

Meredith & district News



SEPTEMBER 2023

OUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



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ready
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inside

- Meredith Community Mart Open
- Meet our new Fire Captain.
- One Couple's experience with solar power
.....and the usual much more!

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MOORABOOL Wind Farm

COMMUNITY UPDATE - September 2023

Moorabool Wind Farm Site Tour

In August 2023, a group of 15 Year-12 students from Wyndham Central College, enrolled in the Environmental Personal Development and Work Skills community projects, undertook a trip to Moorabool Wind Farm, accompanied by two teachers. The visit was co-ordinated by the Moorabool Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Julie Dargan and led by Glenn Shillito, Site Manager MWF.

The purpose of the visit was to offer those students a valuable and firsthand experience with both existing and prospective technologies, as well as prospective employment opportunities.

If you would like to be included in our next tour in 2024 please contact us for more information (details below).

Landscape and Visual Screening Program

Owners of residential dwellings within 4km of the Moorabool Wind Farm are invited to participate in a landscape and visual screening program. 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.



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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working for our community

What's On



What's Coming Up?

Fabric Painting with Michelle De Groot

11 October, 2023 - 10am - 4pm - \$50

Thread Painting with Michelle De Groot

11 October, 2023 - 10am - 4pm - \$50

For Kids!

Movement, Mindfulness & Meditation with Jade

Prep - Grade 4 - Mondays - 3.30pm - \$12 per class

Grade 5 - Year 9 - Mondays - 5.00pm - \$12 per class

Kindergarten - Expressions of Interest

Mums & Bubs

Movement, Mindfulness & Meditation with Jade

Mondays - 2pm - \$12 per class

FREE Hearing Tests

Thursday September 14 - 10am - 2pm

Conducted by Hearing Australia

Bookings Essential and can be done by phoning us at the Centre!

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9-3 MONDAY-THURSDAY

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
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PLAYGROUP

TUESDAYS

9.00am - 11.30am

\$2 per family

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	\$20
Quarter page	\$30	\$30
Half page	\$50	\$110
Full page	\$100	\$200

Community Groups can have a 1/4 page ad for free or a \$30.00 discount on larger ads. (conditions apply) .

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

Classified ads cost \$7.50 on invoice or \$5.00 if paid on lodgement.

Classifieds are **FREE** for small, personal notices from residents.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

CONTACT US

Post Office, Meredith, 3333

Advertising: Ian 0409 016815

advertising@are.com.au

Accounts: Ian Leighton 0428132880

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

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

Issue Production: Peter Boer and Jim Elvey

connect

ADVANCE MEREDITH 0409 027 359	FOOTBALL Seniors 0408 545246 Juniors 0430 587 674
ANGLING CLUB 0419 248 660	GOLF CLUB 0407 795 342
B'BURN ART GROUP 0410 808 483	HISTORY GROUP 5286 8201
BLUE LIGHT DISCO 5286 1222	LANDCARE 0409 862 326
BOOK CLUB 5286 8201	MEMORIAL HALL 0409 662106
CFA 000 for fire calls Elaine 0409 861 296 Meredith 0433 714 017 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	PRE-SCHOOL 5286 0722
Elaine Mechanics elainetownhall@gmail.com	PRIMARY SCHOOL 5286 1313
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LIBRARY VAN 5272 6010	

..or start something.

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



"Spring is the time of the year, when it is summer in the sun and winter in the shade."
- Charles Dickens

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

Winchelsea - St. John the Baptist @ 5pm Sat. Sep. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Anakie – St. Brigid @ 9am Sun. Sep. 3, 17

Meredith – St. Joseph @ 9am Sun. Sep. 10, 24

Bannockburn – St. Mary MacKillop @ 11am Sun. Sep. 3, 10, 17, 24

Inverleigh – Sacred Heart @ 4pm Sun. Sep. 17

Meredith Recreation Reserve Committee

Notice is given of a **PUBLIC MEETING** to be held at 7.00pm on Monday the 18th of Sept. 2023

The purpose of this meeting is to nominate no less than three (3) and no more than nine (9) persons as the Committee of Management for the Meredith Recreation Reserve for a term of three years. The current Committee's term will expire on the 17th of November, 2023. All positions will be declared open and nominations will be accepted prior to or on the night. Nominations from women, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, young people and people from diverse backgrounds are encouraged.

Further information, nomination forms and nominee declarations forms may be obtained by contacting your local Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action office or at the meeting

For further enquiries please contact the Secretary, Michael Rooney on 0408545246

Recreation



Meredith Cricket Club

Terry Hart

Senior Cricket

Once again this season The Rams will be fielding two senior teams in the Geelong Cricket Association competition.

We are delighted announce the appointment of **Tyler Dittloff** as our club coach for the coming season, Tyler brings a wealth of cricket knowledge and experience to the Rams having played at the highest level in both the Ballarat and Bellarine Cricket associations, welcome aboard Tyler. Pre-season training has already commenced with a number of well attended indoor sessions, outdoor **training will commence at Meredith on Sunday September 10th at 10am.** We are always looking for **new players of all ages and ability**, no previous cricket experience is required, so come along and join in the fun of playing a great sport for an iconic local club.

For more information contact us per the details below.

Womens/Girls Cricket

We are still looking to start up a womens/girls team that would be open to all females above the age of 12, **no previous cricket experience is required** and all gear would be provided by the club and fun is guaranteed.

Anyone interested, please contact the club for more information.

Junior Cricket Programme

The Club will be holding another **Junior Cricket "Come and Try" day on Tuesday September the 12th at 4.30pm at the Meredith Rec Reserve.**

Boys and girls of all ages are most welcome to attend.

Our aim is to work out what age demographic is best suited to run our junior programme so please come along for a bit of fun and register your interest in joining.

Follow the Meredith Cricket Club on Facebook, or call or message our Cricket Manager- Terry Hart on 0418178513 for more information.

OUR COVER

It's appropriate we start what we expect to be a long fire season, with a pic of three of our much appreciated volunteers comprising the Meredith CFA. Not that you would recognise them, but they are Kevin Chaffey, Donna Murrell, Andrea Cameron. (Thank you Josh Medley for the photo.)



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

Recreation



coaching them on Thursdays. His love of the game and passion will be sorely missed, as will his exceptional tennis skills in the Senior team. We wish you all the best in your next endeavours and hope you will come back to fill in occasionally.

In the first week of August families and friends signed up to compete in the Winter Comp, which includes 10 teams each night on Wednesdays and Thursdays. We love seeing everyone on the sidelines cheer on their favourite teams, and after the games, we have dinner together. The finals will be held the first week of September with the top teams competing against each other! Please feel free to come along and watch.

The Meredith Tennis Club will be hosting a try outs and grading day, with a free BBQ on 9th September starting at 9.30 am. This is an all-ages event, from juniors through to seniors. We would love to see everyone come for a hit and try tennis to see if it's the sport for you. We hope to see you there!

The summer season kicks off Saturday, 7th October with some teams playing in the Geelong Association and some in the Buninyong Association. Teams are still open for orange ball (6-8 years old) in Geelong and green and yellow ball in Buninyong.

We are still looking for seniors to come and play with us in the Buninyong Association and hope to have at least two teams.

The Meredith Tennis Club is currently looking for a full-time coach to come out and train our junior players, run school holiday programs and other coaching clinics. We will be running free supervised training sessions on Thursdays again. Please note these are run by volunteers and are meant as an opportunity for children to get into tennis and train and will be mostly activity-based. We are always looking for more helpers in this area. These will start on 5th October and places may be limited, so please register your interest, and book your child's spot.

We will be running a spring night competition starting in October. It will be a similar format to our autumn and winter competitions. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more details.

Meredith Tennis Club News

Maggie Brown

Thank you to all the people who turned up to the AGM meeting on Thursday, 24th August. It was amazing to see over 30 people attend, made up of adults and junior players.

A very big thank you to the previous committee for all their hard effort and amazing work in the past, we are all extremely grateful! We wouldn't be where we are without you.

The new Committee members were elected as follows:

President: Maddy McColl

Vice president: Sheryl Nettleton

Secretary: Bridget Dyer

Treasurer: Luke Evans

Publicity officer: Maggie Brown

We have several new committee members as well as a number of junior committee members. We are extremely thrilled to have junior committee members come on board to help shape our club.

Special recognition must go to our retiring Vice President, Melita Cordie, Secretary, Meg Hay and Treasurer, David Osborne, who have all been instrumental in helping the club get to where it is today. They have been with us since the club was reopened and reinvigorated. We appreciate everything they have done for the club in helping it to grow into the success it currently is.

A very special thank you also needs to be said to our volunteer coach, Brendan Crozier, who is very sadly leaving us. Brendan randomly turned up to our AGM last year and immediately offered to help develop our kids by



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Mick Devlin

Sunday the 13th of August the Crocs travelled to Traralgon to take on the Gippsland Tigers. A great effort from the Crocs to get 19 players ready for the long bus trip. With Mitch Troy taking over the coaching for the day the Crocs were fired up for a big game. The game started with the Tigers getting on top but unable to convert their dominance to the scoreboard. Once the Crocs found their groove, we kicked a few goals to find ourselves leading after the first quarter. As the game progressed the heat was turned up and the game got harder and tougher. A see-sawing battle with both teams giving their all. The second half continued the same as the first, hard and tough. The see-sawing battle continued but the Crocs, led by full forward Sid Jones, kick away and the Crocs ended up winning by about 3 or 4 goals. A great day of football and the Tigers were great hosts.

Best players for the Day was everyone and if we had enough awards to give out, everyone would have got one but we only had 8.

Phillip Doopa Cranage

Mick Rooney

Matt Rocco

Shaun Falkner

Johnny Cranston

Scott the bowling ball Cowie

Mick D

and last but not least, the oldest of the Crocs, kicking 10 goals (got some pretty good service), this bloke is amazing the way he still dominates and he even drove the bus, went to Sid Jones.

Thanks to Mitch for coaching for the day, Ange Fatone for Navigating and sorting out the Lethbridge connection and big Eddie for strapping.

The bus trip home was one of the best we've had for a while, and I've received a few comments from blokes saying how much they enjoyed the day. So, if you missed out, get on board and don't miss the next one.

On Sunday the 27th August the Crocs took on Maryborough AFL Masters at Meredith. The Pumas were a bit light on numbers so in true masters spirit some of the Crocs put their hand up to play for the opposition, thanks to Col Mullane, Mick Murray, Scott Nelson, Johnny Cranston, Kevin Murray, Matt Rocco, Vinnie Fantasia, Paul Nolan, Greg 'Punter' Pont and as always John Peterson.

We had a few milestones this game and The Crocs were well prepared for the big game with some inspirational words from the original coach of the Crocs Gus Primmer and Sid Jones. A huge congratulations to 2 original Crocs in Mick Rooney and Gary Polglaze both playing their 150th game. Considering we only play 10 games per year this is a huge effort from both these men to be still playing 21 years later. The coach of the Crocs, Mick Devlin also played his 50th game and was very honoured to be able to share the celebrations with 2 champions of the club.

The game was a little one sided with the Crocs, only let down by our inaccurate kicking for goal, coming away with the win. The Pumas put in a great effort right to the final whistle. Unfortunately, one of the Pumas players went down with an injury early and we wish him all the best and hope he is ok. All in all, it was a great day and the game was played in great spirits. The Crocs really appreciate the Maryborough players who made the trip and we will definitely be heading over your way next year.

Best players for the day, big Mick Rooney in his 150th played up forward and was in everything, Gary Polglaze was great up forward also, Chris Parker was his usual hard and tough in the middle, David Pike once again dominated the ruck, Scotty Foran was one of only a few players who was kicking accurately, our captain Craig Taylor had another solid performance apart from kicking 58 behinds and last but not least the bowling ball, Scott Cowie was in the middle again and seemed to be loving it so much he did not want to swap.

Another great day for the Crocs and an enjoyable night.

Thanks to Wendy, Meg and Jaz for the great food, Kev and Ange Fatone for the bar and timekeeping, Chris Gray for umpiring and young Harley Murfitt and his helper for goal umpiring.

One more game for the year, stay tuned for what's happening as there is a bit of work going on to get the last game up and running.

Mick Devlin (Coach) 0413609863

Mick Rooney (President) 0408545246



Kerry Thonson

August saw twelve of us return to Bunjil Lookout at Maude with pleasant weather this time. Sam, Alex, Mandy, Melinda, Peter H., Louise and Kerry used a range of mediums to tackle the panoramic views whilst Mari used watercolour to capture the Lookout structure itself. David and Peter T. have both decided that they would prefer to draw anything but landscapes! (Though Pete's inclusion of an alien spaceship added a touch of humour). An old stump attracted both Ray and Gillian with Gill's black, white and cobalt blue coloured pencil representation being very dramatic and eye-catching.

September 12th we'll meet back at the Community House in Meredith at 10 am with an indoor venue planned. Everyone welcome. BYO art materials, chair, cuppa for after.



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The Philatelist

Michael Riseley



Thematic Philately

Collecting stamps is easy – after all there are millions of them. But perhaps therein lies a problem. There are too many. You can never collect them all and probably go crazy if you try. So the wise thing to do is to set some limits. The most obvious limits are country and date. As in just collect the stamps of the country where you live or, if a migrant, the country of your birth. The year 2000 is often used as an end date. A good choice this, because postal administrations worldwide, particularly this century, issue heaps of stamps and play on the collector's "must have" fears to raise revenue.

Another popular limit is to collect by a theme. This is called thematic philately. Common themes include birds, fish, flowers, ships, planes, insects, trains and oh the list goes on and on. There are so many others such as Olympics, space, flags, music, art. For the historian you might collect the colonies of the various empires, before the countries gained independence and changed their names such as French Guiana, British East Africa, Danish West Indies, Portuguese Timor. Famous people is a good theme – Churchill, Gandhi, Napoleon. Organisations are also popular – scouts, guides, Red Cross, Rotary, Lions. Or you could collect based on your profession – police, railways, farming, nursing. You can even collect dolls and teddy bears.

One world famous and absolutely magnificent collection was by the Australian John Sinfield. He collected men with facial hair and the associated paraphernalia. He made up a competition entry called "Whiskers" which won umpteen gold medals and several best in show awards at International Stamp Fairs. It was longtime considered the very best.

I know a collector who collects stamps of the world but only for 3 years being the years of birth of his children. He has several albums for each year and collects in country alphabetical order. When he passes he has willed each year collection to the relevant child as a keepsake.

Stamp collecting is for fun and pleasure and is a hobby. It does not need to be expensive or perfect. It is probably good to set limits for your collecting just as long as you do not limit your imagination.

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See information page for more details.



The Meredith Mart Now Open!

Leah Phillips

After many months of meetings, planning and cleaning, I am pleased to announce the opening of the Meredith Mart at the Meredith Community Centre.

What is it?

It works like a big pantry for everyone... it stocks things like pasta, rice, sauces, cereals, tinned fruit, milk, soup, basic meals, and biscuits... then we have toiletries like toothpaste, brushes, deodorant, soap, body wash, toilet paper, Wipes, masks, sanitiser, RATs... then we also have dog food at the moment! It is FREE for anyone who needs it, no questions asked, just a smile knowing that you have what you need.

How does it work?

You can wander into the House side of the Community Centre, pick up a bag or box and take what you need. Make a meal, grab what you forgot, take something for tomorrow...get something to save the hassle of travelling... that is what it is here for. If we can save you money and time, then please come and utilise what we have!

We also take donations of food staples, but only if you can. There is no obligation to donate as we know how hard it is out there, and if we can help just a little, then let us. Just make sure your donations sit inside the best before date marked on the package.

The Food we get here at the Community Centre has been purchased through the Foodbank Network, they pack it and deliver it to our door. We order via what has been donated to Foodbank Victoria, and therefore cannot get specified items for people, and cannot guarantee what will be delivered on any given day, but we can guarantee there will be food to make a simple meal.

Who Can Use it?

Everyone. And I mean EVERYONE! Don't feel like taking the kids to the supermarket today? Come on in! You have forgotten the rice from the supermarket... that's ok, we have it! Come on down.. Your pantry looks bare... come and use ours! The Mart is for anyone who needs it, wants it, and can use it.

Opening Hours?

9-3 Monday - Thursday. You are welcome to enter through the house side of the Community Centre or come and ask for help in the office if you need it... can't get here by 3 but need something specific that we stock? Call us and we can arrange to pop it somewhere for you!

Also, if you know of someone who may need a box of food, please let us know!

Don't forget, the Meredith Primary School also has their little pantry on the fence with staples inside! (The Meredith 7-Eleven – available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!)

So come on in and take what you need. Tell your neighbours and friends, because you never know who might just need a little helping hand...





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The Golden Pipeline

Marg Cooper

On our recent travels in Western Australia we were astounded by the Golden Pipeline and its history. This scheme has almost legendary historical status, and two names are synonymous with the scheme, the Premier of Western Australia John Forrest for his political will, and C.Y. O'Connor for his engineering. The Golden Pipeline runs from Mundaring Weir just to the east of Perth, 560 kilometres to Kalgoorlie. It is described as a long, thin tenuous lifeline delivering 45 million litres of water a day to Kalgoorlie..

When thousands of men flocked to Western Australia's Eastern Goldfields in the 1890's, water was scarce in the dry barren landscape. Water was carted by horse, camel, train and salt water was condensed, but this was inadequate for the ever-expanding population. There were angry demands from the miners upon Forrest to do something. This was the challenge that would make the name of Charles Yelverton O'Connor famous in Western Australian History.

C.Y. O'Connor had come to Western Australia in 1891 as Engineer in Chief. The state was in a terrible mess. The railway system such as it was, was close to complete breakdown; the mouth of the Swan River was blocked by a sand bar which meant that Perth did not have a port, unemployment was rife and the only way of reaching the Eastern states was by sea.

C.Y.O'Connor had gained enormous experience during his 26 years in New Zealand in managing big work forces, surveying difficult country, building railways, ports, viaducts and all manner of engineering superstructure required by isolated communities.

He started work the morning after his arrival in Perth. When he met with John Forrest, O'Connor asked him what he wanted of him prompting Forrest's famous reply: "Oh, railways, harbours everything!

And so, he did, he got the railways working, he had a port constructed at Fremantle and in 1895 he was instructed to concentrate on solving the goldfields water problem. His plan was beautifully simple; he would build a dam on the western side of the Darling escarpment where rainfall was guaranteed and pump its water 300 metres over the ranges to Coolgardie, a total distance of 520 kilometers. [the extra 38 kms to Kalgoorlie were added later] Eight pumping stations would be needed to lift the water over the Darling escarpment. In 1898 O'Connor was informed that the money for the pipeline had at last been raised in London and he could start work.

Since water first flowed in 1903 the scheme has been enormously expanded. O'Connor's plan was so simple that many refused to believe it would work and attacked him through the press and parliament which resulted in him suiciding: a great tragedy for this genius of a man.

Don't Avoid the Issue

The Revd Dr Timothy Smith, Priest in Charge, Anglican Parish of Inverleigh, Bannockburn and Meredith

In all our relationships, whether with our life partner, extended family member, neighbour, or community organisation, we will have times when issues need to be addressed. But we are scared that doing so, thinking it will make the situation worse, damage relationships even further; especially if we are new to an organisation or a family. Being a Priest in a Church, I know. It is understandable to want to keep the peace. But, avoiding the issue has consequences. Here are four benefits to encourage us to avoid avoiding.

We will be comfortable for future issues

When we avoid or minimize problems, it can start to feel like we are losing a sense of belonging and participation within the relationship or organisation. Someone else is calling all the shots. Raising issues in a healthy, respectful, and assertive way builds self-confidence, creates a space of mutual acceptance, and helps us feel more comfortable addressing future issues instead of letting them fester.

We will improve connections

When we try to pretend an issue doesn't exist it creates distance between us and our partner or the other people in the organisation. We might even try to avoid spending one-on-one time with the other person or wanting to withdraw from the organisation. Addressing issues eliminates the distance and brings us closer as a team.

We will minimize resentment

When we don't raise issues the resultant feelings usually don't go away. They become the elephant in the room, like weeds in a garden, taking over, and causing irrational responses of anger over unrelated, tiny issues. Raising the issue in an appropriate time and place is like regularly weeding the garden. It is not a fun job and takes motivation to begin, but it gets rid of feelings that are becoming destructive.

It makes us and our relationships stronger

Addressing issues can be uncomfortable because it also means that we might need to do some self-reflection of why the issue disturbs us and how to raise it without being aggressive. It may take patience and it may take more than one conversation, that's okay. But, when we have courage to have the difficult conversations, we can learn more about each other and ourselves, gain confidence to handle anything together, and our relationships grow.

While it might seem like all is well when things are harmonious, beneath the surface can hide unaddressed issue creating resentment and distance between us and our partner or the other members of the community organisation. Addressing the issue appropriately, instead of avoiding it, in healthy relationships, will make us glad we did.

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Running a Small Power Station

Roy Hay

I still kick myself occasionally that we did not put solar panels on our house in Teesdale, where lived from 1997 until 2012. On one and a half hectares the dwelling ran east west and had a north facing metal roof that would have accommodated umpteen panels. We would probably not have recouped the cost in the decade we lived there, though the input subsidy of 66 cents per kilowatt would have made a dent in it. Now we live in our old folks' home that we had built in Bannockburn on 400 square meters. We have 27 panels and had a couple to heat hot water until the reverse thermostat failed for the second time and blew off the connecting pipe, for the latter resulting in a huge loss of water that remained undetected for a while as it only happened during the day and ran into a downpipe. When that was sorted, we switched back to the conventional exterior water heater until persuaded by a door-knocking firm to instal a heat pump under a Victorian government program. That only lasted just over a year, rusting out internally and having to be replaced by another standard exterior water heater, which we paid for this time. It seems to be running OK as I write this.

Even in the depths of a Victorian winter our panels generate around 8 to 10 kilowatt hours per day just about matching our daily average over the year, but only around half or less of our winter usage. Still, it means we draw less from the grid than we would without them in the winter. In summer our peak production is nearly 30 kilowatt hours on clear, cloudless long days, against a grid consumption over 24 hours of 1-2 kwh. We haven't seriously considered going off grid, though the standing supply charge makes up the bulk of our summer bills. Today, 9 August 2023, is cloudless and clear though there was a severe frost overnight. At 3.30 pm output is shown as 12.1 kilowatt hours and 97% of our power usage has been self-powered.

We know that our Tesla battery has a finite life but so far it has been running for four years with no issues. It was installed in January 2019. There was a good Victorian government subsidy that paid about a third of the cost at that time. It has a display connected to my mobile phone so I can monitor inputs and outputs in real time, though so far I have not switched control of the system to the phone, though that is said to be possible. Also I haven't done any switching on and off of appliances to check individual consumption. The central heating system is probably the main one over the winter though it usually only runs for a few hours each day - early morning, late afternoon and sometimes an evening boost.

Our monthly bills have increased sharply. The last from previous supplier SUMO for June-July 2023 was \$165.16, so we have switched to OVO though I am not convinced that we will save much by doing so as their current contracted prices are likely to rise. We have signed a contract until July next year, but I am not clear whether this means the price we are paying now will remain the same until then. I haven't yet had a full monthly bill from OVO.



Landcare News

Maude Meredith and Districts
Landcare Group

News from the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting for the Maude Meredith and Districts Landcare Group Inc was held on Thursday August 2023. The AGM was preceded by an informative presentation by Stuart McCallum on establishing native grasslands.

The elected office bearers and committee for 2023-2024 are:

President:	Richard Anderson
Vice President:	Sue Higgs
Secretary:	Laura Hollingsworth
Treasurer:	Stephen Higgs
Committee members:	Peter Stray, Diane Dunn, Bruce Harper, Maddy McColl, John Gdak, George Johnstone, Angus McColl, Nerida Anderson

Although the group, which was formed following the merger of the Bamganie Meredith and District Landcare Group and the Maude and District Landcare Group, has only been in existence since January 2023, all indications are that a vibrant and effective Landcare group has been created.

RECOGNITION OF LIFETIME SERVICE

The group was delighted to have the opportunity to recognise the valuable and long-term service to the environment through the activities of each of the former Bamganie Meredith and Maude Landcare groups by Robert McColl of Bamganie, and John and Lex Stray of Maude.

Following the AGM Robert, John and Lex were each awarded inaugural life memberships of the Maude Meredith group. To celebrate these achievements an afternoon tea will be held at the Maude Recreation Hall on Sunday 17 September at 2pm. Friends, former Landcare members of the Bamganie Meredith and Maude groups, as well as current members are invited to attend. For catering purposes please RSVP to Laura maudemeredithlandcare@gmail.com by Monday 11 September.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERSHIP

Planning is currently underway for activities for the next twelve months. These activities are likely to include site visits to areas of restored vegetation and native habitat, workshops, and speakers as well as undertaking environmental improvements to public and private land. New members are very welcome. If you would like more information about the group, please visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/maudelandcare>, speak to any committee member, or email Laura on the above email address.

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in our NATURE

Wendy Cook

An insistent call is heard from near my garden. “Chip, chip, chip, chip, chip, chip, chip”. An answer comes from further away. I recognise those voices. It means that the yellow-faced honeyeaters are back. It is late July and they have been gone for at least two months. Often, they stay here all year round, but this winter was different. Possibly it was too cold for them, or they couldn’t find enough food. I watched them closely all summer. First, they built a nest in the Irish strawberry bush, only about one metre above the ground. Two chicks hatched, but after a few days they were gone. The next nest was higher up, well hidden in the leafy wisteria that lines the veranda. Here they successfully reared three chicks. Once they were independent, the parents built a third nest, also in the wisteria. They didn’t use it, and it hangs from a branch of the now leafless vine, a small cup of green moss and slender dry grass stalks, and a reminder of their presence.

Yellow-faced honeyeaters are one of the less colourful birds in my garden. Their feathers are dull grey-brown, paler on the undersides of their bodies than above. A yellow stripe, sandwiched between lines of black, runs from their beak, under their eye and across their face. Although they are not brightly coloured, I often see them flying from tree to tree or perched on a branch watching the world, and their calls are a part of life in my garden. I missed them and wondered where they had gone. The usual answer to questions about where honeyeaters migrate in winter is that they have flown north. After a little research, I can imagine where the birds from my garden may have been during the last two months or more.

Perhaps they left on a cold wet morning when they could find no nectar or fruits and few insects. They began their journey in an easterly direction, meeting other yellow-faced honeyeaters and forming a small flock. They were joined by a few white-naped honeyeaters, slightly smaller birds with olive backs, white fronts and black heads. They flew north of Melbourne and its suburbs, preferring to stay in areas with trees, moving during the day and resting at night. At sunrise, they became active, each bird hopping from shrub to shrub, looking for food. An hour later, the flock came together and began their day’s travel, flying among the treetops, calling to each other. Their direction was now north-easterly following the Great Divide, flying across mountain slopes as their journey took them into New South Wales. Here, the birds from my garden rested, joining a group of honeyeaters feeding among vegetation beside a small river in a sheltered area of the foothills. These birds were not travelling this year. After a few days here, the resting pair felt an urge to travel further and joined a different flock. This flock included hundreds of birds, mainly yellow-faced honeyeaters, but also honeyeaters of other species and pardalotes. As they flew through the Blue Mountains, flocks combined until there were thousands of birds.

One sunny morning, their flight path followed a deep valley, lined by high ridges and plateaus. As the valley became narrower, the birds were forced closer together, until there was a continual stream of honeyeaters passing the mountain ridges. This huge flock of birds had been expected. Patient eyes and ears were watching for grey specks of many birds in the distance and listening for the combined calls of thousands of birds approaching. A peregrine falcon perched on a narrow ledge on a cliff face, launched its typical high-speed attack. It swooped down towards the flock, snatched a bird from the air and carried its dead prey back to its ledge. Above, a goshawk circled, also seeking a feed. The honeyeaters scattered, perching in trees and waiting until the threatening bird above them had gone. On the cliff top were other observers. A group of birdwatchers with their binoculars and cameras had also arrived to watch the passing of thousands of honeyeaters. They spent the morning watching and listening to the flow of birds flying by, and saw them pause their flight and perch in trees and bushes when a cloud or a predator passed overhead.

The birds from my garden may not have flown much further north, although many others continued into south-eastern Queensland or beyond. Perhaps they found a valley with flowering indigenous trees and bushy gardens, where the climate was warmer and there was plenty of food; or maybe they continued travelling, but only over short distances, until it was time to return to Victoria. Yellow-faced honeyeaters don’t form such large flocks when they are migrating south, so human observers are less familiar with their movements. I do not know why the birds choose to come back here to breed, or if they are the same birds that left in May, but their presence assures me that it is a place where they feel comfortable, and I look forward to watching them rear their chicks again this summer.

SORRY



Wendy’s column in last month’s issue provided a fascinating account of the life of a tree and the importance it plays, even through damage and decay, in supporting a variety of life forms. Unfortunately, we accidentally cropped a few words off the end of the column during the layout process. We apologise to Wendy and our readers for this, and here is the last sentence in full.

“Its fallen branch may have been dead for many decades, but for all that time it has been full of life.”

You can read the full article (and all our content) online at meredithnews.com.au

Gardener's Hands - A quick tip

Cut a lemon in half and scratch the cut surface with the fingernails of each hand - dig right in to the pith

Instantly clean nails and hands (wash the hands before and after)

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The Snake

There are not a huge number of snakes in this part of the world, however they are certainly here. I usually only see one or two each year, and every now & then one makes the effort to visit my house.

My workshop shed is about 30 metres from my house and about 2 metres higher in elevation. The access pathway is made from flatish rocks and incorporates 8 steps made from bluestone blocks which don't really fit closely together like they are supposed to. Whenever I go to my workshop, I usually run up the steps in order to give my body a little bit of aerobic activity that it sorely needs these days.

So, there I was, running up the steps, eyes firmly watching my footing, when I heard a little rustling in some longish grass beside the steps. By the time my reflexes registered danger I was already at the top step, so I stopped and turned around to see the snake rapidly bounding down the steps I had just ascended. Now, I'm not terrified of snakes, but I do have a healthy respect for their ability to cause pain and anguish, so by making a lot of noise by stamping my feet, banging sticks together and swearing at him, I managed to hunt him down into the bush behind my house. That should be the last time I see him – I thought.

I was wrong. The following day, I headed off to the workshop, took my usual runup and started my ascent, eyes firmly on my footing, and WHOA, there he was on the fourth step. He had his head in a gap between two bluestone blocks, and as he heard me back peddling behind him, turned around to face me and opened his mouth, out jumped a frog, and with loud frog squawks, bounced his way down the four steps and disappeared.

I hunted the snake down into the bush again, and I think he got the message this time. I haven't seen him since!

Meet Our New Fire Captain

Hi all, my name is Josh Medley. My partner and I have been residents of Meredith for 5 years now. A relative newcomer to the town and not yet a 'local' but I'm working on it! After seeing the devastation of the 1997 bushfires in the Dandenong Ranges, I knew that I wanted to help. I was too young at the time, though as soon as I was old enough I was at my local brigade in Bayswater, putting my name down. Bayswater CFA attends over 400 callouts per year, which allowed me to gain varied experience with house and factory fires, motor vehicle accidents, hazmat situations, bushfires and even a few strike team deployments.

In 2005 I became the asset manager, looking after the upkeep of all the trucks, gear and uniforms. In 2012 I moved to the Selby CFA and with the experience and knowledge I had gained, I soon became one of the Lieutenants there. During my time with Selby, I completed a number of further qualification courses, including leadership and team building. I spent a number of years in various leadership roles with Selby, before we eventually made the move to Meredith.

While I have been in town for a little while now and met plenty of locals, I am sure there are some I am yet to meet. Please feel free to say hi if you see me around!



**Back to Steiglitz Annual Reunion Day
Sunday 29th October 2023**

10am – 2pm.

Calling all those interested in family ancestry, Gold History, indigenous/ native flora fauna and cultural stories.

We will be holding another community celebration to bring together all those interested and connected to the past and present life of Steiglitz. If you have an interest or passion that celebrates crafts or life from our pioneers or ancestors, come and share with us on the day.

Stallholders/ musicians/ buskers welcome. Please contact Lauren 0499 623 130 loz.b.1@outlook.com Do you have a business and would like to advertise your services by sponsoring our raffles or activities on the day? Please send me your details to peppcorn@yahoo.com or ring Kathy on 0407 556796





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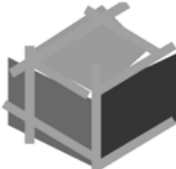
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MASTER BUILDER

Melissa Arch's Once Upon a Benson CHAPTER 9

Read all episodes at meredithnews.com.au/extras

Last time...Merv is struggling to absorb the reality of Margie's illness and forgiveness of son, Scott. Bonnie also. Jason feels worried for Bonnie's emotional state, whilst their son Johnny, is a mystery.

"Bang, bang, bang, bang!" Eunice Blake rapped on Gerald Crocker's door, ensuring it was the glass panel. That would make the most noise!

"Bang, bang, bang, bang!" Gerald stirred from his Saturday morning stupor. More banging. Still, Gerald was unable to register what the commotion was. It sounded like his front door.

And again! What the HELL?!? Gerald was forced into awakening but felt like the bear with the sore head.

"Who is it?" Gerald asked, in a most agitated tone.

"You know who it is, you wretched man!" Eunice bellowed.

Other neighbours began observing the kerfuffle that was transpiring, in their usually quiet street.

Oh no, thought Gerald. Please not now! He could not bear facing anyone. Especially not the old bag from across the street.

"Answer me! Time's up, Mr. Crocker!". Eunice became louder, noticing the neighbours watching on.

Gerald had organised nothing. He recalled the deal he had made with Eunice about hiring a car, until her Yaris was fixed. Just then, Gerald recalled the important part about Eunice having not called Police, when she discovered he was hungover.

"Ok, ok. Just hang on a minute!" Gerald ambled to the bathroom and splashed cold water on his face. No time for Panadol just now.

Gerald opened his front door to an infuriated old woman. Eunice may as well have had steam coming from her ears!

"Mrs. Blake", acknowledged Gerald, timidly, his foot placed firmly against the open door.

"Why haven't you been to see me about our car arrangement yet?" Eunice yelled in his face.

Gerald pulled his face back. "I've been busy and sick", he replied, rubbing his nose, which is often the case when one is lying.

"The only sick you look is from alcohol! I can smell it from here! And your bloodshot eyes!" she shrieked at him again.

Gerald felt like throwing up. He had drunk 2 bottles last night. His mind raced back to the online dating site.

"Mr. CROCKER!", Eunice shrieked again.

Gerald snapped back to the present moment.

"I'm giving you until 9am Monday to have sorted out a car for me. I also want to be advised as to when my Yaris will be back on the road. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?" Eunice was madder than ever with Gerald's inattention.

A lump was rising in Gerald's throat. Oh no! He turned and bolted to his bathroom, leaving Eunice standing there, looking baffled. Eunice was utterly disgusted, as she heard Gerald retching into the toilet bowl.

There were muffled sniggers and chatter amongst the neighbours, who had now gathered in numbers, watching the debacle unfold. Not many of them liked Eunice and found this very amusing, seeing her so het up. Not many of them liked Gerald either, for that matter.

"What are you all staring at?" Eunice asked them, somewhat ashamedly, as she left Gerald's doorstep and headed to her own home.

Lottie pulled away from Kye. They had seen each other a few times now.

"I've gotta go!" Lottie decided suddenly but saying it out loud to Kye.

"Lottie, hey! Are we cool?" Kye was taken aback by the sudden change in her mood.

This past week had been shocking for Lottie, with her Nan's disclosure of illness. She wanted to stay with Kye, the dreamiest guy in school but felt a stronger need to be with her family. Especially her Mum, who appeared to have taken this news harder than the rest of the family.

"I'll text you later", said Lottie, as she jumped up, brushing herself off. Kye remained bamboozled.

Before Kye could say another word, Lottie was already a distant figure. She walked as fast as she could back home. What was something nice she could do for her Mum tonight? Perhaps she could suggest a pamper session that she would set up herself. A bubble bath, glass of wine, soothing music and afterwards, her big fluffy dressing gown.

Lottie wanted to show her Mum she was there for her, in this time of emotional turmoil.

to be continued...

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School News

Fairlie Pritchard

What's Been Happening At Meredith PS?

Our last month at has been full of wonderful learning experiences for the students at Meredith Primary School. Here is a snapshot of what we've been up to!

100 Days of School

Our F/1 students celebrated their 100th day of school in style. They participated in a range of activities focusing on the number 100 while dressed up as 100 year olds.

School Grounds:

Ralph and his group of workers have been busy spreading mulch around the front garden beds which is looking amazing. Ralph and Mr Day have also started building our Gaga Pit which is a project our Junior School Council have been working on over the past few months. What is a Gaga Pit I hear you ask? Gaga is a fast paced, high energy sport played in an octagonal pit. The more players the better! It's a kinder, gentler version of dodge ball which is played with a soft foam ball. It combines the skills of dodging, striking, running, and jumping, while trying to hit opponents with a ball below the knees. We can't wait to start using it!

Matildas Day

We had been so excited to follow the Matildas journey throughout the FIFA Women's World Cup this year. On the day of their Semi-Final with England, we held a Matildas Day to show our support. You can see the video we made on our school Facebook page.

F/1 Daffodils

Exciting times in F/1 as the daffodil bulbs we planted with Mrs Gargan have flowered! Each student got to take their beautiful daffodil pot home with them.

Book Week

Book Week is one of the most exciting weeks of the year at school. We kicked off the week by holding our dress up day and parade, which saw many inventive and creative costumes. Throughout the week we had a visit from local MP, Michaela Settle who read a book to our junior students and enjoyed reading the nominated and winning books during class time. We also ran our Book Week book sponsorship program that allows families to choose a book to sponsor and have a name plate dedication placed inside the cover. This has proved to be a popular initiative for families in the past!

Concert

Rehearsals are in full swing for our annual school concert which is being held on September 6th. This year students are performing numbers from musicals and Mrs Thorley has been working hard to teach them the songs and the dance moves. Students have made props for the concert during their art sessions.

Meredith PS turns 150 in 2024:

Next year, Meredith PS will be celebrating it's 150th birthday. Planning is still in the very, very early stages, but

stay tuned for more information when it becomes available!

Flying the Flags

If you've been past the school lately, you might have seen our three new flagpoles. Flying proudly atop these flagpoles are the Aboriginal, the Torres Strait Island and the Australian flags. This is the first time these three flags have flown together in Meredith.

During the opening ceremony, our Indigenous students were given the responsibility of raising the flags while Wadawurrung woman, Nikki McKenzie performed the Welcome to Country and Kurnai/Wotjobaluk man, Norm Stanley played the didgeridoo.

The funding for the new flag poles was provided through a grant from the Moorabool Wind Farm.

We are proud to be flying these flags at the front of our school where the whole community can see them. We are also proud to acknowledge the land that we live and learn on is Wadawurrung land.



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Meredith Resident, Steve Duffy, recounts a recent trip he took with his wife, Adele, a member of Friends of Ermera, an organisation dedicated to the provision of education and training programs within the Ermera Municipality, Timor-Leste

A Visit to Timor-Leste

Steve Duffy

Recently I had the opportunity to visit Timor-Leste, our newest neighbour. Just off the northwest of the Australian continent. With a population of about 1.3 million and a long and complicated history of colonial occupation over 450 years. For many years, the Portuguese and Dutch battled over natural resources like sandalwood (till it was all logged!). The local Kings and villages were defeated and subverted. Finally in 1975, Timor-Leste was granted independence, but after a few months of freedom was invaded by Indonesia: perhaps as many as 200,000 died and 1,000's were taken away and imprisoned.

By 2002, the United Nations acted, and with the help of Australian military known as INTERFET, providing security as a new referendum ensured full independence.

After 20 years there is still much to be done. I travelled with a three strong women, veterans of a charity called "Friends of Emera". From 2002 they have provided support and guidance in the teaching of English in Schools.

What an eye opener it was: not a tourist experience. In fact there is not much tourism at all, despite its natural beauty and mild climate.

It's a country of friendly but very poor people.

Of the many enthusiastic locals I met was Francisco Jorge. He is one of nature's gentlemen. He introduced me to three STVJ colleges where students are trained in the equivalent of Certificate I & II in hospitality. It was illuminating to appreciate the difficulties both the trainees and trainers face. One obvious hurdle is the lack of high standard equipment. I can foresee a chance to help with procurement of top quality knives for the students. We already have some donations, which could be added to via a fundraiser. Watch this space!

The common third world problems abound. Skills, Transport and other infrastructure are basic, roads lack ongoing maintenance. Medical and dental services are few. Oral health particularly is a huge problem in a population where 50% are under 25. One volunteer that I met said that most (80%) would probably have no teeth by the time they reach 30 years old! Western diet isn't helping, e.g. sticky sugary drinks are far too available in the village shops and markets. And prices are high.

Australia has had a long and sometimes controversial relationship with Timor-Leste.

- 1942, Australia fought along side Timor-Leste fighters against the Japanese.
- 1975, Australia stood by when Indonesia invaded even though 5 journalists, including 3 Australians were murdered at Balibo near the border.
- 1999, film was smuggled out. The footage showed evidence of murder in Santa Cruz cemetery. Australia was outraged.

- 2002, Australia joined INTERFET (the UN) forces to maintain peace during the Referendum
 - 2005, Australia spied on Timor-Leste to get advantage in Oil rights.
- 2023, negotiations continue on Oil production plans,

There are several NGO's providing help in many areas, but there is still much to help with.

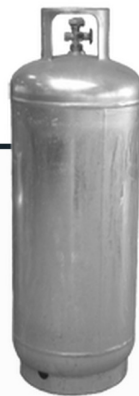
Thanks to:

Joan Tresize, OA, president of "Friends of Ermera"

Di Sullivan, EAFL, "Friends of Ermera"

Adele Duffy, Secretary of "Friends of Ermera"

Visit friendsofermera.org.au for more information.



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Meredith History Interest Group

Treasure Day:

Lots of Treasures were presented on Sunday, August 20 at the History Centre including an American silver dollar that was part of Scottish tradition called first-foot which concerns the first person to enter a household on New Year's Day, an old misshapen gin bottle, a tiny opium bottle, a 73 year old watch that is still being worn every-day, an illuminated address, photos of farming on the Ana Branch between Broken Hill and Wentworth, a carbide lamp for mining, a walking doll given by a grandfather for a first birthday, a ladder constructed in a bottle, two birds on a stick constructed from pine cones, a mother's diary of 1938 and a huge handmade spanner for a traction engine.

Two other Treasures were most unusual: a small musical instrument that is put in the mouth and worked by the tongue called a Jew's Harp and an ornate tie press. The oldest Treasure was a framed embroidery piece made in 1816 by Jenny's [several times great] grandmother.

It is always amazing what items are presented: some things like the illuminated address we have heard of but never seen in the real and some things like the American Coin that was part of a tradition that we had never heard about.

The flagpole from the Morrissions State School was also on show, considered a treasure for the forthcoming photo exhibition.

Morrissions Photo Exhibition:

In the process of preparing and enlarging photos for the exhibition we noticed two photos that at first glance appear the same but on closer inspection have some differences. They have the same colours, the same scenery, taken from almost the same position but two posts laying on an island north of the bridges are missing in one photo, the bridges have changed in one photo and the stone house at Borhoneyghurk, which I will refer to as Morrison's Home Station has gone and a new red brick veneer house has replaced it.

The exhibition will be in the Memorial Hall in Meredith on October 14 & 15, 2023. If you still have photos that may be of interest, it is not too late to contact us. Categories include the River, the Bridges, the Ford, the Roads, Mining, Schools, Churches, Racecourse, Recreation Reserve, Houses, Fire Brigade, Enterprise and more. [Enterprise means working: building hay stacks, digging onions, growing fruit, shearing etc]

Sand Pit Repurposing Project:

If you have fond memories of the sand pit at the Kindergarten, and your children playing in it, and even if you don't know the sandpit, you may like to help finance the sand pit being repurposed for more storage for MHIG. It is going to cost \$800 to transform the sandpit into a flat, solid base for a container to sit upon.

Donations from \$1 to \$800 are therefore required. Small bottles of sand from the pit are free with every donation!!

Lower Stony Creek Dam Wall:

The Lower Stony Creek Dam Wall is at the south end of the Lower Stony Creek Reservoir. The Dam Wall is the first mass concrete gravity dam wall constructed in Victoria and Australia. It is the third such structure of its type in the world. It was constructed between February 1873 and June 1874 as part of Geelong's first water supply system after the failure of the schemes first dam wall, an earthen structure at the Upper Stony Creek Dam five kilometers upstream. Building a dam wall at Lower Stony Creek presented challenges because the narrowness of the site made the cost of traditional [earth with puddled clay] prohibitive. Instead about 4000 cubic metres of concrete represented a significant technical advance. The curved wall is 16 metres high and 68 metres long, its inner face is convex and the outer face is concave.

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MEREDITH HISTORY INTEREST GROUP

In 1861 there were 681 people living in and around Morrissions, mostly young adults with lots of children – 214 according to the census.

Morrissions
Riverflats
to
Tablelands




**Exhibition of
Photograph, Maps &
Documents**

**Saturday 14th October
10am to 4 pm**

**Sunday 15th October
10am to 3pm**

Memorial Hall

Morrissions is about 10 km from Meredith. Morrissions was centrally located between Dolly's Creek and Tea Tree Diggings and was the principal business district. with a general store bakery, churches, hotels, blacksmiths, and school.





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Marg's BOOK REVIEW

One Life: My Mother's Story by Kate Grenville.

It appears that Kate Grenville's mother intended to write a book about her own life, thinking that other people did it, it mustn't be that hard! She often quoted Socrates' famous maxim: *The unexamined life is not worth living* and she kept twenty notebooks about her life and her forebears.

After her mother died in 2002 Kate Grenville read her mother's books which she described as a mass of fragments and felt as if her mother was sitting beside her talking to her.

Her mother Nance wasn't the sort of person that biographies are usually written about. She wasn't famous and had no public life and did nothing that would ever make the history books. But, on the other hand, not many voices like hers are heard, of her social class. Yet the story represents that of generations of people whose lives are unimaginably different from the lives of every generation before and after. It is very important to read about these lives.

Nance Russell was a daughter, a pharmacist, a wife, a mother, a mature aged student, a traveller and a grandmother.

Her life wasn't always easy.

Her parents were a none too loveable country couple who moved many times into often unsuccessful businesses. At different times Nance is bundled off to relatives, boarded out with a strict Catholic family, sent to a convent school and she finds it hard to keep friends. When she studied pharmacy, she is one of only six women in a class of eighty in a time when female public servants were all Miss because to be a public servant you had to be unmarried. Her marriage to Ken, a Christian Socialist and lawyer was not a relationship of great passion but she resolved that they had made a promise and that they shared children. She toils away, working part time for other pharmacists when she has someone to mind her children, but eventually becoming businesswoman owning two pharmacist shops and being financially independent.

Written in third person, through Nance's imagined consciousness, the book is a unique blend of biographic and fictional. One may question if the book reflects the real voice of Nance's raw experience, or a more sympathetic story composed years later.

Nance Gee [nee Russell] was not a woman ahead of her time, but a woman of her time who paved the way for the women of now. A review describes the book as a common tale of frustrated dreams and quietly unhappy lives, set against a familiar Australian backdrop.

The book is an interesting depiction of the times in which Nance lived. Kate tells that it was a great gift to have her for a mother. She gave her three children a solid base of love from which they have all discovered fulfilment.



Hello Everyone

You are invited to our Australia's Biggest Morning Tea. Let's get together and enjoy a cuppa so we can support those impacted by cancer.

Host Mary Foster

Where Meredith Memorial Hall

Date Saturday, September 23rd

Time 10am

Details Theme Hippy Flower Power

Silent Auction, Raffle, Games, Lots of Food

RSVP by September 15th

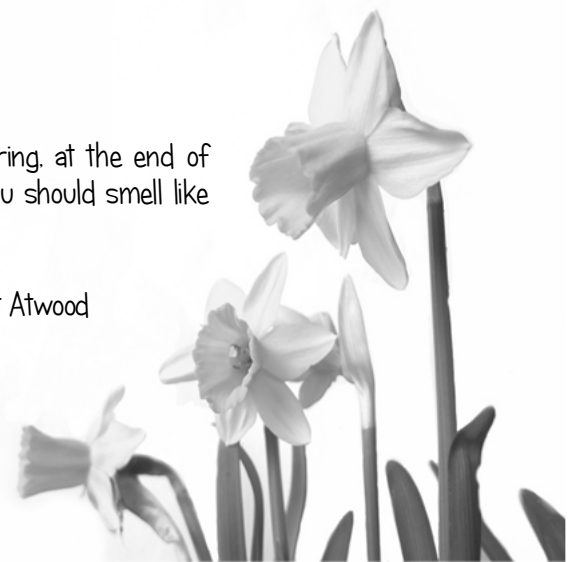
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"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt."

– Margaret Atwood



Chris Nolan Awards at St Patrick's College

Marg Cooper and Carol Roberts

The Chris Nolan Awards recognize and celebrate the outstanding academic achievements of St Patrick's College Ballarat students during Semester 1 and 2 each year.

These awards are named in honour of legendary Old Collegian, Chris Nolan. Chris was one of the brightest stars to emerge from St Patrick's College and had a glittering career as a successful lawyer, as well as being the co-founder of the Meredith Music Festival.

Chris excelled in his studies, and exemplified what it is to be a student at St Patrick's College, being actively involved in all aspects of College life. He was College Captain, was the recipient of many academic awards, was a finalist in the Purton oratory competition and 1985 Captain of the Student Council. Chris was an eloquent public speaker, and his pursuit of excellence inspired all those around him.

His life took a tragic twist in 1996 when after almost a year as a lawyer in Hanoi, Vietnam Chris acquired severe brain injuries probably from a viral infection, leading to total organ failure.

Chris is profoundly disabled physically and is intellectually intact. He hears and understands but is very limited in his communication. With the ongoing support of his family, carers and friends, Chris has continued to raise awareness around disability and has continued to live a life of service. Chris and his family, and in particular Chris' mother Mary, are actively involved in developing awareness and support for young people with acquired brain injuries. Chris remains a strong advocate for disability awareness, fighting for the rights and dignity of all people.

Chris's mother Mary has continued to support Chris. She was duly recognized in 2011 with membership in the General Division of the Order of Australia or AM.

Chris continues to be highly respected by his classmates and teachers for his commitment and enthusiasm to all aspects of College life. He remains an active member of the old Collegians Association, and he continues to inspire others, in pursuit of academic excellence. Twice each year, the highest achieving students across all year levels are awarded our prestigious Chris Nolan awards, in recognition of Chris' pursuit of academic excellence and his courage.

Academic success requires commitment, discipline and hard work. To achieve academic excellence, learners need to display determination, perseverance and endurance, as well as the courage to embrace setbacks and mistakes, and to see these experiences as opportunities for growth. It requires a desire to gain the most out of every opportunity, and a willingness to take on feedback, with a sense of curiosity, and humility.

The students we are recognising today have demonstrated a consistently high level of academic achievement, across a broad range of subjects. To receive a Chris Nolan award, a student must be in the top 10% of their year level. The 10% is determined by the aggregation of all internal semester results [including all College exams and all reported assessment items].

James Parkinson of Morrisons, currently in Year 11 at St Pats and formerly of Meredith Primary School has a received a Chris Nolan Award for academic excellence each semester from Year 7 until current.

James's father Nigel grew up with Chris, played cricket in the Premiership team that Chris captained and their families are well known to each other.

Note:

The main part of this article was the address that Carol Roberts, Acting Deputy Principal of St Patrick's College gave prior to the presentations.



ELAINE RECREATION RESERVE COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**THURSDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2023
AT 7.00**

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Choc Peanut Bliss Balls

Prep time 15 minutes

Makes 16

Ingredients

- 3/4 cups rolled oats, lightly toasted
- 200g medjool dates, pitted
- 2 tablespoons light peanut butter
- 2 tablespoons cocoa powder
- 1/4 cup desiccated or shredded coconut, lightly toasted.

Method

1. Process oats in a food processor until finely chopped. Add dates, peanut butter, cocoa and 2 tablespoons of water. Process until well combined. You may need a little extra water to bring the mixture together, but be careful not to add too much.
2. Using damp hands, roll 3 level teaspoons of date mixture into a ball. Roll ball in the coconut to coat. Place on a plate. Repeat with the remaining date mixture. Cover and refrigerate for 1 hour before serving.

Cook's tip:

To toast oats and coconut, toss them separately in a small non-stick frying pan over medium heat until light golden.

Bliss balls will keep in an airtight container in the fridge for up to 2 weeks.

Recipe from: Success

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Marg Cooper

Joan had a most caring nature, only ever saw the best in everyone and was full of compassion.

A funeral was held to celebrate the life of Joan on Monday, July 10 at Christ Church in Geelong where her five children and granddaughter Morgan paid tribute.

Joan's eldest son John told that Joan grew up in Geelong, became a nurse and met Roy when he was a patient in the hospital where she was working. They married in 1957 and moved to a new home in Taylors Road that they called *Fairbank*, but the city girl must have felt very isolated, being four miles from Meredith, two paddocks from her neighbour and not having a license to drive. In 1975 they sold *Fairbank* and moved to *Menari* which was closer to transport to schools. After rearing her family, Joan returned to part-time nursing at Grace McKellar Aged Care and in 2001 Joan and Roy sold the farm and retired to Geelong where she became a city girl again.

Joan's eldest daughter Anne told about the many versions of her Mum, of farming Mum, that it was a real life example of *Farmer Wants a Wife*, of sporting Mum where Joan didn't play sport herself but supported all her children and husband in their sporting endeavours, of cake loving Mum and how she followed recipes in the CWA cookbook to make cakes for school lunches and for every event in Meredith, of Nursing Mum where Joan was the unofficial first responder for the community, of Girl Guide Mum who eventually became Commissioner, of no germs Mum, of Communication Mum who loved long phone calls, of Myer Card Mum that left Roy reeling when the accounts arrived by mail and of her Angelic, Caring and Loving Mum.

Joan's second daughter Robyn said that Joan was a special lady who enjoyed simple pleasures, who took troubled kids under her wing and how when she was no longer Captain of the Ship she was grateful for all Roy did for her.

Joan's youngest daughter Sally spoke of people who would consult Joan across the table with the kettle on, and that Joan was always a nurse, ready to help both family and community members including Sally after her road accident, Peter when he was mentally unwell, sky divers when they misjudged falls and tennis players when they collapsed.

Joan's youngest son Peter said that Joan was the most beautiful Mum that anyone could ever have and how much she helped him including to learn to read and write, when he was unwell and in his day to day life.

Joan's granddaughter Morgan talked of what each grandchild remembered especially about Joan. A lot remembered the food she cooked, her compassion, care, love and selflessness and agreed that in the future she would shine as the brightest star in the sky at night. All of the speakers also paid tribute to Roy and thanked him for giving Joan a wonderful life.

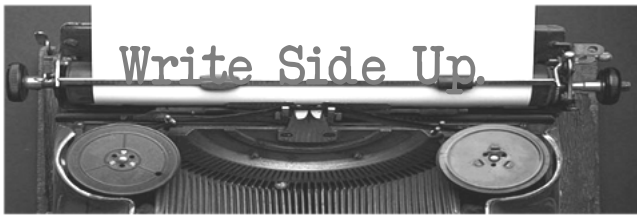


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G'Day from the penners and welcome to Spring! The daffodils are bobbing their yellow heads, wattle trees are blooming resplendent, the canola in the fields is a sight to behold, I think spring should be renamed yellow!

This month's story is a beauty from Karen Scholer, get the tissue box ready to read this one, it's great. If you like this or any of the other's we publish please drop us a line via our email goldenpens4@gmail.com

Morning Walk

The old man 'Mac' shuffled along, it was easy to see he was old but it was harder to tell just how old he was, his little white dog Dina struggled to keep up on her stiff legs and the old man paused to wait, watching her with his kind old eyes. The young woman, Sarah, knew from past chats on her morning walks along the waterfront that the little dog had been his wife's and he had lovingly looked after her since her death some years ago. There had originally been two little dogs Mac told her, apparently his had been a male they called Zac, Zac was slang for 6 pence and his wife's dog they called Dina, Dina was another name for a shilling back in the day he said. It was only proper in Mac's opinion as females were worth twice as much as males any day of the week. They both laughed reminding him for a moment what it was like when his wife was young and they had laughed together. Sarah wasn't exactly sure how much the dogs were worth in today's money but she had an idea it was pre decimal currency and when she got home, she had taken the time to look it up on google, taking inflation into account it would be worth about \$2.20 today, so although the little dogs value wasn't much, they had been pure gold to their owners.

Sarah worried if she didn't see Mac and Dina on her morning walk, they had gone missing for a time a couple of months ago and when they returned, she asked where they had been. The old man told her he was having a little chemo for throat cancer but he was ok again now. Somehow seeing them each morning was integral to her happiness, she looked forward to Mac's ready smile when he saw her coming towards him, his little dog pushing forward knowing a pat was coming her way, even a treat if she was lucky. Somehow the old man made her feel connected to the world in a way Facebook and Instagram didn't.

Sarah had been on holidays for a week and today was her first day back from her short break, she was looking forward to seeing the pair and kept an eye out for them. At last, she could see Mac getting closer in the distance, she tried to be patient, they would get to her soon enough. Watching in the distance she thought Mac had slowed down, but as they got closer, she realised it was Dina who was moving so slowly, and as she approached, she saw the little dog topple to the side and watched as Mac bent down to touch her before looking up. His face stricken as he looked around. The little dog wasn't moving. Sarah could see the closer she got that something was very wrong, she

picked up the pace and ran towards the pair. Mac's shoulders had slumped and Sarah knelt down to touch the little dog, she knew instantly she was dead. Dina's eyes were open and urine was spreading on the walkway. Sarah raised her eyes to Mac and knew she didn't have to tell him, a single tear rolled gently down his cheek. Sarah took off her old jacket and gently wrapped it around Dina before lifting her, Mac turned and started walking silently in the opposite direction and she followed behind him, words didn't seem important, they were in accord. The old man walked on, they carefully crossed the road and walked until Mac stopped at an old but neat weatherboard house and opened the gate, she followed closely behind him as he walked to the back door and into the kitchen.

She followed his lead carrying the body from the kitchen and placed her on the lounge sofa. Mac sat down beside her and patted her silky head. Sarah sat for a time next to him gently touching his arm before she went into the kitchen, she washed her hands and set the kettle to boil, rummaged about for the items she needed as tears rolled down her young face, she made some tea. She returned to the lounge and placed the milky sweet tea in Mac's hands, she wrapped the old man's shoulders in a crochet blanket she took from the back of the armchair and laid her hand on his. They drank their tea in silence...there would be plenty of time later for talking and burying Dina.



*What does Charles Dickens keep in his spice rack?
The best of rhymes, the worst of rhymes.*

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Victorian Seniors Festival 2023



1 – 31 October

Seniors Festival returns for a Shire wide celebration in October!

Senior members of the community are encouraged to get out and about during the 2023 Victorian Seniors Festival with a range of events on offer for Golden Plains residents to enjoy throughout the month of October.

The Victorian Seniors Festival is a state-wide festival for Victorians over 60, focusing on providing fun and good times.

Council is pleased to again host the Victorian Seniors Festival in Golden Plains and has partnered with local organisations and community groups to provide a calendar of events for our local seniors, with free or low-cost events and activities taking place across the Shire.

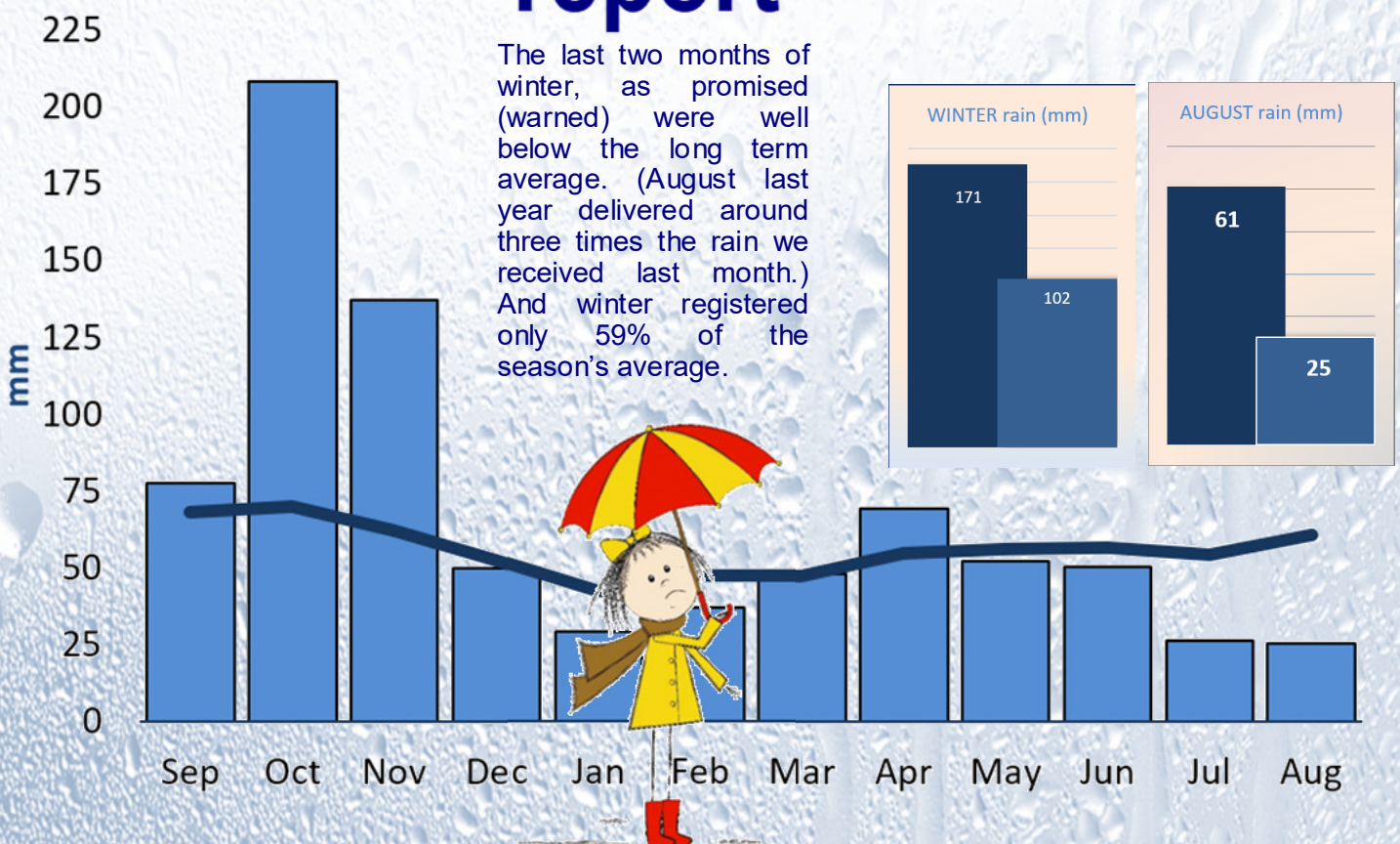
There is a great timetable of local events on offer across Golden Plains with opportunities for participants to get active playing golf, participate in technology and art group classes, engage with other seniors in the Shire at the Linton Men's Shed or enjoy delicious morning teas and lunches, plus much more!

Several activities will be delivered at no cost, while some activities will have a low-cost participation fee. Registration is required for Council run events and transport options are also available.

To view the full calendar of events, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au. For further information, contact Council's Active Ageing and Inclusion team via email at ageingandinclusion@gplains.vic.gov.au or call 5220 7111.



the rain report





Meredith Rural Fire Brigade

New Captain

As of 1st July 2023, Josh Medley is the new Captain of Meredith Rural Fire Brigade. Filling the large shoes of our ex-captain, Chris Jones, is a daunting task, though we are super fortunate that he remains with our CFA family for ongoing support and mentorship. Chris served 10 years as Captain and we thank both him and Olivia (ex-Secretary), for their dedication and service to our community.

Contact Details

Josh Medley – Meredith Captain 0433 714 017

Andrea Cameron - Brigade Community Safety Officer (BCSO) 0407 523 575

From this point onwards, either Josh or Andrea will be providing information to the community via the Meredith Newsletter each month.

Give us a Hand

Daytime Responders Needed

Can you give us a hand during the day? Being a proudly 100% Volunteer Brigade, we are seeking your help. Oftentimes we have only a small handful of able volunteers for responding to daytime events. We are looking for people that are interested in several vital volunteer roles such as: Firefighter Wildfire, Firefighter Structural and various Support roles. This is an opportunity that would suit people who are available on a flexible schedule. Full training and ongoing support is provided so you can learn new skills to fulfill a vital role in your community.

If you are interested in joining us, then come down to the local CFA shed on Sunday morning from 8:30am onwards, or contact Josh or Andrea on the details above.

Alternatively you can visit the CFA website: <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteers-careers/volunteer-with-cfa>

How to Prepare Your Property

By now we have heard the term 'el Nino' being thrown around. We are currently in el Nino warning, which means that we can expect to see dry conditions for the next couple of years. This provides specific challenges to everyone, but especially the CFA.

Preparing for the oncoming Summer Fire Season will become vital and now is the time to start planning what to do. We encourage you to 'Plan and Prepare' as much as possible. The following information is available on the CFA website to assist you:

- Plan and Prepare <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare>
- Your Guide to Property Preparation <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-to-prepare-your-property>
- Can I or Can't I? <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/total-fire-bans-fire-danger-ratings/can-i-or-cant-i>
- Burning Off <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-to-prepare-your-property/burning-off>

There is plenty of other useful information available on the website, such as Fire safety on the Farm, Harvest Fire Safety, Livestock, Horses and Bushfires, etc.

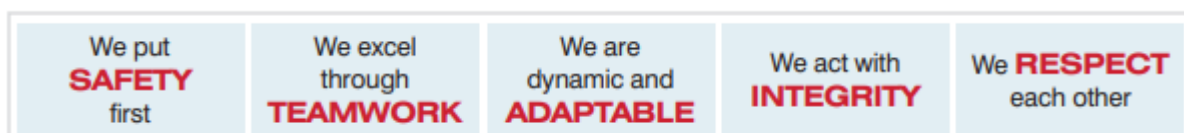
Copies of the pamphlets are also available at the CFA shed.

Upcoming Community Meetings

For some time now, we have been planning to address items of concern that have been raised in the community and we are in discussions with CFA Region 7, Western Region Environmental Network (WREN), Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), Waddarung Traditional Owners, Moorabool Landcare Network, Meredith Police Paddocks Support Group and Golden Plains Shire (GPS), to provide a number of Community Meeting Information nights. These dates will be circulated to the Meredith Community as soon as possible.

CFA Values

As a proudly 100% Volunteer Brigade, not only are we family to each other, but we are your neighbours, friends and colleagues in your community. We are not paid for our time as volunteers. We devote as much time as we can, away from our families and our homes, to do what we can to protect yours. We appreciate your respect at all times.



COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING GRANTS ROUND TWO 2023



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

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

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

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

Groups must match the amount of funding sought, either in cash or through in-kind contributions, such as volunteer work on the project. Applications are open until 2pm, Monday 2 October 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 visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au or contact Council's Community Development & Grants Officer at 5220 7111 or email communitygrants@gplains.vic.gov.au



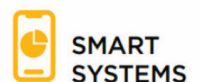
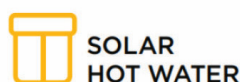
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