

Meredith & district News



APRIL 2022

OUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

inside



- Anzac Day Service
- The Arty Ladies on the Move Again
- GPS Community Grants Open
- How Aussie Rules Caught On

...and the usual Much More!

*Pump up your
pumpkins...Judging
on 13th May*



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

WE HAVE BUYERS LOOKING FOR PROPERTY IN YOUR AREA

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M 0418 521 322



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**ANDREW
WILSON**

M 0452 498 254

Stockdale & Leggo Office Shop 14/6-8 High Street, Bannockburn, VIC 3331
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Thank You Dawn



Jim Elvey

Dawn Macdonald resigned last month from the Committee that oversees and directs our community newsletter, a position she has held for around 35 years. During this time, she had seen and taken part in extraordinary changes.

When she was first involved, it was an 8 page publication produced on a Roneo machine, printed on one side (in pale purple) and stapled in the corner. In recent years, Dawn undertook the role of treasurer, familiarising herself with computers and accounting software in the process. Quite a contrast to the clank and smell of methylated spirits of those early days.



This is probably not Dawn producing an early newsletter. Always a champion of the newsletter, Dawn will be sorely missed and, on behalf of all our readers past and present, we extend our sincere thanks for playing such an important role in ensuring the growth and longevity of the Meredith and District News during her time in office.

Memories of Production.

Dawn Macdonald

Origins of the Meredith Newsletter began when Laurie Manning was the Principal of Meredith Primary School in the early 1970's. The Newsletters were distributed, only to the school parents, having been produced on a spirit Gestetner duplicator on foolscap paper stapled together, if there were more than two sides!! For the masthead Laurie used a Poppet head representing the Steiglitz Miner, a star for the Meredith Star and a sentry for the Banganie Sentinel which had been the three district papers circulating in the 19th Century in gold rush times.

It was determined by the School Council that it would not accept political, religious or other controversial content, a policy that has continued.

The general public started asking for a copy, so eventually the school bought a second hand Gestetner Ink Duplicator. A number of school parents were on a roster to produce the Newsletter weekly, some being more proficient than others at not getting ink everywhere!! Firstly you had to cut the stencil, that was typing blind with no way of correcting your spelling mistakes, then applying it to the roller and winding it through then not smudging it!! Gradually apart from the school news, sports and upcoming events copy could be left at the Post Office with Mrs Date, and later at the Top Shop. It was then available to be collected from the businesses, and so the Meredith News has grown to the coloured monthly copy we know today. It is still produced by volunteers after all these years.

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: *Don Atherton* Editor: *Jim Elvey*

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
CHILD CARE 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 Lethbridge 0435 042077	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



"The wind is rising, and the air is wild with leaves. We have had our summer evenings; now for April eves!"

- Humberet Wolf

(southern hemisphere version)

emergency

Police, Ambulance, Fire (from mobile phone)	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

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
LIBRARY VAN 5272 6010	PRIMARY SCHOOL 5286 1313
	RECREATION RESERVE 0429 315 575



COMMUNITY

The regular ANZAC Service will be held at the Meredith Hall on ANZAC Day 25th April starting at 10am. At the conclusion of the Service there will be a march around the block returning to the Cenotaph for the laying of wreaths, the day will conclude with Morning Tea.

ANZAC DAY
LEST WE FORGET



Meredith Senior Citizens

Written by Jim Hynds

The Meredith Seniors travelled to Fyansford Hotel on Monday, March 21 for a luncheon. All members agreed that we had a great main meal and dessert. We spent the rest of the day chatting and catching up.

The Meredith Seniors were back at the Memorial Hall on Monday, March 28 for a luncheon. The afternoon was spent planning our next meeting to be held at the Hall on Monday, April 11.

We are going to have a High Tea, as the catering team are unavailable. We have invited all members to bring an old object, maybe an antique object. There will be prizes for various categories: maybe for the oldest object, maybe for the prettiest object, maybe for the smallest object. The day promises to be lots of fun. Maybe you have an object that no-one will be able to identify and you will have to tell the members how you got it, what it was used for and why you value it!



Meredith **Community Centre**
working for our community

What's On



COMING UP

2 Day Workshop with Jen Jones - \$250

Pop Your Name Down Now!

2 Day Mosaic Workshop with Di

April 30 & May 7- 10-4 - \$70

Pottery - Handbuilding with Mel

Pop Your Name Down Now!

Young Artists Club with Jen Jones

Thursdays 4:30 - 6.00pm - \$160 - 6 Weeks

Macrame with Anita

Pop Your Name Down Now!

Digital Essentials Level 1 with Leah

Covering broad areas of technology in an introductory sense and supports learners in building confidence in differing digital contexts

Starting in Term 2 - Pop Your Name Down Now!

There's lots more!

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

WEEKLY EVENTS

Tai Chi - \$15 per session

Tuesdays @ Meredith with Sandra - 9.30 - 10.30 am

Wednesdays @ 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!

BCYF - AOD/Mental Health

Wednesdays at the Community Centre

This service will be via a referral and self-referral

1300 022 293

Thursday Sewing Group!

Starting at 1:30 - BYO Project - \$3

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





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

INTERESTED...



...in joining the Newsletter Committee?

We're looking for someone who can make a contribution to the oversight and development of this important community project.

We are also looking for someone with the ability and experience to take on the role of **Treasurer**.

We usually meet only four times a year and just keep in touch over important issues between meetings.

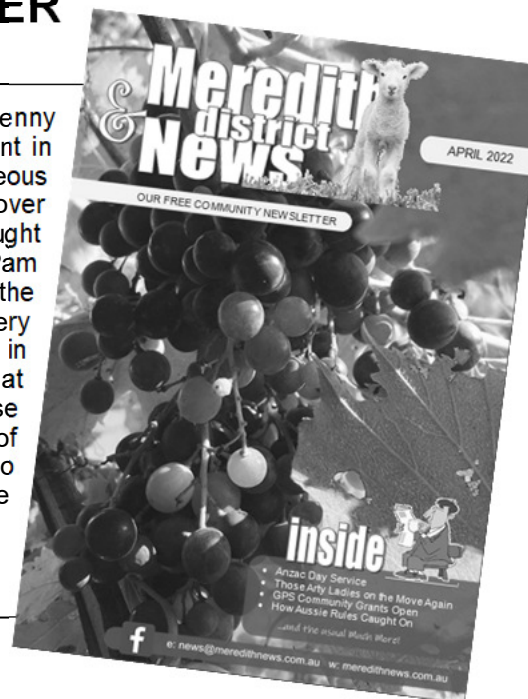
If you are interested in either of the positions, please let us know by Monday 13th June, 2022.

Email us at news@meredithnews.com.au for more information or to register your interest.

OUR COVER

Thank you Jenny Blacklock, who sent in our gorgeous autumnal cover photo. Jenny bought the vine off Pam Planner at the Meredith Nursery (remember that?) in 2000. The muscat produces these glorious bunches of purple fruit ready to eat this time of the year.

Ahhh...autumn!



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

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

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

No Youth group during April,
contact Monique 0432 040 906

Wed. 6/4, Lenten Penitential Service, 10.30 am Meredith

Thurs. 7/4, Lenten Penitential Service, 9 am Bannockburn

Sat. 9/4, Lenten Penitential Service, 5 pm, Mass 5.30 pm Winchelsea

Sat., 6 pm Vigil, St. John the Baptist, Winchelsea

Sun. 3/4, 17/4, 9 am St. Brigids Anakie

Sun.. 24/4, 9 am Meredith

Palm Sunday, 10/4, 9 am Meredith

Palm Sunday, 10/4, 4 pm Sacred Heart, Inverleigh

Thurs. 14/4 Holy Thursday, Winchelsea, 7 pm

Good Friday Walk 15/4, 10.30 am Meredith

Good Friday Mass, 3 pm Bannockburn

Holy Saturday, 16/4, Easter Vigil 8 pm, Meredith

Easter Sunday, 17/4, 9 am Anakie

Mo. 25/4, ANZAC Day Mass, 9 am Meredith

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

World Day of Prayer

John & Lex Stray

The first Friday in March is traditionally the day when the World Day of Prayer is celebrated in many countries around the world.

On Friday 4th March about forty local folk met at St. Andrews Uniting Church in Meredith for our annual service, joining a great number of people all around the world taking part in the same service, which this year was presented by the people of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Our service was lead by Rev. Paul Sanders of the Uniting Church and Father Joseph from St. Joseph's in Meredith

We enjoyed two wonderful, entertaining speakers, Mary Foster and Freda Duke. Both shared their heritage and knowledge of the British Isles, delighting us with stories and fabulous traditional food they had prepared for us to enjoy. Mary came dressed ready for a game of football, and Freda had a traditional tall black hat and a beautiful apron which she had made. The theme of the service was "I know the plans I have for you"

Next year's service will be held at St. Joseph's, and will be prepared by the people of Taiwan.

The Giant Pumpkin Challenge

Friday 13th May at Meredith PS at 1pm

Biggest Pumpkin & Heaviest Pumpkin
(Adults Children - A. up to kinder B. Prep,
Grades 1 & 2 C. Grades 3/4/5/6)

Best Decorated Pumpkin of any type using
natural materials
(Adults, Children - all ages)



 <p>KUBOTA M7 132 STANDARD (DELUXE FITOUT) 6.1Ltr Kubota engine producing 128hp @ 1900RPM 30F/15R speed power shift transmission 50km/h travel speed Cabin, and front axle suspension</p> <p>IN STOCK NOW - FINANCE AVAILABLE</p>	 <p>KUBOTA POWER HARROW PH 2351 Packer Roller, 3.5M working width</p> <p>IN STOCK NOW - FINANCE AVAILABLE</p>	 <p>KUBOTA GENERATORS ALL DIESEL KJ-S130 (12.5 KVA), KJ-T180, & KJ-S230</p> <p>IN STOCK NOW - FINANCE AVAILABLE</p>
 <p>KUBOTA BX23S SUB COMPACT TRACTOR WITH OPTIONAL FRONT END LOADER AND BACKHOE</p> <p>IN STOCK NOW - FINANCE AVAILABLE</p>	 <p>KUBOTA M9540 DH PREMIUM ROPS TRACTOR 95HP 4-Cylinder turbo charged engine, Equipped with hydraulic shuttle and autohitch, Equipped with a F18/R18 transmission, featuring six speeds of the main shift and high/low/creep ranges, 90L fuel tank capacity <i>Optional front end loader shown in photo</i></p> <p>IN STOCK NOW - FINANCE AVAILABLE</p>	 <p>KUBOTA L3800 HD ROPS TRACTOR Hydrostatic Transmission, 4WD, ROPS, front end loader with 4 in 1 bucket</p> <p>IN STOCK NOW - FINANCE AVAILABLE</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;">“We Service What We Sell” 12 Wiltshire Lane, Ballarat, Victoria, 3356 t 03 5335 8609 www.westag.com.au  facebook.com/westagballarat</p> 		

Letter to the Editor

We are writing to you to support your highlighting of the appalling lack of action by DELWP, the State Government and Golden Plains Shire Council in relation to the Police Paddocks.

The Police Paddocks provide an easily accessible environmental experience for members of the Meredith community. They are within comfortable walking distance of Meredith centre and provide a welcome break for residents of our town.

Some of us can remember when the State Government would provide resources to maintain their land areas. We even had contractors employed by the government spraying black berries along the Moorabool River. There were campaigns to eradicate gorse along creeks. Assistance was given to those who were fighting serrated tussock.

Over the years the amount of State Government money (i.e. our taxes) spent on looking after the land has reduced dramatically to the stage where they are not willing to look after their own land, on which a group of local volunteers have dedicated their own time and money.

What do DELWP actually do for Meredith?

What does our local State Government member - Ms Michaela Settle – actually do for Meredith?

And what does Golden Plains Shire Council actually do

for Meredith?

What a shame it is that local volunteers can put in their own time and money for local benefit, without any assistance from the people who are supposed to do this work.

It is extraordinary that the State Government no longer cares for its own land, especially sites like this one, which has such environmental and community recreational value.

Signed
Elizabeth and Michael Palmer, Amanda and Alex Hyatt, Sherryn and John Tantau, Lindy and Geoff Taylor, Sue and Steve Higgs, Kerry and Peter Thomson

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at Bannockburn.


Passenger & 4WD


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Bannockburn

☎ 5281 1666




easy *and* **delish**



Torta Caprese

Serves 4-6

Ingredients

- 200g unsalted butter
- 200g good quality dark chocolate
- 4 eggs, separated
- 170g castor sugar
- 1 tps vanilla extract
- 250g almond meal
- Icing sugar, to dust
- Ice-cream to serve

Method

1. Pre-heat the oven to 170 c. Grease and line a 24cm round cake pan with non-stick baking paper.
2. Melt the butter and set aside to cool
3. Process the chocolate until finely chopped, but still retaining a little texture. Or chop finely with a knife.
4. Place the egg yolks, sugar and vanilla extract in a bowl and beat until pale and thick.
5. In a separate bowl, whisk the eggwhites until soft peaks form. Gently fold in the chocolate mixture.
6. Spoon into the cake pan, level the surface and bake for 50-60 minutes, until just firm to the touch.
7. Set aside to cool in the pan, then turn out. Serve dusted with icing sugar, and a scoop of ice-cream.

Recipe from: *ABC Delicious*
Stefania

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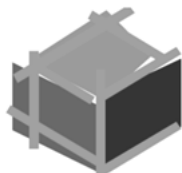
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Anthony Mobile: 0409 524438
ABN 63614843881
aandrurranbricklaying@bigpond.com
www.DURRANBricklaying.com



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healthS+VE pharmacy

Bannockburn Pharmacy Newsletter

Proprietors: Scott Wilkes & Damian Bennett

6 High Street
Bannockburn, VIC. 3331
Phone: 5281 1519

Be prepared this flu season (Vaccination Clinic)

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.

Pharmacy Features:

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

Trading Hours

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

Vaccination Clinic – flu & whooping cough vaccinations



Two blue-tongue lizards are regularly seen in our garden. We have unimaginatively named them Northy and Southy, to indicate the side of the house where each is most often found. Southy belongs to the species of blue-tongue which is most familiar to people, and is known as the Eastern or Common Blue-Tongued Lizard. Southy is brown with darker stripes across its body and tail, and a black horizontal stripe behind its eye. Northy is different. It is greyer and has stripes only on its tail. Its back is dark with two rows of silvery blotches. Each blotch is a slightly different shape, and each is roughly paired with a blotch on the other side of its spine. These markings indicate that Northy is a Blotched Blue-Tongue Lizard.

Although both species are found in our garden, they prefer slightly different habitats. Blotched blue-tongues are content in cooler locations, including mountainous areas, and like places with denser groundcover. This may be why Northy prefers the north part of the garden, as it has more bushes with branches and leaves reaching down to the ground, providing a choice of hiding places. Eastern blue-tongues prefer warmer places, and are happy in areas that are more open and have low groundcover. The south side of the garden where Southy is most often seen has fewer bushes and more open space. Southy lives under a pump pressure vessel and uses this for shelter, or hides in narrow gaps among plant pots next to a raised vegetable bed.

Apart from their choice of habitat, the behaviour of both lizards is similar. They each find an open patch of grass on a sunny morning, always close to a suitable retreat. Here they bask for a while to increase their body temperature. If approached at this time, they are unlikely to move, and may be easy prey for foxes, cats and large birds. Once warmed up, they are much more active. Now, if a possible threat approaches, their preference is to hide. With their large bodies and short legs, they cannot move as quickly as many lizards. If Southy cannot easily reach shelter, it puffs up its body and raises the side furthest from the potential predator, to appear bigger. Northy also attempts to look larger, but does this by flattening the sides of its body, so that its back is pushed up higher. We walk away and leave them alone, but a predator may not be deterred. Both lizards would then behave the same, lifting their head, hissing and opening their mouth wide to display their blue tongue in their pink mouth. They would circle to remain facing the threat, until it retreated.

Now that the lizards are active, they can seek food using their sense of smell. They are omnivorous and eat small slow-moving animals such as beetles, snails and slugs, which they crunch with their strong jaws and large teeth. Their diet includes plants, fruit, fungi, and sometimes dead animals. To smell their environment, their tongue collects particles of air. They transfer them to two pits in the roof of their mouth, which like a dog's nose, will provide them with information about their surroundings.

This sense of smell is also used to detect predators and

potential mates. Many lizards lay eggs, but blue-tongues give birth to between ten and twenty tiny lizards. Last summer, there was a second eastern blue-tongue living in Southy's side of the garden, and for a while there was a miniature blue-tongue among Southy's pot plants. We did not have the chance to watch it grow up. Young blue-tongues can fend for themselves as soon as they are born, and move away from their parent to find their own place to live. This one remained longer than its siblings.

While the young lizard was in our garden, I noticed the brightness of its brown skin. A lizard's skin has some elasticity, but as it grows it needs to be shed regularly to allow room for expansion. Before this happens, its colouring becomes dark and dull. Unlike a snake, which sheds its whole skin at once, blue-tongues lose their skin in pieces. A moulting lizard has transparent pieces of skin attached to its scales. Once shedding is complete, its colouring is much brighter. Young lizards shed their skin every few weeks, but as they become older and their growth rate slows, this happens much less frequently.

It is a pleasure to have blue-tongues living in our garden, and there are fewer hazards here than blue-tongues often face living near people. We do not use snail bait and don't see snails in our garden. The pesticides that kill snails can also kill a lizard that eats the poisoned snails or slugs. A more lizard-friendly and environmentally-friendly alternative is to allow the blue-tongues to keep the snail numbers down. Lawnmowers can also be dangerous to them, as they may attempt to hide from them in long grass. The grass in our garden is mostly indigenous, slow growing and rarely needs mowing. Another threat to lizards is choosing to bask in the sun on roads. Our garden is far enough from the road, that I hope Northy and Southy are safe.

We see Southy more often than Northy, but as winter approaches, we do not expect to see either of them. It is too cold for them to be active. Each finds a safe, dry place to hide, their metabolism slows down and they wait for warmer weather. On sunny winter days, they may emerge to bask for a while, but we rarely see them before spring.



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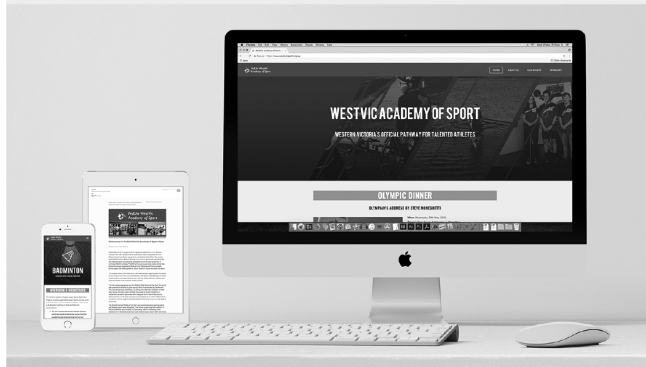
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“Whenever I feel really alone, I just sit and stare into the night sky. I’ve always thought that one of those stars is my star, and I know that my star will always be there for me. Like a comforting voice saying, “Don’t give up, kid.” – Charlie Brown

Two weeks after Australia declared the coronavirus would become a pandemic and 47 days after the first case in Australia was detected in Melbourne, the World Health Organisation made it official... we were living with lockdown or stay at home orders.

And since that 1st day - Friday 13 March 2020, COVID-19 pandemic rules and regulations have upended our lives in innumerable ways. I won’t try to summarize them here. Suffice to say: Many of us may feel a bit different about life than we did just two years ago.

We thought it would be over in a year bring on 2021! And now another year on, and we have entered a new phase, with Omicron subvariant BA.2 rapidly spreading, leading some countries back into lockdowns and we are all dealing with this continuing pandemic in different ways, living in denial, being scared, angry, laissez-faire, confused or just being worried.

“I’m already tired tomorrow.” – Charlie Brown

And now alongside the pandemic we are watching and listening in horror as people’s lives are shattered, destroyed by bombs and floods. This has all lead to fuel topping \$2 per lt. and we are becoming more aware that we need to plan how to navigate the rising cost of living and the threat of a global war.... life was starting to feel overwhelming, and I kept thinking of all the things I cannot control, but then slowly the realisation that there are many ways we can make a difference to our wellbeing in the coming year(s).

Firstly, make growing even a small amount of food part of your daily life. It takes years to build your soil and your skill set, to the point where you are able to produce a reliable, abundant crop. But you can start with a few potted tomatoes and herbs. Just start growing and you will be rewarded. One easy way to produce a reliable crop of food is to plant food bearing trees, bushes, and vines. Many edible plants can be stunningly beautiful in your garden. They can be absolutely gorgeous in the spring when their blossoms emerge, and in autumn when the leaves change golden brown and rust red as the weather cools down. Plant berries then you can eat \$5 worth for breakfast... a little decadence can go along way to keeping spirits up.

Many medicinal herbs such as lavender, chamomile, feverfew, hyssop, bee balm, and coneflowers provide beauty and variety to the landscape, while secretly doubling as herbal remedies.

Prepare to Provide for Yourself or Do Without – frugal but not miserly

During times of uncertainty, it is important that you do everything that you can to take care of your needs or be prepared to do without. (Yes, you can live without coffee!) In addition to the resources you have stored, you may need to be creative and make do with what you can make yourself. Create a personal reference library with valuable books that you can refer to. Second-hand bookstores, op shops and libraries are great source of books and magazines.

“What if today we were just grateful for everything?” – Charlie Brown

Learn Basic Skills

With cost of living increasing, basic skills will become even more valuable. The ability to do your own home and car repairs (or other services) will save you much-needed money. Baking bread from scratch, growing fruit and vegetables, mending torn jeans, fixing a leaky tap, repairing a broken lock, fermenting vegetables, and bottling peaches. These are just a few examples of basic skills that will save money and improve your quality of life when times are tough.

What skills do you have that you may be able to barter with? Perhaps it is time to learn a new hobby that will help you develop important basic skills.

Prepare to Share

So, you are all prepared to take care of yourselves and your family during times of crisis. But no matter how well you are prepared you will at times need help from others. Be prepared to reach out to others in need, and then believe that there are other kind persons willing and able to help you and those you love.

Worry, anger, and denial will not change the future, but positive action now can help mitigate the hardships that may come our way. So, let’s do our best to prepare for future challenges, and then enjoy each day to the fullest. If we have learnt one thing these past two years, it must be that the status quo can change very quickly, so we need to Hope for the Best and Prepare for the Worst

My life isn’t perfect, but I’m thankful for everything I have.” – Charlie Brown

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Awww Thank You.

A Melbourne lady, catching up with a friend from Bendigo at the Cruze -in Cafe in Mt Helen, rang to congratulate us on the quality of our Newsletter. She said that the MDN has everything anyone would need - stories, contacts etc. She thought that it was high quality and loved the cover photo of the spider web and also Dog Tales.

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An Apple a Day

Marg Cooper

At the moment apple trees around the district are loaded with fruit. Some apple trees are in backyards and some are in paddocks where houses used to be and some are along fence lines.

Have you noticed the apple trees particularly along fences beside roads? It is believed that these trees have grown from seeds that birds have deposited, dropped or shat after eating an apple.

Around Morrisons there are numerous examples of this process. Some apples that are delicious to eat are believed to be hybrids of several varieties.

One would like to think that the trees are descendants from remnant orchards in the area.

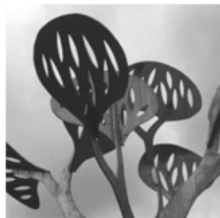
Abel Parkinson b. 1863 established an orchard in the valley behind where the Fire Shed now stands, and he stored the fruit in the tunnel of their gold mine, down towards Stony [Tea Tree] Creek. The Parkinsons had a decorated wagon and drove their produce around the district to sell it. Family tell of a catchy rhyme written on the sides of the wagon: Stop, Look, Listen, Apple O! Best Quality on Sale.

Ben Cole established an orchard on his property "Rosedale" that was up a steep, narrow road along the Moorabool River, from east of the bridges. The trees were terraced on the sides of the valley They sold the vegetables and fruit they grew by carting them around Morrisons/ Elaine in a covered wagonette pulled by two black horses. After Ben's death, as a result of a load of hay falling off a wagon onto him, in January 1944, his wife Lizzie learnt to drive, bought a 1936 Ford truck [later upgraded] and commenced the mail run to Elaine and back daily.

Abel Parkinson b. 1906 established an orchard on a block his father Abel b. 1863 was allocated from the Morrisons Goldfields Common in 1914. When he married Mavis Grant in 1931 they built a house there, farmed, cut wood and grew apples.

In later years Bill Argent established a garden and orchard on Rhymers Flat at Morrisons. This was river flats adjacent to the Moorabool River, west of the ford. He lived on the Tableland above the river flats and had a steep, windy track to access the lower land. Anyone could stop and buy produce from Bill.

And then there are mulberry trees.....!



Art on the Farm

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You are invited to join us at Glenairlie for a BYO Picnic, and a stroll through the Hay and Shearing Sheds. Images can be viewed on @glenairlievents Pages on Instagram and Facebook.

Note: Sales can be negotiated directly with the Artists, NO commissions apply.



The deadline for copy is

9.00 am on the last Thursday

of the preceding month





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Jim Elvey

There are four creek crossings along the walking track, maintained by the Meredith Police Paddocks Support Group. Late last month, the Group held a working bee to clear weeds from one of them. This involved working along the creek banks but also pulling aquatic weeds from the creek itself. We will continue this work at the other three crossing points to ensure the handsome rock and creek formations, as well as the stepping stones, are clear for visitors to enjoy.

DELWP continue to ignore the need for urgent action to arrest the rapid growth of weeds on the site. We are especially grateful therefore to Mat Fisher for the donation of 10 litres herbicide to the group. Under the supervision of Colin Cook, who holds an Agricultural Chemical Users Permit, we hope to round-up (pardon the pun) enough volunteers to at least provide some resistance to the problem.

If you can help us in any of this work, or just want to join our information mailing list, send a message to meredith.police.paddocks@gmail.com or leave a message on our Facebook page.



Going beyond the call of duty, Kristen waded in to remove some hard-to-get-to weeds. (Truth is, it was a hot day, and she seemed to quite enjoy it.) - Ed.

By way of a footnote, Michaela Settle, Member for Buninyong, did contact us early last month to say she had inspected the site, and acknowledged we are seeking additional weed management. She also said she will "...continue to see what I can do to assist the work your group is doing to maintain and enhance Meredith Police Paddocks." -JE

Trophy Cups

Marg Cooper

A Trophy is a tangible, durable reminder of a specific achievement and serves as recognition or evidence of merit. Many of our modern traditions came to us from the Greek culture and the Trophy Cup is no exception. Before that, winners were given a laurel wreath of twisted olive branches to represent their victory.

There have been several Trophy Cups associated with tennis in the district. Some are at the History Centre, some are at the Recreation Reserve but some must be in private hands - perhaps displayed proudly, maybe stored away or even lying tarnished and forgotten in the back shed.

In August 1927 the Mooney Shield was won outright by Bannockburn because they had won the competition three times in a row. In 1924 the teams competing for the Mooney Shield were Meredith A & B, Elaine, Lethbridge, Bannockburn and Maude. A new competition was to be arranged starting the following year.

There is no information as to when teams started competing for the Mooney Shield but Chris Mooney, who donated the trophy, was born in 1902. He must have been a young man when he first supplied trophies for Meredith tennis. He was also a young man when he was elected as President of Meredith Tennis Club in 1925. He held that position until 1970. In 1927 Mr Mooney donated a cup for the Association which was accepted and the name changed to the Mooney Cup Tennis Association. With the donation he stated that if any club won the premiership in 3 consecutive years then the cup may stay with that club.

Borhoneyghurk were Premiers in 1935, 1936, 1937 & 1938. Team members were mainly members of the two Le Maître families with one or two others. The team won the pennant in their first year in the Association, then for five of the next six seasons. Borhoneyghurk first played on two dirt courts in Elaine with mixed up pipe clay to paint the lines. Later, matches were played on a court built between two Le Maître homes. Mrs H Le Maître chipped the grass off then it was tarred by heating tar in kerosene tins on the stove.

In 1932-33 Mr Chris Mooney President of Mooney Cup Tennis Association thought there was a need for a tennis competition between districts. He issued a challenge to the Learmonth Association, and so Ballarat Senior Country Week was born. Dr W Chaplin donated a cup which Mooney Cup Tennis Association won in 1938, 1940, 1949 and got to keep after three consecutive wins in 1951, 1952 & 1953. It had taken 20 years for an outright winner to emerge. Mr Chris Mooney generously donated a trophy for the A Grade contest in 1954.

This coveted prize is a highly ornate bowl.

We're looking for The Mooney Shield won by Bannockburn and we're also looking for the Mooney Cup won by Borhoneyghurk! If you have photographs of the Shield and/or the Cup it would be wonderful if copies could be emailed to meredithhistoryinterestgroup@gmail.com or mailed to MHIG 31 Staughton Street, Meredith 3333.



GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL MEDIA RELEASE

Date: Wednesday 30 March, 2022

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES FOR GOLDEN PLAINS YOUTH

Golden Plains Shire Council is supporting young people across the Shire with opportunities for social connection and fun during the upcoming Easter school holidays.

School Holiday Activities will be offered over two weeks during the upcoming Easter break, with young people aged 12 to 25 years encouraged to attend. The free activities will encourage the varied interests of young people across the Shire, while focusing on the importance of social connection and personal development.

The School Holiday Activities available in April are:

- Monday 11 April, 10am to 4pm – Smartphone film making at the Golden Plains Youth Hub, Milton Street, Bannockburn
- Tuesday 12 April, 10am to 4pm – Smartphone film making at the Golden Plains Youth Hub, Milton Street, Bannockburn
- Wednesday 13 April, 11am to 1pm – Pop up BBQ & Tunes at Dereel Skate Park, 14 Swamp Road, Dereel
- Tuesday 19 April, 3 to 8pm – Responsible Service of Alcohol training at the Well, 19 Heales Street, Smythesdale
- Wednesday 20 April, 11am to 1pm – Pop up BBQ & Tunes at Bannockburn Skate Park, 3 Moore Street, Bannockburn
- Thursday 21 April, 11am to 2pm – Barista training at Haddon Community House, 396 Sago Hill Road, Haddon
- Saturday 23 April, 9am to 3pm – Food safety at Haddon Community House, 398 Sago Hill Road, Haddon
- Saturday 23 April, 4 to 7pm – Barista training at Coco Espresso Crew, 2w/19 High Street, Bannockburn

Golden Plains Shire Mayor Cr Gavin Gamble encouraged young people to take advantage of the activities available during the Easter holidays.

“Council’s School Holiday activities are an excellent opportunity for Golden Plains youth to connect, gain new skills and make friends in a safe, inclusive and fun environment.”

“Council is committed to creating new and enjoyable experiences for Golden Plains youth over the holiday periods to meet the needs and interests of young people, whilst providing platforms to learn new skills and build capacity. These activities combine fun, relaxed options with practical training to equip young people with professional skills for the future.”

Registration is required for all activities. To register, or find out more information, contact Council’s Youth Development team at 5220 7111 or youth@gplains.vic.gov.au.

– ENDS –

Released by: Eric Braslis, CEO, Golden Plains Shire Council

Media contact: Susan Talpey, Coordinator Communications, Engagement and Advocacy, Golden Plains Shire Council
P. 5220 7147 | M. 0421 923 399 | E. susan.talpey@gplains.vic.gov.au



From the Mayor



Cr Gavin Gamble

Council understands the need for improved public transport and alternative transport options within Golden Plains. As Councillors, we have heard from residents about the need for improved transport options and as a commitment in the Council Plan 2021-2025, Council is now developing the Golden Plains Transport Connections Study. The upcoming Golden Plains Transport Connections Study workshop will be on Wednesday 17 April from 6 to 7.30pm to be held online via Zoom, and on Saturday 30 April from 11am to 12.30pm at Meredith Memorial Hall, 61 Staughton St, Meredith

Applications are now open for Round One of Council's Community Strengthening Grants 2022 program.

Grants of up to \$10,000 are available in four streams: Healthy Active Living, to support recreation, sport, health and wellbeing projects. To assist community groups in applying for a Community Strengthening Grant, Council is running drop-in sessions on Thursday 14 April, 12 to 3pm at the Bannockburn Cultural Centre

Applications close 9am, Monday 2 May, 2022 . To find out more, or to apply, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/community-grants.

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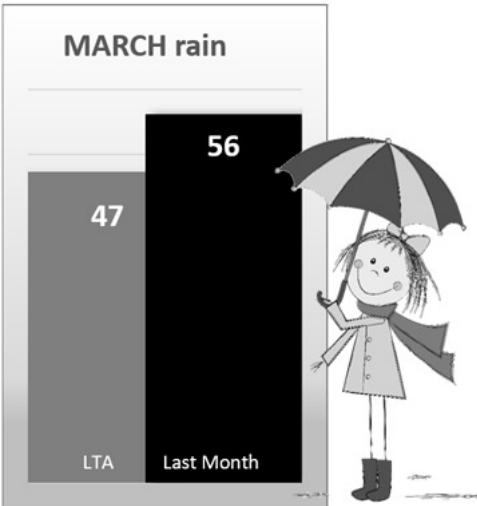
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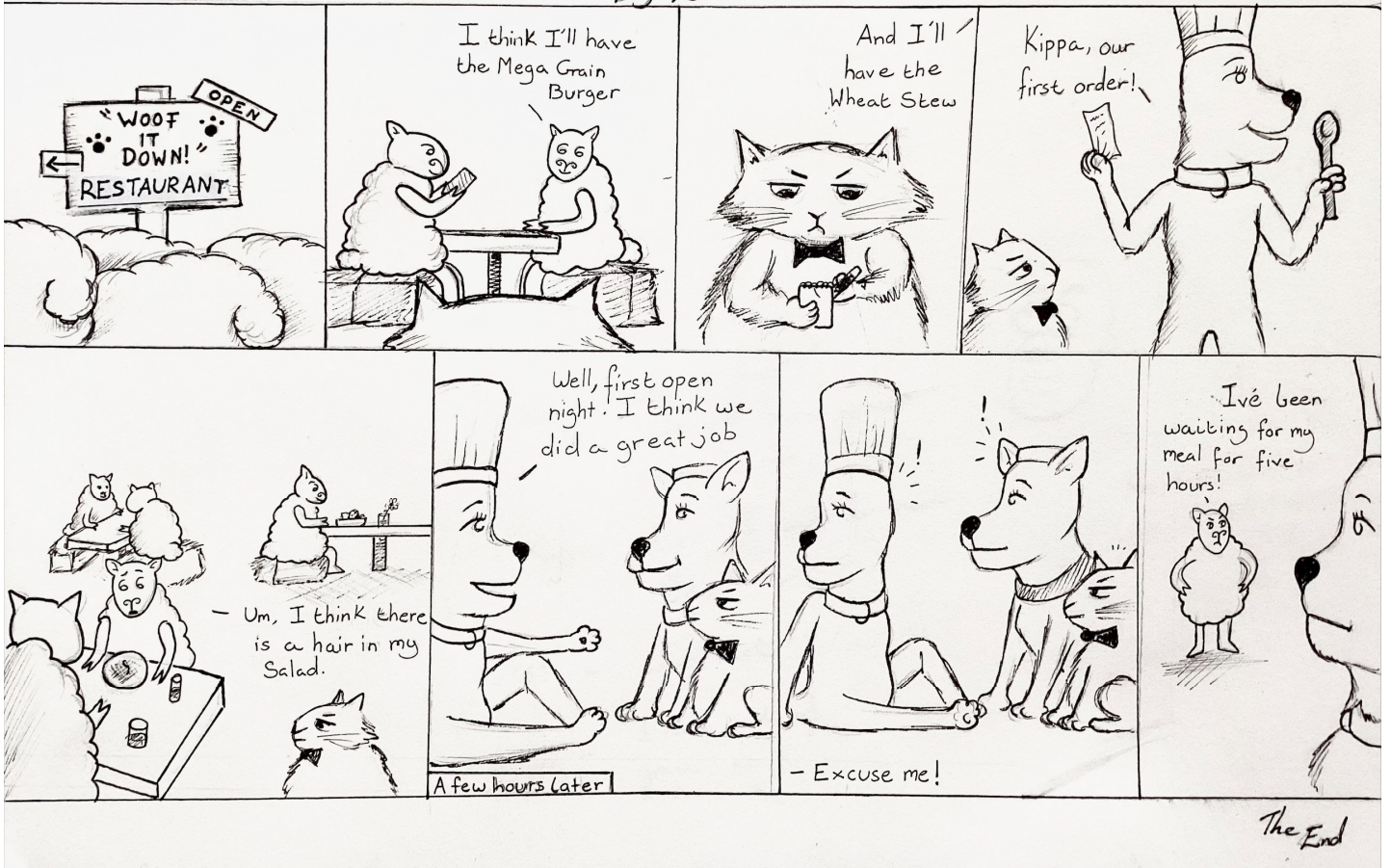


12 Milton Street, Bannockburn
5281 2226



Kelpie Kapers! © # 30

By Emma Clarke



Sunflowers



Marg Cooper

In 2021 Advance Meredith Association Inc. packaged sunflower seeds in pockets made of artistic paper, attached a note explaining that ‘Sunflowers mean happiness, optimism and peace; to plant a seed is to believe in tomorrow’ and giving instructions on how to plant them. An army of volunteers delivered them all around the town and district. This was a project to connect with people during Covid restrictions.

There were tales that seeds hadn’t germinated.

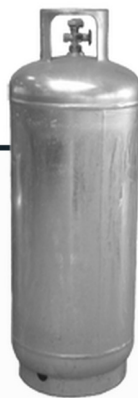
But, contrary to these tales, many of the seeds did grow and bloom. Don Van Beusichem tilled the soil finely in his vegetable garden. He thought that there were two varieties of seed in his packet which he planted in two rows. He fertilized them and they grew, and grew and grew, some to almost 10 feet in height. One of the varieties has flowers the size of bread-and-butter plates and the other has flowers as round as dinner plates. Don says the cockatoos are now feasting on the black seeds and that to disturb the birds he has to actually shake the stems.

Lucy Banks and family have similarly had great success growing their sunflowers and Lucy’s children have had great fun drawing faces on the huge flowers but also extracting some seeds to make features of faces.

Successful Sunflowers.



Coral Van Beusichem dwarfed by her ‘Covid Connect’ sunflowers.



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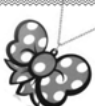
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Meredith History Interest Group

Open Day:

You are invited to the History Centre on Sunday, May 15th for an Open Day. We will welcome you between 10 am & 3 pm. Please see flyer for more details.

Annual Meeting:

Reports were presented and elections were conducted on Sunday, February 27 at the Annual Meeting at the Memorial Hall. Marg Cooper was elected President, Tony Scott was elected Vice President, Kerrie Kruger was elected Secretary, Gayle Hadley was elected Treasurer and the Committee elected were Jan McDonald, Paul Ryan, Fay McFarlane, Alan Caddy and Bev Loveday.

The meeting was followed by the debut showing of a DVD titled A Trip Down Memory Lane which documents the history of Coopers Road at Bamganie, with facts, photos and interviews. It was produced by Marg Cooper and David Law of Redwood Entertainment.

Street Libraries:

Peter Chen from the University of Sydney undertook a study into street libraries and librarians. His research indicated that 4,993 of these libraries were in service at the start of 2021 in Australia. Average street libraries turn over 14 books per week. Overall this equates to over 3,500,000 per year nationally and he estimated this value as \$10 million. Enthusiasts have suggested that they contribute to their communal fabric, providing increased sociability and promoting reading and literacy. Their Take a Book, Give a Book, Share a Book motto promotes their role in recycling. The most common problem as replied to on his questionnaire was the regular cleaning out needed. Peter Chen referred to the street libraries as a leaky bucket that needs to be refreshed with newly sourced content regularly. Thanks to Bev for looking after our Street Library.

Laurie Manning:

You may remember Laurie Manning was headmaster of the Meredith State School from 1976 until John Bolton came in 1979. Recently a Ross & Leila from Stratford in

Gippsland called into MHIG. They knew Laurie and told us that he had written two books: Discovering Briagalong, a chronological history of Briagalong and From Slate to Microchip, 125 years of Briagalong State School No 1117. They also informed us that Laurie who was born in 1941 had died in 2003. Laurie Manning started the Newsletter. It was a very humble production in those days but has developed since then.



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FROM THE ARCHIVES



Platelayers' Arms Hotel

LETHBRIDGE, May 28, 1866

An inquest was held at the Platelayers' Arms Hotel, this day, before F. Shaw, Esq, district coroner, on the body of James McMartin, a farm labourer lately in the employ of Mr McAdam, It appears that, a few days ago he received amount of wages — £7 10s— due to him, and that he had been drinking in the hotels in the township, and on Saturday last went to the Railway Station, with the view of proceeding to Geelong; but, instead of doing so, he went to the Platelayers' Arms Hotel, where then getting drunk he was put to sleep on a sofa to "sleep it off," and rolling off it he fell on his face on one of the cushions, and was thus suffocated.

The verdict of the jury was in accordance with these facts, viz, that death had resulted from suffocation. I think hotel keepers cannot be too careful in looking after their drunken patrons when in a helpless condition, and although there is no blame to be attached to any party in the present instance, it is a well-known fact that they do not act as "their brothers' keepers," as was seen the other day in the case of poor Davis, at Ballarat, and in many other cases where the sobering process does not result in so tragic an end, but not from extra caution taken by those with whom the poor deluded victim of intemperance spends his hard earnings. We are very careful in placing under restraint the unfortunate lunatic, but the victim of intemperance is placed under no such restraint. On the contrary he is

allowed every facility for the indulgence of his desire for strong drink.

I believe there is a law, or there ought to be one, that renders publicans liable to a penalty for allowing a drunken person on their premises. Perhaps if this law was carried out to its fullest extent there would not be so many drunken men now at country hotels as is unfortunately the case in many parts of the colony. *Geelong Advertiser (Vic. : 1859 - 1929) Tuesday 29 May 1866*

The Platelayers' Arms Hotel existed for several years in the 1860s in Lethbridge. It was one of several – the Railway Hotel, the Universal Hotel, the Talltree Hotel, the Munsters Arms Hotel, all with between 5 and 10 rooms. There were also the larger two-storey establishments – the Victoria Hotel and the Lethbridge Hotel, both having at least 22 rooms, and several outbuildings. All were busy enterprises in their day – now little trace remains.

Jan McDonald, Meredith History Interest Group.

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The Miner Newspaper January 11, 1896.

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Kerrie Kruger

On the 5th of March 2022 AMA held its AGM

Louise Murray presented her President’s Report which summarised the projects we achieved in 2021. Thank you to those members of AMA and Meredith Community who have continued to work for the improvement and development of our community during these trying times. Although unfortunate for the Meredith Lions Club to fold, it provided the opportunity for the two committees to join forces and work together to the betterment of our lovely town. Due to Covid19 lockdowns and restrictions, we have had projects slowed down and stopped in some cases. Although difficult we still had ‘Acts of Kindness’ in our sunflower and cookie delivery project.

We thank our local policeman for participating in several meetings with the enthusiastic teenagers, to organise a dance to bring the youth of Meredith surrounds together. Although this could not go ahead, due to restrictions, we are hopeful that a dance will go ahead soon.

Thanks to members who attended community project and planning sessions at the Shire throughout the year. Once again Christmas Sheep sales was successful, so to everyone who helped to make, sell and distribute them, thank you.

To everyone who put in hard work to assemble the fantastic Christmas display on the corner in town- well done it looked fantastic. I must make mention, of the Bush Dance that was postponed, due to the covid restrictions. With limited capacity in the hall, we had no room left for participants (and the fact the band was locked down in Melbourne’s ring of steel). This event however was transformed into the Christmas carols and it was so great to see everyone turned up and enjoy the evening.

A bit of good news is we have applied for a new home at the Meredith Railway Station, we are 90% confident that our application will be approved. We have the shire signed on as Head Lessee. We just need to wait for Victrack to complete upgrades and maintenance before signing the lease.

The 2022 Committee consists of President Louise Murray, Vice President Emily Thompson, Secretary & Communications Officer Kerrie Kruger, Treasurer Doris Robinson. Committee: Bev Loveday, Helen Banks, Chris Ardrey

Projects and Issues for 2022 under consideration include:

Signage Audit, What’s happening in Meredith sign, Entrance to town signage, Dangerous Parking issue in Wallace & Staughton streets, Teen Dance, Tree Guard Audit, Community Garden, Battery Drive, Country fair, Bush Dance, Banner Art, Christmas Carols, Christmas sheep, Christmas corner, Christmas lights Competition, AMA & CFA Santa Christmas eve visit.

If you would like to join the Advance Meredith team, you are most welcome. Please email or visit us on Facebook for next meeting date. Also email advancemeredith@gmail.com if you have any suggestion or input into the making Meredith a great community to live in. Follow us on Facebook to stay connected to upcoming projects.

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Art Girls Travel Again

Marg Cooper

Our destination, Jervis Bay, had over one metre of rain and a day of fierce wind during the week before our departure. We were concerned that the deluge, associated with the heavy rain/floods that inundated Sydney and northern New South Wales, would affect our holiday. Except for a cruise on the Shoalhaven River not running, a National Park being closed and Collingwood Beach, over the bike path from our rented house being *out of character*, all was well. Locals told us that Collingwood beach at Vincentia was dirtier, rougher and had more kelp than usual. Another beach that usually has pristine white sand was pink. It was reported that masses of fine seaweed or algae had accumulated there and had been infested by maggots. We looked at that beach from up on the hill!

Jervis Bay is a number of times larger than Sydney Harbour, has 27 beaches and is home to HMAS Cresswell, Royal Australian Naval Base. At the northern end of the heads are the second highest cliffs on the eastern seaboard. We ventured on a 12 hour road trip to get there and then again, to return home. During our week's stay we travelled around to various attractions, swam at several beaches, walked, shopped and ate. Breakfast every day was enjoyed on the beachfront at Huskisson, up the road from Vincentia, followed by adventures along the coast both north and south.

At the Maritime Museum we were amazed at the huge



collection of antique navigational equipment, the huge former Sydney Harbour Ferry and loved seeing the exhibition of clothes from *'The Dressmaker'* film. During the cruise on Jervis Bay, we delighted in seeing dolphins play but missed the penguins and seals.

After we visited the Arthur Boyd Studio at Bundanon we sat around a table outside and discussed the art with a bottle of local wine. Many of Boyd's artworks were displayed plus works of other artists who were invited to respond to Boyd's spontaneous way of working and dynamic spirit, by creating their own art works. The exhibition was supposed to be a connection between artists past, present and future. Many of the eight Meredith Art Girls were scathing of the art works but a couple felt enriched by the experience. Nevertheless, a lively discussion ensued! The complex is run by a non-for-profit trust, after Arthur Boyd gave his estate to Australia. Visitors can see Arthur Boyd's studio, *'The Homestead'*, can visit the Art Museum and stay at *'The Bridge'*, which is a very interesting, long, rectangular building supported over a valley by long supports, exactly like a bridge.


We all enjoyed the week of discoveries, companionship and food.



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Rewriting History

Roy Hay

History is never settled. It is always changing as new information comes to light, or modern perspectives or ideas influence our understanding of the past. Sometimes politics intrudes. People in power appeal to a view of history that is often very different from that accepted by professional historians. Occasionally a belief arises in the community that is quite different from the research of the academic historians. This belief takes on a life of its own and is often hard if not impossible to counteract. Regularly, though perhaps less often than lay people think, the historians disagree. Some people would argue that this is healthy and helps ensure that even the most accepted interpretations are always open to challenge and re-evaluation.

One of the areas with which I have been involved for several years is concerned with the origins of Victoria's distinctive code of football, first codified in 1859 by a few members of the Melbourne Cricket Club. They had been playing an informal game in the paddock just outside where the Melbourne Cricket Ground stands today. Given their backgrounds (most were recent migrants from all over the United Kingdom), they had arguments about what was allowed during the game. After it ended, at least four of them retired to the local public house and tried to draw up a simple, easy-to-understand, set of rules to govern play in future. A written copy of these rules with the names of those involved survives and they are the basis of the game that is played today. We know that

other teams or clubs had rules, too. South Yarra and Geelong had their own, but the Melbourne group included a couple of journalists and others who wrote regularly for the newspapers of the day. Their version was quickly printed and spread widely, though it took some years before everyone was singing from the same song-sheet. One advantage these pioneers had was that they did not have to defer to bodies overseas; they could change the rules as they went along. Cricketers, boxers, owners and riders of racehorses and later those who wanted to play rugby or Association football, all had overseas governing bodies which claimed custodianship of the rules or laws of their game.

Two or three factors worked in favour of the new local code of football. My good friend and local economic historian Tony Ward argues that the stonemasons winning of the eight-hour day in the mid-1850s allowed some working men to attend matches on a Saturday afternoon. Football became a spectator rather than a participant sport. I'm not sure that this is as significant as a couple of other demographic changes that occurred at that time. First, very few migrants arrived in Victoria in the 1860s with ideas about other forms of football, so the local game had its first free kick. Between 1854 and 1880 the population of Geelong grew by only 145 people. During these years Geelong regularly had a very strong football team. Also there was a redistribution of people within Victoria from the regions to Melbourne. Many were disappointed gold seekers and others who realised that more and regular money could be made from supplying rural and regional Victoria. Those who had some discretionary income, more than they needed just to survive, could contemplate watching football, cricket or horse racing on a weekend.

In 1983 Jim Poulter made a suggestion that the early Australian game was influenced by local Indigenous activities particularly *marngrook*, a ball game that often accompanied corroborees when various groups met. He later added the idea that Tom Wills, a member of the group who wrote that first set of rules and had played with Aboriginal children in his childhood before being sent to Rugby school in England, was the conduit through whom this might have happened. Since then, the idea has been picked up by journalist and author Martin Flanagan and developed by some professional historians. Unfortunately, credible contemporary evidence in support of this proposition is still lacking. I wish it were true, but despite years of searching nothing has emerged that provides the link between the cultural practices of our original inhabitants and our game. Early football was a low-level kicking and scrummaging game. High marking was not a feature until much later. By then Indigenous people had been totally excluded from the top level of the game in Victoria, though they managed to force their way into the game at local level around the perimeter of the state.

In the last couple of years I've written two books about what really happened as the survivors saw the white men playing their strange game and forced their way into it, first as individuals, then forming teams and eventually winning local leagues. This is a much more inspiring story of courage, agency and a triumph against the odds.

As in so many areas of human life, when in doubt, go with the science—in this case the social science and the contemporary evidence on which it is based.

Arts "EMERGENCE"

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I
The distance between the Goals and the Goal Posts shall be decided upon by the Captains of the sides playing.

II
The Captain on each side shall take for choice of Goal; the side losing the toss has the kick off from the centre of point between the Goals.

III
A Goal must be Kicked fairly between the posts, without touching either of them, or a portion of the person of any player on either side.

IV
The game shall be played within

a space of not more than 200 yards wide, the same to be measured equally on each side of a line drawn through the centres of the two Goals; and two posts to be called the "Kick off" posts shall be erected at a distance of 20 yards on each side of the goal posts at both ends, on in a straight line with them.

V
In case the Ball is Kicked behind Goal, any one of the side behind whose Goal it is Kicked may bring it 20 yards in front of any portion of the space between the "Kick off" posts, and shall kick it as nearly as possible in a line with the opposite Goal.

Rules of the Melbourne Football Club, May 1859, ACL 7.1.1 - : Image Courtesy of the Melbourne Cricket Club.

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I Bought a Hospital

Simon McMillan and Marg Cooper

After looking for a property which held some historic significance we purchased a place in 2012. The marketing of the property referenced it 'as a former hospital for a short time' and for that reason, together with its location, enticed us to purchase it.

The building itself had been renovated by previous owners who took great care to ensure the heritage aspects of the building were retained. Modifications included using the paint colours to match its era, increasing window dimensions and removing older additions that did not relate to the building. The building layout still remains similar to its early origins with formal rooms, open fire places, large bedrooms that were used for a number of beds, a large room which I was told was once used for minor operations (surgeries), a number of side access doors for convenience and an old medical cabinet to store equipment.

Since we have owned the property, we have spent considerable time on the garden and outdoor areas taking advantage of linking the landscape to the building. A notable feature of the building is the sweeping veranda that wraps around three sides. The substantial Cypress Hedge is quite old and it has been a challenge to maintain its good health. The hedge and large exotic trees also add to the appeal of the property.

The property has had a number of owners prior to us and we acknowledge their care in maintaining its character over the years.

The Hospital was built in 1926.

There was quite a bit of dissension in the district about whether a hospital was needed in Meredith because, at that time, a Bush Nurse was resident and was on hand to attend to minor ailments. But, an enthusiastic committee raised funds and continued to raise funds to support the hospital: a Carnival was held in 1921; a Queen Competition was held in 1927 and Mrs McDonald convened a dance held in the Mechanics Hall on Friday, January 4th, 1929 that was deemed to be one of the most successful dances ever held, being crowded with dancers. As Mrs McDonald and her son defrayed all expenses there was a handsome profit for hospital funds.

The block of land for the hospital was secured from Mr W.J. Bowman and Cr Elliott generously donated the £40 purchase money for the same. The building started in 1926, it cost £300 and some of the Doctors were Dr Fisher, Dr Docker and Dr Atkinson. Dr Hoban and his wife, who was also a Doctor. They lived in the hospital after it closed and had their consulting rooms there.

In the Geelong Advertiser of 1938 Messrs Dennys, Lascelles Limited and Messrs Wilson Bolton and Co advertised that they had received instructions from the Guarantors of the Meredith & District Hospital to sell by auction on October 21, 1938 at 3 pm.

For sale was about half acre of land on which was erected the Meredith & District Hospital containing 5 large bedrooms, dining room, consulting room, dispensary, kitchen, storeroom, bathroom (cold and hot water service),

wash house (copper and troughs), garage, wood shed and a large number of galvanized tanks. The building was sold and became a private residence.

Of interest is that a working bee was planned in August 1927 to plant a Cypress Hedge in the hospital grounds.

(Please keep looking after that hedge Simon, because it is almost 100 years old.)



The former Meredith Hospital

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Marg's BOOK REVIEW

Happy Hour by Jacquie Byron

I have just completed this fabulous novel by the Australian author, Jacquie Byron. I sincerely and enthusiastically recommend the book which I loved from page one. It is insightful, funny, poignant and very realistic.

Franny is a 65-year-old widow, whose husband Frank died unexpectedly and tragically three years previously. Franny has turned her life away from friends, fun and family to pursue solitary activities, where she doesn't have to tolerate pity and reminders of everything she has lost with Frank's death. Whiskey and Soda are her canine companions and alcohol is her crutch.

I found Franny an instantly likeable though prickly character, who is real and easily identifiable. She has pictures of Frank around the house - Laundry Frank, Bedroom Frank etc- with whom she converses daily. Her routines and drinking enable her to cope with life and grief, her way. *No one can criticise the way someone else handles grief.*

All this changes when a single mum, Sallyanne, and her two children, Dee, the feisty teenager and Joshua, her sensitive 9-year-old brother, move in next door. The relationship they all struggle through and develop, the crescendo of Franny's annual meltdown or the anniversary of Frank's death and her disastrous Swan Dive, all make for a warm and satisfying read.

It is an exploration of family, relationships, friendship, guilt and, above all, forgiveness. The novel also journeys through the stages of grief and how everyone deals with them in their own time and in their own way. It has humanity and humour, and I found Franny so likeable despite her abruptness and purposely offensive attitude, all a part of her defences to shield herself from the hurt and realisation of her life to come, without her husband and best friend. *Growing old doesn't necessarily mean growing wiser.*

Happy Hour made me think about my own reaction to difficult situations the characters find themselves in and how often we are quick to judge others, before knowing all the circumstances....*walking in another person's shoes.* I laughed, I nearly cried, I got angry with Franny and I loved her the whole way through.

Old age ain't worth the wait....But it can be a lot of fun along the way.

Written by Bev Elshaug

Dog tales



Name : Banjo

Breed: Murray River Curly Coated Retriever.
Fair dinkum Australian breed.

Special Features: Crocodile eyes, Teddy Bear curls.

Pet Hates: Being left on my own.

Being brushed, especially my tail.

Anything that hurts or might hurt me.

Favourite Toys: rocks, shells, any ball thrown for another dog.

Most embarrassing moment: Getting my head stuck in the top of a swing top rubbish bin. I had to wear it for a while until rescued.

Favourite pastimes: Putting my head under the water while searching for stones, shells and anything else under the water, I once managed to catch a live yabby!!

Lying on the couch with one eye open looking for food opportunities.

Obsession: Rolling in anything that really smells.

Owner: Beth. She is OK - takes care of my needs.

Hero: Les - he's gorgeous!!



Have a chat with your dog and tell us what you find out. And a favourite pic of course.

In the School Garden

Our tomato plants were very productive during March. This time we planted determinate types of tomatoes that grow into a bush rather than indeterminate ones that are taller and need to be staked. They were much more manageable to grow, however they were a larger fruiting variety which meant the children missed out on enjoying the treats that plants with cherry tomatoes provide. In past years, plucking a little tomato and eating it while outside during playtime or on the way from one building to another has always been fun.

We strive to reduce our waste in many ways throughout the school, so our larger tomatoes were collected by Kym and made into sauce. Ms Pritchard also had a bumper crop at her house and these were combined with apples left over from the school breakfasts and cooked up into some spicy relish. The zucchini were picked before they reached giant proportions (and as we know, this takes daily vigilance) and made into pickles. See our recipe below from Lila and Rusty's family if you'd prefer a sweet zucchini treat.

There is much talk about at the moment of the cost of fruit and vegetables. The Grade 5/6 students and Ms Daglas are involved in the OzHarvest schools program. This organisation collects food that would otherwise be sent to landfill and turns it into meals for those who need them. The cooks take whatever is available and make nutritious and delicious meals. The ingredients suggest the recipe rather than the other way around. A good OzHarvest tip is to first of all use what you have - check the fridge, pantry and garden before you go shopping. This is not only good for our planet but is great for helping with the family budget.

The CWA's core principles are: "Don't waste anything, use what you have, arm yourself with knowledge." The organisation has wonderful cook books, most recently one with the emphasis on being thrifty - what a great word. Their zucchini tip is to freeze excess zucchini, grated, and put into ziplock bags or containers. You can use these later in a pasta sauce, a casserole or a soup.

Autumn is a bountiful time in the garden. As well as the tomatoes and zucchini already mentioned, there are beans, pumpkins, lettuce, silver beet and many other vegetables in full production. Plums, apples and pears are coming into season too. If you are buying produce look out for what is in season, this is another way to help reduce your food bill.

While enjoying what the garden has to offer us now, it is also time to think about what is next. We always have great success with broad beans at school. They are great seeds for little hands to manage, being large and hardy, and always reward us with hundreds of pods that can be eaten whole when small and podded when larger. Let us know if you'd like a seedling or two and we can pop them in a pot for you.

We are also putting in some lettuce seedlings and peas. You might remember we planted peas in punnets last year and transferred them to the garden later on, however this was not at all successful. They didn't like being moved and grew into spindly bushes with very few pods. This year we will direct sow and expect better results.

You can also plant crops now that like the colder weather over winter like broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and onions. Just beware of the white cabbage moth laying eggs on the underside of the leaves. Though pretty to look at, they are speedy chompers. Cover your plants with netting and keep a good eye on them.

Remember the Newsletter's Giant Pumpkin Challenge. The great weigh in and measure up is on again next month at school. Pop Friday 13th May at 1pm in your diary. Bring your pumpkins or come along to be amazed at the size of these monsters. There are extra children's categories this year and a best decorated one as well.

We have a recipe favourite from one of our school families for you to enjoy if you, or a friend, has spare zucchini. These are super delicious, great for lunch boxes and will use up one of your larger ones.

Choc Zucchini Muffins

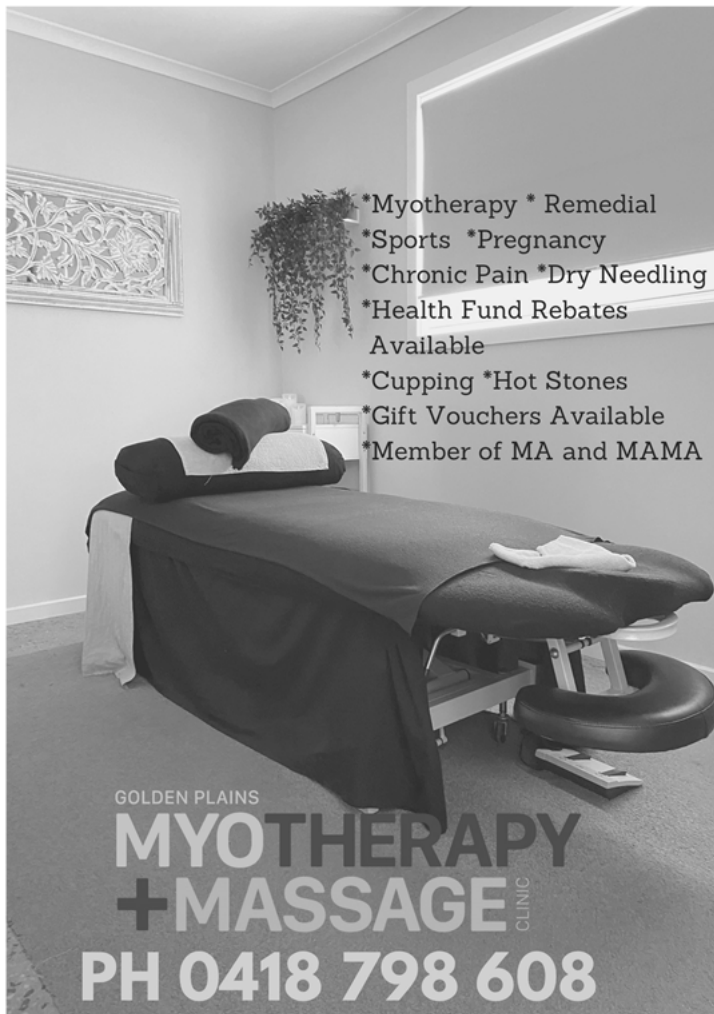
1 1/2 cups wholemeal self raising flour
 1/2 cup cocoa powder
 1 tsp bicarb soda
 1/4 tsp salt
 100g butter, melted
 1/3 cup honey
 1 tsp vanilla
 2 eggs
 3/4 cup milk
 1 largish zucchini
 choc chips (optional but recommended)

1. Preheat oven to 180*
2. Grate zucchini and squeeze out moisture, pat down to dry
3. In a large bowl, add flour, cocoa, bicarb and salt
4. Add butter, honey, vanilla, eggs and milk
5. Beat well then add zucchini and beat well again
6. Evenly divide into cup cake cases and sprinkle top with choc chips.
7. Bake about 25 mins

When cool store in the fridge up to four days in a container or freeze ready for lunch boxes.



Lila and Rusty looking for zucchini in the school garden.



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G'day from the Golden Pens – Write Side Up writing group for April. This month's story was written by Peter Wilding who is a long time member of our group. As last month, this story was based on a three subject prompt. A campfire, a scream and a lie that gets bigger and bigger. This was a challenge for us, as we could write about the first two but finding a place to fit in the lie beat most of us, but as expected Peter took a different view on the word lie. We hope you enjoy the piece as much as we did.

The writing group meets every fortnight on a Thursday at 1:30 til 3:00 pm at the Banno library and we welcome anyone who would like to join in. So if you have a desire to write please get in contact via goldenpens4@gmail.com or pop in to a meeting, we are a very friendly group of people.

Campfire by Peter Wilding

It hadn't been a good day for old Roy. It was warm, overcast and humid. The kind of weather that you could imagine getting a knife and cutting a piece of air and wringing the moisture out of it.

Would've been nice to just find a shady gum tree by a creek somewhere and watch the fish jumping. He'd spent the day brushing away the flies, wandering from one farmhouse to another. Not wanting a handout; Roy still had his pride, but if there was a simple job he was more than happy to take his pay in food.

It's tough when you lose your job in your fifties. Plenty of men like him wandering the roads looking for work. Just something for today, maybe the chance to sleep in a shed somewhere if it looked like rain.

Today had not been a good day. The heat, humidity, aches and pains. Sore feet from worn-out shoes. Sore back and shoulders from carrying his swag, muscles cramped in an awkward position. He was glad to set it down. His legs were screaming at him, he'd walked too much. Couldn't be helped. He'd rub some goanna oil on before he turned in.

He'd stopped midway between two farms, by the fence. The cook at one place had taken pity on him. Said he reminded her of her old dad. She'd given him a thick slab of silverside and a few potatoes. They'd do for tea tonight.

Once he'd boiled the billy, he set the spuds to cook and sliced the silverside. Not much of a meal – but it would do. He could just about hear his dear old mum saying "What? No greens?", but she was long gone now. It wasn't his fault he'd lost his job. A Depression, they said. He just knew it was hard all round.

Time for a lie down. He emptied his mug over the fire, and stretched out on his swag. Just a bit of a lie down, a short nap. He'd get up later, see if he could scrounge some eggs or something....

Morning came. Jenny had seen the campfire out the window last night and wondered how the swaggie fared. Hard enough to sleep inside with the windows open. The air just sat, heavy and oppressive like a cat on your chest.

He was still there. Must've slept better than she had, Jenny thought, because he wasn't moving yet. She grabbed a thick old crust and an end of meat. An egg as well. At least she could give him a good start to the day.

She walked out to the road, steps puffing up the dust. The weather was sultry and oppressive, but it just would not rain. Dry leaves and twigs crunched underfoot as she followed the fence line to his camp, making plenty of noise so as not to alarm him.

Still no movement. She came nearer. She saw the old, worn-out body stretched out on the swag, never to walk these roads again.

She screamed.

Knowledge is knowing a
tomato is a fruit;
Wisdom is not putting it
in a fruit salad.



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COMMUNITY UPDATE

April 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.

Moorabool Wind Farm Community Fund 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 www.mooraboolwindfarm.com

To contact us or to register for future project updates and newsletters please use the following methods: www.mooraboolwindfarm.com, info@mooraboolwindfarm.com or call: 1800 019 660.



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