

48  
PAGES

One of the biggest in 50 years!

# Meredith & district News

MAY 2026



OUR **FREE** COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



CELEBRATING  
**50 YEARS**  
OF PUBLICATION  
LIFT OUT INSIDE

inside



- Meredith Farmer Strikes a National Chord
- A special honour for local, Terry Hart
- Miles from Meredith

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

**Michaela  
Settle** MP

State Member for Eureka



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# ROCKLEIGH

701 TAYLOR ROAD, MEREDITH

## A Piece of History for Sale.



It was 1855 when married couple John an agricultural labourer and Elizabeth Davies both in their mid 20's, arrived from Middlesex UK onboard the ship "Caroline". Davies settled in Meredith town and by 1862, he and his family lived and worked at what was known as 'Pound Farm' Meredith. He became Meredith's second pound keeper after Thomas Connor. The Geelong Advertiser in 1874 reports that Davies got into trouble in his pound keeper role, describing him in a court case hearing as " a man of considerable property with a long and helpless family, always considered a sober and industrious man in the Meredith neighbourhood."

Davies entrepreneurial skills showed through with his ownership of land in most of Taylor Rd Meredith (Springvale), also properties in and around Meredith/Steiglitz and roads named after him "Davies Rd." By the 1900's he accumulated leased and then purchased hundreds of acres of land. In 1904 Davies either sold or gifted 160 acres around Taylor Rd to his youngest son Charles, who was newly married to Ellen. This included 701 Taylor Road Meredith.

Ellen aptly named the property "Rockleigh". The bluestone used in the house construction originated from the demolished Meredith Catholic Presbytery in 1898. Charles and Ellen raised 2 foster children on the property, with Ellen dying in 1937 and Charles living until 1962. Photos exist of Charles working on fencing on the property with local Abel Parkinson. The late Neil Cooper (at 11 years of age) and his family were the last to rent the property and live at Rockleigh until 1949. Neil returned to Rockleigh in 2015 at 79 and shared many great stories and memories bringing much value to the history.

When Davies died in 1910 he was 83 years old. The Geelong Advertiser had an article reporting that "the funeral was the largest and most representative seen in the district for a long time". Today, John Davies still has the tallest tombstone in Meredith Cemetery, a real showpiece for its time.

Meredith history is for sale! Rockleigh today is 3.29ha and includes a fully renovated original bluestone cottage adjacent to the homestead. The cottage contains a single bedroom, a bathroom, kitchen dining/living area. The original Rockleigh 5 room homestead is unrenovated and is awaiting restoration. Coolebarghurk Creek flows through the western portion of the property. The southern boundary adjoins the 50 acre "Police Paddock: crown land reserve.



CHARLES  
**STEWART**  
REAL ESTATE

Andrew Rice 0457 105 500

# 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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Half page	\$50/\$110
Full page	\$100/\$200

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

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

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

## CONTACT US

Post Office, Meredith, 3333

**Advertising:** Ian 0409 016815

[advertising@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:advertising@meredithnews.com.au)

**Accounts:** Ian Leighton 0428132880

[accounts@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:accounts@meredithnews.com.au)

**Editorial:** Jim: 0409 163169

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

## WEB

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

## ONLINE PHOTOS

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

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

## FEEDBACK

Yes please! Send it to [news@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:news@meredithnews.com.au)

Issue Production: Don Atherton Editor: Jim Elvey

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B'BURN MENS SHED 0407 835 731	HISTORY GROUP 5286 8201
B'BURN SOFT TENNIS 0409 236 420	LANDCARE 0409 862 326
BLUELIGHT DISCO 5286 1222	MEMORIAL HALL 0409 662106
BOOK CLUB 5286 8201	MEREDITH SEWING GROUP 0491 184 999
CFA 000 for fire calls Elaine 0419 767982 Meredith 5286 1502 Morrisons 0417 770 765	MOTORCYCLE CLUB 0437 009 250
CHILD CARE 5286 0700	PLAYGROUP 5286 0700
COMMUNITY CENTRE 5286 0700	POLICE PADDOCKS 0409 163169
CRICKET Elaine 0448 291074 Junior (U16,U14,13) 0448 291074 Meredith 5286 1434	RSL - 5286 1452
CUBS & SCOUTS Lethbridge 0435 042077	SENIOR CITIZENS 0407 683 892
	TENNIS Elaine 0448 291 074 Lethbridge 52 817 321 Meredith 0424 754 179
	SEW 'N' SEWS 5286 0700
	FRIENDS OF THE BRISBANE RANGES 5286 1252

..or start something.

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



"Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go."

— Unknown

# emergency

Police, Ambulance, Fire (from mobile phone)	000 or 112
Meredith Police Station	5286 1222
Police non emergency	131 444
Power Failure	132 412
Nurse-On-Call	1300 606 024
Mental Health Advice	1300 280 737
Poisons Information	13 11 26
Barwon Water	1300 656 007
SES Emergency - flood & storm	132 500
24 Hour Helpline	1800 629 572
24 Hour Drug & Alcohol Counselling	1800 888 236
Kids Help Line	
24hr 5-18yo	1800 551 800
Golden Plains Shire	1300 363 036
a/h emergency	0408 508 635
Ranger	5220 7111
	or 0409 830 223
Bannockburn Vet	5281 1221
Golden Plains Animal	5281 2226
Pets and Horses 24/7	0421 617 238

## Justices of the Peace

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

# services

<b>CEMETERY TRUST</b> 5286 1550	<b>MATERNAL &amp; CHILD HEALTH</b> 5220 7230
<b>HALL HIRE</b> Meredith Memorial 5286 1545 Elaine Mechanics 53415575 0409861296	<b>PRE-SCHOOL</b> 5286 0722
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# Where's Mardi Now?

*Don Atherton*

A female koala was hit by a car in Meredith last year and was taken to the Ballarat Wildlife Hospital in Ballarat, where she had her broken leg repaired and where she spent her recovery. The staff gave her the name of Mardi.

The hospital and Federation University then collaborated in a project to investigate Mardi's behaviour and survival after she was released back into the bush.

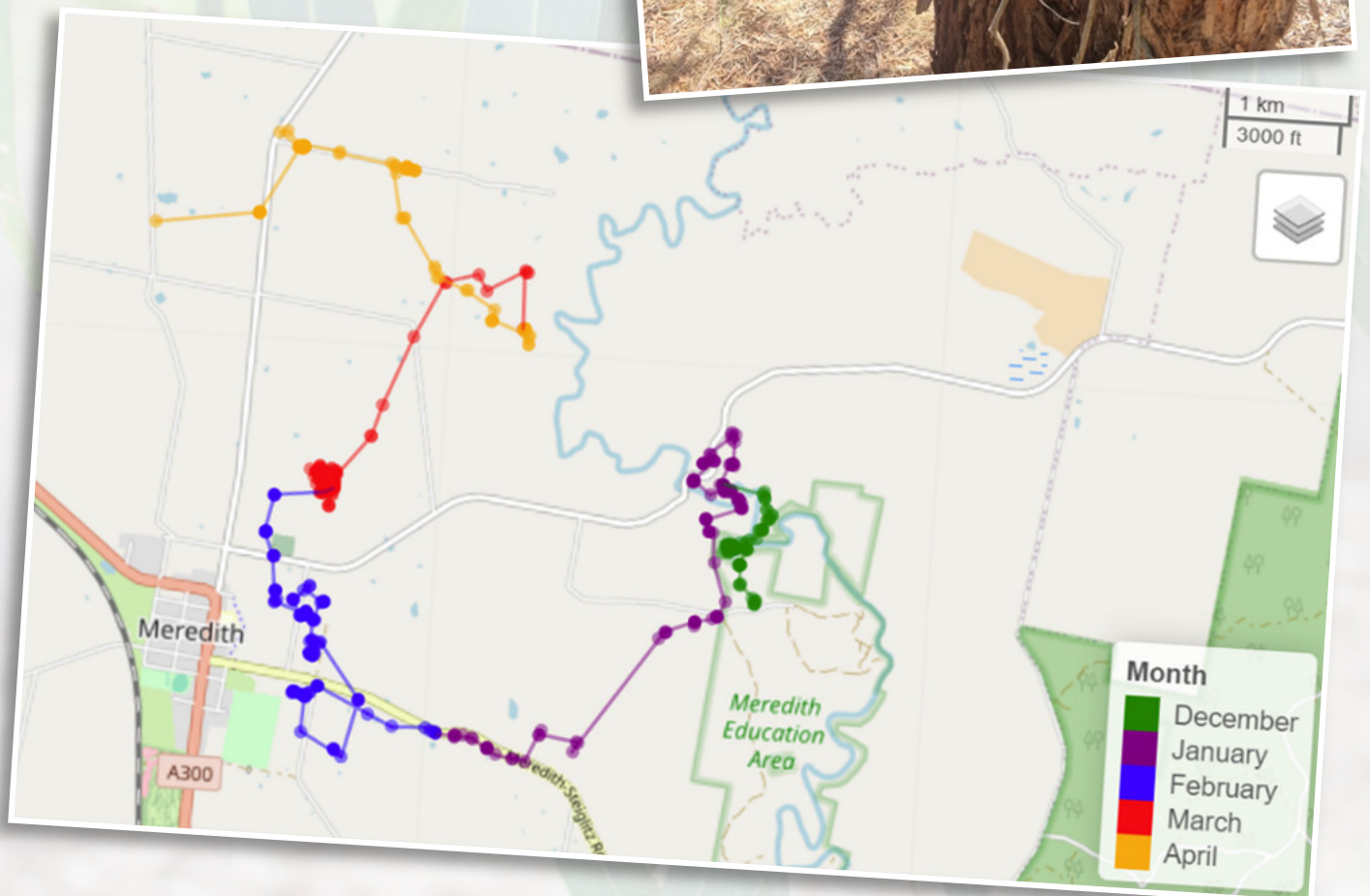
Mardi was fitted with a tracking device and released into the Meredith forest near Byrne Road. The attached map shows Mardi's movements between December & the end of March this year.

The map shows how Mardi headed off to the north, spent Christmas around the Moorabool River, crossed the river and visited me in January, headed back into Meredith and visited our editor Jim in February, stopped off for 2 nights at the cemetery, and then spent all of March in a small plantation beside the high voltage power lines.

So, where is Mardi now? Has anybody seen her?

*We've got a detailed report from the researchers online. Just visit [meredithnews.com.au](http://meredithnews.com.au) and click the Extras tab. - Ed.*

*Below: Mardi on the Taylor Road leg of her tour and bottom, the tour map complete with tour dates.*



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# Church News



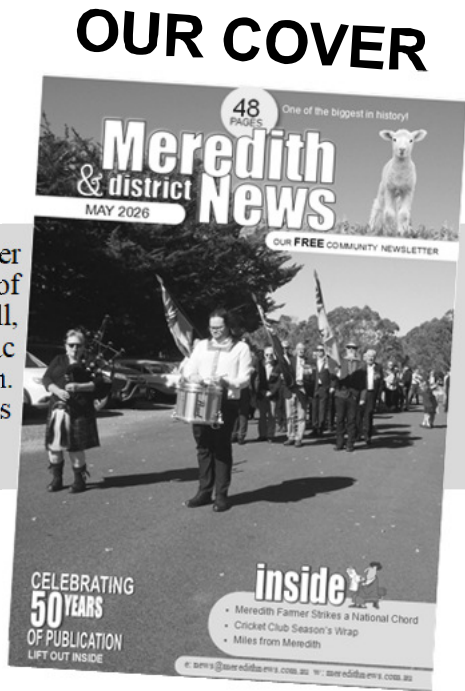
**Meredith Uniting Church**  
 Services have recommenced. 11.00 am 2nd Sunday each month.  
 Enquiries: Pastor Andrew Shearer-Cox Ph:0429 261 954

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

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

**Catholic Mass Times**  
 Winchelsea - St. John the Baptist @ 5PM Sat. MAY 2, 9, 16, 23  
 Meredith - St. Joseph @ 9am MAY 10, 24  
 Bannockburn - St. Mary MacKillop @ 11am Sun. MAY 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
 Inverleigh - Sacred Heart - @ 4pm Sun. MAY 17

Thank you Cathie Boer for our cover photo of Donna and Matt Murell, leading this year's Anzac Day parade in Meredith. We have Mick Devlin's report on page 32.



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



## What's On This Month



**LARGEST COMMUNITY LED LUNCH!**  
 COME AND JOIN US TO PARTICIPATE IN A RECORD  
 BREAKING LUNCH!  
 BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL FOR CATERING - 0491 184 999  
 WEDNESDAY - MAY 13 - 11.30 AM - 1.30PM

**COMMUNITY DROP IN -**  
**TALL TREE WIND FARM INFORMATION SESSION**  
 WEDNESDAY JUNE 3 - 7.30 AM - 12.30 PM

**SINGING GROUP**  
 EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO BELT OUT A TUNE!  
 COME JOIN THE FUN!  
 TUESDAY NIGHTS - 7PM- WITH KYM  
 WEDNESDAY MORNINGS - 10.30 - WITH BEV  
 AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

**THE MEREDITH MART - NEW OPENING TIMES**  
 MONDAY - 9AM-1PM  
 TUESDAY - 9AM-1PM  
 WEDNESDAY - 9AM-3PM  
 THURSDAY BY APPOINTMENT



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**POLICE**report

Senior Constable Anthony BOX

Meredith Police Station| Western Region Division 3  
Phone: 5286 1222| Fax: 9244 2156

Meredith police have attended numerous incidents over the past month in the Meredith Response Zone and surrounding areas.

This includes a nighttime search for a missing child in bushland near Staffordshire Reef amongst other missing person searches.

Other incidents such as traffic collisions, Family Violence incidents and assaults in surrounding areas.

**Theft 02/04/2026:**

A theft occurred at a business on Wallace St in Meredith Township on 02/04/2026.

A female was arrested and charged, a second male who was driving a stolen vehicle at the time was also arrested and charged shortly after.

Both are remanded in custody to be presented at court at a later date.

**Traffic:**

Numerous penalty notices have been issued by Meredith Police around the area, including 134KM/H in the 100 zone on the Midland Hwy on 04/04.

A drink driver was processed in Meredith and their car was impounded for a period of 30 days.

All drink and drug driving offences incur significant licence suspensions and any person detected can have their car impounded.

**Truck Rollover Geelong-Ballan Rd 22/04/2026:**

A truck carrying fertilizer rolled over on the corner just north of Slate-Quarry Road.

Any persons who may have dash camera footage of the truck or observed it driving prior to the crash are requested to contact me please.

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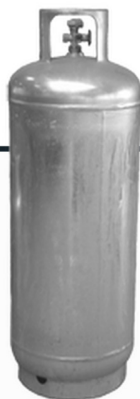
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# MONEY Matters



with Sandy Hoffmann

PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR MANAGING YOUR MONEY

With tax time getting super close once again its time to put out some warnings...of the AI type.

Technology has come a long way, I remember being very excited in learning how to give prompts and codes to my dads Amiga computer to speak and do basic commands. Fast forward and I am using specific prompts to search the internet and bring my house transformation to life with renovation pictures using ChatGPT (Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer).

However, I was in a webinar that highlighted the good and the bad on relying on AI like ChatGPT for questions you may have, and specifically around the accounting professional and ethics. Accountants must be careful on what information is entered into the prompts, especially for privacy reasons, and then also to be sceptical of the answers that Chat GPT responds with. Accountants are trained to analyse and think critically about the information we are presented with, using original source documents where possible and deciding if the source is reliable. Chat GPT searches its own database for historical prompts as well as the internet that is worldwide. In addition, it works on probability. So, if something hasn't happened but it can see that it could be likely from the search it has performed, then it can generate the outcome even if it is not real.

This happened in America with lawyers Steven A. Schwartz and Peter LoDuca who were fined US\$5,000 (AU\$7,485) for submitting fake cases, blaming ChatGPT.

Using ChatGPT to find cases relevant to their client, the lawyer submitted the cases but they were not real.

This highlights that whilst ChatGPT can be a useful tool for brainstorming and research, the response must be verified with factual information from reliable sources.

At the time I was preparing this article, the ATO released its own on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2026 cautioning against asking Chat GPT for tax advice. The article is called "From 'Hacks' to half-truths: ATO warns of tax time misinformation and reveals focus areas" and available on the ATO website

In this article it warns about what I have mentioned above, putting a question to ChatGPT about tax, and then relying on that information to complete your tax return.

The ATO have advised that the taxpayer is accountable for the information in their own returns to be accurate. If you learn incorrect information and add this into your return, you could end up with significant penalties. Therefore, at a minimum verify it on the ATO website or go and see your tax professional.

### Household Savings Hack of the Month:

Using Chat GPT to come up with a meal plan using staples in your pantry. I took a picture of the items in my pantry and asked Chat GPT to make me a healthy meal using those ingredients. Then I added some items from my fridge

and freezer and asked it to make a meal plan for the whole week, including macros\* and recipes. This was a nice change from my usual meal prep and gave me a chance to use up some items in my pantry that had been collecting dust. With the cost of food going up, using up some of the items in the pantry has saved money and allowed me to ensure I use items before their best before date.

*\*Macronutrients - carbohydrates, proteins, and fats - are essential nutrients required in large amounts to provide energy (calories) and maintain bodily functions.*



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## Meredith's New Generations Are Here

*John Merlo*

Brenton Hand and his family are among Meredith's newer residents, so the history of the Meredith News - now in its 50th year of continuous publication - is relatively new to them.

Brenton, pictured with his beautifully presented 1927 Dodge Four tourer, has recently been doing a few weekend circuits of town, creating much interest among our town's many car buffs, and others.

The car itself - described by Brenton as "mostly original" is a 1927 Dodge Four tourer, the "Four" designation indicating its four-cylinder engine, with a capacity of around four litres.

Brenton says there was also a "Six" being produced at around the same time.

He believes his Dodge Four Tourer is one of the last tourers Dodge turned out before the company switched to producing hardtops, or sedans.

But for now, Meredith residents are being treated to glimpses of Brenton's racy tourer purring majestically around town on some Saturdays and Sundays.

And those immaculate wooden-spoked wheels definitely ARE absolutely original.

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## Flooded in a Bushfire

Marg Cooper

On the hot, windy Friday of January 9th, Bruce Tabone took his son and a friend for a swim in the Leigh River behind his Uncle's block on Coopers Road, for relief from the horrendous weather conditions.

When they smelt smoke they left the river. When they saw the smoke they quickly went to his Uncle's house and sheds, turned his hoses on and rang his Uncle Wally, who was in Melbourne, to tell him of the imminent danger to his property.

Bruce then took his son and his friend home to his block on Mt Mercer Road and advised his wife to take the children and evacuate.

By the Saturday, the bushfire had reached Deans Road, the wind had changed again and was threatening the back of Bruce's block.

Son Jack was told to fill every container with water so they would have water if the power went out, which he duly did.

Then things got hotter and they were distracted and a little later Jack realized that he hadn't turned the taps off. Oops! The house was flooded, the floor boards were sodden and lots of towels were needed to mop up the mess up.

Bruce said that he has heard of three other recent cases of houses being flooded during a bushfire.

Seems ironical!



## A Man Named Bruce

Don Atherton

Mount Wallace Community Hall committee hosts an "open mic" event on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday evening each month. Seasoned performers, raw amateurs, students and everyone in between, are invited and welcome to perform short acts with musical instruments, sing, dance, quote poetry or perform any entertainment for short stints.

It was there that I met Bruce – Dennis Bruce that is. After some small talk about trivial matters such as the weather and football, Dennis' eyes lit up when I admitted that I live in Meredith. He went on to tell me his story and about his connection to Meredith.

Dennis is a singer & guitarist who has performed for over 50 years as an amateur and professional singer in music festivals and events around Victoria and beyond. He was a part of "The John Gorton Singers" who supported Tiny Tim, The Everley Brothers and John Farnham. He performed in the Meredith Country Festival in 2004 where he won first prize in the talent quest. The festival was sponsored by Sungold Dairies and the prize was the latest and best in television technology at the time – which Dennis described as a huge box of a thing which was as heavy as a grand piano and nearly as big!

Between 1990 & 2010, Dennis won a number of awards as a songwriter and performer in Victoria, New South Wales and in South Australia.

Dennis is 92 years old now and still performs with his guitar and sings his favourite songs. His voice may be a little raspy and one of his chord fingers does not do as it's told at times!

The "open mic" is a great opportunity for anyone who would like to experience a low key, friendly, nonjudgemental and supportive public performance. "Open mic" will be held every second month until the weather warms up a bit (ie June 21, August 16, & October 18) Please call 0408 302 125 to book a spot or come along & enjoy the fun for a gold coin contribution. No need to book unless you would like to perform.



### GORSE IN THE AUTUMN

Autumn is a good time to identify and control your gorse outbreak - the dry grass makes it easier to see emerging gorse plants which are green

Walking is a good way to see gorse at this time of year Give it a go! Take your preferred tools and see if you can eliminate some plants and STOP the SEED!

go to Vic Task Force website for tips and inspiration

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## Meredith Farmer Strikes a National Chord

*Melinda Kambovski*

In the quiet farming town of Meredith located in the Golden Plains Shire, it is rare for a local grazier to find themselves on national television. But for Adrian Mohr, a lifelong connection to the piano, has carried him from his family's soldier-settler farm to the national stage on *The Piano*.

Originally debuting in the UK in 2023, *The Piano* quickly became a global hit. Its Australian adaptation, which aired in 2025 on ABC, captured the same spirit—revealing hidden musical talent in everyday settings. The concept is simple but powerful: amateur pianists perform in public spaces, unaware they are being observed and judged by leading musicians. The first season drew more than 1.2 million viewers, making a second series inevitable.

When producers began searching for participants, they reached out to Geelong pianist Andrew “Andy” Pobjoy, owner of the popular Piano Bar. His recommendation was immediate and unequivocal, Adrian Mohr!

Adrian's musical journey began early. At just five years old, he taught himself to play *Silent Night* on a vintage upright piano at home. Unaware of a remarkable family connection. The carol's lyrics were written in 1816 by his distant relative, Joseph Mohr, with music later composed by Franz Xaver Gruber.

From that moment, music became a constant source of solace. That sense of peace would carry him through decades of life on the land. From long days shearing, through loss and heartache, and over the years the piano sat silent.

Life on the land offered little opportunity for performance. Growing up in rural Victoria, piano playing was an unusual pursuit for a young farmer, and Adrian kept his talent to himself.

Adrian's early adulthood was marked by both tragedy and responsibility. Following the early loss of his mother, he remained on the family farm, collaborating with his father and accepting shearing assignments. Music slipped into the background whilst responsibility took its place. Later, as illness struck both his stepmother and his father, Adrian took on a full-time caring role. When they passed, the silence returned. But this time, so did the piano.

In 2003, Adrian began formal lessons at what was then the Geelong Music School, where he met Andy Pobjoy. Over two years, Andy helped him rediscover his passion, and the relationship evolved into a lasting friendship.

Opportunities soon followed. Adrian secured a regular performance role at the Geelong Performing Arts Centre (GPAC), playing in the foyer five nights a week for four years. The music drifted through the building. His piece George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, become something of a signature. A bold, sweeping, impossible to ignore piece. One may liken it to Adrian's unspoken talent.

A turning point came after a feature article in *The Golden Plains Miner*, (the then local Golden Plains area newspaper co-owned by Alan Marini and Debbie Kolarik) wrote a feature article on Adrian's otherwise conflicting worlds. It was this article that caught the attention of the

accomplished pianist Helen Peppard. Upon meeting Adrian, she saw something unique, a fellow musician with pitch perfect sound and photographic memory. The Meredith local became both mentor and friend, encouraging Adrian to pursue his talent more seriously, and eventually convincing him to invest in a grand piano.

Despite performing at venues across the region, Adrian remained under the radar. Until one spontaneous moment in 2018 an opportunity to potentially change everything arose. While attending an Elvis tribute show at GPAC, he sat down at the foyer piano. Within minutes, a crowd gathered. After the show, he returned to play again, drawing more than one hundred people as he played the English adaption of “*comme d'habitude*” composed by Claude Francois and Jacques Revaux. Paul Anka famously tailored the words for Frank Sinatra. Among the gathering of listeners was the headline act, Mark Anthony, who joined him mid-performance.

“Where have you been all my life?” the entertainer asked.

“On a sheep farm at Meredith,” Adrian replied.

A six-week tour of Memphis performing alongside Mark Anthony was scheduled shortly thereafter; however, this opportunity, along with numerous others during that period, was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Years later, another opportunity emerged. Producers from *The Piano* contacted Pobjoy once more, asking if he knew of a suitable candidate for the second series. When Pobjoy reached out, Adrian faced a choice: remain in the quiet anonymity of farm life or step into the spotlight. Encouraged by friends, he chose to take the leap.

Filming brought cameras to his farm, capturing both his musical gift and rural life. He later performed at Melbourne's bustling Dandenong Market, sharing his story with host Amanda Keller. Unbeknownst to contestants, judges Guy Sebastian and Andrea Lam watched from a hidden location.

The episode aired on April 12 and remains available on ABC iView.

For locals, Adrian's appearance has been nothing short of remarkable. To most, he was simply a farmer, a shearer, a neighbour, a familiar face in a small rural district.

Now, he represents something more, proof that extraordinary talent often exists in the most unexpected places.

### ELAINE BIGGEST MORNING TEA

at

Elaine Mechanics Institute Hall

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Saturday 9 May 2026

10.00am

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the Philatelist



Michael Riseley

**INGENUITY**

Stamps go on envelopes for normal mail – well yes, no, maybe! Could stamps become a weapon of war. Well yes, and they did. In early 1945, the tide of war was definitely trending towards the Allies. Germany appeared near defeat and the Americans wanted to hasten this and decided to attack civilian morale.

The Office of Strategic Services (OSS) which later became the CIA devised a cunning plan. They interrogated German POWs who had worked in the German postal system and gained vital insights into how the system worked.

The OSS gathered about 2 million postal addresses of German citizens. They forged millions of the then current 6pf and 12pf German stamps which had a portrait of Hitler. In Germany there was an underground opposition newspaper called “Das Neue Deutschland”. The OSS printed their own version with many negative articles and anti-Nazi propaganda. They then prepared many thousands of envelopes for mailing.

But how to get them into the German postal system. The plan was to bomb mail trains and then separately drop mailbag into the wreckage. These mailbag drops were done with specially designed bombs that would damage but not destroy the mailbags.

On 5 February 1945, the Allies bombed a mail train bound for Linz which was Hitler’s home town. They then dropped 3,000 filled mailbags into the wreckage. After the bombing, German authorities salvaged as much mail as they could and with normal German efficiency delivered it. This included many of the fake mailbags.

In the next few months, the Allies conducted 20 similar missions. The campaign was deemed a success as it burdened the Nazi postal service, disrupted mail routes and reached the civilian population with propaganda. The German postal system had early morning delivery and many Germans received their mail while eating breakfast. The campaign was rather imaginatively named Operation Cornflakes.



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### MEET THE BANNOCKBURN TEAM



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Director/Licensed Estate Agent  
0411 059 001



**DEAN WILSON**

Director/Licensed Estate Agent  
0418 521 322



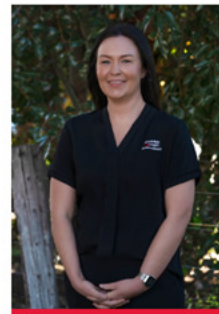
**ANDREW WILSON**

Senior Sales Consultant  
0452 498 254



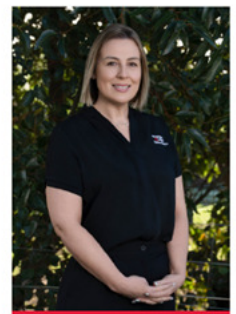
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# BERRYBANK WIND FARM COMMUNITY GRANTS

Golden Plains Shire Council and Berrybank Wind Farm are once again partnering to deliver the Berrybank Wind Farm Community Grants Program in 2026.

Applications for this year's grants program will open on Friday 1 May and close at 2pm, Monday 1 June 2026.

Applicants are eligible to apply for grant funding in three categories:

- Tourism
- Economic Development
- Climate Change

Applicants must seek funding for amounts exceeding \$2,000. Multiple year applications are permissible for annual events or programs of up to 3 years.

There is a grant pool of \$75,000 available for this program in 2026.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss your application with Council's Community Grants team. Please enquire as soon as possible to allow adequate time to discuss your application prior to the submission deadline.

For further information about the program, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/community/grants](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/community/grants) or contact Council's Community Development & Grants Officer at [communitygrants@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:communitygrants@gplains.vic.gov.au) or call 5220 7111.



## Recognising Barb

*Our March issue reported the sad passing of long time local, Barb Baird. We have since received this message of recognition from Friends of Brisbane Ranges, of which Barb was a devoted and active member. - Ed.*

Working with communities on river health programs allows us to meet the very best of waterway guardians – Barbara Baird was one of these champions on the Moorabool River.

We wish to acknowledge the incredible body of water quality information that Barbara has provided since May 1995 when she first began WaterWatch water quality testing at Coopers Bridge. Her work as a citizen scientist for over 20 years monitoring Moorabool River water quality, has encouraged community awareness and knowledge building, and improved information for waterway management.

Barbara conducted monthly water quality testing, annual habitat surveys with extensive lists of plants both native and introduced species and observations on erosion and other issues at this site. Barbara also committed to macroinvertebrate surveys twice a year and as an active participant in all Quality Assurance and Quality Control events, ensured her data collected was of the highest quality.

Having such an extensive record of water quality since May 1995 means we have a strong baseline of high-quality

data to allow the impact of management actions to be assessed. Barbara's work demonstrates the value of community driven monitoring for the management of our natural resources.



It's our 50th Anniversary



What  
You  
Think.



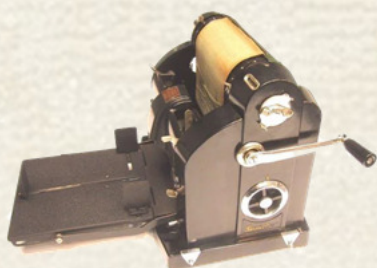
*Cathie Boer, one of our Roving Reporters seeking the views of residents on the Newsletter, asked Jo and Martin Peters for their thoughts on our community publication.*

*(If you would like to share your views, get in touch at [news@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:news@meredithnews.com.au).)*

We moved to Australia 26 years ago, after travelling overland from the UK. We started our ag business in Gippsland, then decided SW Victoria was the place to be, We chose Meredith 22 years ago, due to the proximity of large towns, local post office, kindergarten and school.

We read the newsletter every month and it lives on the kitchen table for easy reference. It is especially important for newcomers to the district, for local information, ads for tradies etc., and the Connect column.

It is also important for finding out what is coming up, getting a month's notice. Also for legalities such as public notices for forthcoming AGM's and getting information out to the wider public.



## Insights...

*With access to Marg Cooper's notes, taken while researching back copies, we are exploring various aspects of our history. This month, we look at...*

### FINANCES

Although a not-for-profit and volunteer-based community organisation, financing the ongoing costs of production of the Meredith News has always been a concern of the Newsletter Committee.

In the first few years the Meredith State School Council bore the entire cost of production of the Newsletter. To assist with the costs of producing the weekly Newsletter a grant of \$400.00 was received in 1979 from the Community Welfare Services division of Shire of Bannockburn. This defrayed much of the expense of paper and duplicating utensils.

A further grant of \$100.00 was received in July 1980 from the Shire Council. This was the result of a grant application by Council on behalf of the School Council to the Department of Community Welfare Services. The grant was offered to assist local Government and communities with the provision of community information services.

In the March 1986 edition it was proposed that the month of April each year be the newsletter Appeal Month to help meet the ongoing costs of production. All organizations and readers were asked to contribute to ensure the quality and distribution of the newsletter would continue to be up to standard. At this time production was around 500 copies.

A grant of \$500.00 was received in 1988 from Community Service Victoria under their Community Support and Development Program to go towards production of the Newsletter. To receive the grant Community Services Victoria required the Newsletter Committee to become a legally constituted

body. This money and other grants were obtained from various State Government funding schemes provided under the auspices of the Bannockburn Shire to the Meredith State School.

With careful shopping, particularly for paper and production entirely by volunteers it had meant that the annual grant had been adequate to cover all production costs associated with the Newsletter. However, in 1990 a further appeal was made to readers for donations towards the cost of producing the Newsletter. Costs are continually increasing. Donations were voluntary, and were to be left at Post Office.

In 1993 in real terms the Newsletter was costing approximately 40 cents per copy to produce along with many volunteer hours (about 15 hours per publication). A new Committee asked everyone who reads the Newsletter to make a small contribution, suggesting \$5 per household, to get the Newsletter back in the black for the start of 1994.

Now, fifty years later, the Meredith and District News continues as a free monthly community newsletter with a circulation of 1000 copies produced entirely by volunteers. Revenue from paid advertisements cover the on-going publication costs to ensure the high production

# The Words We've Left Behind.

## Snippets from 1996 to 2000

50 Years of a Country

### Rural Pride Reports (Tidy Towns)

The following is the Judge's Report Summary for Meredith:-  
The community of Meredith is extremely proud of the appearance of their town. A very active "Town Team" came up with a novel idea of having decorative tree guards for placing around trees in Wilson Street. The steel, provided by the "Town Team" to 32 local farmers who were encouraged to express individuality in making up the tree guards. The results are terrific and all are to be congratulated for their efforts. As you drive along the main street you cannot help but notice the 'CACTUS STOP' (a

house yard that has been transformed into a fantastic cactus garden with over 600 varieties of cacti). This is a community where community spirit is well and truly alive. Well done!

Comments on Lethbridge judging:-  
As you visit the town of Lethbridge you notice the historic Primary School that was established in 1865. On entering the school you are greeted by the neatness of the gardens and surrounding grounds. Students in Grades 2 & 3 have collected and propagated seed of native trees that were in turn planted throughout the town. You notice the gazebo inside the front gate which was won by

3rd December 1998

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Meredith residents will be interested to know that, after many years of discussions and negotiations, the local branch of the R.S.L. is finalising arrangements to have the Meredith Memorial moved to a position in front of the R.S.L. Hall.

Although the present location is good it is impractical on Anzac Day and on other memorial occasions because of the power pole and large gutter beside the road.

Rumour has it that the moving of the Memorial is related to the recent change of ownership of the Elders building. This is totally incorrect. Also of interest to residents is that the ownership of the R.S.L. Hall has been transferred to Golden Plains Shire with the proviso that the R.S.L. retain control and that if the Sub-branch should close then control be granted to other Community Groups such as Scouts or Guides.

David Jones  
R.S.L. Vice President

12th Feb 1988

### RABBITING GOES WITH A 'BANG!'

There was a mood of expectation in the air at Manna Gum Place, Maude recently. A crowd of about 60 local land-holders and representatives from neighbouring Landcare and community groups met to see a demonstration of the Rid-a-Rabbit organized by the Maude Landcare Group.

We were not disappointed. More than once the ground actually shook as the operators lit gas-filled rabbit warrens and the air/gas mixture ignited underground and erupted at pop holes and burrow entrances.

The equipment consists of a blower attached to an LP gas cylinder which fills the warren with a gas/air mixture. This is then ignited by a wand fed from a second gas cylinder. It is fully portable and requires two people to operate it. The Rid-a-Rabbit seems to have great potential. It is quick and there are no poisonous chemicals used so no licence is required. None of the treated areas appeared to collapse. However, it would certainly not be a summer time job as spot fires would be a definite possibility. The rabbits are said to die within 2 minutes, due to oxygen starvation. As they are not poisoned there is no danger to farm dogs or wild-life. No claims are made regarding fox dens. It would be cheap to operate, but as the initial cost is high the best place for the Rid-a-Rabbit would probably be group ownership where costs and usage are shared.

Maude Landcare Group would like to thank all those who came along to support us at the demonstration.

Lex Stray.

### 'THE PATH OF THE

Friday morning began with sunshine and we all thought going to be a great day, but morning progressed the clouds over and by lunch time it was raining.

This didn't deter the spirits of enthusiastic school children who attended the Official Opening "Path of the Ibis".

The Mayor of Golden Plains John McManus, introduced the ceremony who shamed the adults present by singing two verses of the National Anthem.

Mr. McManus then introduced members of the Shire Staff and Barlow-Clifford who gave a resume of how this project began through to its conclusion.

Mr. Geoff Howard, M.L.A. was asked to cut the ribbon and officially declare the Bird Hide open.

It was very gratifying to see members of the community present for the occasion.

This project has already won several awards, even before it was open. Those responsible can be very proud of their achievements.

2nd December 1998

LOST: Large parcel cushion, Ballarat  
Please phone Judy

5th December 1998

### CONGRATULATIONS

### MEREDITH FIRE BRIGADE COMPETITION TEAM

The Meredith team won their first trophy at Dereel in the bale of hay competition against 8 other teams from the district including the S.E.S. team from Ibis who were disqualified because they could not extinguish their fire properly.

The team consisting of Helmut W. Craig Gospel, Roger Kootstra and Robert Burgess were very capable and directed by coach Margaret Brown.

The Meredith cheer squad consisting of the Allen, Burgess, Kootstra and Ibis families were in good voice in spite of being cold and drenched by the rain.

The trophy is on display at Nanette Don McKenzies corner store.

### MEREDITH MEMORIAL

Meredith's War Memorial is to be relocated to the R.S.L. from its present home at the Elder's Building after 70 years at that site.

I wish to put to rest any suggestion that the removal was at my request.

As the new owner of the Elder's Building I have the utmost respect for the memorial and what it stands for. I have offered to arrange clear title for the memorial so that it can stay at its present site for perpetuity.

Apparently the removal has more to do with the Powercor pole and other signage interfering with R.S.L. services.

Dr. Brian O'Shannassy

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**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Mick Fletcher on his selection to the Victorian Nu Farm Show-jumping squad.

To Lucy on her selection to represent Meredith in the under 11's Moorabool Valley little league Interleague squad.

To Kerry and Sox on winning the pony jump at Marcus Oldham Agriculture College for which she received a sash and inscribed rug.

From their very proud parents, Ian & Leanne Fletcher

**Well done kids!**

21st May 1998

12th Annual Meredith Country Festival

SUNDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER, 1998  
at Meredith Recreation Reserve  
10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Visit Meredith for a day of Fun, Fun Fun!

Featuring

**Warren Earl (11am)**

Young guitarist from Inverleigh. Winner of Young Guitarist of the Year at Frankston in 1998



**Adam Harvey (11.30am)**

Adam has toured with US Superstar Don Williams, performed in Rhineland, Wisconsin and Nashville. Adam has performed at Tamworth and worked in pubs and clubs in Victoria and the Eastern States of Australia

**Greg Champion (1.00pm)**

Greg is making his third appearance at Meredith this year. Greg has been playing his Australian Music - a blend of country and comedy, for more than 20 years. He has released nine albums and played at the MCG, SCG, Football Park and many other venues and picked up the odd award at Tamworth.

- Over 100 Craft Stalls
- Lots of Christmas ideas
- Sheep Dog Trials
- Community House Art Show
- Meredith Fleece Show
- Lots of good country food
- Our Famous "Country Kitchen"
- "Bale of Fire" Demonstrations
- Helicopter and Harley Rides
- Heaps of good Country FUN!
- Loads of Children's Activities

ADMISSION - ADULTS \$4 - CHILDREN UNDER 16 FREE  
Further Information Phone 52 861 313 during School Hours

19th November, 1998. This could be our first colour page.

**OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY**

What a great 'turn-out' to see the 'Torch' travel through Meredith!!! It was a thrill to see so many people come along to support the runners. The morning began with a clear frosty atmosphere and we all thought it was going to be a fine sunny day, but by the time the 'Torch' arrived, the clouds had moved over and it became quite cold. The hot breakfast was appreciated by most people and a big thank you to all those who helped on the barbecues and toasters. The town looked neat and tidy so thank you to all who played their part in making the town look as if we like living here. To Rob Henderson from the Shire for his part in cutting the grass we say thank you.  
Editor.

10th August 2000

**Meredith Country Festival Reports**

**What a great weekend!!!**

The weather began a little damp but once the clouds lifted the day was one that was good for eating the goodies which were available. All food stalls had trouble keeping up with the demand and sold out in the early afternoon.

The music was well received again with a large number of people content to sit and listen most of the day.

Between 5000 and 6000 people visited Meredith for the

Festival and over \$25,500 was raised on the day. Once all the sponsorships and final figures from the stalls are complete and the expenses are deducted it is hoped for a profit of between \$18,000 to \$20,000 which is a GREAT effort. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to make this Festival a huge success.

A meeting of co-ordinators, helpers and interested people will be held on Monday 7th December at 7.30p.m. to 'wind-

up' this years Festival and discussion on some celebrations.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Raffle Winners**

- 1st Prize
- 2nd Prize
- 3rd Prize
- 4th Prize

**FESTIVAL SCORE MAKERS NEEDED!**

The Meredith Country Festival on Sunday 22nd November is just 8 weeks away.

The Devonshire Teas are always busy and usually about 120 dozen scones are needed. Scone making (along with sponge making) is becoming a lost art, so if you have this talent we really need your help.

We are also looking for helpers on the day to prepare scones, serve teas and coffees and sell tickets. If you would like to be involved in this popular spot during the Festival, please phone Rosemary Gargan on 5286 1313 (school hours) or 5286 1354 after hours.

**YEAR 2000 IS COMING!**

The Meredith Town Team are organizing a big party for the Meredith District to celebrate the turn of the century. Instead of lots of little parties around the town we would like to invite you all to share in this special celebration together.

We will have a B.Y.O. barbecue meal (meat supplied) commencing at approximately 8.00p.m. followed by activities, singing, dancing and fireworks leading up to midnight.

Mark this on your calendars now and invite the friends you would normally invite to come and join the fun! More information will be given closer to the time, so watch in coming newsletters.

**"BALLARK" CLAY TARGET SHOOT**

The Meredith Kindergarten, in conjunction with the Ballark & District Gun Club, held an enjoyable day on Sunday 25th May. The weather was exceptional and the children enjoyed the free entertainment provided.

# Our Cover Story

## The Changing Face of our Covers 1996 to 2000

Not a lot of change in format during this five year period, although we do see front page ads have become common. Banners continue to be quite variable. (And one cover is given over to a Christmas Greeting.) It is still a fortnightly publication and typically 8 to 12 pages.

# Meredith & District News

14th March, 1996

The Newsletter Editorial Committee reserves the right to refuse or edit copy if necessary and accepts no responsibility for signed copy received and published.  
The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Committee.  
COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE MUST BE AT MEREDITH POST OFFICE OR COMMUNITY HOUSE BEFORE 4pm  
FRIDAY, 22nd March, 1996  
(Sports news accepted to 9.00am Monday 25th March, 1996 at the House)  
All copy must be signed and a contact number included.  
Phone 052 861 348 Fax 052 861 363

### COMMUNITY NEWS

#### COMMISSIONER BARBER BIDS 'FAREWELL'

At the forthcoming Council election on 16 March, the Commissioner of Golden Plains Shire, Mrs. Claire Barber will conclude her term as Commissioner, after taking office in May 1994.

The following is a statement from Commissioner Barber to the people of Golden Plains Shire:

"The last two years have seen many changes arising from the amalgamation process. Many of these changes have been designed to present an organisation that is able to meet the service demands of the twenty first century. It is my belief that Golden Plains Shire has developed the appropriate structures and service philosophies that will cater for the people of this Shire well into the future.

The task of restructuring has been complex and at times, difficult decisions have had to be made. However, the need for municipal reform was long overdue and the services that are now provided are amongst the most efficient and cost effective that a local government can provide. These efficiencies will be enhanced as competitive tendering is further introduced and services are exposed to market testing.

In working through the issues resulting from restructuring, it has been my privilege to work with a cross section of the community. The role that community organisations and residents have played in ensuring a smooth transition from the former Shires to Golden Plains Shire cannot be underestimated. Community involvement in the decision making process that I have provided over has been a personal priority and has ensured relevant and sensitive outcomes to often wide ranging issues.

I trust you will continue to offer your support to the new Council and aid the process of fostering community

development and identity in Golden Plains Shire.  
Thank you once again for your support and encouragement. I have enjoyed my time as Commissioner and very much appreciate the opportunity of working with so many of you in Golden Plains Shire.

Claire Barber  
Commissioner

#### BUSINESS GROUP TAKES OFF IN GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

A business group representing the interests of G.P.S. businesses, which started from a Shire sponsored business breakfast in December is now gathering momentum. "From what began as a Christmas breakfast has now turned into a fully fledged business group" G.P.S. Executive Development Officer, Sam Hendry said recently. The Golden Plains Business Association is presently being developed with a steering committee comprising business people from across the Shire, enthusiastically driving the project.

It could be assumed the majority of businesses in G.P.S. are rural based, although the service industries operating from home account for the greater majority of businesses in the Shire. These businesses have been largely unrepresented in the past and the formation of the business assoc. will provide a focal point for their continued development.

"The need for the group has arisen from the amalgamation of the former shires and the realisation that as a municipal region, we now have the volume and diversity of business that needs representation at a local level." Mr. Hendry said.

"I am well aware of the Shire's need to assist the establishment of the group and then take a back seat so business can develop the necessary initiatives, without a bureaucratic bias. The G.P.B.A. will develop fully into the energies and enthusiasm of its members, and for this



### CONGRATULATIONS

To ALISON & DES ERWIN who will celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 27th March, 1996. A great achievement! Best wishes to you both.

### WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

To LIZ NELSON and BRENDAN JOHNSTON who were married in Buninyong Holy Trinity Anglican Church on Saturday 24th February. After honeymooning in New Zealand they are now living in Ballarat. We wish them well for their future together.

### MEREDITH C.V.A.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 19th March at 12 noon, please note change of date! There will be a Committee meeting at 11am. Please try to attend. A shared lunch with St Patrick's Day theme will follow.

Thank you to all who supported our stall on Election Day. The raffie winner was ROSEMARY GARGAN.

Eisa Dunn (Secretary)

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13th March, 1997

# Meredith & District News

The Newsletter Editorial Committee reserves the right to refuse or edit copy if necessary and accepts no responsibility for signed copy received and published.  
COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE MUST BE AT MEREDITH POST OFFICE OR COMMUNITY HOUSE BEFORE 4pm FRIDAY, 21st March, 1997 (Sports news accepted to 9.00am Monday 24th March, 1997 at the House)  
All copy must be signed and a contact number included.  
Phone 052 861 348 Fax 052 861 363

## DISTRICT NEWS

### 1st MEREDITH SCOUTS

A Billy-cart Derby was held on 21st February and following are the results:  
1. Fastest Time over 230 mts: Matt Colla  
2. Race Winner: Michael Foster  
3. Most visual roll over: Luke Colla

Thanks to B.P. Meredith, with special thanks to Mr Mick Green and family for their generous support. It's good to see also thanks to John Nolan and family for the use of their property for the Billy-cart Derby. The Scouts hope to make this an annual event and throw open a challenge for next year to the people of Meredith to participate, regardless of age.  
All enquiries to contact 5286 1457. Thank you "Grumps" & Marg.

### MEREDITH SENIOR CITIZENS

**WANTED:** The Meredith Senior Citizens are looking for an organization to provide 2 luncheons for their meetings on 22nd September and 27th October 1997. Further information regarding numbers and type of food needed can be obtained from Lila East, ☎ 5286 1218.

### RURAL ADULT DAY ACTIVITIES & SUPPORT SERVICES

Golden Plains Shire is aiming to develop Adult Day Activities & Support Services in their more isolated rural areas and months. A Project Worker to do this over the next few

Adult Day Activities & Support Services are aimed at assisting people who may have some needs in relation to ageing, or who have a moderate to severe disability of any assistance which best suit the needs of people in country areas, for example:

- social, recreational and creative activities like those which occur in Day Centres and Community Houses but may not be available in more isolated areas.
- assistance with access to medical and other health.

related services.  
• some form of "time-out" for carers who would benefit from a break from caring for their family members who may have some special needs.

If you have an interest in such services being available locally, or any views to share, contact: Project Worker, Anne Re, ☎ 03 5342 8377 or talk to Bettine Satchell at Golden Plains Shire, toll free for Shire residents ☎ 1300 363036.

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# Meredith & District News

12th March, 1998  
Volume 7, No. 4

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Phone 52 861 348 Fax 52 861 363 E-mail: MCDN@netconnect.com.au

## DISTRICT NEWS

### Pasture News

by Lisa Miller, DNRE, Geelong  
Native Hut Creek Restoration  
The Meredith/Banangine Landcare group has recently applied to the Natural Heritage Trust for funding to help them protect and enhance the upper reaches of Native Hut Creek. The site leads in the top part of the creek are very high at 20,000 EC. This is about half as salty as sea water and only just fit for adult sheep to drink. This is from the salts washing out of rocks and soil and running into the creek. Landholders are planning to revegetate salt patches and stream banks with tall wheat grass and trees to try and with tall wheat grass and trees to try and intercept and filter the polluted water before it enters the creek. This should make the downstream users of our water

• a lot happier.  
Training on Store Cattle Production.  
A new training package on best practice store cattle production is available called Autumn Break-March/April.

• Storeflock. It is for cattle producers targeting high value markets who want to improve their efficiency, increase the value of their product and it involves in tough economic times. It involves attending eight monthly workshops, starting in April. Call Phil Franklin, Beef Industry Officer, Ballarat on 03 5336784 for further details.

Autumn Break-March/April  
This year is bound to be a great year for establishing pasture, for a main sheep reason. The first is that rarely we are going to have a good autumn break after such a poor season. Looking back at the rainfall history, after the 1982 drought at Meredith, the break occurred in March with above average falls of 105mm recorded compared to the long term average of 45mm. The second reason is that pasture if stocked correctly should be pretty free of trash which makes plant

establishment a lot more successful. The third reason is that advice is on hand from DNRE, Geelong. As the Meredith/Banangine area is a priority area for salinity control, we are here to get to good pastures and pretty keen to use up excess moisture before it brings salty ground-water close to the ground surface.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
As from 2nd March 1998 Meredith Butcher will no longer be supplying the Royal Hotel Meredith with Henry Grey Conson along with Henry Grey would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who supported us whilst we provided meals at the Royal Hotel. Regrettably we are no longer associated with the Hotel, once again thank you for your valued patronage.  
Henry and Kaye  
**RED CROSS CALLING**

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# Meredith & District News

25th March, 1999 Volume 8 Issue 5

## District News

### C.F.A. RECIPE BOOK

**COME ON ALL YOU WONDERFUL COOKS!**  
The Meredith C.F.A. are wanting recipes of ANYTHING that can be made, from 'cure-alls' to pavlovas to print in a recipe book as a fund-raiser. Please leave your recipes at the Community House as soon as possible or phone Margaret Brown, 5286 1595. HELP OUR BRIGADE NOW!

### MEREDITH & DISTRICT RED CROSS

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 14th April at 10.00am at the Community House. The important items on our agenda will be to have our photograph taken for this year's Meredith Calendar, so if you are a member of the Meredith Red Cross Unit, please come along and join in. Could members also bring along any remaining 'Calling Kids' etc and raffle books, butts and money. We will also need to have a preliminary discussion about the Daffodil Show. Robin Ferry, Hon Sec.

### MEREDITH KINDERGARTEN CAPERS, March 1999

Enrolments for 3 year old Kinder sessions starting Term 2 are welcome. There will be an end of term BBQ on Wednesday 24th March at the Kinder for all 3 and 4 year old kinder families. It will be starting at 11.30am and could all families please bring either a sweet or salad to share. Meat and drink is supplied. For Kinder enquiries please contact the Kinder on 5286 1227 or Stephanie Hunter (President) on 5341 5527.

It has been a busy month at Kinder. We have been observing caterpillars for our nature activities and the children enjoyed having them crawl up their arms. To enlarge this interest we have had songs, stories, pictures and discussions, made caterpillars from egg cartons and made a painted butterfly. To the children's delight we have also had a box of new chickens to play with. The fire truck visited the Kinder 3 weeks ago with Mrs. Marg Brown in uniform to talk to us all. A good role model for the girls to see the fire person was female. The children enjoyed climbing on the truck, squirring water around the playground and having the lights and siren going. We practiced what to do when the siren is blown. This has encouraged lots of dramatic play and discussion about fire and fire engines. The current topics are road safety (wearing seat belts and holding hands to and from Kinder). The children helped make plum jam (plum from our plum tree in the playground) and made pancakes for 'pancake Tuesday' and ate them with the plum jam.

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# Seasons Greetings from Meredith & District Newsletter



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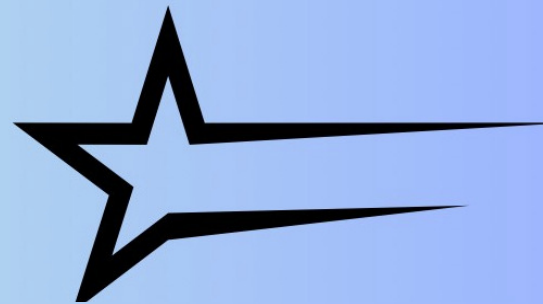
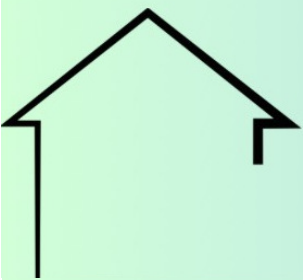
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### **TALL TREE WIND FARM** **Mobile Office Drop-in Sessions**

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).

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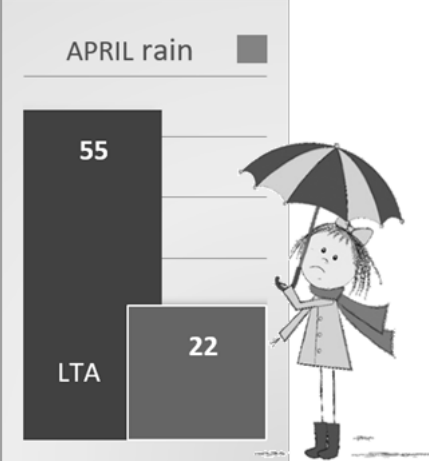
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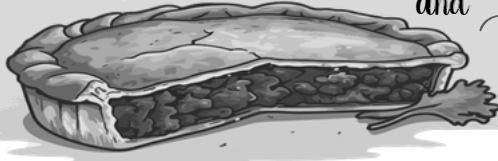
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Cauliflower Bites

*Polpette di Cavolfiore from "Gennaro's Verdure" by Gennaro Contaldo*

**Ingredients**

- 1 small cauliflower broken into florets
- 1 medium-sized potato, peeled and cut into small chunks
- 3 eggs
- 30g grated Parmesan
- 1 tsp paprika (optional)
- Abundant dried breadcrumbs
- Plain flour for dusting
- Sunflower or vegetable oil for frying
- Salt and pepper

**Method**

Bring a pot of salted water to the boil and cook the cauliflower florets and potato until tender, then drain well (if necessary, pat dry with a clean tea towel). Mash the cauliflower and potato together with 1 egg, the Parmesan, paprika and 1/2 tablespoon breadcrumbs and season with salt and pepper. With your hands, form the mixture into small balls (*polpette*), each roughly the size of a walnut. Lightly beat the remaining eggs with a little salt. First dust the polpette in flour, then dip in the egg and finally roll in the breadcrumbs to coat. Sprinkle some breadcrumbs to cover the base of a flat plate or tray, arrange the polpette on top and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes. Heat plenty of oil in a deep frying pan over a medium-high heat until hot, then fry the polpette in batches for about 5 minutes until golden. Drain on kitchen paper and serve.\*

Gennaro recommends serving them with a mixed salad and rustic bread.

*We shallow-fried these in about 1cm of oil; they take a little longer to cook and you need to turn them over a couple of times to make sure they are browned all over. Using Panko breadcrumbs gives a lovely crunchy texture to the outside.*

If you are enjoying Meat-free Monday Meals or just wanting to get more vegetables into your life, this is a great book and available to borrow from the Geelong Library.



*Ando and Ellie, ready to serve.*

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## Marg's BOOK REVIEW

### Salonika Burning by Gail Jones.

This is a brilliant book. Different chapters describe what the four main characters are experiencing in WW1. It is not a complete story but rather an insight or impression into the horrors of war and the gut reactions of those involved. The characters are all in the same area and associated with the Scottish Women's Hospital that operated medical units near Salonika [now Thessaloniki] primarily to serve the Serbian Army.

*They are terrified and unsure of their roles in this scene of destruction and yet they grip onto their dreams and their hopes for the future with a steady heart. They are the backbone of success and perseverance in the face of chaos.*

The characters are inspired by actual historical figures who were in Greece in 1916 to 1917. Olive was an ambulance driver and daughter of a wealthy Sydney banker, Stella was an orderly and assistant cook who became Miles Franklin the famous Australian author, Grace was a surgeon who became a Freudian psychoanalyst and Stanley was a combat medic who became one of Britain's famous painters. Despite passing moments of connection in the book, the characters mostly remain distant from one another, like planets whose orbits never quite intersect.

The author says that the characters in her book are loosely based on the actual historical figures, but there is no evidence that they knew each other, this is a work of fiction, not history. For this reason, the author didn't give them surnames. Apparently, they all returned to Britain suffering from malaria. They had all enlisted there.

In 1917 while war devastated Europe, the great Greek city of Salonika burnt. More than two-thirds of the city was destroyed and tens of thousands of people left homeless. In response surgeons, ambulance drivers, nurses, orderlies and other volunteers from all over the world went to Greece to help, including the four protagonists. We also see through their eyes how life and beauty persist in a world adamant on destroying itself.

The writing is beautiful and both disarming and comforting. The author portrays events and scenes poetically but with clarity and feeling.

A review of the book suggests *that fiction has the potential to capture reality with an emotional verisimilitude that can elude, more earnestly factual accounts. It's also testament to the ways that partial or fragmentary can, at times, provide a fleeting glimpse of a whole that might remain unknowable.*

An interesting subject in the book is Australian rabbits. *There was a kind o kerfuffle outside, a ripple of fear as they heard a heavy lorry approach. And then they rose to what novelty had arrived. It was a lorry full of frozen rabbits. Australian supporters of Serbia had sent fifty thousand carcasses to be distributed on the Eastern Front. Two Australian soldiers were charged with the task. The diggers looked eighteen or so and were pleased with the reception they received as the bringers of meat.*



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*Compiled by Michael Riseley*

Which actor played these roles.

1. The Intern
2. Cool Hand Luke
3. Don Corleone
4. Harry Callahan
5. Scott Hastings
6. The Rainman
7. Barry McKenzie
8. The Third Man

Answers

1. Robert De Niro 2. Paul Newman 3. Marlon Brando 4. Clint Eastwood 5. Paul Mercurio. Dustin Hoffman 7. Barry Crocker 8. Orson Welles

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## PHYLLIS & FREDERICK

### 90 Years On

*Pam Selman*

Ninety years ago, on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the marriage of Phyllis Wells and Frederick Douglas took place at the Presbyterian Church, Morrisons. In front of a small gathering, they were married by Rev. William Bett with her parents, Henry and Elizabeth Wells acting as witnesses. They had a formal photograph taken in Geelong and honeymooned in Lorne.

With siblings Cecil and Shirley, Phyllis had been raised on the family farm, "Aislin" at Morrisons. She met her future husband when he moved from Geelong to the Morrisons area during the Depression to find work, picking onions.

Phyl and Fred (as they were known) made their first home on a small and very isolated farm near Ingliston. After a couple of years they moved to another small farm near the former Pentland Hills Church at Myrniong.

In 1946 they relocated to the former "Lifeguard Milk Factory" at Myrniong from where Fred ran a small trucking business while they occupied the former manager's residence. She kept a huge garden of fruit, vegetables and flowers and fascinated by all things mechanical, he filled every space there was in the shed with spare parts for the truck!

They raised two daughters in a loving home and would have five grandchildren. Married for 41 years, they travelled as far as New Guinea and the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu).

They (especially Phyl), were active members of the Myrniong, Ballan and later Bacchus Marsh communities. In 1961 friends and neighbours held a party in the supper room of the Myrniong Hall to celebrate their silver wedding anniversary.

As a surprise and on a Tuesday night, the party started with a tin-kettling at 8:30pm!

Phyllis was widowed in 1977 and the following year moved to Bacchus Marsh. She remained independent until her late 80's. She was "reluctantly accepting" of her frailty, and after serious health issues moved into Aged Care in Geelong where she continued her community service as best she could. She died aged 94. They are both missed, and remembered.



## Meredith RSL Anzac Day

*Mick Devlin*

The Anzac Day service hosted by the Meredith RSL in Meredith, Victoria brought the local community together in a moving tribute to those who have served and sacrificed for their country.

Held on April 25, the ceremony reflected the enduring spirit of Anzac Day, combining solemn remembrance with a strong sense of community connection. The day began with the annual inspection Parade at the town's memorial, where attendees gathered ready to be inspected and march into the Hall.

The perfect weather created a reflective atmosphere as the day honoured the legacy of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, whose courage during the Gallipoli Campaign remains central to the day's significance. Traditional elements such as the Last Post, a minute of silence, and the recitation of the Ode were observed with deep respect.

Later in the morning, a commemorative march moved through the streets of Meredith, led by veterans and joined by local families, and community groups. The turnout demonstrated the town's continued commitment to honouring its history and those who served in conflicts past and present.

At the memorial, wreaths were laid by representatives of local organisations, schools, and families. These tributes served as personal and collective acknowledgments of sacrifice. Speeches throughout the ceremony highlighted not only the historical importance of Anzac Day but also its ongoing relevance, reminding attendees of the values of mateship, resilience, and service and also a great reminder of the contributions that our local Meredith School has provided and continue to provide.

The Meredith RSL would like to thank everyone who contributed to the new screen at the memorial which was made and fully funded by the Meredith community. A big thank you to Chris and Olivia Jones from Landform Earthmoving, Sandy and Julie Cameron from Meredith Dairy, Daniel and Bianca McDonnell from Steel Art, The Meredith Community Coordinators and everyone who bought raffle tickets and donated to the RSL Christmas raffle. I think everyone agreed the new screen looks great. The event concluded with an opportunity for attendees to gather at the RSL, where stories were shared and connections strengthened. In a small town like Meredith, the Anzac Day ceremony remains more than a tradition - it is a deeply felt expression of remembrance, ensuring that the contributions of service members continue to be recognised across generations.



## The Red Geraniums

In my Mother's country garden  
 Was a bed of red geraniums  
 Which she planted long ago.  
 Planted first from tiny cuttings  
 Which she gathered here and there;  
 Watered, fed and very gently  
 Watched them grow, with loving care.  
 Still in mem'ry I can see them  
 In the early morning light;  
 When the touch of Dawn's soft fingers  
 Made their crimson petals bright.  
 How she tended them in Autumn!  
 'Ere the cruel frost would keep  
 His appointment with the winter,  
 And the flowers fall asleep;  
 'Neath the June time's heavy blanket  
 Till the Spring would come again,  
 And the flowers' beauty waken  
 To the soft September rain.  
 But gone is the flowers' beauty now!  
 Gone - with her life - away,  
 So I try to think of Heaven  
 And a brighter, better day -  
 And I'm sure when I reach there,  
 I shall search until I know  
 I have found that place in Heaven,  
 Where the red geraniums grow.

Source: "Silver Wings" and other poems by Linda Brumby  
 An "Evangel Dee" book Melbourne Australia 1961

(Submitted by Janine Schillier)



*Mick Devlin*

A fantastic start to Round 1 was had at the home of the mighty Crocs. Perfect weather made for an exciting couple of games of football.

A close game throughout the day. A lapse from the Crocs allowed South Coast to kick 4 unanswered goals, which proved the difference in the end.

The Crocs put up a good fight but ultimately lost to the speedy South Coast Sharks Masters AFL FC. The team's effort was recognised through individual awards given to Owen, Joel, Shaun, Knobby, Chris, and Meg. The Crocs also welcome some new players and some returning players whom all contributed to the team's effort. Thanks are due to Sunbury Masters Football Club for making the trip and securing a win against the 45's South Coast and to the Moorabool Valley Masters FC Crocs players who kindly gave their time to help Sunbury with some players. Also, a huge shout out to all our volunteers who helped on the day running the kitchen, bar, goalies, running water, without you it wouldn't be possible.

On Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> April the Crocs travelled to Sunbury to take on the Melton Panthers. It was perfect weather for football and ended up as a Great win for the Crocs. The pre-game speech from coach David Pike (currently injured but still contributing) was just what the Crocs needed. The Crocs needed a quarter to get our kicking legs on as few went astray but it still was a great quarter. The backline held strong all day and are really starting to click. Melton made a surge in the last quarter but a game winning goal from Kevin Brownlow Murray sealed the deal for the Crocs. Great first win for Pikey as coach and a great team effort to hold on for the win.

Best Joel, Whitey, Fries, Lennon, Mitch.

Thanks Melton Panthers Super Rules FC for a cracker game and Sunbury Masters Football Club for hosting a spectacular day.

Next game is a long road trip to Gippsland to take on 2 teams. We are taking on Wellington Warriors and Gippsland Tigers in a 6-quarter match to allow all teams to have a game. This is something unique to master's footy to allow all teams to have a run and enjoy a kick and sneak in a couple of well-earned beers.





Vanessa's

# FLOWER FARM FILES

Dig in. Grow well. Bloom beautifully.

## Start Your Vegetable Garden This Season

There's something deeply satisfying about growing your own vegetables — and it's easier than you might think. Whether you have a backyard, a tiny courtyard, or just a small patch of sunlit space, starting a vegetable garden this season can bring a wide range of benefits to you and your family.

### Why Grow Your Own?

Growing your own vegetables isn't just a hobby — it's a simple step towards a healthier, more sustainable lifestyle. Fresh from the garden, vegetables are nutrient-dense, seasonal, and full of flavour. They haven't travelled thousands of kilometres or sat in cold storage — they've gone straight from soil to plate.

You also know exactly what's gone into them. No mystery sprays, no long supply chains — just honest food grown with your own hands.

There's also something quietly empowering about it. Not in a dramatic, end-of-the-world way — just a gentle sense of self-sufficiency. A reminder that, given a bit of sun, soil and time, we can provide for ourselves in small but meaningful ways.

And in a world of rising grocery bills, it doesn't hurt that gardening is incredibly cost-effective.

But perhaps the biggest reward is the feeling — muddy hands, fresh air, and the simple joy of watching something grow. It's also one of the best ways to show little people where food *really* comes from.

### Where to Start (On a Budget)

You don't need a sprawling backyard or a shed full of tools.

A small patch of soil, a few pots, or even a borrowed corner of a community garden is more than enough to begin.

And you don't need to load up on seedlings either.

A few simple ways to get started:

**Start from seed** — the most affordable and rewarding way to grow. One packet can feed you for a season (and beyond if you save seeds).

**Swap with others** — gardeners are generous folk. Check local groups, community gardens, or neighbourhood swap tables.

**Join a community garden** — part garden, part social club, part knowledge hub. A wonderful place to begin.

### What to Plant Now

In Ballarat, winter can be crisp, slow, and quietly productive — if you plant the right things.

**Brassicas** are your best friends this time of year: broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, kale — sturdy, reliable, and surprisingly generous.

**Flower Farm Files: Ballarat Planting Calendar**

Gardening in Ballarat has its own rhythm — shaped by frost, cool nights, and a slower seasonal shift. Here's a simple guide to what thrives, when:

### Autumn (March – May)

This is when things really begin to settle in. Soil is still warm, mornings are cool, and it's the perfect time to plant:

- Broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage
- Kale, silverbeet, spinach
- Leeks, onions, garlic
- Broad beans (a winter favourite)

*This is your prep season — think of it as tucking the garden in for winter.*

### Winter (June – August)

Growth slows, but it doesn't stop. This is a time for patience:

- Continue with leafy greens
- Tend to your brassicas
- Plant more garlic and onions

Start seeds indoors (tomatoes, capsicum, eggplant) for spring

*Frost might visit, but your garden is quietly working beneath it.*

### Grow More Than You Need

A gentle rule from the garden: plant a little more than you think you'll need.

Because when things grow well, they *really* grow. And suddenly you have six cabbages ready at once and a kitchen full of broccoli.

Rather than seeing it as too much, see it as an opportunity — to share.

With neighbours, friends, or a local produce table. A quiet exchange that turns surplus into connection.

Starting a vegetable garden doesn't need to be complicated or expensive.

Just a small beginning. A handful of seeds. A bit of sun.

And the willingness to see what grows.



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## Devlin's Ridge Musings

*Meg Devlin*

### *For the love of a chestnut mare...*

I remember the moment that we first laid eyes on each other... there was a palpable 'knowing,' like we had been destined to be together in this life. Maybe we had been together before ... Just maybe, there is some kind of invisible thread that has entwined our souls through all of time. I take comfort in that thought, for I can't imagine being without the feeling of 'Home' that she brings to me.

Standing in a dry dusty paddock on the other side of Meredith, our eyes found each other's and without hesitation she moved towards me, bowing her head and pressing her forehead against my chest. It was like she knew the sound of my heart beat and was once again listening to the whispers of an old friend. I lowered my head and buried my face against the side of her neck. Her long red mane engulfed my face and in that moment I finally felt like I could breathe ... The turmoil melted away and was replaced with the most beautiful feeling of peace and 'quiet.' From that moment 'Tess' and I have been inseparable.

We recognised things in each other... celebrated joys and grieved feelings of loss together. Tess had only recently been separated from her foal, her child... motherhood was supposed to be a fading memory, but as a Mum – it stays raw and as hard as you try to forget – you just can't. Those years ago when we moved to Meredith I had been in early pregnancy with our last attempt at adding to our much wanted family. Not long after the move, however our little angel got called back and we never got to meet her. Tess and I were both grieving mothers and our bond healed parts of each other that the rest of the world never even noticed were there.

Anyone who is 'horsey' knows that chestnut mares come with a warning label. Throw being a 'Quarter Horse' chestnut mare into the mix and some would be sprinting for the hills. Now that label isn't just a little handwritten sticky note... it's usually a billboard sized sign with neon lights and fluorescent writing! Temperamental, 'spicy,' Vindictive, scary. I was warned when I took her on that she had a 'streak' and never to go near her back legs. Now Tess does hate all other horses (with a fence kicking, screeching passion), isn't crazy about the dogs and pins her ears when almost anyone else even looks at her. But when it comes to her and I, there is trust, respect, knowing and a friendship that has kept me safe. She gives pony rides to kids, teaches teenagers how to ride and tippy-toes when there are little people around her. I didn't rescue her - she has rescued me, more times than anyone could imagine.

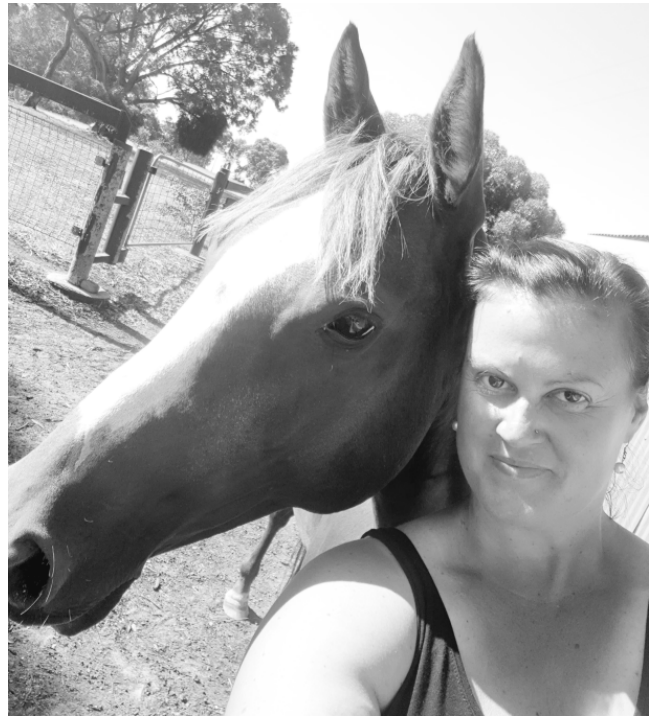
We have been on adventures that you could write books about, galloped up and down hills like the man from Snowy River and seen the dawning of beautiful mornings and rested together at the closing of hard days. Age has caught up with us both... Tess is now 'retired' and even after my life threatening accident (Tess is definitely NOT the horse responsible) she is still the place I bury my face in her thick reddish- not greying- mane and find my 'safe' place in her heartbeat. She nickers to me, she gallops across paddocks to be at my side, she stands between me

and danger and has kept me safe when I have fallen in more ways than one.

I feel her in all aspects of my life... she guides me to be more patient, more present, trusting and kind, to approach everything with the convictions of strength and faith. To love deeply, be protective and gallop headlong into challenges.

I do not own her, but, I AM her person...

She is not my horse... She is my heart.



Want to get into some Old School

# SOCIAL MEDIA



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Drop us a line at [news@meredithnews.com.au](mailto:news@meredithnews.com.au)



# it'S HiStoRy

Meredith History Interest Group

### Sculpture Exhibition:

Just a reminder that entry forms must be submitted by April 30<sup>th</sup> and sculptures delivered to the History Centre by 3 pm on Friday, May 15.

The exhibition will be at the History Centre at 31 Staughton Street, Meredith on May 16 & 17 and we look forward to seeing you and your family and friends in person over that weekend. Sculptures will be displayed both inside and outside the old Shire building and prizes will be awarded on Sunday, May 17 at 2 pm. Exhibitors will be able to collect their sculptures after 3 pm on that day.

Get creative...use your talents to make something that represents *History Reconstructed!*

### Australian Heritage Festival:

The Sculpture Exhibition of MHIG is an event that is registered with the *Australian Heritage Festival*. More than 250 events have been registered and featured on their web page including exhibitions, hands on events, painting, walks, open days, author talks, book sales, online lessons and orations. The festival runs from April 18 for a month across the whole of Victoria. The theme for the events of 2026 is *Change*. You could try *Grave Insanity* at Ararat, *Ghosts at Old Williamstown*, the *Lunatic Asylum at Ararat's J Ward*, *Four Peaks Challenge at Camperdown* or a walk of the *Heritage Trail at Myrningong*.

### Henderson Trowel:

Many years ago, what I will call the Henderson Trowel came to Meredith and was photographed. On Saturday, April 18 the Henderson Trowel came back and was donated to MHIG.

Thomas and Isabella Henderson came to Australia on the Prince of the Seas in 1861. He was listed as a sheep manager and had been employed to manage a property at Meredith. Eric MacGillivray in his book, *The Heritage of Lethbridge* states that Thomas Henderson was manager of *Moranghuk* in 1865. There is mention of him in Meredith from 1873 when he was appointed to the Board of Advice, School District West Riding, Meredith Shire. He was president of Meredith Shire in 1878 and it was he who laid the foundation stone of the new Shire Hall in Staughton Street in May 1878 with what I now call the Henderson trowel. It has been in the family for 4 generations but as the family is large and widely spread they decided to bring it back to where it was first used.

A document was placed under the stone but no one knows where the foundation stone is!

### Easter Daisies:

I have seen them flowering pink, purple and white and they look glorious at this time of year. Has anyone in garden land got them growing in their garden? MHIG would like some for the garden at the History Centre and also to pot up for the street nursery.

Jess and Asher's

## AUTUMN WORD UNSCRAMBLE

Unscramble the autumn words then use the shaded letters to solve the question below

U U A M T N	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
L O C O	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
G R A O N E	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
D R E	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
O W N R B	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
V E S E A L	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

What nuts do you find under an oak tree

this time of the year?

## SCULPTURE EXHIBITION

Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th May 9:30am to 3:30pm

Presented by the Meredith History Interest Group at  
"The Old Shire Hall"—31 Staughton Street Meredith

### WANTED

Sculptors to create and exhibit a 3D sculpture that represents their view of Australian history

## 'HISTORY RECONSTRUCTED'

## Rabbit Baiting in the Police Paddocks

Western Region Ecological Network (WREN), the delegated managers of the Meredith Police Paddocks, will be rabbit baiting to the end of June.



*G'Day from the penners for May. It's going to be an exciting month for us, with the group holding a workshop for budding young writers in co-operation with our district primary schools. We are looking forward to meeting the writers of the future at Shelford Primary and we would like to thank Nicola Ross, Principal at Shelford for her enthusiastic support and help in co-ordinating this.*

*This month's story is from our newest member David, who heard about our group and has joined us. You can also, by getting in touch via our email [goldenpens4@gmail.com](mailto:goldenpens4@gmail.com) We meet every fortnight at Bannockburn Library at 1:30 to 3:00pm. May meeting dates are 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.*

Regards Wendy.

### **Carter Called**

Carter called again today, enquiring of his ladder. It had been many months now since I had first borrowed it, and he had, on the whole, been pretty good about not harassing me to return it. At first, he would just ask, casually, whenever we met, if I had completed repairing the downpipe. That's what I had told him I wanted to do – repair the holes that had rusted through the joints. I fully intended to do these repairs; I had bought some replacement pipe, a reciprocating saw to cut out the offending parts, adhesive and some waterproofing sealant to finish the job properly. Unfortunately, I had proved that old country saying if it's not raining, you don't need the holes repaired, and if it is raining you can't repair them.

The months passed. The sun shone, and I found other things to do – if not exactly making hay, at least working in the garden pruning and mulching and weeding and such. When the rain came, the downpipe would leak, and the sound of the incessant dripping would start on get on my nerves. But nothing could be done in the rain. So, the ladder rested in the shed, awaiting a happy confluence of weather, motivation and spare time. And the months passed.

Carter took to dropping in, claiming that he was just walking the dog. And, casually, diffidently, enquiring of his ladder. "Fixed that downpipe yet?" he would ask, or "Did you get the ladder under shelter during last week's rain?" I would make some vague excuse for postponing the repairs, or I would reassure him that I was "Looking after it as though it was my own!" He never pressed the point, and we always parted promising to see each other soon, maybe to get together for a drink.

Today, however, was different. Carter wasn't his usual unthreatening self. Something seemed to be bothering him. "Don't you think it's about time you returned the ladder, mate?" he said, with that particular intonation that made the word 'mate' anything but friendly. "But I still actually haven't finished the downpipe," I said.

"And they're predicting rain later this week."

"It's been, what, six months? More? If you haven't done it by now, you're not going to get it done by the end of the week. Don't kid yourself. I think I'd better just take it." His manner, and tone, seemed to me to make any attempt at extending the loan fruitless. "Take it," I said, and, ever diplomatic, "And thank you for the loan of it."

"You'll have to help me carry it back," he said, bluntly, "I can't get it up the hill by myself." Again, diplomacy seemed the wiser course, so I replied "Of course, just let me put my shoes on."

We trudged out of my gate, me in front and him behind, and made our way down to the roundabout, across the Blacktown road, and up the hill towards Carter's house. We reached his front gate at last. I put my end of the ladder down and tried to regain my breath. To be honest, this was the most I had exerted myself for some time, and the effort had taken something out of me. "Well, here we are. Thank you again for the loan. If it's alright with you, I might just borrow it again sometime. To finish off the downpipe," I announced. "Not done yet," he replied, brusquely, "We're taking it round the back." With a quiet sigh, I grasped my end again, and we set off around the house. I had thought that my laboured breathing and obvious discomfort might have prompted him to ease off a little, but, alas, not so.

We rounded the house and entered the back garden. There, to my shock and horror, I saw why Carter had needed his ladder returned. The large sycamore tree in the middle of the lawn had lost not one but several of its larger branches. The largest lay across the back of the garage and had partly demolished the roof. Another, still attached to the main trunk, threatened to collapse onto the lovingly-tended vegetable patch. A third, smaller branch rested on the clothesline. I hadn't done much damage, but the clothesline was definitely unusable.

"Oh goodness!" I said, "When did this happen? I can see why you need the ladder."

"A few months ago now," he replied, "Not long after you borrowed it, actually."



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

# Meredith Cricket Club

## 25/26 Season Wrap Up

Terry Hart

### Junior Report (Meredith Lambs)

Our juniors wrapped up their season with the U11 and U13 Presentation Night being held at the Rec Reserve on March the 12<sup>th</sup>. The night was extremely well attended by players and families with the juniors being presented their MCC medallions by the senior playing group.

Well done to our award winners on the night- Most Improved: Ellen Sergeant, Most Dedicated: Ryan Dinning and Junior Cricketer Of The Year: Charlie Thompson

Congratulations to all of the junior participants that took to the field this season representing the Meredith Cricket Club. Our Lambs enjoyed a number of wins and the improvement shown across the season was great to see. We look forward to seeing this crop of youngsters representing our club for many years to come.

A huge thank you to all of the parents and guardians that gave up their time to come along and help out and support the juniors throughout the season. Also a massive thank you to the Junior Committee members- Rod Armstrong, Dan Measures, Damo Brunt and our scorer Anne Milne who all put in a massive amount of work to make the season a great success.

### Senior Report-

#### Meredith Ewes

For the first time in the 160-year history of our great club, the MCC fielded a women's senior team. The enthusiasm and commitment of the female playing group was a delight to see with the girls racking up 4 wins in their inaugural season, a fantastic effort. Well done to all the girls that took to the field this season, we have no doubt next season will bring bigger and better things for the playing group as they continue to improve and learn the intricacies of the game. A huge thank you to our 1<sup>st</sup> ever women's captain Kirra Hunter, coaches Joel Hart and Damo Brunt, scorer Anne Milne and Rocket, Jimmy and Wellsy for their ongoing support.

#### Meredith Rams

Our 2 senior men's teams both had successful seasons with the 1<sup>st</sup> X1 just falling short of making another Grand Final, narrowly losing the Prelim Final to eventual premier Newcomb. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> X1 also appeared in finals action for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in 5 years, where they came up against a strong Newcomb side. The boys put up a great fight but unfortunately were knocked out in the 1<sup>st</sup> week. Well done to all players that represented the club this season, another awesome performance from a country club that continues to take the contest to bigger city teams. We have some huge recruiting news to announce in the coming months, that will hopefully push us closer to the ultimate success in all areas of the club.

A massive thank you to our senior leaders this season - captains: Tyler Dittloff and Dan Richardson, coach Harli Givvens and a special mention to our scorer Anne Milne for her tireless work.

### Presentation Day

Was held on Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> at the Royal Hotel and was extremely well attended by an enthusiastic mix of Rams, Ewes, Lambs, Life Members, family, friends and supporters. It was great to see such a large representation from all aspects of our great club.

Award Winners on the day were-

#### Men's 1<sup>st</sup> X1

Batting Average- Tyler Dittloff 832 runs @ 59.43

Bowling Average- Tyler Dittloff 33 wickets @ 11.7

Captains Award- Levhi Givvens

Rod Rayner All Rounder Award- Tyler Dittloff

#### Men's 2<sup>nd</sup> X1

Batting Average- Will Young 394 runs @ 39.4

Bowling Average- Damo Brunt 23 wickets @ 15.83

Captains Award- Ben McPherson

James "Willy" Nolan All Rounder Award- Will Young

#### Women's X1

Batting Award- Emily Thompson 154 runs @ 25.67

Bowling Award- Jess Gebbie 7 wickets @ 23.14

Captains Award- Mel Bigmore

Coaches Award- Savannah Thompson

#### Club Awards

Coaches Award- Brodie Wells

Duck Award- Levhi Givvens

Grinter Medal Young Cricketer Of The Year- Savannah Thompson

Mrs Phyl Hart Best Club Person- Anne Milne

Terry Hart Club Champion Player- Tyler Dittloff (1288 points).

In what was an amazing season for our 1<sup>st</sup> X1 Captain, Tyler also won the GCA Div 4 Champion Player and the Brent Donaldson Medal for best player in the competition (voted by the umpires). Congratulations Ditters on an fantastic season.

The final award presented on the day was a recognition of outstanding service to the Meredith Cricket Club. **Cameron Boer was presented with Life Membership** of the club for his contribution of over 20 years of service as a player, administrator, and on field leader. Congratulations Cam on a well-deserved honour, joining the list of 16 other Life Members that have served the MCC with great distinction.



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*Meredith Cricket Club Award Winners Main L to R :Cam Boer, Tyler Dittlof, Will Young, Damo Brunt, Mel Bigmore, Jess Gebbie, Emily Thompson, Anne Milne, Savannah Thompson. Left inset: Cam Boer again, holding his life membership trophy and right inset: Kirra Hunter , captain of the women's team.*

## Battle of the Duds

*Marg Cooper*

Miles has a passion for Mazda MX-5 cars. He has owned several, and has also raced MX-5s in the United Kingdom as a privateer, where he developed great road skills. He was a member of a MX-5 Club in the UK and with that club he and his Australian wife Rebecca toured European Race Tracks. This tour included the decommissioned track at Nürburgring, which is now a private road where visitors can go as fast as they want to around the track. (Miles proposed to Rebecca at the Nürburgring in 2009).

With his extensive knowledge of MX-5 cars he applied to be a contestant on the TV Show *Hard Quiz*. The producers liked his specialist subject as it was different, but he stood out from the other applicants at the audition, because he wore one of his collection of twenty-two kilts, and for the fact that he only has one name; Miles.

The Australian government legally allows individuals to be known by mononyms (Greek: mono = single, nym = name) in Australia, and whilst there are no official figures recorded, it is believed there are less than a thousand registered mononym voters in Australia.

Miles explained that the *Hard Quiz* audition (and subsequently the filming of the show at a later date) took place at the ABC building in Melbourne. The audition Miles attended had approximately forty applicants, and the panel of producers would go through mock rounds of the quiz with four applicants at a time. Of the forty people trying out, first they would be interviewed about their specialist subject, and then would have the mock quiz on general knowledge questions. The producers wanted knowledgeable people who talked naturally, weren't nervous, showed a bit of personality and were even a bit cheeky. (Miles was surprised that a girl at the interview whose topic was milk and who had extensive knowledge of the manufacturing process, and all the different types of milk sold, didn't get chosen to appear on the show. He said it was fascinating listening to her talk about it during her interview).

Tom Gleeson doesn't meet the contestants until the show begins, because he wants the interaction to be organic. The show is filmed using several cameras simultaneously: one stays on Tom all the time and two cameras on the panel. Rebecca was in the audience for moral support and was encouraged to make a bit of noise to support Miles.

On the day of filming, contestants had make up applied and hair styled and their outfits were checked to ensure they were suitable (no offensive messages on t-shirts, and patterns that would not look "busy" on tv screens). For his first appearance Miles wore a Hawaiian shirt with a black and grey tartan kilt and for his second appearance he wore another Hawaiian shirt with a green tartan kilt.

In the *Battle of the Duds* episode, Miles was eliminated at the end of round two; he says he wasn't fast enough on the buzzer. (On his first show, Miles said he had a walking encyclopedia next door to him who got almost every question correct, and the episode's specialist subject was the TV gardener Costa, which he knew little about).

When asked if he had been on any other shows his response was Oh God Yes! After he left the Army he joined a re-enactment group who performed at big public shows. This led to him appearing as an extra in several films including *Saving Private Ryan*, *Band of Brothers*, *Gladiator* and the British drama series, *Island of War*. His Army training was valuable for all these roles.

Miles is not a Dud, in fact he is a very interesting character who is enjoying living in Meredith. His block, which looks onto paddocks with trees, reminds him of where he grew up in the Vale of Glamorgan, in Wales. (He emphatically told me he's not English!).



*"Miles from Meredith" as Tom Gleeson enjoyed telling us.*





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**MADE  
FOR  
MORE**



Wendy Cook

I walked across the paddock, past a small bush planted inside a tall guard to protect it from grazing sheep and wallabies. Despite this protection, something had been chewing on its long narrow leaves. I peered closely at the bush and saw three caterpillars stretched along its slender branches. Their sides were terracotta brown with regular patches of black. A wide black stripe ran along each back, and white spots were scattered over their bodies. Near their rear ends were a pair of golden spots, while closer to their heads were pairs of pale yellow spots. Four of these pale spots were close together, with two short black horns between them. One caterpillar was disturbed by my inspection. It raised the front half of its body, showing a white underside with black patches. It curled its head in, tight against its underside, and I was startled to find that I was looking at what appeared to be black horns on top of a head, with a pair of pale yellow eyes below them. Each eye included a small circle of black with a white spot, looking exactly like the pupil of an eye with a glint of light shining from it. My surprise at this sight may be similar to that of a bird thinking to eat the caterpillar. The false head I was seeing was far larger than the head that had been tucked out of view, giving the impression of a creature bigger and potentially more dangerous than expected. Perhaps this would be enough to scare away a predator.

While these caterpillars were easily found and used a visual display in an attempt to avoid being eaten, others prefer to stay out of view. Last summer, I regularly saw small dark brown butterflies with pale yellow markings on their wings, feeding from the purple flowers of tall verbenas in my garden. I identified them as barred skippers, but I am unlikely to see their caterpillars. They feed on certain grasses and grass-like plants, but do so in the safety of darkness. The smallest caterpillars live on their food plant, where they construct a daytime shelter by folding over the end of a leaf, and holding it down with silk thread. As they grow, they build new shelters, sometimes by rolling in the leaf edges. When grass leaves become too narrow to fit their body, they find dead leaves and bark caught in the plant, or at its base, bind them together and line their hiding place with silk.

While many caterpillars feed at night, some are active during the day. Camouflage is a common means of protection and works best if the caterpillar remains motionless when it feels threatened. Other caterpillars are more obvious, and these need some means of defence against predators. They may have hairs which break off in the skin and irritate anything that tries to catch them. Cup moth caterpillars have spines, which are hidden in tubes, until they are disturbed. These spines deliver a painful sting if they touch skin. Cup moths and other caterpillars with means of attack are often brightly coloured to warn predators to leave them alone. Chemicals from the leaves they eat, allow some caterpillars to release an unpleasant smell. Others contain toxins from their food, but this is only helpful if predators have learnt to avoid their bright colours.

Another way for a caterpillar to be defended, is to have someone else do it for them. In summer, you may have noticed small blue butterflies, often flying close to the

ground. These are called common grass-blues, and although their caterpillars are usually green and well camouflaged, they are often accompanied by ants. They belong to a group of butterfly species which form partnerships with certain species of ants. The caterpillars have glands, which in some species release chemicals which attract and calm ants. In others, the glands produce sugars and proteins, which the ants collect as food. The companion ants will do their best to protect the caterpillars from any creature that may cause them harm.

Despite all these strategies, many caterpillars do not survive to become moths or butterflies. I walk past the small bush regularly, and the number of caterpillars on it has varied as new ones hatch, and larger ones disappear. I have seen no cocoons on the plant, but perhaps they pupate underground. Alternatively, their imitation faces have not been sufficient to prevent most of them becoming a meal. While this may be bad news for the caterpillars, it is good news for the bush. If all caterpillars survived to become butterflies or moths, and bred another generation, there would not be enough food for all. It is likely that none of the following generation would find sufficient to eat, so none would reach full size and successfully change to an adult, and the bush would probably die. It is important that some caterpillars survive, and that the plant can flourish. It is also crucial that too many caterpillars hatch from their eggs, as they are an important source of food for others, particularly predatory insects and birds. Without caterpillars, many baby birds could not reach maturity.



*Two views of the Pink-bellied Moth's handsome (and scary) caterpillar.*

## Community Disaster Resilience Program – Meredith

Golden Plains Shire Council, in partnership with The Six C's Emergency Management Specialists, is delivering a practical, locally tailored program to help communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.

The **Community Emergency Management Planning (CEMP) Workshop** provides a facilitated, community-led planning process that brings residents together to identify local risks, resources, and priorities. Through this workshop, each participating township will co-create a locally owned Emergency Management Plan.

### The CEMP workshop will assist Meredith residents to:

- Identify local hazards, vulnerabilities and exposure points
- Map community assets, strengths and local capabilities
- Clarify roles and shared responsibilities before, during and after emergencies
- Develop a locally owned Community Emergency Management Plan including a community communications plan
- Strengthen local networks and social capital

The CEMP process ensures that emergency planning is grounded in local knowledge and community priorities, enhancing relevance and ownership.

### Session Date & Location

- Saturday 30 May from 10am to 4pm, Meredith Cricket Club (clubrooms)

Register to attend by emailing  
[emergencymanagement@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:emergencymanagement@gplains.vic.gov.au)

Scan the QR Code for more Information.





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# The Terry Hart Award

*Joel Hart*

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to cricket at both club and association level, the GCA made the decision to honour Terry by etching his name into one of the competition's most prestigious individual awards. It is a mark of the respect he has earned across the entire competition — not just within our club, but throughout the broader cricket community.

Terry's story with the Meredith Cricket Club is one of lifelong dedication. Debuting as an 11-year-old in 1975, he has gone on to build a remarkable career spanning generations. Since being awarded Life Membership in 1995, Terry has continued to embody everything the club stands for.

Across that journey, his on-field achievements have been nothing short of outstanding — playing over 450 games and claiming more than 830 wickets, placing him among the true greats of the club.

But his impact goes far beyond the boundary.

For 40 years, Terry has been a dedicated member of the Meredith Cricket Club committee, helping shape the club into what it is today. His contribution off the field has been just as significant as his performances on it — a true servant of the club in every sense.

He represents everything a cricket club stands for — loyalty, toughness, humility, and a deep love for the game. Week in, week out, Terry set the standard and made those around him better.

To have the Grand Final's best player recognised in his name is a fitting legacy. It ensures that every season, on the biggest stage, Terry Hart's name will be synonymous with excellence under pressure.

It's a proud moment for the Meredith Cricket Club, and a richly deserved honour for a man who has given so much.

*Congratulations, Terry — your legacy is now forever part of our club's history and the wider GCA competition.*

*And on behalf of all our readers, congratulations Terry on this most worthy recognition of long term contribution to district cricket. - Ed.*



A FITTING HONOUR FOR A TRUE CLUBMAN

*Terry Hart*

THE GCA IS PROUD TO NAME THE

**DIVISION 4 GRAND FINAL**

**BEST ON GROUND MEDAL**  
— in honour of —  
**TERRY HART**

In recognition of his extraordinary contribution to cricket over five decades - on and off the field.

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Aged 11 in 1975

 **450+ GAMES**

 **830+ WICKETS**

 **LIFE MEMBER**  
Since 1995

 **40 YEARS**  
on the Meredith CC Committee

*Congratulations Terry!*

YOUR LEGACY LIVES ON  
AT MEREDITH CC  
& THE GCA





# 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

### 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

### Fresh Rolls and Sandwiches

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

### 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

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

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