

JULY 2018

Meredith & district News

Our FREE Community Newsletter since 1972



Lots of colour and
the Community
Centre Program
Lift-Out Inside



inside

- South West Country Roads get a Boost
- Managing Dairy Effluent (*You won't read that in the metro press!*)
- Wind Farm Industry Briefing

...and the usual MUCH MORE!

e: news@meredithnews.com.au w: meredithnews.com.au



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- Record keeping principles
- Where to go for help and information when you need it.

Smythesdale Workshops

Workshop 1 of 2: Thursday July 19, 1.00pm to 3.00pm at the Smythesdale Well

Workshop 2 of 2: Thursday July 26, 1.00pm to 4.00pm at the Smythesdale Well

Bookings: goldenplains.vic.gov.au/business

or call Michael Cosgriff, Council's Economic Development Officer on 5220 7111.

For other great upcoming events – training, mentoring and networking, visit.

goldenplains.vic.gov.au/business



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enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au

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@GPSCouncilNews

YMCA Bike Ed Program



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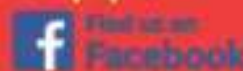
Monday 9th & Tuesday 10th July 2018

8.30am - 5.30pm.

Cost: \$120

**\$20 DISCOUNT
to the first
30 participants**

Thanks to Golden Plains
Shire Active
Transport Initiative.



YMCA Bannockburn 132 Milton Street, Bannockburn 3331 ☎ 5281 2316
TO BOOK GO TO: geelongtickets.com.au/event/7343

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 ads and submissions must be lodged by 9.00 am on 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
Advertising: Ian 0409 016815
advertising@meredithnews.com.au
Accounts: Dawn 0428 861274
accounts@meredithnews.com.au
Editorial: Jim 0409 163169
news@meredithnews.com.au

WEB

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

ONLINE PHOTOS

We do not publish children's photos online.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

DISCLAIMER

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

connect

ADVANCE
MEREDITH
5286 1291

ANGLING CLUB
0419 423 960

BLUE LIGHT DISCO
5286 1222

BOOK CLUB
5286 8201

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

CHILDCARE
5286 0700

COMMUNITY
CENTRE
5286 0700

CRICKET
Elaine
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

emergency

Police, Ambulance, Fire	000
(from mobile phone)	000 or 112
Meredith Police Station	5286 1222
Power Failure	132 412
Nurse-On-Call	1300 608024
Mental Health Advice	1300 280 737
Poisons Information	13 11 26
Barwon Water	1300 656 007
SES Emergency -	
flood & storm	132 500
24 Hour Helpline	1800 629 572
24 Hour Drug &	
Alcohol Counselling	1800 888 236
Kids Help Line	
24hr 5-18yo	1800 551 800
Golden Plains Shire	1300 383 036
A.H. Emergencies	0408 508 635
Ranger	5220 7111 or
	0409 830 223
Bannockburn Vet	5281 1221
Golden Plains Vet	5281 2226
Injured Wildlife	0429 430 646
Pets and Horses 24/7	0421 617 23

Justices of the Peace

Mr Don Atherton. 0409 869 980
Mr Paul Ryan Elaine. 0409 861 296

services

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HALL HIRE	5220 7230
Meredith Memorial	PRE-SCHOOL
5286 1251	5286 0722
Elaine Mechanics	PRIMARY SCHOOL
5341 5596	5286 1313
Elaine Rec Res	RECREATION
5341 5703	RESERVE
LIBRARY VAN	0429 841399
5272 6010	

..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.



I have found that if you love life, life will love you back.

- Arthur Rubinstein.



Community

Meredith POLICE news



Well thankfully motor vehicle collisions have slowed down over the past few weeks and certainly since my last report however I did attend the scene of a collision this week where a young "P" plater's vehicle left the road on the Ballan – Geelong Road at Durdidwarah where she was attempting to avoid a kangaroo. Amazingly and thankfully the young female driver was not injured after her car glanced a tree at 100 kph.

I can very happily report that crime in general has stayed very low around the Meredith district over recent months however In early June I was approached by a local Meredith victim who reported that she was being targeted by a male attempting to have her accept and use illegal and very dangerous drugs. I sincerely applaud the courage of this person for contacting me and having me commence an investigation into the activities of the 52 year old male from Bell Post Hill.

As a result of a brief but intensive investigation I arrested the male on the 15th of June in Geelong. He was interviewed at the Corio Police Station on that day and formerly charged with trafficking and possessing various drugs of Dependence. A very satisfying result indeed. He has been bailed to appear at the Geelong Magistrates Court for hearing on the 25th of September, 2018. Again well done to the victim in this matter for your courage in coming forward.

On a positive note, I am again looking to hold another Blue Light Disco in Meredith at the end of term 3. Last year's Blue Light didn't seem to have a great turn out of kids, however the kids that did attend had a really great time. I would ask for parents of our local kids to contact me via phone or email – gregory.kitchen@police.vic.gov.au or even pop a note under my front door at the station so that I can gauge interest in looking to run another. At our peak a few years back we attracted 100 kids at one Disco and I would love to see an event like that again.

As always 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

Bannockburn Art Group



Bannockburn has a very active art group that meets at the Cultural Centre in High st (behind library) every Thursday morning from 9am -12 midday for a small fee of \$5.00.

Initial membership joining fee to Golden Plains Arts inc for insurance, etc is \$10.00 per year.

Our group is a happy and relaxed community of hobby artists enjoying a morning discovering our creative self. Bring your own materials ,all mediums welcome.

Further information -contact Ros on 0410808483 or rosslyn.bos@gmail.com

Women of Golden Plains

REGISTER FREE TODAY!

Join dynamic, like-minded rural and regional women, enjoy a gala dinner and take home practical skills from a series of energising workshops to celebrate the first birthday of the revived Victorian Rural Women's Network.

Enjoy two fantastic keynote addresses from Sallie Jones of Gippsland Jersey; and Henry and Anna Terry, the truffle farmers from My Kitchen Rules. You can also join in four training workshops running throughout the Forum. The Rural Women's Forum will take place at RACV Goldfields Resort, Creswick just north of Ballarat, on Thursday 2 and Friday 3 August, 2018.

All of this is included with your FREE registration. Numbers are strictly limited and will be allocated on a 'first in' basis. To register go to this link and follow the steps! <https://extensionaus.com.au/VRWNetwork/register-for-the-2018-victorian-rural-womens-forum/>

Want to know more now? Email Jasmine at VRWNetwork@ecodev.vic.gov.au

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



Our editorial deadline for the July issue is
9.00 am Thursday 26th July

Church News



CATHOLIC

St. Joseph's Parish Meredith Mass Times

Parish Priest Father Charles Balnaves phone 52861230.

Mass Times:

Winchelsea 6pm every Saturday.

Bannockburn: every Sunday at 9 a.m.(in the old red brick school Building in Milton Street)

Inverleigh Last Sunday of the month @ 4p.m.

Meredith Parish Annual Healing Mass and Luncheon Saturday July 7th at 11a.m.at Meredith. This year is the 22nd consecutive Healing Mass and Lunch. The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered on the day . Everyone is warmly invited. Mass will be followed by a delicious 3 course luncheon. Numbers for catering to the Parish please 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

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

MEREDITH Uniting Church

11.00 am, 2nd Sunday each month

BUNINYONG Uniting Church

1st; 3rd; 4th Sundays, 9.30am.

5th Sunday, combined service at Meredith Church of Epiphany, 11am.

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 Senior Citizens

Jim Hynds

On June 18 a bus load of Seniors headed for Stoney's Club Hotel in Bacchus Marsh for the "Morning Melodies Show". The weather wasn't the best but once on board the bus, the heaters made us comfortable. We headed to Ballan and the Freeway and got a good view of the new wind farms being constructed. Very impressive indeed! Upon arrival at Stoney's, morning tea was served consisting of scones, jam and cream, tea and coffee. The show started around 11 am with the Retro Girls of the 70's. They really put on a show as they sang all the old songs we related to and danced. All too soon the show finished and lunch was served which consisted of a two course meal. The Seniors took full advantage of the varied menu. After lunch we sat around and talked, catching up with each other. A pleasant drive home followed. Our driver Allan had us home safe and sound by mid-afternoon. A great day was had by all. Senior members are looking forward to our "Christmas in July" at the Royal Hotel, Meredith on July 9.

Spot the Difference



Jim Elvey

Yes, there is a difference between the two photographs of Meredith's NBN Tower. The one on the right, taken late last month, shows some fittings have been added since July last year when the other photo was taken. At the time we reported that "...according to the NBN website, *nbnco.com.au*, the *planned availability* for the fixed wireless service, is June 2018." We noted this was "...not the *early 2018* recently indicated, and certainly not the *late 2016 or early 2017* indicated at the NBN public meeting held in Meredith in February 2016." Alas, it I not even the June 2018, as stated. The website now reports *planned availability* is January to March 2019 and cautions the date "...is based on NBN's current deployment plans and is subject to change."

While this is a microcosm of the lengthy delays that have beset this ambitious program Australia wide, it is disappointing that small towns like ours must still make do with ADSL1, a technology superseded in many larger towns long *before* they got their NBN roll out, leaving us several generations behind current technology.

Thank goodness for rural stoicism!

ELAINE CRICKET CLUB

Annual General Meeting 2018

ELAINE TENNIS CLUB

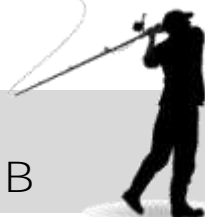
Annual General Meeting 2018
Thursday July 19th 730pm at clubrooms.
All welcome Ph.0448 291074

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

Recreation



MEREDITH ANGLING CLUB



Stoney Creek Reservoir Fishing Updates

Neil Lee and his grandson Cooper Lee took an adventure to the Reservoir for a leisurely fish. Little did they know they would pull in 3 Redfin weighing in between 1.3kg-1.5kg. Cooper Lee out Fishing his grandfather catching the biggest Redfin from the bunch. Great Job.

Also a few weeks following that, Neil Lee and Sebastian C-B took another trip to the reservoir for a fish. The fish caught this time round were 1 Rainbow Trout and 1 Brown Trout weighing in at approx. .500kg each



Our Cover.

This month's beautiful cover photograph of an Eastern Yellow Robin was taken by Cathie Boer. These delightful birds are often seen around the district, sitting in low branches looking for prey on the ground, where they pounce on insects and spiders.



from the **MAYOR**



Cr Helena Kirby
Mayor, Golden Plains Shire

We received 34 submissions to the draft Budget and three submitters spoke at a special meeting of Council at 6pm on 12 June 2018 at the Bannockburn Shire Hall. The final versions of the 2018-19 Council Budget and Council Plan were presented for adoption at the 26 June Council meeting; you can find the final version on our website at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/budget.

I'd like to congratulate the 16 men who completed the 10-week Smythesdale Sons of the West program. Their stellar efforts were recognised at the graduation celebration in May, where we were also joined by football legend, Tony Liberatore.

34 local young people, aged 12-15, are currently stepping out of their comfort zones and embarking on adventures that advance their personal development, as part of GPS Adventures, a program funded by VicHealth. So far the participants have gone on excursions to the You Yangs National Park and Surf Coast Mountain Bike Park – we hope they enjoy the rest of the program!



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A lot of volunteers are involved in producing the **Meredith and District News** every month, but its ongoing production is vulnerable, because the actual production relies on just two people. (And right now, one of them has taken extended leave.) That's why we are keen to recruit "partners" for these two roles to share the workload and cover times when they are not available.

So, if you have the aptitude, enthusiasm, and time for one of the following roles, PLEASE, contact us for a chat.

co-production officer

As Production Officer, you set up each issue, based on the previous issue, make changes to ads, add editorial content and ensure compliance with Publication Guidelines. You liaise with the Editor, the Advertising and Accounts Officers as necessary, which includes an Editorial Meeting for each issue. You will have reasonably well developed computer skills and an interest in learning more. This could take you up to 20 hours an issue.

co-editor

As editor, you chair an editorial meeting for each issue. You take charge of the copy, with most of the content embedded – both advertising and editorial. Your job is to check content for compliance with our publication guidelines, reorder and resize material, deal with too much or too little content and generally make sure the final copy meets your high standards of presentation. Then it's over to the printer.

You will have good computer skills and bit of a creative flair about you. All of this will take you up to 20 hours an issue.

The plan is you would work with an experienced team member until you feel comfortable in the role. Then you would take charge of every second issue. Might be interested? Give Jim a call on 5286 1273



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In our Nature

Wendy Cook

Enfield State Park, west of Meredith, is an attractive area of bush, at least to human eyes. The trees are fairly uniform in size and the low understorey displays colourful flowers in Spring. To wildlife however, the picture is very different. The forest is burnt regularly. Before burning, mature hollow-bearing trees, which provide homes for animals and birds, are often removed along tracks for human safety. The wood from these trees may be taken away as firewood, so there is a lack of logs and leaf litter which provide hiding places and habitat. This discourages insects, which are a major food source for many animals and birds. The park is open to use by trail bike riders and gold fossickers. My husband, Colin, places motion-sensitive cameras on the ground and in trees to look for wildlife. The movement of animals, attracted to a scented bait, triggers the camera to take a photograph. The cameras usually stay in place for at least three weeks, sufficient time to detect the local inhabitants. When cameras were placed in Enfield State Park, no animals were detected. In some areas there was silence, due to a lack of bird calls. This forest is so altered by people that it may no longer provide suitable habitat for many birds and animals.

For several years, the Friends of Brisbane Ranges have been using these cameras to monitor wildlife in Brisbane Ranges National Park. The project which is led by Colin has a particular interest in finding brush-tailed phascogales, a species of small carnivorous marsupial, which is threatened with extinction. Much of the Brisbane Ranges was burnt in a bushfire in 2006. In some of the driest rockiest areas, trees are still recovering and there is little groundcover. Control burns continue in the Park, often in Spring, when birds and animals are breeding and plants are flowering. In areas with grasses and shrubs, eastern grey kangaroos and swamp wallabies are commonly photographed by the cameras. Brushtail possums, ringtail possums, sugar gliders, agile antechinus (a smaller species of carnivorous marsupial) and echidnas are sometimes recorded, as well as a variety of birds and occasionally non-native rats. Very rarely, a phascogale has its photo taken.

This autumn we placed cameras on trees along a track in the northern Brisbane Ranges, in an area that showed no signs of burning. We started on a dry stony ridge where mature trees only reached about four metres in height and had trunk diameters similar to young trees on better soil. Growing in such a challenging location, we wondered how old they might be. We followed the track, stopping every 500m to attach a bait and a camera to a tree. As we descended the hill, the red ironbarks with their deeply furrowed dark grey bark grew taller. Towards the bottom of the hill, where the ground was less stony, the dominant tree species changed to tall yellow gums, their smooth trunks striped with creamy yellow and silvery grey bark. The track followed the bottom of the hill, crossing a few steep gullies. The understorey all the way

along the track was bushy and we had to weave our way between these plants and around and over fallen logs to reach our chosen trees. I followed a narrow winding gully for a short distance and found it to be inhabited by hundreds of common brown butterflies, resting on the ground or drifting through the air around me.

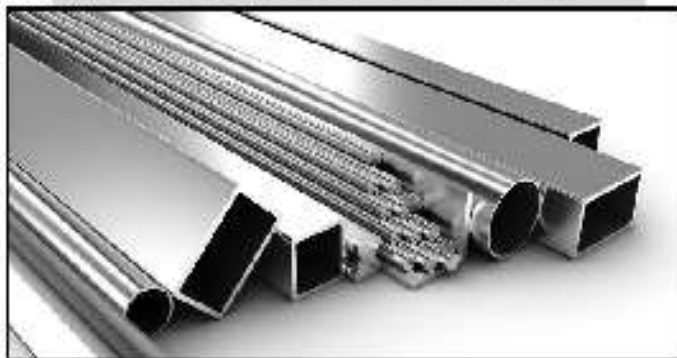
One month later we retrieved the cameras and the results were spectacular. There were hundreds of photos of sugar gliders sniffing at the delicious smelling baits and inquisitively investigating the cameras, each on a metal arm strapped to the tree. Possums were scarce with only one brushtail possum and one ringtail possum photographed. A bat flying past had its photo taken, as did numerous birds that foraged close to a camera, or perched on a metal arm. Even a wedge-tailed eagle stood on one and used its talons to clean its beak. In the butterfly gully, numerous butterflies had been attracted to the bait and had their photos taken too. Best of all, seven of the ten cameras had been visited by brush-tailed phascogales, attracted by the enticing scent of peanut butter, molasses and oatmeal. Each showed us its long pointed nose with a dark stripe down the middle of its face and its beautiful tail covered in black spreading hairs. In this unburnt, relatively undisturbed area of bush, they are thriving.



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Slow-cooker pea and ham soup

Prep time 15 mins + Cooking Time 7hrs 10mins

Serves 4

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 small brown onion, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 2 sticks celery, diced
- 2 carrots peeled, diced
- 300g potatoes, peeled, diced
- 650g ham hock
- 3 cups chicken stock
- 1 cup green split peas
- 1 dried bay leaf
- Chopped flat leaf parsley, to serve
- Crusty bread, to serve

Method

Step 1

Heat oil in a large frying pan over medium-high heat. Cook onion, stirring, for 3 minutes or until softened. Add garlic, celery, carrots and potatoes. Cook, stirring for 3 minutes. Transfer to the bowl of the slow cooker.

Step 2

Add ham hock, peas, stock, bay leaf and 1 litre of cold water. Season with pepper. Cover with lid. Cook on low for 6 hours.

Step 3

Remove hock from soup. Remove and discard rind and bone. Shred ham. Return ham to soup. Cook on low for 1 hour or until ham and peas are tender.

Serve with parsley and crusty bread.

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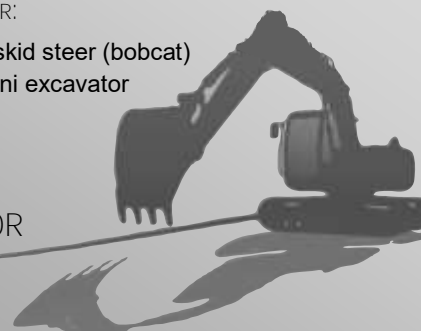
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Jessica O'Shannassy- Diabetes Peter Angelucci & Stephanie Bennetts- Podiatry; Vernon Kaurah- Mental Health Nurse; Q-Fever testing and vaccinations and Yellow Fever vac's;

Mr Chatar Goyal- Orthopaedic Surgeon and Dr Saj Rathnyake-Gynaecologist will both be practicing at Bannockburn Surgery as visiting specialists. Please talk to your Doctor about a referral if you require either of these services.

Fees are payable at the time of consultation by cash or eftpos. Bookings are available online (visit our website) or by phone and we are accepting new patients living in the Golden Plains Shire. Every effort will be made to accommodate your preferred time and preferred doctor.

Appointments currently available!



Bannockburn Pharmacy Newsletter

Proprietors: Scott Wilkes & Damian Bennett

6 High Street Bannockburn VIC 3331

Phone: 5281 1519

Teenage Health & Wellness Information Evening

We are hosting a Teenage Health & Wellness information evening on **Wednesday 18th July** from **6:30pm - 8:00pm** at the Bannockburn Cultural Centre.

The purpose of the evening to provide teenagers (and their parent/guardian) with practical information to help them look after their health & wellness.

We invite teenagers (13-17 years old) to come along with their parent/guardian. For this event to run successfully for all involved we can only accept bookings if BOTH the teen AND parent/guardian are attending together.

This event is strictly limited to 30 people only.

Tickets cost \$10 per person attending and all money will be donated to Headspace Geelong. **Tickets need to be purchased at the pharmacy.**

We have 3 great speakers speaking during this evening.

6:30pm—7:00pm our Naturopath, Karah McLaren, will be discussing the important of nutrition for teens and addressing current diets, etc that are popular amongst teens.

7:00—7:15pm personal trainer, Kylie Condie, will be discussing the importance of exercise for teens and ways in which to get them more active and enjoying it.

7:15—7:40pm a representative from Headspace Geelong will discuss mental health & wellbeing in teens focusing on confidence & self-esteem.

7:40pm—8:00pm Question & Answers time for guests attending to ask any questions they have.

Vaccination Clinic

Did you know that two of our pharmacists, Cindy & Tracey, are accredited to provide and administer **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 - 2:45pm

- **No prescription is required** from your Doctor

- **\$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.

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

Teenage Health & Wellness Information Evening (Wednesday 18th July)

The Fyansford Roundabout

from media release

Work is powering ahead on the construction of a new roundabout at the intersection of the Hamilton Highway, Hyland Street and Deviation Road at Fyansford.

To allow this vital upgrade to get underway, a detour has been in place since in April and a new detour will be in effect until Friday, 27 July. Construction is expected to be completed by early September.

GPS Budget Adopted

Golden Plains Shire's adopted budget For 2018/19 is in line with the State Government's Fair Go Rates System providing an average rate increase of 2.25% per assessment. Council received 34 submissions from members of the community and made changes as a result, specifically a reduction in the amount of the proposed child care fee to \$123 per day and \$565 for a five day service, which is equivalent to \$113 per day.

No change was made to the Garbage Charge, but council will continue to monitor the effects of the global recycling crisis and re-evaluate should the situation change.

Find out more at: goldenplains.vic.gov.au/budget

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Bronte Gorringer
Agri Business Consultant

I'm Bronte & I'm an Agri Business Consultant at Mulcahy & Co Agri Solutions.

Four things you should know about me:

1. If I had to live off one food group for the rest of my life it would be dairy... milk, cheese, chocolate, Yum.
2. If you buy me a drink; always go with the Sauvignon Blanc.
3. I completed a farm business management degree.
4. I grew up in the Western District; with a strong production background in livestock (dairy & sheep).

The dry start to the year has changed the playing field with the demand for grain and hay reaching a point where it is putting pressure on supply. As winter kicks in this is expected to continue. In this edition we look at the business life cycle and how it relates to farming situations, farm land values and where to from here and tax effective financing options as we approach the end of financial year.

Please visit our website to read our latest Farming Matters newsletter.



The Things We Say

Gemma Hanan

“The World is Your Oyster”

It's common knowledge that Shakespeare greatly impacted the English language during his career. If you believe the rumoured statistics, he invented 1700 words that we use today. The phrase ‘the world is your oyster’ stems from the Shakespeare play *The Merry Wives of Windsor* when Pistol says: ‘Why then the world's mine oyster/Which I with sword will open’. Originally relating to wealth, this saying has grown to include all richness in life where the pearl is yours for the taking. It is often used as an inspirational phrase to encourage people to be aware of the opportunities available to them.

investment will continue, with the Victorian Budget 2018/19 including a further \$126 million of additional investment in the south-west. From big ticket upgrades of the highway from Colac to the border, to upgrades to Forrest-Apollo Bay Road and a new Bellarine rail trail, narrow sealed roads and dangerous intersections will be improved and roads made safer.

Improving the quality of vital freight and tourist routes will remain a priority, with upgrades continuing on the three major roads leading to the Port of Portland, as well as ongoing geotechnical works to safeguard the future of the Great Ocean Road.

The significant investment in road maintenance will also continue this year, with resurfacing and rebuilding works to be carried out right across the region to improve the safety and longevity of our regional road network.

The need to work much more closely with local government has also been heard, with a \$100 million fund to rebuild and resurface local essential roads. It's not only about more money though. A new authority for regional roads is to be based in Ballarat with a presence in regional centres across the state, will help address decades of underinvestment and inattention, overseeing a \$333 million investment in road maintenance.

Championing the needs of country Victoria, Regional Roads Victoria will give rural and regional Victorians a direct line of communications to VicRoads, and a clear focus on making the network safe and fit for a growing tourism, agribusiness and innovation economy. People in the south-west deserve roads they can rely on, and this investment continues the rebuild to make sure the roads are safer and more reliable than ever before.

Fixing Roads in the South West

Mark Koliba, VicRoads Regional Director (South West)

There's been a lot written about the condition of roads across the South-west, but one thing is for sure: the region's roads are not up to scratch and they're now being rebuilt, widened and made safer with the biggest ever boost to upgrade our roads. VicRoads has been going through the 300+ submissions to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Country Roads, and listening to the frank and important feedback. Our communities and industries have been leading voices in a push for a dedicated focus to fix rural roads. Now the entire state is receiving almost \$1 billion to renew and rebuild roads, and the south-west has been recognised as a special case.

Just as the original road builders of the Great Ocean Road could not have envisaged five million tourists a year, nor could they have planned for roads with thousands of B-doubles every day carrying exports to the busiest timber port in the world at Portland. The times and economy are changing and our roads are now being rebuilt to keep up.

In the last financial year, the equivalent of the entire state road maintenance budget was invested in the south-west to begin to address the generational backlog of deteriorating roads. Strong

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

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

Hands of Change

Marg Cooper

Hands of Change is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) that was established in 2016. Its purpose is to provide communities with the support, knowledge and tools required for the delivery of innovative programs to improve quality of life. The founders, Linda Wong and Chris Ardrey, have launched the organisation's first program called Equihands.

Based on research, it has been identified that an ideal learning environment is one that is active, social and learner-centred. Equihands is aligned to this theory by using horses in activities, good food for social engagement and a natural outdoor environment where they connect learning experiences to real world challenges.

Linda grew up in Canada and came to Australia in 1999 on a two year secondment with KPMG. She has a Honours Bachelor of Maths – majoring in Business and IT. Whilst at KPMG, she met Chris (who is originally from New Zealand). The two got married, moved to Kilmore from Melbourne, established a couple of businesses and decided after 10 years in Kilmore to make a change. They wanted to use their professional and personal experiences in combination with their passion for people and horses. Hence the move to Meredith to set up a centre. That was the start of the journey to where they are today.

Linda didn't grow up on a farm and never had horses as a youngster but, when at University in Canada, she joined a riding club. As soon as she was able to afford a horse, she purchased her first horse and from there her leisure time centred around horses. She has done the Icelandic Pony Trek twice. Chris grew up on the land and has a natural way with the horses. Linda explains that the reason why horses are more suitable for experiential learning is due to their subtle behaviours which makes a learning experience much more authentic and real. They have five horses - four quarter horses and a gypsy cob.

After building the infrastructure, completing an Equine Assisted Learning Facilitation accreditation course from the UK, becoming a registered provider with NDIS and securing the necessary permits with Council, they did a "soft launch" of Equihands in March 2017. Since then, they have delivered Equihands to corporate groups, NDIS participants and exchange students. Sessions are developed to suit the needs of different individuals or groups of 10 or less.

On May 3, 2018 Hands of Change graduated from the LaTrobe University Accelerator Program, which was held at the Australian Centre of Moving Images (ACMI) in Federation Square, Melbourne. Thirty-five applications were received by Latrobe University Accelerator Program. Hands of Change was selected as one of fourteen start-up businesses to attend a bootcamp. After a "final pitch" at the end of bootcamp, Linda and Chris were selected as one of the nine teams for the twelve week program that helped develop their charity organisation through a \$5000 grant along with mentoring, advice and access to Latrobe resources. The graduation event also provided an opportunity for Linda and Chris to network with the community and showcase their new virtual reality scenarios. They will be using virtual reality to extend the



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reach of the Equihands programs to Aged Care residents and those who are unable to physically attend in person.

Linda has recently been accepted to Deakin University to complete a PHD. Her research will be on analysing the different models in Equine Assisted Learning to determine the most appropriate model. She will also conduct a study on the use of virtual reality to determine if it can improve the outcomes.

For further information about Hands of Change and the Equihands program, visit their website at www.handsofchange.org.au. Alternatively, you can contact Linda at linda@handsofchange.org.au.



Linda, with husband Chris, receives their award.

'HEALTHY EATING AND ACTIVE LIVING' GRANTS: OPEN 1 JULY 2018

Golden Plains Shire Council is pleased to announce the launch of a new 'Healthy Eating and Active Living' (HEAL) grant, which is available to community groups to the value of \$500.

The 'Healthy Eating and Active Living' grants officially open on 1 July 2018, and applications will be open all year round for community groups. Applicants should be an incorporated bodies or have an auspice community group who can manage the funds on behalf of the applicant.

'Eat well!' and 'Be active!'

There are two different funding categories which groups can apply for, 'Eat well!' and 'Be active!'. The category 'Eat well' includes a wide range of initiatives which contribute to promoting healthy eating and drinks, such as increasing intake of fruits, vegetables and water. 'Be active' activities encourage community members to be active and get moving, such as initiatives focusing on moving more and being physical activity.

Applicants should be able to show that they can match funding on a one-to-one basis, which can be matched through in-kind contributions by volunteer or by financial contributions.

The aim of HEAL grants

These grants will replace our existing 'Gem of an Idea' grants, to align more closely with the Central Highlands and G21 Regional priority and Golden Plains Shire Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021 priority area of 'Healthy Eating and Active Living'. Funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, this direction will support opportunities to increase physical activity and healthy eating opportunities for residents across the Shire.

So if you and your community group have a great idea to help your community eat well and be active, apply today!

For more information, and to read our grant guidelines, visit our website and search for 'Healthy Eating and Active Living grants'. Alternatively, you can contact a Council staff member from our Health and Wellbeing Team on 5220 7111.



June Sings

Marg Cooper

For the 23rd Choral Festival in Ballarat 14 choirs massed for the event in St Patrick's Cathedral on May 27, 2018. The choirs included school choirs, community choirs, soul choirs and chamber choirs. Each choir sang two songs.

June Cameron from Meredith is a soprano and one of about fifty of the Choristers of U3A. They sang a traditional Gaelic tune named "Deep Peace" and also sang "With the Voice of Singing". June has been a member of the U3A choir for over twenty years but, initially, had to wait for a place in the choir because when she wanted to join they had enough sopranos. The choir meet weekly to practice at Eastwood Community Centre in Ballarat.

The finale of the Choral Festival featured all the choirs joining to sing the "Battle Hymn of the Republic". June thought it was magnificent being sung in four different parts and with descants.

The annual festival was organized through the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and was directed by Margaret Lenan Ellis a founder of the Ballarat Interfaith Network.



... Can You?

John White

The Ballarat Chapter of the Victoria Welsh Male Voice Choir has been in existence now for just over three years. The chapter is very keen to add additional men to its number. Any male capable of singing in tune is very welcome to come along to rehearsal at 7 pm on any Thursday night at the Steiner School on the corner of Midland Highway and Moss Avenue Mount Helen. The chapter is part of the nationally renowned Victoria Welsh Choir which performs about 20 times per year around Victoria and interstate. The choir also tours overseas, and has appeared with such performers as David Hobson, Marina Prior, Sylvie Paladino, Bryn Terfel and Aled Jones. The annual St David's Day concert at the Melbourne Recital Centre attracts a sell out audience.

Ballarat chapter coordinator John White said "We are very keen to build on our numbers and any man young or old is welcome. You do not need to be Welsh, just have a love of music and be able to sing in tune. We have a lot of fun each Thursday night. Occasionally we travel to Melbourne or Bendigo to rehearse with the larger full choir and every 6 weeks or so they come to Ballarat on Saturday for an additional rehearsal with us. Anyone interested can call me on 0402808299"

For more information, contact John White on 0402 808299.



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Happy Semantics

The other morning as I lay cocooned in a doona, quilt and unflattering flannelette pyjamas, I became vulnerable to the philosophical musings that a freezing cold winter day can bring on. As condensation lazily ran down the inside of my window and I was convinced my breath was making clouds in the dark, I pondered the big questions about life, career and what I was going to have for breakfast. Despite all the things I could find to complain about, I concluded that I would take this moment to be happy. Happy that these winter mornings produce burning pink and orange sunrises. Happy that my house is being built. Happy that I have finished my degree and that the world is once again my proverbial oyster. Happy as a clam. Just plain old Happy. And then all at once, the word stopped making sense. And not in a read-between-the-lines sense.

Suddenly, I couldn't remember what it meant. I thought about the construction of putting two P's with a Y and how close it was to the word hoppy which naturally resulted in images of pristine white bunnies hopping around. This is funny in itself as you would think that living in these parts I would naturally be prone to thinking of the gigantic, dirty brown hares that frequently play chicken with my car as I drive home in the pitch black at six pm.

Where once I could have spent hours perusing encyclopaedias without the slightest idea where to begin, I asked Google what it was called when you said a word so much that it temporarily loses its meaning. And as usual, the internet delivered.

Welcome to semantic satiation (or semantic saturation): the phenomenon that sees prolonged visual or oral exposure to a word result in the subjective loss of meaning of said word. While you could lose yourself down the rabbit hole of the internet and discover that the term was coined by psychology professor Leon Jakobovits James in 1962, or delve into the science behind brain cells pumping more energy into the use of repeated words, I implore you not to bother. You will be hit with repeated examples of semantic satiation and along with the words 'happy' and 'rabbit', you will also lose 'dictation', 'history' and 'internet' to this affliction.

Instead, I did all the procrastinating-from-responsibilities work for you and discovered that the more energy your brain puts into repeating a word, the more it ceases to be able to attach it to its meaning. This then reduces the word to mere sounds so that you're left repeating gibberish to yourself and wondering if today is the day you can note down in your diary that you began losing your marbles.

Happily, it isn't.

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For your further entertainment this month, we have several literary contributions from Meredith Primary School teacher, Fairlie Pritchard's Grade 5/6 students. Using a "Writer's Workshop" approach, the students are given a "seed" - a picture to spark inspiration for a written piece. Here we get to see some of the fruit grown from those seeds. - Ed.



Frank

My lovely little Frank
I want to say thank
You for being you.
The super duper son
Of my only nephew.
You are a boy-
Who spreads joy
Like a butterfly dancing on the breeze
Or a hummingbird singing in the trees
Or a dolphin leaping through the sea
You bring happiness to my heart
Like a freshly baked apple tart
With lashings of piping hot custard
Much nicer than adding some mustard.
Please O Frank don't ever get old-
Stay forever young and bold!
So my poem draws to a close
One last thing: Don't ever pick your nose.
James

Winter.

I love Winter. It's a great time of year to get your gloves and coat on and get everything out. Here are my top 5 reasons for loving winter!

1. Snuggling - I love to snuggle in my blanket because it's calm and relaxing and I feel safe. You can be relaxed while you read or watch TV. Sometimes I even fall asleep!
2. Hot Chocolate. - I love hot chocolate because it is sweet and it makes me feel warm inside. It warms my throat, my tummy and my mouth. Nothing beats wrapping your hands around a warm mug of hot chocolate when it's cold outside.
3. Fire - I love lighting the fire in Winter because it is warm and calm and you can hear the fire popping and crackling. I love reading in front the fire.
4. Rain. - I love listening to the rain because it is calming. When it's cold out it's relaxing to watch the raindrops on the window. When we are in the car and it's raining I love the rain dropping on the car roof.
5. Snow - I love snow because it is soft, silky and frosty. If you touch it your hand will be frozen to death - but I still love it!

Torah

Frosty Cold Winter

I only take one little step,
And it hits me like a gust of wind
The frosty cold winter has come,
I see the sparkly white frost glitter
on the grass
I slowly walk over to touch it,
My hands freeze
I quickly put them in my pocket for
warmth,
I look up to see a beautiful blue
ocean sky
It is sunny with a slight blow of wind,
After a minute the sparkly white
frost has melted
And I start to walk back,
Winter has come .

Olivia

We are the lights in the dark.
We shine so bright that there's hope.
The dark does not care all they want is
their share.
All we want is equality but the dark does
not care.
We fear the dark. It is too strong.
We've been hiding for too long.
It is time to fight we won't stop until
we're there.

In the light.
Now it's equal. The dark now
knows it's place.

It now knows to share.
A ying and yang story - Ronan.

Winter.

I stand in the warmth of the blazing fire.
I stare at the glimmering snow while it
reaches for the glowing moonlight.
I see snowmen dancing with the
golden stars above.
I wish to join them but I would be exposed to the
frosty atmosphere .
A cold breeze floats across my face.
A silent chill goes down my spine.
I can tell winter is here for me.

Dakota.

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I've Been a Farmer

Marg Cooper

Mark McDonald and Jenny Doles came to Bamganie to live almost eleven years ago. Mark had grown up in Melbourne but because of a family connexion to Clunes they had a weekender there which actually became their permanent residence for three and a half years in the late 1960's. So Mark developed a love of the land and when he was applying for University he opened the handbook, saw Agriculture Science and thought that's it!

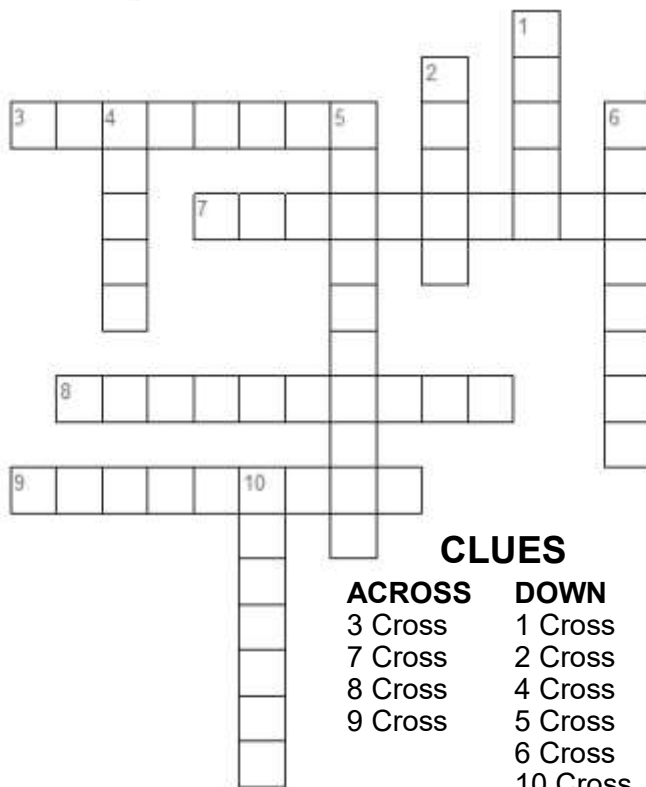
He first worked in 1980 in irrigation and turf and was assistant curator at Latrobe University. His further training in computing saw him start working at the Wool Corporation in 1985 as a programmer, analyst, statistician, economist and market reporter. When this department was taken over by Awex in 1993 Mark became a founding manager. In 2001 he became a freelance Agriculture Advisor. He had clients in dairy, horticulture, wool, cropping and more and was involved in many projects, including the new Melbourne fruit and vegetable market, and the recycled water at Werribee. Just before they moved to Bamganie Mark became CEO of Southern Farming Systems.

Mark and Jenny started looking for country properties while they lived at East Keilor. They spent almost a year looking for more than 20 acres which they just had to mow, somewhere it rained, somewhere within 100 kms of Melbourne and somewhere they could play. The property they found was 174 acres on Bamganie Road called "Baree" which they bought from Mary and George Skuta. The property had a huge orchard, they raised pigs and ran sheep and cattle.

After travelling to work for three years Mark obtained a job as CEO of Australian Livestock Saleyards Association which was a part time job and he worked from home. This suited him, as Mark had time to also run their farm with lots of help from Jenny. Mark organizes training, tours, workshops and conferences, obtains funding, deals with OH and S issues, and has been instrumental in the introduction of electronic eartags for sheep. Recently he added National Saleyards and Quality Assurance portfolio to his job list. Mark has had a very interesting career and has dabbled in most areas of agriculture. This has also included the very practical mucking out the pig pens at Bamganie!

But, now, it is time to move on to Clifton Springs with no animals. Mark said these years have been the best years of his life and he will always remember them fondly. He admits he's reluctant to leave but hopes to retain a connection with Meredith and their friends here.

the CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES

ACROSS

3 Cross

7 Cross

8 Cross

9 Cross

DOWN

1 Cross

2 Cross

4 Cross

5 Cross

6 Cross

10 Cross

Can't do it? Don't get cross, go to page 31

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MAN COOK EAT



Steve Duffy

Slow Cooked Meats

Winter is upon us. The days are short. The nights are cold. It's time for hearty rich dishes to warm the cockles of our hearts. My 1934 CWA Cook Book is loaded with one pot cookery like stews, casseroles and braises. If you have a crock pot now is the time to fire it up. Even the cheapest cuts come into their own at this time of year. By cooking meats slowly, you make them tender yet full of flavour. Try some of these while the big chill is with us.

Outback: Diced mutton, onions, potatoes seasoned well. Add some mint or saltbush and honey before it's quite ready.

Blazing Saddles: Try A beef and onion slow cook, add some beans and Chilli. Great with crusty bread.

Irish Stew: Lamb neck chops layered with potatoes and peas. No stock required, but do season well.

English: Often called a pot roast, cook a good piece of blade for 4 to 5 hours with rosemary, celery, carrot and onion. Add some spuds for the last 30 minutes, season well.

French: Like a beef bourgignonne, cook your beef with bacon, onion and a good splash of red wine. Don't forget – plenty of cracked black pepper, bay leaves and fennel.

The Carolinas: In the Eastern states of the US, the classic slow cooked meat is Pork. Very slow cooked with a little vinegar and some chilli or chilli sauce. It is not uncommon to shred the cooked pork and serve with pickled cabbage or slaw on fresh bread. The Slider is born.

Texas BBQ: It's all about the brisket! The classic Texas BBQ includes various cuts of beef, but brisket is the king. Again just seasoning and cook slowly in a closed wood-fired box for up to 15 hours. Chilli sauce and corn are natural accompaniments.

These are just a few suggestions. Most of these are good with lashings of Mustard. Each can be varied with the addition of other herbs and spices. Get the slow cooker out. Try your hand.

Good Cooking Steve



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Bamganie-Meredith Landcare Group



The Annual General Meeting of the Bamganie-Meredith Landcare Group was held on Wednesday 20 June at the Royal Hotel in Meredith. Office bearers and committee members were elected for 2018-2019. More details can be found on the Meredith and District Landcare group Facebook page.

Prior to the AGM farmers from the district met for dinner and to hear Lisa Miller from Southern Farming Systems present the results of soil testing carried out on 12 properties in the Meredith, Bamganie, Shelford and Mt Mercer area over the past 4 years. The aim of the study was to identify how soil acidity levels responded to lime applications over the 4 years. Other topics discussed included the nature of soils in the district, constraints of the soils and how these affect nutrient availability, and what applications benefit soil biological production.

This free event was supported by the Corangamite CMA through funding from the Australian Government National Landcare Program.

The next meeting of the Bamganie-Meredith Landcare Group is on Thursday 19 July 2018 at 7:30pm at the Meredith Community Centre. All members and just those with an interest are very welcome – bring a friend!

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A Way of Life

by KERRIE KRUGER



A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO A MORE SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE

Is It Okay if I Can't Adult Today ?

Is adulthood subjective? Is it more a feeling, than a thing? According to the dictionary:

Adulthood (n) - the state or condition of being fully grown or mature.

Adulting (v): to do grown up things and hold responsibilities such as, a 9-5 job, a mortgage/rent, a car payment, or anything else that makes one think of grownups.

Now legally if you are over the age of 18 you are an adult. There is no question, no debate! But I think that adulthood is an ongoing process, I know the day I turned 18, I woke up thinking, okay today I'm an adult! But I don't think I really felt it or understood it and even now some days I still don't get it!

So what does it mean to be an Adult?

- Is it being able to manage personal jealousy and feelings of envy?
- Is it the ability to listen to and evaluate the viewpoints of others?
- Is it accepting the fact that you can't always win, and learn from mistakes instead of whining about the outcome?
- Is it the ability to differentiate between rational decision making and emotional impulse?
- Is it about keeping other people's feeling in mind?
- Is it being able to distinguish between 'needs' and 'wants'?
- Is it the ability to show confidence without being overly arrogant?
- Is it about taking ownership and responsibility of personal actions?
- Is it being able to manage personal fears?
- Is it being able to see the various shades of grey between the extremes of black and white in every situation?
- Is it about remembering that patience is a virtue?

Well, I am sure we all have our ideas of what makes us Adults. But what I do know is that life seems to move more quickly, the further you are into adulthood and one of the great injustices is when we have limitless amounts of time to fill with epic adventures, we have no money and when we have the money to do what we want, we have no time with which to do it.

And one of the easiest traps to fall into as an adult is routine.

Obviously routine is important to an extent, but should we let our lives get too boring? We need to make a conscious effort to seek out new things and to spice things up. Compliance is a hard thing to overcome, but it is worth it when you do.

Life should be about relationships and experiences, though the consumerist based society we live in today, if we let it, tries to make us forget that.

Is it that some days, sometimes you think: I want to run away from being an adult! A break from Adulting! Not forever, but a week would be nice. A week to just BE.

Traversing adulthood is inevitable, just like grey hairs, but is the success to life how we deal with adulthood? Anyway regardless of the how's and why's, adulthood happens, we can't avoid it, but you should always live it your way!

Your Life is Your Story So Live it Well

Kerrie

PS: The answer to the opening question is ...of course its okay , we all deserve a day off.



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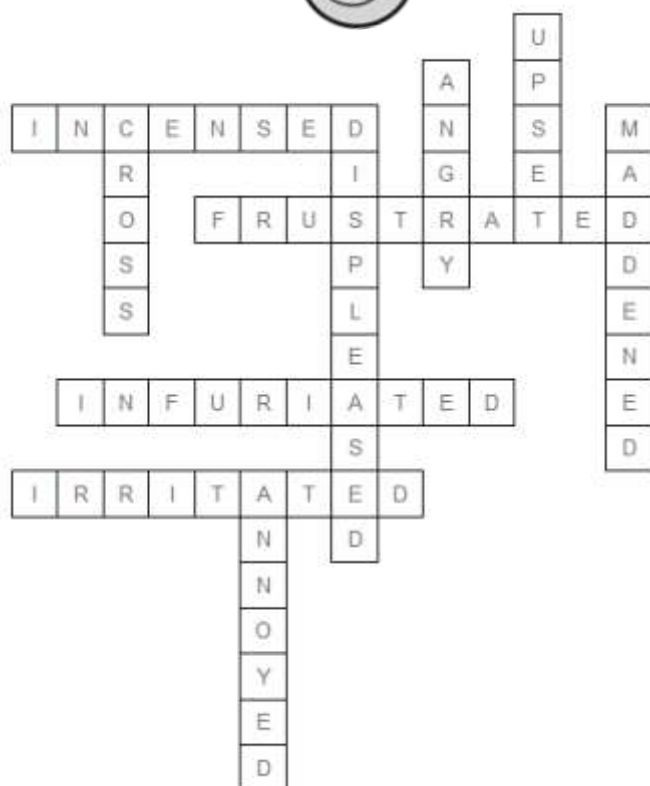
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Here are all those crosswords you needed on page 26. Let's hope you never need them again.



Council is More Satisfying

media release

The results of the 2018 Golden Plains Shire Community Satisfaction Survey were presented to Council last month.

The results demonstrated an increase in all seven core measures:

- overall performance;
- community consultation;
- advocacy;
- making community decisions;
- sealed local roads;
- customer service;
- and overall Council direction.

Mayor, Cr Helena Kirby, says "While there is still significant room for growth, Council is encouraged that we are moving in the right direction."

Council has made significant efforts to respond to key feedback areas, particularly roads. We went one step further last year and asked residents to let us know about particular roads and issues that they felt were of concern. The \$11.6M operating expenditure for road and street infrastructure includes an additional \$750K compared to last year's Council Budget.

The results are available at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/news/publications.



Steve Goat - Art and Death

Recently when in Sydney I attended an Exhibition called Absent Friends by printmaker and Textile artist: Ro Cook at The Incinerator in Willoughby. The space is a repurposed building designed by Walter Burley Griffin. The theme of the artist's works was friends who had died. Some were the artist's parents and grandparents, others were dedicated to contemporaries who had fallen due to illness or accident. I knew some of those that the show was about. It was a very moving experience, augmented by Ro's personal anecdotes about her subjects in the catalogue.

As the crowd milled about greeting each other via these personal stories, the mood was both joyous and solemn. I found myself involved in emotional conversations about our lost friends and families; even with strangers! The works were wonderful: fine works of print on stitched and embroidered textiles. Some abstract, others representational.

One print of abstract triangles in Pink and Green was dedicated to a mutual friend: Angela. Years ago, I remember Ange telling me of a very pink experience she had had in India, when she travelled to find a means of coming to terms with her cancer. Although my artist friend Ro knew nothing of this vision: there was the pink splashed across the work!



This simple image was dedicated to Ro's grandfather: Bert.

Interestingly, this mood of openness and raw emotion stayed with me for some time. Others reported similar feelings. This is all very fascinating.

Relevant upcoming event:

Early in August Castlemaine Library is holding an intriguing Night of conversation Titled:

Art and death: Three Artists in Conversation hosted by Hayley West. This event is free, but bookings are being accepted online.

Pete Goat on von Geurard and an aboriginal encounter

About the time Steve was in Sydney, I was at the Ballarat Gallery to see the von Guerard exhibition. Eugene von Guerard was born in Austria in 1811, studied and painted in Germany and Italy and arrived in the new colony of Victoria in December 1852. He disembarked at Geelong and in January 1853 set off with a party on foot for Ballarat to begin a sojourn of 28 years traveling, sketching, recording and painting in Australia, producing a quite prodigious body of work. Many of his paintings and also sketchbooks and notebooks were displayed in Ballarat.

A great influence on von Guerard was the German geographer and explorer Alexander von Humboldt who, incidentally, is credited with being the first to predict human induced climate change. Von Humboldt was also a great inspiration to Charles Darwin who was an almost exact contemporary of von Guerard. So although he was perhaps a classically trained landscape painter he was very interested in accurately recording or representing geological and botanical detail within the aesthetic composition of his work. The detail of his work is such that his large painting of Tower Hill near Koroit was used as the basis for the revegetation and rehabilitation of the area when it became a National Park.

Bill Gamage has also cited him in his book "The Biggest Estate on Earth: How Aborigines Made Australia" which challenges the assertion that Australia pre-1788 was an unmanaged wilderness.

The painting that most intrigued me is entitled "Aborigines met on the Road to the Diggings" (yes, you can google it) sketched in January 1853 on his journey to Ballarat and the painting completed in 1854. This work was on loan from the Geelong Gallery where it is on permanent display and a reproduction is in the Steiglitz courthouse. It is only when you see the real thing close up that you can appreciate the observation and detail.

The location is just after the party had crossed the Moorabool at Batesford. On the horizon are the You Yangs, in the centre a group of proud looking Waddawurrung women, children and men. Behind them are their mia-mias and a tree lined watercourse; in front of them two European men, one down on one knee inspecting a possum-skin cloak but looking up at the Waddawurrung group. (in fact it is likely that the painting is a slight compilation of views near the site - the YouYangs are probably not visible from Batesford nor would grasstrees grow right there - but then maybe they were nearer Dogrocks).

There are several elements of this painting that I think are remarkable. First, this depiction is by a person who had first set foot on land in the southern hemisphere less than a month before.

Next, the whitefella kneeling before the blackfellas is a very rare, if not the only, example in this era or perhaps any other, of such a gesture of respect. This is likely the influence of von Humboldt's writings about the indigenous cultures he encountered and his rejection of the notion of superior and inferior races.

Then there are the recognisable plants: Xanthorrhoea (grasstree), Eucalypt (maybe red gum), Triglochin (Water Ribbon) Lomandra (mat rush) and Diuris (orchid).

And then - the kneeling figure is in reality von G. himself. He did acquire (bought or traded?) a possum-skin cloak which, after many years use and with other artefacts, was purchased by the Berlin Ethnographic museum in 1879.

It is a carefully composed record of a moment just before the full "cultural tsunami" of colonisation and the gold rushes completely swamped Victoria (this is how I heard it described by a Woiwurrung man recently) dispossessing the traditional owners and almost totally devastating their culture.

But not quite. Waddawurrung people are still proudly living on and caring for their country, telling the stories ,retrieving their languageand making beautiful possum-skin cloaks. I think Eugene von Guerard would be glad to know that.... and also that Victoria has now finally moved towards a Treaty .



Kinder News

We have had another busy month at Kinder with the children embracing the colder weather with gusto and lots of Mud! Luckily our committee purchased quite a few sets of gumboots and Scandinavian rainwear overalls so the children are able to fully immerse themselves in sensory , messy play and their clothes remain dry. Children are also very engaged in the arts, discussing the weather, discovering indigenous Dreamtime stories and symbols, attempting new challenging puzzles and having fun with their kinder friends. Staff have been attending lots of training days and professional development which has been great to stimulate ideas and reflect on our practices. We are very proud of our "meeting" rating from our QIP and assessment visit from the Department of Education , we were exceeding in 3 areas and meeting in 4. It's been quite a full term of work and play so we are all looking forward to some holiday time now. Kinder will resume on Monday 16 th July for Term 3, stay warm and enjoy the break.

The Meredith Team .



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The Grader Driver

Marg Cooper

Ron and Jenny Shell have sold their house in Wilson Street and are moving to Wendouree in Ballarat. Ron who is the youngest son of William (Bill) and Jessie Shell and grew up in Lawler Street. He went to Meredith State School and was a paperboy for about 4 years. His mother died of asthma when he was 12 years old. He used to help his father with hay carting, cutting truckloads of wood and spreading super on paddocks, as his father had a general carrier business. He can remember delivering wood to Geelong Gaol for the prisoners to cut, the request from the gaol was the knottier, the better! He remembers going to Freddy Herman's (the butcher) who had a type of Youth Centre in the shed, (at what was Sonny Kiernan's) across the road from the Top Pub, where he used to play billiards.

Ron went to West Technical school in Geelong but left school as soon as he could at 15 years of age. He worked with his Dad and was rouseabout in numerous shearing sheds before he started working on Bannockburn Shire in 1974 when he was 17 years old. When Ron was 19 years old the Shire decided to give him a go at driving a grader. Syd East, who also drove a grader helped train him and Ron then drove the grader for the next 41 years until he retired in 2016. He can remember when he worked on the Slate Quarry Road hill reconstructing the road. His grader had faulty brakes and would jump out of first gear. He must have done a good job as the hill is still as he formed it. Jenny remembers when he'd come home covered in dust because the early graders didn't have doors.

Ron was active in Meredith CFA for years and vividly remembers helping at the Ash Wednesday fires. Although he was the youngest of his crew his driving ability resulted in the truck and crew returning safely.

Ron and Jenny Clune started seeing each other when Jenny was 15 years old and Ron was 16 and they married at the Church of England Church in Meredith on November 27, 1976. Jenny who was the middle child of five children of Margaret Clune, had come to live in Morrisons Road, Elaine when she was eight years old, and had attended Elaine State School. She grew up on a farm where one year they picked dozens of boxes of mushrooms and her mother sold them to a fruit and vegetable shop in Ballarat, but the kids never saw any of the money. Jenny went to Ballarat Girls High School until she was 17 years old. Her first job was at Kevin and Margaret Parkinson's Kema Motors, working in the office and serving petrol. She also worked for George and Jean Finn at the Top Pub, and later worked at Meredith Nursery for more than 15 years. She also played tennis for Meredith. Jenny and Ron have two children, Graeme and Prue who grew up in Meredith and went to Meredith State School.

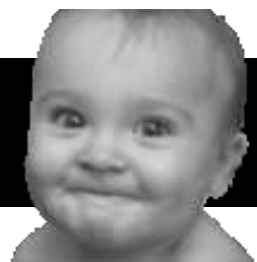
After Ron and Jenny married they rented a house in Shelford Road for \$22 a week from the Ryan family. The rent was \$25 if they wanted to keep a cow. They then bought a small cottage in Lawler Street for \$9000. There were then four generations of Shell family living in the one street. Ron's grandmother Lizzie Shell lived next door, Ron's father lived where Pip Hucker now lives, and



also their son Graeme. Because the cottage only had two bedrooms and they were expecting their second child, they moved to a house on an acre block on the Midland Highway and in 1990 they moved into the house they had built on three quarters of an acre virtually across the road from their old house.

Ron and Jenny are quiet achievers. Ron doesn't like talking about himself but has a huge knowledge, in fact people are amazed at what he knows. His hobbies are fishing and tinkering in his shed. Jenny is always amazed at his inventiveness and how he fixes things. He was an excellent grader driver and is missed by the residents on country roads. Imagine the knowledge he has of back roads in the shire! Jenny has enjoyed her garden, her family and has shown considerable talent at Folk Art.

GO ON....SMILE!



Why did the chicken go to the séance?
To get to the other side.

- Nicole Fornabaio

Meredith's Big Lift

Kerrie Kruger, Meredith Community Coordinator

The Big Lift is a volunteering organisation at University of Technology Sydney (UTS) launched in 2010. Founded on the philosophy of 'paying it forward', throughout the year they run service projects to engage with university and external local communities.

The Big Lift was founded on the principle of Paying It Forward. The idea is that by going forth into the world and doing good deeds for others and expecting nothing in return, we can all make the world a better place, one random act of kindness at a time.

So annually in July (during the mid semester break), The Big Lift takes UTS students on a bus trip through regional Australia - 80 students, 10 towns, 9 service projects, 9 days, 2 buses. They visit regional towns to help with projects such as land restoration, construction, and painting - all unskilled labour as our participants come from diverse backgrounds and educations. As they value community engagement, throughout the year they work closely with chosen communities to ensure that they can make lasting and meaningful impacts through their visit.

"The Big Lift aims to: inspire and show people how easy, fun and rewarding it is to give back to others, provide an opportunity to develop a sense of civic duty and leadership; connect city and international students with other parts of Australia to discover and learn more about the country and its people; allow students to meet new, diverse and yet like-minded people; and allow students to challenge and personally develop themselves. "

Their goal is to help create global citizens, empowered to explore the world beyond their own

Earlier in the year the Community Coordinators were contacted by The Big Lift Program leaders to see if the community of Meredith was interested in being involved this year, we said yes and so in mid July we have 38 student volunteers arriving to assist 9 local community groups with small projects throughout the town. They will be arriving about 6pm on Wed 11th . They are staying over at the Community Centre where we will provide dinner , breakfast and lunch before saying thank you and seeing them off to their next community.

So if you see one of our locals with a small team of students working around the town on Thursday 12th July , say Hi and, lets show our visitors a warm country welcome and join with the "Paying it Forward" principle.

Any questions or offers to assist with catering please contact Community Coordinator Di Ritchie on 0408 599 602

Managing Dairy Effluent

from media release

Now is the time to clean out dairy effluent ponds. After a fairly dry autumn in most areas, dairy farmers need to be emptying their dairy effluent ponds for maintenance.

Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) South West Region Manager Carolyn Francis said it's an important opportunity to prevent pollution while keeping valuable fertiliser on the farm.

"Common sense and the Environment Protection Act both require that dairy effluent stays on the farm and out of waterways. Poorly managed ponds can overflow, sending nutrients into waterways where they reduce oxygen levels, kill aquatic life, encourage toxic algae and create the danger of disease," Ms Francis said.

"Dairy farmers can prevent effluent ponds from overflowing by de-sludging, removing vegetation and irrigating the water component to pasture when weather conditions are appropriate," she said.

"Properly utilised, dairy effluent is a valuable fertiliser that can increase pasture production. Good dairy effluent management is a classic case of good for business, good for the environment."

Problems with dairy effluent ponds are common. When EPA ran an inspection program on 31 dairy farms in 2017, just over half were served with Pollution Abatement Notices; legally enforceable instructions to undertake works to resolve pollution problems.

EPA officers can trace an effluent spill back to the source, and will continue to monitor progress on the work required under any Pollution Abatement Notice to make sure the local environment and neighbouring farms are protected.

"A fine is a last resort, and there is plenty of advice and technical support for farmers. EPA works with Agriculture Victoria and Dairy Australia to provide practical advice, guidance and resources, including free effluent testing programs."

Guidelines on effective effluent management on dairy farms can be found by visiting epa.vic.gov.au/business-and-industry/guidelines

EPA urges people to report suspected pollution to the EPA on 1300 372 842 or at epa.vic.gov.au

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SLIDING DOORS

Andrew Howard's



Where am I?

Roaming the grey, wet bluestone laneways intersecting the city they were searching for a place to eat after the show.

So many options. Given the show was excellent it would be terrible to muck up the post show choice for a nice meal and glass of wine.

Passing by one café window after another, reviewing menu after menu the only thing that became clear was confusion and indecision.

Stopping at one café, strangely named Meatballs and Wine Bar, they had a sign. Glancing up from the menu displayed in the window they caught the attention of the couple inside whom, enjoying their chosen indulgence, motioned with universal language of thumbs up, good food in here.

The moment passed quickly with exchanged sign language and smiles. The message appeared to be "thanks, sounds good".

Outside she suggested "yeah, why not, but let's just have a look at the café across the corner, I'm sure that's one we've tried and liked before".

As her hand slipped from his grip she strode out from the laneway and into the busy street toward the café across the corner.

Some hours later she slowly opened her eyes to the assault of bright white light. Taking some time to focus and get her bearings, scanning around the room to take it all in she was no less confused. A hospital? Yes. Maybe an emergency department cubicle? Yes. What the hell? Nothing made any sense.

He was asleep or at least dozing, in a chair right beside

her but as she stirred, so did he, with sobbing relief. On waking he immediately recalled the update from the attending doctor only an hour or so earlier.

The next hour is critical the young doctor had explained. Is he even old enough to be a doctor he mused? Resplendent as he was in the trainee doctor uniform of low riding chinos, a close fitting Egyptian cotton shirt and the signature stethoscope casually draped around his neck he was sure the young doctor had just stepped out of graduation from a private secondary school, not 10 years of university and medical training.

Caught in the moment he realized this young man held her life in his hands so who was he to be questioning his maturity. The doctor had left to comfort, console and heal elsewhere while he sank back into the hospital chair, into a deep, dark space. The funk of torturous uncertainty.

"As her hand slipped from his grip she strode out from the laneway and into the busy street toward the café across the corner."

Stirred by her return to consciousness he recalled that moment a few short hours earlier as her hand slipped from his grip for

her to cross the intersection. How he was immediately struck by a crippling feeling of dread. Turning his head away he hoped the noise he heard was in his imagination. Car, skidding tyres, a thump, the sound of a breaking body.

As her eyes blinked and opened again she licked her lips unconsciously.

He sobbed with relief. Should have stopped at Meatballs.

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Marg's Book Review

“The People Smuggler” by Robin De Crespigny

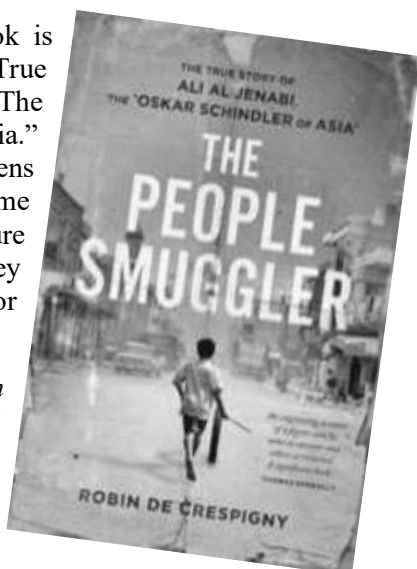
The People Smuggler confers a face to this human tragedy in the form of Ali Al Jenabi who was born in southern Iraq in 1971 while Saddam Hussein's tyrannical rule was still burgeoning undetected by the masses. He led an idyllic life with a gallant father, a doting mother, multiple siblings in a peaceful village. But when his father disappears it kick starts a cycle of pain, suffering and sacrifice that persists for much of the book. The story of Ali and his family covers thousands of miles, a myriad of cultures, military conflicts and international law.

He shoulders a lifelong duty to take care of his family that spans across Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand. Finally in Australia he assumes a number of occupations to guarantee his survival and his families' survival and their escape from tyranny. Although he crosses many dangerous and morally ambiguous paths Al Jenabi never loses sight of who he is and what he stands for. And so he becomes a People Smuggler. “If I broke someone's law it was for something good. I provided a path to safety for people with few other options.”

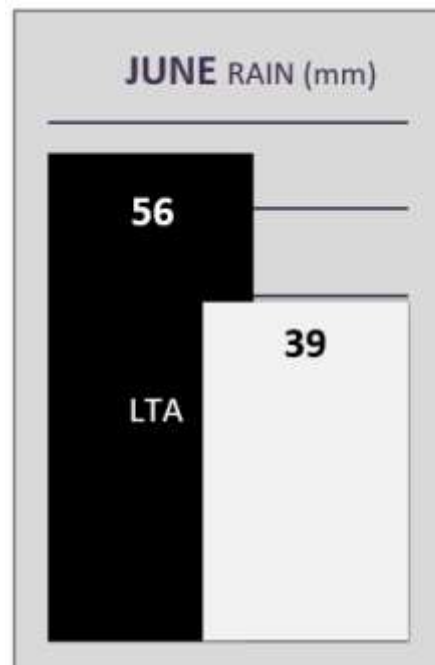
The author worked with Ali, an Arabic Muslim man and she a Western agnostic woman, for three years. They met every few weeks. She mapped out the complex sequence of events and bit by bit as she gained his trust, she traversed the emotional depths of his odyssey. The author believed that his story was the universal story about one individual in the storm of life, and that by travelling with him we can understand the bigger picture of why people make the choices they do in life, and how none of it is black and white. She made the decision to write the book in the first person, to enable the reader to experience Ali's life by being placed in his shoes. The story reflects Ali's recollections.

On the cover, the book is described as “the True Story of Ali Al Jenabi, The Oskar Schindler of Asia.” The book certainly opens our eyes to what some people have to endure and what lengths they have to go to for freedom and family.

The book for discussion in June is “Miracle at Augusta” by James Patterson & Peter De Jonge.



the rainfall report



The Good Oil on Coconuts

There are remarkable claims about the health benefits of coconut oil. So, what's the story here? Is coconut oil good or bad for you? Coconut oil, with its high saturated fat content, is not recommended for heart health.

Coconut oil contains 92% saturated fat. Yet, some claim it's healthy. Why? Because the saturated fat in coconut oil and the saturated fat in animal products are slightly different. Does this make coconut oil healthy? No. Simply put, there is no evidence to support the consumption of coconut oil for heart health.

Coconut oil raises total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein (HDL) and low-density lipoprotein (LDL). While the increase in HDL may seem good, it's overshadowed by the increase in LDL. A study on the saturated fat in coconut oil found that it acts similarly to saturated fats in other foods. That is, it raises LDL cholesterol.

Beth Meertens, Accredited Practising Dietitian and Heart Foundation spokesperson on healthy eating.

More info at heartfoundation.org.au



Wind Farm Industry Briefing

from media release

Approximately 200 representatives from local businesses attended a Moorabool Wind Farm supplier information briefing in Ballan on the 5th June, coinciding with World Environment Day.

Ryan Pearce, Project Manager for Zenviron Procurement and Construction Services said, "The Program is designed to ensure local businesses are well informed about the project and have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from the project. Local suppliers were invited to attend the briefing to hear an update on project status and learn more about the available work packages. The forum also covered the process of bidding for contracts or supply opportunities with the major contractors and subcontractors.

Moorabool Wind Farm has adopted a three-stage process to maximise local participation and local economic benefits.

1. Under Stage One of the Local Business Participation Program, Moorabool Wind Farm sought expressions of interest for nearly 40 different work packages. The project has been listed on the ICN Gateway website and companies are encouraged to register their interest. The Gateway will be open until later this month. The details of all companies that registered their interest during Stage One are provided to major subcontractors.

2. Stage Two of the process involved the abovementioned Industry Forum in Ballan.

3. Stage Three is the engagement stage where the main contractor and / or subcontractors engage suppliers and subcontractors. Stage Three spans the full period of the project design and construction and the transition into the operations phase.

The wind farm is expected to create up to 300 direct jobs during construction peaks on site and employ up to 20 permanent staff when operational.

Andrew Kerley, Project Director for Moorabool Wind Farm, said "The Local Industry Briefing was an excellent event and we were encouraged by the range of businesses and suppliers interested in the project. As owners of Moorabool Wind Farm, we aim to create significant local benefit by facilitating local companies to participate throughout the 18-month construction period and by establishing a local team for the long term operation phase."

More information at mooraboolwindfarm.com/

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it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

Women in the Army: You are invited to Meredith History Centre on Sunday, August 5th at 1.30 pm to learn about the role of women in the Army. Major Sarah Vesey (daughter of Jan & Peter Crump) is coming to speak about her observations and experiences. Several of Jan & Peter's children and a son-in-law have served with the Australian Forces and Sarah has travelled extensively in her career in the Army.

Art Competition: For History Week in October we are inviting artists to depict some part of the story of Sun Inspector William Dunbar Johnstone. He had a drinking problem and it was literally his downfall as he fell from his horse at Meredith whilst under the influence, died and was buried in what became Lowne's paddock, which was the first Meredith Cemetery. He was also a bigamist, a deserter, an inept policeman and owed a lot of money. He was a larrikin and a colourful character in Meredith's history.

Artists may ring Bev on 0438514176, email Marg at Jeffandmargcooper@gmail.com or look on Meredith History Interest Group's Facebook page for the story of William Dunbar Johnstone, conditions of entry, entry form and a photo of him in his uniform.

The opening of the exhibition will be on Sunday, October 7 at the History Centre when the winners will be announced and prize money presented.

Book Launch: On Sunday, June 24 the new book written by Peter Griffiths, former Vice President of MHIG and author of "Three Times Blest" (a history of the Buninyong and District 1837-1901) was launched at the Lake View Hotel in Ballarat by Dr Joan Hunt. "The Welsh on Victoria's Central Goldfields, A Dictionary of Biography" tales of success, failure and even humour thread their way through an absorbing study that breaks down the typical stereotypes of more than 620 Welsh immigrants of the colonial period. Peter reports more than 3000 Welsh born men and women flocked to Victoria's Central Goldfields after the official announcement of the discoveries in 1851. Peter has worked on this book for the last 20 years - it is surely a labour of love. The book is available from Peter Griffiths, PO Box 169, Ballarat North, Vic, 3350. The price is \$45.

Farming Advice: Mr G A Bowen of Dementer USA says-"The road to success in farming is to make one's own fertiliser as far as possible, raise all the grain one can, sell no hay or milk, keep all the money earned on the farm, sell cream, butter, wool and any kind of critter that can walk off the farm." The advice was written in the diary of local farmer in 1896.

Catalogue: Every Thursday from 9 am.

HONOUR BOARD UNVEILED.

The Mechanics' Institute was crowded on Saturday afternoon, when the Meredith and District Honour Board was unveiled by Mr. Lister, M.H.R. On the platform with him were Mr. A.A. Austin, M.L.C.; Mr. Griffiths (president of the Vigilance Committee), Cr. Synot (president), and Crs. Spiller, Fraser, M. M'Coll, Peel, Moody, Venters, Mr. W. G. Sharpley, Rev. Stone, Rev. Scott. Apologies were received from Mr. Hogan and Mr J. McDonald, M.L.A., Crs. Parker, Broom, Bufton, Moreillon and Mr. Jackson (Elaine).

The hall and stage was nicely decorated with flags and pot plants by the ladies. The proceedings opened with the National Anthem, played by Mrs. Walpole; songs by Miss Haywood and Miss K. Guiney; pianoforte duet by the Misses Mooney. The chairman, Mr. Griffiths, explained the reason for their function. Mr. Austin said that he regretted that he had only time to say a few words, as he had to catch the 4 p.m. train back to Geelong. He had attended every unveiling that he could, and urged that nothing was too good for our boys who fought and died that we might live in peace and comfort. It was the duty of the Governments and the people also to see that the returned boys get a fair and just deal... He complimented the ladies on the way in which they had carried out their part during the war in Red Cross work and other ways; their zeal was deserving of special credit... The chairman then introduced Mr. Lister, M.H.R., ... He asked them all to stand in silence for five minutes while he unveiled the honour board. It had been his privilege since he was elected to Parliament to unveil probably more honour boards than any other member, not only in his own electorate but in several other electorates. There was always a tinge of sadness in the unveiling of an honour board, as on all of them, was the sign which showed that several had paid the supreme sacrifice, and our sympathy and deep reverence were due to the relatives bereaved....

On behalf of the Meredith vigilance committee, representing the district residents, Mr Lister then presented seven memorial brooches to the nearest relatives of the deceased soldiers —mothers and wives:— Private W. M'Coll, Private C.F. Wyat, Private Sellars, Sergeant T. Worland, Private N. M'Laughlin, M.C., Private J. M'Laughlin, Private F. Lowne, Private H. M'Donald. Cr Synot (president of the Bannockburn Shire) then called upon the Hon. A.A. Austin to present 10 framed certificates to the nearest relatives of fallen soldiers from the Bannockburn Shire. Mr Austin thanked the council for the honour of presenting the certificates from the council, and said that he was quite sure that they would go down from generation to generation as marks of what they had done in the great war.

Certificates were then presented to the relatives of Pte. Craig (Steiglitz), Pte. Rickards (Steiglitz), Pte. Richards (She Oaks); also to the ladies who received the memorial brooches. In conclusion Mr. R. Gargan, J.P., moved a hearty vote of thanks to the Hon. A.A. Austin, Mr Lister, and all the other gentlemen present, and to the artists. This was seconded by Mr W.G. Sharpley, and carried with applause. The afternoon closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman. Mr Matheson, of Moranghurk Estate, Lethbridge, kindly offered to defray the cost of the honour board. Afternoon tea was served by the ladies of the Red Cross Society. The celebration was concluded in the evening, when a most successful dance was held.

The Ballarat Star 2 July 1919

Jan McDonald, Meredith History Interest Group

Gold for Marg and Jeff

Di Ritchie

On Saturday June 9th Marg and Jeff Cooper celebrated 50 years of wedded bliss at a luncheon at the Plough Inn at Myrmion for family and friends. Marg and Jeff were married at the Pentland Hills Uniting Church on June 8th 1968. They had announced their engagement one year before at the 25th wedding anniversary of Marg's parents.

Marg's wedding dress was made of white crepe and the bridesmaid's dresses were similar but pale blue. Her bridesmaids were Dorothy Crouch, a school friend, Alison Fagg (her sister), and Marjorie Cooper (Jeff's sister).

Jeff's attendants were Bob King (a mutual friend), John Parkinson and John Teggelove (friends of Jeff).

Congratulations Marg and Jeffmay you have many more happy and healthy years together.



Jeff and Marg pictured cutting a beautiful cake made and decorated by Marg's bridesmaid Dorothy Crouch.

Tokyo International Art Fair

Marg Cooper

Samantha Thompson, a professional visual artist from Lethbridge, recently flew to Japan to exhibit her current collection "Object Impressions" at the International Art Fair in Tokyo. Artists from all over the world, with Samantha the only artist from Australia, displayed their work over two days on May 25th and 26th after a champagne reception.

She was impressed by the Art on display, she enjoyed meeting the international artists and was interested to get a feel for what others are doing, but says that Japanese people generally live in small areas, so for them buying art is a novelty. Samantha is considering exhibiting in Florence next year, but thinks that there may be more buyers in Singapore and Hong Kong.

"Atomic Bomb", one of Samantha Thompson's pieces exhibited in Tokyo. (Reproduced with the artist's permission)



Her current collection is in reduction linocut, a printmaking technique that starts with one piece of lino and gradually over multiple layers of colour and cutting produces complex effects on paper. "Object Impressions" is a series of thirty pieces produced in the last twelve months.

Her series explores themes of identity, feminism and family history; our identity reflected in what we choose to collect and value. All sorts of domestic articles are portrayed in her art which we can recognise as the things we have stuffed in cabinets, stacked in antique shops, filling drawers and handed down as heirlooms. She believes that looking h. back is a great way of gaining perspective when looking forward.

Samantha's current collection has been well received by several established curated art exhibitions in the last ten months, winning the Waverley Art Prize (Print section), picking up an Honourable mention for printmaking in the Hornsby Art Prize, and being a finalist in the National Still Life Awards and Wyndam Art Prize. Two pieces from the collection have been acquired by the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery in Queensland.

Samantha's current collection was displayed at BOP Arts co-op at 10 Wallace Street, Meredith back in April. So we saw the "Object Impressions" exhibition before Tokyo! Wow!



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Rare Lamb

Marg Cooper

A rare flock of carpet wool sheep developed in Tasmania are now at home at Elaine. Sue Curliss and Geoff Martin bought a breeding group from the last stud flock of the Elliottdale breed in existence. They bought 18 ewes and two rams and intend to keep the breeding going by trading with a lady in Tasmania, who also bought a breeding group of the rare breed, or by using semen stored at Sydney University.

The Elliottdale breed was developed at the Elliott Research Station in Tasmania in the 1970's from a mutant Romney ram. It is a good meat sheep, that produces long hair which has to be shorn from the sheep twice a year. Apparently, there are three carpet wool breeds developed from Romney, Elliottdale, Tukidale and Drysdale. The Elliottdale wool has a fibre diameter of 38-40 microns and at each shearing the wool is approximately 120-200mm in length and weighs about 6 kg, but because there is no market at the moment for carpet wool, the breed is in serious risk of extinction.

The couple are no strangers to rare sheep, discovering the Elliottdales through Sue's role as sheep and goat co-ordinator of the Rare Breeds Trust of Australia. She says the breeds are classed as Lost, Critical, Endangered, Vulnerable and At Risk and that it is hard to keep an accurate count. For example, the East Friesian is now a vulnerable breed being previously on the Endangered list. The Elliottdales have joined a collection of Cheviots, English Leicesters, Lincolns, Harlequins and Babydoll Southdowns at Sugargum Farm at Elaine. Sue and Geoff say that "rescued" animals is a common thread in their lives. Even their kitten was a stray!

Sue and Geoff have lived in Angees Road for 18 years. Previously they lived at Mt Egerton but when a friend asked them to take 100 llamas, they needed a bigger property. Sue, who was a teacher, first became interested in sheep when she started spinning wool. She has had the wool from their sheep and llamas spun at Bendigo, but has recently found a factory at Bacchus Marsh that will spin and blend yarns. They are still hoping to find a market for the wool of the rare carpet wool sheep so the breed will become popular again.

In her spare time when she is not recording the numbers of the rare breeds, or teleconferencing the Board of Directors of the Rare Breeds Trust of Australia, Sue hires out her collection of vintage china and is a wedding stylist. From fine china, silk flowers and Lily and Lace to sheep and mud!



So that's where Meg Ryan got her look!

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