

& Meredith district News

OUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



JULY 2022

inside



- A look at some nocturnal creatures
- Meet this months pooch "Spud"
- Episode 3: A place for a village

...and the usual Much More!



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

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The Grand Opening

Local resident Shelly, a big fan of our local community newsletter, officiated at the grand opening of the new storage box outside the Meredith General Store and Post Office. (Actually, Shelly happened to turn up just after it was installed and was the first to use it.)



Jim Elvey made the greater capacity all weather box out of recycled jarrah decking, steel and sheet metal.

Thank you to the owner of the Store for kindly allowing us to locate the box next to the post office boxes.

And here's Ralph Holtz loading up the June issue in the new box. Ralph is our trusty delivery volunteer, who distributes the newsletter every month to over a dozen outlets in Meredith, Elaine, Lethbridge and Bannockburn. (He also donated the sheet metal.)



Issue on the first Thursday of every month except January, visit meredithnews.com.au to find your most convenient location to collect your copy.

Meredith & district NEWS



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

NEWS & VIEWS

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

DATES AND DEADLINES

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

ADVERTISING

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

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

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

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

CONTACT US

Post Office, Meredith, 3333

Advertising: Ian 0409 016815

advertising@meredithnews.com.au

Accounts: Mike 0419 307044

accounts@meredithnews.com.au

Editorial: Jim: 0409 163169

news@meredithnews.com.au

WEB

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

ONLINE PHOTOS

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

DISCLAIMER

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

Issue Production: Peter Boer Editor: Pam Ridd

connect

ADVANCE
MEREDITH
0409 027 359

ANGLING CLUB
0419 248 660

B'BURN ART
GROUP
0410 808 483

BLUE LIGHT
DISCO
5286 1222

BOOK CLUB
5286 8201

CFA
000 for fire calls
Elaine
0409 861 296
Meredith
5286 1502
Morrisons
0417 770 765

CHILDCARE
5286 0700

COMMUNITY
CENTRE
5286 0700

CRICKET
Elaine
0448 291074
Junior
(U16,U14,13)
0448 291074

Meredith
5286 1434

CUBS &
SCOUTS
Lethbridge
0435 042077

ELAINE HALL
elainetownhall@gmail.com

FOOTBALL
Seniors 0408 545
246
Juniors 0430 587 674

GOLF CLUB
0407 795 342

HISTORY GROUP
5286 8201

LANDCARE
0409 862 326

MEMORIAL HALL
0409 662106

MOTORCYCLE
CLUB
0437 009 250

PLAYGROUP
5286 0700

POLICE
PADDOCKS
5286 1273

RSL - 5286 1452

SENIOR
CITIZENS
5286 8232

TENNIS
Elaine
0448 291 074
Lethbridge
52 817 321
Meredith
0424754179

SEW 'N' SEWS
5286 0700

FRIENDS of the
BRISBANE
RANGES
5286 1252

emergency

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

Justices of the Peace

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

services

CEMETERY TRUST

5286 1550

HALL HIRE

Meredith Memorial
5286 1545
Elaine Mechanics
elainetownhall@gmail.com

Elaine Rec Res
5341 5703

LIBRARY VAN
5272 6010

MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

5220 7230

PRE-SCHOOL

5286 0722

PRIMARY SCHOOL

5286 1313

RECREATION

RESERVE
0429 315 575

..or start something.

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



Life is too short to wake up in the morning with regrets. So, love the people who treat you right and forget about the who don't. And believe that everything happens for a reason.. if you get a chance take it: if it changes your life - let it. Nobody said it would be easy... they just promised you it would be worth it.

Math Hagan



COMMUNITY

Meredith Senior Citizens

Jim Hynds

The seniors met at the Meredith Hall on May 23. It was a very special day as one of our dearest members Mrs Betty Baker was celebrating a very important day, for Betty had reached the grand age of 90. She was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and a fantastic chocolate 90th birthday cake. A glass of champagne all round completed the party which was enjoyed by all. So well done Betty for reaching this fantastic mile-stone.

On June 6 members travelled to Geelong Bowling Club for a luncheon. This outing was well supported by members. We enjoyed a two-course meal which was well presented by an excellent staff. We will certainly be going back.

Recreation



Meredith Tennis club

Bridget Dyer

The Meredith Tennis club will hold the next annual general meeting at 7pm at the Rec reserve on 3rd August 2022.

Well done to all the kids that participated in the Buninyong Autumn competition. There was lots of improvement over the competition and some great matches.

A very big congratulations to Savannah Thompson, Phoebe Brown and Madelyn Thompson. Savannah and Phoebe made it to the finals and played each other, with Savannah winning their division. Madelyn played well and was runner up in her division.

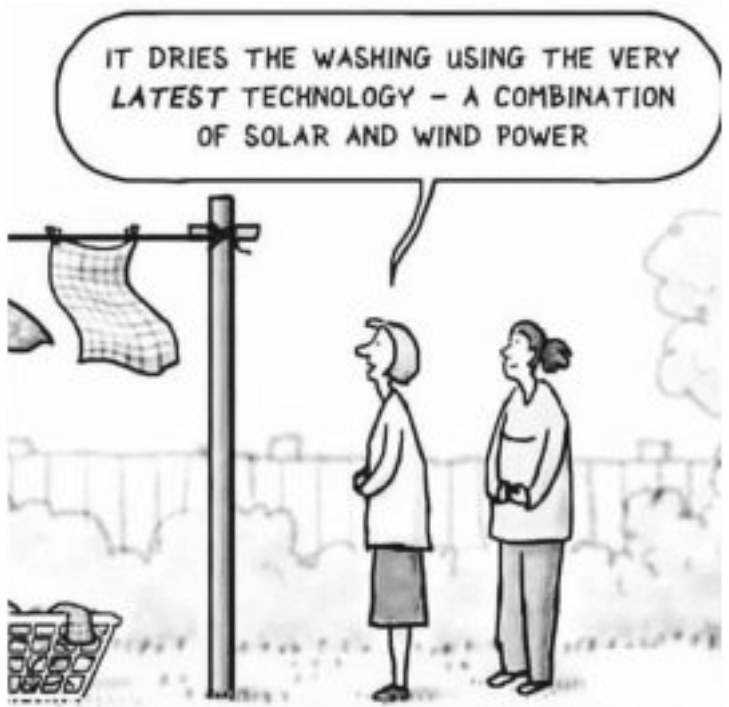
The next season starts in October.



We've recently been advised by Michaela Settle, Member for Buninyong, that the Meredith Police Paddocks were not allocated any funds in the May State budget. Her advice was to "engage with Council". (Something we've been trying to do for two years.)

We have been approached by a DELWP officer "...with a view to providing assistance with an achievable management plan." While it is unclear what that means exactly, we are hopeful it will lead to some meaningful support for this valuable public reserve. It will be critical to take action to suppress weed growth, gorse in particular, before any spring growth.

If you would like to join the Meredith Police Paddocks Support Group, local volunteers working to improve and



Classifieds

First insertion of small ads are FREE to district residents

Situation Wanted

Shearer available for alpacas and small mobs of sheep. 25 years experience ph Shane 0448291074



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

ERMHA WELL BEING HUB - FREE EVENTS

Tuesdays at the Community Centre - 9.30am

Check out Facebook for Event Listings to see what is on!

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

Digital Essentials with Leah

Come and have some fun learning about your device!

Friday July 15 - 10am - 2pm

\$20 per session - bookings essential!

BCYF - Wellbeing Counselling

Wednesdays at the Community Centre

1300 022 293

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!

Community Lunch

On the last Wednesday of the Month, the Community Centre holds a lunch to get to know other community members!

\$5 for a 2 course meal

Bookings Essential

Look out on Facebook for the next one!

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



INTERESTED...



...in joining the Newsletter Committee?

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

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

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

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

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

OUR COVER



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



This month's cover is an image from the Meredith Police paddocks Instagram page of a Majestic Swamp gum at sunrise. Take a look at some of the other wonderful images or better still take a walk and see the gorgeous views for yourself

<https://www.instagram.com/meredithpolicepaddocks/>

Church News



Meredith Uniting Church

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

Rev. Paul Sanders 0407 833 515 5341 2440

Serbian Orthodox - 5341 5568

Worship on Sundays in the Anglican Parish of Inverleigh+Bannockburn+Meredith:

9.00 am Holy Communion St Paul's, Inverleigh

11.00 am Family Communion. St John's, Bannockburn

5.00 pm Prayer and Praise Epiphany, Meredith

Find us at: www.goldenplainsanglican.org or
office.ibm@goldenplainsanglican.org

The Revd Dr Timothy Smith

PiC Anglican Parish of

Inverleigh+Bannockburn+Meredith

St. Joseph's Catholic Parish of Meredith

Contact Details:

Parish Priest Father Joseph mob. 0404 598 558

Office Phone: 5286 1230

Office open Wednesday & Friday 9.30am to 4.30 pm

Mass times :

Tue and Thurs 9 am St Mary MacKillop, Bannockburn

9.30-10.30 am Fr Joseph available for enquiries

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

First Friday of the month

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

First Sunday of the month

Family Mass, 11 am, Bannockburn

Youth group Bannockburn, contact Joanne 0451 818 596.

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

Sun. 11 am St. Mary MacKillop, Bannockburn

Sun. Alternate Sunday, 9 am St. Joseph's, Meredith

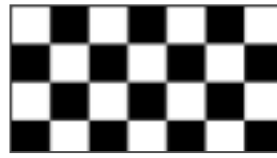
Sun. Alternate Sunday, 9 am St. Brigid's Anakie

Sun. 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.



POLICE report

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

I have received a number of complaints in relation to persons and vehicles entering private property to shoot wild life.

Police encourage local residents to contact Police at time of occurrence, in addition to ensuring gates are adequately secured to prevent access.

It is also a reminder that trespassing on private property is prohibited, and without an appropriate licence or authorisation, the shooting of wildlife may be illegal.

I will continue to increase patrols, and utilise additional resources to ensure this behaviour is curbed.

At approximately 1150PM on the 17th of June 2022, unknown offenders have attended the Steiglitz Court House, situated on Meredith – Steiglitz Road, where entry had been forced and a cash tin containing donations taken. Witnesses have informed Police that the said offenders were observed performing hoon activity within the area, prior to gaining entry to the historic building. Again, I ask if this activity is being observed, please notify 000. This will ultimately notify Police members whom may be patrolling within the area, or result in Police members (inclusive of myself) responding promptly.

On the 6th of June 2022, a 33 year old male was intercepted on the Midland Highway whilst driving with a disqualified licence. The vehicle driven was subsequently impounded for a 30 day period, and costs associated totalling \$1555. The offending male was released pending Summons and expected to appear before the Magistrates Court in relation to driving whilst disqualified.

I have unfortunately responded to a number of nasty vehicle accidents within the district, so I ask that we all take care on the road, and drive to the conditions accordingly.

Please also be aware that changes associated with Firearm storage will come in to affect as of the 30th of August 2022. Changes include:

- Firearms must be stored in a purpose built steel storage receptable.
- Steel must be of a thickness of at least 1.6mm thick.
- If the receptable weight is less than 150kg when empty, it must be bolted to the structure of the premises.
- The receptable must be locked with a lock of sturdy construction when the firearm is stored in it.

For any additional information, please contact myself, your preferred firearm dealership or the Licencing and Regulation Division.

ADVERTISEMENT



Michaela Settle MP

STATE MEMBER FOR BUNINYONG

15 Main Road, Bakery Hill 3350

E: michaela.settle@parliament.vic.gov.au

P: 5331 7722

MICHAELA SETTLE MP MOBILE OFFICE AT MEREDITH

Café & Corner Store

17 Wallace Street,
Meredith

Friday 15 July
3:00pm – 3:45pm

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a meeting time.



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Bourbon Chicken

Prep Time 15 mins Cook time 35 mins

Serves 4

(Named Bourbon Chicken because it was supposedly created by a Chinese cook who worked in a restaurant on Bourbon Street)

Ingredients

- 600g chicken breasts cut into bite sized pieces
- 1-2 tbs olive oil
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 1/4 tsp ginger
- 3/4 tsp crushed chilli flakes
- 1/4 cup apple juice
- 1/3 cup light brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons tomato sauce
- 1 tablespoon cider vinegar
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/3 cup soy sauce

Method

1. Heat oil in a large fry pan. Add chicken pieces and cook until lightly browned. Remove chicken.
2. Add remaining ingredients, heating over medium heat until well mixed and dissolved.
3. Add the chicken and bring to a rapid boil.
4. Reduce heat and simmer for 20 minutes.
5. Serve over boiled rice.

Recipe from: Food.com

Stefania



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Anthony Mobile: 0409 524438

ABN 63614843881

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Bannockburn Pharmacy Newsletter

Proprietors: Scott Wilkes & Damian Bennett

6 High St

Bannockburn VIC 3331 Phone: 5281 1516

Be prepared this flu season (Vaccination Clinic)

Our pharmacists, Scott, Pritti and Tracey are accredited to provide and administer flu vaccinations (10 years & older) & whooping cough vaccinations in the pharmacy. Our vaccination clinic is open during the following times:

Monday 10.00 am - 6.00pm	Tuesday 10.00 am - 6.00pm
Wednesday 10.00 am - 6.00pm	Thursday 9.00 am - 4.00pm
Friday 10.00 am - 6.00pm	
'After hours' Flu clinics will be available too. Follow us on Facebook to see when these will be happening.	

Everything is done from start to finish within the pharmacy. It is a requirement for your safety that you need to rest in the pharmacy for 15 minutes after your vaccination has been administered, so please allow extra time for this.

*Flu vaccination cost

- No prescription required from your Doctor
- \$25.00 (\$15.00 for the vaccine + \$10.00 for the administration of the vaccine by one of our accredited pharmacists)
- Free flu vaccine + \$10.00 for the administration by one of our accredited pharmacists if you fall into one of the following categories:
 - i) i) Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children aged 6 months to <5 years
 - ii) ii) Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander persons > 15 years
 - iii) iii) All persons > 65 years
 - iv) iv) All persons > 6 months who have certain medical conditions which increase the risk of influenza disease complications: for example, severe asthma, lung or heart disease, low immunity or diabetes
 - v) v) Pregnant women

* Whooping Cough vaccination cost

- No prescription required from your Doctor
- \$47.00 (\$37.00 for the vaccine + \$10.00 for the administration of the vaccine by one of our accredited pharmacists)
- Free whooping cough vaccine + \$10.00 for the administration by one of our accredited pharmacists if you fall into one of the following categories:
 - i) i) Pregnant women from 28 weeks gestation during every pregnancy
 - ii) ii) Partners of women who are at least 28 weeks pregnant if the partner has not received a pertussis booster in the past 10 years
 - iii) iii) Parents/guardians of babies born on or after 1st June 2015, if their baby is under 6 months of age and they have not received a pertussis booster in the last 10 years.

To secure a time that best suits you, we recommend that you make an appointment through the Pharmacy. You can either phone the Pharmacy on 5281 1519 or you can book online through our Facebook page. www.facebook.bannockburnpharmacy You can also just walk in but there may be a wait if someone else is already having a vaccination done.

Pharmacy Features

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

Trading Hours

Monday:	8.30 am - 6.30pm
Tuesday:	8.30 am - 6.30pm
Wednesday:	8.30 am - 6.30pm
Thursday:	8.30 am - 6.30pm
Friday:	8.30 am - 6.30pm
Saturday:	8.30 am - 1.00pm
Sunday:	CLOSED

Vaccination Clinic - Flu and Whooping Cough vaccinations



In our Nature

Wendy Cook

Above the hill, a brilliant orange sunset sky glowed below heavy grey clouds. The old pines on the hilltop, some complete, some broken or dead, formed a straggly row of black silhouettes against the fiery orange and dark grey. The orange faded and gradually, it all changed to blackness. Now it is dark, very dark. From the ancient gum tree behind the house comes a familiar call, "Mopoke, mopoke." Perched on a dead branch, partially hidden among foliage is a southern boobook, the smallest of our local owls. His brown feathers are splotched with white. Short paler feathers cover his legs above strong grey toes gripping the branch. His head is large compared to his compact body. Dark brown feathers form a disc around his circular eyes, pale brown with large black irises and white eyebrows. The disc concentrates light reaching his eyes and sounds arriving at his ears. He turns his head over his shoulder in response to a gentle rustle in the grass behind him. His forward-facing eyes make it easier to pinpoint movement and judge the distance to his prey. He spreads his wings, fringed edges on their feathers allowing him to fly silently to the ground. His strong claws clutch the mouse, his first meal for the night.

The boobook takes to the air again, hunting flying beetles and snatching spiders from among the tree's leaves where they are seeking their own meal. He flies to the nearest paddock tree and continues his feeding, moving from tree to tree towards the forested valley. A slow far-carrying double hoot call causes him to veer away from the valley. It is the call of a powerful owl, a predator of mammals and birds, including young boobooks. The powerful owl is announcing that this valley is his territory. He perches on the limb of a tall dead tree and coughs. He spits a pellet of fur and bones to the ground, discarding the inedible portions of last night's meal, in the manner of all owls and many other birds. Draped over the branch, held by his strong yellow toes is tonight's meal, a large brushtail possum. His bright yellow eyes stare into the darkness. Far larger than the boobook, powerful owls are Australia's largest owl. The feathers of his back and tail are dark grey-brown with white stripes. On his front, white feathers are marked with dark chevron shapes. His beak tears at the possum, biting a chunk of meat and swallowing it. He will not eat the whole possum tonight, but will take it to his daytime roost. He will finish it tomorrow evening before hunting again.

The boobook continues his flight, over the hill towards a tree-lined creek in a paddock. Here, he hears an unfamiliar call, again a double hoot, but this time sounding like a barking dog. It is a bird uncommon in this area, a barking owl. She and her mate look similar to the boobook, but are larger, although not nearly as large as the powerful owl. They have been feeding since dusk when her mate caught a rabbit. The female eats the remains of a wattlebird. Her silent swoop allowed her to snatch it from a branch while it slept. Movement catches her eye. She takes to the air and returns carrying a bat. Whilst using its echolocation calls to hunt flying insects,

it had not noticed the threatening barking owl approaching from behind. After consuming the bat, the female moves close to her mate. They preen each other, using their beaks to clean each other's feathers, position them correctly and remove parasites. This is part of their courtship. The female has found a large hollow in a dead tree on the hillside above the creek. It will be a good place to lay her two or three eggs and to rear their chicks.

The boobook would also like to breed. He is three years old and mature enough to find a mate. He perches in a hilltop tree and calls repeatedly, "Mopoke, mopoke." A distant call answers him. The female boobook is closer than when he heard her two nights ago. They call to each other for a few minutes, then the female flies further afield, still hunting. He will return to this tree again, hoping to attract the female to be his mate.

Before he leaves, the boobook looks down and sees a pale shape flying across the paddock. It is a barn owl, with a mottled grey back and white underside. The disc around her eyes, which concentrates sound, is much larger and more noticeable than on the other owls. It is also heart-shaped. Her black eyes are smaller, and although she can see well in the dark, she relies more on her extremely sensitive hearing. One ear is slightly higher on her head than the other, helping her to pinpoint prey. She flies back and forth, low above the ground on long silent wings. She detects a tiny sound indicating movement, and descends. Long legs reach down through the grass and grasp a mouse. She kills it with a nip to the back of its head, then swallows it whole. Rats and mice form most of her diet, but she will also eat gliders and small carnivorous marsupials. She continues her search until she is no longer hungry, then flies to her favourite roost in a tree hollow. She would also settle in a cavity among rocks or in a man-made structure.

Before dawn, the boobook returns to the trees near the house. It is a good place to be. The farmer leaves the trees alone, so there is plenty of food, hiding places and a few hollows for nesting season. When mice or rats become a problem around the sheds, the farmer uses traps, not poison. Owls that eat poisoned rodents, also eat the poison. One poisoned rat is enough to kill an owl. Even if it survives, it is likely to be sick enough to be attacked and eaten by another owl, potentially killing two owls with one rat bait. Here the boobook is safe. He lands on a branch, picks several beetles off nearby flowers, and stores them under a piece of bark for a snack later. He shuffles along the branch, until he is hidden among a dense clump of leaves. If small daytime birds find him, they are likely to mob him, forcing him to find a new perch. Hopefully, they won't notice him. He closes his eyes and settles in for a good day's sleep.



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Search Engine Optimisation

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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)
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Jimmy Hynd's Agave

Marg Cooper

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Jimmy is waiting and watching to see if the flower buds open. It does seem to be a strange time for flowering when it is so cold and bees are fairly quiet but surely nature knows best!



Meredith Sketchers braved the chilly winter winds that whipped down the Midland Highway in front of the Anglican Church on Tuesday, 14th June. We welcomed three new people to our group - Michaela, Ros and Sam.

A sprawling gum next to the community garden sheltered us as we used pencil, pen, charcoal, and pastel to try to capture the essence of the timber church. It was a difficult subject given all the angles, straight lines and dull light but we all managed respectable representations from Michaela's close up of the spire to Peter T's heavy charcoal cross dominating his picture. Kerry managed to include a local resident and his two dogs strolling past!

The second half of our time occurred in the comfort and warmth of Back Street Cafe where Beth sketched Sam whilst Alex incorporated his coffee and sausage roll in the foreground of his window-framed drawing of the the corner pub. We look forward to our next plein air drawing on 12th July when we'll meet at the Community House before heading off to an interesting destination.

Kerry

ps. We're wondering when our esteemed magazine Editor will drop his mouse and pick up a pen and join us

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I Bought a Creamery and Butter Factory

By Jack Mitchell as told to Marg Cooper

In 1952 I married Joyce Irvine. Her parents, Vince and Julia (Dolly) Irvine and siblings, Theo, Lillis, Betty and Henry, lived in McLeod Street.

We made our home in Williamstown but often spent weekends with Joyce's mother at Meredith. (Vince and Julia divorced.)

One weekend we arrived to find a clearing sale in progress at Norman McDonalds on the north-west corner of the junction of the Midland Highway and McLeod Streets. We migrated to the sale and as we entered the Auctioneer said, *Sold to the gentleman at the back for \$2.00* and was staggered to find I had purchased a large stoneware container and a brand new Cineinatti Brass Kerosene Heater. But a bigger surprise was to come when a fellow sought me out. He said that he wanted to sell a house and a number of blocks in McLeod Street but he didn't want to see Ned and Dolly put out, as they were renting the house. He wanted me to buy the house and land so they could stay on. I want \$900 for it. We shook hands and the deal was done.

The years went along, Doll passed away and Ned Watts went to Melbourne to live. I tried to get a permit to build a new house on the land but the Council refused. After Joyce's brother Theo died, I was going to sell the lot but an agent advised us to sell the house and land, but keep the old concrete creamery, because we would be able to get a permit to renovate it.

The agent quickly sold the house and blocks of land and Joyce and I had a three months holiday in Europe on the proceeds.

I built a simple house using some of the walls of the old creamery basement or cool chamber that measured 40 feet x 20 feet with walls 8 foot 3 inches high as walls in the house. Because we were used to big houses, I later added another lounge, office and sunroom.

When we retired, I asked Joyce where she wanted to live. She chose to live at our house in Grant Street, Meredith.

In 1891 a group of citizens came together in regards to a butter factory in Meredith.

The building of wood, zinc and concrete with galvanized roof and ceiling was reported to be by no means attractive but was a good serviceable structure designed to benefit owners of milch cows. On November 18th, 1891 the Meredith Creamery and Butter Factor was opened by the wife of Councillor J. Ward in the presence of guests. It was predicted that the creamery would return £3 to owners of cows rather than £1 that they had been getting for their milk. Sadly, the factory became insolvent and was sold to John Davies in 1896. R. Gargan was the proprietor in 1912. Rodney Wells bought the property in 1935 and it was he who offered it to Jack Mitchell at the clearing sale in November 1972.



Media Release

Cancer Council Victoria's Relay For Life returns to Geelong

After two years cancellations due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Relay For Life is back in Geelong this October and Cancer Council Victoria is encouraging Geelong locals to join the Relay For Life movement.

Relay For Life is a local fundraising event that empowers communities to come together to celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against cancer. During the event, teams will complete laps around a track or oval to signify that every day, we're making strides towards a cancer-free future.

With an average of 1602 people diagnosed with cancer in Greater Geelong each year, Relay For Life raises funds for Cancer Council's cancer research, prevention, information, and support services. On average, more than 134,000 participants take part in Relay For Life events nationally raising about \$14 million each year.

There are a number of ways you can be part of Relay For Life, including becoming a team leader or joining a team, becoming a member of your local Relay For Life committee or volunteer at your local Relay For Life event.

Cancer Council Victoria's Renee Gani, Community Giving Manager said Relay For Life events were a chance for whole communities to unite for a common cause.

"Relay For Life is such a beloved, unique event and allows people to make a difference in the communities," she said.

"After the challenges our community has faced during the past two years, we're thrilled that Relay For Life is back in 2022 and can't wait to see Geelong locals come together once again for such a special day."

The Geelong Relay For Life will be held at St Albans Reserve on 8th October 2022. To learn more and register your Relay For Life team visit www.relayforlife.org.au.

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Marg's BOOK REVIEW

EDUCATED by Tara Westover

How important is an education? For Tara Westover, it was the difference between a life of abuse, deprivation and ignorance to a life of knowledge, freedom and fulfillment. It also meant sacrificing her family.

Educated by Tara Westover was first published in 2018 and was one of the best-selling books of that year. It is a memoir of a girl born to a Mormon fundamentalist/survivalist family in the isolated mountains of Idaho in the 1990's. (Tara was born in 1986). Her father 'Gene' was preparing for the "Days of Abomination" by stockpiling food, guns, tools, bullets, medicines etc. Tara slept with her 'head for the hills' bag and her parents' feared schools, government, hospitals and science and lived "off the grid" as far as possible. She had no birth record, no school record, no hospital or doctor history, no evidence that she had lived. Her family lived so remotely and 'under the radar', that her very existence was unrecorded. Even her own mother couldn't remember Tara's age or birthday.

Tara was 17 the first time she stepped foot in a classroom. Her mother, 'Faye', had attempted home schooling her 7 children (Tara was the youngest), but had given up when all her time was spent as a midwife, healer and maker of homeopathic medicines. As a self-taught student with a thirst for learning, Tara eventually attended Brigham Young University and later Harvard and Cambridge universities and completed a PH.D in History. Her father ran a junk yard (amongst other ventures), where Tara was expected to work despite considerable danger and with a complete lack of any safety precautions and care.

As a memoir, Tara is recalling events that may be coloured by the passage of time. She acknowledges this in "A Note on the Text" at the end of the novel. Equally she seems to over think the abuse she and her sister received from her brother Shawn and appears at times to justify his unjustifiable behaviour. She even seems to understand her parents total disregard for her emotional and physical safety and well-being. Her ties to her family were strong and complicated, but the need to break those bonds were the beginning of her future. "You can love someone and still choose to say goodbye to them. You can miss a person every day and still be glad that they are no longer in your life."

The book is disturbing and alarming. It made me angry that Tara could be so deprived of the basics of safety, education and protection. I was also conflicted with the behaviour of both her parents. They loved and abused their children simultaneously. Her mother appeared at times to care about Tara's wellbeing (and her sisters) but then be overwhelmed by Gene's bombastic, domineering fanaticism and take his side against her.

Educated is not an easy book to read but I found it compelling, worthwhile and concerning at the same time. Tara's writing is clear, powerful and inspiring as she showed a courage beyond her years, to get an education and stand up to her family. "My life was narrated for me by others. Their voices were forceful, emphatic, absolute. It had never occurred to me that my voice might be as strong as theirs." She showed humanity to her family and refused to allow bitterness or regret to taint her future. I wonder what her relationship is with her family today?

Reviews of this book have been mixed. Whilst most praise and recommend it, a few have questioned the authenticity of some events and circumstances. Some of her family dispute much of what's been written about them. I leave it to you to decide. It's a novel that is worth being read.

Reviewed by Bev Elshaug

Jimmy Hynd's Agave

Marg Cooper

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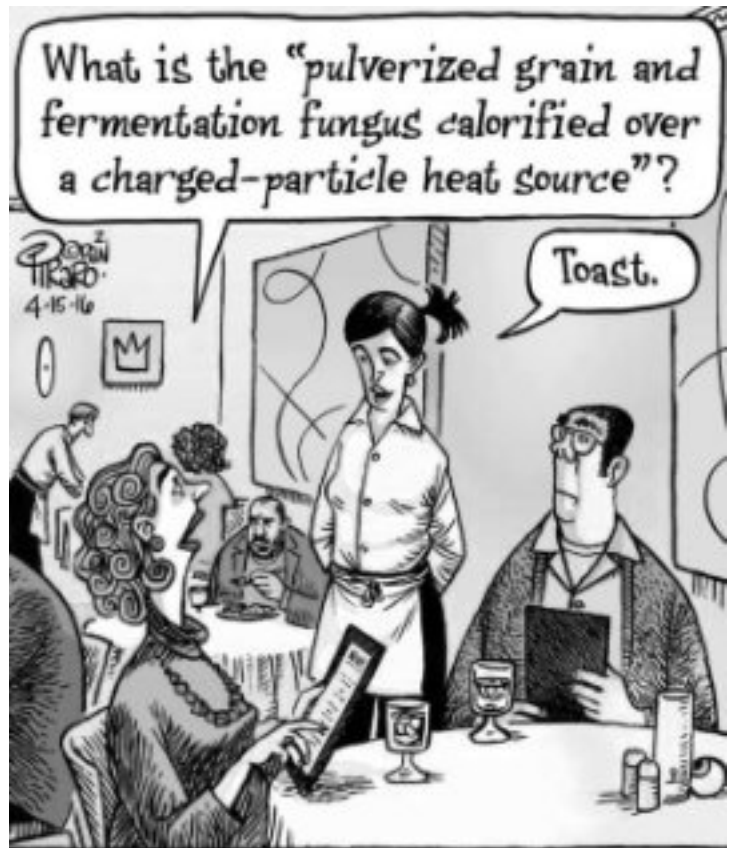
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Biggest Morning Tea

Marg Cooper

The Wizard of Oz came to the Meredith Hall on Tuesday, June 28, 2022. There was Dorothy with plaits and red shoes, alias young Charlie, there were two kind witches, alias Gill and Mary, there were two wicked witches, there was a Munchkin, alias Kim and there was a Tin Man, alias Doris. The yellow brick road was depicted on the stage with suitable sign posts and the colourful tablecloths supported mushrooms and bunches of bright flowers.

The tea was organized by St Joseph and Advance Meredith and involved many jobs including, inviting sponsors to donate prizes for raffles, door prizes and competitions, beautifully wrapping numerous items for the silent auction, decorating the hall, advertising the event, supplying food from soup to savouries to scones to slices and inviting a speaker who has had an experience of cancer.

Kim Ivory's father Keith passed away in May this year from bone cancer. She said that he always loved music and loved to listen to all types of music, to sing along with and to conduct. He also supported her in all her musical endeavours by attending all the competitions, live theatre productions and appearances of the Meredith Minstrels that Kim was involved in. Kim talked about the fun they had picking the music for his Big Departure and how she played the songs to him that they sang along to and conducted with gusto!

The final amount raised for Cancer Research has not been finalised but was over \$2000, so congratulations to all who helped with the event.

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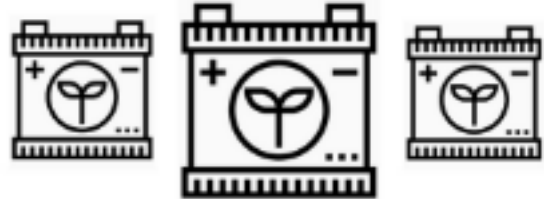
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the rain report

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"I thought the dryer was shrinking my clothes.
Turns out it was the refrigerator all along."

In the School Garden

Mrs Garden

Fabulous weather this month for gardening with a warm coat, beanie and gloves and after a short while digging, weeding or mulching, some of the layers can come off. We could also have a few more frosts which are often followed by sunshine which is perfect for gardeners and their gardens.

First, some community news. You might remember the Community Pantry that was located at the school near the CERT shed. Recently it was moved to the back of the Community Garden diagonally opposite the school. Soon it will move back to its original spot where it is more accessible for all and easier for the students to check when it needs replenishing. It is restocked regularly by the students with non-perishable food like pasta and other dried goods as well as tinned food. It is open to everyone for those occasions when your home pantry is running a bit low or you don't have time to drive to the supermarket - come and help yourself.

The Grade 2/3/4 students had a very busy afternoon in the garden recently. Although chilly, the sun came out and everyone got to work. Kealeigh, Charlie and Bobbie planted beetroot in one of our wicking beds. They were tiny seedlings and needed care transferring them from the punnet. We have a chocolate brownie recipe we'd like to try that needs a beetroot so decided to grow our own. Jacob planted out the broccoli in another bed and we are hoping it is late enough in the year to avoid that cabbage white butterfly.

Around the front of the school, the area near the office, planted almost a year ago, needed a good weed and a top up of mulch. Nevaeh, Maddie and Sienna took this on, barrowing loads of mulch around from the pile in the carpark. They finished off with a sweep of surrounding paths and some tricky to get at spots which really smartened everything up.

Look out next term for a visitor in our school yard. Betsy the Cow is currently sheltering inside but will soon venture outside just like a proper cow. Betsy was part of a project during last term with Mrs Brown and the students. They researched the dairy industry, found interesting nutritional facts and designed Betsy's transformation. She is now looking gorgeous in her coat of many colours. Many thanks to Bunnings in Delacombe for providing the paints and the brushes.

The Grade 5/6 students will soon embark on an OzHarvest project. This is a wonderful program designed to prevent food waste. As we have pumpkins from our school garden, the students might start with

these. It could be pumpkin soup for a winter warmer with bread a few days old warmed in the oven that otherwise could be wasted. Or it could be roasted pumpkin hummus. Wisely, when Steve Duffy chose the pumpkin seeds for the Meredith News Giant Pumpkin Challenge, he made sure the variety was a combination of large growing plants with ones that would also produce edible pumpkins.

If you had a good pumpkin harvest you might like to try this recipe. Pop a few extra vegetables in the oven next time you are making a roast. It works just as well with roasted sweet potato or carrots or a mixture of all three.

Roast Pumpkin Hummus

2 cups roasted pumpkin

1 tin chick peas drained

Juice half a lemon

1 garlic clove

2 tbsp tahini

3 tbsp olive oil

3-4 tbsp cold water as needed

pumpkin and sunflower seeds

Put pumpkin, chick peas, lemon juice, garlic and tahini in a blender and blend till smooth.

With the blender running, drizzle in the olive oil.

If mixture is too thick, drizzle in the water as needed.

Sprinkle with pumpkin and sunflower seeds.

Serve with pita crisps, and celery and carrot sticks.



Harry, Will and Max checking out the contents of the Community Pantry before restocking it

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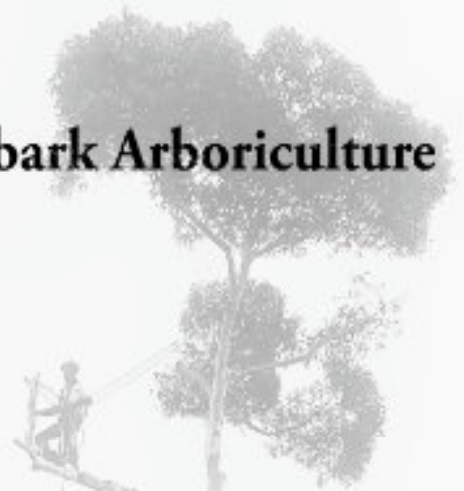
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Growing older

Roy Hay

It happens to all of us. We will never again be younger than we are today. Writers and film makers have played with stories about reversing the process or preserving eternal youth. Some folks are now arranging to have their body deep frozen at death and preserved against the day when medical science will allow the corpse to be reactivated and live on for a bit longer. Seems a bit crazy to me, but there have been so many medical miracles in my lifetime that I can't rule out the possibility it may happen in the relatively near future. After all, we are now contemplating using the DNA of the woolly mammoth and the dodo to recreate these extinct animals and, closer to home, there are suggestions that the thylacine or Tasmanian tiger might be reconstructed and reactivated. There are experiments with corals to try to help save the Great Barrier Reef in the face of global warming, of which most focus on finding, saving and breeding more heat resistant forms.

The recent death of Dolly, the first cloned sheep, was sad. I wonder about the concept of cloning a human being. Is that something we should be contemplating? It is hard to find strong ethical reasons for treating animals differently from human beings, but we have been comfortably doing so for many generations. In part this was because, outside of sci-fi literature, it wasn't possible. But now it is getting much closer to a theoretical and perhaps eventually a practical possibility. It is possible it may have already happened in secret laboratories somewhere, but I don't want to get into that speculation.

I asked my wife if she would want me frozen or cloned. She said she would consider either, but not if it meant there would be two of me. One is quite enough!

Scientists are poring over items from meteorites that may contain evidence about the elements that allowed for the emergence of life on earth. We know that these bodies could have a hugely destructive impact, on the dinosaurs for example, but it is possible they could also be the key to the origins of our ancestors, starting with forms of carbon and then very simple organisms but eventually evolving into complex creatures.

There is live scientific debate going on these days about the existence of time. This is linked to or perhaps derives from an interest in quantum mechanics where particles can apparently be and not be in existence at the same time. That boggles my mind. If time does not exist, then perhaps Einstein's general theory does not hold for the quantum world, though Einstein himself was puzzled by time and, I believe, also queried whether it existed or not. He was a bright cookie, I'm not, so for the moment at least I am going to continue to believe that time does exist, and we can't go backwards. I've no problem with science fiction authors playing with the concept, though.

Then there is artificial intelligence. There are lots of gradations of this concept. We now have computers that can teach themselves to perform tasks better and more efficiently than they were initially programmed to do. They do this basically by exhausting the alternatives humans would take decades to do, if they used the same methods. But we don't. We have other capacities that enable us to take intellectual shortcuts and sometimes emotional byways. It just felt right or not right, is how we sometimes

characterise these changes of direction. Even scientists, after puzzling over concepts for ages, will tell you, 'I went off and cleared my mind of everything I could and then I found the solution staring me in the face'. You don't have to be a scientist to have these moments.

There are also happy accidents, for example the mould growing in the petri dish that contributed to the discovery of penicillin. When we draw a graph of our observations, what are we to make of that singular outlier that does not fit the trend line or anything like it? Is it actually a key to the solution or something we can safely ignore or put down to an error in our data collection?

I know I was taught to do something in a particular way because of the accumulated wisdom of generations who had gone before me and plumped for that route or method. But there is always someone who will have the courage of his or her convictions to try something different. If the result is egg on the face, then so be it. But humanity has progressed, in so far as it has, because someone, more usually several people, decided to do things differently.

I don't read much sci-fi, perhaps because I believe there are enough puzzles in the here and now, and in my area of research, the past, to keep me going for what is left of my life. When I reached 'three score years and ten', I thought every day from now on is a bonus, I will just walk backwards down the hill looking at the sunshine on the other side. In an article I'm writing for a conference coming up later this year, I'm touching on why history keeps changing, and adding a revision of the accepted story. That kind of exercise will keep my mind going for however long I have left, I hope.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES



She Oaks Snippets

MEREDITH SHIRE COUNCIL.

Correspondence....from Michael Pollard, asking to be exempted from arrears of rates due on an unoccupied hut, the Green Tent, which he purchased and could not find a tenant for....From the Lands Department, forwarding specimens of parish and township plans now being prepared and lithographed for sale....from the Post and Telegraph Department, intimating that tenders had been accepted for a mail service to She Oaks, and that a post office would be opened as soon as a postmaster was appointed....From Daniel Brady, asking to be released of his toll-gate contract, as he had been a loser by it, and was sick and unable to look after it. From Daniel Kennedy, complaining of the way in which the common was mismanaged....From Michael Doogan, Greenhills, complaining that his children were prevented from travelling through some selected land, belonging to one Kenealy, to the school at Sheoaks, and asking the council to take steps to have a foot track proclaimed.

Geelong Advertiser 28 October 1875

The parents of children of school age at She Oaks have been at a disadvantage in the past in not having a local State school, the nearest being Lethbridge, a distance of four miles. Applications were made several times to the Education Department to erect a school, but owing to the present state of the finances the department would give no hope of a new building, but offered a closed school at Bamganie if parents of children would remove and re-erect it at their own expense. This was done a few weeks ago. The expenses were considerable, and a social and dance were held in the school on Friday to raise funds. Several songs, etc., were given by locals, and some from Geelong, and it is expected a good sum will be raised by this effort. Mr. D. Richards kindly lent his piano. Mr. H. Fraser acted as secretary. A teacher will be appointed soon.

Geelong Advertiser 29 September 1915

SHE OAKS.

GETTING READY.

Residents throughout the district will be gratified to hear that the Railways Department has made a start to complete the accommodation at the Medina siding and it is anticipated that the work will be completed early in the new year. This will be a great boon to the people, and a good thing for the Railways. The downhill track from the big forests around will supply millions of tons of wood, quite apart from the produce that will leave this new siding that should open and continue busy as soon as its completion is announced.

The Ballarat Star 5 December 1923

SHE OAKS.

CLEAR THE ROAD.

What might easily have been a very serious accident was narrowly averted by the care and confidence of two well-known motorists in the vicinity of Sharp's crossing bridge a few days ago. The heavy growth of trees on the roadway at both sides of the bridge prevent drivers seeing anyone coming on the other side until the bridge is reached; both Mr Bayard, of Morrisons, and Mr J. Stratton coming from She Oaks, met on the bridge. They had fair pace on and saw that a collision was imminent. They did the only thing possible to avoid contact and miraculously passed each other without striking. It is very gratifying for users of the road to know that arrangements are now in hand, between the Shire Council and the Forests Commissioners to have the scrub of small timber obstruction, removed. The result will be a saving of much worry and also the avoidance of possible calamities. *The Ballarat Star 25 December 1923*

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**MASTER
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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.

29th May. The Crocs were on the road once again as we travelled across to Woodend to take on the Woodend Hawks. Despite being very cold, the sun was shining and the oval was in great condition. With just 18 a side it was decided to have 15 min quarters which was a great relief as Woodend's oval would be one of the biggest we play on. It was a fantastic game and played in great spirit. The Crocs finished ahead on the scoreboard but a late run from the Hawks made it a tight game. We had Matt, a first time football player having a run to help us out. Matt played a great game for someone who has never played before. After the game there was a great feed put on by the Woodend club. They are a great club and made us feel very welcome. Then as always it was a great bus trip home with Scotty Cowie reminding us all that he won the cheese prize.

Best players for the day were: Pikey, with great running all over the ground once again. Scotty Cowie who held the backline together and reminded us of this all the way home, Matt with a great effort for his first game of football ever. Scotty Thompson had a great game down back and was hard at it all day and once again Big Craig Badger dominated the ruck.

5th June. The Crocs had a very short turnaround due to the Queen's birthday long weekend, 1 week instead of 2, which doesn't seem too bad but with our aging list 1 week recovery is very short. We took on the Melton Panthers at Melton reserve. We entered the game having just 18 players and 3 of them carrying injuries. It was a great effort, firstly to make the game and also to play the way we did. We struggled all day to keep up but never let the Panthers get too far ahead. In the final quarter we got to within 2 goals which is a great effort and shows the never say die attitude of the Crocs players. The Panthers ran away with the game winning by about 4 or 5 goals. Another great day of footy. We welcomed Johnno for his first game of the year and Mick Smith and Phil back for their 2nd games. Great to see we are getting a few younger players on board to keep the club alive.

Best players for the day: Johnno won our best and the opposition's best with a great first up run with the Crocs. He played on the ball all day and was a standout for us. John Peterson has had a few weeks off due to injuries (old age) but had a great game down back and was hard at the ball as usual. David Pikey had a few different roles for the game, helping the backline, ruck and centre and showed his fitness by never stopping all day, except when he got a short spell which was umpire enforced but no fault of his own. Phillip Doopa Cranach the latest 100 gamer played a fantastic game down back and showed his skills with pinpoint kicking and strong marking and kept trying to the final siren.

Next home games are as below:

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

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MOORABOOL Wind Farm

COMMUNITY UPDATE

July 2022

Moorabool North and South Wind Farm

Progress to date

- Finalising commissioning of all turbines.
- The project played an integral part during the recent energy crisis by lifting output from 100MW to 300MW when it was most needed.

Look ahead

- Anticipate full generation of 104 turbines, subject to AEMO approval.
- Big thank you to the community for your support.

Landscape and Visual Screening Program

Owners of residential dwellings within 4km of the Moorabool Wind Farm are invited to participate in a landscape and visual screening program.

This is to assist those closest neighbours in reducing the potential visual impacts of the project. All agreed works are undertaken by Moorabool Wind Farm at no cost to dwelling owners.

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



Moorabool Wind Farm Community Fund 2022

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

The third round of the Community Fund closed on 24th June. We will now assess the applications with the assistance of the community fund assessment panel.

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





it'S HiStoRy

Meredith History Interest Group

Talk by Noeleen Lloyd:

You are invited to come along and listen to vibrant speaker Noeleen Lloyd on Sunday, July 3 at the Meredith Hall. She is a great, great niece of Steve Hart and a relation of the Lloyds, all connected to Ned Kelly. Two of her 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.

Outback Magazine:

Recently a photographer visited Meredith to take some photos of Meredith and some photos of Meredith people for the August edition of Outback Magazine. Because members of MHIG were the only people around on the cold Tuesday morning we became the subjects and were photographed by trees, on the concrete couch and by the Street Library.

John Dunn, the journalist visited Meredith about two years ago to gain information for an article and there have been some email connections in the interim, but basically the article had to wait until it was Victoria's turn to be highlighted in the particular section of the magazine.

The Beckmann Family:

The Beckmann family farmed down in Ballark near Ferguson's Lane, Louis and Catherine with their 12 children. In 1887 their first born son August accidentally drowned in the Moorabool River near Ballark, in 1908 Ethel passed away 16 hours after she was born and in 1913 Johanna, who was 18, passed away from septic arthritis. In 1919 tragedy struck again when the local baker called to make a delivery and found Louis, Catherine, Carl and Sophia in the house either dead or dying. He raced back to town and contacted the Doctor and the Police Sargent and fearing Pneumonic Influenza (Spanish Flu). A message was sent for graves to be dug urgently. Louis who was still alive was sent to Ballarat Hospital but died five days later. Catherine, Carl and Sophia were wrapped in sheets, placed in coffins, sprinkled with lime and buried together. All the men who assisted at the house or the cemetery had to strip down and had their clothes burnt and were scrubbed down.

We understand that their graves have only recently been found after an area near the Top Gate at the Mt Egerton Cemetery, was probed. The history was provided by members of the Beckmann family.

Who Lived in my House:

Lots of history was exchanged on Tuesday, June 14 when some members of MHIG, the property owner and two girls who had grown up in the house, enjoyed a delightful afternoon tea in the kitchen of 42 Staughton Street. They were warmed by a wood stove with a kettle boiling on top. Roz had asked us about the history of her house so we invited Gwenda and Joan (Shell) to visit and joined them to listen, record and deliver some early history.

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Dog tales



"Spud"

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Special features: Huge brown and black eyes that melt your heart; being especially laid back and cool except when another dog takes his ball. Then his Dr Jekyll characteristics become 'slightly' agitated and he becomes Mr Hyde. Place of origin: Queensland.

Pet hates: Sharing his ball with other dogs and anyone else really. He will destroy the ball after a while to make sure no one else gets it. This ensures a constant supply of new balls.

Favourite toys: Anything fluffy, and tennis balls.

Favourite pastimes: Riding in the Triton with his head out the window; looking through the fence; smiling at his neighbour dog Cookie through the open bedroom window; having Cookie over for play dates; going for a walk and swimming in any water.

Obsession: Tennis balls. Can perform the cleverest trick of knowing exactly when a ball is going to be thrown over the back of the couch, presenting an image of the 'suddenly appearing out of nowhere' jumping dog.

Naughtiest deeds: He doesn't have any as he is very well behaved.

Owner: Pip and Matt

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



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The Power of Three.... dead rodents, rooster and chewed pumpkins....

June, the first month of Winter, it's cold, cold, cold and wet, wet, wet and around here we have had a run of not so nice and definitely annoying things happen – three things actually.

Proverb. bad things come in threes.

If an unfortunate event has already occurred twice, a third unfortunate event is likely to occur.

So, what three things have happened?

Firstly, we had Sudden Rooster Death Syndrome, during the day we had what seemed like a perfectly healthy, happy Rooster strutting around, eating normally and seeming to be enjoying life. And overnight he suddenly died. Most common reason given is that the rooster may have had a heart attack, or heart failure. This is the most accepted diagnosis with a young rooster who died unexpectedly. It's certainly a possibility with ours, although he had shown no signs of heart problems, his breathing was normal, we never saw him gasp for air, but he rarely crowed!

The second, a mouse, or actually it smelt more like a family of mice dying in the roof above the bathroom ... oh boy, we became very adept at cleaning our teeth without breathing in and showers became quick as the steam mixed with the decomposing body smell took any joy out a nice warm shower. Did you know that there are three smells of rodent death, 1st methane, this is similar to the odour of paint thinners, the 2nd ammonia, similar to urine and the 3rd, as the decomposition speeds up, you unfortunately detect an odour similar to rotten food!

And thirdly, Rats gnawing on our stored pumpkins...on the shelf near the back door... cheeky so and so's! Apparently one way to save the pumpkins is to coat the outside with a thin layer of petroleum jelly. Our way so far has been move all pumpkins onto top shelf, to leave a torch on, they seem to like to feast in the dark! and strew the shelf with herb branches of mugwort, lavender, and mint as we like to be chemical free as possible. Research suggests you can repel rats from your garden/home with scents they dislike, such as cloves, garlic, onion, ammonia, used coffee grounds, peppermint, eucalyptus, white vinegar, pine oil, cinnamon oil, so a bowl of used coffee grounds and a mix of oils maybe worth a try.

Homemade Rat Repellent Recipe

1 cup ammonia

1 cup vinegar

Pour the ammonia and vinegar in a spray bottle and mix well. Spray the mouse repellent anywhere you've

detected activity or in any areas where there may be entry points into your house.

Alternatively, if you don't have time to go around spraying, you can spray cotton balls with the mixture and leave them in areas around the house. If you choose the cotton balls, replace them every two weeks.

Be careful when you are making and using this rat control spray, as high concentrations of ammonia may be irritating to your eyes and skin.

It's difficult to find the origins of why things seem to happen in threes, but the concept is rooted in the Latin principle known as omne trium perfectum or, translated into English, the rule of three. Psychologists argue that this belief persists because people crave certainty. By creating a limit on the events, e.g. three, we feel comforted because we see an end to a run of bad luck

On the flip side we also tend to believe that good things hopefully come in threes. The rule (or power) of three is an age-old belief that implies that good things that come in threes are inherently more satisfying and effective. Apparently, we have a natural, ingrained tendency to gravitate towards and respond positively to things that come in threes.

The best things in life come in threes, like friends, dreams, and memories. — Mencius

Mind, Body, Spirit / Mother, Father, Child / Past, Present, Future / Power, Intellect, Love / Father, Son, Holy Ghost / Rock, paper, scissors / Three Little Pigs/ Three French Hens/ The Bronte Sisters / Hear no evil, speak no evil, see no evil / and of the people, by the people, for the people...

So, June, the 6th month of the year, gave us a few challenges, it also gave us the opportunity to celebrate the Winter Solstice and give thanks to the coming of the Sun bringing with it the power of love, magic and starlight, and the sun, the moon, and the truth."

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Coolebarghurk Creek: Episode 3

A Place for a Village.

Marg Cooper

Meredith Township started with the establishment of the Golden Fleece Inn, circa 1842, serving the local squatters and their employees. The Inn was situated on what is now the Coolebarghurk Creek near where the old bullock track crossed the creek.

G Croft in his History of Meredith, written in 1943, described the road or track that came through Meredith in the early days. *The road or track through Meredith entered at a place known as Ross's Bridge then continued north past Ted Stafford's home then on to where C. Davies lives then on to Dickmans, crossing the creek 2 or 3 chains north of Dickmans Bridge. The remains of the old crossing are to be seen there still. It then passed through where the State School now stands and continued on through Cumming's paddock (now Wells) and up the Lal Lal Road through Mt Doran to Buninyong, Ballarat and beyond.*

The Inn was located on the eastern bank of the creek near today's Dickmans Bridge. A walnut tree, some poplar trees and some stone work are the only remnants of buildings being there. It is believed that the Dickman family lived there (maybe from the 1860's) before they built a new grand house in 1887, on the hill east of the Golden Fleece Inn which they called *Home Villa*.

The Golden Fleece Inn was established in the early 1840's by Andrew Stewart prior to the gold rush. It seems to have been the only public house between the Separation Inn at the Leigh Road turn off from Geelong and Mother Jamieson's Hotel in Buninyong.

Over the following years the Inn had several owners/operators including R Steel in 1845, H Lawler in 1846, H Haines and W Hardcastle in 1847, W & A Ritchie in 1848, J Rice in 1851 and W Watson in 1852.

Kelly in his book, Life in Victoria describes his stay at Watson's in Meredith in 1853. *Watson's is or was excellently situated close by a nice creek, but the house was a most wretched tumble-down domicile, with shattered roof, which let rain down the mouldy walls and a tottering veranda, tiled with stringy bark. He was then preparing a new weatherboard addition and well may he might, for custom poured in upon him in a perfect torrent, being in a position which could not be passed either on the way up or on the way down. There was not many when we arrived, as it was rather early, so we got supper, such as it was and made the acquaintance of the host and his wife, young people from Dublin. Before sunset, however, considerable numbers arrived, both ways, filling up every nook and corner save Mr Watson's little private room.*

Mr William Watson and others saw a great future for Meredith and in 1854 Goslings two storey hotel was opened on the corner of Wallace and Wilson Streets and Watson opened a three story hotel on the corner of Wallace and Staughton Streets.



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New patients welcome



G'day from the penners for July.

A very short introduction this month as our writer, Karen Scholer, has written a beautiful story. We hope you like her contribution.

We meet each Thursday fortnight at 1:30pm and we can be contacted via our email goldenpens4@gmail.com

My Favourite Room

We have been in our house in Bannockburn for 7 years now, it was one of many built by A.V. Jennings back in the mid 1990's, they were a popular and prolific builder back then and I fell in love with its light filled rooms the minute I stepped inside. I realised how much easier to clean this small house would be on my ageing body now I was retired. Only three bedrooms, a far cry from our large townhouse in Newtown that my husband built. The smallest bedroom I set up as a playroom for our granddaughters, it's my favourite room, so many happy memories come to mind when I'm in this room, and during ISO when there were no sleepovers it became my room. I culled the toys and kept the rest stored in the small built-in wardrobe. I dragged a trestle table out of the shed and would sit day after day creating anything and everything from my imagination. I used natural materials I found on the property, my favourite being the spent fronds from the palms around the pool. I would cut off the base, sand and varnish them, then make salt dough sculptures that I would bake in a slow oven and glue to the base. I collected moss growing on the shady side of the house and made miniature gardens inside bottles, they were beautiful, and required a lot of patience. I researched everything I would need, from the charcoal which I bought online, to the sphagnum moss, to the long-handled tweezers and tools required to create these beautiful garden scenes in a bottle. Every day held something new, last thing at night as I lay in bed my mind buzzing with ideas, I couldn't wait for a new day to begin.

I bought cheap white mugs on the internet and spent hours drilling drainage holes in the bottom and planting and propagating succulents. As much as I missed the time I spent with my grandchildren, I loved having the freedom to be creative, with no responsibilities, it was like being a child again myself, my time was my own. I woke up excited to get in my little sweatshop to try out new ideas.

The greatest thing about my new hobbies was it filled my brain with ideas leaving little room for the ever-present fear, fear for the very survival of my family.

After ISO I happily packed away my creations, tossing them or giving them to family and friends. The room is a shared space again now with my granddaughters, although they no longer need it as much. I've retained a small area by the window adding a shiny white writing desk. I have a beautiful indoor plant given to me by one of our daughters, something she planted during ISO, the planter has a face with glasses which reminds me of her, and of course my MacBook air takes pride of place along with a black and white scotch whisky jug from a relative who worked for Buchanan's in a bygone era.

My desk is flush against the window which overlooks my vegetable patch completely enclosed by high trellis walls. Directly in front of my window is a white, gentle pink hydrangea, little wrens fly between it and my window in complete safety. This is where I sit writing, the sun shining brightly outside, I see the honeyeaters in the purple agapanthus beyond the trellis shaking the flowers as they move between them, they know I am no threat with our invisible barrier. Also, just like our family of blue tongue lizards that live beyond the pool fence, under the decking safely away from our dogs, but not much writing is done when the wrens are tapping at the window catching insects.

I don't regret the time I have spent in this room, it got me up every morning with enthusiasm and purpose.

I graduated from the kitchen bench sitting on a high stool to the couch with my mac in my lap, to my own special space!

This is indeed my favourite room.

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