

Meredith & district News

MAY 2025



OUR **FREE** COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



inside

- Marion's art exhibition
- The (very) old walnut tree
- Meet some of our volunteers

...and Much More!



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



Are you looking...

- for house sitters,
- for tenants
- to sell your house?



Because we want to move to Meredith!



We are a professional couple in our 30s, both homeowners, living separately in Geelong and Ballarat and are looking to move to the beautiful Meredith region in 2025.

We work in healthcare, are respectful, reliable and keen to be a part of your community.

Open to different options, renting short or longer term and have preapproval for a home loan if you are looking to sell - we are extremely interested!

Please text or call Ben on 0431 822 144



LOCAL CATERING FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT

Contact: Anna Kingston

naturallsweetcatering@gmail.com

order online @ naturallsweetcatering.com.au

Fun food for happy faces



Specialising in nutritious, low sugar options perfect for kids parties



Homebaked food with no nasties



Plastic free packaging



Delivered day of event



Plant based menu



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_34613597, 29/01/2024

Dam construction & repair

General earthworks

Gorse slashing with bobcat

Tractor slashing

Water cartage (13,000 litre tank)

Driveway construction &

Rural driveway construction

Concrete preparation/ removal

Post holes (350, 450 & 600)

Site cut/prep

Soil and crushed rock supplies

Free scrap metal removal

1, 5 & 15 tonne excavators

With jackhammer/ rock breaker

Stick rake on bobcat

2 x truck and trailer combos / bulk haulage

9 metre float hire

Tilt tray hire

**B&C
EXCAVATIONS**

For all enquires call or message

Brett - 0418 647 446

Daniel - 0417 392 985

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 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

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: Peter Boer Editor: Don Atherton

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 -	132 500
flood & storm	
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

The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing.
Socrates

FREE TAFE HELPING STUDENTS WITH THE COST OF LIVING!

- ✓ Gain the skills you need for in-demand jobs and better wages
- ✓ Free TAFE is breaking down financial barriers and transforming lives across the state.
- ✓ 200,000 students have now benefited from Free TAFE.
- ✓ Amazing milestone reached saving \$600 million in course fees.

Enrol in Free TAFE and get your ticket to a new career.

Head over to:
www.vic.gov.au/free-tafe to find out more.

Michaela Settle MP
Member for Eureka

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



What's On This Month



Term 2

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

May 13 - 11.30 - 1.30 - Light Lunch

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

LAW Week

May 20 - 10.30 - Morning Tea Provided

Entering Aged Care - The Legals

Haircuts..@ the Centre

Wednesday May 14

Phone: 0403667840 for Bookings



THE MEREDITH MART

**PROVIDING FOOD SECURITY FOR
OUR COMMUNITY**

SUPPORTED BY



Geelong
Community
Foundation



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
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 or

office: revdrtim@hotmail.com

The Revd Dr Timothy Smith

PiC Anglican Parish of

Inverleigh+Bannockburn+Meredith

St Josephs Catholic Parish of Meredith

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

Anakie - St. Brigid @ 9am Sun. MAY 11, 25

Meredith - St. Joseph @ 9am Sun. MAY 4, 18

Bannockburn - St. Mary MacKillop @ 11am Sun. MAY
4, 11, 18, 25

Inverleigh - Sacred Heart - @ 4pm Sun. MAY 18



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.



Brisbane Ranges Sketchers

Kerry Thomson

Having met in Steiglitz at 10am, group members travelled up the road to the old Steiglitz Schoolhouse. Many of us had not seen the building before and were quite surprised by both its size and its design (high ceilings, panelled windows, and general layout). It was easy to imagine its past glory days with dozens of goldfields/local children in attendance. Unfortunately time has been a little cruel with the building in need of significant money for restoration.

Inspiration came readily to group members from the schoolhouse and its surroundings. Several people drew/painted from a distance and placed the building in its bush setting and broader context, whilst others sat closer to produce pictures where the building imposed itself and dominated. Gil focused on a particularly interesting section of the rear roofline and Deidre ignored the building to produce a lovely, detailed pastel drawing of a nearby fallen tree. We welcomed Sue to her first outing with the group. 15 people enjoyed the day and, as a bonus, Monty had a playmate!

Next outing: venue - to be advised

date - 13 May (second Tuesday)

time - 10 am - 12.30 pm

BYO - art materials, chair, weather appropriate clothing, drink

NEW PEOPLE WELCOME - no experience necessary :-)

OUR COVER



Anzac Day in Meredith 2025

Photo by Cath Boer

*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

OPENING HOURS

Monday 6am to 7pm

Tuesday 6am to 7pm

Wednesday 6am to 7pm

Thursday 6am to 7pm

Friday 6am to 7:30pm

Saturday 7am to 7:30pm

Sunday 8am to 7pm

PHONE 03 5286 1556

Select option 4

26 Wallace St Meredith

Mortimer's
Petroleum



MEREDITH ROADHOUSE Take-Away Menu



Friday and Saturday
Nights

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



HAMBURGERS

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

EXTRAS
Beetroot, Pineapple \$1.00



FRIED FOOD

Hot Chips- Bucket	\$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
Chips and Gravy	
Small	\$6.50
Large	\$10.00
Cheese	+\$1.50

in YOUR Community

AMA Happenings

Kym Ivory, President AMA

After a very productive meeting, I have some great news about some events coming soon and later this year.

Firstly, our Biggest Morning Tea. A few fun facts about it. Meredith has been active in hosting this event for 15 years and in that time, we have raised \$28,198 for cancer research. Congratulations to everyone who has contributed to this amount, it's a wonderful effort.

This year, we will be bringing you another fun packed day with the theme being "Women's Weekly Christmas". Start going through your old Women's Weekly cookbooks especially any Christmas ones and bring them along. Also, think about your favourite foods you made/ate/cooked when you were younger. We will have lots of prizes on the day for games we play and for the oldest book, and the best Christmas story. As always, the silent auctions will be available to increase the amount we raise on the day. Hope to see you there. **Save the Date, July 26th**

In other news, save the date for a Market/Car Boot day on Saturday October 25th. If you would like to participate, just reach out and let us know and we can book you a site. We will have Snags and Devonshire Tea available on the day, and will have our own stall with plants and some Bric-a-brac.

We also discussed our Christmas corner decorations. (Yes, we are already thinking about it!) An Aussie Christmas theme was floated, with a rusty Holden Ute front and centre. Also floated was the possibility of family snaps in the back of the Ute. It's a long way off but now you know what we're thinking. There are some grants through the Bendigo Bank that we are pursuing to make the corner shine!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday the 20th May at 11am to discuss all the details of the Biggest Morning Tea. We are always looking for new members so, if you are reading this and think, I'd love to be part of it, drop us a line or give me a call.

kymson@gmail.com 0419 593 306

You'll see me around Meredith...

Until next time,

Kym



GP Shire Children's Plan

Media Release

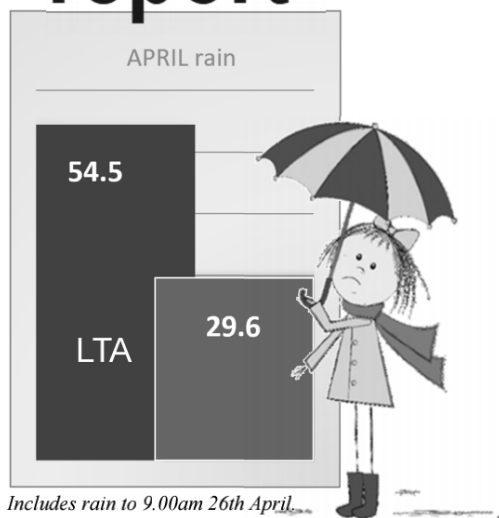
Golden Plains Shire Council endorsed the Draft Municipal Early Years and Children's Plan 2025-2029 (The Plan) at its April Council Meeting last night. The Plan is now on public exhibition until Thursday 8 May.

The comprehensive four-year Plan focuses on supporting families and children aged up to 12 years old in our community. In developing the Plan, the best outcomes for children, their families and service providers across Golden Plains Shire have been considered as a priority. Extensive community input helped shape the plan and included one-on-one consultations, community surveys, listening sessions and workshops.

Golden Plains Shire Council Acting Mayor Helena Kirby thanked community members and stakeholders for their contributions to finalising the draft Plan. "Community input was critical to informing this strategic roadmap which will guide Council's approach to early childhood development and family support over the next four years," Cr Kirby said. "The Plan is grounded in the principles of respecting, supporting, and promoting children's rights and voices, and recognising the significant benefits Council can achieve for children and families."

To read the plan and complete the Have Your Say survey, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations. The survey is open from Thursday 24 April until 5pm, Thursday 8 May 2025. For more information, contact Children's Services Development Officer Lyndall Galbraith at enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au or call 5220 7111.

the ^{not enough} rain report



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

Bendigo Bank: 5281 1990

Email: 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*



© 2019 ELGAS LTD.

*For all terms and conditions see website www.elgas.com.au

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

131 161

www.elgas.com.au

ELGAS

Recreation



Meredith Tennis Club

Bridget Dyer

Summer Saturday Competition

A huge congratulations to our two teams that not only made it to grand finals but also won! Meredith Yellow played against the Grenville/Buninyong team in section C3. Meredith Yellow played against the Grenville boys last year and sadly lost in the grand finals. This year, it was a close match with TWO tie breakers and Meredith winning by just three games! Well done to the whole team for playing so well. A special Congratulations to Evan Fraser for winning 'Most Consistent Player' for section C3. Thank you to everyone that came and watched and supported the boys.

Our senior team also won their grand final for the A3 section against the Buninyong Emus. They did so quite convincingly and were last seen drinking the 'GOAT' beer out of the cup. Congratulations to Madeline McColl on getting 'Most Consistent player' her section.

Summer Night Competition

Finals were hotly anticipated on who would take out the \$100 cash prize for the winners and \$30 cash prize for the runners up.

Section 3: Despite some great tennis from the Long Shots, they came in second to newcomers Clever Crosscourts, who led the ladder the whole comp. Congrats to both teams.

Section 2: After a neck and neck game, Kings of the Court were defeated by the Destroyers, and now that the Destroyers have won three in a row, they are moving up to Section 1!

Section 1: After lots of speculation on who would win in this section and a playoff earlier in the week to get into the semifinals, Topspin Titans surprisingly took out the top spot against Net Bashers. This was about the only game that didn't go to tie breaker for the Topspin Titans!

A quick thank you to Fay Stringer for being our official record keeper this comp. Your efforts are much appreciated and of course a big thank you to our chefs, David and Courtney, who continue to do an amazing and much appreciated job of cooking each week. We would also like to thank our volunteers who help serve and clean up afterwards- Meg, Bridget, Sheryl and Maddy.

AO Holiday Program Clinic

17 Children participated in the clinic held in the second week of the school holidays. All the kids had a great time with the two hours of games, drills and training. One of the younger girls felt it could only be improved by going for three hours instead of two.

Thursday Tennis Coaching

Coaching will be going ahead again for term 2. There will be three sessions with children grouped according to age and ability. Please contact Nathan Mayes at nathanmayes@gmail.com or 0430726486 for more information.

Autumn Competition

Our next night competition will start on Thursday, 1st May 2025. Dinners will be available, with Courtney and David continuing to serve up their amazing meals for just \$10. Anyone is welcome 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 follow us and let us know if you'll be joining us for dinner. This helps us ensure there's enough food for everyone.



Lachy Dyer, Ryan Dinning, Charlie Thompson, Cole Dinning, Hamish McColl and Evan Fraser



Evan Fraser, Lachy Dyer, Charlie Thompson, Ryan Dinning and Hamish McColl

Lethbridge Station

Marg Cooper

Proceedings started with the toot/hoot of a train! The crowd wished that a real train was passing, preferably an old steam train but, that was not to be.

After the hoot the CEO of CUR (Community Use of Vacant Rail) Chris Olds welcomed the large crowd then outlined how they had refurbished about 20 stations and have two in the process, Lal Lal and Casterton. It was a joy to him, his staff and Vic Track to be able to hand these facilities to local communities so they can enjoy the spaces for years to come.

Councillor Owen Sharkey said Golden Plains Shire was also thrilled that an important historic building was now in a condition that generations ahead could experience and use.

Michaela Settle, MLA for Eureka, recounted how she announced funds for the project during Covid and was delighted that the hard work by the locals to lobby, had paid off and that now the town had an important asset. Further speeches launched the Community Plan for Lethbridge which includes funds to get *things happening* at the station.



In 2011 Alan Tipper with the help of Rod Nichols and Melinda Mitchell, from Golden Plains Shire, started the process to have the railway station refurbished. First

they contacted Vic Track then had to get support from Council. Although missing out on funding, the dedicated couple kept pushing and on Friday April 5, along with the committee formed in February 2024, they had wide grins on their faces. What a wonderful achievement after a fourteen year battle! Congratulations.

The Community Hub will be managed by Lethbridge Bluestone Railway Station Inc under the auspice of Golden Plains Council. It will be a place for residents to come together and build connections. The Lethbridge Ladies coffee club will probably relocate back to Lethbridge, a bookclub, craft group, local history group and a garden club are some groups which may use the station. The committee wish everyone to know that the rooms are available if you have a group who needs a space to meet. Please contact them on lethystation@outlook.com.

It is a lovely space that has been expertly done up, to retain the heritage but also make an inviting space with some necessary modern facilities. The residence part consists of two small, carpeted rooms up a winding staircase, that would have been bedrooms, a lounge and kitchen area with a newly appointed kitchen downstairs, the station office with ticket window and the Ladies Waiting Room which has two floor to ceiling windows, one which shows the old gate to the platform.

The Committee wish to thank everyone who attended the opening and everyone who helped with the project. A special thanks to Rod Nicholls who was CEO of GPS when the process began and Melinda Mitchell who also helped to get things going.

I think that Pauline Boyd, who wrote the submission in 2015, and Alan Tipper also need to be thanked for their dogged persistence.

The opening of the refurbished railway station at Lethbridge was held on Friday, April 4.

A delicious lunch was supplied by the Teesdale CWA.



Waiting for a train!



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

Croc Report

By Mick Devlin



Sunday the 6th of April, the Crocs travelled to Maryborough to take on the Pumas for the first game of the year. We only managed to get 14 players to the game which was not ideal. Before the game we named our 2 co captains for the year, David Pike and Mick Battye. Two greats of our club and two great leaders.

The Crocs were up against it from the get-go. After a few injuries we were left with 17 players. The Crocs battled hard all game, but the Pumas proved too strong for the undermanned Crocs running out winners, 11/9/75 to 4/3/27.

Thanks very much to all the players who made the game. A good first hit out with lots of room for improvement.

Best for the day, Pikey, Rocco, Owen and John Peterson.

Thanks also to club legend, Daryl Jones for driving the bus and Shaun Faulkner for running the water. Next game is at home vs Bendigo on the 27th April.

We are always looking for new players to join the club, so if you're over 35 and want to relive your glory days, come along and have a kick, all are welcome. Follow the facebook page for game and training details.

Our Draw for the year is:

27th April vs Bendigo @ Meredith, 4th May vs Melton @ Melton, 18th May vs Maryborough @ Meredith, 1st June vs Gippsland @ Gippsland, 22nd June vs Macorna @ Meredith, 6th July vs Bendigo @ Bendigo, 20th July vs TBA @ Meredith, 3rd August vs Macorna @ Macorna, 17th August vs Ballarat @ Meredith.

EPA Accredited



REGIONAL LIQUID WASTE

ABN: 34 976 656 819

• SEPTIC TANK CLEANING
• WATER TANK CLEANING
• HYDRO EXCAVATION

• GREASE TRAPS
• PORTALOO / HOLDING TANKS
• HIGH PRESSURE CLEANING

Mobile: 0427 304 959



BANNOCKBURN SURGERY

Dr Benjamin Fry
Dr Cameron Profitt
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 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

The Walnut Tree

Marg Cooper

The huge walnut tree sits precariously beside the Midland Highway at Scotsburn on what is known as Howard's corner. A deep gutter is on one side of it and a track or service road on the other. But this tree has a history, and many people would like it to continue to have a long life.

Family history records that in 1880, Emma Platt (Matthews) planted the walnut tree where it is today. Her father, David Matthews, had an orchard and her husband Henry Platt worked for him. David Matthews selected seven acres of land on the main road, running south from the blacksmith's shop to Austins Reserve. [Could it be that the Walnut Tree is on that original block owned by Emma's father?]

Henry Platt's father Robert and his family, had come from England about 1868 and he established a school which closed about 1890. He taught his own children and others in a building in Pryors Road. Henry and Emma Platt lived in what is now Platts Road. He grew vegetables and took his produce to Ballarat in a horse and cart.

Many years ago, the tree was in danger and locals staged a "sit in" to save the tree. In the last few years the tree was again threatened, when the highway was redesigned and resurfaced and meetings were held, where the fate of the tree was discussed.



Many people know about the tree. Many people pick walnuts from the tree and some people, like Herbie Platt who lives at Elaine, tend to the welfare of the tree. He would like more people to know about it, to recognize that it is a significant tree and to admire it. It is a landmark and a memorial to his family and the early pioneers.



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

There must be lots of Platt relations who also care about the life of the Walnut tree. Robert Platt had 11 children, his son Henry Platt had 6 or 7 children and Herbie Platt is one of 21 children (16 lived after birth) of Henry and Florence Platt.





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

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 5221 4788

*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

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

How we make our Newsletter

John Merlo



As a prelude to our 50th Anniversary next year, over the next few months we will meet some of the volunteers involved at various steps of the process. This month, John talks to some Committee members, where it all starts.

Among the tireless volunteers we'll be introducing over coming issues of the Meredith and District news are members of the newsletter committee. Firstly, it is a sub-committee of the Meredith Community Centre, managed by Leah Phillips. The Centre provides office space and amenities, meeting space and a corporate identity.

One of the Newsletter sub-committee members, Nerida Anderson, has been a supporter of the publication since she first came to the district. As a committee member, she is part of a team that determines publication guidelines, advertising and publishing policies, as well as monitor performance. This is important to ensure compliance with guidelines and financial sustainability. (The Newsletter is a non-profit operation, which funds its operating costs from ad revenue). She loves what she does, saying 'I really enjoy every aspect of putting the newsletter together every month.'

'It's very rewarding and certainly doesn't feel like work. I find it very satisfying. Being part of a close-knit little team like the committee gives one a real feeling of belonging.'

'And it's a great feeling to be able to give something back to our community.'

'I look forward to every issue.'

Next month we meet some of our writers and advertisers – the content creators.



it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

Sculpture Exhibition:

You are invited to the History Centre at 31 Staughton Street on May 3 & 4 to see all the sculptures.

Some amazing art works have been entered within the theme of *History Reconstructed!*

Elaine Photo Exhibition:

If you have any photos that are of the area [roughly] between Mt Doran to Larundel, MHIG would like to copy them. We are looking for photos of buildings, business, bridges, buses... and that's just the B's. So far we haven't many photos of Soldier Settlers: building the houses, sheds etc, young families, working the land, get-togethers, machinery etc. The exhibition of photos will be held on October 18 & 19.

Grant Election:

A public Meeting of the inhabitants of Elaine was held on Thursday evening for the purpose of forming a branch of the National Reform League. Mr J Conley was unanimously voted to the chair. The chairman briefly stated the object for which they were met, and called on Mr John Scott to move the first resolution. Mr Scott, on rising, said it gave him great pleasure in moving the resolution he held in his hand, and he trusted that the Branch of the League they were about to form would prove useful, not only at the ensuing election, but also by looking after the interests of miners and agriculturalists of that district in the future. The resolution he was about to move was as follows: *That this meeting resolves itself into a branch of the National Reform and Protection League and pledges itself to use every legitimate means to carry its programme into law.* Mr Inglis had great pleasure in seconding the motion, which on being put to the meeting, was declared by the Chairman to be carried unanimously (From: *Geelong Advertiser* April 14, 1877.)

Mr Rees and Mr Lalor would address a further meeting at Elaine.

Meredith & district Newsletter:

The Newsletter will celebrate 50 years of production in 2026.

Has anyone got copies of the first few years?

They may be faded, they may be rumpled, but they are a valuable insight into what was happening in Meredith at that time. MHIG has a lot of copies, but our earliest is one page of a 1979 issue.

Books:

Steiglitz Thru the Lens, Morrisons Thru the Lens, Significant Trees of Meredith & Bamganie Soldiers books have all sold out and MHIG has ordered more copies to be printed. So if you are intending to buy any of the above, please wait a little until the printer has the reprints ready!


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



**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
66 Brunel St. Lethbridge 3332

FOR SALE

HYLINE BROWN (Isa Brown)
Pullets/Hens
sexed and vaccinated
Delivery to Information Centre, Meredith
Sat. 24th May

Call Kelvin on
0400 559 559
to Order



 **BALLARATCHOOKS**

Paul Ryan Transport

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



0409 861 296
5341 5575





Michael Riseley

How New is New?

Spanish and Portuguese sailors found New Guinea in the 16th century. In 1606 Torres explored the strait between PNG and Australia. Over the next 2 centuries various Dutch, French, British & German explorers visited with growing frequency and interest. The East India Company annexed the island in 1793. But the Dutch laid claim to the western half and this was agreed in 1828 and called Netherlands New Guinea.

British & German focus was to the eastern half and Queensland annexed the area in 1883. Germany reacted and claimed the north coast and islands in 1884 and called it German New Guinea. Britain claimed the south in 1888 and called it British New Guinea.

But why the name New Guinea? Clearly it had been known as this for centuries. Britain, France, Spain & Portugal all had colonies in Guinea on the west coast of Africa. Is there a connection? It has been attributed to the Spanish explorer Ortiz de Retez, who in 1545 thought he saw a resemblance of the people to those he had seen in his earlier voyages to West Africa. It was based on the old Portuguese word "guine" which meant "land of the blacks".

German New Guinea included 2 large islands called New Pomerania and New Mecklenburg. Pomerania was a province in NE Germany and Mecklenburg a state in NE Germany. Britain took over in WW1 and renamed the islands New Britain & New Ireland.

Please don't ask why. Because then why is NSW New South Wales? Where is the Welsh connection? And the Pacific Island group New Hebrides which was jointly controlled by Britain & France but named after the Hebrides in Scotland. And why the French controlled New Caledonia which took the old Roman Empire name for Scotland?

And why is the old province of New Brunswick in Canada named after a state of old Germany? At least Newfoundland shows some logic.

But it is all too much for me. I need a holiday in a nice peaceful Pacific Island resort. I might go to Niue. AAHH!!

An Amazing Coincidence

Marg Cooper

Chris Nisbitt always went shooting with his father Cliffy. It was a tradition that they also go away for the opening of duck season to some remote lake or reservoir.

When Cliffy met Geoff Hardy in the pub soon after Cliffy came to live in Meredith, they talked about their hobbies and became good mates.

Geoff also had the tradition of going away for duck season opening and when his shooting mates retired or died, Cliffy asked Geoff to join them.

And so, in early March Geoff, Chris and a mate Ryan travelled to the beautiful Toolondo Reservoir, an off-stream reservoir at the west end of the Grampians.

Geoff Hardy said that it was obvious that Chris was missing his father, who died last year, and at one stage Chris took the boat to an isolated part of the reservoir to be by himself for a while.

On his trip back he noticed a decoy in the water. He passed it, but after about 50 metres, he turned back to pick it up. Apparently, whoever owns the decoys write their name on the bottom which is under the water when they are floating.

When Chris pulled it into his boat he looked at the name and was astounded... *Cliff* was written on the bottom in old writing.

They are not sure that it had belonged to Cliffy but the chance of picking up a decoy on a remote reservoir with his father's name on it was amazing and quite emotional.

Geoff said that Cliffy had been President of Geelong Field and Game Association, and that they intend to hold a memorial shoot for him on their grounds at Sale, in Gippsland.



We don't stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing.

George Bernard Shaw



Ballarat Insurance Brokers

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 Exhibition Opening

Marg Cooper

On Sunday afternoon, April 6 the exhibition of paintings by Marion East was opened at Meredith Dairy Café.

Many of her friends and family gathered from 2.30 pm to admire her paintings, to sip and taste, to listen to live music supplied by Lisa Singline and Stephen Oakes and to socialise.

Her friend Deano spoke about Marion's parents, how their children grew up in the country at She Oaks and Meredith. Also how Marion had developed a deep connection to the countryside, and especially the Moorabool River and the valley.

He described how Marion oozes creativity. Another friend talked about how every chair, table and other surface in her home has some project on it. These endeavours vary from knitting, crocheted tea cosies and cooking, through to words in books and puzzles, films and scrabble on to dancing costumes, that she wears for Rock and Roll.

Marion's art works included paintings of oil and pastel and other than a large painting of a dog they were landscapes. She likes to paint her locality, the river valley and trees in different lights and different seasons. These works represent part of her ongoing journey to keep challenging herself, by rediscovering and interpreting the familiar through drawing and painting.

From an early age Marion began to draw. In her twenties she started painting oils and taught herself over many years. In 1989 she started a four year Visual Arts Course at Canberra Institute of Arts. In 2003 she returned to the countryside where she grew up, built a straw bale house on 50 acres at She Oaks and began to explore the Moorabool River afresh.

Marion has a zest for life. Her simply elegant black dress, her dainty hot pink shoes, and her signature bright coloured glasses with round lens, indicate that she is happy in her place and excited by the life she has created, including her art.





SPECIALISING IN

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

DURRAN
BRICKLAYING

Anthony Durran 0409 524438
a.durran@durransbricklaying.com.au



Marion & Deano

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

ARLO'S



WATER CARTAGE

SERVICING MEREDITH & SURROUNDS

0419 113 630

DECORATIVE PLASTERER

WORKMANSHIP GUARANTEED
AFFORDABLE RATES
ANYWHERE IN THE MEREDITH AREA

PHONE ADRIAN

0411 533 582 0477 310 319



JOSIES CONCRETING & Excavation Work



Colin Jose

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

MOBILE 0412 402 924

Protecting and Recharging From Burnout

Rev Dr Tim Smith

Just recently I took two weeks leave because I realised that I was close to burnout. I was putting my Parish's annual plan together for the year and it was full. I was already way behind in my annual leave out of my own sense of vocation, pressure from head office, and I am not getting younger. I needed to take some time out quickly—or else! Beyond Blue identifies that burnout can result from too much stress at work, or stress that goes on too long. It can also impact people undertaking unpaid home, caring duties. Burnout can have negative impacts on the relationships and activities that are important to us. Understanding burnout as soon as possible is important for maintaining well-being, protecting relationships, and mental health. Symptoms of burnout include:

Physical: headaches and body pain; not sleeping as well as we normally do; lacking our usual energy or motivation; exhausted or drained

Mental: less satisfied with work; a sense of procrastination; disengaged from the work we used to value

Relational: isolated and trapped; irritable; disengaged from those who are important to us

We might even find it hard to function at all. There are things we can do to help us manage to avoid burnout or when we are at risk of burnout.

Understanding our needs

Let's begin by acknowledging the differences between introverts and extroverts. Basically, introverts recharge by being alone, while extroverts feel energized by being around others. Operating in your non-dominant side is exhausting. For example, if we are an extrovert who works mostly alone all day, we might be craving social interaction even more by the time you get home; or if we are an introvert and we are dealing with people all day, we will not be wanting to go out and party after work. Figuring out where we fall on this spectrum will help us better understand what we need.

Communicating our needs

We need to have a good level of self-awareness and know what we need to feel your best. When we do, we are in a better position to be able to communicate to those who are important to us, whom we live with, bosses and work colleagues. They may know us well enough to know but telling them gives them the best opportunity to support us and, in turn, we learn to anticipate what their needs are, too. So, keep the lines of communication open.

Respecting each other's needs

When we come home we might want to debrief about our day. Our partner, however, might like to have some quiet time alone, looking after the kids that have been driving them mad during the day. Whether we are similar or different types in our relationships, it is important to respect other's needs and tendencies. This might mean finding a happy medium that acknowledge our

differences—us chattering on while they simply listen without expecting much chatter in return.

Helping each other

In all our relationships, however they are defined, it is important to help one another's recharging needs. Consider ways we can go the extra mile to help them recharge, especially during times when they might be expending more energy than usual. If things are more stressful than usual, take some responsibility for some of the chores, lighten their load, organise a night out with friends, encourage them to take a holiday from what they normally do.

Strengthen our relationships

The reality is we only have so much of the various types of energy to give. When it becomes depleted, we start seeing negative effects in aspects of our life. Being aware that we can burnout protects and strengthens our relationships with our life partner, and as a parent, friend, employee, or member of a community organisation.

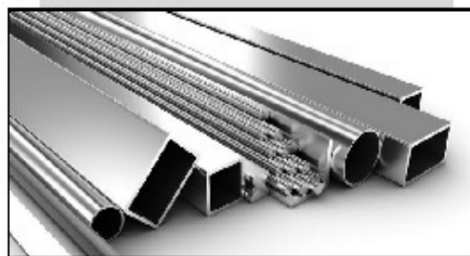
Inspired by <https://www.prepare-enrich.com/blog/helping-each-other-recharge/>

Prepare/Enrich is a low-cost programme we offer to explore relationship strength and growth areas in times of transition: preparing for a wedding, an addition to the family, change in career, approaching retirement, or just to enrich your relationship. Please contact me for more information.

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

 0438 184797

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

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

Registered Builder DBU 19908 Email: 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



26

Meredith and District NEWS



IN OUR NATURE

wendy cook

While walking with a group in the You Yangs, someone picked up a stone and showed it to me. It was quite small and roughly round with a sharp edge. She showed me which side had come from the inside of the rock it had been chipped from, and how to hold it. It fitted comfortably into my hand, and had been worn smooth by long use. It was a stone knife, used by her ancestors, the Wathaurong people, the local Aboriginal tribe. We left it where we found it, out of respect for its maker and users. It is also a legal requirement that Aboriginal artefacts be left where they are found, for cultural reasons and to aid research into the lives of these people.

The Wathaurong tribe was made up of twenty-five clans, spread over the Geelong and Ballarat areas, from the Werribee River, along the coast to Aireys Inlet, and beyond Beaufort and Skipton. They were part of the Kulin Nation, an alliance of five tribes in central Victoria. They hunted animals and gathered plants for their food, moving regularly so as not to deplete all the resources in an area. They would return when the supply of food was renewed. They slept in caves or built windbreaks or shelters of wood, bark and leaves. Their lifestyle was simple compared to ours, but it was sustainable. Unlike Europeans, they left few signs of their presence.

Stone tools are one of those signs. They were made by using a hammerstone to knock flakes off a larger rock. If the rock was particularly hard a flake could be ground to create a sharp edge. These tools were used as knives, scrapers and chisels. A handle could be added to a carefully crafted blade to form an axe or a spear. River stones made good axes, and could be attached to a wooden handle using glue made from resin of a plant such as a grass tree and string made from fibrous plant leaves. Stone tools may indicate places where people camped or they may be lost during travel. Flakes, used and unused, can be found at a place where the tools were made. Aborigines had extensive trade networks throughout the continent. Stone tools were among the items which could be traded over very long distances.

Aborigines had other uses for rocks. They had grinding stones for food preparation. The Wathaurong used seeds

from a range of plants including grasses, sedges and wattles to grind into flour. It was mixed with water and cooked in the coals of a fire to make damper. A grinding stone had a dip in it and could be made of a stone with a rough texture, such as sandstone. A hard smooth stone, such as one from a river could be used to grind seeds on the larger stone. If the larger stone became smooth, it was roughened. Large grinding stones were left at campsites, ready for when the clan returned, but smaller grinding stones could be carried on their travels.

In areas lacking permanent water, such as the You Yangs, natural hollows in rocks were enlarged to form wells, catching rainwater. These wells could hold water even in dry seasons, allowing the people to live in the area for a time, using its other resources.

There are other signs of occupation. There is a record from the late 1800s of cooking mounds on the banks of the Cargerie and Woodbourne Creeks. Middens of shells from long ago meals exist in the Brisbane Ranges, and ancient trees may carry scars where bark was removed to make canoes, shields and containers to carry food. Signs of Wathaurong occupation are not obvious, but they are there for those who take the time and know what to seek.

Unfortunately Wendy was unable to submit her regular contribution this month due to a family matter, so we have taken the liberty of reproducing Wendy's article from May 2015.

Yes, Wendy has been contributing her articles every month for over 10 years without a break.

We greatly appreciate Wendys thoughtful and articulate observations of the natural world in our district, and that she shares them with us and our readers.

Editor



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
180 Lower Plains Rd, Lethbridge 3332

Please Note: Car Trailers Not Permitted.



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

24 Bridgestone Service Centre

HYDRAUT-TECH
FLUID POWER

Your place, our place, any place...

24 hour on call hydraulic hose service

HYDRAULIC SALES & SERVICE 03 5336 2266

18 Wiltshire Lane, Ballarat, Victoria, 3350 • www.hydrautech.net.au



Your
Hydraulics
experts for the
Agriculture
Industry.



Marg's BOOK REVIEW

A Line of Dogs by Gary Morris

A wonderful book! The historical detail is fascinating and the interaction between characters, whether it be tension, conflict or love, certainly made it hard to put down.

The book is firstly set in 1848 at the start of Ireland's Great Famine when a vast majority of the Irish population were disposed, starving and dying in great numbers.

The four main characters are Mary McGrath, her cousin Tim McGrath, Queenie Fogarty and John Hammersley. The author, whilst perusing some old records, noticed that one Mary McGrath was charged with being unlawfully in charge of a cow. Investigating further he uncovered a treasure trove of facts, anecdotes, tales and myths. Tim McGrath is a firebrand who despises everything English and is determined to rid Ireland of the every last one of them. He is part of the Young Irelanders rebel group and he becomes tangled in the fate of their leaders. Queenie Fogarty works the pubs of London in the oldest profession and befriends Mary, when she has to leave her house-keeping job after being assaulted by the husband of her employer. John Hammersley steals to survive until he falls in love with Mary.

Whilst the book is not a true account of the individuals portrayed, the author has woven experiences of many people and historical events of that era, into his novel.

The story follows these four characters who meet in London and all travel to Tasmania by different methods under different circumstances. Mary and Queenie are convicted for stealing a cow and sentenced to transportation. On the ship Mary acts as nurse to the ship's doctor, and soon after arriving in Tasmania is allocated to a farming family near Ross. Tim escapes on a whaling ship and works as crew for some time, eventually arriving in Tasmania. John who was transported for theft, escaped from Port Arthur and ran from a sadistic guard who shadowed him to Eaglehawk Neck Isthmus, and *The Line of Dogs*, where savage canine sentinels annihilate the soldier and John escapes.

Unlike some books I have read about convicts at Tasmania, in this book Mary shows a will of iron and determination and is rewarded. Some of the people in authority are shown to be able to see that some convicts can be rehabilitated to become good citizens, if given a chance.

Through two continents and four countries this fast paced novel was a great read.



Ten years ago -



Look at me now!

Our cemetery's Lone Pine—10 years on and 10 feet tall!

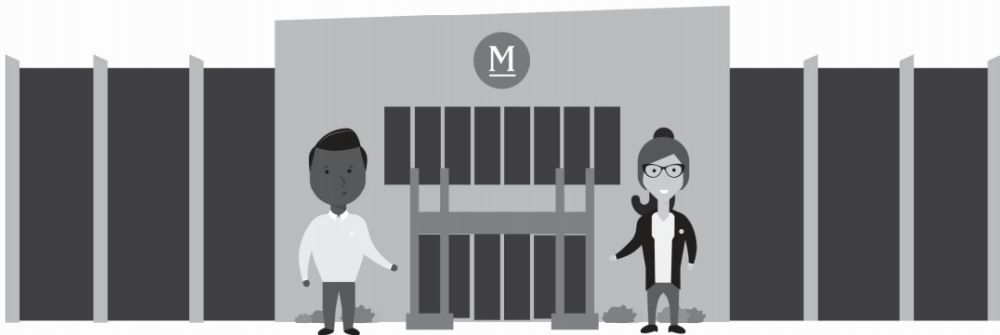


The plaque was laid 10 years ago as well -
The rock a little earlier!



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

*Our 12 Steps
to Success*





G'Day from the penners for May. This month's story is from Gordon Vanbeck and it's based on a true story, so we hope you like it.

We can be contacted via our email goldenpens4@gmail.com if you would like to get in touch.

Cheers, Wendy

Puppy Daze

It had been six months since he had died, but they could still see their much-loved Shih Tzu Darcy everywhere. The spot outside the kitchen where he would curl up at mealtimes waiting to be fed. The way he expressed himself through a variety of different sneezes. The sliding door to the hallway that used to rattle with impatient paws demanding to be let out or in. His variety of tuneful howls when playing with his favourite squeaky toy. And the way he would lock his eyes on one of them, then slowly turn his head toward the fridge, clearly hoping the gesture would remind them it was time to feed him. Well, it sometimes worked so he never gave up trying!

They decided to seek a pup to fill the void. The following three weeks were spent poring through breeder's ads. Eventually they found themselves standing in the chaotic living room of a local breeder, surrounded by the cacophony of five Shih Tzu cross puppies tumbling over each other.

"Just one," Rosa had insisted on the drive over. "We'll start with just one puppy."

Cameron had agreed wholeheartedly. After all, Darcy had been their perfect companion for fifteen years. One dog was enough responsibility. The breeder, a cheerful woman named Gloria, invited them to sit on the floor while the puppies swarmed around them. "They're ten weeks today", she said. "Perfect time to go to their forever homes."

A chubby sable coloured puppy with oversized paws waddled toward Rosa, collapsing dramatically across her lap with a contented sigh. "Oh," Rosa whispered, her voice catching. "Oh no."

"What's wrong?" Cameron asked, concerned.

"I'm in love," she admitted.

At that precise moment, Cameron felt a gentle tug on his shoelace. Looking down, he discovered a slightly smaller black puppy determinedly untying his shoe, little tail wagging with each victorious pull of the lace.

"This one's brilliant," Cameron laughed, scooping up the industrious pup, who immediately began licking his chin. Gloria smiled knowingly. "Funny how they choose you, isn't it?" Thirty minutes later, they were loading two puppies housed in a single crate into their car. "So much for just one," Cameron said, unable to keep from grinning.

They named the sable puppy Robbie and the black one Bella. Nothing was said for rest of the drive home, both quietly elated, thinking about their new puppies. That sentiment lasted approximately three hours after arriving home.

"Bella, no! Those are my good shoes!" Rosa dashed across the living room, rescuing an expensive dress shoe from Bella's jaws.

"Robbie just peed on the carpet," Cameron called from the family room.

"Again?"

"Third time in an hour. I think he's going for a record."

By bedtime, they were exhausted. They'd attempted to puppy-proof the house but hadn't accounted for Robbie's surprising vertical leap or Bella's uncanny ability to squeeze through seemingly impossible spaces. "I forgot how much work puppies are," Rosa sighed, collapsing onto the floor. Immediately, both puppies attempted to grab her hair and mouth her face.

"Darcy was never this much trouble," Cameron said, thinking back to when Darcy was a pup.

Rosa smiled softly. "Of course he was. Remember how he chewed through the cord on your electric drill? And that time he got that bar of chocolate?"

"Oh God, the chocolate bar incident," Cameron chuckled. "I still remember that frantic dash to the Vet."

As they reminisced, Bella curled into a tiny black ball between them, while Robbie sprawled across Cameron's feet, snoring softly. That night, they placed the puppies' crates in the living room, knowing from experience that the first few nights would be rough. Sure enough, the whining started precisely seventeen minutes after lights went out.

"I'll go," Rosa said, throwing back the covers.

She found both puppies standing at attention in their crates, crying pitifully. Sighing, she let them out for a quick bathroom break in the backyard, then tucked them back in with extra pats and soothing words.

The cycle repeated again and again and again throughout the night...

At breakfast, Rosa and Cameron exchanged exhausted glances over their morning porridge while the puppies raced around the kitchen island. "We might have lost our minds," Cameron said, watching Robbie skid across the tile floor.

"Definitely," Rosa agreed, as Bella attempted to climb into her lap. "Completely insane."

But when the puppies finally tired themselves out and fell asleep—Bella on the spot outside the kitchen door that used to be Darcy's and Robbie under the dining table—Rosa reached for Cameron's hand.

"The house doesn't feel so empty anymore," she whispered.

"No," he agreed, squeezing her fingers. "It doesn't."

ABN-13 971 741 500

0404070191

Carpenter/Tiler Mark Wells

Specialising in

Bathroom

renovating, rectifying and
rebuilding



More Photos from the Anzac Day 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



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



SOLAR
HOT WATER



SOLAR
POWER



ENERGY
STORAGE



SMART
SYSTEMS

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



Driving tired? You won't see the crash coming.

Fatigue is a contributing factor in 16-20% of all road crashes in Victoria.

If you're feeling tired, arrange an alternative mode of transport, postpone your trip, or get more sleep before driving. Because when you drive on less than 5 hours sleep, you're 4 times more likely to crash.

Driving tired? Wake up to yourself.

