

# Meredith & district News

MAY 2024

OUR **FREE** COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



## inside



- Don't burn off toxic farm waste.
- 56 tonnes of ice!
- Two grant opportunities open.  
....and more!



Wendy and the  
orange peel  
fungus.

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





# BERRYBANK WIND FARM COMMUNITY GRANTS

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

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

- Tourism projects
- Economic Development projects

If the applicant is a community group, the applicant must seek funding for amounts exceeding \$10,000. Applicants can submit multi-year applications for both categories, for a maximum of three years.

The Berrybank Wind Farm Community Grants Program is currently open and will close at 2pm on Friday 31 May 2024.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss your application with Council's Community Grants team.

Please enquire as soon as possible to allow adequate time to discuss your application prior to the submission deadline.

For more information about the program, please visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/community/grants](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/community/grants) or contact Council's Community Development and Grants Officer.

Phone: 5220 7111

email: [communitygrants@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:communitygrants@gplains.vic.gov.au)



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## Brisbane Ranges sketchers

Kerry Thomson

Our group extends a huge thank you to Ross and Liz Wilkie for opening their property, Moranghurk in She Oaks, and allowing us to test our observational skills and artistic talents. This magnificent property spoilt us with choice. It provided stunning views down the Moorabool valley, incredible gardens, magnificent bluestone buildings (shearers quarters, restored cottage and ruins) as well as old chimneys, stables, ancient trees and a recent planting of several thousand trees for a koala corridor along the river.

Despite the sunshine we (Alex, Mandy, Mark, Sam, Louise, Gil, Marion, Peter H., Jan (welcome back), Melinda and I) rugged up against the cold wind and settled down with our materials - charcoal, oil pastel, fine-liner, pencils, watercolour or acrylic paints - to produce a stunning array of artwork. It always seems special that we all see, perceive, interpret and create such different outcomes and, to me, continues to reinforce the value of plein air art, being part of a group and sharing/discussing our responses.

Kerry Thomson

Next outing: 14 May (second Tuesday) 10.00 - 12.30 pm

Meet at the Meredith Community Centre, byo own art materials, chair, cuppa for after, weather appropriate clothing.

Venue (depends on the weather) Everyone welcome experienced or not :-)

you **MAY** know this...

May observances include Arthritis Awareness Month, Better Sleep Month, Mental Health Awareness Month, National Walking Month, and Women's Health Care Month.

## OUR COVER

Thank you Cathie Boer for our cover photo of the Anzac Day ceremony in Meredith, which again attracted a large crowd.



Send us your fabulous photos - you could be front page news!



## 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:revdrtim@hotmail.com)

The Revd Dr Timothy Smith

PiC Anglican Parish of

Inverleigh+Bannockburn+Meredith

### St Josephs Parish of Meredith

CATHOLIC PARISH OF MEREDITH MASS TIMES - MAY

Winchelsea - St. John the Baptist @ 6pm Sat. MAY.4,11,18,25

Anakie - St. Brigid @ 9am Sun. MAY.12,26

Meredith - St. Joseph @ 9am Sun. MAY.5,19

Ban'bun - St. Mary MacKillop @ 11am Sun. MAY. 5,12,19,26

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

## Meredith Community Village, Inc.

Martin Peters

The committee of the Meredith Community Village Inc are seeking suggestions for projects that could be supported with our funds.

Think big or think small. We are after ideas, and we want to know what is important to you.

Written proposals can either be dropped at the Community Centre or emailed to [meredithcvinc@gmail.com](mailto:meredithcvinc@gmail.com).

Please submit your proposal by Friday 31st May 2024.

We have no preconceived plans, but we believe in projects that will make a lasting difference to our community. Proposals need to be in line with the Statement Of Purpose of our association which says:

The purpose of the association is to:

- i. Assist in the construction and maintenance of infrastructure for the benefit of the Meredith community and its residents,
- ii. Support the delivery of health and well-being services required by residents, or groups within the Meredith community, who are unable to access such services due to financial, geographical or health/disability reasons,
- iii. Fund other related activities, as determined by the committee, with a strong focus on our aging residents, by the management and distribution of existing funds and any further funds raised.



# & 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), Ian Penna, Sue Higgs, Nerida Anderson and Ian Leighton. Production is undertaken 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. Contact us for full details and lodgement forms. Rates, excluding GST, are as follows:

	B&W/Colour
Business Card	\$20.00
Quarter page	\$30.00
Half page	\$50/\$110
Full page	\$100/\$200

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

Classifieds are **FREE** for small, personal notices from residents. Otherwise \$7.50 on invoice or \$5.00 if paid on lodgement. Community Groups can have a 1/4 page ad for free or a \$30.00 discount on larger ads. (conditions apply)

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

## CONTACT US

Post Office, Meredith, 3333

Advertising: Ian 0409 016815

[advertising@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:advertising@meredithnews.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 read back copies and additional stories 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

Issue Production: Don Atherton Editor: 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  
5286 1502  
Morrisons  
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 545  
246  
Juniors 0430 587 674

GOLF CLUB  
0407 795 342

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5286 8201

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MEREDITH  
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PADDOCKS  
5286 1273

RSL - 5286 1452

SENIOR  
CITIZENS  
5286 8232

TENNIS  
Elaine  
0448 291 074  
Lethbridge  
52 817 321  
Meredith  
0424754179

SEW 'N' SEWS  
5286 0700

FRIENDS OF THE  
BRISBANE  
RANGES  
5286 1252

# emergency

Police, Ambulance, Fire	000
(from mobile phone)	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 52207111
	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

## ..start something.

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



*"Broken crayons still colour."*

# I'm here to help.

*Please contact my office if you feel I can be of any assistance to you.*

**Michaela Settle MP**  
**Member for Eureka**

🌐 michaelasettle.com.au

✉ michaela.settle@parliament.vic.gov.au

☎ (03) 5331 7722

📘 MichaelaSettleMP



Meredith Community Centre  
*working for our community*

## What's On This Month



### Coming up in Term 2

#### Elder Rights Information Session

Tuesday May 7 - 11am - Free

#### Reduce the Risk Information Session

Tuesday May 21 - 1pm = Free

#### FERMENTATION With Narelle

Sunday May 19 - 9am - 12pm - \$130 per person

#### CHEESEMAKING With Narelle

Sunday May 19 - 1pm - 4pm - \$130 per person

#### Mindfulness with Jade

Monday - 3.30 - Prep - Grade 4

Monday - 4.30 - Grade 5 - Year 9

Wednesdays - 9.30 - Goddess Mums

Fridays - 2.10 - 2.40 - Kindergarten Kids

\$15 per session, payable by Term

#### Toddler Dance (1-4 Years) with Jacque

Mondays - 10:15 - 10:45

\$10 per child, pay on the day with cash or card

Jacque - 0448 046 551

### THE MEREDITH MART

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Take What You Need*



**9-3 MONDAY-THURSDAY**

**DONATIONS ACCEPTED IN THE OFFICE!**

#### Tai Chi - \$15 per session

Tuesdays @ Meredith with Sandra - 9.15 - 10.15

Wednesdays @ Bannockburn with Desma - 9:30 - 10.30

#### Steady Feet @ Meredith - \$11 per session

Wednesdays - 10:00 - 11:00 am

#### To Book:

learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au

www.facebook.com/MeredithCommunityCentre

Ph. 5286 0700 / 0491 184 999



Join us on

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#### **PLAYGROUP**

THURSDAYS

9.00am - 11.30am

\$2 per family

## Heat Doesn't Cool Appetites at GP Festival

*Martin Peters*

The Meredith Community Tucker Tent was established to prepare and serve wholesome, affordable food to festival goers at the Meredith Music Festival. We have been there since the beginning and, just like the festival, have grown along the way.

We have a purpose built shed to replace the old marquee, and for the last 16 years, have been fortunate enough to operate twice per year.

Our core activity is still cooking and serving food, and selling bags of ice. Alongside the Tucker Tent is our all-new phone charging station! At one point we had over 70 phones on charge at the same time.

Here are some stats from the recent Golden Plains Festival:

- We were open for business for 44 hours over the long weekend
- Staffed by over 325 volunteers
- 4,169 bacon & egg sandwiches
- 3,241 sausages in bread
- 686 Kranskies
- 499 Veggie burgers
- 11,285 bags of ice (that's over 56 tonnes of ice!)

After all our bills were paid, we had a profit of \$48,000 to distribute to the community groups involved. Each of the 8 beneficiaries received \$6,000.

As a community we are extremely lucky to have the festival, and to have it twice a year is simply amazing. By giving us the opportunity to operate the Tucker Tent, the festival is well and truly giving back to the community.

I asked Lachlan Day, the Principle at Meredith Primary School what the festival meant to the school community:

*Meredith Primary School continue to be amazed with the dedicated work of the Meredith Community Tucker Tent and the extremely kind donations that are made to our school community to positively impact our students learning, experiences and school facilities. These donations have been and will be used on various projects across the school including and not limited to outside play equipment, supporting student led projects like the Gaga Pit, purchasing of new basketball backboards (this term) and improvements to our the school grounds. As a school community and from our School Council we thank each of the volunteers and people responsible for the continued growth of this fundraiser with the inclusion of the 'Charging Station' and improvements to the Tucker Tent each and every event. We will never take these donations for granted and applaud the work that goes into events such as the festivals. Lachlan Day - Principle*

As chair of the Tucker Tent Committee, I would like to extend my thanks to the Meredith Music Festival, our committee, our shift managers, and the hundreds of volunteers who make this happen.





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## Moorabool Wind Farm Grants Open 1st May 2024

### Media Release

Applications are invited from community groups and organisations for a share of the sixth round of the Moorabool Wind Farm Community Fund. Applications for the Community Scholarships are also open.

The community fund is an annual initiative with approximately \$260,000 in funding each year for the entire life of the wind farm. The aim of the Community Fund is to financially support initiatives and projects that make a positive and enduring contribution to the local community.

The Fund is split into three streams: Community Grants, Community Scholarships and scholarships in partnership with Federation University in Ballarat.

'Since 2018 Moorabool Wind Farm has contributed over one million in funding to over 50 local projects, through grants, donations and scholarships. In 2023 we were proud to support six local individuals with scholarships to support their education. Each year we are amazed to see what initiatives people put forward for funding. The local community is full of wonderful ways to show how dollars can be turned into lasting value for the community.' said Paul McMahon, Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Goldwind Australia on behalf of Moorabool Wind Farm.

Funding applications for Community Grants will be considered across four main sectors;

- Public Health and Well Being,
- Environmental Sustainability,
- Skills and Education,
- Recreational and Cultural Activities.

Applications for funding are open to any not-for-profit or incorporated community-based organisations with projects located up to 10 km from the wind farm. All applications will be assessed on their merits, based on related benefits to the community, perceived suitability, the applicant's background and proximity to Moorabool Wind Farm.

Applications for Community Scholarships are welcomed to support costs of attending and undertaking education (e.g. course costs, study related materials or tutoring). Applications are open from any age, any level of education (e.g. high school, tertiary or upskilling) and will be awarded based on merit irrespective of financial need.

Guidelines, the application form with further information and details about how to apply can be downloaded from the Moorabool Wind Farm website.

The closing date for applications is 3pm on Wednesday 12th June 2024.



## Pothole Protocol

Jim Elvey

"Dirt roaders" will be familiar with our plight - frequent potholes and corrugations. Right now, they are pretty bad where we live, so we submitted a request to the Shire of Golden Plains for some maintenance. Hearing nothing more than a computer generated acknowledgement for the following month, we contacted the Shire again, to be told such requests, can take up to three months to be attended to. Also interesting, is the Shire's commitment to maintenance, whereby

*The intervention levels for unsealed roads are as follows;*

- *Corrugations: > 65mm depth for more than 30% of 1km of road length*
- *Pot Holes: >100mm depth and >400mm diameter*

So, keep a tape measure in the glove box and report that pothole promptly.



What did one hat say to the other?

You wait here. I'll go on a head.



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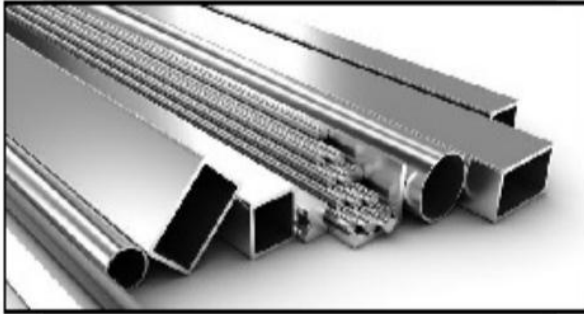
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*Sat 8.30am-1pm*

*Please note - closed Sundays until further notice*

## Vale to Philippa (Pip) Hucker

Marg Cooper

Philippa Janet George was born in Canterbury in England on 8th July 1946. She was the second child of Patricia and Donald George and had an older sister Carole, who unfortunately passed away in 1974, and a younger brother Donald, who passed away in 2021.

Pip had no children of her own, and her only surviving close family are her sister-in-law Teresa, nephew Samuel, cousin Dorette, all in England, and her brother-in-law David Hucker, who lives in Cobram.

Pip came to live in Australia in 1966 after her father died, firstly in Melbourne where she married, and later moved to Sydney. The marriage didn't last, and later on Pip met John Hucker, who had also grown up in England. The couple moved back to England, married and lived there for 10 years. After Pip's mother died, they decided to come back to Australia to live, and bought a house in Lara where John's brother David and his wife Dianne lived.

They later found the little miner's cottage in Lawler Street in Meredith and moved there in 1993. The cottage was in desperate need of care and maintenance at the time and they spent 5 years renovating. David and Dianne also lived in Meredith for some time until eventually moving to Cobram. John passed away in 1998, and Pip lived in the cottage until December in 2020, when declining health required continuous care, and she moved into aged care at Estia in Bannockburn.

Pip was an animal lover. Everybody's dog and cat were Pip's friend. There was a constant stream of stray dogs and feathered visitors to her backyard and her family of magpies were happy to be hand fed. The local possums had prime grade fruit & vegetables and she would not hear about killing even a mouse - they had to be relocated. The house cat at Estia adopted Pip soon after she moved there.

Pip's love of music began early in her life with church choirs in Canterbury. Many people will remember Pip's solo renditions of Christmas carols in the Meredith Hall. She was a member of the "With One Voice" Geelong choir and several small informal singing groups in Meredith over the years, as well as the local group "Meredith Minstrels" who entertained around the district for some years.

Pip was an active member of the council run PAG group for many years, firstly as a volunteer helper and driver, and later as a client. She was also actively involved with several local organisations in Meredith.

Even though Pip was pretty quiet, rather shy, and unobtrusive, she did like a good party. She had a great sense of humour and a robust laugh whenever something touched her funny bone. She was genuine, nice person who never had a bad word to say about anyone.

A memorial service was held for Pip in the Epiphany Anglican Church on March 20th with a eulogy presented by Don Atherton and a moving rendition of some of Pip's favourite songs by the Meredith Minstrels in their first reformation after 10 years.

## Self-Sufficiency Workshops

for edible gardens lovers

Media Release

Golden Plains Shire Council will be delivering a series of Edible Gardens – Sustainability and Self-Sufficiency Workshops across the Shire from April to June 2024.

Facilitated by Horticulturist Craig Castree, the workshops aim to bring together the knowledge gained throughout the Edible Gardens Webinars and help participants take their gardening skills to the next level through sustainable and self-sufficient practices.

The workshops will be held on:

- Saturday 27 April from 10am to 12pm at the Dereel Community Hall, 14 Swamp Road, Dereel.
- Saturday 4 May from 10am to 12pm at the Bannockburn Cultural Centre, 27 High Street, Bannockburn.
- Saturday 25 May from 10am to 12pm at The Well, 19 Heales Street, Smythesdale.
- Wednesday 5 June from 6 to 8pm, online via Zoom.

The workshops will cover techniques for improving soil health in our gardens and the associative health benefits, innovative gardening methods to lowering heating and cooling expenses, strategies to decrease running costs of maintaining a garden, utilising battery-operated equipment charged from solar panels, how to produce chemically free staple foods, how to preserve what we grow for later use and how to harvest water.

Places are limited, so register for the workshops at [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/edible-gardens](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/edible-gardens).



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## The Philatelist

Michael Riseley



### STRANGE BUT TRUE

Think for a moment. What is the strangest thing you have sent in the mail. Socks and jocks or hankies as a birthday/xmas present for a distant relative. A book perhaps or a jigsaw/board game. Booties and baby clothes for a newborn far away. Maybe these are not that unusual.

Our post offices have a wonderful array of padded envelopes and hard cover packets to help protect your mailing. Perhaps you have created your own packaging and filled the box with lots of bubble wrap. Have you had the call from a loved one trapped in some heathen country to send a rescue supply of Vegemite.

And remember your visit back to the post office to enter your parcel into the postal system. "Excuse me, how much did you say" when the postmaster told you the cost for airmail. And extra for registration and insurance. And declaration forms to be completed.

Sorry but you don't win the prize.

On 1 January 1913 the USA Post Office began a Parcel Post service and issued a set of Parcel Post stamps of various denominations. Items needed to weigh more than 16 ounces to qualify as Parcel Post. The regulations were not that strict providing the item was not deemed "Dangerous to handle".

Later in January, in Ohio Mr & Mrs Beauge accessed the Rural Free Delivery system and mailed their young son 1 mile down the road to his grandmother. The postal cost was 15 cents and they insured him for \$50. In February 1914 in Idaho, Mr & Mrs Pierstorff mailed their 5 year old daughter to her grandmother in a town 73 miles away. They attached 53 cents in stamps and a delivery label to her coat and handed her to the postal worker on the railway mail train. She was safely delivered.

The longest recorded mailing of a child was in 1915, when a 6 year old girl was mailed 720 miles from Florida to Virginia, at a cost of 15cents. There had been several other cases of children being sent in the mail. Eventually later in 1915 the US Postmaster General banned postal workers from accepting humans to be mailed claiming that they could not be classified as "harmless live animals".

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## Careless Burning Off Could be Burning Money

### Media Release

As fire restrictions ease around the state, EPA Victoria is warning landholders that what they toss into the flames while burning off this autumn could be costly for the environment and their hip pocket.

EPA Southwest Regional Manager, Carolyn Francis, says many waste items create toxic smoke and residue as they burn.

"Burning farm waste like silage wrap, old tyres and chemical drums sends smoke and other residue into the atmosphere, waterways and soil," Ms Francis said.

"Don't let a routine burnoff turn into something that contaminates your land or neighbouring properties; send any waste to a properly licensed landfill or recycling facility," she said.

Common waste materials from the farm can be recycled into building and fencing materials and products like floor matting. There's a handy publication dealing with waste disposal and recycling on the EPA website at ([External link](http://External link))[epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/iwrg641-1](http://epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/iwrg641-1)

If you are burning fallen trees or other natural wood, make sure they are as dry as possible to limit the volume of smoke, and farmers should make sure they have any relevant council or CFA permits.

Timber from buildings, furniture or other manufactured products is not safe to burn because it has probably been chemically treated.

EPA can fine offenders more than \$9,000 for burning anything other than vegetation-sourced matter like timber and crop stubble.

"Farmers understand how important a clean environment is to their livelihood and their community," Ms Francis said.

"By thinking twice about what goes onto the pile when burning off, you can protect the environment from contaminating the soil, water and air around your farm and your neighbours," she said.

"You can also protect yourself from a hefty fine, which we won't hesitate to issue if we find evidence on illegal matter getting burned."

Members of the public can report pollution by calling EPA's 24-hour hotline on 1300 372 842 or providing details online at

[epa.vic.gov.au/report-pollution/reporting-pollution](http://epa.vic.gov.au/report-pollution/reporting-pollution)



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## What's Been Happening at School?

*Fairlie Pritchard*

### Easter Hat Parade:

We celebrated the end of a short but busy Term 1 by celebrating Easter with an Easter Hat Parade. The creativity from students and families was awesome, with lots of interesting creations being worn. We finished off the day with some Easter Egg hunts with our classmates.

### Cardboard Arcade:

The Grade 5-6s created a Cardboard Arcade as part of their learning about machines in STEM. They created their arcade games using Make-dos, sticky tape and a whole lot of cardboard! There were also many prizes to be won. The students decided to charge entry to the arcade to raise funds for the Good Friday Appeal and raised a total of \$194. Well done team!

### OSHC Holiday Program:

During the holidays our OSHC program ran two successful days with over 18 children enrolled for each day. They were lucky enough to participate in a tennis clinic with the Meredith Tennis Club and also had a visit from Grubby Gumboots for some furry cuddles. Thank you to Maddy McColl, Courtney Murray and Lucy Banks for providing their extra services for the OSHC program. Next term, OSHC will run programs on curriculum days and another two sessions in the school holidays.

### Athletics:

Our Grade 3-6 students attended our Flinders District Aths Day at Goldsworthy Reserve in the first week of Term 2. Everyone gave their best efforts in the events and had a great experience on the day. Congratulations to Nevaeh who placed 1st in the 200 metres and high jump and 2nd in discus and 100 metres, and Charlie Z who came 3rd in high jump. It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers there supporting our students.

### ANZAC Day:

Once again, our Meredith PS students were involved in the annual Meredith ANZAC Day service. Our student leaders did readings during the service as well as laying a wreath on behalf of the school. Students in attendance were invited to join in the singing of 'I Am Australian' which was led by Kym Ivory on the day. Students have been learning about ANZAC Day throughout the school in their classrooms and during their Art lessons.

### Music In Schools:

This term we have launched our Music In Schools program for our F-2 students. They will participate in lessons focusing on rhythm and sounds while they explore their own voices and experiment with different instruments. Feedback from our youngest musicians has been very positive, and they look forward to Mr. Dowling's visits on Thursdays.



*Charlie (above) came third in the high jump, and Nevaeh won her high jump event, as well as the 2000m. Well done, both of you.*



What did the pirate say when he turned 80?

Aye matey.



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## Dream & Lead Conference

*Kealeigh Lecky*

On Tuesday we went to the leadership conference. We arrived at the train station at 6am and we had waited at least 5 minutes for the train to arrive.

When we hopped onto the train, we chose our seats and we were on our way to the leadership conference. When we got to Melbourne Convention Centre, we had to walk around to find out where we were supposed to go. After walking around for a while we found out destination.

In front of us was a giant room which held thousands of seats.

We sat down in the third row and grabbed our booklets.

Then the instructors came to the stage, and their names were Bonnie and Amanda.

First we wrote on a sticky note what leadership means to us. When we sat back down we listened to them introduce themselves. After Will the CEO came and had a chat

about never giving up on your dreams and to always stick with them.

Then Skye came and told us about how she never gave up and how sadly, when she was little she vomited all over her year one teacher, after which she earned the nickname Chucky. But then when she was in high school, she was using hair removal cream and accidentally wiped her head. The next morning she woke up with no eyebrow. How funny!

Later a man named Trent told us about how resilient he was, and how when he was in school everyone said he was too weak and small to play footy, which was his dream.

Later 10 different boys from different schools went up and showed Bonnie how to do the griddy. After all of that I had learned so many strategies of how to be an incredible leader.

Like to always respect others, be resilient and take care of the people involved in our school.

After the conference we went on a tram to the train station and whilst we were waiting for the train, we went to the enormous lolly shop.

When we got on the train we all had a sugar rush and got really silly.

The conference was so fun and exciting. We loved it.

*Below: Leadership prepped Jensen, Kealeigh, Charlie, Elsa and Jacob*

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## in our NATURE

Wendy Cook

Someone walking along a bush track dropped orange peel on the ground, or so it appears. But if you look closely, the cluster of curved orange pieces may not be what they seem. The bright orange surface inside the curve is smooth, unlike orange peel, while the underside is paler. You feel a gentle breeze around your ankles, causing puffs of white to waft from the upper surface of the peel. What you are observing is a fungus, known as orange-peel fungus. The white dust drifting on the wind is spores, which if they settle in a favourable place, will grow into new orange-peel fungi. It belongs to a group of fungi shaped like cups or flattened into discs, some of them with unusual qualities.

Orange-peel fungus is commonly found on disturbed ground. It has no stalk, but grows from white threads, known as mycelium, which reach up from the earth. Its role in the environment is uncertain, but it is likely that it grows on wood or other organic matter in the soil, breaking it down to release nutrients and provide food for nearby plants. Like all living organisms, orange-peel fungus contains proteins, some of which have interested scientists. One has been found which slows or stops the growth of some other fungi, while another has been investigated for diagnosing some forms of cancer.

Another fungus with curious features has several common names including green elf-cups. It forms groups of little turquoise discs perched on short stalks on rotting logs and sticks. It is likely that other fungi begin the process of decaying the wood before the green elf-cups become established. Mycelium of green elf-cups grows through the wood and releases a pigment called xylindrin, which stains the wood a blue-green colour, and may deter termites and other fungi. In Australia, green elf-cups are found mainly on the wood of eucalyptus, including in our local forests, and myrtle beech which is found in cool temperate rainforests in the Otways and elsewhere. Green elf-cups are also common in other parts of the world, and the stained wood has been treasured by artistic woodworkers. As early as the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, during the Italian Renaissance, pieces of wood stained by this fungus were included in intricate inlaid designs. It was also prized by eighteenth century woodworkers in Kent, England, who used it in a similar manner. Today, their works are valuable antiques known as Tunbridge ware.

While other cup or disc fungi may provide less of value to people, they play important roles in the environment. One of these species is called charcoal cups. They are little orange discs, only a few millimetres across, which grow as very crowded colonies on burnt ground. They sometimes appear on the sites of campfires, and can cover large areas of bare ground after a bushfire. They have tough spores which can survive the heat of a fire and

germinate the next autumn. Soils are more alkaline after fire, but fire-loving fungi, including charcoal cups, can tolerate these conditions. They grow quickly and cover large areas of soil, holding it together and preventing erosion. They provide food for insects and other animals, assisting them to survive and return to burnt bushland. Charcoal cups and other fire-loving fungi can be found for two or three years after fire, and are not seen again until after the next fire. The spores that they leave behind are estimated to survive twenty-five to thirty years in soil, waiting for the right conditions to germinate and help with post-fire recovery.

Orange-peel fungus, green-elf cups and charcoal cups are three of the species of fungi that form cups or discs. Many of them help to break down wood and other organic material. One species will even grow on discarded carpet or paper. Others are more particular about their habitat, with some types growing only on animal dung, and others only on certain parts of plants, such as the stalks of tree ferns or the cones of banksias. Wherever they are found, they have a role to play in the environment, although it may not be obvious to us. Look carefully and see if you can find some this autumn or winter.

*You can see this fabulous fungus on the front cover - Ed.*

## Golden Plains Careers Expo

### Media Release

The Golden Plains Careers Expo (the Expo) returns in 2024, inviting individuals of all ages from across the Shire to attend this exciting event at the YMCA in Bannockburn on Friday 24 May from 1 to 7pm.

The Expo aims to empower residents of Golden Plains Shire by expanding access to educational and career paths, ultimately improving employment prospects and outcomes.

At the Expo, attendees will have the opportunity to explore a range of educational and professional paths. They can engage with industry experts from universities, training institutions, and local employers, fostering connections and discovering a variety of opportunities.

Exhibitors include Deakin University, WCIG, Gordon TAFE, VFA Training, VicPol, SES, Multiskills, MecwaCare and Silverchain.

The Expo will also offer a chance to connect with Council's Youth Development Team and sign up for the skills and job training programs available. A variety of food trucks will also be on-site throughout the afternoon while attendees explore their future prospects.

The Golden Plains Careers Expo is made possible through funding from the Victorian Government's Crime Prevention Strategy.

For more information, or to enquire about being an exhibitor at the Expo, contact Council's Youth Development Team at

[youth@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:youth@gplains.vic.gov.au) or call 5220 7111.



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## Wedding in Idyllic venue

Marg Cooper

"The happiest and most love filled wedding we have ever attended" was the quote from two of the guests at the March 21st wedding of Nicholas (Nick) Ritchie to Sunisa at the beautiful Melati Resort on the island of Koh Samui off the coast of Thailand.

Forty-five family and friends of the couple enjoyed a wonderfully joyous week of celebration. Nick and Sunisa's (Known as Guess) Covid interrupted relationship spanned over 6 years before the happy day came. The wedding was held on the beach at the resort as was the amazing reception on the sand as the waves quietly lapped in. Guests danced the night away completing a beautiful celebration.

Nick is Mining Superintendent at a very large gold mine in Laos and Guess comes from the northern Thailand town of Mae Hon Song. They plan to live in Thailand with very regular trips home to Nick's family Diane and Roy Ritchie in the Swan Valley of WA.

Locals will remember Nick in Meredith as a St Pat's student, a worker on local farms during school holidays, a fun person and a great bowler and batsman for the premierships teams of the Meredith Cricket Club with the nickname of Fridge. And it's not hard to work out the reason for the nickname.

## Shade Sails at Elaine

Marg Cooper

The playground at Elaine Recreation Reserve is now shaded by two bright shade sails. The committee had to apply for several rounds of grants from Lal Lal Windfarm to secure enough money to purchase and have erected the protective sails. It took over three years to be granted enough money, as each year the price of the sails went up.

The committee would like to promote the Recreation Reserve as an area that the public can use for children's birthday parties or family get-togethers. The red and blue sails now shade the playground, there is a free electric barbeque undercover, tennis courts, an oval and toilet facilities, also rooms for hire for meetings or family get-togethers email [info@elainerecreationreserve.com](mailto:info@elainerecreationreserve.com)



## the rain report



APRIL rain (mm)

55

LTA

72



## Living on the Dark Side

How're coping on the dark side of the solstices? We've burnt the dust off all the heaters, dug out the thick sox and thermals and changed the doona. Still eating muesli, but porridge can't be too far away. There's much to enjoy in the colder months, but if these shorter days get you down, scan the QR code to get some good coping tips.

## MOORABOOL Wind Farm

Moorabool Wind Farm is pleased to support neighbouring projects and organisations that will provide lasting benefits to the local community through our Community Fund. Round Six applications will open on 1st May 2024, closing 12th June 2024.

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## Y<sup>in</sup> YOUR Community

Nerida Anderson

*In this column we speak with members of the community from Meredith and surrounding district to show the great range of talent and enterprise that resides within our community, as well as showcasing the interesting and varied backgrounds of many of our residents. This month we speak with Madeline (Maddy) McColl. Maddy is well known in the district, whether working in one of the hotels or at the roadhouse, or for her role in the Meredith Tennis Club. Maddy also works as a shearer during the week. Maddy was recently awarded the Golden Plains Community Impact Award.*

### **Can you tell me about the Community Impact Award?**

I was awarded the Community Impact Award for my work with the Meredith Tennis Club. About five years ago the tennis club had become inactive and there was no other junior sport in Meredith. A few others and I decided we needed the tennis club to become active again so we started free coaching on a Friday night. We started with five kids which soon turned into twenty children. We then decided we should formalise things particularly for insurance purposes, so in 2019 formed a committee. We planned our first season to be 2020. Although we wanted to have training throughout 2019 this wasn't possible because of COVID. We did manage to start in 2020. We had four junior teams playing on a Saturday morning and we had forty kids or so training on Wednesday and Thursday nights. It has just grown from there. Last year we had seven junior teams and two senior teams. One hundred and twenty people came to the presentation dinner. With no other junior sport in Meredith, it's just incredible, they needed something.

### **What would help to expand the tennis club?**

Just people willing to come and have a go. It doesn't matter if you haven't picked up a tennis racket for years or you have never picked one up, just come down and have a go and you may enjoy it, you might make friends. I know people who just come to watch, they just enjoy the social side of it.

### **You also work as a shearer; how long have you been shearing for?**

This is the end of my third season, so I am still learning pretty much.

### **How did you get into shearing?**

My dad thought it was too dangerous for me to use a handpiece to clean up fly blown sheep and things like that on the farm because I didn't know what I was doing. My sister and I decided we needed to go to shearing school to learn how to use a hand piece and I ended up really enjoying it. At the time my brother was working for a contractor in Mt Gambier – he is a shearer too – so I worked with him for two months. I was driving to Mt Gambier and coming back to Meredith on weekends to play tennis, which was a huge priority for me. I did the four-hour drive for two months that

year and then the following September I was asked back by the contractor and I did the commute again. Now I am shearing locally, which is much nicer.

### **Shearing sheds are traditionally male, is it unusual to have young women shearing?**

Not at all. I know two or three but there are quite a few out there. Where we went to shearing school six of the seven in the class were female. I think one other girl continued with it. Most people are willing to show you things and help you along, they are always giving advice. The male shearers often offer to do the rams for me because they think I can't handle it, but I can!

### **As a woman is it hard to get shearing work?**

Most farmers are happy to have me shearing for them. I often work with my brother and he is quite a fast shearer so they are happy to have a learner. Nowadays there are a lot of sheds that have women working in them, in fact in some sheds females outnumber males.

### **What do you like about shearing?**

I like the way at the end of the day you feel like you have done a hard day's work. And I do like that you always try to improve on yesterday, even if it is just one more sheep than yesterday, you are always trying to get that extra one and work that little bit harder to beat yesterday's tally.





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## Learning to drive again

*Roy Hay*

For the last few weeks I have been learning to drive again. Golden Plains Shire had the bright idea of providing a free refresher course for its older drivers. Around 30 senior citizens from around the area, including Meredith, took part and I would guess that all of them learned something new and valuable from the experience.

Most participants had been driving for a very long time, some since as soon as they were eligible for a licence and perhaps even before that. I had been driving tractors and farm vehicles in fields and farm roads since about the age of fifteen and got my first licence in Ayr in Scotland within a couple of months of turning seventeen. The driving examiner queried why I was driving in the middle of the left-hand lane, rather than close to its inner edge. I responded that I was aiming to do so in an area immediately ahead and he seemed satisfied with that. I did my three-point turn, emergency stop and hill start to his satisfaction and got my full licence at the first attempt.

That didn't mean I was a safe driver and I had one or two bingles in the early days and one near catastrophe much later when turning left and the right immediately and being hit from behind by someone who tried to overtake as I was doing the latter manoeuvre. He was taken to court over the incident, but I always felt I had not been as careful as I should have been.

Coming from Scotland in 1977 I found that I was driving a lower mileage/kilometrage in Australia than I did there, though this is a much bigger country. Our extended families lived at both ends of the United Kingdom, so we sometimes travelled from the central belt in Scotland to the south of England or north to Ross and Cromarty through the Highlands to visit them. Most of these journeys were in a series of Minis—cars, minivans, even a second-hand Mini-Cooper that turned out to be a sheep in wolf's clothing. We bought it on one of our extended visits to the United Kingdom after we had settled here in Victoria. It wouldn't have pulled the skin off a rice pudding and it had no brakes, but it worked for us. When we left, we gave it to friends for their son who was desperate for a vehicle of his own. We insisted they get the brakes fixed before letting him loose in it.

My wife will tell you that I still give her concerns though I would insist that my driving style has mellowed. I now make sure that I don't hold up following vehicles on winding rural roads by using the overtaking turn-outs whenever possible and the verge when they are not available. Even so I was more than a little taken aback recently to be overtaken by two hoonos on a blind corner on the Great Ocean Road marked by double white lines and warning signs. They hadn't been in my rear view mirror a moment before.

Participants in the driving course were supplied with the current issue of the Highway Code and a booklet focussing on recent changes to the road rules and driving etiquette. This got most of the participants firing questions for the presenter, a senior citizen herself, who took us through her understanding of the current state of play. She allowed us to have gentle arguments about issues, but brought us back to what is the current correct way to handle potentially

hazardous situations. A member of the Highway Patrol, came in for a session to reinforce the message about safe, defensive driving.

My question for him was whether it was still expected and/or required that we hug the left-hand side of Victoria's potholed roads with their broken edges? To my mind this would involve weaving in and out to avoid the worst of them. It would also be confusing for following drivers. His reply was effectively, 'You need to assess the conditions and drive accordingly in the safest way possible'. So I will try to do that from now on. If you see me weaving in and out, this is not a sign that I have had one drink too many!



## Footballing Soldiers

*Marg Cooper*

Len Cocking was employed for some three years by Mr C Drayton of Morrisons. As a footballer he was perhaps the best all rounder in the district and was noted for the fair and manly game he played. He lived for some time near Meredith and was considered very popular, especially among district footballers. In May 1915 Pte Len Cocking was reported wounded at the Dardanelles and then, in August 1915, it was reported that Pte Len Cocking had died from wounds he received at the Gallipoli fighting.

Mr V G R Taylor was well known in Meredith where he was in business for some years. He was a leading member of the rifle and the football clubs and attained some distinction as an athlete. In May 1915 Sergeant VGR Taylor, 8th Battalion, was wounded at the Dardanelles

March 1916 saw prominent footballer Mr Robert Campbell, son of Cr Jas Campbell of Meredith, enlisted.

In August 1916 Pte Charlie Parkins of Lara was been wounded in the head whilst fighting in France on July 17. He was a well known member of the Meredith football team and for some time played with one of Ballarat's senior teams.

Matthew Goggin was a prominent footballer and all round athlete. He left Meredith in Feb 1916. Private Goggin was wounded in France, sent to England and then, on his recovery, went back to the trenches again. In May 1917 Mrs Matthew Goggin was notified by the Defence Department that her husband had been killed in France. Deep sympathy was expressed to his widow and three children.

July 1918 two soldiers, Dick Grenfell and George Dillon who learnt their trade with Mr W Martin of Elaine, were working as Corporal farriers in France. They were looking forward to joining the district football competition this year but found that 'the greater game had to be played for some time yet'.

May 1918. The first football match for three years was to be played in Meredith on Saturday between the local lads and Bannockburn.

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## it's history

Meredith History Interest Group

### A Different Ball Game:

As part of the National Trust Heritage Festival, MHIG is creating an exhibition of Football in Meredith & District in the Meredith Hall on May 4 & 5. It will be a unique look into the early history of Australian Rules football and its connection to our local communities.

Our research has revealed that nearly everyone was involved in some capacity, they played matches for special occasions like the birthday of Queen Victoria and the Coronation of the King, they had fun matches like The Liberators v The Teatotalers, they ran dances after every home game and many fundraising events and some members were extremely generous with time and money. Records indicate that football started around Meredith in the 1880's. So, for 100 years football was of vital importance. Today it still connects the community via the Moorabool Valley Masters or Crocs team for over 35 footballers.

### The Mayor:

On Thursday, April 18 we welcomed the Mayor of Golden Plains Shire, Brett Cunningham to MHIG. We wanted to show him that we make good use of the old Shire Hall and that we are a vibrant organization that is committed to collecting and sharing history.

### The Front Room Museum:

The front room on the left, as one enters MHIG has been altered slightly so displays can be mounted there for public interest. Interestingly a wall has been revealed showing several colours of paint obviously applied at different times in the building's history. History revealed!

It is planned that the first display will be of football, following our larger exhibition on May 4 & 5.

### Dry Stone Walling:

Laurie Atkins visited MHIG to research more about dry stone wallers. You can read his article on this page.

## In Search of Stone Wallers

*Laurie Atkins*

A few years ago I found the following reference in relation to Moranghurk, "Just before the turn of the century the original stone fences were rebuilt. Laird and Son of Lethbridge were the builders". I've been mapping and describing the dry stone walls in the area since. The reference to Laird and Son came from McGillivray's The Heritage of Lethbridge. It was also stated that in the 1870's John Matheson acquired Moranghurk and supplemented this with 26,000 acres taking in Native Hut Creek No. 1 and the Woodburn stations.

Apart from the information provided in McGillivray, I have not been able to find any further information about the Lairds stone walling activities in published sources.

One of the original documents I sought out was the Moranghurk Account Books which conveniently are housed in the Geelong Heritage Centre. The account books in the series are most likely an incomplete set but record transactions from about 1871 to 1910.

To my surprise, there were three people identified as stonewallers; Michael Whelan, John Anderson and Patrick Scantlon. Whelan walled around 1874-1879 at Moranghurk. I've been unable to find any other information of Whelan in the area. John Anderson walled around 1874-1877 on Native Hut Creek No. 1 and possibly Woodburn. However, I've found two John Andersons (not related) owning land near one another at Slate Quarries. The MHIG has many references to J or John Anderson in their collection and these are yet to be studied. Patrick Scantlon walled around 1875 - 1877 on Native Hut Creek No. 1 and possibly Woodburn. I've found birth and baptismal records for Patrick and Eliza Scantlon as parents, land applications and an 1874 Court appearance for Patrick Scantlon. Interestingly, names of the Scantlon family in McGillivray match members of the Scantlon family and so I think they are one and the same. From the accounts, in 1876 and 1877, Patrick Scantlon/Scantlon was responsible for building 3.6 km of stone wall.

I'd be very interested to hear of any new information on these or other wallers from the area and particularly stories which attribute a section of surviving wall to a particular builder.



## stonewalling

[ˈstəʊn wɔːlɪŋ, ˈstəʊn wɔːlɪŋ]

noun

the delaying or obstruction of a request, process, or person by evasive behaviour.  
"a master in the art of stonewalling and political intimidation"

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## Marg's Book Review

### **The Bookbinder of Jericho** by Pip Williams

This book is a companion tale to the book, *The Dictionary of Lost Words*. The first book tells the story of Esme who largely grew up in the scriptorium in Oxford because her mother had died and her father worked there. She helped create the Oxford Dictionary under editor James Murray.

This second book tells the story of Peggy and her twin sister Maude who worked in the bindery of Oxford University Press in the town of Jericho, where books like the English Dictionary were printed, composed, bound and decorated.

The author describes how she wrote the first book in an endeavour to answer the question of whether words mean different things to men and women. Her aim was also to highlight the fact that many women had contributed words to the dictionary, but that men had made the final decisions on which words were included, and what interpretation was given to a word.

The author said the second book was written to highlight the fact that many women worked in the bindery but, unlike men, hadn't recorded their experiences. She started to imagine a woman dancing along the gathering bench, wondering what book she was gathering onto her arm and then wondered if she ever stopped to read any of it. Suddenly she had a character.

Peggy and Maude's mother loved books and reading and fostered this love in her girls. Peggy is ambitious but frustrated because she is surrounded by print material but unable to have a higher education. She is *town and not gown*. Maude has some development issues and Peggy is very protective and caring, but this also makes it hard for Peggy to study and be away from her sister.

The book is set during the World War 1 years from 1914 – 1918 when women filled the positions of labour that men have vacated to go to war. The story covers many topics from gender roles, employment changes, knowledge and power through to education access and women's suffrage. There is also heart break, sadness, some specks of hope and a low key romance.

Again, Pip Williams has woven a story of fictional characters into a historical setting. She opens our minds to the very process that creates a book and to Oxford and the war.

*(I have also read The Dictionary People by Sarah Ogilvie which documents all the unsung heroes who contributed to the creation of the Oxford English Dictionary. This book is less of a novel than the two above but nevertheless, very interesting.)*

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*G'day from the penners for May. This month's story was written by Brenda Humphries way back in 2015 as a prompt to write a tribute to the fallen soldiers of the Great War, 1914 – 1918. With Anzac Day just lately remembered, it is fitting to have a story of the sacrifices of our brave soldiers who fought for our freedom. The penners can be contacted at any time via our email account, goldenpens4@gmail.com Cheers Wendy.*

### **Letter to a Fallen Soldier.**

The air was still and hot as I approached the spot where you fell.

Crows squawked in the distance and a thick cloud of emotion surrounded me as I stood, tears in my eyes.

So young, so innocent, so full of hope and dreams you were.

You were someone's precious son, someone's teasing brother and now it is all over for you, but not for them.

The questions race through my mind. Was it worth it? Did it help? Was your life really 'sacrificed' for the good of the country? Did you die in pain, slowly, or was it swift and pain free, the way the army told the family.

I am torn. Confusion and shame and pride all blend together in my veins, as I stand in bewilderment at this spot where you lie.

You fought bravely, as a part of a great human machine made of young men. Moving parts with hearts and souls and feelings and fear. But you moved as one. When they said 'go forward' you did. You obeyed just as you had been taught. You wanted to be an honourable soldier. And you were. You and your mates were heroes in my eyes.

No Sunday roast dinners, no afternoons or weekends off, it was one long continuous nightmare. The nightmare wore a brave face, under the khaki slouch hat. Mud was your mattress; dry rations were your daily bread and fear was the hidden monster in the dark.

But you had each other. Your brave face encouraged others to be brave and you marched into the jaws of death. There was no escape for you young boys. Some great force gave you enough courage to carry on and I am humbled to stand in your presence.

Was it all worth it? I ask myself as the sun sets over the green fields and thousands of white crosses. If only the commander of your division could stand here and see and feel what I see before me. If only the leaders of the warring countries had met over a cup of tea and discussed what they wanted and consulted about the solutions, maybe the outcome would not be the skeletons of death that fill this field. It should be acres of sunflowers dancing in the breeze and birds singing joyful songs. Not the eerie sadness that cloaks the atmosphere.

But here you lie. Silent. Gone. But never forgotten.

This is a tribute to the soldiers who fell in the "Great War"

*Brenda Humphries 18-9-1952 / 23-11-2023*

## **GUIDE DOG** by Linda Brumby

*Submitted by Janene Schillier*

It was morning in Melbourne, the crowds were thick,  
The trams were crushed and full;  
The conductor slowly surveyed the scene  
As he raised his arm to "pull".

..... A light hand, on the tram-car rail:  
A girl in a dress of blue -  
Holding tightly to the leash  
Of an animal walking through!

The conductor's voice was softened  
And even the glances discreet,  
For it seemed that a hush had fallen  
On that busy, noisy, street

Suddenly, there was a kindness there,  
And a chivalry new in town -  
As everyone tried to help in some way  
In moving "up" or "down"!

But the face of the girl in blue, remained  
A placid, lovely calm;  
She knew that the faithful dog would keep  
Her safe, and free of harm.

She alighted soon, and the dog took charge  
And led her safely down  
To the safety zone, and the bustling scene  
That is "any day" in town.

And something arose in many hearts:  
It was there for all to read:  
A something of warmth, and softening  
That a city sometimes needs.

The faces no longer hard and grim,  
For tears misted the eyes  
And stirred the hearts - in the crowds that day  
- of others, as well as I!

The signal came; and the tram moved on -  
But I'm sure there were those with me  
Who silently prayed with gratitude  
"Thank God, that I can see!"



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