

# Meredith & district News

OUR **FREE** COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2025



- SLAM the SCAM with our great advice.
- Shire seeking artists to fill its Golden Spaces
- It's Pet Desexing Month - you might be able to get it done cheap.
- And some holiday fun for the kids.

...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)

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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We do not publish children's photos online.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  
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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	0408 508 635
Ranger	5220 7111
	or 0409 830 223
Bannockburn Vet	5281 1221
Golden Plains Animal Hospital Pets and Horses 24/7	5281 2226

## 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



"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature — the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter." —Rachel Carson

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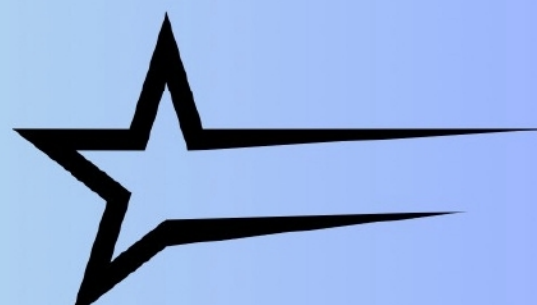
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## POWER SAVING BONUS HELPING WITH THE COST OF LIVING

### \$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



## What's On This Month



### Term 3

**Village Academy - with Jade & Chiara**

**Wednesdays**

3.30 - 5.00 - Meredith Locals

4.00 - 5.30 - For out of Town Friends

Chill Out Hour Available from 5-6

Prep to Year 9

Goddess Mums & Kids

Thursdays at 2.10 - 3.10

Kinder Kids with Jade - Wednesdays - 2.10 - 3.00

\$15 per session, payable by Term

### Chatty Cafe

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

**July 29 - 11.30 - 1.30 - Light Lunch**

**August 25 - 11.30 - 1.30 - Light Lunch**

**BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL**

Haircuts..@ the Centre with Jade

Wednesday July 23 from 9.30am

Phone: 0403667840 for Bookings



### 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

### 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



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. July 5,12,19,26

Anakie - St. Brigid—NO MASS

Meredith - St. Joseph @ 9am Sun. July 13, 27

B'burn - St. Mary MacKillop @ 11am Sun. July 13,20,27

Inverleigh - Sacred Heart - @ 4pm Sun. July 20



## Brisbane Ranges sketchers

*Kerry Thomson*

The forecast of rain, cold and strong winds led to an early call to cancel our outing and, instead, head to the Banno pub for lunch and catch-up. Eight of us enjoyed the warmth indoors, ate well and engaged in some lively discussion. We covered topics ranging from where to head for future plein air art outings to painting trips overseas; from world affairs, car troubles and dogs; to the difficulties associated with being a teacher these days, writing and plagiarism. We also heard stories from Peter's past life as a vet of the air and have, hopefully, convinced him to submit some of them to the newsletter for publication. All in all, it was lovely way to spend a few hours on a wintry day.



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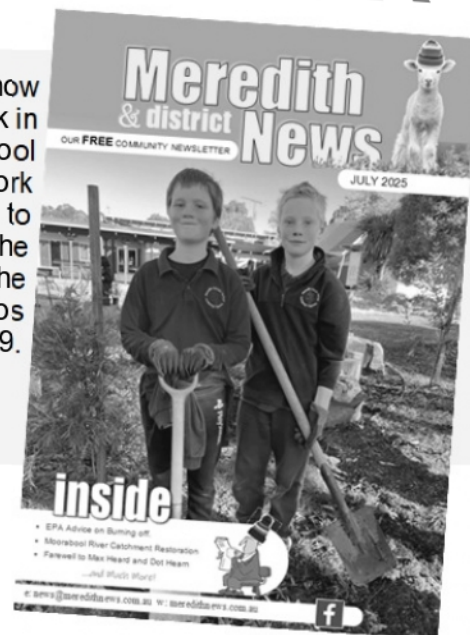
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## OUR COVER

Ryan and Owen show off their spade work in the Meredith school garden. Good work fellas. And thanks to Rosemary for the photo. We've got the story and more photos on page 29.



*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

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## MEREDITH ROADHOUSE Take-Away Menu

*Fish  
and  
Chips*



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



## Wendy Cook IN OUR NATURE

Have you found any bright red mushrooms with white spots? They are usually seen close to introduced trees such as pines, oaks or birches, and are sometimes illustrated in children's picture books, often associated with fairies or elves. They form a close relationship with the trees they grow beneath, joining threads of fungus to the tree's roots. The threads help the tree by providing it with water and nutrients from the soil, while the tree feeds the fungus with food that it has created in its leaves. These mushrooms were seen as useful by foresters, so they were introduced to Australia in the 1920s, to assist pines growing in plantations. From there, they have spread to parks and gardens with suitable trees, including my garden and possibly yours.

These red and white mushrooms are called fly agarics and belong to a genus or group known as *Amanita*. Agaric is a name used for fungi shaped like mushrooms. This species contains toxins, and in Europe, was formerly used to poison flies. While it is dangerous to some insects, others lay their eggs on it. After the grubs hatch, they burrow inside, eating the mushroom's flesh as they go. Slugs crawl across them, leaving holes in their stalks and white scars on their caps, where they have eaten through the red skin. One autumn, we found that some of the fly agarics growing near our oak, lost their caps overnight, leaving just the white stalks standing upright in the grass. We set up a motion sensitive camera overlooking the mushrooms to learn how this happened. When we checked the photos, we found that swamp wallabies were plucking the caps, holding them in their front feet and munching contentedly, apparently with no ill effects. A passing brushtail possum took a quick sniff at one of these mushrooms, then continued on its way with no temptation to stop for a meal.

While a wallaby or possum may recognise these mushrooms by their aroma, we rely on their colours and shape. This works well when they are mature, but at the start of their lives, they look quite different. When a fly agaric first appears above ground, it is a small dome covered in white lumps. This white layer is a universal veil, which covers the whole mushroom from under the base of its stalk to over the top of its cap. As the mushroom grows, this veil breaks, leaving a cup of broken membrane at the base of the stalk and white lumps on the red cap. At first, only a little of the red shows, but as the cap expands the white lumps become further apart. Some may fall off, and occasionally you will see a fly agaric with few or no white spots. The mushroom also has a partial veil which covers the crowded white gills on the underside of the cap. As the cap grows, this veil also breaks, leaving a membranous ring attached to the stalk. The cap continues to grow and can reach a diameter of twenty-five centimetres. Spores drop from the gills and those that are not blown on the

wind, leave a dusting of white on the ground and on any younger mushrooms growing up below. As fly agarics age, the edges of the cap turn upwards, and they can hold water after rain. Gradually, the mushroom turns brown, and depending on the weather, will either dry out and shrivel or become soft and rotten.

After the mushroom is gone, the underground threads of fungus remain, maintaining the relationship with the tree. The spores that flew on the wind will only grow into new fungi if they land in a suitable place, where they can form a partnership with another tree. Fly agarics have been in Australia for about one hundred years. For most of that time, they have grown with trees from the hemisphere where they originated, but in recent times they have been found growing with one of Australia's native rainforest trees, the myrtle beech. So far, it is unknown if this is causing problems, but it is possible that it is taking the place of our indigenous fungi. These fungi have formed a close relationship with myrtle beeches over many thousands of years and may be more capable of helping it to survive disease and environmental stresses. It is also unknown whether the fly agaric will spread to other indigenous trees.

Fly agarics are not the only *Amanita* mushrooms in Australia. Another introduced *Amanita* is the death cap mushroom. There are also plenty of indigenous *Amanita* species that grow in partnership with our indigenous trees. Most are white or brown, and also have white spots on their caps. In some, the broken partial veil that covered the gills leaves a ragged fringe hanging from the edge of the cap, instead of a ring on the stalk. One attractive species has an orange cap which can vary from nearly yellow to almost red, but is much smaller than the fly agaric, and is only found in native vegetation. There are also green *Amanita* mushrooms in coastal areas. Some of these *Amanita* species are as large as the fly agaric, but none is as well known as this introduced eye-catching fairytale mushroom.



Photo credit - Wikipedia



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# Recreation



## Meredith Tennis Club

*Bridget Dyer*

### Autumn Competition

This autumn brought another fantastic night competition with delicious food. In Section One, the finals had sibling rivalry at its finest, as the Destroyers faced off against Sav n Batter. Despite their best efforts, the Destroyers were ultimately outplayed. The Loco Locals also put up a strong fight but couldn't overcome the undefeated Servivors, who continued their impressive run by defeating Sav n Batter in the grand final.

Section Two offered its own drama, with two sets of cousins squaring off in the semi-finals. The Net Ninjas, who had remained undefeated all season, triumphed over the Long Shots, while the Dyer Duo won against the Rally Rascals. The final brought another cousin clash, and in a surprising twist, the Dyer Duo claimed victory, ending the Net Ninjas' winning streak and taking home the title.

A huge thank you goes out to our amazing volunteers who made the competition possible. Courtney and David kept everyone warm and well-fed with their cooking, while Bridget, Meg, Sheryl, and Fay provided invaluable support throughout the event. Trev ensured the lights arrived each week and were ready for play. Your contributions are deeply appreciated and vital to the success of our club.

### Men's Mental Health Hit

Thank you to everyone who attended our first men's-only mental health night. The evening had positive feedback from participants who had a hit and a laugh while connecting with community. The next session will be held Tuesday, 1 July 2025, from 6 to 7 PM. Afterward, continue catching up over dinner and a pot at the Royal Meredith Hotel. It's a great opportunity to connect, unwind, and support one another.

### Grading Day

Although we're still in the midst of winter, preparations for the summer tennis season are already underway. Teams for the Geelong competition need to be submitted by late August, so now is the perfect time to start thinking about joining. The summer competition runs on Saturday mornings from October through to March, with breaks over the Christmas holidays and the March long weekend. Players can choose to compete in either the Geelong Association or the Buninyong and District Association, with a range of grades available to suit all skill levels including Juniors (orange ball, green ball and yellow ball) and Seniors.

To help form teams and assess players, we'll be hosting our Grading Day on Saturday, 9 August 2025. It's a fun and informal event, complete with a free BBQ, and is a great chance to have a hit and meet other players. Whether you're new to tennis or a seasoned competitor, we will find a team for you. And if you can't make it on the day, don't worry—you're still welcome to be part of a team.

### Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at the Meredith Royal Hotel on Wednesday, 6 August 2025 at 7 PM. We are always keen to welcome new committee members and hear fresh ideas, so if you're passionate about tennis and community, we'd love to see you there. Your feedback and involvement are what keep our club growing and thriving.



*Compiled by Michael Riseley*

### Questions about Togetherness

1. Debut parents who a long time ago had difficulties with a fruit and a snake.
2. John Dory and some red Pontiacs.
3. Hopefully your slang main income lets you eat more than this pudding.
4. Chip in with some sodium chloride and acetic acid.
5. Sorry ladies but these very ordinary presents are designed to keep blokes well dressed.
6. Small mountaineers who wanted to fill their bucket but managed to fall down.
7. Some table etiquette please! So do not use your machete or the prong from the garden shed. Smaller ones would be correct.

*Thank you Michael - Answers on page 26*



### Home Wanted

A responsible local young family hoping to lease or rent a property or house.

Please contact Lee 0490945007

# BANNOCKBURN SURGERY

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

Dr John Henderson  
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Dr Edward Carson  
Dr Mohana Govardhanan

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healthy pets, happy lives

# 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 content providers, this month John Merlo talked to some of our production team.*

The News' dedicated production team comprises two volunteers who alternate in their role, an advertising officer, a proofreader, an editor. And a Web/Social Media volunteer. Don is a member of this team and kicks things off in the weeks leading up to the next issue, dealing with incoming emails for potential inclusion in the editorial pages and inquiries from new and regular contributors - among a host of other things. Starting with a layout template, he reviews all contributions and places them into columns, ensuring layout and formatting comply with our Publication Guidelines.

This initial stage involves a hard deadline, designed to minimise the time between the cut off for submissions and sending it off to the printer. This means as the deadline nears, things get pretty hectic. It's an exacting role, and having a team of alternating volunteers lightens the load and affords the flexibility to manage any other demands on their time.

Don finds the work interesting and is pleased to be playing a part in producing something of such quality

**Don**



## Ads



*\* Not an actual photo*

The newsletter's advertising volunteer plays an important part in this complex process. They respond to queries from potential and existing advertisers, document all bookings, collate ad copy for each issue and liaise with the newsletter's editorial personnel.

Advertising prices are kept low, set to cover our operating costs only and, subject to some conditions, community groups can place notices for free or at a discount. We also offer a design service to our advertisers.

**Cathie**



Once the working copy is finished, it is scrutinised by our Proof Reader, Cathie Boer - who casts her keen and practised eye over every page, before giving each edition the final okay. She keeps an eye out for spelling and grammatical errors but also any layout problems which sometimes slip through.

Cathie - a voracious reader since she was a child - is one of the best in the business. She happily admits to being something of a perfectionist, but that's a huge asset in the Proof Reading business.

Cathie says she gets great satisfaction from her work on the newsletter

Jim has chaired our Committee for around 20 years and editor for at least the last 15, although it's been a shared role for several of those years. (We are currently seeking a co-editor.) As well as being the final arbiter on content and layout, it involves resizing and moving/adding/deleting content to ensure it fits onto a particular number of pages. (It has to be a multiple of four.)

Jim enjoys this work and especially (spending too much time) hunting down the "perfect" piece of gap filling clip art or a quote or a joke.

He loads the final product into the cloud, sending a link to the printer, and passes

**Jim**



**Marshia**



Marshia is a valued member of our team, publishing a digital version on our website and posting material every month on to our Facebook page, which she also maintains. She manages to do all this while meeting the needs of an infant son and, with her husband, managing Rustic Ram Restaurant. *If you want a job done, ask a busy person.*

Our volunteers are the heart and soul of the newsletter, but at some point in the not-too-distant future, new blood will be needed to ensure that the newsletter keeps going.

Getting into the media industry these days can be a big ask, and volunteering to help on the newsletter could be an important step toward a career in media. Or a great use of your talents in a thoroughly rewarding role. So, if you enjoy writing, cartooning, want to share your passion in a hobby or feel you would enjoy any of the roles we have been describing, get in touch. We would also like to hear your ideas for the newsletter of the future.

**Next Month** we talk to the last of the volunteers involved every cycle, distributing them and bookkeeping.

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# GOLDEN SPACES

## Media Release

Golden Plains Shire Council is thrilled to announce that Expressions of Interest (EOI) are now open for the 2025 Golden Spaces Summer Exhibition.

Golden Spaces is a free, community-based program offering group art exhibitions across three locations: The Bannockburn Cultural Centre, The Well at Smythesdale and the Golden Plains Civic Centre.

This exciting initiative celebrates and promotes the talent of artists from across the Shire and surrounding regions, increases access to the arts for the community within a local setting, and provides professional development opportunities for both emerging and established artists.

Golden Spaces officially entered its second year with the launch of the 2025 Winter Exhibition on Saturday 7 June. The 2024 Summer Exhibition is also currently on display at The Well in Smythesdale.

Golden Plains Shire Mayor Cr Owen Sharkey encourages artists to submit their EOI to exhibit at Golden Spaces.

“Golden Spaces is proving to be one of our most successful programs which is a true testament to the remarkable talent of artists who have exhibited their artwork so far,” Cr Sharkey said.

“I urge not only local artists, but artists in the surrounding regions of Golden Plains to apply to exhibit at the 2025 Summer Exhibition. This is a fantastic opportunity to grow your portfolio and showcase your work in a professional setting.”

EOI's are open now until 5pm, Friday 29 August 2025. To submit, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/golden-spaces](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/golden-spaces)

At the conclusion of the EOI period, successful artists will be notified later in the year, and the 2025 Summer Exhibition will be launched in December 2025. The exhibition will be on display for 12 months rotating between the Bannockburn Cultural Centre, The Well at Smythesdale and the Golden Plains Civic Centre.

For further information, contact Council's Arts, Culture & Heritage team at [golden.spaces@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:golden.spaces@gplains.vic.gov.au) or call 5220 7111.



## EPA's Winter Clean Up Tips

### Media Release

If you're planning a clean-it-up-and-chuck-it-out project as we go into winter, EPA Victoria has some handy hints to make it a satisfying result.

EPA Interim Chief Executive Officer Joss Crawford says the EPA website has useful tips to protect the environment and prevent your jobs from turning into a headache.

“A little knowledge can equip you to avoid the traps of sending waste to the wrong place and turning it into a pollution problem that will come back to get you,” Ms Crawford said.

“Everyone has an environmental duty in Victoria. There are pathways for disposal of things like old paint or chemicals, or asbestos that work much better than trying to hide it at the bottom of the bin. You just have to know what to do,” she said.

“Victoria's Environment Protection Act includes a General Environmental Duty, that makes it everyone's responsibility to take reasonable action to prevent pollution, so a little homework on the EPA website before you start can make life a lot easier.”

Hiring a skip? Choose a respectable company, ask to see the receipts that show they take waste to a licensed landfill or recycling facility, and beware of suspiciously low prices that might mean your waste will be dumped illegally in the bush, a park or a creek.

If you suspect there's asbestos there are simple rules that let you deal with small amounts yourself, and above those amounts it's just a matter of hiring a licensed asbestos removalist.

What about old paint and household chemicals? There are drop-off points and household detox events to allow you to dispose of those without them just becoming contamination.

Check the EPA website before you start, and do your bit to prevent harm to our environment and your local community.

And if you encounter pollution, remember you can report pollution to EPA's 24-hour hotline on 1300 372 842 or provide details online.

[epa.media@epa.vic.gov.au](mailto:epa.media@epa.vic.gov.au)

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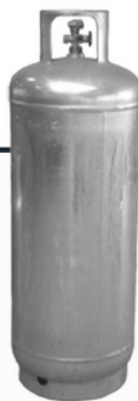
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## POLICEreport

Senior Constable Anthony BOX

Meredith Police Station| Western Region Division 3  
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14 Wilson Street Meredith Vic 3333

Throughout June I have attended numerous collisions in the Meredith area as well as the surrounding response zones.

A reminder to drivers to consider the conditions they are driving in. Use headlights in reduced visibility conditions such as rain.

Some of the roads around our area are quite slippery and narrow, most of these collisions have involved single vehicles into trees. All have been experienced drivers.

I am seeking information on an orange Ford Falcon sedan with a black bonnet and front left panel, which attempted to ram me and was involved in a dangerous driving incident while pursued by police in Meredith. Any information can be provided to myself or confidentially to crime stoppers, use reference 250247614.

I attended a hit and run collision in Meredith in late May and was greatly assisted by some witnesses who helped me to obtain vehicle details. After a short hunt around the state forest, I was able to locate the offenders who will be charged accordingly for the collision and also for weapons offences.

I am investigating an incident where a firearm was discharged into a person's property, fortunately at the time it was unoccupied, otherwise the consequences may have been death or serious injury. This occurred on the Northern side of Meredith, between late February and mid-April.

Any persons with information around the illegal use of firearms in relation to this incident can provide this to me or via crime stoppers, use reference 250215858.

### Avoiding Scams

With the beginning of the new financial year, I would like to bring to the attention of members of the Meredith community the likely increase in scams relating to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and MyGov.

I also remind people not to provide any personal information to any person or organisation that calls you, regardless of who they claim to be and what they already know about you. That includes telecommunications companies, banks, the ATO, MyGov, Medicare and other governments.

Please hang up and then call the official listed phone number for that entity and speak to someone about the call.

If you receive an email or text message from any address representing themselves as the ATO or MyGov or any other government department do not click on any links. Clicking on links in emails and via text messages can result in offenders being able to hack into your personal devices.

Instead, go to the publicly listed website and log in as normal.

If in doubt, look up the phone number and give them a call.

Please remember the following:

1. Scams will increase at this time of year.
2. The ATO and MyGov will not send you links to click.
3. The government will not threaten you over email or text message with penalties.
4. The government will never demand payment in any manner other than on an official notice. They will not request any strange payment methods or bank cards, credit cards, money orders, Western Union, PayPal or gift cards.

You may also receive scam emails and texts that appear to be from Australia Post, claiming that a parcel was unable to be delivered to you and that it will be returned or destroyed if you do not follow the prompts in an attached link. Please do not click on any links in these texts or emails and instead consult Australia Post through official channels if you have any questions

If in doubt, please talk to a trusted friend or relative, the community centre or to me.

If you are the victim of a scam, please report it as soon as possible at [www.scamwatch.gov.au](http://www.scamwatch.gov.au) and please also visit that site for further information on scams.

*Thank you Senior Constable Box for providing valuable information about scams. So valuable in fact, we have provided some more on page 23 - Ed.*

## Final Press Release for BDG

In 2008 the Bannockburn branch of the Bendigo Bank introduced a local grants programme based on the Community Bank concept. Customers who linked their accounts to the programme generated a commission to fund local grants. A board of volunteers from local organisations was appointed to form Bannockburn & District Grants (BDG) and over the following years have distributed over 250 grants.

The first grant was to the Teesdale Turtle Bend Project of \$5000 for their dry stone wall. The total of funding support given in the past 18 years to projects and organisations in the lower Golden Plains area so far amounts to over \$850,000. Included in this is a major contribution of seed funding for the Youth Hub in Bannockburn of \$100,000. This Hub provides a dedicated space for young people aged 12 to 25 from across Golden Plains Shire supported by the Youth Development Team.

This wonderful effort has been facilitated by the bank customers who willingly linked their accounts to help the community, and we acknowledge the Bannockburn branch managers and staff who have supported the board of Bannockburn & District Grants.

BDG was the last of the original Community Enterprises in the Geelong district still operating in 2024. The Bendigo Bank has changed its community focus to Benefit Geelong, a similar organisation comprising the eight bank branches in greater Geelong, who will continue to provide grants.

*Signed by current members: John O'Shannassy (Chair), Kath Bourke, Julie Kaye, Bill Hughes, Doug Gadd, Elizabeth McDonald, Michael Weiser, Brett Cunningham, Sue Bernardo, Pauline Beard*



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## Another Step in the Adventure

Marg Cooper

On May 4, 2025 Paul Nolan and his two inaugural guests, Andrea and her cousin Rob, took their first steps on their adventure, of walking the Camino. Both guests had decided that “life’s too short, let’s do something completely out of our comfort zone”.

The Camino or Camino de Santiago or Way of St James is a network of pilgrimage routes heading to the shrine of St James in the Cathedral in Santiago Compostela in Spain. Many people/pilgrims walk the routes and stay in budget, dormitory type accommodation that operates on a first come first served basis. Paul offered his guests the luxury of booked rooms in hotels about 20 km apart, bag luggage pickup, the option of a bus trip if the feet got too sore and his guidance or experience, having walked the Camino previously.

The first day of walking took them to Orrison and on to Roncesvalles, 26 km over a 1500 metre mountain. Every time you think you’ve hit the top, another climb smacks you in the face. And when you finish that one? Surprise! Another one. Without doubt this is one of the most iconic and rewarding days on the Camino.

Day 5 was a rest day in Pamplona described as one of Spain’s true gems, a full blown celebration of life. It was a day to breathe, rinse out the mud-soaked socks, reassemble their dignity and prepare for the next stretch.

Day 7 they arrived at Estella, easily one of the jewels of the journey. The town is on a river, full of ancient bridges, cobbled lanes, buzzing cafes and bars and even though rain was falling lightly the streets were full of families out together, kids running amok, laughter, wine, food and music. I seemed to be a simple and beautiful way to live.

Day 10 at Navarrete with its twisting lanes, terracotta rooftops and that distinctly Spanish way of living made you wonder if stress has ever set foot here.

Day 11 started their travel by road for this leg of the journey. It seems time in Spain is a suggestion and not a rule. A 1.15pm bus could arrive at 11.30 am or next week.

Day 15 they stumble across a little roadside oasis known as The House of Gods which is run completely by volunteers who offer food all on a pay what you can basis. In this place the spirit of Camino was in full bloom.

Day 24 they arrived at Santiago and to the Cathedral. If you ever dreamed of completing an Olympic Marathon and entering the arena to the roar of the crowd, that is what it felt like. A moment of awe, relief, emotion and pride all bundled together. You have done something remarkable!

Paul says that whilst on the Camino the best part is the people you meet along the way: some quirky, some chatty, some quiet. It all adds to the mystique where strangers instantly become mates, conversations pass the time and lighten the load and sometimes even steal the pain from your feet.

Paul (Gumbo’s Camino Adventures) invites others to join him next year to walk 280 kms over hills, through mud, across cobblestones and through weather most wouldn’t dream of. “Come join us”, he says, “and be part of the communities and add to the spirit of the Camino. It is hard, but something happens that is subtle but powerful. You just need an open mind, a bit of grit and a sense of humour.”

Paul and Andrea both grew up in Meredith and their cousin often visited here as well.

### All Too Easy

Collecting stamps is lots of fun and enjoyment. And like many hobbies can be a lovely stress release from the worries of life. Well that is of course until it isn’t. There are sadly many difficulties for the stamp collector to face and overcome. Some of these are the result of decisions made by postal agencies around the world.

Let’s go to the top. A few decades ago some genius created the peel and stick stamp. For philatelists this is the worst innovation since the inventions of scissors and rust. Now post office customers can buy their stamps in a handy roll or strip and just peel off one self adhesive stamp and stick it on an envelope. But this makes it very difficult after the event to soak off the stamp to put into your collection.

Previously you could put a stamp on paper into a bowl of warm water, wait 15 minutes for the glue to release and then slide the stamp off the paper and put it onto a towel to dry. But not the same with peel and stick because the glue doesn’t release the same. So you often finish up with still some glue or paper on the stamp and rarely do you get an undamaged good copy.

And to make it worse, more recently peel and stick stamps are printed with a little triangle shape nicked into the side of the stamp. This separates from the stamp during the soaking process and is designed to stop naughty people re-using the stamp. But is horrid for collectors.

Other headaches include language with some countries in the past issuing stamps with no country identification. Early Nepal and various Indian states stamps were like this. Some Balkan countries and Arab and Asian countries use their own language on stamps which doesn’t help English speaking collectors.

Sometimes colour becomes an issue. In philately there are many versions of the main colours of red, blue, and green. And there are some instances of the same stamp being printed separately in purple, mauve and lilac. Overtime colours fade and differentiation becomes difficult.

And the worst stress is Murphy’s Law which decrees that the stamp that develops damage through rust or creasing is the most expensive one in the set! But will any of this stop me from collecting – absolutely not!





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To check if you are eligible for low cost desexing all year round or just in National Desexing Month in July visit the National Desexing Network website at:  
[ndn.org.au/low-cost-desexing/](http://ndn.org.au/low-cost-desexing/)



## Winter Holiday Fun

### Media Release

Young people aged 12 to 15 years can enjoy a range of fun activities in Golden Plains Shire throughout the upcoming winter school holidays, with activities running from Tuesday 8 July to Thursday 17 July 2025.

The free school holiday activities held across the Shire have been designed to support the needs and interests of young people, while also providing opportunities to learn new skills and connect with other young people.

The full list of school holiday activities available are:

### Week one:

- Tuesday 8 July, 1 to 5pm – MasterChef Cake Making at The Well, 19 Heales Street, Smythesdale.
- Wednesday 9 July, 1 to 5pm – Movie Afternoon at the Golden Plains Youth Hub, Milton Street, Bannockburn.
- Thursday 10 July, 6 to 9pm – Geelong Ghost Tour at the Old Geelong Gaol, 202 Myers Street, Geelong.

### Week two:

- Monday 14 July, 1 to 5pm – T-Shirt Decorating at the Golden Plains Youth Hub, Milton Street, Bannockburn.
- Tuesday 15 July, 1 to 5pm – MasterChef Mexican Feast at the Golden Plains Youth Hub, Milton Street, Bannockburn.
- Wednesday 16 July, 12 to 5pm – Woodwork – Bird Box Making at the Linton's Men's Shed, 8 O'Beirne Lane, Linton.
- Thursday 17 July, 10.30 am to 4.30pm – Information from [ndn.org.au/](http://ndn.org.au/)

Gold Rush Indoor Mini Golf at the Gold Rush Mini Golf, 9367 Western Hwy, Warrenheip, Ballarat.

Tickets to events are limited, so check out what's available and secure a ticket. Register and find out more information through Council's Youth Development Team on 5220 7111 or visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/holiday-activity-program](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/holiday-activity-program).

## Two Damsels in Distress

*Marg Cooper*

When I pulled up for fuel at the new bowzers I noticed two damsels dressed to the hilt for a day out in town. They had neatly parked in the bay at the back of the Petrol Station with the intention of putting air in a tyre on their car. To their credit they had attempted the task themselves but the new fandangled air supplying machine wouldn't blow air even though they had pushed every button in sight and had voiced their dislike of new fandangled technology. Instead of blowing it seemed to suck air out of the tyre and leave it even flatter.

I went over to say hello! It was apparent that they needed help and it so happened that my husband was through the fence in the back of the History Centre. We called him for help!

He attempted to give advice through the fence but it was quickly evident that he needed to be right on the scene. Being not quite as agile as he was when he won the High Jump at Secondary School he walked through the gate of the History Centre and around the block to help them instead of hurdling the fence.

He connected the hose to the tyre and although the damsels offered much advice and explanations the new machine failed to function.

Seemingly, with a total lack of confidence in my husband one damsel collared two separate tradesmen who innocently had just called in for fuel. They offered some quips and advice but with heartfelt thanks from the damsels, they departed.

Meanwhile my husband had spied the old-fashioned air hose a little along from the new fandangled air supplier. My knight in shining armour pulled the hose across to the car, attached it to the tyre and pumped it up.

Two happy damsels left for their day in town!



It turns out when someone asks if you have a favourite child, you're meant to name one of your own. Who knew?



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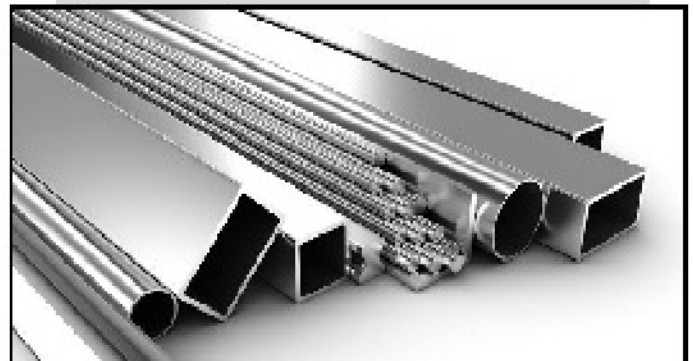
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## Marg's BOOK REVIEW

### **Invented Lives** by *Andrea Goldsmith*.

The book tells about Galina's life in Russia, her nine month trip from Russia to Australia and how she grapples with the tumultuous demands that come with being an immigrant in Australia. In the second part of this book the author documents the lives of a husband, wife and their son as well as the life of Galina but after reading some reviews I realize that the author is trying to show how the presence of Galina, an immigrant to Australia, disrupts the lives of all the members of the family she is befriended by. No one is left unchanged!

The novel is predominately set in Melbourne but it starts in Leningrad in late 1985, as 24-year-old Galina Kogan mourns the death of her mother. They intended to escape the Soviet Union together to America seeking exile as Soviet Jews. On the day her mother dies she accidentally collides with a shy 25-year-old Australian who is studying in her city and seeing this meeting as an omen she decides to move to Australia.

So, Galina leaves her homeland to come to Australia and we follow her progress while she reconciles her past and present identities and split national affiliations. She goes through a process of purging, listening and absorbing and learning as much information about her new surroundings as possible. As a Soviet citizen she is completely unprepared for Australia and its easy-going ways and as a Jew, she's inherited several generations worth of Russia's chronic anti-Semitism.

The first part of the novel tells of Galina and her mother and their life in Leningrad. The next part gives a short history of politics in Russia and resulting hardships that generations of Russians had to endure. The 25-year-old Australian is Andrew Morrow and his parents only enter the narrative 120 pages in yet their relationship with Galina and one another becomes a major focus for the rest of the novel.

The Morrow marriage of thirty years balances on secrets. Leonard is a man with conflicted desires and passions while Sylvia chafes against the confines of domestic life. A reviewer enjoyed watching Sylvia's metamorphous unfolding in tandem with Leonard's destabilization. But for the public they are a respectable couple until Galina's arrival when their stability is disturbed.

There is a focus on art within the novel. Galina is an illustrator, Andrew a mosaic artist, Leonard had been a poet in his younger days and Sylvia embraced many types of creativity but was passionate about letters which she had collected.

The book illustrates how difficult it is to adapt to a new country with totally different traditions, regulations and history.



## it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

### **Books, Books & More Books:**

MHIG has just collected a reprint of 5 books: Steiglitz Thru the Lens, Morrisons Thru the Lens, Bamganie Soldiers, Significant Trees of Meredith and Alison Irwin's Poems.

So, if you missed out on obtaining copies previously we now have plenty in the History Centre. The book Significant Trees of Meredith has a new, flash cover. Because we didn't have a digital copy of the previous cover the printer had to recreate a cover and decided that an image of a tree that Eliza Emmlin painted (in a flash) when she was about 12 years old (that I had in mind to be used on the cover for the first print) would make a brighter, more appealing cover. He has done a great job!

#### **Open Day:**

On Sunday, August 3 the History Centre will have a special day when everyone will be invited to visit, to see history and to talk history- but, don't forget that you are always welcome to drop in on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.30 am onwards. The theme is Who do you think we are?

#### **Alexander McKenzie:**

On Friday, June 20, Ian and Sue drove from the other side of Melbourne to personally give MHIG a letter that Andrew McKenzie wrote to his brother Alexander in October 1857. He addressed the letter to Mr Alexander McKenzie, to be left at Mr W Hooley's Geelong and Ballarat Hotel Kildair, near Geelong, South Australia. Alexander and his family were living at that time in Skene Street which was only about one mile from the hotel that the letter was addressed to.

Alexander and the woman he married apparently had 21 children. Both were convicts who had been sentenced to 7 years and both were sent to Tasmania. Alexander and Elizabeth came to Victoria after receiving their Tickets of Leave and spent some time in Geelong before buying land at Darra. Alexander died there on December 18, 1876 at the age of 56 years. He was buried on the farm with his three children who had died earlier. They had their own burial ground on their land near Eclipse Creek located about two chains from the back door of their home. After Alexander's death Elizabeth carried on the farm. She lived there for over 50 years before moving to Millgrove where she died.

#### **Elaine Photo Exhibition:**

Some marvellous photos are coming in. We had a photo of the building that was Miss Newton's Lolly Shop, after it was shifted and no longer used as a lolly shop but a photo came in of the shop in situ with people in front, including Miss Newton. How wonderful!

If you have any photos like this please contact MHIG.

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The scammers call you claiming to be from the ACCC and ask you for personal information like passwords or bank details. They will make it sound urgent and ask you act immediately.



### What you should know

The ACCC and NASC will never:

- make calls from its reception numbers
- charge money for its services
- cold call or email to ask for your personal information like passwords, bank details or answers to security questions
- threaten or pressure you to stay on the line.

### Stay protected

**Stop** - Don't give money or personal information to anyone if you're unsure. Scammers will create a sense of urgency. Don't rush to act. Say 'no', hang up, delete. Do not click on any links or download attachments from messages unless you are sure it is from someone you can trust.

**Check** - Ask yourself could the call or text be fake? Scammers pretend to be from organisations you know and trust. Contact the organisation using information you source independently, so that you can verify if the call is real or not.

**Protect** - Act quickly if something feels wrong. If you have had money or personal information stolen contact your bank immediately. Help others by reporting scams to Scamwatch.

### If you've been affected

- Don't be embarrassed about being scammed.
- If you've had money or personal information stolen contact your bank or card provider immediately.
- If you've been scammed or have provided personal information call IDCARE on 1800 595 160.

Information from [scamwatch.gov.au](http://scamwatch.gov.au)

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## Born to Ride.

*Marg Cooper*

Grace was riding horses before she could walk. A walker strapped to roping saddles made a perfect seat for a small child. She loved it!

Her mother's parents travelled Australia wide, show jumping and her mother and father both rode competently from a young age.

Grace performed at Shows before she was five years old and has competed at Rodeos since she was five years old, the legal age to start.

Grace's mother Lyndelle says this season (between Christmas and Easter) they have attended 15 rodeos, sometimes two on the one weekend. Grace competes in Barrel Racing where she has to ride around three barrels on a clover leaf route, in the quickest time and her father Brodie competes in Team Roping where one person ropes the horns of a bull and the other person ropes the back feet of the bull to immobilize it.

At both Tarcutta and Narrandera, Grace won prize money and a horse rug. At Cootamundra she won an encouragement award and also was awarded Australian Professional Rodeo Association's Junior Encouragement Award for the year. Next season she aims to win the Under 12 Australian Junior APRA Final because the prize is a trip to Oklahoma to attend the Cinch World Junior Rodeo. She has also won Cross Country Races at Colac, Drysdale and Bacchus Marsh.

Her horse is called Turbo. He is a 19 years old, chestnut, 16 hands, quarter horse with a lot more experience than Grace! He is semi retired in that he is no longer fast enough for senior competition but good for juniors. Her previous horse was named Roy. Her four year old sister rides him and is yearning to turn five, so she can also compete.

At their home at Pioneer Ridge, Grace practices in their arena and likes to trail ride along local roads. During the season she practices every day but not so often during the winter months.

She has been quite competitive all her life. At one rodeo she went faster to beat someone else and as a result her horse Roy pig-rooted and she fell off but her boot stuck in the stirrup. The whole arena sighed in unison! After a 200 metre sprint when Grace was hanging upside down and bumping along like a rag doll with her head next to Roy's flank, her boot came loose and she fell to the ground. She was not badly hurt and was determined to get back on the horse.

Lyndelle says a Meredith local, Jason, runs training sessions, Stock Horse Rides for youngsters to introduce and improve their horse skills. This is marvellous for the kids and the rodeos as often people don't know where to start to get into competing.

Well done Grace!



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## 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.

*(And while we're waiting for our own kitchen wiz to step forward, we've got a great winter warmer on page 31.)*

## ..and the GOOD NEWS is...

Next month, we start a new gardening column from Vanessa, our award winning Elaine flower farmer



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## ACROSS

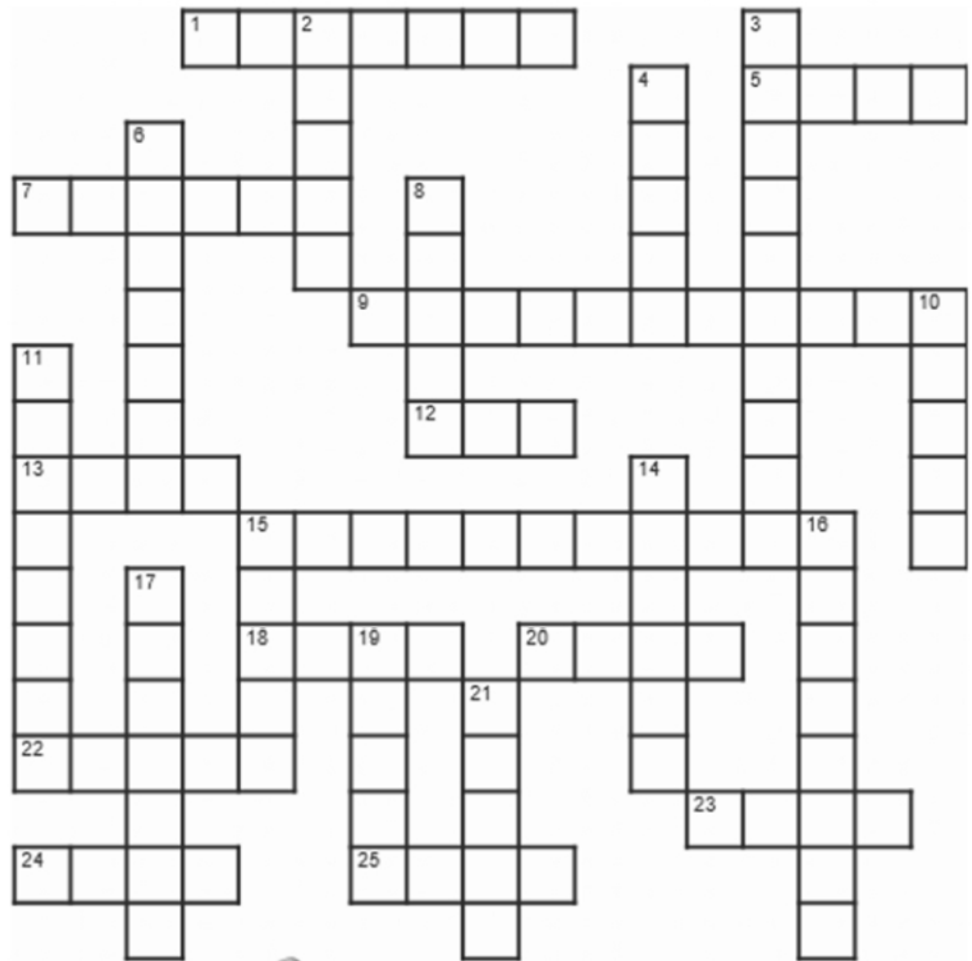
1. Flightless bird with the largest eggs
5. Avian offspring containers
7. Aerial locomotion method for most birds
9. Tiny nectar-sipping flyer
12. Number of wings on a typical bird
13. Scientific class for feathered friends
15. Thermal regulation trait of birds
18. Avian home construction
20. Bird's vocal communication
22. Common food source for many birds
23. Bird's specialized mouth part
24. Feather-cleaning water activity
25. How a bird might eat or explore

## DOWN

2. Feature birds lack, replaced by gizzards
3. Biological classification including all birds
4. Feather maintenance behavior
6. Seasonal bird travel
8. Colorful food enjoyed by some birds
10. Courtship ritual of certain bird species
11. Unique covering of all birds
14. Characteristic of bird bones for flight
15. Avian appendages for flying
16. Ancient relatives of modern birds
17. Small creatures often hunted by birds
19. Diving flight maneuver
21. Group of birds flying together

# All About Birds

## Crossword



## WORD LIST

AVES	INSECTS
BATH	MIGRATE
BEAK	NEST
CALL	OSTRICH
DANCE	PECK
DINOSAUR	PREEN
EGGS	SEEDS
FEATHERS	SWOOP
FLIGHT	TEETH
FLOCK	TWO
FRUIT	VERTEBRATE
HOLLOW	WARM-BLOODED
HUMMINGBIRD	WINGS

### Answers to the Page 10 Quiz.

1. Adam and Eve.
2. Fish and chips.
3. Bread and butter.
4. Salt and vinegar.
5. Socks and jocks.
6. Jack and Jill.
7. Knife and fork.
8. Pear and peach.

The solution is on page 28. If you enjoyed this, you will find a heap more great puzzles of various kinds at [puzzles-to-print.com/crossword-puzzles-for-kids/](http://puzzles-to-print.com/crossword-puzzles-for-kids/). This one was created by Kim White Steele.

## Fairy Penguin

*By Ayla Gebbie, Grade 5, Meredith Primary School*

A Fairy Penguin lays soft, smooth eggs. She sits on her eggs, waiting for them to hatch in thirty days. Her mate rubs against her, with his indigo blue feathers, staying warm. A dark, petrifying storm greets the little penguins with a loud bang of thunder, but they are safe.

The eggs shove, snap, explode. Out come smoky grey, fuzzy chicks. They wait outside the burrow, waiting to be fed, but it takes forever, endlessly, never-ending.

The time flies briskly, and the chicks grow up. It's time to go out to the deep blue sea. All alone, not together. They jump in, separate and rush to find a home. The sea is dark, lonely and scary.

The Fairy Penguin barely survives, but makes it to an offshore island, she swims to a rocky entrance. She knows it is a safe place, but she misses home.

A male waddles over to her and she comes closer. He pecks any other males that dare to steal her. She stays close to him. He huddles against her. They find sticks, twigs and more things to make a nest. They finish and lay next to each other, almost freezing.

August comes. She lays one lonely, single egg. It is small, round and smooth. She watches her mate getting chased by a fox, will he live or die? She watches in fear, wanting to help.

The morning comes, a penguin is gone. Now she is alone, scared, not sure. All she can see of her lost mate is feathers of blue with spots of red. She is forlorn, sad, depressed.

She has lost someone she loved, but she still has one small thing she loves. Her egg.

She continues to help the egg live, it's all that is left for her. She lays on it, being protective. She then sits next to it, now it is hatching. A black, small beak peeks out of the egg. Soon it has hatched and it is ready to see her mother.

Now it is the chick's turn to live her life. It will live a treacherous yet hopeful life. It all starts over.



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- Undertake some admin work
- Develop promotional material incl. a walking map

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*G'Day from the penners for July. This month's story is from Peter Wilding, a fanciful story of a past life vs a current one. Peter is a wiz at science fiction and fantasy and his imagination knows no bounds. Many a time he has regaled us with futuristic stories that leave us wide eyed in amazement with the direction his thoughts take. Always very entertaining.*

*If you would like to see just what we get up to in our meetings, please pop in and visit us, we always welcome new people and all you need is a love of putting words together to join us. Our meeting dates for July are the 10th and 24th at the Bannockburn library at 1:30 until 3:00pm, and we can be contacted via our email goldenpens4@gmail.com*

*See you then.*

*Regards Wendy.*

## SWEP

We don't get much mail these days; people will usually email, text or phone, depending on the degree of urgency. Mostly what we do get is bills, parcels or junk mail. Even junk mailers seem to prefer electronic contact these days, trying to track you around all over the net. So, when I found an envelope addressed to me from SWEP, I had to stop and think. SWEP, SWEP – ah! Special Weapons and Equipment Procurers. I rubbed my hands with glee. When had I last heard from them?

I thought back to the old spy shows and movies I had seen in my younger days. Maxwell's Smart's shoe phone was well and truly a thing of the past; I had a hand-held microcomputer the likes of which he could never have imagined. Many of the functions on it I can't imagine! And as for being able to play games on it – whatever would 86 make of that? I can just imagine what 99 would say if he took off his shoe to play games while on a case!

I walked back to the house, my thoughts in a haze of secret agent and spy work. Concealed machine guns? Nah, they're a bit messy, there's too much likelihood of collateral damage. Besides, there's the noise. And I'm no James Bond either – far from it! 'If the job were done, 'twere best done silently' was more my attitude. I could no longer move fast enough for knife work; something like a taser perhaps? I'd have to see what they have along those lines.

Being now retired from active duty, my needs were few. I wasn't involved in chases, so no need for a bulletproof shield, or an oil slick layer – besides, that'd be bad for the environment. And you don't need an ejector seat on a single-seater. I want to stay put, thank you very much, and make a quick getaway.

Realistically, my needs were few. Definitely a phone jammer, to get people's attention when I needed service.

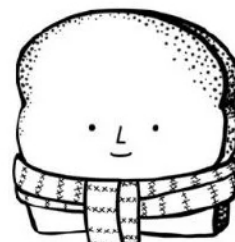
Maybe something to disable an oncoming car's ignition circuits when I needed to cross the road. And a bit more power would come in handy to get out of danger, but you can't turbocharge an electric motor. High capacity batteries? I'd have to see what they have in the catalogue. I'm sure I could ask the guys at the Men's Shed to fit it. They would have fun!

I wandered inside, put down the other mail, and opened the envelope. Not quite with bated breath but with a certain degree of enthusiasm. What gems unthought-of would I find?

Oh.

It wasn't Special Weapons at all. It was Grampians Health, for the State Wide Equipment Program. They'd got funding for my new leg brace, and Ellie the orthotist would be in touch.

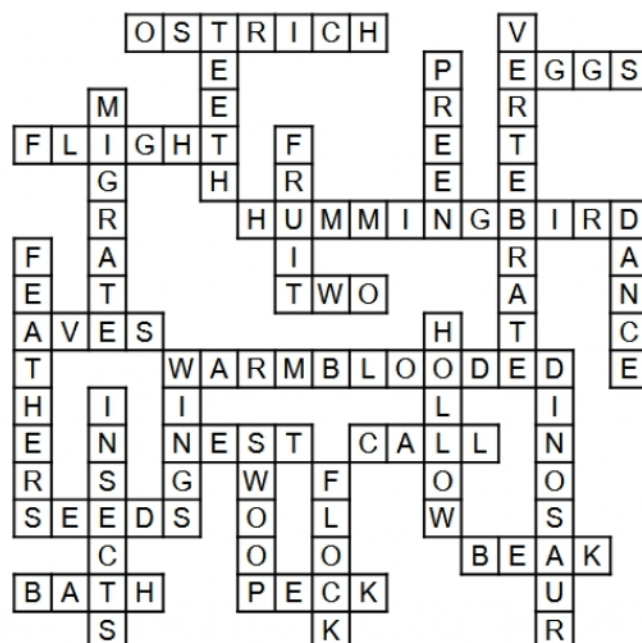
Well, yeah, I do need that, but...



STAY TOASTY

## All About Birds

Solution to crossword puzzle on page 26



I (Owen) dug out the roots of the remaining rhubarb in the garden beds with a tool called a pick. I also spread a bag of native potting mix over them because it has low phosphorus and Australian plants don't need much. And transferred some bushtucker Midyim Berries from a different garden bed to the new fresh one.

Then Ryan and I started digging the top layer of grass around the yarning circle and we fed it to the chooks.

Shaiyaihne and I (Oakley) dug off the top layer of soil around the yarning circle ready for planting the Indigenous garden. Darren showed us how to section it into blocks to make it easier.

Also Elijah, Jarvis and Harrison planted out the peas they had grown from seed into one of the wicking beds and watered them in.

# IN the SCHOOL Garden



Oakley & Shaiyaihne



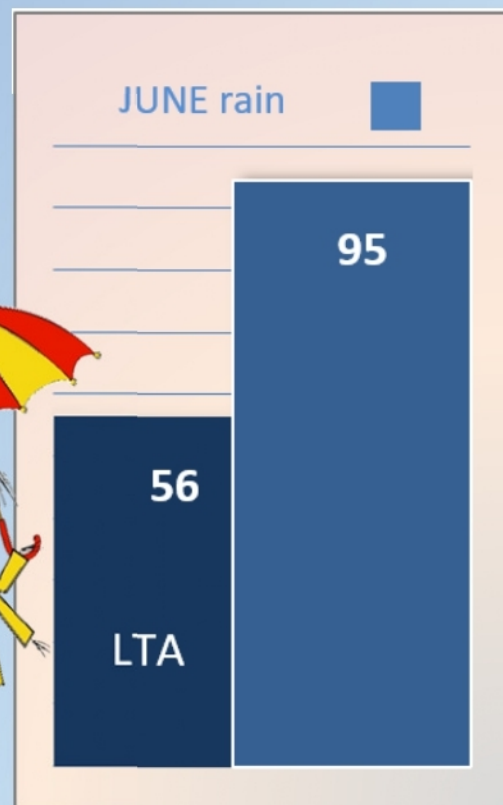
Owen

## the at last, some rain report



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*We haven't seen a smile on this young lady's face for a long time.*



Includes rain to 9.00am 29th June



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# One-pot chicken and tomato rice



## Winter Warmers



### Ingredients

- ☐ 2 cups basmati rice
- ☐ 1 tablespoon olive oil
- ☐ 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- ☐ 1 small brown onion, finely diced
- ☐ 2 cloves garlic, minced
- ☐ 500g chicken thigh fillet, cut into strips
- ☐ 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- ☐ ½ teaspoon ground cumin
- ☐ ½ teaspoon ground paprika
- ☐ ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ☐ 1 ½ teaspoons salt
- ☐ ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- ☐ 400g can diced tomatoes
- ☐ 3 cups chicken stock

This recipe is from your ABC. Click the QR Code above for more.



### Method

1. Rinse the basmati rice in cold water until the water runs clear.
2. In a large pot, which has a lid, heat the oil and melt the butter over medium heat. Add the diced onion and sauté until it becomes translucent, about 5 minutes.
3. Add the minced garlic and cook for another 1–2 minutes until fragrant. Add the chicken and continue cooking until the chicken is sealed on all sides.
4. Stir in the tomato paste and cook for about 2 minutes to develop its flavour.
5. Add the cumin, paprika, cinnamon, salt, pepper, diced tomatoes, and rice to the pot. Stir to coat the rice with the tomato and spice mixture.
6. Pour in the stock and stir well to mix the seasoning evenly throughout the rice and liquid.
7. Bring the mixture to a boil over medium–high heat. Once boiling, reduce the heat to low, cover the pot with a tight-fitting lid, and simmer for 15 minutes until the rice is tender and has absorbed all the liquid. You can tie a tea towel around the pot's lid to give you extra fluffy rice (see tips and photo above to do it safely).
8. Remove the pot from the heat and let it sit, covered, for an additional 5–10 minutes to steam. Fluff the rice with a fork before serving. This dish is delicious topped with freshly chopped parsley, a side of Greek yoghurt or a cucumber raita or a salad.

### Shearing at Castlereagh

The bell is set a-ringing, and the engine gives a toot,  
There's five-and-thirty shearers here a-shearing for the loot,  
So stir yourselves, you penners-up, and shove the sheep along,  
The musterers are fetching them a hundred thousand strong,  
And make your collie dogs speak up — what would the buyers say  
In London if the wool was late this year from Castlereagh?

The man that 'rung' the Tubbo shed is not the ringer here,  
That stripling from the Cooma side can teach him how to shear.  
They trim away the ragged locks, and rip the cutter goes,  
And leaves a track of snowy fleece from brisket to the nose;  
It's lovely how they peel it off with never stop nor stay,  
They're racing for the ringer's place this year at Castlereagh.

The man that keeps the cutters sharp is growling in his cage,  
He's always in a hurry; and he's always in a rage —  
'You clumsy-fisted mutton-heads, you'd turn a fellow sick,  
'You pass yourselves as shearers, you were born to swing a pick.  
'Another broken cutter here, that's two you've broke to-day,  
'It's awful how such crawlers come to shear at Castlereagh.'

The youngsters picking up the fleece enjoy the merry din,  
They throw the classer up the fleece, he throws it to the bin;  
The pressers standing by the rack are watching for the wool,  
There's room for just a couple more, the press is nearly full;  
Now jump upon the lever, lads, and heave and heave away,  
Another bale of golden fleece is branded "Castlereagh."



Local shearer Mick Lewis

Andrew Barton Paterson. *The Man from Snowy River and Other Verses*, Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1896



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