

Meredith & district News

AUGUST 2026

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OF PUBLICATION

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AUGUST WILL DISCUSS IF
THE NEWSLETTER WILL
CLOSE THIS YEAR.



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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 or deliver to the Meredith Post Office or Meredith Hub

DATES AND DEADLINES

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

ADVERTISING

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

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

CONTACT US

Post Office, Meredith, 3333

Advertising: Ian 0409 016 815

advertising@meredithnews.com.au

Accounts: Ian Leighton 0428 132 880

accounts@meredithnews.com.au

Editorial: Jim: 0409 163 169

news@meredithnews.com.au

WEB

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

ONLINE PHOTOS

We do not publish children's photos online.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

DISCLAIMER

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

Issue Production: Don Atherton, Editor: Jim Elvey

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CENTRE
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PADDOCKS
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5286 0700

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& 5286 1252

emergency

Police, Ambulance, Fire	000
(from mobile phone)	000 or 112
Meredith Police Station	5286 1222
Police non emergency	131 444
Power Failure	132 412
Nurse-On-Call	1300 606 024
Mental Health Advice	1300 280 737
Poisons Information	13 11 26
Barwon Water	1300 656 007
SES Emergency - flood & storm	132 500
24 Hour Helpline	1800 629 572
24 Hour Drug & Alcohol Counselling	1800 888 236
Kids Help Line	
24hr 5-18yo	1800 551 800
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Bannockburn Vet	5281 1221
Golden Plains Animal	5281 2226
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PRIMARY SCHOOL

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RECREATION

RESERVE

0429 315 575

..or start something.

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



"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."

— Anne Bradstreet

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 or

office.revdrtim@hotmail.com

The Revd Dr Timothy Smith

Catholic Parish Of Meredith Mass Times – August 2026

Winchelsea - St. John the Baptist @ 5PM Sat. AUGUST 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Meredith – St. Joseph @ 9am Sun. AUGUST 9, 23

Bannockburn – St. Mary MacKillop @ 11am Sun. AUGUST 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Inverleigh – Sacred Heart – @ 4pm Sun. AUGUST 16

OUR COVER

Our beautiful front cover features detail from a painting by Wathawurrung artist, B.J. O'Toole. The work was commissioned by the Meredith Police Paddocks Support Group, using funds provided by the Newsletter. It will be reproduced on a sign to be displayed near the Campion Street entrance to the Paddocks and, through traditional symbolism, represents many of the environmental elements important to Aboriginal people as they moved through the site. Thank you Owen Cook, for the carefully prepared photograph.



If you have taken a photo you think would make a great cover, send it to us at news@meredithnews.com.au



Meredith Community Centre
working for our community

What's On This Month



CHATTY CAFE

WE ARE COMBATTING LONELINESS!

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL FOR CATERING - BY AUGUST 12

0491 184 999

WEDNESDAY - AUGUST 19 - 11.30 AM - 1.30PM

COMMUNITY DROP IN -

TALL TREE WIND FARM INFORMATION SESSION

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 2- 9.00 AM - 12.30 PM

SINGING GROUP - \$2

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO BELT OUT A TUNE!

COME JOIN THE FUN!

TUESDAY NIGHTS - 7PM- WITH KYM

TUESDAY MORNINGS - 10.30AM - WITH ANNE

AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

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THE MEREDITH MART

MONDAY - 9AM-1PM

TUESDAY - 9AM-1PM

WEDNESDAY - 9AM-3PM

THURSDAY BY APPOINTMENT



WE ARE NOW TAKING DONATIONS OF NEW WITH TAGS CLOTHING!

ALL SIZES

PLEASE DROP THEM OFF TO THE OFFICE - NO USED ITEMS PLEASE

TAI CHI - \$15 PER SESSION

TUESDAYS @ MEREDITH WITH SANDRA - 9.15 - 10.15

WEDNESDAYS @ MEREDITH WITH SANDRA - 9.30 - 10.30

GENTLE EXERCISE FOR OVER 65'S

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DESMA IS CURRENTLY ON LEAVE -
WILL RETURN IN TERM 4



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PLAYGROUND

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\$2 PER FAMILY

CURRENTLY TAKING A BREAK

The Real Deal

By Naomi Benney

All you Yellowstone die-hards, you may not know that Meredith has its own Cowboy in residence.

Steve Marchant moved to Meredith in 2000. In his younger years Steve spent 12 years in the United States located in South Dakota, doing the rounds of the Pro Rodeo circuit and working on cattle ranches. Steve has many buckles and titles to attest to his success in the rodeo field, participating in Saddle Bronc riding. Whilst in the States Steve qualified for the Badland Circuit Finals in the Pro Rodeo Cowboy Association 5 times, no mean feat given the competitors he was against.

In his recent years Steve has found success in his current equine pursuit of cutting; The cutting horse competition is a Western event where a horse and rider work together to separate a cow from a herd and prevent it from returning, showcasing the horse's agility, intelligence, and "cow sense".

Steve and his horse Dottie recently won the Non-Pro Limited Classic Final 5, 6, 7yr olds Futurity event in Tamworth. This is the biggest horse show in the Southern Hemisphere, with 138 competitors in the Non-Pro Classic from all over Australia. Steve finished 20th out of 138 competitors in his first round and 1st out of 102 competitors in his second round, with his aggregate score winning them the Limited Final. The pair came 6th overall in the Amateur Final and 18th overall in the Open Final.

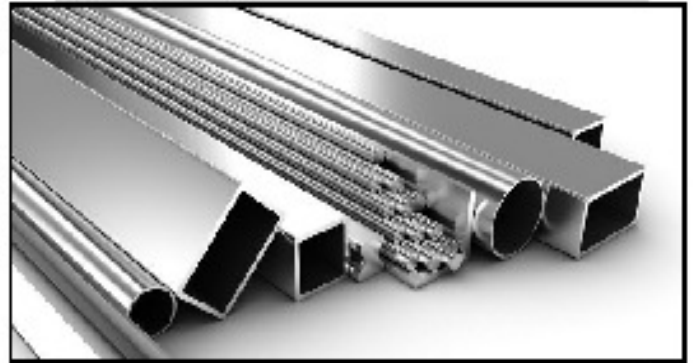
Steve will tell you that there is a lot of luck that goes into winning any of these events, as working with live animals, who knows what you will get on any given day. However let this not take away from the fact, that Steve trains his horses almost every day, and it's not just luck that got him and Dottie to the level they are at, and the ability to take out first place. Another of Steve's idioms is a quote from Ian Francis "If you have 1% improvement a day, you would train a horse in 100 days. I think we all know it takes longer than that" This quote emphasizes the importance of consistent, small improvements in training, Steve's uses this training philosophy to achieve a result that obviously works.

Well done Steve on your recent win, not only are you a legendary cowboy, but also an all-round nice bloke – to reference Yellow Stone again, I'm fairly certain Steve has not taken anyone to the Train Station... He is the Real Deal.

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me?**



Farewell to a Friend of the Newsletter

We offer our sincere sympathy to Ralph's family and acknowledge the valued work he did as a member of the Newsletter Team. Over many years, Ralph collected the thousand newsletters from our Geelong printers, counted them into their bundles and delivered them to around a dozen destinations from Bannockburn to Elaine. Much more than this, he engaged with our various outlets, dealing with any problems and monitoring demand. This was done in his usual cheery manner.

I personally recall working with Ralph, fabricating steel and timber stands for a few of our outlets, some of which are still in use.

Add to this his tireless work with the Meredith Fire Brigade and the Meredith Primary School, and Ralph gives us a fine example of the benefits volunteers bring to a country community. He will be long remembered for that.

Jim Elvey, Editor/Chair

You will find more tributes to Ralph on pages 10 and 28.

Sadly, Meredith and District News will close at the end of the year, unless some new volunteers step forward before then. So, to help decide my future, and even you are not able to help, please come along to a...

Public Meeting

at the Community Centre, at 7.30pm

Monday 17th August, 2026

Phone Jim on 0409 163 169 for more information.

Thanks

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to a Meredith local by the name of Mack.

On a dark Tuesday night (21 July) around 6pm, I pulled over to check directions and managed to bog my car! After a GPS disaster, I found myself bogged alone in the dark at the Durdidwarrah side of Slate Quarry Road. Apart from regretting driving unfamiliar country roads as night fell, my first thought was how will I explain to RACV Roadside Assist where I am?

At that moment, a car stopped to see if I was OK. Being a female alone in the dark, I at first wondered who was stopping. However, my intuition soon knew that this was a good, genuine man. Mack drove to his nearby farm and returned with his ute, hooked everything up and pulled my car out. His modest and kind effort that night had quality person written all over it. I had thoughts of how I would like to send Mack a gift voucher for his kindness, but he said that will not be necessary.

So I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mack again. He had a high vis work outfit on and appeared to be maybe early thirties. What a great person to have in your community and how lucky I was that our paths crossed that night.

Kind regards, Joanne

Any Community Projects?

Meredith community planning group is seeking community projects to support with small budget that needs to be spent, please email us at

meredithcommunityplanning@gmail.com

we would love to hear about your projects or email us for our next meeting date. Projects we have supported are the RSL upgrade to memorial, Christmas carols event and we also have various lawn games for community groups can borrow for free eg. Cornhole and connect four.

We look forward to hearing from you.



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A True Meredith Mate!

Ralph Thomas Holtz

(23/09/1958 – 06/07/2026)

Mick and Meg Devlin

Vale Ralph Holtz who was a much-loved and respected member of the Meredith community. His quiet dedication and humble service truly shone through in all that he set his mind to. He touched generations of local families. His friendship, loyalty, his smile and wicked sense of humour will be very sadly missed by so many of us who were blessed to share part of his life.

Ralph involved himself with the people in our community – he cared, he built and he mended. Ralph protected, he led and role modelled... and in every single facet of his life he reflected one steadfast and honourable trait... acts of service.

Ralph enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy to serve his country, on 14 October 1974 and served until 16 October 1980. Employed in Marine Technical Hull, Ralph attained the rank of Able Seaman. His naval service reflected his commitment to helping others and laid strong foundations for the decades of community service which followed. After settling in Meredith, he remained connected to the Military veteran community as a proud member of the Meredith RSL, carrying the Australian Navy flag each year at ANZAC day.

Ralph dedicated over 20 years working for Meredith Primary School in grounds and facilities maintenance. He was a highly valued and respected staff member and worked for the school alongside his full time job at Lysaght Steel. He could often be found at school helping to build projects for students, install new play equipment and to support the children's learning in any way that he could. He was celebrated for his willingness to contribute, his practical skills, and the genuine care which he showed to every child and colleague. Among his many contributions, he worked alongside students to build the school's free public pantry on Russell Street, helping provide food assistance for local families in need.

Principal, and good friend of Ralph's, Lachlan Day had this to say about him. "In the time that I knew Ralph, he was a very honest, caring and giving community-minded person. He contributed significantly to Meredith Primary School over so many years of service and made huge contributions to the school. He made amazing connections with students and staff and was a valued member of our school community. He wasn't just a workmate, he became a friend. Ralph invested in people, and I thank him for all that he contributed to the school and its families. I'm thankful that Ralph became such a great mate... he will be sadly missed by those who knew him and those he had such a positive impact on."

Ralph also served as a dedicated volunteer with the Meredith Rural Fire Brigade between 2004 and 2025. He served for years as the brigade's 2nd Lieutenant and contributed to the safety and wellbeing of the community through his emergency service and emergency response in the field. Christmas time saw Ralph combining two of his great passions in our community and making sure that

Santa always visited the school kids riding aloft the Meredith Fire truck!

Ralph was an important part of our Meredith and District New paper also. He carefully sorted and delivered our publication to the distribution points monthly for nearly 18 years. He was passionate about ensuring residents remained up to date with local news and events and that everyone in the community felt like they were connected and supported.

Whether we know Ralph Holtz for his service in the Royal Australian Navy, his involvement with the Meredith RSL, his work at Meredith Primary School, his leadership in the Meredith Rural Fire Brigade, or his countless acts of community service, I'm sure we can all attest that Ralph will be remembered for his generosity, reliability, and humility. His legacy will live on in each and every person whose lives he blessed through decades of selfless service. He is remembered with affection and gratitude by the Meredith community, and his smile and gentle heart will be missed by us lucky enough to have called him 'Mate.'

(Meredith CFA tribute from past Captain, Chris Jones attached. See page.28.)



Ralph HOLTZ

Passed away on the 6th of July 2026. He was always on hand to help, loved being a member of Meredith CFA and working at the primary school for many years. He will be sadly missed by many.

He leaves behind wife Debbie, children Ben, Aaron, Dean and Sharni and grandchildren Scarlett MacKenzie, Evelyn and Zephyr.

Rest in Peace Ralph/Dad/Opa



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A. Crumble's



Crostata with Raspberry Jam

From "Adelina's Kitchen Dromana"

Ingredients

120g plain flour
120g caster sugar
120g unsalted butter, melted
2 eggs
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon vanilla essence
120g raspberry jam

** a small adjustment has been made to the original ingredients list - we have used about a third of the jam here but should you be a jam fan, use more **

Method

Preheat the oven to 170° fan forced or 180° normal, and grease and line a 25cm flan tin with baking paper.

Melt the butter and let it cool slightly.

Sift the flour with the baking powder in a large bowl and add the sugar.

Pour in the butter and mix with a fork to combine.

Beat the eggs with a fork and add to the flour mixture with the vanilla essence and mix well.

Add the mixture to the tin and spread evenly.

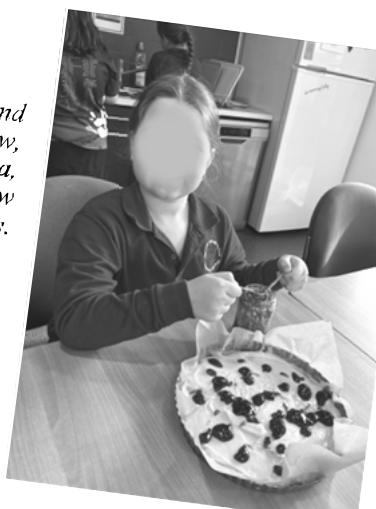
Dot the top with spoons of jam, leaving some space in between.

Bake for 25-30 minutes and cool a little before slicing and serving. It is delicious with cream, yoghurt or ice cream, or just plain.

While the cake was baking in the oven, Arizona, Stella, Willow and Zali from Grade 2 had some ideas for variations you might like to try -

- drizzle caramel on the mixture instead of jam
- drizzle caramel on the mixture, and chocolate after it is baked
- use different jams like strawberry or apricot
- use lemon curd instead of the jam

From the top, Stella and Zali, and right, Willow, together with Stella, Arizona and Willow display their skills.



Willow, Arizona, Stella



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Tree Planting Day at Meredith Primary School

Rachel Combridge

Meredith Primary School recently held a very special Tree Planting Day, bringing together learning, culture and environmental responsibility in a meaningful experience for all students in recognition of NAIDOC week.

We were honoured to welcome Shannen Mennen, who began the day with a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony. This provided students with an opportunity to learn more about the deep connection between First Nations peoples and Country, and the important responsibility we all share in caring for the land. Throughout the day, students were also able to yarn with Shannen and learn more about caring for Country in a respectful and sustainable way.

All 74 students at Meredith Primary School had the opportunity to plant their own tree within the school grounds. Students were incredibly proud to get their hands dirty and make a lasting contribution to their school. The trees will help to beautify our grounds while also providing shade, habitat for local wildlife and valuable green spaces for future generations of students to enjoy.

One of the most special aspects of the day was knowing that every student had planted something they could continue to care for and watch grow during their time at Meredith Primary School. The trees will serve as a lasting reminder of the day and of the positive difference that can be made when a whole school community works together.

Tree Planting Day was a wonderful success and reflected our school's commitment to giving back to Country, strengthening students' connection to the environment and creating beautiful, welcoming grounds for our community.

Below: Chelsea & Marlee look on with interest.



ROUND 3

Road Trip to Gippsland, 3rd May.

It was a fantastic day out for the Crocs as they took on Gippsland and Wellington. The games were played in great Masters Spirit, and despite being undermanned, the Crocs competed with true Croc spirit throughout day. The Crocs came out winners against Gippsland Tigers AFL Masters but were overcome by Wellington Warriors Football Club.

Huge thanks to Ringo, Shannon, Norman and Joseph for helping us out on the day. Also a big shout out to the Gippsland and Wellington boys who chipped in to make it a great day all round.

Awards for the day:

- ☐ Royal Hotel Voucher - Whitey, for a great game onball.
- ☐ Meat Pack (thanks to Ber's Butchers) – Joel, for an outstanding performance in the ruck, dominating across the ground all day.
- ☐ 6 Pack Award – Mick Smith, who had a huge game on the wing.
- ☐ Cheese Award (thanks to Meredith Dairy) – Shaun, who was rock solid in defence as always.
- ☐ Cheese Award – Vinnie, who stood tall on the wing in his first game for the year.

Great effort by everyone involved!

ROUND 4

vs The Diggers - Ballarat AFL Masters FC.

It was a fantastic day out at the MCG for the Crocs as they took on Ballarat. The game was played in great spirit, and the Crocs proved too strong across the entire day with a terrific team performance from everyone involved.

A huge thank you to all players, supporters, and volunteers who helped make it such a successful day.

Award winners for the day were:

- ☐ Royal Hotel Voucher – Joel, for another outstanding performance in the ruck, dominating around the ground all day.
- ☐ Meat Pack (thanks to Ber's Butchers) – Mitch, for a commanding game on-ball and a huge contribution through the middle.
- ☐ 6 Pack Award – Vinnie, who continued his outstanding form on the wing after being released from the backline.
- ☐ Cheese Award (thanks to Meredith Dairy) – James, for his forward pressure and attack on the ball in the forward half.
- ☐ Cheese Award – Rocco, solid as always in defence before enjoying some freedom up forward in the final quarter.
- ☐ Cheese Award – Lenno, who continued his great form on the wing and chipped in with 4 goals.

A special shout out to Meg and Dianne for their fantastic effort in the canteen all day, keeping both teams and supporters well fed.

Also, big Kevin behind the bar making sure all players and supporters stayed refreshed throughout the day. Great effort by everyone involved – another fantastic day for the Crocs!

ROUND 5

Vs Macorna @ Macorna

The Crocs made the long trip up the highway to Macorna this weekend for a hard-fought contest played in great spirit throughout the day.

A special mention goes to Anthony Faulkner, who became the youngest Croc to pull on the jumper, making his debut alongside his dad in a memorable family moment for the club.

It was a tough game from start to finish, but the boys battled hard and represented the Crocs with pride. Most importantly, it was another fantastic day of football, mateship, and Masters spirit.

Best Players

- Joel
- Mitch
- Mick Smith
- Rocco
- Anthony Faulkner

Huge thanks to Cranage Glazing & Caulking, one of our major sponsors! Was great to catch up with Doopa, who played his first game for the year.

Well done to everyone who made the trip and flew the Crocs flag with pride. ☐ ☐

ROUND 6

Vs Giants - Goulburn Valley Giants Masters

Well what a game Round 6 was vs Goulburn Valley Giants Masters.

We started off with a few speeches celebrating the milestone 50 games of Badger and Shaun. The dedication they have put in over the years does not go unrecognised, and the club appreciates it.

Onto the field we went with one wing completely soaked making for some interesting football. The Giants ran and chipped the ball around and down the field really well. The Crocs were too strong down forward and the back line on the day and came home with the win. It was great to see a few new faces at the club, one in particular his first ever game of AFL Football. Just goes to show you're never too old to have a crack.

Awards for the day thanks to

The Royal Hotel Meredith voucher - Vinnie

Ber's Butcher - Mitch

Meredith Dairy - Dean (1st Gamer)

- Shaun

- Badger

6 Pack - Owen

Special mention the girls in Kitchen putting on another spectacular spread for everyone. They go above and beyond, thanks to Meg, Dianne, Jess and Sharon.

☐ What a fantastic weekend of Masters footy at the Vic Country Masters in Shepparton!

Firstly, congratulations to the South Coast Sharks Masters AFL Club on claiming their third consecutive Vic Country Masters Championship — an outstanding achievement.

A massive thank you to the Goulburn Valley Giants Masters Football Club, their committee and volunteers for once again putting on a first-class day. From the first bounce in the morning fog to the grand final under lights as the fog rolled back in, it was a brilliant day showcasing everything that makes Masters footy so special.

From everyone at the Meredith Crocs, we'd also like to sincerely thank the clubs that continue to support us throughout the day by sharing players. That willingness to help each other out is what Masters Football is all about, and we truly appreciate the friendships and support across the competition.

It's great to see our players flying the Crocs flag and embracing the true spirit of Masters Football. The celebrations continued at The Peppermill, where players, officials and supporters came together to relive the day's action, share plenty of stories and enjoy a few beers— another reminder that Masters footy is about much more than the final siren.

Well done to everyone involved, and congratulations once again to all clubs who helped make the weekend such a fantastic success.

Only 3 more games remaining for the rest of the season. Our last home game will be on the 30th of August and we will be inviting all past players and sponsors to join with us.

We would also like to pay our respects to a great supporter of the Crocs over the years who suddenly passed. Ralph Holtz was not only a great supporter of the Crocs but Ex-serviceman and a pillar of the Meredith community. He will be deeply missed. Our deepest condolences go out to his family and friends from everyone at the Crocs.

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See inside front cover for more details.



100 games between them, Badge and Shauney take to the field.



The "S***BOX" Autumn Rally

Mabes Rankin

Well, we made it to the finishing line all intact after 7 gruelling days of driving from Port Douglas to Melbourne, raising money for cancer research.

Fifty percent of the roads were bitumen and fifty percent gravel. It was not a race, it was more of a challenge to get to the next camp without a breakdown.

Vehicles were not allowed to be worth any more than \$1500 and 4WD's were not allowed. However, some of the cars were worth more so the drivers had to do hoola hooping and push ups in the mornings at the briefings.

The day before we started, we had a briefing at Pt Douglas. We were put into Buddy Groups. 7 cars per group (14 drivers) My sister Jan and I were in group 26 out of 27. There were 47 mechanics, 2 cars with medics and plenty of support people wearing red hats, who have had to have been on a rally before.

Buddy Groups stayed together the whole trip. We all had to have CB radios and the more powerful the better as the lead car could warn us of what was ahead. If someone wanted to stop, then everyone in the buddy group stopped. We all helped each other out.

The Oasis Road House in Lynd was our first night camping. After 10 hours on the road, we were all looking forward to a hot shower and something to eat. Well, let's remember that we are in outback QLD and the hot shower was not happening, but the food was great and they were able to feed the 400 plus people pretty quickly. It was very well organised. They had a line of bain-maries, which you could help yourself or support crews would serve. Breakfast was served the same way and lunch was already packed to take with you and eat as we drove.

It was far more important to stop at the old outback pubs than it was to stop and eat our lunch.

It was a bit of a shock for us having to drive hard on those dirt and red dusty roads at speed. You had to keep up with your buddy group or the next buddy group would be on your tail. It wasn't long before we got the confidence to handle it. The co-driver became a spotter of dips, grids, road kill, flood ways, wheel ruts, river crossings, bull dust and animals on the side of the road (plenty of goats, kangaroos and cattle to watch out for.

Our Irish boys from Sydney, who are mechanics had the first breakdown in our group. Their alternator gave up so we called in support to pick the car up, but just as support came, they managed to get it going. A tent peg was used to hold the battery terminal on. The ingenuity of these people was second to none.

A car in another group lost its engine mount bolt and the engine almost fell out, so they lifted up the bonnet and got a log and put it along under the bonnet and wired the engine to the log and somewhere in there was a stump as well, they then closed the bonnet on top of it. This car made it to the finishing line in Melbourne and I'm quite sure people would have thought they were trying to grow a tree through their car - sideways.

Second night was at Aramac. The queue for fuel was long, but everyone had to fill up including the 2 jerry cans everyone had to take with them because there wasn't going to be any fuel for 700ks. This might seem a terrible ordeal, but

in fact it was one of the best things to experience. People waiting were out of their cars and that's where you meet some real characters and hear some amazing stories.

Next night was at Toompine. Going through Barcaldine, Blackall, Adavale and Quilpie.

Next day was a trip to Louth.

Wednesday was to Narrandera

Thursday to Dargo, which was freezing. There was a very heavy frost that night and swags were standing up by themselves next morning.

Friday was our last day into Melbourne. The finishing line was in Elwood and family and friends were there to meet us. Quite relieved to have made it.

An after party was held at Docklands the following day.

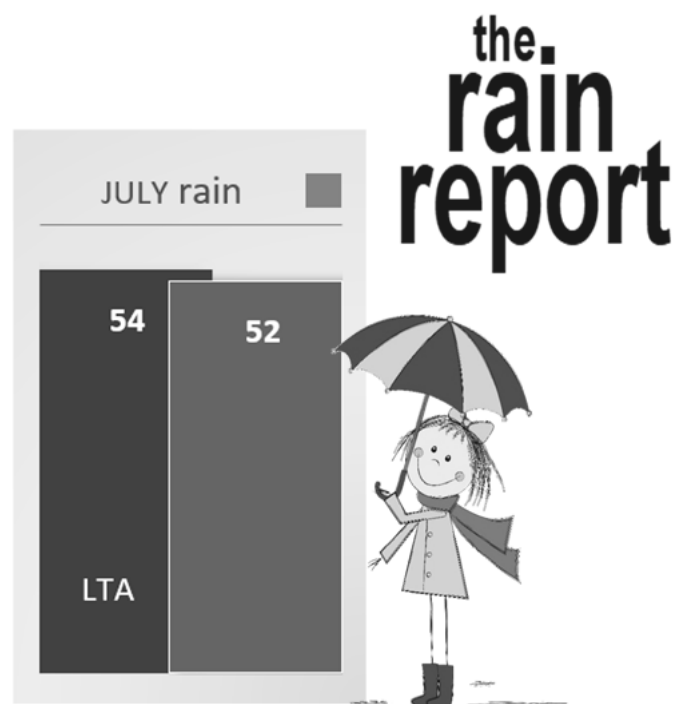
Back in March, we bought a Meredith tin sheep from Marg Cooper and painted it up. One side said flock ewe. It was bolted to the roof of the ute. This caused a lot of interest from many people so Jan and I decided that it should be auctioned off at the after party. James Freeman (the organiser) started the bidding at around \$200. The bidding went on and on and the crowd became louder and hands flying in the air after every bid. It made \$2300. All going to cancer research.

This rally made just under \$2,400,000. We would like to thank our family and friends for their generosity in helping us raise \$14353, plus the sheep \$16,653. Every cent goes towards cancer research.

My favourite story of the rally was about a buddy group that stopped to take photos of an anthill. 300ks down the road one of the teams realised they were missing a phone, so they decided to go back the 300ks to the anthill, which they found, but alas, their phone wasn't there. So, they then decided to put their other phone on the bonnet of the car and wherever it fell off then they would stop and maybe the other phone might be there too. They travelled 12ks back and went over a grid and the phone fell off the bonnet so they stopped and got out and lo and behold there were the two phones.

I can understand why Shitboxes do this rally again and again.

The people you meet and the stories they tell are treasures.



COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING GRANTS 2026



Open 1 to 31 Aug

Is your community group looking for funding for a project or program?

Applications open at 9am on Saturday 1 August for Golden Plains Shire Council's Community Strengthening Grants Program 2026.

The program offers not-for-profit community groups the opportunity to apply for one-off grants to assist in delivering projects that directly benefit our community. Council recognises the critical role grants play in strengthening our community by supporting local community groups and organisations to deliver worthwhile projects, programs and activities to the community.

Grants of up to \$7,000 are available in three categories:

- Healthy Connected Community
- Community Inclusion
- Environment and Sustainability

To read more about the three funding categories and eligible projects, please access the program guidelines from our website.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their 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.

Applications are open until 2pm, Monday 31 August 2026.

For more information and to apply for a Community Strengthening Grant, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au, email at communitygrants@gplains.vic.gov.au or call 5220 7111.



DECEMBER 11, 12 & 13, 2026 MEREDITH SUPERNATURAL AMPHITHEATRE

Puggle up.

The Ballot for Meredith 34 is now open.

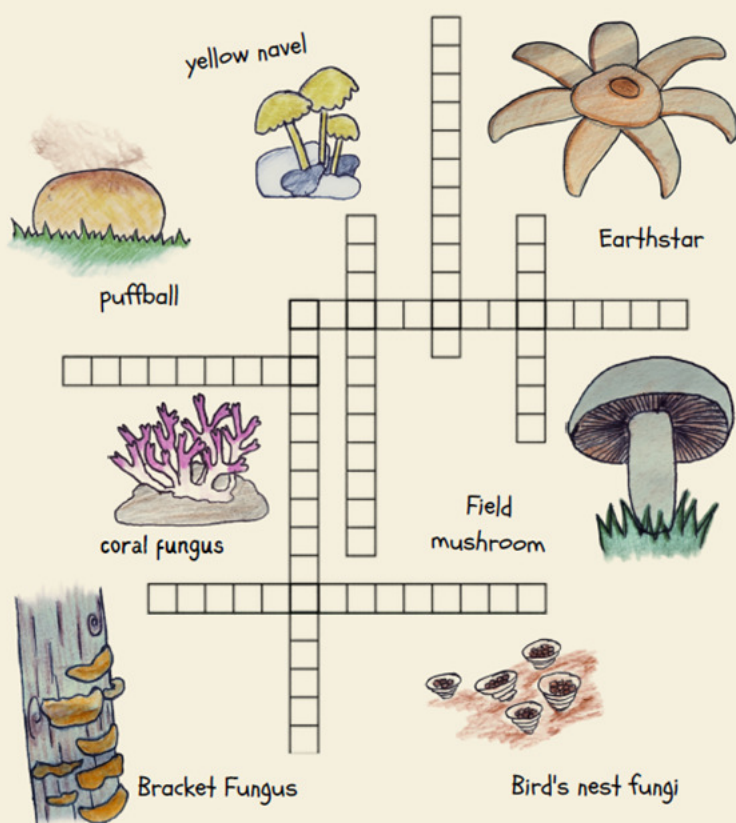
It's simple to enter, the best way to get tickets, and open to all comers.

Enter via mmf.com.au before 10:34pm AEST, Monday 10 August.

Jess and Asher's Puzzle

FUNGUS

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FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BALLARAT



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



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It's our 50th Anniversary

THE LOOK BACK LIFT OUT



Insights...

What You Think.



Cathie Boer, one of our Roving Reporters seeking the views of residents on the Newsletter, asked newcomer, Kym and Tom Ivory, for their thoughts on our community publication.

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

Kym Ivory and husband Tom, have lived in Meredith for 24 years. The small community reminded Kym of growing up in the similar community of Barwon Heads.

She reads the newsletter every month, including ads. Also puts in articles occasionally, such as Biggest Morning Tea and president's report for AMA.

Importance: news, all sorts of information, obituaries, up coming events. There is something for everyone, including recipes and sports reports.

Role: Keeping locals informed, and connecting community.

Using Marg Cooper's notes as a starting point, we trace some of the changes in format over the past 50 years.

Advertising

In this 50th year of publication the Meredith News is a free community newsletter relying on paid advertising to meet the costs of production. But this has not always been the case.

While early editions featured For Sale or Lost & Found notices, the first full page advertisement appeared in 1979 as a hand drawn advertisement for a Pet Show at the State School. Other hand drawn artworks followed, in October 1980 for a Debutante Ball and in November 1980 for Silver's Circus.

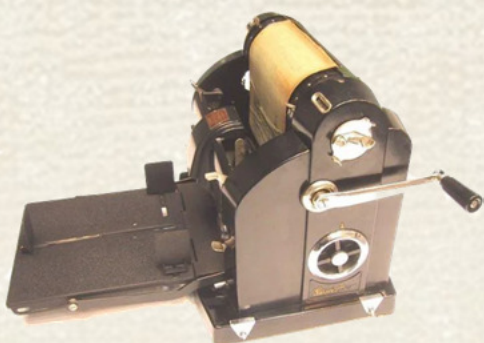
Political advertising/articles were not accepted while the newsletter was produced by the Meredith State School as it contravened Education Department regulations.

By August 1980, 420 copies were being produced weekly. News expanded to include Maude in February 1980, and in later years Lethbridge and Woodburn.

In 1980 community input was sought to determine the shape and content of future editions. Following a questionnaire in the June 1980 edition and a meeting of interested people in August that year it was clear that the Newsletter needed to broaden its scope. A cover charge on each copy was suggested to help meet the increasing costs of production. However, this was strongly opposed by several at the meeting and paid advertising was recommended instead.

In May 1981 the first paid professional type advertisement for an Electrical Contractor appeared and in October of that year the first professional full-page advertisement was for Pyramid Building Society. Hand drawn advertisements continued to be produced, such as one in September 1981 for the Daffodil Show

Today the Meredith News continues to enjoy the long time the support of many loyal advertisers. For example, the Meredith Wool Co, the forerunner of Woolabrai and now Meredith Rural & Pet Supplies printed their first advertisement on December 2, 1993. Murray Cooper printed his first advertisement for his electrical business on February 17, 1994 as MJ & KA Cooper, later to become Cooperlec. Murray's advertisements are still running in every issue. Paul Ryan started his trucking business in April 1996 and has been advertising continuously since then, while Frank Scafer has been a loyal advertiser since 1995.



The Words We've Left Behind.

Snippets from 2011 to 2013

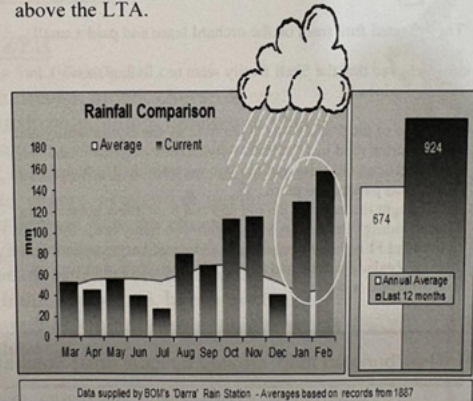
50 Years of a Country To

A Different Summer

Hope you didn't spend too much on your summer wardrobe! It was probably one of our coolest and was certainly one of our wettest on record. Last summer's 327mm was well over double the long term average (LTA) of 142mm.

And the 136mm that fell on the 5th February this year is the highest recorded on any one February day.

Last year registered 718mm of rain which is 53mm above the LTA.



..and the Queen Replied!

Marg Cooper

Readers may remember that Cathy of "Apricot with Attitude" at Lethbridge made special biscuits and cakes to celebrate the queen's Diamond Jubilee after her English penfriend sent her crown cookie cutters and jubilee party pans.

Raymond Kelly encouraged Cathy to write to the Queen to congratulate her and to explain how Lethbridge had celebrated and how they remembered her visit on the train in 1954.

Raymond found the address and the procedure to write to the Queen, and although it took a little time, the Queen replied!

Cathy and Raymond are absolutely thrilled and Cathy's penfriend Jan thinks that she is famous in Lethbridge, for making this all happen.



Cathy and her letter from the Queen

Meredith Kindergarten Mutton Muster 2011

Be apart of Mutton Muster 2011. Support the Kindergarten by donating a Sheep / Lamb to sell at market.



All proceeds raised will directly support the purchase of a fantastic outdoor playspace for the kindergarten.

Sheep collection by Andrew Cooke on Sale Day Mon 21st Nov
Stock Agent: Bernie Nevans
For donations & enquires phone:
0417594324 or Stefania Parkinson: 5341 5570

Nov

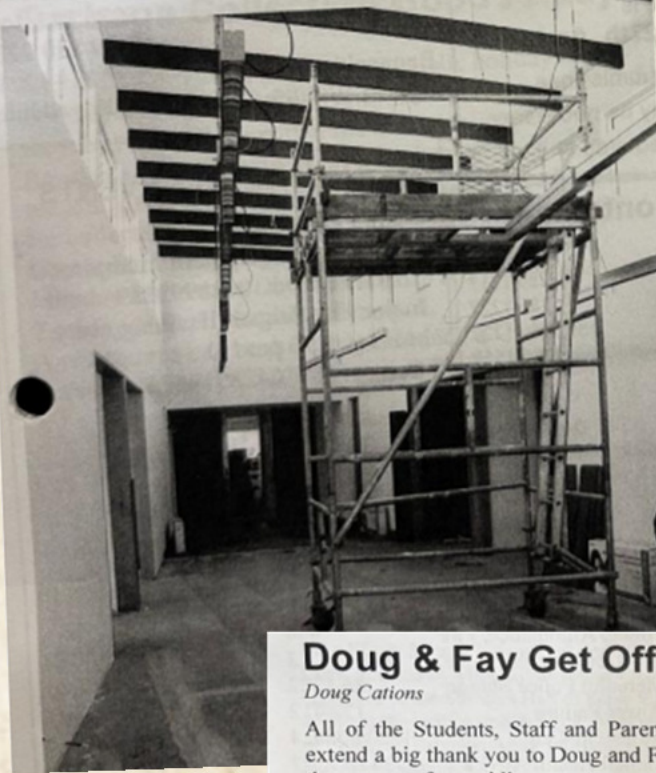
A New School of Thought

Jim Elvey

Meredith's new \$1.3 million Primary School is near completion and is expected to be ready for the start of second term on the 27th April. Comprising four class rooms, connected by a "Learning Gallery" an office, sick bay and staff amenities, it utilises much of the old bluestone's east wall as a striking internal feature wall in the gallery and one of the class rooms.

It will have extensive decking on three sides which will also lead to the existing toilets and two classrooms housed in the "permanent portable" installed late last year.

Work on demolishing the old school (not the bluestone, of course) will commence soon after it is vacated and should



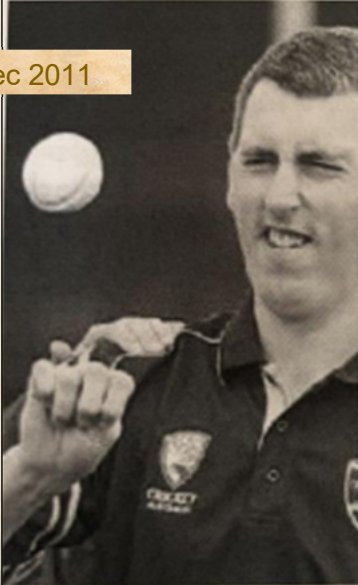
Meredith Cricket Club

Craig Lines up for Australia

Local Meredith cricketer Craig (Doug) Lines represented Australia in the Tri-Nation series with an intellectual disability in England and South Africa, Doug was taking part in his fourth Tri-Nation series in South Africa in 2005, in Melbourne in 2009. Australia won but didn't fair so well this time round.

Thirty eight year old Dougie plays spin bowling and middle order batsman in the Victorian team.

Dec 2011



Meredith Cricketer, Craig (Dougie) Lines

April 2012

Doug & Fay Get Off the Bus

Doug Cations

All of the Students, Staff and Parents sincerely wish to extend a big thank you to Doug and Fay McFarlane for all the years of providing a tremendous service to the Meredith Primary School.

They have been long time supporters of our school including, trips to shows, the many excursions to Melbourne, taking the different grades on camp and the many sporting days.

Doug and Fay were a terrific support with school fundraising activities like the country festival, and assisting the school in keeping transport costs to a minimum.

They are leaving very big shoes to be filled and will be missed very much.

Thank you and Good Luck to Doug and Fay.

Editor's Note: Doug started driving the district's kids to school in 1958, as an 18 year old. Too young to hold the contract, it was in his mother's name. You can only wonder how many kid/kilometres, lost lunches, strange show-and-tells, floods and droughts Doug and Fay have driven through. We do know many of his ex charges will have fond memories of Doug's gentle manners and calm disposition. The very person you would want driving a school bus.

July 2011

Historic

Doug Cations

The current Meredith Primary School is a little bit of history in the district.

The school has local sources at this event for about winning by all the community great school's tremendous support of parents came and were be a school also had Amy Canavan Mitch Emmelin

Going through sized group he late term three

Above: Sports Centre that elusive Athlete

July 2013

Dec 2013

did you find an error?



"YES" was the resounding reply from A. Nonny Mouse, who wrote ...

Dear Editor

Am I reading the last newsletter correctly?

- Pg 43 Meredith Primary school asks parents to enrol for 2014 - what about the children?
- Pg 39 Australia Post will return incorrectly addressed mail - how do you ever know to fix the address if the mail does not turn up
- Pg 27 Daryl Wells - winter sowing needs - its end of Spring nearly Summer
- Pg 12 - Lethbridge quarry - no EFPOS is that the same as no EFTPOS
- Pg 18- In our nature comments that only nests that have fallen out of a tree are collected - the photo shows a nest with half a tree attached!!

An impressive effort from Mr. Mouse, but the prize will jackpot another month as, to get a perfect score, he would have had to also pick up the misspelling of the word "error" on page 37. (And really Nonny, as a practicing pedant, we are deeply concerned with your inconsistent capitalisation and use of punctuation.) This month your challenge is dodev apostrophe's

May 2011

The Pearly (Grey) Gates

Marg Cooper



There are new gates at the Morrison Cemetery designed, built and painted by John Parkinson. The Cemetery Trust received a grant of \$3000 from the Department of Health to renew the gates.

They replace gates made by Jim Cole of Meredith Engineering in the early 1970's and required removal of two huge pine trees.

John initially intended to just make a pair of gates to replace the dilapidated old ones but after looking at gates everywhere, creating many different designs and considering suitable materials and cost he built two grand but elegant, heavy duty gates and side panels.

These are attached to posts that he made and concreted six

2012



Athletics Win!

Meredith Primary years 3 to 6 students made history on Tuesday March 20th by winning athletics sports.

After been checking with various school and no one can recall the school winning at least 30 years. The most pleasing aspect of the carnival was the consistent effort put in by the competitors. Teachers and parents also saw a spirit being displayed all day as well as support given to each other. A large number of students came along on the day to cheer the students on and to share such a great experience. The school won two age group champions with the winning the 10 year girl's medal and winning the 12 year boy's medal.

With the results the school will also have a good head off to the next level of competition in

Captains Haylee Earl and Mitch Emmlin with Athletics Shield



That's Nice!

I would like to compliment the "Editorial Committee" on producing an excellent publication. These types of small community newspapers/newsletters help to keep these smaller communities alive & kicking.

Ross BRADBURY

Christmas Sheep

Marg Cooper

Thank you to all the people who contributed time and effort and their artistic skills to the Christmas display in Meredith.



About 30 new sheep were added to the flock for Christmas 2011 and many of them were displayed in the front yard of Parkinsons garage with lambs, a dog and trees. They have been herded together and taken back to the farm until next year.

Thank you also to Margaret and Kevin Parkinson for the display space and to Dutchy for making the tent pegs and drilling the holes in the supports, so all the items would stand up.

If you have any bright ideas for the display for Christmas 2012 please let us know!

Feb 2011

More Plants for the 'Paddocks'

Jim Elvey

A group of 18 locals, including an enthusiastic band of children, shared a sunny winter morning last month to plant another 150 trees in the Meredith Police Paddocks. This time, the planting took them down a new path to the creek flats. On the same morning an entrance sign was erected which, in the coming weeks, will have added to it information about the Paddocks.

Although the section through the former pine plantation site is still a bit rugged, readers are encouraged to explore the new loop track and see what this attractive reserve on the edge of town has to offer. (Enter from the Campion Street end, near the Wool store.)

Anybody wishing to join the group involved in the development of the Paddocks, or would simply like to learn more about its plans, should contact me on 5286 1273. (Wendy, who attended the planting, please contact me.)

Sep 2011



A different kind of planting: the new entrance sign at the Police Paddocks is erected

Celebrating our

50th Anniversary

1976 to 2026

Our Cover Story

The Changing Face of our Covers 2011 to 2013

This is a period of rapid growth.. From 24 pages in our first monthly issue, we peaked at 52 pages in December 2013. (That is still our biggest issue, with the March issue this year the only one coming close, at 52 pages.) The 2013 issue is also an example of our foray into full colour photo covers which, initially were reserved for our December issue. Even on the greyscale covers, photos were widely used.

Meredith & district Newsletter



September 2012

Our Community Newsletter since 1972

Grants go to Work

Golden Plains Shire's highly regarded Community Grants Program will continue to fund and stimulate small projects throughout the Shire. At a ceremony, held last month, \$132,599 in grants were awarded to 42 recipients and will contribute to a total of \$335,190 worth of project work.

Or, Cr Geraldine Frantz, in opening the ceremony, said since the program began in 1996, over \$2 million has been allocated to more than \$4.1 million worth of projects for the Shire's many communities.

She added "Projects range from sporting equipment, community events, upgrading basic facilities such as toilets and kitchens, improving storage and improvements to walking paths."

Kristie Walker, publicist with the Meredith Music Festival, gave a lengthy and well received address on the history of the Festival from small beginnings to a large, often sold-out international festival of renown. A key to the story was the adherence to foundation principles of honesty and transparency.

And Meredith demonstrated how active it is as a community, with five grants coming to the town for a variety of projects.

- Meredith & District Memorial Hall - \$5000 Hall Renovation Project comprising repairs to interior lining boards and interior re-painting.
- Meredith History Interest Group - \$2500 "Who Lived in my House" Project which will research, map and document all housing blocks, houses and businesses within the township of Meredith.
- Advance Meredith Association - \$1160 Highway Tree Guard Project Stage 3 which will continue the tree guard project and erect tree guards along the Midland Highway.
- Meredith Community Centre - \$3375 Painting and Cladding the block to upgrade the external walls of the toilet block.
- Meredith Police Paddocks (Ballarat Environment Network) - \$5000 for construction of an all weather, crushed rock walking path.

The Back to Steiglitz Association also received \$780 for acquisition of art display boards for Back to Steiglitz Day and community events.

Happy Spring!

Meredith Medals

Local athletes excelled at a variety of events this past month. Among them were Amy Canavan, a member of the Victorian team that won a silver medal in its age group at the Australian Cross Country Championships in South Australia, and Stephanie Ferry, who won three firsts at the Corio Districts Athletics Carnival.

Congratulations to both Amy (top) and Stephanie.

(More on page 20)



in this issue....

- Chris's MOTomed
- Local Photographer wins the double.
- TWO Nineteths!
- Spring Clean YOU!
- The Queen (really?) opens School Olympics

...and the usual more!

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NEW ADDRESS

Meredith & district Newsletter



June 2013

Our Community Newsletter since 1972

Distributed FREE to district residents

More Good News

Late last month, local Federal MP's Catherine King (Member for Ballarat) and Darren Cheeseman (Corangamite) jointly announced funding of \$480,000 to complement existing commitments and ensure the construction of the \$1.2million Meredith Integrated Community Hub.

The Hub, to be built on school land, immediately to the east of the Community Centre, will provide facilities for a new kindergarten, long day care and ready access to Early Childhood Intervention Services, material and child health services and family support services.

The co-location of this range of complementary services along with a fully functioning community space for local activities will also enhance community wellbeing and foster a connectedness between the families and children that live in and around the Meredith township.

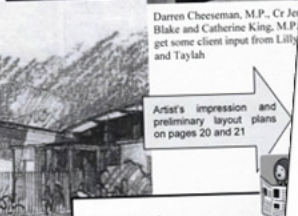
The "Hub" concept derives from the collection, on one site, of preschool, primary school and with an array of related community services and facilities.

The new building will also allow the preschool to operate on a more viable footing, unfettered by the space limitations imposed by its present home in the old Shire Hall. Of course, the move will also free up that building for another use.

Current planning indicates the existing Community Centre will be retained and linked into the new building, increasing options and facilities available to the Centre. Finalisation of plans will be undertaken and expected to allow work to start before June of next year.



Darren Cheeseman, M.P., Cr Jet Blake and Catherine King, M.P. get some client input from Lily and Taylah



Artist's impression and plans on pages 20 and 21

in this issue....

- Seniors Let off Steam
- School mates catch up - after 69 years!
- Ross Family Reunion
- 14.5 SK for History Signs
- Lots of history

...and the usual more!

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40 PAGES

Meredith & district Newsletter



April 2013

Our Community Newsletter since 1972

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A Moving Memorial

The Meredith War Memorial (Centaph) has been successfully moved from the old RSL Hall to a new position at the Meredith Memorial Hall. The Centaph was originally located on the site of Frank Parrell Real Estate but was moved to the RSL Hall about 20 years ago. The move at that time was effected by Barry James Cranes from Ballarat and they again provided the necessary equipment and expertise under the watchful eye of Tim Wood, who was contracted by the Hall Committee to undertake the relocation.

Constructive Kids

Just last month, Ballarat arborist, Rob Amor, visited Meredith Primary School to work with a Grade 5/6 group to assemble nesting boxes for local native birds. Mr Amor began with a discussion about those birds that need hollows to nest in and the difficulty they sometimes produce natural hollows, which is why the boxes are so important in retaining and increasing bird populations.

Then it was off to the shed to assemble the boxes, which were purpose designed for a variety of wildlife known to be indigenous to the area. A second session will be held in the new term to finish them off with nesting perches, drainage holes and a coat of paint. Then they will be installed at the Meredith Police Paddocks where they will play an important role in opportunity to play an ongoing role, monitoring the boxes, but also a highly successful school/community collaboration.

Paul Jakubauskas and Andrew McLeod were the operators of the Barry James crane and they and Tim Wood are to be congratulated on the completion of the difficult and finishing touches to the Centaph in readiness for our annual Anzac observance.

The relocation of the Centaph was the inspiration of

Cont Page 16

in this issue....

- Elaine Cricket Club Premiers
- Doree! Hay Appeal p.17
- Safety School Signs Petition
- St. Patrick's, Elaine Remembers
- The Fungi Bug
- The 145 Y.O. Dog!

...and the usual more!

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40 PAGES

Meredith & district Newsletter



February 2013

Our Community Newsletter since 1972

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CERT's Got a Home

David Mackay, Meredith CERT President

On Friday 14th December last year, Greg Leach, Regional Manager, Ambulance Victoria, Grampians Region, officially opened our new shed" for our vehicle. About 35 people attended the opening, including Jenny Blake, Mayor of Golden Plains Shire; Graham McGrath, Group Manager, Ambulance Victoria; Niraj Patel from BlueScope Steel; our trainer Steve Cashin; committee members of the Meredith Community House; members of the local CERT and their families. The Meredith Primary School PFA, ably led by Jo Peters, catered for the event with a delightful BBQ.

Greg Leach spoke of the outstanding contribution provided by CERTs throughout Victoria, and thanked all members of the Meredith group for their dedication to ensuring our local district is covered by first responders who save the lives of people who travel through, and in their own community.

Jenny Blake spoke about the importance of volunteers within local communities, especially within the Golden Plains Shire. Our Shire is one of the only Shires in Victoria that does not have a local Ambulance station, something, we believe, that is to be rectified before the end of 2013 with a day station to be built in Bannockburn.

As President, I spoke about the recent history of CERT, how it was essentially established by Mick and Andrea Rooney. When Mick was our local policeman, he was often on the Midland Highway attending traffic accidents, frequently in the middle of the night, and would inevitably bring Andrea, a qualified nurse, along with him to assist with potential casualties. As there was no Ambulance station within the Shire, Mick and Andrea proposed, through the Department of Health, that a relatively new concept of First Responders known as CERT groups be set up in Meredith. There are now about 28 located throughout rural Victoria.

Continued page 19



Inside the new home of the Meredith CERT.



Awards for Former Residents

Page 6

in this issue....

- Festival Traffic info.
- Community Grants OPEN
- Second Main Streets Meeting
- Festival Pics
- 2 NEW columns

...and more than the usual more!

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40 PAGES

Meredith & district News



December 2013

Our Community Newsletter since 1972

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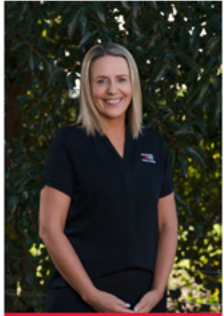
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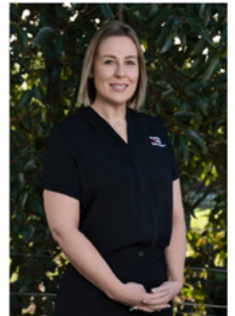
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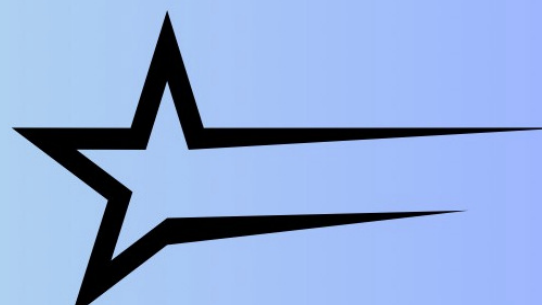
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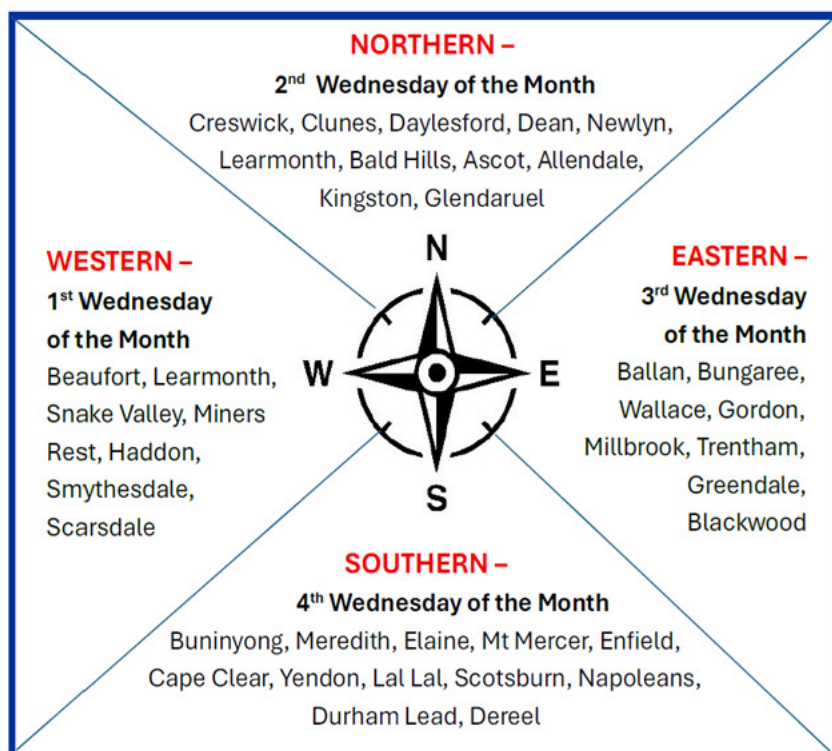
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G'Day from the penners for the last month of winter. Only a short preamble this issue as Peter's story is quite long. We would like to say though, that our new book 'Between Fencelines' is going to be launched Sat, October 10th, at the Banno library at 10am. We are so looking forward to releasing our fourth book and we hope that anyone who has been following our articles over the years can pop in to say 'Hi' on this day. More info next issue. We hope you all enjoy Peter Wilding's story, and don't forget we can be contacted at goldenpens4@gmail.com

Cheers, Wendy.

Emmett and the Nickname

It was the end of a long, dreary day. One of those days that has you looking at the clock again and again, because time sure wasn't flying. Emmett kept checking the clock to make sure time was still moving on, and hadn't got tangled up, or stopped somehow, or started running backwards – which got him in trouble with Abu, the supervisor – as if he needed that.

But the others sided with Emmett. Because it was that kind of day. They all felt it, that feeling that the work day was never going to end, as though they would be stuck in the workshop for eternity. The prospect of that was anything but pleasing. Seeing that he was getting nowhere, the supervisor (who hated being called Abu) cut his losses, and went off to find somebody else to chew out – because for him it was that kind of day.

Finally, the workday ground to a halt, all the machines powered down, and Emmett went to the car park with the others, to cadge a ride home. Several of them went his way, and only twice in as many years had he had to catch the bus. Good workmates. He gave them a hand in return with anything he could. Mightn't be much, but he gave it his all.

Today it was Bushy. He knew Emmett didn't drive, and since he lived out that way, was only too happy to drop his workmate off on the way past. They often chatted about all sorts of things, sometimes work-related, sometimes far away.

As they drove off into the gathering dusk, today's topic seemed to be nicknames. Emmett wanted to know why they called the supervisor Abu.

"If you look at his nametag, it doesn't say Abu-anything, or anything-Abu. Or anything starting with Ab-."

"Well, you know what a nickname is, right?"

"Sure. I might be slow, but I'm not thick."

"Never said you were, mate. Never said you were."

"Right. Of course I know what a nickname is. You're Bushy, for your beard. You call me Slowhand. Like Eric Clapton."

"Right. So what's the reason for Abu?"

"You ever noticed his surname?"

"No. Who ever pays attention to surnames at work?"

"You got a point there, mate. But his surname's Darby. John Darby."

"So how do you get Abu from that?"

"Well there's this place in the Middle East somewhere called Abu Dhabi. They don't spell Darby the same way, but it sounds the same. Used to be a song by Split Enz – he hates that song! It gave us the idea."

A slow smile spread over Emmett's face. "Abu Darby... Abu Dhabi. I get it!"

At that moment a growl of thunder sounded. It seemed to go on and on, echoing around the hillsides.

"I don't think Abu's very happy with us." said Emmett.

"No, that's just the angels rearranging the furniture in heaven, nothing to worry about." said Bushy. "They're up there, we're down here, and Abu? Well, he lives way out the other side of town."

When Bushy dropped him off, it was almost totally dark. He'd noticed during the drive home that the wind had picked up, the car swaying from side to side despite Bushy's not inconsiderable weight. Emmett slammed the door shut before the wind could tear it out of his hand, and ran up the drive to the back door. Once around the corner he slowed down and felt for his keys. He'd been a bit flustered because of Abu, and hadn't put them in their usual pocket. But he had them, located the back door key by feel, put it in, and opened the door.

Emmett reached for the light switch just as a flash of lightning lit up the night sky, and hit the transformer in the next street. A massive roar of thunder accompanied the light show from the arcing transformer, which seemed to go on for ages.

How long does it take for a transformer to die, Emmett wondered. He had a clear line of sight through to the pole it was mounted on. The thunder stopped, but the sparks that resolved into the occasional flame lit the scene with a flickering glare, along with the horrible smell of things that aren't supposed to burn.

Emmett turned away, and hopefully tried the light switch. Nothing, of course. Oh well, it was going to be candles tonight then. Why did people think candles were romantic? He'd have to ask Bushy tomorrow.



30 Years on the School Bus

Marg Cooper

John Sanford and his family came to Meredith to live in 1985. They bought a house in Staughton Street from John Perry and his family. John Perry started the Meredith Nursery and in the early years he grew and sold plants from his back yard. John was a boiler maker by trade but when he was told that the school bus driver was retiring, he thought that it was something different and he would give it a go.

So, in the school holidays before school started back in 1997, John had a medical check and went through the driver accreditation. Little's bus was parked in Doug McFarlane's yard overnight and each morning John drove the bus to what used to be the Top Shop (later changed to the Memorial Hall for safety) by 7.20 am to start his journey to the Interchange at Bray Raceway in Ballarat, where children changed buses to be taken to their respective schools. John then took children from Bray Raceway to Mt Clear Secondary College.

The bus route was along Mt Mercer Road to Bamganie Road then to Elaine and to Ballarat. In later years another bus picked up the Elaine children because John's bus already had 57 children on board. He recalls that at one time about 80 children were registered to travel on his bus. Thank goodness they didn't all turn up together.

He started driving a Mercedes bus with plastic seats that were hot in summer and cold in winter, had no air conditioning and no seat belts. The last bus he drove had all the luxuries including seat belts, air conditioning, music on the radio, cruise control and comfortable cloth seats.

John worked as a casual driver for the first six years. When he became a permanent employee he stayed in Ballarat between bus runs, either helping in the workshop or driving buses often on school excursions or to school camps. These were 10½ hour days, arriving back in Meredith about 5 pm and then having to park the bus for the night. He also worked on weekends taking people on shopping tours or to other attractions. If he didn't have a Melways on his knees it was under the seat. Mostly he planned his route and parking availability before he left home.

John said the buses were very well maintained and he rarely had mechanical troubles. He also says that the children were well behaved and well mannered. At the start of each year he told the new children that if they had any problems to come and see him.

He is now sleeping in till 7 am and is looking forward to more fishing and travelling while he is still fit and healthy. He does miss the children but keeps in touch with some via Facebook. He is not moving from Meredith. He has two daughters living in the town and thinks that it is a great place to live.

A job well done!



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Fire Brigade Tribute to Ralph

Chris Jones.

Captain

Meredith Rural Fire Brigade (2013–2023)

Reflection on the Service of Ralph Holtz to the Meredith Rural Fire Brigade

Upon reflecting on Ralph's service with the Meredith Rural Fire Brigade, many fond memories come to mind.

Ralph joined the Meredith Brigade in 2004 and, due to some minor health issues at the time, was initially unable to attend fire calls. However, this did nothing to diminish his enthusiasm. Instead of getting on the trucks, Ralph devoted his energy to the broader running of the brigade, as well as mentoring our junior members, of whom we had several at the time.

After receiving medical clearance, Ralph's status changed to Firefighter, allowing him to respond to incidents. This is where Ralph truly shone. While he took every emergency seriously, he genuinely loved getting on the truck, always insisting the sirens were on. Most importantly, he was finally able to do what he had set out to do—help our community whenever it needed him.

In 2007, Ralph accepted the role of Communications Officer, a position he carried out with both enthusiasm and discipline.

Then, in 2013, after a little convincing, Ralph took on the role of 4th Lieutenant. It was in this position that many of us saw some of his greatest strengths emerge. His leadership continued to grow over the years, and Ralph became someone we could always rely on. He also had a knack for finding himself in front of the camera whenever the media turned up—a role that became increasingly familiar as the years went by.

As our primary daytime responder, Ralph attended almost every emergency. He would proudly declare that he was the "youngest" member of the crew and often referred to himself as the "leader of the Grey Brigade", a title affectionately shared with several of our more senior members who regularly responded alongside him. Together, they were a remarkable group of men who could always be counted on when the pager sounded.

Over the next decade, Ralph continued to serve as a Lieutenant, holding the position of 4th Lieutenant from 2013–2015, 2nd Lieutenant from 2015–2021, and returning as 4th Lieutenant from 2021–2023. During his service, Ralph was recognised with his 5-Year Certificate, 10-Year Service Medal and 15-Year Service Medal—well-earned acknowledgements of his unwavering commitment to the brigade and our community.

Ralph's dedication to our brigade and our community was something I held in the highest regard. As Captain of the Meredith Rural Fire Brigade from 2013 to 2023, I had the privilege of serving alongside Ralph throughout his years as a Lieutenant. I came to know him not only as a dependable officer whom I could always rely upon, but as a genuine friend. He had a remarkable ability to light up any room he entered, and his presence brought great warmth and humour to those around him.

I know that every member of the Meredith Rural Fire Brigade feels the loss of not only an outstanding firefighter, but also a cherished friend and colleague.

Words cannot truly do justice to a man whose life was dedicated to serving others. Ralph's legacy will live on through the countless lives he touched, the sacrifices he made for the community he so proudly served, and the example he set for every member who had the privilege of knowing him.

When the final pager sounds and the last appliance returns home, may we remember those who answered every call.

Rest easy, Ralph. We'll take it from here.



Kind Words

Sad to hear this could be the last year of the newsletter, Hopefully someone is able to step up to editors position - You do a great job and we always look forward each month to reading all the wonderful contributions to the newsletter and keeping up to date with all things local!

Jess



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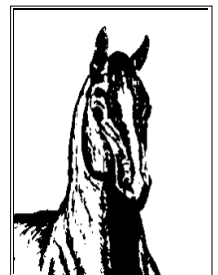
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the Philatelist

Michael Riseley



DOT TO DOT

These days if you, or more likely a business, want to buy a lot of postage stamps you go to the Post Office and buy a roll of 100 stamps packaged in a little box. These stamps have a very sticky reverse and are evenly spaced on a roll of non-stick paper. So when you need one you just peel one off and stick it on your envelope. Hence the common name of peel and stick stamps. The interesting thing is that these stamps generally have toothed edges which are known as perforations. And the unanswerable question is Why? The perforations are not needed.

Way back stamps were originally printed in sheets and needed to be cut apart with scissors or a small guillotine. Then in the 1850s the sheets were printed with rows of small holes between the stamps so they could be easily separated without scissors. These holes are called perforations and their size and spacing can vary with each printing of a new stamp.

The number of perforations is measured over a 2 centimetre distance. A specialist philatelic tool called a perforation gauge is used to assess how many perforations. Over time this has varied from as low as 8 to as high as 16 but generally about 12 to 14. The measure is simply called for example Perf 12 or Perf 14. It is not unusual for a stamp printing to have different perforations on the horizontal edges and the vertical edges for example Perf 12 x 11. These are called compound perforations.

Sometimes you will find a stamp with little holes punched into the centre of the stamp. These could have been done by a business which has perforated company initials or logo into the stamp. These stamps were then used on outgoing business mail. Apart from the marketing benefits, this process was also an inventory control to discourage employee theft. These are known as Perfin stamps.

Sometimes government departments would perforate holes reading OS for example into the stamp to indicate official service mail. Among many other examples of government perfins could be OHMS (On His/Her Majestys Service), AS (Army Service) or VG (Victoria Government).

Collecting Perfin stamps is another popular sub category of collecting stamps. There are over 50,000 recorded Perfin designs worldwide. This of course leads collectors forming Perfin Collecting clubs which happily sit alongside normal Philatelic clubs. And many collectors are members of both types.



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Meredith History Interest Group

Open Day:

You are invited to come to our Open Day on Sunday, August 23 to see what we do, what records we keep, meet our volunteers and celebrate MHIG occupying the historic old Shire Hall for 10 years.

In 2016 the history group moved from the Church of England Hall to the old Shire Hall after the kindergarten relocated to new facilities in Russell Street. It was our aim since we began in 2008, to occupy the old Shire Hall as it seemed the right fit.

We held an event in 2016 to celebrate which involved a delicious carrot cake which Diane in the Meredith Bakery made. [it was over the road and was part of Dorothy's Kitchen, complex] On August 23 we intend to once again cut a delicious carrot cake...come along for a slice!

Map of Meredith:

Recently Darren found some aerial photos on the internet. It appears that the photos had been taken by the military in 1931 and included many photos including Steiglitz, Meredith and Elaine. On the aerial photo of Meredith I have endeavoured to number all the buildings and name the occupiers. Of interest is what is in the photo that is not there now and also what is yet to be built. For example the Presbyterian Manse which was shifted from east of Coolebarghurk Creek, almost opposite the State School, is still over the creek, the Vicarage at the Church of England Church is still south of the church building and the two houses for railway workers are still near the railway station.

Regarding buildings that have not yet been built are the garage on the corner of Wallace and Staughton Streets, Elders office and house on the opposite corner and the Lands Department office and yard or the Fire Brigade shed. Meredith looked quite different in 1931!

Elaine Thru the Lens:

The book of photos compiled from the exhibition that we held at Elaine last October, is at the printers. The launch of the book will be on Sunday, October 18 in the Elaine Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Sculpture Exhibition:

We are producing a book documenting all the sculptures that were entered in our exhibition last May. If you would like to see your creation in print, if you would like to re-examine the entries at your leisure or if you would like some inspiration, watch out for this book. MHIG intends to hold the third annual sculpture exhibition in May 2027 so please start creating!!

Bus Trip to Meredith:

On Saturday, July 18 Gail and Darren welcomed a big bus load of people from Melbourne to Meredith and Darren told them about Meredith and its history as they drove

around in their bus. This happened after they celebrated Christmas in July at the Meredith Dairy Shop.

Legacy Lines Genealogy:

Nick Bond from Geelong has volunteered at MHIG for a number of years, works at the Heritage Centre in Geelong and is studying History at University. At MHIG he updates the data base and is checking that all entries are in their correct spot and that everything stored has been catalogued. This is a huge job and we thank Nick for his enthusiasm and dedication.

He is starting a new business, offering to research for people: Every family has a story. At Legacy Genealogy your story is brought into focus with meticulous evidence-based research that reaches beyond the basics. Whether you're seeking a richly sourced family narrative or stuck on a stubborn brick wall, we dig deeper across archives, newspapers, land, probate records, DNA matches, maps and more to find answers others miss.

Nick offers expert methodology, clear citations and transparent reasoning in every conclusion, access to broad record sets and repositories, and has a knack for problem solving and can transform fragments into a cohesive veritable history.

Nick is usually at the History Centre on Thursdays, ring 0412 977 622 or email him on nick@legacylinesgenealogy.com.au.

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Wendy Cook

I walked up the road on a very dark night, my torch off to make the most of my night vision. I could see the paler stripe of the road between the dark trees, and hear and feel the gravel crunching beneath my boots. I stopped regularly to listen for animals moving through the trees, or calls from possums, owls, frogs or foxes. One noise which I remember clearly, was a thump close by, at head height. I turned on my torch and had my first sighting of an animal I could recognise, but had not seen before. On the trunk of a young gum tree, looking upwards, it was about half the size of a ringtail possum, with thick grey fur. A broad dark stripe between its black eyes and dark grey ears continued as a narrow line most of the way along its back. Its bushy tail was grey near its body, changing to black about halfway down its length. Between its pink front and rear feet were folds of furry white skin. I was looking at a sugar glider. The thump was its body landing on the trunk after gliding from a tree across the road. It ran lightly upwards and I lost sight of it among the leaves.

That was years ago. Since then, I have had many sightings of sugar gliders. I have seen groups of them snuggled up together in their round nest of gum leaves inside a nest box. I have been outside at dusk and watched as they ran up a tree trunk, leapt and made a gliding descent to the trunk of the next tree, sometimes three or four following the first. They continue this pattern of climb and glide to reach their destination, which may be a flowering eucalypt where they can feed on pollen and nectar, and on insects also attracted to the flowers. I have watched one on a tree trunk, head downwards, licking sap from a cut in the bark. A particularly memorable moment was looking up at the white underside of a sugar glider as it soared above my head, its legs stretched to spread the gliding membrane that allows it to travel in this manner.

Gliding is an efficient way for these small animals to move around. To progress between trees, possums can climb from branch to branch, if they overlap. Alternatively, they descend and walk or run across the ground to another trunk. This is slower than gliding, and makes them vulnerable to predators, which would once have been quolls and dingoes, but is now more likely to be cats and foxes. Gliders avoid these hazards but are still at risk of being captured by owls. Gliding also allows them to travel faster, and arrive at food or a safe tree hollow sooner, and to travel further than if they had to descend each tree and climb another one.

To begin a glide, a sugar glider needs to be high in a tree with no branches that will obstruct its path. It pushes off with its hind feet as it leaps, looking ahead and stretching out its legs to expand the membrane between them. It can change the direction of its flight by tilting its feet to adjust the membrane, and by using its tail as a rudder, and can

travel as far as fifty metres in one glide. As it approaches its landing, it looks up and pushes its feet down, creating a parachute shape, and tilting its body so that its hind feet are lowest. It lands with all four feet, looking up, ready to scamper up the trunk and launch itself towards another tree, or to find a sugary meal in the upper branches.

Sugar gliders were named for their liking for sweet foods. Recently, it has been found that there are three different species of sugar gliders, and our local ones have been renamed Krefft's gliders. We also have another species of glider. They are much smaller, with a very different tail and are known as feathertail gliders. About the size of a mouse, their tail is unmistakable. It has short hairs on the upper and lower surfaces, and long stiff hairs spreading out from the sides, giving its tail the appearance of a feather. The gliding membrane stretches between its elbow and its knee, rather than expanding between its wrists and ankles as it does for the sugar glider, but it is thicker than that of any other gliding marsupial. Despite their small size, they can travel twenty metres in a single glide. A fluttering motion of the tail and membrane can allow them to glide at a slower speed, and they are also able to fly in a spiral around a tree trunk. They have large pads on their toes with a rough texture, so that they can climb smooth surfaces such as trunks of gum trees, and even panes of glass.

I was once fortunate enough to watch one of these tiny gliders. I was in the bush near Lal Lal with a group of people surveying for nocturnal animals. A friend and I, a little apart from the others, may have scared the feathertail glider. It has many predators and displayed its typical response to alarm. It glided at an angle out from its tree trunk, landing on the ground. In these circumstances, they can freeze as a means of remaining undetected. This one reacted differently, quickly running to the same tree and scampering back up the trunk.

Feathertail gliders and sugar gliders are not only found in forests, but also in other rural areas and even towns, where there are sufficient trees. I have seen sugar gliders in my garden, feeding in a gum tree, leaping lightly up through the branches, and gliding above vegetable beds, grass, a fence and the driveway to reach another tree. If you go outside, just after sunset or later, you may discover that you also have sugar gliders or feathertail gliders living in your garden.

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Vale Kate Powles

Jane Kosutic

Kathleen 'Kate' Powles was born 5th December 1961 to Jack and Carmen Powles. She was the sixth of the seven Powles' children. She lived at the police station house and had childhood memories of answering the police station phone when Jack was out. In 1979 when Jack retired from the police force the family moved to Possum Point.

Kate went to school at St Joeys Primary School until it closed when she was in year 2 then started attending the Meredith State School. Kate was the first girl from Meredith to take on the morning paper route and to join the Meredith Anglers. Kate was passionate about Brownies being a founding member of the first Meredith Brownies in 1971. She continued onto the local Girl Guides and later Rangers.

Kate trained as a nurse at Geelong Hospital, living at the nurse's accommodation across the road where she made lifelong friends. In 1987 she made plans to travel to England with Kim Parkinson where they enjoyed visiting the places they had grown up reading about. Kate completed her Bachelor of Nursing in 1998 At Deakin University, then went on to work on the stroke unit at Geelong University Hospital. She was a dedicated nurse for over 40 years.

Kate married Boris Kosutic in 1996 at the Lethbridge Serbian Monastery and went on to have two children, Jane and David. She had a passion for reading, art, and classical music, often travelling to attend cultural events and exhibitions. She loved The Tour De France and Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race. Kate was a dedicated friend and mother, with a dry and quick-witted sense of humour she shared with those closest to her. Kate was a selfless and beloved mother, wonderful friend, passionate nurse, treasured sister and wife.



In Plain Sight

Marg Cooper

Often, we go about our day-to-day life and don't really see things which are in plain sight!

On the ABC radio program 'Australia All Over', broadcast each Sunday morning, Ian McNamara or Macca invites people to ring in from anywhere in Australia or overseas. Recently a chap rang from Mount Augustus in Western Australia. This rock, which is 1000 km north east of Perth, is roughly twice as big as Ayers Rock or Uluru and is widely promoted as the largest monocline in the world. It is in quite an isolated spot but the chap rang from a phone box there.

He described how, at the time, 25 years ago when he started conducting tours to Mount Augustus, the phone box was there and it was the only way that you could contact the outside world as there was no mobile phone reception.

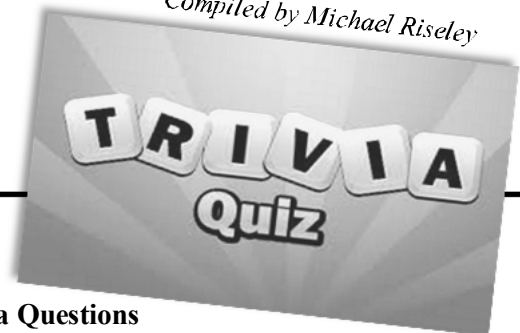
You would think that phone boxes have almost become obsolete, but Meredith has one which I walk past every week in Wallace Street outside the Bottom Shop. I started to wonder if it still worked and if anyone used it.

To my surprise I found that it does still work and what's more, calls are free to anywhere in Australia. It also has free Wifi if you need to connect to the internet.

Apparently, each phone box has a number and if you know that number you can ring the phone in the phone box. A story goes that years ago a man who lived in sight of a phone box used to watch as people walked by. He'd ring the phone in the phone box as they walked by and of course they would be surprised but would pick up the phone and answer.

I wonder what they talked about!

Compiled by Michael Riseley



Trivia Questions

1. Which 3 Ollies are playing for Geelong
2. Who has played most games for Geelong.
3. Who has kicked most goals for Geelong.
4. How many Brownlow medals have Geelong players won.
5. Which Geelong player won a Brownlow medal while not playing for Geelong.
6. How many premierships has Geelong won.
7. How many wooden spoons has Geelong won.
8. What year did Geelong join the VFL.

Answers

1. Dempsey Henry Willshtre, 2. Tom Hawkins, 3. Gary Ablett Sr., 4. 7, 5. Gary Ablett Jr., 6. 1897, 7. 6, 8. 10,



Marg's BOOK REVIEW

By Tim Slee

Taking Tom Murray Home

Tim Slee's book is quoted as being a quintessential Australian story.

Set in regional Victoria the story gives the reader a look at Australian farming culture and touches on themes such as cheap milk prices, drought, corporate banking pressure and family and community loyalty.

Bankrupt dairy farmer Tom Murray decides he'd rather sell his cows and burn down his house rather than hand them over to the bank. He is not giving them a fully functioning dairy farm. But something goes wrong and Tom dies in the blaze. His wife, frustrated by his actions decides to make a loss into a positive and arranges a funeral procession from near Portland, where they had the farm to the Cemetery at Carlton in Melbourne so he can be buried with his family there. It is to be a slow trip by horse and cart and is predicted to take about a week. She intends to make Tom's death mean something both to their community and the wider Australian public.

The story is narrated by Tom's thirteen year old son who is reluctant to believe that his father is really dead. He and his twin sister, Jenny are part of the procession, hear lots of conversations and talk to many people including the newspaper reporters and also run a Facebook page called Burn and a Gofundme site. We also gain knowledge of the characteristics of the real towns along the route including Warrnambool, Tyrendarra, Colac, and Geelong.

The procession has difficulty with police throughout; they seem to have little forward planning and communities invite them to camp at Recreation Reserves and sports facilities and people join the procession for both short and long durations. One farmer who is driving his tractor meets up with the procession and sticks with them till the end becoming a great help when the old horse dies.

The children have a rare condition which the author calls Dorotea's analgesia which means they don't feel pain, they process emotional things differently and don't cry. This is interesting to learn about but wonder if it was necessary to be included in the book.

Reviews say that the book deals with heavy subject matters. The opportunity to do so seems to be there but there is no result or even a report on what effect the procession generated in the wider world.

Tim Slee has won the Harper Collins Australia Banjo Prize for his manuscript. He is an Australian journalist who grew up on sheep country and worked for several years for Stock Journal in Adelaide.

Recipe for Friendship

Take two heaped cups of patience,
One heart full of love,
Two handfuls of generosity,
A dash of laughter,
One head full of understanding,
Sprinkle generously with kindness
and plenty of Faith and mix well.
Spread over a period of a life-time
And serve to everybody you meet

Source unknown

Submitted by Janene Schillier



Want to get into some Old School

SOCIAL MEDIA



If you would like to put your time and talents to good use, talk to us about getting involved in producing our community newsletter - Social Media at its best!

Drop us a line at news@meredithnews.com.au

MEREDITH ROADHOUSE

Take-Away Menu

Toasties

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

Fresh Rolls and Sandwiches

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

Fried Food

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

Hamburgers

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

EXTRAS
Beetroot
Pineapple

Coffee

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

Small

Medium

Large

Milkshakes & Thickshakes

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

Cold Barista Beverages

Iced Coffee | Iced Chai | Iced Chocolate
Iced Mocha

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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 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.

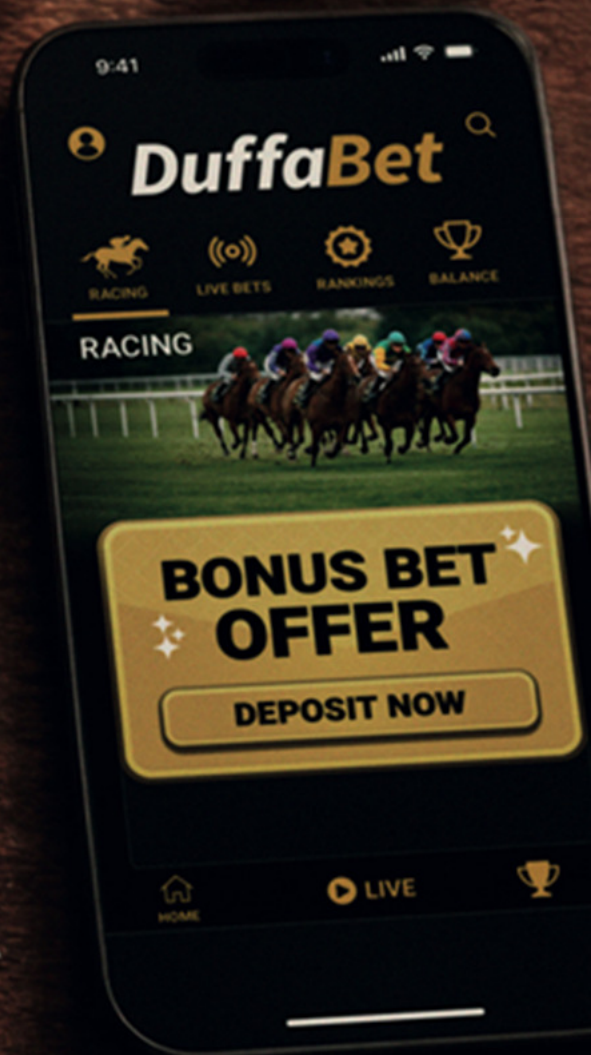
BEAT DUMB THUMB

SET LIMITS BEFORE YOU BET

Ever noticed your thumb gets excited when it comes to gambling apps? Once it sees the alerts, bonus offers and multi bets, it can't get enough. Next thing, it's whacking bets on everything from the footy to Hungarian wrestling.

It's called 'Dumb Thumb'. But the good news is, you can beat it by setting limits.

- ✓ **Max once a week**
- ✓ **Max 2 types of gambling**
- ✓ **Max 2% of weekly pay**



🔍 Beat Dumb Thumb

HELP!



After 50 years of continuous publication the Meredith newsletter is in grave danger of closing down at the end of the year. We urgently need volunteers to help keep our free community newsletter going. Prior experience not necessary. To find out how you can help, please come to a

Public Meeting

at the Community Centre, at 7.30pm
on **Monday 17th August, 2026**

Phone Jim on 0409 163 169 for more information.

