

Meredith & district News

SEPTEMBER 2026

YOUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



WOO HOO
IT'S
SPRING!



CELEBRATING
50 YEARS
OF PUBLICATION

see the **LOOK BACK LIFT OUT INSIDE**



inside

- A Footy Obsession
- "Our future" discussion
- School Camp report

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



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Margaret

“

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**Michaela
Settle** MP

State Member for Eureka



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Meredith & district News



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

NEWS & VIEWS

Appropriate contributions accompanied by the contributor's name (which will also be published) and contact details, are most welcome. Please email to news@meredithnews.com.au 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
Business Card	\$20.00
Quarter page	\$30.00/\$50
Half page	\$50/\$110
Full page	\$100/\$200

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

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

CONTACT US

Post Office, Meredith, 3333

Advertising: Ian 0409 016815

advertising@meredithnews.com.au

Accounts: Ian Leighton 0428132880

accounts@meredithnews.com.au

Editorial: Jim: 0409 163169

news@meredithnews.com.au

WEB

You can check back copies and lodge comments 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We do not publish children's photos online.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

FEEDBACK

Yes please! Send it to news@meredithnews.com.au

Issue Production: PeterBoer Editor: Don Atherton

connect

ADVANCE
MEREDITH
0409 027 359

ANGLING CLUB
0439 733 474

B'BURN ART
GROUP
0410 808 483

B'BURN MENS
SHED
0407 835 731

B'BURN SOFT
TENNIS
0409 236 420

BLUELIGHT
DISCO
5286 1222

BOOK CLUB
5286 8201

CFA
000 for fire calls
Elaine
0419 767982
Meredith
5286 1502
Morrisons
0417 770 765

CHILDCARE
5286 0700

COMMUNITY
CENTRE
5286 0700

CRICKET
Elaine
0448 291074
Junior
(U16,U14,13)
0448 291074

Meredith
5286 1434

CUBS &
SCOUTS
Lethbridge
0435 042077

ELAINE HALL
53415575
0409861296

FOOTBALL
Seniors 0408 545246
Juniors 0430 587 674

GOLF CLUB
0407 795 342

HISTORY GROUP
5286 8201

LANDCARE
0409 862 326

MEMORIAL HALL
0409 662106

MEREDITH SEWING
GROUP
0491 184 999

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0407 683 892

TENNIS
Elaine
0448 291 074
Lethbridge
52 817 321
Meredith
0424 754 179

SEW 'N' SEWS
5286 0700

FRIENDS OF THE
BRISBANE
RANGES
5286 1252

emergency

Police, Ambulance, Fire	000
(from mobile phone)	000 or 112
Meredith Police Station	5286 1222
Police non emergency	131 444
Power Failure	132 412
Nurse-On-Call	1300 606 024
Mental Health Advice	1300 280 737
Poisons Information	13 11 26
Barwon Water	1300 656 007
SES Emergency - flood & storm	132 500
24 Hour Helpline	1800 629 572
24 Hour Drug & Alcohol Counselling	1800 888 236
Kids Help Line	
24hr 5-18yo	1800 551 800
Golden Plains Shire	1300 363 036
a/h emergency	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

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HALL HIRE

Meredith Memorial

5286 1545

Elaine Mechanics

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LIBRARY VAN

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MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

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PRE-SCHOOL

5286 0722

PRIMARY

SCHOOL

5286 1313

RECREATION

RESERVE

0499 707 881

..or start something.

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



"The beautiful spring came, and when nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also."

- Harriet Ann Jacobs

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 – September 2026

Winchelsea - St. John the Baptist @ 5PM Sat. SEP. 5, 12, 19, 26

Meredith – St. Joseph NO MASS

Bannockburn – St. Mary MacKillop @ 11am Sun. SEP. 6, 13, 20, 27

Inverleigh – Sacred Heart – @ 4pm Sun. SEP. 20

OUR COVER

Our Celebration of Spring front cover features the Scented Sundew (*Drosera abtrons*), a small, carnivorous tuberous native plant with sticky hair glands that trap and digest insects as well as the Bushy parrot-pea (*Dillwynia ramosissima*). Photos were taken by Wendy Cook and Jim Elvey



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



GET ONLINE WEEK!

WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 21 - 11.30 AM - 1.30PM

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN ONLINE!

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL FOR CATERING -

BY **OCTOBER 14** - 0491 184 999

COMMUNITY DROP IN -

TALL TREE WIND FARM INFORMATION SESSION

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 7- 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 (RESTARTING TERM 4)

TUESDAY MORNINGS - 10.30AM - WITH ANNE

AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

TO BOOK:

LEARNLOCAL@MEREDITHCOMMUNITYCENTRE.COM.AU

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MEREDITHCOMMUNITYCENTRE](https://www.facebook.com/MEREDITHCOMMUNITYCENTRE)

PH. 5286 0700 / 0491 184 999

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 - DESMA IS CURRENTLY ON LEAVE - WILL RETURN IN TERM 4

THURSDAYS @ 7.15 - 10.15 - FREE



JOIN US ON

FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

LEARNLOCAL@MEREDITHCOMMUNITYCENTRE



PLAYGROUND

CURRENTLY TAKING A BREAK
11.30AM
\$2 PER FAMILY

the Newsletter's Future Report of Public Meeting

Jim Elvey, Editor



The public meeting held last month to establish interest in continuing the newsletter beyond this year was attended by around fifteen district residents. Although nothing definitive was decided, several spoke to support its continuation, citing its importance to the community. Through this process, a small group of potential volunteers subsequently met to explore options to replace the editor and several other members of our present team. Those discussions continue and we are hopeful we will have a good team to carry on the good work beyond our 50th year.

We will keep you posted.

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



Dear Residents,

I'm writing to let you know the dates for the next Meredith and Golden Plains Music Festivals, which are:

Meredith 34: December 11, 12 & 13, 2026

Golden Plains Nineteen: March 6, 7 & 8, 2027

You can contact me via auntym@mmf.com.au if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions. My door is always open.

Aunty x



POLICE report

Senior Constable Anthony BOX

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

Burnouts / Hoon driving Steiglitz / Durdidwarrah.

A joint effort between Meredith and Bannockburn Police Stations is currently underway to address hoon activity in these 2 locations.

We are aware that this activity occurs elsewhere which is also important. There are specific shifts and operations being planned and endorsed at divisional level.

This allows us to request additional resources from Highway Patrol for example.

Collisions:

I have attended numerous collisions in the last couple of months, including a single vehicle collision in Meredith where a ute went through 3 residential fences and destroyed a cubby house.

Thankfully no one was injured in that collision, the offending driver was processed at the scene.

Bikes:

There are reports of unregistered trail bikes being ridden on the roads in Meredith and surrounds.

While I have no intention on being the "fun police" it needs to be understood that riding these vehicles on public roads requires a licence and registration.

I would ask that people do the right thing and act respectfully towards neighbours.

Consider that if your kids have nowhere to ride a motorbike, i.e. you don't have sufficient land, and you have no intention of taking them somewhere to do so lawfully, it's probably not a good thing to buy them.

No leniency will be shown to bike riders within the township zone, or riders conducting themselves poorly.

Council:

I am meeting with council this week to discuss issues relating directly to public safety and associated infrastructure.

I will be raising numerous issues and attempting to build better interagency cooperation.

General:

As always, if you need police, call 000. If you have report to make that does not require police assistance, call the station or police assistance line.

Feel free to leave a note under the door at the station if you need a call if I am not on duty when you come past, but please don't do this for anything time critical in case I am away.





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An Obsession

Marg Cooper

Vanessa has barracked for Collingwood Football Club for as long as she can remember, although no one else in her immediate family did.

A few years ago, after moving to Meredith she met Colleen, when Colleen bought some bar mats from her online site. They found that they had a lot in common including a passion for Collingwood. Colleen invited Vanessa to go to a match at the MCG [the first AFL game she had attended] with her and she ended up becoming a member of the Collingwood Cheer Squad.

A group of about 15 to 20 people construct the banner a couple of nights before the next game. They meet in Melbourne and construct according to a design supplied by the club. On game day they take the banner onto the ground, hold the banner upright until the players run through it, presumably they collect the destroyed banner and then proceed to their allocated seats to cheer Collingwood to victory, waving flags, pom poms and floggers.

Vanessa said that she has met so many nice people since joining the Cheer Squad, and that they often meet for lunch or attend functions. They also get to meet the players, have photos taken and get a good seat at matches. She makes memorabilia for friends like earrings that contain photos of their favourite players, and she makes costumes for friends to wear to special matches, like grand finals.

Jamie Elliott is her favourite player. Not only does she admire his football skills and his personality, she feels that she has a connection. Her father passed away on his birthday, her mother passed away on Grand Final Day and on her birthday, he was awarded a Life Membership.

Vanessa's office is a room dedicated to Collingwood and contains big and small photos of players, herself with players, the Cheer Squad, items signed by players, many magpies, knickknacks of every description, stickers, a signed football and a photo of Jamie that goes from floor level to half way across the roof. When she gave up smoking she needed a project to occupy her hands so she made a diamond art picture of Jamie that is almost life size.

Vanessa is so passionate that she can't wear anything but Collingwood colours. She even has a fish tank with black and white fish. But her pet bird bucks the trend....it is a many coloured lorikeet! It is the only thing in her office that is not black and white.

The Three Pairs

Marg Cooper

I played a lot of sport, especially tennis, and so appreciate a comfortable pair of shoes that allow me to be active. When my sports shoes or runners, which I wear everyday, get a bit worn I replace them with a new pair, and wear the older pair at home for walking, in the garden and to do jobs. Work boots have always seemed too heavy and cumbersome.

But, recently, my home shoes wore out completely before my 'going out shoes' were ready to be replaced. Although we haven't had deluges of rain, the home shoes have been continually wet for months and this has contributed greatly to their demise. When the sole came away from the upper, I tried duct taping the parts together, but every step encouraged the duct tape to creep forward and off.

So, what to do? At an Op Shop I bought a blue pair of Puma runners in almost pristine condition. They are a tiny bit small so have to be worn without socks but are ideal for gardening in fine warm weather. At another Op Shop I bought a pair of white leather Reeboks in almost pristine condition. They are a tiny bit too big so have to be worn with thick socks. They are not good for gardening as they seem to have a stiff sole which doesn't bend easily. At a very rural Op Shop I bought a pair of greyish Brooks runners in almost pristine condition. I put them on when I got home and they fit perfectly. It is like I have worn them always.

One pair were too small, one pair were too big but the third pair was just right.

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.

NOTICE OF AGM

**Committee of management of the
Meredith recreation reserve AGM**

**To held be held on the 21st of
September at 7:30pm at the
recreation reserve**

**All welcome and encouraged to
attend.**





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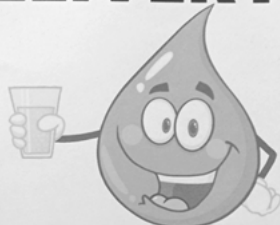
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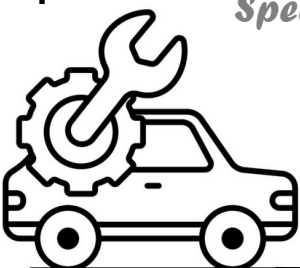
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A. Crumble's

Ginger biscuits (gluten-free)

From "How to Make Anything Gluten Free" **
By Becky Excell

Ingredients

- 240g gluten-free self-raising flour
- 1/4 teaspoon xanthan gum (leave out if you don't have it)
- 100g caster sugar
- 100g light brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 85g cold butter cubed
- 1 tablespoon golden syrup
- 1 teaspoon bicarb soda
- 1 1/2 tablespoons water

Method

Preheat the oven to 140° fan forced (160° conventional) and line 2 baking trays with baking paper.

2. In a large mixing bowl, combine the flour, xanthan gum, both sugars and ginger.
3. Add the chopped butter and rub in with your fingers until it forms a breadcrumb-like consistency.
4. Next, add the golden syrup and the bicarb mixed in the water.
5. Mix together until it forms a dough.
6. Use a tablespoon or small scoop to measure out the dough and roll into balls.
7. Place on the baking trays spaced out as they will spread.
8. Bake for about 18 minutes then allow to cool on the trays before moving to a wire rack to cool completely.

*these biscuits are crisp on the outside and chewy in the centre **

*** this book is available from the Geelong Library at Bannockburn and contains many wonderful gluten-free recipes ***

A note from Piper and Sebeen about gluten-free baking

Gluten traps gas bubbles so bread and cakes can rise, it also gives food its chewy texture and helps it hold its shape. Gluten-free cooking avoids wheat, rye, barley and oats and replaces it with a blend of rice flour, cornflour, potato flour or tapioca flour. Xanthan gum is a fermentation of simple sugars and is used as a thickener and stabiliser, and in gluten-free food is used as a replacement for gluten's natural elasticity.

IMAGE OMITTED FROM ONLINE VERSION

L-R: Piper, Charlie, Carter, Sebeen.

IMAGE OMITTED FROM ONLINE VERSION

IMAGE OMITTED FROM ONLINE VERSION



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In Plain Sight

Marg Cooper

Often, we go about our everyday lives and don't notice what is in plain sight!

Meredith may have the distinction of having the only mile post still standing, between Geelong and Ballarat.

The concrete post stands somewhat diminutively and crookedly on the Midland Highway in front of the Interpretative Centre. It still tells motorists that it is 28 miles to Geelong from the post and that Ballarat is 25 miles from the post.

Apparently, the concept of mile posts, sometimes called mile stones, dates back to the Roman Empire which used stone obelisks to mark a thousand paces along major military roads. Mile posts became more prevalent in the 18th and 19th centuries on toll roads to calculate carriage fees, postal charges and stagecoach schedules.

Mile posts on main roads were installed to tell motorists how many miles to the next major town or their travel progress. They also assist in asset management and pinpoint exact locations for emergency services. Traditional mile posts have been replaced by Global Positioning System, a satellite based navigation system that is in every new vehicle and on your phone.

Some years ago, a concerned resident of Elaine contacted authorities to report that their mile post needed painting and straightening. It was on the corner opposite where the Fire Brigade Shed is now. To his dismay, the authorities removed the mile post completely. The resident was very disappointed and wished that he had undertaken the small tasks himself so that the Elaine mile post would be still in the town.



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Meredith Tennis Club News

Bridget Dyer

The Meredith Tennis Club is excited to be gearing up for another great tennis season, with Saturday competition commencing on 10th October 2026. We are looking forward to fielding a number of junior teams as well as a senior team, and we wish all players an enjoyable and successful season.

We are also pleased to announce that coaching will return in Term 4 on Thursday evenings, with a new coach joining the club. Coaching sessions will cater for players of various ages and abilities. Anyone interested in participating or finding out more is encouraged to reach out to the club and keep an eye on our facebook page.

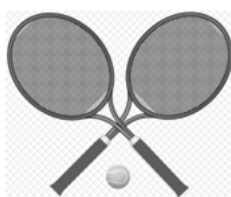
To help players prepare for the season ahead, we will be offering two Tennis Holiday Programs during the school holidays:

- Monday 28 September 2026 9 am -11.30am
- Wednesday 30 September 2026 9 am -11.30am

Our popular Spring Thursday Night Competition is also back for 2026, and registrations are now open. This social competition is a fantastic opportunity for players of all skill levels to enjoy some friendly competition and connect with fellow community members.

The club would like to sincerely thank everyone who attended our recent Annual General Meeting. We appreciate the continued support of our members and community, and would also like to congratulate and thank the committee members who have been elected for the coming year. Their time, effort, and commitment help ensure the continued success of the Meredith Tennis Club. As always, please reach out if you would like to be involved as we would love to see more people.

We look forward to seeing both familiar and new faces on the courts this spring. For further information about coaching, holiday programs, competition registrations, or membership, please contact the Meredith Tennis Club and follow our Facebook page to keep up to date on our news.



Advertising in the Meredith & District Newsletter is a great way to let district residents know about your business.

FULL COLOUR ADS are available in every issue (Conditions apply)

Ring Ian on 0409 016815

Please submit in jpeg format, if available
See inside front cover for more details.

Victorian Seniors Festival 2026

Discover Your Inner Writer

Thursday 15th October from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

At the Bannockburn Library,

25 – 27 High Street, Bannockburn

Presented by Golden Pens – Write Side Up.

Release your inner writer with a friendly and enthusiastic group of like-minded individuals.

Dabble in the art of flash fiction, poetry or memoir writing.

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WEDNESDAY



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5336 0006

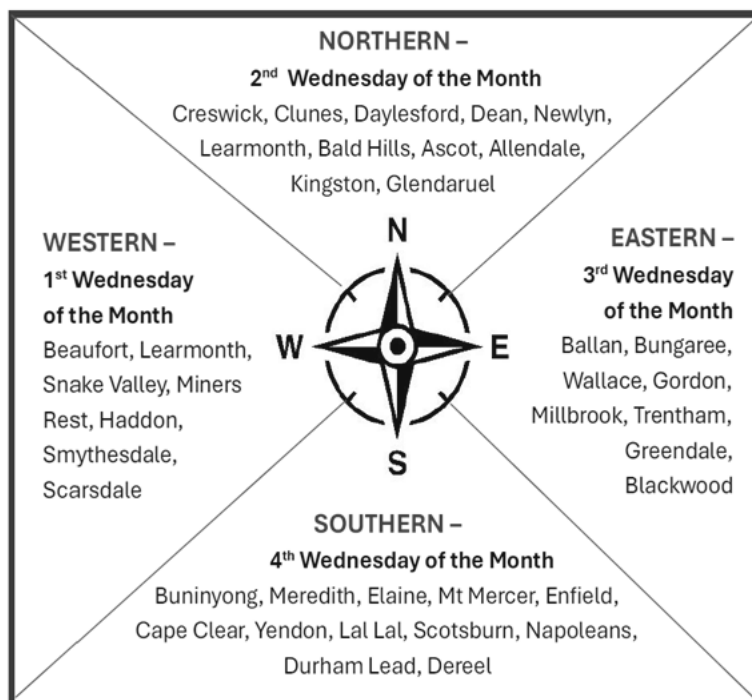
STARTS - JULY 1st 2026

CALL US MON-FRI 8.30am-6pm
www.ballaratpetfarmvet.com.au

MONTHLY - Wednesday Run for Farm Animal Vet

Pre-book non-urgent veterinary work and share the travel charge.

Ideal for preventative herd health such as vaccinations and parasite control, as well as any routine ruminant consultations and procedures. (Note – we do not provide vet services for horses).



Somers Camp 2026

Fairlie Pritchard

Meredith Primary School recently sent 6 Grade 5-6 students to Somers School Camp. Somers Camp is a 9 day residential camp program which involves 160 students from our extended school region. Being a school, students participate in Environmental Studies classes as well as a range of adventure and outdoor activities. Ayla, Owen, Hamish, Kira, Cody and Evangeline were wonderful representatives of Meredith PS and all had a wonderful time. Here are some reflections from the students who attended.

Favourite Part - What was the best thing you did at camp and why?

Ayla: I was very proud of myself on the challenge swing since I went to the top so that is definitely my favourite thing. Also all the friends I made.

Owen: My favourite part of Somers Camp was definitely making new friends. I met so many new people while trying so many new experiences and challenges.

Hamish: I reckon the High Ropes Course was fun because not only people faced their fears but we had to change wires with clips and we did lots of challenges in the air.

Kira: The giant swing because even though it's scary at first it's so much fun. I went to the top! For some reason I want to do it again.

New Thing - what was one new thing you tried? Did you like it?

Ayla: The one new thing I tried was abseiling and I loved it. The instructor calmed me down by asking questions about my hobbies because I was scared at first.

Owen: One new thing I tried was the Challenge Swing - even being up there was nerve-wracking. But I enjoyed it and I went all the way to the top.

Hamish: Abseiling - it was fun. I got to push my limits which is what camp is all about right?! We wore harnesses and walked down a 7m concrete wall.

Kira: I tried abseiling and it was so scary leaning on the side of the building. But it was so fun and terrifying at the same time!



Working Together - What was it like working with other children who you had only just met?

Ayla: I was a bit nervous at first since I wasn't sure if they were mean but it turned out alright and we had so much fun.

Owen: Working with other people can sometimes really challenge me, let alone people I've never met. It turned out they were great people and team challenges flew by when we worked with each other.

Hamish: The team challenge was definitely a massive challenge considering people wanted to do their own thing and not what everyone else did.

Kira: It was really weird working with people I just met but I made some friends pretty quick. A few activities needed partners so I met lots of people in my hut and group.

Proud moment - What is something you feel proud of from camp?

Ayla: I'm proud I stayed for all 9 days even though my family left on visiting day. I'm proud I kept pushing myself till the end.

Owen: Leaving my parents and having the strength and being capable of leaving my parents for 9 days.

Hamish: Finishing the Challenge Swing - it was around 10m high. When I went to the top, everyone below was the size of an ant.

Kira: When my partner and I in boating got to the end and back first out of the whole group.

Anything else you'd like to share about Somers Camp?

Ayla: I made many friends! I miss them so much and I hope to see them again one day.

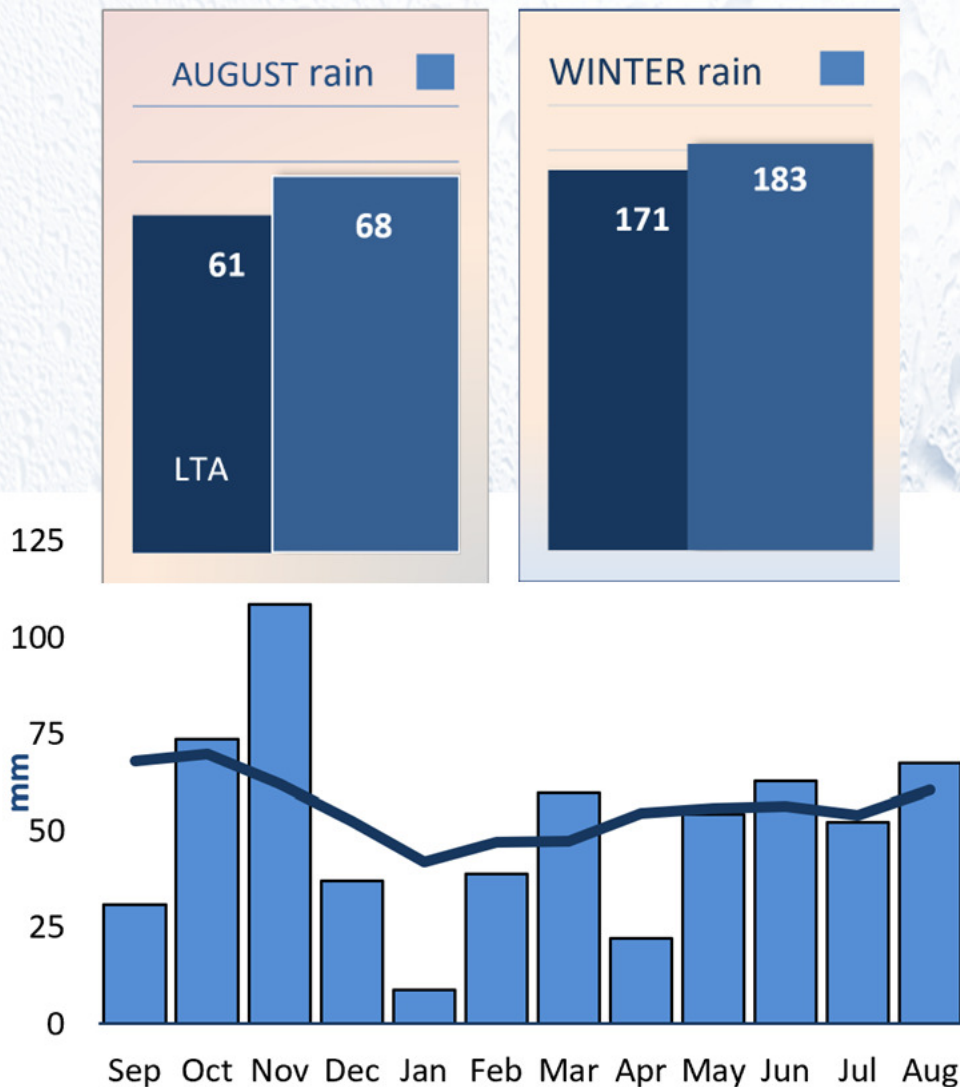
Owen: I would like to say that Somers Camp is a great place and I really hope that everyone gets the experience.

Hamish: I managed to survive 9 long days at camp.

Kira: The food was so good, my favourite was the chocolate mudcake.

Kira, Evangeline, Ayla, Hamish, Owen, Cody

IMAGE OMITTED FROM ONLINE VERSION



the rain report



Victorian Seniors Festival 2026



**CONNECT
CREATE
CELEBRATE**
1 – 31 October



Connect, create and celebrate at the Victorian Seniors Festival!

The Victorian Seniors Festival returns this October with a range of free and low-cost events for older Victorians across the State and in Golden Plains Shire.

Celebrate positive ageing and take part in events and activities close to home and right across Victoria. The Victorian Seniors Festival encourages everyone to get involved, share joy and have fun.

This year's Victorian Seniors Festival theme – Connect, Create, Celebrate – invites older Victorians to come together, discover new interests and celebrate.

Connect with your interests, skills and hobbies. Join in events and meet new people in-person and online.

Create your own path and remain curious as you age. Celebrate positive ageing. The festival delivers events and activities that celebrate the diversity of all older Victorians by supporting accessibility and inclusion.

Join in events to build practical skills, make friendships and new social connections.

To learn more about Victorian Seniors Festival events in Golden Plains Shire, contact 5220 7111 or email enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au.



Catherine King MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BALLARAT



CONTACT
CATHERINE



\$11.7M for better local roads

The Albanese Government is providing **over \$11.7 million** through the Roads to Recovery program to help Golden Plains Shire Council upgrade, maintain and improve local roads.

This funding for the 2024-2025 to 2028-2029 financial years will support safer travel, better road conditions and stronger local communities.

Standing up for our community!

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

1976
to 2026



Insights...

This month, we draw our insights into the 50-year history of the Newsletter, from the Committee's minute books. We have chosen extracts that reflect the times, but also the, often small steps taken to get where we are today. We hope you enjoy them.
- Ed.

Evolution of a Community Newsletter

We know the newsletter was first typed onto stencils and duplicated on machines like the one shown on this page. Our minute books start out in the 1990's however, when computers enabled a move to a much more efficient and flexible production method. This also brought access to specialised publishing software which greatly improved layout and presentation options, such as the inclusion of photos and images. And the widening use of digital cameras made photography more convenient.

Some colour pages are introduced, initially for the front cover for 'special' editions such as the Christmas edition.

Below are some excerpts from the sub-committee minute book for 1999 to 2001.

- 18 January 1999 - Distribution at 720 copies
- 2 June 1999 - Consideration re purchase of digital camera sometime in the future
- 15 November 1999; Suggestion we get a standard front page in colour to liven up Newsletter; invite input from community to include copy for the final issue of the millennium; Computer program we have been using proven to be unreliable. Committee decided to discard and use MYOB, presently on Community House computer. To purchase 'Idiot' or 'Dummy' books, approx. \$30 (to help learn new program).
- 14 February 2000 - Computer program MYOB not suitable. Persevering with our old program.
- 7 August 2000 - Roster of committee to produce editorial articles; After long discussion the decision was made to purchase a 'stand alone' computer, printer and scanner to be located in the Community House, on trolley to allow mobility. Total cost not to exceed \$3,500.
- 9 October 2000 - New computer, printer, scanner, modem, desk and chair have all be purchased as agreed at last meeting; · Motion: Permission be granted to the Community House to use our equipment for supervised class use, the coordinators use, but not for internet connection, or any general use without further discussion with this Committee. It was discussed whether we should not print when we have three issues per month. This suggestion lapsed as the majority thought the regular fortnight is working well (Newsletter was produced fortnightly at this time).
- 8 October 2001- Rainfall graphs to be included regularly if possible.

MEREDITH NEWSLETTER
MEETING 18/1/99 8:00 PM

PRESENT: Jim Elogy (Chair), Dawn McDonald,
Jean Dutton (Leah), Sue Warner,
David Tenn (A/Chair).

MINUTES: Read.

MOTION: Minute confirmed. Moved: Dawn
Sec: Sue
Carried

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. Community House AGM - Jim attended and presented Newsletter annual report.
2. Distribution remains at 720 copies. Elaine may have problems with distribution. Dawn will check and attempt to resolve.
3. Appeal letters (for donations). Jim to fill.
4. Bank Signatures - Any of two (2).

MOTION: re bank signatures. m. Jean
S. Sue
Carried

5. Electronic Transfer of copy to printer. Jean to do and consider again at a later date.

What You Think.



Cathie Boer, one of our Roving Reporters seeking the views of residents on the Newsletter, asked Maureen and John Diffey for their thoughts on our community publication.

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

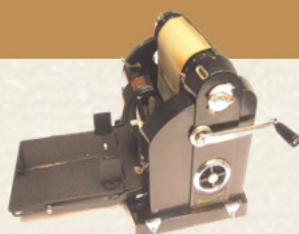
We've lived in Meredith 33 years, moving here to close to John's work in Ballarat and Geelong. We liked the area and its friendly people.

We read the News every month and we read everything in it! We find it useful for advance notices, what's been happening, AGM's etc.

We enjoy Marg's stories, the photos, school events, even the ads! It is often read by visiting family.

It is a valuable way of maintaining community connections.

Last month, we referred to Kym and Tom Ivory as "newcomers". That's probably not an accurate description, given their 24 years of residency. - Ed.



The Words We've Left Behind.

Snippets from 2014 to 2016

50 Years of a Country To

We have entered a period when lots of articles were submitted with photographs. This gave our content a lift, making it more interesting visually. Another strength, as this small sample illustrates, is the variety of subject matter. Chris McKenzie's Garden Notes is an example of the quality of writing we often received. And we expanded our community service, with the

Hay, You Guys!

Marg Cooper

While driving to Ballarat from Meredith you can't miss the "people" created from bales of hay on a small rise in Well's paddock just before Williamson's Creek.

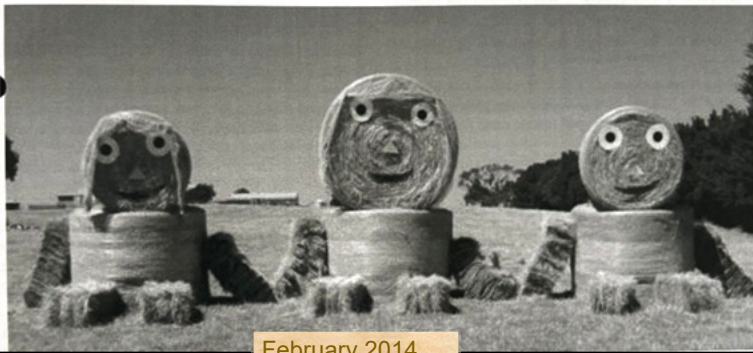
Amy and Lucas Wells with the help of their cousin and their father and some big machinery constructed the three people. (Last year they had one person.)

The children cut shapes for the mouths, eyes and noses from old signs and attached them to the bales with wire. Net wrap was attached to each of the people for hair. You will notice that the girls have long hair and the boy has short hair.

Amy tells that they had great fun creating the hay art and wished to make travellers happy.

Maybe next year Dad will also be represented in the creation as well as Mum, Amy and Lucas.

Love it! Well Done!



February 2014

November 2016

Lone Pine Clone Planting

John Diffey

On Wednesday 12 November 2016 the members of the Meredith Cemetery Trust and members of the Meredith RSL gathered at the Meredith Cemetery to plant a clone of the Gallipoli Lone Pine. This tree was donated to the Trust from the Yarralumla Nursery, Canberra, which has the task of growing these for distribution to organizations throughout Australia.

This tree planting was the culmination of the Meredith Cemetery's plan to commemorate the interment in the cemetery of returned service members from World War 1. The first stage was the unveiling on March 26th 2015 of a memorial plaque placed on a stone near the centre of the cemetery.

The planting of this tree should allow visitors to reflect not only on World War 1 personnel but also all those ex-servicemen and women from all subsequent conflicts and also current serving men and women who dedicate their lives to the protection of our land and our people.



John Diffey, David Jones and Doug McFarlane

Running for Victoria

The Victorian State Cross Country Championships were held at Bundoora in mid-July and Meredith's Amy Canavan again lined up with the fastest distance runners in the state in the 12 year girls category.

Over a 3km rolling course on a very cold day Amy placed 3rd in the state. A wonderful achievement which she has managed to do the previous 2 years, placing 3rd in 2011 and 2nd in 2012.

And for the third year running, she was selected in the Victorian team to compete at the Australian Cross Country National titles, this year in Albany WA.

Amy was also selected as the Captain of Team Victoria which is a wonderful honour and achievement. (you tube "SV State X Country Team Captain Speech 2014")

The National Titles were held in late August and it was a wonderful and exciting weekend with some very fast racing. Amy finished 12th in the country and combined with her other 12 year old team mates to finish 2nd in the team event earning them a national silver medal. A fabulous achievement.



October 2014

Your new community phone directory is inside this issue. If it's not, collect one from the Elaine or Meredith post offices or the Meredith Community Hub

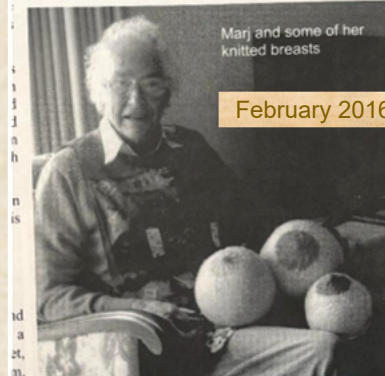


Keep Knitting Mum

Marg Cooper

Marj Powell (who grew up in Meredith) has been knitting for her daughter. But this is knitting with a difference!

Marj's daughter Maxine works at the Women's Hospital in Melbourne in the "breast feeding clinic", teaching mothers how to breast feed their babies. She asked Marj to get her knitting needles out and to knit breasts in many different sizes and colours. They found a pattern on the internet but Marj has experimented with replacing the knitted or crocheted back with a pretty material. She also tried knitting the pattern on bigger needles as Maxine told her they wanted bigger breasts as some ladies are very big. They are stuffed with toy fill to make them soft and pliable. A friend of Marj's knits bonnets for premature babies. Marj said that both bonnets and breasts are simple to knit and that they are happy to help.



Marj and some of her knitted breasts

February 2016

Meet the Maker

Marg Cooper

In November, soon after the couch was positioned in the outdoor room in front of the Royal Hotel I walked past. Two people were looking at the couch and I commented to the man, "Did you make this couch?" and to my surprise he answered "Yes!"

Mark Cuthbertson is an artist who lives at Inverleigh. He experiments with a variety of mediums in the development and application of new work.

Mark was invited by the Golden Plains Shire to submit designs for a "couch" as it fitted with Meredith and the Music Festival. The site determined that a scene be created of a couch with a pouffe, a bookcase with books and lamp, and a snap shot of Aunty Meredith's living room. He explained how he is basically self-taught in cast concrete, but the process is like making plaster casts as a child except on a larger scale. He sourced an old couch from a local Op. shop which formed the basis for the silicone mould making process. The couch is made of 1 1/2 tonnes of concrete which was hand mixed. The hardest part to recreate was the throw rug.

He is very pleased with the installed artworks, the artistic outcome is attractive, functional and the incorporation of solar power has an environmental component. The use of a rudimentary material like concrete in such a pleasing manner, invites you to use extra senses and to think outside the square. He has many ideas in the pipeline for future large-scale art works, utilising this technique. He also has an exhibition opening in April in Boom Gallery in Newtown, Geelong, which will include a new series of soft form cast concrete works for sale.

Many of his works are on display at the Red Door Café, Inverleigh, including the latest duct tape portrait of Andy Warhol. Which is amazing!

Seniors and their Pumpkins

Jim Hynds

On June 23, 2014 at the social lunch the winner of the Pumpkin Competition was decided. Ray Dods had an "Atlantic pumpkin" that weighed in at 51 pounds for first prize. Ray Dods had a "Long Island Cheese" pumpkin that weighed in at 19 pounds for second prize and Robyn had a "Queensland Blue" pumpkin that weighed in at 15 pounds for third prize.

Well done members. Lots of pumpkin soup in that lot!

Below: Ray and Robyn with their heavy duty pumpkins



Oct

July 201

Craig (Dougie) Whitehand Hall of Fame Inductee

The Victorian State Indoor Awards were announced last Friday night. The celebration highlighted the achievements of Craig "Dougie" Whitehand of Meredith Cricket Club who was this year's sole Hall of Fame inductee.

After dedicating 17 sterling years of service to Victorian indoor cricket, Whitehand was recognised as both a player and a volunteer, helping the juniors come through the ranks.

An outstanding leg-spinner and capable batsman, Whitehand has represented Victoria and Australia, in both indoor and outdoor formats.

Only the second member of Victoria's Lord's Taverners side to be inducted, Whitehand noted that it was a great honour and that winning five indoor titles had been the highlight of his career. "It was a great feeling being inducted," Whitehand said. "Winning the 2014 Lord's Taverners Shield has definitely been a highlight for me."



Elaine Tennis Club

Congratulations to Max Kocon and Br runners up in the Buninyong and District U16 doubles championship.

Anyone interested in coaching contact 0415969290

Below: Back row left to right Deb Mair (President) Ashleigh Williams, Dunne, Tristan Mair, Montana Mair, Julia Natasha Ford, Matilda Dunne, Megan Farha



Left: Craig (Dougie) Whitehand Hall of Fame Inductee

November 2014



"Just wanted to say what a great newsletter the Meredith News is. With its varied content it makes for fantastic reading and is very popular in my household, both with my husband and myself, and also my parents who often come to stay. - Louisa

August

PN to POSE with a STATUE



rk Cuthbertson's installation of *Auntie Meredith's*
ing Room.



February 2015 (edited)

Molly to National Fire Championships

Mary Cooper
Congratulations to Molly Dunne who is one of two junior CFA members to be selected to compete in the National Fire Championships from District 15. She is one of eighteen of the state's top junior CFA members chosen from Victoria to compete in the National Championships. This year CFA will champion three teams of six members, aged 14 and 15 years old to compete at Myuna Bay in New South Wales from September 28 until October 1. "The junior representatives were chosen on merit and had the backing of their Junior Leader, Brigade Captain and were supported by their District Operations Manager." The teams will compete in eight events including a portable pump relay, hose and hydrant drill, station response and knapsack drill and tank and ladder challenge.

Molly has been a member of Elaine Junior CFA since she was eleven years old and that more than 100 children applied to go to the Championships from Victoria. Molly said she had filled out an application form detailing her prior experience and commitment to volunteering and CFA and had to tick a lot of boxes. Molly is looking forward to the championships but also to the sightseeing around Sydney. The group will stay at Menzies Hotel, go to Taronga Zoo and walk over the Harbour Bridge.

The Elaine Junior CFA leaders are Joanne Adcock, Sam Lewis and Taylor Connell. The juniors train at the Recreation Reserve and at the Elaine Fire Shed, fortnightly. CFA has more than 180 junior brigades across the state with over 2,000 children of which more than one third are female. Junior CFA helps develop practical, social and leadership skills and promotes the importance of volunteers in the community. Molly says the "Midlands Cup" competition is coming up and that Elaine juniors are busy training for that competition.



October 2015

Happy Birthday Your Majesty

Rachel Young

Back in mid-June, knowing that The Queen's 90th Birthday was fast approaching, I thought it would be a nice gesture to send Her Majesty the Queen a 90th Birthday card. I had never written to the Queen or sent a birthday card and was very excited to send a birthday card and was very excited to send a birthday card. Knowing that Her Majesty rides horses, I included two photos of myself with my Fjord Horses. I wrote a note, describing both photos. I didn't expect a reply as I knew that Queen Elizabeth II is a very busy Lady.

After a week or two, I forgot all about the card and photos. About mid August I received "Royal Mail" from Buckingham Palace. This jogged my memory and I couldn't wait to go inside and read my important letter. I couldn't believe that I had "Royal Mail". The letter was from Her Lady-in-Waiting, Richeuda Etkort, thanking me for the card I sent Her Majesty on the occasion of her ninetieth birthday.

Here's me with my "Royal Mail" and the two photos that I sent Her Majesty. Where I am dressed as a Viking for a fancy dress event, I was representing one of the uses of the Fjord Horse back in its day. The other photo is of me visiting my beloved Fjord Horses, when I was recovering from breaking my back.



October 2016

One Hundred Years at the Royal Hotel

Nostalgia filled the air at the Royal Hotel on Sunday, November 9 when MHIG held a "birthday bash" to celebrate 100 years of the hotel building.

In the beer garden behind the hotel building, on a balmy Sunday afternoon, surrounded by the historic billiard room, the shed which would have housed horses, the morgue and the underground tank we listened to people tell stories about the hotel.

Les Smith related how his family built the new hotel building in 1914 which they later owned. Les' mother was one of the seven daughters of Mr and Mrs Gardiner who had the Railway Hotel in Meredith and the family are in the process of restoring graves of their relatives.

Doreen Vanstan recalled how the hotel ledger book recorded that the whole Mooney family and others stayed at the Royal on Christmas Eve in 1939.

December

According to Rita Beggs, the morgue was part of the outshed and that the door was always locked. She also told of the cupboard that drinks were served from After hours.

Lois Hoard remembered how they served a record 250 plus meals one night. She said they always cooked the steaks on the top of the wood stove and the chips were made at the hotel. Peter would peel potatoes when he was behind the bar.

Jack Connell laughed as he told how Ma Mooney supplied a bottle of whisky each week for the footballers but Uke Kerger, the trainer, often drank it before half time.

Brendan O'Loughlin remembered how Chris Mooney spoiled his nephews and nieces with chocolates and lemonade.

Although her family lived next door in the CRB house, Pat McCormack explained how she lived at the hotel when she worked for Ma Mooney.

As a child Denis Ryan was not allowed into the kitchen but the kids climbed up to the loft and had to look through a window into the kitchen.

Dirt Ditch to Soccer Pitch

Help Meredith Primary School Make it Happen

Stefania Parkinson (Council President)

A lot is happening at Meredith Primary School this year. Our front gate has had a face lift, we have a new mail box, our school oval is finally getting a well-deserved makeover, the old kinder cubby and fort have a new home in our playground, the two school rotundas are being refurbished, the senior playground has been painted and we have a new slide to install.

But even with all of this wonderful repair and upgrade, we feel our kids deserve more. We feel that the school community deserves more as well, and that's why after careful consideration and a lot of discussion we have decided to turn the dirt ditch at the front of the school near the CERT shed into a fabulous artificial turf soccer pitch. This will mean that kids of all ages, abilities and gender will be able to use this space not only for soccer but all sorts of sports and play. Artificial turf means that it will be able to be used all year round regardless of the weather.

However a project like this does not come cheap and we need to work very hard over the next twelve months to help fund this project and make it a reality. In addition to the current Cadbury fundraiser we have also set up a 'gofundme' site titled MPS - Dirt Ditch to Soccer Pitch. Anyone can access this site at gofundme.com/meredithps and make a donation. Every dollar counts and we would love as much community support for this project as possible. If you are able to assist Meredith Primary School is making this project a reality, we would be sincerely grateful. Donations can also be made directly to the school.

Meredith Primary School is a great place to be, but we want to make it even better by adding to the fabulous outdoor facilities we already have. We have great learning spaces but our goal now is to improve the school grounds and that means improving what we have by adding new facilities. So keep an eye out for upcoming school fundraising activities where all proceeds raised will go directly to the soccer pitch project.

Thank you for your support.

Brigade's New Shed

Chris Jones Captain, Meredith Rural Fire Brigade

The new shed nearing completion at the Meredith Fire Station has been made possible by public donations in special 'helmets' at the Corner Store and the Royal Hotel, proceeds from Fire Brigade members being on 24 hour duty at the Meredith Music Festivals, and a State Government Grant on a two for one basis.

Planning and construction of the shed by a contractor has been under the watchful eye of Lt Robert Cooke while other members used their own equipment to clear and level the site which has been leased from Golden Plains Shire on a long-term basis. Also, Tim Wood generously provided his time and equipment to trench and install drainage pipes plus conduit for power lines.

The shed will provide a storage area for the brigade trailer pumper and, in the future, additional fire-fighting equipment.

April 2016



Chris McKenzie's
Garden Notes

A Snip in Time

How satisfying it is to watch an artist at work; a person who knows their craft and loves practicing it. Recently as I stood washing up at the sink I watched a young fellow outside in the garden pruning a pear tree. My instructions to him were to shape the tree with a view to its form in a hundred years or so hence. I fancy this pear when it is covered in a swarm of gnarly tree throwing shade and standing as an ancient gnarly tree throwing shade and dripping with delicious juicy fruits for future generations whoever they may be. I visit such an old pear in the bush nearby, no doubt planted well over a hundred years ago by an early white settler craving gold. I also instructed my visiting garden artist to prune the tree in such a way that children may want to clamber up inside it and hide on a hot summer day, and eat pears and read a book as I used to around a hundred years ago.

It was satisfying to watch the pear tree take shape. I appreciated the way the pruner took some steps back to consider his handiwork from time to time, much as an artist stands away from the easel and thinks about the work. Then stepping forward again into the tree the pruner made several decisive cuts with the saw and the long-handled pruners. The pruned canes were later settled into a bucket of water where they continued to expend their energy and we were rewarded with thickly blossomed stems.

Of course the domestic garden is a construct and often a glorious one. These are gardens in which the artistry is subtle and they provide visitors and inhabitants with endless pleasure and produce.

But I want to pay tribute to my fellow columnist of In Our Nature, Wendy Cook, and the gardens she explores each month, those growing largely without the intervention of human artists.

I have spent hours in recent weeks crawling through the bush on all fours with my magnifying glass and ID book, on the hunt for the spectacular native orchids of the Brisbane Ranges. These creatures spring up in the most barren and unexpected places and their flowers tell an intricate and enthralling story of reproduction - allure and seduction. The artistry of the natural world cannot be beat.

When I am out in the bush I ask myself why I spend so much of my day groaning under the weight of the wheelbarrow filled with weeds, fretting about the late frost biting my green beans and the tips of persimmon tree when out in nature I experience the world entire.

Happy gardening.

Chris

November 2016

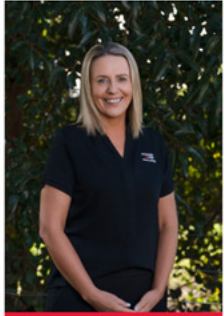
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50th Anniversary

1976 to 2026

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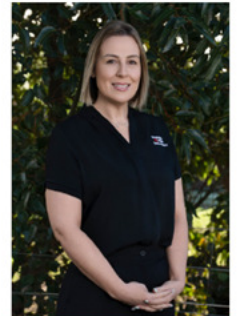
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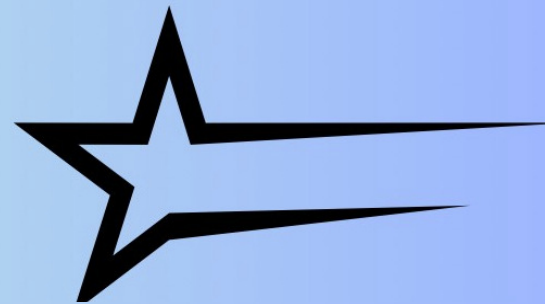
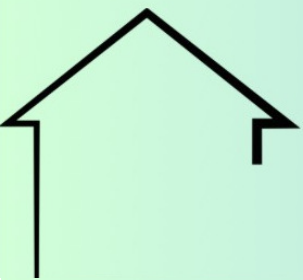
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G'day from the penners for September. We, at the group are getting very excited as the launch of our fourth anthology is drawing nearer. We hope that those of you that read and enjoy our stories each month will be able to pop into the Bannockburn library on the 10th October at 10am to share the official release of 'Between Fencelines'

Copies of the book will be available for purchase for the special launch price of only \$10 (cash only).

This month's story is from Wendy Spall, it is a bit of a riddle; see if you can work out who or what the main characters are. If you figure it out drop a line to our email goldenpens4@gmail.com

Cheers, Wendy.

KPI

Ferry woke earlier than usual; it was going to be a big day and he was nervous. He looked out at the sky to watch the sun rise, to feel it's first rays dance upon his skin, to calm him. All around him was quiet, even the birds had not risen yet, but he knew any moment now the song birds would start their morning carolling. He stood still, just waiting in anticipation for the first sweet trill.

As it came, he turned and walked away, good, all is well and as it should be, he thought. Now I can get on with my day. He draped a robe around his shoulders and waited for his servants to invade.

As his most trusted aid tiptoed into the room, he was surprised to see Ferry up and about and waiting for him.

'Sire, this is a surprise! Are you feeling well? You're not unwell, are you?' he scurried to his liege's side to check his forehead for fever.

'No no, I am fine, Jeckle. I just woke early, it is a big day today, is it not?'

'Oh yes, my lord, it surely is, the biggest we will see and have seen in many moons. But we are all so excited for you. Of course we are sad too, for the circumstance that has led to it.'

'Yes, Jeckle, my father will be honoured today as well, but it is my day and I intend to enjoy it as much as I can!'

'Good for you, sire. Are you ready for your breakfast now?'

'Yes, I am starving. '

Jeckle clapped his hands and a stream of folks began running in all directions to start Ferry's day.

As the morning wore on, people were coming and going with all sorts of tasks to be undertaken on this day. The royal hairdresser fussed over Ferry's hair, the shoemaker tut tuttered over the shine on Ferry's shoes, telling his people that more shine was needed, more beeswax must be applied and clean lambswool must be found to make them as shiny as a mirror. The regal tailor, as old as Methuselah himself was wheeled in, in his wheelchair, tape measures dripping

from his neck like a lion's mane to ensure Ferry's new suit was fitted to perfection on his tall lithe body, which of course, according to the tailor was the ideal specimen for all men of the time. Ferry just laughed, he was in reality quite short and dumpy, his legs were skinny but his arms were on the plumpish side. His neck was 'stout' and his head a trifle too small for his broad shoulders. Not really the type of body that anyone would aspire to, but Ferry didn't care, his mother and father had loved him as he was, and that was all that mattered in the long run.

Lunch arrived at that point and everyone took a break to imbibe in some sustenance, the day was half way through but there was still plenty to be going on with.

Ferry stood apart from the others during this break to catch his breath, and he remembered the events that occurred to put him in this situation in the first place.

His beloved father's illness. It was short and unexpected. His father, Ralph the third, had been a loving father to him and his 28 siblings, and Florence, his mother, had adored him from the moment they had met over at Flower Tree Gully fair, all those years ago. It had been a case of love at first sight and both families were happy to see them marry. When Ralph succeeded to the throne of the House of the Dahlia, everyone was happy, and it had remained so until Ralph got ill and died. Now Ferry, the eldest one, was to take the throne on this day. Yes, it was a great day for him, but he must acknowledge his father and mother today and he must call upon his brothers and sisters to take their roles also in his reign.

Finally, Ferry was ready. In his suit of gold coat, royal purple breeches, shoes that shone like a mirror, and his large brimmed hat with the golden peacock feathers swaying with every movement he made, he looked like a very royal being indeed.

As he walked up to the large ceremonial doors that would lead him into the most magnificent hall in the land, he mentally prepared himself for the onslaught of well wishes and the brevity of the occasion.

Ferry acknowledged everyone assisting him behind the closed doors and then nodded to the doormen to open them.

As the crowd that had gathered began to cheer and shout his name, Ferry stood up straighter than he had ever done, and an aura of kingly divinity appeared to surround him.

Yes, today is the day of King Phermone's Investiture.



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the Philatelist

Michael Riseley

SETENANT

Initially postage stamps followed a fairly simple design format. They were generally a portrait of the particular head of state or monarch and printed in a single colour with different colours used for different denominations. And normally much the same size stamp country to country. Backgrounds were often just a paler shade of the colour or in white which is not classified as a stamp colour in philately.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, philately became more inventive and stamps were issued much more frequently in different sizes and in multiple colours. Different designs were used such as landscapes, flora & fauna, and family groups. Events and historical anniversaries began being celebrated on stamps.

The Canada 1898 Xmas stamp was an example. It showed a map of the world with blue seas, white lands and black writing. Also an overlay in red to show the British Commonwealth countries which was a little bit higgledy piggledy with different printings and perhaps not always exactly GPS accurate!

But printing technology marched on leading to a virtual explosion of colour and design after WW11. Now stamps could be issued in multicolour with highly detailed and precise depictions of things such as flora & fauna, ships, planes, trains and landscapes. And as the world launched into space, philately followed and stamps showing space scenes became popular. In 1971 USA issued a set of 8 stamps called United States in Space. These were issued in a block of 8 in 2 lines of 4, one above the other. They were joined together to show one single panorama of space, a bit like a jigsaw puzzle. In philately this is known as Setenant printing which is a French term meaning holding or joined together. There are perforations between each stamp so they can be separated and used singly.

Then someone realised a story could be told with stamps. In 1980 Australia issued a set of 5 stamps in a strip showing different scenes and lines from Waltzing Matilda. And later issued strips of stamps showing scenes from The Sentimental Bloke, Click go the Shears, the Goldrush era and of course our Bicentenary. NZ has issued a block of 10 stamps, 5 on 5, showing various beach activities. And a block of 4 showing a woodland pond with birds flying above, ducks on the water, fish swimming and flowers and insects on the edges.

It is arguably true that Australia, NZ, USA and UK are among the leading exponents of philatelic setenant printing. However 2 things are true – setenant examples are quite pretty to look at and therefore desirable but also dashed awkward to collect because they don't easily fit into your stamp album!



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it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

Open Day:

In 2008 we heard a whisper that Meredith was to get a new Kindergarten which meant that they would shift out of the old Shire Hall. (They had been in the building since the late 1960's) Fay McFarlane and I initiated a public meeting and MHIG was formed.

We were both interested in history, both of us had started collecting historical material and we thought that the old Shire Hall was where the History Group should be.

We wandered around Meredith for 8 years until we moved the History Group into the Hall in 2016. Fay kept in contact with the Shire during all that time, so they well and truly knew that we wanted to occupy the old building. I remember before we moved in they asked Fay what colour carpet we wanted and she chose the green. How marvellous was it to have the building and cosy carpet.

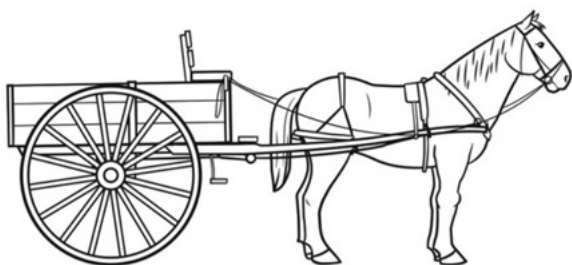
But soon after we moved in we were asked to vacate while the Shire repaired the cracks and painted throughout. Later in 2016 we once again set up in the old Shire Hall....again to our delight!

This Open day we celebrated 10 years of occupation. Thank you to the Golden Plains Shire for allowing MHIG to be here and for supporting us. A few weeks ago we invited the CEO of the Shire to visit us and see that we are an active group, that we do provide a valuable service and we do make good use of the building.

In 2016 we held a Welcome to the old Shire Hall event and at the last minute it was decided to buy a large carrot cake from Diane who had the bakery over the road at that time. From memory, it cost an enormous amount for a struggling group...but we ceremoniously cut the cake....and today we are replicating that event to celebrate 10 years.

Thank you to the Committee members for all the work they put in. I am not going to name people but about 20 folders have been created and a photo display on the computer that documents what MHIG has done from 2016 to today including Events, Annual Meetings, Open Days, Calendars, Books and Visitors. As well, displays of Steiglitz and Meredith photos have been created and shown on computer screens. These photos have been coloured using AI and are so much clearer. Other people decorated, tidied up, cleaned, re-organized, made scones and a delicious carrot cake.

Thank you to everyone who came to our 10th Anniversary and especially to Fay McFarlane who ceremoniously cut the cake.



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My Country

The love of field and coppice,
Of green and shaded lanes,
Of ordered woods and gardens,
Is running in your veins ;
Strong love of grey-blue distance,
Brown streams, and soft, dim skies -
I know, but cannot share it ;
My love is otherwise.

I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of rugged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains ;
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel sea,
Her beauty and her terror -
The wide brown land for me !

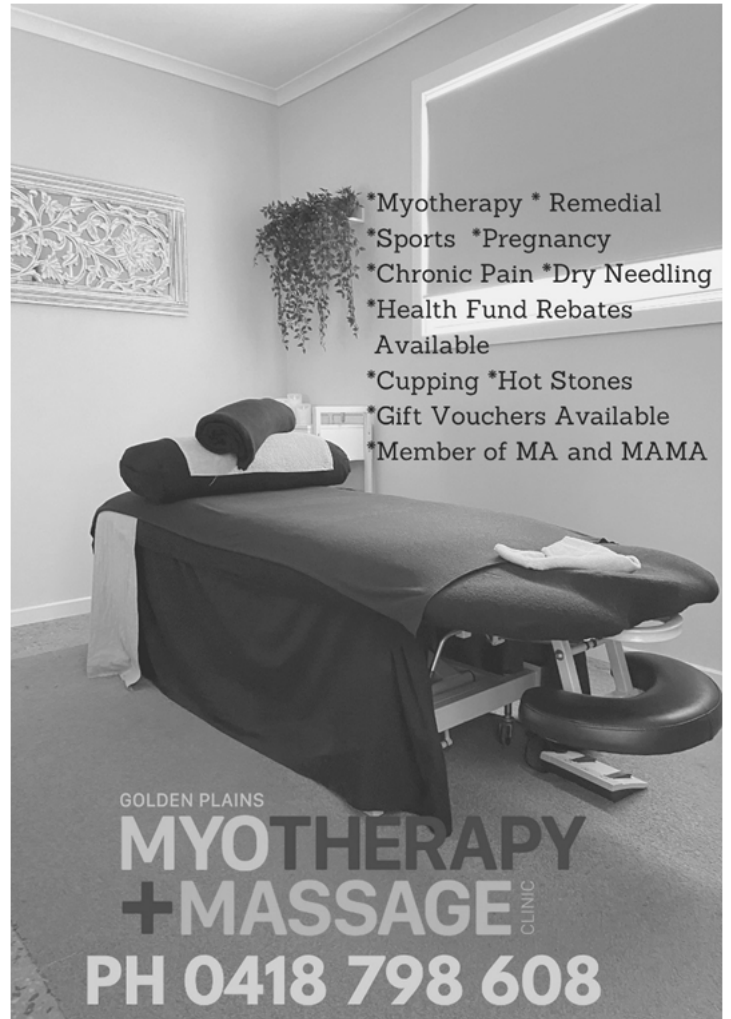
The stark, white ring-barked forests,
All tragic to the moon,
The sapphire misted mountains,
The hot, gold hush of noon ;
Green tangle of the brushes,
Where lithe lianas coil,
And orchards deck the tree tops,
And ferns the warm, dark soil.

Core of my heart my country,
Her pitiless blue sky,
When sick at heart, around us
We see the cattle die ;
But then the grey clouds gather,
And we can bless again
The drumming of an army,
The steady, soaking rain.

Core of my heart my country,
Land of the rainbow gold,
For flood and fire and famine,
She pays us back threefold.
Over the thirsty paddocks,
Watch, after many days,
The filmy veil of greenness
That thickens as we gaze.

An opal-hearted country,
A wilful, lavish land -
All you who have not loved her,
You will not understand -
Though earth holds many splendours,
Wherever I may die,
I know to what brown country
My homing thoughts will fly.

Source: Victorian Reader 6th book 1929, reprinted 1989
Poet: Dorothea Mackellar
Submitted by : Janene Schillier



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**SUN
13
SEPT**

10:00 AM
12:00 AM

Waterwatch - Be a scientist for a day!

Explore waterbugs with Friends of the Brisbane Ranges. Your findings will be shared with both the WaterWatch and National Waterbug Blitz programs, helping to protect our waterways.

**WED
16
SEPT**

7:30PM
9:00PM

Beneficial Bugs or Creepy Crawlies?

Join Associate Professor Philip Barton, entomologist and ecologist at Deakin University, at the **Brisbane Ranges Landcare meeting**. Explore the incredible world of insects, discover why these fascinating creatures are essential to our lives through pollination, decomposition and food webs.

**SUN
11
OCT**

10:00 AM
12:00 AM

Wildflower Walk - Friends of Brisbane Ranges

Take a leisurely guided walk through a wildflower haven at Steiglitz, immerse yourself in the region's vibrant wildflowers, enjoy a blend of history, natural beauty, and spring floral displays.

These events are supported by Mary MacKillop Today & in partnership with Anakie Community House. Bookings essential, contact the community house for more information or to book.



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Marg's BOOK REVIEW

An Ordinary Day by Leigh Sales.

To start Chapter One, Leigh Sales writes: *I'm not the only person to watch something awful on the news and think, That could have been me, But what is the actual chance that you or I could be swept up in a tragic event of the kind that makes headlines and permanently transforms our lives?*

So, in this book she takes a close look at the stories of a number of people who, like her, have been blindsided by what she refers to as the *poison darts of fate*. The non-fiction book is described as an investigation into how ordinary people face life's unexpected twists and turns. It is not a manual on how to grieve but an exploration of how individuals and society often approach grieving. She doesn't offer answers and she is certainly not converted to Christianity and she doesn't spruik platitudes.

She was prompted to think about the subject after two widely covered, deeply traumatic events that occurred in rapid succession in 2014: the death of cricketer Phillip Hughes and the Lindt Café siege in Sydney and the trauma she suffered when the birth of her second son went horribly wrong.

In her work as a journalist, she realized that the worst days, where the unthinkable happens usually start as an ordinary day.

Leigh Sales reveals a lot about herself in the book including her own experiences and actions. She admits that sometimes her interviewing style was inappropriate or too severe. She also considers the role that media plays in disasters. It's a difficult job for journalists who are under pressure to get clicks and views to satisfy the public appetite while respecting the victims.

For the book she interviewed Walter Milac who lost his wife and two daughters in the Port Arthur massacre, Stuart Diver who survived the Thredbo landslide but lost his wife in that disaster, Louisa Hope who survived the Lindt Café siege and James Scott who was lost in the Himalayan mountains for 43 days

The interviews are thought provoking but she also conducts research in an attempt to understand on how people deal with the unexpected. She draws from philosophy, mathematics, law, religion and psychology and considers faith, friendship and the importance of having a purpose.

The good news is that ordinary people do survive the unthinkable everyday and that most of us have buried reserves of resilience.

Book Launch!

Come and join us at the Bannockburn Library
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In which Australian states are these
coasts

1. Shipwreck
2. Limestone.
3. 90 Mile Beach.
4. Sapphire.
5. Whitehaven Beach.
6. In which country is the Amalfi Coast.
7. Which country was previously called the Gold Coast.
8. Which country has the longest coast-line in the world.

Answers

1. Vic. 2. South 3. Vic. 4. NSW. 5. Qld. 6. Italy.
7. Ghana. 8. Canada



NATURE

Wendy Cook

The young queen walked along the gallery, its wooden walls carved by her ancestors. This was the only home she had known, but now that she had reached maturity, it was time for her to venture into the wider world and make a new home for herself and her descendants. The gallery wound through the soft moist growth rings of a tall gum tree. The queen with her orange-brown skin, dark eyes, antennae, six legs and transparent wings twice as long as her body, joined many other new queen and king termites leaving this large colony, as they prepared for the only flight of their lives.

Outside, the air was warm, humid and still, providing ideal flying conditions. After leaving the tree, the swarm of insects was noticed by birds. A pair of grey fantails, singing to each other from branches higher in the tree, swooped silently. Each snapped at a termite and carried it to their nest. They returned several times, fetching an easy meal for their three growing chicks. Termites flew from the edge of the forest over a paddock. Welcome swallows glided through the group, expertly catching more. The queen continued, until her path was blocked by a wall. She landed and explored down and under the house. Here, she found wooden beams and stumps, but the wood was too dry to be of interest to her, although a few other species of termites would find it a good place to begin a new nest. She climbed upwards and took flight again, and soon found herself in a patch of wattles and stringybark eucalypts. She landed on a freshly fallen branch. The wood that had parted from the tree trunk was rotting and damp, just right for establishing a colony. She twisted her body, until her four wings, which she no longer needed, broke off at the weak points in their structure. She began producing scent to attract males. Her presence was noticed by a small lizard. He moved stealthily, but before he reached her, the first king termite landed in front of him and was quickly picked up and carried away. The next king was luckier, and after shedding his wings, the pair slipped into a crack in the rotting wood, two of the few survivors of the swarm.

Inside the log, food was easy to find. They ate wood, and bacteria in their guts broke it down into sugars which they could digest. They created a central chamber for the colony, where the queen laid her eggs. Together, they cared for the first young termites, feeding them and passing on the helpful gut bacteria as they groomed them. These nymphs, which looked like small adults, moulted several times, developing into either workers or soldiers, both blind and wingless. When there were sufficient workers, they took over the role of caring for eggs and young termites, the offspring of the queen and king, and also cared for the queen. They built the nest with its galleries and chambers, including the nursery. The environment inside the log was always humid, a necessity for the workers who could easily dehydrate and die. They kept the colony clear of fungi which the termites also ate. In the area surrounding the log, they built covered walkways, and foraged among the damp leaf litter, returning with pieces of bark, leaf and roots.

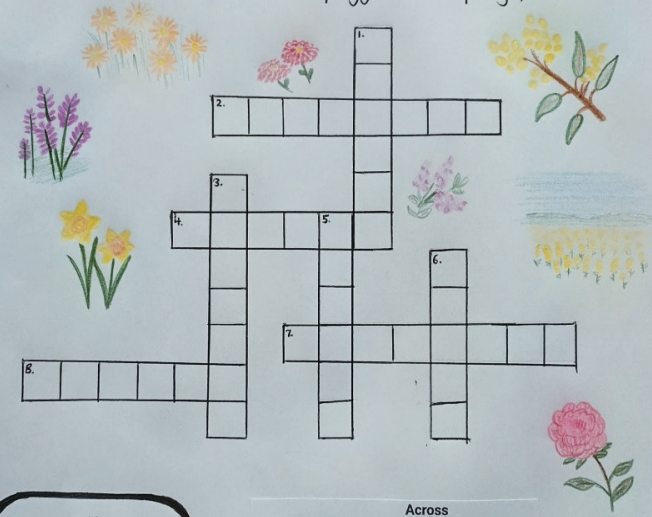
The soldiers were tougher than the workers and able to survive outside the nest for longer. When ants tried to raid the colony, the soldiers caught and crushed them with their large jaws. However, they were defenceless against an echidna, which broke open the log with its strong claws. Many were eaten, as its long tongue reached into the narrow galleries. When the echidna moved on, the workers quickly began repairs, blocking the ends of the damaged tunnels. The loss of so many soldiers had an impact in the nursery, as many replacement soldiers hatched from the eggs.

The echidna wasn't the only animal to appreciate the termite colony. As the termites ate away at the log, sections of it began to crack and fall apart. In these areas, small hollows formed, providing homes for spiders, lizards and small carnivorous mammals, such as agile antechinus. The debris from the log and colony enriched the soil, providing food for insects and fungi that lived among the leaf litter. They digested it further, until it became nutrients for surrounding plants, which then provided more food for the termites and others.

Some of this food was delivered by the workers to their queen, in the central chamber, where she continued to lay eggs. From these eggs, hatched a third type of termites, known as alates. These grew into the young queens and kings with wings, who waited for the right conditions for flying, and the opportunity to set forth and start a new colony of their own. Eventually, one of these alates would replace their queen, but only when she died after spending up to twenty years as the heart of the colony.

Jess and Asher's
Spring has Bloomed.

Use the words in the wordbank to fill in the crossword puzzle about spring flowers.



wordbank

canola
daffodil
lavender
wattle
peony
daisies
lilacs
zamia

Across

2. Has a sweet herbal scent with a purple flower
4. Fields are painted yellow with this flower
7. A yellow flower, also symbol of cancer council
8. Beautiful native tree with vibrant yellow flowers

Down

1. Colourful garden annual beginning with last letter of alphabet
3. A pretty white flower
5. Fragrant tree with purpose cone shaped flowers
6. A full layered large flower



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Mobile Office Drop-in Sessions - extended

We will be extending our Mobile Office sessions throughout 2026, providing additional opportunities for community members to meet with the project team, ask questions, and share feedback.

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 the September and October sessions.



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

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

Fried Food

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

Hamburgers

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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
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Iced Coffee | Iced Chai | Iced Chocolate
Iced Mocha

Alternative milks: Soy | Almond | Oat | Lactose Free

PHONE 03 5286 1556

Select option 4