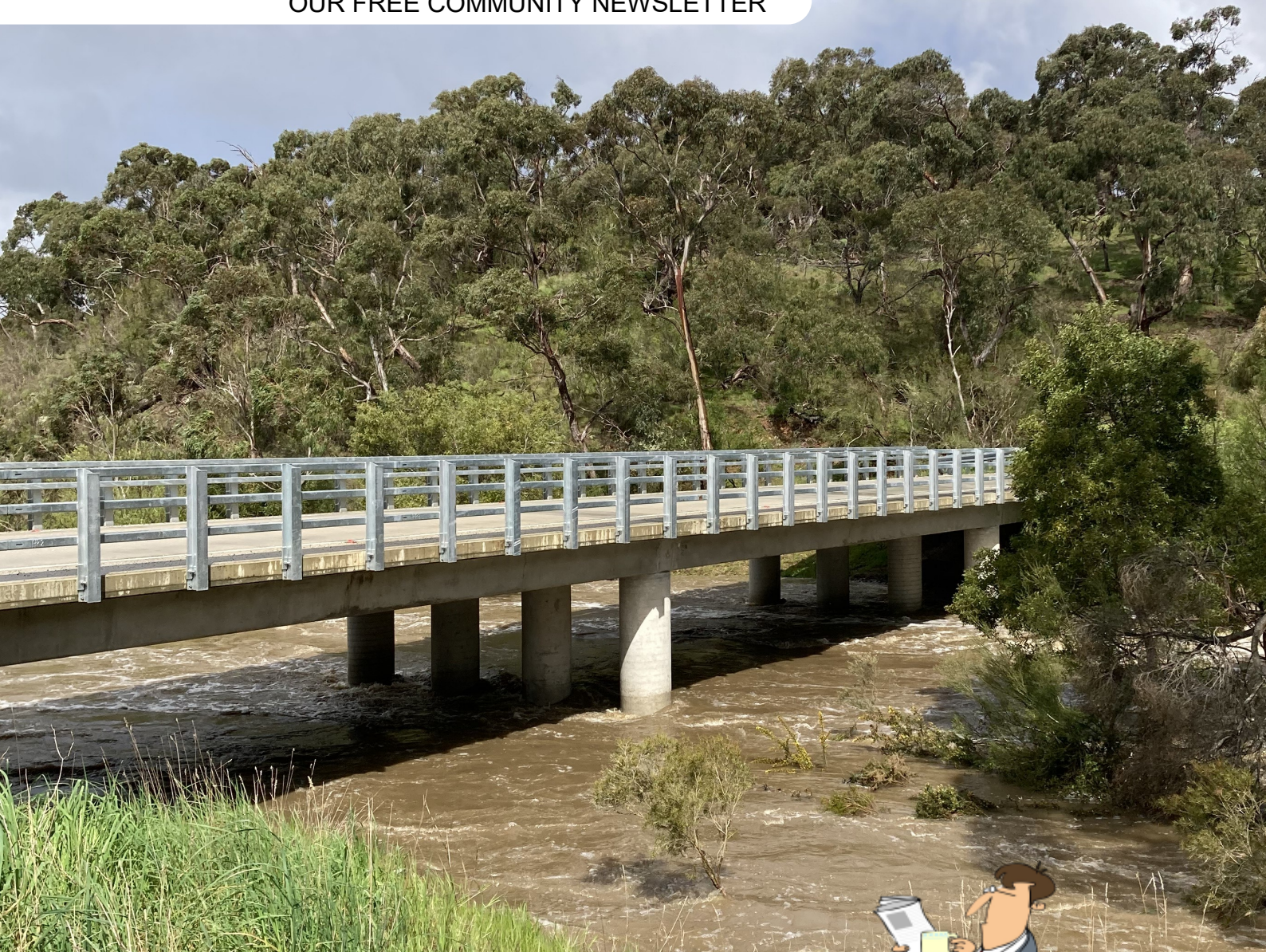


Meredith & district News



NOVEMBER 2022

OUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



inside



- Music Festival Ticket info
- The School garden surviving the rain
- Wally and the Tree

...and the usual Much More!



For more
details see
page 5

IT'S BACK! THE GIANT PUMPKIN COMPETITION



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

MOORABOOL Wind Farm



COMMUNITY UPDATE - November 2022

Moorabool Wind Farm Community Fund Round Three - Successful projects

Moorabool Wind Farm is pleased to confirm support for seven local organisations through the third round of the Community Fund:

- Gordon Recreation Reserve - Boundary Fencing
- Mount Wallace Model Aircraft Association - Shed installation
- Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group - Native planting and Ballan Primary School engagement program
- St Patricks Primary School - Village Community Playground Project
- Gordon Farmgate Incorporated - Equipment
- Ballan Football Netball Club - Security and room upgrades
- Ballan Red Cross - Post-covid high tea

We would like to thank the volunteer assessment panel for their help in awarding these grants, as well as the local community members who took the time to apply.



Local organisations who applied in Round Four of the Moorabool Wind Farm Community Fund can expect to hear an update in early November.

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, designed to reduce the potential visual impacts of the project for our closest neighbours. All agreed works are undertaken by Moorabool Wind Farm at no cost to dwelling owners. Get in touch to learn more.

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

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GROWERS OF LOCAL PROVENANCE NATIVE TUBE STOCK – located in ELAINE

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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
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ANGLING CLUB
0419 248 660

B'BURN ART GROUP
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BLUE LIGHT DISCO
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BOOK CLUB
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Meredith
5286 1502
Morrison's
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CHILDCARE
5286 0700

COMMUNITY CENTRE
5286 0700

CRICKET
Elaine
0448 291074
Junior
(U16,U14,13)
0448 291074
Meredith
5286 1434

CUBS SCOUTS
Lethbridge
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ELAINE HALL
elainetownhall@gmail.com

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Juniors 0430 587 674

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Lethbridge
52 817 321
Meredith
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SEW 'N' SEWS
5286 0700

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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
	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

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Elaine Rec Res

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..or start something.

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



"You pray for rain, you got to deal with the mud too. That's a part of it." - Denzel Washington



COMMUNITY

Meredith Tennis Club

Bridget Dyer

Despite this wet weather that we have been having, tennis has got off to a good start. We have six children from Meredith and other children from Mt Helen and Grenville, competing in the orange ball comp run mostly from Elaine. After only three weeks, we have children getting serves in and connecting with the ball. The overall feedback is that the kids are having a great time and enjoying tennis.

The teams in the BDTA competition have also got off to a good start. The six teams are okay in sections C2 and C3. We have some children playing competition for the first time and are doing well. The 22nd of October had all four C2 teams played at home against each other. Their persistence in playing despite the rain was impressive. All teams were determined to keep playing.

The seniors have so far started out well with a win and a loss by 11 games. The 22nd was a bye and they are keen to play again. Thanks to the cheer squad that came to support them playing Rokewood at home.

Training has also suffered from the rain, however, the children are enjoying competing in the Sanderson Cup. We have managed to secure the head coach from Tennis Ballarat every second Sunday to run a 1 hour training session for those interested, in addition to the normal Thursday free training sessions. For those attending regularly the training sessions are \$10 each, casual attendance is \$15. This is a great opportunity for our children and we have had 28 kids sign up, resulting in three separate sessions with 8-10 children in each at the Meredith Tennis courts. These will begin 6th November and will run through to the end of term.

Finally, we are pleased to announce our Christmas party will be held on Saturday 17th at the Meredith Tennis courts. It will start at 6pm. Families with last names starting A-M are asked to bring a dessert, while families with last names starting N-Z are asked to bring a salad. As always, all past and present players are invited to help us celebrate the Christmas season.



**The Meredith Newsletter
Giant Pumpkin Challenge**

Would you like to enter the **GIANT PUMPKIN CHALLENGE?** Here's how...

- Take a **FREE** packet of seeds from the Community Pantry behind the shed.
- Plant in October or November (Tips on the back of the packet.)
- Judging next April

Seeds kindly donated by Mr Fothergills.
(Thank You Mr Fothergill!)

GOOD LUCK!

For Sale

Succulents and Hanging Baskets, Orchids & Pot Plants
Earthenware Pots, Proteas Trio, Exercise Bike
Coral – 5286 1393



**Advance Meredith Association's
Meredith Christmas
Lights Competition 2022**

There are 3 categories –
Business &
Residential &
Community Groups

Prizes



Light up Meredith this Christmas and let's spread the Christmas Cheer.
Judging to be week prior to Christmas.
Register 0409 027 359

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 5536

Daily services: Matins 08.00 am, Vespers 6.00 pm. Divine Liturgies on Saturdays & Sundays 10.00 am.

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

Parish Priest Father Joseph mob. 0404 598 558
Office Phone: 5286 1230
Office open Wednesday & Friday 9.30am to 4.30 pm

Mass times

St. John the Baptist, Winchelsea –	Nov 5, 12, 19, 26 at 6pm (daylight saving)
St. Mary MacKillop, Bannockburn -	Nov 6, 13, 20, 27 at 11am
St. Josephs, Meredith -	Nov 6, 20 at 9am
St. Brigids, Anakie -	Nov 13, 27 at 9am
Sacred Heart, Inverleigh -	Nov 20, 4pm

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

Other Sacraments:

Reconciliation, Anointing, Baptisms, Matrimony, Funerals call: 5286 1230 for details.
Sacramental program (Reconciliation, Confirmation) will be operating. Call the office for details.

If we are missing a church offering services in our district, please contact us at news@meredithnews.com.au



OUR COVER

Our cover this month shows the water around Slate Quarry road bridge taken by Don Atherton.

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



Meredith Music Festival 2022 Information and Contacts

We are writing with information about the Meredith Music Festival, scheduled to occur at the Meredith Supernatural Amphitheatre on Friday 9 December - Sunday 11 December 2022

The summary of the traffic management plan is outlined here.

- We implement a speed reduction on Meredith-Mount Mercer Road and Cameron Road from two days prior to the festival through to the day prior to the festival.
- We implement one-way traffic on Meredith-Mount Mercer Road from Bamganie Road to Cameron Road from approximately 4am the day prior to the festival to approximately 7pm on the first day of the festival.
- Traffic within the one-way zone travelling to Meredith will be diverted down Cameron Road
- We assign traffic controllers to the corner of Midland Highway and Staughton Street on the final day of the festival to assist vehicles turning left or right onto Midland Highway
- No-parking zones are installed along Meredith-Mount Mercer Road and some surrounding roads

If you live or work along Meredith-Mount Mercer Road, Bamganie Road or Cameron Road and you would like a vehicle pass, please email Aunty Meredith.

If you have any comments or ideas about any matter related to Meredith Music Festival, including any concern or question about traffic or noise management, please get in contact by phone/text 0430 091 120 or by emailing auntym@mmf.com.au. These contacts are also operational 24 hours over the festival weekend.

The festival website is mmf.com.au

Other information for locals is available at aunty.mmf.com.au/locals

Thank you for your support.

Festival Planning Team

Advertisement removed at advertisers request



MEREDITH MUSIC FESTIVAL TICKET ALLOCATION FOR LOCALS

An allocation of tickets for The 30th Meredith Music Festival is available on a first-come first-served basis for locals living between Elaine and Lethbridge to purchase from Back Creek Cafe (1/27 Staughton Street) from 10am on **November 11th** until sold out. 3 per person limit.

Please bring proof of residential address (Meredith, Elaine, She Oaks or Lethbridge address). CASH sales only. For more information contact us via auntym@mmf.com.au.

NEW IN TOWN?

If you have moved to the area since we last held a festival at the Meredith Supernatural Amphitheatre (March 2020), feel free to get in touch with Aunty Meredith via auntym@mmf.com.au. We would be happy to give you a call and a rundown on what the festival entails.

The festival website is www.mmf.com.au and information for locals is available at www.mmf.com.au/locals.

Thanks Everyone!

In the School Garden

Mrs Garden

Rain, rain and more rain! Everywhere is quite soggy at the moment but there is nothing like rain to make plants grow. Hand watering is just not the same.

Having said that, some recent falls have been quite heavy but our plants seem to be holding up. The broad beans are flowering and when we inspected them closely, we could see the beginnings of some tiny pods. There will be a huge crop eventually from the Grade 2/3/4 patch and delicious broad bean and feta dip to enjoy later in the year.

The seeds for the Giant Pumpkin Challenge have been sown in pots. We learnt last year that protection is needed from the snails and slugs when they are planted out in the garden so we are preparing old pots with the bottom removed and copper tape wrapped around. These are placed around the new seedlings and seem to deter the munchers. By the time they outgrow the pots, they are strong enough to survive on their own.

Remember to get your seeds for the Giant Pumpkin Challenge. They are available at the school for school families and from the Community Pantry beside the CERT shed in Russell Street for the wider community. This is sponsored by the Meredith District Newsletter and also this year by Mr Fothergill's who kindly donated the seeds.

The bee-friendly pots planted by Ms Pritchard's grade are flourishing and their colours and scents are already attracting the bees to our garden. Bees prefer blue, purple yellow and white so the pots have lavenders and daisies with the added bonus that they can be moved around where they are needed.

Our 'lasagne bed' is going well with the layers of straw, compost and manure breaking down nicely. Some bok choy and rainbow chard seedlings gifted to the school were planted in it along with seed potatoes.

Here are a few other plants that will grow well in this area if planted during November: seeds of beans, beetroot, carrot, cucumber, corn, potatoes and parsnip can go in. Our tomato seedlings will go in later in November with basil to keep it company. While there is no scientific evidence that basil makes the tomatoes grow better, they are a lovely combination and certainly tasty when eaten together. We will however put in some alyssum as it attracts beneficial insects, and marigolds and nasturtiums to repel or act as a decoy for pests and help suppress disease. We also garden organically without any sprays or herbicides as these get rid of the beneficial insects as well as the ones we don't want.

Remember to call into the office if you'd like to buy a box of eggs from some very well-loved hens.



Dacian and Carlos planting seedlings in our 'lasagne' garden bed

LINE DANCING

AT ELAINE MECHANICS HALL

SUNDAY 6th NOVEMBER

1.00 PM to 4.00 PM

Beginners Welcome

Come join us for a fun afternoon

Tea & Coffee supplied.

Admission \$10

**We are raising funds to purchase Shade Sails
over the Playground at Elaine Recreation
Reserve**

Croc Report



September/October saw a group of the Crocs travel across to Adelaide to compete in the AFL Masters National Carnival. We were representing Victoria Country and we had players in 4 different age groups:

Mick Devlin Over 40's

Craig Taylor Over 45's

Phillip Cranage and Dave O'Brien over 50's

Mick Rooney, Daryl Jones, Paul Nolan, Gary Polglaze and John Peterson Over 60's

And our No. 1 supporter Ang Fatone.

It was a great week with lots of recovery sessions at the beach due to the physicality of the games. We played three games in a week which is well above our usual effort of one game a fortnight. This year's carnival saw a record number of players, so the competition was extremely tough. The Vic Country sides competed with great spirit and teamwork, considering this was the first time most of the players across all teams had played together. A few of the NSW blokes came and played with the Vic Country teams and fit in from the get-go. All though not having the success on the scoreboard, Vic Country performed extremely well and will only get better in years to come. Meeting and playing alongside some of the players we usually

play against during the regular season was fantastic. We met some great people and can't wait to play again in the carnival on the Sunshine Coast next year. A big shout out to the Vic Country masters board for organising a great carnival and some great functions whilst in Adelaide.

Some notable awards for the Crocs were:

All Australian: Dave O'Brien over 50's and Daryl Jones over 60's

Carnival Over 60's Best and Fairest: Daryl Jones

As most of Meredith is aware, the Royal Hotel is up for sale. The Crocs would like to thank Damien and Claire for all their support and contributions for all the years they have been involved with the Crocs. We greatly appreciate it and wish you both the very best in your future endeavours. You will be deeply missed around Meredith and make sure you make some time to get back out to the Crocs footy.

Thanks also to our sponsors for the support during the year:

Sandy and Julie Cameron from Meredith Dairy

Pat and Helen Banks from Meredith Rural supplies

The Dunne family from The Farmgate shop Elaine

Anyone wishing for more information about Masters football in Meredith, please feel free to contact the below:

Mick Devlin (Coach) 0413609863

Mick Rooney (president) 0408545246

See you all next year.

Mick D

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Taking stock

Roy Hay

The other day my wife said to me, ‘You should put together all the books you have contributed to over the years’. I don’t think she had any idea quite what that would involve. Now long retired, I have an Honorary Fellowship at Deakin University that gives me access to the library and through it to the world of scholarship. In return the university can, if it wishes, add my ongoing work to its contribution to knowledge, the whole purpose of its existence as the first Vice-Chancellor, Professor Fred Jevons, outlined in his final address.

“Knowledge is a university’s business. It is, if you like, the commodity in which it trades. A university needs to be jealous of the reputation of that knowledge. If a university does not guard intellectual integrity and excellence, it is failing in the profoundest possible way the community that harbours and nurtures it. The basic message, therefore ... was a dual one: new ways, but old values. I hope that the university will continue to seek new ways to enact old values. It should be endlessly imaginative and innovative in finding and introducing new ways, but it should never lose sight of the basic values which underlie the work of the university. Old they may be, but they cannot be outdated, because they form its central mission. The task, as I see it, is eternal vigilance to maintain the integrity of the knowledge that the university creates and transmits, coupled with an eternal quest to find better ways to transmit it.”

I still find that a moving and evocative statement of what Deakin University was and should be about, much more impressive than some of the vision or mission statements that appear from the administration of universities these days.

So I am very conscious that this responsibility does not end with retirement from the university. I’d like to think that I am still contributing and very privileged in so many ways and brings me to this column that you are reading now. I hope you don’t find it boring or irrelevant. I’ve been privileged to have this space in the *Meredith News* now for eighteen months. It reminds me very much of my last phase of writing for the *Geelong Advertiser*, where I had a similar role. When I first started contributing to the local paper it was as a supplier of results and reports on local junior football (soccer). Eventually it became coverage of the game from the Under-nines to the National Soccer League, the Socceroos and the Matildas. Finally, after I thought I had passed the baton to a very bright young lad from Chanel College, who is now the Director of Football at Melbourne Victory, I was given a weekly column on a subject of my own choosing, much like my monthly contribution to the *Meredith News*.

Our genial editors—there are two of them who work in tandem to produce the magazine—have given me similar freedom since I began contributing in May 2021. On the other hand, that freedom comes with responsibilities. The material must be geared to the interests of local readers. I am pulled up short if I embark on stories that are irrelevant, are political, or too narrowly focused on personal matters. So this one walks a fine line between trying to explain a little more about me and my background and entertaining you, the reader. Many people living in and around Meredith have been associated with the university since it opened in 1977.

So how can I tell you about what I’ve done with my life in Australia. They say a picture is worth a thousand words, so here is a photograph of the books and journals to which I have contributed since I was a student at Oxford in the 1960s.

This pile does not include the published teaching materials I contributed to Deakin’s on- and off-campus teaching program, that covered a whole range of subjects from the economic and

social history of the Second World War to the evolution of the Australian City and Sport in History around the world. As a result, I like to present myself sometimes as ‘a Deakin mongrel’ because of the ability to turn my hand to many different subjects and topics and try to explain their significance. I don’t pretend to be a fundamental thinker, but I have developed the capacity to delve into a subject and try to explain its significance and hint to the reader about ways of finding out more about that topic. In a couple of weeks I’m off to Warrnambool to talk to the local history society about Aboriginal football in the Western District and the contribution of Albert Pompey Austin who played one match for Geelong Football Club 150 years ago, the only Indigenous man to play at the top level in Victoria until the 1930s.



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Bannockburn Pharmacy Newsletter

Proprietors: Scott Wilkes & Damian Bennett

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Your local healthSAVE pharmacist in Bannockburn is located at 6 High street, Bannockburn, 3181. We are easy to find as we are close to the local shopping centre. Our highly trained and friendly staff have been helping the local community for over 11 years. We are here to listen to your health concerns and offer confidential, expert advice to answer all your questions. Parking is easy, with plenty of spots available at the shopping centre.

- Wheelchair access available.
- Located close to public transport.

Your regular pharmacist here at healthSAVE pharmacy Bannockburn is Scott Wilkes. Our team of trained staff are committed to giving professional advice, and answering any questions you might have about health. Our priority is a healthy community, and we aim to provide great value service year-round.

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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

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Shakshuka

A hugely popular brunch dish from the Middle East and North Africa made with eggs poached in a slightly spiced tomato sauce.

Serves 2

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 medium red onion, peeled and finely chopped
- 1 yellow capsicum, deseeded and thinly sliced
- 2 garlic clove cloves, peeled and crushed
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp hot smoked paprika (to taste)
- 1 x 400g can chopped tomatoes
- 1 tbsp tomato puree
- 4 medium eggs
- Small handful fresh coriander or flat leaf parsley, roughly chopped, to serve.

Method

1. Heat oil in a medium non-stick frying pan or shallow casserole that has a lid, add the onion and capsicum and gently fry for 5-6 minutes, or until softened, stirring regularly.
2. Add the garlic, cumin and paprika and cook for 20-30 seconds, stirring.
3. Tip the tomatoes into the pan, add the tomato puree, a good pinch of salt and lots of ground black pepper.
4. Bring to a simmer and cook for about 4 minutes, or until the tomato sauce has thickened, stirring regularly.
5. Make four holes in the vegetable mixture and break an egg into each one. Cover the pan with the lid and cook very gently for 3-5 minutes, or until the whites are set but the yolks remain runny.
6. Sprinkle with the fresh herbs, if using, and season with more black pepper and salt to taste.

Tip: Crumble feta over the top after adding the eggs and serve with crusty bread.

Recipe from: the fast 800 recipe book

Doris has left the town!

Marg Cooper

By the time of writing, Doris Robinson and her husband will have left Meredith and traversed the continent of Australia to take up residence in Perth.

Doris visited her son, his wife and grandchildren in Perth for about a month earlier this year after many attempts, each time being stopped by Covid restrictions. On her return they decided to sell up here and move closer to family. Relocating is not new to Doris and her husband. They have lived in many different countries and many different towns in Australia from Karratha to Sale.

They bought a house in Meredith about seven years ago. At that time Doris was working for a Rural Newspaper in Western Australia selling advertising. She continued that job, working remotely, from Meredith until she retired. Doris then became very involved in the Meredith Community joining St Joseph's, AMA, Community House, Lions, Book club, History Group, Hall Committee and even having lessons at the Golf Club. Doris gave valuable service as she was enthusiastic, had ideas, and got things done and she was good with IT.

Doris was born in Germany and left there in 1981 after she married Rae Robinson. They have three children who live in France, Melbourne and Perth at the moment. Doris enjoys watching documentaries and movies, knitting and, while at Meredith, she made several patchwork quilts for her grandchildren. Rae's brother Vince and his wife came to live in Meredith before Doris and Rae settled here. Doris made many friends in Meredith and said they wouldn't have moved away except for family reasons.

Rae loved to tinker in his workshop on his collection of old cars. He seemed to like a quiet life and it was suggested to Doris that Rae was only a *figment of her imagination* as he was rarely seen in the town, especially after Covid allowed him to work from home. Good luck to you both in your new residence.



Expanding our News

We try to balance editorial content with advertising. This makes for a more interesting newsletter, and helps us stay financially sustainable. Nonetheless, the Newsletter's Committee is keen cover developments and events in our community. Our regular and occasional contributors already do this, but we need to recruit some "reporters" who will keep their eyes open for anything in their district that might be of interest. So we are running an invitation for would-be reporters to register their interest with us. If you, or someone you know may be interested, please contact us.

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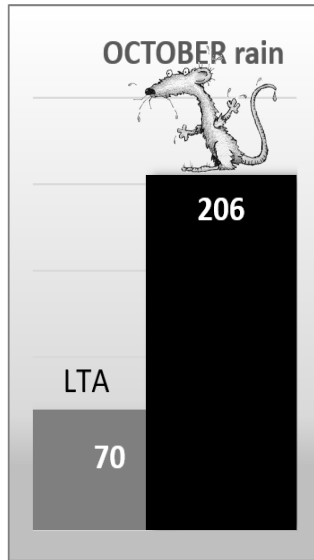
*Our 12 Steps
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the rain report

...to 9.00am
30/10 - there's
more to come!

It was so wet, not even Rain Girl wanted to leave the house! Along with every other newsletter in SE Australia, we're reporting some big numbers. Like the wettest day on record - 66mm on the 22nd. (Even more at She Oaks.) And 206mm for the month is nearly three times the monthly LTA. (And October is our wettest month!) We hope you survived the deluge OK.



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What's On

BCYF - Wellbeing Counselling
Wednesdays at the Community Centre
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Movement, Mindfulness & Meditation with Jade
Mondays - 10am - \$10 per class
Adult Classes Coming Soon!
For Kids!

Movement, Mindfulness & Meditation with Jade
Prep - Grade 4 - Mondays - 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!
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\$20 per session - bookings essential!

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Singing Lessons for Groups and Individuals
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Thursdays @ Teesdale with Desma - 9.30-10.30

Steady Feet @ Meredith - \$10 per session
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The Tree is Planted.

Marg Cooper

When he was 16 years old Wally Tabone became an apprentice Boiler Maker at Steel Welds Fabrication in West Footscray, with about 30 other young apprentices. It was a 4 year apprenticeship in one of the biggest factories of that time. They made everything including mining equipment and even rebuilt the sections for the Westgate Bridge after it fell down. After completing his training he went travelling for a few years - around Australia and overseas, and worked as a boiler maker when he needed funds. He said that within a day of applying he always had a job.

Wally is a member of the Australian Blacksmiths Association (Victoria). He answered a call from them for TIG welders, to help build a tree from stainless steel to remember the people affected by the devastating fires on what is now known as Black Saturday.

The idea to build a tree was mooted on an online forum of blacksmiths one week after the fires on February 14, 2009. Discussions followed between blacksmiths all over the world and a call went out for volunteers to forge metal leaves. Amanda Grant became the Project Manager in order to organise logistics and construction. The 2 tonne trunk was forged in Albury and large stainless steel branches were forged at the Blacksmith Association's workshop in Bundoora under a 100-year-old helve hammer. With many welders needed to attach the 3500 leaves to hundreds of steel twigs and branches, courses were offered for people to learn TIG welding and a temporary welding factory was set up in Whittlesea where the tree could be constructed.

The tree is 10 metres high and the leaves came from 23 countries. Many of the leaves and branches were stamped letter by letter with names and messages. An inscription on the trunk reads: *Forged in fire, this trunk supports each unique branch and leaf. A strong community sustains us in tragedy and lifts our spirits to build anew. We will never forget.*

Wally spent many of his RDO's and some weekends welding at Whittlesea. He attended the presentation and showing of the tree to the public at Whittlesea Agricultural Showgrounds, which was held to thank people who helped with the project. Wally has visited the tree at the Peter Avola Memorial Pavillion at Strathewen, where it was erected in February 2014. It stands proudly among the real gum trees and is a significant memorial to the Black Saturday fire victims.

Wally lives in Deer Park but has several blocks of land at Bamganie. He is a keen horseman and regularly rides or goes for a ride in his cart pulled by his horse. In his spare time, now that he is retired, he grows real gum trees from seed and designs and welds sculptures. Eagles seem to be his favourite subject, big, majestic eagles with wings spread wide.

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We Bought the Elaine Church

by Alistair and Phoebe Holloway

In 2012 a young Ballarat couple spent their honeymoon weekend looking for their first home and made the passing comment “wouldn’t it be great to live in a church like that”.

After a 6-year period in Melbourne this became a reality for us in 2018 when we bought St Patrick’s Church, Elaine, on somewhat of a whim after doing a drive-by on a public holiday and seeing the “For Sale” sign.

A few years, many builders and one pandemic later, we are excited to be putting the finishing touches on this 1909 beauty, after a chance meeting with a team who shared both our creative vision and the ability to make it a reality. It has been nothing short of challenging renovating a church, via Zoom meetings and our excavator was also to discover why Elaine was previously known as “Stoney Rises”.

It has been incredibly important for us to retain the aesthetic and as much of the original fixtures as possible (2022 building standards allowing!). All door hardware, hinges, floor springs have been preserved, re-machined or replaced with an identical part sourced from the many antique and vintage salvage businesses in Ballarat and Geelong. It has been somewhat amusing watching the builders, tradespeople and contractors employ techniques not used since trade school (whether it be the bullet nail techniques on our Baltic pine staircase which goes against modern installation trends or the installation of the recreated steel roof caps).

By converting this beautiful 113-year-old building into a home we hope to respectively retain some of the town’s history, while making new memories for our family for as many years ahead.

St Patrick’s Catholic Church at Elaine was opened on Sunday, November 28, 1909 by the Very Rev. Dean Phelan V.G. The church which was built by a local firm, Messrs Smith Bros is a weatherboard building on brick foundations and gives a clear seating accommodation of 50 feet by 25 feet, independent of sanctuary, sacristy and porch. After the ceremony, which commenced at 11 o’clock, the pastor of the parish Rev. M. Murphy celebrated Mass and the choir of St Joseph’s Meredith sang in a highly credible manner. The entire cost of the building, altar, seats etc was 551 pounds, 11 shillings. The Presbyterians of Elaine lent their organ for the church opening. Their generosity was commended as showing the true Christian spirit.

(Abbreviated by Marg Cooper from “125 Years of Faith and Community”)

Cooking with Wendy

Local resident Wendy shares some of her own recipes.

Over the Years of culinary experimentation, I’ve invented only a few true delights. They’re easy to cook and I would like to share these recipes on to you – this is number one.

Della’s Delights

Creamy Potato and Broccoli Soup

Ingredients

2 Medium-large Potatoes

1 Onion

½ Broccoli Head

1 Chicken Stock Cube

1 Tablespoon of Margarine

Milk

Method

Roughly Chop the vegetables. Sauté potato and onion in margarine until almost tender.

Add broccoli, cover and cook until tender

Add Chicken Cube and a little water.

Cover the blender blades with milk, add vegetable mixture and blend

Reheat adding more milk to desired thickness.

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Golden Plains Community Leadership Program 2022

Helen Rodd, Hot House Community Projects

The Golden Plains Community Leadership Program was offered for the first time this year.

The Community Leadership Program is part of the Shire's commitment to work in partnership and in collaboration with the community. The program seeks to involve existing and emerging community leaders.

It is about giving Golden Plains Shire residents, like each one of the ten participants involved in this inaugural year, the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and initiative, to get involved with community groups, connect with Council, to initiate community projects that support the health and wellbeing of our communities, and to help shape the future of the Golden Plains Shire.

The participants have spent 12 weeks learning about each other and the strengths within their communities, learning about community leadership theory and principles for action, learning about council and its structure and processes and learning how to plan and implement a community project. Three projects emerged from the passion and imagination of this year's participants.

One of the exciting projects developed as part of the program is *Bunjil's Lookout Creative Gathering* initiated by Nyree Cartwright, Naomi Biggs, and local artist, Barry Wemyss. The project will bring together the Maude community at a creative event at Bunjil's Lookout, where local First Nations Traditional Owner, Barry Gilson, will share a Welcome to Country and a songlines story about Bunjil's Lookout. Participants then participate in an artistic workshop creating an Artist's Book in response to the landscape and the storytelling.

The aim of this project is to improve mental health and wellbeing by increasing opportunities for social connection and meaningful participation, through an arts-based activity. Local Maude/She Oaks resident, Nyree Cartwright, is thrilled to see this project happen at the beautiful Bunjil's Lookout and hopes the event will grow into a regular community festival and lead to improvements of community facilities at the site.

Another of the projects developed partnered with the Lethbridge Primary School where concerns about children not having access to a healthy breakfast or to adequate levels of fruit were raised. The leadership group came up with a Breakfast Club activity delivered during Term 4, as well as delivering fruit boxes for the classrooms.

What has been great about this project is that many partnerships have been formed with local business and community groups who care enough to offer food

donations. This is a trial project that will be thoroughly evaluated for its impact at Lethbridge Primary School and to see if there is a possibility of replication across the Shire. Well done to the team made up of Mandy Humpage, Bronwyn Davie and David Jaunzems.

The third project also made fantastic partnerships with local organisations, this time with the Men's Shed/Community Shed in Dereel. This project will introduce a new generation to the joys of woodworking, as well as build intergenerational and social connection.

The project team, made up of Evelyn Cannon, Jeanine Holtmann and David Bruce, will support a group of interested young people to build a Gaming Console and explore other objects that they might be interested in creating. They will introduce participants to the workings of the Men's Shed, all the tools and all the possibilities for making that are possible!

This project aligns with the Health and Well-being Plan priority of improving mental well-being through increased opportunities for social connection and meaningful participation in the community.

As you can see, the community leaders have developed three very different projects but all of them, at their heart, have the aim of strengthening local community connections and improving health and well-being.

Congratulations to all of the participants in this year's program: Barry Wemyss, Bronwyn Davie, Daska Saleeba, David Bruce, David Jaunzems, Evelyn Cannon, Jeanine Holtmann, Mandy Humpage, Naomi Biggs, Nyree Cartwright.

The program has been facilitated by Helen Rodd from Hot House Community Projects and Pirooz Jafari from Track C Consulting who have been instrumental in guiding the participant's learning journey.

The community leadership program was championed by Council's Health and Wellbeing team, Francy Montes, Anna Wild-Fyfe and Tania Barry. Connect with them for more information about the program!

Council will offer another Community Leadership Program in 2023 and encourages all to apply. Stay posted!

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Marg's BOOK REVIEW

The Tribute by John Byron

In Basle in 1543 Andreas Vesalius published his book, *De Humani Corporis Fabrica* which contained 7 chapters and 250 illustrations. The research Vesalius had done overthrew the previously uncontested medical dogma of the Greek Physician, Galen and therefore challenged the beliefs of the Catholic Church, the academic world and doctors of his time. He was one of the first physicians to accurately record and illustrate the human anatomy from autopsies and dissections, which led to improved understanding of the human body and enhanced surgery techniques. (Apparently the bodies of condemned prisoners were used, mainly for dissections.) Previously, the knowledge of how the human body worked was centuries old and passed to new generations without any new research.

The book tells of a serial killer in Sydney. It is discovered early in the book that he is recreating scenes from *The Fabrica*. He targets seemingly random victims and kills and dissects them in a clinical, forensic method leaving no trace of himself. The first victim he dissects to study the bones, the next to study the muscles and tendons, the next

to study the veins and arteries and the next to study the reproductive organs. Illustrations of the body, from *The Fabrica* are at the start of each chapter, hinting to the reader what is to come and the Frontpiece of *The Fabrica* is also included which shows Vesalius dissecting amongst a crowd of observers..

The story is told, alternately from the perspective of Detective Murphy, his sister who is an art historian, his wife and the killer himself, giving an insight into the mind of the killer. As horrible as the murders are, as the book progresses, we learn that the serial killer may not be the darkest player in this story. The author tells that he wanted to explore the mythology that all hard working, salt of the earth types, the family man next door or pillars of society are good people. The blurb says the mesmerizing climax will challenge the way you think about everyone you know.

The unique beliefs of the killer, the scenes of Sydney and the ways in which the killer was eventually found were interesting. But, I hope that the police force is not full of men like Detective Murphy! He became more horrible as the book progressed (and be warned - there's a great deal of swearing!!)

John Byron grew up in Sydney where he studied medicine for a time before leaving in the interest of public safety. He now works in the university sector and lives in Melbourne. This is his debut novel and was short listed for the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an unpublished manuscript in 2019.

The Meredith Branch of the Liberal Party invites all the community to meet the Liberal Party candidate for the coming state election.

Paul Tatchell will be coming to Meredith on **Wednesday 9th November**.

Paul is from Ballan where he has been involved in many community activities. He has been a councillor and Mayor of the Moorabool Shire. He has a keen interest in wool and wool processing.

Paul will be in Meredith for a street walk from 3pm onwards. He is keen to meet and chat to small businesses and residents. There will be a social gathering after 5pm where Paul will speak and answer questions. Light refreshments will be served. All very welcome.

This is your opportunity to meet the Liberal candidate for the newly named seat of Eureka. Eureka will cover some new areas including Meredith.

For further information please contact:

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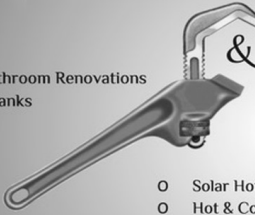


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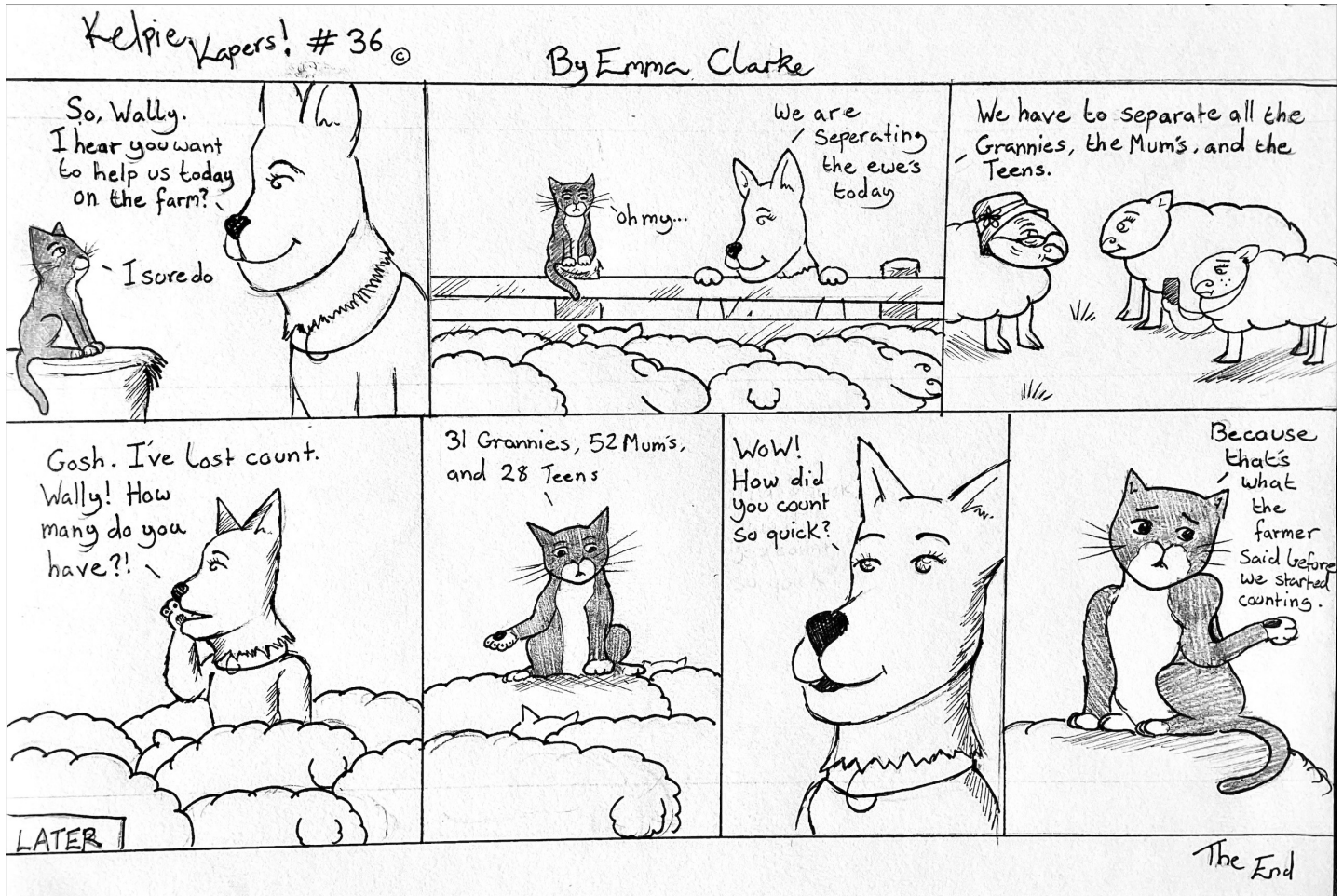
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Coolebarghurk Creek Crossings there are a few.

Marg Cooper

In George Croft's History of Meredith written in 1943 when he was in his eighties, he describes how early travellers crossed the Coolebarghurk Creek twice, once at Ross's Bridge and then at Meredith.

One thinks that they would have also had to cross the creek again to travel up Lal Lal Road, but George Croft does not mention another crossing.

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 two or three chains north of Dickmans Bridge.

The remains of the old crossing are to be seen there still.

Reports of the Meredith Shire Council indicate there was a bridge at Ross's crossing before 1874, when it was passed that a sum not exceeding £20 be expended re-paving the road, particularly the approaches to Ross's Bridge. In 1880 this bridge was completely carried away in the highest flood seen up to that time. The bridge must have been rebuilt, because in 1882 it was sinking and required repairing. In 1893 as Mr McCagh was driving over the bridge his horse put his foot through a rotten piece of planking, and in 1911 J.G. Colclough complained to the

Council about the dangerous state of the small bridge at Ross's crossing on the southern end of Pound Road. (Originally the local pound was on this road. The road was later re-named Taylors Road) Today the old bridge is gone and replaced by a cement ford allowing traffic to cross the creek.

The crossing near the Golden Fleece Hotel, 2 or 3 chains north of Dickman's Bridge, must have been a naturally occurring level spot with maybe large flat rocks without steep approaches. No doubt some improvements would have been made to the approaches and the creek bottom. At least one local man used the crossing in the modern era to drive his unregistered truck out to the bush along Steiglitz Road to cut wood. He was known to spread some gravel over the rocks to improve the ride across the creek.

Another crossing or ford is on Champions Road south of the Police Paddocks.

In 1896 J. Campion wrote to the shire of Meredith asking for a crossing to be constructed over the road leading east past the Meredith Pound. On the motion of Cr Straford the engineer was instructed to get the work done. This crossing allows people to go over Coolebarghurk Creek via Champions Road from the Midland Highway to Taylors Road.

Many of the landholders that owned land that the creek ran through had crossings, usually a naturally smooth spot where the banks were not steep. These crossings could be quite problematic in winter when the approaches were slippery, the depth of water over the crossing was only a guess and the bottom was muddy!

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it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

Book Launch:

The book of Steiglitz photographs called *Thru The Lens* was launched in Regent Street, Steiglitz, in conjunction with the *Back to Steiglitz* which was held on Sunday, October 30. The book which contains over 60 photos of Steiglitz in its heyday is a marvellous record of the town that was.

This book is the result of a project of MHIG to gather all known photos of Steiglitz, have them printed the same size and put them in chronological order. We did this and exhibited them in the Meredith Hall in October 2021 and then decided to print them in a book. Thanks to Tony Scott for his extensive research and for preparing the book for printing.

The book will be available from the History Centre and at the Court House in Steiglitz. Cost is \$35.00.

Steiglitz:

Mr J F Hogan wrote from London in 1919 referring to his days as a young teacher in Anakie, 50 years before.

Steiglitz was a lively, bustling, populous and prosperous hive of auriferous activity, its chief goldfield being the Albion. It was then an incorporated borough with a Mayor, councillors, police magistrate, a weekly journal, a society which gave concerts on full moon nights in the Albert Hall. He remembered Peter Lalor's first visit to the milling township as a member of the Legislative Assembly for South Grant. He was a most fluent and graceful platform orator when the crowd was attentive but went to pieces and lost his temper when there was any unseemly disturbance.

Lasseter Talk:

Unfortunately, the advertised talk by Alan Doyle was cancelled at the last moment. Because of the dire weather forecast Alan wisely decided not to travel the roads from Melbourne to Meredith. We hope to re-schedule the talk early in 2023.

Springtime in Meredith:

A chance meeting with artist Lou Callow at Ballan resulted in her offering to paint some welcoming springtime themed artworks to display on the columns at the entrance to the History Centre. They are wonderful. They are bright and happy. They feature flowers in a garden meadow. Please open the gate and have a look. Is there another artist out there who would like to paint some artworks to depict the next season of summer?

Our First Raffle:

An exquisite patchwork quilt/throw was donated to MHIG so we decided to conduct our very first raffle with the quilt/throw as first prize and a Christmas Hamper as second prize. Tickets are \$2 each, are available from MHIG Committee members or at the History Centre and will be drawn on Thursday, December 22.

Street Nursery:

Packets of Giant Pumpkin Seeds are available for FREE. They were collected from the two giant pumpkins that MHIG grew for the town competition that was judged in early May.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES



Meredith in the Good Old Days

REFORMATORY AT MEREDITH (ALMOST).

A vote of £12,000 was made in the Assembly last night for the erection of reformatories and industrial schools at Meredith, and to commence a similar institution at Beechworth. The Meredith buildings would be of wood, and accommodate 400 children. At Sunbury, Mr. McCulloch remarked, there were 700 children in the care of the state, and at Geelong school there would be about 100. The number of destitute and deserted children had rather decreased than increased of late. It was expected that the buildings at Meredith would be ready in two months, and that Geelong Gaol would soon be obtained for the use of such children.

In the course of the discussion on the item, Mr. Aspinall, Mr. MacMahon, and others, suggested that the children should be placed in institutions, in various districts of the country. The children would then be in a position to receive the attentions of their friends, and those who took an interest in them, and would have a better chance of success in life. It was also urged that the buildings should be of a more durable material than wood. The Argus

Thursday 19 April 1866

PARLIAMENT. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

...Mr. McCULLOCH said the Government intended to erect new industrial schools at Meredith, where a site some 600 or 800 acres in extent had been selected by several medical gentlemen of good repute. The place was declared healthy, water was abundant and easily available, and here it was intended to erect buildings neither so permanent nor expensive as those at Sunbury. The buildings would, in fact, be of wood; they would accommodate 400 children, and the total cost would be about £7,000....

Mr. EMBLING reminded the House that, while wooden buildings could be made warm and comfortable for a private residence, the case of large public buildings like these was different. It was extremely difficult, if not impossible, to keep them clean, or free from that pest at Yarra Bend- the presence of bugs. The wooden buildings at the Yarra Bend, as was well known, were alive with bugs, and the only way of removing that nuisance was found to be burning them down. Then,

again, there was the fear of diseases such as erysipelas, which even in stone or brick buildings compelled hospital authorities to keep rooms vacant for months till the walls were freed from the evil presence, although medical men could not tell how the disease came or went. Matters were much worse in wooden erections, in which, too, with hundreds of human beings contained in them there was the fear of such terrible fiery catastrophes as that which lately occurred in a church in South America. There might be a difficulty in the increased expenditure of money, but the dangers of fire and the almost impossibility of cleanliness should be carefully considered....

Mr. VALE thought that ... The choice of Meredith, situated as it was twenty-five miles from any town of consequence, appeared to him to be unwise. It would have been much better to have placed the establishment in the neighbourhood of Ballarat, where the children on leaving the school would have had an opportunity of starting fairly in life. Besides, if these institutions were placed twenty miles from any large town, the officials would be independent, and the visiting justices would not be able to attend them frequently enough....

Mr. VERDON ... the object of the Government had been, not so much to isolate the children from the world as to get sites which had the advantage of large pieces of land, and the site at Meredith had been selected because it gave the use of 500 or 1,000 acres of good agricultural land. He thought when the sites were connected with the large towns by railway the objection which had been made did not apply with such force. Meredith, in fact, had been selected because it was situated at about an equal distance from Geelong and Ballarat...

Mr. LONGMORE trusted that the vote under discussion would not be taken that night. It would be much better to erect buildings in the neighbourhood of Geelong, Ballarat, or Sandhurst, than to proceed with this establishment at Meredith, where the children would have no facilities for obtaining employment. ... The Argus **Thursday 19 April 1866**

The proposed industrial school clearly never eventuated, despite the vote. Erysipelas in the past caused severe and often fatal infection, especially in crowded conditions. It was noted by inflammation of the skin, chills and fevers. It is caused by bacteria entering the skin through cuts and was quite dangerous before the invention of antibiotics. Thank goodness for modern sanitation! Jan McDonald, Meredith History Interest Group



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Geelong Motorcross at Ballark

Marg Cooper

The Geelong Motorcross Club was established in 1964 with approximately 20 members. They had a track at Barrabool but when that area became unavailable, they reinvented themselves and at the present time run events at various locations around Victoria. They are a family run club, in that a lot of the members are related. The club recently hosted the Victorian Off-Road Championships at Dartmoor and on Friday, September 23 held an event at *Ballark* which is a property owned by the Molesworth family on the Ballan/Meredith Road. The event was well run with food supplied by the local gun club and a coffee vending truck. There were plenty of field marshals and emergency services on standby. Most riders camped at Ballark the night before the race.

The junior competitions were held early in the morning on a modified shortened section of the track and finished at 10.30am

The seniors began at 11.45am and there were several categories for the competing adult riders who, after lying on their bellies facing away from their bikes, were sent on their way to the sound of a shotgun being fired into the air. They jumped to their feet and madly scrambled back to their bikes which were being supported by fellow riders. When their motors started and they flew off, mud flew too, covering everyone close by!

The main event was the Iron Man which was won by Shane Thomas in 4 hours 10 minutes and 54 seconds. 236 riders took part in the day with many of them coming off in the mud. Fortunately, very few injuries resulted.

Barry Rees, who grew up at Lethbridge and now lives south of Ararat, took part in the event. He rode with a partner called Zac. He explained that when pairs race together as a team the section they race in is determined by adding their ages together. Barry, now 43 and Zac just fourteen were in the 50-64 group. Each motor bike rider completes a lap and then touches hands with his partner before the second rider takes off for a lap which takes approximately 20 minutes. When a rider gets back the bike is checked by the pit crew, goggles checked and cleaned and he/ she uses this rest time to relax, eat and drink.

Barry described the 15 km track, designed by GMC on the big property, was difficult at the best of times as it snaked up and down steep hills into and out of tight corners and running close to stands of trees. The day was cold, the track was muddy and the rain kept coming. He went on to say that the deep ridges in the track, the trees and rocks were quite dangerous requiring continual vigilance. So, between that and using huge amounts of energy to stay upright, avoiding other riders and trying to win, it was exhausting. All riders needed to maintain high energy levels and this was done by eating and drinking lots of sweet things.

There were 150 riders (75 pairs) in their section so when Barry and Zac came 9th they were pretty happy,

Barry has built a small track behind his home for him and his sons on which to practice. They were heading to Hamilton on the weekend after *Ballark* to compete at an event there.



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Vale to Graham McGregor Stark

26/1/1937- 21/9/2022

Graham was born at Casterton to Eric and Catherine Stark on a day that was so hot the walls of the hospital had to be dampened with wet hessian bags to provide some relief from the heat. Home was a farm at Dergholm where he joined his 9-year-old brother. When Graham was about 7 years of age the family sold the farm and moved to Geelong. After attending many schools, as his parents bought and sold houses all over Geelong, Graham settled into an apprenticeship as a motor mechanic at Cowley's Garage in Jacob Street.

Cecil Wells of Morrisons had his Austin serviced at Cowley's and one day he suggested that Graham should open a garage at Meredith. So he did! In 1957 he bought the only block of land he wanted on the south-east corner of Staughton and Wallace Streets in Meredith from Dick Brady and had a garage built by a man from Belmont. The garage opened for business in October 1958.

He met Rosemary Marchmont at Meredith and love blossomed. The pretty, petite Meredith grazier's daughter, who was nursing at the Ballarat Base Hospital, married Graham in 1960. By 1966 the family had grown to five with children, Susanne, Andrew and Peter.

Graham lived in part of the garage until he married, when the house next to the garage was built. Graham thought the garage nearly killed him! Not only were there vehicles to fix, fuel to dispense, the RACV or tow Truck was 24/7 and during summer the fire truck that he maintained was parked next to the garage, as he was the main driver. In 1966 they sold the business to Kevin and Margaret Parkinson and moved to Ocean Grove. After a few different jobs Graham worked in Testing and Development at Fords for 27 years until he retired.

Graham had many interests over the years including art classes, a motor bike, a speed boat, a catamaran, a kayak, fishing, scuba diving and a pottery wheel. His family say he was a compulsive shopper. One weekly grocery shopping trip to Geelong resulted in a trip to the UK, and a trip to Melbourne to buy a new car resulted in a Bassett Hound coming home, and apparently, he managed to make his home garage into a mini Bunnings Store.

He loved gardening as evidenced by his beautiful garden, his outrageously high-water bills and the fact that, without a doubt, he was a major shareholder in Van Loons and Wombat Gully Nurseries. Rosemary, who doubled as the family finance department, had to limit his purchases by giving him a weekly plant allowance.

Graham attended the weekly Wednesday services at St Peter's Anglican Church in Ocean Grove, after his retirement. He had a wonderful relationship with God that went right back to his childhood near Penola and the influence of Mary McKillop.

A Funeral Service was held at St Peter's on September 29 followed by a private cremation.



She Oaks Sketchers Group (formerly the Meredith Urban Sketchers Group)

Kerry Thomson

Our third visit to Steiglitz drawing en plein air occurred in beautiful sunny weather. Ray and Mari joined us from Geelong whilst Jill from Steiglitz didn't have far at all to travel! Bae (and her dog 'Harper') from Alice Springs and Christine (and her dog 'Okey') visiting from Tasmania also engaged with the sketchers for comment and conversation.

The courthouse was the subject matter for seven of the sketchers whilst the rusty old truck, Draper's building, Col's place and leaves and other flora attracted the interest of the seven others. Once again various mediums were used and lots of friendly discussion occurred over a cuppa at the end of the two hours.

Please feel free to come and join our next outing on the 8th (second Thursday) of November. Meet at the Meredith Community Centre at 10 am. Bring drawing/painting materials, chair and a cuppa for after.



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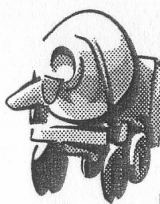
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G'Day from the Golden Pens - Write Side Up writing group for the second last time for 2022. It was a wet, soggy October with predictions that the rain will continue for some time yet.

This month's story comes from Gordon Vanbeck, and as it is a longer story, we thought we would present it in two parts, so to make sure you know how it ends you will have to get your copy of the News next month as well. Gordon is a great story teller and he often leaves us in suspense in our meetings with sudden and abrupt ends that leave us hanging on a thread.

We hope you enjoy it.

BY THE LAKE Part One

"That" said the policeman, producing a notebook from the recesses of his uniform, "is not the point of issue".

"Well," responded Silas Mountworthy, jabbing a finger forcefully into the policeman's ample chest. "You can say that, Constable Higgins, but to me and everyone else around here who gives a monkey's about what happens to this place, it is exactly the point of issue. This lake has been here since dinosaurs roamed the land and provided a home for all God's creations great and small and now a snotty nosed upstart from London wants to build a convention centre of all things".

Constable Higgins retreated a step to avoid the Mountworthy finger, narrowly avoiding contact with a family of mallard ducks, taking a shortcut to the lake over his size 12 boots.

"Now look here, Silas" he intoned menacingly, "The law's the law. The development has been approved by Council and signed off by the Minister. You are breaking the law by blocking this access road and if you don't move that tractor right now, I will be forced to take down your details!"

Silas barked a laugh of contempt, "You couldn't take down a packet of tissues from the top shelf at Tesco's, Billy Higgins! Everyone knows you are in the Council's pocket. Well, I am going to make a stand!" With that Silas windmilled the tractor ignition key over Constable Higgin's head and into the lake, where it disappeared with a splash beneath a floating mat of decomposing vegetation.

"You gone and done it now", Constable Higgins ground out through gritted teeth reaching for Silas's collar. "Silas Mountworthy, I hereby arrest you...".

Which was as far as he got before Silas jerked back, pulling the Officer off balance. Constable Higgins made a valiant effort to retain his footing on the gravel track, but slipped on the steep embankment. Silas in the fury of the moment, seized the opportunity to give him a hefty push propelling the hapless constable down the steep bank and into the Lake.

There was a sizeable splash, because Constable Higgins was a sizeable man. 90 kilos of Constabulary hit the reed and water lily covered water in a sequence of arm whirling, leg wobbling and backwards flailing flop,

"You bastard Mountworthy I'll have you arrrrrrggghhh, glug urk". These exciting events were followed by intense silence as Constable Higgins, disappeared into the depths of the Lake. Except for the relaxed lapping of waves on the marshy bank; the quizzical quack from an interested mallard and the melodious hooting of a Northern Banjo frog, there was a golden moment of peace.

All of which was instantly destroyed by the sudden emergence of the Constable on the surface spluttering and gasping for air. The Constable, with a menacing glint in his reddened eyes, proceeded in a far from benign manner in the direction of Silas. At this point he was still waist high in the water, but making determined progress to solid ground; Silas, wisely sizing up the situation, decided to hot foot it out of the vicinity. This course of action would not have saved him from immediate apprehension and arrest if Constable Higgins had not tripped over some submerged obstruction and disappeared once more beneath the surface of the Lake. Silas took immediate advantage of this by galloping off down the track at a surprising rate for one of his girth. *(To be continued)*



Dog tales

Hello!

I am Sybil, I am a King Charles Cavalier, and this is my friend Basil.

Basil is a Jack Russell who thinks that he is a Rottweiler that didn't grow, he likes to chase rabbits, hasn't caught one yet though.

I make a lot of decisions, like which couch will I sleep on today.

I like to lay out in the sunshine, I hope we get some soon!

We live with our slave Alan Beales in Meredith



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



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Wendy Cook

I didn't see the tiny yellow eggs, each with sixteen ribs running down their length. The female imperial jezebel butterflies laid them on mistletoe leaves, in clusters of up to one hundred. They hatched out as little yellow-brown caterpillars with black heads and began eating leaves. When I first saw them, they had grown to be large black caterpillars.

I was part of a group walking in the Meredith Police Paddocks in the middle of June. Someone saw a bird that looked like a robin, with a glossy black head and back and a bright red throat. However, this bird had a black stripe down its pale belly, and bright red feathers under its tail. It was not a robin, but a male mistletoe bird. His favourite food is the fruit of mistletoes. The sticky seeds pass through his digestive system in a few minutes and are deposited onto a tree branch. Here they can grow into new mistletoe plants. Our interest in the bird's behaviour led us to look in low-hanging clumps of mistletoe for the oval-shaped yellow-green fruits, which we eventually found. This is also where I found the caterpillars.

Most of the imperial jezebel caterpillars were dispersed on the leaves and stalks of the drooping mistletoe plant. They were black with scattered short white hairs and a few longer hairs, which grew from white dots on their bodies. More surprising were six caterpillars which had changed their colour to maroon, although they still had black heads and white hairs and dots. They were resting on a filmy white web woven between leaves and stalks of the mistletoe. All had their heads facing upwards and they only moved a little. I was curious about this behaviour, and checked a book when I got home. It said that the caterpillars pupate on a communal web, head upwards and attached to the web by a fine silk girdle. The larvae have glands inside their body which make this silk. Strands of it come out of a spinneret on their head, and dry in air.

My curiosity about the caterpillars continued, so I decided to check on them regularly, to watch their journey as they changed to pupae, then butterflies. I returned five days later. The six caterpillars on the web were motionless. They were a bit shorter and plumper than when I last saw them, and each had a fine line of silk around its body holding it in place. My next visit a week later was more exciting. Four of the six caterpillars were now pupae. They had become shorter and broader again, each inside a hard shell with a ridge running down the middle of its back. On this ridge was a line of spines, with a few more spines on each side. Two prongs, like miniature antennae, stuck out from their heads. Their colours intrigued me. One was shiny black, in places reflecting the blue of the sky. Another was a combination of brilliant orange, red and black. The remaining two appeared to be changing between the bright colouring and the black. At the tail end of each pupa was a screwed up, black, hairy lump, their old caterpillar skin, shrivelled and dry. On this visit, I found another web. It was much longer and stretched between small branches of a black wattle tree. On it were about forty maroon caterpillars, some unmoving, while others still wriggled, seeking their place to pupate. Higher up in the tree's branches was the mistletoe, where they had hatched from their eggs and fed. In the following weeks, I found three more clumps of mistletoe that were homes to small numbers of caterpillars.

I kept watch on them as June changed to July, then August, visiting regularly and seeing them feeding on mistletoe leaves

and later becoming pupae. They were brightly coloured initially, but after a few days had changed to uniform glossy black. When the first warm days of September arrived, I hoped they would leave their pupae, but it wasn't until the end of the month that I saw my first imperial jezebel butterflies. Two of them were perched on their web, which was now slightly brown and shrunken. Their bright and contrasting colours make them obvious, golden furry bodies, long black antennae and legs, pale grey eyes and brilliant wings of black, white, red and yellow. They were resting and in no rush to move. A few black pupae had been broken open, the shell peeled back where its occupant had scrambled out. One pupa had a butterfly that was emerging, its head, legs and golden body out, white and black wings crumpled and partly out. It didn't move. On my next visit, it was still there, dead. I learnt that not all butterflies manage the journey out of their pupa successfully.

I continued my observations, seeing broken pupae, a few butterflies resting and occasionally, one that hadn't made it. Then, one day I was in the right place at the right moment. There was a split along the back and top of a pupa. I could see grey eyes and grey fur on its head, folded legs and antennae and a hint of golden body fur. Over the next few minutes, I watched the effort required to haul itself free of its pupa. It moved down the web and hung below the pupa, its body fat, its wings shorter than its abdomen. For the next ten minutes, it pumped liquid from its body into its wings, the body becoming slender, while the wings expanded until they were longer than the abdomen, which was now hidden beneath them. White with black edging on the hidden upper surface of its wings showed it to be a male. The tops of females' wings are duller with more black. The butterfly rested, his wings blown by the wind, which helped them to dry. Perhaps he was recovering from his labours and adjusting again to the world outside the black shell that had housed him for many weeks. When he was ready, his instincts would tell him how to use his new body, first exercising his muscles, after which he would fly.

So far, I have only seen one imperial jezebel butterfly flying at the Police Paddocks. In a different location, on a sunny day, I saw many flying around clumps of mistletoe. There were no obvious pupae and most of the butterflies were male. Perhaps they were feeding from long, narrow, red mistletoe flowers, or seeking females to mate and begin the lifecycle of egg, larva, pupa, adult again. I wonder where the caterpillars that grew to adulthood in the Police Paddocks have gone. They may have flown to nearby gardens. If you live close by, you might see them. Watch for a female laying eggs on a hanging clump of olive-green mistletoe leaves. If you find eggs, you have the chance to watch the remarkable changes in these insects' lives over the next few months.



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