

# Meredith & district News

AUGUST 2024



OUR **FREE** COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## inside



Winter reading from our regulars

- Community sports reports
- Meet more members of your community
- Book reviews ....and lots more!

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# COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING GRANTS 2024



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

Applications open on Thursday 1 August for Golden Plains Shire Council's Community Strengthening Grants Program 2024.

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

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

Groups must match the amount of funding sought in cash and/or through in-kind contributions, such as volunteer work on the project. Applications are open until 2pm, Monday 2 September 2024.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their 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 and to apply for a Community Strengthening Grant, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au), email at [communitygrants@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:communitygrants@gplains.vic.gov.au) or call 5220 7111.





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:

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Half page	\$50/\$110
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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

You can subscribe to get the Meredith and District News posted to you anywhere in Australia for what it costs us to send it - \$59.50p.a. (11 issues)

### CONTACT US

Post Office, Meredith, 3333  
**Advertising:** Ian 0409 016815  
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**Accounts:** Ian Leighton 0428132880  
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[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 Producer: *Peter Boer* Editor: *Marlene Johnson*

# connect

ADVANCE MEREDITH 0409 027 359	FOOTBALL Seniors 0408 545 246 Juniors 0430 587 674
ANGLING CLUB 0419 248 660	GOLF CLUB 0407 795 342
B'BURN ART GROUP 0410 808 483	HISTORY GROUP 5286 8201
BLUE LIGHT DISCO 5286 1222	LANDCARE 0409 862 326
BOOK CLUB 5286 8201	MEMORIAL HALL 0409 662106
CFA 000 for fire calls Elaine 0419 767 982 Meredith 5286 1502 Morrisons 0417 770 765	MEREDITH SEWING GROUP 0491184999
CHILDCARE 5286 0700	MOTORCYCLE CLUB 0437 009 250
COMMUNITY CENTRE 5286 0700	PLAYGROUP 5286 0700
CRICKET Elaine 0448 291074 Junior (U16,U14,13) 0448 291074 Meredith 5286 1434	POLICE PADDOCKS 5286 1273
CUBS & SCOUTS Lethbridge 0435 042077	RSL - 5286 1452
ELAINE HALL <a href="mailto:elainetownhall@gmail.com">elainetownhall@gmail.com</a>	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

### ..start something.

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



*Life is what happens when you're busy making other plans -*

*John Lennon*

# 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	0408 508 635
Ranger	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

<b>CEMETERY TRUST</b> 5286 1550	<b>MATERNAL &amp; CHILD HEALTH</b> 5220 7230
<b>HALL HIRE</b> Meredith Memorial 5286 1545 Elaine Mechanics <a href="mailto:elainetownhall@gmail.com">elainetownhall@gmail.com</a> Elaine Rec Res 5341 5703	<b>PRE-SCHOOL</b> 5286 0722 <b>PRIMARY SCHOOL</b> 5286 1313 <b>RECREATION RESERVE</b> 0429 315 575
<b>LIBRARY VAN</b> 5272 6010	



# Recreation



**Go  
Crocs**

## The Croc Report

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June the Crocs, along with some of the Macorna Tigers players headed to the AFL Masters Vic Country mini carnival in Kialla.

The first game saw the Crocs take on a throw together Vic country team, who proved to be too strong and we lost by 2 goals in the end. The second game saw us come up against the hosts for the day in GV Giants. The Crocs and Macorna players were all warmed up for this game and came away with the win. A few of the players then filled in for the Vic country team and the rest retreated to the marquee for a well deserved beverage. All in all, a great day and some great friendships formed with Macorna boys. Thanks to Phill De Francesco, Webby, Rookie,

Baldy, Chedda, Col, Weasel and Rohan from Macorna for playing and we hope you had a good time. Thanks to all the Crocs players who made the trip and thanks to the Goulburn Valley Giants Masters for running the day. On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July, the Crocs travelled to Yarrawonga to take on the Yarrawonga Masters. The game started with

windy and icy conditions and goals proved hard to come by. Both teams fought hard. The 3rd quarter saw the Yarrawonga men dominate and got out to a 3 goal lead. In true Crocs spirit, we fought back hard in the 4th quarter but just fell short. Final scores Crocs 24 Yarrawonga 28.

Another great battle against a great bunch of blokes and we all enjoyed catching up for a beer afterwards. We all loved hearing the Glenn Upston cheer squad from the sideline, so keep up the great work. Welcome to our newest player Joel Davis who played a great game.

Best for Crocs: Joel Davis, John Peterson, Matt Rocco, Owen Grey, Mick Smith.

Also thanks to Swampy from Yarrawonga for helping us out and playing a great game for us.

Thanks to Stretch and the Yarrawonga AFL Masters (Over 35) for hosting us, we had a great time.

We have a few upcoming events and all are welcome: Past player and sponsors day at the footy Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Aug at Meredith Rec Reserve 12pm onwards. Final Game of the year and major raffle drawn Meredith Rec Reserve Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Sep from 1400. End of year Function Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Sep at Meredith Rec Reserve 6pm onwards.

Go Crocs



## 100 Games

Former resident, Cameron Boer, recently played his 100th senior game for the Buninyong Football and Netball Club.

Cameron started playing footy at BFNC at the age of 12, and was the first of many Meredith players to play football/netball there.

Congratulations Cameron.



## Backyard poultry?

We are phoning and texting residents around Meredith and Terang to gather poultry and livestock details.

This is in response to the outbreak of avian influenza in south-west Victoria. Backyard poultry are not immune to the virus.

Help us protect Victoria's poultry industry - please answer our call.

Agriculture Victoria would never ask for financial information or credit card details.

More information:  
[agriculture.vic.gov.au/avianinfluenza](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/avianinfluenza)

Follow us for regular updates on:



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## You at the Paddocks

Do you have the skills to help us promote, develop and maintain this beautiful 20Ha nature reserve? We need people who could:

- Develop and maintain our online/social media presence
- Use heavy duty mowing equipment to maintain nearly 2Kms of walking tracks
- Organise working bees
- Maintain weed free creek crossings
- Undertake some admin work
- Develop promotional material incl. a walking map
- Research indigenous and settler use of site
- Join us in developing and implementing strategies

For more information or to register your interest, contact us at [meredith.police.paddocks@gmail.com](mailto:meredith.police.paddocks@gmail.com)

The Meredith Police Paddocks Support Group

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Hours:- Mon - Fri 8.30am- 5.30pm  
Sat 8.30am-1pm

Please note - closed Sundays until further notice

## Church News



### Meredith Uniting Church

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

Rev. Paul Sanders 0407 833 515 5341 2440

**Serbian Orthodox** - 5341 5536

Daily services: Matins 8.00 am, Vespers 6.00 pm.

Divine Liturgies on Saturdays & Sundays 10.00 am.

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

8.00 am Holy Communion St Paul's, Inverleigh

10.00 am Family Communion. St John's, Bannockburn

5.00 pm Prayer and Praise Epiphany, Meredith

Find us at: [www.goldenplainsanglican.org](http://www.goldenplainsanglican.org) or

[office.revdrtim@hotmail.com](mailto:office.revdrtim@hotmail.com)

The Revd Dr Timothy Smith

PiC Anglican Parish of

Inverleigh+Bannockburn+Meredith

### St Josephs Parish of Meredith

CATHOLIC PARISH OF MEREDITH MASS TIMES – AUGUST 2024

Winchelsea - St. John the Baptist @ 5pm Sat. AUG. 3, 10, 17, 24 31,

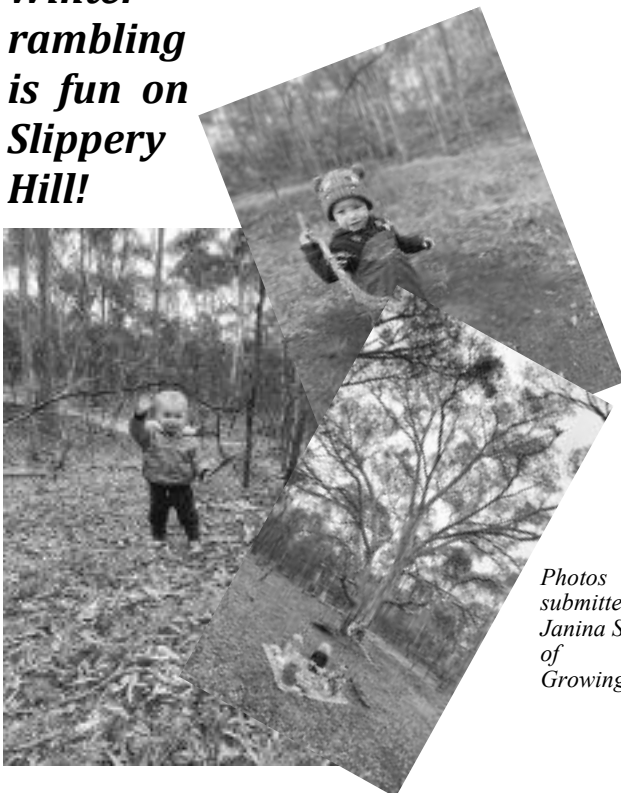
Anakie – St. Brigid @ 9am Sun. AUG. 4, 18

Meredith – St. Joseph @ 9am Sun. AUG. 11, 25

Bannockburn – St. Mary MacKillop @ 11am Sun. AUG. 4, 11, 18, 25

Inverleigh – Sacred Heart @ 4pm Sun. AUG. 18

## Winter rambling is fun on Slippery Hill!



Photos  
submitted by  
Janina Scherer  
of The  
Growing Tree.



## POLICE report

Senior Constable Anthony BOX

Late June and July has been a relatively busy period for the Meredith Police Station.

It has included multiple motor vehicle collisions, searches for missing persons in bushland, middle of the night call outs for escapees and attempted car thieves (both the latter not in Meredith) and much more!

The usual traffic enforcement of school zones is resuming now holidays are finished, so a reminder to do 40Km/h in the school zones during the AM and PM marked times.

A good catch on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July of a driver doing 138Kmh south of Meredith on the Midland, with a large fine and 6-month licence suspension being applied.

Another good catch on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July. I was up on the highway picking up nails from a previous collision where a driver collided with a wooden crate full of nails spreading them everywhere on the highway.

While finishing up there, police were notified of a hit and run collision on the Geelong-Ballan Road just south of Ballan. I went to assist the Ballan unit and came out at the right place locating the offending vehicle. The driver decided to go for a run through some paddocks in the rain, but thankfully after some patience he circled back and I was able to arrest him with the assistance of Ballarat highway Patrol members. The male then tested positive on a roadside drug test and will be charged and summonsed to court for those offences.

Thank you for the patience and understanding with the road closure of the Midland Highway, after a spill of hazardous waste on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July.

While some from out of town were less considerate I appreciated the locals more positive attitude to July an unfortunate situation.

## OUR COVER

Thank you to Cathie Boer for the stunning photo on this month's cover. Photo taken 23 July at South Moorabool windfarm near Ballark.



Send us your  
fabulous  
photos -





MAKING LIBRARIES ACCESSIBLE

# GOLDEN PLAINS MOBILE LIBRARY

The brand-new Mobile Library van is now running, making stops across the Golden Plains Shire to make it easier for those who can't make it to a library!

**Michaela Settle MP**  
Member for Eureka

michaela.settle@parliament.vic.gov.au 5331 7722 /MichaelaSettleMP



Meredith Community Centre  
working for our community

## What's On This Month



### Chatty Cafe

Devonshire Tea  
**Tuesday August 6**  
11am - 1pm  
Bookings Essential  
0491184999



#### Mindfulness with Jade

Monday - 3.30 - Prep - Grade 4  
Monday - 4.30 - Grade 5 - Year 9  
Wednesdays - 9.30 - Goddess Mums  
\$15 per session, payable by Term



Australian Government

### Be Connected

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**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



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### PLAYGROUP

THURSDAYS  
9.00am - 11.30am  
\$2 per family



It has been a quiet time for us in the school garden with two weeks of holidays for the end of term 2 break. However, that has not stopped the bulbs we planted in April from continuing to grow. Before the holidays, the leaves could be seen just breaking through the soil with the occasional tiny bud. Now many of the ranunculi have bloomed with their showy purple and red flowers and some of the early daffodils have opened. Along with the self seeded white alyssum and inky blue lobelia, it is wonderful to see some colour to brighten these wintery days. It feels like spring can't be far away.

Really it isn't! We are well past the winter solstice when we experienced the shortest amount of daylight hours. We now have ten hours of daylight increasing each day, even though we can still experience some of our coldest and frostiest times. Many plants thrive in the cold because they are frost tolerant, enjoy the cold nights and cooler days or have their flavour enhanced by coolness. Asparagus, beetroot, broad beans, broccoli, peas, spinach, silverbeet and kale are some of these plants.

To get a start, especially if sowing seeds, it can be best in our district to sow into pots or punnets where you can use light, free draining soil and keep them in a sheltered spot. They can then be transplanted when the soils have warmed a little.

Our last working bee had an energetic, enthusiastic and also knowledgeable group of grade 3/4s outside. First we inspected our flower beds and popped in some bright yellow pansies to fill a few gaps. We always keep an eye out for stray weeds and check on the sweet peas as they make their way towards the climbing frames.

Next we went over to the bed with the garlic. There was plenty of space in this bed and also plenty of little weeds. Small hands are just perfect for extracting not only the weeds but most importantly, their roots as well. Most of these weeds had long tap roots and it is vital to get these out so they don't regrow. Once this was done, we filled the gaps with a mixture of lettuce seedlings and watered them in.

The conversations that flow during these sessions are delightful. Some chat about the flowers or vegetables that they grow at home with their parents. There are always interesting questions and insightful

observations about what is going on in our school beds. Sometimes it is the worms that surface as we are digging out the weeds and discussing their role in a healthy garden. Other times it is observing how different plants bud before they flower or the scents of various herbs. There is always the question of when plants will be ready to harvest and what to do with them. Gardening is full of activity yet also a peaceful, convivial time working alongside friends.

As well as the plants mentioned above, potatoes can go in during August and September. There are many different ways to grow these from planting in the ground, using grow bags, inside stacked tyres or the lasagne method. The last is one of the easiest as you put the seed potatoes spaced out on the ground on top of any grass or weeds then cover with generous layers of old straw, compost and animal manure and give a thorough watering. As the plants appear, continue mounding up with straw to keep out the light and when the flowers die down it is a sign the potatoes are ready. This requires no digging to put the potatoes in and another advantage of this style is you don't have to dig the potatoes up, just rustle around in the layers of straw and you will find your treasure.

Whatever your garden holds for you in this late winter weather, have a wonderful time looking for that burst of growth.





## Meredith Tennis Club News

*Bridget Dyer*

The Meredith Tennis Club would like to thank all those that supported us at the Anderson's clearing sale in June. We had a successful day thanks to those that were able to volunteer their time on an especially cold day!

### Winter Night Competition

Our Winter competition has started and we have 19 teams across three sections. We welcome back our regulars and all of our new players! We would like to thank our sponsor Hi-Track for organising a light tower so that we have two more courts under lights.

As with previous competitions, we will have \$10 dinners available each week. The menu is put up each Friday for the following Thursday on our facebook page. If you would like to join us, please let us know via our facebook page. All spectators and supporters are welcome.

We will also be hosting a raffle, which will be drawn on finals night.

### Annual General Meeting

Our next Annual General Meeting will be held at the Meredith Recreation Reserve at 7 pm Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August. All nominations and agenda items should be emailed to [meredithtennis2020@gmail.com](mailto:meredithtennis2020@gmail.com). If you would like to be part of a strong club with a community focus, please come and join us.

### Grading Day

The Club will be holding grading day in preparation for the next summer season as teams playing in the Geelong competition will need to be in by late August. The grading

day will be held 17<sup>th</sup> August and will be grouped according to age/ ability at set times. Below are the ages and times, however tennis is more based on abilities and your child may be in a different group based on their abilities.


9 am - Orange Ball: 6- 8 years old

10 am - Green Ball: 9-10 years old

11 am - Yellow Ball: 10+

12 pm – Seniors





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# GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS

## FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK AUGUST 2024

As we approach the final month of Winter, I want to thank the Golden Plains community for their valuable contributions during our Budget process. With your input, Council is excited to allocate \$50 million to enhance services and infrastructure maintenance across the Shire.

Last month, I had the pleasure of joining Member for Eureka Michaela Settle MP for the launch of the new and improved Golden Plains Mobile Library. In collaboration with Geelong Regional Libraries, this service provides Library service to nine townships within Golden Plains.

The new mobile library promises enhanced reliability and sustainability with a smaller, more efficient vehicle that ensures a lighter environmental footprint. I encourage residents to utilise this exceptional vehicle which has proved to be a great asset to our Shire.

Last month, I also met with Member for Geelong Christine Couzens MP to celebrate the commencement of construction of stage two of the Bannockburn Skate Park Upgrade project. This phase includes the construction of a

state-of-the-art multi-purpose skate bowl. We eagerly anticipate the project's completion and the Skate Park reopening in November. In July, I also attended the National General Assembly of the Australian Council of Local Government in Canberra with Interim CEO Michael Tudball. It was great to hear from a variety of speakers on the importance of Local Government and our essential roles and functions.

I'm pleased to announce that the Community Strengthening Grants program is back for 2024, with applications opening on Thursday 1 August and closing at 2pm on Monday 2 September 2024. Grants will be available in four categories: Healthy Active Living, Creative Community, Environment and Sustainability, and Community Safety. To find out how to submit an application, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/grants](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/grants).

Additionally, the updated Road Grading calendar for 2024/25 is now available on the events page of Council's website. This calendar helps residents track when maintenance on unsealed roads will occur.

Lastly, a reminder that the upcoming Council Election for Golden Plains is scheduled for Saturday 26 October 2024. In preparation for the election, all eligible voters must be correctly enrolled to vote by the close of the Electoral Roll at 4pm on Friday 7 August 2024. For more on the 2024 Council Election, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/council-election](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/council-election).

*Cr Brett Cunningham Mayor*



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## in our NATURE

Wendy Cook

The welcome swallow flew low above the ground, its pointed wings flickering, its flight swift. It snapped up an insect, dodged around a tall clump of grass, and turned abruptly as it approached the last of the slow-moving sheep. It flew back the way it had come, then looped around towards the mob again. Fourteen other birds flew the same course, passing beside or above each other, weaving an intricate pattern in the air. They were hunting insects disturbed by the passage of the sheep through the grass, as they made their way to the water trough for their late afternoon drink.

The welcome swallows' glossy blue-black feathers on their backs and heads glistened in the sunshine as they sped through the air. Their foreheads, faces and upper chests were bright with rufous coloured feathers, above pale bellies. Their outer wing feathers and forked tails were dark grey, with a row of white spots to be seen when they spread their tail feathers. Joining in the feeding flight were two slightly smaller birds, also with shining blue-black feathers on their upper backs. The only hint of rufous was a pale patch on their foreheads. Their lower backs were pale grey, and their tails were shorter without the long feather on each side, which made the swallows' tails appear forked. These two birds were tree martins, a relative of swallows, living a similar lifestyle, and sometimes accompanying them.

When the birds finished feeding, they settled on the top wire of the paddock fence and preened their feathers in the sunshine. This task completed, they left to find shelter for the night. The tree martins flew into a small hollow in a tree branch, where they would soon lay their eggs on a bed of gum leaves. A few of the welcome swallows found places in trees, but most perched along beams inside a nearby shed. On the side of a beam in a gloomy corner was a small cup-shaped nest of mud. Two of the swallows had nested there last year. In the morning, they began to refurbish the nest, adding more mud along the rim and a fresh layer of feathers inside. A younger pair of swallows began construction of a new nest. They joined the older pair at a dam in the neighbouring paddock where the water level had dropped, exposing an area of wet mud. Each bird collected a ball of mud in its beak and flew back to the shed. The young birds pressed the mud onto the side of a beam, then returned to the dam. After numerous flights back and forth, they had built a small platform. This was left for two days, until the mud had set hard. The platform formed the base of their nest. More mud was glued to the beam forming the sides of the nest. Gradually, over several days the bowl of the nest took shape, made of mud carried from the dam with strands of grass mixed in. The

swallows lined it with more grass, which they covered with soft feathers shed by ducks visiting the dam.

Five days after the nest was ready, the young female swallow laid her first egg. She laid one each morning until there were four. With her clutch of eggs complete, she began to incubate them with regular breaks to catch food. Three chicks hatched fifteen days later, with their eyes closed and only a small amount of soft down growing on their skin. The fourth egg didn't hatch. Within minutes of hatching, the parents began to feed each chick. While one parent stayed on the nest, the other swooped in and out of the shed at regular intervals delivering insects. The constant supply of food allowed the chicks to grow fast. By the time they were twenty days old their feathers were fully developed, and they were ready to fly.

The tree martins' nesting behaviour was slightly different. While one bird incubated the three eggs, the other bird delivered food to it. When the chicks hatched, the broken eggshells were dropped from the entrance of the hollow. Rather than feeding insects to the chicks, they regurgitated partially digested food into the babies' mouths. Their chicks grew as quickly as the swallow chicks and left their nest on the same day.

The young welcome swallows took their first flight inside the shed, while the tree martin fledglings were outside practising among the tree branches. A kookaburra caught one of the young tree martins and carried it away to become a meal for its own chicks. All the surviving fledglings returned to the shelter of their nests that night and for several nights afterwards. When the swallows became more confident, they flew out of the shed. One landed in a low bush where it was seen by a farm cat. The adult swallows saw its approach and swooped it repeatedly, calling sharply in alarm. The older pair of swallows, whose chicks had fledged two days earlier, came to their assistance. With the persistent attack of four birds, the cat retreated.

After a few weeks, all the young birds were independent of their parents, and would soon be able to dodge and fly with the speed and agility of an adult. As many martins and swallows do, they may migrate north in autumn to a warmer climate and return in spring to build their own nests. While welcome swallows naturally nest in sheltered locations in trees, caves or cliffs, they have benefitted greatly from European settlement, which has provided them with an increased range of nesting sites, in sheds, below house eaves and under bridges. Tree martins have not done so well, as many trees with nesting hollows have been destroyed, and they now face competition for the remaining hollows from introduced birds, such as starlings and sparrows.



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## JOHN TANTAU MOORABOOL VALLEY WILDFLOWERS

Nerida Anderson

*In this column we showcase people from Meredith and surrounding district to highlight the great range of talent and enterprise that resides within our community. This month I speak with John Tantau. John, Sherryn and their family have lived in Sheoaks for over forty years – you may know John best as a much-loved teacher at Lethbridge Primary School, as well as a casual relief teacher in other schools in the area including the Mobile Area Resource Centre (MARC) van. What you may not know is that John is the green thumbs behind Moorabool Valley Wildflowers.*

### How did Moorabool Valley Wildflowers start?

When we moved to Sheoaks 43 years ago, I was keen to find a horticultural pursuit for the land. This, however, has not been straight forward. First, we decided to establish an almond grove. Initially the almonds did really well except we found that rosellas also loved eating almonds. Rather than netting all the trees, I decided that as no one was growing berries between Geelong and Ballarat, I could have a pick-your-own berry farm. The soil and other conditions at Sheoaks are perfect for berries. So I put in 50 metres of raspberries which grew really well - the only problem was that berries have a very high-water need and during the Millenium drought the dams dried up and all the raspberries died from lack of water, and that was the end of that.

Next up I thought about olives which I knew grew well at Maude. So I put in 40 olive trees. These were growing really well until one day when I was at school, David my son called me to say grasshoppers were eating all the olive trees, there are thousands of them! When I came home sure enough there was this plague of little grasshoppers. They ate every leaf off every tree, then started to eat the bark. Out of forty trees only about eight survived.

About that time, we went on holiday to Goolwah in South Australia where the Murray River flows out to the sea. Growing on a hillside were rows of Scarlett Banksias (*Banksia coccinia*). A fellow who was picking the blooms told me there was a high export demand for them. I looked at the sand they were growing in and I thought we have sand at home, perhaps I can grow these. I collected some seeds and when I got back, put them in a bottom heating propagation unit, and they all grew. I planted them in the ground and they took off. And that was the start of Moorabool Valley Wildflowers!

### What sort of flowers do you grow now?

Around the time I started selling blooms at farmers' markets I was speaking to a florist who told me how difficult it was to source eucalyptus foliage for flower arrangements. I obtained some Spinning Gum gumnuts (*Eucalyptus perriniana*) which I propagated and planted

with the banksias. We now grow other eucalypts for foliage, as well as a wide range of leucadendrons, leucospermums and proteas.

### How do you market the flowers?

In the early days I used to sell our flowers at farmers markets. Although I still go to some farmers markets I now mainly sell to florists – there is a lot of demand for native flowers.

### Do you have a favourite flower?

My favourite is *Banksia menziesii*. They do well here. My other favourite is the Waratah, however I have not had much success with growing them. Waratah grow in the foothills in NSW, in the mountainous regions where there is a high rainfall, not hot northly winds like we get here, and where the soil has more humus than the sandy soils around here. I have tried everything, planted them in a sheltered spot with humus enriched soil. I will keep trying because I just love them, I just have to keep persevering.

### Are there other challenges growing native flowers?

I sourced some seeds of some banksias I have always loved, such as *Banksia Spectrum*, from South Australia. I brought these home and extracted the seed and am waiting for the weather to warm up before propagating them. I had some other seeds I propagated recently. After taking them out of the propagating unit I put them in the hot house only to have a mouse scratching through them and I lost almost all of the seedlings. You live and learn – there is no way a mouse is going to get the seedlings next time!

The other challenge is *Phytophthora cinnamomic*, or cinnamon fungus, which is in the area. The fungus can be a real issue. I have lost some plants which I have suspected may be phytophthora, but I have replanted where it has happened and the new plants I have put in have done fine, so I am not sure.

The kangaroos can also a problem, not because they eat the plants, but because they are big and can damage young plants.

It has been a good journey, I just enjoy it. I enjoy going out in the paddock picking flowers amongst the birds twittering in the trees, it is just a nice thing to do.





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## The Philatelist

Michael Riseley



### SMALL IS GOOD

Recently I came across a 1942 1 anna green stamp from the Indian state of Jasdan which I decided to keep. Not only did this start my Jasdan collection, it also completed it. Jasdan only issued one stamp but did release 3 reprints in different shades of green until 1948 when it merged with another state.

There are many examples of a state issuing very few stamps specially in India, and in Germany and Italy before unification. Jhalawar only issued 2 stamps between 1886 and 1890 before the Maharajah was deposed. Alwar issued only 5 stamps between 1877 and 1901 all the same design but different colours. And Wadhwan issued only 6 stamps between 1888 and 1895 all the same design but in slightly different sizes and on different types of paper. A nightmare to collect!

Often this situation came when an area was invaded by another country, and stamps were issued by the occupying force. Sometimes new stamps were issued but often the occupier just used existing stamps and overprinted them with their name and currency. Germany and Japan did this during WW11 and Germany in WW1.

And even before then. During the war of 1870 Germany invaded the French provinces of Alsace and Lorraine. They issued a set of 7 new stamps to be used in the provinces. These were very simple stamps with no identifying name and a design of just the different denomination number in a square.

There have been many instances of a state or region declaring its independence in a blaze of glory and issuing their own stamps. But not lasting long until the main country took back control sometimes in a bloody conflict, eg: Biafra which issued 29 stamps from 1967 to 1969 before being swallowed up by Nigeria.

It makes for very interesting collecting. But also very difficult because of the unofficial complexity and chaos of the time. Eastern Europe and the Balkans before and during WW1 was a real mish mash in particular.



### Launch of Meredith Community Plan

Where: Meredith Community Centre, 4 Russell Street

When: Thursday 15 August, 9.30am to 11am

To RSVP or find out more:  
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## Morrison's Anglican Church

*Megan Waddington*

On Saturday 29th June, 100 years after the foundation stone was laid, the Morrison's church opened its doors to the community, inviting them to explore its architecture, history, and stunning stained-glass windows. It's a hidden gem waiting to be discovered. Approximately 30 members of the community gathered, sharing stories and memories of their time in Morrison's, reconnecting with old acquaintances.

The Meredith Historical Society curated a captivating display of meticulously chronicled photographs, creating a historical tapestry that sparked animated conversations about the early days in Morrison's district. Visitors were enthralled as they were transported back through time by images capturing the essence of a bygone era.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, the Gordon Gypsies regaled the community with lively gigs and reels as their music echoed joyfully through the church's nave.

The day culminated in a heartfelt service led by Fr. Roger Dyer. The congregation joined in singing traditional hymns that have resonated through the church's 100-year history including *O God our Help in Ages Past* and *Jesus Loves Me*. It was a moment of reverence and unity and a bridging of the past with the present as the church's legacy continued to weave itself into the fabric of the community's collective memory.

A special meeting was held in May 1921 to discuss a generous donation of £200 made to the church by Mrs J Molesworth of Ballark. She intended her donation to be spent on a chancel at St Johns as a memorial to her parents. The committee decided to place the money in trust to spend on a new building. Fundraising began in early 1922. One fundraising effort was a novel idea. Two yards of white linen cloth was bought and for one shilling people could sign their name on the cloth. These signatures were then worked or embroidered in red cotton by Mrs Lizzie Cole. It is simply a beautiful work of art.

On July 19, 1923 it was decided to build a new brick church. The design was modelled on a small English Parish Church and measured 52 x 28 feet. The name 'James' was chosen for the church as Mrs Molesworth's maiden name was James. The Foundation Stone was laid on July 3, 1924 and the formal stone laying was performed by Mrs Francis Hill Molesworth of Ballark. The Foundation Stone is set on the external wall of the baptistry.

The old timber church was sold for £110 and £20 was asked for the seats. The church was removed to Lethbridge in November 1924 on a low loader pulled by a traction engine.

St James Anglican Church at Morrisons was consecrated on May 26, 1929.

## A short History of the Morrison's Anglican Church

*Marg Cooper*

The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the laying of the Foundation Stone of St James Anglican Church at Morrisons was celebrated with a service in the church on June 29, 2024. Morrisons church is within the Parish of West Moorabool and also includes Ballan, Gordon and Bungaree.

Land for the church was gazetted in April 1871 and a church called St Johns Anglican Church was built in the late 1870's. This was a timber church with seating for 100 people. The church was licensed on February 10, 1880.



# 150th Year Celebration

## 13th of December 2024

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# MONEY

## Matters

with Sandy Horrmann



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## Vale to Sandra Dynon

*Marg Cooper*

Although Sandra lived in Yarraville she, and her friend Grace Louchlen Palmer, developed an intense interest in Steiglitz and its history.

They started the Steiglitz Historical Society on November 26, 1999 with Sandra as President and Grace as Secretary.

They researched extensively and gathered a huge amount of information, welcomed new members, answered queries from people about Steiglitz and families who had lived in Steiglitz and created a Newsletter which was printed by Parks Victoria.

In an early Newsletter they admitted that the first year was a bit of an uphill slog but they soon gained funding to help in the repair of Sugg's cottage, established a Pioneer Register and were involved in the Back to Steiglitz that celebrated 150 years.

In 2003 they asked for permission to use St Thomas RC Church in Steiglitz as their headquarters. This involved issues including lighting, heating and storage but they made it a home for the Historical Society with many interesting displays and photos.

It seems that Sandra's parents had bought the old Post Office in Steiglitz in the mid 1960's and Sandra and her husband John often came to the district with their scooter club.

Sandra was still the President in 2016 when the Steiglitz Historical Society was wound up. Thank you Sandra for your contribution to history in the district.

## Tall Tree Wind Farm Revisions

Many readers will be aware of the Tall Tree Wind Farm proposal, to be located south of Meredith, west of Lethbridge and north of Teesdale. As the company website states, the current project design includes up to 60 wind turbine generators and associated infrastructure, with a maximum installed capacity of approximately 360 MW. Turbines will be up to 250m high. The company claims a wind farm project of this size has the potential to generate enough energy to power approx 265,000 homes.

There has been expressions of concern about wildlife and the impact on the nearby Lethbridge airstrip. Partly in response, the company has recently released a revised design. You can find out more at

<https://community.accion.com.au/talltree>







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## Saving our local wildlife

*Sent in by Angela Sumner.*

**Bannockburn Wildlife Rescue** works quietly behind the scenes helping sick, injured and orphaned wildlife in our region and they could use your help! Being a rural zone, the 16 volunteers (who are mainly based in Bannockburn, Teesdale, Lethbridge, She Oaks, Maude and Anakie) travel hundreds of kilometres weekly helping wildlife. Sadly not all calls lead to successful rescues. Volunteers are also kept busy checking, moving and marking deceased wildlife; taking injured animals to vets and orphaned wildlife to carers, and even euthanising macropods on site. In one six-month period, they handled 509 macropod cases - jumping from 27 cases in December '23 to a whopping 168 cases in May '24 and that's not including the many tragedies that the team does not hear about. According to organiser Angela Sumner, most of these cases were found because a volunteer was in the right place at the right time and there were many more cases of hurt birds, possums, lizards, koalas and other wildlife handled. as well quotes explained Angela

*Our goal is to raise awareness that drivers should stop and check wildlife that they have hit. The likelihood of kangaroos or wallabies being uninjured when they bounced off OK is really slim. We see macropods days and weeks later slowly dying from their injuries - we need drivers to at least make that simple yet important phone call for help.*

Angela Sumner

Another goal the team has for this financial year is to register as a not for profit charity and raise funding through donations and grants. to keep volunteers on the road. Angela is also hoping to get funding for firearms training and equipment, so there is a local volunteer able to tranquillise animals. At the moment, they have to call in someone from Surf Coast to do that. For further information, please call Angela Sumner on 0430212653 or email [bannockburnwildliferescue@gmail.com](mailto:bannockburnwildliferescue@gmail.com).



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## Brisbane Ranges Sketchers

Unfortunately, due to wet, wild and windy weather our July outing did not happen.

Next plein air experience will be:

- 13th August (second Tuesday)
- meet at the Meredith Community Centre at 10 a.m
- BYO art equipment, chair, weather appropriate clothing, cuppa for after

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*Kerry Thomson*



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## it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

### Morrison's Anglican Church:

A service was held in the church on Saturday, June 29 at 5 pm to commemorate the laying of the Foundation Stone of St James Anglican Church at Morrisons. From 4 pm there was a historical display and music in the church and time for people to meet up and reminisce. MHIG was asked to supply photos and information for the display which we gladly did.

{more about the church history in another article on p.18}

### Cobb & Co:

Cobb & Co was set up in Melbourne in 1853 by a small group of immigrant Americans including Freeman Cobb, John Murray Peck, John B Lamber and James Swanton. After 70 years the last coach ran in Queensland in 1924.

Cobb's coaches played a big part in building Australia. They couldn't wait for roads or bridges or crossings, they went out and made their own tracks for hundreds of miles. Rain, hail or shine, mud, dust or flood.

Cobb & Co had stables in both Meredith and Steiglitz. In Meredith, Michael Ward who conducted the first blacksmith shop, shod Cobb & Co horses when the company was running a regular schedule between Meredith and Steiglitz. Joseph Ward drove for Cobb & Co during the mining boom and later conducted his own coach business, carrying on the livery stables until the advent of motor transport.

In Steiglitz the company erected commodious stables in Regent Street opposite the City Bank in 1893, but these stables were sold and stables erected on the property of Mr W Brown in 1894.

Hazel Johnson has written several books about Cobb & Co. Her latest is Along the tracks of Cobb & Co – Back to the Beginning, Book 4: Victoria & the Goldfields and Queensland Museum are celebrating 100 years from 14 – 17 August, 2024.

### Calendar 2025:

The theme for the 2025 calendar is bridges. A photographer has been commissioned to take photos using a drone so there should be some spectacular, never seen before images. We would also like to collect old photos of bridges. If you have taken photos of bridges, bridges being repaired or new bridges being constructed we would like to hear from you. Some bridges have completely disappeared and been replaced with pipes. One such bridge is Stows Bridge on the Morrisons Road which has also lost its sign or its identity!

Photos or information can be emailed to [meredithhistoryinterestgroup@gmail.com](mailto:meredithhistoryinterestgroup@gmail.com), mailed to 31 Staughton Street, Meredith 3333 or brought to the History Centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am – 3 pm to be scanned.



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## Marg's BOOK REVIEW

### **The Book Thief** by Markus Zusak

**The Book Thief** is the story of a German girl named Liesel which is set during World War II. Her father was captured, her brother died and her mother couldn't look after her so she took Liesel to foster parents in Munich. Her foster mother was stern, often foul mouthed and abrasive, but her foster father became a beloved and supportive papa to the young girl, and taught her to read at night after she woke from nightmares.

For Liesel and her neighbours life was very tough, with little more to eat than pea soup and dry bread.

It is one of only a few books about the war that is about German people living in Germany, and one of only a few that focuses on the children, who barely understand the changes taking place in the world.

Liesel's life is changed w and words. She begins to see how words and stories can bring hope and healing. A Jewish man, who they hide in the basement, shows her that words can also be used to cause pain and humiliation and can destroy. Over a period of time Liesel steals other books including from a bon fire, and from the library of the Mayor's house.

The most unusual aspect of the book is that the narrator is *Death*. Death is an ethereal being that travels the world collecting up the souls of dying humans. Death is a kind character who handles souls gently and with compassion. Older people who have died he carries over his shoulder but children he cradles in his arms. Death is continually stepping into the narrative to comment on the wider context of the war, or to give the back story of a new character, or to jump ahead with a clue about what is to come. Death is the perfect storyteller who visits Liesel's adopted town many times during the story, and observes what Liesel is doing. Much of what Death says is very philosophical and even beautiful.

## *A Treechanger's Reflection*

*Marlene Johnson*

My friends and family all posed the question when they realised we were serious and wanted to move to the country. 'Won't you get bored? 'Bored? Never! Lonely occasionally, experiencing solitude and time for reflection – maybe; but never bored. There is so much to do-

listening to the radio to hear lots of other points of view and experience vicariously the travels and excitement of other lives ; reading a wide range of books for information, exciting stories and particularly Nordic noir ;listening to music of all genres – loving my classic 100, my hits from the 50s and 60s, but also listening to the music my younger family members like; taking my dogs for short walks up the back paddock to see what evidence of wildlife we can see today – so far, rabbit burrows, echidna burrows, kookaburras watching to see if I disturb a promising meal; all sort of beautiful birds from fairy wrens to wedgetail eagles; checking for eggs and wondering how I'm going to get the ducks off the pond tonight before the foxes realise they're there and volunteering and joining groups to meet people and get involved in the community.

The wonder of constant fresh air, fresh rainwater and beautiful trees and gardens is enervating – so much to stimulate the senses – colour, smells, movement and shapes. Since early in my treechange, I have become aware of various seasonal changes - ah, is this what they mean by 'mindfulness'. Wattle trees blooming to announce the approach of spring; butterflies, bees and wasps galore during spring supping on those beautiful plants across the garden; juicy stone fruit accompanied by march flies biting man and beast non-stop as summer progresses.

Then the glorious change of colour which heralds autumn and the need to do a final harvest of the vegie garden to fill the pantry for winter – just as the squirrels did in those English story books I read as a child. I'm sure that in the next couple of years I will notice what long termers on the 'real' farms with lots of animals know, the clockwork behaviour of the birthing, growth and readiness for market cycle. At the moment I'm saturated with the changes closer to my day.

So, Bored, you say – how and where would I find the time.



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*G'Day from the penners for August. Only 4 more weeks of winter left, officially, but the cold weather is far from over yet. As I am writing this, the day is full of sunshine, but a sudden down pour occurred only 10 minutes ago. As I look out my window, I see the leaves on the trees glistening in bright light and I realise I am so grateful for living in the country. It does have its downsides but so many more upsides and the view is just one of them.*

*Today's story is from Gail Griffin, and we hope you like it. We can be contacted via our email [goldenpens4@gmail.com](mailto:goldenpens4@gmail.com)*

*Cheers, Wendy.*

### **A Rethink**

Growing up, I used to walk past the bowling green on my way to and from school. I remember groups of elderly, retired citizens dressed very conservatively, bending, bowling and then crossing over to the other end of the green. Back and forth repeatedly. Then, shuffling off to the clubhouse after a game, to sip, I thought, on cups of tea and nibble on afternoon tea. I totally agreed with my grandmother when, over the years, she'd often said, 'I'll never be old enough to play lawn bowls. It's for old people. Too sedentary for my taste.'

'I'm with you, Grandma,' I'd say.

So, I was puzzled when Grandma invited me to the local bowls club last Friday afternoon. 'It's a social competition,' she said. 'I'll meet you there around noon.'

Friday rolled around. Grandma met me at the gate and walked with me to the match box where she paid her entry fee.

'Good to see you, again, Val,' the cashier said. 'Feeling like a winner this week?'

'You never know,' winked Grandma.

The surprise must've shown on my face because Grandma turned to me and said 'What?'

Shaking my head I said, 'Nothing.'

Looking around I saw those players who'd arrived earlier were already assembled in front of the fixtures board.

'You're with us, Val!' a voice called out over the crowd. 'Rink number three first up!'

'Thanks, Dan,' Grandma said, as she walked towards the wall of the club house where she stashed her bag. I followed mutely and watched her retrieve two bowls before she turned and pointed, saying, 'You can watch

from over ... Is there something wrong, Isabel?'

Shaking my head, I said, 'Nothing,' and I headed towards the seating.

The first of three games got underway and I marvelled at the skill of the bowlers as they rotated positions, from end to end and from rink to rink. Two and a half hours later all games concluded and players stowed their bowls back in their bags and made their way to inside the clubhouse.

'Prosecco, Val?' one lady asked.

'Need you ask?'

'Not really. Will your granddaughter have one too?'

'Of course!' Grandma said. 'You will have one, won't you, Isabel?'

'Yyyeess. Yes. please,' I said.

'Is everything all right?' Grandma asked. 'You're looking a little confused.'

Shaking my head, I said, 'Nothing's wrong. Everything's fine.'

'I'll come and help you carry the glasses,' Grandma offered while calling back over her shoulder, 'Sit at the first table, Isabel. It's ours.'

Before too long the club rooms throbbed with players staking their claim on tables. They ventured to the bar for drinks or the kitchen, for tea, coffee and biscuits. The next hour and a half flew, filled with animated conversations, good-humoured sledging and uproarious laughter.

The ringing of an old school handbell interrupted the din. All eyes turned to focus on the MC. Scorecards in hand, he delivered thanks to all volunteers before sharing a ribald joke that even the lady bowlers found hilarious. Winning teams, raffle and jackpot winners lapped up thunderous applause when presented with their prizes. I was in awe of the unbridled joy and camaraderie that reigned. What an entertaining afternoon. I'd completely lost track of time.

'What do you think now?' Grandma asked me.

'Mmm? I'm, um, just trying to come to terms with you breaking the golden rule of never being old enough to play bowls. And yet, here you are, having done just that and really enjoying it all.'

'Absolutely!'

Together, we hugged and laughed out loud, with Grandma saying, 'Sometimes in life we have to renege or go back on our word, especially when we realise the short-sightedness of vows we make to ourselves and others. So, what do you think?'

'I. Think. I. Need. To rethink and join you, Grandma. Every Friday. For bowls and a prosecco, or two!'

'I'll drink to that!'



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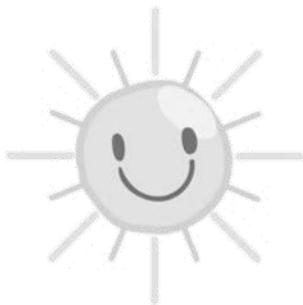
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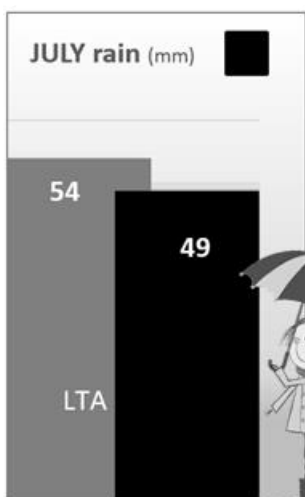
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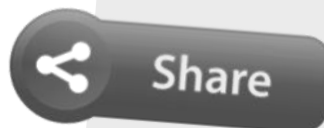
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## CWA + SCONE = YUM!

A new branch of the C.W.A (Country Women's Association) has started in Buninyong. Its aim is 'fostering friendships and engaging with our communities'. So far about 65 members have joined from from the area – Elaine, Scotsburn, Lal Lal, Buninyong and Mount Clear. Here are the 3 recipes members made at the recent King's Birthday Morning Tea! How do they compare with your recipes? Enjoy!

### 1. The Hotel Windsor Traditional Scone

Recipe - highteasociety.com

### 2. Sarah Kittlety's Scone Recipe (Lemonade Scones)

600g Self-raising Flour

300ml Mineral Water (any flavour) (or lemonade)

150ml Cream

Milk for brushing

Preheat oven to 200c.

Mix all ingredients until they come together as a rough dough. Turn out onto lightly sprinkled flour surface and knead lightly. Don't over knead! Flatten out to fit 3cm tin height - use a scone cutter (dipped in

flour) to cut scones out. Place on tray close together but not quite touching. Brush with milk. Bake for approximately 15 mins.

### 3. CWA Scone Recipe

3 cups Self-raising Flour

1.5 cups Milk

1/2 cup Cream

(Repeat above method).



## BUSHFIRE SCENARIO WORKSHOPS



### Bushfire Scenario Workshops for residents in Linton and Dereel

Golden Plains Shire Council in partnership with Red Flag Leadership and Safer Together Victoria is hosting a further two community workshops in Linton and Dereel to assist residents with what to do in a bushfire scenario.

The workshops will be held on:

- **Sunday 4 August** from 10am to 12pm at the Linton Community Hub
- **Sunday 8 September** from 10am to 12pm at the Dereel Community Hall

Facilitated by Jamie Mackenzie from Red Flag Leadership, the workshops will explore the realities

faced in an emergency or disaster and how those challenged may be tackled – breaking down what's required and developing the skills necessary to look after each other and the visitors in the town.

Participants will learn more about the importance of recovery leadership and the challenges of making decisions under stress, as well as gain tips on how to manage stress and uncertainty in an emergency.

Participants will also have the opportunity to share their knowledge with other members in the community and work together to develop a community response to emergency.

To register to attend the workshops, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events) or email [emergencymanagement@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:emergencymanagement@gplains.vic.gov.au)





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