

# Meredith & district News



APRIL 2025

## OPEN HOUSE

OUR **FREE** COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

COME ON IN. WE'LL SHOW YOU  
AROUND THE NEWSLETTER FACTORY.

## inside

- Back to Steiglitz is happening this month
- The Philatelist is an optimist
- Wendy focuses on geology

...and Much More!



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





We offer a wide range of plant equipment:

- ⚙️ Mini excavators
- ⚙️ Posi-tracks
- ⚙️ Skid steers
- ⚙️ Mini diggers
- ⚙️ Roller hire
- ⚙️ Attachments
- ⚙️ Construction equipment
- ⚙️ Trailers
- ⚙️ Scissor lifts
- ⚙️ + More

**48 Holder Drv  
Bannockburn**



*locals, helping locals - We've got what you need to get the job done*



**Insurance Ballarat**



Community Bank · Buninyong

# Your town. Your bank.

## Everything you need

We deliver the products and technology you'd expect from a big bank, plus the personal service you wouldn't.

As one of Australia's biggest banks, our heartland remains firmly local. As does our focus on you and the quality banking products you need.

Feel good about who you bank with. Try Bendigo.

Find out more. Call 5341 8066 or search Bendigo Bank Buninyong.



**BANK  
LOCAL**

**B Bendigo Bank**

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178, AFSL/Australian Credit Licence 237879 A1455027 OUT\_34613598, 29/01/2024

meredithhistoryinterestgroup.

## SCULPTURE

### EXHIBITION

Professional & Amateur Sculptures.  
All Welcome to Enter.

We invite you to create and submit  
an artistic 3D sculpture that  
represents your view of Australian  
history

## 'History Reconstructed'

**WANTED**

Email [meredithhistoryinterestgroup@gmail.com](mailto:meredithhistoryinterestgroup@gmail.com) any  
questions and queries you may have.

The exhibition will be held

**Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th May 9.30 to 3.30**

Awards presented Sunday afternoon



**AO holiday  
programs**  
PRESENTED BY  
**Weet-Bix**

**A FUN SCHOOL  
HOLIDAY ACTIVITY  
FOR YOUR KIDS!**

Get the kids on court these autumn school holidays with AO  
Holidays programs presented by Weet-Bix™! Join the All  
Court Tennis Holiday Clinic at Meredith Tennis Club—open to  
all ages and abilities. Plenty of tennis. Plenty of fun!

DATE: WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL	COST: \$25
TIME: 10AM-12PM	BOOKING CONTACT: NATHAN MAYES
LOCATION: MEREDITH TENNIS CLUB	PHONE: 0430 726 486
	EMAIL: <a href="mailto:NATHANMAYES1@GMAIL.COM">NATHANMAYES1@GMAIL.COM</a>





# Meredith & District News



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

B'BURN MENS  
SHED  
0407 835 731

BLUE LIGHT  
DISCO  
5286 1222

BOOK CLUB  
5286 8201

CFA  
000 for fire calls  
Elaine  
0419 767982  
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  
53415575  
0409861296

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

# 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

5286 1545

Elaine Mechanics

53415575

0409861296

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

Wise men speak because they have something to say; fools because they have to say something.  
— Plato



# I'm here to help.


*Please contact my office if you feel I can be of any assistance to you.*

**Michaela Settle MP**  
**Member for Eureka**

 michaelasettle.com.au

 michaela.settle@parliament.vic.gov.au

 (03) 5331 7722

 MichaelaSettleMP



Meredith **Community Centre**  
*working for our community*

## What's On This Month



### Term 1

#### Mindfulness with Jade

Kindergarten Kids - 5-26 March

Wednesdays at 2.10 - 2.40

Primary School Kids -

Wednesdays at 3.30 - 4.30

Goddess Mums & Kids

Thursdays at 2.10 - 3.10

\$15 per session, payable by Term

#### Chatty Cafe

April 29 - 11.30 - 1.30 - Light Lunch

May 13 - 11.30 - 1.30 - Light Lunch

**BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL**



Haircuts..@ the Centre

Wednesday May 14

Phone: 0403667840 for Bookings

### THE MEREDITH MART

**PROVIDING FOOD SECURITY FOR  
 OUR COMMUNITY**

SUPPORTED BY



#### CHANGE OF HOURS

**MON-TUES - 9-3**

**WED - 9-1**

**THU - CONCESSION CARD HOLDERS BY APPOINTMENT**

**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

**Gentle Exercise @ the Community Centre for over 65's**

Thursdays @ 9.15 - 10.15 - \$10

To Book:

[learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au](mailto:learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au)

[www.facebook.com/MeredithCommunityCentre](http://www.facebook.com/MeredithCommunityCentre)

Ph. 5286 0700 / 0491 184 999



Join us on

Facebook & Instagram

@meredithcommunitycentre



### PLAYGROUP

THURSDAYS

9.30am - 11.30am

\$2 per family



## 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 Catholic Parish of Meredith

Mass Times –April

Winchelsea - St. John the Baptist @ 6pm Sat. APRIL 5, 12, 26 and 9am on 20th

Anakie – St. Brigid @ 9am Sun. APRIL 13, 27

Meredith – St. Joseph @ 9am Sun. APRIL 6 and 8pm on 19th

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

Inverleigh – Sacred Heart – NO MASS

### EASTER CEREMONIES

RECONCILIATION: Meredith - Wed. April 9<sup>th</sup> @ 10am  
Bannockburn - Thurs April 10<sup>th</sup> @  
Winchelsea - Sat April 12<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm

PALM SUNDAY: Winchelsea - Sat April 12<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm  
Anakie - April 13<sup>th</sup> @ 9am  
Bannockburn – April 13<sup>th</sup> @ 11am

HOLY THURSDAY: Meredith – April 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm

GOOD FRIDAY: Bannockburn – April 18<sup>th</sup> @ 10.30  
Ecumenical Walk of Witness  
@ 3pm Solemn Celebration of the  
Lord's Passion

EASTER VIGIL: Meredith - Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup> @ 8pm

EASTER SUNDAY: Winchelsea - Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup> @ 9am  
Bannockburn - Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup> @ 11am



## Brisbane Ranges sketchers

*Kerry Thomson*

Fine conditions greeted us as we returned to Fyansford Paper Mill for a second time, although this time with a slightly more sombre feel as the site has been sold for redevelopment. The heritage listed buildings will remain and these became the focus of our artistic endeavours for the morning. Geelong Art Society members also had the same idea so we shared tips, techniques and conversation.

In some respects it is quite a difficult location as there are so many subjects from which to choose. And, with all the buildings, brickwork, windows and many, many angles, the architecture is a challenge. Nevertheless, we produced some fantastic drawings/paintings which effectively represented the site from a range of perspectives. The cafe area with its outdoor umbrellas, old milk (?) delivery cart and the huge chimney/kiln with its neighbouring gallery building proved popular subjects, but softening edges by incorporating some of the gardens or trees proved an effective device too.

Some enjoyed coffee and cake in the cafe and most of the group adjourned to the Fyansford Hotel for lunch after another highly enjoyable morning of plein air art.

Next outing: 8 April (second Tuesday): 10.00 am - 12.30 pm

BYO - art materials, chair, drink, weather appropriate clothing Venue yet to be determined (meet at the Meredith Community Centre)

## OUR COVER



Meet our local resident, Jacky Dragon lizard.

He was sunning himself on a fence post when I met him, stayed around for a while, then took off at supersonic speed into the bush.

Don.

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



# COFFEE

Small	Medium	Large
\$4.50	\$5.00	\$5.50
Cappuccino		
Latte		
Flat White		
Mocha		
Long Black		
Chai Latte		
Hot Chocolate		

**Instant Coffee, Tea, Chai Tea** \$3.50

Milkshakes \$9.50

Thickshakes \$12.50

Chocolate | Vanilla | Caramel | Strawberry  
Blue Heaven | Banana | Lime

Iced Coffee

**Small** \$6.50

**Large** \$8.50

**Decaf** \$0.50

**Extra shot** \$0.50

**Alternative milks** \$1.00

Soy | Almond | Oat | Lactose Free

# TOASTIES

Bacon and Egg	\$6.50
Bacon and Egg Roll	\$8.00
Bacon, Egg and Cheese Muffin	\$7.50
Ham and Cheese	\$4.80
Ham, Cheese, Tomato	\$5.50
Bacon, Egg Breakfast	\$9.00



# FRESH SANDWICHES

Ham and Cheese	\$4.50
Ham, Cheese, Tomato	\$4.70
Ham, Cheese, Pickle	\$4.50
Egg, Lettuce	\$4.80
Ham, Salad	\$7.50
Chicken Salad	\$8.00

# FRESH ROLLS

Salad	\$8.20
Ham, Salad	\$8.50
Chicken Salad	\$8.70

# OPENING HOURS

<b>Monday</b>	6am to 7pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	6am to 7pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	6am to 7pm
<b>Thursday</b>	6am to 7pm
<b>Friday</b>	6am to 7:30pm
<b>Saturday</b>	7am to 7:30pm
<b>Sunday</b>	8am to 7pm

PHONE 03 5286 1556

Select option 4

26 Wallace St Meredith

Mortimer's  
Petroleum



# MEREDITH ROADHOUSE Take-Away Menu

*Fish  
and  
Chips*



Friday and Saturday  
Nights

# HAMBURGERS

<b>Cheese Burger</b>	\$11.50
Double Cheese, Sauce, Pickles	
<b>Plain Burger</b>	\$11.50
Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato Sauce	
<b>Hamburger with the Lot</b>	\$13.50
Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato, Bacon, Egg, Onion, Sauce	
<b>Steak Sandwich</b>	\$15.80
Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato, Bacon, Egg, Onion, Sauce	
<b>Chicken Schnitzel Burger</b>	\$10.80
Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato, Mayo	
<b>Chicken Chili Wrap</b>	\$13.50
Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato, Sweet Chili Sauce	
<b>Veggie Burger</b>	\$7.50
Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato, Sauce	

**EXTRAS**  
Beetroot, Pineapple \$1.00



# FRIED FOOD

<b>Hot Chips- Bucket</b>	\$3.00
Small Bag	\$4.60
Large Bag	\$7.20
Flake Battered	\$9.00
Fish Battered	\$4.00
Squid Rings	\$0.90
Crab Stick	\$1.20
Battered Sav	\$4.00
Battered Burger	\$4.60
Chicko Roll	\$3.00
Spring Roll	\$3.00
Mini Spring Roll	\$1.60
Dim Sims- Steamed/Fried	\$1.20
Chicken or Pork Dim Sims	\$2.00
Potato Cakes	\$1.40
Chicken Wing Dings	\$2.20
Chicken Garlic Balls	\$1.60
Chicken Strips	\$2.20
Kransky	\$3.50
Hot Jam Donuts	\$1.20
<b>Chips and Gravy</b>	
Small	\$6.50
Large	\$10.00
Cheese	+\$1.50



## School News

*Fairlie Pritchard*

### Dream & Lead Conference 2025

Our school leaders met at Ballarat train station very early in the morning, to travel to Melbourne to participate in the Dream & Lead Conference at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. Dream & Lead is a one-day, highly engaging event designed to support primary school students in discovering their leadership potential, whilst providing them with strong foundations to succeed. Throughout the day, students participated in purposeful activities, developed their problem-solving skills, and increased confidence and independence. The speaker line-up included Nick Pearce, the co-founder and CEO of social enterprise business HoMie and Lucy Thomas, CEO and co-founder of Project Rockit – a program empowering youth against bullying and fostering social change. It was a great day of learning for our School Leaders.

### Healthcare Heroes Day

On Friday April 4<sup>th</sup>, we will be holding out Healthcare Heroes Day at school. It is a day where we celebrate the people who keep us safe in the community. We look forward to welcoming several different community services to show us how they look after our community. This doubles as our Good Friday Appeal fundraiser where we will be raising money through a sausage sizzle and Easter raffle! We look forward to having a fun day!

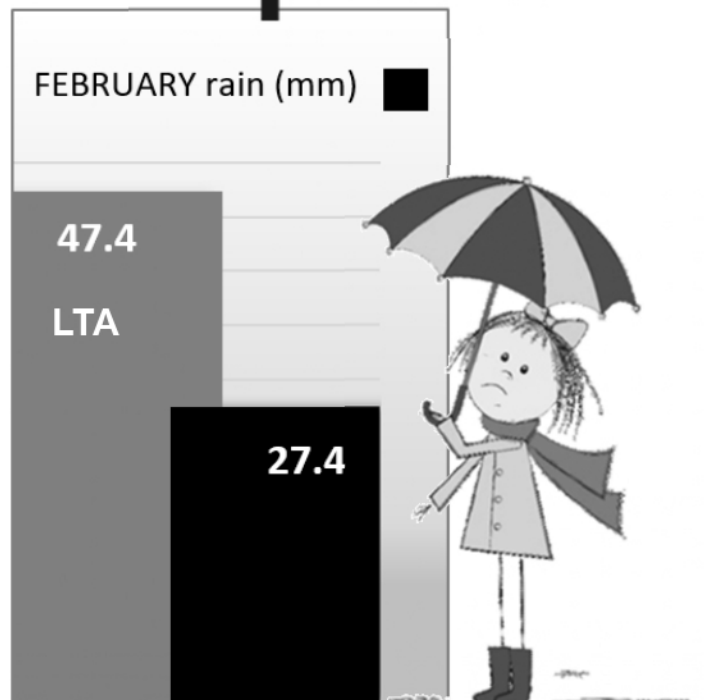


School Leaders Dacian, Maddy and Nevaeh



Back to Steiglitz is participating in this National Festival on Sunday 27th April. The historic buildings will be open for viewing along with two guided walks @ 10.30am (town history walk) & 2pm (early mining site) including morning & afternoon tea. Adults \$ 12, Children \$ 5, Concession \$ 10, Family \$ 25, Members \$ 10 **BOOKINGS REQUIRED** [back2steiglitz@hotmail.com](mailto:back2steiglitz@hotmail.com) 0407 556 796

## the <sup>not enough</sup> rain report



*Includes rain to 9.00am 30th March.*



We're looking for a new...

## NEWSLETTER CO-EDITOR

Here's a chance to play a key role in one of the district's foremost community projects. If you can commit several hours every second month, use MS Word or Publisher, are a reliable, team player by nature and willing to learn, you could play an important and rewarding part of this highly successful operation. Email us at:

*news@meredithnews.com.au*

*...or call Jim on 0409 163 169 to find out more.*



## BANNOCKBURN & DISTRICT GRANTS

B&DG is a community company established for the benefit of every not for profit organisation based in our local area. We receive dividends from the Bendigo Bank and distribute these funds via grants and sponsorships into the community.

**Special Announcement – this year we are accepting Grant & Sponsorship applications in March, April, May and June!**

### For further information:

Website: [bannockburndistrictgrants.com.au](http://bannockburndistrictgrants.com.au)

Bendigo Bank: 5281 1990

Email: [19118@bendigoadelaide.com.au](mailto:19118@bendigoadelaide.com.au)

## You could be a great help 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 help 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



volunteering is GOOD for YOU too!

Trust  
Australia's  
largest LPG  
supplier...



**Elgas is a local business,  
run by local people  
offering LPG for your home**

### Elgas Welcome Package

OPEN NEW ACCOUNT &  
RECEIVE \$80 WORTH OF  
LPG GAS ACCOUNT CREDITS\*



\*For all terms and conditions see website [www.elgas.com.au](http://www.elgas.com.au)

©2019 ELGAS LTD.

**Give Elgas a call and get friendly  
reliable service in your area**

**131 161**  
[www.elgas.com.au](http://www.elgas.com.au)

**ELGAS**



# Recreation



## Meredith Cricket Club

*Terry Hart*

### Junior Report (Meredith Lambs)

Our juniors wrapped up their season with the U11 Presentation Night being held at the Rec Reserve on March the 6<sup>th</sup>. The night was extremely well attended by players and families with the juniors being presented with their MCC medallions by the senior playing group.

Congratulations to all of the junior participants who took to the field this season representing the Meredith Cricket Club. The kids enjoyed a number of wins and the improvement shown across the season was great to see. We look forward to seeing this crop of youngsters representing our club for many years to come.

Well done to Charlie Thompson who was awarded the **Junior Cricketer Of The Year** for his enthusiasm, positive attitude, willingness to improve and support of his team mates.

A huge thank you to all of the parents and guardians who gave up their time to come along and help out and support the kids throughout the season. Also a massive thank you to the Junior Committee members- Rod Armstrong, Dan Richardson, Dan Measures, Damo Brunt, our scorer Anne Milne and our Junior/Senior Coach Matt Ringin, who all put in a massive amount of work to make the season a great success.

### Senior Report (Meredith Rams)

The home and away season concluded with 2 strong wins for our senior sides over the Teesdale Cricket Club. The win for our 1<sup>st</sup> XI capped off a fantastic regular season, finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place on the ladder and has us finals bound. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> XI had an inconsistent season with some narrow losses that caused them to just miss out on a finals berth.

The first week of finals saw our 1<sup>st</sup> XI travel to Little River to take on the top side and we came away with an emphatic victory, putting the boys straight into the Grand Final.

Bowling first we routed the Little River batting order for 102 runs with Matt Ringin taking 4/19, Chez Milne 3/20 and Harli Givens 2/17. In reply our batsmen made light work of the run chase, passing the opposition total in the 20<sup>th</sup> over with 6 wickets in hand. Jason Murray 49no, Harli Givens 32 and Tucker Harvey 17 were the leading run scorers.

The win put our 1<sup>st</sup> XI straight into the clubs 1<sup>st</sup> Grand Final in 8 years, where we will come up against our long-time rival, the Lethbridge Rosellas. Good luck men.

### Social Report

Our Past Players and Sponsors Day was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March with a great representation of past club champions in attendance. Fair to say there were plenty of stories and beers consumed by the past players, who came along to celebrate having represented our great club and recall the success of our 1994/95 premiership glory 30 years ago.

A special thank you to our sponsors that attended the day, without your support the club would not be in the strong position we currently find ourselves.

We will cap off our season on Sunday April the 6<sup>th</sup> with our **Senior Presentation Day** being held at the Sporting Globe in Ballarat kicking off at 12.00 noon. A bus will be running to the venue from Geelong, picking up in Meredith along the way. Supporters are most welcome to attend, please contact our President Terry Hart on 0418178513 for more information.

RAM IT.



*Matt Ringin, Charlie Thompson & Rod Armstrong*

## Meredith Tennis Club March

*Bridget Dyer*

### Summer Saturday Competition

The Summer competition is wrapping up, and we have several teams head into the semifinals! Congratulations to all our teams for playing so well this season. We hope everyone had a fantastic time.

Out of our 7 junior teams, 3 made it to the semifinals. Although Meredith Black and Meredith Blue faced tough matches against Buninyong and didn't make it through, they played with great spirit. Meredith Yellow has been outstanding all season and continued their winning streak in the semifinals. Best of luck to the boys in the grand finals!

Our senior team is also heading to the grand final for the C section. We wish them an amazing match and hopefully they can bring home a trophy.

### Presentation Night

Our presentation night was held 27<sup>th</sup> March, we had a great turn out and a fantastic night. The following people won awards:

Best Player - Buninyong and District Tennis Association

- B Grade Meredith Blue: Charlie Nettleton
- B Grade Meredith Black: Connor Spalding
- C3 Meredith Yellow: Evan Fraser
- C3 Meredith Red: Catherine Sergent
- Seniors: Maddy Reynolds



**Best Player - Geelong Tennis Association**

Section 13 boys Meredith White: Hugo Murray  
 Orange Ball Meredith Orange: Leo Fox  
 Orange Ball Meredith Green: Harriet Geddes

**Most improved player**

Geelong Tennis Association: Darcy Jones  
 Buninyong and District Tennis Association: Charles  
 Sergeant

Meredith Tennis Best Club Person: Luke Evans

Congratulations to everyone on an amazing season!

**Summer Night Competition**

Although the Summer night competition was rained out the week before the finals in March, we were fortunate to still enjoy a wonderful Mexican dinner! It was great to catch up with all the participants and spectators over a delicious meal. A big thank you to everyone who joined us for the Mexican fiesta, even without the tennis.

We're also thrilled to welcome a few new faces to our dinners. These newcomers, who aren't part of the tennis club, have been joining us to meet new people and enjoy the community spirit.

As always, a huge thank you to all our amazing volunteers. Your efforts in cleaning, serving, and cooking each week make this competition and community experience possible. We couldn't do it without you! A special thank you to Courtney and David, who have continued to provide us with high-quality home-made food. As always, the food has been delicious and much appreciated.

**Autumn Competition**

We're excited to announce that the next night competition will start on Thursday, 1st May 2025! Registrations are now open, and you can request forms from the club via Facebook or our email (meredithtennis2020@gmail.com).

As always, dinners will be available, with Courtney and David continuing to serve up their amazing meals for just \$10. We warmly welcome everyone to join us for dinner on Thursdays—whether you're a member, non-member, spectator, or just someone looking to meet new people in the community.

Dinner details are announced the Friday before on our Facebook page, so please let us know if you'll be joining us for dinner. This helps us ensure there's enough food for everyone. We can't wait to see you there!

**Tucker Tent**

After another successful shift in the Meredith Tucker Tent, we want to extend a huge thank you to the incredible volunteers who run the Tucker Tent committee and organise the many shifts for the Meredith Music Festival, in particular, Martin Peters, Jackie Ferry and David Osborne. These amazing individuals, among others volunteer countless hours to ensure the Tucker Tent is a success at both the Meredith Music Festival and the Golden Plains Festival.

Thanks to their dedication and hard work, along with the many people who volunteer for the tennis club shift, we have recently upgraded our BBQ, with plans to brick it in at the club. We've also upgraded all our nets. Additionally, the funds raised help us keep our membership fees among the lowest in the district and allow us to provide free uniforms for the first year of membership to any new players.





**BYW**  
**WOOLBROKERS & BUYERS**

Family owned & operated  
 for more than 30 years



**Specializing In:**

- Clip Brokering
- On Farm Pricing
- Shed Clean Ups

**Secondhand packs  
 replaced free of charge**

---

**SERVICING ALL AREAS**

Call today and we'll come to you  
**P: (03) 5267 2703 0417 054 792**

Monday to Friday 8am-5pm  
**2990 PRINCES HWY, WINCHELSEA**  
 admin@bywool.com.au www.bywool.com.au



the  
Philatelist



Michael Riseley

## OPTIMISM

I have heard it said that philatelists are a strange bunch obsessed with the past and little pieces of paper. But I beg to differ. Whilst it is certainly true that we search for and then categorise and store postage stamps, and perhaps the older the better, I cannot accept the moniker "strange". I believe stamp collectors are optimists.

We are quite prepared to go to a stamp fair or club meeting or even go on-line and buy in bulk either a stamp album or box of stamps. And then go home and in high expectation use the magnifying glass and desk lamp to trawl through the purchase looking for the one or more stamps that fill gaps in the collection. And then remain fully expectant of on-selling the remainder to another collector and recoup all or some of the initial expense.

Stamp collectors are forever hopeful of having that Eureka moment of finding a stamp that has a recognisable and known printing flaw that makes it quite valuable. Like for example the 1913 Australian King George V one penny green stamp issued in billions, but is known to have at least 6 flaws. I have seen collectors buy them in thousands hoping to find one with a flaw.

Similarly the 1881 UK one penny lilac Queen Victoria also issued in the billions. The normal one has 16 dots in the border at each corner and is almost worthless. But some were printed with 14 dots in the corners and can be worth up to \$200 depending on condition. Again collectors will buy them in bulk hoping to find a 14 dotter.

Many collectors will keep in their albums a rare but damaged stamp, that in good condition would be quite valuable in the eternal hope of one day coming across an undamaged one to replace it.

And of course always hopeful of a bargain buy though sometimes not always straight forward. Recently I was at a stamp fair looking at an album that had a \$40 price tag. I asked the dealer what was his best price. He paused and then said "Ah my best price? Well that would be \$65". He paused again and then said "But my lowest price is \$35". We both laughed and the deal was done.

*A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties.*

*Harry S Truman*

## Vale to Leslie Francis Smith 19/1/1937 – 11/2/2025

Marg Cooper

Leslie Francis Smith "Les" was born to parents William and Annie Smith.

He was one of 6 children.

Early life for Les was in Geelong, before the family moved to 88 Cottrell St Werribee, where his dad's brother John had a building business. Les's dad William built the family home in Werribee.

Like many young children back then, Les left school relatively early in life and commenced an apprenticeship as an electrician at the Commonwealth Aircraft Factory in Fisherman's Bend in Port Melbourne. Les ultimately became an A Grade Electrician and then became an Electrical Contractor.

He grew a very successful business, L. F. Smith Pty Ltd employing a number of other electricians and apprentices along the way.

It was at the Hawthorn Town Hall Dance that Les first met Barbara.

It really was love at first sight and very quickly their friendship and relationship developed and on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 1961 they were married.

In 1962 daughter Sheryl was born and in 1963 the family moved into their new home in Mckenna Rd Glen Waverley

In 1964 Les's first son Trevor was born, then Warren in 1965, Gavin in 1967 and then Ross in 1969.

Les and Barbara moved from Glen Waverley and went to Mornington and then in 2005 they moved into The Botanic Gardens Retirement Village – Les quickly became involved not only in the retirement village life, but in fact was appointed Chairman of the Residents Committee and Les had a significant impact on all the residents in his role as Chairman.

In 2012 Les was awarded the City of Casey Volunteer Award for his volunteering services to his community. It was a great honour.

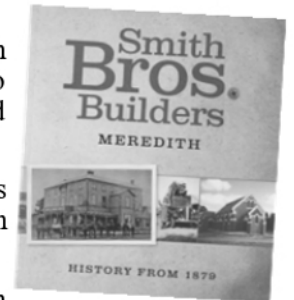
The final move for Les and Barbara was to a unit in Frankston where they continued to enjoy their family and friends.

It was clear that his family really was the centrepiece of his life – Barbara and their children really were his world – clearly Les's legacy was and is his family.

Some 4 years ago Les first experienced health issues with the diagnosis of Prostate Cancer.

This year would have been Les and Barbara's 64<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Les's life was a life filled with many moments of pleasure and happiness and his is a life worth remembering and celebrating. *Tribute condensed from eulogy presented by the family at Les's funeral.*



# BANNOCKBURN SURGERY

Dr Benjamin Fry  
Dr Cameron Proffitt  
Dr Rupali Jain  
Dr Rebecca Tidd

Dr John Henderson  
Dr Veronica Donahoe  
Dr Edward Carson  
Dr Mohana Govardhanan

Bannockburn Surgery is a fully accredited medical practice that provides comprehensive GP services and have been practising within the community for more than 30 years. Bannockburn Surgery is the largest practice within the shire.

We are an accredited teaching practice – training medical students, nursing students and future GPs.

### We also offer the following services:

- Diabetes Education
- Podiatry
- Dietitian
- Q Fever (Testing & Vaccines)
- Yellow Fever (Vaccine)

### NEW PATIENTS WELCOME

16 High Street, Bannockburn VIC 3331

**Tel: (03) 5281 1481**

[www.bannockburnsurgery.com.au](http://www.bannockburnsurgery.com.au) Online bookings available



healthy pets, happy lives

## Golden Plains Animal Hospital

**Veterinary care for your family pets when you need it**

Our Veterinary Hospital provides modern, professional and affordable health care for your pets. Our dedicated staff and leading veterinarians are all passionate about pets and avid animal lovers.

### Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 8.00 am – 6.00 pm

Saturday 8.30 am – 1.00 pm



**Emergencies 24 hours a day**



12 Milton Street, Bannockburn

**5281 2226**



healthy pets, happy lives





**SUPAGAS**

100% AUSTRALIAN

**Paul Ryan**

YOUR SUPAGAS DEALER

SUPAGAS is pleased to announce that **Paul Ryan**

is delivering SUPAGAS to your area.

**Paul** will supply competitive 45kg, forklift and BBQ gas cylinder refills in a reliable and friendly manner.

- 45kg Domestic and Commercial Cylinder applications
- Fork lift Cylinders (15kg Aluminium Cylinders)
- Refills BBQ and Camping Cylinders
- Bulk Gas Quotations supplied

Please contact Paul to arrange your next SUPAGAS LPG delivery

**Contact Paul Ryan on 0409 861 296**



**KONAR ARCHITECTS**

WWW.KONARARCHITECTS.COM.AU

RESIDENTIAL  
COMMERCIAL  
COMMUNITY

A SERVICE DEDICATED TO A CLIENT'S NEEDS

- SMALL AND LARGE PROJECTS
- DESIGN
- DRAFTING + DOCUMENTATION
- PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATIONS
- BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATIONS
- PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

32 STAUGHTON STREET MEREDITH

**ANDRÉ KONARSKI**  
REGISTERED ARCHITECT | 16514  
**0438340532**

\*Myotherapy \* Remedial  
\*Sports \*Pregnancy  
\*Chronic Pain \*Dry Needling  
\*Health Fund Rebates Available  
\*Cupping \*Hot Stones  
\*Gift Vouchers Available  
\*Member of MA and MAMA

GOLDEN PLAINS  
**MYOTHERAPY + MASSAGE** CLINIC  
**PH 0418 798 608**

**Part of Your Community.**

Inverleigh resident and Funeral Director, Ebony Hovey can assist you with your enquiries and funeral care needs.

Ebony is available to guide you through funeral planning and arrangements as well as provide obligation free funeral advice and information.

*...for a life worth celebrating.*

**Tuckers**  
Funeral & Bereavement Service  
[www.tuckers.com.au](http://www.tuckers.com.au) 5221 4788



# Bullecourt, tanks but no tanks.

Marg Cooper

In the pitch black with a cold and miserable sleet and snow falling, the overall tank commander met others to discuss tactics at Australia's 4<sup>th</sup> Division HQ, less than 12 hours before the battle of Bullecourt.

Tanks were to be involved and this had never happened before. These new tanks were a little touch and go at the best of times.

They were 28 tons of steel and their 6-cylinder petrol engines, which were right in the cabin with the 8 man tank crew (2 were drivers, with 2 others who controlled the gear changes for each track), generated 105 horsepower, meaning there were fewer than 4 horsepower to pull each ton.

Going downhill, or on the flat or even ground they could usually manage about 2 mph without breaking down. On difficult terrain and heading up a slope, particularly a muddy one which clogged up their tracks and made the tank heavier. It was a fairly frequent occurrence that the tanks gave up the ghost and the engines either blew up or were just not strong enough to keep the tank moving. Of the 49 tanks assigned only 18 even made it to the starting line and only a handful make it to the battle.. They were late. They were so slow - less than walking pace. The whole idea of attacking the enemy line is to charge!

The men in the tanks would be in a cold sweat if they could get cool enough; the steamy stink of petrol surrounds them, their nerves increasing as their speed slows.

The tanks sounded and looked terrifying, growling their way forward, regularly coughing up front and belching out back with black bursts of smoke and sparks coming out from the exhaust pipes, and their tracks making an extraordinary flap-flap-flap like the padding webbed feet of a gigantic metallic duck.

Soldiers tried to guide the tanks but it was like trying to herd massive drunken cats each with a mind of its own. They wandered aimlessly about in every direction thereby drawing enemy fire on the troops and on their trenches.

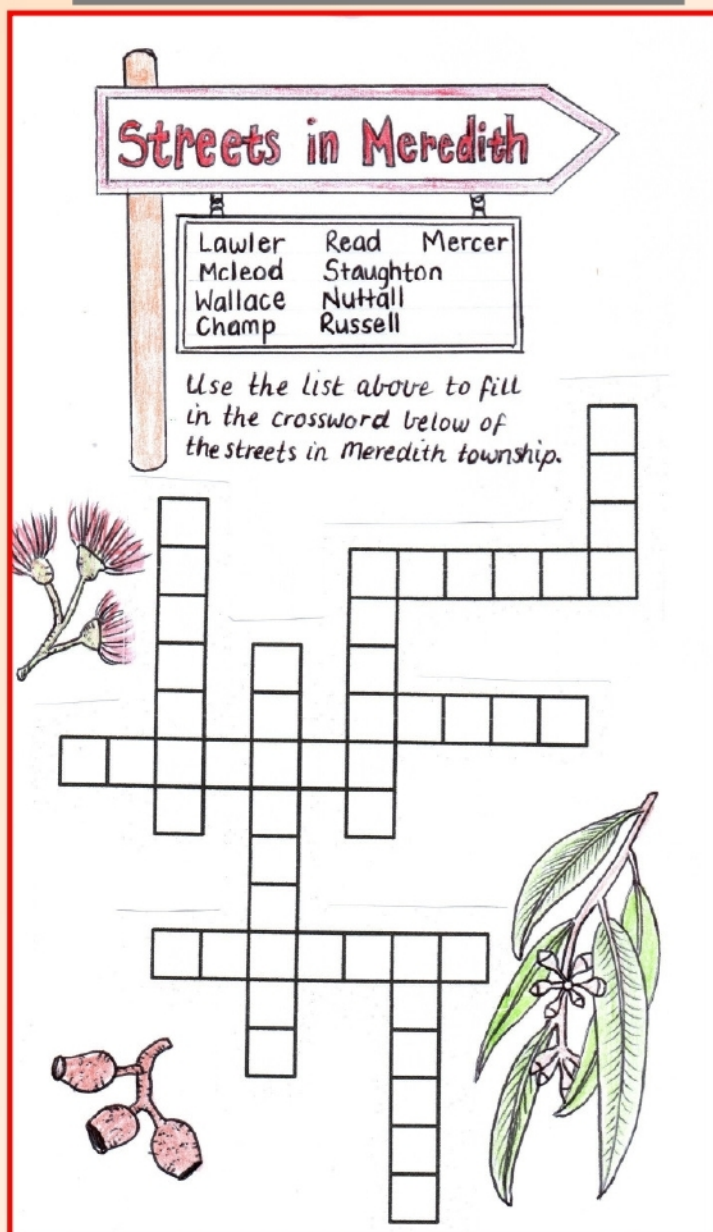
The bungling that has resulted in this grotesque fiasco was evident to everyone and confidence in the higher leadership was badly shaken.

The official history of Bullecourt says that *the battle will ever remain an imperishable monument to heroism, the fortitude and the unflinching hardihood of the Australian race.*

Bullecourt was not captured on April 9, 1917, not even a single yard of enemy trench was secured for the Allies.

*(This information was gleaned from the book The Legend of Albert Jacka by Peter Fitzsimons. Albert Jacka was a timber worker from regional Victoria who became the first winner of the Victoria Cross from Australia in WW1. Charles Bean said that everyone who knew the facts, knew that Jack earned the VC three times. He was an extraordinary soldier and the book tells his story superbly.)*

an ORIGINAL PUZZLE by JESS and ASHER



## Rabbit Baiting in Police Paddocks Continues

Rabbit baits continue to be laid in the Meredith Police Paddocks. This is an ongoing program conducted by site managers, Western Region Ecological Network (WREN), in an attempt to reduce the large number of rabbits on the site and arrest the damage being done to both soil and vegetation.

The bait is an oats based Pindone and presented in plastic containers that the rabbits have to enter. This reduces the likelihood of harm to marsupials.

Signs have been placed at Reserve entrances to alert visitors and, notwithstanding the low risk and the precautions being taken, pet owners are advised to ensure their animals cannot access the baits. Any queries should be directed to 0449 706 501.



# We're NEARLY 50!



In 2026, we celebrate 50 years continuous publication of our free community newsletter, so we thought we would spend some time showing you around the workplace. A few years ago, we asked all our volunteers how much time they put in each month, discovering each issue is the result of about 100 hours of voluntary input. Here, we go a step further and map out the entire process, showing how the many parts come together to produce our monthly read. In the coming months, with the help of Meredith local, and former journalist, John Merlo, we will dig a little deeper, talking to most of these volunteers to get a better sense of what we do. And why. 😊

but first, meet John...

*It's a big year for the News and I'm very pleased to be involved in the marking of the newsletter's 50 continuous years of publication.. By way of introduction: After a working life in journalism I thought I'd put the quill pen away for good, but apparently not..*

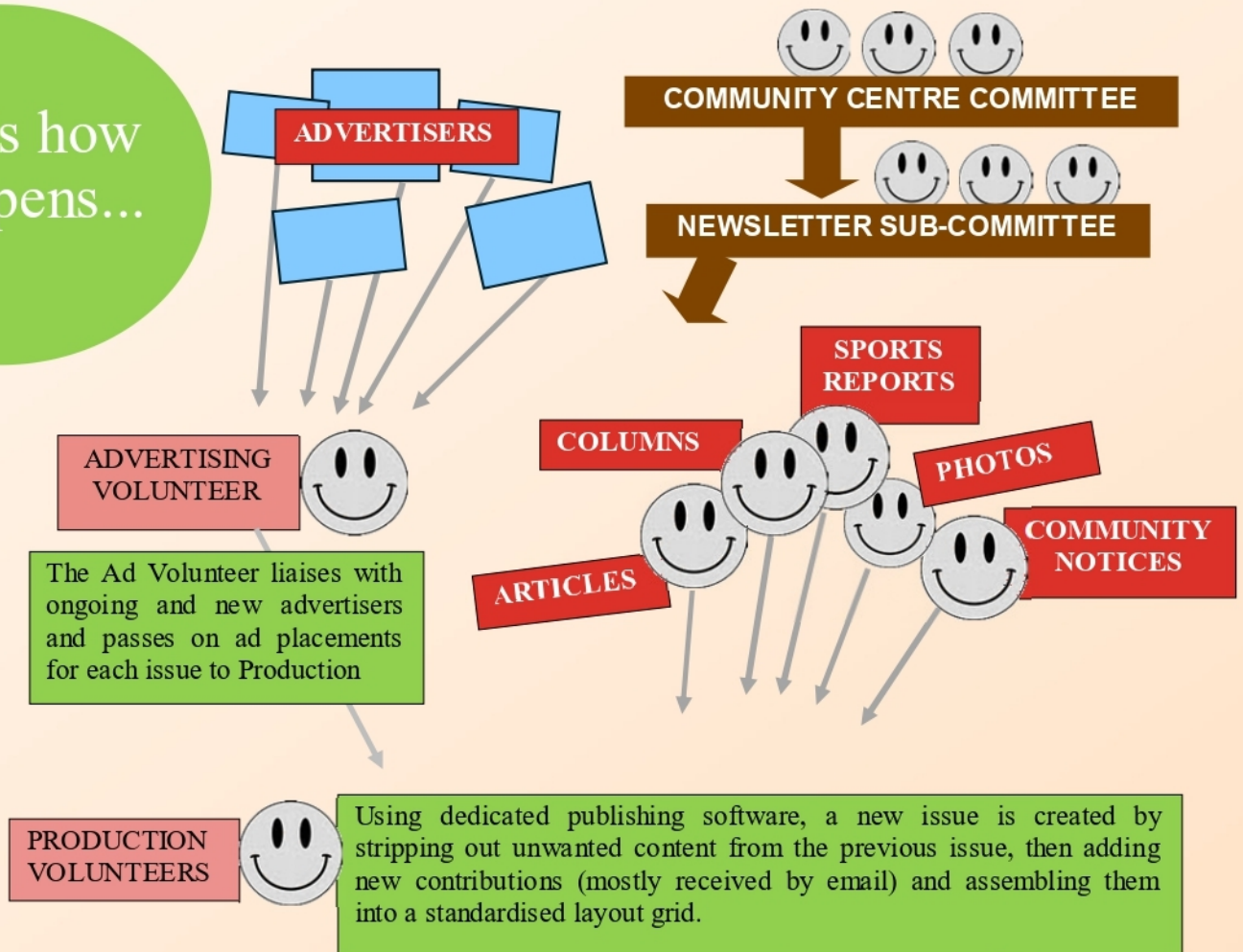
*You may have seen me about the place from time to time - walking my two poodles down Staughton Street most mornings to get a variety of the day's newspapers from our excellent General Store. Old habits die hard, although today's fast-shrinking newspapers are now barely worth the paper they're printed on. But not so the Meredith and District News. I believe our own publication represents the future of newspapers - local, relevant and trustworthy.*

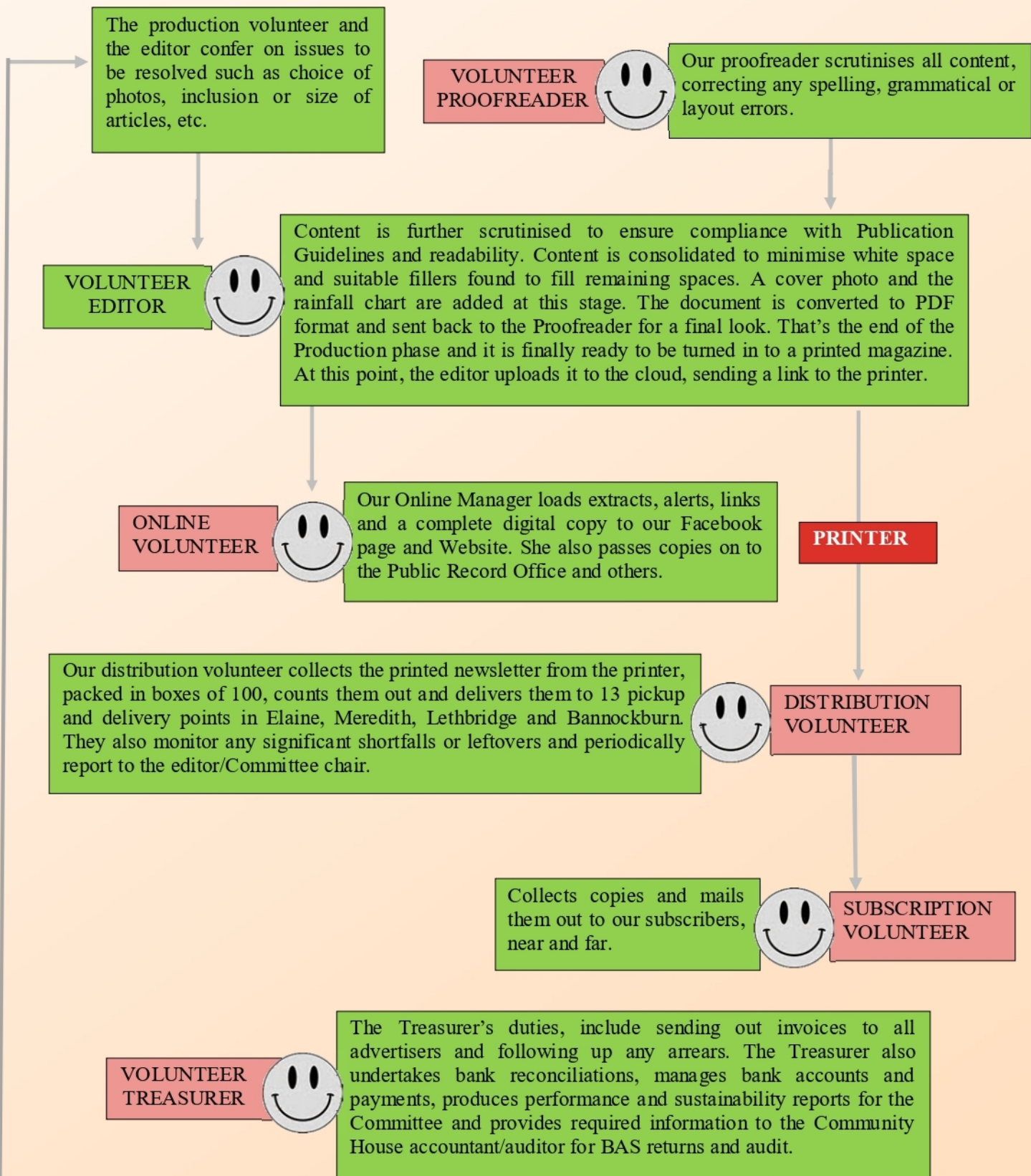
*And free.*

*Free we may be, but a lot of time and effort from a team of dedicated volunteers goes into the production of every issue.*

*Over the remainder of 2025 we'll be providing some insights into the locals who work behind the scenes - bringing you the news you won't find in the dailies. - John Merlo*

This is how it happens...





It's quite a process heh? And you will get what we mean when we say we can use your help. Here's a few ways: a photograph of something you have seen or made or found, a column about your special interest, a good joke you've heard, a puzzle. Maybe you can help with some admin. tasks, producing the newsletter or similar. Perhaps you have some computing skills or just want to help but not sure how. In any case, call Jim on 0409 163 169 or email us at [news@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:news@meredithnews.com.au). You could make history. 😊

## Next Month...

we talk to committee members (the wheelhouse steering the ship)





# it's History

Meredith History Interest Group



## Landcare News

Maude Meredith and Districts  
Landcare Group

### **Sculpture Exhibition:**

History Reconstructed is the theme of MHIG's Sculpture Exhibition to be held on May 3 & 4 in the grounds and in the History Centre. The event has been registered with the Australian Heritage Festival [which runs from April 18 to May 18], so MHIG will receive some more publicity through their publicity, so people will not only submit sculptures but come along to see the exhibition.

Sculptures must be 3 dimensional but can be made of anything, be of any size, entry fee is only \$5 for 5 entries, prize money will be awarded, and Mark who created the concrete couch on the corner at the Royal Hotel is coming to judge and to speak to the crowd about his art on Sunday afternoon.

Come on...Create! Use wood, metal, cardboard, make a cake, dress a model or build a hanging dream catcher!

### **Annual Meeting:**

On Sunday March 2 we met at the Memorial Hall for the Annual Meeting and to hear guest speakers John and Mark. Office bearers elected were Marg Cooper, President, Darren Guthrie Vice President, Kerrie Kruger Secretary, we have a team of 3 to share the financials, and a Committee of Tony Scott, Andre Konarski, Paul Ryan, Bev Loveday and Nick Bond.

John and Mark are two men from Ballarat who met as neighbours and discovered a common interest in researching urban and industrial history. They visited MHIG on our Open Day and we were impressed by their passion and the work they do. At our Annual Meeting they talked about the square tanks that were a forerunner to shipping containers, in that they came out in ships and held everything from salted meat to clothes to rum. Mostly they were sold off and became tanks for houses, sheds etc. They had seen such a tank at 4 Mercer Street and showed photos during their talk of its features.

The attendees were enthralled, asked lots of questions and were keen to hear about other research they had undertaken, including the roof of an art shop in the Bridge Mall.

### **Elaine Photo Exhibition:**

We have set a date for October 18 & 19 for the photo display.

If you have photos of Elaine & District, of people, buildings, enterprise, schools, churches, railway, water race, Recreation Reserve, Hall, Soldiers, Soldier Settlers, Fire Brigade, etc please contact Paul, Marg or Darren or come in to the History Centre. Do you know anything about the activities of the Young Farmers Club at Elaine or the Youth Group?

### **Needed:**

In recent editions of the Newsletter we have been advertising positions in the History Group. In this edition we are asking for someone to ADVERTISE.

We want to advertise that MHIG exists, that members are welcome to join, events, books for sale etc.

If you have flair, IT skills and a little time this position may be for you!

*Richard Anderson*

### **Rabbit baiting campaign**

This year's campaign held over late February to early March saw an increase in the members of the community participating.

Some participants had reported an increase in the numbers of rabbits over the preceding 12 months. The enduring dry conditions and limited feed meant that, for at least some participants, the elimination of most rabbits was possible. Unfortunately, it is not possible to relax for another 12 months as now the real work must start with the destruction of rabbit burrows, failing to do so, any gains made can be lost.

### **Former Meredith Municipal Tip Site**

On 2 March 2025 a number of group members and other volunteers converged on the former tip site as part of Clean Up Australia Day.

The site is located in attractive bushland to the North of the Meredith Steiglitz Rd and had become a dumping ground for various items of household and other rubbish. The tip was successfully capped many years ago and it is a matter of public shame that the site should subsequently become so degraded.

With the support of the Golden Plains Shire Council which provided a rubbish skip and other assistance, it was possible to make a substantial difference to the site, which included filling the skip and stockpiling other rubbish for collection. Further work will be required to remove the remaining rubbish which includes old car bodies and building debris.

### **Keeping Livestock: All You Need to Know**

At our next meeting at 7.15 pm on Thursday 24 April 2025 at the Maude Tennis Pavilion Dr George Johnstone, vet and member of the group, will speak on issues relating to keeping livestock such as horses, cattle and sheep, with particular relevance to smaller or lifestyle properties.

George's talk will provide an opportunity to learn more about animal nutrition which is directly relevant to animal welfare and the actual cost of maintaining and keeping livestock.

This is a free talk and members of the public are welcome to attend.





For over 50 years, Ballarat Insurance Brokers P/L has tailored comprehensive Farm and Business Insurance Victoria wide.

Our areas of expertise include: -

- Farm and Crop Insurance
- Marine Transit Insurance
- Business Package
- Liability and Tools of Trade
- Fleet Motor and Plant & Equipment
- Landlord and Strata Insurance
- Home and Motor Insurance
- Cyber Crime & Liability
- Management Liability Insurance

**OFFICE: 31 ARMSTRONG STREET SOUTH, BALLARAT VIC 3350**

**PHONE: 03 5333 5222**

**WWW.BALLARATINSURANCEBROKERS.COM.AU**

AFSL: 241365



FOR ALL YOUR ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS

**MURRAY COOPER**

PO Box 267  
Buninyong, 3357



The deadline for copy is  
**9.00 am on the  
last Thursday**  
of the preceding month



**SOUTHERN  
GRAIN STORAGE  
PTY. LTD.**

**BULK & BAGGED FERTILISER    GRAIN    PASTURE SEED    SEED CLEANING**

15 Murrell St, Winchelsea

**(03) 5267 2351**



## Art Girls Travel Again

*Marg Cooper*

To Lakes Entrance we went for our annual holiday. We stayed in a luxury house with views of the 90 mile beach, experienced a new area, enjoyed the company of like minded friends and ate out and enjoyed meals cooked for us.

We set off early on Friday, March 14 for the long trip, arriving mid afternoon to settle into our large house and quickly acquaint ourselves with what was nearby and to start planning activities for the week.

Breakfast was enjoyed each morning at three different cafes in town including the *Funky Monkey*, after which we set off to explore the larger district. Over the week we explored Bruthen, Buchan, Lake Tyers, Metung, Paynesville and of course Lakes Entrance.

The district is a huge tourist destination with accommodation galore, cafes and restaurants and tourist attractions like a spa complex, where some of the girls enjoyed hot tubs and cold plunges, caves to be explored and a cruise on the Gippsland Lakes.

All too soon we had filled the week with fun, finding out, food and films (at night) and it was time to pack up and head home - but not before voting for where we would like to go next year, if we can find another luxury house that sleeps 8 of us!

We are often asked if we do art while we holiday. We can report that this holiday we did draw and paint each day after our outing and before eating our dinner.

## **B&S** Stock & Pet Supplies

Cnr Milton & Burns Sts. Bannockburn  
Phone 52 811 566

*We stock all your requirements including:*

- Horse Feed
- Molasses
- Dog & Cat Food
- Horse Shoe Nails
- Poultry
- Collars & Leads
- Bird Seed
- Supplements
- Pure Apple Cider Vinegar available
- Horse Rugs (all sizes)
- Double Horse Float Hire

Agents for Sureguard Solar Electric Fence Energizers

**Delivery can be arranged**

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

*Please note - closed Sundays until further notice*

# Paul Ryan Transport

- Livestock & General Cartage
- Bulk Haulage
- Grain and Fertilizer



0409 861 296

5341 5575



*Bannockburn's trusted local destination for expert physiotherapy care since 1988*

**Physiotherapy Clinical Pilates Remedial Massage**

- Back and Necks
- Sporting injuries
- Aged Care
- Injury advice
- Exercise Prescription
- Manual Therapy



**GOLDEN PLAINS  
PHYSIO & HEALTH**

9 High St, Bannockburn 3331

5215 1155 • reception@goldenplainsphysio.com.au • goldenplainsphysio.com.au

**TEST'N'TAG**

All plug in electrical items can be tested and certified safe.

On-site or off-site testing. Reasonable rates.

Contact Meredith Maintenance  
(Licensed Tester)

**5286 1550 or 0427 300742**

**DECORATIVE PLASTERER**

WORKMANSHIP GUARANTEED

AFFORDABLE RATES

ANYWHERE IN THE MEREDITH AREA

**PHONE ADRIAN**

**0411 533 582 0477 310 319**

EPA Accredited

**REGIONAL  
LIQUID WASTE**

**ABN: 34 978 656 819**

- SEPTIC TANK CLEANING
- WATER TANK CLEANING
- HYDRO EXCAVATION
- GREASE TRAPS
- PORTALOO / HOLDING TANKS
- HIGH PRESSURE CLEANING

**Mobile: 0427 304 959**



**JOSIES  
CONCRETING  
& Excavation Work**



**Colin Jose**

Garage floors • Foundations  
Paving • Driveways • House slabs • Free quotes

**MOBILE 0412 402 924**



# MONEY Matters



with Sandy Hoffmann

PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR MANAGING YOUR MONEY

## Household savings hack of the month:

### Plant Plant Plant...

Buy your first set of seedlings, like lettuce, from places like Bunnings and then ensure that at least one food plant is not picked for eating and goes to seed. Not only do the seeds spread around the garden and then germinate themselves (a happy surprise in my book) but you will not need to buy that plant again for the next planting.

Additionally, those weeds growing in your garden... learn to identify the weeds that are actually food for your chickens to save you money and increase the range in their diet.

Easter is almost here and along with eating those delicious chocolate easter eggs there is always a flurry of activity around the Good Friday appeal or an outdoor event supported by the Good Friday Appeal. This is a reminder to keep your receipts if you make the donation via telephone or website as the charity is listed as a Deductible Gift Recipients (DGR). If you place money into the buckets or tins, then you are unlikely to get a receipt, and it will be harder for you to claim the deduction. The maximum that is then claimable is \$10 and you must have donated \$2 or more.

Anzac Day is also at the end of April and if you buy one of those label pins, wristbands or stickers then you can claim this as well. The ATO calls this token items which are of no material value and used to promote the DGR.

The above charities are well known and come to mind specifically for April but there are many many more. Charities are not obliged to provide receipts, so if you don't get a copy, this is one of those rare time you can use Bank Statements as evidence as well.

April is also the time for Easter Holidays.... travelling away with family or friends. But for those of you staying home to work a second job, please check the box you tick for the second job when you fill in the Tax Declaration Form.

I have met so many people who are unhappy at the end of the tax interview simply because they have to pay tax because they had two jobs.

When you have one job the employer should withhold the right amount of tax so that at the end of the year you are either even or get a slight refund.

The second job does the same. But the problem is that each job doesn't know about the other. Therefore, the employer's payroll system cannot calculate how much tax you really need to pay by the end of the year considering both incomes. This could cause a big tax payable at the end of the year especially if both jobs combined move you into a new tax bracket.

The Tax Declaration Form you need to fill in when you get a job is the form that helps you ensure that both jobs are considered. When accepting the second job and filling in the Tax Declaration Form, the job that is irregular and has less income, should be ticked with No Tax Free Threshold. This means that you pay tax on the first dollar you earn. This will mean more tax paid but help ensure that you are not one of the unhappy taxpayers, who at the end of the interview gets told that they have to pay back money to the ATO.



**DURRAN**  
BRICKLAYING

### SPECIALISING IN

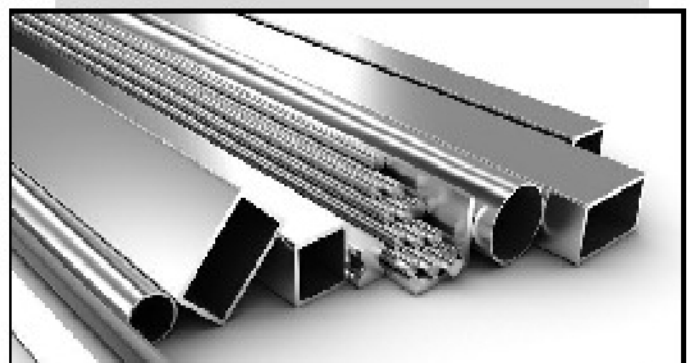
- brick & block masonry construction
- Solid brick houses
- Retaining walls
- Scaffolding
- Telehandler Hire

**Anthony Durrans 0409 524438**  
*a.durrans@durransbricklaying.com.au*

IF YOU NEED ALUMINIUM, GO TO...

# JUST ALUMINIUM

19 BIRKETT PLACE, SOUTH GEELONG



### FULL RANGE OF EXTRUSIONS & SHEET

Deliveries to Ballarat via Midland Highway  
on Tuesdays and Fridays

**Phone: 5222 5444 Fax: 5222 2788**



# BUILDER HANDYMAN

ANDREW ROBERTS

- Decks
- Carports
- Weather boards
- House maintenance
- Renovations



0438 184797

No job too small, just give me a call for a free quote.

Registered Builder DBU 19908 Email: [golfbuggy65@bigpond.com](mailto:golfbuggy65@bigpond.com)



## ELAINE FARM SUPPLIES

5264 Midland Hwy Elaine

Phone: 03 5341 5665



**For all your Pet, Livestock and Rural Supplies**

**We stock all your requirements including**


- |                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| * A Large Variety Horse Feed  | * Pasture Seeds & Fertilizers |
| Natural Herb and Mineral      | * Shearing Items              |
| Supplements                   | Electric and Rural Fencing    |
| * Poultry and Bird Feeds      | Supplies                      |
| Dog & Cat Food                | * Farm & Garden Chemicals     |
| * Guidar, Vaccines & Drenches |                               |

**NORMAL TRADING HOURS:**

Monday to Friday: 9.00am - 5.00pm Saturday 9am - 12pm

**Come in and Visit us for store specials**





## in our NATURE

Wendy Cook

Our landscape is dotted with extinct volcanoes, including Mt Anakie, Mt Mercer, Mt Buninyong and Mt Wallace. They sit quietly, visible from kilometres away. Their role in shaping the countryside is often not obvious to us. In many places, we see dark grey rocks. This is basalt, also known as bluestone, and it is the most common rock type which forms when lava has flowed from a volcano and become cold. Bubbles of gas in the lava often leave their mark on the rocks in the form of small holes. The local Wadawurrung people tell stories about the eruptions of these volcanoes. The land would have looked different at that time, but to those with the knowledge, there are still clues to be found.

On our property, we have a hilltop dotted with basalt rocks. They are found down the steep sides of the hill, partially hidden among tussock grasses, and beside the creeks, which run along each side of the hill and meet at its base. Walking away from the hilltop, down a slight dip and onto the ridge between the creek valleys, the rocks change abruptly. Here, there are sandstones, in shades of red and brown. They formed in layers at the bottom of a sea around 470 million years ago, so long ago that the time is unimaginable to most of us. Rocks that form in this manner are referred to as sedimentary. By comparison, the basalt rocks are less than eight million years old, still older than we can comprehend, and perhaps as young as ten thousand years. The sedimentary rocks can be seen in places down the side of the ridge and beside the larger creek, but across this creek, the hill is steeper and all the rocks are basalt. Recently, I have been reading books about geology, the study of how landscapes and rocks are created and change. In these, I have found the story of how this hill and valley were formed.

Where the hill and ridge are now, was a valley of ancient sandstone with a flowing stream. When our local volcano erupted, its lava spilled downhill. As it moved across the landscape, it entered valleys and followed their courses, evaporating the stream's water in clouds of steam. The sandstone valley filled with lava, which slowly cooled to form basalt in a thick layer above the sandstone. Water continued to flow towards the former valley, but when it reached the basalt, its path was blocked. It needed a new route, so it took the easiest way, along the edge of the basalt. Creeks that take this path are known as lateral streams, as they flow lateral to the cooled lava.

That was probably several million years ago, and the landscape has continued to change, although more slowly. Time and water gradually wear away rock. The mass of lava has been broken into separate rocks with rounded edges. The creek's flow has worn its way down through the sandstone, which is softer than basalt. Stones of basalt that have rolled down the hill, can be found in the creek bed. At the same time, the country has been gradually rising, in a process called uplift. If this did not occur, erosion would eventually cause the landscape to be flat. The basalt, and the sandstone beneath it in the valley, have been pushed up,

while the creek has been cutting its way down. The softer sandstone has eroded more than the basalt, forming a gentler slope on its side of the valley. The basalt slope is much steeper, as it has been less worn away by the water.

At the base of the hill, there is basalt on both sides of the valley, and the creek flows over a bed of basalt. It then winds across a creek flat and meets the creek flowing beside the other side of the hill. This creek follows a gentler course through gradually sloping paddocks for most of its journey. The creeks combine and continue along their rocky path towards the Moorabool River.

I find interpreting my local geology challenging, but there are places that have been well studied by geologists, and they have told us the story of the landscape. North of us, along the road between Bacchus Marsh and Gisborne, a basalt lava flow and lateral streams can be seen. After you leave Gisborne and drive through the small town of Bullengarook, you pass Mount Bullengarook, a former volcano. The road follows a ridge with creeks on both sides, their valleys becoming deeper and deeper. This ridge is formed from lava that erupted from Mount Bullengarook and filled the course of a stream. The water from the original stream became divided by the lava flow, so that a creek formed along each side of it. The lava was uplifted over a long period of time, while the creeks eroded their way down into the sedimentary rock, forming spectacularly deep valleys. As there is one parallel to each edge of the lava flow, they are known as twin lateral streams. Geologists refer to this kind of landscape as inverted, as the rock that was at the bottom of the valley is now on the hilltop.

Once I have heard a story like this, it is easier to imagine it happening, as a tale of long ago. However, the process of uplift and erosion continues today and into the future. We may not notice the changes in our lifetimes, but it is intriguing to consider how the landscape may look in another million years, or ten million years. How deep have the valleys become? Is the ridge still there? Perhaps there has been an earthquake or another volcanic eruption, and the landscape has changed again and begun a new chapter in its story.





**CREATORS &  
CRAFT MARKET  
BANNOCKBURN**

**SUNDAY 4TH  
MAY 2025**

FROM: 10.00AM - 2.00PM

NEW VENUE: LIONS CLUB PARKLAND  
GEE LONG/SHELFORD ROAD, BANNOCKBURN.

**STALL HOLDER ENQUIRIES CONTACT**

NOELINE ON: 0427 923 934 or   
ccmbanno@gmail.com 





**CENTRAL HIGHLANDS  
ANTENNA  
SERVICE**  
PTY. LTD.

Master Technician with 35 years industry experience and service to the region

- Digital antenna systems
- Satellite/VAST systems
- Metro & Regional Reception
- On site Signal tests & quotes
- Home Theatre, DATA & Phone
- Friendly Service, Advice & 5 year warranty

**Frank Schaefer**  
53334441 or 0418508524 anytime  
www.chantenna.com.au

**HEATH MAINTENANCE**

Fred Heath  
0400 045307  
fred.heath67@gmail.com



- Home and Property Maintenance
- General Repairs
- Window Replacement
- Carpentry and Woodworking

**More than just tyres  
at Bannockburn.**






Passenger & 4WD    Mechanical Repairs    Light Truck    Agricultural

60 Holder Road Bannockburn     **5281 1666**

**BRIDGESTONE**  Bridgestone Service Centre

**HYDRAUT-TECH**  
FLUID POWER

**Grow it, drive it, Hydrautech it...**  
*Your Hydraulics experts for the Agriculture Industry.*

HYDRAULIC SALES & SERVICE **03 5336 2266**  
18 Wiltshire Lane, Ballarat, Victoria, 3350 • www.hydrautech.net.au



**24 hour  
on call  
hydraulic  
hose service**





## Marg's BOOK REVIEW

### **The Secrets of the Huon Wren** by Claire Van Ryn

This debut novel by Claire Van Ryn is set in Tasmania and centres around the lives of two women who build a connection after a chance meeting.

Allira, who is a journalist for a local magazine, spends her days utilizing her creative storytelling abilities to uncover and bring to life local stories. Although, her life is one of quiet satisfaction, the itch to discover the next big story is ever present.

She arrives at a nursing home to interview a resident but when that isn't possible the manager tells Allira of Nora, a dementia patient who sits cradling a doll lovingly in her arms, treating it like a real baby. As the story progresses it is interesting how the connection builds between the two women. Although they can't connect simply through words, Allira is gradually drawn into Nora's world, wondering who she is, how she came to be alone in the home, why she is so attached to the baby doll and what tragedy has befallen her. It turns out that the two women share a life changing experience that is revealed as the story unfolds.

The story alternates between present day Launceston and the life of Allira, including her visits to the Nursing home, and Nora's life in the Central Highlands in 1953. There is quite a lot going on trying to follow these two timelines. But, at the same time, Allira receives hints from Nora of her history which the reader has to piece into the puzzle.

Van Ryn does a beautiful job of creating a strong sense of place while weaving a comprehensive picture of life in a small Tasmanian town. Apparently, the book is set in the area where she herself grew up and she transmits the awe of the natural landscapes of these places.

The book is for readers who love the intersection of past and present, family mysteries, a strong sense of place and the satisfaction of two people bringing healing to each other. A reviewer wrote that 'he found the book entertaining but that there was one twist in the story that pushed his own head'. I think he means that the ending was just a bit too neat or unrealistic. I agree.

*She loved the erratic, wounded and determined woman in front of her: enough to traipse into the night searching for her, to burrow into historical records looking for some morsel of information about her identity and to sit quietly at her bedside without searching for something unnamed, Just being.*



## LETHBRIDGE QUARRY

North Altona Rock Blasting Pty Ltd

**All Quarry Materials Available**

**Supply & Delivery available**

**Hours: Monday - Friday 7am - 4pm**

**(Saturday by appointment only)**

**Office: Pauline: 5281-7190**

**Paul: 0429 361 378**

**Email: [lethbridgequarry@bigpond.com](mailto:lethbridgequarry@bigpond.com)**

**180 Lower Plains Rd, Lethbridge 3332**

**Please Note: Car Trailers Not Permitted.**

# ARLO'S



# WATER CARTAGE

**SERVICING MEREDITH & SURROUNDS**

# 0419 113 630



# MULCAHY & CO

*Helping committed clients achieve  
and maintain financial security.*



Our professionals live in and service the Ballarat area. We have specialists in **Accounting, Agri Business, Bookkeeping, Financial Planning, Legal, Lending** and **Marketing** to assist individuals and businesses to thrive.

So whether it's a website, your tax, your farm finances, your conveyancing or will, your home loan or your retirement planning- let our experts help!

300B Gillies St Nth  
Wendouree VIC 3355  
**Phone: 03 5330 7200**  
[www.mulcahy.com.au](http://www.mulcahy.com.au)

*Our 12 Steps  
to Success*







*G'Day from the penners for March. It has been a slow start to 2025 but we are up and running. As I write this it has cooled down, thankfully, and life is a bit more pleasant. As always, we will be meeting every fortnight at the Bannockburn library at 1:30pm, so please drop in if you would like to see what we are about, or if you think you would like to join us, we are a friendly bunch of retired folks, who like to write. Our meeting dates for April are the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup>. You would be most welcome.*

*Today's story comes from myself, it was a homework subject and we hope you like it. We can be contacted via email at [goldenpens4@gmail.com](mailto:goldenpens4@gmail.com)*

*Regards, Wendy.*

### **Yes, but it's Thursday**

"Yes, but it's Thursday", I heard my mother say as I walked in through the back door on that sunny afternoon. The azure sky was splendid in its hue with scant cotton ball clouds gently floating by slowly dissipating as they went until there was only a wisp of white left.

"Yes, I know, but any other day would be fine, but I can't possibly help on a Thursday, I'm sorry Mrs Jenkins, but that's it."

I heard the screen close, followed by the click of the front door, and my mothers' footsteps coming down the hall towards the kitchen. I had my head in the refrigerator, looking for I don't know what. There never seemed to be anything interesting in there. A bit of butter, some milk, meat, vege's, yuk! But nothing to take my fancy. I swore that when I grew up and had a fridge of my own, I would fill it with good stuff like lemonade and chocolate.

"Get out of the fridge" my mother scolded, you'll let all the cold air out!"

I did as requested and wandered around to the end of the table and plonked on the chair. My mother was in full swing. Thursday was baking day, and the table was covered with flour and butter and dried fruit, with packets of choc chips and various other goodies.

Nothing ever stopped this day, what with Dad and the boys and myself, she had plenty to go on with. Dad would be expecting his fudge cake for after tea tonight and the boys would be ravenous for their chocolate chip cookies when they came in, and of course her famous boiled fruit cake. Big enough to offer up to any visitors that might come over on the weekend and also for school and work lunches during the week. Her fruit cake was moist enough to last 2 weeks without the hint of a crumb, but there was never any left by Thursday so a new one had to be made each week.

I started swinging on the chair, I was bored, I'd had enough of clouds for the day and the school holidays were starting to drag on.

"Stop swinging on that chair" my mother growled at me, if you want something to do there is a sink full of dishes that need some attention!"

I quickly jumped up and flew out of the kitchen, but after a minute I returned, I enjoyed my mother's company and frankly I had nothing better to do.

"Come over here and stir this mixture for me Sarah," mother said, I have to get the cookies out of the oven before they burn or there will be no peace from anyone tonight."


I sauntered over and began to stir the concoction that was in the big bowl on the table, I leaned over and breathed in deeply. The smell of the cake being prepared was heavenly. A mix of cinnamon, nutmeg, melted butter and mixed fruit assailed my olefactory, all that was left was to mix in the eggs and the flour, then pop it in the baking tin that had been lined with brown paper and it too would go in the oven.

She pulled the biscuits from the hot oven and the kitchen began to smell incredible. She placed them on a cooling rack and I wanted to eat one straight away, but I knew that they were much better, much crunchier when they were cold so I held off.

"What did Mrs Jenkins want? I asked nonchalantly.

"Oh, something about her committee needing some extra help today to prepare for the fete on the weekend. I told her that it was Thursday and I couldn't help. She didn't seem too impressed, but you know what Thursdays are about, nothing gets in my way on Thursday."

Yes, I did know, and I was eternally grateful for Thursdays and my mother.



## Country to Coast Electrical

R.E.C. 14586

**All Types of Electrical Installations  
Pensioner Discounts and Free Quotes**

# Mob. 0419 504 297

Shaun Bubb  
email: [shaun.bubb@bigpond.com](mailto:shaun.bubb@bigpond.com)  
66 Bruncl St. Lethbridge 3332

ABN-13 971 741 500  
**0404070191**

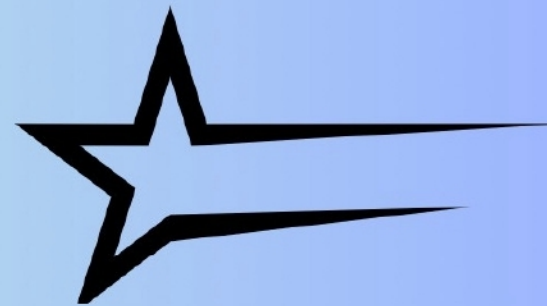
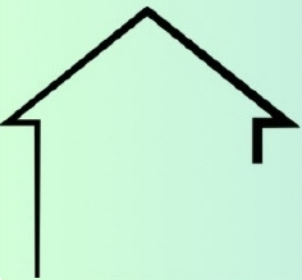
# Carpenter/Tiler

## Mark Wells

Specialising in

### Bathroom

renovating, rectifying and  
rebuilding



# ACTIVE

## GOLDEN PLAINS



*Where people matter, communities are connected, and the future is bright.*



**Golden Plains Shire Council has collaborated with community groups, sporting clubs, fitness instructors and residents across the Shire to create *Active Golden Plains - Thrive in 2025*.**

This initiative offers a range of physical activities suitable for all ages and abilities, encouraging residents to try new activities and embrace a more active lifestyle.

Activities are scheduled to begin from **Monday 7 April until Saturday 19 April 2025**, before continuing throughout 2025 with a range of ongoing activity opportunities available.

As part of the program, Council has created a centralised online platform, providing access to current programs and initiatives, with regular additions planned throughout 2025. This resource will keep residents up to date on the latest Active Golden Plains programs and initiatives.

The timetable is now available to view at [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/active-golden-plains-thrive-2025](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/active-golden-plains-thrive-2025).

For further information, contact Council's Recreation team at [enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au) or call 5220 7111.



2 Pope Street,  
Bannockburn, VIC 3331

19 Heales Street,  
Smythesdale, VIC 3351

☎ 5220 7111

@ enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au

🌐 goldenplains.vic.gov.au

f GoldenPlainsShire  
🐦 @GPSCouncilNews  
📷 lovegoldenplains



# AUTUMN HARVEST MARKET

CELEBRATE OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY OF GROWERS, MAKERS AND PRODUCERS.

LOCAL PRODUCE + LOCAL PRODUCTS + MUCH MUCH MORE



SAT  
12.04



9.30AM  
- 1PM



10 WALLACE ST  
MEREDITH



WWW.SHARINGSHED.AU  
03 5329 2239

THE BEST ADVICE FOR THE BEST RESULTS



Andrew Wilson  
0452 498 254

Fletcher Wilson  
0490 120 668

Dean Wilson  
0418 521 322

## Stockdale & Leggo

*We see more than property*

Even in this challenging current market, we can optimise the outcome for both buyers and sellers.

We have local 'on the ground' knowledge to give you all the insights to make the most of any opportunity.

Why not give one of the Wilsons a call today!

Stockdale & Leggo Bannockburn  
Shop 14, 6-8 High St Bannockburn, 3331  
P 03 5281 4444

## Stockdale & Leggo

*We see more than property*





# SMARTEN UP YOUR HOME WITH SOLAHART

Every day, more and more smart Aussies are future-proofing their homes, cutting their energy bills and making a real difference to the planet with Solahart. If you're considering solar for your home make the smart choice

**GET SMART  
GET SOLAHART**

BOOK YOUR FREE ON-SITE SOLAR ASSESSMENT TODAY

**Call Solahart Ballarat on 1300 362 821 or visit [solahartballarat.com.au](http://solahartballarat.com.au)**



# **SIMCO** **PLUMBING SERVICE**

**Domestic - Commercial - Rural**

**0400 643 976**

**All general Plumbing and Gasfitting - Renovations and Extensions  
Hot water and Heat pump - Split system and Wood heaters  
Water tanks and Pumps - Roof and Gutter  
Septic and Treatment plants - Blocked drains and CCTV Inspection  
Excavation, Bobcat and Tipper - Driveways and Earthworks**

**Simon McGillivray  
Lic: 109610 Freequotes, Fast & Friendly Service**



The team at  
**First National Golden Plains**  
working together to achieve

*great results*  
for you.

**We put you first**



**first  
national**  
REAL ESTATE

Golden Plains

**5281 4500**

[goldenplainsfn.com.au](http://goldenplainsfn.com.au)