

Meredith & district News

SEPTEMBER 2025

OH NO,
IT'S
SPRING!



OUR **FREE** COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



inside

- Guarding Against Fire Ants.
- Meet GP Shire's new CEO
- Vale Jimmy Hynds



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



You are invited

Meredith Community Garden Open Day

Thursday 18 September - 1:30PM to 3:00PM

* sausage sizzle * face painting * gnome painting * games * planting *



Brought to you by:



POWER SAVING BONUS FOR CONCESSION CARD HOLDERS

HELPING WITH THE COST OF LIVING

\$100 Power Saving Bonus

The one-off \$100 payment is now open, in time for winter energy bills.

Households with an eligible concession card can apply by visiting the Victorian Energy Compare website or by contacting my office.

Scan the QR Code to visit the website



Michaela Settle MP
Member for Eureka

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



UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

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All welcome, Farmers, Hobby Farmers, Handymen, Handywomen, Backyard Warriors, young and old.

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- Horse feeds, chaff, hard feeds and more
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- Tools
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- Nuts, bolts, clips, fasteners
- Chemicals

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Come and Join the Meredith Cricket Club!

***A GREAT FAMILY FOCUSED, AND FAMILY INVOLVED
CLUB FOR YOU, YOUR PARTNER AND CHILDREN TO
JOIN***

***We offer Men's Teams, a newly formed Women's Team and a U11 /
U13 Junior Team.***

Training starts Thursday Nights in September



***For more info,
Contact
0418 178 513
Or
DM our Facebook or
Instagram***

***Hope to see you soon,
RAM IT!!***

Proudly Sponsored By

**meredith
dairy**



RB SELLARS
RURAL OUTFITTERS

TW
TOTALLY
WORKWEAR

Meredith & district News



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

NEWS & VIEWS

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

DATES AND DEADLINES

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

ADVERTISING

Advertising in the M&D Newsletter is a great way to let district residents know about your business. Contact us for full details and lodgement forms. Rates, excluding GST, are as follows:

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

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

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

You can subscribe to get the Meredith and District News posted to you anywhere in Australia for what it costs us to send it - \$59.50p.a. (11 issues)

CONTACT US

Post Office, Meredith, 3333

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advertising@meredithnews.com.au

Accounts: Ian Leighton 0428 132 880

accounts@meredithnews.com.au

Editorial: Jim: 0409 163 169

news@meredithnews.com.au

WEB

You can read back copies and additional stories at meredithnews.com.au

ONLINE PHOTOS

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

DISCLAIMER

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

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
0407 683 892

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 52207111
	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



"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should
smell like dirt." —Margaret Atwood

Church News



Meredith Uniting Church

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

Rev. Paul Sanders 0407 833 515 5341 2440

Serbian Orthodox - 5341 5536

Daily services: Matins 8.00 am, Vespers 6.00 pm.

Divine Liturgies on Saturdays & Sundays 10.00 am.

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

8.00 am Holy Communion St Paul's, Inverleigh

10.00 am Family Communion. St John's, Bannockburn

5.00 pm Prayer and Praise Epiphany, Meredith

Find us at: www.goldenplainsanglican.org or

office: revdrtim@hotmail.com

The Revd Dr Timothy Smith

PiC Anglican Parish of

Inverleigh+Bannockburn+Meredith

St Josephs Catholic Parish of Meredith

Winchelsea - St. John the Baptist @ 5pm Sat. Sep 6, 13, 20, 27

Anakie - St. Brigid - NO MASS

Meredith - St. Joseph @ 9am Sun. Sep. 10, 24

Bannockburn - St. Mary MacKillop @ 11am Sun. Sep 7, 13, 21, 28

Inverleigh - Sacred Heart - @ 4pm Sun. Sep. 21

OUR COVER



Our Beautiful Spring cover comprises the fabulously named "Early Nancy" and, as inserts, the "Waxlip Orchid" and the unkindly named "Common Heath".

All photos were taken locally by Wendy Cook. Thank you Wendy.



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



Meredith Community Centre
working for our community

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

September 16 - 11.30 - 1.30 - Light Lunch

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

GET ONLINE WEEK

Tuesday October 21 - Free Event -

11.30 - 1.30 - Lunch Provided!

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL



THE MEREDITH MART



OPENING HOURS

MON-TUES - 9-3

WED - 9-1

THU - CONCESSION CARD HOLDERS BY APPOINTMENT

DONATIONS ACCEPTED IN THE OFFICE



The Power Saving Bonus

\$100 for Concession Card Holders!

From 25 August, concession card households can cut their energy bills with a new round of the \$100 Power Saving Bonus.

Come on into the Centre with your Power Bill and Your Identification and Bank Account Details and we will get you \$100 back into your account.

Tai Chi - \$15 per session

Tuesdays @ Meredith with Sandra - 9.15 - 10.15

Wednesdays @ Bannockburn with Desma - 9.30 - 10.30

Gentle Exercise @ the Community Centre for over 65's

Thursdays @ 9.15 - 10.15 - \$10

To Book:

learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au

www.facebook.com/MeredithCommunityCentre

Ph. 5286 0700 / 0491 184 999



Join us on

Facebook & Instagram

[@meredithcommunitycentre](https://www.facebook.com/meredithcommunitycentre)



PLAYGROUP

THURSDAYS

9.30am - 11.30am

\$2 per family

COFFEE

Small Medium Large

\$4.50 \$5.00 \$5.50

Cappuccino

Latte

Flat White

Mocha

Long Black

Chai Latte

Hot Chocolate

Instant Coffee, Tea, Chai Tea \$3.50

Milkshakes \$9.50

Thickshakes \$12.50

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

Iced Coffee

Small \$6.50

Large \$8.50

Decaf \$0.50

Extra shot \$0.50

Alternative milks \$1.00

Soy | Almond | Oat | Lactose Free

OPENING HOURS

Monday 6am to 7pm

Tuesday 6am to 7pm

Wednesday 6am to 7pm

Thursday 6am to 7pm

Friday 6am to 7:30pm

Saturday 7am to 7:30pm

Sunday 8am to 7pm

PHONE 03 5286 1556

Select option 4

26 Wallace St Meredith

Mortimer's
Petroleum



MEREDITH ROADHOUSE Take-Away Menu

*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



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

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



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

EXTRAS

Beetroot, Pineapple \$1.00

Recreation



Meredith Tennis Club News

Annual General Meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended our AGM. We thank everyone who has served on the committee and welcome the new executive committee:

President- Madeline Reynolds

Vice President – Sheryl Nettleton

Secretary – Bridget Dyer

Treasurer – Luke Evans

Meredith Tennis Club is always looking to welcome new general members. If you're interested in getting involved, supporting local events, or simply joining a friendly community, please reach out.

Men's Mental Health Hit

Our Men's mental health night has continued to have positive feedback from participants who had a hit and a laugh while connecting with community and we are hoping the warmer weather will bring new players! The next session will be held Tuesday, 7 2025, from 6 October 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.

Summer Teams

Our Geelong teams have now been entered, and we have six teams heading into the Geelong competition! It's not too late to be involved and join a team for the Buninyong and District Association competition, with a range of grades available to suit all skill levels including Juniors (orange ball, green ball and yellow ball) and Seniors.

Spring Competition

Our next social night competition will be in October and will run for 7 weeks. As always dinners will be available and there will be cash prizes for the winners. Registration, forms can be obtained from meredithtennis2020@gmail.com This event is gaining a lot of interest, so get your teams in early!

Girls Connect!

We have noticed that there are a lot of teenage girls in the area, and that they all go to different schools and on different buses. We want to help these girls connect and make friends in the area by hosting an event for girls aged 12 to 17 to help build friendships across local schools and communities. The evening will feature Vibe Tennis—an easy, energetic game requiring no experience—and a roller ball perfume-making workshop with Meg from Devlin's Ridge Naturals. The event takes place on Friday, 19th



GIRLS CONNECT

Make new friends & hang out in a fun, safe space!
Create your own Roller Ball Perfume
Join in with Vibe Tennis

19 SEPTEMBER 2025

DOORS OPEN AT 5 PM

MEREDITH TENNIS CLUB
WILSON ST, MEREDITH

BOOKING ESSENTIAL
\$5/PERSON

GIRLS AGED 12-17

REGISTER AT
meredithtennis2020@gmail.com

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY
MEREDITH TENNIS CLUB

Devlin's Ridge Naturals
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MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH SOCIAL TENNIS

Join us for a Men's Only Mental Health Social Tennis Night

- A relaxed, no-pressure evening where you can swing a racquet, share a laugh, and connect with other local legends.
- 6PM – 7PM @ Meredith Tennis Club, Wilson Street.
- After the match, head over to The Royal Hotel Meredith for dinner.
- Free pot with any meal – because you've earned it!

TUESDAY 7th OCT

Contact Trev - 0403 095 275 - for more information

Proudly Sponsored by Meredith Tennis Club

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Croc Report

By Mick Devlin



On Sunday the 3rd August, the Crocs took on the Macorna Tigers at Cohuna. Some of the team travelled up a day early to get a couple of training sessions in before the big game and from all reports they trained pretty hard. The weather was perfect and the Oval was in tip top condition. The Crocs had the perfect start to the game kicking the first couple of goals. After the first quarter the Crocs went from 22 to 20 with Kev Murray and John Peterson both going off injured, but due to a great turn out of players we carried on. As the game progressed the warm weather slowed things down a bit, and the goals were harder to come by. The last quarter saw the Crocs kick a few more and finish up with the win, only our second win, for what has been a pretty tough year so far. A great day and really great to see 3 generations of footballers play together for Macorna. As always, we hung around for a few beers and a few stories. We look forward to joining forces with Macorna at the Shepparton mini carnival later in the year. Big thanks to Sarah for helping out with the strapping.

Best for the Day, Damo Harwood, Joel Davis, Sid Jones, Mick Battye, Ian Box and Lennon Doherty.

On Sunday the 17th August The Crocs took on The Ballarat Diggers at Meredith. We celebrated two of the club greats in Sid and Peto reaching 200 and 150 games. Some great pre-game words from the Crocs original coach David "Gus" Primmer kicked off the day. The First quarter was a hard-fought battle and goals were hard to come by. The Crocs managed to kick a couple of goals and just get ahead. The second quarter saw the Crocs play some great football and all the great work was finished off up forward by the man of the hour, Sid Jones, who kicked a bag of goals. The 3rd and 4th quarters were pretty even and the Ballarat men kicked a few late goals to finish off what was a great game of master's football.

Back in the Club rooms a great spread was put on for our past players and sponsors organised by the one and only Wendy. Thank you to all the supporters who turned up to make this a very special day and thanks to the Ballarat Diggers for a great game.

Best for the day: Joel Davis, Mitch Troy, Paul Jones, Justin Fenna, Mick Battye, Shaun Faulkner and the two men of the moment Daryl Jones and John Peterson.

Another big thanks to everyone who helped making this a very special day and big shoutout to Rachel Young for taking some great photos. We have one more event for the Crocs this year in the mini carnival at Shepparton then a few of us will be heading to Darwin to represent Vic Country in the National Carnival. Stay tune for more posts. Go Crocs

*Thanks you to Rachel Young
Photography for the great pics.*



A. Crumble's



Veggie-loaded Slice

Ingredients

5 eggs
 1 cup grated cheddar cheese
 3 spring onions finely chopped
 1 zucchini grated
 2 carrots grated
 150g pumpkin grated
 150g sweet potato grated
 pinch of chilli flakes
 salt
 pepper
 1/2 cup wholemeal self-raising flour
 Meredith Dairy Goats Cheese with Dill

Method

1. Heat oven to 180°
2. Line a 20 x 20cm ovenproof dish with baking paper
3. Break eggs into a large bowl and whisk lightly
4. Add grated cheese, spring onions and grated vegetables, flour, chilli, salt and pepper.
5. Mix well and pour into lined dish.
6. Generously dot the top with the Meredith Goats Cheese
7. Bake in pre-heated oven for 40 minutes until set and the top is golden brown
8. Allow to cool slightly before serving

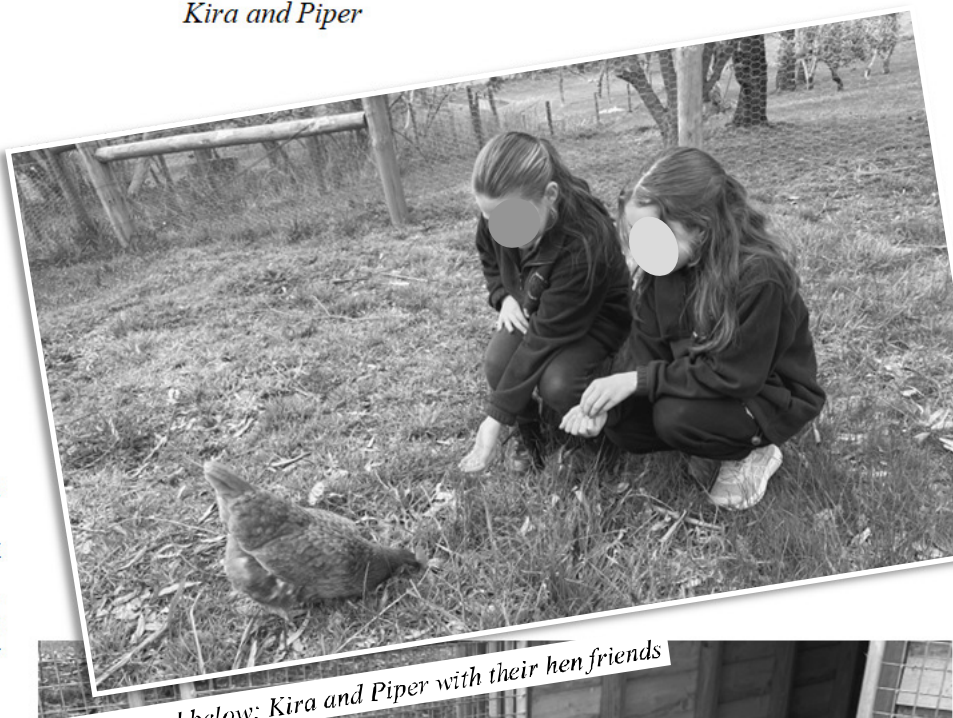
This is a recipe perfect for substitutions - use any vegetables you have as long as the volume of grated vegetables is about 4 cups. Other flours can be used if you don't have wholemeal. It can be eaten hot from the oven or refrigerate and have cold for lunch the next day. Wonderful with a delicious tomato relish or sauce.

Adapted from a recipe by Gabriel Gaté

If you would like eggs for this recipe, they are available at school. Our hens live in a luxurious coop and are fed with layers pellets and grain. After lunch each day we take out the bucket with the gourmet scraps, peels and cores leftover from our lunches. They are let out each morning to roam and search for bugs in the grass and each afternoon they return to the coop. Even though there are nesting boxes, they often prefer to lay their eggs on the ground.

The nutritious eggs from these well-cared for and loved hens are available from the school office for \$7 per dozen.

Kira and Piper



Above and below: Kira and Piper with their hen friends





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Wendouree VIC 3355
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*Our 12 Steps
to Success*



Vale to James Thomas Hynds

7/4/1946 – 6/8/2025

Jim was born in Ireland. He and his parents and two brothers and a sister came to Australia in 1954 as ten-pound poms. They settled in Altona. Later in his life when he applied for a passport, they couldn't find any records of him arriving in Australia. He had to supply the authorities with a copy of the passenger list of the ship the family came on, to prove he was here. During the process he was very worried that he would get deported back to Ireland!

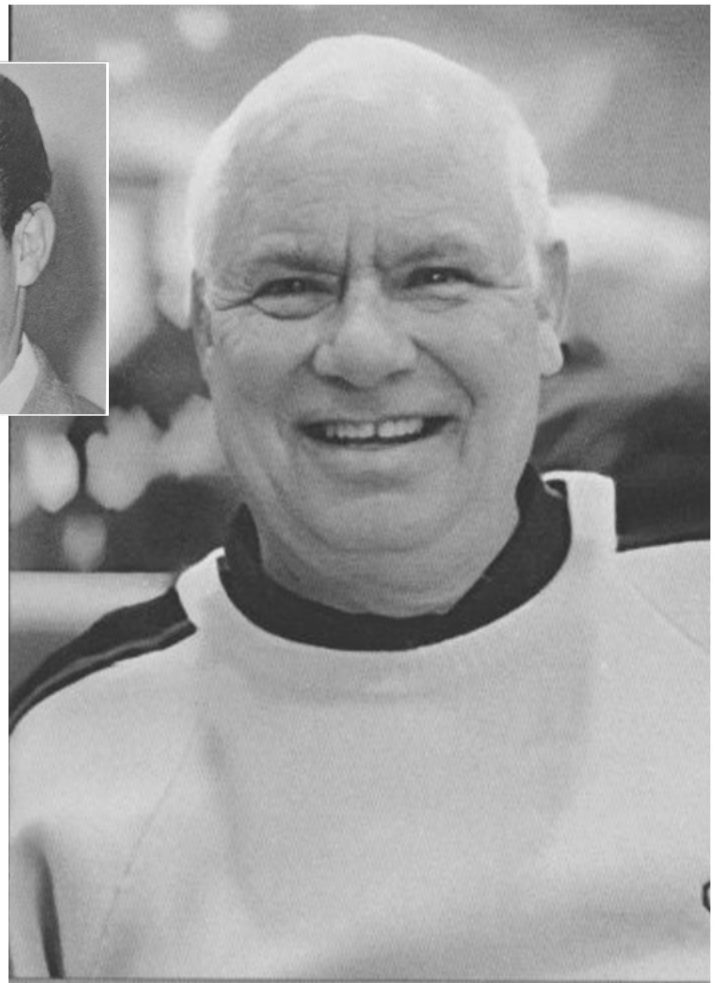
Seventeen-year-old, Linda Armytage was riding her horse in Pearce Street one day when Jim ran past in bare feet. She offered him a lift. Linda tells that everyone in Altona was into horses in those days and Linda and Jimmy were no exception. They bought twenty acres on Coopers Road at Meredith just before they married on February 21, 1976. They wanted some land of their own instead of agisting horses on other people's blocks. They moved into their new house about a year later.

Horses were their passion. Linda and Jimmy each took annual leave from their jobs to stay at the showgrounds for ten days of the Melbourne Show. One of their horses Chango, a stallion won his class at this show for ten years in a row and Reserve Champion pony. Overall, their horses won hundreds of supreme championships awards in lead classes, harness and under saddle. They established Lyncara stud and bred many Welsh and Australian ponies at Meredith. Later, after their car accident in 1984 they bred some dogs, continued to keep some horses and Jimmy then become a sort after horse judge for many years.

Most of his working life Jim spent at the Naval Dockyards in Williamstown. When they lived at Meredith he'd get up about 4 am and then, drive 2 hours to work. At this time Linda drove to Geelong to work at George Kinnears rope making factory. When the dockyards closed Jim hoped to have some time on their farm but to his astonishment Linda had got him a job on the Bannockburn Council, to start the following week. In later years as Linda had less mobility and more health issues, Jimmy became her carer. He stepped up and was not only her partner but her best friend, cook, driver and nurse. Family and friends were in awe of what he did.

Jim as a working-class man became a Union delegate at most places he worked at, and was a loyal Labour Party member who always manned local booths on voting day. His son Anthony read a compassionate letter from the Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles thanking him for his support and dedication. This dedication is in the family as Anthony is now a Union organiser for Australian Manufacturing Workers Union and grand daughter Rachael works at Trades Hall in Melbourne.

Jimmy loved to travel, but not by air, he loved a drink with friends, he loved fishing and was nicknamed Jindabyne Jim, loved a joke and loved going for meals with the Senior Citizens. He was President of this group for more than 15 years.



Our annual Back to Steiglitz Reunion returns for 2025 Sunday 26th October: SAVE THE DATE

Do you have a craft or trade you would like to share from the turn of the century. Please contact us if you make or create your own handcrafts and would like to book a stall site or demonstrate your skill. Those also wanting to display their quilts are invited to attend.

Musicians/buskers/artists welcome. ART EXHIBITION contact Angela: a.hicksorb@gmail.com/0499198716

ENQUIRIES: Contact Lauren, at loz.b.1@outlook.com / 0499623130 or Kathy
0407556796 OR peppcorn@yahoo.com

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Contact Paul Ryan on 0409 861 296

Vanessa's



FLOWER FARM FILES

Dig in. Grow well. Bloom beautifully.

September in the Garden

Vanessa Galina

September is one of those magical months in the garden when winter finally begins to loosen its grip, and the promise of spring is everywhere. Days may still be chilly, but the air feels different—lighter, greener, full of anticipation. This is the month when gardeners roll up their sleeves, prepare the soil, and get ready for the season ahead.

Outside Now

If you pause for a moment in the garden, you'll see the first signs of the new season everywhere. Wattles are in full bloom, their golden flowers spilling sunshine across the landscape, and they happen to match perfectly with the cheerful yellow daffodils that brighten garden beds. Flowering cherries are beginning to burst into blossom, their delicate petals glowing against the grey skies and cool air. These splashes of colour are the surest sign that spring has arrived, even if the thermometer is lagging behind.

On the Farm

Here on the farm, September is a busy month. We're nurturing chrysanthemum cuttings from last season, making sure they're healthy and ready for their turn to shine later in the year. Out in the fields, the peonies are starting to pop up - a thrilling sight for anyone who knows how spectacular these plants will become once they're in bloom.

The vegetable patch is also demanding attention. We're hauling compost, spreading lime, and working in fertiliser to prepare the soil for a productive season ahead. It's a time of hard, practical work, but also one of promise. Strawberries are being tamed, too—runners that strayed too far last year are being dug up and replanted so they can form neat rows and produce another year of sweet fruit.

Things You Can Do This Month

For those gardening in a cool climate, September is all about soil preparation and early planting. Work plenty of compost into the soil to boost fertility and improve structure after winter. Once that's done, you can begin direct-sowing cool-season crops such as lettuce, spinach, radishes, carrots, and peas. These staples thrive in the cooler weather and give you quick, satisfying harvests.

Flowers also deserve attention now. Hardy annuals like calendula, poppies, and foxgloves can be sown directly into the garden. Not only will they add beauty, but they'll also bring in pollinators to support your veggie patch.

If you're keen for a head start on warm-season crops, such as tomatoes, chillies, capsicum, zucchini, and pumpkins, now is the time to sow them indoors. Place seeds in trays under glass, on heat mats, or even on top of the fridge where they'll benefit from gentle warmth. This is a wonderful afternoon job to do with little people in your life; they love to see their efforts grow and bloom and it's a great way to teach them care for their environment.

As seedlings develop, remember to harden them off gradually by introducing them to outdoor conditions for a few hours each day, building up their resilience until they're ready to be planted out once frost risk has passed.

And for the truly patient gardener, September is the month to plant asparagus crowns. It takes a few years before the first proper harvest, but the reward of fresh, homegrown spears for decades to come is well worth the wait.

Jobs to Be Done

Beyond planting, September is also the perfect time to tackle those essential maintenance jobs that can so easily be put off. Check your irrigation system now—even if you don't need it running just yet. Flush out dripper lines, look for leaks, and make repairs while the system is idle. Doing so will save a headache later in the season when consistent watering becomes crucial.

This is also tool-maintenance month. A sharp pair of secateurs, a clean spade and a new set of gloves will make gardening more efficient and far more enjoyable. Take an afternoon to sharpen blades, tighten bolts, and give everything a thorough brush with linseed oil. My trusty side-kick adores a trip to the 'Hammer Shop' to fill a trolley with new tools to use.

Welcoming Spring

September really is a month of transition—between the chill of winter and the warmth of spring, between bare soil and lush growth. With a little preparation, patience, and plenty of time outdoors, this is when the groundwork for the season's success is laid.

So pull on your boots, breathe in the crisp spring air, and enjoy the beauty and bustle of September in the garden.



Sorry Clem...

Like so many of us, the Newsletter has been under siege to spam emails of late. It got really bad late last month when, just around our submission deadline, we failed to keep up with it and (belatedly) discovered we had stopped receiving emails. So we hurriedly went on a purge of pretty much everything we hadn't used. This did the trick (for now) but there were unintended consequences. For example, we received a sunset photo from "Clem" and before we got around to replying, we had deleted the email. Sorry Clem, and anybody else who either didn't get through to us or were inadvertently deleted from our inbox.



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Life Membership

Marg Cooper

On Saturday, July 26 Paul Ryan received a Life Membership for Ballan Football Club. It was a day when Ballan played Dunnstown at home, Life Members and Past Players were invited, and it was 30 years since the Reserves won the Grand Final in 1995. There was quite a crowd in attendance.

Paul planned to go to Melbourne on that Saturday morning to tour Government House and then to return to Ballan for the football game, but the tour was cancelled so he did a job with his truck, helped crutch some sheep and was slowly getting ready to go to Ballan when he received a phone call telling him to hurry up.

He did and arrived just after half time. He stood casually at the back of the football rooms when the President and last recipient of a Life Membership began to describe a member who was about to receive a medal. Paul suddenly realized that it was himself that David O'Hanlon {Owey} was talking about. Paul was delighted but a little unprepared.

About 1993 Paul started going over to Ballan to support some Meredithites who were playing with Ballan at that time. He always attends training on Thursdays nights, eats dinner with them, and admits that he is usually the last to leave. And he tries to get to all the football matches, especially the home games, if his work allows him to.

He tells that he was on the Ballan Football Committee for about 5 years, had 2 terms as Vice President, took over as club delegate after Jim Shaw, had 10 years as timekeeper after Neville Orr retired {including for the 1995 Grand Final win}, sponsors the club and has driven buses taking players to training or on football trips.

He enjoys the friendship and tells that they are a good bunch of blokes at Ballan.

Paul started playing junior football for Buninyong in 1983 but broke his leg (not at footy) Brian Dunne gave him his first football boots and his first game was at the Humffray Street Oval. He played ruck or full forward. He made a comeback in 1984 but his leg kept hurting. Looking back, he thinks that if he had persevered the pain may have gone away and he would have made a fine player. And he hasn't eaten an orange since he had to eat them at half time!



Fire Ants Alert

Media Release

Risk of Red imported fire ant in imported fodder

Agriculture Victoria is urging farmers to be mindful of import requirements and to keep watch for Red imported fire ants (RIFA) when sourcing fodder from interstate.

Agriculture Victoria Acting Chief Plant Health Officer Stephen Dibley said RIFA or *Solenopsis invicta*, is one of the worst invasive ant species in Australia.

Native to South America, it was first detected in Brisbane in 2001 and while still largely localised to Greater Brisbane, it has also recently been detected in 2 separate zones in New South Wales.

'RIFA is not present in Victoria, and we hope collective efforts continue to ensure that this situation remains unchanged,' Dr Dibley said.

'If RIFA made it into Victoria, it could severely affect the state's economy, agriculture, the environment and the wellbeing of people and livestock.

'RIFA is mostly spread when it hitchhikes on material that is transported out of an infested area.'

He said with drought forcing farmers to source hay and fodder from interstate suppliers there was a real risk they may inadvertently import RIFA.

'We know current conditions mean farmers are dealing with unfamiliar fodder sellers, but we still want to protect our agricultural industry from biosecurity threats.

'Hay and straw are ideal host materials for RIFA, providing shelter, temperature regulation and a food source,' he said.

Dr Dibley said farmers should be aware that hay or straw purchased from anywhere outside of Victoria must come from a location with an accepted RIFA area freedom certificate.

Fodder purchased from the infested zones, must meet inspection and treatment requirements and be certified by an officer responsible for agriculture in the state or territory of origin.

When coming from these zones, your purchase must also include one of the following types of certificates:

- a Plant Health Certificate (PHC)
- a Plant Health Assurance Certificate (PHAC)
- a Biosecure HACCP Biosecurity Certificate (BHBC)
- a Plant Health Declaration (PHD)

To further protect Victoria, if you suspect that you have found RIFA, report them immediately via the Agriculture Victoria Public Online Reporting Form at agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/pest-insects-and-mites/report-an-unusual-plant-insect-pest-or-disease or by calling the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.





Brisbane Ranges sketchers

Our Final Report

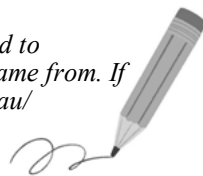
Kerry Thomson

In order to cater for forecast inclement weather our Sketchers Group met at the Maude tennis pavilion. We welcomed Darren for the first time, Jan for the second, had four apologies and 13 (plus Monty) in attendance. Given the dull and overcast conditions some lovely detail and depth was still obtained by those who painted the view across the olive grove to the hills on other side of the valley. Some focussed more locally on the tennis courts, stark dead eucalypts or the view from inside the building. Marita completed a portrait utilising a photograph of a returned soldier displayed on the wall. Once again, great enthusiasm, variety, perspective and skill was shown by all. As usual we enjoyed the sharing, commentary and critique afterwards.

Having started in April 2022 with nine people and, over the years, attracted many more, unfortunately it has reached a point where the Brisbane Ranges Sketchers will be no more. Thanks to all those who embraced the idea that Mandy and Alex proposed, organised and ran and joined us in enjoying art in the outdoors. We sketched, drew and painted using many mediums from pencil, charcoal, pastel, watercolour and acrylics. People came from She Oaks, Meredith, Steiglitz, Elaine, Bannockburn, Geelong and Anakie with visitors also from Brisbane, Alice Springs, Torquay and Camperdown. Monty and Whoopi joined us on several outings with a couple of other furry friends dropping in. Memorable moments, screwed up efforts, masterpieces and friendships were created

We're so sorry to say farewell to the Sketchers from these pages. Thank you for sharing your love of sketching and painting 'en plein air'. And occasionally sharing the fruit of your happy labours.

The good news, the group has effectively moved to Bannockburn, where most of the participants came from. If you want to make contact, visit gpartsinc.com.au/bannockburn-art-group/ - Ed.



FROM THE Golden Plains MAYOR'S DESK

SEPTEMBER 2025

I'd like to start my update by welcoming Adam McSwain to the organisation as our new Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Adam joined Golden Plains Shire Council on 25 August from Hume City Council where he was the Director Infrastructure Assets. He previously held a General Manager (Chief Executive Officer) role at Edwards River Council in New South Wales, as well as previous Director level roles at other Councils. We look forward to working closely with Adam to deliver great outcomes together.

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Michael Riseley

Colour

Oh happy days – the last child has moved out which is quite a brave decision for a 27 year old. And you have made the rather easy decision to take down the cute little bunny wallpaper and remove the assortment of posters of odd looking people who are completely unknown to you. And repaint the bedroom.

Now your next decision is which colour will brighten up the room and reintroduce it to the rest of the house. You are thinking of a nice pastel colour, perhaps blue or yellow.

So you wander off to Bunnings to check out what is available. And for a moment you resort to the language of the absent 27 year old – OMG!! You are confronted with a library of colour charts from the various paint companies and a veritable wall of little swatches of colour all for you to take home. These are said to be useful aids that will take the confusion out of your colour decision. You pause and reflect on how many literary geniuses and budding authors work for paint companies with the naming of different colours. But then your concentration returns and you gather up your load of charts and swatches and head home.

In philately colour can also be an interesting conundrum. From the start in 1840 until well into the 20th century there was a wide variety of colour shades as a result of different types of printing, different printing companies and different inks. For example Australia produced 12 billion of the one penny red KGV stamp from 1913 into the 1920s. There are 6 recognised and catalogued different shades of red.

The leading stamp dealer Stanley Gibbons, issued a Colour Guide for Stamp Collectors. It had examples of 100 different colours used in printing stamps including 24 shades of red, 17 greens and 22 blues. Also multiple shades of purple, brown, yellow, orange and grey. In more modern times there is much less variety with stamp colours as printing and inks have become more standardised and certain.

And so for the collector sometimes you need to find more than one copy of a stamp to complete your collection and match the different colour shades listed in your catalogue. It is not that easy to see the distinction between say crimson and scarlet. And your face may provide a new shade – enraged red!



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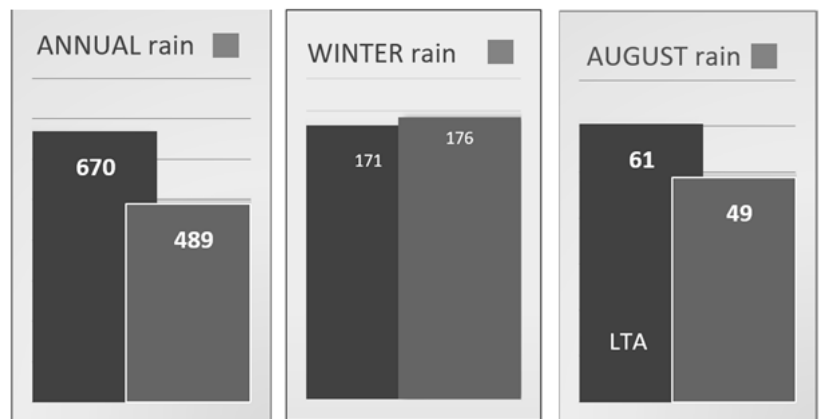


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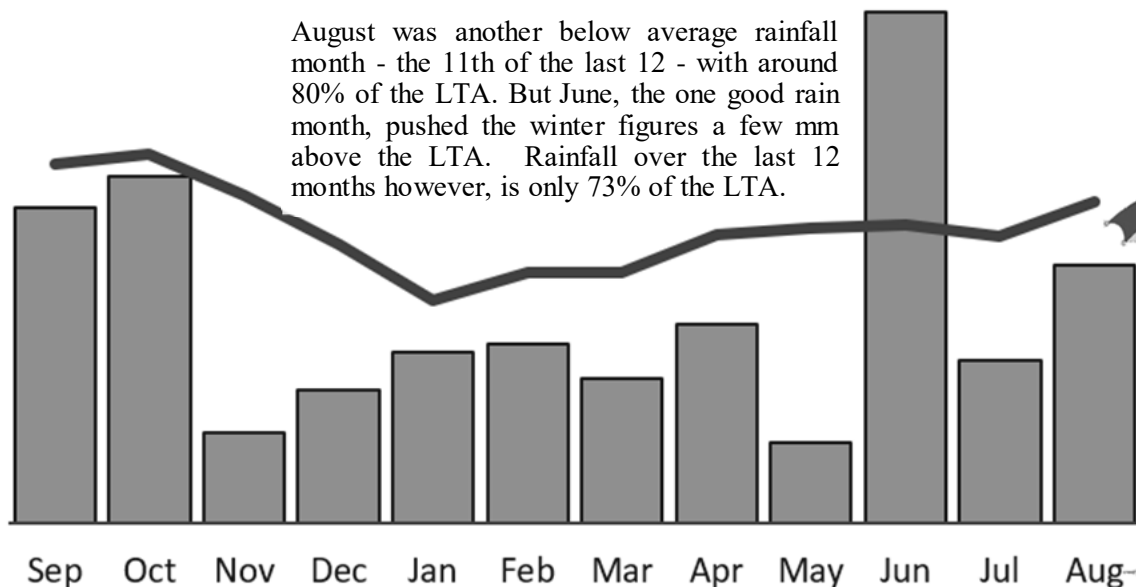


The deadline for copy is
**9.00 am on the
last Thursday**
of the preceding month

the rain report



mm



Includes rain up to 9.00 AM, 31st August

Sew & Sews Celebrate 25 years

Marg Cooper

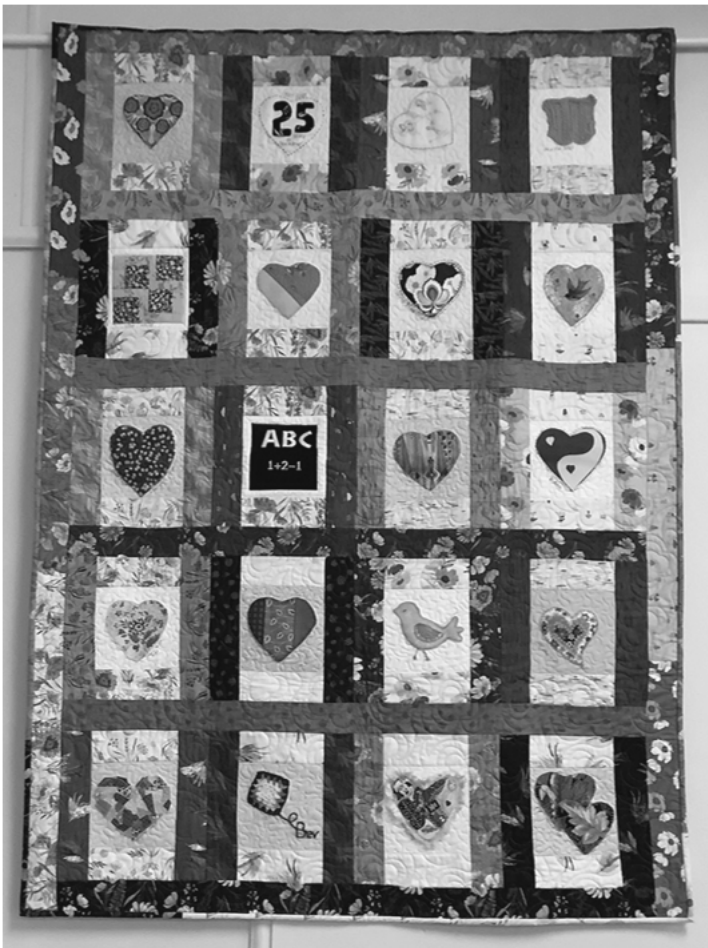
Joyce Read has just completed an exquisite patchwork quilt to celebrate 25 years of the Sew & Sews, sewing at the Community House together.

Members of the group were invited to make a small heart that would be the centre-piece of each of the sixteen squares that make up the quilt.

Most of the sixteen members did make a heart and Joyce has added other material to make up the quilt, she had backed it with a plain coloured fabric and had it quilted by a professional sewer.

When Joyce came to live in the district, she wanted to meet people so she joined a group of sewers. She thinks that she may have started sewing at the Community House even before the name was conferred on the group. Anyway, the group has met on a Monday for 25 years and enjoyed sewing and friendship.

In the studio hang two patchworks. Joyce tells that one was created to celebrate another birthday of the Sew & Sews, with squares donated by various members. The other larger one has many photos of people enjoying Community House activities that had been copied onto material and mostly edged with lace or braid. The new quilt now adorns the wall to record another milestone.



Joyce Reads exquisite work

FIFTEENS

a NORTHERN IRELAND TRAYBAKE

This is a much-loved Northern Irish treat, named because it uses 15 of each main ingredient. It's quick to prepare and a perfect sweet bite to share.

Ingredients

- 15 digestive biscuits (or Graham crackers)
- 15 marshmallows (cut into small pieces)
- 15 glacé cherries (halved)
- 200 ml (about $\frac{3}{4}$ cup) sweetened condensed milk
- Desiccated coconut (for rolling)

Method

1. Crush the biscuits into small pieces (not too fine).
2. Mix with marshmallows and cherries in a large bowl.
3. Stir in enough condensed milk to bind the mixture together.
4. Shape into a log on a sheet of cling film, then roll in desiccated coconut until coated.
5. Wrap tightly and chill in the fridge for 4–6 hours (overnight is best).
6. Slice into 15 pieces and enjoy!

Thank you Elma Devlin for sharing this recipe.



Compiled by Michael Riseley

Lots of Ps.

1. Sitting Bull lived in one of these.
2. A spiky tropical fruit.
3. A gentleman's wig.
4. Who picked pickled peppers.
5. Who won 1930 and 1932 Melbourne Cups.
6. This fruit sounds like a dog with a sore foot.
7. A type of apple.
8. What is a peewee or peewit.

Answers-

1. Teepee 2. Pineapple 3. Toupee 4. Peter Piper 5. Peter Pan 6. Papaw 7. Pippin 8. A bird.

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POLICEreport

Senior Constable Anthony BOX

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14 Wilson Street Meredith Vic 3333

Meredith Police Station update for July / August 2025.

NOTICE:

2 rings were located on the front doorstep of the Meredith Police Station.

If you are missing 2 rings, please get in contact with me with a description, photo or any other proof of ownership.

I believe these to have been lost during August.

If you find property, please don't abandon it in front of the station. Anyone could take it, it's not really any better than just leaving something where you found it.

This has happened numerous times, just keep hold of it and leave a message for me to pick it up.

July

In July I attended numerous collisions.

On the 5th at around 5am, a truck trailer rollover with load loss on the Hamilton Highway, on the 8th a horse float rollover on the Midland Highway.

On the 14th a single truck into trees on Geelong-Ballan Road.

On the 18th a fatal single vehicle collision in Lal Lal.

On the 11th at around 1:30am I attended an incident for a deceased truck driver on Wallace Street in Meredith, a report will be prepared for the coroner.

I would like to thank a Meredith local for his assistance with this incident, not only in the initial reporting but his additional effort with bringing people coffee.

It was much appreciated.

Numerous other incidents around our surrounding areas were attended including, Family Violence, Assaults, Mental Health and other incidents.

Notable traffic infringements issued include:

90KM/H in 60 zone on Sutherland St in Meredith, this vehicle was also overtaking over double lines past the intersection with Mcleod St heading out of town, exceptionally dangerous.

126 KM/H in 100 zone Midland Hwy.

August:

August has been pretty good around the area and surrounds, numerous incidents as always however nothing of public interest.

Some more examples of infringement notices:

80km/h in a 60 zone, Wallace St Meredith, part of a road rage incident.

135km/h in a 100 zone, Midland Hwy Meredith.

64km/h in a 40km/h School Zone, Wallace St Meredith.

A note:

I would like to point out the effort and dedication of the Meredith Ambulance C.E.R.T.

They attend at many critical incidents and contribute

exceptionally to the emergency response in our area.

They are always fast to respond and do so with absolute professionalism.

It's a pleasure to work alongside these volunteers.

As always, in emergencies or when you need police there now, call 000.

To report crime which has occurred previously with no ongoing incident, call the police assistance line on 131444.

To speak to me, call the Meredith Police Station on 5286 1222, please feel free to leave a message at Bacchus Marsh if I don't answer, I will get back to you ASAP.

Where's Wendy?

Wendy Cook can't submit a column for our October issue so, because this issue is jammed packed, we have held this month's column over - Ed.



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it'S HiStoRy

Meredith History Interest Group

Open Day:

Maybe we can describe the day as quality rather than quantity. We displayed unidentified photos from our collection hoping that visitors may help us with Who do you think we are? In one photo of the crowd at the Daffodil Show a visitor did recognize her grandmother and her grandmother's neighbour who came from Lara, but otherwise we drew a blank. Interestingly we had a visitor who used to freelance for the Courier Newspaper who most probably took the photo and wrote the report of the Daffodil Show. We had several people who were new to Meredith who wanted to know some history of their houses, we had several people call in to pay memberships and had a couple of people who brought photos and information to give to us.

Overall, we had a very informative, interesting day and because we were not overrun with visitors, we could spend valuable time with those who did come and enjoy the scones that Gail cooked. Although this was a designated Open Day, we are open every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 am to 3 pm.

Memberships:

Your membership is important to us. Firstly, it shows that you are interested in history and what we do and think it is important that history is collected and shared. Secondly it helps us to run the History Centre. As I have mentioned before, we don't want to have to fund raise with raffles or cake stalls because we want to involve ourselves in the history. We do apply and get grants but these are for specific projects and not for the day to day running of the Centre. We go through paper and ink like it was going out of fashion!

So, If you would like to help us you can become a member for \$20.00 per year or you can make a donation...of any size!

Elaine Photographic Exhibition:

This will be held on Saturday & Sunday 18th & 19th of October at the Elaine Hall. We are still collecting photos, and printing them A3 & A4, trying to add names and dates to the photos and working out how best to display them.

Elaine Hall:

The hall was built in 1911. As well as being used for social functions the hall has been a lending library, a polling booth and even a gymnasium.

In 1988 a meeting was held to decide to either restore the hall, rebuild or leave it to rot. The weatherboard hall had sunk to ground level, the exterior hadn't been painted in decades and the toilets were outside, unpleasant dunnies.

The meeting decided to restore the hall as close as possible to its original state. There was an official closing ceremony for the old hall in 1989. Between then and the reopening in May 1992 a huge amount of work was done with about 75% performed by local volunteer labour. A year after its formation the fundraising committee became the Elaine Historical Society dedicated to saving historical buildings in the district. The society's first project was to restore the Elaine Hall. Photos of the Elaine Hall, before, during and after renovations will be on display in October.

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with Sandy Hoffmann

PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR MANAGING YOUR MONEY

Crypto needs to be declared in tax returns!

With the ATO data matching capabilities increasing I am seeing the requirement for clients to provide their Crypto Reports. Here are the details.

The ATO in April 2024 created a Crypto assets data-matching program and its objectives is to ensure that the people pay the right taxes and the community is aware of the rules.

Clients are familiar with the idea of having an investment asset like shares. When those share are sold having to declare the profit or loss in their tax return. This is known as a Capital Gain or Capital Loss. This is very straight forward as the sale is easy to identify.

Not only can one buy shares, but one can also purchase Cryptocurrencies (Crypto). A digital token unlike traditional currency which represents physical money, are purely digital assets. The product is used to trade online and can purchase physical assets. The digital token is stored in a digital wallet.

The confusion is with what is considered a disposal of the asset with crypto. It can be when you sell, gift, trade, exchange or swap one crypto asset for another, when a crypto asset is converted to another type of currency and when you buy goods or services with the crypto asset. Sometimes these changes take place without the client even understanding what has happened in their digital wallet. I personally believe this is why people forget to notify the accountant that they have Crypto and they are not sure if they have made a gain or a loss.

It is best to speak with an accountant who can guide you to what report to run from your program and import that into a system that can calculate the Capital Gain or Loss. Remember you need to report the Gain or Loss in the year it occurred. Therefore, if you find that you have a loss a few years and report those each year in your tax return. The Losses are quarantined in your tax return and roll over each year. Then when a gain is made down the track the losses soak up the Capital Gain before it impacts on the taxes you may need to pay.

House hold hack of the month: Mobile Phone Plans.

When was the last time you looked at who you are using to provide you mobile phone coverage and when was the last time you reviewed your data bundle. These days the calls are free, it's the data that the plans charge for. I reviewed my data usage over 6 months and realised that I was spending more on data than I needed to. With the same provider I would have saved myself \$10 per month going down on the data plan, good win in itself. But then I research with people in the neighbourhood as well as confirming who else provides the same service using the same towers and realised that I could save \$60 per month.

Note that not all providers have access to the same networks. Yes, I was nervous as I certainly didn't want to be without coverage but I was happy to be the guinea pig in our home and test out my research and honestly not much to lose as I would simply call the provider up and reconnect if I felt I had made a mistake.

Its been two months with the new provider, lower data plan but still plenty for me, same phone number and no notable difference in speeds or coverage and a saving of \$120, I am ecstatic with the result.



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Elaine CFA

Junior Volunteer Development Program 2025

Bridget Dyer

The CFA's Junior Volunteer Development Program is back at Elaine Fire Brigade, welcoming young people aged 11–15 from Elaine and surrounding areas to build confidence, teamwork, and fire safety awareness in a fun, hands-on environment.

Sessions run every second Sunday at 10:15 AM at the Elaine CFA shed. The next session will be held on 14th September 2025. All activities are supervised by CFA-approved leaders with valid Working With Children Checks, and juniors do not attend emergency callouts. A rough guide of activities has been listed below.

- Sept 14th - Radios
- Sept 28th - Fun Activities
- Oct 12th - Mapping
- Oct 26th - First Aid
- Nov 9th - Fun Activities
- Nov 23rd - Drafting & Break up

Juniors will have the opportunity to participate in running competitions and demonstrations, including events at the 2026 CFA/VFBV State Urban Junior Championships in Mooroopna in early 2026. These competitions focus on practical firefighting skills like hose handling, teamwork, and physical fitness, and are a fun way to build confidence and camaraderie. Participation in these events is optional.

There is no cost to join the program.

For more information, contact Trinsa Lewis on 0447 666 557 or come along to the next session on 7th September at 10:15 AM.



Marg's BOOK REVIEW

An Ill Wind by Margaret Hickey

At our last bookclub meeting we discussed Broken Bay by Margaret Hickey, which is a mystery set on South Australia's limestone coast. We all thoroughly enjoyed the novel and learnt a lot about cave diving, sink holes and the limestone coast.

At the meeting, Jenny Colvin told us that her daughter Alison, who is a journalist for ABC in Perth, recently interviewed Margaret Hickey and two other authors at a book event that the ABC ran. Amazingly Margaret Hickey told that her next book is set at Mt Mercer which happens to be five minutes from where Ali grew up at Grenville.

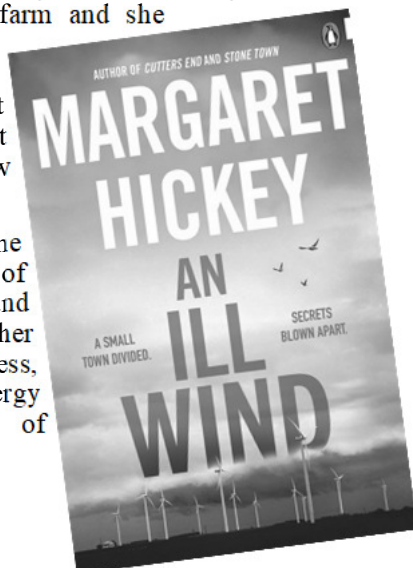
So we quickly set out to buy and read the latest as it is set almost on our doorstep!

The story is set in the golden plains of rural Victoria, where a small country town lies in the shadow of 300 wind turbines. It is a topic that divides the local community, with multi-generational farming families, wary of change and technology, standing at odds with those who support renewable energy and job opportunities. Tensions reach breaking point when the body of wind farm owner and local philanthropist Geordie Pritchard [CEO of Clean Energy Australia] is found hanging from one of the huge turbine blades.

As well as the main mystery of who killed Geordie and how they got him onto the blade, the police also have a story and the locals each have their own story. Senior Sergeant Belinda Burney, heavily pregnant and on secondment from Melbourne returns to her hometown joined by her colleague and husband Will Lovell. She had a poor childhood and her tough father is sometimes difficult. Will is challenged by unfamiliar territory although he has had connections with some of the characters in his former life. Then there are the staff of the school, the ragamuffins who camp by the creek and the do-gooders.

It was interesting to try to pick up references to the local area as one reads the book. The book is set in Golden Plains, a property is called Yarrabee [not Yarrowee], and there is a Mount. Apparently, she thought of the setting because her parents live near a windfarm and she visited Mt Mercer and the golden plains. Much as I tried I couldn't pick out any people in the book that resemble people I know from Mt Mercer.

Among other themes the novel explores themes of community, change and power and questions whether the pursuit of progress, particularly renewable energy can come at the cost of community well-being.



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BALLARATCHOOKS



G'Day from the penners for September. The weather is starting to fine up and the sun has been shining and it so lovely to feel some sun on the skin again.

This month's story is from Wendy Spall. It is a story from a homework subject titled 'It's time to get him out of the gene pool'. We hope you enjoy it, and if you do, please give us some feedback via our email address goldenpens4@gmail.com

We meet every fortnight at the Bannockburn library and our next meeting dates are 11th and 25th September at 1:30 to 3:00 pm. We would be very happy to have you pop in to see what we are about. You will be made most welcome. - Regards, Wendy.

Louie the Lip was propped up behind his oak and walnut desk at the narrow end of his vast teak panelled office. A slight breeze was wafting in through the heavy damask curtains that were parted to let in the feeble sunshine that was trying to pierce itself into this very masculine room. The large picture windows behind the drapes, which were partly open to let out the smoky atmosphere within this great room, showed a manicured garden scene of lawns, flowers and trees. Louie though never paid any attention to the charming vista that was just behind his back, he wasn't interested in nature, he was a numbers man, a city man, through and through. He had pulled himself up from the wrong side of town and he was proud of the fact that he was now the leading man of the back street gang. The godfather, so to speak.

Louie was puffing on his Cuban cigar with gusto but he was not happy. His subordinates had been explaining the situation to him, again, and he was ready to explode.

'What the hell do you mean Buggy,' he questioned the short but stocky man just to his right.

'Like I said boss, Ziggy has done a runner and we don't know where he is, he said he was goin' downtown to see Miss Christie, you know he has a thing for her, but when we went to find him, she says he ain't been anywhere near her'

'Well, did you shake her down?

'Sure did boss, but she swore she ain't seen him, and she ain't gonna be working for a few days, I can tell you that.'

Louie bit his lip and sucked harder at his cigar, leaving him behind a smoke screen, Flash, Gizmo and Frankie all tried to suppress a cough without much luck.

'So, you looked everywhere boys?

They all voiced their affirmation while looking away or shuffling their feet.

'We just don't know where he has got to this time!' Frankie spoke apologetically.

'I'm gonna give the boy one last chance, but only on account of his mamma, you know how much respect I got for his mamma, boys,' They all nodded in agreement. 'That woman saved my life you know,' again they nodded, they had all heard this story so many times before, but they dare not say anything, Louie was very proud of this story and he would retell it at any given moment given the chance.

'You know how it goes boys, me all shot up in the shooting of '66, bleeding all over the place and Rosie, ah Rosie,' at this stage Louie placed his large hand across his heart, patting it gently as he looked heavenward. 'Rosie found me in that alleyway, everybody had left me for dead but she saw I was still breathing and she doctored me. Day and night she nursed me, nothin' was too much trouble, and when I get better, well she don't want anything from me but for me to look after her boy, if and when it was needed. When she passed, God bless her, that boy needed looking after, he had gone feral and he needed a firm hand, and that's what he got. But geez you guys, he's a hard one to handle, he just thinks he can do what he pleases, and that ain't good for business, boys. What are we gonna do with him!'

Bugsy, Frankie, Flash and Gizmo all looked at each other, they all knew what they wanted to do with him, and they all had a bullet reserved for Ziggy, they all wanted him out of the gene pool but until Louie gave the nod, Ziggy was a protected species. Maybe this last indiscretion would finally make Louie see the light. Ziggy was a liability, none of the gang felt safe with him running around, who knew where, doing who knew what.

Louie the Lip let out a sigh, relaxed into the back of the plush leather seat and waved them away.

'Go and see if you can find him, and put the word out that I want to see him asap'

As the gang members all turned to leave, Louie sucked on his cigar again and as the door closed on him, he was still sitting in a haze of smoke.

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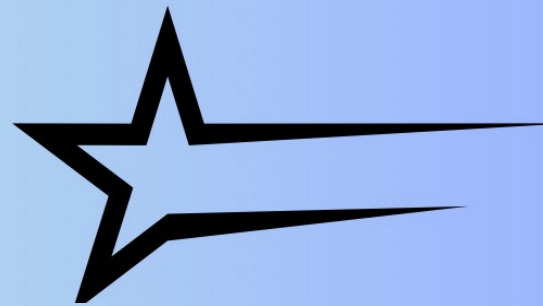
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