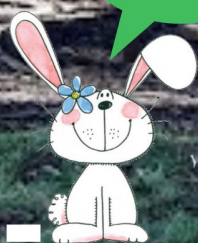


# Meredith & district News

OUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

YEA! It's  
SPRING



## inside

- Farewell Fr. Balnaves
- Meet the Weed Warrior
- Three book reviews. (Busy?)
- A Page of Lockdown Remedies.



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





# FEVER OR COVID FEVER?

The only way to be sure is with a test  
at the first sign of any symptom.

**ONLY A TEST  
CAN TELL**

For testing locations,  
visit **CORONAVIRUS.vic.gov.au**

Authorised by the Victorian Government, Melbourne



## WE HAVE BUYERS LOOKING FOR PROPERTY IN YOUR AREA

Even with a snap lockdown, the market is extremely strong.

If you have been sitting on the fence about listing your home for sale during a pandemic, now is a great time.

Contact the Bannockburn team today on 5281 4444.



**DEAN  
WILSON**

M 0418 521 322



**JULIE  
KAYE**

M 0411 059 001



**ANDREW  
WILSON**

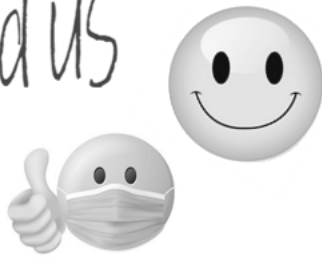
M 0452 498 254

**Stockdale & Leggo Office** Shop 14/6-8 High Street, Bannockburn, VIC 3301  
P 03 5281 4444 W [stockdaleleggo.com.au/bannockburn](http://stockdaleleggo.com.au/bannockburn)

**Stockdale & Leggo** *We see more than property*

# The VIRUS and us

FOR ALL OUR SAKES,  
GET THAT JAB



We keep saying this pandemic is a dynamic situation that can change dramatically and rapidly. Sadly, this past month has proven the point, even dragging regions back into greater restrictions. Still, we must remain grateful they are not as severe as those imposed on our metro fellows.

If it wasn't clear months ago that vaccination is important, it certainly is now. So please, if you are eligible for a vaccine, get it as soon as possible. Visit [dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](https://dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus) for details about eligibility, where to go and the latest information about restrictions.



We introduce a new contributor, with Peetha Ven der Veen's poem expressing the anxieties of a teen in lockdown. Like Kerrie Kruger's lockdown lament last month, we think it is important to give voice to the anxieties experienced in these very trying times. But we also want to facilitate and foster positive attitudes and practices to help us all be our best. So this month, an entire page is devoted to lockdown remedies. And there is our regular good stuff – you (and/or your kids) could bake Stefania's Lemon Chicken or the Chicken and Zucchini Nuggets on page 8. Enjoy a real engagement with nature or a vicarious one though Kerry Thomson's account of a powerful owl. Wendy's (always amazing) column (this time about spitfires) or a different lockdown poem. Why not tell us what's keeping you smiling? We'd love to know.

# THIS MONTH



...it's  
Spring.  
Nature's  
season of  
renewal.  
You can do  
it too!



## COMMUNITY

### Meredith Tennis Club

The Club held its AGM last month. Thanks to those in attendance, those who have become general members and last years' committee members. The new committee is:

President: Madeline McColl  
Vice President: Melita Cordie  
Secretary: Meg Hay  
Treasurer: David Osbourne  
Publicity Officer: Bridget Dyer

And a big thank you Social Night will resume from Thursday 9th September 2021 at 6 pm. Cost is \$5 per person and includes a BBQ dinner. All levels welcome.

#### Saturday Tennis

Registrations for the Junior and Senior Tennis 21/22 Saturday Competition are now open and will close 10th September 2021. Meredith will continue to play with the Buninyong Association for the 2021/2022 season. The season starts Saturday 9th October and will conclude in March 2022.

Junior tennis begins at 8.45 am, while senior tennis begins at 1 pm. All levels of experience are welcome!

Please email [meredithtennis2020@gmail.com](mailto:meredithtennis2020@gmail.com) or contact Maddy on 0424 754 179 for a registration form.

#### Fees:

Juniors - \$80 per child and includes a uniform of Meredith Tennis Club hat, jumper and polo shirt

Seniors - \$130 per person and includes a Meredith Tennis Club polo shirt

Limited spots are still available for junior training on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please contact Maddy if interested.



### Start Your Pumpkins!

Local resident, Steve Duffy, last year instigated a Giant Pumpkin Challenge to give us an interest and a bit of fun. The good news is - it's on again!

Free seeds will be available in October. Have a look in the Community Pantry at the back of the new Community Garden on the block opposite the school.

In the meantime, get your soil ready:

- Chose a sunny spot and make a mound with lots of organic matter.
- Pumpkins like to be well drained and they are quite vigorous growers so make sure there is some space around.
- They also appreciate a bit of water so last summer's rains were ideal.

Some absolute whoppers turned up last time so we are looking forward to seeing more this time.

Planting tips will be in the October Newsletter or you could do some research and chat to a few vegetable growers.

*Last season, the biggest pumpkins in the adult/child divisions were, by weight, 35.2 Kg and 26.3Kg respectively. By size, they were 142cm circumference and 146cm.*



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, excluding GST, are as follows:

	B&W/Colour
Business Card	\$20.00
Quarter page	\$30.00
Half page	\$50/\$110
Full page	\$100/\$200

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 \$30.00 discount on larger ads. (conditions apply)

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

If you are outside our delivery area you can subscribe for \$35.00 p.a. plus GST (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  
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**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: *Don Atherton* 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>MOTORCYCLE CLUB</b> 0437 009 250 <b>PLAYGROUP</b> 5286 0700 <b>POLICE PADDOCKS</b> 5286 1273 <b>RSL -</b> 5286 1452
<b>CHILDCARE</b> 5286 0700	<b>SENIOR CITIZENS</b> 5286 8232
<b>COMMUNITY CENTRE</b> 5286 0700	<b>TENNIS</b> Elaine 0448 291 074 Meredith 0424754179
<b>CRICKET</b> Elaine 0448 291074 Junior (U16,U14,13) 0448 291074 Meredith 5286 1434	<b>SEW 'N' SEWS</b> 5286 0700
<b>CUBS &amp; SCOUTS</b> Anakie 52819497	<b>FRIENDS OF THE BRISBANE RANGES</b> 5286 1252
<b>ELAINE HALL</b> <a href="mailto:elainetownhall@gmail.com">elainetownhall@gmail.com</a>	

**..or start something.**

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



"Tough times never last, but tough people do. -  
 - Robert H. Schuller

# emergency

Police, Ambulance, Fire (from mobile phone)	000
Meredith Police Station	000 or 112
Police non emergency	5286 1222
Power Failure	131 444
Nurse-On-Call	132 412
Mental Health Advice	1300 606 024
Poisons Information	1300 280 737
Barwon Water	13 11 26
SES Emergency - flood & storm	1300 656 007
24 Hour Helpline	132 500
24 Hour Drug & Alcohol Counselling	1800 629 572
Kids Help Line	1800 888 236
24hr 5-18yo	1800 551 800
Golden Plains Shire a/h emergency	1300 363 036
Ranger	0408 508 635
	52207111
	or 0409 830 223
Bannockburn Vet	5281 1221
a/h emergency	0407 811 222
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>PRIMARY SCHOOL</b> 5286 1313 <b>RECREATION RESERVE</b> 0429 315 575
<b>LIBRARY VAN</b> 5272 6010	

## Church News



### Meredith Uniting Church

Services have recommenced. 11.00 am 2nd Sunday each month. Enquiries:

Rev. Paul Sanders 0407 833 515 5341 2440

**Catholic Archdiocese of Australia** Elaine -5341 5544

**Serbian Orthodox** - 5341 5568

### Worship on Sundays in the Anglican Parish of Inverleigh+Bannockburn+Meredith:

9.00 am Holy Communion St Paul's, Inverleigh

11.00 am Family Communion. St John's, Bannockburn

5.00 pm Prayer and Praise Epiphany, Meredith

Find us at: [www.goldenplainsanglican.org](http://www.goldenplainsanglican.org) or

[office.ibm@goldenplainsanglican.org](mailto:office.ibm@goldenplainsanglican.org)

The Revd Dr Timothy Smith

PiC Anglican Parish of

Inverleigh+Bannockburn+Meredith

### St. Joseph's Catholic Parish of Meredith

Contact Details:

#### Parish

Office Phone: 5286 1230

Office open Wednesday & Friday 9.30am to 4.30 pm

#### Mass Times:

All Mass Times listed assume that we are out of Lockdown. If we are not out of Lockdown then with luck some live streaming may be possible - call the Parish to find out.

With Father Charles having left the Parish by 8th September, we are not sure what services will be possible within the Parish during the week.

We have arranged Fr Philip Gambin to supply for weekend Masses during September if they are allowed.

Sat. 5 pm Vigil St. John the Baptist, Winchelsea

Sun. 9 am St. Mary MacKillop, Bannockburn

Sun. 5/9, 19/9 11 am St. Joseph's, Meredith

Sun. 12/9, 26/9 11 am St. Brigid's, 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 for 2022.

## Music Festival

Dear Residents,

The Meredith Music Festival will not take place this year. It's just not possible to make Meredith at this time.

I want to acknowledge all who worked hard and dreamed even harder to will this year's festival into being.

If the conditions allow, we hope to be back at the Supernatural Amphitheatre for Golden Plains 15 in March.

In the last few months, Meredith and Golden Plains were awarded their first-ever grants from the State and Federal Governments, which will help the festivals kick into gear when the time is right.

In the meantime, there is a Meredith Community Tucker Tent apron and t-shirt for sale in the online Supernatural Gift Shoppe. All proceeds from these two items go back to the Meredith community via several local groups.

You can find them both by navigating to [supernaturalgiftshoppe.com.au](http://supernaturalgiftshoppe.com.au), or following the link from the Meredith homepage.

If you have any questions or concerns, or even ideas, you are very welcome to email [auntym@mmf.com.au](mailto:auntym@mmf.com.au).

Can't wait to see you all again.

Aunty x

## Meredith Recreation Reserve

Notice is given of a Public Meeting to be held at the Meredith Recreation Reserve on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.00 PM

The purpose of the meeting is to nominate no less than three (3) or more than nine (9) persons as a committee of management for the Meredith Recreation Reserve for a term of three years. The current committee's term will expire on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021. All positions will be declared open and nominations will be accepted prior to or on the night. Nominations from women, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, young people and people with culturally diverse backgrounds are encouraged.

Further information, nomination forms and nominee declaration forms may be obtained by contacting your local Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning office or at the meeting. For further enquiries please contact the Secretary/ Treasurer, Mick Rooney, on 0408 545246

## OUR COVER

While playgrounds are off-limits in certain places, some budding builders have erected this stone floored stick tent in the Police Paddocks.

Photo by Jim Elvey



And yes, we know it's insensitive to put picture of a happy rabbit celebrating spring on the cover of rural newsletter. But it is a cute picture!

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





# What's On



## COMING UP - Book Now!

### Beginners Wheel Throwing with Mel

4 Week Classes - 4 Dates Available - \$300

### Introduction to Wire Wrapping with Allie

Saturday August 7 - 1-4pm - \$75

### WESTVic Staffing Solutions with Jenny

Wednesday August 11 - 9am - 12pm - FREE

### MACRAME' with Anita

Friday August 13 - 11 - 1.30pm - \$50

### Make a Tree of Life Pendant with Allie

Saturday August 14 - 1-4pm - \$75

### Fermentation with Narelle

Monday August 30 - 10am - \$120 - FULL

### Spring Preparation with Jaclyn

Friday August 20 - 11am - 12pm - \$15

### Make a Wire Wrapped Cuff with Allie

Saturday September 11 - 1-4pm - \$75

## 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 - Bookings Essential

Mondays with Ane - 5:15

Thursdays with Ane - 12:00

### PILATES - \$20 per session - Bookings Essential

Wednesdays with Ane - 7.15pm

### PLAYGROUP IS BACK!

Thursdays - 9.30 - 11.30

\$2 per Family



Join us on Facebook & Instagram  
@meredithcommunitycentre



[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

## 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!

## The Hub Happenings....

*From the desk of Leah*

And just like that, we are back in Lockdown 6.1, or is it 7? Whichever it maybe, I am still here for you if you need a chat, need to book in a class (something to really look forward to), chat about this wind in Meredith, or anything really, including puzzles... we have lots of puzzles if you are bored... and books... so just let me know what you need!

**POWER SAVING BONUS - ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?** The Meredith Community Centre is assisting our Community Members in claiming the Power Saving Bonus - this is a \$250 rebate for those people on an eligible payment. All you need to do is pop into the Centre with your Power Bill (either original PDF or hard copy) and your Centrelink CRN or DVA number and we can apply. Give me a call to confirm your eligibility. This is running until January 2022! I am happy to take your details over the phone as well during lockdown!

**WESTVIC STAFFING IS COMING BACK!** Jenny from WestVic will be back in September. Dates to be confirmed, but do keep an eye out if you are needing some support to get back into the workforce!

Aa few classes have been postponed due to Covid... So if you were looking forward to baking some Gluten Free Goodies or doing some Fancy Baking in our kitchen, Mayan will be booking in some new dates just as soon as we can... expressions of interest are ALWAYS welcomed here at the Centre! You can still peruse our previous events on our Facebook Page and get inspired!

Many thanks to those who attended our FREE Pilates Taster class. I hope you enjoyed your classes and were able to get a great sense of Pilates - remember we are running a Pilates Class on Wednesday Evenings. It is \$20 and Bookings are via the Facebook Group - Meredith Yoga & Pilates

These Classes are coming up with Allie our awesome ARTIST!

- Make a Wire Wrapped Cuff - Saturday Sept 11
  - Polymer Jewellery - Saturday October 2
  - Introduction to Alcohol Inks - Saturday October 23
- These classes run from 1pm to 4pm, just \$75 per person!

**Macramé** - If you didn't see the fun these ladies were having in the Macramé' class run by Anita, you seriously missed out - there was so much interest that Anita is COMING BACK! She is going to do another session of Wall Hanging and then move to the Pot Hanger. These classes are ALMOST full already so give me a call. - September 4 - 10.30 - 1 pm for the Pot Holder and 1.30 - 4.00 for the Wall Hanging - just \$50 a person for your choice of colour!

**Fermentation with Narelle** is currently being rescheduled again. Darn Covid. We are working on a new date as we speak...

And another NEW class is Mosaics! Currently taking expressions of interest for a Saturday workshop!!!! I have found a lovely lady who teaches in Geelong... If you would like to be the first to know the date of the workshop - let me know!

There's lots of other things in the pipeline. So stay tuned... join us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/meredithcommunitycentre](https://www.facebook.com/meredithcommunitycentre)) for the most up to date info on Events and Classes -

Signing off from behind my locked doors!!!! See you Soon! - Leah

## A Teenager in Lockdown

As a demographic, teenagers are among the most hurt by lockdowns. They are branching out from family life, forming friendships and developing social skills that will shape them as adults. So much of this is diminished by physical isolation. And while we can be grateful for the maturity and accessibility of social media, it falls well short of the opportunities and experiences most of us enjoyed at that age. Of course, history teaches us that teenagers have endured this and worse in the past.

Our hope is that today's teenagers can do more than endure. It is encouraging that government agencies and educational institutions, aware of the mental health issues consequent of lockdowns, are developing better responses as we all navigate these trying times.

It is in this context, that we publish the poem below, written by 15 year old Peetha Ven der Veen, which offers some insight into a young person's world in these times.

*Peetha was born in Germany, of Dutch parents and moved with her family to Australia almost nine years ago and has lived just outside of Meredith since. She believes writing in the newsletter would be great for advancing both her writing skills and English language, especially as she hopes to continue studying English after high school and would like to teach the language in the future.*

*In her own words, the poem expresses the impact of Covid-19 on teens such as herself, "...facing frightening lockdowns and struggling to socialise."*

It's a darkness caging me  
When all I want is to be free  
It's friendship I no longer know  
'Cause in this world I watched it go'

It's a smile of binding chain  
Now every day is filled with rain  
It's severing of strings of fate  
Connections broken as of late

It's sunrays hidden by the moon  
Light taken from me all too soon  
It's iron shackles on my home  
No longer am I free to roam

It's feeling like there's no one near  
Loneliness my biggest fear  
It's praying to an empty sky  
Like wishing, without wings, to fly

It's 'safety' but not without cost  
It was a warm; it is now lost  
It's the sky abandoned by stars  
This world is leaving countless scars

It's fire; a last ember's glow  
Draining slowly like melting snow  
It's a promise left in the past  
Broken; belief could never last

It's life in a horror story  
Taking from the world its glory

Why can't you explain puns to kleptomaniacs?

They always take things literally.

What's the different between a cat and a comma?

A cat has claws at the end of paws; A comma is a pause at the end of a clause.

What rhymes with orange?  
No it doesn't.



## Help Save the Platypus

*From media release*

Corangamite CMA invites community members to participate in one of the most significant citizen scientist projects globally, The Great Australian Platypus Search.

This unique and iconic species was listed as threatened in Victoria for the first time earlier this year. This project is crucial for ensuring the protection of Platypuses, and the community needs to act now and play a role in helping to save the platypus.

This project will be delivered during the 2021 platypus breeding season (August-October). Samples will be gathered by citizen scientists and then analysed in the lab by a key project partner, EnviroDNA.

To deliver this project, innovative eDNA (environmental data) technology will be used to detect the DNA of animals over large spatial areas.

EnviroDNA has developed a comprehensive sampling methodology that citizen scientists, school students, children and community groups can easily have fun doing.

More than 1,500 sites across Victoria are being collected by citizen scientists. Data of this quality and consistency has never been gathered on this scale before in Australia, and potentially the world.

Go to [www.thegreataustralianplatypussearch.org/](http://www.thegreataustralianplatypussearch.org/) for more information, details of sites or to sign up and join the movement to save this iconic Australian species.

Headspace.org.au

Lifeline 13 11 14 or, during business hours, [lifeline.org.au/crisis-chat/](http://lifeline.org.au/crisis-chat/)

Beyond Blue 1300 224 636

## In the School Garden

Gardeners are made of sturdy stuff - days away from school due to restrictions have made us more determined to make the most of the time we are there.

Spring is a fabulous time in the garden with the excitement of seed packets and the promise of future harvests. Our bean, corn, tomato, zucchini, cucumber and sunflower seeds are at the ready. And we are looking forward to putting in our Giant Pumpkin seeds for the Meredith Newsletter Challenge.

Meanwhile, the Prep/One children are keeping an eye on their broad bean plants in the Scarecrow Garden and watching the flowers. We've had a massive mulching effort around them to smother the weeds. Many thanks to Mark from Meredith Rural and Pet Supplies for delivering the bales of straw to the school. A wonderful indication of the soil's health is the huge number of very fat worms we are finding. Over the years, a lot of organic matter has been dug into this bed and we have been rewarded with rich, friable soil.

In our wicking beds, weeds are not a problem so we haven't yet mulched. The soil is best left uncovered to make the most of any warmth we get. The Grade 2/3/4 garlic is going well as are the peas and rainbow chard. This year we planted new strawberries and moved them to a different bed. These crop best if renewed every couple of years and we are already seeing new shoots appearing.

After plentiful rains, the wicking beds don't need a weekly watering and to take some of the guess work out of this, we have a rain gauge. A quick check of this each week lets us know how much rain we've had and whether we need to pull out the hoses.

Ms Pritchard's grade recently experienced "The Great Meredith PS Honey Tasting Experiment". The students tasted six varieties of Beechworth Honey, made tasting notes and gave a rating out of five bees. There were Ironbark, Orange Blossom, Spotted Gum, Apple Box and Coastal varieties and an old fashioned favourite, Creamed Honey. This has sparked an interest in planting more bee-friendly plants in our garden which will be an interesting area of research for the grade. If any gardeners in the community would like to strike us some cuttings we'd be very grateful.

There has been some ongoing work near our flagpole where we have Gallipoli roses and rosemary planted. The roses are prolific bloomers but needed a big prune this year following a missed year last year. In a bed beside the roses, one of our students, Erin, planted an ANZAC callistemon. Erin's great grandpa was in the second world war. This callistemon is a low growing shrub with white flowers and will complement the deep red of the roses.

The Grade 5/6 students are continuing on their OzHarvest journey. Mrs Daglas was able to secure a grant to buy extra ingredients when needed for the cooking sessions. These times are led by Kym who loves finding wonderful recipes. The biggest hit in recent weeks has been the Chicken and Zucchini Nuggets. A deceptively simple recipe but full of flavour and, it was agreed unanimously, much better than the bought ones. It was so popular we have included it below. We hope you and your family enjoy it just as much.

### **Chicken and Zucchini Nuggets** from Kidspot Kitchen.

- \* 500g chicken mince
- \* 2 tbs milk
- \* 1 cup wholemeal breadcrumbs
- \* 1 zucchini coarsely grated
- \* 1 shallot finely diced (or small onion)
- \* 1 tbs parsley finely chopped
- \* 1 tbs olive oil

Combine all ingredients except the oil in a large bowl. Use your hands or a spoon to mix until thoroughly combined.

Shape tablespoons of the mixture into nuggets.

Heat the oil in a frypan over medium heat and cook the nuggets in batches for 4 minutes each side or until golden and cooked through.



*Maddie and Nevaeh working in the garden*



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*[www.woolabrai.com.au](http://www.woolabrai.com.au)*

## Fr Charles Balnaves

### *Five Years in Meredith Parish and Meredith Town.*

Do you ever get surprises? Good surprises? Wonderful things that come into your life and show you how much goodness there is around you if you just take a risk, try something new, stop and appreciate people around you, make an opportunity to look into the communities with which you live?

Well! Coming to St Joseph's Parish of Meredith on 27th July 2016 has been one of those good multifaceted wonderful surprises for me.

I knew deep within me from the moment I was asked to come here that it was right. I had expected to be worried about a move. Instead it was simple: I got a phone call, 'will you go to Meredith?', it felt right, I said yes. Yes, I did ponder the move and speak to people about it but, well, in my terms, in faith terms, the Holy Spirit was calling me, again. My life has been like that: sudden moments when the next step for me and my family becomes crystal clear. I could see only one step and this time it brought me to Meredith.

In the five years I have been here I have met upwards of a thousand people across this sprawling rural parish stretching from Lal Lal to Winchelsea and with duties reaching into Geelong and Marshall and to the prisons in Lara. Unfailingly I have met good people. Each and every one of the people I have met brings beauty to the people around them: sharing their own gifts and talents and strengths. Yes, there are failings and quirks and some who can be difficult (particularly I imagine some of those in prisons).

The ease with which you enabled me to settle started with an iconic parishioner and Meredith/Golden Plains resident: Diane Ritchie, who called me two days after I heard of my appointment and asked to come and see me (to suss me out), to welcome me, bringing gifts of Meredith Goat Cheese, local red wine, a Meredith Parish History book and a Geelong Cats scarf. Diane's humour, wit and insight erased any uncertainty: Meredith is for me. Also: when I could not visit the parish leadership group they came to Melton: "if you can't come to us, we'll come to you." That willingness find ways forwards characterises the people of all the towns across the parish: a willingness to be welcoming, each in your own way, and that willingness goes beyond the 'Catholic' community, it is a characteristic of the people as a whole.

All of which means that I have become involved Lions and Advance Meredith and the Sharing Shed and farm clearing sales and Blessing the Bikes and Australia Day and Town Carols and working bees and more.

June 18th this year brought me another phone call and it was not just the archbishop calling but the Holy Spirit calling too: "please Charles move to Doncaster and Templestowe and take up leadership of those two parishes." I have said yes and finish here on 8th September.

I have fallen in love with you: the people of these wide spaces and I don't want to leave yet I am called and so I must leave. Thank you for enriching my life over the past five years and allowing me to become a part of your lives. I leave knowing that when I come back to visit there are many friends across the whole parish who will welcome me.

God bless, Fr Charles Balnaves

## ...and the view from over the neighbour's fence.

I've never been quite sure of how I should address my Lawler Street neighbour, convivially or with more respect, given his position as the head of one of the major institutions in our Meredith community.

Then I realized it didn't matter. Our Catholic priest of five years is a fine man by any standards.

He doesn't stand on ceremony, although I'm sure that for the 140 or so members of his local congregation he represents a combination of the strength, protection and friendship of the Church of Saint Joseph when they need to call on it for comfort or support.

Father Charles' normal working week is enough to make your head spin. If he's not zooming around the five churches (Meredith, Anakie, Bannockburn, Winchelsea and Inverleigh) in his two-thousand-square-kilometre parish, he's likely to be found piloting his little ride-on mower back and forth around the five-acre church paddock, well into the dark of the evening.

Just in getting around his large parish Father Charles clocks up more than 40-thousand kilometers a year in the holy transport – his faithful little Mazda CX5.

He was even spotted recently hitching up the little SUV to a tradie's one-tonner that had become bogged to the axles in the muddy and waterlogged church paddock.

It didn't get the ute unstuck, but he gave it a heck of a try.

Meredith has been very fortunate to have Father Charles Balnaves for the past five years, but now he's moving on, and I'm sure I'm only one of the many who'll miss him very much.

But his loss to Meredith is to Templestowe's gain, and I'm very pleased for his new parishioners, as well as for the fact that Charles will be moving closer to his family and all the pleasant times that will come with that.

This very modest, stoic and forgiving man has really earned his happiness. Father Charles has been an enormous contributor to Meredith and his parish over the past five years, always making it clear that while he has a 24/7 commitment to his own parishioners, he considers he has a duty of care for everyone, in all walks of life and of all creeds and religions.

He is truly a man of the people. One of my fondest personal memories of Charles will be his enthusiastic and warm-hearted participation a year or so back at a fund-raising 'fashion parade' function in the Meredith Recreation Hall.

And who would have thought that a parish priest could look as good as Buddy Franklin in a pair of footy shorts ...?

John Merlo





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## Lemon Chicken

Serves 2 - Prep time 10 mins Cook time 5 mins

### Ingredients

- 1tsp cornflour
- 1tsp dark soy sauce
- Finely grated zest and juice of ½ lemon
- 2 tsp coconut or canola oil
- 1 skinless chicken breast fillet cut into slices
- 1 capsicum, any colour, deseeded and sliced
- 1 medium carrot, trimmed and thinly sliced
- 100g broccoli, cut into small florets
- 150ml chicken stock
- 4 spring onions, trimmed and thinly sliced

### Method

Mix the cornflour with the soy sauce and lemon juice in a small bowl.

Heat the oil in a large frying pan or wok over high heat, add the chicken, capsicum, carrot and broccoli and stir-fry for 2-3 minutes, or until chicken is lightly browned and vegetables are beginning to soften.

Pour the lemon and soy mixture into the pan, add the chicken stock and spring onions and bring to a simmer. Reduce the heat and cook for 2 minutes, or until the sauce is slightly thickened and the chicken is cooked through, stirring regularly.

Sprinkle with grated lemon zest and serve with cauliflower rice or plain rice.

*Stefania*

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When the sun shines out yer bum?*

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But our small and aging team of mowing volunteers need help to keep the tracks open during spring and summer.

If you could spare a few hours over the next few months, and are comfortable using a heavy duty self propelled mower and/or brushcutter, please call Jim on 0409 163169. You will need a vehicle with a tow bar and a trailer and be physically fit. You can work as often and at times to suit yourself. And we will train you in using the equipment.

Even if you only *think* you may be interested, please give us a call. There is definitely no obligation.

## 'Powerful Owl'

Kerry Thomson

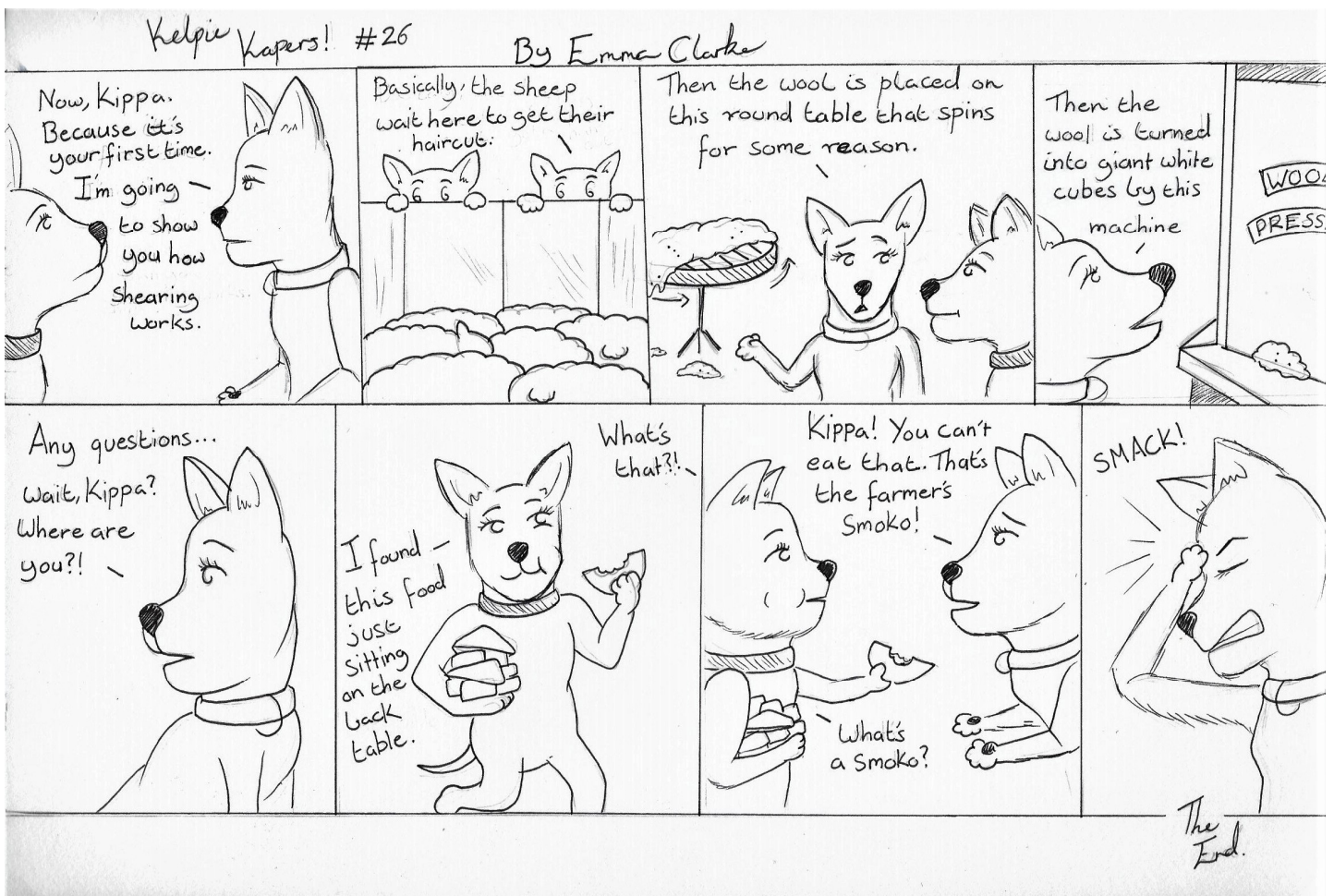
In 17 years of living in She Oaks I have only managed to see two of these magnificent creatures - once (briefly) as it sat on a pole in our backyard and the second time on East Road when returning from Geelong late at night. On the latter occasion I managed to take a photograph which meant I could confirm identification.

These owls are native to south east and eastern Australia but are classified as threatened. They are the largest owl in Australia with a wingspan of up to 140 cm. Tall open eucalyptus forest is their typical habitat where they can find big old trees for nesting. During the day they usually roost/rest in dense leafy foliage and shrubs.

Owls are the top predators with a diet which includes possums, other birds, flying foxes and even Christmas beetles. They regurgitate any indigestible remains of their prey such as bundles of hair, animal jaws or other bones.

The Powerful Owl has a distinctive call, especially just after dusk or early in the morning. It is a slow, double-note 'whoo-hoo' which is soft but strong and resonant. The call can be heard for more than a kilometre.

If you are lucky enough to spot a Powerful Owl then please report your sighting at <https://birdata.birdlife.org.au/get-started>



# healthS+VE pharmacy

## **Bannockburn Pharmacy Newsletter**

Proprietors: Scott Wilkes & Damian Bennett

6 High Street  
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Phone: 5281 1519

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

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

Our pharmacists, Scott, Priti & 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.

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### **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**

## Weed Warrior

*Marg Cooper*

Deadly nightshade, thistles, stinging nettles, horehound, capeweed, marshmallow, hemlock, bridal creeper, serrated tussock, sweet briar, bathurst burr and docks are plants that farmers do not want growing in their pastures because they take up room where edible, nourishing plants could grow. So, if a farmer has 200 acres, of which 50 acres is weed infested then effectively he only has 150 acres of actively productive land.

Mal and Ingrid Briody bought a small farm at She Oaks which had been under grazed and had no weed eradication in recent years. Mal, who is passionate about the establishment of good pastures and regaining productivity, established a plan. He would like to share his methods with the public so that others may be helped with their problems.

Mal's advice if you have multiple weeds and multiple areas or paddocks is to target one area and then move on to another area. This way the job is not overwhelming. Remember that you do not have to achieve it all in one year but if you make it a priority to target a section each year you will eventually get on top of the problem.

First he removed the mature weed plants from a section of their property. Mal, with his only tool a crowbar, levered a lot of the larger thistles, horehound etc out of the ground. From the valley he dug out seven wool packs of mature weed plants which he dragged up to a gateway by hand and then carted by bobcat to the heap where he burnt them. He wanted to remove the whole plant including any seed heads so hopefully they would not reproduce.

Another problem was Phalaris which had grown rank with tall thick dry stalks that made travelling around the farm difficult, hid the weeds and was a fire hazard. With advice from his stock agent he bought a mob of merino wethers, 3-4 years old to grub out, over time, the rank grasses. The sheep did a marvellous job - what they didn't eat they trampled and mulched! The new grasses grew green and sweet and the weed problem was exposed. Mal didn't make a profit when he sold the sheep but in the overall equation the work the sheep did was worth every dollar they cost him.

Now that Mal has rid the property of the mature weed plants he is tackling the newly emerging weeds. He uses a selective herbicide to spray them. Because the property is mostly inaccessible for machinery and because you need to be close to the weeds to spray them, Mal walks with a back-pack. He targets small sections at a time and considers it fantastic cardio exercise. He also finds it very satisfying to see the results of his efforts. The selective herbicide is exactly that - it kills the broadleaf weeds and doesn't kill the grass.

Mal fenced a large paddock into three smaller paddocks. This was a strategy so he could rotationally graze a smaller mob of sheep to eat out sprayed weeds after the withholding period of the selective herbicide. Sheep love to eat the dying weeds because the selective herbicide sweetens up the plant and they eat right into the core.

Mal says that sometimes to start is the hardest step to take!



From the Mayor



Cr Helena Kirby GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

Council is always looking for funding opportunities to deliver more projects and support to our communities.

In the past month, we are very pleased to have secured funding from the Victorian Government for the Leighdale Equestrian Centre Upgrade and Bannockburn Victoria Park Ovals Safety Netting projects, along with Federal funding for upgrades to Craddocks Road in Smythesdale and Meredith-Steiglitz Road in Meredith.

One grant that I am particularly pleased Council has secured is a Victorian Government grant to ensure that we can welcome back our favourite local events in a COVID-safe environment.

The \$30,000 grant has been invested in 10 marquees, signage, apparel and resources to aid the delivery of the Shelford Duck Race, Inverleigh Dachshund Derby, Turtle Bend Live and the Teesdale Twilight Carols and Market. The Geelong & District Carriage Drivers group has also benefitted ahead of the Victorian Carriage Driving Championships in Teesdale next March.

Other events across the Shire will also benefit, with three of the marquees to be available for loan to community events.

And speaking of support for community events and groups, don't forget that applications for Round Two of Council's Community Strengthening Grants Program are open from 1 to 30 September. To find out more, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/grants](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/grants).


More residents can now access subsidised cat desexing.. Council's partnership with the National Desexing Network and local vets has been extended, with eligible residents to pay even less to desex their cats. The new reduced fee is \$20 to desex male cats and \$30 for the first female cat, with additional female cats in the same household costing only \$20. Discounted \$5 microchipping, along with free Council registration for the first registration period is also available. To find out more and to see if you're eligible, call the National Desexing Network on 1300 368 992 or visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/cats](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/cats).


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## In The MCG

### *Two New Tables in Meredith for You*

The Grade 5/6 students took the opportunity between the recent lockdowns to build two new picnic tables. They are at the Community Garden opposite the school.

The tables came as kits and were donated by the Meredith Lions Club and we were very happy to put them together. The power tools could have been dangerous but we had adult supervision. We don't get to use these very often so it was fun.

It is also good to get a break from school and do some hands on work. When we are at the Community Garden we get some fresh air and we enjoy being able to talk to our friends about other things besides school work.

Once we were done building the tables we had to carry them to the shelter. Something funny happened: Elijah lost his shoe in the mud along with his pearly white sock so be careful when walking because there are some wet spots and you don't want to lose a shoe. Maybe keep to the paths.

Some of us weren't building tables so we picked carrots. Although we were very keen to eat them straight away, Mrs D reminded us we would have to wait till we had washed them, so we took them home.

Once the restrictions allow, you might like to pack yourself a picnic and enjoy the new tables we made for you.

By the way, there are two working bees coming up on 2nd and 16th September at the garden. Contact the primary school for more information.

*Written by Charlie, Elijah, Harry, James, Matt and Shaylah*



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



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## is the Newsletter on...



The Newsletter Committee thinks the purpose of the Newsletter is...

- To facilitate community discussion and communication
- To promote community action and involvement
- To foster a sense of community.
- To provide a service to district residents and promote businesses trading in the district.

## But what do YOU think?

We do it for our community, so it's important to us if you think we should be doing something different. Or could be doing something better.

Whatever your thoughts or suggestions, please let us know on our Facebook page or on [news@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:news@meredithnews.com.au).

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## The Croc Report

*Mick Devlin*

The Moorabool Valley Masters Football Club is an over 35's Masters football club located in Meredith. We have players from around the local community and several players from the Geelong region. We promote men's health, both physical and mental and community spirit. We enjoy a run around and a beer and everyone is welcome.

Unfortunately, lockdowns have cancelled our last couple of games. We have managed a few training sessions which have been great for moral and mental health. With Lockdowns still in effect, it looks as though we won't get a chance to play again this year, but we are all hoping we can get through this and squeeze in one more game and get one more win for the mighty Crocs.

A few of our players have signed up for the National Masters Carnival which is held in Perth later this year. In previous years the Crocs have been well represented across all age groups. Our club legend Daryl 'Sid' Jones is also a Vic Country Legend taking home multiple awards including all Australian, Best and fairest and Life member of Vic Country. We are staying positive that we will be able to make it, but it looks more likely that NSW and VIC teams will not be able to enter the state.

During the season we have welcomed a few new players. Craig 'Badger' Taylor our ruckman for the season, regular to our training sessions and always a starter for every game we played this year. Badge has really embraced what masters football is all about. He played some great footy, provides entertainment at training and we love having him at our club. Nevada 'Nev' Cornwell a tough onballer, only managed a few games this year due to injury but is a great recruit and we hope we can get a full season out of him next year. Nev also brought along young Zac, whom, although too young to officially play masters, filled in and helped out to make up numbers for both the Crocs and our opposition. Joel 'Washo' Washington is another tough onballer whom, due to work commitments, only managed a few games but proved he will be a great player for the Crocs. Our Local recruit is Scott Thompson, a tough wingman/utility player who still thinks he is wrestling bulls whilst playing, so don't get in his way. We also had Peter 'Larko' Larkins and James Johnson, who played a couple of game each and we hope they return next season for a few more.

We had a few milestones this year with two of our great clubmen, John 'Peto' Peterson and Phillip 'Doopa' Cranach both playing 100 games. Unfortunately, we did not get to celebrate Doopas 100th game but we have plans to make our first home game next season a big celebration for this great achievement. We also had our club games record broken by Daryl 'Sid' Jones, whom is currently on 159 games. Sid is not only a player but the heart and soul of this great club doing alot of the behind the scenes work that keeps the club alive.

A special thanks to Wendy, who is there every home game to run the kitchen and provide a great afternoon meal. Wendy also offers her time to clean the facilities, lights the fire and cooks meals for us on training nights which we all look forward to (gets a few more blokes to training). Thank you very much Wendy. Thanks to Kevin 'The Geelong Legend' Murray who provided a great training session at his boxing gym. We will be utilising the gym more next year on a regular basis. Also, thanks to the following volunteers who all helped the club; Kevin Battye, Mal 'Fingers' Holloway, Steven Trotter (our umpire), everyone who has helped out in the kitchen and all the kids who have helped with the scoreboard and goal umpiring.

We still have our end of year function to look forward to (date to be determined) and hope to get a great turn out. In previous years this has been a fantastic night with great music, a few drinks, some great stories and great memories. All are welcome.

I would like to thank all the players and volunteers for this season and can't wait for next season. It was a tough year with all the stopping and starting but I thoroughly enjoyed the games and training we could attend. We are always looking for new players, so if you think that masters football is for you, give us a call and get on down to the MCG and become part of a fantastic Club.

If anyone is interested in playing or volunteering or would like any more information, please contact Mick Devlin (coach) 0413609863 or Mick Rooney (President) 0408545246

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This page is devoted to getting up again.

*By now, you probably have developed some routines to keep you smiling through this relentless pandemic. We all know the advice to spend time every day exercising (any level of exercise gets the happy chemicals moving) and connecting to others, whether it's by phone, video or email. (video conferencing is good but some people find just voice less inhibiting for a long chat.)*

*And do something different every day. You will find some ideas on this page, and, if you search carefully, there are plenty online.*

## For Kids

Here's a list and some links to ideas and activities that will help to keep kids entertained and relieve some of the stresses that can develop during lockdown.

### **Make and create using everyday household items:**

Put your recycling to good use and create robots, animals and vehicles. Egg cartons make a good body for a crocodile, and robots, trains and cars can be crafted with boxes and containers, while bottle tops and lids make great eyes or control buttons.

**Create** pasta jewellery or make and play with playdough, bubbles or even some glitter slime. For more information (and recipes) go to: [kid-spot.co.nz/activities/](http://kid-spot.co.nz/activities/). It's a great site with lots of stuff to try.

**Immerse yourself in nature:** Use your exercise time to go bush. There is evidence to show regular exposure to nature contributes to good mental health. Can't do that today? Then get up close and personal in real-time with animals around the globe in their natural habits - [explore.org](http://explore.org)

Or make a virtual visit to Melbourne, Healesville and Werribee Zoo. [zoo.org.au/animals-at-home/](http://zoo.org.au/animals-at-home/)

**Have celebrated actors read books to your kids** alongside creatively produced illustrations. All for free. [storylineonline.net/](http://storylineonline.net/)

**Create a cubby:** Build a tent, fort or castle with blankets and pillows etc. Once it's built it can be a place for children to 'chill out' in and it can be re-made or redesigned the next day.

**Set up an indoor or backyard scavenger**

**hunt.** Get some pegs (or cutlery, pens etc) and plant them around the place and send the kids on a hunt to find them. The prize could be choosing a movie to watch.

**Play sock basketball:** Ball up a few pairs of socks, get a laundry basket and you're all set. Take turns shooting to score, and if you're up for more of a challenge, switch to a small 'goal' or take a step backwards and go for the long shot.

**Create and send a card or letter:** While social media and email are effective ways of maintaining connection with friends and family during lockdown, homemade cards and personalised letters provides meaningful opportunities for children to draw and write (and will brighten the day of the receiver, especially grandparents).

## And for Teens

This is a tougher ask, but then, teens are doing it tough too. This is a UK school site, but it is full of good ideas that could engage you (or your teen). Sorry about all the typing.

[rudheathsenioracademy.org.uk/fun-activities-for-your-teens-to-do-during-coronavirus-lockdown/](http://rudheathsenioracademy.org.uk/fun-activities-for-your-teens-to-do-during-coronavirus-lockdown/)

Reach Out is an excellent Australian resource devoted to the mental health of young people. Their site is definitely worth a visit.

[parents.au.reachout.com/collections/supporting-your-teen-during-coronavirus](http://parents.au.reachout.com/collections/supporting-your-teen-during-coronavirus)

*Thank you to Moya Elvey, who knows a thing or two about the needs of children, for putting these references together.*



### **Take Breaks from News**

While it's important to be aware of what's going on, it helps to give yourself a break from distressing news and social media feeds.

"The problem is when you're getting caught up in news or social media, and it's eating up your time and it's doing more harm than good," Dr James Collett, a lecturer in psychology at Melbourne's RMIT University.

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The female sawfly landed on a gum leaf. She was a type of wasp, but without the narrow waist of many wasps, and without a sting. She was about 2.5cm long and quite colourful, her brown and black body overlaid by see-through brown wings, a patch of yellow on each shoulder and on her back, orange legs, and short orange antennae stretching out in front of her large black eyes. She gripped with the sharp claws of her feet as she inspected the leaf and found the midvein. She would lay her eggs beside it. There were few male sawflies, and she could produce fertile eggs without mating. Like other wasps, she had an egg-laying tube called an ovipositor on the end of her abdomen. Unlike other wasps, a sawfly's ovipositor is saw-like, allowing her to cut into the leaf and lay her cluster of eggs inside it. Most of her life had been spent as a larva, and she would only live as an adult for one or two weeks. She would not feed, but she would fulfil her purpose, to start the next generation.

A few weeks after the sawfly died, her eggs hatched. Three of the larvae chewed through the leaf's tough waxy cuticle to emerge on the underside of the leaf. Over the next hour, their forty siblings followed through the hole they had made. The larvae formed a ring, heads outwards, on the underside of the leaf. At night, they dispersed to the edges of the leaf to feed, regathering in a group at dawn. As the larvae grew, they shed their skins regularly, developing into the large black grubs with scattered white hairs, that we recognise as spitfires. When the group was too heavy to remain on a single leaf, they moved to a twig and formed a cluster instead of a ring. Even when they were very small, if the group felt threatened by a predator, such as a bird, they all raised their heads and regurgitated a thick and unpleasant yellow fluid containing the oils in the eucalyptus leaves they had been eating. Despite this, a currawong was undeterred and ate a few grubs.

Although this defence works against many predators, there are some that can bypass it, and are far more of a threat to a colony of spitfires. A few wasps and flies see them as an ideal source of food for their own larvae. There are flies that walk around the edge of a colony and lay their eggs on grubs at the perimeter. One species of wasp lays their eggs on the margins of leaves, which is where spitfires prefer to feed. Spitfires eat the eggs, which remain inside them. Other wasps walk over groups of small grubs, pierce their skins with their ovipositor, and lay their eggs inside the spitfires. The spitfires continue to grow.

Spitfires have little defence against these attacks, but they have at least one survival strategy that helps. Each colony has leaders. These grubs are found at the front and the rear of the group. They lead the group out to feed in the evening, and back again before daylight. When the colony has fed on a leaf, they leave behind chemical traces which indicate that they have been there. This is a clue that flies, wasps and other predators can use to find the spitfires. As the last grub, which will be one of the leaders, leaves the

leaf, it chews through the stalk, so that the leaf falls to the ground. If too many members of a colony die, the group separates, with grubs wandering alone or falling from the tree and dying. It is possible that this is due to a lack of leaders.

When the spitfires were fully grown, the surviving members gathered with grubs from other colonies on the same tree. They formed a large group on the tree's trunk, then crawled down to the ground, where a few became meals for lizards. Together, they found a place to burrow into the ground near the base of a tree. Still in a tightly packed group, each grub built an underground cocoon, including some of the unpleasant eucalyptus oil to help deter predators, such as beetles. Now, while the spitfires were changing into adult sawflies, was the time for any wasp or fly eggs that were laid in or on them to hatch. The larvae from these eggs eat the spitfires while they pupate. The weather can also prevent spitfires from becoming adults. If the soil is too wet, they may become infected by fungi, and if it is too dry, they may desiccate.

Spitfires will only emerge from the ground as sawflies if conditions are right. They can wait in their cocoons for four years. That summer was very hot and dry, so few sawflies appeared and there were few clusters of spitfires on trees. The next summer was cooler. Those who had been lucky enough to avoid the many threats they faced as larvae and while pupating, waited until autumn, then dug their way out of the soil, flew up into a nearby tree, found a suitable place to saw a hole in a leaf and laid eggs.

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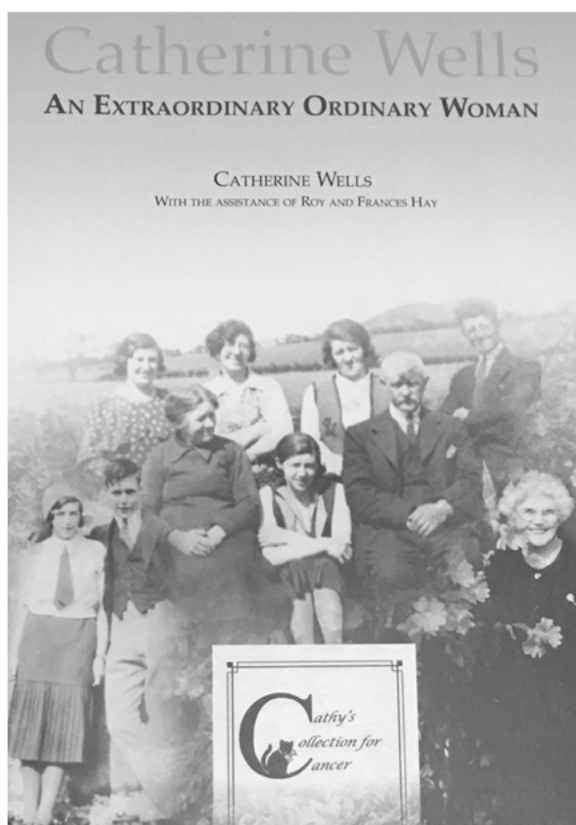
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## An extraordinary ordinary woman

*Roy Hay*

My mother-in-law was born in 1914 and left school when she was thirteen and went to work in a hotel about 20 miles (just over 30 kilometres) from Dingwall in Ross-shire in the far north of Scotland. That was the furthest place in which she lived from the town itself. When we went to visit her on one occasion, we took her to all the other places she had lived in, none of them more than 10 kilometres from the small town. Her father was a ploughman, and nearly every feeling (hiring) day he would uproot the family and move to another farm if the owner was offering a shilling (20 cents) more than he was paid in his current post. My mother-in-law said once, 'We were as peripatetic as the tinkers', and 'I had to go to a new school each time'. Her job at home every day was to collect water from a nearby burn (creek) or river since they seldom had even an outdoor tap with running water.



Catherine Ross kept on writing after she left school. She published her poems and short stories in the local newspapers. She didn't publish her first book until she was 86. That was a collection of her poems and stories, Cathie's Collection for Cancer, and she sold it by word of mouth around Dingwall making something like £4 000 pounds (\$8 000.00) for charity. She went on to publish three more books, one of which my wife and I helped her produce. I used to say it wasn't that I could not keep up with my wife, I could not keep up with my mother-in-law.

When she was 89 she told us 'I'm planning my 90th birthday party and I'm planning my funeral'. So, I said, 'Let's make sure it is the first and not the second', and I sat her down and took out my little recording device and got her to start the story of her life. When we came home

to Highton, every fortnight or so we'd get a thick envelope in the post with the next instalment, written on scraps of paper, backs of used envelopes, laundry and shopping lists and so on. My wife Frances is an editor, so she organised her Mam's work without losing its wonderful flow. We'd type it up on the computer and send it back to see if that was what she wanted.

There were some things she couldn't write about—her husband's war experiences in 1940 when he was badly wounded on the Somme and the death of her elder daughter. I did some research on Jimmy Wells's war and Frances was able to fill in the latter part of her sister's life. Because he was wounded, her husband was brought home via St Nazaire and Cardiff, where Cathie went to visit him in hospital after day and night travel in the war time blackout.

When she read the book, my daughter said 'Granny writes in pictures', and she was right about that. Cathie was a fund of stories and local knowledge and above all of families and genealogy. I once said to people that I had one ambition left in life and it was to meet someone in Dingwall who was NOT related to my mother-in-law.

In 1977 I was teaching at our old university in Glasgow and working for the Open University as well. Frances rang her Dad at work in the local ironmongers and said that I had a new job. When she told him the job was in Australia, he said, 'Your mother will be devastated, she will never see the grandchildren again'. But within a couple of years they came to visit and we went back as often as we could, particularly after Jimmy died and Mam was on her own, though as I've hinted already she had a host of relatives and friends who loved and supported her. One late evening when Mam was in her 94th year, Frances phoned her as we often did but Cathie was rather short with her and told her to ring again some time. This worried us and we contacted one of her nieces and asked her to go round to see Cathie. A few hours later she rang to say that Mam had been taken to hospital and died that day. So ended the life of this extraordinary ordinary woman—an inspiration and someone who could capture life as it was and make poetry and stories that resonate today about a world and the tiny community in which she lived.

If anyone is interested in her story there is a copy in the Geelong Regional Library or the editor has one he will give to the first person to ask him for it.

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Advance Meredith Association Inc is a group of residents who want to make a difference in Meredith.

Since the early 1900's community members have to undertake to plan events and projects that benefit the town.

As the Meredith Progress Association, they succeeded in having avenues of trees planted in Meredith in early 1900's. The Progress Association also lobbied for a Bush Fire Brigade and were successful in 1911

In the Meredith Community Newsletter in April 1993, in the Shire of Bannockburn Council Report it was reported, that the Playground at Pioneer Park had been constructed and installed with the assistance of Jobskill employees, and the equipment was financed by locally raised funds and council funds. And that two street seats had been placed in Staughton street as requested. The seats were provided using funds supplied by the local community.

Over the past 20 years the group has planted trees and installed tree guards, completing stage 7 last year. We have worked alongside the Churches, Lions, and Fire Brigade at local Christmas Concerts.

In early 2020 we were interviewed by the Outback Magazine to profile Meredith in an upcoming issue – so that will be great for the town.

We work and meet with Golden Plains Shire and local MPs to promote and plan events and projects for Meredith. Our latest event is for a Free Community Bush Dance, but Covid19 is thwarting our efforts, but we will hold the dance as soon as possible... we hope you all can join us.

During latest Covid19 Lockdowns we delivered cookies and by the time you read this hopefully you are planning where to plant your sunflower seeds.

Sunflowers mean happiness, optimism, peace and to plant a seed is to believe in tomorrow. So, in September join us as we plant these seeds in a spot 60cm apart and 2cm deep in a garden or pots that can be seen and share some connected kindness with self, family and neighbours.

If you don't get a pack delivered by an AMA elf, then please call and see Helen & Pat at Woolabrai/Pet Stock or Louise at the Roadhouse for yours. How amazing will Meredith look in 8 to 10 weeks!

The AMA is also the local body that holds the Golden Plains Shire's Community Seed money. As a community we receive \$7500 each three years to spend on projects that benefit Meredith community. The Community Coordinators (of which many are members of AMA) oversee the allocation of funds, so if you have a community project or event you need some funds, please contact us with your proposal.

We work closely with The Community House and till they folded the Meredith Lions Club. (many of their Members have now joined AMA). Upcoming as always at this time of year is the Christmas corner planning and installation and the mustering and corralling of community Christmas sheep as well as cutting out new ones for sale.

We are also working with youth and local police to arrange a teen dance but once again covid19 regulations and lockdowns are hindering progress, but fingers crossed for 2022.

In the future we would like to hold food swaps and run a community garden, but it is about what you the community of Meredith need and want ... so let us know, better still join us and help make a difference and make Meredith a resilient and connected community we can be proud to call home.

We meet, usually monthly, but sometimes more often if we have a project on the go.

Follow us on Facebook : Advance Meredith Association to stay up to date on community events.

President Louise 0427 779 113 or Secretary Kerrie 0409 027 359



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## **The Edible Patch - When the world is tired, and society is not happy, the garden is still there.**

*"I don't feel very much like Pooh today," said Pooh.*

*'There, there,' said Piglet. 'I'll bring you tea and honey until you do.'"*

After feeling so weary last lockdown, I decided to take stock, and for me that means time in the garden with a cuppa and I came to the decision that there no point worrying about what I can't control and to focus on what I can. Cultivating a garden is a very positive way to achieve this.

*When the world wearies and society fails to satisfy, there is always the garden.*

*Minnie Aumonier*

No one kind of garden is ideal for all. So shut your eyes and dream about the garden you love the most, then open your eyes and start planting and remember that loved gardens thrive.

There is no doubt that gardening conditions in Meredith can be challenging especially as the wind is almost always blowing. But persevere and you will learn to understand what it is to grow nourishing food for you, your family and community.

Growing an edible garden gives a sense of achievement and pleasure, more than you can imagine. I am excited because we actually got our potatoes planted and the strawberries lifted and replanted in August- one benefit of #stayhome

This week the plan, as it is late August /early September, is to plant out broad beans, carrot, lettuce, onion and peas. Next will be to plant seeds in trays to plant out as the soil warms up. This will include celery, silver beet, lettuces, leeks, spring onions, climbing beans, cucumber, sweet corn, tomato, pumpkin, zucchini, and radishes. Remember to plant little and often to stagger and extend harvest times.

*"First he ate some lettuces and some French beans; and then he ate some radishes."*

*'The Tale of Peter Rabbit'.*

According to the Diggers Club you can grow 2 tonnes of food for under \$30! With 13 packets of seed, you can grow 120kg pumpkin, 21kg beans, 824kg tomatoes, 560 lettuces, 268kg cucumbers, 42kg carrots, 22kg peas, 115kg parsnip, 247 broccoli heads, 840 onions and 60 bunches of silver beet. Now that's food security, guaranteed fresh wholesome food and you have more time outside in the fresh air rather than time spent staying 1.5 m apart in the supermarket or fruit & veg shop with masks and QR scanning rules.

The plan also includes planting or tidying up the cooking and medicinal herbs of parsley, chives, catnip, sage, oregano, rosemary, thyme, marjoram, basil, mugwort, chives, comfrey and it is always good to leave a patch of nettles.

*Weeds are flowers too, once you get to know them."*

*-A. A. Milne*

I have also started preparing a few beds that are for benefit of

the bees and other pollinators. These pollinators are important for the vegie patch as they increase pollination and therefore crop yield. Flowers such as coneflower, cosmos and sweet alyssum, zinnia, sunflowers, queen anne lace, lavender, poppies, and calendula are great for attracting pollinators. Allowing herbs and some vegetables to go to seed is also another great way to attract pollinators to visit. (Next plan: get a beehive to be self-reliant in honey).

*"Even the smallest one can change the world."*

*The Tale of Peter Rabbit'.*

Now we cannot forget our backyard chooks –poached eggs and fresh steam vegies make a light and delicious meal. I like to plant around the perimeter of the chook yard borage, comfrey, lemon balm, calendula, wormwood, lavender, and tansy to repel pests and parasites from the chooks and help keep them healthy and happy... remember it is very hard to stay down while watching chooks being busy in their daily lives.

To paraphrase David Hobson, there are many reasons, to grow plants: to please the eyes and the soul, to challenge the elements and to challenge your patience, for novelty and nostalgia, but mostly for the joy of seeing them grow and knowing that I can provide for my family.

*The first supermarket supposedly appeared on the American landscape in 1946. That is not very long ago. Until then, where was all the food? Dear folks, the food was in homes, gardens, local fields, and forests. It was near kitchens, near tables, near bedsides. It was in the pantry, the cellar, the backyard.*

*Joel Salatin*

For me gardening is all about finding some faith in what the future holds. Every seed you plant is a symbol of hope and happiness, a sense of control. So, although our world seems to be in free fall and challenging in the extreme, I can hold onto my seeds and seedling's and breathe deep and know that time spent in our garden is not wasted, but that I am participating in one of the purest pleasures, one that feeds not just our bodies but our mind, soul, and spirit.

*A society grows great when we plant trees whose shade, we know we shall never sit in!*

*Kerrie Facebook @ourlifeourway*



We really want to believe it when the internet says these are some actual complaints submitted by airline pilots (P) and the solutions recorded by maintenance staff. (S)

**P:** Left inside main tyre almost needs replacement

**S:** Almost replaced left inside main tyre

**P:** Test flight OK, except auto-land very rough

**S:** Auto-land not installed on this aircraft.

**P:** Something loose in cockpit.

**S:** Something tightened in cockpit

**P:**Dead bugs on windshield

**S:** Live bugs on back order



# MOORABOOL Wind Farm

## COMMUNITY UPDATE

September 2021

### Moorabool North Wind Farm

#### Progress to date

- Up to 75MW (27 turbines) operating

#### Look ahead

- AEMO Compliance (Hold Point) testing to continue – increased operations

### Moorabool South Wind Farm

#### Progress to date

- Pre-Commissioning of all Fifty-Four (54) turbines complete

#### Look ahead

- AEMO Compliance (Hold Point) testing to begin later this year, leading to operations

## Landscape and Visual Screening Program

Owners of residential dwellings within 4km of the Moorabool Wind Farm are invited to participate in a landscape and visual screening program.

This is to assist those closest neighbours in reducing the potential visual impacts of the project. All agreed works are undertaken by Moorabool Wind Farm at no cost to dwelling owners.

## Public Road Resurfacing at Moorabool South Wind Farm

Sections of Mount Wallace Ballark Road and Bungeeltap South Road are expected to be resurfaced between mid-September and late November 2021. This will involve road closures and speed reductions along sections of the roads for a period of time.

Further information will be provided via local media, on the project website, [www.mooraboolwindfarm.com](http://www.mooraboolwindfarm.com), and to those registered for SMS notifications, in the coming weeks. To register for notifications, please email [info@mooraboolwindfarm.com](mailto:info@mooraboolwindfarm.com) with your details.

## Moorabool wind farm Community Fund

Moorabool wind farm is pleased to announce the eight successful local initiatives in the latest round of the community fund:

- Fire Brigade Fire Fighting Equipment for the Mount Egerton Fire Brigade, Mount Egerton
- Community Hub Kitchen Facility Upgrade at the Ballan Recreation Reserve, Ballan
- Ballan Station Native Grassland Project for the Ballan Stationers, Ballan
- Two new trap houses for the Ballark and District Gun Club, Morrisons
- Energy efficiency upgrade at Gordon Public Park Hall at the Gordon Public Park Reserve, Gordon
- Nursery renovation to assist in regeneration for the Moorabool Landcare Network, Glenmore
- Community social lunches for the Meredith Community Centre, Meredith
- Pedestrian Bridges for the Ballan Golf Club, Ballan



Ballan Vintage Machinery Club, fund recipients 2020

Moorabool wind farm would like to thank the local volunteer fund assessment panel for their help in this round of community fund submission assessments.

**The next funding round will open in May 2022. Further details are available on the project website.**

For further information visit:

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

[info@mooraboolwindfarm.com](mailto:info@mooraboolwindfarm.com) or call: 1800 019 660.



## Marg's BOOK REVIEW

### Rock Solid by Kristen Weidenbach

This book tells the story of the life of an intrepid, determined and oft time irreverent pioneering Australian, Reg Spriggs. He is a man regarded by many as the greatest geologist of his generation and one of the best Australia has ever produced. He spent a lot of his time living in tents but was good friends with Mark Oliphant and Douglas Mawson, eminent men of their time.

In July, my husband Jeff and I stayed at Arkaroola in the Flinders Ranges. Reg had first been to the area of rocky hills looking for uranium during WW11. When an opportunity came up in 1967 to own the property, Reg and his wife Griselda jumped at it with the view of transforming it from an ineffective and unprofitable sheep station to an outback wildlife sanctuary and to make it pay they created a tightly managed, low impact tourist facility. The term eco-tourism had not yet been coined. Reg dreamed of a place where families and students could absorb the majesty of the arid ranges, where they could soak up the grandeur of the ancient hills and learn about the formation of the earth and this unique part of it.

It was an ambitious plan - being described as 'Vintage Sprigg'. For a start, it was 640 kilometres from Adelaide and nearly 300 kilometres off the main road. Visitors stay in motel like accommodation or in the caravan park. There is an excellent restaurant with the staff coming from all over the world. Numerous walking tracks emanate from Arkaroola with many tours available including the Ridge Top Tour (a hair-raising but spectacular four-wheel drive, five hour tour that terminates on a dizzying peak where guests enjoy morning tea and drink in the view) and the geology of craggy peaks over 1600 million years old to crystal mountains.

The book describes how, by the age of 30, Reg had discovered the oldest fossils in the world and some of its deepest under-sea canyons. He had worked at Australia's first two uranium mines and searched for material to construct the world's first atomic bomb.

By the time he was 40 he had helped found Santos and discovered the great Cooper Basin oil and gas fields. He had also set up the largest private geological consulting firm in the country, built his own boat and diving bell and mastered the primitive art of scuba diving.

By the time he was 50 Reg had driven the first vehicle across the Simpson Desert (with his wife and two children) and crossed the continent from north, south, east and west. He had established his own exploration company, Beach Petroleum and also launched Arkaroola Wildlife Sanctuary - one of Australia's first eco-tourism resorts. The rest of his life he devoted to mining and conservation which he believed could co-exist and to his insatiable love of geology.

Reg was impulsive. He was passionate, enthusiastic and optimistic. The geologists and field workers in his pioneering teams said every day was an adventure and all felt they were achieving something. Their catch-cry was 'I wonder what new idea Reg will have for us today?' But, typical of brilliant people, Reg was never where he should have been on time, always rushing in and rushing out and he often forgot to put on his socks!

The book certainly describes Reg's personality, driving himself and an organization. He was a vibrant, brilliant, inspiring man who battled government and big business to fight for what he believed was right for his family, his employees and ultimately his country. He had ideas. He didn't have doubts. He was full steam ahead. And, the pioneering nature of it all, was notable!

Arkaroola is now managed by Reg's son, Doug. The author, Kristen Weidenbach, (who also wrote Mailman of the Birdsville Track) is the daughter-in-law of Reg Spriggs. On our last day at Arkaroola we took a 30 minute flight over the property. Our pilot was Doug Spriggs who talked non-stop on the way to the air-strip about the flora and fauna of the area and, while in the plane, he talked non-stop about the geology of the area. We were told that his passions are Arkaroola, geology, flying aeroplanes and astronomy. Being in his company we got a taste of the character who was his father.

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**New patients welcome**

## His Last Ride

Marg Cooper

John Payne has self-published a book called *Their Last Ride: The Fallen Jockeys of Australia*. The book won the Bill Whittaker Book Award for 2020 for the best new book on Australian horse racing. John is described as an incredibly humble man and a prolific researcher of horse racing. He dedicated eight years to compiling this book, spending nearly all day, every day at the State and National Libraries. The purpose of the book is not to reflect grief or sorrow but rather to remember those who gave their lives to riding race-horses and to honour them for their sacrifice.

Since the beginnings of horse racing in Australia, 950 jockeys have lost their lives while taking part in the sport. The book covers from 1847 to 2017. The first death recorded is on New Years Day, 1847 when 25-year-old George Marsden died after his mount and another had fallen during meeting at Homebush. The first female jockey to die was Iris Nielsen at Lismore in 1988 and seven jockeys who after winning eight Melbourne cups between them, died in racing accidents. Another rider to die was Billy Elliot who rode Par Lap seven times for seven wins. John Payne emphasised the fact that there are few occupations where an ambulance follows you about while you are working which further highlights the dangers of the profession.

The book has sparked the interest of many with Condobolin taking the reins in erecting a monument in honour of all the fallen jockeys who are documented in the book. The Lachlan Shire Council engaged fifth generation stone mason Ray Collins to create the memorial. His studio is an open-sided shed alongside the turf at Condobolin on the banks of the Lachlan River and they have provided a caravan for him to live in during the 15-month long project. Mr Collins is working free of charge. He is using crushed zeolite from northern NSW which is mixed with a liquid compound, poured into curved, horse shoe shaped wooden moulds, left to dry for four to five days until it sets as hard as granite and then the octogenarian will carve the names of 950 jockeys into them. The curves of the 80-centimetre-high horse-shoes will feature the name of each jockey and the dates of his or her death while the base plinth will bear the name of the race track at which they died.

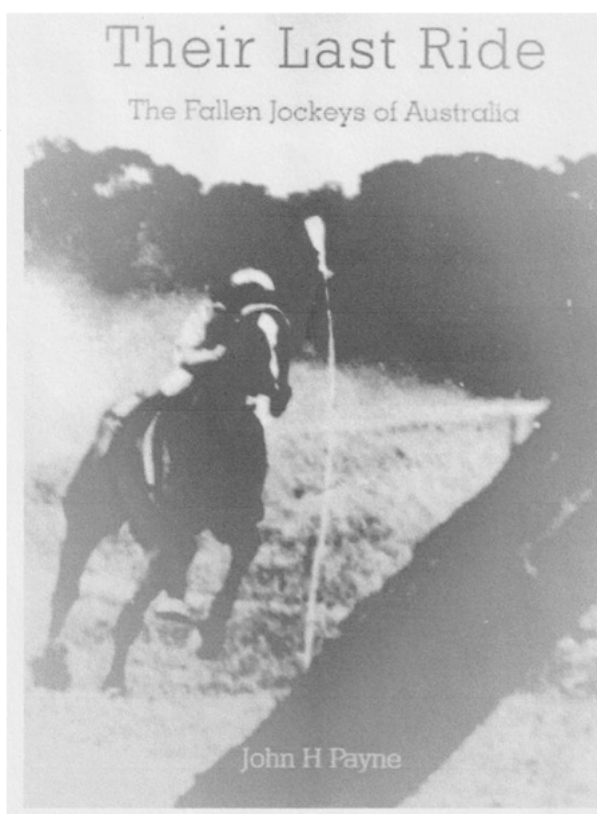
In 2005 the AJA unveiled a memorial to Australia's fallen

jockeys at Melbourne's Caulfield Race Track in which the names are inscribed on six panels below a bronze statue of a rider.

One jockey documented in the book is John Carroll who died at the Meredith Races in March 1866. At the inquest on March 19th the Constable at Steiglitz, Richard Knott told how he saw John Carroll mount his horse (even though he seemed to be under the influence of liquor) and start in the race. Later he heard that Carroll had fallen after his horse bolted from the course and, in endeavouring to avoid a tree, the saddle turned around and John Carroll fell to the ground. He was given brandy and water, had vinegar and water poured on his head and then Constable Knott went for the doctor who was not home. The deceased was then taken to the Hotel and admitted into hospital on March 18th. William Pardey deposed that he

saw the deceased start from the weighing stand. He was not sober. After the accident he was asked to attend the patient although he was only a chemist. The jockey recovered enough to ask about his horse. He could not use his limbs. Dr Reid who saw him after he was admitted to hospital said it was evident his spine was fractured high up and that it was a fatal case. The spinal cord was in an apoplectic condition, otherwise the body was in a healthy condition.

*The verdict returned was that John Carroll whilst riding on the Meredith Racecourse fell from his horse, in consequence of his saddle not being properly girthed, he being under the influence of drink, by which fall he fractured his spine, of which fracture he died. To this conclusion the jury added a rider- that in their opinion, blame was attached to the stewards of the said racecourse for permitting a man in the state that deceased was represented to have been, to ride a racehorse on that occasion.*



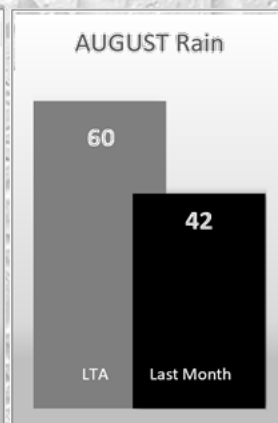
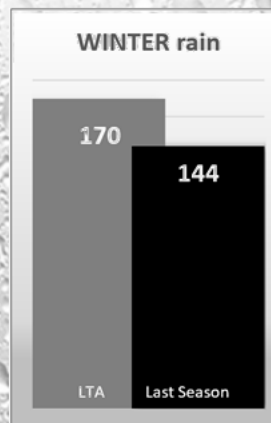
don't be upsetti



have some spaghetti

# the rain report

Not great, but not real bad. (This is our “glass half full issue!”) Winter delivered 144 mm or about 85% of the long term average. Which is enough to give vegetation a good start to spring.



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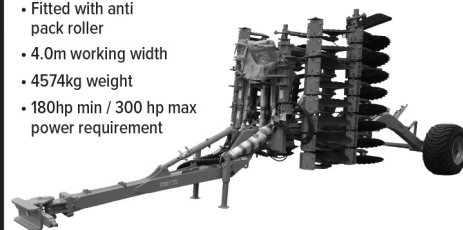
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## it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

### Steiglitz Photos:

We plan to hold an exhibition of photos of Steiglitz in late October. Tony Scott has been organizing the photos we have, chronologically so people will be able to see how the town changed over time.

If you have any photos of Steiglitz, we would love to see them. The Municipal Directories give a brief description of towns. In 1895 Steiglitz was described as; A mining township with two banks, post, money-order and telegraph office 77 miles W. of Melbourne and 7 miles from Meredith, on Sutherlands Creek. District-mining, and extends over 50 square miles, gold lying principally in quartz reefs, 75 being known. A State School and Mechanics' Institute [with library] and agency of insurance company. Rail to Meredith; thence coach, 7 miles, daily; fare, 2 s. Samuel Bland, postmaster. Population, 2000.

### Bamganie:

Our intrepid researcher Jan McDonald trawled through Trove [old newspapers, online] for every reference to Bamganie and saved them in chronological order. The articles are very interesting to read. They tell how the district developed, how and when the people obtained land, the mining, accidents, property names, weddings, deaths and funerals etc. I have recently indexed all the articles so if you are interested to find out information about a person, family, property, mine etc in Bamganie, there is now a list of the articles that each is mentioned in.

A report supplied by the Lands Department on the effects already produced by the operation of the 42nd clause of the Land Act (which allowed people to occupy and farm land under certain conditions in December 1868 told that in the Parish of Bamganie, 8 licensees had been issued for a total area of 617 acres. The value of improvements was £145, the value of materials, crops etc was £148, the area cultivated was 34 acres, there were 24 occupants and 29 head of livestock.

"The parish of Bamganie that was almost entirely occupied a few years ago by kangaroos and rabbits, and a few sheep, has been reclaimed by the persevering selectors, and fenced off into tidy farms, on each of which a comfortable homestead has been erected. These selections have added considerably to the number of ratepayers in Meredith, and Mr Leahy, Government contract surveyor, is now extending the surveys to the west in lots of from 100 acres to 320 acres each. The land is flat and grassy, and well adapted for grazing purposes, but the rabbits are a nuisance being in undisturbed possession of the soil."

*Geelong Advertiser, October 21, 1872.*

### 94.7 The Pulse Radio:

Bernard Ryan issued an invitation to Kerrie Kruger to appear on his program on Tuesday, August 17 to talk about the book she wrote that has just been printed and then launched about the Pubs & Publicans of Meredith. Because of Covid the interview was cancelled and is to be rescheduled at a later date. Bernard weekly reviews books

on the community radio station. He likes to include locally written books and especially books about Meredith because his mother grew up at Meredith and his father at Elaine. They had their wedding reception at the Royal Hotel.

### Wedding Photos:

Another recent project has been to collect wedding photos and descriptions and to put them in folders. Please bring in your wedding photo or ones of your family. We can copy them or you may be able to email or text them. When looking at the photos over the years it is interesting to observe the trends in bridal clothes. Some are so very elegant.

### Street Plant Nursery:

Remember that plants are available for only \$3.00. Remember that we are happy to accept plants to sell whether they are potted plants, seedlings, seeds, cuttings or excess from your garden. Help! We notice that plants sell better if they are named and if a photo is provided. Would anyone like to create some attractive signs?

## FROM THE ARCHIVES



### MORRISONS

Almost the only matter of importance which has occupied the attention of the residents in this neighbourhood for some time past is the operation of the 42<sup>nd</sup> section of the Amending Land Act. Almost every available spot of unalienated land, good and bad alike, is applied for, in fact a perfect mania, something after the style which a few weeks since prevailed in the Ballarat share market for new companies, has seized upon would be settlers. Scores of acres of land

are applied for totally unfit for cultivation of any description. The majority of the lots are without water and without the least prospect of ever being otherwise. The whole of the Goldfields Common east of the river is already absorbed, as well as about 200 acres of land belonging to Mr Mackinnon which some overwise selector has appropriated. From Wallace's Bridge, on the road to Mount Egerton, pegs stare you in the face in all directions, and you cannot travel a mile in any direction without a sight of the inevitable 3 feet whitewashed boundary stakes.... On the Ballark property no washing has taken place since December last. The swamps which

have hitherto supplied that vicinity having failed before Christmas, and have never since been replenished; mining operations, however, are pushed ahead in the hope that it will rain some day. - *Geelong Advertiser* 9 May 1866

*Jan McDonald, Meredith History Interest Group*

## MEREDITH SHIRE.

**MEREDITH.**—A municipal township with post and money-order office, savings bank and telegraph station on Coolebargh creek, and 30½ miles from Geelong. Council hold their meetings in building opposite Royal hotel. There are State school, three churches, shire hall, court-house and police station, three hotels, creamery, butter factory and agency of insurance company. 3105 acres are under cultivation, cereals principally being grown. Auction sales of stock held on Third Thursday in month. Station on Geelong and Ballarat line 74½ miles; fares, 12s. 8d. and 8s. 7d.; coach from Meredith twice a day, to meet trains. Jessie Liston, postmistress. Population, 211.

**MORRISONS.**—(See BALLAN SHIRE.)

**STEIGLITZ.**—A mining township with two banks, post, money-order and telegraph office 77 miles W. of Melbourne and 7 miles from Meredith, on Sutherlands creek. District—mining, and extends over 50 square miles, gold lying principally in quartz reefs, 75 being known. A State school and mechanics' institute (with library) and agency of insurance company. Rail to Meredith; thence coach, 7 miles, daily; fare, 2s. Samuel Bland, postmaster. Population, 2000.

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## Landcare News

### Bamganie-Meredith



#### 2021 National Landcare Award Winner

Those of us lucky enough to visit the Stewart's Yan Yan Gurt West farm at Deans Marsh in April this year will be delighted to learn that Andrew Stewart was the winner of the 2021 National Bob Hawke Landcare Award. The Bob Hawke Landcare Award recognises individuals who champion Landcare and inspire others. Andrew was selected from over 100 nominees from across Australia in recognition of the environmental and sustainable agricultural advancements he and his family have made on their 230-hectare grazing and agroforestry property. The Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia David Littleproud congratulated Andrew as a worthy winner of the Award for his commitment to delivering the Yan Yan Gurt Creek Catchment community revegetation program, a program that has resulted in the restoration of nearly 18km of creek frontage and formed a wildlife corridor connecting several farms across the district. In addition to the on-ground work, Mr Littleproud praised Andrew's work in bringing the community together in a way that truly demonstrates the Landcare ethos. A truly inspiring effort, congratulations Andrew!

#### Grassy Eucalypt Woodlands Stewardship Program

The Corangamite CMA is offering funding to support landholders protect areas of critically endangered grassy eucalypt woodlands (including Natural Temperate Grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plains) on their land. Grassy eucalypt woodlands are open woodlands with a mainly eucalypt canopy layer, with an understorey usually featuring native tussock-forming grasses interspersed with herbs and wildflowers.

Grassy eucalypt woodlands provide critical habitat for a number of nationally threatened species, including the striped legless lizard, growling grass frog and golden sun moth. Although formerly widespread on the lower slopes and plains of mainland eastern Australia grassy eucalypt woodlands have been extensively cleared and modified in the agricultural zones of eastern Australia.

The Grassy Eucalypt Woodlands Stewardship Program provides support to help private land managers protect areas of Grassy Eucalypt Woodlands and Natural Temperate Grasslands on the Victorian Volcanic Plain that remain on private land. The target region for the Grassy Eucalypt Woodlands Stewardship Program encompasses the area east from Shelford to the western flank of the You Yangs, to Inverleigh in the south and Meredith in the north. Sites outside of the target area on the Victorian Volcanic Plains will also be considered.

Under the stewardship program the CCMA seeks to establish 10 year management agreements with landowners, with funding available in the order of \$1,000 per hectare. Funding can be used for a range of activities including fencing, weed control, revegetation and controlled burning to support the protection of grassy eucalypt woodlands on private land. This may represent a

contribution to work you are already undertaking. Permanent exclusion of stock from these areas is not necessarily an objective.

A free on farm information workshop about the Program will be held at Inverleigh on Monday September 20th 2021 from 1-3pm. For more information about the workshop, or to register, contact Jo Solomon, project officer at the Geelong Landcare Network on 0438 828 042.

More information about the stewardship program is available at <https://ccma.vic.gov.au/project/grassy-eucalypt-stewardship-program/> or contact Jess Lill from the CCMA on 0477 719 149, or Jo Solomon (contact details above). The first step after expressing interest is an obligation free on property visit and discussion with ecologists who will bring a lot of valuable knowledge to share with you. This project is supported by Corangamite CMA, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. This project will run until 2023

#### National Landcare Conference Presentation Recordings

The National Landcare Conference and Awards Ceremony was held online on 5-6 August 2021 August. Over 60 presenters contributed to the virtual event with over 3,000 participants registering. Speakers from the Corangamite region included Rowan Reid, Cam Nicholson, Karen O'Keefe, Naomi Wells and Catherine Jenkins. Recordings of the sessions are available on the Landcare Australia website until the end of September:

<https://nationallandcareconference.org.au/>

#### Farmers For Climate Change

Farmers for Climate Action are looking for future leaders who are interested in creating change on-farm and beyond to join their FCA Victorian Fellowship Program. If you are a farmer or have a strong connection to agriculture, apply for the FCA Victorian Fellowship and learn how you can build climate-resilience on farm and advocate for climate solutions beyond the farm gate!

Applications are now open to join the Fellowship Program. The fellowship is free, and travel/accommodation to in-person events will be heavily subsidised with a generous bursary.

The first event for the program is a one-day forum at Colac on 10 September 2021. For more information about the Fellowship Program go to

<https://farmersforclimateaction.org.au/portfolio/victorian-fellowship-2021/> or email [emily@farmersforclimateaction.org.au](mailto:emily@farmersforclimateaction.org.au)

Source of content for this report: Corangamite CMA Landcare News Winter 2021

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

*Victorian Volcanic Plains***GRASSY EUCALYPT WOODLANDS**  
Stewardship Program

The Grassy Eucalypt Woodlands Stewardship Program aims to protect critically endangered Grassy Eucalypt Woodlands on the Victorian Volcanic Plain that remain on private land. Funding is available to support the conservation and regeneration of these critically endangered areas.

Geelong Landcare Network in partnership with Corangamite Catchment Authority  
is hosting a

**Free Information Workshop****Monday Sept 20th 1-3pm****Inverleigh**

- discover what Grassy Eucalypt Woodlands are
- learn about the fauna that call these habitats home
- understand the cultural significance of these areas
- hear what the funding supports
- come on a tour of a property already in the stewardship program and see how its managed within a productive farming system
- talk with the CCMA about your unique property

We will be running another free workshop on Saturday October 9th in Sutherlands Creek and a grass seed collection workshop in December. All workshops will be rescheduled as required to work within Covid-19 restriction guidelines. Bookings are essential

**For further information and bookings contact  
Jo Solomon 0438 828 042**

This project is supported by Corangamite CMA, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. This project will run until 2023



National  
Landcare  
Program



## Vale to James [Jim} Raymond Cole 17/5/1943 – 13/8/2021

Marg Cooper

Extract from *Memorable Men of Meredith*, written in 2009.

"The doors and now shut and the sheds are quiet but this site in the 1970's was a bustling, busy, breathtaking scene of activity. The sheds housed probably the biggest and most exciting business in Meredith's history! The roads were clogged with vehicles of workers, people delivering, people collecting, people waiting for jobs etc and trucks waiting for bodies, hoists etc. The roadsides were storage sites for steel, timber, vehicle parts, equipment etc. The noise rang out from the area, the noise of industry, the noise of machinery, the noise of men and the noise of people coming and going. It was like an ant colony that out grew its nest!

Jim came to Meredith in 1966 from Albury.

He bought some land between Lawler and Russell Street, which had a small house on the Lawler Street end.

He built a shed on the Russell Street end and started a small engineering works.

He built sheds for farmers and fixed their machinery. He was always a willing worker and often worked at night to finish jobs.

Jim married a local girl Mary Gargan in 1970 and they built a new house to replace the old house. They had three children, Michael, Theresa and Christine.

The business grew and the sheds multiplied and housed well equipped workshops. Meredith Engineering became the biggest employer in the Meredith area, employing about thirty people as welders, fitters, spray painters, office staff, managers etc and apprentices in each trade. A lot of local men gained employment at the engineering works at different times and a lot of young men did apprenticeships at the engineering works. Jim was talented in winning tenders and regularly won state wide contracts. A three-year contract for body works for CRB trucks required ten vehicles to be completed each week. This included everything from 1-ton bodies to 70 cubic meter tip trucks. A Pearson brake press of 15.5-ton capacity worked full time, pressing, forming and guillotining and in 1979 a new one was installed of twice the size.

The Ballarat Courier, 1979 reported that Meredith Engineering turned over more than \$1 million in 1978.

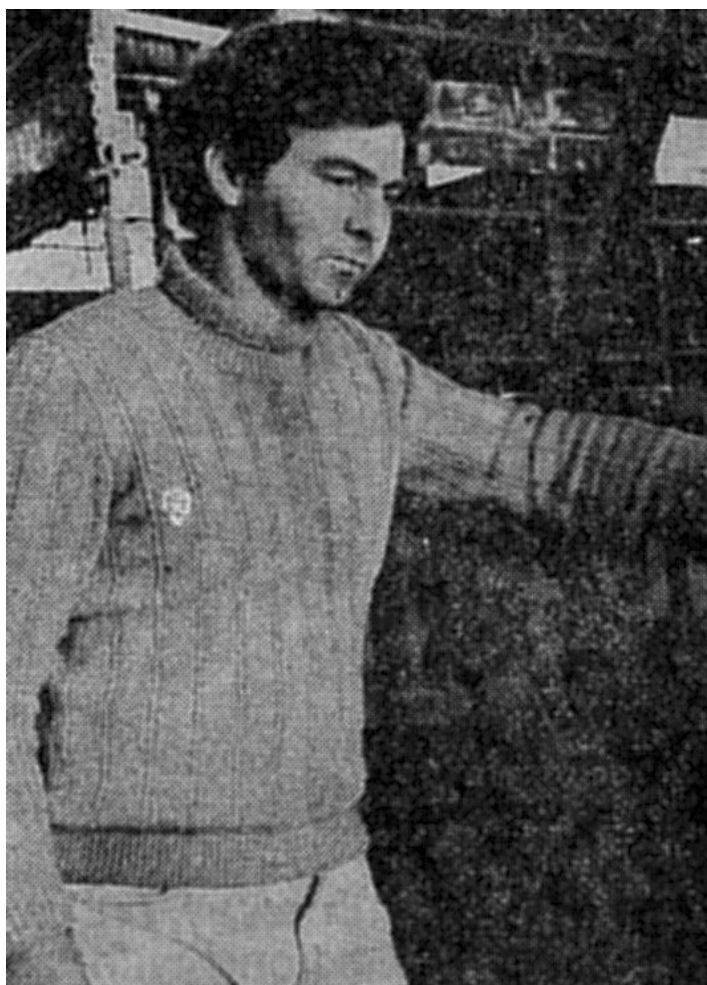
Mary and Jim and Family bought the former hospital at 22 Staughton Street in 1979 and vacated their house in Lawler Street, for more office space for the business.

The business suffered financial difficulties and was closed in 1981. Jim established Yalacco Steel Engineering in Geelong in 1983. Sadly, Mary died from breast cancer in 1987.

He now lives in Geelong with his second wife Jenny and their daughter Bethany and manages and supervises major building projects in Melbourne and Geelong."

*Since this article was written Jim and Jenny travelled extensively. Jenny, a teacher, accepted the challenge to teach at remote schools in Northern Territory and Western Australia, including at Balgo Aboriginal Community, which is off the Tanami Track. Jim and Jenny enjoyed the adventure, the climate and the people. Jim, with his skills and willingness to work was often employed as the handy man.*

*Jim passed away peacefully at the Epworth Hospital in Geelong. Loved and loving husband of Mary [dec] and Jenny. Cherished Dad of Michael and Laura, Theresa and Rowan, Christine and Rutger, Bethany and Eric. Loved papa of Molly, Angus, Lenny, Sam, Mary and Renee.*



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## Domenico D. Cerio –

*Fr Charles Balnaves*

Domenico came and went between here and Coburg but basically lived in Meredith since the mid-1970s, out on Pioneer Ridge Road. I met Domenico in 2016, over lunch in the Joey's Op Shop on the Friday of my first week in this Parish of St Joseph's and in the Town of Meredith.

What do you make of someone who latches on to you and won't stop talking but who thinks to bring a gift of food each week; of a man who couldn't bear to see anything wasted but put great effort into dressing up for Melbourne Cup day. What do you make of a man who estranged himself from his family but would name people of Meredith as 'friend.'

He was in many ways a very difficult man and his family suffered from that. But it is not right to stop there because there was more to him than that.

Apparently, when trips to Coburg were regular, he would load a sheep in the back of the ute and drive it to Coburg so it could eat the grass – no waste you see. And he would always pay for things with cash, all his bills, over the counter with cash, and when possible he would use coins including paying for his petrol with five and ten cent pieces which were all lined up in wrapped stacks on the top of his dashboard (cash gives clarity and certainty you see).

I asked him why he had such a large handle on his walking stick, thinking perhaps arthritis made a smaller grip impossible, and his answer was "I keep the pieces of cling-wrap that I come across because they are useful when I am



A very dapper Domenico Cerio

doing things and having the pieces on the walking stick makes it easy to access." And Domenico was born in Italy in 1929 so he came through the Great Depression and the Second World War and all the hunger and deprivation which that entailed.

As I got to know Domenico a bit more during 2021, he came back in January after nearly a year with family (a year which he had ended most acrimoniously) I discovered all sorts of things about him. He kept the things that were most precious to him on his person (his St Christopher, his prayer Card, his wallet and cards, his keys) or in very obvious places around his house – though you wouldn't realise it till you took time to observe: important things were wrapped and wrapped again and wrapped again in order to ensure they were safe, then the wrapped object would be placed in a clearly visible place – perhaps on his dresser where he could see it.

In this odd and quirky and difficult man whose English could be very highly accented, I have found glimpses of goodness and caring. I spent his last night with him in Geelong Hospital, after he had a massive heart attack: he was disturbed and restless through most of the night but suddenly at about two thirty in the morning he appeared to shake that off and become truly peaceful. I pray that this peace has gone with him into eternal life.

Domenico Dante Cerio – a real character, a real part of the Meredith Community – RIP 6th August 2021.

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## Austin Cup School Sports

Marg Cooper

Recently Denise Jude (Powles) found a copy of the programme from the 1961 school sports which were held on Friday, April 14, starting at 12.30 pm at Elaine Recreation Reserve. Boiling Water, Soft Drinks and Ice Cream was available. The Programme cost 2/- which admitted people to the ground, children were free.

Schools represented were: Meredith wearing the colour red, Elaine wearing blue, Bungal wearing grey, Woodburn wearing a red sash and St Joseph's wearing the colour Green.

The Office-bearers were listed on the programme including the scorers, Miss L Wells, Mrs H Cooke, Mrs G Beck and Mrs J Slocombe.

The programme listed the entries in each heat of Boys Under 6, 30 yard race, Girls & Boys Under 7, 40 yard race, Girls and Boys Under 9, 50 yard race, Girls & Boys Under 10, 50 yard race, Girls & Boys Under 12, 60 yard race and Girls & Boys Under 14, 60 yard race. Then there were the Championship events for Girls & Boys Under 10 and Girls and Boys Under 14. There were also Sack Races, Egg & Spoon Races, Skipping Races for girls and Siamese Races.

In the Girls Under 10 years race there were five entries: Jillian Lamb, Annette Carroll, Jeanette Levy and Gail Wray all from Meredith School and Patricia Handley from St Josephs. But, in the Boys Under 10 years race there were eight entries: Andrew Stewart & Adrian Kilsby from Meredith, Colin Le Maitre & Lawrence Slocombe from Bungal, Terry Innes & Andrew Patterson from Woodburn and Stephen Perdrisat & Kevin McCormack from St Josephs.

The Austin Cup and a Shield were to be presented to the winning school and the Runner-up school also received a Shield. The Shields had been donated by Mrs J Slocombe and Mr Stuart Connell. Cups for the Championships were donated by Messrs G Beck, T Hart, J Payne and C Smith.

The programme was very comprehensive and listed Office Bearers, Judges and more, as well as each student who competed.

*A hand-written tick next to a name indicated that that particular student may have won a heat. In the third event, the Under 7 years, 40 yards race the name of Denise Powles is ticked. No wonder she kept the programme.*

### Picking the Lock

The old smokers rasp of the Wattle Bird,  
The frenzied tweets of the honey bum wrens  
Walking the Paddocks, as I do every day,  
These are my Lockdown Friends

The magpies' grand operas, the eagle's sweep,  
The cockatoos' loud party noise,  
The timid chat of the fairy wrens  
These are my Lockdown Joys

Smartly dressed honey birds argue their case  
While setting the bushes to shake  
The strangling crows bright eyed with grief  
Sad with the sound that they make

The kangaroo grasses bent to the breeze  
The Kookas' make fun of the day  
Thrushes sing their crystal verse  
Unshackled nature at play

When I step into this wonderland  
When I wet my feet in the dew  
When I see a flower on its first day  
I am unshackled too

JE

## Cancelled



## Geelong Relay For Life

The Geelong Relay For Life has been cancelled for 2021 due to COVID related uncertainty, and the importance of protecting the health of all participants. We will be back in 2022.

Donation can still be made to Cancer Council online at [RelayForLife.org.au](https://RelayForLife.org.au)

For any queries please call Anne Miller on 0439 007 960.



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# digitalhub

The Digital Hub at Smythesdale is now open!



The first co-working space in Golden Plains, the Digital Hub is located at The Well, 19 Heales Street, Smythesdale.

A modern and accessible space, the Hub has fast and reliable NBN internet and strong mobile phone coverage. With easy parking, the Hub is open 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

At the Hub, there are co-working hot desks and a meeting space to book by the hour, half day or full day. A private office is available by the hour and there is a privacy pod for online meetings and calls.

The Hub is available at no cost for the first 12 months as part of Council's COVID-19 Business Support Program.

For booking information, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/digitalhub](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/digitalhub) or call 5220 7231

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## COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING GRANTS ROUND TWO 2021



### Is your community group looking for funding for a project or program?

Applications open 1 September for the second round of Golden Plains Shire Council's Community Strengthening Grants Program 2021.

Grants of up to \$10,000 are available in four categories:

- Healthy Active Living – to support recreation, sport, health and wellbeing projects
- Creative Community – to support arts and culture projects
- Environment and Sustainability – to support projects that improve the environment
- Community Safety – to support projects that equip communities to be safe and resilient

Groups must match the amount of funding sought, either in cash or through in-kind contributions, such as volunteer work on the project. Applications are open until 12pm, Thursday 30 September, 2021.

For more information and to apply for a Community Strengthening Grant, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/grants](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/grants) or contact Council's Community Partnerships Officer at 5220 7220 or email [communitygrants@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:communitygrants@gplains.vic.gov.au).

