

MAY 2022

Meredith & district News



OUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



inside

- Anzac Celebrations back for 2022
- Writers and sketchers join our contributors
- Local sport makes a return to our pages

...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

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

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

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M 0418 521 322



**JULIE
KAYE**

M 0411 059 001



**ANDREW
WILSON**

M 0452 498 254

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

Stockdale & Leggo *We see more than property*



**Celebrate.
Remember.
Fight Back.**

Geelong Relay For Life 2022

DATE: Saturday October 8th 2022

TIMES: 12 noon - 10pm (one day only this year!)

VENUE: St Albans Reserve, Boundary Road, Thomson.

What is Relay For Life?

It is a fun and moving event where we recognise and celebrate local cancer survivors, patients and their carers, honour and remember loved ones lost to cancer, and to raise money to help save lives.

Highlights include the Opening & Closing Ceremonies, the Survivor and Carer afternoon tea, the Candlelight Ceremony and Entertainment and Activities throughout the event.

How do I get involved?

Register a team of family and friends, or a work or a school team online at RelayForLife.org.au.

You can also reach out to Anne Miller on 0439 007 960 for more information.

Meredith & district NEWS



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

NEWS & VIEWS

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

DATES AND DEADLINES

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

ADVERTISING

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

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

A \$20 loading applies for preferred position. Please submit in jpeg format, if available.

Classifieds are **FREE** for small, personal notices from residents. Otherwise \$7.50 on invoice or \$5.00 if paid on lodgement. Community Groups can have a 1/4 page ad for free or a \$30.00 discount on larger ads. (conditions apply)

SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you are outside our delivery area you can subscribe for \$35.00 p.a. plus GST (11 issues) and get the Meredith and District News posted to you anywhere in Australia.

CONTACT US

Post Office, Meredith, 3333

Advertising: Ian 0409 016815

advertising@meredithnews.com.au

Accounts: Mike 0419 307044

accounts@meredithnews.com.au

Editorial: Jim: 0409 163169

news@meredithnews.com.au

WEB

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

ONLINE PHOTOS

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

DISCLAIMER

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

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

connect

ADVANCE
MEREDITH
0409 027 359

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
Lethbridge
0435 042077

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

emergency

Police, Ambulance, Fire	000
(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 Ranger	0408 508 635 52207111
or	0409 830 223
Bannockburn Vet	5281 1221
a/h emergency	0407 811 222
Golden Plains Animal	5281 2226
Pets and Horses 24/7	0421 617 238

Justices of the Peace

Mr Don Atherton. 0409 869 960

Mr Paul Ryan Elaine 0409 861 296

services

CEMETERY TRUST

5286 1550

HALL HIRE

Meredith Memorial
5286 1545
Elaine Mechanics
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



Where you see wrong or inequality or injustice, speak out,
because this is your country. This is your democracy. Make it.
Protect it. Pass it on.

Thurgood Marshall



COMMUNITY

Anzac Day Ceremony back again

Cathie Boer

Once again the hall was full with over 150 people attending this year's ceremony.

Unfortunately the number of Veterans was down, but numbers were made up of Cubs, Scouts, CFA, CERT, school children, family and friends.

Local RSL member, Peter Nemstas (Ex-RAAF) gave a very interesting talk about his family, having come from the Gallipoli area, and the impact of the conflict.

The weather was perfect for the march around the block and wreath laying ceremony. Morning tea was provided by Jackie Ferry, and the music accompaniment by Dawn McDonald.



Meredith Senior Citizens

Written by Jim Hynds

We held a High Tea on Monday, April 11th and members were invited to bring along old or strange objects. The turn out was huge, to say the least. There was fine jewellery, an old watch, old irons, Bibles, wonderful old photos, a lamp, urns, a padlock and many other objects, too many to mention individually, three tables full in fact.

Members sat down to a fabulous array of mixed sandwiches and cakes supplied by Mortimer Roadhouse, Meredith. After satisfying our need for food we went about viewing all the objects on display. Each member gave a speech about the object they had brought.

To pick the winners we asked for acclamation or clapping. Lyn Blake was the outright winner with a beautiful Fob Watch, a family heirloom which was about 102 years old. Well done Lyn! I presented a very weird looking lamp believed to be a carbide light used on a bicycle. Nancy O'Brien produced a massive steel padlock still in good condition and in working order which she found in one of the sheds on their property. Nan Ward brought in a lovely lady's silver belt that had been in her family for many years. It fitted an 18-inch waist.

Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all of the members who brought such a wonderful collection for us to see and discuss. It was a very successful day.



Meredith Community Centre
working for our community

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Community Members are welcome to attend our Annual General Meeting scheduled for;
Monday 16th MAY at 10.30am

Meredith Community Centre, 4 Russell Street, Meredith
TO - Elect this year's Committee Positions & to present the Annual Financial Report.
All Welcome

Bookings - Leah - 03 5286 0700 / 0491 184 999

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

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



Our cover this month features the Anzac day ceremony at the local Meredith Cenotaph. Thanks Cathie Boer for the great picture.



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

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

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

Youth group Sun. 8/5 and 22/5, 12.15 followed by lunch, Bannockburn, contact Monique 0432 040 906

Sat. 7/5, Mother's Day Breakfast, 9 am, Rustic Ram Meredith (Bookings through Parish office or Mary Foster 0424 037 542)

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

Sun. 11 am St. Mary MacKillop, Bannockburn

Sun. 8/5, 22/5, **9 am** St. Joseph's, Meredith

Sun. 1/5, 15/5, **9 am** St. Brigid's Anakie

Sun. 15/5, 4 pm Sacred Heart, Inverleigh

Tues. 24/5, Our Lady Help of Christians, 9 am, Bannockburn

Wed. 26/5, Ascension of the Lord, 11 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.

We're hosting a Biggest Morning Tea

Please support us!



BIGGEST MORNING TEA

**TUESDAY 28TH JUNE 2022 AT
MEMORIAL HALL MEREDITH.**

COST \$25/HEAD.

**THEME 'WIZARD OF OZ'
INFORMATION/BOOKING MARY
0424037542**

More than just tyres at Bannockburn.

60 Holder Road Bannockburn ☎ **5281 1666**

BRIDGESTONE Bridgestone Service Centre

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)

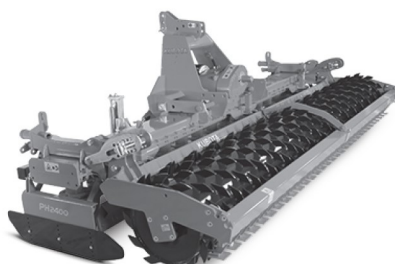
Best Decorated Pumpkin of any type using natural materials
(Adults, Children - all ages)



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Meredith Community Centre
working for our community

What's On

**COMING UP****Mums & Bubs****Movement, Mindfulness & Meditation with Jade**

Starting May 10 - 9.30am - \$10 per class

For Kids!**Movement, Mindfulness & Meditation with Jade**

Starting May 10 - 4.00pm - \$10 per class

2 Day Mosaic Workshop with Di

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

Macrame with Anita

Thursday June 2 - Spiral Pothanger - \$50

Thursday June 23 - Key Wristlet & Hat Hanger - \$50

Digital Essentials Level 1 with Leah

Come and have some fun learning about your device!

Starting in Term 2 - Wednesdays & Fridays

\$6 per session - bookings essential!

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 - \$2 per family

Join the Meredith Playgroup Page on Facebook for Updates!

BCYF - AOD/Mental Health

Wednesdays at the Community Centre

1300 022 293

Young Artists Club with Jen Jones

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

Wednesday Sewing Group!

Starting at 1:00 - 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:

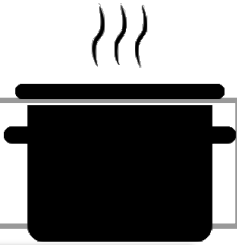
MONDAY - 9:15 - 2:15

WEDNESDAY - 9:15 - 2:15

FRIDAY - 9:15 - 2:15



easy *and* delish



Poached Pears in Spiced Brown Sugar Syrup

Prep Time 10 mins Cook time 40 mins

Serves 4

Ingredients

- 1 vanilla bean halved lengthways
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 1/4 tsp nutmeg
- 2 cups firmly packed brown sugar
- 4 Packham pears or beurre bosc pears, peeled

Method

1. Place 4 cups of cold water, vanilla, cinnamon, nutmeg and sugar in a saucepan over medium-high heat. Bring to the boil and reduce heat to medium-low.
2. Add pears and cook partially covered, turning occasionally, for 18-20 minutes or until the pears are just tender. Remove from heat. Allow pears to cool in syrup, turning occasionally. Using a slotted spoon, transfer pears to a plate.
3. Return syrup to a high heat. Bring to the boil. Boil for 10 minutes or until liquid is reduced by one-third. Serve pears with sugar syrup, cream and or ice cream.

Recipe from: Taste.com

Stefania

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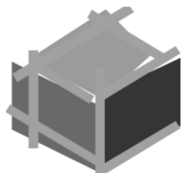


Anthony Mobile: 0409 524438

ABN 63614843881

aandrurranbricklaying@bigpond.com

www.DURRANBricklaying.com



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MASTER BUILDER



Bannockburn Pharmacy Newsletter

Proprietors: Scott Wilkes & Damian Bennett

6 High St

Bannockburn VIC 3331 Phone: 5281 1516

Be prepared this flu season (Vaccination Clinic)

Our pharmacists, Scott, Pritti and 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 10.00 am - 6.00pm	Tuesday 10.00 am - 6.00pm
Wednesday 10.00 am - 6.00pm	Thursday 9.00 am - 4.00pm
Friday 10.00 am - 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 a 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 required from your Doctor
- \$25.00 (\$15.00 for the vaccine + \$10.00 for the administration of the vaccine by one of our accredited pharmacists)
- Free flu vaccine + \$10.00 for the administration by one of our accredited pharmacists if you fall into one of the following categories:
 - i) i) Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children aged 6 months to <5 years
 - ii) ii) Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander persons > 15 years
 - iii) iii) All persons > 65 years
 - iv) 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) v) Pregnant women

*** Whooping Cough vaccination cost**

- No prescription required from your Doctor
- \$47.00 (\$37.00 for the vaccine + \$10.00 for the administration of the vaccine by one of our accredited pharmacists)
- Free whooping cough vaccine + \$10.00 for the administration by one of our accredited pharmacists if you fall into one of the following categories:
 - i) i) Pregnant women from 28 weeks gestation during every pregnancy
 - ii) 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) 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 last 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 book online through our Facebook page. www.facebook.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:	8.30 am - 6.30pm
Tuesday:	8.30 am - 6.30pm
Wednesday:	8.30 am - 6.30pm
Thursday:	8.30 am - 6.30pm
Friday:	8.30 am - 6.30pm
Saturday:	8.30 am - 1.00pm
Sunday:	CLOSED

Vaccination Clinic - Flu and Whooping Cough vaccinations



As you walk through the bush or along a country road, look carefully at the ground around you. The weather has turned cold, but there is plenty of life enjoying the rain. Mosses and lichens have rehydrated and expanded. Fungi are sending up their fruiting bodies from the mass of threads which live permanently in the soil, leaf litter and wood. Watch for the range of colours, sizes and shapes that the different species will exhibit over the coming months.

The flowers of autumn and winter are also showing themselves, although less obviously than the bright displays of spring. One plant that flowers throughout this time is Cranberry Heath. Look for patches of tiny narrow leaves, each about 1cm long, usually dark green but sometimes bluish, and always with a sharp point on the tip of every leaf. Within this prickly mat are spots of red. Each is a tubular flower, slightly longer than a leaf. The open end of the tube is split into five triangular petals, spreading outwards, each covered in pale hairs. It looks like a tiny pink star on the end of a red tube. These flowers are appreciated by honeyeaters at this time of year when there are fewer flowers or insects to provide food. Their narrow pointed beak and tongue, with its brush-like tip, reach deep into the flowers to drink the nectar at their base. Anthers, laden with pollen, are positioned at the entrance to the tube. Pollen is left on the bird's beak, and is transferred to the next flower from which it feeds.

Although Cranberry Heath is not well-known, another heath is our state floral emblem. The pink flowering form of Common Heath *Epacris impressa* was chosen in 1958. There are also white and red flowering forms, and they are easily found in the bush during winter. Their slender branches of small, tough, sharp-tipped leaves reach to 1m high. In the cooler months, the upper branches are crowded with flowers, obvious against the greens of the surrounding plants. Their flowers are similar to those of Cranberry Heath, but much larger and with no hairs on the petals. If you are quiet, you may be fortunate enough to see an Eastern Spinebill feeding among the Common Heath plants. It is easy to recognise with its dark head, white throat ornamented with a brown triangle, sandy chest and grey back. This honeyeater has an especially long curved beak, ideal for reaching the nectar at the end of long tubular flowers. It may perch on the branch of the shrub where it is feeding, or hover in front of its flowers.

Some heaths do not require their pollinators to have such long beaks. The floral tubes of Common Beard-heath are very short. The flowers grow in dense clusters at the ends of the branches of these small bushes, which only grow to half a metre tall. Their buds are pink, but open into tiny flowers with petals covered in hairs. If you are looking downwards, the intense white of each group of flowers is obvious against the green of the shrub. Peer at them closely and you can see the dense beard on every petal.

Common Beard-heath flowers start appearing in late autumn, continue through winter and into spring.

Another heath that flowers in spring, and may still be found in summer, is Daphne Heath. It is named for the beautiful perfume of its flowers, often noticeable as you approach these 1m high bushes, which do not have prickly leaves. The tubes of the flowers are white, and shorter and narrower than those of Common Heath. They grow close-packed towards the end of every little branch on the bush. Like Cranberry Heath, the petals at the ends of the tubes split to form a star. Daphne Heath's stars are white, with long points and no hairs. Brown anthers in the entrance of each tube create a brown centre for every star.

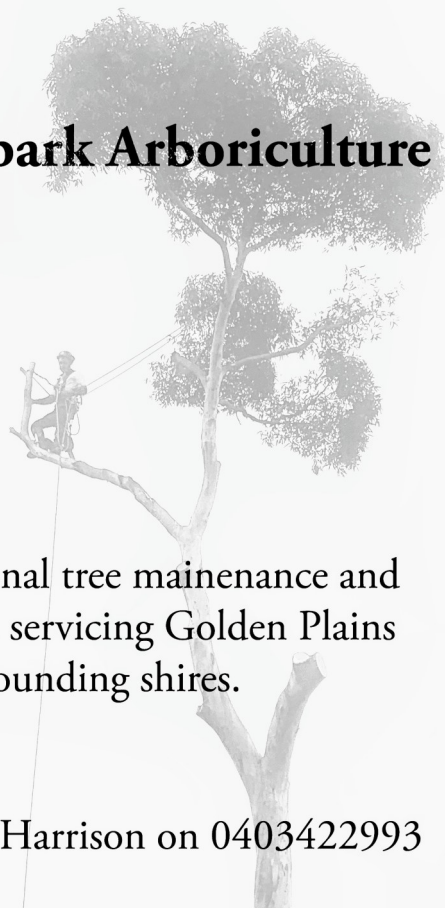
There are a few other species of heaths that you may find locally. All have small tough leaves, usually with a sharp tip and tubular flowers, some short, some longer. Most have white flowers, although a few have pink. Once flowering is complete, the tubes fall to the ground, and pollinated ovaries within the flowers swell to form small fruit. Keep watching and you may witness the return of the birds, as they make the most of this new source of food provided by the heath plants.



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Package 2

Ideal for larger service-based businesses with 3 or more professionals and an established client email database

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Monthly eNews

Updates written by your professionals, professionally designed by us and sent to your clients/customers monthly. In line with the Spam Act, unsubscribes are managed automatically.



Visit our website to find out more: www.mulcahymarketing.com.au

Phone: Gavin 0448 686 560 or Rachel 0428 391 880





Chickens, Goats and Pumpkins...

The Meredith Pumpkin challenge is on again. So, I am thinking there is going to a lot of pumpkin around to eat. However, the giant pumpkins are often not so good to eat. They tend to be stringy, watery, and flavourless.

However, chickens love them and, in our experience, go crazy for them, which is great as the flesh of pumpkins is full of vitamins A, B, and C. It's also packed with zinc and potassium. All of these are key nutrients that your chooks need, and may even be deficient in.

When it's your first time feeding the chickens pumpkins, they might be hesitant. But, once they begin pecking at the pumpkin, there's no stopping them! When chickens taste the pumpkin, they won't be able to get enough. Chickens usually devour the whole pumpkin from the fibrous guts, seeds, flesh, and a fair bit of its skin.

Pumpkins are rich in Vitamin A, a vitamin that is essential for the plumage and overall health of your chickens. The deficiency of this vitamin can make them vulnerable to health issues like poor feathering, pale wattles and combs, and nasal discharge. They contain Vitamin C in abundance, which is indispensable in maintaining their immune responses and protecting them from all kinds of diseases and infections. Pumpkins also contain potassium, a key mineral in helping your chickens deal with extreme heat. Potassium will lend a deeper orange shade to the yolk of their eggs.

Pumpkins are one of those fruits {A pumpkin, from a botanist's perspective, is a fruit because it's a product of the seed-bearing structure of flowering plants}, that are filled with all goodness. However, they can only benefit when fed in moderation.

Chickens adore pumpkin seeds. They'll gobble them up fresh out of the pumpkin.

You can crush the seeds using a food processor if you think these are too big for chickens to eat. Yet, you can also serve the pumpkin seeds as they are. Zinc is found in the shell membrane of the pumpkin seed, so don't shell the seeds before giving them to your chickens. Lack of zinc can bring stunted growth and deformity of your poultry and seeds also good source of Potassium.

Pumpkin seeds contain Vitamin E which is essential in the chickens' immune system, as it protects chickens from some diseases, but does not cure them. Such diseases are bronchitis, coccidiosis, and e.coli. Vitamin E deficiency can cause a wry neck in chickens. (chick has difficulty standing and her neck seems to be twisted around so that she's looking backwards or towards the sky)

Pumpkin as a dewormer: The seeds of pumpkins are believed to contain a deworming compound called cucurbitacin, which has been used to expel tapeworms and roundworms in domestic livestock species for years. However, there is no evidence that pumpkin or pumpkin seeds act as a general dewormer in chickens.

Left-over pumpkins will attract rodents, so make sure you take pumpkins out of the coop or run when you lock the chooks up for the night. Rodents usually are on guard for an easy meal, and pumpkins are one of them. More so, left-over pumpkins become wet and mouldy, and as such will be harmful to your chickens.

Pumpkins are absolutely safe for goats to eat.

Pumpkins have a high level of fibre, plus as we have said, Vitamin A, B, and E. It is no doubt that Vitamin A helps strengthen goats' immune system as well as prevent and cure dry eyes in goats.

Although most of a pumpkin's content is water, it will still provide enough protein source for goat development. Our goats love pumpkin. Give your goat a pumpkin, she will finish it whole and even want more.

But just like with chickens, rotten pumpkin is harmful for a goat to eat. If the pumpkin is rotten or mouldy, you should discard it. But the good news is, goats are picky eaters. They know what food is good for their stomach.

The seeds contain a substance called cucurbitacin which is known as a natural dewormer that can paralyse worms especially tapeworms. Therefore, unlike chickens, if you want to deworm your goats, you can add pumpkin seeds to their daily feeds. Pumpkin leaves and vines are also enjoyed by goats. After harvesting the pumpkins, do not throw the plants in the compost, those leaves and stalks are rich in fibre, making it ideal especially for goats especially when food sources are limited.

So, after the pumpkin judging, take home your pumpkin and feed your chooks and goats, or pass them onto someone's who owns either goats and/or chooks, they and their animals will greatly appreciate it.

PS If you have many pumpkins either for yourself or the goats and chooks, you may need to store them before using throughout the coming months.

So, when vines start to die down and you harvest a pumpkin, remember to always leave a length of the stalk attached - like a handle - but don't carry it by the stalk as it could rip the top of the pumpkin, so remove pumpkin from the vine, leave them in the sun for about a week to cure. Once the pumpkins are cured, clean the outside with a dry towel. Don't put water on the pumpkin as it can leach into the skin and cause rot. Remove any dirt or debris on the outside of the pumpkin. Use a dry cloth and apply a thin layer of oil to the outside of the pumpkin. The oil (vegetable/canola etc) creates a barrier that will help keep moisture and pathogens out of the pumpkin. Once they are oiled, store them on a shelf in a cool (around 15° C) room in the dark. Do not stack pumpkins on top of each other when you store them.

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Kerry Thomson

After a restless night worrying about drawing in a public place, I ventured into a glorious day in Meredith. Meeting with 7 other intrepid 'sketchers' at the Community Hall at 10.30am, Mandy suggested that we cross the road and draw the old Meredith Railway Station.

Friendly smiles, encouraging words and an interesting vista made for a very pleasant time. Beth and I moved to the town side of the tracks where we loved the building being framed by a range of old imported English trees (not really noticed when you drive past on the nearby road). The others boldly took on the full frontal view of the station. After an hour most of us repositioned for another drawing with a new perspective.

We must have had fun (and my early nerves were totally unwarranted in such a happy, supportive group) because time flew as we were soon sharing our ink, pen, charcoal, watercolour, pastel and pencil sketches. We were delighted and amazed by so many different responses to the one scene. It was a fabulous start to the Meredith Sketchers' first outing and we're all looking forward to future sessions on the first Tuesday of each month.



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Giant Pumpkin Challenge

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They are prizes for champions in these categories:

*** Biggest Pumpkin * Heaviest Pumpkin**

1. Adults
2. Children up to and including kinder age
3. Children in Prep/1/2
4. Children in Grades 3/4/5/6

Best Decorated Pumpkin using Natural Materials

1. Adult
2. Child

*Friday 13th May 1pm
at Meredith Primary School*



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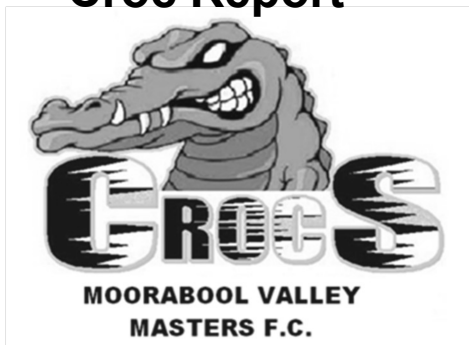
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Croc Report



By Mick Devlin

The Moorabool Valley Masters Football Club is an over 35's Masters football club located in Meredith. We have players from around the local community and several players from the Geelong region. We promote men's health, both physical and mental and community spirit. We enjoy a run around and a beer and everyone is welcome. Our first game of the year against Gippsland was cancelled due to not enough players, on our behalf, being available to travel. This was very disappointing but Gippsland, to their credit were understanding.

April 10th saw Gisborne Bulldogs travel to Meredith. It was a fantastic day weather wise, and the oval was in the best condition I have seen for a long time. We also celebrated a legend of the club Phillip "Doopa" Cranach playing 100 games. Rene "the incredible Hulk" Kink was our special guest for our pre game speech. Thanks very much to Damo Kelly for organising that.

The Bulldogs were a couple of men short and as always, a couple of our Crocs players filled in for them. It was a pretty even game up to half time. With a strong wind against us in the third quarter, our backline really stood up and held the Bulldogs out for most of the quarter, which

set us up for a big fourth quarter. The fourth quarter saw us coming home with the wind, and we managed to kick away to a comfortable win. All in all, it was a great day and the Gisborne fellas were great sports.

Best players for the Crocs were Daryl Jones kicking 6 goals, Matthew and Shaun Lewis, providing great run and clearance out of the middle, Mick Battye with a great game all over the ground, Shaun Faulkner played fullback and was fantastic, with pinpoint kicking. Paul Nolan, who took on board everything that Rene spoke about in the pre-game speech, really put his head over the ball and attacked really hard.

A big thank you and welcome to our 2 new players Mick Murray and John Cranston. We hope you enjoyed yourself and can't wait to see you back on the track.

As always Wendy and Kev did a great job with the afternoon tea and running the Bar, and thanks also to Meg for her help. We are very lucky to have such fantastic volunteers and appreciate your efforts very much.

Next home games are as below:

15th May vs Maryborough @ Meredith

26th June vs Bendigo @ Meredith

24th July vs Kerang @ Meredith

7th August vs Melton @ Meredith

Players Wanted

The season has kicked off for this year. We are always looking for new players to come and join our great club.

If anyone is interested in playing or volunteering or would like any more information, please contact the below:

Mick Devlin (coach) 0413609863

Mick Rooney (President) 0408545246

Thanks very much to our Local business support who provide all the best player awards each game;

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Meredith Cricket Club

21/22 Season Wrap Up



Terry Hart

The 2021/22 season officially concluded for the Rams with our annual Awards Presentation Night held at the Royal Hotel on Saturday the 19th of March. A great night was had by all in attendance.

Special mention must go to our 1st XI vice-captain Chesney Milne who capped off a great season by winning the GCA Div 3 1st XI bowling average, congratulations Ches.

Our 1st XI started the season strongly, winning 6 out of 7 games, but unfortunately couldn't continue the run after Christmas and just missed out on playing finals. The 2nd XI boys also had a solid start to the season, but with a large turn over of players found it difficult to gain momentum and also missed out on a finals berth.

A huge thank you to all players that took the field for the Meredith Cricket Club this season.

On the social scene we held a number of events that were extremely well attended, including our Past Players/Premiership Reunion Day and Ladies Day. Both of these days will be a regular on the social calendar and we look forward to expanding these events in coming seasons.

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Our 2022 **Annual General Meeting** will be held at the Meredith Recreation Reserve on **Wednesday May 18th at 7.00 pm**, come along and have a say in the future direction of one of the oldest (est. 1861) and proudest sporting clubs in the district.

Womens and Junior cricket.

The upcoming season will see the Meredith Cricket Club embarking on some exciting new ventures as we look to field a **womens/girls cricket team**, while also partnering with the Meredith Primary School to commence a **junior**

cricket programme. Stay tuned for more information about these exciting developments.

For more information contact- Shane 0466 263 013, Damian 0414 876 693, Kane 0408 325 818 or follow us on Facebook-@Meredith Cricket Club
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From the Mayor



Cr Gavin Gamble

Council is committed to community engagement and providing opportunities for residents to have their say and discuss their needs and ideas with Councillors.

This year, we launched a new engagement initiative to support the development of the Draft Budget 2022/23 (Draft Budget). This initiative provided residents with the opportunity to share their priorities for the Draft Budget in line with the Council Plan 2021-2025 themes of Community, Liveability, Sustainability and Prosperity, with the additional theme of Leadership.

We thank the community members who took part in this engagement and we're pleased to have their input in the early development of the Draft Budget.

At the meeting of Council on Tuesday 26 April, 2022, Councillors endorsed the Draft Budget for public exhibition. Council is now welcoming submissions on the Draft Budget from all Golden Plains community members. Copies of the Draft Budget and the submission form are available at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations

Community members will also be able to make a submission in-person or via Zoom at a Council Meeting on Tuesday 9 June, 2022. To make a submission at the meeting please contact Council at **5220 7111** or email enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au.

One of the highlights of my first year as a Councillor was participating in the Connecting Councillors and Our Communities program, which provided community groups and local organisation with the opportunity to have a Councillor attend one of their meetings.

As a resolution of Council and a continuation of our commitment to community engagement, we are pleased to once again offer this opportunity to community groups and local organisations. Community groups interested in having a Councillor attend a meeting are encouraged to make a request by contacting enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au or calling **5220 7113**.

We look forward to attending these meetings and learning more about these groups from their members.

Mayor Cr Gavin Gamble

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The Future of Aged and Disability Services

Media Release

At its meeting on Tuesday, 22 March, Council resolved to transition out of the delivery of aged and disability care, with the services to move to a dedicated sector provider.

The impacted services are home and community care services to assist older people, those recovering from acute care and people with disabilities to continue to live independently in the community, including the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) and Home and Community Care for Younger People (HACCPYP).

Service clients and their families have been informed of Council's decision and will be supported through the transition by Council management and the Active Ageing & Inclusion team. All clients will continue to receive the services they are currently provided without interruption, with Council's delivery to cease on 30 June 2022 and a new dedicated provider starting in-home care on 1 July 2022. Beyond the date of transfer, Council staff will continue to be available to support clients through the transition and will offer dedicated support to existing and new clients of aged and disability services in the Shire.

Council management has been supporting affected staff during the Best Value Review process which began in November 2021 and all staff have been informed of Council's decision to transition from the current service delivery. Affected staff will be supported individually through a range of options including redeployment opportunities, paid redundancies and advice on future career pathways in the aged and disability care sector.

The Australian Government has sole policy and funding responsibility for the delivery of aged services and has announced a new national system for the sector that will be implemented from 1 July 2023. It is a significant change and Council's Best Value Review of Aged and Disability Services determined that this new system will negatively impact Council's commitment to deliver high quality services that provide the best value to the community.

Clients and family members with questions about the changes to aged and disability services are welcome to call Council's Active Ageing & Inclusion team to have a chat on **5220 7151**.



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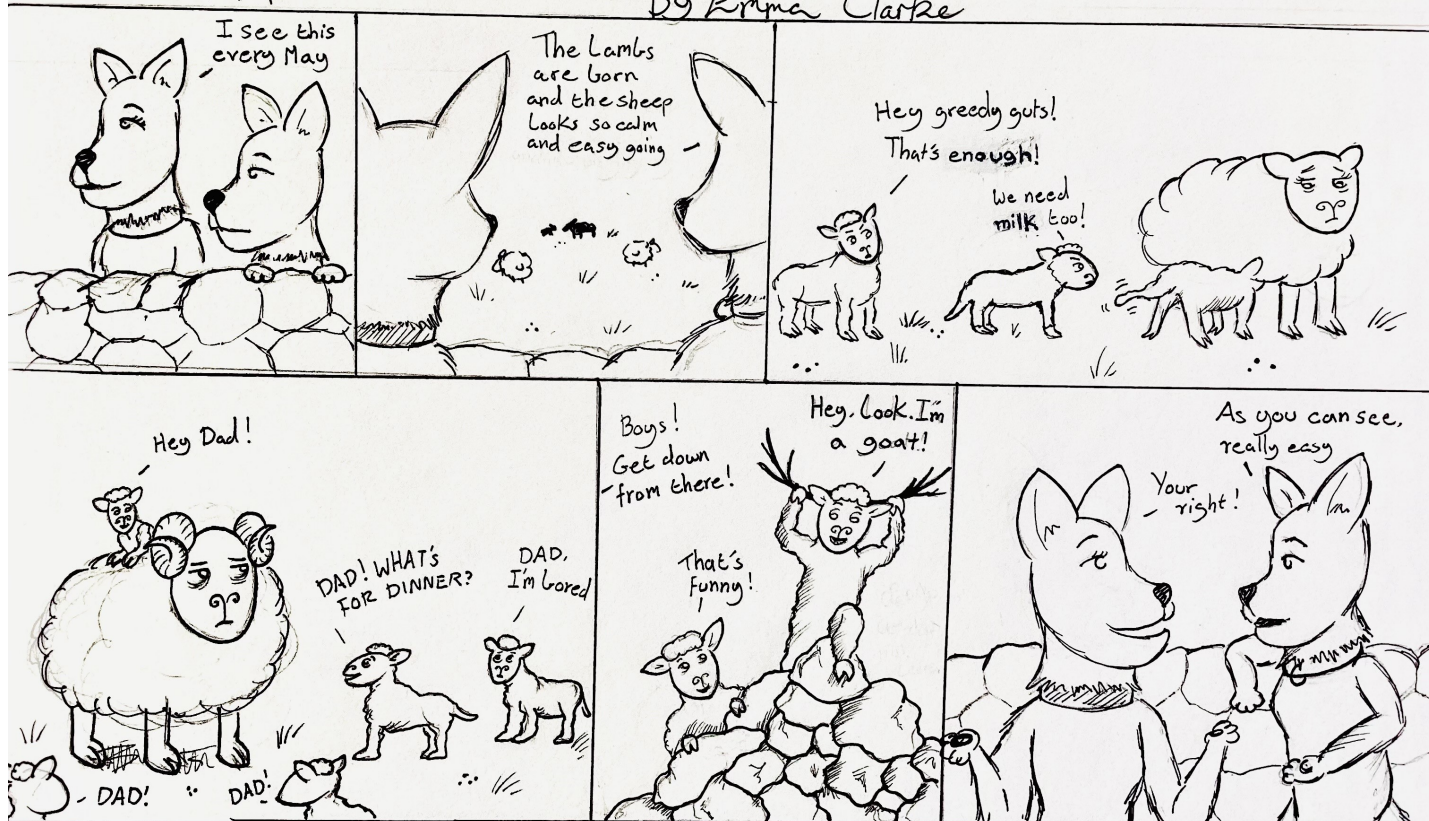
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Kelpie Kapers! © #31

By Emma Clarke



The End

A Drain becomes a Creek

Marg Cooper

A snowflake melts high up in the Andes Mountains in Peru and so starts the mighty Amazon River, the longest river by volume in the world. Similarly, a rain drop falls south-east of Elaine and so starts the Coolebarghurk Creek, a creek not very long but with importance to the district.

It is natural for drops of water to join with other drops, then flow, always down because of gravity. The water flows over the land, into depressions to make puddles, through drains and culverts, under roads and bridges, into dams and into the Coolebarghurk Creek.

So after rain, water flows from south-east of Elaine and under what is now the Midland Highway, joining with water north of the Highway. As it winds its way, following the surface of the earth, depending on the topography, it collects water from surrounding farmland to become Coolebarghurk Creek.

Herb Parkinson, a farmer and a keen observer of nature looked out his kitchen window on Boundary Road and said, *see those big pine trees just south of the road about half way to the highway from here, from those trees on the east side the water flows to Coolebarghurk Creek, from the west side of those trees the water flows to the Woodburn Creek.*

The Coolebarghurk Creek is unique to Meredith as it rises east of Elaine and flows into the Moorabool River a few hundred metres west of Sharps Bridge at She Oaks. So, Meredith is the only town it flows through, it is the only watercourse that flows through Meredith and it is probably the only creek by that name, in the country.

Like many creeks in the district it is not a permanently flowing watercourse and in some parts is shallow and barely discernible. However, in some parts, eg west of Gargans Road, it is fed by several natural springs which ensure that there are pools of water in the creek even in the driest times.

Blake in his book *Place Names of Victoria* records that Coolebarghurk is believed to be a version of the Wathaurong name *Kool bar ghurk* meaning *man's track by the creek*.

The Wathaurong were the local Aboriginal tribe who would have fished, hunted and gathered plants from along the creek for thousands of years before white settlement.

Today a lot of the creek is choked with weeds and is fairly insignificant in the general landscape but through history it has played an important role for the people of the surrounding districts.

Next Chapter: A Place for a Village.



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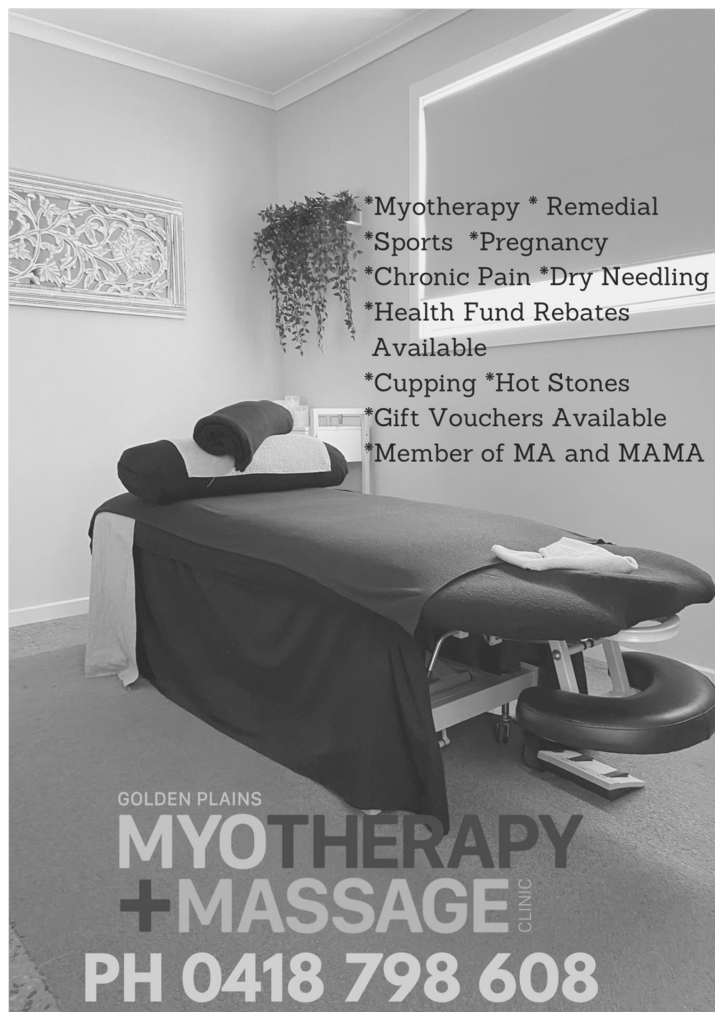
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In the School Garden

It has been a quiet time in the school garden this past month as there has been a break of two weeks for the school holidays. However, even without the children and staff, the garden continued on its own way growing and producing.

Some of the prep and grade one children had lots of fun planting **sugar snap and snow pea seeds** just before the holidays. It was heartening to see them beginning to sprout after only one good soaking when they were put in, and the very welcome rain a week later. Peas are good fixers of nitrogen in the soil so we will be able to put in plants afterwards that need feeding.

The grade two/three/four children started their **broad beans** in jars with damp paper towel so they could watch them sprout. They also did a little experiment beforehand. We had heard that shapes or marks burnt into the seeds would produce the same patterns on the first two leaves. We had a fun time burning shapes and letters into the beans and carefully watched as the leaves unfolded. There were definitely marks on the leaves but, as is often the way with experiments, not really what we expected. We will do some more research and have another go next year. In the meantime, the seeds have grown into healthy seedlings and will no doubt reward us with plenty of pods later in the year.

Also planted were some **sweet pea seeds** which traditionally go in around St Patrick's Day in March. We hope to grow them on an old outdoor umbrella frame to make a sweet pea teepee display.

Kym arrived one day with a lovely garden surprise: four large pots with **rosemary and thyme** plants. We had been talking about putting some scented herbs in our scarecrow garden so these gifts were perfect. A very sincere thank you to Maxie for thinking of us.

The **tomato bushes** are still producing both flowers and tomatoes so we will leave them in for a while longer. The bees are enjoying both the bushes and the herbs planted with them.

The newest planting to go in was the **garlic**. We saved some from last year's harvest as, like many seeds and bulbs, they adapt to the conditions and tend to produce well. The prep and grade one children learnt how to separate the cloves, which way is up for garlic and how deep to plant them. They enjoyed digging and popping in the cloves and in no time at all they will see green shoots emerging from the soil. There is a longer wait till they mature and we can make the Cheesy Roasted Garlic Bread that was popular throughout the school at the end of last year.

As well as **garlic, broad beans and peas** this month, you can plant **broccoli and onions**, too. It's also not too late to plant **flower bulbs** like tulips and hyacinths, especially in pots, for a beautiful springtime display.

On a happy note, we will have a pumpkin for the **Meredith District Newsletter Giant Pumpkin Challenge**. It is not large or heavy but at least we have an entry this year. Perhaps we will put it in the Decorated Pumpkin section.

Remember the changed categories this year:

Adult *Children to kinder age

***Children in Prep/1/2**

***Children in Grade 3/4/5/6 for the Heaviest Pumpkin and the Largest Pumpkin**

And the brand new category -

Best Decorated with any Natural Materials

Put **Friday 13th May 1pm at school** in your diaries. Even without a pumpkin, come along and have fun admiring the entries.

Just in case you have **chocolate** left over from Easter, here is an excellent recipe from the team at OzHarvest who don't like to see anything go to waste, especially chocolate.

Easter Egg Cookies

Uneaten Easter chocolate

175g butter

100g brown sugar

100g caster sugar

1 tbsp vanilla extract

1 egg

250g plain flour

1/2 tsp bicarb soda

Heat oven to 170C

Place butter, sugars and vanilla into a bowl and beat until fluffy. Add the egg and beat in.

By hand, fold in the flour, bicarb and a pinch of salt.

Chop the leftover chocolate into chunks then mix into the batter till combined.

Scoop golf ball sized mounds of dough onto baking trays with plenty of space between each one.

Chill in the fridge for 15 minutes then bake for 10-12 minutes until golden.

These are definitely to be saved for treats so it is good to know you don't have to eat them all at once. The dough balls can be frozen to enjoy at a later time. Simply defrost in the fridge before baking.



Cody Sophie and Annie planting garlic



MOORABOOL Wind Farm

COMMUNITY UPDATE

May 2022

Moorabool North Wind Farm

Progress to date

- Up to 75MW (27 turbines) operating

Look ahead

- AEMO Compliance (Hold Point #3) testing to begin in April 2022, leading to operations

Moorabool South Wind Farm

Progress to date

- Full-Commissioning of three (3) turbines complete

Look ahead

- AEMO Compliance (Hold Point #3) testing to begin in April 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.



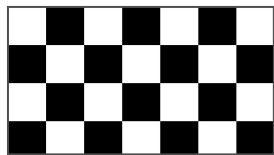
Moorabool Wind Farm Community Fund 2022

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 opens on the 1st 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.





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

I hope the Meredith and district community had a happy and safe Easter.

A quick wrap up of what has unfolded out of the Meredith Police Station over the course of the previous few months.

With the assistance of Moorabool C.I.U, Ballarat D.R.U, Western Region Crime Squad and the Australian Federal Police- National Anti Gang Squad, a search warrant was executed in Morrisons in March 2022, resulting in the seizure of multiple firearms, a large quantity of imitation firearms, various prohibited weapons, power tools, explosive related items and cannabis plants.

A 43 year old man was charged with cultivating narcotics, possession of firearms without a licence and the possession of prohibited weapons and bailed to appear before the Ballarat Magistrates Court. The investigation remains on-going.

A separate warrant was also executed in Teesdale in March, resulting in the seizure of an imitation firearm (gel blaster) and various weapons (inclusive of knuckle dusters and a machete). The investigation remains on-going.

In late April, a vehicle intercept at approximately 4:30AM in Bannockburn resulted in the subsequent location and seizure of Cannabis and unauthorised prescription medications. A 21 year old male was charged with possession of drugs of dependence and resisting arrest and was bailed to appear before the Ballarat Magistrates Court.

The issues of drugs and illegal firearms remain an issue throughout all communities. Any information in relation to the same or any other illegal activity can be reported to your local Police Station or via Crime Stoppers.

On the 5th of April I was lucky enough to be invited to the Meredith Primary School, and assist with their ‘Heroes Day’ to help raise funds for the Good Friday Appeal. To say the day was a success, would be an understatement. In partnership with real local heroes from the Meredith CERT, Meredith C.F.A and Ambulance Victoria, the day was a lot of fun, not only for the children of Meredith Primary, but also those that come and assisted.

I also just wanted to take the opportunity to thank all of those involved in both the Meredith CERT and local C.F.A’s. I have now had the opportunity to first hand observe the work of these special individuals out on the road, and can not thank or praise you all enough. The time and care dedicated to your local community is nothing short of remarkable. The late night wake up calls, the ability to drop what your doing and respond to those in

need is admirable. On behalf of Victoria Police, and the local Meredith Community, I thank you to all involved.

Take care, and stay safe. Be sure to wave and say G’day.

James

Art on the Farm



Pictured at Adele and Steve Duffy’s recent “Art on the Farm” exhibition are (from left) Steve, Keith Taylor, Roy Taylor, Joan Taylor, Adele and Lyall Stephens. Joan and Roy lived on the farm many years ago and were impressed with the Duffy’s restoration and use of the farm buildings. Among the exhibition visitors was Graeme Hamilton-Smith, who recalled shearing in this same shed.

Change to Electoral Boundaries

Since the last federal election, changes have been made to the boundary between the Corangamite and Ballarat electoral divisions which will effect most of our district residents. The following extract from the Golden Plains Shire’ website summarises the changes and you can get more specific information at electorate.aec.gov.au/

“The boundaries will see the majority of Golden Plains Shire sit within the Ballarat division which has been expanded to the south-west and now includes the Golden Plains townships of Teesdale, Lethbridge, Maude, Meredith, Rokewood, Pitfield, Linton, Garibaldi, Napoleons and Smythesdale. While Bannockburn, Inverleigh, Murgheboluc, Gheringhap and Russells Bridge will remain within the Corangamite division.”

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BALLARATCHOOKS



it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

Open Day, Sunday, May 15, 10 am – 3 pm:
You are welcome to visit the History Centre to see some old ledgers, including a Ledger from the Meredith Bakery, which records bread sold between 1908 and 1935. Also there are books, including the Minute Book of the Meredith Swimming Club between 1931 and 1938, on display.

You are welcome to research your family using the data base or ancestry or to learn, who lived in your house or to purchase a book about Meredith history.

You may like to enjoy some home cooked scones with jam and cream (at a small fee), and to meet other people who are interested in history.

Acclimatisation Society:

The Victorian Acclimatisation Society was founded in 1861, largely through the efforts of Edward Wilson, editor of the Argus. The first acclimatisation society was formed in Paris in 1854. Its aims were to introduce, acclimatise and domesticate useful or ornamental birds, fish, insects, vegetables and other exotic species.

The introduction of exotic species has been going on since the arrival of the first fleet, courtesy of both government sponsored initiatives and private enthusiasts; some have been disastrous, many of the introduced species failed to thrive and some have been successfully farmed throughout Australia.

Pumpkin Competition:

We have grown our pumpkin and have high hopes of having the heaviest pumpkin, this year. We have grown pumpkin plants in the sand pit that was at the kindergarten. We have added all sorts of manure and watered the plants well during the growing season. We have two beauties!

Bamganie Picnic:

Some delightful photos of a picnic at Bamganie School in 1922 have just been copied from an old album that an ex local brought in. There are photos with glimpses of

parts of the school building in the background, the ladies race with the women wearing big hats and billowing skirts, well dressed women and children, with the men smartly attired in suits with waistcoats, ties, hats and fob watches. Two of the most entertaining photos are of the Bun Race; children, both boys and girls, eating buns that are tied to a rope strung between two bush poles. The children have their hands behind their backs! It may have been Easter!

Lost Trades:

If you are an expert or have a particular interest in a Lost Trade (maybe a collection) or if you know someone with lost trades skills, please contact us. We are planning a Lost Trades Day in September, possibly Sunday 18th and need some exhibitors.

Email: meredithhistoryinterestgroup@gmail.com or ring 0408109389.

Street Nursery:

If you have any surplus plants please leave them at the street nursery. We plan to have an extra large nursery on the Open Day...plants are welcome for that event, also.



OPEN DAY

Sunday May 15
31 Staughton Street Meredith
10.00 am to 3.00 pm.

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Portable Lockups & Gaols

Sarah Hardiman

Part 1

For over 20 years now I have held a keen interest in the buildings of our Penal history, structures that were built with the purpose of containing our wrong-doers.

It began with a weekend drive to Melbourne, passing by the magnificent gatehouse of Pentridge, and learning that some relatives on one side of the family tree were warders at Pentridge, the other side, Irish convicts who arrived from Galway. It appeared that both sides of the law, so to speak, are clearly in my blood.

My interest has taken me interstate on many occasion, from Fremantle prison & Rottnest, to Adelaide gaol, multiple trips to Tasmania, and a day on Cockatoo Island on Sydney Harbour. I've also been lucky enough to spend the night in Pentridge, as well as multiple visits to Melbourne and Geelong gaols. Family members have also been dragged along on many occasions.

Initially I cast my net far too wide, and naively started researching prisons from across the world, focusing on Australia, the UK, and the United States. Attempting to keep a record of prisons both historical, and operating, was an unrealistic objective. I then decided to cap my study to just Australia, focusing on Victoria.

Victoria's early Penal history is well documented, and many impressive buildings remain today, from the likes of the last cell block of Melbourne Gaol, to the Sandstone beauty that resides on the hill in Castlemaine. Even the most primitive of cells like that in Wycheproof, make you marvel at how far we have come in methods of detaining our law breakers.

Thanks to the Gold Rush in the mid 1850's, some 6000 or so men arriving weekly with dreams of making their fortune in country Victoria meant where there was gold, crime was bound to follow. And of course, with crime, the need for Policing: log gaols, regional prisons, Mounted Police, &

portable timber lock ups became a major industry.

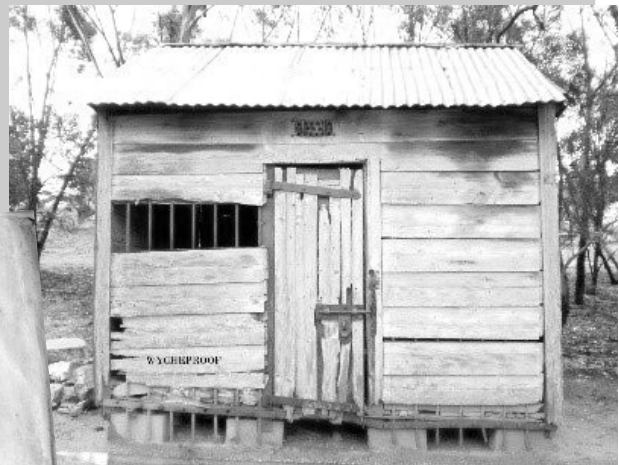
The first portable I ever saw was on a school excursion to the Maritime Museum in Queenscliff. (Still in the yard today) The first I was able to examine up close— once I had started my research, was the cell at Inverleigh (c1888).

Log gaols were in use from the early 1850's, while timber portables first appeared from the 1870's.

Detaining prisoners was becoming a growing concern, and while commissions for larger facilities were under way, the Public Works Department, with a team of skilled carpenters, had been tasked to build the new Ikea-style structures – based on a British design. Flat packed, and ready to reassemble following a system of the planks being numbered in sequence with Roman numerals. Over 90% of the lock ups throughout Victoria were commissioned to be built out of timber – the easiest and cheapest material to source. A small handful were made of iron, such as the Meredith lock up (mid 1850's) - majority designed as single cells. Double cells, although rare were not unheard of.

The cells were essentially thick timber planks encasing a 3m x 3m cage, ideal because it was both escape-proof, transportable & relatively cheap to construct. Ventilation was via vents close to the roof line, also the only source of light. No doubt flu inducing conditions in winter, and unbearable heat in summer.

The intended use of the lock ups was that they be dotted across the main Goldfields route, providing secure short-term accommodation (usually less than a day) for drunks, those awaiting transport to court, as well as an overnight secure holding room for the gold escorts on route back to Melbourne.



Lock up construction plans (courtesy of Victoria Police Museum)

Advance Meredith Association Inc.

SMALL TOWN BIG SPIRIT



A quick update, we have conducted a tree and tree guard audit and have decided to paint all guards.

It was also noted that we have some damaged tree guards that need repairing.

This would be a paid job, so if you are interested and have the skills required, please contact either Peter 0419 539 162 or Marg 0408 109 389 to discuss.

We have also meet with the new community officers from the Golden Plains Shire Council and discussed some of the issues we have had noted in Meredith, signage, lack of car parking lines, gutters to name a few. We will keep you informed as to outcome.

If you have any concerns or queries, please contact AMA by email advancemeredit@gmail.com or President Louise 0427 779 113

We have a subcommittee's investigating the proposals of a country festival/market for Meredith, teen dance and revisiting the Bush Dance Event.

One of our ongoing projects is The Battery Muster.

All profits from battery Muster used to support local events and initiative.

Drop of at Meredith Rural & Pet Supplies during business hours.

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I Bought a Church

Kathryn as told to Marg Cooper

I bought the conglomeration of buildings on the corner of the Midland Highway and Creamery Road because I wanted to live in the country instead of in Melbourne. I like old buildings - especially buildings made of stone! And, I liked the fact that this group of buildings were on a sizeable piece of land.

I have installed some heating as the areas are big and, especially the church, was cold with its very high ceiling. I removed the old kitchen which was on the back of the wooden building and have planted lots of trees and shrubs which both decorate and screen the buildings. In future I plan to re-render the inside walls of the church, subdivide the brick temple space and to plant more trees including an orchard.

I love living in the buildings and love living in Meredith.

In July, 1859 a site of ½ acre was reserved by the Crown for a Free Presbyterian Church in Meredith. A timber church was soon erected. This church measured 30 feet x 15½ feet and cost £85 to build. [The area of land was increased to 2 acres in 1862]

The *old* Free Presbyterian Church was sold for removal. Mr O'Bryan made it into a hay & corn store. [We believe that Mr Henry O'Brien had this store on the south/east corner of the intersection of Wallace and Staughton Streets. In the 1890's he built the store on the north/east corner, which is still there today.]

The Geelong Advertiser of December 1868 reported on the *Laying the Foundation Stone of the Free Presbyterian Church at Meredith.*

Mr W. J. Reid Esq, in the presence of workmen and a number of members of the congregation who were present, notwithstanding the heavy rain falling at the time, performed the ceremony. The Rev McPherson briefly referred to the zeal which Mr Reid had always evinced for the support of religious ordinances in the district. Before the stone was laid, he would read a copy of one of the documents enclosed in the bottle about to be placed under the foundation stone

At Meredith, the 3rd day of December, in the year of the Lord, 1863 being the 32nd year of the reign of her Majesty Queen Victoria, Sir John Henry Thomas Manners Sutton KCB being Governor of the Colony of Victoria. This

document was deposited by James Reid Esq of Woodbourne in a prepared place in the buttress at the south west corner of this building intended for the worship of God in connexion with the Free Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

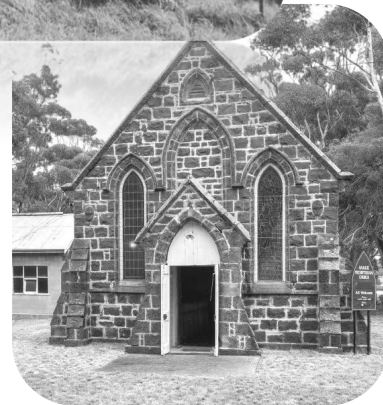
Following was a narrative of the supply of Presbyterian ordinances in the district of Meredith from the earliest times of the Colony.

In 1869 the new bluestone Free Presbyterian Church was opened. It was built at a cost of £600. Brown and Pile did the masonry work.

The church was leased to the Hopetoun Masonic Lodge in 1910 for £12 per annum, when they moved from Steiglitz to Meredith. The Lodge purchased the church in 1934 for £180. The Masonic Lodge built a brick Temple and a large dining room, kitchen and bathrooms onto the bluestone building.

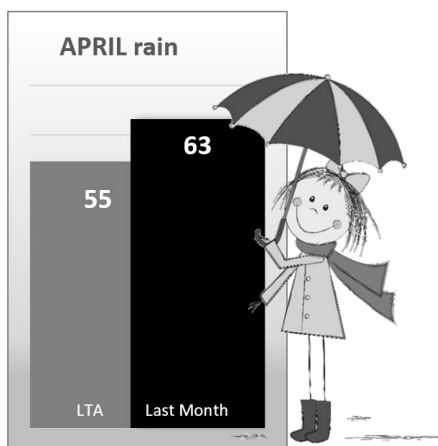
In 2008 the Masonic Lodge invited Meredith History Interest Group to use their building.

They sold it in 2013 to Kathryn and it became a private home.



the rain report

The 2nd last day of the month, when over 23mm fell, got April over the line, ending with 116% of the long term average rainfall for that month.



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New patients welcome

The Myrtle Wiseman Happy 80th Birthday Pace

Marg Cooper

Race 6 at the Geelong Harness Racing Club's meeting on her birthday, Thursday, April 14 was named in honour of Myrtle's 80th birthday. It was a surprise!

Her family invited her and her friend Jenny Emond to attend the meeting to enjoy a meal and to watch the races, including the Jack Powles Memorial Trot, which was Race 7 on the same program. What a wonderful surprise! What an Honour! Their group of eight thoroughly enjoyed the night which had a terrific atmosphere!

Myrtle Wiseman is the daughter of Leslie (Dicko) and Maisie Lowne and is fifth of their 9 children. Her parents settled in a house on the Coolebarghurk Creek, when they came back from Gellibrand after their first child Eva was born. Myrt and her sister Doreen shared a bedroom. They also shared helping their mother milk the cows, feed the pigs, chooks, lambs and calves and light the copper, wash the clothes and peg it on the washing line. Myrt said their mother was nocturnal; she slept during the day and worked at night, so the girls often didn't go to bed until 2 or 3 am. If it was Myrt's turn to help her mother, Doreen cooked the tea. After they started school they also shared the after school jobs of minding the cows and sheep on the road while they grazed and going up the street to do the messages. The girls and their brother Snowy went rabbiting every weekend. Myrt remembers how the family half lived on eels from the creek and rabbits. She refuses to eat either now.

She left school at 14 years of age. In her fifteenth year, her sister Grace, who had married a farmer at Hopetoun, was hospitalised after the birth of her third child. Her husband came to Meredith and asked if Myrt could come back with him to help. Myrt's mother told him that she could go but that she was useless! She is still very attached to Grace's children as she looked after the baby from six weeks of age. She then worked at a Hotel in Hopetoun and on dairy farms at Christmas Hills and Murrabit before coming home to marry Eric Wiseman.

Myrt and Eric had four children. They lived at She Oaks and worked for Tom and Grace East for about 10 years then lived on Bamganie Road and worked for Ron Thompson, before building their house in Read Street.

Animals are her love. She has worked with animals all her life, including about 30 years working with sheep and horses at *Chestervale* for Charles and Jessie Osborne and working with sheep on her own farm, firstly with Eric, then with son Steven, and now on her own. She has received the top price for prime lambs at the Ballarat Market, twice within a fortnight and has topped the price for Victoria once, at the first sale in the new yards. Myrt received the second top price for her lambs, only being beaten by \$2 by the man she buys her rams from.

Her daughters framed photos of her dogs, cats and other animals that she has loved over the years and made flags



for her birthday party featuring many types of animals that she loves. Myrt also loves football and horse racing, usually watching both sports on television. She also loves all the members of her family for organizing a very special trip to the trots on her 80th birthday.



Jim Elvey

Cooler weather makes for pleasant walking conditions so be sure to get out there and enjoy the extensive walking tracks through this beautiful grasslands reserve.

The Meredith Police Paddocks Support Group would love to hear from you if you would like to join us in maintaining these tracks and pursuing other initiatives aimed at making this a great recreational, educational and environment destination.

We have heard no more from the agencies we have lobbied to help with weed management at the site, but the letter from residents published in last month's MaD News has caught the eye of another district publication. The Golden Plains News published an illustrated article in its 28 April edition, outlining the need for government support in maintaining this important site.



The Golden Plains Times article from last month

Keep recyclables loose!

Recycling in plastic bags cannot be sorted.
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Marg's BOOK REVIEW

The Salt Path by Raynor Winn

The Salt Path is a book that was recommended to me and it did not disappoint. It is written by Raynor Winn and was published in 2018. It was the Sunday Times best seller for 80 weeks in 2018/19.

It is the true story of a middle-aged English couple whose pleasantly ordinary existence is turned upside down by two unexpected events. One is the loss of their home and business following a financial dispute with a friend and a lost legal battle. The other is a shocking medical diagnosis. As a result, Ray and her husband Moth, set off, rather unpreparedly, to hike the South West Coast Path of England, a 630 mile trek from Somerset to Dorset via Devon and Cornwall. This is a major challenge for two fit, young people, let alone an older couple, one of whom has been diagnosed with CBD – corticobasal degeneration, a rare brain disease that would destroy Moth's body, then his mind, without any cause or cure.

Ray and Moth are fifty with two adult children, who owned their own home and farm and ran a farm-stay business. After the court case they had 320 pounds to live on, (plus a small weekly payment from the government), kit themselves out for the walk and purchase a book to guide them by Paddy Dillon, 'The South West Coast Path From Minehead to South Haven Point'. They packed "with only what we absolutely need to survive. Nothing else. Then maybe I'll be able to manage it." (Moth)

This is a book that you need to read right now. With so much death and destruction in the world, with bushfires, covid, the war in Ukraine and floods daily in the media, it is a story of triumph and love and a reminder that humans can endure adversity and survive. It reaffirms the belief in the regenerative and healing power of walking in nature, as well as a reminder of the fragility of life and the importance of love over material things. While walking the path, Moth and Ray felt they were in control of their decisions, not waiting at 'home' for someone else to decide their future.

There are times of utter despondency and the writing drags you with Moth and Ray over the mud and sand, the hills, rocks and brambles in the cold and wet. But, equally the descriptions of wildlife, dramatic landscapes, countryside, sunsets and dawns, inspire and mesmerise. The scenes of acts of kindness by total strangers, are heart-warming and uplifting.

It is at times repetitive in its descriptions of hunger, bad weather, exhaustion, sunburn, cold and rain but it is raw and honest and an opportunity to walk in the shoes of the homeless. As Ray often notes in the book, the number of homeless in Great Britain is far greater than statistics

declare. Unlike the perception that homelessness is the fault of the individual (as a result of alcoholism, gambling, mental issues or drugs), as it happened to them, it can happen to anyone.

The couple (as of August 2021 are now settled in Cornwall, still walking and raising money for a homelessness charity. Ray has written a second novel called The Wild Silence.

Reviewed by Bev Elshaug

Small things around us.

The Sheoakian

Every day I take my dog for a walk and pass the same small banksia tree where a bird dropping spider (*Celaenia excavata*) lives. She has nine round nest sacs that she has carefully made and each has about 200 spiderlings in it. Sometimes the tiny spiderlings are out and about and are hanging from a thread being buffeted around by the breeze. They look like they're having fun. She is about as big as a five cent piece and looks exactly like a bit of bird poo stuck on a leaf. She survives because quite frankly, who wants to eat bird poo or something that looks like bird poo? Darwinian evolution and the survival of the fittest is amazing. She exists because of Natural Selection. Close inspection shows her legs all tucked up and you can just make out her eyes. She can bite and will cause a reaction so I don't go too close. She eats certain male moths at night and is ten times bigger than her husband. Her life is purposeful and wonderful and goes along quietly unseen. Some days she's not there, but the next day she'll be visible again looking after all her hundreds of children. Nature is truly wonderful.





Then and now



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

Dog tales



Breed: Bordoodle (a cross between the Border Collie and Poodle).

Special Feature(s): Loves every dog and every person but does not understand why they don't always love her back. Is very hairy and needs regular clipping at Deb's Doggie Day Spa.

Place of Origin: Lethbridge.

Pet Hates: Birds.

Favourite Toys: Any old footwear and loves to chase a ball, but hasn't worked out that for the game to continue she needs to bring it back to the thrower.

Naughtiest deeds: Chews everything, digs holes, does naughty things outside the bedroom window until she gets her morning walk. Likes to play in the rain where she changes colour from wheaten to mud-brown.

Favourite pastimes: Happiest when someone is gardening when she can showcase her skills of chasing birds and digging holes in inappropriate places.

Obsession: Chasing birds and chasing the quad bike on her side of the fence.

Owner: John & Sherryn

Maude Hub

Kerry Thomson

Local Member for Ballarat, Catherine King, in conjunction with Golden Plains Shire Council, has committed to spend \$350,000 on a "Community Hub" at Maude (should the Labor Party be elected to govern on the 21st May). Commonly called the 'Maude Pavilion Project' it is infrastructure arising out of consultation that recognises the local Maude community. Located on the old tennis courts (near the CFA and Bunjil Lookout) it will provide a focal venue where local people will be able to meet, connect and enjoy the available recreation facilities.

Political Announcements - We are careful to maintain a non-political stance at all times, and especially during an

election campaign. Competing parties will sometimes announce projects like this one, which are contingent on winning the election. When we judge them to be of importance to the communities we serve, and the announcement is particular to our distribution area, we will provide coverage. We do not have any reporters however, so we rely on other parties to alert us to such announcements. If you have a view on these arrangements, or any other comment, please contact us at news@meredithnews.com.au - Ed.

Lasseter. A Gold Legend begins in Colac.

Marg Cooper

Recently two things Lasseter turned up! One, a book, *Lasseter, A Gold legend begins in Colac* written by Alan Doyle and, two, a photo of a barn built by Jack Lasseter on what was later Henry Bolte's property on Coopers Road. There is a date, 1920 with a question mark and a note that it is Musgrove's cart in front of the barn.

The photo shows a neat wooden barn with double doors. Beyond the barn is a separate three bay shed. A high cart containing full bags is pulled up at the double doors. Two horses are also in the photo.

Stewarts leased the property to Musgroves but it was sold to William and Jessie Small in the early 1920's, so it may have been owned by either Stewarts or Smalls when the photo was taken.

Lewis Lasseter is part of Australian folklore. Lasseter claimed that he had found a gold reef; the yellow stuff in it as thick as plums in a pudding. It lay away out in Central Australia near the Western Australian border, right on the desert fringe. He told the story that in 1897 on his way from Townsville to the goldfields in Kalgoolie he had prospected for rubies in the Macdonnell Ranges, had lost himself but found the reef.

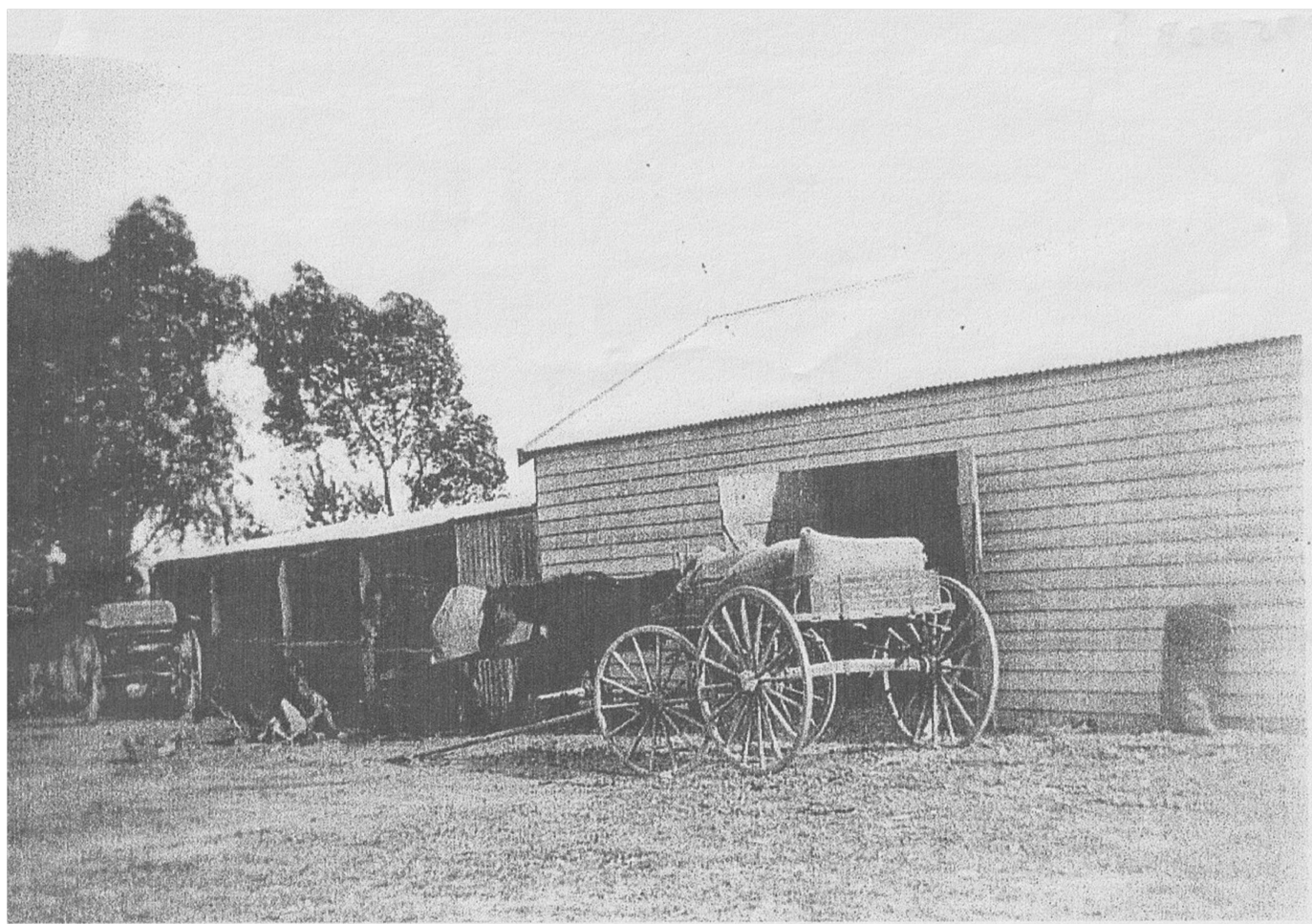
At Lasseter's insistence, in 1930 a well-funded gold exploration party ventured into the Central Australian outback to find the rich gold reef that he reported to have found. Lasseter died after proceeding with several of the party after the C.A.G.E. expedition abandoned the search and returned to Alice Springs.

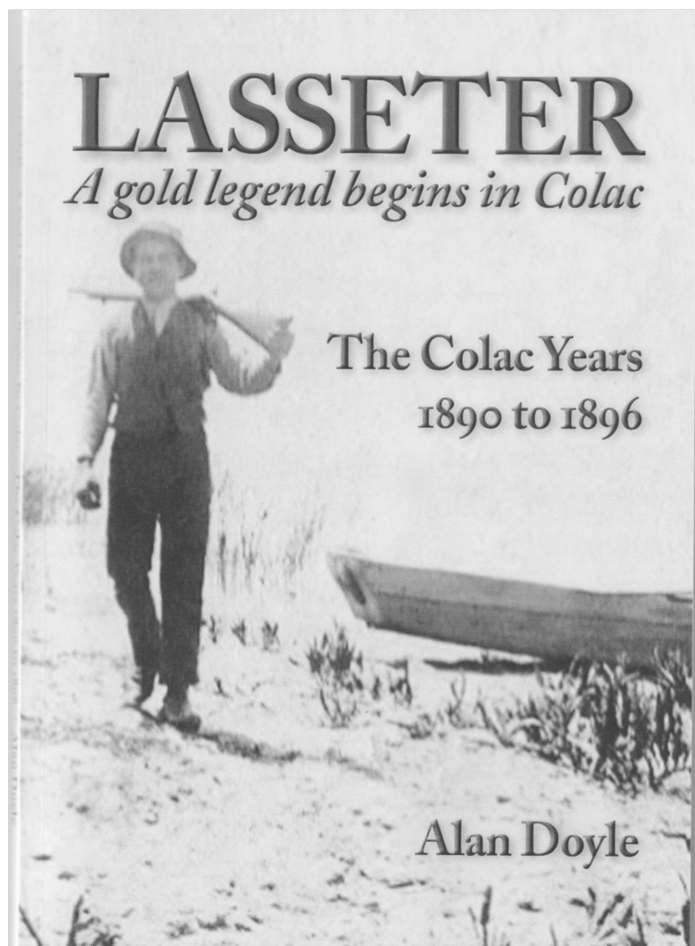
Lewis Lasseter or Harold Bell Lasseter grew up at Bamganie. The family lived in a house east of the Woodburn Creek in what is known as Lasseters Gully. The McColl family now own the land. His father Johnny or Jack was a shearer, labourer and a coach driver. His mother died of sunstroke in 1888 and Aunt Lily came out from England to help Johnny with his four children. She didn't adapt well to Australian conditions and the children suffered under her rule, especially Lewis.

They moved to Colac about 1889 when Johnny became the rabbit Inspector for the Colac Shire Council. After Lewis and his sister Lillian ran away from home because of their Aunt Lily's treatment, Lewis was taken in by the respected Sydenham family.

The book tells of influences that may have affected Lewis during his growing up years. He left Colac in 1896 when he was sentenced to a Boy's Reformatory in Pakenham for breaking and entering a store in Colac. The book adds another chapter to the life of this Australian Legend. [It is available from Cow Lick Bookshop in Colac.]

Interestingly, in 1916 Lewis Lasseter and his wife and family moved back to Meredith and enrolled their children at the local State School.





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G'day from the Golden Pens - Write Side Up writing group for another month of story telling. Gordon Vanbeck, one of our newest members, wrote this month's article only a few weeks ago. Using the prompts of "The Beep" and "Iron Bar" it was written in class in just a few minutes.

Gordon had introduced us to his character "Billy Boy" early in his time with us and we all enjoyed the antics that he created for his character, and over the months Billy would make a cameo appearance not only from Gordon but also by others in our group. Billy was becoming a fictitious member of our group so Gordon in his wisdom put Billy to bed, so to speak. So that was the end of him. Then suddenly Billy re-emerged a few weeks ago. When Gordon began to read his story the entire group cheered and clapped, taking Gordon by surprise I think. We all really love / hate Billy Boy and his dark attitude and his "I don't care manner" so we thought we would share Billy's latest escapade. We hope you enjoy the story and you never know he may make another appearance in the future. I, for one would be happy about that.

As always we are open to any comments you may have, and feedback is always welcome. You can drop us a line via our email goldenpens4@gmail.com or let the editor of the news know if you are enjoying our stories or if there is a theme or even a subject you would like us to write about. So until next month happy reading and writing from the golden penners.

THE BEEP

By Gordon Vanbeck

Billy Boy woke with a start. Something was amiss. He was normally a quite heavy sleeper, due in part, so he believed, to a blameless conscience. He lay in the dark, listening for any unusual sound. He heard the refrigerator click and hum into life from the kitchen and the distant wail of an emergency vehicle siren fading away into the distance. But nothing more.

Billy Boy felt himself relax, his breathing became deeper and more regular as he began to slip back into comfortable sleep.

BEEP!

Billy Boy's eyes flew open and he raised himself on one elbow to scan the darkened room. He had heard that sound once before. He felt a prickle of annoyance at the prospect of an unwanted recurrence.

BEEP!!

Billy Boy screeched in frustration. That blasted smoke alarm had activated again. He was sure he had silenced it after the last incident. Granted, there had actually been a fire on that occasion caused by a smouldering cigarette butt, but it had still caused him a great deal of annoyance. He sniffed the air, but could detect no scent of smoke. He leaned over the edge of the bed to peer out his bedroom door into the corridor. He could see no sign of flames. Billy Boy sagged back onto his pillow, it had been a good ten minutes since the last sound – perhaps it had stopped...

BEEP!!!

Billy Boy erupted from the bed with a howl of rage. He grabbed an iron bar he kept close by as a deterrent to unexpected nocturnal visitors and flung it skywards in the general direction of the smoke alarm. He heard the sound of plastic smashing and was showered by pieces of plaster. A 9-volt battery dropped to the floor at his feet.

Billy Boy grunted in satisfaction, swept the debris from his doona and crawled back into bed. It was completely quiet in the room. Someone in the flat above flushed a toilet. The noise of the cistern refilling ebbed away into silence. Billy Boy felt himself drifting away into dreamless sleep.

BEEP!!!! Yelled the desk computer.



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