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The Buloke Times

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

Key Theme of BCG's Main Field Day: **Data Over Instinct**

Making the right call on nitrogen (N) fertiliser is one of the most critical and complex decisions grain growers face each season.

The timing and rate of N applications can significantly influence yield potential, grain protein and profitability, but decisions must be made against a backdrop of uncertain rainfall, variable soil moisture and volatile input costs.

At BCG's Main Field Day on Wednesday, September 10, growers will compare management approaches including N banking (building and managing a soil N reserve to reduce seasonal risk) and Yield Prophet® to learn how to maximise long-term return on investment and get a better result more of the time.

Trial Sites

The concept of N banking has roots in one of BCG member Paul Barclay's paddocks at Curyo, where the first trial was hosted in 2018. As part of the Nitrogen theme within the GRDC funded RiskWi\$e project, BCG has now established six trial sites across the region, at Walpeup,

Carwarp, Birchip, Marlbed and Longerong.

The research aims to provide insights to how different N strategies perform across different soil types and seasons.

"Thinking about nitrogen decisions beyond a single season is key to making sure every dollar spent delivers value, even in dry or variable years," said BCG Senior Research Manager, Dr Yolanda Plowman.

"The network of trials across north-west Victoria and throughout Australia are comparing strategies like N banking and using decision tools like Yield Prophet®, helping growers to have confidence to make the right call more of the time."

High Stakes Decisions

These high stakes decisions often come down to gut instinct or habit, however, research carried out by BCG increasingly shows that using a

strategy backed by data is key to achieving good outcomes. While the data shows that both N banking and Yield Prophet 50 per cent decile strategies generally deliver similar long-term results, the choice between them often comes down to the type of decision maker involved. Active decision makers may be drawn to the dynamic nature of Yield Prophet®, which requires regular monitoring and in-season adjustments, while passive decision makers may prefer the set and manage approach of N banking, which reduces the need for continual intervention. Importantly, both strategies highlight that nitrogen decisions are best made using data rather than gut instinct.

Dr Plowman will be joined at BCG's Main Field Day by Professor James Hunt (University of Melbourne), who will share some of the latest research outcomes, as well as



• Dr Yolanda Plowman and Professor James Hunt will review nitrogen management strategies at BCG's Main Field Day on Wednesday, September 10, at Birchip.

highlight the importance of conducting a review of this year's decisions.

"No matter what you've done this year, it's important to review the outcomes by looking at your grain protein and paddock N balance," he said.

"The review is a key step in the decision-making process and provides valuable context for the decisions you'll make next year."

The Latest

BCG's Main Field Day provides growers, advisors and research with the latest in local agronomic research. Entry is free for BCG members and \$50 for non-members. For more information or to become a BCG member, please visit the BCG website bcg.org.au.

RiskWi\$e is a 5-year, \$30 million national initiative

(2023–2028) aimed at helping Australian grain growers navigate increasing levels of risk from weather variability and price volatility.

By improving understanding of the risk-reward relationships in on-farm management decisions, RiskWi\$e supports growers in making informed, confident choices that maximise rewards and minimise potential losses.

Ambulance Advice to Wycheeproof Probians

Eliot Walton, the Ambulance Victoria – Community Support Co-ordinator for the Buloke and Gannawarra Shires – provided an informative and very pertinent talk to Wycheeproof Probus at its August meeting.

Eliot has just completed the Heart Safe Community Program in Wycheeproof, which centres on accessibility to automated external defibrillators (AEDs). Wycheeproof now has seven publicly accessible AEDs 24 hours per day, located at Elders, the Bowling Club, the Caravan Park, the Footy clubbrooms, the Op Shop/Men's

Shed, the Golf Club and the BP Service Station.

The program also encourages people to sign up to the Victorian GoodSAM smartphone app. This is a life-saving process for people who are suffering cardiac arrest and have rung 000, the app connects with members of the community who are willing to start CPR in the critical

minutes before paramedics arrive.

Eliot advised that every minute that a cardiac patient suffers without CPR, their survival rate decreases by 10%.

Strokes

Eliot explained how strokes are one of the most expensive diseases in the

• Continued on page 2.



• Probus President Will Russ hands a little "thank you" present to Eliot Walton, of Ambulance Vic.

Horsham Council Resigns From WSMD

Horsham Rural City Council has given notice of its intention to resign as a member of Wimmera Southern Mallee Development (WSMD), following a special meeting of the WSMD Board.

WSMD currently represents a collaborative economic development body spanning five municipalities – Horsham, West Wimmera, Hindmarsh, Yarriambiack, and Buloke – focusing on growth across economic, cultural, social, and environmental domains.

The Council cited an increasing misalignment between

WSMD's strategic direction and Council's local strategic priorities – resulting in declining engagement and project delivery effectiveness – as the principal reason for the decision to withdraw.

The WSMD Board has recognised the misalignment, deciding to restructure the

way the company limited by guarantee is governed which doesn't include any of the remaining member Councils having representation on the Board.

Reinvestment

The \$238,656 originally budgeted for the 2025–26 WSMD member contribution

will now be reinvested into targeted economic development initiatives within Horsham and the region. It will be strategically aligned with the emerging priorities identified through ongoing community engagement under the forthcoming 2025–29 Council Plan.

Best Outcome

"This is the best outcome for all parties concerned, Council will have more focused

control over economic development initiatives that benefit Horsham and the region more specifically," Mayor Cr Ian Ross explained.

Cr Cameron McDonald, Horsham Rural City Council's member representative, formalised the termination of the Memorandum of Understanding, originally signed on December 1, 2021, between Council and WSMD, by signing the relevant documents at

a special board meeting.

"I would like to thank Cr McDonald for his dedicated commitment and service as a Director representing Council on the WSMD board," Cr Ross said. "He advocated for the interests of our community, and it has been greatly appreciated."

Council extends its appreciation to WSMD for its collaborative efforts and service to the region over many years.

Cost of Living

On Monday, August 25, Dr Anne Webster spoke to the House of Representatives about important topics in her electorate, such as cost-of-living, the renewable energy, and lack of social licence in Labor's push to roll out transmission lines, turbines, panels and mines.

The following is her address:

What bliss it is to be lectured by those opposite and the mover from metropolitan Melbourne about the Albanese government's energy utopia! In the glow of the Allan Labor government's shining achievements, like the multibillion-dollar cost blowouts on the Suburban Rail Loop and eye-watering amounts of debt, regional Victorians are living in darkness and oppression. They are invisible to the member for Chisholm and her Labor colleagues. Worse still, regional Victorians are the targets of a radical ideology and energy experiment untried and unproven on the scale the Albanese Labor government are driving. Every Australian is paying for it on their power bills.

I notice the motion doesn't quote the line parroted by the Minister for Climate Change and Energy that renewables are the cheapest form of energy. No, now it's the bubblegum phrase "the better future Australians voted for". I can tell the member for Chisholm and those opposite that, in Mallee and across regional Australia, farmers and their communities are wearing the pain of the radical and reckless rollout of renewables. The proportion of regional Victorians who support a renewable energy transition has plummeted from 66 per

The Buloke Times

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cent to just 44 per cent now. Regional Victorians are out of sight and out of mind, and the Labor government has zero care factor.

Mallee residents are in the firing line for the Allan government's legislation which will fine farmers \$12,000 – or \$48,000 if they're a corporation – for refusing Transmission Company Victoria access to build the new VNI West transmission line. I hate to break it to the member for Chisholm, but it's not a dreamy energy utopia Labor are building. It is a net zero dystopia. Already the Allan government's transmission plans will take up at least eight per cent of Victoria's landmass, in part because they are having trouble building offshore wind. Who knows how much prime agricultural land that eight per cent of landmass actually represents?

I continue to highlight that in 2022 the Victorian government proposed that up to 70 per cent of the state's prime agricultural land would be used for energy projects if offshore wind was not achieved – what a statement! They took that document down from their website and refuse to speak about it now, just like this motion is not speaking about renewables being the cheapest form of energy. But I kept the evidence, and I remind regional Victorians every chance I get that up

to 70 per cent of prime agricultural land is in the Allan Labor government's sights for energy projects. And what about the remaining 30 per cent? With multiple mineral sands proposals in my electorate, you have to wonder how many farmers will remain unaffected.

Mallee is being turned into an industrial wasteland of transmission lines, turbines, panels and mines, and, most importantly, this is taking place without social licence. I've conducted a survey of Mallee voters, with more than 5,000 respondents so far, and the sentiment is very clear: energy projects do not have social licence. Mallee voters want farmers to be able to keep farming, oddly enough. And why would an energy company, many of which are made up of cowboys, bother with social licence when the behaviour of the Victorian government, which theoretically should act as a model corporate citizen, is to threaten farmers with \$12,000 fines for refusing access?

Victorian Nationals Senator Bridget McKenzie and I met with locals at Marnoo in my electorate last Monday, the day after the Allan government released their Victorian Transmission Plan on Sunday, under the cover of the penultimate round of the AFL. Marnoo and other Northern Grampians residents weren't fooled and quickly mobilised farmers and their tractors for a symbolic event, burning the Transmission Plan and saying VNI West will not be going ahead through their farms, whether there are \$12,000 fines or not. The message is clear. Labor's Victorian and national renewable energy generation targets, and net zero itself, are simply unachievable.

Birchip Historical Society Holds 30th Anniversary

(From Maureen Donnellon, Secretary)

August 13 was a significant day for the Birchip Historical Society members as they held their 40th annual meeting in their Archives room.

There was no change to the office bearers who are president Warren King, vice-president Dorothy Reid, secretary Maureen Donnellon, treasurer/archivist Elaine McCallum and all other members become part of the committee.

transferred to the supper room of the public hall, and to the Shire office and then all were conducted in St Arnaud. Courthouse furniture was removed or stored elsewhere and the building left to deteriorate. That was in the 1970s.

Society Formed

That was before a Historical Society was formed after the 1982 town Centenary, at which a great display of pioneer farming implements and photos was displayed in the Masonic Hall, later replaced by Wirrim Lodge.

A lot of negotiating went on by concerned townsfolk and the local Birchip councillors, several of whom became some of the first members of the new society in 1983, and after a few years of meeting in the older brick rooms of the P12 School, sought their own home and negotiated to buy the abandoned Court House.

That is a story in itself, but after lots of negotiations and meetings, held in what is now the kitchen display room, the society began in earnest and has kept on restoring and preserving newspapers, photos, clothing, trophies and all sorts of artefacts as well as collecting thousands of snippets on families from the area from pioneering days till the present day, and researching through microfilm, newspapers and internet the many people and topics required by the families who want to find out more about their genealogy and where they fit.

Several of the present members were among those original members more than forty years ago and remember vividly when tough boots and hard hats were just about required to enter the brick building, which was repaired by the late David Kelly and



• Elaine McCallum (treasurer/archivist), Maureen Donnellon (secretary), Dorothy Reid (vice-president), Warren King (president).

his helpers, and a lot of the work was also done by the members shovelling out old plaster and birds nest, and accumulated rubbish.

The archives room was built some twenty years later by Gus Noonan and now houses all the files, photos, former Birchip Shire books, and loads of Birchip newspapers in microfilm or large binders is the "engine room" of the society.

Rewarding Work

The society would love more members as there are always people looking for research to be done, photos to be catalogued, newspaper cuttings to sort and file. It is careful work, but rewarding when bits and pieces of history are found, photos identified, school reunions aided and family members found. It is always very worthwhile to

work with students who are always surprised to find photos and information about themselves while searching for school topics, because from the time they are born they are part of history.

Membership is \$25 a year and if you are not able to come to meetings, why not think about a donation or becoming a Friend of the Society?

Ambulance Advice to Wycheproof Probiants

• Continued from page 1.

health care system. Twenty years ago there was no treatment for strokes, but now there are a number of treatments, including clot busting drugs and clot retrieval processes that can go into the brain and remove the clot. There are currently two Mobile Stroke Vehicles being trialled in Melbourne. Each is equipped with a CT scanner to quickly diagnose whether it is a clot or a bleed, so appropriate drugs can be administered.

A stroke is often identified by slurred speech, face drooping and/or the inability to lift

both arms. These symptoms usually come on quickly and, if they are identified, an ambulance should be called immediately.

Snake Bites

Eliot provided some insights to snake bites. Anti-venom is very important in treating snake bites, but is only given to someone who is showing symptoms. It is very important to stay calm and stay still. If the bite is on a limb, you should strap the whole leg or arm, splint it and stay very still. Inglewood Hospital is the closest location with anti-venom. Without prior notification, ambulances

do not carry any. It goes out of date very quickly and is very expensive, so isn't kept locally.

Virtual Emergency Department

Eliot concluded his talk with an introduction to the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED). This is the busiest emergency department in the country. Those requiring medical assistance can access the VVED through their computer. The service provides access to both doctors and specialists and is used by Ambulance Vic to assist with diagnosis and treatment, and is often used by regional doctors and hospitals.



Police Beat



Swan Hill

Counterfeit Cash: On Friday the 22nd of August, a counterfeit \$100 note was used to purchase items at a supermarket in Swan Hill. A short time later, a second person has attended the same supermarket and has used a second counterfeit \$100 note to make a purchase.

Theft: Between 6 p.m. on Wednesday the 20th of August and 11.30 a.m. the following day, it has been reported that offenders have

attended a Wood Road, Chinangin property (near Ultima), and taken diesel and a key to machinery.

Hoon Activity: On Saturday the 23rd of August, a large number of vehicles were believed to be involved in hoon activity and doing burnouts at the following two locations: Murray Valley Highway at the intersection of Benjeroop Treloar Road, Treloar, and the vicinity of Shepherd Street in Swan Hill. Anyone with dash cam footage or information is

urged to contact Swan Hill Police or crime stoppers.

Robinvale

Burglaries: Over the past 10 days, several burglaries, attempted burglaries and vehicle thefts have been reported from rural properties around the Robinvale area. Power tools, ATVs, motor cycles and other equipment have been targeted. Mildura CIU are investigating.

• Take care on the roads — no one is safe from careless drivers.

Fee Changes to Primary Care Services

East Wimmera Health Service advises that from October 1, 2025, fees for Primary Care Services will be updated.

These changes support the continued delivery of high-quality care across our communities. Full details will be available mid-September on the EWHS website and at all campuses.

If you have any questions

or concerns about the fee adjustment, feel free to contact St Arnaud campus on 5477 2222.

Please note some services are available in Bulette only, including Domestic Assistance, Home Maintenance,

Personal Care. Delivered Meals Birchip and Donald only.

For more information about EWHS services, please visit www.ewhs.org.au or see the Community Newsletter.

SUBSIDISED SERVICES		
Activity Type	Unit	Concession Rate
Allied Health *	Per visit	\$8
Community Car St Arnaud only	Per km	Flat rate \$0.40/km
Continenence Nurse	Per visit	\$8
Delivered Meals	Per meal	\$10
Diabetes Education	Per visit	\$8
District Nursing (plus, cost of medical supplies used)	Per visit	\$4
Domestic Assistance	Per hour	\$8
Foot Care Nurse	Per visit	\$8
Home Maintenance	Per hour	\$15
Personal Care	Per hour	\$8
Planned Activity Group	Per day	\$10
Social Support Individual	Per hour	\$8

NON-SUBSIDISED SERVICES (Full Cost Recovery)	
Unit	Concession Rate
Per hour	\$120
N/A	N/A
Per hour	\$120
Per meal	\$18
Per hour	\$120
Per hour	\$120
Per hour	\$75
Per hour	\$120
Per hour	\$80
Per hour	\$75
Per day	\$110
Per hour	\$75

“Tax is Where the Home is”

(From Shadow Treasurer James Newbury)

In a major misunderstanding of how the tax system operates, the Minister for Finance has mistakenly stated: “Your home is your principal place of residence. We don’t tax your principal place of residence. We’ve never done that. We never will”.

The Minister is wrong. Many Victorians are being taxed on their family home.

The Minister’s error is offensive to the hardworking Victorians who are carrying Labor’s tax burden and paying tax on their family home.

In fact, data reported earlier this year showed that following a matching of Australian Tax Office data with the State Revenue Office, 400,000 Victorians who run small businesses or short stay accommodation from their home have recently been hit with a land tax bill for the first time.

The Minister for Finance hasn’t only got it wrong. He has potentially got it wrong hundreds of thousands of times.

What the Government has also got wrong is that shifting the workforce into working from home arrangements could trigger a land tax charge for many of those Victorians for the first time.

As legal experts have said, there is scope for land tax obligations to further extend to Victorians who move to work from home two days a week.

Today proves that the State Labor Government doesn’t understand its own tax system



• James Newbury.

and is refusing to guarantee that Victorians working from home won’t be slugged with a land tax penalty.

Letter to the Editor

Big Week for Birchip (The Editor, “The Times”)

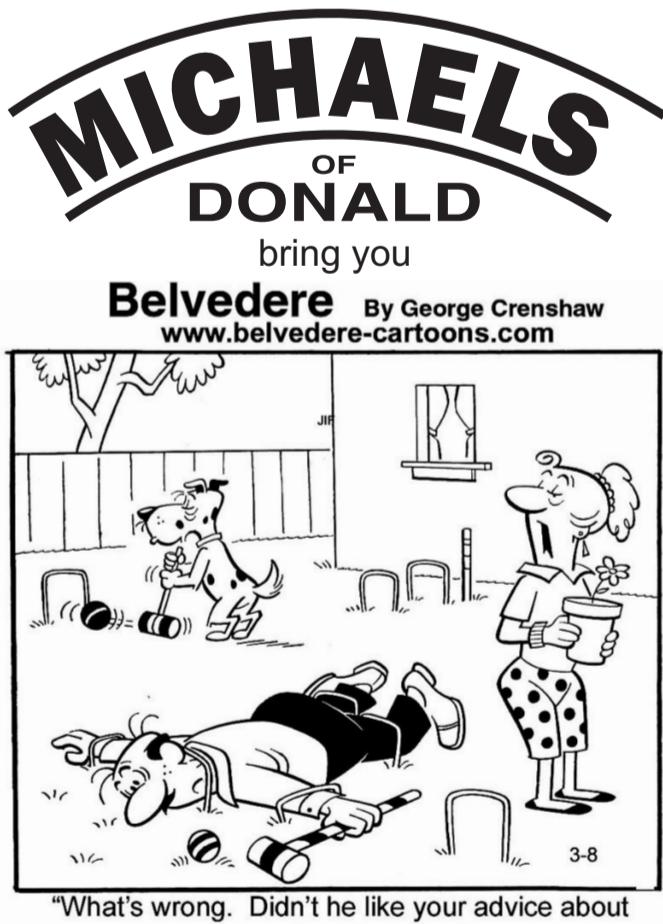
Dear Editor.— What great days Birchip had last week!

Hamish’s Feeny Medal, the Sharpies did it again with the Vanilla Slice Triumph and a horde of volunteers contributed to a first class presentation of the First Semi Final.

Also, Norm and Jess and their Budget Battlers team brought a great buzz to the town when they came to renovate my house.

I was humbled, but proud to be chosen. A huge thank you to the amazing local volunteers who gave of their time, skills and donations of goods and services. I am sure the community spirit will be showcased in the TV program. To you all, I say you have helped leave a long-lasting legacy for the Birchip Community.

Maurice Hogan.



• One of the locations chosen, Green Lake, is a treasured part of the Sea Lake community and the Bulette region at as a whole.

Bulette’s Recreational Jewels Sustained

Five Bulette recreational lakes set for a vibrant summer season thanks to continued investment in pipe-line supplied recreational water supply by GWMWater.

Those five sites within Bulette Shire are Green Lake at Sea Lake, Donald Caravan Park Lake, Tchum Lake, Watchem Lake, and Wooroonook Lake.

As part of this allocation, an additional 680 ML of high-reliability Murray and Goulburn water entitlements has been approved to supply Ouyen Lake and Green Lake, ensuring these key recreational sites remain vibrant and accessible for locals and visitors alike.

“Green Lake is a treasured part of our community and a key attraction for visitors to Sea Lake and the wider Bulette region,” said Bulette Shire Council Mayor Alan Getley.

“We welcome this investment as it ensures that Green Lake remains a vibrant, accessible space for everyone to enjoy.”

GWMWater has approved the transfer of up to 1,850 ML from its urban and rural water holdings to the Recreation Water Entitlement, supporting

14 popular lakes and weirs across the Wimmera Mallee region.

A recent study found that 10 key pipeline-supplied recreational lakes contribute \$8 million annually to the regional economy.

“We deeply value this commitment, not only for the way it supports local tourism and economic activity, but also for the wellbeing benefits, adding significantly to the liveability of towns across our community,” Mayor Getley added.

www.thedonaldproject.com.au

The Donald Project



Community Information Sessions

DMS is developing the Donald Rare Earth and Mineral Sands Project near Minyip, one of the world’s largest untapped deposits of mineral sands and rare earth elements. Our 42-year project means regional growth, jobs, and infrastructure improvements.

What: Community information sessions

Where: Minyip Senior Citizens Hall, 72 Main Street, Minyip

When: Wednesday 10 September 2025

Two sessions: 2pm to 4pm and 5pm to 7pm

What to expect

- Next steps following Work Plan approval
- New water pipeline along Gun Club Road
- Project displays and information
- Jobs and supplier opportunities
- Ask questions and share feedback
- One-on-one discussions with project team

We’ll start each session with a short presentation but please drop in any time.

Contact us

⊕ www.thedonaldproject.com.au
✉ enquiries@thedonaldproject.com.au
☎ 03 5385 7088
📍 23 Church St, Minyip VIC 3392

Investing in the Wimmera’s Future

"Times" Classifieds

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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.

BIRTH GRANT - SHERIDAN

Blake, Jacinta & Romi are delighted to announce the arrival of –

Austin James,
8lb 1oz.

on August 18, 2025 at St John of God, Geelong. Another precious grandson for Eleanor and Frank, Peter and Robyn.

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY Mum (Jeanette)

August 31

To a wonderful mum, grandma and great-grandma. We hope you have the best day.

*Love you always,
Andrea, Paula & Mick,
Dwain & Kelly, Blake &
Beau. xox.*



DEATH HOLLIS.—

John Edward
30/07/1935 - 23/08/2025
of Maiden Gully formerly of Corack East passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family.

Dearly loved husband of Dawn and much loved dad of Cynthia. Loving grandad of Casey and Kimberley and adored great-grandad of Charlotte, Francis; Cooper, Logan and Emmett. Mate of Tim, Max and Ash.

*To hear your voice,
to see your smile
to sit and talk to you
a while.*

*To be together
in the same old way
would be the greatest wish
today.*

LEST WE FORGET

DEATH HOLLIS.—

John Deepest sympathy to Dawn and her family. John had a good life, well lived. Our thoughts are with you all.

*—from Joyce & Stewart
and families.*

HOLLIS.— John So many happy memories over the years.

Loving oldest brother of Trev (dec.) & Marg. Fond uncle of Sara, Luke & Josh and their families. Our thoughts are with Dawn, Cynthia, Tim, Casey, Kimberley and families.

We will miss you John. xxx

The Buloke Times

Coloured Photographs

Copies of "Times" photos can be purchased from our office/s.

Photos not published may also be available.

Call in to our offices, McCulloch Street, Donald, phone 5497 1222; or Cumming Avenue, Birchip, phone 5492 2735.

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

**AMBULANCE
PHONE NO.
000**



Samuel "Clowning Around" in preparation for The Wizard of OZ production.

The Textiles students were planning to help with the production wardrobe and were just getting into "character".

Layla Hepworth
DONALD HIGH SCHOOL



FUNERAL HOLLIS.—

A graveside service to celebrate John's life will be held at the Donald Lawn Cemetery on Wednesday, September 3, at 11 a.m.

KELL FUNERALS
ST. ARNAUD 5495 1043
NFDA EST. 1860

FUNERAL

McLEAN, — Malcolm You are warmly invited to attend Malcolm's funeral on Thursday 4th September, 2025, at 75 Reid Street, Fitzroy North (Community Hall), commencing at 1 p.m.

Refreshments will follow, where you can continue to share memories and stories.

Malcolm will be privately buried.

Natural Grace
Holistic Funeral Care
1300 008 037

CHOOK RUN Ballarat Chooks

Pullets/Chooks for Sale
Sexed and Vaccinated
Hyline Browns

DELIVERY Thursday, Sept 11

Dropping off at: Ararat, St Arnaud, Donald, Birchip and Wycheeproof.

Contact Kelvin to pre-order
Ring or message on
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PTY. LIMITED**
64-68 Napier St, St Arnaud
wjgolding.com

**Don't play with FIRE
Safeguard Your Home**

GOLDINGS

Retirements to mark
end of an era

After more than 53 years of outstanding service to customers, Wayne "Barney" Ezard is retiring from Goldings Furniture, Floorcoverings and Blinds.

Judi Hastings (nee Golding) is also retiring from the business, 113 years after her grandfather Walter James Golding joined the Donald branch of James Rowe & Sons, which became W.J. Golding & Co. and later incorporated Brain's Furniture, St Arnaud.

Please note, the final day to order floorcoverings and made to measure blinds will be **Thursday, September 25, 2025**.

We thank all our valued customers, present and past - in St Arnaud, Donald and districts - for their loyal support. It has been our privilege and pleasure to serve you.

- For clearance sale details, see advertisement, elsewhere this issue
- Floorcoverings, blinds and furniture enquiries: 5495 1922 or info@wjgolding.com
- Business sale enquiries: Contact us via email.

**W.J. GOLDING & CO.
PTY. LIMITED**

64-68 Napier St, St Arnaud
wjgolding.com

DONALD PONY CLUB

is hosting the
Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour
on Sunday, August 31
10.30 a.m.
AT THE PONY CLUB GROUNDS.
Come and join the
celebrations and gold coin
donation morning tea.



tchum lake
AQUATIC CLUB

Working Bee
Sunday Sept. 7
at 9 a.m.

**DONALD GOLF AND BOWLS CLUB INC.
GOLF SECTION**

AGM

Wed., September 10
7p.m. at Clubrooms
—Brad Bath, Pres.

2026 COACHING APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN



We are seeking expressions of interest for 2026 netball coaches -
A Grade
B Grade
C Grade
C Reserve
17 & Under
14 & Under A
14 & Under B
Go/Net Set Go

Any enquiries and applications to be submitted to bwncl2@hotmail.com

DONALD Carer Connection Lunch

Many people don't see themselves as carers, yet one in eight people in Australia are.

A carer is someone who provides unpaid support to a family member, friend or partner with disability, mental illness, a medical condition or who is frail due to age.

Carers are invited to take a well-deserved break and enjoy a complimentary lunch while connecting with other carers.

**Wednesday, 3 September
Lunch 12noon - 2pm**

**Donald Hotel
126 Woods St, Donald**

Registration by Monday, 1 September 2025 is essential



Bendigo Health Carer Support Services
Scan the QR code or visit
www.bendigohealth.org.au/css/events

(03) 5454 7719
carersupportservices@bendigohealth.org.au



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"Times" Classifieds

WEDDERBURN HISTORICAL ENGINE & MACHINERY SOCIETY RALLY
13th /14th September, 2025

ENGINE PARK, RACECOURSE RD, WEDDERBURN

Gates open @ 9 a.m. | Adults \$5
Exhibitors and school children free. (Cash only)

Engines	Ruston Hornsby	Trucks
Tractors	Cars	Shearing
Crafts	Chaff Cutting	Catering
	Tractor Trek	

Complimentary tea Saturday night & free onsite camping for exhibitors



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Closing Down Sale

Everything must go

A minimum of 30-60% off all in-stock furniture and beds

UNBEATABLE PRICES ON:

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Lounge Suites – Recliners
Buffets – Cabinets – Hall Tables
Coffee Tables – Entertainment Units
Stools and Dining Chairs
Shelves and bookcases
Timber Furniture – Decorative Mirrors
Homewares – Lamps – Cushions – Prints

20% off all in-stock carpet, vinyl and rugs

Your last chance to order floor coverings and made-to-measure blinds will be

THURSDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER, 2025.

Goldings Furniture

64-68 Napier St, St. Arnaud – open 3 days per week Wed-Fri

Floorcoverings, blinds and furniture enquiries:
5495 1922 or info@wjgolding.com

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

"HARRISONS"

188.63 HA - Watchem West - 466.11 Ac

Productive Wimmera Cropping Opportunity

- "Harrison's" comprises 188.63 hectares (96% arable) cropped as one large paddock for ease of management and operating efficiencies.
- Productive mixed soils comprising fertile grey and chocolate loams, well managed utilising modern farming practices.
- "Harrison's" has been planted to Barley for the 2025 season, with possession after harvest at the completion of current Lease 28th Feb 2026
- Recent cropping history includes Lentils 2024, Wheat 2023 and Lentils 2022.
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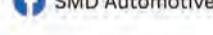
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• The extravagant Country Racing Victoria Awards night held at the Melbourne Convention Centre was indeed "Like Nothing Else". —Photos supplied by Country Racing Victoria.

An Awards Experience... "Like Nothing Else"

(By Quill)

On Saturday, August 23, Country Racing Victoria holds its awards night celebrating the 2024/’25 racing season, the invitation boldly headed "Like Nothing Else", with a golden horse rearing up, mane and tail flying; an indication of all the extravagance of the night to come.

Accepting the Jack Styring Media Award, on behalf of "Buloke Times" I was tested "like nothing else" too. Not knowing what to expect, I was nervous about attending from the moment we found out we were finalists. I tried to research: I looked at footage from last year's event; I attempted to learn what the dress code "lounge suit" meant (I wear pyjamas on the lounge); I checked out the competition and tried to convince myself we were not going to win it, so I wouldn't have to get up on stage in front of hundreds of people... none of it eased my nerves, nor did it really prepare me.

After an extremely busy morning, starting farm jobs at 4 a.m. to get through everything I needed to do before venturing to Melbourne, I met up with Candece Jay in Donald, who was to accompany me to

the awards and was immeasurably patient with her passenger. We arrived with enough time to find a place that sells the stockings I needed to wear and made it back to our hotel room with 45 minutes to get ready.

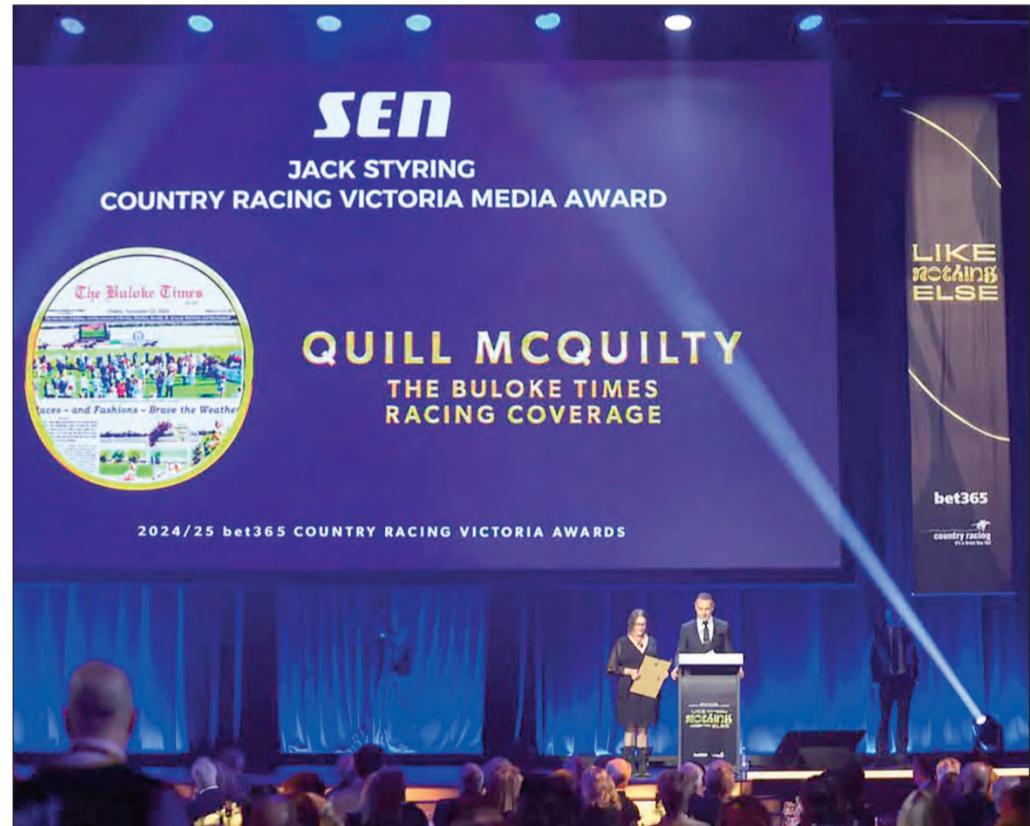
With any more time, I might have chickened out. I did not even own a dress suitable for the night. A friend from Queensland posted me a selection to choose from only five days before the event. Makeup was extracted from the darkest corner of the bathroom cupboard and the dreaded control top underwear returned to torture once again. Though I finally accepted wearing a dress, I refused to consider heels; I was likely to break an ankle.

Second row from the stage and seated with the other media award finalists, I sat and looked around for familiar faces, of which there

• Continued on page 7.



• Host, RACING.COM's Nigel Carmody asked the awkward questions of all award winners on the night.



• The Jack Styring Media Award, best capturing the spirit of country racing for the '24/’25 season was accepted by Quill McQuilty on behalf of the "Buloke Times".



• Donald and District Racing Club manager Penny Penfold with husband Alan Penfold.

• Donald and District Racing Club representative Kelvin Clark with wife Kate.



• Quill McQuilty can be seen with host Nigel Carmody on the stage, far left, as well as on the screen far right. In between is the enormous crowd assembled to celebrate another season of country racing.

• Continued from page 7.

were very few. I hadn't attended a county race meeting until the late great Lil Kirk took me to learn the ropes of race reporting at Donald. She sat, with racebook in hand, telling me the things I should look out for and how to best approach funnelling the vast amount of information into a concise report. She tested me and taught me and eventually, upon her retirement, she handed the reins over to me, and most importantly, introduced me to Peter Hibberd.

I couldn't do my job so well without Pete. As I said when accepting the award, he is definitely the brains in the operation. Not only am I from Brisbane and still learning where half of these country clubs are, I also don't yet have the extensive racing knowledge embedded in Peter Hibberd's beautiful (big bald head) brain. He's an encyclopedia for country racing, and I would call him "chat GT-Pete" except I don't need to ask any questions. Pete just knows instinctively that I need the guidance and provides the information without me even knowing what I should ask. I simply couldn't

do my part of the job without him.

So, with his other engagements keeping him from attending the awards night, I had lost my "chat GT-Pete" and had to face the unknown without him. I'm so grateful to Candece for attending in his absence. Though she was as lost as I was for racing knowledge outside of our local area, she provided a comforting presence for the nerve-wracked Tom boy in a dress.

"I've never seen anyone so nervous!" She said the next day. "But you did hear your name, I filmed it, you reacted."

Maybe it didn't actually sink in until she nudged me and then I focused all my courage on getting up those steps and on that stage, without falling flat on my face with my dress over my head. Thank God I didn't wear heels and risk an ankle.

The rest was surreal; dream-like in my memory. I watched the playback and only vaguely remember answering the questions. I had been told to prepare a short acceptance speech and I forgot it all when thrown by the

first question he asked, unrelated to writing, about my personal passion for being on horseback. It was completely unexpected and I didn't know how I was meant to respond! Especially, in a room full of professional riders: "Yeah, I plod about on a horse that walks slower than I do?"

Autopilot got me through the rest, and soon I was being ushered to another area where I answered more questions in front of a camera, even more inarticulately, if that were possible. Then I returned for the entrée being served and an overwhelming sense of "What just happened?!" which remained with me for the rest of the night.

The food served was divine, though my appetite had deserted me. Our company at the table, Jamie and Claire Ison (Mount Wycheproof Race Club), were exceptional at distracting me from what had just occurred and kept my brain from hitting the panic button at any given moment. The remaining awards were read out as if from a distance.

Winners included: Frank Bezzina (Latrobe Valley Racing Club), Tony Shanahan

Award, presented by Pan Pacific Hotels Group; Logan Bates, TAC Country Racing Victoria Apprentice Jockey of the Year; Linda Meech, Neville Wilson Medal for the Country Racing Victoria Jockey of the Year, presented by Red Tomato; Ben, Will and JD Hayes, George Hanlon Trophy for the Country Racing Trainer of the Year, presented by Fantasy Cocktails; Dashing won the bet365 Country Racing Horse of the Year; Seppelt Great Western Cup, McPhail's Furniture Country Racing Victoria Community Club Event of the Year; bet365 Wodonga Gold Cup, Kelly Sports Country Racing Event of the Year; Horsham & District Racing

Club, RACING.COM Country Racing Victoria Community Club of the Year; Warrnambool Racing Club, bet365 Country Racing Victoria Club of the Year.

Perhaps if I could go back and do it again, knowing what to expect and with more time to think about my answers, I might have rubbed a little sass on it and had some fun. Every single person in that room was there to party and have a good time, nerves were forgiven and kind people went out of their way for introductions and congratulations. Perhaps I'll get the opportunity to try again with a little more confidence in the future? If Donald and District Racing Club continues to host

such wonderful events for the "Times" to report on, it could be a very real possibility.

It was an undoubtable honour to be named the winner of Country Racing Victoria's Jack Styring Media Award. The "Buloke Times" was judged as best capturing the spirit of country racing for the 2024/25 season based on coverage of the Donald and District Racing Club's 2024 Cup and a recent June meeting in 2025. However, if capturing the spirit of country racing is their aim, they should try to bottle the energy and excitement in that massive room on Saturday night; it was indeed "Like Nothing Else".

Quill's Confession

A little about my journey as a race reporter for the "Buloke Times" – perhaps this should have been my acceptance speech:

I must admit, I struggled as a fledgling race reporter: it took me hours upon hours to write the race reports, checking the racebook, reading and re-reading, double checking my results; trying to convey all that information eloquently in a flowing report. For the first few times, I sent my rough draft to Lil in retirement to triple check for me. It was a exceedingly challenging, even with Pete's unending support and patience for the rookie.

Now, I'm going to let you all in on a little secret only my co-workers and I know: one day, my imagination provided a solution. The voices. Now, don't go rushing off to call my shrink, she already knows, just sit back and be entertained...

As I was agonising over a particularly detailed report, a little voice popped into my head, sounding very much like Jack Styring himself. This little voice read my last sentence back to me and all of a sudden there was a racing commentator in my brain, taking over the report. And the words began to flow. From there it became somewhat easy and fun, until I was faced with the Fashions on the Field.

As an undoubtable "Tom boy", I am not the person you would expect to be able to relay fashion information to the general public. Dress styles are foreign to me, the words alien. How was I to undertake this task? And my imagination piped up and said, "Use the voices!" Not Jack Styring this time, but a posh nasal lady you might hear commentating a royal wedding. With a little help from her (and the internet) I was able to provide a more comprehensive description than "it was a pretty pink dress".

And it has been quite fun to have this additional help from my imagination. The following is an example of how entertaining it can be in my mind when covering Fashions on the Field:

Voice 1 (royal wedding commentator-style): "Judges had a difficult decision to make, Lucille, but they've chosen... Looking fabulous in fuchsia, the Lady of the Day was a stand out on the runway, today!"

Voice 2 (even more nasal): "No doubt about it, June. What an elegant ensemble! Classy cut, with pastel highlights and shoes that really set off the bright colour, bringing together a lovely post-modern look. It takes you back to an old-fashioned race meeting; very nostalgic and a well-deserved win."

Voice 1: "To be honest, my personal preference was with our runner-up. Electric blue, a-line elegance, with a wide belt at the waist, matching wide-brimmed hat and white accents. She simply looked divine, Lucille."

When the voices in your head help you get the job done, nothing can stop you!



• The after party celebration included live music and lots of dancing.

“The Grand Old Lady”, “Auchmore”,

(From Auchmore’s Perspective, by Wendy Watts)

On Sunday August 17th the Nullawil Historical Society celebrated my 100-year anniversary. “Auchmore 1925-2025”.

I am aware that reaching this milestone is an incredible achievement. During my 100 years, I have watched the surrounding countryside be transformed by settlers, and seen the resilient pioneers endure droughts, dust storms, rabbits, mice, locusts and even floods.

In more recent years, I have seen farming practices gradually change and the fertile land around me produce crops of wheat, barley, oats, peas, lentils, vetch and vibrant golden canola crops.

There have been so many historic events and changes in the world during this time. I even wondered if I might receive a special congratulatory message from the King, like so many others have when reaching this milestone.

Centrepiece

As the centrepiece of the Nullawil Heritage Centre, some refer to me as the “Grand Old Lady”. A look into the meaning of the term left me quietly contented with that title. It signifies “recognition – an acknowledgment of a shared journey, experiences weathered together, and memories created”. There is a depth of emotion, a history that has stood the test of time. There are undertones of nostalgia and acknowledgment of the challenges faced together. After enduring my first 100 years of Mallee life, the description seemed appropriate.

Preparation

Nullawil Historical Society members have spent hours preparing me for this special occasion, painting, dusting, rearranging and setting up new displays. I could see what pride they took in my improved appearance and what satisfaction they felt as my birthday celebration got closer. I heard them say “the Grand Old Lady is literally sparkling for the occasion!”

There is perhaps only one other occasion in my 100-year history where I have had the same sense of pride and importance. After some prosperous years in the district, I, Auchmore, was built in 1925. William Henry Bennett (known to me as Henry) brought his new wife Eliza Marguerita Winfield (Rita) to live here. Some of my admired features at the time were my distinctive corrugated iron roof with the bull nosed “wrap around” verandah, my decorative wooden porch posts, antique fireplaces, pressed tin ceiling, bay windows and my characteristic leadlight Kookaburra window.

I would say that I was quite charming, nestled back amongst the Kurrajong and Mallee trees and ready to become their home for many years, until they retired to Bendigo in 1969.

The land I sit on was then purchased by William (Bill) and Mavis Watts, and others who lived in me were Annie and Fonce Smith, Bertha and Joan Smith, Doug and Esther Bartram, and Brian and Fay Notting. Noel and Avril Clarke were the last to reside there in 1984. By that time, my power was disconnected, and I sat dormant. The harsh Mallee weather took its toll and I felt rather neglected and lonely. I quietly watched as seasons passed.

Museum

During 1993, the Watts family suggested using me as a museum. The Nullawil Historical Society became my caretakers, renting me on a “peppercorn” lease. As well as a general clean-up, repairs were done to my verandah boards and doors. Exterior house painting was done by some of the original volunteers and repairs were done to my leadlight windows. A

grant allowed further repairs to my verandah and wash house and replacement of my weatherboards on the west side and spouting. Louvre windows were replaced with solid glass to keep the dust and rain out. My roof had a leak in 2023, requiring replacement of corrugated iron and replastering of my kitchen ceiling.

Furniture

Historical Society members set about adorning me with antique furniture and decor used by early pioneers, characteristic of the era; that reminds me of my early years. The dedicated Historical Society volunteers worked to maintain my integrity with minimal disturbance to my original character.

Over the past 30 years or so I have watched many people coming and going. They seem to be continually building sheds and facilities and there are now 23 buildings surrounding me. It’s been enjoyable to stand and watch this progress, and see the passion they have to share what life was like during my early years. I have noticed that their work rate recently seemed to have escalated. Many have come and painted, dusted and even changed me a little bit. Generally, I feel like I have really been “spruced up” lately.

These people all seem to enjoy the work they are doing; they are friends, they do laugh a lot. I love it, it’s fun to see!

Contraptions

Then on Sunday, August 17, just when I thought it looked like it would be a cold, damp and perhaps a dreary day... wow, things really “heated up”.

From early morning food seemed to be appearing, and these strange contraptions appeared, something I’ve never seen in my kitchen. I now believe they are called slow cookers. The cooking sure smelt good! Not to be satisfied with a nice lunch, the old coppers in the shed were also set alight ready to serve brewed tea in a teapot and cups of coffee.

I noticed that the Heritage Centre gates were opened at 10.30 a.m.. With their customary hospitality, Historical Society members welcomed visitors in the catering area, with a morning tea of fresh scones, jam and cream available. I could hear the sound of lively chatter as visitors were becoming reacquainted. The ambience of the social interactions was unmissable and not unlike what I had experienced within my walls during my lifetime. President Wendy Spry and past president Donald Cooper gave an overview into the origins and establishment of the Nullawil Historical Society.

Church

Following morning tea, guests wandered over to the



• The Nullawil Historical Society celebrated the 100-year anniversary of Auchmore 1925-2025 with a Living History Day on Sunday August 17th.



• The passage of time and harsh Mallee weather took its toll on the Auchmore homestead as it sat vacant. Then in 1993, the Watts family suggested using me as a museum and the Nullawil Historical Society became caretakers.

former Winston Church. I

wondered why they were bypassing me. I could see the church was full and overflowing. The harmonic sound of the Estey Reed Pedal Organ playing resonated and the joyful sounds of a sing-a-long wafted over to me. My first owner had also played the organ and enjoyed simple Sunday afternoon sing-alongs with family and friends.

Wendy Spry, Norm Mathiske, Cheryl Beale (Poyner) and Helen Townrow led some “old favourites” accompanied by Glenys Rickard on the Estey organ. Performances were given by young Kelly Hogan on the clarinet and Ashlei Poyner on the violin.

Exploring

I could see the visitors gradually disperse out of the church building and go on to explore the rest of the Heritage Centre. It had also been “spruced up” for the occasion: the Grange Stable, Drop Log Cabin, old Post Office, Blacksmith Shop, Restored Mallee Roller and Shearing Shed. Working displays were in operation in the Spry Family Display and Townrows Dairy Display. Music could be heard radiating out of the Gallery Barn with Glenys and Ken Rickard “tickling the ivories” with a duet on the piano in the BeMacs Lounge, while visitors perused the photo displays. The “Holey/Holy” Barn

displayed items from St Joseph’s Catholic Church and the amazing Mathiske Collection Barn was of great interest.

I listened intently to the chatter as the people walked back to the catering shed for “pulled pork and beef rolls” for lunch. I patiently waited for my back door to open, and for people to eventually visit me.

• Continued on page 9.



• Long time Historical Society member Donald Cooper gave an overview into the origins and establishment of the Nullawil Historical Society and the development of the Nullawil Heritage Centre.



• Kaylene James pouring a cup of tea.



• Carolyn Hogan playing the bagpipes was acknowledgement to the Scottish connection of the name Auchmore.

Celebrates 100-Year Milestone

• Continued from page 8

I heard Historical members speaking in the catering area about my history and refurbishment.

Bagpipes!

Then... Oh hail! The enchanting melodies of the bagpipes began playing on my back verandah. Carolyn Hogan playing the bagpipes was acknowledgement to the Scottish connection of my name Auchmore. Everyone stopped chatting and watched intently to see what happened next.

"Opening"

President Wendy Spry invited foundation Historical Society member Mavis Watts to officially "open my door". Wow... that was exciting! Lots of visitors then came in to wander through me. Entering in my back door, my central hallway has some beautiful dark wooden fret-work characteristic of the time I was built. Leading off the central hallway are 4 main rooms - a kitchen, formal dining/lounge room, main bedroom and second bedroom



• Nullawil Historical President Wendy Spry invited foundation Historical Society member Mavis Watts to officially "open the door".



• Barry James starting the Lanz Bulldog tractor, with the characteristic smoke and smell diesel engines produce. Barry pictured with his grandsons Charlie and Austy.



• The old coppers in the shed were set alight and the kettles were steaming.

with a new children's and mothers' exhibit. Other features are my large front entrance porch and pantry. My bathroom is situated on the south western section of my verandah, and it even has a freestanding turkey foot bathtub. There is an external toilet, washhouse, garage and a working man's hut on wheels. I could feel the awe as visitors took in my historical ambience. I heard some say that it was "a captivating glimpse into years gone by"!

Tractor

The distinctive sound of the Lanz Bulldog tractor running echoed through my walls. It evoked memories of the hardworking pioneers that worked the land.



• Ashlei Poyner on the violin.

The old hay baler was in action in the Eddie Abraham display shed. Tony Bartram was instructing children using

the milk separator in Town-row's Dairy and Lex Spry was supervising as the grain grinder/grister was being used



• Jaymee Poyner using the grain grinder/grister in the Spry Family Display shed.



• With their customary hospitality, Historical Society members welcomed visitors in the catering area, with a morning tea of fresh scones, jam and cream available.



• Foundation Historical Society members Mavis Watts and Dulcie Bartram.

in the Spry Family Display shed. The playful noise of children exploring and climbing on machinery always brings me delight. Visitors also enjoyed wandering through the Room of Remembrance, admiring the newly painted mural and recently framed WW1 flags. The old Towannine School brought back memories of chalkboards, inkpads and school desks. I could see people taking interest in the Eddie Abraham collection and other machinery displays.

There was more chatter in the catering area as a scrumptious afternoon tea with Nullawil home cooking was on offer.

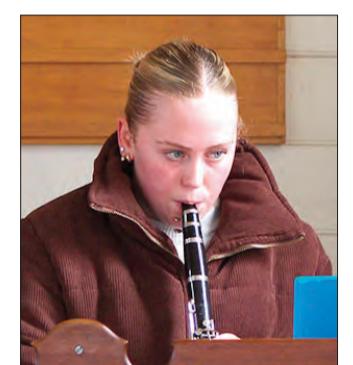
Chooks

I heard the rooster crow throughout the day. He was in charge of the chooks. At the end of the day, an egg was gathered. Good work chooks!

It was an amazing day for me. I treasure the fact that I made it to 100 years and look forward to a future where I welcome many more visitors. I am extremely grateful to the Watts family for their generosity in passing on the caretaking of inside and outside of my walls and surrounds. I am blessed to be surrounded by the Remembrance Garden and beautiful trees, plants and birds that sing to me in the quiet times.

Over 120 people from near and far visited me for the Living History Day. Having this many visitors was the highlight of the day and exceeded my expectations.

The Nullawil Historical Society is extremely grateful to members who put in hours of preparation, to community members who contributed on the day to help showcase the Nullawil Heritage Centre.



• Kelly Hogan on the clarinet.



• Left to right: Wendy Spry, Cheryl Beale (Poyner), Yvonne Smith (seated), Keith (Doey) Poyner, Helen Summerhayes, Glenys Rickard around the restored Estey Reed Pedal Organ.

For Remote, Rural and Regional Renewal... FRRR Provides More Funding

Nearly 100 remote, rural and regional communities across Australia are set to benefit from another \$1.2 million in grants, thanks to FRRR's flagship Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) program.

Ranging from \$1,500 to \$50,000, these grants will empower 99 not-for-profit organisations (NFPs) to implement a wide range of projects that will enable their communities to be more vibrant, resilient and sustainable places to live, work and invest.

Eighty communities will share \$688,444 for small and vital projects such as improvements to community infrastructure and landscaping; festivals and events that reduce social isolation, encourage tourism and boost the local economy; workshops that support cultural healing, creative expression, community safety and celebrate diversity; and training and resources to build NFP capacity and support volunteers.

Recent Disasters

A further \$235,734 will support 12 communities to recover from recent disasters and prepare for future events. Projects include training in preparedness and recovery strategies; improving the accessibility and safety of crisis event infrastructure; and building organisational capacity to address food security.

Seven communities are sharing the remaining

\$276,348, for Larger Leverage projects that will help narrow the digital divide for adults and older community members through initiatives that offer online health management, improved digital literacy and increased online safety.

Full List

The full list of grant recipients is available on FRRR's website.

Jill Karena, Head of Granting at FRRR, said that programs like Strengthening Rural Communities are a vital source of funding for the hundreds of remote and rural NFPs that continue to fill the service gaps in their communities.

"Locally-led, grassroots organisations are key to ensuring vital community services continue to be delivered. That takes committed volunteers, and we are seeing more NFPs working hard to attract and retain volunteers by making improvements to amenities, purchasing new equipment and offering training and mentorship. This not only makes things easier and more efficient for current volunteers, but helps to encourage a new generation of people to step up, which is critical to the

sustainability of these organisations," Ms Karena explained.

"We are also seeing NFPs doing more to address service gaps for children and young people living in remote, rural and regional Australia. This includes finding innovative ways to attract staff for daycare centres, providing appropriate facilities for playgroups and youth activities, offering outreach programs and further education, as well as better job opportunities.

New Technologies

"This round we're also pleased to be able to support several communities that are exploring new technologies and educating locals on online safety and security, so that they are better equipped to embrace these technologies. This is such a critical step in terms of narrowing the digital divide, especially for older residents."

"The commitment to growth and willingness to do things differently is also evident in the applications we received from groups looking to deepen their knowledge and connection to First Nations culture. We're pleased to support a number of culturally-informed initiatives that support First Nations people's

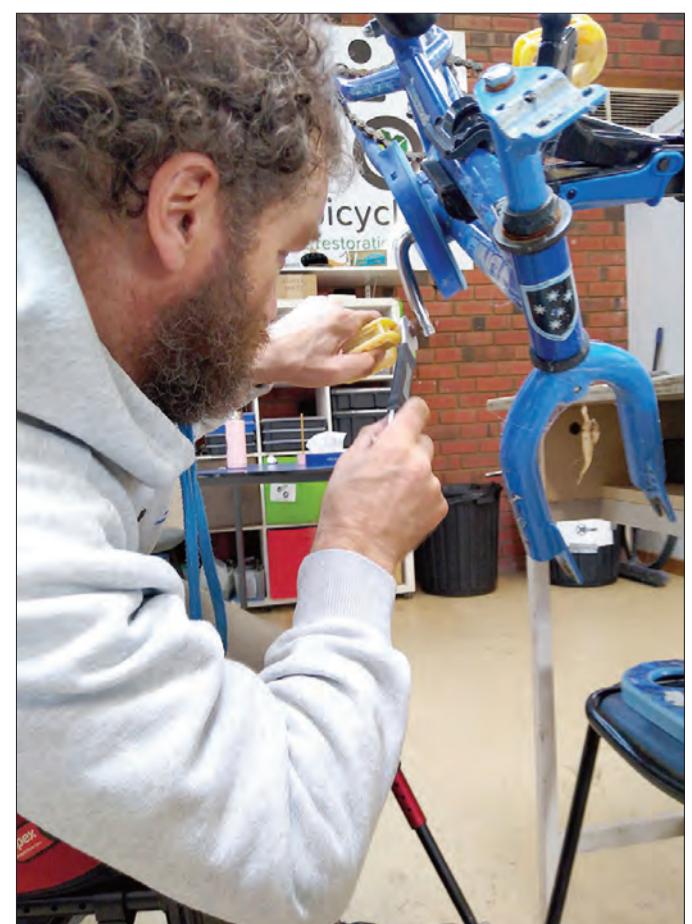
healing, mental health and wellbeing, as well as opportunities for the wider community to integrate traditional language and ecological knowledge into school-based wildlife education, yarning circles, intergenerational learning in preschools, or including First Nations art in historical museums.

Diversity of Needs

"The initiatives we've funded in this round of grants really showcase the diversity of needs of remote, rural and regional communities. This is why flexible funding programs, like SRC, are so critical to the sustainability and vibrancy of our inland communities. We are grateful to all our partners who share our commitment and make these grants possible," Ms Karena said.

FRRR always accepts applications to this program, which typically awards funds four times a year. Local NFPs and community groups are encouraged to review the program guidelines and apply. More information about the SRC program is available at www.frrr.org.au/src.

The SRC program is collaboratively supported by donors, ranging from private individuals to larger foundations, who are acknowledged on the FRRR website. This round also saw the first grants



• Murray Human Services, which have received a \$10,000 grant for their bicycle recycling and refurbishment program in Kyabram.

funded from the returns on the FRRR Small Grants Fund corpus, which was established in 2023. There are always more eligible grants than we can fund, so if you would like

to help us fund more funding-ready projects, you can donate at www.frrr.org.au/donate.

• Many local community groups have successfully received assistance from FRRR.

Busy August 2025 for the Birchip Historical Society

(By Maureen Donnellon)

Every month involves research at our Museum, but this month has been particularly busy with several groups visiting.

Vice-president Dorothy has written about three visits while I have been searching with some success for information for Barb Kelly on the Hibernian Associations, which involved the men of the Catholic parishes. At Donald she found some information about the Donald and Watchem groups, while our local books "Essays on a Shire" and "The Mustard Seed," also contained information and a photo of the Watchem group and some information about the group at Birchip. Large numbers attended Communion breakfasts and seminars with visiting clergy and travelled to Diocesan events, capably catered for by the ladies of their parishes.

One hopes there were functions for the ladies of

some kind too, but I bet they did their own catering back in the 1910s and '20s. Both Donald and Birchip Museums will be interested to see what else Barb finds. Fortunately Archivist Elaine has indexed all our old papers, which is a huge help.

P-12 Magazine Class Research

Our museum was very excited to welcome this year's P-12 School Magazine class and help them with their research for articles for the publication "WIRRIM". Last year's School Magazine was wonderful and we helped with that, so four of us were busy finding files and papers for the students and their teacher Mrs Marian Haddrick. More updates later in the term when

they have settled on their topics.

The Green Family

We also had a query regarding some members of the Green family who once lived in Birchip and attended St Mary's School during the years Miss Mary Green was in charge. They are not in her family, nor the Nullawil Greens. Three of the children appear in the 1934 school photo. No one is left, to my knowledge, from that photo which also had Pat Connelly, Ross O'Donnell and Mary Butler, who later became Sr. Monica Butler, who lived and taught in Birchip later and eventually lived in Donald. So exciting to find some more people from that photo, the only one from the 1930s we have. I also found the marriages of two in 1940 and

1941 in War times as one wed a soldier.

The "Budget Battlers" Visit

Another query for a photo of Ray Neville and RimFire was a surprise, as it was part of the big Birchip project Budget Battlers. Mick Hogan, who came searching, had never been in the Museum and was surprised to find himself as part of the display for 1969, which had photos of what Birchip looked like when man first walked on the Moon. He was in Prep. I was able to show him his mother's beautiful peach coloured ballerina frock, also on display.

I was even more surprised to get a call from his brother Jarrod (Norm) next morning with something interesting, in fact "gold" for our Museum, as under the floor coverings of the house being renovated, were several newspapers, one from 1921 – a "Birchip Advertiser" with an account of Birchip winning a cricket premiership. I agreed to go around to the house which was a hive of activity, but the surprises increased dramatically when I was fitted with a microphone and filmed looking at the papers with Norm and Jess. I don't think there will be any Oscars awarded, as my bit is likely to end up on the cutting room floor. A week of work has to be condensed into 45 minutes. I just hope that the newspapers come to us after they have been read by the owner.

Before filming began, I was lucky enough to be able to find the history of the

house, also the many previous owners and the fact that there was a dairy cow tethered on the block where Bev. and Leo Ryan now live. No wonder the garden always looks good. The manure must have started the block off well. The "Lorraine Lea" rose in the front garden was planted by Janet and Marjorie Lee in 1947, and still blooms beautifully. Their parents lived there and Janet ran a small lending library in a front room. In fact some small buds were appearing when I called in to see the newspapers. Maurice tends it very well. Details of the houses in Birchip was a CWA project once done by Heather Gould. Very few residents at the time knew much about their homes so it was very exciting to find such detail about an old home.

New Request

Just when we think that the month is slowing down, a new request has come from Melbourne from a fellow who is looking to find something about his grandmother, who was from Morton Plains and was one of 13 children. Her maiden name was Agnes Ryan. He wonders if there are any Ryans around up here. Oh goodness! There is a challenge ahead. There are at least 36 of them in the cemetery. We do have a file with some information, but some Ryans could be very helpful.

Visitors to Birchip in recent weeks were Dennis and Sue King, relatives of Warren King, who had never met. Dennis's Grandfather, William King, was the eldest brother of Warren's and Ken's

Grandfather, Francis J. King, of Birchip. Dennis and Sue had travelled from N.S.W. for family research. Warren took them to the original farm west of Kinnabulla and to the Birchip Cemetery where there are several generations interred. Much information was also gleaned from the King file in the Archives of the Birchip Historical Society.

Karyrie

Another request was from John Powell, of Victoria, regarding his Grandfather, Thomas Powell, who had owned Allotment 59, Parish of Karyrie. Owners of that block later were R. Barry and a Mr Tierney. John's father had briefly attended the Karyrie North State School, later called Whirily State School, which was close to Allot. 59.

Last week we were able to find information for Jessica Higgins about her ancestors, who were contractors in the 1880s for 90 miles construction of the Wild Dog Fence/The Netting Fence/The Vermin Proof Fence, called different things in different localities. Being so early before the first publication of "The Birchip Advertiser", members of the Birchip Society were stumped until a Parish map of Willangie showed the name, and Ken and Glenys Rickard were summoned to help and both remembered and knew where some blocks of ground had been in the name of Cecil. Jessica had previously discovered that Cecil's Hut at Culgoa was one of the places where some of the family had dwelt.



• Warren King with N.S.W. relatives Sue and Dennis King, at Birchip Museum.

Netball Celebrates at Vote Count and Presentation Day

Players, umpires, officials, sponsors and supporters of the North Central Netball Association gathered at the Charlton Park Community Complex on Sunday, August 24, for the 2025 Vote Count and Presentation Day to acknowledge and celebrate the season's achievements and outstanding performances.

President Kim Fitzpatrick warmly welcomed players, families and supporters, praising the dedication of the Association's eight-member Board of Management and the continuity provided by returning volunteers.

"The stability of our structure has been invaluable in supporting the growth of netball in our Association and is a true demonstration of community strength," she said.

Volunteers and Partnerships

The president acknowledged the tireless work of secretary Kath Lanyon (Boort), treasurer Amy Smith (Calder United), Score Secretary Teale Mott (Sea Lake-Nandaly), umpire co-ordinator Imogen Amos (St Arnaud), junior development officer Sara Adams (Donald), sponsorship officer Sharyn Lockhart (Wedderburn), social media manager Kylie Walsh (Birchip-Watchem), and administrator and child safety officer Karen Pascoe (AFL Central Vic).

Kim made special mention of the work undertaken by Jan Mannes from AFL Central

Vic prior to the season commencing and Karen Pascoe at AFL Central Vic, who provided guidance and administration throughout the remainder of the season, and outgoing president, Kylie Walsh.

Kim said: "Kylie has been a pillar of support for me this year. She has kept me in line by prompting me about things that need to be addressed, and I have consulted regularly with her throughout the season. This has ensured continuity and permitted the season to run smoothly."

She also thanked partners, including the North Central Football League and North Central Hockey Association, for their ongoing collaboration, noting the strength shown when the three codes work together.

Representative Teams

All players selected in representative squads were congratulated for their commitment and performances throughout the year and were presented on stage to receive a team photograph.

Kim Fitzpatrick highlighted the leadership of

coaches Roxy Train (13-&under), Aliza Lockhart (15-&under), and Kylie Walsh and Claudia Lee (17-&-under), and commended parents, selectors, umpires and supporters for their efforts in ensuring young athletes could take part in tournaments and training.

Umpiring Achievements

Umpires' succession is integral to the success of the association and umpires convenor Imogen Amos congratulated the eight new "C" grade umpires (Emily Hotker, Joanne Beavis, Halle Rice, Lucy Robinson, Zoe Bryce, Sophie Gilmour, Ava Wilson and Ella Streader) on their achievements.

Special tribute was paid to umpire Noeline Hogan, who officiated her final match in round 15 after more than 45 years of service. Kim praised Noeline for her "exceptional dedication", noting her ongoing role in developing the next generation of umpires.

Sponsors and Supporters

Gratitude was extended to major sponsors, North West Ag, Charlton & District Community Bank, GrainCorp, Betta Electrical St Arnaud, and Russ Studio Jewellers



• "A" Grade: Susie Lockhart (Wedderburn Redbacks coach) representing "A" grade best and fairest Kelsey Pallpratt, and runner-up Meg Hogan (Calder United).

Gold 'n Silver Mine – whose support underpins the Association's programs.

Outstanding Performances

Throughout the formalities and in-between a delicious two course lunch five grades of voting were counted and trophy presentations made to the best and fairest winners and runners-up.

In the "A" grade competition, Wedderburn Redbacks' Kelsey Pallpratt was crowned best and fairest with 37 votes, ahead of runner-up Meg Hogan from Calder United on 23 votes.

In "B" grade, Wedderburn's Tess Jackson claimed the best and fairest medal on 22 votes, with Calder United's Georgia Brown and Wedderburn's Aliza Lockhart sharing

runner-up honours, both polling 17 votes.

The "C" grade best and fairest was awarded to Calder United's Regan Kelly with 28 votes, finishing well clear of Wedderburn's Sarah Turnbull, who was runner-up on 18 votes.

In "C" reserve, Sea Lake-Nandaly teammates dominated, with Cecilia Hearn taking top honours on 18 votes and Jessica Millar finishing runner-up on 16.

For the 17-&-under "A" grade, St Arnaud's Millie Hando was the winner with 28 votes, while Birchip-Watchem's Zali Angel was runner-up on 23 votes in an exciting count that showcased the depth of talent coming

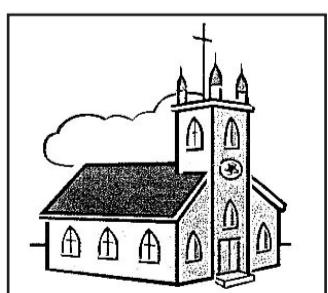
through the Association.

Additional presentations including the bestowing of life membership on Xanthi Rice, recognition of the 40th anniversary of the "A" Reserve Country Championship win, and the winners of the Maddison Fitzpatrick Youth Incentive Award and Rising star Awards appear in independent articles in the "Buloke Times".

Kim concluded the formalities by congratulating Xanthi Rice, who was inducted as a life member and all award recipients and extended a final heartfelt thanks to every volunteer, player, umpire, coach, sponsor and supporter: "Your collective efforts ensure that netball in our Association continues to thrive."



• "C" Reserve Best and Fairest: Cecilia Hearn (Sea Lake-Nandaly 0, "B" grade runners-up Aliza Lockhart (Wedderburn Redbacks), "B" grade best and fairest: Tess Jackson (Wedderburn), "C" grade runner-up Sarah Turnbull (Wedderburn Redbacks).



ANGLICAN "Parish of Charlton-Donalld"

Enquiries: Rev'd Judi Bird
0435 593 395

Friday, September 19
St. Paul's, Birchip, 5 p.m.

Sunday, September 21
St. Martin's, Charlton, 9 a.m.
St. George's, Donald, 11 a.m.
Holy Trinity, Wburn, 3 p.m.

CHURCH NOTICES



www.granitecommunitychurch.com
At Granite Church
10.30 a.m.
Speaker: John Rowse
Baptist Union of Victoria

DISTRICT CATHOLIC CHURCHES "East Wimmera Parish"

Birchip No Mass
Boort (Sat.) 7.00 p.m.
Banyena 11.00 a.m.
Charlton No Mass
Donald No Mass
St. Arnaud No Mass
Wycheproof 8.30 a.m.

Fr. Gerry Prunty
0419 247 779
Parish Co-ordinator
– Noeline Hogan: 0476 617 976

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SEPTEMBER 29**

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BY SAVING OTHERS**

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Mike Bush CNZM
Chief Commissioner
Victoria Police

FIND OUT MORE:
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Donate today
Scan here to donate to the Blue Ribbon Day Appeal

Seven Netball First Semi-Finals

In frosty conditions, with fog still covering the footy oval, the first game of the day started with much anticipation and a cool temperature of just 4 degrees.

14-&Under "B" Birchip-Watchem v. Calder United

Birchip-Watchem started well and had most of the play throughout the first quarter. The Bulls continued to dominate throughout the second quarter, piling on another 11 goals. Calder United scored its first goal in the half, resulting in a big roar from the sidelines and the supporters braving the chilly conditions.

The Bulls' height, skill and teamwork allowed them to easily outplay the Lions' outfit. A standout performance by their GA, Frankie M.

A huge "swish" goal by Calder United's GA, Ari R. in the third quarter prompted more rapturous applause in what was otherwise a low-scoring affair for their team.

Birchip-Watchem was an easy and deserving winner in the end. It will meet either Boort or St. Arnaud in the preliminary final. Final scores: Birchip-Watchem 25 d. Calder United 5.

14-&Under "A" Donald v. Calder United

A tight battle in the first quarter, with Donald edging just in front at the first break. Strong defensive pressure from Donald made Calder United really work for every goal. A tight contest in the first half with a goal to the Lions after the siren at half-time.

A thrilling final quarter saw a comeback from Calder United, levelling the scores with a few minutes to go. The momentum was definitely with the Lions as they scored one goal after another. Donald was able to settle late, scoring two critical goals and a well-

timed intercept by Donald GD, River S. (also best on court for Donald).

A tough battle in the end, which Donald was lucky to get away with. It will meet either Boort or Birchip-Watchem in the preliminary final. Final scores: Donald 25 d. Calder United 23.

17-&Under "A"

St. Arnaud v. Boort

A tough battle ahead with these teams having one win each throughout the season, plus a draw. The first quarter began goal for goal, with Boort edging a few ahead at the break. A very even second quarter with only three goals between it. The second half promised to be a great battle.

St. Arnaud scored a few additional goals early in the third, with Boort making several positional changes via the rolling subs. Scores continued to be very tight throughout the quarter.

Boort settled in the final quarter to extend its lead slightly. With tall shooters at both ends of the court, the goal spree continued for both sides. Boort held on to win by six goals following a competitive and fast game to watch.

Boort will meet either Calder United or Birchip-Watchem in the preliminary final. Final scores: St Arnaud 46 def. by Boort 52.

"C" Reserve

Calder United v. Birchip-Watchem

Calder United jumped out of the blocks quickly, leading by five goals early on and up by seven at the first break. Their dominance continued throughout the second quarter with the Lions outplaying the Bulls in both attack and defence.

Birchip-Watchem struggled against the speed and skills of Calder United throughout the game, with the lead stretching further out each quarter.

A dominant performance by the Lions throughout the game saw them outclass Birchip-Watchem and take the win by 27 goals.

Calder United will meet either Boort or Sea Lake-Nandaly in the preliminary final. Final scores: Calder United 46 d. Birchip-Watchem 19.

"C" Grade

Boort v. Sea Lake-Nandaly

The match started at a very high intensity with the ball going from end to end. Both midcourts worked tirelessly through the center, working the ball into the ring. Only one goal separated the teams at the end of the first.

Boort started the second strongly with an early break. The Tigers found it difficult to break through the Magpies' defence. Very accurate shooting from the Magpies saw them break away with a 10-goal lead at the half.

Sea Lake-Nandaly's defensive pressure over the shot stepped up. Boort found it hard to penetrate through the hands over from the Tigers. The quarter was almost a mirror of the first with a very even contest.

Both teams utilized the rolling subs throughout the match, bringing on fresh legs when needed. The 4th again was an even battle, with the Tigers throwing all they had at the Magpies. However, Boort held on to the lead that it had created for itself in the second and came away with an 11-goal win.

Best for Boort: Annie Perryman. For Sea Lake-Nandaly: Jordan Gravestock. Final scores: Boort 41 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 30.

"B" Grade

Boort v. Birchip-Watchem

Birchip-Watchem burst out of the blocks with 8 goals scored before Boort found the ring. A solid second quarter from both teams with a seesawing of scores. The Bulls came out on top in the end, leading the half time score by seven.

The Bulls were relentless with their pressure down the court, forcing Boort to make mistakes with Birchip-Watchem capitalising on the turnovers. Positional changes made by Boort were unable to stem the flow and the Bulls held a handy lead of 9 going into the final quarter.

Accurate shooting from Birchip-Watchem, alongside terrific defensive pressure and attacking midcourt work, saw the score increase further in the fourth quarter. Boort appeared tired and had multiple players backing up after playing in the "C" grade. In the end, a solid win for Birchip-Watchem, which will face either Wedderburn or Calder United in the preliminary final. Final scores: Boort 33 lost to Birchip-Watchem 48.



• Sea Lake-Nandaly players (left to right): Grace Farrell, Lorraine Wight, Maya Arentz, Prue O'Sullivan and Claudia Cox.



• Sea Lake Nandaly's Natalie Hickey (GK) and Boort's Tayla Gooding (GS) and Annie Perryman (C).

"A" Grade

Sea Lake v. Calder United

A fierce contest from the very first whistle, this game was always going to be the "game of the round". Pressure, intensity, turnovers – the game had it all. Sea Lake-Nandaly managed an early break with a small four goal lead. Some misses due to intense defensive pressure, could have seen the Tigers lead by even more.

Multiple early changes via rolling subs for Calder United saw consistently fresh legs join the court. By now, brilliant sunshine bathed the court and players were reaching for the sunscreen.

Multiple subs for both sides ensured the intensity and pace of the game continued throughout the second quarter. Calder United couldn't quite break through the small 4-5 goal buffer that Sea Lake-Nandaly had set-up over the first half.

The game continued to be low-scoring, with lots of contest and turnovers. At times play was erratic, with the ball going up and down the court before a goal was scored. The Tigers held on to their lead of 7 goals with one quarter to play out.

The final quarter saw some frustrated players and late contacts, with the umpires warning players from both teams. In the end, a very solid win by Sea Lake-Nandaly which was thrilled with the result.

The Tigers will meet either Wedderburn or Boort in the preliminary final at St. Arnaud in a fortnight.

Final scores: Sea Lake-Nandaly 34 d. Calder United 25.



• Birchip-Watchem's Tylah Haslam (WA) and Boort's Emma Darker (WD).



• Sea Lake Nandaly's Ash Roberts (GK) and Calder United's Libby Thompson (shooting the ball).

Boort Under-14s Into the Preliminary Final

Donald families woke to a thick fog, which had the coaches smiling as the Corack folk law says rain is on its way.

A late change was made to the Donald Royal Blues team line up. With Ross Clark calling in sick, a phone call was made to the Michael family to tell young Blake to pack his footy bag.

Forgotten football boots by Donald's best, and two players still on route to Birchip, had coach Reilly anxious as the ball was about to be bounced.

Boort got out to a flying start. A strong tap in the ruck, Boort's tall men kicked long, and the ball snuck out the back for a goal to young Tyler Stringer. Goal to Noah Howe and Boort's tall men were playing well, while Donald was still sorting itself out.

A welcome return from Donald's Noah Michael after being out for the last 2 weeks injured, saw him stamp his presence with a run, bounce and long goal. The Royal Blues boys were starting to settle into the match, but it was Boort's dominance in the first 5 minutes that saw a 3

goal to 1 lead at the first change.

The pink boots had arrived by VIP courier at quarter-time, and a quick swap meant the young Royal Blues could now focus on the game. However, it was Boort again with number 3 Brady Gilmore taking a mark in the square and kicking a goal; 4 goals Boort v. 1 goal Donald.

A nice pick up and running speed on the wing from Donald's Lithil Hitihamillage saw metreage gained and a run-down tackle from Jhonrick Embate had the Royal Blues back in the match. They just needed a goal to capitalize.

Nullah Clapham was strong in the ruck and Samuel Mortlock was now working overtime around the ground. He managed to get the ball out to N. Michael, who snapped a magnificent goal over his shoulder. Donald 2 goals to Boort 4 goals.

The intensity was building,

and Emmett Geddes and Justin Hepworth were working hard on the wing. Liam Stopps was providing great coverage in defence as a loose player.

At the half-time break Donald was pleased that it was back in the match. The sun was starting to shine, and the crowd was building. A buzz came across the bench when the Italias announced that the under-14 Donald netball girls had won by 2 goals. Well done girls. Now the pressure was back on the boys.

Donald's Jake Italia laid a good pressure tackle and tall man Riley Jones took a strong one-on-one mark on the last line of defence to stop a sure goal from Boort.

However, the ball rebounded quickly, and Boort goaled; 5 goals Boort v. 2 goals Donald.

The third quarter proved tight with a lot of pressure in the middle, Mortlock's run down tackle on big man #5 for Boort, and Toby Lydom was contesting well in the forward pocket.

However, with all the effort Donald was held goalless in the third quarter.

At the last break coaches Mark Mortlock and Richard Reilly fired the boys up and the inspiration came from Donald's senior leader, Tex Pearse, who was water carrier for young Royal Blues. Never give up, throw everything at it just like Tex, pin the shoulders back and go hard to make Boort earn it.

A few changes were made at the 3-quarter time break, with every proven goal kicker over the year for Donald put in the forward line. Jones, Stopps, Lydom and Darcy Burke were all sent up forward.

Mortlock was covering a lot of ground and took a nice mark to save a goal; however on the rebound Boort scored; 6 goals Boort to 2 goals Donald.

Donald needed to step up and Hepworth took on the challenge, a nice ball out to Michael who once again pro-



• Samuel Mortlock attempts to run with the ball as Boort's Connor McNally applies pressure.

vided a strong run, bounce and long goal. Boort 6 v. Donald 3.

Within minutes, Stopps marked directly in front to goal for Donald. Boort 6 to Donald 4. Boort was getting nervous as Donald was on the run.

A hand smother by Jordan Jones to stop play and some heavy hits taken by Max

Reilly and Lydom, who came off with the blood rule, as the boys were throwing everything at it.

A late goal by Boort's Tyler Stringer sealed the game for Boort. The talent scouts from Dookie United (where his father Ged once graced the field) will be looking for his services in the future.

A well earned win by Boort 7.6 (48) v. Donald 4.2 (28).

Best for Boort: Seth Muller, Archer Lee, Noah Howe, Liam King, Tyler Stringer, Jed Perryman.

Best For Donald: Samuel Mortlock, Noah Michael, Nullah Clapham, Jhonrick Embate, Emmett Geddes, Lithil Hitihamillage.



• Noah Howe and Nullah Clapham in the ruck contest.

“Down The Middle”

There isn't much to report in the way of golf results as Monday's round was cancelled due to catering commitments and Wednesday's golf was cancelled due to the beautiful rain, which would have been warmly welcomed by the farmers in the district.

However, there are quite a few dates coming up for all members to put in their diaries, starting with 18 holes of golf on Monday.

Next week: Monday, September 1, 18 holes Stabelford and the Clothes Bin Monthly Medal. This is also the last day of the Eclectic

Wednesday, September 3, No golf due to catering commitments.

Sunday, September 7, Maurie Tranter Memorial followed by a casserole dinner and presentation of men's and ladies' annual awards. Further details next week.

Saturday, September 13, patching at the Donald races. If you are available let Jenny Leishman know.

Reminders: We are catering for a function on Wednesday, September 3, so if you can help at any time on that day, please contact Ev. Adams. Also could you please provide a plate of cakes or savouries for the occasion.

Find yourself a partner for the Maurie Tranter Memorial on Sunday, September 7.

Player Profile. Jenni Campbell

For how long have you been playing golf? 39 years.

What do you enjoy about golf? The exercise and socializing with people I might not usually see.

What's the best part of your game? Driving.

What advice would you give to anyone who is thinking of

What is your current position in the club? Organising sponsorship and Meals on Wheels.

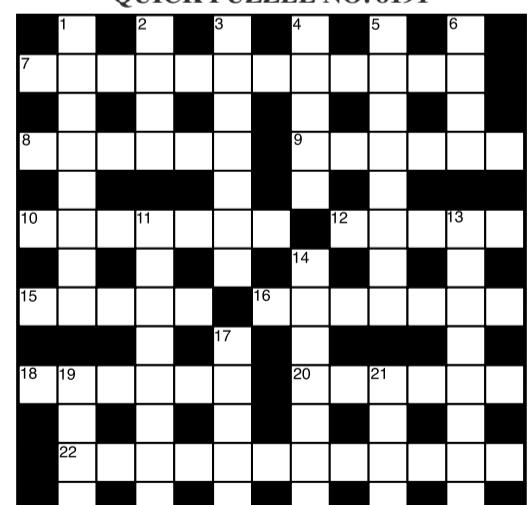
*

“I thought playing golf was expensive until I went swimming with sharks. It cost me an arm and a leg.”

“It's good sportsmanship to not pick up lost balls while they're still rolling.”

“Times” Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8191



ACROSS

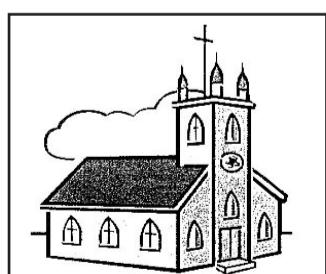
- 7. Continent (5,7)
- 8. Tool (6)
- 9. Meal (6)
- 10. Wrangle (7)
- 12. Birds (5)
- 15. Undress (5)
- 16. Bag (7)
- 18. Attack (6)
- 20. Vegetable (6)
- 22. Unruly (12)

DOWN

- 1. Singer (8)
- 2. Particle (4)
- 3. Recount (7)
- 4. Banquet (5)
- 5. Spanish (8)
- 6. Wind (4)
- 11. Flower (8)
- 13. Earlier (8)
- 14. Runs (7)
- 17. Uncanny (5)
- 19. Band (4)
- 21. Usual (4)

• Solution next issue.

CHURCHES



UNITING CHURCH (North Central Living Waters Cluster)

Cluster Service @ Birchip 10.30 a.m., Sunday Aug. 31

Donald UCA, no service in Donald - meet Donald UCA 9.30 a.m., leave in cars 9.45 a.m. for Birchip - bring lunch to share.

Contact Number: 5497 1033

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Hard-Earned Victory to Bulls Reserves

Birchip-Watchem reserves kept their finals chances alive after a hard-fought semi-final win over Sea Lake-Nandaly, making the most of their early advantage and holding firm when the Tigers had the breeze in the final term.

From the opening bounce it was clear both sides had some quality juniors and some experienced campaigners which kept the game interesting from the get-go.

George Addis and Connor Michael waged a willing ruck battle, but it was Ty Colbert who got on top at ground level, using his clean hands to send the Bulls forward. Bodie Colbert found Lochy Sirett with his first kick, but only a behind resulted.

Billy Poulton anchored the Tigers' backline alongside Chase Tait, who defended well and on the rebound Ethan Ellis registered their first score, also a behind.

Jack Lee and Bodie Colbert combined to feed livewire Tyson Wiantara, who kicked the first major of the match, and forward pressure from Callum Goode, Wiantara and Sirett soon brought reward, with Goode slotting the Bulls' second.

Alex Noonan prevented the Tigers getting the ball deep into their forward line running off half back and had support from Riley Hogan, but Cooper Roberts stuck closely to Sirett, limiting his opportunities and in a low scoring quarter the Bulls were ahead 2.2 (14) to 0.2 (2) at the first change.

At the break, Sea Lake-Nandaly coach Col Durie urged his midfield to be more accountable and disciplined, and his side responded. Isaac Durie broke free for the Tigers' first goal. The Bulls replied when Harry Cook found Riley Doran, who kicked truly for the Bulls. Stadon was standing tall in defence for the Tigers, turning them around, and Brody Weir completed their next forward foray with a goal.

Connor Michael was working hard around the ground, and combined with Tait for another major, as the Tigers gained the ascendancy. Both backlines were being tested, with Cooper Allan and Josh Woods repelling attacks for their respective teams.

The Tigers went coast to coast in a quick transition, which resulted in a minor score, but Allan's persistence soon set up Riley McGarry, whose goal gave the Tigers an eight-point lead at the main break.

Bulls coaches, Matt Ryan and Jake Noonan remained calm at the half-time break,

imploring their charges to remain confident, keep up the run and not be too cute.

The Bulls needed to lift, and they did so immediately. George Addis controlled the ruck, Connor Lee burst clear from the centre, and Harry Cook pumped it forward, only for the shot to be touched on the line.

Soon after, Ty Colbert gathered and delivered to Sirett, who ran into an open goal to level the scores at 4.4 (28) apiece. Pye then converted a difficult set shot from the town-side boundary to restore the Bulls' momentum.

The Tigers pressed forward through Michael and Collins but were denied by a steadfast Bulls defence. Matthew Rickard took a strong mark and earned a 50-metre penalty, Lindenback was unyielding, and Cook again found Sirett, but again, the shot missed. Connor Lee did get redemption though, scoring a goal from the resultant kick in.

Connor Boyle was playing his assigned role well and the Colbert brothers and Stefan Pye continued to pepper the forward line, but inaccuracy was becoming costly.

Against the flow, Connor Michael and Angus Collins combined to move the ball forward and the Tigers marked within range, albeit seconds after the siren had sounded, and no further score resulted. The Bulls had stormed to a 15-point lead by the last change, 6.7 (43) to 4.4 (28).

With everything on the line, the Tigers threw caution to the wind in a last-ditch effort. Coach Col Durie shuffled the magnets, moving Harry Pitchford to full back to contain Sirett, Codey Elliott to Pye, and Isaac Durie was moved forward as the focal point and reminded his charges they had nothing to lose, imploring them to be clean around the contest and use the breeze.

Early in the term, Josh Woods gave the Bulls first use out of the ruck, and Alex Hay and Lochy Sirett loomed as dangerous tall targets, but inaccuracy was haunting the

Bulls as behinds piled up. Sea Lake-Nandaly's defenders, led by Brandon Stadon and Chase Tait, were dour, while Ben Edelsten and Patrick Lakin did their part at the other end to repel attacks.

Play was locked down on the town-side wing as both sides fought for territory. Roberts produced a desperate intercept mark and combined with Joel Clohesy in one last surge, but the Tigers couldn't convert. Michael was working tirelessly in the ruck, and Tom Considine tried to will the ball forward, yet every move was cut off by the Bulls' defence.

Eventually Roberts and Tait combined to snap a goal for the Tigers, their only major of the second half, keeping a glimmer of hope alive. But the Bulls remained composed, slowing the tempo, chipping it around until they had a clear path forward and Callum Goode delivered a goal with three minutes left on the clock. And although according to Leigh Matthew's formula it was still possible for the Tigers to win, it looked unlikely.

George Addis continued to dominate the aerial contests and Jack Lee kicked a rainmaker into the Bulls' forward line, which saw Harry Cook rise above the pack for a spectacular mark, but as quick as it had entered the Bulls' forward line it exited again, and the Tigers scrambled clear.

However, the Bulls' James Lindenback and Matthew Rickard were steady in the dying moments, soaking up the clock as the Bulls booked their place in the preliminary final with a hard-earned 7.9 (51) to 5.5 (35) victory.

The Bulls now await the loser of the second semi-final between Calder United Lions and Boort, as their finals campaign is well and truly alive after an impressive, composed performance.

Best for Birchip-Watchem: Ty Colbert, Bodie Colbert, Harry Cook, George Addis, Connor Boyle. Best for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Connor Michael, Chase Tait, Billy Poulton, Jack Stacey, Harry Pitchford, Cooper Roberts.



• Cooper Roberts gives it his all to prevent Lochlan Sirett from scoring the goal. —Photos Blake Lee.



• Harry Cook leads the race to the Sherrin closely followed by Ethan Ellis and Bodie Colbert.

(By Course Language)

As with my last joke last week, I'll use my gloating cream to rub it in to all those who didn't take advantage of the great weather last weekend to have a hit of golf.

With perfect weather and the course in great condition, thanks to the work of our volunteers, it was terrific to see a good field of golfers as well as kids and parents with young children walking the course enjoying the outdoors. The course is there for all to use but as always, fill in your divots and clean up the scrapes when you're done.

The winner of last weekend's Stableford competition with 36 points was Brad Bath with Sam Beavis one point behind.

The "Nearest the Pins" were; Donald Auto Electric 3rd: Des Jess. Weirs IGA 7th: Geoff Harvey. Nufarm 14th: Bendigo Bank 16th: Brad Bath.

The "HIGH" hitting Richard Gallagher tried something different on the 17th last Sunday. He tried hitting a low "stinger" off the tee. The drive went 200 metres, unfortunately it went 110 metres forward, hit the ladies tee marker, and came 90 meters straight back to him. At least he didn't have to get on his buggy and drive to hit his next shot.

All golfers are good at making excuses, so make an excuse for what you were going to do this weekend and get along and take advantage of the course which is in great condition.

Not many more weeks to go.

Dad's Army

Geoff Stopps was the winner of Dad's Army last Wednesday when 6 veterans answered roll call.

Junior Golf

Nine Juniors played the course last Friday night with 3 of those playing on the course proper for the first time. They loved it and all received a prize at the end. The winner of the senior division was Luca Rice.

Chicken Run

Seventeen turned up for the first Chicken run of the year. By the noise in the clubhouse and on the course, there were plenty of stories to be told that didn't make it to the scribe's attention. They've obviously been told who not to talk to. The winners of the chickens were Jon Paynter and Neila Allen with special mentions to Jazz Paynter and Darcy Harrison.

Coming Up

This weekend St.Arnaud will host the last of the Kara Kara tournaments for this year. It also has its turn of the Vets on Tuesday the 2nd of September.

At home there will be another Stableford event, sponsored by Donald Timber Yard, but with secret partners.

Dad Jokes

I couldn't decide the other night which Asian food I wanted, Chinese or Japanese – So I just called it a Thai.

When I was little my Mum used to always feed me alphabet soup claiming that I loved it – I didn't really, she was just putting words in my mouth.

When my son was little, he asked me whether he could eat the left overs in the fridge – I said sure, but it will be cold in there.

Is it possible to take a skin graft from your buttock and transplant it onto someone who isn't family? Just arse skin for a friend.

CHURCHES

ANGLICAN "Parish of Charlton-Donald"

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0435 593 395

Friday, September 19
St. Paul's, Birchip, 5 p.m.

Sunday, September 21
St. Martin's, Charlton, 9 a.m.
St. George's, Donald, 11 a.m.
Holy Trinity, Wburn, 3 p.m.



• Sea Lake-Nandaly's Brandon Stadon and Birchip-Watchem's Jack Lee battle on the ground. —Photo Clare Letts.

Golf Course Record Equalled: Charlton Hosts Victorian Sandgreens Championships

The 2025 Trimax Victorian Sandgreens Championships were held at Charlton Golf Course on the weekend of August 23 and 24, and attracted a lineup of the best men's and ladies' sandgreen players in the State.

Entries totalled 129 and a further 80 players competed in the 4-ball event on Friday. Fine and sunny days added to the success of the event.

Championship winner of the Men's 36-hole stroke was Andrew Kane of Boort with a 4 under par score of 70, 70 = 140. Andrew has now won this title 5 times, the first one in 1987; a wonderful achievement.

The runner-up was Edward Carracher from Euroa with a score of 2 under par 70, 72 = 142. Edward is also a previous winner of this event.

Cameron Kearney, of Shepparton, equalled the

course record on Sunday with a brilliant 69 strokes.

Championship winner in the ladies' 36-hole stroke event was Tania Dignan of Stawell, with a score of 74,78 = 152. Runner-up was Kristie Kennedy of Ballarat, with a score of 74,82 = 156.

Results

Men's "A" grade 36-hole stableford, Cameron Kearney, Shepparton, 71 points.

Men's "B" grade 18-hole stableford, Trevor McGurk, Charlton, 37 points.

Ladies' "A" grade stableford, Tania Dignan, Stawell, 82 points.

Ladies' "B" grade stableford, Rachel Hawkes, Loch Sport, 80 points.

Friday

4-ball results (sponsored by Teys Australia Charlton Feedlot) Division 1 winners P. Hutchinson and D. Danisch 45 points. Division 2 winners Di Roberts and Gil Fawcett 52 points.

Charlton Club president Jamey Soulsby thanked all sponsors and volunteers for making the State Championship such a success which put Charlton in the spotlight as a destination venue to visit.



• Cameron Kearney equalled the course record of 69 strokes on Sunday.



• Tania Dignan of Stawell, 2025 Ladies' Victorian Sandscapes Champion.



• Charlton Captain Clinton Olive (left) presents Andrew Kane of Boort (right) with the Victorian Sandscapes trophy 2025.

Bulls' Focus is on Team Prize

• Continued from page 16.

Lions Primed for Magpie Assault

Calder United reserves have dropped only one game (round 11 against Birchip-Watchem) this season, and charged into the finals on the back of several very strong performances, including eclipsing tomorrow's opponent, Boort, by 7 goals in round 12.

With that high level of preparation, and under the astute guidance of coach Tom Bickley, the Lions will be almost impossible to contain on their way to the competition's grand final.

Charlie Fawcett, Billy Forrester, Jack Morrison and Angus Forrester are several of Calder United's mainstays, backed by the goal kicking prowess and big game experience of key forwards Cody Green and Brent Barker.

Last time the two met, Boort big man and reserves competition "best and fairest" runner-up, Cam Ross, didn't play. His influence around the ground, combined with the strong work of Angus Trethewan, Jack Dowling, Pat and Chris O'Rourke, Jordan Sheahan and the likely inclusion of Harry Weaver, will ensure a very physical and razor-sharp contest.

The Magpies' leading goal kicker, Alex Cockerell, was

well held back in round 12, but with more midfield grunt provided by Ross and Weaver, the ball should find its way deep into the Magpies' forward line on plenty of occasions, where he can become very dangerous.

It's hard to go past an impressive Calder United to win its way into the season decider, but it will take the Lions' very best to overcome the Magpies.

Top Two to Tango

St. Arnaud and Sea Lake-Nandaly have been the two most impressive combinations in North-Central's under-17s' competition, with their last meeting in round 12 producing a thrilling contest, the Tigers emerging victorious after holding the Saints scoreless in the final term.

There doesn't appear to be much separating the two in terms of skill, with Brody Kelly, Brayden Allan, Nate McClelland and Hugo Warne among the consistent contributors for Sea Lake-Nandaly, while St. Arnaud can rely on Frankie Donald, Chase Zander, Austin Lowe and Archer Reyne to have a significant influence on the contest.

If the most recent meeting is anything to go by, the Tigers might prevail, but it will take a four-quarter effort from all team members to keep the Saints at bay.

Saints to Win Through?

As with their under-17 counterparts, St. Arnaud's under-14s share ladder leadership with Sea Lake-Nandaly, and will set the scene for the day's football action tomorrow when they take on the Tigers for the right to advance to the grand final.

During their last meeting, the young Saints played well and battled strongly to record a comfortable win, led by Chase Hendy, Finn Wilson and Lewis Lowe.

Provided this trio receives the unwavering support of all teammates, St. Arnaud should advance to the season decider, but against opposition of the quality of the Tigers' Finn Austerberry, Jack Hodgson and Max Conlan, the young Saints must be switched on from the first bounce.

Clash of the Titans

North-Central netball's most impressive teams in recent seasons, the undefeated Wedderburn and arch rival Boort, will clash in tomorrow's "A" grade second semi-final.

In a contest likely to go right down to the wire, with 2025 association "best and fairest" Kelsey Pallpratt leading the way for the Redbacks, against the Carly Isaac-inspired Magpies, Wedderburn's consistency should see it progress to that one day in September.

Calder Eyes Hockey Double

Calder United has performed strongly in its first season of hockey under the Lions' banner, but it comes as no surprise, remembering that the Wycheeproof-Narraport part of the new entity had both its women's and men's teams playing off in last season's grand finals.

Tomorrow, Calder United will be aiming for a direct route into the grand finals, and in both games, the Lions come up against St. Arnaud, also well versed in what is required to take out the competition's ultimate team prize.

In the women's game, Keely Allan, Tanya Goddard and Sarah Botheras will be key players for the Lions, opposed to the Saints' best, including Brylea Knight, Melissa Weir and Nicola Kirk.

Calder United to win by a goal.

When the men take centre stage, expect Corey Harrison, Max Rowley and Jacob Moresi to have a significant influence for Calder United, opposed to St. Arnaud's Russell Marland, Thomas Watts and Austin Lowe.

Calder to complete the senior double.

A Thrilling Day of Hockey

• Continued from page 16.

tall and stopped any other scoring chances. Final score:

Charlton v. Boort

Donald's Oakley Brennan was the star, netting twice in the opening minutes – first with a solo run through defenders, then with a built-up play from the half line from team mates, which he finished with a authoritative tomahawk. Boort quickly answered through Chaise Hird, muscling the ball past the keeper with a calculated flick, but Oakley struck again with a third before half-time.

The second half was frenzied with both teams not letting up on the gas. Boort pulled one back through Jacob Malone to make it 3-2, only for Oakley to immediately reply with his fourth goal of the game. A late surge from Boort, capped by Jonas Haw's goal, set up a tense finish. Despite frantic attempts in the dying minutes by Boort, Donald held firm to win 4-3.

Women: Charlton v. Wedderburn

Long-time rivals Wedderburn and Charlton lined up over the white line for the women's first semi-final.

Despite Charlton's dangerous attacks coming from Elise Fitzpatrick down the centre, Wedderburn hit the scoreboard first when Shelby Giorlando's overhead ball found sister Chelsea, who finished coolly. Wedderburn managed to score a second goal when a short corner spilled into normal play, after Charlton's Naomi Fitzpatrick made some miraculous saves. Chelsea Giorlando took the loose ball, beating defenders and slotting in an aerial hit on a sharp angle. A third goal for Wedderburn by Shelby saw a commanding lead for Wedderburn going into the final quarter. A knee injury for Chelsea Giorlando gave Charlton the breathing room it needed, allowing Brooke Thompson to get Charlton on the scoreboard with some connecting play by Neve Nesbit. With the momentum back in its favour Charlton followed up with another quick goal from a brilliant run from Elise Fitzpatrick to make the score 3-2. The closing minutes were frantic, with big attacks from both teams, but Wedderburn's defence held firm for the win, 3-2.

Men: Donald v. Boort

Frantic play from both teams saw the first quarter

nearly coming to a close with no score. However, with 5 minutes to go, a fresh legged Brent Barber for Donald dashed on to the field and scored with a deft deflection. A fast break by Boort in the second quarter saw it earning a short corner. Harry Malone sent it on a dangerous angle at spot where it was deflected back to top for Alex Cockerell to slam it into the backboard and equalise the scores. Boort continued to apply pressure to Donald's backline, earning another short corner with 2 minutes before half-time, where Luke Slatter pounced on a loose ball to put them up at halftime.

Donald pressed hard after the break but couldn't convert, with scores remaining static in the third quarter and fourth, until a slick short corner saw Donald's Lincoln Westerland's pass get deflected in by Glenn Pearse during a short corner, bringing the score back to even. Minutes later Glenn struck again, finishing the ball off from a cross-goal pass to put Donald ahead 3-2. Boort pushed desperately late with attacks, but was unable to find purchase against Donald's defence, which secured the win 3-2.

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Bulls' Focus is on Team Prize

(By Shane O'Shea)

Having ticked most of the boxes of achievement so far during its season of dominance, Birchip-Watchem's focus over the next three weeks will be North-Central football's greatest team prize, the 2025 premiership.

Premiers and champions would be the crowning glory for the Bulls, who have already secured the honour of going through the home-and-away season undefeated, as well as seeing full-forward Ben Edwards surpass the century of goals at record pace, and ruck colossus Hamish Hosking claim a joint share of the Feeny Medal as the league's "best and fairest" player.

Hosking, during his post medal vote count interview, highlighted the point that personal rewards were fine, but his focus, and that of his team-mates, is firmly fixed on winning the premiership.

Tomorrow, at Boort, Birchip-Watchem will confront one of its main challengers, Calder United, in what is expected to be a ferociously contested second semi-final.

In their first season of unification under the Lions' banner, the former Nullawil and Wycheepoof-Narraport combinations have enjoyed a meritorious start to their partnership, winning 13 of their 16 games, and going within 2 points of outscoring the Bulls in round 4. Seven rounds later, however, the result was more in favour of Birchip-Watchem.

Entering the business end of the season, both two top tier teams have a greater understanding of the depth of talent of their rival, and will no doubt have devised plans to circumvent those opposition strengths.

Injury and recovery will play a significant part in the selections for tomorrow's final, with Birchip-Watchem sweating on the fitness of dynamic midfielders Nic Rippon and Meyrick Buchanan, the former sidelined for round 16 and the latter since round 12.

Calder United will also have to make a call on whether to risk three players injured in the last home-and-away game, joint coach Jordy Humphreys and leading goal kicker Jack Exell (hamstring strains), and defensive pillar Josh Walsh (calf muscle strain). Ruckman Dean Putt and big forward Dale Pearce have also been sidelined for several weeks.

Victory tomorrow will provide direct entry into the grand final, to be played at Wedderburn in a fortnight's time.

The benefit of having finished one and two on the ladder is the second chance that the loser of tomorrow's game is afforded, via the preliminary final, at St. Arnaud.

Do you risk players whose fitness would be greatly enhanced by another week's rest? Or do you roll the dice and gamble that they have overcome any potential lingering effects from those injuries?

Ash Connick, in his first season at the helm of the Bulls, and his Lions' counterpart Darryl Wilson, have a wealth of coaching experience between them, but both are non-playing, and can have limited influence once their charges take the field.

Working in both combinations' favour, however, is the wealth of high calibre onfield leaders each possesses.

From a Birchip-Watchem point of view, the Rippon brothers, Dale Hinkley, Daniel Bell and Meyrick Buchanan are capable of adapting their games to suit the occasion and their team's needs.

Calder United can look to Jordy Humphreys, if fit to play, Matt Wade, Stephen Kennedy, Boe Bish and Koby Hommelhoff to lead by example and also make game changing choices on the run.

One of the main reasons the Bulls have remained undefeated this season is their powerful and diverse attack, spearheaded by century goal kicker Ben Edwards, supported by the likes of Nic Rippon, Rhona Conboy and Tom Gibson.

Not only will the Lions' defence, which includes Oscar Madden, Josh Walsh and Boe Bish, need to contain its opponents, it will also need forwards Jack Exell, Mitch Farmer and Dale Pearce, as well as reliable goal contributors Humphreys and Kennedy, to consistently have an impact on the scoreboard.

Finding open space within range of goal will be a significant challenge against Birchip-Watchem's water tight defence, led by Dale Hinkley and Ben Lakin.

And in potentially the most influential individual duel, Bull Hamish Hosking against Lion Dean Putt, a game highlight in itself, their ability to dictate the flow of first possession, from centre bounces, will be crucial.

At ground level, midfields and ball winners don't come much better than Nic and Marshall Rippon, Bell, Buchanan and Sam Simmons

Bulls' Focus is on Team Prize



• Rhona Conboy (Birchip-Watchem) is under pressure from Matthew Wade (Calder United), during round 11, also pictured, Jack Lee. —Photo Blake Lee.

for Birchip-Watchem, up against Kennedy, Wade, Zac Caccaviello, Daniel Watts and Zane Keighran for Calder United.

If Birchip-Watchem carries its recent form into tomorrow's clash, it should win, but Calder United's best football is certainly good enough to

break the Bulls' run of continued success. The Lions' chances may well hinge on the fitness of that handful of crucial contributors.

• Continued on page 19.



• Alex Cockerell balances the ball while Curtis Rice applies pressure. —Photo Blake Lee.

A Thrilling Day of Hockey

The North Central Hockey Association's first semi-final was hosted at Birchip-Watchem on Saturday, with a big crowd enjoying a thrilling day of hockey.

From juniors to seniors, each game brought spirit, skill and the intensity of finals pressure.

Under-12: Charlton v. Saints

Charlton started eagerly with Toby Bourke bursting forward in attack before Saints countered. Charlton's Ruby Wright and Sophie Roberts combined well in at-

tack, forcing several lightning saves from the Saints keeper Kayne Williams. Saints raised a valiant attempt at goals starting from the midline by Pat Zsigmond but Charlton's keeper Archer Smyth blunted their attack. Megg Fitzpatrick from Charlton nearly broke the deadlock before half-time, but her short corner strike was disallowed when the ball didn't leave the D.

The breakthrough came five minutes into the second half when a short corner found Toby Bourke at the top of the D, who steadied and drove home the opener. With ten minutes left, a cross from Toby was tapped in by Megg Fitzpatrick at the back post to double the lead. Charlton dominated the closing minutes, but the Saints' keeper stood

• Continued on page 15.

SECOND SEMI FINALS
SATURDAY AUGUST 30 AT BOORT

SENIORS | 2:30PM
BIRCHIP-WATCHEM V CALDER UNITED

RESERVES | 12:35PM
CALDER UNITED V BOORT

UNDER 17'S | 10:55AM
ST ARNAUD V SEA LAKE NANDALY

UNDER 14'S | 9:30AM
ST ARNAUD V SEA LAKE NANDALY

A | 3:00PM
B | 1:45PM
C | 12:30PM
C RES | 11:15AM
17&U | 10:00AM
14&U 'A' | 9:00AM
14&U 'B' | 10:00AM

WEDDERBURN V BOORT
WEDDERBURN V CALDER UNITED
CALDER UNITED V WEDDERBURN

BOORT V SEA LAKE NANDALY
CALDER UNITED V BIRCHIP-WATCHEM
BOORT V BIRCHIP-WATCHEM
BOORT V ST ARNAUD

MENS | 3:15PM
WOMENS | 1:40PM
UNDERAGE | 12:30PM
UNDER 12 | 11:30AM

CALDER UNITED V ST ARNAUD
ST ARNAUD V CALDER UNITED
CHARLTON V ST ARNAUD
CALDER UNITED V BIRCHIP-WATCHEM

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