

# Meredith & district News

OCTOBER 2023

OUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



## inside

- Meet Meredith's Senior Constable
  - Vale Brian Lewis
  - Be warmed by Don's 'My Wild Life' column
- .....and the usual much more!

e: [news@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:news@meredithnews.com.au) w: [meredithnews.com.au](http://meredithnews.com.au)





## 2022 PastureWise Spring Field Day Report

By Stuart Kemp

The October-November 2022 period was amazingly wet with over 360mm of rain. It was with a great deal of nervousness that I promoted the field day for the 17<sup>th</sup> of October, purchased more sausages, hamburgers and loaves of bread than we would ever eat at home and tried to work out what my plan B and C might be....

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of October, we received 58mm of rain – topping up the 80+mm we had already received that month. The trial area yet again became a lake, tracks flooded, dams broke their banks and roads became all but impassable. Fortunately, by the 17<sup>th</sup> of October the sun was out. It was sloshy underfoot however that didn't stop a fantastic turnout of farmers and advisors from near and far.

The day started off with a great talk by the team from Precision Agriculture, discussing the opportunity for farmers to use digital nutrient maps to efficiently manage soil pH and nutrients. The emphasis was not so much about saving money (although that was possible) but about applying lime or nutrients to areas that are going to be the most responsive and generate the greatest return. Next, Emma Goodall from Meridian Ag did an excellent job of discussing the key soil fertility issues that are common across many farms in our region. We used soil test data from our farm as a case study and although we had recently applied lime to lift the pH, Potassium levels remained low and needed attention.

Following a BBQ lunch, we went on a tour of the trials with representatives from all the major seed companies on hand to give a brief description of their varieties. The trials had all been sown in the autumn of 2022 and although conditions were wet, the plots looked great and were well established. There was great discussion about new cultivars being launched, novel endophytes in perennial ryegrasses, the role of hybrid ryegrasses in farming systems, the types of sub clover and their use. All up there were 10 different trials on display covering a wide range of pasture species, all of which have a place on farms in our region. Most trials will run for 3 or more years and include current commercial cultivars as well as breeding lines. All companies visit the site regularly to check on the performance of their new lines and the site will be open for another field day in spring 2023.

A great day was had by all..... and then 4 days later, it started raining again!





# Pasture Wise

## Excellence in Pastoral Science

# Pasture Open Day

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 10am – 4pm**

**Come and join us for our spring pasture open day!**

- Wander through over 18 pasture demonstrations and trials
- Visit trade stalls and get pasture advice from the seed company experts including RAGT, Barenbrug, DLF, Valley Seeds, Cropmark AGF, Upper Murray Seeds and S&W Seeds
- Attend specialist feature presentations and demonstrations.
- Refreshments available from 10am and BBQ lunch sponsored by Western Ag will be available from 12pm.

**Feature Presentations include:**

- 10.30am: Alex Waterhouse, Altitude Ag, Talk and Demonstration (weather permitting) on the use of Drones for mapping, bait spreading and even herbicide application!
- 11.15pm: Lee Menhennett, Incitec Pivot Fertilisers, Soil and Tissue testing and maximising pasture growth using the available moisture
- 1.00pm: Launch of the Forage Trial Program and tour of key trials

**Where: 1485 Bamganie Rd, Cargerie, Victoria (near Meredith)**

For catering, RSVP to Stuart Kemp (0437 278 873, [stuartkemp@pasturewise.com.au](mailto:stuartkemp@pasturewise.com.au))





# 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](mailto:news@meredithnews.com.au) or deliver to the Meredith Post Office or Meredith Hub

## DATES AND DEADLINES

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

## ADVERTISING

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

	B&W / Colour
Business Card	\$20
Quarter page	\$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

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**Editorial:** Jim: 0409 163169

[news@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:news@meredithnews.com.au)

## WEB

You can check back copies and lodge comments at [meredithnews.com.au](http://meredithnews.com.au)

## ONLINE PHOTOS

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

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## FEEDBACK

*Yes please! Send it to [news@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:news@meredithnews.com.au)*

Issue Production: Don Atherton and Marlene Johnson

# connect

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0409 027 359

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0419 248 660

B'BURN ART  
GROUP  
0410 808 483

BLUE LIGHT  
DISCO  
5286 1222

BOOK CLUB  
5286 8201

CFA  
000 for fire calls  
Elaine  
0409 861 296  
Meredith  
0433 714 017  
Morrison's  
0417 770 765

CHILDCARE  
5286 0700

COMMUNITY  
CENTRE  
5286 0700

CRICKET  
Elaine  
0448 291074  
Junior  
(U16,U14,13)  
0448 291074  
Meredith  
5286 1434

CUBS &  
SCOUTS  
Lethbridge  
0435 042077

ELAINE HALL  
[elainetownhall@gmail.com](mailto:elainetownhall@gmail.com)

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Seniors 0408 545246  
Juniors 0430 587 674

GOLF CLUB  
0407 795 342

HISTORY GROUP  
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0409 862 326

MEMORIAL HALL  
0409 662106

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GROUP  
0491 184 999

MOTORCYCLE  
CLUB  
0437 009 250

PLAYGROUP  
5286 0700

POLICE  
PADDOCKS  
0409 163169

RSL - 5286 1452

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	1300 363 036
a/h emergency Ranger	0408 508 635 5220 7111
	or 0409 830 223
Bannockburn Vet	5281 1221
Golden Plains Animal	5281 2226
Pets and Horses 24/7	0421 617 238

## Justices of the Peace

Mr Don Atherton. 0409 869 960

Mr Paul Ryan Elaine 0409 861 296

# services

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## MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

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## PRE-SCHOOL

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## PRIMARY

## SCHOOL

5286 1313

## RECREATION

## RESERVE

0429 315 575

..or start something.

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



Write it on your heart  
that every day is the  
best day of the year!  
Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Church News



### Meredith Uniting Church

Services have recommenced. 11.00 am 2nd Sunday each month.  
Enquiries:

Rev. Paul Sanders 0407 833 515 5341 2440

### Serbian Orthodox - 5341 5536

Daily services: Matins 08.00 am, Vespers 6.00 pm.  
Divine Liturgies on Saturdays & Sundays 10.00 am.

### Worship on Sundays in the Anglican Parish of Inverleigh+Bannockburn+Meredith:

8.00 am Holy Communion St Paul's, Inverleigh  
10.00 am Family Communion. St John's, Bannockburn

5.00 pm Prayer and Praise Epiphany, Meredith

Find us at: [www.goldenplainsanglican.org](http://www.goldenplainsanglican.org) or  
[office.revdrtim@hotmail.com](mailto: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 @ 6pm Sat. Oct. 7,14,21,28

Anakie - St. Brigid @ 9am Sun. Oct. 1,15,29

Meredith - St. Joseph @ 9am Sun. Oct. 8

B'burn - St. Mary MacKillop @ 11am Sun. Oct. 1,8,15,22,29

Inverleigh - Sacred Heart @ 4pm Sun. Oct. 15

## Recreation



## Meredith Music Festival Ticket Allocation For Locals

An allocation of tickets for **Meredith Thirty One** is available on a first-come first-served basis for locals living between Elaine and Lethbridge. Tickets can be purchased from the Meredith Corner Store (17 Wallace Street) from 10am on November 14, 2023 until sold out. 3 per person limit.

Please bring proof of residential address (Meredith, Elaine, She Oaks or Lethbridge address). CASH sales only. For more information please contact Aunty Meredith via [auntym@mmf.com.au](mailto:auntym@mmf.com.au).

MMF will be held on December 8-10 2023.

## Elaine Mechanics Institute Hall AGM

Tuesday 24th October 2023  
7.30pm

Elaine Hall 20 Pearson's Rd Elaine

E: [elainetownhall@gmail.com](mailto:elainetownhall@gmail.com)

All Welcome



## Meredith Recreation Reserve

The AGM was held on the 18th September and a new executive committee voted in as follows -

- > President: Brent Reynolds
- > Vice President: Terry Hart
- > Treasurer: Bridget Dyer
- > Secretary: Maddy McColl

A special thank you to Mick Rooney for all the hard work he has put into the rec reserve and the time he has served.

Mick has been on the committee since 1999 and has decided its time to take a break.

During his time on the committee Mick has contributed to many projects within the reserve, some of those in recent times which include organising solar panels, having the floors re-polished, new storage shed and much more. Again Mick thank you for your efforts and we wish you well.

## OUR COVER

*Our cover sent in by Peter Boer. A happy snap of Mary Foster, Cathie Boer and Kym Ivory enjoying the recent Meredith Biggest Morning Tea!*

*Thank you Peter.*



Share your favourite pics



# Recreation



## Meredith Tennis Club

*Bridget Dyer*

It's been a busy month for the Meredith Tennis Club with our Winter Competition finishing, grading day, coaching clinics, and organising teams for the upcoming Saturday summer season and spring competition.

### Winter Comp

Another great competition that was run over two nights. Thank you to the participants and supporters that braved the very cold nights to play and watch. Luckily the food was nice and hot and helped to warm everyone up. Due to a conflict on the Wednesday night, all finals were held 7th September, with play offs, semi finals and grand finals combined for a huge night of tennis. Pizza was ordered and eaten while enjoying the various matches.

The Wednesday night competition was close the whole way through, and came down to the Scorpions beating Pizzeria 6-3. Congratulations! This is the second time the Scorpions have won, and they will have to move up a grade to give someone else a chance to win the prize money.

The Thursday night competition was so competitive that instead of the top four, we had the top five! There was no difference in scores and percentages between Family Drama and new comers Bamganie Bandits. To work out who was in the top five, both teams had to play another match and the winners went into the semi finals. Despite Family Drama's confidence, the Bamganie Bandits moved into the semi finals, but sadly did not make it to the grand finals. The grand finals took place between Top Gun and Corkey and the Crab. While both teams were undefeated, there can only be one winner and that was Top Gun. Lucky for the rest of the comp, that particular pairing will not be continuing to the Spring competition, and will give someone else a chance to win the cash prize.

The Spring Competition will start 12th October and registrations close 5th October. We love welcoming new players of all ages and abilities, and are welcoming younger players with a parent. Dinner will be available for purchase again, and we are looking forward to having the Cricket club join us after their training to make the night even more social and a community event.

### Grading Day

Thank you to everyone that came to our grading day and braving the strange and slightly wet weather. We had an amazing turn out and there was lots of tennis being played, so much so that we did run out of courts and people had to wait for courts to become free. It's a lovely problem to have. The try outs and grading did help make the process so much easier for finalising the team, and we hope everyone enjoyed the morning. Thanks to those that donated their time in helping set up, grade and pack up.

### Tennis Clinics and coaching

There have been a number of clinics on offer this school holidays. One was in held in Grenville and we had four children attend. They had a great time and were able to interact with other clubs while improving their skills.

Meredith has run two Thursday clinics over the holidays and had over 45 people (children and adults) attend. It was lovely to see so many new families and faces come along and have some fun. Coach Jye loves coming to Meredith and seeing so many enthusiastic kids and parents. He has agreed to come back for Sunday coaching sessions over summer every second weekend. This year we will be grouping children more on ability and session times will need to be booked in and paid in advance. Sessions will run for 30 mins and will be \$5 for children 6 and under and will be an hour, and will be \$10 per child for the older children. Adult sessions can be booked and prices will depend on the number of people per class. Please contact Bridget Dyer on 047 888 2773 or via our facebook page. Our first session will be 15th October 2023.

### Summer Season

This year we have teams in four different competitions, 2 junior teams in Geelong Tennis Inc, 2 teams of orange ball, also competing in Geelong, and three junior teams in Buninyong District and Association. We also have two senior teams playing in the Buninyong and District Association, which should be fun.

We are always on the lookout for new players and people to fill in. Please let us know if you would like to fill in or play as we can always register late players.



*Alex Hyatt*

Our last sketching site was the Epiphany Anglican Church, Meredith. Once again a healthy group met outside the Community Centre and walked up to the Church. The doors were opened for us and we entered to marvel at the architecture and construction. Wonderful sketches began to appear of the wooden interior and stained glass windows. Ray's interpretation of the major window was stunning with splashes of vibrant colour. Following completion of our first sketches some of us ventured outside to sketch the church and interact with a friendly walking group from Ballarat. At the completion of our sketches we shared our work and took lunch at the corner store.

Our next outing will be on the 10th October where we will be sketching at the Moorabool Ridge Vineyard. We will meet at the Meredith Community Centre at 10.0 am.





**I'M HERE TO HELP**  
 PLEASE CONTACT MY OFFICE FOR ANY ASSISTANCE

**Michaela Settle MP**  
 Member for Eureka

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



Meredith **Community Centre**  
*working for our community*

# What's On This Month



**Fabric Painting with Michelle De Groot**

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

**Thread Painting with Michelle De Groot**

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

**Childrens Week - Mindfulness with Jade**

Monday October 24

3.30 - Prep - Grade 4

4.30 - Grade 5 & 6

Wednesday October 25

9.30 - Mum's & Bubs

2.15 - Kindergarten Children

Bookings Essential - text Jade 0403 667 840

This Event supported by the Victorian State Government for Childrens Week 2023



Wednesday October 18

11:00 - 1.30

Join us for lunch and learn about your device and how to spot a scam - Bookings Essential - 5286 0700 / 0491 184 999  
 learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au

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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 - \$11 per session**

Wednesdays - 10:00 - 11:00 am

**To Book:**

learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au  
 www.facebook.com/MeredithCommunityCentre  
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**PLAYGROUP**

**TUESDAYS**

9.00am - 11.30am  
 \$2 per family



*Mick Devlin*

Our last game for the year was a bit of a last minute throw together game due to our scheduled match not going ahead. A team from Macorna travelled down to take on the mighty Crocs.

The Macorna team was made up of young and old and did not have a lot of experience with masters football. Some older blokes coming out to relive their glory days and some younger blokes coming to show off their fitness and skill. Unfortunately for the travelling side they were coming up against a red hot Moorabool Valley team that has been firing all over the ground for the whole year.

The game was a bit light on for numbers so it was 15 per side. This did not dampen the enthusiasm from both teams. The Macorna boys put up a great effort, but they were no match for the Crocs who have been playing as well as ever. The Macorna fellas enjoyed the game and the beers afterwards so much, there is talk of them trying to get a team together for next year.

Best players for the day: Andy Miller from Ballarat came to help out and was great down back, Kev Murray, John Peterson, Matt Rocco were all great and took home some Meredith cheese for their efforts. Our captain Craig Taylor took out the 6 pack, the Royal Hotel voucher went to Mick Murray for his best performance this year, and the Farmgate voucher went to Mick Battye.

It was great to finish off the year with a win. There is a good contingent of Crocs players heading to the national Carnival in Maroochydore in Oct, so stay tuned to our Facebook page for regular updates.

The Crocs end of year presentation was Saturday 23rd and was a great night of celebration, dancing and singing, a great way to finish off another great year.

Some big thank you's for the year, Daryl Jones, Mick Battye, John Peterson and Mick Rooney for all their behind the scenes work in running the club. Kev Battye and Ange Fatone for running the bar and doing the time keeping. Wendy, Meg, Kylie, Jaz and Jenny for all the work they do to make sure there is a great feed after the games. Young Harley & Max Murfitt and Jack Tabone for goal umpiring our home games. Chris Gray for umpiring our games. Scott Thompson for stepping up at the last minute and providing the entertainment for the presentation night and Mal Fingers Holloway for driving the bus for the night.

We welcomed three new regular players to the club this year in Paul Jones, Chris Parker and Matt Rocco. Its great to have a few younger players and their families enjoy the Crocs atmosphere.

We also had 6 milestone games for the club this season, 150 games for Scott Cowie, Mick Rooney and Gary Polglaze. 100 games for Col Mullane and 50 games for David Pike and Mick Devlin.

Our best clubman award went to a very humble Daryl Jones. His work on and off the field is a credit to the person he is. This is one of the most deserving awards for the night.

A special coaches award went to four players (the fantastic four) who played all 10 games for the year, Daryl Jones, Craig Taylor, John Peterson and Mick Devlin.

Mick Devlin was also very honoured to be awarded Life membership to the club.

A big thank you to everyone who has come out and supported the Crocs throughout the year and most of all to our sponsors

Meredith Dairy, Sandy and Julie Cameron

Meredith Rural Supplies, Pat and Helen Banks

The Royal Hotel, Damien and Claire Kelly

The Farmgate Shop, Danny and Simone Dunne

Go Crocs.







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## Vale to Brian Neil Lewis 23/4/1938 – 19-9-2023

*Prepared by Margaret Cooper*

His family say that Brian didn't like a fuss, was a great worker, loved kids and lollies had a good sense of humour and couldn't sit still. Brian was the second child of Marjorie and Archibald Lewis. They lived on a farm at Mt Doran. Brian and his siblings, Patricia, Anne, Norman, Reg and Daryl went to Elaine Primary School. Brian continued his education at the School of Mines in Ballarat.

After finishing school he started a career in shearing with a team which travelled to Rupanyup and Stawell as well as working around the Elaine district. When Brian married Noela Shanahan and they started to have a family, Brian gave away the work that took him far from home. He was offered a job driving the school bus from Elaine to Ballarat. He left home at 7 am and got home at 5 pm when he expected tea to be on the table. The bus was garaged a few doors up from the house that Brian and Noela bought when they got married, in Elaine. During the day Brian drove school students on trips and drove buses around the city

Often, he would then go shearing/ baling hay or doing other farm jobs after he had had his tea. Noela said that she had to get sheep in the shed for Brian to shear at night. The next day she had to skirt and bale the then cold fleeces, after she had milked the cows by hand and then got more sheep in for Brian to shear that night.

When he left bus driving Brian went fencing contracting [his helper was Noela] and working on properties

including a stint at Larundel. He also cut wood, cut posts, helped on other farms, slashed roadsides, vacant blocks and railway land.

His children remember working at weekends with their Dad, being taught how to change a tyre and service a car; trips around Ballarat on the buses he drove; the big vegetable garden he tended at *Tasma*, the farm he grew up on; travelling to Shepparton for boxes of fruit for the family; being taught to drive the truck to pick up bales of hay; opening a beer bottle with the seatbelt clip; being taught how to skin the bark off posts, and how he loved to tease.

Brian was diagnosed with Parkinsons disease about 14 years ago. He valiantly tried to continue to work. He bought a chainsaw that Noela could start, after he could no longer do so and he still shored sheep while Noela held them. And his family of Margaret, Michael, Geraldine, Anthony, Cheryl, Rebecca and Christopher kept him involved as much as they could. They told of having him in the wheelchair in the sheep yards and taking him for walks around Elaine.

Brian was a founding member of Elaine CFA and a member for 67 years and a member of the Morrisons Cemetery Trust.

His favourite saying was, *It'll be alright while the pain goes out.* He had no fear!



*Brian Lewis with Vern Hester.*





**Part of Your Community.**

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## Meet Our Senior Constable



Hello, my name is Anthony Box, I'm a Senior Constable and have been posted to Meredith since December last year. I have moved to Meredith with my wife Meegan, daughter Monty (4) and Son Roy (2). I grew up in Hobart, Tasmania and left there when I was 17 to Join the Australian Army.

I was posted to Darwin as part of a Mechanized Infantry Battalion and deployed to Afghanistan twice, finishing my time in the Army as a Section Commander.

I joined Victoria Police in 2016 and worked in uniform positions on the Mornington Peninsula, Casey and Mildura areas, with some experience in other specialist roles such as the Frontline Tactical Unit based in Dandenong and Offender management Unit in the Western Region. In my previous posting in Benalla I spent the majority of time as an Acting Sergeant which allowed me to become more involved in community policing, taking over portfolios in which I liaised with businesses and community groups. Community Policing is at the heart of working at a One Member Station and something I very much enjoy.

Being able to address the policing issues within the area directly and receive feedback from the community is very important, but also living in town I often see the issues myself and also feel the urgency to address any public safety issues. Forming relationships with other agencies such as the Meredith CFA and CERT teams, who provide a valued and professional service to the community as volunteers, is another aspect of my job which I am enjoying so far and the Meredith community is very lucky to have such dedicated volunteers who respond very promptly and professionally.



In closing I hope to provide a service to the community which meets expectations, and I encourage anyone to come and speak to me if you see me around or at the station, and certainly if you have any problems, requests or suggestions I am always approachable.

Anthony BOX |Senior Constable 42062

Phone: 5286 1222| Fax: 9244 2156| Address: 14 Wilson Street Meredith Vic 3333

## Police update

In regards to community concerns raised over a Burglary which occurred in Bayards Road, Morrisons in late August, a 41 year old male offender from the Newington area has been arrested, charged and remanded in custody.

## Round the traps in Elaine and District *Janene Schillier*

### **Keep The Date!**

The annual Lal Lal Market is to be held at Lal Lal Memorial Hall and surrounding land on **Sunday 29 October 2023** - there will also be a Car boot sale at the Lal Lal Primary School

It's a great day out for the family with much to see and do! A not for profit day run by volunteers, sales will go back into the Hall and Community. Stalls and info welcome via their Facebook page. Bring your cash and small change for a fun day out! (Sausage sizzle is popular so be quick!)

**A warm welcome** is extended to our new Elaine family - the Finchers. Kellie, Warwick, Lucy and Jasmine are looking forward to enjoying their new surroundings in Elaine. We expect to see them around the traps - maybe more players for our sporting teams or the local CFA? - great to have a new family residing here.

### **A Fond Farewell**

In September 2023 the Elaine and surrounding district said goodbye to the Hasties who had lived in the Elaine township for 41 years. John spent his early years on the family farm at Ballan, Gladys in Tasmania. They were no strangers to the climate when they moved to Elaine with son Stuart.

We wish John and Gladys a happy time in their new home in Mildura. No doubt the garden will soon include wonderful Australian Native plants which they have propagated, and generously shared with locals over the years.

We thank John and Gladys for their contribution to our community with tireless voluntary work, fundraising and much more. Farewell and Good Luck



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**The Thrushes**

I'm no ornithologist, but when I came to Meredith 25 years ago, I was fascinated by the number of different bird species around my property. My favourite is the grey shrike thrush, whose beautiful loud song is very prominent during the spring breeding season. They are not colourful birds in the scheme of things, being a plain grey medium sized bird, but nevertheless, very endearing in their habits.

The birds make their bark nests in various places but seem to prefer the open sheds where they can have good shelter from the weather & the predators, and have easy access to & fro. Unlike the swallows, which prefer similar abodes, the thrushes don't make a mess by defecating around their own nest. The parents take the babies droppings away as well.

After some practice, I thought I was doing a pretty good job of copying the thrush whistle and I imagined myself having conversations with them in bird language. They would whistle, I would copy, they would whistle back, and so it would go on back & forth until I ran out of whistle. Question was – I may know how to speak their language – but I didn't know what I was saying.

I have several sheds on my property, all of which were in sad disrepair when I arrived here. One of the sheds is quite close to my house and I use it as a workshop. Whoever built it was no master builder and obviously didn't own a level, but it served the purpose until I got around to straightening it up. It had a dirt floor and gaps around the roof and floor, where the wildlife could come and go. I kept a lot of my tools in an old standalone wardrobe which had drawers in the centre, doors either side and an open area with a mirror at eye height.

One spring, the thrushes had decided to make their bark nest and raise their family in my wardrobe/tool cupboard (at eye level). Eventually the 3 little eggs turned into 3 little scrawny squawking babies, and I could watch the mum & dad going back & forward gathering bugs to feed the family. The parents were still making their loud whistling calls and the babies were making raucous "feed me" noises. Every now & then I would peek into the nest and the babies would hunker down and keep still and quiet until I disappeared.

One day when Mum and Dad had gone off bug hunting, I peeked into the nest, my nose just 20cm away, the babies hunkered down and I gave them one of my thrush whistles and the babies immediately popped back up and launched into their "feed me" routine!

Question answered!!



**Connect to Council Meetings**

*Media Release*

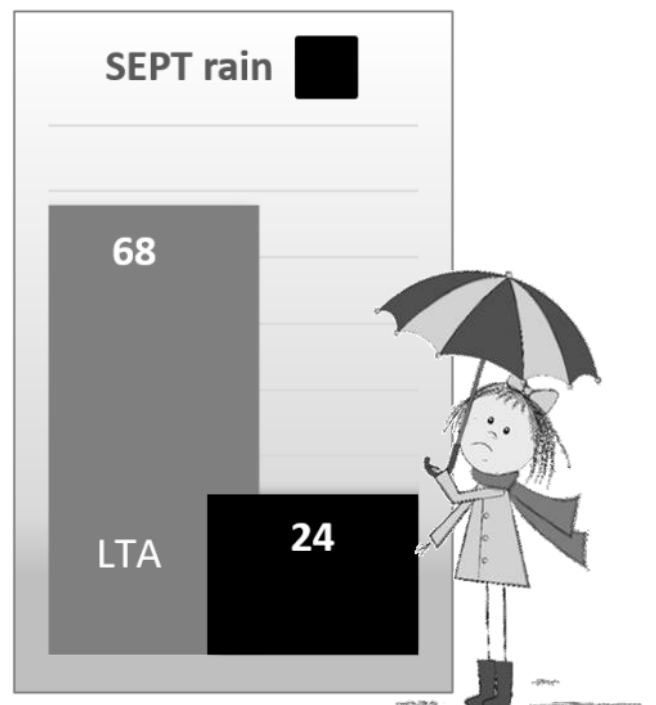
Golden Plains Shire Council has enhanced connectivity at The Well in Smythesdale empowering residents from all corners of our community to participate in Council meetings virtually at The Well.

In an era where connectivity is paramount, Council understands the crucial role of Information Technology (IT) in ensuring that all residents can actively take part in Council meetings, no matter where they are or their circumstances.

Due to the widespread nature of our Shire, residents are required to travel long distances to attend Council meetings. Bridging geographical divides and bringing the community together, by providing livestreaming and virtual attendance opportunities, emphasises Council's dedication to creating a more accessible and inclusive platform for community members to participate in Council meetings and ask a public question. Golden Plains Shire Council Mayor Cr Brett Cunningham said eliminating the barriers that may have previously prevented residents from participating in our democratic process, due to geographical location, had been a longstanding goal of The Well's transformative IT upgrade.

Golden Plains Shire remains committed to fostering a sense of community and active participation among its residents. This forward-thinking initiative demonstrates Council's commitment to establishing a more accessible and inclusive platform for community members throughout the Shire, marking a significant stride toward achieving this goal, and creating opportunities for the community to be involved in Council meetings and participate in the decision-making process.

**the rain report**





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Michael Riseley

## Changing Times

Ooh this stamp is over 100 years old – it must be valuable. Well in a word – NO. Or more accurately, probably not. The value of things is often based on rarity. And stamps with the normal postal rate of the day are not rare. Higher denomination stamps for parcel post and air mail are a bit more scarce and may have a value. But consider how many stamps were issued and used back then. Remember Miss Marple and how sometimes a vital clue was whether the letter arrived in the morning or afternoon mail. I wish! Postman delivering twice a day – now we are lucky to get twice a week.

With technology improvements, people have found different ways to communicate rather than post letters. The advent of the telephone brought an element of immediacy to communication, particularly to business. Whilst initially only the very wealthy households had a phone, the network spread quickly until it was normal for a home to have a phone. And a hallway telephone table and seat unit.

More modern innovations have all helped with the demise of the letter. Remember the fax machine which was especially popular in business. I remember Graham Kennedy using his fax machine as his preferred way of communication. And then computers introduced emails to our daily lives.

And of course the mobile phone which also let you send texts and emails. And you could take photos and send them electronically. Crikey your mobile phone can even replace your wallet by using tap and go payments. Vic Roads are trialling digital Drivers Licences on your mobile phone. And remember the COVID days and using your phone for Q Codes and showing your vaccination certificate. How long before Birthday cards and Xmas cards go digital.

But that old stamp may still be of some value if it is on the original envelope in reasonable condition and with a clear postmark. Some people collect postmarks particularly of old and now closed Post Offices. And Australia Post seems to be doing its best to add to that list.



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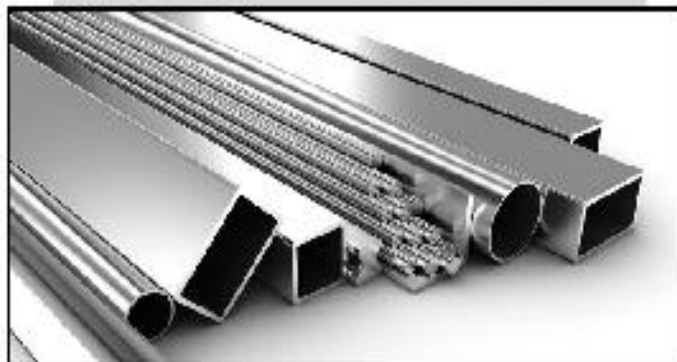
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## in our NATURE

Wendy Cook

Big and conspicuous, the golden orb weaving spider rests on the hub of her golden home. Her most obvious feature is her rounded silvery-grey abdomen, with two rows of well-spaced subtle indentations. Her head is white and fluffy with black markings, while her eight long furry legs are dull red with black stripes and black feet. She waits, head downwards, four legs stretched out in front of her, one leg to each side and two behind, feet resting on strands of golden silk. Her feet are her sensors, capable of detecting vibrations from any portion of her metre wide web.

Like many orb weavers, her web is circular and vertical with lines radiating from a hub. Across these lines, she lays a continuous strand of sticky silk, spiralling outwards from the hub of the web to its edge, creating a lattice. The web is held up by lines of strong silk running between neighbouring trees. Many spiders hide on sticks or among leaves close to their web, but this spider usually rests in the hub, which in her web is towards the top. Such a large obvious spider is a tempting meal for birds, so she places barrier threads in front of, and behind the main web to prevent them from easily reaching her. Unlike most spiders, which produce white silk, the golden orb weaver's silk contains chemicals which create a yellow colour and possibly help to attract insects. Her strands of silk are stronger than those of most spiders and can trap small birds and bats, although it is uncertain whether she eats these. A person stumbling into one of these large webs will be pushed back, rather than breaking through it. If the web is damaged, the spider repairs it. Unlike many spiders which regularly build a new web, sometimes even daily, golden orb weaving spiders maintain their web and rarely move to a new location.

The spider's web is not only her home, but also her means of catching food. When her sensitive feet detect vibrations on her web, she moves in the direction from which they come. If the insect she has caught is small, she can immediately catch and eat it. If her prey is larger, she uses venom to subdue it, before cutting it out of the web and wrapping it in silk. When food is plentiful, she creates a cache or larder above the hub. Here she can store silk-wrapped insects, providing herself with a supply of food for tough times. She may also include pieces of leaves and bark to attract other insects. Sometimes an insect is caught in her web that is either dangerous to her, such as a wasp, or unpleasant to eat, perhaps a beetle that secretes a foul-tasting fluid. These she cuts out of the web, making no attempt to eat them.

While this large spider may seem like a dangerous housemate, she rarely has her web to herself. Between the structural lines of silk holding the web in place, there is space for small spiders to build their own webs. These spiders belong to a group that specialise in stealing food from the webs of larger spiders. They sneak onto the golden orb weaving spider's web to snatch small insects.

If she notices them, they can hastily swing away from her web on their own line of silk. There is nothing that the large spider can do to prevent this regular theft, unless she chooses to construct a new web some distance away.

Her web also attracts another type of small spider. Male golden orb weaving spiders can be ten times smaller than the female. Several may share her web, but only approach her with caution. If she reacts aggressively to a male's presence, he remains still for several minutes, before moving closer. If she continues to be unwelcoming, he retreats and tries again later. When the female has mated and is ready to lay her eggs, she finds a sheltered place among leaves close to her web. Here she weaves a platform of silk on which she deposits her eggs. She covers them in loops of yellow silk, creating an egg sac which she secures to the leaves with lines of silk. After a few days, the egg sac turns slightly green, increasing its camouflage. The baby spiders hatch from their individual eggs inside the egg sac. They stay within it until they have grown enough to have shed their skins twice. Once they have left the egg sac's safety, they remain close to their mother's web for a few days, before moving away to build their own home.

Female golden orb weaving spiders are among the largest spiders you are likely to meet, but despite their size, they are mostly harmless to people. They are not aggressive, so people are rarely bitten even if they walk into a web, and the bite gives little trouble. Usually, the spider and its web are obvious and easy to avoid. If you see one, it is worth spending some time admiring her construction skills and looking at the activities of the other spiders who share her

## Art Girls Fly to Mildura

*Marg Cooper*

A \$49 flight to Mildura was too cheap to resist. So, three of the art girls bought tickets, (which had risen to \$79 by the time they were booked!), on Bonza Airlines. The flight was superb, it was quick, without fuss, without food and to alight in the warmth of Mildura was delightful.

The purpose of the trip was to visit Meredith, an art girl who relocated to live at Mildura last year and to see Eliza, an art girl who now lives at Broken Hill and drove down with her young daughter.

With a few others who had driven to Mildura, Saturday lunch was enjoyed on the banks of the Murray River at Café 1909. Tea was enjoyed at the home of Meredith and Mick on Saturday night and breakfast was enjoyed at Brother Chris on Sunday morning. The 30+ degree temperature was also enjoyed as well as catching up.

Bonza Airlines are a low-cost airline. Bonza began flights in January 2023. The crew who were referred to as legends wore sensible white T-shirts, slacks and flat runner type shoes. Announcements were informative but quirky eg when we alighted we were wished a Bonza Time! We followed that advice!



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## Melissa Arch's Once Upon a Benson CHAPTER 10

Read all episodes at [meredithnews.com.au/extras](http://meredithnews.com.au/extras)

*Last time..... An angry Eunice confronts a very hungover Gerald, at his home, regarding the car arrangements he has not delivered. Lottie feels awful about her Nan's diagnosis, wanting to do something nice for her own Mum, Bonnie. Lottie's love, Kye Palmer, is left wondering about her sudden change of heart during one of their meetings.*

"I got one!", shrieked an excited Johnny to his uncle, Scott.

"What is it?" Scott asked enthusiastically.

"A Redfin! He's a big fella too!" Johnny stated proudly.

Johnny and Uncle Scott loved throwing a line in together. They just seemed to "get" each other.

"That he is! Well done mate!". Scott commended Johnny on his catch.

After two more hours, with no further success, the two decided to unwrap the picnic lunch Scott had brought for them. His mum, Margie, had made his favourite-curry egg and tuna sandwiches.

"Hey, how's Nan doing?", Johnny asked Scott, with his mouth full.

"She was well enough to make our sangas", Scott smirked and gave Johnny a reassuring wink.

"It has been pretty quiet at our place lately", Johnny stated, referring to the effect Margie's diagnosis had had on his household.

After a couple of minutes silence, his uncle asked Johnny "Everything OK mate?". Scott was not good when it came to discussing matters of the heart.

Johnny shrugged his broad shoulders, in an unconvincing shrug. Johnny was worried if he told Uncle Scott how he really felt, it would become a discussion with his mum, Bonnie. Something he did not need.

"Ok mate. Let's go catch some more fish!" Scott put the remainders of lunch in the backpack he had walked there with. It was tough without a driver's licence, even though Johnny knew no different. He was too young to appreciate the meaning of true freedom as yet. Scott hoped he could be a positive influence in his nephew's life. Not let him end up where he was now, with his freedom limited from one stupid decision...

"Another, thanks Mort", said Gerald, as he took his last mouthful of chardonnay, replacing the glass on the bar.

"What's been happening Gerry? Haven't seen you in the past week", commented Morty the barman.

"Ah, not much", Gerald was somewhat resigned in his remark.

"How's the dating game?" asked Morty, clearly amused at Gerald's sudden bold decision to use a dating site to find a companion.

"I've had a couple of bites. Nothing substantial", said Gerald, as he was texting a message that could have waited.

"Sounds like you're talking about last night's dinner!" chuckled Morty, into the air.

Gerald failed to see the joke. How did meeting a companion compare to his dinner?

"You ever given it a go?" Gerald looked up from his phone, pricked by Morty's remark.

"No. No I haven't", replied Morty, meekly, sensing Gerald's sudden annoyance.

Gerald gulped his chardonnay, placing his glass down harder on the bar this time.

"See ya later" said Gerald to Morty, making a quick exit. Morty's expression was blank, wondering what he had said that was taken so offensively?

Who does he think he is? Gerald thought angrily to himself, as he started his car, revving it in fury. Not that an Audi sounds too authoritative when revved!

Gerald's bad mood continued, slamming his front door behind him and heading straight for his wine rack, which was diminishing at a rapid rate. He grabbed a glass on his way to the lounge room, taking a seat on his cream leather couch.

This was the only part of his day that he looked forward to, especially lately. That and eating. He would have to watch his weight but right at this moment, Gerald did not care. He practically lived on 5 minute microwave meals.

All he needed now, to complete his crappy day, was for that old bag across the road to accost him. That he could not take.

Gerald took a gulp of his wine and started his computer. He can't recall what his actions had been last time, on the Winkety Winks dating site but he hoped he had gained some attention. Some actual WANTED attention!

He opened a message "Hello there!" With intrigue, Gerald began to read. His eyes became wider as he read on.

Oh God! What have I DONE?

to be continued...

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## School News

*Mrs Garden*

Our garden bed near the office at the front of the school needed a good tidy so we gathered up the forks, spades, hedge clippers, parrot beak lopper, the wheelbarrows and secateurs and off we went.

This is the garden we completely dug out and replanted eighteen months ago and it has grown with a frenzy. The kangaroo paws that were divided and replanted bloomed beautifully over last summer and we are expecting the same next season. It's a shame school is on a break when they are at their best so call in if you are passing and admire them.

The smaller plants also clumped up well and the new correa albas we put in have thrived. They have done so well that they threatened to take over, so a thorough chop was in order. Correae flower in winter and the best time to prune is after the main flowering, as the new shoots appear in spring. If not pruned, like most native plants, they can become leggy and woody in the centre. Out came the hedge clippers, and the lopper for the larger branches, and now they are neat little balls ready for their next growth spurt.

Thankfully there were only a few weeds to dig out as a good layer of mulch had been spread. Under some of the mulch we discovered the pavers made by the students and their families back in the nineties as part of a community art project. Most were laid at the start of the Path of the Ibis walk and around the bird hide, but there were some left over for the school to use. There is an assortment of creatures: birds, frogs, beetles, echidnas and snakes. The grade 4/5/6 students decided ours could do with a clean up and they repositioned them after a good brush off and water scrub.



*Jacob, Dacian and Kealeigh  
after pruning the correae.*

Elsewhere in the garden we are preparing beds for our summer tomatoes. The soil is still too cool so the seedlings have been potted up and are being kept in a warm, sheltered spot to enjoy the recent sunshine.

As always, the chooks are enjoying the garden. Some new young ones are set to join the flock during the holidays. They particularly love our veggie gardens and fly up to peck at the juicy strawberries and the green leaves so there is a need for some hoops and netting over the top. We love to share with the girls but we'd like some to harvest for ourselves, too!

It's time now to be getting ready for your summer crops. You can start putting beans in and can continue sowing these through November and December. Carrots, parsnip and beetroots can also go in, these prefer to be planted where they are going to grow. There is still an opportunity to pop in your potatoes and of course it's pumpkin time again. If predictions are right, we are in for a warmer summer and this will provide ideal growing conditions for pumpkins. They love a rich soil and plenty of water. Corn can go in from now till December and like tomatoes, the taste of homegrown corn is something that cannot be found in the shop bought cobs. It is a good idea to start lettuces off now, and then follow with sowings every two weeks or so to guarantee a continuous supply.

If it is flowers you're after then sunflowers are always delightful and put on a great show. There are many varieties readily available from the giant showstoppers the size of a dinner plate, to smaller ones and they come in many colours from bright yellow through to orange and even red. Time to get that seed in now.

Well, so much that can be done and wonderful spring weather with longer daylight hours.

Have a marvellous October and especially enjoy sitting back and admiring your handiwork.





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## Mental Health First Aid Training

### Media Release

Golden Plains Shire Council is offering free in-person Mental Health First Aid training. Expressions of Interest (EOI) are currently open for individuals seeking to obtain their Mental Health First Aid accreditation.

Participants will acquire skills to assist individuals experiencing mental health problems or crises, whether they are friends, family members or community members. This course is adaptable to various settings and specifically designed for community delivery.

Conducted by Digging Deeper, the course requires a subsidised fee of \$25 for participants. The program consists of two mandatory components:

1. A self-paced interactive eLearning module (up to 7 hours – to be completed prior to the group session)
2. Instructor-led conferencing group session (5 hours)

The group session will be held in the Council Chambers at the Golden Plains Civic Centre, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn on Monday 23 October from 9am to 3pm with a 1-hour break for lunch at 11.30am. There will also be an optional 10-minute online session held prior to the training on Wednesday 11 October at 7pm to discuss the first component. Participants are encouraged to attend this session to gain a better understanding of what the course will entail.

Mayor Cr Brett Cunningham encouraged eligible community members to submit their EOI and earn their mental health first aid accreditation.

“This mental health first aid training course empowers participants with the skills to assist friends, family members or community members who may be grappling with a mental health crisis,” Cr Cunningham said.

“The skills learnt in the course are versatile and can be applied in various settings, with a focus on community-based delivery,” he said.

“Knowing how to provide support to someone developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis is very important and I encourage all residents wanting to gain accreditation in this area to participate in this program.”

Priority for this community-based training will be given to participants with strong community connections, such as volunteers, coaches, community coordinators and teachers.

EOIs are open from Monday 11 September until 5pm, Monday 9 October, 2023. To submit an EOI, complete the online form at [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/mentalhealthfirstaid](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/mentalhealthfirstaid) or collect a hard copy from Council’s Customer Hub, Golden Plains Civic Centre, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn. Spaces are limited and successful EOIs will be notified. If demand exceeds availability, a waiting list will be created and future course opportunities will be explored.

EOI’s are open from Monday 11 September until 5pm, Monday 9 October, 2023.

For further information, contact Council’s Health Promotion Officer on [GPShealthandwellbeing@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:GPShealthandwellbeing@gplains.vic.gov.au) or call 5220 7111.

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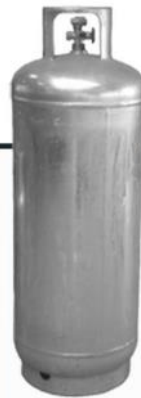
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## it'S HISTORY

Meredith History Interest Group

### Change of Date - Morrisons Photo Exhibition:

The date of the exhibition has had to be changed because the Memorial Hall was acquired for the Referendum.

The exhibition will now be held on the following weekend of October 21 & 22, from 10 am to 3 pm, both days.

Photos are being divided into sections including River, Churches, Halls, Mining and Orchards. Another section we have called Enterprise which basically means Work! There are photos of cutting and binding, stacks of sheaved hay, machinery and men thrashing [or is it threshing] sheaves of oat and hay, bagging the grain and pressing the straw into bales and stacking them, paddocks of bagged onions, a paddock of what look like melons and more. The Bayard family said that when carting onions, grain or hay to Meredith from Morrisons they would have to double team up the Meredith Hill. They would have two teams of horses and dray loaded, drive them over the bridges at the Moorabool River, put the two teams of horses in front of one dray to pull it up the hill, take both teams down the hill to drag the other dray up the hill and then re-harness each team to each dray again and continue to the Railway Station at Meredith. That is work!

### Excursions:

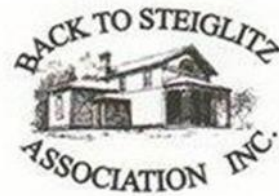
Lately we have had several excursions to Morrisons to familiarize our volunteers with the area, but our latest excursion was to the property of Jan and Phillip McDonald at Lethbridge to see the old Lethbridge Hall and a small bluestone cottage. The wooden Lethbridge Hall was shifted when the new hall was built and was relocated to what was then Akland's farm on Lower Plains Road. It has been used for a shearing shed with plenty of room to also store furniture, machinery, tools etc. It is a big building and Jan said that when they painted the outside, they mixed several tins of different coloured paints together to get enough to do the job. The bluestone cottage was lived in by early members of the Akland family, has a wide chimney and extensive stone paving out the back door.

### Catherine Kelly's Cape:

Now restored, the elaborate cape is now at the Clunes Museum. It stands in a glass display case and looks magnificent. The cape is black, finely jewelled in patterns all over, and has a thick fringe around the bottom and up the front of thin black ribbons that are twisted or curled. One would love to know how Catherine came to own such a cape, where she bought it and where she wore it. Catherine McCrimmon married John Kelly in 1865 at Cargarie Station. They then lived at Cargarie, on land near the Leigh River which is now owned by the Cameron family.

### Repurposing the Sandpit:

This project has started with the sandpit being levelled today! Also, the creepy vine on the shed next to the sandpit has been removed, the bridge demolished and some filling of holes in the lawn. Please note that donations from \$1 to \$800 will be gratefully accepted to cover the cost of today's work. Small bottles of sand from the sandpit are free with every donation!



## 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.l@outlook.com](mailto:loz.b.l@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](mailto:peppcorn@yahoo.com) or ring Kathy on 0407 556796

## YOU'RE INVITED TO THE 'BACK TO STEIGLITZ REUNION' SUNDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2023. 10AM – 2PM



### WHAT'S ON

- Come & enjoy a cuppa with some country hospitality and home cooked treats
- Sausage sizzle
- Browse through folders of family stories & photos (add yours to them if you'd like)
- Research historic records, admire the talents of local artists and stall holders
- Win the Oldest/Youngest competition
- Raffle prizes: local wines, wildflower book, Café voucher, Fairy Park entry, hamper etc
- Town history walk
- Lace making demonstration
- take photos, visit the public buildings still remaining from the goldrush days, pan for gold or simply enjoy walking in the footsteps of your ancestors, amidst the beauty of this wonderful little town they once called home, surrounded by the bush coming to life with wildflowers and native orchids.

ENQUIRIES [peppcorn@yahoo.com](mailto:peppcorn@yahoo.com) Gillian Dickson (Secretary of the Back to Steiglitz Association) © ring Kathy on 0407556796



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## Marg's BOOK REVIEW

### **The Night She Disappeared** by Lisa Jewell

In mid-summer 2017 in the heart of the English countryside, teenage Mum Tallulah goes on a date with her partner Zach, leaving their baby at home with her mother. At 11 pm she sends her mother a text message saying that they plan to stay out late with friends, something they haven't done for a long time. Tallulah and Zach do not return!

This book contains many ingredients including a missing couple, teenage parenting, a mother's responsibilities, a deserted mansion, deep buried secrets, a small village, exclusive boarding school, social media, alcohol and drugs. Another interesting ingredient is the relationship between Tallulah and Zach. They had been friends since they were 14 years old, but after the baby was born Tallulah's energy goes into her school work and looking after the baby. Also, Zach tries to take on the parental role by saving to buy a house for them and trying to be the boss of the small family. Tallulah explains that Zach is always there and she simply cannot breathe! Then there is Scarlett, a rich, dominant young woman who makes Tallulah feel that she could be anyone she wants to be!

A year after the disappearance of the couple, Sophie, a writer of cozy mysteries and an amateur sleuth moves into a cottage near the deserted estate with her partner, who takes up the position of Head Teacher at the local school. While Shaun prepares for the new semester Sophie becomes involved in the case of the missing teenagers. Some clues appear near her new home and she teams up with Tallulah's mother Kim to try to solve the mystery. Kim has never given up hope that her daughter is still alive.

The author weaves together multiple timelines and multiple character viewpoints. The reader has to understand each timeline and how they related to one another before concentrating on the storyline.

I admit that I don't read a lot of mysteries but I found the mystery to be slow with an almost unbelievable climax. The story focuses a lot on the personal dramas of the characters and is described as a psychological drama and mystery. Tallulah is an ordinary girl who gets mixed up in a Bohemian, self-centred family.

Lisa Jewell was born in London, wrote her first novel at the end of the 1990's and has since written another sixteen novels, most recently a number of dark psychological thrillers.



*Mary Foster*

The Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea is a chance for people to get together and raise money for a very worthy cause as one in two Australians will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85.

Jointly hosted by St. Josephs Parish and Advance Meredith Association, Meredith's Biggest Morning Tea was held last Saturday, September 23rd at the Meredith Memorial Hall. The theme this year was Hippie/Flower Power and hippies of all ages stepped right back into the 60's at colourful and flower bedecked tables.

Morning tea began at 10am with tasty scones with jam and cream and cups of tea/coffee. Games followed and an inspection of the heavily laden silent auction tables. More games were played then sandwiches and hot finger food began appearing to everyone's delight. Best outfits were awarded to Hilary and Greg for embracing the hippie theme and many people took the opportunity to have their photos taken at the psychedelic kombi in the corner.

Sweets were served and the raffle drawn. Winners were: 1st – Judy L, 2nd – Paul R, 3rd – Leone G. Other prizes were awarded for the Lucky tea cup, lolly jar guess and the door prize.

After much merriment and laughter the silent auction items were tallied and many hippies danced away with their goodies.

We are very happy to announce that the sum of \$2,948 was raised and we are very grateful to our sponsors and to all who came along and helped make this year's Morning Tea such a success.





## Photo Essay Competition

### Media Release

Golden Plains Shire's beautiful surrounds and unique flora and fauna are set to be the centrepiece of Council's Spring in the Shire Photographic Essay competition, with entries open from Monday 2 October.

This year's theme is Photo[synthesis] which supports visual storytellers to explore the beauty of the environment, as well as environmental issues and challenges. Amateur photographers of any skill level are encouraged to capture this theme through their lens.

A photographic essay is a form of visual storytelling. For this competition, entrants are required to submit up to 100 words to accompany their image which could be an artist statement, essay, song lyric, poem or diary entry.

In 2023, there are three categories, with 30 photographs to be selected for an exhibition and go in the running to win three cash prizes. This year's categories are:

Major Prize (18 years and older)

Young Adult Prize (13 to 17 years)

Junior Prize (up to 12 years)

Cr Helena Kirby, RMIT's Dr Li Ping Thong and Deakin University's Dr Sean Loughrey will form the judging

panel and select the winner of each category, with the announcement of winners to take place at Golden Plains Twilight Market on December 14 at the Bannockburn Cultural Centre.

Golden Plains Shire Council Mayor Cr Brett Cunningham encouraged amateur photographers to embrace the theme and explore the natural surrounds of Golden Plains Shire with their cameras.

"This competition is a great opportunity for amateur photographers from across the Shire to showcase their talents by capturing the natural beauty of Golden Plains," Cr Cunningham said.

"The Shire is full of beautiful surrounds, vibrant communities, and amazing flora and fauna. The competition's theme aims to showcase these unique features that members of the Golden Plains community all share," he said.

"We hope that entrants will harness their passion, curiosity and creativity to capture images that foster environmental awareness and encourage action."

Entry and competition details will be available at [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/springintheshire](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/springintheshire)

Images must be no greater than 20MB, be submitted with your written piece and have been taken in Golden Plains Shire within the last 12 months. Entries close at 11.59pm, Tuesday 31 October, 2023 and only one image per artist is allowed.



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- 500g skinless chicken breast
- 2 tbs basil pesto
- 300g broccoli, cut into florets
- 12 cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/2 cup fresh basil leaves, roughly torn
- 1/3 cup fresh mint leaves, roughly torn
- 1/4 cup shaved parmesan cheese
- 2 tbs pine nuts, toasted

**Dressing**

- 1 tsp finely grated lemon rind
- 2 tbs lemon juice
- 2 tsp olive oil

**Method**

1. Place chicken between two sheets of baking paper and pound with a rolling pin or meat mallet to flatten slightly. Spread half the pesto over one side of the chicken breast.
2. Lightly spray a non stick frying pan with oil and heat over medium-high heat. Add chicken, pesto-side down. Spread remaining pesto over the top of chicken breasts. Cook for 5-6 minutes on each side, until cooked through and golden. Remove from pan and set aside to rest for 5 minutes before cutting into thick strips.
3. Meanwhile cook risoni in a large saucepan of boiling, salted water for 6 minutes. Add broccoli and boil for a further 4 minutes. Drain well, then transfer to a large bowl and cool slightly. Add chicken, tomatoes and herbs and toss well.
4. To make dressing, whisk all ingredients in a small jug. Season with salt and pepper. Drizzle dressing over salad and toss again. Serve topped with parmesan and pine nuts.

*Stefania :)*

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## Council Supports 'Circle Of Security' Parenting Program

### Media Release

Council is excited to announce an upcoming opportunity for parents of children aged 0 to 5 years to participate in the enriching 'Circle of Security' parenting program series.

Beginning in October, this eight-week relationship-based program is designed to empower parents with valuable insights and skills to enhance their parenting journey.

Golden Plains Shire Mayor Cr Mayor Brett Cunningham expressed his unreserved support for the initiative.

"As a parent myself, I understand the challenges that come with raising children," Cr Cunningham said.

"The 'Circle of Security' program is a wonderful initiative which will equip parents with the tools they need to better understand their child's emotional needs, foster emotional management, and nurture self-esteem. I encourage all eligible parents and guardians in the Shire to take advantage of this valuable opportunity."

Delivered by trusted community partner Ballarat CatholicCare, the program is internationally recognised and based on evidence-based strategies derived from attachment theory.

The 'Circle of Security' parenting program is offered free of charge to participants, and the eight weekly sessions will be hosted at the Bannockburn Family Services Building, commencing on Thursday 12 October 2023, from 12:45 to 2:45pm.

"It's heartening to see our community benefit from such a comprehensive program, made possible through the support of Ballarat CatholicCare and the Crime Prevention Project. The program aligns with our commitment to building safer communities and nurturing the wellbeing of our youngest residents," Cr Cunningham said.

To register for the program, parents are encouraged to reach out to Andrea Clarke at Ballarat CatholicCare via email at [andrea.clarke@catholiccarevic.org.au](mailto:andrea.clarke@catholiccarevic.org.au) or by calling 1300 303 988. Registration is now open and will close at 5pm on Thursday 5 October, 2023.

For additional information, Council's Health, Wellbeing, and Youth team can be contacted by calling 03 5220 7199 or via email at [enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au)



## Wiser Driver Program

### Media Release

Golden Plains Shire Council is thrilled to partner with VicRoads and Hawthorn Community House to deliver the second round of the Wiser Driver Program that will run as part of Seniors Festival activities throughout October.

Wiser Diver is an informative, informal and friendly refresher course to upgrade knowledge and build on experience to help older drivers drive safely.

Topics covered throughout the sessions include driving today, safety tips for wiser driving, safety rules, car safety features, being roadworthy and planning for the future.

Wiser Driver sessions will run each Wednesday in October from 10am to 12pm, with four sessions to be held from Wednesday 4 October until Wednesday 25 October at the Bannockburn Family Services Centre, 2A Pope Street, Bannockburn.

Golden Plains Shire Mayor Cr Brett Cunningham encouraged seniors in Golden Plains to seize this opportunity and participate in the second round of the program.

"Wiser Driver is for any seniors in Golden Plains who feel like they need a refresher course to feel safer and more confident when driving," Cr Cunningham said.

"I encourage seniors from all across the Shire to participate in Wiser Driver and experience an exciting and informative program that promotes safe and responsible driving."

Participants in the program will also receive a range of resources from VicRoads to assist with the course.

To register for the sessions, contact Council's Active Ageing and Inclusion Team on [ageingandinclusion@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:ageingandinclusion@gplains.vic.gov.au) or call 5220 7151.

All sessions must be attended in order to complete the program. For more information, visit [www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events](http://www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events)

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## A Drawer Full of Handkerchiefs

*Marg Cooper*

A handkerchief is a piece of cloth, generally cotton that is used to blow your nose.

I was brought up to always carry a handkerchief, usually in the sleeve of my jumper.

There are many sizes of handkerchiefs, uses of handkerchiefs and materials from which they are made. I like a handkerchief made of fine cotton that is soft on the nose and small in the sleeve.

So I was delighted when in a partly open drawer in a country Op Shop I spied a collection of white, fine cotton handkerchiefs that were decorated with embroidery and lace. I bought the entire drawer full which was about a dozen handkerchiefs for \$1.00 each.

Presumably they had belonged to a country woman who had also appreciated fine cotton white handkerchiefs but who had never used them. She probably stored them for special occasions. They may have been gifts to her over her lifetime.

For a lot of people, handkerchiefs have been replaced with paper tissues that are disposable and arguably, healthier. But, I like to carry that small square of cloth up my sleeve or in my pocket and now I have a dozen lovely, white, cotton handkerchiefs.

*G'day from the penners for October, another year drawing to a close. We, the penners have been having a good year so far, there has been merriment aplenty coming from the Bannockburn library, with guffaws and clapping at the many stories that we have been hearing from our members. If you feel inclined, please drop us a line via our email goldenpens4@gmail.com*

*This month's contribution is from Bridh Hancock, a happy chap who's writing is often left field and cryptic, but always worth a listen. I have been reading through a booklet he produced way back in 1988 called "Poems of a Happy Bloke" and found this little ditty.*

*Happy Reading,*

*Wendy.*

To A Little Country Town  
Oh little town of ... what was your name?  
I passed you late at night.  
It was dark. No star did shine.  
Not even a street light.

What history I chanced to miss  
I regret I'll never know.  
It was dark. Nothing I saw  
Although I travelled slow.

Oh little nook of country Oz,  
Immortal here in verse,  
It was dark, bitumenously black.  
It couldn't have been much worse.

Oh silent night, the cattle lowed.  
The air it smelt of fog.  
It was dark, as I just said.  
Not a good time for a jog.

On either side of the road you lay,  
A car dozed at your curb.  
It was dark, the radio off,  
So as not to disturb.

Oh hamlet small, I read your signs:  
Welcome To, Slow Down, Hurry Back.  
But it was dark, no more I saw,  
So "where to" is what I lack.

Dear little town in slumber steeped,  
Sleep on, I bid you, sleep.  
It's ever dark there, in my memory clear,  
So your secrets you do keep.

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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](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au). For further information, contact Council's Active Ageing and Inclusion team via email at [ageingandinclusion@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:ageingandinclusion@gplains.vic.gov.au) or call 5220 7111.



*Photography by Wendy Cook.*

*'This photo of a silver banksia is from my bird walk through the Meredith Police Paddocks in late September, when I identified 27 different bird species, nearly all native.*

*I photographed a number of plants including this one. All were indigenous and planted by people except mistletoe, which was planted by the birds. It was a lovely sunny day and very busy for the birds. There seemed to be grey fantails and wattlebirds everywhere. Plenty of fairy-wrens too. Lots of bird calls including two very musical whistlers, one rufous and one golden. Also there were two jezebel butterflies too high up for me to have a good look.'*



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# MOORABOOL Wind Farm

## COMMUNITY UPDATE - October 2023

### Round 5 Community Grant & Scholarship Fund

Round Five of the Community Grant fund for Moorabool North and South is now closed. At this stage all applications are being reviewed and will be assessed by the Community Reference Group.

Thank you to all groups and individuals that applied. We wish you success in your application. All groups will be contacted after 25th October 2023 with the results.

### Open Day @ Federation University & Grants Available

Moorabool Wind Farm (MWF) representative Julie Dargan may be at the next Federation University Open Day later this year, date to be advised, if you wish to know more about scholarships available.

If you would like to read more about the scholarships MWF offer here is the link: <https://federation.edu.au/current-students/starting-at-federation/scholarships>

Scroll down to the Moorabool Wind Farm Section for more information.

### Landscape and Visual Screening Program

Owners of residential dwellings within 4km of the wind farm were invited to participate in a landscape and visual screening program.

Applications for this program is now closed for Moorabool North and for Moorabool South.



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



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Join us for

# ONE FOOT FORWARD

the walk for mental health



Black Dog  
Institute



firstnational  
REAL ESTATE

Golden Plains



## October is Mental Health Month

Join us to walk, run or roll 40km, 60km, 100km, 150km, or a distance that suits you, for the 1 in 5 Australians who experience symptoms of mental illness every year.

Together, we can show them they are not alone.

Funds raised will help Black Dog Institute put ground-breaking new mental health treatment, education and digital services into the hands of the people who need them most.



Scan QR code to sponsor or join us

Help create better mental health for all.