

Meredith & district News



Meredith and District News is printed on shiny paper, and should not be used for anything other than reading!

inside

- Herbie Platt Pt 1
- A Window with a Story
- Vale to Sandra McDonald and Jack Powles
- Closures, cancellations... 🤔

...and the usual **MUCH MORE!** 😊

Relax, Bilbies
are exempt
from social
isolation rules.





The Meredith and District News is published by a volunteer sub-committee of the Meredith Community Centre comprising: Jim Elvey, (general editor and chair) Dawn Macdonald, David Jones, Stefania Parkinson and Ian Penna. Production is undertaken by alternating teams comprising Pam Ridd, Peter Boer, Don Atherton and 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 |
| 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: Mike 0419 307044
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We do not publish children's photos online.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

Issue Editor: Jim Elvey

connect

| | |
|---|--|
| ADVANCE MEREDITH 5286 1291 | FOOTBALL Seniors 0408 545 246 Juniors 0430 587 674 |
| ANGLING CLUB 0419 248 660 | GOLF CLUB 0407 795 342 |
| B'BURN ART GROUP 0410 808 483 | HISTORY GROUP 5286 8201 |
| BLUE LIGHT DISCO 5286 1222 | LANDCARE 0409 862 326 |
| BOOK CLUB 5286 8201 | MEMORIAL HALL 5286 1545 0409 662106 |
| CFA 000 for fire calls Elaine 0409 861296 Meredith 5286 1502 Morrisons 0417 770 765 | MEREDITH LIONS 0491 061640 0419 757965 |
| CHILDCARE 5286 0700 | MOTORCYCLE CLUB 0437 009 250 |
| COMMUNITY CENTRE 5286 0700 | PLAYGROUP 5286 0700 |
| CRICKET Elaine 0448 291074 Junior(U16,U14,13) 0448 291074 Meredith 5286 1434 | POLICE PADDOCKS 5286 1273 |
| CUBS & SCOUTS Annie 5281 9497 | RSL - 5286 1452 |
| ELAINE HALL 0403 193006 | SENIOR CITIZENS 5286 8232 |
| | TENNIS Elaine 0448 291 074 Meredith 5286 1211 |
| | SEW 'N' SEWS 5286 0700 |
| | FRIENDS OF THE BRISBANE RANGES 5286 1252 |

...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.



"In Germany they are preparing for the crisis by stocking up with sausage and cheese. That's the Wurst Käse scenario."

- elle.com

emergency

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Police, Ambulance, Fire (from mobile phone) | 000 |
| Meredith Police Station | 000 or 112 |
| Power Failure | 5286 1222 |
| Nurse-On-Call | 132 412 |
| Mental Health Advice | 1300 606024 |
| Poisons Information | 1300 280 737 |
| Barwon Water | 13 11 26 |
| SES Emergency - flood & storm | 1300 656 007 |
| 24 Hour Helpline | 132 500 |
| 24 Hour Drug & Alcohol Counselling | 1800 629 572 |
| Kids Help Line | 1800 888 236 |
| 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 5286 1550 | MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH 5220 7230 |
| HALL HIRE Meredith Memorial 5286 1545 | PRE-SCHOOL 5286 0722 |
| Elaine Mechanics 5341 5596 | PRIMARY SCHOOL 5286 1313 |
| Elaine Rec Res 5341 5703 | RECREATION RESERVE 0429 841399 |
| LIBRARY VAN 5272 6010 | |

The VIRUS and us

Should We or...

In this time of assessing every thing we do in terms of risk exposure and necessity, we even questioned the production of the newsletter. After all, physical magazines present a surface on which viruses can be transferred from one person to another. Our assessment, with input from a committee member with expertise in infectious diseases, is that the probability of contracting COVID-19 from newspapers or magazines is similar to getting it from taking a packet of cereal from a supermarket shelf; that is, very low. *(This statement is based on information from the World Health Organisation and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (USA)).*

Against that, we recognise the role the newsletter serves in a community, allowing residents to read about local people and events, easily find local trades and services still operating in the area, and simply enjoy the distraction of our many excellent writers and cartoonists.

We do recommend however that you minimise risk by not touching your face and regularly and thoroughly washing your hands. If you are still concerned, only share the newsletter among fellow residents or access our online edition at meredithnews.com.au. (It is uploaded on the second Thursday of the month.)

Keep well, keep safe and keep in touch.

Jim Elvey, Editor

HEY Kids...

What on earth are you doing now?

So, with all this *me* time, have you found any interesting ways to spend it, or done something special. Tell us on our Facebook page, or write, send a drawing or a photo to news@meredithnews.com.au.



We like you, please like us.

A Round of Applause

Meredith's Bella Macdonald is currently working in Belgium and in national lockdown. Out of this comes the delightful story that at 8 o'clock every evening, the Belgians go out on to the street in front of their homes and clap. This mass applause is for the medical professionals at the forefront of the battle against the virus and caring for those affected by it. Yes, there are selfish hoarders and the careless, but there are also instances like this; demonstrations of our social instincts that lift the spirits.

On a Roll

Jim Elvey

Friends holidayed in New Zealand last month, arriving before the border closure and timing their departure so as to extend their holiday by two weeks, spent in isolation back home. But the highlight of the trip was when they dropped into a Picton pub and bought the winning ticket for the Friday night raffle. Imagine how thrilled they were when they found the usual meat tray had been upgraded to a roll of toilet paper! Not just any roll either, but a huge roll for a public dispenser. You wonder how Customs let that through, given its value would have to be well over the cash limit.



SENDING YOU
A SOCIALLY-
DISTANCED HUG



If you have any heart warming or funny stories arising from the dire circumstances we are all going through right now, please share them with all of us.



CREATIVES



Kerry Thomson & Amanda Hyatt

(If you, or somebody you know, would like to give us a glimpse of the creative life, email Kerry on keghommo@activ8.net.au) - Ed

Daniel and Bianca McDonnell are both wonderfully artistic people who are the creative minds and practical skills behind *Steel Art* and *The Rustic Ram* cafe in Meredith. They don't just see an old log or piece of rusty metal but, rather, envisage its potential as such things as decorative furniture, fire pit, dragon for the garden or interesting wall art. Neither of them can just sit and relax but are always drawing, imagining or discussing the possibilities for future projects.

A love for drawing, ceramics and then a scholarship as a boiler maker led Daniel into an engineering company. He loves repairing and rebuilding, using scrap material and finding old things to repurpose. He sees beauty in everything that others might just see as junk or rubbish and enjoys anything different that challenges his skills.

Daniel is self-motivated and a risk-taker in that he's not scared to try things - to bend, to heat, to experimentation. He has gone from employing 15 people in the engineering company to working with Bianca and growing their business, from just selling to friends and at Sunday

markets, then on to a small premises without a garden to their current site in Meredith. They bounce ideas off each other so are loving the opportunities available in their current space.

With Bianca's parents owning a nursery her background in gardening allows her creativity to express itself using plants. She was running the shop at their first site but quickly became bored and stifled so soon became actively involved in making things too. Her dad was good with his hands and Bianca credits him with helping her learn 'how to fix things'. Daniel taught her to weld and she now creates her own

metal sculptures as well as developing the garden.



Creative couple, Bianca and Daniel McDonnell, with two of their impressive pieces.

Daniel uses Corten steel which has a really high amount of silicon imbedded in it so it only gets surface rust. He is not fond of straight fabrication but prefers when he can use his imagination, be original and make bespoke items. He is inspired when customers come with an idea which allows him to be highly creative and artistic. He takes pride in his work, loves what he does and likes to see the look of surprise and pleasure when a customer sees a finished product. He sees his work

not as a job but as a journey where he can continue to build on his imagination to keep on improving.

Some of the highlights of Daniel's work have been a huge (7 metre!) flowerpot for the Geelong Flower Farm, making the trophy for the Gold 104 Award and 31 trophies for a recent international BBQ competition, having a horse head sculpted from horseshoes on display in the foyer of a Melbourne office, making an arch with Gargoyles for a Gothic Wedding Company, creating a remembrance plaque for an RSL club, rebuilding a damaged light for St Mary's church in Geelong and restoring an 1860s pram for a photographer. Other pieces he's been proud of were a huge table with chain legs, an arch pergola, and an owl from plough discs which he created in one day. He was also pleased to build a sheep for Moranghurk and another for the original Meredith Primary School. Daniel and Bianca look forward to contributing more to Meredith community in the future.





Community

Meredith Senior Citizens

Jim Hynds

Unfortunately meetings and activities have been postponed for the foreseeable future. A lunch had been planned at the Fyansford Hotel and a trip to Timboon Cheese Factory was to be held in April. To all our members, look after yourselves.



Regrettably, there will be
NO ANZAC DAY SERVICE
in Meredith this year

POLICE Paddock MEETING

The meeting planned for Sunday 5th April has been cancelled.

Lions Club of Meredith and District



The Club is not meeting for the time being. Call Jim Baker on 0419 757 965 for more information.

Maude F.B. Trash & Treasure

The Maude Fire Brigade's annual Trash & Treasure market day has been cancelled for 2020. We regret having to make this decision but the current health problems around the country make it the sensible thing to do.

At this stage, no plans are in place for later in the year, so hopefully we will see you all at a bigger and better market next year!

Memorial Hall Closed

During the current health crisis, the Meredith Memorial Hall is closed. Please contact the booking officer on 5286 1545 for more information or long term bookings.

Hay Run



It may be green and wet in Meredith at the moment but farmers in other parts of the country are hurting. Some have been in drought for years and some have been ravaged by bushfires and some have suffered both. Recently nine local farmers donated hay to Rural Aid – donate a bale. A B-Double of round and big square bales has gone to four dairy farmers at Bega and another B-Double will go soon.

Thankyou for your generosity.

Our Cover

This view from the eastern ridge of the Meredith Police Paddocks reminds us that, when we need to step out for some exercise, we have this fabulous nature walk on our doorstep. A great place to refresh both body and soul.

Why not share your favourite pics with us? You could make the front page.



Photo by Jim Elvey

Classifieds

First insertion of small ads are FREE to district residents

The deadline for copy is
9.00 am on the last Thursday
of the preceding month

Church News



The State Government has given the following directive:

All places of worship must close, except for the conduct of weddings and funerals in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Weddings may be held in places of worship (or other venues), but only with the couple, celebrant and maximum of two witnesses in attendance.
- Funerals may be held in places of worship, funeral parlours or other venues, with a maximum of ten mourners in attendance.

Meredith and District News has always provided church service details as a free service to the community and will continue to provide contact details as known to us. Churches are invited to provide more information as appropriate.

St. Joseph's Catholic Parish - 0417 319556

Catholic Archdiocese of Australia Elaine - 5341 5544

Anglican -

Rev. Timothy Smith, 0412 673152

Rev. Glen Wesley : 0429 146 566

Serbian Orthodox 5341 5568

Uniting Church 0409285182

St. Joseph's Catholic Parish News

The Catholic Bishops of Victoria issued an instruction on 18th March that there are to be no public celebrations of Mass or other liturgies from now until they rescind the instruction (expected to be a few months). This arises of course due to the Covid-19 virus and the need to control its spread.

I know this will be difficult. We will find ways and make ways to pray and live our faith that God is near and helps us in all things.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals can still proceed but with some care in limiting the size of the congregation.

Most immediately, this means that there will be no Sunday Masses at St Joseph's Meredith, St Brigid's Anakie, St Mary MacKillop Bannockburn, or St John the Baptist Winchelsea.

We are in the process of planning how to keep

ourselves alive in faith. I am considering having the churches open for prayer and adoration at various times during the week. For Meredith this will at least be all day on Wednesday and Friday. Call the parish (5286 1230) for times for other churches.

Rest assured, that I shall be celebrating Mass privately on behalf of all the parishioners of the parish. Praying for the grace of the Holy Spirit to guide us through these difficult times.

At the same time, Easter is approaching rapidly: April 12th! The people of St Joseph's Parish renew this journey each year and this year we journey amidst the COVID-19 virus and the immediacy of its threat to our lives or the lives of those we love. We approach Easter not knowing where this virus will end up leading us as individuals, as communities, as a country, as a world. The first disciples of Jesus Christ faced a similarly difficult loss of certainty. They were cut adrift, the meaning of their lives was ripped away with the tragic death of Jesus.

But! They were wrong to lose hope. We would be wrong to lose hope. They found out at that first Easter what we know today: there is hope, no matter the difficulty. The resurrection is real. Jesus is the Christ is Risen. Jesus the Christ is present with us today calling us to open our hearts to receive him and to go out and spread the joy of the Good News: the Good News that the kingdom of God is near!

Amidst the uncertainty that suddenly pervades our lives: let us keep our hearts open to welcome those in need as Jesus did.

Amidst the fear and loss that can surround us: let us support others to show them the love that Jesus is thirsting to pour out through us.

I pray that each of you is able to journey towards Easter in faith and hope and love, as Jesus did.

If you need help, please call the parish (5286 1230) we can't solve all problems but we can lend an ear and maybe give some assistance.

God bless and Joyful Easter, Fr Charles._

If there are any questions about this input, please call me on 0417319556.

God Bless

Charles

Fr Charles Balnaves



Landcare



Bamganie-Meredith

In line with the current government guidelines due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak all planned Landcare events have been put on hold until further notice.

Atlas of Living Australia

In the meantime if you find you have time on your hands whilst practicing social distancing, you may be interested in having a look around the Atlas of Living Australia at <https://www.ala.org.au/>. The Atlas of Living Australia is a collaborative, digital platform providing Australian biodiversity data. Data on the website is collected from multiple sources, making it accessible and reusable. As well as finding out about species such as the Eastern Great Egret or the Red-bellied Black snake, you can also contribute to the database by uploading sightings of rare or unusual species.

Corangamite CMA Knowledge Base

While you are on the internet you may also be interested in looking at the Corangamite CMA Knowledge Base www.ccmaknowledgebase.vic.gov.au/. Through the Knowledge Base you can access an extensive collection of publications and technical reports relating to the catchment region. Areas covered include soil health in the region, natural resource management planning, discovering the Living Moorabool, and water watch.

Included on the Knowledge Base site is a link to the South West Climate change portal (www.swclimatechange.com.au/), a collaboration between the local government authorities of south-west Victoria, the Corangamite and Glenelg-Hopkins CMAs and the Centre for eResearch and Digital Innovation. The portal provides regionally specific climate change information to help the south-west region adapt to a changing climate.

Next meeting to be advised. There will be no formal meetings of the Landcare group until after the COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted. Please see our Facebook page or email meredithlandcare@gmail.com if you have any queries.

Maude

The annual rabbit poisoning campaign has been run and (hopefully) won for 2020. Thank you to everyone who took part in this important fight against the old enemy. We hope you had success in reducing your rabbit numbers. It would nice not to have to do this each year, but it seems that it needs to be an important part of our farming year. Keep up the fight!

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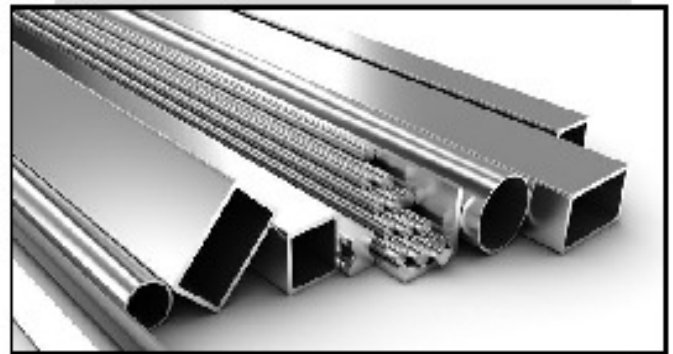
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MASTER
BUILDER



Pete Goat

Well it's hard to talk about anything now except in the context of the pandemic. The last cultural event I went to was on 12th March in the crowded Green Room wine bar in Pakington St, a beautiful concert by American folk legend John McCutcheon, multi instrumental singer songwriter who carries the baton, or perhaps the banjo, for Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger. A great story teller too, he sings of the common people in the home and the work place. I shook hands with John who had been touring the country including Port Fairy and remember thinking : should we really be doing this? And there were shared antipasti platters as part of the ticket. That was just two weeks ago and now everything has changed. Golden Plains Festival was not cancelled - lets hope that there are no consequences.

It does make me think of the value of smaller communities, of smaller scale, more self- contained social structures. For some of us the strict isolation requirements are to some degree quite familiar and in smaller communities we tend to be supporting each other more regularly anyway. But we are all inevitably still dependent on the global network of transport, trade, finance, communication and everything else that the dominant culture requires.

It is going to be very sobering to see how the world reassesses itself when eventually this pandemic is over, what lessons will we have learned, how will our culture be changed?

There have been comparisons made by commentators with SARS, the 1918 Spanish flu and the Black Plague which possibly killed more than a third of the population of Europe. Even in the fourteenth century international trade and travel played its part because the Plague was brought to Europe when rats and fleas spread from ships from Asia. We are fortunate that this virus does not seem to cross into domestic animals [as Hendra did to horses].

But no one I have heard or read recently has mentioned the smallpox epidemics which devastated the Aboriginal population of Australia . The first, in Port Jackson in 1789, spread from the north shore (Phillip's settlement was on the south) and whether or not it was deliberately introduced as is strongly argued, it killed up to 90% of the Aboriginal population up to the Hawkesbury.

The next large epidemic spread in the 1820's and 30's into the southeast and significantly reduced the population right through what is now Victoria. In both these cases the ability of the population to resist invasion of their country was hugely reduced as well as loss of cultural knowledge and kinship ties.

So this very country where we all now live has experienced an epidemic brought in from elsewhere which changed a culture forever .This COVID-19 epidemic may

not have the same death rate but it will no doubt bring change to our culture. We should imagine what it would be like for it to be followed by invasion and dispossession.

What a great contribution to our local cultural recognition is Kerry and Amanda's CREATIVES feature in this publication which gets ever better. Can't wait to see their next!

Steve Goat

Unaustralian!

"UnAustralian" was the cry from the PM, last week amidst the rush on Supermarkets.

We have heard this expression many times in recent years, but what does it mean?

I suppose the expression is used to separate out those who would in some way be working against our Australian disposition and cultural values. It references values like a "fair go" and fairness, the Australia of *mateship* and camaraderie of purpose, especially when this selfishness was seen in supermarket isles and shopping centres. Rampant hoarding is driven by fear of the pandemic that is upon us. But is attacking the fearful really of much help?

It was a very interesting comment from a Prime Minister whose recent refrain was "a fair go for those that have a go". And now we see our government trying to provide for the newly unemployed. But does anyone really believe thousands of families can live on this still meagre support for the months to come?

Mortgage payments or Rent, Electricity, water and gas, Rego, Fuel and basic food supplies to all come from just \$550 a week. So those who have it will have to dip into savings and superannuation, effecting their future viability. That to me sounds pretty unaustralian!

This pandemic is the greatest challenge to the ability of our society to look after all its citizens. We may yet come out of these testing times a stronger nation, with a deeper understanding of the needs of all members of society and a greater willingness to help the needy. Now that sounds "Australian."

Border security took away my Vegemite. I think that's literally unAustralian.



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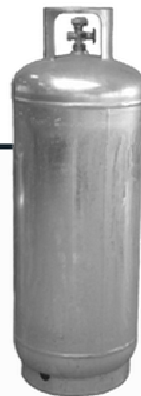
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Closures at Council

Media Release

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-10) pandemic, Golden Plains Shire Council will be implementing a number of changes to its operations to reduce the risks to residents and staff.

As the situation evolves, further changes will be posted on Council's website and social media, with weekly updates on the Council News page in the *Golden Plains Times*. For any questions, please call Customer Service at 5220 7111.

Changes Already in Place Council's Bannockburn, Linton and Smythesdale Customer Service Centres have closed for the time being for face-to-face interactions. Customers will still be able to contact the Customer Service team during this time by:

Phone: 5220 7111

Email: enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au

Online: goldenplains.vic.gov.au/forms/portal

Essential services of Council including Community Care and Maternal and Child Health Services will continue to operate on a priority basis and subject to staff availability. The Bannockburn Family Service Centre, Bannockburn Children's Service and Council's Kindergartens in Bannockburn, Teesdale, Rokewood, Inverleigh and Meredith remain open and operating as usual. Council's waste collection services will continue as usual with the Rokewood Transfer station open as usual on Sunday.

Regular playgroups, parenting groups and social support group meetings will continue, though no excursions or incursions will take place. Circumstances are changing rapidly however and Council encourages residents to visit the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services' website at dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus for the most up-to-date public health information,

Library Closures

from Media Release

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Geelong Regional Library Corporation (GRLC) has suspended the delivery of all library programs, events and outreach services forthwith until at least Monday 13 April 2020.

The Corporation will continue to operate all branches and mobile libraries during normal opening hours and at this stage, the use of meeting rooms and event spaces by external groups is not affected.

The GRLC's COVID-19 working group is meeting regularly to assess the situation and is taking its lead from federal and state health authorities, Victoria's Chief Medical Officer and our Member Councils. Further changes to library services may be necessary as new information or advice is available.

In-line with currently available information, the Corporation is encouraging the public not to visit their local library if they:

- have returned from countries considered high risk by the Department of Health
- have had any contact with a known positive case of COVID-19 or a person who is under quarantine or self-isolation awaiting confirmation testing in the last 14 days
- have been confirmed as having contracted COVID-19
- are feeling unwell.

Overdue library fines will be suspended for the immediate future. If patrons have items due for return and do not wish to visit a branch in person, they can renew items online, via one of the external return chutes which are open 24/7 or they can contact their local branch directly by phone: www.grlc.vic.gov.au/locate. Patrons are also able to borrow items from GRLC's e-Collection at www.grlc.vic.gov.au.

For more information, contact Kirsten Aplin on 0409 419 828 or at kirsten.aplin@grlc.vic.gov.au





Bannockburn Pharmacy Newsletter

Proprietors: Scott Wilkes & Damian Bennett

6 High Street

Bannockburn VIC 3331

Phone: 5281 1519

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- d. Body bars

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- a. Candles (NEW 380g size but price is remaining the same)
 - i. 5 New fragrances
 - ii. New soft touch packaging
 - iii. New Soy blend wax
 - iv. New jars and all candles will be white except A Tahaa Affair
- b. Diffusers
- c. Scent Stems (**NEW**) – liquidless diffusers

3. Hand Care

- a. Hand Cream
- b. Hand Wash

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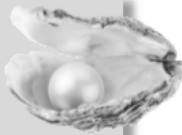


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Boxed In

We've all seen enough bad midday movies and heard enough horror stories about how terrifying elevator travel can be, but is it really the thought of plummeting 30 floors to your demise that makes these metal boxes so scary?

In 1852, Elisha Graves Otis made the elevator that much safer (and therefore more suitable for human patronage) by inventing the safety brake that would act as a back-up system should the hoisting rope break. This one invention made it possible to build buildings ridiculously tall and transport a person from ground floor to upwards of 30 in the time it takes to conjure up a particularly stubborn sneeze.

But even though some people still harbor a fear that the pulley system should fail, it is statistically more dangerous (and, at the same time, better for you) to take the stairs.

With my reluctance to climb 17 flights of stairs every morning at work, I take the elevator. And every morning, it is not the fear of falling that makes me nervous as I wait for one that I can squeeze my way into amongst the 9 o'clock elevator rush hour.

You see, it is what is inside the elevator that people need to be afraid of. It is the concentration of people within a small, enclosed space that renders these boxes horrific. Just like the train, we have coughers, sneezers, loud talkers, and narcissists who look deep into their own eyes in the many reflective surfaces of the elevator interior.

However, the worst of all are the hit-and-runners who score an elevator to themselves and take the opportunity to participate in bodily functions. This is what you should really dread, as my manager and I discovered recently. The unsuspecting victims take a moment to notice that something is amiss in the atmosphere, and then – being unable to escape – spend the next ten to fifteen seconds gagging on malodorous recycled air.

But despite all this, I can see that there is some merit to the mistrust of the mechanics of such an invention. Because like all technology it can be unpredictable, as I discovered at a hotel not long ago.

Feeling a little worse for wear one morning, my husband and I stepped into the lift on the hunt for food. When we reached the ground floor, we discovered that we were stuck inside, and it turns out that few things make you regret that last drink the previous evening like being stuck in an elevator.

Thankfully, our story ends well with a bit of brute strength and a little bit of swearing. But even despite this experience, I still believe it's what's in the box that you should be worried about.

Gemma

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Diane Ritchie

Marg Cooper

She came, she did and now she is going!

Others have contributed greatly to Meredith and District in various fields such as in sport, schools, churches and in other local organizations and some have toiled in local businesses for their entire careers but no-one has come to our town and has immediately engrossed themselves in all things Meredith like Diane.

Roy and Diane and family arrived to live at "Alcon Park" in 1986. They had previously lived at Leopold and had owned a farm on Marchmonts Road, Meredith where the Banks family had previously lived.

Roy was a Ford car salesman in Geelong and continued to commute and Diane was a teacher. So, being involved in the school she initiated the Meredith School Fair. And she thought big! Trains, helicopter rides, sky divers, wood chop, fleece show, advertising, like a float in Gala Day Parade in Geelong and posing for newspaper coverage.

With her amazing ideas and energy people came from everywhere to help, sponsors came on board and crowds flocked to the fairs. Later there were many other events including the Meredith Auctions and Rose Day. Diane has ideas and she didn't think small townish, she has charisma in that she garners support, she has amazing organizational skills without being bossy and she is a dedicated community person, not selfish with her time. Although she had various paid jobs while she lived at Meredith she was still thinking and working for Meredith, constantly and voluntarily. The thought occurred to me sometimes that if she contributed all her talents to paid employment she would make a fortune. She did contribute her talents to paid employment at times but she seemed to still have time to contribute to Meredith.

An example of Diane... one day I called in to her home and we were thinking of how, who, when we could launch Neil Cameron's book. Diane had just read in the Newspaper about a Professor Meredith who won an award. Will we ring her? We did, she came, she fitted the bill exactly and delightfully and made the day special. That thought was completely "outside the square". The organizing of it was a bit of a nightmare but in the end it was just magic.

So I don't know how Meredith will cope without Diane. Hopefully we have learnt from her example. If you hear of an entrepreneurial type with unlimited energy tell them that Meredith has a vacancy.



The Hawk Wasp

Kerry Thompson

I watched this Hawk Wasp come out from the garden, cross the 'lawn' then the paving and up the side of the deck, across the verandah, up and across the wall, round the corner of the window and up under the eaves. It was a total of about 25 m and all the while carrying a huntsman spider - albeit with its legs chopped off! Apparently the spider is paralysed rather than dead and the wasp takes it to its nest where it lays its eggs in the spider. When the young wasps hatch they eat the fresh flesh from inside out. Nature at its best (or worst, maybe)!



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My family has been through a difficult period over the last few months. Two things have made this time much easier. The first is support from family, friends and community. All the offers of assistance, phone calls and text messages have made a huge difference, just knowing there are people out there if we need them. Thank you so much to all those involved and to all those who have helped us in any way. The other thing that has helped is my love of nature. Being able to step out into my garden and surrounds and observe birds, insects, flowers and fungi has provided an enjoyable and peaceful distraction. I am going to share two stories of events I have watched during this time. Both were unexpected, the first peaceful and the second much more dramatic.

For a while I was spending a lot of time in Melbourne, and although I was able to roam a park full of magnificent old trees, most were introduced. The birds they attracted were also introduced, or the few native species, such as magpies and rainbow lorikeets, that are able to thrive in cities. After a few days of this, I felt my close link with nature and happenings in the natural world around me, slipping away. My remedy was to make summer evening phone calls while sitting on my veranda steps, where I could see and hear the birds and beetles. One evening, while sitting there talking to a friend and fellow nature lover, the grey water sprinkler was regularly showering the nearby flowerbed. A small piece of dry leaf or bark moved away from the flowerbed, jumping onto the path ... or was it a grasshopper? I looked closely and discovered that I was watching a tiny frog. There were more pieces of shifting 'bark', and I realised that I could see five or six frogs, mainly sitting still and pretending to be pieces of leaf litter, but occasionally drawing my attention by making surprisingly long jumps, five to ten times their own body length. The tiny frogs had dark grey backs with a lighter brown stripe down the middle. Their legs were brown with grey spots, and they had orange underneath their thighs. The front portion of their heads was brown. A dark brown stripe with a creamy stripe beneath it, ran from the tip of their nose, past their eyes and along their sides. I watched the frogs with interest and delight, and discussed them with my friend, who encouraged me to photograph them. From the photos, I was able to identify them as Verreaux's tree frogs. Despite being called tree frogs, they spend a lot of their time on the ground, although I saw one sitting on a stalk of the climbing rose and attempting to live up to its name.

The second event was also seen from my garden. I was standing, looking across the nearby dam to the hill beyond. I heard a whooshing noise above my head, and looked up to see a medium-sized bird of prey flying fast and straight towards a clump of trees on the far side of the dam. Its legs reached out, talons curved. It hit the trees. Two birds, in a

flurry of four wings, descended in an arc towards the ground. I left the garden and moved closer. I could see the bird of prey holding up its head as two disturbed and rowdy magpies walked towards it. I thought the bird of prey was a brown falcon, and went indoors for my binoculars. When I returned, there were no birds to be seen. I walked to where they had landed, and found the black and white body of a little pied cormorant (not such a small bird). Bright red blood showed on its white neck, where the falcon had bitten it. A little later, my daughter went out with a camera. Her approach disturbed the falcon, which had returned to its prey. She took photos of it perched in a nearby swamp gum, and taking flight. By next morning, all that remained of the cormorant was a bloodied pile of bones and feathers. I reported the incident to two bird experts. Both said this was unusual behaviour for a brown falcon. The photos proved that my identification was wrong. One of the experts recognised the attacking bird as a young peregrine falcon. Peregrine falcons are not commonly seen, but are known for their high-speed attacks on other birds. While I felt sorry for the cormorant, it is rare to see a peregrine in action, and is certainly a memorable event.

These happenings reminded me, that even when times are difficult, we are fortunate to live in a place with a caring community, and a place where we can step outside into the beauty of nature and witness events, peaceful or dramatic, and find enjoyment in animals and plants, and making discoveries about their lives.

Wendy

THE THINGS We Say

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Think Outside the Box

You would think that the origins of this phrase would be pretty self-explanatory. However, thinking outside the box is thought to have come from a puzzle game that was released in 1914. The rules of the 'Nine Dot Puzzle' were to connect all dots by drawing a continuous line in as few moves as possible. However, it was discovered that you could complete this in only four moves by going outside of the box. The phrase became popular in the 1970s as companies began using the puzzle to teach trainees to think differently.



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"I was watching the London Marathon and saw one runner dressed as a chicken and another runner dressed as an egg. I thought: 'This could be interesting.'" Paddy Lennox

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from the **MAYOR**



Cr Owen Sharkey
Mayor, Golden Plains Shire

Like many of you, I have been confronted by the news and growing reality of the Coronavirus pandemic, both overseas and in Australia.

Understandably, this is a confusing and distressing time for many people, especially those with health concerns and loved ones overseas. As I write this message, new travel and border restrictions have been put in place and the supermarket shelves are running bare – and it's hard to know what next week or month will bring.

At times like these, it's important that as a community, we come together in spirit – even if we are separated physically. Let's be kind, caring and considerate as we help each other through this unprecedented crisis; to come from a place of compassion and care rather than anger and fear. Golden Plains is a special place to live – and we have 56 wonderful townships with community-minded residents who we know will rise to meet the moment.

The health and well-being of our community, staff and volunteers is Golden Plains Shire Council's top priority. In this fast-changing environment, it has been necessary for Council to make changes to some of its services, operations and events – and there may be more changes in the future. We thank our customers, clients and community for their understanding and patience, as Council continues to do its very best to support and care for the people of Golden Plains Shire.

Stay safe and connected, be kind and take care.

Mayor Cr Owen Sharkey

An Outstanding Cricketer.

Marg Cooper

Elaine cricket club member Nicholas [Chicka] Pantzidis played his first official senior season of cricket in 2019/2020 moving up from the Under 17's team. The Elaine Senior Team played in the Fourths in the Ballarat Cricket Association.

Chicka has won the Ballarat Cricket Association Junior Champion Player and Batting Award on many occasions and has now taken out the same award in his first senior season. What a fantastic effort for a 17 year old. He also took on the role of Captain, mid season and led the team to the finals.

At the Ballarat Cricket Association Seniors Presentation night on Monday, March 16 Chicka was awarded the BCA Senior's highest batting score of 267 runs in a game. He was also awarded the BCA Champion Player on 1109 points, 844 runs @140.67, 9 wickets @ 21.56 and 13 dismissals with the gloves.

His ambition is to play cricket at the highest level possible while still enjoying it with mates.

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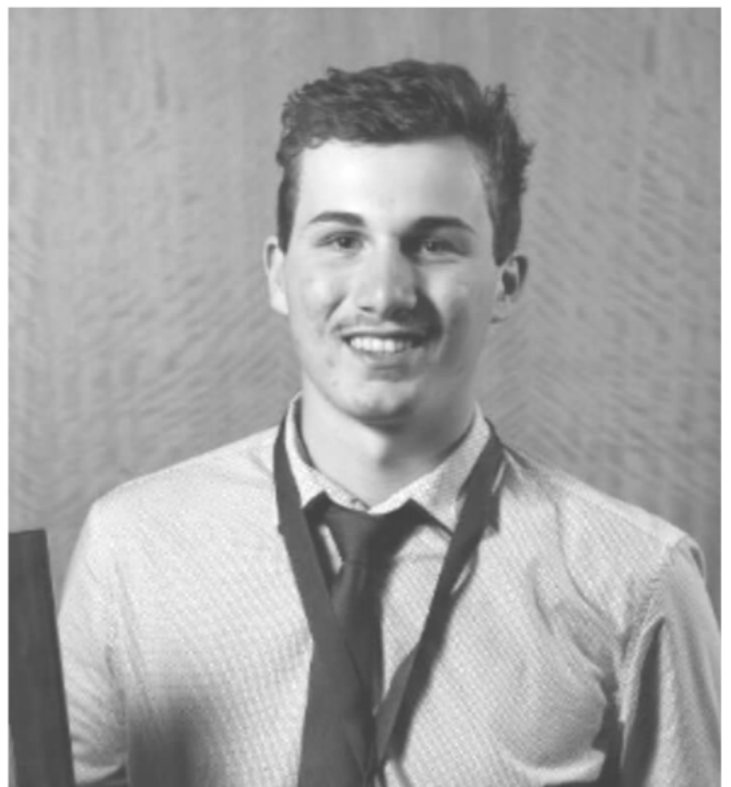
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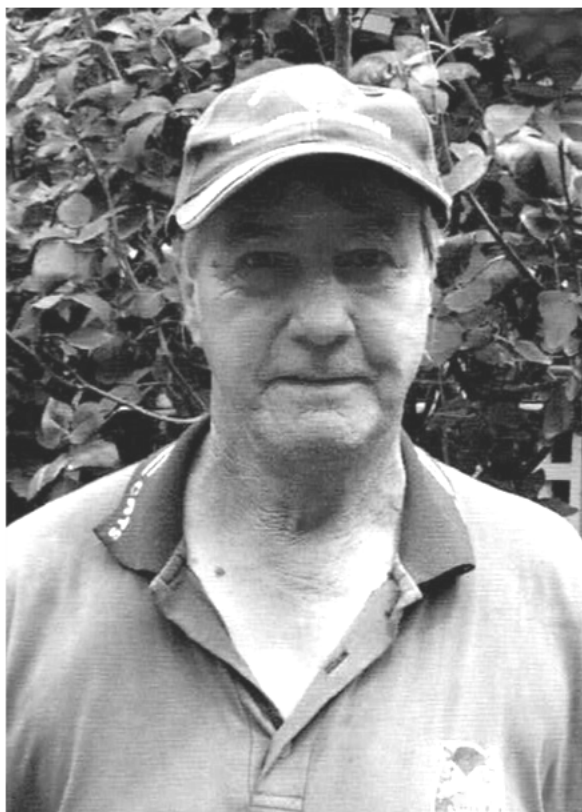
How I came to Elaine.
(As told to Marg Cooper)

I was number 9 of the 21 children of Harry and Florence Platt.

I was born in 1948, a good year as the FX Holden and the Fergie tractor came out that year. All the kids older than me went to Scotsburn State School before we shifted from Platts Road in Scotsburn to Warrenheip.

I ran away from home a lot. Sometimes I stayed for weeks at neighbours. There were too many kids at home as often 5 or 6 kids slept in big double beds that sagged in the middle. We wore hand me down clothes, ate rabbit, bread and jam and spuds but we did have two dunnies out the back! One family wanted to adopt me but Dad wouldn't allow it.

I went to Ballarat North Technical School but left at the end of Form 2 when I was 14 years old. I worked for Wilson's in their orchard and market garden. My older brothers worked at Paddle Shoes so they got me a job there and I started a 5 year apprenticeship when I was 15½ years old. I became a shoe manufacturer and may have stayed there for the rest of my working days but in 1968 I was drafted into National Service. I did 10 weeks training at Puckapunyal then 10 weeks training to qualify as a Group 5 Transport Driver. I objected to going to Vietnam so was posted to Balcombe Army Apprenticeship School where I taught apprentices to drive trucks. After a short time there I was posted to the



Australian Staff College at Fort Queenscliff as a staff driver.

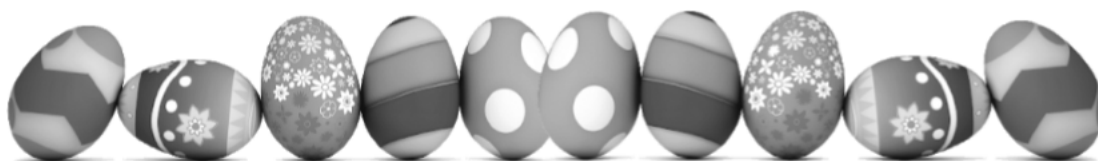
After I was discharged from the Army after two years service in 1970 I went back to Paddles for three years after which I was entitled to Long Service (they counted the two years National Service). I then went to Eureka Valves as a forklift driver for five years, then to P.G.H. Eureka Ceramics as a forklift driver, a grader, a leading hand and was then promoted to become part of the staff. I even was posted to Perth to set up a warehouse there!

Dawn and I had married in December 1968. We had five children but Dawn left me when the youngest was only 3½ years old. I gave up work and went on a Single Parent Pension for 5 years during which time I did the cooking, washing and ironing. I even did my time at the

Kindergarten. I met Lynette and after a couple of years we married on April 14, 1990. We were married for 20 years and had 5 children. So I have 9 living children, 14 grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

I started selling clay to potters. The process is like making scones but in a big, somewhat dangerous, mixer. The business was called Delclay (Delacome Clay and Pottery Supplies) which I owned for 15 years before an opportunity that was too good to refuse came up!

(Continued next month.)



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Stained Glass Window

Marg Cooper

On St Patrick's Day 2020 at 6 pm a service was held at St Mary MacKillop Catholic Church Bannockburn to bless the stained glass window that has been installed at the end of a passage in this new church building.

The window looks spectacular. It is about as big as a door, is in greenish colourings with the bottom at floor level. It features the figure of St Patrick and was dedicated to James Connell in July 1928. As was reported nearly a hundred years ago:

One of the largest congregations that has ever been in St Patricks Church, Elaine attended on Sunday last, the occasion being the consecration of a memorial window to the memory of James Connell who died in his 25th year in February last. Deceased was the youngest son of Mr and Mrs John Connell respected residents of Elaine. He was loved and respected by all sections of the community and was closely connected with all sporting bodies.

The stained window was made by Brookes Robinson of Melbourne bearing the inscription thereon, "To the undying memory of James Joseph Connell who died 3/2/1928. RIP." The window was installed in St Patricks Church, Elaine by Mr Bill Smith of Meredith. High Mass with ceremonies was offered by Rev. Fr K Conlon PP of Meredith with six altar attendants from St Josephs School, Meredith and the Meredith choir sang. Father Conlon touched feelingly on the many qualities of the late James Connell, first as a good son, secondly as a good citizen and sportsman and thirdly as a good child of the church.

Abbreviated from Geelong Advertiser, July 25, 1928.

Newspaper articles report that the horse James Connell was riding during the hare drive of the Elaine Coursing Club stumbled and rolled on him twice on Sunday, February 3. He did not regain consciousness. His skull was fractured.

Locals tell the story that James Connell and another rider, while coursing with their greyhounds, collided and both fell to the ground. The other rider was uninjured.

The stained glass window was carefully removed from St Patrick's Church, Elaine, by Lara Glass of Elaine. It was packaged and stored until recently when Mark and Jason of Lara Glass repaired, and restored and then triple glazed

the window to protect its integrity. It is now installed in St Mary MacKillop Church as a part of an effort to draw together elements of the history of St Joseph's Parish in this new church which is built over the remains of the previous St John the Evangelist Church which had stood on this site for 114 years before being destroyed by arson in 2015.

It is indeed special! A special window now resides in a special place as it pays homage to a special man and his story and a special local team who have carefully handled the window and restored it.

Jim Connell and the window dedicated to his late uncle.



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Steve Duffy

Back Home

This last month I had to go to SE Asia for a family wedding. All went fine, but since I was in the area, I decided on a few days in Penang, Malaysia. A beautiful tropical Island in the Malacca Strait between the mainland and Sumatra, Indonesia. I hadn't been there for forty years (WOW!). Flying in I was already salivating; my thoughts sending brainwaves to my tongue. I was very excited about my upcoming food experiences.

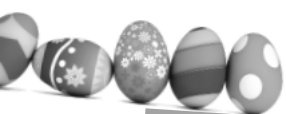
Penang is a very multicultural place with Indian, Malay and Chinese ethnicities, in the big melting pot of Georgetown, a post-British colonial city. The central part is UN Heritage listed streets and buildings. In the centre of all this is "Little India", where can be found some of the best Indian food I've ever had. We did enjoy some Chinese foods and the very interesting Nonnya food: this is the local Malay food as it has been effected by Chinese influences. But the singing spices of India captured me.

At this point in my article, I was going to wax lyrical about all the reasons you should go there to Georgetown for a great culinary experience. But in the few short weeks since my return the whole world has changed. International travel is no longer on the cards. Borders are closed in most countries. Airlines are metaphorically falling out of the sky. It will be quite a while before travel will be both available and then affordable.

So it is back to home and the familiar kitchen, but I will be searching for recipes that remind me of Penang.

Good Eating Steve

HOW CLEVER ARE YOU eggsactly?



☺ What is Easter Bunny's favourite kind of music?
Hip-hop, of course!

☺ Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke?
It might crack up!

☺ What happened when the Easter Bunny met the rabbit of his dreams?
They lived hoppily ever after.

☺ How many Easter eggs can you put in an empty basket?
Only one – after that it's not empty any more!

Father Herman Returns.

Father Herman was administrator of the Meredith Parish for six years and was due to return to the Philippines three weeks after the Bannockburn Church burnt down. He was invited back however, to see the newly built St. Mary MacKillop church at Bannockburn, to celebrate Mass in the new church and to visit the friends he made.

He arrived just in time to celebrate Mass at Meredith at 11 am and to attend the picnic in his honour in the grounds of St Josephs, after Mass.

Father Herman studied for eleven years for the priesthood and now at the age of fifty two has had twenty two years in the ministry. He is a Doctor of Philosophy and Dean of Studies at a Seminary in Butuan City where he lectures graduate students. There are about one hundred students at the seminary and he has a passion for teaching. But he would also like to be a Parish Priest and tend his own flock.

He remembers his time at Meredith with deep fondness; how he used to mow the paddock, how serene living at the Presbytery in Lawler Street was, how they shifted the little room from near the Lethbridge Church, how the Op Shop started with a small idea, how the garden grew, how there was no plan but the Friday gatherings happened and grew and then included lunch. He also remembers the unrest when it was decided to close Elaine and Lethbridge churches and to then sell them but he said that the church had to rationalise and make difficult decisions.

Father Herman believes that the new church at Bannockburn is amazing considering the tight budget. Although it was distressing at the time it may be a blessing in disguise!

"Someone is pulling the strings. In one word God."

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Vale to Sandra Anne McDonald

Sandra McDonald had a smile that would light up the room.

The second youngest of seven, she was born in 1945 in Wallan when Wallan was a country town. The family home was the historic de-licensed Inverlochy Castle Hotel, and Sandra had a very happy childhood with a constant stream of friends and visitors. She said that there was always someone extra at the house.

Sandra's mother was a Laffan from Bannockburn, and there were many enjoyable holidays with her relations in this area. Bannockburn was much more rural in those days, and Sandra could remember the railway station standing high and lonely on the horizon before cousin Dot, who lived there, planted the trees and garden that flourish there now.

Sandra attended Wallan Primary School with her siblings, and, despite a battle with rheumatic fever, excelled. Her sister said that after this illness Sandra was "treated like a princess." She was given a doll that the sister coveted. Ten year old Sandra finally relented, and let little sister hold it, whereupon little sister made short work of the doll – it never recovered. Sandra was still laughing about this years later.

The family moved to Campbellfield for more grazing pursuits, and Sandra attended St Aloysius in North Melbourne, travelling down by train each day. She enjoyed horse-riding, and later, after a move to Ivanhoe, went to the local dances at Heidelberg and Hawthorn, and had a busy social life. She worked as a legal secretary in Melbourne.

At some stage Allan McDonald, a farmer from Lethbridge, appeared on the scene driving his Austin Healey. A Bannockburn cousin of Sandra's introduced them. The pair were married in 1968, and moved out to a rented cottage on a neighbouring farm at Lethbridge. Sandra found work as a legal secretary in Geelong.

After two sons, Eden and Ashley, were born, Sandra lived a fairly solitary existence as Allan was often away or working long hours, share-farming and shearing. Several local women introduced Sandra to the wider community, and she formed strong friendships with them. She became part of the Lethbridge school community, the Hall committee, and the local Catholic church. The Hall committee from that time was indeed a memorable institution – there are still stories of how the women "made do," sorted problems and bluffed their way through community gatherings. All ended successfully.

After the drought of 1982 Sandra resumed work in Geelong as a legal secretary. Through the next few years she survived a car accident, cancer, and a bad fall while shopping. This fall meant that she was seriously incapacitated, and eventually made a quite miraculous recovery, learning to walk and talk after many months of physiotherapy.

Over the years Sandra was always a vital link in farming operations. Husband, Allan, died in 2016, and Sandra carried on with the farm with the help of sons, Eden and Ashley. It was quite normal to hear that Sandra couldn't

meet on any one day because she had to pick up a "part," or was busy towing a trailer with bales of wool to somewhere.

The joys of her life were her grandsons, Rory and Connor.

Through all of this Sandra carried on with humour and quiet determination. Her religious faith was very important to her and she said that it helped her tremendously through trials. She was always interested in people, places, and anything new. She explored the countryside, found new cafes, drove a farm truck, read books, loved life, and was always ready for a new "adventure."

Sandra died on the 26th February 2020. Her funeral was held at St Mary Mackillop Catholic Church at Bannockburn followed by interment at Lethbridge Cemetery.

We will miss that smile.

Jan McDonald (with help from Sandra's family)



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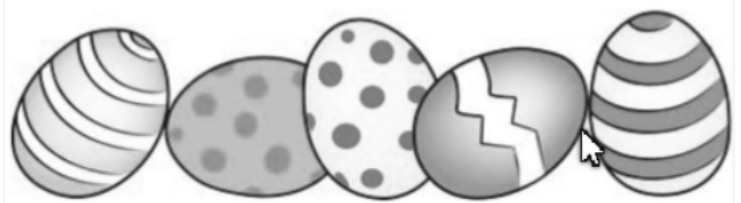
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"I'm not lost for I know where I am. But however, where I am may be lost." – Winnie the Pooh

There are so many people, so many 'experts' saying so much at the moment that at times the 'noise' they make seems worse than COVID -19 pandemic itself!

If there is one thing that I know, is that the noise comes from the TV 'news' and social media. Yes, it is important to stay informed, but 24 hours a day, is not good for our mental and emotional health. We need to disengage for periods from all the 'news noise' and immerse ourselves in reading, listening, watching and doing positive and uplifting things as ways to hold on to the knowledge that there is light in the world and we will rise out of this and go forward.

"The sun still shines, even when it's hiding." — Winnie the Pooh

We are all going to be affected somehow, if not directly from COVID-19 then indirectly and of course from the economic depression that seems to be just around the corner.

So, we need to look at ways to save money and you know what, it will give a sense of achievement and may set you on the path of simple living as future lifestyle choice. So, let's start with some practical suggestions to some of the issues the community is currently experiencing.

No washing powder/liquid – unless clothes are really mucky /smelly they may just need some freshening. So, hang them outside on a sunny breezy day and do some 'magical sun washing'

No paper towel – it's been more than 10 years since we have bought any, we have a rag bag - fabric from old cotton shirts, towels, sheets – cut into squares of different sizes.. Use them wet, damp or dry depending on need, then wash or toss into the compost. You can add some antibacterial, anti-fungal, antiseptic essential oils such as eucalyptus or tee tree to wipe benches when needed.

No tissues – how about handkerchiefs, the good old hanky. Hankies can be made from any soft material scraps and 20 x 20cm is the size of a tissues so that's what we sew. Handkerchiefs are only unsanitary if you don't change them as you would toss a tissue! Just use a clean hanky every day, if it's been used! Put them into boiling hot water for 15 minutes before you rinse them with cold water and add them to your regular laundry. We use a mesh laundry bag as hankies are small and it makes easier to add and find in the wash load. Hang out to dry in the sun and breeze.

No toilet paper - Did you know that although we take toilet paper for granted, toilet paper has a relatively short history in the modern world? Before the advent of modern

toilet paper in the 1850's, many different materials were used for the same purposes. Different materials were used depending upon the country, weather conditions, social customs and status. People used leaves, grass, ferns, corn cobs, maize, fruit skins, seashells, stone, sand, moss, snow and water. People used a nifty tool called a gompf stick.

Gompf sticks are basically just a sponge on a stick that is used to clear away excess poo. It is placed in a tub of salt water and is shared by multiple people. It is believed the Vikings used gompf sticks made of sheep's wool, while the wealthy French used a fancy version made of lace, wool and hemp. In the Middle Ages, most of them were made from hay balls. Ouch. Use a gompf stick ... if you dare!

I think we will sparingly use TP, and supplement with cloth wipes. A piece of cloth that is used in lieu of toilet paper that can be washed and used again. Some factors to consider: Many of us with young children, (now or in the past) have just thrown pee-clothes and poop-streaked underwear in the wash with everything else. Plus, all of our undies contain some number of germs and we are assured that the washing/drying routine gets them clean enough to wear again without killing us.

As with everything there are many variations to cloth wipes, so do your research.

Last thoughts to ponder as you haunt the supermarkets for rolls of toilet paper:

Wipes are soft.

They clean your parts better (and don't leave bits of paper behind), partly because you're using a wet cloth for #2.

No chance of 'finger break-through' that puts you in contact with faeces (urine is sterile, so you're good with that type of contact).

And no don't share them. One wipe = one person, these are not gompf sticks!

Could be worse. Not sure how, but it could be." – Winnie the Pooh

We have no master plan.

We have no way to plan.

We must take each day as it comes.

We will not stress about the things we cannot control

But

We do have the power to make each day the best it can be.

We can use our intuition.

We can walk with bare feet on the Earth.

We can still gaze at the stars in wonderment.

We can watch the sunrise.

We can bake bread, make cookies & prepare slow meals.

We can talk to the chickens, the cat or the dog.

We can plant a veggie & herb garden.

We can hang out with our loved ones without a device in every one's hands.

We can take the time to work out how little we really need not just want.

We can stay calm, take deep breaths and just be.

We can work on simple living for a better world.

"When you see someone putting on his Big Boots, you can be pretty sure that an Adventure is going to happen."—Winnie the Pooh

So, let's put on our big boots, and prove we can conquer this new adventure that the world has embarked on, granted this adventure was not our choosing, but how we act from now on is all about choosing the path that this unfolding adventure is going follow.

Life is a journey to be experienced Winnie the Pooh

Blessing to all, Kerrie

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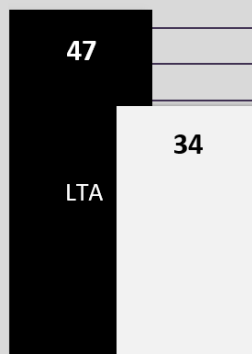
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Marg's BOOK REVIEW

Marg Cooper

“The Single Ladies of Jacaranda Retirement Village” by Joanna Nell

“Welcome to Jacaranda Retirement Village where memories are sometimes unreliable, men are in short supply, and the ladies have nothing to lose.”

This novel is about a 79 year old pensioner called Peggy. Her life revolves around never-ending doctors' appointments, the sometimes humiliating aqua aerobics classes and daydreaming about a handsome widower and fellow village resident.

But, when Angie, a glamorous former friend unexpectedly appears after five decades of silence, Peggy's beige world is turned upside down. Angie leads Peggy and the elderly residents of the village on a path of self discovery or re discovery.

The book reminds the reader of “The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel” where elderly people travel to India to a retirement home because they can't afford care in England. Many of them enhance the adventure and the new culture and “get a life”.

Many issues are covered in the book. Seeing life through Peggy's gaze gives the reader a view of how we inadvertently patronise older people. It must be frustrating to have younger people assume you are an imbecilic invalid just because you're older. Likewise, it is difficult to adjust to the role reversal between parent and child, to be cared for instead of being the carer. Peggy lives in fear of being moved by her children to a nursing home. Each resident is contemplating death, unavoidable really when you live in a retirement village where a new neighbour arrives because the previous one has died or been moved to a nursing home. Conversation often consisted of ailment one-upmanship.

Peggy's children would no doubt put up a good show of grief, only to find consolation in her will. Peggy was yet to meet anyone who matched the air-brushed seniors in advertisements. The older Peggy became, the older “old” was. When having her blood pressure measured she concentrated on having low blood pressure. Grandchildren were seen as a second chance to relive the best bits of her life whilst going to a new hairdresser was like committing adultery.

The author studied medicine at Cambridge and Oxford universities. She is a GP with a passion for women's health and care of the elderly. In this novel she has written about older people who become young at heart, defy society's expectations of ageing and who are not afraid to break the rules. She was born in the UK but now lives on Sydney's Northern Beaches.

Do not go gentle into that good night, Old age should burn and rave at close of day, Rage, Rage, against the dying of the light.
Dylan Thomas 1914-1953.

App for Sustainability

Media Release

Grampians Central West Waste & Resource Recovery Group has partnered with One Million Women (1MW) – a climate change action and sustainability focused behavior change organization founded by Natalie Isaacs just over ten years ago to do just that. 1MW has developed a great app that helps anyone to make changes in their lives to become more sustainable.

‘We often say that you cannot manage something unless you can measure it. The same can be said about our individual efforts at being more sustainable or thinking globally but acting locally.’ Explains La Vergne Lehmann, Executive Officer, Grampians Central West WRRG. ‘But what if we could start measuring all the changes that we make in trying to be more sustainable? This new app does just that.’

The 1MW app gives individuals the tools to cut carbon pollution in the key areas of your everyday life focusing on home energy savings and clean energy options, minimising food waste, reducing overconsumption, investing and divesting (your money) wisely, sustainable fashion, low-impact travel and much more.

‘Every day, the app will provide you with a number of actions to choose, from easy actions to big long term decisions that gradually lead you on your way to a low carbon lifestyle. It's all about acting locally and thinking globally - these are actions you can do at home, in the community, or online.’ Explains La Vergne

That's why we chose to partner with 1 Million Women on this - they really believe in action happening from the ground up at the local level. We want to see <insert council name> area get closer to a carbon free future, and we think this app is how we get there.

The app:

- Gives users a choice of actions to take daily
- Shows users their weekly carbon score
- Includes hundreds of tips to help users through each action
- Shows in real time the impact we all have when we act together

‘The 1 Million Women app is free to download because we want to empower as many people in our region as possible to act on climate change and be more sustainable.’ Explains La Vergne, ‘We will also be able to measure our impact as a region through the use of the app by our community.’



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it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

Annual Meeting:

The meeting was held at the History Centre on Sunday, 1st March, 2020. After the usual reports the following office bearers were elected for 2020: President, Marg Cooper; Vice President, Tony Scott; Secretary, Kerrie Kruger; Treasurer, Heather East; Committee, Paul Ryan, Jan McDonald & Fay McFarlane.

After the meeting a film was shown of Shelford Road. This was part of our "Escape to the Country" project where we document land and buildings outside the town of Meredith. The film was narrated by Doug McFarlane and produced by David Law of Redwood Entertainment in Victoria Street, Ballarat. If you would like to know the history of Shelford Road and learn about some of its hidden features you can purchase the DVD "Down Shelford Road" from the History Centre for \$15.00.

Heritage Pubs of Meredith: Pub Crawl:

For the Australian Heritage Festival we are preparing a display at the Bannockburn Library about Hotels in Meredith and District. We are also planning a Pub Crawl on Sunday, 3rd May, when we will conduct a tour to the sites of some former pubs, visit present pubs and enjoy some interesting stories.

The hotel built by William Watson in 1854 on the corner of Wallace and Staughton Streets was described as "The largest timber building besides the Melbourne Exhibition Building in the Colony". It was 3 storeys, had 45 rooms and furnishings were of the best quality.

[Event subject to restrictions in place at that time.]

Elaine Coursing Club:

An interesting photo was lent to MHIG recently by Jim Connell. It is a photo of what I presume is an Honour Board that features the inscription: "Presented to Lieut. H.T. Austin, President from The Elaine Coursing Club as a Token of Esteem on his Return from Active Service, August 1918". The photo includes small photos of 18 individual members and a larger photo of about 60 members and their horses and dogs. In a long report of "The last match of the season under the auspices of the Elaine, Meredith & Morrisons Coursing Club" in the

Geelong Advertiser, August 1877 many contests are described eg "Mr F Harvey's Bushman against Mr P Mahone's Lady Clare – Bushman led up, the hare going through a fence. Both dogs cleared the logs beautifully. Bushman scoring a turn on the other side of the fence and forcing the hare back to the paddock where she was put up. The hare ran into a drove of cattle and one of the beasts struck her with its hoof; Bushman shot ahead, Lady Clare picked up the hare and killed it. Bushman won the course."

Mt H.T. Austin was farewelled in February, 1916 before he sailed for WW1. He retained his officership as President of the Elaine Coursing Club while he was abroad.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

A fatal accident occurred by drowning on Saturday last, at Ballark, near Mr Frearson's. A young man, named Joseph Tomlinson, about twenty-five years old, whose father was killed some years ago in a tunnel at Morrisons, was out on a shooting expedition, accompanied by two others, when, not being fortunate enough to come across any native game, he shot two geese belonging to Mr Shannon. In order to obtain possession of the bodies he stripped and swam across the river; got the geese, and threw them over to his mates. But when returning he all at once disappeared. An alarm being given, a number of persons assembled with a view to recovering the body. Their exertions, however, were continued during the whole of Sunday without success, the sudden rise in the river on Sunday morning making their exertions almost hopeless. A number of Morrisons people, accompanied by the police, went on Monday morning to continue the search, and as the Moorabool has fallen about 2ft they will have little difficulty in accomplishing their object. The accident happened in the hole immediately above what is locally known as the "Lover's Leap."

The Herald Tuesday 13 March 1877

Jan McDonald, Meredith History Interest Group



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Crunchies

Makes 24 Squares

Ingredients

- 275g (1 ½ heaped cups plain flour
- 110g (1 cup) rolled oats
- 175g (¾ cup) castor sugar
- 85g (1 cup) desiccated coconut
- ¼ tps salt
- 220g unsalted butter
- 2 heaped tablespoons golden syrup
- 1 teaspoon bicarb soda

Method

Pre-heat oven to 150 C. Line a 32cm x 22cm baking tin.

Mix the flour, oats, sugar, coconut and salt together in an extra-large bowl. In a medium saucepan over medium heat, melt the butter and golden syrup together, and then stir in the bicarb. Once it froths, pour it into the dry ingredients and mix well with a wooden spoon. Use your fingertips to separate any clumps that form.

Tip the mixture into the prepared tin and just smooth the top, not compressing the mixture too much. Bake for 30 minutes or until deep golden. If it is not deep golden at this stage, cook for an additional 10 minutes or so. Allow to cool for 10 minutes before turning out and slicing into squares (as big or as little as you like).

Place the cut squares onto a flat baking tray then put them into the still-warm oven (it should be switched off) for 2 hours or until crunchy. They will become hard and crunchy once they are cooled completely.

NOTE: You can add dried fruit, choc chips or drizzle chocolate over the top of the bars.

Recipe from – Womens Weekly

Stefania



Women and Girls in Sport

The Quick Wins for Sporting Clubs program is supporting clubs to increase promotion, participation and leadership opportunities for women and girls.

An initiative of VicHealth and delivered by Sports Central, the Regional Sports Assembly for the Central Highlands, clubs are supported to work their way through a ten question assessment which looks at their current environment. Two key actions are then identified and implemented.

Clubs will benefit from small, but impactful improvements. Some examples include:

- Creating a more welcoming and inclusive environment for women and girls
- Increased awareness of gender equality
- Potential to increase participation of women and girls
- Potential to increase promotion of women and girls in sport
- Potential to increase females taking on leadership roles within the club
- Potential to promote the club as industry leaders
- Potential to increase grant application success

Sports Central has supported the following clubs and associations to complete their Quick Wins Checklist and are looking to work with many more over the winter season.

- Basketball Ballarat
- Voga Cycling Club
- Bacchus Marsh Cricket Club
- Ballarat Squash and Racquetball
- East Ballarat Cricket Club
- Bacchus Marsh Netball Association
- Daylesford Martial Arts
- Bacchus Marsh Scorpions Soccer Club

For further information, please contact Natalie Grero (Project Coordinator) on 5331 6966 or natalieg@sportscentral.org.au.

Meredith Community Centre

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Occasional Care was still operating at the time of going to print. Please check current status.



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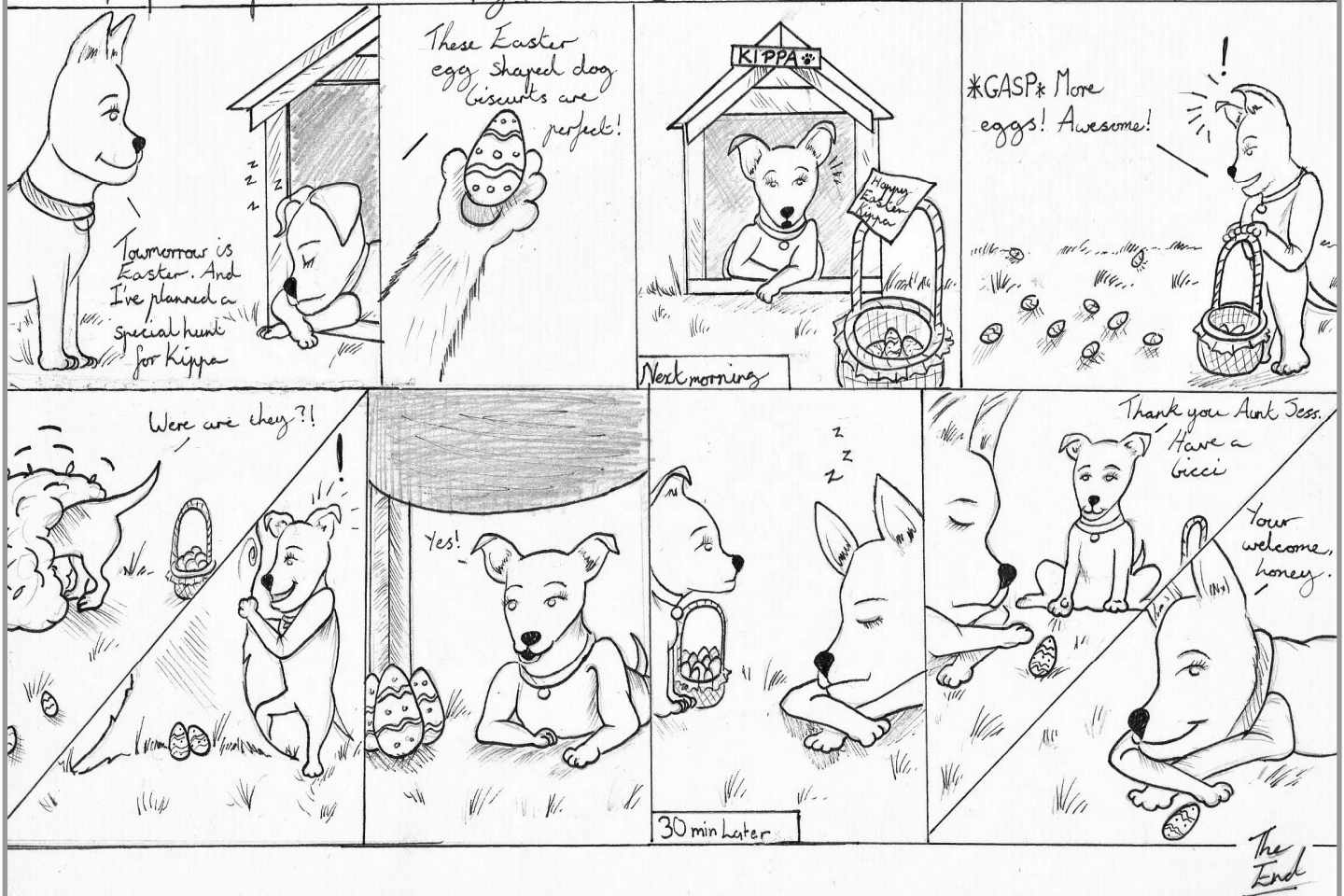


We should introduce you.

Kelpie Kapers! #15

By Emma Clarke

Easter Special #2



Vale to Harold William (Jack) Powles 20/12/1925 – 9/3/2020

From the eulogy presented by Mick Rooney at the funeral service at St Joseph's Church, Meredith on March 23.

"For those who don't know me my name is Mick Rooney. At some stage in my former life I was Officer in Charge of the Meredith Police Station. The same position Jack held for well over 20 years.

Firstly I'd like to thanks Jack's family for the honour of saying a few words today. When I first met Jack he presented himself at the Police Station not long after my arrival. My first impression was that he must have been a tough bugger back in the day. He gave me a quick rundown of his time in the town and he made it quite clear that I had big boots to fill. But I decided then that he was a man I'd like to know. And it wasn't long until a few locals who had been around awhile told me what he was like, especially, when it came to sorting out his daughter's possible suitors.

Over the ensuing years Jack would pop into the station for a quick chat and keep me up to date with local affairs, or indeed, political affairs or how the Pies were travelling. He certainly had a colourful way of talking. Not what you would call politically correct and he did know how to swear. Sometimes he would summons me out to Possum Point to share some other important information. It was nice to feel trusted. Although we were not what you would call "best mates", we did have a healthy respect for each other.

I used to listen in awe at the stories he told of the old days and the old ways. He certainly was a bit unconventional. I often thought how good it would have been to be a copper back in those days. Even though he didn't boast I'm sure he was proud of his service. This is very evident in the

wonderful picture in his mounted uniform on his horse. And he was very impressed being a special guest at the opening of the new Police Station.

I did threaten him with breaking his record of years in charge of the station, but for various reasons it didn't happen and Jack understood why. Policing can be hard. Even when I retired because of ill health we remained friends. I always thought he understood me. Sometimes with Jack things didn't need to be said. It just was. We shared plenty of laughs and I always chuckled at his mannerisms. I particularly enjoyed visiting Possum Point and "taking the piss" out of him for the benefit of Carmen.

It must be said that she deserves a knighthood for putting up with him for so long.

I could go on about Jack for hours but I won't as there will be plenty of time to spin a few yarns later. I'm sure over his 94 years he touched the lives of many. Testament to this fact

is the number of people here today showing their respect.

I know how frustrated Jack was when his health failed him. The last thing he wanted was to be a burden. It was during this time that I certainly witnessed the softer side of him.



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Bin Inspections

Media Release

RECYCLING BIN INSPECTIONS TO GET UNDERWAY

To reduce contamination of recycling, Golden Plains Shire Council is running a recycling bin inspection program.

The inspection program will monitor recycling bins as they are emptied, to help residents understand what can and cannot be recycled, in order to reduce contamination and higher costs. Residents will receive a brochure in their letterbox in advance of any inspection in their area.

As part of the inspection program, bins that contain non-recyclable items will be stickered with helpful information on what can and cannot go in their yellow lid bin. This is to serve as a reminder and to assist in gathering data for educational purposes. The data collected will help Council fine-tune its recycling information campaign.

Council and ultimately ratepayers face increased costs for contamination from materials that should not be in recycling bins. To stop recycling heading back to landfill in the future, Council needs the help of everyone to only put the correct recyclables in yellow lid bins.

Materials that cannot be recycled by Council's contractor are also a health hazard to workers at the processing facility, as these materials need to be removed by hand.

Common non-recyclables include:

- Bagged material in plastic bags
- Coated cardboard cartons
- Soft plastics
- Polystyrene
- Nappies
- Plastic toys
- Clothing and footwear
- Metal pots and pans

A first trial of the program will begin on Monday 16 March, 2020 in Bannockburn.

Kerbside recycling in Golden Plains Shire resumed in December last year, when Council, City of Greater Geelong, Borough of Queenscliff and Surf Coast Shire signed a new recycling contract with Cleanaway, following the earlier collapse of SKM Recycling.

Residents seeking information on what can and cannot go in their recycling bin can find a comprehensive list at thinkrecycle.com.au/a-to-z-guide/.

For more information, contact Susan Talpey, Golden Plains Shire 5220 7147 or email susan.talpey@gplains.vic.gov.au

New Community Grants Program

Media Release

Golden Plains Shire Council is excited to announce its revamped Community Grants Program.

After an extensive review and consultation on its existing program, Council will deliver two new programs: Community Strengthening Grants and Small Grants.

Community Strengthening Grants which will comprise of four categories:

- Healthy Active Living – to support recreation, sport, health and wellbeing projects
- Creative Community – to support arts and culture projects
- Environment and Sustainability – to support projects that improve the environment
- Community Safety – to support projects that equip communities to be safe and resilient

The Community Strengthening Grants will be available in two rounds each year, with funding of up to \$10,000 available. Community groups must match the amount of funding sought, either in cash or through in-kind contributions, such as volunteer work on the project.

The first round of Community Strengthening Grants for 2020 will open on 1 April 2020 and close on 30 April 2020. The second round for 2020 will open on 1 September 2020 and close 30 September 2020.

Small Grants of up to \$1,000 will be available to support events and youth projects. These grants have no requirement for matching funds, and will be available all year, subject to remaining funds. Small Grants will become available from 1 July 2020.

All applications for both grant programs must be submitted online at goldenplains.smartygrants.com.au.

Golden Plains Shire Mayor Cr Owen Sharkey says this exciting evolution of Council's Community Grants Program will make a real difference to local communities.

"Council's new Community Grants Program will make it easier for local groups across our Shire to access the grants and deliver valuable projects and events in their communities."

"Through expanding the Community Strengthening Grants to two rounds per year, and providing Small Grants all-year round, the new program will make it easier for groups to apply for funding at times that better suit them."

"The new community grants program is a direct result of Council's engagement with community groups and residents on how the program can work better for the community. Thank you to all residents and groups who took the time to share their valuable feedback."

Community groups wishing to find out more information on the new grants program, information sessions or to discuss an application, can contact Council's Community Partnership Officer at 5220 7220 or email communitygrants@gplains.vic.gov.au.



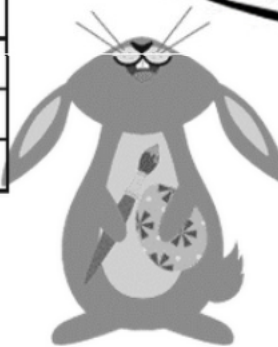
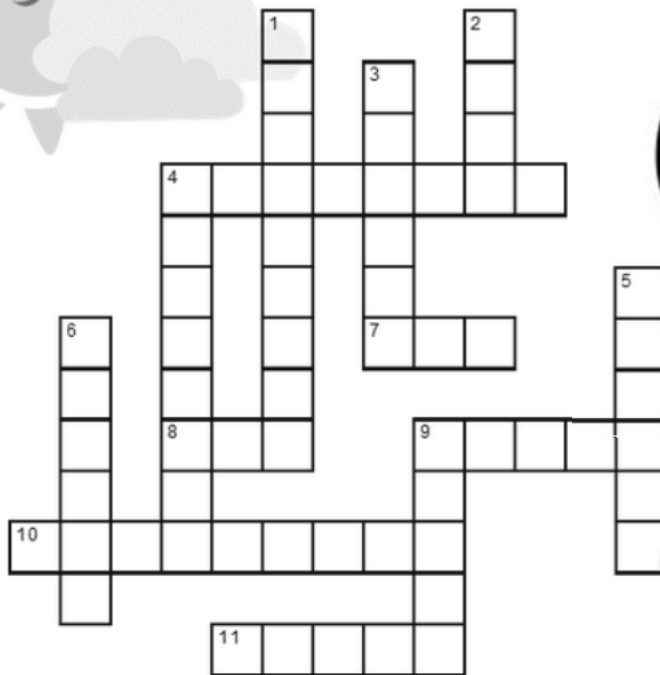
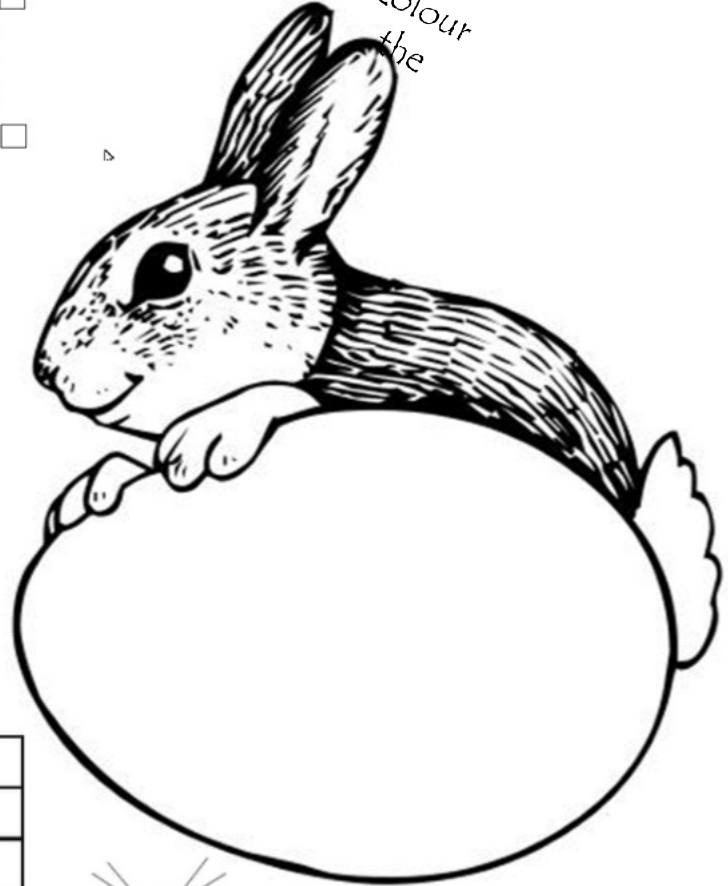
The Easter Puzzle Page

WORD SCRAMBLE

HOCCEALTO
 NFU
 LAODIFDF
 GEG
 TNHÜ
 ONTENB
 ASTERE
 YNÜBN
 ICCHK
 TSÄKEB

BASKET
CHICK
BUNNY
EASTER
BONNET
HUNT
EGG
DAFFODIL
FUN
CHOCOLATE

Colour
the



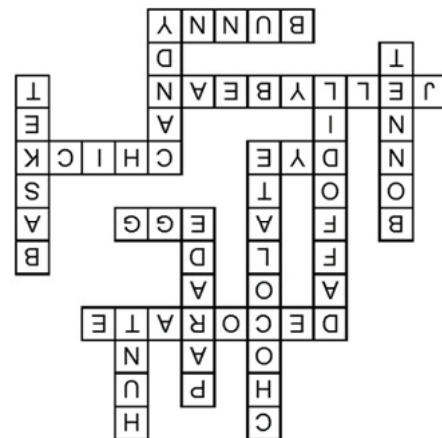
ACROSS

4. You might do this to eggs for Easter
7. A hen makes this
8. Used to color eggs
9. The hen's baby
10. Colorful candy you might find in an Easter basket
11. Peter Cottontail is one

(We're sorry about the Americanisms - it is the dominant culture!)

DOWN

1. Eggs might be made from this
2. Look for eggs
3. Easter Day event
4. Yellow or white spring flower that grows from a bulb
5. What the Easter Bunny brings
6. A pretty hat worn on Easter
9. Don't eat too much of this or you might get a belly ache



Golden Plains Festival #14

Marg Cooper

The 14th edition of Golden Plains took place at the Meredith Supernatural Amphitheatre over the March long-weekend. The weather couldn't have been more perfect for the music and camping festival, despite the already emerging cloud of COVID-19 making itself felt across the country.

Of special interest this year was a visit from members of the Meredith History Interest Group, who came out to inspect some of their handiwork at the decorated toilets and to catch the smoking ceremony and Welcome to Country performed by Wadawurrung Traditional Owners. For the last couple of years, History Interest Group members have been decorating some of the permanent composting toilets dotted around the campgrounds and amphitheatre at the festival site. This has included a 'Dinkum Dunnies of Meredith' themed toilet, which displays many of the outhouses still to be found around Meredith and surrounds, a 'Dunbar' themed toilet depicting some of the trials and tribulations of William Dunbar Johnstone, the rogue policeman who died in Meredith around 1855, and a 'Significant Trees of Meredith' themed toilet that drew from the exhibition the group held towards the end of last year.

At 1:15pm on the Saturday, after around 12,000 people had made their way through Reception and set up camp, the countdown clock displayed on the large screens reached zero, which signalled the beginning of the smoking ceremony. Led by Uncle Barry Gilson, the ceremony began with the traditional owners entering the amphitheatre from backstage, bearing a small fire in a carved wooden bowl. Two fires were then lit either side

of the amphitheatre, with cherry ballart used to generate the smoke.

As a sign of appreciation and in acknowledgement of their shared roles in caring for country, Uncle Barry invited members of the Meredith CFA to smoke themselves before the general public.

When given the word, several thousand attendees were then able to walk through the smoke, depositing eucalyptus leaves on the fires as they went.

The smoking ceremony was followed by a Welcome to Country, as the Wadawurrung crew took to the stage. Uncle Barry opened with a song and then spoke of growing up in Gordon with his parents and siblings. He explained that it wasn't until he was a little older that he learnt what it meant to be indigenous, but understood, even at a young age, that there was something special about being on country and the bond his family shared with each other. He called it 'black privilege', which brought a loud cheer from the assembled crowd.

His sister Tammy was given the microphone next, speaking of the pride she has in her heart from being a Wadawurrung woman, and the shared responsibility that everyone in attendance had for looking after country, both whilst at the festival and into the future. The ceremony concluded with Uncle Barry leading the crowd in a call and response of several Wadawurrung words that became progressively harder, most becoming tongue tied before breaking into smiles and laughter.

It was an amazing preamble to the opening ceremony, which featured Mary and Chris Nolan officially opening the festival with one of Chris' long-blinks as the crowd made as much noise as they could. Those with a keen eye noted that Chris was carrying with him a branch of cherry ballart that, it turned out, one of the Wadawurrung crew, Alicia, had given Chris backstage.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

February 2020

Moorabool North Wind Farm

Goldwind Australia are excited to announce the installation of the 50th and final turbine at Moorabool North wind farm.

Progress to date

- Installation of all 50 turbines complete
- Environmental reinstatement and rehabilitation commenced

Look ahead

- Movement of Cranes from site via Egan's Road, Manley's Road and Ballan Egerton Road
- Energisation of substation
- Handover of Ballan-Egerton Road to Moorabool Shire Council for maintenance
- Electrical and mechanical completion anticipated late April
- Ongoing pre-commissioning of turbines

Moorabool South Wind Farm

Progress to date

- Installation of tower sections completed at 29 turbine locations
- All access tracks, hardstands and substation complete
- Environmental reinstatement and rehabilitation work has commenced

Look ahead

- Continuation of turbine component deliveries from Wednesday 25th March
- Continuation of installation of turbines
- Energisation of substation
- Continued road maintenance, this is monitored weekly and repairs carried out as required

For Further Information about the project please visit www.mooraboolwindfarm.com, www.mwfttraffic.com or call 1800 019 660.

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

COVID-19 Update on Community Engagement

Goldwind Australia (GWA) is proactively monitoring the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and potential impacts on our staff and the local communities where we operate. As a result, GWA is taking the following actions in relation to our community engagement activities to proactively manage potential impacts.

Closure of Local Information Centres

The Ballan Information Centre at 120 Inglis Street, Ballan, will be closed to the public until further notice.

Minimising face-to face community engagement activities

GWA staff will continue to proactively share information and respond to enquiries regarding our projects, whilst minimising face to face engagement activities. The following communication mechanisms will be used:

- project website (including feedback form for questions)
- project 1800 number
- project email address, and
- scheduled phone or skype meetings.

Community Fund Update

Moorabool wind farm are pleased to introduce the Guidelines for Moorabool Wind Farm Community Fund. They are available to download from the Moorabool wind farm website.

Round 1 of \$125,000 will open on 1st May 2020 (applications must be submitted by the 18th June at 3pm). Applications will only be accepted via the website using SmartyGrants.

Information Sessions will be held at 120 Inglis Street, Ballan on:

- 27th April 2020, 5.30pm - 8pm
- 28th April 2020, 9.30am - 12pm

Bookings are NOW OPEN and ESSENTIAL for these sessions through Eventbrite via the link: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/85589547641

Or by searching the Eventbrite website for Moorabool wind farm: www.eventbrite.com.au



NOTE: Due to the current social distancing requirements, the information sessions may run via Webinar. Details will be provided closer to the date.

For Further Information about the project please visit
www.mooraboolwindfarm.com, www.mwftraffic.com or call 1800 019 660.

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...to all our lovely readers
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Everyone!

