

Meredith & district News



OUR **FREE** COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023



inside

- Aviation opportunities at Lethbridge.
 - Meredith Tech Hub (and an electricity pump!)
 - Morrison Church reopens
- ...and the usual LOTS MORE!

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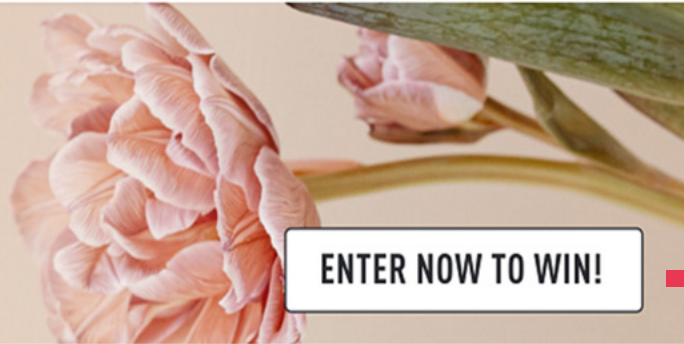
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MOORABOOL Wind Farm

COMMUNITY UPDATE - May 2023

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.

Community Fund

As part of Round Four of the community fund we were pleased to fund 11 local initiatives and one scholarship. The next opportunity to apply for grant and scholarship funding will be mid-2023. Keep an eye out for details.



Ballan Golf Club purchased a new utility tractor with the support of Round 4 Community Fund.

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

Bannockburn Central



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Bannockburn Central



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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, Nerida Anderson and Ian Leighton. Production is undertaken by Peter Boer, Don Atherton, Marlene Johnson and Jim Elvey.

NEWS & VIEWS

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

DATES AND DEADLINES

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

ADVERTISING

Advertising in the M&D Newsletter is a great way to let district residents know about your business. Rates, excluding GST, are as follows:

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| | B&W/Colour |
| Business Card | \$20.00 |
| Quarter page | \$30.00 |
| Half page | \$50/\$110 |
| Full page | \$100/\$200 |

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

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

CONTACT US

Post Office, Meredith, 3333

Advertising: Ian 0409 016815

advertising@meredithnews.com.au

Accounts: Mike 0419 307044

accounts@meredithnews.com.au

Editorial: Jim: 0409 163169

news@meredithnews.com.au

WEB

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

ONLINE PHOTOS

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

DISCLAIMER

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

FEEDBACK

Yes please! Send it to news@meredithnews.com.au

Issue Production: Peter Boer Editor: Jim Elvey

connect

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| ADVANCE MEREDITH 0409 027 359 | FOOTBALL Seniors 0408 545246 Juniors 0430 587 674 |
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| B'BURN ART GROUP 0410 808 483 | HISTORY GROUP 5286 8201 |
| BLUE LIGHT DISCO 5286 1222 | LANDCARE 0409 862 326 |
| BOOK CLUB 5286 8201 | MEMORIAL HALL 0409 662106 |
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| CHILDCARE 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 |
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| | 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 |

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 |
| a/h emergency | 0408 508 635 |
| Ranger | 5220 7111 |
| | or 0409 830 223 |
| Bannockburn Vet | 5281 1221 |
| Golden Plains Animal | 5281 2226 |
| Pets and Horses 24/7 | 0421 617 238 |

Justices of the Peace

Mr Don Atherton. 0409 869 960

Mr Paul Ryan Elaine 0409 861 296

services

| | |
|---|---|
| CEMETERY TRUST 5286 1550 | MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH 5220 7230 |
| HALL HIRE Meredith Memorial 5286 1545 Elaine Mechanics elainetownhall@gmail.com Elaine Rec Res 5341 5703 | PRE-SCHOOL 5286 0722 |
| LIBRARY VAN 5272 6010 | PRIMARY SCHOOL 5286 1313 |
| | RECREATION RESERVE 0429 315 575 |

..or start something.

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



When I can look Life in the eyes,
Grown calm and very coldly wise,
Life will have given me the Truth,
And taken in exchange — my youth.
~Sara Teasdale



COMMUNITY

Meredith's ANZAC Ceremony

Mick Devlin

Once again the Meredith RSL, in conjunction with the wider Meredith community, organised a fantastic and moving ANZAC ceremony. A turn out of around 250 people were present for the annual ceremony and the march through the town.

The day commenced with the traditional prayers and hymns followed by words from this year's guest speaker (and new Meredith RSL Sub Branch president) Mick Devlin. This was followed by a fantastic rendition of 'I am Australian' by the Meredith primary school kids, led by Kym Ivory.

After the inside ceremonial formalities were finished, the march was undertaken throughout the town by Ex-serving and community members. This was led by the amazing bag pipes and drums of Donna and Matt Murrell.

After the completion of the march there was the traditional laying of wreaths by community groups and families followed by the last post and reveille.

The Meredith RSL would like to extend a very special thank you to the Ferry family and Olivia Jones for providing the delicious morning tea. Your generous contributions are very much appreciated.

The Meredith RSL would also like thank its out going president David Jones for his years of exemplary service. David's son Chris spoke about his service to both his country and local community. David has served since 1958 with the military and has also served the local Meredith community as a Meredith CFA member and is the longest serving branch captain in it's 130 year history.

Thanks to the community for coming out and connecting over such an important local event.

(Mick Devlin's address is published in full at meredithnews.com.au/extras)

Meredith Senior Citizens

Jim Hynds, President.

The long-awaited bus trip to Daylesford took place on Monday, April 24. Meredith Bus Lines transported us to Ballan for our first stop for morning tea which consisted of tea, coffee and many cakes provided by the bus company.

Then off to Daylesford. Throughout our journey Chris and Maxine ran raffles with many members winning valuable prizes. When we arrived at Daylesford, John, our bus driver took us on a scenic tour of Daylesford before we alighted at the Convent Gallery. After a tour of the Convent to see the art and appreciate the history of the building, we sat down for a great meal followed by tea and coffee. All too soon we set off for home but John had a surprise for us. He took us to the Chocolate Factory for afternoon tea which made it a fantastic day for all.

Many thanks to John our driver, a great guy and a brilliant driver. Thanks also to Leah and the team of the Community House for making our day possible. We had a fantastic day out!

**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



OUR COVER

Cathie Boer took our cover photo of this year's Anzac Day march through Meredith. We also acknowledge Brooke Rose's sunset photo which graced last month's front cover. Thank you Cathie and Brooke.



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

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 or

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 5pm. May 6, 13, 20, 27

St. Brigid, Anakie @ 9am. May 14, 28

St. Joseph, Meredith @ 9am. May 7, 21

St. Mary MacKillop, Bannockburn @ 11am. May 7, 14, 21, 28

Sacred Heart, Inverleigh @ 4pm. May 21

Bingo at Elaine

Bingo is a game of chance in which each player matches the numbers printed on card with the numbers randomly drawn by the host. The winner is the player who marks all the numbers printed on her or his card first.

Bingo was played at the Elaine Hall on Sunday, March 26. A caller from Ballarat entertained and all attendees agreed that Bingo at Elaine should become a regular event on their calendar.

Bingo at Elaine was the initiative of members of the Hall Committee, to not only raise funds for maintenance of the hall but to provide a local event for people to come together and socialise. Bingo was held on a Sunday afternoon so people didn't have to travel at night and negotiate kangaroos on the roads.

Line Dancing is also being conducted at the Elaine Hall. This event is being run by the Recreation Reserve Committee and once again, one of its aims is to bring people of Elaine together into a community.

Watch out for dates for forthcoming Bingo and Line Dancing at Elaine!



Recreation



Croc Report



Mick Devlin

The Crocs travelled to Sunbury to take on Sunbury Masters football club. With a few players pulling out, it was a last minute scramble to ensure we fielded a side. In the end we had enough to have 2 on the bench which was greatly appreciated due to the size of the oval.

The game was tough from the start. The Sunbury lads kicked the first couple of goals then we kicked a couple to stay competitive. By the third quarter it was very a close game. The fourth quarter saw the Crocs came out firing, but in the end ran out of legs, and the Sunbury lads kicked away. A great game of footy and great hosts.

We also had a very enjoyable trip home with plenty of ribbing and banter.

Best players for the day:

Wellys was fantastic in his return game picking up plenty of quality possessions.

Now on 99 games Col Mullane returned after open heart surgery and did not miss a beat. Straight back into his signature hard ball play and always providing an option.

As always our oldest player and games record holder, Sid Jones was our focal point up forward and he finished the day with 4 goals.

There were also some great individual efforts around the ground by Mick Rooney, John Peterson, Greg 'Punter' Pont, Mick Smith and Kevin Murray.

Thanks very much to Kev Bats for driving the bus and also to our sponsors for the awards, The Royal Hotel Meredith and the Meredith Dairy.

On the 7th of May we have a couple of huge Milestones

Scott Cowie will play his 150th game,

Col Mullane will play his 100th game and

Scott Nelson will play his 50th game.

We would love for all the Meredith community to get behind the Crocs and come to support us on this day.





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 - ✓ Upgraded **skate park**

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Member for Eureka

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☎ 5331 7722 ✉ michaela.settle@parliament.vic.gov.au
📱 [MichaelaSettleMP](#)



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working for our community

What's On

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Fermentation Made Easy with Narelle

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Watercolours for Beginners - Marion East

6 Week Class - Starts - May 17 - \$480
12:30 - 3.00

For Kids!

Movement, Mindfulness & Meditation with Jade

Prep - Grade 4 - Mondays - 3.30pm - \$12 per class
Grade 5 - Year 9 - Wednesdays - 3.30pm - \$12 per class
Kindergarten - Wednesdays - 2.10pm - \$12 per class

Mums & Bubs

Movement, Mindfulness & Meditation with Jade

Mondays - 2pm - \$12 per class

**ESCAPE THE COLD
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Free Soup and Information Session

Bookings - Golden Plains Shire - 5220 7151

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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
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PLAYGROUP
TUESDAYS FROM MAY 2
9.00am - 11.30am
\$2 per family

The Philatelist

Michael Riseley



Wallpaper Stamps

Stamp collecting for collectors is a fun hobby but for postal administrations, it is revenue. After WW11 this was certainly true for communist Eastern Europe. Some of these countries began issuing hundreds of stamps each year often in sets of 4 to 10 stamps and generally with the last 2 being of higher denominations well above the normal postal rates for their countries. They were often large in size, very colourful and based on a theme such as birds, ships, flowers, animals, trains, Olympics, space and so on. All designed to attract the attention of stamp collectors, but making sure that sufficient quantities were released to their post offices, for general postal use and thereby meeting the requirements of the Universal Postal Union. But the main reason for issuing so many stamps, was that stamp dealers worldwide would need to buy them so as to satisfy their customer's demands. And they paid for their purchases quite wonderfully, and ironically perhaps, in US dollars!!

As an example East Germany issued 3,000 stamps in its short 50 years existence. Great Britain issued the world's first postage stamp in 1840 and in the 170 years to 2010 has issued only 3,100. Australia has issued 3,400 up to 2010.

Other communist countries such as Cuba and North Korea followed suit. In the 40 years 1960 to 2000, North Korea issued 3,800 stamps. Some South American and Arab countries also followed the trend. In the 30 years 1980 to 2010, Guyana issued 6,000 stamps.

But the masters of this practice are 2 small West Indies countries. St Vincent has a population of 111,920 and issued 5,300 stamps in the 30 years 1980 to 2010. And the winner is Grenada which has a population of 126,183 and issued 3,300 stamps in the 20 years 1990 to 2010. And a further 2,700 stamps in this period under the name Grenadines of Grenada being a few small islands it controls to the north of the main island. As such Grenada has issued more stamps than any other country in the world with 9,500 in total up to 2010.

Most collectors, unless collecting on a theme, do not want these stamps and they are generally worth very little apart from the rare one that has actually been used for postage on an envelope. These stamps are often referred to as wallpaper stamps because that is all they are good for!!

Golden Plains Aviation [GPA]

Marg Cooper

It is an exciting place. It is where people realize their dreams.

And so it was for Mark Gallo. He always wanted to fly. He thought about it when he was in his 20's, he thought about it in his 30's, he thought about it in his 40's but in his 50's he thought that he better do it before it was too late so he

learnt to fly at Lethbridge Airport under the tutorage of Bill Weeks. His involvement has increased to the point where he is now a partner in the Flying School with David Mackay who is the Chief Flight Instructor and Peter Landers who is an accountant/lawyer.

It seems a perfect combination of talents with David a very qualified and experienced pilot, Peter, also a keen pilot who looks after the bookwork and Mark who qualified as a mechanic before he created Lara Glass and has since retrained as an L-2 aircraft mechanic so he can service their aeroplanes. He tells that the Aviation Industry has very strict regulations re servicing and GPA has set even higher standards for their operation.

The Flying School bought a P92 Eaglet aeroplane last year so now have three Recreational aircraft for training and to hire out. Mark likes the Italian made plane as it has auto pilot, extra navigational aids, is very safe and is a good training plane.

In a small room on the ground floor of their hangar, No 16, a flight simulator has just been installed. This will allow training to take place on days when the weather is inclement and will allow pilots to practice their skills with less expense. Francisco Angeles who was a pilot in the Philippines has got his licence back by retraining with the chief flight instructor of GPA, Graham Taberner. He suggested and then installed the simulator for GPA. Above this room is an office/meeting room where some of the theory training takes place. It has a wall of glass so when people sit at the table, they overlook the hangar space and if the doors are open, out to the airfield.

Golden Plains Aviation can train anyone from the age of fifteen years of age to obtain their Recreational Aircraft [RA Aus] licence. It is the first step in aviation or the way to begin their flying journey. Many people are content with that qualification but others go on to fly bigger aircraft. Some obtain their GA (General Aviation) or even Commercial licences.

Mark tells that people can book online and choose any of the several instructors that they employ, including Lindy, a female instructor.

Mark likes to keep himself busy! He has a passion for leadlight but he also loves his involvement at Lethbridge Airport. It is exciting!





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Tech Hub in Meredith

Chris Ardrey

The Meredith Sharing Shed Mini-Tech Hub has been fitted out with 3D printers, 3D Milling Machine, 3D Scanner, Vinyl Cutter, Virtual Reality Equipment (including camera, headsets and drone) and computers to both run the equipment and provide access to the Regional Libraries of Victoria. Seminars will be run to teach interested parties on the use of the machines (Free of Charge) and the machines will be available to the community on a user pays basis. (*See notices in this issue.*)

GPS Draft Budget

Community feedback is now invited until 9am Monday 29 May 2023 on Golden Plains Shire Council's Draft Budget 2023/24

The Draft Budget will be available online or in hard copy from 26 April until 29 May before it is considered for endorsement at the Council meeting on 27 June 2023.

Visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations or pick up a copy at Council's Customer Hubs, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn or The Well, 19 Heales Street, Smythesdale.

In May, Council's Finance Team will hold an online forum to answer budget questions from residents that will assist with preparation of a submission to Council. The online forum is on Wednesday 17 May from 6 to 8pm with the link to be posted on Council's website the day prior to the engagement; visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events

Written submissions may be lodged with the Director Corporate Services, PO Box 111, Bannockburn, 3331; email enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au; or visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations

Group Boredom Busters

Rev. Dr. Timothy Smith

I have been the Pastoral Care Community Member on the Human Ethics Committee of Deakin University for 17 years. The role of the committee is to review research proposal and ensure they are meeting the standards of the National Statement for Research involving Humans. Reading the research proposals and attending the meetings can be pretty laborious and boring at times.

One of the complaints many people make about attending church is it is boring. Any organisation we are a part of can be boring from time to time and without friendships we can be tempted to give up our attendance and participation. What can we do to bust the boredom?

Have conversations about purpose - Sometimes working through inevitable issues at your meetings requires conversations that aren't fun or easy or interesting. It can be uncomfortable, but having the conversations about the purpose of the group helps the group stay connected, and cultivates relationship growth in the group. Being emotionally invested in why you joined the group and having that fulfilled is the opposite of being bored!

Embracing diversity - As individuals within our community group we are all likely to be different with different cultures and experience. While a sense of stability is great, don't let the organisational meetings become stagnated. Be open to listening different points of view especially when someone new joins the group. Talk about your feelings of excitement or nervousness, and keeping that communication flowing. Adapting to new perspectives together can be exciting.

Trying new things - Don't do the same thing every time you meet. It could include adding food to your meeting, meeting in a different location, having a guest speaker around a topic of concern, introduce a hobby night related to the interests of the group, or just have a social gathering at the pub. We get to see new sides of other members, creates bonding, enhances feel-good endorphins, which are a perfect antidote to boredom.

Surprising each other - Sometimes we have all been together for a long time. This is a great foundation, but add small surprises allowing members to step outside the box from time to time. Do something that is completely different to the purpose of the group. Meet with another group with a different interest to spark curiosity and broaden thinking about our own group's purpose.

Persist with the group - Remember that there are other members of the group that share your passion for being a part of the organisation. The group doesn't exist for your sake; you joined because you believe in the purpose of the group. It means continuing to put an effort into the group. Sometimes that means doing things that are not a priority on your list, but the reason for the group's existence is worth it.

Small pockets of boredom are pretty normal now and then. However, being consistently bored can sneakily erode away our desire to participate and get done what we believe needs to be done. By incorporating these suggestions we can better nurture our interest and participation in the community organisation of which we are part.

Based on <https://www.prepare-enrich.com/blog/5-marriage-boredom-busters/>



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Morrison's Anglican Church Opening

Megan Waddington

It was a misty drizzly day, but it didn't stop between 60 and 70 locals, and those from further afield gathering in Morrison's for the open house at St James' Anglican Church, previously not opened since before Covid.

Some came to wonder at the stained-glass windows, others to experience the history of this 99-year-old church. Local people came to catch up with neighbours and listen to a range of music provided or attend the Easter Eve service presided over by Bishop Gary Weatherill.

The current church was opened on December 30, 1924, replacing the previous weatherboard church which was moved on a low-rider pulled by a traction engine to

Lethbridge. Local families raised the money for the church with Molesworth, Cole, Parkinson, Soul, Miller, Hodge, Rogers and Price families being amongst the contributors to the building and contents.

Many stories are to be found in the history of the church, including the efforts of Rev Kaneen, who rode his bicycle 19 miles [30km] from Ballan to hold services at Morrison's in the 1910's, when one suspects the roads were not in any better condition than current day!

On Easter Eve, 2023, the church was alive with performances by the Gordon Gypsies, local Morrison's guitarist Jayden Vermeed and the Claritude Clarinet Quartet. People gathered, wondered, reminisced and caught up with friends and family.

Today the church stands as a monument to those who mined and farmed the area in its heyday but hopefully it can remain a central point for the Morrison's Community to congregate and celebrate.



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Success! There he was! A dozen or so lovely photos of the healthy young Wombat nosing around the camera. Now, maybe 2 years later, still no more obvious signs of the Wombat. I still have no idea if he was a visitor, a local resident, or an imposter.

The Wombat

I grew up in the “bush” but spent most of my working life living in suburbia. I came to Meredith 25 years ago and instantly felt as if I was home. There is wildlife galore on my property, a vast array of flora, several varieties of fish and other aquatic wildlife in the river, and over 70 varieties of birdlife. Kangaroos, Wallabies, Echidnas, Koalas, Lizards, Snakes, Phascogales, Sugar Gliders, Platypus and Possums, and the usual variety of pest animals such as Rabbits, Foxes, and Rats, but no Wombats. That fascinated me because after all we are not that far from the “Wombat” forest. I asked around. Everybody I spoke to said, “No wombats near Meredith”.

Then one day a large hole appeared under a wattle bush near my gate. The hole was large but not huge – about 40cm deep and 60cm wide. Mmm – too big for an Echidna? Maybe a dog? My neighbour suggested it was a Pig? Very mysterious! No more mysterious holes or tell-tale signs of whoever dug it, until 6 months later another similar hole appeared, this time within 1 metre of my letter box. My interest was raised again, and I searched high & low for more hints. Nothing. Then a further 6 months later another hole appeared next to a strainer post near my letterbox. Again, nothing else.

About a year, or maybe 2 years later, Deakin University approached me about joining a citizen science project in testing a wildlife camera they had developed. The camera contained smart technology, that would learn to discriminate between species that appeared very often, and those that appeared only occasionally. My job was to check the camera usb stick each week & send the results on to Deakin.




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in our NATURE

Wendy Cook

Two eyes gazed into the darkness, eyes adapted for a nocturnal life. They were larger than the eyes of a daytime animal, with larger pupils allowing more light to enter. A lens near the front of the eye focused the light onto the retina at the back of the eye. The retinas of animals that are active during the day contain cells called cones, which detect colour and brightness, and cells called rods which are useful in low light. Nocturnal animals' eyes have large numbers of rods and few or no cones. This enhances their night vision, but they probably cannot see colours and may not see as much detail as daytime animals in good light. Behind each retina, which is well-adjusted for night vision, is a membrane which acts like a mirror. It reflects light, so the rods have a second chance to gather information. This light continues outwards giving nocturnal animals the eyeshine seen with a spotlight or torch.

The eyes belonged to a brushtail possum. She had spent the day curled up in a cosy hollow in a broken branch. Now she was hungry, but before she came out, she needed to know that it was safe. She had senses apart from her vision to help her. Sniffing the air, she knew that a male brushtail possum had been climbing among the branches. He had rubbed his chest gland on the bark, leaving scent to mark his territory. Her ears heard a soft thump on the tree trunk lower down, followed by four more, as sugar gliders arrived. They scampered past the entrance to her hollow and into the upper branches. From there they leapt, spread the skin between their front and back legs, and glided to another tree. She heard softer thumps as they landed on a trunk twenty metres away, then the scratch of their claws as they ran to the top of that tree, before continuing their gliding journey. Chattering calls and quiet movement from ringtail possums in the neighbouring tree informed her that they were climbing along its outer branches. It overlapped with another tree, in which they could find gum flowers and tender young leaves to eat. The flowers had been a busy place all day with birds, butterflies, beetles and bees feeding on nectar and collecting pollen. In the darkness, there was less competition for the flowers' nectar.

The brushtail possum was ready to begin her own quest for food. She used her strong claws to pull herself onto the top of her branch, then climb the tree trunk. Her whiskers sensed her surroundings, the feel of the bark, tasty leaves brushing against her face and a gentle breeze blowing through the bush. She was large enough to have little fear of predators up here in the trees. A powerful owl, the largest owl in Australia, can kill a brushtail possum, but they are rare, and hidden by leaves she would be hard to catch. Darkness helps nocturnal animals to hide from predators, but it also helps predators to hide from their prey. An owl with its excellent vision, hearing and silent flight can be a deadly hunter on a dark night. When the

moon is bright, owls and other predators may be seen by any prey that relies on good vision to detect danger. Such animals feel more secure and find food more easily on well-lit nights. On the same nights, those that rely on sounds and scents to find their way will be reluctant to go outside, particularly where there is little groundcover. They will feel safer when there is little moonlight.

Feeling safe in the treetops, the brushtail possum followed a familiar path through the branches and up a hill to a clump of mistletoe, one of her favourite foods. While she ate, she listened keenly to the surrounding sounds. A sharp yap, the alarm call of a sugar glider, caused her to freeze but it was only a boobook owl flying past, no threat to her. Frogs called from a pool of water in the valley. They often prefer to be out at night, when it is cooler and there is no sunshine to dry their moist skins. In the distance, she saw light. It was the glow from a town, the street lights reflecting off the clouds, turning that portion of the world nearly as bright as day. The lights were too bright for many nocturnal animals, and made it difficult to hide from predators or safely find a mate. Perhaps there were different sources of food there, but she preferred to stay in the bush. Her stomach full, she retraced her steps along the branches, back to the hollow. She groomed her soft grey fur and bushy black tail while she sat on the broken branch. Tired and content, she peeked inside, checked the hollow had not been occupied by another animal in her absence, and settled in comfortably, before dawn brought the chorus of birds and the awakening of those that were active during the day.

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De Grandi Lane

Marg Cooper

Two CBD laneways in Warrnambool have recently been renamed ensuring that two parts of Warrnambool's business history are remembered. The entrance to Ozone car park next to the former De Grandi sports store will be named after the family who ran the business there until its closure in 2011, ending a 114-year chapter for the city. In addition, a laneway next to the newly constructed home of Myers Planning will be named Dispensary Lane after the pharmacy that once operated there in Timor Street.

The Timor Street sports store was established by Ern De Grandi (who was born at Meredith) and continued by his son Cyril and grandsons John and Michael who were all born in Warrnambool.

The iconic De Grandi's sporting goods/cycle store was originally founded in 1897 by Louis De Grandi and brother-in-law Alf George. They went into partnership to open a cycle business, possibly at 166 Timor Street. Around the turn of the century in 1899/1900 Louis went out on his own and opened Champion Cycles at 84 Liebig Street and over the period trained his sons in the cycle trade when they were old enough to work.

Louis's eldest son George had various cycle and rifle repair shops, including Nathalia and two outlets in Warrnambool (including a Timor Street business in partnership with Claude Eagles) selling cycles and motorcycles. George later headed to Geelong in the late 1920's to establish a cycle business that is still run by his descendants. Their business was in Mercer Street but moved to Moorabool Street in 1993.

Louis De Grandi's father Felix had come to Australia in 1855 during the gold rush period from Novaggio in northern Italy near the Swiss border. Louis was born on the goldfields near Ararat and educated in Victoria, notably by his learned mother Franzisca (Dreher), who had the first private school in Ararat. On leaving school he was apprenticed to the saddlery business. After serving his time and travelling predominantly around the Ararat area, he settled in his trade in Meredith and established a saddlery in Staughton Street for a decade.

Louis married Letitia Croft in 1882. Letitia was a dressmaker and the daughter of George and Mary Croft of Meredith. All of their 8 children except Albert, Mabel and Raymond were born at Meredith. In 1890 his saddlery, stock etc was for sale as he was leaving the district for Rupanyup where he began another saddlery business and further enhanced his rifle shooting career.

Louis was one of the best rifle shots in Australia. His rifle career began at the Meredith shooting range. In 1906 he created a record believed at the time to be unequalled throughout the Empire, when he scored a treble possible (105 points) over the 300, 500 and 600 yard ranges, while shooting for his team (North Warrnambool) in the Corangamite Shield Competition for the 250 guinea silver Shield, donated by the Hon. John C Manifold MP. Louis was also a talented musician and enthusiastic bandsman. Louis De Grandi died in Warrnambool in June 1947, his son Ernest died in 1978, grandson Cyril died 2013 and more recently his two great grandsons John and Michael passed away leaving a legacy that has just been recognized with the naming of a lane by the Warrnambool City Council.



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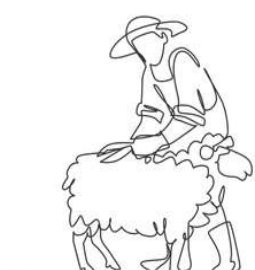
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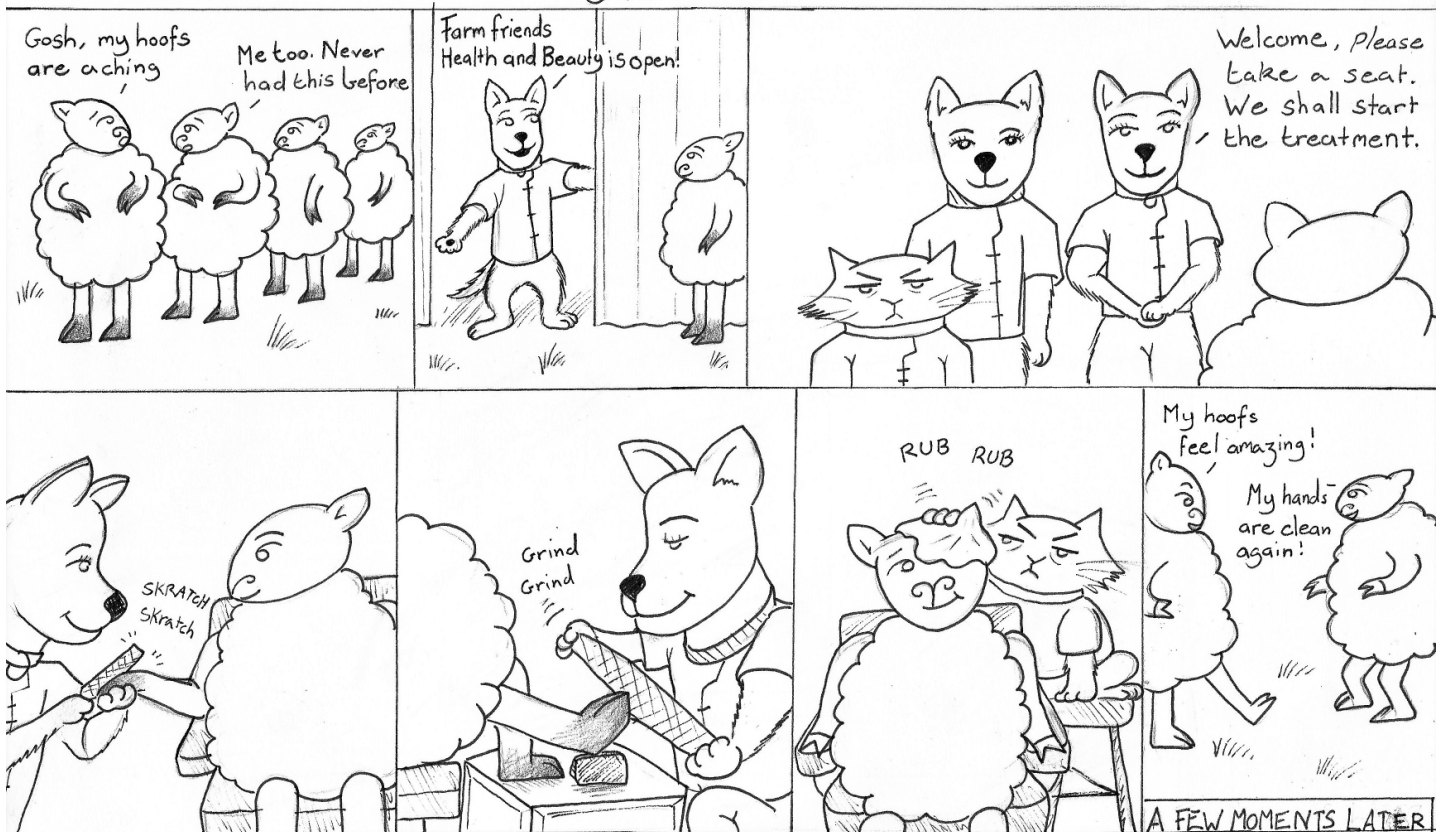
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By Emma Clarke



The End

Melissa Arch's

Once Upon a Benson CHAPTER 4Read all episodes at meredithnews.com.au/extras

Last time..... *Scott continues to ponder his future, reflecting on his relationship with dad, Merv. We meet Eunice Blake, the neighbourhood gossip. Margie health turns and gives Merv a scare.*

Gerald found himself sitting at the hotel bar after work.

"Another Gerry?" Morty the barman asked, looking at Gerald's empty glass.

"No, I'll grab a takeaway bottle of the usual, thanks Morty". Gerald always drank the same chardonnay.

He paid Morty and headed for his car. Another night-just me and the bottle, Gerald sighed to himself. He was sick of wine and six minute microwave meals. He wanted company. Female company.

As Gerald poured his first glass, he had an idea and turned on his laptop.

"Morning Lottie", said her father, Jason, anticipating a grumpy response. Or none at all. Her morning stare could frighten the devil himself.

"Morning Dad!" Lottie replied, as she glided across the kitchen tiles.

"Well, someone's chipper today!" Jason replied, surprised.

"It's a beautiful morning and I'm alive!" Lottie replied enthusiastically.

"Something special happening at school today then?" Jason was happy that his daughter was unusually cheerful.

"Nah. Just another day". But it wasn't just another day. Lottie was secretly meeting a boy after school. Not just any boy-Kye Palmer. The dreamiest boy in the school. And he was in year eleven! Lottie felt so much more regarded by her friends right now.

Lottie's made up face escaped her dad's attention-wearing foundation, mascara and pink lipstick.

Lottie's mum, Bonnie, was finishing a nightshift and would arrive home after Lottie had left. Lottie's perfect opportunity.....

Gerald was startled awake by his bleating alarm. Reaching for the snooze button, he knocked a glass of water over his bedside table.

"Damn!" Gerald cursed, as he wonkily got to his feet. What had he done last night? Oh yes! He had signed up to an online dating site. Gerald winced at the empty chardy bottle that remained, a sip remained in the glass.

Gerald wondered if he had approached any women on the site? He did not have time to check, already running late. Gerald's head ached. He inhaled two paracetamol and clumsily brushed his teeth. Grabbing his keys, he ran out the front door.

Normally, Gerald would back his car into the driveway but he was frazzled last night, so he drove it in forward. Putting the car into reverse, Gerald accelerates too hard and careers backwards, across the road, straight into old Eunice Blake's little Toyota Yaris!

Gerald sat stunned for a moment or two.

"Did I? Did I...just do that??" he muttered to himself. The rear view mirror showed Gerald that there was extensive damage to Eunice's car.

Eunice barrelled through her front door. "What on EARTH??" She slapped her hand to her mouth, eyes wide.

"My car! You stupid man!" Eunice shrieked.

Gerald stumbled from his car, still shocked.

"I'm so sorry, Mrs. Blake. It was an accident, truly".

"How am I to get around now? This will take weeks to get sorted! If it's not written off.." Eunice replied angrily.

Gerald felt and must've looked awful. This did not escape Eunice. She moved closer, then reeled back, a disgusted expression on her face.

"Are you drunk? You smell like a brewery!" she exclaimed.

"Certainly not! I had some wine last night is all," Gerald replied.

"I'm calling the police!" Eunice turned back to her place.

"No, Mrs Blake! Please don't do that! I'm insured, honest. I will arrange for your car to be fixed," Gerald pleaded.

"What will I drive until then?" Eunice began to see that she could use this to her advantage.

"Um...I know! I'll pay for a hire car until then" Gerald offered, in hope.

"Well, in that case, I may let you off. So long as you keep your word".

"Of course, Mrs. Blake!" A relieved Gerald blurted.

"And I want it in writing", Eunice smirked.

Whilst Gerald signed the declaration, he thought how lucky he was. If police had attended, he would have been breathalysed and he most likely would have given a blood alcohol reading over the limit.

If I lost my licence...the mere thought filled him with dread.

Gerald couldn't help thinking, as he watched Eunice wander back across the road, "crafty old bag!"

He called for 2 tow trucks and an Uber.

to be continued...

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Coconut Cake

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Ingredients

- 125g unsalted butter
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- 1 tbsp cocoa powder, plus extra for garnish
- 6 large eggs
- 1 1/4 cups granulated sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 cup unsweetened shredded coconut, toasted to serve
- 1 tsp sea salt flakes
- 1 cup crème fraiche to serve

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180 c. In a small pot over low heat, melt the butter. Once melted, turn off the heat and add the chocolate chips. Whisk to combine. Set aside to cool.
2. Coat a 9 inch springform tin with a generous amount of butter. Line the base and sides with baking paper. Sift 1 tablespoon cocoa powder evenly across the bottom and sides of the pan. Tap the sides of the pan to even out.
3. In the bowl of a stand mixer, combine the eggs, sugar, salt, vanilla and 1/2 cup coconut. Beat on low for 1 minute, and then on high for about 10 minutes, or until the texture is similar to marshmallow fluff. Remove the bowl from the mixer, and gently fold in the melted chocolate until completely incorporated.
4. Scrape the batter into the pan and tap the pan on the counter a few times to remove any air bubbles. Set pan inside a rimmed baking sheet, and bake for 45 to 50 minutes, or until firm to the touch. (The top of the cake should sound hollow when tapped). Sprinkle the top with flaky sea salt. Transfer to wire rack and cool for 1 hour.

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Thursday 25th May 2023



10am - 12noon

Workshop #2 3D Printing Your Idea



Thursday 25th May 2023



1pm - 3pm

Note: Places are limited to 8 per workshop.



it'S HiStoRy

Meredith History Interest Group

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held at the Memorial Hall on March 26. Reports were presented by the Treasurer and the President before the election of Office Bearers. Marg Cooper was re-elected as President, Darren Guthrie was elected as Vice President, Kerry Kruger was re-elected as Secretary, Gail Hadley was re-elected as Treasurer and the Committee elected were, Fay McFarlane, Alan Caddy, Jan McDonald, Bev Loveday, Tony Scott and Paul Ryan. Thanks to Pat Banks for conducting the election and to all the new Office Bearers for joining the team.

The meeting was followed by a very interesting presentation by Tony Scott of the history of the ship called *The SS Great Britain* and afternoon tea.

(Tony Scott's address can be read at meredithnews.com.au/extras)

Open Day

You are invited to Open Day at the History Centre on Sunday, May 7 from 10 am.

Come and discover what we do!

Come and meet members of MHIG!

Come and discover what resources we have to research!

Come and see a display of *Communications Thru the Ages!*

Do you remember telegrams, postcards, ink wells, airmail letters, fountain pens, wooden telephones on the wall etc?

Come and enjoy Gail's famous scones with lashings of jam and cream!

Morrison's Photo Exhibition

We are now collecting photos and information for an exhibition of photos of Morrison's to be held on October 14 & 15. We intend to print the photos to A3 size, mount them and display them in the Memorial Hall in Meredith on stands, as we did with the Steiglitz photos in 2021.

Please look through your albums for any photos that show Morrison's in days past. You can text them to 0408109389, email them to meredithhistoryinterestgroup@gmail.com or allow us to scan them.

Community Gold

The Community Bank Buninyong invited MHIG to participate in their initiative to support local businesses and stimulate the regional economy. They supplied several Gold Cards valued at \$20 and \$10 to us to give out. Some of these we hid under the chairs at the Annual Meeting and attendees were asked to stand up and see if their chair had a card attached. Some of these we gave to attendees at the working bee who answered quiz questions successfully. Thank you to the Community Bank for including MHIG in their initiative.

Working Bee

Despite inclement weather several hardy souls worked hard to make the backyard of the History Centre more attractive and easier for the mower man. We then all enjoyed Hot Cross buns for lunch followed by the Quiz.

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Don't Add Waste to the Burns

(media release)

EPA Victoria is warning farmers that a momentary mistake when burning off can be costly for the environment and the landholder.

EPA says it can be tempting to add household or farm waste such as silage wrap, chemical containers or old tyres to a burn just to get rid of them, but these items don't burn properly and produce large amounts of smoke.

Along with air pollution, there can be residue running off into waterways and chemical contamination that persists in the soil.

Some of these things are best sent to a properly managed landfill, and there's recycling for common farm waste items such as tyres, silage wrap and plastic chemical drums. There's more information on your local council website or at sustainability.vic.gov.au

“Electricity Pump” in Meredith

At the time of going to print, the new EV Charging Station being installed on the Highway, near the Interpretive Centre, was still in its plastic bag. (We asked the Shire for some background, but didn't get a response in time.)

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Marg's BOOK REVIEW

The Shepherd's Life by James Rebank
(Reviewed by Bev Elshaug)

To recommend a book that by its title would be about sheep may sound unusual. However, *The Shepherd's Life* is well worth taking the time to read and is definitely about more than just sheep!!

First published in 2015, *The Shepherd's Life* chronicles life in the 21st century in the fells (mountains) of the Lake District in Cumbria, North West England. It is the "story of a family and a farm but it also tells a wider story about the people who get forgotten in the modern world". The shepherds of the fells, who like James's father and grandfather, have belonged, lived and worked for centuries in the Lake District. James's family have farmed in the same area for 600 years.

The 'other' Lake District is the tourist wonderland. Millions of visitors travel there each year and spend billions of pounds in the area. More than half the employment is dependent upon tourism, including farms that are now B & B's or other businesses. This existence contrasts dramatically with the traditional way of life of the fells.

The book is divided into the seasons and within each section, the work of the farmers is detailed and explained. The terrain is difficult and the weather often harsh and cruel. The breeding of the Herdwick sheep is a refined and complicated work of genes and bloodlines, experience, experimentation, gambles, losses and successes. The seasonal tasks of the farm are interspersed with anecdotes of the Rebanks family, told honestly and without sentiment. It is an individual account with no apology for its candour and rawness. The reader hears of the highs and lows, the glories and failures, the blood and guts, as well as the beauty of the people and the land. James is very passionate about acknowledging the rewards of hard labour, the harshness of life on the fells for men and animals and giving credit to his present community and past generations.

James was an uninterested school student. However, realizing the importance of education, he eventually applied and was accepted into Oxford and, even while studying, combined academia and farming. He was an "expert adviser" to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in Paris. He has now written several works. His professional work was a means to an end, "my other life has allowed me to build a farmhouse on our farm". He only ever feels at HOME in the Lake District fells. "...my old man can hardly spell common words, but he has an encyclopaedic knowledge of landscape....some of the smartest people I have ever known are semi-literate."

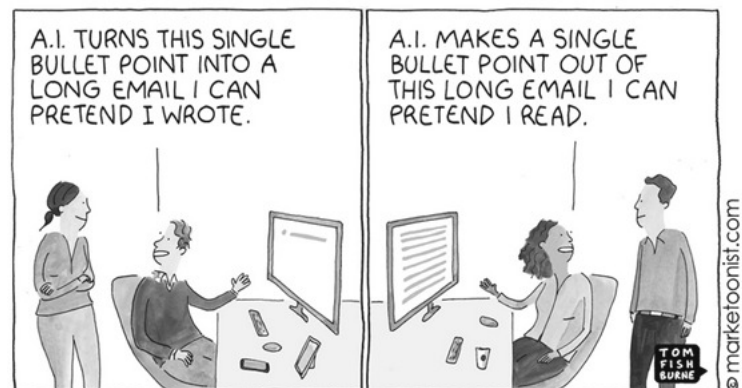
An interesting aside in the book is the tribute to Beatrix Potter (Mrs Heelis) and her "utmost respect for the shepherds of the Lake District", her contribution to the Herdwick flocks and her "concern for her legacy of farms, the ongoing care and respect of her tenants and the

future of the fell farming way of life". In her will she handed 15 farms and 4000 acres to the National Trust.

Upon reading James's detailed and passionate account, one has the utmost respect for him and his way of life, his choice to live in the 21 century, preserving the centuries old traditions. His voice throughout the book is clear, honest, descriptive, and authentic. It is easy to visualize the landscape of the area, the life of the shepherds and farmers and the importance of the preservation of these traditions after reading the book.

The Herdwick sheep and the way they are farmed is the result of the daunting practical challenges of the climate, the large areas of unfenced common grazing land on the fells and the small areas of cultivatable or better quality land in the valley bottoms. They are not just "pretty sheep"!!

It is a sincere, original and genuine book.



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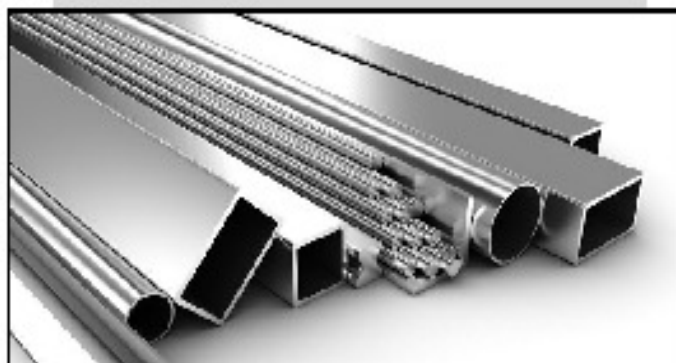
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G'Day from the penners for May 2023, I am sitting here writing this, enjoying the balmy weather we are having at the moment, talk about an Indian summer, lovely.

This month's story is from Gordon Vanbeck who has written a timely piece about his father in World War 2, which we think is fitting since Anzac Day has just been. We hope you enjoy it.

Story behind a photograph

I have a photograph which is the only image of my father taken during his service in World War 2. I know next to nothing about his experiences. I know that he was the driver of an M4 Sherman tank. I know that he had a very hard time of it and till the day of his death, he declined to speak of his experiences. I had spoken to my mother of this and the only thing she knew of his time in France was that he had a special place in his heart for the French people he met. Those French patriots would, at great danger to themselves, give food and sometimes shelter to the tank crews who rumbled through their countryside; often in the dead of night, to avoid the feared Tiger tanks of the German army.

So, it occurred to me that I should view the photograph in a different way. The group of men gathered in front of their machine of war look quite relaxed – almost happy. My father, in fact, is smiling broadly – almost laughing. So, who has taken the photograph? What set of circumstances led to the photo being taken?

The photo was not taken by a member of the crew. I looked it up. There were 5 soldiers in a Sherman, (commander, gunner, loader, driver, assistant driver/bow gunner. There are 5 people in the image. Who took the photo?

One person on the left, is smoking a cigarette, the person next to him is sitting back, one leg up, arm on knee, smiling, but not quite into the camera. My Dad is laughing. There is no one on guard atop the tank. There is no weapon in sight.

In my mind's eye I imagine a farmhouse on the outskirts of Rouen, Northern France. My father's crew has been ordered ahead to scout the land. They have sighted no enemy troops, but approach the farmhouse with great caution. Tiger commanders had been known to camouflage their tanks inside barns, and fire on unsuspecting allied tanks when they come within range.

The tank's officer, perched atop the commander's hatch, peers around through his binoculars and spots the French flag being waved vigorously from a bedroom window. Still he is cautious. It could still be a trap. Suddenly the front door of the farmhouse bursts open and a group of children and adults' streams through the doorway and run to the farm gate, waving and cheering.

The tank commander relaxes, smiles and waves back. The

tank clanks to a stop and the children surround the Sherman laughing and crying. The adults try to shoo them away with no success. The tank commander climbs stiffly from his perch and jumps to the ground. One of the Frenchman steps forward and extends his hand.

I imagine a great feast follows. The French family do not have much to offer, but a chicken is found and sacrificed, and there is always freshly baked bread and a bottle of Beaujolais to be opened. A moment of rare respite from army rations is enjoyed and treasured.

The farmer's daughter is a keen photographer. Can she have a photo? Only if you send me a print the Commander grins. So, the photo is taken, on a sunny Normandy afternoon, with war and death pushed aside for an hour or two as my father sits, hands on knees and laughs.

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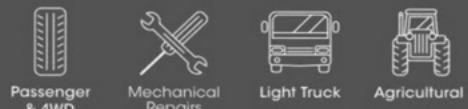
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Brisbane Ranges sketchers



Kerry Thomson

After the cold, wet, windiness of Easter the Sketchers group embraced the sunshine which welcomed us to Pioneer Park Recreation Reserve in Meredith on the 11th April. Kerry suggested this venue but on arrival the response from others was somewhat under-whelming! However, after a few minutes of wandering around the artist eyes in all of us awoke, pencils drew, paint flowed and ink forged its way onto paper. Two hours later and a huge array of wonderful artistic responses had been produced which varied from large scale street scenes with neighbouring homes to park views including some of the lovely variety of trees, through to the old tractor, play equipment, single tree stumps and right down Melinda's close up view of lichen on the table top!

Come and join our friendly group in May at 10 am second Tuesday, meet at the Community House. BYO artistic equipment, chair, thermos and weather appropriate clothing.



Colour in the Garden

Jim Elvey

Who says native gardens lack colour in the colder months? This beautiful Eastern Rosella was one of a pair visiting our garden late last month. Much shyer than the Crimson Rosella - the equally pretty and more frequent parrot we see around here - it is all the more a treat when it does pop in.



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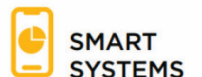
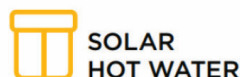
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