

Meredith & district News



FEBRUARY 2025

OUR **FREE** COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



inside

- Vale community stalwarts, June & Neil Cameron
- The new Bin Routines.
- Our push for safer traffic conditions Meredith..

...and Much More!



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





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Bannockburn**



locals, helping locals - We've got what you need to get the job done



A small act makes a big impact.

We're changing recycling for the better.
Take a moment to update your knowledge



The rollout of new purple-lidded glass recycling bins in Golden Plains Shire is now complete and the service will begin in February 2025. This service is designed to help residents better manage their household recycling and support a more sustainable Victoria.

An important change with the addition of the glass recycling service is that glass is no longer accepted in the yellow-lidded mixed recycling bin. Glass will be seen as a contaminant if found in the recycling bin.

Only glass bottles and jars can be put into the glass recycling bin. Other types of household glass such as broken drinking glasses, glass cooking dishes, windows or broken lightbulbs must be put in the general waste bin. Please note that mirrors, crockery and ceramics can't be placed in the glass bin and will also need to be placed in the general waste bin. These items have different melting points and cause issues in the glass recycling process.

These bins are part of the Victorian Government's push to standardise recycling services and reduce landfill. By diverting recyclable items, the aim is to turn more materials into new bottles and jars and reduce waste and resources going to landfill.

To learn more, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au or scan the QR Code.

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, Sue Higgs, Nerida Anderson, Amy Medley, and Ian Leighton. Production is undertaken by Peter Boer, Don Atherton, Marlene Johnson 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
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

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advertising@meredithnews.com.au

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accounts@meredithnews.com.au

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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: Don Atherton Editor: Jim Elvey

connect

ADVANCE MEREDITH 0409 027 359	FOOTBALL Seniors 0408 545246 Juniors 0430 587 674
ANGLING CLUB 0419 248 660	GOLF CLUB 0407 795 342
B'BURN ART GROUP 0410 808 483	HISTORY GROUP 5286 8201
BLUE LIGHT DISCO 5286 1222	LANDCARE 0409 862 326
BOOK CLUB 5286 8201	MEMORIAL HALL 0409 662106
CFA 000 for fire calls Elaine 0419 767982 Meredith 5286 1502 Morrisons 0417 770 765	MEREDITH SEWING GROUP 0491 184 999
CHILDCARE 5286 0700	MOTORCYCLE CLUB 0437 009 250
COMMUNITY CENTRE 5286 0700	PLAYGROUP 5286 0700
CRICKET Elaine 0448 291074 Junior (U16,U14,13) 0448 291074 Meredith 5286 1434	POLICE PADDOCKS 0409 163169
CUBS & SCOUTS Lethbridge 0435 042077	RSL - 5286 1452
ELAINE HALL 53415575 0409861296	SENIOR CITIZENS 5286 8232
	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 a/h emergency Ranger	1300 363 036 0408 508 635 5220 7111 or 0409 830 223
Bannockburn Vet	5281 1221
Golden Plains Animal Pets and Horses 24/7	5281 2226 0421 617 238

Justices of the Peace

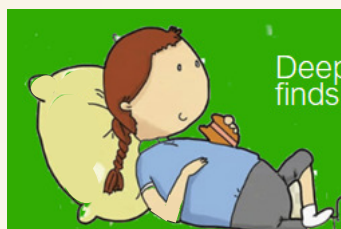
Mr Don Atherton.	0409 869 960
Mr Paul Ryan Elaine	0409 861 296

services

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

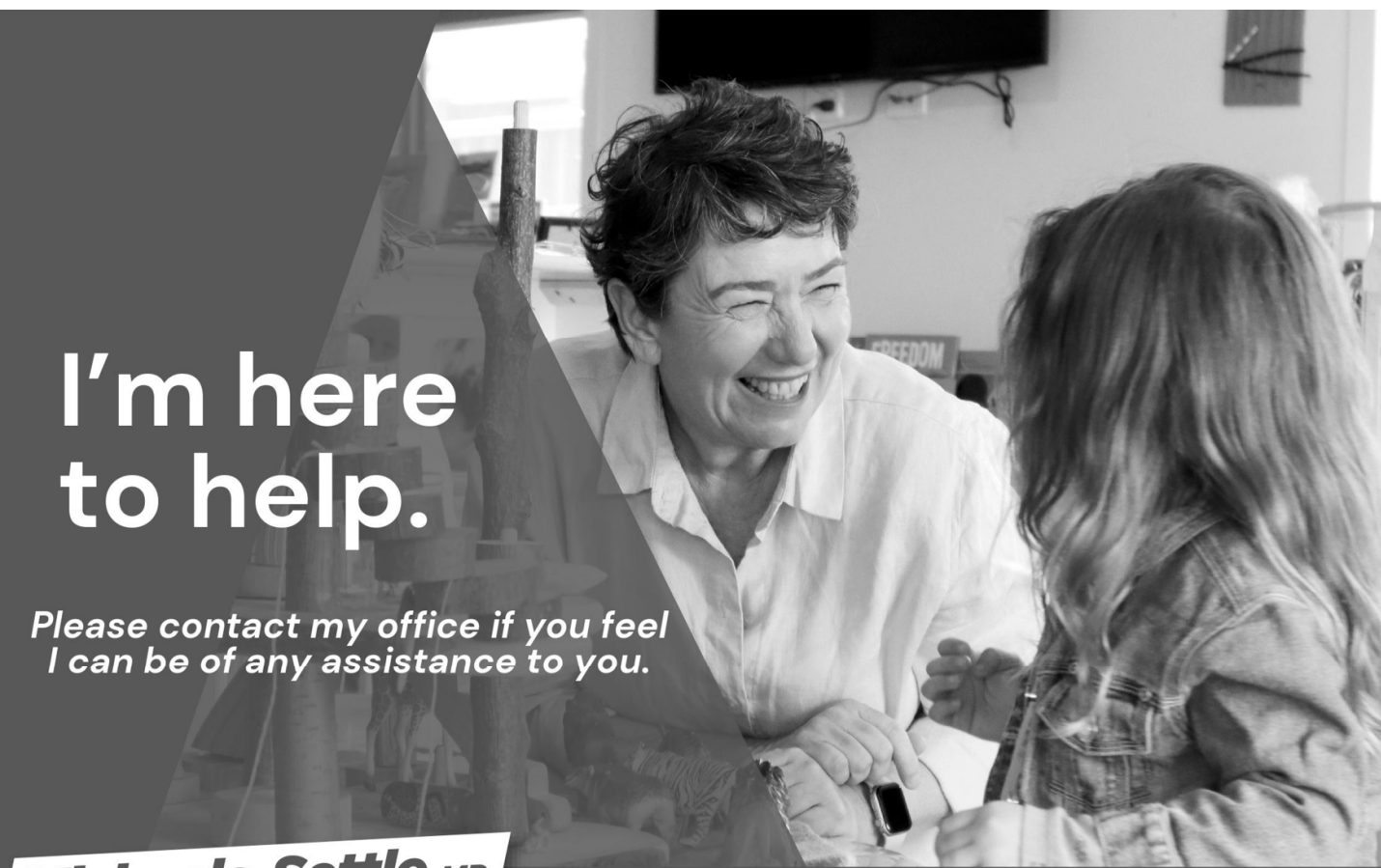
..or start something.

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



Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability.

-Sam Keen



I'm here to help.


Please contact my office if you feel I can be of any assistance to you.

Michaela Settle MP
Member for Eureka

 michaelasettle.com.au

 (03) 5331 7722

 michaela.settle@parliament.vic.gov.au

 MichaelaSettleMP



Meredith Community Centre
working for our community

What's On This Month



Term 1

Mindfulness with Jade

Kindergarten Kids - 5-26 March

Wednesdays at 2.10 - 2.40

Primary School Kids -

Wednesdays at 3.30 - 4.30

Goddess Mums & Kids

Thursdays at 2.10 - 3.10

\$15 per session, payable by Term

Chatty Cafe

February 18 - 11.30 - 1.30 Light Lunch

March 18 - 11.30 - 1.30 - Light Lunch

What is Chatty Cafe?

It is a program to help connect communities and increase social interactions by getting people chatting.

Everyone is welcome!



To Book:

learnlocal@meredithcommunitycentre.com.au

www.facebook.com/MeredithCommunityCentre

Ph. 5286 0700 / 0491 184 999

THE MEREDITH MART

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CHANGE OF HOURS

MON-TUES - 9-3

WED - 9-1

THU - CONCESSION CARD HOLDERS BY APPOINTMENT

DONATIONS ACCEPTED IN THE OFFICE



Tai Chi - \$15 per session

Tuesdays @ Meredith with Sandra - 9.15 - 10.15

Wednesdays @ Bannockburn with Desma - 9:30 - 10.30

Steady Feet @ Meredith

ON HOLD - SEEKING AN INSTRUCTOR!



Join us on

Facebook & Instagram

@meredithcommunitycentre



PLAYGROUP

THURSDAYS

9.00am - 11.30am

\$2 per family

Church News



Meredith Uniting Church

Services have recommenced. 11.00 am 2nd Sunday each month. Enquiries:

Rev. Paul Sanders 0407 833 515 5341 2440

Serbian Orthodox - 5341 5536

Daily services: Matins 8.00 am, Vespers 6.00 pm.

Divine Liturgies on Saturdays & Sundays 10.00 am.

Worship on Sundays in the Anglican Parish of Inverleigh+Bannockburn+Meredith:

8.00 am Holy Communion St Paul's, Inverleigh

10.00 am Family Communion. St John's, Bannockburn

5.00 pm Prayer and Praise Epiphany, Meredith

Find us at: www.goldenplainsanglican.org or

office.revdrtim@hotmail.com

The Revd Dr Timothy Smith

PiC Anglican Parish of

Inverleigh+Bannockburn+Meredith

St Josephs Parish of Meredith

CATHOLIC PARISH OF MEREDITH MASS TIMES –

Winchelsea - St. John the Baptist @ 6pm Sat. FEB. 1, 8, 15, 22

Anakie – St. Brigid @ 9am Sun. FEB. 2, 16

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

Bannockburn – St. Mary MacKillop @ 11am Sun. FEB.

World Day of Prayer 2025

focus country: the Cook Islands

Join our local one hour prayer service

UNITING CHURCH, MEREDITH

10.00 AM 7th MARCH 2025

OUR COVER



Mick Devlin's great aerial photo captures the school community, at the end of last year, gathered to celebrate the schools 150th anniversary and showing off their collective numeracy.



We need your local, or otherwise topical, photos. Even if they are not suitable for the cover, they often make good content, especially when we have some spare colour space.. Send them to news@meredithnews.com.au

We're looking for a new...

NEWSLETTER CO-EDITOR

Here's a chance to play a key role in one of the district's foremost community projects. If you can commit several hours every second month, use MS Word or Publisher, are a reliable, team player by nature and willing to learn, you could play an important and rewarding part of this highly successful operation. Email us at:

news@meredithnews.com.au

...or call Jim on 0409 163 169 to find out more.



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Sat. 8th March

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COFFEE

Small	Medium	Large
\$4.50	\$5.00	\$5.50
Cappuccino		
Latte		
Flat White		
Mocha		
Long Black		
Chai Latte		
Hot Chocolate		

Instant Coffee, Tea, Chai Tea \$3.50

Milkshakes \$9.50

Thickshakes \$12.50

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

Iced Coffee

Small \$6.50

Large \$8.50

Decaf \$0.50

Extra shot \$0.50

Alternative milks \$1.00

Soy | Almond | Oat | Lactose Free

TOASTIES

Bacon and Egg	\$6.50
Bacon and Egg Roll	\$8.00
Bacon, Egg and Cheese Muffin	\$7.50
Ham and Cheese	\$4.80
Ham, Cheese, Tomato	\$5.50
Bacon, Egg Breakfast	\$9.00



FRESH SANDWICHES

Ham and Cheese	\$4.50
Ham, Cheese, Tomato	\$4.70
Ham, Cheese, Pickle	\$4.50
Egg, Lettuce	\$4.80
Ham, Salad	\$7.50
Chicken Salad	\$8.00

FRESH ROLLS

Salad	\$8.20
Ham, Salad	\$8.50
Chicken Salad	\$8.70

OPENING HOURS

Monday	6am to 7pm
Tuesday	6am to 7pm
Wednesday	6am to 7pm
Thursday	6am to 7pm
Friday	6am to 7:30pm
Saturday	7am to 7:30pm
Sunday	8am to 7pm

PHONE 03 5286 1556

Select option 4

26 Wallace St Meredith

Mortimer's
Petroleum



MEREDITH ROADHOUSE

Take-Away Menu

Fish and Chips



Friday and Saturday
Nights

HAMBURGERS

Cheese Burger	\$11.50
<small>Double Cheese, Sauce, Pickles</small>	
Plain Burger	\$11.50
<small>Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato Sauce</small>	
Hamburger with the Lot	\$13.50
<small>Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato, Bacon, Egg, Onion, Sauce</small>	
Steak Sandwich	\$15.80
<small>Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato, Bacon, Egg, Onion, Sauce</small>	
Chicken Schnitzel Burger	\$10.80
<small>Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato, Mayo</small>	
Chicken Chili Wrap	\$13.50
<small>Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato, Sweet Chili Sauce</small>	
Veggie Burger	\$7.50
<small>Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato, Sauce</small>	

EXTRAS
Beetroot, Pineapple \$1.00



FRIED FOOD

Hot Chips- Bucket	\$3.00
Small Bag	\$4.60
Large Bag	\$7.20
Flake Battered	\$9.00
Fish Battered	\$4.00
Squid Rings	\$0.90
Crab Stick	\$1.20
Battered Sav	\$4.00
Battered Burger	\$4.60
Chicko Roll	\$3.00
Spring Roll	\$3.00
Mini Spring Roll	\$1.60
Dim Sims- Steamed/Fried	\$1.20
Chicken or Pork Dim Sims	\$2.00
Potato Cakes	\$1.40
Chicken Wing Dings	\$2.20
Chicken Garlic Balls	\$1.60
Chicken Strips	\$2.20
Kransky	\$3.50
Hot Jam Donuts	\$1.20
Chips and Gravy	
Small	\$6.50
Large	\$10.00
Cheese	+\$1.50

Recreation



Meredith Cricket Club

Sam Vaartjes

Junior Report (Meredith Lambs):

Our junior program is flying along. The under 11's "Lambs" are continuing to improve week on week, and we couldn't be more pleased with the way these kids are playing and enjoying their cricket. After a break for school holidays, the Lambs resumed their season on the 31st of January vs Teesdale. We continue to thank the committed parents and volunteers that help out on a weekly basis. Any children interested in coming along and joining the fun, please feel free to contact the club via Facebook or drop into training on a Thursday afternoon from 4:30 to 5:30.

Senior Report (Meredith Rams):

Both our senior teams are well in the fight for finals, with the 1st XI sitting in 2nd place, half a game behind ladder leaders Little River. With recent wins over St. Albans, Teesdale and Lethbridge, we've opened up a 3 game gap to 3rd, giving us a massive opportunity to clinch a top 2 chance. While our 2nd XI is sitting in 6th place, only 1 game behind the finals positions, with a gutsy win against Teesdale, putting us right in the hunt for finals.

Also, Meredith also competed in the Geelong-wide T20 competition, specifically the GCA3/4 competition. We went through the group stage, late last year, undefeated, and won the semi-final against Newcomb. We arrived on Australia Day to play the GF against historic rivals Bannockburn, and went on to be 2024/25 T20 Premiers. Below is the match summary:

At the picturesque Queen's Park, we elected to bat first. The dangerous Harli Givvens was dismissed early after a ball stayed low, with him edging through to the keeper. A gutsy partnership then followed with Jai and Dittloff putting on 96, with Dittloff posting a destructive 50. Aaron then came, and blasted a quick fire 34, as Bannockburn took some late wickets to keep the score to 169 after 20 overs. Top scored by Dittloff (78), Jai (36), and Aaron (34).

The Bannockburn openers started quickly, putting on 70 in the first 7 overs, before some great fielding broke the partnership. Some good spin bowling in the middle overs slowed their run-rate. As the required run rate increased, wickets began to tumble, as Bannockburn tried to get themselves back in the contest, but with Joel (3-24) and Tyler (2-21), bowling well it was too big a task, with Bannockburn finishing 9/154, as we won the club's first piece of silverware since 2016/17. Huge congratulations to Bannockburn for making the GF, you were quality opposition and we wish you the best for the rest of the season. Thank you to all the supporters that came out, you made it a great atmosphere.

Social Report:

Coming up in our social calendar, we have Ladies Day and Reverse Raffle on the 22nd of February. For more details, please head to our Facebook or Instagram page.



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Anthony Durran 0409 524438

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Brisbane Ranges sketchers

Kerry Thomson

Tuesday December 12th, 2024 provided perfect weather for en plein air (outdoor) artistic endeavours for our group. Mandy and Alex kindly offered the gardens and bushland of their home in She Oaks as the venue for our final session for the year. The varied landscapes, and some still life arrangements set up on an outside table, provided a range of stimulus and inspiration for all 14 of us who were able to attend. We also welcomed Clair (Mark's daughter) as a visitor.

As usual, we all made our individual responses in various mediums ranging from Sam's expressive oil paintings to Ros, Marita, Jan, Gil, Mandy and Alex's more tonal and subtle watercolour or acrylic paintings. Deidre and Peter T's dramatic charcoal pictures contrasted with both Kerry's use of coloured pencil and Sally, Mark and Clair's delicate grey lead pencil sketches. Ray produced a colourful panorama and Peter H a vividly coloured depiction of the tractor! It never ceases to surprise how differently each person engages with, and responds to, the subject matter available. It is also wonderful to discuss and explore these responses and have constructive encouragement, comment and critiques in such a friendly, cheerful group. It's also impressive to witness people developing different skills, trying new approaches, becoming more confident and basically, just having a good time (despite the occasional screwed up picture or frustrated sigh!). We also get to stop, savour and enjoy places we may never have been able to visit before.

We celebrated the end of our third year with a bbq, stories and laughter, food brought along to share and a KK where we swapped either a painting or gift. It was a unanimous decision to continue into 2025 with our first outing to be on the 11th February (second Tuesday).

2025: 11th Feb (second Tuesday 10 am until 12.30.....

Meet at the Meredith Community Centre at 9.55am (venue to be decided) byo - artistic materials, chair, weather appropriate clothing (hat, sunscreen), cuppa for after (new people welcome - no experience necessary :-)



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Landcare News

Maude Meredith and Districts
Landcare Group

What's on in early 2025 ?

We start the year with two community projects, one a new initiative while the other is an annual project of longstanding .For the first time our group will participate in the national Clean Up Australia Day campaign, this will take place as well as the group's annual rabbit baiting campaign.

Clean Up Australia Day Sunday 2 March 2025

This year is the 35th anniversary of the campaign which takes place on the first Sunday in March. Our group has identified the former Meredith municipal tip site as an appropriate location. The site is located in State Forest on the northern side of the Meredith Steiglitz Road (before Davies Road), only a short distance from Meredith.

Although the tip site was capped many years ago, unfortunately it has become a dumping ground for rubbish of all types, adversely impacting what should be a delightful part of our local bushland.

Members of the community are invited to attend the event which has been generously supported by the Golden Plains Shire Council, including the provision of a skip and rubbish bags and the waiving of tip fees. Why not come along and join with other like minded volunteers and learn something of our local bush and Landcare at the same time ?

Volunteers attending will be requested to complete a registration form and children are welcome. A light morning tea will be provided.

Volunteers need only provide a pair of gloves and sensible clothing and footwear.

Cleaning up will start at 10.00 am and conclude by 12 noon. Signs will be erected on the day. Any queries please email maudemeredithlandcare@gmail.com

Rabbit baiting February-March 2025

Now is the time to start preparing for the group's annual rabbit baiting program. With the existing dry conditions and a rapid increase in rabbit numbers in our area there has never been a better time to participate in the program, especially if your neighbours join in. We all know rabbits do not respect title boundaries nor do they care how big your property is.

Details of the program were extensively covered in the December edition of the Meredith and District News (available online) but a reminder that all orders for poisoned carrots must be in by **Friday 21 February 2025**. More information about the program as well as a link to the online ordering form is available on the Maude Meredith and Districts Landcare Facebook page.



A local community event run by the Woody Yaloak Historical Society with support from the Scarsdale Men's Shed and the Mt. Mercer Wind Farm. This event is part of the Forage & Feast program.

Picnic on Nimons Bridge

Sunday 16th February 2025

Join us on an exciting bus trip around the area

- 10.00 am Courthouse Hotel, Smythesdale
- 11.00 am Bus to Linton Hotel - complimentary drink and canapes
- 12 noon Bus to Picnic on Nimons Bridge - 2 complimentary drinks and picnic lunch
- 3 pm Bus to Courthouse Hotel, Smythesdale - complimentary drink, live music.

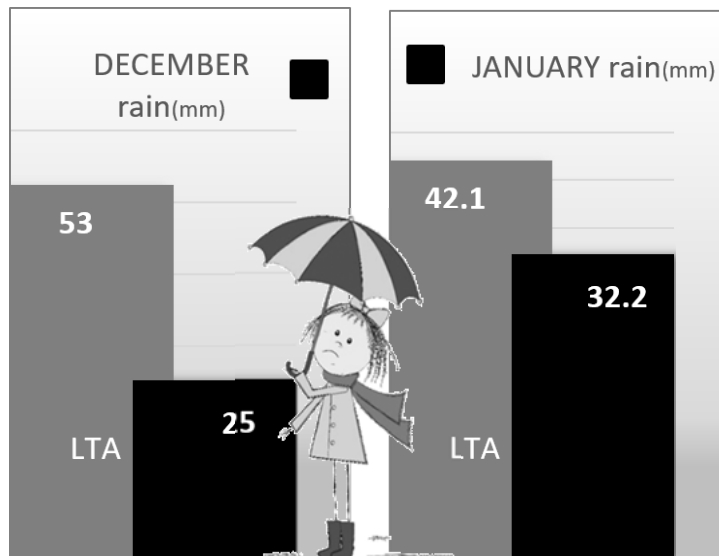
TICKETS \$110 PP
LIMITED NUMBERS

TicketSearch

For more details contact
Lin on 0448 527 123

the rain report

That 25mm for December looks pretty poor, but it is in fact a lot worse. We mentioned in our last Rain Report how BOM's 9.00 am "end-of-day" readings robbed November of rain that fell on the 30th, after 9.00 am and was treated as December rain. That amounted to 19mm, so only 6mm really did fall in December. A donation to a needy cause?





Major Renovations and Upgrade from Monday 3rd of Feb Pumps will be closed for 4 to 6 weeks

There will be brand new pumps and canopy installed and we plan to keep the LPG, but in a new location

- The Shop Will Remain Open through the whole process
- Phone orders for Food are still welcome all day every day, and all other products, milk and snacks will be available.
- We will still be taking all Gas bottle orders
- Account customers can use their account at the Batesford Roadhouse just down the road towards Geelong

Thank you for your patience during this exciting and challenging time.

Rebecca

We're Still Open...

Phone 5286 1556

Mon to Fri 6am to 7pm
Sat 7am to 7.00pm
Sun 8am to 7.00pm



**BANNOCKBURN & DISTRICT
GRANTS**

B&DG is a community company established for the benefit of every not for profit organisation based in our local area. We receive dividends from the Bendigo Bank and distribute these funds via grants and sponsorships into the community.

We have 4 Grant Rounds every year.

March, May, August & November.

For further information:

Website: bannockburndistrictgrants.com.au
Bendigo Bank: 5281 1990
Email: 19118@bendigoadelaide.com.au

**GOLDEN PLAINS
MUSIC FESTIVAL
TICKET ALLOCATION
FOR LOCALS**



The upcoming Golden Plains Music Festival is now sold out.

There is, however, an allocation of tickets available on a first-come first-served basis for locals living between Elaine and Lethbridge. Tickets can be purchased from the Meredith Roadhouse (26 Wallace Street) from 10am on the 12th of February until sold out. 4 per person limit.

Please bring proof of residential address (Meredith, Cargerie, Elaine, She Oaks, Mount Mercer or Lethbridge address). Card sales only.

Golden Plains XVII will be held from the 8th to the 10th of March, 2025, at the Meredith Supernatural Amphitheatre.

If you have any questions, please contact Aunty Meredith via auntym@mmf.com.au.

Thanks very much.

Around and About at School

The end of the school year always brings a few extra celebrations and events, however last year we had the special 150th anniversary of the school. Friday 13th December arrived and everyone was looking forward to an afternoon and evening of remembering the school over the years, bringing together past and current students, teachers and parents and joining in the dancing fun. There were entertaining and moving accounts of the school from former principals, a past pupil and regional staff, and our current principal Lachlan Day and School Council President Meg Devlin. Everyone mingled in the bluestone building, the original room for all grades, enjoying the various slide shows put together by the Meredith History Interest Group. You might like to have a look at the school Facebook page for many photos including some of the giant 150 made by all attendees on the oval and photographed from a drone.

Grade 6 graduation

December is also the month where we say goodbye to our grade six students, and they reflect on their school years and celebrate a new beginning as they prepare for secondary school in 2025. They have a special day out and also a dinner with their parents and teachers. During the evening, awards are presented and the 2024 awards were as follows:

- The All Rounder Award - Kealeigh
- The School Values Award - Charlie
- The School Spirit Award - Elsa
- The Outstanding School Wide Positive Behaviour Awards - Jacob and Jensen
- The School Community Award was presented to parents Meg and Mick Devlin

The 2024 Grade 6 students were small in number however, along with their parents, have been a treasured part of the school community.

New student leaders

Our new student leaders have been announced for 2025. School Captains Nevaeh and Harry, and Vice Captains Maddy and Dacian will lead with care and pride throughout the year. Look out for their reports in future Newsletters.

In the Garden

One of our Prep students brought along a bag of sunflower seeds they had saved. All the Preps were able to pot up a seed and take it home once it had sprouted. There were also enough to sow some in one of our school garden beds and even in the few short weeks before sowing and school finishing, they were very tall. We are excited to see how they have grown over the holidays and the Preps have predicted they will be taller than them.

Elsewhere in the garden, some of the senior students dug over a bed and planted bush tucker plants. They put in Midyim Berries, Wild Currant and one mysteriously called Blue Tongue! This will be part of a larger project the grade 6 students are undertaking this year, researching the plants and their growing conditions, including water and soil requirements and growth habits.

Many thanks to our school families who look after the gardens and also our chooks over the holidays. They generously give their time while everyone is away. This is particularly important as we have had some scorching days this summer and the chooks need a continuous supply of fresh water and feed, and some company too.

When this edition of the Newsletter arrives school will be back in full swing for the new year with keen students and some fresh faces ready to begin their journey at Meredith Primary School. We look forward to a very happy 2025.

Below, Charlie and Kealeigh with principal Lachlan Day, and bottom, grade six graduates, Charlie, Elsa, Kealeigh, Jensen & Jacob with their teacher, Fairlie Pritchard.





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Inverleigh resident and Funeral Director, Ebony Hovey can assist you with your enquiries and funeral care needs.

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the Philatelist



Michael Riseley

ENVELOPES

How do you use a postage stamp? Answer is, you put it on an envelope and post it. OK, then what happens to the envelope when it is received? Answer is, it is opened (sometimes roughly), contents taken out and envelope is discarded. But why? The envelope may be collectable.

We need to look back in time. Many moons ago the mail was postmarked at the local post office. This potentially brings an aspect to the hobby of collecting envelopes which is rarity. What if the post office became a closed post office. There are many of them. A collection of envelopes bearing a clear postmark date of the last day of operation of a post office would be quite interesting.

An envelope collector might be looking for envelopes showing a clear postmark of an unusual place. Think perhaps Mawson Base in Antarctica. Or perhaps the world's only underwater post office in Vanuatu. And yes this is for the scuba diving tourist but is a fully functioning post office. Or the world's only floating post office in Detroit USA; or the highest at Hikim in India; or the smallest at Ochopee in Florida USA.

Some collections might be of envelopes addressed to famous people both before and after they became famous. Or perhaps unusual addresses. A check of the Melways shows 5 Downing Streets in Melbourne. Apparently there are 19 Downing Streets in the UK. Imagine a little collection of envelopes addressed to 10 Downing Street.

A collection with great historical interest but perhaps also tinged with sadness would be a collection of envelopes from and to prisoners of war. Many would show various censors stamps and might include postmarks of different military bases as the envelope tried to catch up with the soldier.

Australia Post often issued specially printed commemorative envelopes to match with a new issue stamp. It also released First Day Covers which are stamped envelopes postmarked on the day of issue of the stamp. They are very popular but generally not of great value because so many were issued. One of the more amusing First Day Covers was in 1981 for the issue of a stamp showing a frog. It was launched at the Melbourne suburban post office of Hoppers Crossing.

A Delightful Visitor

Marg Cooper

On Thursday December 12, just as the volunteers at MHIG were about to sit around the table to start eating their lunch, in wandered Jason. We welcomed him and invited him to join us for lunch.

When offered food he told us that he is a nomadic Buddhist monk and one of the rules of his order is that they only eat between dawn and the solar noon. He had five minutes so he politely ate a little of what we gave him and then stopped, as time had run out.

Jason is of Chinese descent, was born in Sydney and because of filial duty he obtained a double degree at Sydney University before adopting the life of a Buddhist monk. He has lived in Sri Lanka where he hopes, in the future to train new monks in the ways of the ancient order that he follows, Early Theravada.

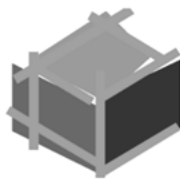
Many years ago he decided to test his faith and walked from the Gold Coast to Townsville, barefoot. On this trip he was walking from Hepburn Springs to Geelong via Lara. The night previous to his visit to MHIG he had visited the priests at the Serbian Greek Orthodox Church at Elaine and had slept, at their invitation, in their Cemetery. He told us that for years he had walked in bare feet but for the last 5 years he had worn sandals or thongs.

He wore orange/brown robes and carried a minimum of gear that included a bowl, a sleeping bag, a spare robe and an umbrella. MHIG volunteers kindly gave him honey and butter which he can eat at any time as they are considered to be medicinal and a picnic rug. He did have a smartphone (but no Sim card) and markable E-ink reader both of which were given to him by supporters.

He sat with us while we ate our lunch and for some time after and very eloquently told us about his life and why he has chosen to live the way he does. We were enthralled! He was a charming, attractive young man with a total dedication to his way of life.

He told us that he was searching for a state of enlightenment where a person's desires and suffering come to a complete cessation. Meditation and mutual support with lay people are important parts of the beliefs of the order. So, lay people support monks with food, medicines, cloth for robes etc as the receipt and handling of money is forbidden by the monk's code. The monks give spiritual support, blessings and teachings in return.

It seems relevant that he visited MHIG close to Christmas. He gave us a sense of peace, a lot of philosophy to muse over and a lesson in materialism. Thank you Jason Chan.



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Vale to June and Neil Cameron

17/6/1934 – 25/12/2024, 4/12/1928 – 24/12/2024.

Marg Cooper

A funeral service was held at Buninyong Uniting Church on Friday, January 3 for June and Neil who died in their home, just 12 hours apart.

June had been diagnosed with cancer soon after her 90th birthday and Neil had been slowly declining in health.

A beautiful service was conducted by Rev Paul Sanders, hymns had been chosen by June, readings had been chosen by Neil, their daughter Kate spoke about June's life and values and their son, Sandy read a eulogy about Neil's life.

June grew up in Melbourne. Her father, Sir William Upjohn, was a distinguished surgeon and later, Chancellor of Melbourne University. After her schooling at Lauriston Girls School, she enrolled in an Arts Degree at the University of Melbourne, but transferred to study physiotherapy. In her words, *"then I got married and that was that for a bit!"*

She met Neil Cameron at a pre wedding party, on the third proposal she finally said, *"I don't see why not"* and they married in March 1957.

Moving from Toorak to the farm, *"Glenspean"* at Meredith, being newly married, immediately pregnant and with her mother-in-law still in residence, must have been challenging. She also had never learnt to cook.



June made a conscious choice not to be too involved with the farm so not to upset the farmhands and the partnership with Neil's brother John. After the birth of four of her five children, she went back to work at the Spastic Centre in Geelong (as it was called at the time) and worked with children with disabilities, for the next 30 years.

June served on the Board of Scope (the new name for the Centre) after she retired. She was on the Geelong College Council, friend of the Australian Ballet, Meredith Community House, CWA, Landcare, water watch, Red Cross and many more organisations. She also loved the theatre and she loved to sing. She and her great friend Mary Nolan sang together a lot and in later years she sang in several choirs.

Everything June did was done with gusto. Whether it was a day in the garden or throwing a party, she always did wholeheartedly and with pace.

As she faced her own terrible diagnosis, she was brave and accepting and said, *"I've had a wonderful life and I have a wonderful family."*

June and Neil used to joke that they were completely incompatible, but through it all they were devoted to each other. How fitting that after almost 68 years of marriage they slipped away peacefully within hours of each other at Christmas, a time they both loved.

Neil was the son of two powerful personalities who, in his youth, were busy developing a heavily indebted farm during the depression years, while also participating in numerous community activities.

He began school aged 8 when Woodburn Creek School was opened. He was physically weak, poor at sport and often bullied but his intelligence showed in his final years at Geelong College and he was accepted to the University of Melbourne to study Agricultural Science

Neil returned to the farm in 1952, managing it with his brother John while his parents, finally out of debt due to the wool boom, embarked on a world trip. His father died on that trip, so Neil stayed on the farm in partnership with his brother for over 40 years, until the next generation began farming.

He was always interested in new innovations and agriculture for its own sake, rather than wealth and was involved in several research projects on the farm during his tenure.

Religion was not important to Neil's parents and in his childhood, but in the 1950's after being invited by Jill Bolte to a church event, he made an unusually large commitment to support the church and from then in his words, *"everything became alright"*. Neil tried to convey his beliefs to others and even attempted to write a book on the subject but never completed it.

The final making of Neil Cameron was meeting and marrying June Upjohn in 1957. They had a respectful and loving marriage for 67 years and were still caring for each other on their final days.

Neil worked regular hours, rarely finished work after 5.30 pm, almost never worked at weekends and was always happy to knock off work for a family or community commitment. Sundays were for church.

His community activities ranged from Community Aid Abroad, the Elaine/Meredith Youth Group, CFA, 33 years as Shire Councillor, Geelong College Council, Woodburn School Council, Meredith Hall Committee, Prison Fellowship and numerous church committees.

Neil cared for the environment at a local and global level. He and brother John were early adopters of planting trees, and he was especially proud of his role in developing Pioneer Park in Meredith. He also loved to sail. Neil and John sailed together for 70 years, 50 of them in *"Manana"*, a modest 18-foot wooden boat that gave pleasure to three generations of Camerons.

Neil and June were true Meredith identities. They contributed and cared for their local and wider community in many ways and will be sadly missed.



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We have members from Geelong, Anakie, Stieglitz, Inverleigh, Lethbridge, Teesdale & of course Bannockburn.

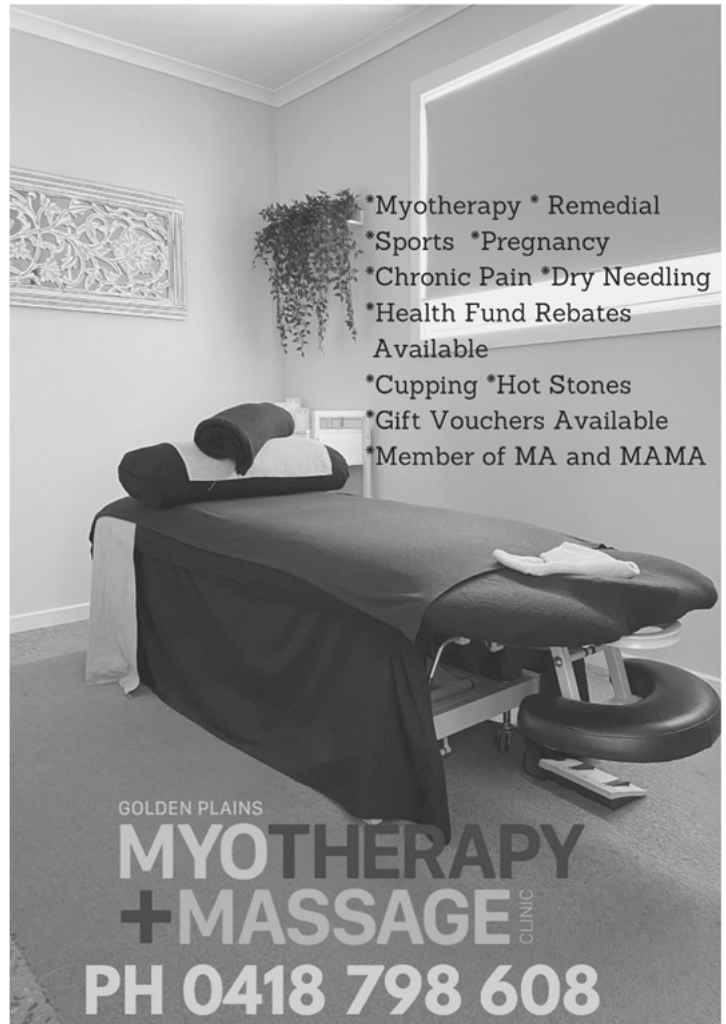
While we have a comprehensive workshop with modern wood & metal working machinery under constant use by members, some blokes simply like to come in for a cuppa & yarn & perhaps a game of pool.

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in our NATURE

Wendy Cook

It is a very hot day after a long dry spell. Everything is thirsty - plants, people, animals and birds. Outside my window is a small deciduous tree, its branches intermingled with the wisteria which grows along the veranda. In a shady place beside its trunk is a large pot plant base, filled with water. Sturdy sticks lie across its surface, providing perches for birds and escape routes for anything that falls into this bowl. Birds use it all year round, as a place to drink, bathe and sometimes capture floating insects. Groups of New Holland honeyeaters, with black, white and yellow plumage, hold rowdy bathing parties, splashing water over themselves and their surrounds. As each bird finishes, it flies to the upper branches of the tree, or into the Irish strawberry bush beside it, which also contributes to the cool, shaded environment. Here is the place to perch, fluff up the feathers, give them a good shake, then use the beak to preen them, ensuring everything is properly in place, ready for the next flight. Then there will be a period of peace before the next visitor.

Today, things are different. Several birds want to enjoy this cool place and a drink. As I look outside, a bird is waiting its turn. Perched on a twig growing from the tree's trunk is a grey fantail, a small grey bird with a long tail, that it can spread into the shape of a fan. Usually a fidgety bird, this one is almost still. Drinking from the bowl below is a bluetongue, head down to the water, but regularly stretching its neck upwards, looking around, wary of predators. Then head down, quenching its thirst. Eventually, the fantail becomes restless. When its patience runs out, it leaves, and so do I.

I return later, and the scene has changed. A bird with olive plumage is drinking. Its head is black and grey with a white patch on each side, giving it the name white-eared honeyeater. A red and blue crimson rosella waits in the Irish strawberry. When the bowl is vacant, a yellow-faced honeyeater flies in. It is a brown bird with black and yellow stripes below each eye. A white-browed scrubwren, a small chubby brown bird with white eyebrows and moustache, hops through fallen leaves, towards its chance of a drink. Before it arrives, the white-eared honeyeater returns. The two birds retreat as this larger bird lands on the rim of the bowl for another drink. When it has left, the crimson rosella sees its opportunity. It perches on the tree's trunk, clinging to the rough bark. Feeling safe, it spreads its wings and lands on a stick across the bowl. It drinks, looking around between each mouthful. A collection of small plants in pots shelter in the shade beneath the tree. They are watered regularly, allowing grass to grow between them. The rosella hops across the pots, picking and eating seeds from the grasses. As it moves away, the tip of its tail still over the bowl, the scrubwren lands on the opposite rim. The yellow-faced honeyeater joins it, the two birds sharing this precious resource.

Although the birds at my water bowl are usually cooperative, interactions at bird baths are not always so

friendly. A friend has several water bowls near her house which has more open habitat around it. Among her regular visitors are red wattlebirds, slightly smaller than rosellas, with grey streaky feathers and an aggressive attitude. They often bully smaller birds wanting a drink, but she has noticed that in very hot weather, even the wattlebirds are willing to share.

Red wattlebirds rarely come to the part of my garden with the water bowl. They prefer more open spaces, and bathe in a nearby dam. The birds that visit my bowl are those that feel safe hiding in bushes. To attract wattlebirds, galahs and magpies, I would need to place a water bowl in a part of the garden that they usually visit, where there is a gum tree and open space. Positioning of a water bowl or bird bath requires consideration. It needs to be in a shady spot, and for larger birds, a clear path to fly in and out is important. In a garden with cats, water for birds is best placed above the ground, which may be in a traditional bird bath, or in a bowl hanging from a tree branch. On a bush block, native animals such as bluetongues, echidnas, wallabies, kangaroos, possums and even koalas may be looking for a drink, and will require a bowl on the ground. It is always good to place a rock or a stick in the bowl, so that small birds and animals have an escape route and do not drown. Especially in hot weather, bowls need to be filled regularly and cleaned if necessary. Usually, water and scrubbing will do the job, without the need for chemicals which may be harmful to birds and other animals.

It is easy to monitor water levels in hot weather, if you can see the bowl from indoors. Approach slowly, as movement may startle birds and animals, and cause them to fly away. I walk towards my window cautiously, to see what is happening now. There are two crimson rosellas close to the bowl, but these are young birds with mostly green feathers, and some red showing on their heads. I have seen them in the garden regularly, and think that they are siblings, hatched within the last few months. They approach the bowl with less wariness than an adult bird. One perches on a stick and drinks. The other, with its beak, gently tugs on the end of its tail. When the first bird moves, the second takes its place. The first bird tries to return for another drink, but each time, its sibling half raises its wings or moves its head forwards aggressively. As I watch their disagreement, I know that they are fortunate to have a safe place to drink and squabble, and that I am fortunate to see them, right outside my window.

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Council's New Director

from Media Release

Golden Plains Shire Council is has appointed Jo Wilson to the role of Director of Community, Planning and Growth.



She has recently served two stints as the Acting Director of Resilient and Connected Communities at Banyule City Council, having held the Manager position, and spent six years working at Mitchell Shire Council including 18 months as Acting Director Advocacy and Community Services.

During her time at Mitchell Shire Council, Jo navigated challenges including increased service demand within tight funding constraints, response and recovery for natural emergency events, climate change adaptation, and the increased cost of living impacting the social fabric of community and liveability. Jo has also worked alongside strategic planners and the Victorian Planning Authority on precinct structure plans (PSPs), developing a solid working knowledge of planning and growth

Moving On



Sadly, Blondie and Red Bin Laden are no longer going out together. But Blondie will be taking new family member, Violet, out with her once a month.

To find out when they will be going out, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au or scan the QR code. (But steel yourself for the multi layered menu before you get to the answer.)



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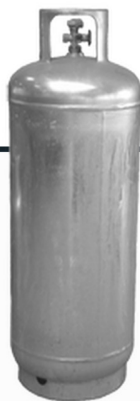
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Council Budget

From Media release

Making a Budget Submission: Written submissions may be lodged by 9am, Wednesday 5 March 2025. Email submissions to enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations or post a submission addressed to Director Corporate Services, Golden Plains Shire Council, PO Box 111, Bannockburn, VIC 3331.

Presenting a Submission to Council: Council will hold a meeting at Golden Plains Civic Centre, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn at 6pm, Tuesday 1 April 2025 and anyone who lodges a written submission may request to present it to Councillors at this meeting. A submission does not need to be presented in person to be considered as part of the Budget consideration process. The final Budget 2025/26 will be considered for adoption by Council at its meeting at The Well in Smythesdale on Tuesday 27 May 2025.

For more information, contact Golden Plains Shire Council Manager Finance Fiona Rae by emailing enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au or call 5220 7111.

Golden Spaces Exhibition

From Media Release

Golden Plains Shire Council is excited to announce that it is now accepting Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the 2025 Golden Spaces Winter Exhibition.

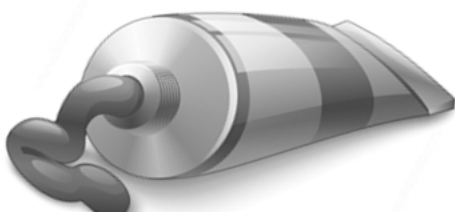
Golden Spaces is a free, community-based program offering group art exhibitions across three locations: The Bannockburn Cultural Centre, The Well at Smythesdale and the Golden Plains Civic Centre. This exciting initiative aims to celebrate and promote the talent of local artists, increase access to the arts for the community within a local setting, and provide professional development opportunities for both emerging and established artists within our Shire.

EOI's are open from Thursday 19 December to 5pm, Friday 28 February 2025. To submit an EOI, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/golden-spaces

At the conclusion of the EOI period, successful artists will be notified in April 2025, and the 2025 Winter Exhibition will be launched at the Bannockburn Cultural Centre on Saturday 7 June 2025. The exhibition will be on display for 12 months rotating between the Bannockburn Cultural Centre, The Well at Smythesdale and the Golden Plains Civic Centre.

The Golden Spaces 2024 Winter Exhibition is currently on display at The Well in Smythesdale, and the 2024 Summer Exhibition is now on display at the Bannockburn Cultural Centre. Keep an eye on Council's website and social media channels to find out when the Exhibitions will move to their next locations.

For further information, contact Council's Arts, Culture & Heritage team at golden.spaces@gplains.vic.gov.au or call 5220 7111



Road Safety in Meredith

Nearly two years ago a young woman, travelling south along the Midland Highway, was killed when her car was struck while waiting to turn right into McLeod Street, Meredith from the Midland Highway. This is a turn often used by locals and motorists travelling from Ballarat to the west of the town. It is an inherently problematic location, with no turning lane and located soon after a bend in the Highway, with a dip in the road, limiting sightlines. It is also shortly after the beginning of a 60 Km/H zone, dropping suddenly from 100Km/H. There was a second accident in the same location a few weeks later when a Meredith resident facing the other direction, was waiting to turn right and was rear ended by a truck. The hit vehicle was pushed into the path of a Geelong bound vehicle, both of which were write-offs. Fortunately, no one was injured.

We approached local state and federal MP's as well as Council about this issue, seeking a review of the site and suggesting it warrants the installation of a dedicated right-hand turn lane. We went further to point out that Meredith residents, and travellers passing through the town face a number of dangers that deserve attention. The busy intersection of Steiglitz Road/Staughton Street and the Highway doesn't offer turning lanes for north or south travellers. Furthermore, the layout of the town, where most of its residents live to the west of the highway and the post office, school and community hub are all on the east side, creates a crossing hazard with no safe crossing point outside of the very limited school crossing hours.

Catherine King has been especially helpful, advising commonwealth Black Spot funding may apply if there have been two casualties over a five year period or if a road safety audit identifies particular safety risks. Ms. King has also referred our concerns to Melissa Horne MP, the Victorian Minister for Roads and Road Safety,

Council replied to advise the intersection is the responsibility of VicRoads. But it has advocated for an extension of the 60km/h speed zone and introducing an 80km/h buffer limit on the northern approach to Meredith. We consider this a worthwhile, low cost improvement, but still no protection for stationary motorists against negligent drivers.

Council officers will also discuss our concerns when they next meet with Department of Transport and Planning personnel.

We live in hope that some actions will flow from the avoidable tragedy, making the highway through Meredith safer for all. Any residents who feel strongly about this issue, are urged to share their concerns with local MPs and/or Council.

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it's History

Meredith History Interest Group

Christmas Dinner:

To celebrate Christmas MHIG members were invited to bring some food to share at the History Centre and a story about that food or other memories of their Christmases.

Marg made shortbread like her mother used to make and brought the board and rolling pin her mother used.

Darren remembered boiled, smokey ham that he thinks must have been very expensive when he was young.

Kerrie brought a German version of potato salad and Andre brought a Swiss German version of potato salad. For both families it was always a Christmas treat.

Bev brought a tinned ham. Marg P said she always cooked tongue for her family at Christmas whilst Barb produced a luscious fruit cake which was served with custard. Allan remembered searching for money in the Christmas pudding and Tony brought sandwiches because he was scared that everyone would bring a sweet.

A jolly time was had by all!

Annual Meeting:

This meeting will be held in the Meredith Hall on Sunday, March 2 at 1.30 pm. After the election of office-bearers John and Mark are going to tell us about their research documenting urban and industrial history. They visited MHIG on Open Day in 2024 and impressed us with their passion and in-depth research. On that day they found two sides of an intriguing wooden box which they researched and wrote a paper on.

MHIG needs someone to keep the financials. We collect, document and bank but need someone to put the figures into a computer program and produce financial reports for monthly meetings. If you are that person, please don't be shy to offer your services. And you can do it at home or from your office. It is not a big job but most of the committee are doing history!

Memberships of \$20.00 are due before or at the Annual Meeting.

Elaine & District Photographs:

MHIG collected photos of Steiglitz and Morrisons which were displayed in an exhibition and then produced into a book. We have started collecting photos of Elaine and District with, it is hoped, similar outcomes to be achieved. We invite you to bring photos to the History Centre, send photos by text, email or slow mail or ask us to visit.

History Reconstructed:

On the weekend of May 3 and 4, MHIG is having a sculpture exhibition. We invite you to create and submit a sculpture or sculptures in 3-dimensional form that represent your view of history, using any material from steel to paper or any combination of materials. Most will be displayed outside the History Centre in the garden/yard.

This event will be part of the Australian Heritage Festival. The theme for that festival in 2025 is *Unearthed!* (That may give you some inspiration.)

Roy Taylor celebrates 90 years.

Marg Cooper

This special event was celebrated on Sunday, November 24 with an Open House at Roy's Belmont home. Family and friends gathered in his back garden to talk, to eat, to hear Roy's son John talk about his father's life and to see Roy blow out 90 candles on the birthday cake.

His son John remembered when they were young, that their father was very involved in the community, and led by example rather than telling his children how to behave.

The Taylor family came to "Glenairlee" at Meredith in 1947 from near Rutherglen. A very nice nurse, Joan Matthews nursed Roy back to health after appendicitis and ended up walking him down the aisle on September 14, 1957. They built a house on the property "Fairbank" in Taylors Road and raised a family of John, Anne, Robyn, Sally and Peter. They sold this farm about 1975 and moved to "Menari" on the Ballarat Road. In 2001 they retired to Belmont.

Roy has an incredible record of service to Meredith Community: he was on the State School Council for 19 years; was Church Warden at the Anglican Church for 40 years and Treasurer for 20 years and was on the Recreation Committee from 1973. He was on the Cemetery Trust. He received an Award for 45 years' service to the Fire Brigade where he was Captain for 4 years. The Parachute Club ran on his property from 1972 until 2000, and he was also involved in the Pony Club from 1975 until it moved to the Golf Club. He worked on the Golf Course for 11 years from 1990 and played golf from 1978. He played football, if the team was short and was boundary umpire in 1948 and was a trainer for years. Roy became a Life Member of the Tennis club (where he became President in 1969), and is also a Life Member of Mooney Cup Tennis, being Secretary from 1957 until 1969, and President from 1974 until 1988. He received an Australia Day Certificate in 1993 from the Bannockburn Shire.

Well Done Roy! If the people at the birthday party had brought their tennis rackets a match between Morrison and Meredith of the 1980's could have been re-played. It was like old times!

Congratulations Roy on reaching 90 years and for your incredible service to the Meredith Community.



Roy with brother Keith, sister Joan and her husband

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On Monday 3rd of February the fuel pumps will be closed for approximately 4-6 weeks.

There will be new pumps and a new canopy installed and the plan is to keep the LPG. These products will be in a new location on site.

Reminder to all account customers, that their accounts are still available to use at the Batesford Roadhouse down the road towards Geelong.

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Australia Day at Woodburn

Marg Cooper

Most of the attendees took food, decorations, chairs and warm clothes to don when the sun went down, but Stuart and Andy brought their passion for Australian poetry. After the food was shared and a welcome performed the two men were invited to recite.

So, in an outdoor rural setting, amongst the trees on the old school site, in the quietness of a summer evening with the sun's rays shining through the trees as it slowly set in the west, sitting amongst friends who had a deep connection to the community of Woodburn it was magic and the poetry made it more magical.

The men took it in turns. We heard renditions of Banjo Paterson's poems and sketches including *Clancy of the Overflow*, *The Man Who Was Away*, *The Lost Drink*, *Bill and Jim Nearly Got Taken Down* and *The All Right 'Un*. Some were read but most were recited from memory, quietly and with emotion.

Another highlight of the evening was the cutting of the cake by Mary Nolan. Traditionally, June Cameron has made a fruit cake in the shape of Australia, often forgetting Tasmania. In her absence this year her daughter Kate kindly made the cake in June's tin and delivered it for the occasion. It was delicious and now a lovely way to remember June and Neil.

As the sun set we departed, after once again catching up at Woodburn on Australia Day.

We all went home to watch the tennis final match!



Mary Nolan cutting the Australia cake



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Marg's BOOK REVIEW

Fanatic Heart by Tom Keneally

In this book Tom Keneally revisits the tumultuous life of Irish rebel John Mitchel. He writes that *some stories just don't go away* and, occasionally, he repeats their story in different guises. Apparently, the story of John Mitchel was also told in Keneally's book *The Great Shame* and was also mentioned in his *Origins to Eureka*. The author calls it *paying respects to ancestors*.

Mitchel was a lawyer and political activist in Ireland, a member of the Young Ireland movement and was later hailed as the country's president in waiting. It was the time of the potato famine when Ireland was under horrendous British rule. For his outspoken journalism and championship of Irish independence, Mitchel was sentenced to 14 years transportation.

The treason Act of 1848 had declared that it was a statutory offence punishable by up to 20 years imprisonment even to imagine, let alone devise that the British Monarchy would ever lose sovereignty over Ireland. Mitchel was sent to Bermuda, then Van Dieman's Land from which he made a daring escape (aided by Irish Americans) to New York.

In this book Keneally also shines light on Mitchel's wife Jenny. She supported her husband's outspoken nationalism, followed him into exile in Van Diemen's Land, then on to several locations in United States, taking along their family of several children. She was a strong woman with boundless love and passion.

Mitchel was not treated like a convict but had decent accommodation on board ship, and was allowed to live a somewhat free life in Tasmania, as a Ticket of Leave holder at the country town of Bothwell. He was unexpectedly happy there but still a restless reformist.

In spite of all he fought for and achieved for the freedom of his fellow man, Mitchel was still susceptible to believing some of the more repugnant fallacies of the time including that slavery was justified, and that slaves were inferior beings.

It appears to be a novel but the characters were indeed real people in history. Keneally used newspaper articles and actual journals for historical content. But as a writer he has imagined their feelings and filled in the gaps between documented events. Historians have objected to this practice.

Keneally has presented an exemplary hero who, never the less, has flaws. He also presents a picture of Ireland of the 1840's, of the Tasmania of that time and of the recently colonized and independent US.

an ORIGINAL PUZZLE by JESS and ASHER

Australian Animal -UNSCRAMBLE-



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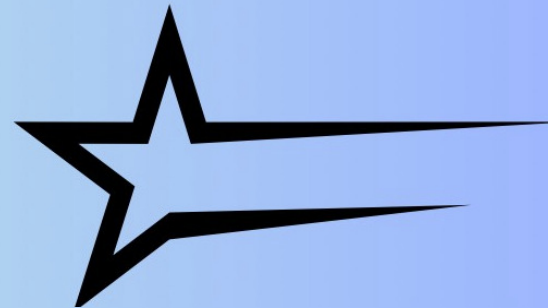
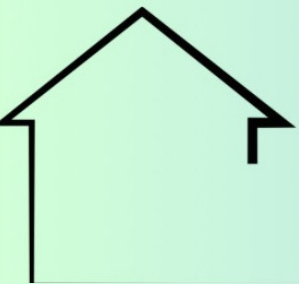
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