

# Meredith & district News

OCTOBER 2024



OUR **FREE** COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



## inside

- Council Elections - Enrolled? Then you must vote.
- Getting Ready for Summer - Start Early
- Community Coordinators and AMA Reports.
- Music Festival Tickets for locals  
....and lots more!



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





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## Tall Tree Wind Farm

### COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

The Tall Tree Wind Farm is a proposed renewable energy project in Central West Victoria in the Golden Plains Shire, located west of Lethbridge, north of Teesdale and south of Meredith. The proposed project is in the early planning stages, with wind monitoring and environmental surveys ongoing at the site.

ACCIONA Energia is pleased to announce the following opportunities to meet with the project team, share your thoughts and learn more about the project.



#### ONLINE SESSIONS:

Thursday, 19 September  
7pm – 8.30pm

Register at: [bit.ly/talltree1](http://bit.ly/talltree1)

Wednesday, 9 October  
7pm – 8.30pm

Register at: [bit.ly/talltree2](http://bit.ly/talltree2)



#### DROP-IN SESSIONS:

**MEREDITH**  
Wednesday, 6 November  
5.30pm – 8.30pm  
Meredith Memorial Hall  
61 Staughton Street,  
Meredith, Victoria

**TEESDALE**  
Thursday, 7 November  
5.30pm – 8.30pm  
Teesdale Community Hall  
Shelford-Bannockburn Road,  
Teesdale, Victoria

**LETHBRIDGE**  
Saturday, 9 November  
12pm – 3pm  
Lethbridge Public Hall  
25 Russell Street,  
Lethbridge, Victoria

**SHELFORD**  
Monday, 11 November  
5.30pm – 8.30pm  
Shelford Cricket Club  
1 The Parade Road,  
Shelford, Victoria

#### FIND OUT MORE

Visit our online Community Hub to learn more, register for updates, and ask questions about the project: [community.acciona.com.au/talltree](http://community.acciona.com.au/talltree).

You can also contact the team via  
email: [talltree@acciona.com](mailto:talltree@acciona.com)  
phone: 1800 283 550.



More information: [community.acciona.com.au/talltree](http://community.acciona.com.au/talltree)





# EXPECT NOTHING LESS



## TICKETS ON SALE OCTOBER 8

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# Meredith & district News



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

## NEWS & VIEWS

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

## DATES AND DEADLINES

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

## ADVERTISING

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

	B&W/Colour
Business Card	\$20.00
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 I costs us to send it - \$59.50p.a. (11 issues)

## CONTACT US

Post Office, Meredith, 3333

Advertising: Ian 0409 016815

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

Accounts: Ian Leighton 0428132880

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

Editorial: Jim: 0409 163169

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

## WEB

You can check back copies and lodge comments at [meredithnews.com.au](http://meredithnews.com.au)

## ONLINE PHOTOS

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

## DISCLAIMER

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

## FEEDBACK

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

Issue Production: Peter Boer Editor: Jim Elvey

# connect

ADVANCE  
MEREDITH  
0409 027 359

ANGLING CLUB  
0419 248 660

B'BURN ART  
GROUP  
0410 808 483

BLUE LIGHT  
DISCO  
5286 1222

BOOK CLUB  
5286 8201

CFA  
000 for fire calls  
Elaine  
0409 861 296  
Meredith  
5286 1502  
Morrisons  
0417 770 765

CHILDCARE  
5286 0700

COMMUNITY  
CENTRE  
5286 0700

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

CUBS &  
SCOUTS  
Lethbridge  
0435 042077  
ELAINE HALL  
[elainetownhall@gmail.com](mailto:elainetownhall@gmail.com)

FOOTBALL  
Seniors 0408 545246  
Juniors 0430 587 674

GOLF CLUB  
0407 795 342

HISTORY GROUP  
5286 8201

LANDCARE  
0409 862 326

MEMORIAL HALL  
0409 662106

MEREDITH SEWING  
GROUP  
0491 184 999

MOTORCYCLE  
CLUB  
0437 009 250

PLAYGROUP  
5286 0700

POLICE  
PADDOCKS  
0409 163169

RSL - 5286 1452

SENIOR  
CITIZENS  
5286 8232

TENNIS  
Elaine  
0448 291 074  
Lethbridge  
52 817 321  
Meredith  
0424 754 179

SEW 'N' SEWS  
5286 0700

FRIENDS OF THE  
BRISBANE  
RANGES  
5286 1252

# emergency

Police, Ambulance, Fire	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	5220 7111
	or 0409 830 223
Bannockburn Vet	5281 1221
Golden Plains Animal	5281 2226
Pets and Horses 24/7	0421 617 238

## Justices of the Peace

Mr Don Atherton. 0409 869 960

Mr Paul Ryan Elaine 0409 861 296

# services

## CEMETERY TRUST

5286 1550

## HALL HIRE

Meredith Memorial

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

Elaine Rec Res

5341 5703

## LIBRARY VAN

5272 6010

## MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

5220 7230

## PRE-SCHOOL

5286 0722

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

5286 1313

## RECREATION RESERVE

0429 315 575

## ..or start something.

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



"Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt."

— Abraham Lincoln



## 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 – October 2024

Winchelsea - St. John the Baptist @ 5pm Sat. Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26

Bannockburn – St. Mary MacKillop @ 11am Sun. Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27

Inverleigh – Sacred Heart @ 4pm Sun. Oct. 20

## OUR COVER

Spring flowers, both wild and cultivated: The joy of spring is captured in Wendy Cook's wildflower photos and Rosemary Gargon's school photo with Alberto, Ada and Harriet amid the flowers they have grown from bulbs.



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

## 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!

## ADVERTISE with US

Advertising in the Meredith & District Newsletter is a great way to let district residents know about your business.

**FULL COLOUR ADS** are available in every issue (Conditions apply)

Ring Ian on 0409 016815

Please submit in jpeg format, if available  
See inside front cover for more details.

## Lal Lal Market

The annual Lal Lal market and CFA fundraiser will be held on Sunday 27 October in the

morning - it's a fabulous activity with many stalls and interesting activities

Bring some cash and have fun. 9am - 1pm  
Sausage sizzle and all kinds of foods

(see google for details)



# Recreation



*Mick Devlin*

On Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of August, the 14 Moorabool Valley Masters F.C (CROCS) players who are representing AFL Masters Vic Country at this years national AFL master comp held in Perth, were recognised by the Golden Plains Shire Council.

Each player received a certificate and a monetary award to help with the cost of the carnival. Thank you to the Golden Plains Shire Council for recognising this great achievement, the Crocs will represent you proudly.

On Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> of Sep, the Crocs played the last game of the season and took on Melton Panthers Superules FC at Meredith. A tough and physical game from the start in testing weather conditions. Goals proved hard to come by due to the strong wind. Melton got on top but the Crocs never gave up. Melton came home the strongest to get the win but a great effort from the Crocs. A great game with a few spicy moments but all left out on the oval. Thanks to Gaz, Shaun and all the Melton players for making the trip over, the game and for hanging around for a beer. Best for the day: 1st gamer Jarrod Bryant, Joel Davis, Chris Parker, Craig Crackers Ellis and 50 gamer Kelvin V-man Vince. Congratulations to Vinnie on 50 games for the Crocs, a great achievement. A great day for Masters footy. Thanks to all the families attending and also thanks to Glenn Upston cheer squad. All The kids enjoyed a kick after the game, even the rain couldn't stop them having fun. Thanks to all the helpers for the day: Wendy, Kev, Ange, Hudson,

Byron, Kyan, Shayla, Jack and all the others that help make the day great. Another great year of Crocs footy, keep an eye out for National Carnival updates.

The End of year presentation night was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September. Although numbers were down a bit , it didn't stop everyone who attended having a great time. We recognised all the people who have done all the hard work to keep the club running throughout the year. A big thank you to everyone who turned up. Thanks to Scotty Thompson for providing the entertainment/Music.

The Crocs welcomed 6 new players this year, Craig Ellis, Owen Gray, Glenn Upston, Chris Friars, Joel Davis and Brett Shier. Welcome to the Crocs Family

We had 3, 50 games milestones this year. Michael Battye, Kevin Murray and Kelvin Vince. Congratulations and well done, here's to 50 more.

A special thanks to the following members, without your contributions the club would not survive:

Daryl Jones, Angelo Fatone, Wendy Wilkie, Kev and Michael Battye, Mick Rooney, Craig Taylor, Shaun Faulkner, Megan Devlin and everyone who has contributed throughout the year.

We have 15 Players heading to the national carnival in Perth starting on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September. They will play 3 games for Victoria Country over 6 days. Good luck to all the Crocs and look out for the full report in next months issue. If you would like to follow our progress, get onto the Moorabool Valley Masters Facebook page.

Go Crocs



*Shire President Brett Cunningham with the Croc team members after the presentation*



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



Meredith Community Centre  
working for our community

## What's On This Month



FREE

**get  
online  
week**

### Techy Tea Party

Get Online Week  
**Tuesday October 15**

11.00 - 1.30

Bookings Essential  
0491184999

Lunch Provided

#### 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

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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!



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**PLAYGROUP**

THURSDAYS

9.00am - 11.30am

\$2 per family





## Recreation



### Meredith Cricket Club

*Terry Hart*

#### Junior Cricket

Our junior programme is up and running for the coming season with some great numbers attending our first 3 training sessions. We will be fielding **an U11 side** in the Friday night competition with really strong numbers in this age group. We are also looking to have **an U13 side** this season and are looking for any boys or girls interested in playing. All junior cricket competitions kick off in mid-October.

**Training for all juniors will take place at the Recreation Reserve on Thursday nights from 4.30pm, boys and girls of all ages** are most welcome to come along and join in the fun, no previous cricket experience is required and all cricket gear will be provided by the club.

**For more information and player registration details**, please follow us on Facebook @Meredith Cricket Club or Instagram @ramstagram1861. Additional information can also be obtained by contacting one of our Junior co-ordinators- Dan Richardson on 0433 523 221 or Rod Armstrong on 0400 078 752.

#### Senior Cricket

With pre-season training now in full swing the club is looking in a really strong position with the addition of some big recruits over the off season. Our season commences on Saturday October the 5<sup>th</sup> and we are expecting big things from our senior teams in 24/25.

**Training will be held every Thursday night from 5.30pm** at the Rec Reserve with meals to follow at the social rooms. We are always on the lookout for new faces around the club, men, women and children, so please feel free to come along and have a hit or just to join in the fun of being involved in a great local sporting club.

**For more information and player registration details**, please follow us on Facebook @Meredith Cricket Club or Instagram @ramstagram1861. Additional information can also be obtained by contacting one of our club coaches- Tyler Dittloff on 0400 975 081 or Matt Ringin on 0407 236 122

The club would also like to acknowledge the generous support of the following local businesses that have come on board for the coming season as major sponsors- **RB Sellars, Meredith Dairy, Meredith Café and Corner Store, Mortimer Petroleum, Grubby Gumboots, Totally Workwear, Lethbridge Quarry, Cellarbrations Bannockburn, Zantagra Sheds, M&R, Meredith Rural and Pet Supplies, DJR Mechanical Services, The Royal Hotel Meredith.**

### Meredith Tennis Club news

*Bridget Dyer*

#### **Winter Night Competition**

We have finished another great night competition and had the opportunity to watch some great tennis being played across the three sections. A big congratulations to the following teams who won:

Section 1: The Dyer duo defeated the Inbetweeners 6-5

Section 2: The Destroyers defeated the A Team 6-4

Section 3: Kialla Hitters defeated Serves you Right 6-2

As always, we thank Courtney and David for their wonderful cooking and for volunteering to cook every week. We would also like to thank those that help out with serving and cleaning up. The Meredith Tennis club is very lucky to have so many committed volunteers.

Congratulations to all those that won prizes in our raffle. We raised over \$400, which went to paying for the light towers. We wish to thank All Purpose Pumps, Western Ag and the McColl family for their generous donations.

#### **Coaching**

We still have coaching spots available in the All Court Tennis coaching sessions being run on a Thursday night in term 4. Please contact Nathan on 0430 726 486 to book your child in for a 40 minute lesson. Unfortunately, our coaching clinic scheduled for the first Wednesday of the school holidays was washed out and rescheduled for the second week. Fingers crossed that the weather holds in week two for the kids to get out and have a hit before all the competitions start!

#### **Cardio Tennis**

Cardio tennis will be run as a four-week program on Monday and Wednesday nights at 5.30 and 6.30, beginning 7<sup>th</sup> 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. All Wednesday spots are filled. There are a few spots available in both groups in Monday. Please contact Maddy on 0424754179.

#### **Summer Saturday Competition**

The Summer season will start again on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2024. We have entered two orange ball teams and one yellow ball team into the Geelong competition and have entered four teams into the Buninyong Association as well. We are still happy to take on children for the Buninyong competition if children would like to be involved in a rotational basis or as a fill in.

#### **Spring Night Competition**

Our next night competition will begin 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024. We will continue to grade the players and have dinner available for purchase after the games. Registration forms can be found on a website <https://play.tennis.com.au/meredithtennisclub/Competitions> and need to be returned signed by 9<sup>th</sup> October to [meredithtennis2020@gmail.com](mailto:meredithtennis2020@gmail.com). If you are interested in playing but don't have a partner, let us know and we can help match you with someone!



## COUNTRY SIDE STRUCTURES

**Shane Costello**

**0422 021 092**

**info@countrysidestructures.com.au**

**www.countrysidestructures.com.au**

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                     *Sat 8.30am-1pm*

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## POLICE report

Senior Constable Anthony BOX

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

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of August, I observed a vehicle travelling at a very fast rate of speed on Wilson St in Meredith. After leaving the station I detected the provisional driver travelling 89KM/H in a 60KM/H zone. She was subsequently issued a penalty notice including a \$543 fine and 3-month suspension of her driver's licence.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, I detected a vehicle travelling 142KM/H in the 100KM/H zone on the Midland Hwy near Meredith. The driver was fined \$840 with a 6-month licence suspension.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September at around 9:00PM, police were called to a vehicle doing burnouts on Clarkes Road in Anakie. The driver is alleged to have attempted to evade police, and during my intercept attempt the driver crashed into a tree, with all 4 occupants being taken to hospital, including 1 with serious injuries.

Throughout the month I have attended numerous other collisions and incidents.

In September, members of The Police Association of Victoria have commenced Protected Industrial Action regarding the negotiation of our Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (pay/benefits etc) which expired in October 2023. I want to reassure the Meredith community that this will not adversely affect any emergency response in our area.

Thank you for your support as always.

### Contacting Police:

In an emergency (that includes anything where you need police to attend a location for an incident occurring at that time) **call 000**. That includes traffic hazards, erratic vehicles, thefts in progress, suspicious people loitering etc. For general enquiries call 5286 1222 to speak to me at the Meredith Police Station. This will also call my mobile if I am on duty.

**Please don't call this number if you need an immediate police response. Call 000.**

If I am not on duty or unable to answer, it will transfer to Bacchus Marsh, please leave a message there and they will pass it on to me. I am still getting people not wanting to speak to Bacchus Marsh. The reality is that they are the 24hr police station for our area and the SGT who has the authority to call me out after hours is there 24/7.

People are still hanging up when being transferred because they don't want Bacchus Marsh to attend. The call diversion is not by accident, you should follow this process. There are always police units around the area who could attend to assist if I am not around.

While I understand the messaging on this is getting repetitive, it is also an ongoing issue.



## Children's Week Celebrations

*from media release*

To celebrate Children's Week 2024, Golden Plains Shire Council will host a free event for children and their families on Monday 21 October from 10am to 12pm at the Bannockburn Library and Cultural Centre, 25-27 High Street, Bannockburn.

Activities will include facepainting, crafts, Library story time, roving performers, YMCA Gymnastics, Jacques dance studio and more.

Golden Plains Shire Council CEO Shane Walden invites families and children from across the Shire to take the opportunity to participate in the free family-friendly activities.

This year, Children's Week runs from Saturday 19 October to Sunday 27 October. The theme for Children's Week 2024 is 'Children have the right to a clean and safe environment.'

A free bus will be available for residents in Smythesdale, Haddon, Rokewood or Meredith.

*Bookings are essential and must be made by 7 October by contacting Early Years on 03 5220 7230 or by emailing [earlyyears@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:earlyyears@gplains.vic.gov.au).*

← PLEASE READ THIS

## New CEO at Golden Plains Shire



Golden Plains Shire Council has appointed Shane Walden as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He holds a Master of Business Administration from the Australian Institute of Business and is certified in data analysis, visualisation, and data-driven decision-making.

We welcome Shane to the role and wish him well in delivering the many services for which Council takes responsibility.



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## in the School Garden

Mrs Garden



The bulbs the Prep children planted back in April are putting on a stunning display, as you can see in the cover photo with Alberto, Ada and Harriet. The different daffodils are just finishing while the ranunculi are blooming in purples, reds, whites and mauves. The small pansies we popped in the bare spots are adding dashes of yellow and purple and the perennial daisies and lavender are starting to flower. The latter, along with the tiny white flowers of the Erigeron will provide colour and form as the bulbs die down. We will trim the flower stalks from the bulbs but retain the leaves even as they wither and yellow then turn brown. While the leaves are green they are photosynthesising, taking in sunlight and storing energy in the underground bulbs to grow next year's flowers. Once the leaves turn brown it is a signal this process is finished and it's safe to remove them. We are leaving the bulbs in the garden beds to flower again next spring. However, if your bulbs have been in the ground for a couple of years you can dig them up, and you will notice they have magically multiplied, so you can divide them and plant them in other parts of your garden or share them around.

As our **150th school celebrations** come closer we want our beds to be looking their best for our school families and the many visitors we are expecting. Some annuals will go in shortly to take the place of the bulbs which will be well and truly finished by then. Perhaps some marigolds and petunias to provide a spectacular colour display to accompany the sweet peas that are slowly making their way up the frames. We are looking forward to welcoming past pupils and the local community to celebrate with us, and have a look around the school grounds and buildings. This is a wonderful opportunity to see all the changes that are happening inside and out, while viewing a series of slide shows displaying photos and videos of people, and times from past days prepared by the Meredith History Interest Group. **So please set aside the afternoon and evening of Friday 13th December to join us for some fun and reflection.**

The lettuces that were planted amongst the garlic are ready to be harvested either as a whole or by just trimming a few leaves here and there. Succession planting of leafy greens like lettuce and spinach is a perfect way to provide for your salads and avoid the forgotten plastic bags of sludge that are often discovered at the bottom of the fridge when you have bought from the supermarket. There is nothing like dashing out to the garden to pick only what you need.

One of our wicking beds is on the move! As ours don't have a fixed base, this will be a tricky exercise and it will probably have to be redone. It will be an excellent opportunity after over a decade of use to renew the soil, and check the fittings and see it into its next stage of life with new plantings.

As the hours of sunlight each day increase and the weather warms, it is an ideal time to get some seeds started. Beans, beetroot, capsicum, cucumber, peas, potatoes, pumpkins, corn and zucchini can go in. If you are waiting for your winter crops to finish, or are unsure of your soil temperature you can always pop them into a pot and transfer them later.

Tomatoes need warm soil temperatures, so keep those seedlings in their pots for now ready to plant out in November. Some gardeners do this to lightly stress the plants which causes them to flower earlier than usual in an attempt to get fruit sooner. You might even like to put in a few sunflower seeds as these will reward you with a wonderfully cheerful and showy display. You can even plant them amongst the pumpkins to help with pollination and provide a frame for climbing beans.

Enjoy these productive and fruitful months in your garden or maybe take a walk next time you are in your town and delight in what others are doing in their patches.



# 150th Year Celebration

## 13th of December 2024

All past and present school community all welcome.

Contact school office for more details.

P: 03 5286 1313 E [meredith.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:meredith.ps@education.vic.gov.au)



## LETTERS to the Editor

At a recent Moorabool Shire Council meeting the proposed Elaine Recreation Reserve name change was not accepted and will remain ELAINE RECREATION RESERVE.

With 82% against 18% for, the Shire acknowledged it goes against the naming rules, as it will cause divide within the community.

Regards  
Shane Dunne  
Elaine Cricket Club

## Notice of AGM

Notice is hereby given that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of **Meredith Community Village Inc** will be held on Saturday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November at 9:30am at the Meredith Community Centre, 4 Russell Street, Meredith.

Prospective new members are very welcome.

For any enquiries, please email  
[MeredithCVinc@gmail.com](mailto:MeredithCVinc@gmail.com)



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## the. rain report

Last month's 59mm nearly brought a smile to rain girl's face, but coming off a dry winter, we don't want spring rains falling below average

SEPTEMBER rain  
(mm)

68

59

LTA



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Please contact Jim on 0409 163169 to find out more about being our back-up driver, delivering newsletters from the printer to our district outlets.

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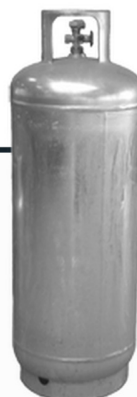
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## SUMMER GARDENING



[homestolove.com.au/outdoor-gardening/12-top-summer-gardening-tips-9896/](https://homestolove.com.au/outdoor-gardening/12-top-summer-gardening-tips-9896/)

## LIVING WITH SNAKES



[wildlife.vic.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0034/549178/Living-with-snakes-fact-sheet.pdf](https://wildlife.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0034/549178/Living-with-snakes-fact-sheet.pdf)

Each month I hope to pen an article to let you know what we have been up to, to connect you to the progress we are making in our township and also let you know what is in store in the future and, some of the projects we have been researching, running and completed.

My hope is to bring to light the many things that concern us as a community, the things that can be done, are in the process and hopefully, we are able to accomplish.

We are a local group of people who take the time to listen to your concerns, take them to local council and state politicians for the betterment of all of us here in Meredith.

Some of the things we do are to meet regularly with representatives of Golden Plains Shire councillors. After many meetings and petitions, our road into our town, was finally upgraded and is a testament to us and others not giving in. What is the old adage? *'The loudest dog barking, gets the bone'*

\*We are currently working with council for more signage to Pioneer Park (it is rather tired) and to also lobby for a dedicated entrance for the camping area.

\*We have spoken to them about the drainage in Wilson St. (watch this space)

\*We are currently trying to obtain a bus shelter in Wallace St near the Roadhouse for those catching the bus to Ballarat. There needs to be some coverage when it rains.

\*We have petitioned for the map on the left, as you pass the Royal Hotel in the small shelter to be replaced as it is also very tired, and we would like a colourful brand new one where many stop at the interpretive centre. It just makes more sense.

\*Whilst the Biggest Morning Tea is an official St Joseph's Church run event, we were the organisers. It certainly takes a tribe to put on an event like that. We worked closely with them to make the day the success it was.

There are many more things we are working on and in the pipeline. Our most recent one is an exciting hidden treasures epic sale in the Meredith Hall on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. Cash or card available with Devonshire Tea and a sausage sizzle...

Until next month,

*Kym Ivory (President AMA)*



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forget to  
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## The Philatelist

Michael Riseley



### The Caribbean

The history, and for what it matters the Postal History, of the Caribbean is quite fascinating. Columbus discovered many of the islands in the 1490's and was followed by many explorers who found other islands and places. Interestingly some of the islands were uninhabited and were settled by the nations of their discoverers. Many empires including British, French, Spanish, Dutch and even the USA have ruled various parts since then.

The island of Redonda is one of 3 islands that make the country Antigua & Barbuda. Antigua stamps were overprinted with Redonda and sometimes used in Antigua. But strangely not in Redonda. Well perhaps not so strange given that Redonda is basically just a big rock in the ocean and no-one lives there.

The Danish West Indies was a group of 53 islands occupied by Denmark and declared a colony in 1674. Stamps were issued from 1855. But in 1917 Denmark must have become short of a quid and sold the lot to the USA who renamed them the US Virgin Islands. Wonder what the residents thought because the transfer date was 1 April 1917. Virgin Island stamps in US currency have been used since.

There is a long history of squabbles between the various empires over various islands and often settled with treaties and agreements. In 1762 the British captured Havana and therefore controlled Cuba. But then in 1763 gave the island back to Spain in a direct swap for Florida. Spain kept control of Cuba until 1901 when USA forced Spain to recognise an independent republic. Britain got the short straw since it lost Florida in the American War of Independence only 20 years later in 1783.

But spare a thought for the people of St Lucia. Between 1605 and 1803 the island changed hands between France and Britain 16 times. Arthur and Martha must have been very dizzy. Just as well all this was before the use of postage stamps because trying to keep up with which stamps to use would have been a nightmare.

## September BacchChat

Marg Cooper

The theme for the September BacchChat was Local Heroes in Flight.

BacchChat is an initiative of the Bacchus Marsh library under the umbrella of the Moorabool Shire, to present interesting stories through presentations at the library.

On Saturday, September 7, starting at 10 am, Leigh Durham and his friend Peter Lawford talked about Leigh's father Max Durham, and then John Molesworth and his daughter Emma talked about John's father Bob Molesworth.

Both men were pilots in WW11.

Max enlisted aged 18 years, had 480 hours of training which cost 30,000 pounds per pilot. He was in the No 115 Squadron in the RAF as a pilot officer, flew 30 missions in Lancasters over Europe with loads of 64,000 lbs of fuel and bombs. In November 1945 Max was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. The largest raid he took part in, consisted of 1200 Lancasters. In an interview recorded before he died, he said that in that raid the planes were like a swarm of bees. He came home after the war and was very unsettled. Imagine a 21-year-old who had trained as a pilot, gone overseas, been in control of an aircraft and a crew flying missions, bombing railways and oil tanks etc coming home to the hum drum life of orcharding in Bacchus Marsh.

Bob Molesworth used his brother's birth certificate so he could enlist in the Air Force. The cut off age for pilot's enlistment was 28 and Bob was already 30 years old in 1940. He was also married. He told his friends who were joining the Army that he had done enough walking as a jackeroo in Western Australia during the Depression, so wanted to fly. He became leader of No 114 Squadron six weeks after he arrived in England, served 3½ years, flew 74 operations and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross by King George VI. In 1944 he applied for discharge because his wife was running the farm and by then they had three children. [He had had a couple of visits home during his time of service.] He met several important world leaders including Winston Churchill, who asked him if he wore woollen underwear, when he heard he came from Australia. Bob only flew in an aeroplane once, during the rest of his life.

A large crowd attended and were served morning tea between the presentations that finished about noon.



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# SPRING

## Night comp

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We're interested in finding a new...

## NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE MEMBER\*

If you are interested in joining the committee that guides this important community project, or just want to find out more, email us at:

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

or call Jim on 0409 163 169

*\*An important, but not a big job. The Committee meets just four times a year.*



## Meredith Farm Produce Shop

*Julie Cameron*

Sandy and I are often asked if we have a shop at the farm, a place for people to visit and buy Meredith Cheese. We have avoided going into retail, as it would take capital, time and energy away from the other areas of the business and compete with the fantastic retailers who have supported Meredith Dairy for the last 33 years. When asked, I have always said, "we can't do it all, something would have to give!", but a truly sustainable mature enterprise should run independent of its founders. Meredith Dairy's marketing strategy is to constantly tell our story and promote our vision. (I'm reminded of a TED talk by Simon Sinek, "people buy why you do it, not what you do"). Our latest initiative, to process goat meat, needs a supply chain direct to consumers, so when number 30 Staughton Street came on the market, complete with a commercial kitchen, a backyard and street frontage, it was too good to pass up. In a couple of weeks, the Meredith Farm Produce shop will be open for business.

On offer will be great coffee, Meredith Dairy products, honey from the farm, goat meat, lamb, baked goods, plants and flowers. Eventually we aim to sell take-home meals made using our farm's produce. There is also an area to exhibit fine art made by talented artists which will reflect the local landscape and history.

Behind the counter you will meet Anthony Hamilton - Smith, son of Graham who is well known in Meredith, after establishing the wool store now called "Meredith Rural and Pet Supplies". In 2018, Graham renovated 30 Staughton Street as a project after losing his wife to cancer. He called this venue "Dorothy's Kitchen". Anthony has worked in some serious restaurants and will be making coffee, serving, doing the social media

and basically being a jack of all trades. We feel lucky to have a local experienced and talented person to guide us through the perils of hospitality and retail.

Our aim is for the "Meredith Farm Produce" to be a meeting place, a function venue as well as a cafe and retail outlet. Workshops, cooking classes and exhibitions are planned to promote the benefits of produce direct from the farm and our fantastic region. The main purpose however will be to promote the Meredith Dairy story, our vision and legacy -there will always be the thread of "from the farm" as a theme. When our doors open, (Thursday to Sunday, 9am to 3pm) a new adventure begins as we show case the local bounty from our patch of earth here at Meredith.



*"memory is a dog that wants to please its master"*

*from Gabriel's Moon by William Boyd*



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# MONEY

## Matters

with Sandy Hoffmann



PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR MANAGING YOUR MONEY

### Your Motor Vehicle and Tax!

As I look at the sparrows carrying leaf litter and feathers to make a nest for spring I wonder, could you be sitting on a nest egg of your own....

If you use your own Motor Vehicle (MV) to travel for work as an employee, that is travel during your working day, then you can claim this travel as a tax deduction.

It could be that you are carrying bulky tools to job sites, or it could be that you start your day working in one location and then have to travel to another.

If your employer would be willing to write a letter confirming that you need to use your MV for work purposes, then you may be able to claim the kms travelled in your tax return.

The first thing you need to do is work out the kms you travelled for the year. For some this is an easy calculation but for others this can be a bit tricky. Therefore, you may wish to try recording a Logbook.

With a Logbook, we can get the total work kms travelled for the year, and if the kms are over the set rate of 5,000kms we can use the logbook method as a second option, based on which one gives you the higher deduction in your tax return.

The Logbook calculates the percentage you use your MV for private v employment. The employment percentage is then used to apportion the expenses of the running costs of your MV. This would include insurance, registration, repair and maintenance and an average of the fuel costs.

A lot of my clients are surprised at how easy this is to do. You simply need the following:

The odometer reading of your car as at 1.7 of the year and then the closing odometer reading as at the 30.6 of the following year.

A period of 3 months, when you will note the kms you travel for work purposes only. This can be done in a note book, or a template from google.

The expenses you incurred throughout the year for the running of the car. Don't provide or keep the fuel receipts (your accountant can calculate this for you).

Once you have done the Logbook this is your evidence and is used till such time as you change your work travel. At that point it may be better to do another 3 month recording.

I have seen major differences in deductions using the set rate method compared to the Logbook method.

Most people go with the set rate because it seems easier. If one stays under 5,000kms and multiplies this by the commissioner rate of .85c (2024FY) then that is the claim most people use, but even if you are under 5,000kms you can work out which claim is better. I have seen this first hand with repairs of older vehicles and now the cost of fuel being so high. The advantage of a Logbook is choice and knowing that if you go over 5,000kms you are not stuck, missing out on potential money in your tax refund.

I say, short term pain for long term gain and ask you once again....

Could you be sitting on a nest egg?

### Household savings hack of the month:

Do you have a mortgage with a repayment set to monthly? Did you know that interest on your home loan is calculated daily and charged monthly. So, if you can change the repayments to weekly or even fortnightly you will be reducing the overall length of the home loan with zero effort. Then if you can round up the repayments for example \$592 to \$600, you will actually shave off around 3-4 years on average, on the overall loan.



A mathematician, an accountant and an economist apply for the same job. The interviewer calls in the mathematician and asks "What do two plus two equal?" The mathematician replies "Four." The interviewer asks "Four, exactly?" The mathematician looks at the interviewer incredulously and says "Yes, four, exactly."

Then the interviewer calls in the accountant and asks the same question "What do two plus two equal?" The accountant says "On average, four – give or take ten percent, but on average, four."

Then the interviewer calls in the economist and poses the same question "What do two plus two equal?" The economist gets up, locks the door, closes the shade, sits down next to the interviewer and says, "What do you want it to equal?"

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## Council Elections

In Golden Plains Shire, there are ten candidates for seven vacancies and in Moorabool Shire, there are 15 candidates for nine vacancies. Consequently, an election will be held in each shire. Voting is compulsory so if you are enrolled, be sure to vote.

Voting is by post only, and packs will be mailed out from 7th October. **Voting closes at 6.00pm on Friday 25th October.**

You can find names and each candidate's response to a Victoria Electoral Commission questionnaire at the sites below.

### Golden Plains:

<https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/voting/2024-local-council-elections/golden-plains-shire-council/nominations>



### Moorabool:

<https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/voting/2024-local-council-elections/moorabool-shire-council/nominations>



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## Meredith Community Plan Follow-Up Launch

On 15 August 2024, the Meredith Community Plan Launch was held at the Community Centre with approximately 20 people in attendance, including the Mayor of the Golden Plains Shire, Cr Brett Cunningham.

In 2023 Susan Vandenharm, Community Partnerships Officer with the Shire, attended a meeting in Meredith where she discussed the formation of Community Co-Ordinators for Meredith and the benefits that could be achieved by working with already established groups and clubs within the town.

Four community members, Bridget Dyer, Maddy McColl, Lucy Banks and Cheryl Gilbert agreed to become Co-Ordinators. Members of the Community were asked to put forward suggestions via a survey of what they would like to see happen in Meredith. All of the suggestions showed that the community is open to having family events as well as beautifying the town.

The aim of the Community Co-ordinators is to work with already established groups in Meredith to help promote their activities as well as help members of the community organise events to benefit the town and residents.

A Seed Funding application \$10,000 was approved by the Council. This funding will enable the Co-ordinators to work with already established groups plus work towards getting community events established. This money is to be spent over a four year period and is to be distributed across four different areas – to improve recreational spaces and amenities, establish a community market, install welcome to Meredith signage and to develop a local program of community activities and events.

Attendees were asked to look at a list of suggested events/activities and encouraged to become involved if there was anything that they feel passionate about. Some suggestions at the launch were to have a Community Bonfire, re-establish the pony club and fun run.

If you have a project that you would like to have considered, or if you are a member of an already established group in Meredith and would like to hold a community event, or feel that you would like to be involved with, please let us know.

All projects identified need community support to be actioned, volunteering can look different for everyone and as volunteers if you can offer an hour of your time or a few hours a month, please contact us via email [meredithcommunityplanning@gmail.com](mailto:meredithcommunityplanning@gmail.com) or phone 0407837617.

People are invited to attend the next meeting of the Community Co-Ordinators which to be held on Wednesday 6 November 2024 from 7 – 8.30pm at the Meredith Community Centre. Refreshments provided.

*Cheryl Gilbert  
On behalf of the Meredith Community Co-Ordinators.*



### MEREDITH MUSIC FESTIVAL TICKET ALLOCATION FOR LOCALS

The upcoming Meredith Music Festival sold out in record time.

There is, however, an allocation of tickets available on a first-come first-served basis for locals living between Elaine and Lethbridge. Tickets can be purchased from the **Meredith Roadhouse (26 Wallace Street)** from 10am on Tuesday 12 November, 2024 until sold out. 3 per person limit.

Please bring proof of residential address (Meredith, Elaine, She Oaks, Mount Mercer or Lethbridge address). Card sales only.

Meredith Thirty Two will be held from the 6th to the 8th of December, 2024. More details will be provided closer to the event.

If you have any questions, please contact Aunty Meredith via [auntym@mmf.com.au](mailto:auntym@mmf.com.au).

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## it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

### Open Day:

MHIG invite you to the Annual Open Day on Sunday, October 20, 10am – 3pm at the History Centre (Old Shire Hall) at 31 Staughton Street, Meredith. The theme for this year is *The General Store*, trading since the 1860's.

In 1866 Connor and O'Brien were storekeepers in Meredith. In 1890 H. O'Brien was having a clearing sale at his shop and moving to a new site. In 1902 Henry O'Brien had a shop on the east side of Wallace Street. In 1905 Henry O'Brien died.

Some other owners and operators of the Corner Store or Bottom Shop were George Mayo, Tommy Nicol, Hardinge, Oslinis, Taggarts, Abley, Watts, Wiesebrocks, McKenzies and O'Sullivan. [Can you put them in order of occupancy?]

The Bookshop will be open, there will be a plant stall, a cup of tea or coffee will be available for \$5.00 with scones, jam and cream and research assistance will be available.

### Morrison's Thru the Lens Book Launch:

MHIG invite you to the launch of the book of Morrison's photos, most of which were displayed at the exhibition presented in the Meredith Memorial Hall in October 2023.

The launch will be at the Morrison's Fire Shed on Sunday, November 10 at 1.30 pm. The coffee table type book contains a photo on nearly every one of its over 200 pages. The photos are organized in themes including river, bridges, churches, schools and enterprise. The book only contains a few photos of people, but a display is being prepared featuring photos of residents of Morrison's. Please feel free to bring your own family photos on the day. Please also bring a small plate of afternoon tea to share.

### WW1 Book Launch:

Inverleigh Historical Society and Inverleigh RSL Sub-branch are launching a book about the WW1 soldiers of Inverleigh and Murgheboluc District. Author Rob Wight has a passion for researching military history and has compiled this book that will be launched on Sunday, October 27 at 2 pm at the Inverleigh Public Hall. The organizers ask that you RSVP on 0403267286 for catering purposes.

### Competition Winner:

In the 1890's a skeleton rail link existed, but the west to east line, across Australia was missing a section between Kalgoorlie and Port Augusta spanning almost 2000 kilometers.

In one of Australia's most remarkable surveying and engineering feats two construction teams worked for more than five years to fill the gap. They met on October 17, 1917 finishing the longest straight stretch of railway ever built in Australia. To mark the occasion of the first train to travel an unbroken journey across the country, a competition was held in 1969 to name the train that would make the long-awaited single east-west crossing of the nation. Henry Roach had the brilliant idea to name it the Indian Pacific.

We [Marg & Jeff Cooper] have just undertaken that journey from Sydney to Perth.

### "WRONG NUMBER"

She answered a call to a "wrong number"  
One day on the telephone -  
His voice was deep, and oh so kind,  
And he sounded so alone.

She talked and talked ,with this "wrong number":  
The days sped happily.....  
He said he was falling in love  
And the fact was - so was she!

He said the very sweetest things  
And 'phoned so often, too!  
The line was always so engaged -  
That no-one else got through!

But the days that followed brought many a tear;  
Her dreams had gone astray -  
Her 'phone is silent: her heart is sad,  
And he is no longer, gay.

For they met at last - but oh! alas!  
It wasn't right at all -

The man she saw, was nothing like  
The man who made the call

So It's over now: he doesn't ring  
As he used to, - day and night -  
And her sad heart yearns for the "wrong number"  
That didn't turn out right!

*Linda Brumby 1964 (submitted by Janene Schillier)*

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*G'Day from the penners for October. As I write this, it is cold and blustery, the last of the winter surge, I hope anyway. I love the cold weather but even I have had enough and I'm looking forward to the feeling of the warm sun on my skin.*

*At the group things are going along hunky dory, lots of good stories and poems being produced. It is amazing how the human brain can conjure up such creativity week after week. We never seem to run out of words to put together in an interesting fashion. As the following story from Karen will attest to.*

*If you like our work why not get in touch via our email [goldenpens4@gmail.com](mailto:goldenpens4@gmail.com)*

*We always welcome feedback, as we are such friendly bunch of folks. If you would like to join us you can contact me, via that email address.*

*We hope you enjoy Karens's story.*

*Cheers, Wendy.*

### **Walking into Spring** By Karen Naylor

Walking into spring sounds lovely, soothing somehow and makes me smile. The Maggie's are energetic in their pursuit of survival at this time of year and the new generation of our glorious black and white warblers are hatched and, in the nest, no doubt making a ruckus, demanding with wide open beaks to the sky, "what's for dinner, I'm starving, I'll die if I don't eat soon. STARVING!" they squark. In nature all species instinct is to protect the next generation even across species, occasionally a mother duck will tuck a baby of another species under her wing to keep it warm. Our instinct is to protect the young in warm blooded species and that instinct is powerful. Think if you will the reaction of any normal group of people and a puppy. Only a disturbed few people would stand by and allow a puppy to be kicked. Instinctively we want to protect the young, and it brings out the best in us. We really want to protect a puppy... But what is my point? Well, I'm not sure really, but it evokes a powerful response none the less and makes me think.

The hungry offspring of all species are like... I'm hungry what's to eat? Can we have a roast night?" The constant quest for food is relentless, nagging for it never seems to end! And so, it is with the constant work required to bring food to the table. It is endless and drives us to stay in jobs we no longer like and relationships that no longer work for us on a personal level but survival is a shared pursuit.

I wonder if magpies have feelings of guilt? Their actions are the same as ours...or so it seems to me, it's hard to separate the two. Do magpies fly off sometimes and abandon the nest and sit in a tree

looking out at far horizons and think of flying off into the sunset... before sighing heavily and flying back to the nest.

Or do we/they wait until the time is right, the young are grown and the sky ahead is open, this generation has survived.

Do we reconnect again and feel renewed?

These are things I ponder... but at least winter is gone along with the giant hail that damaged the roof of my car.

Let's walk into spring together

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## in our NATURE

Wendy Cook

I walked briskly along the sandy track towards the bend where the dunes met the claypan. The scattered gum trees each grew several slender trunks forming typical mallee eucalypts. On the sand dunes, small plants and shrubs with tough leaves showed their colourful springtime flowers. Tracks left by kangaroos, emus, goannas and smaller lizards, and birds of various sizes passed between them. It was late in the afternoon, and I was looking for one of those birds, the malleefowl, a bird that once lived in the Brisbane Ranges near Meredith, but is now locally extinct there. It is still found in the mallee country of north-west Victoria, where I was visiting a private conservation property, north of Nhill. My family had camped there often, and I knew that if I walked quietly along this track at this time on a spring day, I would see malleefowl.



*Photo by Colin Cook*

I slowed my pace as I approached the bend. Ahead of me, near the dunes was the place to find the birds. Cautiously, I continued around the next two curves in the track. As I passed one of the rounded bushes of wallowa, a common wattle, a bird came into view. Its grey body was about the size of a goose with shorter legs and neck. Its wing feathers were patterned with rich brown patches surrounded by lines of black and white. The details on its tail feathers were finer, while a wide black stripe ran down the pale front of its neck. A line of white from its stubby grey beak passed below its round brown eye and above the orange-brown feathers of its chin and throat. This was the bird I was expecting, a malleefowl also known by the indigenous name of lowan. I paused and watched as it ate seeds from the ground, then continued my approach very carefully. I transferred my weight to my front foot, then raised my back foot and stepped forwards so slowly that the movement was barely noticeable. In this manner, I advanced to within a few metres. The bird remained unconcerned and as I turned my head slightly, I saw a second malleefowl a little further away. Still and silent, I watched them for several minutes as they continued to feed and gradually made their way towards the edge of the dune. Here they moved between the bushes, the patterns on their feathers providing camouflage amongst the leaves. I made no attempt to follow them.

The birds I had seen were a pair and like many other birds in springtime, they were caring for their eggs. Rather than sitting on their eggs and using their body's warmth to incubate them, malleefowl use the heat of composting vegetation and the sun. A malleefowl nest appears to be a hill of sand over one metre tall. During winter, the male digs out the centre of an old nesting mound or begins a new nest. He makes a hole three metres wide and nearly one metre deep. Working his way backwards towards the hole, he scratches leaf litter from the surrounding area into it. After rain, he turns it over and begins the composting process. This forms the centre of the mound of sand. The male digs a chamber into it, where the female lays a large egg once or twice a week until the mound contains between ten and twenty-five eggs. The male checks the temperature of the mound by testing it with his beak. If it is too hot, he reduces the pile of sand above the eggs and replaces it before the cool of the evening. Malleefowl concentrate their attention on the care of their eggs, but have no interest in the chicks. After two or three months, the young birds hatch and dig upwards until they reach the surface of the mound. Here they rest for up to twenty minutes before finding a hiding place in a nearby bush. They have all their feathers and are fully independent. Within two hours they can run fast, and a day later they can fly.

Watching malleefowl or seeing a nesting mound is an uncommon occurrence, and I was very fortunate to be able to do both for many years. Malleefowl are a threatened species in Victoria. Much of their habitat has been destroyed for agricultural use or by rabbits or fire, and they are hunted by foxes. European settlers and goldminers dug eggs out of mounds and ate the adults, so that now the birds are only found in areas of natural vegetation in less populated places, such as the Mallee. Malleefowl are not the only creatures known to be lost from our local area. Once, there were bandicoots, bettongs, native rats and brush-tailed rock wallabies. Quolls were the predators, to which the local wildlife were accustomed. Other species, such as koalas, native water rats now known as rakali, and barking owls are still here, but have become much less common. Some of these animals can be visited in sanctuaries, such as Mt Rothwell north of the You Yangs, but I can't help thinking how wonderful it would be to walk along one of our local bush tracks and come across a malleefowl as I round a bend.







## Marg's Book Review

### **The Physician** by Noah Gordon

This is an epic book. It is a book that would have required incredible research. It is a story set in the eleventh century in many countries. The story is a good one.

The Physician is 700 + pages of historical fiction. The story begins in London when a young Christian lad is left orphaned after both parents die. His siblings are passed along by his father's guild to various other families but Rob J Cole, who is not yet 10 years old becomes an apprentice to a barber-surgeon who roams around England performing magic tricks, giving medical advice and selling questionable health remedies.

During the years he spends with the barber surgeon Rob is inducted into the rudiments of medieval medicine but develops a wish to know more. He hears that the best training is at a University in Persia, so he carries out a bold scheme to travel across Europe and study there.

Rob travels as a Christian from London to Constantinople. Here he becomes Jewish in appearance and actions because he knows that a Christian would not be allowed to study at the university. He travels westward with a group of Jewish merchants learning their ways as best he can. He also learns the language he will need to speak in Persia, on the long trip.

He is passed as a physician and helps instruct new physicians in the school in Isfahan [in modern day Iran]. He and his Scottish/Christian wife intend to return to Britain and when Isfahan is conquered by a rival king they take the opportunity to flee.

This book is part of a trilogy. The author Noah Gordon has written *Sharman* and *Matters of the Heart* which apparently follow certain Cole family descendants and include themes of medicine and the Jewish faith..

The tale of the twenty two month journey to Persia, his studies, his interaction with the Shah and political leaders of the time and his return home is full of adventure and interesting characters.

Reviewers compare the book with *Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett. I would compare it with books by James Mitchener.

Vivid in historical detail, it is an inspiring tale of a quest for medical knowledge pursued in a violent world full of superstition and prejudice.

[In those times students dissected pigs to learn about the body and its diseases as pigs were believed to be the animal closest in composition to the human body. In this book several people die of appendicitis. A pig doesn't have an appendix!]



## Brisbane Ranges Sketchers

### **September Outing** - by Kerry Thomson

Glorious weather greeted us as we navigated the potholes into the Russell's Bridge carpark by the bridge over the Moorabool River. An abundance of choice was a little challenging but we all took up various positions focussing on everything from broad vistas covering wide river views with numerous trees through to intense concentration on a single aged eucalyptus. Amongst the fourteen sketchers we welcomed Deidre and Janine for their first outing. Many thanks also to Deidre for offering her nearby home for coffee and chat afterwards.

Next time: - October 15(second Tuesday) 10 am-12.30pm  
- venue to be decided so new people meet at the Meredith Community Centre at 10 am  
- BYO art materials, chair, weather appropriate clothing, cuppa for after  
Newbies welcome :-)







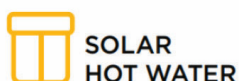
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