

# Meredith & district News

SEPTEMBER 2024

OUR **FREE** COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

It's Spring!

## inside

- \$350K to help Restore Moorabool River
- The Purple Bin is Coming!
- Meredith PS and Clarendon Rec Reserve turn 150!
- Vale to Lila East, John Stray and Alison Boardman  
....and lots more!

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





# BUSHFIRE SCENARIO WORKSHOP



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

The workshop will be held on:

- **Sunday 8 September** from 10am to 12pm at the Dereel Community Hall.

Facilitated by Jamie Mackenzie from Red Flag Leadership, the workshop will explore the realities faced in an emergency or disaster and how those challenges may be tackled – breaking down what's required and developing the skills necessary to look after each other and 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 of the community and work together to develop a community response to emergency.

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

For further information on the workshop, contact Council's Bushfire Resilience Officer at [enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au) or call 5220 7111.

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# PLAYER RECRUITMENT!

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- Women's
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Training/come and try session at Meredith Cricket Ground on **SUNDAY, 8th SEPTEMBER @ 10am**

**For more info please see our Facebook page**





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## The Biggest Morning Tea

On Saturday 26th July, the Biggest Morning Tea was held at the Meredith Hall. It was standing room only and we had to set another table. Leah Phillips from our community centre was our MC of the day. She shared many stories from experience with family members and friends who had been affected by cancer. She cited that enormous inroads have seen much better outcomes for those who face it and that having fundraising mornings like this, brings hope as we continue to fight it. She also ran our games and trivia.

Our guest speaker was Bev who spoke passionately about her friend who passed away finishing with a poem.

Our kitchen team was headed up by Louise Murray and her amazing team. It was the best we've had to date. That job is incredibly taxing and requires so much forethought and planning.

I'd like to thank all our local and other sponsors for their generosity and kindness. The silent auction was enormous and created much traction on the day.

All in all, we had a wonderful day and raise almost \$4000. We might be a small town, but we have a huge heart...

Kym Ivory

President AMA



*L to R: Mary, Aniela, Kym and Cathie*



# & Meredith district News



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

## NEWS & VIEWS

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

## DATES AND DEADLINES

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

## ADVERTISING

Advertising in the M&D Newsletter is a great way to let district residents know about your business. Contact us for full details and lodgement forms. Rates, excluding GST, are as follows:

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

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

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

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

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 016 815

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

Accounts: Ian Leighton 0428 132 880

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

Editorial: Jim: 0409 163 169

[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

e 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

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Issue Production: Don Atherton Editor: Jim

Elvey

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GROUP  
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BOOK CLUB  
5286 8201

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000 for fire calls  
Elaine  
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Meredith  
5286 1502  
Morrisons  
0417 770 765

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5286 0700  
COMMUNITY  
CENTRE  
5286 0700

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

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ELAINE HALL  
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PADDOCKS  
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RSL - 5286 1452

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CITIZENS  
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Lethbridge  
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Meredith  
0424754179

SEW 'N' SEWS  
5286 0700

FRIENDS OF THE  
BRISBANE  
RANGES  
5286 1252

# emergency

Police, Ambulance, Fire	000
(from mobile phone)	000 or 112
Meredith Police Station	5286 1222
Police non emergency	131 444
Power Failure	132 412
Nurse-On-Call	1300 606 024
Mental Health Advice	1300 280 737
Poisons Information	13 11 26
Barwon Water	1300 656 007
SES Emergency - flood & storm	132 500
24 Hour Helpline	1800 629 572
24 Hour Drug & Alcohol Counselling	1800 888 236
Kids Help Line	
24hr 5-18yo	1800 551 800
Golden Plains Shire	1300 363 036
a/h emergency Ranger	0408 508 635 52207111
	or 0409 830 223
Bannockburn Vet	5281 1221
Golden Plains Animal	5281 2226
Pets and Horses 24/7	0421 617 238

## Justices of the Peace

Mr Don Atherton. 0409 869 960

Mr Paul Ryan Elaine 0409 861 296

# services

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## HALL HIRE

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

Elaine Rec Res

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## LIBRARY VAN

5272 6010

## MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

5220 7230

## PRE-SCHOOL

5286 0722

## PRIMARY

## SCHOOL

5286 1313

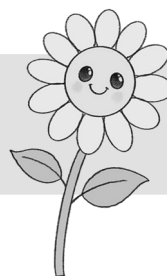
## RECREATION

## RESERVE

0429 315 575

## ..start something.

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



"In the spring, at the end of the day, you  
should smell like dirt"

- Margaret Atwood



## 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 –

Winchelsea - St. John the Baptist @ 5pm Sat. SEP. 7, 14, 21, 28,

Anakie – St. Brigid @ 9am Sun. SEP 1, 15

Meredith – St. Joseph @ 9am Sun. SEP. 8, 22

B'burn – St. Mary MacKillop @ 11am Sun. SEP. 1, 8, 15, 22

Inverleigh – Sacred Heart @ 4pm Sun. SEP. 15

## 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

...because volunteering is GOOD for YOU!

Why is the letter A like a flower?

Because a B comes after it!

What do you call a bear caught in a spring shower?

A drizzly bear.



Did you hear the one about the gardener who couldn't wait for spring?

He was so excited, he wet his plants

## Elaine Tennis Club Inc WANT TO PLAY?

All local and district players junior & senior who want to play competitive tennis for season 2024/25 in the Buninyong & District Tennis Association for Elaine please contact Ph Secretary Shane Dunne 0448291074

Excellent facilities

Teams need to be entered into BDTA  
by September 23rd 2024

## Community Asset Committee,

**Elaine Mechanics Institute Hall**  
Annual General Meeting

6.00 pm Thursday 19th September 2024

Elaine Mechanics Institute Hall  
20 Pearsons Road, Elaine

Please feel free to come along, catch up with new and old friends and cast your vote.

Tea and Coffee will be available

## Community Asset Committee

**Elaine Recreation Reserve**  
Annual General Meeting

We extend an invitation to all of our community to come and join us.

7.00 pm Thursday 19th September 2024  
20 Pearsons Road, Elaine

Tea and Coffee will be available



MAKING LIBRARIES ACCESSIBLE

## GOLDEN PLAINS MOBILE LIBRARY

The new Mobile Library is now running, making stops around the Golden Plains 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



## What's On This Month



**R U OK?**  
A conversation could change a life.



### Chatty Cafe

**R U OK Lunch**  
**Tuesday Septmeber 10**  
**11.30 - 1.30**  
**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



### 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**

ON HOLD - SEEKING AN INSTRUCTOR!



Join us on  
Facebook & Instagram  
@meredithcommunitycentre



### PLAYGROUP

THURSDAYS  
9.00am - 11.30am  
\$2 per family



## Recreation



**Go  
Crocs**

*Mick Devlin*

On Sunday 4th August, the Crocs had a short bus trip to Melton to take on the Melton Panthers Superules FC. With our best turn out for the year we started with 4 on the bench. We welcomed new player Trent for his first run and old player Vinnie back for his first run for the season.

The game started and was pretty even the whole game. A great contest and the Crocs managed to kick a few goals in the last quarter (1 very sneaky one by captain Badge) to blow the score out a little. As always Melton Superules Football Club were great hosts, the cold showers were just what we needed to perk up for the long bus ride home and roochy cha at Ballan Pub. Thanks to Byron for running the water and Jonesy and Ange for taking the photos

Final scores Crocs 82 Melton 55

Best players for the day: Joel, Mitch, Rocco, Peto, Troff, Kev, Badge, Vinnie and Gaz. A great team effort and a great day. Go Crocs

On Sunday the 18th August, in front of a great crowd of sponsors and past players, the Crocs took on our great mates from Macorna Tigers. A great start from the Crocs kicking the first few goals set up the win, as the rest of the game was pretty even with some great efforts from both sides kicking some pretty spectacular goals. The Crocs ended up winning 13. 4. 82 to 5. 5. 35.

Following the game we celebrated our amazing sponsors with a beautiful spread prepared by Wendy, Meg and some great helpers. Thank you to all the sponsors and past players who attended the day. Best for the day, Kev, Chris P, Shaun F, Joel, Rocco and Sid.

Thanks also to our wonderful kids for helping; Elsa, Nevaeh, Anthony, Byron, Hudson, Amelia, Harry and 2 brand new helpers who had a great time Kyan and Shayla.

Also thanks to Paul Jones for the photos

Our Last game of the year vs Melton will be on Sunday 8th of Sep at Meredith Rec Reserve, and we will be drawing the major raffle. First Prize: \$1000 flight voucher with Jetstar, 2nd prize: Wheelbarrow full of goodies Valued at \$500. 3rd Prize: Gift basket with Meredith cheese and local products. Tickets will be available at the game.

Go Crocs.



October 12th - March 29th

**JOIN A TEAM TODAY**

All Ages | All Abilities | All Welcome

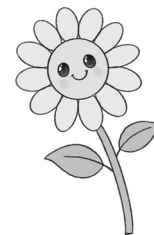
Ballarat Lawn | Buninyong | Dunnstown | Elaine | Gordon | Grenville | Haddon | Mt Helen | Meredith | Napoleons | Navigators | Rokewood | Ross Creek | Smythesdale | Warrenheip

Check out our website to find a club contact

<https://play.tennis.com.au/BuninyongAndDistrictTennisAssociation/Clubs>

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She turned to the sunlight  
And shook her yellow head  
And whispered to her neighbor:  
"Winter is dead."



*A.A. Milne. When We Were Very Young*

**OUR Spring COVER**

The picturesque trees in blossom at the western end of Steiglitz Road, near the post office, are an early harbinger of spring. Photo by Jim Elvey



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





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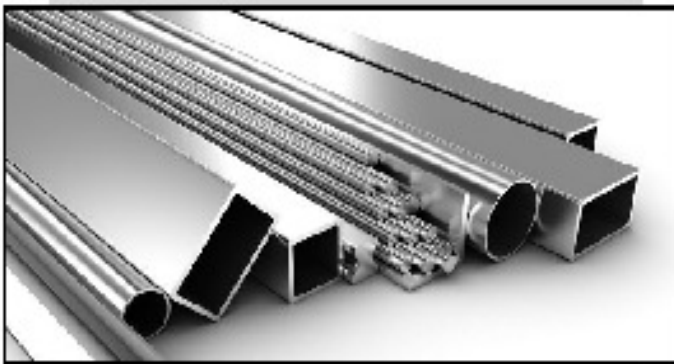
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## Meredith Tennis Club News

*Bridget Dyer*

### Winter Night Competition

Our Winter competition is going well and we have been quite lucky with the weather. We would like to say a very big THANK YOU to the amazingly generous locals who have made some cash donations toward the light towers that we have hired each week. Another big thank you needs to go to those that have been ferrying the light towers in and out each week. This competition would not have happened without those people.

Our \$10 dinners continue to be delicious and we thank the amazing cooks for giving us this option each week. As always, you don't need to be a player to join us for dinner.

We are also selling raffle tickets to help fund the expense of the light towers. Tickets are \$2 and include 2mts of dry wood, an esky with extras from All Purpose Pumps, a YETI Loadout gobox donated by Western Ag and 2 junior Head tennis racquets. The raffle will be drawn grand final night, 12th September at 7pm.

### Annual General Meeting

Thank you to all those that attended our AGM. We thank the previous committee and welcome the new committee and wish them the best for another successful year.

President: Sheryl Nettleton

Vice President: Madeline McColl

Secretary: Bridget Dyer

Treasurer: Luke Evans

Thank you to those that have agreed to be general members. Should you wish to be a general committee member or involved in any way please get in contact with us.

### Grading Day

Despite the less than perfect weather, we had an amazing turn out for our grading day with over fifty people attending and registering to become a member. At last count we have a total of 55 members, made up of junior, adult, family and social members. It has been decided that going forward all members will receive a discount on the various programs that we run, including cardio tennis and youth night competitions. If you are interested in playing socially, please contact us.

### Coaching

Unfortunately, we are unable able to run free coaching this year. We thank all of our past coaches, Madeline McColl, Courtney Murray and Bridget Dyer, for the years they have supported the club by being volunteer coaches to the children and offering their time. Coaching this year will be organised and run through All Court Tennis, a coaching business from Geelong. We are very excited to have new

coaches come out on a Thursday night. Groups will be between 4-6 children. Please contact Nathan for more information.

### Cardio Tennis

Cardio tennis will be run as a four-week program on Monday and Wednesday nights at 5.30 and 6.30, beginning 7th October 2024. Groups will be restricted to 8 ppl per hour with a minimum age of 10 years old. Price will be \$20 for the four weeks for non-members and \$10 for the four weeks for members. Please contact Maddy on 0424754179. Get in fast as these spots are sure to be popular.

### Summer Competition

The Summer season will start again on 12th October 2024. We have entered two orange ball teams and one yellow ball team into the Geelong competition and hope to enter a number of teams into the Buninyong Association as well. Teams for the Buninyong association do not need to be entered until 23rd September, so it's not too late to join a junior or senior team. We are still looking for players for both. Please contact us at meredithtennis2020@gmail.com.

The Buninyong and District Tennis Association are holding an open day on Sunday 22nd September 2024 from 2-4pm. Feel free to go and have a look at their newly refurbished courts, have a hit and a free sausage.

## School Holiday Clinic




**Meredith Tennis Club**  
**Wednesday 25th September**  
**10.00AM to 12.00PM**  
**Price: \$25 a session**

ALL AGES AND ABILITIES WELCOME  
 PLENTY OF TENNIS  
 PLENTY OF FUN



**CONTACT NATHAN**  
**0430 726486 nathanmayes1@gmail.com**



**BINGO!**

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AT 1.00 PM

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## Tiny Towns Grants

### Media Release

Applications for Round Two of the Tiny Towns Fund are NOW OPEN.

The Tiny Towns Fund supports local communities to deliver quality tourism and community facility projects, such as splash parks and bike trails, playgrounds, community hall and library upgrades, public art and more.

Towns with populations below 5,000 people in the 48 local government areas of regional Victoria are eligible to apply with grants between \$5,000 and \$50,000 available for each project.

For more information and to apply, please follow the link - *Tiny Towns Fund - Regional Development Victoria* ([rdv.vic.gov.au](http://rdv.vic.gov.au))

Applications for Round Two close at 5pm on Friday 25 October 2024.

## Spontaneity

*Revd Dr Timothy Smith*

Some of the common responses to doing things differently, or doing new activities, in the life of a church include, "We have done that before and it didn't work," or, "We have never done that before." So often in organisations there is a conflict between those who like to explore doing new things and those who are comfortable knowing what and the way things are going. Bringing spontaneity into the organisation can energise its goals and participation of the members.

Although it is not practical to make changes all the time, doing different things or new things can have a positive affect on the organisation and the relationships of its members. It fosters a sense of playfulness, strengthens bonds, builds flexibility, and combats complacency. But it invites all the members to be flexible. Here are some ways to enable spontaneity in your organisation and personal relationships.

### Embrace "planned" spontaneity.

This sounds like an oxymoron. For an organisation it is not realistic to fly by the seat of our pants, there are too many people and there may even be some non-negotiable responsibilities to consider. But we can still be spontaneous about some aspects of an activity. For example, we can set a date for a known outing, but you can keep the where and what of it a mystery.

### Try something new together.

Building on the idea of planned spontaneity, again plan a date and time and do something that is a new experience for

your organisation. No one will know what to expect! It will be the reactions of the members that will be spontaneous. As everyone shares their sense of not knowing what's coming, and conversations about what they enjoyed or disliked about activity, the novelty of it has potential to be a great bonding opportunity.

### Say yes when you would normally say no.

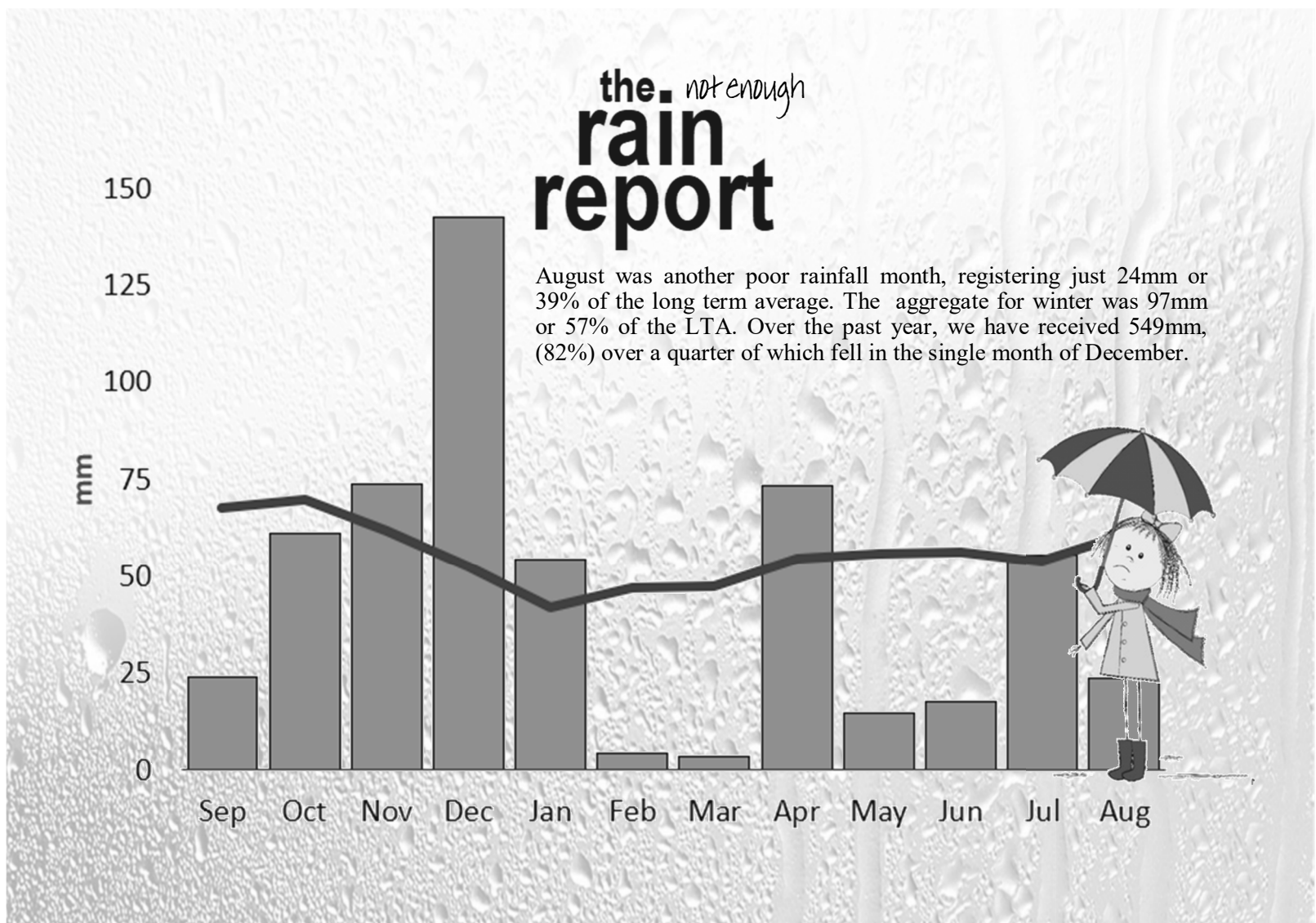
It's a pretty common phenomenon when we do something we were not sure about, or excited about, and discovered that we had a pretty good time. Keep this in mind the next time an opportunity to do something potentially fun when someone suggests it in the organisation. We don't have to say yes to everything, of course, but every now and then opt in when we would usually decline.

### Surprise one another.

By definition, surprising each other usually involves presenting something unexpected, whether that is celebrating a birthday of a member at a meeting and bringing a cake. Or offering random compliments to members out of the blue. Surprising each other sparks curiosity and interest and helps keep the enthusiasm for participation alive.

Being spontaneous all the time isn't practical or feasible, even possibly threatening, but that doesn't mean we should stick solely to the same old routines of formally structured meetings. Being selectively spontaneous can help maintain a sense of energy and fun in your organisation, which will ultimately boost your connections and strengthen the relationships.

*Based on <https://www.prepare-enrich.com/blog/4-realistic-ways-to-add-spontaneity-to-your-marriage/>*





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## Vale to John Dale Stray

1941- 10/8/2024

*Marg Cooper*

John spent his early years in Kallista in the Dandenong Ranges where his parents had a guest house. Then the family moved to Geelong, bought a mansion and turned it into a reception centre called Kirrewur Court.

John attended Belmont State School, Geelong College and Geelong High School. At age 17 he started work for Elders Smith in Geelong. When he got his driving licence Elders supplied him with a car so he could visit farms etc as their agent. He was an excellent judge of stock and although a quiet man, he became an extremely good auctioneer. He later became a stock and station agent for Charles Stewart & Co at Colac.

In 1974 John, Lexie [Boardman] and their sons Peter and Stephen moved back to the Boardman family farm at She Oaks and John's wish to become a farmer was fulfilled. On arrival at the farm Lexie's father Bert, who had glaucoma and was going blind presented John with a new pair of hand shears and a pitchfork as a welcome gift. He wanted to make sure that John was proficient in the old ways of farming and knew hard work. John and Lexie did work hard. For many years John shored all their sheep with Lexie doing the wool between school runs and other jobs.

John's community service was remarkable. He wasn't much of a socializer but he excelled at meetings and working bees. He served as Secretary or Treasurer of most organizations at Maude, Steiglitz and She Oaks including the Steiglitz Cemetery Trust, Maude Landcare Group, and further afield at Anakie Fire Brigade, Meredith Uniting Church, Royal Geelong Agricultural and Pastoral Society and he was a founding member of Maude Fire Brigade. He preferred to work than take credit.

And then along came Motor Neuron Disease. The disease progressed in spurts over two and a half years. In time it robbed him of the ability to do anything for himself. He had help from many quarters but he was only able to stay at home because of the love, dedication and care of his wife. He still loved to see the sheep and cattle and to see how the grass was or wasn't growing. He just made fifty years as a farmer before life got too difficult at home.

John was a quiet achiever in the community. He never drank and he never swore. He was an exemplary husband and father, a gentleman and a kind and gentle man. He provided a great example for us all, through his actions.



## Clarendon Recreation Reserve is 150 Years Old!

*Marg Cooper*

You are invited to Back to Clarendon to celebrate the Recreation Reserve's 150th Birthday on Saturday, October 19, 2024.

Visitors are asked to arrive by 11 am for 12 noon bbq lunch followed by afternoon tea,

provided by the Community Bank Buninyong

Visitors can purchase a tree with a plaque to plant on the day to celebrate families who have called Clarendon home.

In 1861 the township of Clarendon and a common of 640 acres for Clarendon and Burnt Bridge was gazetted.

The Clarendon Cricket Club applied to the Minister of Lands in February 1871 for 14 acres of the former Common to be reserved as a cricket ground.

In October 1874 the Clarendon Cricket & Recreation Reserve was gazetted.

Cricket was popular and regular cricket matches were held until WW11, sports and race meetings were held by the 1890's into the early 20th century particularly on Easter Monday. In 1899 the Buninyong Telegraph Newspaper reported on a successful sports meeting with horse races, foot races and hurdle races. The first mention of tennis was in 1915 when permission was granted to the young men of the district to erect a tennis court. After the war with the demise of the Cricket Club and the end of race meetings tennis became popular and has been the most common user of the reserve in recent years.

In 2014 a masterplan was created for the Recreation Reserve in response to the loss of the primary school in 1994 and the Clarendon Hall in 2004. As part of that plan a new Community Centre was built in 2019 and new tennis courts built in 2023. The third stage of that plan is to build a new children's playground, which the committee has just received funding for, from a Tiny Towns Grant.

Committee President Trevor Smith tells that the area is sort of a hidden treasure. It is situated down a gravel road at the east end of town on the opposite side of the road to the Cemetery. It is being used more and more by caravan clubs, for children's parties, for weddings and as a helicopter pad. The new building has all facilities needed including off grid power, a welcoming wood heater and a kitchen. Catering can be provided by the Mt Buninyong Fire Brigade Auxiliary if required.

The Committee members who have done a fantastic job to plan and to obtain grants, invite everyone to celebrate this milestone in Clarendon's history. Even if you don't live in Clarendon, come along because chances are that you know someone who does live in Clarendon.

For more information and to RSVP email [backtoclarendon@gmail.com](mailto:backtoclarendon@gmail.com) or call 0428125202





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## Our Doreen

*John Merlo*

The Queen of the Mini Foxies is not done yet

Doreen Thompson recently turned 80 and lives on her little acreage in Slate Quarry Road in Meredith.

Only a few years back, in 2017, Doreen was the central figure at the staging of the Mini Foxie Club of Australia's Annual Championships.

The reasons why the national organisation chose to



stage the event at the Elaine Recreation Reserve remain a bit of a mystery, but Doreen's influence had a lot to do with it.

The fact remains that 39 Mini Foxies from four Australian States fronted the judges in Elaine on that day in 2017.

'Our Doreen' as the legendary Australian author CJ Dennis would have described her, played a big part in the day's proceedings.

She brought along four of her own Mini Foxie team, and they took home four of the major ribbons - still proudly mounted in a display case at Doreen's home

in Slate Quarry Road.

Doreen herself is what's generally described as 'a real character'.

Meredith stalwarts have described how - some years ago now - Doreen was known locally as 'The Greyhound' because of her running speed and general athletic abilities.

It's said that she was considered at one time to have been a potential Olympic athlete, but didn't like the idea of formal training, or of travelling to places far away from her beloved Meredith.

However her running speed was often put to good use on the farm.

It's said she had no difficulty in bringing down a sheep on the run, holding it by the leg while it could be tethered and popped in the back of the following ute, usually driven by her husband, Ron.

In earlier years Doreen was also a keen and very successful rabbit - riding her bike from Meredith to Jack Marchment's farm on Schefferles Road or Norm McDonald's on Taylors Road to catch rabbits.

She'd have a box of ferrets on the back of the bike, with nets and a mini foxie in the basket on the front.

A few more mini foxies would be running alongside.

The expedition would usually produce a haul of a dozen or more rabbits, which she'd carry home in the nets, strapped on the bike's handlebars.

Those days are gone now, but Doreen soldiers on.

She's still a familiar figure around town, driving her little white Toyota and dropping by the shop a couple of times a week to collect her mail.

Doreen has always been a mine of information and would love to say hello and chat a bit as she collects her mail from the store.

Don't be shy.

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## The Philatelist

Michael Riseley



Recently in the AFL, the Port Adelaide cheer squad held up a giant banner for the players to run through. Sadly they got their own team name wrong and Port Adelaide became Port Adeliade! You ask how they could get something so simple so wrong. The answer is .... Easy. After all they are human and in truth we have all made a blunder at some time in our journey through life. Though hopefully not so public.

In the stamp world there have been similar errors. In 1965 Barbados issued a set of stamps depicting marine life. The 3 cent stamp showed a seahorse with the scientific name Hippocampus. Several months later they issued another version with the correct spelling Hippocampus.

In 1971 Kenya issued a set of stamps depicting sea shells. The 50 cent stamp showed a lovely purple shell with the scientific name Janthina Janthina. And a bit later issued another version with the correct name Janthina Globosa. In the same set was a 70 cent stamp with a shell and the scientific name Nautilus Pompilius. And later another version with the correct name Nautilus Pompilius.

Pre WW11 many South American countries issued stamps depicting national heroes who fought for their independence. Embarrassingly there were several examples of stamps with the incorrect spelling of the names of the heroes.

We are not immune. In 1979 Australia issued a set of stamps for Australia Antarctic Territory depicting ships that were important in the history of Antarctic exploration. The 15 cent stamp showed the Nimrod. Except it didn't. The ship shown was actually one called the Morning. Australia Post issued another version correctly showing the Nimrod which was one of the explorer Ernest Shackleton's ships. To make it more clear, the correct version had the ship facing the opposite direction to the original incorrect one.

Which proved they really did know their right from their left!

## 18 at Last!

Marg Cooper

It seems that Nick Kruger has been waiting all his life to get his driving licence. He has had his Toyota ute for about 4 years, all the time working on it to firstly make it road worthy, and later to make it look the part but all the time wanting to drive it on the road by himself.

Nick obtained his licence on his birthday on August 16 and celebrated his birthday with friends and family in the supper room of the Hall on Sunday, August 18. In their speeches Pat Banks, who has employed Nick off and on for about 4 years, told that Nick was enthusiastic, polite and was great with Pat's grandchildren. His friend James said that he saw the unpolished and unorganized side of Nick but looked forward to making more memories with him. Kerrie, Nick's mother said that he was always a country boy who wanted to be a farmer, that he had been home schooled from Grade 3 and congratulated him, that now he could legally do what he had been doing already. Peter his father, told him to reach for the stars and that it had been a privilege to be on the journey with him from birth to 18 years. In an emotional speech Nick thanked his parents for their sacrifices and mentioned that many of his farm skills he learnt when he worked, as a young teenager, for Jeff Cooper on his farm in Bamganie.

Although home schooled, his parents ensured that Nick became a social being. Some of his home schooling was shared with Ari and his 2 sisters who live in Geelong, he tried scouts, tennis and other activities, but the Elaine junior CFA became his passion and members of this group remain his best friends. Nick's other quality is that he can talk to anyone because he has spent a lot of time with adults during his teenage years, either working for them, attending meetings with his mother or travelling to get parts with his father.

Nick has completed Federation TAFE Agricultural Certificates 2 & 3 and is considering going to Longerenong College next year.

Congratulations Nick. There is a big world out there now you can drive!

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## Upcoming Changes to Kerbside Recycling

Golden Plains Shire Council will introduce a new household waste and recycling system starting in 2025 that will improve the way residents recycle at home. All councils must move to a standard four bin system: red for generalised waste, yellow for mixed recycling, purple for glass recycling and lime green for combined food and garden organics.

A new purple glass bin for recycling glass will be collected every four weeks. When the new purple bin service begins, the yellow recycling bin collection will shift from weekly to fortnightly. If you currently receive kerbside waste and recycling services from Council, you will receive a new purple bin in the coming months. We will provide more information about these changes and offer waste education programmes to help you use the new purple glass bin effectively. If you have any questions about the upcoming changes, visit our website [goldenplains.vic.gov.au](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au). or contact us on 522 0 7111.



## Vale to Alison Jean Boardman

30/10/1956 – 21/7/2024

*Marg Cooper*

Alison was the eldest child and only daughter of Jack and Mary Boardman. She has three brothers Roger [dec], Andrew and Chris.

All her childhood was spent on the family farm at She Oaks. Her primary schooling was at Maude in a school with only a handful of students and secondary schooling was at Morongo Girls School in Geelong where she met her lifelong friends. She met Libby Scott in Form 1 and Anne Miller on the school bus. These newfound friendships led to many lifelong adventures.



Ali told that her Mum and Dad tortured her by making her work on the farm. This included onion picking, planting carrots by the 10's of thousands and harvesting celery plants for seed. It was obvious that Ali was never going to be a country girl.

Her first paid job was as a book keeper at Ingpens, a confectionary wholesale company in Geelong in 1975. The family loved Ali's job as she brought home broken easter eggs etc that couldn't be sold. She firstly had a little flat in Ballarat Road and later moved into a house in Belmont with Anne Miller and Leanne Stanley.

In 1980 she travelled to England with her friend Libby. They took a 6 week Top Deck bus tour and that was it, the travel bug had bitten. Ali came back, worked and saved then took off back to London to live about the time of Charles and Diana's wedding. Maybe this started her love of the Royal family. She lived in Earls Court in London, absolutely loved London and took many tours while she lived there. Family tell that it was a huge event when Ali was going to ring home from London.

In 1984 she came back to Australia but after the bright lights of London, Geelong was just a bit too country, so she settled in Sydney.

In 1994 she bought her first unit in Dee Why, upsized in 2000 and then again for the final time when she moved to North Sydney. Most of her annual leave was spent on meticulously planned holidays overseas either by herself or with friends. She visited a total of 53 countries. She had a keen eye for photography, enjoyed reading and was a movie enthusiast. She went to every concert she could,

absolutely loved theatre and musicals and was a huge sports fan.

She worked her way through several companies in Sydney. Her friend Christine tells that Ali's professional skills were nothing short of legendary. Her strategic mind and brilliant planning were evident in everything she did. She was softly spoken and gently natured but beneath her calm exterior lay sheer grit and determination and she wasn't to be underestimated.

Although Ali would hate to admit it, like her father she had a love of history and completed histories of both the Boardman and Brown families.

Late in 2023 on the eve of her retirement Ali was diagnosed with lung cancer. She stayed positive to the very end. Her brother Andy asked her if she had any regrets in life and she couldn't think of any; her life was a richly woven tapestry and she did it her way.

*Compiled from Alison's eulogy.*

## Koala Clancy Came to Possum Point

*Leanne (Powles) Hammond*

Who could have known that after reading an article about Koala Clancy in the Meredith & District Newsletter earlier this year that it would have such a wonderful and positive impact on the landscape of mum's farm, aka Possum Point. In the article, Koala Clancy expressed an interest in doing some tree planting in the area, with river frontage.

We sent off an e-mail and before the end of the day, we were talking to Eliza from Koala Clancy. The following week Janine and Eliza visited Possum Point, we walked down to the river where the Moorabool River runs along the bottom of the farm. They were very enthusiastic about the prospect of coming and planting trees. A few more emails and it was full steam ahead. In May, Matt from Kingfisher Environmental and his team came and sprayed the area in preparation for tree planting. In July and August, the wonderful a team of volunteers with the Koala Clancy crew arrived to plant the trees. Along with every Eucalyptus tree, five companion plants are planted. Over this time, they planted 8002 trees, yes that's right 8002! More to be planted next winter in 2025

As kids we used to see koalas every day, now we are lucky to see one a year. Hopefully with this wonderful effort from Koala Clancy and their volunteers there will more koalas in the area for our grandchildren to see.

# 150th Year Celebration

## 13th of December 2024

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# MONEY

## Matters

with Sandy Hoffmann



PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR MANAGING YOUR MONEY

### Let's talk investments and taxes!

Lately, I have had loads of clients wondering how investments like savings in bank accounts, shares and crypto, will impact their tax return refund, so let us dive in....

When you have a bank savings account and it earns interest for the Financial Year, this is added as income into your tax return.

This interest is added to the rest of your income and if you had been getting a refund, this refund is now reduced because the bank account doesn't withhold tax.

The only time tax is withheld from a bank account, called withholding tax, is when the bank account was set up without a Tax File Number. By law, the bank withholds the highest marginal tax rate (45%) from the interest earned.

From a tax perspective, this is beneficial as it means you will have a tax credit. But from an investment perspective this is not so good as the extra tax withheld could have been invested, compounding and therefore increasing your savings.

Shares are also a common investment strategy. The shares don't impact the tax return, it's the sale of the shares that trigger what is called a Capital Gains Tax (CGT) Event.

In the simplest form, you buy a share for \$1 half a year ago and then sell it today for \$2. This means you have had a CGT gain of \$1. This is then added to your tax return as income. If you had a hypothetical refund this would reduce the refund slightly.

On the other hand, if you bought a share for \$1 half a year ago and then sold it today for \$.50c, you would have a CGT loss. This loss doesn't reduce your income but instead is quarantined in your tax return paperwork for future year gains. So next year if you had a CGT gain of \$0.50c the loss from this year would be offset first so there would be no impact on your income for next year.

The above example wouldn't have much impact on your tax return but for people who make hundreds of dollars in CGT gains, this can impact the return significantly.

Let's be clear though, from a tax perspective this isn't great, but life isn't all about taxes, zooming out and seeing the bigger picture this investment has created wealth for you while you sleep which is pretty darn good!

The biggest surprise for many people is Crypto Currency investments. If your eyes are glazing over, I understand and you can skip this, but if you are dabbling in this form of investment, please read on...

The biggest misconception is that crypto is like shares and it is only when you sell it that you need to declare it in

your tax return as it will trigger a CGT event.

Let me tell you, this isn't the case. It is when you sell it, trade it (swap it), spend it on goods and services and gifting it that you trigger a CGT event.

When we think about crypto, we probably think about Bitcoin (the grandfather of Crypto currency) but there are four classes, Cryptocurrency, Tokens, NFT's and Stable Coins.

The ATO classes all the above types as assets and as such are part of Capital Gains Tax.

Now you may think that the ATO doesn't have access to these records, but if you have been using a designated service provider (DSP) for your transactions then the ATO can see this information like they can your bank account interest. Not only this, the ATO have an updated agreement with crypto exchangers so they can go back as far as 2014 transactions.

Figuring out if you had a gain or loss on Crypto may seem confusing but your accountant should be able to help you easily. Like shares, a gain is added to your income and a loss quarantined.

Like I said earlier, taxes are not everything and if you get a benefit from Crypto then this may be a good investment for you.

A trick to reducing the income from CGT events irrespective of Shares or Crypto is to hold the asset for more than a year before selling. This provides a 50% discount on the gain so only half the gain is added to your return.

Happy investing everyone!

### Household savings hack of the month:

Did you invest in a septic tank when you bought or built your home, and are you worried about what you can use to clean up the limescale build up causing stains and scaling in your toilet due to the magnesium and calcium in the water like I was?

I used 1Lt of White Vinegar added to the toilet water and let it sit overnight. The next morning, I scrubbed the scale with the toilet brush and flushed. Now my toilet is sparkling clean, and the all-natural vinegar is safe on the septic and drain field. What a cheap and easy solution!



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## Council Election Dates

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.

Elections will be held by postal ballot from 7 October to 25 October, 2024

The Victorian Electoral Commission will be accepting candidate nominations from Monday 9 September 2024, with nominations closing on Tuesday 17 September, 2024. Further information can be found at

<https://www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/information-candidates>

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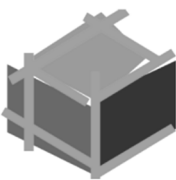
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## Vale to Lila Mary East

9/5/1927 – 2/8/2024

*Marg Cooper*

Lila was many things to many people and was known by many names: Lila, Mum, Granny, Granny with Ducks, Aunty Lila and Mrs East.

She was a beautiful caring fun lady with sparkly eyes and a big smile who loved her family and her tennis.

She played tennis for Meredith until she was in her 60s.

Lila went to Country Week Tennis in Ballarat for years and loved watching the Australian Open and Wimbledon tennis on television.

Lila Clark grew up at Stonehaven with her parents, three sisters and one brother. She was always a very social person who loved going to dances. As a teenager Lila and her sisters would cycle into Geelong, riding up the Deviation Hill with ballgowns in pillowcases, go to their Aunt's to change, catch a train to Melbourne to the dance at The Palais or sometimes go to the Palais in Geelong. Then they would catch the last train back to Geelong and cycle home. Lila met Joe East at a dance at Stonehaven. Joe's brother Arthur met Lila's sister Micky. The East boys would ride their motorbikes from She Oaks to court the Clark girls and they eventually had a double wedding with the brides on each side of their father as they walked down the aisle. Joe and Lila loved to dance, even when their children came along, they would take them to lots of dances in the district.

Her family said that if there was an award for Best Granny ever, Lila took the prize. To differentiate her from their other Grandmothers some of her great grandchildren called her Granny with Ducks because she had a couple of ducks as pets and to eat the snails in her garden. She loved her garden especially her roses. And she was Aunty Lila to most children in Meredith even though they weren't family.

Lila helped Joe on the farm. She cooked delicious meals including scones for shearing and harvest. Often she had to drop everything to drive to Ballarat or Geelong to get parts for broken down machinery, during harvest time. Lila also worked doing housework and was in demand as a shearers' cook for local farmers. As some of her clients aged her role also became as a carer, taking them to

appointments, to social occasions and shopping. Lila would regularly visit former residents of Meredith who had moved into special accommodation.

Lila moved from her house in Meredith to a unit in Bannockburn after Joe passed away in 2002.

Then in 2019 with the onset of mild dementia and the start of covid restrictions Lila became a permanent resident at Estia Health Aged Care facility in Bannockburn.

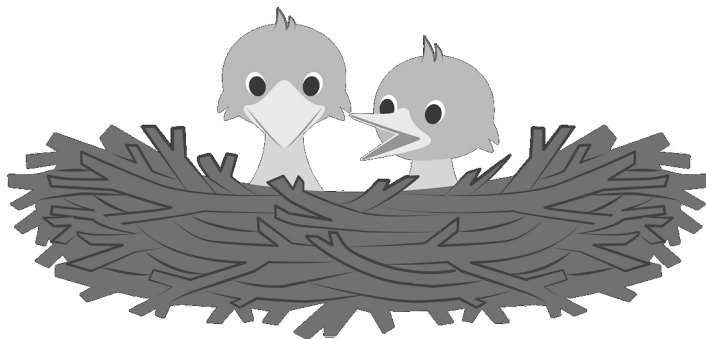
She loved her sunny room as did the resident cat. Lila had always enjoyed reading and crossword puzzles, a blessing during lonely hours of lockdown.



Pip Hucker and Lila enjoyed each other's company, they would go to the dining room together. Pip spoke of loving to see Lila's smile.

On June 14, 2024 at 97 years Lila had a bad fall. Up until that time she boasted that she'd never had a headache, was not on medication and only took a few vitamins. Lila would say only 3 years to go until I am 100...sadly Lila didn't make it to that milestone

Lila was a wonderful woman who was especially caring. She didn't like people being unkind to each other, if she saw injustice she would find a way to circumnavigate the situation. She was fun, happy and compassionate and a formidable opponent on the tennis court.



# Watch this space



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## it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

### Golden Plains History & Heritage Network:

A meeting of the group was held at Meredith History Centre on Monday, August 19. Representatives of groups including Inverleigh, Woody Yaloak, Cressy, Linton and Meredith were present. The aim of the group is to share ideas, information, issues and needs and to be a joint voice to advocate to council. Much discussion on Monday involved new projects being undertaken by the groups, a proposed history trail and the Golden Plains Stories Project being undertaken by Dr Li Ping Thong.

The attendees were very impressed with the building and our set up, and were delighted with the scones that Gail made and served with jam and cream for afternoon tea.

### Great Auntie Claire:

Several members of the Powles family have recently read a book written by Wendy Harmer, the comedian. They wondered who she visited at Bamganie when she was a child. *"Other times I'd stay with Great Auntie Claire and Uncle Bert on their farm at Bamganie. This was a proper farm. A rambling homestead with a huge kitchen garden, lots of chooks, geese and in a pen near the house always an orphaned lamb or two to be bottle fed. The property boasted its own shearing shed. Great Auntie Claire was a tall, broad shouldered industrious no nonsense country woman, the back bone of rural Australia. In the corner of the kitchen was a walk-in pantry. A sacred space. Victorian Premier Sir Henry Bolte lived on a neighbouring property. On the day that Ronald Ryan was hung Wendy was sitting in a mulberry tree at the farm and listening to the old Bakelite radio that sat on the kitchen windowsill."*

Who was Great Auntie Claire and Uncle Bert?

### Elaine Free Presbyterian Bible:

This huge, beautiful book was recently donated to MHIG by Meredith Masonic Lodge, who have disbanded. An inscription in the book written by Donald Matheson notes that it was bought in Ballarat by the late State School Teacher Gustavus Munro for the Free Presbyterian Church in Elaine in 1880 by subscription from the Elaineites.

Land for the Elaine Free Presbyterian Church was gazetted in January 1864. The land was situated between where Elaine Farm Supplies is now and the road to Mt Doran.

Gustavus Munro became Head Teacher of Stoney Rises School in February 1864. It appears that he was Head Master of Mt Doran School from 1869 – 1872. In 1875 he was listed as a farmer at Elaine.

He died in January 1879 and was interred at Clarendon Cemetery.

### Open Day:

An exciting Open Day is being planned for Sunday, October 20 with scones, jam and cream.

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## Marg's Book Review



## Brisbane Ranges Sketchers

### **Migrations** by Charlotte McConaghy.

Migrations is a book about a woman who has always been running from her childhood, her mistakes, her memories and this time she is travelling from Greenland to Antarctica, following the world's last flock of Artic terns in their final migration.

These sea birds are famed for having the longest migratory path in the world. Their annual round trip from their nesting grounds in Greenland to the Antarctica involves about 50,000 miles of flying and in their life time they travel the equivalent of, to the moon and back three times.

Franny is a most unlikeable narrator. She is chaotic, violent, unpredictable and predisposed to destroy and leave. She is untamed, a wild thing who identifies with the birds. She often describes herself as a creature.

She has been married to a scientist but it was always a struggle for her to stay. She's a wanderer, it's in her blood! A review suggested that by trapping her into marriage, her husband was able to study her closely, as she studies the birds.

The book is set in the not too far distant future in which climate change and human behaviour has made most animals in the world extinct.

The book starts with Franny attaching trackers to a few Artic terns in Greenland. She then convinces one of the few remaining fishermen to follow the birds. He is obsessed with chasing what he terms The Golden Catch. Her argument is that the terns will lead the fishermen to school of fish.

She succeeds in following the birds but also succeeds in destroying everything else around her in the process.

The novel melds adventure with climate fiction. The author is bringing our attention to what maybe the effects of what man does to the planet but the constant shuffling about in time, the unreliability of Franny's narration with her half truths and the unlikability of her character makes this book, an uneasy read.

Maybe it is Franny's migration that is under observation. She is determined to get to Antarctica to spread her husband's ashes into the sea there. She also plans on killing herself. Is she a reflection of the Artic tern? Distinctive, fragile but driven by a singular determination or a kind of force!

### *Kerry Thomson*

It wasn't raining, but it sure was blowing as group members met at Lethbridge Lake for our August plein air artistic endeavours. The sun managed to shine occasionally creating some interesting shadows and highlights. The sweeping shape of the pedestrian bridge provided some with a focus, whilst others homed in on the lake edge reeds and mud exposed by low water levels. Interesting shaped surrounding trees gave perspective and depth to several responses, whilst the old bluestone and iron water tower caught the attention of one or two (especially Peter after he'd tried to climb it!).

After bad weather saw us cancel July's event, it was lovely to see everyone's enthusiasm and enjoyment of painting/drawing outside with friends. Several of the group adjourned to the Bannockburn pub for lunch afterwards.

### Next Outing:

when: 10 September (second Tuesday)

where: Russell's Bridge - Maude side carpark (or meet at Meredith Community Centre at 10 am)

time: 10 am - 12.30

BYO: art equipment, chair, weather approp. clothing, thermos for after

All welcome.

## SEEING THE JOKE

*A poem by Linda Brumly*

You may not always see the joke

- They're often not so bright,

And often in the telling,

People do not get them right;

The most important thing of all

(And I think that this is true),

Is, if you see the joke - and laugh -

When the joke has been on you!

*Submitted by Janene Schillier*



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- Sweep up tree debris and leaves before the fire season starts.
- Rake the lawn to remove the moss. Leave the rakings for nest building birds to use as a soft lining.
- Scrape out moss and grass between pavers. You don't have to do the whole path at once. Remember 10 minutes a day
- Scoop the algae from your pond. Watch out for wildlife. Leave algae on the side of the pond for an hour or two, so any creatures can crawl back to the water.
- Check your hoses and drip irrigation lines before you really need the water in summer.
- Sweep at the shed, scrub and clean any benches or shelves you use for propagation and storage.
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*G'Day from the penners for September. While I am writing this the weather is sunny and warm, the same as it was yesterday and the previous few days. Very unseasonal, but does it foretell of a hot summer to come? Only time will tell.*

*This month's story is from Peter Wilding, and we hope you enjoy it. Remember you can contact the penners at any time via our email goldenpens4@gmail.com*

*Cheers, Wendy*

### **The Family Secret.**

You hear of people having a mind like a steel trap. Poor Marie-Therese Dellune's mind was more like a kaleidoscope, constantly twisting and turning, tumbling a bizarre mix of historical facts, personal experiences, tales passed down in the family combined with imagination and outright folklore, continually juxtaposing and changing in a heady brew, which left the hearer shakily uncertain of reality for a while.

Claire loved her grand-mère. Always there was music playing in the house, often her beloved Debussy. Claire loved hearing the stories of past times, tales of her ancestors, even though she knew some of the stories were debatable, to say the least. But there were those that kind of made you go Hmmm.... Fortunately, Claire could just remember grand-mère before her mind started to go a-wandering, but there were some stories she just wasn't sure about.

Like that string of pearls the old lady wore on special occasions. She seemed increasingly obsessed with them, demanding Tante Martine put them on her whenever Claire came to visit. Claire was special. Claire was the favourite. They would be hers one day, of course; Claire hoped that would not be for a long time yet. But the story...

For all her increasingly-annoying affectations of Frenchness, old Marie-Therese had been born here. Claire found her French hard to follow; her parents rarely spoke it, never at home, and Claire only had a high-school education's worth. From what she could make out, supposedly an ancestor had been in service at the palace of Versailles at the time of the Revolution, and had stolen the pearls from Marie Antoinette's boudoir, smuggled them out, escaped the horrors of Revolutionary France, and come to Australia. And here they were. Tiens.

Claire wasn't really a jewellery sort of girl. Mentally she shrugged; pearls: big deal. The necklace looked nice enough if you were into such things. Perhaps a bit on the ostentatious side. She'd never wear them; she'd keep them in a safe-deposit box at the bank. Wasn't that what people did with such stuff?

But this day grand-mère's kaleidoscope turned to a new pattern. Apparently, some of Marie Antoinette's maids remained loyal. One of them knew about the theft, and reported it to the erstwhile Queen while she was on the way to her appointment with la guillotine. Marie-

Antoinette was irate; that necklace had been her favourite. She ordered Letitia to recover it. Letitia Ventoux. Marie-Antoinette would not need it of course, Letitia could have it, with blessings for faithful service to the end.

And she met her end, supposedly cursing the servant who had stolen them.

Soon after this grand-mère passed away peacefully. Claire shed many a tear, knowing she would never again enjoy those madcap days listening to grand-mère's stories, forever unsure what was fact and what was fiction. Did it matter? Of course not. The stories were grand-mère, true or not.

Claire turned out to be quite intelligent. Grand-mère's stories inspired in her an interest in philosophy, and the workings of brain. She applied herself to her books, went to uni, and was awarded a double doctorate in Literature and Music for her seminal work on Finnish literature entitled "We are their heir, dust on their palms: The words and music of Tuomas Holopainen."

Coming up for air after breathing only the stuffy atmosphere of academe, she met Pierre. A lovely man; grand-mère would have approved. She was sure. Only one thing unsettled her, when she found out: Pierre's surname. Venters – that sounded awfully close to Ventoux. Could one family hold a grudge down the generations for 230 years? She shivered. It might be coincidence. Did Pierre really love her – or was it the lure of the necklace?

She knew what grand-mère would say.



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## Moorabool Catchment Restoration Program

Barwon Water has committed \$353,600 to support the Moorabool Catchment Restoration Program (MCRP), a collaborative initiative aimed at enhancing water quality and riverside vegetation within the Moorabool River catchment.

The program is a partnership between Barwon Water, the Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group, private landholders, and community stakeholders, focused on creating a sustainable future for the region.

The program's work commenced on 30 June 2024 and is set to be completed by 30 June 2028.

The MCRP's key deliverables include stock exclusion fencing, weed control, pest animal management, and extensive revegetation efforts.

These initiatives aim to improve water quality, promote riparian (on the banks of the river) vegetation health, and increase community awareness of sustainable land management.

Barwon Water General Manager Planning, Delivery and Environment Seamus Butcher said the initiative was important to protecting and improving water quality in the Moorabool River.

"Barwon Water understands that managing and protecting the catchments in our region is essential to maintaining high quality, safe drinking water for our community.

"We are pleased to see Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group's commitment to protecting the local environment and public health within the Moorabool River catchment through this program, which is set to benefit the local environment and community."

Jackson Cass, Landcare Coordinator of the Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group, expressed excitement about the project's potential impact and thanked Barwon Water for their funding commitment.

"We're very excited to launch the Moorabool Catchment Restoration Program, an initiative aimed at improving water quality and waterway vegetation.

"By collaborating with Barwon Water, private landholders, and community stakeholders, we aim to create a sustainable future for the Moorabool River catchment."

Mr Cass highlighted the crucial role of the local Landcare community in making the project possible.

"This project would not be possible without the support of our Landcare community. All works will be completed on private land, giving us access to some amazing sites. Without their support, these waterway improvements would not be possible."

The program aims to foster a sense of ownership and

responsibility among local residents while addressing critical environmental issues.

"Our community is deeply invested in the health of the Moorabool River catchment. This project not only addresses critical environmental issues but also fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility among local residents."

The MCRP builds on previous works by the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CMA), Barwon Water, and the Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group.

It further supports current programs delivered as part of the Corangamite CMA's Living Moorabool Flagship Waterway project, and Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut project, by supporting river health within the Moorabool and Barwon River catchments.

"The MCRP has allowed us to target tributaries in the Moorabool River catchment which were not eligible for funding previously but still play a very important part in the health of the river system as a whole," Mr Cass said.

Barwon Water's substantial funding contribution underscores its commitment to regional environmental sustainability and community health.

This collaborative effort is expected to make a lasting positive impact on the Moorabool River catchment and its surrounding communities.

*Moorabool Catchment Restoration Program Contact  
Jackson Cass, Landcare Coordinator, Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group 0497 770 075*



*Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group President Andrew Wells, Coordinator Jackson Cass, and Barwon Water Catchments and Waterways Team Leader Brigid Creasey and General Manager Planning Delivery and Environment Seamus Butcher on the banks of the Moorabool River.*



The spider cast her silken line into the gentle breeze. It drifted across the empty space but didn't catch on the twigs of the neighbouring tree. With her legs, she pulled it back to her perch on the end of a dead branch. She ate the silk, then raised her abdomen, producing another thread to float in the air. This time she felt the tug as it caught on a leaf. She attached the line securely to the branch beside her then walked across it, laying a stronger thread as she went. Her web would hang from this line of silk.

The sky was darkening on a warm evening as the spider commenced her task. Nocturnal insects were already flying, attracted to the flowers of the gum trees, such as the one in which the end of the thread had caught. She had placed her web here for several nights and had fed well. Often by morning, it had several holes. Rather than leave it hanging between the trees to be torn apart by wind or flying birds, she ate her web at dawn. The silk proteins in its threads returned to the silk glands in her body, to be used again.

Much of the space inside the spider's round abdomen was filled with these silk glands. Each gland was a small factory manufacturing a silk thread with different properties. An inner core of thread was coated with further layers, producing silks with varying strength, elasticity and stickiness. Liquid silk squirted out of spinnerets on the underside of the spider's abdomen. Her spinnerets were very mobile allowing her to quickly weave strands of silk together before they hardened in the air. She also had a row of tiny hooks at the tips of each of her hind feet. These hooks could comb or fluff up the silk before each thread solidified.

As the spider walked along her line, she used her feet to pull the strands from her spinnerets. When she reached the leaf to which her line was attached, she let go and dropped. Gravity pulled silk from her spinnerets as she fell. She had left one strand from last night's web across the gap between the trees. She landed on this, attached her line and nimbly ascended her thread to the top strand. She returned to the dead branch, and did the same, creating a strong four-sided frame of anchor threads that would form the outer edges of her web.

The spider walked along the top line of her web again, laying a third strand of silk without the tension of the first two. She returned to the centre of this strand which sagged under her weight forming a V shape. From its point, which would become the central hub of the web, she dropped another line to the lowest anchor thread. She climbed back up it and began laying lines from the hub to the outer edge of the web, arranging them like spokes on a bicycle wheel. She checked the gaps between these lines, and if one was too wide, added another spoke.

With the scaffolding of the web complete, the spider began placing a continuous spiral thread across the spokes. She started from the hub and worked outwards, laying a line

that provided stability to the web and served as a guide for the next stage. Now the spider used a different kind of silk with a sticky coating for catching insects. She started at the outer end of her spiral and worked her way inwards, eating the first spiral as she went. As she crossed the spokes, she dipped her abdomen so that her spinnerets attached the sticky silk to each of them, ensuring as she did so that the tension of her line remained consistent across the web. The spider worked carefully, avoiding touching the sticky strand with her body so that she did not become caught in her own trap. When she had worked her way inwards to the hub she made some minor adjustments, then facing downwards, she rested, her feet on the spokes of the web.

The spider waited, her feet positioned to detect movement from anywhere on the web. After several minutes, vibrations from the lower part of the web indicated that something had flown into it. A moth flapped its wings, shedding scales from its wings and body onto the sticky strands. The spider dashed towards it, but arrived too late, as the moth, no longer held by the web, continued its flight through the darkness. The spider returned to her hub and her waiting. The next movements she felt on the web were from above her. She quickly turned and ran upwards. A beetle struggled among the gluey threads, but unlike the moth it lacked a means of easy escape. As it fought, it became more entangled, the strength and elasticity of the spider's silk allowing the web to remain undamaged. The spider hastily wrapped it in another type of silk designed especially for this purpose. She injected venom into the beetle to subdue it, then carried it to the hub of her web for the first meal of a successful night's hunting.

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*Janene Schillier*

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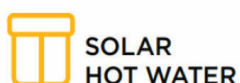
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