

# Meredith & district News



Whoop-whoop...  
it's Winter!

JUNE 2022

OUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



## inside

- Platypus Monitoring
  - Free Mental Health Counselling
  - The Tractor Trek
- ...and the usual Much More!



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

Contact the Bannockburn team today on 5281 4444.



**DEAN  
WILSON**

M 0418 521 322



**JULIE  
KAYE**

M 0411 059 001



**ANDREW  
WILSON**

M 0452 498 254

Stockdale & Leggo Office Shop 14/6-8 High Street, Bannockburn, VIC 3331  
P 03 5281 4444 W [stockdaleleggo.com.au/bannockburn](http://stockdaleleggo.com.au/bannockburn)

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



Scan for language options.



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Every year we help thousands of people control their gambling. So, we get that every story is different. To change the way you think about gambling, call Gambler's Help on **1800 858 858** for a free, confidential chat, 24/7.

# 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](mailto:news@meredithnews.com.au) or deliver to the Meredith Post Office or Meredith Hub

## DATES AND DEADLINES

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

## ADVERTISING

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

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

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

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

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

## CONTACT US

Post Office, Meredith, 3333

**Advertising:** Ian 0409 016815

[advertising@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:advertising@meredithnews.com.au)

**Accounts:** Mike 0419 307044

[accounts@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:accounts@meredithnews.com.au)

**Editorial:** Jim: 0409 163169

[news@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:news@meredithnews.com.au)

## WEB

You can check back copies and lodge comments at [meredithnews.com.au](http://meredithnews.com.au)

## ONLINE PHOTOS

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

## DISCLAIMER

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

Issue Production: *Don Atherton* Editor: *Jim Elvey*

# connect

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

## Justices of the Peace

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

# services

<b>CEMETERY TRUST</b> 5286 1550	<b>MATERNAL &amp; CHILD HEALTH</b> 5220 7230
<b>HALL HIRE</b> Meredith Memorial 5286 1545 Elaine Mechanics <a href="mailto:elainetownhall@gmail.com">elainetownhall@gmail.com</a> Elaine Rec Res 5341 5703	<b>PRE-SCHOOL</b> 5286 0722
<b>LIBRARY VAN</b> 5272 6010	<b>PRIMARY SCHOOL</b> 5286 1313
	<b>RECREATION RESERVE</b> 0429 315 575

## ..or start something.

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



"The hard soil and four months of snow make the inhabitants of the (southern) temperate zone wiser and abler than his fellow who enjoys the fixed smile of the tropics."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson (Geographically adjusted.)



Dear Resident,

*I hope this finds you well.*

*I am writing to you with an update to the Supernatural calendar.*

*The Meredith Music Festival will take place this year over December 9, 10 & 11.*

*We're switching gears as we work towards welcoming everyone back to the Supernatural Amphitheatre this December.*

*Thanks to everyone for the continuing support these last few years.*

*If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at [auntym@mmf.com.au](mailto:auntym@mmf.com.au)*

*Looking forward to seeing you out at The Sup' again for the 30th in December.*

*Aunty x*

## FOR SALE

### MESSAGE TABLE

Portable massage table, face crest ,covers and carry case for sale (used, excellent condition) \$300. Also framed/mounted Muscle, Skeletal & Trigger Point charts x 4 (\$100). Or \$350 for the lot. Call 0403 123 915.



## Next General Meeting

**Advance Meredith Association Inc.**

SMALL TOWN BIG SPIRIT



**Saturday 4th June 2022**

**1.30pm**

History Rooms

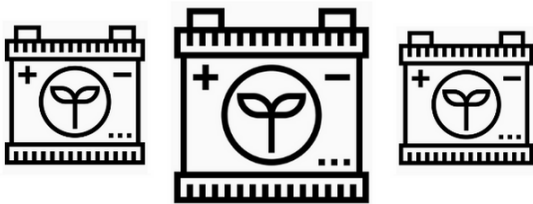
31 Staughton St

Meredith

**All Welcome to join.**

## Advance Meredith Association Battery Muster

When you recycle your old car battery you're not only helping prevent soil and water contamination, you are helping raise dollars for local projects.



So put you old car/ truck/tractor batteries to good use and leave them at our muster collection point at Woolabrai: Meredith Rural & Pet Supplies

## Classifieds

First insertion of small ads are FREE to district residents

**For Sale** - Antique extendable dining table including 8 chairs VGC Asking \$500 negotiable. Also Available, 2 single beds. One timber slat base including mattress, other is a base mattress with steel frame. Both VGC. Includes linen & blankets if required. Two timber wardrobes also VGC. Ph. 5341 5575 mob 0409861296



# 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](mailto:news@meredithnews.com.au) for more information or to register your interest.

## OUR COVER

*Thank you Cathie Boer for this month's cover photo. That's John Farrugia proudly displaying his massive, 59kg pumpkin, winner of this year's Giant Pumpkin Competition. Thank you to both organisers and participants in this Newsletter sponsored community event.*



*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](http://www.goldenplainsanglican.org) or  
[office.ibm@goldenplainsanglican.org](mailto:office.ibm@goldenplainsanglican.org)  
The Revd Dr Timothy Smith  
PiC Anglican Parish of Inverleigh+Bannockburn+Meredith

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

**Contact Details:**

Parish 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. 12/6 and Sat. 25/6, 12.15 followed by lunch, Bannockburn, contact Joanne 0451 818 596.

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

Sun. 11 am St. Mary MacKillop, Bannockburn

Sun. 5/6, 19/6, 9 am St. Joseph's, Meredith

Sun. 12/6, 26/6, 9 am St. Brigid's Anakie

Sun. 12/6, 4 pm Sacred Heart, Inverleigh

**Other Sacraments:**

Reconciliation, Anointing, Baptisms, Matrimony, Funerals call: 5286 1230 for details.

Sacramental program (Reconciliation, Confirmation) will be operating. Call the office for details.

**BIGGEST MORNING TEA 28/6/2022** at Meredith Memorial Hall Information Mary 0424037542

**We're hosting a Biggest Morning Tea**  
Please support us!



**TUESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2022 AT MEMORIAL HALL MEREDITH.**

**COST \$25/HEAD.**

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



**Part of Your Community.**



Inverleigh resident and Funeral Director, Ebony Hovey can assist you with your enquiries and funeral care needs.

Ebony is available to guide you through funeral planning and arrangements as well as provide obligation free funeral advice and information.

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<p><b>KUBOTA POWER HARROW PH 2351</b> Packer Roller, 3.5M working width</p> 	<p><b>KUBOTA GENERATORS ALL DIESEL</b> KJ-S130 (12.5 KVA), KJ-T180, &amp; KJ-S230</p> 	<p><b>PREMIUM ROPS TRACTOR M9540 DH</b></p>  <p>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><b>“We Service What We Sell”</b> 12 Wiltshire Lane, Ballarat, Victoria, 3356   t 03 5335 8609 www.westag.com.au    facebook.com/westagballarat</p> 		



# What's On



**COMING UP**

**Mums & Bubs**

**Movement, Mindfulness & Meditation with Jade**

Tuesdays - 10am - \$10 per class

**For Kids!**

**Movement, Mindfulness & Meditation with Jade**

Tuesdays - 3.30pm - \$10 per class

**Macrame with Anita**

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

**ERMHA WELL BEING HUB - FREE EVENTS**

Tuesdays at the Community Centre - 9.30am

7 June - Tea Tasting

14 June - Rejuvenation

21 June - Abstract Painting

28 June - Tea Tasting

Ph - 0498 566 674 to book or let Leah know you are coming along

**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 - Wellbeing Counselling**

Wednesdays at the Community Centre

1300 022 293

**Digital Essentials with Leah**

Come and have some fun learning about your device!

Friday June 17 - 10am - 2pm

\$6 per session - bookings essential!

**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**



**Butter Style Chicken Curry**

**Prep Time 15 mins Cook time 45 mins**

**Serves 6**

**Ingredients**

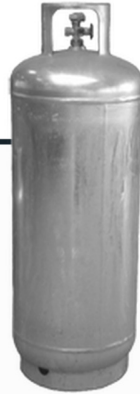
- 2 onions, 1 finely chopped, 1 finely sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 5cm fresh ginger, peeled, finely sliced
- 350g butternut pumpkin, peeled and coarsely chopped
- 4 cups vegetable stock
- 350g passata
- 2 tbs mild curry powder
- 550g skinless chicken breast, cut into 3cm cubes
- 200g white basmati rice
- 1/2 tsp turmeric
- 200g baby spinach leaves
- 1/2 cup plain natural yoghurt
- 2 tbs coriander chopped

**Method**

1. Place chopped onion, garlic, ginger, pumpkin and stock in a large pan over medium heat. Bring to the boil, then reduce heat and simmer, partially covered for 12-15 minutes, or until vegetables are tender.
2. Strain stock with a sieve set over a large bowl and set aside. Process drained vegetables and passata in a food processor until smooth.
3. Lightly spray a deep frying pan or casserole with oil and cook sliced onions over medium heat for 5-8 minutes, or until softened. Add curry powder and cook for another 2 minutes. Add chicken, cook stirring for 3 minutes, until just sealed then stir in pureed vegetables and passata mixture along with 400mls of reserved stock. Simmer for 20 minutes, until chicken has cooked through and sauce has thickened. Season to taste.
4. When curry is almost cooked, microwave spinach and cook rice according to packet instructions.
5. Serve curry with turmeric rice, wilted spinach, yoghurt and coriander.

*Recipe from: Classics Made Healthier*

*Stefania*



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- Refills BBQ and Camping Cylinders
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- \* Retaining walls
- \* Scaffolding
- \* Telehandler Hire



Anthony Mobile: 0409 524438  
ABN 63614843881

aandrurranbricklaying@bigpond.com  
www.DURRANBricklaying.com







## 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](http://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**



## In our Nature

Wendy Cook

alerts its neighbours. It may have two means of doing this. It can emit chemicals called pheromones into the air, or it can send a message through the underground network. When surrounding trees receive this warning, they can commence making chemicals which will make their leaves unpleasant to any hatching caterpillars.

Most of the plants connected to the network of hyphae can receive assistance when they need it, but will also assist others. However, a few plants join the network for other purposes. Some orchids are parasitic. They do not photosynthesise or share, but use this underground food supply as their only source of sustenance. At least one species of tree has been found to release toxic chemicals into the network, which can kill neighbouring trees. When times are hard, isolated trees, lacking the support of surrounding fungi and trees, may not survive. Fungi are also common in indigenous grasslands, so it is possible that there is a network of hyphae between the grasses and other plants that live there. Most of this research has been done overseas. We know that Australian trees use fungi to assist them in finding food, and that these fungi form links between the trees. Little further research has been done as yet, but it is likely with the low fertility of Australian soils, that the network will be even more important in our forests.

To watch a short YouTube video on the subject follow this link :<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWOqeyPIVRo>



In the middle of the forest is an ancient tree. Its canopy spreads wide above its trunk and the surrounding soil. Its roots spread wide and deep underground, but its influence extends much further. When we see such an old tree, we notice its huge trunk, the spread of its branches and the shade created by its leaves. We may notice some of the life it supports - spiders, insects, birds, tree-dwelling mammals, lichens, fungi, mosses and perhaps small plants - an entire ecosystem in one tree. However, we can only see the above ground part of the tree. There is much more happening underground that we have not imagined.

The below ground life of trees has been studied by scientists, particularly in Europe and North America, and some of their discoveries seem more like science fiction or fantasy than reality. There are plenty of stories in which trees talk or communicate silently with each other. Scientists have found that this is partially true. There is communication between trees. They use an underground network to help each other and even warn each other of danger. The links in the network are threads of fungi.

For a long time, it has been known that trees form close relationships with fungi, which are important to both. The fungal threads, known as hyphae, form joins with tree roots. This effectively extends the tree's root system, so it can gather nutrients from a wider area. In return, the fungi seek food from the tree, which provides sugars created by photosynthesis. More recently, it has been found that the hyphae form networks between the trees. One fungus can have threads joined to several trees, and one tree may form connections with several different species of fungi. These underground links between trees and fungi can extend throughout a forest. The centres of these networks are the oldest and most important trees, sometimes called mother trees or hub trees. They have the largest root systems, and therefore the most connections with hyphae.

The ancient tree in the middle of the forest is a mother tree. Around it are younger trees. Some have grown from its seeds, and some from the seeds of other trees. Some of these trees are different species, but all can be connected on the same network. A young tree is struggling to reach the light. It needs the sun's energy to photosynthesise, but it is heavily shaded and cannot create sufficient food to survive. The mother tree sends sugars that it has manufactured, along hyphae to assist it. In the same way, it can provide water from deep underground, where shorter roots cannot reach. Somehow, the mother tree is able to recognise that this youngster has grown from one of its own seeds. Although it often helps any tree in need, it will favour its own descendants. Nearby, another tree is delivering food into the network. It is slowly dying. Over time, it sends carbon that is stored in itself into the hyphae, to assist healthier trees.

Another way in which the network can be used is to spread a warning. Butterflies land on the mother tree. They lay their eggs on the underside of leaves. In time, caterpillars hatch and feed on the leaves. The mother tree



*Lila East turned 95yrs on 9th May. She is pictured here with grandchildren Lincon & Rachel, holding baby Max.*

# Website and Digital Marketing Packages



Communicate with your clients/customers regularly.

Keep your business top of mind and positioned as experts in your field.

## Package 1

Ideal for start ups, smaller business' and single/duo business owners.

### \$330

per month inc GST (\$3,960 per year inc GST)  
Minimum 12 month commitment.

#### Includes the following:



##### New Website

We'll create, design and organise the hosting of a new, mobile-friendly website for your business.



##### Google My Business

We'll set up and update your Google My Business listing so that your customers are kept informed about your business.



##### Search Engine Optimisation

We'll ensure that current Search Engine algorithms are working in your favour.



##### Domain Name, Web Hosting and Email

We'll take care of your domain name registration, obtain hosting and create up to 3 business email accounts.



## Package 2

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

### \$660

per month inc GST (\$7,920 per year inc GST)  
Minimum 12 month commitment.

#### Includes Package 1 plus the following:



##### Social Media Presence

Social media is becoming more important by the day. We will set up your social media accounts and take care of posts.



##### Blog Articles

We'll sanity check, correct any obvious typos or spelling errors and post to your website and social media channels. We'll also check your posts for SEO quality.



##### 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](http://www.mulcahymarketing.com.au)

Phone: Gavin 0448 686 560 or Rachel 0428 391 880



## Giant Pumpkins Galore

The first person to arrive even had to bring the whole ute into the school because the pumpkin was so heavy. It was a whole lot of fun but we had to pay attention. It was a challenge to get the pumpkin onto the scales, because we had to move the whole crate onto the ground and we rolled it onto the scales. The pumpkin was 59 kilograms and everyone was so amazed because the heaviest pumpkin last year was 35 kilograms, so that's almost twice the size!

Some of the Grade 5/6 students were the stewards: Lila, Frankie, Erin, Matilda, Aiden, Jack, Chael, Brodie, Will and Bridget. They had different jobs like wheelbarrowing, booking, weighing, measuring, labelling and they even helped the winners choose their prizes and entertained the little children.

Thank you to our Grade 5/6s who planted the pot prizes with mystery bulbs so you don't know what will come out of them and our lovely teacher Rosemary who helped organise the challenge.

Thank you to the Meredith and District News for sponsoring this awesome event - it was a huge success. We appreciated Mr Jim Elvey from the Newsletter Committee coming along to judge the decorated pumpkins and for presenting the certificates.

And another big thank you to say, is to Steve Duffy for collecting the pumpkin seeds from last year's giant pumpkins, drying them and putting them in packets ready

for distribution. Cathie Boer gathered us together around the pumpkins and took some great photos.

We also had a new category this year, Best Decorated Pumpkin using natural materials. Seeing all those pumpkins made everyone have a good chuckle and smile because of all the funny faces and patterns on them. Great job everyone who took the time to decorate their pumpkins. We also appreciated the contributions of the Meredith History Interest Group which grew some excellent pumpkins.

The results were:

**Adults** - John 59kg 173cm

Meredith History Interest Group 41.4kg 152cm

Meredith History Interest Group 31.3kg 148cm

**Children School Age** - Lila 17.3kg 107cm

Jacob 1.1 kg 58cm

Rusty 0.6kg 53cm

**Children Under School Age** - Ellie 33.1kg 167cm

Ando 3.5kg 73cm

Thank you to all those who came along, saw or grew pumpkins for this challenge and took the time for all of this. It was a nice opportunity to meet new people and interact with people from, and new, to the community.

*Written by Lila and Frankie, Grade 6 Meredith Primary School (two of the stewards on the day)*

This photo omitted from online version.

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*Kerry Thomson*

A smaller group of sketchers (numbers depleted because of appointments) quickly located to Backstreet Cafe where we were fortified by coffee as we drew. Peter T and Alex tackled perspective as they tried to capture the intricacies of the Corner Store. Peter H and Mandy took on the challenge of pet portraiture by drawing ‘Whoopie’ who accompanied us for the day. I used pen to sketch the corner garden in front of the pub. Lots of laughs and good conversation were shared.

*Our next session will be on the **second Tuesday (14th) of June at 10 am at the Community Centre.***

*And below, the Sketchers, plus Whoopie, share the fruit of their enjoyable labour.*

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# Platypus Survival at Risk

*Media Release*

Work by Friends of the Barwon with funding from the Tucker Foundation, Bendigo Bank, Barwon Water, Surf Coast Shire, Geelong Landcare Network, and supported by Upper Barwon Landcare, Golden Plains Shire, City of Greater Geelong and EnviroDNA, filled the gaps in the current data set for platypus in the region, between the Upper Barwon catchment and Moorabool system.

The sampling across 38 different sites in the Barwon, Leigh and Moorabool rivers involved over 60 enthusiastic community members

In a recent webinar to the community, environmental scientist Josh Griffiths explained that the results varied quite significantly in each of the three waterways sampled.

The sites sampled in the Leigh and Moorabool rivers showed a much higher and consistent population of platypus when compared with the Barwon River samples from Winchelsea to Geelong. Josh attributed these differences primarily to habitat suitability and river flow rates. Adding that “the base flow rates in both the Leigh and Moorabool rivers are much more consistent than those in the Barwon, which in recent years has even “ceased to flow” along a number of reaches during summer. Platypus need consistent water flow to be able to move freely up and down rivers and creeks in order to breed and thrive.”

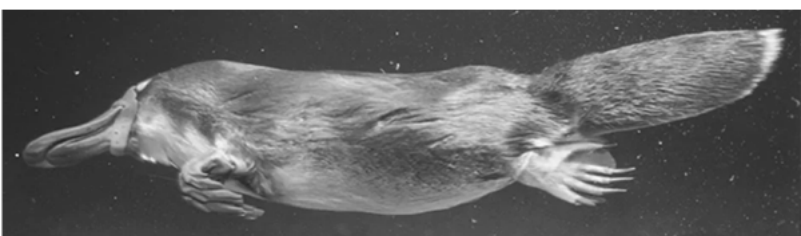

Josh said “over the past 50 years only 50-60 sightings of platypus had been recorded in this region, so historically we have had very limited data. The Leigh River in particular has had no real historical platypus sightings previously recorded, so this project has really filled a gap we now have the biggest data set over a region in the state.”

The information gathered by the community has really highlighted the plight of this endangered animal in our region. Areas with poor habitat distinguished by bank erosion, sparse vegetation, minimal burrowing sites, no instream or channel complexity (no bends, limited variation of depth or pools and no logs, snags or rocks present) were consistent with the absence of platypus.

Where the platypus were detected, was consistent with parts of the river which had been fenced off from grazing animals, revegetated with indigenous vegetation including trees and shrubs, had good instream habitat.

Chair of The Friends of the Barwon, Dr Kaye Rodden said “This project has highlighted the importance of water security in our rivers. The Barwon, Leigh and Moorabool Rivers are all severely stressed and we need to work together as a whole to repair and protect these amazing living assets in our region. Investment into improving the health of the Barwon system as a whole is crucial for all species relying on it to survive.”

*If you would like a copy of the survey report please contact [glplatypus@gmail.com](mailto:glplatypus@gmail.com)*

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## Croc Report



*Mick Devlin*

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

1st of May saw the mighty Crocs travel to Bendigo to take on the Bendigo Bombers. We got off to a slow start to the day due to the team bus being bogged. It took a couple of seasoned recovery experts to get the bus back on the road and on its way. With fantastic weather forecast we had our best turnout for the year with 23 players making the long trek to Bendigo, which is a fantastic effort from all.

It was a great game and an even contest until the 3rd quarter, which saw Bendigo's younger players really dominate for around 15mins. Despite the 3rd quarter blow out, the Crocs never gave in and kept trying to the final whistle. Due to a few injuries during the game we finished with 18 players. Bendigo were victors by about 5 goals, but with our ageing list and a few injuries during the game, we could hold ours heads high for a great effort. Great to see a couple of past players returning to play again in Scott Foran and Punter. I think we all enjoyed the bus trip home as much as the game. Special thanks to Wendy and Fingers for the sandwiches and driving the bus.

Best players for the day were: Kevin Murray, Scotty Thompson, Peter Larkins, Dave O'Brien, Damo Priddle, Craig Taylor and Mick Devlin.

15th May saw the mighty Crocs take on Maryborough Pumas at the Meredith Cricket Ground. Despite being very windy, the conditions were not too bad. We had a number of injuries and players unavailable, 13 in total, so Thursday's training session was a ring around and try and get some players. We managed to get 4 new players. Thanks to Adrian Carter, Mitch, James Hobbs and Damo Haywood for coming along. With both teams only having 18 players and ageing lists, it was decided to have 15min quarters.

It was a great game with both sides attacking hard and some great skills on show. Big Damo was unstoppable at full forward, grabbing everything that came his way, until an injured calf ruled him out for the 2nd half. Luckily for us Scotty Nelson turned up which allowed us to still have 18 players. Mitch, Adrian and James were absolutely brilliant all day, although claiming they were tired, they never stopped running. James was our go to man on the

wing, and Mitch and Adrian were dominating the centre along with Big Badger. One of our oldest players in Sid was doing what Sid does and grabbing everything that came his way and kicking goals. Scotty Foran, Scotty Cowie and Scotty Thompson all had great games also. Great work from the Scotties! Some great efforts all over the ground saw us come away with the win. The Pumas players were a great bunch of blokes and we will love to host them again.

Best players for the day: Adrian Carter with a dominating performance in the centre. Craig Badge Taylor with another great performance in the ruck, Sid Jones the games record holder and 2nd oldest on the field kicked 6 goals up forward, James Hobbs who provided great running and pin point kicking on the wing. David Pike provided a target all around the ground and never stopped running, young Mitch, who along with Carts dominated the centre and ran all day. Finally Scotty Nelson, due to work commitments was running a bit late, came on and kicked 2 cracking goals.

Next home games are as below:

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.

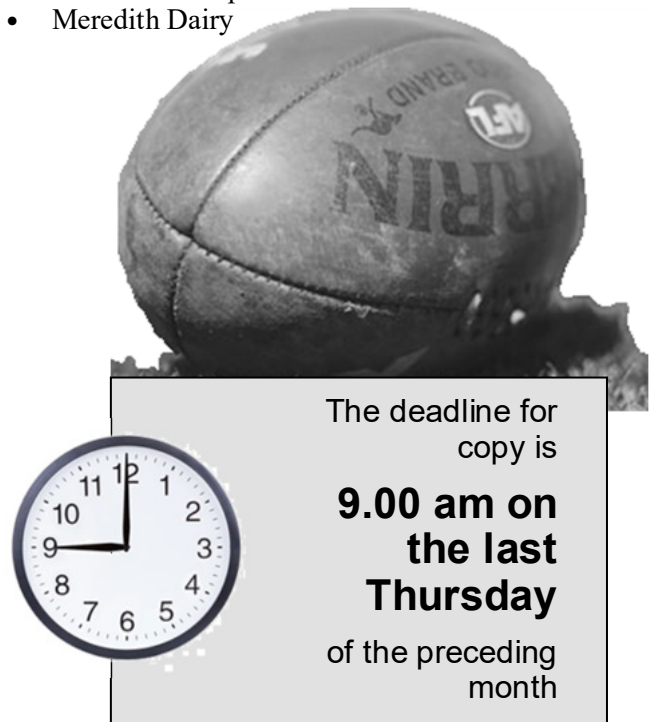
If anyone is interested in playing or volunteering or would like any more information, please contact the below:

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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## In the School Garden

by Mrs Garden

We've had sunny weather, cool weather and rainy weather lately and sometimes, all on the same day, so we have been dodging showers to do our digging and planting. One of the joys of gardening is being outside and experiencing the seasons and observing how the plants are responding.

The Prep/One children busily planted out their sweet pea seedlings around an old outdoor umbrella frame, so we are hoping for a fragrant and showy sweet pea teepee later on this year. This required some dexterity and lots of care, because the seedlings are quite delicate, but it is always exciting to tip the seedlings out and see the wonderful root growth that comes from a such a tiny seed.

Meanwhile, the Grade 2/3/4 students were truly amazed to discover how much their carefully nurtured broad beans had grown over the holidays. Some strong diggers were recruited from Grade 6 to dig over the bed, the stakes were hammered in and the seedlings planted. There was much laughter and a great sense of camaraderie as everyone worked together sharing tools, and taking care not to step on newly planted seedlings. Thankfully, broad beans don't seem to attract the snails so we don't have to worry about nibblers in the night.

Towards the end of last month, the tomato plants finally came out. The remaining green tomatoes were picked and some went into a delicious Green Tomato Cake. A most unusual recipe however, after taste testing on a group of people, it has met with approval. Find the recipe below and give it a try if you have some spare green tomatoes.

With the tomatoes out, we had a spare bed for the packets of seeds from the Geelong Libraries' Seed Library. We found ours in the Bannockburn Library and the idea is to borrow up to three packets of seeds, plant them and save some of the seed to give back to the seed library. We have put in carrots, aquilegia and garlic chives.

Also on our working bee list for this time of year is digging up the rhubarb, dividing and replanting it, hoping for more vigorous growth. The curry plant is quite overgrown so that is coming out and we'll take cuttings for future planting. We also have a bed that half went under water last year after heavy rain, and produced a wonderful crop of weeds so the worker bees will tackle that shortly. Digging out weeds always produces great discoveries and conversations about the leaves, the growth and particularly the roots. Some have giant tap roots and others are wispy and feathery. All serve a purpose, however we need the bed so out they must go.

The school was host to the Meredith and District News' Second Annual Giant Pumpkin Challenge. While numbers were down this year, the sizes were up. Catch up with the results in this newsletter. A group of ten Grade 5/6 students were the stewards this year and it was a mighty effort to weigh and measure the entries. It was another fun afternoon and wonderful to see people from outside the school community.

Winter is a great time to be out in the garden rugged up in coat, beanie and gloves. There is often cutting back to be done and bonfires to be enjoyed. It's not too late to get some garlic in or onions, and lettuce for when you get a

midwinter craving for a salad.

If you are keeping warm in the kitchen by the oven, enjoy this cake from Sophie of Gardening Australia fame.

### Green Tomato Cake

- 2 1/2 cups sugar
- 250g butter, softened
- 3 eggs
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 3 cups plain flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 cup sultanas
- 1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts (optional)
- 2 1/2 cups diced green tomatoes

Preheat oven to 180°

In a mixing bowl beat sugar, butter, eggs and vanilla until smooth and creamy

Sift together flour, salt, baking powder, cinnamon and nutmeg

Slowly beat into egg mixture

Stir in nuts, sultanas and green tomatoes

Pour into greased and lined 23cm x 30cm tin

Bake for one hour or until skewer inserted into centre comes out clean

Note - you can use two smaller tins and bake for 40 mins, one for you and one to give away.

This photo omitted from  
online version.

*Charlie, Charlie and Owen planting the seeds from the Geelong Libraries' Seed Library*



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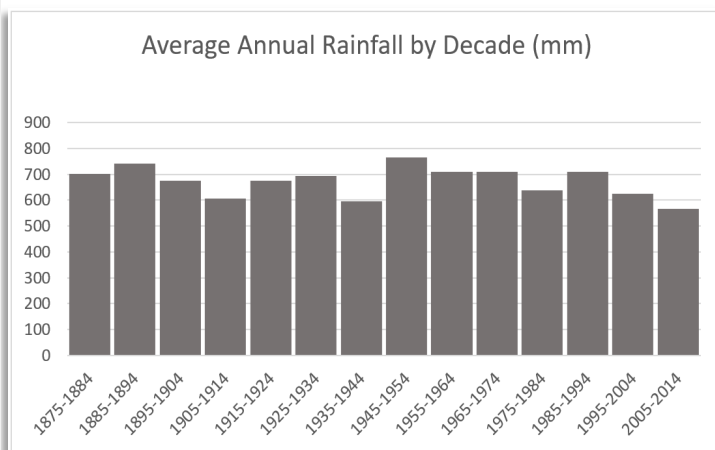
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## The Long View

One of our readers has an interest in numbers and rainfall. Well, we're sure there is a lot more than one, but this one went to the trouble of collating rainfall data since the start of district records, into 10 year aggregates. (The research data, like all good impromptu ideas, was prepared, literally on the back of an envelope! Perhaps it was a rainy day.)

So we plotted it up to share this long view of rainfall patterns.

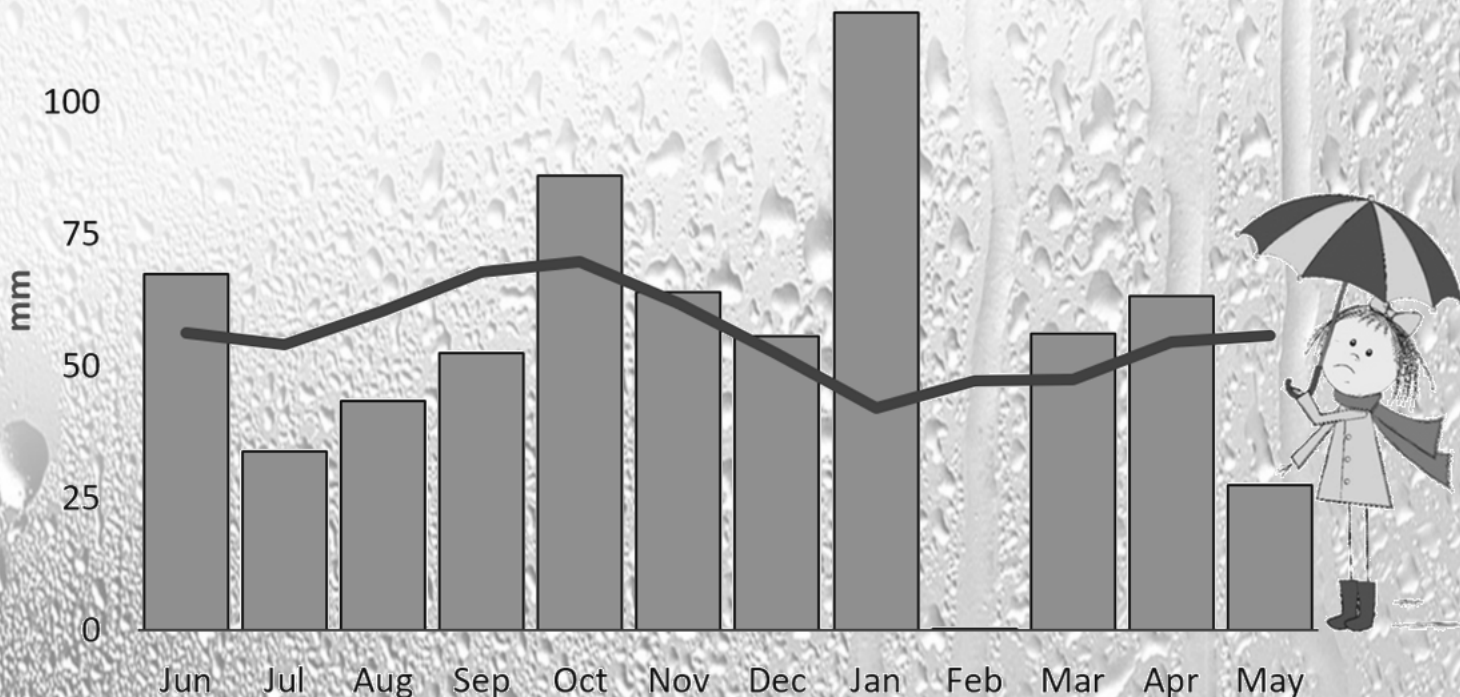
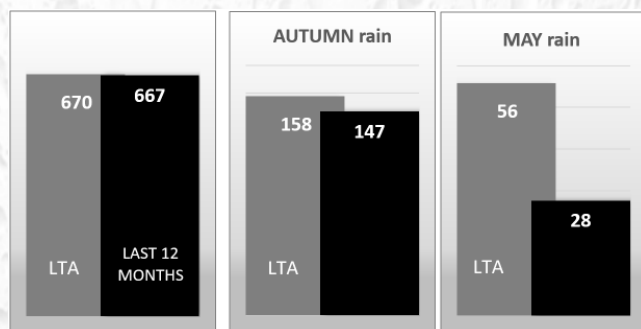
Our correspondent noted the long term annual average rainfall is 666.4 and, compared to 505.04 for 2015 to 2019.



# the rain report

125

May's rain was below par, but autumn rains were not too far below the long term average. Coincidentally, the last 12 months delivered almost exactly the same as the long term average annual rainfall.



## Elaine Public Cemetery's Ruby Anniversary

*Marg Cooper*

The Elaine Public Cemetery was initiated by the Serbian Orthodox Diocese when a need arose for a burial facility at the St Sava Monastery Cemetery. It was approved for establishment by the Governor of Victoria on land donated by the Monastery on May 4, 1982. The Cemetery is over 40 years old.

The Cemetery is unique in that 95% of the interments are of the orthodox faith, in particular Serbian. There are many traditional aspects to burials and customs following death, and the Cemetery Trust ensures that these traditions can continue, as they are an important part of the community culture.

The Cemetery, which welcomes visitors all year round features the Refectory, which is an undercover facility with tables and chairs for meetings or for just sitting near the wood heater to get warm in winter. There are picnic table facilities near the lake for outdoor picnicking when weather permits. And many patrons hold burial services and wakes at the St Sava Monastery prior to the funeral at Elaine Public Cemetery.

The Elaine Cemetery Trust was recognised during Volunteer Week for their valuable contribution to building community at Elaine Public Cemetery.

An article by OpusXenta (a technology provider to cemeteries) related that, in the small country town of 230 residents, a hotel, a freight rail line, a post office and a Serbian Monastery; the Cemetery Trustees certainly live to the adage, that the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.

They help to make the cemetery a true place of reflection, where people can spend time in well-maintained and serene indoor and outdoor areas, perfectly set out for gatherings and quiet reflection.

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## Mental Health Support

*Media Release*

**Golden Plains Shire Council is supporting residents with free mental health support and counselling.**

Council has partnered with the Barwon Child Youth and Family (BCYF) to provide free counselling for Golden Plains Shire residents. The program will provide free generalist mental health support and drug and alcohol counselling for residents across the Shire with locations in Dereel, Meredith, Rokewood and Bannockburn.

The free counselling program provides residents with easy access to mental health support without the need for a mental health care plan or general practitioner referral. This health and wellbeing support service is available to all Golden Plains residents and families, with the 12-month program due to end 31 March 2023.

The free support service is currently available on Tuesdays at Dereel Community Learning Centre, 14 Swamp Road, Dereel and Rokewood Community Health Centre, 55 Ferrars Street, Rokewood; Wednesdays at Meredith Community Centre, 4 Russell Street, Meredith; and Thursdays at Bannockburn Physiotherapy Clinic, 9 High Street, Bannockburn. Telehealth options are also available, where in-person sessions are not possible.

To make a booking, community members can contact BCYF at 0432 688 769 or 1300 022 293.

Mayor Cr Gavin Gamble says Council is pleased to be partnering with BCYF to offer this valuable service for the Golden Plains Shire community.

“Council’s COVID Hardship Policy has been a valuable financial support for residents and we are pleased to be providing additional support for those whose mental health has been impacted by the pandemic. Council has established a strong partnership with BCYF and we are happy to be working closely with them to deliver this important service in Golden Plains Shire.

“It has been a difficult two years for many members of our community and it is vital that all residents have access to mental health support and this free program will make it much easier for residents to seek that help.

“Taking care of your mental health is as important as looking after your physical health and I encourage anyone who may be struggling or is in need of mental health support or drug and alcohol counselling to utilise this free service.”

This new service follows the successful Let’s Come Together drug and alcohol support program delivered by BCYF in 2021. The Let’s Come Together program provided inclusive coffee and cake catch ups for community members looking for information on mental health and drug and alcohol services available to residents and how to access them.

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## Barry Kirby

*Marg Cooper*

The 119th Lake Goldsmith Steam Rally took place over the first weekend of May, with crowds gathering to see the vast heritage collection of machinery and vehicles on display.

The rally at Stockyard Hill was host to about 1000 exhibits, an afternoon grand parade on both days, and an earthmoving area with old bulldozers and draglines.

One who appreciates the mechanical ingenuity that has been used over the year is Barry Kirby. He has several old engines and a drag saw at Lake Goldsmith in a mate's shed. During the rally the drag saw runs all day over both days. A big blade is driven back and forth by a 3hp Champion petrol engine to reduce a big log [about 15 feet long] to lumps that will go in the log fire at his home. Barry says that women are especially intrigued by this machine, but that there is something to interest everyone at the rally.

His passion and skills for restoring engines and machines began when he was about 12 years of age in Niddrie. Kids



*Photo by Peter Boer*

would buy motorbikes, all British made bikes then, for maybe £2, rip everything off them and scramble them on their track through bushes and over a creek down the bottom of a valley. An ex-motorbike racer helped the kids make a track and organized races for 15 or 20 of them. At that time there were a lot of cheap second bikes around. Barry is a member of the Victorian Antique Motor Cycle Club, who hold rallies when they take their pre 1930 bikes for a run. He was also a member of the Victorian Vintage Motor Cycle Club who have pre 1945 bikes.

Barry then progressed to racing B Grade Hot Rods. He built and maintained them, and his wife Kay also drove in Ladies Races and did rather well. Then it was Outboard Hydro Planes. He says that racing an 11-foot 6 inch wing with a powerful motor over rough water can be quite frightening.

He competed all over the state, and at the Nationals in Brisbane his motor blew up. Barry is the reigning state champion for "C" class hydroplanes as the class ceased to exist that year! Another project which Barry admits took so much work was to restore Bob and Dolly Dyer's boat called Tennessee 3 (or 10 - 3 as it was known). This was his pride and joy for many years after rescuing it from a chap's front yard in Highton.

Barry has been restoring motor bikes for years for friends, and is self-taught. Several of them have featured in movies including the Dr Blake Mysteries, and another where they started filming at the Scout Camp in Ballarat and followed to other locations. The bike he is working on presently came to him as a big pile of rusty bits. It is now almost finished and looks like new. He tries to restore them as close to original as possible, and praises the help of others who do the paintwork and help him source parts that he can't produce himself on his lathe and milling machines.

Another of Barry's interests is flying, and flies light aircraft out of Lethbridge.

Barry was a train driver for most of his working life. He loves trains but recognises that too many drivers who live for the railways, die within 12 months of retirement. He believes that people should stay active and have interests. He quips that maybe he has too many hobbies!

Barry and Kay have lived in Meredith for about 7 years and enjoy the quietness and friendly neighbours.

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# Tractor Trek

Marg Cooper

There was Ray on his shining red Massey Ferguson 35, Perc on his Massey Ferguson 148, Daniel on his red 35 Ferguson and his wife Jenny on her T20, Peter on his 1970 David Brown, Richard on his 1951 TA 20 Ferguson, Brian on his Ford 5000, another Brian on his Ford 3000, John on his International, Richard on his TA 20, 1951 Ferguson, Will on his International and several more vehicles including Ian on his Honda Postie Bike. Travis started off on his International A554 but his brakes locked on and he left it along the trek. Phil was disappointed that he was not on his Fordson Dextor but came to enjoy the hospitality of Wally Tabone at their destination in Coopers Road.

This event, conducted by the Ballan Vintage Machinery and Vehicle Club on Sunday, May 22 saw members transport their tractors to Will Morton's farm at Mt Mercer where they unloaded and at 10 am started a trek around the district before going down Gundy's Road, across the ford on the Leigh River and along the Fire access track to Wally's house on Coopers Road, for lunch. They have an annual tractor trek around Ballan each Spring, but this trek was an extra event. There were about 20 tractors that trekked and each had a story to tell.

The oldest tractor was a 1950's Ferguson, Perc was the inaugural President of the club 35 years ago and is the President again in 2022. Peter has a collection of David Brown tractors following his father who bought his first one in 1953 to replace horses in his orchard. Richard only joined the club last year, and has worked with tools all his life, and has just totally rebuilt his petrol tractor. Travis and John started with small steam engines, and have now progressed to big tractors. Lastly, Ian bought the bike after he finished delivering mail on it in Ballan, which was his last job before retirement.

There were several women members at the BBQ who support the club. Glenda is the editor of the club's monthly publication called The Oily Rag and she towed the toilet. A car following, reported that the toilet paper unrolled on the way and flew around like a long flag as she drove along. Lisa is a keen collector of items including cameras. She is the photographer and records the club's activities. Phil's wife brought along the portable barbeque.

A thoroughly enjoyable event organized by a very popular, enthusiastic club. Thank goodness that no one needed to be picked up by the scoop on the back of the David Brown.



## Did you know!

If you replace "W" with "T" in "What, Where and When", you get the answer to each of them.

The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims"

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## Coming of the Sheep

Marg Cooper

### The Squatter's Run

Before 1834 Port Phillip District was unoccupied by white settlers, but apparently was well known to many in Van Diemen's Land and New South Wales. By 1837 there was a fleet of between 15 and 20 small ships each carrying from 300 to 1000 sheep from Tamar in Van Diemen's Land to Geelong. When the squatters came, they either took their stock with them or went to explore on horseback. They passed from one run or station to the next, finding out from stockmen and drovers already there, where the best country was and what country had been taken up.

In October 1837 John Norman McLeod, a 21-year-old, Scottish born young man (he was four years old when his family arrived in Van Diemen's Land) took up 24,790 acres on the Moorabool River, 35 miles from Geelong. He named the property Borhoneyghurk.

It took up most of the land between what is now Elaine, Meredith and Mt Doran.

It is thought that he was the first squatter to take up land in this district.

Initially McLeod had sailed from Van Diemen's Land to Port Phillip and landed at what is now Indented head in July 1837. In September 1837 he went with an exploration party to the district.

John Norman McLeod was soon followed by Taylor and MacPherson who took up Moranghurk, George Frederick Read who took up Cargarie, John Wallace who took up Ballark, George Russell took up Golf Hill whilst the Learmonth Brothers took up Native Creek No 1, John van Stieglitz took up Durdidwarrah and the Wilson Brothers took up Woodbourne No 2. All of these men were under 30 years of age and most were in their early 20's.

No doubt, the creek now known as Coolebarghurk Creek would have been a watering place for some of John Norman McLeod's 7000 sheep. Maybe shepherds employed by him to look after mobs of his sheep lived in out stations near this creek. These consisted of huts with a supply of hurdles to be set up at night as sheep folds. There would have been several out stations on the squatter's runs.

In 1849 John Norman McLeod moved to Wannon Country. Justices Bull and Sinclair, Trustees, divided Borhoneyghurk into east and west. The Reverend T.N. Grigg took over the lease of East Borhoneyghurk in October 1849 and West Borhoneyghurk went to George Frederick Read in 1849.

Next chapter: A Place for a Village.

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*After a talking sheepdog gets all the sheep in the pen, he reports back to the farmer: "All 40 accounted for."*

*"But I only have 36 sheep," says the farmer.*

*"I know," says the sheepdog. "But I rounded them up."*



## Portable Lockups & Gaols

*Sarah Hardiman*

*Part 2 (Part 1 appeared in the May edition)*

Use of the cells into the 1970's-80's became less frequent. Although modern additions of toilet cisterns and lighting were probably a welcome addition, there was a general consensus that use of the cells was inhumane, and held OH&S concerns. Many Police Stations and Court Houses throughout this era were now being built with internal cells/holding rooms. Late 1980's-early 1990's saw the Government decommission many of the larger regional prisons, such as Geelong gaol, Sale, and Beechworth. All to be replaced with more conveniently located, state of the art facilities. It was also a time that the portable cells were to be deemed as 'spares'.

The design of a typical cell you find in regional Victoria, relates to the British mindset of a "separate system". The theory that isolation will encourage you to reflect on your crimes – and change your ways, I'm sure these days would be considered radical.

It's believed that there were over 200 of these cells commissioned in Victoria alone. I have personally taken photos of 82 which are still standing, in various degrees of disrepair. I currently have details of close to another 25 sites which suggest they have, or were once the locations of cells – part of my ongoing research still to be investigated further.

Many lay abandoned, some reside on the grounds of former Court Houses or Historical Society properties, some even remain on the grounds of operating Police Stations. (Most commonly adapted for use as file or archival storage units for the station). Moveable they may be, but weighing up to 3 ton, a relocation must be well synchronized. I've heard stories of cells burned down, demolished and taken to local tips – all for an easy way of disposal. There are a handful of great stories though, of towns paying to rescue, relocate and restore cells to ensure their survival. Some were moved hundreds of kilometres.

To me, there are no two cells the same. Technically a product built off a plan, variations would occur depending on the material at hand, how many were commissioned at once, and by the builders who won the tender. Experienced builders would alter the design slightly, using their knowledge and skill of what would make the construction stronger.

There are a handful of alternative designs I have photographed, including a rare double cell in Landsborough, vertical planks on a cell in Korumburra, multi cells such as the pack of 3 inside the Queenscliff Fort, & cells that have a roof line running left to right, instead of front to back, such as Moe.

Some unfortunate cells have been left a little worse for ware, like Rupanyap, which lost its roof in a severe storm.

To the untrained eye, Victorian cells do look identical. The cells I have seen in New South Wales to date tend to have doors that are off centre, Tasmania appears to have more double, than single cells, while in Victoria we had the most cells commissioned, be that timber or iron.

Many find my interest a little bizarre, but at the end of the

day, our history is something to be proud of, whether in regards to Victoria's Policing, Goldrush or architectural achievements.

I like to think that my research can only serve as a record of just one small piece of our state's history.

I am more than happy to answer any questions or inquiries via my Facebook page. If you would like to know locations of any lock ups or gaols you may wish to visit, I can certainly give you clear directions.





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## I Bought a Small House

*David Thomson*

Because I grew up on 5 acres at Curlewis I wanted to live in the country, so when Hannah and I got engaged in June 2021 and we saw that the small house in Wallace Street, Meredith was for sale and was affordable, we jumped at it. We have had to hire some big equipment, including a 13-ton excavator, to remove 3 large, old cypress trees. The last stump went on a low loader last week.

We have erected new fences along the front and side of the 1000 square metre block and established a vegetable garden in planter boxes in the front yard. I used to help my grandmother in her garden, and couldn't wait to have a garden of my own and have already had a good crop of tomatoes and potatoes.

We have the bricks ready to make a path to the front door.

Soon, we hope to start on the backyard where we have found bottles, old leather shoes and other artifacts. We are planning to build a shed, plant lots of fruit trees and enlarge the back deck.

I was hoping to have more acreage but Hannah and I feel that the small house on a small block is a good start.

*The little wooden cottage that previously occupied the block was owned by the Kerger Family and then Bob and Mary Friday. Bob Friday sold 1¼ acres of their block to Don and Carmel Sellars in 1963. They retained ¼ acre with their house. The 1¼ acres actually curls around the back of the ¼ acre.*

*I have been told that Bob Friday sold the cottage on the ¼ acre to his niece when he moved to Geelong, who later sold it to Alan Knight about 1970 for \$800. A Newspaper report of March 1988 said that the miner's cottage was removed from Morrisons to Meredith in the 1860's. The Bannockburn Council had ordered the demolition of the cottage after a 5-year war with the owner Alan Knight to either repair or demolish the building. Inspectors had reported that the cottage was open to the weather, infested with rats, possums and mice, had no spouts, drainpipes, power or water, rotten bearers and floor joists and an unsafe chimney. Mr Knight had written to Historic Buildings Council in the hope it would save the cottage but this didn't happen and it was demolished.*

*Mark built the small house on the block in 2019 and David and Hannah bought it from him in early 2022.*

*Marg Cooper*



## it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

*Marg Cooper*

### Open Day:

A very busy, successful day was held on Sunday, May 15th when MHIG threw open the doors for the public to visit and see what we do! Displays featured old Ledger Books and Minute Books including one for the Meredith Swimming Club, and one for the Meredith & District Youth Club and Scrapbooks compiled and donated by Coral Van Beusichem, which were very popular. Members were on hand to welcome, to help with research on our Data Base and Ancestry and to talk and listen. Several gazebos had been set up on the lawn and visitors enjoyed sitting at tables to eat freshly cooked scones with lashings of jam and cream on top.

At 1.30 pm Bill and Cathy from the Bannockburn Bendigo Bank presented MHIG with a cheque for \$4192.00 to equip the History Centre with modern, up to date computers and programs. We are most grateful to the Bannockburn and District Grants for approving our grant application, and to Bill and Cathy for coming on our Open Day to present the cheque.

We were also pleased to welcome the Mayor of GPS, Gavin Gamble before we actually opened the doors. He had just finished a bike ride and called in while we were still setting up.

[Our doors are open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am – 3 pm for anyone who missed the Open Day on Sunday, May 15th.]

### Ballan Times:

Ballan Shire Historical Society has notified MHIG that with the co-operation of the State and National Libraries, a substantial donation from one of their members' and extra funding sought from the Ballan and District Community Bank, some of Ballan's old Newspapers [Ballan Times 1899 – 1920] have been digitized. So the material is available on Trove and publicly accessible.

### Street Nursery:

Our Open Day also featured a plant stall. Quite a variety of plants were available on that day and some have been moved to the Street Nursery for your purchase.

### Biggest Pumpkin:

We delivered the two big pumpkins that we had grown in the plot that was formerly the kindergarten sandpit, to the judging at the State School in two big wheelbarrows. We also pushed another wheelbarrow down to the school containing our decorated pumpkin. We were beaten for the heaviest pumpkin and the pumpkin with the biggest girth but the pumpkin decorated by Bev and named The Meredithian Pheasant, A Rare Bird was awarded the first certificate. The growing, preparing, delivering and judging was all great fun! At the moment we have our pair on display at the front door of the History Centre where

they are collecting lots of admiration and pats.

### Monument:

A member of MHIG is trying to locate a monument near Meredith to a black Labrador gun dog that was named Panther Bell Panther. He said that the dog was buried on top of a hill in the Meredith District.

### Around the UK in 80 Days:

The book written by Christine Stevenson about her meanderings in the UK is now available for purchase at MHIG for \$20. This book was reviewed in a recent copy of the Meredith Newsletter and is a wonderful read.

## Breaking News

MHIG has managed to engage a vibrant speaker for Sunday, July 3rd. She is a great, great niece of Steve Hart and a relation of the Lloyds, all connected with Ned Kelly, and she may be able to shed light on Meredith's connection with Ned via Alexander Fitzpatrick, the policeman. Two of her great grandmothers arrived in Australia as orphans of the Irish Famine, and she has researched their story and will tell us about them and the Earl Grey Scheme. Also, a friend of hers has researched policing between Ballarat and Geelong in gold rush days and has also consented to speak.



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# Dog tales



"Whisky"

**BREED:** Murray River Curly Coated Retriever

**BORN:** 2nd November 2007 at Morrisons

**PET HATES:** Crows, having a bath & brush, hoses, THE VET

**FAVOURITE PAST TIMES:** When younger he would chase a tennis ball for ages, and bring it back for more chasing. Opening his birthday and Christmas presents. Going for walks, but like old Mr Grace he doesn't get out much anymore. Sleeping. Getting pats. Travelling in the car or ute.

**SUPER POWER:** Knows when the cheese comes out of the fridge no matter where he is.


**ANNOYING HABITS:** Howling when tied up outside the shop. Many locals will remember being serenaded by him! He suffers from separation anxiety. Barking long and loudly at all visitors until he gets a pat.

**NOW:** He is completely deaf, responds only to hand signals (if he feels like it). His legs are getting wonky and he sometimes falls over. Grumbles, grunts and groans when he lies down. He acts like a grumpy old man which he is.

**HUMAN STAFF:** Cathie & Peter



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



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## Backyard Chickens - The Great Moulting

The days get colder and darker and one day soon the chook yard will look like a feather pillow has burst all over it...or worse a frenzied fox attack!

After a quick fox check and heart rate lowered, you need realise it's the Annual Moulting. Chooks can go through a hard or soft moult... Hard moult is when the chicken looks seriously unwell. She will lose almost all her feathers very quickly, she will start to lose feathers at the head, then down her back, sides and thighs and finally, tail feathers are shed, and she'll look almost bald, and have large areas of skin visible.

Or a chook can have a soft moult, which is when the chickens don't lose very much plumage at all. They'll look a bit ragged, and the tail will probably be missing, but they won't look anything like as bad as a chicken going through a hard moult.

Random bald spots may begin appearing on your chickens and the comb and wattles look dull.

Fluffy down begins to appear as the main feathers fall out.

Egg production starts to reduce.

The chicken may become a bit moody (wouldn't you?!).

They can be a sorry sight, and new chicken owners can be pretty fazed by it. But moulting is a natural process that allows those old feathers to be shed and a new coat to be grown. It also allows time for their reproductive organs to rest.

*Higgleby, piggleby, my black hen, She lays eggs for gentlemen;*

*Sometimes nine, and sometimes ten, Higgleby, piggleby, my black hen.*

Losing feathers is not painful. Feathers fall out exactly like a human's hair does. Re-growth in its early stages, though, can be painful and it's best to handle your chickens as little as possible during this time. If you need to handle them, do it very gently. The reason? "Pin feathers", are the start of feathers growing again. Your chicken will begin to look a bit like a echidna as these small quills emerge. Why does it hurt? Although feathers themselves don't have nerves, the point at which the feathers emerge through skin do. So, touching or putting pressure on the quills, hurts.

But it's seriously nothing to worry about, it's part of nature's cycles as once a chicken has moulted the new feathers will be glossy and perfectly formed, protecting from wind, rain and cold.

During this time the chicken's body cannot support the growth of new feathers and laying eggs, so something has to give, in this case it is the egg laying! Moulting on average it will last around 16 weeks.

Feathers are made up of between 85% and 90% protein, so the chicken puts all its protein resources into feather-making for the duration it takes to replace their old feathers with new feathers, so it's a good idea to increase the amount of protein we give them. If your flock doesn't get enough protein during the moult, there's a danger that they'll start pecking at what's left of each other's feathers instead.

But high protein treats should constitute no more than 10% of the flock's daily food, and it should be given when the moult begins, and stop no more than two weeks after.

Extra's for moulting Chooks...

**Sunflower seeds** - The black seeds are higher in their oil content - between 40 - 50%, depending on the variety. Striped seeds are larger but contain only about 25% oil. The oil is very good for growing glossy healthy feathers. Hint: Do not feed every day. A handful of seeds between your flock every two or three days is plenty.

**Mealworms**- Just a small handful of mealworms, averaging around 1-10 per chicken, is enough to help boost their protein intake. Mealworms are an especially good choice, as they are a dense source of protein, which will help your chickens grow their feathers back in no time

**Eggshells**: To be on the safe side, I bake their own eggshells for ten minutes before grinding them into a fine powder. I use them to add a little calcium. And no, the chickens don't recognise it as their own shells, so it will not encourage egg-eating.

**Oats**: I don't use the 'quick' type, as I feed my chickens as un-processed and natural as possible. Plain old oats are best. I add hot water to make a mash - the warm 'breakfast' is much appreciated.

**Cooked eggs**: I hard boil eggs and chop them into bits. Scrambled eggs are also good. Make the scrambled variety without milk since chickens cannot process dairy products properly. Don't use them raw - it can lead to egg-eating.

And as I wrote about last month. Pumpkin and the seeds.

High protein foods are not to be fed as a substitute for a good quality chicken feed, but as an occasional treat. We find using a treadle feeder means feed is always available when needed by the girls.

You still need to supply oyster shell, grit and clean water.

Remember that chooks are creatures of habit. New foods will be eyed with great suspicion at first, until your flock decides those strange looking mealworms aren't going to kill them after all!

Also watch for any other signs of illness - moulting is a time when a chicken's immune system can be depleted as all their energy goes into making feathers. Immune supporting herbs as poultry tonics and laying stimulants include: - garlic, onion, chickweed, dandelion, fennel, wormwood, rue, cress, marigold, mint, vervain, comfrey, borage, thyme, marjoram, sage, nasturtium, mugwort, ginger and parsley, these can be added to the oat mash.

And finally, do not put your chickens in sweaters! Seriously - it will hurt them! They don't need it - they need their pin feathers to be able to grow without obstruction.



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## Migrants and Citizens

Roy Hay

We have spent more than half of our lives in Australia, since arriving from Scotland in 1977. Our children were eight and five years old, while we were in our thirties. We became Australian citizens on 30 November 1985, St Andrew's Day, the patron saint of Scotland. I asked the man who was administering the ceremony how they celebrated that day. He looked at me and said, 'We deport a Scot'. Australian humour summed up in those words. At least I think he was joking.

By comparison with many of the migrants who have arrived in Australia over the years, we had an easy entry into our new life. We spoke the language, or at least something close to it, and gradually picked up many of the uniquely Australian words and phrases. We still use Scottish words regularly at home and my wife tells me that these days she often wonders whether a word she is using is Scottish or Australian or both. On one occasion she and a couple of Scottish colleagues at Deakin University were having their morning tea/coffee in the common room chatting away. An Australian colleague inquired what they were doing. 'Just blethering', was the first reply. 'Only havering', came next. 'Tearing the tartan' followed, leaving the inquirer not much better informed.

Even within Scotland there were regional differences in language. Apart from Scottish Gaelic, still spoken in parts of the Highlands and Islands and Lallans, the lowland and southern uplands dialect that just survived when I was growing up in Ayrshire, urban centres like Glasgow had a 'patter' of their own. Comedian Stanley Baxter brought out several books containing gems of 'Parliamo Glasgownia'. To the visitor it appeared that a whole sentence might be thrown at them including a number of words strung together without a break. The conductor on the electric tram would intone 'C'mongerraff'. 'Come on' meaning 'hurry up', then 'get off quickly'.

One of the first courses offered by Deakin University's School of Humanities posed the question 'Are Queenslanders different?' I can't remember what they decided. I suspect they were just trying to get students to think about similarity and difference as concepts and their implications.

Many of our friends still have their ancestral languages, using them for preference at home and thinking in them rather than in Australian-English. They had it much tougher than us when they arrived, often with little or no knowledge of the country they were coming to, or its

language, laws and traditions. My notion was that a sensible migrant would look for employment, then get a house and then seek a partner and start a family. I think that was a fairly common pattern. But I have quite a long list of people I know who arrived here and first went to the local football (soccer) club, where they could meet people from their part of the world and with a common language. In the post-war years the clubs helped them find a job, a house and sometimes the family, too. At least a couple of clubs I know of ran language classes for their new arrivals.

My sense is that Australia is at its best when it welcomes migrants and refugees. They bring fresh ideas and approaches. They often have a huge drive to succeed in the new environment and to make a better life for themselves and their children. Migrants often take on jobs that Australians of longer standing refuse to do. Historically, trade unions have sometimes been concerned about migrants undermining hard-won agreements, but that has rarely happened. On the Princes Highway the other day we saw a sign 'This is a refugee friendly area'.

On a few occasions particular groups of migrants have been demonised because of perceived inappropriate behaviour by a few of them, often young people accused of forming gangs and upsetting neighbourhoods. If they happen to be tall and black, they can appear to be frightening in groups, but they are no more prone to violence than any other group of youngsters.

Often migrants bring dynamism and new ideas to an area, particularly if they are welcomed and assisted to settle into new areas. Where they are shunted into part of the urban fringe that is often lacking in facilities it is much harder for them to settle and become involved. It takes time to build community.

Australians have not been great at urban planning. The mushroom growth of housing estates on urban fringes with few or no amenities is a disaster waiting to happen. It is not as if we have not had plenty of experience, from what has happened during previous waves of inward migration, but we have done it repeatedly. We really need to address a better use of redundant sites within existing urban areas and increase the density of housing in areas where facilities, often underused, exist. That will run into nimby (not in my backyard) problems, but these also can be and need to be addressed.



Cover of *Parliamo Glasgow*. Photo: Roy Hay.





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# Moorabool River

## Media Release

People for A Living Moorabool (PALM) today cautiously welcomed the announcement of funding for relief for the Moorabool River in the Victorian State Budget 2022.

Group Co-ordinator Cameron Steele said, "It was vital that as Victoria's most flow stressed river the Moorabool's condition be both acknowledged and addressed in this year's budget, and thankfully it was."

"If used properly these funds will help ease the continuing decline of this struggling but still beautiful river."

According to the State Government's Long Term Water Assessment the Moorabool has seen a decline of inflows due to climate change of over 20% during the last 15 years.

"This has been disastrous for an already severely over allocated river" Mr Steele said, "and it will be only through urban water authorities like Barwon Water or Central Highlands Water in Ballarat decreasing their large entitlements that the condition of the river and its wildlife will ever improve."

"Water efficiency and integrated water management measures flagged in the Budget will only have an impact if a portion of the water saved is returned to our stressed rivers." Mr Steele cautioned.

"Ultimately it will take substantial investment in new climate proof sources of water, such as recycling or desalination, to make a lasting difference for our local rivers, and we await a proper commitment by government to this future."

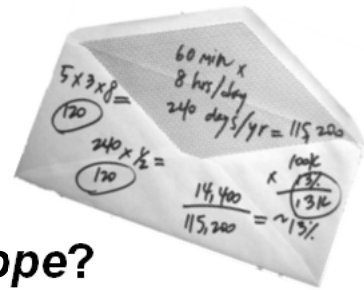
PALM is one of many river advocate groups across southern Victoria awaiting the State Government's final Central and Gippsland Sustainable Water Strategy due out next month.

"This is when the specific measures designed to assist rivers like the Moorabool will be revealed." Mr Steele said.

"They will need to be both effective and meaningful to have any hope of securing the Moorabool River's long-term future and allocating funds for them is a welcomed start."



Group Co-ordinator Cameron Steele



## What's an Envelope?

Jim Elvey

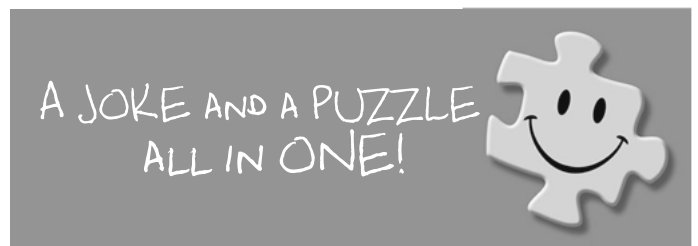
Did you read on page 19 about rainfall data reported on the back of envelope? It caused us to reflect on the fact that envelopes were once an integral part of our lives, carrying messages (and bills) from the outside world. And the term *on the back of an envelope* was ubiquitous, rising to the status of idiom, meaning "to prepare in a brief and hurried manner".

But it was also anchored in our daily habits. Many a name and phone number was scribbled on the daily mail as well as explanatory diagrams, messages to family members, calculations and just doodles or pen tests.

Inevitably, this sort of casual recording system brought its own chaos, leading to frequent rummaging to retrieve some vital information from the bin. (The days after bin night were particularly fraught.)

Envelopes were also the go to medium for shopping lists. It was common to see shoppers slowing the progress of aisles as they took stock of the notes in the margins of a power company's envelope.

Now days, the power bill is a screen image, harbinger of an automated debit, the shopping list is a phone app (which can still slow an aisle) and the envelope a much rarer creature. Do we miss it? Not much! Electronic communications are good for the environment and our kitchen table and take the trauma out of bin night. But then again, if you have a fire to light...



Which athlete is warmest in winter?





## Marg's BOOK REVIEW

### **Cry to the Wind** by Dell Brand

I was sitting on the deck of our cabin at the Broken Hill Caravan Park recovering from a busy day sightseeing, when I saw a woman heading down the road trundling a case on wheels behind her. When she was near me, she introduced herself and told me that she was an author who wrote historical fiction, and produced some books from her case for me to look at.

Of course, being a keen reader with a particular interest in history I purchased a book from her. I chose the second book in a series of three, because part of it was set in Ballarat. Since finishing reading *Cry to the Wind*, I have ordered the first book in the series.

I thoroughly enjoyed the book which tells of the turbulent story of life and death amid the years of the Victorian gold rush. Adam who is recently widowed and suffering from melancholia, sets out on an overland journey from Sydney in 1847 with his two young sons. He intends to leave the boys with friends in Melbourne while he travels and mends his heart.

The book was very well researched. The author told me that for the 1847 trip overland from Sydney to Melbourne she had read *This Errant Lady* about Lady Jane Franklin's overland journey from Port Phillip to Sydney in 1839. She reversed the trip but followed the track that the Tasmanian Governor's wife took and included some of the places she stayed and people she met. Imagine travelling across a wilderness by horse with two young sons, in an era when it was not only dangerous to travel because of the possibility of sickness, but also attacks and theft by natives of the land and by bushrangers.

What also appealed to me in the book was the strong female character, who refused to submit to the traditional women's role of that time, and instead built a business empire of her own.

I also liked that the story is told from three points of view. The first part is told by Adam, the second part by Joey, the progressive business woman, and the third part by Tom, a loyal family friend and employee.

To make the story easier to follow she has included a List of Characters and hand drawn Maps of the areas travelled.

I am looking forward to now reading *A Voice to be Heard* and, later, the third book in the series, *Journey into Darkness*.

*Dell Brand writes mainly historical fiction for adults, dabbles in humorous poetry and works as an editor. She has written six historical novels for adults including the trilogy of A Voice to be Heard, Cry to the Wind and Journey into Darkness.*

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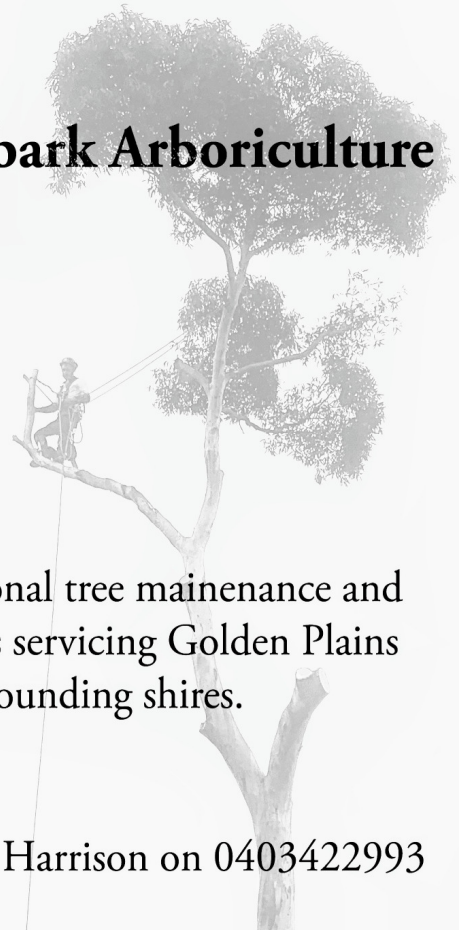
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# Arbor Day Through the Years

Arbor Day— from the Latin, “arbor,” meaning “tree,” is a day celebrating the planting, upkeep and preservation of trees. Introduced to America by tree lover, Julius Sterling Morton, when the first Arbor Day occurred on April 10, 1872 nearly one million trees were planted. In Australia Arbor Day, not to be confused with National Tree Day (held every year in late July), has been observed since 20 June 1889. Its purpose is to encourage people to plant trees, and many communities have traditionally taken the opportunity to organize tree-planting and litter-collecting events on or around the holiday.

Many do not realise how much work has gone into planting trees that we often take for granted today.

Arbor Day this year is Monday 20th June.

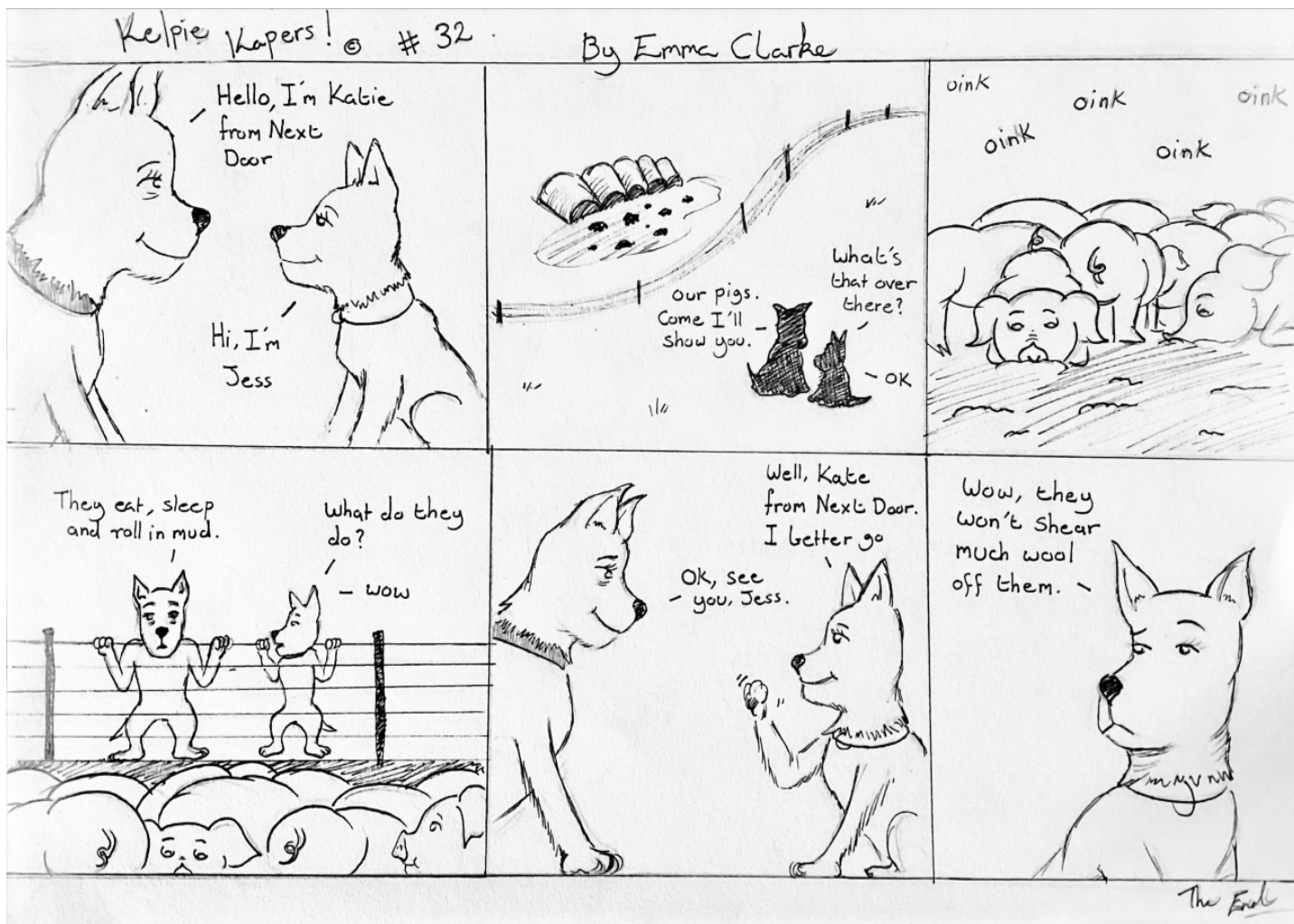
Below are accounts of local Arbor Days taken from old newspapers:

The authorities having recognised the ruthless destruction of the country's timber have taken steps to put a stop to it and in addition to encourage the cultivation of native trees. One of the means adopted to this end is the planting of trees in school grounds by the children attending the schools, and in some places holidays, known as arbor days, are set apart for this express purpose. In Geelong district one might travel a considerable distance in parts, before seeing anything approaching a cluster of native trees outside the gardens, so that the efforts of the Education department to arouse enthusiasm in the children in tree planting should here meet with success. Already

youngsters are to be seen making small excavations in the school grounds of the district preparatory to planting trees, but so far nothing has been heard of a public arbor day such as those observed in many places, in the form of a festival.  
*Geelong Advertiser 14 June 1904*

**Sutherlands Creek.** At Sutherland's Creek state school, Arbor Day was held on Friday, and the same interest was exhibited at this as at the other schools in our district, showing that the residents are fully alive to the importance of tree planting. Mrs. Hope and Miss Hope, of "Darriwell," drove a long distance to be present to partake in the planting. The parents and a number of friends attended, and provided a splendid repast, after which a programme was gone through similar to that at Russell's Bridge, the same principals taking part. Similar gatherings were held at Lethbridge and Maude schools.  
*Geelong Advertiser 6 July 1904*

**Beremboke.** The children at the State school have been busy transplanting the annual seedlings from the seed beds into the garden plots, and the latter are now looking, well, and there is every prospect of the school ground being gay with flowers of many colours and varieties as soon as the warmer weather of spring arrives. It is remarkable what results can be produced with plenty of willing workers and a little enthusiasm. It is scarcely twelve months since it was decided to try and transform the bare, barren unfenced school ground into a garden, surrounded by a substantial wire-netted fence. Then Arbor Day was duly celebrated by the planting of trees suitable to this climate, and garden beds were dug up and laid out in various designs, and were



soon planted by the children contributing plants and seeds.  
*Geelong Advertiser 19 August 1905*

**Lethbridge.** Arbor Day was celebrated at the Lethbridge State school on Friday last. About one hundred children, parents and friends were present... The programme was carried out, and short addresses on tree-planting, etc., were given by Messrs. Moodie, Fraser, Patterson and Martin. Luncheon was plentifully supplied by the parents and friends and in the afternoon sports of various kinds were carried out. One member of each family planted a tree in the school ground, and before evening closed in, light luncheon was again partaken of by those present, and all left for their homes after having thoroughly enjoyed themselves.  
*Geelong Advertiser 30 June 1908*

**Elaine.** Only general arrangements have so far been made for the celebration of Arbor Day on Friday, the 26th inst., at Elaine, but the school children, to whom the celebration is of most import, may anticipate a happy day of it. In the morning the scholars will follow out the regulations laid down by the Department for the observance of the occasion, and in the afternoon the planting of the trees on the Main road will be undertaken. The erection of the tree guards will be carried out by Mr Fred. Harris, who secured the contract for the work. Subsequently the children will participate in a sports meeting, after which they will be regaled with refreshments. In the evening, at the Mechanics' Hall, the school committee held a Cinderella dance in aid of Arbor Day funds. Excellent music and refreshments are promised.  
*The Ballarat Star Friday 19 June 1914*

**Steiglitz.** Arbor Day was held at the Steiglitz State school on Friday afternoon. There was a good attendance of ladies, each of whom planted trees and shrubs. The planting on Arbor Day for the previous year has been wonderfully successful, and there were only 10 blanks out of about 100 trees and shrubs planted. On this occasion five ornamental shrubs, 20 pittosporum hedge plants, and 10 sugar gums were added to the previous plantation, and in a few years the school grounds should present a very pretty and pleasing appearance... The shrubs and creepers on "Gallipoli" Hill, on the north side of the school, add much to the beauty of the surroundings, and great interest is taken in the improvements made in the school and grounds by both the parents and the children. A grove of over 40 native wattle trees planted near the entrance gate will make a great show when in bloom. *The Ballarat*

*Courier (Vic. : 1869 - 1884; 1914 - 1918) Wednesday 5 July 1916*

**Meredith.** Arbor Day was celebrated at the local State School on Friday. A row of 12 trees, to be known as the Anzac Row, was planted. Much useful work was done in the garden plots, and 18 assorted shrubs were planted.  
*Geelong Advertiser (Vic. : 1859 - 1929) Monday 2 July 1917*

**Cargarie.** The celebration of Arbor Day at the Cargarie State School was one of the most successful events yet held in the district. Most of the committee, with parents of the little ones, were in attendance. After a number of trees had been planted the children rendered several patriotic songs, and a short sports programme was gone through... The supervisor of the function, was the head teacher (Mrs Beck) and the general arrangements were so complete that there was not an idle moment in the afternoon which was voted thoroughly enjoyable by all present.  
*The Ballarat Star 29 August 1917*

**Anakie.** The new fence is now completed in front of the school grounds, and greatly improves the appearance generally. Water is being laid on to the agricultural plot by the committee. Further improvements are contemplated. Arbor day was duly celebrated on 25th June, 16 trees being planted. This makes a total of about 70 in the grounds.  
*The Ballarat Star 10 July 1920*

**Maude.** Arbor Day was celebrated at the school on Friday, when each child of the school was given a tree to plant. In the afternoon a number of parents and friends were present, and a nice programme of songs and recitations was given by the children, which were very heartily applauded. When this part of the afternoon's programme was finished, the trees were planted, and the children sat down to a well-earned afternoon tea, which was provided by the parents. After tea the children played games.  
*The Ballarat Star 29 June 1921*

**Sheoaks.** Arbor Day was celebrated at the local State school on 23rd June, the weather being ideal. The ladies provided afternoon tea, and a very pleasant afternoon was spent.  
*The Ballarat Star 5 July 1922*

Arbor Day was celebrated at the Elaine school on Friday, when about 50 trees were planted. There was a large gathering of parents and other people who were interested and afternoon tea was served by the ladies.  
*Geelong Advertiser 22 June 1927*

References: *Trove*  
[monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/culture/community/display/93053-arbor-day-trees](http://monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/culture/community/display/93053-arbor-day-trees)

*Jan McDonald, Meredith History Interest Group*



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But my point is that by the caring Meredith community sharing our problem, we received amazing kindness, and although I now live in Norlane, I try daily to ‘pay it forward’ and help whoever crosses my path.

Thank you, Meredith, for the loving hearts of your country community. I hope each day we can ‘let our hearts burn with loving kindness for all who may cross our path’. A quote from the Baha’i Writings.

Brenda Humphries

*G’Day from the penners for the first month of winter, at least officially by the calendar, but nature doesn’t take any notice of our man-made constructs and she will do as she pleases, always. We have tried since we began to walk upright to tame her might but to no avail and she ignores us at our peril. Still, I for one enjoy the cooler months, sleeping is much pleasanter and snuggling is definitely back on the agenda.*

*Our piece this month is from Brenda Humphries who is an ex-resident of Meredith and she sings the praises of small town country people. We hope you enjoy, and as always, we are contactable via our emailgoldenpens4@gmail.com*

Every three years this happens, the ‘thing’ that we can’t seem to get away from and by the time we read this, it will all be over – and a new term for the ‘winner’ just beginning.

I don’t want to hear any more about it, do you?

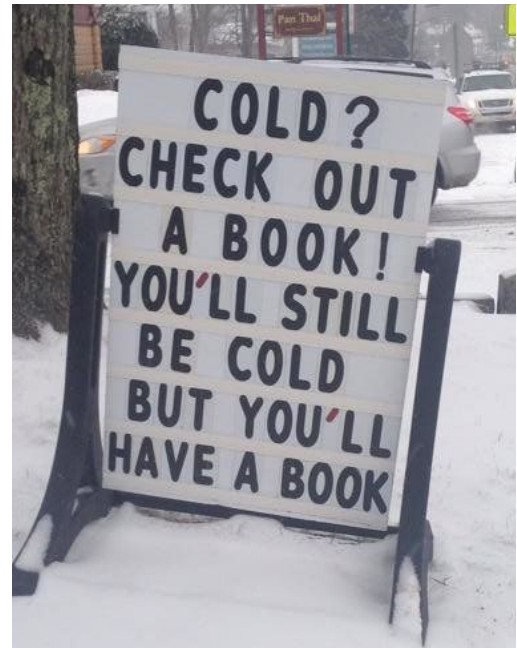
I would rather talk about the beauty of sitting in front of an open fire, watching the flames dance about, or feel the warm air blowing from a heater, either way I am grateful for the warmth. This makes me think of the homeless people, the lonely and cold who aren’t as lucky, but is it only luck?

I think we have to remember how blessed we are to have been educated, to have employment and family and friends and these are treasures that can’t be bought or bargained for or sold to overseas investors.

I heard a lovely saying, ‘pay it forward’ and I will share something with you that happened to me, when I lived in Meredith a few years ago. My husband had Motor Neurone Disease and we had 5 young children and to say that life was hard, is an understatement.

But Meredith is a caring town, and it was back then and I learned a lesson that ‘gossip’ has two-sides. People, especially the lovely school community, shared our sad news with each other, and you could call that ‘gossip’ but from their sharing, people brought us pre-cooked meals, painted our old weatherboard house, baby-sat, and from our community we received carers.

My husband passed away after a 4-year battle, and we as a family coped well, not in the least because at the time I was editing a children’s book that was getting published. I had written it years before in answer to my 5-year old’s statement “Mummy, I don’t want to die”. I explained to him what I believed, and that later became a published book, in 7 languages, but mainly, it helped us talk about death and life and I think this helped the kids and I cope with the loss of my husband and their dad. (It is on Amazon and called ‘Beyond the Rainbow’.)



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