

Meredith & district News

JUNE 2024



OUR **FREE** COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Woohoo!
Winter
Woollies!

inside



- Courtney is a Tennis Volunteer Champion.
 - A Bit of Footy History visits the History Group
 - The Autumn Not Much Rain Report
-and quite a bit more!

e: news@meredithnews.com.au w: meredithnews.com.au





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Meredith & district News



The Meredith and District News is published by a volunteer sub-committee of the Meredith Community Centre comprising: Jim Elvey, (general editor and chair) Stefania Parkinson, Ian Penna, Mike Palmer, Sue Higgs, Alex Hyatt, Nerida Anderson and Ian Leighton. Production is undertaken by Peter Boer, Don Atherton, Marlene Johnson and Jim Elvey.

NEWS & VIEWS

Appropriate contributions accompanied by the contributor's name (which will also be published) and contact details, are most welcome. Please email to news@meredithnews.com.au or deliver to the Meredith Post Office or Meredith Hub

DATES AND DEADLINES

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

ADVERTISING

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

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

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

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you are outside our delivery area you can subscribe for \$59.50 incl. GST (11 issues) and get the Meredith and District News posted to you anywhere in Australia.

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news@meredithnews.com.au

WEB

You can check back copies and lodge comments at meredithnews.com.au

ONLINE PHOTOS

We do not publish children's photos online.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

DISCLAIMER

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

FEEDBACK

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

Issue Production: Peter Boer Editor: Jim Elvey

connect

ADVANCE
MEREDITH
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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

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

CENTRE
5286 0700

CRICKET
Elaine
0448 291074
Junior

(U16,U14,13)
0448 291074
Meredith
5286 1434

CUBS &

SENIOR
CITIZENS
5286 8232

TENNIS
Elaine
0448 291 074

Lethbridge
52 817 321
Meredith
0424 754 179

SEW 'N' SEWS
5286 0700

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 -	132 500
flood & storm	
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	0408 508 635
Ranger	5220 7111
	or 0409 830 223
Bannockburn Vet	5281 1221
Golden Plains Animal	5281 2226
Pets and Horses 24/7	0421 617 238

Justices of the Peace

Mr Don Atherton. 0409 869 960

Mr Paul Ryan Elaine 0409 861 296

services

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Meredith Memorial

5286 1545

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Elaine Rec Res

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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



"People don't notice whether it's winter or summer when they're happy."
- Anton Chekhov



POLICEreport

Senior Constable Anthony BOX

Meredith Police Station| Western Region Division 3
Phone: 5286 1222| Fax: 9244 2156
14 Wilson Street Meredith Vic 3333

During April and May there have been 3 burglaries in Meredith which are currently under investigation.

There have been some instances of graffiti including at the Skate Park, Rec Reserve and Primary School.

Any information relevant to the graffiti at the Skate Park and school is welcomed.

A further crime prevention meeting is planned for 2024, likely in September once I have everything organised, I will advise of a date in the next newsletter.

A request I have of the community is to continue to inform me of suspicious activity or occurrences within the Meredith Police Service Area.

Along these lines I believe I must reiterate the means of communication that are in place for the Meredith Police Station.

1. If the offender or suspicious person is present, call 000. Any time of day or night, please do this. This **WILL ALWAYS** guarantee the fastest response.

2. If they are not present call the Meredith Police Station. If I am unavailable to take your call you will be transferred to Bacchus Marsh. You can report past matters to the Police Assistance Line.

Bacchus Marsh is the 24-Hour police station for Golden Plains and Moorabool service areas.

People seem to have an aversion to talking to Bacchus Marsh, I implore the community to get past this, as it is not changing in the foreseeable future.

The authority to call me out of hours or when I am off duty is at Bacchus Marsh 24 hours a day, that is why the station phone diverts there.

Please do not call other police stations as that is not the system that is in place, and it will not speed anything up and serves only to take up resources from other areas unnecessarily.

Some people have mentioned to me that they have attempted to contact the station mobile phone, this is not a number I give out except in specific cases, and while I understand it will be shared it should not be used to communicate with me as it is only switched on when I am on patrol and the phone number can change.

While some people may be reading this and feel I am repeating myself, please understand I am doing so because it is still an issue.

On another subject, the proposed wind farms.

This is a subject I know is polarising and there are strong opinions on each side.

I have been made aware of some members of the

community who have taken steps to contact farmers or landowners who may be affected to threaten them with legal action.

While it is not an offence to threaten legal action, I do request that we all remain lawful and respectful in our dealings with each other and do not cross any lines to harassment or other measures.

If the wind farm goes ahead or otherwise, we will all still need to live together after the fact and it will serve both sides well to act appropriately towards each other.

Meredith ANZAC Ceremony,

April 25th 2024.

Mick Devlin

Once again the Meredith RSL, in conjunction with the wider Meredith community, organised, a fantastic and moving ANZAC ceremony. A turn out of around 250 people were present for the annual ceremony and proceeding march through the town.

The day commenced with a fantastic rendition of the New Zealand and Australian national anthems sung by Bruce Woodley and Kym Ivory, then the opening prayer by Father Joseph and the prayers for the king and the Anzacs read by our Meredith primary year 6 students Charlie, Kealeigh and Elsa. This years guest speaker, Michael Rooney was a wonderful speaker telling all about his experiences in the Army. This was followed by a fantastic rendition of "I am Australian" by the Meredith primary school kids, led by Kym Ivory and Bruce Woodley.

After the inside ceremonial formalities were finished, the March was undertaken throughout the town by Ex serving and community members. This was led by the amazing bag pipes and drums of Donna and Matt Murrell.

After the completion of the March there was the traditional laying of wreaths by community groups and families followed by the last post and reveille.

The Meredith RSL would like to extend a very special thank you to Jackie, Zena, Kylie and Olivia for providing the delicious morning tea, Father Joseph for attending our ceremony, Kym, Bruce and Dawn for providing the music and the Meredith primary school for the lovely art work and singing. Your generous contributions are very much appreciated.

Thanks to the community for coming out and connecting over such an important local event.

For Tips on staying warm and keeping heating costs under control...

visit...

<https://www.energy.gov.au/households/household-guides/seasonal-advice/winter>

or Scan...



Recreation



The Croc Report

The crocs started off the season with the long road trip to Macorna to take on the newly formed Macorna Tigers.

We had three new blokes, Crackers, Brett and Owen who got the first taste of road trips with the Crocs. I'm sure next road trip they will be packing ear muffs.

Also a special mention to big Damo Harwood who pulled on the boots after about a year away from footy due to a knee injury.

The game started with the Crocs kicking the first couple of goals. The Tigers then switched on and kicked a few goals and got to 2 goals up by half time. A couple of changes to our line up by our assistant coach, proved vital for the Crocs as we came out and kicked the next few goals to put us ahead. The Crocs ended winning by 2 or 3 goals. A great effort by all the players who turned up.

Best for the day were: Sid (who also drove the bus up and back) Johnny C, Scotty Foran, the 1st gamers Crackers, Brett and Owen, thanks also to Rowey for helping out. Special mention to Scott Cowie who played out of position but did a great job, Mick Rooney for Rucking without help for the first half and Kev Murray for being a great team man. Another great win for the Crocs and thanks to the Macorna boys for a great game and night. Also have to mention the ladies in the kitchen did a fantastic job with the meal after the game.

Go Crocs. - Mick Devlin (Coach) 0413609863



Meredith Tennis Club News

Pilot Cardio Tennis Program

Although we didn't have any competitions running for the month of May, it continued to be a busy month for some members with the Meredith Tennis club being asked to run the first ever pilot of volunteer run Cardio Tennis in Australia! Previously, Cardio Tennis could only be run by a qualified coach. Tennis Australia was keen to have Cardio Tennis taken up by a wider range of people and recognized that this was limited due to the number of coaches available within an area. Meredith was given the opportunity to run a trial program with 10 participants to see whether this program could be rolled out across Australia. The program was run by Maddy McColl and went for four weeks. It is safe to say all of the participants had a great time doing drills and hitting to some upbeat playlists.

Members of Tennis Victoria interviewed various participants in relation to how they felt the program was run and how it could be improved. We hope that the feedback that was provided is used to roll this great initiative out across the country! Given how successful the program has been among the participants, the club will be deciding during their next meeting how often they will be able to run it and times. So please follow our facebook page to see how you can get involved in this fun hour of cardio power. You don't have to be a tennis super star to be involved, instead you just need to have some enthusiasm and a 'have a go' attitude. No actual cardio fitness is necessary either.

Tennis Victoria's Volunteer of the Year finalist

We are also very proud to announce that Courtney Murray was one of four finalists for Tennis Victoria's Volunteer of the Year. She was nominated in recognition of all that she does for the Meredith Tennis Club. Courtney was able to



attend the Victoria Community Tennis Awards 2024 night, which were held at the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club on Thursday 23rd May, where the night was hosted by channel Seven reporter Jodi Lee. Unfortunately, Courtney did not win, but she did get the opportunity to meet other finalists and chat with Tennis Victoria members and discuss how the pilot cardio tennis program was going and what else we are doing at the club.

Winter Tennis Competition

Our Winter tennis competition is set to start 25th July 2024 and go for seven weeks. There may be changes from previous competitions as we continue to balance how popular the competition is and how we will manage with two courts under lights. If you are interested in playing please go to our website where we will be uploading the registration forms.

Aver & Line Family Portrait Day

Unfortunately, we did not have enough people interested in the Aver and Line Family Portrait day, to go ahead. We thank those that did book in for a session on the day.



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 or

office.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 – JUNE 2024

Winchelsea - St. John the Baptist @ 5pm Sat. June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Anakie – St. Brigid @ 9am Sun. June 9, 23

Meredith – St. Joseph @ 9am Sun. June 16, 30

Bannockburn – St. Mary MacKillop @ 9:30 & 11am Sun. June 2 @ 11am Sun. June 9, 16, 23, 30

Inverleigh – Sacred Heart @ 4pm Sun. June 16

OUR COVER

Wendy Cook supplied our cover photo of a charming pond in the Coolabaghurk Creek as it winds its way through the Police Paddocks. Volunteers recently cleared this area of weed cover.



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

When Doug Wade came to Meredith

John Merlo

During the turbulent sixties Doug Wade was the best in the business - the business of kicking goals for Geelong in the VFL - then the all-powerful Victorian Football League.

No interstate teams back then - they had their own competitions of course, but they were only invited to come to Victoria to suffer regular thrashings by 'the big V' - the VFL representative side - usually featuring legends such as Bobby Skilton, John Nicholls, Royce Hart, Alex Jesaulenko, Billy Goggin and of course - Doug Wade.

Doug's exploits back then were among the reasons that Meredith has remained a Geelong Cats stronghold.

A few weeks ago the very same Doug Wade visited our little town at the invitation of the Meredith Historical Interest Group.

Doug was here as part of the group's exhibition of photographs stretching back more than 150 years, and illustrating the importance of local football to rural communities and towns like our own Meredith.

During his prolific goal kicking career with the Cats, among Doug's trademarks were his towering torpedo punts and his deadly accuracy in shots for goal, often from more than 60 metres out.

At the opening of the history group's exhibition on May 4, Doug spoke briefly about his career, but was typically modest about his achievements on the field.

On the field, in front of goals for Geelong, Doug was a very imposing figure as well as being a brilliant footballer.

He is still a very big bloke, tall and well built, with a very kind and softly spoken manner - and a ready smile.

He held the entranced crowd at the Memorial Hall spellbound with some fascinating anecdotes and insights into his life as a football legend back then, and in the years since.

Doug, who now lives in Drysdale on the Bellarine Peninsula, worked in television with Channel Seven after hanging up his boots with Geelong and then North Melbourne.

He has been involved in a number of successful business ventures, including the operation of a number of popular hairdressing salons and retail product outlets.

His beautiful property in a semi-rural part of the booming town Drysdale is testimony to his business acumen and obvious love of the quiet beauty of the Australian countryside.

Doug intimated that he now has something of a soft spot for Meredith.

We may hear more from him in a later edition of Meredith News.

Below: Local, Paul Ryan, shares a moment and some memorabilia with Doug Wade in Meredith.



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Michaela Settle MP
Member for Eureka

 michaelasettle.com.au

 (03) 5331 7722

 michaela.settle@parliament.vic.gov.au

 MichaelaSettle



Meredith Community Centre
working for our community

What's On This Month



Elder Rights Advocacy

Supporting your right to quality care

Elder Rights Information Session

Tuesday June 18 - 11am - Free

Fermentation at Home with Narelle

Sunday July 7 - 9-12pm - \$130 per person

Cheesemaking with Narelle

Sunday July 7 - 1 - 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

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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

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PLAYGROUP

THURSDAYS

9.00am - 11.30am

\$2 per family

Artist in Residence

Marg Cooper

An extraordinary exhibition of photographs adorns the walls of the Skymirror Gallery Café in Sea Lake. We have called there before, for coffee and cake and have enjoyed the photographs taken of Lake Tyrrell, which is a salt lake nearby. These photos had been taken by professional and amateur photographers, mainly from above the lake, so from a bird's eye view.

But last week when we called, not only were there many new, extraordinary photographs on the walls but there was a book of photographs and the photographer, Nilmini De Silva who is the artist in residence at the cafe for a month.

Nilmini and her partner Steven, are staying in their motorhome at Sea Lake and have travelled from Sydney. She is developing a new portfolio of images for sale and is at the cafe to talk to visitors. The exhibition officially opened on Tuesday May 21 and will be available for viewing during gallery hours for four weeks.

Nilmini is a national and international award-winning photographer, and her photography is influenced by her experience as a Civil Engineer, specializing in water management. Her work reflects her love of water in the landscape and concern for regeneration of the environment. She loves combining her passion for writing and documenting with her sense of adventure and insatiable curiosity. She draws her inspiration from places that are off the beaten track and the people she meets while travelling.

The photographs that she takes using a drone are extraordinary. The colours and shapes are what I would like to achieve when I paint, but here nature has created and Nilmini has captured with her camera. Nilmini says that photography is her happy place, her bliss.

The owner of the café, Rohan Mott, is a retired farmer and an artist who certainly thinks outside the square. Not only has he created a gallery in his cafe but now he has an artist in residence. He is to be congratulated.

Nilmini's work on Skymirror Gallery website: <https://www.skymirror.com.au/shop-11> Nilmini's website: <https://www.skymirror.com.au/shop-11>



Marg chatting with photographer Nilmini De Silva.

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MONEY Matters



wit

PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR MANAGING YOUR MONEY

This is general advice only. Contact an accredited financial advisor for advice particular to your circumstances.

With tax time only four weeks away, are you ready?

In my profession I see two types of clients, the ones eager and can't wait for the 1st of July because they expect a refund, and the 2nd type who either wait till the last week of October or, if they have an Accountant/ Registered Tax Agent, wait till May, because they believe they have a tax bill. Whichever camp you have been in, let's see if I can provide some guidance to help so that you don't knock down the door on the 1st of July in a stampede without all the documents. Or if you're in the other camp, you don't procrastinate because, honestly, if we plan for it we may have a refund, a smaller payable or if nothing else, we have the option of setting up a payment plan.

One of the most common mistakes I see is clients eager to do their return without the ATO having received all the relevant prefill information. A tax return lodged without the same information to the prefill is guaranteed to raise an audit. Confirm with your Tax Agent to see if the prefill information is up to date.

Here is a general list of items to have ready for the tax time. It is a general guide only to get your grey matter thinking ☐

- Receipts for memberships, subscriptions and associations.
- Receipts with ABN of the Charities you made donations to, or a diary entry with the list of charities and amounts paid into bucket donations.
- Income Protection Insurance Statement
- If you have a partner, their taxable income, if you are not doing the return at the same time.
- If you use your Motor Vehicle during the course of your work:
 - The logbook (or the actual kms travelled for the year if you don't have a logbook) and all associated costs like registration, insurance and repair and maintenance
 - Parking permits
- Travel expenses like public transport fares and airfares.
- If you receive a meal allowances, the receipts/diary entries relating to the expenses incurred.
- Logbook for working from home hours as well as the gas, electricity, telephone and internet costs if you worked remote or if you worked after hours at home.
- Cost of study (self-education) that has a direct nexus to your work.
- Receipt for preparation of last year's tax return.
- Receipts for any uniform with a logo, protective clothing and laundry.
- Tools and equipment receipts.
- Union fees.
- Acknowledgement letter from the super fund if you put in after tax contributions (concessional contribution).

So now that you have all your documents ready, here are a couple of ideas to boost your refund or reduce the payable within the next four weeks.

Firstly, can you prepay any expenses that you can claim as a tax deduction before the 30th of June? The government introduced the 2024 tax cuts which means that you pay more tax this FY then you will in 2025FY. If you have more receipts this FY it will reduce your taxable income in the current year with the higher tax rate. For example, a person with taxable income of \$100k will be in the marginal tax rate of 32.5c in 2024FY v 30c in 2025FY.

Secondly, if you have spare cash, as mentioned in the April issue, depositing money into your super fund as a tax deduction (concessional contribution) or if you have a partner as a low income earner under \$37k and provide them with up to 3k to put into their super fund (non-concessional contribution) as a spousal contribution, you would receive a tax offset of up to \$540 in your return. This decreases your tax bill and increases their super savings.

Household savings hack of the month:

Since we are all things tax this month, let's talk about loyalty tax. Loyalty tax is the term used to describe the premium paid by existing customers to offset the reduced discount new customers receive to get them in the door.

Do you regularly review your household bills, like electricity, insurance and internet? If you simply let it roll over to the next year you are probably being charged a higher rate.

I recently reviewed my electricity plan with the same provider and at the same time, they asked about my current internet plan.

The result of a 30-minute phone call was a cheaper electricity rate with no lock in contract, \$20 cheaper internet per month with the exact same provider I was originally using and same specifics and finally a bonus 12-month subscription for a streaming service I had my eye on.

With all the taxes we do have to pay, I am excited to know that the loyalty tax is an option, and I opt out ☐



We apologise to Sandy and our readers for omitting her column from the May issue. It was an oversight on our part. And we are very pleased to have her back for this timely column - Ed.

TEST'N'TAG

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A Career in Family Day Care

as told to Marlene Johnson by Janina Sharer

My family have lived in Meredith for about five years but have lived within Golden Plains for almost 18 years. My return to an educator role was due to having our daughter. I was working in management and needed to find childcare for her but when I looked I couldn't find anything that suited our needs. Hence my decision to transition back into an educator role and commence operating The Growing Tree FDC through Golden Plains Shire.

I have been working in the early childhood sector, and Family Day Care, for almost 16 years as both an educator and also in management roles. Initially I began my career studying for my certificate 3 in early childhood education, then went on to study my diploma. I am about to complete my Bachelor of Early Childhood Teaching which is something I'm very excited about.

A career in Family Day Care is deeply fulfilling for me because of the wonderful relationships I am able to form with the children and their families. This individualised care helps me promote positive developmental outcomes,

"A career in Family Day Care is deeply fulfilling for me because of the wonderful relationships I am able to form with the children and their families"

fostering social connections for their children. This allows them to attend our excellent local kindergarten with friends who will join them in school, building relationships and creating a lasting positive impact on many lives.

Recognition for role

I was a finalist in the Excellence in Family Day Care Awards in 2022 which was a wonderful surprise. Once a nomination is received, educators have a list of questions that they are required to answer based on certain criteria. These answers are then submitted to a panel of judges who carefully read over everything and select those that best match the criteria they are looking for. Further interviews and presentations lead to an awards gala dinner to announce the winner. I have also previously taken out the title of Victoria/Tasmania educator of the year in the Australian Family Early Education and Care Awards which was a huge honour.

I highly recommend a career working in Family Day Care. Seeing the smiles on children's faces as they come and 'play' each day is one of the best things in the world. The friendships my children and I have built with families

who have come for daycare have lasted long after they've finished care with me. If anyone is interested in a role as an educator or is wanting to find out more about Family Day Care the best thing they can do is contact the early years office in Bannockburn.

Contact earlyyears@gplains.vic.gov.au or phone 5220 7230.



and the collaborative partnership with parents fosters a nurturing and trusting environment. I find immense personal and professional satisfaction in witnessing children's growth and receiving appreciation from their families.

In my role as a Family Day Care educator, I believe I am supporting the community by helping working parents and

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The Philatelist

Michael Riseley



AIRMAIL

With the rapid improvements in aviation after WW1 and into the 1920's, the carriage of mail by air became more frequent. It was a bit more expensive and postal services worldwide needed a way to identify and sort and charge for mail to be carried by air. Countries began issuing new stamps with the word Air or Aero or Airmail or something similar in the design. Some included an aeroplane in the design and often the plane was pictured flying over national tourist attractions.

Egypt of course issued stamps showing a plane flying over a pyramid. Spain issued stamps showing a plane flying over the ship "Santa Maria". Not sure that Christopher Columbus in 1492 ever imagined discovering the world by air, but I suppose he did fairly well in his ship.

Many collectors concentrate on collecting airmail stamps. Often they are quite attractive, but they also over time show the development of aviation. But collecting airmail stamps can open up other interesting aspects. The stamp is one thing, but what about the envelope? Early airmail envelopes were often postmarked in the country of departure and also the country of arrival. And also sometimes in the country in between if the plane stopped for refuelling.

And in the early days there were always new routes being opened. Special commemorative envelopes were often printed and used for these first flights. Sometimes these were even signed by the pilot. As you can imagine these envelopes are not all that common and can be of great value.

And sadly in the early days there were many air crashes. But as the saying goes, the mail must get through. So, often searches were made not just to rescue the pilots if possible but also the mailbags. The mailbags were quite sturdy and sometimes when rescued from the sea still kept the mail reasonably well preserved. Often this mail was dried out and then delivered. Some of these envelopes and letters that have seawater stains, can be of value if it can be evidenced that they were involved in a particular air crash. And similarly if the envelope and letter have burn marks after a fiery land crash.

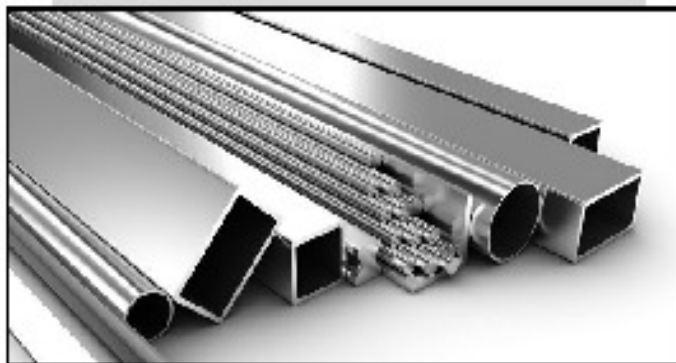


We love Michael's column. We also love the fact that he sometimes finds unused, duplicate stamps among his collection. As the cost of mailing out an issue of the Meredith and District News has just gone from \$3.60 to \$4.50, we are grateful for his most recent donation. And we are sure Kerry, our lovely volunteer who looks after our subscribers, will appreciate the mental arithmetic involved in gathering up the required denominations. And all that licking! - Ed.

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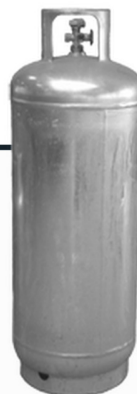
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HOW HUMOUR LEADS TO HARMONY

Revd Dr Tim Smith

Having served on the Deakin University Ethics Committee into research involving humans for nearly two decades, I was asked a few years ago to be a panel member for the Victorian Ethics Network. My contribution to new members of ethics committees was to allow humour and make what is often hard and sometimes tedious work, light and enjoyable. A good and healthy sense of humour often ranks near the top of the list of desirable traits in any relationship context – who doesn't want to be involved in a community group that is enjoyable? Laughter can assist maintaining harmony in all that interactions with others can throw our way.

Humour helps you avoid unnecessary fights

If in a discussion we are tempted to make a sarcastic comment, snide comeback, or just the irresistible urge to have the last word – opt for some humour – just be sure that the other person or group members will think it's funny, too. As a Priest, in order to provide an alternative point of view, I have offered, "Can I play the Devil's advocate?" A self-deprecating joke or a random silly comment can be just the switch to avoid fighting instead of discussion.

Humour calms annoyance

Whether we admit it or not we all have those irksome little habits or the personality traits that drive others nuts and get

on the nerves of even our significant others. It is so easy to choose to be critical. However, when we try to see the funny side of another's annoying habits, being able to healthily poke a little fun at each other – and ourselves – we might even develop some insider jokes that can create bonding.

Humour fosters friendship

Following on from this bonding, many researchers have found that friendship contributes to relationship longevity. When relationships are strong, interactions are more likely to be warm and loving, even during challenging or stressful times. How much more would the purposes of our community organisation get done, how much more might the membership grow, if the group reverberates fun and playfulness and fosters friendship through laughter.

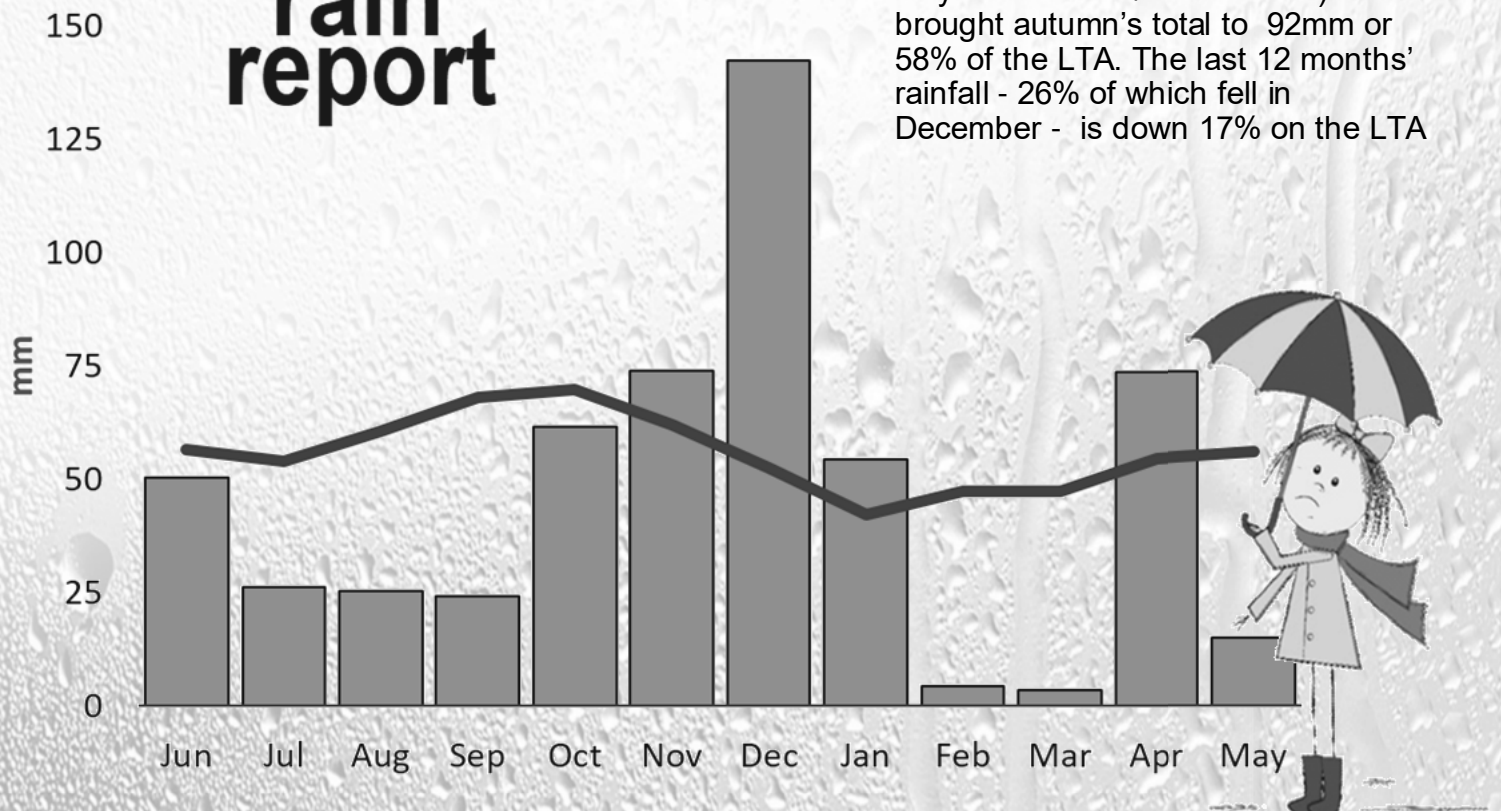
Humour helps lessen negative emotions

I want to begin saying there are no negative emotions; it is how we act on those emotions that make them negative. However, sometimes we allow our emotions to get the better of us. When feeling stressed out, overstimulated, or overwhelmed, we might bring those emotions into our relationship with our partner or our community organisation in ways that are damaging. In those moments we can try to view the situation through a humorous lens and help keep those emotions where they belong. They say laughter is the best medicine, and while it can't cure all our relational problems, humour is a salve to enabling enduring and harmonious relationships.

Based on <https://www.prepare-enrich.com/blog/how-humor-leads-to-harmony/>



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in our NATURE

Wendy Cook

Start Here

If you're not a regular reader of Wendy's column, this is a good place to start. Her well researched insights into the marvels of nature, informed by her own observations, are a delight. And inspire a love for the place where we live.

The newly born eastern grey kangaroo joey clung to his mother's fur and pulled his way upwards with his strong front legs. He followed a furry path licked flat by his mother, leading him towards her pouch. His mother had been pregnant for thirty-six days, the longest pregnancy of any marsupial. The joey weighed two grams and was the size of a jellybean. He had a strong sense of smell, he could breathe, and his digestion was ready for his mother's milk, but his eyes and hind legs had barely begun to develop. With no further assistance from his mother, instinct led him on his arduous journey through her fur to the entrance of her pouch and inside. He found one of her four teats and attached to it. He lacked jaw muscles for suckling, but his mother's teat swelled inside his mouth, keeping him securely latched to his food supply, milk specially formulated for a newborn.

For a time, the new joey's world was limited to milk and the warmth of his mother's pouch. His food was watery, high in protein and simple carbohydrates, and formulated to boost his immune system. Soon, there was an intrusion, as his hungry big sister pushed her head inside the pouch. Until a few days ago, the pouch had been hers to climb into whenever she wanted a ride or security. With a new joey arriving soon, the mother had used her ability to tighten her pouch muscles to prevent her larger youngster from entering. This joey was nearly one year old and eating grass, but her mother's milk was still part of her diet. One of the four teats was enlarged and too big for a newborn. The larger joey sucked from this, a milk suited for her requirements, full of fat and protein but low in carbohydrates.

The family travelled with four other females and their joeys. They grazed in an open patch of grassland, ears and noses alert. Someone detected danger and the mob was off, bouncing into the distance, large joeys keeping up with the rest. The mother's pouch muscles held her tiny new joey securely in place until the mob felt safe enough to stop and graze again. The mother relaxed her pouch muscles and pushed her muzzle inside. She cleaned inside her pouch, licking up any dirt and giving her baby a gentle wash.

As the weeks passed, the joey's size increased. His hind legs, tail and internal organs developed. He grew claws and rough pads on the bottom of his feet. By five months of age, his eyes were open. At six months, his fur was starting to grow, and he was beginning to peek out of the pouch, curious to see the world around him. His big sister was commonly nearby, although she no longer drank their mother's milk. Her bond with her mother was strong and she would remain with her as an adult, as female kangaroos often do.

One day, when the joey was nine months old, he pushed his head out of the relaxed pouch to sniff and nibble at the grass. His grazing mother leaned forwards and he tumbled out. Shocked by the fall and the cold air on his body, he shoved his head back into the pouch. With difficulty and kicking hind legs, he clambered back in, to his safe warm

place. After this adventure, he left the pouch regularly. Sometimes, his mother relaxed her pouch muscles, leaned forward and tipped him out. In his time out of the pouch, the joey grazed with his mother and sister, learning which foods were best. He hopped, strengthening his legs and had play fights with other young males, all preparing for their adult lives. If danger was detected, his mother called to him softly. He dived headfirst into her pouch, rolling forward as she took her first leap, the full pouch bulging as she fled.

One sunny morning after he had been grazing with his sister, the joey returned to his mother planning to tumble into her pouch, but she held her pouch muscles tight. He was no longer welcome. The joey made several attempts to climb in, but his mother knew that his time in the pouch had ended. The next joey was to be born soon. Kangaroos have two wombs, and can become pregnant with two embryos at the same time. One embryo pauses its development very early, a condition called diapause. The other embryo continues its growth and is born. If it dies, the paused embryo begins to grow. If there is a drought or other circumstances that are not suitable for rearing a joey, the development of both embryos will be paused. But now, times were good. The male joey was ready for life outside the pouch, so the second embryo was growing. The joey was now a year old. He would continue drinking his mother's milk for a few more months, but one day soon when he pushed his head into her pouch, he would find his new brother or sister attached to a teat, warm and secure.



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Moorabool Community Resilience Project

The Moorabool Community Resilience Project has commenced with a number of communities including Morrisons, Lal Lal, Elaine and surrounds to support them to become better prepared for, and resilient to, future emergency events.

Initial conversations with local community members have highlighted some initiatives that could help build their resilience and improve their connection to their community.

Some of these ideas have included: bringing back local casserole nights, creating a local volunteer recruitment campaign, hosting an emergency services expo, running CPR or first aid training, delivering workshops in how to use chainsaws, fire pumps and generators as well as encouraging neighbours to get to know each other better.

Funded by Emergency Recovery Victoria, and supported by Moorabool Shire Council, the project aims to develop initiatives, resources and activities based on the feedback and input of each community. A short survey has been created to provide more opportunities for each community to continue to contribute ideas and suggestions whilst more conversations and activities are held over the next few months.

The Community Resilience Survey can be completed online by scanning the below QR code and is open until 30 June 2024.

To join in the conversation or have someone from the project team attend a meeting or event, please contact Council's Emergency Management Team on 5366 7100.



Scan by 30th June
to complete short
survey.

A Chance Connection

Marg Cooper

While researching footballers from Meredith and District I contacted Hopetoun Historical Society to ask if they had information about Tom Arklay whose family had lived at Yorktown. Tom played football with Geelong but ended his career by playing and coaching at Lascelles. A member from Hopetoun kindly supplied me with information and photos of teams in which Tom had played.

By chance, the member of Hopetoun H.S. was Ron Wiseman who mentioned that he grew up at She Oaks.

Ron's first teacher was Miss Kath Randall who came from Elaine. The school was a three-room building with the largest used for the classroom and the other two used for woodwork and storage. But, in earlier years, it was a residence where teachers lived. Miss Randall boarded with some families who had children attending the school and did not live far from the school. There was a shelter shed and the usual see-saw and swing hung from a tree. On Friday afternoons the oldest boys had to empty the girls



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and boys toilet pans. They were paid two shillings per toilet. The garden was in the corner of the triangular school yard, but it was difficult to grow anything as the soil was hard gravel and there was no water. She Oaks school number was 1286. Ron's brothers Keith and Douglas and his sister Evelyn also attended She Oaks school.

Over the years the school had many teachers, mostly direct from Teachers College. Some were deemed 'Okay' while others 'left a bit to be desired'. There were only six to eight children in the school at any one time until Steiglitz school No 1487 closed. Then, the Steiglitz children came over to She Oaks by a truck covered with a tarpaulin. The children sat on wooden seats like church pews, which had been tied to the side hurdles to stop them from falling out. About 10 to 12 children travelled in the truck each day.

Ron went to eighth grade and did an exam called Leaving Certificate. If you wanted to further your education there was a train that left Meredith for Geelong every morning and home at night, but you had to live near to where the train went or be able to get there. Ron's family lived too far away for this to happen. The train used to stop at various sidings between the towns to pick up children going to Geelong schools as well as workers going to Geelong to work.

Ron and his wife Gwyn now live at Hopetoun, are keen historians, gardeners and protectors and admirers of the Malleefowl.

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it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

A Different Ball Game:

Registered with the National Trust Heritage Festival 2024, researched and created by MHIG members, and set up in the Memorial Hall on the weekend of May 4 & 5 was the historical football display. The first reports of football in the Meredith District are for 1884 when a meeting was held, chaired by L. De Grandi, who became Secretary/Treasurer of Meredith Football Club. It seems that social matches were played for a number of years before an Association was formed.

In the Memorial Hall we displayed the early history and rules of football in Victoria, histories of five men with associations to local districts who played VFL/AFL. Three large framed photos of teams that had been presented to officials for their services, the histories of many community people who supported the club in different ways, including the women washing the jumpers and asking why the early jumpers/guernseys of team members were all so different. Also the painted wooden box that in later years held the first aid equipment and photos of teams and Best & Fairest winners. Supporters were not forgotten with the recreation of a frypan smashed on the head of an umpire, supposedly an incident that happened at Elaine. Three poems from 1918, 1921 & 1923 indicated the rivalry in those days between Meredith & Elaine.

A smaller more intimate display, using items from the football exhibition is being created at the History Centre in the repurposed front room, now known as the Museum Room. Come in for a look!

Attendees at the Exhibition were asked why many of the jumpers in the 1910 team photo were so different to each other.

Here are some of their answers: Players had to supply their own and they made them with what they had. Some players may have used jumpers from other clubs. Jumpers may have been hand knitted by wife or Mum. They were hand knitted by various people so they didn't match. They came from different prisons. Someone said STRIPES! Money!

Elderberry Cottage, Ballarat Road, Meredith:

Brian Henry visited MHIG last week to research the history of his great grandparents who lived in Meredith from the 1860's. William Wilkinson who was a bootmaker was married to Ellen and they had several children including Brian's grandfather. There are many references to members of this family in our archives including a letter written from a grandson called Lexie who wrote to his parents while staying at his grandparents' home in Meredith. The address he wrote from was Elderberry Cottage.

Does anyone know where the Wilkinson family lived or Where he had his bootmaking business? I had an idea they lived north of the Royal Hotel on the main road but I believe that the house that Wells lived in for a long time was called Clontarf. Help!



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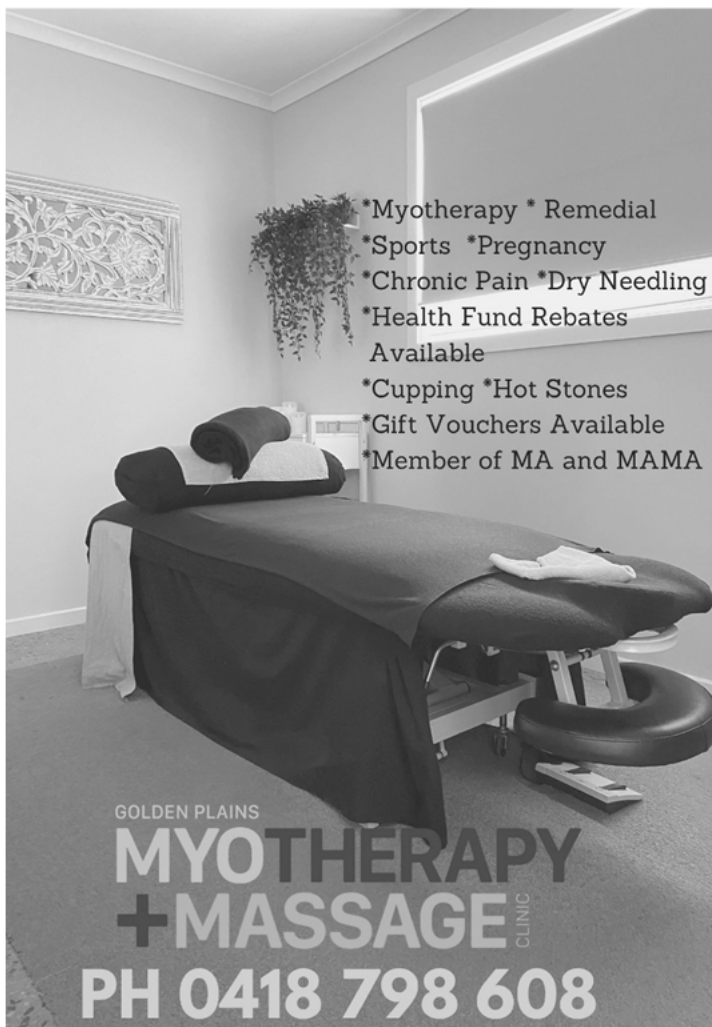
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Marg's Book Review

Learned by Heart by Emma Donoghue

This book tells the heartbreaking true story of two women whose unlikely relationship changed them forever.

In 1805 Eliza Raine is a schoolgirl at the Manor School for young ladies in York. The daughter of an Indian mother and a British father, Eliza was banished from Madras to the unfamiliar country of Britain at the age of six. At the Manor School she keeps her head down and follows all the rules until the arrival of charismatic and fearless new student Anne Lister. The two outsiders are thrown together and soon Eliza's life is turned upside down by this remarkable young woman.

The author describes how Anne Lister changed her life in 1990. One day, Emma Donoghue ducked out of the rain into a Cambridge bookshop where she spotted some green-spined books which were decoded excerpts from Lister's journals. (*Lister is famous for her five million word diary which UNESCO has named a National Treasure.*) This chance encounter kick started her career. She was commissioned to write a book. Not only this, but she also wrote a play and in 1998 when she was a writer in residence at the University of York and her partner had an office in King's Manor. They realised that this was the building where Raine and Lister had shared a bedroom known as the Slope in 1805-6. She felt a sharp nudge and began to jot down ideas for this book, *Learned by Heart*.

Donoghue tells how she was also compelled to write the book because although Lister is well known, by comparison Raine is appallingly neglected. The story of Raine is filled with gaps and puzzles, but the author has researched extensively and tried to tell Raine's story as accurately as possible. A review calls it an exquisite imagining of Anne Lister's first love.

The rules and privations of a small girl's boarding school in the early 19th century feature largely in the book. Raine is happily ensconced in a small attic bedroom with a sloping ceiling when a new student, Lister is forced to share the space. Over time a friendship develops between the quiet, reserved Raine and the outgoing, breaker of rules, Lister and eventually develops into a passionate affair. It seems that Raine's infatuation continues throughout her life but Lister goes on to have many other lesbian lovers.

Eliza Raine was committed to an Asylum in 1814 where she remained incarcerated for the rest of her life. The book covers the less than twelve months that they spent together at the Manor School, interspersed with letters that Raine wrote to Lister from the asylum where she reflects that the only lesson she learnt was You.

Lister was a landowner, a businesswoman, a prolific diarist and openly lesbian. In 1834 she exchanged vows with Ann Walker in York's Holy Trinity Church in the first recorded lesbian marriage ceremony in British (and possibly the world) history.

Learned by Heart is an insight into same sex love and the limitations for women in the early 1800's. The 'Gentleman Jack' TV Series is based on the life of Anne Lister.



Brisbane Ranges Sketchers

Meredith's Ibis Walk provided the venue for our April plein air artistic endeavours. Despite the cool wind, 15 of us rugged up in beanies and warm jackets, spread along the track, settled in our chairs and drew or painted a whole range of scenes. It's always intriguing to see what captures our eyes, inspires our response or simply engages our attention. Correspondingly, the range of artwork produced is equally varied and provides food for thought for next time we venture out.

Pictures varied from Pete's detailed charcoal study of a small section of the creek to my Fine-liner sketch of the Ibis sign and surrounds, Mandy's tonal watercolour view through the trees to a shed on the hill and Ray's pencil drawing of the old cars in a nearby paddock. Peter H always manages to find a building to focus on! Sometimes the other artists become the focal point and this time Mark drew Alex concentrating hard and Liz (after drawing several trees) tackled a portrait of Gill. The small pavilion attracted Sally's attention whilst Melinda, Mari, Louise, Gil, Alex, Sam and Ros chose different views across the creek.

This month we welcomed Sally (a local) and Liz (a visitor). It was especially inspiring to learn that Liz only took up painting early last year at the age of 86 and that this was her first time drawing, using charcoal and doing it all outside!

As a small aside, we also enjoyed a brief chat with newsletter nature columnist, Wendy, as she was checking out the wildlife along the walk.

May outing: Tuesday 14th 10.00 - 12.30

Meet at the Meredith Community Centre

BYO - chair, cuppa for after, art equipment, weather appropriate clothing

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The Golden Plains Shire Council Election is scheduled for Saturday 26 October 2024.

In the 2024 Golden Plains Shire Council election, voters will elect seven Councillors to represent Golden Plains Shire for the 2024-2028 term.

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G'Day from the penners for June. The official start of winter. Time to crank up the wood fire, maybe snuggle under a blanket with a warm cuppa, settle on the couch with a good book.

I find the winter is a good time to rest up the weary bones from too much fine weather labour, T

he group is going strong with plenty of laughter coming from our room at the Bannockburn library. If you would like to see what we get up to, please drop by and see for yourself, we always welcome anyone who thinks they might like to join us. We can be contacted via our email address goldenpens4@gmail.com

This month's story comes from Laima McArdle, it is short and sweet but tells a complete story nonetheless.

We hope you enjoy it. So, until next month's article, happy reading and writing.

Regards Wendy.

The Kiss

We leaned towards each other. I shut my eyes. Our lips barely touched. I had at last opened myself to being loved.

My eyes slowly opened and your face had a look of discomfort and unease. You looked embarrassed, and your half smile was crooked. Is that how a romantic moment should be? Shouldn't that moment have conjured up a look of gentleness and love, and your smile be accepting?

Should you not be regarding me with an expression of trust with a question that asked, "Should I have kissed her harder?"

But no. You pulled back. I could sense there was something unsaid, unfinished, amiss.

"Are you alright?" I asked. You were standing there with your arms dangling beside your body. You lifted one and touched my hand.

"I have a confession to make," you said nervously. "I am going out to dinner with Sofia tonight. She has been my soul-mate all these years, but now that you have returned, I cannot decide between you."

Instantly I felt the shutter that had been guarding my heart and feelings from hurt roll down with a loud thud that echoed in my soul.

I put out my hand and patted his, I slowly extricated my arm which he now held in a desperate grasp.

I looked him in the eye sadly, smiled wanly, turned, and walked away.



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As we wait for some rain, the benefits of growing in wicking beds becomes apparent. With a once a week filling of the reservoir at the bottom, our plants always have access to as much water as they need. The roots of the plants are encouraged to seek out the water below and there is never a time when they dry out.

You might recall that the Prep children spent an afternoon before Easter filling four of the wicking beds with bulbs, perennials and seeds. A couple of months later we returned for a treasure hunt to see what had happened. What a surprise to see that everything we planted had been very busy.

Looking very carefully we spotted the first growth of the daffodil bulbs that had just poked through and are about one to two centimetres tall. The anemones were the first out of the ground and already have their first set of leaves. Yet to make an appearance are the hyacinths but they will pop up when they are ready.

Some of the flowers have appreciated the last days of autumn sunshine and the daisies have begun flowering already. The sweet pea seeds that were planted around the tomato towers have sprouted and are being encouraged towards the supports so that their tendrils can cling on as they climb.

The strawberries have had a very short haircut with the hedge clippers and, having got rid of the old leaves, they can now direct their energy into the new leaves that are already beginning to grow.

The divided and transplanted rhubarb continues to grow but is still too young to pick. We will have to be patient and our favourite rhubarb muffins will have to be for another day.

With one bed spare, we popped in some garlic cloves making sure to put the pointy end up, along with some curly parsley. In the past we have grown Italian parsley but the curly parsley will make a cheerful , frilly change.

Meanwhile the plants in the garden beside the office have been rocketing away. We made our way into this jungle with the help of a past student, Katrina, who had returned to be with us during her work experience week. We delved into the bottom of the kangaroo paw bushes to cut off the very long, spent

flower stems. These had flowered profusely over the summer months so it was quite a big job but, with some persistence, was completed in one session. While there, we swept the paving stones leading to the bell and dusted off the small animal stones which had been covered with mulch.

As we head towards the chilly and hopefully wet winter months, there is plenty to observe in the garden as the plants ready themselves for their burst of spring growth. There is still time to pop in some garlic, onions or even lettuce to satisfy those times when you suddenly crave a midwinter salad.

Like the plants, enjoy this quiet time of hibernation and check for rain clouds! Happy gardening.



Sebeen, Katrina (a former student) Ayla, and Piper demonstrating that gardening really does get you smiling.



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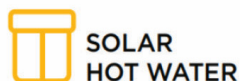
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