

DONALD

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The Buloke Times

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Friday, April 25, 2025

PRICE (inc. G.S.T.) \$2

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



Easter Travellers Take a Break

For years past, Donald's historic Police Camp has been a brief, but interesting, "Driver Reviver" stopping point for people crossing Buloke Shire at Easter on their way to and from places near and far.

The most recent attraction of the Camp has been largely due to the work of Donald Lions Club members – and, in particular, Lion Norm Hollis – in reviving interest in the role originally played by the police presence at the entrance to the town, alongside the Sunraysia Highway, and close to the Richardson River.

As in previous years, a roster of Lions Club members manned the Camp all day on both

Easter Saturday and Monday, last weekend, welcoming visitors, and inviting them to enjoy a warm drink and biscuits.

Among those taking the opportunity to stretch their legs on Monday morning were members of the Gillingham clan, a Kerang family heading for Beachport, near Robe, in South Australia. That journey would entail about an hour from Kerang to Donald, and another four hours to their holiday destination.

• Pictured with them in Donald were Lions Club members Chris Rodger (left), and David Elsom (right). Adult Gillingham family members are, left to right, Dennis, Nicole and Lyla, with boys Jed and Bodie.

C.F.A. Smashes Appeal Milestone

Victorians have dug deep this year in support of the Good Friday Appeal, helping CFA reach a historic milestone and raising our grand total of contributions to \$41 million.

CFA has been a major fundraiser of the Good Friday Appeal for the past 74 years and this year, with the help of generous local community members, our volunteers were able to raise \$1,888,912.

CFA volunteers were seen in trucks and at traffic lights across the state yesterday, fundraising in their local areas for The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) Good Friday Appeal.

CFA Chief Fire Officer, Jason Heffernan, said this year's Good Friday Appeal was particularly special.

"Being able to exceed the \$40 million milestone in the same year CFA celebrates its 80th anniversary is quite fitting and is a touching nod to

our shared community spirit," Jason said.

Part of the Family

"Not only that, but this year the face of the Good Friday Appeal is part of our CFA family."

Jack was the face of this year's Appeal, and his dad Rohan Stevens is a 30-year volunteer firefighter for Epping Fire Brigade.

Rohan said it was an honour to handover the cheque this year to the Royal Children's Hospital.

"As the parent of a child whose life has been saved at the Royal Children's Hospital, I'm incredibly proud to assist in presenting this cheque to the Appeal which

• Continued on page 2.



• Proud faces of the CFA members.

Cars, Campers and Caravans

You know when its a long weekend... Cars, campers and caravans are everywhere on the roads and staying at rivers, lakes and caravan parks all around.

The photo accompanying this article shows the Donald caravan park was nearly filled to capacity over the Easter break.

Caravans, camper trailers and tents everywhere and the cabins were also booked out, with the vehicles missing

from the cabin areas just means that they were off checking out what the community and district has to offer.

It was great to see so many strangers wandering the streets and seeing what our towns have to offer.

Police Beat

GANNAWARRA

Cultivate: On Wednesday the 16th of April, police executed a warrant at a Leitchville address. At that location, they seized a large cannabis plant growing in the rear yard and cannabis in the home. The 54-year-old male home occupant was spoken to at the home and will be interviewed at a later date.

SWAN HILL

Attempted theft: Just before 4 p.m. on Saturday the 19th of April, the victim locked up their bike outside a business on the southern end of Campbell Street, Swan Hill. Offenders have used an unknown implement to cut through the cable. The offender may have been disturbed, as the bike was not stolen.

Burglary: Between 11.30 p.m. on Friday the 18th of April and 10 a.m. the following day, it appears an offender has gained entry to a home in Foster Street, Swan Hill, whilst the occupant was sleeping and stolen a Samsung mobile phone and taxi card.

Burglary: Between April 10 and 16, it appears offenders have gained entry to a home on the Murray Valley Highway, Beverford. The inside of the home has been damaged by fire which appears to have been deliberately lit.

Burglary: Between April 8 and 15, it appears an offender has gained entry to a garage on a property in Arnoldt Street, Swan Hill. A Makita battery and charger have been stolen from the garage.



A drone image taken by local, Jodie Drake, shows the Donald Caravan Park was nearly filled to capacity over the Easter break.

C.F.A. Smashes Appeal Milestone

• Continued from page 1.

will help other kids just like Jack,” Rohan said.

“This cheque represents the collective efforts of CFA members and their families who have collectively spent many hours fundraising for the Good Friday Appeal.

“This donation will assist in funding the next generation of technology, research and treatment to support kids just like Jack.”

Rohan presented the

cheque to the hospital alongside fellow Epping brigade members, CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan and the Good Friday Appeal Area Manager Andrew Dalla Via.

CO Jason Heffernan congratulates and thanks all participating brigades across Victoria for their incredible contributions this year and throughout many decades.

“Our members give up their time to serve their communities in times of need and it’s no surprise that their selflessness extends to worthy causes such as supporting The Royal Children’s Hospital,” Jason said.

“All members and their communities should be extremely proud of what they’ve achieved for this year’s Appeal, and we thank you for your time and generosity to help save many young lives.”

The money raised for The Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal will be used to ensure kids are provided with the best possible treatment and care.

Letters to the Editor

Scam Awareness
(The Editor, “The Times”)

Dear Editor:— Congratulations and thank you to Community Bank Donald and District branch manager, Kirby, and staff members, Kez and Anjalee, on the very informative Scam Awareness session conducted at the Donald Community Centre on Wednesday.

Scams of all types and varieties are becoming more sophisticated and are increasingly being forced on to unsuspecting people of all ages, who may not have the skills or awareness to prevent themselves from revealing important personal information or losing their hard-earned savings to unscrupulous online thieves.

Wednesday’s presentation also provided helpful advice on what action to take should you receive a suspicious email, phone call or text message.

It also armed those present with three simple steps to remember:

Stop: Don’t give money or personal information to anyone.

Think: Ask yourself, could the message, email or call be a fake?

Protect: Act quickly if something feels wrong.

There are numerous steps that people can take to protect themselves from scams, and their devices, including mobile phones and computers, from being hacked.

Kirby invited Community Bank Donald and District customers to contact the branch staff for assistance.

Forewarned is forearmed, and I came away from Wednesday’s presentation with greater awareness of the types of scams currently in circulation, and better prepared to prevent myself from being scammed.

Shane O’Shea.
Donald.

Anzac Day: musings of a grandson, great nephew, nephew.
(The Editor, “The Times”)

Dear Editor:— My grandfather, a wealthy man of property, favoured the Holden ute in 1948, 1958 and 1965, with a big black Ford V8 for family outings. He was grateful for his “deliverance” after combat in World War One. Following the dawn service, he would invite friends and strangers (many limble and otherwise disabled) around for “drinks” on Anzac day, all graciously attended to by my grandmother, following which he’d “shout” their cab fares home.

A great uncle, a gentleman of kindest good wit and humour, served in the Navy both world wars surviving “lucky”, contracted cancers from “helping” with the installations of radar systems new to Australian forces. Great uncle

“G” would sit on Manly Beach beside my smiling great aunt who had knitted softest multi-coloured gloves for hands and feet, having had his fingernails and toenails removed following his capture on Timor WW2 as a reporting coast watcher/radio operator. “I told them everything”.

Another uncle served in New Guinea WW2 as an engineer, fording difficult gullies to facilitate our forces to cross to engage the enemy, “I only got annoyed once, when the units’ mascot, a cockatoo, was fired upon”.

The surgeon uncle who returned frequently to Vietnam until rejected for the worst varicose veins seen, broken by long continuous-surgeries in theatre, was best of best. Remembering his slide shows of submissions as to injuries caused by, “illegal munitions under the Geneva convention”, his wife, a GP, railing “don’t show the boys !”, too late ... we had absorbed everything shown, horrible of conflict.

All I’ve experienced is some compulsory obligatory schoolboy cadets, hardly matching their efforts. I am thankful for the life ultimately afforded to me and mine by their behaviours, example and best works done.

LEST WE FORGET.
William Carr.
Donald, Victoria.



This year the CFA raised an incredible \$1,888,912, pushing its total contribution over the 40 million milestone.

Corack East Wind

Renewable Energy from ACEN

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

Meet the project team, find out more and provide feedback

30 April - Birchip Leisure Centre

7 May - Charlton Park Community Bank Complex

14 May - Charlton Park Community Bank Complex

21 May - Charlton Park Community Bank Complex

www.corackeastwind.com.au

info@corackeastwind.com.au

1800 498 550

Corack East Wind

Egg-cellent Easter Fun!

In the lead up to the Easter break, the streets of Birchip were alive with excitement as dozens of happy children wandered through town on Wednesday with their brightly decorated Easter bags, collecting chocolate eggs — and sharing the joy by dropping some off to lucky residents!

The event kicked off with the children personalising their own Easter egg bags with stickers and coloured drawings at the Birchip Neighbourhood House before setting off on their journey around town.

The children were greeted at the Birchip Campus of EWS by a large contingent of nursing and support staff, before being led out to the garden where delighted residents gathered to watch the young scavengers on their mission.

The happy children proudly showed the smiling residents their bounties and their decorated bags — with one cheeky participant even offering a chocolate egg as a bribe for “Best Bag”!

It was particularly heart-warming to see the residents

and staff who had children and grandchildren participating in the Easter hunt.

The Easter adventure continued, with children visiting homes and units around town to search for more eggs and to gift some lucky residents with an Easter treat.

The trail concluded at the Birchip Park, where the children got one last chance to collect some extra chocolate and to celebrate a wonderful afternoon of fun, laughter, and community connection on the playground equipment.

Special Thanks

Special thanks go to the amazing helpers: Mia and Issy Sharp, Ada and Esther Bourke, Cassie and Gemma Tynan, and Eliza Gould, whose volunteer efforts made the day possible. A huge thank you also to our generous

hosts: EWS-Birchip Nursing Home, the Knights family, and the Bourke family.

The Easter Egg Hunt was facilitated by the Birchip Neighbourhood House LDAT (Local Drug Action Team). This Youth Led LDAT builds on the important role community-led programs play in strengthening the capacity of local communities to identify, prevent, and respond to health issues relevant to their own residents.

Simone Christie, manager of the Birchip Neighbourhood House, said, “Our LDAT project is focused on fostering a strong sense of community and one aspect of this is building stronger ties between generations.”

National and international evidence highlights the effectiveness and importance of



• Children decorating their bags.

community engagement in preventing harms from alcohol and other drugs. This is especially the case in high-risk populations such as young people.

“We know the local community plays a significant role in moulding our young people and we know that when we can engage our communities and all work collectively towards a common goal, our programs have a far greater

chance of creating lasting change,” Simone said.

Birchip’s Easter celebration was a perfect example of how collaboration, connection, and a little chocolate can make a big difference!



• Harper Noonan and Amelia Baker’s decorated bags.



• Lucy Noonan in the popular Moreton Bay Figs.



• Billie McLoughlan (hidden), Heidi Kilroy, Charlie Noonan and Darcy Cullen showing off their decorated Easter bags.

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- Generator back up systems
- Camera system supply and installation
- Generator Supply and hire.

Rural -

- Power upgrades
- Underground wiring
- Silo system
- Shearing Shed wiring and Maintenance
- Underground wiring
- Generator Back up Systems
- Camera system supply and installation

Domestic -

- Underground wiring
- Switchboard upgrades
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- Additional and alterations
- Rewiring
- Ceiling fans
- Airconditioning
- Smoke alarms
- Generator back up systems
- Camera system supply and installation
- Electrical House inspections

*We are Proudly
servicing the
local community.*

REC 27376



• Sonny Sheridan and Thomas McLoughlan show Margaret Naughton their decorated bags at EWS-Birchip Campus.

“Times” Classifieds

Phone Donald 5497 1222, Birchip 5492 2735 Email 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.

DEATH

DAVIDSON.— Graeme
Passed away peacefully
in Donald
on April 19, 2025,
aged 85 years.

Dearly loved husband of
Marlene and loved father
of Terri & Bruce Dean;
Suzanne & Michael King;
Anthony; Penni & Kent
Newsome. Loving Pa of
Tom, Emily & Lee, Ryan;
Brendan & Carmen, Marc;
Ben, Archie and Great Pa
of Lara, Henry (dec.) and
Bella.

*A chapter completed, a
page is turned.*

*A life well lived, a rest
well earned.*

GO BOMBERS.

DAVIDSON.— Graeme
01/06/1939 - 19/04/2025

Dad, loved husband, soul-
mate and best friend of
Marlene.

We had 60 wonderful
years together. All I have
now is beautiful memories
to keep.

I will love and miss you
forever. RIP my love.

— Marlene.

DAVIDSON.— Graeme
01/06/1939 - 19/04/2025

Dad, whether it was going
yabbing, collecting wood,
spending summer Satur-
day's at the cricket or
doing the quiz on Sunday
mornings, these are the
memories I will cherish.

See you later,
— Love Suzanne.

P.S. Lenny will always
keep your seat warm.

Graeme, I'll always re-
member the hours spent
trying to follow instruc-
tions assembling Christ-
mas gifts at our wits end,
until you finally put an
end to it!

—Love Michael.

Rest in peace, Pa. I will
forever look back fondly
on our school holiday kick-
to-kick and net sessions.
Your unwavering support
of my sporting endeavours
meant the world to me,
even from afar. Feel free
to kick out any stray golf
balls for me.

—Love, Brendan.

DEATH

DAVIDSON.— Graeme
Dear Graeme. Brendan
and I will be forever grate-
ful that you were able to
share in celebrating our
special day last year. Rest
in peace.

—Love Carmen.

Dear Pa, I loved talking
footy with you, our rounds
of mini golf and your
funny card plays during
our games of UNO. We'll
look after Nan for you.

Go Bombers!

—Love Marc.

DAVIDSON.— Graeme
01/06/1939 - 19/04/2025

Rest in Peace Dad.

You will never
be forgotten,
You will always be
missed.

Forever in our hearts.

—Love Anthony, Ben
and Archie.

DAVIDSON.— Graeme
01/06/1939 - 19/04/2025

Dad, you are loved end-
lessly, missed more than
words can say, and will
live forever in our hearts.

Rest in Peace

—Love Penni & Kent x.

DAVIDSON.— Graeme
01/06/1939 - 19/04/2025
Passed away peacefully
in Donald.

Loving son of the late
John & Edith Davidson.
Loved brother and brother-
in-law of John & Peggy
(both dec.); Les & Shirley
(both dec.); Stuart (dec.)
and Vivienne; Norman
(dec.); Bill (dec.); Loretta
(dec.); Heather & Jack
Cameron; Betty (dec.);
Dottie & Colin (dec.)
Thompson; Des & Marion;
Judy (dec.) and Terry
Wooster; Bob & Karen;
Davey & Val (both dec.);
Ray (dec.) and Sandra
(dec.). Uncle Graeme to all
their families.

An advert. in
“The Buloke Times”
can cost as little as \$10,
and up to 5,000 readers
will see it.

DEATH

DAVIDSON.— Graeme
Passed away
April 19, 2025.

Loved brother and brother-
in-law of Davey and Val
(both dec.) Adored uncle of
Angie and Mark; Barry
and Teresa; Kellie. Dearly
loved great-uncle of
Andrew, Michael and
Annabel, Nathan and
Jacob; Liam and Shaun;
Braydon. Great-great-uncle
of Athena.

Our deepest sympathy to
Auntie Marlene, Terri and
Bruce; Suzie and Michael;
Anthony; Penni and Kent
and families.

Uncle Graeme you were
more than an uncle to me.
Thank you for being there
for me during some diffi-
cult times in my life and
also for the interest and
love you have shown my
family. I will miss you
dearly.

—Your loving niece Angie.

Uncle Graeme. Thankyou
for all the interest you
took in our lives growing
up. Always keeping up
with our sport and edu-
cation. Thank you attend-
ing specials events for us
such as grandparents and
Special Friends Days at
school, our Sacraments
and end of year school
masses. You will also hold
a special place in our
hearts.

—Your great nephews
Andrew, Michael, Nathan
and Jacob.

RIP Uncle Graeme.

DEATH

DAVIDSON.— Graeme
Good friend to Max &
Verna.

Great workmate of Max,
patching roads, pulling
down farm fences and
sawing firewood, talking
cricket, football, bowls and
politics.

Treasured memories.

Love and sympathy to
Marlene and families.

DEATH

WHITE (Dyer).—
Gwenda
28/05/1941 - 20/04/2025

Dearly loved wife of Ross,
mother to Dean & Leigh,
mother-in-law to Alison &
Lorraine, and Nana to
Michael, Amy & Evan.

*Will be forever missed
by her family & friends
in the Whittlesea
community.*

FUNERAL

DAVIDSON.— Graeme
A service to celebrate
Graeme's life will be held
at St Andrew's Uniting
Church, Donald, on Tues-
day, April 29, 2025 at 12
noon.

A private burial will be
held.

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NFDA EST. 1860

FUNERAL

WHITE.—
A celebration service for
the life of Gwenda Annie
White will be held at
Christ Church Whittlesea,
5-9 Wallan Rd, Whittlesea
on Monday, April 28, 2025
at 11.30 a.m.

A private burial will follow
at Birchip Cemetery.

*The service will be live-
streamed, please go to the
livestream tab on our web-
site.*

A tribute can be left on
our website: [kellyfunerals
birchip.com.au](http://kellyfuneralsbirchip.com.au)

Mark and Raelene O'Halloran
KELLY FUNERALS BIRCHIP

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Employment —
Have Both,
Shop in Your
Own Town!*

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to sow. Graded and treated
with “Cruiser” insecter-
cide. \$630 per tonne plus
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*Printed and published for the propri-
etors by Robin Letts, at the office of
“The Buloke Times”, 6 McCulloch
Street, Donald.*

Nullawil Heritage Museum Open Day

Sunday. April 27
10.30 a.m.

Food and drinks
available, prices on day
ALL WELCOME

2025 DMS Sponsorship Program

**The DMS Donald Project's 2025 Community
Sponsorship & Donations Program is now open.**

We're inviting funding applications from not-for-profit community
groups in and around Minyip, Murtoa, Donald, and Rupanyup.
Application forms and guidelines are available:

On the website: www.thedonaldproject.com.au

By email request to: sue.horn@donaldmineralsands.com.au

In person: DMS office, 23 Church Street, Minyip

Applications close: 30 May 2025, 5pm.



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

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Donald Art and Photography Show

DONALD MEMORIAL HALL

Friday, May 9 to Monday, May 12

Entries still being received. See schedule on:

Web Page: Donald Learning Group/Events

Facebook: Donald Art and Photography Show

Opening night: 6.30 p.m. \$20 early bird or \$25 at door

~ Complimentary glass of wine and nibbles ~

~ Background Live Music ~

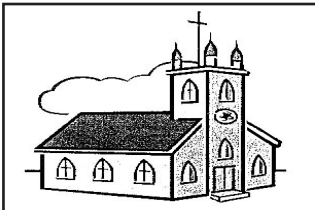
~ Ticket is a pass for Saturday, Sunday and Monday ~

Judges announcement: 7.30 p.m.

Guest Artist: Tarli Bird

Painting Workshop with Tarli Bird,
Sunday, May 11. 1.30 p.m. \$20

Bookings close: Fri., May 2. Ph 0407313648 or 54971707



UNITING CHURCH (North Central Living Waters Cluster)

Donald, 10 a.m. with Josiah
and Charleigh Tudball.

Next Birchip and
Wycheproof Services,
10 a.m. Sunday, May 4

Contact Number: 5497 1033

CHURCHES



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

At Granite Church
10.30 a.m.

Service with Ross Barnes.
Baptist Union of Victoria

REX THEATRE
30-34 High St. Charlton
03 5491 2333
boxoffice@rextheatre.org.au
rextheatre.org.au

A MINECRAFT MOVIE



Fri 25 April 2pm
Sat 26 April 2pm

COMING: **SMALL THINGS LIKE THESE** M 98 mins | Drama

COMING ATTRACTIONS

SPIT

M 102 mins | Comedy



Sat 26 April 8pm
Sun 27 April 2pm
Tue 29 April 8pm

Who's Leading VNI West? Understanding Project Partners



At our Regional Pop-Ups, one of the most common questions we're asked is: "Who is actually leading the VNI West project?"

It's a great question – and one that reflects how invested local communities are in understanding the bigger picture. While Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) is leading the development phase, a number of key organisations are playing an important role in progressing VNI West. Here's a quick guide to who's involved and what they're responsible for.

Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)

AEMO is Australia's independent energy system and market operator, and system planner. AEMO's purpose is to ensure safe, reliable and affordable energy and to enable the energy transition for the benefit of all Australians. AEMO was involved in the early planning stages of VNI West and created Transmission Company Victoria to progress this project.

Transmission Company Victoria (TCV)

TCV's mission is to progress VNI West, leading the development phase, ensuring the project is well planned, informed by community consultation and meets regulatory requirements. The Essential Services Commission (ESC) recently granted TCV a transmission license, confirming that TCV has the expertise to guide this phase of the project.

The Development Partner

In the coming months, AEMO will announce the appointment of a Development Partner – a licenced Transmission Network Service Provider (TNSP) – who will support the finalisation of early works and take on construction and operation of the project. TCV will continue to lead the project through development, working closely with the new partner to ensure commitments, community concerns and insights gathered over the past three years remain central to the project. Before VNI West moves into construction, the intention is that TCV will be acquired by the selected partner. Opportunities to engage with the development partner will be shared once appointed.

VicGrid

VicGrid is part of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change (DEECA) and is responsible for coordinating transmission planning and development of Victorian renewable energy zones. The Victorian Government is introducing reforms under the Victorian Transmission Investment Framework (VTIF) to change how transmission projects are planned and delivered. As part of these changes, responsibility for planning Victoria's transmission infrastructure will shift from AEMO to VicGrid. These reforms will not impact TCV's role in engaging with the community and delivering the current phase of VNI West. We will keep landholders and communities informed as these changes take shape.

Transgrid

Transgrid is a TNSP, responsible for developing the New South Wales section of the VNI West project. TCV and Transgrid are working closely to ensure project alignment.

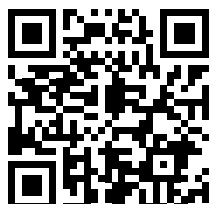
Understanding the Transmission Licence

In February, TCV was granted a transmission licence by the Essential Services Commission. This is a standard part of delivering a major transmission project and allows us to continue progressing environmental and planning approvals.

The licence does not change how we work with landholders and communities. TCV remains committed to designing the project with the least impact on people, farming operations and the environment. We will continue working with landholders to finalise voluntary Land Access Agreements, and in the coming months, we will begin discussions around Option for Easement agreements and compensation.

Staying Connected

We want to keep you up-to-date with VNI West through regular updates, covering key topics such as the Environment Effects Statement (EES) and the selection of a new development partner. You can register for project updates, receive the latest news and get information on upcoming events by visiting transmissionvictoria.com.au



"Times" Classifieds

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Church Notices

DISTRICT CATHOLIC CHURCHES

"East Wimmera Parish"

Birchip	10.30 a.m.
(Livestream in)	
Boort	10.30 a.m.
(Livestream in)	
Banyena	No Mass
Charlton	10.30 a.m.
(Livestream out to churches without Mass)	
Donald	10.30 a.m.
(Livestream in)	
St. Arnaud	8.30 a.m.
W'proof (Sat.)	7.00 p.m.

Fr. Gerry Prunty
0419 247 779

Parish Co-ordinator
– Noeline Hogan: 0476 617 976

YOUR HEALTH, OUR COMMUNITY!

East Wimmera Health Service

2025/28 Strategic Plan Stakeholder Engagement Meeting

JOIN US IN SHAPING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES!

EWHS is planning for the next three years of health services, and we want to hear your thoughts on local healthcare needs and priorities.

Come along to one of our Community Forums and be part of the conversation

See below dates/times for each town:

- Monday 5 May, 5.00pm - 6.00pm - Charlton Campus, Meeting Room
- Tuesday 6 May, 5.00pm - 6.00pm - Wycheproof Town Hall
- Wednesday 7 May, 5.00pm - 6.00pm - Birchip Campus, Meeting Room
- Thursday 8 May, 5.00pm - 6.00pm - Donald Campus, Large PAG Room
- Friday 9 May, 5.00pm - 6.00pm - St Arnaud Campus, Meeting Room

Together, we can shape a stronger, healthier future!

RSVP to Mandy Campbell via email starnaud@ewhs.org.au or call 5477 2100



APPLY
NOW

Community Bank Charlton & District Grants Program



Submissions can be via the link

[https://communitybankcharlton.smartygrants.com.au/
communitygrantsprogram](https://communitybankcharlton.smartygrants.com.au/communitygrantsprogram)

Submissions close 5PM on Wednesday, May 7, 2025

"Times" Classifieds

Phone Donald 5497 1222, Birchip 5492 2735
Email admin@buloketimes.com

Deadlines:— Tuesday's Issue: Display advertisements (2 or more columns), 3 p.m. Friday prior.
Friday's Issue: by 3 p.m. Wednesday prior.



Cultivating Healthy Communities

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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History Society Visits Corack

The Donald History Society's April meeting was held in the garage at the property of Paul and Karen Sheridan at Corack, in unseasonably hot autumn weather.

About thirty members and visitors attended to listen to Paul tell the history of the site and the five houses that were built on the title over 150 years.

The newest house, which replaced the one destroyed by a mini tornado a few years back, looks beautiful in its setting and the garden and trees are well advanced around it.

Paul's great grandfather, Michael Sheridan, who hailed from County Mayo in Ireland, came to Australia as a seventeen-year old boy in the 1840s and worked in the Penshurst area.

Family

It was some years before he selected at Corack in 1874 and the family has been able to find very little about him. Michael married Alice O'Connor in 1881 and they had three children – Alice, Michael John and Mary. Alice married and lived in the Donald area for a few years but then moved to Condobolin, NSW, where her daughter was born in 1924. Paul said that one of the best things about their recent reunion was tracing Alice's grandchildren and having them return to where she grew up.

Mary Sheridan did not marry but moved away and died in Ballarat in 1981. Michael John Sheridan took on the farm, married Agnes Barrett in 1916 and they had 5 children – Tony, Phyllis, Jack, Tom and Frank. Agnes died in 1941 when Frank was just ten years old and Phyllis then played the part of mother to her younger brothers. Phyllis later married Mick Whelan from Banyena. All four of the Sheridan boys were installed in farming with Tony, close to Donald on the Sheep Hills Road, Jack on Bunworths, on the Charlton Road, which is now farmed by Peter, Bobbie and Lachy Sheridan and Tom and Frank on the home selection, now farmed by Paul and Karen.

The Plaque

Paul then walked the group around the property, ending up at the plaque which was installed in 2024 at the front of the property to mark 150 years since Michael Sheridan selected the land.

Ian McEwen then led the entourage in his trusty ute down some interesting Mallee roads, complete with dunes and drift and Mallee pines, past his farmhouse and the old school, which was once near the Sheridan farm but had

been shifted to near the McEwen farm in 1937.

Granite Church

The destination was the Granite Flat church, which is an impressive array of buildings attached to an original small weatherboard church, complete with gothic windows on the unextended side. Alison McEwen met the travellers there and gave the history of the church building and the add ons. It was originally a Methodist church but was able to retain independent status during the amalgama-

tion with the Presbyterians, because the congregation retained the title to the land and the building. They are now affiliated with the Baptist church.

The group then enjoyed some hot cross buns and a cuppa in the lovely facilities at the church and then headed back to Donald, taking a detour to view the ten-year-old monument opposite Neil and Jill McEwen's house, which marked the site of the former North Jeffcott Mechanics Institute.



• Karen and Paul Sheridan with the commemorative plaque.



James

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Can You Do 3,214 Push-Ups in 23 Days?

Lifeline Loddon Mallee is calling on locals to join the push for better mental health this June by taking part in The Push-Up Challenge – Australia’s largest mental health and fitness event.

This year, Lifeline Loddon Mallee is excited to welcome some incredible local ambassadors, including Jed Zimmer

and Luke Baker – both passionate advocates for men’s mental health and suicide prevention – and the team from

Bendigo Spirit, who are ready to inspire the region throughout the Challenge.

Lifeline Loddon Mallee is encouraging individuals, workplaces, gyms, clubs and schools across the region to get involved and join Team Lifeline Loddon Mallee.

From June 4 to 26, participants will aim to complete

3,214 push-ups over 23 days, representing the 3,214 lives lost to suicide in Australia in 2023. The Challenge is designed to raise awareness and start conversations around mental health, while encouraging connection, movement, and education.

Anyone

Anyone can take part – whether you’re doing push-ups, sit-ups, squats or a tailored movement that suits your ability. The number of push-ups changes daily to reflect important mental health facts, and progress is easily tracked through a dedicated app.

“The Push-Up Challenge is a fun, inclusive way to get active, learn about mental health, and connect with your community, all while

honouring lives lost to suicide,” said Nick Hudson, Founder of The Push-Up Challenge.

“Mental health impacts us all. By taking part, Australians are helping to reduce stigma, improve mental health literacy and promote proactive wellbeing.”

Last year, more than 218,000 people completed over 317 million push-ups, raising over \$12 million for mental health services – with more than \$50 million raised since the event began.

Long-Term Impact

A recent study from the University of Melbourne highlights the Challenge’s long-term impact. Participants reported significant boosts in mental wellbeing, resilience, and social connection, along

with marked reductions in anxiety and depression symptoms – both immediately after the event and three months later. Those experiencing mental health challenges were more likely to seek support and adopt self-care strategies.

The Push-Up Challenge is free to join. Participants can sign up solo or as part of a team – with the option to fundraise to support vital mental health services in the community.

Register now at <https://www.lifelinelm.com/llm-tpuc>

Need support? Lifeline is here 24/7. If you or someone you know needs crisis support, please call Lifeline anytime on 13 11 14, or text us on 0477 13 11 14, or visit www.lifeline.org.au for our online chat service.

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Can't make it on Election Day?



If you can't vote on Saturday 3 May, you may be eligible to vote early.

All Australian citizens aged 18 years and over are required by law to vote.

So, if you can't make it to a polling place on election day, you may be eligible to:

- vote early at an early voting centre, or
- apply for a postal vote.

If you're travelling, working or will be outside the electorate where you're enrolled on election day, you can vote early.

To check early voting options and eligibility, visit aec.gov.au/early

Your vote will help shape Australia.



To learn more
aec.gov.au/early
13 23 26



Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, 10 Mort Street, Canberra.

One Hundred Years Ago

From the “Birchip Advertiser”, April 24, 1925.

Ballapur Sports: the annual sports gathering will be held at Ballapur next Wednesday afternoon when a number of sporting events will be contested. Luncheon will be provided on the grounds, which are situated at the school, 10 miles west of Birchip on the Beulah road.

Last year the sports were very enjoyable and, as usual, a dance in the Memorial hall will follow.

**

Sporting News

Tennis – Final of Hawke’s Cup Competition:

The final match of the Cup Competition will be played at St Arnaud on Saturday, 25th April, between Birchip holders of the cup) and St Arnaud, when a very close match should result as the teams are very evenly matched.

Birchip will be represented by Mrs. W. A. McClelland, Miss N. Connellan, W. A. McClelland, W. Small and R. A. Crombie.

**

(Part of a Report from a “Weekly Times” representative, April 1925)

Start of a Town: The first place of business in Birchip was opened by E. J. and J. T. Glowrie, who had kept a country store at Corack, and in 1882 moved to a site at the junction of the five main roads to Donald, Beulah, Sea Lake, Charlton and Corack, now occupied by the general store of Messrs. Joseph Lockwood and Sons.

At the time it was held under the licence for a rural store, to serve the requirements of the few surrounding selectors. There was no town of Birchip surveyed at that date. Five years later a block of land alongside on the opposite side of the Beulah Road was purchased by Mrs. Blencowe, of Donald, for an accommodation house, which subsequently developed into the Birchip Hotel, now conducted by Mr. Harry Gook. Mr. Joseph Lockwood, the purchaser of Messrs. Glowrie Bros. business, who has been very closely identified with the district in all its early vicissitudes, and who carried over many of the now prosperous farmers through the struggling times, saving them, and facing insolvency in his effort to assist them is still to the fore in every home, financial advancement of the town and district. Next followed the erection of Murphy’s blacksmithy, the little mud-brick Presbyterian church, on the site of the present Shamrock Hotel, and the Birchip Hotel. The church was visited by the settlers as a public meeting place, and the half day school, the first teacher being Mr. J. C. Blythe.

Trash to Treasure

One person’s Trash is another’s Treasure!

Turn your Trash into Cash by advertising it for sale in the “Times” classified pages. Phone the Donald office (5497 1222), or Birchip (5492 2735); email advertising@buloketimes.com

The Power of the Tractor

(By “Quill”)

Quambatook held the Australian Tractor Pull Championships on Easter Saturday at its purpose built track in front of thousands of appreciative spectators.

This fully-fuelled event draws spectators and competitors from all over Australia and offers a jam-packed program to keep any and all entertained.

The day began with the vintage and classic tractor pull, testing out the strength and endurance of the old faithful machines which might have seen an honest day’s work prior to hitting the track. One can certainly imagine how an idea grew into fruition – perhaps two farmers in a paddock somewhere comparing their machinery... “My tractor could pull out that stump faster than yours could!”

Back in Time

And visitors to the Tractor Pull could certainly take a step back in time to see where the humble tractor began with a tour of the museum and static tractor display. In

addition to the museum, was an array of beautiful trucks set up in static display by the entrance to the pits. A considerable number of trucks were on show, compared to last year, and after the sun went down, driving lights switched on for an impressive line-up of heavy vehicles.

Airshow

After an afternoon of fun in the sun, the tractor pulling teams took a break while Paul Bennet Airshows amazed the crowd, flying a Wolf Pitts pro and pushing the boundaries of what is possible to do in the air.

The aerial acrobatics had all in the crowd on the edge of their seat, watching on, with breath held as the pilot seemed to fling his plane about the sky, performing tricks, then letting the plane free fall, seemingly out of control before pulling it back into line just in time.

Food, Market Stalls and Entertainment

The audience needed a break after that, so spectators dispersed to check out what was on offer away from the track. Food and market stalls lined the complex, so once bellies were full and thirsts sated, friends and families could relax to listen to the Voice’s Elias Lanyon, from Boort, play easy listening music, or they could hit the pits for a close up look at the impressive pulling machines.

“Confession”

Prior to the break, driver Garry Johnson wowed the crowd with an incredible distance of 117.49 metres in his mini-modified machine, “Hectic”. Finding Garry parked in the pits during the tea break and congratulating him on his amazing result produced the response, “I have a confession to make...”

“I am overweight,” Garry said sheepishly. I looked him up and down and said, “You look all right to me.”

Garry was amused, but it wasn’t what he meant... While other machines have removable weights hung from the body, Hectic’s weight was 40kg over, just on its own. Weights are monitored strictly at the tractor pulling championships and since nothing could be sacrificed from the body or engine, Garry was penalized in distance. This didn’t stop the crowd from appreciating his efforts with his tough little tractor, and following the tea break, he got the whole grandstand on its feet with an unbelievable 128.42 metre run. Well done Garry, and thanks for the show.

Pit Crew

Also in the pits was the Quamby Autos team with three tractors entered on the day – The Assassin (mini), The Chief (open) and Bad Attitude (open). Bad Attitude’s 530 ci Chev engine attracted

• Continued on page 9.



• Flat Stick is an appropriate name for this machine, up on two wheels with the strain of dragging the Executioner off the starting line. (Photo Drew Chislett.)



• Liam’s first tractor pull: It is great to see kids get up close and personal with the machines during the tea break, sparking imaginations and sending children home fired up for tractor pulling.



• Garry Johnson with Hectic after an impressive 117 metre pull. He went on to pull an incredible distance of 128. metres following the tea break, however, was penalized for weight.



• This year’s static truck display was as impressive lit up after dark as it was in number. Many truck enthusiasts took the opportunity to drool over the beautiful vehicles on show.

a Hundred Years at Litchfield

• Continued from page 10

Leo Walsh remembered using the plough to clear the channels, whilst his father drove the tractor. Margaret Hogan remembered her father and Paddy Galvin using the horse drawn plough to prepare a substantial vegetable garden in front of “Fernlea”. For some reason, the plough was deemed too precious to go on the scrap dealer’s truck in the recent big cleanup and now a very fitting use has been found for it.

Descendants

There were descendants present from Mick, Jack, Frank and Bernie at the reunion. One family descended from Bill were unable to come at the last moment. Each family group was photographed with the plaque and then the group drove down through McCormack’s paddock almost to the Lake (Buloke) Road. This is a beautiful spot with lovely ancient box trees, mini forests and acres of open country. The

group enjoyed a picnic lunch and the children ran amok.

At the Hall

The weather was glorious and no one wanted to leave at about 4 p.m. when it was time to drive to the beautifully refurbished Litchfield Hall to enjoy a barbecue meal and music, which was provided on the lawn by Christine and Ant Webb, Julia Walsh and Nicole and Jeremy Furze, plus some Irish dancing by the junior brigade. The evening finished with a Litchfield dance and

music by Leo Tellefson, Danny Walsh, Ross Lane and Brodie Glen. The entire day and evening were very enjoyable and the Walsh family would like to thank the many people who accepted the invitation to join the celebration. One hundred and six meals were served, and the “loaves and fishes” triumph became a reality as many of the visitors contributed something to the feast.

Coincidence

In one of those curious coincidences of life, Joey and Edith Dunn returned to Buloke to buy “Fernlea”, having left in 1965. Daughter, Cheryl,

married Curly Trollop and they produced Justin. Justin has joined forces with his uncle and aunt, Leo and Doreen Tellefson, and his nephew, Tyson, to become Donald’s Family Butcher. Donald’s Family Butcher provided all of the meat and most of the salads for the Litchfield Hall feast.

In another coincidence, the remaining 290 acres is currently owned by by Gerald Walsh. His nephew, Dennis Adams works it on shares with help from his father, Barry. Barry is a great great-grandson of Dugald McCormack, the original selector of the 290 acres.

John Walsh’s purchase, 100 years ago, led to four Walsh men and one daughter living in the Litchfield/Donald area and raising their families. There were eleven Walsh girls, six Walsh boys and Leo Tellefson growing up in Donald in this generation and many of them remained in the area, raising their own families to contribute to Donald’s schools and sporting teams over the years. Now a third generation has started. The Walsh name will be gone in 20 years but the genes may linger on. In all, the 100 years have been well worth celebrating.



• The four Jack Walsh girls and family members at the plaque. Left to right: Ian Olive, Claire (Dickinson) Palmer, Aileen Dickinson, Moira Olive, Margaret Hogan, Nellie Palmer, Desley Walsh.



• The Commemorative plaque.

Under Coalition Trades Turbo-Charge... High-School Tradies to Earn as Apprentices

A Dutton-Littleproud Coalition Government will pay young people completing trades in high school the equivalent of a first-year apprentice’s wage, while 12 new Australian Technical Colleges will be built to turbo-charge Australia’s skills pipeline.

Member for Mallee, Dr Anne Webster, said the \$260 million plan extends to students in apprenticeships, traineeship or completing academic, information technology or business courses that lead to a year 12 certificate.

“Paying students like apprentices to take up trades and skills is a game-changer for young people in Mallee,” Dr Webster said.

“Not enough students are taking up the skills we need to solve the urgent national challenges we face. Under Labor, we have lost 90,000 apprentices and trainees.

New Network

“A new national network of Australian Technical Colleges will help skill the next generation of workers we need to build more homes and infrastructure, and our efforts in areas like defence and nuclear energy.”

The new Australian Technical Colleges will mainly be established on high school campuses but also in new locations and in regions with skills shortages, high rates of youth unemployment or with strategically significant businesses.

Unfinished Business

The policy hearkens to unfinished business from the John Howard prime ministerial era, where just prior to losing office Mr Howard had pledged to open another 100 colleges in 2007. The then

Coalition government had established 28 Australian Technical Colleges from 2004 to 2007. The then incoming Rudd government shifted its emphasis to TAFE.

Approximately 20,000 of Australia’s 1.6 million secondary school students are currently undertaking school-based apprenticeships – 1.25 per cent – far less than comparable data from other nations. France and Germany, for instance, have up to 50 per cent of their school students taking up critical skills pathways in schools.

TAFE completion rates are around 40-50 per cent whereas technical college completion rates are around 80 to 90 per cent.

Year 12 retention rates have also been falling nationwide, falling from 83.6 per cent of year 7 students completing high school in 2014 to 79.9 per cent in 2024.

The Dutton-Littleproud Coalition has also pledged to give businesses up to \$12,000



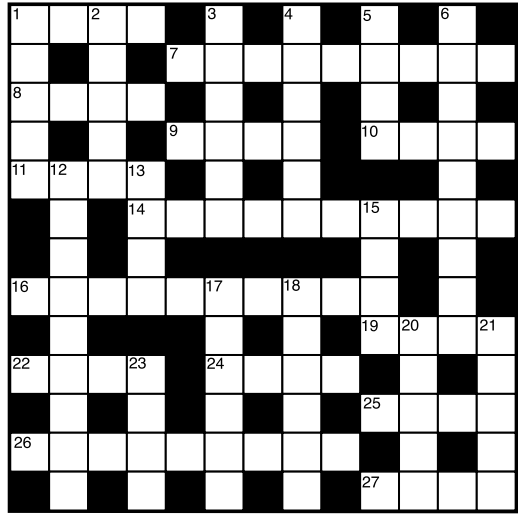
• Dr Anne Webster.

to take on a trainee or apprentice. Young Australians who take up training in critical skills areas would also be eligible for up to \$10,000 in Commonwealth support.

The Federal Government has indicated through its Universities Accord that it wants more Australians to be university-educated, with the accord raising to lift the number of university-educated Australians aged 25 to 34 from 45 per cent at present to 55 per cent by 2050.

“Times” Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8174



ACROSS

1. Musical instrument (4)
7. Vegetable (9)
8. Dry (4)
9. Insect (4)
10. Fat (4)
11. Measure (4)
14. Charge (10)
16. Misleading (10)
19. Orderly (4)
22. School (England)(4)
24. Ban (4)
25. Subsided (4)
26. Bird (9)
27. Shout (4)

DOWN

1. Vagrant (5)
2. Man’s name (5)
3. Liqueur (6)
4. Free (6)
5. Repast (4)
6. Right (9)
12. Childish (9)
13. Rear (4)
15. Try (4)
17. Frolic (6)
18. Stupid (6)
20. Picture (5)
21. Bumpkin (5)
23. Close (4)

• Solution next issue.

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Eighty Years of CFA's Fleet

The early days of fighting fires with beaters, buckets and knapsacks are long gone and while slipping a tank on to the back of a tray truck was the popular choice for many years, CFA's fleet has evolved dramatically over the past 80 years.

When CFA formed, the organisation inherited a mixed range of former war surplus trucks, but most fire-fighting trucks in the 1950s were Austins, the tankers being the work horse of the rural fleet for many years holding 400 gallons (1,800 litres). The Austin pumper followed for urban brigades, which had a front-mounted pump and 350 gallons (1,592 litres) per minute capacity.

Focus

CFA's Head of Fleet and Protective Equipment Danny Jones said CFA's financial focus in the 1950s was purchasing trucks and trailer units.

"By 1960, CFA had 773 vehicles in its fleet – 516 of them in rural brigades," Danny said.

"Small pumpers were then built which included more ladders, hoses, and larger pumps."

Small 4WD, agile Willys trucks were the forerunners to the current ultralights and slip-ons. The small 4WD tankers enabled crews to get in ahead of the larger tankers

to bushfires to help knock the fire down quickly.

Size Increase

Danny said the size of our tankers and pumpers grew in capacity as new trucks became available, including those with diesel engines.

"CFA soon realised more types of vehicles were required for the variety of fire calls being attended," he said.

"CFA started to manufacture a range of specialised vehicles to suit our diverse needs which have continued to evolve over the years."

These included radio communication vans, hazmats, road accident rescue, high angle rescue, mine rescue, protective equipment, rehabilitation, salvage, lighting, telebooms, ladder platforms, aerial pumpers, alpine and tracked vehicles, sand tankers, breathing apparatus vans, field operations vehicles, hose layers and educational units.

Safety Features

Today, most vehicles are twin cabbed, air conditioned and have comfortable seating

compared to earlier vehicles. Safety features such as rollover protection systems, heat shields, vehicle sprinklers, window curtains, and remote-control monitors are common.

Crew protection systems installed into CFA's fleet was a major step in enhancing firefighter safety from 2006. Between 2011 and 2013, CFA also retrofitted the same crew protection systems to all existing pre-2006 tankers.

Retrofit Program

"This has been further extended over the years with all of CFA's ultralight tanker fleet currently undergoing a retrofit program to install crew protection," Danny said.

"This technology received significant laboratory, simulation and real fire exposure testing.

"Retrofitting all our vehicles gives our members the best possible chance of survival in a burnover."

The latest truck to join CFA's firefighting fleet is the Ultra Heavy tanker which has the capacity to carry 10,000

litres of water – more than some of our water bombing fleet. These trucks will greatly boost our ability to fight fires

in remote rural areas with open grasslands.

CFA's progressive fleet department is always looking

into new technology and prototypes to ensure CFA has the most advanced and safest vehicles for its firefighters.



• The main work horse of the fleet in the 1950s was the 1947 Austin series 1 tanker.

Mahjong – 1.2.3...

(By "Joking Aside")

Mahjong continues to attract even greater attention at what was formerly (and formally) known as the Donald Senior Citizens Centre.

We now have enough players to require a third table. And to accommodate that growth a grant from the Buloke Shire Council was approved to purchase a second Mahjong table and set. Almost immediately the requirement for a third table arose and we were fortunate enough to have been favoured by Horizons – Local and Beyond via their First Look Op Shop funds distribution.

Support

Donald Seniors have enjoyed great support over the years from the Buloke Shire Council in ways that are sometimes not immediately apparent to all. However, we are always mindful that without their ongoing and generous support, we would simply cease to exist. We have been given every encouragement by the Shire's Community Development staff to develop Mahjong as a new activity, and we hope to attract additional new members and to then get them through the doors more often.

The hard-working and dedicated band of volunteers at the First Look Op Shop, under Alison McEwen's stewardship, regularly distribute the funds they raise to various organisations in the immediate community and beyond those borders as well. Their efforts result in funds being successfully injected and re-injected back into the community.

Donald Seniors are grateful to have shared in the most recent allocation to provide

our rapidly growing Mahjong population with a third table and set. Without civic minded people like Alison and her helpers we simply don't have a community.

Misstep

Which brings me to my latest misstep... my unsolicited attempt at renaming Donald Senior Citizens Centre to Donald Activity Centre was ill-informed and ill-conceived. It should have been Donald Community Activity Centre, which more accurately reflects its true and inclusive nature.

The front garden of the Community Activity Centre has been undergoing a beautification process to turn what had become an eyesore into something resembling a showpiece. With Jenni Campbell and Joyce Hollis toiling, plus liaison with Shire Council garden staff, the unsightly Lantana jungle has been cleared and is being progressively replanted with foliage more suited to purpose. We received an anonymous donation of Bougainvillea plants, but we all have a pretty good idea from whence they came. And then Robbyn Godfrey stepped in with an additional donation for more shrubs with health and safety factors in mind as much as aesthetics. A great show of civic pride and thanks to all – if we work together, co-operate, interact and talk to each other we can achieve some really great outcomes.

The standard roses out front have been in full and

bounteous bloom; hopefully they will still be blooming when you venture out to vote at the Donald Community Activity Centre on May 3rd.

Recently I've heard the Senior Citizens Club referred to as the Elderly Citizens Club? – there has never been an Elderly Citizens Club anywhere, that terminology has NEVER existed. The word "elderly" has connotations of decrepitude and conjures up negative and discriminatory associations. Both "seniors" and "elderly" are considered to be politically incorrect these days – the preferred term is "older adult". And although we older adults are probably the least politically correct group in society, we do take offence at being referred to as elderly.

A Great Way

Mahjong is a great way to improve mental health and acuity. Having to concentrate for protracted periods helps us to stay focussed and "in the moment". You might still find yourself standing in front of the fridge door wondering what it was you came there for, but hopefully it won't happen as often. Mahjong has an infectious quality about it and one young lady (older adult) who stated that she would probably want to leave at around 4 p.m. had to be reminded of her pledge at a quarter to 5, so swept up in the game was she.

Participation is the key so come along and join us at play in our sandbox, which is the Donald Community Activity Centre.



• The Ultra heavy tanker is the most recent truck to join the fleet, capable of carrying 10,000 litres of water.



• The ultra heavy and heavy tanker showcased at Moorooduc. Fitted with a range of safety features to enable crews to fight the fiercest of fires.

Anzac Day – the Prayer that Saved a Nation

One of the fascinating displays at the Avalon International Airshow was the refuelling of RAAF military aircraft while in flight.

Thousands of us looked skyward with binoculars and cameras as a large KC-30A tanker aircraft flew overhead with near 110 tonnes of fuel on board, much of which can be disbursed to other aircraft via air-to-air refuelling. We observed two smaller fighter aircraft being refuelled by electric refuelling pods located under each wing of the tanker aircraft, pumping fuel through hoses to recipient aircraft.

Air-to-air refuelling enables aircraft to have their fuel tanks “topped up”, thus keeping them in the air longer – an important capability for these front line weapons.

Now let us be reminded of a weapon of another type used with great effect during the Second World War. Historians tell us of an occasion in the Second World War when Allied forces faced overwhelming opposition. In May 1940, German Blitzkrieg forces overran the Allies in France and nearly 400,000 Allied soldiers became trapped near Dunkirk against the sea. Winston Churchill feared that it would be his lot to announce the greatest military disaster in Britain’s history – the possible annihilation of more than 300,000 British troops plus allies, including Australians.

Writer, David Gardner, records that, on hearing this situation developing, King George VI requested that Sunday, 26th May, should be observed as a National Day of Prayer. In a stirring broadcast, he called the people of Britain and of the Commonwealth, including Australia, to commit their cause to our Creator, God.

Together with members of the Cabinet, the King attended Westminster Abbey whilst

millions of his subjects in all parts of the British Commonwealth flocked to churches to join in prayer. So many attended that the following morning the “Daily Sketch” exclaimed, “Nothing like it has ever happened before.”

The Miracles

In its hour of deep distress a heart-cry from both monarch and people alike was going up to our Heavenly Father in prayer. That cry did not go unanswered for soon three miracles became evident. History now tells us of the “miracle” of Dunkirk.

1. For some “unexplained” reason, Hitler halted the advance of his dreaded panzer division. For three days the German tanks and soldiers stood idle not very many kilometres from where the evacuation unfolded. Extraordinary!

2. A weather event of unprecedented fury broke over Flanders on Tuesday 28th May (1940), grounding most of the German Luftwaffe squadrons, thus enabling the British army formations 12-14 km from Dunkirk to move up on foot to the coast in the darkness.

3. Despite the storm in Flanders a great calm – such as has rarely been experienced, settled over the English Channel during the days which followed and its waters became as still as a mill pond. This extraordinary calm enabled a vast armada of ships and small boats to ply safely back and forth in a desperate bid to rescue as many men as possible.

Day of Thanksgiving

360,000 men got safely to England. So grateful was the nation for this mighty deliverance that Sunday, 9th June, 1940, was designated a Day



• Bruce Stewart

of National Thanksgiving. On the eve of that day, C. B. Mortlock stated in an article in “The Daily Telegraph” that “the prayers of the nation were answered” and that “the God of Hosts” Himself had intervened. Winston Churchill described the whole event as a “mighty deliverance”.

On Anzac Day we pause and remember and give thanks for the courage and valour of many military personnel who serve, many laying down their lives for their country.

One week ago we celebrated Easter, where many of us remembered and gave thanks for God’s intervention in sending His Son, Jesus Christ into the warzone of earth.

He laid down His life so that sinful people can be reconciled with a Holy God – our Creator, if we so choose to confess our wrongdoing, repent and obey.

“For the Son of Man (Jesus Christ) came not to be served, but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45).

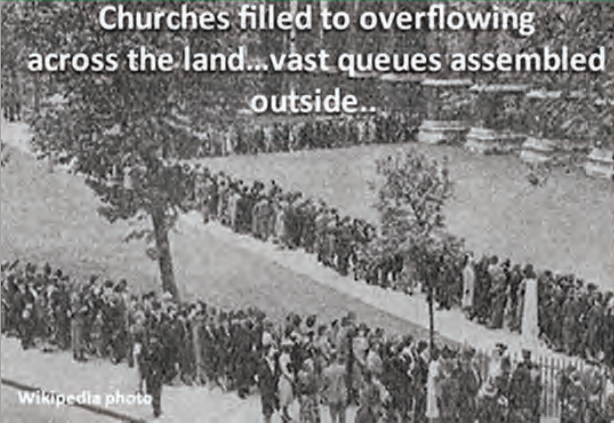
Jesus died in our place, taking the punishment we deserve, in the most significant peace initiative of all history. Let us in gratitude pause and remember – lest we forget.

Bruce Stewart.



• One of the fascinating displays at the Avalon International Airshow was the refuelling of RAAF military aircraft while in flight. Thousands of us looked skyward with binoculars and telephoto lens equipped cameras as a large KC-30A tanker aircraft flew overhead with near 110 tonnes of fuel on board, much of which can be disbursed to other aircraft via air-to-air refuelling. We observed two smaller fighter aircraft being refuelled by electric refuelling pods under each wing of the tanker aircraft pumping fuel through hoses to recipient aircraft.

King George VI requested that Sunday 26th May 1940 be observed as a National Day of Prayer in Britain to pray to save the lives of near 400,000 troops trapped at Dunkirk.



The result: “The Miracle of Dunkirk” – “a mighty ‘deliverance’ Winston Churchill. C. B. Mortlock stated in The Daily Telegraph that ‘the prayers of the nation were answered’, and that ‘the God of Hosts Himself had intervened’

• The overflow of people gathered to pray in Westminster Abbey. People gathered like this all over Great Britain and even in some Commonwealth countries like Australia on Sunday, May, 1940.

In Energy Transmission... Farmers Demand Fair Go

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) is calling on Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Opposition leader Peter Dutton to commit to a fair and balanced transition to renewable energy that puts farmers and regional communities at the centre of Australia’s energy future.

VFF President Brett Hosking said the majority of farmers supported renewable energy, but not at any cost.

“Farmers aren’t opposed to progress, but we won’t accept a system where multinational energy companies dictate terms to local landholders,” Mr Hosking said.

“We want proper consultation, fair compensation, a fair go for our communities, and most of all we want you to listen.”

Commitment

The VFF is calling for a commitment that no Commonwealth funding be provided to energy and transmission projects, unless developers have properly engaged with affected landhold-

ers and are bound by a mandatory Land Access Code of Conduct.

“If developers haven’t done the work with farmers and their neighbours, they shouldn’t receive a cent of taxpayer money. No engagement, no funding, it’s that simple,” Mr Hosking said.

The Coalition has pledged to scrap the \$20 billion Rewiring the Nation Fund. The VFF says if Labor is returned, stronger rules must be introduced to ensure only developers that meet high standards of behaviour and engagement receive public funds.

More Than Guidelines

“We need more than guidelines. We need a legis-

lated code that holds developers to account,” Mr Hosking said.

The VFF is also demanding that compensation payments to farmers who host transmission infrastructure be made tax-free.

“This isn’t a windfall, it’s compensation for lost productivity and ongoing disruption. Taxing these payments is giving with one hand and taking back with the other.

“This federal election is being billed as shaping Australia’s future. Front and centre of that is how we generate electricity and we need an approach that puts farmers and regional communities at the heart of any decision,” Mr Hosking said.

Laughs A’Plenty In Aussie Movie,

Australian actor David Wenham recreates his iconic character Johnny “Spit” Spitieri in a much-lauded return to the big screen in “Spit”, screening at The Rex this weekend.

Wenham first brought the character to light in the 2003 crime comedy “Gettin’ Square” as the hilarious whiny lay-about criminal junkie, and now returns as the mullet-headed con, this time in the starring role.

Deemed an absolute winner, the reincarnation of “Spit” has been called “hilarious, inventive, savvily plotted, and truly heartwarming in often very surprising ways”, by Filmink writer Erin Free.

The movie unfolds with “Spit” having been busted for trying to sell unauthorised Disney merchandise in London. Believed to have been dead for the past twenty years, the spunky now clean junkie is alive and well and now back in Australia.

Arriving with fake documents and having a confusing brush with border security, Spit soon finds himself in a

detention centre for illegal immigrants, where he sticks out like a very Aussie sore thumb. The non-judgemental shambling character, however, soon has a new crew of racially diverse friends after being pressed into teaching English to his fellow detainees.

With old enemies on his tail and a target on his back, he navigates a series of comedic misadventures, sharing with his fellow detainees the meaning of mateship and what it is to be truly Australian.

Supporting the brilliant David Wenham in the title role are the team of original creatives from “Gettin’ Square” including Gold Coast criminal lawyer / writer Chris Nyst, director Jonathan Teplitzky, producer Trish Lake, cinematographer Garry Phillips, and production designer Nicholas McCallum.

Believing the character had more to offer, the film has revived a fan-favourite delivering a fresh, funny, and heartfelt new chapter for this iconic personality.

Filmed almost entirely on the Gold Coast, the film blends crime, comedy, and considerable heart with razor-sharp dialogue.

So why not take trip to the cinema to be entertained by this loveable larrikin, and soak up the laughs at the same time?

“Spit” screens Saturday, April 26, 8 p.m. | Sunday, April 27, 2 p.m. | Tuesday, April 29, 8 p.m..

A Minecraft Movie

Don’t miss the extra matinee screenings of “A Minecraft Movie” this week on Friday, April 25, 2 p.m. and Saturday, April 26, 2 p.m..

Charlton Harness Welcomes Djaara People

(By Peter Hibberd)

The associations of the Charlton Harness Racing Club and the Djaara people continued with the smoking ceremony, before another day of harness racing. With approximately forty guests on course, they enjoyed the hospitality of the club.

The Djaara have lived on their traditional lands and cared for country for many thousands of years. For Djaara, country is more than landscape, it is more than what is visible to the eye – it is a living entity, which holds the stories of creation and histories that cannot be erased.

The feature race was the Djaara Cup, which was won by Surfe La Mer, part owned/trained and driven by Kerry Manning. It might be strange to say, but this race was over at the start, when the very short-priced favourite, Fairplay, failed to take part in the lead up to the race start. Kerry was able to lead and run home in a last half mile of 56.5 seconds. Nothing was going to catch her. A couple of significant gear changes also helped.

Results

Race one: Trainer Dianne Giles and driver Leilani Justice got off to a great start with a very easy win of Chin-ski. It was able to lead all the

way and record an easy win in very good time for a trotter.

Race two: Followers of the Zac Steinhuss stable collected nicely when Lombok and Tap To Ray ran first and second in this race. Lombok has now won two races in the last two weeks.

Race three: The powerful Emma Stewart stable produced Tuivasa to win its first race. It ran a mile rate of 1.57.6 and started a very short priced favourite.

Race four: Djaara Cup.
Race five: The Giles/Justice combination completed a double with the win of Best Back Bruce. It was Leilani's birthday, so she was very happy with her wins.

Race six: Driver Kerry Manning completed her driving double with the win of Muselet, trained by Jennifer Douglas. It had a very good trail in the race and won comfortably.

Race seven: No Emotion joined the Michael Gadsden stable in September last year, having only won two races.

Since then, it has raced 19 times for 5 wins and 7 placings. Driven by Luke Dunne, which completed his driving double. The group of Patchewollock owners are certainly enjoying the ride.

The Locals

Another good day for the Charlton training centre with Zac Steenhuis and Michael Gadsden having winners. Local driver Luke Dunne had a very good day, he had 7 drives for the day with 2 wins and 3 second placings.

New Racing Draft

The proposed draft with new race dates starting from July 1st is shattering news to some very strong racing communities.

In Memory

April 24th will remain in the memories of many harness and thoroughbred followers. Two of the most popular identities both passed on this day; Gavan Lang 5 years ago and Dean Holland, 2 years ago. Gone but not forgotten.



• One of the highlights of the smoking ceremony was the playing of the didgeridoo by Jason Kerr, of the Djaara people.



• Members of the Djaara people embrace the smoking ceremony before the start of the harness meeting.



• Presentation of the Djaara Cup. C.E.O. of the Dja Dja Wurrang Clans Aboriginal Corporation, Rodney Carter, with trainer/driver Kerry Manning and part owner Ken Salmon after the win of Surfe La Mer.



• Not only a Charlton football club player, but also a prominent young harness racing driver, Luke Dunne drove a winning double, this time with Lombok, which is part owned by a former Charlton player, Frank McGrath.



• A very happy birthday for another young driver, Leilani Justice. Leilani celebrated her birthday with a driving double when Best Back Bruce defeated Im Stuck Man, driven by Luke Dunne. This also completed a double for trainer Dianne Giles.

North-Central Titans to Tango

• Continued from page 12.

knows one way to compete, and will not surrender meekly.

Magpies Are Flying

Boort has started the new season in very good form, and

Pinehurst at Charlton

On a warm Wednesday, April 16, seven Charlton ladies played a Pinehurst round.

Splitting into two groups of 4 and 3, with the team of Anne Kenny, Eilly Roswall, Marjs Bartlett and Olive, the winning group with 50 strokes and nett score of 41 3/4.

Chris Livingston was nearest the pin on the 14th, cheered on by her team mates Kim Laffin and Carmel Fitzpatrick.

Next week’s event will be stableford with Chris Livingston on table duty and combined with Carmel Fitzpatrick on clubhouse/kitchen duties.

has the opportunity to build on its percentage-boosting round 2 win when it visits Donald.

Jhye Baddley-Kelly, Jayden Dick, Kayne Rutley and Carlos Egan have been prominent for the Magpies in recent outings, and should prove more than a handful for the Royal Blues’ best, including coach Daniel Pearce, who continues to lead his young charges by example, capably assisted by ageless veteran Ross Young, Eddie Landwehr and newcomers Charlie Campbell and Robert Walker.

The Magpies will start short-priced favourites to add another four premierships points to their growing tally.

Opportunity Knocks

Today’s Anzac Day night game between Charlton and St. Arnaud, two seemingly evenly matched combinations, is the most challenging to assess, with both looking for their first win and desperate for the boost in confidence it would generate.

The Navy Blues and Saints have shown glimpses of high-quality football, but against

stronger opposition, have been unable to sustain it for long periods.

The team which can gain the upper hand, and reap the benefit on the scoreboard, will have the best chance of securing victory.

Max Hungerford, Jay Kirwood and former coach, James McNamee (playing his 100th. game) provide the Saints with plenty of goal scoring options.

For Charlton, the rewards for forwards have been few and far between so far, but in Elliott Fitzpatrick, Rhys Thompson and Ashton Wood, the Navy Blues have the potential to reward the efforts of their hard-working midfield.

The return from long-term injury of Tom Finlay will provide Charlton with a massive lift once he gains match fitness. Even his best efforts tomorrow, to inspire those around him with his dash and carry, might not be enough to overcome a Saints’ combination which has a defence, led by Harley Durward, that is capable of restricting the Navy Blues to a losing score.



• Jade Smith in the middle after winning gold at Tri-State Cup in April 2025. Mursal on the left and Munira on the right.

Jade to Wrestle for Australia

Jade Smith, a 30-year-old athlete originally from Birchip, is set to represent Australia in her first international wrestling competition – the South East Asian Championships this May.

What began as an after-work hobby has transformed into a life-changing journey of grit, growth, and gold.

Three years ago, Jade was working in marketing and looking for something new to sink her teeth into. She joined a local gym to build healthy habits and soon found herself drawn to wrestling.

Since then, Jade has trained consistently, earning

top results at local competitions including Super Series 2023 and 2024, Tri-State Cup 2024 and 2025, and receiving an invite to the Oceania Championships in 2025. With few women competing in wrestling in Australia, her ambition has led her to the international stage.

Jade is currently seeking local sponsors to help fund her journey, as unlike many

other countries, Australian wrestlers must fully self-fund their international competition costs. This includes the mandatory Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) training camp, official Australian team uniform, flights, accommodation, and entry fees. She’s calling on individuals and businesses in the Buloke region to get behind her and help make this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity possible.

Those who sponsor Jade will be acknowledged on her social media and be part of a story that’s only just getting started.

If you’d like to sponsor Jade’s journey or follow along as she trains for the biggest competition of her life, you can get in touch via email hello@hotjam.com.au or follow her on Instagram @jaaaaade.

We wish Jade the very best as she proudly represents both the Buloke Shire and Australia on the international stage.

Down the Middle?

Five ladies played at Donald on Wednesday when the coveted Clothes Bin Monthly Medal was up for grabs. They were joined by two male golfers and three other ladies who played nine holes.

Winner of the Monthly Medal was Joan Pearce on -3, on a countback from Kerry Wood. However the day’s winners were Peter Kelly on +1 and Luke Kelly on -2.

Nearest the pins were Beris Jones on Donald Auto Electrical’s 3rd, Ev Adams on Weir’s 7th and Nu Farm’s 14th and Kerry Wood on Donald Community Bank’s 16th.

Birchip Golf

Due to the Easter break, there was no golf played on Sunday.

Wednesday golf was played in warm still conditions. The winner on the day was Beryl Fietz, who is outsmarting the younger golfers. She is playing some lovely golf. Runners-up to Beryl were Sue Noonan and Di Lehmann. Nearest the pins for the day were; on Number 7, Birchip Newsagency, Maureen Trollope who finished with a birdie. On Number 3, Birchip Café, Maureen once again took the honours.

As the course is so dry, players are finding it has good run, which is quite an advantage with the dry conditions. Here’s hoping for a bit of rain in the next few days to start greening up the course.

We remember our past players and Australians, on Anzac Day, who went to war to fight for our country. They sacrificed so much, as did their families.

Golf on Sunday and Wednesday as usual.

Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to Sandra Harris from the Clothes Bin.

Next week:

Monday golf, Assemble at 9.45.

Sunday and Monday – lessons with Kerry Raven at 10 a.m..

Tuesday, 29th April: Veterans’ Day at Charlton, 10 a.m. hit off.

Wednesday 30th: Stableford sponsored by Liston Newton Advisory.

Player Profile
Ev Adams

For how long have you been playing golf? 43 years.
What do you enjoy about

golf? The comradeship.

What’s the best part about your game? Nothing.

What advice would you give to anyone who is thinking of taking up golf? Start while you’re young.

What’s your best score? 79 at Cobram.

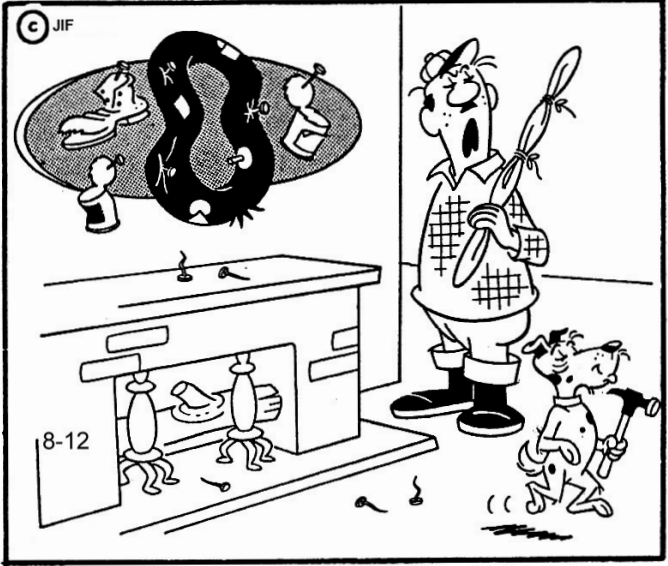
What’s the best shot you’ve ever played? I just missed a hole in one at the old Ballarat golf course when the ball ran across the cup.

Who is your favourite golfer? I don’t have one.

What is your current position in the club? Match committee member & provider.

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North-Central Titans to Tango

(By Shane O'Shea)

In recent North-Central football seasons, there has been no greater rivalry than the one that continues to develop between Sea Lake-Nandaly and Birchip-Watchem, two powerhouses of the competition who clashed in last season's grand final, and who do battle again tomorrow, in the round three game of the day.

Sea Lake's expansive Community Complex oval is the setting for one of the most eagerly anticipated grudge matches of the 2025 season. It will be the first time the Tigers and Bulls have met in combat since Sea Lake-Nandaly's 2024 premiership win.

Both combinations have undergone change since that meeting, the most significant being the appointment of Ash Connick as coach of Birchip-Watchem.

The Bulls have been untroubled in both games so far this season, giving players, including impressive recruits Ben Lakin and Rhona Conboy, plenty of time to adjust to Connick's game plan.

Birchip-Watchem's forwards have been on fire, particularly Ben Edwards and Joe Reid, who bagged 25 goals between them against Donald, fed by a potent midfield led by man mountain Hamish Hosking, Nic Rippon and Meyrick Buchanan.

Add powerful Bull Matt Rippon to the mix, and it makes for an outstanding engine room, which not only generates consistent attacks, but also works tirelessly to support a defence featuring centre half-back Lakin and dynamic rebounder Dale Hinkley.

To be honest, however, the Bulls' defence hasn't been

extended or tested in the past two outings.

All that will change at 2.30 tomorrow, when Birchip-Watchem runs out on to Sea Lake-Nandaly's home turf.

In round 2, the Tigers absorbed an early flurry of impressive, fast flowing and productive football from new combination Calder United, and then with intense physical pressure, methodically squeezed the life out of the Lions.

Two takeaways from that outcome: The Tigers will again be a force to be reckoned with, and have developed plenty of depth through the continued promotion of young local talent, including Billy Poulton, Max Cahoon, Codey Elliott and Chase Tait. They are more than adequately helping to cover the absence of five or six key senior players.

For Calder United, whilst boasting an enviable list of experienced talent, there remains a mountain of work to be done if the Lions are to reach their full potential and be a serious contender come September.

The Tigers' midfield is again led by the indefatigable Ryan O'Sullivan, whose understudy, Connor Michael, continues to blossom as an emerging ruck strength. The pair has a potent band of

aggressive runners at ground level, including Wade Donnan, Thomas Cox, Tyson McKenzie and Bryce Delmenico, capable of taking full advantage of every opportunity that comes their way.

Adam Pattison, in tandem with Lachy McClelland, provides the Tigers with multiple attacking options, Pattison's second half against the Lions proving to be a decisive factor.

And then there is the luxury of having hard nut, Trent Donnan, sharing the half-back duties with Billy McInnes, to back up Jack Poulton, one of the competition's most reliable defenders.

The Donnan/McInnes experience and physical presence more than compensates for the loss of key defender, Kane Donnan, currently enjoying Western Australia's scenery.

Tomorrow's brotherly battle between the Donnans and Rippons will be worth the price of admission on its own, but will be just one feature of a supercharged battle for supremacy.

Sea Lake-Nandaly currently holds the mantle of North-Central champion and should win this preliminary round. The question that must be answered by Birchip-Watchem is, "Does it have the wherewithal to dethrone the Tigers?"



• Birchip-Watchem's ruckman Hamish Hosking breaks clear with the ball. The Donald players pictured are Josh Talty (left, 30), Seth Pearse (59), Nick Atkins (32) and Ross Young (7). Bulls' players are Lachlan Ryan, Sam Simmons and Bill Lee.

Lions on a Mission

Calder United supporters would have been disappointed by the second half fade out of their talent laden team under intense scrutiny from Sea Lake-Nandaly last round.

It was the first real test of the Lions as a cohesive unit, and they will need to develop greater resilience if they are to become the force they threaten to be.

Tomorrow, Calder United has a home game (at Wyche-proof) against a Wedderburn combination that is also striving to achieve its best football, although the Redbacks did take a huge stride forward at St Arnaud's expense.

There is no doubt that Lions' ruckman Dean Putt,

onballers including Matt Wade, Steven Kennedy, Mitch Farmer, Kobe Lloyd, Rylee Smith and Zac Caccaviello are equal to any in the competition, but North-Central football has a certain physical intensity that takes adjusting to, particularly when exerted by the better equipped combinations.

Tomorrow, the level of intensity applied by the Redbacks' onball brigade, headed by Adam Postle, Zach Pallpratt, Darcy Jackson, Jackson McEwen and Hamish Lockhart, will demand the very best defensive efforts from their opponents.

And the Lions will be looking for their forwards, including Jack Excell and Matt

Trzeciak, to have a great impact over four quarters, against the Redbacks' defence, where recruits Ben Bacon, Josh Hall and Jake Pallpratt have slotted in seamlessly.

At the other end of ground, Mitch Jensen is proving to be a very productive forward, but he will need plenty of support against the likes of Joe Walsh and Oscar Madden.

The first two weeks have produced a mixed bag for Calder United and Wedderburn.

The Lions' best is certainly good enough to secure a win tomorrow, but it will take a four-quarter effort against a Redback outfit which only

• Continued on page 15.

GOLDACRES NORTH CENTRAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

ROUND 3

FRIDAY APRIL 25TH & SATURDAY APRIL 26TH 2025

SEA LAKE NANDALY TIGERS	VS	BIRCHIP-WATCHEM BULLS
SEA LAKE COMMUNITY COMPLEX		
DONALD ROYAL BLUES	VS	BOORT MAGPIES
GOFF LETTS OVAL		
CHARLTON NAVIES	VS	ST ARNAUD SAINTS
FRIDAY APRIL 25 - NIGHT CHARLTON PARK		
CALDER UNITED LIONS	VS	WEDDERBURN REDBACKS
WYCHEPROOF REC RESERVE		

NCFL
North Central Football League



(By Course Language)

With the Easter weekend of golf done and dusted (dusted being the appropriate word), it's hoped that a few more golf enthusiasts turn up for this weekend's event.

With people taking the chance to enjoy the fine Easter weather there was a small turn-out for the "3 Club Challenge" with Bill Livingston taking the chocolates with 35 points on a count back from Luke Kelly.

The "Nearest The Pins" were: The Donald Auto Elec 3rd, Bill Livingston; Weirs IGA 7th, Luke Kelly; Nufarm 14th, Matt Clarke; Bendigo Bank 16th, Brad Bath.

The scribe is certainly going to miss Captain Matt when he leaves, as he is always good for something to go in this report. Once again,

he hasn't let me down. Matt's drive off the 15th tee was a monster that finished on the 16th tee box. A drive of around 340 metres. Unfortunately, this must have taken most of his energy reserves, as he couldn't make his drive reach the ladies' tee on 17, about 60 metres from the men's.

Let's hope the weather forecasters are right and there is some decent rain this weekend. I'm pretty sure it's not just us golfers hoping for the rain.

Coming Up

This week is our first monthly medal for the year

sponsored by the Donald Pharmacy and Pies Putting.

Vets also starts this week in Charlton on Tuesday.

Dad Jokes

I had a friend who used to keep changing the sound that his alarm clock used to make – I wonder what he's getting up to now?

I asked the librarian if they had the book "Finding Big-foot"? – She directed me to the large print section.

What goes trot trot dash trot? – Horse Code.

Can someone please explain to me what oblivious means – I have no idea.