

Meredith & district News



OUR **FREE** COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2023



inside

- This unusual native tree might surprise you.
- Clippings from the Sharing Shed.
- Happy 80th Barry!
- Good advice for new arrivals.
...and the usual LOTS MORE!

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MOORABOOL Wind Farm

COMMUNITY UPDATE - July 2023

Round 5 Community Grant & Scholarship Fund

Round Five of the Community Grant fund will be a joint round for Moorabool North and South. **Applications will be opening 21st July.**

Community Grant

Aimed to offer financial support for projects that will provide lasting benefits, promote positive and long-term results for the local community and promote sustainability.

Scholarship Fund

Applications will be welcomed from eligible students. Scholarships can be awarded to a community member undertaking studies from any age, for any level of education (e.g. primary, secondary, tertiary) and will be decided based on eligibility and the selection criteria noted in the guidelines.

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 now closed for Moorabool North and will end on 30th Sept 2023 for Moorabool South. Please contact us if you have not previously participated and would like to register your interest.



Moorabool Wind Farm Sponsorship Project with Moorabool Land Care

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.

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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, 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

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advertising@meredithnews.com.au

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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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ANGLING CLUB 0419 248 660	GOLF CLUB 0407 795 342
B'BURN ART GROUP 0410 808 483	HISTORY GROUP 5286 8201
BLUE LIGHT DISCO 5286 1222	LANDCARE 0409 862 326
BOOK CLUB 5286 8201	MEMORIAL HALL 0409 662106
CFA 000 for fire calls Elaine 0409 861 296 Meredith 5286 1502 Morrison 0417 770 765	MEREDITH SEWING GROUP 0491 184 999
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
CUBS & SCOUTS Lethbridge 0435 042077	RSL - 5286 1452
ELAINE HALL elainetownhall@gmail.com	SENIOR CITIZENS 5286 8232
	TENNIS Elaine 0448 291 074 Lethbridge 52 817 321 Meredith 0424 754 179
	SEW 'N' SEWS 5286 0700
	FRIENDS OF THE BRISBANE RANGES 5286 1252

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	1300 363 036 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 PRIMARY SCHOOL 5286 1313 RECREATION RESERVE 0429 315 575
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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



"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is time for home."
- Edith Sitwell



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 Sat @ 5pm - July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

St. Brigid, Anakie Sun @ 9am - July 9, 23

St. Joseph, Meredith Sun @ 9am - July 2, 16, 30

St. Mary MacKillop, Bannockburn Sun @ 11am - July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Sacred Heart, Inverleigh Sun @ 4pm - July 16



Meredith Tennis Club News

Bridget Dyer

The Thursday night Autumn Competition finals night was washed out and rescheduled for the following week.

The finals ended up being a great night of tennis! Both semis went to tie breaker, with The In-betweeners and Top Gun emerging triumphant. Unfortunately, The Inbetweeners had given their all in the semis and Top Gun were true to their name and won 6-0. Congrats to all the teams involved in the Thursday night Autumn comp. It's been great watching you all and we hope you have had a bit of fun.

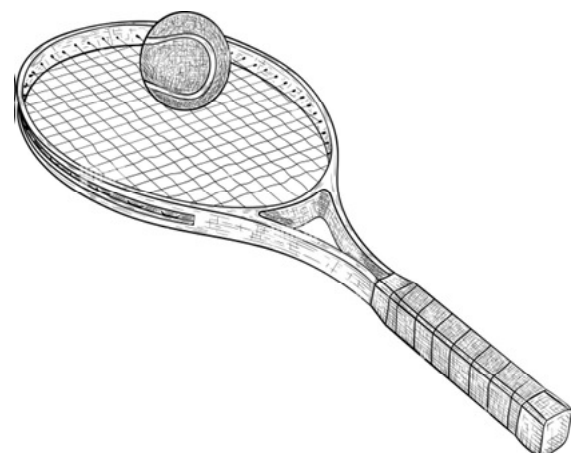
We will be having another Winter competition which will start around the 2nd of August and will again run for six weeks. Children with competition experience or who have had coaching are again welcome to play with an adult. We have loved seeing adults getting back into tennis and welcome beginners as well. Registration will be \$30 per team of two and there will be a cash prize. Please contact us via Facebook or at meredithtennis2020@gmail.com for registration forms and more information.

Our AGM will be on the 24th August. We would love to see as many people as possible, as we will be discussing which association we will be playing in for the next season, and the options available to everyone playing.

Thursday night junior training sessions will resume August 31st. Please contact us to book your child in as spots may be limited.

In the lead up to the next summer season, which will start in October, we will be running a grading day for our juniors in September. This will allow us to organise teams and give everyone a chance to put in preferences for the season ahead. Please note that preferences will be taken into consideration (i.e. siblings playing in the same teams, friends being together) but coaches may not be able to accommodate all preferences.

Please contact us if you want to be involved in Tennis in anyway!



OUR COVER

We've got Carolyn Edwards' photo of a native cherry tree on our cover this month, and Wendy's "In Our Nature" column on page 18 tells its fascinating story.

Thanks Carolyn for the photo.



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



Next game is 16 July against Sunbury so let's all make an effort to get there.

Its really great to see some younger players taking interest in Masters football. We have a great club and love see new players join. If anyone one is interested in dusting off the boots or even playing for the first time our contact details are below or you can follow us on Facebook.

Mick Devlin (Coach) 0413609863
Mick Rooney (President) 0408545246

Mick Devlin

Sunday 5th of June, the Crocs travelled down the road to Melton to take on the Melton Panthers. After a last minute ring around we ended up with 19 players (a couple of whom were carrying injuries). A couple of first gamers in Rocco and Fuzz were a great addition.

The weather looked like it was going to turn sour, but the sun poked through and it turned out to be a beautiful day.

The game started and Melton came out firing. They were running hard and kicked the first couple of goals. As the game progressed the Crocs defence led by Craig Badger Taylor was holding its own. Up forward, goals were proving extremely hard to come by, for both teams, which shows just how tough a game it was. 2 goals down in the final quarter the Crocs rallied and managed to just get over the line with a final Goal from Sid Jones in the last 2 mins. It was a fantastic team effort, all over the ground and probably the Crocs best team performance all year. Best players for the day were hard to pick because everyone did their job but there were a few stand outs: Kevin the legend Murray, John Peterson, David Pike, first gamers Fuzz and Rocco (Tristan and Matt), Shaun Faulkner and Scott Foran.

Thanks to Mick Bats for coaching for the day and big Damo Harwood for running water.

Thanks to the Melton Superules Football Club for hosting us for the day, it was great to hang around for a few beers and a chat after the game.

Sunday the 19th June the Crocs took on the valiant Maryborough AFL Masters Pumas. Although they were undermanned the Pumas put up a fantastic effort. Thanks to the Crocs players for helping out the Pumas. The weather seem to hold out except for the strong wind and the game was played at a hectic pace from the get go. The Pumas came out strong in the first quarter and the Crocs managed to get a couple of goals against the wind. The rest of the game was tough and hard but the Crocs managed to come out on top kicking away in the last quarter. There were some great efforts all over the ground from both teams. There was a goal of the year contender from Scott Nelson, who kick one over his head to snag the goal of the year so far. Best for the Crocs were, Mitch Troy, Chris Parker, Paul Jones, Vinnie Fantasia, Craig Taylor, Scott Foran and the 50 gamer David Pike. Another great day for the Crocs and masters' football. Special thanks to Wendy, Kylie, Jaz and Meg for running the kitchen and Kev B and Ange Fatone for running the bar, also Doopa for doing a fantastic job with the whistle. Thanks also to Harley and Jack for doing the goal umpiring.

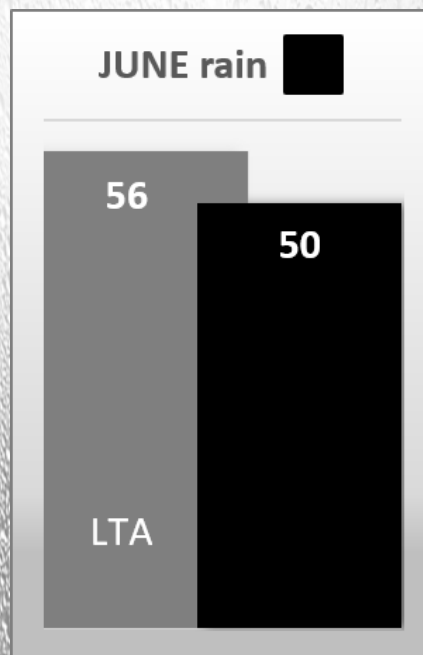
Great to see a couple of new faces and a couple of returning players in Johnno Greenwood, Johnny Cranston, Kirk and Adam Sayer.

We're interested in finding a new...
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE MEMBER



If you have the skills and experience to join the dedicated team behind this important community project, please register your interest through news@meredithnews.com.au

the June rain report





MEREDITH MINI-TECH HUB

- ✔ 3D printers & virtual reality
- ✔ Community-driven project
- ✔ Supported by the Victorian Government's Living Local Fund

For more info:
meredithsharingshed.com.au

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

TERM 3

Fermentation Made Easy with Narelle
New Date TBA - 10.30 - 2.00 - \$120 pp

Watercolours for Beginners - Marion East
2 Hour Workshop Coming Soon

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 - Expressions of Interest

Mums & Bubs

Movement, Mindfulness & Meditation with Jade
Mondays - 2pm - \$12 per class

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Come and Learn new skills on your device, Android, Apple & all Laptops
Group Sessions or 1 on 1 available
\$20 per person per session

POWER SAVING BONUS
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NEXT ROUND OF THE PSB STARTS 24 MARCH 2023



Bring in your Power Bill and Bank Account Details to the Community Centre and claim your \$250 - ENDS AUGUST 2023!

Tai Chi - \$15 per session

Tuesdays @ Meredith with Sandra - 9.15 - 10.15
Wednesdays @ Bannockburn with Desma - 9:30 - 10.30
Taking Expressions of Interest for Inverleigh!

Steady Feet @ Meredith - \$10 per session
Wednesdays - 10:00 - 11:00 am

To Book:

learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au
www.facebook.com/MeredithCommunityCentre
Ph. 5286 0700 / 0491 184 999

📘 Join us on Facebook & Instagram @meredithcommunitycentre



PLAYGROUP
TUESDAYS

9.00am - 11.30am
\$2 per family

The Philatelist

Michael Riseley



Numbers too easy??

Oh but it used to be easy. Stamps had a number on them to show the cost. But towards the end of last century, some postal administrations introduced stamps with Alphabet letters or words instead of numbers to be used for the various postal rates. Presumably this would give them some cost savings with sorting and also make sure that correct payments were made for different mailings. These depended on many things including envelope size, weight, destination and transporting. And even different types of mail such as postcards which often have a different rate.

For example the UK have some stamps with 2nd, 1st, E, A, Postcard printed on them instead of numbers. They also have some stamps with the words "Large Letter" printed on them. These are for use on larger letters. Naturally enough these stamps are much larger than normal stamps. AAHH!!

USA has a postal rate for big business whereby there is a discount if the business does some of the hard work. A business needs a permit and a minimum mailing of 500 letters. If the business sorts and bundles the mail according to the postcode, they get to use a special Pre Sorted stamp. Also there is a discounted stamp with "Non Profit Org" printed on it for use by charities.

Ukraine has lots of different postal rates and over time has issued stamps with the letters A, B, C, D, E, L, N, P, R, V, X on them. Not sure what they use now for mail to Russia.

Australia has joined in. We have special stamps for International mail. And we also issued discounted Xmas stamps for use by pensioners.

The clever Norwegians make it very simple. They issue some stamps with just words. So they have Innland for within Norway, Europa for within Europe, and Verden for within the world. They do not have a stamp for mail to Mars.

Just Moved?

*The Revd Dr Timothy Smith, Vicar
Inverleigh/Bannockburn/Meredith Anglican Parish*

Welcome to wherever you have recently moved to. For whatever reason you have moved into this new location, whether it's a once-in-a-lifetime job opportunity, a temporary relocation for school for the kids, an itch to experience a new tree change lifestyle, downsizing for retirement, or to ease the increasing housing interest rates. Maybe you have left family, friends, and familiarity and now you don't know anyone here.

It's not uncommon for couples and families moving to unfamiliar places to find the only people they know are their family members. This transition time can have its challenges, but it also can be an opportunity to bond and strengthen their connection.

Establish good communication - First of all, focus on the relationships within the family. Be open in sharing your thoughts and feelings; what you're excited about, what you're most worried or stressed about, finding your way around a new town, getting used to a new routine, the additional times separated due to travel times for jobs, and grieving what you have left behind especially if you were forced to make the move. All these things may have been an impact on your relationship. Honest, open, and vulnerable conversation about these things will strengthen and serve your family relationships well.

Think about the support you both need - If you have moved here and literally know no one, you shouldn't expect your spouse to fulfil all of our social and emotional needs. In a growth area like we have here, there are others in the same transition. Don't expect your new neighbours to reach out to you; they may be in the same boat. Be aware that you will need to work at building new support networks and relationships. Discuss different ways you can help each other in building a support system in your new place.

Build new friendships - Sure, you'll probably keep in touch with your old friends, but learning the ins and outs of your new town building will be a part of creating new friendships and the support system you need. When it comes to meeting new people, be open-minded and willing to connect with people through all areas of your life: your job if it is local, your kids' friends' parents, hobbies, neighbours, even try the church, etc. My church offers a Men's Breakfast, a BYO Friendship Lunch, and Devonshire Teas, as an opportunity to welcome and meet new people. Be willing to step outside your comfort zone, what you are used to, and encourage each other to do so.

Embrace the experience as a team - Sometimes the move has been motivated by the needs or requirements of one person – their career or education or financial pressures. However, try to remember that you are doing it together, as a team; a unique experience that you get to share as a married couple or a family. There will be aspects of the experience, negative feelings about the move, which can challenge and test your relationship. Get them out in the open, embrace them with the right mindset, before they turn to resentment.

Living in a regional town or village has different aspects to living within a city. Some people seem to have moved here for anonymity and a quiet life. Long term residents are cautious about the changes the newcomers are making to their town, some for the better. But they will always welcome those who seek to have a sense of belonging and love of the place they love and are willing to connect and make friends.

Based on <https://www.prepare-enrich.com/blog/marriage-in-a-new-city/>

Prepare/Enrich is a low-cost programme we offer to explore relationship strengths and growth areas in times of transition: preparing for a wedding, an addition to the family, change in career, approaching retirement, or just to evaluate and strengthen your relationship. Please contact us for an appointment.



WOMEN & JUNIOR CRICKET

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<https://www.facebook.com/meredithrams>

The Meredith Sharing Shed

Chris Ardrey

Linda Wong and Chris Ardrey moved to Meredith in December 2011. They have a Professional Services / Consulting background where they worked in top-tier consulting organisations like KPMG and Deloitte. Leveraging their educational knowledge, practical experiences and passion for community work, they have established a number of businesses along their journey.

With a strong appetite for making positive change in communities, Linda is always on the lookout for opportunities. When the Meredith Interpretive Centre was advertised for an Expression of Interest back in late 2019, Linda and Chris submitted an application with the aim to activate the space for the Community. It was also a space where they could run programs as part of their charity, Hands of Change.

Linda and Chris were successful in being awarded the lease on the property in April 2020 – just in time for Covid! Despite the challenges of Covid, they were able to deliver the following activities:

Re-branded the space to “***Meredith Sharing Shed***”

Provided the space for Hands of Change to launch a program called “***Nurturing Young Minds for their Future***” with Meredith Primary School. This program teaches the year 5 and 6s basic business skills through the delivery of a community project. They are about to start the 4th cohort in July, just after the school holidays.

Designed and built the first few phases of the Meredith Community Garden.

Started the monthly Food Swaps which occur on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

As time progressed, certain aspects of what was originally planned were not going to be feasible on the land. Therefore, Linda and Chris consulted with stakeholders in the community, where the idea of bringing in some high-tech equipment to learn to use, would deliver key benefits in developing technology skills.

Fast forward to 2023 and Hands of Change launched the Mini Tech Hub at the Meredith Sharing Shed through a Living Local grant from the Victorian State Government.

So far, the Mini Tech Hub has been kitted out with:

- 2 x 3D Printers
- 1 x 3D Milling Machine
- 1 x 3D scanner
- 1 x Vinyl Cutter
- VR Headsets and Camera
- 2 Computers to access the Regional Library resources.
- 3 x Security cameras

Of course, this high-tech equipment is only good if you know how to use it! That is where the partnerships come into play. Through a partnership with RMIT Activator and further support from GPG Naturgy, the Meredith Sharing Shed is offering FREE workshops for the community. The first workshop was held on 25 May, where participants learned how to use the 3D printer. Second workshop on “Marketing in a digital world” was held on 29 June.

Want to find out more about the Mini Tech Hub or want to use the equipment? Head to <https://meredithsharingshed.com.au/>.

Or you can pop into the Meredith Sharing Shed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 10am to 12noon. Alternatively, call them on 5286 1140 or email at info@meredithsharingshed.com.au.



Checking the status of the 3D Printer

...and from a participant

I knew something of the capability of 3D printing, from houses to human organs. So when the opportunity to join the 3D Workshop last May came along, I was keen to join in, albeit with somewhat more modest ambitions.

I am very glad I did, spending a fascinating day being guided through the software and hardware involved by Chris and Juan, a very capable expert from RMIT.

Chris and Linda deserve credit for the Sharing Shed initiative and using it to bring tech facilities to a rural district.

I would strongly urge you to take advantage of these continuing workshops, or call in when they are open.

Well done both of you and best wishes for a successful venture.

- Jim Elvey



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EaSy and DeLiSH*with Stefania***Ginger Oat Cookies****Makes 16****Ingredients**

- 3 cups rolled oats
- 1 1/2 cups plain flour
- 2/3 cup castor sugar
- 2/3 cup finely chopped crystalised ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon allspice
- 1/4 cup honey
- 125g unsalted butter, chopped
- 1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- 2 tablespoons boiling water

Method

1. Preheat oven to 160c. Place oats, flour, sugar, ginger and allspice in a bowl and mix to combine.
2. Place the honey and butter in a small saucepan over low heat and cook stirring for 3-4 minutes until melted. Add the bi carb soda and water to the honey mixture and mix to combine. Pour into the oat mixture and mix well to combine.
3. Roll 2 tablespoons of mixture into balls and place onto baking trays lined with baking paper. Flatten to 7cm rounds, allowing room to spread. Bake 8-10 minutes or until deep golden. Allow to cool slightly on trays before transferring to wire racks to cool completely.

Recipe from: Donna Hay

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In the School Garden

Mrs Garden with Evie, Eden, Koa, Mackai & Nemanja, Prep/One

“That’s Not a Daffodil!” is a wonderful book by Elizabeth Honey. Young Tom’s next door neighbour gives him a daffodil bulb to plant but it looks like an onion to Tom. When it starts to sprout it looks like a little green beak appearing out of the soil. A few weeks later the thin leaves develop and it seems to be a hand, then like grandpa’s hair blowing in the wind. Another month and it is like a lamppost with a tall stem and the bud is a little light at the top. There is much excitement when, one day, Tom checks on the pot and a beautiful big yellow trumpet greets him.

The joys of planting bulbs and watching them grow are everlasting. It is hard to believe that they hold in them everything that they need to grow and bloom. Bulbs come in all shapes and sizes from tiny freesias to larger tulips and hippeastrums. There are flower bulbs and bulbs we eat.

The bulb is in the flower pot. We put dirt on the top. *Eden*

The rain watered it. It grew a beak. It’s going to grow a flower. *Evie*

We planted an onion in the pot and then we put it in the soil. Then the onion turned into a daffodil. *Koa*

We put some soil in the pot. Next I put the daffodil, I put it down to rest. The rain came and it had a beak. The chickens in the garden knocked it over so I put it back over. The big kids helped us, too. *Mackai*

The beak is coming out now and it is going to be a hand and then grandpa’s hair in the wind. It will have a little leaf and it will become a daffodil. It will take a long time and it will be yellow. *Nemanja*

As Mackai mentioned, our much loved chickens, who like to cluck around in the garden, did knock a few pots over but we just patted the bulbs back in and stood them up. The prep/ones were quite excited to see the first green shoots appear and there will be more to see after the holidays.

Elsewhere in our school garden the broad beans have self-seeded. We didn’t have time to plant them this year so they reminded us where they were last year and popped up of their own accord. This often happens in gardens if plants are left to go to seed, you can be gifted with another crop the following year.

Before the holidays it was time to delve into the potato area and see if there were any under the soil. The tops of the plants had died down signifying that they were ready. Harvey and Owen were rewarded with a large tub of kipflers, it was just like searching for treasure. Digging was easy as the bed has had layers of hay, straw from the chicken coop and mulch over the years. Meg has very kindly offered to give the coop a mid winter clean so there will be more goodness going on this bed. Now to decide...is it potato salad or potato wedges?

End of term is usually a great time to clean out the garden shed, sweep away the leaves that have blown in, pair up the garden gloves and have a good tidy. Charlie, Dacian, Will and Maddy readily volunteered and did it so efficiently there was time to start on the rose pruning. The ‘Gallipoli’ roses are prolific growers and bloomers so there were plenty of old or dead stems or branches crossing over that needed to be cut out. It’s a job that requires skill to avoid thorn attacks. This will be finished next term. Miss Pritchard who is a practised poppy grower has put some Flanders poppy seeds in the rose beds which will make a spectacular display.

Happy gardening everyone as the daylight gets longer each day and those bulbs start to push up out of the ground, which always means spring is on its way.

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Henry Snowden Saville

Marg Cooper

Sharyn Glenn sent a DVD to Meredith History Interest Group with some photos and details about Henry Saville. Once again, we have researched and added to her information to gain a bigger picture of who this man was and what he did.

Henry Snowden Saville was born in 1829 in Yorkshire, England and worked as a bricklayer. Henry, a Protestant, was disinherited by his Father who was a Sextant Verger in the Church of England, when he married Ellen Butler, a Catholic in 1852. When the marriage did not work out, Henry immigrated to Australia in 1855 leaving Ellen and his new born son, John Henry in Leeds. Henry kept in contact with his son but they would never meet again. To earn a living, Ellen ran a boarding house. Census of 1871 and 1881 record that she had several lodgers as well as family members in her Hostel/Lodging House. Ellen died in 1886 in Leeds.

Soon after arriving in Australia Henry joined the Victorian Police Force and was posted to the Meredith/Stieglitz area when he met the daughter of Francis Hocking, a quartz crusher in the goldfields of Stieglitz. Elizabeth Hocking and Henry were married in Geelong in 1858 and with no record of a divorce between Henry and Ellen it appears as if Henry was a bigamist. Henry and Elizabeth had nine children between 1858 and 1877, six survived into adulthood.

When Henry's 3 month posting to Meredith was coming to an end, a notice in the newspaper appeared from the Meredith townspeople requesting that Henry's tenure be extended. An event is recorded of Henry's time in the area is: Messrs Saville and Toulmein, Mounted Constables both attended the discovery of a calcined body of a man about one and a half miles from Stoney Rises in September 1857 but he probably was stationed at Stieglitz at that time.

Although Henry worked as a policeman his love was for the arts. Henry created brass bands and theatre troops, putting on entertainment for the communities he lived in. Often, Henry loaned his band members money so they could buy instruments, many times these loans were not repaid.

Henry's other postings included:
Queenscliff for seven months;
Stieglitz for eighteen months;
Moorabool Viaduct for two years;
Winchelsea from 1860 until 1865;
Inverleigh from 1865 until 1869;
Streatham from 1870 until retired in 1877.

Mounted Constable Henry Saville was a teetotaler, and very involved with the Temperance Society. No doubt after seeing the damaging affects of alcohol on people and families as a police officer, Henry wanted to help prevent alcohol abuse, not just lock people up for drunk and disorderly. Henry was presented with a timepiece in 1860 in appreciation for his part with the Moorabool Viaduct

Temperance Society. Henry treasured that watch and was distressed when it was stolen in 1891.

Henry was front and centre at momentous times for the young State of Victoria. When Burke and Wills left on their tragic expedition, Henry was part of the Victorian Mounted Police escort out of Melbourne in 1860, he also formed part of the Police escort for The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Albert at the opening of the bridge at Winchelsea in 1867. On learning that one of the Policeman's wives was due to have a baby, he called Henry forward and asked that he name the child after him. On his return home, Henry and Elizabeth Christened their daughter Stella Isabella Alfreda Saville who had been born while Henry was with the Prince.

As well as being a Policeman, Henry was a lay preacher of the Church of England and often served in towns that did not have a church. While Henry was in Streatham, he used his experience as a bricklayer to oversee the building of the bluestone Presbyterian Church in 1869.

When Henry retired from the Police force in 1877, the people of Streatham honoured Henry with a Framed Testimonial and a purse of sovereigns for his interest and energy for the welfare and advancement of the town over the seven years he resided there.

After retirement Henry and Elizabeth took up selections of land in Pyramid Hill. Elizabeth was 7 months pregnant and she walked all the way from Streatham to Pyramid Hill as she found travelling in the wagon too rough. Life on the land was tough. Everything needed to be built, from housing and fences to irrigation channels. Henry was one of the first new settlers in the area to sit on the irrigation commission to somehow channel water into a normally dry land.

Elizabeth Saville died at Pyramid Hill in 1881 aged just 41. Henry still followed his passion for directing and writing music and the height of his musical career came when he was appointed bandmaster in Kerang. The severe droughts throughout northern Victoria saw many people close to starving and sent a great many more bankrupt. Henry was one that could not financially or physically keep going. Henry left Pyramid and his dream of becoming a land owning Gentleman and took up a room in a boarding house in Melbourne. Henry Saville died in West Melbourne in his seventy second year in 1900. He is buried in Melbourne General Cemetery.

If I got 50 cents for every failed math exam, I'd have \$6.30 by now.



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in our NATURE

Wendy Cook

The kangaroo hopped sedately through the forest. It was the middle of a sunny day, warm enough that he was seeking shade. He passed between the manna gums, their smooth pale trunks emerging from the rough bark covering their bases. He continued through a patch of messmates, with grey fibrous bark, typical of stringybarks. The canopies of these Eucalyptus trees held long pointed leaves hanging downwards, providing dappled shade, allowing light and warmth to reach the ground, dry the soil and eventually dehydrate any shallow-rooted plants growing there. Scattered black wattles with feathery leaves were a better source of shade, but the kangaroo hopped past them. In the distance, he could see his favourite shade tree, a cherry ballart. The lowest part of its dark trunk showed beneath an abundance of dense green growth, appearing yellowish in the bright sun. Its foliage formed a conical shape, broad above the visible portion of trunk and narrowing to a peak. Beneath it was a circle of cool dark shade, even the soil was cooler and moister. The plants that grew under it were different to the nearby grasses and small shrubs with tough sharp leaves. Under the cherry ballart, plants were small with soft leaves, such as kidney weed. Its round kidney-shaped leaves and tiny white star-like flowers spread across the ground. It was a cool, comfortable place to spend the hottest part of the day.

As the kangaroo reached the tree's shade, he paused to sniff its foliage, which smelt and looked very different from the eucalypts and wattles. The growth was mostly round green stems with faint stripes or ridges running along them. Its leaves were so tiny they were barely noticeable. Flowers, growing towards the ends of stalks, had yellow petals, each 0.5mm long. A few stalks ended with a small round green fruit. The fruits were hard, but the stems which supported them were red, swollen and edible, and gave the tree its name of cherry ballart or native cherry.

The tree was different from most plants in another way. When it began its life and its roots started to grow, they had sought out the roots of a nearby plant and joined with them. It may have been a gum tree, a wattle, a pea bush or perhaps even a grass. The cherry ballart seedling was a parasite, taking nutrients from the roots of the other plant. As it grew, it was able to photosynthesise using its green stalks, and make its own food. It was no longer so dependent on its host, and later the host may have died, or the link may have been broken. The cherry ballart continued to grow, expanding the reach of its branches outwards and upwards. Underground, its roots spread too, some close to the surface. In two places, these roots had sent up young growth, the beginnings of two more cherry ballart trees.

The kangaroo brushed against one of these young trees as he moved forwards, knocking off a small branch already twigless and broken after a swamp wallaby had browsed on it. He bent low and moved under the mature tree's branches slowly, supporting himself on his hind legs, front feet and long strong tail. He sniffed at the tree's bark, hard, grey and lumpy. He detected the scent of the wallaby which had rested there after its meal the previous day. He nosed at diggings on the far side of the tree, made by an echidna searching for ants. Today, he was first to reach this favoured patch of shade. He lay down and relaxed.

Above him, the tree was busy. Many insects and spiders lived in the tree, so it was a popular feeding place for small insectivorous birds. The kangaroo could hear their calls, twittering and chirping as they hopped along branches. Two wrens made a short flight past a ball of woven twigs in a fork of the tree. It was a drey, the nest of a ringtail possum. Inside, she was curled up and sleeping on a soft lining of broken up messmate bark. Below her, the kangaroo rested, dozing through the warm hours of the day. When the afternoon cooled, he would venture forth among the long shadows to graze. Later, the ringtail possum would peek through the round entrance hole in the side of her drey, climb down the tree's trunk and return to the messmates to feed. During this active time for nocturnal animals, the small birds would sleep, perched on branches and hidden from predators, deep inside the dense growth of the cherry ballart tree.

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Meredith in the 1950s

Andrew Royle.

The year was 1956 and it was a memorable year for a young family growing up in Meredith.

What made this event so special was not just to do with Meredith itself, but also with the time in which we lived. The grey veil of tribulation and sacrifice which had hung over the country for a generation, did at long last finally seem to be lifting.

Although we were too young at the time to understand the historical context of what was happening, the zeitgeist was infectious. Mains electricity was not yet connected to the town but everyone spoke of the soon-to-be introduction of television. So much was the anticipation, that the general store in the centre of Staughton St. displayed a prominent advertising banner proclaiming a new soft drink product line called "TV Drinks". I was captivated by the whole notion.

1956 was also the year of the Melbourne Olympics. So it was only fitting in this newly felt spirit of optimism that the people of the township should line the Midland Highway, and cheer the Olympic torch bearer as he made his way through Meredith, en route to the MCG for the grand opening of the 1956 Melbourne Olympics.

I learnt a new word that day: "bitumen", like in "Keep off the bitumen."

My parents ran the post office in Meredith which was interesting enough as it was a manual telephone exchange meaning that all calls needed to be switched and charged manually. As the operator you quickly got to know everyone on the network.

It was in this environment where one winter's evening we were to discover to our delight, a dusting of about one inch of snow out in the main street, which my elder brother Robert and I collected in a bucket, and then proceeded to shape into a small snowman.

I'm not sure of the timing of the event, but I think it might have been in the run-up to Christmas that year, when there was some sort of presentation event held at the Memorial Hall. As part of this event, people would get up on the stage and tell stories, give speeches or generally entertain the crowd.

It was at this event that one of the town's major identities (I can't recall his name) had invited my brother Robert to sing 2 or 3 songs, among them featuring "The Ballad Of Ned Kelly". This Robert dutifully did, and as I was to find out later was such a spectacular success with the crowd, that the prominent gentleman decided to reward Robert by gifting him a light kit for his bike. Upon hearing of this, our mother Mavis, feeling a bit uncomfortable by this generous gesture, then approached the gentleman in question to ask that he kindly reconsider. What happened next was to go down as an epic moment in the annals of our family folklore. His reply was an emphatic *"He's getting it, he's getting it. I promised it to him and he's getting it"*.

And thus Robert did receive the light kit - and as an added bonus our family also inherited an abiding slogan which would keep on giving right down through the decades.

I visited Meredith recently and was delightfully reassured that its various charms remain intact. I guess a lot of this has to do with the fact that even though it is close to Melbourne it does not lie on a direct route to Melbourne. Not many towns of such historic significance can boast such a setting. It would thus seem to me that in such a frenetic and crowded world Meredith with its timeless intact virtues is setting itself up for a sound future.

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The bartender says, "We don't serve time travellers in here."
A time traveller walks into a bar.

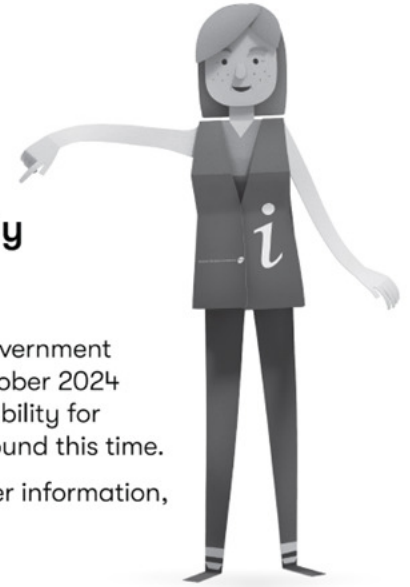


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The Koala

When I came to Meredith 25 years ago, there were lots of koalas about. It was not uncommon to see one walking along the town streets at any time of day. There are lots of manna gum trees on my property, which of course is the koala’s favourite. Over the years the koala population has declined, and it is a rare occasion to see or hear one now, however every now & then I can hear one growling somewhere close by.

Not so long ago I was working in my workshop, and I could hear scratching sounds coming from a nearby manna gum, and to my surprise, there was a koala sitting in a tree fork about one metre from the ground. I talked to him quietly and got closer, and talked to him more, and got closer again, and eventually got to within one metre. He didn’t seem to be stressed or afraid, so I offered him my hand. He sniffed my fingers and seemed to approve of my human smell, though I can’t say his koala smell was all that pleasant (a strong smell of digested gum leaves). We talked some more (a mostly one-sided conversation I must admit), I called him Kol and he called me Grmpf. He let me touch him, so I patted his head and scratched behind his ears. So what do you do these days when you meet a new best friend – you take a selfie photo of course! Kol stayed around for another month or so but sadly I didn’t have another close encounter with him – he preferred to sit up high in the trees (maybe he didn’t like my smell after all).



Don (or *Grmpf*) and his mate Kol.



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...where’s Wally the Wombat?

Marlene Johnson

In our May edition, “My Wild Life” observer, Don Atherton described his serendipitous interaction with a wombat. This has led one of our readers, Gary Bodnar of Mount Doran, to share his 2017 experience of crossing paths with a wombat on Settlement Road. Was this little fellow Don’s visitor?





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Melissa Arch's Once Upon a Benson CHAPTER 6

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Last time...Margie attends her GP, to learn a shock diagnosis. Lottie presents unexpectedly cheerful one morning, which makes her parents suspicious. Bonnie is working hard at the local hospital.

Scott fiddled with his shoelace, preparing to walk to Centrelink. He crept past his parents' room, out the front door. At least the morning was fine. He always felt better after a walk. A simple freedom, especially after being locked up.

Scott observed two young women, whilst standing in line, whispering to each other and trying not to look obvious they were talking about him. He looked at the floor. This is my penance, for the thing that was my fault. Scott was already getting used to the judgement. Even the staff person at the counter expressed concern, after perusing Scott's file.

"That must be hard to live with", she said, rather sympathetically.

"Yes. Yes, it is", replied Scott, again looking at the floor. He wished he could run straight through those glass doors and into the distance. If only I could turn back time, he wished. Nobody ever thought something like that could happen to them.

"Gerald? Gerald? Are you there?", Eunice growled impatiently. It was 5pm. He should be home by now, she thought

to herself. Eunice knocked again, louder.

"Gerald?" Eunice gave up after another minute, walking briskly back across to her own home. She had heard nothing further about her car since the bingle two days ago. Is he avoiding me? Eunice needed a car to get around and would demand answers! She pinned a note to Gerald's front door. Let's see him ignore that, she thought wickedly. Gerald had until the morning to respond and Eunice intended to catch him before work, setting her alarm, ensuring the opportunity would not be missed.

Merv swerved into the park outside the GP surgery. He spotted Margie in the distance. She had called him to collect her but why? Had something happened in the consult? Merv waved at his wife and she made her way slowly to the car. She did not look her usual self.

"What's up Luv? You look pale", Merv observed, his tone tinged with worry. Margie just shook her head. She could not speak. A single tear rolled down her cheek.

"Luv, what is it?" Merv felt a bit more frantic. Still no words escaped Margie's mouth.

Lottie knew she was in big trouble. Arriving home from her school day at 6.30. Oh boy. Her Mum will be furious!

Lottie expected a million questions and possibly, an all privileges suspended, grounding. What could she tell her parents? Spying her Mum in the kitchen window, trying to sneak past her in the past had proven impossible.

"WHERE have you been?" Bonnie roared at Lottie, spatula in hand.

"Just at a friend's after school, practicing a drama scene", Lottie replied, internally fearful.

"Don't you lie to me, Charlotte May! I know this is NOT where you have been!"

Oh-oh, thought Lottie. Somebody has seen me and told Mum.

"Well?" Bonnie's impatience evident.

"I was just down the street with a couple of classmates. We were not doing anything wrong!" Lottie protested, more gently than usual.

"That's not what I have been told!" Bonnie was confident in her stance.

"What have you heard?" Lottie asked her mother, timidly.

"You tell me!" Bonnie yelled back.

Some of the kids Lottie was with had been smoking. Maybe that was it?

"Come over here!", Bonnie sniffed Lottie, as she edged closer.

"I wasn't smoking Mum! It was the others!", Lottie continued protesting her innocence.

Bonnie could smell smoke on Lottie's clothes but not from her breath. She was relieved.

"How are they getting cigarettes then?" Bonnie asked, slightly less angry. "I don't know!" Lottie's eyes filled with tears.

"Go to your room!" Bonnie bellowed, pointing in her room's direction.

"But Mum!..." Bonnie gave Lottie a look that meant business. She pointed again.

"I hate this place!" Lottie marched to her room, slamming the door. Bonnie leaned on the bench, her head in hands.

Tell me again why the hell I had children, Bonnie sighed to herself. Not a good start to her evening shift.

to be continued...

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The Moorabool Valley Masters Football Club has been successful in securing \$2,126 to allow for the goal safety padding to be upgraded at the Meredith recreation reserve football Oval to meet the safety requirements set out in the Laws of Australian

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Barry Wells - Happy Birthday!

Compiled by Janene Schillier

It's not often we find someone who turns 80 years old living in the district they were born and raised in! Here is one such person - a good neighbour, community contributor and friend to many.

Congratulations Barry!

Barry Wells was born 18/5/1943 (The birth register says 19 May but it was the according to 18th Barry.)

Barry was born to Dick and Greta Wells of Elaine. Barry went to Elaine State School and then to Ballarat Technical School for three years, leaving school when he was fifteen years old.

He did casual work, cut wood, did shed work and "picked up shearing". His first contractor was Con Gross who lived in Queenscliff. He'd give young shearers a go so he signed seventeen-year-old Barry on, for a run in South Australia.

Tim Wells, Kevin Parkinson and John Parkinson from Elaine were also in that team. The team went in August and came home for Christmas.

Gradually Barry did more and more shearing.

Barry went with contractor Arthur Seamore to the Flinders Ranges in summertime. Barry said that it was hot but good! There was no electricity and kerosene refrigerators kept everything coolish and the Stubbies were put in the dam on a string! Water bags hung on the veranda in the breeze would keep water coolish! Daryl Wells, son of Barry also did the run for four or five years.

Barry married Diane in 1968 and spent a year at home while she settled down, then went away again. In 1970's Barry started with contractor Kevin Heather who had a run in the Western District of Victoria. Barry later worked for contractor Ron Read for nearly twenty years in the Western District.

When he finished shearing in the 1990's he was working for contractor Graeme Charleston.

They were "Good" runs with no stops and sheds were close together, so less travelling.

Barry said that the team shored 100,000 sheep in a circle at the large properties of Mt Hess, Turkeith, Murdeduke, Mountside, East Mawallock and Mawallock.

Barry tells that when men get into contract work it is competitive and continuous, and that it makes you a better shearer and the way of life "gets in your blood". A lot of shearers worked hard, drank a lot, gambled a lot and ended up with little of their earnings at the end of the day. Barry was working to buy a farm. He would bring his entire wage home.

Barry shored 350 Corriedale/cross sheep at Mt Hesse one day. He mainly shored merinos. In the 1970's at Mt Hesse five shearers shored 300 each for the day, shearing a total of 20,000 sheep.

The rouseabouts and pressers were fairly flying! On October 2, 1985 Ron Reed's team shored 1649 lambs.

Barry Wells and Graeme Charleston shored 353 each, Denis Kersting shored 327, Theo Bath shored 309 and Glen McCarthy shored 307. A remarkable feat!

Barry caught his right hand in the belt of a pump and lost the end of two fingers.

Everyone who heard about the accident thought it would be the end of his shearing but three weeks after the accident he was shearing again. He swore that it made him a better shearer as it made him concentrate more.

Barry consistently shored 200+ per day or 1000 per week. He could shear rough sheep as easily as straight sheep. Barry did buy his farm but misses the company and the comradeship of the shearing shed teams.

The above is an excerpt from the book Memorable Men of Meredith 2009 (copies are available from the Meredith History Interest Group) Permission obtained to print from the book by Marg Cooper



Barry and Di Wells at "Camelot" 2023

The Elaine/Morrison community is saddened to hear of the passing of Barry's brother, Tim Wells on 10th June 2023. Sincere condolences go to Tim's family and the extended Wells family and friends

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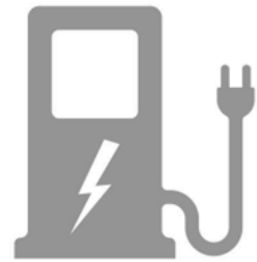
Meredith History Interest Group

stationed at Benalla and was sent to arrest Dan Kelly, when Ned came on the scene and a scuffle took place. He was shot in the wrist and Ned and Dan then went bushranging.

Golf Hill, Shelford:

Among some items recently donated to MHIG was a catalogue for the three-day clearing sale of furnishings from Golf Hill that was held on February 21, 22 and 23, 1955. There were 907 items listed to be sold. On the first day Lots 1 to 69 were garden tools, Lots 70 to 164 were items from the Drawing Room, Lots 165 to 267 were items from the Lounge Room and Lots 268 to 318 were items from the Entrance Hall and Telephone room etc. All items were to be sold under instructions from the Executors of the will of the late Mrs Janet Biddlecomb and were listed individually in this catalogue.

Meredith Charging Station



MEDIA RELEASE

Meredith has seen the installation of the first Electric Vehicle Charging Station outside the Meredith Sharing Shed.

Conveniently located between Ballarat and Geelong, the charging station was funded under the Destination Charging Across Victoria program conducted by the State Government.

The charging station features a fast-charging unit that can fully charge a vehicle in 30 to 40 minutes at approximately \$0.30 cents per kilowatt/hour resulting in a cost of approximately \$30 to charge one vehicle.

The unit can accommodate 2 vehicles at once however the charge time will increase in this instance.

Already in demand, the new "electricity pump" on the highway provides another reason to stop off at Meredith.

Treasure Day:

Turn out your glory box, look in the back of the linen chest, reach into the back of the cupboard where your special china is kept or look in your container for a Treasure to bring along on Sunday, August 20. We will invite you to tell everyone about your object which is a Treasure to you. In the past people have brought documents, clothes, trophies, pictures or photos etc.

Exhibition of Photos of Morrisons:

Thanks to all the people who have already made their photos available for us to copy for the exhibition that will be on October 14 & 15 in the Meredith Memorial Hall. There are many subjects which we would like to cover including river, bridges, floods, houses, cemetery, churches, mines, race track, hotels, enterprise and people. There are many times we would like to cover from earliest to now.

If you have any photos of interest we invite you to copy them and mail to 31 Staughton Street, Meredith 3333, email to meredithhistoryinterestgroup@gmail.com, text to 0408109389 or come in to the History Centre on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

Mr Coker travelled from Ballan to Meredith in March 1906 and he wrote about his trip creating a wonderful picture of coming to Morrisons: *As we cap the dreaded Morrisons Hill where the Moorabool creeps at our feet and the far-reaching majestic gully dwindles away into the overhanging hills....*

Clad for Winter:

Once again we have clad the two columns at the front of MHIG in knitting to both adorn the entrance and to create a point of interest. This year the display features knitting needles and balls of wool as well as knitted scarves.

Alexander Fitzpatrick:

You may remember that Alexander Fitzpatrick who became an important character in the Kelly Gang story was born at Mt Egerton and attended school at Elaine. G Lonsdale wrote to the Editor of the Age in April 1936 telling about the Morrisons Diggings that he remembered: *Fitzpatrick Bok, commonly called Coolley on one occasion came to school in a sugar bag. His mother wanted to keep him home and hid his clothes. Alan Alexander Fitzpatrick commonly called Snowy on account of his white hair, later joined the police force about 1877. He was*





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Marg's BOOK REVIEW

The Secret Book of Flora Lea *Patti Callahan Henry*

This is an excellent book which involves different time frames referred to as *historically layered* that are of interest, a host of unforgettable characters expertly depicted and a well-crafted suspenseful mystery.

In 1939, 14-year-old Hazel and her 5-year-old sister Flora are evacuated from London to a rural village to escape the horrors of the Second World War. The operation was called Pied Piper. Living with the Aberdeen family in a charming stone cottage, near a river surrounded by pastoral fields Hazel distracts her sister with a fairy tale about a magical land, a secret place they can escape to that is all their own, Whisperwood. It was a secret between the two of them.

Not very long ago and not very far away, there was and still is an invisible place right here with us, and if you are born knowing you will find your way through the woodlands to the simmering doors that lead to the land made just and exactly for you.

But the unthinkable happens when Flora vanishes near the banks of the River Thames. Hazel blames herself for her sister's disappearance, carrying the guilt into adulthood.

But twenty years later when Hazel's future seems set, her life is turned upside down when she unwraps a package containing a picture book called *Whisperwood and The River of Stars*. At this time, she works in an antiquated book store in London's town centre, a small rare book shop. How did the American author of this book get to know the stories of the magical land that Hazel told only to her sister? Was her sister still alive? What happened to her sister on that fateful day? Could this book hold the secret to Flora's disappearance?

Hazel's devotion to discovering the truth behind the disappearance of her sister drives the story and at its centre is the 1940's fairy tale that Hazel made up. Against all opposition she persists even when her safe, secure life style is threatened and even when all around her try to convince her to stop the search. Her search was described as faith fuelled and sometimes reckless.

This book is an enchanting tribute to the power of storytelling. It has multi-layered themes of family, coming of age, romance, magic and story telling all tied to an unsolved mystery that pulls at the heart strings. And the end is fantastically surprising!



A forecast for showers saw us head to Alex and Mandy's shed with its welcoming wood heater and a table set with a still life of bottles and native wildflowers. Mark, Alex, Mandy and I all availed ourselves of this display whilst Pete T challenged himself with a sketch of an anvil. Hardier souls than us ventured into the chilly wind. Melinda (with her back to a dense bush) took on a charcoal representation of the panoramic view across the valley whilst Peter H and Mari both completed delicate paintings of the house. Ray used acrylics to paint an expressive depiction of an old bike. Hot drinks, freshly made nut loaf and plenty of discussion made for an enjoyable morning.

The sketchers next outing will be on July 11 (second Tuesday) but we'll be meeting directly at 10am at Bunjil Lookout, Maude Recreation Reserve (instead of at the Community Centre). Bring a chair, cuppa, painting/drawing equipment and weather appropriate clothing. All welcome.

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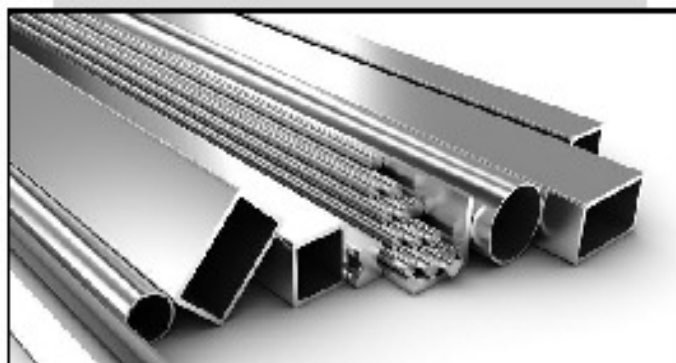
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G'Day from the penners, this month's story will hopefully warm everyone up.

Regards, Wendy

Summer Haze.

It was a hot summers day; the air was thick and hung like an old velvet curtain as the heat haze shimmered in the distance. We sat on the wooden veranda of our old house thankful for the small amount of shade it offered us. We were on the south side of the building trying to capture any hint of a breeze, while the beating sun sent its rays down hard on the northern face. The dog, Tarzan, was laying out as flat as he could get, panting noisily. My sister and I lounged on the cane settee, mopping our brows with damp handkerchiefs, our two older brothers were in their singlets with their pants legs rolled up to the knees, discussing the latest news from the newspaper that had arrived yesterday.

The paper was already a week old. but that's how we got our news, we had to wait for Jim, the mailman and goods delivery bloke and he only passed by once a week.

My sister and I weren't interested in the news, we only wanted to read up on the celebrity going's on and the latest fashions. But we had to wait until Dave and Bill had finished first, this was an established custom in our house, Dad first then Mum and then the boys and us girls last. It had always been so.

My sister Susan flicked some water from her glass onto Tarzan's tongue which was so far out of his mouth that it looked like a long flat pink snake, he eagerly lapped it up without moving any other part of his body. He was used to this game, they played it often. It was always so hot in the summer.

I could hear the flies buzzing all around me, I hated flies but they were a part of life out in what I sometimes called no man's land. I loved the country where we lived most of the time, but high summer could be hard to endure. I often thought of my father working his land in such trying conditions but I knew he loved it too, or we wouldn't be here, I figured.

I heard the screen door slam on the other side of the house and looked up to see my mother walking around to us.

"Boy it's a stinker today" she remarked to no-one in particular. We all just grunted, it was too hot to talk. Even Dave and Bill had stopped, they were just reading the paper side by side.

"When do you think Dad will be home?" I asked casually. "Oh, I don't know, Mr Jones needed a hand down by the old creek so he could be gone for a while. I hope he isn't working too hard, it's just too bloody hot today" she said as she flopped herself down in the cane armchair that was sitting just beside us, fanning herself with the hem of her apron. I just grunted in reply. Susan flicked some more

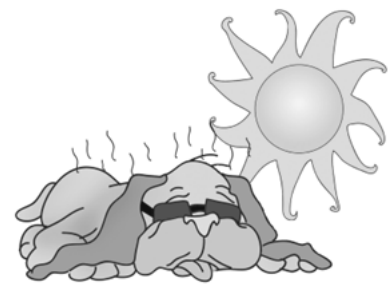
water at the dog. Dave said "It might have hit 50 degrees by now" "Umm" was all he got back.

I looked up at the sky, hoping to see a small cloud that might block out the sun, if only for a minute, but there was nothing. The bluest of blue sky was staring down at me, from horizon to horizon, the most astounding colour you could ever wish to see, but all I wanted was grey bulbous clouds that were full of rain. Maybe tomorrow it would change and maybe tomorrow I would turn into a frog. We all knew that the summer months had many days left, and that this heat would and could go on for weeks without any relief. As my mother would often say "Spit in one hand and wish in the other and see which one gets filled first" I held up my hands in front of my eyes and contemplated.

Not much point I thought, the spit would dry up in a second and I would have wasted a precious drop of liquid. I took a long draught of the water that was in my glass, and then flicked some at the long flat snake that was wriggling on the porch. Tarzan accepted it without any thank you.

Bill and Dave started laughing with each other, and Dave gave Bill a dig in the ribs with his elbow. They must be up to the cartoons I mused, so Susan and I might get the paper before nightfall today. By the time we get to read our part the newsprint will be worn off I begrudgingly thought to myself. Susan read my mind and yelled at them to hurry up or we would be reading next week's paper before we got to read this one. I laughed quietly and laconically and just gave her a wink. That was a good retort, even my brothers chuckled at that one and suggested she keep her hat on as they were nearly finished. "Humph" was the only reply she afforded them.

And so the day continued on, my sister and I, lounging and wiping our heads with wet handkerchiefs waiting for our turn at the paper, the dog panting noisily, Dave and Bill reading and mother looking out across the bare earth into the distance waiting for father to come home. Yes, it was hot, yes it was summer and yes, tomorrow would be just the same.



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Here's something to make it worth heading outdoors on these cold days. Although many plants have flowering seasons that sometimes creep into winter, your garden, if it's anything like mine, is probably looking more like spring. These few examples are photos taken this month.



GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL CREATIVE & CULTURAL MAPPING SURVEY



Are you apart of the Golden Plains arts and culture community?

Council is gathering information on the health of the Shire’s creative and cultural life to inform the implementation of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy through a Creative & Cultural Mapping Survey.

The Survey aims to provide valuable insights into the community’s artistic and cultural landscape, as well as capture experiences, preferences and suggestions regarding our creative community.

As part of the Survey, Council will be hosting a series of community forums where residents can engage in meaningful conversations about the future of the Shire’s artistic and cultural endeavours.

Community forums will be held at:

- Multipurpose room at The Well in Smythesdale on Thursday 20 July from 6.30 to 8.30pm
- Multipurpose room at the Meredith Community Centre on Friday 21 July from 4 to 6pm
- Inverleigh Public Hall on Tuesday 1 August from 6.30 to 8.30pm

The Creative & Cultural Mapping Survey will be open from Friday 7 July until 5pm, Monday 7 August 2023.

For more information and to complete the Survey, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations or contact Council’s Community Development Team at 5220 7111 or email arts.culture@gplains.vic.gov.au.



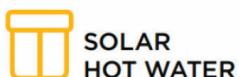
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