

Meredith & district News

Our FREE Community Newsletter since 1972

FEBRUARY 2021



We're
baaack



inside

- Our favourite librarian retires
- Pumpkin progress
- In the school garden

...and the usual MUCH MORE!




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





A single ember can spread bushfires as far as **30km**.

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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We do not publish children's photos online.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: Jim Elvey

connect

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5286 1291

ANGLING CLUB
0419 248 660

B'BURN ART
GROUP
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DISCO
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BOOK CLUB
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000 for fire calls
Elaine
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Meredith
5286 1502
Morrisons
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CHILDCARE
5286 0700

COMMUNITY
CENTRE
5286 0700

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

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5286 0700

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5286 1273

RSL - 5286 1452

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CITIZENS
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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

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[elainetownhall@
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CHILD HEALTH

5220 7230

PRE-SCHOOL

5286 0722

PRIMARY

SCHOOL

5286 1313

RECREATION

RESERVE

0429 315 575

..or start something.

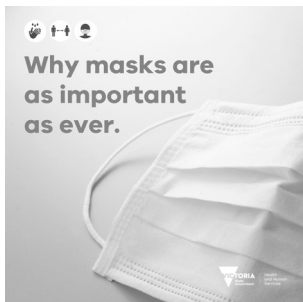
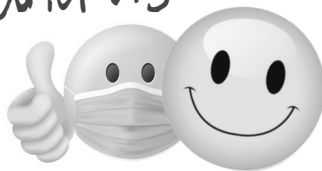
If you have a special interest you would like to share with like minded people, let us know



"Let's join *together*
today to create a
fabulous
tomorrow.

The VIRUS and US

Breathe Easy!



Stay safe, Stay open.

The risk of coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission is highest where people are close to each other, and in enclosed spaces.

A fitted face mask helps to keep you safe by reducing the movement of coronavirus (COVID 19) in droplets in the air.

Keeping a mask with you, and wearing one when it's needed, is a sensible and easy way to keep yourself and loved ones safe.

Read more about when you must wear a face mask: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/face-masks>



THIS MONTH...

... we farewell our favourite librarian, hear about the progress of their pumpkins from several of our contributors and about a young woman who made a very strong impression on our contributor. We have our regular contributors Gemma, Steve Goat, Marg's Book club and Wendy's observations of our natural bushland. Find a quick and easy chicken recipe to make for dinner.

dear readers...

Looking back on 2020

A year like no other.

Didn't have that on my bingo card. Even without COVID 19 the year was a momentous one, devastating bushfires, black lives matter, climate change, the US elections.

2020 has shown us that life is not predictable, so what has it taught us? We learned to do things differently, and do things out of the box.



Many of us were impacted losing our jobs and we hope with a return to some sort of normal that the recovery will bring stability for you.

We went back in time, planted vegetables, started cooking more at home, baking sour dough. We renovated or took up new hobbies. We also moved forward and learned to harness technology, working from home, shopping online and connecting with family and friends online.

Most importantly we learned the importance of community and keeping connected with our loved ones and friends. We hope that the Meredith and District News has also contributed to keeping you in touch.



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Community



Meredith Community Centre
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What's On



TERM 1

Cheese-Making with Narelle

Monday 15 March - 10.00 - 2.00 - \$120

Young Artist Class - Ages 7-12

10 Week Class - Starting Feb 4
4.00 - 5.30pm - \$150 per person



Australian Government

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www.meredithcommunitycentre.com.au

learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au

www.facebook.com/MeredithCommunityCentre

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

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

WEEKLY EVENTS

Tai Chi

Tuesdays @ Meredith with Sandra - 9.30 - 10.30 am
Tuesdays @ Bannockburn with Desma - 9.30 - 10.30 am
Thursdays @ Teesdale with Desma - 9.30-10.30 am

Steady Feet

Wednesdays with Ane - 9.30 - 10.30 am

Active Exercise

Wednesdays with Ane - 10.30 - 11.30 am



Join us on Facebook & Instagram
@meredithcommunitycentre



We have Community Groups you can join!
Call us on 5286 0700 to see what we have happening!

OCCASIONAL CARE

SESSION TIMES

MONDAY - 9:15 - 2:15

WEDNESDAY - 9:15 - 2:15

FRIDAY - 9:15 - 2:15



Meredith Senior Citizens

Jim Hynds

Finally, after many stops and starts because of the cursed virus the Seniors held their AGM on November 30, 2020. Elections were conducted with the standing committee re-elected, as follows:

President: Jim Hynds

Vice President: Margaret Hearn

Secretary: Robin Blackman

Treasurer: Coral Broadhurst

Meals: Nancy O'Brien

Hall: Heather Banks.

At our meeting the members requested that our Christmas Party go ahead so with time against us we hastily put plans in place for our party on December 14 at the hall. Many thanks to Kylie Miller and her group who agreed to cook a traditional Christmas feast, at short notice. It was fabulous! Thanks to Heather Banks and her group for decorating the hall. A good time was had by all.

Our next outing will be to the Fyansford Hotel for lunch on February 8th



Update on Golden Plains

Dear Resident,

Golden Plains, usually held over the long-weekend, will not take place this March.

Conditions allowing, we hope to be back at the Meredith Supernatural Amphitheatre for the 30th Meredith in December.

If you have any questions or concerns, or even ideas, you are very welcome to email auntym@mmf.com.au.

I wish you a terrific 2021.

Auntie x

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

Church News



Anglican Parish of Inverleigh, Bannockburn, Meredith

Services have recommenced each Sunday:

St Paul's Inverleigh 9.00am

St John's Bannockburn 11.00am

Epiphany Meredith 5.00 pm

Enquiries: Rev. Tim Smith - 0412 673152

Meredith Uniting Church

Services have recommenced. 11.00 am 2nd Sunday each month. Enquiries: Rev. Carlynne Nunn 0409 285182

Catholic Archdiocese of Australia

Elaine - 5341 5544

Serbian Orthodox - 5341 5568

St Joseph's Catholic Parish of Meredith

Contact Details:

Parish Priest: Fr. Charles Balnaves (Mob: 0417 319 556)

Office Phone: 5296 1230

Office open Wednesday & Friday 9.30am to 4.30 pm

Mass Times

Bookings not required for Mass. Proper Hand/Cough hygiene, Masks and distancing required subject to government regulations.

Masses at St. Joseph's are Live Streamed on Facebook "Catholic Parish of Meredith St Josephs"

Tue. 9am St. Mary MacKillop Church, Bannockburn

Wed. 11am St. Joseph's, Meredith

Thu. 9:00 am St Mary MacKillop Church Bannockburn with School

Fri. 11am St. Joseph's, Meredith

Sat. 6pm St. John the Baptist, Winchelsea

Sun. 9am St. Mary MacKillop, Bannockburn

Sun. 7/2 and 21/2, 11am St. Brigid's, Anakie

Sun. 14/2 and 28/2, 11am St. Joseph's, Meredith

Other Sacraments: Reconciliation, Anointing, Baptisms, Matrimony, Funerals call: 5286 1230 for details. Sacramental program (Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation) will be operating. Call the office for details/ timing/ enrolment.

Belonging to a Global Community

What a year last year has been. I am thankful that our response to Covid-19 here in Australia we put people, their health, and being community before a purely financial side of economy. Economy originally meant all things, money and welfare, in balance. And, although we have much relief here in Australia, we are still conscious of the power of the virus in other parts of the world. It is a shame when we allowed economy to be purely about money.

In 2018 I established a registered charity called wwwFOUNDATIONSOUTHSDAN.ORG.AU to provide university scholarships for South Sudanese still resident in East Africa. Our newest and poorest country in our global community is in need of an educated leadership. I stated to one South Sudanese contact that I did not see the point in celebrating New Year, because the stuff of last year was still present. I suddenly realised my privileged position when he replied that they celebrate it simply because God had enabled them to live another year.

Only 4% of charitable giving goes to overseas development and relief services, international peace, security, and affairs, humanitarian relief supplies, and all causes outside Australia (The 2020 NFP State of the Industry COVID-19 Report. Little Phil.); an equal and smallest percentage contributed to animal welfare.

The great lesson to be learned from these times is that we need to be conscious of those peoples living in countries that do not have an established economy to support them during times of development and difficulty.

I think it was Keith Suter who argued a part of the reason Australia (and New Zealand) has done so well in the fight against Covid-19 is because we are community focused; willing to make the sacrifice of physical distancing, isolation, mask wearing for the protection not just ourselves, but others. We remember that in this day and age we have access, and belong, to a global community, parts of which we have not holidayed which need our support.

*The Revd Dr Timothy Smith
PiC Anglican Parish of
Inverleigh+Bannockburn+Meredith*





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STAY OPEN

For testing locations visit [CORONAVIRUS.vic.gov.au](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au)

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



In the School Garden

Here we are after a wonderfully wet and mild summer season having a look at what is in the school garden. There is certainly nothing like rain to give the plants a boost, along with some gentle sunshine instead of searing heat.

The corn is growing but there are no cobs forming just yet. The tomato plants have loved the rain and are producing extra bushy growth but are only just starting to flower and fruit. They need a warm soil temperature as well as sunshine to produce and ripen the tomatoes. It will be a late season but worth waiting for. The plantings of basil in between the tomatoes are thriving and will be a tasty accompaniment. The rhubarb, which was looking a little tired, has bounced back and is providing excellent ruby red stems now. The addition of flowers to some of the beds has added bright spots of colour to make a cheerful welcome when school begins.

Gardening, however, is not all success stories. After germinating two types of pumpkin seeds - the giant ones for the Newsletter Challenge and tiny Wee B Littles - we were looking forward to an excellent crop to sustain us through winter with soups, roasts, fritters and muffins. We may also have boasted in a previous column about wheeling out our giant pumpkins in a wheelbarrow. After careful planting and mulching we were disappointed to discover some time later that the snails had gobbled up our efforts leaving behind only little silvery trails. The ring of wood ash and pots we put around the plants seemed not to deter them at all. Luckily we had a back up giant pumpkin plant but it was put in quite late in December, just before school finished, so our expectations are more modest. At least it has survived the snail onslaught so far.



The summer school holidays are a great growing period for a variety of vegetables and we don't want to miss out on these, however, the students are not at school to keep an eye on the plants and do the

watering. Fortunately, we have families who generously volunteer their time for this and a very important factor is our wicking gardens. Instead of needing water daily in hot weather, the plants in the wicking beds thrive on their once a week top up of the water reservoir. We are very grateful to the families who have tended our gardens this holidays so that we can enjoy their bounty when we return.

As well as the school gardens, our Grade 5 and 6 students have been involved this year in designing, building and planting the Community Garden on the block opposite the school through the "Nurturing Young Minds for their Future" program. What a wonderful asset to the Meredith and district community this is. However, it's not only for the young ones, it is open for everyone to enjoy. If you don't have room for a garden or perhaps the confidence to start one, this might be for you.

At school, in the coming weeks, we are looking forward to a tomato feast of bruschetta, pizzas, a tomato, basil and feta salad or corn and zucchini muffins. At this time of year, many people have prolific zucchini plants in their gardens or maybe generous neighbours who are more than happy to gift you a box full. If so, you might enjoy a recipe that we have baked at school. It's easy to make and a fun cake for everyone to have a turn at mixing.

Happy gardening and happy baking.

Choc Zucchini Slice

Ingredients

½ cup olive oil
 ½ cup maple syrup
 1 tsp vanilla
 2 eggs
 ½ cup cacao powder
 1 cup wholemeal flour
 1 tsp baking powder
 1½ cups grated zucchini (squeeze out excess liquid)

Method

Whisk oil, maple syrup, vanilla and eggs.
 Add cacao powder, flour, baking powder and zucchini.
 Spread into a greased and lined 20 x 30cm slice tin.
 Bake for 25mins in a 160* oven.
 Store in the fridge for up to 3 days or freeze.
An easy to make slice and a wonderful addition to lunchboxes – no packets and no additives.

This recipe by Kate Coleman from her e-book "Tasting Fitness Snack and Lunchbox Ideas".

(Follow on Instagram @nopackethalloween)

Our Cover



This glorious sunset picture was taken by Cathie Boer of the wind turbines South Moorabool wind farm on Morrison-Ballan road.



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

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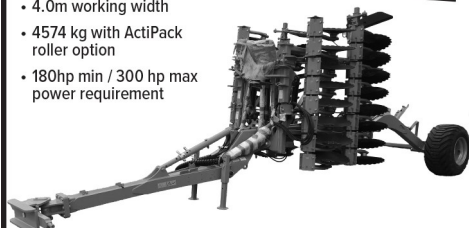
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Landcare News



Bamganie-Meredith Group

Nerida Anderson

Bambra Agroforestry Farm Tour – MAY 2021

Following on from the very engaging and informative presentation by guest speaker Rowan Reid in October 2019, we have organised a private guided tour of the Bambra Agroforestry Farm in May this year (COVID dependent of course!). Rowan is a nationally recognised forest scientist as well as a farmer and tree grower. On the tour we will learn about over 50 specialty timber species and how to grow them in ways that heal the land, enhance biodiversity, shelter stock, reduce fire risk and create a beautiful landscape. The tour will also include demonstration of a portable bandsaw, solar kiln, logging winch, pruning tools, tree guards and varied planting designs. More information about Rowan and the Bambra farm can be found on his website <http://www.agroforestry.net.au/>

More details about the tour will be provided in the March Meredith News, or you can email meredithlandcare@gmail.com for more information.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FROM LANDCARE?

Do you have a particular interest in caring for your land? We want to know what you would like from Landcare and how we can make our activities most relevant to you. For example, do you have an interest in any of the following:

- * Plantings to improve biodiversity – species selection, area of planting, location etc.
- * Options for farm forestry
- * Improving soil carbon
- * Principles of regenerative agriculture
- * Weed identification and control
- * Options for controlling rabbits
- * Options for controlling foxes
- * Low stress stock handling
- * Landcare equipment available for member use
- * Training in the use of our Landcare equipment, e.g.



*bait layer, spray unit

*Chemical handling

*First aid training

* Establishing wetlands

* Managing smaller land holdings for the best

* environmental outcomes

* Grant and funding availability for land care works

Perhaps there are other topics or activities not listed above that are of interest to you? We would like to hear from you! We will be conducting an online (internet) survey next month and welcome responses from anyone – you don't have to be a member to respond, just email meredithlandcare@gmail.com and we will send you a link to the survey. The survey should only take a few minutes to complete and will help us plan activities that are of interest and relevant to our community. Feel free to pass on information about the survey to others in the area who might be interested.

If you would like more information about the group including meeting dates please see our Facebook page or contact us at meredithlandcare@gmail.com.

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little
GEMS



Granted

I'm sure after the last year, we've all made promises that we'll never take certain things for granted again. For me, it was time with family and friends, and the abundance of beautiful places we have on our back doorstep.

So, with this in mind, I recently packed up a weekend bag and jumped in the car with my best friend for a mini road trip into the Otways.

I would like to preface this by saying that I am not a princess. I grew up in what was once known as a rural town with parents who loved to take us camping and get us out in nature. I was also once tricked by my grade 6 best friend into camping with no bathroom facilities, and I am pleased to report that I survived. So I assure you, I most certainly can rough it when required.

That's why when we arrived, I wasn't overly fazed that we didn't have reception – the biggest shock to my millennial ego was that I couldn't play the music playlist that I had carefully curated the night before. It's safe to say that I will never again assume that the internet is a given.

However, there was something that I realised on this trip that I do, in fact, take for granted. Something I should have seen the possibility of there not being: sealed roads.

A typical city girl car is what I have. She's wonderful and reliable and safe. She may be small, and you may have to turn off the air conditioner to get her up hills or over 80km/h, but she is mighty.

This is why I will also never take my car for granted again. I let her battery die TWICE in lockdown, I once blew her tyres up, and I forgot to change her oil for two years. She's a trooper. So when I took a misguided turn and ended up giving her 40kms of pure, unsealed mountain road, I was truly terrified that now would be the time that she gave up. Take my reception, take my music, but please don't take my car – after all we've been through!

But like every other trial and tribulation I have put her through, she made it. Perhaps a few chips short of a perfect paint job but she got us out of the proverbial woods (or forest, rather) and back

onto that sweet, sweet asphalt.

While the weekend away was hopefully the first of many fulfilled carpe diem moments for the year, I also learned that you have to remind yourself to be grateful for the things you get used to. Whether that be 21st century technology, working bathroom facilities or just the odd sunrise.

Gemma

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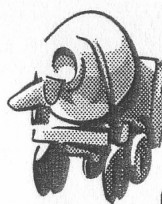
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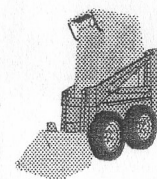
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What does Australia Day mean to you?

Steve Goat

Each year, it seems, the disagreement about January 26th grows and grows. Quite a few people call for change. Polls tell us most people aren't against change. Unfortunately this disunity continues. And why the 26th?

We have no date for the first arrivals, that was over 65,000 years ago. We know the first Asians and Europeans were here well before Captain Cook arrived on 28th April, 1770. He only stayed a few months for Ship repairs. With the American Revolution, the British had to find somewhere to send convicts. So the First Fleet landed at Botany Bay on January 18th, then moved to Sydney Cove on the 25th/26th January 1778. But it was Matthew Flinders who circumnavigated the continent in 1801-1803. The impact of white settlement on the locals was huge, in both health and land access. Smallpox may have killed more than the aggressive land take over. Grazing animals had a devastating effect on the ecology.

Britain enacted our Federation in July 1900, so the federation was declared on January 1st, 1901.

It wasn't until 26th of January 1948, that Australian Citizenship was legislated. Until then we had been British Subjects. Indigenous Australians were not granted the vote until the referendum of 1967.

So we are much more than a one time colony of Britain. The Aborigines surely have the oldest claim. So too, the many peoples, with many cultures from the four corners of the world that have come to contribute to modern Australia.

Maybe we do need another day, a truly national day, without history's baggage, to come together and Celebrate all of our cultural diversity.

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Tiny irregular specks of brown, each a millimetre in length, fall from a tree. Each is a seed, and each has the potential to germinate and grow into a huge gum tree, which could live for hundreds of years. Inside each brown speck is a baby plant, waiting to grow. After the gum tree's flowers were pollinated by beetles, fertilisation occurred and seeds began to develop. Inside each seed, a tube connected the embryo to the parent plant. Each embryo developed the beginnings of a root, a shoot and its first leaves, the cotyledons. It was surrounded by a supply of food and protected by a hard seed coat. The cotyledons continued to grow until they filled most of the seed. Around the seeds, the base of the former flower hardened, became woody, and grew into a gumnut with valves to release the seeds. The seeds dried out and became dormant. The valves remained closed. The tree waited.

On a recent stormy night, a small branch broke. It remained stuck high in the tree. Now that the gumnut's connection with the tree's food supply is broken, the valves have opened, releasing the seeds. As they fall, a gentle breeze catches them, and blows them down the valley, where they sprinkle on the ground, ready to germinate when conditions are right. When there has been sufficient rain to provide a young plant with moisture, the dehydrated seeds will take up water, expand and burst through the seed coat. The cotyledons hold a store of food which will move to the root. The root will begin to grow, to hold the small plant in place and find food and water. Next, the shoot will elongate. The first true leaves will appear. Once all the food has been drawn from them, the cotyledons will shrivel and fall off. The young gum tree will have begun its life.

Gum trees are not the only plants that use wind to disperse their seeds. Daisies, which include dandelions and thistles, have soft hairs attached to the tops of their seeds, like miniature parachutes, so that they can catch the wind and fly long distances. The seeds are not fully developed when they begin their flight. It will be a few months before they are mature enough to germinate. Banksias also spread their seeds on the wind, but wait until a fire has passed. The woody cones keep the seeds safe from flames. After the fire, the valves of the cones open, each allowing two seeds to escape. Each seed has a thin black wing which allows it to fly with the wind, and hopefully land in a place where vegetation has been burnt and there is an open space and a bed of nutritious ash to feed the young plant.

Water provides another easy way to move seeds, which is very helpful to aquatic plants and those that grow beside creeks and lakes. Some plants spread their seeds unaided. One example is the little native geranium with pale pink flowers. When their seeds are ripe, they are

released explosively, spreading a short distance away from their parent, so they will not be competing with it for food and water.

A common method for plants to spread their seeds is to make use of animals. When the pods of wattles and some peas mature, they crack open along their edges and release the seeds, which fall to the ground. Each seed is covered in a hard black seed coat, and has attached to it an aril, a nutritious lump which attracts ants. The aril is a good source of food, so the ants take the seeds back to their nest. They remove the arils and discard the seeds into a rubbish chamber. Here the seeds remain safe from other animals, perhaps for years. Eventually there will be enough moisture in the soil to crack the seed coat, or the heat of a bushfire passing above can crack it. Then a small wattle tree or pea bush will grow out of the ground beside the ants' nest.

Another way in which seeds can be spread by animals is to be surrounded by a tasty fruit. Some of our local indigenous plants produce small fruits, which attract lizards, possums, wallabies and birds. Fruits soften and change colour when the seeds are mature. Flax lilies have small bright blue berries held up on stalks above their long narrow pointed leaves. Mistletoe fruits are eaten and spread by mistletoebirds. Nodding saltbush, which is a tiny creeper, and small bushes of ruby saltbush having inconspicuous flowers, but brightly coloured fruits. After fruits are eaten, the animal may travel quite a distance, before the seeds in the fruit pass through its gut and are deposited on the ground.

There is a less pleasant way in which animals spread seeds. Bidgee-widgees grow round burrs, in which each of the numerous seeds has a few barbed spines pointing outwards. These catch on the fur of any passing animal, which later stops to pull them off. Grass seeds also catch in fur. The seeds of spear grasses are particularly sharp. They have a long twisted tail called an awn. When a seed lands on the ground, it waits for rain. Then the awn will slowly unwind, behaving like a corkscrew, and drilling the seed into the ground and planting it. Look out for them next time you are pulling seeds out of your pet's fur or your socks, and think about where you discard the seeds. You are also dispersing seeds for a plant.



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK FEBRUARY 2021

Happy New Year!

I hope all residents had a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year break, and an opportunity to relax and reflect after a challenging year.

The year ahead will be a busy one of delivery at Council, and there will be plenty of opportunities for our community to have their say. We had several plans and projects out for public consultation recently, and I thank everyone who shared their feedback.

While many of these have now ended, our biggest and most important consultation has just begun. The Council Plan 2021-25 is our four-year strategic plan and will set out what priorities Council will focus on during this term. I encourage everyone to get involved in this important project and share their ideas on the survey or stop by a conversation post. You can find out more in the February Gazette, on Council's website or follow Council on social media.



Finally, while restrictions have significantly reduced, recent COVID-19 outbreaks in other states and overseas have shown just how quickly the virus can get out of hand. If you are feeling unwell, please get tested and isolate. To stay up-to-date with COVID-19 restrictions and testing locations, visit dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

If you have been financially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, you can still apply for rates relief by applying for our Financial Hardship Policy. Please visit our website or call 5220 7111 to find out more.

Mayor Cr Helena Kirby

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY AWARDS 2020



Council congratulates the Golden Plains Shire Council (GPSC) Community Award 2020 winners:

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Brad McKenzie

SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Damian Baker

YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Sophie Busuttill

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

Smythesdale Cemetery Trust

The winners and all nominees were recognised at Council's Australia Day event on Tuesday 26 January. A recording of the event and more information on all nominees is available at goldenplains.vic.gov.au.

COUNCIL PLAN 2021-25



The Council Plan 2021-2025 consultation closes on 21 February 2021. For information and the online survey, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au.



What priorities should Council focus on for 2021-2025?

To develop the Council Plan 2021-2025 and Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan, Council is inviting the community to provide input into the priorities for action in Golden Plains Shire over the next four years. The priorities will be aligned with, and deliver on, the themes of the Golden Plains Shire Community Vision 2040: Community, Liveability, Prosperity and Sustainability.

There are many ways to share your ideas and opinions:

Complete the Council Plan 2021-2025 survey in the February issue of the Gazette or online at the Have Your Say page on Council's website: goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations

Complete a Council Plan 2021-2025 postcard: Available at Council's Customer Centres – 2 Pope St, Bannockburn and 19 Heales St, Smythesdale – and at Council's engagement posts.

Visit a Council Plan 2021-2025 community engagement post at:

- 10am to 12pm, Saturday 30 January: Rokewood centre, Rokewood-Shelford Road.
- 8.30am to 12.30pm, Saturday 6 February: Golden Plains Farmers' Market, High & Milton Sts, Bannockburn.
- 10am to 3pm, Sunday 7 February: Smythesdale Arts and Music Fiesta, Smythesdale centre.

Share your ideas with Councillors at the Council Plan 2021-2025 Online Conversation Post: 5.30 to 7pm, Wednesday 10 February.

HAVE
YOUR SAY!

Our Favourite Librarian Retires.

Cathie Boer

Kay Dickenson, Meredith's favourite librarian, retired after 21 years, just before Christmas.

No doubt she will be able to spend more time with her husband and grandchildren.

She will also have a lot more time for reading, crocheting and knitting.

Enjoy your retirement, Kay. You will be missed.



Have you heard this one?

"Doc, I can't stop singing The Green, Green Grass of Home. He said: 'That sounds like Tom Jones syndrome.' 'Is it common?' I asked. 'It's not unusual' he replied.

The Things We Say

GEMMA HANAN

Back to the drawing board

Surprisingly, this saying seems to be a fairly recent one in comparison to others and one without much ambiguity. Meaning to start over with a new idea or plan, the first appearance of the phrase was in a 1941 cartoon by American cartoonist Peter Arno for The New Yorker Magazine. The cartoon shows a crashed military plane with the pilot coming down by parachute, with a designer walking away with blueprints under his arm. The caption reads 'well, back to the old drawing board'.



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the rain report

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(Well, maybe not if
you hate mowing

lawns, or were hoping
for some beach
weather. And
definitely not, if you
are a butterfly, who
only gets to live for
one summer!) But for
gardeners and nature
lovers, it has been a
delight.



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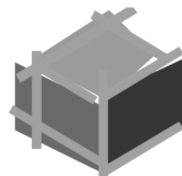
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Steve Duffy

How does your Pumpkin Grow?

Although it has been a very cool and wet Summer, there is still lots of warm weather ahead to give your Giant Pumpkin time to put on the pounds.

Remember they will thrive with plenty of compost and manure. It is nearly time to cull the smaller ones. This will give your plants the ability to pump all that goodness into your chosen specimens. Leave only one per plant. And watch 'em grow!

At this rate, it will be well into March or even April before we can bring our Pumpkins down to Meredith Primary School for judging. We will let you know where and when next month. Meanwhile, keep an eye on your champion with both water and feed.

Good luck to all you growers!

Good gardening Steve Duffy



William James Reid at Woodbourne.

(In December 2020 we visited our granddaughter, Eliza Emmlin at Calindary Station in the Western Section of NSW where she has been a Governess to two boys for the past three years. After talking with Lachie and Hayley, the owners of Calindary and doing some research we discovered that Calindary was once a paddock in a much larger station called Yancannia that had been taken up by William James Reid who had lived at Meredith previous to taking up the isolated land in outback NSW.

Marg Cooper)

Following is the story of William James Reid and the property.

Written by Bob Reid, great grandson of WJ Reid.

William James Reid brought his 18 year-old bride, Elizabeth Elliott Armstrong to the original timber home on Woodbourne. As more of their family of nine children were born, WJ Reid arranged for three rooms to be added to the front of the house. The additions were made of bluestone and roofed with slate, probably in the late 1850's. Verandas were added to the front and sides, and a detached kitchen was added to the rear.

William James Reid was born on a farm near Letterkenny in County Donegal, Ireland and arrived in Melbourne in July 1841 with a cousin and another distant relation. He was only 19 years old and had less than £50 in his pocket. He worked as a shepherd, general servant and shearer around Geelong, Drysdale and Bellarine. As he was a staunch Presbyterian of sober habits, he received a lot of insults and some mistreatment from his fellow workers who were mostly hard drinking assigned servants.

After about 18 months he was engaged by John Armstrong of Bush Station, whom he had originally met at church, to tutor the 13 Armstrong children. He stayed there for three years and during the time he invested his savings in some land and a small flock of sheep in the Goulburn Valley district in partnership with two relations. This venture failed although WJ Reid was able to salvage £120. He left Bush Station after three years and a chance meeting with Somerville Learmonth of the well-known sheep breeding family, resulted in his appointment as overseer on the Learmonth's Buninyong property. After two years he was appointed to manage Learmonth's Wycheproof Station where he stayed for four years. WJ Reid was given leave to run 2000 wethers on Wycheproof during his last year there, and he sold these for meat on the gold diggings at a substantial profit.

Alexander Wilson, one of the brothers who established Woodbourne [No2], PB No 302 in 1844, sold the 14,000-acre station and 6,000 sheep to WJ Reid for £5,400 in late 1852.

Reid paid £1000 cash with the remainder to be paid over three years and took delivery in January 2, 1853. When he had a home of his own he felt free to marry Elizabeth

Armstrong on May 21, 1853. She was a niece of his former employer John Armstrong.

Elizabeth was settled in the shingle roofed wooden cottage of six rooms at the head of the Woodburn Creek.

WJ Reid encountered a number of difficulties while at Woodbourne, including sheep scab, liver fluke, branding Warrambine sheep and having to re-purchase 3,000 acres that had apparently been resumed. WJ Reid sold Woodbourne in 1872 for £2/10/- per acre.

WJ Reid was active in the Meredith Community. He was involved in the Free Presbyterian Church, laid the Foundation Stone for the church building that still stands and was instrumental in securing ministers. A call was extended to Rev Peter MacPherson and he was duly ordained and inducted into the Meredith Church in 1861. He was a bachelor and lived at Mr Reid's sheep property at Woodbourne until a manse was occupied by him about October 1864.

Reid became President of the Meredith Road Board and was re-elected on a number of occasions. "His loss was a major blow to the spiritual and material good of the Meredith cause." WJ Reid purchased a station near White Cliffs, NSW when he left Woodbourne and he and his sons went on to purchase a number of other stations.

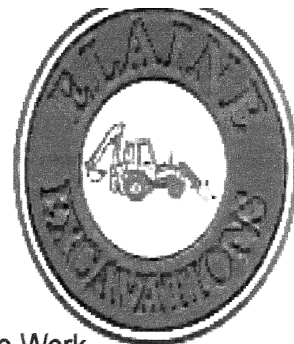
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Gorse (Part 3 of 4)

Janene Schillier

Carrying Out the Program

Once you map out the areas requiring control, develop a program based on the type of land or infestation you need to treat and the options you have available. Before following these programs, it is important that you develop a five year gorse control plan work out your primary control, and follow up method prevent further seed spread. Various situations can include steep or stony pasture, arable pasture, native vegetation, riparian zone, stream banks, creeks, water courses or near dams)

Multiple Approaches - Large and smaller infestations

Once you start your plan multiple methods can be used.

For example significant infestations may be suitable for mechanical control (excavators, blades etc) followed by spraying with herbicide when it shoots.

Smaller areas might be done by spraying with herbicide (effectively kills the plant & roots if done correctly) and manual methods like cut and applying herbicide to the cut surface. The method should be decided before starting. Reading the **Best Practice Manual (available on the web)** is recommended because it discusses the successful methods for every circumstance and saves time working out best methods yourself (see **Victorian Gorse Taskforce**) website. Whatever is decided the investment to control gorse is wasted if follow up, monitoring and enthusiasm for results are ignored.

Stopping the seed bank can be effective in smaller areas with manual chopping with loppers to gain access, making a pile and then in suitable weather building a fire from other material such as branches, to get the fire going then systematically burn the lopped gorse. Note : this method is not available in the summer or warmer months. **Gorse is highly inflammable and poses a significant risk.** Gorse seed is destroyed if heated to a hundred degrees for 20 minutes - including seeds which are on the top few centimetres of soil (if this where the heat is) Inspect for new growth and apply spray. Heat stimulates seed germination and growth of multiple stalks - a big problem if not sprayed.



Gorse will return if there is no follow up, so plan to implement your methods for 5 years at least. Planting vegetation as a competitor is not recommended until certainty of containment. Examples of planting too early has resulted in multiple problems of gorse return in amongst the new vegetation.

Thought for a yearly budget over a period of 5 years or more, combined with researching techniques and sticking to a vigilant approach will give positive results, satisfaction and encouragement.

Landholders can do a lot themselves thus reducing costs. Some may engage a contractor. A hands on approach allows you to be educated, monitor and see results over time

In summary methods are

- Cut and apply herbicide to the cut surface (within 20 seconds).
- Herbicide spray and monitor, repeat and check at least annually.
- Use of excavator to remove plants then herbicide spray follow up.
- Doing this yourself or hiring an experienced contractor.

Young seedlings are easy to pull out by the roots in damp soil. This is a good winter job. Gorse is a difficult invasive woody weed, but with a vigilant approach, great results can be achieved. Seek assistance from the Victorian Gorse Taskforce and other websites (Tasmania)

Part four next month Results, Resources and Future Management will conclude these articles on Gorse.



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An Impressive Young Woman

Marg Cooper

Charlie Stone has just moved with her family to live in Bamganie. Two years ago, the family moved to Ballarat and, after visiting several schools at their Open Days, she chose to study for her VCE at Woodman's Hill Secondary College, because of the benefits of it being a small school and close to where they lived. There were 30 - 40 students in Year 12 classes and very good teachers and, although it took her a while to find common ground with the other students, she was very much cared for at the school. And then there was Covid! But, because she had previously been home schooled, Charlie jumped straight into online education. Being in a room at home with her mother who is a qualified teacher and who was also studying, helped. She excelled! Charlie was a School Captain and Dux of the school.

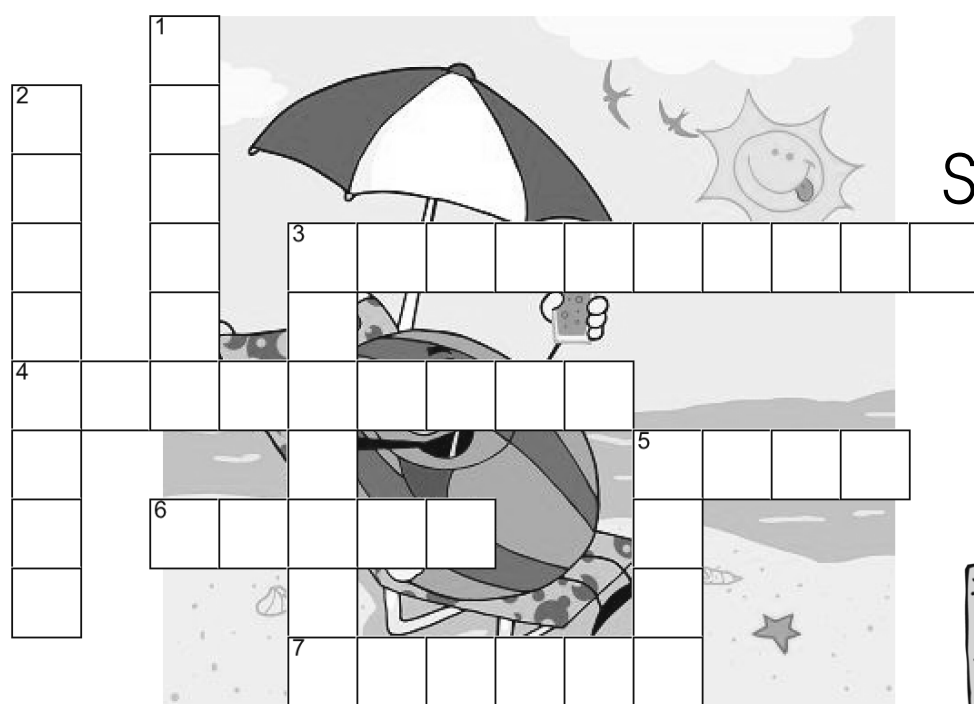
The family have moved often and Charlie has attended Catholic Schools, Baptist Schools, done home schooling, been in an International school, a Geelong school and schools in Norway when she was an exchange student in 2018. She loves the Scandinavian countries where she became is a big fan of snow (which she says is different in Norway) and has developed a particular interest in their architecture, their culture and their history.

Charlie, as a school captain, hoped to organize lots of social experiences during the year for the students, because she believed that in Year 12 there should be a balance between study and pleasure. She was also disappointed that they didn't get their Year 12 jumpers. However, they were able to have a full-blown graduation ceremony in the Performing Arts Centre at the school, and to dress up and go out for dinner. Charlie wore her mother's wedding dress of baby blue satin, slightly altered, and had a mask of the same fabric made to wear to the dinner.

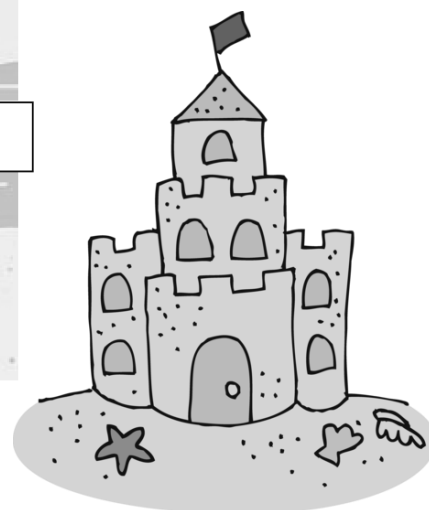
In 2021 Charlie plans to study psychology at a Melbourne University. She doesn't know where that study will lead but is excited at the prospects. She has chosen to go to Melbourne to learn and experience the city and to live in a shared house.

Charlie has worked at several part time jobs including as a waitress and a swimming teacher. She likes art and attends a group class and loves zipping around in her little bright red car which she calls 'Ziggy'.

The school nominated Charlie for a *Dorothy Irene Ellis Thomas* scholarship which she was successful in being awarded. Since 1995 when Dorothy died, a scholarship has been awarded to a male and female completing VCE from each Ballarat school to help with their tertiary education. She also was nominated to attend a leadership course at Narmbool. (Charlie is going to write about that experience in the next Newsletter.)



Summertime Puzzle



Across

3. I love to build this in the sand.
4. I love to run through it and it makes me wet.
5. I have one in my backyard that I love to swim in.
6. A place that has lots of sand and water.
7. I use this to pick up sand

Down

1. The hottest time of the year.
2. I wear this to swim.
3. I like to wear these on my feet when it is hot.
5. I use this to put the sand in.



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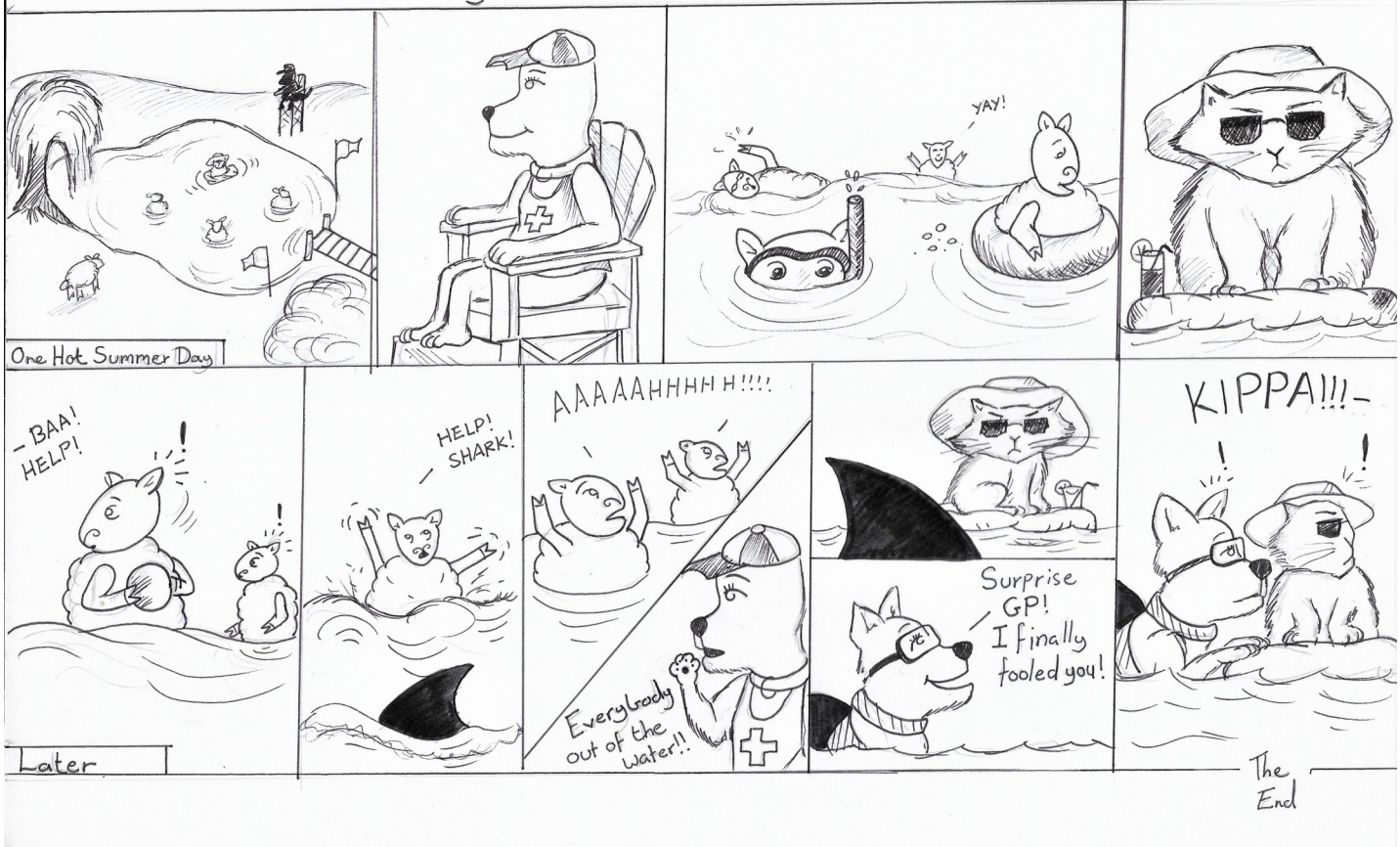
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By Emma Clarke





Marg's BOOK REVIEW

“From Snow to Ash” by Anthony Sharwood

This is the story of a life-changing walk through an iconic wilderness region that is both perilous and itself under threat.

Australian journalist Anthony Sharwood who specialised in writing about sports, outdoors, weather and climate started his career writing for newspapers and magazines but for the ten years before the walk, had been a writer and editor on leading Australian websites.

He says that *his brain was pretty much fried* after a decade of digital journalism. Having interviewed numerous adventurers over the years he now wanted to plan and undertake his own mini expedition. He had a lifelong love of skiing and hiking in the Australian High Country.

Solo Trek in the Australian Alps

So in the summer of 2019 he set off to solo trek the 660 km Australian Alps Walking Track or AAWT. The idea for a track across the Australian Alps was floated in the late 1970's, as an extension of what was then the Victorian Alpine Track. It was never created or envisaged as a maintained easy-to-follow walking track. As things stand now the AAWT has some sort of identifiable trail on the ground for 80% to 90% of its length, due mainly to dedicated volunteers, but luckily John Chapman wrote an official guide to the AAWT and Anthony referred to it often, calling it “The Bible”.

The day after an early December High Country blizzard Anthony set off from Walhalla in Gippsland to walk to Tharwa on Canberra's southern outskirts. Every single day of his five weeks trek, he had to make decisions that impacted on the distance covered, his level of comfort and his survival chances. There were lots of highlights including having Mt Bogong to himself, walking with emus south of Thredbo, straddling the infant Murray River and trudging through knee deep snow on the Baw Baw Plateau.

Meandering monologue

The book is described as an internal monologue which meanders like the trail itself. But being a journalist Anthony also documents the delicate and precious mountains, their history, their ecology and above all their fragility in the face of changing climate and other threats. Bush fires raged in the Alps during his walk so he was not able to walk all the way or in fact complete the walk but he would like, in coming summers, to complete the sections of the walk which he missed.

This is Anthony Sharwood's first book. He is currently working as a media strategist for an environmental group and has other plans for 2021. He intends to leave words, ideas and hopefully a better world - any financial leftovers will be a bonus!

Golden Plains Shire Funded TV Show seeks local stories.

Marg Cooper

Elly (Elysia Janssen) who is a gifted actor and works in theatre and film, has been fascinated by bizarre and mysterious stories she has heard from a young age. Not content to accept the stories as just folklore she decided to create a podcast “Chronicles X” and set out on a journey to investigate the truth behind the stories.

Paranormal investigations

In her journey she came across the “Paranormal Godfather” (Gary Sullivan) and the “Travelling Medium” (Anthony Kilner) who share a common desire to explore the unknown. The Paranormal Godfather is no stranger to mysteries - especially the supernatural kind!. For over 40 years he has investigated some of the most haunted locations in Australia and can tell you stories that will make the hair on your arms stand on end. He was also the lead investigator in the TV show “Haunted Australia”. The “Travelling Medium” on the other hand is a mechanic and published author with a love for travelling and RV's. He is the creator and editor of “Supernal

Magazine” (www.supernalmagazineaustralia.com.au) and the presenter of the radio show “Antman's RV & 4x4 Show” on Yarra FM. He is also a gifted Medium providing an empathetic view to those who yearn for closure and solace.

Uncovering mysteries

Each with a unique perspective to the world, Elly, Gary and Anthony decided to travel across the beautiful Golden Plains Shire uncovering fascinating historical facts, hearing emotional stories of heroic actions and sacrifice, cringing at disturbing acts of infamy and murder and mystified by unsolved mysteries, urban legends, Dreamtime tales and stories of mythological creatures of the region. But it is not all about mysteries and murder, they also take time off to have fun and enjoy the amazing vistas of Golden Plains Shire, the cultural events of the region, the sumptuous food and wine on offer and to meet the colourful (and sometimes eccentric) characters of the shire.

It all comes together in Elly's podcast Chronicles X, as Elly, Anthony and Gary get together to discuss the journey, reveal what they have uncovered, talk about the interesting people they've met along the way and reflect on how the experience has changed their view of the mysterious and infinitely bizarre world around them.

Recording local history

The TV show Chronicles X reinforces the importance of our local history, heritage and stories, with an emphasis on the critical need to preserve, not only the stories, but the actual historical buildings, landmarks or relics of the past. All of which, can then serve to rouse our curiosity about the human experience that lies therein.

‘Chronicles X: Golden Plains’ is produced by Mystical Guides Studios and Meadow Media via Northern Access TV. The Golden Plains Shire episodes are generously

supported by a Community Strengthening Grant provided by the Golden Plains Shire. The Meredith History Interest Group and Meredith Music Festival are also graciously supporting the TV series as community partners.

The cast and crew are made up of local independent actors, filmmakers and history enthusiasts who volunteer their time to produce local content that depicts historically and culturally important locations, stories and events. If you are a Golden Plains Shire local or have a story about the Golden Plains Shire, and would like to share the story in the show, please don't hesitate to contact us using our email address spfxs@hotmail.com

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The Meredith Community Garden (MCG)

Linda Wong

Hands of Change was established in 2016 by Linda Wong and Chris Ardrey with a purpose to deliver innovative programs that provide communities with the support, knowledge and tools to improve quality of life. In 2019, Hands of Change received a grant from the Geelong Community Foundation and Golden Plains Youth to deliver a Youth Leadership Program (#EQYLP) using activities with horses in a natural outdoor environment. The **Equihands Youth Leadership Program** was delivered to the Meredith Primary School and Bannockburn College between September 2019 and March 2020 – when Covid-19 hit.

As part of the program, students were required to answer the question “***How do we make our community a better place to live?***”. A range of suggestions were made and each group of students presented their ideas to Golden Plains Shire Council, local community groups, parents and teachers.

With so many great ideas, it was important to bring at least one of these ideas to life. There was one project that was identified by the Meredith Primary School students that Linda and Chris felt they could progress – that was the need for a Community Garden.

The students identified three reasons for why they felt a community garden was needed:

1. To promote healthy eating,
2. To be more active outside,
3. To provide something that everyone could participate in together.

The challenge was how to make this idea come to life. As luck would have it, a series of fortunate events came together to allow this idea to germinate and grow.

In late 2019, an Expression of Interest (EOI) was advertised for the lease of the Meredith Interpretive Centre. Linda and Chris thought this space would be perfect for a community garden – amongst other ideas (refer to www.meredithsharingshed.com.au). They submitted a response to the EOI and were successful in their application. Next step was joining forces with community groups. Through a partnership with the Meredith Primary School, they went to work designing a program that would teach the year 5 and 6 students basic business skills needed later in life. This program was named “***Nurturing Young Minds for their Future***” and would use the Community Garden as the project to teach the students about planning, budgeting, teamwork and resilience. The final step was funding. This project was successful in receiving funding again from Geelong Community Foundation and Golden Plains Youth. In addition, a grant was received as part of the Strengthening Communities funding round from Golden Plains Shire Council.

Delivery of the first ***Nurturing Young Minds for their Future*** program began in September 2020 and concluded in December 2020. Each week on a Monday afternoon for

an hour, the year 5 and 6’s came across to the “Meredith Sharing Shed” (the old Interpretive Centre) to work on this project. They learned how to plan, budget, design, purchase, market and build the community garden – which affectionately was named the Meredith Community Garden (or MCG for short).

Guest speakers from our community were also involved to help out – Vasili from Vasili’s Gardens, GMHBA representatives and other local supporters. Volunteers gathered to help when it came time to build the garden. Many local businesses were contacted for the purchase of goods and services. It is a real community project!

On the 14 December 2020, phase 1 of the garden was launched. The MCG is now open to the public for all to enjoy. The food pantry from the Meredith Primary School has been re-located to the back of the MCG. A cubby house will be installed to house the crops once they are ready to harvest. The food – both from the garden and in the pantry – are available for anyone to help themselves.

The “***Nurturing Young Minds for their Future***” program will start again in late February 2021 with the aim to complete the entire garden by December 2021. See the final garden design that the students provided input to.

In the meantime, please wander through and help yourself to what is growing. Keep an eye on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/HoCLimited>) and website (www.handsofchange.org.au) for updates and callouts for volunteers. The project is looking for mentors this year to help out with this program. If interested, please email info@handsofchange.org.au for more information.



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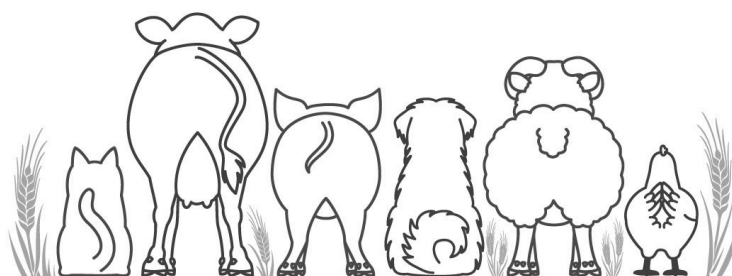
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One Pot Italian Chicken

Serves 4

Prep time 5 min plus 20 mins cooking time

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 20g butter
- 4 chicken breast fillets
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- ½ cup sun dried tomatoes, sliced
- 1/3 cup white wine
- 1 cup thickened cream
- ½ cup chicken stock
- 60g packet baby spinach
- 1 cup fresh basil leaves, torn
- Crusty bread to serve

Method

Heat oil and butter in a large non-stick frying pan over high heat until butter is foamy. Season the chicken and add to the pan. Reduce heat to medium high. Cook the chicken for 5 minutes each side to just cooked through. Transfer to a plate. Cover with foil and keep warm.

Place the garlic in the pan. Cook, stirring, for 1 minute or until aromatic. Add the tomatoes and stir to coat. Add the wine and cook for 1 minute or until reduced. Add the cream and stock. Return the chicken to the pan and simmer for 5 minutes or until liquid is reduced. Stir through the spinach until wilted. Season with salt and pepper and sprinkle with basil leaves. Serve with crusty bread.

Recipe from – Taste.com

Stefania



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it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

Annual Meeting:

You are invited to the Annual Meeting of MHIG on Sunday, February 28 at 1.30 pm at the Meredith Memorial Hall.

If you would like to take a more active role in the History Group there are some positions available on committee....please let us know.

Cameron Steele from Bannockburn is passionate about the Moorabool River and has taken an active part in research for the film about the Moorabool River being produced by Stephen Oaks and Ian Penna. He has agreed to be our guest speaker at the Annual Meeting and to talk on the past, present and future of the Moorabool River, including reflections about indigenous people in the area. It is reported that it is the most compromised river in Victoria!

Mystical Guides:

We have had several visits from Stelios and his crew to talk about content for a TV show called 'Chronicles X' that they are producing in the Golden Plains Shire. He is inviting people who have a story or people who would like to act in the show, to contact him. Please see his article in the Newsletter.

Hotels of Meredith:

Although we have been thwarted in our attempts to mount the display in Bannockburn Library re the Hotels of Meredith, we have had plenty of time to research. A book is about to go to print and when regulations permit we intend to have the Pub Crawl to launch the book and to tell you about the characters who founded Meredith and their antics.

A story that recently came to light is of Mrs Norah Palmer, the well known housekeeper at the Royal Hotel, Meredith who was taken to Geelong on a charge of lunacy in December 1877 and remanded to the Alfred Ward of the Hospital for medical examination. She was committed to the Kew Asylum after being diagnosed as being delusional. She died at the asylum in July 1900. We wonder what happened to her three children.

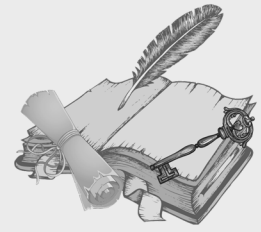
Plaques, Foundation Stones, Signs and Sculptures:

I am documenting the plaques, foundation stones, signs and sculptures which are outdoors in Meredith and district. There are many more than I originally thought. There are newspaper reports of foundation stones being laid, some we can find and some we can't find; there are plaques where they were originally placed and several are in the collection of MHIG, there are a few sculptures and some signs on the back of buildings and in sheds. If you know of some, please make a list or, better still, take photos and record the position.

History Centre:

We are open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am.

FROM THE ARCHIVES



ELAINE.

The following method of delivering mail at a post-office about a mile from a railway station, seems so utterly ridiculous, that we would think it hardly possible that the department could have allowed it to exist. The Elaine Post-office is but little more than a mile from the Elaine station, or platform, yet letters for this place are sent along the line to Meredith, about five miles, where a country mailman gets them. Away he goes over the hills and far away to Morrison, and then making a detour, journeys to Dolly's Creek, thence he heads for the Elaine Post-office, and after delivering his mail there, he reaches the main road close to the Elaine platform, and goes home actually riding close to the railway along which the letters he had just delivered had been carried about six hours previously. This performance is not daily, and is only repeated three times a week. Surely such a nonsensical arrangement ought to be abolished, and the bag for Elaine dropped at the station and carried direct to the post-office. On the present system a letter posted in Ballarat on Thursday afternoon would reach the post-office at Elaine at five o'clock on Saturday, the actual distance between the places being about 20 miles by rail and one by road. Mark Twain would say, "why is this thus." We might almost suppose that the Post-office Department has been "got at" by the admirable Railway Department.

The Ballarat Star (Vic. : 1865 - 1924) Saturday 25 January 1873

"The Victoria Dining Rooms" arrived here to-day from Sebastopol, and are now in their destined position, and to the credit of Messrs McLennan and Co., who removed the building bodily, be it said, not a pane of glass has been broken in transit, nor is anything out of its place. In fact, they might have brought it down laden with passengers without disturbing them.

The Ballarat Star (Vic. : 1865 - 1924) Friday 21 March 1873

Jan McDonald, Meredith History Interest Group





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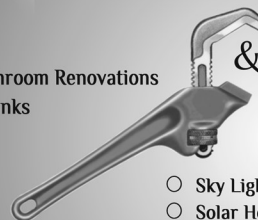
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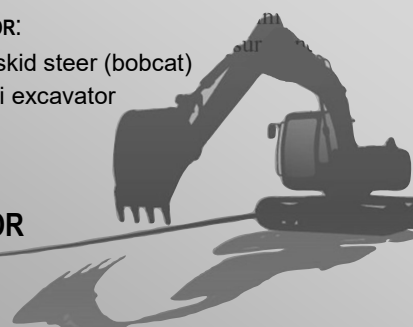
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A Wonderful Day

Jan Dimmick

My husband Frank, as a very young man, left school and joined the Air Force. He went to England and flew as a navigator in 460 Squadron of Bomber Command and did seven ops and three food parcel drops to the Dutch. He was home before he was twenty-one. Unfortunately, because he became ill in 2012 and died soon after he never saw the statue commemorating Bomber Command in Green Park, but he always wanted me to go.

A melancholy pilgrimage

The year after his death I went. I had been to England before but this was the first time to the new monument. I visited a few war monuments with two English friends who started a conversation with a man near the wall for WW1. They told him my father was in WW1 in the 58th Battalion at the Western Front and received high honours and Frank's father was in the medical corp.

The man they were speaking to was the caretaker and he came up to me, asked about my interest and said I should go to the service in Westminster Abbey marking 99 years since the landing at Gallipoli. I said I would love to but how do I go about it. He wrote down a phone number and passed it to me. I went back to my accommodation to ring not knowing where the phone number would lead me. I mentioned my call to the concierge and they let me ring from their phone. I dialled, a man answered, and asked if I had any contact with the wars. I told him my father and husband and he said "Oh yes, wait a minute". Ten minutes later I was just ready to hang up when he came back. He asked if I could meet him outside the Abbey at eleven o'clock, the service started at twelve. He would have an invitation for me.

An unexpected opportunity

I arrived at eleven o'clock at the entrance to the Abbey. We saw each other and he passed me the invitation, which I still have. The time to enter was approaching so I made my way in and an usher spoke to me and I gave him the invitation. He said follow me. We walked and walked, past the choir stalls and right to the front of the Abbey. My seat was A2 front row opposite the pulpit and what I call the throne seat. Six Chelsea pensioners were opposite and a gentleman came and sat in A3 and I found out he was an Ambassador – we were exactly where the Queen and Royal family sit.

The service began with flag bearers leading through the Abbey – one from Britain, Turkey, Australia and New Zealand – followed by the Clergy and the Duke of Gloucester who sat on the throne seat and his security team, one of which sat in A1 – next to me.

We had a wonderful service and a children's choir from Australia sang, all four countries had their National Anthems and I still have the Order of Service.

VIP treatment

When we finished, I was ready to leave and got up to back away but the Ambassador took me by the arm and

said "Madam, you are one of us" so I left with all the VIPs. I walked down the middle of Westminster Abbey feeling very shy but very proud and getting to the door of the Abbey the Dean of Westminster and the Archbishop shook my hand and asked where I came from. They let me know that they would love me to visit again if I came back to the UK. They were very polite and made me feel wanted. This was one of the best days of my life.

PS. The phone number I was given was the Australian Embassy.

(Jan Dimmick is the daughter of John James Graham Colclough who lived at "Glenairlie", at Meredith. Her mother was Annie McNaughton.)



The Bomber Command Memorial Green Park commemorates the 55,573 who died while serving in the Bomber Command during the Second World War.

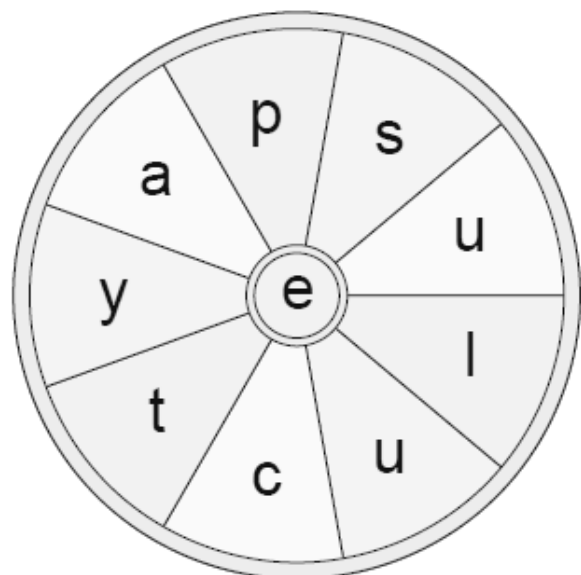
Wordwheel puzzle

The goal of a word wheel puzzle is to create as many words possible with the letters in the word wheel. You can use each letter only once and every word must have the letting in the centre of the wheel. Answers page 37.

Can you find the 10 letter word?

Here is a little help to find the word:

An Australian tree



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- Livestock & General Cartage
- Bulk Haulage
- Grain and Fertilizer



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Dreams and Goals for 2021

Magic is believing in yourself. If you can make that happen, you can make anything happen."

— Johann Wolfgang van Goethe

It is not an act of creating something new, it's simply re-aligning yourself with what already is, who you are meant to be. And when you are able to visualise your dreams, goals, and desires, and live as if they are a reality, there's no end to the possibilities life holds for you.

I first started creating vision boards 8 years ago. I didn't know they were called vision boards at the time. I've kept sketchbooks for decades that are overflowing with scribbles, doodles, and collages.

A vision board is a creative process to set clear intentions and goals for what you want in your life, so you can grow and transform yourself. So, each year in January I get tighter with my tribe and create my dream board for the upcoming year.

Creating a vision

What's the point of vision board?

It turns out putting your goals and dreams on paper in a visual format can actually help you achieve them. A vision board relates to your life direction.

However, in order to attract what you truly want, the vision board alone won't cut it. You must see it, feel it, and embody it. To help you create the best vision board for getting clear on what you want, there are four essential steps: Defining your goals, find your inspiration, mapping out your board, bringing your vision board to life!

In order to visualize your goals, first you need to know what they are. Spend some time getting clear on exactly what you want your ideal life to look like, and what you need to accomplish in the next 12 months to launch you closer to your goals. List areas of your life that are important to you right now. These might be family, relationships, hobbies, fitness, wellbeing, finances. See how many things you can come up with (e.g., traveling, taking music lessons, starting a business, thriving in 2021!)

Don't spend more than 5 - 10 minutes on this. Jot down the first things that come to mind.

Finding your inspiration.

Begin looking for words and images that align to the goals that you've identified in your goals. These might be magazines around lifestyle, home, nature, fitness, fashion, yoga, baby, family, etc. But don't just limit yourself to magazines! Other places you might find inspiration: postcards, catalogues, wrapping paper, fabric, collect a

bundle of old magazines with beautiful pictures or old books.

If you currently don't have any old books or magazines at home, ask your friends to give you any they no longer want. You should also be able to pick some up for just a dollar or two at the local op shop.

Find pictures that represent your goals and inspire you.

You are looking for words, images, or colours that resonate with you. You may be inspired by colours, patterns, textures, or the imagery itself. Or a word may stand out to you - so rip it out and place it to one side.

Your vision board shouldn't be focused on "stuff" so much as on how you want to feel. For this reason, I like to add words to my vision board that describe how I want to feel on a daily basis - such as: "joyful," "abundant," "powerful," "fearless," "loved," "strong," "healthy," "loving," and "financially free."

Take some time to create a list of words that describe how you want to feel. You can either search for these words in your magazines or write them yourself.

Spend a good hour or more on this.

So, go grab yourself a nice tea or coffee and sit down to browse through your chosen magazines. What you should end up with is a huge pile of more images that you will need.

When looking for images in the magazines, look for those that immediately make you say, "Yes! That is what I want in my life!" They don't have to be physical objects or literal interpretations of what you want in your life. Instead, focus on how the images make you feel.

For example, if you'd like to move to a country home, don't worry if you can't find a picture of your perfect "dream home." Perhaps a picture of an idyllic sunset though gum trees or paddock of sheep will be enough to inspire you. Or if you'd like to attract a new romantic partner into your life, instead of hunting for a picture of a man or woman who meets your physical ideal, find a picture that represents love to you - an image of two people holding hands, or even a picture of a heart, for example.

Making it visual

Now, for the fun part! Make a collage out of your collection.

Once you have collected enough, it's time to make your vision board! Go to your local craft or dollar store and buy a large piece of construction or poster paper, (A3 or 11x17, but really the bigger the better!) Go with the first colour that makes you go wow or makes you feel connected to this project. Scissors and glue sticks.

Start to lay out your images on your board. But don't glue yet! I find it's easier to lay my images out on my board before sticking, that way you can arrange or re-arrange before you commit.

Accentuate your board with metallic pens, chalk, crayons or watercolours. Or, if you're feeling really inspired, add texture using ribbons, leaves and flowers, feathers, washi tapes and maybe stickers, gems or sequins! The possibilities are endless.

When you're ready, start gluing but don't glue the edges just yet. You may want to layer some images above or below, so give yourself the option to rearrange if needed. When you're happy with the final product, go back and stick down all the edges.

When you're finished with your vision board, it's important to find a special place for it. Place it in your office, studio or next to your bed so you'll be able to view it on a daily basis. Or make it your screensaver.

Spend time each morning or evening visualizing, affirming, believing, and internalizing your goals.

Remember the board contains all kinds of images and text that represent a goal (or goals) you have.

The most important tip: Write the date on the back of your vision board and your location. That way you can go back and remember where you were and what you were doing at the time. It is great to see a chronological order or progression of your dreams and desires coming true. And often times, you'll remember the emotions you were feeling at the time. It's a great snapshot of where you were then and where you are now.

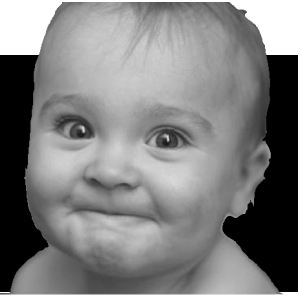
Remember, *"All dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them."* – Walt Disney

So, go watch the stars, breathe deep and sing out loud in the shower.

Kerrie

Go on....

SMILE!



Just bought a book from IKEA



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New patients welcome

From Personal Life to Business Life : How COVID-19 Impacts

Marshia Nishi

2020 wasn't an easy year, there's no doubt about it. No one can be indifferent to the pain & suffering that COVID-19 brought upon the world. It seems like the whole world has been brought to its knees.

Impact on families

I saw many struggles and frustrations encountered by my nearest and close ones who were affected with this pandemic, a lot of businesses closed down and a lot of people lost their jobs. I examined the struggle of the school kids and their parents when this pandemic forced them to do home-schooling. Home schooling for those little kids was so hard. Not being able to see their friends and go to school made them frustrated. Parenting through the lockdown time was proving to be a roller coaster ride. Some parents weren't so friendly on using the computer and internet system. And their struggle was so hard. I personally helped some of my neighbours who faced difficulties with their kid's home schooling and they got relief for that certain time.

Community Support

We were very new in the whole situation but we kind of just followed our gut feelings. The food industry wasn't exempt. When the pandemic first hit Australia, as a restaurant owner my foremost concern was (and still is) cleanliness and sanitising everything in the premises as much as we could. When we were in the thick of lockdown during the winter, we were stuck with takeaway orders only. No indoor or outdoor dining allowed at that time. This had been a very stressful and frustrating time for us. But the one thing I realized that *'it's the time to show up and be present for our team, our guests and our greater community.'* After doing critical research on the situation, we created a new combination menu for takeaway and the winter season with elements of our best dishes at an affordable price (based on the situation how people were experiencing financial insecurity). I started promoting our new menu on our website and social media platforms. We were surprised to notice that we were getting a very good response from the first week. It was incredibly heart-warming to see our community—both loyal and new customers—supporting us in those tough times. We're grateful and this bit of hope provided our first sigh of relief—both monetary and mentally.

A new way of working

When the lockdown in Victoria gradually began to be lifted, we started to face another sort of challenge. We were excited that we could open for indoor dining with a limited number of people and to greet our customers again. At the same time we had to handle everything very carefully to maintain everyone's safety. We had strict socially distanced tables and organized outdoor dining. For indoor dining we had to take contact details of everyone entering and ask customers to sanitize hands & wear masks until seated at their table. We had sanitizer at

every station in the kitchen and every corner of our dining area. For a while I had to shift my mindset to re-focus our business, not only just on surviving, but also on keeping our place safe. And we're very fortunate that our customers were so co-operative and supportive on following the Covid rules and restrictions. They were extremely happy to be back after the long lockdown at home and enjoyed sitting and having meals at their favourite place.

Looking forward

Every coin has two sides. Let's focus on all of the positive things that have occurred because of this Covid, like less pollution, people are passing quality time with family at home and are more concerned about hygiene issues, many hidden talents are exposed like singing, cooking, painting and so on. Pandemic time has taught us so many things, even how to grow stronger together, how to behave sensibly while some are becoming irresponsible and acting selfishly. Right now it's the guy who buys five packs of toilet paper for no reason, the woman who coughs in the shop or anybody who looks or acts different from us. But drawing the line between Us and Them will not help us, what we need is communication, co-operation and being kind.

So let's try to turn 2021 into a turning point, a new beginning, a fresh start. Because all of us can still become better versions of ourselves. And if we do it all together that might actually be the secret to turn things around for the better.

(Marshia is a co-owner of the Rustic Ram in Meredith)

Word wheel possible words

10 letter word- eucalyptus

| | | | | | |
|------|------|-------|-------|--------|------------|
| ace | clue | seal | leapt | slept | petals |
| ale | cues | seat | least | space | places |
| ape | cute | sect | lutes | spate | plates |
| ate | east | step | paces | spelt | pleats |
| aye | easy | suet | pales | stale | salute |
| cue | eats | tale | paste | steal | slatey |
| eat | espy | tape | pates | style | spacey |
| let | lace | teal | pause | tales | staple |
| lye | late | teas | peals | tapes | taupes |
| pea | leap | type | peats | taupe | teacup |
| pet | lept | utes | peaty | teals | acutely |
| sea | lest | yale | pelts | types | caplets |
| set | lets | yelp | petal | upset | capsule |
| sue | lute | acute | place | yeast | pulsate |
| tea | pace | capes | plate | yelps | pustule |
| use | pale | caste | pleas | acutes | scaleup |
| ute | pate | cause | pleat | aspect | specula |
| yes | peal | celts | pulse | caplet | teacups |
| yet | peas | cleat | sauce | castle | upscale |
| aces | peat | clues | saute | clause | eucalypt |
| ales | pest | cutes | scale | cleats | eucalypts |
| apes | pets | cutey | scape | cutely | eucalyptus |
| apse | plea | lacey | sepal | cutesy | |
| cape | sale | lapse | setup | palest | |
| case | sate | leaps | slate | pastel | |

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CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

February 2021

Moorabool North Wind Farm

Progress to date

- Installation of all fifty (50) turbines complete
- Energisation of substation complete
- Commissioning of forty-eight (48) turbines complete
- Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) Registration complete
- AEMO Compliance (Hold Point testing) commenced (30MW)

Look ahead

- Ongoing commissioning of turbines
- AEMO Compliance (Hold Point testing) to continue – increased operations

Moorabool South Wind Farm

Progress to date

- Installation of all Fifty-Four (54) turbines complete
- All access tracks, hardstands and substation complete
- Energisation of substation complete

Look ahead

- Road maintenance and repairs will continue as we monitor regularly
 - Beginning of commissioning of turbines
-

