

Meredith & district NEWS



February 2022

OUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

there're
Dog Tales



inside

- Maude has some Fun
- Roy Hay's peek ahead
- A fine story about wool

...and the usual Much More



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

Meredith & District News



connect emergency

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We do not publish children's photos online.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

ADVANCE MEREDITH
0409 027 359

ANGLING CLUB
0419 248 660

B'BURN ART GROUP
0410 808 483

BLUE LIGHT DISCO
5286 1222

BOOK CLUB
5286 8201

CFA
000 for fire calls

Elaine
0409 861 296
Meredith
5286 1502
Morrisons
0417 770 765

CHILDCARE
5286 0700

COMMUNITY CENTRE
5286 0700

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

CUBS & SCOUTS
Anakie 52819497

ELAINE HALL
elainetownhall@gmail.com

FOOTBALL
Seniors 0408 545 246
Juniors 0430 587 674

GOLF CLUB
0407 795 342

HISTORY GROUP
5286 8201

LANDCARE
0409 862 326

MEMORIAL HALL
0409 662106

MOTORCYCLE CLUB
0437 009 250

PLAYGROUP
5286 0700

POLICE PADDOCKS
5286 1273

RSL - 5286 1452

SENIOR CITIZENS
5286 8232

TENNIS
Elaine
0448 291 074

Lethbridge
52 817 321

Meredith
0424754179

SEW 'N' SEWS
5286 0700

FRIENDS OF THE BRISBANE RANGES
5286 1252

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	1300 363 036
a/h emergency	0408 508 635
Ranger	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

CEMETERY TRUST

5286 1550

HALL HIRE

Meredith Memorial

5286 1545

Elaine Mechanics

elainetownhall@gmail.com

[gmail.com](mailto:elainetownhall@gmail.com)

Elaine Rec Res

5341 5703

LIBRARY VAN

5272 6010

MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

5220 7230

PRE-SCHOOL

5286 0722

PRIMARY SCHOOL

5286 1313

RECREATION RESERVE

0429 315 575

..or start something.

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



"Doubt kills more dreams than failure ever will."

- Suzy Kazeem



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

Burning embers from bushfires can travel up to 30km, starting new fires in seconds, destroying homes and making escape impossible. If the Fire Danger Rating is ever extreme or above, don't hesitate. Leave early.

How well do you know fire? 

Plan. Act. Survive. Go to emergency.vic.gov.au

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



NO ONE'S UNSINKABLE

To all those Unsinkable Guys out there –

You might think it's safe to have a few drinks around water, skip the lifejacket when you're out on the boat or go for a swim without checking the conditions.

But statistics prove that 4 out of 5 drownings are men.

Just remember that no one's unsinkable.

Q UNSINKABLE GUY

**RETHINK
TAKING RISKS
AROUND
WATER**



COUNCIL BUDGET 2022/23 ENGAGEMENT

HAVE YOUR SAY

COUNCIL BUDGET 2022/23

Council is seeking input on community priorities during the preparation of its Draft Council Budget 2022/23.



In the early stages of budget preparation, Council will present two community workshops:

- **7 to 9pm, Tuesday 8 February:**
Golden Plains Civic Centre,
2 Pope Street, Bannockburn and
livestreamed on YouTube
- **7 to 9pm, Thursday 10 February:**
The Well, 19 Heales Street,
Smythesdale

Both workshops will include a financial presentation and information on the 2022/23 commitments of the Council Plan 2021-2025, as well as a Q&A session.

All residents are encouraged to complete the Council Budget 2022/23 Survey, available at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations or Council Customer Service Centre, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn or The Well, 19 Heales Street, Smythesdale.

The Council Budget 2022/23 Survey closes at 5pm, Wednesday 23 February, 2022.



Councillor CONVERSATION POST

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COUNCILLORS

Following the success of the Councillor Engagement program last year, Council confirmed its commitment to engagement in 2022 at its December 2021 meeting.

Come and have a chat with your Golden Plains Shire Councillors at the following events this month:

Coffee with your Councillors

A new initiative in 2021, Councillors will return to host the popular Coffee with your Councillor sessions in small townships in Golden Plains Shire.

On Saturday 19 February, drop-in for an informal one-on-one chat with Councillors at the following locations:

9 to 10.30am:

- Haddon General Store,
49 Racecourse Road, Haddon
- Cape Clear General Store, 1479
Scarsdale-Pitfield Road, Cape Clear
- Lethbridge General Store,
1 Russell Street, Lethbridge

11am to 12.30pm:

- Ross Creek General Store,
649 Sebastopol-Smythesdale Road,
Ross Creek

- Berringa Op Shop, 20 Berringa
Road, Berringa
- Teesdale General Store, 1071
Bannockburn-Shelford Road, Teesdale

1.30 to 3pm:

- Scarsdale General Store,
2069 Glenelg Highway, Scarsdale
- Back Creek Café, 1/27 Staughton
Street, Meredith
- Sonny Café, 15 High Street, Inverleigh

Councillor Conversation Post

On Sunday 6 February, 10am to 2pm, Councillors return to the Smythesdale Arts and Music Fiesta on the Smythesdale Green to talk to residents of the north of the Shire.

ADVERTISEMENT



IT'S GOOD TO TALK

Please contact me if you think I can help in any way.

Michaela Settle MP STATE MEMBER FOR BUNINYONG
 15 Main Road, Bakery Hill 3350 P: 5331 7722 E: michaela.settle@parliament.vic.gov.au



Meredith **Community Centre**
working for our community

What's On



COMING UP - Term 1

2 Day Workshop with Jen Jones - \$250

February 8 - Resin Art - 10.30 - 2.30
 February 9 - Ink Art - 10.30 - 2.30

2 Day Mosaic Workshop with Di

February 26 & March 5 - 10am - 4pm - \$70

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

Macrame with Anita

February 18 - Spiral Pot Hanger - 11.00 - 2.00 - \$50
 March 25 - Wallhanging - 11.00 - 2.00 - \$50

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

PLAYGROUP - Thursdays

9.30 - 11.30 - Starting Soon!

Join the Meredith Playgroup Page on Facebook for Updates!

Are you Interested in joining a Daytime Bookclub?

Call Us to put your Name on the list!

Interested in a Sewing Group?

We are looking for members to join a new group who will eventually look into sewing for Charity!

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

Church News



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

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

New Mass times :

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

First Friday of the month

Exposition, Adoration, Benediction will be held and Reconciliation available, 10.15 Meredith, followed by Mass.

First Sunday of the month

Family Mass, 11 am, Bannockburn
Youth group commencing 6/2, 12.15 followed by lunch, Bannockburn , contact Monique 0432 040 906

Sat. 6 pm Vigil, St. John the Baptist, Winchelsea
Sun. 11 am St. Mary MacKillop, Bannockburn
Sun. 13/2, 27/2, 9 am St. Joseph's, Meredith
Sun. 6/2, 20/2, 9 am St. Brigid's Anakie
Sun. 13/2 , 4 pm Sacred Heart, Inverleigh

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.

Classifieds

First insertion of small ads are FREE to district residents

FREE Rover Cub ride on mower complete, has blown up engine. 0415 457 500



At the end of last year, the Committee that oversees the publication of our Newsletter adopted the following objectives

- 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.
- To provide a platform for and promote creative talent.

You will see they largely revolve around community, so please get involved to help us achieve them. You could...

- Write an opinion piece (but nothing divisive, please)
- Advocate for district services or facilities
- Organise or promote a community event or interest group
- Send us your creative output, be it an article, a poem, a recipe, a photograph, a piece of art or...?

All editorial contributions to news@meredithnews.com.au

Meredith Senior Citizens

Jim Hynes

What a Year! Stop – Start – Rule Changes –Many Cancellations – Covid certainly put a damper on things!

Belatedly, we held our AGM in late November.

Elected Office bearers are:

- Jim Hynds, President
- Robyn Blackman, Secretary
- Carol Broadhurst, Treasurer
- Nancy O'Brien, Lunch Officer
- Heather Banks, Hall

Hastily we organized our Christmas Party which was held in the Memorial Hall in December. Kylie Miller and her group supplied a fantastic 2 course meal. Raffles were held. Congratulations to all the winners. Thanks to Carol for putting together the raffles.

A special thanks to Catherine King, Federal MP for Ballarat for donating a great Christmas Hamper. A great time was had by all at our Christmas Party.

An act of kindness and generosity! Recently I received a phone call from Lyn Heard from Shelford Road. Lyn explained that she had recently lost her mother and had her mother's mobile scooter which we wished to donate to someone who could use it. She wondered if I knew of someone. I contacted Betty Hayes and yes, she certainly thought she could use it. Many thanks to Lyn for her kindness and generosity, from the seniors and from Betty.

I would like to thank the seniors and committee for their support throughout these trying times.

Family Fun Day at Maude

Alex Hyatt

Did you know that local communities have Community Planning Groups? Well they exist in most towns and are affiliated with the Golden Plains Shire. In the Maude, She Oaks and Steiglitz area, there is an active group called the Maude/She Oaks/Steiglitz Community Group run by “Community Coordinators”.

The volunteers give their time to implement a plan developed by residents of the three communities. So what is a community plan and how is it formed? The plan comprises ideas and opinions of residents via surveys, interviews and locally advertised public meetings. At these public meetings residents vote to identify their top priority projects. It is then the responsibility of the volunteer coordinators to implement and oversee the plan.

The current community plan referred to above includes the following projects:

“Improving road safety”; “Improve local road maintenance”; support and funding for “improving the facilities of the Maude Recreation Facility”; “Promoting dialogue between quarry owners and local residents”; promoting “local history”; updating “Honour Boards” in Maude Community Hall; serving as a conduit for local community groups with the Golden Plains Shire, and connecting “local young people and families” within the area.

From this plan the group held an enjoyable event last November, this was the Maude, Steiglitz, She Oaks family day at the Maude Community Hall.

The day had been planned and postponed many times due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but on this sunny November Sunday afternoon it went ahead.

A “COVID Safety Plan” was completed; insurance organised and the event registered with the Shire. A site plan was drawn up showing the location of a first aid station; entry and exit points; location of COVID marshals and QR codes; site of emergency evacuation points and parking etc. Two live bands were organised, food (paid for by the community group) together with a coffee van, the Bannockburn CWA, the CFA and a tutor representing a previously successful COVID-19 Quick Response Community Grant workshop were invited. In respect to the latter, the workshops were held to bring local residents together and to learn about some environmental Apps (e.g. eBird, iNaturalist and FrogID) which could be used by families to identify flora and fauna on local properties. Following the organisation, it was down to having fun.

With over 200 residents coming through the gates families enjoyed, music, free food, raffles (there were so many

prizes and smiling faces) and lots of games. A local youngster who goes by the name of “Ted” created the flier and organised the games, thank you Ted. It was a blast from the past! There were adult supervised egg and spoon races, wheelbarrow races, limbo, paper aeroplane competitions, treasure hunts, skipping, hula hoops and quoits. While the younger members of the community were having fun (did I mention there was a longest Minty wrapper competition?) the adults delighted in catching up and sharing experiences on what they had been doing during the lock-downs. All Councillors were invited and we were delighted to see and greet Cr Les Rowe and Cr Brett Cunningham who were observed joining in the activities and talking to their constituents.

At the end of the day bouquets of local native flowers were presented to those who gave their time, and we all went home with the exception of the organisers who remained to clean up. The success was due to some very skilled, energetic and committed coordinators, helpers on the day and the fantastic officers of the Golden Plains Shire.



Above: Charlie and Logan enjoying the day and catching up with Kath Nordin.

OUR COVER

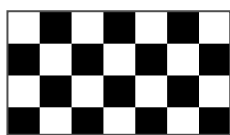


Taken last month from Slate Quarry Road looking south, Brooke Rose's photo has captured the drama of a summer storm. Thank you Brooke for a great cover.



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

We welcome the first community column from our recently appointed policeman, First Constable James Hobbs. James hopes to offer regular comments on district activities and being a safe community..



meredith POLICE report

James HOBBS | Senior Constable 37267.
Meredith Police Station – Station Commander.
Western Region, Division 3.
p. (03) 5286 1222 | dx. 214329 |
e. james.hobbs@police.vic.gov.au

First and foremost, I hope everyone had a fantastic Christmas, and a very happy new year.

Since beginning my new position at the Meredith Police Station in October, I have found the local community to be nothing but supportive and welcoming. Not only to me, but also to my family.

In late December I was embraced by the Meredith Primary School, and lucky enough to be invited to their end of year BBQ celebrations. I wish the 2021 grade six students all the best with high school, and welcome the grade prep students of 2022, and the very best with what is an exciting journey. I organised a colouring competition for the primary school students, with the lucky winners winning prizes such as tickets to AFL games, a signed Melbourne United Basketball singlet and various Geelong Football Club Merchandise.

In December 2021, a Meredith resident had his wallet stolen from a local licenced premises. A subsequent Search Warrant was executed in Sebastopol resulting in the arrest of a male and the recovery of stolen items. This matter is before the Ballarat Magistrates Court.

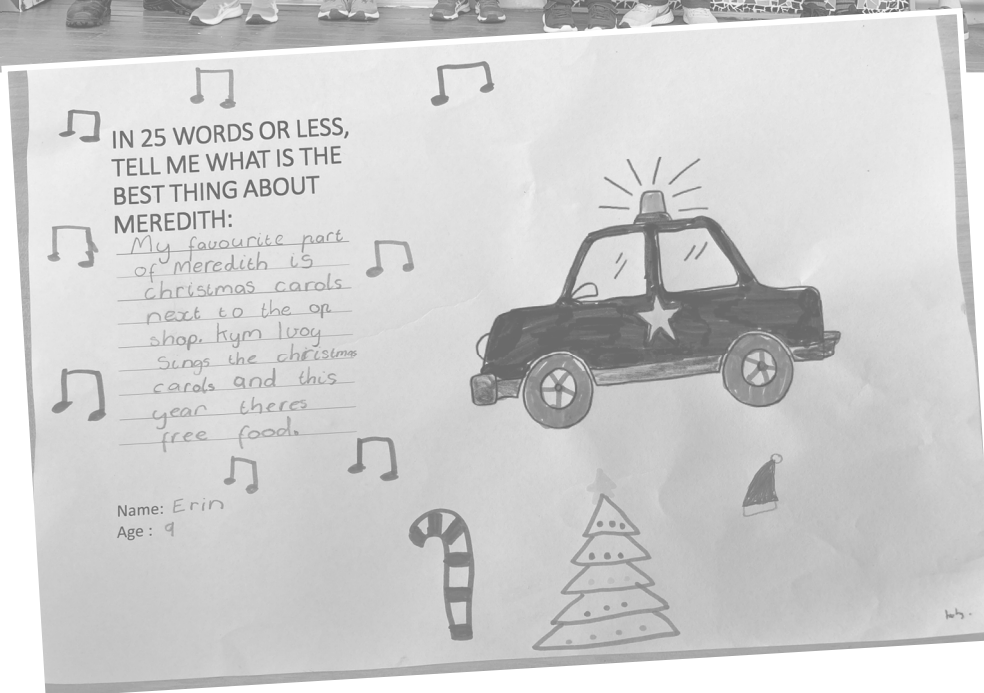
In early January 2022, an incident relating to a stolen vehicle and various persons breaking into properties occurred within the local area. Unfortunately a local member of the public was confronted, and motor vehicle damaged. I can appreciate and understand just how distressing and traumatising such incidents can be. Due to a prompt

response from Police, multiple offenders were arrested, and the matter is now before the Court. My message to local residents, is that it is pivotal that suspicious behaviour is reported to Police, and that we all ensure that we continue to lock our vehicles and homes. It is also imperative that relationships be formed with neighbours, and that discussions be held with the same relating to security strategies and support.

In addition to the above, various reports of suspicious drone activity within the Meredith district has also been reported around rural properties. These matters are currently being looked into, but I please urge that again we ensure sheds are locked and blinds are pulled for privacy reasons.

All in all, Meredith is fantastic town with some amazing people. At the end of the day you are all my eyes and ears and I encourage that things be reported.

Have a happy and safe 2022.



In the School Garden

We have certainly had another fortunate season with abundant summer rains. Over the holidays, the school rain gauge indicated 50mm of rain and there is more forecast for the last week of January.

But first - a happy report on our GIANT PUMPKIN plant. Following the advice from two champion growers, we put a short piece of pipe with copper tape around the top over our pumpkin seedling and also over a zucchini. Next came a generous sprinkling of oats around the little plants to feed the hungry snails and slugs that had been making short work overnight of our previous six seedlings. We are delighted to report that the seedlings survived and thrived over the holidays helped along by the rain and a weekly feed with a seaweed solution. It just goes to show how beneficial it is to talk with other gardeners and glean their helpful hints. At the moment we have flowers but, having been planted so late in the season, no pumpkins yet. Everyone is hopeful of something to enter in the Meredith Newsletter Giant Pumpkin Challenge in late April. In the meantime we would love to hear about other giant pumpkin successes in the district.

The Grade 2/3/4 students patiently waited from May, when they planted their GARLIC cloves, till December when they were able to harvest. And what fun that was. Having put in tiny, tiny cloves, they magically dug up large bulbs. Of course the purpose of the garlic planting was to have a garlic bread making session and a great time was had mixing soft, squishy roasted garlic bulbs with butter and two types of cheese. This was spread on little bread rolls and baked in the oven till it was melted and bubbly. The aroma around the school was irresistible. Enough was made for everyone to have some and it was pronounced the best ever.

Most garlic varieties store well and we have some put away for our next culinary adventure - bruschetta. As it has been another slow season to warm up, our TOMATO plants are lush with growth but only just starting to flower. When we do have some to harvest, we will rub garlic cloves over toasted bread, top with our chopped tomatoes and then add some Meredith Dairy marinated feta. How wonderful to read in the last newsletter that they have celebrated 30 years of cheese making.

Another success in our vegetable gardens has been an excellent supply of LETTUCES. The iceberg lettuces matured with firm hearts over the holidays but we have some of the mignonette variety that will be just right for the students' return to school.

The new STRAWBERRY plants that were put in sometime around the end of July have flourished and are giving us a steady, though small, picking. By early February they should be in full swing ready for hungry children in the playground.

There are still plenty of seeds and seedlings that can go in this month as long as they are watered and given some protection on really hot days. You could try BUSH BEANS, BEETROOT, CARROT, LETTUCE, PARSNIP, RADISHES or SPINACH.

The students enjoyed their garlic bread so much they

wanted to share the recipe with you.

Cheesy Roasted Garlic Bread

- *one garlic bulb
- *butter, softened
- *cheddar cheese, grated
- *parmesan cheese, grated
- *a bread stick cut into slices or dinner rolls cut in half

Cut the top off the garlic bulb and drizzle with a little olive oil

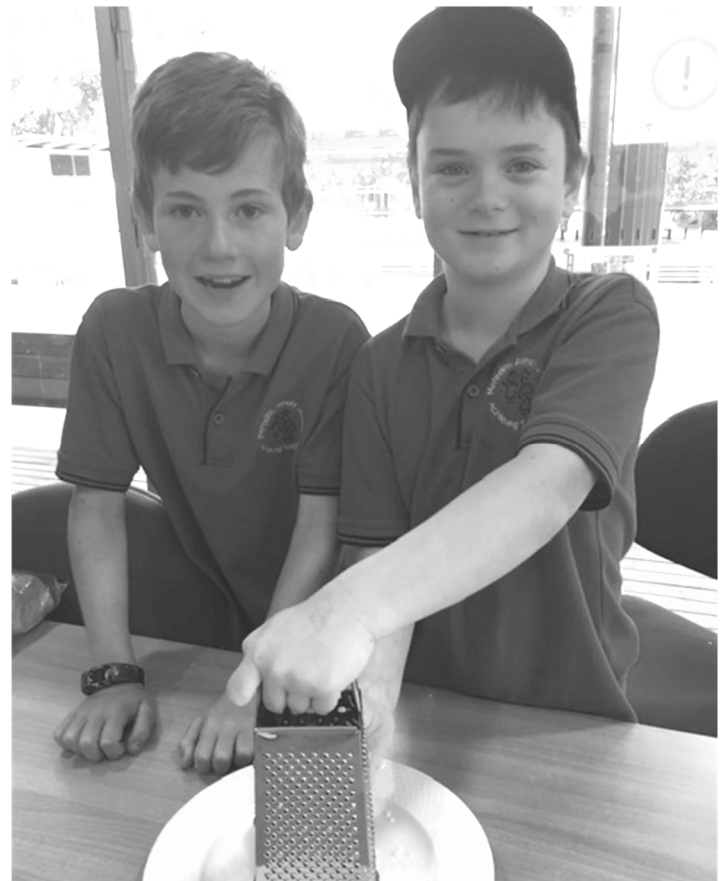
Wrap in foil and roast in a 180 degree oven for 20 minutes.

When cool, squeeze out the garlic and mix with the butter and the two cheeses

Spread generously on the bread slices or rolls

Bake at 160 degrees for 10-15 minutes till the bread is crispy and it is hot and bubbly on top

* amounts depend on individual tastes and how many people you are serving



Jack and Jacob having a grate time!



The deadline for copy is

**9.00 am on
the last
Thursday**

of the preceding
month

A Fiftieth Birthday Party

Marg Cooper

Parked along Russell Street east on December 11 was a very long truck with a long heavy pipe on board, a bus and several caravans. The occasion was the fiftieth Birthday party of Vanessa [Ness] Bartlett. They partied and danced till late and many stayed the night in the bus, the caravans and tents in the backyard.

Vanessa and her husband Peter have worked tirelessly to improve the house and yard at 5 Russell Street since they came to Meredith about 6 years ago. They have painted and decorated the house, planted a garden and have established an amazing lush green lawn in the front. For the party they erected a marquee which they decorated extensively, Vanessa made a Welcome Board that she displayed on a fancy stand and she made a guest book to match. Guests were treated to a meal of meat and salads and birthday cake which was decorated to represent Freddie Mercury.

Vanessa and Peter met in 1987 in Bendigo and were immediately attracted to each other but life got in the way and they both married and had children. They lost contact for 24 years.

In 2011 Vanessa found Peter on Facebook, they moved to Geelong and then to Meredith. They have never looked back and couldn't be happier with a house in the country town, grandchildren and hobbies that keep them occupied.

Peter now does a little bit of woodwork but is mostly occupied with maintenance. Vanessa is very creative and artistic. She has a small business she calls Stick n'Cre8. She has a crafty room out the back, her refuge, where she creates personalised stickers that she puts on anything and everything including icy pole holders, baubles, walls, vehicles, signs, doormats, jumpers and T Shirts. She assures that the stickers will not come off, even dog bowls that are washed constantly. She tells that she has met so many friends/customers from all over Australia.

Vanessa and Peter also love their dogs. They have 3 French



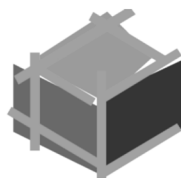
Bulldogs and 1 British Bull dog. Since they have been at Meredith they have had various other animals such as sheep, pet lambs, a horse and chooks but now they only have 4 dogs and a couple of ducks.

Happy Birthday Vanessa.



Just a quick update this month. Members of the Meredith Police Paddocks Support Group have reached an agreement with DELWP that allows members to continue to work at the site. We have also met onsite with Cr Gamble, mayor of Golden Plains Shire. But we still haven't found an agency willing to either manage the weeds or contribute even modest amounts of money toward ongoing weed management.

For more information, call Jim Elvey on 0409 163169



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Fennel, Lemon, Pea & Prawn Risotto

Prep & Cook Time 45 mins

Serves 4

Ingredients

- 4 cups chicken stock
- 90g butter
- 1 medium onion, chopped finely
- 1 baby fennel bulb, chopped finely, fronds reserved
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1 1/2 cups arborio rice
- 1/2 cup frozen peas
- 1 tbsp finely grated lemon rind
- 500g uncooked medium prawns, peeled and deveined, tails intact
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- Baby sorrel leaves (optional) and lemon wedges to serve.

Method

1. Bring stock and 1 cup water to the boil in a medium saucepan. Reduce heat to low, simmer, covered.
2. Meanwhile, melt 60g of the butter in a large saucepan over medium heat; cook onion and fennel, stirring, for about 5 minutes or until tender. Add wine; simmer for 3 minutes or until reduced by half. Add rice; stir to coat in mixture.
3. Add 1 cup of the hot stock to pan; cook, stirring gently, over medium heat until liquid is absorbed. Continue adding stock, 1 cup at a time, stirring until stock is absorbed after each addition. Total cooking time about 25 minutes or until rice is tender. Stir in peas and rind; season to taste.
4. Meanwhile, melt remaining butter in a large frying pan over medium-high heat; cook prawns and garlic, turning, for 2 minutes or until prawns change colour.
5. Divide risotto among serving bowls; top with prawns, reserved fennel fronds and baby sorrel leaves. Serve with lemon wedges.

*Recipe from: Women's weekly Italian
Stefania*

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SMALL TOWN BIG SPIRIT



Christmas in Meredith 2021

Sunday 19th December and finally The Connecting Meredith Let Our Spirits Shine project (funded by the Golden Plains Shire Council in partnership with the Victorian Government's Community Activation and Social Isolation Initiative) was underway, having been postponed a couple of times due to ongoing covid 19 lockdowns, esp. the Melbourne extended ring of steel lockdown which meant we couldn't get the band out of Melbourne, capacity density for hall also affected the bush dance as 20 people doesn't a dance make!

So, the project was put on hold. However, by the time covid restriction and regulations meant we could revisit the Bush dance theme; we couldn't book the band and then we were running out of time to hold an extra event in Meredith prior to Christmas.

So, we collaborated with the combined churches of Meredith to expand the annual Christmas carols.

For the Christmas Carols we had complimentary baked spuds with toppings, tea/coffee and slices, for the kids there was face painting, popcorn, fairy floss, slushies and even presents delivered by elves!

The evening was about providing connection opportunity to all ages (after such extended periods of isolation) with singing, laughing and a feeling of belonging. We had many new residents come along and introduce themselves and make new connections in Meredith. So welcome all our new residents.

The sound of chatting and laughter filled the hall. Friends, families, and neighbours catching up - old and young alike.

The lead group Advance Meredith Association was assisted by the Memorial Hall Committee, St Joseph's Parish Church, Meredith Community Centre, and the Community Coordinators.

And even a rainy stormy day was not going to stop us, Meredith needed this, so a hasty change of venue and we were back on track... Garren Generators of Bannockburn generously donated a generator for the event and the band Momentum, assisted by local singer Kym lead us in carolling and opportunity for some awesome dancing by the younger attendees.

Faces were painted by Lucy and assistants, the popcorn, slushy, and fairy floss machines were attended by, Nick, Ari, Harley, Olivia and Max under watchful eye of Bev - 100 serves of each were given away. Later on, they went onto handed out presents from their Santa sacks of goodies.

It was so great to see our teens jumping in, costumes and all to help the community. So, a big thank you to you all.

It was a fantastic evening, thanks to all the organisers and helpers. -Marion

Thank you to all the volunteers and those that made tonight's Meredith Carols happen.

The band sounded amazing -Thank you for the entertainment

The kids had a great time the gifts # were incredible, food and drink was delicious -Jasmine

What a fantastic turn out!! Merry Christmas all.

-Kerri-anne

What Jasmine said. Great last-minute venue after the crappy weather. We had a wonderful time. Fantastic job by all involved. Huge thanks to all. Merry Christmas everyone. -Sheryl

Absolutely amazing night, thank you

Loved it, so many people there

Absolutely fantastic night, thank you...lovely music/carols and company and the food was delicious, and the kids had an amazing time...Kylie Ann

Great to see the community out, mingling and enjoying themselves -Pat

It was awesome! Such a great community event! Thank you!!! - Sylwia

A great night. Thank you! - Judith

We had a Christmas light Competition and of course the Christmas Sheep - another 40 were added to the town in 2021!

A huge Thank you to all who helped put chairs away and sweep the floors and all those little things that need doing at the end of a great event.

And then to round off Christmas in Meredith, AMA and Meredith CFA teamed up to bring Santa, Mrs Clause and the elves to visit Meredith on the CFA fire truck on Christmas Eve. Thanks to the team, Josh, Amy, Meg, Ian, Nick, Pete, Trent & Mitch on the night and Bev, Doris, Marg and Kerrie lolly bag packers.

So, it was goodbye to 2021 with hopes of a fresh start in 2022, but alas Covid19 has risen again and spreading fast which led to our decision to cancel the Australia Day Street party.

In the meantime, does your group need a marquee, BBQ or? don't forget there is money available from the Community Coordinators seed funds. so, email us advancemeridith@gmail.com to see how we can assist.

GP Shire's Community Awards

Barry Wemyss from Smythesdale was announced last month as Golden Plains Shire's Citizen of the Year. Peter Trevaskis from Inverleigh is this year's Senior Citizen of the Year and Alisha Nurnaitis from Bannockburn the Young Citizen of the Year. The Woody Yaloak Historical Society was a given the Community Impact Award. More details are available at www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au



I told my wife she is drawing her eyebrows too high. She looked surprised!

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For many of us, dogs are part of the family. They can be an enduring source of delight (seasoned with a bit of mischief), a loyal companion and an ever present reminder of the virtue of forgiveness. So this year, we are celebrating dogs in our lives by inviting readers to fill in a little questionnaire about their wag-tailed friend and sending it in with a pic.

Here's our first wag of the tail.

Name: Johnny (Cash).

Breed: Staffy and Cattle Dog and other things.

Special Feature: Back left leg missing through no fault of his own.

Place of origin: Rescue Dog from up near the Murray.

Pet hates: Hoses and sprinklers and magpies. Having a bath.

Favourite toys: Sticks, branches and rope that he and his best friend Jinxy the black lab cross run around with, holding on together.

Naughtiest deeds: Eating Roo poo and rolling in dead Roos. Also pinching apricots from low hanging branches.

Favourite pastimes: Sitting in 'his spot' on the couch; lying in the sun; catching flies; being loved and cuddled.

Obsession: Food and chasing magpies.

Owner: Jim



After you have interviewed your dog, send the answers and a good quality pic to news@meredithnews.com.au

Animal Management Plan

Media Release

Council adopted its Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025 at its 21 December Council Meeting.

The Domestic Animal Management Plan outlines the key issues, objectives and management priorities of Council, as well as promotion of responsible pet ownership and the welfare of dogs and cats. In accordance with Victorian Government standards, it also proposes a number of solutions to protect the community and environment from pet nuisances. Under the Victorian Government's Domestic Animals Act (1994), every council in Victoria must prepare a domestic animal management plan every four years.

Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan was developed following extensive community engagement, with 327 community members completing a survey on animal management services in August and September, and four residents writing submissions during the Draft Plan's public exhibition period from 27 October to 17 November, 2021.

Feedback during the draft document's exhibition period related to the keeping of native animals, responsible dog ownership, number of animals allowed on a property, greater controls on cat ownership, and delivery of actions. This feedback was considered, and no further changes were made to the Domestic Animal Management Plan, as the draft document addressed these areas, or they fell outside the scope of the plan.

The Domestic Animal Management Plan sets out 21 new actions for Council to progress over the next four years, including undertaking proactive patrols of walking paths if resources permit, investigating the cost and location of a fenced dog park in Golden Plains Shire, and exploring the benefits of introducing a cat curfew, which was supported by the majority of survey respondents.

Golden Plains Shire Mayor Cr Gavin Gamble says Council was pleased to adopt the final Domestic Animal Management Plan following public consultation over several months.

"Golden Plains Shire is home to 5,917 dogs and 1,336 cats that have been registered by their owners, and Council's updated Domestic Animal Management Plan sets out our priorities and planned actions in providing animal management services over the next four years.

"The community played a key role in the development of the Domestic Animal Management Plan, with many of the 21 new actions responding to feedback we received from the 327 residents who completed the community survey.

"With the new plan now in place, Council is committed to working with the community to implement its actions, and address the issues identified during the consultation process."

The adopted Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025 will be available on Council's website: goldenplains.vic.gov.au/strategies, or a print copy may be requested at Council's Customer Service Centres, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn and The Well, 19 Heales Street, Smythesdale.



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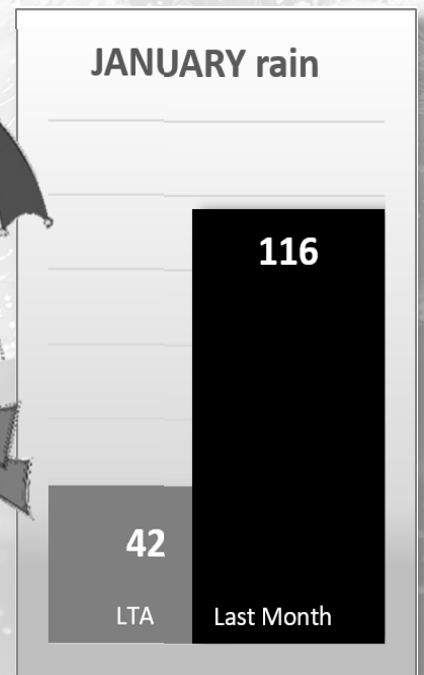
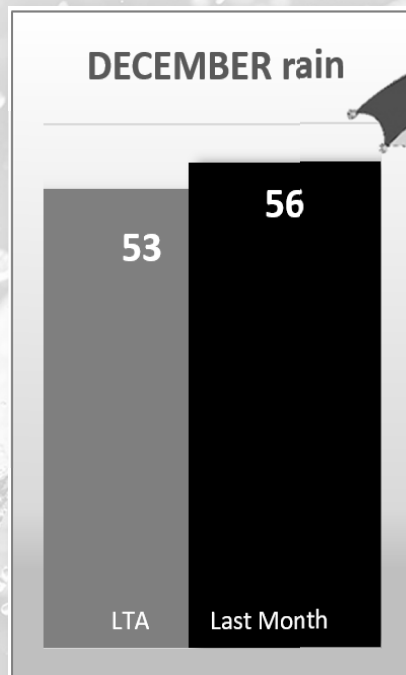
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Two Equine Champs

Marg Cooper

In 1979 at Addington in Christchurch, No Response came from almost last, just a few hundred metres from the finish line, zig zagged through the field and drew away to win. No Response is in the 'Harness Hall of Fame' for this amazing win. In 2021 at Menangle in Sydney, Maori Law led all the way and kicked away near the finish to defeat his rivals. The race caller said he pricked his ears on the line, indicating that he loved to race and loved to win the race. The trainer of both horses was Richard Brosnan, but his son Emmett assisted with training the 2021 winner.

About 30 horses qualify for the Inter Dominion. They run three heats during the week before the final. Maori Law performed well: coming fifth in the first heat, second in the second heat and won the third heat. He was rated as equal favourite for the big race.

Richard and Emmett believe a horse has to be special to win this coveted trophy, equated to the Melbourne Cup for gallopers. He had to travel to Sydney and be housed in strange surroundings. He had to race three times in the first week at three different tracks and again a week later. This year, to add to the anxiety, there were storms and flooding in Sydney in November/December.

Richard explains how he became a trainer almost by accident. His father dabbled in harness horses on his farm in New Zealand and his uncle was a successful trainer. He gradually took over the farm duties and the horses from his father who had developed a bad back. With a bit of success he then started to train other people's horses as well as his own.

In 2009 Richard's son Emmett moved to Australia as a concession driver (like an apprenticeship) for Geoff Webster of Bannockburn. He obtained his own trainer's licence in 2016 and when he expressed an interest in going out on his own, Richard and his wife Julia decided to sell up in New Zealand, pool their resources and find premises not too far from the main race tracks in Victoria so they could train together. Included in their luggage were eleven young horses. Nine of them have won 42 races between them.

By chance, as they drove past a 150 acre block on the corner of Bamganie and Mt Mercer Roads they noticed a For Sale sign. So, just over 12 months ago, they bought the bare block, have built a house and a large shed, have created a straight and a circuit training track, set up small paddocks and have several containers of horse gear.

Richard estimates that he has driven over 800 winners and Emmett, who is also qualified in equine sports therapy, estimates that he has already clocked up over 300 winners. Richard and Emmett are ably assisted by their wives. Emmett's wife Bridie is a vet, working with the horses and at Golden Plains Veterinary Clinic.



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Meredith based



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W O R D S

Coffee (n.), the person upon whom one coughs.

Flabbergasted (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.

Abdicate (v.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.

Esplanade (v.), to attempt an explanation while drunk.

Negligent (adj.), describes a condition in which you absentmindedly answer the door in your nightgown.

Lymph (v.), to walk with a lisp.

Gargoyles (n.), olive-flavoured mouthwash.

Flatulence (n.), emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.

Balderdash (n.), a rapidly receding hairline.

Frisbeetarianism (n.), (back by popular demand): The belief that, when you die, your soul flies up on to the roof and gets stuck there

Winning entries in *The Washington Post's* yearly neologism contest.

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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/>

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Saturday:	8:30am - 1:00pm
Sunday:	CLOSED

Vaccination Clinic – flu & whooping cough vaccinations



IN OUR Nature

Wendy Cook

The afternoon sun shone on the tall manna gum beside the creek. A small streamlined parrot, flying fast, descended and landed among its upper branches. Perhaps it was the vibrant blue on the parrot's wings that caused me to observe it. Much of the rest of its body was a dull camouflage green. I recognised it as a blue-winged parrot, a bird I have rarely seen. After perching in the tree for about a minute, it continued its flight up the valley.

I reported my sighting to a bird expert from the Geelong Field Naturalists Club. He has a special interest in the critically endangered orange-bellied parrot and its close relative, the blue-winged parrot, which is not threatened with extinction. He thought that the bird could have a nest in the area, and asked me to look out for it. I returned a few days later, but saw no sign of the parrot. I tried again after another four days, walking beside the old fence close to the creek. I was surprised to see a blue-winged parrot perching on an old strainer post, looking in my direction. She was olive-green with a yellow belly, royal blue wings changing to dull black above her green tail, and a dark eye. We watched each other for a few minutes. Her reluctance to move made me wonder if she had a nest inside the post. Not wishing to disturb her if she was nesting, I made a slight move to walk uphill away from her. My movement startled her and she flew across the narrow creek to perch in a silver wattle. Making the most of this opportunity, I walked to the post which I had passed many times before. I had never examined it closely, so for the first time, I looked in the top of it and saw that there was a deep hollow where the wood had rotted away. At the bottom, resting on a layer of crumbling wood, were five small white eggs.

After this discovery, my family became curious about other strainer posts. Most had metal caps to prevent rotting, but I found two others that did not. One had a hollow too shallow to be useful. I peeked into the parrot's nest as I walked past. She was still and silent, relying on her camouflage, at the bottom of the deep gloomy hollow. When I looked into the third post, there was another blue-winged parrot with broken eggshell beside her. Her chicks had hatched, but were out of sight beneath her. Her hollow was shallower and less gloomy, so she appeared brighter and more obvious, with her green back, yellow face and blue stripe between her eyes. I heard a sound like a loud rumbling stomach. It was the parrot objecting to my presence. I quickly left.

The bird expert encouraged me to continue watching the birds. I visited the nests every two or three days, took photos and made short recordings of any activity. I also did some reading and learnt that only the female incubates the eggs. Blue-winged parrots nest in a hollow with a vertical entrance and lay their eggs on a bed of decaying wood, so the fence posts appeared perfect. The female leaves the nest to see her mate who delivers food to her. After the chicks hatch, both parents feed them.

Three days after finding the second nest, I had my first glimpse of the chicks. There were two of them and a third egg that never hatched. The chicks appeared almost bald with a partial covering of pale grey fluff, tiny wings, orange parrot beaks and dark circles indicating the positions of their unopened eyes. The second time I saw them, they appeared to be wrestling. On the same day, ten days after I found the first nest, two of the eggs in it were broken and the remaining three were rolled around and dirty. The adult was gone. Two days later, the other three eggs were broken. I wondered if a rat had climbed into the nest, as the entrance was too small for a fox or a large bird. Further reading taught me that grey shrike-thrushes will raid the nests of other birds, eating eggs or hatchlings. I had not heard one close to the nest, but they can be found in a well-treed area a few hundred metres away.

For the next few visits, I approached the chicks with trepidation, concerned that the predator may have found them, but they remained safe. After my third visit, I didn't see the parents again. They were clearly busy, finding food for the chicks, as they grew and developed with surprising speed. Twelve days after I found them, the chicks' eyes were open. They were fluffier, had begun to grow quills, the beginnings of true feathers, and I watched one flap its tiny wings. Meanwhile, the parrot in the first nest I had found was having a second attempt at raising a family. Four days after I found all the eggs broken, there was one new egg in the nest. In a week she laid four eggs. She didn't get serious about incubating them until they had all been laid. I found that she was much more nervous and would fly to the wattle across the creek when she heard me approaching the post, always returning to her nest later. I once saw her in the wattle and watched the male fly up the valley to join her. It is possible that this



was a different pair of parrots using the same nest.

I enjoyed my brief visits to the parrots. The next time I saw the chicks, the first of the green colouring had appeared on their wings. After that, their bodies gradually became greener, and blue started to show on their folded wings. Next, their heads began to change from grey to green. Their short tails lengthened, with blue central feathers and yellow outer feathers. They became more alert, aware of my shadow at the hollow's entrance and squawked for food. Sometimes, they huddled together silently, wary that I might be a predator. One hot morning, I found them panting, their post in the sun. I knew it would be shaded by the manna gum in the afternoon. I was concerned about the other nesting post, which was never shaded during the day.

When the chicks were nearly a month old, I knew they were close to leaving the nest. They now had a complete covering of feathers and had begun to develop blue and yellow stripes between their eyes. One afternoon, there was a thunderstorm with heavy rain. We visited the chicks afterwards. They were drenched, their colourful feathers appearing grey, but they were sheltered from any breeze and not cold. The adult in the other nest remained protecting her eggs, but she looked bedraggled. The next morning, the chicks' vibrant colours were showing again. They were restless, and peeking out of their post, preparing to leave. Late in the afternoon, there was another thunderstorm with heavy rain. We checked on the chicks, and were shocked to find that one had died. The following day, there were two more storms, but the surviving chick remained safely huddled in its post. The weather cleared the next morning. I visited late in the day, hoping the chick would be out of the nest, flying free with its parents. I was relieved that it was gone. I would have liked to have found it, perched in the manna gum being fed by a parent, but I have not seen it again.

The other nest fared less well. After one of the storms, I found the nest and eggs wet. The adult had not sheltered them. The eggs were due to hatch eighteen to twenty days after they were laid, but they didn't. They may have become too hot in their post, or too cold during a storm. A few days later, the parents abandoned the nest. I felt sad. In the two nests, twelve eggs had been laid, only two had hatched, and only one young parrot had left its nest. It seemed a poor return for all the parents' efforts, but I also felt privileged to have watched their journey and contributed to knowledge about blue-winged parrots' breeding season. We plan to install suitable well-insulated nesting boxes nearby, and hope that the parrots will return next year and have more success.



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GPS Customer Service

Media Release

Golden Plains Shire is seeking feedback to shape the development of the Draft Customer Service Strategy 2022-2026.

As part of the Council Plan 2021-2025, Council is dedicated to improving customer experiences with the development of its Customer Service Strategy 2022-2026. With a focus on commitment and accountability to service standards and improving timely responses, the Strategy will detail Council's dedication to delivering exceptional customer service across the organisation.

To help shape Council's Draft Customer Service Strategy 2022-2026, community members are invited to complete one of two surveys.

The Customer Service Strategy Community Survey is collecting feedback from customers on what you think Council is doing well, what can be improved, and how you want to engage with us in the future. Council is also seeking responses to the Customer Service Strategy Post-Interaction Survey, which focuses on feedback from specific customer experiences, as well as ideas on future improvement.

The Customer Service Strategy Surveys are open from Thursday 20 January to 5pm, Monday 14 February, 2022.

The survey can be completed at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations or pick up a copy of the survey at Council's Customer Service Centre, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn. Completed paper surveys may be emailed to enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au or mailed to: Golden Plains Shire Council, PO Box 111, Bannockburn, VIC, 3331, marked 'Attention: Customer Service Strategy Survey'.

Mayor Cr Gavin Gamble encouraged residents to complete a survey and share their ideas for the Draft Strategy.

"In the Council Plan 2021-2025, Council made a commitment to develop and deliver a new Customer Service Strategy and these surveys are the exciting start of this important project. The survey responses are an important part of improving our care and commitment to serving the Golden Plains community.

"With this consultation, we want to know about positive and negative experiences, what Council does well and what could be better. We're also interested in new and different ways that customers may want to interact with Council such as web chat or in person at community locations and events.

"On behalf of Council, we encourage customers to complete the Post-Interaction Survey and everyone is invited to complete the Community Survey. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas to work together on a new Customer Service Strategy that best serves the Golden Plains Shire community."

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You will read elsewhere in this issue, that one of our objectives for the newsletter, is to facilitate discussion and communication in the community. Publishing opinion pieces is one way to do this and so we welcome Roy Hay's piece below, addressing some of the perils facing contemporary society and our response to them. If you would like to say something in reply or raise a separate issue of broad community interest, please send us an email. We do ask however, that you keep it constructive, be respectful of others and bear in mind we reserve the right to publish or edit all contributions. - Ed.

What will 2022 bring us?

Roy Hay

I am one of nature's optimists, a glass half-full person. So what am I looking forward to in 2022? My sense is that people in Australia are ahead of their politicians when it comes to the big issues for ourselves, our children and grandchildren.

The overwhelming majority of us have got ourselves vaccinated against COVID as adults. By doing so we have given ourselves the best chance of turning a pandemic into a manageable domestic disease. We now know that the virus has mutated and may well change again and that we may in future have to put up with some restrictions, but these should be less draconian and of shorter duration than those we have faced in the recent past. We need to be careful, though. Vaccination does not guarantee immunity or prevent the transmission of the virus, but all the evidence indicates that it does reduce the severity of the disease and the likelihood of giving the virus to others. We should continue to do as much as we can in 2022 to reduce the chances of contracting and spreading the disease, and hence the pressure on our stretched health services and their frontline staff.

The pandemic is one form of 'natural' disaster. There are others. Fires and floods and wild storms have always existed in Australia's long history. Though the first peoples of this island continent used fire as a means of regenerating and opening up the land, they were not immune from wild-fire disasters caused by lightning strikes and exacerbated by long periods of drought. In 1854 Victoria was on fire from end to end, according to contemporary reports. It is hard to know how far this was a direct consequence of the destructive effect of the Europeans on the Indigenous population.

Dealing with climate change today is a more intractable issue. Many people have pointed out that if Australia's direct and indirect contributions to global warming were reduced to zero tomorrow, it would have a relatively small impact on the future of the planet. That is despite the fact

that per head of population we are among the worst emitters of greenhouse gases, in large part because of our reliance on brown coal, oil, cattle and sheep to underpin our current economy. But if we take that fundamentally short-term and selfish position, think what message that sends to the rest of humanity.

While on that subject, what are we going to do about the population of this lucky country? The contribution of migrants to Australia is overwhelmingly positive, yet we are ambivalent about accepting them. We allow them to arrive by air but refuse to accept them if they try to come by boat. Collectively we seem to believe that everyone wants to come to Australia and hence we must restrict their arrival. The truth is that it takes enormous pressure to drive people to leave their homes for an uncertain future in some other place. Unfortunately, that is happening in many parts of the world today. When they arrive here we subject some of them to intolerable conditions for decades as a means of deterring others from attempting to follow. We ignore the human rights of refugees, despite being a signatory to international laws on the subject.

There are danger signs that we are becoming a less egalitarian society than we were. The distribution of wealth has become particularly unequal, income less so because of the progressive aspects of our tax system and some redistribution through social services. Home ownership, once the pillar of Australian aspiration, has gone beyond the reach of most of the present younger generation.

What links all these issues is the idea that we can, by our actions, influence our present and our future. We have a very sophisticated technological capacity in this country. We have access to the best of human ingenuity. The knowledge is there and is developing constantly. We have achieved so much that perhaps we overestimate our capacity to change the future by our actions. We have replaced the gods as masters of the planet, or have we? The best scientists from John Adams and Albert Einstein onwards will echo the latter's reflection towards the end of his long and productive life, 'The more I learn, the more I realise how much I don't know'.

We are extraordinarily lucky to live in this country. What we can be certain about is that the future will not be like the past. The world is changing around us and we need to recapture some of the progressive spirit that marked some previous generations.

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Meredith History Interest Group

Annual Meeting:

The Annual Meeting of MHIG is scheduled for Sunday, February 27, 2022 at 1.30 pm. We are planning to hold the meeting in the Meredith Hall and after the meeting to show a film which has been called A Trip Down Memory Lane. Coopers Road at Bamganie is the topic. This is a dead-end road of about 8 kms in length that is entered from Bamganie Road. People don't usually travel the road unless they have a specific reason so it is largely unknown to most people. The film features the scenic but dangerous drive and also contains historical information, interviews and memorable facts.

The film was funded by a grant from Bendigo Bank in Buninyong and the producer was David Law of DVD Memories, Victoria Street, Ballarat.

You are invited to come for a drive!



Street Nursery & Garden:

Plants are still available at the Street Nursery although we have downsized over the summer period. The garden in front of the History Centre is almost ready for planting. If you have a plant of historical interest, we invite you to donate a cutting, a bulb, a seedling etc to MHIG for it to be included in the new garden. Maybe you have daffodil bulbs that grow where a house used to be, iris's that came from your grandparent's garden in Meredith or a herb that has been passed down through generations. (We are planning a cottage type garden so small plants are most welcome.)

Amazing Piece of Clothing:

We have had several inquiries from people researching, in the last few months but one of the most interesting was the Clunes Museum asking for history about Catherine Kelly. They have applied for a grant to restore an item of her clothing. It was made by Lewis and Allenby of Regent Street, London. They were silk mercers to her Majesty the Queen and were in business around 1880 to 1900.

Catherine Kelly [McCrimmon] was born on the Isle of Skye in 1841, came to Australia with her parents c 1854, married John Kelly, also from the Isle of Skye, at Cargarie Station in 1865 and had at least 9 children. The McCrimmon's lived next door to the Kelly's on what is now Meredith/Mt Mercer Road, along the stretch before one turns left to go over Junction Bridge. Remains of the house where she lived, overlooking the Leigh River are still evident. Both properties are now part of Glenspean, owned by Camerons.

If anyone has more information about Catherine, the Kelly family or her cloak please contact us.

Mystery Items:

Look on the Facebook Page to identify a mystery item each week. The photo last week was correctly identified by several people as a wire strainer. Our example found in the dirt at Bamganie looked like a metal rabbit. Google tells that it is a Titan Wire Strainer invented by Mr Reid of New Zealand and produced in December 1887.

History Centre:

We are open on Tuesdays and Thursdays and can also be contacted by phone, email and Facebook.

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Geelong Advertiser (Vic. : 1859 - 1929)
 Tuesday 24 January 1860

**GEELONG CIRCUIT COURT.
 LARCENY.**

James Healey pleaded " Not Guilty" to stealing a watchguard, the property of one Thomas Bloomfield.

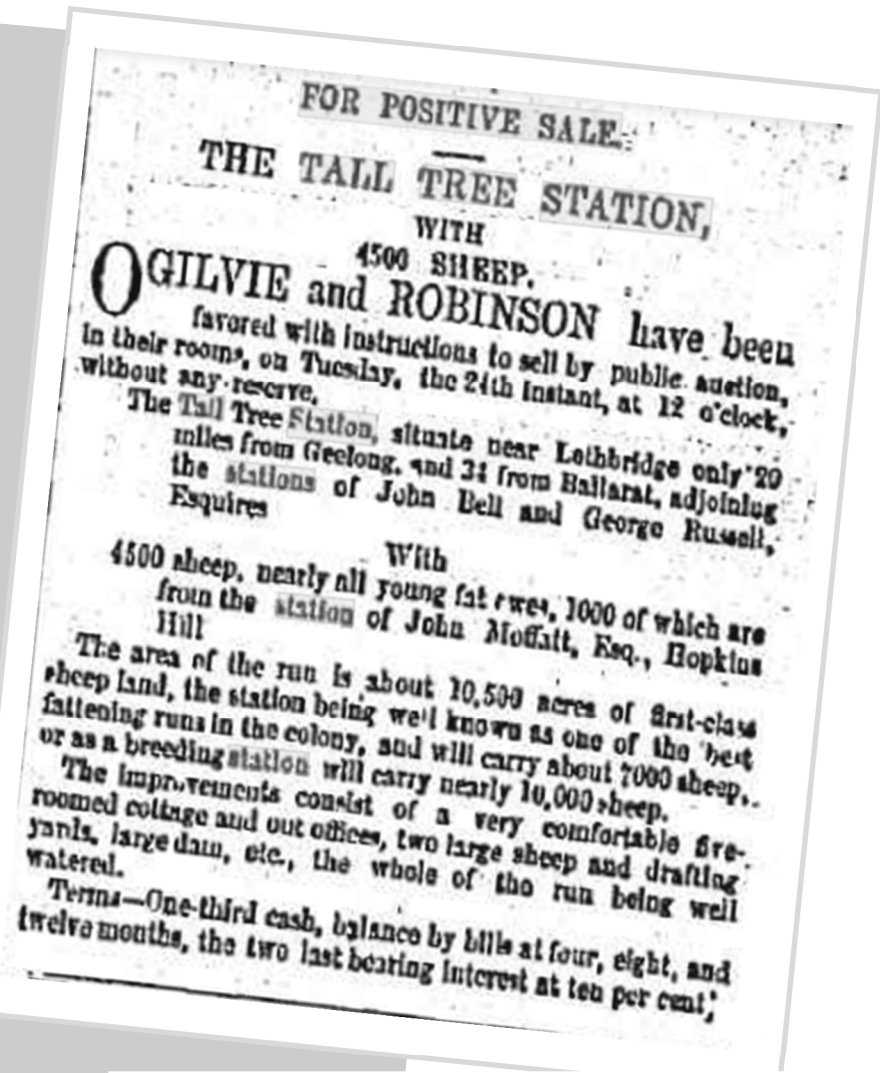
Mr. Wallace, of the Lethbridge Hotel, proved to having the watch left to take care of by the prosecutor; also to the prisoner remaining at his house, and to the watch and the prisoner disappearing simultaneously. The watch was subsequently traced to the possession of a Mr. Stenhouse, who proved that the prisoner had left it with him as security for money. Verdict, "Guilty." Sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment. Argus (Melbourne, Vic.) Thursday 12 July 1860

LETHBRIDGE.

SKELETON FOUND.

On Sunday last Mr W. Ferry found the remains of a human skeleton in Mr O. McPhillip's paddock, situated close to the Blue bridge in what is known as the Sand Rise. The high winds had shifted the sands, and laid bare the skeleton of a man who, it is stated, must have been between six and seven feet high, and could be seen quite easily from the railway about 100 yards away. The spot is close to what was at one time a camping ground for carriers between Ballarat and Geelong. About 60 years ago, it is stated, one of these men committed suicide, and some of the old identities are inclined to think that the skeleton found is that of the carrier, while others are of the opinion that it is the remains of an aboriginal. The matter has been re-ported to the police, and no doubt a formal inquiry will be held. The Ballarat Star (Vic. : 1865 - 1924)Tuesday 27 February 1917

Jan McDonald, Meredith History Interest Group



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Marg Cooper

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This was the reaction from Tom Spielvogel when in November 2021, Shneider made an offer for several bales of 12.2-13.2 micron wool and offered a contract for three years. The Schneider Group is a family run multinational Company based in Italy who source, process and supply wool and natural fibres along their own supply chain to assist their customers in providing sustainable, fully traceable, high-quality products. They are putting together a group of specialist growers who are passionate and provide top quality product for top spinners and weavers.

The ultra-fine merino wool from mixed sex one year old weaners was produced on Karalta, the property of Tom and Sherrie Spielvogel at Elaine and Morrisons. This property has been producing merino wool for more than 100 years. Tom and Dolly McCormack farmed the land. When Tom McCormack died suddenly in 1949 their only child Mavis, at just 24 years of age took control of the two farms. She had earlier married Phillip a photographer with no farming background and had an infant son, Tom. Mavis enrolled in a wool classing course run by the Gordon Institute at Geelong and may have been the first woman to complete that course.

In those days it was a mixed farm. Tom says that joining the McKinnon Project was a turning point in the profitability of the farm. An analyst, after examining the farm books, told them to concentrate on producing fine wool. About 30 years ago their flock was used to test the advantage of using capsules for worm control and side samples of wool were taken of fleeces of capsuled and non-capsuled sheep to judge the benefits. Since that time they have tested every sheep for micron.

When Sherrie married Tom 9 years ago, information on sheep was recorded on paper by hand and took days. There were mistakes, arguments and often rain or wind would cause figures to disappear. Before it was entered on the computer they had reams of spreadsheets that were unmanageable. But Sherrie with her background of technology, statistics and research has revolutionised the record keeping. Today, every sheep has an electronic ear-tag. When the stick is waved near the ear-tag it shows all the information about that particular sheep. She has tailored computer programs and has mastered the collection of data. With finer wool being worth considerably more dollars, it is essential to know the quality of each sheep.

All the rams used are bred on their property and all are descendants of Lucky which was a ram bred by Lance Wray of Morrisons. He was the World's Finest Ram in 1997 and 1998 and an outstanding sire. Tom has two rams which have recorded wool of 10 micron. [For non-farmers, merinos usually average about 19 micron]

Tom would like to enter a bale of wool for 1PP Certification. This is described as the pinnacle of superfine wool growing excellence in all areas, breeding, preparation and quality standards. It is not based on the highest price. Tara, his master wool-classer is also keen to prepare a bale for the 1PP.

We hope to report in 2022 that Karalta's wool has reached its pinnacle!

Behaviour, Consequence and Punishment

The Revd Dr Timothy Smith

Anglican Parish of Inverleigh, Bannockburn and Meredith

It was a privilege to be involved in Special Religious Education when it was permitted in the schools. My experience of the role of SRE was to help the students learn life skills; how to live together well. Schools not only teach our young people the academic skills they need, they also teach students to live together well.

A part of being community is to learn that our behaviour has consequences. Unfortunately, a consequence has been equated with punishment for bad behaviour. The result of this, I think, misses the step of working out why a behaviour is right or wrong. Something is declared bad simply because it is against the rules or the law. But why is it a rule or a law deserving punishment?

It is consequences of our behaviour that help us determine whether behaviour is good or bad and, in turn, whether it deserves punishment. We all have the right and freedom to choose what we are going to do, think or say. However, to think that my choice does not have an impact on other aspects of my life, other choices I have to make, or the effect on the life others, is naïve.

The way I speak to others, for example, whether or not I respect other's personal boundaries, will have consequences regarding what others think about me. Their response, the consequence of my behaviour, will determine whether my behaviour is good or bad. If the reaction is positive I will continue to be included in their activities and conversation. If the reaction is negative, then there will be a punishment. It will, of course, not be a fine, but it may simply be exclusion.

It is unfortunate that we are living in a world that has been turned up-side down by Covid-19 and this has forced us to make choices about what we are going to do and not do in order to participate fully with others in community. We are free to choose to act however we want about anything and everything. However, the choices we make will result in consequences of inclusion in all aspects of community or loss of the privileges we may normally enjoy.

In our consideration of the consequences of our choices we learn that there is a difference between privileges and rights.



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Marg's BOOK REVIEW

One Hundred Days by Alice Pung

This is a wonderful book with which we can all identify. The author has dealt with the age-old dilemma of how much and how long parents should protect their children.

The book is described as a moving story of the deeply tangled push-pull relationship between mother and daughter.

As we read the book we discover that Karuna is the daughter of a Philippines' born Chinese woman who was a lone migrant to Australia. She met her future Australian husband for the first time at the airport on her arrival. They had a daughter but are now divorced. The mother feels abandoned and works two jobs to support them. She is very steeped in her native culture and beliefs. Karuna is her life and she had great expectations for her.

Karuna is sixteen years old when she learns that she is pregnant. Her already overprotective mother is furious and responds by locking Karuna in their fourteenth storey housing commission flat in Melbourne's west for 100 days to make sure she won't get into anymore trouble. The story follows an endless tug of war between Karuna's desperation for independence and her mother's strong grip of control over her life.

Karuna writes in her journal every day for 100 days. She addresses her story to her unborn child. In her journal she refers to her mother as your Grand Mar. She writes in English (a language her mother cannot read) so her child will know the true story as her mother threatens to rear the child as her own and tell the baby that Karuna is her sister.

It is refreshing to read a book that unabashedly depicts class and how it is lived through the experience of race and gender. It is written in simple language indicative of Karuna's teenage voice but the author has considered every word carefully. It has rawness and honesty.

Much of the conflict is because of her mother's cultural beliefs. Karuna is banned from watching television out of fear of deforming the baby, her long hair saps nutrients from the baby so her hair is cut short and she is presented with many strange things to eat including a half-formed duckling in an egg.

A review suggested that it is a 1980's retelling of Rapunzel, locked up in her tower, except Karuna's prince is long gone and he's not coming back to rescue her.

How we view our parents as children is often limited. We can't always see or understand the challenges our parents' encounter. Karuna's mother is also a picture of survival and resilience. So we ask is her mother an evil stepmother or a fairy godmother? Is Karuna being protected or abused?

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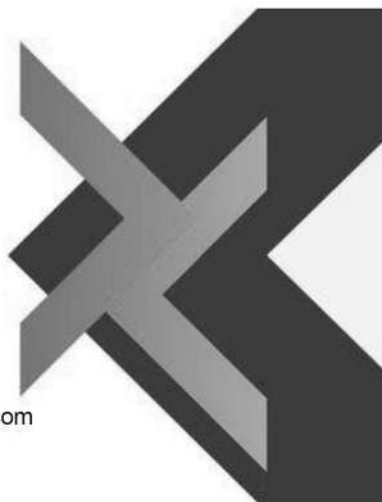
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Local Author Celebrates 70 Years

Marg Cooper

Peter Griffiths is almost a local. His grandparents came to farm at Meredith in 1902 when they bought the property Chestervale. His father Mervyn and his six siblings grew up at Chestervale and although Peter lived at Woodbank at Mt Mercer, he romanced around the Meredith area in his youth.

Peter always aspired to be a journalist but he took a few detours along the way.

He was home schooled by his mother, Mavis, using lessons mailed back and forth from Correspondence School (although he considers himself to have been a de facto pupil of Grenville State School because he knew all the pupils there and joined them for social activities). He then went to Sebastopol Technical School where he excelled in English and writing but couldn't join two pieces of metal. Peter helped write essays for his mates if they welded or soldered for him!

A Career Advisor in those years advised him against studying journalism so he chose engineering, starting at the Ballarat School of Mines and finishing at Mt Helen Campus, which is now Federation University.

Peter had jobs with licensed surveyors and contractors before he started at Buninyong Shire Council in early 1977, as an engineering surveyor and draftsman. In this role he became very interested in local history for several reasons including: he had excellent knowledge of the district as a result of growing up there, and he handled the many inquiries received by the shire for information about land owned by their forebears. Some amateur historians in the district had amazing collections and the rate books, parish plans and some newspapers were available for research.

In the mid-1980s, there was much interest in Buninyong and district history, and the approaching Bi-Centenary Celebrations led to the formation of the Buninyong Historical Society. As a project the new group decided to produce a book. So, in December 1988, the book *Three Times Blest* authored by Peter Griffiths, was launched. He wonders today how he achieved his aim of writing a history of the wider community and not just a list of councillors and council matters, because he was married with two small children, had a full-time job and his father died suddenly during that same year.

The success of *Three Times Blest* led Peter to resign from Buninyong Council in 1989 and enrol in a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Australian Studies and Journalism at Deakin University. He later lectured in Journalism at Deakin from 1992 until 1997.

Writing has been a major part of his life since then: writing *Grenville Revisited* in 1990, *A Place to Worship* in 1992, a history of Otway Community Health in 2001 and *75 Years of Buninyong Tennis* in 2007.

Peter worked briefly as a subeditor at the Ballarat Courier before being appointed as Victorian state subeditor at WIN Television in 2001. A hobby of Peter's has been the study of Welsh people on the goldfields of Central Victoria, founded partly by the Welsh ancestry of the Griffiths family. He started researching while he was at Deakin and then worked on it for three years full time following his retirement from WIN in 2016. Peter just made the launch in 2018 as he was suffering from an infection in his foot which resulted in having his lower leg amputated and a long, slow recovery. The Welsh on Victoria's Central Goldfields went on to win a Community History Award from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.


At 70 years of age Peter has a prosthetic lower leg, gets around nimbly with his walker and looks a picture of health. Having a positive attitude has certainly helped, combined with devoted wife Helen who looks after him.



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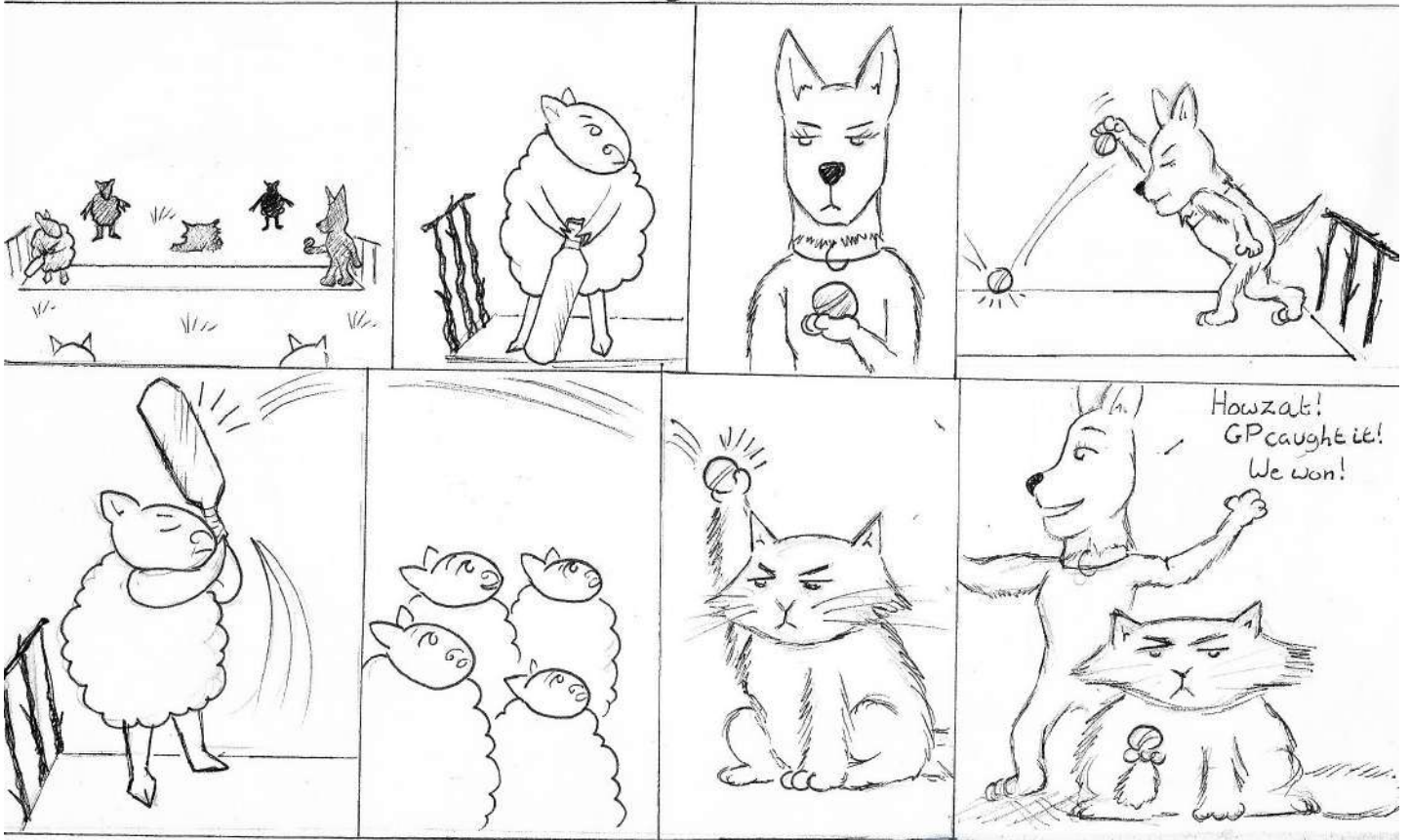
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Kelpie Kapers! #29

By Emma Clarke



The End

Vale to Martin Desmond Nolan

26/3/1940 – 21/12/2021

Marg Cooper

Marty was the baby of the family of Bill and Stella Nolan who became, in time, its patriarch. His sisters thought he was a bit of a sook as a kid, being much younger than the others. He bore the brunt of his brothers and sisters teasing but learned quickly to brush it off.

All the Nolan kids excelled at sports, although their father didn't approve considering it frivolous and a waste of time. The family thought that maybe he didn't approve because he was no good at anything except shearing and shooting.

Marty was shipped off to boarding school at St Patrick's College in Ballarat when he was 12 years old following in his brother's footsteps. He had attended St Joseph's School in Meredith for his Primary Education. Schooling was never his strong suit, though he was clever, but his lack of application to his studies was forgotten, as his ability as a good footballer and tennis player developed. Marty became the youngest boy to ever make the St Pat's First Tennis Team aged 14 years. A record that still stands today.

He left school after Form 3 to work on the farm at Cargarie with his father. His older brothers and sisters had all married and left the farm. Bill was a hard taskmaster, but it was his amazing work ethic that Marty picked up on and stayed with him forever.

Marty played tennis in Meredith and then Black Hill invited Marty to play with them in the Ballarat Competition. At Black Hill he met several keen tennis players who remained his friends for the rest of their lives (including Bob Lazarus, Murray Dyer, Barry Cheatley and Stuart Mayo). Marty played pennant tennis on Ballarat Lawn Courts where he won many titles. He played A Grade Country Week in Melbourne for Ballarat for many years. After his marriage to Glenyce Thompson in 1961 he played most of his tennis with Meredith in the Mooney Cup Association.

Marty and Glenyce lived in Staughton Street Meredith while their house was being built down the road from the family farm. Their children Paul, Kathy, John and David were born in 1962, 1964, 1966 and 1968.

In 1966 Marty contracted Type 1 diabetes. It had a massive impact on his health but it never stopped him. He continued to play quality tennis, to work hard on the farm, to work for local farmers as a roustabout in their shearing sheds and later as an in-house presser at Marnock Wool in Geelong.

Due to his health issues Marty and Glenyce sold the farm and moved to Geelong in 1980. He got a job at Western Heights High School as a cleaner/groundsman. With the demise of government funded school cleaners Marty, with Alan Woodbergers and George Willouby, formed AGM Cleaning. This very successful business spanned over 20 years and saw them win cleaning contracts at many establishments and schools. Three weeks before Marty died he closed the AGM books.

In his later years Marty was very involved with the Rotary

Club of Corio Bay. Dr Zhen Zheng PHF said Martin became a self-nominated club representative to schools in Corio and Norlane. He always made himself available to be at those schools, making breakfast, giving out awards, interviewing students or working together on projects. His dedication to those disadvantaged students was inspiring.

Marty and Glenyce were married for 60 years. He admitted that she gave him strength and purpose and stood by him, always.

Marty exuded happiness and always made you feel good and special.

For some of Marty's tennis titles, football and golf accomplishments read about Marty in the book, Memorable Men of Meredith.



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The Virus and us

We started this commentary on the virus in 2020 to help us focus on what matters as the way we normally went about our lives was in upheaval. We will soon be entering our third year of global pandemic; something we didn't imagine back then. Perhaps we should have. So far, the virus has outpaced science and community response in its relentless development. There is cause for optimism though as experts are cautiously predicting this third wave is following an expected pattern, evolving into a more virulent but less harmful variant. Nonetheless, health workers and many others in the community are making an extraordinary contribution and working under considerable stress. The rest of us need to minimise their burden by doing what we can to stay healthy - get that booster, avoid unnecessary gatherings, get tested and stay isolated when we need to. And look after ourselves. Keep in touch with friends, take that daily walk and eat well.



We kick off Dog Tales, a new column we want you and your dog to write - we have our first deliberate "Opinion Piece" and hope to get yours, and Senior Constable James Hobbs files his community report. We also celebrate a 50th, a 70th and the life of one of "Meredith's Memorable Men". And of course our talented columnists and cartoonists are back, so there's plenty to get your reading teeth into. Enjoy.

COMMUNITY UPDATE

February 2022

Moorabool North Wind Farm

Progress to date

- Up to 75MW (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.

Visit www.mooraboolwindfarm.com or contact us for more details.

Public Road Resurfacing at Moorabool South Wind Farm

The resealing of sections of Mount Wallace Ballark Road and Bungeeltap South Road is now complete, and the roads have re-opened. Moorabool wind farm thank you for your patience during these works.

Moorabool Wind Farm Contact Details

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

T:1800 019 660, E: info@mooraboolwindfarm.com.

Moorabool Wind Farm Community Fund 2022

Moorabool wind farm is seeking members of the local community to collaborate with us to determine how the fund for 2022 will be distributed to community-based projects. Members of the Moorabool Wind Farm Assessment Panel evaluate each application and make recommendations to Moorabool Wind Farm on how the benefits of the project should be shared.

If you are interested in working together with Moorabool wind farm on the community fund assessment panel, please complete an Expression of Interest Form at

<https://mooraboolwindfarm.com/community/community-fund-and-sponsorship/expressions-of-interest/> Applications close 31st March 2022.

To date, Moorabool Wind Farm has invested more than \$450,000 in the local community through its community funding, local sponsorships, and community partnerships.

The third Round of the Moorabool wind farm Community Fund will open in May 2022. For details on the Guidelines and how to apply, visit <https://mooraboolwindfarm.com/community/community-fund-and-sponsorship/>,



Ballan Golf Club Bridges, made possible by funding in 2020 and 2021

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