

December 2021

Meredith & district News

OUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



inside

- Welcome to our new policeman
- Update on the Police Paddocks
- An amazing celebration party in 1920



Food,
activities carols
Watch out for a Christmas
party. Find out where
and when. See page 3
for details

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



Hosted by Meredith CFA in conjunction with Advance Meredith Association

Advance Meredith Association Inc. SMALL TOWN BIG SPIRIT



CHRISTMAS EVE - 6.30 PM ONWARDS

Santa in Meredith on the big red Truck



Santa's Route around Meredith



LISTEN & LOOK FOR THE LIGHTS & SIRENS

Wait by the roadside to receive a goodie from Santa & his elves.

Track Santa's trip - FB Christmas In Meredith

Keep Kids safe near firetruck

- 1. Meredith CFA Station - depart 6.30pm
- 2. Meredith Memorial Hall - arrive 6.45 pm, depart 7 pm
- 3. Meredith Community Centre , arrive 7.35pm , depart 7.50pm

The Combined Churches of Meredith along with
Advance Meredith Association

INVITES YOU TO Celebrate Christmas

LET OUR SPIRIT SHINE THIS
CHRISTMAS IN MEREDITH
FOOD / ACTIVITIES / CAROLS
FREE . FREE . FREE
ALL WELCOME

baked spuds * popcorn * fairy floss* fresh fruit
slushies* coffee van * christmas treats
lucky dips * face painting * carol singing
and Elves with presents...

SUNDAY DECEMBER 19
6 PM

The Grounds of ST Joseph's Church
- Lawler St Meredith

This event has been funded by the Golden Plains Shire Council in partnership with the Victorian Government's Community Activation and Social Isolation initiative (CASI).





Did you know bushfires kill from **200m** away?

The flames of bushfires can reach temperatures of up to 1100°C. Long before the flames reach you, the wave of radiant heat can kill you from 200 metres away. Planning for bushfire is the only way to survive it.

How well do you know fire?

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

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



Making good things happen

When you choose to bank with Bendigo Bank, good things happen in your community.

Like our support of the Buninyong Cricket Club and the development of junior and female cricket.

And when you belong to one of Australia's biggest banks, good things happen with your banking too.

Feel good about who you bank with.

Find out more. Call 5341 8066 or search Bendigo Bank Buninyong.

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 communitybankbuninyong



 **Bendigo Bank**

Community Bank · Buninyong

COMMUNITY UPDATE

December 2021

•Moorabool North Wind Farm

Progress to date

- Up to 75 MW (27 turbines) operating

Look ahead

- AEMO Compliance (Hold Point) testing to continue – increased operations, in 2022

•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 in 2022, 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

The resealing of sections of Mount Wallace Ballark Road and Bungeeltap South Road is nearing completion. Road closures and speed reductions will remain in place along sections of the roads until mid-December.



Moorabool Wind Farm Contact Details

The Moorabool wind farm Information Centre at 120 Inglis Street, Ballan is now closed permanently. The team at Moorabool are still available to respond to questions, queries, or complaints.

To contact us or to register for future electronic project updates and newsletters please use the following methods:

- 1800 019 660
- info@mooraboolwindfarm.com
- via Helen Kennedy, Community Engagement Manager at helenkennedy@goldwindaustralia.com



**The team at Moorabool Wind Farm
wish you all a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!**

For further information visit:
www.mooraboolwindfarm.com,
info@mooraboolwindfarm.com or call: 1800 019 660.

*Celebrate the holidays with family, friends and neighbours
at the annual Golden Plains Twilight Market.*

THURSDAY 16 DECEMBER

4pm - 9pm

Corner of Milton & High Streets • Bannockburn



PROUDLY SPONSORED BY
BANNOCKBURN & DISTRICT
GRANTS

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 3331
P 03 5281 4444 W stockdaleleggo.com.au/bannockburn

Stockdale & Leggo *We see more than property*



In the School Garden



We are not really in control when we garden although we might like to think when we plan, all will follow. Gardening is more like a to and fro - we do something and then nature does her bit. We respond and

so it goes. This has certainly been our experience again this year with our GIANT PUMPKINS. The seedlings went into the carefully prepared soil, all four of them, only to disappear without a trace. Two more were planted and this time were watched. Nature had sent in some very hungry snails and we needed to respond in a very forceful way. What to do? We consulted two of the champion growers from the last Giant Pumpkin Challenge and this is our game plan: one advised that a short piece of tubing with copper tape wound around the top will deter the snails. Another said they had heard that a circle of porridge oats sprinkled around the edge distracted the snails, sending them off with full tummies, without the need to feast on the pumpkin seedlings. So...we are employing both tactics this time and we hope to have great news of our flourishing pumpkin plants to report in the February newsletter.



The OZ HARVEST program has finished for this year but will run again next year with the Grade 5/6 class. OzHarvest has a wonderful website with "How to Use It Up" recipes that will inspire you to use up stale bread, old vegetables and all sorts of food nearing its use by date or looking a bit sad. The average Australian family throws away over \$1000 worth of food a year, most of which is edible. Apart from keeping this out of landfill, that money is an easy save. Below is a great Use It Up Pancake from OzHarvest. If you are looking for a lovely children's present, they have a picture story book called 'Lenny and the Ants' a fun rhyming story with a use it up theme.

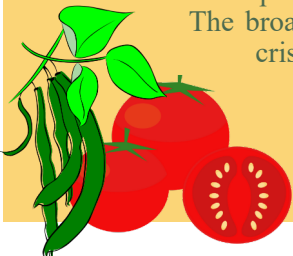
Some seeds and plants you might like to pop in now are SUNFLOWERS to give a spectacular autumn display; your tomatoes would love some neighbourly BASIL or BUSH BEANS, BEETROOT, CUCUMBER, RADISHES, SWEETCORN and ZUCCHINI.

Wishing you a happy and contented time in the garden - your plot or maybe someone else's - enjoying a time of harvesting and eating or watching the plants grow until we meet again in the February Newsletter.

The TOMATO SEEDLINGS are having a slow start due to the cold weather. It seems to have been a similar situation to last year however, when the weather did warm up, we had tomato plants fruiting till well into May.

The BROAD BEANS planted by the Prep/One children didn't mind the cold at all and grew as tall as some of the growers. They did blow over in the wind on one of those particularly stormy days Meredith experienced, but continued to grow. Mrs Edmiston and the children harvested a huge amount and we spent an afternoon happily turning them into a delicious dip. First we recruited a team of podders who worked their way through the beans, marvelling at the beautifully soft and furry insides of the pods and sampling some of the smaller ones. Next we cooked them gently in some boiling water for a couple of minutes and cooled them straight away with icy water. All were put in a blender and the Prep/One cooks helping by adding feta cheese, garlic, lemon juice, mint and drizzling in the olive oil. There were also pita crisp makers: they cut up the pita breads and toasted them in the oven till they were crunchy. Finally the big moment came, we had been waiting since planting the beans way back in March.

The broad bean dip was served with the pita crisps and carrots sticks and fortunately there was plenty for second and third helpings. We have also saved beans to dry and use for next year's sowing.



Willow with the broad bean dip



Cody cutting up pita bread

OzHarvest "Use It Up Pancake"

Whisk together 165g rice flour with 175ml water and a pinch of salt.

Rest this thin batter for 10 minutes.

On a high heat, add enough batter to cover the base of an oiled pan and cook.

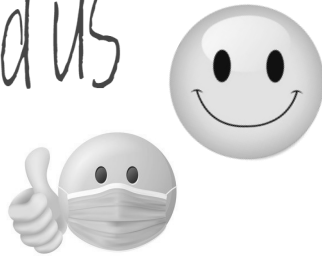
Add any leftovers to the top - cooked meats, grated veggies, spinach leaves, herbs, nuts and then enjoy.

Remember to check out the OzHarvest website for more simple ideas.



The VIRUS and US

FOR ALL OUR SAKES,
GET THAT JAB



Do we dare take the risk in declaring this small column unnecessary in 2022.

Well maybe!! We are now at 90% vaxed and starting to get follow up boosters so here is hoping the prophets of doom are incorrect. The upsurge in Europe and new variants still make us nervous so we take each day, week, month at a time and do all we can to personally keep ourselves and families safe.

On the bright side it is wonderful to be planning celebrations with our loved ones and if you think our recent experience is unprecedented take a look at our story on page 28. And event postponed because of the pandemic in 1920.

Stay safe and enjoy the holidays.

If you do feel you need help please contact

Lifeline on 131114, Beyond Blue 1300 22 4636 or Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800



OUR COVER

This months cover featuring a pair of Tawny Frogmouths comes from Julie Cameron. We always struggle to find the perfect cover images so if you have some great pictures of our local area please send them to us.



Our contributors have been busy creating interesting reading for you.

Our wonderful regular contributors include Wendy Cook's ramble in the police paddocks. Kerrie brings us insights into Christmas Celebrations. Stephania gives another scrumptious recipe. Margs prodigious offerings each month give us an insight into history and we always enjoy Emma's Kelpie Kapers. We wouldn't have a newsletter without these and our many other contributors. Thank you to you all.



Meredith Community Centre
working for our community

What's On



COMING UP - 2022

Mixed Media Workshop with Samantha Jones

January 29 - 12:00 - 4:00 - FREE

2 Day Workshop with Jen Jones - \$250

February 8 - Resin Art - 10.30 - 2.30

February 9 - Ink Art - 10.30 - 2.30

Visible Mending with Di

February 28 - 10.30 - 11.30 - \$5

Young Artists Club with Jen Jones

Thursdays 4:30 - 6.00pm - \$200

Starting Thursday February 10

KIDS ON TOUR - NGV - January 2022

Free Activities for the Kids to do!

There's lots more!

Keep an eye on our Facebook Page or give me a call to join the mailing list!

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 - 10:00 - 11:00 am

We're helping eligible community members access the

\$250

Power Saving Bonus



Are you receiving a Concession Payment?

Have you Claimed your \$250 Power Saving Bonus?

The scheme is closing 31 January 2022.

Call us to check your eligibility and what you need to claim.. if you are eligible, it's \$250 in your account!

To Book:

learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au

www.facebook.com/MeredithCommunityCentre

Ph. 5286 0700 / 0491 184 999



Join us on



Facebook & Instagram

@meredithcommunitycentre

OCCASIONAL CARE SESSIONS:

MONDAY - 9:15 - 2:15

WEDNESDAY - 9:15 - 2:15

FRIDAY - 9:15 - 2:15



Meredith & district NEWS



The Meredith and District News is published by a volunteer sub-committee of the Meredith Community Centre comprising: Jim Elvey, (general editor and chair) Dawn Macdonald, Stefania Parkinson, Ian Penna, Mike Palmer, Sue Higgs and Alex Hyatt. Production is undertaken by alternating teams comprising Pam Ridd, Peter Boer, Don Atherton and Jim Elvey.

NEWS & VIEWS

Subject to the conditions outlined below, contributions accompanied by the contributor's name (which will also be published) and contact details, are most welcome. Please email to news@meredithnews.com.au or deliver to the Meredith Post Office or Meredith Hub

DATES AND DEADLINES

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

ADVERTISING

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

Accounts: Mike 0419 307044

accounts@meredithnews.com.au

Editorial: Jim: 0409 163169

news@meredithnews.com.au

WEB

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

ONLINE PHOTOS

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

DISCLAIMER

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

Issue Production: *Peter Boer* Editor: *Pam Ridd*

connect

ADVANCE MEREDITH 0409 027 359	FOOTBALL Seniors 0408 545 246 Juniors 0430 587 674
ANGLING CLUB 0419 248 660	GOLF CLUB 0407 795 342
B'BURN ART GROUP 0410 808 483	HISTORY GROUP 5286 8201
BLUE LIGHT DISCO 5286 1222	LANDCARE 0409 862 326
BOOK CLUB 5286 8201	MEMORIAL HALL 0409 662106
CFA 000 for fire calls Elaine 0409 861 296 Meredith 5286 1502 Morrisons 0417 770 765	MOTORCYCLE CLUB 0437 009 250
CHILDCARE 5286 0700	PLAYGROUP 5286 0700
COMMUNITY CENTRE 5286 0700	POLICE PADDOCKS 5286 1273
CRICKET Elaine 0448 291074 Junior (U16,U14,13) 0448 291074 Meredith 5286 1434	RSL - 5286 1452
CUBS & SCOUTS Anakie 52819497	SENIOR CITIZENS 5286 8232
ELAINE HALL elainetownhall@ gmail.com	TENNIS Elaine 0448 291 074 Lethbridge 52 817 321 Meredith 0424754179
	SEW 'N' SEWS 5286 0700
	FRIENDS OF THE BRISBANE RANGES 5286 1252

..or start something.

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



"One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas day. Don't clean it up too quickly." - Andy Rooney

emergency

Police, Ambulance, Fire (from mobile phone)	000 000 or 112
Meredith Police Station	5286 1222
Police non emergency	131 444
Power Failure	132 412
Nurse-On-Call	1300 606 024
Mental Health Advice	1300 280 737
Poisons Information	13 11 26
Barwon Water	1300 656 007
SES Emergency - flood & storm	132 500
24 Hour Helpline	1800 629 572
24 Hour Drug & Alcohol Counselling	1800 888 236
Kids Help Line	
24hr 5-18yo	1800 551 800
Golden Plains Shire a/h emergency	1300 363 036 0408 508 635
Ranger	52207111
	or 0409 830 223
Bannockburn Vet a/h emergency	5281 1221 0407 811 222
Golden Plains Animal Pets and Horses 24/7	5281 2226 0421 617 238

Justices of the Peace

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

services

CEMETERY TRUST 5286 1550	MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH 5220 7230
HALL HIRE Meredith Memorial 5286 1545 Elaine Mechanics elainetownhall@ gmail.com Elaine Rec Res 5341 5703	PRE-SCHOOL 5286 0722 PRIMARY SCHOOL 5286 1313 RECREATION RESERVE 0429 315 575
LIBRARY VAN 5272 6010	

Church News



St. Joseph's Catholic Parish of Meredith

Contact Details:

Parish Priest Father Joseph mob. 0404 598 558

Office Phone: 5286 1230

Office open Wednesday & Friday 9.30am to 4.30 pm

Mass Times:

Bookings required: Mary 0424037542 at Meredith, Pat 52811354 at Bannockburn, Margaret 0418983005 at Winchelsea, Margaret 0493085163 at Anakie

QR check-ins, proper sanitizing/hygiene mandatory

Masks required

Tue and Thurs 9 am St Mary MacKillop, Bannockburn

9.30-10.30 am Fr Joseph available for enquiries

Wed and Friday 11 am St. Joseph's, Meredith

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

Sun. 9 am St. Mary MacKillop, Bannockburn (must be double vaccinated)

Sun. 5/12, 19/12, 11 am St. Joseph's, Meredith

Sun. 12/12, 26/12, 11 am St. Brigid's Anakie

Sun. 12/12, 4 pm Sacred Heart, Inverleigh

Xmas Masses:

24/12 Bannockburn 6 pm, Meredith 9 pm

25/12, Bannockburn 10.30 am, Winchelsea 8.30 pm

26/12 Holy Family Sunday

Bannockburn 9 am, Anakie 11 am, Winchelsea 5 pm

New Year's Day Masses:

Bannockburn 9 am

Meredith 11 am

Winchelsea 6 pm

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.

Meredith Uniting Church

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

Rev. Paul Sanders 0407 833 515 5341 2440

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

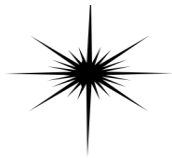
Find us at: www.goldenplainsanglican.org or

office.ibm@goldenplainsanglican.org

The Revd Dr Timothy Smith

PiC Anglican Parish of

Inverleigh+Bannockburn+Meredith



Meredith Uniting Church

CHRISTMAS SERVICE:

Friday 24th December, 10pm

Everyone welcome, refreshments to follow

Enjoy writing?

Well, our readers enjoy reading.



We should introduce you.



The deadline for copy is **4.00 pm on the last Wednesday**

of the preceding month. Our next issue will be February 2022

Meredith Transit

Address: 1a Mooney Street, Meredith, Vic. 3333 Phone: 0428 838 201

E-mail: meredithtransit@gmail.com

Bus Driver - Casual

Job summary

Locally owned and operated Bus Company looking for a casual bus driver for charters and school bus runs 40 weeks of the year.

If the sound of children laughing, singing and playing is music to your ears, we're interested in talking with you. We have an immediate opening for a Bus Driver with a valid Heavy Duty license. The successful candidate will have experience driving a heavy vehicle. A Driving Certificate and Working with Children's Check is required but can be obtained after appointment provided you have a current Heavy Duty licence and are COVID compliant.

Bus Driver responsibilities and duties

- Transport children to and from school in the mornings and/or afternoons and charters as required
- Ensure safety of all students
- Maintain a clean bus at all times
- Obey all traffic laws
- Perform inspections of the bus before and after each trip
- Neat, Clean & Tidy person
- Applications enquire to Dale McIntyre on 0428 838 201 or meredithtransit@gmail.com

Meredith Golf Club

FREE MEMBERSHIP - for all residents of Meredith and surrounding area

for the months of November and December 2021

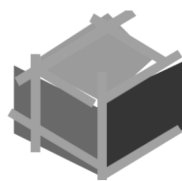
Come and enjoy the start of daylight saving and the tranquil surroundings of your local golf course, on any day at any time.

To accept this offer please call the numbers below to register your details:

Peter: 0407 795 342 OR Denis: 0428 289 313

Regular social golf is played on Tuesdays at 9:30 (ladies) and Sundays at 10:30am (men)

No handicap needed, come and enjoy the fun, regardless of experience



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



**MASTER
BUILDER**

The New Policeman, James Hobbs.

Marg Cooper

A fresh-faced young man has been appointed to the position of Policeman within the township of Meredith. His young looks belie the fact that he has possesses a wealth of experience in his 12 years in the force. He has worked uniform duties in Metropolitan Melbourne, Werribee, Sale and Mildura. In addition, he has been a Detective in the Counter Terrorism Unit and Armed Robbery Taskforce in Melbourne and a member of the Criminal Investigation Unit and the Sexual Offence and Child Abuse Investigation Team in Mildura. He has loved all the challenges each of his positions has brought and has been kept extremely busy along the way.

Whilst in Mildura James married Jacqui, who is also a member of Victoria Police (Jacqui is a Detective in Geelong in the Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team). Originally from regional Victoria, Jacqui met James whilst working the divisional van in Melbourne. They now have a young son called Max, and another baby on the way.

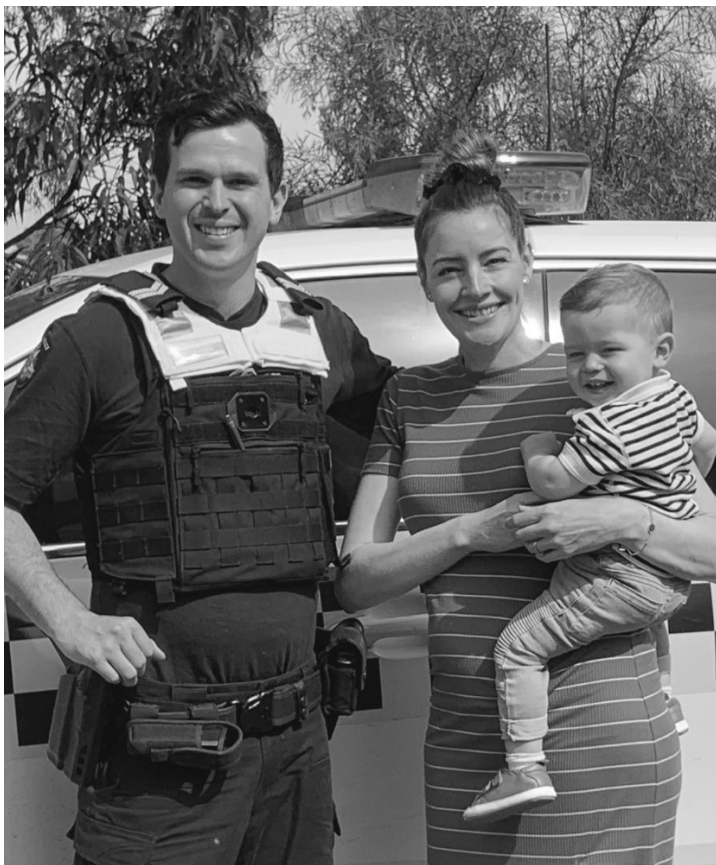
James said the position at Meredith was advertised internally within the Police Force. He was the

successful applicant. The family were keen to migrate to a country community and for his family to live in and become part of that community. They hope to live in Meredith for some time, they plan to get to know the local community and for Max to grow up here. Meredith also suits them, because they aren't far from James's family and friends at Bannockburn.

James attended Primary School at Bannockburn and went to St Joseph's College in Geelong prior to joining the Police Force. Having previously played football at Bannockburn and other local clubs across the state, James is adamant he is now officially retired from football. James also tried his luck on the cricket pitch some time ago now, having played two seasons for Meredith, but admits to being a terrible cricketer. James enjoys a round of golf, getting out in the garden and assures me, he will have the Police Station garden looking nice again in due course.

James welcomes the locals to pop in and say 'G'day', whilst stating he is looking forward to getting involved with the local youths, and assisting where possible within the local community.

We welcome the young family to Meredith.



Advance Meredith Association's Meredith Christmas Lights Competition 2021

There are 2 categories –
Business & Residential.

Light up Meredith this Christmas and
let's spread the Christmas Cheer.
Judging to be week prior to
Christmas.

Prizes

Advance Meredith
Association Inc.

SMALL TOWN BIG SPIRIT



Landcare News



Bamganie-Meredith

Nerida Anderson

ABC LANDLINE CARBON ZERO SPECIAL

Did you see the ABC Landline program focusing on carbon? Agriculture has always played a central role in the climate change debate. However, crops and cattle can also play a part in helping farmers move towards carbon zero. The ABC Landline special program on carbon looks at ways of storing carbon in the soil, the contribution of ancient Indigenous burning practices to managing carbon emissions from large bushfires, and how farmers can move towards being carbon positive. If you missed the show, you can catch it on iView, or follow this link <https://iview.abc.net.au/video/RF2004Q039S00>

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH LANDCARE NEWS

Landcare Australia is a national not-for-profit organisation established 30 years ago to support the community to improve biodiversity, build resilience in Australia's food and farming systems, and create stronger communities.

Landcare Australia publishes several publications each year to keep the Landcare community and other environmental community groups informed about the latest news, grants programs, campaigns, group resources and other useful information. To stay in touch and keep up to date with Landcare activities and programs why not subscribe to Landcare eNews. Go to <https://landcareaustralia.org.au/resources/publications/>

FIRE SAFETY ESSENTIALS WORKSHOP

In conjunction with the Bamganie Meredith Landcare group the CFA held a Fire Safety Essentials workshop on Wednesday 24 November 2021 at 7:30. The Fire Safety Essentials is CFA's entry level bushfire safety program that looks at fire risk and how to survive fire. The program covers what to expect from fire, basic explanations of fire behaviour, and looks at last resort options. If you missed this event the fire safety essentials team will be at the Maude Family Day on Sunday 5 December, and the Maude Landcare meeting on Thursday 16 December. For more information contact Garth Wesson on 0420 280 932 or email g.wesson@cfa.vic.gov.au.

NEXT MEETING

This has been a very quiet year for the Bamganie and Meredith District Landcare Group due to the COVID-19 lockdowns. Planning is now underway for a more invigorated 2022. In the meantime, we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to launching our new program in 2022. If you would like more information about the group please see our Facebook page or contact us at meredithlandcare@gmail.com.

Maude and District Landcare Group

Rabbit Baiting Campaign - 2022

We will once again be holding our annual rabbit baiting campaign. This will involve using *Pindone poisoned carrot only*.

YOU MUST POISON ON ALL THREE DAYS TO GET A SATISFACTORY RESULT.

Dates of baiting:

Friday, 11th February

Monday, 14th February

Thursday, 17th February

Time of pick up – 2 – 4pm

Pick up - at Elaine & Graham Johns' shed, 1824 Steiglitz Road, Maude (next to the Maude Tennis Courts).

NOTE – We do not deliver, but can hold orders until after work on the same day by arrangement.

STRICT deadline for orders – THURSDAY, 3rd FEBRUARY, 2022

PRICES per feed:

20kg carrot \$78

10kg carrot \$44

5kg carrot \$29

FREE FEED is recommended ie, laying some cut unpoisoned carrot in your trail for several days before the first day of poisoning. We do not organise this for you, you will need to get some cheap carrot and chop it roughly with a spade or similar.

PAYMENT:

An invoice will be emailed or provided with your first bait pick up

Payment can be made by EFT, cheque or cash. Bank details will be on the invoice.

CONTACT:

To make an order or if you would like more information on the best techniques for free feed and baiting as well as any other questions you might have, please contact:

Laura
Hollingsworth: maudeanddistrictlandcare@gmail.com,
Elaine Johns: 5281 9395, or Lex Stray: 5281 9293



Independent and local, serving Meredith and district for 25 Years

A COMPLETE RANGE OF STOCK FEED & ANIMAL HEALTH PRODUCTS

Wool Brokering Service

- Auction & Electronic Marketing through WISS

Contract Fencing and Farm Services

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

Transport - Wool cartage from farm to preferred broker

WIDE RANGE OF TANKS AND PLUMBING SUPPLIES IN STORE

WIDE RANGE OF PROTECTIVE WORK WEAR IN STORE

PH 5286 1223, Find us on Facebook or Check Out Our Website! -

www.woolabrai.com.au

easy *and* delish



Pork Loin with Spinach and Pancetta Stuffing

Prep 30 mins Cook 1 hour 30 mins

Ingredients

- 4 slices white bread
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 1 medium brown onion, chopped coarsely
- 6 slices pancetta chopped coarsely
- 100g baby spinach
- 1/4 cup toasted macadamias chopped coarsely
- 1/2 cup chicken stock
- 2kg boned pork loin

Method

1. Preheat oven to moderately hot.
2. Discard bread crusts. Cut bread into 1cm cubes. Heat half of the oil in a large frying pan, cook bread until fried and crisp. Drain croutons on absorbent paper.
3. Heat remaining oil in same pan, cook garlic, onion and pancetta until onions browns lightly. Stir in spinach, remove from heat. Gently stir in croutons, nuts and stock.
4. Place pork on board, fat-side down. Slice through the thickest part of the pork horizontally, without cutting through other side. Open, pull pork to form one large piece: press stuffing mixture against loin along width of pork. Roll pork to enclose stuffing, securing with kitchen string at 2 cm intervals,
5. Place rolled pork on rack in a large shallow baking dish. Roast, uncovered, in moderately hot oven about 1 1/4 hours or until cooked through.
6. Meanwhile, make plum and red wine sauce.
7. Serve sliced pork with sauce.

Plum and Red Wine Sauce

- 1 1/2 cups plum jam
- 2 tablespoons dry red wine
- 2/3 cup chicken stock

Combine ingredients in a small saucepan, bring to a boil. Reduce heat, simmer uncovered about 10 minutes or until sauce thickens slightly.

Recipe from: *Christmas Cooking*

Stefania

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Our 12 Steps to Success



The past couple of years has seen our community feel unconnected due to lockdowns and we seem to have lost some of our sense of community. We know our 'connected kindness project' of cookies then sunflower seeds, made us feel reconnected in a surreal way but now it is time for Christmas in Meredith. The AMA members are determined to make this a Christmas to remember and it started with 40 MDF **Christmas sheep** looking for new homes on the last Saturday of November. So go for a walk around Meredith in December and spot the Christmas sheep as you go. How many can you find?

On the 4th of December the AMA team set up the **Christmas corner**, as well as including the Nativity, this year we have the theme Santa's Forest with trees of many different styles and made of amazing upcycled materials. We hope you entered your creation, check out our Facebook page for details.

Also, there will be Santa's sleigh and mailbox waiting to take the letters back to Santa's workshop.

So, pop along and check out Christmas corner (the corner of highway and Staughton St in case you're not sure), post your letter to Santa and see what you can find hiding in Santa's Forest.

Another project is '**Light up Meredith**' with Christmas lights. I know of a few amazing homes already preparing themselves, one even has themed music to go along with the light show...no it won't keep you awake its linked to the cars radio! How amazing is that. Christmas Corner will also shine at night, so make that a not to be missed Christmas Event

Mark Sunday 19th on your calendar now, you won't want to miss this year **Carols in Meredith**. AMA applied for a grant- to reconnect community after covid19. (*This event brought to you by Advance Meredith Association Inc as 'Connecting Meredith - Let Our Spirit Shine Grant in association with the combined Churches of Meredith and has been funded by the Golden Plains Shire Council in partnership with the Victorian Government's Community Activation and Social Isolation initiative*) and what a better way than at a Free Community Carols with the works. Check out our notice this issue, there will be a baked spud van, coffee van, fairy floss, popcorn, slushies, lucky dip, face painting and elves with presents.....elves you say, well yes as Santa will be visiting Meredith on **Christmas Eve on board the CFA fire truck**. He is such a busy man that we are lucky he can fit in this special visit just before leaving for the North Pole... check out his route this issue and stay up to date with his journey with live crosses on the Christmas in Meredith Facebook Page.

So, as you can see, we are busy trying to bring some joy to all, especially our kids, so please support all our efforts, decorate a sheep, light up your house, visit Santa's Forest, come along sing, eat and be merry and finally wave to Santa on Christmas eve.

From the AMA Team



See you in **2022, when we start the year with an Australia Day Street Party**. Look for posters and follow our Facebook page Advance Meredith Association to keep up to date with this event, currently in planning mode. If you would like to be involved, from music, to activities, to market stalls email us advancemeredith@gmail.com



Dear Resident,

You may have already heard the news, but I'm writing to let you know that the Golden Plains festival won't be going ahead in March 2022.

There were too many things not lining up as they needed to for Golden Plains to take flight at this time.

Our attention has now turned to the Meredith Music Festival in December 2022. We'll let you know later in the year how plans are progressing.

I want to thank everybody for their continuing support and hope you all have a fantastic summer.

If you have any questions you can reach me via auntym@mmf.com.au.

Aunty x

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From the Mayor



It is my great honour and privilege to be elected Mayor of Golden Plains Shire for 2021-22.

I have a genuine passion for this Shire - its environment, its people, its diversity and its potential. And I feel excited about the possibility to achieve great things for our community over the next year and our Council term.

I thank my fellow Councillor colleagues for their endorsement as Mayor, with special appreciation to Cr Helena Kirby, for her commitment and dedication in this role for the first year of our term. I congratulate Cr Kirby for her election as Deputy Mayor and look forward to continuing to work together this year.

Last year, our group of new and returning Councillors enjoyed visiting many townships and meeting residents across the Shire, which was valuable engagement into our Council Plan 2021-2025. Our second year is sure to be busy, too, as we move forward on delivering on these commitments for the people of Golden Plains and advocate for our Shire in the upcoming Federal and State elections.

Following a challenging year with the COVID-19 pandemic, I join Council in wishing all residents a very Merry Christmas and a happy, relaxing New Year. On behalf of the Councillors, we look forward with excitement to meeting more of the many outstanding people who live in our Shire and working together to represent all residents in the year ahead.

Mayor Cr Gavin Gamble



Stay Fire Ready



Be prepared. Stay prepared.

The warmer months have arrived, and everyone has an important responsibility to help reduce the risk of fire to their own property and the entire community.

A well-prepared property is more likely to survive a fire. A key part of being fire ready is to reduce fire fuels on private properties, which is the main driver of fire intensity and spread.

Landowners in Golden Plains Shire are required to keep long grass on their properties cut so it is no higher than 100mm during the Fire Danger Period. On properties more than two hectares, grass must be kept below 100mm up to a minimum of 20 metres from a house or outbuilding.

For more information on fire preparation and prevention, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/fire.

To stay informed of fire emergencies, download the VicEmergency App on a phone or smart device.

Budget 2022/23 Engagement

Take part in Council's Budget 2022/23 engagement in 2022.

The Budget will deliver on Council's commitment to services, projects and programs over the next financial year, under the guidance of the Council Plan 2021-2025, Community Vision 2040 and Long-Term Financial Plan.

To support the preparation of the next Budget, a community survey will be open to all residents, seeking feedback on the priorities for the 2022/23 financial plan.

Council will also hold open community workshops in February 2022:

- Tuesday 8 February: Golden Plains Civic Centre, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn and livestreamed

Thursday 10 February: The Well, 19 Heales Street, Smythesdale

More information on the Budget consultation will be available in January at Council's website: goldenplains.vic.gov.au. Or sign up to Council's Community Engagement Register at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/community-engagement-register.

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Bannockburn Pharmacy Newsletter

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Be prepared this flu season (Vaccination Clinic)

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

Our pharmacists, Scott, Priji & 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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Friday:	8:30am - 6:30pm
Saturday:	8:30am - 1:00pm
Sunday:	CLOSED

Vaccination Clinic – flu & whooping cough vaccinations

I Bought a Butcher Shop

Joy Angus

In 2010, sight unseen, I brought a butcher shop in Meredith. My sister and brother-in-law, who lived in She Oaks, heard that a property was for sale in Meredith. They had a look, thought it was viable for renovation and recommended I purchase it. My sister arranged for the property to be held until I arrived and was able to inspect it. I was preparing to move back to Australia, after living in New Zealand for nearly 40 years. I was born in Ballarat and grew up in Geelong but didn't wish to live in either city. Meredith, half way between the two, was a perfect choice and, even more so, because I'd spent many years collecting firewood and drinking billy tea in the area with my dad as a child. I arrived back in Australia on 9th May 2010. At 1 pm I met the owner as arranged and inspected the property at 60 Staughton Street, Meredith. And, the rest is history as I purchased the property that day.

The shop was originally built by Henry and Maureen Grey who ran a successful business from 1992 until 2003 when the butcher shop was closed. They applied for planning permission to change it to residential in 2003 and this was granted in 2005. Their daughter lived in it, then later after she moved on, others lived there. During this period it still had commercial lighting, switches, window and doors plus the red butcher's rail on which carcasses were hung. During my time in New Zealand I purchased three homes on which I carried out extensive renovations, giving me the knowledge to see the potential in, and what could be done with, the Meredith shop.

First thing I had power reconnected, so cleaning could be done - water wasn't an issue as town water was connected to the property. Secondly, a garage had to be built to store the 140 cartons and furniture coming from New Zealand. So, very quickly, the shop became home - albeit quite basic: the rear had a sink, stove, separate shower and toilet so one area was kitchen/laundry and the main part of the shop was lounge, bedroom and dining room with a screen to divide the bedroom on one side plus two cloth-covered wardrobes (purchased from Aldi), providing further privacy. At the back, a porch was built to give cover from the weather with a pallet floor and weatherproof carpet. This was luxury until 2015 when I had plans drawn up (based on existing ones done in 2011), for an extension consisting of two bedrooms, an open plan kitchen/dining room plus a new concrete veranda - no pallets. I took on four jobs to pay for the build - full-time employment with my nephew, cleaning the Meredith Community Centre (since 2010), also gardening and lawns and took on relief cleaning for Meredith Kindergarten, employed by Family Services Bannockburn, plus cleaning as required in Bannockburn.

My home was now complete with solar power, tank and town water, is close to everything that Meredith has to offer, and also within easy travelling distance to Ballarat and Geelong. The only problem experienced through the process was my side fence that caused me great angst over the years, but now there's a more suitable fence to deal with strong westerly winds! I'm very pleased with how the transformation took place but totally over mowing lawns; so a new chapter in my life begins that needs exploring - For Sale

Police Paddocks Update

Jim Elvey

Discussions toward finding a management arrangement for the Meredith Police Paddocks continue, although we don't appear to be any closer to a solution. Here is what has happened since our last report.


- Meeting with Michaela Settle, M.P. – Advance Meredith Association arranged a meeting with the Member for Buninyong, Michaela Settle and invited the Police Paddocks Support Group to attend to outline its current predicament. We were given a good hearing and Ms Settle indicated she would engage with both Council and DELWP to seek a satisfactory resolution.
- Meeting with Cr Helena Kirby – Responding to several invitations, Cr Kirby, Deputy Mayor, Golden Plains Shire, met with Group members on site. She indicated she would continue to seek ways whereby the Shire could support the Group although was not able to offer anything definitive. We will seek to discuss Shire's involvement further with newly elected Mayor, Cr Gamble.
- Advice from DELWP – We have received advice that members of the Group undertaking voluntary work on the site will be covered by DELWP insurances if we provide a current list of members and the details of work undertaken. (Members of the public visiting the Paddocks are covered under DELWPs' normal operating arrangements.) This resolves one of our short term concerns. We have also held a second on site meeting with DELWP personnel to clarify weed issues and discuss options under discussion.

It is looking increasingly likely the Group may have to (reluctantly) assume management responsibility but it is anxious to ensure a plan is in place to provide the resources and expertise necessary for adequate weed management.

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Kelpie Kapers! # 28

By Emma Clarke

Merry Christmas!



Places, everyone!

one... two...

♪ Joy to the world, the crops are stripped

Three!

♪ The shearing is complete

♪ The River is still running, the Dam is full

♪ And GP is a very grumpy cat. But we like him just like that

♪ And the grass is green again And no more Lice!

The End

Bamganie to Beersheba.

Jan Crunp

October 31st marked the 104th anniversary of the famous charge of the Australian Light Horse at Beersheba and Edger Percy Biggs was there.

Edgar, then second son of James Biggs and Emma Sherwood was born at Bamganie in 1893. The Biggs family came to the Bamganie area in the 1860's and James was born in Meredith in 1868. The family acquired land by purchase, leasing or land grants and by 1896 were prosperous farmers.

The farm was put up for sale in 1896 and the Geelong Advertiser reports "it consisted of 540 acres freehold and 240 acres of leasehold. It is well improved, enclosed with rabbit proof fencing and barb wire. The 5 roomed house features an underground tank, a large wool shed, fowl house and a good orchard. Woodburn Creek runs through the property and the post office and school adjoin the farm.

The movement of the family is unknown until Edgar enlists in 1915. His Next of kin is given as James Biggs (father) and residing at Glenorchy near Stawell. He joined the 11/9th Light Horse and embarked for Egypt in Oct 1915 on the "S.S.Hawkes Bay". Apart from a disastrous and brief campaign at Gallipoli, the Light Horse spent the war years fighting the Ottoman forces in the Middle East.

Then in Oct 1917, Edgar was part of one of the most famous and heroic events of WW1."The Charge at Beersheba" The battalion had marched for 3 days. Travelling over 167 miles without watering their horses,

and it was imperative that Beersheba and its abundant water wells was captured by nightfall. The Turkish machine guns were entrenched in defences that ringed the town. The attack began at dawn but by late afternoon had failed.

In one of the most daring and audacious decisions of the war, General Chauvel gave the order to close ranks and charge directly at the enemy. The pace of the attack was so great that the Turkish gunners panicked and fired high and wide. Defences were breeched and the town was taken. By 10pm, 58000 light horse men and 100,000 animals had swarmed into the town.

This proved a turning point in the desert war and the beginning of the end for the Ottoman forces.

During his service Trooper Biggs was hospitalised for malaria and pneumonia. He returned home in 1919 and lived with his parents in Richmond.

Albert Biggs, Edgar's younger brother enlisted in 1915 and as part of the 60th battalion saw action in the final days of the Gallipoli campaign. He then went to the Western Front where the 60th endured some of the fiercest fighting of the war. By the end of the war there were so few of the 60th left, they were unable to form a company.

Albert was hospitalised several times and was sent to England suffering a severe case of trench foot. At the age of 22, he was invalided home in late 1917 and lived with his parents in Richmond.

Neither Edgar or Albert married and the 1931 Electoral Roll gives their occupations as labourers but father James is listed as "Farmer" perhaps recalling life at Bamganie.

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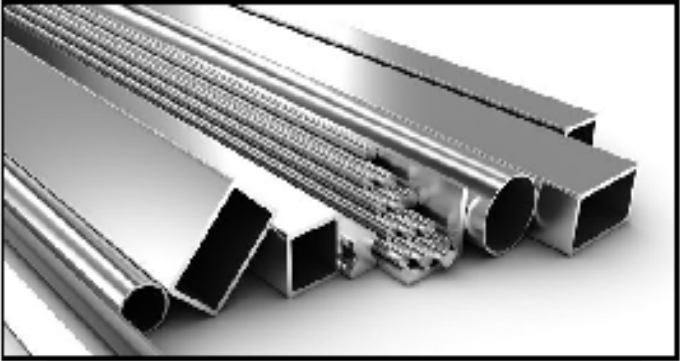


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On the eastern edge of Meredith, easily accessible to locals and visitors, is a public reserve, the Meredith Police Paddocks. It is a peaceful place, where walking paths between thickets of young trees lead you past plantings of brightly coloured indigenous flowers. You may pass a seat with a view into the deep valley and across the surrounding landscape. If you sit there, you are in an ideal position to watch some of the birdlife of the reserve. Try looking up high above the valley. You may see a V-shaped formation of long-necked black and white birds. These are straw-necked ibises flying from one paddock to another, where they will walk through the grass catching grasshoppers in their long curved black beaks. Raucous cries alert you to a flock of sulphur-crested cockatoos as they fly east in the morning or west in the evening, commuting to and from their favoured feeding place. As you look up at them in the sunshine, you can see pale yellow on the wing feathers of these mostly white birds. A group of larger cockatoos may fly over, yellow-tailed black cockatoos with their slow flapping graceful flight, dipping and rising as they fly over the valley, chatting to each other in conversational creaks. Up higher, two dark shapes circle past each other. Although they look small from down on the valley's edge, they are huge birds, a pair of wedge-tailed eagles seeking rabbits to feed themselves and possibly a chick waiting on a large stick platform nest in an old manna gum further down the valley.

The birds you have seen so far are above the valley, but may not be making use of its resources. Closer to hand is a small bird of prey hovering above the grass. You may see its pale underside or its rusty coloured back with dark feathers towards the ends of its wings. It is a nankeen kestrel. Abruptly it dives into the grass to pounce on a lizard or a mouse. A pair of medium-sized birds of prey, brown falcons, call in cackling voices to each other as they fly down the valley, from the top of one dead wattle to the next, scaring the small birds who cry out their alarm calls as they flee into the bushes.

You will see more of the small birds if you walk quietly among the groups of young trees. Listen for their voices, then stop and look among the branches. You may see thornbills, very small birds with plain colouring and straight pointed beaks, chattering to each other as they hunt for insects. Often you will see honeyeaters, larger birds with beaks curved gently downwards. They have tongues shaped like a brush to collect nectar from flowers, but they also eat insects. Several species can be seen in the Police Paddocks, each recognisable by the pattern of colours on its feathers.

As you continue your walk, you notice an old swamp gum with a hollow trunk. It has smaller hollows in its branches. A pink and grey galah perches on the edge of one with its mate on the branch nearby. They are thinking of setting up a nest in here. Two red and blue crimson rosellas have already laid eggs in a hollow in another branch. One flies

forth as you approach, followed by two common mynas, formerly known as Indian mynas, brown birds with black heads, yellow beaks and a patch of yellow around each eye. The mynas, along with starlings, blackbirds, and the small European goldfinches, with yellow on their wings and red on their faces, are among the few introduced species of birds in the Police Paddocks with the potential to take nesting places and food resources required by the indigenous birds.

As you walk, listen to the calls of the birds. Perhaps you will hear the melodic song of the grey shrike-thrush, a medium-sized bird coloured grey with a brown upper back. It may be calling from the trees close to you, but receive a reply from another grey shrike-thrush across the valley. Find a path down into the valley. The one a little way from the old swamp gum is gentlest. It leads to a picnic table among swamp gums. Look up into the trees and see if any of the nesting boxes, built by the primary school children several years ago, are in use. The path continues, winding its way across the valley and crossing the Coolebarghurk Creek on stepping stones.

You will find some different birds here in this more sheltered area. A male superb fairy-wren calls as he displays his vibrant blue and black breeding plumage while perched in a prominent position. He may be joined by a brown female. A grey fantail with a white belly and eyebrow takes a brief curving flight as it catches insects, before returning to a branch. They are curious birds, and it may come closer for a better look at you. If the day is getting late, you can hear the kookaburras' evening chorus. Later, after dark, there may be the deep oom oom oom call of a tawny frogmouth, who spent the day perched in a tree disguised as a broken off branch, or the chirr sound of an Australian owl-nightjar. It has been hiding in a hollow and may have seen you earlier, as it perched at its entrance, enjoying late afternoon sunshine. The commonest local owl, the southern boobook, may give its mopoke call, or fly past on silent wings. If it is too late in the day to explore further, you can return another day. Most likely, you will see different birds. You may be lucky enough to see the tiny spotted pardalote and hear its bell-like call as it hides among the foliage, or observe a flash of iridescent green as a sacred kingfisher darts from one tree to another, or listen to the loud and variable song of a rufous whistler. The birds vary with the seasons, and if you visit the Meredith Police Paddocks regularly you will have the chance to enjoy them all.

Editors note: All of the birds Wendy mentioned have been identified in the vicinity of the Paddocks and several were among the 24 species she sighted on a 90 minute walk through the area.





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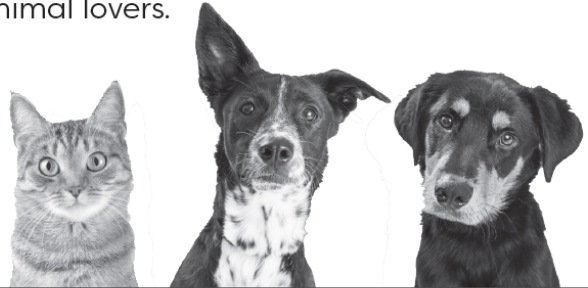
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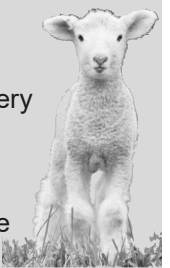
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Confessions of a book person

Roy Hay

I live surrounded by books. Many of them, probably most, are works of history, though there are shelves of novels, several of them crime novels. Books relating to sport are refilling spaces on the floor and in a newish bookcase I added under a window in the living room. Ten years ago, just before we moved from 5 acres (1.5 hectares) in Teesdale where we had a house and granny flat and several sheds and garages, the Melbourne Cricket Club Library kindly agreed to take most of the sports books, newspapers, recorded interviews and photographs I had accumulated over the years of researching and teaching at Deakin University. It took two furniture vans and four men just to move that material to Melbourne, followed by about a dozen trips in my ute to complete the process. Before that the library didn't have much more than a shelf of books on Association football, soccer, but now it has a great collection.

My good friend, Peter Desira, the soccer writer for the *Herald-Sun*, moved overseas when he retired. A week before he was due to go, he rang me and asked what he could do with his own large collection of press cuttings, books and magazines. The only thing I could think of at the time was that I would pick it up from him and store it with my own material. So that also went to the MCC Library.

My wife is very tolerant, but she has drawn the line at more bookcases. I tell her my daughter-in-law who lives in Sydney wants to have a library, of which mine will be a

part. That cuts no ice at all. Frances reads voraciously, but she gets the bulk of her books from the wonderful Geelong Regional Library system. That is a huge contribution to life at the best of times and has been invaluable during this last two years. The librarians have managed to find ways of getting books to their readers, with home delivery and takeaway pick-ups when normal access and browsing was not allowed. We had the benefit of the mobile library van when we were in Teesdale. Now we can walk to the Bannockburn one in a few minutes. Wonderful.

Frances scours the book prize short lists and reviews and tries to get orders in ahead of the pack, though she sometimes finds she is 46th in line for the latest one. By the time she receives notice it is her turn, she has forgotten about it. I still keep buying books and it has got to that worrying point when I find that I have bought a second copy of one we already have! OK, they can become presents for friends and family, but the chances are that they will already own it or at least have read it.

Frances was head of the editorial services at Deakin University. The university was at one time the largest publisher of academic titles in Australia as my colleagues and I wrote furiously for our off-campus students. After we both retired, we set up a little research and publishing operation of our own, initially with a couple of colleagues, and still turn out books today. I research and write them, and Frances turns them into books. That is no small matter. It is what makes them vaguely coherent and readable.

It seems to work, however, as both the most recent ones have been short-listed for prizes, one in the United Kingdom and another here in Victoria. They are on



The Milltown team of mixed European and Indigenous players, winners of the Carroll Cup in 1908. They are all looking glum, because there was a protest and they did not receive their trophy till that had been dismissed. Photo from the marvellous Vern McCallum collection with his permission.

nineteenth century Indigenous Australians who managed to force their way into Australian football from the missions and stations around the periphery of Victoria where the survivors of the European invasion were confined. Their story has never been properly told and it helps to explain why Indigenous people today might believe they have a particular affinity for the game.

Over the years there has been a long-running argument about whether Australian football, as the AFL calls it, was partly borrowed from Indigenous games. Despite all the research that has gone on, there is really little or nothing to support that idea. I wish it were true, but it is not. So my

story is a very different one, based soundly in the contemporary evidence in the sports pages of the nineteenth-century newspapers. It is fascinating and a triumph of the human spirit, that within a generation or two of the arrival of the newcomers, Indigenous people were taking them on at their own sports and beating them at their own games—both cricket and football. This is a story for which there is good and substantial evidence, and I hope that soon some enterprising young Indigenous scholars will take up that story and tell it from their point of view or replace it with one entirely their own.

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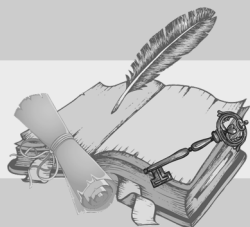
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FROM THE ARCHIVES



PEACE TREAT AT BALLARK A DAY TO BE REMEMBERED.

Ballark, Tuesday. The generosity and hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Molesworth, of Ballark

Estate, were further exemplified on Friday last, when, at their invitation the children of Ballan, Meredith, Morrisons, Elaine, Egerton, Mount Doran, Bungeeltap, Mount Wallace, and Beremboke schools, together with their parents and friends, to the number of between 700 and 800, assembled at the homestead to take part in a "Peace celebrations," which was originally arranged for 12 months ago, but postponed on account of the influenza epidemic.

That the celebration lost nothing of the ardor of Peace time was quite apparent early in the day. All roads leading to the estate were traversed by every description of vehicle, all taxed to their utmost carrying capacity, and by 2 o'clock, the appointed time of starting, the scene of the day's amusement resembled that of a country fair. It is quite a recognised fact that anything undertaken by Mr. and Mrs. Molesworth always receives their very best attention, and the organisation of this treat, in particular, spoke volumes for the whole-heartedness with which it must have been undertaken. Flags and hunting, a merry-go-round, Punch and Judy show, racing track pegged out, notices posted notifying the visitors where to have their vehicles, to water their horses, etc., all showed the completeness of arrangements, and at the same time filled the children with excitement from the moment of their arrival.

The spot selected was immediately adjoining the homestead grounds, and surrounded by the beautiful scenery of the Upper Moorabool. At 2 o'clock proceedings were opened by the assemblage singing the National Anthem to the accompaniment of the Egerton Band, and then a wild rush was made by the children to the merry-go-round and Punch and Judy show. To prevent rushing of the merry-go-round, children were requested to have tickets, which were handed out a certain number at a time throughout the afternoon, the children's appetite for this form of locomotion being apparently insatiable. The Punch and Judy show gave entertainments at intervals during the afternoon, and with foot racing, cricket, and other sports, the afternoon passed all too quickly for the younger people. At 4 o'clock an adjournment took place for afternoon tea, and here, again, Mr. and Mrs. Molesworth, with their band of willing workers, showed how exact and complete were the arrangements.

In order that no hitch should occur, or delay in transit, mar the feast, the whole of the refreshments, ice cream, etc., were conveyed from Geelong direct to the homestead by motor the preceding evening. The most exacting appetites having been satisfied to the full, the sports continued till 6 o'clock, when all the children were grouped, and marched

to the entrance steps, where, every child, young and old, received from Mrs. Molesworth a bag of lollies and fruit. Cr M'Coll, of Meredith, then mounted the steps, and on behalf of the visitors, thank-ed Mr. and Mrs. Molesworth for their most successful effort in providing the children and residents with an afternoon's enjoyment which would live in the memories of the children and residents. Cr M'Coll remarking that, apart from the financial aspect and cost, on which he would pass no comment, Mr. and Mrs. Molesworth had that day given the children a beautiful lesson on goodwill to all, such as they were not likely ever to forget. On behalf of the teachers and children, Mr. Venables, head teacher of the State school, Ballan, then thanked Mr. and Mrs. Molesworth for the great treat they had given the children, and when, at the conclusion of his speech, he called upon the children to give three hearty cheers for Mr. and Mrs. Molesworth, a response such as only happy and thoroughly satisfied children can give must have given the host and hostess some idea of the pleasure the children had that day enjoyed at their hands.

On rising to respond, Mr. Molesworth, who was greeted with renewed cheering, thanked all present for their hearty vote of thanks, and said that it gave both Mrs. Molesworth and himself very much pleasure in providing this treat for the children. The main thanks, he said, were due to Mrs. Molesworth, who had devised and organised the whole scheme, and it had his full co-operation. He trusted that they had really enjoyed themselves, and, if such were the case, both Mrs. Molesworth and himself would be amply repaid for any trouble they had gone to. Three ringing cheers were then given for Mrs. Molesworth, and the singing of "For They are jolly good fellows," followed by "Auld lang syne" and the National Anthem terminated a day's outing that will live forever in the minds of those who were fortunate enough to be present to share it. In concluding, it should be mentioned that the efforts of the Egerton Band were much appreciated during the afternoon, and added great effect to the singing of the concluding items. Appended is a list of the winners of the foot racing, for which valuable and useful articles, such as gold brooches, hatpins, watches, knives, pipes, books, etc., were the prizes, all of which were given by Mrs. Molesworth...

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Vale to Ken Sellars 1926 – 2021

Marg Cooper

Ken was the son of Richard Ernest and Alice Gertrude Sellars. They had a family of Bob, Joyce, Ken, Dorothy, Don and Daphne. Ern Sellars was a fencer who worked mainly at Moranghurk, but when wire became scarce in WW11 he went back to cutting wood. Ken's grandfather Richard Sellars had a small farm on Lal Lal Road, out of Meredith.

Ken left school aged 13 years after he got his Merit Certificate. He said that throughout his school years he sat with his brother Bob and copied his work. He only learnt anything once Bob left school. He went working for Alan (Bolle) Fraser on his migratory bee run through Victoria, NSW and SA. Several young Meredith lads worked for Alan Fraser including Jack and Dodger Connell and Ken's brother Bob. They lived in old huts, deserted houses, tents and shearing sheds. They had no luxuries and sometimes when Alan Fraser went off and left the lads to fend for themselves, they even ran out of provisions.

Two or three of them would corner rabbits, run them down, skin and gut them and put them in a square honey tin with the top cut out and handle secured. They'd light a fire underneath the tin, boil them with a few carrots or vegetables out of a tin and that meal would last them for a day or two. A favourite memory of Ken's was of knocking off work after lunch and running over the bank into the Murrumbidgee River for a swim. In the big drought of 1945-46 outside Wagga at Narrandera, they had bees near the red gums on the Murrumbidgee.

When Ken came home he worked cutting wood for George Jackman and drove trucks for Bill Wiseman. He married Tonnie Brown in 1955. Her father was the CRB foreman and the Brown family lived in the CRB house on the corner of Wallace and Staughton Streets. Ken and Tonnie had four sons. Ken decided to go into the trucking business. His first truck was a 1942 Ford tip truck. He worked building the Shell Refinery for five years, carted gravel to Soldier Settler blocks to be used for concreting garage floors and then worked with his truck on the CRB. For about 5 years he worked on the CRB road patrol until he retired at 65 years of age.

Then he got fair dinkum! He worked for another 20 years! He carted asphalt for ten years for Boral. He increased his fleet to four trucks with a depot yard at Moolap. Ken did his last delivery with his truck just before his 85th birthday. His son Ken was in partnership with his father until Ken Snr. died. Ken Jnr says his father set a hell of an example and that it was hard to keep up with him.

Ken had several ski boats and loved to camp at Lake Burrumbeet with a group of friends. He played squash, socially, for many years. He loved to travel and during his last trip with his son Ken they had a breakdown at Derby and had to wait there for 3½ weeks for a part for their vehicle. He always bought a Tattsлото ticket on Saturday and Wednesday.

Ken snored like hell! The snoring may have been the result of a broken nose, which resulted when he was starting a stationary motor with a crank handle and the handle hit his nose. Ouch! The doctor grabbed his nose, twisted it and said it would be OK. Six months before he died he had a nasty nose bleed. The specialist told him that half his nose was blocked but it was too late to straighten the twist in his nose.

Ken had a playful personality that his grandchildren and great grandchild especially enjoyed.



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Marg's BOOK REVIEW

Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert

French author Gustave Flaubert's debut novel was first published in 1856. He was considered as the prime mover of the realist school of French literature and is best known for this masterpiece.

The story centres on Emma Bovary, an adulterer who has numerous affairs, is an aloof mother and a shopping addict with no sense of money. She is a farm girl, raised in a convent who marries Charles Bovary, a good hearted but dull and unambitious doctor with a meagre practice.

Throughout the book the reader feels like giving Emma a good shake! Maybe she could become an enthusiastic gardener and housekeeper, maybe she could write, maybe she could do good deeds, maybe she could care for her daughter. She doesn't do any of these things.

Instead, she is ever dissatisfied and longs only for romance. She escapes what she considers a suffocating, banal existence through extravagant spending sprees and affairs and eventually, adultery. Although she exclaims on Page 226 "Come, let's be sensible", Emma is never sensible. She is extremely selfish and lives entirely taken up by her own passions. As she pursues her impossible reverie she seals her own tragic end.

A Reviewer writes: *Madame Bovary is a study of human stupidity and the romantic malady, the despair and unhappiness faced by those who are unwilling or unable to resolve the conflicts between their dreams and idealized aspirations and the real world; in modern terms, one might say it is a study of neurosis.*

The book gives us a realistic portrayal of bourgeois life in Normandy in the 1840's. When Charles is thinking of moving to a new town, the apothecary tells him that, *the practice of medicine is not overly taxing in our region; for the state of our roads permits the use of the gig, and generally speaking, one is paid reasonably, the farmers being well off. We have, medically aside from the normal cases of enteritis, bronchitis, bilious ailments etc some sporadic fevers now and again at harvest time, but, overall, few serious cases, nothing special to note, except for a decent amount of scrofula, no doubt due to the appalling conditions of hygiene in our peasant dwellings. Ah! You will come across much prejudice to battle against, much routine stubbornness, with which every scientific effort will clash daily; for they still have recourse to novenas, to relics, to the priest, rather than going as a matter of course to the doctor or the pharmacist.*

One reviewer explains how she didn't like the book when she first read it. She didn't like Emma who seemed neither intelligent nor charming. But, it is one book that she has reread many times and each time it seems different.

It is a classic, it is wordy, it is frustrating and sad but gives a marvellous picture of the time and place.



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it'S HISTORY

Meredith History Interest Group

Calendar:

The 2022 calendar which features stone buildings of Meredith & District is now for sale for \$15.00 at local shops, at the History Centre or from Marg Cooper. Many buildings featured are now in ruins but they have been strong and solid buildings. The workmanship of the masons was extraordinary. And the stone work is so artistic: the colours, the straight and jagged lines of stone and the uniqueness of some of the buildings.

The calendar which is a celebration and record of the stone buildings makes a great Christmas gift.

Steiglitz Photo Exhibition:

The exhibition was held in the Meredith Hall on the weekend of October 30 & 31. As reported in the last Newsletter there were over 60 photos of Steiglitz township that were printed to A3 size, mounted on matt boards and arranged on easel type display boards in the centre of the hall plus photos of the pub, a timeline, information about *The Book* [an autograph type book created in Steiglitz in 1870-1880] and people of the book, photos of graves in the Cemetery etc. Some of the photos had *Merlin* embossed in the lower right-hand corner. Please see information about this photographer, also in this Newsletter.

We intend to compile these photos into a book, in chronological order.

History Centre Garden:

Although we have sold plants on the Street Nursery for over 12 months, the garden at the History Centre has consisted of only a few clumps of agapanthus. We have decided to make it more interesting, more decorative and hopefully, more historic. Have you got a plant or plants that has a special historical significance? It may be a plant that was planted by your great grandmother, it may be a plant that was in the garden when you bought the house 50 years ago, it may be a plant grown from a cutting from a bunch of flowers you received on a special occasion. I have a watsonia type plant that has an orange flower, that grows tall and lanky, that once grew in wild profusion at the Meredith Cemetery.

If you have a plant of significance we would like *a bit* for our new garden, please.

Christmas:

We would like to wish everyone Best Wishes for the Christmas Season and the New Year. We would like to thank everyone who helped MHIG in some way during 2021. We hope that in 2022 we can *get on* with the job of collecting and sharing history without Covid regulations.

Contact:

By email:meredithhistoryinterestgroup@gmail.com or by calling at the History Centre on Tuesdays or Thursdays or phone any members of the Committee.

Henry Beaufoy Merlin

Information from article by Geoff Barker.

In 1951 one of Australia's most significant collections of nineteenth century photographs (glass plates) was found in a garden shed in Chatswood, Sydney. It was Merlin the founder of the American and Australasian Photographic Company who took most of the earlier landscape views which were acknowledged by his contemporaries as being among the best taken in Australia. Most of the negatives were taken between 1872 and 1876.

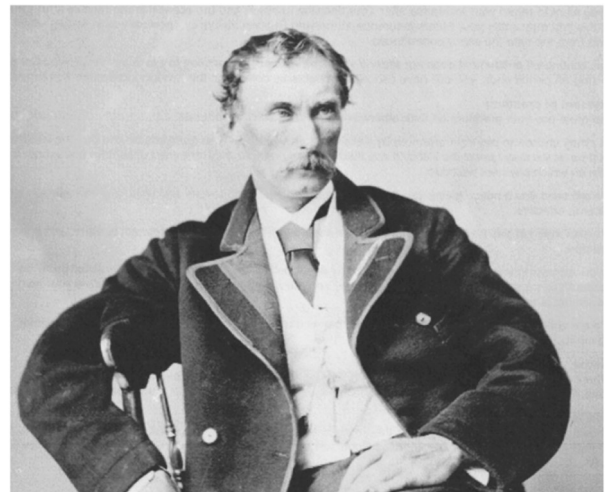
He was probably born in London in 1830. After the death of his father in 1845 he came to Sydney with his mother in 1848. In 1852 he was running a Marionette Theatre, then in 1853 he went on the road with a Burlesque Theatre. He worked in 1856 as a manager, actor and painter at the Newcastle Theatre, but in 1865 he opened the Kyneton Photographic Studio in Kyneton. He advertised his services taking photos of public buildings and private residences and by 1869 he was a successful travelling photographer.

Over the ten-year period from 1863 to 1873 he transformed himself from a theatrical showman into a landscape photographer

One of the main beneficiaries of the Star of Hope Gold Mining Company at Hawkins Hill was the manager Bernard Holtermann. With whom Merlin entered into an arrangement in 1873, to take panoramas and views of all towns and gold-fields in the colonies in order to form a gallery and also albums of each town containing statistical information. The new and ambitious scheme was to promote Australia to the world.

In 1873 Merlin died after a short illness and it was his one-time assistant who took over from Merlin to become Holtermann's primary photographer.

Australian historians are remarkably lucky that Merlin whose methodology was to photograph every building in a town should arrive at the height of the gold boom. Luckily Steiglitz is one of the towns he took photos of and maybe there are even more photographs not yet discovered, maybe at the bottom of the garden in someone's shed.



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"Christmas is the day that holds all time together."

Alexander Smith

Christmas, a time when we celebrate and remember the feelings that are in our hearts that make memories. It is a time to strengthen ties to each other through hospitality, feasting, drinking, gift-giving, and making merry.

The Christmas tree must be one of the most iconic symbols of Christmas, and the tradition of decorating a tree around Christmas time goes back to pagan times. In our home the tree is decorated with candles, apple, pinecones, mushrooms, and birds, either from nature or family heirlooms as symbols of the spirit of Christmas. It was believed that spirits living in the trees, but went away during the winter months, and could be coaxed back with household offerings

Candles on the Christmas tree, it seems no one knows when they first became connected. They were used during ancient winter solstice celebrations a way of remembering that spring would soon come. They symbolised life in the dead of winter. One of the earliest records of candles being used at Christmas is from the Middle Ages, where a large candle was used to represent the star of Bethlehem. Protestant reformer, Martin Luther, in the 16th century used candles as a way of recreating a starry Christmas Eve sky. The sight of a Christmas tree bathed in natural candlelight will stop you in your tracks and make you slow down. For good reason: You have to focus on the tree. You can't leave the candles burning unattended. Safety is crucial, but if truth be told, you won't want to let the tree out of your sight: It has a commanding, magical presence, it hushes the heart and spreads a sense of peace. It's a way to slow down and experience the magic of Christmas.

Birds, they represent the love, commitment, and effort it takes to build a happy home. Bird nests are also good-luck symbols. Legend has it that prosperity will come to any home that finds a bird's nest nestled among the branches of the family Christmas tree.

Pinecones, a symbol of human enlightenment, resurrection, eternal life and regeneration.

Apples as a reminder that humanity should be continually learning from its mistakes!

Mushrooms, besides being found at the base of pine trees, there's another reason to include the Christmas mushroom: It's a favourite food of reindeer! In fact, Santa's favourite animal loves the mushroom so much that reindeer herders use bags of it to keep them together and avoid losing any strays!

"Christmas gives us an opportunity to pause and reflect on the important things around us."

David Cameron

Alongside the tree, the Christmas season is epitomised by: Carols, whether you love them or hate them, Carols were first sung in Europe thousands of years ago, but these were not Christmas Carols that we recognise today. They were pagan songs, sung at the Winter Solstice celebrations as people danced round stone circles. The word Carol actually means dance or a song of praise and joy! Carolling actually began as the Norse traditions of wassailing. The traditional wassail beverage was a hot mulled cider, spiked with alcohol or fermented and the Wassailers went from home to home, drunk, singing to their neighbours and celebrating their "good health." Who's with me? Well, except for the hangover!

Traditionally, peasants would visit their feudal lords and sing songs in exchange for gifts and treats. This gives new context to the line from the song We Wish You a Merry Christmas: "We won't go until we get some, so bring some out here."

Carols used to be written and sung during all four seasons, but only the tradition of singing them at Christmas has really survived.

Perhaps the most famous carols is the song 'Jingle Bells'. The song was first called "One Horse Open Sleigh" and was originally published, in the USA, in September 1857 as a Thanksgiving song and NOT a Christmas one! It was first recorded in 1889. Often only the first verse (and chorus) are now sung. The other verses are about driving the 'one horse open sleigh' rather fast and crashing it! And did you know that "Jingle Bells" became the first song played in space when, on 16 December 1965, it was broadcast during NASA's Gemini 6A space flight when the astronauts claimed that they had spotted a sleigh in space! They then took out a harmonica and sleigh bells (which they had smuggled onto the space craft) and played and sang the song to mission control.

One of my favourite carol's is "Silent Night, Holy Night!" for me this carol is an expression of the deepest reflection and spiritual longing for peace - very relevant for this Christmas 2021!

May you never be too grown up to search the skies on Christmas Eve.

Well before Santa's story was embellished by the Victorian story of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" in 1823, and before his further reinvention by Coca-Cola during the 1920's and 1930's, Santa was originally depicted as an old, tall, gaunt man with a fur-trimmed cloak and broad-brimmed hat or hood who travelled on horseback. The idea of an old man giving gifts to children dates much earlier than that, back to the time of the pagans. Father Christmas, otherwise known as St. Nicholas, was a patron saint of children, the poor, and prostitutes. Living around 4th century AD, St. Nicholas was a generous bishop who was known for giving gifts to the poor, sporting a big beard and a long cloak much like the Santa we know and love. But even before St. Nicholas, there was another bearded old man called Odin. This deity, worshipped by early

Germanic pagan tribes, was traditionally portrayed as an old man with a long, white beard with an 8-legged horse called Sleipnir, which he would ride through the skies (just like Santa's reindeer). During the winter, kids would fill their booties with carrots and straw and leave them by the chimney for Sleipnir to feed on. Odin would fly by and reward the children with little presents in their booties, much like we do with Christmas stockings today. So, the Santa Claus we all imagine in our heads today is a mishmash of the generous St. Nicholas, the god Odin and Sleipnir, and Coca-Cola's iconic, red-dressed character.

Christmas is:

A time in which people come together, strengthening the bonds of kinship and friendship,

A time of thinking of our past and of the future, of celebrating our spiritual place in the world,

A time to show gratitude for what we have, for traditions that celebrate bounty, survival, nature, magic and connectedness,

A time to celebrate in our own way, making memories along the way,

A time to remember, the true spirit of Christmas lies in your heart,

And a time to make sure you end up on the "Nice" list, unless "Naughty" is your thing!

May the Christmas spirit work its merry magic on your heart. - Kerrie

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the rain report

Look at those numbers!
Smiley Girl has put on her
brightest, on behalf of all
farmers, gardeners and
magpies. *(Not such good
news perhaps, for water
carters and worms,)*



SPRING Rain

198

203

LTA

Last Season

NOVEMBER Rain

62

64

LTA

Last Month



Meredith Dairy celebrates 30 years.

Julie Cameron

In January 1991 Sandy and I left city jobs to pursue our dream of carrying on the family tradition of farming. By February that year, our dream looked in doubt with the collapse of the sheep and wool industry, high interest rates and an economic recession. An article in the "The Age" newspaper, titled "Innovate or Perish", triggered the idea of adding value to our farm produce, further, a timely, chance meeting with a Cheesemaker who told us that the best cheese in the world was made of sheep milk, ignited the idea. We saw cheesemaking as a way we could continue to farm and produce something with value. Meredith Dairy was born.

30 years later we are still milking sheep but also goats. Today the Meredith Dairy cheese and yoghurts are sold all over Australia and exported.



The Marinated Goat Cheese, our most recognised product, is readily available in supermarkets both here in Australia and in America. The enterprise has enabled us to expand our farming area, develop innovative farming practises, employ talented staff and protect and conserve natural assets. The Vision for Meredith Dairy is to **"Produce Food Sustainably"**, we are on a journey and there is always more work to do. Looking back on the last 30 years, many things have happened, and much change has occurred. I hope in 30 years' time someone will be writing an article about 60 years of Meredith Dairy.



Buy Local

THIS FESTIVE SEASON

Golden Plains Shire Council is proud to support the local business community and encourages residents to keep their money in the Shire to help the economic recovery this festive season.



For more on Council's *Buy Local This Festive Season* campaign, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au



Council wishes you
MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR



On behalf of all Councillors and Council staff, Golden Plains Shire Council wishes all residents and visitors a Merry Christmas and a safe, Happy New Year.

Golden Plains Shire Council will have altered hours during the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

The Customer Service Centres at Bannockburn and Smythesdale will close at 1pm, Friday 24 December 2021, and will re-open at 8.30am, Tuesday 4 January, 2022.

Essential services will be available in this period, in case of an emergency. If you need urgent assistance, please call 5220 7111 and follow the prompts.

For more information on holiday operations and services including aged care and Maternal Health and Child Health, please visit Council's website in mid-December: goldenplains.vic.gov.au

RUBBISH AND RECYCLING COLLECTION

There are no changes to Council's waste and recycling collection service over the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

As always, please remember to place your bins out the night before your collection day.

ROKEWOOD TRANSFER STATION

The Rokewood Resource Recovery Centre will be closed on Sunday 26 December, 2021 and re-open for normal operational hours on Sunday 2 January, 2022.



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Another eventful year comes to a close for the Meredith Newsletter. We hope your community news provides you with information, entertainment and a local social connection. We look forward to sharing more informative columns cartoons and an insight into what is current and a peek into the past from our dedicated team of contributors in 2022.

See you in February 2022

