

Meredith & district News

NOVEMBER 2025



OUR **FREE** COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

inside

- Music Festival Traffic Arrangements
- Back to Steiglitz Defies the Storms.
- Valé to Ivan East



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





Is that text message worth \$611?

Using your phone illegally while driving could land you a \$611 fine and 4 demerit points.
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State
Government



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](https://www.facebook.com/MichaelaSettleMP)



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search Bendigo Bank Buninyong

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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. Nov 1, 8, 15, 29

Meredith - St. Joseph, @ 9am Nov 16, 30

B'burn, St. Mary MacKillop, @ 11am Sun. Nov 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Inverleigh - Sacred Heart, @ 4pm Sun. Nov 16

OUR COVER

The last time we featured a wind turbine on our cover, we received an angry letter from a reader, accusing us of promoting some malignant doctrine. All we saw was an interesting cover photo. As we do with this month's cover where we feature one of the many canola crops brightening the landscape this time of the year.

Photo by Jim Elvey



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



Meredith Community Centre
working for our community

What's On This Month



CHATTY CAFE

NOVEMBER 18 - 11.30 - 1.30 - LIGHT LUNCH

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

Village Academy - with Jade

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

The Power Saving Bonus - \$100 for Concession Card Holders!

Concession card households can cut their energy bills with a new round of the \$100 Power Saving Bonus.

Come into the Centre with your Power Bill and Your Id 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 - FREE

To Book:

learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au

www.facebook.com/MeredithCommunityCentre

Ph. 5286 0700 / 0491 184 999

THE MEREDITH MART

LET'S MAKE SURE NO TABLE IS EMPTY!

CANNED GOODS - SOUP, VEGETABLES, FRUIT, BEANS

DRY GOODS - PASTA, RICE, CEREAL, FLOUR, SUGAR

CHRISTMAS FOODS - TINNED VEGETABLES

TOILETRY ITEMS - SOAPS, TOOTHPASTE/BRUSHES

BRING YOUR DONATIONS INTO THE OFFICE BEFORE DECEMBER 3!

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO NEEDS SOME HELP?

NOMINATE THEM NOW FOR A CHRISTMAS HAMPER!

KEEP OUR DOORS OPEN



WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE?...

COME ON IN AND FILL IN A POSTCARD SO WE CAN LET THE GOVERNMENT KNOW THE IMPACT WE HAVE IN OUR COMMUNITY!



Join us on
Facebook & Instagram
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PLAYGROUP

THURSDAYS

9.30am - 11.30am

\$2 per family



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, Nerida Anderson, Amy Medley, and Ian Leighton. Production is undertaken Peter Boer, Don Atherton and Jim Elvey.

NEWS & VIEWS

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

DATES AND DEADLINES

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

ADVERTISING

Advertising in the M&D Newsletter is a great way to let district residents know about your business. 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
Advertising: Ian 0409 016 815
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 emergency

ADVANCE MEREDITH 0409 027 359	ELAINE HALL 53415575 0409861296	Police, Ambulance, Fire (from mobile phone) Meredith Police Station	000 000 or 112 5286 1222
ANGLING CLUB 0419 248 660	FOOTBALL Seniors 0408 545246 Juniors 0430 587 674	Police non emergency Power Failure Nurse-On-Call	131 444 132 412 1300 606 024
B'BURN ART GROUP 0410 808 483	GOLF CLUB 0407 795 342	Mental Health Advice Poisons Information Barwon Water	1300 280 737 13 11 26 1300 656 007
B'BURN MENS SHED 0407 835 731	HISTORY GROUP 5286 8201	SES Emergency - flood & storm 24 Hour Helpline	132 500 1800 629 572
B'BURN SOFT TENNIS 0409 236 420	LANDCARE 0409 862 326	24 Hour Drug & Alcohol Counselling Kids Help Line	1800 888 236 24hr 5-18yo 1800 551 800
BLUELIGHT DISCO 5286 1222	MEMORIAL HALL 0409 662106	Golden Plains Shire a/h emergency Ranger	1300 363 036 0408 508 635 52207111
BOOK CLUB 5286 8201	MOTORCYCLE CLUB 0437 009 250	or Bannockburn Vet Golden Plains Animal Pets and Horses 24/7	0409 830 223 5281 1221 5281 2226 0421 617 238
CFA 000 for fire calls Elaine 0419 767982	PLAYGROUP 5286 0700		
Meredith 5286 1502	POLICE PADDOCKS 0409 163169		
Morrison's 0417 770 765	RSL - 5286 1452		
CHILD CARE 5286 0700	SENIOR CITIZENS 0407 683 892		
COMMUNITY CENTRE 5286 0700	TENNIS Elaine 0448 291 074		
CRICKET Elaine 0448 291074	Lethbridge 52 817 321		
Junior (U16,U14,13) 0448 291074	Meredith 0424 754 179		
Meredith 5286 1434	SEW 'N' SEWS 5286 0700		
CUBS & SCOUTS Lethbridge 0435 042077	FRIENDS OF THE BRISBANE RANGES 5286 1252		

Justices of the Peace

Mr Don Atherton. 0409 869 960
 Mr Paul Ryan Elaine 0409 861 296

services

CEMETERY TRUST 5286 1550	MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH 5220 7230
HALL HIRE Meredith Memorial 5286 1545	PRE-SCHOOL 5286 0722
Elaine Mechanics 53415575 0409861296	PRIMARY SCHOOL 5286 1313
Elaine Rec Res 5341 5703	RECREATION RESERVE 0429 315 575
LIBRARY VAN 5272 6010	

..or start something.

If you have a special interest you would like to share with like minded people, let us know



Hurry (or Hoorry)... only 30 more days for Spring Cleaning!

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

MONEY Matters

with Sandy Hoffmann

PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR MANAGING YOUR MONEY



Professional Development – tax deductible.

Did you know that the cost of studying or personal development could be tax deductible?

Deductions to do with studying are grouped together and called Self-education expenses.

Self-Education expenses include courses completed through an institute or professional/industry organisation. They can include attending conferences or seminar and doing self-paced learning and or study tours.

There are a number of eligibility criteria's that need to be met:

The self-education expense occurs once you have already been employed in that area, otherwise it is a point too soon. For example as an Accountant if I decided to change career and become a Parametric, those studies can't be claimed because it is a point too soon.

The studies need to maintain or improve your specific skills or knowledge for your current employment. Or the studies will likely result in increase in your income from your current employment activities.

Once you have established that you meet the above criteria you can then include the receipts of the expenses of the below categories. However, note that if your employer reimbursed you on any of these expenses you cannot claim them again in your tax return.

- Categories that can be claimed:
- Tuition, Course, Conference or Seminar Fees
- Computer consumables
- Internet and data usage
- Telephone costs
- Postage
- Text books
- Stationary
- Transport costs
- Journals
- Student and Union Fees

Assets like computers, desks and chairs, bookshelf's and technical tools that you have purchased to complete the self-education course.

Meals and accommodation (see your accountant to confirm specific rules relating to this category).

So, if you are planning on doing any self-development training, keep this article in mind as studies will pay you back not in knowledge but also in the form of paying less tax.

Household savings hack of the month:

Learn for Free.

Want to increase your knowledge or not sure what interests you, but don't want to blow the budget? There are myriad online courses that could help. Many state and territory governments, as well as universities and TAFEs, and industry bodies announced online free courses. The government has opened up free courses for industries that they find skill shortages in.

In addition, you may like the idea of volunteering. Check out the area of interest and see if there is training that is provided with the volunteering role. Not only will you be giving back to your community but you will also gain invaluable skills and knowledge.



POLICEreport

Senior Constable Anthony BOX

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

Meredith Police November update:

The 2 rings that were found and mentioned in the August edition were reunited with their owner. Thanks to a reader passing the information to the owner.

There have been instances of livestock theft in the Meredith area in recent months, some including the theft of hundreds of sheep at a time.

A reminder to remain vigilant of suspicious movement of livestock transport vehicles, particularly late at night and in isolated areas.

Counterfeit \$50 notes are currently being encountered by shop owners in the Ballarat area on an increasing basis, and have been seen in Meredith on at least 3 occasions.

They generally will have the same serial numbers, mismatched numbers on the note or a marking such as "PROPS" below the window.

I request if paid with a fake note that you retain the note and report the matter to police.

A reminder for people that the only way you should be contacting police when you require their attendance at an incident is 000.

The police assistance line serves to take reports of incidents that are not ongoing and do not require immediate police attendance.

The station phone number is for general enquiries only, if not answered it will forward to Bacchus Marsh 24 hrs a day where you can leave a message which I will attend to at the earliest convenience.

Any mobile phone numbers circulating are subject to change, were never intended to be used to contact police directly and are unreliable.

They do not have a means to be forwarded if switched off when I am off duty, the same goes for email.



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A. Crumble's



Broad Bean and Pea Dip with Pita Crisps

Ingredients

100g broad beans cooked and double podded - see note below (about 600g unpodded)
 100g peas cooked
 100g Meredith Marinated Goat Cheese
 100g fresh ricotta
 40ml olive oil (2 tbsp)
 Rind of a small lemon finely grated
 2 teaspoons lemon juice
 8-10 mint leaves finely chopped
 Salt to taste

Method

1. Put the broad beans and peas into a small blender and process till chopped but still chunky. (Or mash with a fork)
2. Mash together the Meredith cheese and the ricotta in a mixing bowl with a fork
3. Stir in the oil, lemon rind and juice
4. Gently mix in the broad beans and peas with the mint leaves
5. Add salt to taste
6. Keep refrigerated
7. Spread the dip on the pita crisps and enjoy.

Pita Crisps

Heat oven to 180°
 Cut pieces of flat bread with scissors into small triangles.
 Arrange on oven trays and bake for about 10 minutes till crisp.
 Allow to cool.
 These will keep in an airtight container for a couple of weeks.

A note from the cooks - Zali, Isabelle, Evie and Ada

Double Podding Broad Beans

Take the broad beans out of the pods by snapping them open and sliding them out
 Boil the water in a saucepan and cook the beans for about 7 minutes
 Strain and cool in cold water
 Make a little cut in one end of each bean and gently slide out the bean inside - now they are 'double podded'



The Dip Factory: Zali, Isabelle, Evie and Ada, loving their work.

Many thanks to the Meredith Farm Store for invaluable input into this recipe.

Meredith Shire Hall

Marg Cooper

Alexander Davidson was the architect of the Meredith Shire Hall. He was born in May 1839 in Edinburgh. Biographical details indicate he studied at the Royal Scottish Academy, was then articled to John Henderson, in whose office he befriended young George Henderson, who was also an articled clerk. Davidson was later persuaded by Rev John Cooper, who was related to him by marriage, to emigrate to Australia to undertake work for Cooper's congregation.

Within a few months of his arrival in Australia he had designed a church for Cooper's Presbyterian Church at Rokewood. After a dispute with his congregation over his stipend, Cooper left Rokewood, but Davidson remained gaining the patronage of local families, in particular Scottish emigres. Some of the buildings he designed in that part of Victoria were the homesteads at Barwon Park, Wurrock, Kurac-a-Ruc, Barunah Plains, Narreppumelap, Mount Mercer and Mooramong. He also designed churches including Episcopalian and Presbyterian at Rokewood, Wesleyan at Mortlake, Episcopal at Colac and Presbyterian at Skipton.

In May 1867 George Henderson had arrived in Australia and they formed a partnership and in early 1870 they won the commission to design Geelong College in Newtown. In 1876 the partnership was terminated with Henderson sailing home to Edinburgh later in the year.

In 1878 he designed the new Shire Hall at Meredith in a Victorian eclectic mode, and in 1882 he designed a hotel and a cottage at Meredith. In 1882 the Huntsmans Inn was destroyed by fire. In April 1882 Alex. Davidson & Co advertised in the Geelong Advertiser for tenders to build a hotel at Meredith for J Stow Esq. A substantial building of 8/9 rooms replaced the old building, on the same site. The hotel was described as an ornament to the township and one of the neatest buildings therein. (As an aside, do you know which cottage in Meredith he designed??)

Davidson also left his mark on Geelong as he designed the Barwon Woollen Mill in 1877 and Gordon Technical School in 1887.

Alexander Davidson then traded as Alexander Davidson & Co but ran into personal and financial difficulties. Two of his children died of Diphtheria and he created ill feeling in Geelong when he stood for the Town Council. In July 1882 he closed his Geelong office and left finally for Melbourne. He remained there until his death from asthma in January 1908.

Gambling Harm

Media Release

Golden Plains Shire Council adopted the Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy (the Policy) at its Council meeting on Tuesday 23 September 2025.

The Policy outlines:

- Council's position of gambling and gambling harm minimisation.
- The actions Council takes to minimise gambling harm within the municipality.
- Roles and responsibilities for Council in preventing harm from gambling within the municipality.
- The associated legislation, policy and plans related to gambling and gambling harm.

The Policy was adopted following a period of public exhibition in August 2025, and a community submission received during this time was considered in its final adoption.

The Policy aligns with Council's existing Harm Minimisation Framework, which recognises gambling as a public health issue. It also aligns with harm minimisation approaches set out in Council's Community Vision 2040, the Council Plan 2025-2029 and the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Action Plan 2025-2029.

Golden Plains Shire Mayor Cr Owen Sharkey said the Policy responds to gambling and gambling harm through prioritising health and wellbeing in the community.

"Gambling harm is a complex issue, and we believe this Policy brings a proactive and comprehensive approach to minimise the risks and harm of gambling," Cr Sharkey said.

"There are a variety of ways this Policy looks at assisting in reducing harm from gambling – from planning regulation and enforcement to advocacy and partnerships and service delivery. Let's work together as a Council and community to recognise the risks associated with gambling and produce positive outcomes for the community."

The adopted Policy can be viewed at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/council-policies.

Notice of AGM

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of **Meredith Community Tucker Tent Inc** will be held on Wednesday, the 12th of November 2025 at 6:30pm at the Meredith Community Centre, 4 Russell Street, Meredith.

Any communications to tuckertent@gmail.com



49 ...and counting.

In our lead up to our celebration of Meredith News' 50th year of publication, we have been exploring, in order, its many components, starting with the writers and advertisers. This month we reach the other end of the cycle (do cycles have ends?) - the readers, the very reason we have a newsletter. John Merlo, who has helped us along this journey, talks to a tiny sample of you. And thank you to all of you. - Ed.

Our Readers

Some of our faithful readers have been with us for a large part of our 50 years of continuous publication.

From feedback they give us, they look forward each month to a new edition, and often read it from cover to cover at one sitting.

Some of our most dedicated readers have close links with The Meredith Historical Interest group (MHIG), based in the old Council offices in Staughton Street.

Marg, Bev, Darren and Gail, and others who frequently pitch in to help, all say the newsletter keeps them closely in touch with what's going on around town and in the outlying parts of our district.

Marg is a major contributor to the newsletter, and one of the most authoritative historians in this part of the world.

And although a highly regarded author in her own right, Marg remains one of the most avid readers of the newsletter.

The content of each edition is always a major topic of discussion at MHIG, and often influences the direction that MHIG takes in its many invaluable projects.

Bev, Gail, Darren and Marg (and young Nick) are great models for the younger generation of Meredith locals to follow, and they've have made it known that they'd welcome some new blood to help out in their work - as would the newsletter that you're reading now.

If you feel like becoming involved in the production of the newsletter, just let us know!

No pay, but lots of fun and satisfaction!



at the Paddocks

Spring is a lovely time to walk through this beautiful reserve, right on the edge of Meredith township. But when you visit, please keep in mind that dogs must be kept on a leash. This is a requirement for all wildlife areas managed by or on behalf of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). And it is a good idea, as wildlife is often seen at the Police Paddocks, including black wallabies and kangaroos.

Signs have been installed at all entrances to remind us of this and other limitations intended to protect the site and its wildlife as well as making it safe for all visitors.

Enjoy your visit.



Highway Roadworks

Jim Elvey

Readers will be aware of the extensive roadworks currently being undertaken on the Midland Highway, immediately north of Meredith township. This surface rehabilitation project is part of the State government's \$976M 'Better Roads Blitz' aimed at providing safer driving conditions for motorists.

Together with the resurfacing of Wallace Street through the township last year, these are very welcome upgrades as, like all country people, we rely on the highway connections, as do the approximately 6,000 vehicles that pass through the town on an average day. It's a pity though, that neither project included the addition of a right hand turn lane for south bound traffic into McLeod Street, something we have been lobbying for. Now that would have been a significant safety upgrade.



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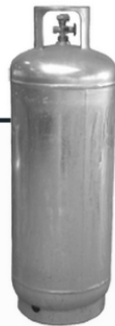
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Contact Paul Ryan on 0409 861 296

Vanessa's



FLOWER FARM FILES

Dig in. Grow well. Bloom beautifully.

Outside Now

November has arrived with longer days, warm breezes, and that unmistakable scent of early summer in the air. After months of rain and cool weather, everything is growing at full speed — grass, weeds, and flowers alike. Lawnmowers are earning their keep, and even the most disciplined gardener might feel like they're constantly playing catch-up.

The wisteria is putting on a spectacular show, tumbling over fences and pergolas in cascades of purple and white. Some early-planted dahlias are starting to nudge through, the peonies are already well on their way, and the garden feels alive and full of movement — from buzzing bees to swaying grasses.

Out in the paddocks, our Highland cattle are happily grazing on the lush new season grass, steadily putting on condition after the long winter. The young ones are beginning to shed their thick coats, so brushing time is fast approaching.

On Our Farm

Our roses are now in full flush, covered in fresh red growth and swelling buds. It's one of the most exciting times of the year on the farm, and we thought we'd share a few of our favourite tips for getting the healthiest bushes and best blooms possible.

Our personal favourite is Firefighter — a long-stemmed red rose with a deep, classic perfume. When we select roses, fragrance is always our top priority. It's remarkable how many modern, store-bought or imported roses have no scent at all. Commiserations to those who suffer from hay fever — this is truly your season of challenge — but we believe that flowers, especially roses, are meant to be enjoyed through the nose as much as the eyes.

Because we're proudly pesticide-free here on the farm, we've learned to rely on a few tried and true natural remedies to keep our roses thriving and pest-free.

Protect Your Roses with Safe Remedies

Black Spot

What to look for:

Black spot is a common rose problem, especially during periods of stress or damp weather. It's a soil-borne fungus that causes dark blotches on leaves, leading to yellowing and premature leaf drop.

What to do:

Prevention is key. Keeping plants strong and healthy will help them resist infection. A regular dose of sulphate of potash — about 100 to 150 grams per bush, four times a year — helps thicken cell walls and improve resilience. Feed with an organic rose fertiliser every six to eight weeks throughout the growing season.

For a natural spray, mix two teaspoons of bicarbonate of soda in five litres of water, then add a couple of drops of detergent or seaweed extract. Apply with a handheld sprayer to help protect leaves and control early signs of disease.

Aphids

What to look for:

Clusters of tiny green or black sap-sucking insects on new shoots, buds, and stems. They leave behind a sticky residue that attracts ants and distorts young growth.

What to do:

A strong water jet is often enough to dislodge them, or simply brush them away with a small brush or your fingers. Encourage natural predators such as ladybirds and lacewings — they'll help keep populations in check.

Eco-Oil is a safe, organic insecticide that works well on aphids while sparing beneficial insects. You can also make simple home sprays:

- Soapy water: 1 tbsp liquid soap per litre of water
- Baking soda mix: 1 tbsp baking soda in 4 L of water + 2 tbsp canola oil
- Essential oil blend: A few drops each of peppermint, clove, rosemary, and thyme in water

Powdery Mildew

What to look for:

Powdery mildew appears as a greyish-white dust on leaves and stems, especially in warm, humid conditions. It spreads quickly but only affects certain plant types — so your roses can't infect your veggies.

What to do:

Mix one teaspoon of potassium bicarbonate with half a tablespoon of horticultural oil in one litre of water, and spray on affected plants. Alternatively, dust with sulphur — a great option that also helps control mites. Just make sure temperatures are above 25°C for best results.

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If you're planning to plant new roses this season, modern breeding offers great news. Most new varieties are cleaner, low-maintenance, and more resilient against fungal and insect issues, making them ideal for pesticide-free gardens like ours. Now is a great time to plant potted varieties. Increasing our 'Soul Sister' collection is planned for this spring.

So as you tend your roses this month, take a moment to enjoy their perfume, admire their colour, and maybe even listen to the quiet sounds of the paddock — the soft tearing of grass as the Highland cattle graze nearby. It's a beautiful reminder of why we garden: for beauty, fragrance, and the joy of growing.

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Wendy Cook

A small forest grows beside the creek. Over twenty years ago, this area was a paddock grazed by sheep. The top of the creek bank was worn bare by their path. The slopes above the creek flat were eroded. Three mature trees remained. A narrow-leaved peppermint, with rough bark and leaves smelling of eucalyptus and peppermint, grew on a gentle slope. In a gully were two large manna gums, some branches reaching up high and others stretching outwards or towards the ground. Below them was a small pile of wire left by previous owners. We decided to plant trees here to protect the creek bank and reduce erosion, as well as creating habitat for native birds and animals. First, we needed an alternative water source for the sheep. The Catchment Management Authority provided funding for water troughs and a pipe from a dam. At that time, the Department of Primary Industries had a scheme that supplied indigenous trees, and people to plant them, if we built a fence around the area. We chose a mix of trees and shrubs, including eucalypts, wattles, banksias, sheoaks and tea trees, with different species planted on the creek flat and on the dry slopes. The pile of wire remained. Growing up in its midst, protected from the sheep, was a young blackwood wattle.

The planted gum trees on the creek flat have grown tall and straight. Black wattles, shorter and bushier, provide shelter for birds and insects, as do silver wattles which have regenerated along the creek bank without assistance. Among the gums, silver banksias struggled to find enough light, but where they were planted in groups, they grew well. Ants and honeyeaters feed from their yellow scented flowers and pollinate them. Their seeds fall to the ground and often sprout, but rarely survive the grazing of swamp wallabies which enjoy the shelter of the trees. Spores of fungi blown or carried from nearby bushland, have grown, matured, and formed mutually beneficial relationships with the trees. Here, echidnas are sometimes seen, ambling between native tussock grasses, stopping regularly to press their nose to the ground, as they hunt for a tasty meal of ants. Their eyesight is poor, so if I stand still and quiet, I can watch their activities.

I often admire the two old manna gums, now surrounded by young trees that have sprouted from their seeds and those of the blackwood, which still stands among the wire. These trees are a haven for birds, which feed and nest in their canopies, and are not found in the surrounding paddocks. Below them, a few fallen branches, strips of bark and leaf litter, are homes for insects, spiders and other invertebrates, another source of food for birds, and also for lizards. In good years, the blackwoods produce thousands of seeds. A portion of these can be collected and grown into young trees to plant elsewhere on the property, or seeds can be

sold to indigenous plant nurseries. Part of the narrow-leaved peppermint has fallen, but the remainder grows strongly, surrounded by younger trees.

The eroded slopes have been slower to recover. Due to the dry stony ground, fewer trees survived, and those that did are shorter. On one of these slopes, in the absence of sheep, nature is doing the work unaided. Lichens, mosses and scattered native grasses hold the soil together. Among them, indigenous flowering plants have begun to take root, including matted bush-pea. Its tiny green leaves form a carpet, brightened by a multitude of yellow flowers in springtime. Once, I saw a White's skink, a small indigenous lizard, patterned with lines and spots, sunbaking. Detecting my presence, it scampered into a nearby burrow, its home in this dry terrain.

Another slope was more eroded. Across it, we placed branches which had fallen from Melaleucas in our garden. Woody capsules opened and dropped seeds which have grown into dense shrubs, and are slowly stabilising the slope. Soil, washed downslope, has been colonised by grasses, which are gradually moving uphill. The Melaleucas are native, but do not belong in our local environment. Fortunately, they are not spreading beyond the eroded area.

As well as revegetating the land near the creek, we planted young trees in the paddocks, protected by large metal guards. The paddocks already contained scattered trees, many of them quite old, and there were no younger trees to replace them. Most of these young paddock trees survived, with regular watering in their first summer. Now, they provide shade for sheep and shelter for birds and insects.

I stand among the banksias on the creek flat, listening to the calls of birds, and consider an unexpected consequence of our tree planting. Our son has looked at the work of twenty years ago, and has continued with it. He has planted more young paddock trees, often scattered along shallow gullies at risk of erosion. In a few places, he has grouped trees together to form denser habitat for birds and shelter for sheep, including lambing ewes. He is inspired by the trees that were planted when he was small. They show him what worked well, and what did not. They allow him to imagine what the trees he has planted will look like in twenty years. I can also imagine them, and I am looking forward to seeing them and the changes they will make in the landscape.

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The Ant Explorer



by C J Dennis

Once a little sugar ant made up his mind to roam -
To fare away far away, far away from home.
He had eaten all his breakfast and he had his ma's consent
To see what he should chance to see and here's the way he went -
Up and down a fern frond, round and round a stone,
Down a gloomy gully where he loathed to be alone,
Up a mighty mountain range, seven inches high,
Through the fearful forest grass that nearly hid the sky,
Out along a bracken bridge, bending in the moss,
Till he reached a dreadful desert that was feet and feet across.
'Twas a dry, deserted desert, and a trackless land to tread;
He wished that he was home again and tucked-up tight in bed.
His little legs were wobbly, his strength was nearly spent,
And so he turned around again and here's the way he went -
Back away from desert lands feet and feet across,
Back along the bracken bridge bending in the moss,
Through the fearful forest grass shutting out the sky,
Up a mighty mountain range seven inches high,
Down a gloomy gully, where he loathed to be alone,
Up and down a fern frond and round and round a stone.
A dreary ant, a weary ant, resolved no more to roam,
He staggered up the garden path and popped back home.

Selected Verse of C J Dennis, Alec Chisolm,
Angus and Robertson 1961

Submitted by Janene Schillier

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the
Philatelist

Michael Riseley



SUTHERLAND BOOS

Recently I purchased an old album and spent several enjoyable hours going through it and breaking it down. I found quite a few stamps to add to my collections. And also several that I didn't want but were of some value so I put them on to sales pages to go to my stamp club members for their perusal and possible purchase. In time I might get a few dollars back which would reduce my original outlay. And a lot of also rans that I could package up and put up for sale at 100 stamps for \$2.

The album itself was a bit ratty and well worn and had some rust. Rust is the arch enemy of philatelists because it spreads so you do not want to put a stamp with rust on it into your albums. So the album and the rust stamps and the remaining no value low quality stamps found a home in the rubbish bin.

But also in the album were 2 Sutherland Boos. Very exciting indeed!

In 1870 the English company Sutherland & Co were contracted to carry mail in Japan between Tokyo and Yokohama, which it did by stage coach and also horse and rider (a bit like the American Pony Express). The company produced their own stamps as a form of payment. These stamps depicted a running horse with a rider blowing a posthorn.

The Japanese currency unit at the time was ichibuban and the English company shortened this to Boo. Some of the denominations are very valuable especially the 1 Boo pink carrying a handwritten ¼ Boo extra surcharge. There are only 6 of these known to still exist. My 2 are the normal 1 Boo pink and the normal ¼ Boo yellow. Both are said to be of some value.

However not surprisingly there are a lot of forged Sutherland Boos floating around. My 2 are very clean and in very good condition with complete margins and perforations. Also my 2 have a postmark which has been carefully and lightly applied with no date visible but clearly showing a few letters that could identify as Yokohama.

My 2 look almost recent but are supposed to be over 150 years old. Understanding that back at that time the mail was very roughly treated and postmarked with a very heavy hand, sadly I have 2 quite interesting but no value forgeries.

Excitement deflated!



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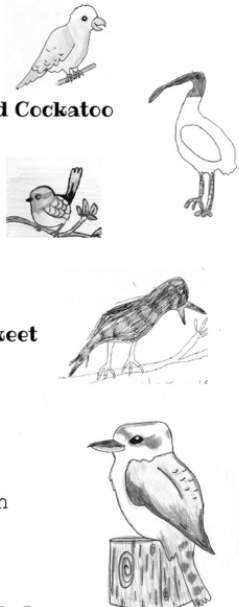
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Marg's BOOK REVIEW

Elizabeth and Elizabeth by Sue Williams.

This book is advertised as a new approach to Australian History and the creative arts.

It is a fictional story about a friendship between Elizabeth Macquarie and Elizabeth Macarthur in the early days of Australia. Elizabeth Macquarie was the second wife of Lachlan Macquarie who came to Australia as Governor of the new colony, after Governor Bligh was deposed in the Rum Rebellion in 1808. Elizabeth Macarthur was the wife of John Macarthur who is credited with establishing the sheep industry in Australia, but who was also troublesome in the politics of the colony. *New South Wales* was then described as a hotbed of political and personal agendas.

Elizabeth Macquarie asserts her influence on her husband in his role as Governor. He is depicted as a man of vision who introduced social reforms, including to emancipate convicts, despite strong opposition, supported exploration of the interior and initiated major building works. Mrs Macquarie's chair is named after this Elizabeth.

Elizabeth MacArthur is older and wiser and not given to airs and progresses their sheep farming in the absence of her husband, who is sent back to England to clear his name of criminal charges.

Williams skilfully portrays the two women's unlikely friendship against the backdrop of their place and times. Williams reads between the lines of history to give us an account of what these two strong and intelligent women brought to society and to the foundations of the colony. Although the author has in a way invented the acts of friendship, she has meticulously researched the times, has included extracts from diaries. There would have been few women of their class, so despite their husbands' opposing views of each other, they would have met and talked at functions and events.

One review focuses on the possibility that many men of that time suffered from syphilis. Doctors, well into the 19th Century were prohibited by law from informing future brides that their husbands had the disease which causes miscarriages, stillbirths and neonatal deaths. Both Elizabeths lost children before and after birth.

Elizabeth and Elizabeth is a great book that tells us how these two remarkable women navigated through difficulties and heart breaks, to leave a legacy felt two hundred years later. Without noticing it we learn a lot about New South Wales in the 1810's.



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 - Get Fire Ready
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- CFA Website: www.cfa.vic.gov.au
- VicEmergency Hotline: 1800 226 226
- ABC Radio: Tune in for emergency updates
- VicEmergency App: Download on your smartphone for real-time alerts



Compiled by Michael Riseley

1. Bond, James Bond.
2. Maxwell Smart.
3. Shane Warne & Dermott Brereton jumper number.
4. How many herbs & spices in KFC special recipe.
5. How many letters in Greek alphabet.
6. How many wives did Henry 8th have.
7. How many times did Zsa Zsa Gabor get married.
8. ABC Post Box number in every capital city.

Answers-

1.007, 2.86, 3.23, 4.11, 5.24, 6.6, 7.9, 8.9994

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Vale to Ivan John East 17/8/1953 – 23/9/2025

Marg Cooper

A gathering to celebrate and reflect on Ivan's life was held at the Royal Hotel, Meredith on Thursday, October 16 at 2 pm. A large crowd filled the bar and dining room, chatted enthusiastically about their relation, work mate, school friend, neighbour or friend and enjoyed a few drinks and a plentiful supply of food. It was a fitting farewell for Ivan who was a regular at the bar and enjoyed the companionship there.

Ivan was the son of Sid and Joan East and brother to Jenni. The family lived in a modest home at 37 Staughton Street and Ivan continued to live there after both his father and then his mother died. He kept it immaculate with mown grass right through to the back road and a neat, bright garden. Ivan also looked after his vehicles. They were always clean and he seemed to give each a run regularly to make sure they were in fine tune.

Ivan had a lot of different jobs over his working life but most seemed to involve trucks and machinery. He worked at Meredith Engineering in the Chassis Department with Jeff Cooper, Danny Melville and others. They fitted hoists and hydraulic gear etc to trucks.

For a few years he worked in Western Australia on a property. Ivan also worked at Herds Abattoir as a drover, he drove trucks for about 20 years for his cousin Robert East of Bannockburn Excavations and later for Robert's son Lincoln driving a truck and trailer. He drove trucks for Robert Cooke, worked at Western Plains Pork and in later years worked for Pat Banks, mainly on their farming enterprises.

Always reliable and punctual Ivan had his own ideas about the job. He was a quiet man, a man of few words and was scrupulously honest.

Ivan was a Meredith identity who lived in Staughton Street for his whole life.

His presence will be missed.



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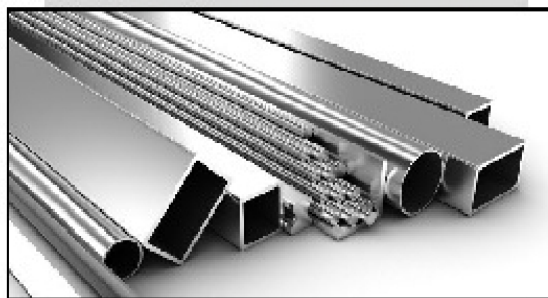
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it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

Elaine Photo Exhibition:

A lot of collecting, a lot of scanning, a lot of printing, a lot of mounting, and a lot of planning culminated on the weekend of October 18 & 19, with an extravaganza of photos and information at the Elaine Hall.

The exhibition was received with enthusiasm and appreciation. People entered before 10 am on both days and people lingered after the official closing time. People came from far and wide and people socialized.

Because of this project of MHIG, photos of Elaine & District have been collected and saved and will be available for anyone/everyone to view. Photos were collected which had been hidden away for years and forgotten. In the future they would probably been thrown out or burnt. Some photos were collected as negatives by a family in Ballarat who found them in a Gladstone bag which they had bought at an auction in the early 1980's. Their granddaughter saw an advertisement for the exhibition and realized they may be of value.

The official opening was conducted on Saturday at 1.30 pm. Marg Cooper welcomed people, thanked everyone who had helped in any way with the project including the Bendigo Bank in Buningyong and some locals who financially contributed. Jim Connell was introduced as a living legend, who we could have done a show on by himself, and who looked dapper in a leather jacket that he bought in 1973. Then Paul Ryan was introduced and mentioned three (out of many) Elaineites who had contributed hugely to the town in past days, especially Jack Eberhart, Martin Sharkey and Alec McDonald. Our special

guest was Robin Ferry, who with her husband Andrew owned Narmbool from the early 1980's. She spoke about the Elaine Historical Society (of which she was a member) that had raised funds to repair the Elaine Hall. She then rang the Larundel Bell, used in the past to start shearing runs in the Larundel shearing shed, to open the Elaine Photo Exhibition.

As mentioned before, people socialized. This is one of the most important parts of this project, to get people together, to initiate conversations, to connect and to share stories. We wish we could have recorded all those reminisces. How wonderful that would have been!

It is planned to put most of the photos into a book which will be titled Elaine Thru the Lens, to be launched at Elaine later in 2026.

Plant Nursery:

Spring is the time to plant so take time to visit the plant stall and select some treasures. Lilac bushes, chrysanthemums, irises and alstroemeria have been popular lately as well as staples like rhubarb. If you are dividing plants or have grown more seedlings than you need you are welcome to put them on the stall. The money generated helps us to maintain the garden, to mow the grass and to keep the History Centre open.

Calendars:

The 2026 calendar is almost ready. It features remnant Guide Posts in Meredith and District. These old posts were made of wood or concrete and stood on the side of roads with reflectors nailed on them but in later years were replaced with slim plastic posts. A few of the old wood and concrete posts remain! The posts protected motorists from driving off the road and protected infrastructure from motorists. The calendars will be available for sale at the History Centre and at shops in Meredith and Elaine. All profits from sale of the calendars go to MHIG.



Left, some of the well presented "Photos of Elaine" exhibition and, below, Marg Cooper, Jim Connell, Robin Ferry and Paul Ryan.





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Meredith Music Festival 2025 Information and Contacts

We are writing with information about the Meredith Music Festival, scheduled to occur at the Meredith Supernatural Amphitheatre from Friday 5 - Sunday 7 December 2025.

As part of our traffic management plan, the festival will:

1. Implement a speed reduction on Meredith-Mt Mercer Road and Camerons Road from two days prior to the festival through to the day prior to the festival.
2. Implement one-way traffic on Meredith-Mt Mercer Road from Bamganie Road to Camerons Road from approximately 6am to approximately 5pm on the first day of the festival.
3. Direct all festival bound buses down Boundary Road and Camerons Road.
4. Divert all traffic travelling to Meredith within the one-way zone down Camerons Road, with the exception of a school bus at approximately 8:20am Friday.
5. Station traffic controllers on the corner of Midland Highway and Staughton Street on the final day of the festival to assist vehicles turning left or right onto Midland Highway.
6. Install no-parking zones along Meredith-Mt Mercer Road and some surrounding roads.

Vehicle passes are distributed to properties along Meredith-Mt Mercer (town side) a week before the festival. If you live or work along Bamganie Road or Camerons Road and you would like a vehicle pass, please email Aunty Meredith to confirm if you need one.

If you have any comments or ideas about any matter related to Meredith, including any concern or question about traffic or noise management, please get in contact by phone/text 0430 091 120 (available 24 hours over the festival weekend) or by emailing auntym@mmf.com.au (available anytime).

The festival website is mmf.com.au. Additional information for locals is available at aunty.mmf.com.au/locals.

Thank you.
Festival Planning Team

Found Second Time

Marg Cooper

Recently I was told that the old Woodburn State School had been moved again, this time to Cobden where it has been set up as a church complete with pews, stained glass windows and statues. So like intrepid explorers we set off to find it!

When we got to Cobden we drove around the streets looking for a small wooden building that I'm sure that Jeff would recognize as the school he went to. We called at the Information Centre but it only opens on week days so I asked three people who were chatting on the street, nearby. They thought they knew where the building was and after a phone call, instead of giving us instructions, the chap offered to come with us to show us where it had been settled. It was very kind of him but also great because he could tell us about its restoration, about the other buildings in the Pioneer Village, about how the village was established, how it is managed and that they have a big event at the venue on the long weekend in March, each year.

Jeff was delighted to see the old building looking pristine and to look through the windows to see the church set up. We were told that there have been weddings and christenings there but the number of guests you invited would have to be strictly limited as the building is quite small.

Found First Time

In 2016 Jeff and I visited Russell Coad and his wife Joy at Barunah, as he had told us that the old Woodburn State School building was on their property. Back in the 1970's Mr Black, who shifted their bulldozer on his low loader, told them that he had a building on his truck, that they could have it for \$100, as he had nowhere for it to go. It was unloaded amidst their shedding and converted to shearer's quarters complete with basin, shower and toilet in the entrance porch and a front door where a window had been. When shearers no longer needed accommodation, the building became a dining room for shearers. It stayed at Coads for well over 40 years before they gave it to Cobden Pioneer Village.

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At Woodburn

In 1934 the residents of the district discussed the need for a school. After a meeting at Fern Hill a request was sent to the Education Department for the Bamganie State School building to be shifted to a block of land that Mr A.G. McNaughton was willing to make available for a school. {The Bamganie State School had been closed for some time}

The request was refused but the Department offered to supply a teacher if the residents provided a school building.

Mr McNaughton had a one room building erected on two acres of land, the site approximately one mile west of the original Woodburn Creek State School.

Mt John Bowman of Meredith built the school and it was opened by Mr Charles Holden M.P. in 1935.

As the school building was still leased by the Education Department and was without power or septic toilets and in need of repair, the School Committee approached the department about providing a new building.

A new building was moved to the site in 1971 and the land was acquired by the Education Department. And the old school building started its travels!





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 BALLARATHOOKS

School Leaders go to Canberra

Fairlie Pritchard

The leaders of Meredith Primary School and Mr Day attended a Student Leadership Camp to Canberra. We all took a mini bus with the grade 6's from Lal Lal and Bungaree Primary Schools. On the way there we saw the Dog on the Tucker Box. After a long 9 hour bus ride we arrived at camp. We quickly befriended all of the other kids on camp. For dinner we had butter chicken and rice. Then we hopped on the bus to go to Lake Burley Griffin. The water fountain was off. So we hoped that we would get to see it in the other four days we were there.

On day two we got up, and hopped on the bus and went to the Australian War Memorial. It was amazing. We got to do a wreath laying ceremony, Dacian was lucky enough to be chosen to lay the wreath. Then we had a tour of the museum. The Honour Rolls were full with so many poppies. We learnt all about the life of a veteran named David Scott who shared his stories of being in the navy for 30 years. Then we went to the Museum of Australian Democracy/ Old Parliament. Then to the Electoral Education Centre, where we got to have our own vote. There were four different fruits, which were peach, orange, apple, and banana. And of course Apple won. Next was the Royal Australian Mint where we printed our own coins and got to look at one of the rarest coins in Australia. Which was a 1946 penny, only five were made Melbourne. Then we went to the Australian National Capital Exhibition. After dinner we went to the Aquatics Centre. We went down water slides and splashed each other with water, it was so fun.

Our days were packed full of all the different things. Every meal we had tasted better and better. We went to Parliament House and saw Anthony Albanese and also the prime minister of Singapore, Lawrence Wong. We went to the House of Representatives, and the Senate. Following this we met Catherine King and did a role play just like being in the House of Representatives. Then we went to the National Gallery of Australia. Where we got to see many expensive and rare artworks. We also viewed old indigenous art works, like scare trees, family trees and an Aboriginal Memorial. This memorial consisted of 200 hollow logs from Arnhem Land. Forty-three artists worked

on this, and it is a memorial to all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders lives lost to colonial and ongoing conflict and trauma in Australia from 1788-1998. Then we went to The High Court of Australia and learnt that there were various levels and steps to getting a case to The High Court. We visited two court rooms and the second courtroom had seven judges residing over each case. Some famous court cases here included Lindy Chamberland and Martin Bryant. Then zone bowling where Mr Day got the highest score and Maddy was the highest scorer of the students.

We went to the AIS, the Australian Institution of Sport. Where we played games and learned about sport. Fun fact about the volleyball, one of the retired Australian players was 214cm tall and the shortest player and also the captain of Australia right now is 180cm tall. We also got to see an Olympic gymnast who is also the only male gymnast on the Australian team, Jessie. We also got to have a little look in the swimming pool area where famous swimmers like Grant Hackett, Libby Tricket and Ian Thorpe trained. Ian Thorpe's famous swimsuit from the Sydney Olympic Games was hanging on the wall. Then we went to GEO Science. Where we looked and got to feel a real piece of the moon. It's 1 billion years old and was found in 1972. Then we got to experiment with different equipment, rocks and fossilised poo. Then we travelled to Government House. We were greeted by one of the butlers, one of the 76 staff who work at Government House. An airforce soldier showed us all the badges you could get while serving and other awards that the Governor General hands out to Australians on behalf of the King. We got to look at the fancy house and cars, including the royal family's, Rolls Royce. We had a photo on the steps where they announced the Prime Minister of Australia!

Next was Questicon, where we got to experience a show all about liquid nitrogen. We also experienced a simulation of an earthquake in a house, a giant slide where we dropped from 6 meters above the ground vertically (showing gravity) and so many more funny things we just can't list them all.

We had 3 full days in Canberra and two days on the road. We sang many songs together while travelling, but had to be a bit quieter travelling around the city. We would like to say a big thank you to Mr Day for giving up his time and coming on camp with us. He also was the only bus driver and drove us everywhere. So thank you Mr Day. By the end of the camp everyone was family. We all had such good connections and just kept helping each other. The other two principals were very helpful and kind. We could have never asked for better people to go to camp with. We all still can't believe that we had this amazing opportunity. It was all over so quickly, but every moment was special. Even though we had to separate and leave our new friends behind we all made sure that we kept in contact. We were happy to see our family. When we got back to school the other kids were excited to see us, and everyone wanted to hear about our amazing adventure. We quickly got back into the routine of school work and school days. But it was lovely to be sleeping in our own beds.

By Nevaeh, Harry, Maddy and Dacian



Back to Steiglitz

Lindy Alinson

It was a soggy event, though far from a wash-out. Yes, the outdoor activities were a total wash out. Though for those indoors, it was an unexpectedly wonderful opportunity, with schedules thrown away.

Fiona (our local Maude author) filled Sugg's tiny parlour with candlelight & ivy, then read to rapt kiddies. Other rooms saw raffle tickets fly out the door. The ancient combustion stove churned out home-made foods, all eagerly devoured. While the dry back verandah hosted cosy afternoon teas for smiling couples of all ages.

Angela's 14 local artists put on a fabulous exhibition, while performance artists entertained during gaps in showers.

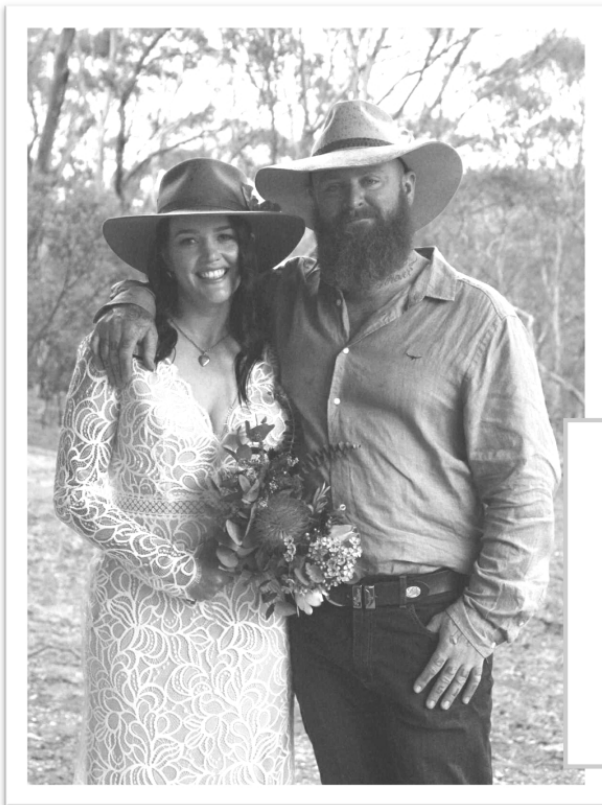
Talented tatters brought new life to the old Courthouse.

St. Paul's housed hordes who laughed & clapped amidst fiddle playing, poetry, and enjoyed outdoor-tours now indoor-tours. Many long-overdue hugs between old friends were savoured as rain pelted the tin roof and thunder filled the air. And excitement grew, as the oldest part of this event neared - competitions & raffle, which signal the end of this local tradition.

And our Treasurer, now having done the figures, tells us, considering everything, the fundraiser was terrifically successful.



Top: Gail Hadley (standing on right), dealt with thunder & heavy rains, by conducting a Cemetery "tour" in the comfort of St. Paul's Church. (Photo by Lindy Allinson) And above, a very excited Jazzy, discovers the Art Basket she won includes family passes for the Fairy Park. (Mum, Jodi, took the photo.)



And while we are in Steiglitz, we are delighted to report the marriage of Brooke and Daniel Moore. A local couple, not only were they married at Steiglitz, it was the same weekend as the "Back to Reunion."

We are very pleased to share this charming photo, taken by local photographer Allie Todd, and we wish the happy couple a long and happy marriage.



Wooden Wonders

Marg Cooper

An exhibition featuring unique works of art handcrafted by local artists was held at Lethbridge Railway Station on the weekend of October 4 and 5. The art works were all made of wood!

Usually when there is an exhibition of wood work the items include bowls, vases, cutting boards and pens. The items are excellently made, are decorative and show the qualities of the wood and most are useful, but this exhibition consisted of artistic pieces, mostly for purely decorative purposes.

The artists were Rod Menzies, Erica Baulch and her husband Chris Baulch. Rod and Erica belong to the Colac Wood Crafters Guild. Chris is part of the Bannockburn Men's Shed

Erica was inspired by Brian Wiltshire, a British artist and Rod was quick to take up the challenge. Rod rarely creates anything that is square and perfect, he often creates with left over pieces of wood and even cuts to highlight fungus or defects in the wood. One of his works in the exhibition started as a block of wood. He cut it into 27 slices and each slice of approximately 2 inches by 14 inches he cut in half in a random curved shape, so every slice had a different profile. He then arranged 27 of the half slices on a board and the other 27 half slices on another board which he put on a table, side by side. Amazingly he could fit the two boards together to exactly be the block of wood he started with!

He also said that he is lucky to live near the Otways, where he sources most of the wood he uses. He did learn wood work at Colac Technical School, he has made violins and at the moment is doing conservation [not restoration] work on an Honour Board with the assistance of other club members.

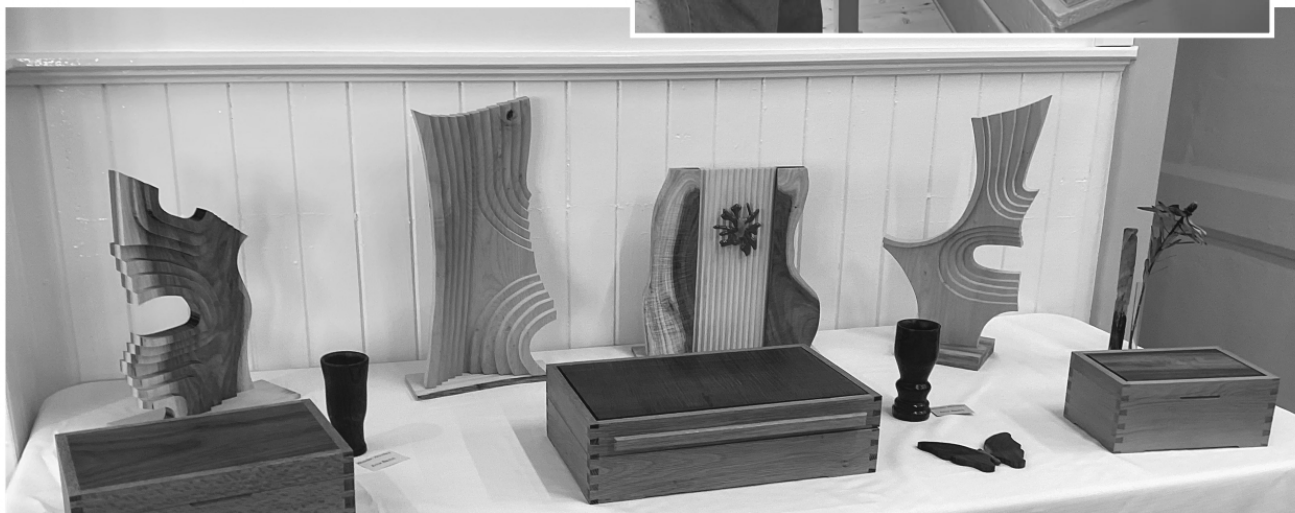
Erica came to woodwork about five years ago when Chris suggested joining a wood work club in Geelong. Her work has evolved over this time and has included the dragonfly dreaming and owl collections at Arts Trails. Current art works involve cutting wood at 7 degrees and rearranging the pieces into amazing

structures. Erica explained this process as sticking back together multi segmented pieces. Erica grew up in Lethbridge and thought that the restored Railway Station would be a great place for the exhibition.

Chris Baulch grew up in Apollo Bay and did woodwork at school but it is only in the last few years he has come to fine wood work. Chris also sources most of his timber from the Otways. Chris creates more traditional pieces with lots of precise dovetailing. His time and patience and attention to detail when making boxes is amazing. He specialises in making beautiful jewellery boxes.

Everywhere one looked there were absolutely amazing art pieces, displayed attractively in the historic building. Well done!

Below: Rod Menzies explaining one of his free form pieces and bottom, more of the sculptural and practical pieces on display.





FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

NOVEMBER 2025

With Summer fast approaching and the festive season nearing, it's been a busy time at Council as we reflect on the year that was and look forward to the exciting developments on the horizon.

It was great to see the Golden Plains Shire Council Annual Report 2024/25 presented to Council at the October Council meeting.

The Annual Report provides a comprehensive overview of our achievements and performance in the 2024/25 financial year against the five

community outcome areas as set out in the Council Plan 2021-2025 and sets the course for the future.

The Annual Report is available to view online at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/council/publications/annual-report.

Nominations for the 2026 Community Awards opened on Wednesday 1 October and are available in four categories: Community Hero of the Year, Senior Community Hero of the Year, Young Community Hero of the Year and Community Group Award. Your nominations will help us celebrate the hard work, passion, and dedication that makes our community so special. I encourage residents to nominate an individual or community group that truly make a difference in the community. Nominations can be made up until 5pm, Friday 28 November 2025 at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations.

Golden Plains Shire Council has been successful in obtaining \$2 million from the Victorian Government's Safe Local Roads and Streets Program. This initiative is designed to enhance road safety on Council-managed roads, intersections and precincts.

There were six projects which successfully attracted funding, and you can read details of these projects at

goldenplains.vic.gov.au/news.

As the warmer weather approaches, it's a critical time to focus on fire safety. I encourage all residents to take some time to review your fire emergency plan and stay informed throughout the season. Your preparedness is key to keeping yourselves and our community safe.

Council will be providing fire safety information on its website and through social media over the coming months, so make sure you stay up to date.

Lastly, I'm thrilled that the Golden Plains Twilight Market is returning in 2025 for a delightful evening of festivities. I encourage the community to save the date:

Thursday 4 December from 4 to 8pm at the Bannockburn Heart.

This year's Twilight Market is the ultimate destination for all your Christmas needs and is an opportunity to relax and enjoy some wonderful food and music. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Yours in community,
Owen Sharkey
Mayor



LATEST ISSUE OF THE GAZETTE IS OUT NOW!

The latest issue of the Golden Plains Shire Council Gazette is now available at goldenplains.vic.gov.au.

This issue is full of important news and stories from all corners of the Shire, including the revised Budget 2025/26, the Community Awards 2026, the latest road works, Active Golden Plains Sport and Rec Fest, the Council Plan 2025-2029 and much more!

To sign up for the Gazette, email enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au or scan the QR Code below.



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G'Day from the penners for November. Can you believe it! October has lived up to its reputation weather wise with heat, cold and wind. Pretty standard I'd say.

This month's story comes from Gail Griffin, one of our newer members who has settled in nicely and made herself at home within our group. If you would like to see what we get up to, just pop in and see for yourself. We may not be what you are looking for but you'll never know if you don't give us a go. We meet in November on the 6th and the 20th at the Banno library at 1:30pm. We can be contacted via our email goldenpens4@gmail.com

Regards, Wendy.

When the Time is Right

Sarah had decided she needed help to sort through her life's recent ups and downs. Already, she'd gone back to her reliance on tarot cards to give her guidance without any luck. Intuitively, she had the feeling that if she could just get through each night with sound, undisturbed sleep, her future path would become clear to her. She decided to have a reading with Drina, a psychic medium who'd come highly recommended.

'Things aren't as they appear to be, hence, the dreams you've been having lately,' announced Drina.

'How do you know about my dreams?'

Drina met that question with an enigmatic smile but made no comment.

'Oh. Sorry. I didn't mean... Of course you know.'

Waving the comment aside, Drina went on to say, 'I get that all the time. Let's begin, shall we?'

'Yes, please.'

Drina closed her eyes and fell silent for some time before declaring, 'The number 3 is being suggested to me, along with desire, decision and daily action. You've been dreaming of 3 things, have you not?'

'Yes. Night after night. A stranger who looks familiar, a torn letter and an antique. What do they mean?'

Without hesitation, Drina spoke, 'First there is desire. You haven't been aware of meeting your heart's desire yet but he is there already in your life. You haven't "seen" him but he has seen you, from afar for a number of years. Although he'll seem to be a stranger, he is familiar to you.'

Hastily, Sarah queried, 'Do you mean he's been spying on me? Stalking me?'

'Not at all. He's admiring you.'

'Then what's he waiting for? Why doesn't he come forward?'

'He will, when the time is right.'

'Yeah, right. I've heard that before.'

'Trust me. You will know because he will ask you to make a decision. Life-changing, I'm being told.'

'Did that already and failed miserably. Never again.' Now, keen to hear more, Sarah asked, 'What about the torn letter then?'

'Receiving a letter in a dream indicates that your unconscious is trying to tell you something. You may have to tear up plans that you thought were unchangeable.'

'Again, I did that already. For better or for worse. No happily ever after for me.'

'Your secret admirer could try to communicate something to you via a letter, the spirits are telling me. You aren't meant to be on your own. I see you hand-in-hand with another.'

Dismissively, Sarah said, 'I wish. But what about the antique then, in my dreams? Where does that fit into the scheme of things?'

'Ah. Ha. Dreaming of antiques symbolises a yearning to love and be loved. Antiques signify nostalgia, holding on, to something—sometimes outdated, like values and beliefs. An antique item can also signify something that will not give you results anytime soon.'

Silence fell as Drina gave Sarah time to let all that she'd said be taken on board.

Sarah ventured to say, 'Mmm. So, the desire is there. There's a decision to be made. What has the daily action got to do with all of this?'

'My guides are telling me to tell you that once you leave here, they want you to cast aside your disappointment. Be more positive. Heal yourself. Wake each day and express gratitude. Say aloud, "I am grateful for what lies ahead". Make it a daily action and practise it every day.'

Taking on Drina's advice, Sarah did just that. Three months later a letter arrived from a guy who wrote that he'd been a guest at her wedding, three years previously—a face in the hordes of well-wishers. Recently, he'd been made aware that Sarah had divorced. He requested a meetup. Why did he wait so long? Sarah thought. At the same time, the voice in her head echoed Drina's prediction, 'It will happen when the time is right.' She raised her eyes and thanked the Universe.



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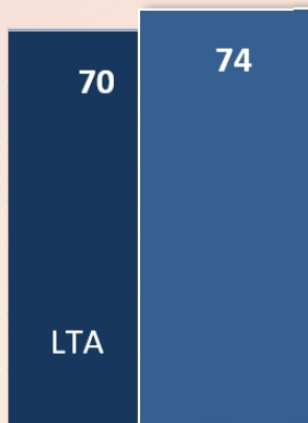
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