

# Meredith & district News

Our FREE Community Newsletter since 1972

MARCH 2021



**It's AUTUMN!** Was it ever summer?



## inside

- Don't Undermine Steiglitz.
- Dogs on Utes, Moving Livestock and Managing Rabbits
- Clan Meredith Tartan!!

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



**GIANT  
PUMPKINS  
REPORT IN**





**NEED YOUR  
INVESTMENT  
WELL LOOKED  
AFTER?**



**firstnational**  
REAL ESTATE

Golden Plains

**We put  
you first**

**03 5281 4500**

Shop 11, Country Plaza  
Bannockburn VIC 3331  
[goldenplainsfn.com.au](http://goldenplainsfn.com.au)

*A safer place to live  
and a great place to be!*

Experience the feeling of belonging and connection at **Ingenia Gardens** independent seniors rental communities.



With your **caring Community Manager** and friendly neighbours looking out for you at Ingenia Gardens, now is the perfect time to consider how much safer and happier you could be as part of our Ingenia Gardens community.

**Few rental units remain**, to experience our virtual tour from the comfort of your own home visit [ingeniagardens.com.au](http://ingeniagardens.com.au)

For further information contact our friendly Community Managers.

**Ingenia Gardens Hertford** 5335 5288 37 ALEXANDRA STREET, SEBASTAPOL  
**Ingenia Gardens Sovereign** 5335 6649 26 BEVERIN STREET, SOVEREIGN

**Ingenia Gardens**  
HERTFORD & SOVEREIGN

# The VIRUS and us

## Breathe Easy!



At the time of going to press, COVID restrictions in Victoria had just been eased. The new rules include:

- Victorians will be able to host up to 30 people in their home per day and outdoor gatherings can increase to 100.
- Masks will only be required on public transport, in rideshare vehicles and taxis, in sensitive settings such as aged care facilities – and in some larger retail settings including indoor shopping centres, supermarkets, department stores and indoor markets.

It is a dynamic situation, so please stay alert to public announcements. The best source of reliable and up-to-date information is [dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](https://dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus)



The School Garden continues to inspire, Gemma reflects on good manners and bad food, Jenny Colvin writes affectionately about her high mileage wheelbarrow and Stef serves up some fruit chutney, just in time for the cooler months ahead. And we've got evidence that pumpkins make you happy!

## An Anniversary to Remember

It's about a year since most of us started to take seriously the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on us. A year later, it continues to command our attention as we move through various phases. First it was the sudden spread in other countries that caught our eye, along with the dire warnings it drew from experts in epidemiology. We saw a much smaller, but still threatening appearance of the virus in a few locations around Australia before it grew big enough to warrant public containment measures.

We were doing pretty well in Victoria, after observing some significant restrictions over a short time. But this ended when an outbreak from quarantined travellers grew rapidly, requiring a metro lockdown. This was a longer and more demanding imposition although we in the regions, were spared the worst of it. All this time, the virus spread with devastating speed and effect in much of the rest of the world, putting our situation into perspective.

Then new and more virulent strains appeared and found their way to Australia. Vaccines produced and approved in an extraordinary timeline, are just starting to roll out in Australia, marking a new phase. The expectation is, so long as they remain effective against new strains and there is sufficient public uptake, the protections they provide will allow greater freedom of movement, including the possible resumption of international travel. It is likely to be years before the virus is acceptably controlled around the world, and even then, *normal life* will be different. Or will it? It is surprising how quickly we forget the lessons of disasters - droughts and bushfires for example. And this is not the first pandemic. The Spanish Flu claimed about 50 million lives around a hundred years ago (20 times the casualties of COVID-19 so far) and there have been several pandemics since then. Let's all hope leaders around the world have the fortitude and foresight to embed the necessary capability to withstand this and future attacks on global health. And we, the public, the wisdom to take them seriously.







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

**DATES AND DEADLINES**

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

**ADVERTISING**

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

	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](mailto:advertising@meredithnews.com.au)  
**Accounts:** Mike 0419 307044  
[accounts@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:accounts@meredithnews.com.au)  
**Editorial:** Jim: 0409 163169  
[news@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:news@meredithnews.com.au)

**WEB**

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

**ONLINE PHOTOS**

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

**DISCLAIMER**

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

# connect

<b>ADVANCE MEREDITH</b> 5286 1291	<b>FOOTBALL</b> Seniors 0408 545 246 Juniors 0430 587 674
<b>ANGLING CLUB</b> 0419 248 660	<b>GOLF CLUB</b> 0407 795 342
<b>B'BURN ART GROUP</b> 0410 808 483	<b>HISTORY GROUP</b> 5286 8201
<b>BLUE LIGHT DISCO</b> 5286 1222	<b>LANDCARE</b> 0409 862 326
<b>BOOK CLUB</b> 5286 8201	<b>MEMORIAL HALL</b> 5286 1545 0409 662106
<b>CFA</b> 000 for fire calls Elaine 0409 861 296 Meredith 5286 1502 Morrisons 0417 770 765	<b>MEREDITH LIONS</b> 0491 061640
<b>CHILDCARE</b> 5286 0700	<b>MOTORCYCLE CLUB</b> 0437 009 250
<b>COMMUNITY CENTRE</b> 5286 0700	<b>PLAYGROUP</b> 5286 0700
<b>CRICKET</b> Elaine 0448 291074 Junior (U16,U14,13) 0448 291074 Meredith 5286 1434	<b>POLICE PADDOCKS</b> 5286 1273
<b>CUBS &amp; SCOUTS</b> Anakie 52819497	<b>RSL -</b> 5286 1452
<b>ELAINE HALL</b> <a href="mailto:elainetownhall@gmail.com">elainetownhall@gmail.com</a>	<b>SENIOR CITIZENS</b> 5286 8232
	<b>TENNIS</b> Elaine 0448 291 074 Meredith 5286 1211
	<b>SEW 'N' SEWS</b> 5286 0700
	<b>FRIENDS OF THE BRISBANE RANGES</b> 5286 1252

**..or start something.**

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



“Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns.” – George Eliot

# emergency

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

**Justices of the Peace**

Mr Don Atherton. 0409 869 960  
 Mr Paul Ryan Elaine 0409 861 296

# services

<b>CEMETERY TRUST</b> 5286 1550	<b>MATERNAL &amp; CHILD HEALTH</b> 5220 7230
<b>HALL HIRE</b> Meredith Memorial 5286 1545 Elaine Mechanics <a href="mailto:elainetownhall@gmail.com">elainetownhall@gmail.com</a> Elaine Rec Res 5341 5703	<b>PRE-SCHOOL</b> 5286 0722
<b>LIBRARY VAN</b> 5272 6010	<b>PRIMARY SCHOOL</b> 5286 1313
	<b>RECREATION RESERVE</b> 0429 315 575





# Community



Meredith Community Centre  
working for our community

## What's On



### TERM 1

#### Cheese-Making with Narelle

Monday 15 March - 10.00 - 2.00 - \$120

### TERM 2

#### Make a Vase Arrangement

Thursday 29 April - 10.00 - 12.00 - \$75

#### Young Artist Class - Ages 7-12

10 Weeks - Starting 29 April  
4.00-5.30pm - \$150 per person



Australian Government

### Be Connected

Every Australian online.

Drop in Sessions - EVERY Tuesday 10am - 1pm  
No appointment required.

[www.meredithcommunitycentre.com.au](http://www.meredithcommunitycentre.com.au)

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

[www.facebook.com/MeredithCommunityCentre](https://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

Yoga is coming!

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



## IGNITE A PASSION FOR THE GAME!

### Anakie FNC

Anakie Reserve, De Motts Road

Thursday nights Starting April 22nd, 5 to 6pm

Auskick Co-ordinator Lawrence Vanvitelli  
0422 314 823

[play.afl/auskick](http://play.afl/auskick)



## SEEKING SENIOR NETBALL PLAYERS FOR 2021 SEASON



PLEASE CONTACT MEAGAN ON 0421 977 414 OR  
[NETBALL@ANAKIEFNC.COM.AU](mailto:NETBALL@ANAKIEFNC.COM.AU)

## 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 1.5 m distancing required.

Masses at St. Joseph's Live Streamed

Tue. 9am St. Mary MacKillop Church, Bannockburn

Wed. 11am St. Joseph's, Meredith

Thu. 9am 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. 7/3 and 21/3, 11am St. Brigid's, Annakie

Sun. 14/3 and 28/3, 11am St. Joseph's, Meredith

### Easter Ceremonies:

Thu. 1/4 Holy Thursday Mass, Winchelsea 7pm

Fri. 2/4 10am Ecumenical Stations of the Cross, Meredith

3pm Good Friday Celebration of the Passion, B'burn

Sat. 3/4 8pm Easter Vigil, Saturday, Meredith

Sun. 4/4 Easter Sunday 8am Winchelsea, 9.30 am Bannockburn, 11am Anakie

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.

## Meredith Memorial Hall AGM

Residents of the district are welcome to attend the hall AGM scheduled for;

**WHEN** - Monday 29th MARCH at 7.30pm

**WHERE** - Memorial Hall, 61 Staughton St Meredith

**TO** - Elect this year's Committee Positions

**AND** - to present the Annual Financial Report.

If you're new to the district come & meet new friends.

Hall Bookings/Secretary - Sandra  
H: 5286 1545 M: 0409 662106.

## The Lenten Fast

Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Mormonism, and Ba'hai have traditions and seasons of fasting. Fasting is meant as a spiritual discipline to grow closer to God. In the liturgical Christian traditions, such as Catholic, Anglican, Uniting Churches, the season of fasting is called Lent.

In the Christian tradition, Lent is the preparation time for Easter. In the history of the Church, Lent was a time of preparation for those who were to be baptised at Easter, or those who were going to be reinstated in the fellowship of the church, excluded because of what Christians call sin. In time, the whole church came to share with these baptismal candidates and penitents.

The model Christianity has for this season of Lent, is that of Jesus' so called, temptations in the wilderness, described in the Matthew 4 of the Bible. An understanding of fasting, then, is to make space for reflection on our life as a person of faith. It doesn't necessarily mean abstaining from food, it may be turning off the television, or surrendering some activity we like, but giving up food also makes us conscious of all those people in the world, who go hungry because they do not have food available, so it is also a time of generosity.

The three considerations of Jesus in his 40 days of being on his own, lead Christians to think about three questions during Lent. If God calls me his child and is pleased with me, how does God see me that I don't see myself? If I see myself as God sees me, what do I need to do to live as God knows me to be? And, am I allowing God to be who God is and not what I want God to be? Lent is not just about abstaining from food, or a particular food. The Lenten Fast, whenever we fast, is making space in our lives to contemplate these spiritual things that hopefully lead to us contributing to a better world.

The Revd Dr Timothy Smith

## OUR COVER

Don Atherton's photo, taken late last month, shows the Slate Quarry Road bridge replacement over the Moorabool River at an early stage. This \$2.3m project will close the road until the end of August. Detour signs direct traffic to use Ballan-Meredith Road and Mount Wallace-Ballark Road.



Why not share your favourite pics with us? You could make front page news!







## Bannockburn Pharmacy

6 High Street

Bannockburn VIC 3331

Ph: (03) 5281 1519

Fax: (03) 5281 1450

Email: [bannockburn.pharmacy@nunet.com.au](mailto:bannockburn.pharmacy@nunet.com.au)

Owners: Scott Wilkes & Damian Bennett

### Opening Hours

**Monday – Friday: 8:30am – 6:30pm**

**Saturday: 8:30am – 1:00pm**

**Sunday & Public Holidays: Closed**

## Pharmacy Features

### \* Professional

- Vaccination Clinic
- Free Blood Pressure Testing
- Diabetes Australia (NDSS) Agency
- Home Medicine Reviews
- Webster-paks
- Free Prescription filing service
- Free Prescription reminder service (medAdvisor)
- Extensive range of Vitamins & Supplements
- Medela Breastpump Hire
- Hiring of crutches
- Weight Loss products
- Ear & Nose piercing

### - FREE Home Delivery Service to:

- o Bannockburn
- o Teesdale/Shelford
- o Inverleigh
- o Lethbridge
- o Batesford

### \* Other Products & Services

#### - Loyalty Program

- \* FREE to join
- \* 5 cents for every \$1 spent on non-prescription products gets added to your loyalty (no expiry)
- \* **20% Discount off gifts ALL YEAR**

#### - Baby Club

- \* FREE to join
- \* \$5 bonus when joining
- \* 10 cents for every \$1 spent on mother & child products gets added to your loyalty (no expiry)
- \* **20% Discount off gifts ALL YEAR**

#### - Extensive GIFTS to choose from, including:

- \* Glasshouse & Circa Home
- \* Handbags & Wallets
- \* Jewellery
- \* Robert Gordon
- \* Fragrances
- \* Aromatherapy & Wellbeing
- \* Infants & children's gifts

- ~~afterpay~~ available
- ~~Roogenic~~ Tea stockist
- Passport Photos (Australian & International)
- ~~MooGoo~~ products
- ~~Natio~~
- Nude by Nature
- ~~Sukin~~ Organic Products

Follow us on Facebook and be kept up to date  
[www.facebook.com/bannockburnpharmacy](http://www.facebook.com/bannockburnpharmacy)

## In the School Garden

As we move into autumn this month, it seems the garden is telling us it would like a little more summer weather. The tomato plants are looking wonderfully bushy yet have yielded only two red Roma tomatoes. Plenty of green ones, so there will be either a very late harvest or lots of jars of green tomato pickles.

Elsewhere, the corn is developing some cobs and the rhubarb is showing us its beautiful red stems under the giant, deep green leaves. The colourful flower garden is blooming well and the sunflowers are tall and facing the sun. It will be fun collecting the seeds with the younger students who planted them.

After its very late start, our pumpkin plant for the Newsletter Giant Pumpkin Challenge is slowly making progress. It is leafy, has sent out a runner and a small pumpkin has made an appearance. Pumpkins are generally harvested after the first frost. The leaves will turn brown and droop and you need to make sure that when you cut it off the vine, you leave a piece of stem attached, which will stop the pumpkin from rotting. Of course, if you only have one pumpkin and plan on eating it immediately, this is not so important. Whole pumpkins are great for storing and will easily last for a year if placed in a cool, airy spot and turned occasionally.

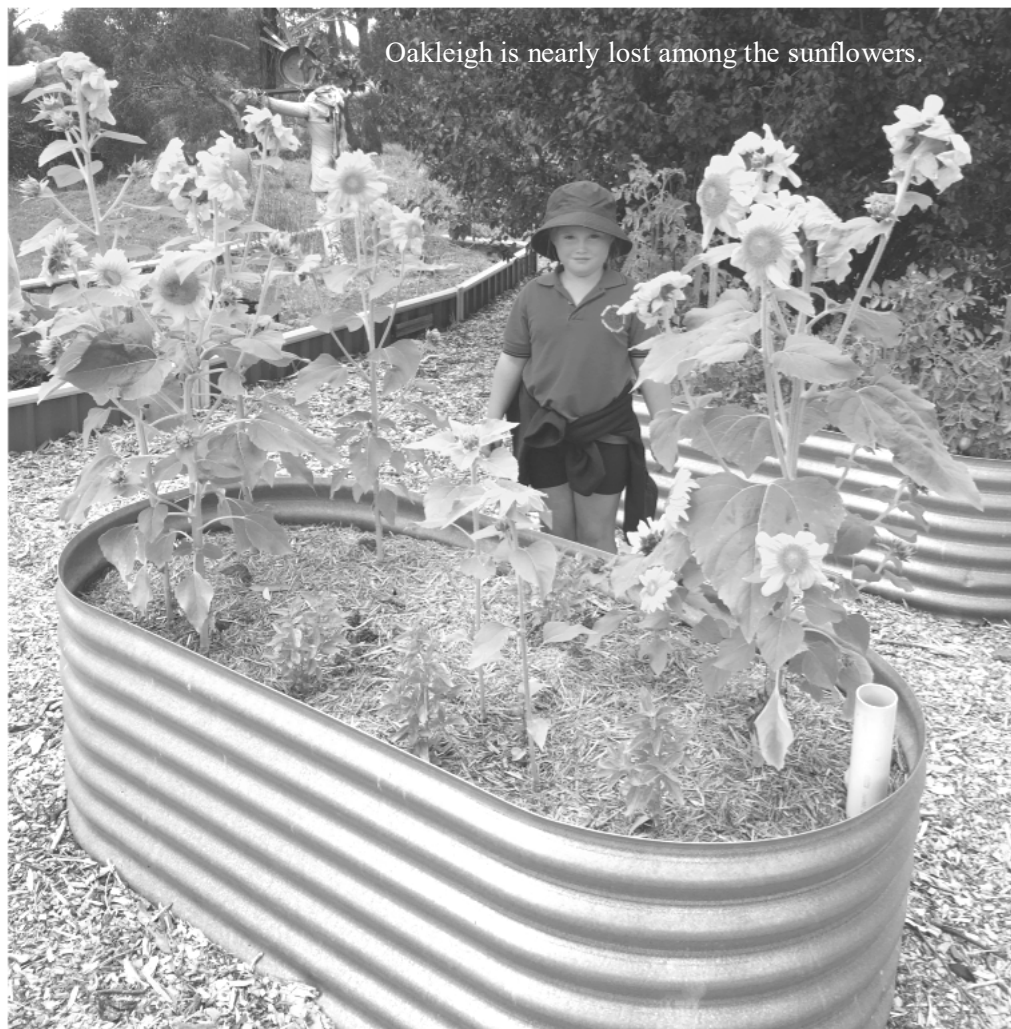
This month we'd like to introduce some of our school gardeners: Cole, Will, Bridget, Brodie and Lila (pictured) are our Wednesday Waterers. Each week, on a Wednesday, they pull out the hoses from the garden shed, connect them up and fill all our wicking beds to ensure the plants have a continuous water supply. They also keep an eye on our "Scarecrow Garden" which is not a wicking garden and requires some extra water. A regular water supply is crucial to healthy, happy plants and we love the enthusiasm and dedication of our students when tending our gardens.

What else will we be up to this month? Lettuce, rocket and spinach seeds can go in now. This is something we haven't done at school before, we usually plant seedlings, however using seeds is an economical way to garden and there was a very helpful seed sowing segment on Gardening Australia on ABC television recently with Millie giving a great demonstration. Might be time to give it a go. Late March is an excellent time to put in broad bean seeds. We have saved some from last year's crop to use this year. Broad beans are easy to grow and if planted in a clear container with damp paper towelling, are fascinating to watch as they sprout. The Prep/Grade 1

students are going to do this, looking after the seeds as they sprout and then they will plant them out in the garden. Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and kale seedlings can go in now, but keep a careful eye out for cabbage butterfly caterpillars if the weather stays warm. Check carefully under the leaves and brush the tiny eggs off.

Many gardeners have zucchini plants that continue to crop abundantly so we have a recommendation for a simple but tasty recipe for zucchini fritters. Just search "ABC Everyday Zucchini Fritters" and you will discover a recipe, with very few ingredients, perfect for brunch, lunch, dinner or a snack. Even cold they are delicious and ideal to pop into your lunchbox when you are tired of sandwiches.

Happy March gardening and cooking.



## Water Tank Cleaning

Have all mud and sludge removed from, your water tank and improve your water quality.

We clean all types of water tanks.

Removing all mud and sludge as well as washing the walls and floor clean.

## Otway Concrete Tanks

Concrete tanks, repairs & tank maintenance

PH: 0409 210 057

[www.otwayconcretetanks.com.au](http://www.otwayconcretetanks.com.au)





Independent and local, serving Meredith and district for 25 Years

## **A COMPLETE RANGE OF STOCK FEED & ANIMAL HEALTH PRODUCTS**

### **Wool Brokering Service**

- Auction & Electronic Marketing through WISS

### **Contract Fencing and Farm Services**

- Spreading, Sowing, Discing, Baling (Required seed/fertiliser available through store)
- Fence contracting per hour OR per metre (all materials available in store)

**Transport** – Wool cartage from farm to preferred broker

WIDE RANGE OF **TANKS AND PLUMBING SUPPLIES** IN STORE

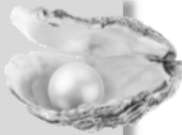
WIDE RANGE OF **PROTECTIVE WORK WEAR** IN STORE

PH **5286 1223**,

Find us on Facebook or Check Out Our Website! - [www.woolabrai.com.au](http://www.woolabrai.com.au)



little  
GEMS



## Complaint Etiquette

Complaining at restaurants seems to be one of those things that either you feel totally comfortable doing, or that strikes fear into your heart – no in between.

Usually, I am of the latter category. As are most of the people I know. Our polite natures mean that a hair in some pasta or a bug in the salad just isn't worth causing a scene over.

There have been very few times in my life when I have been so displeased with a dining experience that I've come close to complaining. So few times, in fact, that I know exactly how many times: two. That's not to say that everywhere I have been has had perfect, life-changing seafood linguini, but the getting-what-you-paid-for adage has usually negated the right to complain.

The first time was a new experience for me. The food was bland, soggy and almost inedible. But the fear of confrontation led me to reply 'fine, thank you' when the waitress asked how my barely touched meal was. As I left, I swore that I would not let that happen again.

The second time was recently. I went to dinner with my family on a warm summer's eve, ready to celebrate my brother's birthday with good food, good wine and great company.

The first clue to the type of culinary experience we would be having came pretty much straight away. A poor entrée was a bad sign, but not unforgiveable. Much like the television show *My Kitchen Rules*, points could be made up in the following courses.

Only it turned out that the entrée would be the best part of the night. After the starter, the room promptly filled up with smoke from something burning in the kitchen. Smoke that made everyone's eyes water and could not be encouraged to leave through the open windows. Then followed food that was so bad that a shared bowl of chips was all that half the table could manage. Curdled sour cream and a usually solid food turned almost liquid do not a dinner make.

Feeling sorry for the chef, rather than irate, I endeavoured to tell the waitress in the hope that it might inspire the kitchen staff to reassess whatever element it was that had resulted in these meals. I started practicing nice ways to approach it – sensitively and with an appropriate touch of good humour.

Looking to my chef husband for some guidance around restaurant complaint etiquette, he dryly offered, 'Can you please wrap this up and chuck it in the bin for me?'

Our table erupted in laughter and with my drink having exited my body through my nasal passages, I was crying so hard with laughter that I missed the waitress clearing the table. Perhaps she knew that we were unimpressed

with the meal and had waited for the opportune moment to clear our plates without drama. Or perhaps it was just coincidence. Either way, the opportunity had passed.

I realise the irony of someone who can't cook critiquing others – but there is a unique disappointment reserved for the moment when even I can say 'I could have done this better'.

Gemma



## SEDMAN SERVICES

- Lawn mowing and Rubbish Removal,
- Gutter cleaning
- Small demolition
- Deceased Estate clean-ups



Pensioner Rates and Free Quotes

Call Les on 0401 867490

## Ballarat Big Vac ABN 39 905 288 238

Specialising in Septic Tank Cleaning Services and all other aspects of vacuum cleaning including:-

- Insulation and Dust
- Grain Silos
- Elevator Pits
- Water Tanks and Flood Damage
- Grease Traps
- Pressure Cleaning

EPA licence accredited

**Ph Milton Howard mobile: 0409 503 778**



**JOSIES  
CONCRETING  
& Excavation Work**



**Colin Jose**

Garage floors • Foundations  
Paving • Driveways • House slabs • Free quotes

**MOBILE 0412 402 924**





# MULCAHY & CO

*Helping committed clients achieve and maintain financial security.*

## Our Business Service Units:

Accounting

Agri Solutions

Financial Planning

Information Technology

Legal

Lending

Marketing



**Our 12 Steps to Success**

[www.mulcahy.com.au](http://www.mulcahy.com.au)

300B GILLIES ST N BALLARAT VIC 3355



P 03 5330 7200 E [info@mulcahy.com.au](mailto:info@mulcahy.com.au)



Kerry Thomson & Amanda Hyatt

## Alinta Palmer

For the past ten years Alinta has been a regular visitor to her in-laws in She Oaks and has come to enjoy its natural environment for the contrast it provides to the busyness of her life in urban Melbourne. Waking up to see kangaroos in the yard then watching sunsets in the evening bring her joy.

Alinta can trace her journey into the art world back to when, as a seven year old, her New Zealand uncle 'hiked' her (it was a long walk!) to the National Art Gallery. This inspirational experience has stayed with her and helped establish a lifetime passion for the creative arts. Growing up in the Yarra Valley, Alinta was also surrounded by an art culture and at the age of fifteen changed to the Rudolph Steiner School at Warrenwood which fostered her artistic growth in art and music. In year 12 she excelled in Music (singing, acapella groups), Art and Studio Art (Sculpture) being awarded the RMIT John Storey Travel Scholarship. She also won the Tolarno Hotel (previously owned by the artist Mirka Mora) Art Prize for a painting called "Curiosity of this roundabout" which showed two figures facing each other on separate canvases which had underlying themes exploring relationships and intimacy.

After school Alinta began a Naturopathy course, but art called so she left to attend CAE to prepare a folio which led to her being offered places at The Victorian College of the Arts (Sculpture) and RMIT (Painting). She chose the latter for its commercial viability and range of subjects and loved it! Alinta used her travel scholarship to go on exchange to the UK, where she spent three or four months in the Fine Art environment of the Uni of Newcastle, studying an elective in museum studies. She also travelled to New York and immersed herself in gallery tours. Her final subject was museum studies, when she spent time in France in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. to absorb as much as she could from the many museums she visited. Not particularly liking 'guides' talking at her, Alinta preferred learning from her own visual and sound experiences.

At RMIT Alinta was influenced by artists including Robyn Kingston (abstract) and Peter Ellis (Surrealism) who encouraged her to try new things. At this time she was interested in naive art, pop abstractions, colour, flat surfaces, figures within figures, romantic and erotic figures (but probably wouldn't paint like this now). She also admired the installations of Jessica Stockholder and the work of UK painter Gary Hume. For a while after graduation Alinta was a practising artist, participating in both group and solo exhibitions, completing commissions,

but also working in a jazz club because it was difficult to make a living as a full-time artist. Alinta's experience was broadened when she volunteered at Heidi Museum of Modern Art and Tarrawarra Museum in Healesville, but too much commuting led to a change to Angela Tandori Fine Art Gallery in Collingwood, where she brought her exceptional organisational skills to the fore whilst selling Australian art. She loved this experience (including being present at an auction when a Brett Whitley painting was sold for millions!) and learned a lot doing it. With the gallery down-sizing and art going on-line, Alinta changed to managing an office for a large Construction Company.

Motherhood has put temporary restrictions on Alinta's personal art production but she is enjoying her three-year old's drawing. She loves his stories, explanations, abstraction, imagination and freedom where there are no restrictions, no inhibitions but just pure creativity. Her artistic needs are currently met through reading, journalling (writing, introspection and reflection), podcasts and 'little things'. In future Alinta will return to painting but also wants to help others and, as such, is keen to pursue Art Therapy, especially with children, disadvantaged and traumatised people. She still has curiosity and wants to learn, so on-line courses are another possibility and, as well, she also has lots of ideas for her own painting. We look forward to seeing what the future holds for Alinta's art journey.

*[ps. As part of her post-graduate in Museum Studies at Deakin Uni, Alinta developed a theoretical management plan for a culturally significant heritage site. She chose Steiglitz and was thankful for the knowledge shared and assistance given by Colin Smithyman. She 'did very well' on this project!]*





## Part of Your Community.



Inverleigh resident and Funeral Director, Ebony Hovey can assist you with your enquiries and funeral care needs.

Ebony is available to guide you through funeral planning and arrangements as well as provide obligation free funeral advice and information.

*...for a life worth celebrating.*

# Tuckers

Funeral & Bereavement Service

[www.tuckers.com.au](http://www.tuckers.com.au) 5221 4788

## B&S Stock & Pet Supplies

Cnr Milton & Burns Sts. Bannockburn

Phone 52 811 566

*We stock all your requirements including:*

- Horse Feed
- Molasses
- Dog & Cat Food
- Horse Shoe Nails
- Poultry
- Collars & Leads
- Bird Seed
- Supplements
- Pure Apple Cider Vinegar available
- Horse Rugs (all sizes)
- Double Horse Float Hire

Agents for Sureguard Solar Electric Fence Energizers

**Delivery can be arranged**

*Hours:-* Mon - Fri 8.30am- 5.30pm  
Sat 8.30am-1pm

*Please note - closed Sundays until further notice*

## BANNOCKBURN SURGERY

16 High Street Bannockburn VIC 3331

Tel: 03 5281 1481 Fax: 03 5281 1978

[www.bannockburnsurgery.com.au](http://www.bannockburnsurgery.com.au)

Dr Cameron Profitt

Dr Andrew Bell

Dr John Henderson

Dr Benjamin Fry

Dr Margaret Somerville

Dr Samantha Buchholz

Dr Carolyn Grigg

Dr Rupali Jain

### COVID 19

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

Bannockburn Surgery is a fully accredited medical practice that provides comprehensive GP services and has been practising in the community for more than 30 years. Bannockburn Surgery is the largest practice in the shire.

We are an accredited teaching practice, training future GPs. Our current Registrar doctor is **Dr Veronica Stubbs**

We also offer the following services

Diabetes Education: Jessica O'Shannassy

Podiatry: Peter Angelucci & Stephanie Bennetts

Speech Pathology – Ceri Webb

Q fever (Testing & Vaccines)

Yellow fever (Vaccine)

Visiting Specialists

Orthopaedic Surgeon: Dr Chatar Goyal

Gynaecologist: Dr Saj Rathnyake

**New patients welcome**

## 2020 - The Year My Wheelbarrow Did More Miles Than My Car

Jenny Colvin

When I informed the man with whom I share my life that I had a puncture, he looked at me in surprise and said 'How can you have a puncture when you haven't been anywhere? He looked in even more surprise when I said the puncture was actually in my wheelbarrow, but in the interests of marital harmony he refrained from remarking that nobody gets punctures in their barrow!! Finding said puncture was beyond repair, I waited for the replacement, and the garden rubbish piled up. It was then I realised just how much use I get from said barrow - I can hardly remember where my vacuum cleaner lives, but it has to be very bad weather for me to miss my 2 hours in the garden each day. Our 3 resident egg layers and compost makers looked on in amazement as a mini Mt Everest appeared in their yard, and they were seen eyeing off the top of their fence and freedom beyond, but wisely stayed where they were, a very wise decision as it turned out as the very next evening I looked out the window as a large, sleek fox strolled down our path in search of a free meal. The culmination of hard work, great composting, and welcome summer rain has resulted in a garden full of vegetables and the freezers are filling up, there is a row of Fowler's bottles full of cherries and plums, and lots of cooked plums in the freezer waiting to be made into chutney in the winter. (Here in mid February the cherry tomato count is 754 and still counting). Even the parrot population is having trouble keeping up with the apples, and completely ignoring my request to please take 12 bites from one apple instead of 1 bite from 12 apples. What great satisfaction comes from growing, tending and preserving one's own produce. And with lots more to come the freezers, bottling outfit and dehydrator will be kept busy, not to mention the cook.

(Who needs a gym membership when they have a wheelbarrow?)

My indoor Covid activity was spinning our own wool; super fine wool is lovely for the woolgrower, but a challenge for the home spinner more used to strong wool for men's jumpers. Half the finished product has been dyed with vegetable matter from the farm and garden, the most popular colour being shades of mauve from the black berries, and the 25 members of our immediate family are now wearing 'home grown' beanies. (Strangely several friends and acquaintances, and friends of acquaintances, have started claiming previously unknown relationships in order to qualify for a beanie).

My third activity has been collating 25 years of family history research currently in many piles of floor space in what used to be a bedroom and is now known, rather pretentiously, as 'The Office'. This has been less successful as I am easily side tracked, not helped by the ageing computer, who, when taken to the computer doctor was diagnosed with 'terminal old age'. (I can sympathise with that). This has been replaced by a shiny new model which I am valiantly trying to master - the ageing printer took one look at the brand new interloper and had a fit of the sulks and completely refuses to talk to it - my threats

that if it does not get it's act together it will end up recycled into a park bench have fallen on deaf ears, so off we will go again to find a more co-operative machine.

2020 was such a terrible year for so many people here and around the world, including my daughter in London, and I am eternally grateful for the privilege of living in the country, with space, fresh air, our own food (and the wonders of Zoom). May the situation improve during this year.



## The Robber Fly aka the 'Assassin Fly'

Kerry Thomson

At about a centimetre long, with a grey and brown multi-segmented patterned body, our local Robber flies (*Asilidae*) are quite difficult to see in the bush. However, when they land on the wire of a fence I've managed to photograph quite a few of them - and they are fascinating looking creatures!

Described as "powerfully built, bristly flies with a short, stout proboscis enclosing the sharp, sucking hypo pharynx, they have notoriously aggressive predatory habits; waiting in ambush to catch their prey in flight which is almost exclusively other insects." (In the garden they help get rid of grasshoppers, other flies, wasps, grubs and more).

There are more than 7003 described species of these flies worldwide with about 340 of them in Australia. Ranging from small (3mm) to very large (over 50mm) their average length is 9-15mm. They are usually found, and can be particularly abundant, in dry and sunny habitats.

In general, adult *Asilidae* have an elongated body with a tapered abdomen and long strong legs that are bristled to aid in prey capture. Once caught, the prey is then injected with saliva containing immobilising enzymes which also allows digestion of bodily contents. The Robber fly soon has access to a liquid meal, which is generally consumed on returning to a perched position.



## Is your Livestock Fit to Load

### *Media Release*

With strong sheep and cattle prices, producers, agents and transporters are being reminded that livestock must be 'fit for load' for the journey ahead. Agriculture Victoria Livestock Welfare Compliance Program Manager Dr Rachael Holmes said it's important that all parties across the livestock supply chain are aware of their obligations when transporting livestock.

"Livestock must be inspected prior to being loaded and they must not be suffering from conditions that could cause, or would be likely to cause, increased pain or distress during transport," Dr Holmes said.

"Any person in charge of an animal, which may include producers, farm workers, transporters and livestock agents, must not allow any animal to be loaded that is not fit for the journey ahead. "It is the responsibility of each person in charge of the animal at each step of the supply chain, to make that assessment, and to make appropriate arrangements for the care, treatment or humane destruction of any animals that are deemed to be unfit for transportation."

Abattoirs and saleyards also have a duty of care to the livestock they receive. If the welfare of received livestock is compromised, these livestock will be managed according to policy and procedures, which may include reporting to the Department for investigation.

Consider these questions when loading livestock, if the answer is yes to any, the animal is not fit for transport.

- Is it lame? That is, the animal cannot walk on its own, bearing weight on all legs
- Is it too weak to undertake the journey, emaciated or visibly dehydrated?
- Is it suffering from severe visible distress, injury or disease?
- Is it suffering from any condition that could cause it increased pain during transport?
- Is it blind in both eyes?
- Is it in late pregnancy?

Persons transporting livestock are also reminded of a new provision in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2019 regarding the transportation of animals that are not fit to load.

The new regulation, 6(6) stipulates that a person must not transport a farm animal or livestock that is not able to walk on its own by bearing weight on all legs. Transporters can face infringement penalties of up to \$495 or prosecution for offences under this regulation.

*For more information visit [www.mla.com.au/fittoload](http://www.mla.com.au/fittoload).*



## Nowhere Beats the Heart so Kindly as Beneath the Tartan Plaid!

### *Rev. Allan Ansell*

A village is a small settlement usually found in a rural setting. It is generally larger than a 'hamlet' but smaller than a 'town'. Some geographers specifically define a village as having between 500 and 2,500 inhabitants. So ... Meredith is by most definitions, a village.

A village might also be defined by culture as well as population. Apollo Bay with its fishing industry, unique geography and maritime influenced lifestyle is a very different pot of fish stew to Meredith with its wool, plains, R. M. Williams' pants and pots of mutton stew.

Meredith has a cultural claim that makes it unique among Australia's 'villages' including the randomly chosen Apollo Bay.

A tartan.

Yes, Meredith has its' own tartan! The design was settled on perhaps 200 or more years ago in Wales and is registered with the various governing bodies in Scotland and Wales. (Ireland also has its' own tartans.)

Meredith is most likely named after Charles Meredith who was born in Pembrokeshire i.e. Wales! He was entitled through birth and name to wear the tartan and so are members of 'clan' Meredith established in his namesake village. Your name doesn't have to be Meredith but if you were born in Meredith, well, wear the tartan with pride!

There might be some small regret that the tartan is not from across the border in Scotland. However as indicated in Gibson's movie *Brave Heart*, in Ronald McNair Scott's scholarly and highly respected biography, *Robert the Bruce: King of Scots* and various other sources, the Scots wrestled with the idea of underpants long after the rest of medieval Europe accepted their utility. In brief, I'd rather a tartan from a people who knew how to put their underpants on than one who didn't. Oh, and there is the accent. The Scottish accent is a fine sound upon the ear but it's Welsh that was decided on for Yoda.

The Meredith tartan is yellow and black and looks stunning. Matching ties for groom and groomsmen, a kilt as a part of a family heritage to be worn on special occasions, the possibilities are endless. The tartan is produced in various accredited mills including, the famous Cambrian Woollen Mill, Llanwrtyd Wells, Powys. Of course this a bit more of trip than getting to the bottom pub so maybe try the Net, and remembering that there is nothing at all in this for me but the House of Tartan in Canberra or the one in Menora, WA might be good starting places. Or go to the source at the Wales Tartan Centre. (Please note that there is no K in Welsh so you would be asking for a 'cilt'.)

Our Pembrokeshire born Charles Meredith has left exposed a rich vein of all things Welsh for us but embracing the tartan seems just lush. (Lush is, without a doubt, the most popular Welsh slang phrase circulating at present. It means simply the very best e.g. It's marry she will, my Blodwen. Tis lush, just proper lush, I tell you.)



## A Budding Artist

*Marg Cooper*

At the age of twelve Olivia has already run two businesses. She sewed cushions and sold them then bought plants, potted them attractively and sold them. Her mother tells that most of their friends have one of Olivia's plants in their homes.

But Olivia is just entering into a new field as an artist. She can draw and has always enjoyed drawing. She often sketches parts of the body and is especially fascinated by eyes and lips, or she draws animals and birds. Her Nana Pat Carter a Yamatji Woman who now lives overlooking the Maude/Lethbridge valley, who has been selling artworks for over 30 years, is introducing Olivia to different mediums and materials so Olivia can determine her own style. Recently they have experimented with acrylic pours that Olivia has then drawn on, they have used resin to create the effect of waves and they have painted abstractly on canvases.

Her fascination with birds led her to sketch and water colour two blue wrens. She took photos of each stage of producing the quite realistic images and when finished she framed each in matching frames. Her Pop insisted on buying the pair and wanted to have some of her work before she becomes famous and her art becomes more expensive.

She has sold several art works already and when being interviewed for this article a chap offered to buy the blue wrens that she had brought to show me.


Art is in the family. As mentioned, her grandmother has sold art for many years, her great grandmother painted didgeridoos, her grandmother's sister paints birds so accurately you would think they were photographs and her mother is also an artist who uses her talents in renovating and decorating houses.

Olivia paints at the kitchen table and keeps her art equipment in a built-in cupboard in the laundry but there are plans to section off part of their three-car garage for a designated art studio for her. She also enjoys photography, has a good camera, sits outside at night to capture the moon in all its phases or chases after birds. Her mother says that she is very patient, and that she waits for clouds to pass over the moon or for birds to sit.

Olivia's parents, Sarah and Adam, teach their children life skills and good work ethics. Olivia and her brother are encouraged to pursue their passions, earn some money of their own, keep financial records, save some money and to share in the jobs that maintain their household.

Although Olivia is a good runner and likes netball her passion is for art. Watch for the works of Olivia Gordon, a budding artist.





# Country to Coast Electrical

R.E.C. 14586

**All Types of Electrical Installations  
Pensioner Discounts and Free Quotes**

## Mob. 0419 504 297

Shaun Bubb  
email: [shaun.bubb@bigpond.com](mailto:shaun.bubb@bigpond.com)  
66 Brunel St. Lethbridge 3332

# Paul Ryan Transport

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



0409 861 296

5341 5575



## “GLASS”

Glass cut to size

- ~Doors, windows, mirrors
- ~All glass replacements
- ~Tractor cabin windows
- ~Made to order leadlight
- ~Personalised service

**Ph 5341 5500**

200 Midland Hwy Elaine 3334



*Free  
Quotes*

## MEREDITH CONSTRUCTIONS GEOFF L. HARDY D.B.U 15273

Registered Building Practitioner For

- |                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| New homes              | Renovations |
| Additions Ground Floor |             |
| 2nd. Storey            | Bathrooms   |
| Kitchens               | Decking     |
| Painting               | Tiling      |
| Plans etc.             | Pergolas    |

All aspects of concreting

**Phone. 0429 084 655 8am-5pm**

## HEATH MAINTENANCE

Fred Heath  
0400 045307  
fred.heath67@gmail.com

- Home and Property Maintenance
- General Repairs
- Window Replacement
- Carpentry and Woodworking



## WOOD EARTHMOVING

**TIM WOOD**  
0407 931 711



## Landcare News



meredithlandcare@gmail.com or phone Maddy 0424754179 or Nerida 0409335693. All welcome!

**BAMBRA AGROFORESTRY FARM AND YAN YAN GURT WEST FARM TOUR: 10AM – 4PM SATURDAY 8 MAY 2021**

We are delighted to have organised a private guided tour of both the Bamba Agroforestry Farm and Yan Yan Gurt West Farm on Saturday in 8 May 2021. Run by Rowan Reid, a nationally recognised forest scientist, the Bamba Agroforestry Farm showcases over 50 specialty timber species grown to heal the land, enhance biodiversity, provide shelter for livestock and reduce fire risk, while at the same time creating a beautiful landscape. The tour will include demonstrations of a portable bandsaw, solar kiln, logging winch, pruning tools, tree guards and varied planting designs.

Yan Yan Gurt West Farm is a 230ha property also at Bamba. Under the care of the Stewart family for five generations, Yan Yan Gurt West is an outstanding (and inspiring!) example of sustainable farming and how multipurpose agroforestry plantings, providing a range of products including timber, bush food and native flowers, can be integrated within a working sheep farm, in a way that balances environmental management with agricultural production. Over 40,000 trees and shrubs have been incorporated into the farming landscape, creating a robust and resilient ecosystem fostering biodiversity along with sheep and forestry production.

Both tours are highly recommended. More information about the Bamba Agroforestry farm and Yan Yan Gurt West can be found on the website <http://www.agroforestry.net.au/>

Cost: Bamganie Meredith Landcare Group members \$45; non-members \$70 (Why not become a BMLG member? Annual membership is \$55/family, and includes use of all Landcare equipment).

Bookings are essential. For more information or to make a booking please email [meredithlandcare@gmail.com](mailto:meredithlandcare@gmail.com) or phone Nerida 0409 335 693.

## Bamganie-Meredith Group

*Nerida Anderson*

**RABBIT MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP SATURDAY 10 APRIL 9- 1PM MEREDITH MEMORIAL HALL**

Did you know that the European rabbit is one of the most destructive environmental and agricultural animal pests in Australia? Rabbits are a significant threat to biodiversity and have an adverse impact on agricultural production. Rabbits are not selective; they graze on native vegetation, crops and pastures, preventing seedlings from regenerating and reducing crop yields, while also competing for feed with livestock and native wildlife. As well, rabbit browsing and digging reduces vegetation cover, and can contribute to slope instability and soil erosion.

To protect both the environment and agricultural production it is imperative that rabbit numbers are controlled. However, efforts to control rabbits can be frustrating, time consuming and may not be very effective. This half-day workshop will give practical advice about Best Practice Rabbit Management, including assessing the problem, baiting, warren modification, monitoring, follow up and maintenance. Plus, learn how to use RabbitScan, a free app to help monitor rabbit activity (such as sightings and warrens), damage, such as soil erosion, control activities (such as warren ripping), and disease in rabbit populations.

This project is an initiative of the Victorian Rabbit Action Network (VRAN) and is funded by the Australian Government Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper in collaboration with Agriculture Victoria.

This is a free event, morning tea and lunch are included, but please register for catering purposes. To register email

## Bamganie-Meredith Landcare Group Rabbit Management Workshop

### Have rabbits and want to know the best way to control them?

Rabbits are one of the most destructive environmental and agricultural animal pests in Australia.

This half day workshop will cover all aspects of Best Practice Rabbit Management including assessing the problem, baiting, warren modification, monitoring, follow up and maintenance.

**When: Saturday 10 April 2021**

**Time: 9am – 1pm**

**Where: Meredith Memorial Hall**

**This is a free event, morning tea and lunch included – all welcome!**

Please register for catering purposes, either:

- Email [meredithlandcare@gmail.com](mailto:meredithlandcare@gmail.com) , or
- Phone Maddy 0424754179 or Nerida 0409335693.

*This project is an initiative of the Victorian Rabbit Action Network (VRAN) and is funded by the Australian Government Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper in collaboration with Agriculture Victoria.*

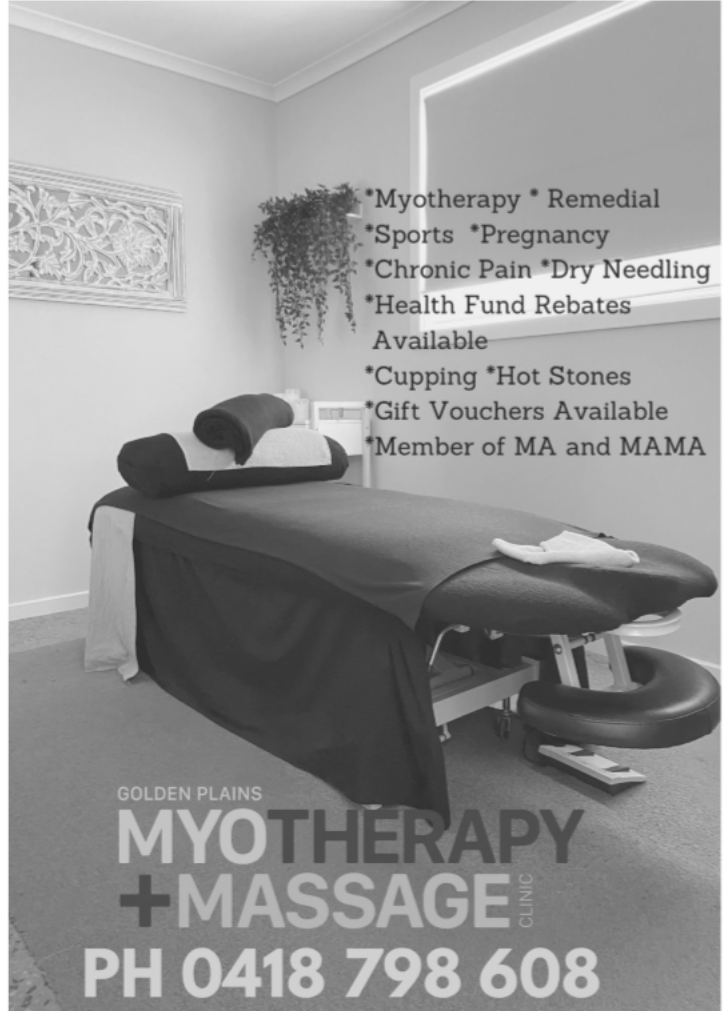


## SURVEY REMINDER: WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FROM LANDCARE?

The Landcare survey is now live. Landcare activities aim to deliver a diverse range of positive environmental and community outcomes including environmental protection, enhancing biodiversity through restoration of natural habitats, as well as promoting sustainability and resilience within farming systems. We would like to hear from you about your interests to help us plan activities that are relevant to you. The survey is very easy, it can be completed on a phone, tablet or computer, and will only take a few minutes. We welcome responses from anyone in the district – you don't have to be a Landcare member to have a say. To take part in the survey email [meredithlandcare@gmail.com](mailto:meredithlandcare@gmail.com) and we will send you a link to take you directly to the survey. Please 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](mailto:meredithlandcare@gmail.com).

**NEWSFLASH:** As a follow-up to the rabbit management workshop the Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group will hold a demonstration day on Saturday 17 May showcasing the use of excavators for deep-ripping, cross-ripping and fumigation of rabbit burrows. More details to follow.



\*Myotherapy \* Remedial  
 \*Sports \*Pregnancy  
 \*Chronic Pain \*Dry Needling  
 \*Health Fund Rebates Available  
 \*Cupping \*Hot Stones  
 \*Gift Vouchers Available  
 \*Member of MA and MAMA

GOLDEN PLAINS  
**MYOTHERAPY  
 + MASSAGE** CLINIC  
**PH 0418 798 608**

## Simco Plumbing and Gasfitting

24/7 Emergency service Ph:0400643976

- All General Plumbing and Gasfitting
- Roof and Gutters, Hot Water service changeover
- Split Systems, Air Conditioning and Wood Heaters
- Irrigation, Septic and Treatment plants
- Excavation, Bobcat and Tipper
- Rain water Tank installation
- Renovations and Extensions
- Gas conversions and servicing

Simon McGillivray

Lic:109610. Free quotes, Fast and friendly service



They arrived silently during the night, but early the next morning I knew they had come. Loud trilling calls from the dam near the house announced their presence. From the dam bank, I could clearly see two little waterbirds floating buoyantly. Sooty grey wings folded on their backs above a mound of paler fluffy feathers. Their heads were almost black, with chestnut stripes on either side of their necks glowing in the sun. Contrasting with the black were their yellow eyes and yellow stripes running diagonally from below their eyes to the base of their beaks. The yellow markings are an indication that they are Australasian grebes. Usually, they would be less conspicuous. The tops of their heads and backs of their necks would be grey, while the rest of their face and the fronts of their necks would be white. The black and chestnut is a sign that they are breeding. When they saw me, they dived. Perhaps they had been here before and recognised me. If they had been truly alarmed by the sight of me, they would have kicked up a spray of water as they dived. This behaviour allows them to escape from predators. A splash of water hits their pursuer in its face, and by the time it has recovered, the grebe has gone. Their calls continued intermittently throughout the day. They were particularly vocal that night, announcing that this dam was their territory.

Over the next two weeks, I paused on the dam bank sometimes. I saw the grebes swimming side-by-side, copying each other's movements, probably a courtship display. During this time, they became accustomed to seeing me and no longer reacted to my presence. After a hot day, I was outside in the cooler evening, when I heard a huge fuss coming from the dam. I had never heard such a commotion from the grebes and rushed to the dam bank to see what was happening. Years ago, at the far end of the dam, we placed a fallen branch, partly submerged in the shallow water, to provide habitat for little fish and invertebrates, and a place for birds to perch. Close to this branch, the grebes were swimming and calling in alarm, while a far larger brown bird of prey perched on a small platform made of pieces of reeds, anchored to the branch at water level. Perhaps the sight of me scared it. It flew away.

The platform was the grebes' nest. Usually, one of the birds incubated the eggs while the other floated on the dam, preened or dived for fish and aquatic insects. If neither of them was on the nest, they covered the eggs

with reeds to keep them out of sight of predators. Three weeks after the raid, I saw one of the birds floating beside the nest, making soft clicking sounds, calling to newly hatched chicks. Three days later, I had my first glimpse of a chick, when a parent delivered food to it. I continued to watch the grebes from the dam bank, a few minutes at a time, two or three times a day. I soon found that there were three chicks with grey bodies and black and white striped heads and necks. They could swim soon after hatching, but often rode on a parent's back, snuggled under their wings or peeking out at the watery world around them. As they become larger, the parents sometimes tired of carrying them. I saw an adult bird rear up and flap its wings, tipping two chicks into the water, where they bobbed on the surface and followed the parent. On another occasion, an adult repeatedly swung sideways or moved forward, to prevent a chick from climbing over its tail onto its back. Grebes dive deep to find food. Soon the chicks were diving too. I regularly saw the parents looking around and making soft clicking calls, as they searched for young birds that were out of sight underwater.

The main activity I observed was feeding. As the chicks grew, the parents spent increasing amounts of time searching for food, while the chicks followed behind them, chirping hungrily, or waited on the nest. One cool evening, I saw a parent catch a dragonfly that was resting on the branch, and deliver it to the nest. On another occasion, an adult appeared on the surface with a medium-sized yabby in its beak, waving its claws. It soon realised that the yabby was too difficult to handle and dropped it back in the water. One afternoon, there was a pair of chestnut teal ducks on the dam. I admired the male's chestnut front and glossy dark green head, but the grebes were not happy with their presence. From a few metres behind them, one of the grebes dived underwater and came up between the ducks, startling them. When I returned a little later, the ducks were gone. However, the grebes are now contentedly sharing the dam with a little pied cormorant. They may not mind sharing the dam's resources with a single bird, but did not want a family of ducks eating much of their food supply.

One thing that has interested me about the chicks is their different sizes. One chick is much larger than the other two, and probably hatched several days earlier. My theory is that its egg was the sole survivor of the bird of prey's visit, and that the parents laid at least two more eggs after the raid. The chicks will be reliant on their parents for a few more weeks, becoming independent at around eight weeks old. After that, if the adults breed again, they will chase away their first batch of chicks. More likely, as the end of the breeding season is approaching, it is the adults who will leave first. I can then continue watching the chicks as they grow. Australasian grebes don't stay on our dam all year. They fly at night, so one morning when I go out to the dam bank, I will find that they are all gone. Hopefully, they will return next summer.





For over 50 years, Ballarat Insurance Brokers P/L has tailored comprehensive Farm and Business Insurance Victoria wide.

Our areas of expertise include: -

- Farm and Crop Insurance
- Marine Transit Insurance
- Business Package
- Liability and Tools of Trade
- Fleet Motor and Plant & Equipment
- Landlord and Strata Insurance
- Home and Motor Insurance
- Cyber Crime & Liability
- Management Liability Insurance

OFFICE: 31 ARMSTRONG STREET SOUTH, BALLARAT VIC 3350

PHONE: 03 5333 5222

WWW.BALLARATINSURANCEBROKERS.COM.AU

AFSL: 241365



Open Competition: Meredith Angling Club. 2020-2021		
Species	Weight/Length	Angler
Brown Trout	1.700kg - 53cm	Neil Beer
Rainbow Trout	4.082kg - 66cm	Robert Dick
Redfin	0.300kg - 28cm	Abbie McConnell
Yellowbelly	0.800kg - 36cm	Doug King
Murray Cod	8.600kg - 75cm	Neil Beer
Short-Finned Eel	2.260kg - ???	Bert Eldredge
Black Fish		
Carp	5.300kg - 64cm	Bert Eldredge
Tench		
Bream		
Snapper	4.917kg - 65cm	Rodney Beer



**SUPAGAS**  
100% AUSTRALIAN

**Paul Ryan**

YOUR SUPAGAS DEALER

SUPAGAS is pleased to announce that  
**Paul Ryan**

is delivering SUPAGAS to your area.

**Paul** will supply competitive 45kg, forklift and BBQ gas cylinder refills in a reliable and friendly manner.

- 45kg Domestic and Commercial Cylinder applications
- Fork lift Cylinders (15kg Aluminium Cylinders)
- Refills BBQ and Camping Cylinders
- Bulk Gas Quotations supplied

Please contact Paul to arrange your next SUPAGAS LPG delivery

**Contact Paul Ryan on 0409 861 296**





## FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK MARCH 2021

Thank you to everyone who participated in our recent Council Plan 2021-2025 survey.

The Council Plan 2021-2025 is our biggest and most important consultation, as it will help the new Councillor Group set the agenda for the next four years. During this first round of consultation, we heard from locals across the Shire, who completed the online or hard-copy survey or provided their feedback directly at our consultation posts in Bannockburn, Smythesdale, Rokewood, an impromptu conversation post at the Dereel Car Boot Sale, and online.

We also enjoyed our first Coffee with your Councillors day in February, meeting residents and talking about the Council Plan at Haddon, Linton, Ross Creek, Napoleons, Cape Clear, Meredith, Teesdale, Inverleigh and Lethbridge. Thank you for everyone who stopped

and said hello. It was a great day and we look forward to visiting another nine townships next time.

Council is now collating your feedback alongside the feedback we received during the Community Vision 2040 process and will publish a Draft Council Plan 2021-2025 in late April, giving the community another chance to share their views. I encourage everyone to read the Draft Plan and have their say on what they want to see Council deliver over the next four years.

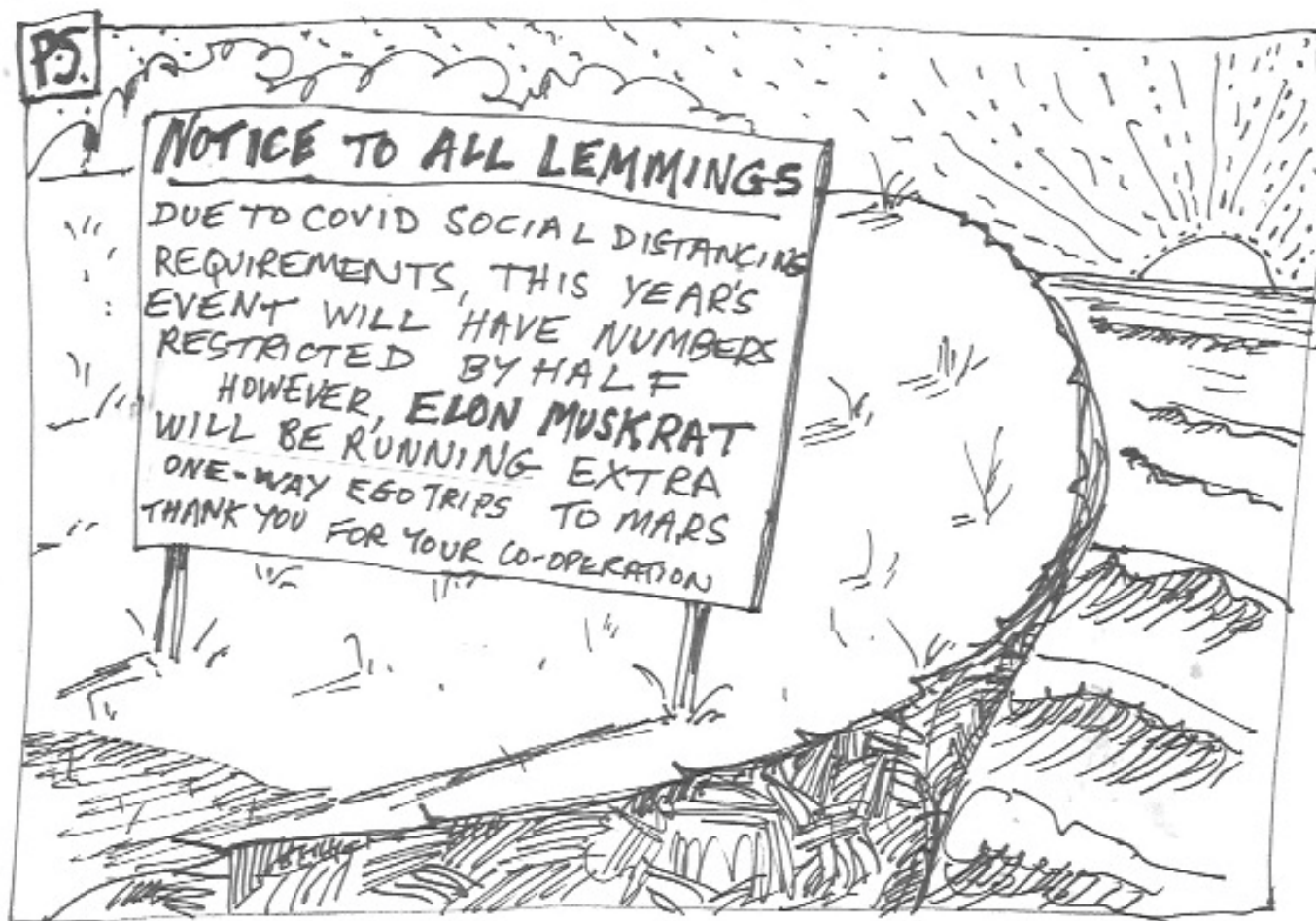
While we've been consulting on the Council Plan, we haven't taken our eye off delivering community projects. This year, we are undertaking a record 25 road, bridge and facility projects, and works have recently got underway on bridge replacements in Meredith and Rokewood, and road upgrades in Mount Mercer and Meredith.

With so many projects underway or soon to begin, you'll no doubt come across detours and construction signage throughout the Shire. Detours can be frustrating, but I'm sure the end result of better infrastructure for the community will be worth it and we thank everyone for taking care at these roadworks.

**Mayor Cr Helena Kirby**

## Meredith-Shelford Road Widening

Council resolved to award the \$831,683.08 construction contract for the Meredith-Shelford Road Widening Stage 2 to Bitu-Mill (Civil) Pty Ltd. Approximately 2km of Meredith-Shelford Road from the intersection with Lower Plains Road in Meredith will be upgraded to support a safer transportation network to the nearby Golden Plains Food Production Precinct. This project follows the \$1 million Stage 1 works approved last year to widen 2km of the road, and is funded by Council's Roads to Recovery funding allocation from the Australian Government.



# DREW'S TRIMMING & CANVAS

Servicing the Golden Plains and Geelong Areas

## Over 30 years Experience in the Motor Trimming Industry

No matter what your project is - Car Interiors , Boat Covers and Interiors, Caravan Awnings and Interiors, Ute Tonneaus, Trailer Covers, General Machinery Covers, General Upholstery, Horse Floats and Plane Interiors are just some of the areas I can help you with.

GIVE ME A CALL FOR A QUOTE AND FRIENDLY SERVICE

## Vin Drew

Mon to Fri 8.00 am to 4.30 pm Sat 9.00 am to 11.30 am

29 Burrows Rd, Lethbridge

Ph 0439 967830

After Hours by Appointment Only



# SOUTHERN GRAIN STORAGE PTY. LTD.

**BULK & BAGGED FERTILISER   GRAIN   PASTURE SEED   SEED CLEANING**

15 Murrell St, Winchelsea  
**(03) 5267 2351**

## HYDRAUTECH

FLUID POWER

## HYDRAULIC SALES & SERVICE

- Suppliers of hydraulic parts & components for farm machinery
- x5 qualified fitter and turners operating a modern and fully equipped workshop including a 25 tonne truck hoist

- Rebuilding of hydraulic cylinders
- Pump & Motor resealing, pressure testing
- Suppliers of oil & grease for farm machinery



24 hour on call  
Hydraulic hose service

# 03 5336 2266

18 Wiltshire Lane, Ballarat, Victoria, 3350  
[www.hydrautech.net.au](http://www.hydrautech.net.au)

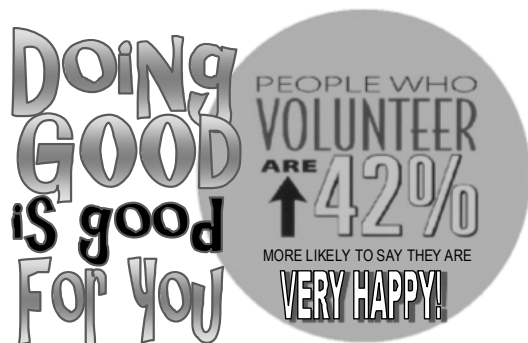
## Interested?

Whether you like working on your own or in a team, there are a number of ways you can get involved with the Meredith Police Paddocks. One might match your interests and give you a great community connection. (And the *Feel Goods* that come from doing something worthwhile.) Here are some ideas:

- **Machinery** - if you like getting behind a piece of machinery to make a difference, you could join our track maintenance roster. We have a heavy duty Deutscher self-propelled slasher and a contractors' grade brushcutter. (And about 2kms of tracks!) If you are more of a tinkerer, perhaps you could help us maintain them. (Although both are new.)
- **A Digger or a Trimmer** - If you like gardening on a grand scale, you could help us develop and maintain the native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers on the site. This is often tackled in working bees, but is also well suited to those who want to work when it is convenient. And, of course, you are working in a beautiful environment.
- **Planning** - if you are good at strategy and project realisation, then you could play a valuable role on our local committee; determining priorities, setting targets and making things happen.
- **Communication** - We do this for community benefit, so communication is important to maximise that benefit. Maybe you could help with this.

Or... find some other niche that suits your interests, skills and circumstances. Our work is premised on three inherent values: history (pre and post European settlement), environment and recreation.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET INVOLVED TO GET INVOLVED!



### Water Tank Cleaning

Have all mud and sludge removed from, your water tank and improve your water quality.

We clean all types of water tanks.

Removing all mud and sludge as well as washing the walls and floor clean.

### Otway Concrete Tanks

Concrete tanks, repairs & tank maintenance

PH: 0409 210 057

[www.otwayconcretetanks.com.au](http://www.otwayconcretetanks.com.au)

## The Things We Say

Gemma Hanan

### “Easy as pie.”

To those of us for whom baking doesn't come easily, 'easy as pie' does not sound so easy at all. But as it turns out, the ease does not come from the making, but from the eating – which is something I'm sure we can all get on board with. Is the phrase American? Australian? New Zealand? Who really knows? There are a few different stakes of claim ranging from the 1850s to 1920s but all agree that, as with many other phrases, pie equals good.



## A.D.F.

AUTO DRIVE FENCING

For ALL your fencing needs

Town & Rural

Horse, Sheep & Cattle yards

Horse Shelters

Post & Rail

Electric fencing

Repairs & Maintenance

SPECIALIZING IN FAST

POST DRIVING USING THE LATEST  
MUNRO AUTO

DRIVER ON SIDE SHIFT

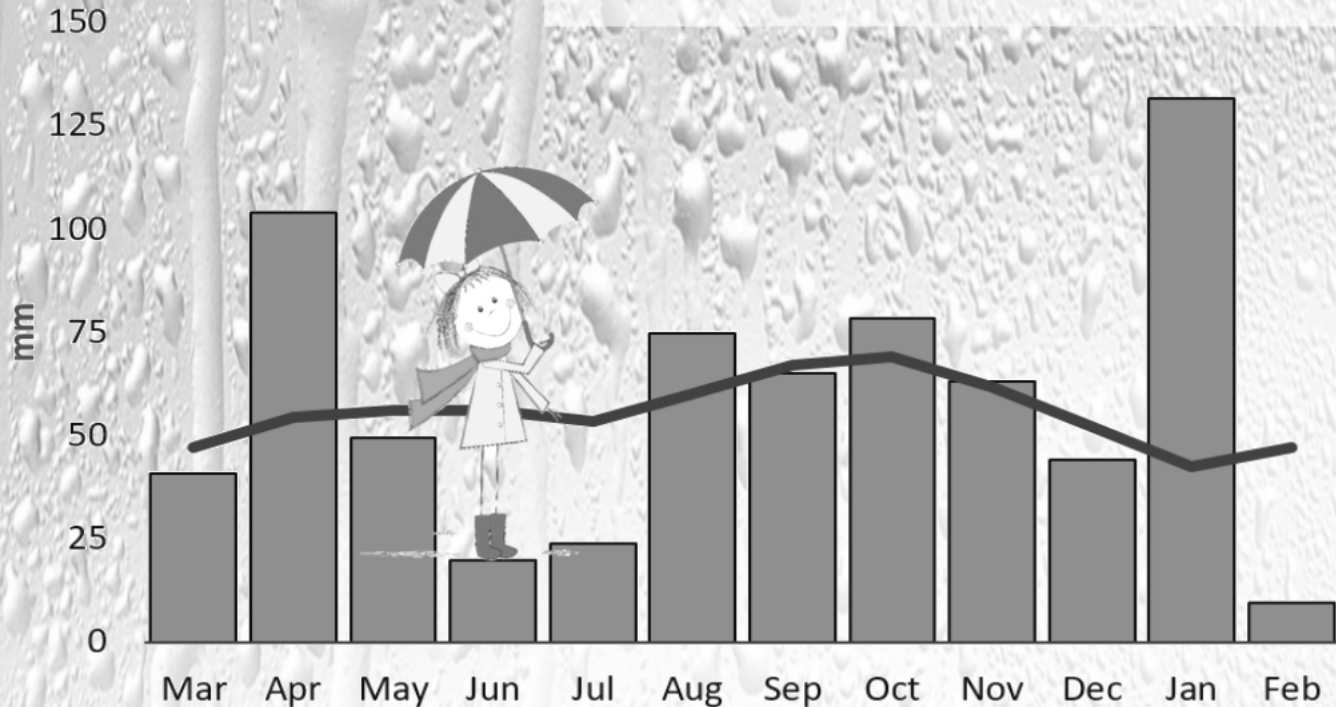
**Call Matt 0438 828 043**



# the Summer rain report

If this was a school report it would be mixed: "Summer is our brightest season, but this year only showed glimpses of her abilities, mainly copying the work of her colleagues Spring, Autumn and Winter. She did however, make a valuable contribution in Rainfall, which was 31% above her long term average."

We have missed those lovely, long summer evenings lingering over an outdoor meal - at least until mosquitoes and other nocturnal predators make you the a meal. But a mild summer with occasional rain is a pretty welcome change. And even though the risk is not yet past, it's a blessing to get through summer without any serious bushfire threats.



**coopelec**  
REC11582, Electrical and excavation contractors  
Phone: 0417 518 930

FOR ALL YOUR ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS

**MURRAY COOPER**

PO Box 267  
Buninyong, 3357

Super Lime Gypsum Harbour Spreading Buy Direct Manure Urea Grain Cartage

Len 0439 749 286  
DAVID: 0409 579 178  
GPS  
Eliesha 0418 223 618



**CONNOR  
CONSTRUCTION  
AND DESIGN**

Your registered building practitioner.

- ✓ New Homes
- ✓ Renovations
- ✓ Alterations
- ✓ Designs
- ✓ Planning
- ✓ Consulting

Adam Connor | 0409 729 629 DBU 43290  
Connor Construction & Design CBU 51120



**MASTER  
BUILDER**



Steve Duffy

Here are some of the entries in the Giant Pumpkin Competition. There are some whoppers! The biggest is 144cm in circumference!!!!

With the weather warming up, we can expect the growing season to extend for a least a month.

With this in mind and the fact that the Meredith Primary School will be on term holidays from the 1st of April till the 19th April, we won't get to display the pumpkins until the kids return. We have set the day of reckoning as Friday April 24th. With a display of all entries on the nature strip outside the school, from midday.

If your pumpkin stops growing, you will need to store it in a well ventilated spot. Pumpkins store very well, so just keep an eye on your pumpkin for any mould.

Next month, we hope to publish more of your photos, so send your photos to: [glenairlie370@gmail.com](mailto:glenairlie370@gmail.com) or to [news@meredithnew.com.au](mailto:news@meredithnew.com.au)

Thanks Steve Trotter and Rosemary Gargan for your involvement,

Good Luck everyone.



## William James Reid at Woodbourne (continued)

*Marg Cooper*

*Following on from last months issue, is the story of how William James Reid bought Yancannia Station.*

### Episode 2: Buying Yancannia Station

*Mary Turner Shaw in her book "Yancannia Creek" says :*

Looking through The Argus Newspaper for stations for sale William James Reid saw "Torowotto" (soon renamed "Yancannia" by Reid). The agent gave him a month to make an inspection. He took the first coach he could – the service through to Deniliquin and Hay to Booligal had just been extended to Wilcannia, a 5-6 day journey from Geelong. At Wilcannia he hired a horse for a fortnight. He rode out to the station, was favourably impressed and returned in time to catch the coach early next morning. Here events took a dramatic turn, for the driver failed to follow his usual custom of breakfasting at the hotel and Reid woke to find the coach had left a good three hours ahead of time. (There is the barest hint that another over eager buyer whose higher offer had been honourably turned down by Mr Turnbull, the agent, while Reid's option still held, might have had a hand in the early departure.) The sympathetic landlord lent him the best horse he had with saddle and bridle and assured him that he was not worried about getting them back as long as Reid caught the coach. So Reid set off in pursuit. He hoped for a fresh horse at the Ten-mile, but had to ride 18 miles further before he spied the coach. The horse would carry him no further so he let it go, saddled and bridled, to find its own way home, and trudged on foot along the homestead track the coach had followed. Overnight rain had turned the black soil to an inch of mud, that stuck to his boots at every step and he was soon as wet with perspiration as if he'd been in the river. He kicked off his boots and continued in bare feet, waded a creek where he washed his feet and had time to borrow a clean shirt from a handy stockyard overseer before he intercepted the coach as it left the homestead. From Hay, the first telegraph station, he wired his acceptance and on reaching Melbourne completed the transaction which included consultation by telegraph with Mr Henty in Portland, one of the owners.

The price for Yancannia was initially £25,000 - £1 per head of those 25,000 sheep on it. The price Reid paid was £17,500.

Yancannia was held in William James Reid's name for 23 years, first as sole proprietor and then as senior partner and throughout that period his firm finger, not unlike the finger of God, was on all operations though mostly from afar.

**PLUMBING & GASFITTING SOLUTIONS**



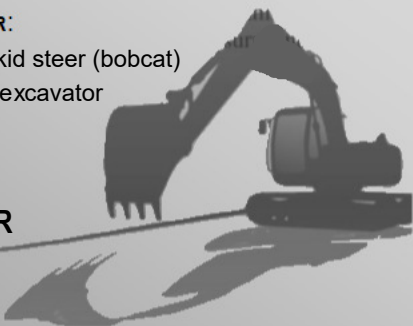
- Complete Bathroom Renovations
- Rain Water Tanks
- Storm Water
- Roofing
- Irrigation
- Gas Fitting
- Gas Appliance Servicing
- Solid Fuel (Wood) Heating
- Evaporative Air-Conditioner
- Sky Lights
- Solar Hot Water
- Hot & Cold Water Supply
- Drain Pressure-Jet Clearing
- Drain Locating Service
- Sanitary Plumbing
- Septic Systems
- Sewerage
- Blockages

**call Nathan**  
**0408 996 721**  
PGsolutions.info@gmail.com

Quality Workmanship  
Meredith based

**BANNOCKBURN EARTHWORX**

FOR HIRE WITH OPERATOR:  
Cat traxcavator with skid steer (bobcat)  
and Cat 3 tonne mini excavator



**Tom McBride**  
**OWNER/OPERATOR**

Ph. 0435 892471  
tommcbride10@hotmail.com

**ELAINE EXCAVATIONS PTY. LTD.**

**CONTACT Warwick Mob. 0408 508 303**  
**pitcherindustries@bigpond.com**



A.H 03 53 420329  
FAX 03 53 420387

- \*Excavation Work
- \*Site Leveling \* Driveways
- \*Dam Digging & Cleaning
- \*Demolition Work \*Drainage Work
- \*Septics \*Rubbish Removal

Scraper, 4.5 & 10 Tonne Excavator  
Traxcavator, Grader, Bobcat,  
Lazer Equipment, Under - Road Borer  
Tip Trucks & Trailers,

**\*Free Quotes**

**GIVE US A CALL!**



## ELAINE FARM SUPPLIES

5264 Midland Hwy Elaine

Phone: 03 5341 5665



**For all your Pet, Livestock and Rural Supplies**

**We stock all your requirements including**

- \* A Large Variety Horse Feed  
Natural Herb and Mineral  
Supplements
- \* Poultry and Bird Feeds  
Dog & Cat Food
- \* Guidar, Vaccines & Drenches
- \* Pasture Seeds & Fertilizers
- \* Shearing Items  
Electric and Rural Fencing  
Supplies
- \* Farm & Garden Chemicals

**Normal Trading Hours Monday - Friday 9am - 5.30pm**  
**Saturday 9am - 12noon**

**Come in and Visit us for store specials**





### Steve Goat

When I was young I, like most Australians, thought that corruption and cover-ups were something that other countries struggled with, but at home here we enjoyed a fair society. But of course, the truth of our similarity with other countries grew and grew.

The duplicitous actions of our governments towards Aborigines, Chinese, South Asians and even our new European immigrants, became the new historical stories. Despite some dismissing the truth as a "black armband view of history", more people have become aware of the true History of Australia. There are any number of Books, and especially lately Podcasts that enquire into veracity of the traditional views of these events.

In the last few years, the idea of truth and fact have been cynically undermined by howls of Fake news and Alternative Facts. What nonsense! Yes, opinion has been used as a counter argument to fact. Incredible! The harsh landscape of social media doesn't help. The bullies seem to rule.

But there is a new partner to fake news. If the facts don't suit the statements made by, for example a Government Minister, one can simply dismiss any questions as "just the Canberra/Spring Street bubble" or "commercial in confidence". Or even refusing to answer!

The idea that ministers should follow advice of independent committees has been quashed by rorting the

### Pete Goat

I was about to write that I first encountered Jan Wositzky in 1973 but that would not be true because at that time he called himself Bill Smith. He was a founding member of the "Bushwhackers and Bullockies Bush Band", later abbreviated to "The Bushwhackers".

In the same way," Jan Wositzky "was a bit of a mouthful and harder to pronounce than "Bill Smith".

Nowadays he introduces himself as Jan "Yarn" Wositzky which helps with the pronunciation as well as emphasising his reputation as a story-teller as well as a musician.

In 1973 I had a part in running the Agriculture Faculty Student Ball at Melbourne Uni. In previous years the event had degenerated into a night of extremely loud music and heavy drinking - and it was running at a loss. Such was

the "culture" of the time.

The staff and many students were saying they would not attend again so we, the new committee, decided to do it differently.

Booking "The Bushwhackers" was a key part of the change and also we re-configured the venue so that the band was on stage at one end of "Leggatt's Palladium Ballroom", [claimed to be the biggest dance floor in the southern hemisphere until it burnt down in the 1980's] and all the tables and seating at the other end, so that it was possible for those sitting at the tables to have a conversation, while the band could still play at a volume appropriate to the dance floor.

In those days Jan "Bill Smith" had a very big beard [big beard, short name-now has big name, no beard] and he "called" the dances as well as singing and playing banjo, spoons, bones and bodran. With the different layout, a great band and "Bill's" force of character urging the punters to get up and dance, the night was a huge success, the drinking far less and it ran at a profit.



Years later when I met Jan, he said he remembered the gig as one he had enjoyed too.

The Bushwhackers toured the UK and Europe as well as all parts of Australia, including remote areas in the centre and the north and Jan gathered stories as he went.

[By the way, he was born in Scotland and grew up in Ferny Creek, east of Melbourne]

The next time I saw Jan perform, was in Geelong in 1984 in a little hall in Ryrie St.

He had left the Bushwhackers by this time and devised a show called "A Fruitcake of Australian

Songs and Stories".

I will never forget the opening moment. The lights went down to a total blackout and then, still in the dark, the beautiful, haunting voice of Maroochy Barambah began to sing in the language of her people, the Gubbi Gubbi of south east Queensland. It was an anthem to the dawn and gradually a glow of pale pink and gold light rose at the back of the stage silhouetting Maroochy .... It was a true moment of the magic of theatre.

The show continued, mixing humour and pathos, Indigenous stories and settler songs, backed by the brilliant musicianship of Louis McManus and Michael Harris, both ex-Bushwhackers. I treasure the vinyl LP, the book and even the old cassette I have of "The Fruitcake".

Jan has gone on to be a writer of such books as "Born Under the Paperbark Tree", the life of Bill Harney and "Pharlap and Me" the story of Tommy Woodcock. Now he is writing a memoir of his own life.

Over the last decade or more he has performed some of his One-man Shows here in Steiglitz: "Murranghurk-William Buckley", "Bilarni", "Canakkale-Gallipoli" and



most recently “A Bundle of Sticks - the Monster meeting at Castlemaine”.

So it is very exciting news that on Saturday 27th March, he will be coming again - performing an outdoor Twilight show celebrating his first half century in Australian Music and storytelling, accompanied by Jack Norton, who played the Oud in “Canakkale - Gallipoli in the church at Steiglitz some years ago.

As usual tickets are only available by booking. For further details please contact Pete

pax@skymesh.com.au 0458893416

## Don't Undermine Steiglitz

*Alex Hyatt, The “Don't Undermine Steiglitz Community Group”*

A gold mining exploration company called New Hanover Exploration Pty Ltd has been exploring an area of historic gold mines next to the Brisbane Ranges National Park and is now looking for a mining company to partner with to develop a gold mine. Their target area is along the boundary fence of the southern section of the park near Steiglitz.

The local community is deeply concerned about the potential for commercial mining in this unique area of Victoria. There are a multitude of reasons for concern including potential impacts on the following:

General amenity of the area, in particular the impact on the peaceful serenity of the area that has attracted the residents and visitors.

Capacity and safety of local roads, roads that were not designed to carry high volumes of heavy trucks.

Indigenous free ranging fauna including endangered Phascogales, threatened Powerful Owls, koala populations, reptiles and amphibians.

Rare and endangered orchids, wildflowers and indigenous plants.

Tourism and visitation by special interest groups (including bush walkers, campers, bird watchers, artists, photographers, environmental groups).

Built heritage assets that are vulnerable to damage and destruction.

Water table levels and potential flow-on effects to local waterways

New Hanover Pty Ltd is promoting similarities of the local geology to the Fosterville mine near Bendigo (archived New Hanover Exploration website) and in 2019 that mine processed an average of 1,350 tonnes per day; that would be a lot of trucks. This raises many questions if a gold mine is establishment in the Brisbane Ranges. The questions include, where would the company depot (on-site offices, sanitation facilities, generators and equipment repair facilities) be built? Where would the waste material be taken, where would the gold-containing material be processed, and what would be the fate of water pumped from the excavations?

One recently interested gold mining company, Kalamazoo,

planned to transport the material to Ballarat for processing which would have resulted in all the heavy truck traffic travelling along the steep, winding roads leading to the bridges of the Moorabool River. Fortunately, this company listened to the concerns of the community and decided not to engage in further exploration of the area. However, New Hanover Exploration Pty Ltd have stated they are now looking for a new mining company to partner with, so the potential problem has not gone away and anything could still happen.

A community group called “Don't Undermine Steiglitz” has formed and we are working to keep the community informed and co-ordinate the response of any future exploration and mining in the area.

You can find more information on our web site

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

If you care about the local community and natural environment we encourage you to join us on:  
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/NoSteiglitzMine/>  
Twitter <https://twitter.com/NoSteiglitzMine>  
Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/nosteiglitzmine/>

## For Seasoned Quizzers

- ☺ What did the tree say to autumn? Please leave me alone!
- ☺ How do you fix a broken pumpkin? With a pumpkin patch!
- ☺ What did autumn say to winter? I'm falling for you!
- ☺ What is the best thing to put into a pumpkin pie? Your teeth of course!
- ☺ What's the ratio of a pumpkin's diameter to its circumference? Pumpkin Pi!
- ☺ What happens when winter arrives? Autumn leaves!



## Gorse (Part 4 of 4)

*Janene Schillier*

It's now autumn. One of the objectives of gorse control and elimination is to stop the seed. Mature gorse plants can produce flowers most of the year, but characteristically Spring and Autumn produce prolific flowers in our area. These turn into millions of seeds. The flowering stage allows you see where the gorse plants are, particularly if they are young (around 18 months) and difficult to spot due to their size. A good time to pull them out!

So! It's a good time to get stuck into this horribly invasive woody weed and stop the seeds. Yes! Stop the seeds then follow your plan to eradicate existing plants and extinguish new growth. The unusually wet past months, have kept the soil damp still making it possible to dig out small plants with a mattock or tool to prise the deep root out of the soil. Be careful to pat down the disturbed soil as this can encourage seeds to germinate. Have a go and see how many young seedlings you can pull out.

Walking around now you can see the green growth of newer plants on roadsides, your own place or bushland. Carry some tools and your spray pack in your car or on foot - a bit at a time will still give results.

Gorse harbours foxes, rabbits, feral cats and decreases grazing area for stock and takes over bushland.

The writer of this column hopes that the content has



started you on the way to doing something about gorse in your area. It is a rewarding activity, when you can see areas clear of gorse and the follow up is a routine not to be missed. Follow up spraying or pulling out or cut and painting small plants is not a hard task - not as difficult as the decision to do something or start the process !

Good luck and happy Gorse hunting!!

### References

- [www.vicgorsetaskforce.com.au](http://www.vicgorsetaskforce.com.au)
- [dppwe.tas.gov.au](http://dppwe.tas.gov.au) (pdf info file)
- Book: *Weeds of National Significance - Gorse National Best Practice Manual* (Australian Govt, National Gorse taskforce, DPI and Water Tasmania)
- *Mt Lofty Ranges u-tube - tree puller apparatus*
- *Broom Busters (Canadian) U Tube - another unwelcome invasive weed - "Stop the Seed"*
- *yellow flower like gorse*

The Meredith Community Centre has offered to display a few excellent brochures about gorse. If you would like to pick one up call in Mon to Thurs between 9am and 3pm 4 Russell St

Meredith Ph 52 86 0700

One copy of National Best Practice Manual - Gorse - is available to peruse at the Centre

Thank you to the Centre for making gorse information available to our community.

*You can read all of Janine's extensive discussion on gorse at [www.meredithnews.com/extras](http://www.meredithnews.com/extras) - Ed.*

## Long-Term Residents of Meredith - Help!

We live in a Victorian cottage in Bannockburn which was moved from Meredith around 1930's or 40's. I have been told that when the house was in Meredith it was owned by the Lowndes family. In Bannockburn it was owned by the Burrell family.

We would like to find out the history of the house, in particular we would like to know how old it is. We would also like to know where in Meredith it was originally situated and who lived in it. The house has a distinctive double hip roof which is just visible in the photo. We believe the iron lacework was added when the house was moved.

If anyone remembers the cottage when it was in Meredith we would love to hear from you.

Please contact: Beth and Michael Kershaw 0438911576



# LETHBRIDGE QUARRY

NORTH ALTONA ROCK BLASTING CO PTY LTD  
Lot 2 LOWER PLAINS ROAD LETHBRIDGE

OFFICE: (03) 5281 7190

PAUL: 0429 361 378

**OPENING HOURS:**  
**Monday to Friday 7:30am–4:00pm**  
**(Saturday by appointment)**



FOR ALL YOUR CRUSHED ROCK NEEDS  
FROM A TRAILER FULL TO A TRUCK LOAD

email: northaltonarock@bigpond.com

Note: No credit given and no EFTPOS on premises

## IS YOUR SOLAR FEED-IN TARIFF BEING CUT BACK?

GIVE US A CALL AND GET THE RIGHT ADVICE ABOUT  
HOW YOU CAN FIGHT BACK AND CONTINUE TO  
MAXIMIZE THE ECONOMIC BENEFIT FROM YOUR  
SOLAR POWER SYSTEM.



**BREAZE  
ENERGY  
SOLUTIONS**

Solar Power (with Batteries) Solar & Heat Pump Hot Water  
On-Grid & Off-Grid Domestic & Commercial

[energysolutions@breaze.org.au](mailto:energysolutions@breaze.org.au)

**03 4309 4027**

## Kubota

### M7-172

- 170HP, 50KM/H
- Standard deluxe model
- Front axle suspension
- Optional front end loader available



**IN STOCK NOW**

### M7040 DH

- 68HP, 4 Cylinder engine
- ROPs tractor



**IN STOCK NOW**

### RTV 850

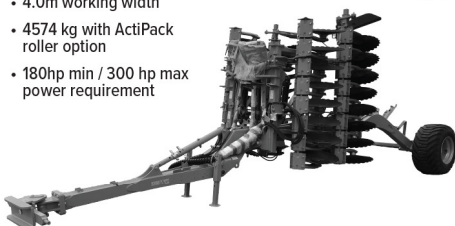
- Powerful 48HP Petrol engine
- Electronic Power Steering



**IN STOCK NOW**

### CD2400T Speed Disc

- Kubota CD2400T with ActiPack roller option fitted
- 4.0m working width
- 4574 kg with ActiPack roller option
- 180hp min / 300 hp max power requirement



**IN STOCK NOW**

### GL 6000D-AU-B GENERATOR

- Two-pole, silent-type, direct-coupled, single phase diesel generator
- Capacity of 6kVA at 3000 RPM, supplying 22.9 amps at 240 volts
- Running a range of 12 hours at full load



**IN STOCK NOW**

### KD5500 GENERATOR

- Two-pole, single phase diesel generator
- Capacity of 5.5kVA at 3000 RPM, supplying 22.9 amps at 240 volts
- Powered by a Kubota OC95 engine, 5.5ltr fuel capacity
- Average run time of 4 hours @ 75% load



**IN STOCK NOW**

**CALL FOR FINANCE AND REBATE DEALS**



**"We Service What We Sell"**

12 Wiltshire Lane, Ballarat, Victoria, 3356 | t 03 5335 8609  
[www.westag.com.au](http://www.westag.com.au) | [facebook.com/westagballarat](https://www.facebook.com/westagballarat)



## It Takes a Village to Raise a Child

*Marg Cooper*

It Takes a Village to Raise a Child: An African proverb that means that an entire community of people must interact with children for those children to experience and grow in a safe and healthy environment.

Kenneth Medlyn celebrated his 18th birthday on February 24th, 2021. He has lived almost all his life in the centre of Meredith interacting with people in this village and endearing himself to them. For example, he has always called Barbara Baird "Nana Barbara" and would run and leap into her arms when young; Mardi Wall thought he was wonderful because he opened doors for her and helped her, and Betty Billingham is always delighted to see him.

He went to the Meredith State School then to Woodman's Hill Secondary College in Ballarat. He struggled with school work and preferred gardening with Ralph or helping Telstra workers in the street. Through VCAL he started a Certificate A3 in Agriculture which he will complete in November this year. He works at the 'Chook' Farm and fortnightly does lessons via webinar on his laptop.

When he was four years old his Granny and Pop, Jo and Gordon Primmer, got him a John Deere toy truck which he pedalled around Meredith selling lemons and pumpkins, giving other children rides and collecting pine cones for the fire place. He loved helping people and especially enjoyed helping neighbour Robyn to dig a pond in her garden.

When in Year 9 he started a lawn mowing business. He printed cards at school, he bought a mower at Bannockburn and a whipper snipper and hedge clippers. His first paying job was at Back Creek Café. He soon had lots of clients and made the money back to pay for the equipment in a month. Because his mother Kim was working, his Granny took him and his equipment to each job and waited with him to ensure the job was done properly and that he was safe.

Kenneth likes making things. He recently made two small tables into a big one for his mother. He has made boot pullers for his older friends and at school he made key-holders from wood and old spoons, one of which won a prize at the Ballarat Show.

He bought a ute three years ago, got his Learners at 16 years of age, soon accumulated the required hours of supervised driving with co-pilot Granny. He is looking forward to getting his drivers licence so he can be independent and drive to all his other jobs including working at the Meredith Dairy, helping Neil Sergeant with harvesting or cutting wood with his chainsaw.

His Granny says that Kenneth loves helping people - and that is the kind of person he is.

Happy Birthday Kenneth and safe driving.



## Meredith. Small Town ...Big Spirit.

*Kerrie Kruger*

Since 1854 Meredith has never boasted a huge population but was always at the front in community involvement.

The first Progress Association stated in 1908, its name has changed over the years but the desire to make Meredith a great place to live and work continues.

Are you keen to make our township the best it can be?

Yes, we are all busy, but as they say many hands make light work.

The current small committee will be meeting in the rear garden of the Meredith history interest group building in Staughton St, Saturday 27th March 10am to Noon or 1 to 3pm.

So please pop in, say hi, tell us your ideas and put your name down for when we can hold a COVID safe meeting.

We meet as needed and no joining fees.

We need all types, gardener's, grant writers, artistic, creative hands-on doers.

It's a great way to meet your fellow Meredithian's and be part of your community.

The Committee of Advance Meredith Association Inc.

Join Us - Face Book 3333Meredith.





**MORTIMER  
PETROLEUM**

**MEREDITH  
ROAD HOUSE**

## 45Kg GAS BOTTLES

ONLY

**\$88**

...with **FREE** delivery  
and **FREE** rental

phone the Road House on **5286 1556**  
to place your order

**BULK FUEL** Phone David Mortimer **0418 524219**

- Addblue 1000lt delivered free \$770.00
- Addblue 220lt delivered free \$187.00
- Diesel exhaust fluid, 200lt drum oil also available

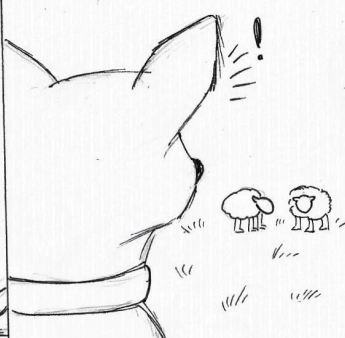
SERVICING Gheringhap, Bannockburn, Teesdale, Inverleigh, Lethbridge, Meredith, Steiglitz, Anakie, Geelong, Bellarine Peninsula, and more.

Mon to Thurs 6am to 7pm  
Fri 6am to 7.30pm  
Sat 7am to 7.30pm  
Sun 8am to 7 pm

Kelpie Kapers # 21

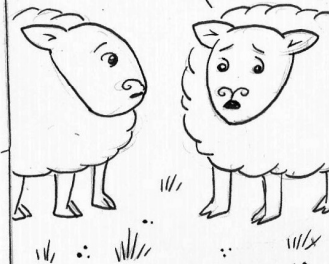
By Emma Clarke

Wait here,  
Jess. I'll  
be back.



What's wrong?

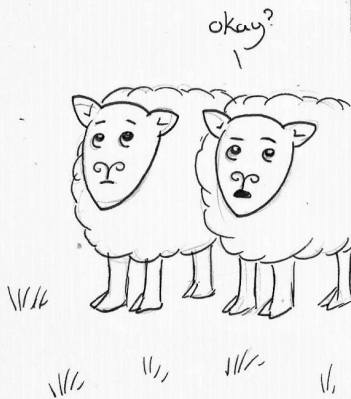
I fell in the  
dam yesterday



Hey guys,  
Wanna hear  
a joke?!



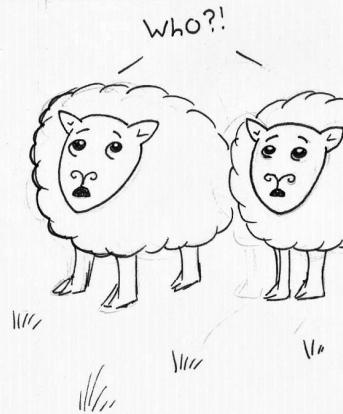
okay?



I know  
two sheep  
who think  
they are  
owls.



Who?!



Exactly



The  
End.

## Healthy easy and delish



### Fruit Chutney Recipe

#### Ingredients

500g eating apples chopped into bite sized pieces, cores removed

500g plums chopped into bite sized pieces, stones removed

100g raisins

2 red chillies deseeded

4 cloves garlic minced

1 large onion diced

6 cloves

1 tsp coriander seeds

1 tsp allspice

150g sugar

1 tsp salt

200 ml apple cider vinegar or white wine vinegar

150 ml water

#### Method

Put apples and plums into a large heavy bottomed pan, or jam pan if you have one.

Add the raisins, red chillies and garlic.

Add the onion, coriander seeds, salt, cloves and allspice.

Add the sugar, vinegar and water. Mix well.

Over a medium heat, bring to a gentle boil, stirring until all the sugar has dissolved.

Turn down to low, cover and simmer for 20-30 minutes until fruit is soft and thick. Cooking time may vary slightly due to the water content of the fruit.

To test if it is ready, as with jam, put a teaspoon onto a plate. Draw the spoon through the dollop, if liquid pools in the middle it needs a bit longer.

Spoon chutney into sterilized jars while still hot and store in a cool dry place for 6-8 weeks. It improves with age if you can wait that long. Over the weeks the chutney will turn from a deep red-pink to a deep red-brown and will also deepen in flavour.

Enjoy with a creamy style cheese.

Recipe from 'A Mummy Too'

Stephania

## TEST'N'TAG

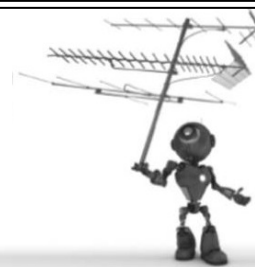
All plug in electrical items can be tested and certified safe.

On-site or off-site testing. Reasonable rates.

Contact Meredith Maintenance  
(Licensed Tester)

**52861550 or 0427300742**

- Digital antenna installation
- 3G & 4G Cellular antennas
- Wi-Fi access points
- Satellite installation
- Audio/visual installation



*Totally Antennas*

Everything you need connected in a modern home

Justin Brearley 0412 076672

## GARGAN WATER CARTAGE

**water tanks,  
swimming pools**

**Can't get it in?**

**Don't want a Big Tanker?**

**Call Andrew Scott**

**0428 301 701**

**Drinking water only**



## Vale: Adrian Malcolm Talbot

8/8/1951 – 11/1/2021.

*Marg Cooper*

A Celebration of the life of Adrian “Spook” Talbot was held on Wednesday, January 27 at the Meredith Recreation Reserve.

Adrian led a full and “larger than life itself” life and to commemorate the many facets of Adrian’s life, members of his family placed items on his coffin that meant something to each of them and was special to their relationship with Adrian. His wife Jenny placed some chocolate: he needed some every day. His daughter Rachael placed his work boots which symbolized his strong and amazing work ethic. Grandson Liam placed a bottle of beer, Adrian’s favourite refreshment. His granddaughter Mia placed a pack of Uno cards which she and her grandfather spent many hours playing. His grandson Rhys placed his Croc’s jumper (the second love of his life to family, was Masters football and his beloved MV Crocs).

When Adrian and his twin sister Caroline were born, their parents who already had a son Peter, were running a pub in South Melbourne. Adrian’s parents left that hectic life to take up Soldier Settlement Block 11 at Skipton on the Langi Willi Estate, before sister Barbara was born. Adrian’s days at Skipton started early by milking the cows, riding a horse to school and picking fruit from Bolte’s property on the way to school. Life was fairly hard at that time for the family.

After Primary School Adrian headed to Melbourne in his brother’s footsteps to attend Secondary School. But school was not high on his agenda. Word had it that he’d often walked in the front gate and straight out the back gate. What he did all day is a mystery. He formally left school at 13 and left home at 14 years of age. He worked on anything that was available from Victoria to Darwin to Western Australia, often sleeping rough.

Adrian said that he owed his brother Peter everything. Peter taught him a trade and kept him on the straight and narrow in his young wild days. Peter and Adrian were “Sharpies”, cool kids who wore tight pants, tight shirts, slicked back hair and big shoes and would rather have a fight than a feed. Adrian rather fancied himself as a boxer but after sparring with Lionel Rose, his father assured him that as a boxer he was going to make a good mechanic.

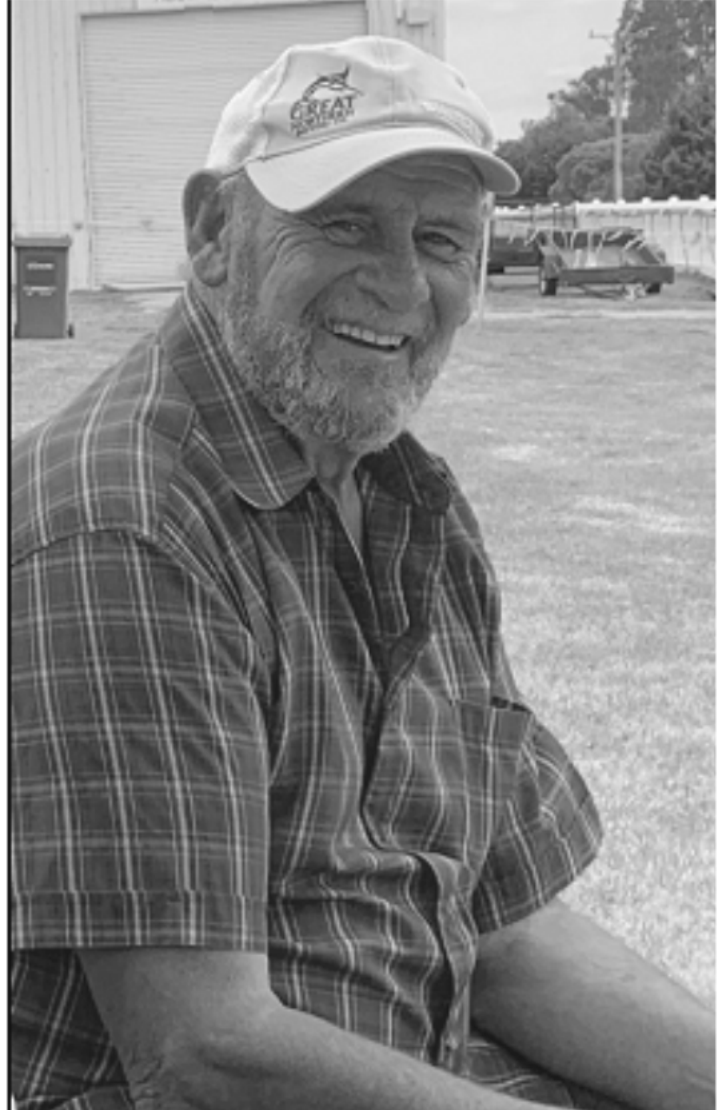
Adrian married Sue in 1976, welcomed daughter Rachael but they parted company in the following years. He met Jenny in 1982, they married in 1986 and after briefly living in Ballarat and Lara settled on a farm on Lower Plains Road at Lethbridge. As well as farming, which included building a large shed to house fine merino sheep to produce clean fine wool, Adrian ran his Auto Transmission business in Ballarat for many years.

He and Jenny played polo cross and Adrian always played football and coached including North Cairns in the 1970’s. Jenny says that he was obsessed by football both by supporting Geelong and playing for the Crocs in the Master’s Competition. He also travelled overseas to play including to Ireland, Kuala Lumpur, Bali and in 2015 he captained the Moorabool Valley Masters FC at the Easter

Carnival in Tasmania. He was a Life member of the Meredith Crocs.

Jenny and Adrian also travelled extensively to Asia, India, South America, England and Europe but Jenny remembers their most remarkable trip was to Antarctica.

*The celebrant at the service was Paul Nolan. Thanks to him for a copy of his notes.*



SEPTIC TANK PUMPING



7 Days A Week

Noah Azzopardi Septic Tank Pumping

M: 0427 304 959



## Vale to Dean Robert Kambovski 14/12/1970 – 10/02/2021

*Melinda Kambovski*

Dean was born on the 14th of December 1970 in Geelong. He was the first child of Petar and Jannifer (nee Rayner) Kambovski and the first-born grandchild to the late Lindsay and Hilda Rayner of "Nindathana", Meredith-Shelford Road, Bamganie.

From very early on in Dean's childhood it was blatantly obvious his greatest passion in life would be farming. Dean was well known to be his Pop's shadow and would spend every spare moment at "Nindathana", by his Pop's side learning and embracing all that rural life and farming encompassed. Dean was not only his grandfather's shadow but shared his personality, demeanour and quirky sense of humour. Like his Pop, he was one of life's true gentlemen; honest, trustworthy, loyal, respectful and committed.

Dean completed high school in 1988 and the following year was accepted into Commerce at Deakin University. He graduated in 1992 and not surprisingly, with his exemplary academic results was offered a place in the inaugural 60 students at Deakin University's Law Degree. Dean graduated in 1995 with a Law degree with Honours and was offered a position with a leading Melbourne law firm. Dean was admitted to practice as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria in 1997 and in the preceding year, admitted to practice as a Barrister and Solicitor in the High Court of Australia. Dean was a highly regarded solicitor continuing his commitment to his profession until the day prior to his passing.

Since Dean's death it has been a shock for many to discover that in 2005 Dean was diagnosed with an incurable, exceptionally rare form of cancer. Despite his diagnosis and without a doubt, driven by it, he finally acted on his greatest ambition to own his own farm and carry on his beloved Pop's legacy. In April 2006, Dean purchased "Bungarra" and later in 2014 Dean took ownership of further acreage directly across the road.

Ironically, Bungarra is located a mere 3- 4 kilometres on the same road where his love of farming all begun. With the assistance and support of his family and Tom, his remarkable work colleague who was beside him throughout his entire professional life, Dean was able to maintain his career and live his passion whilst undertaking numerous life prolonging modalities.

Dean was a supporter of Landcare, a member of the Victorian Working Sheepdog Association, the Angus Society of Australia and the Australian Border Leicester Association.

Despite continuing to stay with his parents during the week, Dean spent his weekends at Bungarra with a ritualistic drive on a Saturday morning into Meredith General Store with his own little shadow (Benjamin) to purchase the Geelong Advertiser, the Weekly Times and hot chips for his nephews.

Dean leaves behind his parents, Petar and Jannifer; brother, Jason and brother-in-law Paul; sister, Melinda; foster brother Shane and his beloved nephews, William Petar, Thomas Karl and Benjamin Dean.

From grandfather to grandson to nephews the family farming legacy will continue in the district.



### ADVERTISE with US

Advertising in the Meredith & District Newsletter is a great way to let district residents know about your business.

**FULL COLOUR ADS** are now available in every issue (Conditions apply)

Ring Ian on 0409 016815

Please submit in jpeg format, if available.



**CENTRAL HIGHLANDS  
ANTENNA  
SERVICE**  
PTY. LTD.

**Master Technician with 35 years industry experience and service to the region**

- Digital antenna systems
- Satellite/VAST systems
- Metro & Regional Reception
- On site Signal tests & quotes
- Home Theatre, DATA & Phone
- Friendly Service, Advice & 5 year warranty

**Frank Schaefer**

53334441 or 0418508524 anytime

[www.chantenna.com.au](http://www.chantenna.com.au)



## COUNCIL SEEKING PUBLIC HOLIDAY FEEDBACK

### Media Release

In Victoria, Melbourne Cup Day is observed as a public holiday unless an alternate local holiday has been arranged by a non-metro council. In previous years, Golden Plains Shire has part-shire arrangements with the north of the Shire observing Ballarat Show Day in November and the south of the Shire observing Geelong Show Day in October. This was informed by community consultation undertaken in 2011 that the community wished to observe a relevant Show Day.

Local community members and businesses are invited to have their say on the future of these arrangements before 5pm, Sunday 18 April, 2021. Options for consideration include continuing part-shire observation of Geelong and Ballarat Show Days, requesting an alternative local holiday, or observing the Melbourne Cup Holiday in all parts of the Shire.

Submissions can be provided by:

- Completing an online form at [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations)
- Emailing [enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au)
- Mail to the Chief Executive Officer, Golden Plains Shire Council, PO Box 111, Bannockburn, VIC 3331 - marked 'Urgent - submission'

Council will review the feedback received and is anticipated to make a final decision at the June Council Meeting.

## Looking After Your Workmate – Dogs on Utes

*Dr Jeff Cave (District Veterinary Officer, Agriculture Victoria)*

There is no argument that working dogs are a valuable and helpful asset to farmers and it stands to reason, if your dog travels on the back of your ute, you need to take extra care to avoid exposing them to heat stress on hot days.

While it is legal to allow appropriately restrained dogs to travel on the back of utes, dogs being left in the sun for long periods can quickly dehydrate or even die from heat stress.

Adequate shelter, for example a fixed canopy, needs to be provided to protect tethered dogs from extreme temperatures.

A lot of utes and tray backs these days are made of metal and will heat up quickly and could easily burn dogs' paws.

New regulations introduced in Victoria in December 2019, require that when the temperature is 28 degrees or above that an area of insulating material be placed on the metal tray to protect the dog from the metal surface.

Ensure dogs kept in cages have adequate ventilation,

particularly when the vehicle is not moving, and ensure all dogs are given regular access to cool water.

Victoria's Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act requires dogs travelling in the back of utes, trailers or open tray trucks to be tethered or caged in a manner that prevents them from falling from the vehicle. The only exemption is when dogs are actively working livestock.

The tether should only be long enough to permit the dog to stand, lie down and move about but not so long that it could potentially let the dog fall off the vehicle and be dragged or strangled.

Tethering dogs should always be regarded as a temporary, short term method of restraint.

In addition, it is an offence to leave an animal unattended inside a motor vehicle when the outside temperature is 28 degrees or above, so be sure to make appropriate arrangements when you are travelling with animals.



## Enjoy writing?

Well, our readers enjoy reading.



We should introduce you.



## it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

*Marg Cooper*

### Annual Meeting:

On Thursday, February 18, after much discussion the Committee made the decision to cancel the Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, February 28th due to uncertainty surrounding Covid restrictions. We regret that this decision had to be made but thought it was better to make the decision earlier rather than later, so we could inform everyone. Further information will be given in the next MHIG Newsletter due out mid-March.

### Honour Boards:

The Golden Plains Shire have kindly allowed us to display several boards that have been hanging in the Shire Hall at Bannockburn. These include the Honour Boards of Meredith Shire Council listing the names of Presidents, Secretaries and Engineers from 1871 to 1915, the Borough of Steiglitz Honour Board listing Mayors, Secretary and Engineer from 1866 to 1881, the Bamganie WWI Soldiers, the She-Oaks Soldiers and framed photos of Charles Wyatt who was killed in action in WWI and the Corangamite Shield winners in 1908.

These are all historically valuable items but it is so delightful to be able to display the Bamganie Soldiers Honour Board. This, with several smaller items, was found in the vault at what is now the History Centre in 2002 after being in there, hidden away for more than 30 years.

### Plaques:

As reported in the last Newsletter I am documenting outdoor plaques, foundation stones, signs and sculptures in Meredith & District. I discovered at the Lethbridge Lake a plaque that has completely lost its scriptures and gone rusty. Later I found photos of the unveiling that included politician Joe Helper and Councillor McArthur. I presume the occasion was the opening of improvements at the lake which may have included the picnic pavilion. Does someone remember the plaque, what was written on it, the day and if a tree was planted?

### Digitations of Meredith Shire Rate Books:

Old ratebooks contain a wealth of information of great interest to genealogists and social historians. Many of them give the name of the occupier of a premises, their occupation, whether they own or rent the property, what sort of building is located on the property, and a description of the property in terms of area (acres, roods and perches), its location by allotment, section number, and township, and its net annual value as determined by the shire which gives an idea of its relative value. Some ratebooks contain either more or less data. With the aid of a Parish map the property can often be pinpointed.

Following the successful digitisation of the ratebooks covering the period 1866 to 1898 two years ago, the Geelong Heritage Centre made available to MHIG a second series of books extending the coverage to 1914. These were in the form of scans of the original pages

assembled in pdf files. Unfortunately the majority of the scans were of very poor quality, to the extent that some of them were all but unreadable in parts.

Fortunately the right hand side (containing the property description) of all scans was mostly legible and so by careful and painstaking comparison of records in adjacent years it was possible to fill in most of the missing information on the left hand side (containing the all-important occupier's name).

When completed and checked, the two sets of digital data were combined into one Excel file, which thus contains all ratebook entries from 1866 to 1914, in just over 20,000 records. These were then sorted by surname, given name and year. However due to the large number of spelling variants of names, the entries for a particular individual might not be consecutive; in fact in some cases the names were separated by as many as 200 other records. This would be very confusing for a researcher looking for that person.

Therefore the entire database was carefully inspected and all the records relating to each person were gathered together into a single group, and placed in chronological order. Some educated guesses had to be made in places, but the final list is as correct as it is possible to be.

The Meredith History group also holds digitised records of the Borough of Steiglitz ratebooks from 1866 to 1878, consisting of around 3000 entries.



**Golden Plains  
ACCOUNTANTS  
& ADVISORS**

**YOUR LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS EXPERT**

**TAX RETURNS**

**BUSINESS ADVISORY**

**TAX PLANNING**

**SELF MANAGED SUPER FUNDS**

**BAS & IAS**

**BOOKKEEPING & PAYROLL**

**0439 712 890**

**33 HIGH STREET, BANNOCKBURN**

**info@gpaccountants.com.au**

**WWW.GPACCOUNTANTS.COM.AU**

## FROM THE ARCHIVES



### SUDDEN DEATH—INQUEST.

AN inquest was held at the Munster Arms, Lethbridge, on Monday, before Mr Coroner Shaw and a jury of twelve, on the body of a man named Michael Flaherty, who was found dead near a store in that neighborhood, on Sunday morning.

—Bedford examined—Deceased was in Rush's store on Saturday evening when I went into it. I remained there about forty minutes. I left deceased there when I went out. A man named Gilmore was there at the time. Believes deceased was in delicate health and not accustomed to labour. Heard there was money due to him on the railway works for stone breaking. Believes he got none on Saturday. Found the deceased lying on his face dead on Sunday morning, near the store.

—Mrs Rush examined— Keeps a store at Lethbridge. Knew deceased. Heard before that he was in a starved state. He came into the store on Saturday evening and asked for a nobbler of brandy. I did not give it to him because he appeared in an intoxicated state. Shut the store early that night, about eight or nine o'clock. Was not sure of the time deceased left the store; about nine o'clock.

This witness gave such unsatisfactory replies and prevaricated at the commencement of her testimony so much that the Coroner threatened to commit her to the lock-up.

—Gilmore sworn—Am a labourer. Knew the deceased from appearance. Saw him on Saturday evening in Rush's store. When I was there deceased asked for a nobbler of brandy. Did not get it. Appeared to be stupid at the time. Cannot say whether he was or not under the influence of drink, but he was in a staggering state; came into the house in a rolling sort state. I opened the store door to let him out, and he went out. He did not remain beyond ten minutes. I heard he had been there in a former part of the evening.

Mr Bedford was re-called at this portion of the proceedings, and again swore that the deceased was not less than 40 minutes in the store....After deceased left the store as stated above I remained twenty minutes....Saw deceased going towards the store again. He then appeared to be unsteady or "slammering" in his walk. Knows where the body was found, it is near the store, about ten yards distant. When I left the store there was no one in it but the owner. The deceased was about ten or twenty minutes gone; believes it was about 10 o'clock at the time. Saw him dead next morning lying on his face,

his mouth and nose buried in the sand, his face appeared black. He appeared to be stiff dead. There were pieces of firewood close to him over which he appeared to have fallen. When he left the store he went eastward, believes his tent lies south. Mrs Rush told me that he had got a nobbler on Saturday morning. He had the appearance of death upon him when I saw him in the store. When I saw him coming to the store he appeared to be coming from the direction where his tent was said to be.

Mrs Rush re-called—Closed the store after Mr Bedford's son left. Deceased was not there at the time, nor did he come afterwards, heard no quarrel about the place. Mr Bedford told me next morning of his being dead near the place; he appeared to be a fine healthy man.

— Walker, stated—Was deceased's tent mate. Saw him about 8 o'clock on Saturday evening. He was slightly under the influence of drink. Cannot say whether he was paid or not for his work.

The Coroner in charging the jury stated that the appearance of the deceased indicated apoplexy and it is well known that a person under the influence of drink, that a slight fall will produce this result and the black appearance of his face showed the tendency of blood to the head. There was no evidence to show that deceased was of irregular habits, and the fact of his being in a starvation state at the time would give him the appearance of intoxication if he had but a very small quantity of spirits.

The jury after a delay of about ten minutes returned a verdict of died of apoplexy.

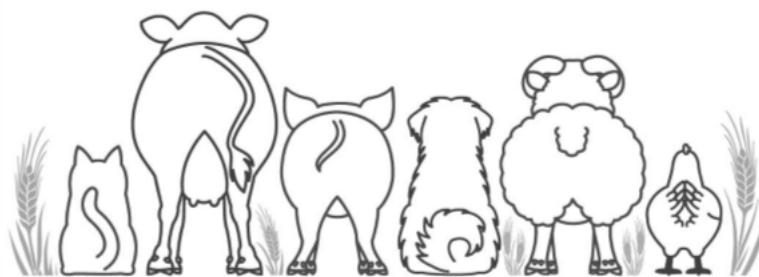
Geelong Advertiser (Vic. : 1859 - 1929)Thursday  
27 December 1860

*- Michael Flaherty died at the age of 40, and is buried in the Lethbridge Cemetery. He was born in Ireland, and it is quite likely that his parents never knew anything of his fate.*

*- A "nobbler" is any glass containing not less than 13/16 oz.(less than 30 mls)*

*- This article is a clear reflection of the different attitudes and standards of the day.*

Jan McDonald, Meredith History Interest Group



## Golden Plains Animal Hospital

**Veterinary care for your family pets when you need it**

### Opening hours:

Monday to Friday: 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Emergencies: 24 hours a day

**Appointments: 5281 2226**

**12 Milton Street Bannockburn Vic 3331**



**Go ON....  
SMILE!**



"Whenever someone says, 'I don't believe in coincidences.' I say, 'Oh my God, me neither!'"

- Alasdair Beckett-King

## A & R DURRAN Bricklaying

DB-U 40238

### & BUILDING SERVICES

Specialising in brick & block masonry construction

- \* Solid brick houses
- \* Retaining walls
- \* Scaffolding
- \* Telehandler Hire



Anthony Mobile: 0409 524438

ABN 63614843881

aandrdurranbricklaying@bigpond.com

www.DURRANBricklaying.com

## More than just tyres at Bannockburn.



Passenger  
& 4WD



Mechanical  
Repairs



Light Truck



Agricultural

60 Holder Road  
Bannockburn

**5281 1666**

**BRIDGESTONE**

**Bridgestone Service Centre**







## Marg's BOOK REVIEW

### “A Question of Integrity”

by Susan Howatch.

This is a big book, the first in the author's St Benet's trilogy and could be classed as a psychological thriller. A large part of the content involves conversations and monologues with the main characters baring their souls to one another or a spiritual director in therapy sessions where they construct a catalogue of their desires, sins and secrets.

The book is set in London in the late 1980's in a healing centre in a fictional parish. There are five main characters: Alice, a young woman in crisis who is befriended by staff of the healing centre and becomes the cook at the centre; Lewis, an older priest with a dodgy past trying to live a good and celibate life; Nicholas, a dashing superstar healer with psychic powers; Rosalind, his wife who mainly leads her own life apart from him, and Stacy, a young curate trying to sort out his own identity.

The narrative is told in five sections with each character narrating one in the first person (except Stacy, Alice gets two). Each new viewpoint opens up new understandings of what has gone before and reveals to the reader the same events from differing perspectives. The writing style changes in each section. For example, Lewis's narrative is written almost like a journal detailing his innermost thoughts and worries and admitting his temptations.

Alice is probably the main character. She is overweight, depressed and very worried about her dying Aunt and how she will manage financially. She is caught in a rainstorm and accidentally finds shelter in a church called St Benet's. To her surprise it is not empty. Instead, some kind of service is taking place. It's not a traditional Church of England service but a healing service led by a tall clergyman called Nico Darrow. Alice finds him immediately attractive while feeling repulsed by the idea of people being emotional and asking God for healing. As she is leaving the church, a carer speaks to her and, as a consequence, Nick offers to come and pray for her Aunt.

The book, as a whole, is about Alice beginning to find peace with herself, a role in the world and ways of expressing and finding love. Once she finds peace with herself she has amazing integrity and seems to have more healing abilities than the professionals who have unresolved hang-ups from their youth, confusion over their sexuality, delusions of their importance and power and other problems.

It has been suggested the author called her main character Alice after “Alice in Wonderland” going down the rabbit hole.

**Trust  
Australia's  
largest LPG  
supplier...**



**Elgas is a local business,  
run by local people  
offering LPG for your home**

**Elgas Welcome Package  
OPEN NEW ACCOUNT &  
RECEIVE \$80 WORTH OF  
LPG GAS ACCOUNT CREDITS\***

\*For all terms and conditions see website [www.elgas.com.au](http://www.elgas.com.au)



©2019 ELGAS LTD.

***Give Elgas a call and get friendly  
reliable service in your area***

**131 161**

[www.elgas.com.au](http://www.elgas.com.au)

**ELGAS**

**IF YOU NEED ALUMINIUM, GO TO...**

**JUST  
ALUMINIUM**

**19 BIRKETT PLACE, SOUTH GEELONG**



**FULL RANGE OF EXTRUSIONS & SHEET**

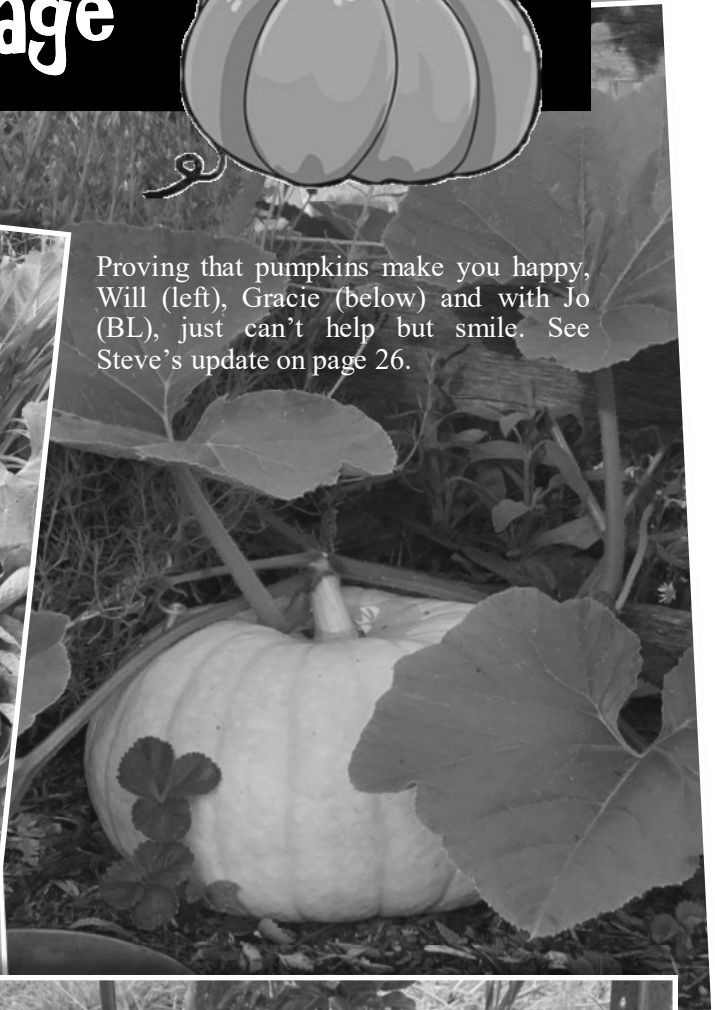
**Deliveries to Ballarat via Midland Highway  
on Tuesdays and Fridays**

**Phone: 5222 5444 Fax: 5222 2788**

# It's the PUMPKIN Page



Proving that pumpkins make you happy, Will (left), Gracie (below) and with Jo (BL), just can't help but smile. See Steve's update on page 26.





## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

### Moorabool North Wind Farm

#### Progress to date

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

#### Look ahead

- 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
- Pre-Commissioning of 7 turbines complete

#### Look ahead

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

March 2021



Image – Installation of Turbine 15 at MSWF

## Information Centre Now Open

Moorabool wind farm is pleased to announce that the Information Centre at 120 Inglis Street, Ballan re-opened on Tuesday 23rd February 2021. The Centre is open weekdays from 10am to 12pm.

Julie Dargan, Community Relations Officer, will be available to answer questions and provide information about the project. Please note that the Information Centre will be operating under Covid19 health and safety regulations:

- \* only 2 people are permitted to be inside the premises at a time,
- \* masks are mandatory (unless visitors have a lawful reason not to wear one), and
- \* visitors must sign in using the QKR code on entry.

Thank you for your understanding. We look forward to welcoming you.



## Community Fund Update

Moorabool North wind farm Community Fund Round Two will open on the 1st of May 2021.

Moorabool South wind farm Community Fund Round One is anticipated to open later in 2021.

Further details on both Funds, including guidelines and how to apply, will be provided closer to their opening.

For Further Information about the project visit: [www.mooraboolwindfarm.com](http://www.mooraboolwindfarm.com),  
[info@mooraboolwindfarm.com](mailto:info@mooraboolwindfarm.com) or call: 1800 019 660.



**EVERY TEST HELPS  
US KEEP CATCHING UP  
WITH MATES**

Every test keeps us on top of this virus.

And keeps us doing the things we love.

So even if your symptoms are mild,  
or you've been tested before, every test helps.

**STAY SAFE  
STAY OPEN**

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

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

