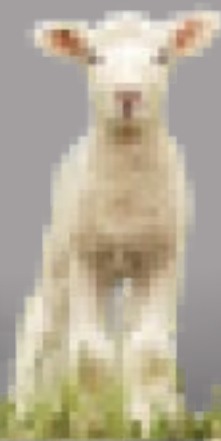


MAY 2021

# Meredith & district News

OUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SINCE 1972



## inside

The PUMPKIN  
BIG



- Managing Rabbits
- We Farewell Gemma
- Jim Conneell Turns 90
- Vale Lorna Bowers

THE RESULTS  
ARE INSIDE



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





## CONNECTING

Councillors & Community Groups

Council has launched a new engagement initiative, Connecting Councillors and Community Groups, as part of the Councillor engagement commitment for 2021.

The meeting program is a valuable opportunity for Councillors to listen and learn more about individual groups in Golden Plains Shire, their work in the local community, and current ideas and challenges for the group. The attending Councillors will also be available to speak directly with members prior to, or following, the meeting and will report back to Council on the group and their engagement experience.

The Expression of Interest process is open until Tuesday 1 June, 2021, with Golden Plains Shire Councillors available to attend community group meetings across the Shire from July to December 2021.

The Expression of Interest is open to local progress associations, community service groups (eg. Lions, Rotary, etc.), interest groups (eg. environmental, Landcare, historical societies, etc.), and community activity groups (eg. Scouts, Probus, CWA, etc.).

The Expression of Interest form is available to complete or download at Council's website: [goldenplains.vic.gov.au](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au). Paper copies of the form are also available at Council's Customer Service Centres at 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn and The Well, 19 Heales Street, Smythesdale.



On Saturday 8 May, join the Golden Plains Shire Councillors in nine townships across the Shire.

At the first Coffee with your Councillors day on 20 February, almost 100 residents met directly with Councillors in Haddon, Ross Creek, Linton, Napoleons, Cape Clear, Meredith, Lethbridge, Teesdale and Inverleigh.

On Saturday 8 May, the next Coffee with your Councillors day will visit the following locations:

**9 to 10.30am:**

- General Store, Main Road, Scarsdale
- Community Hall, 58 Briardale Avenue, Enfield
- Shelford Public Hall, 16 Mercer Street, Shelford

**11am to 12.30pm:**

- Through the Gate Café, 42 Brooke Street, Smythesdale
- Dereel Hall, 14 Swamp Road, Dereel
- Murgheboluc Hall, Hamilton Highway, Murgheboluc

**1.30 to 3pm:**

- Public Hall, Hardies Hill Road, Garibaldi
- Rokewood Memorial Hall, 66 Ferrars Street, Rokewood
- Batesford Community Play Space, Tolloora Way, Batesford

## Councillor CONVERSATION POST

In other Councillor engagement activities, there will also be a Councillor Conversation Post at the Golden Plains Farmers' Market in Bannockburn, from 8.30am to 12.30pm, Saturday 1 May.

These Councillor engagement activities coincide with the feedback period for the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025 and the Draft Council Budget 2021-2022.

For more information on all Councillor engagement programs, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au)

# The VIRUS and us

IT'S ABOUT TIME WE  
ROLLED OUR SLEEVES UP.



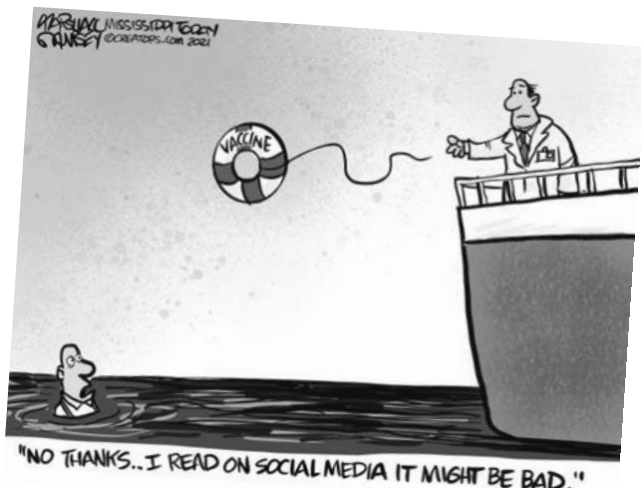
## Getting the Covid Vaccine

Supplementing selected GP clinics, several mass vaccination centres opened last month, including one at the old Ford factory in Norlane and another at the Mercure in Ballarat. If you are eligible, you can just turn up, but to minimise your wait, book an appointment by calling 1800 675 398.

## Eligibility

The Federal Government has commenced Phase 2a of its vaccination program, which includes people 50 years and over. They can receive the AstraZeneca vaccine at General Practice Respiratory Clinics and state and territory vaccination clinics.

It is a dynamic situation, so please stay alert to public announcements. For reliable and up-to-date information, including full details of who is eligible for a vaccination, visit [dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](https://dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus) and follow the links.



# THIS MONTH...

...Gemma says farewell (and we say farewell to Gemma), the Big Pumpkin Report (of course), we learn about Pompey, an historical figure with an athlete's foot in two worlds, a new Doctor in town (it's not what you think) and the many arts of Roz Spierings. Enjoy your read.



## Community

## Meredith Senior Citizens

*Jim Hynds.*

The seniors held their luncheon on Monday 12<sup>th</sup>, April at the recently re-opened Meredith Hotel, which had been closed for a time but refurbished by new owners. Chris and his partner and staff made us extremely welcome. Members placed their orders from a very impressive menu and were certainly not disappointed with the meals which were delivered. Well done, Chris.

After lunch the members settled down to socialize. Sadly, we farewelled Imelda and Shane Ross who are off to greener pastures.

If you are a senior and wish to join us, please contact me or other members.

## OUR COVER

Shaylah, Megan and Frankie did the heavy lifting as judges and recorders for the inaugural Meredith News Big Pumpkin Competition. There's a report on page 12 and thank you Cathie Boer for the photo.



## Meredith Community Centre Inc.

All financial members are warmly invited to the

## Annual General Meeting On

Monday 17th May 2021 at 10.30am  
At 4 Russell St Meredith

If you are passionate about our Community consider nominating for a position on the Committee of Management

Please contact Leah on 53860700 or email [learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au](mailto:learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au)



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 Production: *Peter Boer* 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



# 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
	52207111 OR
	0409 830 223
Bannockburn Vet	0407 811222
	5281 1221
Golden Plains Animal	5281 2226
Pets and Horses 24/7	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

"Wisdom is knowing what to do next; virtue is doing it. ~David Star Jordan"

## Church News



### Meredith Uniting Church

Services have recommenced. 11.00 am 2nd Sunday each month. Enquiries: Rev. Carlyne 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, B'burn with School

Fri. 11am St. Joseph's, Meredith

Sat. 6pm St. John the Baptist, Winchelsea

Sun. 9am St. Mary MacKillop, Bannockburn

Sun. 2/5 and 16/5, 30/5, 11am St. Brigid's, Anakie

Sun. 10/5 and 24/5 11am St. Joseph's, Meredith

#### Pentecost Masses:

Winchelsea St. John the Baptist, Saturday 22/5, 6 pm

Bannockburn St Mary MacKillop 23/5, 9:00 am

Meredith St. Joseph's, Sunday 23/5, 11 am

#### Other Sacraments:

Reconciliation, Anointing, Baptisms, Matrimony, Funerals call: 5286 1230 for details. Sacramental program (Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation): Call for details/ timing/ enrolment.



Cr Helena Kirby

## From the Mayor



After a lot of hard-work and engagement with the community, Council has now released its Draft Council Plan 2021-2025 for public review and feedback.

Every four years, our Councillor group of long-serving and new representatives come together with a mandate from our community to guide the organisation and the services of local government in the right direction. Built on the views and ideas of community members through an extensive engagement process, we are united in our goal to shape a quality four-year strategic plan for Council and the community.

Incorporating the Golden Plains Community Vision 2040 and what we heard during consultation earlier this year, the Draft Council Plan identifies 21 Strategic Objectives with 84 deliverables and specific actions that Council will complete over the next four years.

Council's Draft Budget 2021/22 is also now out for public feedback, as we will hit the ground running later this year on our commitments outlined in the Draft Council Plan.

There are a number of engagement opportunities for community members to provide feedback on both these documents during May, including at our next Coffee with Your Councillors Day on Saturday 8 May. To read the two draft documents and to have your say, visit our website, or look for information in the *Golden Plains Times* and in the *May Gazette*.



Meredith Community Centre  
working for our community

## What's On



### TERM 2

#### Cheese-Making with Narelle

Monday May 24, 10.00 - 2.00 - \$120

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

10 Weeks - Starting 29 April

4.00-5.30pm - \$150 per person

#### Responsible Service of Alcohol

Thursday May 13 - 6.00 - 10.00pm - \$80

#### Art Class with Marita

Saturday June 12 - 9.30 - 12.30 - \$60 - FULL

#### Register Your Interest NOW

Food Safety Supervisor

Food Handlers Certificate



Australian Government

#### Be Connected

Every Australian online.

Drop in Tuesday to ask  
about your Tech!

### WEEKLY EVENTS

#### Tai Chi - \$15 per session

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 - \$10 per session

Wednesdays with Ane - 9.30 - 10.30 am

#### Yoga - \$15 per session

Mondays with Ane - 5:15

Thursdays with Ane - 12:00 - Still Spaces Available

#### PLAYGROUP IS BACK!

Thursdays - 9.30 - 11.30

\$2 per Family

Starts May 13



Join us on Facebook & Instagram

@meredithcommunitycentre



#### OCCASIONAL CARE

SESSION TIMES

MONDAY - 9:15 - 2:15

WEDNESDAY - 9:15 - 2:15

FRIDAY - 9:15 - 2:15

We are operating on a WAITLIST - Register your interest today!



[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



*Kerry Thomson & Amanda Hyatt*

## ROZ SPIERINGS

From the moment you step into Roz Spierings' world you are enveloped by her passion for animals, the natural world and repurposing old materials. Her pastel or pencil drawings adorn the walls of her home and studio whilst numerous 'things' trigger memories and serve as inspiration for her creativity. But it is the connection Roz has with dogs (particularly Border Collies) and horses which shines through in her work.

Many readers who have taken their animals to Bannockburn vet will be familiar with the pastel drawing of "Cluedo" (a Border Collie bred by Roz) which greets you in their reception area. A pastel portrait of a 'Red Kelpie' would have been seen by many when it hung in The Red Dog cafe. These are just two of the numerous animal portraits that Roz has completed either for fun or as commissions for people from all over Victoria.

Roz was born in Sydney and attended kindergarten there but, when her parents returned to Geelong, she began primary school in Geelong then went on to West Tech. Roz remembers two doilies she had as a child which depicted a dog and black horses and these seemed to be a prophecy about her future. As a girl she was always drawing, especially animals, and collecting things. (She showed us a beautiful, accomplished water-colour painting of a mountain scene which she completed as a 12 year-old!)

There were no particular art courses at West Tech but Roz remembers she had a great art teacher in Bob Tantou (father of local teacher, John) who was a big influence on her. He liked her work so much that he kept some of it! In form 3 an art class formed with 5 boys and Roz and every year she topped the class and won the 'Art Award'. From here she went on to study two years of art at The Gordon where she was top in Life Drawing and Natural Drawing but failed at 'The History of Art' (*which was boring!*). She didn't feel that she was actually taught to draw but that it was *'inherent and just part of her'*.

Her life changed direction after this and she began making copper jewellery. Her parents took her to Melbourne to purchase materials for this pursuit, which led to her setting up to sell her creations at markets. But, then she took up a job offer at The Rialto in Collins Street where she put her artistic talents to work as a 'Navigation Chart Corrector' adding tiny lettering, annotations and drawings to charts. This was the late 1960s where her starting wage was \$24 for 5 days and a monthly train ticket cost \$15!

Marriage, two children and a move to Maude led to further changes for Roz. At this stage there were no trees in Maude so she planted lots. When she met her second husband, Bill, they bought 20 acres in Maude and built a house which had an upstairs room with a north-facing window which inspired her to begin collecting pencils and start drawing again. Roz began

doing commissions of horses, dogs and people and has not looked back since. Part of her time at Maude she spent taking people on horse trail rides in a two-wheel jinker through the bush and around Steiglitz (but considers it too dangerous and wouldn't do it now). She now only has one horse which is 30 years old.

Roz and Bill have built and renovated a number of houses and love to re-use/re-purpose old materials. For instance, the floor of her studio came from the old Sutherlands Creek hall. She tutored and exhibited in her studio in Maude called "Corkscrew Glen" but her current studio, "Best Friend Gallery", was where she demonstrated and exhibited in the first Golden Plains Arts Trail. Roz also used to regularly show work at a little gallery in Gordon run by Edward Heffernan who was a strong influence on her art career (He was head of The Gordon at the time). A woman called Barbara Higgins saw her work and asked Roz to exhibit at her Toorak Road Gallery in South Yarra Arcade. Other achievements to her credit include, being asked by Rod Charles to complete a series of tree drawings for an exhibition at The Geelong Performing Arts Centre in 1982, which then went on display at the Forest Commission offices in Bourke Street, Melbourne. Roz also produced a 'Wild animals' exhibition for the gallery in Gordon and illustrated the advertising brochure for Greg Brown of 'Eireannmada' (famous breeder of Irish Setters). Roz also helped set up the Meredith Art Show when it ran some years ago.

Roz works mainly from photographs at home but has done some tutoring at the Meredith Community Centre. She has agreed to do some more tutoring here for the Saturday morning art group, who will no doubt benefit from her passion and skill.



## SMOKIES CHIMNEY SWEEP

For full chimney/Fuel/Fireplace  
and Wood heater maintenance



**NO MESS**

**NO FUSS**

DISCOUNT AVAILABLE

More smoke than heat?

**0414 360 346**



## **Bannockburn Pharmacy Newsletter**

Proprietors: Scott Wilkes & Damian Bennett

6 High Street  
Bannockburn, VIC 3331  
Phone: 5281 1519

### **Be prepared this flu season (Vaccination Clinic)**

We now have the 2021 influenza (flu) vaccines available.

Our pharmacists, Scott, Patti & Tracey are accredited to provide and administer **flu vaccinations** (10 years & older) & **whooping cough** vaccinations in the pharmacy. Our vaccination clinic is open during the following times:

Monday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Tuesday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Wednesday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Thursday: 9:00am - 4:00pm

Friday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

**'AFTER HOURS' flu clinics will be available too. Follow us on Facebook to see when these will be happening.**

Everything is done from start to finish within the pharmacy. It is requirement for your safety that you need to rest in the pharmacy for 15 minutes after your vaccination has been administered so please allow extra time for this.

#### **\* Flu vaccination cost**

- **No prescription is required** from your Doctor

- \$25 (\$15 for the flu vaccination + \$10 for the administration of the vaccine by one of our accredited pharmacists)

- FREE flu vaccine + \$10 for the administration by one of our accredited pharmacists if you fall into one of the following categories:

(i) Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children aged 6 months to <5 years.

(ii) Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander persons aged ≥ 15 years

(iii) All persons ≥ 65 years

(iv) All persons ≥ 6 months who have certain medical conditions which increase the risk of influenza disease complications; for example, severe asthma, lung or heart disease, low immunity or diabetes

(v) Pregnant women

#### **\* Whooping Cough vaccination cost**

- **No prescription is required** from your Doctor

- \$47 (\$37 for the whooping cough vaccine + \$10 for the administration of the vaccine by one of our accredited pharmacists).

- FREE whooping cough vaccine + \$10 for the administration by one of our accredited pharmacists, if you fall into one of the following categories:

(i) pregnant women from 28 weeks gestation during every pregnancy

(ii) partners of women who are at least 28 weeks pregnant if the partner has not received a pertussis booster in the past 10 years

(iii) parents/guardians of babies born on or after 1st June 2015, if their baby is under 6 months of age and they have not received a pertussis booster in the past 10 years.

To secure a time that best suits you we recommend that you make an appointment through the pharmacy. You can either phone the pharmacy on 5281 1519 or you can **bookonline** through our **FaceBook** page <https://www.facebook.com/bannockburnpharmacy/>

You can also just walk in but there may be a wait if someone else is already having a vaccination done.

### **Pharmacy Features:**

- medAdvisor
- **Vaccination Clinic**
- **Glasshouse Fragrances**
- **Circa Home**
- **Ear piercing**
- **Nose piercing**
- Medela (we hire Breastpumps)
- MooGoo
- Roogenic teas
- Natio
- **Designer Brands**
- Sukin Organic Products
- **Diabetes Australia Agency -NDSS**
- **Giftware for all ages**
- **Passport photos**
- Webster-paks
- **Home Medicine Reviews**
- **Free gift wrapping**

### **Trading Hours**

Monday:	8:30am - 6:30pm
Tuesday:	8:30am - 6:30pm
Wednesday:	8:30am - 6:30pm
Thursday:	8:30am - 6:30pm
Friday:	8:30am - 6:30pm
Saturday:	8:30am - 1:00pm
Sunday:	CLOSED

**Vaccination Clinic – flu & whooping cough vaccinations**



## That's all folks

It's almost unbelievable that 7 years ago I sat down to write my first article for *Meredith & District News*. Fresh out of university, I was ecstatic to have a regular outlet for my writing – a monthly opportunity to write creatively about the anxieties, absurdities and wonderful oddities of life. Exposing the strange workings of my brain and (hopefully) making people laugh and relate to these everyday occurrences in the process.

My first article was about being resistant to change. Titled *Resistance is Futile*, I wrote “Changing even the slightest thing in my life takes me months to decide upon and there's no end to the grief I give my family with the constant questions of ‘should I or shouldn't I?’” And while many things have changed over the years (hopefully my writing style, for one), my resistance to change hasn't – hanging up my *Meredith* boots being no exception.

It has been an absolute pleasure to write for *Meredith & District News* and to work with the talented team here. I have truly appreciated the opportunity to contribute to such a quality community newsletter.

From the fear of shopping centre Santas, to the woes of getting a bad haircut, I hope that I've made some of you laugh and contemplate the odd habits that make us human.

While my family and friends may be breathing a sigh of relief that they will no longer be used as material for my articles, I will very much miss the opportunity to overthink the seemingly mundane and offer it up to you in these pages.

Whether you've read all or maybe just a few of my articles over the years, thank you very much for reading *Little Gems*.

*Gemma*

*\*One of Gemma's columns referred to her practice of posting old photos of friends on Facebook to mark their birthdays. So here we return the favour with the photo we used when Gemma first joined us.*

## Have Your Say on Council Plan

The Shire of Golden Plains Council Plan is now on public exhibition and you are invited to provide feedback. Visit [www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au](http://www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au) and follow the links.

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

## ...and a Thank You from Us

In the seventy plus columns Gemma has written for us, she has shared her encounters with the absurdities, frustrations and curiosities of life as a young woman. Her reflections often drew an “...oh yes, I know that feeling!” ...and always a smile.

On behalf of all our readers, we extend a very sincere thank you Gemma for your entertaining musings, and wish you well in all your endeavours. And may you - as you have taught us - keep that ability to make light of life's little tripping points. - Ed.

Finally, here's a few of the “Little Gems” that made her column sparkle. - Ed.

On her very *ungreen* thumbs: “It was so green and young. So full of promise and possibilities. Blooming happily out of its trendy rose-gold pot, I held it in my hands and thought you're not going to make it to the end of the week.”

On baking, *a hobby that fails without fail every time*:

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

On the changing significance of birthdays:

“What once felt like it took eons to roll around, birthdays come thicker and faster the older you get. They sneak up on you amongst the car registration renewals, tax time and Christmases.”

And more on her passage to becoming a real adult:

“8pm is too late to start a movie.”

“Coffee stains on teeth is now a legitimate fear.”

“Items that I used to have when I was a child are now being sold at ‘vintage’ markets with eyewatering price tags.”

Reflecting on an old typewriter, purchased in a fit of nostalgia:

“I gingerly tapped the four keys ‘HELLO’. It worked! It certainly isn't a trendy colour, and it weighs about a quarter of my body weight, but I'd like to see my old laptop do that after 55 years.”

On her DIY efforts (which she re-defined as *Destroy It Yourself*) -

“I've always been a fan of DIY projects. Whether it's darned my own stockings (because apparently I live in the early 1900s)...”



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**

**easyanddelis**



## **Chicken & Leek Strudel**

**Prep & cook time 1 hour + cooling/  
standing**

**Serves 8**

### **Ingredients**

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 medium brown onion, chopped  
finely
- 1 medium leek, white part only,  
sliced thinly
- 1 large carrot chopped finely
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 500g chicken thigh fillets, chopped  
finely
- 2 tablespoons plain flour
- 1 1/4 cups pouring cream
- 8 sheets filo pastry
- 80g butter, melted
- 1/3 cup ground almonds

### **Method**

Heat oil in large frying pan. Cook onion, leek, carrot and garlic, stirring until carrot softens. Add chicken, cook stirring until browned. Add flour, cook stirring for 1 minute. Gradually stir in cream, cook stirring until mixture boils and thickens. Season to taste. Cool.

Preheat oven to 200 degrees.

Line a large oven tray with baking paper. Brush one pastry sheet with melted butter sprinkle with a little of the almonds. Layer with remaining pastry, melted butter and almonds, ending with a pastry sheet.

Spoon chicken mixture along one long side of pastry, leaving a 5cm border on each side. Roll to enclose filling, fold in sides, roll up. Transfer roll to tray, brush with butter. Bake about 25 minutes or until browned. Stand strudel on tray 5 minutes before serving.

*Recipe from The Australian Women's  
Weekly Pies Sweet & Savoury*

*Stefania*



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## Moya Caps off her Career

Meredith resident Moya Elvey was awarded her PhD last month for a thesis based on her research into inclusive education practices. Moya has taught at Federation and Deakin Universities over the last seven years, but also spent 25 years at Meredith Primary School as part of her 35 year career as a primary school teacher. This provided a sound practical base for training the next generation of teachers.

Congratulations Doctor Elvey.



## The Big Pumpkin

There were pumpkins galore arriving by car, wheelbarrow and trolley! It was an amazing sight as locals, and some from further afield, brought their giant pumpkins for weighing and measuring.

An idea from Steve Duffy last year for a Meredith District Newsletter Giant Pumpkin Challenge started with Steve procuring packets of seed and distributing them through the Meredith Primary School Pantry. You may also have read his growing tips over the months and by the number and size of the pumpkins, it was excellent advice.

Some of our grade 5 and 6 students, Elijah, Frankie, Max, Megan, Michael and Shaylah, set up the area ready to receive the pumpkins. After greeting the growers, they labelled, measured and weighed the pumpkins before displaying them. It was truly a superb array and there were many admiring comments and trading of growing secrets.

Many thanks to the Meredith Newsletter Committee for sponsoring the event and providing the seeds and prizes. Thank you also to the Primary School for hosting, Steven Trotter for co-ordinating and initial planning with Steve, Fairlie Pritchard for making the certificates and Judith Wood for her help on the day and with publicity.

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When the seeds went out we had no idea how many pumpkins would eventuate. As we all know, gardening is a tricky business and there are failures along with the many successes. Big thanks to all the growers who responded so enthusiastically and supported this first challenge. Judging by the many positive responses, it will be on the calendar again next year by popular demand so, be ready for those seeds in October.

*Hiding her light under a pumpkin leaf, is Rosemary Gargan, who played an important role in the inaugural pumpkin challenge. Her efforts contributed much to the success of the event. We also thank Steve Duffy and Steve Trotter The former for the idea and enthusiasm in getting it started, the second for willingly allowing the school to act as Pumpkin Central. Meredith News is delighted to have supported this community initiative. - Ed.*

## And the Winners Are...

BIGGEST (child category) - 146cm - Gracie  
BIGGEST (adult category) - 142cm - Bert  
HEAVIEST (child) - 26.3 kg - Will  
HEAVIEST (adult) - 35.2 Kg - Jo  
SMALLEST - 30cm - Lulu  
BRIGHTEST Coloured - Tom  
MOST UNUSUAL SHAPE - Martin  
MOST ATTRACTIVE - Sue



THERE'S YOUR CHALLENGE FOR NEXT YEAR!

*If you are not yet pumpkined out, there's a soup recipe on p. 22.*

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## Golf Reunion

Marg Cooper

It was just like sitting around the table at Meredith Golf Club on a Tuesday after playing a round when about 23 golfers and former golfers gathered on April 13 at Red Dog Café in Bannockburn for lunch. The friendship and camaraderie were just the same. Many stories were told:

Cheryl recalled how she and her brother, Daryl Musgrove, and two children of Nellie and Jock Tucker played around the old clubhouse together while their parents played a round of golf. They had a great time climbing the pine trees, scrabbling in the pine needles, hunting for mushrooms and using the ball washer.

Doreen Dunsmuir started playing golf at Meredith in 1961, enjoying really good times in the old clubhouse. One very hot day Doreen and Molly Lowne didn't play but instead went to the local hotel and bought a dozen bottles of ice cold beer. When Henry Bolte finished his round they gave him a bottle and he reckoned it was the best thing to happen all that day as he had played a shocking round!

Elaine Stanley started playing in 1967. Her memories of the clubhouse included that it has a bark floor, cold water in the wash rooms, and a lovely open fire. She also remembered that Molly Lowne and Mavis Parkinson gave her a lesson on golf etiquette on her first day.

Betty Morgan fondly remembered huge tournament days when soup was served after 9 holes then T bone steaks,

salads and sweets for lunch. Many visitors came from far and wide, including from Melbourne, to compete.

Marj Bayard started in the early 1980's and is forever grateful that the A graders were kind enough to teach her both how to play as well as the etiquette of golf. She remembers when Dame Edith fell down the ramp and skinned her shins and that her stockings stuck to her legs with blood.

Lyn Blake was Captain when Meredith hosted the Sand Green Championships of Victoria for women. Meredith Associates attended many of these events all over Victoria including Dunkeld, Myrtleford, St Arnaud and Kialla. Many tales of high jinx on these trips were told; including sewing Anne Parkinson's pyjama crutch up, putting a condom on the handle of Nancy O'Brien's putter and short-sheeting Grace East's bed.

Gayle Dempsey told how she was taught how to make a sponge cake by some experts at the club and that when making sandwiches she was told to spread the butter to the edges and don't scrimp on the fillings.

May Barnett remembered how they were berated for walking off the course during a championship final although there was a storm with lightning and thunder.

Nancy O'Brien remembered her years of being the Catering Officer and of the sketches the ladies would perform at end of year at the dinners. (Most memorable of which were *Snow White* and *the Seven Dwarfs* and singing *No Balls at All!*)

It was suggested that another reunion be held.



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## Landcare News

### Bamganie-Meredith



#### Rabbit Management Workshop

The Bamganie-Meredith Landcare Group held a Rabbit Management Workshop on Saturday 10 April. The aim of the workshop was to help landowners develop an effective and integrated approach to controlling rabbits. The workshop was led by Geoff McFarlane and Tim Bloomfield from the Victorian Rabbit Action Network. The overwhelming take-home messages of the day was the importance of using a combined and coordinated approach if rabbit populations are to be effectively managed. It is vitally important to destroy rabbit harbours and warrens as well as reduce rabbit numbers through baiting or other

means. Warrens provide a safe harbour for rabbits to breed; the removal of rabbits from a site without destroying warrens and other protective habitat such as gorse or boxthorn will only encourage new rabbit colonies to move into the site. Other factors to consider when developing an effective rabbit control program

include identifying and monitoring rabbit numbers, and targeting the different control methods to times when they will be most effective. More information about developing effective rabbit management programs as well as other resources are available on the Victorian Rabbit Action Network site <https://vran.com.au/>.

#### RabbitScan – Recording Rabbit Activity

Key to developing an effective control program is assessing rabbit activity not only on individual properties but across the district (unfortunately rabbit movement is not constrained by property boundaries!). It is also important to monitor the effectiveness of any control measures undertaken. One way to do this is using the RabbitScan App. RabbitScan is a free community website and smartphone App that has been designed to help community members, pest controllers and biosecurity groups monitor and manage rabbit problems animals. Anyone can use RabbitScan to record observations, map warren locations, upload photos, record control activities,

and develop a detailed map of rabbit activity in their local area.

Information about rabbit numbers, sightings etc recorded in RabbitScan can be used to coordinate control activities, and people who use RabbitScan can also connect to local groups, and access resources like the ‘Glovebox Guide for Managing Rabbits’ [feralscan.org.au/rabbitscan/pagecontent.aspx?page=rabbit\\_gloveboxguide](https://feralscan.org.au/rabbitscan/pagecontent.aspx?page=rabbit_gloveboxguide).

RabbitScan is part of FeralScan, and is managed by the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS).

#### How to get started using RabbitScan

RabbitScan consists of a website ([www.rabbitscan.org.au](http://www.rabbitscan.org.au)) and smartphone App that can be used to record rabbit activity and impacts of control activities.

We encourage people to Login or Register as a new user (only once for all species) prior to recording observations of rabbits, and to read through any available instructions

including *How to use the RabbitScan website, and How to use the RabbitScan App.*

The App is very user-friendly, and is available to download free-of charge from the Apple store or Google playstore. Information entered using the App can be viewed on the RabbitScan website map.

The FeralScan/RabbitScan

coordinator (Peter West – NSW DPI) can assist people with creating a new account, logging in, recording pest activity, using the App, using the online map, or setting up a facility for a community group.

To find out more, email [feralscan@feralscan.org.au](mailto:feralscan@feralscan.org.au) or phone Peter West on 0407 622 191.

#### Bambra and Yan Yean Gurt West Farm Tour

Places are still available for the guided tour of the Bambra Agroforestry Farm and Yan Yean Gurt West Farm on Saturday in 8 May 2021. (10am to 4pm) More information about the Bambra Agroforestry farm and Yan Yean Gurt West can be found at [www.agroforestry.net.au/](http://www.agroforestry.net.au/)

If you would like to join us please email [meredithlandcare@gmail.com](mailto:meredithlandcare@gmail.com) or phone Maddy (0424754179) or Nerida (0409 335 693).

*For more information about the Bamganie Meredith Landcare Group including meeting dates see our Facebook page or contact us at [meredithlandcare@gmail.com](mailto:meredithlandcare@gmail.com).*





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Last summer, my family camped near Bright, in a clearing beside a creek. During the day, the surrounding bush was filled with small birds hopping through the shrubs, flying between tall gum trees and wattles, calling as they fed. Lizards basked on rocks beside the creek, while dragonflies flew among the rushes. These animals retreated from our view in the evening, to be replaced by the night creatures. Near the creek, a pair of mountain brushtail possums called from a blackwood tree, while bats flitted above the creek, hunting insects. Some of the insects were attracted to our light. I found moths, some with black and bright orange-red wings, while others were small and plain with narrow wings, but antennae extending two or three times the length of their body. There were also crane flies, which were exceptionally large and appeared clumsy as they landed on the wooden table. In the morning, I found several stuck in disused spiderwebs beneath the table. As I was depriving nothing of its meal, I untangled their very long legs and wings, and they flew slowly away.

Crane flies look like big mosquitoes, but their single pair of wings are usually held out sideways, rather than lying along their back. Behind the wings, sticking out from the body, are two short stalks with knobs on the ends. These are called halteres and help with balance and orientation during flight. Unlike mosquitoes, crane flies are harmless. Their short antennae can be mistaken for a mosquito's piercing mouthparts, but crane flies do not bite or suck blood, do not make annoying whining sounds and do not spread diseases. Some species of adult crane flies feed on nectar, but many do not feed at all, living for only a few days or weeks. Their purpose is to create the next generation before they die.

While the large crane flies generally looked gangly and clumsy, they could be amazingly graceful. The next night was warm, so the large tent window was open. I fell asleep with the view of a tall manna gum, its top surrounded by stars. I woke at dawn as the stars were fading, and watched the top of the tree turn orange in the sun's first light. Between the tent and the creek, many crane flies appeared and began dancing. Each insect flew repeatedly upwards, then back down, its long legs all together, trailing beneath it. I admired the beauty of the group and thought this must be a courtship dance, but later research has provided no explanation for their performance.

This adult stage is the shortest portion of the insects' life. They mate and the female lays her eggs in rotting organic matter. When they

hatch, the larvae look like grubs with tough grey or brown skin. They help to break down the organic matter by eating it, and also feed on plant roots. They can live underground for as long as a year, before they pupate and emerge from the soil, transformed into adults.

Back home, I continued to watch crane flies. Most of them were brown and far smaller than the ones I had seen near Bright. It was not uncommon to find them wrapped in silk in a spider's web. For several weeks each year, they are a food source for birds, spiders and other insectivores. Late one afternoon, I saw a crane fly that was as eye-catching as those I had seen while camping. It was not quite as large, but as it flew past, I could see that the colours on its body included black and yellow. A few days later, I found one caught lightly in a spider's web. I had a chance to look at it closely and photograph it, before it freed itself and flew away. Its body was patterned in white, black and yellow. Its extremely long legs were black, as were its eyes and a bulge on its thorax, close to where its wings attached. These were long and see-through, tinted slightly brown, with thick veins of dark brown, like the lead lighting on a stained-glass window. Its antennae were very short and fine with narrow bands of black and white. I put the photographs on iNaturalist, where it was identified by the scientific name of *Leptotarsus clavatus*, but no common name was given. Online research provided general information about crane flies, but little information about this species. I learnt that this colourful crane fly is indigenous to eastern Australia, and that it was first described scientifically in 1850. There was no information about its habits or environment. Like so many small things in nature, little is known about it.

The weather is turning cold now, and insects are fewer. I won't see any more crane flies until next summer. I hope to see *Leptotarsus clavatus* again, and have a chance to watch its behaviour, as well as the habits of the smaller, plainer crane flies. Perhaps you could look out for them too. When little is known about a group of animals, any observant person has a chance to make a new scientific discovery

*The mosquito-like Crane Fly, Leptotarsus clavatus*





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## Connecting Meredith

*I am only one, but still I am one, I cannot doing everything, but I can still do something. - E Everett*

Yes, it is probably true, on some level that the idea of giving your time and energy to a cause without financial reward may seem an impossible task and you may even wonder why would I?

I mean, how can we fit anything else into our already jam-packed schedules? However, volunteering is important for many reasons and does not have to take up too much time. And, in fact, the benefits of volunteering I feel are vast and certainly make up for any time lost watching TV or scrolling social media!

*Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, but they have the heart. - E Andrews.*

So why? Well, you get to explore interests, meet new friends, become healthier, strengthen your community, learn new skills, do good and become happier.

In short, help make your community a better place and all will benefit.

During 2020, maybe you were feeling lonely, isolated, that work dominated your life and maybe realised you needed to widen your social circle, then why not get involved in our community or if you have recently moved to Meredith, community involvement is an easy way to meet new people, and it also strengthens your ties to our local community and broadens your support network.

Getting involved connects you to people who have common interests and passions and who could go on to become great friends. This I can write from personal experience, new friends, new interests, and some unexpected doors opening up as a result of just putting my hand up to assist with a town project.

*No act of kindness, no matter how small is ever wasted. - Aesop*

Do not kid yourself - you are needed to build our community ... Depending on where you decide to focus, you will make a real difference in the lives of those who the group serves. Your own life will widen, deepen and be full of laughter (or you are doing something wrong) Believe it or not by giving of your time for a good cause it does wonders for your physical and mental health. Your stress levels are reduced, and your mood improves.

It is amazing also the new skills you learn by getting involved, and it is fantastic to discover hidden talent and

passion that you can share, which directly improves your self-confidence.

Thought – Does, by being a resident of Meredith mean at some level we all have a social responsibility to our community? At some level should we all invest in building a resilient community – community being you, me and well Us.

*“You can’t stay in your corner of the Forest waiting for others to come to you. You have to go to them sometimes.” - Winnie the Pooh*

Everyone one of us can make a difference. Do not underestimate your potential.

No matter how small your steps are, you have the potential to make a big difference!

If you’ve been thinking of stepping out into the community, then 2021 is a good year take those first steps, there are many exciting projects being planned for Meredith. Check out <https://www.meredithcommunitycentre.com.au/business-directory/> and the local newsletter for more details.

*If the person you are talking to doesn’t appear to be listening, be patient. It may simply be that he has a small piece of fluff in his ear.” - Winnie the Pooh*





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## In the School Garden

There is plenty to report from our school garden from last month and lots to look forward to in May. April is often a time of change: tomato plants are coming out along with basil, capsicum and other summer crops. However, this year, with the extra summer rain and cooler temperatures, the plants are hanging on. A large crop of ripe tomatoes was harvested over the school holidays and in the absence of any students to feed, were made into relish. They are continuing to slowly ripen, however, we will have quite a few green ones to use.

The senior students are taking part in the **OzHarvest program** which aims to use food that would otherwise be thrown out. Food waste is a huge part of our lives. What to do with that bent carrot and that sad looking parsley at the bottom of the fridge? What about the potatoes starting to sprout or the apples with marked skins like we have on our wonderful old apple tree? What to do with the green tomatoes that won't ripen now? There are many different answers to these questions. Some depend on the time we have available or the knowledge and motivation we have. Mrs Daglas and the Grade 5/6 students have a wonderful journey ahead of them supported by OzHarvest. Vegetables past their prime have a wonderful place in a pot of soup, those spotty apples, once peeled, are perfectly good and can be eaten fresh or cooked to use in crumbles. Look forward to some tips and tricks in the coming months.

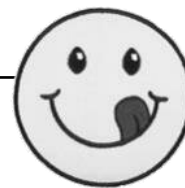
**The Prep/One broad bean story** continues - the children did a wonderful job checking daily on their seeds, enjoying watching them sprout and making sure they didn't dry out. The sprouted seeds were big enough to be potted up over the holidays and have been kept outside in a protected spot ready to go out into our garden. In May, while the soil still has some warmth in it but the hot weather has gone, is a perfect time.

Our next project is the **garlic**. We have bulbs saved from the year before last, after the interruption to our gardening last year, and these will go in early this month. We have also been gifted a huge garlic bulb from a local garden so we will try this out as well. Cloves go in at about twice their depth and then there is no further work involved. They will sprout very soon and reward you with an excellent crop about November - who doesn't love some garlic and herb bread?

The colder weather is also the time to continue planting **broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and kale**. **Peas**, both bush and climbing, can go in now and are particularly wonderful, as a freshly picked and podded pea is a wondrous taste. These are best planted directly into the garden as seeds.

Late last month also saw the culmination of the Meredith District Newsletter's **Giant Pumpkin Challenge**. It was a wonderful occasion that the school was happy to host. The senior students were there to greet the growers and assist them with the produce. They named, weighed, measured and displayed the pumpkins and joined in the festivities. There were plenty of amazed and admiring looks as the pumpkins were wheeled in and you can read a more detailed account about it elsewhere in this newsletter.

With all the pumpkins in the district, it might be the right time to have a pumpkin soup recipe. Pumpkin soups are great for using up all sorts of vegetables apart from pumpkin and also respond well to a touch of spice.



### Basic Pumpkin Soup

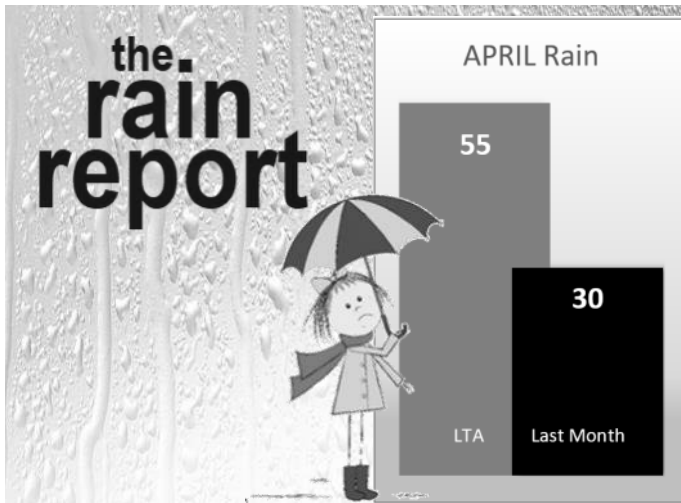
**Ingredients:** 1 onion, peeled and chopped \*  
2 tbsp oil \* 500g pumpkin, peeled and  
chopped into chunks \* 450 ml stock \* salt  
and pepper

**Method:** Sauté the chopped onion in the oil on a medium heat, add the pumpkin and stock and simmer till the pumpkin is cooked. Mash or blend, add salt and pepper to taste.

### Variations

- *Vary the amount of pumpkin according to how many people are going to enjoy it with you - use enough stock to nearly cover the pumpkin, and a bigger pot.*
- *Add that old carrot from the bottom of the fridge.*
- *Add a peeled and chopped apple for a touch of sweetness (it could be the one that has been uneaten at school and come home in the lunchbox)*
- *Add a chopped tomato, maybe it's a bit over ripe or part of one leftover from a sandwich or salad*
- *If you like a touch of heat, add some chilli flakes or powder, or rinse out the last little bit in your relish jar.*
- *Stir in a couple of spoons of cream or yoghurt before serving and sprinkle with some chopped parsley.*
- *Any leftovers can be easily frozen for later.*
- *When you next roast some vegetables, do extra and use these in the soup. It will need a little more stock and won't take as long as the vegetables are already cooked. A combination of pumpkin, sweet potato and carrot is delicious.*





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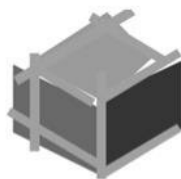
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## Vale to Lorna Dorothy Bowers

21/5/1924 – 5/3/2021.

Lorna was the sixth child of Robert and Betsy Shearer. Her siblings were Ruby, Bel, Clarice, Bert, Ida and Keith. The family moved from Bolwarrah to Scotsburn in 1926 where they grew potatoes and ran a dairy. She attended Scotsburn State School before attending Ballarat High School until she contracted rheumatic fever in her teenage years. Following a convalescent period and being reluctant to return to school, Lorna commenced her working life at Lucas & Co Clothing Factory in Ballarat as a machinist until she married. This was a craft that Lorna used everyday of her life.

Lorna met Archie Bowers at a WW11 woolshed fundraising dance for the Red Cross near Clarendon. They married on May 24, 1947 at Holy Trinity Church of England in Buninyong with Lorna designing and making her own wedding dress. Lorna became an active parishioner at St Alban's Church of England at Elaine and was involved in activities and Sunday School until it closed.

Marilyn, Lorraine and Betty completed the Bowers family who correspondingly married Russell Lockhart, Mick Kupresanin and Roy Kahle. These three families produced nine grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

For Lorna, being a farmer's daughter and wife, she was used to hard work. She assisted in the shearing shed whilst also going back and forward to the house cooking meals for the shearers, she helped with droving, dipping and lambing and all other farming activities. Delicious home cooking was a quality Lorna excelled in and after she attended cake decorating classes, she made and decorated cakes for special occasions for family and friends.

Lorna enjoyed many sports and in her 50's she joined the Meredith Golf Club. Golf became a big part of her social life and brought successes she was very proud of. During school holidays she introduced three of her grandsons to golf by taking them to Meredith. They embraced the game and continue to play.

Life was not always easy for Lorna as she suffered some health issues. She severed a piece of her index finger while volunteering at school canteen and she received a serious knock to her knee while penning sheep and had to have a knee reconstruction.

In 2013 after years of hard work, age and deteriorating health, Lorna and Archie were forced to sell the farm and retire at the ages of 88 and 89 to Geelong, to be closer to Lorraine and Betty. In December 2017 Lorna made the hard decision to relinquish her independent living and move to Kalkee-Murray Aged Care in Belmont.

Lorna lived an amazing and full life. She always put everybody else's needs first and never liked to upset anyone. Sadly, Lorna suffered some debilitating health issues over the past ten years (including hearing loss) but she kept busy doing crosswords and colouring.

Her family were amazed by the intricacy and attention to detail she displayed in her new hobby. Lorna had an incredible life!



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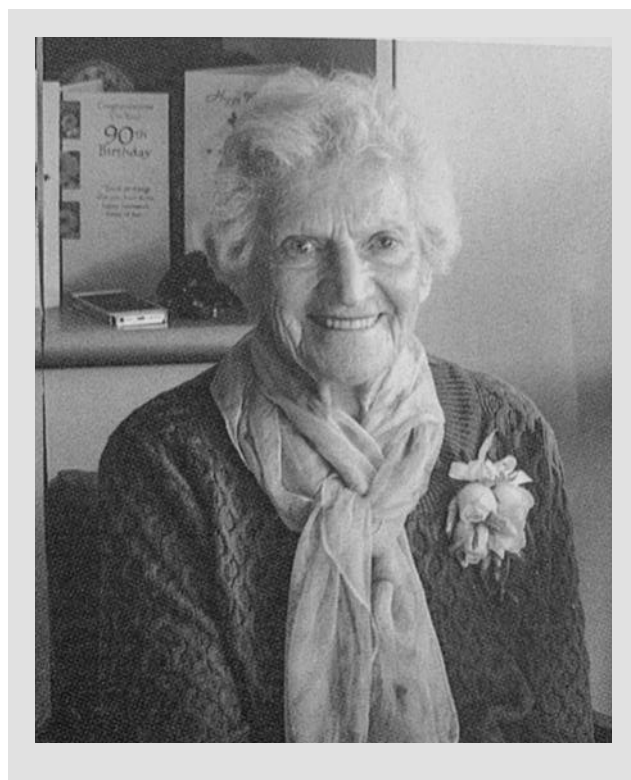
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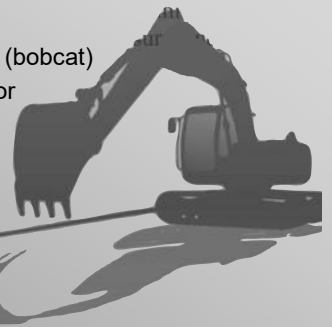
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## Marg's BOOK REVIEW

### Saving St Brigids by Regina Lane

The Ireland of the late 1840's descended into famine which would last at least four years and result in the death of some one million people. Another million boarded the *coffin ships* praying to reach their destinations. Those who came to Port Fairy, Killarney, Crossley and Koroit areas were from some of the worst affected areas in Ireland. They came in desperation with little but a will to survive.

*They built themselves a new Ireland in the South....  
It's as like the original as the beautiful clime will permit...  
Killarney looks like an Irish village picked up and dumped here...*

*The stone walls along the road, the boxthorn hedges, the squat little houses right on the road, all whitewashed and made of big stones, the capped and shawled old women sitting at the door, and the pleasant jovial brogue of Tipperary and Cork.*

*Nathan Spielvogel, 1913.*

They brought their Roman Catholic faith and they built churches which became the centre of their communities.

In 2009, against the wishes of the local community, the Catholic Church listed St Brigid's (the grand old red brick church at the top of the hill at Crossley) up for sale.. The church faithful were told by the local priest that it was no use protesting, '*the Church is not a democracy. I am the power here*'. What began as a small local issue soon became national news in a battle that went all the way to Rome.

This book, written by Regina Lane the daughter of a faithful family of the district, is a truly unique story of a small Australian rural community who, in the spirit of their Irish rebel ancestors, stood up for what they believed in. At that time Regina was working for the church as a social-justice worker advocating for rights for refugees and Aborigines. It seemed ironic that while she was *advocating out in the world* the very foundation, where she grew up and learnt those values, was being taken away from her.

The fight to save the church awakens the community to the richness of their Catholic culture, their Irish and Indigenous heritage and the importance of retaining their community. Their fight is strong but exhausting. They seem to continually hit brick walls dealing with a complacent church hierarchy. It raises big questions about power, justice and the spirit of the place.

The author explains how Crossley, Killarney and Koroit are not the places they used to be: no longer is three quarters of the population Catholic, no longer does everyone grow potatoes and have eight or nine children and no longer do they live in little houses which face the highway. But with the corner store closed, the local pub gone and St Brigid's doors locked, the community had less opportunity to gather than in 150 years of its white history. St Brigid's was needed by the community.

It was mooted that the church become an Australian-Irish cultural and historical centre. For those who won't read the book the committee had to buy the church which was a very brave move for a committee to do. Such was their belief that St Brigid's had to be saved.

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## Elaine Stalwart Turns 90

*Marg Cooper*

In his 90 years James Gordon Connell has amassed an amazing history of service to his hometown of Elaine so the town is celebrating his birthday (and this service) by giving him a party on May 1 at the Elaine Mechanics Hall at 2 pm.

James (Jim) was born on 30/4/1931. The Connell family lived on *Larundel* and the children Ian, Jim and Mavis went to Cargerie State School. When that school closed they rode their bikes to Woodburn State School before the family moved to Elaine in 1942. Jim could never wag school at Elaine because the house they bought was over the road from the school!

The school bus to Ballarat schools began service in 1945 and Jim was one of the first passengers. He attended Ballarat Junior Tech. before starting a Fitting and Turning apprenticeship at Ronaldson and Tippet on 12 January, 1948. He just walked in and applied, beginning with 11 other apprentices. He completed a 5-year apprenticeship which included making engines and wool presses. Working with a beaut lot of blokes (over 600 were employed there) Jim had to retire in 1971 when the factory closed. His first-year wage was £1/5/5 out of which he had to pay board and a bus fare home and back at weekends.

After leaving the factory Jim returned to Elaine. He had acquired a few acres of ground scattered all around Elaine on which he ran merino sheep and he did a bit of rousing in shearing sheds. Later he bought a Bedford truck and, in about 1972, had Jim Cole at Meredith Engineering make a steel crate and a bulk bin to fit. He retired in 2000 when he had a hip replacement operation!

Jim played football for Elaine and North Ballarat. He reckons that he was handy as a half-back flanker but the teams he played with didn't win many games. Cricket seemed to be his game although he believes he only made up the numbers. He played for 40 years, was Secretary for 32 years and has a cricket ball on a stand that celebrates when he took 8 wickets (including a hat-trick) for 34 runs on 25 January, 1964. Jim also played tennis for Elaine in the Mooney Cup Association and represented them at Country Week. He remembers travelling to Morrison, Maude, Anakie, Ballan and Mt Wallace to play table tennis and remembers great battles with Charlie Osborne when they played each other.

As well as representing Elaine in sport Jim has served on most committees in Elaine. He has been a Fire Brigade member for over 65 years and has a photo of an ex-CFA Ford truck he bought for £51. On 'bad fire weather' days he put a firefighting unit on the truck ready to head out to fight fires. He has been a member of the Mechanics Hall Committee for over 60 years and had the honour of cutting the ribbon at

the 100-year celebrations. As well, Jim has served on the Recreation Reserve Committee for over 50 years, been Chairman of the Clarendon Cemetery Trust for over 12 years and, for 20 odd years, he has been a member of the Ballarat Engine and Machinery Preservation Society.

Jim has always had an interest in horses. He has been a member of Ballarat Trotting Club since 1951: owning horses and followed horse racing, particularly trotters. In 1974 he joined the Harness Racing Travel Club and for the next 46 years went on a holiday each year around Australia and New Zealand to the Inter Dominion. On these trips he climbed the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Ayers Rock. In 1974 he bought a blue leather jacket for his first trip which he might even wear to his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party!



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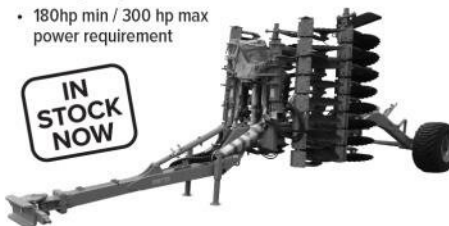
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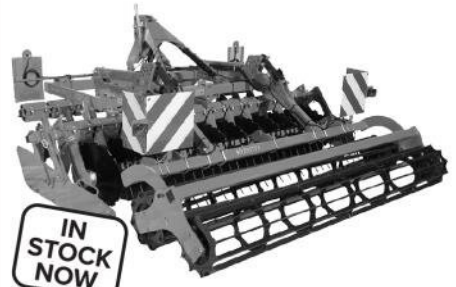
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## Local Heroes

*Roy Hay*

Local heroes come in all forms. Some remain icons long after their deaths, others drift out of public consciousness. A few are rediscovered and granted posthumous recognition. One who deserves to be better known today is Porne Yarriworri, or Albert ‘Pompey’ Austin, an incredible multi-talented Djab Wurrung Aboriginal man from Framlingham, near Warrnambool. In his short life he was best known as an athlete, a brilliant hurdler and flat racer in the mid-nineteenth century, but he was also a cricketer, footballer, possibly a boxer, racehorse owner and jockey, horse thief, artist, explorer, entertainer, musician and public speaker. This is an extraordinary life when you consider that the invasion of the Western District of Victoria only began in 1834 and the destruction of Indigenous life that followed was swift and brutal.

Pompey won every race in which he competed, over hurdles and on the flat, at the Geelong Friendly Societies meeting in 1872. A couple of months later he took part in Corio Cricket Club sports where he was much less successful, but the next day he turned out for the Geelong Football Club against Carlton and thus became the only Indigenous Victorian to play football at the top level in Victoria in the nineteenth century. Since then, there have only been forty more, though this year’s top AFL draft pick, Jamara Ugle-Hagen, now with the Bulldogs, also grew up in Framlingham. Nearly all of the Indigenous players today come from the Noongar in Western Australia, the Tiwi Islands and the Northern Territory, not Victoria.

That game for Geelong was the only one Pompey was able to play at the top level, but subsequently he played for teams in Ballarat, Cobden and back at Framlingham. The Victorian Football Association and its successors regularly turned down requests from Indigenous teams to play matches against metropolitan clubs. The Board for the Protection of Aborigines also stopped individuals playing, so Dick Rowan was refused permission to play with South Melbourne in 1892.

As a cricketer Pompey played regularly with Framlingham and a report on a match with a Warrnambool team rediscovered by historian Jan Critchett, is where we find his Indigenous name. There was some talk that some Indigenous cricketers from Framlingham might be included in a Warrnambool 22 to take on W.G. Grace’s English tourists in January 1874. This did not happen, but Pompey was off on the running circuit and would have missed out anyway.

Many people refer to Pompey as a boxer and one of the few extant photographs of the man has him in a boxing pose, but I’ve been unable to find details of any bout in which he was involved. Though he nearly came to blows with a publican in the Kimberley when he accompanied William O’Donnell and his party on a search for gold in 1886. Pompey was an accomplished tracker and O’Donnell named a rocky outcrop near the modern Argyle diamond mine, Pompey’s Pillar, as they explored the route from Wyndham to the goldfields at Hall’s Creek.

Getting around Victoria in the mid-nineteenth century was difficult. A horse was vital. Pompey seems to have used

some of his winnings from running to buy one on which he won a hurdle race riding it himself. On other occasions he ‘borrowed’ horses and saddles and hence fell foul of the law and spent some time in prison.

He was an accomplished public speaker, haranguing a crowd in Ballarat in 1888 about the political situation and the prospects for war. When this did not bring in the expected contributions, he spotted some Scots in his audience and broke into Scottish songs and extolled the beauties of the Scottish countryside, whereupon the money rolled in. He took one of his artistic works to a Warrnambool newspaper which elicited a brief notice. Perhaps today it would have received more appreciation. In his lifetime both Ballarat and Geelong wanted to claim him as one of their own.

Long after his death people remembered Pompey and one of his sons and a grandson carried the Pompey name into the next generations. Next May 2022, will be the 150th anniversary of Pompey’s game with Geelong Football Club. That is something we should celebrate, and I understand that preparations are under way to do so. It would be very welcome to have this extraordinary man better known for his amazing life and exploits. He was not involved in formal politics, but his whole life was a statement that black lives matter.



*Albert ‘Pompey’ Austin in 1880.  
Source: Public Record Office of Victoria*

*Roy Hay lives in Bannockburn and is an Honorary Fellow at Deakin University. He is the author of several books, including “Albert ‘Pompey’ Austin: A man between two worlds.”*



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## it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

### Annual Meeting

The re-scheduled annual meeting was held on Sunday, April 18 at the Soldiers Memorial Hall. Office-bearers elected were: President: Marg Cooper. Vice President: Tony Scott. Secretary: Kerrie Kruger. Committee: Jan McDonald, Paul Ryan, Bev Loveday, Fay McFarlane, Alan Caddy. The Treasurer, Heather East, reported on the finances and Marg Cooper reported on the activities during the past year.

Cameron Steele then spoke and presented photos of his research into the history and the present state of the Moorabool River. He is a member of PALM-*People for a Living Moorabool*, a group who are lobbying for improved environmental flows of water as it is believed to be the most compromised river in Victoria!

### Mounted Constable John Searle

Recently a grandson of this former policeman who was stationed at Meredith from 1915 -1922 visited the History Centre to learn more about his grandfather's time in Meredith. John Searle was 5 foot 9 inches tall, 10 stone 10 pounds in weight, had grey eyes, fair hair, fair complexion and was Presbyterian. Two of his daughters enrolled at Meredith State School in 1915 and he opened a bank account in 1915. He was on the local recruiting committee encouraging men to enlist for WW1. Constable Searle was also an active community member as Captain of the Fire Brigade, member of the Football Club Committee, Masonic Lodge Master in 1920 and a champion rifleman. Tragically, his daughter Isabella drowned in the underground tank at the Royal Hotel in 1917 and another daughter was saved from drowning in the Moorabool River in 1919. He retired from the police force in 1942 at 60 years of age.

### Yorktown:

On Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> of April "Meredith History Interest Group" left Meredith in a convoy heading up the Meredith Mount Mercer road turning left into Dean's road heading to Stray's property. Mrs & Mr Stray greeted us at the gate and took us down to the first mine, "Duke of York". The Duke of York mine was registered on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 1901 on a 29 ac. Lease and the shaft was 187 meters deep. Now there is a big tree growing right over the shaft. (Paul tried to get me down the mine but I did not go down). The mine itself had a 10 head battery for crushing stone to find the gold in the stone.

The mine was near York Town which was a settlement north of the Duke of York. There were plentiful amounts of timber for mines and firewood. 1km south of the Duke of York was a smaller mine, the Duchess of York. It did not have a rock crusher or a washing plant because they were very expensive. There were 2 mullock heaps on the Duke of York mine, the Duchess of York had 1 mullock heap.

Tony, one of the members of MHIG, was our guide for the geology of the mines, telling us about how they would have worked. At some time the Duke of York had crushed

3,768 tons of rock and found 3,108oz of gold valued at £12,531/13/1.

I enjoyed the day with the Meredith History Interest Group looking at the two of the mines out of 50 that made up the Bamganie gold fields.

*Yorktown article by NICK KRUGER*

P.S the Argus newspaper reported that the Duke of York mine was 7 miles north west of Meredith but it is south west of Meredith.

### Who Do You Think I Am?

In the front of the History Centre in Staughton Street is a new, slim cupboard containing an image of someone. We invite you to open the doors to discover Who I Am! Look at the image and read the blurb. You will have met someone from Meredith's history. The cupboard has been made and installed by Kruger's Sheetmetal, funded by a Golden Plains Community Grant and is an initiative of MHIG to introduce you to people of our past.

### Pumpkin Growing Competition:

Alas "Chunky" the pumpkin carefully nurtured in a garden behind the History Centre by Bev didn't quite measure up on judging day. But the growing and delivering him to the competition created a lot of fun and shenanigans. Already we are planning what to do next year to grow a bigger, oranger and more impressive pumpkin!

*Opening Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am and some Saturday afternoons.*



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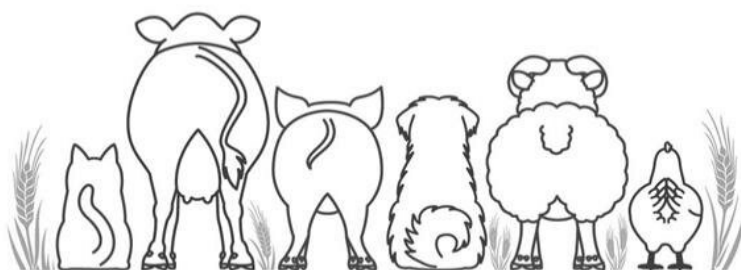
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## FROM THE ARCHIVES



### MEREDITH POLICE COURT.

Tuesday, November 13th.

(Before Mr Panton, P.M.) Before commencing the business of the Court, Mr Panton administered the magisterial oaths to Mr Thomas Henderson, President of the Shire of Meredith, who then took his seat on the Bench.

**Trespass.**—George Kells, of Green-hills, near Elaine, summoned Timothy Murphy for

trespassing on his selected land at Narmbool, by walking over, and not desisting when ordered to do so. Mr Paynter for plaintiff, and Mr W. Higgins for the defendant.

The trespass was not denied; but it was shown for the defence that there had originally been a surveyed road where the land was trespassed upon, although it had been absorbed in plaintiff's selection. Mr Higgins contended that, under the circumstances, the defendant acted under a reasonable belief that there was a road there—consequently the case should be dismissed. Case dismissed, without costs.

**Not Completing His Contract.**—Wm. Sage sued R. Hollyoake, Government contractor, to recover a sum of £11 11s 2d, for work and labor done in erecting a post-and-rail fence around the Lethbridge State School. Mr Higgins appeared for the defendant. It transpired in evidence that Hollyoake having contracted with the Government to do certain repairs, including fencing, at the Lethbridge State School, agreed with Sage to provide stuff of certain dimensions and erect it into a post and rail fence. Before any stuff was laid on the ground he advanced £8 10s to Sage. Subsequently when the fence was erected it was examined by the Government Inspector, who condemned some 89 rails and 13 posts as not being up to specifications. Sage refused to replace the condemned stuff, the consequence being that the contractor was kept out of his money by the Government. Mr Hollyoake was quite willing to pay Sage when he finished the work to the satisfaction of the Inspector. Case dismissed, with 40s costs.

Geelong Advertiser 14 November 1877

Jan McDonald, Meredith History Interest Group

## William Reid at Woodbourne

Marg Cooper

*Continuing the story of William James Reid at Yancannia Station, NSW.*

One of the objectives of Jack Reid's trip to England in 1878 had been to have a John Petrie wool-scouring machine made to his order and shipped to Yancannia. When the heavy crates of machinery arrived they were manhandled with some difficulty from the river barges to the bullock and horse wagons for Yancannia. The machine was assembled under Jack's supervision in time to scour the 1880 clip.

The Petrie dealt with a clip from 60,000 sheep but the steam engine running it proved inadequate. In 1882 they imported a more powerful engine which drove the engine and heated the water required.

In this machine the wool was first soaked in warm, soapy water (the soap was made from fat from old useless fat ewes, with the other main ingredient being ammonia supplied by the shed hands personally - in buckets provided for the purpose). Then the wool was tossed in another bath through a battery of spiked rollers to loosen the dust and burrs - a vast if costly improvement on dunking wool crates in the waterhole. Finally, the wool was spread on sheets of canvas or cotton to dry out in the sun, before being gathered and returned to the shed for pressing into bales.

The next installation was a hydraulic dumping plant. This took the pressed wool bales to compress them still further then clamping them around with hoop-iron straps. This meant that more could be carried on the backs of camels which later replaced the bullock or horse wagons for the journey to the river.

In 1890 another major undertaking was under way: shearing by machine came in to supersede the old blade shears. WJ Reid purchased 44 Wolseley Shearing Machines. No shearing machines had been used previously in that district and shearers were averse to using them. Fortunately, a good 'Expert' was sent to the Station by the Wolseley Co and the shearing machines were a great success. As many as 5000 sheep per day were shorn in succeeding years (the shed having more than doubled in size since the original 18 stands).

Further mechanization was introduced by laying a tramway between the woolshed and the scour, about 500 yards distant on the edge of the waterhole. The trucks ran into the shed behind the wool classer, who used them in place of the usual bins into which each bundled, classed fleece was thrown. One man with a horse hauling the trucks was able to keep the woolshed clear of wool.

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## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

May 2021

### 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 (75MW).

#### 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 19 turbines complete

#### Look ahead

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

## Community Fund Update

**Moorabool North wind farm community fund - Round Two** is open for applications from the 1st of May 2021 until the 15<sup>th</sup> of June at 3pm.

#### Key Dates

**Applications Open**  
1st May 2021

**Drop In Help Sessions**  
6th May 9am-11am  
11th May 5pm - 7pm  
26th May 12pm - 2pm  
4th June 10am - 12pm

**Applications Close**  
3pm on the 15th June  
2021

**Applications Assessed**  
July/August 2021

**Notifications**  
September 2021

For all the details on Guidelines, How to Apply and Important Dates, please visit [www.mooraboolwindfarm.com](http://www.mooraboolwindfarm.com) community fund page, call 1800 019 660 or email [info@mooraboolwindfarm.com](mailto:info@mooraboolwindfarm.com)

Drop-in Help Sessions are being held at Moorabool wind farm Information Centre at 120 Inglis Street, Ballan.



*Replacement Bridges at Ballan Golf Club – Funding provided by MWF community fund Round One 2020.*