

Meredith & district News

OUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 2022



inside



- Congratulations Dr Gareth Boer
 - Roy heads to the High Country
 - Dog Tales gets Dirty
- ...and the usual Much More!



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

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/\$100
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

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news@meredithnews.com.au

WEB

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

ONLINE PHOTOS

We do not publish children's photos online.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

DISCLAIMER

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

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

connect

ADVANCE MEREDITH 0409 027 359	FOOTBALL Seniors 0408 545246 Juniors 0430 587 674
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B'BURN ART GROUP 0410 808 483	HISTORY GROUP 5286 8201
BLUE LIGHT DISCO 5286 1222	LANDCARE 0409 862 326
BOOK CLUB 5286 8201	MEMORIAL HALL 0409 662106
CFA 000 for fire calls Elaine 0409 861 296 Meredith 5286 1502 Morrisons 0417 770 765	MOTORCYCLE CLUB 0437 009 250
CHILD CARE 5286 0700	PLAYGROUP 5286 0700
COMMUNITY CENTRE 5286 0700	POLICE PADDOCKS 0409 163169 RSL - 5286 1452
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CUBS & SCOUTS Lethbridge 0435 042077	TENNIS Elaine 0448 291 074 Lethbridge 52 817 321 Meredith 0424754179
ELAINE HALL elainetownhall@gmail.com	FRIENDS OF THE BRISBANE RANGES 5286 1252

..or start something.

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



"A wise person can see more from the bottom of a well than a fool can from a mountain top."

~Author Unknown

emergency

Police, Ambulance, Fire (from mobile phone)	000 000 or 112
Meredith Police Station	5286 1222
Police non emergency	131 444
Power Failure	132 412
Nurse-On-Call	1300 606 024
Mental Health Advice	1300 280 737
Poisons Information	13 11 26
Barwon Water	1300 656 007
SES Emergency - flood & storm	132 500
24 Hour Helpline	1800 629 572
24 Hour Drug & Alcohol Counselling	1800 888 236
Kids Help Line	
24hr 5-18yo	1800 551 800
Golden Plains Shire a/h emergency	1300 363 036 0408 508 635
Ranger	5220 7111 or 0409 830 223
Bannockburn Vet	5281 1221
Golden Plains Animal	5281 2226
Pets and Horses 24/7	0421 617 238

Justices of the Peace

Mr Don Atherton. 0409 869 960

Mr Paul Ryan Elaine 0409 861 296

services

CEMETERY TRUST 5286 1550	MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH 5220 7230
HALL HIRE Meredith Memorial 5286 1545 Elaine Mechanics elainetownhall@gmail.com Elaine Rec Res 5341 5703	PRE-SCHOOL 5286 0722 PRIMARY SCHOOL 5286 1313 RECREATION RESERVE 0429 315 575
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MOORABOOL Wind Farm



COMMUNITY UPDATE - August 2022

What's going on

- We are grateful for the community's support as we continue to play an important role through the Winter energy crisis while also progressing through AEMO's grid connection testing and commissioning requirements.
- In response to the increased risk of foot-and-mouth disease, we have introduced new measures to ensure biosecurity for landowners. These include an electronic access register and the installation of foot wash and spray down facilities at each entry and exit gate.
- All turbines in the Moorabool North Wind Farm are now operational, while commissioning is close to complete in the Moorabool South Wind Farm.

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, partnerships and sponsorships.
- The Community Fund Assessment Panel is currently considering applications received in the most recent funding round and applicants can expect to hear more at the beginning of September.

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 our 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.



For more information, please visit: www.mooraboolwindfarm.com

To contact us or register to receive project updates via email, get in touch: info@mooraboolwindfarm.com or 1800 019 660.



IN OUR NATURE

Wendy Cook

White rounded beads crowd along a slender branch of a young wattle. Each looks like a plump seed protected by a waxy shell, but they are not part of the plant. They are insects called wattle tick scales, and all are female. They do not move, but remain attached to the plant, sucking sap from the branch. As they feed, they excrete drops of sugary honeydew. This source of sweet food attracts ants, which walk over the wattle tick scales as they collect the drops. A caterpillar approaches. It is a predator of wattle tick scales. The ants surge towards it, intent on protecting their food source. The caterpillar retreats. A tiny flying insect lands on a wattle tick scale. It is not a threat, so the ants ignore it. It is a male wattle tick scale, looking very different to the round female. After she has mated, she lays eggs under her body. When they hatch, the babies have legs, and can crawl along the branch or be blown by the wind to another tree. They find suitable feeding places and transform into immobile white beads, like their mothers. Gathered together, they can start a new colony which attracts more ant protectors. This cooperation between wattle tick scales and ants provides one species with protection from predators and the other with food, helping both to survive. This kind of partnership between two species is known as symbiosis.

Ants form these symbiotic relationships with other insects, including some caterpillars. A small butterfly with iridescent blue on her wings, flies through a cluster of wattle trees. She is looking for a tree with a particular species of ant living on it. When she finds the ants, she lays her eggs near them and departs. It is autumn, but the caterpillars will not emerge from their eggs until spring.

After they hatch, the caterpillars secrete substances from glands in their skin which attract the ants and calms them. Other glands make a thick liquid containing sugars and proteins which provide food for the ants' colony. In return, the ants protect the caterpillars from predatory flies. They also deter wasps that regard the caterpillars as potential homes and food for their own larvae. A female wasp lands on a caterpillar. She stabs it with a long tube on the end of her abdomen. She plans to use this tube to lay an egg inside the caterpillar, but before she can complete this task, the nearest ants swarm around her and bustle her away.

It is not only insects that make sugary food to attract ants. Wattle trees also have a symbiotic relationship with them. Their leaves have glands that make sweet liquids, where ants feed. While they are in the tree, foraging ants hunt other insects. They carry them down the tree trunk to their underground nest, to feed the other ants in their colony. The presence of many ants in the tree reduces the number of insects that graze on the wattle's leaves and discourages others from visiting.

There is another way in which wattle trees and ants benefit each other. The seeds of wattles grow in pods. When the seeds are ripe and the weather is warm, the pods split open and seeds fall to the ground. Each wattle seed has a fleshy oily structure called an aril attached to it. This is another food source for the ants. They carry the seeds back to their nest, remove the arils and discard the seeds underground. Here the seeds can remain safely hidden for years, away from parrots and other birds that would eat them. Eventually, one of the hard seedcases cracks and water enters. The seed germinates and the young plant grows out of the soil beside the ant nest. Organic matter discarded by the ants provides it with nutrients. As it grows, they may protect it from hungry insects eating its leaves. The ants have unintentionally planted themselves a food tree right outside their door.



Christmas in July

Joyce Reid

On Monday July 25, The Sew and Sew Group celebrated Christmas in July at the Meredith Community Centre.

With tinsel in tow and food aplenty, the ladies were adorned in their Christmas attire including handmade jumpers and headbands. Even the Christmas Placemats made it out of the cupboard!

With the tables set, the food on hand was a mixture of savoury and sweet, from decadent lemon meringue pies, a fluffy chocolate sponge and finger sandwiches, no one went home hungry!

A lot of multi-tasking was being undertaken by the ladies, who were also crafting whilst they ate, laughed and chatted about their projects.

A lovely afternoon had by all!





COMMUNITY

Meredith Cricket Club

Terry Hart

Exciting News for the new Season-



Women's/Girls Cricket

For the first time in our clubs history The Meredith Rams (Ewes) will be fielding a FEMALE cricket team in the Barwon Womens Cricket Competition. The team will be open to all females above the age of 12, no previous cricket experience is required and gear will be provided by the club.

Training will commence in late August with the 12 game season starting in mid October. For more information follow the Meredith Cricket Club Facebook page or contact Terry Hart on 0418178513.

Junior Cricket Programme

In conjunction with the Meredith Primary School, the club will be running a Woolworths Cricket Blast programme, the first introduction session will be held at the school on Tuesday October 11th and will continue up to Christmas. The blast programme is open to boys and girls of primary school age. Once again follow the Meredith Cricket Club on Facebook, contact the school or call Terry Hart on 0418178513 for more information.

Men's Cricket

Once again this season The Rams will be fielding two senior teams in the Geelong Cricket Association, training will start with some indoor sessions in Geelong in August followed by outdoor training at Meredith in early September.

The season kicks off in the 1st week of October and we are always looking for new players of all ages to come along and join in the fun of playing a great sport for an iconic local club.

For more information contact us per the above details.

were delighted to welcome 13 year-old Cleo, who did a charcoal sketch of a massive old tree outside the window then a very well observed, detailed pencil drawing of a flowering gum branch with nuts and leaves. The latter was later framed and looked fantastic!

Our next session will be on Tuesday 9th August meeting at 10 am at the Meredith Community Centre where we'll decide on, and head off to, our sketching location.

Elaine Cricket Club



Elaine Cricket Club seniors is back after having a break for 2 years. The club has a proud history and every 6 that is hit by an ECC player or an opposition player the cry goes out 'ring the bell'. The bell was originally used as a siren to start football matches before electricity arrived in Elaine, but the Elaine Football Club folded in 1967 so in recent years from about 2010 onwards, the rust has been knocked off the bell when a player has hit the ball towards the Midland highway or the railway line for a 6. With a fresh coat of paint the bell is looking new again and players and spectators once again look forward to hearing the bell ring.

Senior Captain for season 2022/23 Nicholas 'Chicka' Pantzidis

Senior Vice Captain: Seamus Dunne

To keep up to date with the latest updates old and new players are encouraged to check out Elaine Cricket Club on Facebook.

(The "Croc Report" is on p. 28)



Kerry Thomson

Planning to avoid cold and drizzly weather, Beth kindly offered the use of her barn for our July outing. Even so, Alex and Peter H elected to sit on the verandah and draw views of the shed partly hidden by the eucalypts which towered overhead. The rest of us stayed indoors with the wood heater keeping us toasty warm. Louise produced a lovely painting of the same vista as Alex and Peter whilst Kerry, Mandy and Beth concentrated on the still life set up with gourds, vases and cut natives provided by Beth. We

Church News



Meredith Uniting Church

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

Rev. Paul Sanders 0407 833 515 5341 2440

Serbian Orthodox - 5341 5568

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

9.00 am Holy Communion St Paul's, Inverleigh

11.00 am Family Communion. St John's, Bannockburn

5.00 pm Prayer and Praise Epiphany, Meredith

Find us at: www.goldenplainsanglican.org or

office.ibm@goldenplainsanglican.org

The Revd Dr Timothy Smith

PiC Anglican Parish of

Inverleigh+Bannockburn+Meredith

St. Joseph's Catholic Parish of Meredith

Contact Details:

Parish Priest Father Joseph mob. 0404 598 558

Office Phone: 5286 1230

Office open Wednesday & Friday 9.30am to 4.30 pm

Mass times :

Tue and Thurs 9 am St Mary MacKillop, Bannockburn

9.30-10.30 am Fr Joseph available for enquiries

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

First Friday of the month

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

First Sunday of the month

Family Mass, 11 am, Bannockburn

Youth group Sun. 14/8 and Sat. 28/8, 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 except 7/8 for Dedication Mass 5pm

Sun. 14/8, 28/8 9 am St. Joseph's, Meredith

Sun. 21/8 9 am St. Brigid's Anakie (no Mass 7/8)

Sun. 21/8, 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.

Dedication Mass St Mary MacKillop Church, Bannockburn, 7/8/22, 5pm

Introducing... Dr Gareth Boer

Gareth, a resident of Meredith since he was born, is a former pupil at Meredith Primary School, and Western Heights College, has finally received his Doctorate, after many years of study. He received his BSc from Deakin uni in Organic Chemistry, and then went on to get a first in Honours, and now his Doctorate.

He is currently working for a medical research team at Deakin.

Congratulations Gareth on your great achievements, dedication and hard work.



We join in congratulating Gareth and lament the fact that Covid restrictions denied him recognition for his work at a proper presentation ceremony. To make amends, we have added a Doctoral Hat to the front cover. - Ed.

Meredith Senior Citizens

Jim Hynds.

On Monday, July 11 twenty-two happy seniors sat together at a long table at Gateway Hotel on the Princes Highway at Corio and enjoyed a wonderful lunch. The hotel has recently reintroduced their smorgasbord of delicious food. The buffet offers soups, entrees, salads, roasts, parmas, sliders, seafood and more. A veritable feast for the eyes and the belly! After lunch two people who were to celebrate birthdays during the month were presented with a box of chocolates and a card. Because Linda Hynds was to celebrate her 70th birthday, a rainbow cake and a plant were presented to her. Linda cut up the cake so everyone could enjoy a slice and the couple of slices that were left over, she brought home to enjoy the next day.

Among the twenty-two at the Gateway Hotel were some new members who were welcomed to the group. The Seniors enjoyed a catch-up after their lunch and enjoyed that so much that no one played the pokies.

The next event is lunch at the Hall on Monday, July 25.



ADVERTISEMENT

IT'S GOOD TO TALK

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

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



Meredith **Community Centre**
working for our community

What's On

BCYF - Wellbeing Counselling

Wednesdays at the Community Centre

1300 022 293

Mums & Bubs

Movement, Mindfulness & Meditation with Jade

Tuesdays - 10am - \$10 per class

Adult Classes Coming Soon!

For Kids!

Movement, Mindfulness & Meditation with Jade

Prep - Grade 4 - Tuesdays - 3.30pm - \$10 per class

Grade 5 - Year 10 - 5pm - \$10 per class

Digital Essentials with Leah

Come and have fun learning about your device!

Friday August 26 - 10am - 2pm

\$20 per session - bookings essential!

Coming Soon - Keep an Eye out on Facebook!

Singing Lessons for Groups and Individuals

Adult Art Classes

Watercolour Classes

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Tai Chi - \$15 per session

Tuesdays @ Meredith with Sandra - 9.30 - 10.30

Wednesdays @ Bannockburn with Desma - 9:30 - 10.30

Thursdays @ Teesdale with Desma - 9.30-10.30

Steady Feet @ Meredith - \$10 per session

Wednesdays - 10:00 - 11:00 am

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



Linda Hynds Celebrates 70 Years.

Marg Cooper

Linda's mother and father with their first two children, Grenville and Brenda, migrated to Australia about 1950 as £10 Poms. Linda was born into the family on July 15, 1952. They lived in hostels in Brooklyn before they built their own house at Seaholme, Altona. Apparently land was made available for migrants in this area and they all helped each other.

After attending Seaholme State School, Linda went to Williamstown Girls School before starting work and training as a comptometrist. She worked for George Kinnear and Sons in Footscray and when she moved to live at Meredith she transferred to the Geelong factory working there for 15 years.

Linda and her husband Jim, who grew up at Williamstown, remembered that in Altona and Williamstown in the 1960's everyone had a horse or hired horses from a riding school. Every block of land had horses on it and the social life of the young people involved horses, as it was how they entertained themselves. They'd gallop horses up and down the beach, ride to Werribee, Point Cook or the You Yangs, ride along the railway line, swim horses in the sea and tie their horses to the post and rail fence at the park.

Altona was the end of the line in those days with mostly dirt roads. There were hundreds of horses with the suburb nicknamed Cow Shit Flats but, the going was easy without too many rules and regulations.

When Linda was about twelve years old she joined the Williamstown Pony Club and a friend who had a knackery sold Linda a grey pony that was blind. Linda tethered 'Cilla' the mare around Altona on a chain, rode her

everywhere, raced her and won every race. Later she acquired a bay pony stallion that could see. After she met Jimmy they sold Dazzler, the stallion and got serious, buying a thoroughbred stallion. At one time they had eight horses at Rockbank and went out every night after work to tend to their horses.

In winter of 1971 they saw a small advertisement in The Sun newspaper for a block on Coopers Road at Bamganie. They had no idea of the district but were told to bring rubber boots! They could hear the river roaring in flood but could also see the potential in the property where they would have somewhere of their own for their horses. They married in 1976 and moved into the house at Bamganie when it reached lock-up stage. The horses thrived and Linda and Jim enjoyed competing at shows and winning.

They'd take maybe six horses and a buggy to the Melbourne Show and stay ten days in the lockers next to where their horses were stabled, cook meals in an electric frypan and after events meet the other competitors in the Horseman's Bar. Jim prepared the horses on the day by applying make-up, feet paint, plaiting manes and tails, brushing, giving secret directions from the sidelines, whilst Linda would show the horses. They liked competition, made wonderful lifelong friends and are proud of all their wins including the 10 Firsts in a row at the Melbourne Show with their stallion Chango. At Bamganie they often had 30 horses on their block and other leased blocks. Linda said they never ate dinner until 10 pm and they were up at 4 am to tend to the horses and go to work.

After a car accident in 1983 Linda was unable to break in, train, tend and compete as she had. Today they have two horses on the block and Linda sometimes takes one of the horses in a cart for a trot up Coopers Road.

Happy Birthday Linda.





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 the School Garden

Mrs Garden

Last month there were some particularly chilly mornings with frosts covering everything in the garden. The days afterwards were sunny and a wonderful time to get outside.

When frosty, water in plant leaf cells freezes and expands. As the ice thaws, these cell walls collapse. Soft leaves are affected most - if you have any plants like nasturtiums or basil, they need to be covered to protect them. However, frost is not all bad news. Winter vegetables such as cabbage, kale, broccoli and Brussels sprouts are all hardy enough to survive frosty times. They even benefit from some frost, causing them to taste sweeter. The plants react to cold temperatures by increasing the amount of sugars in their cells which acts like an anti-freeze. Vegetables such as carrots and parsnips respond to the cold by converting their starches to sugars.

Another noticeable change is the increasing amount of daylight. We are about halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox so, even though temperatures are still chilly, there is more time to be outside.

A little bit of maintenance was needed in the beds where we planted the beetroot and broccoli last month. Some weeds had started popping up so we made a concerted effort to get rid of them while they were still tiny. This is quite easily done at this stage but can be a real problem if left and they start competing with the plants for moisture and nutrients.

Rose pruning is another job that needs to be tackled at the moment. Around our flagpole we have some beautiful Gallipoli roses which have continued to bloom profusely even after a couple of seasons of neglect during school covid closures. This year they will need quite a hard prune taking out all the old or twiggy growth and the branches that have grown inwards. This will ensure plenty of air flow through the leaves and flowers.

If you have driven past the school lately you will have noticed our new fence. An attractive addition that runs along the school frontage in both Russell Street and Wallace Street. More building is going on just behind the car park on the north side. A magnificent new hen house is being built with a predator-proof run so that our hens can live and lay eggs in style. The chooks are an integral part of our policy to reduce waste at school. Not all the scraps we accumulate can be composted. The chooks, however, are marvellous machines, devouring sandwich crusts, apple cores and other lunch discards along with their usual feed. In return, they will provide us with nutritious compost and mulch for our gardens.

This month you could pop in some lettuce or rocket seedlings, just keep them protected from frosts. Rocket readily reseeds, so leave some to go to seed and you will have a ready supply, and pick the leaves while they are small and tender. Peas can also go in.

Now is a good time to think about planting over the next couple of months. Have a look at some seed catalogues and choose seeds of zucchini, tomatoes, eggplant, cucumber, chilli and basil. Get ready with your pumpkin seeds or prepare some ground for the Meredith

Newsletter's Giant Pumpkin Challenge. Seeds will be available from October.

Speaking of pumpkins, last month's recipe for Roasted Pumpkin Hummus will go very well with this OzHarvest recipe for crackers. Easy to make and just a few ingredients.

OzHarvest Dip Crackers

In a bowl mix 1 cup flour and 1/2 teaspoon salt, creating a well in the centre.



Add 1/4 cup water and 2 tablespoons oil and mix into the flour.

Using your hands, bring the mixture together and knead briefly for 10 seconds and turn onto a lightly floured surface.

Divide into 3 portions and roll each one until quite thin, about 1mm.

Slice into strips, brush with oil and sprinkle with toppings.

Toppings - Try rosemary and sea salt or sesame seeds

Bake for 6 minutes at 190 degrees or until they start to brown.



Maddie and Nevaeh managed to wrestle this giant weed from our no-dig garden. Still a few to go!



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community meeting and the previous She Oak's Community Group trucking submission to Golden Plains Shire has exposed the totally inadequate response of local Council, Vic roads and our State Government failure to provide viable long term, and short-term solutions to restrict quarry trucks from using steep descents as outlined above, and to define a heavy haulage truck route on adequately surfaced roads safe for all users.

State Government direction is urgently needed, with an emphasis on high quality road surfaces, dual lanes, passing lanes and run-off lanes for heavy haulage trucks. I suspect that road quality and therefore longevity are sacrificed for capital cost saving with deferment of maintenance creating a secondary industry.

Quarry Trucks originating close to the Geelong-Ballan Road should be required to utilise this route which should be markedly upgraded to allow access to the Western Freeway and Geelong.

Ross Wilkie, She Oaks Community Group.

The opinions expressed in contributed articles are not necessarily those of the Newsletter Committee or its volunteers.

If you would like to submit an opinion piece, we would welcome your contribution to community discussion. Please keep in mind that we expect contributions to be:

- Relevant to the district
- Respectful and non-divisive
- Not unduly political

As with all contributions, we reserve the right to edit or not publish. - Ed.

An important Moorabool industry has no safe passage to market on roads controlled by local councils, including Golden Plains Shire, and Regional Roads Victoria (Vic Roads). Our state government hides behind the shelter of inaction of these bodies. Quarry trucks laden up to 50 tonnes use local inadequate single lane roads, to reach the Midland Highway incorporating steep and dangerous descents.

The recent Buninyong hill truck brake failure exposes two problems; inadequacy of intra Buninyong Road planning and the obvious failure in allowing quarry trucks to utilise multiple steep descents including Sharp Road and the Buninyong hill. A recent Golden Plains Shire upgrade of the single lane Maude She-Oaks Road with side rails has resulted in faster truck movement, restricted vehicle evasion access and many residents have had repeated experiences of near collision on this and other Moorabool valley roads.

There have been two trucking deaths on the roads traversing the Moorabool valley in recent times, and truck frequency has markedly increased. The recent Buninyong

Kelpie Kapers! © #34

By Emma Clarke



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Platypus

Press Release, Geelong Landcare Network

More water needed in our rivers if platypus are to survive!

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, meant that the gaps in the current data set for platypus in the region, between the Upper Barwon catchment and Moorabool system, were filled to ensure the largest continuous data set in the state.

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

Smile



I keep randomly shouting out ‘Broccoli’ and ‘Cauliflower’ – I think I might have Florets.

– *Daf Fawafel*

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Taking the High Road

Roy Hay

I've mentioned in previous columns my wife's desire to trace the River Murray from source to sea, so we had long-standing plans to find where the mighty river rises in Victoria's high country. We finally made a trip in May this year to Corryong, hoping to find where it begins. The local information centre and its staff were excellent. One volunteer told us she had taken a four-wheel drive to within about 20 kilometres of the source and hiked in from there. Apparently, there are five springs in the area and one of them now has a post and a nearby trig point marking the official one. This is located on The Pilot, south of Tom Groggin in New South Wales. I had hoped that I might find someone in or around Corryong with a light plane who would fly us over that point, but, unfortunately, I drew a blank. I think my wife was quite happy about that.

We did take one of the roads south from Corryong as far as Coleman's Bend, but we were still a long way from the source. The river at that point was very like the River Girvan where it flowed through the village I grew up in Straiton, in south Ayrshire in Scotland. But nobody refers to the mighty Girvan.

The River Murray from the bridge at Coleman's Bend. Still a fair way from the source.

From Corryong the next day we headed north to Towong where a new bridge over the river is under construction. Anyone wanting to cross the river has to make quite a long diversion up river to the south. We stayed on the Victorian side along the Murray Valley Highway until just short of Albury. The road has several viewpoints where there are sculptures, art works and monuments in addition to the stunning backdrops. A huge metal bogong moth, a wedge-tailed eagle with a stockman's hat in its talons, a plaque with an inscription telling the story of the breeding of the Murray Grey cattle, were just some of those at which we stopped.

Soon the road was running along the south side of the wide expanse of the Lake Hume system just upstream of the barrage at Bellbridge, where we crossed into New South Wales for the last lap into Albury.

On the way we encountered a small fox by the side of the road and passed a huge herd of goats. It was interesting that in the high-country beef farming predominated (Herefords and Aberdeen Angus), with some Friesians, presumably for milk, but lower down the valley it was mainly sheep.

In Albury we visited the very impressive War Memorial on Monument Hill just west of the centre of town and then walked around the Botanic Gardens. The latter has a special children's section, but it was closed when we were there.

Though we had passed relatively close to it on the way to Corryong and on the way back, we made a special trip east again to Bonegilla where there was a huge military camp, which doubled as a migrant reception establishment after the Second World War. Many of the soccer players I know and wrote about in my column for the Geelong

OUR COVER

Barb Baird supplied our fabulous cover photo of an inquisitive echidna in an unusual pose - not snuffling or digging!
Thank you Barb.

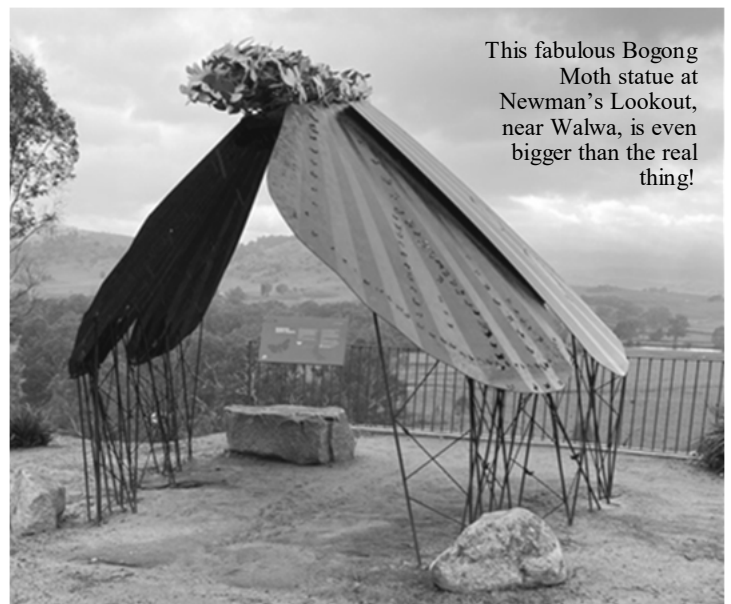
You will find more of Barb's great wildlife photos on page 34. And, if that's not enough, Barb was recently featured on "Humans in Geelong", a project that celebrates district residents that "inspire, connect and strengthen our community". Read about her remarkable life at humansingeelong.com We can all be proud of this long time local resident.



Advertiser were recruited from Bonegilla. Examples of some of the accommodation and administrative huts have been preserved. At the information building, the staff told me that the next generation form the majority of the visitors, as they try to find about the parents' and grandparents' first experience of Australia.

From Albury we alternated south and north of the river as far as Mulwala/Yarrowonga. The former is north of Lake Mulwala, the latter is in Victoria. We had hoped to have an evening meal on a paddle steamer on the lake, but they were not operating. The Lake has been lowered while the weeds growing in it are cut.

On our final day we returned to Bannockburn via Colbinabbin where the silos have been brilliantly painted. We saw little wildlife apart from some kangaroos at Bonegilla, a small fox somewhere between Corryong and Albury and a larger one when approaching Meredith, and two dead roos on the road. We saw few hawks and no coloured parrots until we were almost home again, when we noticed four separate small flocks of rosellas feeding at the side of the road. We saw some galahs and flocks of either cockatoos or corellas and there were plenty of magpies and crows on the road



This fabulous Bogong Moth statue at Newman's Lookout, near Walwa, is even bigger than the real thing!



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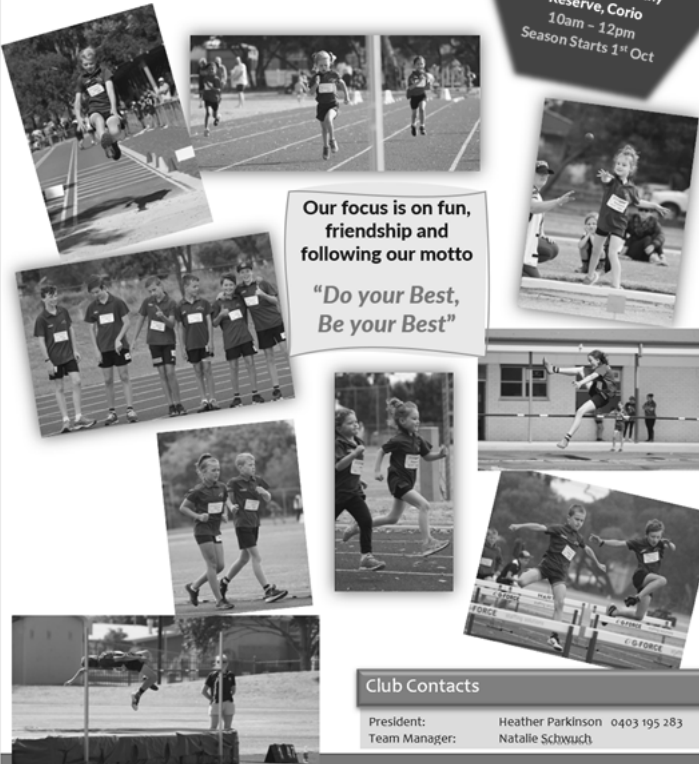
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Marg's BOOK REVIEW

A Place Near Eden

I had not heard of Nell Pierce. *A Place Near Eden* is her debut novel and what a treat she has given us. The book has a truly Australian setting: travelling from Canberra to Melbourne and then mainly in an area that has inspired the author all her life, the south coast of New South Wales. It is a novel that explores the system of fostering, youth, truth, family, friends and all their complexities. Above all, it examines the uncertainty of memory, how we make memories, how we remember and how we can lock memories away. Which memories are true? Yours? Mine? Or nobodies?

The three main characters are Celeste, Sem and Matilda (Tilly). Matilda is the narrator and she is telling the story to a child whom we assume is Celeste's baby, though that isn't confirmed until later in the book. Celeste is the girl who lived downstairs from Tilly and her mother after Tilly's parents separated and moved to Melbourne. Celeste is bubbly and confident though often portrayed as also moody and manipulative. Sem is Tilly's foster brother, a 13 year old 'troubled teenager', who was the last straw in an already fractured marriage, for Tilly's dad. Tilly is a timid, confused girl who has few friends, apart from Celeste and Sem and is unsure of herself in many ways. She is someone who is happy for others to make decisions for her and look after her. Celeste and Sem are older than Tilly but the three spend endless hours at the local pool, near the beach or swimming on the coast.

Sem is a young boy whose life seems to have no roots or stability. He is taken from Tilly's home after accusations of possible inappropriate behaviour and seems to leave places as often as occupy them. Sem and Celeste later develop a relationship and Celeste is pregnant with their baby. When Sem disappears, the mystery draws the reader into further intrigue and doubt and whose version of the truth do you believe, if any?

The reappearance of Peter, Tilly's former boyfriend and his documentary investigation into Sem's disappearance, presents the reader with more evidence of events but with nothing resolved or determined without reasonable doubt.

The book is like a jigsaw puzzle. The pieces are there to be found to complete the picture but often you think you have the correct piece only to realise it doesn't fit. The shapes come together in a disjointed and seemingly random way, keeping the reader alert and absorbed.

The writing is intelligent, original and confident. The prose is descriptive, atmospheric, tense and engrossing. Our desire, as a reader, to have all events summarized and neatly packaged is not Pierce's style and this makes for a thoughtful and provocative conclusion. A deserving winner of the 2022 Australian Vogel Literary Award.

Is there a hint of Eden as the paradise lost?

The Australian Vogel Literary Award is for an unpublished manuscript by a writer under 35.

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I Bought a Summer House

Roz Spierings (with Marg Cooper)

In 2017 I bought a small residence in Meredith that had been extensively renovated by the previous owners. They tried to modernize but also retain the historical features of the house. Two doors containing leadlight that had fronted 32 Staughton Street (formerly 'The Bakery') were installed in the house. It is very comfortable and functional and I love it.

On Tuesday, June 14 I invited some members of MHIG, a friend of mine and two girls who had grown up in my house, for afternoon tea so we could share some history of the house.

Gwenda and Joan were delighted to visit and said that after their parents Jack (Cracker) and Nell Shell married in 1942 they rented Cunnington's house in Wallace Street [Later Henderson's, now Holtz]. They could have bought it for £200 but Jack's father advised them to buy Dorrington's at 42 Staughton Street (even though it cost more) because it was on red gum stumps.

The frontage on Staughton Street had two entrances and two windows and that a Doctor had a waiting room and consulting room in the door on the left. After Shells bought the house the waiting room became John's bedroom and was where the tin bath was kept. On Saturday nights the bath was carted to the wash house out the back, filled with water from the copper and all the family bathed in turn. They would then be clean for church on Sunday.

No-one slept in the front room on the right because they believed that someone had died there. The girls, Betty, Gwenda and Joan slept in the second bedroom on the right and their parents slept in the bedroom behind that.

Behind what had been the Doctor's rooms was the dining room that held a big table that was only used on Sundays. A roast of lamb would be put in the oven of the wood stove before church and the vegetables added after church. Often the Vicar joined the family for this meal. Jack Shell called himself a wheelbarrow. He only went to church when he was pushed!

The kitchen was separated from the dining room by a wall and the chimney of the stove and although it looked small to Gwenda and Joan on June 14 they recalled that the family of six easily fitted around the table for all their other meals.

The wash house was out the back with a plum tree, a dunny, honeysuckle on the fence, a chook shed and a garage made of flattened drums. Behind that was, what the girls called, the 'Paddock'.

Neighbours were Arthur Owen, a barber at 40 Staughton Street, and Jim Howie, the policeman at 38 Staughton Street. Police horses which came on the train were stabled behind the police house. Jim Howie jnr and the Shell girls often saddled some of the horses and took them for a ride. Later Bill Palmer of the Lands Department lived in No 40 and had rabbits with myxomatosis in cages. He inoculated other rabbits with the virus and let them go around the district.

When Mum sat at the kitchen table she could see if Dad was at the Top Pub. She could see his bike parked outside. Everyday he rode to work on his bike to the Railway Station. Dad, Con Duggan and Dick Campion were a team of gangers who patrolled the line from Meredith to Lethbridge. Even on Saturdays they did a patrol to check that everything was OK

The current owner of the house is Roz Spierings. Her visitors were Gwenda Ball and Joan Carroll (both nee Shell).



Roz Spierings with Joan Carroll, who grew up in the house Roz has bought.



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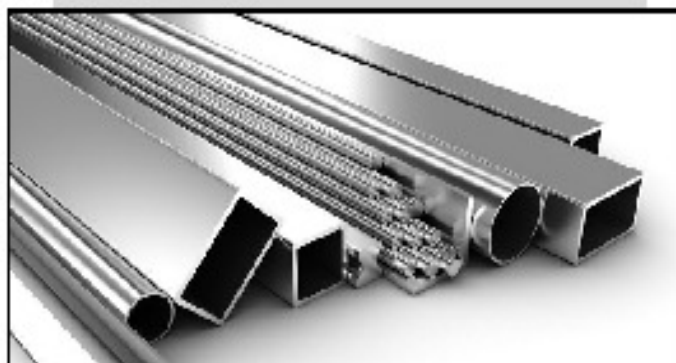
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The Winter Wane

No, not Elmer Fudd, but my BOM App. Tomorrow the sunrises a minute earlier and sets a minute later! OK, don't thaw the sausages just yet, but Winter is nearly done.



Meredith in Outback Magazine

Marg Cooper

R.M. Williams Outback Magazine was launched in September 1998 to celebrate the Australian outback. It is a bi-monthly Australian magazine that focuses on people living and working in the Australian outback. The magazine is a quality production and a great read with wonderful photography.

Only a few weeks after retiring, following 25 years as the South Pacific correspondent for Time Magazine, John Dunn was asked if he would like to do some occasional writing for the new magazine that Paul Myers was starting with the RM Williams Company. He replied, "Yes." and a new career began.



John Dunn was raised on a sheep farm in the Victorian Wimmera, but didn't see himself as a farmer so after leaving school he secured a cadetship at the Horsham Times. For 2½ years he cycled the streets of Horsham and at weekends hitched a ride to the football, wherever it was being played, so that he could report on local events. In 1952 he was offered a job at The Melbourne Herald, and for eight years he worked on the general reporting staff, before flying to London to work for 'Australian Associated Press' whose head office was in Fleet Street, London. After about four years in London he and his wife returned to Australia in 1962 and in 1966 transferred to Rupert Murdoch's 'News Ltd' as its Southern States Editor. In 1972 John started with Time and covered news in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, New Caledonia, New Hebrides and the other islands of the South Pacific.

So this man with such an interesting and illustrious career contacted Meredith History Interest Group in early 2021 to ask if he could interview us for an article about Meredith for Outback Magazine. Of course we were delighted accept his offer!

John arrived on a Saturday afternoon at the History Centre. He was neatly dressed, had driven himself from Melbourne with a stopover at his niece's home in Bacchus Marsh, and listened with a keen interest as we told him about the town, the district, the History Group and our productions. He explained that the article about Meredith may not be published for some time as a town in Victoria had recently been featured and the magazine likes to spread the stories all around Australia. Towards the end of the interview, we asked John what his history was. He mentioned that he had been writing articles for Outback Magazine for over 20 years after his (so called) retirement. After he left we

calculated that John was about 90 years old. We found it hard to believe!

John Dunn has recently published his memoirs, From Potatoes to Pens and Pencils and Beyond and from Wonwondah East to Pyongyang. It is interesting reading - ranging from a 50 hour week at the Horsham Times for £2/12/6 a week to his 55 hour flight to London in 1958 with many stopovers and little security or rules and regulations. He writes about characters on the cricket tour of England in 1961, America's Cup in 1983 and about visiting numerous countries and meeting leaders and politicians.

We feel humbled to have met and been interviewed by John Dunn. We look forward to Meredith being in Outback Magazine in the next issue.



Jim Elvey

I do hope you are getting some winter walks out on the Meredith Police Paddocks. If you dress for the weather, it is always an energising experience. Just standing pretty well anywhere on the tracks on a calm day, you will be delighted with the bird song in this beautiful natural environment. (One of our members identified over 20 species during a single visit last month.)

There is a little to report on the Paddocks but, alas, no action.

Two environmental officers from DELWP visited late last month. While they were impressed with the site, and recognised the formidable task of limiting the growth of gorse, they could only confirm DELWP does not have funding available for this purpose. We again made the point that this is state government land and, in the absence of any other managing entity, the state can't ignore the need to address the problem. A failure to do so, will only lead to far more expensive interventions at a later date.

Local MP, Michaela Settle, recently advised us that no financial provisions were made for the Police Paddocks in the current state budget. Nonetheless, we met with her when she visited Meredith last month to bring her up to date and to continue to press for state government involvement in addressing the weeds, reaffirming the site needs a dedicated and resourced site management plan. Ms Settle indicated she will look with interest at any assessment of the situation by DELWP personnel and continue to press for suitable support.

The Newsletter Committee has invited our Group to submit an annual funding proposal. This arose from a discussion about our need for support to buy fuel and maintain our equipment each year. (Neither Council nor DELWP have offered to meet these costs.) Even though it is only a few hundred dollars each year, as a group with no funds, we very much welcome this offer. Thank you to the Newsletter Committee.

Disclosure: I also chair the Newsletter Committee, but played no part in this decision.

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Dog tales



Name: Billy, aged 7

Breed: Standard poodle

Special features: Pure white underneath the mud-covered fur.

Place of Origin: Queensland

Pet hates: Posties, motorbikes, not being able to go with owner when she works.

Favourite toys and pastimes: Having mud baths; swimming in the dam even in the cold (now I'm a true Victorian), then being pampered (it took 3 hours to get the mud out and make me look fantastic again); going to work with my owner Deb; riding in the gator.

Obsession: balancing on the hay bales and chasing mice; chasing rabbits and digging down into their burrows; sleeping on the bed with Deb, not when covered with mud though.

Naughtiest deeds: going over to the neighbours and getting a free ride home in their car. I always leave my calling card on all their daisies.

Owner: Deb



Have a chat with your dog and tell us what you find out. And a favourite pic of course. Shaggy or not, everybody loves a dog story.





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Meredith History Interest Group

Talk by Noeleen Lloyd:

On Sunday, 3rd July in the Meredith Hall our very own Noeleen Lloyd presented her talk on all her work with the Irish Famine Orphan Girls. As part of her presentation Noeleen told of her great, great grandmother Bridget Young who left Tuam workhouse to spend 122 days on a ship as she and her sister Mary sailed out to Australia as part of the Earl Grey Scheme in 1850. Noeleen's presentation was so well received you could honestly hear a pin drop as everyone in the audience was captivated by Noeleen's ancestor's story. Noeleen finished her presentation by playing the very beautiful and haunting song Orphan Girl which was so moving...if you haven't already heard it, I recommend you do as it really helps to understand how it must have been for these amazing young Irish women who braved the journey out to the unknown and early colony of Australia. Thanks so much again Noeleen.

Report written by Kerry Taylor-Thomas. (Thank you Kerry, who kindly organized for her friend Noeleen to speak.)

Mystery Items:

Every week this year we have posted a photo of a Mystery Item on our Facebook Page for people to identify. This post has proved most popular with many people contributing comments as to the name, use and properties of the items. If you have an item that you think people may not know what it is, please either bring it to the History Centre to be photographed or photograph it yourself and email it to meredithhistoryinterestgroup@gmail.com.

Thomas Lloyd

Mounted First Constable Thomas Lloyd, No 8923 joined the Police Force in 1934 and was appointed to Meredith in 1941. His daughter Lola has supplied copies of some letters forwarded to his superiors in Melbourne from the time when he was stationed here, that provide wonderful insights to that time:

In January 1941 he asked permission to engage in outside work whilst off duty. He wanted to break in horses for local farmers. Owing to war conditions they had found it impossible to get their horses broken in and with restrictions on the use of cars and tractors they needed to use their young horses. He told that he had spent 3½ years as a rough rider for the Police Department.

Lola tells that he was an accomplished horseman. He took a year off from police duties to find 80 horses in Australia suitable for competitors to use in the Modern Pentathlon at the 1956 Olympics Games.

His letters also reveal:

- In November 1941 he requested authority to test applicants for Motor Driver's Licences.
-

- In December 1941 he reported that he had been unable to catch either Brady or Ward for conducting starting price book making in Meredith.
- In February 1942 he reported that he had detected no offences re the lighting restrictions imposed on 11/2/1942.
- In December 1942 he reported that he had collected seven German Machine Guns in the Meredith Police Sub-District.



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Croc Report



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.

26th June: The Crocs took on Bendigo, this time on our home turf. We had a great turn out of players and proved to be too strong for the travelling Bendigo team. A really good match with some great skills on show by both teams. Bendigo proved to be a really competitive opposition. We welcomed 2 new players for the Crocs, Paul Stewart and Chris Wilkie. Johnny Cranston and Damo Harwood returned for their second games. Its great to see a few new (younger) players joining up. Big Damo up forward was the focal point and Adrian Carter in the middle provided plenty of run. Johnny Cranston was keeping the backline together with great marking, Scotty Foran on the wing ran all day and was in everything. Another great day of masters football and a great local crowd turned up to cheer on the Crocs. Best players for the day were:

The Royal Hotel voucher: Damo Harwood

6 Pack: Craig Taylor

Meredith Dairy Cheese: Troffy, Johnny Cranston, Adrian Carter, Chris Wilkie

Meredith rural supplies award: Dave O'Brien

Farmgate Shop voucher: Scotty Foran.

10th July: The Crocs took on the Ballarat Diggers at Meredith. A huge crowd was in attendance with the carpark as full as its been in years. With the Diggers being undefeated, this game was going to be hard fought. The Crocs certainly fought hard and ended up coming away with the win. A great effort. It was great to see club legend Sid Jones be able to take the field with his son Matty and 2 nephews Damien and Rory. We also welcomed back our great fullback Vinny for his first game of the year and young Mitch for his 2nd game. Big Damo and Sid were the dynamic duo up forward kicking the majority of our goals. As always Pikey and Badge were fantastic swapping in the ruck and Matty and Mitch provided the run needed to get the ball up forward. Comments from the sideline said "It was a tough game with great skills" which is a credit to our great club. Best players for the day were:

The Royal Hotel Voucher: Damo Harwood

Farmgate Shop voucher: Sid Jones

Meredith Dairy Cheese: Shaun F, Rory Priddle, Matty Jones, Craig Taylor and Mick Devlin

6 Pack: Mitch.

24th July: The Crocs took on a travelling Kerang/Swan Hill Rams at Meredith. Due to the long trip that Kerang had to make, their numbers were affected, but the 13 players that made the trip put up a great effort. In line with master's tradition the teams were adjusted to play 16 a side and a few of the Crocs players helped out the Kerang blokes by pulling on a jumper for them. A pretty one-sided match but the score board did not reflect the effort the Kerang team put in. We welcomed Tom Carson for his first game and also welcomed back club great Gary Polglaze after a 4-year tour of China. We made few position changes to our regular line up and these proved to be a bit of a surprise. Scotty Thompson was moved into the centre and grabbed his opportunity (and his opponent) with both hands. Scotty was in just about everything and had the best game he has had all year. Scotty Cowie was proving age is just a number by busting tackles and provide great run from the halfback line. Pikey had his work cut out for him in the ruck but came out on top and provide great run as always. Vinny was moved up forward and kicked a couple of goals and Mick Murray and Troff were great in defence and on the wing. Thanks to Beth for running the water, Sammy for looking after the coaching duties and Doopa for umpiring instead of playing. Another great crowd full of families and locals is a great reflection on how the club is doing. Best players:

- The Royal Hotel Voucher: Scotty Thompson
- Meredith Rural: Scotty Cowie
- Farmgate Shop voucher: Troffy
- Meredith Dairy Cheese: Pikey, Vinny, Mick Murray
- 6 pack: Mitch

A special thanks to all our supporters who have turned up to the last few games. We haven't had crowd support like we have had for the last few games for years. All our players and club members really appreciate the support. We have one more home game for the year so make sure you get down and cheer loudly.

Next home game is as 7th August vs Melton @ Meredith

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

Mick Devlin (coach) 0413609863

Mick Rooney (President) 0408545246

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Coolebarghurk Creek:

Ep. 4 - The Police Paddocks

Marg Cooper

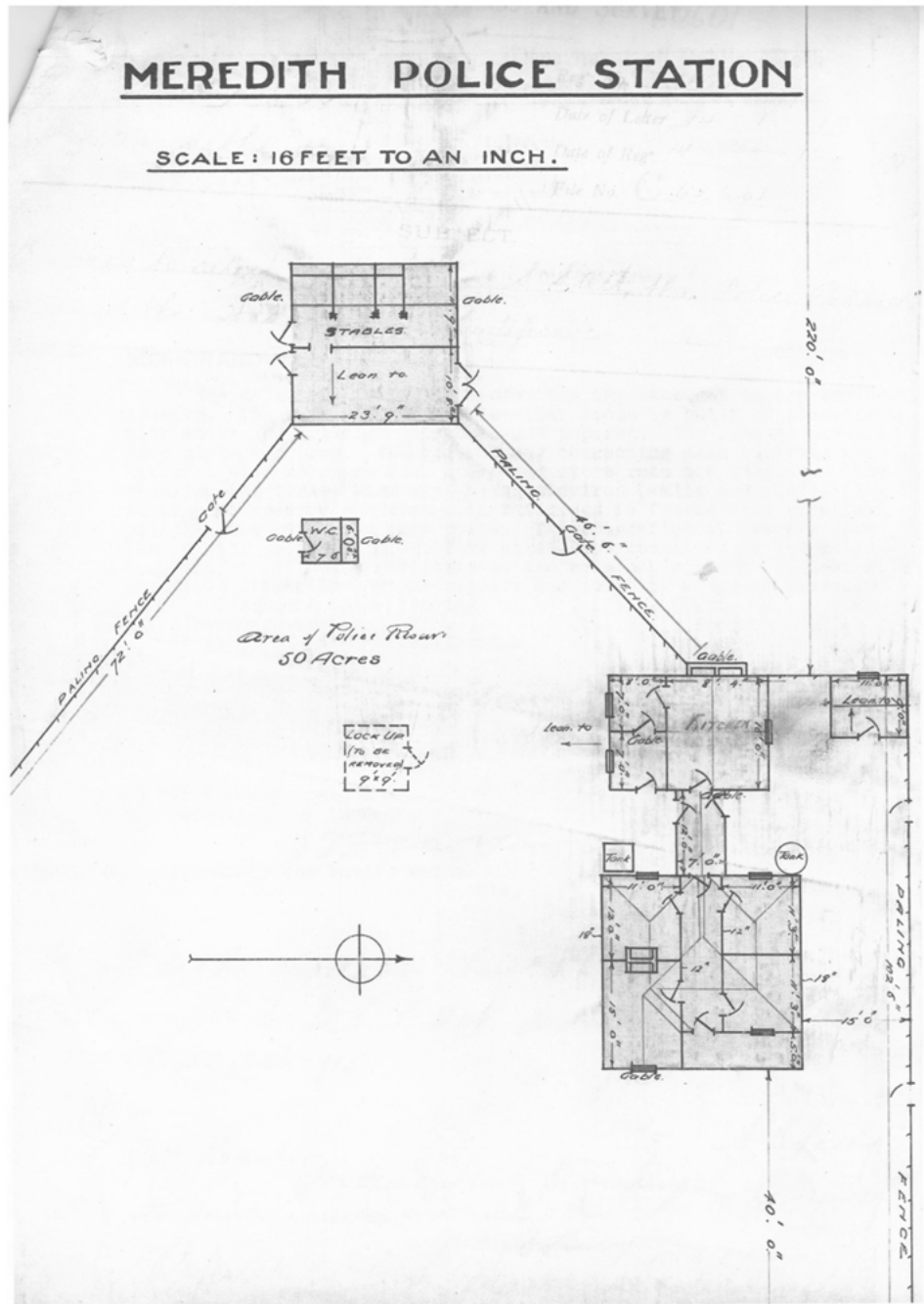
In 1852 William Kelly described approaching Meredith: From the confines of this station our road lay through a nasty forest of comparatively young timber until we came within a short distance of Watsons, where we passed a range of bark buildings in ruin which was the horse police outpost. We rested here as there were pretty glimpses of open country from the hill on which we sat and because a clear, trickling stream by our side looked as if its complexion would be mightily improved by the taste of brandy.

A request of March 1867 to the Assistant Commissioner of Lands & Survey from the Chief Commissioner of Police, Mr Standish asked for the reservation of Crown Land at Meredith for police purposes. The letter received the following reply in April 1867: On recommendation of the Board of Lands & Works, 50 acres 6 perches situated on the Coolebarghurk Creek, a tributary of the Moorabool River, just east of Meredith township is temporarily reserved for police purposes.

The parcel of land reserved was described: Commencing at the south-west angle of suburban allotment 24, bounded thence by a road bearing west eighteen chains, thence by a line and by part of the south boundary of allotment 19, bearing east eighteen chains and thence by part of the west boundary of that allotment, and by the west boundaries of allotments 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24, bearing south twenty-seven chains eighty links to the point of commencement.

A Land Classification Review Assessment and Evaluation Form of November 1990 includes a good description of the land: Coolebarghurk Creek forms a deep channel through the surrounding basalt plains and meanders across the parcel in a generally southerly direction forming a small gorge to the north and attractive flats to the south. Land above the western bank is generally flat with a gentle fall towards the creek. The land has been cleared for pasture and is heavily infested with noxious weeds and other exotic species particularly along the creek banks. The entire block is enclosed by a post and rail fence and access is provided by Mooney Street. [renamed Nuttall St.]

A Government Valuer's Report of January 1919 provides a description of the police station: The main building of four rooms is built of bluestone with walls and ceilings plastered and papered. The roof is covered with slate and iron. The covered way connecting main building with the kitchen, also kitchen, wash house and store room are of wood. The stabling and forage room are galvanized iron [walls and roof]. The portion of the reserve enclosed with buildings is fenced with five-foot palings, two rails and sawn posts. The



boundaries of the reserve are fenced with split posts and five wires. The condition of the buildings is fair with the exception of the veranda which is in need of immediate attention. Minor repairs and painting are also necessary.

Police had a presence in Meredith from at least the early 1850's. One report referred to a gaol or lock-up. Another described the police accommodation as a tent. It seemed that police continued to occupy the premises at the Police Paddock until the 1930's despite many suggestions that the police presence would be much better in the town centre.

Meredith always had a Mounted Policeman because the Police Paddock was used to rest police horses. In one report it was stated that the Meredith Police Paddock was the only land available for police horses in the west of the state.

Today the Police Paddock is an area for community recreation with walking tracks, signs relating the history and the special flora and fauna of the area.

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It slips again. On nerves rent raw
Bones grind. He grits his teeth,
As death's sharp dagger slips its sheath

Meditation

Pushing wrecks and bending double
Has got our Jimbo into trouble.

On a bed of ice he's lying,
Thinking fondly now of dying.
A tortured body: it is not pretty
To see him wallow in self-pity.

Let cut snakes hiss, and hurt dogs howl,
And babies bellow with life
The vertabrasive is all pervasive.
Ask his loving wife.

G'Day from the penners for this month. At my place, for the last three mornings we have had frost. I love the frosty mornings, the air is so clear and crisp under the influence of the high-pressure system and I could look at it for hours, from behind my windows in a cosy warm room of course. But for some reason I can feel the romance of the winter, the dark stormy skies, the howling winds blowing over the cliff face as the heroine waits for the man of her dreams to take her away from the dismal moors. Me thinks me have spent too many hours in my teenage years reading Jane Austen, Catherine Cookson and Georgette Heyer romance novels. And don't forget the multitude of Mills and Boon cheap novelettes. Thankfully I eventually out grew of my desire for soft historical romance and my interests widened.

At the writing group we have an eclectic bunch of writers who write about such varied subjects as sci-fi to fairies at the bottom of the garden. It is always a treat to listen to the stories that are written from our homework subjects. We also have a few poets who can rustle up a verse or two as well. Today's contributor is Bridh Hancock who describes himself as a larrikin bush poet. His love for our great land is always evident in his writings and he has produced many great poems both long and short. Today's entry is a poem he wrote a few years ago now, but we think it is a beauty.

As always, we can be contacted via our email address goldenpens4@gmail.com and we welcome all comments, so share your thoughts with us and let us know what you think.

The Saga of Jimbo's Back

The Car

Jimbo bought a motorized heap.
It 'was going', but not went cheap.
Other was the price he paid,
As up in bed he out was laid.

Wifey fretted for her new spouse;
And he thought sick-leave would be grouse.
Wifey wished she was nurse skilled,
As 'Death; Thy Sting' she sweetly trilled

Cheaper yet went Jimbo's buy.
Push it, and you'll soon know why.

Shoe-Laces

When he was getting used to pain,
Jimbo ricked his back again.
Oh, the rumours in the air!
Some I should, but shall not share.
"Tying laces", he confessed,
But 'tying laces' everyone guessed.

Of Disco Days and Labouring Ways

His injury is from those days,
Of wild and unwise youthful ways.
Slipped he his disk – oh long ago –
When dancing like some freak on show?
No; twas digging a ditch in the dirt,
With a lady-spade. His ego hurt!

To remind him of those days of yore

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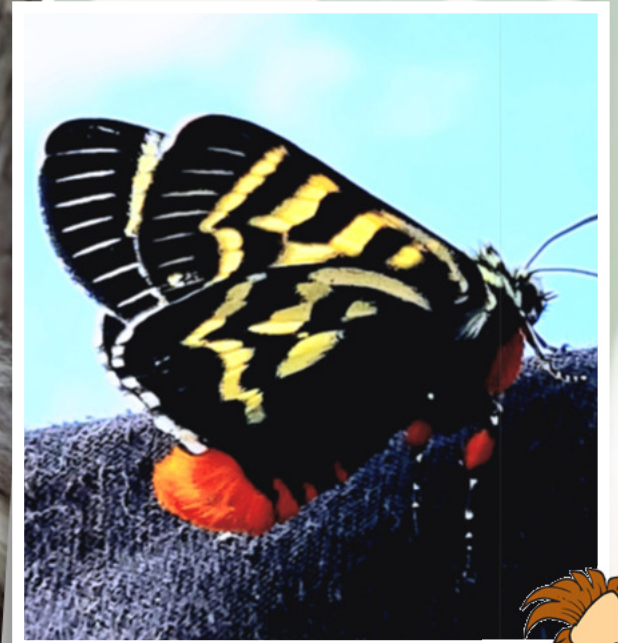
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Clockwise from left, Barb Baird's photos of a sadly, increasingly rare visitor, and a kangaroo with joey. Then Mick Devlin's photo of a Mistletoe Day Moth. (Thank you Wendy Cook for the ID.)



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