

# Meredith & district News

OUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023



It's  
autumn

## inside



- Love Art (of course)
- Music Festival Traffic Arrangements
- Remembering Jean Brequet

...and the usual Much More!



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



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## MOORABOOL Wind Farm

### COMMUNITY UPDATE - February 2023

#### Community Fund Round Four - 2022

Applicants from Round Four of the Moorabool Wind Farm Community Fund were notified if they were successful or not in December. We will announce the successful projects in the February/March once the necessary paperwork is completed.

Thank you to all community members who submitted an application and to the Community Fund Assessment Panel for your time and interest.

#### 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.

#### Community Fund and Scholarships Round Five - 2023

The next opportunity to apply for grant and scholarship funding will be later in 2023. Keep an eye out for details.



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

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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) Stefania Parkinson, Ian Penna, Mike Palmer, Sue Higgs, Alex Hyatt and Nerida Anderson. Production is undertaken by Peter Boer, Don Atherton and Jim Elvey.

## NEWS & VIEWS

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

## DATES AND DEADLINES

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

## ADVERTISING

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

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

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

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

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

## CONTACT US

Post Office, Meredith, 3333

**Advertising:** Ian 0409 016815

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

**Accounts:** Mike 0419 307044

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

**Editorial:** Jim: 0409 163169

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

## WEB

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

## ONLINE PHOTOS

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

## DISCLAIMER

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

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

# connect

ADVANCE MEREDITH 0409 027 359	FOOTBALL Seniors 0408 545246 Juniors 0430 587 674
ANGLING CLUB 0419 248 660	GOLF CLUB 0407 795 342
B'BURN ART GROUP 0410 808 483	HISTORY GROUP 5286 8201
BLUE LIGHT DISCO 5286 1222	LANDCARE 0409 862 326
BOOK CLUB 5286 8201	MEMORIAL HALL 0409 662106
CFA 000 for fire calls Elaine 0409 861 296 Meredith 5286 1502 Morrisons 0417 770 765	MEREDITH SEWING GROUP 0491 184 999
CHILD CARE 5286 0700	MOTORCYCLE CLUB 0437 009 250
COMMUNITY CENTRE 5286 0700	PLAYGROUP 5286 0700
CRICKET Elaine 0448 291074 Junior (U16,U14,13) 0448 291074 Meredith 5286 1434	POLICE PADDOCKS 0409 163169
CUBS & SCOUTS Lethbridge 0435 042077	RSL - 5286 1452
ELAINE HALL <a href="mailto:elainetownhall@gmail.com">elainetownhall@ gmail.com</a>	SENIOR CITIZENS 5286 8232
	TENNIS Elaine 0448 291 074 Lethbridge 52 817 321 Meredith 0424 754 179
	SEW 'N' SEWS 5286 0700
	FRIENDS OF THE BRISBANE RANGES 5286 1252

## ..or start something.

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

# emergency

Police, Ambulance, Fire (from mobile phone)	000 000 or 112
Meredith Police Station	5286 1222
Police non emergency	131 444
Power Failure	132 412
Nurse-On-Call	1300 606 024
Mental Health Advice	1300 280 737
Poisons Information	13 11 26
Barwon Water	1300 656 007
SES Emergency - flood & storm	132 500
24 Hour Helpline	1800 629 572
24 Hour Drug & Alcohol Counselling	1800 888 236
Kids Help Line 24hr 5-18yo	1800 551 800
Golden Plains Shire a/h emergency Ranger	1300 363 036 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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"I hope I can be the autumn leaf, who looked at the sky and lived.  
And when it was time to leave, gracefully it knew life was a gift."

—Dodinsky





# COMMUNITY

## Meredith Senior Citizens

*Jim Hynds, President.*

The Seniors enjoyed lunch at the Fyansford Hotel on Monday, January 30th.

On Monday, February 13th they met in the Memorial Hall and enjoyed a luncheon prepared by Kylie and her crew and served by some of the school children.

Raffles followed at \$1 per ticket and some amazing prizes were on offer. Our expert shopper, Carol buys gifts at discounted prices for the raffles, Heather usually sells the tickets and Carol and I do the draws. Linda won a sandwich toaster which will make getting our lunches at home a lot easier from now on. We are planning a bus trip to Daylesford in April which will include lunch at the famous Convent Gallery. This building was once a school and I believe that it was attended by a girl from Meredith.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING.

MEREDITH COMMUNITY VILLAGE COMMITTEE.

**Tuesday March 28th** at 7.30 pm

You are invited to a meeting to be held at the Meredith Community Centre on Tuesday March 28th at 7.30pm, which is being held to offer the opportunity to interested local people to become involved in the future of the above Committee.

The Meredith Community Village project was started in 2000, with a view to providing housing for older residents, on land owned by the Meredith Catholic Parish. The project is no longer viable on the proposed land, and so it is time to progress the purpose of the committee. Funds raised at the time have remained invested.

Please register your interest if you are unable to be at this meeting.

Martin Peters. [martin@farmingit.com.au](mailto:martin@farmingit.com.au)

John Diffey [merryj3@outlook.com](mailto:merryj3@outlook.com)

Dawn Macdonald [Dawnmacdonald30@gmail.com](mailto:Dawnmacdonald30@gmail.com)



Meredith Community Centre  
*working for our community*

## What's On



### TERM 1 - 2023 - FREE EVENTS

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

21st March - TBD - 9.30 - 10.30

**For Bookings - Phone us at the Centre!**

#### 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 - Mondays - 5pm - \$10 per class

#### **BCYF - Wellbeing Counselling**

Tuesdays at the Community Centre

1300 022 293

### PLAYGROUP

A playgroup is a group of parents or caregivers with their babies, toddlers and preschool children who get together regularly for play and social interaction..

Our Playgroup is open to all Families, so come along and meet new friends - Our space allows for both indoor and outdoor play!

**THURSDAYS - 9.00Am - 11.30**

**\$2 per Family**

**2023 - More Details to Follow**

Local Artist Classes are coming soon!

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](mailto:learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au)

[www.facebook.com/MeredithCommunityCentre](http://www.facebook.com/MeredithCommunityCentre)

Ph. 5286 0700 / 0491 184 999



Join us on



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Have you got a Talent to Share?

Let us Know!



# 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:

8.00 am Holy Communion St Paul's, Inverleigh

10.00 am Family Communion. St John's, Bannockburn

5.00 pm Prayer and Praise Epiphany, Meredith

Find us at: [www.goldenplainsanglican.org](http://www.goldenplainsanglican.org) or

[office.ibm@goldenplainsanglican.org](mailto:office.ibm@goldenplainsanglican.org)

The Revd Dr Timothy Smith

PiC Anglican Parish of

Inverleigh+Bannockburn+Meredith

### St Josephs Parish of Meredith

St. John the Baptist, Winchelsea - Mar. 4,11,18,25 at 6pm

St. Mary MacKillop, Bannockburn - Mar. 5,12,19,26 11am

St. Brigids, Anakie - Mar. 5,19 at 9am

St. Josephs, Meredith - Mar. 12, 26 at 9am

Sacred Heart, Inverleigh - Mar 19 at 4pm

*If we are missing a church offering services in our district, please contact us at [news@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:news@meredithnews.com.au)*

## BINGO

AT ELAINE MECHANICS HALL  
SUNDAY 26TH MARCH 2023  
AT 2.00 PM

Books & Dabbers supplied  
Come join us for a fun afternoon  
Admission \$20  
Tea & Coffee supplied  
Proceeds to purchase of a Defibrillator  
To be housed at Hall for Community use.

## 2023 MEMORIAL HALL AGM

The Hall's Annual General Meeting will be held  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH at 7.30pm  
at the Memorial Hall, 61 Staughton St  
for The Election of the Committee for 2023  
and to present the Annual Financial Report.  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
Hall Bookings/Secretary – Sandra  
M: 0409 662 106.



INVERLEIGH-LEIGH VALLEY LIONS

## MEN'S HEALTH NIGHT

The Inverleigh Leigh Valley Lions Club invites  
Lions, Partners, and Members of the Community  
to attend a Men's Health Night

**Date: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2023**

**Venue: Inverleigh Bowls Club,  
20 Railway Street, Inverleigh**

**Time: 6:00pm**

Sausage sizzle provided. Drinks at bar prices

Men's Health Presentation to start at 7:00pm

Guest Presenters:

**Dr Cameron Profitt**

MBBS, FRACGP

**Dr John Henderson**

MBBS, FRACGP, FARGP

For enquiries, please contact John Crowe Ph: 0414 674 156  
or John MacPherson Ph: 0417 031 463

*Our lazy summer cover features a tranquil view of the Graham's Creek picnic area, one of the many public beauty spots in our district. Thank you Kristen Cook for the lovely photo.*



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





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📱 MichaelaSettleMP



We are writing with information about the Golden Plains Music Festival, scheduled to occur at the Meredith Supernatural Amphitheatre from Saturday 11 March - Monday 13 March 2023.

A summary of the traffic management plan is outlined below. The festival will:

1. Implement a speed reduction on Meredith-Mount Mercer Road and Cameron Road from two days prior to the festival through to the day after the festival.
2. 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.
3. Divert traffic travelling to Meredith within the one-way zone down Cameron Road.
4. Station 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.
5. Install no-parking zones 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 to confirm if you need one. Vehicle passes are distributed to properties along Meredith-Mount Mercer and Coopers Roads a week before the festival.

If you have any comments or ideas about any matter related to Golden Plains Festival, including any concern or question about traffic or noise management, please get in contact by phone/text 0430 091 120 (available 24 hours over the festival weekend) or by emailing [auntym@mmf.com.au](mailto:auntym@mmf.com.au) (available anytime)

The festival website is [goldenplains.com.au](http://goldenplains.com.au) Additional information for locals is available at [ay.goldenplains.com.au/locals](http://ay.goldenplains.com.au/locals). Thank you for your support.

Festival Planning Team



The Philatelist



We read last month of the generous donation of stamps from Michael Riseley. Michael has agreed to share some of his knowledge and experiences as a stamp collector with us, by way of a monthly column called, appropriately enough, "The Philatelist"

One Penny Red KGV Stamp

In the early years designing Australian stamps was quite simple. The 1913 Kangaroo Map and the 1914 King George V portrait were the only 2 designs until 1927. KGV reigned until 1936 and the basic postage rate was not often changed – 1 penny from 1911 to 1920, 2 pence 1920 to 1950, 3 pence 1950 to 1959, and 5 pence 1959 to 1966 decimalisation. This became 4 cents which regularly was increased until today we have \$1.10.

There were higher rates for non-standard mail depending on size and weight and whether mailed by air or sea. Both designs came in many denominations to cover these different costs – 18 versions of the Kangaroo and 19 of KGV. Perhaps just to be different the Post Office would sometimes issue an existing denomination in a new colour. There were 4 colours issued of the 4 pence KGV and 3 of the 2 pence.

But collecting Australian stamps is not that simple. Stamps were produced by different printers using different inks and papers and with different watermarks. This led to shades of colour – the 1 penny red came in deep red, bright red, carmine, rose red, carmine pink and scarlet. All red but different enough for the collector.

And of course over time the printing plates became dirty worn and damaged and needed replacing. But not before stamps were issued with a slight flaw. This could be a small break in a border line or an extra dot or mark that was not in the original design. This would only affect a few stamps in the print run. Again wonderful for the collector but the general public remained blissfully unaware.

Some of these variations are rare and can be valuable. Today there are serious collectors who have albums of just the 1 penny red KGV stamp arranged to recognise the different watermarks, papers, shades and flaws. Important tools for these collectors are a very strong magnifying glass and a very detailed colour chart. By the way Australia printed 11.8 billion 1 penny red KGV stamps!!

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### The FOX (and the Dog)

I don't have a dog now, but I did have a lovely, placid and gentle blue heeler named Ozzie. Having been born a blue heeler, Ozzie knew she was destined to be a cattle dog, however she never could work out whether she should be attacking the heads or the heels. The cows soon worked out that she didn't know what she was doing so they just ignored her. Despite Ozzie's shortcoming in the cattle department, she did learn other positive characteristics. She learned quite quickly that under Don's law, it was illegal to chase wildlife on our property - apart from rabbits that is. So, rabbits got short shift (not that she ever actually managed to catch one) but she was quite successful in keeping the house garden rabbit free.

Early one morning I was awakened by a kerfuffle outside my bedroom window. There in the dawn light, was a young half-grown fox doing flat out circles trying to cajole Ozzie into joining in a game of chasies. He was circling Ozzie once or twice, zoom off and around a big old Manna Gum, zoom back for another circuit of Ozzie, back up to the tree, and up and over the tree fork, back to Ozzie and so on. Ozzie couldn't work out what to do about this, and the fox eventually gave up and loped off into the dawn.



### Concerts in Ballarat

**The Seraphim Trio** Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2.30pm  
 Anglican Cathedral Synod Hall Lydiard St South.  
 Bookings [www.seraphimtrio.com](http://www.seraphimtrio.com)

**The Ballarat Symphony Orchestra** Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2.30pm  
 Wendouree Centre for Performing Arts Howitt St.  
[www.wcpa.com.au](http://www.wcpa.com.au) or 5338 0980

**World Piano Day Celebration** Sat. 1<sup>st</sup> April 11am – 4pm  
 Anglican Cathedral Synod Hall  
 An informal day of piano music. Open to all to play or listen.  
 2pm See the piano taken apart to learn about its 4,000 moving parts

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## Coolebarghurk Creek

### Ch 9 - Meredith Creamery

*Marg Cooper*

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

John Armstrong, George McNaughton, Joseph Ward, John Murray and David Grant were elected Directors of the Meredith Creamery and Butter Factory with a capital of £750 in £1 shares.

Brazenor and Tweedie, Architects called tenders closing 29/7/1891 for erection of a timber creamery and butter factory at Meredith.

The building was about ½ mile from the Railway Station and township of Meredith and was situated on rising ground overlooking Coolebarghurk Creek, a short distance from the main road leading from Geelong to Ballarat.

Mr Phillip Smith, a local builder was the contractor. Construction began in August and the creamery/butter factory was opened in November.

The building was reported to be by no means attractive but was a good serviceable structure, designed to benefit the owners of milch cows.

Milk supplies from 1110 cows had been promised to the factory.

The company's factory was capially supplied with water from a tank in the upper storey and with water pumped from a well sunk near the Coolebarghurk Creek which contained about 13 feet of good spring water.

The floor of the cool chamber gently sloped towards one corner where a sink was formed for the purpose of expeditiously carrying any drainage towards the creek.

The Creamery and Butter Factory became insolvent and was sold to Mr John Davies in March 1896 for £450.

He sold it to the Export Co of Australia Ltd in July 1896.

R Gargan was the proprietor of the Meredith Creamery and Butter Factory in 1912.

One wall of the old factory was built into a house that was built on the block by Jack Mitchell, now accessed only from Grant Street.

A road near the factory site in Meredith is called Creamery Road.

One wonders if at one time there was a bridge or crossing over Coolebarghurk Creek from Creamery Road to the factory.

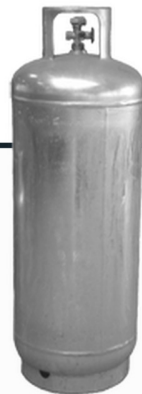
A lot of traffic would have gone to the factory and away from the factory when it was in production.

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Call Kelly on **0419 030 510** if you would like to have a look at our wonderful home and find out more details on Aged Care.

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4th & 5th March



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# COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING GRANTS ROUND ONE 2023



## Is your community group looking for funding for a project or program?

Applications open on 1 March for the first round of Golden Plains Shire Council's Community Strengthening Grants Program 2023.

Grants of up to \$10,000 are available in four categories:

- Healthy Active Living – to support recreation, sport, health and wellbeing projects
- Creative Community – to support arts and culture projects
- Environment and Sustainability – to support projects that improve the environment
- Community Safety – to support projects that equip communities to be safe and resilient

Groups must match the amount of funding sought, either in cash or through in-kind contributions, such as volunteer work on the project. Applications are open until 2pm, Friday 31 March, 2023.

To support community groups in applying for a Community Strengthening Grant, Council is running drop-in sessions across the Shire and online.

For more information on drop-in sessions and to apply for a Community Strengthening Grant, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au) or contact Council's Community Development & Grants Officer at 5220 7111 or email [communitygrants@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:communitygrants@gplains.vic.gov.au).



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## in our NATURE

Wendy Cook

It is a cool sunny February afternoon. I walk down to the dam bank to sit and observe nature. My arrival startles the three young Australasian grebes living on the dam. One dives, kicking up water to splash a potential predator. They swim to the middle of the dam, leaving spreading V-shaped ripples behind their dull grey, white and brown bodies. One preens, rubbing its beak and black-and-white striped head across its body, spreading oil from a gland near its tail over its feathers, to keep them healthy and waterproof. Another raises its body up from the water and flaps its wings. It is preparing for its departure from the only home it has known, completely unfamiliar with the world beyond the dam, but knowing instinctively that soon it will leave.

The young grebes have done well. They hatched here, on a nest in shallow water, constructed from a mound of vegetation. Their parents fed them and taught them to hunt small fish, yabbies and insects, then left them to look after themselves. When we moved here, over twenty years ago, there was little vegetation around the dam, apart from grass. A fence ran through the water, allowing stock access to one end. It is close to the house, and with a child soon to begin walking, we removed the old fence, fenced around the dam, and provided water troughs for the sheep. We planted a few trees and bushes. The grebes nested here then, but the chicks were easily seen by birds of prey flying above, and rarely survived. After a few years, they stopped returning. Five years ago, we took part in a Landcare project to plant indigenous aquatic plants in the dam. The water level dropped, and I expected that they would die, but in the recent wet years, they have grown back and are thriving. There is a dense growth of rushes around the edge of parts of the dam, providing plenty of protecting shelter for the grebe chicks. One day, as I walked past the dam, I saw a large dark bird strut into the reeds. A flick of its tail as it disappeared, revealed a triangular patch of white feathers, giving me a clue to its identity. It was an Australasian swamphen (formerly known as a purple swamphen), the first and only time I've seen one here. The aquatic plants are providing useful hiding places.

A commotion at the far end of the dam causes me to look up from my writing. A grebe is flapping its wings and skating across the surface to my end of the dam. A sibling chases it, but only a short way. Through binoculars, I watch it holding something that struggles. As it turns it in its beak, I recognise that it has caught a very large tadpole. Many frogs breed in this dam. A few months ago, it was noisy with frog calls, particularly at night. The tadpole may be a pobblebonk, the largest frog that lives here. It stops struggling. The grebe swallows it, head first, taking several gulps to do so, its beak held high, neck straightened to ease its meal on its way. With the tadpole gone, it dips its beak in the water, perhaps to wash it.

A fuss in the dense, grey-green woolly tea tree bush across the dam turns my head. A group of superb fairy-wrens are chattering, sorting out domestic matters. A breeze disturbs coloured reflections on the dark brown water, brown for trunks and green for leaves of planted trees growing well, bright blue for sky, sandy brown for dry grass, bright green

for rushes edging the dam. In front of me, some of the planted aquatics are flowering. Sturdy stalks of running marsh flowers rise above heart-shaped leaves. The stalks divide near the top, each little branch ending in a green bud or a vibrant yellow flower. A butterfly feeds at the flowers, and transfers pollen between blooms as it visits. The other flowers of aquatics are less obvious. Among the oval leaves of pondweed are stubby stalks of close-packed brown flowers. The water ribbons with long ribbon-like leaves have taller stalks topped by a spire of knobby green flowers, each ornamented with fine white hairs. A damselfly perches on a rush, displaying its red head and brilliant blue tip to its long abdomen. Another arrives, appearing to be mostly blue, lighter and brighter than the sky reflections beneath it. Two dragonflies pass, joined tail to head, in a mating flight. One male regularly patrols the water edge close to me, chasing other males, with occasional sparring upwards and back down, holding his territory as he awaits the arrival of another female. From trees on the hilltop, a family of kookaburras proclaim their home space with loud laughter, accompanied by the hoarse croaks of this year's offspring, as it attempts to imitate its parents.

The grebes are near me now, and I see that the beak of one is losing its baby orange colouring and the stripes on its neck are shortening, as it approaches adulthood. It dives among the rushes, but comes up with an empty beak. The aquatics provide safety for more than just waterbirds. It raises its beak towards a dragonfly, but it is too high up. It sits quietly on the water with its siblings, waiting for its next meal, and for the evening when the call of the world beyond the dam takes hold, and it goes in search of a new home. As I quietly turn and leave, I find that they have accepted my presence and show no alarm.

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**Popcorn Bars**

**Ingredients**

- 3 cups popcorn (popped)
- 30g butter
- 80mls honey (1/3 cup)
- 1tsp vanilla
- 1 tablespoon chia seeds (optional)
- 1/2 cup granola (optional)
- 1/4 cup dried fruit chopped (optional)

**Method**

1. Line a small square or loaf tin with baking paper.
2. In a saucepan heat the honey and the butter, this will foam and will begin to darken in colour. As you heat the honey and butter it will form a caramel, you know its ready when you can draw a spatula through the mixture and you will be able to briefly form a channel.
3. While the caramel is boiling, use your hand to lightly crush the popcorn into smaller pieces.
4. Remove the caramel from the heat, stir through the vanilla and then stir through the popcorn and seeds and other ingredients if you are using them.
5. While the mixture is still warm, use a spatula to press the mix into the bottom of the baking paper-lined tin.
6. Allow the popcorn bars to cool in the tin. You can put the tin into the fridge to cool more quickly. Once cool, remove from the tin and slice into bars.

You can use a combination of plain, salted, sweet and caramel popcorn for this recipe.

*Recipe from:  
My Kids Lick the Bowl.  
Stefania :)*



**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.*

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# Memories of Jean Breguet

*Jenny Colvin*

I first met Jean Breguet when her son Paul enrolled at the Meredith Kindergarten. Later, in 1981, when the position of assistant to the teacher was advertised, Jean applied and spent the next decade at the kinder as a loyal and respected member of staff. She quickly fitted in, adopting my philosophy of teaching, and supporting me in all aspects of running the program with her reliability and integrity.

Her warm manner and quiet friendliness quickly endeared her to the children and their parents, and her welcome each morning resulted in so many parents, over many years, commenting on what a happy atmosphere there was when they entered the kinder room. As a colleague Jean was completely loyal and could be relied on doing what had to be done quickly and efficiently. She was the 'go to' person for cuddles and bandaids, often the bandaid covered a non-existent scratch, but did wonders for a bruised ego or hurt feelings. She was also firm when needed and the children respected the limits we set which gave them a sense of security.

Early childhood educators need certain essentials, first being 'Eyes in the back of their head'. (It was strange how quickly we developed our '6th sense' and many a child looked up in surprise when a voice from behind the play said 'I don't think that's a very good idea do you Millie', when she was about to relieve the rightful owner of something special.) An absolute essential was to be multi skilled - it just went with the job. I have seen Jean mopping up spilt paint, while calmly defusing a situation of who had the truck first, and at the same time dealing with a toilet emergency, all with no fuss - all in a day's work. We had to have a strong sense of the ridiculous, it being impossible to maintain one's dignity when on all fours 'going on a bear hunt', or wearing a beautiful hat made with love from a recycled materials, which we were required to wear all morning even if it was dripping paste down our neck and depositing interesting bits and pieces in our hair!! And then to see an excited 4 year old greet her mother at lunch time with the news that 'Mrs Breguet said it was the most beautiful hat she had ever had - those precious moments made our day. We seemed to laugh a lot, with the children, not at them. They did not return the compliment and delighted in laughing at us - 'Mrs Breguet's got paint on her nose' - hilarious. 4 year olds are such a delight, they say it as it is, no political correctness for them. Jean genuinely loved the children, and they knew it. She was such a good sport, but knew when to draw the line, of course there was always someone ready to see how far they could go with a bit of mischief, but the bottom line was they all loved and respected her.

Post kinder Jean and I lunched frequently, and caught up with each others' news, then a visit to the local nursery where we contributed generously to the weekly earnings of the establishment, then the inevitable reminiscences - the outcome of our chats always being - 'We taught in the good times' and 'didn't we have fun'!! And how lucky to be able to say that at the end of one's career, and mean it.

Jean will be long remembered for her positive influence on the early education of so many of Meredith's young children, and many parents will have fond memories of her. Jean will be sadly missed, but her memory will stay with so many people.

Vale my special friend - we did have fun!!

...and from a group of local friends

Our friend, Jean, passed away on the 7th February this year. I say "our friend" because we all feel Jean was a special person.

The oldest of six children, Jean grew up in Geelong. At one stage they lived near the gaol, and we had to laugh upon hearing that she had threatened a little brother with gaol if he didn't behave - that is the most evil thing we can remember her saying!

During the 1970s Jean and husband, Alan, moved to Lethbridge with their 5 children. They stayed in the "old scout house" while building their new house on an expansive block. Jean's love of gardening had her busily planting on this land, and in time she created lovely surroundings. The mainly native plantings (of which she knew EVERY botanical name) attracted many birds and butterflies.

Jean was involved with the church, and if anything was needed for the local community - school, hall, etc. she was always ready with food or extra help. In fact, Jean's cooking was legendary. Her powder puffs and forcer biscuits were favourites! When the children grew older Jean started working at the Meredith kindergarten where she was loved by all her small charges. She took all things in her stride and was never known to become anything but positive.

In later years Jean and Alan retired to Buninyong, then ultimately downsized to Mt Clear. Late last year we were able to share time together with her for lunch at Bannockburn.

When asking others their thoughts about Jean the replies were consistent: "a genuinely nice person;" "she never had a negative word about anything or anyone;" "a beautiful kind lady;" "she always helped when help was needed;" "a lovely person".....

Jean's funeral took place at Buninyong Uniting Church and she was interred back in Lethbridge where she had spent so many years.

We thank you, Jean, for your friendship, and feel richer for having known you as our friend.

## Della's Delights

### Apple Puffs

600 mls peanut or vegetable oil  
 2 large apples (grated)  
 1 cup self raising flour  
 1 egg (lightly whisked)  
 Salt  
 Sift flour & salt into bowl  
 Make a well, drop in egg, mix from sides with a wooden spoon  
 Gradually add enough water, while beating., to form a thick batter  
 Add apples & mix well  
 Deep fry spoonfulls in oil until golden  
 Serve with Golden Syrup & lemon juice



## In the School Garden

...with the Chooks

### How many different chickens are there?

We have four different types of chooks at school: ISA Browns, Silkies, Andalusians and Australorps. We love taking care of all 14 of them. Not long ago we did their pen - this involved raking up all the old straw and droppings and tipping it on our veggie gardens. Then a fresh layer of straw was carted in and spread around. The chooks love to scratch around and find something to eat. We always count them in in the afternoon before we lock the gate. One day we were missing one and looked everywhere and it was in the nesting box laying an egg all the time. The chooks like to be picked up. If you would like to have a play or give them a pat or see how to take care of them, call the school to arrange a time.

### How do the chickens spend their day?

First, we start off the day by letting the chooks out of their pen so that they can roam free around the school. They love to go through the bed with the greens and peck at them. That won't happen again as we are putting a fence around it. They also love the staff parking lot and dig up the ground to find worms and bugs. After lunch, we get our chook bucket which has all the students' leftover fruits and crusts and scatter them about for them, and we refill their seed and water. The day ends by getting them back in their pen by rounding them up or we shake the chook bucket and they come straight over to us. Except one chook that we sometimes have to chase around the school. So, that is the day in the life of a chicken at Meredith Primary School.

### What do chooks need to thrive?

Here at Meredith Primary School, we feed our chooks well. Lots of our chooks eat Lucky Layers grain mix and they have shell grit, too, to make their egg shells strong. For our nesting boxes we get wood shavings. We get all our supplies from Meredith Rural and Pet Supplies. Daniel built our chook pen and we have had no problems with it. It is fox proof and nice and sturdy. Daniel put weatherboards on and big fencing for their outside area. After the holidays we gave it a clean out and put all new straw in and we found some mice in the grain bucket. The chooks have three water tubs and one day I stepped in one, luckily it was a hot day. I would love to be one of our chooks.

### Need some eggs?

At school we sell eggs from the ISA Browns, Australorps, Andalusians and Silkies. The Silkies lay smaller eggs and the ISA Browns lay bigger, brown eggs. The Australorps lay spotted eggs. If you need some eggs, ring or pop into the office. The number is 5286 1313 and they are \$5 a dozen. The money goes to buy their feed.

Here is Jack's Mum's recipe for Spinach and Ricotta Pie which needs 3 eggs and is one of Jack's favourites.

*500g fresh ricotta  
handful of chopped spinach  
3 eggs  
2 sheets of filo pastry  
1/4 cup parmesan cheese  
salt and pepper*

*Layer one piece of pastry in a pie dish and part cook in the oven at 180 degrees.*

*Mix ricotta, spinach, eggs, cheese, salt and pepper together.*

*Pour mixture onto part cooked pastry and put the other piece of pastry on the top.*

*Cook in the oven for about half an hour.*

Elsewhere in the garden, out of reach of our chooks, the TOMATOES are growing, but still mainly green with the odd ripe one here and there. The POTATOES appreciated a top up from the straw that was cleaned out of the chook pen. Around the front of the school, Mrs Edmiston and her group have been weeding, mulching and looking after the ROSE beds. At this time of year they need to be continually dead-headed encouraging new blooms so they are looking their best.

This month you might like to get an early start on your BROAD BEANS or BROCCOLI, CABBAGE, CAULIFLOWER seeds and seedlings. It's also a good time for greens like SPINACH, PAK CHOI and LETTUCE.

Look out for the date of the GIANT PUMPKIN weigh-in in the next newsletter or signs around town. The late summer heat will have knocked some vines around but we hope your pumpkins are looking good.

*This article was written by Meredith Primary School students, Kealiegh, Will, Nevaeh and Jack.*



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## Once Upon a Benson CHAPTER 2

Read episode at [www.meredithnews.com.au/extras](http://www.meredithnews.com.au/extras)

*Last time....We met the Bensons-Margie and Merv. Margie eagerly anticipates their son's parole, after 7.5 years in prison. Her husband, Merv, remains complacent and continues to feel shame about why he is in there. Their son, Scott, is granted parole and contemplates life on the outside, after the accident he caused, that killed an innocent community member and stained him for life. The story unfolds...*

"Lottie, can you get a move on please? I need to get ready for work!"

Bonnie could not wait for their downstairs bathroom to be finished! Lottie, her daughter, was at THAT age. She would spend hours in her parents' ensuite.

"I'm coming Mum. Just finishing my hair". Bonnie rolled her eyes.

"Oh, come on! I haven't even had breakfast yet!" Bonnie yelled.

Bonnie was feeling anxious about work today. The emergency department had been extremely busy lately.

The ensuite door flies open and Lottie swans out, looking every bit the teenager.

"You are NOT wearing that face full of makeup to school young lady!"

"Makeup? What makeup?" Lottie said, as innocently as a teenager could. Bonnie grabbed some facewipes, thrusting them into Lottie's hand.

"Go and wipe it off. NOW!" Bonnie insisted. Lottie skulked off, knowing it was no use arguing with her mother. Especially before coffee.

Bonnie considered Lottie's recent blossoming, since turning 15 -she had developed physically and emotionally. It was hard not to notice. Bonnie recalled herself at the same age. Oh, never again would she wish to be a teenager! Sure, as an adult, there is more expected of you but you got to make your own decisions-or mistakes. That was life's essence.

Oh, dear daughter of mine. You have so much of your story to write yet, Bonnie thought as she squeezed shampoo into her palm. Bonnie hoped that Lottie would be resilient to life's often "rough and tumble" style.

Lottie wiped her face reluctantly. She just wanted to be like her friends! THEY were all allowed to wear makeup!

It's not fair, thought Lottie. I'm 15! She looked at her reflection, in the heavily stickered mirror she'd owned since a young child. I'm closer to grown up than what mum thinks, she thought, giving herself a wry smile. Lottie had recently tried to smoke a cigarette, coughing until she almost vomited. Given the chance, Lottie would probably try it again though.

Gerald Crocker clicked his Audi locked and proceeded to the shire building. Another day, Gerald sighed. He had worked for the shire for 13 years. It was well known he was looking forward to retirement by his consistent lack of enthusiasm.

"Morning all. Another day, another dollar", Gerald said resignedly. Nobody answered. Nobody even looked up from their desks. Gerald was not popular among the community but he did not care. He had been paid good money, over the years, to not achieve too much at all. Weekly long lunches, overseas junkets, running personal errands on council time-Gerald had enjoyed free reign. His role at the shire would certainly be his last..

Gerald would never admit he was lonely. Desperately lonely, in fact. He had married 3 times, all ending in animosity and divorce. He had fathered 3 children. Grown up as they were now, with families of their own. He did not know about any of their lives. They had stopped communicating years ago.

"Johnny, can you come and give me a hand please mate?" Jason was digging some seedlings into the family veggie patch.

"I'm about to go down to Levi's for a jam, Dad!" Johnny replied, agitated.

"This won't take long son. I need you. Can you please unload the rest of the seedlings from the trailer and bring them here?"

"OK", Johnny groaned. Jason thought, as he continued shovelling, what is it with teenagers?!? Both Johnny and his daughter, Lottie, never seemed satisfied with their parents' efforts. Jason didn't recall being so expectant and entitled when he was seventeen. Perhaps it was that generational thing that everyone talks about?

"Kids today!" Older people loved to exclaim. Jason silently agreed. He was very grateful to have been raised in simpler times. The internet and social media of today's society had much to answer for. Jason worried for his kids' future, with all that he saw go on.

to be continued...

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### COVID 19

During these times our practice opening hours vary significantly. Please phone the clinic or book online for all available appointments.

Bannockburn Surgery is a fully accredited medical practice that provides comprehensive GP services and has been practising in the community for more than 30 years. Bannockburn Surgery is the largest practice in the shire.

We are an accredited teaching practice, training future GPs. Our current Registrar doctor is **Dr Veronica Stubbs**

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Gynaecologist: Dr Saj Rathnyake

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## it'S HiStoRy

Meredith History Interest Group

### Annual Meeting:

All members and prospective members please note that the Annual General Meeting will be held at 1.30 pm on Sunday, March 26, 2023 at the Memorial Hall. Please also note that subscriptions are due on that day. At the AGM Tony Scott will give a presentation on the first ocean liner, the SS Great Britain which brought more than 15,000 immigrants to Australia between 1852 and 1856. Complete passenger lists will be available to search for your ancestors. [MHIG has purchased a large portable screen which will be used on the day for Tony's presentation.]

### Calendars:

Some calendars are still available at local shops and the History Centre. \$15.00 only. They are not only useful to put on your wall and use as a calendar but are a pictorial record of Meredith & District.

### Lunch:

On Thursday, February 16, Chef of The Cottage, Meredith (also Chef at Rustic Ram) treated members of MHIG to a tasting lunch. All the food was delicious.

Chef says food has an effect which goes well beyond the taste and has the ability to bring people together. The sense of community that food can create is one of the key elements of Asian cuisine.

Chef believes that ingredients are special. He sources fresh and seasonal produce of the highest quality and makes everything from scratch.

Chef describes how in Bangladesh everyone chips in to help and never is anyone in the kitchen alone. Whilst we may enjoy food for a split second, it can last forever.

Thank you to Chef and Marshia for the delicious food, the wonderful experience tasting food different to our usual fare and providing the delightful setting where we sat around a huge table looking both out and in.

### Dog Rescued from Mine:

After falling down an old mining shaft 50 feet deep near Lal Lal Falls, a dog belonging to Mr M Looney, a rabbit trapper, was rescued uninjured by lowering a washing tub down the shaft, into which the dog jumped and was hauled to the surface. Messrs Harry and Hector Parker performed the rescue. [June, 1938]

### Art on the Farm:

MHIG has been invited to have a presence at Art of the Farm 2023 on March 4th and 5th. We have been preparing showbags and displays for the weekend. Please visit us if you are going to the farm to see the art.

### Mary Brewster:

After finding a letter that was written to Miranda in the Weekly Times in 1991 several researchers added to the information contained. We even visited the Morrisons Cemetery where she is buried with a son, Samuel Bulwer, her last partner and a daughter. Her parent's grave stand adjacent to that of Mary and both have large marble headstones. The story of Mary will be in the next MHIG Newsletter.

## Elaine 1889

*Local historian and regular contributor, Jan McDonald, has found a fascinating account of developments and activities around late 19th century Elaine. You can read it all online at [meredithnews.com.au/extras](http://meredithnews.com.au/extras).*



During the last few years the old hotel at Stony Rises during John Bore's time no roadside house in the colony could compete with it for a good square meal, good attention, cleanliness, and civility. A square meal, good attention, cleanliness and civility is now a thing of the past, only a short time after Mrs Jarvis disposed of the property to Mr Grenfell it was burnt down to the ground, and to this day nobody can tell how it happened...



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## Marg's BOOK REVIEW

### The Secret Scripture by Sebastian Barry

Roseanne McNulty is a patient in Roscommon Regional Mental Hospital. She was committed as a young woman and is now approaching her hundredth birthday. Because the hospital is about to be closed and demolished, psychiatrist Dr Grene is finalizing his case notes for each patient and determining who should be released into the world and who should be relocated to a smaller institution. He becomes intrigued by Roseanne and her story.

That story is told in alternating narratives between a secret journal written by Roseanne on scavenged scraps of paper, that she keeps hidden beneath the floorboards of her room and the Day Book of her psychiatrist, Dr Grene. These become a kind of confessional for both of them.

Roseanne has always been an outsider and spent a lot of her time alone even before she was committed. She remembers a happy childhood in which she was the apple of her father's eye but he becomes involved in the political and military entanglements of Irish political life. She becomes the wife of Tom McNulty but through a series of misunderstandings and the interference of a grim faced – soul destroying priest Fr Gaunt she is falsely accused of adultery and Fr Gaunt has her marriage annulled and has her locked up in the asylum.

Dr Grene has been at the asylum for over 30 years. He is very compassionate towards his patients but has his own issues. He is plagued by the death of his wife and memories of an uneasy marriage. In tracking down the past of Roseanne, Dr Grene finds a secret that she has kept hidden for many years, a secret that affects them both and he deems that she is blameless. Their interaction, complete with its silences, works its way into their respective self searching accounts of life, forming the loose catechism of the book.

A review says, as often in Barry's work, Irish history is a malignant omnipresence, its antediluvian hatreds and innumerable betrayals forming not so much a backdrop as a toxic sludge through which the characters must wade, as best they can. Trust is unaffordable. Love is a risk. The neighbour is the assassin, the former comrade the enemy. But Barry makes enthralling beautiful prose out of the wreckage of these lives by allowing them to have the complication of actual history in all its messy elusiveness.

This is the third book in Sebastian Barry's McNulty family trilogy. The Whereabouts of Eneas McNulty was published in 1998 and The Temporary Gentleman was published in 2014. The Secret Scripture is a powerful piece of work. You will feel for this woman who seems completely at ease, who is trying to recall and record and who has been very badly mistreated by men.

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## Love Art

*Marg Cooper*

Ballan Arts Space came into existence last year, the result of a collaborative effort between the building owner, Mike Bradley and the newly formed Ballan & District Artists Collective. It is housed in rooms at 117B Inglis Street, Ballan. These rooms are at the back of what I knew to be the Paper Shop but is now an Accountant’s Office at the east end of the shopping strip.

The theme of the latest exhibition at the Arts Space which opened on February 3 is LOVE. Local artists were invited to exhibit their interpretation of the theme, LOVE. This exhibition runs until Sunday, February 26.

Three members of the Meredith Art Group who meet every Saturday morning to create, entered two art works each for the exhibition. Bev entered two Mandalas which are intricate works created by writing words around and around. In this case, the word was LOVE. Louise entered an oil painting done with a palette knife of a couple in love walking on a lovely Autumn Day and a pastel portrait that she called Self Love. Marg entered a colourful work created with ink pen and text with the word love partly hidden and an experimental work created on the computer.

There were almost sixty entries exhibited which involved many different types of art. Included were paintings on rocks, limestone sculpture, metal sculpture, watercolour and acrylic paintings, collages, nature assemblages, wood sculpture and photos. The art works were well presented in the space and the collective members, who volunteer to sit at the gallery when it is open, to welcome and inform, were very friendly.

An exhibition of Art Works that reflect the season of Autumn opens on March 3 and will be the display for the Ballan Autumn Festival.

If you are interested in exhibiting at Ballan please email Tracey Taylor at [traceyjoytaylor@gmail.com](mailto:traceyjoytaylor@gmail.com)



## Himalayan Cedar Trees

*Marg Cooper*

The Ryan family of Elaine have bought five Himalayan Cedar trees to plant in an avenue to celebrate five different occasions:

The 80th birthday of Kevin Ryan in May 2022.

The 70th birthday of his wife Shirley Ryan in April 2022.

The 50th birthday of their son Paul Ryan in November 2022.

The death of Queen Elizabeth.

The death of Paul Ryan’s Nana.

The family members all admire the Himalayan Cedar trees that they have observed around the district. There are two in the old school grounds at Elaine, one in the yard of the house on Midland Highway that Jim Cole built, one in the yard of the Morrisons School and some where Hunts and then Kelvin Pitcher lived on the Midland Highway towards Clarendon from Elaine.

## Kevin Ryan Turns 80

*Marg Cooper*

Kevin Ryan tells that he was born in an earlier age. He was an only child. The family lived in Drews Lane before shifting to Jordans Lane when Kevin was about 2 years old. He went to Elaine State School and reluctantly to Junior Technical School in Ballarat, when he didn’t accidentally miss the bus.

Kevin tells that he wasn’t smart enough to do a trade, has worked many jobs around the district and has never been out of work. After leaving school he worked in shearing sheds, carted in hay [bales and sheaf] and cut wood. When he was 17 years of age he bought his first chainsaw which made wood cutting easier.

Other jobs he had, included setting up the pumping station on the Moorabool River to pump water into Meredith, installing the flashing lights on the railway crossing at Elaine, working on the Forest Commission at Lal Lal, tarping railway trucks of bagged super at Pivot in Geelong at night, building the Bungal Dam and working on the road crew of the Buninyong Shire. He went to the Shire for 2 weeks and stayed for twenty-two years.

Kevin tells that he is one of the last to cut wood from the forest with the axe and one of the last to cut fencing posts from the bush. He cut 220 in one day in the Lal Lal bush, using a chainsaw to fell and cut up the trees and wedges to split the logs into posts. While working at the Shire Kevin bought an ex Fire Brigade truck and had a tank fitted to cart water. He is still carting water.

Asked about his hobbies Kevin revealed that he loves watching cars race at the Speedway. He started off following Kevin Parkinson and has been all over the state to car races.

Now, where to plant those five Himalayan Cedar trees.



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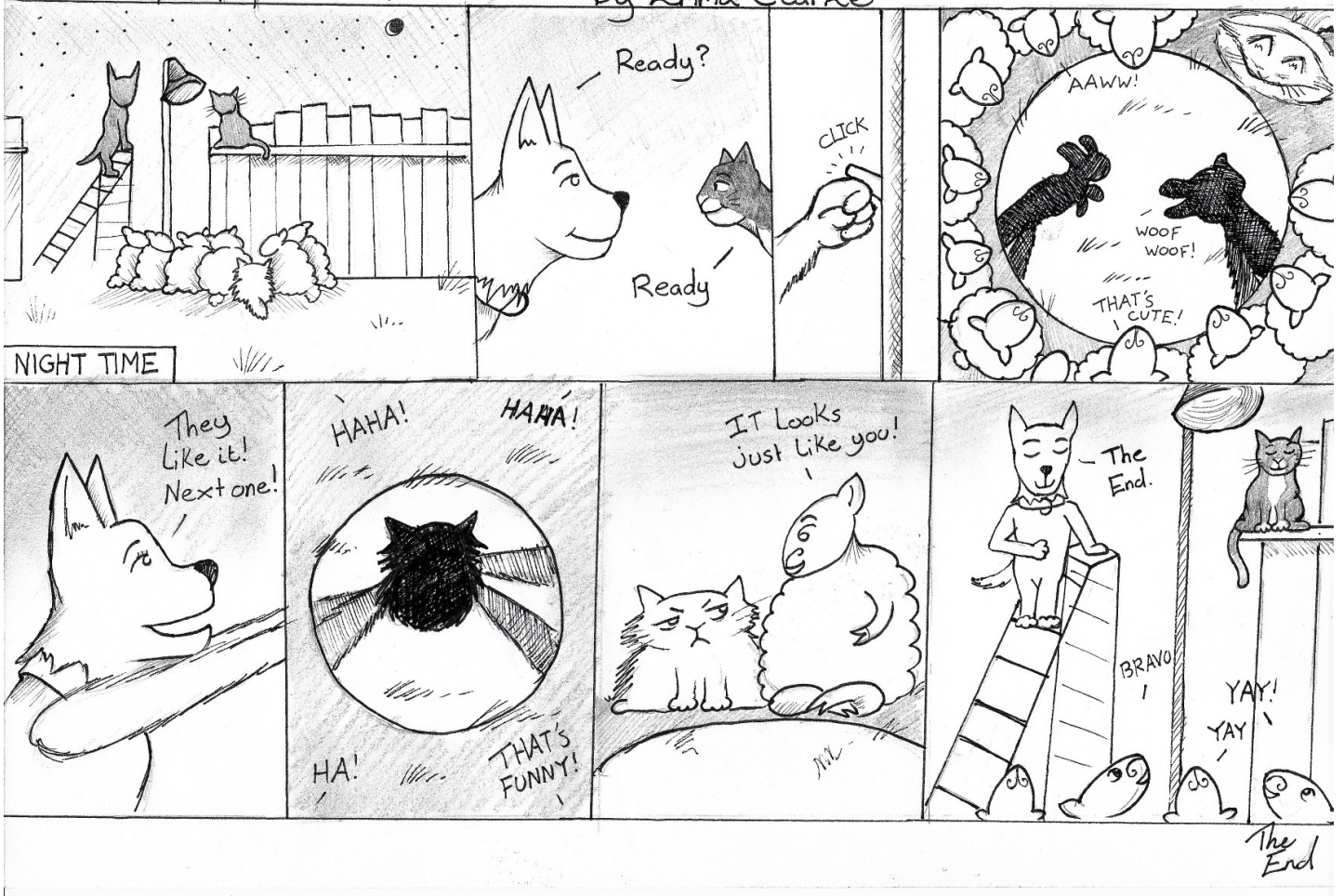
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By Emma Clarke





G'Day from the penners for March. This month's story is written by Karen Scholer. If you are easily scared, maybe pass on this one, but it's a ripper story.

We can be contacted via our email [goldenpens4@gmail.com](mailto:goldenpens4@gmail.com) if you would like to comment on any of our writers or stories. Please enjoy.

## The Dead Body Isn't Dead

The night was unusual and although the moon was full the shape of the clouds covering most of it created an ominous vision. There was something disturbing about the way the shadows played across the orb that I hadn't seen before. The night was mild when I left the cabin, I hadn't worn a coat, but a sudden shiver ran down my spine. A chill like an arctic blast hit me and held me in an icy grip before suddenly releasing me, it lasted only a moment but I was terrified. I swiftly looked around, turning my body from side to side, the small wood that surrounded my cabin appeared normal yet my heart pumped as my body shivered. Turning back the way I came I tried to call Molly but I couldn't give voice to my thoughts, my courage had left me and my nerves were shattered, I just wanted to get back inside the cabin. The dog would have to make her own way back. Walking swiftly, the sound of my own steps scaring me I ran. I lunged the last yards for the door handle, before stepping in and slamming the door hard behind me. I leant against the door with my legs braced, my heart beating like crazy with my weight firmly holding it in place. I turned and bolted it; a big sigh escaped my lips but I still didn't feel safe. I looked around the big open space, the main room in the cabin that had a comfortable old sofa, a bed and a rustic table with four miss matched chairs and nothing scary. The only other room in the cabin was a bathroom which had a toilet and an old bathtub. Running over I opened the door but all was as I had left it, until I turned to go. I noticed an object on the window sill, I stopped and stared at it, I had never seen it before, my small fern in a silver urn that my grandmother gave me long before she died was gone, it could only have been stolen, I hadn't moved it, I knew that much; it was a treasured item that I looked at often because of the sense of peace it always gave me. In its place was an alabaster pyramid. I had touched my grandma's plant earlier to see if needed watering. It had a dank smell which was unusual and I decided to re-pot it the following day. I reached out my hand to pick up the alabaster pyramid that replaced it, it was cool to the touch, looking at it closely it looked to be solid but as I returned it to the sill it grew heavy in my hand, I tried to shake it off but now it was sinking into the sill, I screamed and tried pulling away but it was getting really cold and my fingers were being dragged not only into it but also into the sill, my arm was like a block of ice and painful when I tried to

remove it, it was relentless and dragged me harder and faster. My panic knew no bounds, my heart exploded in my body as I saw my arm disappearing, followed by my shoulder. I let out a blood curdling scream as it engulfed my jaw, I opened the top of my mouth but the scream never came...

An excited bark came from the front door, the door opened; the dead body wasn't dead anymore, a stiff arm stretched out to the dog who whined pitifully, she dropped to her haunches cowering back in fear, she shimmied away tail between her legs before she raced off making an unearthly sound not heard in the woods before. The undead body moved slowly forward arms outstretched with a determined gait. There was no need to rush!

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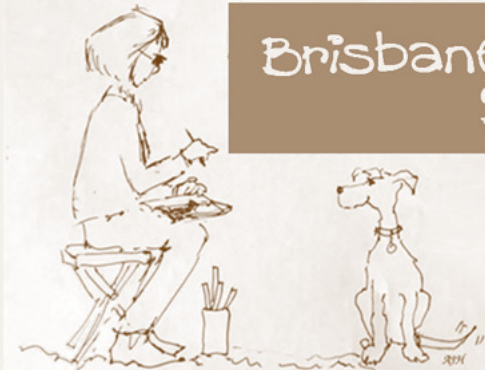
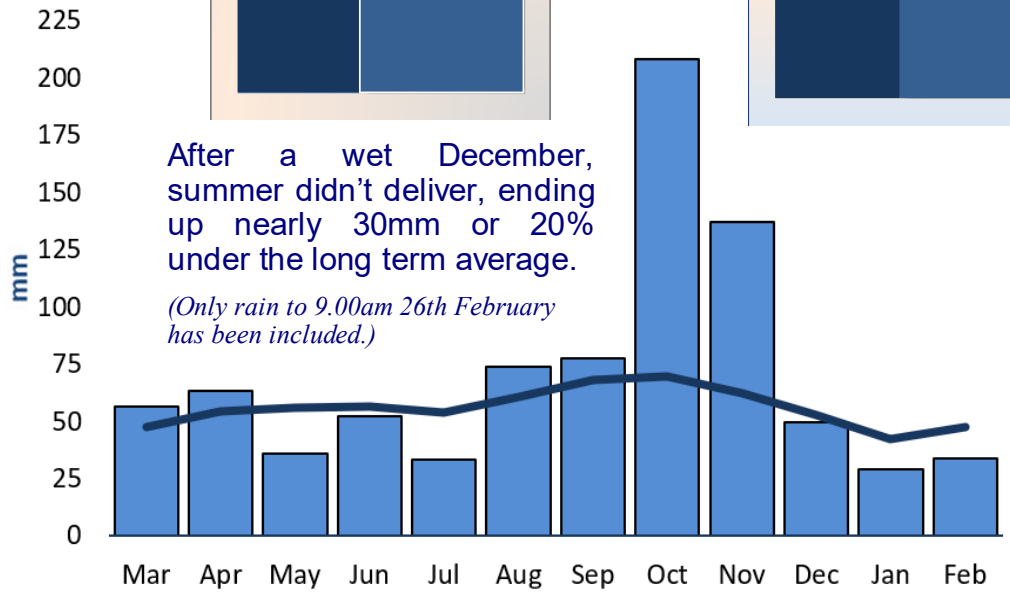
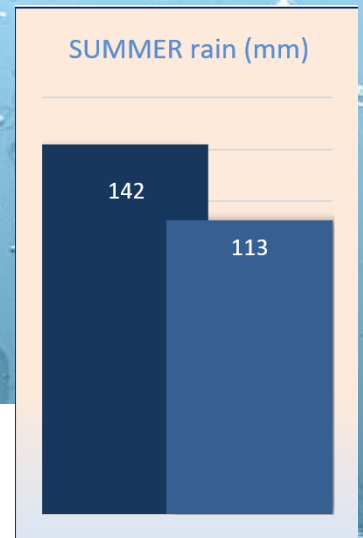
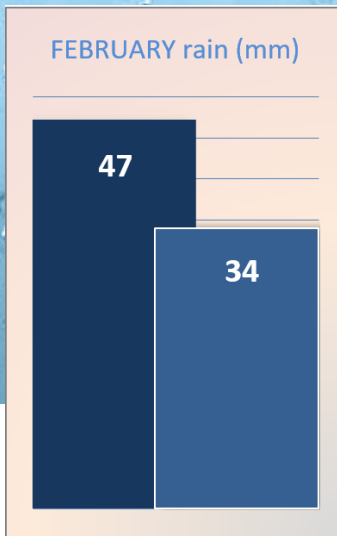
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## Brisbane Ranges sketchers

YOU CAN SEE ONE OF THE SKETCHERS' SKETCHES AT [meredithnews.com.au/extras](http://meredithnews.com.au/extras)

Tuesday 14th February eleven sketchers left the Meredith Community Centre at 10 am for a session at Coopers Bridge on the Meredith-Steiglitz Road. We enjoyed perfect weather as we drew using charcoal, grey or coloured pencil or fine-liner or painted in watercolour. Different perspectives were gained from the old bridge looking downstream, on the banks

looking across the Moorabool or from the beach at river level with a view upstream towards the bridge. A lone fisherman failed to tempt any fish and a young couple enjoyed a quick swim whilst we were there. Mandy, Alex, Ros, Sam, Mari, Ray, Ingrid, Sherryn, Marion, Louise and Kerry enjoyed a cuppa afterwards when we shared the results from our sketching time.

Next outing is the second Tuesday in March (14th). Meet at the Meredith Community Centre at 10 am.





# HELP SHAPE OUR COMMUNITY

The Maude, She Oaks and Steiglitz Community Planning Program is arranged and funded by the Golden Plains Shire Council.

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