

Meredith & district News

Our FREE Community Newsletter since 1972

NOVEMBER 2020



inside

- Opening up, what is back?
- Back creek cafe profile
- The legend of Stingy Jack

...and the usual MUCH MORE!



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



It's Time to Talk about Tomorrow.

We've stuck together and stayed strong.

And now is the time to talk about what we want for our future.

I'm looking for your suggestions on how we can create stronger, supportive communities.

What would you change about the way we work, live and support each other?

Visit www.michaelasettle.com.au and complete the survey.

Michaela Settle MP

STATE MEMBER FOR BUNINYONG

15 Main Road, Bakery Hill VIC 3350 P: 03 5331 7722

E: michaela.settle@parliament.vic.gov.au f MichaelaSettleMP



Authorised by M Settle, 15 Main Rd, Bakery Hill. Funded from Parliamentary budget.

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY AWARDS 2020



GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

Nominations are now open for the Golden Plains Shire Council Community Awards 2020.

The GPSC Community Awards 2020 formally acknowledge extraordinary individuals and community groups who make an outstanding contribution to Golden Plains Shire.

The GPSC Community Award 2020 categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Senior Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Impact Award (community event, project, group or team)

Nominations for the GPSC Community Awards 2020 close: 5pm, Monday 23 November, 2020

FOR A NOMINATION FORM:

- Visit Council's website at goldenplains.vic.gov.au
- Visit Council's Customer Service Centres:
2 Pope St, Bannockburn or 19 Heales St, Smythesdale

For more information about the GPSC Community Awards 2020, email events@gplains.vic.gov.au or call 5220 7111.

The VIRUS and us



dear readers...

**27 OCTOBER 11:59PM
REGIONAL VICTORIA**

- Gyms and fitness studios open - up to 20 people, and following density limits
- Religious gatherings:
Indoor - up to 20 people plus one faith leader
Outdoor - up to 50 people plus one faith leader
- Funerals increase to a maximum of 20 people indoors, and 50 people outdoors
- Indoor non-contact sport returns for children
- Indoor pools open to all ages, increase to 20 people

KEEP 1.5M DISTANCE
from others who are not part of your household

WEAR A FACE MASK
when you leave home

GET TESTED
if you have even the mildest symptoms

Don't run with bagpipes.
You could put an aye out.



Or worse yet, get kilt.

THIS MONTH...

This issue is packed full of information, inspiration and fun.

If you are looking for a quiet moment of meditation Wendy's In Our Nature piece is a wonderful description of spending some solitary time enjoying our natural environment. Gemma takes a wry look at the havoc wreaked by her feathered friends. Enjoy the lovely piece, with a recipe about the children at the Primary school enjoying the benefits of the garden. Leah reflects on her eventful first 6 months as the new Manager at the Community Centre

Wow what a week it has been leading up to the preparation of the November edition of our Community Newsletter. We are all breathing a sigh of relief that onerous restrictions we have been living under are starting to ease. We are starting to enjoy some balmy days and sunshine and starting to get back to the things we enjoy. Catching up with loved ones and the people we have missed.

So what can we now do?

According to the Golden Plains Shire website.
Playgrounds And Outdoor Gym Equipment: Open

Skate Parks And Bike Parks: Open

Outdoor Sporting Facilities: Open

Indoor Sporting Facilities: Closed

Campgrounds: Open

Community Centres: Closed

Shire services reopening subject to Covid 19 requirements.

GPS Customer Service

Maternal and child health

Bannockburn family service centre

Active ageing and Disability Services

Bannockburn Farmers Market (see page 5 for more details.

Remembering in the words of our Premier.

"The virus is still out there. There are still active cases. ...We all need to be careful and vigilant and respond quickly to any outbreaks – but not panic... The key to making this work is to get tested the moment you start to experience symptoms. Don't wait 24 or 48 hours and go about your business in between. Don't go to work. Don't catch up with friends. This is not something you can keep secret and hope for the best. The virus won't let you do that. And the longer you wait, the further it spreads – and the worse off we all are as a result. Getting tested early keeps your family and friends, your colleagues and community safe. That's how we'll stay open and protect our state"

Stay safe everyone.

SENDING YOU
A SOCIALLY-
DISTANCED HUG



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, Stefania Parkinson, Ian Penna, Mike Palmer, 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

Post Office, Meredith, 3333

Advertising: Ian 0409 016815

advertising@meredithnews.com.au

Accounts: Mike 0419 307044

accounts@meredithnews.com.au

Editorial: Jim: 0409 163169

news@meredithnews.com.au

WEB

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

ONLINE PHOTOS

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

DISCLAIMER

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

Issue Editor: Pam Ridd

connect

ADVANCE
MEREDITH
5286 1291

ANGLING CLUB
0419 248 660

B'BURN ART
GROUP
0410 808 483

BLUE LIGHT
DISCO
5286 1222

BOOK CLUB
5286 8201

CFA
000 for fire calls
Elaine
0409 861 296
Meredith
5286 1502
Morrisons
0417 770 765

CHILDCARE
5286 0700

COMMUNITY
CENTRE
5286 0700

CRICKET
Elaine
0448 291074
Junior
(U16,U14,13)
0448 291074
Meredith
5286 1434

CUBS &
SCOUTS
Anakie
52819497

ELAINE HALL
[elainetownhall@
gmail.com](mailto:elainetownhall@gmail.com)

FOOTBALL
Seniors 0408 545
246
Juniors 0430 587 674

GOLF CLUB
0407 795 342

HISTORY GROUP
5286 8201

LANDCARE
0409 862 326

MEMORIAL HALL
5286 1545
0409 662106

MEREDITH LIONS
0491 061640
0419 757965

MOTORCYCLE
CLUB
0437 009 250

PLAYGROUP
5286 0700

POLICE
PADDOCKS
5286 1273

RSL - 5286 1452

SENIOR
CITIZENS
5286 8232

TENNIS
Elaine
0448 291 074
Meredith
5286 1211

SEW 'N' SEWS
5286 0700

FRIENDS OF THE
BRISBANE
RANGES
5286 1252

emergency

Police, Ambulance, Fire	000
(from mobile phone)	000 or 112
Meredith Police Station	5286 1222
Police non emergency	131 444
Power Failure	132 412
Nurse-On-Call	1300 606 024
Mental Health Advice	1300 280 737
Poisons Information	13 11 26
Barwon Water	1300 656 007
SES Emergency - flood & storm	132 500
24 Hour Helpline	1800 629 572
24 Hour Drug & Alcohol Counselling	1800 888 236
Kids Help Line	
24hr 5-18yo	1800 551 800
Golden Plains Shire	1300 363 036
A.H. Emergencies	0408 508 635
Ranger	52207111 or
Bannockburn Vet	0409 830 223
Golden Plains Vet	5281 1221
Pets and Horses 24/7	5281 2226
	0421 617 238

Justices of the Peace

Mr Don Atherton. 0409 869 960

Mr Paul Ryan Elaine 0409 861 296

services

CEMETERY TRUST

5286 1550

HALL HIRE

Meredith Memorial
5286 1545
Elaine Mechanics
[elainetownhall@
gmail.com](mailto:elainetownhall@gmail.com)

Elaine Rec Res
5341 5703

LIBRARY VAN

5272 6010

MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

5220 7230

PRE-SCHOOL

5286 0722

PRIMARY SCHOOL

5286 1313

RECREATION RESERVE

0429 315 575

..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.



"Optimism is the one quality more associated with success and happiness than any other." — Brian Tracy



Community

Farmers' Market Returns

Media Release

The popular monthly market will be back at the Bannockburn Heart, corner of High and Milton Streets, Bannockburn, on Saturday 7 November, 2020. This follows a seven-month hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions. From 8.30am to 12.30pm, market-goers will once again be able to purchase the best fresh produce, fine wine, plants and bespoke handcrafted goods the region has to offer.

Visitors and stallholders will notice some changes, to ensure the market is COVID-safe. A maximum of 50 visitors – subject to further changes to restrictions – will be allowed on the market site at any one time, and there will be a single entry point on High Street, with shoppers to move through the site in one direction towards Milton Street. At the entry, visitors will be required to sign-in with their contact information for contact tracing purposes.

Face masks and 1.5 metre social distancing must be observed at all times at the market, and market-goers are encouraged to use cardless methods of payment where possible. No communal gathering will be permitted on the market site, with visitors encouraged to move through the market after making purchases to allow for other market-goers to enter. Signage with guidelines and directions will be in place, along with hand sanitiser for visitors upon entry and exit, as well as at each market stall.

Stallholders must also comply with face mask and social distancing directions, and will be limited to the number of workers at a stall, depending on its size.

Golden Plains Shire CEO Eric Braslis says Council is excited to bring back the popular market.

“Golden Plains Shire Council looks forward to welcoming visitors and stallholders back to the Golden Plains Farmers' Market on Saturday 7 November. Behind the scenes, Council has been busy putting together the reopening plan for the Golden Plains Farmers' Market, and working through the health and safety guidelines to ensure it is COVID-safe.

“During the market's physical hiatus, Council supported regular vendors with a virtual market on its website. The Golden Plains Virtual Farmers' Market allowed customers to contact and buy directly from their favourite providers and we thank the vendors and shoppers who made the virtual market a success.”

Information on the Golden Plains Farmers' Market in December and the annual Twilight market will be promoted next month on Council's website, social media and Council News in the Golden Plains Times.

Released by: Eric Braslis, CEO, Golden Plains Shire Council



Meredith Community Centre
working for our community

YOUR COMMUNITY CENTRE NEEDS YOUR INPUT!

Would you like more support for your local business? More learning opportunities? Or do you want help to connect with members of your community? Maybe a social group for your favourite hobby?

We are conducting a simple survey to help us better understand our community's needs and requirements and how we can offer support, particularly in response to COVID-19. The survey only takes 3-4 minutes to complete, or a little more if you would like to add any extra thoughts or ideas. It is also completely anonymous if you choose.

Where can I complete this survey?

Hard Copy – call (03) 5286 0700, we will mail one to you with a reply paid envelope.

Email – email admin@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au - we will email the link.

Facebook – link is displayed on the Meredith Community Centre Facebook Page.

Your input is so valuable to us, we would love to hear from you!

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

Walkers

Joy Fox and Nancy O'Brien drive to town and walk around Meredith every day except Thursdays because that is shopping day. Taking different routes each day they walk for about an hour. Walking provides a good opportunity to catch up with each other and is a means of avoiding stiffness from sitting too long! They used to reward themselves with a coffee after their walk but that has been off the agenda lately with Covid 19 restrictions.



Recreation



Love – Fifteen

Marg Cooper

(For those who don't play tennis that is the score after the first point played in a game of tennis.)

The Meredith Tennis Club is starting a new game.

At the Annual General Meeting in December 2019 a new committee was elected, coaching of juniors has been going on two nights a week. Four junior teams have been entered to play in the Buninyong Association, and one senior team has been entered in the Buninyong Association and enthusiasm and interest have rekindled.

The club is planning social tennis on a Thursday night from November 6. All abilities are welcome from beginners to Roger Federer's hitting partner. If you haven't got a racquet, one will be found for you. The club realizes that some people have limited time, but they welcome you to come when you can for as long as you can. The club will try to grade players, but that may require a bit of trial and error.

A good time is promised with the benefits of exercise, learning skills and meeting with others, socially. The club envisage that the cost will be \$5.00 to pay for lights and balls.

Meredith has six courts with lights, good fencing and a relatively new clubhouse. The club is looking to resurface the courts in the future when funds allow.

David Osborne is the new Treasurer of the club. He started playing junior tennis on a Saturday morning at Meredith. He remembers Elaine and Joyce Stanley and many others teaching the juniors, each Saturday morning, giving up their time to help junior tennis in the town. This tradition continues with Maddy McColl and sister Courtney training 37 young players each week on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Each giving back to the town they grew up in.

If you are interested in having a hit on Thursday nights please forward your name and contact details to meredithtennis2020@gmail.com or text to 0419398455

Social Tennis – November 6 start – from 6.30 pm - \$5.00 cost – maybe even a sausage sizzle!

Meredith Tennis Club Social Night

The Meredith Tennis Club will be holding a social night on the 5th of November with the games starting at 6:30. All players of any level welcome. Enquiries to meredithtennis2020@gmail.com or David on 0419 398 455



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 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

CATHOLIC

St. Joseph's Parish Meredith
 28 Lawler Street, Meredith 3333
 Parish Priest: Fr Charles Balnaves
 Phone 5286 1230 mob. 0417 319 556
parishofmeredith@bigpond.com

Mass Times November 2020

Tuesdays	9 a.m	St. Mary MacKillop, Bannockburn
Wed. & Fri.	11 a.m	St. Joseph's, Meredith
Saturday's	5 p.m	St. John the Baptist, Winchelsea
Sunday's	9 a.m	St. Mary MacKillop, Bannockburn (Booking required)
	11 a.m	St. Bridge's , Anakie
	1 p.m	St. Joseph's , Meredith

If you are new to the Parish or wanting to become part of our gatherings please book in with us so we can keep numbers to Covid restrictions.

Reconciliation, Anointing, Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals: by arrangement, please call 5286 1230.

Sacramental program 2021: Reconciliation Eucharist Confirmation

Enrolment enquiries: Phone 5286 1230 Fr. Charles

Stay tuned for details regarding Christmas Carols in the December newsletter.

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



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AFSL: 241365



Victoria, you know fire.

The 2020-21 fire season is coming and we're about to start an important fire safety campaign. With last season's memories so fresh, some people may find it confronting. If you have any concerns, or you or a loved one are emotionally affected by the campaign, support is available on our website, or by calling Lifeline 13 11 14.

Plan. Act. Survive. Go to vic.gov.au/knowfire

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne





Kerry Thomson & Amanda Hyatt

SAMANTHA THOMPSON

Although Samantha Thompson was born in Sydney her parents were from California, USA. As a child she lived several years in the States, but when she was about 8 years old the family finally settled in Melbourne. Needless to say, Samantha has never been afraid of change, she has also lived in England and New Zealand. But it was in St Kilda where her art journey really began when, as a 22 year old, she offered to provide some contemporary pastel paintings to a local cafe. From here she set up a studio and gallery upstairs above a cafe/furniture store.

Samantha's mother was an artist whilst her father was a business-man running a Collins Street Bridal shop for many years. Always creative, Samantha never had any real intention to be an artist but expected to follow one of her sisters into the design/business world. These family strengths combined with her interests in family history (with a long tradition of military involvement and strong business women), archeology and 1950s design have all influenced her art, her business acumen and ability to self-promote, and her preparedness to 'jump in', take on challenges and problem solve. Samantha also has a passion for community art, getting involved, being part of the decision-making process and promoting the cultural importance of art.

As a well organised, energetic person Samantha has been involved as The Golden Plains Arts/Cultural officer, run arts events including Arts Trails, attended the G21 as a regional representative and contracted as an Arts worker to both Ballarat and Geelong Councils. She also set up the BOP Arts Co-operative that operated in the Meredith Interpretative Centre for two years. In 2008 Samantha gained an RMIT Bachelor of Textile Design - majoring in weave and screen-printing. She is currently studying part-time for a Graduate Certificate in Visual Arts at Melbourne University, whilst running print workshops and mentoring young artists from her Lethbridge studio and other local venues. In the future she hopes to complete an Archeological degree.

Samantha's art is highly creative, non-traditional and pushes the boundaries of technique. She follows her instincts with each piece retaining its own originality and creative integrity. Not satisfied with one thing at a time, Samantha will often have several themes occurring at once and many ideas developing at the same time. Her early work was in pastel but also included oils, especially incorporating feminist and domestic themes. Her studio is filled with colourful prints from card size through to large, paper based contextual work. There are found objects repurposed as installations (such as broken bottles

appearing almost like stained glass), lino cuts, reduction work and 'bastardised' lino cuts (where the original is cut, rearranged, painted and altered in some way for a whole new perspective), paper sculptures and 'paper paintings'. One of Samantha's latest projects is making soft sculptures with two heads made from 1950s linen, embroidered with hand stitching and representing the public persona and the inner self. Large framed cut paper designs representing recent walks in the Brisbane Ranges is another of her current themes.

Samantha has exhibited her work in Australia, England, Japan and New Zealand and been displayed in galleries throughout Australia, including Daylesford Convent Gallery, Eltham Barn Gallery and Shearers Arms in Geelong. She has held solo exhibitions as well as participating in many group shows, but her biggest achievement award was at the National Still Life Awards at Coffs Harbour in 2017.

Colour, line, texture, textiles and paint, lino and paper, boldness and subtlety, ordinary and day-to-day objects are all part of Samantha's mixed media, multi-disciplinary contemporary art. You can see Samantha's work on her website and Facebook page.

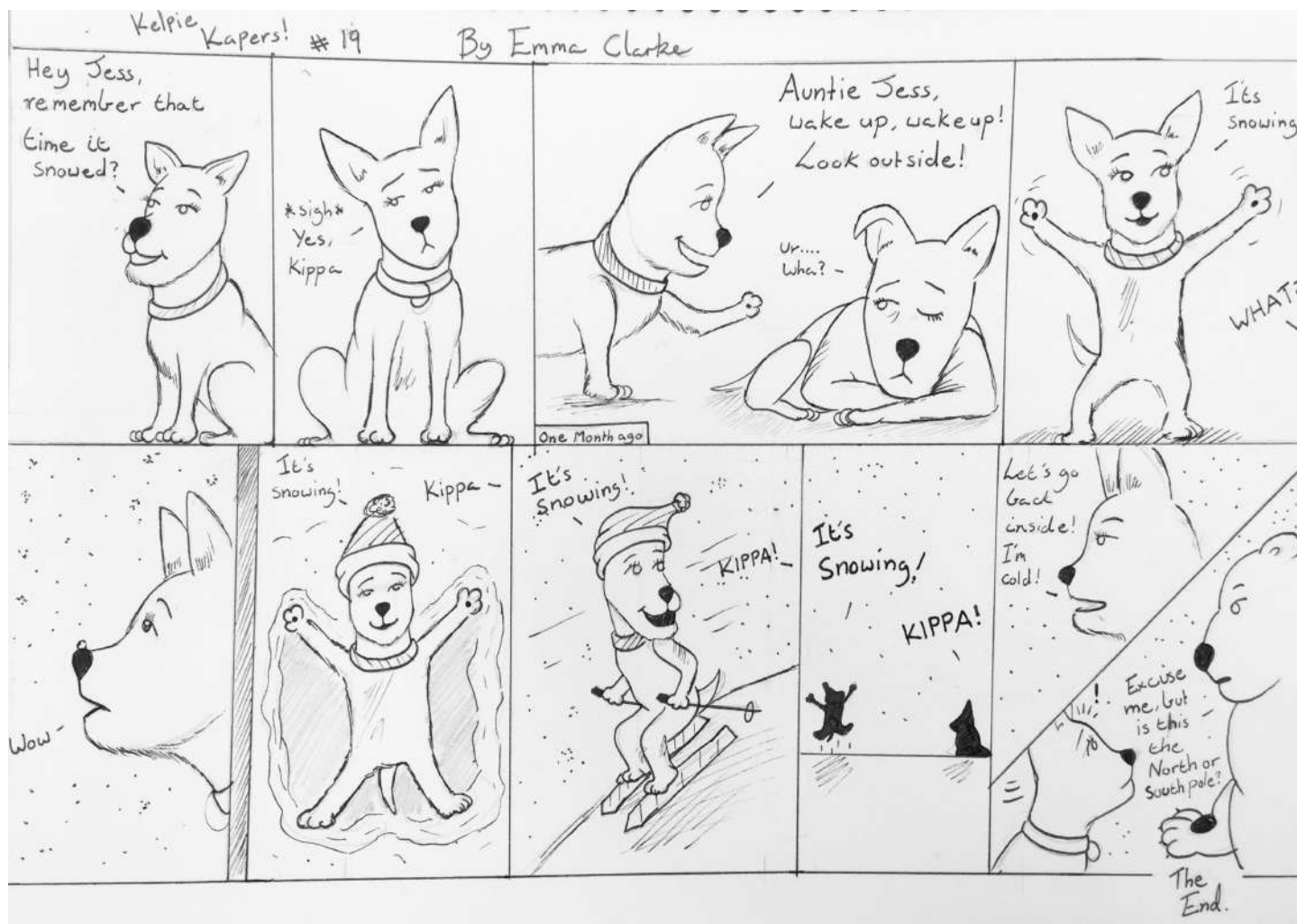


If you are a creative, and would like to share your story, please let us know. (Or maybe you know someone creative in the district.)

Apology

Apologies to Peter Sharp as I inadvertently put an 'e' on his surname in the October Creatives Column - but, he returned the favour by putting a 'p' in Thomson! :-)

Kerry Thomson



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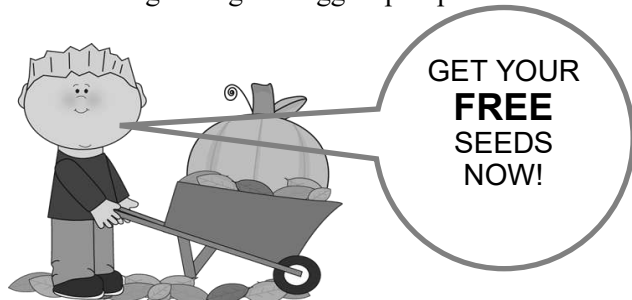
Steve Duffy

How big is your pumpkin?

How does your pumpkin grow?

If you have joined the challenge to grow a giant pumpkin, your seeds should be sending up the first bilateral leaves. Don't forget to attend to your plants. If you haven't planted yet, the cool conditions are on your side. You can still get seeds from the Meredith Pantry outside the Primary School. Or you can order on line from Mr. Fothergills Seed Company. The seeds are also available from some local hardware stores.


Good luck growing the biggest pumpkin in Meredith



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Landcare News



Bamganie-Meredith Group

Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting for the Bamganie-Meredith Landcare Group will be held at 7:30 pm on Thursday 26 November 2020. The meeting will be held 'virtually' via ZOOM rather than in person due to COVID-19 social distancing requirements. You are very welcome to join the meeting online or by phone. Please email Maddie at meredithlandcare@gmail.com if you would like to attend the AGM and we will send you the ZOOM invite link.

Sustainable Farms Project

Have you ever noticed how much more pleasant it is in the paddock when there is shelter from the wind and sun, or how hearing birdcalls can lift your spirits? For the past 20 years researchers at the Australian National University have conducted research demonstrating the environmental, financial and health and wellbeing benefits of managing farms for both biodiversity and production. Now the university has embarked on a five-year Sustainable Farms: Healthy farmers, Healthy farms, Healthy Profits project with the aim of developing information and tools to help farmers improve the health of the natural assets on their farms. The Sustainable Farms project has produced a booklet "Ten ways to improve the natural assets on a farm" outlining how farmers can help manage and improve biodiversity on their farms, in areas such as around dams, shelterbelts or along streams or waterways. The booklet can be downloaded from the project website at <https://www.sustainablefarms.org.au/> where you can also find more information about the Sustainable Farms project.

National Soils Advocate

Did you know we have a National Soils Advocate? Protecting and encouraging healthy soils is essential to maintain agricultural production. The position of National Soils Advocate was established by the Australian Government to raise awareness of the vital role soils play in the Australian agricultural landscape. The Advocate will provide leadership and promote the importance of restoring and maintaining the health of Australia's soils. More information about the role of the National Soils Advocate can be found at <https://www.pmc.gov.au/domestic-policy/national-soils-advocate>.

Next Meeting

The COVID-19 pandemic has meant it has been a very quiet year for the Bamganie-Meredith Landcare Group. Hopefully we will be able to reschedule some of the events planned for 2020 to next year. We will keep you posted about events for 2021. In the meantime, if you would like more information about our group please see our Facebook page or contact us at meredithlandcare@gmail.com.



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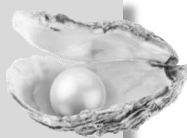
PH 5286 1223,

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little
GEMS



The Probability Problem

It was as I was pulling my washing in at the end of a sunny, windy day that I started thinking about the law of averages. The fact that if something happens often enough, a different result may occur from time to time depending on its probability.

It's an interesting concept; one I'm not totally sure I have interpreted correctly but will continue to use throughout regardless – so bear with me. On closer inspection of its meaning, it could be easy for the less mathematically minded of us (i.e. me) to perhaps liken it to something a bit more ambiguous, such as luck. Or bad luck, depending on whether your glass is half full or half empty. Whatever you want to call it, repeat something enough and there might be a different ending.

As I pulled my crisp, clean bed linens off the clothesline, I wondered if today would be the day. If today would be the first time that the law of averages would be on my side. I chipped away at the lines of pillowcases and sheets, finally reaching the doona cover hidden at the back of the clothesline, excitement growing. Suddenly I saw it. With dismay, I realised today was not the day. Today was an average day in sheet washing world. There, smack bang in the centre of my nice clean doona cover was an insanely large bird deposit to undo all my work.

Yanking the cover off the line, I balled it up on my way to the laundry to chuck it back into the washing machine, cursing our feathered friends. Every time. Every time! I started thinking about how strange it was that something that just seemed like bad luck could happen every time. How could birds know that I have put out some nice clean sheets as opposed to just regular clothes and decide that they better make an ill-timed flight over them?

But, at the heart of it, probability is in favour of ruining my linens. The ratio of birds in my area, the fact my neighbour relentlessly feeds them and that there are lovely native trees all around us – coupled with the sheer dimensions of said sheets – means that not having my sheets ruined is the rare occurrence we want from the law of averages.

This particular example is at odds with most. Those times when something works normally every time and a breakdown is the rare, but probable, oddity. Such as when your car randomly breaks down on your way to something important or your technology fails just as you have an important presentation.

Call it luck (good or bad) or probability, the law of averages will eventually win out. On the plus side, ruined sheets has now happened without fail for 18 months – can't be long until I get my different ending. Even if it is only once in a while.

Gemma

The Stretcher

Marg Cooper

Stretcher: an apparatus used for moving patients who require medical care.

A stretcher was recently donated to MHIG by Claire and Damian Kelly from the Royal Hotel. They found it in a shed in the yard when they first took over the hotel.

After some research it has been identified as a World War 1 stretcher. The stretcher is made of canvas attached to two wooden poles which are rounded at each end, by a strip of leather and flatheaded tacks. A metal hinge arrangement under the canvas at each end allows the stretcher to be folded for storage or to be carried by one person. It also has four legs of looped metal that are 10 cm high. It is 210 cm long and 58 cm wide. Several small holes have been mended neatly using buttonhole stitch.

Somehow the stretcher came to Meredith during or after World War 1.

Perhaps the stretcher had been used at the hospital which was built in 1926 on the corner of Staughton and Champ Streets. Instructions were received from the Guarantors of the Meredith and District Hospital to 'sell by auction' in October 1938. As a consequence, the Meredith & District Hospital was only open for about 12 years.

Maybe the stretcher was acquired by the Football Club to transport injured players from the ground. [Roy Taylor was a trainer for many years and does not recall ever having to use a stretcher. At one game an opposition player got knocked out, but after the trainers from his team dragged him to the clubrooms by his shoulders, he had regained consciousness.]

Another possibility was that the stretcher was acquired by the Royal Hotel to carry bodies to the morgue or the room where bodies were kept. Inquests often mention that the body was taken to the Royal Hotel.

It is also possible the stretcher was part of the equipment obtained by the VDC or Volunteer Defence Corp during World War 11. [The Meredith Corps included Les Austin as Captain, George Lownes, Jack Marchment as Sgts, Ern Sellars as Crp and Bert Boardman as L/Crp. The VDC used the old Meredith rifle range for a lot of training. The VDC's duties included learning how to blow up bridges to stop the enemy and how to use 303 rifles and machine guns, mainly the Lewis.]

Maybe there are other reasons why the stretcher came to Meredith and how, when and where it was used?? Any Suggestions!





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What do the Koalas do in the meantime? When a normal citizen gets caught out, they don't have the option of just repaying the debit. Court is the next call for most of us. And we would be damned as fools for paying 10 times the price of anything, let alone \$30,000,000 worth of stupidity.

The stories behind all of these misdemeanours are readily available in the various media platforms. Have a look. Our society, culture and our future are on the line. If we don't know the detail, how can we decide what is best in the big picture.

Sadly, vested interests continue to be served and the spiral of destruction continues. When can we hope for a brighter future and fair engagement with the challenges we face? Thankfully there are signs, especially from the younger generation.

Steve Goat

Our Cover

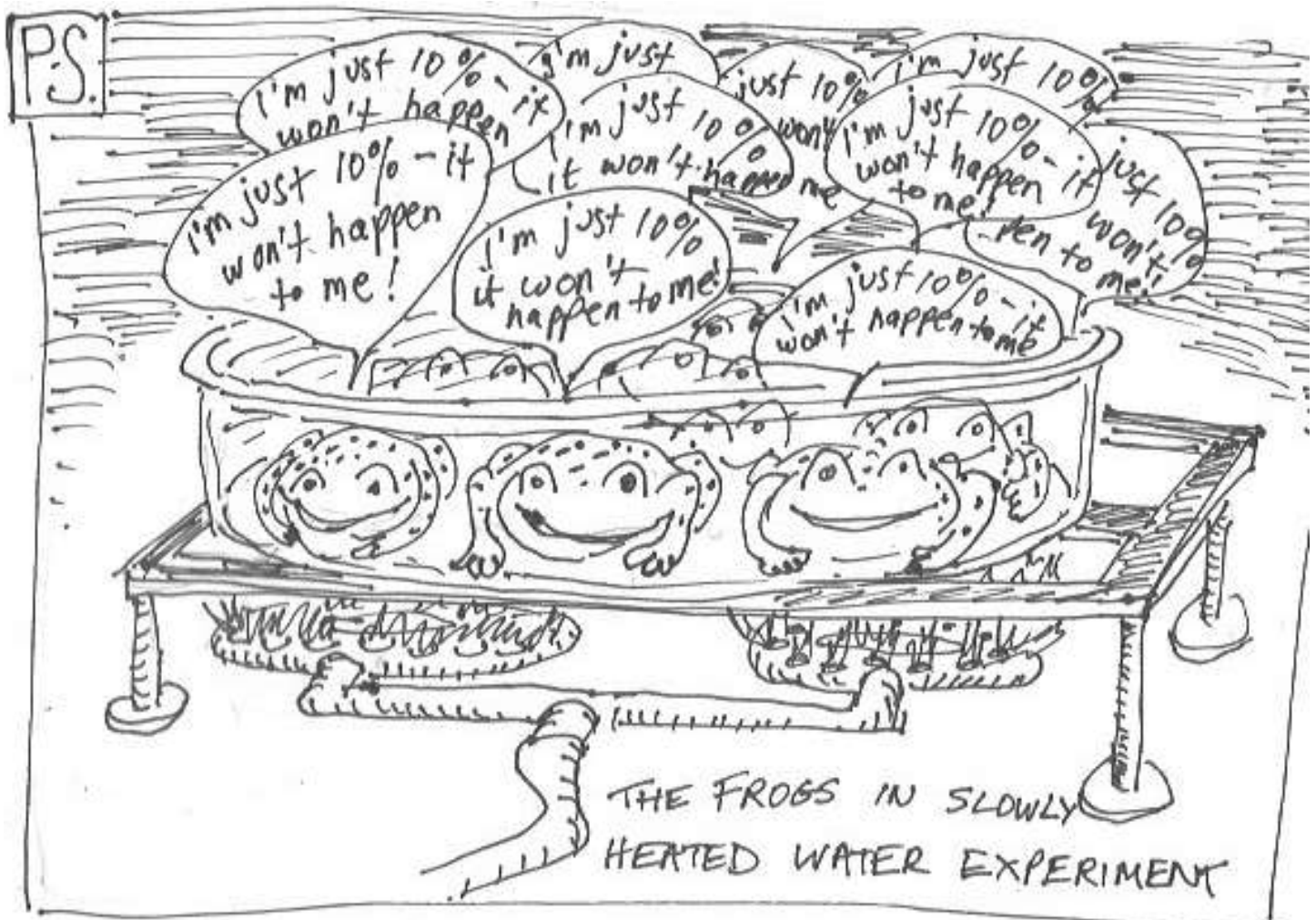
Our cover this month shows off the macro photography skills of Peter Boer with this little *Drosera Pellata* Pale Sundew taken at the "racecourse" on a track off the Bert Boardman reserve at Steiglitz.

Thanks Pete.



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I am sitting quietly on a creek bank, partially hidden between clumps of mat-rush with tough strap-like leaves, and small silver wattles, each with bright young foliage at the ends of branches of dark green spreading leaves, each leaf made up of hundreds of tiny leaflets. Below my feet is a deep pool of dark brown water. Long leaves of water ribbons float on its surface creating a pattern of green stripes. Their flower spikes curve up into the air, the youngest with tightly packed green buds. These lengthen to grow many small flowers of white hairs, and finally, rounded ribbed fruits. Water bugs swim across the surface, black or silver depending on the light, each making a dimple in the water surface which surrounds it wherever it goes.

Behind me, a grey shrike-thrush, a plain grey and brown bird, sings its beautiful melodious Springtime song. I hear rufous whistlers, their song louder, ringing and more varied than the grey shrike-thrush. Downstream, the trills of a fan-tailed cuckoo contrast with the sharp clear repeated notes of a sacred kingfisher and the deep voices of pobblebonk frogs. Upstream, male common froglets make their watch-winding calls to attract females. One starts calling from the pool below me, drawing my attention back to it.

In front of me, across the pool, is a rock wall. At its base, a cluster of bright green foliage of water buttons, topped with bright yellow button-shaped flowers, is reflected in the water. The rest of the pool is filled with the reflection of the wall and the trees beyond its top, the gaps between them filled with pale grey sky. The wall is grey and brown, with patches of lichen, pale green and wrinkled, or flat, like paint splotches on the rock, lime green, white and all shades of grey, from almost white to almost black. Sections of wall sheltered from sunshine grow dull green and olive moss.

The rock is sedimentary, formed when layers of silt and soil deposited on the floor of a sea or lake, millions of years ago, were compressed and hardened. The layers are still visible, as lines on the rock. The wall has since been tilted and weathered, so that its many cracks are diagonal. Pieces have fallen off, creating holes and shelves, where mosses and tiny plants grow. When they die, they decompose to form little pockets of soil. Over time, this earth builds up. Now, small trees of sweet bursaria grow from cracks, while a blackwood wattle tree struggles to grow outwards from the wall and up towards the sky. A clump of flax lilies with long dark pointed leaves and slender stalks of tiny blue flowers is visited by bees. Large round leaves of pelargoniums, the older ones changing to orange and red, grow beneath their red-pink stalks ending in little clusters of pale pink flowers. These are intermixed with tall stalks of bulbine lilies, their yellow star-shaped blooms

opening below the buds. Purple scented flowers of chocolate lilies grow among the moss, above the succulent triangular leaves and magenta flowers of inland pigface, draped down the rock face. Near the top of the wall, rock ferns mingle with slender grasses. Above them, flowering spear grasses display silvery feathery plumes. A fallen tree lies across the top, its bark peeled off long ago, revealing cracks and hollows, a path or home to lizards, spiders, centipedes, beetles and other animals.

As I look up, two crimson rosellas appear briefly as they fly among the tree tops, crossing the creek. A pair of grey fantails chirp and chatter as they make short flights up to catch insects, before returning to perch on a stringybark branch. A caterpillar explores a silver wattle leaf. It is small and furry with hairs sticking out in tufts, silver from its sides, and black from its back where it has patches of bright red skin. A broad creamy stripe runs down the front of its furry black head. I hear the thump of a wallaby's feet beyond the wall, and water trickling between the pools. This place is full of activity, as animals and plants make most of Spring, their season to breed and produce the next generation of plant seeds, baby birds, tadpoles and future butterflies. For me, it is a place of beauty to be seen and heard, a place to rest body and mind, and just enjoy being here.

Wendy

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The Community Centre

& Covid19

Leah Phillips

When I took over as Manager of the Meredith Community Centre, I could never have imagined that I would be here in October in a locked building, closed to the community. Yet here I am. What an introduction so far!

In the weeks leading to Covid19 hitting the world, I was working effectively three jobs. I was running my own business as a Civil Celebrant, working two days a week as the Programs Manager at the Meredith Community Centre and also providing two days a week Admin Support to the Haddon Community and Learning Centre. I was a wife and a mum of two girls, managing two basketball teams and doing all of those home life duties that keep us incredibly busy. Life was hectic, but that's the way I work best.

Until Covid19.

I became Manager of the Community Centre on March 23 and on March 24, upon Government advice, we decided to close our doors to the public. It was surreal. I was effectively cutting off the Community to the Community Centre, a place where people came to learn, socialise and exercise. I closed the doors with the greatest of guilt because even though it was for the safety of my community, I felt that the closure may lead to long term isolation. I knew that the Community Centre formed a part of people's lives which kept them connected to one another and here I was, doing the opposite of what a Community Centre is for!

In our house, Lockdown 1.0 started ok. My husband joined in the fun of working from home and with the girls on extended school holidays, and not being able to go far, it seemed like a breeze. For the most part, it was the normal office atmosphere with constant phones ringing, the clicking of keyboards, and the dog greatly confused as to why everyone was suddenly home all of the time.

When online learning began, life got so much busier. My lounge room turned into a classroom with more technology set up than the local Apple store. People were Zooming it seemed on the hour and the drone of voices was heard right around the house. Was it easy? No. I was suddenly needed to answer questions relating to binomial fractions, medieval Europe and other subjects which I had obviously not listened to during my own schooling! It became evident to my 14-year-old daughter at this very time that these sorts of things were rather irrelevant, as she quizzed me more than once as to whether I had utilised binomial fractions during my years of leaving school. I had to be honest.

Whilst I know I am incredibly lucky to have two very studious girls, I could see the impact which lock down was having on them. As time went on it was evident that they were far exceeding schooling expectations, but they missed their friends and sport dreadfully.

As the school return date drew near, I decided to return to the office. Whisperings of reopening were on the cards, and there was a lot of behind the scenes work to do, Covid19 Plans and Policies were drawn up, measurements

taken, and finally a day to reopen. I wanted to make the transition to a Covid19 safe centre as smooth as possible.

I have to say, having people back in the Centre was a really special time. To hear the laughter and general chit chat felt a little bit normal and I could finally see a way forward. Our doors were opened and people were beginning to re-emerge and the smiles were infectious.

But, as the cases started to climb, it was inevitable that we would have to close our doors. Again, I took the Community out of the Community Centre, but this time I put some plans into place to keep people connected. We have set up Zoom calls and Facebook chats for some of our groups, I have delivered exercise programs for my ladies who aren't online and we have begun Tai Chi outside and online! I have been invited to many homes and even some businesses to teach them how to use the likes of Zoom and Facebook, fix technology that needs tweaking or just to drop off the Meredith and District Newsletter. One positive about the doors being closed, is that it gives me a great opportunity to help people beyond the Community Centre and instead of the Community coming to me, I have been able to go to them, and I feel incredibly privileged in doing so.

So whilst the doors are still closed to the public, I am still here. It is quiet. But know when we reopen, the Community will return to the Community Centre, and for that, I just cannot wait.



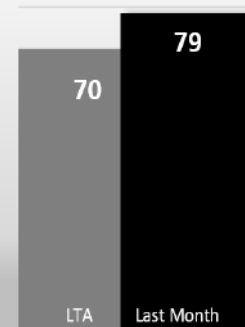
From the former Manager of the Centre bouquets to Leah for the fantastic work she is doing keeping connected to the community during these trying times. Ed.

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the rain report

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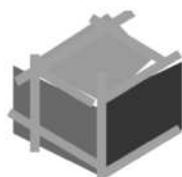
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In the School Garden

What wonderful seasons of rain and sunshine we have had lately. Gardens and paddocks all over are looking green with such lush growth.

At the school, we have many garden beds dotted around the playground - beside the junior playground, outside the art room and after school care room, and others are near the cubby, sandpit and the fort.

This year has been an extraordinary one for everyone, likewise for our school gardens. As the summer crops of tomatoes, basil and capsicum were coming to an end, the school closed and the students and teachers moved to learning from home. The beds lay fallow without the usual winter plantings of broccoli, broad beans and garlic. Gone was the joy of sowing seeds, with the children, in various recycled containers for pots, and watching them grow before planting out the seedlings in the beds.

This term we have returned excitedly and are full of energy. The beds have been cleaned out and replenished with compost, and we are looking forward to planting. Having enthusiastically joined the Newsletter's Giant Pumpkin Growing Challenge, we plan to put our plants in the no-dig bed along with some little ones just for contrast. The 'Wee B Willie' were chosen for their tiny one person pumpkin size perfect for baking in the oven.

In the wicking beds there will be tomatoes 'First Prize' and 'Roma' along with some small grape varieties which are an excellent snack on the way from the classroom to the playground.

Traditional garden wisdom says Melbourne Cup Day is the time to do this. Being a little more like Ballarat weather here, our seasons can be later so seedling planting can be delayed by a few weeks to ensure the soil is warming up. We always pop in some basil and parsley with the tomatoes as these enjoy being beside each other and, when combined with some Meredith Dairy marinated feta, you have a delicious bowl of yumminess.

It is also time to get seeds of corn, zucchini, beans and cucumbers in. Although these can be planted directly in the ground, we find it best to put in one seed per little pot and look after them in a sheltered spot till they are sturdy and ready to meet the big outdoors with their strong root growth. Along with the vegetables and herbs we also like a bit of flower colour to attract the bees and sunflowers are a great way to do this. Seeds can go in now.

Gardening with children is a delight. They are always ready to pick up the tools and dig or weed. They love watching the seeds shoot and best of all, they keenly await harvest time and cooking. Unfortunately, at this time we are not able to invite the community into the school gardens but look forward to doing so some time next year.

In the meantime, if you have rhubarb in your garden or have a friend with some, this is a recipe the children love to bake. These muffins are quick to make, delicious and perfect for lunchboxes.

Easy Rhubarb Muffins

From "Grow Cook Eat" cookbook from Daylesford Primary School Kitchen and Garden by Alla Wolf Tasker and Andrew Stone

Makes 12 muffins

Ingredients

Self-raising flour – 220g

Caster sugar – ½ cup

Milk – ¾ cup

Egg – 1

Vegetable oil – ½ cup

Rhubarb stems – 150g finely chopped

Cinnamon – 1 teaspoon

Method

1. preheat oven to 180*
2. line muffin tray with paper liners
3. in a large bowl mix sifted flour, castor sugar, cinnamon and rhubarb using a large metal spoon
4. in a small bowl lightly whisk the egg, milk and oil
5. make a well in the centre of the dry ingredients, pour in the liquid mixture and combine lightly with the spoon till completely mixed (do not over mix)
6. spoon into paper muffin cups to 2/3 full (optional but delicious - top with pumpkin and sunflower seeds)
7. bake for 20-25 minutes then cool on a wire rack

Variations: *This recipe can be modified to suit food allergies or intolerances or just for taste.*

You can substitute raw sugar for the castor sugar; gluten-free, spelt or wholemeal flour for the self-raising flour (add bicarb soda or baking powder if it is plain flour); chopped apples or mashed bananas instead of rhubarb; lactose-free milk or soy milk for the dairy milk.

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A Tumultuous Year

Marg Cooper

Trina Stanfield was the weekend manager of Back Creek Café for 4½ years before she stepped into the job of full-time manager at the end of August 2019. She had many plans for 2020 but Covid 19 restrictions determined that “it was not quite what she had planned”. In fact, it has been a tumultuous year for Trina and the café, but she is thankful that, through it all, she has been strongly supported by the staff of Geelong Christian College from the CEO down. They have been concerned for her welfare, recognized that she needed to keep working and earning and also recognized that their presence in the town of Meredith is important.

For a start the café closed. Then the café reopened for takeaways only. The inside and outside tables and chairs were stacked away, social distancing marks were crossed on the floor, hand sanitizer was attached to the front door which was open during the cold days of winter, and surfaces were cleaned and cleaned and re-cleaned. Then limited numbers were allowed to sit in and eat before more severe restrictions were applied.

Trina has continued to work - sometimes making take-away food and sometimes cooking meals for staff and parents of students. The meals were very popular, selected from a set menu and delivered twice a week. It helped staff who were working hard to teach students at home and helped parents who were often working from home as well as overseeing their children’s learning.

Before Covid 19 students in Year 9 at Christian College spent five weeks at Back Creek Campus at Scotsburn. During that stay they rotated jobs which included four days at Back Creek Café gaining experience in hospitality. When children were being schooled at home their visits to both Back Creek Campus and the Café stopped. However, because both experiences are so important and they are back at school, all Year 9 students will be given a shortened version of the experience. In Term 4 students will be at the Café for one day out of their 12 days at Scotsburn.

So, each morning 4-6 students arrive about 8.30 am, are divided into two groups and, with the help of an extra staff member, are instructed in the front of the shop and in the back of the shop or the kitchen. The groups rotate at midday. Essentially it is running a café with new staff each day!

Trina said Golden Plains Shire has sent regular updates on regulations for café’s and as regulations changed there has been more and more onus on her as manager. With cleaning, recording and making sure that staff, students and customers follow the rules (such as wearing face masks), she has to be both diligent and vigilant. She hopes it all gets back to relative normality soon because she has plans!



Gorse (Furze /Whin/ Ulex europaeus L)

Janene Schillier

Part 1 of 4

Ulex the Latin name for a spiny shrub, europaeus for its European origin and ‘L’ after the Swedish botanist Linnaeus who gave the weed its name.

Gorse originates in Portugal, Spain, France and Britain.

Gorse is a dense extremely spiny shrub up to 7 metres tall but commonly 1 to 2.5m tall

The stems are soft grey green and hairy when young, hardening with age. Bark on mature stems is rough with diagonal and lengthways pale brown and grey ridges

Gorse flowers are bright yellow and are shaped like peas or other legumes and have a coconut smell.

Seed pods are covered with fine dense hairs and contain 2 to 6 seeds, with green or brown hard seed coat.

Gorse enjoys a range of conditions and can establish on soils which are poor.

Gorse plants live for up to 30 years and plants begin flowering from 18 months

It can flower throughout the year, but in this area peaking March to May and July to October. Seed fall occurs in warm weather, when pods split open and eject seed up to 5 metres from the plant at a rate of 600 – 2120 seeds per square metre per year. This is an annual input to the soil of 6 to 21 million seeds per hectare.

The management and control of gorse is known as a difficult task, some ignoring the problem thus creating further challenges for adjoining landowners, roadways and waterways. However terrific results are achieved by knowing what to do and a vigilant progressive approach. This article aims to assist in this way with facts and tips in 4 parts.

Reference: Gouldthorpe.J (2009) Gorse National Best Practice Manual (Second Edition) Department of Primary Industries and Water Tasmania





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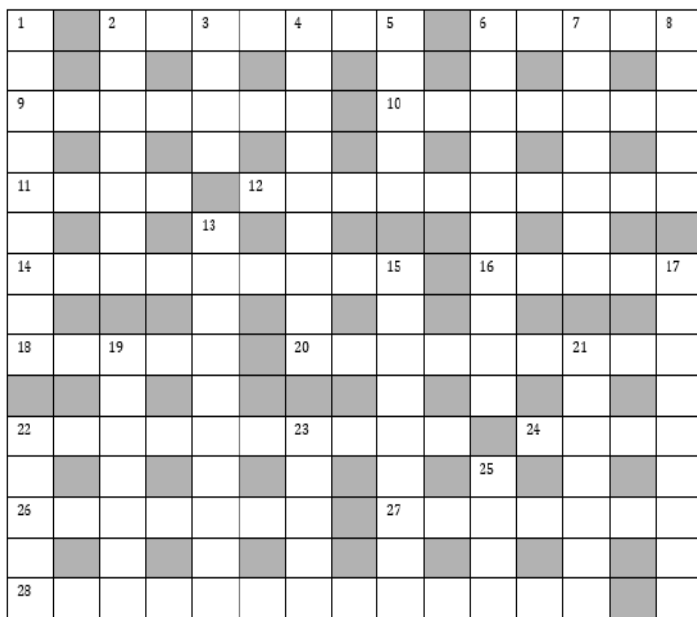
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**ACROSS:**

- 2 *File edge (7)
 6 *Downs drams (5)
 9 Fit six footer in sprint final Rebellion (7)
 10 Had nice wander around the Police Paddock where one finds this marsupial on an iron gate (7)
 11 Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews, abbr. titled in Latin ritual (1.1.1.1.)
 12 *State of trust on addition (10)
 14 Reorder back of stove (9)
 16 All the guts of pieces of ancient Roman pickled herring (5)
 18 Pluto had easy odds there (5)
 20 Tossed 90% contents of litre tub in waste facility outside the Meredith Interpretive Centre (9)
 22 Farmer introduces jams to Meredith's Steel Art café (6,4)
 24* G.P. artisan butchery _____ Farm's seasoning (4)
 26* Makes fathers (7)
 27 Applause for local egg production? (7)
 28 Walkway East of the Meredith primary school offering course of the Hotel Chain (4,2,3,4)

DOWN

- 1 Grande dame spending time in elaborate armchair (9)
 2 Spanish drink this as grain brew (7)
 3 Proud looks sometimes seen with graces (4)
 4 Mysterious calling card left in 1905 novel "The Scarlet _____" (9)
 5 Nice letters with Nicewords No.4 cryptic for uncle's relation (5)
 6 Dried out Hercules' monster bone indeed (10)
 7 *Number, e.g first book of the church (7)
 8 *Type of rock record (5)
 13 Positano-Etrusco's combo off season for dried spiced ham (10)
 15 Old pet more malcontent off the cuff (9)
 17 *Was about to get worried (9)
 19 *Drop blood (7)
 21 Winter headgear. Roald Atkinson's?
 22 *Sum up retread (5)
 23 Steer suffers dislocation. Put (bone) back in alignment (5)
 25 Lethbridge and Meredith both up front advertising Farmgate's product (4)

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.

Regular font: the definition. *Italics*: cryptic support. G.P. = Golden Plains

Today's cryptic ploy introduced is **SYNONYMS** (words of same meaning). Ten synonym clues below are marked *.

The first part of the clue means the same as the last part, but they are misleading when read as a unit. These clues are often brief.
 E.g. Clue: * Just fine! (4) Solution: FAIR. Just means fair in a legal sense and fine in a weather sense. See meredithnews.com.au/extras for more details and other cryptic ploys.

SOLUTION

Extremepore 17. Concerned 19. Descent 21. Beans 22. Recap 23. Reset 25. Lamb Pimpernel 5. Niece 6. Dehydrated 7. Ordinal 8. Slate 13. Proscuitto 15. Creates 27. Ovation 28. Path of the ibis DOWN: 1. Matiararch 2. Sangria 3. Airs 4. 14. Rearrange 16. Allec 18. Hades 20. Litterbin 22. Rustic Rams 24. Sage 26. ACROSS: 2. Sharpen 6. Drops 9. Tantrum 10. Echidna 11. INRI 12. Dependence

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Marg's BOOK REVIEW

“Walking in the Paths of the Gypsies” by Roger Moreau.

For many years the idea of finding out where the gypsies had originated, and why they had come so far to sell clothes pegs to his mother in England, lay dormant until the author met a man who had lived with gypsies for two years. He challenged Roger Moreau to solve the mystery in a world fast running out of mysteries.

Linguistics prove that the Gypsy people originated in northern India, but no one has been able to discover from which tribe they came, the reason why they left India, the route they followed to Europe and why they didn't go back.


Although Roger Moreau had no expertise as an historian, but had an insatiable curiosity, in 1990 he left his job and embarked on a trip of several months. He would travel across India, into Afghanistan and eventually to Turkey. Three Indians became his travelling companions, one from each of the Indian tribes that Moreau believes comprised the ancestors of the Gypsy people. The tales of these companions and their exploits add a human element to the book.

The book has been described as speculative history. The questions that Moreau wished to answer are not answered in any known historical documents which have survived to this day. Moreau studied the historical documents that had survived in each of the regions he visited, and with stories he heard, he then pieced together how those events probably affected the people of “dark blood”.

After describing his conclusions about their early history in Book 1, Moreau leads into Book 2 which describes what happened to the Gypsies after they left Constantinople and spread across Europe. It tells the story of many centuries of persecution, slavery and near extinction in Hitler's gas chambers.

The descriptions as they travel are amazing; *“In front of us were poor villages, ramshackle hovels and houses, high walls enclosing secrets, drab temples, goats, flies, sheep, chickens and more flies. Savage dogs fighting over piles of rotting garbage. We would take the same road to Udaipur that in the first centuries AD had stretched westward. Traders, pilgrims, holy men and bold adventurers had taken this highway for over three millennia, prey to freezing temperatures and excruciating heat, beggars, thieves, highwaymen and disease. But beneficiaries, too, of that warm camaraderie of the caravanserai, massive walled buildings, cloistered, with paved courtyards holding up to 400 hobbled camels. I felt a sense of belonging to that happy band. As God Wills.”*

An extraordinary true story of travel, adventure and speculative history, this book reveals the mysterious world of the Gypsies and much more. A great read



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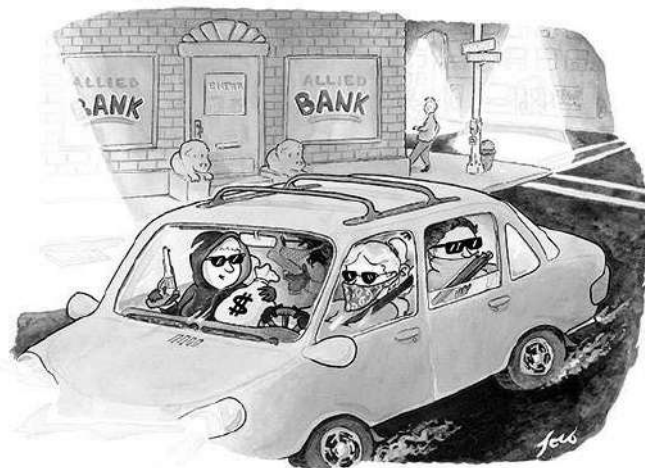
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TIME TO GET FIRE READY

With summer around the corner, Golden Plains Shire Council is encouraging residents to ensure their properties are prepared for the fire season, ahead of Council's upcoming Fire Hazard Inspections Program.



Owners of land are required to keep their properties cut to a maximum height of 300 millimetres during the non-fire season and then to a maximum height of 100 millimetres during the fire danger period, or as directed under a Fire Prevention Notice.

Council will commence its annual property fire hazard inspection program on 2 November 2020. All properties deemed a fire hazard to the property owner or their neighbours

will then be issued with a Fire Prevention Notice. The Notice will specify what works are required to remove the fire hazard by Sunday 29 November, 2020.

Council will undertake a second inspection from 30 November 2020 to determine if required works have been undertaken in accordance with the Fire Prevention Notice. If works have not been conducted, Council will issue a \$1,652 infringement and arrange a contractor to attend and slash the property. Property owners will incur a minimum fee of \$267 for this work.

In mid-October, Council began its own fire prevention works, commencing the annual roadside slashing program of all sealed roads and strategic fire breaks to reduce fuel loads. Council also conducts burning of selected reserves to remove fire hazards. This program typically commences in the drier south of the Shire before moving north, with the program completed by Christmas.

For more information on Fire Hazard Inspections and Notices, including Frequently Asked Questions, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/fire

COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2020

Thank you to all residents who voted in the recent Local Government election.

Counting is underway, and the Victorian Electoral Commission will declare the results by Friday 13 November, 2020, naming the Golden Plains Shire Councillors for the 2020-2024 term.

The new Council will be sworn in on Saturday 14 November, 2020 at 10am, and the meeting to elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be held on Tuesday

17 November, 2020 at 6pm. The Oath/Affirmation of Office ceremony and the Mayoral meeting will both will be livestreamed for public viewing.

The first monthly Council Meeting of the 2020-2024 term will be held on Tuesday 24 November, 2020, with the final meeting of the year on Tuesday 15 December, 2020. Both meetings will commence at 6pm and will be livestreamed. For more information and links on the day of the meeting, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au.

GPSC COMMUNITY AWARDS 2020



Nominations are now open for the Golden Plains Shire Council Community Awards 2020.

The GPSC Community Awards 2020 formally acknowledge extraordinary individuals and community groups who make an outstanding contribution to Golden Plains Shire.

The GPSC Community Award 2020 categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Senior Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Impact Award (community event, project, group or team)

Nominations close 5pm, Monday 23 November, 2020.

Award nomination forms are available on Council's website at goldenplains.vic.gov.au or at a Council Customer Service Centre at 2 Pope St, Bannockburn or The Well, 19 Heales St, Smythesdale; open from 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

To submit a nomination, send the completed nomination form by email to events@gplains.vic.gov.au or post to Events & Engagement Officer, Golden Plains Shire Council, 2 Pope St, Bannockburn VIC 3331.

For more information about the GPSC Community Awards 2020, email events@gplains.vic.gov.au or call 5220 7111.

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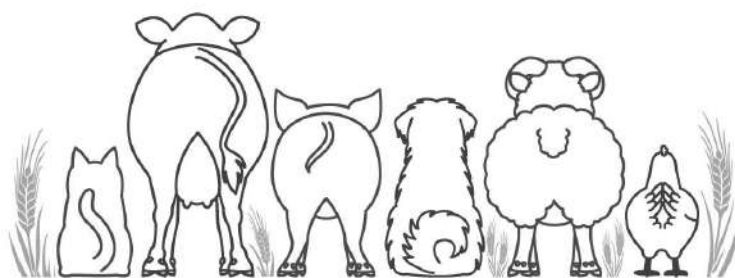
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Pulled Pork

Serves 8-10

Prep time 15 mins & Cook 10 hours

Ingredients

- 5 pounds pork shoulder
- 3 Tablespoons brown sugar
- 3 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- 2 teaspoons crushed red pepper flakes
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon ground mustard
- 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 large onion, quartered
- ¾ cup cider vinegar
- 1 Tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon sugar

Method

In a small bowl mix together brown sugar, salt, paprika, red pepper flakes, garlic powder, ground mustard and cayenne pepper. Rub all over pork.

Add pork to the slow cooker. Add the onion along the sides.. Add cider vinegar, Worcestershire sauce and sugar.

Cook on low for 10 – 12 hours. Shred with forks and sever in warm rolls with creamy coleslaw if desired.

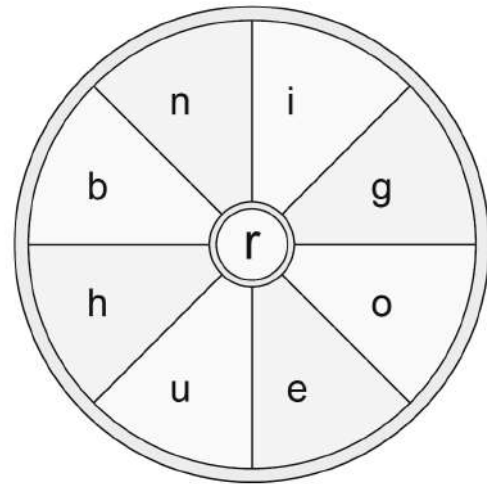
Recipe from – The Recipe Clinic

Stefania

Wordwheel Puzzle

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 9 letter word?



The 9 letter word is:



Wordwheel Solution

Or her ire nor orb ore our rib rig rob roe rub rue rug run
urn bier biro boer bore born brig burn ergo euro goer
gore grin grub ihr herb hero hire hoer horn hour inro iron
noir noie oire rein ring robe rore ruin rune rung unge
borne borne brine bring burn burin goner groin
heron inure reign rhine rhino robin rogue Rouen rouge
rough ruine urine urine bringer bonier boring brogue
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it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

History Month, October 1 - 31:

To celebrate RVHS History Month for 2020 we had invited comedian Denise Scott to Meredith, following her appearance on "Who Do You Think You Are" in June this year. She would probably have rendered a humorous view of her involvement in the show and we planned a display of Morrison History including her family's time at Morrison. To celebrate History Week in 2019 we held the very successful "Significant Trees of Meredith & District" exhibition and in 2018 we held the Art Competition featuring William Dunbar Johnson. Other History Groups have organized some inventive digital events across Victoria to celebrate in 2020 including an online scavenger hunt in Torquay and a search for 7 Historical Wonders in Gippsland.

Street Nursery:

Thank you to everyone who has bought plants or has contributed plants to the stall that is on the street in front of the History Centre. The plants are priced at \$3.00. The money goes into a slot in the fence and is used to maintain the grounds. We hope to plant some gardens in the future, including a pumpkin patch so we can win the biggest pumpkin competition!

2021 Calendar:

The calendar will be out in mid-November. The 2021 calendar celebrates Doors of Meredith & District. There are sombre doors, religious doors, community doors, house doors, café doors, strong doors and so on. It is interesting how doors present a welcome or definitely say "keep out". It is interesting how doors are decorated or their surrounds are decorated. It is interesting how many doors are not used. The calendar will be available for purchase at local shops, the Community Centre and from MHIG.

In the Field of Sport:

Meredith has had no small share of prominence, and has produced some noted sportsmen, including the late P Champion, a very fine runner who met some of the best, and defeated them. H Hodge was a great all round sportsman, whose son later won the Stawell Gift. Kyne of Collingwood football fame was the son of a former resident of Meredith. Also Tom Arklay of Geelong. How many old timers remember Jack Worrall who played at Meredith one year, and went to England with the Australian Eleven the next. In pigeon shooting the exploits of the Grant family are legion. In rifle shooting Meredith produced the late L De Grandi who, on two occasions, won the New Zealand Championship, and who held the world record by "putting on the possible" at three ranges, one after the other. Many more names could be mentioned but sufficient have been quoted to show that Meredith has more than held its own.

From: A Meredith History.

Catalogue:

When restrictions on meeting are lifted we invite you to visit on a Thursday at the History Centre. You may like to join us working at the History Centre or you may like a job that you can do at home. Recently Bev has been deciphering the incredibly awful handwriting in Inquests and a friend of hers has offered to type her translations. Wonderful!

Marg Cooper

ROWDYISM AT THE STONEY RISES.

To the Editor of the Geelong Advertiser,

SIR,—Some of the miners on these diggings by their lawless and disgraceful conduct for the last month have been a cause of terror to the peaceably disposed residents here. It appears that about five or six weeks since a large nugget of gold weighing over 68 ozs was got out of the alluvial ground known as Jack the Sailor's Claim, in which there were four mates. This nugget was supposed to have been got during the absence of two of them, and for nearly a fortnight it was kept a secret, the other two having conveyed it to Melbourne and sold it to Messrs Clarke and Son for the sum of £217. One of them getting drunk the secret came out, and this coming to the knowledge of the other two they summoned them before the Magistrate at Meredith for feloniously concealing the same, but as no proof of seeing them getting it out of the ground could be produced, the case for the present has been dismissed.

From the time this matter has been found out these men have been treating all the idle loafers on the diggings, making them drunk with spirits obtained from a den, or sly grog shanty, a glass or two of which makes the men nearly mad, and hence the cause of the disturbance that have taken place. About a fortnight ago the men that got the nugget (still laboring under the effects of grog) came and assaulted his other mates when they were at work, using such tools as a pick, a pick handle, and a large piece of cement, with which one of them broke the head of one of the others that were at work; for these assaults they were fined and cautioned, but it appears all to no purpose, for on Thursday last, still being under the influence of this grog, they came to the tent of the other mates, having some of the aforesaid loafers with them, and commenced an attack on the tent, swearing that they would burn it down if the others did not come out and fight them. The door was barricaded against them, but they kicked and broke it open and dragged the others out but to their great dismay they soon got the worst of it. They then returned to the den or shanty, and having taken in another supply of this spirit soon after commenced an attack on the post office,

smashing the windows and breaking in the panels of the doors; in one window they only left one pane whole, the frame and glass being all broken. A messenger was at once dispatched to Meredith for the police, and to the credit of Mr Hadfield, the constable in charge, he lost not a moment in proceeding to the scene of action; but the ruffians by this time had decamped. The constable remained on the diggings till nearly daylight, and although he had no sleep he was again in the saddle the first thing in the morning scouring the bush in all directions to catch the offenders, but up to the present time the principal one has not been found.

Now, Mr Editor, as this place is becoming of importance in consequence of the numerous quartz reefs that are daily found, and as there is a large population including the Tea Tree, Dolly's Creek, and this place, and as it is between five and six miles to the nearest police station, at which there is only one constable, I do think it highly necessary that a trooper should be stationed at these diggings for the protection of life and property. If this is not done at once and men allowed to go on as they have been going on this last month, I am satisfied that bloodshed will soon be committed.

I am, &c.,

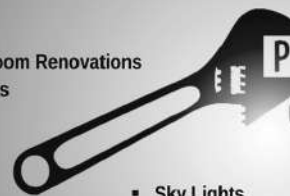
Chas. Thornbury, Stoney Rises.

Geelong Advertiser (Vic. : 1859 - 1929) Wednesday 27 January 1864

Jan McDonald, Meredith History Interest Group

Note: "The Stoney Rises" was the original name for the Elaine area. Tents on the goldfields often had "doors," because they were made from a wooden frame, with sometimes a wooden external wall a couple of feet high, a stone chimney in one end, a framed doorway, and canvas stretched over the upper framework. This made them a little more permanent than a basic canvas tent.

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Meredith Tennis Courts

Marg Cooper

These snippets give us a “spotted” history of the tennis courts in Meredith. They are from Newspapers Reports and the Mooney Cup 60th Anniversary Book.

Tennis in Meredith was played on two courts in the town – one situated behind the Shire Office Building [built when Meredith had its own Shire] and another court was situated between the Mechanic’s Institute and the Railway Line.

In 1903 at the opening of the tennis season, the attendance numbered fully sixty, the court was in fair order but the overhanging pines interfered with play at times. A presentation was made to Miss Martha Dickman who had been Hon. Secretary for several years.

A very successful meeting in connection with the newly formed Woodburn Tennis Club was held at the Woodburn State School. It was decided to make a tennis court in Mr D Grant’s property adjoining the school.

In 1906 a game of lawn tennis took place at Meredith Club’s court played between Bannockburn and Woodburn. The court had kindly been placed at the disposal of the Woodburn players by the members of the Meredith Club. The contest which was witnessed by a large gathering of tennis enthusiasts resulted in favour of Woodburn by one game only. *[It is thought that lawn tennis was played on a dirt surface ie after the grass was chipped off]*

In 1909 at the Annual Meeting of the Meredith Tennis Club the Secretary was instructed to write to the Council asking to have the rent of the tennis court reduced to 10s.

In 1911 new tennis courts were completed. For some years past it has been confined to the single court at the back of the Shire Hall but now a block of land has been leased next to the Mechanics Institute. Two courts were made. The work was carried out by Messrs Campion and Croft under Mr Wilson’s supervision.

In 1923 Arthur Wells was President, Robina Schefferle was Secretary and Annie Marchment was Assistant Secretary and Treasurer of the Meredith Tennis Club. The club owed a lot of money for the construction of the first court at the Recreation Reserve and they received a nasty letter from a solicitor, asking the club to quickly pay the debts. The club sent 19 year old Annie Marchment by train to Geelong to see Mr Evans and to assure him that the club would pay as soon as they raised the money.

The court had cost £140. It was made of asphalt and the screenings came from the quarries at Lethbridge. An Ugly Man competition was run to raise money to help pay for the first court. The person to raise the least amount was crowned “The Ugly Man”. £40 was raised.

Not many years later another court was added, built by voluntary labour.

In 1955 -56 season two courts were added at the north end – members prepared the foundations as well as surfacing the courts.

In 1965 a further two courts were added. A grant was received and the club’s share raised by contributions and loans from members. Lights were added to the centre tennis courts in 1995 so night tennis could be played.

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Frog in Your Throat

A rather creative way to say you have a sore throat, yes? Having a frog in your throat can range in severity from a tickle to hoarseness, and the saying comes from a quite literal background. While many sources on the internet will claim that it is from medieval times when sore throat treatments involved frog secretions or holding a frog in your mouth (both true practices), the origins of this saying are more underwhelming. Simply put, having a croaky voice is reminiscent of the sound a frog makes and the saying only came into use in the 19th century.

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Magical Pumpkins, Patches & Chickens

"There are three things I've learned never to discuss with people: religion, politics, and the "Great Pumpkin. Linus – It's the Great Pumpkin," Charlie Brown

This month, Meredith's giant Pumpkin Challenge got me thinking about the humble pumpkin.

Pumpkins are believed to have originated in Central America. Seeds from pumpkin plants have been found in Mexico, dating back over 7000 years to 5500 B.C.

Pumpkins are 90 percent water. Pumpkins are a fruit, well at least from a botanist's perspective. They are classified as a fruit because it's a product of the seed-bearing structure of flowering plants, but you probably will never find pumpkin included in a fruit salad! Strange I know, but it has more in common with berries than a carrot and are closely related to cucumbers and melons.

The pumpkin seems to possess mythical, magical qualities. Firstly there is Cinderella's pumpkin being turned into a beautiful carriage by the Fairy God Mother so she can go to the Ball. And then Charlie Brown's, "The Great Pumpkin." Where Linus believes his faith will be rewarded, in the hours before dawn, by a visit from the Great Pumpkin. The figure will hover over the patch as God hovered over the waters. As Linus explained, "Each year the Great Pumpkin rises out of the pumpkin patch he thinks is the most sincere." Also, pumpkins were grown alongside corn and beans as one of the mythological Three Sisters of agriculture.

It is known that Native American Indians used pumpkin as a staple in their diets, centuries before the pilgrims landed. Pumpkins were a part of the Thanksgiving meal of the Pilgrims and the Indians, and from that time forward, pumpkins have been, and continue to be a tradition at the Thanksgiving feast. Pumpkins soon became a staple in the settler's diets as well. The seeds were taken back to Europe, where the pumpkin quickly became popular. Just like today, early settlers used pumpkins in a wide variety of recipes, from desserts to stews and soups, even the seeds can be eaten, and now pumpkins are grown all over the world on six of the seven continents, with Antarctica being the sole exception.

The pumpkin is also a symbol of Halloween, with the traditional pumpkin carving of The Jack-O-Lantern, to be seen glowing ominously on the front porch during Halloween. Halloween evolved, in part, from the Celtic tradition of All Hallows Eve and in Ireland, people started to carve demonic faces out of turnips to frighten away Jack's wandering soul. (see side box)

Pumpkins can be orange, white, red, yellow, tan, and even

blue!

Queensland Blue Pumpkin: as the name suggests, this Australian grown variety of pumpkin has a bluish-green skin with classic orange flesh. Butternut Pumpkin: sometimes referred to as Butternut Squash, this variety tends to have an oblong bell like shape, with yellowish skin and an orange flesh. Jap Pumpkin: also known as Kent Pumpkin, has green skin mottled with yellow and brown patches, with orange flesh.

These are the most common types of pumpkins grown in Australia however there are so many amazing varieties out there to investigate, like Atlantic Giant Pumpkins and Golden-nugget pumpkins.

Did you know that on average most pumpkins have about 500 seeds!

All things considered pumpkins of all varieties are relatively easy to grow but they like their privacy as they can suffer a bit if they are trod on, cut or damaged. So don't forget when sowing seeds, pumpkin vines sprawl over a largish area about 1 sqm per vine.

If using the crop rotation system, you should grow leafy greens, before planting pumpkins, but don't grow pumpkins in the same patch as tomatoes or potatoes, 'cos they just don't get along!

Soil needs to be ideally around 20 degrees, but not less than 16 degrees, if the seed is to germinate and start growing. (Remember the bare bum soil testing method!) Plant after last frosts.

Pumpkins are heavy feeders and so love compost, I mean they really love compost. That is why you'll often find a pumpkin vine growing out of old compost piles. So, the more compost the better! Pumpkins vines will root where they come into contact with the ground, and this should be encouraged as it produces more pumpkins and stronger plants. But the vines do not develop deep root structure, which means that they need to be watered regularly during dry, hot and windy conditions. But not too much as you will end up with tasteless watery flesh.

Pumpkins, depending on the variety, take between 70 – 120 days to mature. You can tell when a pumpkin is ripe when you give it a knock on the side, and it sounds hollow. Smell the neck of the pumpkin (where the fruit meets the stalk). If it smells 'pumpkiny', that is a good sign it is ready to pick. The skin should feel hard and the tendril closest to the fruit should be dead. When removing the pumpkin from the vine, be sure to keep a 5 - 10cm of stalk, the "handle" which will help prevent the pumpkin from rotting at the top. To store find a warm, dry, sunny spot, pumpkins need sunlight and warmth and a dry place, so they don't rot or mould.

Chickens will gladly help you get rid of your pumpkin scraps, Pumpkins are loaded with so many great nutrients, they make a perfect treat. Your chickens will enjoy all parts of the pumpkin: the stringy guts, the seed, the flesh, they'll eat every bit until there is only a thing skin left. Blood spots in eggs can be a sign of a Vitamin A deficiency, so if you see a lot of spotting (one or two every so often is not unusual) get out the pumpkin. As a bonus, the eggs from chickens fed pumpkin will be a deeper, vibrant orange! Be sure to take any remaining pumpkin out

of the run at dusk. Leaving it will attract rodents on the lookout for an easy meal, and don't leave any pumpkin in the run if it's become mouldy or wet.

So, plant those pumpkin seeds and watch the vines ramble and sprawl throughout the summer, and then harvest and enjoy or maybe win the Giant Pumpkin Contest.

Something to ponder as you potter in the garden, what is a most sincere pumpkin patch?

Till next time Kerrie

The Legend of "Stingy Jack"

People have been making jack-o'-lanterns at Halloween for centuries. The practice originated from an Irish myth about a man nicknamed "Stingy Jack." According to the story, Stingy Jack invited the Devil to have a drink with him. True to his name, Stingy Jack didn't want to pay for his drink, so he convinced the Devil to turn himself into a coin that Jack could use to buy their drinks. Once the Devil did so, Jack decided to keep the money and put it into his pocket next to a silver cross, which prevented the Devil from changing back into his original form.

Jack eventually freed the Devil, under the condition that he would not bother Jack for one year and that, should Jack die, he would not claim his soul. The next year, Jack again tricked the Devil into climbing into a tree to pick a piece of fruit. While he was up in the tree, Jack carved a sign of the cross into the tree's bark so that the Devil could not come down until the Devil promised Jack not to bother him for ten more years.

Soon after, Jack died. As the legend goes, God would not allow such an unsavory figure into heaven. The Devil, upset by the trick Jack had played on him and keeping his word not to claim his soul, would not allow Jack into hell. He sent Jack off into the dark night with only a burning coal to light his way. Jack put the coal into a carved-out turnip and has been roaming the Earth with ever since. The Irish began to refer to this ghostly figure as "Jack of the Lantern," and then, simply "Jack O'Lantern."

Note : When Irish immigrants moved to the U.S., they began carving jack-o'-lanterns from pumpkins.



All Hallow's Eve

The history of Halloween goes all the way back to a pagan festival called Samhain. The word "Halloween" comes from "All Hallows' Eve" and means "hallowed evening." Hundreds of years ago, people dressed up as saints and went door to door, which is the origin of Halloween costumes and trick-or-treating

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CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

November 2020

Moorabool North Wind Farm

Progress to date

- Installation of all fifty (50) turbines complete
- Energisation of substation complete
- Commissioning of forty-seven (47) turbine complete

Look ahead

- Ongoing commissioning of turbines
-

Moorabool South Wind Farm

Progress to date

- Installation of bottom tower sections (S1 & S2) completed at all 54 turbine locations
- Forty-one (41) 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 regularly
 - Beginning of commissioning of turbines
-



Image – Installation of Turbine 15 at MSWF

For Further Information about the project visit:

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

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