

# Meredith district News

MARCH 2026



it's  
Autumn!



CELEBRATING  
**50** YEARS  
OF PUBLICATION

## inside

- We get to meet this year's school leaders
- A warming tale of heroic teens.
- Some good advice on rabbit control

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

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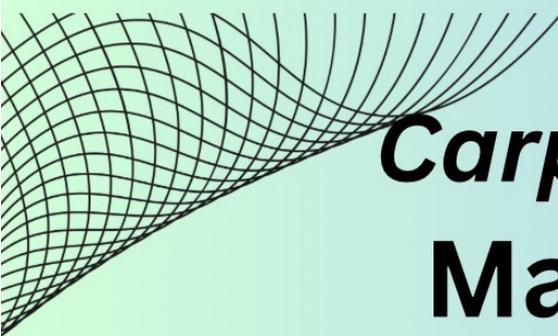
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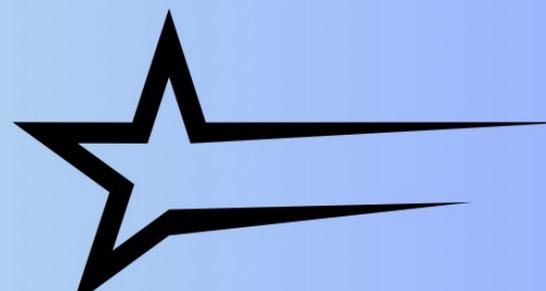
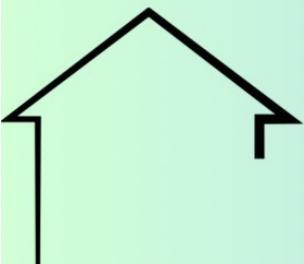


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# THANK YOU

I want to sincerely thank the CFA and our local brigades for all you've done this fire season.

Your professionalism, dedication, and ongoing service, and the vital work you do every day to keep our communities safe, is deeply appreciated. Thank you.



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

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



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

## NEWS & VIEWS

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

## DATES AND DEADLINES

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

## ADVERTISING

Advertising in the M&D Newsletter is a great way to let district residents know about your business. Rates, excluding GST, are as follows:

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

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

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

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

## CONTACT US

Post Office, Meredith, 3333

Advertising: Ian 0409 016815

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Editorial: Jim: 0409 163169

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## WEB

You can check back copies and lodge comments at [meredithnews.com.au](http://meredithnews.com.au)

## ONLINE PHOTOS

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

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## FEEDBACK

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Issue Production: Peter Boer Editor: Jim Elvey

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	SEW 'N' SEWS 5286 0700

## ..or start something.

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



"An early autumn sun, warm for the season, shone over the footy oval while a light breeze skipped here and there - meaning that there'd be no wind advantage for either side.

- from Footy dreaming by Michael Hyde

# emergency

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Mental Health Advice	1300 280 737
Poisons Information	13 11 26
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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
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a/h emergency Ranger	0408 508 635 5220 7111 or 0409 830 223
Bannockburn Vet	5281 1221
Golden Plains Animal	5281 2226
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## Justices of the Peace

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

# services

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**Serbian Orthodox** - 5341 5536  
 Daily services: Matins 8.00 am, Vespers 6.00 pm.  
 Divine Liturgies on Saturdays & Sundays 10.00 am

**Worship on Sundays in the Anglican Parish of Inverleigh+Bannockburn+Meredith:**  
 8.00 am Holy Communion St Paul's, Inverleigh  
 10.00 am Family Communion. St John's, Bannockburn  
 5.00 pm Prayer and Praise Epiphany, Meredith  
 Find us at: [www.goldenplainsanglican.org](http://www.goldenplainsanglican.org) or  
 office.revdrtim@hotmail.com  
 The Revd Dr Timothy Smith  
 PiC Anglican Parish of Inverleigh+Bannockburn+Meredith

**Catholic Parish of Meredith**  
 Winchelsea - St. John the Baptist @ 6pm Sat. MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28  
 Meredith - St. Joseph @ 9am MAR. 8, 22  
 Bannockburn - St. Mary MacKillop @ 11am Sun. MAR. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
 Inverleigh - Sacred Heart - @ 4pm Sun. MAR. 15



**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**  
**Friday March 6th @ 2pm**  
**St. Joseph's, Lawler St. Meredith**  
**All welcome**  
**Contact Mary 0424037542**

There are two times of the year: autumn and waiting for autumn - Unknown



# What's On This Month



**TERM 1 - 2026**  
**CHATTY CAFE - FREE**  
**COME AND JOIN US FOR A LIGHT LUNCH AND MEET NEW FRIENDS! BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL FOR CATERING**  
**WEDNESDAY - APRIL 1 - 11.30 AM**

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**ACT NOW STAY SECURE - CYBER TRAINING - FREE**  
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**WEDNESDAY- MARCH 11 - 12-2.30PM**

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**COMMUNITY DROP IN -**  
**TALL TREE WIND FARM INFORMATION SESSION**  
**WEDNESDAY APRIL 8 - 7.30 AM - 12.30 PM**

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**WE ARE NOW TAKING DONATIONS OF NEW WITH TAGS CLOTHING! ALL SIZES**  
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**DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL TALENT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH THE WORLD? GIVE ME A CALL TO DISCUSS RUNNING A CLASS!**

**THE MEREDITH MART - NEW OPENING TIMES**

**MONDAY - 9AM-1PM**  
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**WEDNESDAY - 9AM-3PM**  
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**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**  
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**\$2 per family**



## Meet the 2026 Meredith Primary School Leaders...

My name is Ayla Gebbie, and I am one of the School Captains for 2026! I have been in this school since the start of Grade 4, and my dream was to become captain. Some things I like are playing Cricket, writing stories, drawing and reading books like the Magic Faraway Tree and Roald Dahl's books. I have a Mum and a Dad. I have a brother named Noah and a sister named Isabelle. My cousins also go to the school and they are Piper, Willow, Tate and Logan. I am excited to be School Captain for Meredith P.S because I want to make people excited to go to school and I want to make it an even better place. I also want to come up with great ideas to improve the school, like playgrounds or new subjects. This school has given me many opportunities and I am very glad to be here. At my old school, people always chose the popular kids, never giving others a chance to be heard, but at Meredith P.S, people are given many opportunities.

PHOTO  
OMITTED FROM  
ONLINE  
VERSION

Hi my name is Hamish McColl and I'm a school captain for 2026. I arrived at Meredith Primary School at the end of term three at the age of ten. I was the second oldest in my class and the second tallest in my class. I'm eleven years old and I live in the country. I have a farm where I run stock such as pigs, cows and sheep. We also crop hay for the animals. I live with my dad, mum, Yvonne, sister and brother. I also live with my pets, 3 dogs and 1 cat, a circus full of chickens, 4 ferrets and 13 turkeys. I love Lego and I watch a lot of David Attenborough. I'm obsessed with animals and their unique skills. It's really hard to pick a favourite, but I also like the farm, helping where I can. I like to drive the motorbike at shearing time and to move the machinery. I enjoy all the tractor trailers and making hay bales. We play a game to see who gets the closest number to how many bales are there. I really enjoy the beach or water in general, especially surfing and playing in the waves. In Elaine, I do CFA with people and learn about fire safety. It will be one of my jobs while farming. I'm excited to be school captain of Meredith Primary School because it is a lovely school and we get lots of opportunities to do a lot of things. It's a perfect school that I'd choose to go to. It's not too big and not too small. Everyone who works here is wonderful and it's just great. So, thanks for reading my profile. I hope you enjoy the rest of your day.

PHOTO  
OMITTED FROM  
ONLINE  
VERSION

Hi, my name is Sebeen Wicks and I'm a Vice-Captain. I came to this school in 2023 in term 2. I really like to ride horses, travel around the world, drawing and do lots of sports, like netball! I'm excited to be Vice-Captain of Meredith PS because of all the opportunities and all the things I can overcome and improve in. I'm excited to improve in my sport and in my writing. I would really like to upgrade the school playgrounds, like the little kids playground and the mini golf course next to the oval.

PHOTO  
OMITTED FROM  
ONLINE  
VERSION

Hi, I'm Piper Gebbie and I am a Vice captain for 2026! I moved to Meredith Primary School when I was in grade two. Some things I like are drawing, reading and my favourite subject is writing. I love making stories and my goal this year is to make this school better than before. I listen to people's ideas to make the school better. Everyone at Meredith Primary School is so nice and people always help each other. This year's school captains are Ayla, who is my cousin, and Hamish and the vice captains are Sebeen and me. If you have any ideas how to change the school let me know. I'm excited to be vice-captain of Meredith Primary School because I will be running assemblies and come up with new ideas to make everyone happy.

PHOTO  
OMITTED FROM  
ONLINE  
VERSION

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# MONEY Matters

with Sandy Hoffmann

PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR MANAGING YOUR MONEY



## It's March and it's prep time.

- With the March long weekend fast approaching, I bet most of you are thinking about your time away or spending time with loved ones and not thinking about your taxes...but this is the best time to plan for the 2026 financial year as it draws ever so close, and I hope that the below will give you some incentive to think and, more importantly do tax.
- Expenses relating to your work that you pay for between now and 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2026 are tax deductible.
- Extra Voluntary Superannuation Contributions you make between now and start of June 2026 will allow you to request an acknowledgement from the super fund and claim as a tax deduction.
- If you ask your accountant to estimate your income and tax withheld for the full financial year, they will be able to guide you on the very rough estimated outcome of your tax return. If it is estimated that you will have a tax payable, there may be items the accountant can suggest, that will allow you to either turn that likely tax payable, into a not payable/not refund position, or it may lessen the blow at tax time as you already know what to expect. There is nothing worse than expecting a refund to be told you are having to pay some money back to the ATO.
- You may pick up an error on your payslip that you hadn't noticed before. This would be a great time to then chat to your employer to have the error amended, giving your employer plenty of time before year end. An error found at lodgement time will delay your return and possible refund owed to you.
- Are you one of those people that frantically run around at 30<sup>th</sup> June or 25<sup>th</sup> October looking for all your receipts that you know are somewhere. Well, this is the reminder to see if you can automate the receipt process or find the receipts in a relaxed state, and place them in a shoe box. You may even find extra receipts closer to the date you had forgotten about, simply because you had thought about tax earlier than normal, and planted the seed in your mind to think tax. Kind of like saying "red car" and then you start seeing red cars everywhere.

The above steps will set you into a great position to be ready for tax time when 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026 rolls around. Enjoy the long weekend and I hope I convinced you to do some tax prep.

## Household savings hack of the month:

Cricut machine making my greeting cards.

How expensive are greeting cards these days? The Reject Shop was my favourite place to get them over the last few years with most cards priced at \$2, with plenty of selection and great choices. There are less and less Reject Shops now and not to mention the aisles are shrinking.

I love writing in a card and giving them on special

occasions, but I don't see the value for money when the cards costs upwards from \$8. The recipient looks at it and then either recycles the card or it ends up in the bottom of the drawer.

I have had a Cricut machine collecting dust for a while now and I decided to put it back into action and how much fun it has been. Not to mention the other items that I am using that I had in storage, like craft paper. If you can get yourself a second hand one or a new one, the initial cost is certainly worth it in my eyes. Not only can you make greeting cards but a plethora of other crafts. Recently I personalised a baby onesie with vinyl for a baby shower and a card that replicated her invite. The excitement on her face when she saw the card and gift were well worth it. Not to mention that I know that card will end up in a memory album of sorts.

## EXHIBIT YOUR ARTWORKS

*Lindy Allinson*

Call out to anyone who's ever wanted to enter an art exhibition. Here's your chance!

Our event is part of the National Trust's annual Heritage Festival. Artist entry is \$5 a piece, or \$10 for three artworks.

The theme is 'Change.' Encouraging groups across Australia to reinterpret not only our local history & environment, through the way we express it.

With that in mind the Back to Steiglitz Association volunteers are creating an event with a twist. It's called, 'The Golden Days of Steiglitz.' One reinterpretation is a focus on something other than the goldfields of the 1800s. Highlighting strong women who stayed on after the mining stopped. Who called this community home... the Matriarchs of our community.

We've chosen the Anzac Day weekend – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April for our event. From 10am - 2 pm. Enjoy tours, displays, great food, along with a few more surprises for the whole family.

No matter your age, or who you identify as, if you've always wanted to exhibit your artwork (that includes craft), please contact Exhibition Curator, Angela Hickey, for info & conditions, at [a.hicksorb@gmail.com](mailto:a.hicksorb@gmail.com) or ring on 0499 198 716.

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**OUR COVER**

Kookaburras are one of the delights of living in the district, Our beautiful cover photo was taken by Owen Cook. Thanks Owen.





Send your favourite pic to [news@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:news@meredithnews.com.au). You could make it to the front page.

## The Flying Dutchman

*Marge Cooper*

Don Van Beusichem (Dutchy) was a member of Meredith Fire Brigade for over 34 years and for most of that time he was the truck driver. Locals say he drove well but described how he often arrived at a fire fairly quickly and that was the reason he was called the *Flying Dutchman*.

Don and John Cooke competed at what he called 'Demos in Geelong'. Don's wife Coral bought white T shirts for them and stenciled *Meredith* on the back for uniforms. In the competition the driver had to back the truck between two pipes while the other fireman started the motor to pump water. They had the best time but were disqualified because Dutchy pushed one of the pipes out!

He recalls how the Meredith Fire Truck was kept in a little wooden shed between Elders house and the old Shire Hall, until the first shed was built on the corner of Midland Highway and Mooney Street. Dutchy built a lean-to onto that shed. The fire truck was an ex-Army, 1939 Chev complete with a bullet hole with an old Army wireless set.

Word came through that a new truck was ready in Geelong for the Meredith Brigade. How to get there! Dutchy couldn't seem to get a ride to Geelong to pick it up so he went to the Railway Station to see Tad Woznica, the Station Master. There was a goods train almost due, so Tad flagged it down and Dutchy travelled to Geelong in the Goods Van. The Regional Officer picked him up from the Geelong Station and took him to collect the new truck. After that Dutchy had to drive the truck to Derrinallum to have Doug McLeod fit a more modern wireless set.

He remembers going to a fire at Anglesea with Eric Turner. A policeman stopped them as they approached Anglesea and told them that they couldn't go through because there was a fire. Dutchy exclaimed to the policeman, "What do you think this is?" They were let through in the Meredith Fire Truck, and were accommodated that night in the local hall after the picture show ended.

Fred Newcombe had a garage in Meredith about where the Angling Club is now. He lived across the road and was Captain of the Brigade while he was here. Stan Tate was the next owner of the garage and Alan Ryan worked for him. Dutchy said that in those days there were no hoists so, instead, the mechanics worked from a big pit in the ground. Later this shed was used by Charlie Weatherly to

store equipment and materials while he installed the first electricity lines to Bamganie.

Dutchy thought that there was a fire bell to let people know that there was a fire but he doesn't remember it being used. He thought that there may have been a siren worked from the Post Office before the shed was built on the highway. One day after the new siren went all night Dutchy visited Ted Tansley, who was the Captain at that time to complain. It appears that Dutchy solved the problem in his own way by pulling the fuse out.

Dutchy explained how the crew would fill the tank on the truck with water where ever they could get water, usually from dams, creeks and rivers. The pump was called a low-down pump and involved priming with a lever. Reg Robbie, who had an engineering workshop just north of the Bottom Shop, was in charge of a quick fill unit that the Brigade acquired later.

During the 1967 fires, Dutchy on the Meredith Fire truck and Don Slater on his own truck nearly had the fire out at Murphy's Lane at Clarendon, but both trucks ran out of water at the same time and the fire escaped. That fire then took just 10 minutes to travel through the Bamganie Bush, and that it would have gone to the coast, but for the Captain of Teesdale Fire Brigade, Don Wallace, who was brave enough to order a back burn from a main road. Dutchy called him a hero!.

## Aaah Summer...

*Jim Elvey*

Well, we've got through another summer. That's pretty well the feeling when you get to March and this summer has been an especially testing one. Bushfires out of control over several days through large tracts of farmland and pushing dangerously close to the township itself, combined with the very high temperatures and very low rainfall are reason enough to be glad to have it behind us.



Of course, beach and pool lovers look forward to summer, and rue its passing. And many of us appreciate its own delights. New season birdlife is active in the bush and gardens, long days often bracketed by delightful mornings and drawn out evenings and the opportunity it affords to spend more time outdoors.

Living where we do, we do have four very distinct seasons. And even if Summer isn't your favourite one, it is part of a cycle that many people around the world, even around Australia, don't get to experience and often envy. As a resident of the northern edge of Australia once told me, wherever you live, there's a time of the year you will want to stay indoors. We're lucky - we have two!

Farewell summer for another year.

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## Easy Rhubarb Muffins

From "Grow Cook Eat" cookbook from Daylesford Primary School Kitchen and Garden by Alla Wolf Tasker and Andrew Stone

### Ingredients

- Makes 12 muffins
- Self-raising flour – 220g
- Caster sugar – ½ cup
- Milk – ¾ cup
- Egg – 1
- Vegetable oil – ½ cup
- Rhubarb stems – 150g finely chopped
- Cinnamon – 1 teaspoon

### Method

- preheat oven to 180°
- line muffin tray with paper muffin cups
- in a large bowl mix sifted flour, castor sugar, cinnamon and rhubarb using a large metal spoon
- in a small bowl lightly whisk the egg, milk and oil
- make a well in the centre of the dry ingredients, pour in the liquid mixture and combine lightly with the spoon till completely mixed (do not over mix)
- spoon into paper muffin cups to 2/3 full
- bake for 20-25 minutes then cool on a wire rack

*A tasty topping highly recommended: before baking, sprinkle the muffins with demerara sugar and roughly chopped almonds.*

### Variations:

You can substitute:

- raw sugar for the castor sugar;
- gluten-free, spelt or wholemeal flour for the self-raising flour (add bicarb soda or baking powder if it is plain flour);
- chopped apples or mashed bananas instead of rhubarb;
- lactose-free milk or soy milk for the dairy milk

This recipe can also be easily modified to suit food allergies or intolerances.

## Tasting Notes

*These muffins are deliciously yum. You use castor sugar in the muffins but you sprinkle Demerara sugar on top before you bake them. After they are baked it goes sparkly. We made two batches which was enough for all our class and the teachers. Please everyone, try baking these.*

*Eva, Harrison, Isabelle and Tate*





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## the Philatelist

Michael Riseley



### Duck Stamps

In USA the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp is a form of licence tax for duck hunters. A new stamp is issued each year and covers 1 July to 30 June. The waterfowl hunting season mostly begins in September/October and hunters need to purchase a stamp for the current year. They must be able to show a current year stamp if, or when, requested by a Wildlife Ranger. These stamps are more simply known as Duck Stamps.

Their origin came from the Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929 which authorised the federal government to acquire and preserve wetlands as waterfowl habitat. A very noble decision but sadly it was not very well funded. So in 1934 the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act was passed and the first Duck Stamp was issued. They were introduced as a form of hunting licence and raised funds for wetlands conservation.

The decision was made to use stamps as the tax vehicle because being small, they could be easily produced, stored and accounted for by Government agencies. And by being adhesive, hunters could easily keep and preserve them by sticking them into a small notebook. Not surprisingly the first stamp depicted two ducks. In subsequent years various wildlife artists were commissioned to design that years stamp.

But in 1949 it was decided to open the duck stamp design to the public. Each year a short list is made of eligible species for which designs can be submitted. The first year there were 88 entries. This number climbed quickly to over 2,000 by 1981 and many many more in recent years. Mr Maynard Reece from Iowa has won the design contest a record 5 times.

The first Duck Stamp cost \$1 and has steadily risen to \$25 for the last decade. A further increase soon would not be surprising. In some states hunters need both a Federal Duck Stamp and also a local state Duck Stamp. These states maintain they need extra funds for wetlands restoration and preservation.

Naturally enough these Duck Stamps are very collectable. They are very attractive and not overly expensive. Many Duck Stamps are purchased by collectors and not hunters. But the governments don't seem to mind.



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# Creating a Fertile Environment for Kids' Creativity and Growth

This web article is an excerpt from the book "Lifelong Kindergarten: Cultivating Creativity through Projects, Passion, Peers, and Play" by Mitchel Resnick, a learning researcher. It's easy to read and offers ten tips on helping your child on their developmental journey.



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Wendy Cook

The hakea in the corner of our garden is a haven for small birds. A close relative of banksias and grevilleas, it is a well-rounded bush reaching high above my head. Its leaves are long, straight and cylindrical, so that I can roll one between my fingers. They spread outwards from each twig and end in a sharp point, discouraging most animals from taking a bite. The hakea only flowers for two or three weeks each year, its curly white flowers filling its surrounds with sweet perfume. Even so, it is well favoured by the little birds. They can slip between its needle-like leaves and hide in the bush, or build nests and rear their chicks, safe from predators. They are extremely difficult to see from outside the hakea and even harder to reach.

While our hakea grows its leaves as spikes, some plants grow sharp points among or on their foliage to deter mammals from eating them. These points have varying names, and can be found on some of our local weeds. Hawthorn has thorns, which are short branches ending with a spike, and are not easily broken off. Blackberries have prickles, formed from the outer layers of its stems. Spines are narrow and sometimes flexible, and protect seeds or grow as part of leaves, such as on thistles.

The manner in which some plants grow their spikes can depend on the habitat in which they grow. Sweet bursaria is one of our local indigenous plants. It grows as a bush or small tree with clusters of scented white flowers in summer which attract a variety of insects as pollinators. Later, it has brown purse-like seed pods. Its branches grow small dark green leaves and short thorns. I found one growing beside the creek in Anakie Gorge, where it had plenty of water and adequate sunlight. In such ideal conditions, it was tall with uncommonly large leaves. It had no need to defend its foliage, and had no thorns. I have also seen these plants growing in the hot dry mallee country of north-west Victoria. They were short with very small leaves, all precious and important for survival. Here, thorns were longer than the leaves, so any mouthfuls taken from these bushes would have been very uncomfortable.

Another local thorny bush is hedge wattle, which can grow into a dense shrub and is covered with bright yellow flowers in springtime. Like a hedge, it forms a barrier to predatory animals, and birds can nest in it safely. It attracts insects, and provides protection for young trees, so they can grow tall enough to be safe from wallabies, sheep and other browsing animals. It is an excellent replacement for gorse, which is also favoured by birds for rearing their chicks.

Blackberry is another invasive weed which provides shelter, and is also a source of fruit enjoyed by birds and animals. Again, there is a prickly plant that belongs here that can fulfil this purpose, and although it is closely related, it does not spread in the manner of blackberries. It

is known as small-leaf bramble or native raspberry. It is an attractive plant with leaves shaped like those of blackberry, but smaller with a wrinkled appearance. The tops of the leaves are bright green, while the undersides are white and slightly fluffy. In late spring and summer, it shows deep pink flowers, which develop into edible red berries, similar to raspberries.

We also have an indigenous plant that is as spiny as a thistle, but is unrelated. It belongs to the carrot family and grows in grassy areas, but is no longer as common as before the arrival of Europeans. Its name is blue devil, and it has a rosette of leaves with sharp spines growing from their edges. Tough flower stalks grow upwards, branching and bearing numerous spheres of metallic blue flowers, which attract butterflies and native bees. While the flowers are small, among them grow more spines, the same colour as the blooms tucked between them, but reaching well beyond them. The spines remain as the flowers develop into seeds, with the eye-catching blue clusters lasting for weeks in summer. As the weather cools, the tops of the plants die, but fleshy taproots remain underground ready to grow a new set of spiny leaves in springtime.



It's our 50th Anniversary



What  
You  
Think.



A BIG Thank You to Cathie Boer who, on short notice, took on the Roving Reporter role, seeking the views of residents on the Newsletter. This month, she speaks to Mary and Greg Foster. If you would like to share your views, get in touch at :

[news@meredithnews.com/au](mailto:news@meredithnews.com/au). - Ed.

Attending the church, we found the locals were so friendly and welcoming, we decided this was the place for us. We've been living here for 38 years!

We read the newsletter every month, cover to cover, including ads., community centre news, recipes and connect column.

It is very important for finding out what is happening in the district. Ads are also needed when looking for someone or something, ie tradies.

It also plays a vital role, keeping the whole community connected.

## Insights...

*Marg Cooper has kindly given us access to the extensive notes she took, while researching the back copies of the Newsletter held by the Meredith History Interest Group. Dipping into those notes as a point of reference, we plan to spotlight various aspects of the Newsletter over the years, starting with Policy. - Ed.*

### Policy

From the beginning the policy for the Newsletter has been to encourage all organisations in the distribution area to contribute and make full use of it.

In 2006 a Mission Statement was adopted: *The Newsletter will be a valued and sustainable source of local news for the district community. By this means, it will make a positive contribution to community participation, interaction and awareness of local activities and events. It will actively foster relevant contributions of interest to the community from district individuals and organizations and other appropriate sources.*

The Newsletter has always strictly adhered to a non-partisan/non-political policy. This policy was sorely tested in September 1988 just prior to the State election. The then Shire of Bannockburn regularly contributed a Shire News supplement circulated with the Meredith Newsletter. On this occasion the Shire President's column outlined the dangers of returning the current government, directing ratepayers to vote in a particular way at the forthcoming election. The partisan nature of the column was not detected until after publication. The Meredith Primary School Council, as the auspice body of the Newsletter, sought an apology from the Council and an assurance this would not happen again. However, when no apology or assurance was forthcoming, the School Council passed a motion refusing to accept the Bannockburn Shire News supplement for circulation with the Newsletter until such an assurance was obtained. (See extract below from the 5th October, 1988 edition).

#### MEREDITH NEWSLETTER AND THE BANNOCKBURN SHIRE NEWS.

The Meredith newsletter, since its inception has operated a rigid policy of refusing publication of all material of a partisan political nature. Just prior to the recent State election, the Bannockburn Shire news, attached to the newsletter, carried an item recommending that ratepayers direct their vote in a particular way at the forthcoming election. This was not detected until after the newsletter was circulated. Members of the newsletter committee wrote to the council seeking an apology for compromising the newsletter's strict standards and insisting on a written statement that all future Shire news items would studiously avoid such partisan political material. In the absence of such a guarantee, the Meredith Newsletter could no longer maintain the distribution arrangement. Correspondence over the course of the period between has failed to obtain this undertaking and it was with some regret that Meredith School Council (auspice body for the newsletter) passed the following motion at its recent council meeting.

"This council moves that the newsletter refuse to accept for distribution the Bannockburn Shire news supplement until such time as a statement is received from the Shire that it promises to comply with newsletter policy in refraining from the inclusion of material of a partisan political nature. Council calls upon members of the public to make representations to the Shire to encourage it to meet this condition which applies to all other contributors, so that this valuable news distribution system can be reinstated."

# The Words We've Left Behind.

Snippets from 1986 to 1990

50 Years of a Country T

MEREDITH COUNTRY FAIR: Well, what a day! Despite all our hopes and prayers for that perfect day, the storm that had been threatening for about ten days decided, unfortunately, that Sunday October 21st was THE day. However miraculously, despite the weather, the crowds still came. It was so heartening early on Sunday morning to see so many people still busily going about their jobs with rain and wind howling around them. Our sincere thanks go to all our very loyal sponsors, those who donated prizes, our workers and our scone, etc. cooks. So many people from the community generally "pitched in" to help make the day a truly community one and for this we are extremely grateful. Meredith is certainly a lucky town to have such a sense of community.

10th November 1990

MEREDITH'S BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS CONTINUE.....  
Last Thursday, Lethbridge and Meredith Primary Schools combined for a day of games, feasting and dancing. Despite the very wet weather, cheery smiles were on all the faces and everyone joined in the spirit of the day, dressing in pioneer-style clothing. During the morning, the children made and devoured some delicious damper and took part in egg and spoon races and sack races. Many children proved to be excellent shots in the marbles ring, in the bowling alley and also at croquet. Hopscotch was a great hit and Ned Kelly turned up at the horseshoe throwing to demonstrate his skills. The Community House Drama Group showed their most recent video "Gold Fever", and many stars familiar to us all, were seen on the gold fields. A delicious luncheon was prepared by the Parents and Friends Fun Lurh committee, with Bicentennial cup cakes, and green and gold milk being big favourites. When the rain continued after lunch, we adjourned to the Meredith Hall where a wonderful afternoon was had dancing to the strains of Mr. Smith's guitar and Mr. Tantau's flute. Many thanks to all the parents, friends, teachers and children who worked beforehand and on the day to make it so enjoyable.

11th May 1983

18th June 1986

MEREDITH SCHOOL COUNCIL - (Report of meeting held June 11th.)  
Thanks: The Council specially recorded its gratitude to those who helped move the library building from Woodburn Creek to Meredith during the last holidays. Thanks to Kevin and Rosemary Gargan, Alvin Perdrissat, Phil Dickson, Bruce McMullen ( and Marj's sleepers), Peter Baird and Robert Cook. Also thanks to Lyle Stevens for the use of his low loader and Charlie Osbor for his posthole digger.  
Working Bee: Following the successful transfer of the building we now need a working bee to tidy up the Woodburn Creek school site and complete the transfer of remaining items of equipment to Meredith. This will be held NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 22, from 9.30 a.m. Volunteers and equipment - including a front-end loader, a truck, a trailer, oxy-acetylene gear, shovels - are urgently needed. Please be there.  
Computers: A public meeting to examine the use of computers in schools and their possibilities in our school will be held on MONDAY, 14TH. JULY from 7.30 p.m. Peter Dalman from the Ballarat Computer Centre will demonstrate some usage and answer questions from parents. This is your chance to find

28th October 1986

"Ango, Keating like in his control of Cub finances, has promised an End of Season trip to the USA (Upper Steiglitz Area.)"

19th May 1987

## MEREDITH SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS.

LAST CHANCE ON SCHOOL HOUSE..... School Council has reluctantly decided to hand back the residence for removal or demolition due to lack of interest displayed in using it for community purposes. Unless THIS week sees the emergence of an enthusiastic committee of locals keen to develop the residence for community and school activities, Council will be forced to write to the Housing Authority withdrawing its application to take over control of the house. If you and a group of friends can see any potential for the house, ( sorry, residential use is out ), get in touch with Rob, Molesworth, 053 - 608253, or Peter Baird 052- 861356, but do it NOW!!!

Happily, it's still here. In fact, it is where we have our office.. - Ed.

IS  
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# YOUR WOOL IN?



## MEREDITH FLEECE SHOW

MEREDITH PUBLIC HALL

FRIDAY 11th DECEMBER  
PARADE 7.30

### Meredith & District Newsletter

## COUNTRY FAIR

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# MEREDITH



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Fashions on display from Jenny McMahon

FRIDAY 12th. DECEMBER. 7:30p.m.

This period features a lot of delightful illustrations by local artist, Dorothy Hamilton-Smith,

**LOCAL MEREDITH ASSOCIATION:** Last Saturday at 9 am the Meredith tree planting program started in Wallace St. The trees were donated by Bannockburn Shire Council and a good number of volunteers planted the trees. The objectives of the Association are to beautify, expand and the township of Meredith with the aim of fostering civic pride within the shire & district through self initiated programs. The Association meets on the last Friday of every month at 7.30 pm. at the Community House and is initiating programs of civic education in conjunction with co-ordinating the Keep Australia Beautiful Council's annual competition for Meredith. The Association's meetings are well attended by council members.

4th August 1990

### MEREDITH CRICKET CLUB- RICHIE DUNNO'S PRE SEASON GUIDE.

While the Australian Test team continues its Indian Tour those other proud wearers of the baggy green cap the Meredith Cricket club commence their season this Saturday. As with most clubs the team's prospects depend on several players whose talents are needed to steer the club to victory. Amongst these is Tom the "Boundary Road Bruiser" whose pre season training consisted mainly of his diet of diced carrots and working on rugby tackle skills and "Whiplash" who is also known to be fond of rugby tackling. "Whiplash, last year's captain and a strong favourite for the job this year, is well known for his dedication to the game and his words of wisdom to the younger member of the team. President "RD" a player of almost legendary status, famous for his fancy footwork at the batting crease and blistering pace in the outfield is another player needed to perform well, "Willie" the Woodburn wicket taking wonder has been bowling well in the cricketer's bar at the Royal Hotel and coming on from the billiard table and in the same establishment Chris "Heart 'n' Soul" has shown good form to the oval. Norm "Thrillseeker" likes to live dangerously especially outside the off stump, and is capable of steering his side to victory. During the season many of the younger players are expected to blossom into fine young cricketers. Treasurer Ango, Keating like in his control of club finances has promised an end of season trip to the U.S.A. (Upper Stieglitz Area) if the club is successful. This Saturday should prove interesting and while large crowds are expected, locals are encouraged to come along and support the B. grade playing at home and the A grade playing at Lethbridge.

Richie Dunno.

# Our Cover Story

## The Changing Face of our Covers

### 1986 to 1990

This selection of snippets and covers from the second half of the 1980s, shows a continuation of style and content, but also the introduction of graphics, which was pretty innovative given the limited technology available at the time. There is even a piece of artwork supplied by a primary school student.

MEREDITH AND DISTRICT NEWSLETTER.  
11th. February, 1986.

**THE NEWSLETTER.**  
The Newsletter will continue through 1986 the same way as it has for the past ten years. I ask for the co-operation of readers to only have one newsletter in your home, as rising costs make it necessary to ask everyone to help in this direction,  
**COPY FOR THE NEWSLETTER.**  
The Newsletter is for the use of the community in any field, except it has always been the policy of the Editorial Committee that there be no commercial inclusions. If you have a query please contact the Editor. Private notices, i.e. For Sale etc. are printed at a small charge. All Clubs and Groups are invited to use the Newsletter free of charge, except to advertise fund raising events, in the form of an advertisement, which will be run at a small charge, as per size of ad.

**TYPISTS.**  
If you can type and want to join the Newsletter typing team just let me know as soon as possible, and I will include your name on this year's roster. If you were typing last year and wish to continue, I will appreciate your name unless I hear from you. The typists time is greatly appreciated, as this is the only way, with volunteers, that we can produce the local news.

**ALL COPY MUST BE AT BONGIORNO'S SHOP BEFORE 3.30 P.M. ON A TUESDAY. ITEMS WILL NOT BE TAKEN OVER THE PHONE. ALL COPY MUST BE SIGNED BY THE PERSON SUBMITTING IT, BUT YOUR NAME MAY BE OMITTED FROM PRINTING, IF YOU REQUEST IT. THE NEWSLETTER WILL USUALLY BE AVAILABLE BY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS, THROUGH THE SCHOOL OR LOCAL DISTRIBUTION POINTS.**  
Peter Bongiorno. Editor.

**LETHBRIDGE FELLOWSHIP.** The first meeting will be held at Meredith on Monday February, 17th, at 1.30 p.m.  
L.Kootstra. Sec.

**FREE....** Delightful marmalade kitten. 9 weeks old, friendly and playful, shows signs of being an excellent mouser. Phone Rosemary or Kevin Gargan. 861354.

**MEREDITH RE UNION.** The Annual Re-union will be held in the Soldiers Memorial Hall on Saturday, 22nd. February. Lunch at 12 noon. Please bring your own Lunch and Afternoon Tea. Tea, Coffee, Milk and Sugar provided. Everyone invited.... come and meet your old friends. Any questions phone 861343.

**MEREDITH INFANT WELFARE & KINDERGARTEN.** The Annual General meeting of the MINK is on WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19th, 1986 at 8 p.m. Guest Speaker will be Genny Hindman, Regional Pre School Advisor, who will give a talk on Protective Behaviour. Everyone most welcome.  
Sheryl Raynor. President. Treasurer.

**CLEARING SALE....** The Meredith Recreation Reserve will be holding its 2nd. Monster Clearing Sale on APRIL 6th. Entries are now being taken.  
P.Bongiorno. Hon. Sec.

MEREDITH AND DISTRICT NEWSLETTER. 19th. MAY, 1987.

**FAMILY GAMES NIGHT**

FRIDAY MAY 29th. at MEREDITH RECREATION RESERVE  
7.30 pm till 9.30 pm  
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.  
\$1 per head.... INCLUDES SUPPER.  
Organized by Meredith Tennis Club.

\* \* \* \* \*

MEREDITH AND DISTRICT MEMORIAL HALL INC.  
The Annual General Meeting of the Meredith and District Hall Inc. will be held on THURSDAY 28th. May, at 8 pm. Election of Office Bearers. Presentation of Balance Sheet. All Welcome.  
Douglas K. McFarlane. Hon. Sec.

**ATTENTION....** The Special Activities Committee of the Girl Guides Assoc. will dedicate a Clock in memory of Dame Edith Bolte D.B.E. on FRIDAY 22nd. May at 11.30 am. Anyone wishing to attend at Guide Headquarters, 20 Russell Street, Melbourne will be most welcome.

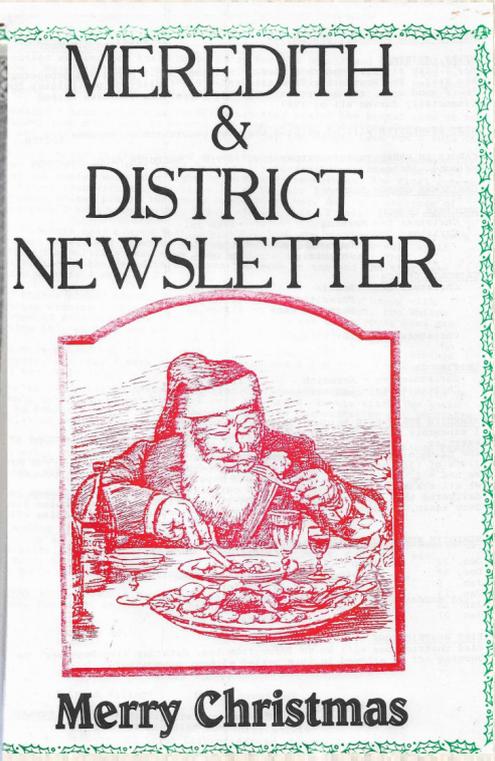
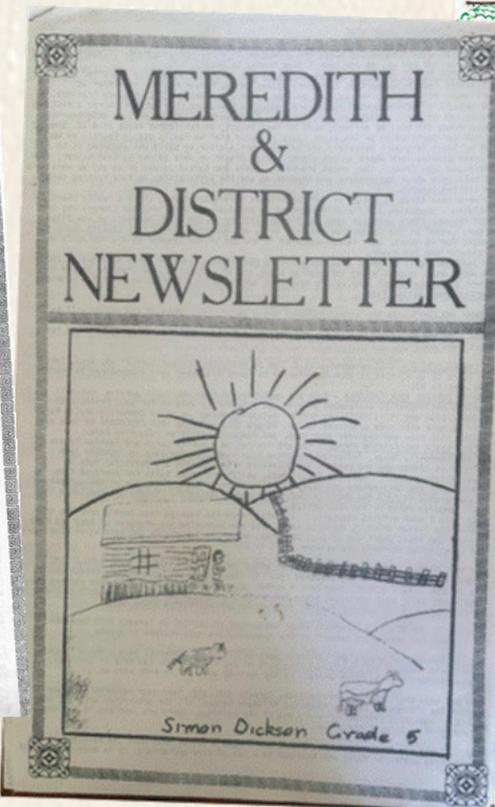
**MEREDITH FIRE BRIGADE DRIVERS ROSTER.** MAY 24.  
Acco.... Roy Taylor. Inter.... S.Perdrisat.

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DELICIOUS OLD FASHIONED SUPPER. SQUIRES BAND  
TICKETS \$12 ADULT SINGLE. UNDER 15 \$5. Tickets available from Pat Mitchell, 817235 or Joan Millar, 817272.

**LOST....** At the Brides Night, an old cardboard box lid, had gift wrapping in it, may have been taken inadvertently to carry home items loaned. This lid is part of a box which has great sentimental value to the owner. If you have any information regarding this, please contact Heather Kent, Phone 861370.

**ELAINE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE LADIES AUXILIARY** will hold a General Meeting at 9.30 am. on May 28th, in the Elaine Hall.  
G.Hunt. Secretary.

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## Local Teen Heroes

*Meg Devlin*

This particular Saturday in January started just like any other at Devlin's Ridge... The sun shining, our mob of resident kangaroos grazing outside the kitchen window, happy horses and dogs eating breakfast and of course, the sounds of giggling teenage girls being heard all round the property! Teenage girls are crazy, loud, messy, funny, full-on ... but in this story we find out that they can be more-SO much more than that! They can be heroes' in fact, of the very... highest... order!!

Our daughter Elsa and her best friend Charlie have been inseparable for years. They have been through primary school and are now at secondary school together, they play footy and tennis and, on the home front, as parents, we all seem to have joint custody of them both! They go together like night and day, like a pie and sauce, like Meredith and cheese and like, well... Miss E and Charlie!

That Saturday continued just like any other, us three girls pottering around our property, spending time with our much loved menagerie of animals. Everything was great... until it wasn't! One of our young horses had become entangled on a fence and whilst I was trying to untie her she spooked, reared up and came crashing down with her hooves straight to the top of my head and face! I was tossed backwards through the air and landed on the back of my head and neck... unconscious... and you guessed it, right in front of 2 terrified 13 year old girls!

Now at this point, most kids would have freaked out, but Elsa and Charlie into action, donned and showed us that heroism can wear dirty farm jeans, baggy t-shirts messy hair and be only 13 years old.

Elsa positioned me in the 'recovery' position on my side and clearing my airway of blood. They had no medical supplies around so Charlie took her jumper off, using it to apply pressure to open wounds on my head. Taking it in turns to stay with me and keep my airway clear, they coordinated turns getting phones, calling '000,' stemming bleeding, putting horses back in paddocks away from emergency services turning up on scene and importantly, supporting each other to get through a harrowing ordeal.

Meredith Ambulance Victoria CERT volunteers Martin and Christian got the page that afternoon and recognised the address straight away as I too, am part of the CERT Team.

(Yes, I did get paged to my own emergency... and of course my response time was perfect as I was already there!)

They took over from my Teenage saviours, who both continued to help emergency services. Martin has since said that the girls were "absolutely amazing in the way that they kept it all together and had done all the right things before AV had arrived – he was beyond impressed with them."

I was airlifted to the Royal Alfred Trauma Centre in Melbourne unconscious and unresponsive. I cannot remember anything about the accident itself or the two days following. I woke up in a spinal brace having sustained lacerations to my head and face, bruising to the brain, compaction of vertebra in my upper spine, with spinal and rib and intercostal damage, extensive bruising

all over my body and a week in, was told that I had suffered a substantial brain injury.

I was stabilised at the Alfred over a few weeks – then transferred to a rehabilitation hospital in Melbourne where I started intensive rehabilitation therapy. It's going to be a long road to recovery, months of rehabilitation and recovery, however I'm alive... and geez, that's a really great thing to be!

Multiple doctors and specialists have been very clear along the way in saying that if Elsa and Charlie hadn't acted so quickly and bravely that day, then I would not have survived. In a world where we are often so quick to judge or to hear only the bad about our younger generations, this story shows that they are capable of incredible things and we need to recognise that!

Being in a rural area, this just shows how important it is that our kids know how to call '000' and have the information on hand that they'll need to relay to call takers. Basic 1<sup>st</sup> aid training never goes astray also and this can be woven into games and role playing so that kids can call on the information if they ever need to at a crucial time.

Thanks needs to go out to Ambulance Vic MICA crew members, Bannockburn AV crew and the AV HEMS airlift crew. Thank you to crew members Martin and Christian at Meredith CERT for your quick response and knowledgeable care.

Lastly, but definitely not least, I'd like to say Thank You to the two teenage girls who have made me proud, made me smile and brought love to my life for years. Elsa and Charlie are incredible young people and both possess such bravery and courage. Not loud dramatic courage, but the quiet kind that rises when someone needs help... they didn't freeze, they acted. I am very proud of both of these young women who showed the world that it takes just one moment to change the course of time... and they did change time... they 'gave' me time, and I am forever grateful

*Charlie Zordan, Elsa Devlin and Me with my 2 heroes*





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## Did You Notice?

Janine Schillier did. She alerted us to the misspelling of “Bamgamie” in the sign featured on last month’s cover. Well spotted Janine. If you know of the origins of this alternative spelling, we would love to hear from you.



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## Pop Up Shop

Marge Cooper

I was told about this marvellous shop in Lethbridge which sold the sort of 'junk' which once used to be available in Op Shops before they became more sophisticated. I was also told that the woman with orange/red hair who was running the shop was lively, vibrant and interesting and had a good story to tell - so, a visit was called for!

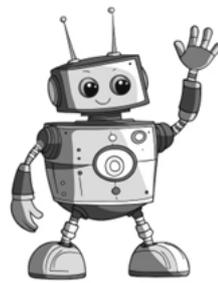
Alicia grew up in Ocean Grove, but said she has been on the road for three and a half years, getting work where she can and letting the flow take her. She opened the shop because she had an abundance of junk already but liked the process of collecting more junk. But, more than that, she wanted to gain some money back to put towards further travels. Alicia would sometimes call into a farm and ask if the farmer had any junk that he'd like to sell whilst listening to his stories, appreciating his knowledge and enjoying the nostalgia.

She was delighted with the size and position of the shop in the main street of Lethbridge. She had thought about opening in Meredith but believed that more customers had visited in Lethbridge than she would have in Meredith, even on the Midland Highway. On Saturday afternoon when I visited there was a continual flow of buyers who delighted in finding a treasure at a reasonable price. One little girl with a few silver coins in her purse was there by herself and bought at least two small items to add to her treasure chest.

Alicia has a vibrant personality and can relate to everyone and looked after everyone including the man adding to his collection of model vehicles, and the small girl who was out shopping by herself. How wonderful for her to have that opportunity in a safe and caring environment.

The shop opened when Alicia was available to open and she advertised this on social media. Outside there were rusty tools of all descriptions. I couldn't resist four pair of seized up, rusty hand shears in four different sizes. Inside the shop was a collector's dream including china, casseroles, books, jewellery, linen, tools and knick-knacks. And some people even came into the shop to donate junk to her so she could sell it.

Sadly the shop closed on Sunday, February 8 as Alicia is contracted for a potato harvest and then for gold digging in the Pilbara. She assured us that she would be back with her energy and craziness to open the shop again in nine months time. But, for this girl who loves to live life on the edge, who knows!



## Oh No...AI has Infiltrated Meredith News!

When producing the News, there is always gaps to fill. This is mostly not a problem and usually easily solved by enlarging photos, importing some graphics, even enlarging article fonts a little. But, publishing in four page sets, we occasionally face the dilemma of finding two whole pages or more of new content. Or, conversely, removing a lot of content - never easy. And it is always when the hard deadline is near. This is where we found ourselves this month. After using all our tricks, (see summer, rabbits and children's drawings,) we still had space to fill.

Vanessa, our much loved garden columnist wasn't able to file this month, so we resorted to AI. So, it is with mixed feelings, we offer up our first AI generated article.

*Rest assured, no journalist was dismissed as a consequence of this action - we don't have any - and we look forward to publishing the lovingly crafted real world gardening advice from Vanessa next issue. - Ed.*

## Autumn Gardening Tasks

*AI (when asked for some gardening tasks for a Victorian autumn.)*

The cooling soil and increased rainfall make autumn the ideal time for establishing new plants and preparing for spring.

### Planting:

- **Vegetables:** Start brassicas like broccoli, cauliflower, and kale early in the season. In mid-autumn (April), plant beetroot, spinach, and radish. By May, it is time to sow garlic, peas, and broad beans.
- **Flower Bulbs:** Plant spring-flowering bulbs such as daffodils, freesias, and jonquils from mid-March to late April. Wait until May, when the soil has cooled significantly, to plant tulips.

### Maintenance:

- **Pruning:** Trim back overgrown summer foliage and prune shrubs to promote healthy regrowth.
- **Mulching:** Apply organic mulch like pea straw to garden beds to retain moisture and regulate soil temperature.
- **Lawn Care:** Rejuvenate lawns by aerating and applying a slow-release fertiliser before the winter dormancy.



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As long as autumn lasts, I shall not have hands, canvas and colours enough to paint the beautiful things I see - Vincent Van Gogh



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# Marg's BOOK REVIEW

## The Correspondent by Virginia Evans

This is an interesting concept for a book. The entire book is presented as letters written by the main character, Sybil Van Antwerp who is a seventy-three-year-old retired lawyer, who spends every morning at her desk writing letters. She writes to everyone including her brother, her best friend, to authors of books she has read, people she observes, her gardening club, past clients, university presidents, her children and to her ex husband.

Through these letters we get to know Sybil not just as a writer but as a woman coming to terms with her past and future. We discover beneath the confident exterior lies a deep well of regret, loneliness and longing. She faces old mistakes, strained relationships with her children and a haunting loss from years ago. Through her writing she tries to make peace with others and with herself although she is fiercely independent.

A review describes how the book also captures the emotional truth of aging and reflection. It's about what happens when the life you have so carefully built starts to unravel.

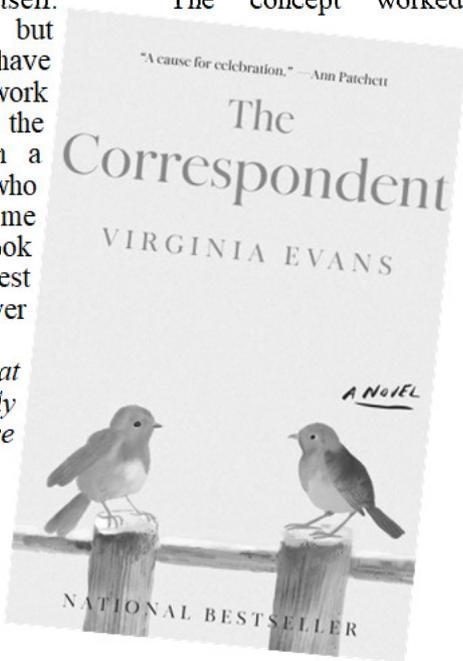
The letter format feels intimate in that you are being trusted with Sybil's thoughts. One person she corresponds with is Harry, the teenage son of a judge she knew when she was a lawyer. Harry is very bright, but is an isolated child who is bullied at school and has emotional problems. His father worries about him and thinks that correspondence with Sybil may help him. There is another unfinished, ongoing series of letters that she writes to an unknown recipient, that she never posts. A mystery indeed!

Many people today find the practice of letter writing antiquated, but imagine the letters that have been sent out into the world and the letters sent in return. They are pieces of a magnificent puzzle that may never be actually put entirely together again, but those remaining are each valuable.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. With each letter I had to firstly read who it was addressed to, and remember how that person fitted into Sybil's life, before launching into reading the letter itself. The concept worked exceedingly well, but

makes the reader have to do some work instead of having the story presented on a plate. The reader who recommended it to me considered this book to be one of the best books she has ever read!

*Remember that words, especially those written, are immortal!*



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*Compiled by Michael Riseley*

1. Name the 3 Stooges.
2. Name Donald Duck's 3 nephews.
3. Who was the 3rd wife of Henry 8th.
4. Which 3 USA states start with the letter "O".
5. Who were Aramis, Athos & Porthos.
6. From the field of musicals, who were Peepbo, Pittising & Yum Yum.
7. The Third Man was not playing cricket but in which city was he.
8. The 3rd largest island in the world includes 3 countries. Name it.

### You Want Answers?

1. Larry, Curly & Mo. 2. Huey, Dewey & Louie. 3. Jane Seymour. 4. Ohio, Oklahoma & Oregon. 5. 3 Musketeers. 6. 3 Little Maids. 7. Vienna. 8. Borneo.



# it'S HiStoRy

Meredith History Interest Group

**Memberships:**

Your \$20.00 membership helps MHIG enormously. It helps us financially to keep using paper, ink, pencils and folders and all the basic stuff that a History Group needs to keep collecting, cataloguing, storing, displaying and sharing history. By paying a membership fee you are also showing your support for and interest in what we do and we appreciate that. By joining as a member you are welcome to use Ancestry free at the History Centre, you receive the MHIG Newsletter quarterly and are welcome to attend and help at any of our events or become a Committee Member.

**Annual General Meeting:**

A report will be in the next issue of the Newsletter as our meeting is on March 1 and takes place just after the deadline for articles to be submitted. We look forward to hearing David Rowe speak at the meeting, and watching his PowerPoint presentation on the heritage of Meredith buildings. Of interest also, is what Meredith will look like into the future.

**Sculpture Exhibition/Competition:**

MHIG invites you to create a sculpture {or many} for our Sculpture Exhibition on May 16 & 17. The theme is *History Reconstructed*. This could mean making a sculpture to represent a story or something in history or using historical items to create a sculpture. Maybe you have another interpretation!

I have just made a sculpture from items collected after the fire including a Meredith Music Festival Sign which had warned people not to trespass. All the writing disappeared leaving a bright white area on a black background.

**Sign Board:**

It has been suggested that we have a sign board outside the History Centre to advertise events or buy and sell. Has anyone got a sign board that would be suitable? Not too big, not too small, water proof and easy to post notices on. Has anyone got time to make one for us? I saw a window recently that had 4 panes of glass. I thought that it would be ideal if it was hinged to a backing board with a clip to keep it closed.

**Apple Tree:**

Pam remembered the scrumptious green apples that grew on an old tree behind Well's house at 4 Mercer Street and thought that the variety should be saved. Bev happened to meet Dale at the Op Shop and he offered to graft some cuttings of the old tree. His efforts were successful and he presented Bev with 4 small apple trees. One of those trees has produced scrumptious green apples this season. We believe that the variety is a *Bramley* that is a cooking apple that mashes up when cooked.

Judy has recently donated a collection of photos of that Wells family to MHIG. Thank you Judy.

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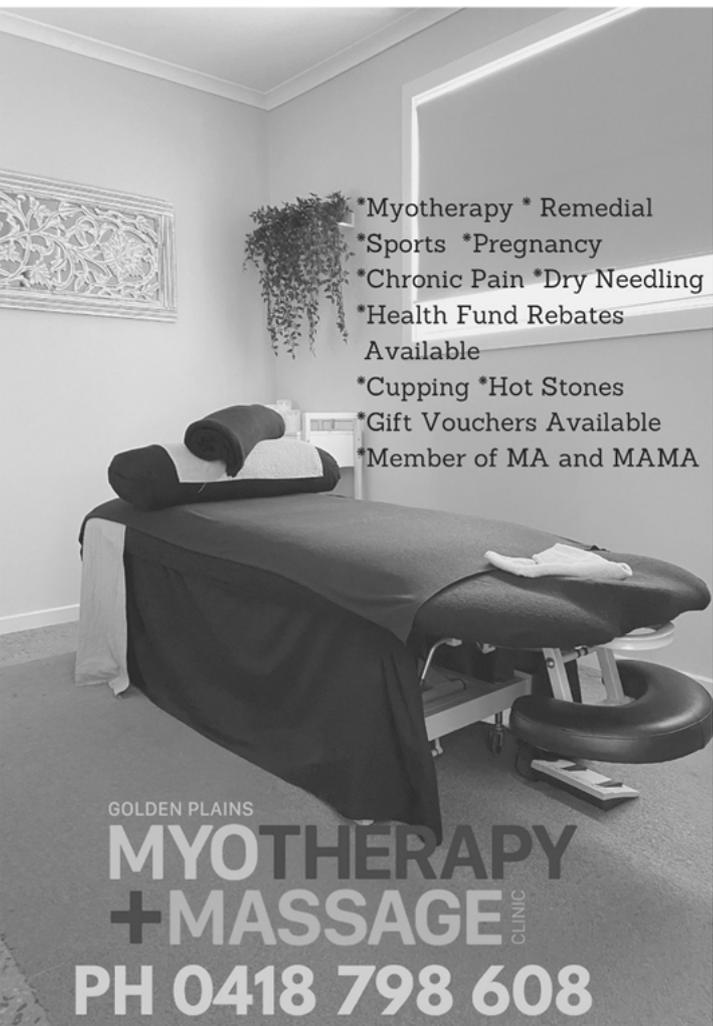
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# The Centre of Attention

Marg Cooper

Sitting in the middle of the back lawn was an almost fully restored Jowett Bradford utility at Mike Colvin's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party on January 2, 2026. It gained a lot of attention; in fact family members dressed in period costume to have photos taken with the vehicle and everyone admired its reconstruction.

The Bradford was bought by Mike's father from Lister's Motors in Ballarat in 1951 and it has been in the family ever since. Mike even has the original owner's certificate. It has mainly been used for farm work, but when Mike's brother Derek left school he used it as his vehicle, and when Mike left school he used it as his vehicle. Later Mike built a wooden V shaped hopper for the back, and for years it was filled with grain and used to feed sheep. Mike said that it was wonderful in the paddocks, it's the nearest thing to a motorbike but more comfortable, and if it did get bogged it was so light that a couple of people could push it out.

Jowetts made 3 models, a sports car, the Javelin and the Bradford. In England they were called lorries and were used mainly for delivering milk, bread, meat etc. They had very basic engineering, were suitable for cold climates, were 7 HP, 12 volt, had a 2 cylinder flat twin motor, weighed ½ ton, carried 2 people on a bench seat and were cheap to run. Mike thinks that it may have cost about 700 pounds. Mike said that they weren't fast, and that he

remembers picking up a load of coke from Geelong in it and travelling home up the 3 chain road from Shelford to Mt Mercer, he was mostly in 2<sup>nd</sup> gear.



The Bradford has served the Colvin family well. It had always been shedded, but it was in fairly poor condition before the restoration process started. Mike said that the roof of the stable had fallen on the utility, and they could only get it out the back of the shed, towing it with the Fergy tractor. Although it had been parked in the stable for some years Mike was then able to drive it from Penleigh to his bush block. The wooden framed doors had disintegrated, the upholstery had been replaced with superphosphate bags and the green paint had well and truly faded.

So, after Mike retired from the farm he started to restore the mechanics of the Bradford. He then asked a talented local Buninyong man if he would like to rebuild the woodwork. Mike mentioned that Arnoud Goossens is a perfectionist and what he created was better than the original. Then Automotive Body Solutions repaired and painted the metal work, then the seats were reupholstered by Angelo Christofi. It is now getting some electrics installed to bring it up to 2026 standards by John Stevens.

Although the Bradford seemed to be the Centre of Attention the party also celebrated Christmas, [because all their family attended including 4 daughters from all over Australia and England and all grandchildren except 1, Mike's sister, some of her family and his brother] and Mike and Jenny's 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary which occurred on the last day of 2025.

We hope to see Jenny and Mike out touring in the Bradford when she is fully restored.

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# Colour My World

Marge Cooper

The fire has gone. The consequences are with us. One of the consequences is that our landscape has changed. Our outlook, our environment, the nature all around us has changed. We now look at predominately orange (may I suggest burnt orange) and black instead of green and sandy grey or yellow of summer grass and soil.

And may I suggest that the orange colour is intensifying. A lot of the foliage of the eucalyptus trees, the wattle trees, the pine trees and the melaleucas as well as the ash trees in our driveway, were singed or scorched by the extreme heat of the bushfire on January 9 and their leaves have dried and become brittle and turned orange

Some of the ground under the trees on Coopers Road was burnt clean with absolutely nothing remaining. It was flat like a billiard table and the darkest black colour. But now, a lot of that ground is covered with several shades of orange leaves and scraps of thickish bark. So, the ground has also become orange on a black background. Looking east from the road some of the paddocks are covered with orange pine needles on black.

Looking towards the Leigh River, I can see trees that also have orange foliage and behind them is the opposite bank of the river, also black.

It is interesting to observe the landscape, especially the colours. They are so intense. The black is a dense black, a very black black! The orange varies in shades but all could be called burnt orange. We think that most of the trees along Coopers Road that got singed or scorched will recover as well as the ash trees in our driveway that have shed nearly all their leaves like in Autumn. Unfortunately some Wattle trees got more severely burnt and may not recover including a special one that had deep purplish leaves.





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I told my friend that people keep accidentally asking me to purchase meat for them.

He said, "By mistake?"

I replied "Not you too!!"



*My friend sleeps on stacks of old magazines.*

*She's got back issues.*

We were in the betting shop and my friend told me to put all my money on a horse named Landfill..

Turns out it was a rubbish tip.

I asked my German friend if he knew the square root of 81.

He said "No".

I introduced my young daughter to a friend I'd not seen in years.

"This is Penny." I said.

"And what's Penny short for?" he asked.

"Because she's only four"

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## Integrated Rabbit Control

Under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 all landowners have a responsibility to take all reasonable steps to prevent the spread of – and as far as possible eradicate – established pest animals from their land.

Rabbits are one of Australia's most serious pest animals as they:

- destroy pasture, crops and plant communities which impact agriculture and the environment
- cause soil erosion and associated sedimentation of waterways
- compete with native fauna for food and habitat
- are well suited to Australian conditions and breed prolifically.

Between 2020 and 2021, rabbits were estimated to have an annual economic impact of approximately \$197 million dollars nationally.

### Rabbit Biology and Behaviour

Before designing your rabbit control program, it is important to understand rabbit behaviour and ecology. The following should be considered:

- Rabbits have a hierarchy, where dominant males mate with dominant females.
- Non-dominant rabbits often disperse to seek alternative feeding areas and colonise/establish other warrens.
- Rabbits are naturally wary of new things in their environment, so free feeding is essential part of baiting programs.
- Rabbits are prolific breeders, that can produce numerous litters per year. A pair of rabbits can turn into over 180 rabbits in just 18 months.
- Breeding is often triggered by active growth which often occurs during the wetter months.
- Survival of young is far more successful when rabbits have burrows and warrens for shelter/protection.
- The destruction of warrens is the key to achieving long-term rabbit control.

### Managing Rabbits on Your Property

Points to remember:

- Effective rabbit control requires an integrated approach using a combination of control measures (not just one).
- It is also important to work with your neighbours, rather than individual properties.
- A single pair of rabbits can lead to re-infestation that may undermine your control work and investment.
- Be aware, native wildlife may also be using rabbit harbour. Ensure your rabbit control program doesn't affect them.
- If the intended rabbit control work may result in disturbance of native vegetation, culturally significant areas and waterways, contact should be made with the

responsible authorities prior to works being conducted. The responsible authorities may include local government, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, Aboriginal Affairs Victoria or the local Registered Aboriginal Party and the local Catchment Management Authority.

- If you are planning to use dogs as part of your control works, be mindful that there are specific requirements for the use of dogs for hunting. Under Section 28 of the Domestic Animals Act 1994, a person must not set or urge a dog to attack, bite, rush at or chase any animal except when hunting in accordance with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (POCTA). Refer to the POCTA Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals in Hunting for specific information on the use of dogs in hunting.
- If you are planning to use chemicals to control rabbits, all applicable requirements of the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992 and Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Regulations 2017 must be met. This includes adhering to the directions for use on the chemical label, keeping the relevant chemical use records and only using 'restricted use chemicals' if you hold the required Agricultural Chemical User Permit or other relevant permit. Chemical use record sheets and further information regarding agricultural chemical use can be found on the Agricultural Chemicals page.

*This an excerpt from the AgVic website. There is a lot more helpful information on rabbit control at [agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/pest-animals/invasive-animal-management/integrated-rabbit-control](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/pest-animals/invasive-animal-management/integrated-rabbit-control)*



## Rabbit Baiting in the Police Paddocks

Western Region Ecological Network (WREN), the delegated managers of the Meredith Police Paddocks, will undertake another round of rabbit baiting from mid-March to the end of June.



*G'Day from the penners for March. Last year our group was awarded a council Community Strengthening Grant to publish our 4<sup>th</sup> Anthology. Members of our group have been working hard over the last few months to get this book together. We have employed an illustrator from Bannockburn, Marley Betts and she is doing a terrific job, we have a printer on board and now we are in the process of working with the Shelford Primary school (and maybe others in the district) to add some younger voices to the pages. We are all very excited about our project and hope that by mid-year there will be a tangible book to hold. We will keep you informed.*

*This month's story comes from Wendy, the topic was 'Stranger on the Street' and this is the end result, we hope you like it.*

*Our email address is [goldenpens4@gmail.com](mailto:goldenpens4@gmail.com) if you would like to comment or perhaps come and see what we get up too. All are welcome.*

*Regards, Wendy*

Vikki was walking down the street, just minding her own business, she was having a lovely day doing a bit of shopping, but mostly just looking in the windows at all the lovely things she wished she could have. But Vikki was just a working girl, trying to get by on the minimum wage, so she didn't have any excess cash for all that frivolous stuff, as much as she would like it. Maybe one day when her ship came in... she laughed to herself, remembering the old saying her mother used to say when she was little when she asked for something extravagant.

But Vikki didn't mind really, she was happy with her lot, and she was only young, things would improve for her eventually and until then she would live within her means. She tried to avoid the areas where the homeless folk congregated, though she felt sorry for them, she also thought that many of them were just free loaders trying it on, looking for a sucker who would part with their cash at any sob story.

So, when a youngish girl stumbled into her whilst she was looking elsewhere it was a bit of a shock. This girl didn't seem much younger than her but she was in a mess, her hair was dishevelled, her clothes looked like she had slept in them for weeks and she just looked horrible. Vikki didn't mean to stare at her but she felt compelled to.

The young girl stared right back at her and quickly asked Vikki if she had a dollar or two to spare, she was hungry and thirsty, she said she hadn't eaten since the day before and could she help?

Vikki first response was to say "No, sorry, I don't have any change", the girl looked down and she started to cry. This was unexpected, and Vikki didn't know how to respond to this girl. Was it just part of her ploy to evoke sympathy or was she really in need.

"I'm sorry, so sorry, here let me look to see if I have anything"

Vikki started rummaging through her bag and she found a few coins right at the bottom.

"Look, this is all I have." she held out the coins, a total of \$5 in gold and some silver.

"I don't have any spare money as I'm broke myself, I live week to week and things are pretty tight, it's all I can do." She told the girl apologetically.

"That's OK, I understand all too well," the girl responded.

But Vikki wasn't sure how to take that comment. Was she just being sarcastic? Or did she really understand the situation Vikki was in.

"Here, let me buy you some food, there is a café just around the corner, and I have my credit card, I can put it on the never never."

Vikki didn't really think the girl would accept but she did and thankfully. So, the two of them went to the café, ordered a nice lunch and after several cups of hot tea Vikki had learned the girl's tragic story.

Her parents had kicked her out because she was going out with a boy they didn't approve of, and then she lost her job, her boyfriend gave her the flick because she didn't have money any more, then she had nowhere to live and her parents refused to let her come home. But she was hopeful of a new job soon and then she might be able to get a room in a share house. She still had some positivity about herself and Vikki was impressed with that.

When they parted Vikki gave the girl, whose name was Sue, her phone number and promised her help whenever she could.

Vikki and Sue became fast friends and Vikki helped Sue find a job at her work and things began to improve for her.

After many many years the women would often regale their friends and family with the story of how they met, and how they had become the best of friends in a friendship that would last forever.

## Enjoy writing?

Well, our readers  
enjoy reading.



Let us introduce you.



The deadline for copy is

**9.00 am on the  
last Thursday**

of the preceding month

## THE STEIGLITZ CEMETERY TRUST

### Trust member positions

Are you interested in making a meaningful contribution to your community, learning new skills and preserving local history for future generations?

The Steiglitz Cemetery Trust is seeking new members. In this volunteer role you will gain hands-on experience in managing a public cemetery and valuable governance skills as a member of a public board. Free governance training is provided.

#### Who should apply?

Trusts need people with a range of skills and experiences including administration, committees, and groundskeeping. Women and people from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

#### What it means to be a Victorian cemetery trust member

Cemetery trust members are appointed by the Governor in Council for terms up to five years on the recommendation of the Minister for Health. Cemetery trusts are responsible for the management of public cemeteries, including planning for future cemetery services for their communities.

#### How to register your interest

Contact the Steiglitz Cemetery Trust within two weeks of this advertisement date:

**The Steiglitz Cemetery Trust contact details: 0409 236 437**

#### Interested in further information about cemetery trusts?

Class B cemetery trust member vacancies are advertised and regularly updated on the 'Join a Public Board' website <<https://www.boards.vic.gov.au/search-board-vacancies/victorian-class-b-cemetery-trust-volunteer-positions-vcb>> all year round!

Simply go to the website for further information about Class B cemetery trusts, to view a full list of trusts that currently have vacancies and details how to apply!

*The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring that government boards and committees reflect the rich diversity of the Victorian community. We encourage applications from people of all ages, Aboriginal people, people with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and from lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, gender diverse, intersex and queer people. The trust will provide adjustments to the recruitment process upon request.*

## The Swagman

OH, he was old and he was spare;  
His bushy whiskers and his hair  
Were all fussed up and very grey;  
He said he'd come a long, long way  
And had a long, long way to go.  
Each boot was broken at the toe,  
And he'd a swag upon his back.  
His billy-can as black as black,  
Was just the thing for making tea  
At picnics, so it seemed to me.

'Twas hard to earn a bit of bread,  
He told me. Then he shook his head,  
And all the little corks that hung  
Around his hat-brim danced and swung  
And bobbed about his face, and when  
I laughed he made them dance again.  
He said they were for keeping flies -  
"The pesky varmints" - from his eyes.  
He called me 'Codger".... "Now you see  
The best days of your life" said he.  
"But days will come back to bend your back,  
And when they come, keep off the track.  
Keep off, young codger, if you can "  
He seemed a funny sort of man.

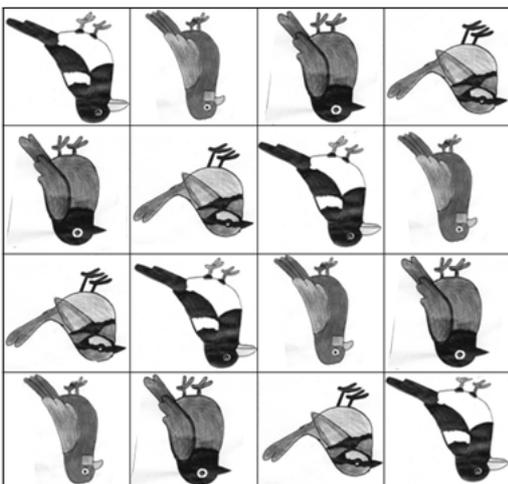
He told me that he wanted work,  
But jobs were scarce this side of Bourke,  
And he supposed he'd have to go  
Another fifty miles or so.  
"Nigh all my life the track I've walked",  
He said. I liked the way he talked.  
And oh, the places he had seen!  
I don't know where he hadn't been -  
On every road, in every town,  
All through the country up and down.  
"Young Codger, shun the track," he said.  
And put his hand upon my head.  
I noticed then, that his old eyes  
Were very blue and very wise.  
"Ay, once I was a little lad,"  
He said and seemed to grow quite sad.

I sometimes think: When I'm a man,  
I'll get a good black billy-can  
And hang some corks around my hat,  
And lead a jolly life like that.

*Source: Selected Verse of CJ Dennis Angus and Robertson 1961 (Submitted by Janine Schillier)*

## Don't Look (yet)

This is the solution to the puzzle over the page.



# Catherine KING MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BALLARAT

## Delivering for our community!

- Cheaper healthcare with more bulk billing
- 5% deposits for first homebuyers
- Cutting student debt by 20%
- Cheaper medicines
- Protecting penalty rates
- More tax cuts for every taxpayer (from 1 July)



*Standing up for our community!*

(03) 5338 8123

Catherine.King.MP@aph.gov.au



Authorised by Catherine King MP, 5 Lydiard St Nth, Ballarat, VIC 3350



## TALL TREE WIND FARM Mobile Office Drop-in Sessions

Following the decision that the proposed Tall Tree Wind Farm will require an Environment Effects Statement, we are pleased to announce that we will be launching a Mobile Office in 2026.

**Monthly drop-in sessions:** Over the coming months, our project team will be in the local area. Community members are welcome to drop in, ask questions, and learn more about the project.

**1:1 technical discussions:** If you have a technical question or would like a dedicated conversation with the project team, we can book a one-on-one session with the relevant specialist. Please note this will be limited to availability, so may not be available on the same day.

### MOBILE OFFICE LOCATIONS AND SCHEDULE

Engagement dates and locations will be provided via the Community Hub. Please scan the QR code to view the schedule for upcoming events.



### CONTACT US

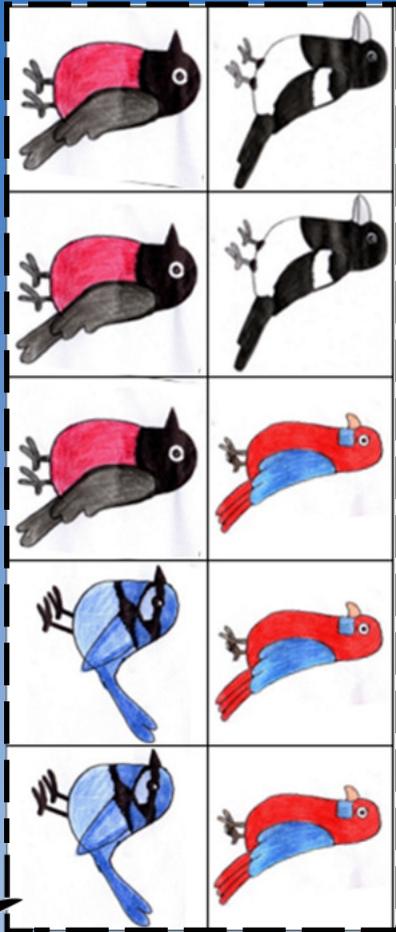
Feel free to get in touch for more information via email [talltree@acciona.com](mailto:talltree@acciona.com) or call our free helpline on **1800 283 550**.

You can also visit our online community hub to find out more about our project at [community.acciona.com.au/talltree](http://community.acciona.com.au/talltree).

# Bird Sudoku

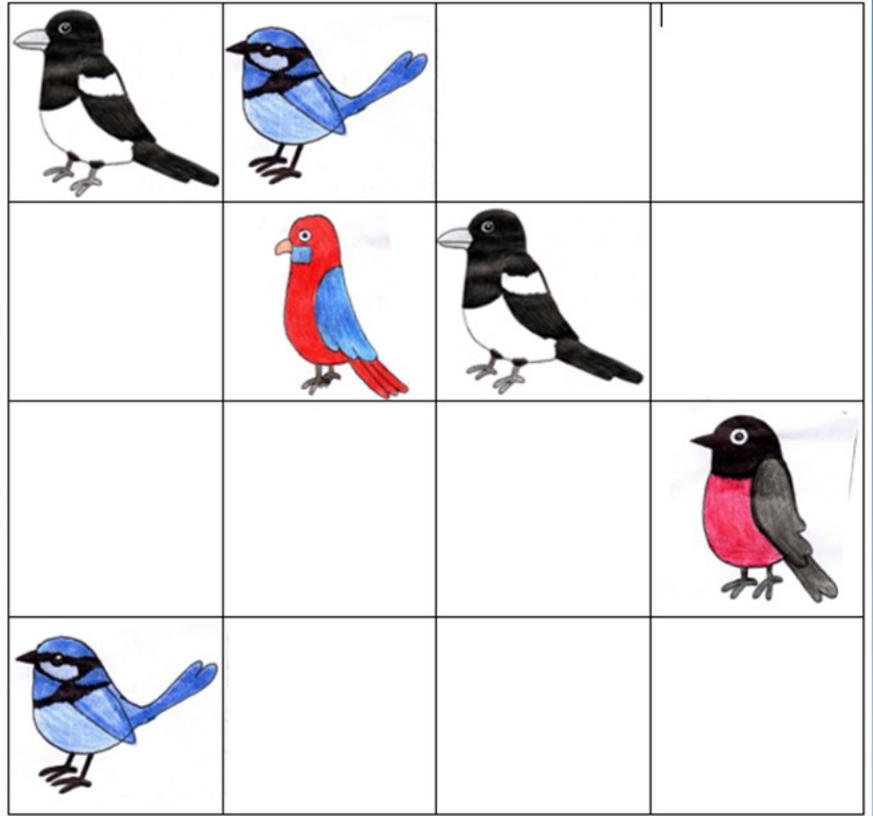
an ORIGINAL PUZZLE by  
JESS and ASHER

Cut out the birds in the panel on the left, or draw your own, to place in the correct places. Remember there will only be one of each bird in each column and row. Good luck!



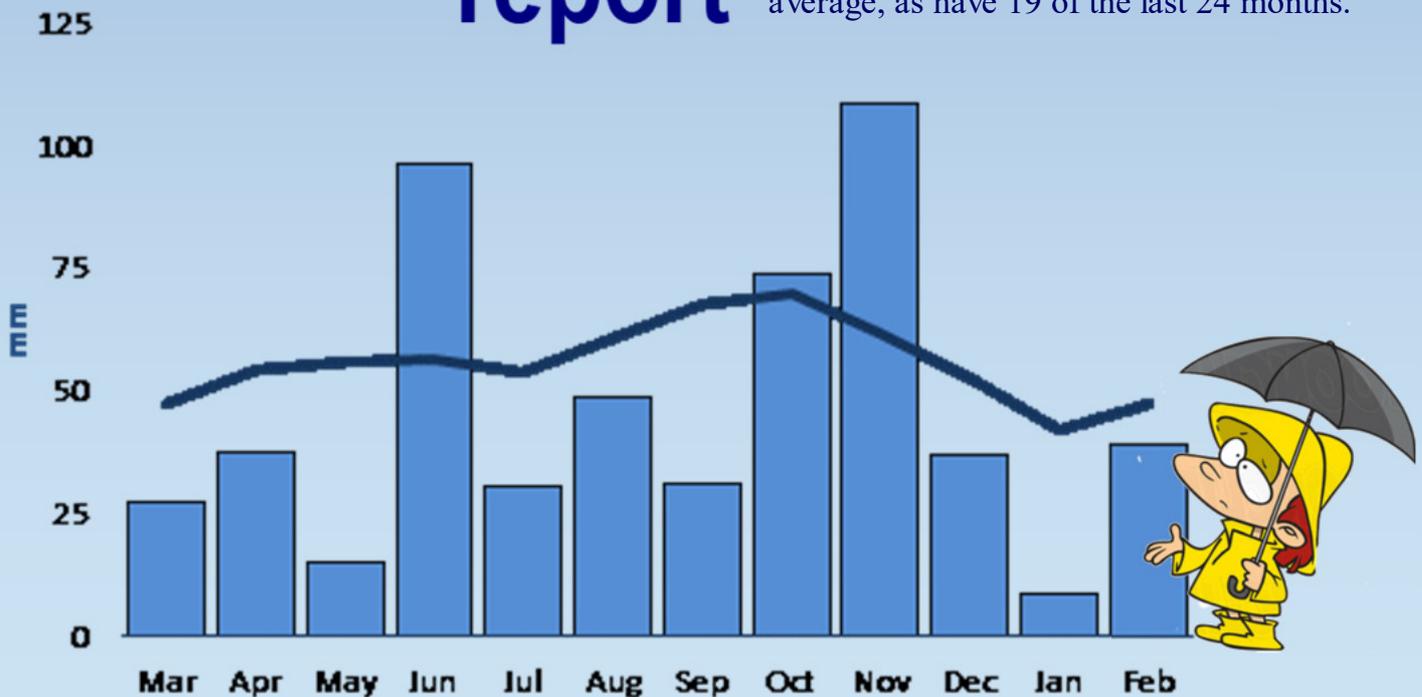
# Bird Sudoku

Cut out the birds below the sudoku or draw your own to place in the correct places. Remember there will only be one of each bird vertically and horizontally! Good luck!



## the rain report

Our desperately dry run of weather continued over the summer when we received only 60% of the season's long term average rainfall. Nine of the last 12 months have been below the long term average, as have 19 of the last 24 months.





# Heading to Moomba Festival or the F1 Grand Prix?

Victoria's Big Build works continue across the state with road disruptions on Clyde Road and the Eastern and Princes freeways. These works could impact your travel into Melbourne to attend the F1 Grand Prix or Moomba Festival.



Avoid delays and check before you travel at [bigbuild.vic.gov.au](http://bigbuild.vic.gov.au)





Ballarat Insurance Brokers has recently rebranded to Aviso Integral Insurance Services. Our team have been part of your community for over 50 years, and are here to assist with all your Farm and Business Insurance needs—Victoria wide.

### Our team of qualified Insurance Brokers can help with:

- Farm and Crop Insurance
- Marine Transit Insurance
- Business Package
- Liability and Tools of Trade
- Fleet Motor and Plant & Equipment
- Cybercrime & Liability
- Management Liability Insurance

**31 Armstrong Street South, Ballarat VIC 3350**

**03 5333 5222**

**[www.avisointegral.com.au](http://www.avisointegral.com.au)**

Aviso Integral Pty Ltd trading as Aviso Integral Insurance Services

ABN 67 007 323 622 AFSL 241365

# Stockdale & Leggo

## MEET THE BANNOCKBURN TEAM



**JULIE KAYE**

Director/Licensed Estate Agent  
0411 059 001



**DEAN WILSON**

Director/Licensed Estate Agent  
0418 521 322



**ANDREW WILSON**

Senior Sales Consultant  
0452 498 254



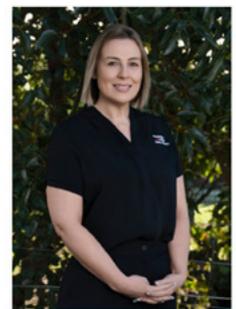
**FLETCHER WILSON**

Sales Consultant  
0490 120 668



**KERRIN PALTRIDGE**

Property Manager  
5281 4444



**KELLY KENSHOLE**

Office Manager  
5281 4444

## Sales - Rentals - Commercial

Stockdale & Leggo **Bannockburn** | Shop 14, 6-8 High Street, Bannockburn VIC 3331

P 03 5281 4444 | W [stockdaleleggo.com.au/bannockburn](http://stockdaleleggo.com.au/bannockburn)

# Where every move matters

From Bannockburn to beyond,  
we've got you covered

At Bannockburn Removals and Storage, we're proud to be a family-owned business with over 40 years of experience, dedicated to making moving and storage stress-free. Whether you're moving locally within Bannockburn, across the Golden Plains, through Geelong or the Surf Coast, or heading into the city, our experienced team is here to deliver professional, reliable support every step of the way.

## Stress-free moving and storage

Whether you're relocating across town or downsizing for a fresh start, we make it easy.

## Our services

- Home and office removals
- Antique and piano transport
- Packing and unpacking
- Secure short- and long-term storage
- Packing supplies available

“

“Exceptional service...  
on time, polite and  
worked quickly.”

**Margaret**

“

“Super professional,  
friendly and efficient. They  
handled everything with  
care and made our move  
stress-free.”

**Millie**

## Why locals choose us

- Over 40 years of experience
- Family-owned and operated
- Friendly, professional team
- Available 7 days a week
- Flexible, tailored solutions

## GET A QUOTE TODAY

☎ 0461 529 860

✉ [info@bannockburnremovals.com.au](mailto:info@bannockburnremovals.com.au)

🌐 [www.bannockburnremovals.com.au](http://www.bannockburnremovals.com.au)

# MEREDITH ROADHOUSE

## Take-Away Menu

### Toasties

Bacon and Egg  
Bacon and Egg Roll  
Bacon, Egg and Cheese Muffin  
Ham and Cheese  
Ham, Cheese, Tomato  
Bacon, Egg Breakfast

### Fresh Rolls and Sandwiches

Ham and Cheese  
Ham, Cheese, Tomato  
Ham, Cheese, Pickle  
Egg, Lettuce  
Ham, Salad  
Chicken Salad  
Salad

### Fried Food

Hot Chips + Gravy  
Flake Battered  
Fish Battered  
Squid Rings  
Crab Stick  
Battered Sav  
Battered Burger  
Chicko Roll  
Spring Roll  
Mini Spring Roll  
Dim Sims- Steamed/Fried  
Chicken or Pork Dim Sims  
Potato Cakes  
Chicken Wing Dings  
Chicken Garlic Balls  
Chicken Strips  
Kransky  
Hot Jam Donuts

### Hamburgers

Cheese Burger  
Double Cheese, Sauce, Pickles  
Plain Burger  
Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato Sauce  
Hamburger with the Lot  
Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato, Bacon, Egg, Onion,  
Sauce  
Steak Sandwich  
Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato, Bacon, Egg, Onion,  
Sauce  
Chicken Schnitzel Burger  
Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato, Mayo  
Chicken Chilli Wrap  
Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato, Sweet Chilli Sauce  
Veggie Burger  
Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato, Sauce

EXTRAS  
Beetroot  
Pineapple

### Coffee

Cappuccino | Latte | Flat White | Mocha | Long Black | Chai Latte | Hot Chocolate  
Available in 3 sizes

Small

Medium

Large

### Milkshakes & Thickshakes

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

### Cold Barista Beverages

Iced Coffee | Iced Chai | Iced Chocolate  
Iced Mocha

**Alternative milks:** Soy | Almond | Oat | Lactose Free

PHONE 03 5286 1556

Select option 4