

Meredith & district News

OUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Have a Great Festive
Season & a Safe
Summer

DECEMBER 2022



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new WILD life
column.



We Need a New
Editor!
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MOORABOOL Wind Farm



COMMUNITY UPDATE - December 2022

Merry Christmas from Moorabool Wind Farm!

All the staff at Moorabool Wind Farm wish you a safe and happy holiday period.

We thank all the landowners, neighbours and broader community for your support during 2022 and look forward to another year of involvement with the local area in 2023.

Community Fund Round Four - 2022

Applicants from Round Four of the Moorabool Wind Farm Community Fund can expect to hear whether their applications were successful during the first week of December.

Thank you to all community members who submitted an application and to the Community Fund Assessment Panel for your time and interest. The next opportunity to apply for funding will be in mid-2023.



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 using the details below 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.

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) Stefania Parkinson, Ian Penna, Mike Palmer, Sue Higgs, Alex Hyatt, and Nerida Anderson. 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: *Don Atherton* Editor: *Jim Elvey*



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ANGLING CLUB
0419 248 660

B'BURN ART GROUP
0410 808 483

BLUE LIGHT DISCO
5286 1222

BOOK CLUB
5286 8201

CFA
000 for fire calls
Elaine
0409 861 296
Meredith
5286 1502
Morrison's
0417 770 765

CHILDCARE
5286 0700

COMMUNITY CENTRE
5286 0700

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

CUBS SCOUTS
Lethbridge
0435 042077
ELAINE HALL
elainetownhall@ail.com

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Juniors 0430 587 674

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PLAYGROUP
5286 0700

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Lethbridge
52 817 321
Meredith
0424754179

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

CEMETERY TRUST

5286 1550

HALL HIRE

Meredith Memorial

5286 1545

Elaine Mechanics
elainetownhall@gmail.com

Elaine Rec Res

5341 5703

LIBRARY VAN

5272 6010

MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

5220 7230

PRE-SCHOOL

5286 0722

PRIMARY SCHOOL

5286 1313

RECREATION RESERVE

0429 315 575

..or start something.

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



"Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly merry Christmas."
- Peg Bracken





COMMUNITY

Meredith Tennis Club

Bridget Dyer

The wet weather is continuing to play havoc with the Tennis schedule, with several matches declared a washout.

The club is very grateful for all the support families and friends have shown recently, in relation to our ongoing discussions with the Golden Plains Shire and the proposed areas for the new cricket nets.

Our Sunday fortnightly training sessions with Coach Jye from Tennis Ballarat, have had two sessions so far and been very well received. The kids that have participated have already learnt quite a lot and are putting it into practice. We have two more sessions before Christmas and hope to run these again in the new year. Casual attendance is still available at \$15 per session. Please contact our facebook page for more information.

Thursday night training is still continuing around the rain and the results of the Sanderson Cup will be announced in shortly on our facebook page and at training. Thank you again to the Sandersons for their kind donation.

Our Christmas Party will be on Saturday 17th December at the Meredith Tennis courts, starting at 6pm. Drinks are BYO, meat will be provided by the club. Families with the last name A-M are asked to bring a dessert, while families with the last name N-Z are asked to bring a salad. As always, past and present players and families are invited.

Meredith Seniors

Jim Hynds

Members travelled down to Gateway Hotel, Corio for our luncheon on Monday, November 14. It was a day of foul weather which resulted in several members being unable to come. However, for those who attended, the smorgasbord meal was scrumptious, and we enjoyed a few hours socialising afterwards.

Our next outing will be held at the Fyansford Hotel on Monday, November 28 for a luncheon and perhaps a flutter on the pokies.

One can only hope that the weather will be kinder to us and that flood damaged roads will be repaired to make travelling easier for shire residents.

The Seniors Christmas Party promises to be a Gala Event on Monday, December 5. Christmas lunch cooked by Kylie and crew will be enjoyed before music and some extremely generous raffles are drawn.

A big thank you to Kylie and her crew for their continued support to the Seniors by cooking lunch at the hall, throughout the year.



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

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

TERM 1 - 2023 - FREE EVENTS

21st February – Paint Pouring - 9:30 - 10:30

28th February – Tea Blending - 2:00 – 3:00

7th March – Mind, Body, Soul Kit - 9:30 – 10:30

14th March – Paint Pouring - 2:00 – 3:00

For Bookings - Phone us at the Centre!

IPaLS Program - Starting Term 1 @ Meredith

The I-PaLS program will provide training, mentoring and peer support activities that connect people to community. Training sessions will include tenancy rights, financial literacy, job readiness, maintaining physical and mental health, interpersonal skills, supported decision making, consumer rights and accessing transport.

For More Info on the Program visit -

<https://grampiansadvocacy.org.au/about-us/independent-pathways-and-living-skills-i-pals/>

2023 - More Details to Follow

Botanical Watercolour Class - FEBRUARY 25

Singing Classes - Starting Soon

Tai Chi - \$15 per session

Tuesdays @ Meredith with Sandra - 9.15 - 10.15

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



Merry Christmas!

We look forward to

seeing you in 2023!

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

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

St Josephs Parish of Meredith

December 2022 Mass Times

Meredith 9am	Dec. 4, 18
Anakie 9am	Dec. 11, 25
Inverleigh 4pm	Dec. 18 – Christmas Mass
Winchelsea 6pm	Dec. 3, 10, 17, 31
Bannockburn 11am	Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25

Christmas Mass

Bannockburn 6pm	Dec. 24
Meredith 8pm	Dec. 24
Winchelsea 9am	Dec. 25
Anakie 9am	Dec. 25
Bannockburn 11am	Dec. 25

New Years Eve

Winchelsea 6pm	Dec. 31
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New Years Day

Meredith 9am	Jan.1
Bannockburn 11am	Jan 1

January 2023

Meredith 9am	Jan. 1, 15, 26 (11am), 29
Anakie 9am	Jan. 8, 22
Inverleigh 4pm	Jan. 19
Winchelsea 6pm	Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28
Bannockburn 11am	Jan. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29



Meredith Uniting Church, Christmas Eve Service

December 24th

10 pm

All welcome.

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FULL COLOUR ADS are available in every issue (Conditions apply)

Ring Ian on 0409 016815

Please submit in jpeg format, if available
See inside front cover for more details.



I'M HERE TO HELP.



PLEASE CONTACT ME FOR ANY ASSISTANCE

Michaela Settle MP
STATE LABOR MEMBER FOR **BUNINYONG**

📍 15 Main Road, Bakery Hill VIC 3350 📞 5331 7722
✉ michaela.settle@parliament.vic.gov.au 📱 MichaelaSettleMP

WOOD EARTHMOVING

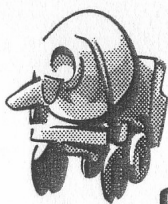
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The deadline for copy is

9.00 am
on the last
Thursday

of the
preceding month

...and our next issue is in February 2023

In the School Garden

Mrs Garden

We have taken the plunge! The plants we have been nurturing in a sheltered sunny spot away from the freezing, wet springtime conditions have gone into the garden. Fingers crossed they brave the elements and put down strong roots.

This year we decided on reverting to our usual practice of growing cherry TOMATOES rather than big ones. The growing season is always short and perhaps will be a bit shorter this year and there is more success ripening the smaller ones. They are also more available to the children who like to harvest and eat as they wander or play outside. A small downside is these plants tend to be more rambling and less upright so need more staking.

Two ZUCCHINI are also in the wicking beds. They take up quite a lot of space but should yield well with a continuous supply of water. Our holiday waterers will have to be alert to harvest any fruit over the holidays so that we don't return to enormous giant-sized specimens when school starts in February.

In a more traditional bed with extra room, our GIANT PUMPKIN seedling has been planted. Kira, Jacob and Kealeigh dug the hole, gave it some extra compost and took extra care with the watering. Careful protection has been given to this special plant - first of all one of the guards the grade 4 students made with copper tape encircling the top was placed over it. Then a wire frame with a tree guard around it. We are hoping no slugs, snails, slaters or other chewing bugs find their way in and the tree guard will give it a warmer, more protected start. A smaller variety of pumpkin called 'Nugget' was put in nearby with the same attention. Also in this bed are SILVERBEET and BOK CHOY that were put in only a few weeks ago. They are really growing well and our chooks love pecking their way around and feasting on some greenery.

Around the tomatoes and zucchini there are MARIGOLDS, ALYSSUM and NASTURTIUMS. These can repel pests and mask the plants visually by camouflaging them or by scent masking. Lots of herbs like basil, mint, oregano and thyme are good at this especially if planted where they will be brushed past and the oils released. When the pumpkins plants grow we'll move some of the grade 2/3/4 portable bee gardens closer to attract not only bees, but beneficial insects as well.

The Prep/One GARLIC is due to be harvested in a few weeks. It can then be left to dry off and a feast of Cheesy Garlic Bread will be made for everyone. This was a popular snack last year and has been keenly anticipated ever since the garlic cloves went in way back in May. The BROAD BEANS that were so tiny last month are now a variety of sizes. Some smaller ones are right for picking and instant snacking while others are large and will be podded and cooked and whipped up with some mint and feta to make a delicious dip.

Before school finishes in late December, we'll pop in our SUNFLOWER seedlings and also direct sow some seeds. We have two types: 'Summer Spray' which will grow about 50cm tall and some much taller ones called 'Van Gogh's Landscape'. Sunflowers are such fun to grow, they start from tiny seeds and by the time school returns the plants can be taller than many of

our students. They are also fascinating plants to watch as they face the sun, attract the bees and have a beautiful fibonacci pattern in the centre.

With a very late, cold and wet spring this year, it's probably not too late if you haven't put your PUMPKIN SEEDS in for the Newsletter Giant Pumpkin Challenge. It would be worth getting some from the Community Pantry beside the CERT shed and giving them a try. Yours could be the award winning pumpkin!

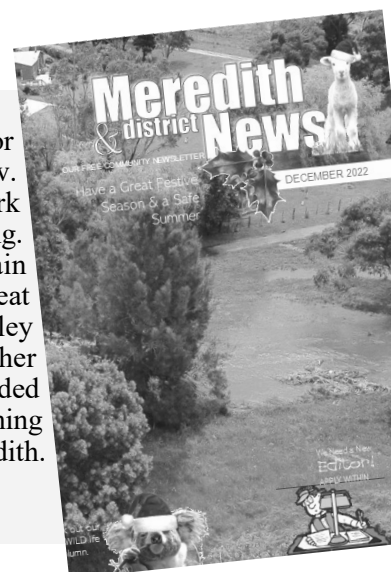
BEANS, BEETROOT, CARROT, CUCUMBER, LETTUCE, RADISHES and CORN are also good to pop in now.



Lastly, EGGS are still available from the school office for all your holiday baking or weekend brunches. You can be sure these eggs come from very contented hens that free range around the school garden before returning to their cosy hen house in the evenings.

From everyone at school, we wish you a happy and contented time in the garden - perhaps relaxing while watching your plants grow or enjoying their bounty. We'll be back with more school garden news in February and hopefully a photo of our giant pumpkin.

Yep - We've gone for three flood covers in a row. And what better way to mark our incredibly wet spring. (Hadn't noticed? See the Rain Report in this issue .) This great aerial photo comes from Harley Murfett, and gives us another view of the flooded Coolebarghurk Creek rushing through Meredith.



Share your favourite Spring pics with us. You could make front page news!



We Need a New Editor!

We run two production teams which work on alternate issues, so the workload is confined to about 10 hours every two months. (Plus some short meetings in between.)

The right person will

- Be able to work to a hard deadline (which means, in part, being available when the work has to be done.)
- Be proficient in the use of word processing and/or publishing software. (We use MS Publisher, which is very similar to MS Word.)
- Have a reasonable sense of graphic layout
- Be able to work within guidelines which sometimes require the exercise of discretion

So if you have the right skill set and would like to play a key role in the production of our fabulous newsletter, or simply get more information, please text or call Jim Elvey on 0409163169.

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...and **THANK YOU** Pam.

Pam Ridd, who has co-edited the Newsletter for the past three years will be leaving us after this issue. She has been a great friend of the newsletter putting her technical expertise to good use. She will, for the time being, continue to look after our website.



Part of Your Community.

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

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Love Your Sister

Community Trivia Night

Jo Vermeend

On the 5th of November we came together to celebrate our third Community Trivia night in honour of all our loved ones touched by cancer.

We started the night with our traditional group photo and then got on with the business at hand. As so many new faces are starting to appear at this event, I took the opportunity to introduce myself and speak of its importance and what lead to its inception.

The night was filled with many questions, raffles, auctions and our lucky joker. There were door prizes, bought answers and so much fun and laughter. The favourite round every year seems to be our "Million Dollar Riff" round, this year was no different. Thank you to the very talented Jayden for playing the riffs on his guitar.

In the first break of the evening we had music from "The Broken Automatic" an up and coming band who offered to play their debut performance at our event. They were fantastic.

Later, we heard from Julie, who spoke about her battle with Cancer and reminded us all of why we were there and the importance of events like ours. In the past, Julie has appeared in the music video for a song aptly named "F@#k Cancer".

And now, it gives me great pleasure to announce the totals for monies raised on this night and to date. Everyone has dug deep, opening their hearts and their wallets to raise \$3,399.00 at this event. A further \$160 was raised for local families and this portion has been passed onto the Meredith community centre for the Meredith Giving tree.

Our total amount raised by our tiny village to date is now \$12,137 with every dollar going to the Love Your Sister Foundation.

To all who have attended, donated and assisted with these events, Congratulations and thank you, truly, from the bottom of my heart, thank you for being with me on this journey.

Jo

About LYS

Love Your Sister is Australia's hardest working cancer vanquishing charity and since its inception in 2012 it has raised over \$15M for medical research.

Founded by Gold Logie-winning actor and Victorian Australian of the Year 2018, Samuel Johnson OAM, Love Your Sister is a million-strong village of everyday Aussies committed to vanquishing cancer with hard science and the best new technologies. Love Your Sister supports precision treatment for ALL cancer patients, whatever the cancer, regardless of location, income, or status. We strive for the right treatment for every cancer patient, first time, every time.

*"We proudly pass on 100% of every donation received to scientific research. No skimming. No bulls**t."*

(As you can see, Love Your sister is an extremely worthwhile cause and I am proud to call myself a fundie.)- Jo



Vale Charles William Osborne

1/7/1930 – 5/11/2022

Marg Cooper

At the Service to Celebrate the Life of Charles Osborne on Friday, November 18 at Christ Church Anglican Geelong, his son and grandchildren talked about the three most important things in his life which were family, farming and sport.

Charles was the eldest son of Dot and Charles Osborne. He grew up at Anakie, left school aged 14 years to fell trees and catch rabbits and later started a trucking business with his father. In 1955 he married Jessie Griffiths and her father offered them a job and a house on his property, Chestervale at Meredith. They had 3 children, David, Denise and Sandra. Jessie followed her marriage vows until the very end, tending to Charles's every need and allowing him to spend his last days at Chestervale with his wife and family.

Charles took to farming like a duck to water. He cropped, bred fat lambs and for many years grew peas. After a days work he'd have a bit of a sleep, then drive the truck of freshly bagged peas to the Melbourne Market and get home during the next morning, to do it all over again. He bought and sold several properties over the years starting with the purchase of Riverside on Schefferles Road at Meredith. Other farms included land at Bathurst, Mt Mercer and Yendon.

Charles was a gifted sportsman. He played his first game of football for Anakie when he was 14 years of age and played over 300 games with that club, before transferring to Meredith in 1965-66. He played centre half forward, won 2 Best & Fairest Awards at Meredith and had his nose broken 3 times. The last time he didn't have it straightened. He retired aged 48 after playing in the Meredith team with his son David.

Charles played tennis with Anakie in the Bacchus Marsh Competition. His team won 3 Premierships in succession. He migrated to Morrison and in later years all members of the Osborne family played in the one team. Charles also played Country Week Tennis for Mooney cup for 25 years straight.

In 1988 Charles was playing in the Tennis Preliminary Final in Meredith when he had a mild heart attack. He had open heart surgery. He had the same procedure 10 years later. After the first surgery he retired from tennis and took up golf, thinking it would be easy. He found to the contrary, it was far harder to hit a stationary ball than a moving ball. He said that he wasn't very good but that he enjoyed the company and the exercise. I can remember that Charles, myself, Mitchie Emmlin and Simon Wilson won an Ambrose event while on a golf trip to the Murray River. I must admit that Mitchie, a young up and coming golfer and Simon the Club Champion were only helped minimally by Charles and myself. He played golf until he was 87 years old when his balance was not good.

Charles also became involved with horses and horse racing.

Charles Osborne lived a full, colourful life. He met, loved, played, endured, rested, counselled, succeeded and more with the full support of the woman he married.





Bannockburn Pharmacy Newsletter

Proprietors: Scott Wilkes & Damian Bennett

6 High St

Bannockburn VIC 3331 Phone: 5281 1519

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.

Services We Offer

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| • Accredited Quality Care Pharmacy | • Equipment Hire | • Naturopath |
| • Aged Care Services | • Flu Vaccinations | • NDSS Sub Agency |
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| • Bioceuticals | • Haircare Products | • Passport Photos |
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| • Complementary Medicines | • Home Medication Review | • Prescription Reminder |
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| • Dispensing Services | • Immunization Service | • Photo Kiosk |
| • Document Certification | • Local Deliveries – Free | • Professional Pharmacist Advice |
| • Home Healthcare Products | • Makeup | • Return of unwanted Medicines |
| • DoseAid Packaging | • Machine/Aid Hire | • Skin Care |
| • Ear Piercing | • Medical Equipment Hire | • Vaccinations |
| | • Medication Packaging | • Vitamins |
| | • Methadone Treatment | • Weight Loss Management |
| | • Natural Health | • Wound Management |

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

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Ingredients

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Method

1. Add entire tine of condensed sweetened condensed milk, thickened cream and vanilla bean paste to the bowl of a stand mixer.
2. Beat using wire whisk attachment until soft peaks just begin to form.
3. Transfer mix to a loaf tine lined with cling wrap. (You can use any shape/size container you like). Cover the top with cling wrap and freeze overnight before serving.
4. Store any left over ice cream in an airtight container in the freezer.

Recipe from: Bargainmums.com.au

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Stefania :)

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At the Paddocks

Jim Elvey

We ask visitors to the Paddocks to be mindful of the difficulty volunteers are having getting tracks in order for summer. The exceptional and prolonged wet season has made it impossible to mow much of the walking paths and it will be some time before we can. But we will get there! If you would like to help and can wrangle a self propelled mower, please get in touch.

After local MP Michaela Settle, offered to approach the relevant minister to get some support for weed management at the site, the government entered caretaker mode before a response was forthcoming. By the time you read this, a new government will be elected, so we still live in hope.

We became aware that Ballarat Environment Network (BEN), which managed the site up until October last year, has undergone a change of office bearers, and may have a more accommodating attitude to the site. A meeting of the Support Group last month hosted Peter Gell, the new chair of BEN, and we have made a submission to BEN proposing a resumption of site management. BEN has agreed to meet the Group on site.

The upside of the wet spring, is that the Paddocks are looking very lush and the abundant birdlife is very active. So boot up and get out there when you can, to enjoy this beautiful community asset.

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We're delighted to introduce a new column this month, which will run through next year. Don Atherton, (who is a volunteer on our production team) has lived for many years in beautiful bushland on the edge of Meredith. Over the years, a few of the locals have popped in to see him. This column is about some of those encounters. - Ed.

The Eaglets

Soon after purchasing my property 25 years ago, I noticed a wedge tailed eagles' nest in a tree located halfway down a steep incline overlooking the river valley. From time to time, I would observe the eagle pair soaring majestically above the property and occasionally catch a glimpse of them on the ground or in a tree elsewhere.

The nest was located such that I could look down into the nesting place from the ridge above the tree and when breeding season came, I was lucky enough to be able to watch the evolution from egg to fledgling, from my vantage point on the ridge above. The usual process I observed was that 2 eggs were laid, 2 eaglets hatched but then sadly the weaker one would disappear.

Eagles are territorial creatures and it is normal behaviour to defend the space around their nest from interlopers and for them to be rid of their own offspring once they reach self-proficiency. I had a close experience of that one day when I heard a loud commotion of squarking and wing flapping behind me with Mr & Mrs eagle in hot pursuit of juvenile (or maybe it was an interloper), at full speed close to the ground through the trees. I didn't expect that, as they are normally so slow and graceful in their normal routine.

Over several years the view from my vantage point gradually disappeared behind new growth on the trees between there and the nest and I was unable to follow my eagle family life. However, I did notice that in some years at least, a pair of Peregrine falcons were raising their babies and zooming around the skies above. It appeared they had taken over the eagle's nest as I had seen them close to the nest quite often.

Whenever I have visitors, I'm always happy to point out the eagle's nest and tell the story, until one day my visitor (who possessed younger and sharper eyesight than me), pointed out that there was another nest further around the incline, AND "there is something in the nest!" "Something" turned out to be that year's baby eagle, but he was already a few weeks old. Nevertheless, it was interesting to be able to clearly observe the transition to fledging and learning to fly and hunt with Mum & Dad over the next few months.

This year's breeding season was shaping up to be a repeat performance and I was preparing to host a posse of interested local Landcare members hoping to witness the "learning to fly" lessons, when tragedy struck in the form of the nesting tree succumbing to the unusual wet conditions and crashed to the ground. I don't know the fate of the chick as the area is inaccessible.

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Junior Ambassador

Marg Cooper

Congratulations are in order for Nick Kruger after he recently competed in the Ballarat Show's Junior Show Ambassador Award. [16 to 19 year olds] Acquitting himself well he was placed second - pipped at the post by the narrowest of margins.

The aim of the Rural Ambassador and Junior Show Ambassador Awards is to highlight the talent, creativity and ingenuity of young rural people and in doing so, encourage entrants to be role models in their local community.

After successfully completing a panel interview Nick was invited to the show's 2022 opening dinner to respond to questions and present himself to the audience.

As the youngest candidate Nick acquitted himself extremely well against the assessment criteria that included:

- Agricultural interests and skills;
- Community involvement;
- Contribution to the Agricultural society: involvement, enthusiasm, versatility, ability to take and give direction, new ideas;
- Future goals;
- Interests / hobbies;
- Knowledge of local and general Rural issues;
- Personal Achievements; and
- Verbal communication skills.

Nick said the experience was personally rewarding, honed his public speaking skills and allowed him to contribute positively to the local rural and agricultural community.

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Coolebarghurk Creek ep 8

Bridges there are many:

Marg Cooper

Gargans Road Bridge:

Gargans Road was always called The Lane by the Gargan family. In April 1899 it was reported that the culvert in Mehans Lane was rotten and should be replaced by a crossing at the cost of £1.

In February 1914 Cr Gargan moved at the Meredith Council Meeting that the council put a new concrete super structure on the bridge at Stafford's Lane and that Buninyong Shire be asked to contribute to the cost.

(So what is now Gargans Road was referred to as a lane and was known by many different names according to who lived in the lane at that time.)

A reinforced concrete bridge was built in 2012.

Creamery Bridge:

In April 1899 it was reported that the Creamery Bridge was in good order except the beams were too light. It was recommended that they be replaced with substantial ones and that the hand rail needed repairing.

In September 1899 it was agreed that tenders be called at the next meeting of the Meredith Shire Council for repairs to a bridge near the Meredith Creamery, which was in a state of collapse.

(The Creamery was at the end of Grant Street and over the Coolebarghurk Creek from Creamery Road. These references could be referring to McLeod Street Bridge but also could be referring to a bridge that may have existed at the north end of Creamery Road.)

A timber bridge with steel stringers and masonry abutments was built about 1900 with deck repairs in 2011.

Triggs Bridge:

In 1868 Mr Nugent moved at the Meredith Road board Meeting that the surveyor bring up plans for a bridge over the Coolebarghurk Creek on the Morrisons Road near the township.

In 1869 the Shire moved to metal the road recently formed across the Coolebarghurk Creek on Morrisons Road.

In 1877 Edmund Keneally's tender for supplying and repairing Moorabool and Coolebarghurk bridges at Steiglitz and Morrisons Roads for £14 was accepted by Meredith Shire Council.

In September 1880 floods occurred. The small bridges over the Coolebarghurk Creek at Meredith held out bravely, although at one time the flood licked the stringers.

In April 1899 Triggs Bridge was in bad condition as the masonry work on the north side had shifted. The bridge was unsafe, should be fixed before winter and repairs were estimated to cost from £13 to £15.

Abutments built about 1880, re-deck around 1930, extended in R C in 1967.

Dickmans Bridge:

In January 1869 Mr Nugent moved that a bridge be erected over Coolebarghurk Creek near the township as there is great traffic on this road.

In April 1899 it was reported that Dickmans Bridge required repairs to the extent of £10 to £12.

In 1871 the Road Board made an offer to Mr John Davies to buy some of his land to widen the Steiglitz Road.

In 1900 Mrs Dickman sold land required for the new road to Meredith Shire Council.

(It is presumed that both these parcels of land were just east of Dickmans Bridge.)

In 1902 tenders were called to re-deck Dickmans Bridge.

In April 1902 thirteen rate payers forwarded a petition suggesting that new abutments be built higher on the line of the street. The present structure was considered to be unsightly and floods had often gone over it.

[On a Friday, January 1902 Constable Monaghan arrested William Carter while he was seated near Dickmans Bridge. Carter had escaped from Ballarat Police Court on Monday, had hid on the platform at Elaine Railway Station on his trip and passed Cahir's Hotel early on Friday morning.]

Single span full RC bridge built about 1960.

Ross Bridge:

As mentioned in the last episode there is now a ford crossing over the Coolebarghurk Creek on Taylors Road. There used to be a bridge over the creek (or Ross's Lane as the road used to be known.) There was a big flood in September 1880 and that bridge was completely swept away. Jack Boardman reported that the approaches to the old bridge were still visible in 2015.



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Della's Delights

Wendy Madigan shares some of her own recipes.

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

Delicious Drumsticks

Ingredients

- 4 chicken drumsticks
- 100 g fresh mushrooms
- 1 spring onion
- 1 clove garlic
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon white wine
- 8 drops tabasco
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1/2 cup water

Method

- Brown chicken and mushrooms in a frying pan.
- Put in casserole dish.
- Pour water into frying pan, collect juices, pour into casserole dish.
- Mix all other ingredients and stir through chicken.
- Cover dish. Cook 1 hour at 200deg.



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Maude Landcare Group

Rabbit Baiting Campaign 2023

Laura Hollingsworth

We've had so much rain and that means plenty of feed. Have you noticed a few more rabbits on your property lately?

One of our incredible volunteers, Lex Stray has recently retired from her post as the organiser of our rabbit baiting program. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her tireless efforts to support our community in this very important work. Her dedication and commitment to our group is outstanding and the wealth of knowledge that she has brought to the program since its inception has been invaluable. Thank you Lex!

It is now time to think about the Maude & District Landcare Group's annual rabbit poisoning campaign. If you have a number of rabbits obvious on your property, go out with a spotlight, or even a strong torch, and have a look around at night. Our program is conducted using Pindone-poisoned carrot. Pindone is an anticoagulant, which works by blocking the blood-clotting mechanism. It is regarded as one of the most humane ways to control rabbits. There is an effective antidote for this poison which reduces the risk to non-target animals.

We have a terrific list of participants who wish to be part of our campaign, so please feel free to forward this information on to your neighbours or others in the community, who may not be aware of our program. Please talk to your neighbours about the rabbit problem. Several neighbours working together produce a more successful result.

Anyone can take part however, we stress that the program involves coming to Maude on all three of the dates listed below to collect your bait, as the program is designed for the rabbits to have access to the bait over that period. It is a cumulative poison so it is imperative that all three feeds are carried out on the days of collection.

Bait should be placed in a shallow trail, made using a ripper, grader blade or by hand using a mattock or garden tool. Rabbits are attracted to disturbed ground but may take a night or two to start eating the carrot.

Several free feeds of un-poisoned carrots over a few nights beforehand helps to get the rabbits used to going to the trail and helps you see where they are, which means that you don't waste valuable Pindone from your night's poisoning. This is your choice and we do not provide carrots for the free feed.

There is no permit required for this campaign and if there is any suspicion of accidental poisoning of animals, they should be taken to the vet immediately. The Maude and District Landcare Group accepts no responsibility for your rabbit-poisoning campaign. Please take all care and pick up any dead rabbits you find and any leftover bait and dispose of them thoughtfully. Communicate with your neighbours to let them know if you intend to be part of the campaign so that their family pets can be protected.

Dates of baiting:

Friday, 3rd February 2023

Monday, 6th February 2023

Thursday, 10th February 2023

Pick up between 2 – 4pm at Elaine & Graham Johns' shed, 1824 Steiglitz Road, Maude (next to the Maude Tennis Courts). We do not deliver but can hold orders until after work on the same day by arrangement.

Deadline for orders – FRIDAY, 27th JANUARY 2023

PRICES per feed:

20kg carrot \$78

10kg carrot \$45

5kg carrot \$30

An invoice will be emailed or provided with your first bait pick up and payment can be made by EFT, cheque or cash. Bank details will be on the invoice.

To make an order or if you would like more information on the best techniques for free feed and baiting as well as any other questions you might have, please contact:

Laura Hollingsworth:

maudeanddistrictlandcare@gmail.com or Elaine Johns: Ph. 5281 9395.

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- Maya Angelou





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Marg's BOOK REVIEW

The Serpent's Skin by Erina Reddan

She is persistent! She is tenacious! She refuses to bow to the secrets of the past. She can't leave the clues alone. She is determined to find out why her mother disappeared on a cold wintry night in 1968 when she was ten years old.

The family has suffocated by mystery, unquestioned power and grief and although JJ has a new successful life she puts it all in jeopardy to solve the dark mystery of her childhood.

After the sudden disappearance of their mother, her death and funeral the four children survive as best they can in a cloud of their father's lies and each deal with her loss in their own ways.

Sarah had been the thing that held the family together. JJ remarked that she was all filled up and over with no more Mum and the Mum space was all empty but all filled up with the knowing that she'd never be in it again.

Their father who is a pillar of the community and a proud Member of Knights of the Southern Cross. The Catholic church would fall down without us pillars. JJ described it as a boy's club of grown men who were scared of their own shadows.

But JJ has always been one to cause trouble, it was all burn and scald with her and so 14 years on she finds herself being pulled back into the unsolved mystery, that she has to find out the truth, no matter what the cost. She believes that her father knows more than what he is telling and time and time again she continually approaches him with questions. Every scene with him is tense and every contact with her siblings is stressful but gradually, slowly bit by bit small clues emerge.

While pretending to make peace with her father's dishonesty, she organises a final farewell for her mother so they can all put the past behind them.

Redden is not afraid to use raw language and tell it how it is. Her voice is distinctly Australian. The landscape is solid. The living effort, the sticking together, the poverty on this marginal farm are visceral as the pigs are fed, cows are milked and Max the cantankerous bull is tolerated.

The theme is similar in some respects to some other recent books that we have read about male power and the dynamics of a family. JJ expresses her feeling in colours, red surged through me and different flowers represent different emotions, red roses for regret and sorrow. Also important to the story is the unbending hand of religion and the offender of the CWA variety, meaning the gossipers.

The family had been trapped in a snake pit of lies. By discovering the truth the serpents skin is shed and life can resume.

Bottom Shop

Marg Cooper

Ravinder Rebbas (Ravi). a handsome, friendly and helpful young man recently took over the Meredith Corner Store & Cafe (or *the Bottom Shop*.)

He grew up in Hyberabad in Southern India and studied for a Bachelor of IT in India before coming to Australia as a student in 2009. He completed a Masters Degree in IT at Central Queensland University in Spencer Street, Melbourne.

While studying he worked at a 7 Eleven store and for five years after. He also married and became a father.

Life got busy so he has not yet worked in the IT Industry but the skills he acquired certainly help him to run a business. The first was a United Petroleum Service Station at Corio as a commission agent. After a few years he looked for a Post Office/Shop in the country and undertook three months training with Australia Post. He sees Meredith as a golden opportunity. It is not too far from his home in Geelong and has both passing and local trade.

He has already installed more refrigerators and freezers and has a larger selection of drinks and ice-creams and he intends to install more shelving to expand the array of grocery items, like a small supermarket.

And he has some equally friendly help in the shop with his family friend Sid and Anita who has recently joined the team.

With the sun shining and customers pouring in he says that his venture to Meredith is looking good, so far. And he makes a great coffee!

We wish Ravi all the best.



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

Kerry Thomson

Two apologies are due! First is that I think I have finally managed to get the new name for the group correct - originally Meredith then She Oaks (my error :- ().

Second apology is to those who turned up for a November sketch when we'd cancelled because Mandy and I were both elsewhere. Congratulations to Yen, though who, nevertheless went ahead and produced three lovely watercolours, including one of the Anglican church..

Our next outing is at 10.00am Tuesday 13th December, meeting at the Community Centre. We'll decide where to go from there (Hopefully it won't be raining). Don't forget to bring drawing/painting materials, a chair, appropriate clothes and a cuppa for afterwards.



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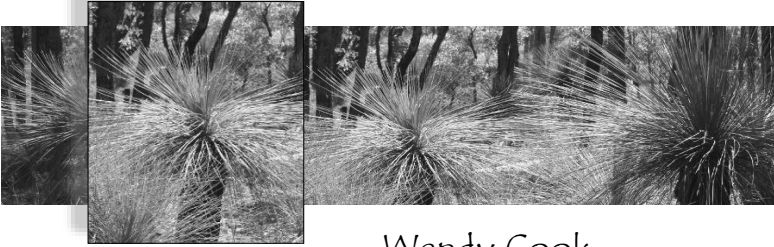
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Wendy Cook

I enjoy watching the sky and the effects of the sun's light, the light of early morning highlighting treetops and hills, clouds of varying shapes and colours, trees turning gold in the late afternoon, colourful sunrises and sunsets, and glittering stars on dark nights. On some days, the sky puts on a spectacular display. The afternoon and evening of November 8th were particularly interesting.

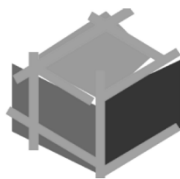
For most of the day, it was warm and humid. The morning sky was blue with cumulus clouds peeking over the northern horizon. During the day, they rose and began to spread across the sky, huge piles of puffy white reflecting the sun above flat grey bases, each individual puff outlined in pale grey.

Late in the afternoon, I was driving south towards home. Ahead and to the east, were cumulus clouds. To the west, a dull cloud of grey reached from high in the sky, all the way to the ground, pouring rain onto the land as it passed. In front of this cloud, numerous tall wind towers intruded on the view, catching the sun on their white rotating blades. The road was dry until I turned west. Within a few hundred metres, the rain was heavy. Water flowed across the road and formed creeks along its edges. The puddles on our driveway had expanded. There was 11mm in the rain gauge. Thunder rumbled and there were occasional flashes of lightning. As the rain lightened, the sun shone. Its white light entered the raindrops, passed through them and split into many colours. To the east, I saw a rainbow, a complete arch reaching high against a backdrop of grey cloud. Over the next few minutes, it brightened, and two more arches of colour became visible. One was a reflection just inside the main arch, narrow bands of colour in the reverse order to those of the rainbow. Further out was another reflection, wider and higher than the main arch, but paler, the colours also in reverse order.

I missed the sunset, although I had a glimpse through a window, of orange on the clouds to the east. I was waiting for a rarer event, a lunar eclipse. That night, there was a

full moon. Although during the night, our side of our planet faces away from the sun, sunlight still shines on the moon. Its whiteness is due to the sun's rays reflecting from its surface. Usually, the full moon orbits slightly above or below the Earth, and sunlight can reach it. That night, the Earth was to pass directly between the sun and the moon, preventing the sun's white light from reaching the moon. For part of its nightly journey, the moon would travel through the Earth's shadow. The sun's rays would pass through the Earth's atmosphere to reach the moon. White light is made up of all the colours of the rainbow. When the sun's light reached the atmosphere, it would separate into those colours. Colours with shorter wavelengths, such as blue, would bend outwards away from the moon. Red light has a longer wavelength and would bend towards the Earth's shadow, then continue onwards to the moon. The sky was still overcast. If I were to watch the lunar eclipse, I needed the clouds to clear.

After the moon rose, its light was dulled behind the haze of cloud. Already, there was a smudge of darkness on its lower edge, part of the Earth's round shadow. Gradually, the clouds thinned and vanished. The smudge enlarged, until only a bright white sliver of light could be seen along the moon's upper edge. The rest of the moon was red-brown. Gradually, the Earth shadowed the whole moon. A portion of it was brighter than the rest, appearing orange-brown. As I stood outside, I saw stars shining high above. One star passed slowly across the sky, a man-made satellite circling the planet. The creek, usually silent, was audible after the afternoon's downpour. Frogs called from dams, pobblebunks calling their name, creaks of common froglets and clicks of spotted marsh frogs. A brushtail possum growled from the trees. From further away, I could hear the 'mopoke' call of a southern boobook. The moon remained in shadow. I went indoors, but peeked at the outside world intermittently. I saw the first white sliver of sunlight reflecting in a curve on the bottom edge of the moon, where the smudge had first appeared. Later, the whiteness had increased, until there was just a dark smudge near the top of the moon, the last portion to be shadowed by the Earth, and the last to emerge from darkness. On my last visit outside, the moon had left the Earth's shadow. It was full and white with a circle of glow around it. It floodlit the world, dimming the stars, only the brightest being visible. Night creatures were silent, but in the moon's light, bright enough to cast shadows, a magpie sang as if it was day.



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it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

Christmas Gifts for Family & Friends

Calendar:

A calendar featuring Meredith is an interesting gift, an adornment for your wall for a year, a place to write appointments and a keepsake of local history. The 2023 calendar will be available soon in Meredith shops and at the History Centre.

This latest edition features underground tanks of Meredith & District. [These differ from wells in that a well fills with water from the ground and underground tanks fill from spouting on a building or some other above ground source.

There are many such tanks in Meredith & District and they are interesting for their position, their construction and for the fact that they are still in existence if not in use.

Cost \$ 15.00

Steiglitz Thru the Lens:

The book of photos of Steiglitz, in chronological order is a gift that will interest people far and wide. It is such a lovely production that it can adorn a coffee table, show how a town in the country grows and almost disappears because of gold or be a reference book for Steiglitz History. This book was recently launched at Steiglitz. It was compiled by Tony Scott for MHIG from the photos collected for the exhibition we had in October 2021 at the Meredith Hall.

Cost \$ 35.00

History Books, Cards, DVDs:

There are lots of other books available at the History Centre about Meredith People, Pubs & Publicans, Cemetery, Fire Brigade, Soldier Settlers, World War 1, Bamganie Soldiers, Elaine School and many more. Cards featuring Meredith are also for sale as well as DVDs of Shelford Road and Coopers Road.

Plants:

A plant or collection of plants from the Street Nursery is a marvellous, happy, colourful gift or a free packet of pumpkin seeds so one can grow some pumpkins and win the biggest pumpkin competition, next year.

Street Library:

A range of books are available from the street library.

Gift Wrapping:

Free gift wrapping is available.

The History Centre is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am until 3 pm.

Come in and see our gift shop. I'm afraid that Santa will not be in store because it's a bit wet yet for his reindeers and sleigh but we hope to decorate to compete in the AMA Christmas Lights Competition.

Happy Christmas Season to all.

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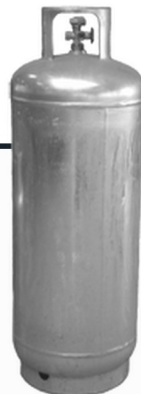
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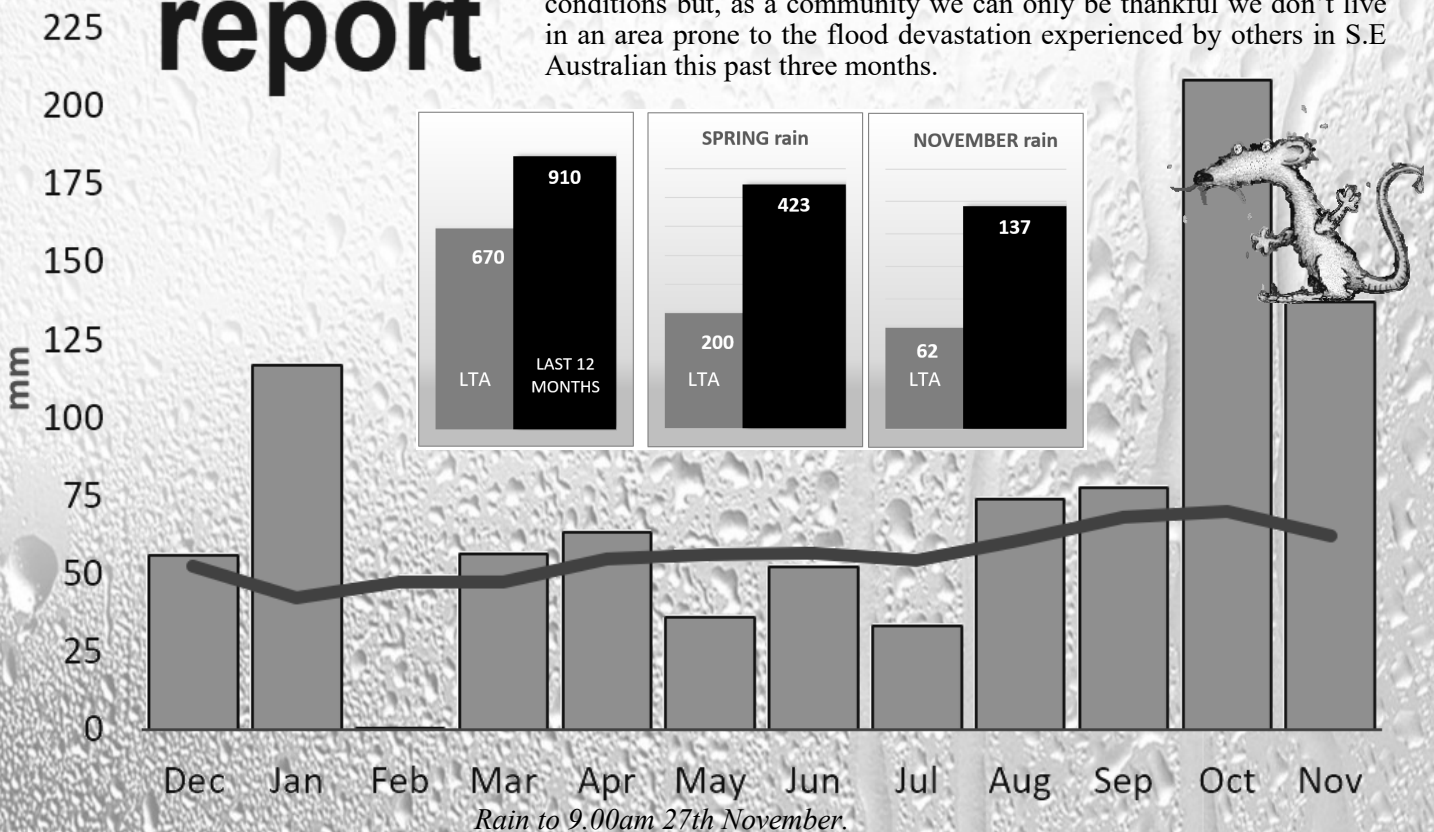
Midland Highway

Advance Meredith
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SMALL TOWN BIG SPIRIT



the rain report

What a season! In what is surely the wettest spring on record, we received 423mm, over twice the long term average. And you didn't need a rain gauge to notice, with floods and puddles all around us. There will be some among us who have suffered from the exceptional conditions but, as a community we can only be thankful we don't live in an area prone to the flood devastation experienced by others in S.E Australian this past three months.





G'Day from the penners for the last time for 2022. It's hard to believe, with this wet, winter like weather that it is nearly Christmas time and the end of another year. Where is summer?

To end the year, here is part two of Gordon's story, we hope you enjoy it.

To the readers of the Meredith Newsletter, the penners would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a splendid New Year and let's hope that La Nina fades quickly and we finally get some "normal" weather.

Cheers.

BY THE LAKE Part Two

Constable Higgins meanwhile had lost all interest in Silas Mountworthy and his civil protest as he carefully and cautiously pulled to shore the waterlogged body upon which he had snagged his foot.

Chief Inspector Teddy Proctor was on his way to his son Teddy's under 13's soccer match, when the call came through that a body had been pulled out of Booking's Lake. Apparently a slashed throat was a first indication of foul play. As he turned his car around and headed out to the Lake, Proctor wondered if a slashed throat would be his fate when his wife discovered that he was not at the match to support their son. The trouble was that he was a repeat offender and it was now strike three.

He called the Office.

"Yes sir?" answered senior constable Andrea Wilkins.

"Andrea, a body has been pulled out of Booking's Lake and I'm on my way now. I'm supposed to be at Teddy's soccer match today. My wife will already be there, but her phone is switched off. Could you pop down and let her know I will be late?"

"No problem sir – leave it to me"

"Thanks Andrea, just stand well back when you tell her"

Andrea laughed sympathetically and hung up.

The track around the lake made for difficult driving at the best of times, but recent heavy rain had turned it into a mud quagmire. It took all of his driving skill to avoid being ignominiously bogged. Proctor pulled up behind a large orange Kubota tractor parked in the middle of the track. A police car was parked precariously on the muddy embankment leading down to the lake.

Proctor donned his crime scene protective clothing and boots and made his way gingerly toward the sound of voices. Pushing through the trees he reached the lakeside to be met by Inspector Ian Dodd who was standing deep in conversation with one of the local constables Bill Higgins, who looked as if he had been dragged through the lake backwards.

"Hi Dodds, what's that bloody tractor doing parked in the middle of the track?"

"Not Constable Higgins finest hour" responded the Inspector and related the story to Proctor. Higgins listened despondently.

"Never mind Bill," said Proctor. "Cheer up! Mountworthy has done us a favour in a way. Now, I want your report on my desk by this afternoon and get Mountworthy to remove that bloody tractor. Then do him for assault of a police officer and resisting arrest." Constable Higgins brightened considerably at the prospect as he sloshed his way up the embankment.

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We Bought a Manse

Linda & Paul (with Marg Cooper)

On 28th April 2012, we bought a Manse.

In our hunt for a country property in regional Victoria, we were taken by the community feel of Meredith when driving through one day and picking up a copy of the Meredith Newsletter. Meredith seemed a good fit for us with its close location to Ballarat and Geelong.

We fell in love with the Manse on first inspection. It was in need of a lot of work but we felt it had a special feel. It was a house with a history.

We were given a copy of an old photo of the Manse in its original location with an ornate verandah. Although it didn't look like that anymore; we did dream of restoring it back to how it once looked.

We moved in January 2013. It was fair to say this was a big change from our previous newly built home. The Manse had mouldy sunken ceilings in the hallway, broken windows, rusty water coming out of the taps and paper doilies stuck to the roof in the laundry. Still, we saw its potential.

The house had been empty for many years prior to us moving in but we soon realised that we were not alone in the house. There were the resident possums, the bat that flew up and down the hallway at night and the birds which nested in the roof and weatherboards.

We started out with re-stumping the house. On one sunny morning a few days into the re-stumping, a large Eastern Brown snake poked her head out of a crack in the front verandah. Understandably, this sent some shock waves through the re-stumping team who had already spent a couple of days under the Manse. The snake catcher thought there may be eggs within the verandah and it was promptly broken up. The re-stumpers nervously returned to work but it's fair to say they were working far quicker than they had prior. The Meredith Manse snake was talked about by the re-stumpers in pubs all the way to Colac.

We removed the sagging lowered ceilings to reveal the original high ceilings. The damaged horse hair plaster was removed, the walls straightened and re-plastered. During this part of the renovation we spent a freezing winter in our little caravan behind the Manse while the front section of the house was internally rebuilt.

We've opened up the fireplaces and we are just about to fit mantles that have come from Victorian houses built in the same period. During work on the house, we have reused/restored many of the original timbers of the house as we could.

On the outside, we've been working on our garden. Since moving in, we've planted trees, roses, and a veggie patch. We've also built a big garage.

The Manse still needs a lot of work, particularly externally as our focus so far has been mainly on making the interior comfortable.

We've discovered some history of the Manse along the way. We know that the original Manse, which was occupied by Rev J Manby burnt down on 31st August 1892. Sadly, John Shell an 11 year old boy employed by Rev Manby died in the fire. Rev Manby was injured trying to save John.

In January 1893, Laird and Barlow, Architects and Surveyor advertised a tender for the Manse at Meredith.

During renovations, we have found newspaper clippings lining floors and walls from the summer of 1894, so we believe that our Manse was built around that time.

We don't know the exact location of the Manse prior to it being moved here. We believe that the house was located somewhere across the creek and close to the school.

Over it's almost 130 years existence, the Manse has had births, marriages, deaths, and funerals. In April 1921 the Rev Scott's brother-in-law Mr Clement McEwan Gowan, came from Scotland after serving in the Imperial Army. He died in the Manse and is buried in the Meredith Cemetery.

In June 1921, Rev Scott was injured after being thrown from his buggy when his horse was frightened. This may have led to the decision to move the Manse into town next to the church. We are still yet to find the date of the Manse being moved to it's current location but I believe that it is likely to be in the 1920s.

There were several more ministers to reside in the Manse with the last minister possibly being Rev Ashmore in the 1940s.

In the 1950s the Manse became the Soldier Settlement office. We believe the room at the front was added and used as a waiting room.

We understand that the Manse was also used for Sunday school. It later became a rental property which we were told held great parties.

Besides the newspaper clippings, we have found old bottles in the garden, a notebook with morse code and 'Angela' painted on an internal wall rafter.

We would love to see any photos of the Manse, particularly of the inside and someday learn it's original location.

The renovations are ongoing.

Going Crackers?

Get groan-ready with our Christmas Table Quiz.

- What did the wise men say after they offered up their gifts of gold and frankincense? Wait, there's myrrh.
- What do you call Santa when he stops moving? Santa Pause.
- What's the absolute best Christmas present? A broken drum — you can't beat it!
- What happens if you eat Christmas decorations? You get tinsel-it is.
- What do Santa's elves learn in school? The elf-abet.
- What is Santa's primary language? North Polish.
- How do you know when Santa's around? You can always sense his presents.





THE MEREDITH CEMETERY TRUST

The Meredith Cemetery Trust is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified members of the community who would be interested in becoming honorary trust members. Women and those from a diverse background are actively encouraged to seek appointment.

Cemetery trust members are appointed by the Governor in Council for a term of up to five years on the recommendation of the Minister for Health. Cemetery trusts are responsible for the proper and efficient management of the public cemeteries under their control, including planning for future cemeteries services and the preservation of local history.

Being appointed to a cemetery trust provides successful applicants with a unique opportunity to develop their competencies as a board member. The Department of Health provides free governance training to all trust members.

Current trust members whose terms of appointment are due to expire may apply for reappointment as part of a competitive selection process.

More information about the role of cemetery trust members is available at: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/cemeteries-and-crematoria/class-b-cemetery-trust-appointments>

To register your interest please contact The Meredith Cemetery Trust as follows within two weeks of the date of this advertisement:

The Meredith Cemetery Trust contact details: 5286 1550

The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring that government boards and committees reflect the rich diversity of the Victorian community. We encourage applications from people of all ages, Aboriginal people, people with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and from lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, gender diverse, intersex and queer people. The trust will provide adjustments to the recruitment process upon request.

F30403

Podcast

Marg Cooper

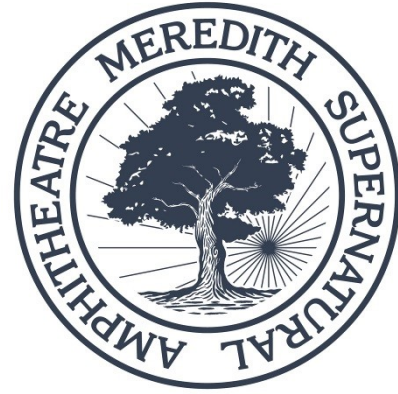
On the way home from a recent trip to South Australia we listened to the radio which had continuous reports of the floods. At some stage the reporting changed to piffle so we then listened to a couple of podcasts, interviews with Richard Fidler. Towards the end of the second one we received a text from our grand daughter telling us that *my podcast has been published*. I then pressed the arrow beside the text and lo and behold, we listened to an hour's interview with our granddaughter Eliza Emmlin.

The podcast was produced by The Flying Doctors and is called *Helping the Governesses that care for Station Children*.

She talked about why she went to the outback, her job as a governess for three years and how the governesses helped each other and socialised although they were scattered over a huge distance. She then talked about her new job with the Flying Doctors in the Mental Health Team and how her partner Ben was a patient of theirs after he smashed his motorbike.

Eliza has just added a new adventure to her life. On Saturday, November 5 her baby daughter was born, Lottie Jane.

The podcast can be found by selecting *The Flying Doctor podcasts*. It is episode 57.



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

Victorian Traditions and Country Pubs

Roy Hay

Generations of Victorians have enjoyed their country pubs and the company of the people who hosted them. For many years Victorian licensees were often female for good and sufficient reasons. They were more stable and reliable than their menfolk, were less likely to drink the product they should be selling, and while working they could keep an eye on their children when they were young. No wonder colonial governments often relied on them.

Claire Wright's marvellous book *Beyond the Ladies Lounge* is a brilliant evocation of a cohort of powerful, independent, imaginative women who ran Victoria's hotels and public houses in the 19th and 20th centuries. Often the licence would pass through the generations in the female line. I turned to the book again recently when the Sawyers Arms in Newtown, Geelong, passed to a new owner. The hotel was one of our favourite places for meals. When our children were young, they were welcomed there and supplied with specially made multi-coloured drinks which they loved—non-alcoholic, of course. The food was excellent and the atmosphere welcoming.

Eileen Clatworthy, who had been the licensee for many years, had passed the baton to her granddaughter Eliza, but 'Mrs Clat' as she was known would still wander round the tables of an evening with a word and a story for the patrons.

One of my favourites involved the Geelong football superstar, Gary Ablett, senior. When Mrs Clat appeared at his shoulder one evening he said, 'In all the years I've been at Geelong Football Club this is the first time I've eaten in this place'. She replied instantly, 'Don't worry Gary. I've never been across the road to Kardinia Park.' Eileen's grandsons, Peter and Matthew ran the pub for many years, but the latter died very young and Peter recently retired, hence bringing the Clatworthy era to an end.

When we travel through rural Victoria we enjoy dropping into pubs, sometimes just for a cuppa and a chance to soak up the ambience and have a blether with locals. Occasionally pubs double up as motels. For old folks like us that can be a bit of a problem if the bedroom happens to be above a noisy bar, but in many cases we can find somewhere quieter if we ask in advance. Not long after we arrived in Australia in 1977, we stopped at the Royal Mail Hotel in Dunkeld, long before it became the fine dining establishment it is today. We asked if they did breakfast, but it was out-of-season and they did not. Shortly afterwards the proprietor arrived with two porterhouse steaks and four eggs and bid us make our own. We ate the lot!

In July 2021 the Meredith History Interest Group launched a new book on Pubs and Publicans of Meredith 1840 to 1960 that records the local hostelries over those 120 years. Compiled by Kerrie Kruger, it is an informative and detailed account of the incidents involving the pubs and their publicans and customers and the legal requirements pertaining to them. The author has extracted a host of extracts from newspapers and other sources that bring to life the incidents and some of the stories of the people involved on both sides of the bar counter.

As the mid-point between Geelong and Ballarat, Meredith was a key staging post on the way between the port and the goldfields in the 1850s and accommodation and public houses proliferated in that decade. In 1859 Watson's (Royal) Hotel was advertised as the largest hotel in Victoria. In the next decade most of the movement to the goldfields was reversed as disappointed diggers and their families returned to Geelong and Melbourne.

One of the lowlights was a rampage by members of the Grenville football club who broke into and trashed the Railway and Royal Hotels in 1906. I assume the miscreants had lost the match against the locals, whose secretary followed up the incident by a letter to a newspaper pointing out that the home team was not involved.

In recent times pubs have been trying to recover from the lockdowns, like most forms of hospitality. Now they have to be on their toes to attract old and new customers and finding the staff they need in competition with other forms of employment post-COVID is very difficult. In rural areas the local is expected to sponsor or contribute to a range of community and sporting organisations. This is hard when their own revenue is fluctuating and costs are rising, as they are for folks who would otherwise be happy to spend time and money at the bar. It is an unending battle for survival.

Another key relationship involving the pubs is helping to underpin the local music scene. Meredith, of course, has its renowned music festival, and local pubs probably pay attention to the groups and individuals seeking a gig at Meredith or those who have performed there and drawn a crowd.

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It was just before Christmas and the magistrate was in a happy mood. He asked the prisoner who was in the dock, 'What are you charged with?'

The prisoner replied, 'Doing my Christmas shopping too early.'

'That's no crime', said the magistrate. 'Just how early were you doing this shopping?'

'Before the shop opened', answered the prisoner.





Hosted by Meredith CFA in Conjunction with Advance Meredith Association



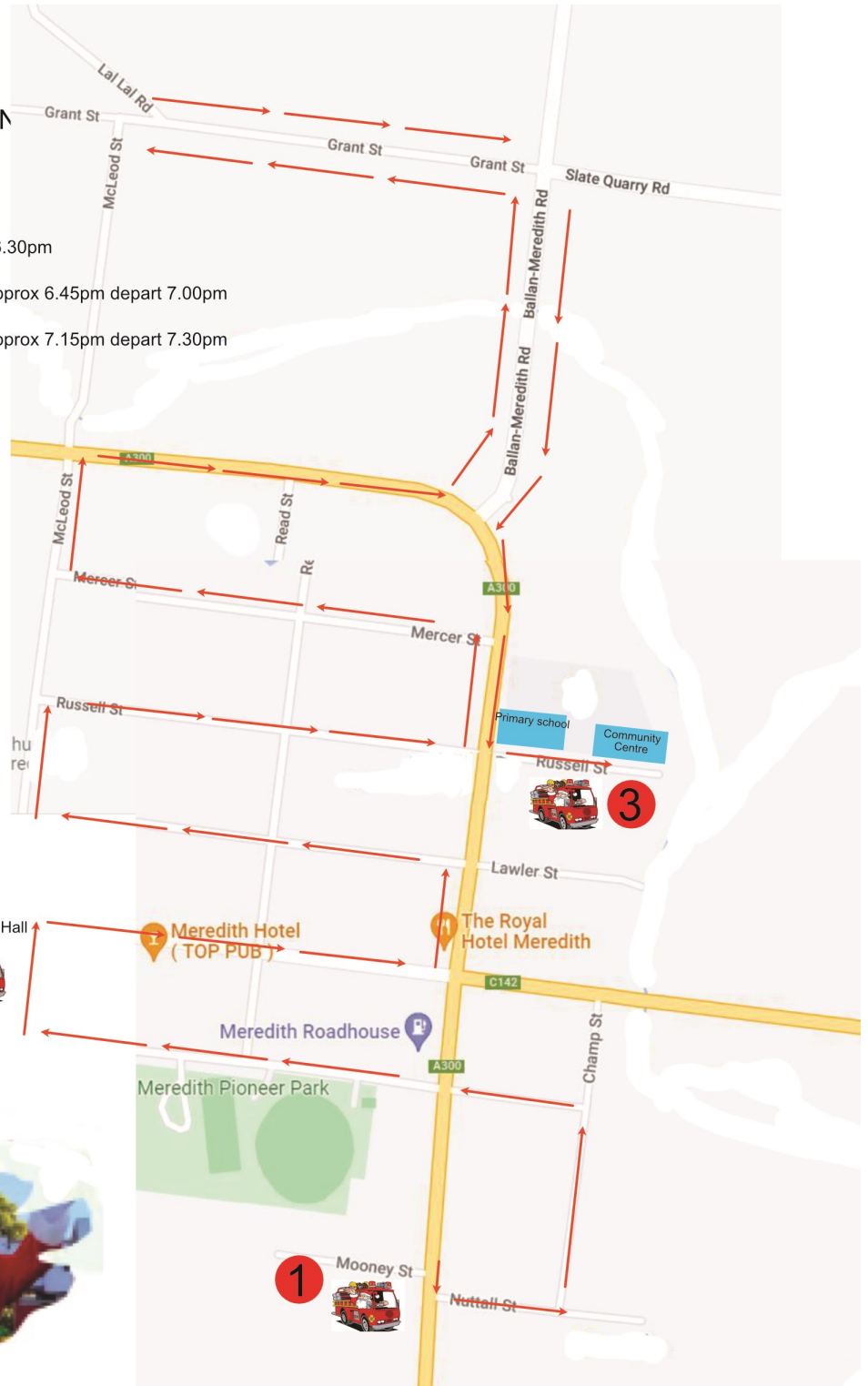
Santa in Meredith on the Big Red Truck

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- 2. Meredith Memorial Hall | Arrive approx 6.45pm depart 7.00pm
- 3. Meredith Community Centre | Arrive approx 7.15pm depart 7.30pm

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Merry Christmas

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REAL ESTATE

Golden Plains

We put you first

We hope you enjoyed your community news over the past year as much as the twenty volunteers who put it together for you. And we look forward to delivering more district news, entertaining columns, cartoons and the occasional smile in 2023.



See you in February 2023

