

52 PAGES
pnew!

OCTOBER 2018

Meredith & district News

Our FREE Community Newsletter since 1972



inside

NOVEMBER ISSUE

There will be no "NEWS"
published in November.
(See Page 12)



- Are you FIRE Ready?
- The Steiglitz Slow Burn
- Visiting the Silo Art Gallery
- Meet our New School Principal

...and the usual **MUCH MORE!**

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

Delivering for Meredith

Fixing local **roads**, backing our **farmers**, funding vital community **infrastructure**, investing in Meredith **child care services**, supporting commemorative projects and fighting for the Meredith school crossing **safety upgrade**.

I am proud to be delivering for the Meredith community.

I have also taken a strong stand on many issues including justice for bushfire victims, family violence law reform and tougher regulations for banks.

As your **strong local voice**, you expect me to fight for you with determination and commitment. And that is what I proudly do, every single day.

Please let me know what's important to you so that, together, we can build a **stronger Corangamite**.

SARAH HENDERSON MP
Federal Member for **CORANGAMITE**



MOORABOOL WIND FARM CONSTRUCTION UPDATE October 2018

Moorabool North Wind Farm

Construction of the Moorabool North wind farm continues. Zenviron, have now completed the onsite construction compound. All construction teams will now be based there.

Moorabool North wind farm construction progress:

- Approximately 2km of access tracks complete
- 4 foundations are excavated
- Pouring of concrete for foundations due to begin in early October
- On-site concrete batching plant operational
- Substation establishment works have commenced



Construction activity remains focused on the Ballan Meredith Road and the Ballan Egerton Road.

The increase in construction traffic due to the movement of earthwork machinery and gravel to site will continue. Please take care and observe warning and speed restriction signs.

Ballan Meredith Road

Goldwind Australia has been consulting with Moorabool Shire Council to actively manage the road condition. To date, this has included maintaining the existing seal on roads through ongoing inspections and regular maintenance works.

Goldwind Australia places a high importance on road safety for all road users and acknowledges the inconvenience that the current road conditions and associated maintenance works may cause the local community.

More permanent maintenance work to repair the damage has begun and will be completed shortly.

Goldwind will continue to consult with Council to monitor the all road conditions surrounding Moorabool North and South as construction progresses and undertake necessary measures to maintain road safety.

Moorabool South Wind Farm

Construction of Moorabool South Wind Farm continues with Zenviron working to establish the construction compound and access tracks located at the corner of Mt Wallace Ballark Road and Ballan Meredith Road.

Construction activity will be focused in this area and also on the Bungeeltap South Road and at the wind farm entrance on the Geelong Ballan Road.

Transmission Line

BEON continue with the erection of transmission line poles and stringing of the conductor wires along the route of the line. Construction will be focused on the Bungeeltap South Road, Ballan-Meredith Road and the Mt Wallace-Ballark Road. Stop and Go traffic control will be in place along the Bungeeltap South Road for upcoming weeks.

The Moorabool Wind Farm team aim to keep local disruption to a minimum and apologise if construction activities cause you any inconvenience.

Traffic Updates

To register to receive the weekly text message notifications on traffic and road usage throughout construction, text your full name to [0418 975 014](tel:0418975014) or contact us via any of the methods listed below.

A Moorabool Wind Farm Traffic Website: www.MWFTraffic.com is available. This can be accessed via your computer/tablet/smart phone and will also be available continuously on TV's at:

- Crossroads Trading, 461 Old Melbourne Road, Ballan
- Elaine Farm Supplies, 5264 Midland Highway, Elaine
- Moorabool Wind Farm Information Centre, 120 Inglis Street, Ballan

Contact Us

For further information please contact:

- Freecall: 1800 019 660,
- E: info@mooraboolwindfarm.com,
- Information Centre: 120 Inglis Street, Ballan, Wednesday to Saturday 9am to 1pm,
- Project Website: www.mooraboolwindfarm.com
- Traffic Website: www.MWFTraffic.com

#windfarmopenday



In October, ten wind farms around Australia will be throwing open their gates to the public for a range of fun and informative open day events.

Join the Moorabool Wind Farm Team on **SATURDAY 20th OCTOBER** to celebrate
Wind Farm Open Day.

at

Moorabool Wind Farm Information Centre, 120 Inglis Street, Ballan
Saturday 20th October 10am – 11.30am

Live Music and Refreshments Schools Colouring Competition
Raffle Prizes (Proceeds to CWA Ballan):

- Solar model wind turbine
- \$50 voucher for Zest Cafe, The Tin Plate Cafe and Mill Rose Cottage Café
- Dinner for 2 at Gordon Bleu, Gordon and an exclusive tour of the wind farm. (Dinner Value \$150)

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 Juniors 0430 587 674
5286 1291

ANGLING CLUB
0419 423 960

B'BURN ART GROUP
0410 808 483

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

GOLF CLUB
5341 5748
HISTORY GROUP
5286 8201

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0409 862 326

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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 606024
Mental Health Advice	1300 280 737
Poisons Information	13 11 26
Barwon Water	1300 656 007
SES Emergency - flood & storm	132 500
24 Hour Helpline	1800 629 572
24 Hour Drug & Alcohol Counselling	1800 888 236
Kids Help Line 24hr 5-18yo	1800 551 800
Golden Plains Shire A.H. Emergencies	1300 363 036 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 869 960
Mr Paul Ryan Elaine	0409 861 296

services

CEMETERY TRUST 5286 1550	MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH 5220 7230
HALL HIRE Meredith Memorial 5286 1251	PRE-SCHOOL 5286 0722
Elaine Mechanics 5341 5596	PRIMARY SCHOOL 5286 1313
Elaine Rec Res 5341 5703	RECREATION RESERVE 0429 841399
LIBRARY VAN 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.



How can you be a sage if you're pretty? You can't get your wizard papers without wrinkles.

~ Bill Veeck



Community

Art Group Looking for a Teacher

We are a group of twelve female artists ranging in age from twenty to eighties who love getting together to create. We also love to eat, travel and enjoy. We meet every Saturday morning in the Studio at the Community Centre from 9.30 am until 11.30 am. We draw, paint and colour with various mediums and have created some extraordinary art over the years but we feel we could benefit from some new inspiration. We would like to engage the services of a professional art teacher for either a single lesson or a number of lessons during a term. If you feel that you can inspire us please ring Meredith on 0439 060 539 or Marg Cooper on 52 868201

MORRISONS RECREATION RESERVE PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is given of a **Public Meeting** to be held at the CFA shed on the 4th of November commencing at 10:00am. The purpose of this meeting is to nominate no less than three (3) nor more than nine (9) persons as the Committee of Management for the reserve for the term of three years. The current committees term will expire on 17th December 2018. All positions will be declared open and nominations will be accepted prior to or on the day.

Nominations from women encouraged. We are looking for ideas and suggestions on what to do and how to run the place so please come along and have your say. The more people at the meeting the better. Councillor Tom Sullivan will be there to chair the meeting.

Further information, nomination forms and nominee declaration forms may be obtained by contacting your local Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning office or at the meeting.

For further enquiries please contact the Secretary, Steve Gourdon on 53415611 after 5pm.

Christmas In Meredith Meeting for Christmas 2018

As you will be aware, each December a flock of Christmas sheep arrive in Meredith.

These sheep have 2 homes, the privately owned and the community owned flocks.

Last year Advance Meredith Association (AMA) & few Lions Club Of Meredith members cut out and painted over 60 sheep for residents and hosted a decorating afternoon, it was an amazing response, but it meant we didn't get a chance to add to the towns mob.

The mob have unfortunately had a few die of old age, a few culled due to injuries and a few given first aid, so we really need to add new young sheep to the flock.

Also, the nativity (on the corner opposite the Pub, Back Creek and Corner store) needs some TLC. Last year we added a Christmas tree and presents but the emus unfortunately did not make it!

We would like to replace the emus and add some kangaroos, kookaburras etc.

So the small team at AMA is asking for some help so we can keep the Christmas flock growing and the Christmas spirit alive.

Areas you can help in include: Designing, Cutting Out, Painting & Decorating, Installing sheep around town and setting up the nativity corner.

If you can help in one of these areas and remember that many hands make light work and many smiles give us A Can Do Community, please come along to our 1st Christmas Town Meeting 2018 Saturday 3rd November @ 2pm, Dorotheys Kitchen in Staughton St, Meredith. Everyone welcome. If you can't make it to the meeting but would like to be involved PM @Christmas Sheep of Meredith - facebook or phone 0409027359.

Friday October 26th @7.30 p.m. **Preloved Fashion Parade**

Wine , cheese and supper
Meredith Memorial Hall

Ladies, mens, teenagers and children's clothing modelled and for sale at amazing prices. If you would like to help by modelling or assisting please contact Mary Foster 0424037542 or Di Ritchie 0408599602

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



The editorial deadline for the next issue
(December) is

9.00 am Thursday 29th November

Classifieds

First insertion of small ads are FREE to district residents

Church News



CATHOLIC

St. Joseph's Parish Meredith

Parish Priest Father Charles Balnaves phone 52861230.

Parishofmeredith@bigpond.com

Mass Times:

Winchelsea: 6pm every Saturday.

Bannockburn: every Sunday at 9 am. Every first Sunday of the month Family Mass on at 4 pm

Inverleigh every last Sunday of the month at 4p.m.

Anakie Sunday November 4th/ 18th at 11am

Meredith Sunday November 11th/25th (Parish Thanksgiving Mass) at 11am

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.

Elaine Mechanics Institute Hall AGM

All welcome to attend the Annual General Meeting of the committee for the Elaine Mechanics Institute Hall.

Thursday 18th October 2018, 7.00pm at the Mechanics Institute Hall, 20 Pearsons Road, Elaine

If you would like to join us on the committee please complete a nomination form at the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you there.

For further information please email us at elainetownhall@gmail.com"



TICKET ALLOCATION FOR LOCALS

An allocation of tickets for Meredith Music Festival is available on a first-come first-served basis for locals living between Elaine and Lethbridge to purchase from Back Creek Cafe (1/27 Staughton Street) from 10am on Wednesday 7 November until sold out. 3 per person limit. Please bring proof of residential address. CASH sales only. For more information contact us on 0430 091 120 or via auntym@mmf.com.au. The festival website is www.mmf.com.au and information for locals is available at www.mmf.com.au/locals.

Our Cover.

Chris McKenzie supplied this month's dramatic cover photo of the slow burn recently undertaken at the Steiglitz Cemetery in readiness for the forthcoming fire season.

See the full story on p. 22 and go to p. 15 for some tips on preparing for the fire season.



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

Armistice Centenary Celebrations 1918 - 2018

Friday 9th Nov:- Remembrance Eve Dinner & "Barry Pearce" Peace Award. 6.30pm pre- dinner drinks (30mins) \$35.00 per person RSVP: Gordon 0430 144103 Bookings Essential.

Saturday 10th Nov

12:00pm Meredith & District Lions Club Free Family BBQ & Children's games at Pioneer Park.

7: 00pm 'til late, Country Supper Dance at Memorial Hall. Bookings Essential. Cost: Seniors - \$15.00pp & Adults \$20.00pp

Sunday 11th Nov

10:00am Remembrance of Armistice 1918 Service at Memorial Hall.

12:00 Light Lunch.

1:30 Concert "100 Years of Music" at Memorial Hall.

Cost: Family- 2 Adults, 2 children under 15 yrs of age \$30.00; Seniors- \$15.00 pp & Adults \$20.00pp.

Further information & Bookings please contact: Jim Baker Tel: 0419 757 965, or 5286 1251.



Meredith Angling Club

AGM and Trophy Winners

The AGM was once again a success with many people turning out for the gathering and to announce the trophy winners for this year. We would also like to thank the Sebastopol bowling club for their donations once again towards the trophies. Trophy, shield and voucher winners this year were; Lindsay King, Neil Beer, Cianna Beer, Cooper Lee, Finn Lee, Neil Lee, Robert Dick, Ian King, Sarah Edwards, Bert Eldredge, Kevin Brady, Doug King and Sebastian Chilton-Brand. Photos of winners will be posted below. If you would like more details on the award winners, please email sebatwork@hotmail.com

New Elected Positions

After the AGM concluded, there were some positions changed within the committee with some previous people spending another year in their roles. The positions are now as follows:

President: Darren.C

Vice Pres: Robert.F

Secretary: Bert.E

Vice Sec: Lynn.K

Treasurer: Neil.L

Assistant Treas: Debbie.C

Stewards: Doug.K, Sebastian.CB, Ian.K, Rob.D

BDAA Reps: Ian.K, Lynn.K, Darren.C, Rob.D

Junior Rep: Cooper.L

Recreation



Elaine Cricket club

Cricket Blast coordinator for junior cricket. This is a volunteer role with Elaine Cricket Club. If your son or daughter wants an introduction to the game of cricket then why not get involved and be a coordinator too!! In previous years the kids and coordinator have even been on the MCG at the Boxing Day Test during tea break. Ph 0448291074 for more info

Senior A2 team Elaine Tennis Club has entered a senior A2 team in the Buninyong and District Tennis Association for 2018/19 season. Any new players most welcome. Please contact Russell Ford ph 0418383931

Annual bus trip The Club is having it's annual bus trip to the Australian Open on Monday 14th January. Numbers need to be confirmed by end of October. All welcome. Enquiries Ph 0448291074

20 Year Service Award - On Sunday 9th September 2018 at Elaine Tennis Club's Open Day, Andrew Cronin from Tennis Victoria presented Russell Ford from Elaine Tennis Club with an award for over 20 years service with our club. Russell is playing senior tennis with Elaine this year with his daughter Natasha and son Stephen. Well done Russell!

Below: Andrew Cronin from Tennis Victoria with Russell Ford from Elaine Tennis Club.





COMING UP
@
Meredith Community Centre

A SPECIAL EVENT FOR SENIORS WEEK

A WELL PLANNED

JOURNEY

"Death is just another pass, one which we all must take"

Spoken by a true wizard, Gandalf from Lord of the Rings.

It's not a topic that is easily discussed however it's something that most of us would like to avoid thinking about, as some distant problem that in some ways is beyond our control. But you may have more of say than you have ever imagined.

Join us for a serious yet light hearted look at what exactly is a good death – and if one exists.

What care options do we have, what are our legal responsibilities, what other considerations should we make, how can we make these decisions in a timely and effective way.

Are there cultural considerations or family rituals you'd like to see adhered to?

Discuss options you can consider when planning end of life, where you want to be, what options around care you have, how you imagine your funeral/wake and what you would want it to be like.

We have brought together some well-known and trusted faces, experts in their field, to provide you with information to empower you to make choices for yourself and your loved ones when the time is right to do so. We all endeavour to lead a long life and hope this will be the case – being prepared gives us peace of mind, as well as the ability to control the things that we can.

Wednesday October 17th 10.00am to 2.00pm
\$5.00 entry Lunch and refreshments provided



*See it
Love it
Own it*

St Joey's Op Shop FASHION PARADE

Friday 26th October 2018

Meredith Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm

Ticket: \$15.00

Includes Cheese & Wine plus Supper

Thommo has Retired.

Marg Cooper

At high school all Peter Thomson wanted to be was a motor mechanic or to draw cars. In every hot rod magazine there was a Shell advertisement with a cut away drawing of a formula one car and drawing like that was what he wanted to do. Peter was told that if he gained an apprenticeship with Ford and did extra schooling he could get into drafting (but he didn't realize that this was different to technical illustrating). He applied for a fitting and turning/toolmaker apprenticeship at Fords and was lucky enough to be accepted and started in 1973 when he was still 16 years of age.

Peter remembered that the freedoms and craziness of second year in the toolroom was like a breath of fresh air after the strict army like atmosphere of the first year. After year 11 and leaving school as such a 'dumbo', by the end of the second year he was winning awards and was in the running for apprentice of the year. His first drafting assignment was completing a detail drawing of the 1.6 litre badge for the upcoming Escort. In 1978 he became a full time staff member in Chassis Drafting. The team of guys in there were incredibly talented and very artistic as well. Each drawing was an individual piece of artwork.

In 1982 Peter was trained in PDGS (Product Design Graphics System) and joined the ranks of the first CAD (Computer Aided Design) team. Peter and another guy were the first CAD designers to be sent overseas to find out how they operated and to be trained in Computervision which the US used as a solid modeller for engine design. Ford Australia didn't pick up this system, so 3D modelling was first done in Ideas then later, in Catia. Some of his jobs included an intake manifold and then, in the early 90's, Peter got into his crankshaft years - doing fourteen designs in all. Eight counterweights, twelve counterweights, then back to eight again. It was all amazing new technology back then: macros, running CAE simulations, then rapid prototyping. It seemed incredible that it took so long for 3D printing to become mainstream.

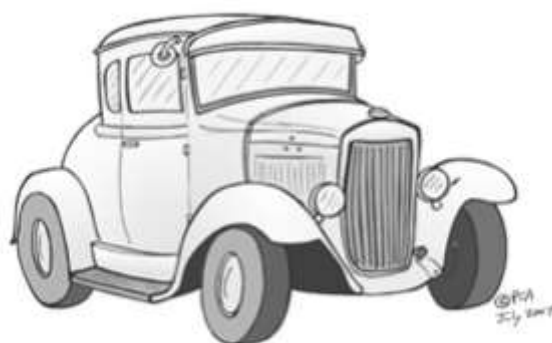
Peter recalls that his most enjoyable years were when it was Ford of Australia and the team were all

working on local design. The work content was more interesting. Apart from crankshafts some of his more memorable jobs were: doing the first one piece EFI intake manifold pushing core box height limits, doing the first exhaust systems with catalytic converters, doing a package study to put a V6 into the Falcon (which never actually eventuated), a transmission case for a ZF automatic transmission to suit the Falcon six, crossmembers and numerous brackets. He worked on designing components for every Falcon since the XD, the Territory, and the Ranger.

Into the new millennium it was decided to split the office into four groups with a module leader looking after

each group. Peter was given Powertrain Systems and at one stage had nine designers working for him. Peter retired from Ford after 45½ years on July 27, 2018. He says that it was a great ride, so often on the cutting edge of technology. He worked with some fantastic people, both talented and fun, and he is so pleased it all panned out as it did.

Peter now has time to restore his two old cars and to scale more rocky outcrops. He discovered rock climbing in 1978 and this passion took over from cars until the early 2000's when the interest resumed. Peter and his wife, Kerry, train at 'The Rock' climbing gym in Geelong, bush walk, cross country ski, Rogaine, cycle, and both are talented artists.



Paul Ryan Transport

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www.woosell.com.au

Pat Banks or Ken Mason 03 5286 1223 or 0408 861 221

NOVEMBER ISSUE



NO M and D NEWS in NOVEMBER

We have been running short-handed these last few months because Trudy Mitchell, one of our key volunteers in the production of the newsletter every month, has been sidelined with a medical condition. The problem has been made worse by the editor's unavailability during critical periods for both the October and November issues. (That is why this issue has been delayed.) The newsletter committee reviewed our options and decided, as well as postponing publication of the October issue, to not publish a November issue. This was a hard decision to take. (We have, as best we know, continuously published since 1972.) But we are hopeful we will be back on track soon and we will certainly publish a December issue, which should be out on the first Thursday of the month, as usual.

We have long recognised the risk of relying on just two people to publish each issue, and have been trying for some time to recruit volunteers to train in production, accounts and editing. This is still our aim but, like many organisations, we are finding it difficult to recruit people with the time and commitment. (If you or someone you know may be interested, please let us know.)

We apologise to our advertisers, our many contributors and, of course, our readers; but are sure you will appreciate our circumstances.

Jim Elvey, Chair

Meredith Newsletter Committee of Management

can
YOU
lend a
hand?



volunteer
do good, feel good

If you have the time and interest to learn the role of editor, production officer or accounts officer on the newsletter team, PLEASE, contact us for a chat. You would work with an experienced team member until you feel comfortable in the role, then take charge of every second issue. Give Jim a call on 5286 1273 to find out more.

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PH 5286 1223, Find us on Facebook or Check Out Our Website! - www.woolabrai.com.au



from the MAYOR

Cr Helena Kirby
Mayor, Golden Plains Shire



Council has been paying close attention and listening to our community members' feedback about their rates notice and we have great empathy for those who are struggling. We Councillors are also ratepayers and active members of the community, we identify closely with the issues we are hearing about.

Council's approach to setting property rates is part of the adopted budget each year; for the 2018-19 year it can be found on pages 70-73. This Budget went through the standard formal adoption process including the community submission process (which is a formal statutory process under section 223 of the Local Government Act) therefore rates for the 2018-19 year are fixed. While the 18/19 budget cannot be changed, residents are able to make an objection to their valuation by filling out an objection form (which can be found under 'forms' on our About your rates and valuations page).

I can share with you that Council commits to a full and fresh approach to rating distribution as a part of next year's 2019-20 Budget process and we genuinely encourage residents to get in touch with us to provide their suggestions ahead of the Budget's development. While we always have a service review focus, it is getting harder and harder to meet the balance between rates and the amount required to meet the community's expectations on the services Council should deliver within the Budget.

Golden Plains Shire Council fully supports the Municipal Association of Victoria's efforts in advocating for fairness for local government in the rating system, as our community feedback clearly indicates a desire for real and meaningful change.

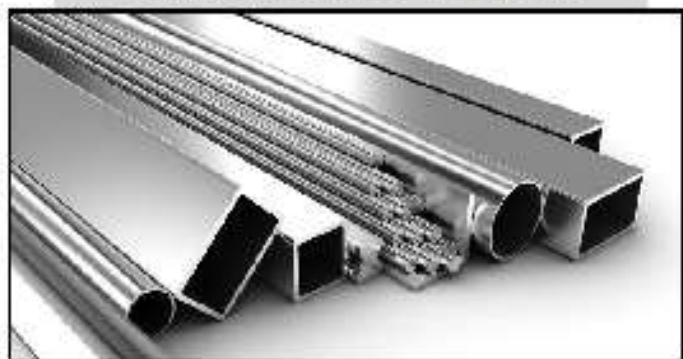
Council will also increase its already significant efforts in lobbying, advocating and pushing hard for greatly increased State and Federal funding. Golden Plains sometimes fall through the gap as a rural/residential council with a low revenue base from rates. Our challenge is our fast growing population; our low rate base (low number of rateable properties) is placing significant pressure on Council, and in turn on our residents, as we strive to provide everyone with the necessary services and infrastructure.

Again, I encourage any residents who may be facing difficulty paying their rates, or wish to object to their re-valuation, to contact Customer Service on 5220 7111.

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are you **FIRE READY?**

START THINKING ABOUT SUMMER

It is so easy to become a little blasé about fire preparedness, so it is important to get motivated early. You can download excellent guides to fire planning and preparing your property for summer at cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fire-ready-kit

And to get you started, here are some pointers for preparing your plan.

- Which Fire Danger Rating is your trigger to leave?
- Will you leave early that morning or the night before?
- Where will you go?
- What route will you take – and what is your alternative in the event that a fire is already in the area?
- What will you take with you?
- What do you need to organise for your pets or livestock?
- Who do you need to keep informed of your movements?
- Is there anyone outside your household who you need to help or check up on?
- How will you stay informed about warnings and updates?
- What will you do if there is a fire in the area and you cannot leave?

From cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-bushfire-plan



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Malaysian Prawn Curry

Prep time 15 mins + Cooking Time 10 Mins

Serves 4

Ingredients

1 medium brown onion, finely chopped
2 cloves of garlic, crushed
1 tps finely grated fresh ginger
2 tbs red curry paste
270ml reduced-fat coconut milk
½ cup (125ml) fish or vegetable stock
600g green prawns, peeled, deveined, tails intact
2 bunches choy sum, chopped
150g snow peas, halved diagonally
2 tbs olive oil

Method

Step 1

Heat oil in wok/frypan over medium – high heat. Stir fry onion, garlic and ginger for 2-3 minutes or until onion has softened.

Step 2

Add curry paste and fry for 1 minute or until fragrant. Add coconut milk and stock and bring to the boil. Reduce heat and simmer uncovered for 2-3 minutes or until sauce has slightly thickened.

Step 3

Add prawns and cook, uncovered for 2-3 minutes or until prawns are cooked through. Add choy sum and snow peas and cook for 1 minute or until vegetables are tender.

Serve with rice.

NB: You could use chicken, pork or beef instead of prawns.

Recipe from WW Asian Recipes

BANNOCKBURN EARTHWORX

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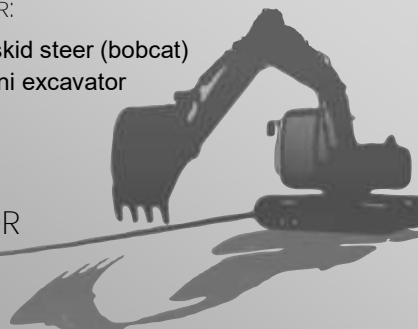
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Bannockburn Surgery provides comprehensive GP services, has been practicing in the community for more than 30 years, is the largest practice in the shire, with 6 full time equivalent Doctors and has an excellent reputation.

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: 8.30 am – 7.30 pm
Thursday & Friday: 8.30 am – 5.30 pm

Saturday: Emergency Session from 10.00 am (no appt required) Round the clock care is offered to our regular patients, call the Surgery after hours for further information.

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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 you 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.

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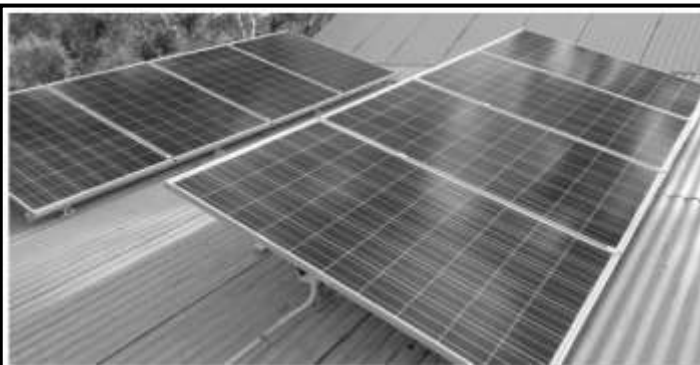
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Saturday 9am - 1pm

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the
rainfall
report



SEPT RAIN (mm)



27

Meet Community Bank Board

Marg Cooper

On October 31, the community is invited to "Meet and Greet" the directors of the Buninyong and District Community Bank. This Happy Hour will be held at the Meredith Hotel, 51 Staughton Street from 6 pm until 7 pm.

The Bank invites you to drop in and have a chin wag. They will even shout you a drink just for talking to them! So, bring yourselves and your ideas for the township, and let them know what the Bank can do to help build the community in and around Meredith. If you're lucky, you may just walk away with a bit of Gold in your pocket as well!

Randall Dreger, Branch Manager, Buninyong & District Community Bank, 401B Warrenheip Street, Buninyong.

You may have heard that Victoria had its driest September in one hundred years, and Australia had its driest on record. Not surprising then, that we fared badly too, with less than 40% of the long term average. So we've provided a picture of a puddle, in case you don't get to see one for a while.

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Bannockburn Pharmacy Newsletter

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Christmas Shopping Night – Friday 23rd November

Mark it in your calendars, our annual Christmas Shopping Night will be held at the Pharmacy on **FRIDAY 23rd November** from **6:30pm to 9:00pm**. This year we have decided to hold it on a Friday night for the first time. Last year we had a huge number of people attend the evening that had a great time. Again this year there will be lucky door prizes drawn during the evening and there will be in excess of \$2000 worth of prizes to give away on the night! Plus there will be finger food and drinks provided throughout the evening. On the night will be offering our Loyalty Club Members **30% off all gifts!!** This will be a great chance to kick start your Christmas Shopping if you haven't already started! Please bring your friends and family and join us on what will be another fun and enjoyable evening on Friday 23rd November from 6:30pm to 9:00pm.

Baby Club – have you joined yet?

We now have available in the pharmacy a Baby Club!. If you have a child who is under 2 years of age we can join you up to our baby club. Once they turn 2, we transfer any money you have accumulated back to our Loyalty Club. Below are some of the benefits of joining our Baby Club:

FREE to join

We will add a **\$5 sign up bonus** to your Baby Club to spend on your next visit

10 cents for every \$1 spent (Double normal loyalty club amount) on products bought within the following categories: Children's Health, Franjo's Kitchen, Moo-Goo, Therapeutic Skin care, Health Management, Mother & Child and Vitamin & Supplements.



Naturopath

Did you know that our Naturopath, Karah McLaren visits our pharmacy every fortnight on a Thursday? You book a private 1-on-1 appointment to see Karah to discuss any health related problems or questions you may have and she will personally tailor an outcome to your needs.

You can book an appointment by either phoning the pharmacy or online by visiting www.karahmclarennaturopath.com.

Ear Piercing

Don't forget we offer ear piercing in the Pharmacy. The cost is \$34.95 and this includes the ear rings & antiseptic spray to take home. Bookings can be made online through our Facebook page or call us on 52811519.

Pharmacy Features:

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

Trading Hours

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

Christmas Shopping Night – FRIDAY 23rd November

25 Years at Woolabrai

Marg Cooper

Pat Banks started to work at Meredith Wool in December 1993 for Graham Hamilton Smith. At that time Meredith Wool mainly bought wool from farmers, classed it into lines, scoured it and sold it overseas. Graham rang Pat one Saturday morning, told him that he had a shed full of wool, needed a qualified wool classer and that he'd put him on three months trial. Pat worked for Graham for five years before he bought the business in October 1998 and renamed it Woolabrai.

Pat started his wool classing in Ballarat at the School of Mines and finished it in 1980 at the Gordon Institute in Geelong. In 1981 he started an external Agricultural Course at Glenormiston Agricultural College that took four years to complete, all the time working in shearing sheds, classing wool or at other jobs. For two years Pat worked at Elders Woolstores in Geelong during the day and worked at E P Robertson wool scouring plant from 4 pm until midnight. He also trucked wool into Elders store and recalls that a chap would take his truck to Pivot to pick up a load of superphosphate while Pat worked, so Pat could deliver the fertilizer after work. Farm work was done when he got home, often in the dark.

Helen, a girl from Bendigo city also studied wool classing because she didn't have a clue about wool and wanted to learn. Pat and his brother would shear their sheep whilst Helen and her sister-in-law would do the wool while their children played in the wool bin.

In 1983-84 Pat and Helen lived at what had been Bill Stevens Soldier Settlement block on the Mt Mercer Road. They tried to buy land at Meredith just missing out on Banks farm on Marchmont Road. They thought it would have been apt for Pat and Helen Banks to buy Banks farm! They bought 300 acres in the Shelford/Rokewood district, near where Pat's parents farmed and leased another 900 acres with Pat's brother.



Immediately before Pat began working for Meredith Wool he worked for nine years at Telecom but had three months leave each year to class wool in shearing sheds. And for the first 18 months after he and Helen were married Pat worked at Alcoa.

Pat remembers that he'd work five days a week for Meredith Wool and Saturday mornings. Sometimes the Saturdays were longer if a truck of wool came in at midday. A lot of wool was sourced from Lake Bolac (a truck went that way every Thursday), from Wakool and from Meredith and District. Because there is less wool being produced in the district and because the business now includes stock feed and supplies Woolabrai is now going to concentrate on clips that will be sold at auction through WISS (Woolgrowers Independent Selling Services). This change in emphasis in the business will allow more time to service clients.

Pat and Helen have grown the business, have increased the shedding and storage area and have employed many members of their family, giving them a good start in their working life.

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CELEBRATE CHILDREN'S WEEK WITH US!

Golden Plains Shire is proud to deliver three FREE Children's Week celebration events throughout the Shire from 22-26 October 2018.

These free community events will offer families and children the opportunity to enjoy a range of interactive activities and entertainment which includes the Mini Muso Academy performances, art and craft activities, visits from local emergency services representatives, music, storytelling and so much more.

There will also be the opportunity to obtain information about the Maternal and Child Health service and other local early years and support services across Golden Plains Shire. Celebrations will be held in three locations across the Shire – attend one or attend all, it's up to you!

Rokewood (22 Oct)	Bannockburn (24 Oct)	Smythesdale (26 Oct)
<p>Monday 22 October, 10am-12pm</p> <p>Rokewood Kindergarten 38 Aitchison Street, Rokewood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini Muso Academy performing children's music and movement sessions • Art and craft experiences, obstacle courses and outdoor games • Jumping castle • Maternal Child Health Mum's zone with quiet play areas for babies, health information and added privacy for feeding Mums. • Men's Shed sausage sizzle, food available for purchase • Emergency services hub. 	<p>Wednesday 24 October, 10am-12pm</p> <p>Bannockburn Library 25/27 High St, Bannockburn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini Muso Academy performing children's music and movement sessions • Petting zoo • Story-time sessions • Maternal Child Health Mum's zone with quiet play areas for babies, health information and added privacy for feeding Mums. • Men's Shed sausage sizzle, food available for purchase • Emergency services hub. 	<p>Friday 26 October, 10am-12pm</p> <p>The Well Smythesdale 19 Heales St, Smythesdale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini Muso Academy performing children's music and movement sessions • Children's yoga session • Art and craft experiences, obstacle courses and outdoor games • Little Foxes bush kinder • Maternal Child Health Mum's zone with quiet play areas for babies, health information and added privacy for feeding Mums. • Men's Shed sausage sizzle, food available for purchase • Emergency services hub.

Please come along and join us for these fun-filled events, strengthen your local connections and support your child to PLAY, EXPLORE and GROW.

Steiglitz Cemetery Burn

Peter Stray

On the 8th of September 2018, the Steiglitz Cemetery Trust conducted a cool burn in the bush area at the rear of the cemetery. The aim of the burn was threefold:

- fuel reduction for the summer fire season
- stimulate recruitment and regeneration of indigenous species
- Practice Indigenous type burning techniques.

The background to this is that three local CFA members – Andrew Kerr (Balliang), Brooke Killen (Lethbridge) and Peter Stray (Maude) – were part of a group of CFA people from across Victoria who attended the Jigija Indigenous Fire Training Program in Gangalidda country, south of the Gulf of Carpentaria in Queensland.

The Jigija program teaches participants traditional ways of using fire to manage the Australian environment as it was managed prior to European settlement. Generally speaking, the Traditional Owners mainly burn when conditions are cool and relatively damp, just dry enough for fire to “trickle” across the landscape. This does the least damage to the flora and fauna, leaves islands of unburned vegetation and allows animals to move away from the fire without being caught in it.

In our environment, burning is generally best conducted on the Autumn side of Winter. In this case though, there was a small window of opportunity to practice what we had learned on our trip.

In the lead up to the burn at the Steiglitz Cemetery, conditions were monitored closely for about two weeks to ensure that the soil was moist and the vegetation was not drying out too much given the lack of rain this year. We were lucky that ideal conditions occurred on the day we had chosen to burn. There had been rain followed by a couple of sunny days. So with the help of Maude CFA members we went ahead with the burn.

The fire was lit in spots along the back fence adjacent to a hand cut fire break. Any fire that threatened to cross the break was quite easily stamped out. Initially, the fire needed some encouragement to get going as we had started a little early. After half an hour or so the fire started to move slowly through the vegetation as desired. As it was only a fairly small burn, it was all done in a couple of hours. The most relaxed bush burn I have ever attended.

The results were even better than expected. We achieved about a 70% burn of the bush area in a mosaic pattern. The southern end of the area, as well as other patches, remains unburned due to lack of fuel. The soil surface is largely still protected by a

thin layer of litter and the humus layer is mostly intact due to the moisture in the soil. The tree canopy is a little scorched where grass trees were underneath but still green in other parts. Fire ran up most of the stringy bark trees, burning off the loose bark as desired for fire protection.

In the weeks since the burn, the area has been monitored closely to ensure there is nothing smouldering to give us problems later in the season. Nothing has been found for a couple of weeks.


It will be interesting to see the longer term results from an ecological perspective. A vegetation survey was conducted beforehand so that we can assess the outcomes into the future.

This type of burning will be essential for community safety and the ecological health of the bush in the coming years. There are large areas of privately owned bushland in the Brisbane Ranges that has not been burned for a very long time and poses a danger to the community. It is my hope that we can roll out a cool burning program next year to treat some of these areas.

Climate change is making fires more intense and difficult to control. Conducting these traditional, cool burns in the least dangerous months of the year will give us more chance in summers ahead

(See our guide to preparing your property for summer, on page 15)





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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.



Silo Art

Cathie Boer

Recently Peter and I did a driving tour around the Silo Arts Trail. These large scale works of art in the Mallee and Wimmera are absolutely awe inspiring, and for anyone thinking of doing the trail, we highly recommend you do so.

We started at Rupanyup and finished at Patchewollock. The travelling time between each of the six places is about half an hour, so allow at least 3 hours just to see the silos, and whatever you do take your camera!

The Silo Arts Trail is Australia's largest outdoor gallery, recognizing and celebrating the region's people. (Pick up a brochure at one of the venues or look up siloarttrail.com/home)



Three of the five art works (one in detail) on the Silo Art Trail . (Photos by Cathie Boer.)





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- ☒ Home Visits(a service Fee applies)

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

Andrew Howard's SLIDING DOORS



Clickety clack....clickety clack....clickety clack....

The noise of the slow train rocking along century old tracks was mesmerizing. Close your eyes and you are immediately lulled into a deep, relaxing meditation. The gentle, rhythmic rocking motion perfectly in tune with the repetition of noise. Clickety clack...clickety clack...clickety clack....

As the train rocked and rolled its way slowly through the tea estates and rain forests they shared memories of childhood songs of trains and journeys. "All bound for morning town, many miles away..." on one hand. And "I think I can, I think I can...." better reflecting the relentless efforts of this determined, dusty blue diesel engine to drag itself and its cargo of what seemed to be half the countries population up hill after hill to the highest point of the journey somewhere further up the track.

Six hours had already passed since they left the colonial history, noise, congestion and craziness of the ancient city behind. Now high in the central mountains of this stunning land where humanity itself may have begun the hot, steamy conditions from the start of the journey had been replaced by the chilly high mountain air, further cooled by the light, misting rain and a fresh breeze. What a country of amazing contrast they mused. While 6 hours had passed the slow train had barely covered 100kms; yet the scenery and conditions felt to be a world away from that they had left behind when they had boarded the train for this iconic and epic trip.

It had been a memorable journey already. Pre-warned that the train is often full to the point of overflowing and with all reserved seats booked long ago they had arrived a full hour prior to scheduled departure only to learn that "schedule" was, in this country of randomness, a vague reference to a possible departure time just as road rules appeared to be mere suggestions rather than definitive instructions. Apparently, the train would be 45 minutes late...maybe, or thereabouts. Now well-adjusted to the variabilities of time and arrangements in this country built on centuries of more casual rules and mores, they had settled into the familiar activity of watching the world go by, an engaging way to pass time in this enchanting country.

When the train finally arrived, the boarding "process" required fierce determination and sustained physical effort to hold their space in the torrent of locals and backpack laden tourists, all determined to gain a space on the already bursting train. Triumphant in their efforts, they settled into a prime position just inside the open door of a 2nd class carriage. Not exactly the comfort of a reserved 1st or 2nd class seat but somewhat better than an even more crowded 3rd class carriage and a prime spot nonetheless, fresh air and uninterrupted views guaranteed, albeit as standing room only for what would prove to be an 8 hour epic.

Despite the marathon nature of the journey, time was passing quickly, and the trip was proving to be a highlight

of their travels to date.

An endless procession of local food hawkers leapt on and off the train at every village stop and expertly pushed their way through the mass of passenger cargo; up and down the lengths of the carriages offering their pungent delights to all. While the locals snapped up the nourishing offerings many tourists shied away, concerned it seemed by the strange, exotic aromas of the offerings and the constant dread of "travellers' belly" in this corner of the world.

Further entertainment was offered at each stop as, somehow, commuters found their way through, and out of, the seemingly immovable mass of passengers while at the same time an equal or even greater number of new passengers found their way into carriages that to all appearances offered no chance of space for the stream of eager travellers looking to board.

Amongst all of this they were constantly amazed by the lack of attention to anything remotely resembling safety for the adventurous travellers. Hanging on to whatever reasonably secure hand hold that could be found numerous travellers rocked in and out of windows and doors in time with the ever-shifting movements of the rolling train.

One young and adventurous backpacker of unknown European origin provided constant entertainment as he continually tested the upper limits of safe travel by planting one foot within the train door and with one hand grasping the door frame swinging himself out into the fresh breeze, only to quickly withdraw to the safety of the carriage seconds before an approaching tunnel or rare piece of instructional signage threatened to offer a cut price limb removal.

Returning their attention to each other as the train crossed a narrow bridge over a deep ravine they marveled at the wonderful experience they were sharing when the train lurched suddenly and dramatically, way beyond the range of rocking and rolling of the last 6 hours. Desperately hanging on to whatever safe holds they could find within reach of their confined space they hugged with relief as they realized both were ok.

With their own safety confirmed they both instinctively looked across the carriage to the adventurous young backpacker...only to find an empty space where he had been.

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Golden Plains Rural Women's Network –Update

Welcome to our October Update. We are delighted to share with you that there are new events and activities underway.

Take the Lead Event 10 October – Book now

The fabulously talented former Australian Netball Captain Sharelle McMahon is coming to Golden Plains Shire to inspire women to 'Take the Lead' in local sport. Golden Plains Rural Women's Network has partnered with Golden Plains Shire Council to run a special women's leadership event, taking place on Wednesday 10 October, 6.15pm-8.45pm at the Lethbridge Recreation Reserve (Stephenson Street, Lethbridge). It's free to attend but bookings are essential; please contact Georgie at 5220 7245 or email gfuller@gplains.vic.gov.au if you'd like to come along or to find out more.

Oaks Day Pamper Night – Save the Date

Pop this event into your calendars ladies! We are booking the Rokewood Golf Club this Ladies Day, 8 November, for a luxury event between 6 and 9pm. There will be delicious finger food, perhaps a glass of wine, door prizes and more. There will be booths set up where you can come-n-try the likes of beauty therapy for nails, hands and feet, flower arranging and massage. Or you could just come along for a lovely relaxing and fun evening. Follow the Golden Plains Rural Women's' Network Facebook page to keep up to date with all our news.

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You might pick up something special or learn something new ! There are so many clever and creative people in rural Victoria, artists, designers, food producers and growers – you might pick up something completely different, that is unique to the area. We all know the joy of finding something new!

Want to join us?

New Members are always welcome. Contact our Chair, Felicity Bolitho, on 0427 835 706 if you'd like to come along to one of our meetings.



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New Owners at the Top Pub

Marg cooper

A delightful young couple with buckets of experience and enthusiasm have bought the “Top Pub” in Staughton Street. They had previously been living in Melton. Cate worked for Ritchie’s Supermarkets for 18 years and Rick had been in the Military, retrained in computer programming and engineering and has worked in the corporate world.

As a child Cate lived in most states of Australia as her mother was “a wanderer”. She has worked in restaurant kitchens (loving the madness) and has renovated four houses. Rick has worked behind bars as a second job, knows how to pour a beer and says he can “talk under water”. They both have a keen interest in football, Cate supports the Bulldogs and Rick supports Carlton. They had previously been to Meredith on a couple of occasions, one time to buy fuel and Rick visited Happy Hens on business, another time but it seems that “all roads led to Meredith!”

Cate calls their move to Meredith and into the Hotel business as “their mid-life adventure”. They always thought that they would like to run a business of their own, together, but finding the pub at Meredith was purely accidental. Rick advertised some of his father’s plumbing equipment on Facebook. Caz (the previous owner) bought some fittings for a hot water system. Rick noticed that Caz had the hotel for sale and Cate noticed that it had a fireplace. They visited. When they walked in “it felt good”. Caz recognized who they were although she had never met them and when a man on a horse walked by

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they decided “it was meant to be.”

They intend to build on what Caz has done. They have a zillion ideas including ‘Meredithizing’ the Dining Room by putting history on the walls, installing a coffee machine and playing Rick’s collection of vinyl records at afternoon sessions in the beer garden. They are focused on providing good food and good music all enveloped in the prism of “old fashioned service”.

They are ‘stoked’ with the welcome they have received, saying that the locals are amazing and that they can’t wait to immerse themselves in the community: after they unpack all their boxes. Cate has already started to learn to knit thanks to Annie who offered to come to the hotel each week.



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The School's New Principal

After a long spell without a permanent principal at Meredith Primary School, Steven Trotter has been appointed to the position and took up the role this term. Here, Steven introduces himself (and his family) to the Meredith community.

I would like to formally introduce myself to the Meredith community as the new substantive Principal of Meredith Primary School, Steven Trotter. I am very excited to be joining not only the school community, but I am looking forward to contributing to the wider Meredith community over the coming years.

I began my teaching career at South Geelong Primary before being seconded to Gippsland as Campus Assistant Principal to support the opening of a Department of Education and Training residential primary school, Woorabinda. In 2015 I was lucky enough to be appointed to Truganina College as Sub-School Principal in its opening year. We started as a relatively small school, however being a new school in one of the largest growth corridors in Australia, Wyndham, we quickly grew to over 1000 students.

I have 2 children, Isabelle (3 years old), Hamish (almost 2 years old) and we have another one on the way in December. My wife Jessica is an Occupational Therapist and works around the Geelong and Wyndham region.

I would like to invite current and future families or Meredith community members to please stop in and visit, introduce yourself and have a coffee. I will be looking for opportunities for future enrolments and their families to engage in the school well before their formal transition occurs, please keep an eye out for details in the new year. I am also looking forward to hearing how I can support the local community in my new role.

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IF We didn't Have the internet,
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- ☺ A rat can last longer without water than a camel.
- ☺ The dot over the letter "i" is called a tittle.
- ☺ A raisin dropped in a glass of fresh champagne will bounce up and down continuously from the bottom of the glass to the top.
- ☺ A female ferret will die if it goes into heat and cannot find a mate.
- ☺ A duck's quack doesn't echo. No one knows why.
- ☺ During the chariot scene in "Ben Hur," a small red car can be seen in the distance (and Charlton Heston's wearing a watch).

Source: someone with an internet connection.



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Vale to Ambrose Crowe

21/12/1945 – 6/9/2018

Ambrose was the third of eight children (Monica, Janet (dec.), Ambrose, Austin, Maureen, John, Geraldine and Steven) of Phil and Len Crowe. Len and Phil farmed at Goroke but in 1964 they sold their property and bought about double the acreage at Meredith; the homestead and 1566 acres of "Glenetive" at Bamganie.

At a young age Ambrose attended boarding school "Villa Maria" at east Ballarat. Boarding continued into secondary school when Ambrose attended St Patrick's College. His brother John describes how separation from family and the institutional life never really suited Ambrose's more rebellious spirit and on leaving SPC he vowed never to return.

Ambrose and Austin Crowe worked on the farm with their father and did off farm work. They feature in football photos of Meredith in 1965 and 1966. Ambrose had remarkable respect for all creatures. It's perhaps a cruel irony that in 1966 Ambrose was conscripted into the Australian Army during the time of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. He trained as a gunner/wireless operator in the Armoured Corp and served in Vietnam in 1968. He fought in battles of Coral and Balmoral, two of the heaviest engagements by Australian troops in the war.

Ambrose was markedly affected by his war experiences and suffered continuing health issues, including mental health issues, on his return to Australia.

When he came home from Vietnam he decided that farming was not for him. He could not settle after this experience and spent ten years in "the wilderness", travelling the world.

Ambrose continued his studies and was awarded a PhD in Political Philosophy in 2004. His thesis was turned into a book titled "The Battle After the War" which dealt with the treatment of Australia's Vietnam Veterans on their return to Australia. This was a remarkable achievement and stands testimony to Ambrose's intelligence, determination and commitment to the telling of the Vietnam Veteran's story, a story that he saw as in substantial part being marked by indifference and injustice.

Ambrose's early decades were spent un-partnered but as he approached fifty years of age he met Liz who shared his love of motorcycling and they toured far and wide on his beloved Harley Davidsons. Unfortunately Liz was diagnosed with mesothelioma in 2009 and Ambrose cared for her in their Beaumaris home. Liz's passing was a terrible blow to Ambrose's own welfare, a challenge that he met with typical endurance and courage.



We don't know which one is Ambrose - although it's not the feller on the far right (so to speak) - we think he and two of his brothers are among the amused.

Ambrose features in the famous photo of Henry Bolte serving tea to his shearing team that is on the wall in the Meredith Interpretative Centre and the Crowe family is remembered by the tree guard in Wilson Street that features nine crows around the top of the tree guard.

A tribute in the Herald-Sun from Melbourne Legacy told how Ambrose dedicated his life to helping others.

Compiled from the eulogy presented by John Crowe.

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In our Nature

Wendy Cook

It's late in the day. You are standing in your garden, relishing the smell of damp earth, watching the retreating dark grey storm clouds, as large drops of rain fall in the distance. Behind you, the clouds part and you feel warm sunshine on your back. In front of you, in a perfect arch, reaching high into the sky above you and down to the ground on either side, the beautiful colours of a rainbow gradually appear, with the centre of the arch directly ahead. As you watch, the colours intensify and a second paler rainbow becomes visible outside the first, but with colours in reversed order. You walk around the garden, but the rainbow remains centred in your view. What is the magic that creates this rainbow?

It all begins with light and water. White light is a mixture of all the colours of the rainbow. When light travels into water, it bends or refracts, as you may have noticed if you've tried to pick up an object in a pool. The same happens as sunlight enters a raindrop. At the same time, the colours in the white light separate slightly, as the drop acts as a prism. Some light travels through the raindrop, but much of it reflects off the inside of the back wall of the drop, rather than passing through it. This light bends further as it passes out of the drop, splitting the colours more. Each colour of light bends differently. Purple and blue light bend most, so these colours appear in the lowest part of the rainbow. Red light bends least, so it is the outermost colour in the arch.

Some light bounces around the inside of the raindrop, reflecting twice before it leaves the drop. This light travels out of the raindrop at a different angle, causing the second rainbow above the first. Less light follows this path, so this rainbow is paler. Again, purple light bends most, so this time it is in the highest part of the arch, while red is innermost. Larger drops of water create a brighter rainbow.

Light reflects with a consistent angle inside the raindrop. If the sun is high in the sky, light enters the raindrop from a higher angle, and leaves the raindrop at a higher angle. It will then pass above any observer on the ground, so a rainbow cannot be seen in the middle of the day when the sun is high. In the earlier part of the morning and later in the afternoon, when the sun is lower in the sky, sunlight will enter a drop of water from a lower angle, and will leave the drop at a lower angle. This is when it can be seen from the ground, and will create a visible arch of colour in the

sky. When the sun is lowest, the angle at which the separated colours travel towards the Earth is steepest. As you look up at a rainbow, it will appear higher in the sky very late or very early in the day. The coloured light leaving most raindrops will travel in a line that is either above your line of vision or below your line of vision or too far to the left or right. This is why you see the rainbow as an arch. This is the light that passes through the raindrops that are in the correct position for it to reach your eyes. If the Earth was made of glass, you would see that the rainbow forms a circle. The ground blocks your view of this, but it can be seen from an aeroplane.

Forms of water other than rain can cause a rainbow to appear. You may see one near a waterfall or a fountain, or you may be able to create one with a garden sprinkler if the sun is coming from behind you. A rainbow may also form a complete circle around a full moon. It is known as a moonbow and contains all the colours of the rainbow, but due to the relatively poor night vision of most people, it is usually seen as white. Wherever you stand, the rainbow will be centred on you. If you are with another person, they will also see a rainbow centred on themselves, but it will be a different rainbow created by sunlight shining on different drops of water. The magic of rainbows is in the way light and water drops interact to create an arch of colour that is seen only by you.

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A Way of Life

by KERRIE KRUGER



A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO A MORE SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE

Now of course each month has the four same Moon phases but what is different is what you are planting or harvesting... so what are we up to in October?

Plantings:

October gardening is a time to be cheerful, the air is warmer and the soil is just right to plant out our summer crops: Tomatoes, cucumbers, pumpkin, zucchini, corn, chilli, capsicum, eggplant and beans

Also continue planting silverbeet, beetroot and carrots.

Don't forget to stagger your planting for continual prolonged harvest, except for crops you want a glut of for preserving... but even this is done easier in smaller batches! Planning is the key!

Keep bees happy and aid pollination of crops by planting sunflowers, cosmos, marigolds, alyssum and violas, you can have separate beds or be like me and scatter them through the vegies beds.

Sunflowers and corn planted with beans and zucchinis make wonderful combination.

Things to do in the Spring Garden

Now we all know a weed is just a plant in the wrong spot, and the wrong spot is in your vegie garden beds. This is the time of year we seem to spend every spare moment weeding. This is important as weeds compete for space, water and nutrients. Feed weeds to chooks or put in a hot compost (you need to kill the seeds).

For long term sanity get your snail and slug control systems in place. You can use commercial snail pellets! or more organically beers traps, copper tape and our favourite the night time slug and snail patrol and get Ducks. Baked and crushed eggshells are good at making a sharp barrier around small individual seedlings.

Other Pests you need to keep on top of are aphid, whitefly and caterpillars, they multiple quickly and can cause major damage (sap sucking and eating leaves) and set back your plant's growth.

For whiteflies you can also hang yellow traps coated with a sticky substance close to the tops of plants. Whiteflies are attracted to the colour yellow, and once they land will be stuck and die. Hand-crush small populations of young aphids and whiteflies. As a last resort, use low-toxic spray, like organic white or eco-oil which will help to eradicate the whitefly but always make sure to spray the underside of all leaves

Encourage natural enemies in the garden, such as ladybugs and lacewings, by planting diversity of plants and not spraying pesticides.

Earwigs also need controlling as they will nip your seedlings of at the base. Scrunched up paper will provide a hiding place at night and then remove in the morning.

Mulch, as we head into the warmer month as it: as it

suppress weeds, traps moisture (so make sure your soil is moist before applying), draws worms up to the surface and it breaks down into a lovely rich organic matter.

"May I a small house and large garden have; And a few friends, And many books, both true." - Abraham Cowley

THE POWER OF THE MOON

The Moon emits an energy that is subtle, yet distinctive. Unlike the Sun's masculine, projective energy, lunar energy is feminine and receptive. This is the energy of the pagan Goddess. There was also the Moon Greek Goddess Selene also known as Luna in Roman mythology.

The Moon's energy is often described as magnetic, which makes sense to anyone who has literally felt connected to the Moon.

So maybe this was the reason I could not sleep and had a heightened sense of awareness to everything around me during that week of the Very Full September Moon. Did you see it? Did you just sit at night and view with wonder? It was beautiful, magical and remember when you are awake and feeling alone or lonely, just by looking at the Moon you feel connected, that somewhere, someone else will also be sitting and looking.

Now while research varies, there are studies that confirm the effects of this phase of the lunar cycle. It can take longer to fall asleep, you may be sleeping less, and you may not be at your best during the day as a result. ... Yes, Yes and Yes!! (We've all heard about folks getting the crazies around this time, it's all about the energy or is it lack of sleep!)

As well as having an effect on our sleep patterns, the Moon/ Lunar cycle, known as the Synodic Cycle, controls the tides on Earth and influences subtle changes to biological functions of plants due to changes in Earth's electromagnetic fields. Basically, the Moon's energy impacts water movement, plants take up water from the soil, especially seeds. So, it makes sense that the moon will impact the way plants take up water and in turn how they germinate and grow.

Many people for many, many years, way back to ancient times and just about every early culture planted and harvested by a Moon Calendar. And today there are many of us who is still believe that the Moons energy is beneficial to the vegie garden, the theory being different



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phases of the moon influences different aspects of gardening.

At different moon phases the gravitational pull of the sun and moon are combined to create a high sap run in plants, encouraging germination and growth. At other times these natural forces create a "rest period" for plants.

So, how can we use this knowledge, and the moon, to our advantage in the garden? Simply by knowing the phases of the moon (relax, there are only four main ones) and what they represent. The moon moves through a complete cycle approximately every 29 days and during that time the four main moon phases that influence our gardens are:

New Moon Phase -Waxing growing bigger

In this phase, all living things apparently feel an upsurge of energy! One thing is for sure though, sap rises during this period. Delay doing anything in the patch until a tiny wee fingernail of the moon is visible.

What to do: Planting, grafting and transplanting leafy annuals. It's a great time to mow the lawn, prune many plants and provide low environmental impact liquid fertiliser to the patch.

First Quarter Phase -The moon is still waxing and growing bigger

The sap is still flowing! Gardening is NOT recommended in the 12 hours before the full moon.

What to do: Still a great phase for starting things off and even better for planting, grafting and transplanting fruiting annuals (those that produce above the ground, and have their seeds inside, like tomatoes, capsicums, beans and peas). Cereals and grains can also go in now, and it's still okay to feed if you need.

Full Moon Phase - peak of the electromagnetic energy.

All living things are at the peak growth and energy time. What to do: Sap is flowing downwards during this time, so planting bulbs and root crops that produce underground is perfect. Pruning and harvesting is recommended during this phase, but avoid planting most foliage and edible plants, as their initial growth will be impressive but will wane (just like the moon during this phase)

Last Quarter Phase waning to New Moon

This phase is barren which, in gardening terms, can be translated as, well, a bit boring and tedious.

What to do : This phase is all about doing those jobs in the garden, like weeding, cultivating, pest control and fertilising. It's also the best time to mow the lawn, especially if you want to slow down the growth of the grass. Preparing patches for impending planting is a perfect project during this phase

If you don't believe, do some trials, plant seeds at different phases and see if there are any germination, plant health and productivity differences. You can find the moon phases online or you can buy a perpetual Moon Calendar, which I just love.

For me if nothing else, following a Moon Calendar gives me a routine, a rhythm, a gentle reminder of what I need to be doing and when each month in the garden.

Slow Down, Connect and Enjoy

Kerrie

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Landcare News



Bamganie-Meredith

FIRST AID COURSE LEVEL 2: Free to Landcare members, lunch is included.

Why not update your first aid skills?

When: Saturday 27th October 8:30am to 2:30pm at the Meredith Community Centre. Participation involves an on-line component to be completed before the practical session on Saturday 27th October.

Places are limited to 10 people and bookings are essential. For more information, or to register contact Nick McKinley at nick@leighcatchmentgroup.org or phone 0455 147 398.

MEETING FOR INCORPORATION

A vote to incorporate the Meredith and District Landcare Association will be held at the next Landcare meeting on **Thursday 11 October 2018** at 7:30pm at the Meredith Community House. More information about the vote is available on our Facebook page. **As a majority of the members of the Association is required to pass the resolutions it is important that members either attend or provide a proxy to Maddy McColl ph. 0424754179.** Supper will be provided.

EQUIPMENT FOR LOAN TO MEMBERS

The Bamganie-Meredith Landcare Group has a range of equipment for use by members including:

- Ripper-moulder for site preparation for tree planting
- 2 x 1100 litre spray units, 30m hose.
- Bait layer for carrots
- Poti-puki tree planter
- Hamilton tree planter
- Long-handled lopper

Contact Rob McColl on 52861449 if you would like to borrow any equipment.

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Judith Emond

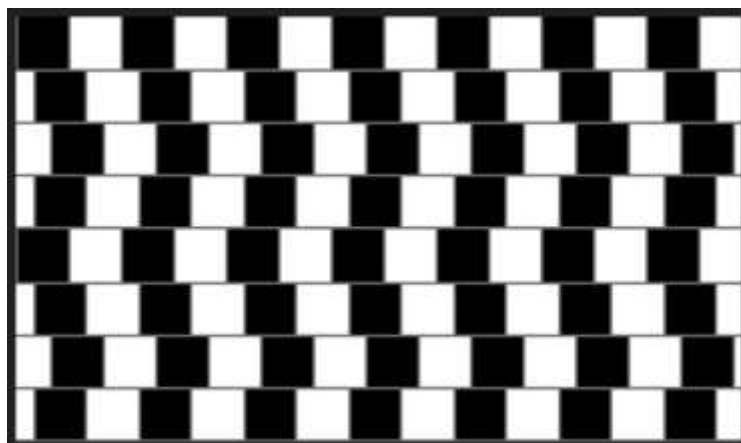
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In the graphic below, are the horizontal lines curved or straight?



Of course you said *straight*. But did you just say that because they look curved, and if they really were curved, what's the point?

Thanks to sharpbrains.com

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND FOR THEIR COMMUNITY?

Golden Plains Shire Council's 2019 Australia Day Awards nominations are now open – nominate today!

The Australia Day Awards are an opportunity to formally acknowledge extraordinary individuals and community groups who make an outstanding contribution to the Golden Plains Shire in fields such as community service, arts and culture, environment, business, economic development and sport.

All nominees must be an Australian citizen, who either lives or works in Golden Plains Shire, who has made a noteworthy contribution during the current year and/or given outstanding service to the local community over a number of years.



2018 Australia Day Award winners

Citizen of the Year	Senior Citizen of the Year	Young Citizen of the Year	Community Event of the Year
Margaret Cooper	Dianne Moylan	Kaitlyn Schurmann	Linton Town Garage Sale

How to nominate

Post this tear off: Events Officer, Golden Plains Shire Council, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn 3331

Email this tear off: events@gplains.vic.gov.au

Online: Fill out and submit the form online <https://www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/forms/australia-day-awards-2019>

More information: phone 5220 7245

Nominations must be received by 5pm, Friday 30 November 2018

Nomination form overleaf-
Nominate today!



2019 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS NOMINATION FORM



Please list **your details** as the nominator:

Full name	
Contact telephone or email address	

Please select the **category** that best represents the person you are nominating:

- ☐ **Citizen of the Year**
(All age categories considered for this award)
 - ☐ **Young Citizen of the Year**
(Up to and including 25 years of age)
 - ☐ **Senior Citizen of the Year**
(65 years of age or over)
 - ☐ **Community Group of the Year**
(An event or project. A group or team who have achieved an impressive outcome/ result)

Please list the **details of the person/event** you are nominating:

Full name			
Email address			
Address			
Telephone		Mobile	

Reason for Nomination

If you require additional space, please write on a separate sheet and attach.

- Summarize the reasons why your nominee should be considered. You may wish to include:
 - Other significant contributions and achievements about your nominee/group/event/team
 - Background information about your nominee/group/event/team.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Cinema Pop Up Coming This Summer

Media Release

The super popular 'Cinema Pop Up' outdoor cinema event is coming to Bannockburn for four nights this summer, and tickets are FREE for all if you book online!

The Golden Plains Youth Committee is bringing the National Cinema Pop Up project to the Bannockburn recreation reserve from 29 November to 2 December 2018, thanks to Golden Plains Shire Councils FReeZA funding.

Featuring an outdoor movie experience at Bannockburn Recreation Reserve, Cinema Pop Up is about providing locals and visitors the opportunity to experience all the fun of an outdoor cinema, including the entertainment surrounding the event, in their local environment.

Cinema Pop Up is offering Bannockburn locals the opportunity to vote on their favourite movies on their Facebook page - @CPUAus, on their dedicated 'Cinema Pop Up – Bannockburn' event page from today.

Supported by the Transport Accident Commission (TAC), Bannockburn Toyota and Prime Super, if you book online, tickets are FREE. Tickets will be available for booking from 1 October. Tickets will be limited and available for free only when booking online at Cinemapopup.com.au/Bannockburn.

FReeZA is a Victorian Government initiative that supports young Victorians to get involved in their community by planning and running drug, smoke and alcohol-free music and cultural events for other young people. The Golden Plains Youth Committee are a group of community minded young people who meet every Thursday to plan free, accessible and safe events for other young people, central to the planning and decision making of the event which enables them to develop valuable employability skills, connections to community and engage in positive citizenship

Cr Helena Kirby, Mayor, said Council is excited to host this wonderful event in Bannockburn.

"There are so many people in the wider community who will enjoy kicking off the festive season with a relaxed family-friendly atmosphere.

"I'm especially proud of the Golden Plains Youth Committee for initiating this event with the assistance of Golden Plains Shire Council's FReeZA funding – it's a true community partnership and I'm sure all four nights will be great fun for all."

Toyota Regional Marketing Manager, Andre Palayan has said, "supporting community events is part of Toyota's DNA and the team at Blood Toyota are incredibly proud to be supporting this event in

Bannockburn."

TAC senior road safety manager Samantha Cockfield said Cinema Pop-Up is a new way for the TAC to get its road safety message into regional Victoria.

"Victorians are four times more likely to die on country roads so we're always looking for new ways to help country Victorians get home safely, every time they get behind the wheel."

The pop-up roadshow will feature a candy bar with frozen drinks, popcorn, ice creams and a licensed bar, and encourages families to come along early, get a good spot, and set up with blankets and cushions before the movie kicks off. The Bannockburn Soccer Club will be running a fundraising BBQ each evening.



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Marg's Book Review

“Eucalyptus” by Murray Bail

Australian novelist Murray Bail wrote this book in 1998. It won both the Miles Franklin Award and the Commonwealth Writers' Prize in 1999.

The novel begins with a discussion of Australian culture - “the poetic virtues which have their origins in the bush, of being belted about by droughts, bushfires, smelly sheep and, let's not forget, the isolation, the exhausted shapeless women, the crude language, the always wide horizon and the flies.”

Eucalyptus tells the story of Ellen Holland, a young woman whose “speckled beauty” and unattainability become legend far beyond the rural western New South Wales town near the property where she grows up. Her protective father's obsession with collecting rare species of

Eucalyptus trees leads him to propose a contest – the man who can correctly name all the species on his property shall win her hand in marriage.

And, of course many fall by the wayside...until a certain Mr Cave shows up. An expert on eucalyptus trees, the serious minded Cave seems a likely

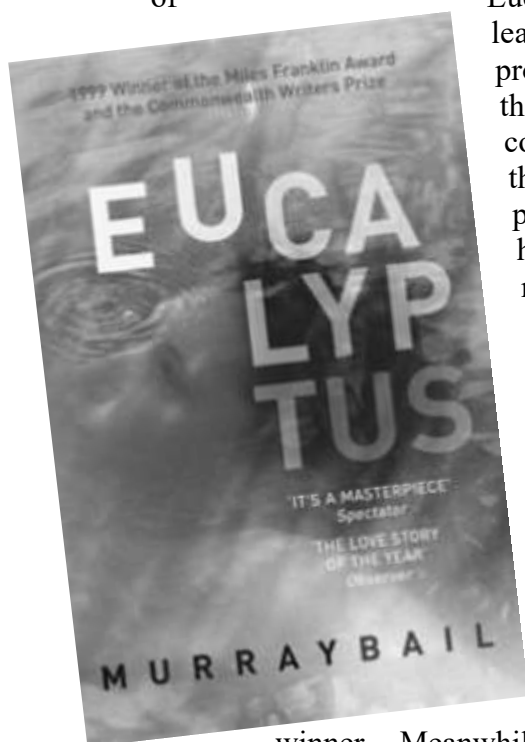
winner. Meanwhile, Ellen who's come to hate the naming of trees, takes solace in the forest created for her and there meets a mysterious young man. He tells Ellen stories, almost all of them centering on a father, a daughter and the theme of misguided love. As Mr Cave gets closer to identifying all the specimens. Ellen and the stranger's meetings

become more erotic, the stories more urgent. Finally, just as Cave successfully concludes Holland's test, Ellen falls ill. It seems only storytelling can remedy her despondency.....

The book is described as an Australian fable. It is a wonderfully written, melodic novel which includes copious eucalyptus names and lore. “Some characteristics of eucalyptus include leaves that are almost promiscuous in their flaunting of different thicknesses, shapes, colours and shine: “fixed irregularity” is botany's way of putting it. Strangely with eucalypts the higher the tree the smaller the leaf. Another paradox is that the largest trees have the smallest flowers. “

This is a book obsessed by the power of stories and the sweep of the landscape. Murray Bail has written a very “original” novel. He has a sly and swerving humour and he is very quick witted. It's a pleasure to be immersed in Bail's caprice-prone mind.

The book for discussion in November is “The Handmaid's Tale” by Margaret Atwood



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Walk to School 2018

Walk, ride or scoot and build healthy habits for life.



Golden Plains Shire Council will join VicHealth in its mission to get kids walking, riding and scooting to school as part of the health promotion foundation's annual Walk to School program.

Every October, Walk to School month encourages kids and families to get active on the trip to and from school to help build healthy habits for life.

Council will work with local primary schools to deliver a range of activities encouraging more families to walk, ride or school to school thanks to funding of \$10,000 from VicHealth. We want to make walking to school easy and attractive for families by running competitions, holding healthy morning teas and providing the opportunity to participate in workshops to map safe walking routes to school.

Students at participating schools can win with 20 x \$50 Rebel sport vouchers up for grabs. To go in the draw students need to collect a walking record card from their school, record their walking from 8 October – 2 November and return card to school by Friday 9 November. 20 winners will be randomly selected. Schools will be notified if one of their students win by Friday 16 November.

To ensure everyone can be involved:

- Part way is okay! If you can't walk the whole way, why not try parking the car 1km or so from school and walk, ride or scoot the rest.
- Walk at home.
- Walk at school.

Schools who submit their walking data by **Friday 16 November** will also go in the draw to win a \$250 Rebel sport voucher.

VicHealth are encouraging kids to combine their creativity with physical activity and decorating their shoes, bikes or scooters to parade on the way to school. The best designs will be in the running for some great prizes! Check out the walk to school website for more information at www.walktoschool.vic.gov.au

WALK TO
SCHOOL

 an initiative of
VicHealth



it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

Lasseter Film/Documentary:

On Sunday, September 23 a film/documentary about Harold Lewis Bell Lasseter had its first showing in Meredith.

In 1930 Harold Lasseter took an expedition into Central Australia to relocate a fabulous gold reef he claimed to have found about the turn of the century. The attempt failed, but Lasseter died in the Outback still claiming the gold was there, prompting hundreds of hopefuls to continue searching ever since.

Discovering 80 years on that he had a family connection with the events of 1930, historian Chris Clark went in search of the truth behind what has become an Australian legend by retracing Lasseter's footsteps across the five decades of his life. The picture uncovered provides the clearest insight so far about the shadowy past of "Harold". Using this newfound knowledge, Clark reveals what was really happening when the 1930 expedition set off into the red heart of the continent, and cuts away a confusing clutter of detail to reveal the simple but true basis on which Lasseter had been proceeding. The picture which unfolds makes final sense of what has been an intriguing mystery and an enduring piece of Australian folklore.

The first showing was applauded by all present and many purchased a copy of the DVD. Chris has also written a book about his grandfather, Olof Johanson, who was the mystery man in the controversial and ultimately tragic attempt to find Lasseter's "lost" gold reef

Art Competition:

As part of History week, 2018 MHIG invited artists to depict some part of the story of Sub Inspector William Dunbar Johnstone, the larrikin policeman, who we believe, was the first person buried in the first Meredith Cemetery after he fell off his horse whilst under the influence. The Exhibition Opening will be on Sunday, October 7 at Meredith History Centre, 31 Staughton Street, Meredith at 1.30 pm. The afternoon will include some history, presentation to the winner and runner-up and afternoon tea.

Other times when the exhibition will be open are: Thursdays 11th & 18th, 10 am-3 pm, Saturdays 13th & 20th, 1 pm – 3 pm & Sunday 14th, 1 pm -3 pm. Artworks will then be moved to Bannockburn Cultural Centre.

Calendar for 2019:

The Meredith Calendar for 2019 features "Rusty Relics" or retired vehicles, sitting in paddocks, under trees or overgrown with grass or in garages awaiting rejuvenation! Believe me, some are well beyond that. The "Rusty Relics" were all found locally. You may recognize some of them.

The calendar will be available soon from several shops in Meredith, from the History Centre and from Marg Cooper. - They make a great Christmas gift!!

Letters to Aunt Patsy

Dear Aunt Patsy, — It is such a long time since I last wrote to you that my oar must be rusty. Then we were living in the Huntsman's Inn Hotel, Meredith; now we are living in the Royal Hotel, Meredith, as the Huntsman's Inn was closed.

My sister Irene was crowned "Queen" here about three months ago. She went as "Queen of Erin." She made £189/10/9; the money went to St. Joseph's Church here. I am in the eighth grade at school now. We had six weeks' holiday, and start school on 4th February. My sisters Irene and Kathleen and a friend are away on holidays. They have been away two weeks now, and are coming home to-morrow. I went to Lal Lal on New Year's Day, and had a lovely time; the falls at Lal Lal are lovely.

About six months ago my father was very ill, and the doctors thought he would never get better; he is alright now, but is not strong.

I have four cousins at the war. About fifty boys have gone from Meredith, and about six have returned.

We have three more beautiful statues in our church — two angels and the Sacred Heart. We have six statues in the church now.

I am looking forward to my Easter holidays, as I am going to Ross's Creek, to my auntie's. Well, dear Aunt, I think I will close, with best wishes to the C. and F.M., and the little orphans, not forgetting yourself.

— I remain, your loving niece, MENA MOONEY.

Advocate (Melbourne) Saturday 2 March 1918

- *Around this time children wrote letters to "Aunt Patsy" in the Advocate newspaper.*
- *"Queen" competitions were held in country towns. Several young women vied to be titled Queen by raising money for a worthy cause.*
- *In the late 19th century Lal Lal's race meetings were considered to be the "second Flemington." A railway line was constructed in 1885 to Lal Lal, and in 1888 a crowd of about 20,000 people attended the New Year's Day meeting, with special trains and coaches running to the course.*
- *Mooney Cup – In 1922 Mena's brother, Chris donated a trophy to be presented to the district's champion tennis team (comprising Mt. Doran, Elaine and Meredith).*
- *Note that fifty men from Meredith went to war. (from sundry newspaper articles)*

Jan McDonald, Meredith History Interest Group

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Valley Walking Track.

We now have a walking track along the valley although you will need to be reasonably agile for the creek crossings. This opens up a very different view of this beautiful reserve, as you walk along the valley floor, looking up at the ridges on either side. Access to the track is from either the northern or southern ends of the valley.

Fire Access Gate

The Shire has funded the recent installation of a new fire access gate at the Champion Road (southern) entrance for fire trucks.

Next Steps

We hold a meeting near the end of each year to plan our activities for the following year. This year, that meeting will be held at the Community Centre at 1.00 pm on Sunday 18th November. If you would like to learn firsthand what the next steps will be, or would like to make some suggestions, please come along.

For further information contact Jim Elvey on 5286 1273

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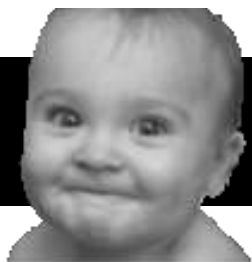
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Authorised by Geoff Howard MP, 15 Main Road, Ballarat VIC 3350
 This advertisement is funded from Parliament's Electorate Office and Communications budget

SUSAN BYRNE – Pioneer Woman

Kevin Roche

Susan Byrne was born in 1872 at 'Possum Point' near Meredith, the third youngest child of John and Catherine Byrne's very large family of 13 children.

Her father, John Byrne (1821-1899) was born in Tipperary County Ireland. Her mother, Catherine nee Walsh (1833-1925) was born in County Clare. Catherine arrived in Geelong on board the "Mangerton" in 1852 along with her mother Ann, a widow, her two brothers Michael and Thomas, and younger sister Anne.

Also on board the "Mangerton" were 310 other Irish migrants escaping the harsh poverty caused by the Great Potato Famine in Ireland. The ship also brought a large cargo of building materials and other supplies as diverse as beds, beer, mustard and medicines!

It is impossible to imagine how passengers endured the hazardous voyage of nearly six months in extremely crowded and unpleasant conditions.

John Byrne and Catherine Walsh were married at St Mary's Church in Geelong in 1853. Shortly after that they moved to the Horsham area where their first children were born.

Returning to Meredith in the mid-1860s, John acquired a lease on 40 acres of farming land on the southern side of the Moorabool River at the end of what is now Byrne Rd. Almost totally surrounded by native bushland this became the home of the Byrne family for the next one hundred years. Today it is still called 'Possum Point'.

Isolation and harsh conditions made for a difficult life. Tragedy was never far away. Before Susan was born she lost two sisters by drowning. In October 1868 Annie, aged 14 and Kate aged 10, drowned in the Moorabool River after falling from a steep slope on the river's edge. They had been playing on the river bank with their younger brother Frank, aged 7. Frank never fully recovered from this horribly traumatic experience.

Hot, dry summers and bushfires went hand in hand. Susan was just 5 years old in January 1878 when "it was with great difficulty that Mrs Byrne with her family of six or seven young children made their escape before the fire caught the house, of which not a vestige was left in a few minutes. A few trifling items of furniture only were saved". (Geelong Advertiser 12 Jan 1878)

In the following years Susan and the other children helped their parents rebuild their home and share farming tasks which included the growing wheat, oats and onions, the raising of sheep, cattle and poultry and the establishment of small orchards.

In 1892 Susan Byrne married Thomas Byrne (no relation) at St Joseph's Church in Meredith. She was 10 years younger than Thomas.

Thomas Byrne (1862-1925) was born and raised at Steiglitz. His father Patrick Byrne (1820-1886) was a

miner and road contractor. His mother was Anne Byrne nee Burke (1827-1885).

Thomas and Susan Byrne initially made their home in the New Chum area, a thriving mining community at the time, just north of Steiglitz township. Around 1915 the family moved into Steiglitz and lived at 1 Molesworth St, in recent years known as Peppercorn Place.

Thomas was a miner and later worked as a labourer around the district. Without a permanent water supply, electricity or other modern conveniences, life was simple but harsh.

Thomas and Susan Byrne had seven children, all attended Steiglitz Primary School. Thomas and his family were active in community events, Thomas often taking the role of MC and playing the violin alongside one or more of their children at kitchen teas, concerts, dances and farewells in the district.

Whilst she was diminutive in stature, Susan Byrne was strong in character and a confident and articulate communicator.

Her oldest sons Frank and Thomas Jnr. both served overseas in the AIF during World War I. In 1917 Frank was wounded in action in France. The Ballarat Echo reported that Frank had died from his war wounds. It was Susan, his mother, who had the unenviable task of writing to Army headquarters seeking clarification. Fortunately the 'Echo' had got it wrong.

Prior to this, in 1916, Susan took responsibility for dealing with a difficult family and legal matter involving police and the court which arose from the relationship between her daughter Eva, aged 16 and an older man, Samuel Grant.

"At this time electricity and telephone were still not connected and travel to Meredith was still mainly by horse and jinker – or foot..."

Following the death of her husband Thomas in 1925, Susan stayed in Steiglitz until about 1960 when she returned to the Possum Point farm to housekeep for her sole surviving brother Pat. At this time electricity and telephone were still not connected and travel to Meredith was still mainly by horse and jinker – or foot, or

occasionally by car with family or neighbours.

Patrick Byrne 1878-1964 was well known in the Meredith district and for many decades was actively involved in the community including with St Joseph's Church and the St Patrick's Day races.

Readily recognisable for most of her life by her snowy white hair, believed to have been caused by a bout of typhoid fever at an early age, Susan Byrne is remembered for her longevity, she died in 1963 aged 91 - outliving all her siblings except her younger brother Pat and also most of her own children. Susan was buried at Steiglitz alongside her husband Thomas, son Thomas Jnr. and daughters Kate and Eva.

Susan's parents John and Catherine Byrne, along with eight of her brothers and sisters, are buried at the Meredith Cemetery.

We owe much to Susan and other pioneers like her. Susan Byrne was my great grandmother.



Dean Wilson
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Julie Kaye
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