

NOVEMBER 2023

# Meredith & district News

OUR **FREE** COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## inside



- Community Fireguard How to
- Bunjil Community Gathering
- Music Festival Info

...and so much MORE



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EVENT**

# **BUNJIL'S LOOKOUT COMMUNITY GATHERING**

**FOOD TRUCKS  
MARKET STALLS  
LIVE MUSIC  
WORKSHOPS  
CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES**

**12 NOVEMBER  
10AM TO 2PM**

**Bunjil's Lookout  
1795 Steiglitz Rd, Maude VIC**

**SUPPORTED BY**





# 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

[advertising@are.com.au](mailto:advertising@are.com.au)

**Accounts:** Ian Leighton 0428132880

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

**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.

## DISCLAIMER

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

## FEEDBACK

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

Issue Production: Peter Boer and Jim Elvey

# connect

ADVANCE  
MEREDITH  
0409 027 359

ANGLING CLUB  
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  
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)

FOOTBALL  
Seniors 0408 545246  
Juniors 0430 587 674

GOLF CLUB  
0407 795 342

HISTORY GROUP  
5286 8201

LANDCARE  
0409 862 326

MEMORIAL HALL  
0409 662106

MEREDITH SEWING  
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
Meredith Police Station	000 or 112
Police non emergency	5286 1222
Power Failure	131 444
Nurse-On-Call	132 412
Mental Health Advice	1300 606 024
Poisons Information	1300 280 737
Barwon Water	13 11 26
SES Emergency - flood & storm	1300 656 007
24 Hour Helpline	132 500
24 Hour Drug & Alcohol Counselling	1800 629 572
Kids Help Line	1800 888 236
24hr 5-18yo	1800 551 800
Golden Plains Shire a/h emergency	1300 363 036
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

## CEMETERY TRUST

5286 1550

## HALL HIRE

Meredith Memorial

5286 1545

Elaine Mechanics

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

Elaine Rec Res

5341 5703

## LIBRARY VAN

5272 6010

## MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

5220 7230

## PRE-SCHOOL

5286 0722

## 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



Horse racing is animated roulette.

- Roger Kahn





## COMMUNITY

*Are you planning any community activities? Or just held one? Tell us about it, and we'll tell the rest of the community.*

### Bad Bee-haviour



Two days before Newsletter production volunteer, Peter Boer, was due to start on this issue, we were advised to keep out of our office because it was overrun with bees that had established a hive in the chimney.

Even though we have back-ups in cloud storage, not having access to our computer, monitor and good broadband was a considerable inconvenience in a week when publication deadlines loom all too quickly.

Thankfully, the crisis was averted quickly. But we are grateful local beekeeper, Steve Higgs, made himself available and, if required, willing to undertake a daring infiltration of the badly behaved bees' stronghold.

As it happens, the Newsletter Committee is due to review its risk management plan at its next meeting.



Moorabool Ridge Winery in Perdisat Road was the inspiring venue for our October outing. Steeped in history with its marvellous old cottage, ancient grape vines and numerous variety of impressive trees, there was the added benefit of wonderful views across the valley and up towards Bunjil Lookout. Everywhere you looked there was something of interest for the artist as well as the general visitor.

Mandy presented Tim, the owner, with a beautiful pen and wash painting as a thank you for opening especially for our group. Louise, Alex, Sam, Ros, Mark, Ray, Mari, Robert, Peter, Gill and I (and later Marion and Bae) all thoroughly enjoyed our drawing time with coffee and lunch after.

Next month we'll meet at 10.00 am at The Paper Mill Gallery in Fyansford.

ps. Apologies for omitting Mark from my September report. :-)



## MEREDITH

*Josh Medley  
Captain*

On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October, the Meredith Fire brigade hosted a fire planning workshop in conjunction with CFA South West.

Throughout the night we learned about how weather and atmosphere can impact a fire, different fuel types and how they burn, and the greatest risks around our homes during times of fire danger.

In addition to the presentation by Garth (CFA Community Engagement Team) there were also a number of videos to show us what we can do to ensure our property has the best chance against an oncoming bushfire.

There are a number of key tasks we can undertake to help reduce the risks around our home;

- Keep grass mowed to less than 5cm in the areas closest to the house
- Prune shrubs to keep them low, particularly if they are at the base of trees
- Trim back any tree branches that overhang the house
- Remove any leaf litter or other debris from the yard that could be at risk of igniting if embers were to enter your property
- Ensure gutters, decks, doorways and corners are free from leaf litter

The biggest take away from the evening is that preparation starts well before fire season. If you haven't already, now is the time to start thinking about what you can do around your property to help make it safer ahead of summer.

*There are resources available on the CFA website to help guide you through this process.*

*Please visit <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare> for further information.*

### OUR COVER

*Wendy Cook took our beautiful cover photo of a peach heath, growing around Durdidwarrah. It's one of many delightful wildflowers indigenous to the area. And we've got some more spring photos on page 30.*



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



## Recreation



### Meredith Tennis Club

*Maggie Brown*

We have some exciting news... we have a website! The website has all our contact details and will include the details of upcoming events, registration forms, and more. Please check it out at <https://play.tennis.com.au/meredithtennisclub>

#### Spring Competition

It's been a great start to the Spring Competition that began on 5 October, with 22 teams across three sections playing Thursday nights. Our newest section is with younger children aged 8-10 playing with an older sibling and adult. The adults involved have been amazingly patient and we are already seeing so much improvement. With so many teams playing and spectators coming along, it's been a great atmosphere and a wonderful chance to catch up with all parts of the club. We are looking forward to having the Meredith Cricket Club join us for dinner each Thursday. So far there has been a variety of delicious meals including roast lamb and chicken with vegetables, tacos and wraps, lasagna, and much more, and only for \$10 per person!

The Grand finals for Spring Comp will coincide with our Christmas break up on 1 December at 6 p.m. at the Meredith Tennis courts. We would be grateful if families with last names beginning with A-M bring a dessert to share, while families with last names starting with N-Z are asked to bring a salad to share. Drinks will be BYO and the club will provide the meat. Please RSVP to Maddy or via FB.

#### Coaching

Thursday coaching has started again. This is a free coaching session and is open to kids of all ages and abilities. For times and groups please refer to our website! Coach Jye from Ballarat has also been coming out every second Sunday to provide juniors and adults with professional coaching at a very affordable price. We have 37 children and adults involved, which is a great turnout. Coaching with Jye started on October 15, 2023. Some casual positions are still available, so please contact us if you are interested.

#### Saturday Competition

Meredith Tennis Club has two senior teams playing in the Buninyong competition, and both play at home every second week. We have several players new to seniors and are having a lot of fun. We are always looking for fill-in players.

We have three teams competing in the Buninyong junior competition, and all are doing so well, we are extremely proud of the effort they are putting in each week. Two of the teams are currently on top of the ladder for their section.

There are also two teams competing in the Geelong Tennis Inc junior competitions and both are new to playing singles along with doubles. Both teams are enjoying the

challenge of playing singles for the first time. The older girls' team are currently on top of the ladder.

The Orange Ball competition started on 21 October for our littlest juniors, who will be playing most of their home games at Elaine this year. This competition is aimed at children aged 6-8 years old and uses normal-sized tennis balls that are half the compression of a yellow tennis ball. A three-quarter court is used, which allows them to have the experience of match play while building their skills and confidence. Games are also shorter, and it is the first to four. The children had a great time, and we look forward to seeing them have fun over the season.

As always, please get in touch if you want to be involved with tennis in any way!

## 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 8.00 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. NOV. 4/11/18

Anakie - St. Brigid @ 9am Sun. NOV. 12

Meredith - St. Joseph @ 9am Sun. NOV. 5/19

Bannockburn - St. Mary MacKillop @ 11am Sun. NOV. 5/12/19/26

Inverleigh - Sacred Heart @ 4pm Sun. NOV. 19



I put a bet on a horse to come in at 10 to 1 - and it did!

Unfortunately all the others came in closer to 12.45.





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



### Mindfulness with Jade

Monday - 3.30 - Kindergarten - Grade 3

Monday - 4.30 - Grade 4 - Grade 6

Wednesdays - 9.30 - Mums, Bubs 7 Expectant Mums

\$15 per session, payable by Term

## CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

To Give our Community a WONDERFUL Christmas, this year we are holding a Food Drive to replace our Giving Tree!

For the Month of November, we are collecting donations of pantry staples as well as Christmas items (chocolates, puddings etc) to help our Community with their Christmas celebrations.

If you are able to donate, please drop them off to Leah! These items will be in the pantry from December!



To Book:

[learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au](mailto:learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au)

[www.facebook.com/MeredithCommunityCentre](https://www.facebook.com/MeredithCommunityCentre)

Ph. 5286 0700 / 0491 184 999

**THE MEREDITH MART IS NOW OPEN!**  
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*Give What You Can...  
Take What You Need*



**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



Join us on

Facebook & Instagram

@meredithcommunitycentre



**PLAYGROUP**

**TUESDAYS**

9.00am - 11.30am

\$2 per family

The  
Philatelist

Michael Riseley



## ORIGINS

The non-philatelic reader might wonder why stamp collectors stand to attention and salute when the name Sir Rowland Hill is mentioned. Well more than likely you don't ponder that, mainly because stamp collectors probably don't stand and salute. But perhaps they should. Because without him, the present postal system would not exist and neither would stamp collecting.

Expansion of trade and diplomatic agencies after the 1815 Napoleonic Wars created a surge in mail services. The British Post Office established many Postal Agencies in the colonies and some foreign countries. The various shipping lines similarly created Packet Agents in many countries. Generally mail was sent unpaid with a charge collected on delivery. It was all a bit of a raffle in terms of cost and safe delivery.

In other countries in the early/mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, the mail system was fragmented and was administered by local dignitaries. Often this was the clergy or minor royalty. A fee was paid and a wax seal was made on the envelope. And hopefully delivery was arranged some time into the future. In India the various Maharajahs had a similar system.

Rowland Hill was a British teacher, inventor and social reformer. He saw the need for an organised mail system and promoted the concept of Uniform Penny Post, and the system of prepayment by buying an adhesive stamp, sticking it on the envelope and entrusting the British Post Office to deliver it correctly and promptly. He invented the postage stamp in 1837. The first postage stamp was issued by the British Post Office in 1840. It was the now famous Penny Black and featured a portrait of Queen Victoria and cost a penny. Over the following years 68 million were issued. It is estimated that 1.3 million still exist in various degrees of quality.

This system was so successful and popular that other countries gradually started to copy it. Political changes in Europe, particularly the unification of the German states and the Italian states both in 1871, led to a further need for better organised mail systems. In 1874 the Universal Postal Union (UPU) was founded in Switzerland with member countries agreeing and following a set of clear rules for the carriage of mail. The UPU became a specialised agency of the United Nations in 1948. It now has 192 member countries (only a handful of small states are not members) and has a very strong record of members abiding by the rules.

And basically all this is due to Sir Rowland Hill, the hero of philately.



## Meredith Music Festival 2023

### Information and Contacts

We are writing with information about the Meredith Music Festival, scheduled to occur at the Meredith Supernatural Amphitheatre from Friday 8 - Sunday 10 December 2023.

As part of our traffic management plan, the festival will:

1. Implement a speed reduction on Meredith-Mt Mercer Road and Cameron Road from two days prior to the festival through to the day prior to the festival.
2. Implement one-way traffic on Meredith-Mt Mercer Road from Bamganie Road to Cameron Road from approximately 4am the day prior to the festival to approximately 7pm on the first day of the festival.
3. Divert traffic travelling to Meredith within the one-way zone down Cameron Road.
4. Station traffic controllers to the corner of Midland Highway and Staughton Street on the final day of the festival to assist vehicles turning left or right onto Midland Highway.
5. Install no-parking zones along Meredith-Mt Mercer Road and some surrounding roads.

Vehicle passes are distributed to properties along Meredith-Mt Mercer (town side) and Coopers Roads a week before the festival. If you live or work along Bamganie Road or Cameron Road and you would like a vehicle pass, please email Auntie Meredith to confirm if you need one.

If you have any comments or ideas about any matter related to Meredith, including any concern or question about traffic or noise management, please get in contact by phone/text 0430 091 120 (available 24 hours over the festival weekend) or by emailing [auntym@mmf.com.au](mailto:auntym@mmf.com.au) (available anytime).

The festival website is [mmf.com.au](http://mmf.com.au)

Additional information for locals is available at [auntym.mmf.com.au/locals](http://auntym.mmf.com.au/locals)

Thank you for your support.

Festival Planning Team





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## A Great Show at the Meredith Hall

*Janene Schillier*

The Meredith History Interest Group put on an amazing photographic exhibition over the weekend of 21 and 22 of October.

Visitors travelled from local areas, Geelong, Ballarat, Melbourne, Mt Dandenong to view the excellent photographic collection of Morrisons history.

Families who submitted their photos were there and many connections were made with previous residents of the district.

Credit goes to all who contributed and made this wonderful community activity a great success.

Thank you to all.



## Gorse Control

Refer to Victorian Gorse Taskforce for helpful tips to begin or continue your annual control program.

Stop the Seed ! It's Never too Late!

Do Your Part.

**Tackling gorse takes effort but doing nothing means it just gets worse**

*Submitted by Janene Schillier*



## Water Tank Cleaning

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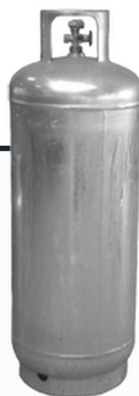
Removing all mud and sludge as well as washing the walls and floor clean.

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# MEREDITH COMMUNITY FIREGUARD

## Is it for me?

If you are passionate about keeping your home and your family safe, and can get together with your neighbours or other locals from around your area, then Community Fireguard is for you. This program is available for residents in high risk bush or grass fire areas.

## How much does it cost?

Community Fireguard is free of charge.

## How many people do I need to get together to form a group?

As a general rule you will need to include people from at least four or five households in your group. But this might vary depending on your local area – your first step should always be to speak to CFA.

## How do I benefit from doing this with my neighbours?

The program is a great way to get to know your neighbours and talk about how you can work together in order to reduce everyone's risk.

Research shows that active participants in Community Fireguard have been less likely to experience losses after a bushfire

## What's CFA's role?

CFA fire safety specialists facilitate each meeting. They're there to keep discussion on track, make sure all the important information is covered and answer your questions.

Community Fireguard is CFA's most comprehensive fire safety program.

Take control of your own bushfire safety and be better prepared to:

- ✓ Plan for a range of scenarios
- ✓ Make informed decisions when it counts
- ✓ Maintain a fire smart house and garden

## Will I receive advice about defending my property?

This program can help you make informed choices about leaving early and the resources needed to defend a property. It also covers how to make your property more likely to survive a fire, whether or not you are at home and able to actively defend.

CFA offers an optional "Stay and Defend" workshop as part of Community Fireguard.

SCAN TO REGISTER



## FIND OUT MORE

Visit [meredithnews.com.au/extras](http://meredithnews.com.au/extras) or

[cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-local-area-info-and-advice/community-fireguard](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-local-area-info-and-advice/community-fireguard) (Or just type "Community Fireguard" into the CFA site's search bar.)



## in our NATURE

Wendy Cook

Winter and early spring were very dry. A walk through our springtime bushland shows the result. While many plants still appear healthy, our usual wonderful display of wildflowers is sadly diminished. Many orchid bulbs have remained dormant, ensured of their survival underground and waiting for a wetter year. Some grew their distinctive leaves, but few sent up a stalk of flowers. There are fewer daisy blooms than usual, and the lilies are late. The heaths are trying their best and so are the peas, but many of these are less showy than normal. However, certain plants have done unusually well. On the bushy roadside near my home, in mid-October, the most obvious species of flowering plant is one that I notice every spring, but it does not stand out from the crowd. This year, it looks glorious. It is a pea bush of tough dull green stalks with well-spaced slender leaves almost unnoticed among the stalks. Its appearance gives it the name of narrow-leaf bitter-pea. Its flowers grow alone or in clusters and are yellow with red or red-brown centres and markings. Small pinkish triangular seed pods among the flowers prove that they have been visited by pollinators, and seeds are beginning to grow.

Pollinating peas is not as easy as pollinating flowers of a more typical shape, such as daisies. The large petal at the back of pea flowers, called the standard, attracts the attention of insects, and may have markings leading pollinators to the centre of the flower, but the nectar and pollen are hidden. The anthers laden with pollen are enclosed in the lowest portion of the flower, the keel. The keel, shaped like a tiny boat, is covered by two small petals called wings. To obtain a feed of nectar, an insect must reach between the base of the standard and the keel. A native bee visiting a pea flower stands with her feet on the flower's wings and reaches for the nectar at the base of the standard. As she does this, the split at the top of the keel opens and the anthers dab pollen on the underside of her body while she enjoys her sugary meal. The style collects pollen left on her from visits she has made to other flowers, and in this way the flower is pollinated.

The narrow-leaf bitter-pea is not the only pea that has bloomed well this year. Purple coral-pea, from which the vigorous Happy Wanderer vine has been developed by nurseries, put on its usual display of purple on my roadside. Unlike its garden relative, it is much less obvious. It creeps along the ground, and you need to look for its clusters of purple flowers above dark pointed leaves. Another pea creeper that is more noticeable is running postman, with its large clover-shaped leaves and brilliant red flowers with a yellow patch at the base of the standard. Locally, it is the only indigenous pea with mostly red flowers. Some others are pink, purple, orange or plain yellow, but the majority, like the narrow-leaf bitter-pea, are yellow with red markings and grow as small bushes. They are often known as egg and bacon plants and can be difficult to tell apart. Studying the shape of the leaves can be as helpful for naming them as looking at the colourful flowers.

While identifying the flowers can be interesting, it is also important to consider the role of peas in the environment. In common with wattles, they provide nitrogen that can be used by other plants. Nitrogen is crucial to allow plants to grow well. Peas and wattles form a symbiotic relationship with a bacteria called *Rhizobium*. The bacteria cause the plant's roots to form nodules in which the bacteria live. Food made by photosynthesis in the plant's leaves is provided to the bacteria. In return, the bacteria access nitrogen from the atmosphere and change it into a form which the plant can use. This benefits other plants, as when a pea drops leaves or dies, the nitrogen it contains is released into the soil and can be taken up by their roots.

Our indigenous peas not only provide nitrogen to other plants, and nectar and pollen to insects. Their seeds can explode from their pods and be picked up from the ground and eaten by birds or collected by ants. The seeds are covered by a hard coat which can survive fire and grow a new generation of plants in the months following a bushfire. There are many species of indigenous pea plants, with some living in moist habitats with good soil, while others survive in tougher environments, such as dry soils, rocky ledges, and alpine forests and clearings. The last few months have been difficult for many plants that usually flower and seed in spring. The narrow-leaf bitter-pea grows well in poor soils and dry conditions, and hopefully will continue to thrive in the years to come.



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EaSy and DeLiSh

with Stefania



## Chocolate Banana Boats

**Prep 10 mins Cook 10 mins Makes 2**

### Ingredients

- 2 ripe bananas, unpeeled
- 1 tbs milk chocolate chips
- 2 tsp shredded coconut
- 2 tsp chopped pecans
- 2 tsp sweetened condensed milk

### Method

1. Preheat oven to 180 c. Line a baking tray with baking paper. Place bananas in skins in prepared tray. Bake for 5 minutes or until the skins turn very dark (almost black). Remove from oven and increase temperature to 200 c.
2. Using a sharp knife, make a cup through the skin lengthways down each banana, then cut about 3cm crossways at each end of the long slit. Open skins slightly, sprinkle bananas evenly with chocolate chips, coconut and pecans, then drizzle with condensed milk. Return bananas to oven. Bake for a further 5 minutes or until toppings are toasted and condensed milk has caramelized.

Stefania :)

## Helping Others to Feel Their Contribution is Valued

*The Revd Dr Timothy Smith*

Have you ever felt small or invisible at a community meeting you have attended, because you are compassionate about the cause, and think you have something to contribute. It may be that, when you shared your ideas and opinions, the response from other members left you feeling dismissed, criticized, or unheard. Here are five possible ways we can help others feel their contribution is valued.

### Avoid one-up-man-ship

A member may be feeling stressed or overwhelmed about an issue related to the community organisation. It is natural to want to commiserate with them if we feel the same, but it is important to avoid dismissing what they shared with our own even more stressed feelings about the topic. Focus on really listening to them and acknowledge that this is an important issue for them.

### Don't try to fix their feelings

When they have expressed their feelings about the issue that is concerning them, it is tempting to want to fix the problem. More than likely they are not looking for others to solve things; just acknowledge that they have been heard or share their concern. Just be an empathetic ear by not trying to fix their problem reveals that we consider what they are feeling is valid. They may suggest that the group work to solve the issue.

### Let go of whether you agree with them

Members of community groups will have a variety of opinions about whatever the group is considering. But we can't agree with every opinion. Instead of focusing on a predetermined opinion about the topic, find a way to indicate to them we have acknowledged that the opinion has been heard.

### Ask questions

Show genuine interest by asking questions to get a better understanding of what has motivated the idea they express. The details of what they are thinking may seem basic, but showing interest makes a huge difference in enabling someone's contribution to be valued.

### Give your full attention

There is a difference between hearing and listening. We may hear a dog barking down the street but take no notice. Listening is more intentional, it means giving our full mental and physical attention. We feel so important when someone is treating us like the centre of the universe when we are talking; we feel our conversation must be interesting, our opinion is valid, and our contribution to the discussion is valued.

One of the mistakes we can make in groups is thinking the only way we have been heard is because everyone agrees with us and does what we think. How we help others feel heard, understood, and the thoughts of everyone is valued, even though we don't agree, is important. These small habits can be a game changer when it comes to helping everyone in our community organisations feel their contribution is valued.

Based on <https://www.prepare-enrich.com/blog/5-underrated-ways-to-validate-your-spouse/>

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### The Wallaby

My eyesight is not as good as it used to be these days, but good enough to accomplish most tasks around the farm.

I spend quite a lot of time dealing with weeds on my property. Serrated Tussock is the worst and is mostly confined to the flat and the sloping paddocks, while Gorse and Blackberry are more problematic along the river reserve and around the lagoon in the valley. I try to minimise the use of harsh chemicals but often that is unavoidable. I am careful not to spray into the water at the lagoon and the river in order to avoid killing any of my frogs or river life.

I was spraying blackberries and gorse and had mixed in the red marker dye so that I could see what plants I had already sprayed when I spotted a couple of blackberry bushes a little higher up a fairly steep slope, and gingerly made my way through the silver tussock, treading carefully and slowly in case I disturbed a sleeping snake. The blackberry bushes were not huge, maybe two metres wide and growing around some medium sized rocks. As I got close enough to the blackberries, I aimed the spray gun and let fly with a good stream of the red fluid and one of the rocks turned into a wallaby, leapt to its feet and took off into the bush with a large red stripe across his backside!

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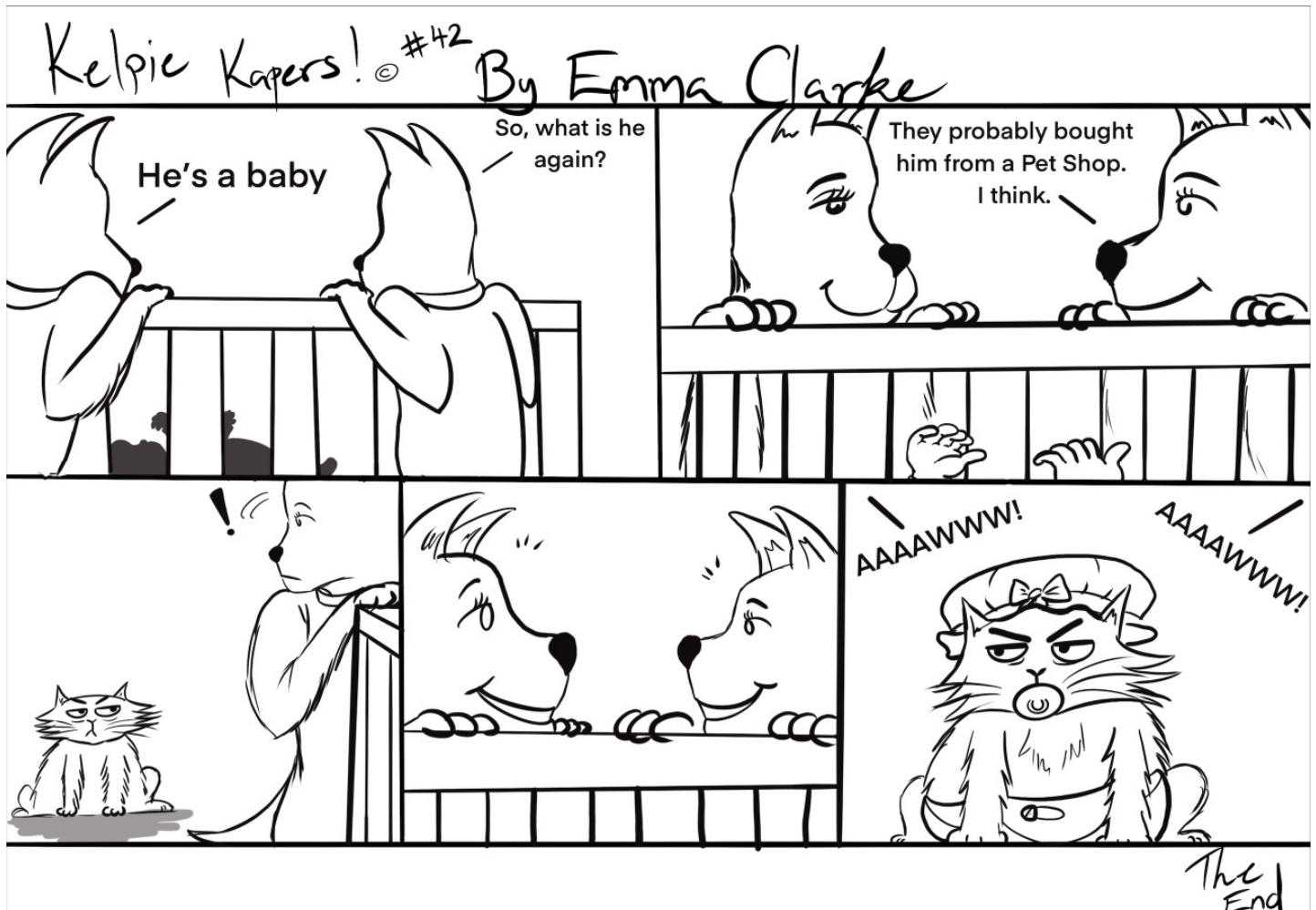
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## IN the SCHOOL Garden



*By Bridget, Charlie, Erin, Oakley & Patrick, Grade 4/5/6*

On a sunny day, Jack and I did some extracting of unwelcome plants from the correas albas at the back of the school. We used parrot beak loppers to remove them because we needed to make sure the correas grow happily and healthily. It was a simple procedure: I held down the plants so Jack could remove them at the base. The plants were a tree-like shape and we felt if we left them, they would grow into trees and interrupt the correas' lives. The mini trees were in all the correas so we don't know how they got there. A seed could have blown into them or a bird could have dropped one in, but now they're gone the correas can grow and thrive.

*Erin*

We were doing some gardening and I was tasked with helping the grade 2/3 students with planting some giant sunflower seeds. The children came out in groups of three. First, we filled a little pot three-quarters full of garden soil then we put a little hole in, and snugly put the sunflower seeds in. Only one per pot then we covered them over with soil and gave them a light watering. Now it is a waiting game for when they will sprout. Imagine our surprise when we looked one week later and there were already some emerging from the soil. When they grow, they will be put in different areas of the school, perhaps at the front near the office, amongst the correas and near the playground.

*Bridget*

You might remember last year, we planted bee gardens in pots. There were rosemary, lavender and osteospermums. This year we put seeds of mini sunflowers and nasturtiums in. The pots are all around the gardens where the vegetables grow. Why? So the bees are attracted and can pollinate the vegetables.

*Patrick*

We were in the scarecrow garden and Nevaeh found three eggs. They were chicken eggs and laid by one of our hens. She might have been getting broody and looking for a secret place for her eggs. While I was weeding I found some broad beans and took them home and Jacob found some, too. I was digging giant prickles out of another patch of bushes when I saw a chicken hiding in there. I took it to Miss Pritchard but she knew it would find its own way back to the coop, so I went back to the patch and did some more prickles.

*Oakley*

Oakley and I planted corn and sunflower seeds in seedling trays with individual sections. When they sprout and are bigger we will put them in one of the wicking beds. They don't like having their roots disturbed too much so the separate pots are the best. A group of us started pruning the

correas to make them look neat and tidy. If you leave them they will become overgrown and messy.

*Charlie*

Ralph is busy working out how to best put hoops over our wicking beds so we can net them and provide protection from curious and hungry chooks. In 2019, regulations were introduced in Victoria about netting to prevent animals and birds getting caught so we are making sure our netting has the correct size holes.

Seeds to put in during November and December are beans, beetroot, capsicum, chilli (the last two are better as seedlings if you are doing a December planting), cucumbers, leeks and lettuce (seeds or seedlings), pumpkins, radishes and silverbeet. We are using more seeds at school as they are less costly than buying trays of seedlings. A little extra care is all that's needed and we have found an excellent spot in one of the north facing classrooms where the sun shines in. The extra warmth ensures they get a good start.

Here's hoping for a warm, productive summer in our gardens with plenty of good things to harvest and eat.



*Jack and Erin in the correas*



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## Melissa Arch's Once Upon a Benson CHAPTER 11

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*Last time....Scott and his nephew, Johnny, bond over their love of fishing whilst Gerald Crocker becomes agitated by barman, Morty and continues to drink to excess without care.*

Margie was light on her feet. Standing up, she immediately had to sit back down on her bed.

How long would she feel like this for? She was used to having boundless energy. But not now. This illness was challenging Margie in ways she had never anticipated. She lay down, deciding to succumb briefly, due to feeling so unwell and weak. Will this be my new normal? Margie dismissed this thought as quick as it had entered her head.

"Nan?" Margie heard a soft, sweet voice that she knew to be her granddaughter, Lottie. She was standing in the bedroom doorway.

"Hello my luv", Margie said, weakly.

"How are you? I picked you some flowers".

"That's very kind, my precious girl".

Lottie adored her Nanna and hated seeing her like this. She sat gently on the side of the bed.

"Is there anything I can do for you Nan? Lottie asked, a tear escaping her eye, which she quickly wiped away.

"No my lovely but thank you. How are you? How's school?"

"It's ok. Not much new happening", Lottie replied, unenthusiastically.

"Did you see your Pa?" Margie asked.

"I said hello on the way through the yard. Would you like me to get him for you?"

"No, no thanks luv. I'm OK", Margie reassured Lottie.

"I'm going to get a vase and then I will let you get rest. You look worn out", Lottie observed, empathetically.

Margie nodded feebly but was grateful that Lottie could see she was not able to make much conversation and needed rest.

After fetching a vase and arranging the flowers she had brought for her dear Nan, Lottie fluffed up the pillows on Margie's bed, ensuring her comfort. Lottie kissed her Nan's forehead and tiptoed out of the room.

Her tears could not be contained once outside her grandparents' house and she began to sob uncontrollably. Lottie's Pa, Merv, immediately went to comfort his granddaughter.

"There, there luv", Merv said, softly, gently comforting her.

"It's not fair Pa!" Lottie was crying into Merv's overalls.

"I know it isn't luv, I know. Your Nan is fighting really hard", Merv said, assuringly.

This made Lottie sob harder, reliving the struggle she had just witnessed her Nanna in.

"Sshhh now. It's going to be ok", Merv winced. He did not like to see his granddaughter so upset. She was more sensitive than her mother was at the same age. Bonnie has always been tough, like her own mother.

Lottie pulled away from Merv, wiping her snotty nose on her sleeve.

"Do you really think she is going to get better Pa?" Lottie was searching her grandfather's face for any indication of the truth. Merv was unable to hide his doubt from her.

"I hope so. More than anything luv". Merv had tried his best to stay strong for his family at this time.

Lottie walked away slowly, head down and weary. She had not yet experienced the death of a loved one in her young life. Right at this minute, she felt like she could not bear it, if it happened.

Merv headed to the bedroom, after Lottie disappeared into the distance. He looked at his wife lovingly from the bedroom door, wondering what he would do if she did not make it through this. He physically shook his head, as if to shake the thought away. Yet he knew that it could be an all too painful reality.

to be continued...

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## it'S HiStOry

Meredith History Interest Group

### Gold Found at Morrisons:

One may wonder why MHIG chose to collect and have a display of photos of Morrisons. It all started with an album owned by a local family. The album is titled *Morrisons, Xmas 1906* and contains twelve superb photos. It is now quite delicate so although it was present on the weekend it was on a table protected under glass, between enlarged copies of the photos that are in the album. We decided to try and collect more photos, which we did over the past year and to display them at the Meredith Hall for all to see.

The event which we named *From River Flats to Tableland* was held on the weekend of October 21 & 22. It was a surprise to many how many photos we had managed to find, how clear most of the photos were and how by colouring and enlarging them, it allowed people to see more detail. We organized them in categories including River, Bridges, Churches, Schools, Cemetery, Sport, People, Buildings and Enterprise and displayed them on easels and tables, mostly framed in matte boards.

In the entrance foyer an old household scene was created to be viewed as people entered, the mining at Morrisons was represented on the stage area, a local architect drew an impression of the home where Hugh Morrison lived just south of the bridges, and a video of Morrisons Valley was shown that had been filmed by the Harris brothers in 1989.

Crowds turned out on both days to see Morrisons in photos, to learn about the history, to socialize, to reunite with family or to just simply to enjoy the occasion. About twenty members of the Latter family visited on Saturday and later went to Morrisons to see the old Latter home, and more family members came on Sunday.

Gold was certainly found at Morrisons, both from mining over the years and at the photo display. We plan to put many of the photos into a book as we did with the Steiglitz photos after we had that display. Watch for that production later in 2024.

### Morrisons State School Flag Pole:

On Thursday before the Morrisons photo display we were busy preparing everything, ready to set up on the following day, when a man came in to the History Centre. He and two friends were on a road trip, but he was walking around town while their car electrically charged. I asked him if he needed a task! As a result he and one of his friends walked the Morrisons Flag Pole to the Hall for us, so it could be displayed over the weekend.

The flag pole had been donated to MHIG earlier this year while collecting photos. What should be done with it now? Should it go back to Morrisons, somewhere? If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

### Wallace Street Photo:

Owen Dave Errey bought a garage in Wallace Steet, Meredith about 1930 with money from his father who was

a dairy farmer. He had an interest in all things mechanical and had worked at garages in Terang and Cressy, before he came to Meredith. His son Neil Errey explained that when the depression set in he, like many others, suffered many hardships. He married Doris May Lowne, a local girl in late 1936 and son Neil was born in late 1937. A few years ago, Neil contacted MHIG and asked if we had a photo of his father's garage. We didn't until a couple of weeks ago. A woman, while searching for photos of Morrisons, found a photo of Meredith which she thought we would be interested in. Neil was also interested! The photo shows that the garage was just north of the Royal Hotel, and the day the photo was taken, the road was full of what are now, vintage cars.



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## Marg's BOOK REVIEW

### **The Crimson Thread** by Kate Forsyth

*Red thread bound  
In the spinning wheel round  
Kick the wheel and let it spin, so the tale can begin.*

Kate Forsyth has a Doctorate of Creative Arts in fairy tale studies, and is also an accredited master storyteller. She has written many books including several in the *Witches of Eileanan* series, *Beauty in Thorns* which is a reimagining of *Sleeping Beauty* and *The Wild Girl*, the story of the forbidden romance behind the Grimm brothers; fairy tales.

*The Crimson Thread* tells the story of a young woman defying the brutal occupation of her hometown, Knossos, on the island of Crete. Set during World War 11, the novel also follows two Australian soldiers. Alenka is caught between her brother's Nazi sympathizing and what she knows is right. She is forced into many difficult situations as she chooses who to trust, who to love and who to save.

The inspiration for this book the author traces back to a summer in her grandparent's house when she was thirteen. At their home she read a book about a group of schoolgirls in Austria who escaped from the Nazis through the Swiss Alps. Her grandfather also told a story about her great uncle who fought in Greece and when the Nazis invaded retreated to Crete. He was part of the brutal battle that locals and soldiers fought for eleven days. He escaped over 'The White Mountains' being chased by the Germans every step of the way.

Wanting to know more she read everything she could about Greece including a book of Greek myths. The story of her great uncle and the myths connected for her and made Greece seem like a place of magic, mystery and danger. So, she incorporated the minotaur myth into her story by saying that there are still minotaurs (or the worst of human nature) in the world and we must stand up to them.

The book opens in April 1941 with Alenka, a young Cretan woman, embroidering her trousseau in tiny red stitches. The thread reminds Alenka of her late grandmother telling her the story of the Minotaur. Alenka spent her childhood playing in the palace of Knossos ruins, thought to be the site of the creature's labyrinth, absorbing stories of archaeologists and typing up their reports when she got older. When the story begins, she is working as a translator and guide for the curator of the archaeological dig.

Of additional interest is the small poem at the start of each Part of the book that involves the title of that Part. For example Part IV is called 'The Wounded Land' and the poem reads;

*O, bright goddess, dancing down, the serpentine path,  
towards the deepest place, only the spilling of blood can  
heal the wounded land.*

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## **Spiny Broom Now in Flower!**

Spiny Broom is an invasion woody weed enjoying similar conditions to Gorse.

It is currently in flower in the district (bright yellow). The seeds form after flowering and spread in the warmer months.

Small clusters soon become large infestations

Do your part by cutting and treating stems or spraying

Doing nothing helps it take over

Refer to Broom Busters website if you have a computer or contact the local shire for a weed booklet

*Submitted by Janene Schillier*



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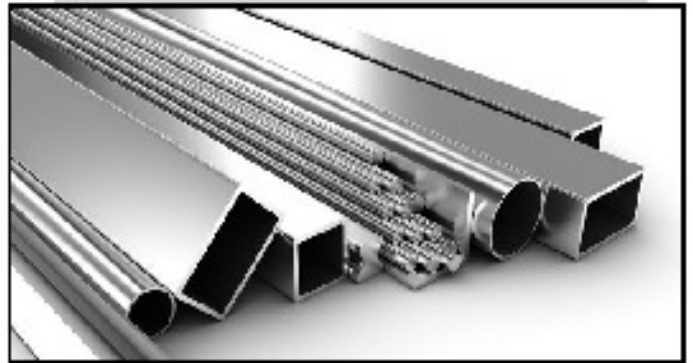
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*G'Day from the penners for November. Today's story is a cliff hanger, you decide how the story ends, maybe you could send an email with your suggestions to us at [goldenpens4@gmail.com](mailto:goldenpens4@gmail.com)*

*We look forward to hearing from you. So, cheers for now*  
Wendy

***I'm done running! He snarled as he pointed the gun at my face.***

Billy Jones looked as if he was about to explode. His face gleamed a scarlet shade of red, the veins in his neck and forehead were pulsing large and angry, his dark vicious eyes were about to pop out of his head. It was clear if I didn't handle this situation just right, he would explode. He had been cornered and he knew it, and I knew that I had only 2 options, one, to let him go, or two, to take him down.

Billy and I had history, we both grew up in the same neighbourhood, went to the same schools but we weren't friends, he ran with his crew, they were the wild boys, running amok and scaring the girls, getting into all sorts of scrapes. Whereas I, I was the quite studious type, more interested in making a name for myself, which I had done, joining the police force and climbing the ladder. I was now an inspector, with the likelihood of promotion looming fast. I knew that taking Billy in would be a coup, and help make that event happen quicker. But Billy and I, as I said had history, I didn't feel sorry for him but for his family who had been through hell with him and his violent, criminal ways. His mum and mine had been friend's way back then and my mother often lamented how Billy had turned out so wrong. I would ensure her that it was his own doing and she shouldn't waste any pity on him, but she did.

Now here he was, I had him, caught, like a sewer rat. I was unarmed, as I came upon him by chance, on my way home from a long day at work, the force had been looking for him for years, he always managed to evade us, he always got away, he had a vast network of cronies who were only too willing to help 'ol Billy boy, and he always made sure they were paid handsomely. He was proud of his notoriety, being on the cities top 10 list of wanted criminals was a badge of honour to him, and here he was, standing right in front of me with no escape.

Suddenly he reached into his pocket and pulled out a gun, I stood, frozen, just watching him closely, trying not to make any sudden moves when he spoke.

"George, I'm done running" he snarled as he pointed the gun at my face. The ball's in your court now!"

"Billy, listen to me," I begged, "think of your poor old mum, hasn't she been through enough? She's old now, she

can't take much more of this, give yourself up, do your time, make her remaining years peaceful."

"Ha," he laughed, "that would end it prematurely, she always told me to be true to myself and I have been following her advice ever since!"

"Billy, it's just you and me here, put down the gun and come with me quietly and I'll do my darndest to help you in any way I can, it will be so much better for you in the long run to give yourself up than the force having to track you down, it could end in death, your death if you try to fight your way out!"

Billy just looked at me, he had calmed slightly but I could see him thinking, was he prepared to go to prison, for a very long time or would he chance it again. It was a Mexican standoff, like in the western movies of long ago, damned if you do, damned if you don't. I knew that he had the upper hand, he had the gun and I had nothing but a mobile phone in my pocket which I couldn't chance reaching for. What was he going to do?

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## COMMUNITY UPDATE - October 2023

### Moorabool Wind Farm Community Fund Round Five - Successful projects

Moorabool Wind Farm is pleased to confirm support for seven local organisations through the Fifth round of the Community Fund:

- Moorabool Landcare - Growing skills for a sustainable Moorabool
- Ballan Historical Society - Monies towards outbuilding construction
- Ballan Arboritium - Gazebo Slope Beautification
- St Patricks Gordon - Active Engagement Space
- Ballan Scouts- Ballan Scout and Community Centre Shed
- BAF- Moorabool Wind Farm Stage
- Ballan community house- Mental health initiative

We would like to thank the volunteer assessment panel for their help in awarding these grants, as well as the local community members who took the time to apply.

This round brings a total of \$1 Million awarded to over 70 local groups and individuals.



### Successful Scholarship Applications

Moorabool Wind Farm is pleased to confirm support for six local individuals through the Scholarship Fund:

- Three post graduate students
- One Year 9 student
- Two TAFE students

Round Six for both Community & Scholarship Funds will be opening in May 2024. If you would like assistance with your application, please contact: [juliedargan@goldwindaustralia.com](mailto:juliedargan@goldwindaustralia.com)

For more information, please visit: [mooraboolwindfarm.com](http://mooraboolwindfarm.com)  
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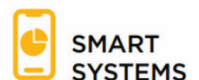
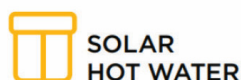
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# LOOK where we LIVE



*Golden Moth Orchid - Wendy*



*Emperor Jezebel Butterfly - Louise*

We love showing off the beautiful environment we live in, as captured by local photographers. Louise Corral and Wendy Cook have given us a butterfly in apple tree blossom, some great bug close-ups and spring wildflowers.

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*Large Spotted Ladybird - Wendy*



*Spider on Waxlip Orchid - Wendy*



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