

# Meredith & district News

JUNE 2025

OUR **FREE** COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



## inside

- EPA Advice on Burning off.
- Moorabool River Catchment Restoration
- Farewell to Max Heard and Dot Hearn

...and Much More!



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







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/\$50
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We do not publish children's photos online.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: Don Atherton 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

B'BURN SOFT  
TENNIS  
0409 236 420

BLUELIGHT  
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  
5286 1252

# emergency

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



"Let us love winter, for it is the  
spring of genius."

-Pietro Aretino

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**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**



**For all enquires call or message  
Brett - 0418 647 446  
Daniel - 0417 392 985**



## POWER SAVING BONUS HELPING WITH THE COST OF LIVING

### \$100 Power Saving Bonus

The one-off \$100 payment will be available from August, in time for winter energy bills.

Households with an eligible concession card will be able to apply by visiting the Victorian Energy Compare website or contact my office.

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

✉ [michaela.settle@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:michaela.settle@parliament.vic.gov.au) ☎ 5331 7722 📱 /MichaelaSettleMP



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

## What's On This Month



### Term 2

#### Mindfulness with Jade

Kindergarten Kids -  
Wednesdays at 2.10 - 2.40  
Primary School Kids -  
Wednesdays at 3.30 - 5.00  
Goddess Mums & Kids  
Thursdays at 2.10 - 3.10  
\$15 per session, payable by Term

#### Chatty Cafe

We are helping our community connect and increase social interactions by getting people chatting

June 17 - 11.30 - 1.30 - Light Lunch

July 29 - 11.30 - 1.30 - Light Lunch

**BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL**

Haircuts..@ the Centre

Wednesday June 18 from 9.30am

Phone: 0403667840 for Bookings



#### To Book:

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

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

Ph. 5286 0700 / 0491 184 999

### THE MEREDITH MART

**PROVIDING FOOD SECURITY FOR  
OUR COMMUNITY**

SUPPORTED BY



Geelong  
Community  
Foundation



#### OPENING 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



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

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

Anakie - St. Brigid @ 9am Sun. JUNE 8, 22

Meredith - St. Joseph @ 9am Sun. JUNE 1, 15, 29

B'burn - St. Mary MacKillop @ 11am Sun. JUNE 1,8,15,22,29

Inverleigh - Sacred Heart - @ 4pm Sun. JUNE 15



## Brisbane Ranges sketchers

Kerry Thomson

Travel and illness kept several members of the group from attending our outing to the Meredith Historical Society Building in Staughton Street. Nevertheless, the fairly small group welcomed Jan for the first time and thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of this intricate, multi-faceted structure.

Many thanks to Marg and the History Group for allowing us inside the fence for a closer, clearer and broader range of viewing possibilities (and to escape the footpath construction works happening outside).

As usual, many different renderings of aspects of the scene were produced in a variety of mediums with varying degrees of success. On the whole, though, everyone enjoyed and appreciated what this particular urban environment provided for us.

p.s. Apologies to Mark on the mis-spelling of his daughter Claire's name (I left out the 'e').

Next outing: second Tuesday in June (10th)

10 - 12.30 meet at the Meredith Community Centre

BYO art materials, chair, weather appropriate clothing

new people welcome

## Like Cooking?

Recently, a reader lamented the absence of a cooking column in the newsletter. Its true, since we lost Stefania's *Simple and Delish* column last year, we have been left to our own devices in the kitchen.

So if you have a store of tried and tested recipes (you only need eleven to get you through a full year) for meals, snacks, desserts, school lunches, etc. perhaps you could be our new cooking columnist.



## ...or Gardening?

Likewise, we would love to, once again, have a Gardening Column. So if you have greenish thumbs (and you don't mind getting a bit of ink on them) you may be able to advise our readers on what, where and when to plant things - edibles or otherwise.



And, in both cases, you can source your information elsewhere, providing reproduction is not prohibited and it is duly attributed where appropriate.

Please, get in touch - we have an audience waiting for you.

## OUR COVER

Thank you Nerida Anderson for this month's cover photo of a crisp autumn morning in the Banganie State Forest.



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

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# 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  
Double Cheese, Sauce, Pickles

**Plain Burger** \$11.50  
Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato Sauce

**Hamburger with the Lot** \$13.50  
Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato, Bacon, Egg, Onion, Sauce

**Steak Sandwich** \$15.80  
Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato, Bacon, Egg, Onion, Sauce

**Chicken Schnitzel Burger** \$10.80  
Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato, Mayo

**Chicken Chili Wrap** \$13.50  
Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato, Sweet Chili Sauce

**Veggie Burger** \$7.50  
Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato, Sauce

**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





## POLICEreport

Senior Constable Anthony BOX

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

### Drink Driving

This year in the Meredith Police Response Zone, there have been numerous detections of people drink driving.

There have also been multiple collisions where alcohol has been a factor.

I am also aware of unreported collisions where this is the case, such as one which is alleged to have occurred on Meredith-Steiglitz Road.

Over the past weekend with assistance of State Highway Patrol North, more detections were made and more charges laid.

There is not much else to say on the matter other than:

ALL Drink/Drug driving offences result in Cancellation and Disqualification of your drivers licence, regardless of range.

ALL persons regardless of what post code is on their licence will be subject to a breath test when pulled over.

ALL drink driving offences can result in impoundment or a requirement to surrender your vehicle, even if a penalty notice is issued.

If you are having an issue with alcohol and need some help, please don't hesitate to reach out, I have referral options available that may prove beneficial.

### Asphalt Scams / Disputes:

Groups of Asphalt "sellers" are back in the area.

These people knock on doors and offer Asphalt driveways for cheap prices. They will often come with a portfolio of "their work".

They are generally very pushy and like to prey on more vulnerable people, but occasionally they will convince others also.

Their work is almost always subpar or not completed, with payment in full required upfront or before completion.

My advice is to not consider taking on any contractors for any service that just show up on your doorstep unsolicited.

Take the flyer or a card if you are interested however then take the time to make a considered decision, talk to other people about it.

If you know of someone who may be susceptible to falling victim to these people, please take the time to have a conversation with them about saying no.

These people, like all, have implied consent to come to your front door and knock, once that is revoked (i.e. "please leave"), they must leave.

If you agree to their services and they do a poor job, you have entered a contract with them.

Unfortunately it is a civil matter for you to pursue through the courts, it is not a police matter.

### Wind Farms:

Meredith Police are investigating criminal damage occurring against property owners who are believed

(incorrectly) to be involved in the planned windfarm.

Whilst the whole subject has the community divided in some parts of Meredith, a reminder to conduct yourselves lawfully.

### Other matters:

As always, speeding is an issue. Mostly with people driving between Ballarat and Geelong on the Midland.

Some recent offences include (just some interesting ones I have picked out from the last week or so) :

91 KM/H in a 60 zone, Sutherland Street Meredith (loss of licence).

123 KM/H in a 100 zone , Midland Hwy near the golf course just before the 80 zone.

128 KM/H in a 100 zone, Meredith-Shelford Road (loss of licence).

69 KM/H in a 40 School Zone (loss of Licence).

158 KM/H in a 100 zone / dangerous driving while pursued by police, Midland Hwy, in vicinity of the golf course.

### As always, if you need police call 000.

If you need to talk to police about something non- urgent give the station a call, 5286 1222.

If diverted to Bacchus Marsh, you can speak to someone who will allocate to the correct local unit or send me a email to follow up with you.

Police Assistance Line is correct to report offences that don't require immediate police attendance, such as overnight thefts / damage.

There is no other appropriate means of contact.

## Art Gallery

*Marg Cooper*

Down South Steiglitz Road, in a hidden valley, Ray Luke changed his lifestyle from living in the suburbs of Geelong to a mud-brick house on a very quiet 28 acres, in the bush.

Ray has travelled extensively to Europe, Ireland, Cuba and has visited India many times working on a Geelong based project helping destitute children.

After nine years in Steiglitz and many improvements to the mud-brick house, (in addition to enduring the two years of covid), modifications were also made to the run-down bungalow, which turned it into a fairly useful art studio. Ray is ready for visitors.

The studio plays an important part in his portrait pencil drawing which he relates to another form of meditation. He also has a few sculptures to his credit including an Aboriginal head constructed from bush sticks which he displayed at the MHIG Sculpture Exhibition.

Ray's studio is open on Sundays from 1pm – 4 pm. Please contact Ray on 0418508057 if you wish him to open the studio at a different time. He will oblige, if he is home!





# BANNOCKBURN SURGERY

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

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

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# Croc Report

By Mick Devlin



On Sunday 27th April the Crocs took on Bendigo Masters at Meredith.

The Crocs welcomed 5 new players Nathan, Daniel, Tony, Shaun and Chris.

It was a great hard-fought game, but the Bombers were too good on the day. The game was played tough and fair and in great spirit. Once again, the old Crocs showed a never give up attitude which we all should be proud of. Thank you to all the crowd for coming along and supporting us and special thanks to the following people for making the day run smoothly,

Wendy, Meg, Jenny and Rachel for all the food, Kev, Sid and Ange for the Bar work, Kyan and Shayla for goal umpiring, Doopa and Ash for umpiring.

Best for the Crocs:

Mitch Troy, Chris Parker, David Pike, Johnny Cranston, Troffy and first gamer Chris Stephens.

On Sunday 4th May the Crocs travelled to Melton to take on the Panthers. It was a great day for football with the sun shining and the oval in great shape. As usual, the Crocs and Panthers battled hard all day. The Panthers proved too strong at the end, but the Crocs never gave up pushing them all the way to the final siren.

Best players for the day: the usual suspects Mitch Troy and David Pike played hard, Craig Ellis had a great game after we gave him the big task of manning up on Melton's gun full forward, 2nd gamer Shaun Blake had another strong game, Scott Foran was a great running option on the wing and finally the general Mick Battye had a great game.

Thanks to the Melton Superules Football Club for hosting the day and thanks to all the Crocs who played and helped out.

On Sunday the 18th May the Crocs took on Maryborough Pumas at Meredith. Trying to recover from 3 straight loses the Crocs were at near full strength with the return of our gun full forward line.

The game started off with the Crocs kicking some early goals and it looked like it was going to be too much for the Pumas. To their credit The Pumas never gave up and fought hard all day to give us a very close game. The day finished with the Crocs notching up our first win for the season- 11-9-75 to 9-9-63.

A great game of footy played in great spirits. There were some stand out players for the Crocs, Daryl Sid Jones returned for his first game of the season and proved age is just a number and kicked 6 goals up forward. Newcomer

Nathan Lambert proved handy up forward kicking a couple of sneaky goals, as always David Pike, Chris Parker and Mitch Troy were excellent in the middle, another newcomer in Lennon Doherty had a great game and proved to be a great find for the club, and now forever back man Owen Gray had another solid game down back.

Thanks again to the Maryborough Pumas for the game and thank you to the following helpers for their great support on the day: Wendy, Meg, Jenny and Jaz in the kitchen, Kev and Ange for running the bar, Kyan, Shayla, Charlie and Harrison for the goal umpiring, Byron for running water and Anthony for the scoreboard.

Another great day for Crocs football.

Go Crocs

## Careful What You Burn

*Media Release*

As the weather cools and conditions for burn offs in regional areas improve, EPA Victoria is alerting the agricultural sector in particular, not to mix their prunings and felled timber with other forms of waste.

"We issued several reminders last year after receiving reports of farms, orchards and vineyards mixing their legitimate burn off materials with waste like treated timbers, plastics and other common farm waste that should have gone to a licensed landfill or recycling facility," said EPA Regional Operations Director Martha-Rose Loughnane.

"Disposal of waste by burning is illegal. Common farm waste, like treated pine posts, agricultural plastics, hessian, concrete, metal, waste tyres and mattresses, must be disposed of lawfully and at a place that is licensed to accept it," she said.

EPA has a handy guide available from its website on farm waste management – visit [epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/iwrg641-1](http://epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/iwrg641-1)

"Everyone has a duty to protect the environment. That means that if we find anyone mixing waste into their legitimate burn off material, EPA can take action, and we can issue fines of more than \$9,000 for burning anything other than vegetation-sourced matter like timber and crop stubble," Ms Loughnane said.

"No smoke is good for you, but smoke from burning farm waste like old tyres and treated timber can lead to harmful effects on human health, particularly for people with asthma or other lung conditions, older people, pregnant women, babies and young children," she said.

Learn what can and can't be burnt from EPA's farm waste guide to avoid being a nuisance to your neighbours, causing a hazard to the environment or getting a fine from EPA.

You can report pollution to EPA's 24 hour pollution hotline at 1300 372 842 or online at [epa.vic.gov.au/report-pollution](http://epa.vic.gov.au/report-pollution)







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## Elaine Mechanics Hall

**SUNDAY 22ND JUNE**

Eyes Down 1.30 pm

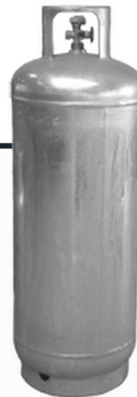
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# 49...and counting.

*Leading up to our 50th anniversary next year, we are taking readers through the whole production process by inviting participants to tell their story. Last month it was the Committee, this month we hear from representatives of the content providers - columnists and advertisers.*

The aim of my writing is to make people more aware of the natural world around them, and encourage them to take care of the plants, fungi and animals with which we share our landscape. I enjoy the challenge of finding words to make my articles interesting to read, and to make the whole piece flow. My writing gives me an excuse to spend time researching my latest curiosity. I learn a lot along the way. I appreciate feedback from people who read my articles. It makes it feel very worthwhile. I also appreciate the team of people who do a fantastic job of publishing Meredith News, providing us with reports of local events, and other interesting articles.

*Wendy Cook, Meredith district resident and author*



Community Bank Buninyong chooses to support *The Meredith News* because it plays a vital role in keeping the community informed and connected. Supporting local publications like this one helps ensure sustainability and that really matters to us and it's what our Community Investment Program is all about. Advertising is also how we share the real impact of community banking: over \$2.25 million returned to local projects, including support for Meredith Primary School and other grassroots initiatives. The more the community backs us, the more we can give back.

*We support The Meredith News because strong local communications helps build strong local communities and that's exactly what we're here to do.*

*Sam Elshaug, Communications Lead, Community Bank Buninyong*

About 20 years ago Jim Elvey came to a meeting that I was at and asked for some of us to please contribute articles to the Newsletter as it was in dire need of content.

From then I have contributed to every edition.

I saw it as something that I could do as I love reading and words, I enjoy writing and I enjoy sourcing stories and talking to people.

I think that community is important and sharing news and stories helps to create community. Being interested in history, I also think it is important to document events and people's stories. As part of this I have written many tributes to people who have died. City newspapers rarely write tributes these days, which is a pity, but a tribute in the Newsletter is a way to pay respect and remember that person forever.

This job has allowed me to talk seriously to people rather than superficial talk about the weather, children and gossip. It is a privilege to listen to people talk about themselves, their issues, their history and events in their lives.

I think/hope that people appreciate my contribution.

*Marg Cooper, Meredith district resident and prolific contributor.*





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## BACK of the BOOK

Recently while reading Gideon Haigh's cricket book "On the Ashes", I flicked to the index at the back of the book to get the page number where a past champion was mentioned. For biographies and other non-fiction books, the alphabetical index at the back of the book gives the page number where certain people, places or events were mentioned in the book. These indexes are very useful and much used.

But in the philatelic world, back of the book has a very different meaning. For stamp collectors a catalogue is a vital source of information. Initially catalogues were printed by the major stamp dealers as a price list but quickly became much more to collectors. These catalogues record the postage stamps issued by a country. They are listed in date order with details of the denomination, colour, design and size of the stamp. They also have a price to buy these stamps from the dealer. Philatelists use these catalogues to help put their collections in order and also as a guide to the value of a stamp. The main catalogues are Stanley Gibbons (UK), Scott (USA), Michel (France) and Seven Seas (Australia) and are reissued and updated every year.

The catalogue will start with a list of postage stamps issued by a country. And then the floodgates will open and the fun begins. This is where "back of the book" comes in. A country can issue stamps for a multitude of reasons not just to pay for postage. Catalogues will try to list the more common themes in date order and detailed the same as postage stamps.

Some examples are Official stamps to be used by government departments, Duty stamps to pay government stamp duty, and Postage Due stamps used to pay for a shortfall in postage. Some countries issued Newspaper stamps to pay for posting newspapers. In 1853 Austria issued Imperial Journal stamps for this reason. Many countries issue Express Letter stamps to pay the extra cost of sending mail express. Some also issued Military Post stamps for use by their armies.

In 1921 the Netherlands issued a set of Marine Insurance stamps. The Dutch also issue Provincial stamps which, whilst valid for normal postage, can only be purchased at Post Offices in the specified province. Japan does the same. Greece is one of many countries that issues Charity Tax stamps.

In 1902 Great Britain issued 2 stamps overprinted "RH Official" specifically for the use of the royal household of King Edward VII. No other monarch has followed this practice. In Belgium the parcels service is mainly operated by the Belgian Railways and they issue their own stamps for payment of parcel post.

All these stamps and their like are known to philatelists as "Back of the Book" stamps.

## Meredith ANZAC Ceremony, April 25th, 2025.

Mick Devlin

The Meredith RSL and the wider Meredith community, organised, a fantastic and moving ANZAC ceremony. A turn out of around 250 people were present for the annual ceremony and the march through the town.

The ceremony was opened by RSL Member and fantastic M.C. Kevin Harty who has been doing a great job for years now. The New Zealand and Australian national anthems were led by Bruce Woodley, Kym Ivory and the students from Meredith Primary School. The opening prayer was read by local priest, Father Joseph and the prayers for the King and the Anzacs were read by our Meredith Primary year 6 students, Maddie and Dacian. The president of the Meredith RSL, Mick Devlin, addressed the audience and gave a brief history of how the Anzacs came to be. Mick also recognised the Meredith RSL members who are no longer with us; Neil and June Cameron, Ian Downie, Ray Cowburn, Lindsay Fink, Helen Jones, Eric McGillivray, Jim Mohr, Barry Pearce, Phil Speilvogel, Bill Stephen, Ted Tansley, Lance Wray and John Nolan.

This year the audience was treated to a new Anzac version of "I am Australian" by the Meredith Primary School kids, led by Kym Ivory and Bruce Woodley. I think this version was very well received.

After the inside ceremonial formalities were finished, the March was undertaken throughout the town by Ex serving and community members. This was led by the amazing bag pipes and drums of Donna and Matt Murrell. To everyone's amazement the rain held off for the march.

After the completion of the March there was the traditional laying of wreaths by community groups and families followed by the Last Post and Reveille, and with excellent timing the much needed rain commenced once the ceremony was complete.

The Meredith RSL would like to extend a very special thank you to Jackie, Kylie and Olivia for providing the delicious morning tea, Father Joseph for attending our ceremony, Kym and Bruce for providing the music and the Meredith Primary School for the lovely artwork and singing. Your generous contributions are very much appreciated. A big thank you to all that attended the day.

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## Servo Has a Makeover

At the start of February 2025, the fuel facilities were closed at the Mortimers Meredith Roadhouse, for a Major upgrade.

New larger capacity fuel tanks have now been installed along with all new Petrol Bowsers. Now offering unleaded 91, Diesel, unleaded 98 ultimate and unleaded 95 premium now at every Bowser. A separate High Flow Diesel has also been installed at the rear of the building with a new larger driveway, for TRUCKS access. There is a separate air hose and water facilities for the trucks with an Add Blue bowser on its the way.

It is very unfortunate that we could not supply LPG GAS as we did everything in our ability to comply with the regulations but were unfortunately unsuccessful in the application to do this. At the rear of the site there is digital air hose and water facilities for small motor vehicles and a number of pot hole free 5 minute car parks provided for all of our customers to utilise.

During the renovations the Roadhouse Staff, continued to serve customers with a smile while dodging trades people heavy machinery, large equipment and cramped parking conditions.

Rebecca says that she took over as a manager, about 20 years ago, coming from a Family owned mechanic and petrol station business in Geelong. She came with a passion for Business, Family and Community, complementing Mortimer's own passions. Over the years many people have worked at the roadhouse varying in ages and backgrounds. Everyone has brought something special to the roadhouse and contributed to it making it into the place that it is now today. For a small country town, the Mortimer's Meredith roadhouse has provided a safe place where local juniors to come and have their first job. Here during their employment, they gained many skills in customer service food and coffee preparation, money and security. Over the years Rebecca has seen many of these young people move onto further their education and careers in many different areas. She has even had the opportunity to watch many young juniors grow into adults themselves and become valued members of the community.

Mortimer's now wish to welcome you all back to enjoy their new facilities, in the few days they have been open for, there is a new sense of excitement, and it is rewarding to see the locals talking with each other on the driveway, We have missed the hum of the local voices chatting.

Mortimer's now look forward to seeing you there getting your local produce Meredith Dairy, local Honey and Fudge and Fuel, while filling up on some warm hot food and coffee. We have appreciated your support and patience during the renovations. Mortimer's ask you to come to our Grand opening on **Wednesday the 9th of July 10am to 2pm** for free foods and give aways.

See you there.

## Tin Men (and Birds)

These photos supplied by Marg Cooper (right) and Cathie Boer, show us a couple of the sculptures recently on display at Meredith History Group's HQ. (See article on Page 23)



*Below: the town's brand new service station pumps and canopy.*



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## Hello From an old Meredithian

Hello! I'm J. F. Russell, a self-published author specialising in heartfelt romances based in small country towns. I was over the moon when I was contacted by Marg Cooper to write an article for the Meredith Newsletter after she had discovered my book. It felt like such a full circle moment! Long-term residents of the Meredith area might remember me as Jacinta Russell and my family, Ron, Carolyn and Bradley. My mum, Carolyn, used to work at the Meredith Community House. On Friday afternoons, I used to walk from Meredith Primary to the Community House. I imagine both places have changed a bit since then!

While life has taken me far away from Meredith, my childhood of growing up there is something I still cherish. I still remember my old principal at Meredith Primary, Mr Cations. My Year 4 teacher, Mr Gallagher who was one of a kind. My family's old property, where my brother and I would spend countless hours playing on all 15 acres and running away from our pet ram, Baa, who would always head-butt us into the sky. There was the corner store where sometimes, if we were lucky, my brother and I would get a dim sim and a Big M milk. The small country town charm I remember Meredith by is the inspiration behind most of the towns I write about in my books.

These days, I live in the South West of WA on an 83-acre property with my fiancé, Nic and our daughter, Missy as well as three dogs, two horses and a decent herd of Friesian and Jersey steers. Amongst the black and white patches, we also have a Highland Cow called Boots. In November this year, Nic and I are getting married on our property. When I'm not playing mum, or being a slave to the animals, you can find me in my tiny office that overlooks the paddocks of our property conjuring up all sorts of romance storylines and bringing the characters who live inside of my head to life.

Books have been part of my life and a love of mine for my whole life. I love how fictional worlds can pull us out of reality when we need a break from the doom and gloom which seems so common nowadays. I have been writing from the age of 13, but only took the plunge into self-

publishing with "Sweet Like Honey" and I've been blown away by the positive feedback I've received on my debut novel. I'm currently in the drafting trenches with the second book of the Guntree Valley series, "Right As Rain", which is scheduled for release in May 2026.

If you'd like to know more about me as an author and the books I write, you can find everything at my website [jfrussellauthor.com](http://jfrussellauthor.com).





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## Tax time countdown is on...

The saying by Benjamin Franklin "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail" is certainly true at tax time. You will not fail as such, but you will be giving away money to the tax system that could have stayed in your pocket.

With less than a month before we can start lodging our tax returns there are things we can do now to prepare. I wrote an extensive article last year that you can find at [www.meredithnews.com.au](http://www.meredithnews.com.au) in the archive section of June 2024, that still applies to this tax season.

So instead, this article is going to focus on scams that are unfortunately on the rise this time of year and being that I am an accountant I couldn't pass up some statistics for you as well.

Scammers try and trick you into giving away your details or money. The ATO note that scammers are contacting people via email with an increase of 179% and that SMS increased by 414% from 2022 to 2023 FY. The reason is that they are using phishing scams, leading you to websites that can look very legitimate, in the hope that you will part with your username, password or other personal information.

You may be surprised to learn that the ATO noted the 25-34 year olds where at that time the most likely to provide personal information to scammers and that 35-44 year olds most likely to pay money to scammers. (Type QC73787 into the browser to see the article from the ATO).

If the above statistics scare you into action that's great. You can protect yourself in a number of ways and the below are just a few things you can do to help.

### MyGov:

If you use MyGOV, log in using your home or mobile internet, not a public (free)wifi.

Do you remember your password to get into the application? This can be a process if you have forgotten, so give yourself time to get back in.

Once in the system, ensure that you update your password to a new one that is hard to guess and don't share it.

Next check that your details up to date, for example have you gotten married in the last year and changed your name or has your telephone number changed. It is much easier to update those details with the ATO now then once tax season has started.

### Emails and text messages from ATO:

The ATO will not send you a text message or an email with a hyperlink (a link that sends you to another website) like your MyGov log in page. If you get such a text message or email, do not click on the link or forward it to family or friends. Report it and delete it.

\*These can be asking you to update your details. (Note that you have already done that yourself above).

\*These can try and lure you with promise of refunds and or

urging you to contact them about your refund. There is no urgency with the ATO. If you think it is a legitimate ATO email or text message, see your accountant or call the ATO directly on Ph: 13 28 61.

\*These can ask you to provide personal information. That they can then collect and use to impersonate you. The ATO already has this information they don't need it from you.

\*It sounds too good to be true... it probably is.

Finally, don't check and click on links in your emails or text message while you are half asleep or distracted. People tend to miss the slight imperfections such as miss spelt words or grammar.

If you feel you have shared information or paid a scammer money or if you have received a message that seems like a scam you can contact the ATO on Ph: 1800 008 540. On this number you can verify or report a scam. You can also go on the ATO website and check for scam alerts, [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au). Please don't feel ashamed, these can be elaborate scams and talking about it to your family and friends will stop others from falling victim.

### House hold hack of the month:

Chat GPT as a household stylist....

I have recently played around with an app called ChatGPT for house improvements and I am hooked.

If you want to visualise what a house improvement or renovation idea could look like before parting with your hard earned tax savings this could be something for you.

For example, I took a picture of the guest WC and requested to add shelving and plants. A few minutes later I received an image and written suggestions that would enhance the functionality and style of the room with the shelves such as placement, quantity and style. As well as the type of plants that enjoy low-maintenance and are humidity tolerant.

I then kept an eye out for the various items similar to the suggestions and now have a designer room. This has saved me on time and money, instead of guessing what something may look like and buying the wrong plants for the area, I was able to plan out and shop cost effectively for the items, knowing the end result.

P.S I have the free version of the app, with limited image uploads it curbs how many rooms or ideas I do in a day :)



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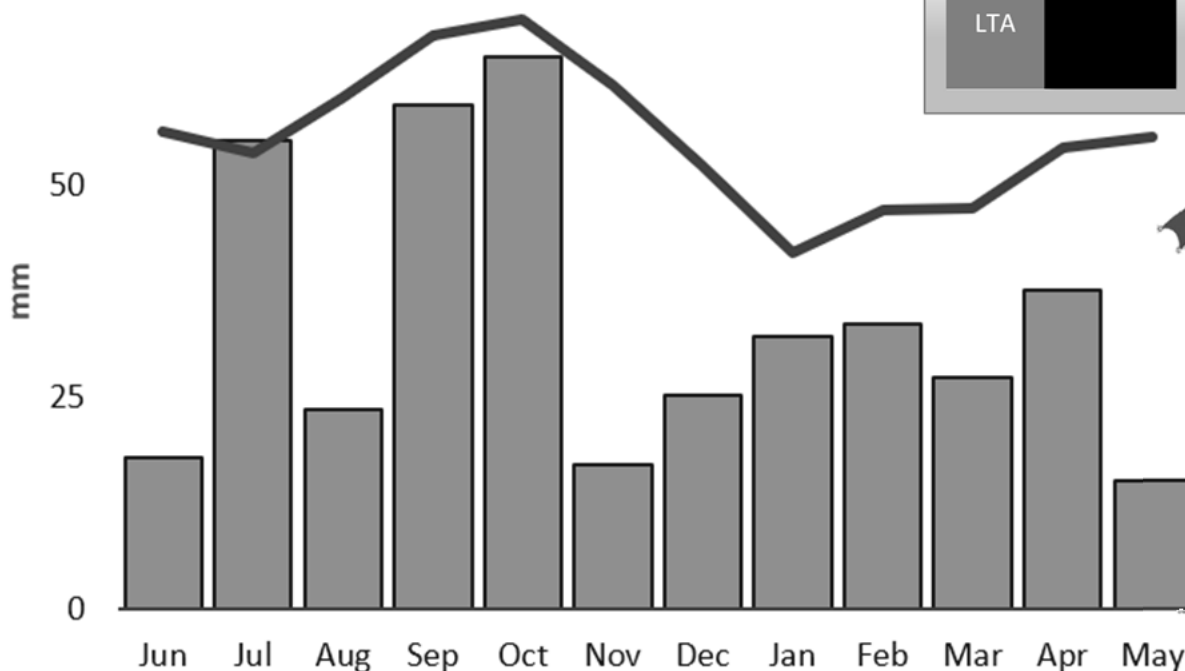
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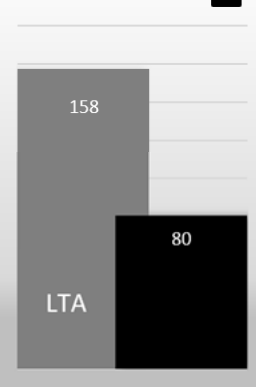
## the <sup>not enough</sup> rain report

75

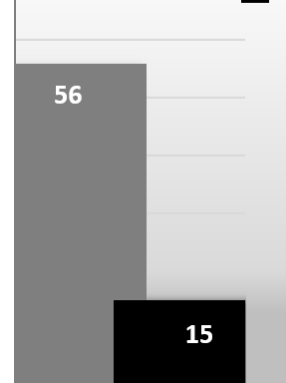
The graph tells the sorry tale of our rainfall this last 12 months. Only one month registered above average rainfall, and that by a mere 1.4mm. (And three of the previous four were also well under average.) In all, we have received only 61% of the LTA. Worse, autumn's rainfall was only 27% of the LTA. These are dry times indeed.



### AUTUMN rain



### FEBRUARY rain



Includes rain to 9.00 am, 31st May.





## Marg's BOOK REVIEW

### **First Lie Wins** by *Ashely Elston*

This book is a thrilling and thought provoking tale of deception and redemption.

The identity come first. Once she is given a name and location by her mysterious boss Mr Smith, she learns everything about the town and the people in it. Then the mark. The last piece of the puzzle in the job.

At the start of the book Evie Porter has recently moved in with her handsome, charming boyfriend Ryan Sumner. She's getting to know the quaint little town, the big picturesque house that Ryan inherited from his grandparents and Ryan's friends.

But Evie Porter does not really exist. She has been given the identity by her boss and a task to pry into Ryan's business activities.

Previously she has assumed personalities including Wendy Wallace for a job in Florida, Izzy Williams, Mia Bianchi, Helen White for a job in Texas and Regina Hale.

The book tells that for each different personality that she assumes all the proof that people could look up, has also been changed to suit the new person, even documents and school photos.

But from the first Evie, this job to spy on Ryan feels different and she has started to picture another life for herself, one where her boss doesn't pull the strings. She genuinely likes Ryan and doesn't want to just report on his activities to Mr Smith and go onto her next identity and next job.

She is also unsettled when an old friend of Ryans turns up in town with a new girlfriend. Evie is stunned to discover her name because it is Evie's real name and her history. The one truth Evie has in her life is her original name and identity and this woman's appearance has compromised that. A woman who looks just like her.

There is an old saying: The first lie wins. It is not referring to the little white lie but refers to the big one. The one that changes the game. The one that is deliberate. The lie that sets the stage for everything that comes after it. And once that lie is told, it's what most people believe to be true. The first lie has to be the strongest. The most important. The one that had to be told.

The book is a thrilling read, it is full of energy, there is always something happening in Evie's terrifying tricky world but somewhat far fetched or is it?

## Pity You Missed It!

*Janene Schillier*

Elaine held a Biggest Morning Tea Saturday 17 May 2025 The Elaine Mechanics Hall was buzzing on Saturday morning 17 May. Entry was by donation with raffles and prizes galore. A bale of quality hay, delivered to your door, a trailer load of split wood delivered, a fabulous botanical drawing donated by local artist Leanne Martin plus terrific door prizes and raffles everyone seemed to be a winner!

The "spread" of delicious treats to eat, quality coffee and tea - all in the enjoyment of this successful fund raiser for Cancer research.

Folks came from far and wide - neighbours, friends, families and a chance to meet someone you didn't know! (even if they did live "next door"! ) We were thrilled to meet the new publicans who will be running the Elaine pub. (Watch this space)

Let's hope the wonderful people who planned this event and worked hard to make it a great local occasion can do it next year around Mid May 2026. Thanks to all. (If you didn't make it or didn't know about it keep it in mind for next year.)



*Event organiser, Carolyn Barrie, and Megan are, understandably, all smiles*



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## it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

### Sculpture Exhibition:

This is almost certainly the first sculpture exhibition that has ever been held in Meredith. Correct me if I am wrong! It featured 99 entries/sculptures made of different materials, of different sizes and of different subjects under the theme of Reconstructed History.

People may wonder why a History Group elected to conduct a sculpture exhibition. Firstly, we occupy a beautiful building in Meredith that has a large yard which made a perfect place to display both inside and outside sculptures. Secondly, we are always trying to share history with the public and over the years we have held many events with that aim. A sculpture exhibition was also an invitation for people to participate and to use their creative talents.

Mark Cuthbertson, the creator of the Concrete Couch in Meredith kindly judged the sculptures. Darren Guthrie was the overall winner with a tractor he created from an old Singer Sewing Machine which he called Grandad's Tractor. Marg Cooper was second prize winner with a collage called Relics of My Childhood. Jake McDonnell received an Honourable Mention for his metal man with a spade that he called Digging the Land that he welded together when he was 15 years old and Luca and Hamish were awarded first and second in the Children's Section for the Aussie Snag and Ned Kelly.

### Photos of Elaine & District:

Please look through your photos. Please select any that MHIG could use for the exhibition on October 18 & 19. Please contact MHIG so we can organize to copy your photos or just drop in with them in hand.

### Visitors:

MHIG is a place where visitors are always welcome. The Brisbane Ranges Sketchers made the History Centre their venue for drawing and painting a couple of weeks ago. They sat in the garden and produced art works of the building, the pump on the underground tank etc. One man sat on the John Nolan seat and with bold brush strokes painted an amazing rendition of the front entrance. He then very kindly gave us one of his paintings that had won first prize at Geelong Show.

Two other visitors who visited recently were Barry, who came in to research the school camp at Steiglitz and ended up entertaining us at lunch time by reciting poetry. Also John Grant, whose father Harry grew up in the Pink House [Meredith Roadhouse], and visited Meredith often when he was young. He played cricket for Victoria and spoke about his cricketer career at a Cricket Club event in the Meredith Hall some years ago.

### Volunteering Week:

MHIG was represented at the GP Shire's event on May 22 held to thank volunteers in the community. Many of the volunteers, including members of MHIG were photographed at their work places by a young volunteer called Declan and his photos were displayed on easels around the room behind the library at Bannockburn for the event. He said that volunteering and this project have changed his life.

Young and old volunteers are always welcome at MHIG!



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## Vale to Maxwell (Max) Henry Heard 27/11/1940 – 7/5/2025

*Marg Cooper*

A huge crowd attended the funeral service for Max in the Meredith Hall on Thursday, 15th May. Meredith CFA members formed a guard of honour for Max and his two restored tractors stood proudly near the hall entrance.

Bryan Martin OAM (celebrant) welcomed everyone and told the story of Max's life with the eulogy. Other speakers were Barry Crick (brother-in-law), Nigel Parkinson (friend and shearer), and grandchildren Jacob, Jemma and Archie.

They all shared great stories of how Max was a reliable, generous and respected person in our community and what you saw was what you got. They also spoke of how he was a larrikin with a big heart who loved a joke, had a repertoire of one liners and always looked on the bright side of things.

Max was the only child of Edith and Henry Heard who ran a dairy farm in Riverside, just out of Horsham. In 1964 he married June and in 1982 they moved with their family Katrina, Rodney and Shendele to a sheep farm on Shelford Road in Meredith which is called 'Tathra'. Max didn't like dairying and wanted a bigger acreage to farm sheep and to crop. Max also share-farmed and contracted around the district.

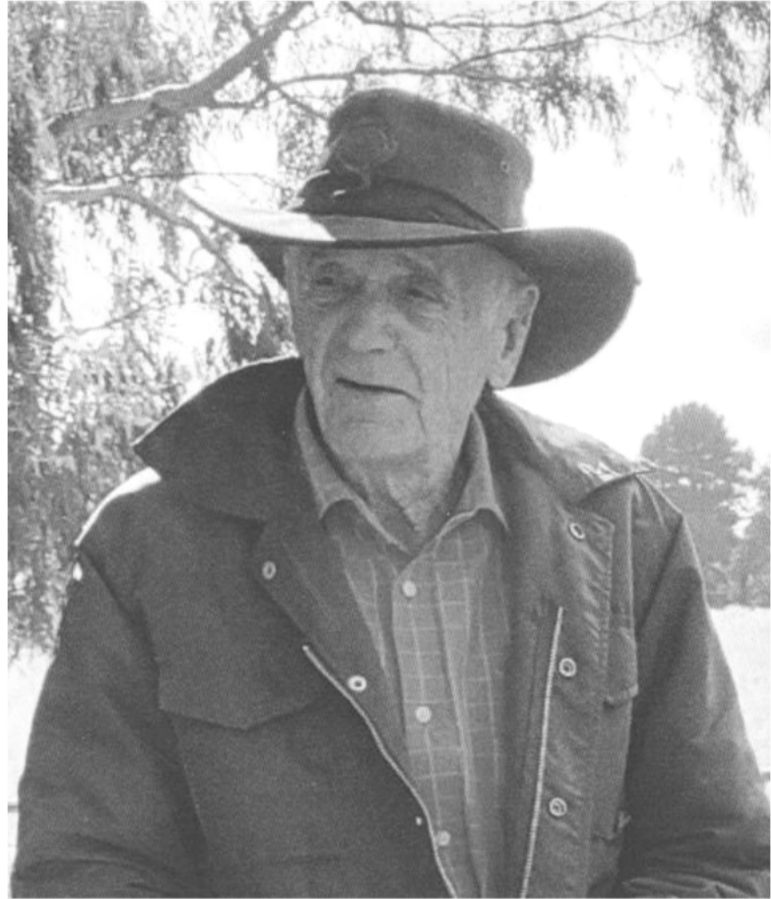
Max was a great community man. He was a member of the Meredith CFA for over 40 years, on the committee of the Meredith Memorial Hall for over 30 years and was a current member of the Meredith Cemetery Trust. He was involved in many things over the years: including the Meredith Fleece Show, welding and constructing the town's tree guards and generally helping wherever needed. His friend Doug McFarlane said that 'he punched well above his weight!'

When Max and June decided to retire, they subdivided their farm (2005), selling 2 blocks. They kept one for themselves and their son Rodney and his wife Lynn bought the two remaining blocks. On Max and June's block they built June's dream home and Max's dream shed. In this shed he restored two much loved tractors 'Little Toot' and the Nuffield.

They travelled extensively with their caravan and loved going to Darwin to see Shendele and her family and their grandchildren. Max loved a 'petrol picnic', field days, going to the trots in Ballarat with friends and really enjoyed the car races and climbs with Kevin. Max really enjoyed retirement to the hilt and was always looking for a new destination to drive to.

Although Max had ill health in the last six months, he still held his sense of humour, continued with his one liners and was always positive. He used to tell some people at the hospital he was 'up shit – Bonza'

We'll see you when we are looking at you Max!



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## Close the Gate

Lynne Heard

Max was a well-respected man,  
who was always in for a yarn,  
Now whether you got a straight answer back,  
was always a bit of fun.

'that's Fantasmagorical' – was something he often said.  
He'd say – 'well that's more betterer'  
or he'd just blame the Labor Government  
for everything else instead.

He loved a good conversation  
everywhere he went.  
No matter who you were, he loved a chat,  
it was definitely, time well spent.

It broke our heart to lose him;  
but he didn't go alone.  
Part of us went with him,  
the day he was called home.

Our family chain is broken,  
and our world does not feel the same.  
But one day we will meet you,  
and the chain will link again.

For this one farmer the worries are now over,  
lie down and rest your head.  
We'll park the Ute, feed the dog  
and put the tractor in the shed

Your little tractor stood pride and place  
we know this to be true,  
'Little Toot' sits outside these doors  
and shows pride in the man we all loved and knew.

So Max, wash off your work boots in the puddle  
for one more final time,  
Take off your hat and put it down,  
no more sweat or worry on your mind.

Your work is done, your home now in Heaven,  
and no more must you wait,  
We will never forget the husband, father and pa you were –  
but now it's time

'To close the Gate'



On behalf of the Heard Family, we would like to thank everyone for their support, and kind thoughts with the passing of Max. A special thanks to the Meredith CFA for the guard of honour and to Nigel Parkinson for the stories and memories at the service.

A friend to all that knew him.  
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## Vale to Dorothy May Hearn

7/12/1942 – 5/5/2025

*Marg Cooper*

Dot was the fifth of seven children of Pat and Dorothy Scanlon and grew up at Lethbridge. At fourteen years of age, after completing Grade 8 she left Lethbridge State School to help her mother and to help her father on the farm.

Dot was a lively, active and fit girl who loved farm

work, rouseabouting in shearing sheds and driving trucks. In 1959 she met a handsome young man from Meredith. Dot and Keith (Tojo) Hearn courted in his truck. Locals recall how they'd drive to Ballarat in the truck to get fish and chips or to Geelong to a dance. Sometimes Dot had to drive the truck home if Keith had had a few drinks.

They married in 1961 and had a family of Darryn, Leanne, Debra, Craig (dec) and Susie.

Craig was diagnosed with a rare blood disorder at the age of 20 and died on 15/5/1999. Dot was deeply saddened by his passing. They were very close, they were both fans of Geelong Cats and on Dot's 50th birthday, Craig had bought them both tickets to see a Neil Diamond concert.

Dot worked at many jobs. She was a good right hand especially when a hand was needed. In the early 1980's she became the lolly pop lady, protecting children as they crossed the Midland Highway going or coming to school. Her two youngest children were at school at this time and often ate their lunch with her in her car. In those days the crossing had to be manned at lunch time as well as before and after school. She became the Crossing Supervisor again in the 2000's.

Dot also did the mail run around Meredith and then won the contract for the country run to Bamganie. She was a terrific mail lady for over 29 years. She delivered the mail through rain, sleet and snow. She delivered papers, groceries and anything that that was required to be taken out to farming families including repaired tyres. She also worked in shearing sheds and was once a film star when part of a film was shot at the Railway Station.

In 1998 she started delivering livestock for Camerons. Firstly she took lambs to Bacchus Marsh and later took sheep to Monash University and the Children's Hospital. When she started she drove Cameron's ute but bought her own and set it up with a partly covered crate to protect the animals. She loved the driving, drove sheep to Melbourne for 10 – 12 years and in later years took Keith with her for an outing.

She was a great supporter of the Football Club, worked the canteen and washed the football jumpers for the team, for years. Family say she had a passion for cooking and always



cooked a roast on Sundays. And, she loved her garden - growing gladiolas and roses amidst a lot of other plants. She raised orphan lambs which people gave her and her chooks supplied many with eggs. Even though she left school at a young age Dot developed her vocabulary and spelling by doing crosswords and word puzzles.

The name Dorothy means God's gracious gift. Dot was a jack of all trades, someone you could depend on and a good friend when a friend was needed.

## Major Restoration Program

*Media Release*

A major landscape-scale restoration effort is underway across the Moorabool River catchment, with the \$350,000 Moorabool Catchment Restoration Program (MCRP) now well into its first year. Led by the Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group (MCLG) in partnership with Barwon Water and local landholders, the program is focused on improving water quality and riverside (riparian) vegetation across the catchment.

Spanning from June 2024 to June 2028, the program aims to protect and restore priority stretches of the East Moorabool, West Moorabool and Moorabool rivers, as well as tributaries such as Eclipse Creek, Tea Tree Creek, Mirghe-Mur Creek, and more.

The restoration works involve practical, on-ground activities including:

Fencing off waterways to remove livestock access

Controlling invasive weeds such as blackberry and gorse

Revegetation with native plant species

Collaborating with Traditional Owners to implement cultural land management, including cultural burning

The ultimate goal? A healthier, more resilient river system, one that supports biodiversity, safeguards drinking water quality, and respects the cultural significance of the landscape.

Since launching in mid-2024, the MCRP has already developed over a dozen management plans, with eight landholders signing on to the program and beginning their projects at the start of 2025.

These projects stretch across the region from Bolwarrah to Meredith, and include activities like removing noxious woody weeds, fencing creeks to exclude stock, and preparing sites for native revegetation in winter.

Thanks to this collaborative approach, landholders don't just receive funding, they also receive technical support at every stage of their project. MCLG works directly with each landholder to develop a tailored restoration plan and help organise everything from contractor bookings to plant supply.

Restoring the Cultural and Environmental Values of Mirghe-Mur Creek

One of the program's flagship projects is unfolding just outside Meredith, along a creek once lost to official records. Recently rediscovered on a historic survey map as Mirghe-Mur Creek, the name is of Wadawurrung origin,

and the creek holds both environmental and cultural value.

In partnership with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC), MCLG is supporting efforts to restore the site, which suffers from erosion, invasive weeds, and degraded grasslands. The Gobata Dja team from WTOAC recently completed their second year of weed control here, supported by drone-based blackberry spraying on steep terrain.

Next, the Wiyn Murrup team will deliver a cultural burn, the first of its kind in the catchment in collaboration with MCLG. This controlled fire will reduce excess grassy biomass and help native species recover, restoring the health of the Victorian Volcanic Plains ecosystem while reviving traditional land management practices.

#### A Call to Action

The MCRP is still expanding, and more landholders are encouraged to get involved. If you have a river, creek, or seasonal stream on your property within the Moorabool catchment, you may be eligible for funding and hands-on support to help restore your local waterway.

Participation is simple:

Contact Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group.

We'll assess your site's eligibility.

If suitable, we'll conduct a site inspection and design a project plan tailored to your property's needs.

Once approved, you'll receive funding and full project delivery support.

Together, we can protect the Moorabool River system for future generations, enhancing biodiversity, strengthening water security, and preserving cultural heritage.

To learn more or express interest, contact Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group today via 0497 770 075 or [moorabool.landcare@gmail.com](mailto:moorabool.landcare@gmail.com).

## 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.





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*G'Day from the penners for June. Well, it's half way through 2025 already, time does fly when you're having fun. Our group is ticking along nicely, with some great stories being written and shared within the group. This month's article was written by Gail Griffin and we think it's a bonza! She has the ability to write a ripping yarn with a good Aussie slant that is enjoyed by us all.*

*If you would like to come and see what we are about, we meet at the Banno library every Thursday fortnight at 1:30pm and we have a lot of fun. Our meeting dates for June are the 5th and the 19th and all are welcome. We can be contacted via our email goldenpens4@gmail.com if you would like to send us any feedback or comment.*

*We hope you enjoy this month's story.*

*Regards*

*Wendy Spall*

### The Sneak Attack

School's back, so I'm back home but I can't stop thinkin' about old John bein' 'Popped' last week. You see, this is what Pop and me call it when he plays a joke on someone. He's a pretty cool dude and I love it when we hang out together. Pop always says, 'What happens at Pop's stays at Pop's', so Mum and Dad know nothin' about how his latest stunt went belly up. Big time.

Anyway, just like the movie, 'Grumpy Old Men', Pop lives next door to a guy, John, who is, I guess, about as old as he is. Used to be a school teacher at some posh boys' school. Pop pulls tricks on him and tosses insults at him all the time about bein' a bachelor 'cause Nan married Pop, not John. Far out, Pop really gets old John goin'. These two old geezers really crack me up. Usually they end up laughin' their heads off afterwards, except for this day when Pop's revenge stunt bombed. Big time!

Pop's always loved dogs but he hates dog owners who don't pick up their dogs' poop. And, twice every day, when John takes his black staffy, Hugo, for a walk, it poops on Pop's nature strip. As soon as my Pop sees this, he leaps up from where he's workin' in the shadows of the garden and starts threatenin' John.

'So help me God, John, if you don't pick up that dog's poop, I'll ...'

'You'll what?'

'I'll damn well bag it myself and hurl it onto your front lawn.'

'Okay, that'll save me having to buy any poop bags,' laughs old John.

'Not funny, bucko,' says Pop as he goes back to gardening.

Pop's always told me to follow through on promises and so, true to his word, next day, he goes out and buys a fifties roll of those compostable doggy bags. And, the next time Hugo does a dump on Pop's nature strip and walks off, Pop scoops it up in one of those bags, knots it off and throws it on John's front lawn. A sneak attack. But, he doesn't stop there. Next, he winds those doggy bags round and round John's front gate so that no one can get in or out of his yard.

Later that day, John and Hugo don't come out for their walk. Pop doesn't always tell me what he's thinkin' but I can tell when he's bottlin' up somethin'.

'Sup?' I ask him.

'It's John. Haven't seen him this arvo.' Pickin' up his mobile phone, Pop says, 'I'm going over to check on him. You stay here buddy.'

He's gone for a while. The next thing I see is an ambulance pullin' up next door. I race over to see old John bein' wheeled out his front door. Pop's got Hugo on his lead and he's callin' out, 'Don't worry, mate. I'll take care of him 'til you get back.'

John waves back. That's the last time old John was 'Popped'.

I hope when I'm an old guy that I have a really good mate like John has in my Pop.



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## Wendy Cook IN OUR NATURE

The trunk of the red ironbark, tall and straight, grows ridges of dark grey bark, separated by deep furrows. Although it is a Eucalyptus, its bark gives it an appearance unlike a smooth-barked gum tree. Its leaves are often duller and greyer than other Eucalyptus leaves. Beneath its branches, the ground is strewn with a creamy carpet of fallen flowers. Its neighbour, another red ironbark has pale pink flowers, the two colours intermingling on the rocky red soil below the meeting of their canopies.

The flowers of gum trees and other Eucalyptus trees are different from those of many other plants, as they have no showy petals. Instead, the petals are fused and hardened to form a green cap protecting the flower bud as it develops. In the centre of the flower is a stigma, the part that collects pollen. Surrounding it are stamens, each stalk ending with an oval-shaped anther which will be coated with pollen when it matures. Inside the bud, the stamens are bent over, but as the cap comes off they straighten, pushing it upwards. After the cap falls, the stamens spread up and outwards forming a typical gum flower. Eucalyptus buds grow in clusters, often tightly packed, and open around the same time. The result is a mass of hairy-looking blooms, strongly scented with honey. Most of our local Eucalyptus flowers are white or creamy, although a few are pale pink. Those from other parts of Australia may be darker shades of pink, red, yellow or occasionally orange.

The purpose of flowers is to attract pollinators, which eucalypts do by providing food. Deep within each flower is a supply of nectar, which is mostly sugar and water, but includes proteins and other nutrients. It also contains compounds which prevent microorganisms, such as bacteria, from growing, and so can stop the spread of diseases. If you have walked below a Eucalyptus tree covered in blossom, you may have noticed the smell of honey, the continual buzzing of bees, and the variety of insects and birds attracted to the tree.

On the red ironbark trees, flowers hang in shaggy clusters, facing downwards. A black beetle with an iridescent blue shine over its body, buries its head in a flower as it feeds. A longer brown beetle lands nearby. It folds its delicate wings, hiding them beneath the hard wing cases on its back. Its black legs stretch out to the sides, and with black antennae forwards, it walks across the stamens, past a native bee, to another bloom. Black ants explore a cluster of flowers. They have made a long journey up the tall trunk to crawl inside blossoms and collect nectar. Soon, they will descend, delivering food to their nest several metres from the base of the tree.

A flowering Eucalyptus is not only for feeding; it is also a meeting place for finding a mate. As the day warms, beetles with orange bodies, dark green wing cases and black heads begin to arrive. Gradually, they build to a swarm, flying around the trees and plants, landing on flowers and stems, and finding partners, the male climbing onto the female's back. Other insects are mating among the

blooms, including a pair of native wasps, the male with wings and the female wingless. They are joined by the tips of their abdomens, and will remain this way for several hours, while they feed from the flowers.

For birds, pollen and nectar are not the only source of food in the tree. All the insects provide an added attraction. A honeyeater perches on a twig, picks a fly from a flower, then reaches between the stamens to lick up the sweet liquid and any insects with its long brush-like tongue. Pollen from the anthers sticks to its beak and face feathers. When it moves to another blossom, some of the pollen rubs off onto the stigma. For many plants, including eucalypts, for pollination to be effective, the pollen must come from another plant of the same species. Larger honeyeaters, such as wattlebirds and New Holland honeyeaters defend territories within trees, and only occasionally move to another tree, so do not help much with pollination. They chase smaller birds, including honeyeaters, away from their territories. These smaller birds are likely to be more efficient at spreading pollen between trees, and pollinating flowers, so that seeds develop.

After dark, when the birds have retired for the night, the activity continues. Other insects visit the trees, including moths and more beetles. Many of our mammals feed at night, and possums, gliders, antechinuses, phascogales and flying foxes all enjoy a feed of nectar and pollen, and pollinate flowers as they move from tree to tree.

Some visitors provide little benefit to the trees. Parrots grasp small branches and hang upside down, biting into the flowers to extract nectar. They snip the slender stalks, so that the blooms fall to the ground and form a carpet. With the large quantity of flowers a mature Eucalyptus grows, and the long life it lives, it does not require all its flowers to be pollinated and become gumnuts. The food it provides is important to the animals that visit it, and sometimes crucial to keep them alive.

an ORIGINAL PUZZLE by JESS and ASHER







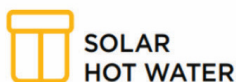
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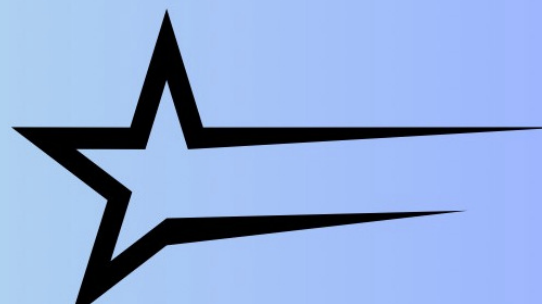
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