

Meredith & district News

NOVEMBER 2024

OUR **FREE** COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



inside

- Two wedding in a week.
- The Vicar Needs a Haircut.
- Fire Season Prep - Your Obligations.
- Music Festival Tickets for locals
....and lots more!



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



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SPINY BROOM (*calicotome spinosa*)

Janene Schillier

Spiny Broom is coming in to flower now!

Stop the seed of this invasive easily spreading woody weed

With bright yellow flowers it might be mistaken for a native plant

The seeds spread in the hot summer months

Use your computer search engine to find out more



Left, Spiny broom in flower (the Bad Guy) and above, one of the Good Guys, the Golden Moth native orchid. Wendy Cook took this photo and you can read her article on page 28.



TRIVIA NIGHT

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER @ 7:30PM

**HOSTED AT THE MEREDITH CC
CLUBROOMS**

**\$10 PER HEAD, TABLES OF
6-10. LOADS OF PRIZES**

Drinks at bar, BYO nibbles

**GET IN QUICK
TABLES ARE
GOING
QUICKLY**

**Please contact
Joel Hart 0407
147 358 for
table bookings
and/or queries**

Meredith & district News



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

NEWS & VIEWS

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

DATES AND DEADLINES

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

ADVERTISING

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

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

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

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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advertising@meredithnews.com.au

Accounts: Ian Leighton 0428132880

accounts@meredithnews.com.au

Editorial: Jim: 0409 163169

news@meredithnews.com.au

WEB

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

ONLINE PHOTOS

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

DISCLAIMER

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

FEEDBACK

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

Issue Production: Don Atherton Editor: Jim Elvey

connect

ADVANCE
MEREDITH
0409 027 359

ANGLING CLUB
0419 248 660

B'BURN ART
GROUP
0410 808 483

BLUE LIGHT
DISCO
5286 1222

BOOK CLUB
5286 8201

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

CHILDCARE
5286 0700

COMMUNITY
CENTRE
5286 0700

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

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SCOUTS
Lethbridge
0435 042077

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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 |

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Mr Don Atherton. 0409 869 960

Mr Paul Ryan Elaine 0409 861 296

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SCHOOL

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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



"Reality is merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one."

— Albert Einstein

Church News



Meredith Uniting Church

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

Rev. Paul Sanders 0407 833 515 5341 2440

Serbian Orthodox - 5341 5536

Daily services: Matins 8.00 am, Vespers 6.00 pm.

Divine Liturgies on Saturdays & Sundays 10.00 am.

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

8.00 am Holy Communion St Paul's, Inverleigh

10.00 am Family Communion. St John's, Bannockburn

5.00 pm Prayer and Praise Epiphany, Meredith

Find us at: www.goldenplainsanglican.org or

office.revdrtim@hotmail.com

The Revd Dr Timothy Smith

PiC Anglican Parish of

Inverleigh+Bannockburn+Meredith

St Josephs Parish of Meredith

CATHOLIC PARISH OF MEREDITH MASS TIMES – November 2024

Winchelsea - St. John the Baptist @ 6pm Sat. Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30

Anakie—St Brigid@9am Sun Nov 10

Meredith—St Joseph@9am Sun Nov 3, 17

B'burn – St. Mary MacKillop @ 11am Sun. Nov. 3, 10, 17,

Bannockburn—Whole Parish 11am Sun. Nov 24

Thanksgiving Mass and BBQ

Inverleigh – Sacred Heart @ 4pm Sun. Nov. 17

OUR COVER

Cathie Boer's photos of local celebrations of Halloween last month, has caught one unmasked trick or treater, Will Zordan. That might be his sister Charlie next to him, or equally, it might be an academic crowd.



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

The Meredith Police Paddocks Support Group

...because volunteering is GOOD for YOU!



Parliamentary Reception for
His Majesty King Charles III
and Her Majesty Queen Camilla

given by
The Honourable Anthony Albanese MP,
Prime Minister of Australia
and Ms Jodie Haydon

Canapés

- Pumpkin, Victorian Meredith feta, varrigal frittata (gf, v)
- Bundaberg spanner crab, lemon aspen crab cake (df)
- Armidale Shepherd's pie, wattleseed potato (gf)
- Griffith salted Murray cod croquette, saffron aioli
- WA black barley falafel, guacamole, Davidson plum (vegan)
- Zucchini fritter, sauerkraut, sour cream (gf, v)
- Pumpkin arancini, saffron aioli (v)
- BBQ smoked chicken terrine, pickled muntrie chutney (cn, df, gf)
- Tuna Tataki nigiri, rosella sweet & sour (df, gf)
- Tasmanian gravlax Salmon, native pepper, blini

WANTED TO RENT - Young family looking to rent house and around 2 acres. Please contact Christina on 0490 945 007

Recreation



Mick Devlin

The Crocs, along with a contingent of Vic Country players, headed over to Perth for the Nation Masters Carnival. The National Carnival comprises multiple age groups ranging from over 35's right up to over 70's. Each team plays three games in 6 days. The last game is usually between the 2 tops sides in the age group and division, and they play for the championship. This year's carnival was another great and successful carnival for the Crocs and Vic Country. A fantastic effort from such a small club to have 16 players (some former) represent AFL Masters Vic Country. We had some wins and losses on the field, but off the field only wins.

In the overs 35's/40's combined side the Crocs were represented by Mitch Troy and Shaun Faulkner. In the over 45's Div 1 the Crocs were represented by Mick Devlin, Craig Taylor, Damien Harwood, Ange Fatone (team Manager) and Kev Murray. In the over 50's/55's combined side, the Crocs were represented by Mick Battye, Phillip Cranage, Dave Obrien, Mitch Troy and Mick Devlin (Coaches). Finally the over 60's the Crocs were represented by Daryl Jones, Gary Polglaze, Paul Nolan, Mick Rooney, John Peterson and Col Mullane. Of course, all these players were required to help out and double up for other Vic country teams who were short due to injury.

In the 50's Vic Country took out Div 2 premiership, led by the general, Mick Battye, and the winning goal in the final was kicked by ever reliable back man Col Mullane (who is an over 60's player helping out). This was Col's first premiership after 350 games of senior football, so fair to say he was pretty happy. Dave O'Brien, Phillip Cranage, John Peterson also contributed well to earn their medals. Mitch Troy was the supercoach assisted by Mick Devlin.

The 60s, 35s and 45s all had mixed results, but all the Crocs players represented well.

The Crocs had two players selected in the All-Australian teams this year, Daryl Jones and Craig Taylor, who both performed really well all week and thoroughly deserved their awards.

Mick Devlin received the Lawrie Evans memorial shield for most valuable contribution to Vic Country, an award he was deeply honoured to receive and would like to thank everyone who helped along the way.

That's a wrap for 2024, See you next year.

Go Crocs



Terry Hart

Junior Report (Meredith Lambs)

After a couple of seasons of attempting to kick start our junior cricket programme, our newest and youngest members finally played their first game on Friday evening at Inverleigh. Our under 11 boys and girls played a fantastic 20 over game, supported by a large group of enthusiastic parents and club members willing them on. Well done to all the families, members and coaches involved in helping to get our local kids engaged in the great game of cricket. Any children interested in coming along and joining the fun, please feel free to contact the club via facebook or drop in to training on a Thursday afternoon from 4.30 to 5.30.

Senior Report (Meredith Rams)

Both of our senior sides have commenced the season with strong performances. The club has recruited a number of quality players over the off season and expectation is high that we will be competing at the business end of the season in both grades.

We are always on the look out for more players and members, so if you are keen to have a hit or would just like to come and support your local club, please feel free to drop into the club on a Thursday night training session from 5.30 or on match day Saturday from 12.30.

Social Report

We opened up our social calendar on Saturday October 5th after our 1st game with our Ipod shuffle night.

Congratulations to Wendy Draper on taking home the \$400 1st prize, just pipping our new coach Matt Ringin who finished in 2nd place.

Next up on the Rams Social Calendar is our Trivia Night on Saturday November 30th, kicking off at 7.30pm. HEAPS OF PRIZES AND LOADS OF FUN TO BE HAD. Tables of 6-10 can be booked via our facebook page or by contacting our events co-ordinator Joel Hart on-0407147358.

Keep an eye on our facebook page for upcoming social functions- Reverse Raffle, Past Players Day, Ladies day, Sponsors Day, Car Show.



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!



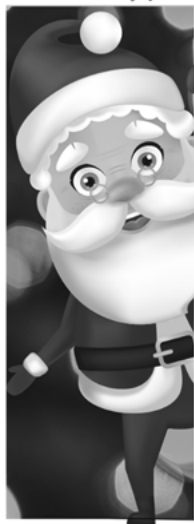
Michaela Settle MP
Member for Eureka

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



Meredith Community Centre
working for our community

What's On This Month



CHRISTMAS Food Drive

DONATE YOUR ITEMS SO
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Items will go into Hampers and delivered for
those Families in Need

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Mindfulness with Jade

Monday - 3.30 - Prep - Grade 4
Monday - 4.30 - Grade 5 - Year 9
Wednesdays - 9.30 - Goddess Mums
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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
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@meredithcommunitycentre



PLAYGROUP

THURSDAYS
9.00am - 11.30am
\$2 per family

Meredith Tennis Club news

Bridget Dyer

Coaching

We have managed to have a few coaching sessions now that the weather has cleared up and it is great to see so many children participating.

We still have 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.

Cardio Tennis

Cardio Tennis has been a great little program, with participants having fun while getting some exercise. We have had children as young as 11 participate with their parents and work on their cardio fitness, as well as groups with just mums having fun together. Tennis Victoria have

also been out to visit to get feedback on the program and to give Maddy a hand. Overall the feedback has been positive and well received. There will be another four week program start up again the week beginning 11th November. Please contact Maddy to secure your spot. This

program qualifies for a discount if you have a membership (including a social membership!). Contact us if you would like to become a social member for \$50 per year.

Summer Saturday Competition

The Summer competition is off to a good start, with lots of great tennis being played. The weather has been wonderful and there is always a sausage sizzle happening at the courts.

The orange ball children are very cute to watch as they learn how to play tennis with the help of their parents on smaller courts. Two of our older teams, Meredith Blue and Meredith Black, playing in B grade in the Buninyong District and Tennis association competition, recently played one another and one of their doubles game went for an hour! The teams were so evenly matched (there were a set of twins playing each other), that the sets often didn't reflect the how the teams played. It was a pleasure to watch siblings and cousins play one another and have a bit of fun while eating a sausage (or two).

Meredith Red have adjusted to green ball quite well, and Meredith Yellow is also playing well. Meredith White has had some great games with amazing rallies also. While, our senior team is also off to a good start with a few wins. Well done to everyone playing and giving it their best efforts each week.

Spring Night Competition

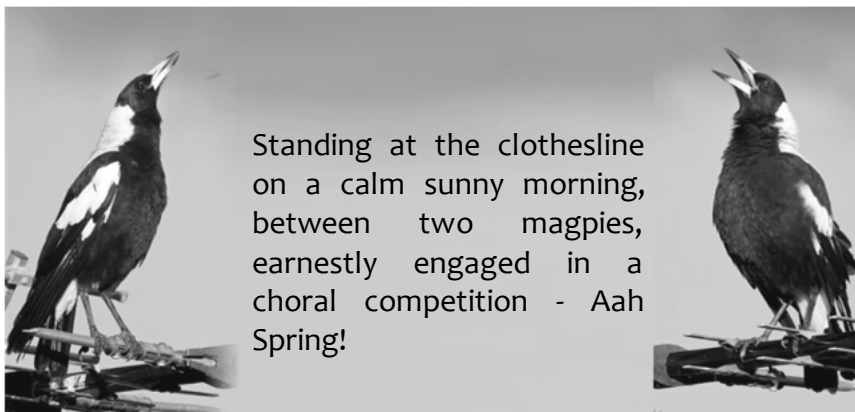
Our Spring night competition has started and we have four teams in our youngest section and six teams in each of the other two sections. The first week was declared a wash out, but we have had great weather for the last couple of weeks. As always, it has been a pleasure to welcome new faces and we hope that they enjoy the competition (and food!). This competition the Cricket Club has joined us for meals and we welcome any spectators to join us for our \$10 dinners.

Tennis Australia Story

On Wednesday 23rd October and Thursday 24th October, we had Tennis Australia come out and visit us to shoot a story about the Meredith Tennis Club and it being restarted after a long hiatus. Meredith Tennis Club is considered a success story, going from no club to 7 junior teams, night competitions, and a cardio program along with almost 60 members in five years. Tennis Australia interviewed a number of people that are involved in making the club a success with a focus on Maddy McColl. The story will form part of Tennis Australia's Awards night and may also be on the nine news! We will keep people updated via our facebook page. We would like to thank everyone who agreed to be interviewed and filmed, and for letting their children be involved. As always, our club is only as successful as it is due to all the volunteers and people who participate to make it such a great club. Thank you!

Christmas break up

Our Christmas break up this year will be held Sunday 1 December at the Meredith Rec Reserve. It will start 11.30 am, with lunch to be served at 12pm. We ask those coming to please RSVP to our event on Facebook and for families with the last name from A-M to bring a salad or savoury dish, while those with the last name N-Z please bring a dessert. The club will provide the rest. We hope to have a special visitor for the children and of course will have the Ball Machines out and will be having a hit.



Standing at the clothesline on a calm sunny morning, between two magpies, earnestly engaged in a choral competition - Aah Spring!



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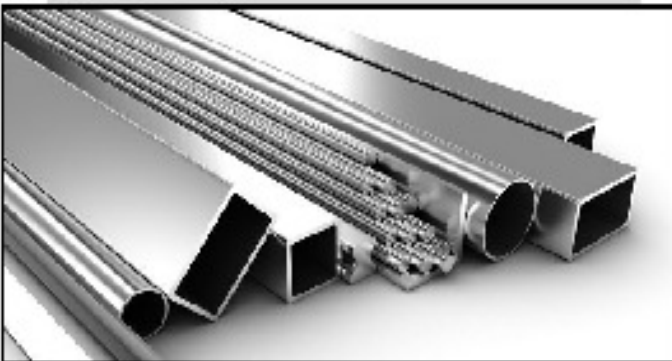
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 Sat 8.30am-1pm

Please note - closed Sundays until further notice

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POLICEreport

Senior Constable Anthony BOX

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

Thankfully, we have had a slow couple of months for crime in the Meredith area. I encourage people to continue to be vigilant and to continue practicing good crime prevention methods.

A reminder to operators of drones to be aware of all rules and regulations.

It is unlawful to:

- Fly your drone within 30 meters of other people or over another person.
- Fly outside of daylight hours.
- Fly in a populous area.

Your drone must be within visual line of sight of the operator.

You must not fly your drone over or near areas affecting public safety or where emergency operations are underway. This includes ambulance, police, search and rescue, or firefighting efforts.

There are additional rules which apply which can be found at www.casa.gov.au/knowyourdrone/drone-rules

It is also unlawful to record without permission on another person's property.

Please keep an eye on the CFA Vic Website and Golden Plains Shire Council regarding the Fire Danger Period.

There is no date set yet, however, based on other years it is likely to be in November or December so please be familiar with the rules around fire in preparation for this period.

Thank you to the Meredith CFA for their hospitality at their Christmas get-together this year.

Meredith is in good hands, with such a great local CFA team in place.

I have had the privilege to work along side them at many incidents over the past two years and can vouch for their efficiency and competency, so as we come into the fire-danger period, you will all be in good hands.

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.

the Philatelist



Michael Riseley

CINDERELLAS

I believe in Cinderella. No not the fairy tale maiden who became a princess but the Cinderellas of the philatelic world. Here a Cinderella stamp is a label that looks like a postage stamp but was not issued by a postal administration for general postal use. They are not valid for postage. And there are millions of them.

The first postage stamp was issued in 1840 and quickly became the universal system of paying for mail delivery. And as the world came to accept these little sticky stamps as being part of daily life, then the creative imagination of some people began to see other possibilities. And business organisations recognised the marketing opportunities.

One of the more frequent uses of Cinderellas was as souvenirs of events. Not surprisingly the larger Philatelic Shows and Annual Congresses produced sets of Cinderella stamps for attendees (who were probably stamp collectors anyway) to purchase on their way out as a souvenir of their visit. And of course this naturally created the desire and need to have next year's stamps ...and the next.

Business could see the promotional advertising value of issuing their own Cinderella stamps. Many local authorities would issue Cinderellas to promote tourism and events in their area. Non-profit organisations such as Red Cross and Lions Clubs jumped in and began issuing Cinderellas often approaching Xmas hoping that people would put them on their Xmas card mail alongside the normal postage stamp. And they did and still do. Denmark is one country famous for its Xmas labels.



Various charity organisations followed as a way to raise funds. The 1897 Prince of Wales Hospital Fund issued some rather expensive Cinderellas, which were successful because the middle and upper classes wanted to display how generous and prosperous they were by using them on their mail.

There are many uses of Cinderellas. During WW11 many countries issued War Savings stamps to raise funds for the war effort. Some clubs issue their own as a form of receipt for membership fees. Some government departments use them as a paid licence fee receipt. And let's not forget the Olympics. No doubt visitors to Paris this year were encouraged to buy some Cinderella stamps as a small and easy souvenir of their attendance.



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Somers Camp

By Nevaeh Measures, Charlie Zordan and Elsa Devlin

Somers Camp was a really amazing experience for everyone. It lasted nine days, on the first and last day you don't do much, but the following days are crazy! We had six people from Meredith Primary School who went to Somers Camp. You get sorted into groups of twenty, or some groups got a couple extra. We made so many new friends and did many activities.

It was an amazing experience. Even though nine days is a lot, we all survived. On Sunday your family and friends could come and visit you for two hours. For those who did not have parents visit, they got pizza and chocolate milk. They also got to do a fun activity. We had full days - we woke up at 7:00 and did back-to-back activities until 9:00pm. Most people got tired on the fifth day and we were crawling into bed by the seventh day.

We had so many fun nights. We had a disco, bush dance, campfire, bush walk, and nocturnal walk, where we got to see a ringtail possum, sugar gliders, and eastern barred bandicoots. There were so many daytime activities. There was the barn, environmental studies, archery, rock climbing, abseiling, flying fox, giant swing, orienteering, high ropes course, low ropes course, team building activities, boating, surfing, beach walk, Coolart walk, biking, art, drama, initiative activities and library. In the morning, we had an assembly where we sang songs and Tim did the hut marks. He even had his own song. The meals were amazing, but the toast was a bit rubbery! On the second last day of Somers camp, we got to do scrap booking with our hut teachers. There were lots of funny things that went on throughout the camp. Laughter was everywhere - you could not get away from it!

Some of the Meredith kids were in groups together but some were on their own. But when we had free time, we met up and played together. At the disco we were all dancing in a group. Lots of people made strong bonds with the hut teachers and group teachers. Everyone had a great experience. At the end sadly we had to leave all of the amazing teachers and the amazing friends that we had made.

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ONLINE EDITION

PHOTO OMITTED FROM
ONLINE EDITION



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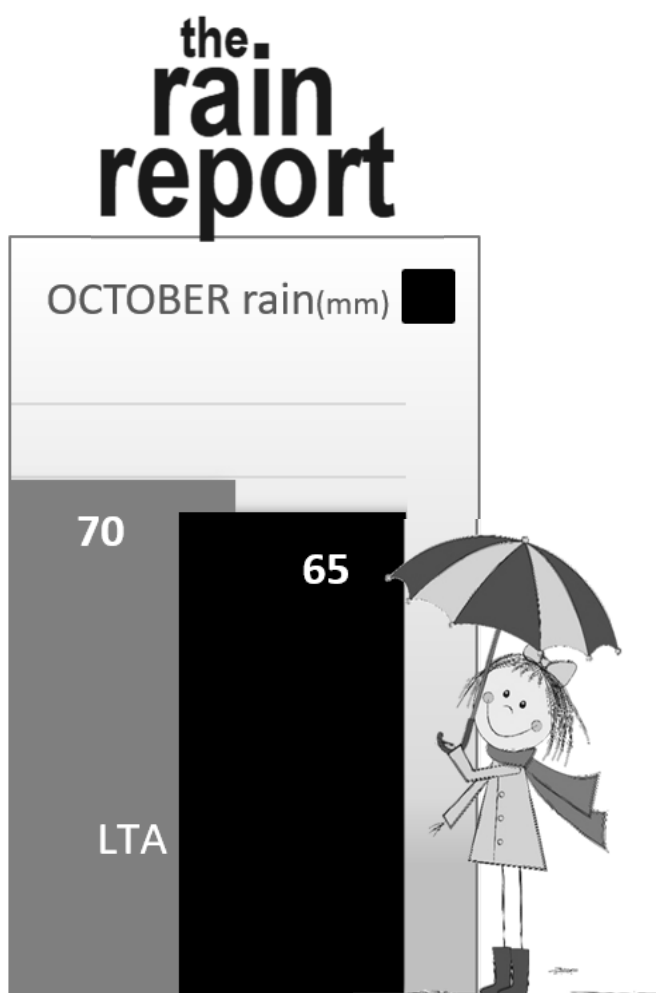
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What Will we do With the Vicar's Hair?



The Melbourne Anglican Foundation

The Anglican Church in Inverleigh, Bannockburn, and Meredith, also known as Golden Plains Anglican, with the assistance of a grant funded by the Melbourne Anglican Foundation, are setting up a Youth and Family Community Cinema in Meredith.

We are going to turn the Vicar's hair into a community cinema.

The Cinema will be free and located in the Church of the Epiphany, Wallace Street (Midland Highway) Meredith, open once a week in the evening during school holidays, and viewing age appropriate family movies. (Church Video Licence # 61106)

For us to support the installation of equipment for your viewing experience, made possible through The Melbourne Anglican Foundation, and being able to implement this community activity, your local church would like your help.

So, we are running a kind of survey inviting you to decide what to do with the Vicar's hair. To participate in the survey make a donation toward the running of the free cinema and select from the options the style you would like to inflict on the Vicar of the church. The option



that receives the most money is the one that will determine how you will see the Vicar around town wearing the hair style you have selected for him for 3 months including our Christmas Nativity Selfie at various markets.

Survey response forms and donation points are available at the Surprise Op Shop, 38 High Street Inverleigh, St John's Op Shop, 11 Byron Street Bannockburn, and in Meredith (location to be confirmed). Surveys need to be submitted by 30th November

Thank you for considering assisting us in establishing the free Youth and Family Community Cinema taking place in Epiphany Church Meredith for all our communities.

*The Revd Dr Timothy Smith, Vicar
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Fire Season Preparation

Media Release

Under State Government legislation, Council must conduct fire hazard inspections on private property. During the week of 4 November, Council officers will inspect many of the Shire's townships and will identify properties that require cutting/slashing in line with CFA guidelines. Owners of land in Golden Plains Shire where grass is close to dwellings or sheds are required to keep grass on their properties cut to a maximum height of 100 millimetres during the Fire Danger Period.

Properties deemed to be a high fire risk, such as from long, uncut grass near houses and sheds, will be issued with a Fire Prevention Notice from Monday 4 November 2024. Fire Prevention Notices will be issued to all owners listed on the title of the property. In the first round of notices, owners will be required to have completed works by the due date on the notice.

Grass cutting or slashing must be completed by the due date and the property maintained for the duration of the fire danger period. Residents who are genuinely unable to meet the deadline are encouraged to contact Council via enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au to request an extension of time. Any request must include an explanation of why extra time is needed.

Landowners that receive a notice and cannot undertake the work are encouraged to organise a contractor as soon as possible to assist with works.

Residents who intend to have stock on their land must inform Council via enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au if they have received a Fire Prevention Notice. Council may request slashing around structures and the boundary in these situations.

If the works listed on the Fire Prevention Notice are not completed and no correspondence is received, Council may undertake fire hazard reduction works by engaging a contractor. Council will invoice the landholder with these costs. Failure to undertake the works listed on the Fire Prevention Notice may also result in an Infringement Notice of \$1,923.

Golden Plains Shire Council CEO Shane Walden encouraged residents to prepare their property this fire season.

"With the fire season fast approaching, we all have an important responsibility to help reduce the risk of fire. Good fire safety practices help to protect everyone in our community, and I encourage residents to stay informed by visiting Council's website," Mr Walden said.

Council will be conducting roadside slashing of all of Council's sealed roads and CFA approved strategic fire breaks. Council also conducts planned burning of selected reserves to remove the fire hazard and for ecological purposes.

For more information, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/community/fire-flood-and-emergencies, contact Council's Emergency Management team on 5220 7111 or email enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au or call

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Two Weddings in One Week

By Jenny and Peter Blacklock

On Saturday the 5th of October our son Shane married his beautiful fiancée, Shannon. The couple met several years ago at work and soon hit it off. They live together in Melbourne with their son. For the wedding, family and friends travelled to Shannon's hometown of Eden, New South Wales, to celebrate the couple. They were married at Boydtown, just outside of Eden, at an outdoor ceremony in a peaceful cove where the grass meets the sand. Shannon wore a beautiful handmade lace wedding dress, and her two bridesmaids were dressed in yellow satin. Shane and his two groomsmen wore navy suits as did their 18-month-old son, Hamish. Vows were exchanged overlooking the ocean and little Hamish made sure to share the moment with mum and dad. The wedding reception was held at the Eden Football Club where guests enjoyed plenty of food, drinks, and entertainment. As many guests had made a long weekend out of the trip, festivities continued the next day at the Eden Bowls Club. Shane and Shannon honeymooned in the Philippines where they enjoyed two weeks of glorious sunshine.

One week later on Saturday the 12th of October, family and friends gathered at the Altar Electric; a fun, party style wedding 'chapel' in Abbotsford, Melbourne. This time our eldest daughter, Elyse, was making her way down the aisle. Elyse and her partner Max have been together for 10 years yet hadn't got around to tying the knot. Over the course of several months, Max recruited friends and family members to come together and pull off a surprise wedding for Elyse. He took her to lunch at the Yarra Hotel that Saturday and unbeknownst to her, the rest of us secretly arrived and put the plan into action. The proposal went down very well with Elyse saying, "yes!". Max convinced her to leave the pub and head on elsewhere to 'celebrate their engagement'. Little did she know, they didn't need to go far! Arriving next door at the Altar Electric, the celebrant greeted Elyse and Max and upon opening the door Elyse was absolutely stunned to see so many familiar faces and a fully prepared wedding waiting for her. The shock on her face said it all and she was most definitely surprised, yet very excited by her wedding. She was whisked out the back by sisters and friends who had several dresses and shoes waiting for her to choose from, as well as jewellery, make-up, and hair styling. She headed down the aisle alongside her parents and her and Max's two-year-old daughter, Daphne. Peter later sang for the couple's first dance, accompanied by Elyse's best friend Stephanie on guitar. Guests enjoyed a fun-filled evening celebrating at a local brewery.



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Fire Brigade's Awards

Amy Medley

The old fire bell could be heard ringing out from the Memorial Hall on Saturday, 26th October as part of the Meredith Rural Fire Brigade's awards presentation night. Firefighters and support members, past and present, were joined by guests of honour Mary Nolan, Senior Constable Anthony Box, and Assistant Chief Fire Officer Brendan Lawson.

The evening began with a welcome speech by 1st Lieutenant and ex-Captain Chris Jones, who shared some of the brigade's rich history. The Meredith Rural Fire Brigade was founded in 1911. Now, 113 years later, it continues to serve the community, demonstrating the dedication of its members. It's one of the oldest fire brigades in the district, second only to Buninyong, which was established in 1872.

Captain Josh Medley and Assistant Chief Fire Officer Brendan Lawson presented a combined 435 years' worth of service awards to brigade members.

Among the nearly 20 members who received awards, several individuals were recognised for their exceptional service of 40 or more years:

Maxwell Heard received his 40-year medal. Maxwell joined Meredith in 1983 and has served as 5th, 4th and 2nd Lieutenant. He is also a National Medal recipient.

Dale McIntyre received his 50-year medal. Dale joined Meredith in 2012, but has been with CFA since 1974, previously serving with Laharum Brigade.

David Jones received his 50-year medal. David joined Meredith in 1975 and served as Meredith Captain 1993 to 2001. He has also served as 1st Lieutenant, and Communications Officer. He is a National Medal recipient.

Kevin Chaffey received his 55-year medal. Kevin joined Meredith in 2020 but has a significant history in the CFA prior to this, including serving as Captain of Woorinen South Brigade for 16 years. He is the brigade's current Fire Equipment Maintenance Officer and Apparatus Officer. He is also a National Medal recipient.



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The other significant contributions that were acknowledged on the night:

- 30 year-medals: Rodney Heard, Janette Chaffey
- 25-year medals: Chris Jones, Matt Burgess
- 20-year medal: Ralph Holtz
- 15-year medal: Josh Medley
- 10-year medals: Pete Kruger, Olivia Jones
- 5-year certificates: Brian Leskie, Mitchell Miller, Ian Miller, Aaron Miller, Nick Kruger, Mick Devlin

Congratulations to all recipients for their outstanding service to the Meredith Rural Fire Brigade!



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The Best Rhubarb in Town

Marg Cooper

In 1959 Coral and Don [Dutchy] Van Beusichem married and bought a terribly old four roomed miners cottage [that they think had been shifted from Steiglitz] on the corner of Nuttall and Wallace Streets.

The tall and dashing Dutchman had come to Australia in 1951 and worked in the Mallee until he obtained a job on the Lands Department at Meredith in 1956. He firstly lived at the Royal Hotel and must have made his mark. Percy Musgrove gave him a whippet dog, he kept ferrets behind the State School, played the piano for sing-alongs and dances, played hookey and entertained many guests at the hotel after 6pm. [It was 6 o'clock closing but patrons could stay on if they were a guest of someone staying at the hotel.]

Dutchy paid 1000 pounds for the house, block of land and 2 roomed old dwelling down the back. Then he set about demolishing, extending, renovating and reusing. He tendered for the Church of England Manse and pulled it down, he shifted the maid's quarters from Glenspean and he saved any leftover wood from fencing or handyman jobs that he did at weekends. Bit by bit he made the house comfortable for their family of four children. Bit by bit he built chook sheds, car sheds, sheds for growing plants and fenced. The only new shed he built was his workshop which came in a kit for him to assemble.

And they gardened. Coral and Dutchy established an extensive flower garden, a beautiful vegetable garden, propagated plants and preserved all their bounty. Their vegetable garden of finely tilled enriched soil, in rows and rows of mounds either planted or ready to plant was a sight to behold. It was so ordered, so perfect. Their enthusiasm was infectious and their knowledge, experience and expertise was amazing. They had several varieties of rhubarb that thrived which they shared in plant form and in lengths for cooking, with half the people in Meredith.

The pair were always busy. Coral cooked for shearing teams for many years and knitted jumpers on her knitting machine. As well as handyman work around the district, Dutchy travelled and collected gemstones and in later years collected shearing gear. His son David worked as a wool classer in many big sheds, Australia wide and no doubt sparked his father's interest. Dutchy was also a member of the Fire Brigade for over 35 years and usually drove the truck. He said that he was sacked from the Lands Department for going to his first fire without permission. Locals petitioned for his reinstatement and afterwards the rules were changed to allow workers to fight fires without special permission. A time he also enjoyed was when he drove trucks for Bill Wiseman in the early 1960's.

With his job on the Lands Department, he amassed a geographical knowledge of the area like no other. He admits that he has had a good life but is sad to leave the home that he built bit by bit. Coral and Dutchy have moved to Estia Aged Care at Bannockburn and hope that rhubarb is on the menu every now and again.



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Brisbane Ranges sketchers

Kerry Thomson

Undeterred by the cold wind and intermittent drizzle that greeted our sketchers group we returned to Steiglitz for the October get together. The focus this session was Suggs Cottage which provided a perspective challenge. Although it appears to be a simple building the angles needed to be fairly accurate in order to deliver a realistic representation - which we all managed pretty well! (Gill was the only one who ventured off to another view and, sorry to say, we missed her when it came to cuppa time.) It was also interesting to see how differently we all placed the cottage in the composition - whether close-up, distant, side or front on. And, as usual, the variety of mediums used added a further dimension and individuality to each piece.

November outing:

12th (second Tuesday) 10am - 12.30pm

- meet at the Meredith Community Centre

BYO - art materials, chair, weather appropriate clothing, cuppa for after.

Newbies welcome (no plain air experience needed)



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A jockey is walking down the road leading a racehorse when he bumps into a friend. "What are you planning to do with that nag?" the man asks. "Race it," replies the jockey, surprised. "Well, by the look of it," the man says, "You'll win!"



Some of the Harley's in town late last month. Their owners are members of the Geelong based Friday Riders Club. We learned that earlier in the day, a group of riders from Tasmania were in town. Now, *that's* a ride!

MONEY

Matters

with Sandy Hoffmann



PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR MANAGING YOUR MONEY

An Audit!

Have you ever wondered what would happen if you got audited by the ATO as an Individual Tax payer?

The first thing to note is that the ATO expects you to keep your receipts, relevant paperwork and written evidence relating to your tax return for 5 years from the date of lodgement.

If you get audited and don't have written evidence of what they request, it will most likely mean you cannot meet the requirement and therefore have to pay back some money to the ATO as well as penalty interest.

The ATO system can flag your return for an audit based on many factors and here is a list of the common ones:

Data matching – The ATO receives information from you (the tax payer) via your tax return and cross references this against external sources such as employers, banks, share registries. So, if you have sold shares for example and haven't advised the ATO via your tax return the ATO may commence a Data Matching Audit.

Data matching after lodgement - The ATO may also come into possession of new information some time after you have lodged your tax return, for example interest in bank accounts isn't always available at the start of July. If you don't wait and forget about interest in one of your bank accounts the ATO may conduct a Data Matching Audit.

Benchmarking – based on your occupation code that you list in your tax return, the ATO will compare your deductions against other people in your field. If this comparison shows that you have included a larger sum of deductions compared to others in your field of work, the ATO may commence a benchmarking audit. Always check your occupation code as you may have changed job types since your last tax return.

Key words – in the past the ATO only received the total values for each category of deductions on your tax return. However, as systems have become more advanced the ATO can now see the words placed into your return as deduction descriptions. There are key items the ATO may look for that are unlikely to be an allowable deduction. An example of this would be gym membership and equipment which are only claimable if the job requires you to have an extremely high level of fitness. Australian defence, police and firefighters can't claim this unless their role requires them to have an extreme level of fitness. So, an intelligence officer in the Army wouldn't qualify but a Trapeze artist at the circus who performs most of the week and trains and rehearses the act (therefore the job is a strenuous physical activity) would be able to claim this expense. Occupation – sometimes the ATO will simply

select a category of employment to Audit for no reason other than a random selection criterion. For example a Nurse or Teacher.

What to do if you receive a letter for an audit. Don't delay. Get together all your documents you kept and if you have lodged via an Accountant or Tax Agent ask them for assistance. The ATO is very transparent about what they require and what has caught their attention. They will work with you and or the accountant to assist in the audit. If you have the documentation and everything is correct then the ATO will close the review case. If the ATO finds that the tax return was made in error, they will advise what the amendment will be.

Household savings hack of the month:

As we are getting closer to Christmas we want to ensure that we have our rechargeable batteries charged and ready. But before you recycle the rechargeable battery that is not recognised on the charging station try the following:

Clean and dry a pair of full metal BBQ tongs. Then take one rechargeable battery that is fully charged and of the same type and place the negative end (flat) against the negative end of the rechargeable battery that will not charge in the charging station, ensuring there is good contact. In that position place them into the metal tongs. Hold it in place with one hand holding the negative ends of the batteries together and the other hand holding the tongs in place. Hold for 30 seconds.

Now place the original battery that wouldn't recharge back into the recharge station and it should recharge now.

Note, there is no set number of times this will work, but I have found it does work.

We're interested in finding a new...

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Meredith Music Festival 2024 Information and Contacts

We are writing with information about the Meredith Music Festival, scheduled to occur at the Meredith Supernatural Amphitheatre from Friday 6 - Sunday 8 December 2024.

As part of our traffic management plan, the festival will:

Implement a speed reduction on Meredith-Mt Mercer Road and Cameron Road from two days prior to the festival through to the day prior to the festival.

Implement one-way traffic on Meredith-Mt Mercer Road from Bamganie Road to Cameron Road from approximately 4am the day prior to the festival to approximately 7pm on the first day of the festival.

Divert traffic travelling to Meredith within the one-way zone down Cameron Road.

Station traffic controllers to the corner of Midland Highway and Staughton Street on the final day of the festival to assist vehicles turning left or right onto Midland Highway.

Install no-parking zones along Meredith-Mt Mercer Road and some surrounding roads.

Vehicle passes are distributed to properties along Meredith-Mt Mercer (town side) and Coopers Roads a week before the festival. If you live or work along Bamganie Road or Cameron Road and you would like a vehicle pass, please email Aunty Meredith to confirm if you need one.

If you have any comments or ideas about any matter related to Meredith, including any concern or question about traffic or noise management, please get in contact by phone/text 0430 091 120 (available 24 hours over the festival weekend) or by emailing auntym@mmf.com.au (available anytime).

The festival website is mmf.com.au

Additional information for locals is available at aunty.mmf.com.au/locals

Thank you for your support.

Festival Planning Team

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.

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Meredith History Interest Group

Morrison's Thru the Lens Book Launch:

MHIG invite you to the launch of book of Morrisons photos, most of which were displayed at the exhibition in October 2023 at the Memorial Hall. The launch will be at Morrisons 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 contains only a few photos of people but a display is being prepared for Sunday, November 10 featuring photos of residents of Morrisons. Please feel free to bring your own family photos on the day. Please also bring a small plate of afternoon tea to share.

Open Day:

Lots of people availed themselves of the invitation to visit the History Centre on Sunday, October 20 to see the display re General Stores, to see the old Shire Hall, to inquire about history, to see what MHIG does and to talk to members. Of course, the delicious scones with jam and cream were also popular. A couple of bike riders cut short their exercise to return to Meredith and had double quantities, a Shire Councillor rode his bike to the event, adorned with directions of how to vote in the forthcoming elections. Darcy came from Geelong to see if we had heard of a relation by the name of Lamont who had lived at Sutherlands Creek. Altered books artwork that some of us had entered in an exhibition at Bacchus Marsh were admired. Many people took mystery books and bought plants from our street nursery.

Nostalgique:

At a newly opened Art Space in Ballan I recently noticed a beautiful coffee table book of images from our past. As a Covid project, a photographer, who was in attendance on the day I called, explained that he had assembled objects, photographed them and created a book of them with explanations. The book was for sale as well as large prints. He said that each print had its own story and would add warmth and nostalgia to any space. Most of the objects were of common household variety, beautifully assembled and photographed of great interest.

National Shared Reading Week:

As a registered Street Library, MHIG was invited to hold an event to celebrate National Shared Reading Week which was being celebrated from Monday 28th October. We decided to incorporate our contribution with our Open Day so wrapped interesting books in plain brown paper, included a handmade bookmark and a small questionnaire and invited people to take a book that was a mystery to them, to take a chance and to try to read something different to what they would usually read. We received a badge, some flyers and a poster from Street Library Australia. Please avail yourself of a book wrapped in brown paper and beautifully decorated. Our Street Librarian has put some in our Street Library for you!



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in our NATURE

Wendy Cook

Late one September afternoon, I walked across a small patch of native grassland, enjoying the flowers, especially the golden moths. These indigenous orchids have a slightly compressed appearance, with one yellow petal above another, and one spreading outward on each side. Delicate dark brown markings highlight the base of each petal and are visible deep within the flower. A few of these orchids had an insect with its head inside the flower. Each visitor had a petal to rest on and a sheltering petal roof. None of them moved. They were males of a kind of native bee known as sweat bees, and they had settled in for a good night's rest.

These sweat bees, like many of our native bees, live a solitary life unlike the more familiar European honey bees. They are also smaller, and mostly black with only faint stripes visible on their abdomen. Males sometimes gather at night, and I have seen small groups nestled into a spacious daisy flower. Females live separately to the males, and spend their nights in burrows. They may use an abandoned hole or dig their own, or make their home inside a hollow stem, such as a reed. Some sweat bees construct a chimney-shaped turret of earth above their entrance hole. This can stop soil from falling into the burrow, keep out water if there is flooding and make it harder for unwanted visitors to find the hole and enter. It may also help to regulate the temperature inside and allow the female to leave her scent so that she can more easily locate her home.

The burrow is not only for night-time accommodation, but also a place to rear the next generation. As they are solitary bees, there is no queen bee in charge, and no worker bees. Sometimes sweat bees share a burrow but live independently. All females can mate and lay eggs. Burrows are commonly a vertical hole with side chambers. In these, eggs are laid, individually or in small groups. Each egg is provided with sufficient food to keep the young bee fed. In the chamber, it will hatch as a grub, moult several times and when it is full-sized, spin a cocoon. It will emerge as an adult bee and leave the burrow to begin its own adult life. The food which the mother bee provides for her young is a mixture of pollen and nectar from flowers. All sweat bees eat these, the nectar supplying carbohydrates, and pollen yielding fat and protein. They also need salt and minerals, and one source is human sweat. The bees may land on arms or legs to collect it, which is the reason for their name.

Sweat bees are quite furry, so while foraging in flowers, a large amount of pollen attaches to their legs and body. This is transferred to other blooms the bee visits. In this way, sweat bees are highly effective pollinators. There are many different species of sweat bees. Some can use a technique known as buzz pollination, required for flowers in which the pollen is difficult to release. The bee holds the flower by biting it, then works its flight muscles without moving its wings. This causes the flower to vibrate in a manner which allows pollen to escape. The bee makes a different

buzzing sound while pollinating flowers in this way. Another type of native bee, the blue-banded bee has a different way of buzz pollinating flowers. Instead of holding them in its jaws, it taps its head on the flower's anthers 350 times a second, releasing the pollen. Buzz pollination is required to pollinate some indigenous flowers and some crops, such as tomatoes. European honey bees are unable to do this.

Sweat bees and blue-banded bees are two types of native bees that I have seen locally. I have probably seen others but have not been able to identify them. There are two thousand or more species of native bees in Australia, but they not as well-known as European honey bees. While the majority live a solitary lifestyle, some build their nests close together, and a few have communal nests with a queen bee. Some are furry while others shine with metallic colours. They pollinate flowers, but few make honey. Like many other animals, they are suffering from loss of habitat and poisoning by pesticides. We can help them by growing native plants in our gardens, with flowers all year round. Patches of bare ground and dead wood give them places to burrow. Watch the flowers in your garden or in the bush, to see which insects visit them, and if any of them are native bees.

You can see Wendy's photo of the native golden moth orchid on page 2. - Ed.

Riding the favourite at Flemington, the jockey is well ahead of the field. Suddenly he's hit on the head by a turkey and a string of sausages. He manages to keep control of his mount and pulls back into the lead, only to be struck by a box of Christmas crackers and a dozen mince pies as he goes over the last fence. With great skill he manages to steer the horse to the front of the field once more when, on the run in, he's struck on the head by a a leg of ham and a Christmas pudding. With all this distraction, he succeeds in coming only second. He immediately goes to the stewards to complain that he has been seriously hampered.



Vale to John [Jock] Frederick Le Maitre 9/11/1928-1/10/2024.

Jock was a hard worker. He and his wife Anne farmed land on Le Maitre's Road at Elaine, raising fat lambs and he worked for other farmers.

It is told that Jock cut and stacked 500 ton of wood at Mt Doran. He cut it all with an axe. His father Fred had a green International truck, and they used it to cart the wood to Geelong.

He was at the last shearing at Larundel. Bill Miller was the contractor and his team shored 17,000 sheep. Jock drove his father's old 1927 Chev ute to the shed and picked up Slim, the wool classer and Tiger Connell who was the 16 year old rouseabout, on his way.

He worked for the Soldier Settlement Commission, helping to look after their stock, for about 4 years with Stewart Connell. After the SSC acquired Larundel they brought 7000 sheep to the property. When the 11 settlers had fenced the blocks the sheep were either divided between the settlers or moved to another settlement area. Jensen was the head stockman who bought sheep and cattle for SSC. His job was to make money for the SSC.

In 1957 Jock went to Broken Hill. He went with Ian Connell [Tiger] in his 1951 Holden ute. Jock was 27 or 28 years old and there wasn't much work around Elaine/Meredith at the time. He also went for the adventure. They worked for 14 weeks and never lost a day with wet weather. Jock enjoyed the rabbit and roo shooting after work and at weekends.

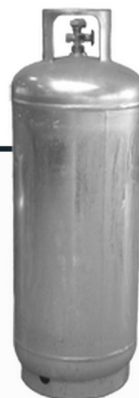
In 1958 Jock went again on the shearing run but his father became ill and he had to come home to look after him and his farm.

Jock could shear. He shored and crutched his own sheep until he was 81 years old, but worked mainly as a rouseabout in sheds. He worked for many farmers including Clarry Smith, Lloyd Allen, Ken Creed for over 30 years and Brian Dunne for over 15 years.

In the 1960's he managed Telford White's solder settlement block on the Elaine/Mt Mercer Road. He and Anne lived in the house there and 5 children were born while they lived on that property [and 2 children born when they shifted to Elaine]. On the day of the fire in 1967 he was working at Burrumbeet on Telford White's other property, when word came through. He raced back to find the house had been saved but the shearing shed and all the fencing had been burnt.

About 1972 he bought a house and land on the Elaine/Morrisons Road from Allan and Shirley Parkinson and the family moved.

Jock loved the newspaper every day. You may have seen Anne doing her daily trip to Meredith at 8 am, to pick the paper up for Jock. He also loved football and his beloved Cats and continued to watch new and old games until the day he died. Anne said that he had a marvellous memory and could name players/dates/coaches and scores.



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Marg's Book Review

Alias Grace by Margaret Atwood.

This book is very well researched historical fiction based on a true story of early 19th century. Because no one really knew what was the truth in regards to Grace's life and possible guilt, the author has taken it upon herself to give Grace a fictional voice and allow her to tell her side of events.

In the year 1843 a young housekeeper, 16-year-old Grace Marks was jailed for killing her employer Thomas Kinnear and his housekeeper/mistress Nancy Montgomery. Grace escaped the scaffold because of a clever young lawyer who asked for clemency on account of her age, but she was still sentenced to life imprisonment. A fellow servant James McDermott was hung for the murders.

A select group of people were convinced that Grace was innocent and petitioned for her release. They requested Dr Simon Jordan, a doctor of the mind, to interview Grace and write a report to support their case. Dr Jordan was fascinated by Grace and seemed to be more interested in her levels of sanity than worry if she is guilty.

The story of Dr Jordan is interwoven with that of Grace. His relationship with his landlady, how he succumbed to her wiles and dreamt about murdering her husband showed how much in common he had with Grace. Dr Jordan's methods are progressive for the time and he experiments with hypnotherapy in an effort to expose the truth. It is obvious that the mind and its workings are not well understood, and there are a lot of unsupported theories eg rich foods.

It was hard to decide if Grace was telling truth or lies, as she recounts her tale from her impoverished childhood in Northern Ireland, to the time of her incarceration in an asylum and later the Penitentiary in Canada. By the end of the book I thought that she told people what they wanted to hear. She was an unreliable narrator. I think she was wily and cunning and I was still unsure if she was guilty of the murders or innocent.

Margaret Atwood shows how limited any real choice for a woman was, particularly a poor one in the 1840's. The time period, the transport, the clothing and the life of a servant is intricately recreated in this book in beautiful detail.

She uses a mix of mediums in presenting the story from verse to letters, legal documents, articles from news, patient notes and live interviews.

Atwood has great skill as a storyteller. She has brought all aspects of a long lost case together in a cohesive tale that gives the reader real insights into life in the 1840's.

BARGAIN COUNTER BOOK

by Linda Brumby

"Marked down for sale" the notice said

As row on row they lay:

The work of Poets gone before

Or some book that "didn't pay".

"Marked down for sale" brought but a glance

From shoppers hurrying through,

And others flipped a casual page

Or scanned a line or two.

But I who know a little

Of all that went to build

These monuments of thinking,

With deep regret was filled.

There they were: Shelley, Burns and Blake!

And even Byron too!

Our own Beloved Lawson,

And writers old and new.

While round them, stood a little group

Of others, like myself,

Arms piled high with treasures

From off the bargain shelf; -

Lest careless hands should in their touch

Let some dear idol fall -

Each one of us was wishing

That we could buy them all

And then - from out the pages -

They seemed to speak to me

With one accord; serenely,

With firm finality:

"Grieve not for us - no homage pay,

If thus, the Fates have willed -

Better to speak from a bargain book

Than that the voice be stilled!"

Submitted by Janene Schillier





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*G'Day from the penners for the lovely month of November. As another year slips away, with Christmas just around the corner, and a long hot summer predicted, we at the Golden Pens are still going strong. We are always happy to welcome any person who thinks that they would like to join us, or even just come along and see what we are up too. We always have a lot of fun when we meet at the Bannockburn library each fortnight at 1:30pm. So, if you think we might be for you please contact us via our email address **goldenpens4@gmail.com** and you would be made most welcome.*

This month's story comes from myself, written during a group meeting back in May. We hope you enjoy it.

Cheers Wendy.

He was running, running, stumbling over tree roots, brambles whipping his face. He had to get away. It was a matter of life and death, *his* life or death.

The posse was on his trail, he could hear the horse's hooves hitting the ground, like thunder coming up from the earth. He headed downward, the ravine was full of wombat holes and rabbit diggings, with a bit of luck one of the horse's chasing him would land in a hole and tip the rider from his saddle and do him a mischief on landing, he could only hope.

The ground was getting steep. He had to watch where he was putting his own feet, but he had to go on, if they caught him, it would be over for sure.

How he had got himself into this position he didn't quite know. He had just been minding his own business, trying to eke out a living in this harsh country, when *that* man and his crony came along and disturbed his peace. He tried to fob them off but they were gunslingers and everyone knew that these boys and their gang took no prisoners. He managed to kill one of them with his trusty six shooter before the other one ran off to collect his mates, and it was those mates that were chasing him now.

But he knew the country well and he was heading for a cave that was so well hidden that no-one knew it was there, except for the natives and himself. If he could just get there, he knew he could pick them off, one by one. He had a stash of firearms and ammunition hidden there for this very purpose, though he wished it hadn't come to this, if he succeeded it meant he would have to pick up stumps and head to a new state, again. Being a wanted man was not a lifestyle he would recommend to anyone, ever.


He just had to get to the cave, as he tripped over another tree root and landed face first into a bramble bush, he cursed. Damn this country.

The (Avoidable) Loyalty Tax

Sandy Hoffman, in her Money Matters column has alerted us to the "Loyalty Tax". This refers to the inflated pricing practice of many companies that send out periodic bills, like power and insurance companies. We encountered a striking example earlier this month, when we sought an alternative quote after seeing a big increase in our house insurance premium. (And, aren't we all?) But we were just as shocked when the quote came in for 1/3rd less! It was from an equally reputable company, provided a smaller excess and increased coverage. Of course with all such matters, you need to check the fine print for tripping points, but it does show the potential savings from comparing before you accept any unreasonable increases.

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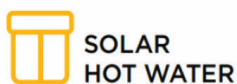
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2.00pm – 4.00pm: School open to the community with historical displays in the original Bluestone building.

5.00pm – 7.00pm: Community Bush Dance with the Billy Tea Bush Band. Food trucks will be onsite and a BBQ will be running.

We hope to see you all there!