

Meredith & district News

OUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2023



inside



- Golden Plains Draft Plan for Growing Places.
- Gardens for birds!
- The Great Pumpkin Challenge Event

...and the usual LOTS MORE!

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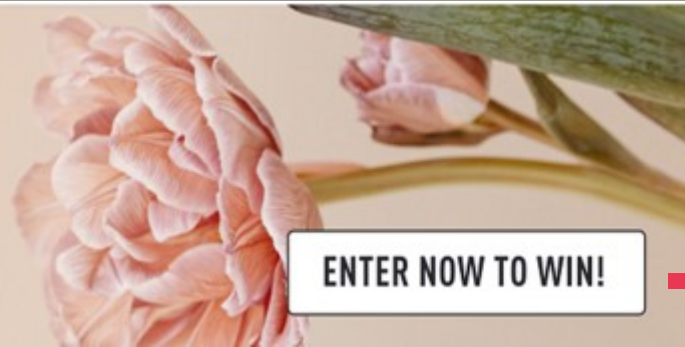
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MOORABOOL Wind Farm

COMMUNITY UPDATE - June 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.

Scholarships at Federation University, Ballarat

We were proud to award seven scholarships to students studying at Mount Helen campus of Federation University, in our second year of supporting local students.

Two scholarships of \$5000 were awarded towards Bachelor of Environmental and Conservation Science students. Scholarships of \$3000 were awarded each to five students to assist them in studying for a Certificate III, IV or Diploma. All successful students are from Moorabool Shire or Ballarat area.

We will continue our support with applications opening for 2024 later this year, so keep an eye out for updates, or contact us for more information.



Moorabool Wind Farm Scholarships recipients with Wind Farm representatives at the presentation evening.

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

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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.

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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: *Don Atherton*

Editor: *Marlene Johnson*

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emergency

Police, Ambulance, Fire (from mobile phone)	000 000 or 112
Meredith Police Station	5286 1222
Police non emergency	131 444
Power Failure	132 412
Nurse-On-Call	1300 606 024
Mental Health Advice	1300 280 737
Poisons Information	13 11 26
Barwon Water	1300 656 007
SES Emergency - flood & storm	132 500
24 Hour Helpline	1800 629 572
24 Hour Drug & Alcohol Counselling	1800 888 236
Kids Help Line 24hr 5-18yo	1800 551 800
Golden Plains Shire a/h emergency Ranger	1300 363 036 0408 508 635 5220 7111 or 0409 830 223
Bannockburn Vet	5281 1221
Golden Plains Animal	5281 2226
Pets and Horses 24/7	0421 617 238

Justices of the Peace

Mr Don Atherton. 0409 869 960

Mr Paul Ryan Elaine 0409 861 296

services

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..or start something.

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



Hope is the thing with feathers, it perches in the soul, sings the song without the words and never stops at all.

~Emily Dickinson

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.revdrtim@hotmail.com

The Revd Dr Timothy Smith
PiC Anglican Parish of Inverleigh+Bannockburn+Meredith

St Josephs Parish of Meredith

St. John the Baptist, Winchelsea 5pm. June 3, 10, 17, 24
St. Brigid, Anakie @ 9am. June 11, 25
St. Joseph, Meredith @ 9am. June 4, 18
St. Mary MacKillop, Bannockburn @ 11am June 4, 11, 18, 25.
Sacred Heart, Inverleigh @ 4pm. June 18

Meredith Tennis Club News

Bridget Dyer

This autumn the club decided to brave the weather and run an Autumn Competition with the aim of providing some fun social tennis and help develop our junior players in the off season. Parents were encouraged to play with their children. Imagine our delight when we had 16 teams (two players per team) sign up!

It was amazing to see the combinations, parents who had played before, parents getting back into it after a long hiatus and parents who never had played before and had barely picked up a racquet, all playing with their kids. We also had a grandparent playing with their grandchild and couples playing against each other or with each other.

Because there were so many teams and only two lighted courts, the competition was split into Wednesday and Thursday night and graded accordingly. Each week, each team played one set and a ladder was posted on Facebook with the scores. Dinner was also available for purchase after tennis, with Courtney or Maddy organising food ranging from baked potatoes to souvlakis and fajitas. Finals were celebrated with pizzas from the Royal.

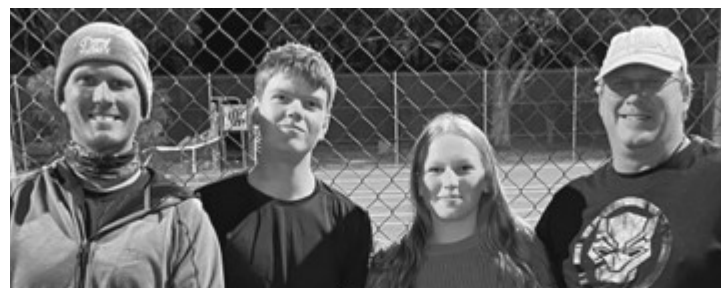
On Wednesday 24th May, the semi finals and grand finals were held, with the top four teams battling it out. Congratulations to D&D (Nick & Phoebe Brown) on coming runners up for this comp, and congrats to the Scorpions (Drew, Alex and Bailey Dinning) on winning the grand finals! It was also lovely to see everyone from the competition come and support the teams that made it and cheer them on.

For the Wednesday night group special mentions need to be made to the mums who had never played before and played with their daughters! Amazing effort. It has been wonderful seeing everyone improve and enjoying themselves, despite it being freezing.

As the Thursday night comp had not had finals prior to writing this article, the outcome will have to wait until next month. Thursday nights have been very competitive with the older kids and adults playing. Special mentions have to go to the adults who have never played or haven't picked up a racquet in quite a while, but have been willing to get out with their kids or partners. It was also great to have some out of towners join us and we hope to have them return. Stay tuned next month to see who won the Thursday night comp and has bragging rights until the next one!

The MTC hope to run another competition next term, so if you are interested please let us know via Facebook.

Picture: Winners are grinners! Drew Dinning, Bailey Dinning, Phoebe Brown and Nick Brown



OUR COVER

Peter Boer took our cover photo of the Great Pumpkin Challenge Winner, Rusty with his 20.6kg pumpkin. Thank you Peter!



In the School Garden

Giant Pumpkin Challenge at the School

By Grade 4/5/6 students Aiden, Charlie, Dacian, Jack, Kealeigh, Maddy and Will

In October we sent out packets of pumpkin seeds to the community. Sadly it wasn't a good year for growing pumpkins so there weren't many competitors. If you are wondering why it was a bad year, well it was a bit cold and wet half of the summer. We had entries in the Grade 3/4/5/6 and the Prep/1/2 sections and the Best Decorated using natural materials. *Charlie*

Before we started, we had to set everything up for the Pumpkin Challenge the afternoon before. First we cleared the big shed and swept out all of the dirt and dust. Then we set out tables and mats to display the pumpkins and decorated throughout the shed with gum leaves. There were also scales and a tape measure to weigh and measure the pumpkins and booking sheets for the stewards. *Will*

Wheelbarrows were used to transport the very heavy pumpkins into the shed. Pumpkins are easier to carry in the wheelbarrow because you can move more than one and you don't take any chances with dropping them. Last year one was dropped, it broke into pieces and had to be tied back together with hay band. *Dacian*

The results of the Giant Pumpkin Challenge for 2023 are:

- The winner in the Grade 3/4/5/6 section was Rusty Perry with a pumpkin weighing 20.6 kg and measuring 119.5 cm.
- The winner in the P/1/2 section was the Meredith Primary School P/1/2 grade with a pumpkin weighing 15.4 kg and measuring 117.5 cm
- The Best Decorated using natural materials was won by the Grade 4/5/6 students with a pumpkin titled "PumpKING Charles". *Kealeigh & Maddy*

Many thanks to the Meredith District News for once again sponsoring the Giant Pumpkin Challenge and Jim Elvey for being the Master of Ceremonies. Mr Fothergill's generously donated all the packets of seeds that were distributed to the community. We also thank Cathie Boer for taking many photos of the event and Meredith Primary School for hosting the challenge. A big thank you to Rosemary Gargan for her organisation and the Grade 4/5/6 students who were stewards. *Jack*

So the Meredith Giant Pumpkin Challenge was not a very busy one this year but it was still a good one. We had very positive vibes and lots of interest from those who attended. Our stewards were Jack and Will on the wheelbarrows; greeter Dacian; Charlie, Maddy, Kealeigh and Aiden were measuring and weighing and all helped with the set up, displays and packing up afterwards. *Aiden*

Thank you to everyone who entered pumpkins and came along to enjoy this year's Challenge. If there is sufficient interest, we will have a Giant Pumpkin and Heaviest Zucchini Challenge next year. Let us know your thoughts.



Read more about the celebration of pumpkins in the USA. Don Atherton delights yet again in his reminiscences—this time about dropping into a fair on p. 24



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Lethbridge Recreation Reserve

Please contact my office to book a meeting time.

Michaela Settle MP
Member for Eureka

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



What's On

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Indo-China Fraction Stamps

Indo-China was a French territory in South-East Asia which in 1949 was split into the 3 states of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Initially it used the French currency of 100 centimes to one Franc. In 1918 it changed its currency to 100 cents to one Piastre, and decided as well to do a revaluation with 5 old centimes becoming 2 new cents. This decision had very unusual consequences to its postage stamps.

For over a decade Indo-China had been using a set of stamps with denominations of 1,2,4,5,10 centimes and upward. But with the new revalued currency this needed to change. Rather than issue new stamps they decided to use existing stocks of the old. These were surcharged whereby the old currency was crossed out and the new currency overprinted. So the 1 centime stamp became 2/5 cent, the 2 became 4/5, and the 4 became 1 and 3/5 cent.

To accommodate this change a new coin was introduced being the Sapeque with 5 Sapeques equal to 1 cent. Rather than actually mint a new coin, they used the old French 1 centime coin and punched a square hole through the centre.

So problem solved. Well it was until 1922 when a new set of stamps was issued which included stamps of 1/5, 2/5, and 4/5 cents. But quite bizarrely also a stamp of 1/10 cent! There was not a coin of this denomination. I am not sure how far the Post Office would carry an envelope with a 1/10 cent stamp on it.

Enjoy writing?

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enjoy reading.



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Once Upon a Benson CHAPTER 5

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Last time..... *Gerald Crocker's lonely life continues, as does his drinking, resulting in a minor car accident with his neighbour, Eunice. Lottie is secretly planning to meet a boy after school, whilst her parents are suspicious about her cheerful morning behaviour*

Margie stared at the waiting room ceiling, careful not to make contact with another. Anxiety peaking, she awaited her blood test results.

"Mrs. Benson?" Margie swung her attention to the voice. The doctor was ready to see her. This is it. Margie slipped in through the consult room door, her heart beating rapidly.

"Sit down Margie. Haven't seen you in a while," Dr. Murphy remarked, with a kind smile.

"Yes. Been no need til now". Margie gripped her hands tightly in her lap.

"Your bloods did reveal something I need to talk with you about". Margie's face showed her shock. Even though she felt something was not right, she was hoping to be proven otherwise.

"The initial bloods have indicated Leukemia", Dr. Murphy said, softly. Margie slapped her hand to her mouth, her eyes widened. Silence. Margie's thoughts were spinning faster than the final rinse cycle on her washing machine.

Dr. Murphy continued gently "I will refer you to a hematologist in the city, where you discuss options of treatment". Margie still had no words, even though she was starting to get many questions enter her head.

"Where is Merv? Did you come her on your own, Margie?" Dr Murphy asked, in an almost whisper.

"Hmmm? Oh, y-yes". Margie started to contemplate how to deliver the news to her husband. First Scott, now this. Margie did not know if Merv would cope with this latest unexpected news.

"It may be best if he comes to collect you", Dr Murphy was scanning Margie's look of shock.

"Yes, yes. I will call him", Margie hurriedly got up from her chair and headed to the door.

"Margie? Please call me if you need to talk. I'm here", Dr. Murphy said, sympathetically.

"Thank you doctor", Margie replied automatically, yet her mind had already left the space.

Jase? You home?" Bonnie called to her husband, as she walked in their front door. Yawning, she put her bag down and flicked on the coffee machine. Bonnie yawned again. She happily thought of the imminent prospect of sleep. Jason appeared suddenly, his entrance drowned out by the noise of the coffee machine.

"Hello you!" Bonnie gave him a kiss.

"How was the shift?" asked Jason. Bonnie shrugged her

shoulders, indicating the same old routine of her work.

"Lottie was in a spritely mood this morning!", Jason remarked, awaiting his wife's reaction.

"Oh? Really?" Bonnie exclaimed, surprised.

"I know. That is exactly what I thought! Apparently, there is nothing special happening at school today either..."

"Maybe our girl is up to something?" Bonnie was suspicious. Lottie was NOT a morning person.

"Hmmm...maybe, maybe not", Jason was less cynical than Bonnie, when it came to their daughter. Call it that mother-daughter clash or was Lottie just a Daddy's girl?

"Well..I'm just saying. I'm sure that I will hear about it, if she is up to no good. You know what this town is like! Best keep our ears to the ground".

Bonnie awaited Jason's response but he had already left the room. She gulped her last sip of coffee and another yawn escaped her mouth.

"Oooh, bed time for me," she said out loud to nobody but their dog, Rupert, the Golden Retriever. Rupert sat wagging his tail, expectantly.

"Oh yes, ok!" Bonnie grabbed a treat from the drawer and fed it to Rupert. Bonnie shuffled off to the bedroom, hoping to get some sleep before it all started again this evening.

to be continued...

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A Draft Plan For Growing Places In Golden Plains

Media Release

Golden Plains Shire Council has released a draft long-term growth scenario to accommodate future housing and population growth in the Shire and work towards the Community Vision 2040.

Endorsed at its meeting on 23 May, the Informing Document Growing Places 2051 outlines where future growth could be located up to 2050 and responds to the significant levels of growth being experienced across Victoria and in the region.

An Independent Housing Needs Assessment found that Golden Plains Shire has the potential to grow by an extra 15,000 people by 2036 (a growth rate of up to 3.1 per cent per year from now until 2036).

Golden Plains Shire Mayor, Cr Brett Cunningham explained that this potential growth was driven by our location between the regional cities of Geelong and Ballarat and being a Peri Urban community of Metropolitan Melbourne.

“We’re getting on the front foot to carefully plan for this growth now, to make sure we grow where growth is best suited and will deliver the most benefit for our community. We are also proactively planning to protect the places and lifestyles our residents love.”

The draft growth scenario is informed by independent expert research, consultation with key local and regional stakeholders, and the aspirations of Council’s Community Vision 2040. The culmination of this work identified areas that may be suitable for growth and is summarised in the Informing Document Growing Places 2051.

The draft future growth scenario has two key elements:

- Extending growth that is already happening along our northern and southern fringes which is supported by existing services and infrastructure (Cambrian Hill and areas around Stonehaven); and
- Focussing growth in townships within proximity to Geelong to attract investment in services and infrastructure which also benefit surrounding communities (Meredith, Teesdale, Lethbridge)

Together these two elements seek to leverage growth to attract new services and infrastructure within the Shire, build a stronger local workforce to support our important industries and businesses, encourage expanded shopping and entertainment options, and improve the overall financial sustainability of the Shire.

The planning would also strengthen Council’s position to advocate for further investment in the Shire, such as the reinstatement of the passenger rail from Geelong to Ballarat.

Over the next two months, Council will be consulting with the community on the draft growth scenario.

“This draft future growth scenario is evidence based, informed by significant and comprehensive research, and strongly influenced by our Community Vision 2040 but we know the community will have questions.

“We want to talk with our community to explain the high-level plan and how it has been developed, and check-in to make sure we haven’t missed any important considerations.”

The draft future growth scenario will be used to develop the Growing Places Strategy which will outline the key actions that need to happen to support this growth.

The Growing Places Strategy will provide clear direction for Council, other levels of government, service providers, developers and the community so that everyone who needs to be involved in delivering the housing, facilities, infrastructure and services to support that growth, can start planning now in a coordinated and sustainable way.

The Community is invited to learn more, and have their say, by visiting Council’s website:

goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations



Kerry Thomson

The May Sketchers were a hardy group of six who braved the cold, windy weather by retreating indoors to Backstreet Cafe. Mark, Sam, Louise, Ray, Peter W and Kerry made the most of both indoor and outdoor scenes whilst sipping on hot coffees and munching on fresh scones with homemade strawberry jam (yum!!).

Next outing is 13th June (second Tuesday), meeting at the Meredith Community

Centre at 10 am. Bring sketching/painting/drawing equipment, chair, cuppa and appropriate clothing. New people always welcome. If it’s too wet or cold we have an indoor home studio ready as an alternative.



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- Yellow Fever (Vaccine)

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Talking to our Fire Captain.

Marg Cooper

When did you join Meredith Fire Brigade?

I officially joined the Meredith Fire Brigade in 1997 at the age of 12. It is however funny to consider these days that my first fire was at the age of 8. Hanging off the back of one of our old trucks squirting water while Dad drove. We can't do things like that these days.

When did you become Captain? I became a Lieutenant from 2005 and in 2013 I was elected as Captain, a position I will hold until my retirement on 1st July this year.

What was the most memorable fire event you attended? There are so many incidents that I have attended over the years that are memorable. The most memorable one would have to be the 2009 Black Saturday Bushfires. I was deployed with the Army Reserves the day after where we spent 3 days in Flowerdale assisting Victoria Police with searches. After returning home I immediately returned to Kinglake West with the CFA. What sticks with me is the utter devastation, destruction, the loss of lives and livelihoods. It will live with me forever. Our state learned some hard lessons that year, but we are now better prepared and I think people respect fire a lot more. That disaster rewrote what we all thought we knew about fire behaviour.

Why was it important for you to be a fire brigade volunteer? Our community has no other option when it comes to fire services. Growing up, I was always taught the importance of serving and giving back and both my Mum and Dad were members, so naturally I was drawn to the CFA.

Do you enjoy the training, meetings, maintenance etc? I love the camaraderie we have at the Meredith Fire Brigade. Over the past 10 years we have really focused on the team building aspect and encouraged our members to consider it as a big family. It's has worked really well and we have such a united team and it's a pleasure to be part of it. As with any organisation like this, there are parts that don't thrill you so much as other things, like fighting fires but we have a very realistic view and approach at the Meredith brigade. We understand that it's Voluntary so we do what needs to be done and generally we only have one meeting a year, and as a bare minimum our members are required to do one major training session before the summer period to ensure they remember the basics of firefighting. We do cater for the more enthusiastic members and hold more regular training for them.

Was your father Captain? My Dad was Captain of the brigade for 9years, from 1992 to 2001. Until July 2022, Dad was the longest serving Captain in the brigades 120 odd year history. To follow in my father's footsteps is something that makes me very proud.

It has been both a privilege and an honour to have led such a fantastic team over the past 10 years. I thank all of our members for putting trust in me, supporting me and showing up when you were needed by our community and state. I am remaining a member of the brigade, only now it is my turn to support our incoming Captain, Josh Medley. As a fully volunteer organisation, we need people that are willing to join us in supporting our community. If you're considering becoming a member or supporting the great work our brigade does with a donation, please get in contact with the brigade to see what you can do to help continue the great work the Meredith Fire Brigade does in protecting our community.



The Kangaroo

A family group of Kangaroos live mostly on and around my property and although they know me quite well, are still very wary of me and my visitors. When I can observe them without them seeing me, it is very interesting to see how they interact with each other. Kangaroos are very inquisitive animals, and their curiosity takes them into every nook & cranny they can find. This curiosity is often clearly not food orientated and there is not any space within the house garden or sheds that have not been visited regularly.

I often sleep with the window and blinds open when the weather is good and particularly on moonlight nights. One morning I woke in the first light of dawn and there was a young Kangaroo peering through my window, no doubt intrigued to know why an old bull Koala was in my bedroom!



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in our NATURE

Wendy Cook

Two loud metallic notes crash through the softer voices of small birds in my garden. It is the call of a grey currawong, a large grey bird with yellow eyes. I turn towards the sound, and see it in a nearby gum tree, poking its strong beak under bark, searching for spiders and insects. It pauses to call again and receives a distant reply. The small birds quietly hide in bushes, wary of the large predatory birds. Another call is heard from further away, this one also loud but more musical. It is a pied currawong, a newcomer to the area. It looks like the grey currawong, but with black plumage rather than grey. It was a surprise for me when I first heard one calling in the Brisbane Ranges, two years ago. Unlike the grey currawong, it has adapted well to life with humans, and is gradually expanding its range and moving into our area. In the next few decades, it may become more common here than its grey relative. The pied currawong is just one of the species of birds that have changed their distribution across the country since the arrival of Europeans.

Another bird that has moved far beyond its original home is the common and familiar grey and pink galah. When Europeans arrived, galahs lived in the drier inland parts of Australia. They mainly feed on the ground, eating seeds, grubs and tubers, and once avoided coastal regions and tall forests. During droughts, flocks of galahs flew long distances to new food sources. With the arrival of farmers, trees were cleared, dams and water troughs installed, and paddocks planted with crops and grasses. This development provided galahs with plentiful food and water and allowed them to move into parts of the country that had not previously been suitable habitat.

While some birds, such as pied currawongs and galahs, have become more abundant, populations of others have declined. In the early 2000s, one of the most obvious bird species in my garden and one of my favourites were the restless flycatchers. They are black and white like a willie wagtail, but with a squarer head, glossy black feathers, a white throat and lacking a willie wagtail's white eyebrow. They are very active and noticeable birds, with an unusual call which gives them an alternative name of scissor-grinder. I delighted to listen to their voices and watch their antics as they made short flights to catch airborne insects. After a few years, I was hearing them less often. By 2009, they were becoming uncommon and sadly, I have not seen or heard one since 2014.

Restless flycatchers are not the only birds whose populations are diminishing. I see willie wagtails and robins less often in recent years. They are all hunters of insects, and insect and bird numbers are declining, due to habitat loss, climate change and pesticides. Other birds struggle to find nesting sites as there are insufficient old trees and tree hollows. Open country makes it easier for predatory birds such as currawongs, kookaburras and birds of prey to find and raid nests. Cats and foxes also kill

many birds. Despite all of this, there are things that we can do to help our local birds to survive, including turning our gardens into living spaces for birds.

Over the years, the trees and shrubs in my garden have grown well and some have intermingled with their neighbours. They provide patches of dense vegetation where insects and spiders are abundant, and birds can hide from predators while finding food or building nests. In late 2020, a new species of bird arrived in my garden, one that belongs in the area. They are white-browed scrubwrens, small, plump, grey and brown birds with white eyebrows and another white stripe below their eyes. They live along the creek in bushy vegetation and now consider my garden to be suitable habitat. I have since watched a pair build a nest in a bush not far from my bedroom window, and successfully rear chicks. I was lucky enough to be watching when the chicks left the nest for the first time. One flew a few metres to a nearby bush, while another flew downwards to the ground, before taking off again and reaching its destination safely.

Gardens, such as mine and yours, can become important refuges for small local birds. They may also provide a resting place for travelling birds, migrants moving from one place to another. Your garden could be a link between patches of remnant bushland and water sources such as a dam or a creek. Plants that are native to our local area help birds and insects to thrive. A bowl of water, perhaps hanging from a branch, gives birds a chance for a wash and a drink. Old trees, whether alive or dead, are crucially important for many species of birds that need hollows as nesting places, and are worth protecting. With care, we can make our area a better place for birds to live, and for us to enjoy watching them. For further ideas on helping birds, you can learn about the Gardens for Wildlife project or visit the following websites.

<https://gardensforwildlifevictoria.com/welcome/elements-of-a-wildlife-garden/>

<https://www.mooraboolgardensforwildlife.org.au/>

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The SS Great Britain

Tony Scott

The SS Great Britain was the world's first great passenger liner. She carried over 14,000 immigrants to Victoria on 32 round trips between England and Australia in the gold rush years between 1852 and 1875. It is estimated that around 400,000 Australians today can trace their ancestry back to a Great Britain passenger.

The ship was designed by the famous British engineer, Isambard Kingdom Brunel (1806–1859), who had previously built the SS Great Western.

Brunel designed the new ship with many innovations, the main ones being a double hull of riveted iron plates, a six-bladed propeller, watertight compartments, hinged masts, wire rigging, and iron lifeboats. It was almost 100 metres long. It was built on the Avon River at Bristol, and launched in 1843.

The Great Britain made six very profitable trips across the Atlantic but on the seventh disaster struck when it ran aground in Northern Ireland. After 11 months it was refloated and towed back to Liverpool where it sat for three years before being bought by Gibbs, Bright & Co in 1850.

Within a year however gold was found in Victoria in large quantities, so the company refitted the ship with much increased passenger accommodation and cargo space, including luxurious facilities for first class passengers. The ship departed on its first Australia run in August 1852 carrying 630 passengers, and was expected to reach Melbourne in 56 days, but adverse conditions caused the captain to backtrack to St Helena to take on extra fuel. It finally reached its destination after a disappointing passage of 84 days,

First class passengers paid 70 guineas (£73 10s) a ticket and had a sumptuous table provided, but there was a big reduction in comfort level and food for second class (40 guineas), whilst those in third class and steerage (14 guineas) had very basic food, wooden bunks and had to provide their own bedding, towels, cutlery, plates, etc.

After the third trip to Australia the ship was commandeered by the British government to transport troops and equipment to the Crimea in support of the war against Russia. Soon afterwards it was required again to take reinforcements to India to help quell the Indian Mutiny. She resumed the Australia run in 1859 and in the next 16 years made 27 round voyages to Melbourne.

The ship was thus employed for 50 years after which she was towed to a nearby shallow inlet and sunk into the mud, where she lay, a hulk, for another 30 years. A naval architect and Brunel enthusiast, Ewan Corlett, aroused public interest in the ship which received an enormous boost when a philanthropist named Jack Hayward offered to underwrite the cost of bringing the ship back home.

A submersible barge, the Mulus III, was hired and the hull of the great ship towed 11,000 km across the Atlantic and returned to the same dock in which she was built on the Avon River 131 years before.

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By Emma Clarke



The End

Anzac Day in Canberra.

Marg Cooper

John Parkinson was missing from the Anzac Service at Meredith this year. He usually leads the parade, with others, and proudly carries one of the flags. His family were also missing from the Anzac Day Service. They usually come in force to support John, to show respect and to give thanks that he returned from Vietnam, safely.

John and his wife Anne travelled to Canberra this year to meet up with members of his platoon. They have met with the group several times over the years at different places but this time was special because it marked fifty years since the end of the Vietnam War.

John said that he got up early and attended the dawn service and then marched to the 11 am service at the Australian War Memorial with the members of his platoon. The fourteen or so ex-soldiers and their wives stayed together at a caravan park in Canberra and enjoyed catching up and reminiscing.

John was conscripted in what was known as the birthday lottery. Most twenty-year-old Australian men had to register for National Service between 1965 and 1972. Wooden balls with numbers written on them representing the days of the year were rotated in a barrel that had been used for fifty years for Tattersall's cup sweeps, then individually dropped out. If one of the balls corresponded to your birthday it meant that you were eligible for call up. The prize was a trip to Kapooka or Puckapunyal for National Service training and possibly a tour of duty in Vietnam.

John said that 60,000 men were conscripted during the Vietnam conflict. More than 523 died and many were injured on active duty. The conscripts were affectionately known as Nashos. John Teggelove and Ambrose Crowe were two other local men who were conscripted.

John left for Vietnam in March 1967. He returned to Australia in March 1968, came back to his home town and resumed a very successful farming career. John recalls that the last organized event held in the Morrisons Hall was a welcome home to him in 1972.

Advance Meredith Assoc Inc.

The Advance Meredith Association was established in the 1980s with the aim "to beautify and improve the township of Meredith, enhance and improve the Heritage township feel, encourage community involvement by organising events that bring the community together".

The AMA meets on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 1.30pm at the Meredith History Centre, Staughton Street.

To be successful in obtaining grants from the Golden Plains Shire Council, to help implement projects it is important to have Community Co-ordinators.

Community Co-ordinators are local residents who volunteer their time to co-ordinate the development and implementation of a community plan. The community plan outlines projects they will undertake to make their town a better place to live and play.

Here is an opportunity to put forward any ideas you may have for future events or town improvements to enhance the town.

If you have a desire to see our town grow and would like to become actively involved in future development you are welcome to attend the next AMA meeting to be held on Saturday 17 June.

For more detailed information contact Cheryl (AMA President) on 0407 837 617.

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Answering the Call of the Mountains

Joan Brick

I have always enjoyed the rugged outdoors since I was younger and especially during my association with Girl Guides and camping. During school vacations in my younger days and even after I was married with a family, there was always at least one week put aside for going camping in the bush. It was a time to just spend exploring, listening to the bird, animal and tree sounds and enjoying being one with nature. I was always interested in going off the beaten track to discover scenic views that lie on the edge of cliffs.

In my role as the Coordinator at Meredith Community Centre, I enjoyed seeing people learn new skills and coming together with others to share a common interest. Education is a lifelong process and finding a passion in some area is what keeps us motivated, and looking forward to facing new challenges that may come our way. When I resigned from the Community Centre due to my husband's terminal illness, I realized I needed to find a passion that would help me face the challenge of life after my husband passed away.

I found my answer when I joined a local Bushwalking Club in Ballarat. At first I was mainly doing hikes around the local area, but the more I engaged with others in the club, the more I became interested in exploring other areas in Victoria, other states and other countries around the world. We are so lucky in Victoria to have so many local places to explore such as the Grampians which I love and frequently return to, the Brisbane Ranges, You Yangs, Werribee Gorge, Mt Cole, Mt Buffalo, the Great Ocean Road, and the list goes on.

One of my favourite hikes is the one up to Mt Feathertop which is so scenic especially done via the Razorback track. Aside from Victoria, I have ventured into NSW to climb Mt. Kosciusko and Mt Gower, I have gone to Tassie to do the Three Capes Walk and other climbs in the Tarkine area, I have gone to Qld to climb in the Glass House Mountains, the Giraween area and Carnarvon Gorge, I have ventured into WA to hike in the Kalbarri National Park and next on my list is hiking in the Kimberleys. The furthest I have ventured is to Nepal to hike to Mt. Everest Base Camp as well as do 3 other 5,000m climbs. This was the most amazing trip, not only for the incredible scenery but for the chance to experience the life of the beautiful Nepalese people we met along the way.

New Zealand is very a special place to hike and I have enjoyed hikes on both the North and South Island. The North has the Tongariro Crossing and beautiful emerald colour geothermal lakes and the South Island has such a variety of stunning mountains, lakes and waterfalls. In August I will be going with a group to France to do the Mt Blanc circuit which includes hiking in the French, Italian and Swiss Alps, which I know will be challenging, and yet so incredible especially with regard to the scenery. I hope these hills will be alive with the sound of music!!

Hmmm...what's on my agenda for 2024??? I know Mt Fuji is on the list but after that I will just wait to answer whichever mountain calls



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Rituals To Maintain In Your Significant Relationship

Revd, Dr Timothy Smith

I write a lot about our relationships in our community and community organisations, but I wonder if we have ever stopped to consider that our immediate family is a community. And whether the relationship we have with our life partner, our significant other, as a community of two. I think this is what is meant, in part, in the consent of the Anglican wedding service asking, will you be faithful ‘forsaking all others so long as you both shall live?’ Many miss the point when two people live together it is bringing together two family community cultures. All relational partnerships are multicultural communities and this can create conflicts and tensions within the relationship.

Although it might seem small and inconsequential, rituals can have an overwhelmingly positive effect on our relationship with our significant other. Rituals create and nurture connection, shared meaning, and a sense of stability in our bonding. They act as constant relational touch points that help us stay tethered to each other and our unique identity as a couple – in the midst of our busy lives.

The goodbye/reunion ritual - The goodbye kiss, or the “I love you’s” as we see each other off in the morning. A kiss or a decent hug when we return home sets off some feel-good endorphins and re-establishes that bond as we reunite, starting our evening off on the right foot.

The celebration ritual - Don’t forget birthdays and anniversaries, but also life milestones, job promotions, recalling a happy memory, recognising a family tradition, or resolving a problem. Make a special meal or treat, eat at a favourite restaurant, or put on that song that kicks off a kitchen dance party – there’s no right or wrong.

The holiday ritual - We grow up with different family traditions and ways of celebrating time together. Sure, we might adopt some of the traditions of one or both of our families, but don’t be afraid to try new things or add our own unique spin to them. Plan a holiday together; holidays have potential to create our own identity as a couple. If our family includes children include them this also establishes a sense of family identity.

The daily ritual—These might be mistaken for the mundane parts of marriage, but they can actually be the glue that connects the ups and downs of life as a couple. Rituals such as making tea for our partner in bed in the morning, settling into the couch for a few quiet minutes of cuddling after the kids are in bed, brushing your teeth together every night before crawling into bed for pillow talk. While they don’t seem exciting, they are comforting moments that you can count on.

The dating ritual - How often do we talk about incorporating a weekly date or date night without the kids? It could simply be a picnic, going for a walk on the beach, or going out to a restaurant for dinner. Continuing to date each other throughout your relationship is important and can help make that time spent together feel special.

The silly ritual - This is my favourite ritual of some light-hearted actions or language we might share in our partnership no one else knows. Things like nicknames, an over-the-top secret handshake when our favourite sports team gets a win, a nonsensical phrase from an inside joke years ago that means “I love you.” These silly rituals started without intention, but the bond and “we”-ness they cultivate is priceless and come out of friendship, knowing each other well, and we can’t fake them.

Relationship rituals highlight the uniqueness of our relationship, strengthen our bond, and show affection with our significant other. There are probably things we do and say which we don’t even think of as rituals; make sure you keep them up to benefit your relationship?

Based on <https://www.prepare-enrich.com/blog/6-types-of-rituals-to-maintain-in-your-marriage>

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Meredith History Interest Group

Annual Open Day:

Meredith History Interest Group held its Annual Open Day on Sunday, May 7 at the History Centre at 31 Staughton Street, Meredith. Despite the cold weather conditions many people visited, enjoyed the displays, talked history and ate the scones lavished with jam and cream.

The theme for this Open Day was Communications Thru the Ages which included displays related to letter writing, newspapers, telephones and radios. For letter writing we had pens with nibs, ink and paper, airmail, postcards and telegrams etc. For newspapers we had examples of the local paper that started out as the Steiglitz Miner and became the Meredith Sentinel, early issues of the Meredith Newsletter, a printing machine that would have been used in that era and Weekly Times from the 1960's. For telephones we displayed a big table of telephones from earliest to later, plus a red phone for emergencies and a line-up of mobile phones. Some of the phones played appropriate tunes. For example, one upright phone played the theme from Homicide, the detective series that was on television in the 1970's {the actors used a similar phone} and one old black phone played Rule Britannia. For radios we had bulky old radios and transistor radios of many sizes.

Outside Marg displayed some early forms of communication. There was a letter in a bottle from Gilligan on an island of sand, a lamp in a window and a sheet on a clothes line. Neighbours of my forbears would hang a white sheet on their line, two hills yonder to signal if they needed a lift to town. And Gail made delicious scones and served them with tea and coffee.

Although people are welcome to visit at any time when MHIG is open, on the Open Day we not only present a display of interesting historical items and information but we make ourselves available to help with history questions whether it be about families, properties, events or articles.

Thank you to all who helped by researching, providing

items for display, setting up the History Centre, being in attendance on Open Day to help and to Gail for the scones!

Exhibition of Photos of Morrisons:

We are now collecting photos and information for this display that is to be held on October 15 and 16 in the Meredith Hall.

Some members of MHIG took a road trip to Morrisons on May 18 to familiarise ourselves with the river, the roads, buildings, geography etc. From Meredith to the front gate of Moreep via Bayards Road to Dollys Creek, around the Tableland to Mt Doran and back via Lal Lal Road. We had some members with extensive knowledge of the areas travelled, and some who were desperately trying to absorb it all.

Please look through your old photo albums for scenes, places, houses, properties, enterprises, events etc. You can call in at the History Centre with your photos on Tuesdays or Thursdays,

email meredithhistoryinterestgroup@gmail.com or ring Marg on 0408109389.

They Take Their Pumpkins Seriously in the USA

Don Atherton

Elsewhere in this issue, you will find the results of the school garden large pumpkin contest. The results this year were a little disappointing due to weather conditions in the last year.

The contest reminded me of the time I was driving down the west coast of America in the state of Oregon many years ago. I pulled off the freeway to have a rest break, and came across a little town called Canyonville (probably about the size of Ballan). Canyonville folks



were having their annual carnival and the giant pumpkin contest was in full swing at the time. I ended up spending a few hours there talking with the locals.

There were 13 giant pumpkin entries on the day and many of the entrants were quite secretive of their growing methods and the genetics of their "babies" The largest pumpkin on the day weighed in at a whopping 1476.5 lbs (670Kg)

As a matter of interest – I googled "bigpumpkin.com" & found that the current world record giant pumpkin was grown by Stephano Cutrupi in Italy – 2702.9 lbs (1226kgs).

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Marg's Book Review

The Sun Walks Down by Fiona McFarlane.

The book is set in the fictional town of Fairly and its outposts in South Australia's Flinders Ranges in 1883.

It takes its title from the Swedish expression for the setting of the sun is an excellent work of literary historical fiction.

There are seven sunsets in the story. They are violent, apocalyptic red and coincide with a dust storm that sweeps across the town and countryside. Once the storm has passed it is discovered that six-year-old Denny Wallace is missing from his parents' farm. Has he strayed into the bush or has he been snatched by someone?

The narrative takes place over seven days. The story traces the search for the boy through a parched, rugged landscape and along the way we are introduced to many local residents.

The author employs the lost child as a foundation for exploring a cast of characters. She shifts from lost child to struggling landholder, despairing mother, siblings, policeman who is also an author, Aboriginal stockman, travelling foreign artist, his wife, vicar, Aboriginal tracker, prostitute and policeman's new wife. The narrative allows the reader to critically examine their motivations and behavior. We see how egos and their self-worth affect their conduct. We also see the world as a child might see it.

Their stories are cleverly written and contain many perspectives, including some that are often omitted from the Australian literary world, including the mother, a maid, an artist and a sex worker. The author explores many themes including colonization, sexism, racism, violence, fear, hope, loss, hardship, desire and of course the landscape.

The Flinders Ranges were laid down, long ago and slowly, in layers of different kinds of rock and in the eons since then have been worn by time and water and wind. It is a harsh but beautiful land. The landscape plays a heavy role in each character's experience and in the book, all the colonists desert their farms in the few years after 1883.

A review tells that the novel consciously explores the anxieties of unbelonging that inhabit the 19th century tradition of stories of European children taken by the Australian wilderness.

Croc Report



May Report by *Mick Devlin, Coach* 0413609863

May 7 - A huge day - 3 milestones.

Scott Cowie 150 games(don't know how many good ones)

Col Mullane 100 games(nothing was going to stop him from getting his 100)

And Kiwi **Scotty Nelson**(Olympian, commonwealth games and now 50 gamer for the Crocs)

The brave men from Kerang/Swan Hill Superules made sure we had a game, short on numbers they made up for it with their masters spirit. The Crocs really appreciate the effort from the Rams players.

The Crocs had a record 30 blokes (5 of whom were first gamers) ready for a game with a few of them filling in for the opposition so we could have a game with 18 on each side.

It was a close one and some great football was played. It was hard, tough and fair. The Crocs ended up with the win.

Best players for the day:

Mitch Troy was brilliant as always in the middle.

Our captain big **Craig(badger)Taylor** was great up forward. But the men of the hour took the prizes with **Scotty Cowie** and **Col Mullane** combining for 7 goals and were deserving of the cheese awards. We welcome our newcomers **Chris, Paul, Youngie, Nudge and Stephen**. Hope you all enjoyed yourself.

Special thanks :to—**Ange Fatone** for his bar work and time keeping; **Harley and Jack** for goal umpiring.; **Chris Gray** for umpiring his first masters game; **Wendy** and her kitchen crew, **Meg and Kylie**.

May 20—a night game at Woodend to take on the Woodend Masters Football Club. We arrived late and it showed the first quarter. The Woodend boys came out firing. We managed to get a few back in the second quarter and the rest of the game was pretty even. The Woodend boys did enough to hold on.

Best for the day—Six pack: **Sid Jones** kicked 7 goals.

Meredith Diary Cheese awards: **Paul Jones** was great all game and is a welcome new addition to the club; **Paul Swampy Collis** was great in the centre. Thanks for joining us for the night Swampy; **Shaun Faulkner** was the general down back spoiling everything and kicking out with precision.

The Royal Hotel Meredith pub voucher:

Mick Rooney who was back to his best playing in the ruck, tackling and smothering like he was 35 again.

Next game is against Melton at Melton. 1230pm Sunday 4 June.



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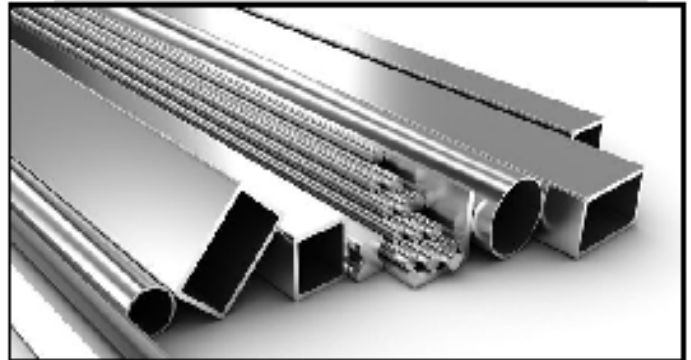
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G'day from the penners for June. We hope you are managing to stay nice and warm now that the cold weather has really begun. A good excuse to snuggle up in front of a warm fire and have a good read. We hope you enjoy this month's story, written by Laima McArdle

Never Forget

I will never forget the smell of the smoke all around the camp. The heat was penetrating. The air was still and silence was everywhere. Wherever you looked, there was a wall of grey in the distance – fluffy smoke rose upwards. A flock of galahs landed noisily squawking to decorate the branches of the dead gum tree nearby, but they didn't settle and took off again screeching, restless, their sound echoing loudly in the surrounding silent stillness.

Evening fell, the horizon was lit with intermittent spots of dancing orange lights surrounding us in a circle quite far away, it seemed. We children sat on the steps of the hut, Mum and Grandma were busy packing, efficient, practical. I was given a parcel to carry. What was in it? I didn't know.

"We will go to the lake," Mum said, "if the fires get closer."

How far was the lake? Not too far. Then I thought that being near the water would be good, but would we have to step into the water with our clothes on till the water was as high as our chins? Would our faces get hot with the fires close to the shores of the lake?

But underneath the practicality of, the bustle, the activity, I felt a hidden unuttered fear. The dark movements, the uncertainty, the waiting. As if this scenario had been played out before, as if history was repeating itself, as if Mum and Grandma had danced these steps in the past, long ago as refugees, and were going through a well-practiced routine – pack your bags and aim for sanctuary.

What is happening in the world now?

The Mums and Grandmas are practical – packing up their families, their few belongings and heading 'for the lake', a safe harbour, somewhere, anywhere, should the fires come too close.

On a hot summer's day, here in the Australian bush country, or anywhere really, when the air is very, very still, when the evening is falling like a heavy blanket and the galahs in the distance screech as they fly by, or try to roost on a tree, the fear, the sadness, the uncertainty, an indescribable feeling of longing for something – what? I don't know, is it 'home' envelops me.

This is what I will never forget.

Neither will the generations from this war-torn world.

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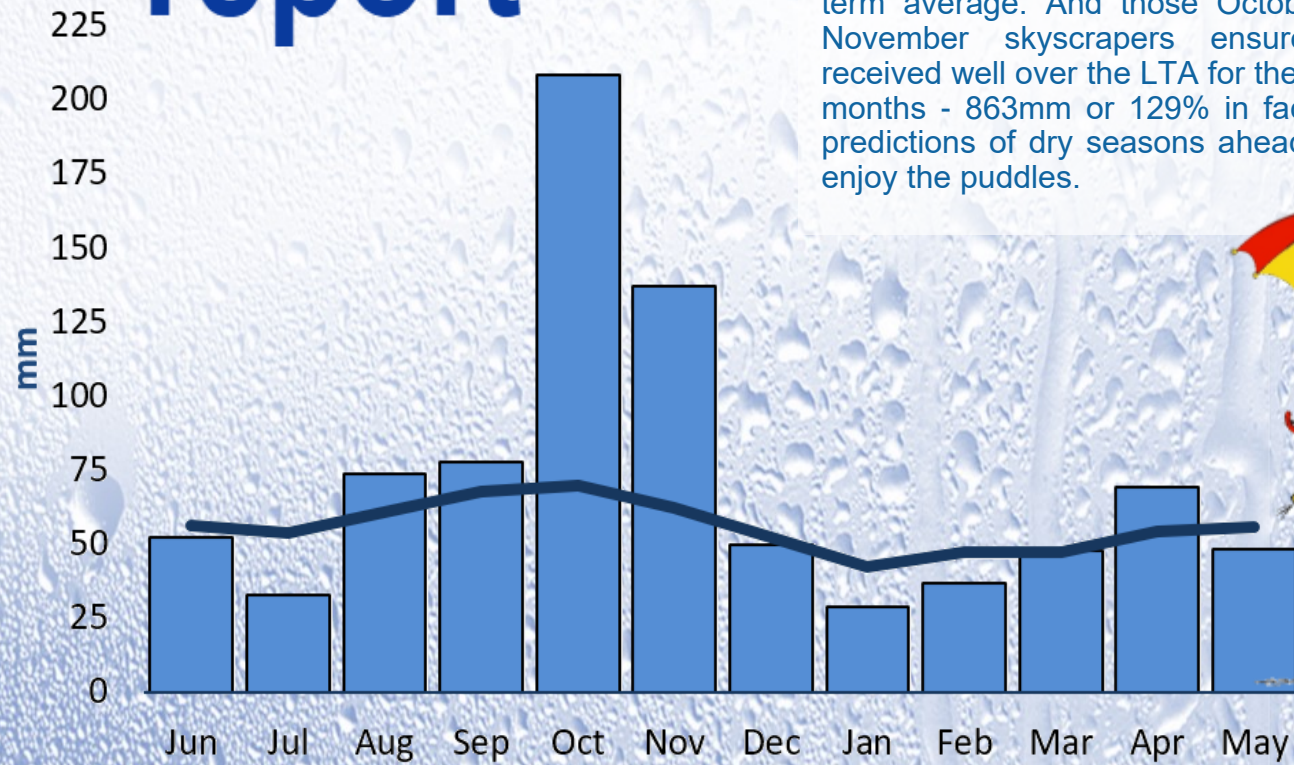
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the rain report

In what felt like a cold autumn, delivering few of those sublime days we all look forward to in this part of the world, it was not a dry one. The 165mm that fell during the season was 105% of the long term average. And those October and November skyscrapers ensured we received well over the LTA for the last 12 months - 863mm or 129% in fact. With predictions of dry seasons ahead of us, enjoy the puddles.



(Rainfall recorded up to 9.00am on 28/05/2023)



BERRYBANK WIND FARM COMMUNITY GRANTS

Delivered in partnership with Berrybank Development Pty Ltd, the Berrybank Wind Farm Community Grants Program provides funding opportunities to support local community, business and tourism events and projects in Golden Plains Shire.

Community and business groups/organisations are eligible to apply for grant funding in two categories:

- Economic Development and Tourism projects and events
- Community projects and events (over \$10,000)

For both categories, multi-year funding may be granted.

The Berrybank Wind Farm Community Grants Program will open at **9am on 1 June** and close at **2pm on 30 June 2023**.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss your application with Council's Community Grants team. Please enquire as soon as possible to allow adequate time to discuss your application prior to the submission deadline.

For more information about the program, please visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au or contact Council's Community Development and Grants Officer.

Phone: 5220 7111

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