

**DONALD**

Phone: 5497 1222

Articles to:  
news@buloketimes.comAdverts to:  
admin@buloketimes.com

# The Buloke Times

Est. 1875

**BIRCHIP**

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Published Tuesdays and Fridays

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Friday, April 18, 2025

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For the Shire of Buloke, and the districts of Birchip, Charlton, Donald, St. Arnaud, Watchem and Wycheproof



## “Kooka” Has a New Mate

Donald's new kookaburra is the brainchild of Jodie Hollis, current chairperson of the Donald 2000 Committee.

Jodie contacted the artist, Chris Fussell, who lives in Pokolbin, in the Hunter Valley.

Chris had already “built” a kookaburra for the town of Kurri Kurri, though not for the size of the one he has done for Donald.

The Donald kookaburra stands 5.5 metres tall, and took over two years to build. It had been completed and was standing at Chris's property for the past three months, patiently waiting for someone to pick her up.

A kind member of the community volunteered to go and collect her, and she arrived in Donald on Friday.

By lunchtime Monday, Leigh Nunn Concreting, Matt Godkin MegElec Electrical Contractors, and Donald Steel had the new-comer concreted in place, awaiting stage 2 of the erection procedure – this being the pouring of more concrete into the stump and body of the kookaburra.

Chris Fussell and his brother-in-law, Dom, will be in attendance to assist with this stage.

Donald Community, and beyond, along with Kooka's and Kooka's Suppliers,

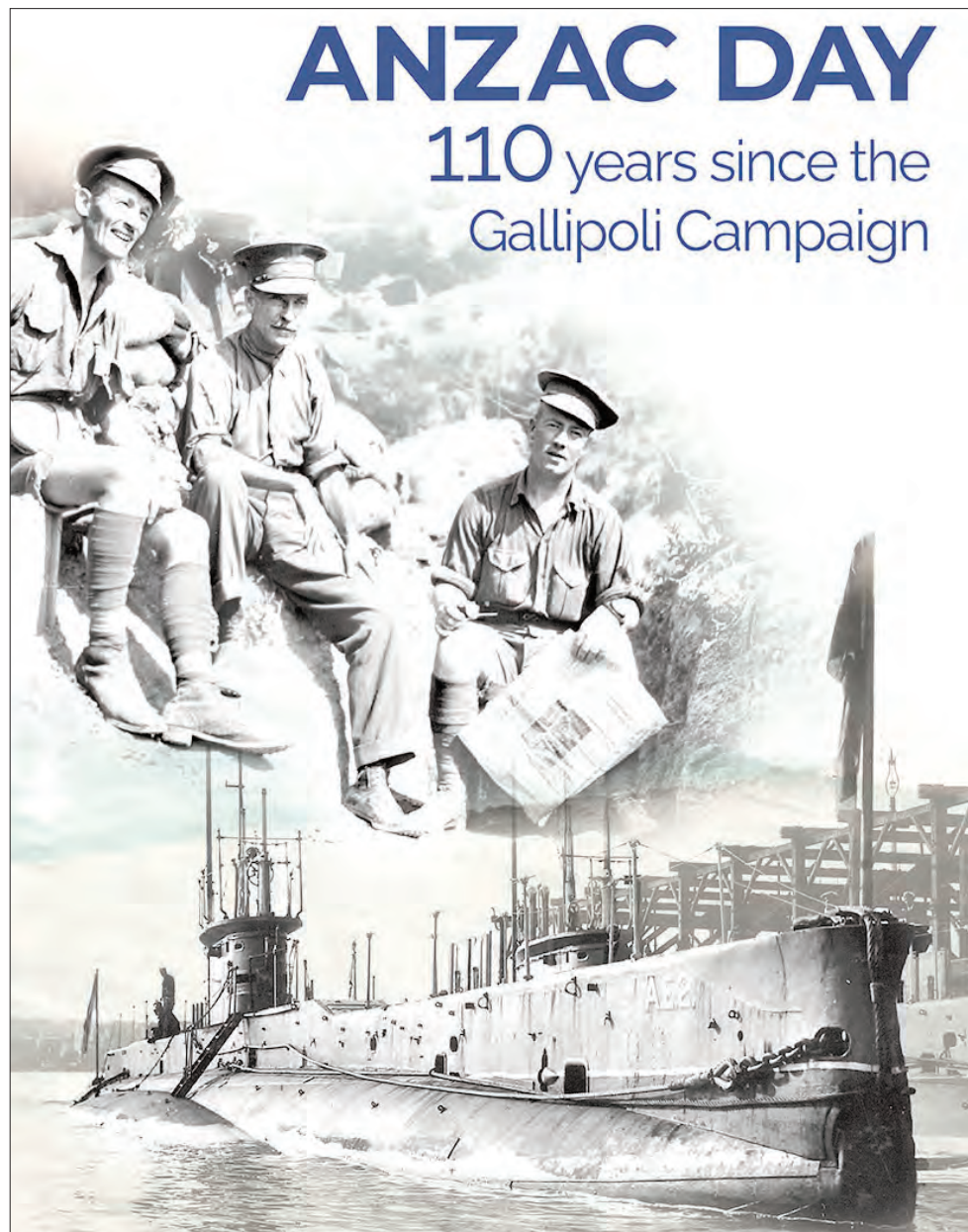


• The new kookaburra “tuning in” to the Optus tower.

have raised over \$50,000 to enable all of this to be achieved – a magnificent effort by all!

While the kookaburra was being erected and standing

alone, there were many sight-seers and tourists stopping to take photos, proving the attraction to be already working. Stay tuned for further progress.



• Image credits; Department of Veterans' Affairs, March 2025, Canberra, ACT.

From Our Town to the Front Lines...

## “We Remember!”

With ANZAC Day fast approaching, the Wycheproof community is actively preparing to remember and acknowledge the courage and sacrifice of those who have served, and continue to do so, for our great country, bringing their legacy to life in a special ANZAC Day window display tribute on the main street of Broadway.

Do you have a family member or relative who served and/or who is currently serving?

The Wycheproof RSL Sub-Branch invites all to share photocopied images, along with their name and any other relevant details if known.

### Display

All contributions will be proudly displayed as part of a community window display tribute, currently coming to life and on display over the forthcoming weeks on Broadway.

### Next Steps?

If you have an image (image/s) at home please visit the Wycheproof Community Resource Centre (WCRC), and one of the friendly staff team will make a complementary photocopy in readiness for the display, ensuring all originals are returned on the spot for safe-keeping.

The window display will also feature a poster (depicted) commemorating 110 years since the Gallipoli Campaign involving the Australian and New Zealand

Army Corps and the Royal Australian Navy. Major Ernest Morgan Williams, Brigadier General Henry George Chauvel and Captain Walter Percy Farr sitting in front of Courtney's Post.

The HMA Submarine AE2 made its way through the Dardanelles strait to the Sea of Marmara but was sunk by a Turkish torpedo.

Anzac Day honours all Australian personnel who have served in wars, conflicts and peace operations. Lest We Forget.

## Next Week's “Times”

With the Easter break beginning today (Friday, April 18), there will be no issue of the “Buloke Times” on Tuesday, April 22.

The one issue next week will be on Friday, April 25.





# Letters to the Editor



## More Clarification

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Editor.— I write to respond to two matters raised in the letter entitled "clarification" attributed to Daryl Warren, and published in the April 15 edition of The "Buloke Times". At the outset, I have no wish to involve myself in the underlying politics of the issues raised by former Councillor Warren. My comments are confined solely to those comments which relate to the office of the Municipal Building Surveyor (MBS), and its relationship to Council.

First off, as Mr. Warren says, the office of MBS is a statutory office which is required to exist by, and perform duties in compliance with the Building Act 1993. Appointees to the office are not necessarily employees of Council; the holder of the office may also be appointed or nominated by Council, implying that they may be contractors, and that they may hold other appointments.

Secondly, whether a MBS is "independent". In 2021, the Victorian Building Authority introduced a mandatory Code of Conduct for Building Surveyors. Two of its Principles are relevant here. First, building surveyors must comply with all relevant laws and prioritise public safety in their professional activities. Secondly, they must act independently; they cannot submit to undue influence, from wherever it may emanate.

The Municipal Building Surveyor-Victoria Charter, to which Mr. Warren refers, notes the following: "The statutory duties and functions of a MBS are specified in the [Building] Act and the regulations, are unique, and in many instances distinct and separate to those of the council. In many cases, generally with regard to matters of compliance, safety and risk to life and property, a MBS may have a legal duty to act in a manner that should not be subject to the direction or impediment of the Council". It goes on: "The MBS may be subject to legal direction from the Victorian Building Authority or the Minister from time to time."

So, the MBS is in fact independent when it comes to the exercise of judgement and the performance of functions ascribed to the office by the Building Act and its associated regulations.

To quote again from the Charter "the MBS is reliant upon the council to ensure that appropriate authority within the council organisational structure and sufficient

resources and staffing are allocated to the office of the MBS for the statutory roles and functions under the Act and the regulations to be properly carried out". In short, Council's function is not to direct or control the professional work of the MBS, but to facilitate the performance of their duties. Council does retain the right to remove an MBS for cause...for example, for failing to declare a conflict of interest. A MBS is classified as a registered building practitioner in Victoria and may be subject to disciplinary action by the VBA in the event of a breach of their statutory duties. That might also provide a ground for a Council to remove them for cause.

Yours Sincerely,  
**David Green.**  
Cape Woolamai.

## Time for a Break

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Editor, As Easter approaches, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to everyone across our community. This time of year offers a valuable opportunity to pause, reflect, and spend meaningful time with family, friends, and loved ones.

Easter is a time for new beginnings, connection, and coming together—with our families, our friends, and our broader community. Whether you're celebrating its religious meaning or simply enjoying the break, I hope this long weekend provides a meaningful opportunity to pause, reflect, and enjoy all that our community has to offer.

It's fantastic to see our region buzzing with energy as we welcome visitors from near and far. Events like the Powersports events, Listo Trapeze, Mildura Rowing Club regatta, Magenta Art Show, Pysche Pumps Running Day and so many more are putting our region on full display. This influx of tourism is not only a testament to everything our region has to offer — it's also a vital boost to our local economy.

With more traffic on our roads, I encourage everyone to take care when travelling. And for those camping or enjoying our natural parks, please follow the authorities' guidelines to stay safe and protect our environment.

Thank you to the volunteers, emergency services, local businesses, and event organisers working hard to make this Easter weekend such a success.

**Jade Benham MP.**

## Example Case for an Australian Republic?

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Editor.— Regarding mining the Donald mineral earths and the like. [a good investment for shareholders?]

Historical inherited rights, associated with the crown invests state and territory governments in Australia, ownership of all resources underground. AFTER licensing approval, there are no veto rights afforded the property owner. A singular recourse procedurally to this circumstance, is put a good best-case for compensation, FULL-STOP.

Chinese prices for rare earths exported is low, artificial and grossly undervalued, ie., very cheap. Effective Chinese government subsidies result in very poor economics of compensation worldwide for competing production of these more rare essential minerals required throughout our modern-life. Australia and the USA have much resource, un-economic to recover, without subsidy. China's practice of loss leading to degrade competition is prevalent, e.g. world steel production, such Chinese state practices attract interest from the WTO, world trade organization.

So then to the case of the mining of Donald and environs becoming a sand pit, for rare earths. I had always conjectured that this region to be "safer" due to the critically low availability of the quantities of water required for minerals processing, apparently this is not so.. [which water from where? Or who's water and how so? For forty years? I am uninformed as to water resource matters, balances or provisioning or discretion in times of rural/town development or drought.]

An end point of processing here is a current-low-value slurry/concentrate to be exported overseas, together with gold and other minerals involved for final processing in perhaps Idaho or Utah in the USA or China, based on entity ownership. A pricey costs-on enterprise?

It occurs that mining knowledge, needs to be added to the farmers' BURDEN of requisite expertise. Perhaps property owners, knowing about land access laws or their right to apply for their land to be exempt from any mining and or obtaining the relevant mining rights for affected property themselves etc., might wake to this new addition to due diligence prior to any purchase.

Ownership of majority shares in an entity would facilitate some affect on the board and its decisions, alternate, would be a small shareholder parcel enabling the attendance to AGMs with facility to question either personally or empower an expert as proxy holder to act on their behalf.

Concluding opinion: re-determining crown rights would require a republican governmental structure in Australia.

**William Carr,**  
Donald, Victoria.



• Embarking on the Good Friday Appeal doorknock to raise funds for Royal Children's Hospital are, left to right, Jodie Drake, Marnie Harmer, Isabelle Sandy, Liesel Olle, Latoya Rayner, Kendra Clark, Makayla Sandy, Kyetta Rayner and Donald CFA brigade captain, Dale Anderson.

## Door Knock Delivers

CFA engines, children, and enthusiastic volunteers descended upon Donald's streets on Tuesday evening, for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal.

The Donald community certainly came together this year, raising \$4,763.50 during the door knock collection.

Those involved should be extremely proud of their efforts and generosity in supporting such a worthy cause.



## Police Beat



### Gannawarra

**House fire:** At about 2 a.m. on Sunday the 13th of April, the CFA was called to a home in Gunbower Parade, Koondrook. The home at that location was fully engulfed in fire. The home was vacant at the time. The cause of the fire has not been determined, but is being treated as suspicious and is being investigated by Swan Hill detectives.

**Theft:** Between 6.30 p.m. on Saturday and 7.30 a.m. the following day, offenders have attended a property in Farrant Court, Cohuna. At that location they have stolen a Husqvarna chainsaw from a ute, a paslode fixing gun and a Milwaukee tool kit from the carport.

### Buloke

**Burglary and vehicle theft:** Between 4 p.m. on Friday the 11th of April and 8 p.m. Sunday the 13th, offenders have forced entry to a home in Camp Street, Watchem. A grey 2019 Ford Ranger ute was stolen from the address. The ute was located in the Bendigo area.

### Swan Hill

**Burglary:** Just after midnight on Sunday the 13th of April, the victim was away from his home when he was alerted on his phone that there was someone at his address in Lake Boga. He has returned home and located a male at the address. Police were called and attended. The male was arrested and conveyed to Swan Hill for interview. He was released pending summons.

### Damage:

Just after 1 a.m. on Friday the 11th of April, a Campbell Street, Swan Hill, business owner, was at work when he heard someone at the rear door. A chair appears to have been used to damage the door. The owner's vehicle was parked at the rear of the business and was also damaged.

**Arrest:** On Friday the 11th of April, Swan Hill detectives arrested a 35-year-old male in connection to the burglary on a sporting club at Ken Harrison Reserve (reported on last week). He was charged and bailed to attend court at a later date.

Police will also have Operation Compass running over the Easter and Anzac Day weekends.



Office: 03 5494 3120  
Mike: 0408 316 394  
Brendan: 0427 794 479  
Nathan: 0409 525 805

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- Dam construction and fill in, channel fill in
- Driveways and roads
- Supply and Delivery of gravel, sands and quarry materials.

## Corack East Wind

Renewable Energy from ACEN

ACEN Australia

ACEN Australia is in the early stages of investigating a large-scale wind energy project in Buloke Shire in Western Victoria, called **Corack East Wind**. The development is proposed to be located on privately owned land between Donald, Birchip and Wycheproof.

**Drop-in information Hub**  
Every Wednesday 1pm-6pm

**Commencing 19 March, 2025**

Meet the project team, find out more and provide feedback

**Charlton Park Community Bank Complex**  
Boardroom

Charlton Park Community Bank Complex  
Calder Hwy, Charlton

[www.corackeastwind.com.au](http://www.corackeastwind.com.au)

[info@corackeastwind.com.au](mailto:info@corackeastwind.com.au)

1800 498 550

Corack East Wind



# FreeZA Amplified

At the 2025 Push Summit held at the iconic Melbourne Recital Centre last week, the Hon. Natalie Suleyman (Minister for Youth) announced that after more than 25 years of delivering youth-led music and cultural events, FReeZA is evolving.

Youth providers and young people from Buloke, Loddon, Gannawarra and the Grampians shires were amongst the hundreds of young leaders, musicians, and youth sector professionals who attended the day of inspiration and celebration which included this exciting announcement from the Victorian Government.

The minister unveiled the evolution of FReeZA into its new identity: Amplify.

The Hon Natalie Suleyman said “This exciting re-brand represents more than just a name change – it signals a renewed commitment to empowering young people aged 12 to 25 to take the lead in shaping their creative futures.”

### Push Summit

The Push Summit provided the perfect backdrop for this transition, as youth-led panels, performances, and workshops demonstrated exactly what Amplify stands for – creative empowerment, community connection, and celebration of youth voice.

Amplify will continue the legacy of FReeZA, providing platforms for young people to showcase their talents, build practical skills, and engage in meaningful experiences that celebrate their diverse voices and vibrant energy.

Local FReeZA providers enthusiastically welcomed the announcement, recognising the new identity as a reflection of the changed landscape they are now working within.

Amplify will enable providers in Buloke, Loddon, Gannawarra and Grampians Shires to re-evaluate their FReeZA programs which have recently been awarded funding from 2025-2027.

### Crucial Role

Young people will continue to play a crucial role in designing and delivering music, arts, and cultural events for young people in our regional communities.

This evolution of the program is the result of extensive feedback from young people and the broader youth sector, ensuring that Amplify is not

only a continuation of a trusted legacy but also a future-focused initiative ready to meet the evolving needs of Victoria’s youth.

Simone Christie, manager of the program in Buloke said, “It was time for a change and Amplify provides us with renewed energy and optimism about what’s possible when young people are given the tools and trust to lead.”

Local FReeZA providers left the Recital Centre inspired and ready to amplify their own events, bringing fresh ideas and newfound momentum back to their local communities.

It is essential that young people Amplify their voices and have a say in how the program looks going forward.

Contacts in the local area include Simone Christie, manager of Birchip Neighbourhood House (Buloke); Maddison Hendy, Health Promotion Worker EWHS (St Arnaud); and Molly Meadows, Project Office NCLLEN (Loddon).



• Local FReeZA providers learning about the rebranded FReeZA program Acacia Huggins (Grampians), Keely Allan (Buloke), Simone Christie (Buloke), Maddison Hendy (Grampians), DustyRaiyn McIntyre (Grampians), Molly Meadows (Loddon).

## Infringement Notices Sent to Non-Voters

Infringement notices will be sent this week to Victorians who either didn’t respond to the Victorian Electoral Commission’s (VEC’s) request for an explanation or didn’t have a valid reason for failing to vote in the 2024 local council elections.

More than 530,000 Victorians were sent an “Apparent failure to vote notice” by the VEC in February and March. Of those, 15% have been excused for valid reasons.

People who did not respond to the “Apparent failure to vote notice”, or who did not provide a valid and sufficient excuse, will be issued an infringement of \$99.

People who receive an infringement notice must respond within 35 days – by either paying the fine, requesting an internal review, or electing to go to court.

### “Take It Seriously”

Electoral Commissioner Sven Bluemmel is urging people who receive an infringement notice to take it seriously.

“The most important thing is that you respond to the notice before the deadline – otherwise, you could be issued a penalty reminder notice, which carries the original penalty plus an additional administration fee,” Mr Bluemmel said.

The VEC encourages non-voters who are unsure what to do, or require assistance throughout any stage of the

infringements process, to call 1300 551 575 or visit [vec.vic.gov.au/voting/fines-and-reviews](http://vec.vic.gov.au/voting/fines-and-reviews)

### Voting Compulsory

Voting in local council elections is compulsory for all enrolled voters in Victoria, and to make sure no one misses a future election, the VEC encourages Victorian voters to sign up for VoterAlert, our free SMS and email reminder service. The service alerted 2.5 million Victorians about key election dates in last year’s local council elections. To sign up visit [vec.vic.gov.au/voteralert](http://vec.vic.gov.au/voteralert)



• Hon. Natalie Suleyman (Minister for Youth) announces the change to the FReeZA brand after 25 years at the recent Push Summit.

## What are Impersonation Scams?

[From the Bendigo Bank]

Scammers impersonate people or businesses you trust in order to steal your money or personal information. They often contact you with a sense of urgency, hoping to catch you off guard.

They may come through as:

Businesses: like banks, ATO, Telstra, or Amazon.

Friends or family: they use technology to make their emails, texts, or calls appear to come from someone you know.

And are becoming increasingly sophisticated and harder to identify.

Who are you talking to?

We are aware of a recent email phishing campaign that targeted Bendigo Bank customers. The message claimed to be from Bendigo Bank and included a website link that if clicked, led to a fake Bendigo Bank website asking you to login to e-banking.

### Don’t:

We will never ask you to click on a link in an email (or

SMS text message) to login to e-banking.

Sometimes an SMS alert is also sent prior to a “cold call scam” that seemingly looks like it is Bendigo Bank.

### How to Protect Yourself

Take a minute and remain calm: consider what you’ve learned about different kinds of scams, then ask yourself “who’s really there?”

The Bank will never ask you to transfer/pay money into another “safe” bank account.

Never provide your password or PIN to anyone, even if they are claiming to be from Bendigo Bank and have personal information about you.

Check that the message is real by contacting the person or organisation directly using

details you find yourself (e.g. official website).

Install anti-virus software on your computer/device to help detect suspect websites being accessed by your computer or device.

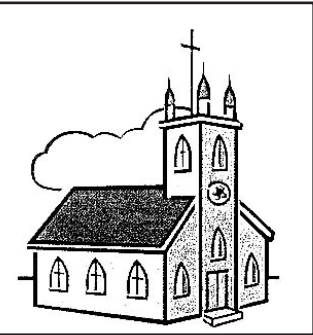
Always access the official website or mobile app directly, never via a link.

Don’t open or download any attachments or apps.

Don’t click on links in text messages or emails; we will never send a link in on SMS.

Look out for changes in caller IDs. This could include unfamiliar numbers, special characters, or calls from different locations.

Let us know ASAP if you think you have been the victim of a scam.



### ANGLICAN “Parish of Charlton-Donald”

Enquiries: Rev’d Judi Bird  
0435 593 359

Friday, April 18  
Good Friday

St. Paul’s, Birchip, 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 20  
Easter Day

St. Martin’s, Charlton, 9 a.m.  
St. George’s, Donald, 11 a.m.  
Holy Trinity, W’burn, 3 p.m.

## CHURCH NOTICES

### UNITING CHURCH (North Central Living Waters Cluster) Easter Services

Friday, April 18  
Good Friday

Donald, no service. Invitation to join Anglicans at St Georges at 7 p.m.

Birchip, 9.30 a.m.

Sunday, April 20  
Easter Sunday

Donald, 10 a.m., with Jan Flett. All Welcome.

Wycheproof, 10 a.m.

Birchip, 10 a.m.

Contact Number: 5497 1033



[www.granitecommunitychurch.com](http://www.granitecommunitychurch.com)

At Granite Church

Good Friday Service

Ross Barnes

at Granite Rocks Reserve  
9.30 a.m. with morning tea to follow.

No Easter Sunday Service



# "Times" Classifieds

Phone Donald 5497 1222, Birchip 5492 2735 Email [admin@buloketimes.com](mailto:admin@buloketimes.com)

**Deadlines:**— **Tuesday's Issue:** Classified advertisements (single column), 10 a.m. Monday. Display advertisements (2 or more columns), 3 p.m. Friday prior. **Friday's Issue:** Classified advertisements (single column), 10 a.m. Thursday. Display advertisements (2 or more columns), 3 p.m. Wednesday prior.



## ENGAGEMENT REID - HOGAN

Carol & Kevin Reid of Birchip, together with Treena & Rodney (Rocket) Hogan of Horsham, are delighted to announce the engagement of,

Sophie and Jay,  
on Friday March 28th,  
2025. at Tchum Lake,  
Birchip, Victoria.

*We wish them all the love  
and happiness as they  
take another step towards  
being together forever xx.*

## DEATH

McCALLUM (nee Kerr).—  
Valma Pearl

Died 27.3.2025 at The  
McKellar Centre, North  
Geelong.

Aged 92.

Beloved and loving wife of  
the late Alistair (John A.  
F.) McCallum formerly of  
Aberdeen, Scotland.

Loving mother of Nicholas  
and Jonathan Lloyd.

Loving Granny of Alexan-  
der, Rowena and Max.

Daughter of the late Ben-  
jamin Kerr and Pearl  
Robertson.

Formerly of Thalia and  
Wycheproof.

*A Private Funeral has  
been held.*

PETER TOBIN FUNERALS  
BALLARAT 5333 3101  
MEMBER AFDA

*Remember the  
Kids at this  
Year's Good  
Friday Appeal*

## THANK-YOU

The 2025 Mali Heart Committee wish to extend their sincere thanks to the stall holders who travelled near and far, local businesses who opened their doors, Birchip Lions Club, Birchip CFA, Birchip SES, Birchip CERT, Charlton Lions Club and Harry Brindley for the Jumping Castle, Buloke Shire Council, Cr Graeme Milne, Jim Petrie, Micheal and Catherine for the fantastic Lego display and Wirrim CWA for their contribution to the Mali Heart Festival held on March 7th, 2025. Special thanks to Maha for his design and completion of the mural on the CBA Birchip wall. We hope to see you all again in 2026.

## MINYIP & DISTRICT FIELD & GAME

75 TARGET

## SHOOT

**Sunday, April 20,**  
Noms open 11 a.m.

*Sponsored by: Horsham Wool,  
Bevanart Signs, McGinniss  
Carpentry and Bonney  
Energy*

Enquiries: Peter 0428 855 190

## FOR SALE

**FABA BEANS - 10 tonne,**  
Good clean beans ready  
to sow.

Graded and treated with  
"Cruiser" insecticide.

\$650 per tonne plus GST.  
0429 836 055

## FOR PRIVATE SALE BIRCHIP

**Mazda CX5 Maxx Sport**

6 speed auto, 8 airbags,  
keyless start, rear cam-  
era with park assist, GPS  
Sat Nav system, Decem-  
ber 2025 Rego 1SS 5LR.  
Only 45,000 kms. RWC.  
Selling due to upgrade to  
4WD. \$25,500. Ph. 0409  
934 413.



## SOLICITOR

116 Napier Street,  
St. Arnaud

**Experienced practical  
advice in plain English**

*Appointments also  
available in Charlton,  
Donald and Wycheproof*

**Ph. 5495 2595**

Karen@klp.net.au

## Wimmera Mallee Environmental and Agricultural Protection Association Inc.

### Wind Turbines – Health Impacts

Expert legal advice to support residents to  
protect their health.

A very important session for anyone who lives and  
works in proximity to wind turbines.

**Monday, April 28, 6.40 for 7 p.m. start.**

AT THE WARRACKNABEAL COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
ANZAC PARK, WARRACKNABEAL

See us on Facebook | All Welcome



## WYCHEPROOF P-12 COLLEGE QUIZ NIGHT

7 p.m.

**FRIDAY, MAY 9**

WYCHEPROOF P-12  
SPORTS COMPLEX

*Tables of 8,*

*\$10 per person*

**Bookings: 5493 7409**

BYO drinks and supper

**ALL WELCOME**

*(Proceeds to assist Yr 11  
Melbourne Orientation &  
Work Experience Week)*

Printed and published for the proprietors  
by Robin Letts, at the office of "The  
Buloke Times", 6 McCulloch Street,  
Donald.



CURYO

## ANZAC DAY SERVICE

**Friday, April 25**

8 a.m.

CURYO FIRE STATION

*Breakfast to follow*

**ALL WELCOME**

Enquiries to Di Lehmann  
0427 120 218.



## ANZAC DAY

**Friday April 25**

DONALD R.S.L.

SUB BRANCH

**Dawn Service: 6.30 a.m.**

at the Cenotaph at  
Memorial Park

*Followed by breakfast in  
Donald Bowling Club*



CHARLTON

## ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS

0840: Assemble at  
Cenotaph

0850: Parade fall in

0855: Wreath laying

0900: Ode; Last Post

0905: March to Shire  
Hall

0920: Ceremony in  
Shire Hall

Charlton R.S.L. Sub-branch  
—Bill Freeman, Secretary.



**BIRCHIP  
SUB-BRANCH RSL**

## ANZAC DAY SERVICE

**Friday., April 25**

Birchip Cenotaph 11am

Fall in at 10.45am

*Lunch at the RSL Hall  
following service  
& Kelly Pool.*

## Merchandise Manager

• Donald, VIC

**Nutrien**  
Ag Solutions®

We are currently offering a great opportunity for a driven Merchandise Manager to join our team in the rich agricultural region of Donald. This critical role in the merchandise team requires you to be able to build long lasting partnerships with customers and deliver appropriate advice and services using your specialist knowledge of a variety of agricultural products and supplies. As well as provide merchandising support including, managing sales, oversee stock levels and assisting with marketing initiatives.

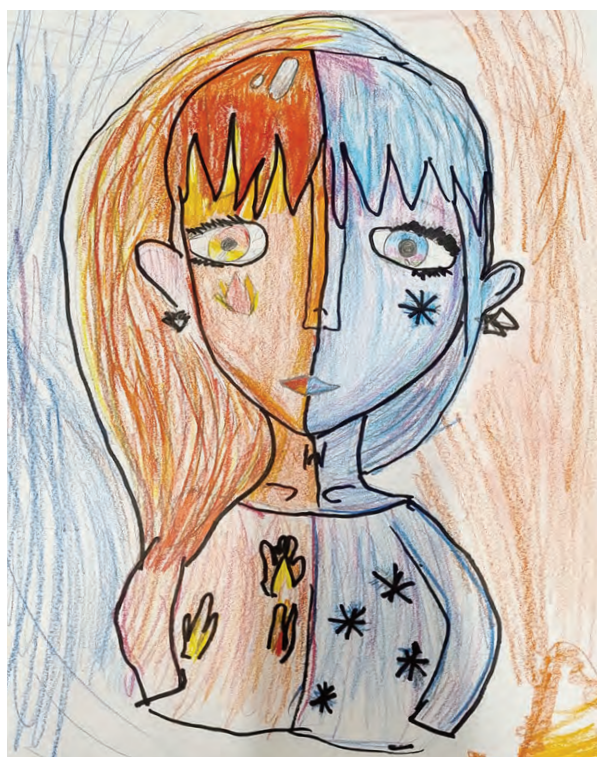
To succeed in this role, experience within pricing and margin management and sales target achievement through effective category development is essential. The ability to network and identify opportunities for business development will also be key to your success. You will also have excellent communication both written and verbal. Ideally you will have exposure to SAP ERP, together with strong MS Excel for reporting.

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- Access to incentive programs
- Use of company vehicle
- Purchased leave scheme benefits
- An additional day of leave – Nutrien Day
- Ongoing training and development to pursue individual ambitions
- A culture of learning!

If you are interested in the role, please send a copy of your resume to [Bridie.Nugent@nutrien.com.au](mailto:Bridie.Nugent@nutrien.com.au) or pop into the branch for a chat with Marc Adams.

[www.NutrienAgSolutions.com.au](http://www.NutrienAgSolutions.com.au)



Neive

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**Y-front  
Briefs or Boxers**

**BIG FELLA**

White & Navy  
Up to 6 XL

# UNDIES



Just ring or email [mensland@iinet.net.au](mailto:mensland@iinet.net.au) and we will deliver your order.

For Promotions, Specials and  
Competitions, us on Facebook

Find us on

**70 Woods Street, Donald — 5497 1211**



# "Times" Classifieds

**Dob in a friend**  
If you know someone celebrating a birthday, or wedding anniversary or some other special occasion, let us know and we'll let the world know!

- April 22, Corazon Stopps
- April 23, Clare Letts
- April 25, Jake and Remi Jeffery
- April 26, Andrew and Michael Donnellon
- April 27, Danica Holmes-Brown

**Darrell Lea** Fine Chocolates

**JOHN SANDS**

If you know someone celebrating a special anniversary, let us know at **Donald Newsagency & Emporium**  
For all your Greeting Cards, Wraps, Ribbons and Stationery needs.  
**37 Woods Street, Donald. 'Phone 54971510.**

## Scam Awareness Session

Wednesday 23rd April 2025  
9am - 10am  
Donald Learning Group

RSVP to Donald Bendigo Bank  
03 54 971 194

**Bendigo Bank**



### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**Campus Negotiable**  
Multidisciplinary Team Coordinator  
Chef  
Vehicle compliance / Maintenance Officer  
Nurse Practitioner  
Home Care Support Worker  
**Birchip**  
Chef  
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# Historial Enquiries

[From the Donald Archives]

Among March enquiries, Erin Grumand wanted information on her ancestors George and Eliza (Hewlings/Poole) Carret who were proprietors of the Mt Jeffcott Hotel from 1868 until George's death in 1873. We were able to oblige with plenty from "Now and Then, Volume One".

The March History meeting had Isabel Flett as the guest speaker. Isabel had fully researched the history of St Andrew's Church, which celebrated its centenary on March 16 and she presented it to the meeting to the great pleasure of all who attended. A full report on the centenary, complete with Isabel's history, was printed in "The Buloke Times" on March 28th, 2025. Isabel was interested in finding out the history of the original Presbyterian Manse, "The Willows" and we agreed to research it for her. It is almost complete and will be printed at a later date.

## Memorabilia

Linton Reilly attended the March History meeting and

brought in some War memorabilia of Robert Dunn, one of his three Dunn great uncles who were in World War One. Robert was wounded in the thigh and gassed just prior to the Armistice.

Linton had a hand written letter from the King, still in its envelope, thanking Robert for his faithful service and wishing him a return to health.

Robert's 1923 obituary states that his death came as a happy release for him. Robert's siblings were Charles, Corack; John, Lah; William, Trawalla; Percy and Archie, Donald; George and Les, Buloke; Mrs. Fraser, Watchem; Mrs. Williamson, Donald; and Mrs. A.R Boyd, Beaufort. On this page is a photo of Robert and his letter from the King.

Chris Sellick came into the archives. He had been told that the mud brick house he lives in, which is at Granite Flat, was built soon after the family selected the land. He wished to know the year of selection, and Ron Falla's books on the selectors of Corack East told him that it was 1882 not 1872 as Chris

had first thought. It's still an old house, though.

Sharon (Basset) Douglass wanted us to send her father, Lindsay's "Donald Times" file, as he is enjoying reading about his family's time in Donald. Sharon repaid us by sending a number of coloured photos taken by Lindsay in the 1960s, including some at his father's farm "Lara" at Litchfield, a John Deere field day and the clay bird Gun Club behind St Mary's School.

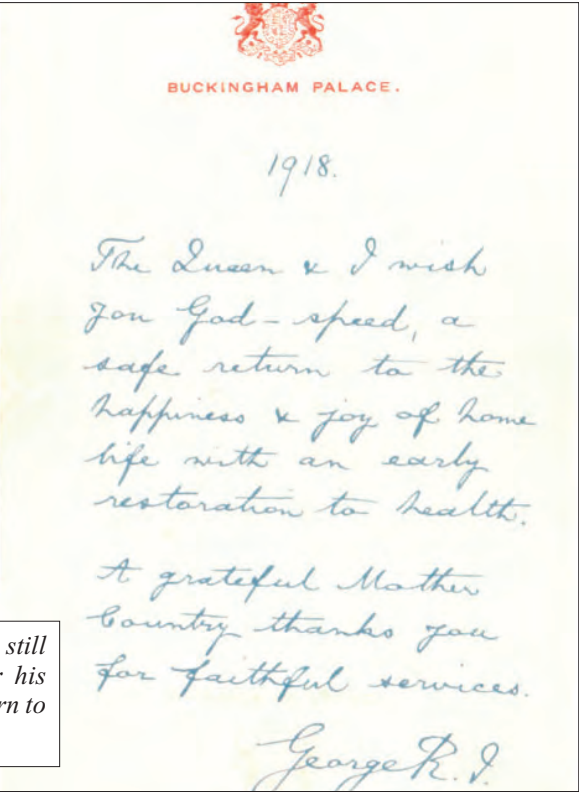
The photo shows Russell Reseigh and Mick Tyson in the foreground. The boys in the background are interesting. The boy in the white jumper is Shane Reseigh and he could be flanked by Bruce Hunt and Lawrence Brennan. The Richmond jumper on the left could encase Shane O'Shea. We invite anyone from this era to come in to see if they can identify the spectators.

Lana Holt is the daughter in law of Vern and Gay Holt who were in Donald in the 1930s and 40s. Vern was a bank employee and Gay's father was a railway employee. Lana sent us a collection of Donald Memorabilia which the couple had collected.

Rebekah Mitchell sent us a copy of a 1960s Victorian Railways newsletter which had articles on Jack Whittaker and Teddy Warburton in it.



• A hand written letter from the King, still in its envelope, thanking Robert for his faithful service and wishing him a return to health.



• Russell Reseigh and Mick Tyson in the foreground. The boys in the background are interesting. The boy in the white jumper is Shane Reseigh and he could be flanked by Bruce Hunt and Lawrence Brennan. The Richmond jumper on the left could encase Shane O'Shea. We invite anyone from this era to come in to see if they can identify the spectators.

## How the Australian 2024 Winter Crop Wrapped Up

In the latest episode of Bendigo Bank Agribusiness podcast, Unpacking Ag, agricultural analysts Sean Hickey and Joe Boyle discuss the results of the 2024 winter cropping season and check in on several regions hit by drought conditions last year, before looking ahead to what conditions farmers might be facing in the upcoming season.

Bendigo Bank Agribusiness Agricultural Analyst, Joe Boyle, formerly of Wilkur, said wheat production saw mixed results from around the states.

"From a national perspective, we had a strong season with the third largest wheat crop on record, assisted by big production increases in WA, NSW and Queensland," Mr Boyle said.

"Quality overall was skewed towards the lower end, with an increased percentage of feed wheat and ASW, while the percentage of AH wheat was lower, so from a tonnage perspective, feed wheat was the major change, up from about 1.5 million tonnes nationally in 2023 to around 5.8 million tonnes in 2024," he said.

## Extremely Dry

"The extremely dry conditions in South Australia have led to what is estimated to be the lowest production figure for the state since 2008 and Victoria has also seen the lowest level of wheat production since extremely adverse conditions in 2018, with both states down around 40 per cent year on year."

"Looking ahead, the three-month outlooks for April to June and May to July, currently have large areas across the southern states at a greater



• Joe Boyle.

than 50 per cent chance of having below median rainfall, however, the rainfall outlook is a bit more positive for northern New South Wales and Queensland and generally more favourable for Western Australia through May to July."

## Forecast

"Unfortunately, South Australia and Victoria are forecast to have a well below 50 per cent chance of exceeding median rainfall in May at this stage, paired with a forecast for warmer than average weather, which is also likely to feed into drying conditions."

"Australian Crop Forecasters is projecting wheat, barley and canola production to be lower this year, reverting closer to the longer-term average levels." Mr Boyle concluded.

## "Show Us Your Spot"

(From Jade Benham M.P.)

This Easter, having fought the crowds and laid claim to your strip of dirt, and as you settle into your cobwebbed camping chair and grab a can (or cheeky wine) from the esky, be sure to send me a photo of your camping site, or, as we like to say here in regional Australia, "Show us your spot."

Gather your crew and tag your photos with #showusyourspot or send them to my socials @ jadebenham\_mp.

Camping is one of our favourite pastimes and we are spoilt for location choice here along the Murray River. Bragging about the brilliant location you've found comes hand in hand with camping and I strongly encourage a bit of rivalry among folks as to who has the best spot.

Easter is a fantastic opportunity to unwind and relax, and, as always, I encourage

everyone to make safety a priority. Please follow the authorities' guidelines to stay safe and protect our environment, be courteous of other river users and please, for the love of the Easter Bunny, take your rubbish with you.

To support our emergency workers and keep everyone safe, I encourage all to follow road rules, stay vigilant near the water, drink responsibly, and show care and kindness to one another.

May your Easter basket be filled with chocolate and may your days be full of hot cross buns and fun.



• Jade Benham encourages campers to show us your spot.



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# Year 9 Bushwalk Camp:

In Week 10 of Term 1, eleven Year 9 students and four staff members took part in the annual Bushwalk Camp – an experience designed to challenge, inspire and create lasting memories.

Due to the impact of summer bushfires, this year's camp looked a little different, with the route re-planned to explore the beautiful northern section of the Grampians National Park, which remained unaffected.

Despite the change in location, the camp continued to deliver the same level of adventure and challenge.

Conditions were perfect – albeit warm – as students hiked almost 40km over the course of the week, carrying everything they needed on their backs. This is no easy feat and certainly not a camp for the fainthearted. It re-

quires resilience, teamwork and a great deal of preparation.

The group finished their journey back in Halls Gap, where they were rewarded with a well-earned ice cream and a hearty meal at the Halls Gap Hotel – a fitting celebration of their efforts and determination.

Whether the camp sparked a newfound love for hiking and the outdoors, or was simply a rewarding personal milestone, we hope all participant took something valuable away from the experience and feels proud of what they achieved.



A big thank you to Mr Tatchell, Miss McKay, Mrs Griffiths and Mr Cashin for supporting the students and making this camp possible.



• Packs fully loaded for the journey.



• Left to right: Miss McKay, Mr Tatchell, Victory Davis, Myles Hollis, Milla Adams, Halle Rice, Jack Reilly, Oakley Brennan, Ryan Needs, Daniel Cooper; Hugo Funcke and front, Mrs Griffiths.



• Setting up camp.



• One last group photo before leaving, Back: Myles Hollis, Hugo Funcke. Middle: Ryan Needs, Oakley Brennan, Jack Reilly, Victory Davis and Daniel Cooper. Front: Mrs Griffiths, Miss McKay, Mr Tatchell, Milla Adams and Halle Rice.



# Students at the Grampians



• Jack Reilly, Ryan Needs, Hugo Funcke and Myles Hollis.



• Milla Adams, Halle Rice and Victory Davis.



• Mr Tatchell taking a well earned break.



• Myles Hollis doing some outdoor cooking.



• Resting and taking in the incredible view.



• Victory.



# Restrictions, Penalties, Still in Force for Parts of Victoria

Ahead of the Easter break, CFA is reminding Victorians that fire restrictions are still in place across many parts of the state, and burning activities should still be put on hold in these areas.

The Fire Danger Period (FDP) is a designated time in each Victorian municipality when fire restrictions apply due to increased fire risk. During this period, a written permit is required to burn off for farming practices, including grass, undergrowth, weeds or other vegetation.

While some municipalities have now exited the FDP, many areas remain under restrictions due to dry autumnal conditions and unpredictable fire behaviour.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said this was made evident on the weekend when CFA was called in to support the efforts of Forest Fire Management Victoria, after a planned burn jumped containment lines southwest of Daylesford, leading to a Watch and Act warning and potential impact on private properties.

"This was a clear reminder of how quickly conditions can change and communities

must not become complacent, despite temperatures starting to drop," Jason said.

"Conditions remain very dry in certain parts of the state, and the fire risk is certainly still present.

"We know that the Easter break can prompt clean-up efforts for property owners, but it's important that people check their local fire restrictions before lighting any fire in the open air and ensure weather conditions are suitable."

### Penalties

Under the CFA Act, penalties for lighting an open-air fire during the Fire Danger Period can include fines up to \$23,710, 12 months' imprisonment, or both.

"The consequences for individuals can be severe, and the impact of an escaped fire on local communities and emergency services can be devastating," Jason added.

Since fire restrictions began easing in some municipalities on March 17, CFA has responded to 37 escaped burn-offs, requiring members to turnout 403 times and spend over 550 hours containing these incidents.

"These are preventable incidents that tie up our crews, damage property, and divert



• Apply for a permit to burn off at [firepermits.vic.gov.au](http://firepermits.vic.gov.au) and check if your municipality is still under the FDP at [cfa.vic.gov.au/firedangerperiod](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/firedangerperiod).

resources away from other emergencies," Jason said.

"We need everyone to take personal responsibility and help us reduce the risk."

Controlled burns may be visible in parts of Victoria over the coming weeks as part of fuel reduction activities by CFA and Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic). To find out if there is a planned burn happening in your area, visit [www.plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au](http://www.plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au).

Residents are reminded that these are carefully managed and permitted operations. Seeing smoke or flames from a planned burn does not mean it is safe or acceptable to conduct your own private burn-off.

Apply for a permit to burn off at [firepermits.vic.gov.au](http://firepermits.vic.gov.au) and check if the Buloke Shire municipality is still under the FDP at [cfa.vic.gov.au/firedangerperiod](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/firedangerperiod).



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## MADE FOR MORE



# Bulls Best at Junior Hockey

The minkey games set the scene for the Bulls first home game with all players enjoying the opportunity to have a run around and develop their skills.

Charlie Ferrier won the BWHC canteen voucher and Harper Noonan won the award donated by Troy and Brooke Morris for the Bulls. Kyeta Raynar won the award for Donald.

### Under-12s

An extremely warm day was developing for the Donald Royal Blues to Birchip-Watchem under-12 hockey match, but despite the heat, all the kids were excited to be out on the ground for the Bulls’ first home game.

A strong start for Birchip-Watchem had Denley Tyler run a lovely sideline pass to Des Coffey, which saw Des follow through and send a perfect push to Oscar Sharp, which produced the Bulls’ first goal of the game. Within minutes, another attempt at goal was created, when a short corner for Birchip-Watchem produced another goal scored by River Ryan.

Birchip-Watchem took another run at goal in quick succession, with Des Coffey hitting the back of the net. There was a lovely pass from Des Coffey to Grace McAuliffe, who then assisted Denley Tyler to score another goal, and another from River Ryan who saw an opportunity not long after and ran the ball through the field to take another goal, and Denley Tyler who had another quick goal to see the Bulls well ahead early.

However, Donald came back late into the half to take their first goal for the game, scored by Darcy Burke. Not to be outscored, Oscar Sharp followed up his first goal with another late into the half which was followed up by Sammy Ferrier who finished the goal scoring run with another one to see the Bulls ahead 8-1 at half time.

The second half saw Birchip-Watchem determined to forge ahead. Lucy Coffey passed a clean shot to Denley Tyler who slotted a goal early in the second half. Donald remained resolute though and found their feet in defence, setting up an attempt at goal, but Birchip-Watchem held its position and sent the ball back down into its forward line.

Birchip-Watchem was then able to set up for a short corner, but was unsuccessful. Greta McClelland had a shot at goal after a beautiful push from Jude McLoughlan, which missed, but was quickly followed up with a group effort at goal, and Denley Tyler finished the job with his fourth goal.

A contested couple of minutes saw the ball go from end-to-end multiple times without any success from either team until Birchip-Watchem broke through Donald’s line of defence and Oscar Sharp scored again with assistance from Addi Hamilton and River Ryan. He then followed up with another goal not long after to finish with five goals for the match.

Final score Birchip-Watchem 12 to Donald 1.

Awards for Birchip-Watchem: Sam Ferrier (Sharps bakery voucher) and Oscar Sharp (O’Connors towel). Awards for Donald, Darcy Burke, and Anabelle Robinson.

### Underage

It was the second game for the Birchip-Watchem Bulls underage hockey team of the 2025 season. The sun wasn’t on anyone’s side, beaming down on all the players on the field, but both teams fought out the match hard with an exciting second half ensuing.

Donald started the day off extremely well, with a short corner and was determined to score goals from the get-go. Oakley Brennan was on fire and by half time the score was 6 to 1 Donald’s way.

The Bulls managed to make a big comeback in the second half when the game became a very close match. The ball kept travelling up and down the field like a tennis match and there were a few great moves from Birchip-Watchem. Kailie Krause and Garth Kilroy in goals respectively were having a tough day, as players were having successive shots on goal.

Lana Angel had an amazing game as she passed some of the best Donald players and assisted with various Bulls’ goals as well as scoring two of her own. Archie Tyler was also a great help to the Bulls, scoring 3 goals and assisting in other goals.

Max Field was playing well in the second half, listening to his coaches and going face to face with some of Donald’s best players stopping lots of potential goals for them.

By the end of the game the scores were levelling out and the excitement was building with Birchip-Watchem finally overcoming Donald to win 7-6. The prolific goal scoring saw Frances McClelland and Grace Tyler also added goals for the Bulls, and for Donald Oakley Brennan finished with four and Darcy Bourke and Nakyra Clapham both scored one.

Best on for Birchip-Watchem: Archie Tyler (Tumbler A & S Barber) & Lana Angel (Tote bag Birchip Hardware). Best on for Donald: Oakley Brennan.



• Under-15s Donald’s defensive corner Oakley Brennan defending Birchip-Watchem’s Grace McAuliffe.



• Under-12s Birchip-Watchem’s Oscar Sharp, Donald goalie Jazon Krause, Donald’s Larou Clapham.

## Birchip Golf

With the predicted temperature on Wednesday, it was decided to start golf half an hour earlier.

This proved to be a wise decision, and after nine holes, everyone was pleased to finish.

Handling the dry conditions with ease, Beryl Feitz collected 16 points to win the day. Best second shot on the third went to Lyn Boyle. A superb shot on the seventh, won nearest the pin for Neil Davis. Six golfers played in the event.

Captain Di will advise of starting time next week, depending on the weather.

There was no golf on Sunday.

Although the course is dry, it is playing quite well and looking nice thanks to the work of the volunteers and the greens keeper in mowing it all.

## Northern Grampians Shire: The Place to be This Easter

All roads lead to Northern Grampians Shire this Easter, with a plethora of activities and attractions to entertain and delight – headlined by Australia’s oldest and richest footrace, the Stawell Gift.

Mayor Karen Hyslop encouraged the region’s residents to make the most of opportunities to enjoy the best the municipality had to offer, starting with the gift.

“A major part of the Australian sporting calendar and one of the most famous events to grace Stawell and the Grampians region, the annual Easter long weekend carnival sees thousands of athletes, supporters and tourists travel to the area, transforming our historic gold mining town into an athletics mecca,” she said.

Stawell Athletic Club will host the three-day event at Central Park from Easter Saturday to Easter Monday, with plenty of entertainment on and off the track.

“As a community, we are extremely proud of the Stawell Gift and all it brings to our beautiful town,” Cr Hyslop said.

“We encourage people to come along and enjoy everything the Stawell Gift has to

offer, including the fashions day on Saturday, Sunday’s Easter egg hunt including more than 7000 Easter eggs, and of course, the exhilarating finals on Monday.

“During your stay you can visit the Stawell Gift Hall of Fame, which is a perfect place to learn more about the event and its incredible history.”

Cr Hyslop said the region’s Easter festivities offered something for everyone.

“From the Great Western Rodeo and Ozact presenting Shakespeare’s ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ at Heatherlie Quarry, to art exhibitions, Halls Gap Primary School Market and harness and horse-racing meets, there is so much to see and do,” she said.

“The Stawell Lions Club Easter Carnival at Cato Park is always popular with families – particularly the fireworks on the Saturday night.

“On Saturday morning, Stawell’s Main Street comes alive as our community

comes together to showcase and celebrate our amazing township.

“There will be local street providers, children’s activities and plenty of market stalls, enabling family and friends to reconnect while supporting our local businesses.

“I would like to say a big thank you to our wonderful volunteers who every year help to plan and run these community events, thus helping to support and grow our region.”

Cr Hyslop said Easter was a vital time for the region’s economy, which was still recovering from bushfires in December and January.

“This Easter, we encourage the community to consider staying local and supporting events and businesses around the region,” she said.

“Northern Grampians Shire is a great place for outdoor adventure and exploration, with iconic natural and

historic attractions, the gateway to the Grampians, wineries, lakes, street and silo art in St Arnaud and beautiful townships built in the gold rush era – each with their own unique charm and activities on offer.

“We would love you to make the most of it, exploring

and discovering our beautiful region.”

People can visit [www.ng-shire.vic.gov.au/Events/2025-Northern-Grampians-Easter-Festival-Whats-On](http://www.ng-shire.vic.gov.au/Events/2025-Northern-Grampians-Easter-Festival-Whats-On) or follow Discover Northern Grampians on Facebook for a full list of Easter events.

## Donald at Dawn Only

With the passage of time and the falling of membership, it is felt the historic reason of holding both a Dawn Service and another service at the Soldiers Memorial Hall, (SMH) has become too great a challenge for the few active members of the Donald RSL sub-branch.

From this year, 2025, on, therefore, the sub-branch will be only conducting a Dawn Service at the Cenotaph followed by a breakfast in the Donald Bowling Club’s rooms adjacent to the Cenotaph.

All are invited to the Dawn Service at 6.30 a.m..





• At its April rally held at the pony club grounds in Donald on Sunday, April 6, the club welcomed new members and a host of spectators! It was wonderful to have parents, grandparents friends and family spread out along the fenceline in support of our local equestrians.

# Donald Pony Club's Membership Boost

**Donald and District Pony Club has seen a much-needed boost in riding memberships this year, increasing almost double in number, with the introduction of four new members to the club.**

Earlier in the year, Paige Brusnahan returned to the Pony Club community for the first time since childhood. As

a new mum, Paige couldn't wait to get back in the saddle on her stockhorse, "Chilli", and also attends rallies with

her daughter's future riding pony, "Dixie", in tow, indicating another pair set to join the club in coming years.

At its April rally held at the pony club grounds in Donald on Sunday, April 6, the club welcomed new members Cheyenne Ryan riding her black pony "Thunder", Jessie Adams on the tiny chestnut "Ollie" and Chelsea Hart sharing Chilli the stockhorse with Paige.

And not only did they bring their excitement, in a welcome change, they brought with them a host of spectators!

The club warmly welcomes visitors, so it was wonderful to have parents and grandparents show up to watch the kids ride, spread out along the fenceline in support of our local equestrians and lifting everyone's spirits.

## Easter Egg Hunt

To begin the rally, new members took to the grounds with enthusiasm, joining the seasoned riders for an Easter egg hunt, where horse and handler traipsed the grounds searching for shiny chocolate treasures.

It wasn't just about the Easter eggs though, this exercise was to develop horsemanship.

As horses were led around, they needed to maintain a respectful distance from their handler, walk or trot as they were led to, stop when their human stopped and generally "behave" as they explored the different areas of the grounds.

## Obstacles

Following this, horses were saddled up ready for the group lesson with instructor, Corrie Potter.

At a walking pace, riders were directed through a range of different obstacles set up around the arena.

There were barrels to circle, cones to weave through, poles to walk through and over, and a squeeze between two plastic drums.

Then everyone picked up the pace to try trotting, with the more experience riders taking the whole arena, while those still new to the saddle stayed nearer to Corrie for handy instruction as needed.

Laughter and smiles were all round as the group stopped for the lunch break, with individual lessons held in the afternoon for those who requested more time on horseback.

It was great to see the pony club grounds spring to life at this rally and members hope it becomes a frequent occurrence; spectators are warmly welcomed, even with no prior affiliation with the club, if you have an interest, come along and have a look!

Meetings at the club will now move to the third Sunday of the month, with the next date scheduled to be Sunday, May 18.

For more up to date notices, or for more information, please check out the Donald Pony Club's Facebook page, or contact Jill McEwen on 0428 915 269.



• New member Paige Brusnahan (right) with baby Sophie. Her horse chilli is being shared with another new member Chelsea Hart (left), Paige's nana and Sophie's great-nana Lyn Carter (centre) was a welcome spectator at the April rally.



• New member Jessie Adams on the tiny chestnut "Ollie" and mum Linda leading.



• New member Cheyenne Ryan riding her black pony "Thunder".



• New member Chelsea Hart riding "Chilli".



• Seasoned members with coach Corrie Potter, left to right, Kendra Clark on Crystal with Tayla Wyllie leading; Quill McQuilty on Solomon; Corrie Potter instructing; and Melinda McEwen on Fred.



# Heat Tests Juniors

The juniors were in for an unseasonably warm day for Birchip-Watchem’s first home game and the under-14s started the day with a level of excitement that no further games throughout the day reached.

It was 22 degrees when the players took to the field but Birchip-Watchem came out strong, with Hamish Jones snagging a goal in the first minute. The defensive pressure was great, with Sadidas Gardiner-Paikea working hard to stop Donald from marking, which kept the visitors scoreless in the first quarter. At the first break Birchip-Watchem 1. 3. (9) led Donald 0.

Donald came out strongly in the second and worked hard, kicking its first goal quickly. Bulls kept the defensive pressure going but Donald was able to keep it in its forward 50 for most of the second quarter, with Noah Michael and Emma Geddes kicking goals. There were some additional errant shots on goal by both teams, with Donald kicking 4 points and Birchip-Watchem 1, but Donald had done enough to take the half-time lead, 2.4 (16) to 1.4 (10).

Birchip-Watchem came into the third quarter with confidence and scored 2 goals in the first 2 minutes through Liam Spezza. Hamish Jones also added one for the Bulls, while their defensive pressure was also impressive.

With some quick footwork from Donald’s Emmett Geddes, he scored a great goal to end the third quarter and keep the Royal Blues within reach. At the final change Birchip-

Watchem 4. 8 (32) led Donald 3. 5. (23).

It was a tense last quarter and while it was hot, both teams continued to give it their all. Donald had the upper hand scoring the first goal and with 3 minutes to go, it scored again to come out in front.

This was simply not acceptable to the Bulls, who continued to fight until the last second. The whole team worked together, with Liam Spezza taking a great mark just before the siren. In an exciting end to the game, Liam scored the winning goal as the siren sounded. There was a lot of emotion in the air as the whole team cheered and embraced.

It was a great competitive match up with both teams doing well. It was great to see how far the young Birchip-Watchem team has come since its match up with Donald last year where it was defeated 0. 1 (1) to Donald 15. 17. (107)

Final score: Birchip-Watchem 5. 8 (38) d. Donald 5. 6 (36).

Birchip-Watchem awards: Willow Ryan (Noonan Tyres and Jake & Billy Noonan), Hamish Jones (TMC enviro), Liam Spezza (Bulls Canteen), Archie Tyler (IGA Birchip).

Donald awards: Joshua Joseph, Emmett Geddes, Jhak Burke, Blake Michael.

## Under-17s

It was a quick scoring start to the under-17 Birchip-Watchem versus Donald game on Saturday, and it didn’t let up for the Bulls.

Donald hit the scoreboard within the first 2 minutes of the game and shortly after was able to score again in quick succession. The Bulls’ attempt at the goals was unsuccessful, which kept the score at quarter time Birchip-Watchem 0 to Donald 33.

The second quarter saw Donald hot off the blocks with a goal in the first 30 seconds of the quarter, which put the Bulls on notice. Strong defensive efforts from the Bulls’ Ollie Cook and Jack McAuliffe wasn’t enough to shut down the Donald forward line, where it had a plethora of players with options to goal.

Birchip-Watchem struggled to bring the ball into its forward line for the rest of the quarter, and at half time the Bulls had failed to score, while Donald had doubled its tally, leading 10.6 (66) to 0.

Donald continued with all the momentum in the third with Baxter Donnellon and Noah Mitchell finding the middle of the posts. The Bulls were still struggling to score in the third, but they did accumulate two behinds, and the scores at quarter time saw the Bulls trailing 2 to 94.

Donald wasn’t letting up in the fourth quarter, but Birchip-Watchem did its best to keep the Royal Blues’ goals to a minimum, only allowing them to add a further two goals. The Donald Royal Blues were too strong in the end, final scores Birchip-Watchem, 0.3 (3) to Donald 16.14 (110).

Best for Birchip-Watchem was Ollie Cook, Willow Ryan, Jack McAuliffe and Hamish Jones.

Donald’s best were Jessie Lydom, Jam Borden, Chase Campbell and Ethan Clapman.



• Left to right; Max Field, Chase Champbell, Bailey Baxter, Hugo Funke.

# Charlton Golf Season Opens

Marj Olive was invited to officially open the Charlton Golf season on Sunday, April 13th, by striking the first ball in front of a good turnout of 28 golfers.

Marj has a long association with the golf club and continues to be an active participant as a player and volunteer.

Club president, Jamey Soulsby, welcomed all players and announced that this year, Charlton will be hosting the Victorian Sandscrape Championships to be held in August.

The opening event was a 4 person Ambrose and as often

happens, the scoring was a closely contested affair.

The winning group consisted of T. and C. McGurk, J. Cossar, J. Soulsby with a net score of 37½. Very close behind on 37¼ was P. & K. & C. Mathews, A. Kenny.

Following in 3rd place with 38, M. McGurk, T. Heenan, W. Southwell, P.

Sexton. Matt McGurk contributed an eagle on the par 5 10th hole. Well done. Next best on 38¼ was C. Fitzpatrick, C. Livingston, Benno and J. Tormey.

Nearest the pin on the 7th John Cossar.

A barbecue tea was enjoyed by members at the close of play.



• Club Captain Clinton Olive (centre) with golfing parents Bevan and Marj.



• Marj Olive hits the first ball to open the Charlton golf season.

“Times” Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8173 - SOLUTIONS

Across - 7, Subservience. 8, Potent. 9, Accept. 10, Console. 12, Knock. 15, Asset. 16, Cabaret. 18, Brutal. 20, Father. 22, Presentiment.

Down - 1, Humorous. 2, Isle. 3, Prattle. 4, Final. 5, Anaconda. 6, Leap. 11, Sweet pea. 13, Cheyenne. 14, Taf-feta. 17, Sleek. 19, Ripe. 21, Tome.

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# Clean Sweep for Bulls’ Netball Teams

On the 12th of April in the second round of the 2025 season, Birchip-Watchem Bulls welcomed Donald Royal Blues at Birchip’s home ground.

## 14-and Under “B”

Sun rained down on the courts with a blue sky backdrop as 14 eager young girls readied themselves to take the court. If only there was rain on the outlook.....

From the get go, Birchip-Watchem took control of the game with a beautifully timed drive into the ring from Isla Ferrier, as Frankie McClelland passed the ball, resulting in the Bulls’ first goal of the day. Addison Hamilton’s first game in the dress saw her intercepting well and, along with Ivy Bourke, they had their hands in everything, shutting down Donald’s system as Donald struggled to get the ball into its attacking end. Stacey Bowen grew in confidence quickly shaking off first game nerves and goaled well finishing the quarter with 5 goals.

The second quarter saw the Bulls make a couple of quick changes and brought on Hannah and Tilly, the Hogan sisters, to the defensive end. Issy Sharp adapted to new positions from one end of the court to the other, and Frankie McClelland chased down every loose ball, along with Lucy Coffey intercepting well.

In the third quarter, Donald came out with a bit more zing in its game, and the Bulls found it more of a challenge to find flowing netball down the court. Indi Goldsmith finally found the ring for Donald to shoot its only goal for the game. Georgia Tynan graced the court for two quarters goal shooter and to her delight found the ring also. The game concluded just before the blazing sun made its real presence. To Donald’s credit, the young girls never gave up despite the score. Birchip-Watchem came away with the 4 points, 26-1.

Best on court for Birchip-Watchem: Isla Ferrier, Lucy McClelland. For Donald: Karleisha Anderson, Indi Goldsmith.

## 14-and Under “A”

At 10 a.m. the under-14 “A” netball game started and, when the whistle blew for the first quarter, everyone was ready and pumped to play.

Both teams started off pretty strongly with the score being 8-5, Birchip-Watchem’s way.

As the quarters went on, players were getting hot and exhausted, but they kept pushing through until the end of the game, with the final score being 24-15 Birchip-Watchem’s way.

After both teams shook hands and drifted to their teams, awards were handed out by the coaches to those who stood out the most on the court and for the Bulls, the awards went to Sienna Richmond and Awhina Kahakura.

## 17-and-Under “A”

Birchip-Watchem hosted Donald on what could only be seen as unpleasantly warm conditions for this time of year. The Bulls immediately demonstrated that they were ready to go, with the attack on fire and Zali Angel dominant in the circle, scoring 23 of the Bulls’ 25 opening quarter goals. Donald scored 10 giving Birchip-Watchem a commanding lead.

The second quarter saw both teams make changes to try to rotate players in the warm conditions. The injection of Laila Riley into defence for the Royal Blues had immediate impact with turnovers, slowing the dominance of the Bulls’ Asha Lee and Cassie Tynan paired up in attack, but the Bulls’ defensive end also remained solid, denying Donald attackers Alyssa Hepworth and Arleaa Sarre of scoring opportunities. At half time the Bulls had increased the margin to 38-11.

In the second half the heat really started to kick in as coaches rotated players more to keep things moving. Halle Rice was strong through the mid court, alongside Harriet Manifold and Jasmine Anderson, but this was not enough to slow a dominant Bulls performance, as they added a further 36 goals to their tally, compared with Donald’s 17. Final score 74-28.

Awards for Birchip-Watchem, sponsored by Wimmera Mallee Accounting went to Asha Lee and Zara Lowry. Donald’s awards went to Harriet Manifold and Jasmine

Anderson sponsored by The Clothes Bin and Love Shack respectively.

## “C” Grade

Birchip-Watchem went straight into attack from the first whistle in the heat, proving its relentlessness to get the ball. The Bulls’ defence with Stephanie Coffey and Ashlee Tierney made it difficult for Donald shooters Belicia Francis and Tiarnah Hepworth to maintain accuracy under the ring. Bulls led at quarter-time 11-4.

The second quarter saw a positional change for the Bulls with Emily Hotker moving into WD, providing opportunities to keep the ball moving through the midcourt. The Blues’ Jenna McCallum stepped on to the court against Bulls’ Keira Lowry, who proved she was a force to be reckoned with, chasing every loose ball. The Bulls kept charging through the heat, keeping the lead 22-8 at half-time.

The start of the second half began with Jay Connelly and Hannah Wilson stepping back on to the court in the mid-court, moving the ball fast to keep it out of the Royal Blues’ hands. Despite Donald’s defensive efforts from Laila Reilly and Makere Dillon, Birchip-Watchem was too strong, maintaining its position at three-quarter time, 32-13.

The last quarter saw all players on the court exhausted from the heat, but Bulls’ star shooting duo, Immy Boyle and Megane Greenaway, kept putting the goals up, scoring a high of 13 in the fourth. Royal Blues’ shooting circle, with Tiarnah Hepworth and Laila Reilly moving in from defence, saw them bring their score up, scoring 7 for the quarter. Despite Donald’s efforts the Bulls charged to victory 45-20.

Birchip-Watchem awards: Ashlee Tierney and Keira Lowry. Donald awards: Laila Reilly and Megan Godkin-Briggs

## “B” Grade

Meghan Noonan and Stacey Hamilton worked well together in the ring getting lots of turnovers in the first



• “C” grade:Immy Boyle (GS), Mak Dillion (GK), Belicia Francis (GD) and Megane Greenaway (GA).

quarter, reading the play well to ensure that Birchip-Watchem was ahead at the first quarter break 10-8.

Holly Hinkley kept up a strong presence for all quarters running to every loose ball. Samantha Mitchell’s elite fitness was evident as she kept running at the loose ball, gaining many turnovers through the midcourt which helped to give Birchip-Watchem a larger lead, 20-14.

Asha Lee made her first senior netball debut in “B” grade and showed how capable she is playing in the senior ranks, taking it to the older players and providing many opportunities through the mid-court. Issy Atkins put her body on the line, gaining great intercepts that ensured Birchip-Watchem maintained its lead 30-22.

Suberia Sailor came back to the bullpen and was straight back on to the court, determined to get plenty of intercepts and carry the ball through the WA position. Showing her great determination to get the ball, she worked

well with Toni Jones in the GA position, who was a prominent scorer for Birchip-Watchem.

The game finished with Birchip-Watchem “B” grade taking home its second win of the season, 40-27.

Best for Birchip-Watchem: Toni Jones and Samantha Mitchell. Best for Donald: Courtney Doak and Zara Staples.

## “A” Grade

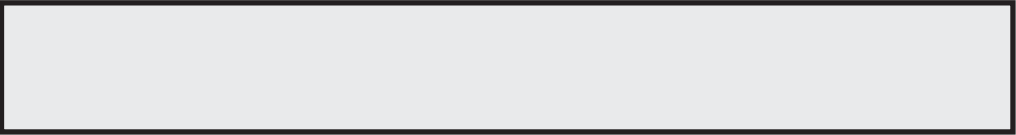
In a scorching round two “A” grade clash between neighbours, Donald showed it was going to be tough to beat from the very first whistle and showed no signs of letting up in the heat. Milla Adams and Scarlett Funcke were proving to be a difficult force to beat, shooting with pin point accuracy despite the might of the Bulls’ defenders.

In her first game of “A” grade for the Bulls, Tylah Haslam stepped up to the plate and moved the ball well through the middle of the court and provided great options. The relentless Royal

Blues defensive end, led by goal defence Anna Sudholz, was wearing down the purple goalies, allowing Donald to keep the Birchip-Watchem girls at arm’s reach on the score board for the majority of the game.

The last quarter saw a huge shift in energy, as the Bulls started to gain momentum and capitalize on the stand out defensive efforts of Romi Miller and Sassia Coffey. These efforts were rewarded at the other end by star goalie, Zali Angel, who showed composure and skill beyond her years against an unforgiving defensive ring. Seasoned pros for Donald, Xanthi Rice and Sarah Adam, attempted to bring the composure back for their team; however, there was no stopping the second wind of the Bulls, who charged home to secure another four points for their season. Final score: Birchip-Watchem 47 defeated Donald 43.

Awards Birchip-Watchem: Romi Miller and Zali Angel. Awards for Donald: Anna Sudholz and Abby Griffiths



(By Course Language)

## The first weekend of competitive golf was held last week with some die-hard golfers taking to the links.

In conditions that resembled more of the Coober Peedy Golf Course than St Andrew’s, with warm, dusty weather prevailing, some of the scores meant that the golfers got value for money with plenty of strokes being had.

One golfer who relished the conditions was Brad Bath with a one over the card 71. (41 points) This also included an eagle on the par 5, 12th hole to take out the weekend’s event from Peter Kelly with 35 points.

The “Nearest The Pins” were: The Donald Auto Elec 3rd, Peter Kelly; Weirs IGA 7th, Peter Kelly; Nufarm 14th, Geoff Harvey; Bendigo Bank 16th, Sam Beavis.

Geoff Jane won the wood raffle.

Stuart Potter was a welcome addition to the field last week, and with his trusty Hybrid club he handled the course as well as anyone out there and will soon be giving others a run for their money.

There’s been another addition to the “Golf Cart Gang”. After his recent purchase, Geoff Harvey certainly looked very cool and relaxed after what was a very warm day for golf. No doubt the scribe will be paid his “finder’s fee” next week?

There was some controversy in last week’s write up. Apparently there needs to be a retraction or right of reply regarding the accusation that the Captain took 3 attempts to hit the opening tee shot the other year. I sincerely apologise for any “misinformation” regarding this statement. However, I may not have been too far off the mark, as I do have witnesses to verify that the Captain did hit 2 of his drives a combined total of 50 metres last week.

## Coming Up

Something a bit different this weekend – A 3 Club Challenge (choose 3 clubs from your bag to play your round with). Assembly at noon for hit off at 12.30 on both Saturday and Sunday.

This weekend’s events are sponsored by Leeder Capentry.

To anyone wanting to have a hit of golf you’re more than welcome to join in. Hopefully that elusive break in the season isn’t too far away, for everyone’s sake.

Dad’s Army is calling for recruits to be enlisted into their ranks as it will hit off again on the Thursday after Easter at 1 p.m..

## Dad Jokes

A chicken and an egg walk into a bar – the barman says “Who’s First?”

A mate of mine got a job as a Judge at a Mime talent contest – It’s the quiet ones you have to watch.

Another friend of mine went to a Pub dressed as a tennis ball – He got served straight away.

I walked past Harris Mensland the other day and saw a sign out the front that said “50% off men’s trousers” – turned out Pickles was selling shorts.



• “A” grade: Anna Sudholz (GD), Sara Adams (GK) and Zali Angel (GS).





• “A” Grade: Claudia Lee (GA) passes to Chloe Walsh (GS) with Maggie Riley (WA).



• “C” Grade: Best on court Jac Leslie shooting with Emmy Nelson (GA) and Mikaela Wilkinson (C).

## Charlton Netballers Struggle at Boort

• Continued from page 16.

good accuracy throughout the game. Up the other end Charlton’s defenders were amazing at stopping quick balls into the ring and had all hands on the rebounds.

Well done to Mia for her first game and thank you to the U17s for stepping up and working hard.

Charlton awards: Vale of Avoca Best, Jac Leslie; JS Plumbing Coaches, Talia Holmes-Brown; Caffeinated Chaos Captains Coffee, Anika Holmes-Brown.

Boort awards: Matt Wilkinson Plumbing, Hannah Spencer; North West Ag, Anna Marcus.

### “B” Grade

Charlton 20 def. by Boort 45.

It was a challenging day on court for Charlton’s relatively new “B” grade team, facing tough conditions and strong opposition from Boort.

Despite the heat and pressure, the team started positively, demonstrating great movement through the midcourt and strong defensive efforts.

Goalers Tahli Roberts and Emily Olive combined well, providing effective leads and creating space for the midcourt to deliver the ball.

Abby Mulquiny displayed strong leadership throughout the game, particularly in the midcourt, where she connected seamlessly with Sarah Blair. Sarah stepped up from the U17s and played a full game in the Centre position, performing exceptionally well in her “B” grade debut.

Although the defensive end worked tirelessly, Charlton was initially unable to capitalise on its efforts, allowing Boort to take an early lead. As the game progressed, the team began to settle and find its rhythm, rotating fresh legs on and off the court to manage the extreme heat.

A standout in defence was Holly Thompson, who once again led with numerous intercepts and deflections. She worked effectively alongside roll-on substitutes Claire Smith and Issy Soulsby after the starting Goal Keeper, Kate Stuchbery, was forced off early in the first quarter due to injury.

Holly earned the Best on Court award for the day for extremely hard work and direction through the defensive end.

The Coaches Award this week went to Goal Shooter, Tahli Roberts for her resilience, strong drives and clever movement around the ring which continually created opportunities for the team.

This group continues to grow each week. Their commitment, positive attitude, and team-first mindset are setting a strong foundation for the season ahead.

Charlton awards: Teys Charlton Feedlot Best, Holly Thompson; Teys Charlton Feedlot Coaches, Tahli Roberts; Caffeinated Chaos Captains Coffee, Sarah Blair.

Boort awards: DWT Transport, Georgia Haw; Boort Natural Therapies, Isabelle Hosking.

### “A” Grade

Charlton 47 def. by Boort 62.

The Charlton “A” Grade team began the match with intensity, capitalising on early turnovers and applying consistent pressure.

Chloe Walsh provided strong targets in the Goal Shooter position, supported by Claudia Lee, who effectively connected the midcourt to the goal circle.

Despite extremely challenging weather conditions, the team maintained momentum through strategic rotations and fresh legs on court.

A highlight of the match was the “A” grade debut of Maggie Riley, stepping up from the U17s. Maggie

showed great promise and composure, indicating her potential as a future key player for the club.

Although Charlton is still finding its rhythm with a mix of new and existing players, the team’s commitment and work ethic are evident. Players dedication to improvement is beginning to show through strong passages of structured and composed play.

Defensively, the team worked tirelessly to disrupt Boort’s attack. Claire Smith, named Best on Court, was instrumental in creating multiple turnovers, showcasing her defensive leadership. She was well supported by Megan Bruns and Isabel Soulsby, who provided consistent drive and pressure through the defensive midcourt.

Holly Thompson also made a significant contribution, backing up from a full game in “B” grade to deliver key defensive setups and voice across the court.

While the scoreboard may not have reflected the effort and determination shown, the team’s adaptability and willingness to embrace change were clear positives.

With continued growth and cohesion, Charlton “A” grade is looking forward to the next meeting with Boort, confident in their development and team spirit.

Charlton awards: Walsh Motors Best, Claire Smith; Walsh Motors Coaches, Chloe Walsh. Caffeinated Chaos Captains Coffee, Lacey Smith.

Boort awards: Meering West Wind Farm, Roxy Train; Boundary Bend Olives, Amy Kane.

## CHURCHES

### DISTRICT CATHOLIC CHURCHES “East Wimmera Parish”

#### Easter Service

Thursday, April 17  
Holy Thursday

Live-streamed out from St. Mary’s Birchip. 7.00 p.m.  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMqUdLT0T7CPqfgWhlISJ7g>

#### Friday, April 18 Good Friday

Charlton LLA	10.00 a.m.
Donald	3.00 p.m.
<i>(with Fr Gerry)</i>	
St. Arnaud LLA	3.00 p.m.
Birchip LLA	3.00 p.m.
Wycheproof LLA	3.00 p.m.
Boort LLA	3.00 p.m.

#### Saturday (night), April 19 Easter Vigil

Wycheproof	5.00 p.m.
Charlton	7.00 p.m.
St. Arnaud	9.00 p.m.

#### Sunday, April 20 Easter Sunday

Birchip	8.30 a.m.
Banyena.	12 noon.
Boort	5.00 p.m.
Live-streamed out from St. Mary’s Donald 10.30 a.m.	
<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-7KMG-nnvs-fjpGqN39qKnw">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-7KMG-nnvs-fjpGqN39qKnw</a>	

Fr. Gerry Prunty  
0419 247 779

Parish Co-ordinator  
– Noeline Hogan: 0476 617 976

## Bulls’ Reserves Outplay Royal Blues

• Continued from page 16.

feated Donald 0.3 (3).

Best for Birchip-Watchem: Austin Dean (O’Connors), Jack Lee (YBS Ag), Riley Hogan (Agrifac), Harry Cook (Donnellon’s Bulk Haulage),

George Addis (Nutrien Ag), Alexander Hay (Ryan Commodities).

For Donald: Sam Goldsmith, Jesse Lopes, Braxton Hollis, Joe Sheridan, Brod Harrison, Daniel Tatarskyj.



• Brothers in arms. Playing against each other in Saturday’s reserves game were Joe Sheridan (Donald) and Tom Sheridan (Birchip-Watchem).

## Down the Middle?

Eight players took to the field on Wednesday, with three opting for nine holes and the other five competing in a stroke round with the winner being Luke Kelly with a 74 nett.

Joan Pearce was runner-up with a 77 nett. Nearest the pins were Kerry Wood on Donald Auto Electrical’s 3rd, Kerry Raven on Weir’s 7th, Joan Pearce on Nu Farm’s 14th and Kerry Raven on the Donald Community Bank’s 16th. Joan also won the putting with 24 putts.

Sponsor for the event was Donald Riverside Motel.

### Next Week

Monday, April 21, 9 holes: Assemble at 9.45 for a 10 a.m. hit off.

Wednesday, April 23: Par and the Clothes Bin Monthly. Monday, May 5: First round of Pennant, so give your name to.

### Highlights and Lowlights

It became clear that the heat was getting to the players when they were forgetting to

take the covers off their clubs before hitting.

No swishes for Luke this week but Kerry Raven, Enid Brasier and Jenni Campbell were heard admitting that they three putted.

After searching for Kerry Wood’s ball within the regulation time, the heavens opened up and dropped it. There was plenty of colourful language from the five who played 18 and Jo Beavis commented that she sure got her money’s worth this week.

Congratulations to Geoff Jane who won our first wood raffle for the year. So for all those people who missed out, we will be having another wood raffle in May.

### Player Profile

#### Margot Paynter

How long have you been playing golf? On and off for 20 years.

What do you enjoy about golf? Social connection, outdoor exercise and the occasional good shot

What is the best part of your game? Every round there’s a new challenge, but possibly my driving.

What advice would you give to anyone thinking of taking up golf? Just do it and don’t overthink it.

What is your best score? 86.

What is your best shot ever? At Donald on the 17th – a gobbler from 100m out.

Who is your favourite golfer? Local, Kerry Raven; current Hannah Green; past Karrie Webb.

Position held in the club? Having a year off, previously match committee.



## Bulls' Reserves Outplay Royal Blues

**Birchip-Watchem reserves continued their strong start to the season last Saturday, comfortably defeating Donald by 175 points at George Cartwright Oval.**

Remarkably, the Bulls are yet to concede a goal this season. In this game they held the Royal Blues to just three behinds for the match. The Bulls' defenders were rock solid but midfield dominance also ensured the ball rarely entered the Donald forward line.

The injection of youth into the Birchip-Watchem team has certainly paid dividends so far and was again evident on Saturday. Austin Dean, Harry Cook and Riley Hogan are each in their first season out of the juniors and have hit the ground running. Each completed an impressive pre-season and it has showed on the field, their speed and endurance wreaking havoc on the Royal Blues.

Matt Berry played his junior football for Donald, but in the past decade has forged a consistent senior career for

Birchip-Watchem, following in the footsteps of his late grandfather Leo "Goo" Lowry and uncles Danny and Paul. Berry's standout games have been in the forward line for the Bulls' reserves and this game added to the list as he booted seven majors.

Alexander Hay has provided another focal point for Birchip-Watchem and continued his good form with four goals. Connor Boyle, Callum Goode and Tom Sheridan were other forwards to hit the scoreboard for the Bulls, a pleasing sign that numerous players could share the load in this regard.

The perfect foil in the Bulls' midfield for the speed of Dean, Cook and Hogan was relative veteran Jack Lee. Still only 25 years of age, Lee has eight years of senior experience and is comfortable at the coalface. A true inside

mid, Lee made his presence felt at every stoppage and gave his outside runners ample opportunities to carry the football. In the ruck, Birchip-Watchem was well-served by Georgie Addis, who continues to improve in his conversion from rugby union to Aussie rules football.

It was a tough day out for Donald, but there were a few rays of light amongst the gloom. Sam Goldsmith made his return to the Royal Blues fresh from playing in Nullawil's reserves premiership in 2024; 40-year-old Goldsmith is still as exuberant as ever on the football field and will provide useful leadership to the youngsters in the team. Of this there were many, with Jam Borden, Chase Campbell, Ethan Clapham, Marty Burke, Hayden Clarke and Jesse Lydom all playing reserves after first playing in the under-17s match. Each of these boys ran out the game with plenty of gusto.

Other worthy contributors for Donald included Jesse Lopes and Brod Harrison, who never stopped competing in the backline, as well as Braxton Hollis and Joe Sheridan, who each collected a number of touches in the midfield.

The match belonged to Birchip-Watchem however, which registered 48 scoring shots to Donald's three. It has been an impeccable start to the season for the Bulls, but a fierce challenge awaits in their next fixture against Sea Lake-Nandaly.

Final scores: Birchip-Watchem 26.22 (178) de-

• Continued on page 15.



• Now in the Royal Blue colours, Sam Goldsmith grabs the ball. Other players are Birchip-Watchem's Matt Rickard, Matt Lade and Riley Hogan.



• Donald's Jeremy Pearse has eyes on the ball and is tackled by the Bulls' Matt Lade. At right is Riley Hogan (B-W).



• Donald's Jesse Lopes and the Bulls' Connor Lee fight for the ball.



• "B" Grade: Emily Olive (WD) with Holly Thompson (GK).

## Charlton Netballers Struggle at Boort

**While Charlton netballers met their match at all levels of the game at Boort in round 2 on Saturday, they fought hard throughout the afternoon, determined to improve as the season progresses.**

### 14 & Under "A"

Charlton 9 def. by Boort 38.

Charlton girls all showed great determination in wanting the ball and went hard in chasing any loose balls on the court. Lila Schofield worked super well offering out centre passes and supported her team mates well on the court. Anna Fitzpatrick also worked very hard and positioned beautifully against a tall goaler with Marley McGurk showing brilliant leadership in defence all day.

Charlton awards: Steel's Butcher Best, Anna Fitzpatrick; Ladies Auxiliary Coaches, Lila Schofield; Nu-

trien Ag & Roberts Windrowing "Have a Crack", Marley McGurk.

Boort awards: Bendigo Sportpower, Bridget Perryman; Boort Newsagency, Alice Marsh.

### 17 & Under "A"

Charlton 31 def. by Boort 40.

What a hot, tough game for the juniors! The girls had some good patches of play down the court and the goalers shot well. Defence worked really hard and got plenty of turnovers throughout the game. The girls did a really good job in hot conditions!

Charlton awards: Bendigo Bank Best, Taylah Giles; Ladies Auxiliary Coaches, Josie Larmour; Caffeinated Chaos Captains Coffee, Stella Nicolson.

Boort awards: Graeme Hayes Real Estate, Abby Potter; Streader Constructions, Sophie Gilmore.

### "C" Grade

Charlton 37 def. by Boort 47.

Solid second game for the "C" grade girls with the attackers working well together getting the ball into the ring, with the goalers maintaining

• Continued on page 15.