

Our FREE Community Newsletter since 1972

# Meredith & district



SEPTEMBER 2020



## inside

- Who can grow the biggest pumpkin?
- Vale Annette Ferry
- Remote learning 3 views

and the usual MUCH MORE!



It's Spring



e: [news@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:news@meredithnews.com.au) w: [meredithnews.com.au](http://meredithnews.com.au)







# "Think about who you love, then think about them in ICU."

For Sarah, who's been battling coronavirus for nearly 8 weeks, being separated from her two little boys, has been heartwrenching. On top of coronavirus attacking every one of her body systems, intense pain and acute breathing difficulty, she still has no idea when she will be well enough to see her boys. Sarah's hope is that by us all doing the right thing, no one else will have to experience the heartache her family has.

Please, play your part and help stop the spread of the virus. If you have symptoms - please get tested. Payments of \$450 are available to help you stay home and wait for your test result.

To learn more of Sarah's story  
go to [vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS](https://vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS)

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US TOGETHER



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Dean Wilson  
0418 521 322

Julie Kaye  
0411 059 001

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# The VIRUS and US

While nothing has changed since our last edition it is important for us now that things are feeling like things are improving we need to remain vigilant and continue to observe the restrictions.

## Stage 3

“Stay at Home” restrictions.

Under the new restrictions there are only four reasons that you can leave home:

- to shop for food and necessary goods or services
- to provide care, for compassionate reasons or to seek medical treatment
- to exercise or for outdoor recreation
- for work or education, if you can't do it from home

You must wear a face covering when you leave home. We all need to play our part to help slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). By staying at home and limiting contact with other people, we can help protect ourselves, our families and our communities from COVID-19. Otherwise, you need to stay home.

Businesses, restaurants and cafes can only offer delivery and takeaway. Beauty and personal services will be closed. Entertainment and cultural venues closed. No community sport.

Regional schools will return to remote and flexible learning – across all year levels and across the state, except for our specialist schools. Onsite supervision will again be made available for students who need it, including children whose parents are permitted workers and vulnerable kids who can't learn from home.”

This information is derived from [dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](https://dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus) and was correct at the time of writing. For current and more detailed information, please visit the site.



...we look forward to the first signs of spring, we discover the trials and tribulations of remote learning from the Primary, Secondary and University student perspective, puzzles to keep your mind engaged, a delicious recipe from Stefania and the usual much more. Enjoy and stay safe

# dear readers...

Another newsletter finds us still living under the lockdown conditions. Although at the time of writing the restrictions we are under seem to achieving the goals we have all been hoping for. This is giving us some light at the end of the tunnel as a reward for our tribulations.

While so many of our institutions are not open we are unable to go and visit them, many like our zoos and wildlife parks still have their animals to care for and they have adjusted by providing access to all of us through live streaming.

Halls Gap Zoo has is providing endearing live streaming and keeper commentary, Melbourne Zoo has virtual tours, Melbourne Aquarium, penguin feeding and the Phillip Island penguin parade broke the internet on their first evening of broadcasting. These are just some of the places where you can keep entertained.

That of course is just a small taste of the variety of entertainment available online. Dozens of celebrities performing in their own homes and the live performance program on the ABC on Sunday early evening has provided some wonderful Australian artists for us to enjoy.

Of course if you are over technological options lots of people are taking the time to catch up on things they always wanted to try like cooking skills, craft or just a book they have been meaning to read.

Please make sure if you are feeling like you can't cope reach out to get help.



Meet the adorable Appollo and Zeus.  
Picture taken by Peter Boer



# 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 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](mailto:news@meredithnews.com.au) or deliver to the Meredith Post Office or Meredith Hub

## DATES AND DEADLINES

The Newsletter is distributed on the **first Thursday** of the month (except January). All ads and submissions must be lodged by 9.00 am on the **last Thursday** of the preceding month, but earlier is **really** appreciated.

## ADVERTISING

Advertising in the M&D Newsletter is a great way to let district residents know about your business. Contact us for full details and lodgement forms. Rates are as follows:

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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](mailto:advertising@meredithnews.com.au)

**Accounts:** Mike 0419 307044

[accounts@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:accounts@meredithnews.com.au)

**Editorial:** Jim: 0409 163169

[news@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:news@meredithnews.com.au)

## WEB

You can check back copies and lodge comments at [meredithnews.com.au](http://meredithnews.com.au)

## ONLINE PHOTOS

We do not publish children's photos online. If you would like any other photo that you appear in withheld from the online edition, let us know in writing by the second Thursday of the month of publication.

## DISCLAIMER

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

Issue Editor: Pam Ridd

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## Justices of the Peace

Mr Don Atherton. 0409 869 960

Mr Paul Ryan Elaine 0409 861 296

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## ..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 sorted.



"Everything will be okay in the end. If it's not okay, it's not the end."

John Lennon





## Community

### Local Groups successful

Golden Plains Shire July Council Meeting announced community groups that were successful in securing a Community Strengthening Grant from Council.

With COVID-19 restrictions preventing a community celebration event to present each community group with their grant, Councillors invited recipients to tune into the livestream of Tuesday's Council Meeting, where Councillors read out a short statement on each of the successful projects.

Grants were received by a diverse field of organisations, ranging from sport and recreation clubs, environment groups, history groups, community coordinators, as well as a CFA Brigade. These grants will support a variety of projects, including protecting biodiversity in local reserves, improving community sporting facilities, and helping children deal with the impacts of family violence trauma.

Two Meredith groups were successful. Meredith Recreation Reserve Committee of Management receiving funding for hall improvements and Meredith History Interest Group for their Bringing Meredith History Interest Group History Alive project. Another group with a connection to the local community is the Mini Movers who run this program at the Meredith Community Centre Occasional care.

In its 25th year, Council overhauled its successful community grants program, which now sees Community Strengthening Grants awarded in two rounds each year. Golden Plains Shire Mayor Cr Owen Sharkey congratulated the successful community groups, and encouraged more groups to get ready to apply for the next round. Applications for Round Two of this year's program will open on 17 August 2020 and close on 21 September 2020. Community groups seeking more information on the program are encouraged to contact Council's Community Partnerships Officer on 5220 7220 or email [communitygrants@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:communitygrants@gplains.vic.gov.au). Further information will be shortly available at [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/grants](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/grants).

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On behalf of the Staff and Committee we would like to thank everyone for their understanding and patience as we continue to work behind closed doors.

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  
[learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au](mailto:learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au)

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## Warm Safe Home for older Victorians

Are you struggling to pay your bills?

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To connect with a financial counsellor in your local area visit [warmsafehome.org.au](http://warmsafehome.org.au) or call

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



# Recreation

In this difficult time where our opportunities for joining our favourite exercise activities here are some alternative ideas.

## Shake it off Meredith!

The Golden Plains Shire Council is inviting residents to take part in Shake It Off, a project that features free online dance classes to promote mental health and well-being.

The classes are suited for all ages and abilities; with the focus being on fun and trying something new rather than being the perfect dancer.

Stage 3 restrictions are challenging and you are missing your usual activities and seeing your loved ones. We hope this initiative will bring some fun and connection and challenge you to keep your bodies and minds active during this time.



## Church News



Public gatherings, including church attendance, are currently subject to Covid -19 restrictions. Please check with your church or visit [dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](http://dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus) for details.

**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

## Right here in Meredith.

Get out in the fresh air and enjoy some of our local attractions.

### The Path of the Ibis

A walking track along the banks of Coolebarghurk Creek between Wallace and Lawler Streets.

### Meredith Police Paddocks

Nuttall St. Nice easy walking paths with some dry river crossings and great views

## Our Cover

Wattles are one of the early harbingers of spring and this month's cover photo, by Don Atherton, shows them along the banks of the Moorabool River. If you can, it's a great time to take a walk, ride or drive between Meredith and Steiglitz to witness their spectacular display. Thanks Don.

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

*You can even join our Click Clique*



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## V P Day

*Marg Cooper*

“Victory in the Pacific” Day was celebrated on August 15 in Australia. This year was the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the official end of WW11 for Australians and when Japan accepted the Allied Demand for unconditional surrender. The formal ceremony was held aboard Battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, Japan on September 2, 1945.

The Honour Board in the Meredith Hall lists over 60 men and women who served in WW11. The State School Roll of Honour lists 47 old scholars who served in WW11.

Some of their service details:

William Francis Bell was born in 1922 in Meredith to Elsie and William Golsby Bell. His parents had taken over the Bakery Business in Meredith in Staughton Street in 1921 and in 1936 they moved to Geelong and took over the Bell Bakery Business in Kilgour Street.

William Francis Bell was taken prisoner of war by the Japanese and forced to work on the Burma Railway. He died as a POW on 5<sup>th</sup> August, 1943.

Isobel Brady was born in 1919 to Patrick and Isabella Brady. Prior to enlisting in October 1944 she worked at a Munitions Factory for 3 years using a Piercer Machine, making small holes in bullets. On 16/2/1948 Isobel sailed from Sydney with the British Commonwealth Occupational Forces to Japan where she spent 12 months at hospitals caring for the Australian Forces who had been sent to Japan after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. She returned to Australia in February 1949 and nursed at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital. Before she had gone to Japan she had met Stanley James Vaughan, nursing him in the TB Ward. He wanted them to get engaged, before Isobel left for Japan, but she said to wait until she returned. Stanley had been a POW of the Japanese at Ambon and then Hainan Island in the South China Sea. She married Stanley James Vaughan at St Joseph's in Meredith.

Mary Brady, sister to Isobel enlisted in the Australian Women's Army Service [AWAS] in August 1942. Prior to enlistment Mary had worked for 5 years at Geelong Grammar School as a housemaid. In a Newspaper article Mary said that while training as a cook she was recruited for what she was told was a secret assignment. She became a cook for the First Australian Experimental Gas

Unit which conducted scientific experiments near Innisfail and later Proserpine. Mary believed that the Army tested mustard gas at these bases. She was discharged to look after her ill father in Meredith in 1946.

Joseph Dalrymple was educated at St Patrick's College, Ballarat, served as a student teacher, entered Melbourne Teacher's College in 1936, and when he enlisted in January 1942, he was Head Teacher at Woodburn Creek State School. During 1943 he served with 2 Australian Army Translator and Interpreter Signal Section in New Guinea and later with the same unit in Manila. He was discharged in April 1946.

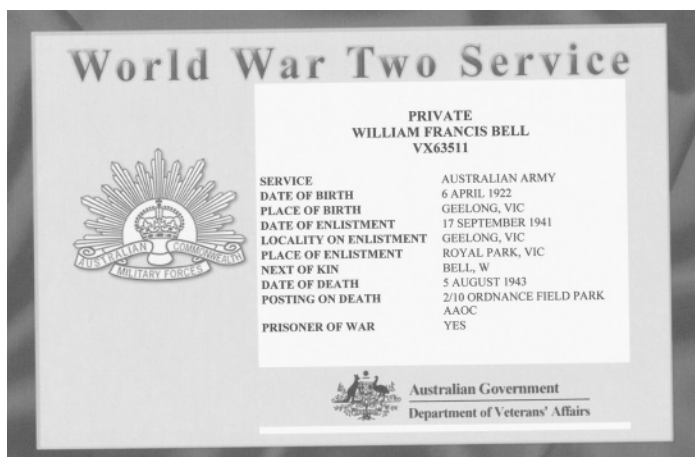


## Walking Around Meredith

*Marg Cooper*

Many people walk for exercise. Many people walk around Meredith for exercise.

Two of these people are Shane and Imelda who walk 4 to 5 kms every day, taking different routes each time. The distance they walk has increased since the Covid 19 restrictions because Shane cannot now go to the gym. He has Parkinson's disease and exercise helps him maintain his health. They also enjoy being outside, meeting others and observing what is going on in Meredith.



# healthSAVE

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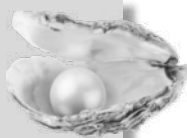
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little  
GEMS



From the material to the sentimental, there are many things that we let pass thinking that one day we'll make it happen. Sometimes it's out of our control, sometimes we're just lazy or short sighted. But at least there are select occasions when 'one day' does come around. And who knows, maybe that band will get back together. One day

### One Day

As humans, we often fall into the trap of thinking that there will always be more time. That 'one day' is still an actual day that will materialise out of the calendar at some point in the future.

As I was scrolling through my phone one afternoon, I came across a social media post announcing the split of a band I used to be quite fond of. As I read the long statement that had been squeezed into the dimensions of an Instagram tile, I realised that I had completely and utterly forgotten about them. This band that had defined a couple of years of my life had somehow slipped my mind, when I'd grown out of their angsty ballads and gravely voices.

By nature, I am a nostalgic person (as I'm sure you're well aware) so upon reading this I instantly queued up their entire discography (including terrible DJ remixes) to play as the soundtrack to my day. While I went about my housework, I was transported back in time. I washed dishes and vividly remembered walking to my casual job, thinking about how 'one day' I'd find work that didn't involve 12-hour stocktake shifts. While I scrubbed the silicon in the shower free of mould, I could see myself blasting the CD in my car while I drove home in the rain, thinking 'one day' I would see them live.

Like everyone, some 'one days' have in fact materialised while others haven't as yet. In my case, I realised that I always took it for granted that I'd be able to see this band live. When they rudely scheduled their first (and evidently, only) concert in Melbourne on the same day as my wedding, I said to myself 'Oh well, I'll see them one day', comforted by the fact that they were on an upwards trajectory.

And then they broke up.

Although I had admittedly forgotten about them for a time, I was now sucked back into their music. Like muscle memory, I could sing the lyrics without skipping a beat (much to the dismay of my husband) and remembered all the wonderful memories I had married up to these songs. More than ever, I yearned to see them play live and to get excited about new music being released. But alas, it is not meant to be.

*Gemma*

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## A Window

*Marg /cooper*

There is a window in Staughton Street that is one of a pair.

It is a bay or bow window, almost Tudor style, at waist height, it is set out from the front of the building. It consists of a front and two side sections of highly decorated leadlight, that suggests leaves and flowers and is supported by two struts.

A seat shaped sill inside the window has been cleverly used to mount several layers of display of handcrafts created by Heather East.

Of particular interest at the moment are the Face Masks made in a variety of colours and sizes. The most decorative are cosies for teapots. Heather says that she is addicted to Noro yarn blended from wool, silk and mohair and produced in transitional colours. Heather recently noticed that the teapot at MHIG was bare so she knitted a "Tree Pot" cosy for it, featuring gum nuts and leaves in earthy colours. She has been commissioned to create a strawberry tea cosy, which will feature a big strawberry red body with flecks of yellow with strawberries and strawberry leaves on the top. There are several examples of her craft in the window of the building that we refer to as the old Bakery. It is rude to peep in people's windows but in this case Heather is inviting you to have a look!

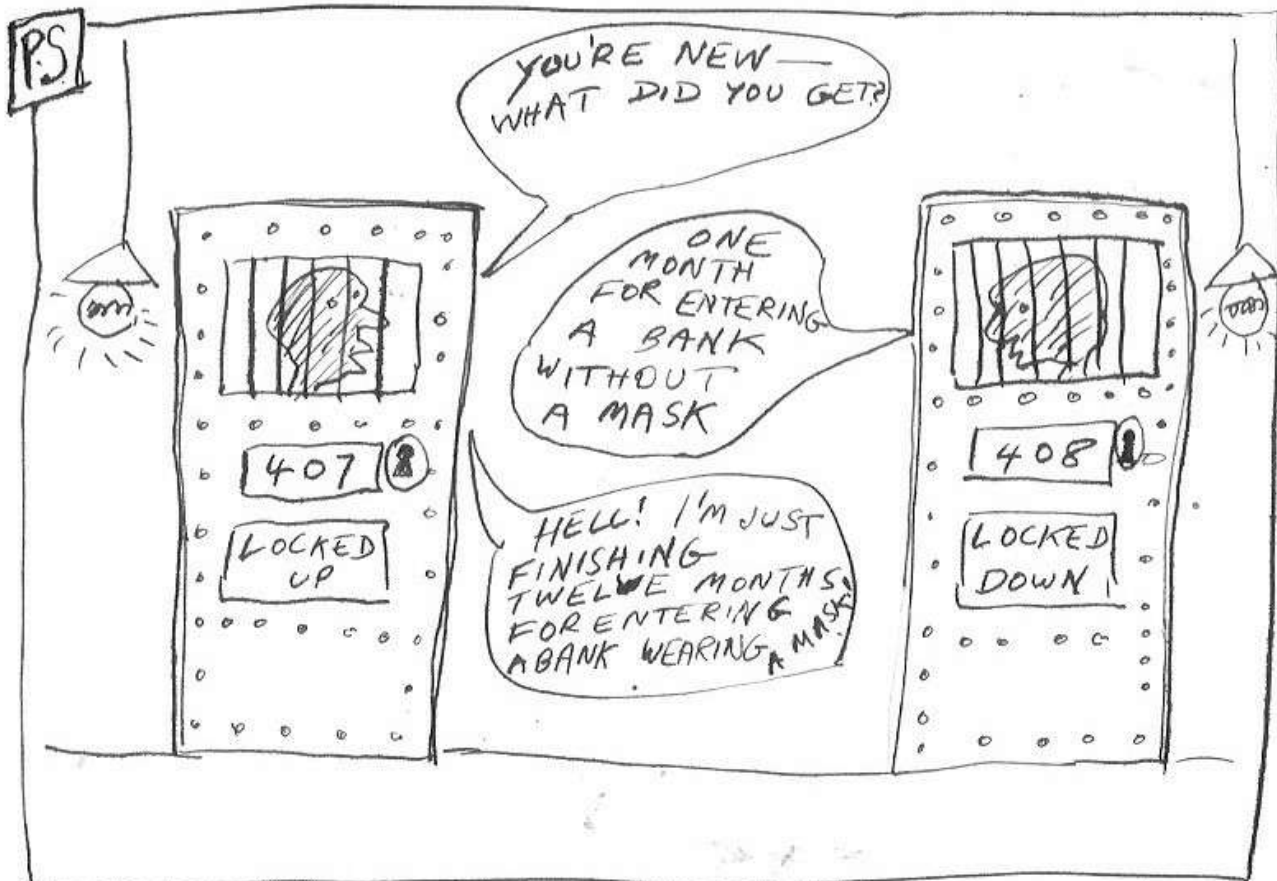


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At the end of the day, sheep graze among a group of paddock trees as the sky becomes gloomy. From the nearby roadside, kookaburras laugh their last territorial chuckle of the day. A koala, in the high fork of a manna gum, makes his presence known with his grunting call. The sheep settle into their regular camp among the few old trees, remnants of the forest that once covered the land. The tallest of these trees, at the edge of the group, has been dead for many years. Near the top, where a branch has broken off, is a small black hole, the entrance to one of several hollows in this precious habitat tree. From the hole peeps a little grey head with round black eyes, dark ears and a dark stripe down the middle of its face, a sugar glider. It listens and looks carefully, before coming out onto the trunk. It runs a short way up the tree, then launches itself, legs spread wide to stretch the membranes between them. It glides twenty metres to land with a soft thump on the trunk of a living tree. It runs up this trunk and across branches, before gliding to the next tree. Other faces appear, one by one, at the entrance to the hollow, emerge cautiously, then follow the first sugar glider, until seven little grey animals are springing along branches and gliding between trees. Although the trees are spread out, sugar gliders can travel fifty metres in one glide. The old trees form a corridor, leading to the well-vegetated roadside. A single leap takes them safely over the bitumen road to a group of black wattles in a patch of uncleared bush. They use their sharp teeth to cut the bark and lick up the oozing sap.

Another old tree, this one living, stands on the roadside close to the paddock. From a hollow in this tree peeks another small grey head, this one with a pointed face. It also emerges with care, showing the black bottle-brush tail of a brush-tailed phascogale. Unlike the sugar glider, it cannot glide across the road to reach its preferred feeding tree. It climbs through the branches of its tree and five others to reach a tree with long branches spread above the road. These branches form a fragile link between the roadside next to the paddock and the patch of bush. The phascogale crosses this bridge, unaware that a windstorm or overzealous roadside clearing could remove it. It may not grow back for many generations of animals.

While the loss of a tree branch or two may not sound serious, the consequences may be important for animals, such as the phascogale, possums and antechinuses, that would no longer be able to safely cross the road. If there are no other safe crossing points in their territory, they must risk the dangers of traffic or remain on their side of the road. This can cut them off from sources of food, water and mates. A population of animals that cannot move around to find breeding partners, will gradually become inbred and unhealthy, with no territories for young animals to occupy. This will eventually lead to local extinction. As the climate changes, it is crucial for animals, birds and the seeds of plants to be able to move around the landscape, to

find new places where local conditions are better suited to their needs. This may mean travelling distances of many kilometres, perhaps over numerous generations, which is impossible if there are no bridges or stepping stones between areas of suitable habitat.

There are, of course, plenty of things that we can do to help this situation. Leaving paddock trees, dead and alive, standing, provides hollows which are homes to many animals and birds. They also provide feeding and resting places for the koala and for birds, as they move from one patch of bush to the next. We can plant young trees now, to be the paddock trees of the future, and plant indigenous vegetation along waterways and around dams. A garden or a park of flowering bushes can provide a safe haven for birds, as well as a delight to the people who live with it. Roadsides are excellent places for wildlife, often containing mature trees or patches of undisturbed grassland, and a strip of habitat along which creatures can travel.

There are organisations with ambitious goals, aimed at helping nature to thrive far into the future. For the last fifteen years, Grow West have had an annual planting day, to restore habitat on private properties, and build habitat links between Brisbane Ranges National Park, Werribee Gorge State Park and Lerderderg State Park. As the trees grow, animals will have more options for moving around the landscape. They will no longer be stuck in one small or large patch and will be able to interbreed with animals over a wider area, keeping the population healthy. Other groups have similar goals of connecting areas of important habitat by planting trees. Rope bridges have been constructed above highways to allow tree climbing animals to cross, and tunnels under roads provide a safe path for ground dwelling creatures. Biolinks Alliance is running a program called Glideways in the Melbourne Ark, trying to find out the best ways to help gliders, phascogales and other animals to flourish in our modern world. If you have gliders or phascogales, also known as tuans, on your property, you can assist by letting them know via their website <https://biolinksalliance.org.au/glideways-in-the-melbourne-ark>. They are also planning a biolink from Wombat State Forest to Enfield State Park. All these means provide pathways through the environment, and help keep nature healthy for its own sake and for us.

Wendy



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## Remote Learning

*Lilly Parkinson*

I can't say that I have enjoyed this year. It's been very strange. So much to take in that's going on in the world. When we first began remote learning earlier in the year I guess I thought it was a bit of a novelty. I wasn't sure how it would work and I'll be honest it did take a little time to get used to it. At first I didn't mind that I didn't see my friends each day, as I was still thinking it was all a bit of fun. But as the weeks went on it did get a lot harder to motivate myself each day. I really missed my friends and being at school, the novelty was wearing off quickly!

My experiences of remote learning were good, but at the same time it was not my favourite mainly, because I didn't get to see my friends. It's my last year of primary school which usually means grade 6 camp, excursions, Meredith Makers and other fun stuff. I guess I was a little bit lucky, as just before the first lock down I got to go to Beloka Kelpie Camp for two nights. It was a leadership camp so only four of us went. We were looking forward to going on Grade 6 camp and it looked like it was going to go ahead but then, BOOM lock down number 2 began, and our camp was cancelled. We are still hopeful that as a group, us grade 6's will get to go somewhere or do something together, before the year ends. Fingers crossed anyway!

It can be hard working from home, especially when Mum and Dad are working and I need help. I have to wait until they are home to ask them questions. My brother is usually busy too and that is quite annoying, especially because I can't ask my teacher how to do things face to face.

The advantages I had being at home were sleeping in, learning new technology skills and also getting my work done quickly, which has meant I can do other things. Sometimes that's good, but other times it's quite boring if I am completely honest.

When it's been hard to get motivated, I have been going for walks, talking to my friends through House Party and sometimes Zoom, doing lots of art and craft and playing with the dogs. I am lucky that I live on a farm, where there is plenty of space. I couldn't imagine what it would be like if I lived in town with fences all around me.

I'm really lucky that my teacher, Miss Pritchard sets fun and interesting work each day. Some of the highlights have been book club, zoom catch ups each Monday where we sometimes play Kahoot. She has been able to get special guests to speak to us like Peter Hitchener and Jo Griggs from Better Homes and Gardens. Boy, her address book must be long!! Our principal Mr. Trotter, has put together funny virtual assemblies that you might have seen up on Facebook.

Overall it has been tough and really strange, but I guess since March nothing has been normal! I wonder is this our new normal? Will school as we knew it ever be the same? How much longer will this go on for? I guess that's an article for another newsletter!

## Year 12 Remote Learning

*Megan Farhall*

Studying in year 12 right now is far from what I was expecting at the beginning of the year. Remote learning has had an impact on students of all ages. There are good things, such as sleep-ins and comfy clothes, but being in my final year of secondary education, I am finding the situation quite stressful, because of the many contrasts of online and onsite learning.

One difference that I'm finding particularly difficult to adapt to, is the lack of social interaction and support. On campus my friends and I would collaborate and share ideas to work more efficiently, but at home everyone has their own work to do, so I often find myself sitting at my desk twiddling my thumbs, and going to lunch and recess ten minutes earlier than I would at school. People may think that the extra free time due to a lack of extracurricular activities would give us more time to focus on our academics and improve our results, but I found that after the first round of remote learning, my marks went down by 20% overall. This worries me heading into the second period of online learning, given that Term 3 is known to be the hardest for year twelves, even without the addition of a global pandemic. The work load is enormous, bearing in mind that we have to finish all of our assessments and start studying for exams, which are now only three months away. This is going to be

especially challenging, because we will be spending most of that time at home without the face to face support of our teachers and other students. There's also the added stress of university applications recently opening. It is nearly impossible to figure out what we want to do with our lives, when the future is currently so unpredictable.

We are well aware that the government is insisting we will

finish and get our results back before the end of the year, December 30<sup>th</sup>. But there's always the fear that if anything gets pushed back it will mean that we won't finish Year 12 in 2020. This breaks my heart, but I understand that whatever ends up happening is for the benefit of the community and Australia. It's hard not to be mad at the general public, for not taking the pandemic seriously in the first place, so that by this time of the year I didn't need to worry so much about the health of my family and could focus on my studies.

Lots of past Year 12 students have emphasized that it was the best year of their lives, and for many reasons we won't get to enjoy this year. We will be missing our very last athletics days, school formals, many of us aren't celebrating our 18<sup>th</sup> birthdays, and at this stage it cannot be confirmed if we will get to experience a graduation. Staff members and everyone else involved have done their best to adapt, but trying to do interactive activities or have a school dance through a screen is nothing like the real thing. I find it sad to think that I won't be able to go back to school with all of these to look forward to, or reminisce upon to take my mind off the stresses of exams.





**Megan Farhall in her home “classroom”**

## Online Learning

*Molly Dunne*

I'm currently in my second year of a Bachelor of Occupational Therapy at Deakin University, which has been moved online this year due to COVID-19. I have definitely noticed a difference in face-to-face learning compared to online learning.

So what does online learning actually mean? For me, all of the content that I need to know for all four of my units is accessible online through our student portals. I would usually have at least one lecture and one class per unit that I would attend at the Deakin University campus. Now, we attend those lectures and classes through live streaming on Blackboard Collaborate. The actual transition to online went quite smoothly, as while my course is not currently offered as an online cloud course, Deakin was already set up with the platforms for streaming classes and lectures. I've heard some not-so-great stories for primary schools and the struggles of transitioning online.

This year I was supposed to have two weeks of a simulated placement at the Deakin campus, but due to COVID we will only be at campus physically participating in placement for one week at the end of November. The other week will be run through a platform called TeleHealth. For one of my units, in the coming weeks we will actually be attending uni to learn how to administer upper limb assessments on clients, because we have a mandatory practical examination at the end of semester. This will be my first time at uni since March!

Living in Elaine, I appreciate the benefits to an online education, as not having to drive to Geelong and back for

classes, means I'm definitely saving on petrol and parking fees. It's also quite nice being able to attend lectures from home. I'm working two jobs, so being able to access the recordings of the livestreamed classes is really helpful because it means I can watch my lectures anytime, usually when I get home from work.

But in saying that, I would much rather physically be at uni. I find sitting in a classroom is the easiest way to learn and discussions with peers really help to reinforce the content. I am lucky in that I got to experience a year at campus, as I have a few friends who took a gap year last year, and their first year at uni has been a nightmare. Not being able to meet peers in the same course would make it difficult, I am lucky enough to have supportive friends who help me when I'm not understanding assignments or certain topics.

I'm definitely looking forward to returning to campus!

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### PETE GOAT

With the continuing lockdown in Victoria, it is hard to engage in cultural activities as we are used to and it would be easy just to say “nothing to report”. But in a way, at times like this maybe it is more important than ever to try to contribute something, because at least this important form of culture, a community newsletter, has not been closed. I would be very disappointed if any other contributors went missing, so though I don’t want to flatter myself thinking anyone reads this offering of mine, I’d better try to write something.

The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the war in the Pacific did bring up reminders of other times, when as a whole community we have experienced great loss of life, restrictions and disruptions. As a child of the post-war baby boom, I grew up reading a lot of books about the war and amongst these were large hardbound books produced for the armed forces with titles like “Khaki and Green” and “Jungle Warfare” for the army and others for the Navy and Airforce. They contained stories, poems and were written by men and women of the forces and also cartoons and illustrations by war artists. Many of these contributors became well known after the war, writers like Geoffrey Dutton and Ivan Southhall. I can remember and artists like Eric Thake, William Dobell and William Dargie, I think.

The content was all about the wartime experiences, but

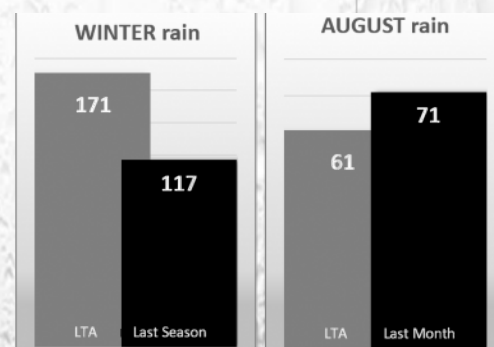
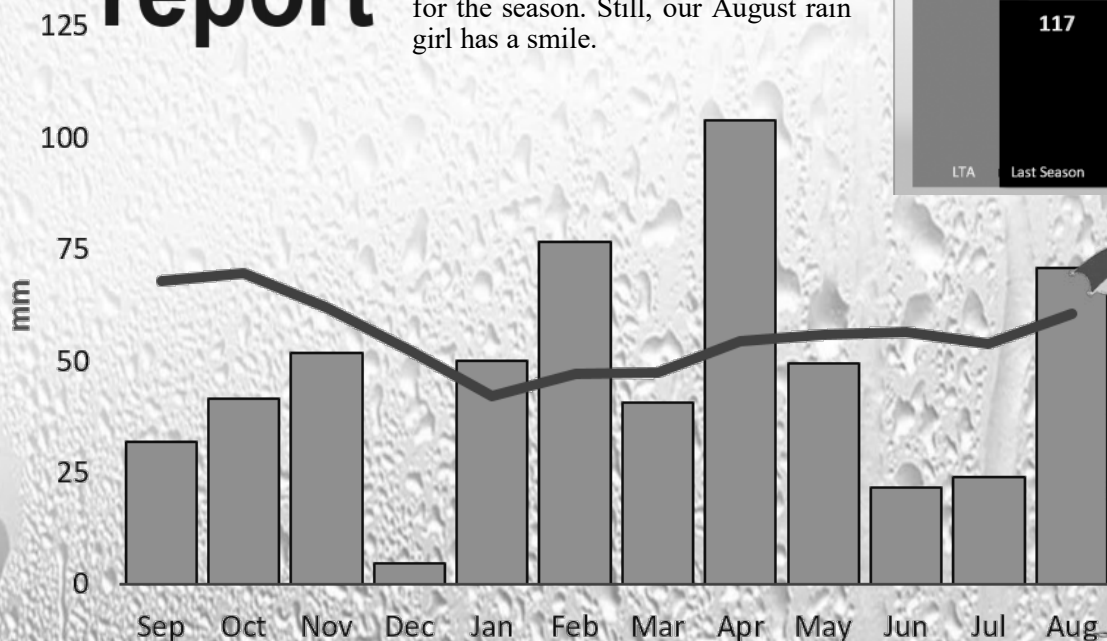
there was humour, philosophy, descriptions of camp life, entertainment, and interactions with the local population in northern Australia, New Guinea and the Pacific Islands. I guess there were magazines and newspapers as well, and they all provided something important, some kind of cultural continuity, not just distraction. I also read stories of Prisoner of War camps and the range of activities, that prisoners devised in some of the camps, where they were able to, in order to maintain the culture they knew. They taught each other languages and skills, created theatre, improvised music and other activities to keep themselves in touch with that culture. Though going through such a terrible time, this engagement kept up their belief that there would come an end and it would all be worth it.

For my part, I feel so fortunate to have ABC radio, mainly RN and News radio which is such a connection with the wider world. The range of programs covering not only important information and discussions to do with the pandemic, but also science, arts, music, writing, history, social issues and yes, even sports. Television only a little, mainly the Drum on ABC, such a diverse range of panellists who for the most part, particularly the younger ones, give hope for the future. And documentaries, for instance a rare colour film of the invasion of Japan in 1945 showing the devastation of the cities and the population, the surrender procedures and the emergence of the Emperor from behind his screen of being a living God to exposing himself as a flawed human being. This had a profound effect on Japan’s post-war rebuilding as it was a huge cultural change.

The film was a sobering and timely reflection on how the whole world is going to have to reassess, rebuild and reinvent Post-pandemic. As we know, the end of WW2 was not the end of all war.

## the rain report

August made a big effort, registering 17% above average rainfall for the month. But the poor start to winter meant it managed to produce only around 68% of the long term average for the season. Still, our August rain girl has a smile.







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## MEREDITH NEWS NICEWORDS NO.4

By Graham

1		2		3		4			5	6		7		8
								9						
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Regular font: the definition. *Italics: cryptic support.* G.P. = Golden Plains

Today's cryptic ploy No.4 (See the \* clues): **CONTAINERS AND CONTENTS** .

This ploy shows letters written as contents within words.

E.g. **Clue:** Discovered duck *in* available stock (5) **Solution:** Found = discovered. Duck, i.e. 0 in cricket, in available stock, i.e. fund = F(O)UND. **Indicators** which are underlined today are: *in, within, heart/middle of, holds, around etc.* See [meredithnews.com.au/extras](http://meredithnews.com.au/extras) for more details and other ploys.

**ACROSS:**

1\* Elaine local produce shop *selling a lot including marg perhaps* (8)

5 \**Latin art includes* Argentinian revolutionary *in* triumphal architectural features (6)

10 See 11 ac.

11 & 10ac. \* *First and last words of the solution define where historical Charles sits in* our local Community Centre: (3,8,3)

12\* A pear tree *inhabitant* in retro (5)

13 *Not home straight* course to contract out (9)

14 *Bear's in trouble* with local \_\_\_\_\_ Orthodox Church (7)

16 *National service with passport or driver's licence is old and stale* (6)

19 *Not one Christian Church Centre can stop bleeding* (6)

21 *Stock and Pet Supplies has a western sort of equipment for butchers* (7)

22 G.P. locality south of Buninyong *where I got into trouble with a bad girl* (9)

24 *First part of laparoenterostomy you probe for* a small growth in the bowel (5)

26 The seventh Greek letter. *When will it come, do you think?* (3)

27 Look *okay* (11)

28\* The House of the \_\_\_\_\_ Sun is *essential to what a "call girl" might do?* (6)

29 One of our News' uncultured animals *to get pea soup* (4,4)

#### DOWN:

1\* Supporter of gender equality is *seen with short skirt in fest* (8)

2 *Where wild revellers go for scams* (5)

3\* The creator Fleming, *digesting the success of the philosopher Godwin* (10)

4 Town south of Ararat *sounds shabby. On second consideration a bit shabby.* (7)

6 Ryan Shaw's character (Home and Away): *Nick with offence under arms* (5)

7 Morrisons mine *struck gold, young lady* (3,2,4)

8 *One of our News' uncultured butters?* (This cryptic element is the definition.)(5)

9 Gordon \_\_\_\_\_, Jake in Home and Away, actor *and talk-er?* (6)

15 Members of Rotary = *nonsense on airwaves. Answer?* (9)

17 Old English coin worth 9 pennies. *Yes, 9, bearing a nesting swan and Wesley's former church* (9)

18 Barter fest. *Sounds like Farmgate's leg of lamb for a leg of venison?* (4,4)

20\* Geelong Party Supplies has this type of balloon *fit for a high priest in full flight* (6)

21 *Mobile library set missing "A Railway". This does get your hackles up.* (7)

22 *Some agree right or wrong with 1dn. protagonist e.g.* (5)

23\* *Good French wrap to account for a breakfast favourite* (5)

25 *It's somewhat rolling over the tongue* (5)

#### SOLUTIONS:

**Across:** 1. Farmgate 5. Arches 11 & 10. The Meredith Hub 12. Nashi 13. Outsource 14. Serbian 16. Rancid 19. Stanch 21. Bandsaw 22. Garibaldi 24. Polyp 26. Eta 27. Countenance 28. Rising 29. Pete Goat

**Down:** 1. Feminist 2. Rorts 3. Godwinian 4. Tatyoon 6. Robbo 7. Hit Or Miss 8. Steve 9. Chater 15. Rotarians 17. Ninepence 18. Swap meet 20. Helium 21. Bristle 22. Greer 23. Bacon 25. Lingo

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# MAN COOK EAT



Steve Duffy

## Who can grow the biggest pumpkin in Meredith?

As we launch into Spring amid this Covid time, I have a fun challenge for you.

How about a Giant Pumpkin Contest. Let's get as many people to have a go. The principal of Meredith Primary School is willing to help, and the idea has the backing of our Editor, Jim Elvey. We have plenty of time to get organised. Pumpkins can be planted through the Spring, so we still have a month to prepare garden beds, distribute seeds and set out some cultivation notes.

There is an organisation that will help you with a recognised record of weight and size. The Australian Giant Pumpkin and Vegetable Supporters. I'm not suggesting we run this local activity under their supervision, but if you would like to enter your effort to them, you can follow them up on Facebook. What I had in mind was a local community activity that can be run in these isolation times.

I currently trying to get the Giant Pumpkin Seeds at a discount, more on that later.

Preparing your pumpkin patch:

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## Marg's BOOK REVIEW

### “Flight Behaviour” by Barbara Kingsolver

This book takes on one of the most contentious subjects of our time: climate change. Barbara Kingsolver's commitment to literature promoting social justice runs so deep, that in 1998 she established the Bellwether Prize to encourage socially engaged fiction. In the wrong hands, fiction written to convey urgent social issues is tedious, but done well it can be eye opening and moving.

In this book, Kingsolver's seventh novel, a colony of butterflies and a young woman are both deviated from their optimal flight paths, a story she uses to tell about global warming, and the grossly inadequate public-school education, especially in the sciences.

Dellarobia and her husband Cub have been together since she got pregnant at the age of seventeen, derailing her plans to attend college and escape their small Tennessee town. They are browbeaten by Cub's parents who are struggling sheep farmers with hill billy status, for whom they both work and who are influenced by an evangelistic preacher and his God fearing, moral majority congregation. In other words the book is set on a sheep farm in the depressed Bible Belt.

And then Dellarobia's life is upended, not by the tryst she planned, but by an insect. The vision of millions of Monarch butterflies in the forest on the mountain behind their house, turns out to be of such enormous consequence that the world arrives on her doorstep. For Monarchs to winter far from the heat of the south is unprecedented. Locals view the arrival as a message from God, but entomologist Ovid Byron who comes to investigate, blames climate change.

Some want to exploit the butterflies for sightseeing and Cub's father wants to sell the woods to pay off a looming debt. We watch Dellarobia in her daily life and with her work with the scientists, change from a caterpillar to a butterfly. Her life morphs and takes flight as she learns about the very real problems of the world, in which she spreads her new wings. We also hope that her two children have opportunities, especially her son Preston, who shows a great interest in animals.

Kingsolver's prose creates images that are palpable: They all attended Hester's church which Dellarobia viewed as a complicated pyramid scheme of moral debt and credit, resting ultimately on the shoulders of the Lord, but rife with middle managers". The church choir sings a hymn "dragging it like a plough through clay".

I recommend reading this beautifully written and beautifully produced book.



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# SLIDING DOORS

Andrew Howard's

The "Sliding Doors" office has been temporarily closed for a period with submissions to the Meredith News on hold, reason being that a demanding full time professional role had left the author time poor, and unable to find the time for the monthly submissions.

Like everyone else, 2020 and this strange pandemic life we live in has delivered us time that we never knew we had. Time indeed to provide this somewhat different "Sliding Doors" submission for the good people of Meredith and district.

At this time of "Lockdown" (when did this become a word!), there are only so many garden, shed or kitchen projects to undertake, before our minds turn to pondering the significance of these strange and scary times we are living through.

What have we learnt? What of the things that we have learnt will stick and become the new normal? At the "Sliding Doors" office the following take outs have been pondered.

We cannot control anything. Life is now defined by a constant underlying feeling of low-level anxiety and sadness. "Unprecedented" is the defining definition of 2020; how did this happen and how bad can it get? This pandemic should remind us to live life fully. Do not wait, we do not know what tomorrow will bring. All we have is now. Consider this as a positive, optimistic view of life, a mindfulness approach to our life and world. Enjoy now and fill your moments with activities and people that bring joy.

For most of us, our work is not that important. Find a job that you like doing, that is honourable, that is challenging and rewarding and do your best. But do not let it define you. The responsibility of all who front up for work in roles now defined as "essential workers" are the one's who can truly claim their work is important. Nurses & Doctors in front line pandemic care roles; Teachers; Government leaders; Aged, Disability, Mental Health and Child direct care workers...we owe you.

We must do better to care for our elderly, to honour them. Collectively they have committed their lives to providing us with the comfortable and secure lifestyles we enjoy now. It is simple, we owe them also.

Nurture your relationships with those closest to you. These days remind us that the age-old axiom is indeed a truth. When it comes down to it, those closest to you may be all you have left. Sharing so much time together with our loved ones, in the absence of the distractions of "normal" life, has left us all aware of the need to ensure that we invest in our close relationships. Healthy, happy relationships take work, long term.

Be kind to others. Whenever you can, reach out to others with simple acts of kindness. We have seen examples of kindness everywhere as this Pandemic has unfolded. We depressingly take in the news of the

"daily numbers – new cases and deaths" but it is the snippets of good news stories of kindness, that lifts us and inspire us with hope of a better future. If nothing else, let it be this simple change that becomes our "new normal" beyond the fear and uncertainty of 2020, the year of "our" pandemic.

Bernard Fanning, the great Australian singer and songwriter could not have said it better....

*"This life well it's slipping right through my hands. These days turned out nothing like I had planned..."*

Take care, stay safe, be kind...

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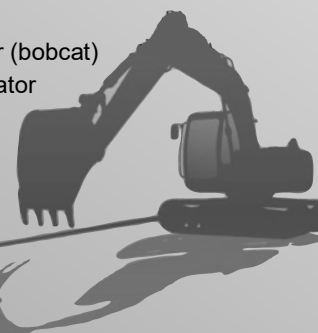
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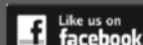
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## Dark Secret - Bright Future

*Jan Crump*

James Speckman was one of Meredith's earliest settlers. He and his wife Honor came to Meredith in 1858/9. James found employment as assistant pound keeper to Thomas Connor in 1859, a position he held till his death in 1884. Mention was made in his obituary that he had been pound keeper for 25 years.

James was a diligent and hardworking man and there are many reports in the Geelong Advertiser of his impoundments and levying of fines over many years. He requested improvements and replacement of fences, and notice boards, so we can safely surmise he took pride in his job.

It is possible that the Speckmans lived in the dwelling at the pound which was on land owned by Thomas Connor.

He was a well-respected member of the town and served on the jury at the Purcell/ Dawson murder trial. James and Honor prospered and they bought a 100 acre property, east of what is now known as Davies Rd.

### But

Both James and Honor had a dark secret that they certainly wouldn't have shared with friends and townsfolk. Both had been convicted of stealing in the English courts and sentenced to transportation for 7 years to Tasmania.

James was born in West Thurrock, Essex in 1814 and was convicted of stealing a quantity of wheat in 1848. He spent 2 years on the prison hulks on the Thames, as was the custom, and transported to Tasmania in 1850, aboard the "Rodney" with 311 other male convicts. He was given permission to marry Honor in 1852 but there is no record of his time in Hobart Town.

Honor's story is very grim. She was born in Phillack, Cornwall in 1806, the daughter of Richard and Grace Polkinghorne. She married Thomas Tremelling in 1828 and was a widow with 3 small children by 1836.

Honor was convicted of "larceny by a servant" when she stole 6 shillings from her long time employer, Mr Edward Lanyon, a surgeon of Camborne. Despite her pleas for leniency she was sentenced to 7 years transportation. In 1848 Honor came to Australia aboard the "Tory" with 169 female convicts, arriving in August of that year. She never saw her children or family again. She received her ticket of leave in 1850 and certificate of freedom in 1854. It is unknown how or when James and Honor came to Victoria.

James and Honor had no children and both died in 1884 and are buried in the Meredith Cemetery. As a mark of their long friendship, James left his property and personal effects of 41 pounds to his first employer Thomas Connor.

An interesting side story to that of James and Honor Speckman is that convicts on the Thames prison hulks had to work. But they were allowed to keep 1 penny for every shilling of work they produced. This money was deposited in the "Convict Bank" and administered by the Derwent Bank of England. On release, convicts received

their savings. This was a strangely benevolent practice, considering the appalling harshness of the court system.

So it is possible that James and Honor Speckman came to Meredith with a small nest egg to start their new and bright future.

*Sources:*

*Tasmanian Convict Register.*

*Geelong Advertiser.*

*Phillock Parish Register.*

*Meredith Cemetery Records.*



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## Vale to Annette May Ferry

### 25/9/1948 – 9/8/2020

Only ten people were allowed to attend the funeral of Annette at Kings Funeral Home in Geelong, but it was live streamed.

Beautiful music had been chosen which represented her. One song was “I Did it My Way” and another song mentioned “A Storm in the Desert”.

Annette was diagnosed with bowel cancer in May 2020 after only retiring from 22 years working as a cook at Back Creek, in April 2020. Trina who manages Back Creek Café in Meredith said that Christian College planned a big party to farewell her, but because of Corona Virus, only a few staff said goodbye and thanks, which was sad because she was such a valued worker. The Christian College Facebook Page dedicated a page to a much loved and dear friend; “A genuinely loved and truly valued member of our community, Netty served as cook at Back Creek Farm for more than two decades, blessing and enriching the lives of the thousands of students who passed through the Farm during those years, and all of the staff who had the pleasure to work alongside her. Netty filled our cups, plates and hearts to overflowing.”

Annette grew up in Albert Street, Sebastopol. She was the daughter of Bob and Betty Bridges and sister to Robert and Roy. Her cousin Gail said that they were great friends, she was fun to be around and a great practical joker who had a great sense of humour.

She attended Redan State School, Sebastopol Technical School and was gifted at athletics. It was in the genes; her father was a runner, as are her granddaughters.

She trained as a hairdresser at Miss Jean Irwin’s salon in Armstrong Street, opposite Myers store. She and another apprentice, Anne Musgrove from Cargarie immediately became friends.

Nola, Annette and Gail went to the 60-40 Dances at the Civic Hall. After the dance they’d walk down Armstrong Street, buy potato cakes at the Fish and Chip Shop [they couldn’t afford fish], catch the tram and be home by midnight.

Annette met Daryl Ferry from Meredith. She became his “Sweetie”. They married at Holy Trinity in Sebastopol on 25/1/1969 and in 2019 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with members of their wedding party.

They first lived in Ballarat, and Daryl drove trucks before returning to the farm at Durdidwarrah with their two children, Amanda and Scott. Annette had a part time hair dressing shop in Meredith. It was in one of the two front rooms of the big shed that was between the Royal Hotel and the CRB House in Wallace Street. Annette was a people’s person and a great hairdresser.

Son-in-law Karl Morris said that Annette always made him feel special, and after all the condolences posted

on Facebook on the Christian College site he realised that she made a lot of people feel special. They appreciated her big hugs, her big heart and her Mars Bar slice. Several called her Queen of the Kitchen.

Granddaughter Harriet said that she enjoyed some trips with Annette including to High Tea in Hong Kong and to Paris.

Although she was short in stature, she stood tall and did it her way.



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“To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow” (A Hepburn)  
and if never before, now in the year 2020, I think we truly need to hold on to this.

Gardening is therapeutic on so many levels, Mind, Body and Soul, just being around nature can improve your mood, makes you feel more at peace, and the act of digging, planting, and watering can help take your mind off of the stresses of daily life and gets the body moving.

*Plant three rows of peas:*

*Peace of mind | Peace of heart | Peace of soul*

*Plant three rows of squash:*

*Squash indifference | Squash selfishness | Squash hate*

*Plant three rows of lettuce:*

*Lettuce be kind | Lettuce love one another | Lettuce grow our own food*

Gardening is not guaranteed to solve all the world's problems or soothe all your pain. But there is something healing about it that could change your perspective and increase your joy. I know it does for me.

Once the weather and more importantly the soil warms up, (if it is too cold to sit bare bum on, it's too cold for your seedlings) it is time to get your spring seeds and seedling into the ground.

You can start your seeds off in seed trays in a warm spot, the window ledge, on top of hot water system, just do not forget to keep them moist.

To plant in September, artichoke, beans, capsicum, celery, Chinese cabbage, cucumber, eggplant, kohlrabi, leek, lettuce, melons, okra, onion, potato (tubers), silver beet, spring onion, squash, sweet corn, and tomato.

The following companion planting tips will help make your vegie garden both beautiful and balanced.

Plant decoys to distract insects from your crops. e.g. Calendula will attract slugs and snails, instead of eating your vegies.

Include plants to attract beneficial insects with smell, texture, and colour. e.g. beneficial insects love bergamot and borage.

Also plant to repel pests. Some plants produce oils that

disguise the plants that pests are looking for e.g. thyme, lavender, and scented geranium. Others produce a scent or taste that is so unpleasant it drives insects away e.g. tansy and wormwood.

Also grow plants that contain natural toxins that can be used to make sprays or washes - like fennel, chamomile, or pyrethrum - no need for toxic bought chemicals.

One of the oldest examples of companion gardening is The Three Sisters planting combination.

It was practised by Native Americans thousands of years ago and is still used today.

The three plants used in this ancient gardening system are beans, corn, and squash (any trailing member from the Cucurbit family will work- pumpkin, melons, cucumber etc). The principle behind this combination is that the beans will use the corn as a support to climb up, and in turn as they are in the legume family they will fix nitrogen from the soil and make it more available to the other plants. The rambling squash vines provide a living mulch and help shade the roots of the corn and the beans, preventing them drying out in the heat of summer. As most of the Cucurbit family have spiny stems, they also prevent pests climbing up to eat the corn and beans.

I love this as it is so simple and easy to do and you get to live with a beautiful relationship of plants that live in harmony together helping to make you feel at peace.



You need an area of well-prepared garden bed that is no smaller than 3 metres square, and in a full sun position.

All of the seeds are sown directly into the ground in late spring- early summer.

First sow the corn and squash. Sow the corn in blocks of at least 4x4 to ensure good pollination rates. Sow the corn about 15-20 centimetres apart. Interplant the blocks of corn with squash plants, planting the squash seeds about 10

centimetres apart. Once the seeds have germinated thin the squash seeds so there are about 2 plants for every 4 corn plants. Then 3-4 weeks later, or once the corn plants are around 10 centimetres high it is time to plant the bean seeds. Plant 2 or 3 bean seeds at the base of each corn plant.

You will need to make sure you weed between the plants while they are still young. But once the plants are established you need to do little else except water in hot or windy days. And then enjoy the harvest.

“I like gardening — it's a place where I find myself when I need to lose myself.”

Alice Sebold

PS: The Diggers Club: <https://www.diggers.com.au> Has a great range of heirloom & organic seeds.

Kerrie Kruger


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## ***Pork Saltimbocca with Cauliflower Mash***

*Serves 4*

*Prep time 100 mins & Cook 20 mins*

### **Ingredients**

500g potatoes, chopped  
 1/3 cauliflower cut into florets  
 ¼ cup milk  
 75g bocconcini cheese chopped  
 2 t9  
 bs fresh sage plus extra leaves  
 4 x 150g pork loin steaks  
 8 slices prosciutto or thinly sliced bacon  
 Olive oil  
 1 tbs fresh lemon juice  
 1/3 cup chicken stock  
 1 tbs butter

### **Method**

Pre heat oven to 180 or 160 fan forced. Potatoes and cauliflower in a large saucepan of boiling water for 10 minutes or until tender. Drain and return to pan. Mash with milk until smooth.

Meanwhile, combine bocconcini and chopped sage in a small bowl. Cut a deep pocket in the side of each piece of pork. Stuff with sage mixture. Top each piece of pork with a sage leaf and wrap with a slice of prosciutto or bacon. Secure with a toothpick.

Heat oil in a large non-stick frying pan over medium high heat. Cook pork for two minutes each side or until golden. Transfer to a baking tray and bake for 10 minutes or until cooked to your liking. Cover pork with foil and set aside to rest for 3 minutes.

Meanwhile, heat the same uncleaned pan over medium high heat. Add juice, stock and butter and simmer, uncovered, for 2-3 minutes or until sauce has reduced by half.

Top mash with pork and drizzle with sauce to serve.

*Recipe from – Everyday Italian*

*Stefania*

## **The THINGS We Say**

GEMMA HANAN

### **Every cloud has a silver lining**

Perhaps an idiom that we have all been using more than usual this year, this phrase means to find the positive in a bad situation. The idea is that dark clouds often can be seen to have light linings from the sun shining behind them. The concept of silver linings and clouds was first attributed to poet John Milton in 1634, but the actual origin of the phrase in its entirety is a bit harder to pin down. The use of this phrase has mainly been attributed to a newspaper article from around the 1840s. Which newspaper depends on which research source you believe.

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## it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

### Community Grants:

MHIG was successful in receiving a Golden Plains Shire Community Grant in the First Round of this year's revamped program. We called the project "Bringing History Alive". All of the money received will be used to bring history out of the archives and into the community with plans to buy a glass display case, have history boards for displays professionally made, to have the front room converted to accommodate a set of filing cabinets and to make a photo display case.

### 2020 Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns:

MHIG entered the Awards Program in The Heritage and Culture Section for the Significant Trees of Meredith & District Project and the Keep Victoria Beautiful Gift Fund for The Unknown and Known Photos of Meredith. The Gift Fund offers \$1000 to a yet to be launched project which is considered particularly important and is designed to encourage and support groups to get started on new projects. Every finalist in the 10 categories was invited to give a 1-2 minute presentation of their project. MHIG did so on Zoom on August 20. The Awards will be announced at a Virtual Event on October 10.

### Parish Ball:

"St Joseph's Church Committee held its first Parish Ball since before the Second World War in the Mechanic's Hall. It was the most successful ever conducted by the committee, the hall being crowded by visitors from Geelong and surrounding districts. The secretarial duties were in the hands of Miss Toohey and Mr Les Brady. A working committee had the hall beautifully decorated. The supper arrangements required four sittings in a special marquee. The official party included Rev O Carroll [Meredith], Fr Kelly [Ashby], Mr and Mrs J L Matheson [Moranghurk], Mr and Mrs Roy Farrar [Geelong] and Mr and Mrs Meehan [Geelong] and was met by the President Mrs M Cleary. Mr Chris Mooney officially welcomed the visitors and thanked the judges for assisting the committee. Twenty-seven belles were selected to take part in the "Pride of Erin", the judges award going to Miss Sharkey [Bannockburn]. Mr Rany Grant was MC."

*From: Advocate, April 1, 1948.*

It seems that activities took some time to recover after WW11. This Parish Ball was the first since before the Second World War.

### Street Nursery:

Have you bought some plants at the Street Nursery [for \$3.00 each]?

Have you some plants that you could donate to the Street Nursery? Thank you.

### Street Library:

Have you borrowed some books from the Street Library [For Free]?

Have you donated some books to the Street Library?

## Lethbridge in 1860

### THE GEELONG AND BALLARAT RAILWAY WORKS.

On Saturday we paid a visit to the line of railway works from the valley of the Moorabool to the great working depot at Lethbridge, and the result of our observations we now place before our readers....

...- 35,000 tons of stone were required for the (Moorabool) viaduct alone, and from 60,000 to 70,000 tons more for works between this point and the West Geelong junction. This stone is brought from the Lethbridge quarries, 14 miles westward of the Moorabool, and upon arriving at the latter place it is stopped by an incline of some 350 feet, at an angle of nearly 45 degrees. ....

Beginning at the eastern side of the Moorabool, the Viaduct Township, par excellence, if a few crazy-looking weatherboard cottages and a dirty public-house or two, may be so dignified, we observed but very few men engaged on the works, explained however by nearly all the masonry required here being sent down ready dressed from Lethbridge....

The span of the Britannia Tubular Bridge across the Menai Straits is 1900 feet. With the exception of Saltash on the Devon and Cornwall line this is the largest in Great Britain. The Moorabool Viaduct will be 1400 feet, and will therefore rank third in importance....

With some difficulty we ascended the incline, and from this point to Lethbridge, fourteen miles, the permanent way is laid, and the line fenced in with the exception of two sections....

The number of men, owing to economization of labour by machinery, and the stone being

worked and dressed at Lethbridge, is not great - at the Viaduct itself the masons only counting little over a hundred. From this point westward we could proceed on foot no farther, so returned to the township, where a buggy was waiting.

We jumped into the trap, and away on the road to Lethbridge. Once we stopped to take breath under a fine segmental arch at the Muddy Water Holes, and we pulled up again to take a look at one of the numerous culverts on the line. We were anxious to ascertain, supposing a

scientific commission followed in our wake, if they would be able to dig out the mortar with their toothpicks and demolish the whole with a few strokes from their umbrellas, but the work not only invited but well repaid inspection. They are formed of solid masonry, and the style of work will be best understood as "rock'd faced with margin draughts." Several times we crossed the line and so far as we were competent to judge the work generally, was unexceptionable, - good and abundant ballasting, solidity of fixing, the rails - of which by the way only one set are as yet down, straight as an arrow should be - and a charred post and substantial three rail fence enclosure.

A seventy minutes ride of 15 miles brought us to Lethbridge, and here the scene as it first opened out to view, took us completely by surprise. As far as the eye could reach were tents

scattered in every direction. We passed some small mounds of earth - these were the graves of workmen's children - this was the cemetery. At some distance to the north we noticed a little chapel. Now again we passed a dray load of furniture, the tent

had just been struck, and its late occupants were departing for other scenes, and perhaps more congenial employment. But a little farther, and the great fact we had come to witness lay before us in all its imposing reality. From 1500 to 2000 men - masons, carpenters, sawyers, blacksmiths, quarrymen, excavators, stonebreakers, and multifarious others, representing every variety of skilled and unskilled labour - were mixed up here with horses, scaffolding, and steam engines, while the sound of many hundred voices mingling with the clang of anvils, the stroke of hammers, the letting off steam, and the occasional blasting of the quarries, presented a picture altogether so wild and extraordinary that a stranger is taken completely by surprise. In the foreground lay huge piles of ready dressed stone, principally for the Viaduct, while mountains of excavated rock are thrown up behind, and this, with the large moving mass of active life, gave the scene before us the appearance of a densely populated granite built city.

We visited the quarries from which nearly the whole of the stone used for the entire work has been drawn. These quarries followed up the line westward, and may be termed a perfect mine of wealth to the contractors, for its existence was not known when the contract was taken. The blue stone excavated is of the very finest description and lies just below the surface to a depth of twenty feet, where it rests upon a clay bottom. In quality and abundance Lethbridge without exception possesses the best quarries in this colony, and it seems almost like wanton waste to break up stuff like this, fit for the finest buildings, into metal for ballasting purposes. We saw one solid block measuring 6000 cube feet without an apparent flaw in it.

About twenty miles of temporary rails are laid down at these works, running to and from the quarries and in all directions. A powerful stone breaking machine for ballast is shortly to be placed here, although broken metal to the extent of 30,000 yards is at present upon the ground waiting carriage and distribution. A large quantity of ready dressed masonry also wants removal to the Moorabool, so it will be seen that no delay is permitted in pushing forward the viaduct to completion; indeed the contractors state that they would have no difficulty in completing the line through the West Geelong Junction to Lethbridge in seven months, but they fear government plant would not come forward quickly enough to keep pace with them.

A beautiful elliptic arch crosses the line at Lethbridge, the dressing of the masonry in which is as fine as anything we saw. The foreman of the works by way of compliment to it, we presume, suggested that it would be a good sample of convict labour. We came down in No. 1 engine with 250 tons of stone, and although it is somewhat difficult, it will be allowed, to judge of the easy working of a line by what you may experience under the disadvantages of being

perched on the summit of a stack of firewood, yet we did ride remarkably easy, and by sundown reached the Moorabool alive, to bear record of the fact....

The permanent way is now completed (save the break at the Moorabool) for 22 miles, i.e., from the West Geelong Junction on the Geelong and Melbourne line to Lethbridge, and judging from what we saw in progress, and the character of the work already completed, we think the public have present cause to be satisfied with the value received for the outlay of this portion of the eight millions for railway works. - *Geelong Advertiser: The Star (Ballarat, Vic. : 1855 - 1864) Saturday 29 September 1860 supported*

## YOUTH AWARD-WINNERS

Last week, Mayor Cr Owen Sharkey announced 40 well-deserving young residents of Golden Plains Shire would be recognised with Community Impact Awards as part of the Mayoral Youth Program 2019/20. In the program's first year, 40 young people who had demonstrated a positive impact to an individual, group or the environment were recognised at an online ceremony hosted by the Mayor over Zoom on Thursday 20 August, 2020. The many achievements of this year's award-winners range from volunteering with the Lethbridge Junior Football Club and the Teesdale CFA brigade, to designing and campaigning for the future upgrade of Meredith skate park, helping establish the first youth group in Smythesdale and getting involved in Bannockburn College's Koorie education group. The Mayoral Youth Program's Community Impact Awards recognise and celebrate the positive contributions local young people already make to the Golden Plains Shire community, while encouraging new young people to be more actively involved in their communities. The ceremony was held virtually due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, and all award-winners will receive a \$50 Officeworks voucher and a framed award certificate in the mail.

Golden Plains Shire Mayor Cr Owen Sharkey congratulated the worthy recipients of the Mayoral Youth Program. "It was fantastic to be able to award 40 Mayoral Youth Program awards to some truly well-deserving local young people last week. "This program was a great way to recognise and celebrate the positive contributions that young people are making in every corner of our Shire. "While COVID-19 restrictions meant we couldn't hold a physical awards ceremony as we originally planned, it was great to be able to harness Zoom to ensure we were still able to recognise and promote the terrific achievements of our young residents."

## Safer online shopping

With many of us shopping online during this time of shut down it pays to know the pitfalls which might arise.

Fake parcel delivery scams.

So you've shopped securely online and are now eagerly awaiting your goodies! Don't let your guard down. Cybercriminals send fake parcel delivery notifications to trick you into downloading malware or giving away your personal or financial details.

These notifications are typically an email or SMS message pretending to be from a legitimate parcel delivery business like Australia Post, DHL or FedEx, claiming you have an 'undelivered package' awaiting your collection.

- \* Be wary of messages that don't address you personally, have few or no details about your order, or threaten to charge you a fee for holding an undelivered item.
- \* Think before you click – remember Australia Post will never ask you to click a link to print out a receipt for parcel collection, nor will they ask you to update or verify your personal information.
- \* If you're unsure, call the organisation but remember to use contact details from a verified website or other trusted source.

<https://www.cyber.gov.au/acsc/view-all-content/advice/shopping-or-buying-online>



That's ironic!

Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone but refused to keep one in his study. He feared it would distract him from his work.

*Little did he know how right he was. Ed*

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With many of us doing our tax returns at the moment it is worthwhile knowing about an SMS scam.

Just a few days after submitting my tax return I received an ATOSMS telling me that my tax had been assessed and to visit a website to claim using my phone number and provided PIN number. THIS IS A SCAM. Do not go to any website apart from your mygov account. If you have provided personal information to a scammer report it to the ATO.

Luckily I was suspicious. Ed.

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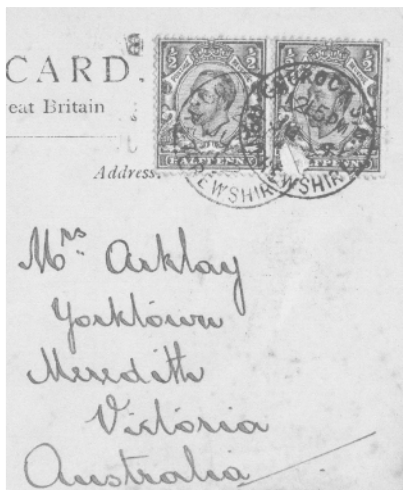
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## Yorktown

Marg Cooper

A Postcard addressed to Mrs Arklay, Yorktown, Meredith, Victoria, Australia from her son John William Charles Barr Arklay, who was a soldier serving in WW1 sparked an interest in the small Bamganie town.



An article in the Argus Newspaper in August 1901 reported that "The Duke of York" is the lease which first gave the mining stimulus to the district. The mine is south-west of Meredith and immediately north of it, on Crown Lands, a settlement is springing into existence known as Yorktown. The Bamganie Field is now divided into approximately 50 leases.

Several references to Yorktown paint a picture. The township of Meredith has become so lively since the mining operations have commenced, at what is now known as Yorktown that, the local shire council has decided to ask for further police protection. In December 1901 a woman was charged for a bit of sly grog selling, and in May 1902 some representatives of the Excise Department visited Yorktown, and charged a 15 year old lad, who was in the employ of a storekeeper at Yorktown, with sly grog selling. Mail may have been delivered to this store owned by Mr Gibney, as tenders for conveyance of mails were advertised in the Commonwealth Gazette to and from Yorktown, 6 days a week from 1905 to 1908.

In October 1909 plans for lands available for application under Section 47 of the Lands Act could be inspected at Post Offices including Yorktown.

Margaret Mary Arklay, daughter of William and Margaretta Arklay was baptised in September 1904 at St Joseph's Church in Meredith before she married James Peter Lynch in October 1904 at St Joseph's.

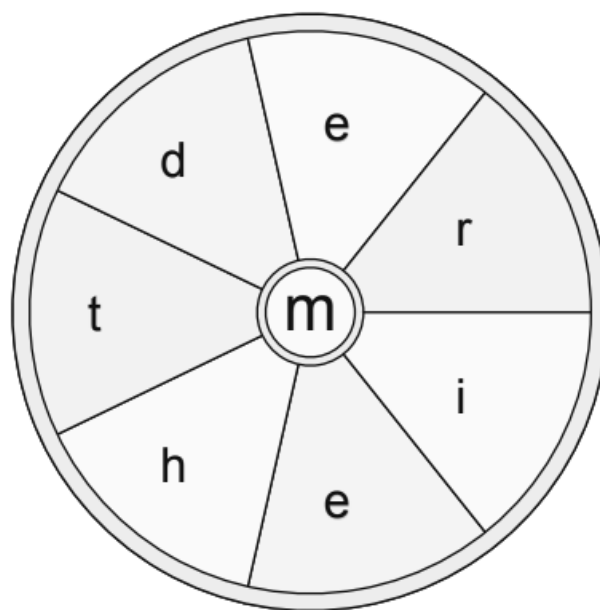
Margaret's brothers James and William were listed as miners at Yorktown in 1905 and her mother was listed in 1909 and 1917, her occupation being Home Duties. Her sister Willomena Fredericka married Thomas Musgrove of Bamganie in 1912. Margaret's brother George was listed as a labourer in Meredith in 1917, and her brother Charles was charged with careless use of fire in 1914.

Sadly Margaret Lynch died in August 1907 at the age of 20 after the birth of her second child, who died a week later. Both of her children were baptised when she lived at Yorktown.

In the Bushfires in February 1913 which began on one farm on the Larundel Estate, the house and outbuildings of Mrs Arklay were completely destroyed. But it seems that she rebuilt or moved to another building as letters reached her at Yorktown during the Great War.

## Wheel Words

The goal of a word wheel puzzle is to create as many words possible with the letters in the word wheel. You can only use each letter once and every word must have the letter in the center of the wheel.



Can you find the eight letter word.

More clues page 38

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## A Talented Family

*Marg Cooper*

Eric Nordin was 18 months old when he came to Australia. His parents had left Sweden, travelled to London, stayed in the Scandinavian Sailor's Home until they boarded the boat "Orama" and set sail for a new life in Australia. When they arrived in December 1925 two of their six children had measles. Those children were taken into quarantine and they never saw them again.

The family headed for north west Victoria to his mother's brothers farm. Eric's Uncle's dark South African wife wouldn't let the newly arrived family stay in the house because they had an infectious disease, they had to camp in the barn.

After finishing school Eric went to Bendigo to live with his sister and he started an apprenticeship as a Pastry Chef. He finished this apprenticeship after serving in 151 Transport Company in WW11 in New Guinea. [Of interest is that Joe East was in the same company and may have sparked an interest in the She Oaks area.] One day in new Guinea he noticed a soldier in their tent pretending to read his mail but the letter was upside down. Eric realized the man was illiterate, ended up reading his mail to him and writing letters home for him. The soldier's wife had a friend who offered to be a pen friend to Eric and when he returned from the war, romance blossomed and they married.

To Merbein they went to help Eric's wife's family in their cordial factory as her sister had contracted polio and needed lots of care from the family. Eric became chief cordial maker, making essences etc until the business was sold in 1970 and Eric and his wife moved to Geelong where Eric worked for Noddy's and later Franklins.

Eric and his wife had a son Ralph and a daughter. Ralph, who had trained as a Fitter and Turner in Mildura also left Merbein in 1970 to work in the iron ore mines at Mt Goldsworthy. He went for adventure and to make his fortune. Workers all lived on site in those days, in fairly crude accommodation, worked six days a week, it was always hot and it never rained. But this adventure started a lifetime of travel, working on big engineering projects including the Thompson River Tunnel, stripping overburden for Hammersley Iron at Paraburdoo, Dartmouth Dam, Forestry in New Zealand etc. Ralph became very skilled with big machinery and spent the last twenty five years of his career working for Caterpillar at Sunshine.

In 1987 after Ralph's children had left home he and his wife decided to change their lives [he said "we got romantic"] so they bought a bush block in Stirling Road and built a "Owl" shaped mud brick house with a curved roof which was designed to withstand bush fires. Eric and Ralph worked on the house together. They made the mud bricks from Kaolin white clay, milled the timber from Oregon that had had former lives in a Williamstown grain store and a wool store in Geelong, Eric did the fine cabinetry and Ralph did the heavier work. What they created is a very individual, finely crafted home that is interesting to look at in every direction.

Eric was also a talented knitter and crocheter. A framed

depiction of the Last Supper crocheted out of cotton hangs behind the pulpit in the Church of England Church at Steiglitz and the family have many doilies, supper cloths etc that he made. He had studied working with timber at night school in Merbein.



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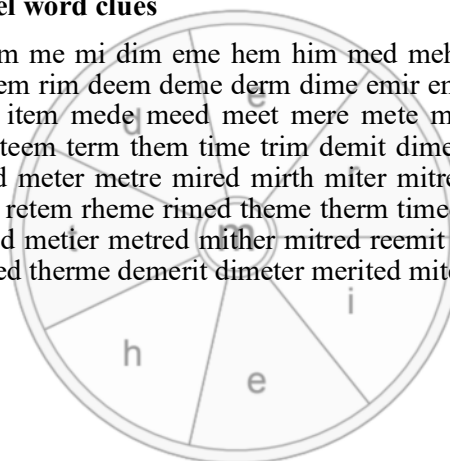
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### Wheel word clues

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mri rem rim deem deme derm dime emir emit heme herm  
idem item mede meed meet mere mete meth mire mite  
rime teen term them time trim demit dimer merde merit  
meted meter metre mired mirth miter mitre rehem remet  
remit retem rheme rime theme therm timed timer hermit  
itemed metier metred mither mitred reemit retime termed  
themed theme demerit dimeter merited mitered retimed





*Kerry Thomson & Amanda*

## **CHRISTINE KEMPERS**

Chris's wonderfully caring and sociable nature has combined with her innate artistic talent to guide her path in life.

After her dad died when she was six weeks old, Chris was raised by her nana and papa. Her nana was an artist, but her main influence was her auntie Lola who was disabled after catching Rubella as a child. Chris loved Lola's brilliant, bright and colourful drawings and, even as a two year old, tried to draw with her. Chris found art came easily at school where she received high praise for a lino-cut picture of a horse and for her needlework and embroidery.

After leaving school at 15, Chris worked in a manchester store, moving into management a few years later. It was only after having children that, at the age of 25, she was able to pursue her art. She attended a Folk Art group but quickly moved on to acrylic on canvas and the freedom which it allowed. Although self-taught she was a natural and quickly moved on to teaching sessions three times a week in a craft shop in Drysdale. Her responses such as "There is Turner's yellow under that" were instinctive as she felt "she just knew it".

When the shop in Drysdale closed Chris, followed by many of her students, moved to her own craft shop in Corio, then to a chain store in Corio Village, Chris with about 20 of her regulars joining her. Later she went to a shop in Highton, then set up her own rooms in Lovely Banks. Her final move came when she moved out to Steiglitz where she ran classes for 20 years - with some of the original Drysdale group still coming!

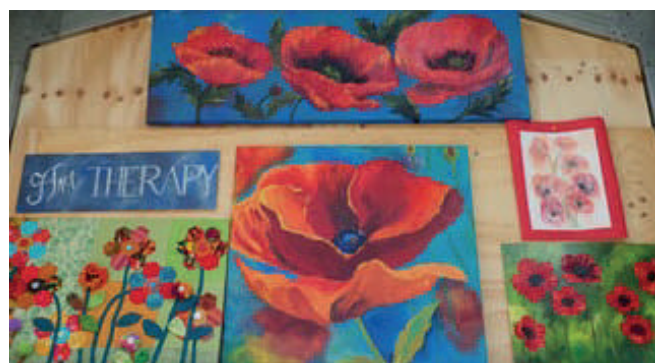
Chris excelled when she completed a Diploma in Art Therapy, and has continued to use her compassion, empathy and ability to ask the right questions, when working with her clients. She works with people with dementia and disability, those suffering from traumatic experiences, from the very young to the very old, creating and adapting both individual and group programs which offer inclusiveness and enjoyment. Her creativity is used

to connect with, inspire, motivate and help others to have fulfilment and empowerment, through expression with art. Often people cannot verbalise their story, but are able to tell it through art. Being a good listener, a generous giver of time and energy and, having huge patience has enabled Chris to work effectively with many people, and fill a much needed role in the community.

Chris completed her Diploma practical hours in Aged Care and has since used her skills in both Ballarat and Geelong. Often art in this environment is very tactile and Chris uses multi-media techniques including painting, drawing, textiles, patchwork, buttons and whatever comes to hand. A major achievement was a 40 metre long by half a wall high mural Chris completed for BUPA Echuca Aged Care Residence. After hearing their stories and mind-mapping with the residents, she incorporated elements relating to the Murray River (fishing, paddle steamers, boating), indigenous elements, farming (dairy, orchards, vineyards) and so on. This was so well received that Chris was asked, and completed, a streetscape mural in the Dementia specific area of Ballarat BUPA.

Other recognition of Chris' work has been through many of her students winning prizes at Geelong show (as has Chris herself) and other exhibitions. She was part of the Golden Plains Arts Trail and President of the Back to Steiglitz group and Airing of the Quilts where her art and patchwork have been displayed. A painting of an old ute with 19 dogs in the back has won her several prizes, as has a three-sectioned pastel drawing of a horse's eye, saddle and rider's hands.

In her own artistic endeavours Chris uses pastel, acrylic and watercolour to depict realistic images of the things around her. She is passionate about animals, particularly horses and dogs, and these have featured heavily in her work. All her compositions flow from within. She is currently tackling a panoramic depiction of brumbies in the Victorian alps. At present Chris is unsure what the future holds as the NDIS requires her to have a Masters and new regulations and requirements (and insurance) now make self-employment very difficult. Post COVID she does hope to get back to teaching 'Art for all Ages' (also where you will find her website).



## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

September 2020

### Moorabool North Wind Farm

#### Progress to date

- Installation of all fifty (50) turbines complete
- Energisation of substation complete
- Commissioning of ten (10) turbine complete

#### Look ahead

- Ongoing commissioning of turbines
- Ongoing energisation of turbines

### Moorabool South Wind Farm

#### Progress to date

- Installation of bottom tower sections (S1 & S2) completed at all 54 turbine locations
- Eighteen (18) turbines fully installed
- All access tracks, hardstands and substation complete
- Energisation of substation complete
- All turbine components have been delivered to site
- Three (3) Main cranes now onsite to support turbine installation

#### Look ahead

- Ongoing turbine installation works will continue
- Nightworks may take place as works progress
- Road maintenance and repairs will continue as we monitor on weekly basis
- Ongoing Mechanical and Electrical completion of turbines

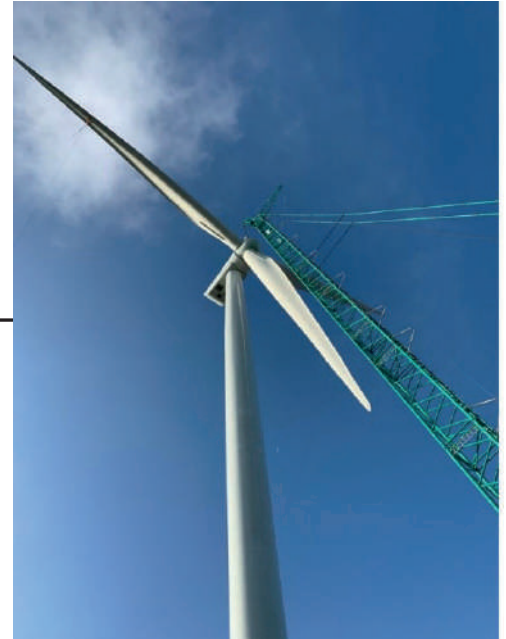


Image -Installation of turbine 15 at MSWF

## Community Fund

Thank you to each community group who applied for the Moorabool north wind farm community fund. We are excited to be able to announce the successful recipients. Congratulations to the following successful community groups:

- Meredith Community Centre
- Ballan Cricket Club
- Gordon Primary School
- Advance Meredith association INC, Meredith Community Coordinators, Meredith History interest group
- Ballan District Vintage Machinery and Vehicle Club
- Gordon Public Park & Recreation Reserve Incorporated
- Ballan Bowling Club
- Ballan District Health and Care
- Ballan RSL Sub-branch
- Gordon Football & Netball Club
- Ballan Golf Club Incorporated

*"This is a wonderful piece of news and a huge help for us as a school in achieving our goals. I appreciate the wonderful opportunity that Moorabool Windfarm has provided through their community grants initiative" - Gordon Primary School.*

A big thank you to our CRG representatives who made up the assessment panel for this round.

Moorabool South Wind Farm Community Fund Round One, will open early 2021. Please check our project website ([mooraboolwindfarm.com](http://mooraboolwindfarm.com)) closer to the time for further details.

**For Further Information about the project visit:**

[www.mooraboolwindfarm.com](http://www.mooraboolwindfarm.com)

[www.mwftraffic.com](http://www.mwftraffic.com) or call

1800 019 660.