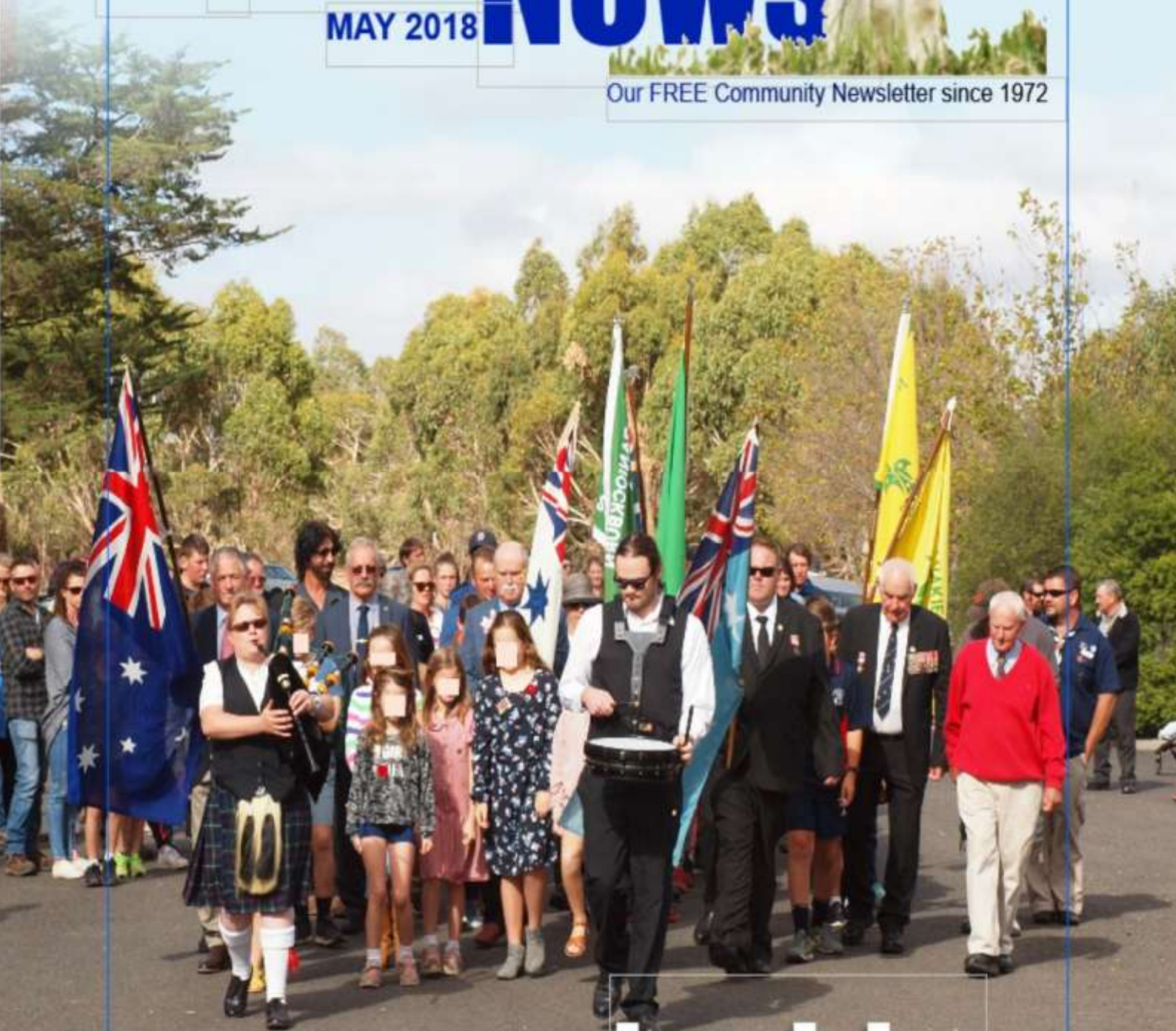


Meredith & district News

MAY 2018

Our FREE Community Newsletter since 1972



inside

- Have Your Say on Council Budget
- Pick-My-Project Community Grants
- Sydney or the Bush?

and the usual MUNCH MORE!





BANNOCKBURN CHILDREN'S SERVICE VACANCIES

Residents who are looking for quality care for their children needn't look further than the Bannockburn Children's Service.

Located at the Bannockburn Family Services Centre, a state-of-the-art Council facility, the Service offers quality early childhood education and care for children from six weeks to five years of age.

The Service includes a Victorian Government-funded four-year-old kindergarten program, delivered by experienced Early Childhood teachers. The service operates from 7am–6pm, Monday to Friday.

Residents who would like to enquire or book are encouraged to contact the Bannockburn Children's Service on 5220 7230.

Meredith & district NEWS



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

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

connect emergency

ADVANCE MEREDITH
5286 1291

ANGLING CLUB
0419 423 960

BLUE LIGHT DISCO
5286 1222

BOOK CLUB
5286 8201

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

CHILDCARE
5286 0700

COMMUNITY CENTRE
5286 0700

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

CUBS & SCOUTS
Anakie 5281 9497

FOOTBALL
Seniors 0408 545 246
Juniors 0430 587 674

GOLF CLUB
5341 5748

HISTORY GROUP
5286 8201

LANDCARE
0409 862 326

MEMORIAL HALL
5286 1251
0435 312 984

MEREDITH LIONS
0473 380 552

MOTORCYCLE CLUB
0437 009 250

PLAYGROUP
5286 0700

POLICE PADDOCKS
5286 1273

RSL
5286 1452

SENIOR CITIZENS
5286 8232

TENNIS
Elaine
0448 291 074
Meredith
5286 1211

SEW 'N' SEWS
5286 0700

FRIENDS OF THE BRISBANE RANGES
5286 1252

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

Justices of the Peace

Mr Don Atherton. 0409 869 960
Mr Paul 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

..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 .

"An optimist sees a glass half full; a pessimist sees a glass half empty, an opportunist just drinks it."





Community

Meredith Senior Citizens

Jim Hynds

On April 16, 2018 Meredith Seniors went to Colac on a bus trip. Foul weather did not stop the Seniors enjoying their first stop at Meredith Park for morning tea, a quiet pleasant place according to members. They were treated to hot tea and coffee and a fantastic array of sandwiches, cakes and slices supplied by members Diane, Carol, Fay and Jenny. Many thanks to them all.

On the road again members toured the Colac Gardens by bus. I might add that our driver Allan made several circuits of the gardens at a slow pace, keeping members out of the foul weather. Good thinking Allan! After touring, members headed for the Colac RSL for lunch.

Those who attended agreed that it was a "pretty darn good lunch". After some members had some Pokies recreation they set off for a tour of the old and famous Mansions, extinct volcanoes with brilliant views and a leisurely drive home. It was a great day.

Meredith Community Plan

The next meeting addressing the Meredith Community Plan is

Tuesday the 8th May at 7.30pm
at the Meredith Community Centre.

At this meeting we will

- Review 2nd draft version and hopefully get it to final version.
- Allocate SEED funding to Projects within the Plan.
- Allocate key people to be Project leads.

If you are interested in the Plan it would be great to see you at this meeting.



Clean Up Australia Day

The Meredith Angling club was part of the Clean Up Australia day by heading to Stoney Creek Reservoir to clean up rubbish. Six Members were present on the day and collected approximately four bags of rubbish. Joe from Barwon Water called past and was impressed with the amount of rubbish collected and wanted to thank those who took part.

The Committee of Management Meredith Community Centre Inc. (A00183180T)

Invites you to

Annual General Meeting

Monday, 21st May 2018

at 10.00am

At the Community Centre, 4 Russell St., Meredith.

The business of the day will be:

- The acceptance of minutes of the Previous Annual Meeting.
- Reports from Executive, Coordinator, Sub-committees.
- Note of thanks to outgoing Committee of Management
- Election of the Committee of Management for 2018/19

*RSPV May 16th 2018 5286 0700 or
email learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au*

Meredith Playgroup

Meredith Playgroup meets every
Thursday from 9.30am

During the School Term

Enjoy new activities every week. 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

Our editorial deadline for 2018 is
2pm Thursday 31st May

Church News



CATHOLIC

St. Joseph's Parish Meredith Mass Times

Parish Priest Father Charles Balnaves phone 52861230.

Mass Times:

Winchelsea 6pm every Saturday.

Bannockburn (at St. Mary MacKillop School) 9am Sunday
May 6th (Family Mass) 9am Sunday May 27th.

Inverleigh 9am Sunday May 13th 9am Sunday May
20th 3pm Sunday May 27th Inverleigh Community Mass
followed by afternoon tea.

Anakie 11am Sunday May 6th 11am Sunday May 20th

Meredith 11am Sunday May 13th 11am Sunday May 27th

First Eucharist at Meredith Sunday June 3rd . 9am Mass 11
am Mass and 2pm Mass for St Mary MacKillop children.

No Mass at Anakie Bannockburn or Inverleigh on that day.

Mother and Daughter Breakfast Saturday May 12th at The
Station Cafe Bannockburn. Bookings essential 52861230.

Swishing Party Fundraiser for St. Mary MacKillop Church
Friday May 11th 7.30pm. at the school. Enquiries 52861230.

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 and pastoral
care. Contact: Rev. Phil Jacobson Ph. 0419 322 385

Church Office, Byron St. Bannockburn 5281 2553

Service Times: Holy Communion at Anglican Church,
Meredith, 11.00am 5th Sundays of the month

Service Times;

Church of Epiphany - Meredith.

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

St James. - Morrisons:

Contact: 0429 146 566 or 5368 2730. The Rev. Glen Wesley
1st Sunday of the month at 5pm, 3rd Sunday of the month at
9am.

UNITING CHURCH

Monthly Combined Holy Communion services.

2nd Sunday, 11am at Meredith Uniting Church

4th Sunday at 11am at Meredith Anglican Church

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

Enquires Doug McFarlane 52861283.

Rev. Lindell Gibson 53413 200

SERBIAN ORTHODOX

Fr. Theodore—Ph. 5341 5568

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



Meredith Drop-In Support for Families

BCYF offers a Drop-In Support Service
in Meredith for families who:

- may be experiencing some challenges and need support
- would like to build their skills as parents
- are keen to find out about other services available for families
- may need further referral to Child First, if required.

You are welcome to drop in to the Meredith
Community Centre,
4 Russell Street, Meredith
No appointment is required.

**Alternate Thursdays - March 8 & 22;
April 19; May 3, 17 & 31; June 14 & 28
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

For more information, please contact
Louise on 0408 920 599

Our Cover

Thank you Ian Murrell, for our cover photo of
this year's Anzac Day Parade in Meredith.



Recreation



Meredith Golf Club 9 HOLE GOLF COMPETITION

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

MG Square Riggers in Meredith

Shirley Reynolds.

On Thursday, March 28th over 40 members of The MG Car Club of Geelong enjoyed lunch at Hearn's Family Meredith Hotel. After morning tea at Batesford they had driven around the Moorabool Valley, up through Steiglitz enjoying the scenery on a beautiful mild sunny day. What made the trip special is that most were travelling in open top MG's from the 30's, 40's and 50's. These older MG's are sometimes named "Square Riggers" as the upright squarish shape of the car body is a little reminiscent of the sailing ships of the past. They made a fabulous sight parked out the front of Hearn's and in the lot behind. Amongst the MG's was a rare 1928 Alvis, a 1920's Vauxhall and a 2017 Mustang.





Bannockburn Pharmacy Newsletter

Proprietors: Scott Wilkes & Damian Bennett

6 High Street Bannockburn VIC 3331

Phone: 5281 1519

Have you had your flu vaccination yet?

It's not too late to have your flu vaccination done through our Vaccination clinic. 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

*** Flu vaccination 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

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.

FREE Hearing Tests

When: **Wednesday 16th May**

Time: **from 10:00am**

Cost: **FREE**

Where: In the pharmacy

To make a booking simply call us on 5281519 or come into the Pharmacy.

Rotary Bowel Scan Kits

Rotary bowelscan kits are now available throughout May.

It is strongly recommended that ALL men and women over the age of 40 have a Bowelscan EVERY YEAR.

If you would like to undertake this screening then please come and buy a Bowelscan kit from the Pharmacy for \$15. The return of completed kits remain the same as last year where they are posted back.

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:	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

Rotary Bowel Scan kits available this month only!



from the **MAYOR**



Cr Helena Kirby
Mayor, Golden Plains Shire

The 2018-19 Budget and reviewed Council Plan is going to Council at the April Council meeting on Tuesday 24 April in Linton. They will be available on our website from Monday 30 April, and a print version will be displayed in our Customer Service Centres (Linton, Bannockburn and Smythesdale) and at the Bannockburn Library. Community input is encouraged; find out more below or visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/budget for more information.

In this edition you can find out about vacancies at the Bannockburn Children's Service. Not only is the Service delivered by experienced Early Years professionals, it is also located at the Bannockburn Family Services Centre which has a large-scale nature play space (the children just love it!).

Council has received enquiries from the community about the future of a number of trees in Inverleigh. While we appreciate the environmental and social importance of the trees in Inverleigh, there are concerns about the safety risks some trees pose on the community, so Council is undertaking an independent arborist's report, which includes a review of the trees' health. Please visit the Council website and search 'Inverleigh trees' to see Council's response to community concerns.

Council encourages those wishing to see a change to the draft Budget to make a submission (in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*). You may request to appear in person or be represented by another a special meeting of Council at 6pm on 12 June 2018 at the Bannockburn Shire Hall. Copies of the draft Budget will be available online at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/budget at the Bannockburn Library and at Council's Bannockburn, Smythesdale and Linton Customer Service Centres from Monday 30 April. Written submissions should be lodged no later than Monday 28 May 2018.

**Bamganie-Meredith
Landcare Group
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**



The Landcare group has applied for funding under the National Landcare - Environmental Small Grants Program. The aim of the Program is to provide funding to local communities to help protect and conserve water, plants and animals within their local area. The application submitted by BMLG is for funding to fence and protect small patches of healthy remnant vegetation, and to protect and enhance stream bank vegetation in the Woodbourne and Wilson's Creek Catchments area.

MAKING MORE FROM TREES ON FARMS

Have you thought about how planting trees could help increase farm production but would like more information? Southern Farming Systems, with support from the Glenelg Hopkins CMA through funding from the National Landcare Program, is running an interactive workshop "Making more from trees on farms" from 9am – 4pm on Tuesday 22nd May 2018 at Hensley Park CFA shed, 1474 Hensley Park Rd Hamilton. Topics covered include how trees on farms can impact farm production, what tree species best suit your situation, whether risk profiles change with having trees on the farm, and what tax breaks and other financing options are available to cover establishment costs. The workshop is free and lunch will be provided. For more information or to register for the workshop contact Michelle McClure on 0488 600 692 or email mmclure@sfs.org.au.

OTHER NEWS:

We are now on Facebook: Bamganie and Meredith District Landcare Group. Visit the page to catch up on Landcare news and events.

Landcare members: Please update your contact details via our new email address: meredithlandcare@gmail.com so that we can pass on information about workshops, courses, field days, grant opportunities and other events that may be of interest to you.

Details of the First Aid course are still being finalised, watch this space!

NEXT MEETING

*The next Bamganie-Meredith Landcare meeting is on
Monday 28 May at 7:30pm at the Meredith Community
Centre. All members as well as new members are very
welcome.*

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www.hydrautech.net.au



Meredith Primary School

ANZAC DAY SPECIAL

What an amazing start to the term we have had so far. Like many other schools, we have had a focus around Anzac day over the last week. The students have had a wonderful time creating our school wreath and producing an amazing mural that was displayed in the hall during the Meredith RSL Anzac Service. We would like to thank all the students and their families for taking the time to participate in the service on Wednesday. We would also like to congratulate Freya, James and Olivia who did a wonderful job speaking during the service.

This term will continue to be a busy one here at Meredith Primary School.

We look forward to sharing more with you over the coming months.



Photo omitted from online version

Andrew Howard's SLIDING DOORS

He woke with a jolt. Scared and shaking, unsure just now about what was real and what was a dream. Caught in a vortex between the sanctuary and safety of sleep and the pure terror of what had become his day to day conscious existence.

It was sad but true that alcohol nearly always delivered him to the sanctuary of sleep, but despite many efforts to prove otherwise he had learnt that the demon drink couldn't save him from the hell of everyday.

Somehow amongst all of this he held a semblance of a functional life together. He had a roof over his head and, my God, even a well-paid job that required at least a pretence of responsibility.

But he knew this couldn't continue. Not sustainable. Not doing himself any favours or for that matter any family, friend or foe that innocently brushed up against his horrible, volatile personality. From once a pleasant enough, if maybe boring, sort of a man he'd become an unpredictable, messed up disaster that no person would have any desire to spend any more time with than necessary. By some small chance of fate, it was only that his job required pure isolation on long stints of field work that he could hold his messed up life together.

It wasn't for him or anyone else to analyse or comprehend the sheer bad luck that had delivered him to this point. It had been a series of rapid fire stuff ups that had, now, found him close to broken.

But not quite broken. Despite himself he knew he had a breath of life left in him, a determination to turn this around for a last chance of redemption. To find within himself the good and happily optimistic man he knew, deep down, was still within. The boy within him hadn't been crushed yet.

Refocus, stop wallowing in self-pity. He picked up the laptop to check for incoming emails. The field test results and reports should have come back to him by now, and all being well; be followed by a substantial payment to top up his terminally ill savings account.

The machine blinked from its own slumber and a long list of unread emails flashed onto the screen. Start from the top.

The very first unread email caught his attention and shocked him out of his stupor. It felt like he'd been struck and stunned by a bolt of lightning. He read the email three times, carefully. There was no doubting the message.

His next email was a notice of resignation to his distant and unknown Manager, effective immediately.



MEREDITH & DISTRICT
LIONS CLUB

Invites you to the Official Opening of
Pioneer Park Playground, Wilson Street, Meredith.

Sunday 27th May 2018

Time: 12.30 pm lunch

2.00 pm Official Opening

BBQ lunch provided

RSVP: Friday 18th May 2018

lionsofmeredithanddistrict@gmail.com



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Geelong Honours Them

Marg Cooper

The legacy of our region's fallen Anzacs will be made accessible to everyone as part of a new heritage project run by Geelong Regional Libraries. 'Geelong Honours Them' will see the digitisation of hundreds of WW1 Honour Boards that are scattered across the region's four local government areas, the Borough of Queenscliffe, City of Greater Geelong, Golden Plains Shire and Surf Coast Shire.

On Wednesday, April 18, 2018 the project was launched by The Hon John Eren, Minister for Veterans at the Geelong Library and Heritage Centre. It was stated that the project will bring together individuals, defence service support organizations and community groups who share a special connection through the Honour Boards of which they are caretakers. The project will spark an opportunity to share the social history and stories about the men and women named on WW1 Honour Boards and preserve local legacy for generations to come. Current and future generations will be able to access these beautiful memorials online.

A seven minute video was shown which included footage taken at Meredith History Centre in March where a camera crew filmed Marg Cooper talking about the Meredith State School Honor Roll. The war history of a soldier who is listed on the State School Honor Roll, Charles Wyatt was explained by his grandniece Rebecca Kearney, also on the video and Glen Grundell spoke of his Uncle who was KIA in Belgium.

Please contact the Heritage Centre if you know where any Honour Boards are and have a look at the web site, 'Geelong Honours Them'.

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In our Nature

Wendy Cook

Victorian Volcanic Plains Grasslands

The untidy pile of dark grey basalt rocks was surrounded by clumps of kangaroo grass, their orange-brown seed heads drooping under the weight of the recent rain. In the spaces between these tussocks were clusters of small leaves of varying shapes spaced across the recently dry ground, little plants hanging on over the summer awaiting this opportunity. A bluebell, its roots shaded under the edge of a rock had sent out sprawling stems, with narrow green leaves spread along them, and at the tops, a few flowers with petals coloured light purple above and yellowish-brown below. As more of autumn's rain falls, the other plants will begin to grow, and in spring this area will be a carpet of green sprinkled with small flowers in yellows, blues, purples, pinks and white. On the rocks, the rain had rehydrated mosses, this morning crispy and brown, now shaggy and green. Lichens of pale green, lime green or grey had unshrivelled and spread, among others of their kind which were little more than orange specks or grey crusts on the rock.

The rocks became gloomier as the sun sank, barely noticed, behind the grey clouds. In a space under the pile was a nest of dry grass. As the world darkened, three small animals about the size of house mice, awakened. Their dark eyes were far larger than those of house mice, as were their ears. Their faces were more pointed and their tails shorter and noticeably thickened towards the base. These native nocturnal creatures were fat-tailed dunnarts. They stored fat in their tails as an energy reserve for hard times. They crept along a passage between the rocks emerging cautiously into the damp world outside their shelter. Snakes were unlikely to be hunting on this cool night, and quolls, now locally extinct, were no longer a threat. Owls were uncommon in the grasslands due to a lack of trees, but feral cats and foxes required the dunnarts to remain wary. They stayed close to the rocks, ready to flee to safety, as they hunted for beetles, spiders, earthworms and other invertebrates. As dawn approached, they retreated to their cosy nest, satisfied and prepared to sleep through the day.


Nearby, a dip between the rocks had maintained a large dark pool of water throughout the dry summer. Although the dunnarts found sufficient moisture in their food, the water was vital for other creatures. The sun, shining now between the scattering clouds, heated the air and basalt boulders surrounding the pool. A Corangamite water skink's darkly striped body shone as it rested on a rock, close to a clump of protecting sedges. It was absorbing warmth prior to a day of hunting insects.

Dragonflies and damselflies skimmed above the water surface. In damp shade under rocks along the water's edge, spotted marsh frogs sheltered from the sun's heat. Their olive-green bodies were marked with deeper green spots and white stripes ran from below each eye to the top of each front leg. They had spent the night hunting aquatic larvae and other water creatures, with the males attempting to attract mates with regular calls of 'pok'.

Near the rock pile, among the kangaroo grass, a long narrow reptile, looking like a small snake, was sunning itself while watching for insects. Behind its dark brown head, a lighter brown stripe ran along its body, edged by darker spots and stripes along its sides. Although it had no legs, it was not a snake and was not venomous. It was a striped legless lizard, once common across the Victorian volcanic plains. Now it, the Corangamite water skink, insects such as the golden sun moth and plants dependent on this habitat are endangered as the grasslands of western Victoria continue to disappear, due to agriculture and urban development. Fat-tailed dunnarts, spotted marsh frogs, and other animals and plants that can adapt to a range of habitats continue to survive. A few small precious areas of grassland are preserved in reserves.

Wendy





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FIRST POINT BULK BILLING CLINIC MEDICAL CENTRE

Meredith Ph: 5274 9090 or 5286 1369

Geelong's First Point Medical Centre has now opened a rural branch at **32 STAUGHTON STREET, MEREDITH**



MEREDITH MEDICAL CENTRE NOW OPEN
NEW PATIENTS WELCOME

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 5 pm
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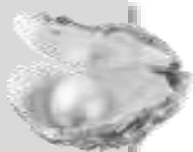
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We are looking forward to meeting members of the local community and assisting with their health care needs.



little
GEMS



Hobby Quest

Coming into the fifth month of the year and bracing for shiver-induced exhaustion, I have been reflecting on what it is that I set out to achieve this year. Among the obvious and cliché objectives such as being fitter, healthier, and maintaining general life organisation, I also took it upon myself to try new things and get some hobbies. There are a few things that I have learnt in my quest for boredom vanquishment that I am willing to share with you here.

One. The internet is not a never ending expanse of entertaining, informative and mind bending wonder. It is a continuous circle of mind-bogglingly repetitive webpages. Ever notice that in your quest to find a new restaurant to go to, that the same three websites keep coming up? The same ones telling you to go to this pizza place that you've been to a million times? Or that the ads on your social media page spookily happen to be advertising that same pizza place? That's because of 'filter bubbles', a phenomenon coined by Eli Pariser that describes how content on your personal devices is chosen for you by algorithms based on your previous searches or social media activity. So the fact that the internet is putting yoga classes in your way doesn't mean it's a sign for you to make a life change, you're just stuck in a filter bubble because you once flirted with the idea before realising that rooms full of bare feet make you nauseous.

Two. Just because everyone else does it and apparently loves it, that doesn't mean you have to or will (read: yoga).

Three. If you discover you're good at something whilst in the midst of a hen's party, that doesn't mean you shouldn't pursue it. One hour of champagne fuelled, giggle filled fun doesn't have to be shrouded in embarrassment and red-faced memories once the party ends. Your hula hooping will get better with practice and a quick internet course (yes...course).

Four. Just because it is on Pinterest doesn't mean that you should make it. And just because you've amassed large colour and theme coordinated boards, that doesn't mean you will be any good at executing a gloat-worthy project.

Five. Jump off the deep end. Why start off small and develop well-honed skills when you can dive head-first into a massive and intricate cross-stitch design project that sees you cursing the person who first put thread through needle? While you might think reasonably about practicing on smaller projects to get the hang of it, your impatience will not put up with that. You will learn on the go and create an immaculate piece of art without any practice what so ever! Even if it takes you all year and much reworking.

However, like many things in this life, there are some things you're better off learning yourself.

Reverse Cockatoo

Jim Elvey

You may be familiar with the habit of cockatoos to station one of their flock on guard to warn against oncoming danger. This even translated into Australian slang where the person on guard was called "the cockatoo". Well, we have experienced an interesting twist on this habit.

We have, for some time, attracted cockatoos to our bird feeding platform in the garden. They arrive, screeching and circling before settling in a nearby tree and then crashing onto the platform making a scattered mess of the husks.

Part of our daily routine is to walk our dog out on the Police Paddocks each morning. On two occasions recently, one of the cockatoos has found us and, after flying low over our heads (screeching, of course) settled on a nearby tree. Then he (or she) follows us, tree by tree, along our walk and back home just to make sure we don't forget our obligation to provide complimentary seed.





AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA PRESENTS

High Tea



At St Joseph's Parish Hall

Lawler Street, Meredith

Our guest speaker is Hailey. Born in Geelong and now living in She Oaks, she was offered a scholarship to the Australian Defence Force Academy, graduating in 2007. Hailey served 8 months in Afghanistan and retired from the Army in 2017 reaching the rank of Captain.

Date: Thursday 17th May 2018

Time: 10.00 am

Cost: \$25

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COUNCIL BUDGET FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

From media release

The 2018-19 draft Budget proposes an average rate increase of 2.25% per assessment. This is in line with the State Government's Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) which has capped rate increases by Victorian councils in 2018-19.

Mayor Cr Helena Kirby says that the Budget answers many of the questions, priorities and concerns raised by the community over recent years.

"This Budget seeks to maintain and improve services and infrastructure as well as deliver projects and services that are valued by our community, within the 2.25% rate increase mandated by the State Government," she said.


"The State-wide recycling crisis has had a significant impact every council in Victoria is required to meet the increase in recycling processing costs. This will unfortunately result in an increase in Golden Plains' ratepayer garbage charge.

The 2018-19 Budget proposes to deliver

- \$15.1M investment in capital assets including roads, streets and infrastructure
- Increased expenditure of \$750K allocated to the construction and maintenance of road and street infrastructure
- \$5.5M to support and develop our recreation and community spaces and groups
- \$2M to human support services, including children, aged, disability and maternity support
- \$1.9M to managing Council's environmental and land use planning responsibilities
- \$1M to managing Council's waste collection and disposal service
- \$543K to support economic development and tourism
- \$5M to the redevelopment of the existing customer service centre in Bannockburn, following an extensive community consultation process that was undertaken during 2017-18.

Make a Submission

Copies of the draft 2018-19 Budget will be available for inspection online at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/budget and at Council's Bannockburn, Smythesdale and Linton Customer Service Centres from Monday 30 April. Written submissions can be made up until Monday 28 May 2018,



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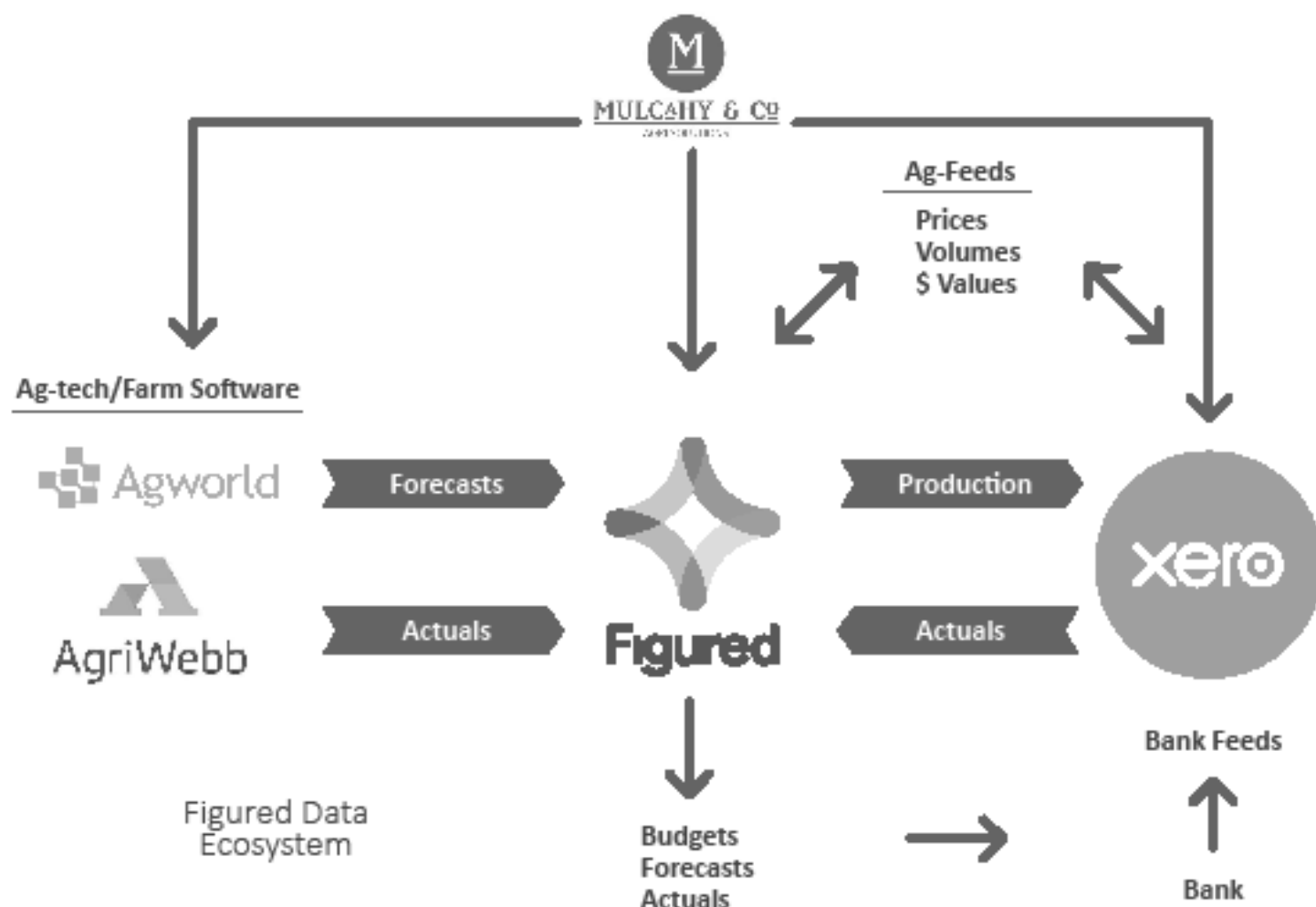
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Please contact Rachael Trickey or Bronte Gorringer to organise a time.



Figured
GOLD PARTNER



His Mother Calls Him Christopher

Marg Cooper

Meredith History Interest Group were invited by Wally to decorate a toilet at the Meredith Music Festival site. Apparently some of the people who attend the festivals often decorate a toilet (one year the friends of a newly married couple brought decorations and other trinkets from the wedding day to share the joy) but Wally had the idea to invite groups to spread their message. On a hot, windy, dusty day before Golden Plains Festival in March 2018 we pasted pages from "Dinkum Dunnies of Meredith" all over the walls of a toilet in a long line of toilets, with title pages and writing, telling who we were. Wally described how queues formed outside C41 to see the display during the Festival!



anymore", but that it also makes the world more interesting. He has become completely absorbed by Philosophy and even dreams about it. After 8 years of studying in Sydney, Melbourne and Germany he was awarded his Doctorate. His thesis was titled "The Politics of Time". Much to his mother's dismay he didn't go to the presentation ceremony because he deemed it "too formal". He hasn't seen a winter for 6 years and intends to return to Germany for a few more years as his girlfriend is also studying for her PhD in Germany.

His other passion is surfing and he catches a wave at every opportunity. At Sandy Point, where he lives, it is quiet and the atmosphere in the water is friendly, whereas at busier beaches surfing can become an aggressive sport. Last year he took the opportunity to surf in Portugal. He also runs long distances at Sandy Point through the bush and along the beach and has completed

fun runs.

Christopher (Wally) Wallace is a tall, thin young man with amazing talents. He is delightfully friendly, honest, calm and thoughtful. He is following his dreams!

Wally, who grew up at Drouin, always wanted to come to the Meredith Music Festival, but somehow didn't get around to it until 2005. He came every year for about 4 years before a friend of his suggested he come and help set up. He said in those days a number of the "set up crew" worked at Mt Hotham or Buller in winter and came down in summer and worked at the Festival. Wally has worked for the Festival for about 9 years and is now in charge of the food stalls, signage and his new role, "organizing for toilets to be decorated".

But Wally is a man of many parts. As a teenager he played basketball and from the age of 12 until 16 he trained 3 or 4 times a week, played games 3 or 4 times a week, played for Dandenong in the State League and played for Victoria. He remembers that "he'd had enough" but after giving it up he grew half a foot. He also played football for Drouin in the Gippsland League until he was 26 years old but a few injuries and other distractions stalled that career.

After he left school he was advised to study for a Degree in Commerce which he says was bad advice from his careers teacher. He studied Commerce at Latrobe University, then worked in a very tall building for 1½ years but realised that wasn't for him so he volunteered for an overseas program funded by the Australian Government. He was supposed to go to Fiji, but that program was cancelled so he was sent to Nepal. He found it extremely interesting but questioned why the mountain people were being forced to entwine themselves in the red tape of international development when they basically lived hand to mouth in isolated villages.

Wally is interested in "things being different to what they are" so he went back to University to study Philosophy. He explains how Philosophy "makes doing ordinary things more difficult because one is always questioning" and that "common sense things don't make sense

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Sporting Champions Grants

from media release

Young athletes can apply for a Local Sporting Champions grant to support their involvement in sport before the deadline closes on June 30."

"These \$500 grants provide financial assistance to athletes, coaches and officials, to go towards travel, accommodation, uniforms or equipment when attending endorsed state, national or international championships."

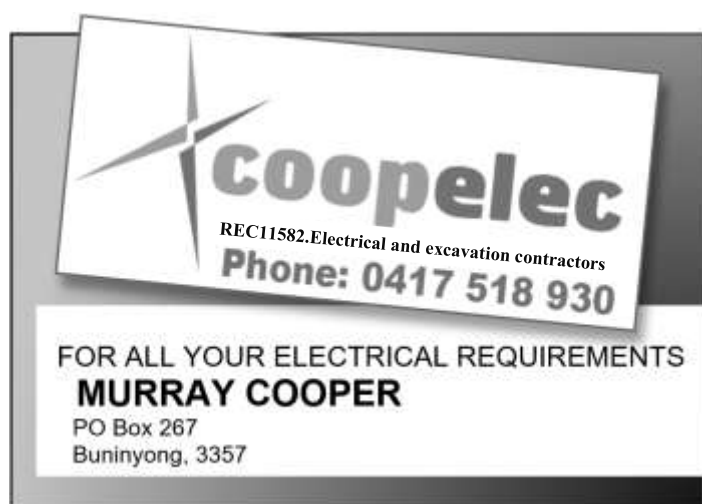
For more information about Local Sporting Champions grants and to apply, visit www.ausport.gov.au/LSC.

Pick-My-Project Community Grants

The Victorian Government is funding local projects across regional Victoria to be chosen by local residents under a new community building fund, which will see locals nominate and decide on their own funding priorities. Pick-My-Project is a grass roots community grants initiative with \$30 million available to fund local projects across the State. Come up with an idea, vote for your favourites and make your community an even better place to live! From May 2018, all you'll need is a project idea to improve your neighbourhood and an eligible partner such as a registered community organisation, school or local Council to help deliver your idea.

For more info and to register for email updates, go to pickmyproject.vic.gov.au. Make sure you also join our Facebook page – facebook.com/pickmyproject/.

Get talking, spread the word and start thinking about your great idea! Ideas could include things like upgrades or funding for sporting and recreation activities, improving health and wellbeing, innovation and technology, community arts or cultural projects, or ideas that improve community and bring people together. Submit your ideas from May 2018, with winning projects to be announced in September 2018. More info: email contact@engage.vic.gov.au or call 1800 797 818.



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MAN COOK EAT



Steve Duffy

Food & Philosophy

"The Philosopher in the Kitchen", written in 1825, is the work of the Mayor of Belley, in provincial France. It is seen as one of the great works on food, gastronomy and culinary excellence. The author's name is Jean-Anthelme Brillat-Savarin. His influence is still evident today.

What is interesting about his writings is that he sees the necessary act of eating as not merely an act of survival, but rather a social, even artistic activity. "Animals feed, man eats: only the man of intellect knows how to eat." He was the first to surmise: "Tell me what you eat; I'll tell you what you are." Another quote I like is: "The pleasures of the table belong to all times and all ages, to every country and every day; they go hand in hand with all other pleasures, outlast them, and remain to console us of their loss"

Last week, I recalled Mr Brillat-Savarin, as I thought about an upcoming engagement I was looking forward to: a dinner invitation from an old, old friend. Indeed, someone with whom I had worked in hospitality years ago. As I dressed for dinner and raided the cellar for something special, I didn't have to think about the role of host and guest that were to be played out; suffice to say Brillat-Savarin's philosophy has become second nature to me, having been seriously involved in designing the dining experience for a long time, as a cook and a chef.

Both the Guest and the Host can enhance the experience of the communal table. The host's preparation and presentation are always worth the effort. Take responsibility for the ambience, best not to experiment with a new dish; choose recipes you have confidence with. The guest's contribution and enjoyment help elevate the experience: choose a special wine to share or bring a little gift or flowers. But it does not mean it should be formal and stiff. Both parties have a responsibility to drive the success of the event. These moments can be the real stuff of life. A pleasant pause in our rush to the next thing we have to do!

Good Eating - Steve

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A Way of Life

by KERRIE KRUGER



A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO A MORE SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE

What a month April has been, with sunny days, foggy mornings and crisp cool evenings. Bliss except for lack of rain and the continual annoyance of the flies!

This month we got to chat all things chickens at our Backyard Chicken Living Workshop. What a lovely afternoon we had encouraging and providing information to those wanting to live with chickens in their backyards. A part of our workshop covers healthcare, that prevention better than cure, natural health care is better than chemical based one....so lots of herbs uses are discussed. (See panel.) Depending on which herb and what we are treating they may be used as strewing, in feed or water or as a tonic.

Then the next day I attended an Herbal workshop in Meredith. We covered 20 different herbs including cleavers, marshmallow and plantain, yes plants some describe as weeds, and made our own personal tonic blend.

Herbs are used in maintaining health, we grow a few and many "weeds" are left to grow naturally for harvesting, (especially for our chickens) I now want to grow more and spend time exploring traditional herbal wisdom and lore of herb use. I feel that if we can lessen our family's dependence on pharmaceutical medicines for common ailments, such as sore throats, minor cuts, bruises and headaches, this would be another step in our self-reliant lifestyle.

Speaking self-reliant, this leads me to Acorns. There is an abundance of them in Meredith and we must be able to utilise them somehow! Apparently, a raw acorn is bitter, tannic, vile and poisonous. But are also rich in nutrients containing large amounts of protein, carbohydrates and fats, as well as the minerals calcium, phosphorus and potassium, and the vitamin niacin.

Hogs/Pigs are fed them, but what about us and chickens? Well we can eat them as acorn flour, but it is a long process. So maybe chook food? The research indicates that to feed acorns to chickens we need to remove the tannins, which is achieved by cooking or running through water such as a stream for several weeks. Since we don't have a stream let alone a running one, let's go with the cooking method. (see box)

On the toxicity the research indicates that it is unlikely to kill a chicken unless restricted from getting other foods, so do not use them as sole or main feed source, they are to be used as a special treat.

So now you know what we are doing when you see us collecting acorns in Staughton Street.

Also, this month we need to complete sowing of: broad beans, carrots, fennel, garlic, kale, lettuce, onions, parsley, peas, radish, silverbeet, spinach and turnips.

Other things we need to complete are to save seeds from last season's crops, and of course to complete harvesting and drying the summer herbs for winter use..

Some Herbs for Chicken Health

Basil- Used for mucus membrane health and has antibacterial properties

Catnip- Repels insects and used as a sedative/relaxant

Dill- Respiratory health, antioxidant properties, sedative/relaxant

Fennel- Enhances reproductive health (egg laying)

Garlic- Enhances reproductive health (egg laying) / helps control parasites

Lavender- Smells wonderful, lowers stress, circulatory health, , insect repellent

Lemon Balm- Smells nice in the coop, lowers stress, antibacterial, repels rodents

Marigold- Enhances reproductive health (egg laying)

Mint- Used in nest/coop -(all kinds) - insecticide and rodent repellent

Nasturtium- Enhances reproductive health (egg laying), antiseptic, antibiotic, insecticide, de-wormer

Parsley- Promotes circulatory system development, enhances reproductive health (egg laying), rich in vitamins

Pineapple Sage- Promotes nervous system health, smells wonderful

Rosemary- Pain relief, respiratory health, insect repellent

Sage- Antioxidant, helps control parasites,

Thyme- Promotes respiratory health, antioxidant, has antibacterial properties, helps control parasites

Use of herbs is dependant on treatment required- as strewing, on feed or water or tonic



Acorn Treatment for Chicken Treats

- Collect acorns
 - Submerge in water (discard floaters)
 - Leach your acorns to draw out tannins. Bring two large pots to the boil. Pour the acorns into one pot and let it boil until the water turns dark, usually about 15 minutes. Carefully transfer the acorns to the second pot of boiling and boil the nuts about 15 minutes.
 - While still hot crack the shell (towel and hammer method works well)
 - Remove husk from nut meat
- Feed to chickens as treat food.



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Lest We Forget John Richards No. 1966

Marg Cooper

John Richards b. 1897 was the son of Daniel and Mary Jane (Janet) Richards. He was the eldest of 5 boys – John, George, Willis, Hector and Alick. He lived on the property called “Glen Oaks” on the She Oaks – Maude Road. John’s mother Janet was only 39 years old when she died leaving a very young family. John’s aunt Annie had been caring for John’s grandfather on a property called “Dungers” on the Steiglitz – She Oaks Road until he died in 1901. She married Arthur Condor in 1902 and built a cottage at the Five Mile. John was virtually raised by his aunt. John corresponded regularly with her while he was at war. [Extracts of his letters are included in “Meredith World War 1 Soldiers” Book.]

On 2/7/1918 he wrote to Aunt Annie: “Back on the line again. In the Infantry – I don’t go much on this trench life. During the day we would manage to boil the billy to make a cup of tea. There is an art in trench cooking. We were ordered to sleep in the cellar of the building. We were billeted. About 5 o’clock that evening Fritz landed his goods right under our room. My mate and I were next door cleaning out rubbish. We found all our gear but it had been badly damaged, so we were very lucky. I think that by the next time I write to you I will have something to tell you one way or the other. The other day we all got a nice little box from the Comforts Fund containing tea, cocoa, tobacco, cigarettes and a few sweets. Mine was from Tasmania and had a note from the one who sent it.

I remain, Your loving nephew, John Richards.”

When he enlisted he was 20 years 4 months of age, was 5 feet 6¼ inches tall, weighed 9 stone 10 pounds, had a medium complexion, brown eyes, brown hair, was single and Presbyterian. He had gone to State School in Victoria. He was examined at Geelong on 15/5/1916 after he enlisted. He needed dental attention. He was a farmer.

On 15/5/1916 he took the Oath in Geelong. On 29/5/1916 he joined the Military Camp at Seymour. On 20/10/1916 he embarked on the ship “Borda”. On 9/1/1917 he disembarked at Plymouth, England. On 10/1/1917 he was admitted to Military Hospital, Devonport.

On 21/1/1917 he was transferred to Tidworth Hospital (influenza)

On 4/3/1917 he was in Delhi hospital (Bronchitis) On 19/11/1917 he was transferred to artillery at Heytesbury

On 3/3/1918 he proceeded to France. On 11/5/1918 he was transferred to Gunner 4th Div. Trench Mortar Battery

On 6/7/1918 he was Killed in Action at the Battle of Hamel. He was buried 100 yards away. Cross erected. He was reburied at Villers – Brettoneux Military Cemetery, France.



He had been in France with the Battery for 2½ years. John Richards was buried with 6 others. There were 80 men in the Battery.

A photo of Gunner Richards was found in the vault in the old Shire Hall/Kindergarten in 2002 with some other photos and the Bamganie Honor Roll. The photo now hangs in the Golden Plains Shire Offices at Bannockburn (the bluestone building).



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Motorists are advised that Deviation Road at Fyansford will be temporarily closed while VicRoads begins construction on a new roundabout at the intersection of the Hamilton Highway, Hyland Street and Deviation Road.

From Monday, 16th April, Deviation Road will be closed to Geelong-bound traffic for eight weeks. The road will then be closed to all traffic until Friday, 29 June.

During this time a signed detour route will be available to motorists via Hyland Street, McCurdy Road, Autumn Street and Minerva Road. Heavy vehicles can travel via Hyland Street, McCurdy Road, Church Street and Vines Road. “While works are underway, there will be speed restrictions and traffic management in place. Construction is expected to be completed by late 2018.

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Sydney or the Bush?

Marg Cooper

Veronica and John Watson, who have come to live in Lethbridge, lived almost parallel lives. They both grew up in Melbourne and moved to Sydney in their twenties and lived in the Neutral Bay area, but didn't meet until years later.

Veronica has worked in the exciting advertising industry in Sydney in the 1980's, when, as she says, the money spent was unbelievable to the point of being "ridiculously obscene".

Later in the 80's it was the computer industry, when PC's were just starting to get some momentum, so Veronica's working life was had always been fascinating and interesting. Her then husband was an entrepreneur, involved in the film industry, world famous K-Tel, and marketing. Many years were spent developing creative sales promotions and advertising campaigns for major retail companies. Life with an entrepreneur was a roller coaster: some days they were rich and some days they were poor! The successes were great but the failures devastating.

John moved to Sydney in 1979 with his band "The Watsons" because that was where it was all happening. His first wife Jenene was a singer and regular performer on the Don Lane Show. John has been a professional musician since he was 17 years old and developed the famous Minsky's Piano Bar in Sydney over the last 34 years.

Coincidentally, Veronica's grandmother and John's grandfather had both lived in Creswick. When Veronica was young she attended annual reunions of the Old Creswick Association where she especially remembers singing "Old Lang Syne".

Veronica met John when friends invited him to a meal. The rest is history! It is interesting that they both always saw Sydney as a workplace and missed Melbourne.

Veronica has a passion for helping people with health problems and feels honoured to be trusted to work with them. Thirty years ago Veronica was one of the first to attend a course in America called Neuro Linguistic Programming. She wrote training programmes, including "The Gentle Art of Power Flirting", long before Internet dating! The aim was to build confidence in people and teach them that it is not what you say but the way you say it.



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STEVE and PETE GOAT

Steve Goat Chews over a Book

I've been reading "The Call of the Reed Warbler" by Charles Massy. With the Subtitle "A new Agriculture, a New Earth" Massy's opus (600 pages) makes the argument for "regenerative farm practice" while learning the lessons of the 60,000 years of human occupation and management of this fragile continent. Upon release earlier this year, it was received well by the critics, including the Australian's Chief Literary Critic, Geordie Williamson, who called the book "hugely consequential", pointing to Massy's wide experience as a Merino Stud farmer on the Monaro, a wool classer and merino ram advisor working right across the continent.

This all-encompassing work tackles the big issues of ecosystem degradation and climate change. His vision is not only country wide but appreciative of the deep past. He travels far and wide talking to and telling the stories of some of the over 60,000 farmers and practitioners of what can loosely be called regenerative farming. But, as Williamson says: "the book is no black armband vision of Australia", and he "is fully cognisant of the threat posed by changing climate".

You can see him in conversation with Costa Geordiadis, from the ABC Gardening Show, on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xlc-5gnbaQ>

Climate Change is happening. Fire seasons are getting longer all around the Globe, High Temperature records are being broken every year. Rain patterns are haywire. But Massy maintains there is a way forward; new ecological understanding, chemical free regimes, soil health are but a few of the methodologies at our disposal. Here, Massy talks to the protagonists and their differing approaches.

Recommended!

Pete Goat

A few weeks ago I went to the LAKE BOLAC EEL FESTIVAL for the first time. The festival has been going, now every second year, for twelve years and was initiated by Neil Murray, amongst others. Neil was a member of the famous Warumpi Band from the 1980's in the NT (and touring the world), perhaps best known for their song "My Island Home". After all his time up north Neil thought he'd better go back to his home town of Lake Bolac and reconnect with and learn more about that country and out of that came "Healing Walks" up the Hopkins River following the migration of the short finned eel ...and then the festival.

Lake Bolac is in Djabwurrung Country, which adjoins Waddawurrung country to the east of Fiery Creek at Streatham. Uncle Ted Lovett, Djabwurrung Elder welcomed us: *Gnokan Danna Murra Burra Koe-ki. Nahwalikai Kailu Djabwurrung: Give me your hand my*

friend so we can bridge the cultural gap. Welcome to Djabwurrung Country.

So this was a festival about culture, but in particular about the inseparable connection of culture with country and with and between communities. That culture was explored and expressed in forums, in music, painting, dance, food and film.

What impressed me about the festival was the scale of it (not too big), the mix of the program and the mix of people attending. There is a core of local people (who run it) and lot from Warrnambool, Hamilton and Ararat areas as well as Geelong, Ballarat Melbourne and elsewhere. A mix of city and country, aboriginal and non-aboriginal performers, artists, dancers, farmers, ecologists, catchment managers, craftspeople, musicians and educators. There were even Tibetan Monks who catered for the Friday night dinner, a fantastic dance band "Eight Foot Felix" who would not have been out of place in Berlin...and then there was the rest of us. But by the end of the weekend, you had the feeling you just about knew everyone there.

Where did eels come into it? Well, on Saturday night, just after dark, was the festival highlight: on a circle of sand by the lake, surrounded by the spellbound audience, a group of young dancers celebrated the Migration of the Eels, as would have been done many thousands of times before in that place...it was a very special experience. And earlier in the day I had eaten the most delicious grilled eel, personally cooked and served by Neil Murray himself!

Steve Goat has written about Charles Massy's book, which I too have just read, and regenerative farming was very much one of the themes discussed at the festival. Caring for country and especially waterways, wetlands and the ecosystems they support. Massy is coming to speak in Hamilton later this year, I was told.

As Uncle Ted Lovett said "... the Festival continues to bring people from all walks of life out on to Country to gather by the water on sacred lands; to this place where we SHARE, LEARN, REMEMBER AND WE CELEBRATE - A PLACE WHERE WE MEET IN FRIENDSHIP." Thanks, Uncle Ted, for sharing your Country and Culture.



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Prep time 20 mins + Cooking Time 15 mins

Serves 4

Ingredients

- 300g dried pasta
- 2 tbs olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 2 long fresh red chillies, thinly sliced
- 400g peeled green prawns, tails intact
- 375g cherry tomatoes, halved
- 3 cups rocket leaves

Method

Cook pasta in a large saucepan of boiling water following packet instructions, or until tender.

Meanwhile heat oil in a deep non-stick frying pan over medium-high heat. Cook garlic and chilli for 30 seconds or until fragrant. Add prawns and cherry tomatoes. Cook, stirring for 4-5 minutes or until prawns change colour and are just cooked through. Remove from heat.

Add pasta and rocket to prawn mixture. Toss to combine.

Season with salt and pepper and serve with extra chilli (optional) and parmesan (optional).

Recipe from -WW MyWeek

Stefania



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Meredith POLICE news



Welcome all readers of the Meredith and district newsletter.

Over recent months I have attended and investigated a staggering number of motor vehicle accidents which include a fatal and a life threatening collision. Since January I have attended at seven separate accidents in total many of which involve driver distraction, fatigue or alcohol and drug use by the driver. A serious collision will not only affect the driver and passengers but also has far reaching effects on family and friends of the injured parties.

In late February I intercepted a 39 year old male driver in Wallace Street, Meredith that stumbled from his vehicle due to his state of intoxication. His reading was in fact 3 times the legal limit. As a police officer of 30 years' experience I realise more than ever that driving a motor vehicle in this state of intoxication will affect him and inevitably some other innocent driver at some point. This male's licence was immediately suspended and he will face the Geelong Magistrates court in June.

Between January and April in 2018, an un-registered and restored 'T' model Ford has been stolen from a property on Steiglitz Road Meredith. The property is somewhat remote and only attended by the female victim on occasions as there is no house on the 20 acre property. The vehicle was left to her by her father and was being stored in a shed on the property. The shed is approximately 500 metres off the road and cannot be seen from the road and the entrance is well overgrown leading me to a conclusion that local knowledge has no doubt played a part in this theft. I have had Crime Scene Police attend and conduct a thorough scene investigation however I would encourage anyone with information to contact me.

A significant burglary occurred in Doyles Road, Elaine between the 11th and the 13th of April where a significant quantity of machinery and workshop items and a Mig Welder were stolen. Offenders cut a fence to an adjoining property where they used a vehicle to travel parallel in the adjoining property to a point where they have gained access to the victim's shed nearby the fence line. In excess of \$10,000 worth of items were stolen. This property also is located in a remote area with no neighbouring properties.

Finally and most recently a Burglary occurred at the Meredith Golf Club overnight on the 19th April where items were stolen from the clubs machinery shed. Item valued at \$300 including a compressor and hand winch were stolen.

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

Kindest Regards

Greg KITCHEN

Officer in Charge – Meredith Police Station.

Premier's Sustainability Awards

media release

Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) is encouraging businesses, government organisations, community groups and individuals who have shown leadership in environmental protection to enter the 2018 Premier's Sustainability Awards.

EPA is sponsoring the Environmental Protection award that acknowledges excellence in work that proactively prevents harm to Victoria's environment and people from pollution or waste.

EPA Chief Executive Officer, Nial Finegan said the award category is one of 10 awards, which recognise Victorians who are helping to build a sustainable future.

"Environmental protection means different things to different people, but increasingly it's about sustainability and doing what we can to support a healthy environment – now and into the future," Mr Finegan said.

"As Victoria's environmental regulator, it's EPA's job to work with Victorians – from large business to community groups and individuals – to help them understand and contribute to protecting the beautiful environment we all enjoy.

"The Environmental Protection Award is about acknowledging those who are stepping up to play their part and profiling projects that are preventing or reducing harm to our environment and communities from pollution and waste."

Eligible entries can include initiatives that prevent harm through specially developed technology or equipment; changes in practices and processes; and education programs, resources or activities that have informed the community or businesses and helped people be active participants in protecting their environments.

"We encourage any eligible group or individual who has reduced environmental impact or come up with new and more sustainable ways of protecting our precious environment to enter," Mr Finegan said.

Finalist in the 2017 Environmental Protection category, Yarra Valley Water, constructed a waste to energy facility next to the Aurora Sewage Treatment and Recycled Water Treatment Plants in Melbourne's north to combat the effects of drought. One hundred tonnes of commercial organic and food waste, previously destined for landfill, is being processed every day into biogas via anaerobic digestion.

Entries for the Premier's Sustainability Awards close at 5pm on Thursday 7 June. Finalists will be announced in mid-August and invited to attend the awards ceremony on Thursday 11 October. To enter and for more information, visit www.sustainabilityawards.vic.gov.au



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it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

Life with Sheila:

On Sunday, April 22 Emma Muir (Molesworth) entertained us with stories about her grandmother Sheila Molesworth. She told us that Sheila grew up at "The Wilderness" at Coleraine, was married to Bob Molesworth in 1940, came to live at "Ballark" in the early 1950's, had a family of four children, her grandchildren called her "Gant" and she was sadly missed when she died.

Emma grew up at "Ballark" and has masses of memories. She had been inspired to make a book about Sheila which contained photos, recipes, invitations (often recipes were written on the back of invitations), cuttings and memorabilia. Emma remembered that Sheila was almost a full time volunteer, was very involved in Red Cross and Guiding, loved flowers and her garden, cooked a roast every day for lunch, loved big dinner parties, never carried money, was a good judge of horses, took the grandchildren on holidays and shopping in Melbourne, made every grandchild feel that they were her favourite, collected decorative eggs, had a huge work ethic and was the mesh that kept the family together.

Thank you Emma for sharing your memories with us.

Shire Visit:

On Thursday, April 19 we welcomed the CEO of Golden Plains Shire Eric Braslis, Director of Community Services Jill Evans, Director of Assets and Amenity Greg Anders and Golden Plains Mayor Helena Kirby, to tell them that we are delighted to have the old Shire Hall as our home, to show them what we do and how we had set up the space. As the property is owned by the shire and requires continual maintenance they were concerned with how we could make it pay. We explained that we are volunteers who want to be absorbed in history, not cooking scones for a street stall. To be resolved!

London Times

"Mr Henry Davison was proprietor and editor of the "Meredith Sentinel" when he died in 1911, aged 60 years. He was born in London and was educated at one of the English Public Schools. As a young man he was on the staff of the London Times as Parliamentary Reporter and could tell many a tale of stirring debates of the days of Disraeli and Gladstone. In 1884 he came to Australia and for four or five years was engaged in journalist work in Queensland. Afterwards he came to Victoria, being first connected with the Herald and subsequently with the Geelong Advertiser for about twelve years. For many years he has been a well-known figure in Meredith and district where he came and settled about nine years ago. Just over three years ago he took over the "Meredith Sentinel and Steiglitz Miner" and worked it up to a very respectable country newspaper."

Geelong Advertiser, Wednesday, February 8, 1911.

CHARGE OF MURDER AGAINST AN HOTELKEEPER

MELBOURNE, Thursday. — The police investigations of the tragedy at Elaine, whereby Michael Fahey was fatally shot at closing time on Wednesday. The licensee, Henry Grey, in a statement to the police, declared that he had difficulty in persuading Fahey to leave the premises. He threatened to send for the police, but eventually ejected him forcibly. Fahey returned shortly afterwards with an axe, and shouted as he approached the rear of the hotel "That nothing would stop him." Grey went to the door armed with a loaded revolver and warned Fahey that if he attempted to force an entrance he would shoot him. Fahey replied, "You are not game to shoot." Fahey carried out his threat by smashing two of the hotel doors with the axe. Grey then fired two shots, which took a fatal effect in Fahey's chest. A storekeeper named Stalker came upon the scene, and called to Grey to desist. At Grey's suggestion the police were sent for, and he was arrested.

Grey was brought before the Geelong court to-day, charged with murder, and remanded until January 3. Bail was refused.

*Daily Telegraph (Launceston, Tas.
Friday 29 December 1922*

THE ELAINE TRAGEDY. February 19. In the Supreme Court at Geelong on Friday, Henry Gray, was charged with having murdered Michael Fahey, at Elaine on 27th December.

After a short retirement, the jury returned a verdict of not guilty either of murder or manslaughter.

*The Telegraph (Brisbane, Qld.
Tuesday 20 February 1923*

Jan McDonald, Meredith History Interest Group



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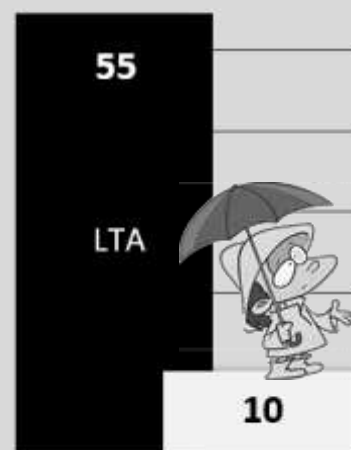


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Marg's Book Review

"First person" by Richard Flanagan

The book is described as "a haunting journey into the heart of our age".

Everything that was certain grew uncertain, I learnt that the less I told them the more they made up, there were puddles of arguments drowned in a sea of nonsense, telling lies was liberating and exciting offering the possibilities of unknown freedoms, the truth was unknowable.

Kif Kehlmann, a young Tasmanian who struggles to provide for his wife, pregnant with twins and his three year old daughter and who has ambitions to be an author is offered a job to ghost write the autobiography of a notorious fraudster who is about to go on trial accused of stealing millions of dollars. The subject, Siegfried Heidl is elusive, a chameleon, manipulative, charming and ruthless. He wasn't conventional, he was a man ceaselessly self-making. He gives nothing of substance away but hints at connections, CIA and shadowy cabals. Kif described being with Heidl was like eating ice-cream which turns into deodorant and then into an echidna.

The ghost writer is continually frustrated and wondered if he could complete writing the book. He was also concerned that Heidl's "spirit of darkness that seemed to determine his world" was seeping into Kif's thinking. There was no way to stop the story becoming his. The job was a nightmare but he did complete it in time. "He decided that where the book had an accidental collision with known facts he would make sure that it was a successful hit and run and if not he couldn't be found out as being wrong".

It seems improbable but in the early 1990's the author of this book "*First Person*" Richard Flanagan, who had a wife expecting twins, a young daughter and aspired to be a writer was hired by fraudster John Friedrich to ghost write his autobiography in six weeks for \$10,000, pending his trial for a fraud involving almost 300 million Australian dollars. Friedrich had begun working for National Safety Council of Australia in January 1977, became executive Director in 1982 and began to transform it into a national search and rescue organization. He built up the company with loans from 27 banks with little more surety than Friedrich's word. He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia. Following the financial collapse of NSCA in 1989 Friedrich went into hiding. In subsequent investigations it was found he was not an Australian Citizen, did not possess any valid birth certificate and did not appear on any electoral roll. This caused much embarrassment to the Australian Government.

This reader was continually frustrated and I wondered if I could complete reading the book. When I discovered that Richard Flanagan actually recounted his own experience of writing a book about a fraudster who wouldn't tell anything, it made a lot more sense to me.

"Maybe the lesson learnt is that for every con man born so are thousands, who are born to be deceived."

The book for discussion in May is "*The Sound of One Hand Clapping*" also by Richard Flanagan.

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The Things We Say

Gemma Hanan

The Devil is in the Detail

Referring to a catch or mysterious element that can be found amongst the details, this phrase is an alteration of what is thought to be the original saying 'God is in the detail'. The original's meaning was that paying attention to small details can result in a bigger reward, drawing comparisons to the more modern version being used as a caution to pay attention in order to avoid failure. Becoming a popular saying in the 1960s, 'the devil is in the details' has lived on to become a cautionary phrase reminding us to pay attention to the fine print...even if it's hard to read



Kinder News

Our start to term two has been positive with the children settling back into the kinder groove with ease. We welcomed Lisa Fraser to the Meredith staff team who will be working with Kylie in the Pre kinder group. We had the annual kinder photos in the first week back and in the second week we had the NQS assessment and ratings visit by the Department. It was a big day for staff but we had a great day, the children were very engaged and the weather was very calm! Thanks to Rebecca for coming in to help the kinder children make an Anzac Day wreath and thanks to Louisa for representing the kinder at the Anzac memorial.

We have had new outdoor Awnings installed on the deck thanks to the committee and a grant fund, our outdoor yard looks very inviting to play after new sand and tan bark were laid out during the holidays and a garden tidy up.

The pink eucalyptus tree is flowering and full of buzzing bees and the deciduous trees are showing their Autumn colours. Hopefully the rain is on its way soon but in the meantime we are still wearing the sunscreen on these warm autumn days. Mother's Day is next on the kinder agenda so we are planning the making of gifts and special things for all the kinder mums and caregivers.

The kinder group is having an African Drumming excursion on the 8 th May which will be upbeat, loud and interactive, we can't wait !

- Jodie, Mandy and Kylie



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