

Our FREE Community Newsletter since 1972

Meredith & district News

JUNE 2020

inside

- Paddocks Group Hits a Wall
- Meet our new Policeman
- A Chat with a Cat
- Youth Photo Comp.

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



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



We SWING into Winter!



Meredith & district NEWS



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, Ian Penna, Pam Ridd, Sue Higgs and Alex Hyatt. 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

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advertising@meredithnews.com.au
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accounts@meredithnews.com.au
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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We do not publish children's photos online.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

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5286 1291

ANGLING CLUB
0419 248 660

B'BURN ART
GROUP
0410 808 483

BLUE LIGHT DISCO
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BOOK CLUB
5286 8201

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000 for fire calls
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Meredith
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Morrisons
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CHILDCARE
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COMMUNITY
CENTRE
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Junior(U16,U14,13)
0448 291074
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5286 1434

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SEW N' SEWS
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(from mobile phone)	000 or 112
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Mental Health Advice	1300 280 737
Poisons Information	13 11 26
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SES Emergency -	
flood & storm	132 500
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24 Hour Drug &	
Alcohol Counselling	1800 888 236
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24hr 5-18yo	1800 551 800
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	0409 830 223
Bannockburn Vet	5281 1221
Golden Plains Vet	5281 2226
Golden Plains Equine	5292 2151

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Mr Paul Ryan Elaine	0409 861 296

services

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5286 1550	HEALTH
HALL HIRE	5220 7230
Meredith Memorial	PRE-SCHOOL
5286 1545	5286 0722
Elaine Mechanics	PRIMARY SCHOOL
5341 5596	5286 1313
Elaine Rec Res	RECREATION
5341 5703	RESERVE
LIBRARY VAN	0429 841399
5272 6010	

..or start something.

If you have a special interest you would like to share with like minded people, let us know and we will help you get it started.

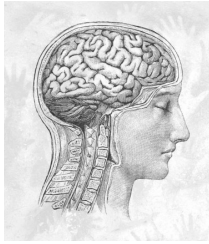


"The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom."

—Isaac Asimov.



We like you...please like us!



Mysteries of the Brain

While sitting on a kitchen chair, lift your right foot off the floor and make clockwise circles.

Now, while doing this, draw the number six in the air with your right hand. Your foot will change direction.

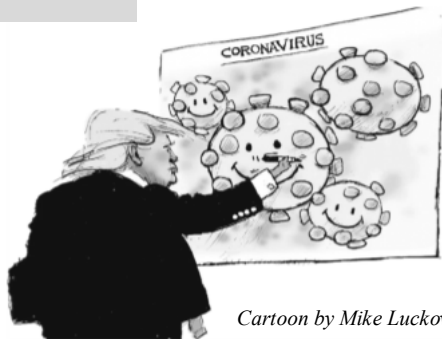


Laugh

...and the woman behind the counter said, "That'll be two pounds." "And how about that one over there?" I said, pointing at another cake on the shelf. "That one's four pounds," the woman said. "But," I said, "it looks like the same cake as the first one. How can it be twice the price?" And she said, "Oh, that's madeira cake."

(from "Big Sky" by Kate Atkinson)

And don't forget, if you have any groaners like this one, stories to tell or photos you are pleased with, then send them in to news@meredithnews.com.au.



Cartoon by Mike Luckovich.

Editorial

Tens of thousands of Australians recently learned they are losing their local newspapers, because they don't produce sufficient profit for their owners.

This led to a number of commentaries around the importance of local newspapers; reporting what doesn't get reported in the large dailies: local people, local events, even the obituaries, which give us all a glimpse of a life lived in times now passed.

Only local newspapers talk about the places we live and the people we live amongst, giving us a shared sense of place and belonging.

Our newsletter is a not-for-profit operation run by volunteers, with a large array of talented content providers who also work for no fee. And yet, we are still vulnerable. The recent downturn in business activity that continues to hurt many businesses has a flow on to our advertising revenue. It is this revenue that pays for the cost of printing.

The committee (more volunteers) that oversees the newsletter operation, is conscious of this. But it also recognises the pressure on our advertisers, many of whom have supported us for years and even decades. This is why it has committed to discounting the cost of most ads during this time. We will lose money, but will hopefully make a small contribution to our local traders. - Ed.

Speaking of local newspapers, you may have tapped into Ricky Gervais' funny/awkward (of course) series "After Life" on Netflix. There is much to recommend this excellent show, albeit over seasoned with swearing. One of the threads is Gervais' character moving from ridiculing the local newspaper he works for, to recognising the importance it holds for the community it serves.



A certain northern hemisphere President, who is renowned for being much admired (by himself!) is reputed to have said:

when confined to home because of lockdowns, he bragged at a press conference that he completed a jigsaw in one week when the box said 2 to 4 Years".

...and this...

"Nothing is made in America any more. I saw a television set with the sticker saying "Built in Antenna". I don't even know where Antenna is!"

THIS MONTH...

...you will read Wendy's terrific account of baby spider behaviour, in this time of *everyone's baking*, a highly amusing account of Gemma vs. the kitchen, Marg's brush with fame when "Who Do You Think You Are" came to town, Kerry and Amanda's conclusion to their piece on the very talented Colin Smithyman as well as another instalment from Graham on how to become a cryptic crossworder.





Community



Meredith **Community** Centre
working for our community

On behalf of the Staff and Committee we would like to thank everyone for their understanding and patience during these times

Your kind words are greatly appreciated as we are dedicated to keeping our community as safe as possible.

We are still available, and whilst we may not be able to have you in the Community Centre, we can still be contacted via other means should you need assistance.

You can give Leah a call on
0491 184 999 or email

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www.meredithcommunitycentre.com.au

learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au

www.facebook.com/MeredithCommunityCentre

4 Russell St. Meredith Vic. 3333 Ph. 5286 0700

Opening hours: Monday - Thursday 9am to 3pm - Friday Closed

Our Cover

It's not like our usual *start of winter* covers, but Kerry Thomson's photo, taken several weeks ago, of Colin Smithyman relaxing in front of his charming Steiglitz home, has a welcome warmth to it. The second part of Kerry's and Amanda Hyatt's story of Colin the Creative, is on page 14



Share your favourite pics with us. Contact details are on page 2.

Occasional Care

Our childcare service is still operating on limited hours alternating with the Kinder with educators checking in children at the car to avoid people entering the Centre.

Please call Jo or Leah to confirm sessions available.



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

Church News



As at the 1st June, The Victorian Department of Health and Human Services advises:

- Places of worship can open for private worship or small religious ceremonies for up to 20 people in a single undivided indoor space, subject to the four square metre rule plus the minimum number of people reasonably required to perform the service or ceremony.
- 20 people in addition to the celebrant and couple being married can attend a wedding. If a wedding is held in a home, a maximum of 20 people is allowed, including the celebrant and the couple.

50 people can attend a funeral in addition to the officiant and funeral staff, subject to the four square metre rule. If a funeral is held in a home, a maximum of 20 people can be present (including the officiant and funeral staff).

Source: www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/religion-and-ceremony-restrictions-covid-19

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Rev. Glen Wesley : 0429 146 566
Serbian Orthodox 5341 5568
Uniting Church 0409285182



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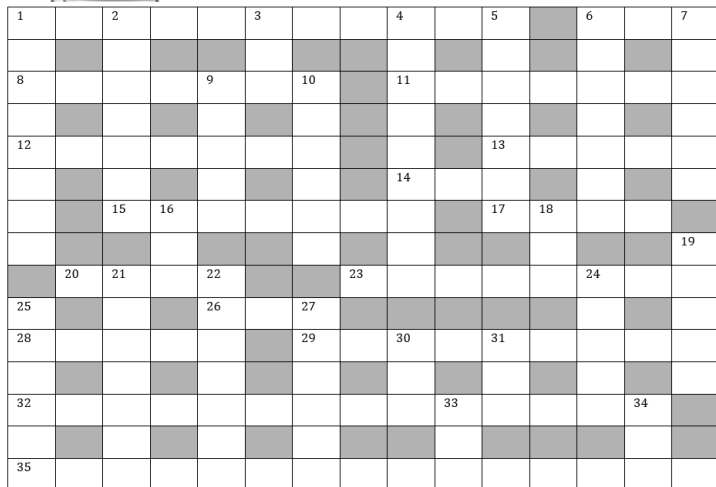
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Let's not have cross words.

Regular font: the definition. *Italics* cryptic support.**ACROSS**

- 1 Golden Plains town with a Saturday Market showing historic hallmark of Scottish independence (11)
 6 Communist Chairman's rejected award given to Stephen Higgs, resident of She Oaks (3)
 8 Cooking show celebrity _____ Lawson, the Queen of Jazz, wanting gin sling aperitif (7)
 11 Dagwood Bumstead's boss, Mr J.C. _____ wavers in uncertainty (7)
 12 Lady at Ladies Day from rural locality east of the Moorabool (3,4)
 13 De Minaur contributed mostly to the Bunjil's Lookout locality (5)
 14 A somewhat loud football commentator, "The Lip", _____ Richards (3)
 15 Dip approx. 4 parts mush in 3 parts saki for Japanese dish (7)
 17 Preserve central tower of castle at Anakie Fairy Park (4)
 20 Check the peduncle (4)
 23 Odd number in personal assistant's partial shadow (8)
 26 Strange parcel of food drop (3)
 28 Hearing the rain, as a rule (5)
 29 Sat on eggs in brewery near Jim Elvey (9)
 32 Copper path with large plants in Meredith's recent historical project (6,8)
 35 Dame Joan hearing unpleasant noise coming from tributary of the Moorabool River (10,5)

DOWN

- 1 Depends on best dollars to get wildflowers sold by John Tantau, Stall Holder of the Month at Iac. (8)
 2 Boot polish's lumps of gold like the Welcome Stranger (7)
 3 Rock 'n roller _____ Joye? Pass! (3)
 4 Highlight where a sleeper lies? (9)
 5 Nap time cut short by British in town near Mt Arapiles (7)
 6 Work something to excess. E.g. Six balls Sue juggled (7)
 7 Guru maths and science teacher educating raw beginners (6)
 9 Guides to deposits of gold-bearing gravel along the course of an old river (5)
 10 Tom _____ pioneer of Barwon Downs, also in ownership of a Moorabool vineyard? (6)
 16 Hail dropped in part of Laverton (3)
 18 Timber used for furniture and bedlamp seconds (3)
 19 Descriptor of soil type at She Oaks where mining proposal has been rejected and put in the safety box (5)
 21 Tour allowed to see spectacular falls near Beech Forest (7)
 22 One has clean part of glass for one eye (7)
 24 Brightly coloured design, one of the arts, voiced sign of approval (5)
 25 Fodder crop planted in Geelong's environment – lots are harvested in the Moorabool Valley (6)
 27 Eject dis-discredited cardinal at hearing (6)
 30 Cur of the decade dropping the virgin of 19 dn. (3)
 31 Hoot, just one from the boobook owl (3)
 33 Steele Rudd's characters _____ and Dave on our selection of bad adversity (3)
 34 Seat of the bishop of Carpentaria reporting its capital (3)

The Ploys

Cryptic setters use several ploys and Graham will explain one each month. Or you can find them all online at meredithnews.com.au/extras.

Ploy 2. ADDITIONS AND SUBTRACTIONS

Clues consist of parts added together. E.g. Clue: Credit is doubled in time of real trouble (6) Solution: Crisis. (Cr=credit abbreviated+is+is) Also clues, part of which is to be subtracted: E.g. Clue: Stylish little bird with no tail (4) Solution: Chic (Chick minus tail letter k). Indicators for subtractions: No tail, headless, without limits (i.e. minus first and last letters), off, lost, missing...

These are this month's clues using Ploy No.2. Ac: 8, 12, 15, 29, 32, 35 Dn: 1, 7, 21, 22, 24, 27

the Solution

Ac. 1. Bannockburn 6. OAM 8. Nigella 11. Dithers 12. She Oaks 13. Maude 14. Lou 15. Sashimi 17. Keep 20. Stem 23. Penumbra 26. Odd 28. Reign 29. Incubated 32. Police Paddocks 35. Sutherland Creek
 Dn. 1. Banksias 2. Nuggets 3. Col 4. Underline 5. Natinuk 6. Overuse 7. Master 9. Leads 10. Austin 16. Ave 18. Elm 19. Sandy 21. Triplet 22. Monocle 24. Batik 25. Grapes 27. Dispel 30. Cad 31. Boo 33. Dad 34. See

**Waterhole group sessions available****Sun 14th June, Sun 12th July****10am—12.00 noon****\$20.00 per person - bookings essential**

Waterhole group sessions offer an opportunity to connect with the horses and engage in mindfulness and relaxation exercises. Morning tea included.

Please refer to our website or Facebook page for more information and booking details.

www.h2hequinetherapy.com.au

<https://www.facebook.com/Heart-to-Heart-Equine-Assisted-Therapy-1551920938188627/>

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Pete Goat

There have been lots of good online versions of live performances which had to be cancelled and some have been able to support the artists and production companies.

I've listened to a lot of podcasts on ABC Radio National via the RN listen app during the lockdown and today I heard one which I would urge anyone who can to find and hear.

The programme was The Art Show hosted by Namila Benson Wednesday 27th May, and the entire show was Nyoonga artist Sandra Hill telling her story: Art and Reconciliation.

This is Reconciliation Week and this programme is one of the most moving and descriptive pieces of unscripted drama I have ever experienced. Please try to listen to it, it tells so much.

Steve Goat

Three years ago when Pete and I spoke about contributing to the Meredith News, our brief was to correspond about the Cultural events and happenings around us. We've written of theatre, music, history, art and the Australian culture in its many forms. But these days these sorts of events and exhibitions have effectively dried up. The lockdown and response has meant the creative venues and spaces are shut. Congratulations are in order to each of us for our willingness to comply with the health measures.

Our governments have taken the Keynesian approach with stimulus and replacement employee payments. Surely debt is a better outcome than large casualties. Australia has had a very good health outcome, although some vulnerable people have passed away. But nothing like what we have

seen in other rich and poor countries.

Last week, the Federal Government has hugely miscalculated the size of the support they were budgeting for. The largest single error ever made by the Treasury. \$60,000,000,000! At the same time we see the Government support is not going to casual, tertiary and arts workers. These people who have missed out on any help, work is that important part of the economy that makes our culture. The Universities help us discover who we are, the arts and music entertained and sustain us through life and the hospitality industry feeds and serves us in our daily pursuits.

Now, as things are slowly easing, it will take a long time for each of us to get back to "normal". It will be a new normal, hard for many. But extremely difficult in these areas. How are these people managing, having lost months of income?

Now the Government has this unexpected capacity (the Sixty Billion Dollars). They must turn their heads towards culture and the Arts, and not just bring everything down to economics. We are more than production units and workers. It is our culture that makes life worth living. English PM, Margaret Thatcher infamously said there was no such thing as society, only the economy. She was wrong.

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COVID 19

During these times our practice opening hours vary significantly. Please phone the clinic or book online for all available appointments.

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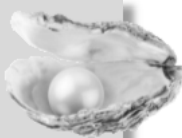
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little
GEMS



Practice Makes Imperfect

With the extra time that we have spent at home the last few months, you might have discovered things about yourself. Things such as a new hobby, a rekindled love of reading, a green thumb, or an unwelcome talent for cleaning the soap scum off the shower screen.

Sometimes discovering things about yourself may just be a matter of remembering something that you had forgotten was once in your talent repertoire. Or talentless repertoire, as it may transpire.

I'm sure I have written here in the past of my inability to bake. Of my absolutely shocking history of taking recipes containing the word 'simple' and transforming them into floury glue rocks.

But in case I have not (or you missed it): I'm a terrible baker.

I'm not sure this was always the case. I distinctly remember procrastinating heavily in my first years of university by perfecting the cupcake. I remember my family's delight at finding freshly baked goods on their arrival home after busy days at work, while I finally had managed to settle in to write an essay.

But somewhere along the line, I went in a baking hiatus and became inept. Perhaps when I graduated and no longer felt the need to procrastinate?

My husband will tell you it's because I've inherited a need to make everything healthy. That even though the recipe calls for sugar, I will try to use rice malt syrup or the latest mix of Stevia and fruit sweetener. Or that I mess with the delicate chemistry that in fact makes cooking a science by realising I forgot to buy eggs and instead try to make one out of chia seeds and water (it's a thing!).

However, even when I do follow a recipe to the T, it still doesn't seem to work. I've sought help in various places. From online forums to my nanna, who used to insist all my problems stemmed from being too vigorous with the mixing spoon. But whatever the cause, I have not been able to amend the situation.

Despite this lack of skill, I have not let this stop me from trying. In the last few months I have attempted banana bread, strawberry and coconut muffins, banana bread muffins and some kind of cookie that came out a disturbing shade of charred which I unfortunately could not salvage. I even out-clichéd myself by producing scones which would better have served as some kind of projectile weapon.

I have tried mixing gently, mixing less, using the right ingredients (for the most part) and following my husband's instructions as he stood over my shoulder to see exactly how I manage to go wrong. But alas, it seems to be ingrained in my aura.

Even though I've invested my time in a hobby that fails without fail every time, I hope that what you have discovered or rediscovered has brought you joy in these times. That joy may have derived from bewilderment, but at least you can say you tried.

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Last month, Kerry and Amanda introduced us to Colin Smithyman, "...a true 'creative artisan' whose talent and legacy is evident in numerous and unexpected places. " This month we learn a little more of this multi-faceted creative. - Ed.

When he still lived in England Colin always wanted a little place in the country and Australia gave him the opportunity to subconsciously follow this direction. At one stage he lived in North Geelong and his neighbours took him on a picnic to Steiglitz where there was an old, gold-field house. In England it would have been used as a gallery but here it was shuttered with tin, rotten and wrecked. Six or so years later Colin purchased this same building and began the restoration process. Using old techniques he rebuilt as close to the original as possible: replacing the floor, windows and slate roof as well as numerous jobs within the house - developing his skills along the way.

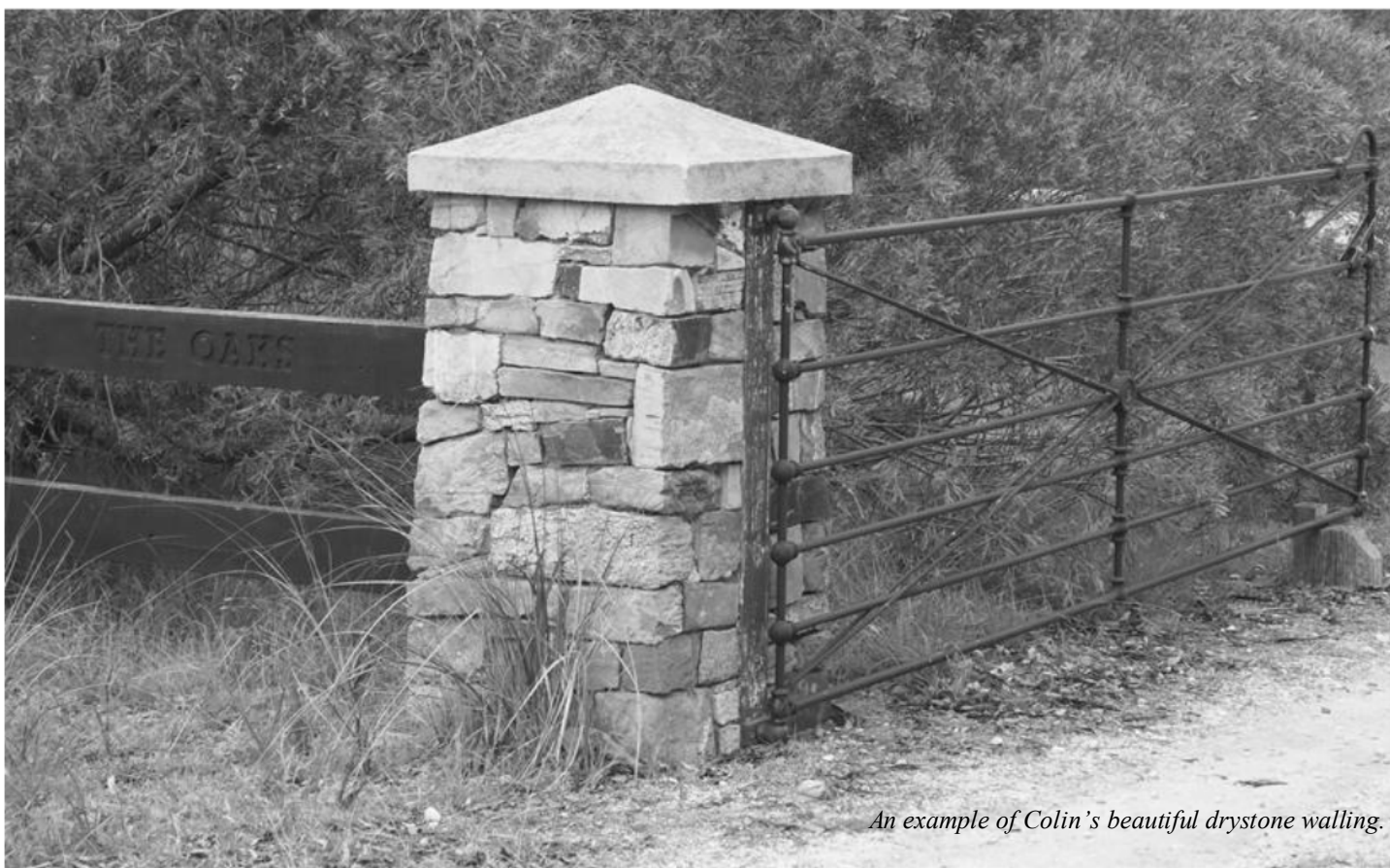
As a profession, Colin trained as a pattern and model maker. This is now deemed an 'old craft' as the patterns were carved in wood which were then used as the model for testing. Colin worked for Ford in Geelong and his first model here was to carve a badge for the Fairlane car five times it's normal size. Other recognizable features he carved were models for steering wheels, hand grips, pipes and numerous other bits and pieces. Another example of the process was he carved a radiator grill in wood which then had a rubber mould taken and up to 20 casts made in

different materials (eg in epoxy resin or ground aluminium) then submitted for testing. Huon pine used to be used which was beautiful to carve, held a sharp edge and, when seasoned properly, lasted forever. This trade required the ability to read complex technical drawings and translate them into wood with an incredible degree of accuracy (up to 1000th of an inch). Computers have since taken over this job so now pattern-making is virtually obsolete. Colin had loved and took great pride in this work.

With the onset of computers Colin lost his job but continued to put his skills to work in other ways. One job was to carve a wooden prototype for the Charity Guide Dog seen outside supermarkets. He used a lathe for industrial wood carving but hand made children's toys. Parks Victoria employed Colin to rebuild bridges, make picnic tables and seats, and he applied his knowledge to restoration work of many of the buildings in Steiglitz. He has repaired slate roofs, cast iron work on the courthouse and painted and maintained the church. Colin also developed landscaping skills and taught himself how to build dry stone walls. Patching and repairing retaining walls is an on-going task. He helped build the BBQ shelter at Bunjil Lookout and did all the stone floor (but not the actual design) at the Turtle Bend performance space in Teesdale.

Colin doesn't like labels but he could be called an outdoor craftsman who does things because he enjoys them. He never gets depressed because he has a bank of good thoughts on which to draw. He has no debt and has always advocated living within your means and love life, be prepared to have a go and results will follow. Motivation comes from life and all that's around him and he says that "My main work of art is my life - my life is my art".

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



An example of Colin's beautiful drystone walling.

A.D.F.

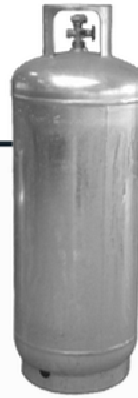
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The Things We Say

Gemma Hanan

Egg Someone On

Whether young or old, we've all either egged someone on or been egged on to do something silly that comes with the cost of sacrificing one's pride. A variant of 'edge on', 'egg on' came about due to both words being derived from the Old Norse word 'eddja'. Today, egg has stuck despite having nothing really to do with eggs (unless the unwise task requires one). Unfortunately, with the general populace's proclivity for filming public spectacles, the results of someone permitting themselves to be egged on is often captured – much to the delight of family and friends who didn't see the original act.

Grading Calendar Now Online A New Policeman

Media Release

The Golden Plains Shire Council's road grading calendar is now online, making it easier for residents to find out when the graders will be completing routine maintenance on their local roads.

At its July 2019 Ordinary Meeting, Council adopted an Unsealed Roads Charter that committed to grading the Shire's 714km unsealed Council road network and maintaining every unsealed road to an agreed standard. Since then, Council has created a grading calendar that maps out the grading maintenance schedule for these roads from March to November each year. As part of the Charter, Council committed to making this schedule online and accessible to the public.

From today, residents can go to Council's website and see when Council's graders will be in which areas of the Shire. To view which streets are scheduled to be graded each week, residents can click on each calendar entry.

Council is currently developing the schedule for the 2020/21 financial year, and the online calendar will be updated past June 2020 once it has been finalised. The online road grading calendar can be found at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/road-events/calendar/month.

Residents with further questions about when an unsealed road will be graded, or who wish to report a road maintenance issue, are encouraged to contact Council's Customer Service team on 5220 7111 or submit a request through Council's online Customer Service Portal at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/forms/portal.

If Council receives a request that an unsealed road requires maintenance due to perceived poor conditions, Council's Works Inspector will conduct an inspection on the road in line with the Charter's intervention levels. If intervention levels have been exceeded, maintenance will be undertaken within 30 days of the road being inspected. At inspection, if the road rates better than the committed level of intervention, it keeps its place on the calendar and the grading team will return to work on the road as scheduled.

Golden Plains Shire Mayor Cr Owen Sharkey says that the new online grading calendar will help residents get easy answers to their road grading questions.

"The unsealed road network managed by Council is more than 700 kilometres, and with a growing population, more people than ever are using it to travel around the Shire. That's why Council last year introduced a new scheduling system for grading unsealed roads that is better, more efficient and fairer for road users across the Shire.

"The aim of the grading schedule is to answer one of the most common questions Councillors and our Customer Service team hear: 'when will our road be graded?'. The online calendar will help provide our residents with that answer and assurance of when each road will be graded."

Released by: Eric Braslis, CEO, Golden Plains Shire Council
Media contact: Susan Talpey, Coordinator Communications, Engagement and Advocacy, Golden Plains Shire Council P. 5220 7147 | M. 0421 923 399
| E. susan.talpey@gplains.vic.gov.au

Marg Cooper

Leading Senior Constable Craig Malthouse grew up in Altona and never thought of becoming a policeman until he met a man who was dating his cousin - and that man happened to be a policeman. Although Craig had a job in the Accounting Department of an Insurance company, he filled out the forms to join the Police Force the day after the meeting with his cousin and her friend.

Two weeks after submitting the forms he sat a written examination on the Saturday, had a physical examination on the Sunday and started at the Academy on the Monday. He remembers that in 1989 there were 60 cadets starting at the Police Academy every fortnight.

Craig was appointed to Port Melbourne, then Burwood and then spent 14 or so years policing in the Western Suburbs of Melbourne, before being appointed to Bannockburn. He is now familiar with the area around Bannockburn but needs to get to know north and west of Meredith. He is happy to be in a station on his own even though it is a 24 hour station, which means that he is always on duty. Because Meredith is part of a cluster of stations including Bannockburn, Inverleigh and Meredith there is plenty of support.

The first case he had to deal with in Meredith was to recover a stolen gate for Myrtle Wiseman. The old 12 foot Sunshine McKay gate was taken from Hendersons Road on March 29. Myrtle wondered why anyone would steal a gate that she estimates was over 70 years old, had had chicken wire tied onto it to keep the lambs in and was rusted and bent. It held sentimental value because her late husband would have toiled with a shovel and crowbar to erect the gate when he first bought the property. After seeing it for sale on the internet, then a raid of a house in Geelong, the gate was returned to a very thrilled Myrtle.

Craig says policing has changed over the years. Policemen now wear a vest which seems to contain everything and weighs 10 or 11 kgs. At the moment there are far fewer cars on the road as everyone needs to be aware of social distancing and staying at home more.

Craig wants to get to know the people of Meredith and is looking forward to becoming involved in Meredith organizations. He can be contacted on 52 861222 or email craig.malthouse@police.vic.gov.au.





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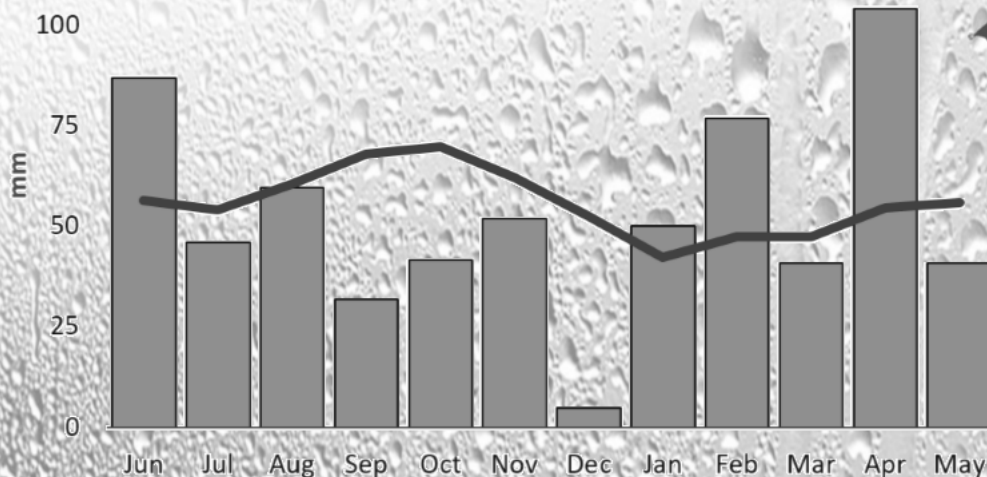
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the rain report

May's 40.8mm is only 73% of the month's long-term average rainfall (and only 30% of last year's May rainfall). But it is not all bad news, as autumn's 186mm was 18% over the season's LTA.





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Above the valley, green with the canopies of eucalyptus trees, long white silken threads drift with the breeze. White butterflies visit the creamy flowers of ironbarks, then spiral upwards and back down towards the leaves. Wattlebirds and honeyeaters dart the short distances between trees, feeding on nectar and insects. A family of white-winged choughs, large black birds with red eyes and curved beaks, whistle to each other as they feed on the ground. The threads drift past, many hanging vertically. Some snag on the silvery limbs of long-dead bushfire-ravaged trees, while others continue to float above the branches and off into the distance. On each strand of silk is a tiny spiderling, or baby spider, on the biggest journey of its life, to find its own home.

Baby spiders start their lives inside a shiny, round egg full of yolk. Their mother wraps her newly-laid eggs in layers of silk to form a protective egg sac, which is often round and white, but may be disc-shaped or coloured pale green, brown, yellow or pink. The egg sac prevents her eggs from drying out, overheating, becoming too wet or being eaten. Despite this protection, she must still be vigilant, as there are other dangers. Some species of wasps have a long egg-laying tube on their abdomen, which enables them to inject their eggs into a spider's egg sac. After hatching, the baby wasps feed on the spider's eggs. Depending on the lifestyle of her species, the mother spider will place her egg sac in her web or her burrow, under bark or hide it among leaves. Some spiders make a few egg sacs and leave them, hoping that one will have surviving young. Many female spiders guard their egg sacs. Jumping spider males help with this duty. Wolf spiders and huntsman spiders carry their egg sacs, even while hunting. Other spiders seal themselves and their egg sac inside a silk-lined chamber, until the babies hatch.

Spiderlings, emerge from their eggs as miniature versions of their parents. They moult for the first time while still inside the protection of their egg sac. Moulting is a dangerous time for spiders, but a necessary part of growing. After climbing out of their old skin, they are vulnerable for a few hours, while the new skin is pumped full of fluid to enlarge it, before it hardens. Spiderlings cut their way out of the egg sac, possibly using enzymes that digest silk. Sometimes their mother helps, before leaving her babies to fend for themselves. Mother wolf spiders carry their young on their abdomens until the spiderlings moult again.

Families of spiderlings stay together for a few days, or even weeks. During this time, the last of the yolk from their eggs, which is in their stomachs, provides them with energy. Once this food has been used up, young spiders need to disperse, so that they are not competing with each other. Leaving the family group also reduces the chance of being eaten by a sibling. Some spiderlings simply walk away, especially if they hunt on the ground or live in burrows, but others have means of dispersing over longer


distances.

Some spiders leave their siblings by bridging. They climb a shrub or a tree, then spin a line of silk from the spinnerets on their abdomen. This line can wrap around a branch of another tree, sometimes with assistance from the wind, creating a bridge for the spider to cross. It can use this method to move through several trees until it finds a suitable place to live.

Another technique for dispersal, used by the spiderlings above the valley, is known as ballooning. To start its flight, a spiderling climbs up a blade of grass or into a tree. Once it arrives at a convenient place, it reaches out with its front legs to test the wind speed. If conditions are suitable, it raises its abdomen and releases lines of silk until the pull of the wind drags it into the air. The research of some scientists has shown that the pull of the Earth's electrical field may also be involved in the spiderlings' flight.

Once they are aloft, the spiderlings drift where the breeze takes them. When its thread of silk catches on something, a spiderling needs to act quickly to survive. Those tangled in the silvery branches of the valley will find a crack in the wood, or a piece of bark to hide under to avoid being eaten by birds, spiders or other predators. Others continue their journey. Many land in a paddock, their lines of silk tangling in the grass and shining in the sun, creating a shimmering effect. While many ballooning spiderlings travel only a short distance from their starting point or perhaps a few kilometres, in some conditions they can be found high in the sky or far out to sea. In this way, spiders can colonise new islands. Who knows where the last of spiderlings flying above the valley will land? Some may even travel as far as New Zealand.





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from the MAYOR

Cr Owen Sharkey
Mayor, Golden Plains Shire



There's no doubt, it's a tough time for many people and it's heartening to see our communities embody the very best of what we love about living here in Golden Plains Shire.

At the end of May, Council and the community celebrated National Volunteer Week. While COVID-19 restrictions prevented us from marking the occasion in person, Council acknowledged the outstanding contributions of its volunteers online throughout the week. We were also thrilled to hear that Bannockburn local Scott Cooper was named a National Ambassador for his outstanding volunteer commitment.

The theme for Volunteer Week 2020 was Changing Communities, Changing Lives, in recognition that volunteering has an impact on the entire community, and not just individuals. From volunteers running grassroots sports clubs to those who provide important services to the elderly and vulnerable, volunteering is part of the fabric which holds our communities together. With COVID-19 disrupting everyday life, volunteering has never been more important than now.

Council's 179 volunteers assist with providing some of Council's most vital services, such as delivered meals, social support groups for the elderly or those with disabilities, community transport and community planning.

Whether you volunteer with Council, your local church or sporting group, thank you for the invaluable contribution you make to making Golden Plains Shire an even better place to live.

Covid 19 Arrangements

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Golden Plains Shire Council has implemented a number of changes to its operations to reduce the risks to residents, staff and volunteers.

Council's Bannockburn, Linton and Smythesdale Customer Service Centres are closed for face-to-face interactions. Customers are still able to contact the Customer Service team by:

Phone: 5220 7111

Email: enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au

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

In line with the Victorian Government's easing of some restrictions, Golden Plains Shire Council is progressively re-opening a number of popular outdoor recreational facilities. These include tennis courts, outdoor equestrian centres, playgrounds, skate parks and bike parks. Please continue to follow the Government's restrictions and social distancing to keep you and your community safe.

This information is current as of 25 May 2020. For up-to-date information on the status of Council's services and events, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/coronavirus or call

Customer Service at 5220 7111.

To allow for greater social distancing, all Ordinary Meetings of Council will be held in the new Council Chamber at the Golden Plains Civic Centre, Pope Street, Bannockburn, until further notice.

In addition, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and in line with new guidelines from the Victorian Government, all Ordinary Meetings of Council will no longer be open to members of the public, until further notice. The meetings will be attended by Councillors and essential staff members with social distancing and hygiene requirements in place.

The meetings can be viewed online via the livestream on Council's YouTube page. The new Council Chamber will provide a better quality livestreaming experience for residents tuning in from home and the link to the livestream will be posted on the day of the meeting on Council's social media and website: goldenplains.vic.gov.au

A written summary of the decisions made at the meeting is made available the day following every Council Meeting on Council's website: goldenplains.vic.gov.au. Minutes of each Council meeting are also available to the public and posted on Council's website shortly after each Council meeting.



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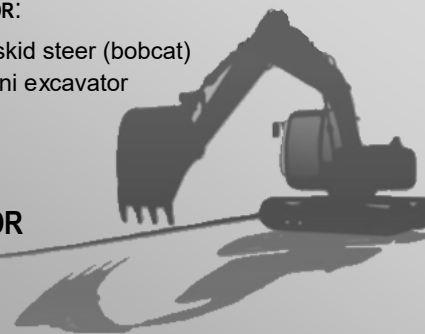
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Steve Duffy

Rhubarb, Rhubarb, Rhubarb.....

This expression is one that has become part of the English language, it means gobbledygook, or mumbo jumbo. Both interesting terms in themselves. Maybe nonsense is a clearer meaning. Eric Sykes and Jimmy Edwards, two old English comedians used many examples of "Rhubarb, rhubarb..." a lot in their early TV work.

But the red stalks sticking up in my garden are to be taken seriously. A handsome clump of deep red stalks and huge elephant ear leaves. Maybe even with tall flowering heads poking up to a metre high. And a fine thing is rhubarb. Sensational tangy flavour that can be used for both savoury and sweet cooking. Note: DO NOT EAT THE LEAVES. These leaves are quite poisonous and must not be eaten.

Just the celery-like stalks are used. Usually cut into 1 to 2 cm pieces. Washed and quickly cooked with a tiny amount of water and a little sugar. Ready in a couple of minutes; they shed a lot of liquid so go sparingly with the water. A delicious tasty compote that goes wonderfully with plain yoghurt. If you like stewed fruit, this is for you.

Here's some other dishes to use this winter winner:

Rhubarb Cakelouts

A quick and easy French egg batter flan. Simply a batter of egg, milk, cream, sugar and a little flour, whipped together and turned into a cake tin or pan that has been buttered. For this you only need to heat the chopped rhubarb and sprinkle over the batter, Cook for. 25/30 minutes in a medium oven.

Rhubarb Jam

This one is so easy, quick jam making with a zesty tang, add some lemon ring. Mmm

Rhubarb Dressing

Quickly sweat the rhubarb (i.e heat it until it starts to sweat) in 3 tablespoons of water and a teaspoon of honey. Remove the rhubarb and allow the honey liquid to cool. Use this liquid with vinegar and olive oil as the salad dressing. With the rhubarb this is good over fresh rocket or bitter lettuce. Season well.

And none of your rhubarb, rhubarb.....

Good eating - Steve



Police Paddocks Facilities Under Threat.

Jim Elvey

The Meredith Police Paddocks Support Group has been advised it cannot continue its work improving facilities at the Paddocks for community enjoyment. It cannot even promote the walking tracks for community use.

The Group, comprising local and interested volunteers, was formed in 2007 at a Public Meeting convened by the then Department of Sustainability and Environment. At that same meeting, the Ballarat Environment Network (BEN) was accepted as the Department's appointed managers on the understanding that BEN would collaborate with the community group to improve the site consistent with its status as a Reservation for Conservation and Recreation.

Since then, Group members have worked hard developing plans and raising funds to make the site more accessible and enjoyable to visit. This has included the construction and maintenance of an extensive network of tracks and paths, interpretive signage based on original research and expert input, as well as a picnic table and several seats to enhance visitor enjoyment of this beautiful natural site right on our doorstep.

Early last year the Group sought BEN's consent to raise funds for the installation of small creek crossings to further improve visitor access and to make safer, volunteers' use of the heavy duty mower used for track maintenance. Not only was this request declined but BEN, acting on legal advice, directed the Group to install no further infrastructure, or promote the existing pathway network for visitor use.

Since this advice, in an endeavour to find a means of continuing its work on behalf of the community, the Group has met with representatives of the Shire of Golden Plains, the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) as well as the Member for Buninyong, Michaela Settle. We have unsuccessfully tried to discuss the matter with BEN, which has now decisively withdrawn from any negotiations. As a result, unless we undertake maintenance work only, we appear be faced with only two options

1. a change of management arrangements more compatible with the community aspirations expressed at the public meeting, or
2. our Group is dismantled, leading to the loss or deterioration of existing tracks and facilities, and a cessation of any further improvements to foster community participation.

We have sought a further meeting with DELWP to pursue the matter. If you would like any further information regarding this or any other issue concerning the Paddocks, please contact Jim Elvey on 5286 1273

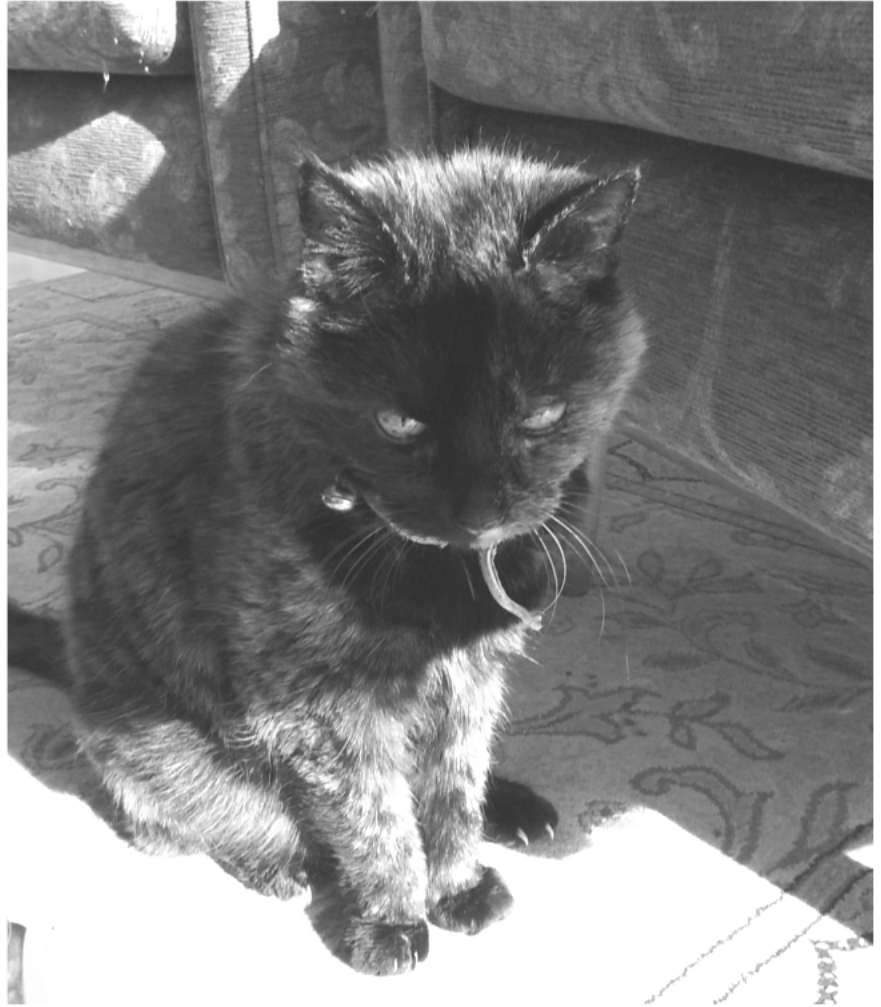
Am I The Oldest Cat in Meredith?

Hello, My name is Sammy and I live on the farm in Steiglitz Rd. This year I will celebrate my 23rd birthday (That's 161 in people years.) These days I don't do much and spend a lot of time sleeping in front of the fire or basking on the good furniture in the sun room. I have developed a very fussy diet and like to keep the carers on their toes and they spend a lot of time in the pet food aisle looking for a tit bit I might fancy.

If the oldies go away then my devoted carer Les from down the road comes to check on me and we have a chat and a cuddle. But I like to stay in charge and still can scare the other farm animals away.

What is my secret for such a long life? Well, I have never been off the farm, have never been to the vet (except for a little op when I was a small kitten) and still have a little exercise. I walk out the back door and around to the front door and then snuggle down for another nap.

As told To Jan Crump.



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An Important Site

Marg Cooper

As mentioned in previous articles, the Lara Glass business relocated from Lara to Horse Hill Road West in 1994. But, because they thought they needed more exposure to the public, and because they wanted the business to be separate from their home life, Mark Gallo and Jason Chivers bought a block of land in Elaine.

The block Mark and Jason bought had previously been the site of the Elaine Railway Station and Station Master's House. A big block that the Railways had owned was subdivided into several titles. In 1999 Lara Glass moved into a corrugated iron shed which they built on the block. Later they built the Gallery which was built to showcase their stained and lead-light glass in a chalet type design.

Jason and Mark said everything was handmade and sourced locally. The frame was constructed of former SEC poles whilst the window frames were constructed from sleepers. The semi-mud bricks were made on site with products from local quarries. Mark's father, George made the heavy wooden doors like castle doors with the clunky big lock and hinges being made by local craftsmen. The bricks for the paved floor came from old houses and a featured wooden wagon wheel, apparently came off the last wagon to deliver beer barrels to local pubs.

The business sits quietly between the Midland Highway and the Railway line at Elaine. The workshop, office and gallery are surrounded by gum trees and there are entrance and exit gates. Jason describes it as quite a tourist attraction with groups visiting the gallery which effectively shows off the doors, windows, giftware and all their products containing glass.

As an aside, and according to locals, the Station Master's house was removed to Lethbridge, the weatherboard Railway Station was demolished a few days before the Queen was to travel the line and no mention was made of what happened to Newton's lolly shop which was on the east side of the station.

In April 1862 the Geelong/Ballarat Railway line opened with the stations along the line having been built of bluestone. Elaine did not have a station but in September 1863 "the people of Stoney Rises district impressed with the importance of the locality since the recent quartz discoveries there are, in conjunction with the residents of Dolly's Creek getting up a memorial to Government praying that a station may be erected on that part of the railway line which is intersected by the main road. Some 400 signatures have already been attached to the document."

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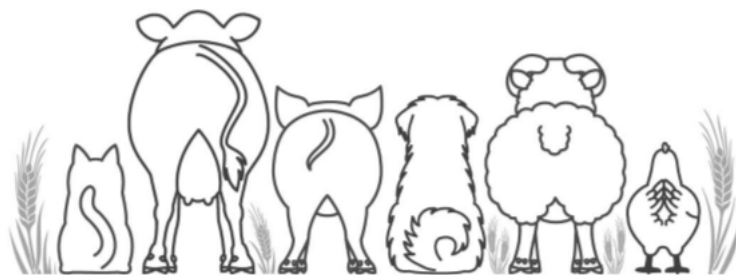
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Join a Local Water Sources Survey

Media release

Deakin University is launching an online research survey to explore community attitudes to regional water supplies.

The project, led by School of Humanities and Social Sciences PhD candidate Christina Semasingha, aims to better understand what locals think about where their water comes from and their attitudes to alternative sources of supply.

Ms Semasingha, a water industry professional with nearly a decade of experience in water research, said she wanted to capture the views of people living in Geelong and the broader region, including the Bellarine Peninsula.

"I am very keen to understand how the community feels about their water use, supply, quality and distribution," Ms Semasingha said.

"The climate is becoming drier and the reliable supply of water to homes and businesses is becoming more challenging.

"The way that people use water in their homes and businesses has changed significantly over the previous decade, particularly since the Millenium Drought.

"There is an increasing interest in better understanding community attitudes to water, with researchers and water utilities around the country giving greater attention to this issue than in the past."

According to the Australian Government's Bureau of Meteorology, December 2019 was the lowest month of rainfall on record for Australia, with dry soil conditions and storage volumes decreasing in all major urban water systems.

"This project is one of many Deakin initiatives to develop an evidence-base for water management in the region, and provides a necessary focus on the social aspects of water use," Ms Semasingha said

Earlier this year, Ms Semasingha held a series of community focus groups to help in the design of the survey and ensure it was relevant and most useful to the community.

The survey is now open online at <http://deakinresearch.ch/deakin-water-survey>
Community responses are welcome until Monday 31 August,



What are your thoughts on alternative sources of drinking water? We want to hear from you.

This survey should take around **20-25 minutes** to complete.

As a thank you for participating, you may enter into a rolling weekly prize draw for one of forty **\$50 gift cards** or a **\$50 donation** to a registered charity of your choice.

To access the survey go to: <http://deakinresearch.ch/deakin-water-survey>

Photo credit: Jacob Oling

Celebrating World Water Day

Did you know Victoria has 85,000km of waterways? Or that more than 15 million megalitres of water flows through our water system every year? Recently on World Water Day (March 22), we celebrated the hundreds of people across Victoria who collect, monitor and analyse water quality, level and flow data from over 2000 sites, allowing us to better manage our water resources. More at <https://www.water.vic.gov.au/>

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Who Do You Think You Are?

Marg Cooper

An email, almost a year ago, from a Warner Bros producer working on the SBS Documentary Series of 'Who Do You Think You Are?' came as quite a surprise. They were looking into a possible story in the Meredith area. Ensuing emails told us that the story involved was in the Morrisons/ Meredith area in the 1860's and asked Meredith History Interest Group members if we could help with some research in the town.

Kerrie Kruger and Marg Cooper did some research on the names given and discovered quite a bit about a man who was interred in the Meredith Cemetery, who had come to Morrisons as a miner about 1860. We were intrigued to know who the celebrity was, who was related to the miner but didn't know until later and then we had to sign forms promising not to tell.

The Director and Field Producer wanted a chat with us to see who was to be the "on camera" contributor so we face-timed and answered many questions about their production. The next decision was where the celebrity and contributor were to be filmed. We offered the History Centre but they preferred a stately home. We had a quick think, approached Diane Ritchie to ask if we could use her home, she readily agreed and so the scene was set for Saturday, June 29th, 2019.

It was cold and miserably wet, but Diane and Roy Ritchie had the fires going when the crew and celebrity arrived for their last day on the road after ten days of shooting. It was cameras taking shots from all directions; sound recordists with microphones on you and hanging overhead; producers directing how we should act and, it took all day! As well as recording in Ritchie's lounge room the celebrity and crew filmed at Morrisons with the celebrity overlooking the valley.

It can be revealed now that the celebrity who came to Meredith was Denise Scott, comedian and actress. She was delightful and very patient with retakes and filming at different locations and it was a fabulous experience for us and a privilege for MHIG.

We issued an invitation to her to return to Meredith in October so she could personally tell locals her connection with Meredith/ Morrisons but we will have to wait and see what restrictions apply re Covid 19 and if she is available.

The new series of 'Who Do You Think You Are?' began on SBS on May 19. We do not know exactly which Tuesday night Denise Scott will feature but it will be in the next seven weeks.



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Volunteer Week 2020

Media release

From DELWP

We believe that it is important to continue to recognise and acknowledge our volunteers this year during National Volunteer Week, 18 – 24 May.

We understand that many events that are usually held during National Volunteer Week are being postponed or cancelled, but whether you manage Crown land on behalf of DELWP, plant trees, support people with a disability, coach a sports team, spend time at a soup kitchen or fight fires, we thank you and recognise the contributions you make in really changing our communities and lives.

We also encourage you to help develop Victoria's new Volunteer Strategy. Visit <https://engage.vic.gov.au/victorian-volunteerstrategy>

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Grab your camera and capture something that encapsulates your social isolation experience. We want to know how you are feeling, what you are doing, what you are missing or what you are grateful for.

Only rules are that your photo must be taken from your home and accompanied by a short description of what it means to you.

There are two categories available: 10 – 17 years and 18 – 25 years with prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each category purchased from Cavalier Art Supplies!

You can text your photo to 0439 879 900 or email it to youth@gplains.vic.gov.au

Moorabool Wind Farm Community Fund Now Open

Applications are invited from community groups and organisations for a share of the first round of Moorabool Wind Farm Community Fund.

The fund is split into two rounds per year. Round one is \$125,000 and round two is \$135,000 and will be on offer each year for the entire lifespan of the wind farm.

The aim of the Community Fund is to financially support initiatives and projects that make a positive and enduring contribution to the local community.

Funding applications will be considered from across four main sectors;

- Public Health and Well Being,
- Environmental Sustainability,
- Skills and Education,
- Recreational and Cultural Activities.

Applications for funding are open to any not-for-profit or incorporated community-based organisations with projects located up to 10 km from the wind farm. All applications will be assessed on their merits, based on their benefit to the community, perceived suitability, the background of the applicant and proximity to Moorabool Wind Farm.

Guidelines, the application form and further information and details about how to apply can be downloaded from the Moorabool Wind Farm website.

The closing date for applications is 3pm on Thursday 18th June 2020.

The Community Reference Group, consisting of community representatives, will review all submissions received by the closing date and allocate the funds to those projects which meet the application criteria.

'We're very pleased to make these funds available to the local community each year. We've worked very closely with the Community Reference Group to tailor the fund to the needs of the local area. We look forward to seeing what initiatives people put forward for funding and to seeing the first successfully funded projects throughout the local community.' said Helen Kennedy, Community Engagement

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Meredith History Interest Group

Who Do You Think You Are:

As mentioned in another article MHIG was involved in the research and filming of an episode of the show with celebrity Denise Scott. It was certainly a new and interesting experience to be involved with a film crew. Thank you to Roy and Diane Ritchie for willingly allowing the filming to take place at their home and to look after everyone all day. They shot scenes both outside and inside so it should be a good record of when Ritchies lived in Meredith, as well as an interesting story. We don't know which Tuesday night Denise's story will be told so keep watching.

Tree of the Year:

The National Trust of Australia recently conducted an online ballot to select "The Victorian Tree of the Year 2020". Nine trees were nominated from all over country Victoria and the winner was the Bacchus Marsh Avenue of Honour. The Avenue of 281 elms was planted in a single day in August 1918 as a living memorial to community members who volunteered to serve in WW1. The Runner-up was the Himalayan Oak at Bright Cemetery.

Significant Trees of Meredith & District:

On the National Trust of Australia register is a Kurrajong tree at 22 Staughton Street, Meredith. It is a fine example of the species contributing to the landscape of this historic mudbrick cottage. It was planted circa 1875 by William Thomas Champ for his friend Edmund Kenneally, owner of the cottage. W.T. Champ was distinguished as Commandant of the Port Arthur penal settlement later Inspector General of penal establishments in Victoria where he was largely responsible for the building of Pentridge gaol. The book containing many of the photos from MHIG's exhibition last October of "Significant Trees of Meredith & District" will be published soon.

Hotels of Meredith:

We have been researching the history of all the local hotels, inns and beer shops for a display at Bannockburn Library and a Pub Crawl in Meredith, that was scheduled for April-May but, we hope will be held later in the year. Trying to sort out who was in what hotel, and when, is like a giant puzzle. For example Henry Gosling laid the Foundation Stone of Goslings Hotel on the corner of Wallace and Wilson Streets, his brothers Edward and Richard ran that hotel until their partnership dissolved, then Gosling and Nugent ran the Royal Hotel on the corner of Wallace and Staughton Streets, but we think that that was Joseph Gosling. Goslings also had hotels in Geelong, at Burnt Bridge and at Queenscliff.

British Author I.P Hartley noted, "The past is a foreign country, they do things differently there."

LETHBRIDGE.

The fact that a new general store is about to be built at Lethbridge has created quite a stir in the district. It is a healthy sign to find at least one business man with an optimistic outlook. We are an old-established community, but for some reason the district has made but little headway in recent years.

What is really wanted is a vigorous policy of closer settlement to make Lethbridge a centre of importance. The blue-stone quarries are certainly a splendid asset, creating as they do employment for a number of men throughout the year. The men who follow up quarrying as a means of livelihood have not hitherto settled here in large numbers, but usually keep two homes. Almost every available block of land close to the township is already taken up. We have two large estates within easy reach of the station, with a combined area of over 60,000 acres, the soil being capable of cultivation and producing payable results. Messrs. McKinnon Bros. have shown what can be done with improved agricultural implements, and the application of industry. They have 600 acres of the Moranghurk Estate on lease, and have achieved good results. Men who should know say that much of the Golf Hill estate is capable of growing highly payable quantities of onions. Within easy reach of this railway station, much of the estate is composed of volcanic soil.

One has only to stand on an eminence on a clear day and look around to note the vast stretch of open country running only a few sheep. Here we have great fertile areas within 20 miles of Geelong awaiting the plough. If the State Government is sincere in its desire to populate the waste spaces, why not acquire portion of these two immense estates, with a line of railway and the seaboard at our doors? Why send people to districts where there are scarcely any railway facilities and the heart-breaking possibilities of drought and ruin staring the settler in the face? In this district we have men making a competence for themselves and families from 10 acres of volcanic soil. We have men who have leased a few acres and tilled the land in their spare time and by patient industry have bought a good area of land for themselves. This is the type of residents needed to make Lethbridge advance. Every man who adds to the productivity of the soil is an asset to the district in which he resides and to the State. What is wanted here is a progressive spirit.

*Geelong Advertiser Wednesday 20 August 1913
Supplied by Jan McDonald, Meredith History Interest Group*

An Interesting Inquest 1925

Marg Cooper

An inquest into the death of Margaret Kerger before SH Mayo JP at Meredith concluded that she died from a fractured rib penetrating her lung, accentuated by shock followed by heart failure—caused through injuries by being knocked down by a Motor Vehicle in Wallace Street, Meredith just after 6 pm on the evening of September 28, 1925.

Many deponents gave evidence. Sydney Basil Cunningham, school boy, found the injured woman lying on the road outside his house. Elsie Bell, baker's wife, whose house Margaret Kerger had just left after working there as a domestic servant from 7 am that morning. William Ernest Lowne, bricklayer was first called to the accident. Thomas Graham, motor garage proprietor, and his son Leslie Graham, motor mechanic, helped carry Mrs Kerger, first to Lownes, then to Elizabeth Davies' house where she died the next day. Wyatt Docker was the doctor who treated and later performed an autopsy on Mrs Kerger. Hector Young, Constable of Police, investigated the accident and positively identified the body after she died. Several town's people who noticed a Rio Car and a Rio Truck travel towards Ballarat in the early afternoon and return in the evening were also called to give evidence. They included Arthur Wells, licensee of the Railway Hotel, Patrick Campion farmer, William Bett, Presbyterian clergyman and Richard Sellars, labourer at Moranaghurk.

What a picture all the evidence paints: what all the deponents did for a living; what they were doing that day, where they were and what they knew about Margaret Kerger, including her habit of walking home on the metal road. And, there is a hand drawn map of where the accident happened showing how the car swerved but the truck didn't and where some of the deponents lived. (Cunningtons lived at what is now 27 Wallace Street. William Lowne lived next door on the south side. Mrs Davies, Thomas Graham and Kergers lived on the other side of Wallace Street but further south and Elsie Bell lived at 32 Staughton Street in the Bakery.)

Many people noticed the car and truck and could describe them even to what speed they were doing. It is suspected that in 1925 vehicles on the road were somewhat of a novelty. Richard Sellars noticed the vehicles when he was returning from near Medina in his horse and jinker.

Margaret had married Charles Henry Kerger in 1901 and they had a son John Bernard Kerger born 1903 at Mt Duneed. The Kergers had been resident in Meredith for about 20 years. She was interred in the Meredith Cemetery.

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Marg's BOOK REVIEW

The Botanist's Daughter by Kayte Nunn

There are many books of this genre in bookshops at the moment. Broadly speaking, someone finds something that has been hidden for a long time, which leads that person to discover the life of, and their connection to, a long lost relative. Usually the adventure leads the person to a better life, a life unimaginable before the voyage of discovery.

In this book, set in present day Sydney, Anna who is a professional gardener finds a mysterious metal box containing a portfolio of dazzling watercolours of botanical plants, a photograph inscribed "Spring 1886", a diary that dates from the late nineteenth century and a small bag of seeds. The box was hidden in the wall of her late grandmother's house and was discovered while Anna was undertaking renovations. It sets her on a path far from her safe, carefully ordered life and on a journey that will force her to face her own demons.

Anna discovers that in Victorian England, Elizabeth took up her late father's quest to travel to Chile to find a rare, miraculous but dangerous plant and bring it back to England. In a time when women didn't travel, let alone travel without a male escort, she set off with her maid on a perilous sea voyage from Cornwall to face unforeseen dangers and treachery. This was a time when there was a huge interest and a lot of money in bringing back seeds and examples of plants to England from foreign countries.

The chapters alternate between Anna and Elizabeth's stories with a few chapters from the secret diary. It almost seems that the lives of Anna and Elizabeth are similar but in different eras. Both lose someone they love that sets them on their journeys, both have a love of botany, both show personal bravery in journeys they take and both find happiness.

Apparently this is the first novel of historical fiction by Kayte Nunn, inspired by her love of all things botanical. She has previously written two contemporary novels. It is an interesting book to read with three very different settings, descriptions of a variety of flora and fauna, a multi faceted plot to grab your attention and keep it throughout and a little bit of romance.

The book for review next month is unknown because Book club has been in recess due to Covid 19.

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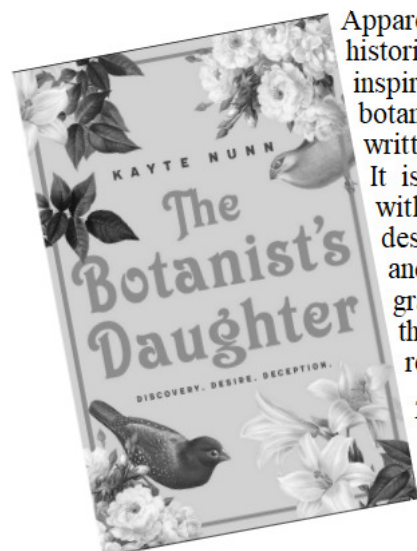
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COVID-19 Update

During this COVID-19 pandemic we are continuing as we were last month. Please read carefully below what is changing.

1. We are splitting our pharmacy team into 2 teams. This means we will have slightly reduced staff members working each day so please be patient as wait times maybe longer depending on how busy we are. Please note that our staff WILL NOT be left financially disadvantaged by splitting our teams.

2. OPENING HOURS

- Monday to Friday: 9:00am - 5:30pm (After June long weekend we 'may' increase to 6pm)
- Saturday's: 8:30am - 1:00pm

3. CAR PARK PICK UP service will still be available

- you can ring & order ahead,
- we will get your order ready & ring you back to arrange payment over the phone,
- when you arrive phone us and we will bring your order out to your car when so you don't have leave your vehicle.

4. NO VACCINATIONS in our pharmacy vaccination clinic

- we don't have the personal protective equipment that Doctors/Nurses have to safely protect our pharmacists so we cannot offer this service during this period of time.
- We will still have flu vaccinations available to purchase if you have a prescription from your Doctor.

We know that there a lot of people who may be struggling financially at the moment and we just wanted to share some of the services/benefits/tips we can offer by shopping with us that might be of assistance:

1. LOYALTY CLUB

- FREE to join
- 5% of all non-prescription sales accumulates as money to spend in the pharmacy e.g. spend \$50 & \$2.50 goes onto your loyalty profile
- no expiry (you can save money up as long as you like)
- no minimum spend/redemption. You can spend what you want when you want on non-prescription items.
- no card (everything is stored securely & electronically on our pharmacy point of sale computers)
- legally we are not allowed money spent on prescriptions to accumulate as loyalty dollars on your profile. We would if we could.

2. BABY CLUB

- FREE to join
- works exactly same as Loyalty club except DOUBLE (10% of all mother & child related non-prescription sales) accumulates as money on your Baby club profile e.g. spend \$50 and \$5 goes onto your loyalty profile.
- \$5 bonus will be added to your Baby club profile when you first join.
- Baby club runs until your child turns 2 years old

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Ginger Cake with Honey & Spice Syrup

Serves 12

Prep time & Cook time 1 hour

Ingredients

- 125g butter
- 2 eggs
- ¼ cup treacle
- ½ cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 cup ground almonds
- ½ cup plain flour
- ½ cup self-raising flour
- ½ teaspoon bi-carb soda
- 3 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground cloves
- ¼ cup milk

Honey & spice syrup

- 1 ½ cups water
- ½ cup honey
- 1 cinnamon stick
- ½ teaspoon mixed spice

Method

1. Have butter and eggs at room temperature.
2. Pre-heat oven to 200 C. Grease deep 20cm square cake pan. Line base and sides with baking paper.
3. Beat butter, treacle and sugar in small bowl of electric mixer until pale and creamy. Beat in eggs, one at a time and then transfer mixture to a large bowl. Stir in ground almonds, then sift and milk, in two batches.
4. Spread mixture evenly into pan. Bake about 40 minutes.
5. Meanwhile make honey syrup.
6. Stand cake in pan 5 minutes before turning top side up on a wire rack over tray. Pour three-quarters of the hot syrup over hot cake. Serve cake warm or cold with remaining syrup.

Honey & spice syrup

Stir ingredients in small saucepan over high heat until boiling. Reduce heat, simmer, uncovered, without stirring, about 5 minutes, or until thickened slightly.

Note: You can use golden syrup instead of treacle.

Is it a Mushroom?

Marg Cooper

It is fungi season. There are lots of different species of fungus growing at the moment from whoppers to tiny button sized, from slimy and stinky moulds to exploding puffballs.

On the sides of the gravel road are a host of exploded and unexploded puffballs. I have observed, admired and photographed them on my walks but didn't know much about them until recently when an article about Alison Pouliot, a Daylesford ecologist and photographer appeared, in the Ballarat Courier. She conducts fungi identification courses, at the moment, online.

"The puffball is sometimes called the "horse dropping mushroom". A round lump pushes through the bitumen or gravel then as they start to mature they break apart into a tan-brown, dusty, powdery spore mass. It is an important fungus that supports the root systems of eucalyptus trees.

The puffball comes above the ground but the actual fungus itself exists as an amazing big network or matrix of long, feathery white spider web-like strands. You can see them if you scratch around in the compost heap. That's the actual fungus proper that connects the root system of the eucalyptus and helps them access water and nutrients. So it's a really important fungus in helping them with growth and health and resilience.

I have been watching one puffball for a couple of weeks that hasn't yet exploded. It has a surface like a crocodile's skin. After they burst some look like a flower opened with several petals but they are brown or mustard coloured so blend perfectly into the gravel verge. They then slowly turn to slimey sludge and disappear.

There are also hosts of the red mushrooms with white spots or Fly agaric mushrooms. Google tells me that they have unpleasant side effects. I suppose that means if you eat them. I only wish to admire!

Tune Your Wood Heater **...for more heat and less smoke**

The Victorian Environment Protection Authority has provided advice on the health and efficiency benefits of maintaining wood heaters in good condition. You'll find this on our website for easy reference. Visit meredithnews.com.au/on-line-extras



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

June 2020

Moorabool North Wind Farm

Progress to date

- Installation of all 50 turbines complete
- Energisation of substation complete

Look ahead

- Ongoing commissioning of turbines
-

Moorabool South Wind Farm

Progress to date

- Installation of pre-install tower sections completed at 51 turbine locations
- All access tracks, hardstands and substation complete
- Energisation of substation complete
- All turbine component deliveries are complete

Look ahead

- Three main cranes now on site allowing the continuation of installation of turbines
 - Nightworks may take place as installation works progress, further notifications will be provided if necessary
 - Continued road maintenance, this is monitored weekly and repairs carried out as required
-

Crane Lighting

The main installation cranes at Moorabool South wind farm are fitted with an aviation warning light. These are operational at all times.

COVID-19 Update: Goldwind is closely monitoring all restrictions being announced by the Australian and Victorian Governments regarding the response to the COVID-19 virus. As it presently stands, construction works across the state are permitted to continue, and we are proceeding with the construction of the Moorabool Wind Farm. However, there have been several measures implemented to manage the risks on the wind farm site, including:

- working in small consistent teams
- teams not socialising at breaks or in meetings
- increasing social distance within offices
- increasing hygiene practices
- self-isolation for any workers returning from overseas (enforced prior to the announcement of mandatory self-isolation)
- ensuring if employees/contractors are not well they seek medical attention and not attend the work site

For Further Information about the project please visit

www.mooraboolwindfarm.com, www.mwftraffic.com or call 1800 019 660.

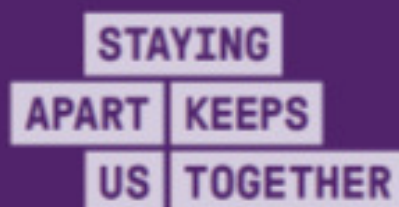




Thank You Victoria.

While some restrictions have eased, limiting our movement everyday means everything. It means we slow the spread of the virus. If we keep working from home and we limit the number of us moving around, we can keep kicking a footy in the park. If we use common sense and keep our distance, we can visit cafes and restaurants. And if we only see those we need to, we'll keep our friends and families safe.

We all have a part to play.
It's up to all of us to make this work.



For details go to vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS

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