

MARCH 2019

Meredith & district News

Our FREE Community Newsletter since 1972



Happy AUTUMN!



inside



- Collecting firewood
- Bogged in February
- At home on horses

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

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

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 on invoice or \$5.00 if paid on lodgement.

Community Groups can have a 1/4 page ad for free or a \$25.00 discount on larger ads. (conditions apply)

SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you are outside our delivery area you can subscribe for \$35.00 p.a. (11 issues) and get the Meredith and District News posted to you anywhere in Australia.

CONTACT US

Post Office, Meredith, 3333

Advertising: Ian 0409 016815

advertising@meredithnews.com.au

Accounts: Dawn 0428 861274

accounts@meredithnews.com.au

Editorial: Jim 0409 163169

news@meredithnews.com.au

WEB

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

ONLINE PHOTOS

We do not publish children's photos online.

If you would like any other photo that you appear in withheld from the online edition,

let us know in writing by the second

Thursday of the month of publication.

DISCLAIMER

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

connect

ADVANCE MEREDITH
5286 1291

ANGLING CLUB
0419 423 960

B'BURN ART GROUP
0410 808 483

BLUE LIGHT DISCO
5286 1222

BOOK CLUB
5286 8201

CFA
000 for fire calls
Elaine
0409 861296
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 545 248
Juniors 0430 587 674

GOLF CLUB
0407 795 342

HISTORY GROUP
5286 8201

LANDCARE
0409 862 326

MEMORIAL HALL
5286 1251
0435 312 984

MEREDITH LIONS
0473 380 552

MOTORCYCLE CLUB
0437 009 250

PLAYGROUP
5286 0700

POLICE PADDOCKS
5286 1273

RSL - 5286 1452

SENIOR CITIZENS
5286 8232

TENNIS
Elaine
0448 291 074
Meredith
5286 1211

SEW 'N' SEWS
5286 0700

FRIENDS OF THE BRISBANE RANGES
5286 1252

emergency

Police, Ambulance, Fire (from mobile phone)	000 000 or 112
Meredith Police Station	5286 1222
Power Failure	132 412
Nurse-On-Call	1300 606024
Mental Health Advice	1300 280 737
Poisons Information	13 11 26
Barwon Water	1300 656 007
SES Emergency - flood & storm	132 500
24 Hour Helpline	1800 629 572
24 Hour Drug & Alcohol Counselling	1800 888 236
Kids Help Line	
24hr 5-18yo	1800 551 800
Golden Plains Shire	1300 363 036
A.H. Emergencies Ranger	0408 508 635 5220 7111 or 0409 830 223
Bannockburn Vet	5281 1221
Golden Plains Vet	5281 2226
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	MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH
5286 1550	5220 7230
HALL HIRE	PRE-SCHOOL
Meredith Memorial	5286 0722
5286 1251	PRIMARY SCHOOL
Elaine Mechanics	5286 1313
5341 5596	RECREATION RESERVE
Elaine Rec Res	80429 841399
5341 5703	
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.



"A good friend is like a four leaf clover, hard to find and lucky to have"

- Irish Proverb

TAKING YOUR BUSINESS ONLINE

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- Build your own action plan of next steps
- Access tools, templates, support and resources in future.

Tuesday 19 March at The Well
19 Heales Street, Smythesdale. 9.30am to 11.30am.
Cost: \$20.

Bookings: goldenplains.vic.gov.au/business
or call Michael Cosgriff, Council's Economic Development Officer,
on 5220 7201.



Dean Wilson
0418 521 322



Julie Kaye
0411 059 001



Steve Roper
0411 381 243

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 0422 786 425  libbycoker.com.au

 Libby.Coker@vic.alp.org.au

Labor



Community



Meredith Senior Citizens

Jim Hynds

We held our first general meeting for the year at the hall on Monday, February 25, after a superb two course lunch supplied by Kylie and the lovely ladies from the Meredith School. They never fail us!

We got down to business after all the reports (e.g. Treasurer's Report) were tabled and accepted by the members. The Committee sought the opinion of the members on our Christmas Party and our recent visit to the Meredith Hotel that is under the new management of Kate and Rick. In short, members comments were 'fabulous', 'fantastic' and 'well done'! So many thanks to Kate and Rick and their team for making us so welcome, for the great meal and for the great service.

During the rest of the meeting day we organized future bus trips and outings. Our members are looking forward to a great year ahead.

Council Grants

From Media Release

Applications for Golden Plains Shire Council's Community Grants Program 2019/20 will open on 1st April, 2019.

The Community Grants Program supports community groups to deliver valuable local programs, events and projects in partnership with Council.

Council is hosting free Grant Writing Workshops and Information Sessions: 6 to 8pm, Wednesday 13 March at The Well, 19 Heales St, Smythesdale; and 6 to 8pm, Thursday 14 March at Bannockburn Cultural Centre, 27 High St. Registration for the workshops closes on Friday 1 March.

To register or for more information, call Council's Community Partnerships Officer at 5220 7220 or email communitygrants@gp.lains.vic.gov.au

MEREDITH MEMORIAL HALL 2019 AGM

The community is invited to attend the **Annual General Meeting of the Memorial Hall.**

WHERE- Memorial Hall, 61 Staughton Street,

WHEN – Monday 1st April, 7.30pm,

WHY – To present the Annual Financial Report and to conduct the Annual Election of Committee Positions.

The proposed 2019 plans for the Hall will be announced.

CONTACT- Sandra Pearce-Secretary H: 52861545

Testing Fire Siren

Elaine Fire Brigade has installed a new siren on its Fire Station and is testing it, during the fire season, at 10.20 am every Sunday. During the non-fire season, it will continue testing at the same time on the first Sunday of every month.

catch us on the WEB

- Every issue since 2004 is online
- for 'extras' and links for articles of useful info
- check out who we are, leave a comment, look for the page of people

www.meredithnews.com.au

to the EDITOR



I refer to the article by Lynn Heard titled Rare White Magpie and advise that there are several "white" magpies in the Moriac area. More specifically, near the BROWN MAGPIE WINES winery on 125 Larcombes Road Mode-warre.

A check of their website under "Our Story" states that White and Brown Magpies live on the site.

Barry and Pam Weston

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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



Classifieds

First insertion of small ads are FREE to district residents

Paid Help urgently needed to help hold down our 7 Alpacas that need health maintenance, feet, teeth, fringes etc., but not shearing. Approx. 2 hours work. Mt Doran area. Phone Christine 0490 330 663 or 0402 898 126

Recreation



Meredith Angling Club

New Members for the Angling Club

To all Members, if you know anyone that loves a good fish and could be a great additional member for the club, please mention to them about our club as we are always looking for new members to join. Thank you.

Donations for Clubrooms

If anyone has any mounted fish that are unwanted or not currently on display at home or elsewhere, we would happily like to take them and hang them in the clubrooms. Contact Bert Eldredge for more details at berteld@ncable.net.au.

Working Bee at Clubrooms

There will be a Working Bee at the clubrooms on the 31st of March starting at 10am until 3pm. If any members can attend to help out it would be greatly appreciated. We will be doing work on the gardens, so shovels, picks and a crowbar may be required to loosen soil and rocks to place around the edge of the property.

RECYCLING COLLECTION IN GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

From Media Release

Golden Plains Shire Council has been notified by SKM Recycling that it has temporarily closed its Geelong facility, effective 5pm Wednesday 20 February.

Last week, EPA Victoria issued the SKM sites in Laverton and Coolaroo with a notice to stop accepting materials due to non-compliance with stockpile regulations. With plastic recyclables at the Geelong location unable to be relocated to SKM Laverton for processing, the Geelong site has reached its maximum storage capability.

Kerbside waste and recycling collection will continue in Golden Plains Shire Council as scheduled, with recyclable materials sent to landfill until the contracted service with SKM Recycling returns to normal operation.

Council has been advised that recycling at SKM Geelong will resume within the coming weeks.

Council encourages all residents to continue to sort their waste and recycling collection, and where possible, to reduce overall waste. If your yellow bin is not full we do suggest holding it for the next collection.

While most collection trucks will continue to separate recycling and waste, at times it will be necessary for trucks on some routes to collect waste and recycling at the same time to avoid service disruption.

Council will keep residents updated on the status of waste collection in Golden Plains Shire and, when notified, the status of SKM Recycling's operation in Geelong.



MEREDITH GOLF CLUB

GOLF CLINIC

DATE: Sunday 31st March 2019
TIME: 9:00am
COST: \$20:00
DURATION: 4 Weeks

We have sufficient numbers to run another clinic for beginners. The clinics cover the basics of grip, stance, alignment and swing and each lesson can be followed with a round of golf, with a cost of only \$20 for 4 weeks of lessons and playing, you can't find better value. Those who have attended the clinics in the past have had a great time and learned a few tips to get them started. If anyone is interested please contact us on the numbers below.

During summer and possible hot days we now tee off on Sunday mornings at 8:00am to beat the heat and finish early, with groups of 3 or 4 we can finish 9 holes by 11:00am or 1:00pm if we play 18 holes. If you have ever thought of playing in a fun and supporting group then join us at 8:00am for either 9 or 18 holes or join in on the back 9 at 11:00am. Everyone is welcome no matter what ability and if you don't own clubs we may be able to arrange a set for the day.

President - Peter Nemtsas 0407 795 342
Secretary - Scott Crighton 0430 480 156
Club Captain - Paul Mitchell 0448 523 821

SPORT IN MEREDITH



CALLING ALL PARENTS & SPORTS MINDED PEOPLE WHO WOULD LIKE TO HELP REVIVE JUNIOR SPORT IN MEREDITH. COME ALONG TO A MEETING AT MEREDITH RECREATION RESERVE ON WEDNESDAY 13th MARCH AT 7.30 PM TO HAVE A CHAT, SUPPER PROVIDED. MEREDITH HAS A LONG HISTORY OF WONDERFUL JUNIOR SPORTING TEAMS, LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN AGAIN!!



The editorial deadline for the next issue is **9.00 am Thursday 28th March**

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Church News



CATHOLIC

St. Joseph's Parish Meredith

Parish Priest Father Charles Balnaves
phone 52861230, 0417319556

Parishofmeredith@bigpond.com

Mass Times:

Winchelsea every Saturday at 6 p.m.

Bannockburn every Sunday at 9a.m. and 4p.m. Family Mass every first Sunday of the month.

Meredith at 11 a.m. Sunday March 3rd/ 17th/31st April 14th/28th .

Anakie at 11 a.m. Sunday March 10th/ 24th. April 7th/21st

Inverleigh 4p.m. Sunday March 31st/ Sunday April 28th

Ash Wednesday March 6th Mass Winchelsea 8 a.m. St. Mary

Mackillop School 9.30 a.m. Meredith 7 p.m.

Anzac Day Mass Meredith 9 a.m.

Easter : Holy Thursday Winchelsea 7.30 p.m. Good Friday

Bannockburn 3 p.m. Holy Saturday Meredith 8 p.m.

Easter Sunday Winchelsea 8 a.m. Bannockburn 9.30 a.m.

Anakie 11 a.m.

Combined Churches Youth Event Sunday April 1st at

Bannockburn Stadium(adjacent to St. Mary MacKillop school) at 4 p.m. Great music.

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. - Morrissions:

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.

Thank You

G'Day everyone. On Sunday 17 February we had a fundraiser for local man, Mark Young. Due to an injury to his back and numerous operations as well as personal issues, I felt compelled to see if I could help him out somehow.

I got together with Damien and Claire Kelly as well as my wife Debbie to see if we could get a fundraiser happening at the Royal Hotel. After a few meetings it was decided that we would have a band playing, a silent auction, a normal auction, raffles, face painting and a game called "Galloping Golf Balls". It was a very successful day and from feedback that I have received and comments on the day, everyone had fun.

To all the generous people who turned up that day, I give a very big "thank you". Mark was amazed and a little choked up with all the support shown to him. I would like to thank and acknowledge the following people and companies for their donations:

Elaine Farm Supplies, Farm Gate, Meredith Transit, David Avola from Babymode, Steel Art, Woolabrai, Mortimer's Service Station, Back Creek Cafe, Resin by Kasi, Bluescope Lysaght, R.A. Automotive Cleaning, Lara Glass, The Culprits, Meredith Dairy, Scentsy by Becky Bramley, Meredith Newsletter, Matilda Kelly for face painting, Jim and Janie Knight, Love and Pendergast Automotive, Samara Jennings, Damien and Claire Kelly, Rachel Young for photographs and to all the people who gave cash donations. Hopefully I haven't missed anyone.

In the words of Spike Milligan: "money doesn't bring you happiness, but I wish I was rich enough to find that out for myself."

Regards,


Ralph Holtz

Our Cover

This perky little fellow, the delightfully named *Superb Fairy Wren*, was captured by Peter Macdonald outside his window.



Meredith Community Centre
4 Russell Street Meredith 3333 Phone 5286 0700
learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au
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WHAT'S ON IN MARCH



CLASSES THIS MONTH

CONVERGENCE QUILT

WEDNESDAY March 20 10am - 3pm \$44.00

WOMEN'S SELF DEFENCE

SAT March 30 9.30am - 5pm \$120.00

BYO Lunch & Drink - Sturdy Clothes & Shoes Required

BASIC CHEESE MAKING

FRIDAY March 29 10am - 2pm \$130.00

TOWARDS ZERO WASTE LIVING

FRIDAY March 29 7pm-9pm \$15.00

FOR THE KIDS

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

(Supported by the Geelong Community Foundation)

EVERY TUESDAY 3.45pm - 6pm FREE

SELF DEFENCE FOR KIDS

WEDNESDAY March 27 4 pm - 5pm \$10.00

STICKY FINGERS COOKING

THURSDAY March 28 4.30pm - 6pm \$25.00

BENDIGO WOOLLEN MILLS BUS TRIP

Our Sew & Sew Ladies are off to the Bendigo Woollen Mills on 6th May and you have been invited to join them! They will explore the Woollen Mills along with Bendigo Pottery on a fun filled day out - Lunch will be at the Lakeview Hotel in Bendigo - The bus is leaving the Community Centre at 9am. Cost is \$50 per person including the Bus Trip and Lunch! Call 03 5286 0700 to book now or email Leah admin@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au

Don't forget our regular health and fitness classes happening every week.

Tai Chi

Meredith - Tuesday 9.30-10.30
Teesdale - Thursday 9.30 - 10.30
Bannockburn - Tuesday 5.00-6.00

STEADY FEET

Meredith - Wednesday 9.30-10.30
For more information on any of these classes or to enrol go to our website or give us a call

W: www.meredithcommunitycentre.com.au E: learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au

<http://www.facebook.com/MeredithCommunityCentre> 4 Russell St. Meredith Vic. 3333 Ph. 5286 0700

Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am to 3pm, Friday Closed

New Process for Schedule 13 Permits to Burn

Media release

Landholders in Golden Plains Shire are advised of a change to the Schedule 13 Permits to Burn issuing process.

Council and the Country Fire Authority are transitioning to a new permit issuing system during the remainder of the 2018/19 Fire Danger Period, which might cause minor delays in the usual process.

A Permit to Burn allows land owners or their representatives to conduct stubble burning for agricultural purposes during the Fire Danger Period.

In October 2018, Council joined many other rural municipalities across the state in transferring the sign-off responsibilities of the permits, due to the risk of injury and property damage, and engaged the CFA to finalise the process.

As an interim measure, Council will continue to collect applications and check information before

passing it on to the CFA for approval. This extra step might delay the date of issue.

Council has notified more than 300 annual applicants of the slight change in the process. For more information, applicants are encouraged to visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/residents/permit-burn or call the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer on 5220 7111.

Landholders will also be kept informed of any changes to the permit process prior to the 2019/20 Fire Danger Period.



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Little
GEMS



The Age that Time Forgot

In an age where the fear of being without your mobile has an actual term (nomophobia, by the way), the prospect of being without television or the internet would strike fear into the heart of most millennials.

Technology and social media scholar, Danah Boyd, has explored the idea that we are increasingly participating in the 'always on' lifestyle. As the name suggests, as a society we are becoming perpetually connected to the internet. We can be reached by, and reach out to, anyone and anything at any time.

While it certainly has its benefits (posting envy-inducing holiday snaps and ordering pizza timed perfectly to suit your commute home) the drawbacks have been explored extensively in newspapers, questionable current affairs programs and (ironically) on a never ending plethora of websites.

Having recently moved house with my partner, I expected some jarring moments. The prospect of not having internet for almost a month was something that took time to come to terms with but wasn't the end of the world. That's what mobile 4G is for, right? But our new area has dodgy reception. Oh well, there's always television. Except when someone of questionable moral standards decides to help themselves to a crucial element of our antenna's functionality.

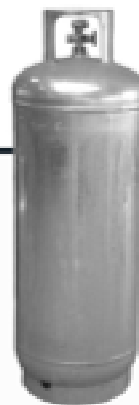
All of a sudden we were no longer 'always on'. With a sprinkling of melodrama, we were in the dark ages. I'd grown up in the time before smart devices took over the world like an infection so knew it was survivable. Even cathartic. But television? That was new stomping ground for me. The occasional blackout can be fun with the addition of board games and the comforting flicker of candlelight but this was a different story. We'd left all our games at our childhood homes. There were no games. And no internet to play mobile games. Things were bleak. The unpacking had happened at lightning speed, decorating had begun in earnest and talk had dwindled to cleaning rosters and arguments over who got to park in the garage.

Thankfully, the television was fixed a week later and the times spent sitting on the couch together, watching movies from my rather unappealing DVD collection, were over. We

could now watch the news and reacquaint ourselves with the scary, selfish and sour world we had been missing. In our 'off' bubble, we had missed out on the terror and sadness. Our world consisted of making a new home, talking to family and friends around our second-hand dining table and learning the best pizza places, routes to the beach and walking trails of our new little town.

While being 'always on' is toxic in itself, and being completely unconnected leaves you trailing behind in Progress' dusty wake, there is no reason that we can't have that cake and eat it too. Maybe technological moderation might be easier than junk food moderation? Here's hoping.

Gemma



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Local Knowledge and Old Wives Tales for Weather Predicting

Kerrie Kruger gave us a detailed account of long term rainfall in the area in her article published in last months "news". Here we provide a list of quaint predictions which Kerrie has also collected - Ed

- Cumulonimbus clouds (traditional thunderstorm looking clouds) early in the day and developing throughout the day can mean greater chance of severe weather.
- Cirrus clouds (the stringy fluffy ones), high in the sky like long streamers, means bad weather within next day and half.
- Altopcumulus clouds (look like fish scales), also "mean" bad weather within the next day and half
- Cumulus towers (look like an explosion in the sky) indicates the possibility of showers later in the day.
- Nimbostratus clouds (rain clouds) hang low and heavy in the sky, and means rain is imminent.
- Cirrocumulus clouds (small, puffy in rows) means that cold weather is on its way.
- Red sky in morning (east) shepherds warning. Red sky at night (west) shepherds delight
- If there is a ring around the moon at night, rain will come in the next 3 days.
- If you take a deep breath and smell earth and compost, moisture is coming soon.
- If the flowers or leaves, think Gum trees, smell stronger than normal, rain is on its way.
- Black cockatoos the number of them flying low indicates how many days of rain are ahead.
- If Cattle seek a corner of a paddock or lie down in a group in the paddock, a severe storm is imminent
- Cats will clean their ears before rain
- The louder the frogs, the more the rain.
- To convert cricket chirps to degrees Fahrenheit, count number of chirps in 14 seconds then add 40 to get the temperature.
- If you make a fire outside and the smoke goes straight up, you will have good weather. If the smoke curls and wisps, then rain is on its way.
- If it rains before seven, it will clear before eleven.



Future of our Forests

How can we protect and improve our forests for all Victorians? What benefits do you want future generations to gain from Victoria's forests?

The Victorian Government is embarking on a significant project to reform our forest management in partnership with Victoria's Traditional Owners, whose connection to Country is core to their culture and wellbeing. This is an important opportunity to influence the future management of our forests. Take part in the conversation <https://engage.vic.gov.au/future-of-ourforests>

Autumn Firewood Season

The 2019 Autumn Firewood Collection Season opens 1st March when firewood may again be collected from Designated firewood collection areas on public land (until 30 June). Maps, rules and other information can be found at your local DELWP office or online at <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood> from 1 March. Be aware that domestic firewood in state forests is a limited resource and, in some locations, will be of variable quality.

From DELWP Grampians Region Community Conversations



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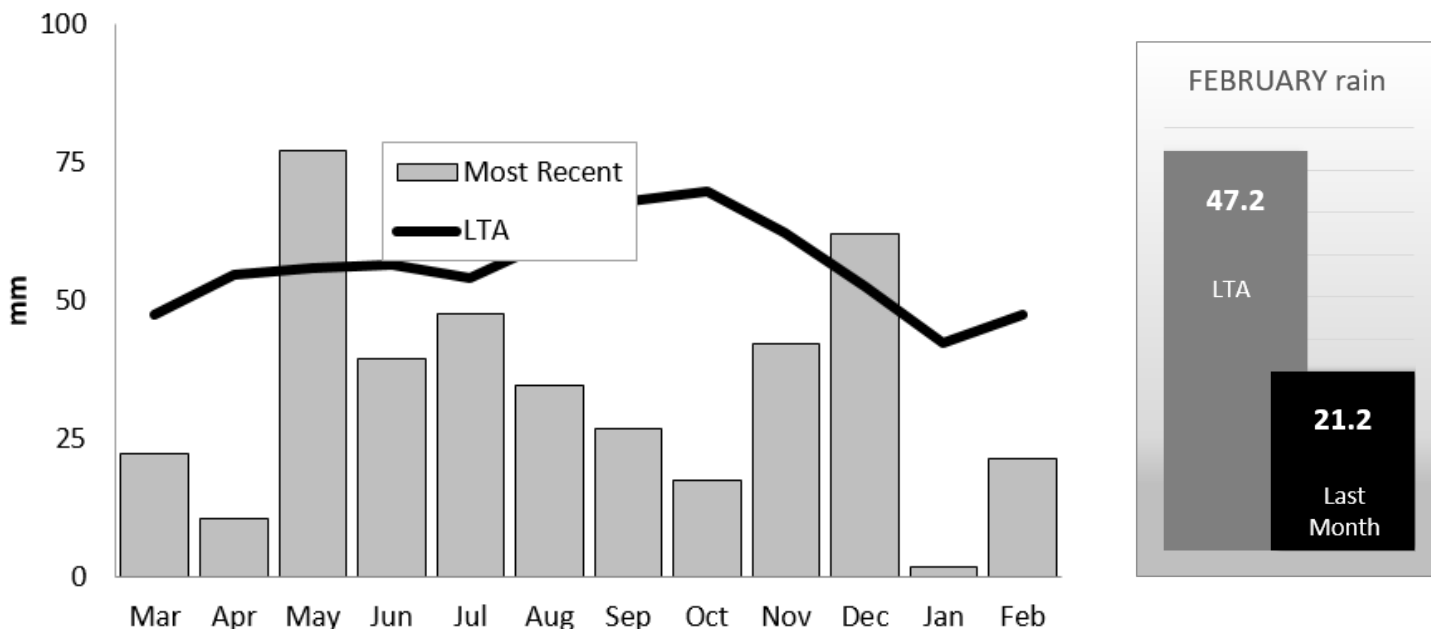
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the rainfall report



February rainfall is again way below the long term average however most of the rain came in a storm which was widely variable across the district. The whole of Summer registered 85mm at our official rain station which is only 60% of the long term average



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Steve Goat

Red Rock

Red Rock is a scoria outcrop in the middle of the Lake District around Colac and Corangamite. Within the last 10 million years this cone was at the centre of a vast volcanic system; part of the volcanic plains that run west to the Tower Hill crater and beyond to South Australia's subterranean lakes and volcanoes.

Standing atop the Red Rock cone, the 360 degree view stretches for many kilometres. Easy to see that it would have been a significant place to the native inhabitants. The local clan was the Gulidjan, flanked by the Keeray Woorrong clan to the west and the Wadawurrung to the north and east.

The locals suffered enormously after white settlement. Jan Critchell's study estimated that 300 to 350 aborigines were murdered in the 14 years: 1834 to 1848. Ian Clark has documented 107 violent incidents from 1803 to 1859. The Gulidjan went into decline.

On the 26th January this year Pete Goat and I had the privilege to travel to Red Rock for a local indigenous gathering. A small gathering that was very inclusive with some spoken word and song.

One story was of Massacre Creek where officially 30 to 40 aborigines were hunted down and killed. But the story teller was able to quote his grandfather - 67 by name! These events are in living memory and demonstrates the need for "Makarata" or truth telling as identified by the "Statement from the Heart". Only by honestly looking at the past can we move to reconciliation and an Australian future together.

Nolan comes to town!

The national tour of Sidney Nolan's Ned Kelly series in at Geelong Gallery from the 2nd March to 26th May. There is even "Bush Tea" afternoon as part of the Food & Wine Festival on the 17th. March.

Pete Goat

A few weeks ago we went up to Gordon to hear Barry Gilson presenting Wadawurrung culture in songs and stories. Barry is a Traditional owner, a member of one of the seven families recognised as the Registered Aboriginal Party [RAP] for Wadawurrung Country.

The real impact of this event was in Barry's first story which told us that the place we were at, which has been called Gordon since colonisation is hugely significant in Wadawurrung culture. This site is KEERAT BUREET, which refers to the hill known since colonisation as Black

Hill. On this hill Bunjil the Creator Spirit took a piece of clay and from it made the first two Wadawurrung men. (Barry says Bunjil the wedge tailed Eagle appears in the night sky as the brightest star in the constellation named by the ancient Greeks as Aquila, the Eagle.) Keerat Bureet (Black Hill) is a volcanic crater and basalt, which is male rock formation.

The Wadawurrung women's creation site is actually in Gippsland in Bunurung country, specifically Mt Oberon at Wilson's Promontory which is granite and women's rock formation.

It might seem surprising that a Wadawurrung creation site would be a long way away in Bunurung country, but Bunurung is part of the Kulin language group and nation and was once, a very long time ago, much more closely connected to Wadawurrung country.

Today, and since many thousands of years, Wadawurrung and Bunurung country adjoin only via a narrow strip of coast from Werribee round to Sandringham connecting to the main Gippsland part of Bunurung. BUT before the sea level rose, flooding Port Phillip, the Werribee River ran down the middle of the bay, joining the Yarra where the heads are today. So for thousands of years before, the Wadawurrung and Bunurung were much more in contact, sharing a very long border.

What this tells us is how old that creation story is, because the evidence is that the sea level rose about 8500 years ago! So sitting there hearing Barry tell his ancestral story which stretches so far into the past was an extraordinary experience and privilege.

Just further to that, Bunurung people have a story that tells of the flooding of the bay but I'll write of that another time.

Last Sunday I drove up the highway to Buninyong to visit the smart Living Expo (which was excellent) and the sight of KEERAT BUREET rising up behind (Mt) Buninyong had a new and very meaningful presence. And there's a Tyakoort Woorong story connecting Buninyong and Derrinallum (Mt Elephant). Another story for later.

Steve and I both got to see the Bangarra Dance Company production of "Belong" in Geelong. I thought it was a very powerful and moving work of art, following Belong's life from pre-contact through the smallpox epidemic and his voyage as a captive specimen to London (the first of the Stolen generations) to the final scene where he is literally walled in on stage with huge white blocks.

This symbolised a lot of things: his personal feeling of being trapped and isolated, the present day situation of incarceration of so many aboriginal people, and even I thought to the irony of a world heritage classified building (the Opera House) now standing on the point which bears his name.

Coming events: Bended Knee Music Festival Buninyong 29/30 March Barry Gilson heads the bill "A Bundle of Sticks" Jan Wositsky at Steiglitz 7 April enquiries 52819253

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Golden Plains Festival 2019 information and contacts

We are writing with information for Golden Plains Festival scheduled to occur at the Meredith Supernatural Amphitheatre on Saturday 9 March - Monday 11 March, 2019.

The summary of the traffic management plan is outlined here.

- We implement a speed reduction on Mount Mercer Road and Cameron's Road from two days prior to the festival through to the day prior to the festival.

- We implement one-way traffic on Mount Mercer Road from Bamganie Road to Cameron's Road from approximately 4am the day prior to festival to approximately 7pm on the first day of the festival.

- Traffic within the one-way zone travelling to Meredith will be diverted down Cameron's Road

- We assign traffic controllers to the corner of Midland Highway and Staughton Street on the final day of the festival to assist vehicles turning left or right onto Midland Highway

- No-parking zones are installed along Mount Mercer Road and some surrounding roads

If you live or work along Mount Mercer Road, Bamganie Road or Cameron's Road and you would like a vehicle pass please email Aunty Meredith.

If you have any comments or ideas about any matter related to either Golden Plains Festival, including any concern or question about traffic or noise management, please get in contact by phone/text 0430 091 120 or by emailing via auntym@mmf.com.au. These contacts are also operational 24 hours over the festival weekend.

The festival website is www.goldenplains.com.au.

Other information for locals is available at <http://aunty.goldenplains.com.au/locals/>.

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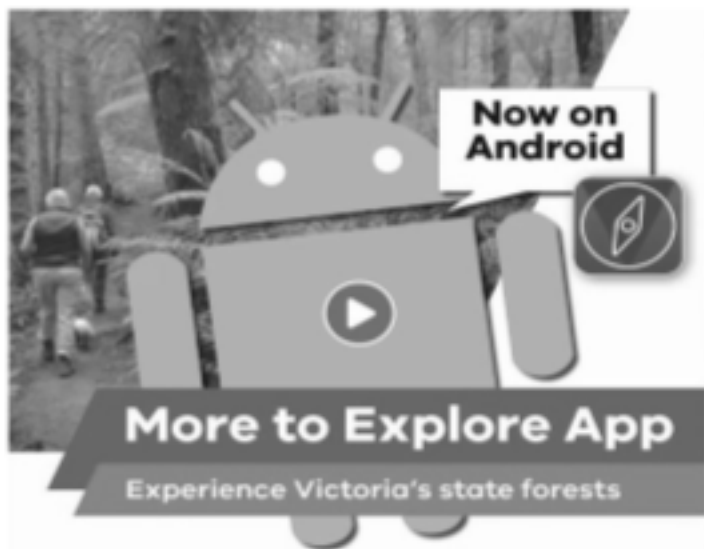
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There's never been a better time to discover our state forests, and the More to Explore app will help you connect with nature in new ways.

The release of the app for Android devices coincides with an update to the already available Apple version, providing comprehensive information to help people use and enjoy Victoria's 3.1 million hectares of state forest and its network of approximately 400 visitor sites and 250 recreational trails.

The new and improved More to Explore app includes enhanced search functions, upgraded road information, new integrated capabilities for offline maps and an emergency location function. The More to Explore app is available for iPhones from the App Store and for Androids in the Google Play store. More information >> <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/visiting-state-forests/more-to-explore-apps-and-maps>.

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He Went to Riddles Creek for Holidays....

Marg Cooper

Graham Hamilton Smith grew up in Elsternwick but enjoyed his holidays at Riddles Creek on the farm belonging to his Aunt. His father was an Insurance Broker who yearned to be a farmer. Graham considered training as a vet but that meant he had to go to Sydney so the next best option was go to the RMIT wool school in Melbourne to study wool-classing.

Six months after beginning the course all students were sent to sheds as shed hands or rouseabouts to learn the trade from the grass roots. Graham was sent to "Avoca Para" near Broken Hill with a Grazcos team. The following year the woolclasser 'got crook' and Graham had to take his place, classing for nine shearers. It's called 'being thrown in at the deep end'!

Graham must have performed well because when he finished his course, Grazcos sent him to Overseers School at "Gunningba", up near Bourke. For a month he had to do every job in the shed from shearing to keeping the books. Grazcos picked twenty men out from all around Australia for this training to become bosses of their shearing teams. Graham was quite awkward at shearing being left handed so he decided to concentrate on the wool. Graham remembers that you had to be strong to be a wool presser.

Graham's first shed as overseer with Grazcos was to "Mountain Creek" near Albury and he went back for six years in a row. The shearers came from Queensland to shear 15,000 sheep for Tony Fairbairn and Graham stayed in the homestead. He also went to "Coliban Park" near Redesdale for six years with the same five shearers who shored from 6,000 to 23,000 sheep. 'Charlie' was his good sheep dog and mate.

Graham recalls that it was a great life for a single bloke. But in 1968 he was "called up" in the first intake for National Service. During his training he drove a lot of new vehicles to Sydney and drove a lot of wrecks back. He was posted to Vietnam but Grazcos wrote to the Army and his posting was deferred and then the Army discovered that he could play golf so he represented the Army against the other services on the Golf Course. He said he was the worst golfer so had to practice diligently.

Graham was offered a job at RMIT to teach wool classing students but he opted to become a wool buyer for a woollen mill at Abbotsford on the Yarra River. After six months the business went into voluntary liquidation but Graham and his mates saw an opportunity. Graham was appointed the Manager and also got married at that time to Dorothy. They sold the mill at Abbotsford, Graham was directed to "get the plant moving" at a mill in Derrimut which he did, so they could scour 2500 bales of wool a week. By then there was a mill at Geelong also.....

This is part 1 of Graham's story, following on from the article about Pat and Helen Banks buying, 25 years ago the business Graham started.

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Bogged in February?

Kerry Thomson

Something was up. Over the excited yapping of the dog the dull roar of a truck in the near distance could be heard - an unusual sound on our quiet country road. Out the window we could just glimpse through the trees the blue bulk of the garbage collection truck.

Closer investigation revealed a very frustrated and bemused driver wondering how on earth you can get a truck bogged in the middle of a summer drought. By following instructions and not turning in our drive-way he tried to do a 3-point turn in the space between large eucalypts on the roadside. What appeared to be a firm surface suddenly revealed itself to be a thin veneer covering a soft sand 'quagmire' that provided no traction for spinning truck wheels. The big blue truck was well and truly stuck!

Several phone calls later and the supervisor arrives and the heavy haulage tow company is called. Perpendicular to the road and only a few metres from the neighbour's fence we wondered how he could be towed out. Needless to say, the haulage man very efficiently attached the wire and pulled the truck very gently sideways as if it was on a turntable. Once the rear wheels hit the road there was a palpable sigh of relief and the world was back to balance.

After several hours, some well orchestrated manoeuvring, digging and dust, our garbage was collected and a slightly embarrassed driver, James

(Jimmy), left to face further 'ribbing' from his mates. In the wake of all this the watching koalas went back to sleep, the neighbours finally had their rubbish taken away and we were left with a churned up yard and the shire wondering how to rectify the situation so it doesn't happen again.



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"If you do nothing else make sure you get the lawns done today, Josh and his mob are here tomorrow for lunch and the kids will be wanting to run around like mad things outside like usual....blah, blah...." So said Peggy, falling on somewhat deaf ears as Bernie wandered out the back door.

Bloody lawn mowing, Bernie shared with himself.

Well, shared with himself because he was on his own, in the ute. With a farming background, and as a man of regular habits, Bernie was in the middle of his usual Saturday morning routine of driving around his regular circuit, having a "scratch and look around" in farmer parlance, while adding some semblance of usefulness to the exercise by stopping by the shop to pick up the weekend papers.

Bloody lawn mowing. All these years of marriage and family life why is it assumed that it must be Bernie who mows the bloody lawns! Admittedly, it was an exercise he openly enjoyed in years gone by, particularly when their mob of kids were younger, and the chaos of family life was nearly overwhelming. Those days, ear muffs on, 2 stroke engine screaming, he found sanctuary in the simple pleasure of mowing the lawns. Both for the escape but also for the reward of the neat and tidy domestic vista it produced.

But really, does his early enthusiasm have to mean it's a job he's consigned to for life?

Bloody lawn mowing.

With a smile Bernie decided to delay the inevitable with a quick stop at the local for a couple of 11am bevies with the regular Saturday punting club of Bernie and his 3 mad mates. Nothing surer that they'd be there, as usual. Regular as clockwork these blokes. Just like Bernie mowing the bloody lawns.

As Bernie walked through the door, as he has hundreds of times before, the bar was already half full of all the regulars with a buzz filling the air as the various "sure thing" tips were shared around the bar. Another smile stretched across Bernie's well worn face.

"G'day Jock"

"G'day Bernie, saw you coming, got a schooner for you"

"Cheers" "How are you Gags"

"Good as Gold" "Flash as a Rat with a gold tooth"

"Same as last week hey?"

"Where's old mate"

"Who"

"Who do you reckon Einstein...Kenny boy!"

"Fishing, he was looking for you to join him, going down to the reef off Sandy Point, fish are jumping into the boat apparently"

"Brilliant...I'm mowing lawns. Bloody lawn mowing"

Continuing this sparkling repartee and finishing off the shout 30 minutes later Bernie bid his farewells with the smile on entry now replaced with a frown as he thought of Kenny bobbing around out in the boat in this beautiful late Summer weather enjoying a cold beer or 2 and, simply, relaxing. Meanwhile Bernie will be mowing bloody lawns.

Pulling up in the driveway Peggy met him half way down the drive.

"Don't go to far old boy. Kenny is waiting for you at his place, he's loaded up and ready to go out fishing somewhere or other."

"Can't, gotta get these bloody lawns done, strict instructions if I recall"

"I'll do them, you head off and enjoy yourself. Might bring that smile back to your dial."

As he drove off down the road, he took a quick glance in the mirror to see Peggy waving a goodbye.

With his usual "toot toot" farewell he muttered to no one in particular "My gosh I love that woman."

Well, no one in particular because he was on his own, in the ute.

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MAN COOK EAT



Steve Duffy

I'm no VeganBut

In February I had a visit from two of my nephews. They called in late on a Saturday afternoon. Victor 27, and Sebastian 25 were off on a BIG adventure. They had set off from Melbourne the previous morning on their well equipped bicycles, packed with tents, sleeping bags, water bottles and lots of other gear. They were heading for Perth! Yes Perth on bicycles! They were going to stay the night, before setting off for Rokewood in the morning.

The older one, Victor, had travelled extensively, but his riding, like his brother's, had up to now been just recreational. But, the thing is that he is a Vegan, not just vegetarian. So if I was to give them their last home cooked meal in a while, I had a challenge of my own. So I was about to prepare a meal for the travellers, a cousin and girlfriend, and two uncles and two aunts, including me. So.....I prepared several dishes.

Scalloped Potatoes

4 or 5 Large washed potatoes, chopped in half then sliced in 5mm slices. The half potatoes are then placed chopped side down in a suitable baking pan. Fill the tray to near the top with the potatoes, sprinkle with Olive oil , 2 teaspoons of Za'atar and salt. Roast for 55minutes

Roast Pumpkin

Slice several slices of peeled pumpkin smeared with a mix of Pomegranate Molasses and Roast Pepper Paste, Roast for 40 minutes.

Ratatouille

Halve several Lebanese Eggplant, Yellow Squash and large Mushrooms. Grill on a hot plate till lightly browned. Meanwhile, chop a large Brown Onion then fry with some garlic, then add the other vegetables. Finish over a low flame with a few Cherry Tomatoes and a little tarragon and salt.

Garlic Broccoli

Take one large head of Broccoli and steam whole. In a small pan cook several cloves of Garlic, chopped, in 6 tablespoons Olive Oil, then add 6 tablespoons of Panko Breadcrumbs.

When the garlic is ready smear the breadcrumbs over the Broccoli and serve whole in a bowl.

Baked Tomatoes

Slice several large Tomatoes in half horizontally. Chop some Garlic cloves and fresh Rosemary and sprinkle over the Tomatoes, then drizzle with Olive Oil. Salt and bake for 10- 15 minutes.

Green Salad

I picked some Radicchio, Lettuce and cucumber. Wash and toss with fresh Basil, oil, and Balsamic Vinegar.

Fresh sour Dough Bread

As I planned the meal I made sure I had chosen dishes which would be prepared by differing methods, even if there were over 10 types of vegetables. Remember this whenever entertaining. It certainly means the meal can come to table at the good time.

My guests did enjoy the fuss we went to. A nice memory for them as they are pedalling off into the Westerly Wind which they will face over the next couple of months.

And it's not that hard to be Vegan!

Happy Cooking and Pedalling!

Steve



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ROAST RATATOUILLE WITH CHICKEN

Serves 6

Prep – 10 minutes. Cooking time 45 minutes.

Ingredients

- 1 eggplant, cut into 2cm pieces
- 2 large zucchini, cut into 2cm chunks
- 2 red capsicums, deseeded, diced
- 1 large red onion, roughly chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, sliced
- 1 tbs thyme leaves, plus extra to garnish
- Olive oil spray
- 400g chicken tenderloins
- 2 tbs plain flour
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 cup quinoa flakes or breadcrumbs
- 250g cherry tomatoes
- 1 tbs balsamic vinegar
- Continental parsley to garnish

Method

Preheat oven to 200 C. Line a baking tray with baking paper. Combine eggplant, zucchini, capsicum, onion, garlic and thyme in a large roasting pan. Spray with oil, season and toss to combine. Cook, turning occasionally for 30 minutes or until tender.

Meanwhile, lightly coat chicken with flour. Dip into egg and coat with quinoa or breadcrumbs. Lay on tray and coat with oil.

Remove vegetables from oven and add tomatoes and vinegar. Place vegetables and chicken in oven and cook for 15 minutes or until tomatoes soften and chicken is golden and cooked through. To serve, evenly divide ratatouille between serving plates, top with chicken and garnish with parsley and extra thyme.

Recipe from – Woolworths Fresh Magazine

Stefania J

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Do You Know.....

....who George Bills was? Have you ever seen an old horse trough on the side of the roads or streets on your travels and wondered how and why they came to be? Well.....George Bills and his wife Annis are the ones who provided the money to have them built.

George was born in Brighton in England in 1859. He migrated with his family to New Zealand, and then in 1873 to Echuca, Victoria. In 1882 he opened a bird dealers shop in Brisbane, where he met and married Annis Swann. In 1884 the couple moved to Sydney. George went into business with his brothers manufacturing innerspring mattresses.

In 1908, George retired and the couple moved to Hawthorn, Victoria. Annis died in 1910 while they were visiting England. The couple had no children, and following George's death in 1927, a Trust Fund was set up, believed to be around £70-80,000.

One of the purposes of the Trust as set out in George's will was to: "construct and erect and pay for horse troughs wherever they may of the opinion that such horse troughs are desirable for the relief of horses and other dumb animals either in Australasia, in the British Islands or in any other part of the world subject to the consent of the proper authorities being obtained."

Each trough cost £13 plus transport and installation. Approximately 700 were distributed by the Trust in Australia and 50 in several other countries. The majority of the troughs were installed in Victoria and New South Wales between 1930 and 1939. Initially the troughs were individually designed and constructed, however by the early 1930's, JB Phillips, a relative of the Bills' became the head contractor. Working to a standard design he produced the troughs in Auburn Road, Hawthorn, Victoria. The troughs were pre-cast concrete with a curved pediment with the inscription "Donated by Annis & George Bills, Australia."

Manufacture was subsequently handled by Rocla, who produced troughs to the same design in Victoria and later Junee, NSW. With the rise of motorised transport, demand for the troughs declined, and production had ceased by the end of World War 11.

Question - do you know how many troughs, if any, are in your town, and where are they?

Article written by Nerene Backhouse for the "Vintage & Classic Car Club Ballarat" Newsletter, September 2018. Reproduced with permission.

A Taste for High Dining

Jim Elvey

You may be familiar with the behaviour of juvenile magpies, which is on display every summer. These full sized birds, with a bit of grey in their feathers still, follow Mum* around with a plaintive squawk that only stops for a worm to be stuffed into its beak.

We witnessed an interesting variation of this feeding/training regime recently, when we had lunch at Werribee's ShadowFax Winery. Seated in the garden courtyard, we saw a mother magpie teaching her hungry offspring to beg food from the diners. She would occasionally chime in with her beautiful warble, but the exercise mainly relied on diners offering food to get some respite from the horrible noise of junior's demands. So Mum has cleverly outsourced feeding duties and gets the occasional nibble herself! How good is that? And all this on the edge of a well watered lawn, very likely seething with worms.

**I could have this wrong. Apparently Dad, and even siblings help out feeding young magpies. That makes more sense - a young adult taking a younger brother or sister to a winery as a lazy option sounds about right.*





IN OUR NATURE

Wendy Cook

It was a warm evening, as the sun began to set. Twisted branches were silhouetted, black against an orange sky. Magpies flapped noisily from tree to tree, calling to each other, choosing a place to settle for the night. An ancient stringybark reached above the other trees, the leaves of its canopy hanging motionless. From under a fibrous strip of bark, four hairy brown legs appeared. The huntsman spider became visible as it sidled out of its hiding place. A moth with intricate patterns on its grey wings came to rest a little higher up the trunk, attracting the huntsman's attention.

Above them, a small striped head peeked from inside the end of a broken bough. Warily, its nose sniffed and its eyes looked around in the gloom. Finding no immediate dangers, the sugar glider leapt, the loose skin between its front and back legs stretched taut to allow it to glide to a neighbouring trunk. It landed with a thump, four feet grasping bark. Swiftly it ran up the trunk and bounced lightly across smaller branches, before continuing its gliding journey to a wattle tree, where it could dine on sap.

From a hollow, lower in the sturdy stringybark trunk, nineteen little shapes flitted on membranous wings. Each bat was about 6cm long and weighed 9g, the same as a one dollar coin. They had large ears, small black eyes, a short muzzle and a high domed forehead. Their wings of thin flexible skin, stretched along elongated finger bones, were attached to the sides of their body between their shoulders and hind legs. Another membrane, extended during flight, was joined to the back legs and the narrow tail. A small lobe, called a wattle, at each corner of the mouth, and thick fur, the colour of milk chocolate, gave these bats the name of chocolate wattled bat. They are one of at least nine species of insect eating microbats found in the Meredith area.

The bats flew swiftly over the bushes, under the tree canopy and around trunks and branches, using sound to build up a picture of their surroundings and to hunt for moths. In a technique known as echolocation, each bat made many extremely high-pitched clicking sounds per second. The bats' highly sensitive ears were able to detect the clicks that bounced off objects around them, and determine the location of each object. One bat detected the grey moth which had escaped from the huntsman. Its clicks became more frequent, as it closed in on its prey. Chocolate wattled bats only catch insects in flight. The moth flew past a lump on a large branch and landed on the trunk, safe from the bat. The bat, its prey lost, swooped over the same branch. From the lump, the striped leg of a feral tabby cat reached out. It swiped sideways catching the bat's wing with its claws, pulled its furry body close, and bit.

The remaining bats continued hunting. A few of them

were youngsters, born in December, and now in late summer, beginning to catch their own food. Until recently, they had lived on their mothers' milk and spent nights inside the tree hollow, hanging upside down, tucked tightly in among the other pups to keep warm, and guarded by a few adults. Now, they twisted around tree branches, dipped abruptly to catch a flying beetle, returned to their original path and chased a brown moth. Soon, the weather would become cooler. Like all the small bats that remain in Victoria over winter, they would hibernate. Chocolate wattled bats are amongst the last to retreat in the cold, and the first to emerge in Spring. This allows them extra time to build up fat supplies necessary to survive winter. Although there are few insects at these times, there are also few other bats awake and seeking food.

After a successful night of hunting, the bats swooped into their hollow. Each found a resting place, hung upside down from its feet, folded its wings close to its sides, and was ready to sleep. Higher up, the sugar glider and its family glided back to their broken branch. The huntsman dropped the shiny brown wing cases of the last beetle it had caught, and slid under a strip of bark. The grey moth rested on a twig below the cluster of gum flowers from which it had been drinking nectar. The complex patterns on its wings allowed it to blend with its background. All was quiet, until the sky turned pink with dawn, and the magpies awakened.



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Kelpie Kapers #3

By Emma Clarke



A Way of Life

by KERRIE KRUGER



A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO A MORE SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE

Did you know that if you spend enough time with your chickens, then you will hear sounds from tiny guttural rumbly sounds to full out squawking? The first sound from the chook house is the crowing, no explanation needed, He is announcing "I'm the boss here" or is it "Wake up it's a new day"? At 3am I think not!

Our young chicks are up and about early, they give a soft, irregular chirp that says "I'm here and all is well" as they wander around with Mumma Hen. After a period of foraging they give a soft warbling sound that tells us when they are settling down for a nap "Life is good." Mumma will give comfort with a low 'doh, doh doh' and tuck them under her wing. After their nap they are feeling adventurous and as they explore, they will give a startled peep, a sharp chirp that sounds as startled as it is meant to be, almost like saying "Whoa! What's that?", and Mumma will reply with a cluck a short, low-pitched and repetitive sound, "Stay close."

At times you might hear a distress peep, loud, sharp tweets that means "I'm so miserable!" Usually due to being hot, cold or hungry. If they are hungry Mumma will give her food call, a short, high-pitched and staccato 'tuk, tuk, tukking' that says, "Come get the food I just found!"

One day we both noticed a Hawk flying over and Mumma Hen gave her hush sound a soft, vibrating 'errrr' that sent the chicks running for Mums' feathers and flattening silently to the ground. It meant "Stay put, there's danger." One of the chicks did not heed this and the hawk had dinner.

Another day we heard the panic peep, "Help me!" it was heard because they had ventured into the home yard and encountered the kelpie! This of course was followed by the fear trill, the loud, sharp repeated sound pleading "Don't hurt me!" as the kelpie tried to round them up! This sound also brings the human Mumma running to the rescue! There is always something going on with chicks, just like with any toddler baby!

Now while Mumma is busy with her chicks, our other girls are also busy. From early morning we hear firstly the nesting call, used by a chook in search of a nest or the rooster trying to help (although his choice is rarely accepted). "Here's a good nest site.", this is followed by Bwah,bwah,bwah,bwah, "I am going to lay an egg" and this is followed up by the laying cackle, you know that hilariously annoying sound that announces that the hen is REALLY proud of her egg laying accomplishment and wants everybody in the entire district to know it for up to a minute or more! Bah-gaw-gawk, bah-gaw-gawk, bah-gaw-gawk, "I just laid an egg and I rock."

When that daily chore is done, she is off onto her busy day and you will hear her singing for a better word. It is usually rapidly repeated notes with some amount of randomness. Similar to someone happily humming as they go about their business. It says, "All is well." You may also hear the Buh-dup," Hello, how are you?", as they greet each other. If you listen you will also hear the contentment call, a low pitched, repetitive sound made by the flock when out and about "Let's stick together," they seem to be saying.

While out gardening I can watch the chooks lives unfold, it is peaceful until the rooster utters a short squawk with the intensity, volume and repetitiveness which is determined only by how startled he is as I throw some weeds over the fence for them, it's like "What was that?" This is usually quickly followed by the proud food call, an excited, rapid 'tuk, tuk, tukking', "I found food!"

Later in the day, I observe the courtship croon, a low rumbly sound made as the rooster circles the chook while flicking a wing on the ground. "Nice feathers." And we all know what follows that!!

Our Rooster takes his job seriously and will give the flying object alert, a chirruping sound made as the rooster looks skyward. "There's something up there, but I think we're ok," well obviously, it is only a flock of sparrows on their way past from the silos! But if it is more worrying, he will give the caution call, quick, repeated notes that means he feels something potentially dangerous has been spotted. He is saying, "Pay attention." And if it gets closer, he will follow up with the alarm cackle, an insistent repetitive cackle 'Kuh-kuh-kuh-kuh-KACK!' "I sense danger!" Sometimes I will not see what has startled him but will always stay outside for a while longer pottering around just to be sure, although some days I do wonder if he needs glasses!

Now the sound that we all run for is the air raid, a loud warning sound made typically by a rooster and all chickens will run for cover. He is announcing, "There a raptor in the sky. Run for cover!" Interestingly, too many false alarms will result in chickens ignoring the air raid signal, not to mention us as well, but it can be like the boy who called wolf, the one time you ignore it, is the time the raptor lands!

Late afternoon it's time to throw around some scratch, top up water and collect eggs, but oh dear who is that in the nest box giving off the broody hiss, a sound which is like a snake hiss, often accompanied by fluffing of feathers and a dirty look while the chook is sitting in her nest box. She is saying "I'm warning you to leave me and my eggs alone." If you do leave her expect this to be followed up in a few days by the broody growl, much harsher than the hiss and gravelly, the broody growl "Leave me and my eggs alone or I will destroy you." It is often accompanied by a hand peck, (and if unlucky the beak twist with your skin firmly held in her beak) as you are trying to collect eggs!

On dusk while locking the chook yard, we will hear the roosting call, the loud, low-pitched and repetitive sound 'Doh, doh doh,' made at nightfall, saying "Let's sleep here and Goodnight"

Allow yourself time to sit and spend time with your flock. Watch their interactions, listen to their conversations; you will be amazed at what you learn

PS: A great way to call you flock in at night or whenever you need to, is practice the 'tuk, tuk, tukking' call as you shake the scratch scoop/tin. A well-trained flock makes living with backyard chickens more enjoyable for all.

For more chicken chatter and other slow living thoughts please follow our facebook page :ourlife – our way @chickenfeeder or Instagram @ourlife_ourway

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Landcare News

Bamganie-Meredith Landcare Group

REVEGETATION TECHNIQUES WORKSHOP

The next workshop in our 2019 series is the Plant Identification and Revegetation Techniques workshop to be held on Saturday 6 April 2019. Topics to be covered include:

Basic plant identification

Revegetation design, attracting wildlife, selecting plant species, creating habitat, structural layers.

Site preparation and maintenance

Generating income from revegetation and biodiversity plantations

The workshop will be held at the Meredith Memorial Hall, from 9:00am – 2:00pm. The workshop is free and a light lunch will be provided. RSVPs are essential for those attending. Please contact Nick McKinley at nick@leighcatchmentgroup.org or phone 0455 147 398 to register.

The Revegetation Techniques Workshop will be presented by Stephen Murphy. Many people know Stephen from when he owned and operated the Treehome Nursery in Teesdale. Stephen has over 30 years of experience helping landholders to design and choose plant species for revegetation projects. Stephen is renowned for testing traditional approaches to revegetation and has developed new revegetation techniques based on scientific research and landscape observations. For more information visit the Recreating the Country website and read Stephens blogs at: <https://www.recreatingthecountry.com.au/>

IN OTHER NEWS

On Saturday 9th of February 26 people attended the Indigenous Seed Collection Workshop, held in the Meredith Hall. Dan Frost from Seeding Victoria presented the workshop. Attendees learnt how to identify plant species and the importance of using seed from the local province in revegetation projects. Participants left the workshop knowing how to legally collect seed from plants, how to collect viable seed, how to clean and dress seed and how to propagate seed. The event was very well attended by people from far and wide, with some participants travelling 1.5 hours from Melbourne.

FUTURE WORKSHOPS IN 2019

Stay posted for more information about workshops to be held later in the year. These include a workshop on Carbon Farming to look at opportunities for farmers and landowners to earn carbon credits by storing carbon or reducing greenhouse gas emissions on their land, and a workshop covering what you need to know about how to establish and generate income from farm forestry. More details about these workshops will be available on our Facebook page or in later editions of the Newsletter.

COME AND JOIN US

Would you like to know more about how to manage your land sustainably? If so, this group is for you! Landcare is a community based movement made up of people who share similar land management issues, and who want to find solutions to these issues. Activities covered in the past include how to control rabbits, revegetation plantings, improving pasture, protecting soil, and identifying and controlling weeds. Why not come and join us? We meet at 7:30pm at the Meredith Community House on every third Thursday in the month.

Next meeting: Thursday 15 March, Meredith Community House at 7:30pm. All welcome!

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BRAND New Gifts & products arriving

Last month we went to the Sydney Gift Fair where we have purchased lots of new gifts and products. The majority of the products and gifts coming in we have never stocked before.

A summary of the products coming in are:

- Jewellery - Ladies wallets & handbags
- Men's wallets - Men's gifts
- Tea - stylish thermo cups and water bottles
- Toilet bags - Watches
- Scarves - Food travel containers
- Rollup silicone water bottles
- Natural household cleaning products
- Baby skin care products
- 100% natural, toxic free lipsticks made from food
- Vegan & cruelty free Nail Polish
- Aromatherapy hand & body wash, and body lotion
- 100% natural deodorants & armpit detox kits
- Babies & children's winter hats
- Magnetic reading/prescription glass holders
- Honeybee wraps (glad wrap alternative)
- Scented draw liners

Keep up to date what's happening at the Pharmacy

If you would like to be kept up to date with what's happening at the Pharmacy then the best way to do this is to like our **Facebook** page or follow us on **Instagram**. We regularly post updates whether it showing pictures some of our new gifts as they are being unpacked, specials, health information tips, etc. Simply type Bannockburn Pharmacy into your search bar in Facebook and you will easily find us and then simply click on "Like" to follow what is happening within the Pharmacy. Also type in Bannockburn Pharmacy in Instagram and you will find us

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Saturday:	8:30am - 1:00pm
Sunday:	CLOSED

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it'S HiStoRy

Meredith History Interest Group

Annual Meeting:

The Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, March 3 (after this article was prepared) at the History Centre in Meredith. A new sign created by Anthony Hamilton Smith, announcing "who we are" and a seat to remember John (Jack) Nolan created by Peter Kruger were unveiled. MHIG contracted these two local and talented tradesmen to create the sign and seat, and they have done us proud! We invite you to visit the History Centre to see them.

The sign was funded as part of a Community Grant from the Golden Plains Shire Council and the seat was funded from donations to MHIG at John Nolan's funeral and his first anniversary function.

Droving Cattle:

In 1906 Mr D.M. Morrison wrote his recollections of the 1840's in the Geelong Advertiser: he remembered his first experience of droving cattle (the term applied to travelling with cattle from one place to another). "The small herd had been gathered in the vicinity of Geelong and their destination was "Borhoneyghurk" on the Moorabool River. The route selected was via George Hope's, then up the valley of the Moorabool, up to Russell's Flat, there not being a single fence, house or obstruction in any direction we chose. We arrived at Borhoneyghurk on the fourth day. On the main Buninyong Road upon the Cooly Barghup Creek a hostelry had been established where accommodation could be obtained by all travellers. The Messrs Ritchie were the proprietors. It is now known as Meredith, taking its name from Meredith who had been treacherously murdered in the bush there a short time previous, under circumstances which have rarely or ever been equalled. Many years afterwards, when it was surveyed and sold Meredith's name was perpetuated."

In a later issue he said that by some oversight the compositors skipped a portion of his letter that stated that: "Dr Learmonth and Mr Miller had nice homes and farms on the route. Mr John Wallace whose bullock team I accompanied upon the trip had special instructions to call at Mr Millers and did call. Darriwell was not a brick mansion but only a nice bush wooden cottage."

Do you know anything about this brutal murder? Have you read about it, heard it in family stories or found the grave?

Weekly Times:

On display in the History Centre are some Weekly Times Newspapers recently donated which contain sales of properties in the Meredith district in the 1970's and a Weekly Times from October 1956 which contains a page of photos of the Meredith Red Cross Ball (which appears to be a costume ball).

Collections:

Forty four open fronted cubicles (30x30x30) are waiting for you to display your collection: could be antique toys, postcards, kitchen appliances, shearing gear or jewellery! Call and see us on a Thursday from 9 am.

TOWN TALK.

The increase of the railway freights has brought carriers' waggons into competition with the goods trains on the line from Geelong to Ballarat. So great is the increase in the road traffic that the shire councils are becoming concerned regarding the wear and tear on the highways and the consequent increase in the cost of maintenance. If the waggons continue to draw away the traffic from the railways all the municipal revenue will be in repair. The carriers will either to be put out of competition by a reduction of railway freights, or obliged to pay a special tax to maintain the roads that are being worn to dust by the heavy loads. The Meredith shire has decided to ask its neighbours to take concerted action in the matter.

Geelong Advertiser Thursday 16 March 1893

Jan McDonald, Meredith History Interest Group

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Perfect

Marg Cooper

Georgia Kolovos had been looking for a property for her business “GC Natural Horsemanship” and found it at Bamganie. The property is larger than where she was formerly based at Gnarwarre so she can have more horses and do more activities, the property has access to the Bamganie Bush for trail rides and training and it is closer to clients from Ballarat and Central Victoria. Perfect!

Georgia started the business in 2010 after finishing High School and then a teaching Degree. Although she always had an interest in horses it was when a teacher at her High School asked her to compete for her in show jumping, dressage and showing that Georgia became passionate about training horses. People asked her to train horses for them and so a business grew.

In November Georgia competed in the 2018 Brumby Challenge at Equitana. She was one of about 20 trainers who endeavoured to transform an untamed brumby captured from the high country to a competition horse in 150 days. “Pandora” was a blue roan brumby captured from Kosciuzko National Park. She says that brumbies are amazing horses, bred by natural selection, generally pony size but with good feet, good weight and are tough, hardy and sturdy. Georgia has trained 25-30 brumbies because they are also smart, like to conserve energy so they stop and observe and because it helps control the largest population of wild horses in the world. She described how, when she has gained the confidence of a brumby, often she can train them to do tricks in one or two sessions.

In 2016 Georgia competed in the Extreme Mustang Makeover in Texas. She had approximately 100 days to train a wild mustang and although she went overseas to visit Canada she lived on a quiet ranch in Montana to train the horse. About 70 horses entered, about 45 competed and Georgia was placed about 22nd.

At Bamganie so far Georgia and her husband have constructed an arena, a round yard, a mountain trail obstacle course, have fenced paddocks suitable for horses and have installed an underground water system to get water to all paddocks. They have plans to convert the shearing shed to club rooms and include some rustic accommodation for clients and backpackers who work with Georgia.

Georgia is available to train your untrained horse with “Foundation Training” or basics in any disciplines.



Georgia “Roman Riding” on two of her horses, Jack and Arizona.

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QUALITY WORKMANSHIP



“The Historian” by Elizabeth Kostova

I picked this book up from the Street Library in front of the History Centre in Meredith, thinking that the title was apt! I was plunged into a world that I never dreamed of as the girl in the book was plunged into a world that she never dreamed of, a labyrinth where the secrets of her father’s past and her mother’s mysterious fate connect to an inconceivable evil hidden in the depths of history.

Some letters she finds, link to one of the darkest powers that humanity has ever known and to a century’s long quest to find the truth about Vlad the Impaler, the 15th century Prince of Wallachia, whose barbarous reign formed the basis of the legend of Dracula. The author explains how generations of historians have risked their lives to learn the truth.

I especially enjoyed the author’s lush descriptions of the setting and European cities and countries which the story traverses including Amsterdam, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Romania, Turkey, France, Oxford, Switzerland and Italy. Kostova relished describing monasteries and libraries, secret conversations and archives like documents, books and maps. The reader feels the sensual and intellectual pleasure found in dusty old libraries with their leather bound books and fading maps.

The novel ties together three narratives, using letters and oral accounts: that of Paul’s mentor in the 1930’s, that of Paul himself in the 1950’s and that of the narrator, Paul’s daughter, in the 1970’s.

The book has been compared to Dan Brown’s book *The Da Vinci Code* using a combination of genres including the Gothic novel, the adventure novel, the epistolary epic and the historical thriller. Another review describes the book as part thriller, part history, and part romance and with the author has blending fact, fantasy, history and the present. Religion is also a dominant theme of the book. The evils brought about by religious conflict are a particular theme, and the book explores the relationship between the Christian West and the Islamic East.

The book also explores the myths to whether or not Dracula truly existed and if he lived on century after century. Questions that arise from the book are: Is Dracula a metaphor for evil? What is history’s role in society and representation in books?

The Historian was the first debut novel to land at number one on The New York Times bestseller list in its first week on sale and sold 70,000 copies in that first week.

The book for discussion at Bookclub in March is “The Course of Love” by Alain de Botton.

Chris’ Book on Sale

Marg Cooper

This beautiful book of stories and reflections which was produced for Chris Nolan’s 50th birthday was compiled by two of his friends, Janine Hellard and Eileen McCormack.

Family and friends were invited to provide accounts and vignettes of their relationship with Chris from the time of his birth until the present. The Forward says “these stories can be shared with Chris however the books are also to help us all understand and better know Chris and his broad spheres of influence. Chris continues to contribute and inspire in the vast networks of family and friends, carers, Meredith Music Festival punters, neighbours, old school community and the many forums in which he engages.”

The book is A4 size, hard covered with glossy pages throughout containing many excellent photos and very readable print size. Entries are organized from “early years” to “the future” and have been contributed by many people including teachers, school friends, uncles, cousins, carers, Chris’ beautician and the lads who started the Music Festival with Chris. A list of contributors appears in the back of the book. His mother Mary has interspersed the contributed articles with articles that explain Chris’s story.

Future volumes are planned so Janine and Eileen invite more contributions. Please send to Janine at hellardjanine@hotmail.com.

The books can be ordered by emailing orders to Janine [as above]. The cost of the book is \$45 posted.

The THINGS We Say

Knock on Wood

‘Knock on wood’ or ‘touch wood’ is one of those things that has seeped its way into our vernacular that bubbles to the surface despite our superstitious beliefs or lack thereof. Often it is preceded by the obligatory rap on a wooden surface or, more cringeworthy, a tap on one’s own head to help ward off any bad luck or jinxing. There is no clear origin for this saying, but its first use stems back to the 17th century with ties to the mythology surrounding trees having good spirits. To knock on a tree was to let the spirit know you were there.

GEMMA HANAN



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- 9am - 200m kids dash (5yo and under)**
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- 9:45am - 5km fun run**

For more info <https://www.facebook.com/inverleighfunrun>

Register from 8 am on the day - Eftpos available
Walkers and prams welcome in 5km fun run

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judith emond FAMILY THERAPIST

Abuse in couple and family relationships

Unfortunately in the privacy of many homes some couples in our community are experiencing abuse by their partners. Often to the outside world their partner is well liked by others and no one would ever suspect the abuse that happens in the home. Many children are also exposed to the abuse which causes detrimental harm to a child's health and development. No one in the home is immune to the impact of living in an unsafe and abusive environment.

Yes I am raising awareness about family violence which is not just about the occurrence of physical assault in relationships; it also involves emotional and psychological abuse, as well as, financial and social control. Non-physical forms of abuse can be just as damaging as physical violence especially to children.

The following Quiz may help you or a loved one determine if you are at risk.

Family violence Quiz

I have selected the following questions from the Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre's website, their list is more extensive and descriptive and I encourage you to do more research if you need more information.

- Does your partner call you names or make you feel bad about the way you look?
- Does your partner monitor or limit your phone calls, conversations and emails?
- Does your partner take away your money and control how you use it?
- Does your partner ever push, shove, slap, pinch, punch or physically hurt you?
- Does or has your partner smashed your belongings or broken things around the house?
- Has your partner ever done anything that really frightened you?
- Do you feel your partner tries to control your contact with your family and friends?
- If your partner has been aggressive, have they blamed you for their anger and violence, saying it's your fault?
- If your relationship doesn't feel right and/or you are fearful, then call safe steps for confidential support and information. Support is available 24/7, every day of the year.

If you answer yes to any of the questions you are experiencing family violence problems. You are not alone and there is help available.

Get help

You can seek help from family violence services in our community

- Talk to your GP as they can refer you to an experienced counsellor
- Talk to your local Policeman, Police now have Family Violence departments and any policeman can direct you to services that can assist
- Share your situation with a trusted family member or friend

- Develop a safety plan, if you needed to leave the home in a hurry where would you go that's safe? What would you take? Who would you call or tell? Having this plan in place will make it easier for you if you need to keep yourself and/or children safe

For more information including help for women and men on family violence as well as how you can help a neighbour, work colleague, friend or relative please check out the following websites or ring the crisis numbers.

- Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre 24/7 phone information and advice or crisis support 1800 015 188 or www.safesteps.org.au
- Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria <http://www.dvrcv.org.au/help-advice/are-you-happy>
- Mens Referral Service 1300 766 491 or www.mrs.org.au
- Mensline 24/7 phone information and advice 1300 789 978
- No To Violence www.ntv.org.au
- If you hear or see something that makes you think violence is occurring, ring the police on 000.

Back to School

Steven Trotter, Principal, Meredith Primary School

It has been a very busy start to 2019 at Meredith Primary School with a number of facility upgrades, maintenance and some great new initiatives to drive our students learning across all levels.

I would like to welcome all new members to our school community. We have a number of new families, not only in foundation but across the school. I would also like to welcome Mr Bradley Maskell to our teaching team. Bradley is teaching our year 5/6s this year and has slotted into the team with ease.

Our teachers and education support staff spent our first day back engaging in professional learning around our key areas of focus for 2019, of literacy and numeracy. You will notice a few changes to our program this year which have all been part of the research and learning our staff have been participating in to continue to improve and build on the great teaching and learning that is already taking place in our classrooms.

The 300 Night Reading Challenge – Lets Get Reading!!!!

Research is unwavering, that being a good reader will have a big impact on your child's learning growth across all curriculum areas.

Choosing books to read and enjoy is at the heart of what it means to be literate. Children learn to read by reading, thinking, talking, and writing about reading. The research is clear: independent reading is unmistakably linked to student achievement.

(Joyful Independent Reading, Volume 13, 2017)

The 300 Night Reading Challenge is for all students from Foundation to Year 6. This challenge will provide motivation for each student to read more at home, with the aim to achieve at least 300 nights of reading across the year. Students will be filling out a reading log to track their reading as well as monitoring their progress on our display.



SARAH HENDERSON MP

Delivering for Meredith

- ✔ Fixing **Meredith-Mt Mercer Rd** and **Meredith-Steiglitz Rd**
- ✔ Delivering the **NBN**
- ✔ Funding a new **mobile base station** for Meredith and Steiglitz
- ✔ Upgrading Meredith & District **Memorial Hall**
- ✔ Investing in the Meredith Community **Learning Hub**
- ✔ Backing Meredith **school crossing** safety upgrade



*At the opening of the Meredith
Community Learning Hub*

*Visiting Meredith children in
early childhood care*

*Commemorating ANZAC Day
with Meredith RSL members*

SARAH HENDERSON MP
Federal Member for Corangamite

Authorised by S. Henderson, Liberal Party of Australia, 147/15 Colac Rd, Waurn Ponds, VIC 3216

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CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

March 2019

Moorabool North Wind Farm

- Approximately 19km of access tracks complete
- 48 foundations are excavated
- 37 Concrete pours completed
- On-site concrete batching plant operational
- Substation works are on-going, and the main transformer has arrived on site
- Approximately 5km of cable reticulation trenching is complete
- Commencement of turbine component deliveries

Construction activity focused on Ballan Meredith Road, Ballan Egerton Road and Manley's & Egan's Road.

Speed Limit Reduction

The Speed limit on sections of the Ballan Meredith Road and Ballan Egerton Road have been reduced to 60km/h until approximately May 2019. The speed limit on Mount Wallace Ballark road has been reduced to 80km/h.

These changes have been implemented with Moorabool Shire Council to ensure the safety of all road users during construction. These speed limits are now in operation and being enforced.

Turbine Component Deliveries

Oversize deliveries of wind turbine components will begin from early March 2019 and continue at Moorabool North wind farm until mid-August 2019.

Oversize loads include, Blades, Nacelle, Hub, Generators and Tower sections. Deliveries will be utilising several different routes to site. These include:

- From the Western Highway and travelling south along Geelong Ballan Road,
- Travelling north from Geelong on the Geelong Ballan Road through Anakie.

They will then travel to the relevant access points via the Ballan Meredith Road and Ballan Egerton Road.

Road Safety

Goldwind places a high importance on road safety for all road users and acknowledges the inconvenience that encountering oversize deliveries may cause. All loads will travel in accordance with the relevant permit conditions and be accompanied by pilot vehicles and in some cases, police escorts.

For up to date information on deliveries please register to receive weekly SMS notifications by texting your name to 0418 975 014

Transmission Line

The erection of transmission line poles is complete. Stringing of the conductor wires is now approximately 98% complete. Tree trimming is now underway, where required, along the line.

Moorabool South Wind Farm

- Approximately 21kms of access tracks constructed
- 41 foundations are excavated and blinded
- 15 foundations poured
- 5 foundations backfilled
- Substation works in progress

Construction activity traffic is focused on Mt Wallace Ballark Road and Ballan Meredith Road, Bungeeltap South Road and at the wind farm entrance on the Geelong Ballan Road.

Key Delivery Facts:

11 oversize loads per turbine Approx. 33 oversize loads per week
550 oversize loads in total Deliveries will occur Monday to Saturday

The Moorabool Wind Farm team aims to keep local disruption to a minimum and apologises if construction activities cause any inconvenience.

BUSINESS MENTORING

FREE ONE-ON-ONE SESSION WITH AN EXPERIENCED BUSINESS MENTOR

- Help and advice for your business
- Ask about business planning, marketing, finance and more.



Thursday 4 April

Meredith Community Centre, 4 Russell Street Meredith Victoria 3333.

Bookings: Visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/business

or call Michael Cosgriff, Council's Economic Development Officer, on 5220 7201

For other great upcoming events, including training, mentoring and networking, visit

goldenplains.vic.gov.au/business

Please note, advice is general in nature and is designed to be an initial step to overcome an issue or information gap.



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