

DECEMBER 2019

# Meredith & district News

Our FREE Community Newsletter since 1972



Have a Great  
Festive Season  
& a Safe  
SUMMER

inside...



Bulldogs, handicoots and babies telling Christmas jokes!





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

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:advertising@meredithnews.com.au)  
Accounts: Dawn 0428 861274  
[accounts@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:accounts@meredithnews.com.au)  
Editorial: Jim 0409 163169  
[news@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:news@meredithnews.com.au)

## WEB

You can check back copies and lodge comments at [meredithnews.com.au](http://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We do not publish children's photos online.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 248 660

**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  
Morrison's  
0417 770 765

**CHILDCARE**  
5286 0700

**COMMUNITY  
CENTRE**  
5286 0700

**CRICKET**  
Elaine  
0448 291 074  
Junior (U16, U14, 13)  
0448 291 074  
Meredith  
5286 1434

**CUBS & SCOUTS**  
Annie 5281 9407

**GOLF CLUB**  
0407 795 342

**FOOTBALL**  
Seniors 0408 545 245  
Juniors 0430 587 674

**HISTORY GROUP**  
5286 8201

**LANDCARE**  
0409 862 325

**MEMORIAL HALL**  
5286 1243  
0435 312 964

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0419757965

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0437 009 250

**PLAYGROUP**  
5286 0700

**POLICE PADDOCKS**  
5286 1273

RSL - 5286 1452

**SENIOR CITIZENS**  
5286 8202

**TENNIS**  
Elaine  
0448 291 074  
Meredith  
5286 1211

**SEW 'N' SEWS**  
5286 0700

**FRIENDS OF THE  
BRISBANE RANGES**  
5286 1252

**ELAINE HALL**  
0403 193 006

# emergency

Police, Ambulance, Fire	000
(from mobile phone)	000 or 112
Meredith Police Station	5286 1222
Police non emergency	131 444
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	0408 508 635
Ranger	5220 7111 or 0409 830 223
Bannockburn Vet	5281 1221
Golden Plains Vet	5281 2226

## Justices of the Peace

Mr Don Atherton,	0409 869 960
Mr Paul Ryan Elaine	0409 861 296

# services

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



"Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!"

Dr. Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*



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## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

December 2019



### Moorabool North Wind Farm

#### Progress to date

- Construction has been completed on all access tracks, hardstands and foundations
- Substation works complete
- Cable reticulation installation complete
- Completion of all turbine components delivered to site
- Installation of 28 turbines complete
- Partial installation of a further 13 turbines

#### Look ahead

- Energisation of substation
- Continued road maintenance
- Continued electrical and mechanical fit-out of each turbine
- Turbine erection on the Western side of the project.
- Continued turbine erection and commencement of commissioning

### Moorabool South Wind Farm

#### Progress to date

- All access tracks complete to base level
- 100% foundation concrete pours completed
- Substation civil works complete
- All Kiosks (turbine transformers) delivered and in situ
- 110 turbine components delivered to site

#### Look ahead

- Continuation of backfilling and hardstand construction works
- Energisation of substation
- Continuation of cable laying – 95% complete
- Continued road maintenance

For Further Information about the project please visit  
[www.mooraboolwindfarm.com](http://www.mooraboolwindfarm.com), [www.mwftraffic.com](http://www.mwftraffic.com) or call 1800 019 660.

## Speed Limit Reduction

- The Speed limit on sections of the Ballan Meredith Road and Ballan Egerton Road have been reduced to **80km/h** until further notice.
- 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.

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## Turbine Component Deliveries

Oversize deliveries of wind turbine components are underway at **Moorabool South** wind farm and will continue until late February 2020.

Oversize loads include, Blades, Nacelle, Hub, Generators and Tower sections. Deliveries will be utilising 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.

The components will then travel to the relevant access points via the local Roads. For further information please see the factsheets available at [www.mooraboolwindfarm.com](http://www.mooraboolwindfarm.com) and also [www.mwftraffic.com](http://www.mwftraffic.com)

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## 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**.

Ongoing road maintenance is taking place in the vicinity of the wind farm. Regular inspections are conducted on public roads being used by wind farm delivery traffic. Areas which may present a safety concern are flagged and temporary reduced speed limits put into operation. Temporary or permanent repairs are being undertaken as soon as practicable.

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## Landscape and Visual Screening Program

Owners of a **residential dwellings within 4km of a wind turbine at Moorabool Wind Farm** are invited to participate in a landscape and visual screening program. This is to assist those closest neighbours in reducing the potential visual impacts of the project. For further information please contact us using one of the methods outlined below.

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## Christmas Shut Down Period

Both Moorabool north and Moorabool south wind farms will be closed from **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December until Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020**. No construction activities will take place during this time.

The Information Centre, 120 Inglis Street, will be closed from **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December until January 8<sup>th</sup> 2020**.



***The Team at Moorabool Wind Farm wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!***



## A Generous Donation to Local Brigade

*Chris Jones*

Recently several members of the Meredith Rural Fire Brigade attended our shed for an informal presentation by Michael and Naomi Bysouth who together raised significant funds which they have generously donated to our community's fire brigade.

Michael and Naomi raised these funds through their riding club which holds a gathering annually at different members' properties; this year part of their gathering was held at their Meredith property.

Michael and Naomi told us that as part of their gathering, members are issued with small "fines"

for infractions that included things like falling off their horse, turning out late to the ride and various other minor mishaps.

The amount donated was no small sum, coming in at whopping \$3,200.00.

These funds will be used to help our small fire brigade fund the purchase of 2 new chainsaws and associated safety equipment, replacing our current chainsaw that has served the brigade for over 20 years.

On behalf of the Meredith Rural Fire Brigade, I sincerely thank Michael and Naomi for their hard work in raising these funds and for considering the Meredith Rural Fire Brigade the best suited community organisation to receive their generous donation.





## Community

### Meredith Senior Citizens

*Jim Hynds*

The Seniors met at 11 am on Monday, October 21 at the History Centre in Meredith to view the Significant Trees of Meredith & District Photography Exhibition. Some twenty or so members roamed freely throughout the exhibition and comments flowed like “fantastic”, “beautiful” and “well done”. I must agree. The word I used was *brilliant!* Well done to the History Group and to the people of Meredith who supported this project. Many thanks to Marg Cooper and Bev Loveday for guiding us through the exhibition and telling us about the significance of some of the trees in the photographs. As it was lunchtime we then adjourned over the road to lunch together.

The Seniors met on Monday, October 28 for their general meeting. After a great lunch we got underway. I don't know, maybe it was the spring day, but there was a lot of laughing, giggling and stirring.

The seniors met at Fyansford Hotel for a lovely two course lunch on Monday, November 11.

The seniors met on Monday, November 25 at the hall for lunch and a social day.

Our Christmas party is on Monday, December 9. We all look forward to the Christmas dinner, live entertainment and Christmas hampers.



### Kinder News

We have all enjoyed another wonderful, playful and imaginative year of discovery and learning at Meredith Kindergarten. Many of our kinder children have built up their skills to become independent, confident and enthusiastic learners who are keen and ready to go onto school next year. Both our groups are busy making and crafting end of year gifts for families and enjoying their last sessions together before we close for Christmas and holidays on the 19 th Dec. Next year we are combining the 3's and 4's into one group so we have to say a very fond farewell to our Pre Kinder teachers Bianca & Lisa, thank you for implementing a beautiful little program that

supported all the children to engage in learning and begin their kinder journey. We also farewell Mandy who has been our Thursday kinder Teacher for a couple of years now and the Bush Kinder leader, we have really enjoyed having her on our team. Thanks to Julie and Lisa our additional assistants for all your support and valuable work with the children, you will all be missed. Thank you to the Meredith Primary School and Mr Trotter for supporting us and popping in regularly to say hello! Thank you to the Kinder committee and parents for your contributions, support and input throughout the year. Thanks to Lauren for managing the scholastic book club and to Wes for organising the MMF shifts, always a great weekend of fundraising and music.

We wish all our Kinder families a lovely, fun and festive holiday time, it's been wonderful getting to know you all and for those families who are leaving us, best of luck moving on to school and don't forget to visit us! We are looking forward to a restful break and spending time with our families and pets! Kylie and Jodie will be back in the new year to Welcome families on Orientation day, 29th Jan and begin to settle in with our new group of children.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

From *the Meredith Kindergarten Educators Team*

### Meredith Racecourse Reserve

Notice is given of a public meeting to be held at the Meredith Community Hub on

**Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

commencing at 8 PM.

The purpose of the meeting is to nominate no less than three nor more than nine persons as the Committee of Management for the Meredith Racecourse Reserve for a term of three years. The current Committee's term will expire on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020. All positions will be declared open and nominations will be accepted prior to or on the night. Nominations from women are encouraged.

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, Peter Macdonald on 5286 1274.*



## Church News



### CATHOLIC

#### **St. Joseph's Parish Meredith**

Parish Priest Father Charles Balnaves

Phone 52861230 0417319556

parishofmeredith@bigpond.com

#### **Mass Times:**

#### **Christmas Mass Times**

Please join us for any of our Christmas Celebrations:

#### **Christmas Eve**

St. Mary MacKillop Church Bannockburn Family Mass 6 p.m.

St. Joseph's Meredith 9 p.m. followed by Christmas festivity.

#### **Christmas Day**

St. John the Baptist Winchelsea 8.30 a.m.

St. Mary MacKillop Bannockburn 10.30 a.m.

#### **Christmas Carols Services:**

**Bannockburn** Community Carols St. Mary MacKillop Oval  
5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

Followed by a youth event 7.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. for Grade 6 to Year 12. The Great Frisbee Challenge

**Inverleigh** : Monday 9 th December at the Inverleigh Hall

**Winchelsea** : *By the River* Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup> 6 p.m.  
*Interchurch at St. Thomas Anglican Church* December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

**Meredith** : Sunday December 22nd at 6.30p.m. in Meredith Interpretive Centre Grounds

### **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 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month

#### **St James. - Morrisons:**

The Rev. Glen Wesley Contact: 0429 146 566 or 5368 2730.

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at 5pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 9am.

### **SERBIAN ORTHODOX**

Fr. Theodore—Ph. 5341 5568

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

### **UNITING CHURCH**

#### **MEREDITH Uniting Church**

11.00 am, 2nd Sunday each month

#### **BUNINYONG Uniting Church**

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

Rev. Carlynnne Nunn 43330273. 0409285182



## from the MAYOR



Cr Owen Sharkey  
Mayor, Golden Plains Shire

**It was an honour and a privilege to be elected as Mayor of Golden Plains Shire for the final year of our Council term.**

I am very pleased that Deputy Mayor Cr Joanne Gilbert was also re-elected for another year, and we thank our Councillor colleagues for their encouragement and support to continue in these roles.

Golden Plains is a wonderful place to call home and more people of all ages choose to live, work and visit here every year. In the past three years, Council has delivered on many key commitments and objectives, and yet, in our growing communities, there's always more work to be done and more we can achieve for our residents.

The next year is sure to be a busy one with the completion of several great projects and significant commitments of the Council Plan, while we face the challenges and embrace the opportunities that come with living in a growing, rural Shire.

On behalf of all Councillors, I'd like to wish all residents and visitors a very Merry Christmas and a safe, happy New Year. As Mayor and a member of the Councillor team, I look forward to working hard for all residents to make 2020 a very productive and successful year for Golden Plains Shire.

## Our Cover

Peter Boer provided our cover picture of local farmer, Martin Peters cutting hay. Thanks Peter for a very seasonal and decorative cover.



*Why not share your favourite pics with us?  
You might even make the front page.*

*You can even join our Click Clique.*



*Oops! - We had the wrong web address for David Whelan's fabulous wildlife photos. It is **www.wildpix.com.au** and it is well worth a visit.*



## Roll of Honour

### OLD BOYS of MAUDE, SUTHERLANDS CREEK & SHE OAKS STATE SCHOOLS WHO FOUGHT IN THE GREAT WAR 1914 -1919

On Sunday November 10, 2019, a special event was held at the Maude Tennis Clubroom.

Following a short Remembrance Day Service, special guest Carissah Cain-Sultana hosted a book launch.

Specialising in Genealogy and Military History, Carissah has successfully launched this informative booklet after many months of tireless research.

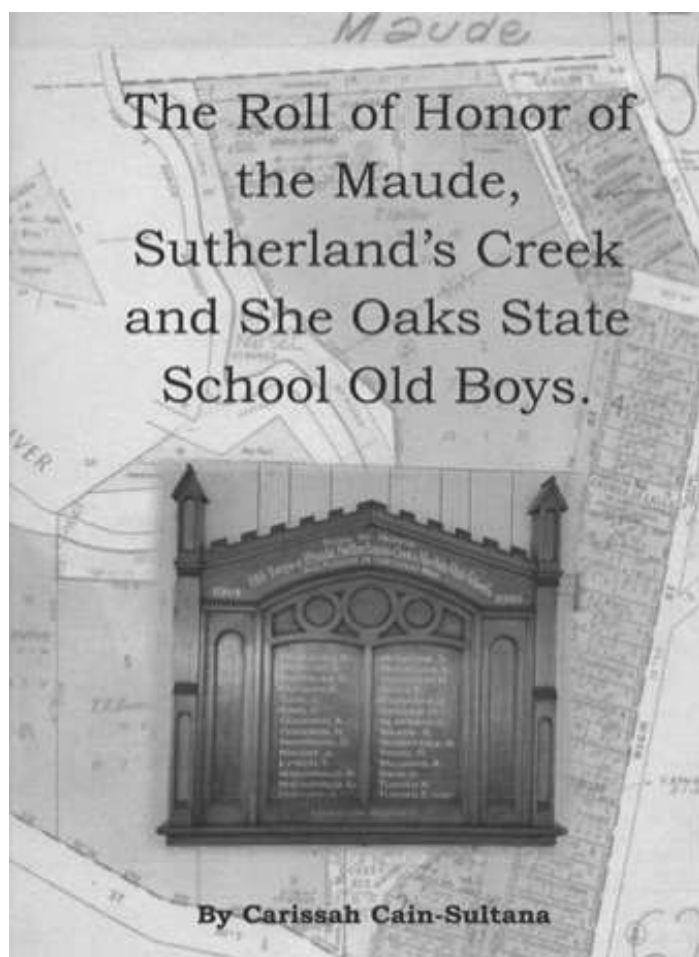
The A5 sized booklet features one page each for twenty six of the Service Personnel, whose names are listed on the "Roll of Honour Old Boys of Maude Sutherlands Creek and She Oaks State Schools". These stories give insight to their birth, life before enlistment, service history, death in service, place of burial or a description of their life after the war.

Carissah has researched and published fifty six of these informative booklets based on Honour Rolls historically housed at State Schools.

Congratulations Carissah, we appreciate your dedication to preserving and sharing our history.

Booklets priced at \$10 each are for sale from: Meredith History Interest Group 31 Staughton Street Meredith Victoria 3333 [jeffandmargcooper@gmail.com](mailto:jeffandmargcooper@gmail.com)

Alan & Pauline Tournier 03 5281 9270;  
[alan\\_pauline@skymesh.com.au](mailto:alan_pauline@skymesh.com.au)



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# MAN COOK EAT



Steve Duffy

Last month I talked about that wonderful vegetable: Spinach. It is still going strong in the garden and I've been cooking it every which way. At one stage I had so much I just blanched some, pureed it and put in into ice block trays in the freezer. Is good way of keeping it for a later time to use in sauces or soups.

Then I remembered I had not made fresh pasta in a while, and fresh spinach pasta is to die for.

The standard recipe for pasta is a couple of eggs and enough Durham wheat flour to make a stiff paste. If you are going to use Spinach as well: Blanche the greens in boiling water for a minute, when cooled squeeze all the water out and purée. It will retain some moisture, so when you mix it with the eggs and flour you may need a little more of the dry ingredient to make pliable dough.

Now Knead it using the ball of your palm. Roll and press, roll and press, adding a little flour if needed. Then rest it for a few minutes, covered.

The purists say that hand rolled with a rolling pin is the only way to go. But if you have a pasta roller cutter go for it. First roll thick through the rollers for a couple of times. Then gradually thinner. When at the thinnest setting, change the handle over to the cutter side.

As you roll off the ribbons of pasta, lay them across a broom handle or similar just to let them dry out a little. After 20 minutes or so you can now pick them up in handfuls and lay them out on a lightly floured tray. When time to Cook, just drop into boiling salted water for a couple of minutes.

I would recommend a simple sauce of Garlic fried in olive oil, served with fresh Parmesan and perhaps some chopped parsley or other herbs. But you could have this delicious pasta with any of your favourite sauces.

Good Cooking. Steve



## CHRISTMAS WREATH DISPLAY

**Make a Christmas Wreath to Display on  
Meredith Christmas Corner**

To be made from natural materials and must  
be displayed by Friday 13th December 2019

Enquiries: 0408599602



## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION

Categories: Best Business | Best House

To Enter SMS address to 0408599602

Judging: Friday 20th December

2019 at 10.00 pm

**Winners Announced Sunday 22nd  
December 2019**



At Meredith Christmas Carols

## TEST'N'TAG

All plug in electrical items can be tested  
and certified safe.

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**52861550 or 0427300742**

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## Music Festival Traffic Control

**13th to 15th December**

- Speed reduction on Mount Mercer Road and Cameron Road from two days prior to the festival through to the day prior to the festival.

- One-way traffic on Mount Mercer Road from Bamganie Road to Cameron Road from approximately 4am the day prior to the 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 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 Road and you would like a vehicle pass please email Aunty Meredith.

If you have any concern or question about traffic or noise management, please get in touch by phone/text 0430 091 120 or by emailing via [auntym@mmf.com.au](mailto:auntym@mmf.com.au). These contacts are also operational 24 hours over the festival weekend.

The festival website is [www.mmf.com.au](http://www.mmf.com.au) and other information for locals is available at [www.aunty.mmf.com.au/locals](http://www.aunty.mmf.com.au/locals).

Thank you for your support, Festival Planning Team



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### **25 years in Prison, while mobsters go free. Where is Justice?**

Last week with my walking group, I enjoyed an interesting walk through old Gold sites including Black Hill. An informal group of older chaps get together for a walk and a talk. Our host that week was Bruce, a retired sheep farmer from Hamilton. A fine chap he is. After a lovely lunch he brought up for discussion a Podcast he has been following- it is called "Curtain the Podcast": available on the net via Apple or one of the other providers.

Bruce proceeded to tell us some of the details: an Aboriginal man in Rockhampton prison has served over 25 years in there for murder. The transcript of his trial in 1992 shows that with no forensic evidence, no witness statements and a very dubious "confession", Kevin "Curtain" Henry was found guilty in this strange and very unfortunate case. At this point I would suggest all readers might find the time to listen to the Podcast. There are several episodes, but WOW the information presented is mind boggling! Not easy listening, but it needs to be heard.

The Podcast is presented by journalist Amy McGuire and lawyer Martin Hodgson. Mr Hodgson has an international reputation as an advocate for wrongfully interned prisoners. In the past he has worked for Australian Journalist, Peter Greste in Egypt, David Hicks in Guantanamo and many prisoners on death row in the USA. He has successfully had sentences annulled and so-called, prisoners released; in a lot of these cases it was the jaundiced and manipulated confessions that were discredited.

You may have seen on Netflix or other streaming services such cases explored and the American prisoners exonerated; there have been several; in fact over a hundred. But this case is in Australia: right here in our own backyard!

At this time when the 25 year old "Royal Commission into Black Deaths in Custody" recommendations remain unacted upon, this case is yet another scream and call for justice. And yet our Aboriginal brothers and sisters are being incarcerated and indeed killed in extraordinary numbers. Time for our culture to come to terms with these injustices.

The other big legal issue in Victoria is the "Lawyer X Royal commission". This also brings to front and centre, the way our legal culture has been operating. How can the means justify the ends? How could it be thought such dubious procedures could be tolerated from the top of our legal administrators?

Steve Goat

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**22 December – Meredith "Christmas Carols",  
Lions sausage sizzle.**

**27 January 8:30 – 1230 Lions "Australia Day Celebrations" Pioneer Park BBQ Breakfast, games, best Ozzie day costume, prizes, and a lot more, stay tuned for the flyer to be released.**

**Lions Christmas Cakes HAVE ARRIVED, order yours now via my Email. You can pick them up at the Christmas Carols.**

**Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at the Meredith Golf Club at 7:30 pm**

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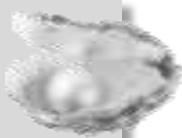
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## I Owe You

All the self-help books will tell you that your time is money.

In theory, this sounds easy enough. Know what your time is worth and charge accordingly. Otherwise don't do it. But is it always this simple?

Family obligation tends to mean that no, it isn't. It means picking up the people you love at obscene hours in the morning, spending hours helping them with their homework or taxiing them to the airport so that they don't have to pay ridiculous parking fees.

However, it is the good old-fashioned working bee that sees not only time stolen from unsuspecting family and friends, but also energy.

It was when we got tonnes of dirt delivered to our home recently (literally – tonnes!) that I realised how unfair it is to ask people to sacrifice their Sunday afternoons to shovel and rake dirt around a backyard for five hours on a beautiful sunny day.

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As people began to arrive with wheelbarrows (because naturally we weren't that prepared) and spare shovels and rakes, others began to text through their apologies. Something had come up and they could no longer commit to slave labour...oops, I mean the working bee. One could not help but admire their decision to save their bodies from unpaid manual labour.

I was given the job of raking the piles of dirt that would be ferried from the front lawn to the backyard faster than I could rake. Energy levels were high, optimism was high, the risk of sunburn was high.

As one half of the team requiring the working bee, my job was also to hydrate, feed and sunscreen the people who had begrudgingly volunteered their time.

We finished up hours later, hot, sweaty and wearing a few layers of caked-on dirt. Hair was stuck to heads and breaths were short. Standing back looking at the expanse of brown backyard, hands proudly on hips, it was incredible to me that we expect people to do this for meagre excuses for pay.

Were a case of beer and a free feed really worth the back pain and burnt skin they were going to wake up with tomorrow?

The short answer is no. But with every working bee that you volunteer for, you're actually being paid with something else. Time spent with your amazing family, of course, but also the unspoken contract that has been forged: I do your working bee, you do mine.

So it may be wise not to do something that you wouldn't do for pay, but when it comes to the moment that you need to call on family obligation, it doesn't hurt to have a bank of IOUs to call upon.

Gemma

## The Things We Say

### Play it by Ear

A pretty straightforward origin story, 'to play it by ear' comes from referring to the act of playing music without sheet music or notes. Commonly used now to refer to handling a situation without any predetermined planning, the figurative use started being used in sport in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Playing something by ear, it could be argued, could also be a handy set up to leave wiggle room for changing plans at the last minute. Say, cancelling loose lunch plans or pulling out of a working bee.

Gemma Hanan



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## Landcare News



### Maude

#### IT'S RABBIT TIME AGAIN!

How the year has flown! It is now time to think about the Maude & District Landcare Group's annual rabbit poisoning campaign.

The 2020 campaign will be held on Friday, February 28th, Monday, March 2nd and Thursday, March 5th. All the details will soon be available at [maudeanddistrictlandcare@gmail.com](mailto:maudeanddistrictlandcare@gmail.com) and we will be running the campaign as much as possible online. We have a long list of email addresses, and welcome any other folk who wish to be part of our campaign.

However, we stress that the program involves coming to Maude on all three of the above dates to collect your bait, as the program is designed for the rabbits to have access to the bait over that period. If you have any questions, please either contact us by email, or ring Lex Stray, 52819293, or Elaine Johns, 52819395.

It has been a funny year for rabbits. For many of us, they have been building up, then disappearing. There has certainly been some myxo evident, but there must surely be some RHD, formerly known as Rabbit Calicivirus as well. This disease is harder to identify, as the rabbits are usually found lying dead on the ground with no obvious symptoms. If you have a number of rabbits obvious on your property, now is the time to start thinking about what to do. Get out with a spotlight, or even a strong torch, and have a look around at night. Contact us if you need help!

### Bamganie-Meredith

The Annual General Meeting of the Bamganie-Meredith and District Landcare Group was held at on Thursday 21 November 2019.

The following office bearers were elected for 2019/2020:

President: Mat Fisher, ph: 0409 862 326  
 Vice-President: Rob McColl  
 Secretary: Maddi McColl, ph: 0424 754 179  
 Treasurer: Nerida Anderson, ph: 0409 335 693  
 Committee: Richard Anderson, Duncan Blair  
 Equipment loans: Rob McColl, ph: 0413 343 128  
 Email: [meredithlandcare@gmail.com](mailto:meredithlandcare@gmail.com)

Planning is now underway for 2020, with some exciting changes in store. Following the success of the speakers and workshop program in 2019 it was decided that the Landcare group will now meet every second month with a speaker invited to each meeting. The program of speakers is still to be finalised but will cover topics relating to protecting and enhancing the natural environment while also encouraging sustainable and productive farming practices. Please contact one of the committee members, or send an email if you would like to suggest a topic of interest. Other initiatives planned for the New Year include looking for ways the Landcare group can work together with other community groups in the district, and to continue to explore grant funding opportunities.

**Seed collection and propagation – time to start collecting!**

Would you like to grow trees and shrubs from seed collected on your property or other sites but don't have the time to look after them? Following the very successful indigenous seed collection and propagation workshop in February 2019 we have now received funding from the Victorian Landcare Grants 2019-20 scheme to help grow seedlings from seed collected from local and indigenous trees and shrubs. You can collect and help propagate the seeds which the Rowsley Landcare Nursery will then care for until they are ready for planting out. This is an opportunity for you to obtain seedlings for shelter belts and other revegetation projects without the financial cost – all you have to do is collect the seeds and help with propagating, and of course plant the seedlings once they have grown!

For more information on how to collect seed on your property see the *How to collect seed from native trees and shrubs* Landcare Notes May 1999 (type the title into a search engine such as Google, or look for the link on the Bamganie Meredith and District Landcare Group Facebook page). So start collecting now – more information about dates for propagating the seeds will be provided early next year, or see the Facebook page for an update.

Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year, and we look forward to seeing you in 2020.

*The next meeting will be at 7:30pm on Thursday 20 February 2020 at the Meredith Community Centre. For further details see the Meredith Landcare Group Facebook page or look in the February 2020 edition of the Meredith and District News. All welcome!*



### Gorse on Your Property?

Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group has obtained funding from the Victorian Gorse Taskforce (VGT) for landholders who would like to participate in a new Gorse Rebate Program. This program offers a **rebate of 50%** for control costs including: use of a contractor to spray or mulch; diesel costs for mechanical removal and for the cost of chemical for spraying (an Agricultural Chemical Users Permit or ACUP may be required for some chemicals). Please note that there is a capped rebate amount per property. Gorse Rebate program will run from November 2019 to April 2020 but may be extended.

To find out if you qualify for program, organise a field inspection or register your interest in the program, contact Jennifer Johnson (Moorabool Catchment Landcare Coordinator) on :

0497 770 075 or [moorabool.landcare@gmail.com](mailto:moorabool.landcare@gmail.com)





The Staff at  
The Meredith Community Centre  
Would like to wish  
you and your family a very  
Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2020



We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us through the year and We look forward to welcoming you back into the Centre soon



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Once upon a time, not so long ago, before Europeans arrived, there were far more species of indigenous animals living in Victoria, including around Meredith. Many of these animals ate plants and insects and dug for tubers and grubs. European settlers saw them as nuisances, interfering with agriculture or domestic life. They responded with guns, poisons and traps. They cut down trees, removed scrub, introduced imported plants and grazing animals, foxes and cats. Under pressure from deliberate eradication, loss of habitat and predation by feral animals, many of these indigenous species are now threatened with extinction, or have become extinct.

In recent decades, efforts have been made to protect these animals. One method used is to surround a suitable area of land with a fence that prevents the entry of feral animals, and attempt, often successfully, to remove all cats and foxes from within the fence. Animals that would formerly have lived in these areas are then reintroduced. The nearest of these places to Meredith is Mt Rothwell at the northern end of the You Yangs. These sanctuaries have given scientists an opportunity to research the lives of threatened species and have revealed the important role that many of them played in their environment, including habits which can be beneficial to people, even in agricultural areas.

One of the species reintroduced at Mt Rothwell, which would formerly have been common from Melbourne westward across the Victorian Volcanic Plains, around Meredith, and in Tasmania is the eastern barred bandicoot. They are now threatened in Tasmania, especially since the deliberate introduction of foxes. The last wild population in Victoria, which was living among old cars at Hamilton tip, was captured in 1989 and formed the basis for a breeding recovery program at Zoos Victoria.

Eastern barred bandicoots are slightly smaller than rabbits, but easily distinguished from them, due to a long pointy nose and three or four pale stripes (or bars) across their brown hindquarters. They prefer to live in grassy environments, where they spend their days in a nest of grass, and their nights feeding on a variety of foods which includes insects, worms, berries, roots and tubers. Much of this food is found by digging conical holes in the soil. Unlike rabbits, whose burrows and shallow scratchings cause damage to the environment, those of indigenous animals such as bandicoots, bettongs, echidnas, bilbies

and potoroos are deeper and helpful. They break up dense areas of grass, turn over the soil, improve soil structure, mix organic matter into it and soften it. Researchers in Western Australia have found that a single echidna moves about 200 cubic metres of soil in one year. These activities create spaces among the grasses for other plants to germinate. They spread soil microbes and fungal spores, which keep the soil and plants healthy. Many plants, including orchids and mature trees, are dependent on associations with fungi to expand their root systems and grow well. The diggings of bandicoots and other animals create holes for water to soak into the soil. They turn over the leaf litter, so that it breaks down more easily and does not build up. With moister soils, less leaf litter and less dense growth of grass, there is less fuel for fire.

These animals are considered to be ecosystem engineers, as their activities have such a dramatic effect on their environment, improving soil and plant growth and reducing the frequency and severity of fires. Currently, a new feral predator free area is being created, 200 km west of Melbourne near Dundonell, on unfertilised farmland. This is an experiment, mixing Merino sheep and eastern barred bandicoots to discover if the benefits which the digging of bandicoots create in their natural environment, will work on agricultural land. Another possible means of protecting bandicoots and other indigenous animals is the use of Maremma dogs as guardians. They have been successful on an island near Warrnambool in protecting fairy penguins from foxes. Although there is a long way to go, places like Mt Rothwell and organisations such as CSIRO, Bush Heritage and Australian Wildlife Conservancy are working hard, trying to turn that 'once upon a time' back into reality, hoping that one day we can spread it across the landscape.

Wendy





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---

**Session details**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

**7.00pm– 9.00pm**

**Meredith Fire Station  
Wallace St, MEREDITH**

Contact: Regional office on 53295510 or [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au)

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Meredith resident, Vanessa Bartlett, shared these photos of her beautiful fur babies (her words). They are Lady the white bulldog, Shadow the Frenchie and, making a handsome couple, Peanut and Mouse.

Thanks Vanessa.



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## Vale to Leon Joseph Barrett

**8/4/1949 – 6/10/2019**

Leon was the son of Ged and Deb Barrett. They also had a daughter Bernadette. Leon attended St Joseph's College in Geelong. He moved to Meredith aged 14 when his parents took over the Royal Hotel. He continued to attend St Josephs, travelling by bus from Meredith, until he matriculated.

Leon played football for St Josephs and was also runner-up for the Best & Fairest Award for the Meredith Senior team.

Carting hay with Tojo Hearn and crew for a few years was work, but in 1967 he decided it was time to make some serious money before he went to Teacher's College. So Leon, John Crow, Jamie Concannon and Noel Bourke bought an old Lend Lease Chev truck, repaired the engine until it was running like a top and then looked for hay carting jobs.

The truck wasn't registered, had no lights and none of the boys had a licence.

1967 was a drought! 1967 fires devastated the area!

Because the hay carting didn't make a fortune for Leon he applied to join the railway gang replacing sleepers from Geelong to Ballarat. After an interview in Melbourne, Leon started work and was handed a 16 lb sledge hammer and ordered by a Scotchman to hit *dogs into the plates* that kept the sleepers in place. He went home with bleeding, blistered hands. His mother spoke to the boss who put him on a truck with Jim Cromb for a few week while his heavily bandaged hands healed.

Leon went to Ballarat Teacher's College and then taught in several rural schools including Bookar, Dean and Camperdown for 15 years. He then taught around Geelong and for his last 10 years, before he retired in 2004 he taught at Nelson Park Special School which he loved.

Leon married Louise Muhlebach from Mt Moriac in 1970. They met at a dance at St Joseph's in 1967.

Leon was drafted for National Service and spent 18 months in the Army. He was posted to Bandiana, Conungra for jungle training, was due to fly to Vietnam on a Monday but Gough Whitlam was elected as Prime

Minister and vetoed Australia's involvement in the war, so Leon didn't go although his good friend Ambrose Crowe had already returned from service in Vietnam.

Leon and Louise lived at Torquay for 22 years before living in Grovedale for 10 years and then, later, building a new home at Bannockburn 2½ years ago. He loved to spend time in the bush, cutting wood or just enjoying the peace.

Louise described how Leon had a passion for music, that he played the guitar and loved performing with the family. He was proud of his four children: Jo, Chris, Toni and Mick and his nine grandchildren. Louise said he was telling jokes until the end and that he totally accepted his fate.

Leon suffered a stroke 2½ years ago and mostly recovered from that but was diagnosed with cancer of the oesophagus only a few weeks before he died.



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# A Way of Life

by KERRIE KRUGER



## A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO A MORE SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE

It's nearly Christmas, a time of year when there are so many expectations put on us, mainly by the consumerist society we live in, to create the most perfect day for our loved ones.

Did you know that this holiday season Aussies will use 150,391 km of wrapping paper- enough to go around the world 4 times? This is around 8,000 tonnes of wrapping paper which is the equivalent of 50,000 trees and we create 125,000 tonnes of waste in plastic packaging alone. According to research, Australian adults spend on average \$475 on presents, with only half of them being appreciated. As a whole, the nation spends \$554 million on extra food, with a third of it going to waste. (from the book Drawdown).

It's our Mother Earth, it's all our fellow creatures and eventually us who bear the consequences of all the crackers, wrapping paper, ribbons, decorations, Christmas cards, unwanted presents, packaging and food waste (not to mention debt) that have been part of our habitual behaviour for these holidays.

But why do we allow this to happen? When did it go from a simple day of celebration to maxing out credit cards, being stressed and yes, for many relieved when the day is over? Why do we feel failure and stress when we don't have the perfect gifts, in the perfect clothes, the perfect meal, in the perfect house?

When you read about Christmas's past you feel the wonderment they felt on having a special meal and receiving one gift usually something needed, new gloves, new socks and for a child, a handmade doll or wooden wagon and a lolly or an orange. The presents were made with love and thought, and is that what made them special?

So, is it time to reclaim Christmas?

There are many ways to claim Christmas back from the multinational companies, who say they are here to help us create the best Christmas ever, all while making money from our need to purchase the perfect Christmas.

It's time to rethink our approach:

Spend no time in the large soulless Plazas and more time supporting small local businesses, markets and independent online stores.

Now we love giving second-hand, used, vintage, retro or unique gifts- but not regifting!

But why do many feel uncomfortable incorporating this gift style into the gift list?

These gifts save money, reduce carbon footprint, have zero waste, are sustainable and are part of the circular economy. So why is there a perceived stigma as being 'Cheap' if you do this?

You can also make, bake or grow amazing presents or buy from the small homebased business owners who do.

Give experiences not stuff- tickets or vouchers to events – tiny house expo, car show, or garden festival or workshops in topics of interest - Rag quilting, how to surf or create a kokedama.

Or how about a paid-up coffee card for favourite café and add local made reusable coffee mug.

If you need to go new, then look for gifts that are 80 -100 % recycled content and buy from a small local business in person or online. From someone who will do a little happy dance each time they make a sale.

Do you really need all that wrapping paper?

Santa does not need to wrap every gift, just pop them in a stocking as is. The excitement will still be there and please Santa don't fill that stocking full of useless plastic stuff that breaks after 1<sup>st</sup> use or has been lost or discarded by end of Boxing Day. Remember the motto - Less is More.



For under the tree, hand decorated brown paper that can be recycled or try the Furoshiki method of gift wrapping.

And let's not forget the tree, plastic or real? Or other alternative? We have over the years had gum leaf branch 'tree' that had broken off, many feral pine trees from side of the road (absolutely not perfect in shape and my only criteria is to check for wildlife before bringing into house!) For a plastic tree go the local op shop!

This year I am leaning towards an upcycled pallet tree or a upcycled garden obelisk with greenery and wooden decorations. Just Google Christmas tree alternatives!

For us acknowledging and honouring Mother Earth and the Sun, helps to quieten the 'noise' of Christmas expectations and perfection.

The Summer Solstice is just before Christmas on December 22<sup>nd</sup> the time of the longest day, a time to give thanks to honour the sun. You can make solstice sun tea by adding edible flowers and herbs to a jar filled with water, then leave it out in the sun to steep.

"May the long-time sun shine upon you, all love surrounds you and the pure light within you guide your way"

So, quieten the 'noise' of consumerist Christmas. Have fun & laughter, make memories, listen to your heart and do what suits you and yours. But remember our responsibilities to Mother Earth!

Christmas Magic is Silent. You don't hear it. You Feel it. You Know It. You believe It.

Wishing All a Simple, less than perfect, expectation free Christmas filled with magic

Kerrie



PS: Now please come along to Meredith Christmas Carols, the Sunday 22nd, have a Snag and Christmas Cake, listen to some Carols (including modern and Aussie ones) and a visit from Santa.

Be part of our simple Christmas event that is full of community spirit.

Also check out the Christmas Corner and all our Christmas Sheep as you take Christmas stroll.



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## Vale to Theresa Jude

*Eulogy by Anne Stewart*

*"To be a librarian is not to be neutral, or passive, or waiting for a question. It is to be a radical positive change agent within your community."*

That was Theresa, a positive change agent with a passion for libraries.

She was the second child of seven, born to Carmen and Jack Powles and grew up in Meredith in regional Victoria. Her primary schooling was at Saint Josephs Primary School Meredith, then Geelong for her secondary education attending Sacred Heart College.

She married young and had two sons Tremayne and Travis by the time she was 21.

As a single parent she looked for a career path and decided to follow her passion for people and reading. Theresa attended Ballarat College of Advanced Education where she completed a Bachelor of Arts Librarianship. It was a busy time working, studying and being a mum.

With her Library qualification Theresa and her son's lives were to change when she headed to the Northern Territory to take up job as adult services librarian in the Darwin Library. It was here that her eyes were open to the true history of indigenous Australia.

After years in the Territory she decided it was time to return home to become Librarian at Saint John of God's Hospital, Ballarat. She remained there for several years but realised public libraries were her passion so on to Bendigo Library where she honed her skills in management and program design.

Theresa realised she missed the heat and headed to Logan libraries in Queensland. It was here that Theresa meet many refugee and immigrant families and went out of her way to be supportive. To celebrate diversity she designed many library programs, such as *Around the world in flags*. She was a great supporter of the underdog throughout her career and also wrote about and supported the Libraries for Timor Leste Project.

Her next challenge, back in the Territory was working with SERCO, immigration detention centre. Theresa had great empathy for all her clients and supported them in many ways. Hussein, one of her favourites, remembers when he headed to Melbourne to look for work, she gave him five hundred dollars to help him get started. He was tearful when he heard of Theresa's sudden death.

With the closure of SERCO, she was looking for her next job when her brother Peter told her about the Branch Librarians job in Condobolin. She thrived in the position and was integral in securing an extension to the library building. She made many friends, looked out for the youth of the town and instigated the Last Friday Picture Show and the Bridge club's annual trip away. She was also involved in the Library Book Club, the Picnic Race Club and Women's wellness expo.

Coonarbarabran Library had heard of her skills and she was head hunted for the Chief Librarian's job and had only recently moved there.

She was a great lover of poetry, literature and films. Coincidentally her favourite movie was on TV the night before her funeral service. 'My Brilliant Career' reminds us of her love for libraries and her role as community change agent.

A true friend that will be missed by many.

Theresa is survived by sons Tremayne, Travis and partner Jade and granddaughter Alani



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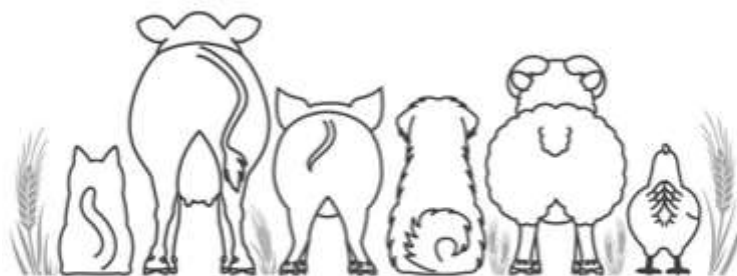
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### **AUSSIE BARBECUED HAM**

*Serves 8-12*

*Prep time 15 minutes*

*Cooking time 1 hour 45 minutes (plus standing time)*

#### • **Ingredients**

- 7 kg cooked leg of ham
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 2/3 cup (150g) firmly packed brown sugar  
½ cup (125ml) pineapple juice
- ½ cup (125ml) sweet sherry
- ¼ cup (55g) firmly packed brown sugar, extra
- 2 cloves garlic, halved lengthways
- ¼ teaspoon ground clove
- 1 medium pineapple, (1.25kg), halved, sliced thickly

#### **Method**

Cut through rind about 10cm from shank end of leg in a decorative pattern; run thumb around edge of rind just under skin to remove rind. Start pulling rind from shank end to the widest edge of ham; discard rind.

Using sharp knife, make shallow cuts in one direction diagonally across fat at 3 cm intervals, then shallow-cut in the opposite direction, forming diamonds. Do not cut through top fat or fat will spread apart during cooking.

Place ham in disposable aluminium baking dish; rub with combined mustard and sugar. Place ham on heated barbecue; cook, covered using indirect method for 1 hour.

Meanwhile, combine juice, sherry, extra sugar, garlic and clove in a small saucepan; stir over heat until sugar dissolves. Reduce heat; simmer uncovered, about 10 minutes or until glaze reduces by half. Brush ham with glaze; cook, covered using indirect method, 45 minutes, brushing several times with glaze during cooking. Cover ham with foil; stand 15 minutes before slicing.

Meanwhile, cook pineapple on heated barbecue, brushing with remaining glaze during cooking.

Serve ham with pineapple.

*Recipe from – Women's Weekly Christmas Cooking*

**Merry Christmas**

**Stefania**

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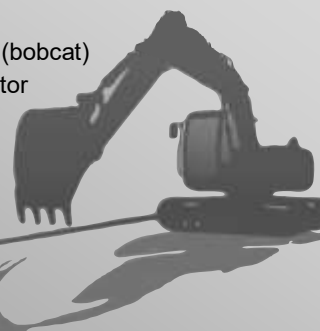
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## Marg's Book Review

### The Dressmaker of Dachau

by Mary Chamberlain.

The blurb reads, "In London in the spring of 1939, Ada Vaughan is a young and ambitious seamstress. Desperate to escape from her working class home and blind to the warnings of war on the continent, she elopes with her lover to Paris. But when war is declared they become trapped. He abandons her pregnant and vulnerable.

She is taken prisoner and sent to Germany as slave labour. Ada is forced to survive on her wits alone, using her dressmaking skills to win favour with her captors."

Ada is imprisoned in the home of a high ranking official and sews outfits for the women of German Officers. She is treated like an animal but still produces beautiful garments which she fashions to suit each client. Living in a world of black and white there is no colour for her except for the fabric she gets to touch and feel.

Ada hopes to return to the bosom of her family in London and then establish her *House of Vaughan*, a dressmaking establishment in Paris. But, when she returns to London, her war isn't yet over. Her family reject her because she had run off with a man of dubious character but, although she finds work, to make more cash she turns to the world's oldest profession.

The book is written in three sections:

One, London in January 1939; Two, London July 1945; and, Three, London November 1947. I was especially interested in Section One which mainly details how she survives being a prisoner.

I was less interested in Sections Two and Three. To say that Ada was naïve is an understatement but we have to realize that she grew up in a completely different era. The third section of the book deals with her trial for murder. The judicial system in 1947 was stiff, formal and misogynist. The jury, judge and the barristers would have been male and anti-German sentiments would have run high so soon after the end of WW11. Ada didn't stand a chance!

The book has been described as a tangled mess of threads. What a wonderful way to describe this book

*The book for discussion in December is Bereft by Chris Womersley.*

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## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR ARRANGEMENTS 2019-2020

### CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRES

Bannockburn, Linton and Smythesdale Customer Service Centres

Close at 5pm, Tuesday 24 December, 2019, and will re-open at 8.30am, Thursday 2 January, 2020.

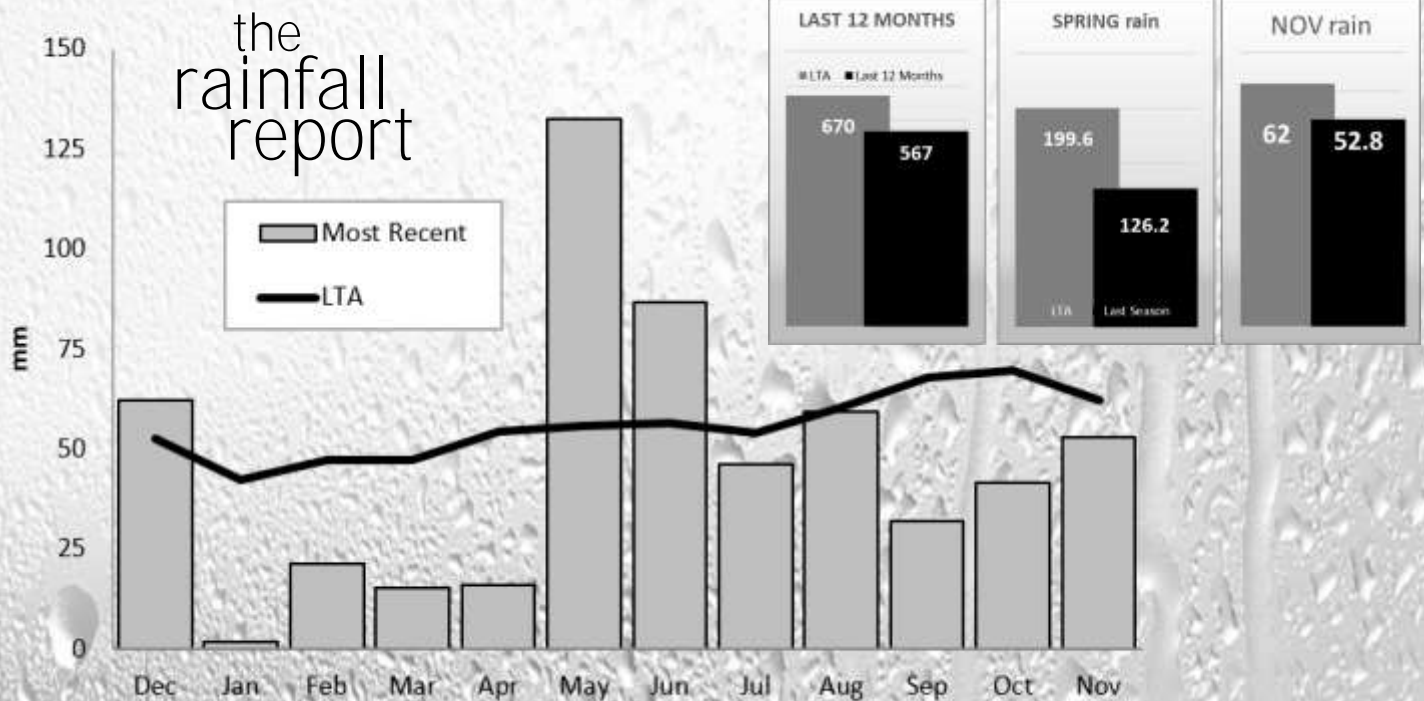
### GARBAGE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION

There are changes to Council's waste and recycling collection service over the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

Normal Collection Day	Christmas/ New Year Collection Day
Monday 23 December	Monday 23 December
Tuesday 24 December	Tuesday 24 December
Wednesday 25 December	Thursday 26 December
Thursday 26 December	Friday 27 December
Friday 27 December	Saturday 28 December
Monday 30 December	Monday 30 December
Tuesday 31 December	Tuesday 31 December
Wednesday 1 January	Thursday 2 January
Thursday 2 January	Friday 3 January
Friday 3 January	Saturday 4 January

The Rokewood Transfer Station is closed on Sunday 29 December, 2019 and will re-open on Sunday 5 January, 2020.

Council's essential services will be available during the holiday period, in case of an emergency. Please call 5220 7111 and follow the prompts if you need urgent assistance.



After a wet winter, Spring was something of a disappointment, delivering only 63% of the long term average. The year's rainfall was also below par, at 85% of the LTA.



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## it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

### Woolly Tales:

Heather East spoke about her passion for wool from her early days in the wool shed on the farm at She-Oaks. She remembers the wool table being “eye-height” and Ian Hearn preparing the wool. He would hand her some wool to put in a pack.

She spoke about the team and how the big picture is often overlooked, past the shearer. Heather explained how the Classer is ultimately responsible for quality and presentation of the wool, assuring the clip presented for sale meets industry standards.

Heather is keen to record the History of Wool in Meredith & District. The story has started with her experience as a Wool Classer. She now puts it out there to people to gather the wool story in the area.

Heather can be contacted by email [heatherjeast17@gmail.com](mailto:heatherjeast17@gmail.com), 0417016337 or drop your written contribution & photos into the Meredith History Interest Group on any Thursday 10 am-3 pm.

### Significant Trees of Meredith & District:

A *People's Choice* vote was held over the two weeks of the exhibition. Visitors were invited to vote for the photo that *appealed to them*. The winner of the people's choice was Heather East's photo of the Survey Tree in Taylors Road. It was a superb photo of a very significant tree.

Some of the exhibition is going to Bannockburn Library, soon.

### Larundel:

Because of a chance meeting with Jonathon, the manager of Larundel property while the Thursday team were on our familiarization tour of Cargarie we were able to visit the shearing shed, the garden and the house on November 7. We saw a very clean and well appointed shearing shed, a very structured, high maintenance garden and a magnificent house. The visit has led us to investigate the Austin family who built the house, how the land was managed, who owned the land after the Austin family and who worked on the property.

Did you know that A.A. Austin of Larundel captained Geelong to two premierships in 1878 and 1881.

If you have an interest or information, please contact MHIG.

### Geelong District Historical Association

GDHA had their meeting at the Meredith History Centre on Saturday, November 16. Representatives of Historical Associations in the Geelong District attended. As host for the day we talked about what our group have done in the last 12 months, before the reps. reported on what their groups had done. Susie Zada told us how to bombproof our collections. It is advantageous to meet and hear from other groups to get ideas, to share knowledge and to connect with people who are passionate about history.

### Calendar:

A Christmas present for only \$15! A Christmas present that records local history, that is useful and that aids your local history group. The theme of the 2020 calendar is *Property Names of Meredith & District*. Many of them have been the names of that property for generations, some are quirky, some are artistic and all are interesting. Available from Back Creek, Farmgate Shop, MHIG or Marg Cooper.

## It's Our History

Letters to Cinderella, Children's Page.

Spring Bank, Morrisons, September 13th, 1895.

Dear Cinderella,—

I have been carting wood to day, and it has been a very nice day. There are a nice lot of wild flowers up this way now, I think flowers are very nice and pretty don't you Cinderella? Some men working in a tunnel down by the river got a nice lot of gold. There are a good few men digging for gold round this way at present. There are four claims working over at Elaine now the Yorkie, Homeward bound, Golden gate and the Cleary, one of them is worked with a water wheel and one with a whim and the rest with machinery. There is also a battery at Elaine. I am very glad you have started a children's column in The Leader as I am very fond of reading the letters. I must conclude with best love.

I remain yours, very sincerely, FRED HARRIS. Age, 12.

Leader (Melbourne, Vic. : 1862 - 1918, 1935) Saturday 26 October 1895

Jan McDonald, Meredith History Interest Group

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## Bannockburn Pharmacy Newsletter

Proprietors: Scott Wilkes & Damian Bennett

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### Save 20% on your Christmas Gift shopping

It's hard to believe another year is coming to a close and Christmas isn't many sleeps away now. Firstly, we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very safe and Merry Christmas. We thank you for all your support in 2019 and we look forward to 2020! We would like to thank everyone for your support over the last 13 years.

Before you drive into Geelong or down to Melbourne where all the Christmas shopping crowds are, take the time to come in and see what gifts we have to offer this year in a more relaxed environment. We have an extensive range of high quality gifts at affordable prices for all ages.

Some of the companies & extensive giftware ranges we stock are:

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- Salt Lamps
- Essential oils
- Fragrances (men's & women's)
- Handbags & wallets (huge range!!)
- Men's wallets & men's gifts
- Baby giftware

Don't forget if you are a member of our **FREE Loyalty Club** throughout December you will receive a 20% discount off all Gifts plus 5% of your purchase goes on your Loyalty program! We also offer free Christmas Gift Wrapping.

### Christmas & New Year Trading Hours

We will be open the following hours before and after Christmas

Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	8:30am to 6:30pm
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	8:30am to 6:30pm
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	8:30am to 6:30pm
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	8:30am to 4:00pm
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	10:00am to 3:00pm
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	8:30am to 6:30pm
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	8:30am to 5:30pm
Christmas Day (25 <sup>th</sup> December)	CLOSED
Boxing Day (26 <sup>th</sup> December)	CLOSED
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	8:30am to 6:30pm
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	8:30am to 6:30pm
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> December	8:30am to 1:00pm
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> December	8:30am to 6:30pm
New Year's Day (1 <sup>st</sup> January)	CLOSED

### Pharmacy Features:

- medAdvisor
- Vaccination Clinic
- Glasshouse Fragrances
- Ear piercing
- Medela (we hire Breastpumps)
- MooGoo
- Roogenic teas
- Natio
- Sukin Organic Products
- Nude by Nature
- Diabetes Australia Agency -NDSS
- Giftware for all ages
- Salt & Pepper
- Digital Photo printing
- Passport photos
- 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

**FREE – 2020 Calendars NOW AVAILABLE**

## Best Live Music Nomination

Damian and Claire are excited and proud that their Royal Hotel has been nominated for *Best Live Music Venue* in Victoria. If they were to win this award they would then compete against the winners of the other states for the National Award and may become the *Best Live Music Venue in Australia*.

The Victorian Hoteliers Association who represent and promote the interests of members (Damien said that 90% of hotels are members) run the awards for excellence, annually. *The Best Live Music Venue* is judged on the hotel, staff and service, beverages and marketing.

Damian and Claire came to Meredith to the hotel at the end of 2012. Being quite entrepreneurial, they started to think about how they could attract customers to the hotel. They had an outdoor area out the back with an old shed, with lots of character, which was once the stables for the hotel and they had a love for music. They booked *Ross Wilson*, their first major artist, to perform in 2014.

It was difficult. They had no contacts. It took persistence, hundreds of phone calls and emails, six months to get a date and a lot of courage to pay out large sums of money not knowing if the public would be interested. But, it was a great success and Ross Wilson is to perform at the hotel for the third time on November 24<sup>th</sup>.

He loves the country atmosphere, the unique charm and history of the venue and the crowds. He doesn't worry that there is no official band room where the band can prepare. He loves the hospitality supplied by Damian and Claire and their staff and that he can hang around after his gig and mingle, sign autographs and have photos taken with patrons. He even played at the Music Festival in 2017 after being heard at the Royal by some of the Music Festival team.

On the walls inside the Royal, signed posters are displayed of most of the artists who have performed - including: Mental as Anything, Black Sorrows and Joe Cammilleri, Adam Brand, James Blundell, Inxsive. Daryl



Braithwaite, The Giants, Richard Clapton and Shannon Noll. Each December the Absolutely Eighties play (this year for the fifth time). This band is popular for staff Christmas parties.

The Royal now hosts a headline artist per month from October to March. They also support lesser known artists by running non ticketed events. Damian says that it is much easier to organize artists now as he has developed contacts, he knows the artists and everyone is keen to come back. He even has Elvis coming in February. After 250 gigs in twelve months Adam Brand rated the Meredith venue A+.

Some photo books compiled by photographer Rachel Young and Claire showing photos of all the gigs held at the Royal are testament to the success of the concept of bringing music to Meredith.

Congratulations to Damian and Claire Kelly!







## Did you know bushfires kill from **300m** away?

Bushfires can reach temperatures of up to 1100°C. Long before the flames reach you, the wave of radiant heat can kill you from up to 300 metres away - the distance of two football ovals. Planning and preparing for bushfire is the only way to survive it.

How well do you know  fire?

Plan. Act. Survive. Go to [vic.gov.au/knowfire](http://vic.gov.au/knowfire)

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



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**Save the Date**  
**Australia Day**

**Sunday 26th January 2020**  
**Pioneer Park**  
**Meredith**

**Games**  
**And More**  
**Family Fun**  
**Sausage Sizzle**  
**Tug of War**

**MEREDITH & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB**





**WOODFIRED PIZZA**  
**HAND MADE PASTA**

**WED to SUN: 9.00am - 9.00pm**  
**55 Wallace St. Meredith**

**DINE IN or**  
**TAKE AWAY**

BOOK NOW FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS PARTY,  
CATERING OR ANY KIND OF EVENT

**5208 1317**





## At the Paddocks

*Smiles all round from this group of avid walkers belonging to the Ballarat-based Beagle Club, on an excursion last month to the Meredith Police Paddocks. The club, formed amongst friends, has been walking as a group for around 40 years. Thank you to Liz Wilkie for the photo.*

Jim Elvey

The Meredith Police Paddocks Support Group held one of its biannual meetings last month after a walk-through of the Paddocks and a picnic lunch on a perfect day. Because of the good rains over spring, the Paddocks remain green and the creek is still a continuous body of water, making for a delightful ramble.

The discussions along the walk also informed the subsequent meeting. Issues such as fire abatement, planting plans, the status of seeking approvals for Creek Crossings and track maintenance were canvassed.

*If you would like to join this active group working to make the Police Paddocks and even better community assets, contact Jim Elvey on 5286 1273*



## Meredith Community Christmas Carols

Sunday 22nd December 2019

Venue: Paddock adjacent to Meredith Interpretive Centre

• Time: 6.30 pm Sausage Sizzle Lions Club  
• Face painting and children's activities

7.30 pm: Christmas  
Carols and Santa





# UPCOMING EVENTS @



TEL: 5286 1100



**JASON SINGH  
TAXIRIDE  
ACOUSTIC ARVO**

**08.12**

2PM TICKETS \$20



**SUNDAY ARVO**

**15.12**

2PM TICKETS \$40



**ZANE CARROLL &  
THE FULLY LOADED  
BAND**

**22.12**

2PM FREE ENTRY



**SUNDAY ARVO**

**19.01**

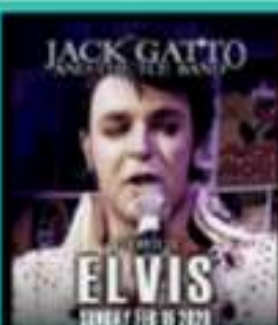
2PM TICKETS \$25



**FRIDAY NIGHT  
TRISTAN J ROSS**

**24.01**

8PM FREE ENTRY



**SUNDAY ARVO**

**16.02**

2PM TICKETS \$30

## MERRY XMAS XMAS TRADING HOURS

XMAS EVE 11AM-6PM

XMAS DAY 10AM-NOON

BOXING DAY CLOSED

NEW YEARS EVE 11AM-6PM

NEW YEARS DAY CLOSED





We trust you enjoyed  
your community news in  
2019 & we look forward to  
having your company in 2020, when we will again  
bring you district news along with entertaining  
columns and cartoons from our band of talented  
artists; all seasoned with a little fun and nonsense.



See you in February 2020