

# Meredith & district News



APRIL 2023

## inside



- Easter Services
- ANZAC Day arrangements
- ...and lots of interesting reading



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# MOORABOOL Wind Farm

## COMMUNITY UPDATE - April 2023

### Community Fund

We are pleased to fund 11 local initiatives in the fourth round and one scholarship:

- Flag poles for Meredith Primary School
- Moorabool Catchment Landcare - Recreating Country
- Improvements to internal building at Gordon Public Park and Recreation Reserve
- New security system for Ballan Recreation Reserve
- Purchase of a utility tractor for Ballan Golf Club
- Upgrade to the Artist Alcove at Wombat Regional Arts Network
- Community Arts Engagement Workshops with Wombat Regional Arts Network
- 'Land in Focus' project with Moorabool Land Care
- St Brigid's Primary School Parents & Friends Festive Friday
- Rowsley Landcare Group - additional equipment
- Healthy Happy Ageing Ballan with Mecwacare

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



Round 3 fund supporting a new playground at St Patrick's School, Gordon

### Landscape and Visual Screening Program

Owners of residential dwellings within 4km of the 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.

The program is open until 30th June 2023 for Moorabool North and 30th Sept 2023 for Moorabool South. Please contact us if you have not previously participated and would like to register your interest.

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# COMMUNITY

## Our New Faces

We are very pleased to welcome two new volunteers to our team, filling key roles in the operation of our community newsletter.

**Marlene Johnson**, from Mount Doran is our new co-editor and is already in action, having edited this issue.

**Ian Leighton** from Lethbridge has joined the Committee and will take over as treasurer/accounts officer when Mike Palmer vacates the role in June.

We warmly welcome Marlene and Ian and wish them a long and enjoyable association with *Meredith and District News*.

## Meredith Senior Citizens

*Jim Hynds, President.*

On Monday, March 20 the Seniors journeyed down to Geelong for a lunch at the Saleyards Hotel. Some twenty Seniors attended and partook of a \$17 two course meal that offered a huge variety. The meal and surroundings seemed very popular with the members. After dessert many members had tea and coffee.

In all a great day was had by all.

Our next meeting will be held on March 27 at the Memorial Hall for a meal and to finalise arrangements for our bus trip in April.

**NOTICE OF THE  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**MONDAY MAY 15, 2022**

**10.30 AM**

**MEREDITH COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
4 RUSSELL STREET,  
MEREDITH VIC 3333**

ALL WELCOME  
Ph - 03 5286 0700 / 0491 184 999

## Meredith Tennis Club

*Bridget Dyer*

We have reached the end of the Summer season and the kids have had a lot of fun. The Meredith White C3 team finished third and made it to the semi-finals, but unfortunately didn't make it to the Grand finals. In C2, there was a Meredith V Meredith Grand final with the Meredith Blue and Meredith Black team both qualifying. It was an amazing close game with the teams drawing even at 2 sets

each, but Meredith Blue won by two games. Grand finals were held at Buninyong and it was amazing the amount of local families that turned up to support both teams. Congratulations to Harley Murfitt who also won most consistent player for the C2 section.

Club presentation night was held 29th March at the Rec-reserve, where we were able to celebrate the wins and the growth and improvements that all teams and players have made over the season. With six teams playing in the BDTA competition and the orange ball competition players, there was an amazing turn out along with our families who attended Thursday night training. Thank you all for coming.

The following people won awards.

Best Player:

- o C2 Meredith Red Maggie Brown
- o C2 Meredith Blue Harley Murfitt
- o C2 Meredith Black Logan Nettleton
- o C2 Meredith Maroon Erin Hay
- o C3 Meredith White Hugo Murray
- o C3 Meredith Yellow Charlie Thompson

Most Consistent Senior: Brendan Crozier

Most Improved:

- o C2: Maddi Sanderson
- o C3: Ryan Dinning
- o Orange Ball: Lachlan Dyer

Orange Ball Best Players:

- o Henry Freeman
  - o Lawson Mclean
- Best Club Person: Meg Hay

We would like to thank all the parents and players who participated in this season. As always, the competition can't go ahead without parent support and it is always appreciated. A big thank you to our sponsors, The Royal Meredith Hotel, Florabool Flowers, Totally Work Wear and those locals who have generously given us cash donations. A huge thank you to our tireless Thursday night volunteer coaches Courtney McColl and Brendan Crozier. You do an amazing job with the 40 or so children who come for training over two hours every Thursday night.

Finally, don't forget to sign up to the Night Autumn Competition by 13th April 2023.

**Cost:** \$30 per team

**Details:** 6pm Thursday nights, 6 week competition starting 20th April

Teams can be made up with a child and adult, provided the child has had at least two years competition experience or played at least C2. Beginner adults welcome, experienced players welcomed.

**CASH PRIZE** for winners! Should there be enough interest we will run the competition on Wednesday and Thursdays. Please contact [meredithtennis2020@gmail.com](mailto:meredithtennis2020@gmail.com) for a registration form or Madeline McColl or Meg Hay.

## 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

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### St Josephs Parish of Meredith

#### EASTER CEREMONIES

**RECONCILIATION:** St. Josephs Meredith Wednesday

29th March 10.00am, St. Mary MacKillop Bannockburn

Thursday 30th March 9.00am, St. Johns Winchelsea

Sat. 1st April 5.30pm

**PALM SUNDAY** St. Johns Winchelsea Sat 1st April 6.00

pm, St. Brigids Anakie 2nd April 9.00am, St. Mary

MacKillop Bannockburn 2nd April 11.00 am

**HOLY THURSDAY:** St. Johns Winchelsea 6h April

7.00pm

**GOOD FRIDAY: Stations of the Cross Walk** St. Mary

MacKillop Bannockburn 7th April 10.00am, Winchelsea

7th April 10.00 am

**COMMUNION SERVICE:** Friday 7th April St. Mary

MacKillop Bannockburn 3.00 pm

**EASTER VIGIL:** St. Johns Winchelsea Saturday 8th

April 6.00 pm, St. Josephs Meredith Saturday 8th April

8.00 pm

**EASTER SUNDAY:** St. Brigids Anakie 9.00am, St.

Mary MacKillop Bannockburn 11.00 am

#### SAT/SUN MASS TIMES

St. John Winchelsea @ 6pm – April 1,8,15,22,29

St. Brigid Anakie @ 9am – April 2,9,16,30

St. Joseph Meredith @ 9am – April 23

St. Mary MacKillop Bannockburn @ 11am – April

2,9,16,23,30

Sacred Heart Inverleigh @ 4pm – April 16

## ANZAC Day

The annual ANZAC Service will be held on ANZAC DAY at the Meredith Memorial Hall.

A parade will be conducted at 9.45 am followed by the ANZAC Service in the Hall.

At the end of the Service a march around the block will be followed by a Wreath Laying Service.

Morning Tea will be provided.

Any queries please to David Jones 0428 861452

## ADVERTISE with US

Advertising in the Meredith & District Newsletter is a great way to let district residents know about your business.

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

Ring Ian on 0409 016815

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See inside front cover for more details.



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 Proffitt**



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

WE'VE BROUGHT BACK THE

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## AND THE SEC

*Need a hand applying for the **Power Saving Bonus?***

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**TUESDAY 11 APRIL**

**Elaine** | Pearsons Road  
11:00am – 12:00pm

**Meredith** | Lawler Street  
12:30pm – 1:30pm

**Dereel** | Dereel Community Centre  
2:00pm – 3:00pm

**Please contact my office to book a meeting time.**




Michaela Settle <sup>MP</sup>


Member for Eureka

📍 15 Main Road, Bakery Hill VIC 3350    📞 5331 7722

✉️ michaela.settle@parliament.vic.gov.au    📱 MichaelaSettleMP



# What's On



**APRIL**

**Zine Making Workshop (School Holiday Activity)**  
April 13  
8-12 Year Olds - 12.30-1.30pm  
12-16 Year Olds - 2.00-3.00pm  
For the Booking Link- head to our Events on Facebook

**For Kids!**

**Movement, Mindfulness & Meditation with Jade**  
Prep - Grade 4 - Mondays - 3.30pm - \$12 per class  
Grade 5 - Year 10 - Mondays - 5pm - \$12 per class

**Mums & Bubs**

**Movement, Mindfulness & Meditation with Jade**  
Mondays - 10am - \$12 per class


**Fermentation Made Easy with Narelle**  
Monday May 22 - 10.30 - 2.00 - \$120 pp

**COMING SOON - ART CLASSES WITH MARION EAST**

PLAYGROUP IS MOVING TO TUESDAYS

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!



TUESDAYS FROM TERM 2


9.00am - 11.30am

\$2 per family

MINI MASTERCHEF IS BACK!

Our FREE Program is running again for the kids

Check Facebook for Bookings - get in QUICK!



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

Have you got a Talent to Share?  
Let us Know!

## Local Man Has Near Miss

On Thursday 23 March, Morrisons local Campbell Mulvoney was on his way to work at Meredith Transit, taking his normal Ballan-Meredith Road route. He was taking it carefully because of the fierce thunderstorm and heavy rainfall.

‘Suddenly, there was there was a loud sound and my windscreen cracked, I stopped and saw that the electricity pole had been split and the live wire had landed on my car. Besides the windscreen, it had torn through the driver’s pillar. I tried to reverse out of it – but that didn’t work,’ recalled Campbell, ‘If I’d been going 100kph, I’d have been a goner.’

Because of his experience with the CFA and other voluntary emergency work, Campbell knew to stay in the car and to alert the authorities so that other travellers would not be at risk. The emergency services took control quickly. In a couple of hours, Campbell was free and safe.

His car was not so lucky - it is a writeoff. Campbell offered his sincere thanks to the various emergency services that came to his aid.

Campbell advises, ‘If you ever find yourself in this position, say in your car. Alert the authorities.’

## The Philatelist

Michael Riseley

### Strange but True.

Things were simple in the old days ... or were they?

The Port Phillip District was settled from the 1830’s. It was a long way from Sydney and was initially perceived as being a bit like the wild frontier. Support and services from NSW were not overly strong. But the local settlers battled on and became quite independent and reasonably well organised. Perhaps the lack of interference from Sydney was a blessing.

There was a strong push in the District for recognition as a separate entity. In many ways NSW was happy to see them go. In 1849 the settlers received British Government approval to create a separate colony. These things take time and the new colony of Victoria was not formally created until 1/7/1851.

Meantime the NSW government introduced postal reform on 1/1/1850. This included laws governing the use of postage stamps. And it was decided that the Port Phillip District would use its own stamps inscribed Victoria. The first stamp naturally enough depicted a portrait of a seated Queen Victoria.

So for eighteen months, Victoria used Victorian stamps, even though Victoria did not officially exist!

So for 18 months Victoria used Victorian stamps even though Victoria did not officially exist!!



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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 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
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](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: Peter Boer Editor: M.Johnson

# connect

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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 0491184999
CHILDCARE 5286 0700	MOTORCYCLE CLUB 0437 009 250
COMMUNITY CENTRE 5286 0700	PLAYGROUP 5286 0700
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CUBS & SCOUTS Lethbridge 0435 042077	RSL - 5286 1452
ELAINE HALL <a href="mailto:elainetownhall@gmail.com">elainetownhall@gmail.com</a>	SENIOR CITIZENS 5286 8232
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	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



*In the end, it's not the years in your life that count, it's the life in your years.*

*Abraham Lincoln*

# 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	1300 363 036
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Ranger	52207111
	or 0409 830 223
Bannockburn Vet	5281 1221
a/h emergency	0407 811 222
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

<b>CEMETERY TRUST</b> 5286 1550	<b>MATERNAL &amp; CHILD HEALTH</b> 5220 7230
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Elaine Mechanics <a href="mailto:elainetownhall@gmail.com">elainetownhall@gmail.com</a>	<b>PRIMARY SCHOOL</b> 5286 1313
Elaine Rec Res 5341 5703	<b>RECREATION RESERVE</b> 0429 315 575
<b>LIBRARY VAN</b> 5272 6010	



**The Echidna**

I like Echidnas. They probably wouldn't make very good pets and are not very cuddly, but they are cute little animals. They're fairly benign, don't do too much damage, don't destroy other wildlife, don't infest our homes and don't eat our garden produce. They do dig in my "lawn" though, and that is rather annoying because my ride on mower wheels fit neatly into the holes they leave behind.

Over the years I have transformed part of my workshop into a "mancafe" with bbq, kitchen, bar, fridge, open fire, and so on. It is a rather busy area with lots of books and various bric-a-brac and has hosted many family parties in its time.

I am retired now, but when I was still working, the "cave" would often remain locked for a week or two at a time and then left open all day on weekends when I was at home.

One weekend I unlocked and opened up, to a scene of chaos and destruction. Things had been knocked over, scattered, broken, dislodged, torn, and ripped. Chairs were knocked over and cushions pulled off lounge chairs.

My first thoughts were that I had been burgled and trashed and lamented that living in the country is no longer what it used to be. I set about cleaning up the mess and on picking up one of the discarded lounge seat cushions I thought it felt a little heavier than normal. On closer inspection I spotted some protruding spikey bits – and there was the Echidna, who had obviously sneaked in the weekend before and didn't like being locked in, buried deep in the seat cushion!

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**The Great Giant Pumpkin Challenge  
Measuring**

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# War Trophy

Marg Cooper

At a meeting of the Vigilance Committee in June 1920, it was decided to accept the offer of a machine gun from the authorities to be kept in the Meredith Mechanics' Institute. The following Trustees were appointed, Messers W.G. Bell (AIF), H.I Griffiths (Vigilance Committee) and R. Gargan (JP and Mechanics' Institute).

In October 1920 the Vigilance Committee held a meeting in the Mechanics' Institute on a Saturday night. The President Mr H.I. Griffiths was in the chair. The Secretary reported that the machine gun, which had been donated to the Meredith District, had arrived. It was decided to hold a dance and a final wind up of the Vigilance Committee and erect the machine gun on a Saturday night.

In December 1920 on Friday night there was a large attendance at the Mechanics' Institute when the unveiling of the machine gun took place. The President of the Vigilance Committee Mr H.I. Griffiths was in the chair. A musical program was rendered by Miss Irene Mooney, Messrs W.G. Bell, W.G. Sharpley and J. Hutchins. A short lecture on the workings of the machine gun was given by Gunner W.G. Bell. Speeches were given by Messrs J. Searle, Dr Fraser, R. Gargan and Rev. Stanley Cragg. The unveiling of the machine was performed by Mr R. Gargan. A presentation of a pipe and case was made to Mr Jim Moran who carried out the duties of MC at the dances for the send offs and welcome homes to the local and district

soldiers. Mr J. Moran acted as MC for the dance that followed, and the music was supplied by Mrs R.J. Grant and the secretarial duties were capably carried out by Mr F.A. Edmonds. God Save the King was sung.

Another Newspaper report in December 1920 explains that it was a German Machine Gun, which had been captured at Villers Bretonneux. It was presented to the district through the efforts of the Vigilance Committee.

Mr Gargan received a copy of the history of the War Trophy that had been sent by the Department. No 4639, Light Machine Gun was captured by the 57<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF, in the famous night attack on April 24th to 25th 1918, when Villers Bretonneux was recaptured by the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Brigades.

Also of interest is that in 1941, Mounted Constable Thomas Lloyd was ordered to collect all German Machine Guns in the Meredith Police Sub District. He collected seven and packed them individually to be shipped away.

What ever happened to the machine gun in the Mechanics' Institute?

Does anyone remember or have information about its removal?



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Wendy Cook

The manna gum sapling was under attack, its tender young leaves gnawed and misshapen by clusters of growing grubs. The problem began when the Eucalyptus variegated beetles arrived. They were shiny and rounded, olive-green or bright orange, with patterns of lines and paler spots on their hard wing cases. Their eyes were dark and useful for detecting motion, but they received more information about their world through their antennae. These were made of segments, mostly black, but pale close to their head. Through them, the beetles could sense smells, tastes and the feel of their surroundings, including temperature and air movement. They could also detect pheromones which helped them to find each other and mate. Each female laid rows of cylindrical yellow eggs on a fresh leaf. The beetles fed on mature leaves, chewing semicircular shapes out of the edges, but the damage really began once the eggs hatched.

Initially, the beetle grubs were tiny and black. As they grew, they shed their skin several times. From black, they changed to green with a black head, tail and legs. As they became larger, a black stripe developed along the middle of their back. The green colouring altered to creamy brown. Some grubs moved between clusters, often joining a group of a different size and age. Other grubs fed alone or in pairs. As the adults continued thriving, more rows of yellow eggs were laid, and more hungry beetle grubs hatched from them. They all enjoyed a diet of young leaves, so the sapling's upper and outer stems were nearly bare. When they were fully grown, the grubs fell to the ground and hid among leaf litter. There, inside a yellow pupa, each made the change from grub to beetle.

The beetles and their grubs were not the only insects feeding on the sapling. A female leafhopper had found the tree. She had a broad flat head with a large orange eye on each side. Her orange body was concealed beneath black wings with two white stripes across them. She fed by sucking sap from the tree. After she mated, she laid her eggs on a small branch, in slits cut parallel to each other and sealed with a secretion. When the baby leafhoppers hatched they were shaped like the adult, but smaller, with no wings and different patterning. Much of their body was orange including their eyes. Each had a black stripe down its back, and an abdomen with black and white stripes around it and a black tip. They stayed together and were often accompanied by banded sugar ants. These brown and black ants were twice the size of the leafhoppers. Like their mother, the young leafhoppers sucked from the tree. If they had too much sap, they secreted some from their abdomen as honeydew. The ants were attracted to this source of food. This was an advantage to the leafhoppers, as the presence of the ants discouraged other insects that may have regarded them as an easy meal.

The beetle grubs had no such protection. Two orange assassin bugs roamed the tree. Each had a mostly bright orange body with black wings and long legs. Tucked under

their head was a long stabbing tube called a proboscis. One approached a cluster of grubs, moved its proboscis outwards, stabbed the closest, and carried it to another leaf. It injected an enzyme which dissolved the grub's insides, sucked it dry and discarded the empty skin. When it was hungry again, it could return to the cluster. For the sapling, each grub eaten was one less feeding on it.

Another insect visited the grubs, but she did not plan to eat them. She was a slender orange-brown wasp, much smaller than the largest of the beetle grubs. She landed and walked gently over them. She selected one, curled her abdomen with its long egg-laying tube under her body, and pushed it into the soft grub. She laid an egg. The neighbouring grub reared up, releasing eucalyptus oil containing a toxic chemical which could kill some insects. The wasp moved away and laid an egg in another grub. The grubs with the eggs would continue to feed and grow, but when the egg hatched, a young wasp would grow inside them, eventually killing them and emerging from their skin.

Not all visitors to the tree harmed it or the grubs. A long-legged crane fly rested on a leaf before flying onwards in search of a mate. A tiny spider built a miniature orb web and caught equally tiny flies. As the weather cooled, there were fewer insects on the sapling. Its new leaves were able to grow and expand. Surviving beetle grubs fell to the ground and pupated. When the leafhoppers reached adulthood, they had wings and flew away. The tree continued to grow upwards. Its leaves became less palatable to the beetle grubs as it matured, so the adults laid their eggs on smaller trees. Different insects visited. Some ate its leaves or fed from its flowers and pollinated them. Others hid beneath its bark or among its leaves and made a home. Gradually, as the sapling approached maturity, it developed into a community providing shelter and food for many insects, spiders, birds and larger animals.



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### **Blueberry, pecan and banana breakfast slice**

**Serves 6**

**Prep time 15 mins, Cook time 20 mins**

#### **Ingredients**

- 1/2 cup wholemeal self-raising flour
- 1/2 cup self-raising flour
- 2 tablespoons granulated sweetener (or castor sugar)
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- 1 cup mashed banana (approx. 3 medium bananas)
- 1/2 cup fat free plain yoghurt
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 150g fresh blueberries
- 1/2 cup shredded coconut, toasted
- 1/4 cup pecans, chopped

#### **Method**

1. Preheat oven to 180 c. Lightly spray a shallow 23cm square cake tin with oil. Line base and sides with baking paper, extending paper 3cm above edge of tin.
2. Sift flours, sweetener, cinnamon and bicarbonate of soda into a large bowl. Return husks to bowl. Stir in banana, yoghurt and egg until just combined. Fold through blueberries and coconut. Spread mixture into prepared tin and smooth surface. Sprinkle with pecans.
3. Bake for 20 minutes or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Stand slice in the tin for 5 minutes before turning onto wire rack to cool. Cut into 6 pieces.

*Recipe from:*

*WW Weight-Loss Success*

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# Some Distant Recollections

*John Tantau*

During my childhood I spent time visiting my elderly aunts, Great Aunt Ruth and Aunt Nancy Stuart, in Hampton, Melbourne, and they always spent Christmas with us. It was only when I started teaching that Great Aunt Ruth mentioned that she and her husband had lived in Meredith in the 1920s where Les was the headmaster and teacher. Unfortunately I wasn't told (or didn't ask) many details of their time in Meredith. Aunt Ruth did however mention a few interesting things.

She and a couple of ladies started up the Meredith Golf Club. They paid some local lads a penny a hole to cut and rake an area where I assume the golf current golf course is. The course consisted of three holes only.

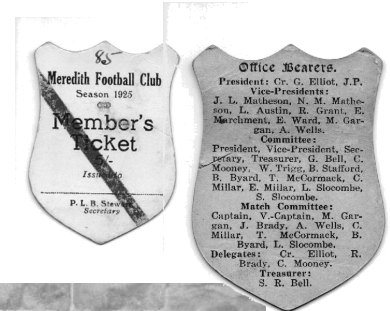
Great Uncle Les was secretary of the Meredith Football club and I have his original membership ticket number

*There are 38 boys in this photo. It is assumed the girls got their own photo.*

185, season 1925.

The only other thing that I remember being told was that little Nancy, Les's preschool daughter, would occasionally wander from the schoolhouse residence, where the Community Centre is now. She was always spotted standing in the doorway by some sharp eyed child. One of the big girls was given the task of returning her back to her mother.

The group photo is dated 1922 so I know that my Great Uncle Les was headmaster at Meredith Primary School for at least four years. Unfortunately, I never met him as he died before I was born. Great Aunt Ruth was 102 when she died.



# Avalon 2023

*Don Atherton*

Local residents may have noticed a lot of activity around Lethbridge Airport between 27<sup>th</sup> February and 5<sup>th</sup> March this year.

Avalon Airshow normally uses 2 runways at Avalon – the main runway being 3 kms long and used for the air displays, and a secondary parallel runway 1 kilometre long which has traditionally been used for light aircraft visiting, but not part of the airshow. This year the secondary runway has not been available, and Lethbridge Airport was asked to take on the role, together with Geelong Sports Aviators flying club which is based at Lethbridge.

Visitors came from far & wide with aircraft flying in from country Victoria and interstate. Some found hotel accommodation in Geelong, some camped under wing, others brought caravans, motor homes and campers, many camped in tents, and some had a day visit. At least one visitor came from Perth, a family from New Zealand combined a holiday with a visit to the airshow, and a couple from Sydney driving past on the Midland Highway came in to investigate the gathering of campers and stayed for 4 days.

Several hundred visitors took advantage of the free shuttle bus service between Lethbridge and Avalon over the 6 days of the Airshow.

Geelong Sports Aviators provided food & beverages, entertainment, and marshalling assistance for the visiting aircraft.

## In the School Garden with the ...Planters, Weeders and a Waterer

### *Bambino Broccoli*

To plant the broccoli, you need to dig a little hole and plant each seedling two hand span spaces apart. Every day you look underneath the leaves for the little eggs from the white cabbage butterflies and gently brush them off or they will hatch and eat all the leaves. What has not been helping is the chooks have been digging holes, and dust bathing in our garden, so later on we are going to put a stick fence around it. They have been jumping onto the strawberries and eating them, too - none for us!

*Evangeline*

### *Flourishing Flowers*

We planted alyssum, petunias and lobelia and they are beautiful. The alyssum are white, the petunias are red and the lobelias are blue and we put them in because they are our school colours. They are in the bed near our art room and will be very colourful when they grow.

*Sophie*

### *War on Weeds*

We are the weeders: Kila, Owen and Piper. It was hard work but we got it done. Some were easy - the easy ones had thin roots that the weeder could grab. The harder ones had thicker roots so all three of us had to use our hands as well and push down on the weeder. All of us wore gloves so we didn't hurt our hands, When we were done we gave the weeds to the chickens and they loved them. We were really tired after but it was fun and we enjoyed using our

muscles. We didn't get all of the weeds - there are still some out there!

*Kila, Owen and Piper*

### *Waves of Water*

I love watering and there it was - gardening is my thing, and watering. I watered the flowers and the baby broccoli after they were planted. We will put in some kale, too.

*Spencer*

When seedlings are first put in the wicking beds, they need to be watered in and then for the next couple of days. After that, their roots travel down to the moisture in the water well at the base and no further watering from the top is required.

Good things to plant in APRIL and MAY are BROAD BEANS, BEETROOT, BROCCOLI, CABBAGE, CAULIFLOWER, GARLIC, and PEAS. This is also a great time to pop in flower bulbs like DAFFODILS, HYACINTHS, FREESIAS, RANUNCULI, TULIPS and many more. These grow well in pots so you can bring them out when they are flowering and hide them away when they start to die off.

It's **GIANT PUMPKIN CHALLENGE** time again. This year, the pumpkins will be weighed and measured on **THURSDAY 4th MAY** at the Meredith Primary School. Bring your pumpkins in from **10am**. The categories are for **ADULTS and CHILDREN** for **HEAVIEST** and **BIGGEST** and there is also the **BEST DECORATED USING NATURAL MATERIALS** and this last category can be any type of pumpkin. If your pumpkins didn't enjoy the damp, chilly season, come along for a look and join in the fun. See you there!



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## Once Upon a Benson CHAPTER 3

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

**Last time.....** *We meet the OTHER Benson family- Bonnie, daughter of Merv and Margie and her family-husband Jason and their teenage kids, Johnny and Lottie. Bonnie and Jason are reflective of their teens behaviours and society today. We also meet shire councillor, Gerald Crocker and his practically solo existence. The story unfolds...*

Scott raises his head from the cloud like pillow that he was no longer accustomed to.

"Where am I?" It took a few seconds for Scott to register that he was safely tucked up in his childhood bedroom.

That old familiar scent of home. Scott recalled his longing for this, in prison, during his darkest and most reflective hours. He now had the chance to rectify his life, define his future. The feeling remained that Scott may have to move away, in order to make a fresh start. The scene of his unintended crime.

Perhaps a cabin, in a caravan park, would suffice?

Mum and Dad have given such unwavering support, thought Scott. Mum, more so than Dad. Scott thought about his father and the sore disappointment he had shown towards Scott, since the accident. A wave of shame and guilt washed over Scott yet again.

Will Dad ever forgive me?

"What's done is done, son" Scott imagined his father would say, if the subject was ever broached between them. Most likely though, it wouldn't be.

Eunice Kingsley sat quietly at her dining room table, eating a slice of swiss roll. These sure aren't as generous in taste as they used to be, she thought, making a dissatisfied face. Eunice continued with her crossword.

"A something NA..." The answer popped into her head. Gleefully, she shouted "anagram!" to nobody.

Eunice lived alone and had done since her husband had died 17 years ago. Eunice still missed him but life went on.

Not that she didn't get lonely. Eunice didn't like pets-too messy, too needy! She liked people watching. Perhaps a little too much....

Merv and Margie had been out to lunch, with some long time friends. Once home, Margie kicked off her shoes, relieved to feel the air between her toes. She had always despised shoes and loved the feeling of freedom that came with Summer. Margie felt tired and felt like she needed to lay down. Merv was out tinkering in his beloved shed, a daily ritual. It kept him out of Margie's hair for a bit!

Margie enjoyed that floating feeling, just before sleep, when your thoughts didn't make sense. She awoke to Merv, gently rousing her.

"How long have I been asleep?" Margie dopily asked her husband.

"Not sure Luv. Would you like a cuppa?"

"Yes please". The heat of their bedroom had made Margie thirsty. She could hear Merv cluttering about in the kitchen.

Margie went to sit up, when a sharp pain shot up her right side.

"Ooooh!" Margie cried out in surprise. Merv came rushing back in.

"Everything OK Luv? What's the matter?"

"I don't know. A really sharp pain in my side. Never felt it before". Margie grimaced. "I'll be right".

She alighted from the bed and ambled into the kitchen, for her cuppa.

Merv was looking concerned but was on his way back outside.

"Sing out if you are having trouble, won't you Luv?"

"Yes but I reckon I should be OK," Margie replied. She did feel though, that something was not quite right.

Call it women's instinct. Margie did not want to further worry Merv, after the stress of waiting to see whether Scott was to get parole.

Scott? Where was their son? Margie could not recall seeing him since this morning. He has only returned to the family home a week ago but was not saying much. Conversations between Merv and Scott had been virtually non existent. Margie could cut the air with a knife some evenings.

What can I do to fix this situation? Margie thought. Should I call Bonnie and see what she thinks? Margie and her daughter, Bonnie, had always been close.

Bonnie will just say "Let them sort it themselves, Mum!" Margie decided that Bonnie is usually right.

Margie flashed back to that awful pain of 20 minutes ago and resigned herself to making a doctors appointment.

Prevention is better than cure, her mother would always say. Margie happened to agree.

to be continued...

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## it's history

Meredith History Interest Group

### Annual Meeting:

On March 26 the Annual Meeting was held in the Memorial Hall. A report of this meeting and the presentation by Tony Scott informing us about the first ocean liner, the SS Great Britain that brought more than 15,000 immigrants to Australia between 1852 and 1856, will appear in the next issue.

### Subscriptions:

Annual Fees are now due. They can be paid at the Annual Meeting by bank transfer, by cheque made out to Meredith History Interest Group or in cash by calling in at the History Centre on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

### Cobb & Co:

MHIG received an email from Hazel Johnson telling us about a book she has just launched about Cobb & Co. It appears that this is her third book about Cobb & Co, the first two detailing Cobb & Co's trips between Tenterfield and Warwick and the second detailing Cobb & Co's trips between Brisbane and Charleville. Her third book details the drivers of the coaches in alphabetical order and she says that this is just the tip of the iceberg. She has started collecting information about more drivers for another volume and asks if anyone who had ancestors who drove for Cobb & Co, to please contact her and share their story. MHIG purchased her new book. One old driver explained that *except on a few occasions we were early to bed and at 5.30 am we were up, breakfasted, and ready to face another day of anything up to 60 miles. Pay was small in those days and the staple meal of mutton and damper was so scarce that we never suffered from indigestion. We smoked vile black tobacco sometimes, though people said it would kill us, and had a drink occasionally. There was nothing better though than the fresh bush air and the scent of the old gum trees.*

### A Bad Leg Cured:

Mrs Margaret Mulrooney of Long Gully, Steiglitz had lived hereabouts for 43 years. For 20 years she couldn't wear a boot owing to a bad leg, a distressing ailment common to her sex. She was in terrible agony and her whole system was more or less affected. Death would have been a happy release. At times she could not even sit up and had to crawl about on her hands and knees. Doctors and medicines could not cure her but Dr Williams' Pink Pills did. She took several boxes and her leg rapidly healed up. All pain disappeared, she could wear her boots and could walk any distance.

### Open Day:

Sunday, May 7, 10 am – 3 pm is our planned open day at MHIG. Come to the History Centre on that day to see what we do, to see what we have and to enjoy scones, jam and cream, home made by Gail.

## Door Dolly

*Last year when we entered the farm gate at Glenairlie to see the art we were met by a very attractive lady in a smart red coat who had black curly hair. She welcomed us enthusiastically. One of our girls recognized her from her TV Show. Here is Kerry Milligan's story.*

I have been close friends with Steve and Adele Duffy (owners of Glenairlie Homestead in Meredith) for over 40 years. When they bought Glenairlie nearly seven years ago, I began visiting regularly to seek relief from a very stressful time in my life. Their generosity and hospitality were the balm I needed.

One night we were sitting around in the kitchen after a wonderful dinner talking about their dream to renovate the out buildings and maybe turn them into an event space. We explored the idea of an art exhibition. I'm an art teacher, my "fancy man" Michael Clark, is a painter and collectively we knew quite a few creative people. So, "Art on the Farm" became a reality, now held annually. It's already grown from four artists in 2022 to seven artists this year. It's evolved into a cultural event with food, local wines, music and art in the beautiful, rustic setting of an historic farm. My duties at the event are generally supportive, a bit of everything: "door dolly", "parking monitor", "bar maid" (I have an RSA certificate), "reception" and "go between". As an art teacher for over 40 years, I've developed many, varied skills which are put to good use during all phases of this event.

Another pursuit in my life is that I appeared on a TV Show for the last seven years called "Gogglebox" with my 94 year old mum Emmie and my daughter Isabelle. Although this year mum isn't on it with us as she was diagnosed with dementia last year, so is now no longer living with me and is in care near by where we live in Bayside, Melbourne. During lockdown we were approached by the publisher Simon and Schuster to write a three-way memoir about the lives of three generations of women. "Out of the Box" was realised last year and is currently being made into a mini-series with Isabelle as the executive producer. Apparently a three-way memoir on the subjects pertaining to the lives of women had never been done before.

I met Michael online about five years ago (OK Cupid where you had to answer 400 questions to get a good match). We were matched 98%! The 2% of un-matchability were Abba and dancing. I love Abba and I've done some form of dance all my adult life. I did learn Tango for seven years but currently do NIA classes.

Michael was a journalist many years ago, but now that he has retired he's gone back to his art school training and is painting full time. His work is based on the themes of nature and reflections. #mikeclarkartist on Instagram. I'm his muse, so I'm biased but I think that he's very talented and his paintings are special. He has been inspired by Glenairlie, its rocks and sticks down by Deadmans Creek and reflections in the dams.

When I'm not on TV I'm an educational consultant for the School Refusal Clinic using my 25 years' experience working as the art teacher in adolescent psychiatry at Monash Children's Hospital. I am also a member of the Bayside CWA, the most feminist organization I have so far discovered.

We hope to see you all next year at "Art on the Farm" as the beauty of such a wonderful location and the hospitality of Steve and Adele is an asset the whole community and beyond can enjoy.



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## BOOK REVIEW.

By Alex Hyatt

### “Humanity’s Moment A Climate Scientist’s Hope”

by Joëlle Gergis

*Dr Gergis is a lead author on the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on the Climate Change’s Sixth Assessment Report.*

#### Overview.

How many times do we read articles about doom and gloom in respect to changing environment conditions and climate change? Indeed recent articles refer to climate change as a global issue that poses a threat to humanity and the planet, it all seems hopeless. A recent report (AR6) from the IPCC (the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) states that it is now "unequivocal" that climate is changing as a result of human activity, and that it is a threat to human societies and the natural world.

The author of “Humanity’s Moment A Climate Scientist’s Hope’ examines the current state of climate changes based on approximately seven years of in-depth assessments on various topics, and provides insights on how individuals, governments and corporations can take action to mitigate its effects. Gergis presents a compelling case for the urgent need to address climate change, highlighting the devastating impacts that global warming is already having on the planet. She delivers a dire warning that if warming continues at the current rate it will most likely be too much for some communities and ecosystems to survive, for example with extreme weather events becoming more frequent, approximately 3.3 to 3.6 billion people living in low lying areas will be “highly vulnerable” to displacement. She also describes the “spillover” of pathogens (e.g. viruses) from animals to society arising from ongoing human and climate related changes to native forests.

Gergis argues that the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as bushfires, hurricanes and droughts are clear signs that the world is facing a climate emergency. She discusses the importance of understanding the historical context of climate change, pointing out that the current warming trend is unprecedented in at least the past 2000 years. The book includes an analysis of data dating back centuries, which highlights the sharp increase in global temperatures since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. Insight is given into the challenges of climate modelling and the uncertainty that remains around some of the scientific predictions.

One of the main arguments of the book is that while the scale of the challenge posed by climate change is daunting, there are reasons for hope. Gergis discusses examples of individuals and organisations who are taking action, highlighting the progress that has been made in areas such as renewable energy, conservation and sustainable agriculture. She also argues that a shift towards a more sustainable and equitable economic model is not only necessary but is required to bring about positive social and economic benefits.

#### Comments.

Gergis presents a balanced and scientifically rigorous case for the urgency of action on climate change. She effectively conveys the data and scientific evidence and relevance supporting the reality and seriousness of climate change. Her sensitivity to the changes to our environment and society is evident throughout the book and when she refers to areas for possible and positive changes. This book is one of a few books that identify the many ‘drivers’ contributing to climate change and the deterioration of “ecological services” that provide the essentials for life and society as we know it.

#### Changing attitudes.

Gergis argues that changing society attitudes is possible. She states “While the scale of the problem is overwhelming, don’t let the fact that you can’t do everything stop you from doing something. What you choose to do, no matter how small, makes a difference, even if you can’t see it now.” In our district there are many examples of individuals and groups interacting with the environment e.g. “*Friends of the Brisbane Ranges*”, the *Maude-Steiglitz-She Oaks Community Planning Group* course on identifying native flora and fauna, ecological surveys (e.g. the *Don’t Undermine Steiglitz* and *She Oaks Community Groups*), the *People for a Living Moorabool* group campaigning for the sustainability of a living Moorabool River, visitors to the area (e.g. campers, walkers and cyclists enjoying the environment), acknowledgement of indigenous culture, and investment in renewable power sources and sustainable farm practices. According to one of Gergis’s main messages for her readers is for us to contribute to change. If you subscribe to Gergis’s message then the major challenge is for us to actively involve our State and Federal representatives with our community and demonstrate to them how many of us enjoy our area of residence and care for our environment. As one Federal MP stated on a recent Zoom meeting on climate change, they (the politicians) can only promote policy when they know what the electorate wants, that is, policy must be identified by local residents and driven from the ground/bottom up. According to Gergis if society attitudes continue to change it may reach a “tipping point” and it is then that change happens (i.e. the politicians take notice).

I found this an important book. The book’s positive outlook and advocacy for transformative changes in societal behaviour provide a much needed hope that we can all contribute towards the betterment of our planet. The book is easy to read and engaging, if you read it then I recommend you finish it, and think about the messages and discuss your thoughts with your friends and book club.





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- \* Very wide range of interesting bric-a-brac
- \* Gardening equipment

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## MEDIA RELEASE

18 March 2023

### Join Meredith's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Ambulance Victoria (AV) is looking for more recruits to join the Meredith Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

Meredith's CERT is made up of volunteers who provide support to Meredith and surrounding areas 24 hours a day, seven days a week as a First Responder.

CERTs can be found in less populated and remote areas of Victoria where there is a low ambulance caseload and no branch.

They are dispatched to potentially time-critical emergencies at the same time as an ambulance. CERT members are required to live within 12km of the community and, as such, they are often the first to arrive on scene.

They respond to traffic accidents, medical cases and other incidents requiring emergency care, but do not transport patients to hospital.

AV Meredith CERT Team Leader Martin Peters said CERT members were valued community members and the human connection between the rural community and the health system.

"We are looking for volunteers who may be interested in becoming a First Responder for Ambulance Victoria in Meredith," he said.

"We have a small team of volunteers who work hard to ensure our community has the best support in the event of an emergency.

"They are caring and committed people who sacrifice their time to put their neighbours first.

"As a CERT member, you will be helping people at a time

of great need and know that you have made a difference to their life and health outcomes."

Becoming a First Responder with AV offers many personal benefits, including the opportunity to:

- Gain practical life skills and a recognised qualification.
- Enjoy a sense of achievement and fulfilment.
- Meet people and make new friends and connections.
- Enhance your own career prospects and learning pathways.

Continual education opportunities and pathway to paramedicine.

Mr Peters said applicants who became CERT members would undergo a brief interview process as well as comprehensive training, including a driving course.

"Joining Meredith CERT is an opportunity to help your community," he said.

For more information contact Meredith CERT Team Leader Martin Peters by emailing:

[martin.peters@ambulance.vic.gov.au](mailto:martin.peters@ambulance.vic.gov.au)

Find the application form and other details here:

[www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/careers/become-a-first-responder](http://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/careers/become-a-first-responder)

#### **Background:**

First Responders enable a more timely response to medical emergencies in rural areas, with early intervention and support for patients, while awaiting the arrival of an ambulance.

If you are interested in becoming a First Responder, a medical background is not required as you'll undertake training to develop and maintain your life-saving skills.

**For further information please contact  
Ambulance Victoria Media Liaison**

**P: (03) 9090 5582 or E: [media@ambulance.vic.gov.au](mailto:media@ambulance.vic.gov.au)**



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# Meredith Cricket Club

Season 2022/23 is complete for the Meredith Cricket Club.

A good time to reflect on some amazing individual and team performances throughout the year.

The First XI unfortunately didn't make the finals this year, but some extra reinforcements with recruitment over winter should change the outcome this time next year.

The Second XI had a great year. It's been well over a decade since they've played finals and the drought was broken when we came up against Waurn Ponds in a Semi Final. Unfortunately the result didn't favour us, but next year looks promising as we have commitments from players in both grades looking to strive for a more successful season.

However, success isn't always measured by the wins we had on a Saturday. We had new players/families at the club, successful club functions and some wonderful individual performances. Even with our weather impacted challenges at the beginning of the season, the environment at the club was always of a positive nature.

Next season we're excited to announce the we are introducing both Junior and Woman's cricket to the club and we can't wait to take that next step in providing this opportunity to the broader community .

**We encourage anyone who may be interested to give Terry Hart a call on 0418 178 513.**

Presentation night occurred on the 17th of March. Listed below are our major award winners:

**First XI**

Bowling Average: Eugene Stanciu

Batting Average: Eugene Stanciu

Rod Rayner Allrounder Award: Eugene Stanciu

**Second XI**

Bowling Average: Damian Brunt

Batting Average: Cameron Boer

Willy Nolan Allrounder Award: Damian Brunt

**Club Awards:**

Duck Award: Joel Hart

Grinter Medal - Young Cricketer Of The Year: Sam Vaartjes

Terry Hart - Club Champion: Eugene Stanciu

Mrs Phyl Hart - Best Club Person: Shane Grinter

Congratulations to all award winners, in particular our coach Eugene Stanciu, who had a great year with bat and ball.

That wraps up this season, thank you to everyone for a very enjoyable year.

Thank you to our wonderful club committee who has done so much behind closed doors.

See you all next season.

**Shane Grinter**

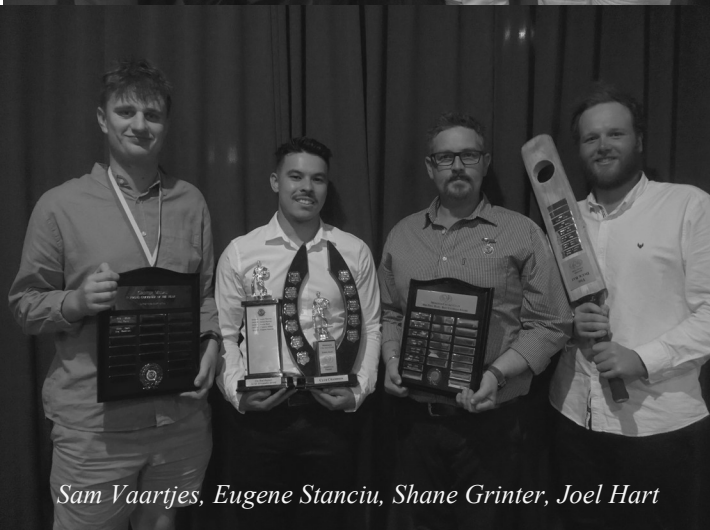
*(President, Meredith Cricket Club 0466 263 013)*



*Cam Boer, Anthony Harding, Damian Brunt, Daniel Measures, Craig Whitehand.*



*Chesney Milne, Eugene Stanciu*



*Sam Vaartjes, Eugene Stanciu, Shane Grinter, Joel Hart*

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## Marg's Book Review

### The Wattle Island Book Club by Sandie Docker

As we read the book the suspense builds. Something happened at the Book Club seven years ago, and now Anne has found the courage to restart the Book Club hoping that the truth will be uncovered. She may need a bit of luck and the help of Grace, a librarian on the mainland, who organises sending the books out, and has a bucket list entry where she wants to solve a mystery.

Anne and Grace join forces to help the island's residents come to terms with the trauma which tore the book Club apart, left a book shop closed and a pervasive, lingering sadness amongst the townspeople.

Reviews say the book is about courage to make a new beginning, passion for new challenges and hope for a town's future. It is a book about taking risks and finding a new lease on life. Readers are encouraged to believe that it is never too late to rewrite your own story.

Grace was an especially well drawn character. She has written bucket lists since she was a child and has recently bungee jumped. Heading to Wattle Island to help the Book Club re-establish, is a challenge for her both because of the mystery to be solved and because her health is fragile. She also wants to escape from her hovering, protective mother.

The past life of Anne, her son Sam and others is revealed in chapters inserted between the chapters telling the present story. Of particular interest is the treatment of Tadashi, the child of Japanese parents but Australian born. Anne first meets him as the deckhand on the Seafarer, the boat which delivers supplies to the island and then later in Sydney where he works at the dockyards. He shares a love of books with Anne.

The novel is a tribute to the love of books, sharing them and discussing them, passing them to one another and drawing comfort from them. Also, the joy of developing the artist in each of us.

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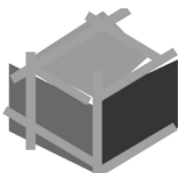
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# A Synchronistic Discovery

*Melissa Arch*

She Oaks is a most beautiful place to live, which I have been fortunate to call my home for 2 years.

One recent Saturday afternoon, my desire for “out with the old, in with the new,” led me to uncover something that was beyond our belief!

I am not a fan of the many cacti, planted previously on our acreage. There was a particular overgrown clump, near the bungalow, which continued to bother me.

I satisfyingly attacked it with a handsaw, until just a stalk remained. The cacti had sat in a rusted tin can, which I discovered was firmly rooted to the earth.

With pure grit, I managed to free the tin can, where it showed to be bottomless. It was also too heavy for me to carry.

My husband said he would move it to the rubbish pile tomorrow.

“You’ll never guess what is written on the tin can!” he excitedly exclaimed the next morning.

“What?” I asked, with minimal interest, being preoccupied with another task.

“Come and have a look!” This went back and forth until I gave in and he told me: “L Dark Rokewood”.

“No way!” I exclaimed in disbelief. He again urged me to take a look.

Sure enough, there was a plaque soldered onto the tin can, stating my maternal grandfather’s name, Lloyd Dark.

Mum grew up in Rokewood, on a soldier’s settlement farm, in the 50s and 60’s, with nan and Pa moving to Geelong in the early 70’s.

The news spread through the family, in the days to come. It was confirmed by my uncle, who used to milk the cows, that it was a can used to separate the cream from the milk.

I always knew we were supposed to buy this place but this cemented the idea. Synchronicity at its finest....



*Alex Hyatt*

The sketchers met in March for another challenging and fun morning of sketching and painting, yes painting as some sketchers brought their paints. After introductions, we headed off to Steiglitz to sketch the ‘Drapers Cottage’. The group spread out taking in different perspectives of the cottage and sketched in pencil, charcoal and watercolour. We finished at the local cafe for lunch. Once again the weather was excellent and everyone enjoyed the morning. The photo includes 10 of our now 17 strong group.

Next outing is on Tuesday 11th April. Meet at the Meredith Community Centre at 10am.



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*G'Day from the penners for April. Beware, this month's story is a murder! Written by Peter Wilding. If you enjoy reading our word's please let us know, we are happy to receive feedback, send your comments to our email address. [goldenpen4@gmail.com](mailto:goldenpen4@gmail.com)*

*Cheers.*

### **Knitting Needle.**

Mavis was one of those people who just quietly got on with life. Every weekday she would walk to the shops, buy a few things, and walk back. Ed offered to drive her, of course, but she wasn't having any of that. He was enough trouble around the house, and often an outright embarrassment when they were out. Besides, she didn't want to do her shopping on a Saturday morning when it suited him; it was too busy. He never thought of that.

Once a week she would deviate from her daily pattern. On Fridays, after she had been to the grocer, the greengrocer, the butcher and the milk bar, she would turn her steps up the hill and go into the fourth shop on the right. This was Marge's library. A private library, where if you paid sixpence you could borrow a book for a fortnight, or keep it for longer if Marge knew you, and nobody had been asking for it. Marge knew Mavis well, but she never kept a book that long. She was always reading.

She'd always been a reader. Back on the farm in her childhood days she'd climb up a tree when nobody was looking – with a book. Put her in the front room to practice her piano lessons, and she'd climb out the window – with a book. Always had her nose in a book. But now she was stuck in a run-down inner-city suburb with no public library. But Marge was there – with a book. Lots of them.

Mavis's thing was murder mysteries. Agatha Christie, Raymond Chandler – she'd read the lot. She could talk plots and twists, motives, methods and madness, until the cows came home – if she had anyone interested to listen. Or interesting to talk to.

Her other thing was knitting. The boy grew so fast, she always seemed to be knitting jumpers. Not school jumpers, she drew the line there. They had to look just *so*. By saving pennies she was able to buy him those. He knew he had to change out of those when he got home; they had to last. If she wasn't reading a book she'd be sitting there, needles twirling away while the latest jumper slowly grew. Ed raved on, swore at the politicians on the telly, or sulked over his losses at the races, while she ignored him, and knitted.

One day she snapped. He'd been watching World of Sport on the telly – not that he'd actually play anything nowadays – with the volume turned up as always. Stupid man was going deaf – but of course he wouldn't admit it. Too proud and arrogant for that. What had she ever seen in him? Even the boy had asked her that. And then after she'd slaved away over a hot stove in that tiny kitchen, he'd complained about the steak being tough. Damn lucky

to get steak at all with what he brought home. And they'd had words – well, a ding-dong argument, and the boy had gone to his room and shut the door. Quietly, but firmly. Not coming out, it said. He'd be there until tea-time at least, so easily hurt, hiding in his own private world where even she couldn't follow.

Now Ed slept on the couch. Pig of a man! Right, this was it. She picked up her knitting, quickly cast off and slipped the wool off the needle. She only needed the one for this. Stalking over to the recumbent figure, she sized up his anatomy, bent down and shoved the needle in under his left ribcage, angling up.

He jerked awake, and started to rise. "I can't believe you stabbed me with a knitting needle" he exclaimed. She growled and forced the needle in further, harder, as far as it would go.

He said no more.

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