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The Buloke Times

Est. 1875

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

New Head for EWHS Board

At the July meeting of the East Wimmera Health Service Board, Kylie Thitchener was elected new chairperson.

Kylie takes the place of outgoing chairperson, Julianne Clift, whose final report was as follows:

"I have served on the EWHS Board of Directors for seven years and had the privilege of being chair for the past five years.

"Kylie Thitchener will be stepping into the role of Board Chair and will continue to lead a committed team of Directors.

"At our July meeting, the Board continued to explore options for the old nurses' home in Wycheproof.

"We also endorsed the budget for the current financial year, aiming for a break-even result.

"EWHS has received correspondence from the Minister for Health regarding our obligations under the new Grampians Health Service Network. This initiative is designed to strengthen regional partnerships and improve patient care pathways, including providing as much care as possible closer to home, where it can be done safely.

"Following our meeting, the Board had the opportunity to meet with the new Secretary of the Department of Health. Discussions included future funding, our work in primary health care services, and the challenges posed by our ageing infrastructure."



• EWHS Board of Directors. from left: Deidre Missingham, Ross McKenzie, Simone Christie, Julianne Clift (Board chairperson), Steve Price, Kylie Thitchener, Philip Sabien, Carolyn Stewart.

Buloke Shares Flood Protection Funding

Communities across Victoria will be better protected from future flood impacts thanks to the Allan Labor Government's \$5.8 million Regional Flood Risk Reduction Grants Program.

Local Members for Bendigo East Jacinta Allan, Bendigo West Maree Edwards and Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes, this week announced initiatives that will focus on increasing flood protection and mitigation for local communities. This includes the installation of moveable flood barriers, connecting gaps in existing levee systems, improving flood risk mapping

and updating flood studies to reflect current conditions.

These projects aim to address the ongoing impacts of climate change while strengthening existing infrastructure and expanding community knowledge about future disaster risk.

Range of Areas

The funding will be shared by a range of different Local

Government areas and projects including:

- Buloke Shire – LiDAR and Flood Modelling Initiative.
- Campaspe Shire – Flood review & Mitigation project – Phase 2.
- Gannawarra Shire – Kerang Township Protection Levee – Murphy Street Rehabilitation Design.

- Swan Hill Rural City – Pental Island Levee Renewal Project: Supporting community to manage their flood risks.

- City of Greater Bendigo – Updated Climate Change Flood Mapping in the North Central Region.

- Hepburn Shire – Updated Climate Change Flood Mapping in the North Central Region.

- Loddon Shire – Updated Climate Change Flood Mapping in the North Central Region.

Some of its Worst

Victoria experienced some of its worst flooding on record in October 2022, and these grants to further the Labor Government's work to support communities across the state to be better prepared for flood events – and importantly led locally for their unique needs.

One of the key projects will improve flood resilience in Rochester and Echuca by investing in flood mitigation infrastructure, including moveable barriers and flood gates.

This will protect homes, infrastructure and essential services like the Rochester Early Learning Centre – reducing reliance on labour-intensive sandbagging, supporting businesses and maintaining access to medical and emergency services in the event of a flood.

The program is funded by the State Government, through the Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and is administered by Emergency Management Victoria.

To Guide Grower Decisions at BCG Main Field Day . . . Latest Variety Trial Data

Visitors to BCG's Main Field Day on Wednesday, September 10, at Birchip, will have the opportunity to hear the latest on wheat and barley varieties being put to the test in the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) National Variety Trials (NVT) program.

BCG research agronomists Anna Marcus and Ashlee Tierney will present an overview of how key varieties are performing under this season's dry start, and what growers should be watching for as spring unfolds.

"There's always an interest in what came out on top last season, and this year, we're also taking a close look at how early establishment has played out given the challenging conditions in May and June," Anna said.

• Continued on page 2.



• BCG research agronomists Anna Marcus and Ashlee Tierney gathering the data on what did well last year, and what's doing well so far.

Fishing Award for Rob Loats

Former Donald district resident, Robert Loats, is among eight recreational fishing advocates honoured by VRFish, the peak body for recreational fishing in Victoria.

Currently, Rob is the chairman of VRFish, which has celebrated its 30th anniversary by awarding eight lifetime achievement awards to volunteers for their highly regarded service to recreational fishing in Victoria.

“The highlight of celebrating VRFish’s 30th anniversary was recognising our volunteers who have dedicated years to making fishing better in Victoria,” said Rob.

The VRFish Lifetime Achievement Award is the highest honour which can be bestowed by the peak body for longstanding and valued service to recreational fishing in Victoria.

Christine Couzens, MP, State Member for Geelong, presented eight Lifetime Achievement Awards in front of more than 80 delegates, who represent thousands of Victorian recreational fishers through their respective fishing clubs, associations and organisations.

Recipients

The award recipients included Bob Pearce (Albert Park Yachting and Angling Club), Priya Cardinaletti (Scuba Divers Federation of Victoria), Robert Loats, Geoff Cramer (Ballarat and District Anglers Association), Steven Relf (Howqua Association), and John Hotchin (Association of Geelong and District Angling Clubs).

Pat Washington and Franz Grasser were recognised for their incredible service to recreational fishing posthumously.

“For 30 years, our volunteers have been the backbone of VRFish. Through their immense passion and drive, they have worked tirelessly to give back countless hours to the sport they love,” said Ms Couzens.

For more information, including award recipient profiles, visit:

<https://vrfish.com.au/2025/07/30/vrfish-marks-30-years/>

A Career in Fishing

From Rob, “The Times” has obtained the following observations on his time in fishing administration:

“I joined VRFish as a regional fisher and delegate from Mid Northern Association of Angling Clubs in 1998. I became a Board member in March 2000 and am currently honoured to be the chairman of VRFish.

“I originally joined VRFish to provide an important voice from regional Victoria from the Wimmera-Mallee area and promote the ever-increasing recreational fishing aspirations of regional fishers. Personally, at that time I had no aspirations to become the

chair of VRFish as my goal was to improve recreational fishing and access in Victoria and along the Murray River.

“Some of the best achievements from issues raised have included:

“Led the buy-out of freshwater commercial fishers and having these twenty-eight water storages, lakes and wetlands returned to recreational fishing. Proposed a native fish restocking program with golden perch and yearling Murray Cod. VRFish achieved positive outcomes in 2001-2002 working in conjunction with Fisheries Victoria staff.

“In line with VRFish policy, led the support of banning Opera House nets for fishing for yabbies, introducing yabby catch limits and having female yabbies with berries returned to the water.

“Assisted strongly in having setlines banned. This entailed a comprehensive effort to have setlines banned in the Murray River due to raising and receiving magnificent support from a Murray Cod Forum in Canberra. Also heavily involved with implementing Murray Cod slot limits, catch limits and having Rocklands Reservoir stocked with Murray Cod.

“Achieved strong fully documented support for twelve recreational lakes to receive high recreational water security from the enormous water saving generated by piping the open Wimmera-Mallee open channel system. Also support for returning defined allocations of environmental water back to the Glenelg and Wimmera Rivers.

“I was ecstatic to see a proposal I raised to see a statewide approach in repairing fish habitat using large trees, branches and root balls during road constructions implemented by VicRoads as offsets for Woody fish habitat. I should note individuals often refer to me as “Woody” due to my insistence of renaming “Woody Debris” to Woody Habitat and give it a real fish habitat value.”



• John (left) and Josh White, two proud life members.

Another Proud Moment for Wycheproof’s White Family

On Saturday, during a well-attended Wycheproof-Narraport Football Club Past Players’ Day, the club had the honour of awarding Josh White with Life Membership.

Presented by club stalwart Mervyn Gaylor, the moment was made even more special when Josh’s father, John White, also a Life Member, was invited to pin the badge on his son – a proud moment for the White family and the WNFC community.

Josh’s dedication to the club has spanned decades – as a premiership player, coach of both firsts and seconds, and club president, his commitment and leadership have left a lasting legacy.

While members now look forward as Calder United

Lions, it’s moments like these that remind them how important it is to continue celebrating the proud history of the Demons.

Thank you, Josh – your service, passion, and loyalty won’t be forgotten.



• Christine Couzens, MP, and Robert Loats.

Latest Variety Trial Data

• Continued from page 1.

Attendees can expect updates on top-performing varieties including Shotgun, Tomahawk, Brumby and Rockstar, as well as barley standouts Compass, Neo and Combat. With no significant disease pressure so far this season, the focus will be on growth, yield potential, and agronomic performance.

Early Look

Ashlee said growers will also get an early look at new, unnamed varieties in the pipeline.

“This year we’ve included two new barley lines,” she said.

“One is an IMI-tolerant variety from Intergrain suited to low rainfall environments, and the other is a herbicide tolerant line for low rainfall conditions from AGT.”

The NVT program, delivered in partnership with GRDC, provides an independent national platform to evaluate varietal performance across different regions and environments, in non-nitrogen limited conditions.

“The NVT program aims to assist Australian grain growers and advisors in varietal decision making by providing information on commercially available grain varieties, including comparisons of yield performance, disease resistance and grain quality,” Anna said.

“It’s important for growers to remember that we ensure these trials are not nitrogen limited, so they are indicative of a variety’s best genetic potential.”



• The White boys, Zac White, Jack White, Josh White, showcasing the love of the game throughout generations.



• Club president Josh White celebrating alongside coach Julian Bull.

Police Beat



Swan Hill

Accident: Just prior to midday Monday, police were called to River Road, Swan Hill. The rider of a green trail motorbike appears to have lost control and rolled. The bike was carrying a passenger. The male rider sustained serious injuries and was airlifted to a Melbourne Hospital. The female passenger was transported to Swan Hill Hospital for treatment. Police are asking for anyone that may have dashcam or CCTV footage of a green trail bike being ridden around Swan Hill on this morning, to contact Swan Hill Police on 5036 1600 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Theft from motor vehicle: Between 5 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. on Saturday, August 2, offenders have entered an unlocked vehicle parked at the rear of Campbell Street, Swan Hill. A set of keys was removed from the vehicle.

Driving under the influence of Alcohol:

At About 4.30 a.m. on Saturday, August 2, police intercepted a vehicle in Albert Street, Swan Hill. The driver underwent a preliminary breath which was positive. He was conveyed to the police station where he underwent an evidentiary breath test. The reading was 0.066. He was found to hold a NSW learners' permit. The 18-year-old driver received a penalty notice for driving unaccompanied and for driving or being in charge of a vehicle with above the prescribed concentration of alcohol in their system.

Gannawarra

Dangerous driving: At about 11.15 a.m. on Thursday, July 31, police observed a vehicle travelling at excessive speed on the Murray Valley Highway, Gunbower. They attempted to intercept the vehicle but given the excessive and dangerous speed reached by the offending vehicle, the police pulled over. Cohuna police attended a Cohuna address a short time later and located the vehicle of interest. They arrested a 39-year-old male for dangerous driving whilst pursued. The male was also found to be unlicensed, and the vehicle unregistered. The vehicle was impounded. The male was released pending summons to appear in court at a later date.

Fire: Emergency services were called to the intersection of Jobling and Quambatook-Swan Hill Road, Quambatook, at about 8.30 p.m. on Saturday, August 2. At that location, a vehicle was located in a paddock fully engulfed in fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Burglary: Between 8.30 p.m. on Friday, August 1, and 10.15 a.m. the following day, the offender has gained entry to a sporting complex in Park Road, Kerang. Whilst at that location the offender has caused damage and marked graffiti. The offender has been identified, but is yet to be interviewed by police.



• Wycheproof Probus Christmas in July at the Vale of Avoca: back row from left, Paul Grant, Dave Watkins, Ian Marquis, Reg Pollard, Des Nichols, Peter Oosterhoff, Will Russ, Bryan Pederson, Martin Duke. Middle: Anne Grant, Clare Keane, Lyn Nichols, Rob Grylls, Leanne Rose, Wendy Turnbull, Glenda Humphreys. Front: Viv Gilleland, Suzie Morrison, Jenny Mead, Mar-Anne Duke, Lyn Grylls.

Wyche Probus July Meeting

Brad Robinson, the new campus manager of the Wycheproof Hospital, gave club members a very interesting talk about his work life, education, family background and volunteering.

Brad spoke about his education and very broad ranging work experience.

Initially he spent 10 years at the Alfred Hospital where he found it to be very humbling to be a nurse, in the emergency section. During his time he saw tragedy, hope and miracles.

Following a post graduate course Brad moved to Corporate Health Care, becoming a Clinical Nurse Educator at Baxter Health for a year.

He then moved into sales with a position at Beckton Dickinson for the next 5 years. During this time, he travelled widely in Victoria including to Mildura, where he became familiar with Wycheproof. From sales Brad moved into marketing with a position in Sydney for the next four years.

He was then head hunted for a position with Smith Medical where he stayed another 5 years.

Japanese Company

In 2018 he took up a position with a Japanese company setting up a new company here in Australia. He travelled extensively both in Australia and overseas in this position.

In 2022 he was terminated and moved to CEO of one of

the hospitals in Ballarat which had an extremely bad track record. He was able to change the culture and when he left it was a thriving business again.

He then moved to Dubbo as CEO of a private hospital which was also in trouble and he changed that as well.

Family

He was missing his family in Victoria, and decided to return to be close to them, taking up his current role at the Wycheproof Hospital.

Brad concluded his talk with a little about his family based locally, and their role in the local area.

The Probos members were most impressed by the breadth and extent of their new campus manager's experience and look forward to a long association with him in the Wycheproof Hospital.

Christmas in July

The Probos Club undertakes an annual Christmas in July each year. This year to the Vale of Avoca in Charlton, which served a wonderful Christmas meal in a great Christmas setting. Out hosts went out of their way with the Christmas decorations and detail. And again we were gifted a Christmas tree decoration by member Lyn Grylls.

Afterward some members undertook a quick inspection of the Rex Theatre, Charlton. Manager Hayden McKinnon showed us the features of the front part of the theatre. Then a viewing of the back of house part which are practical and utilitarian, with no ornateness.

June 2025 Monthly Meeting Report

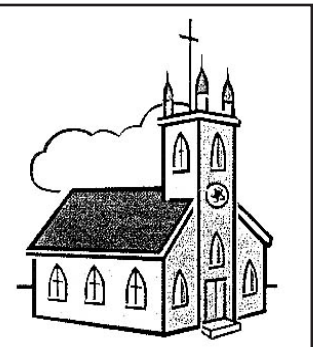
The Wycheproof Probos Club had a slightly different guest speaker for its June meeting. A video presentation was provided of part of a show that members had recently enjoyed with others from Charlton at the Footlights Theatre Restaurant in Yeppoon, Queensland.

The show was very entertaining and enjoyed by everyone.



• Probos President Will Russ and Brad Robinson.

CHURCHES



DISTRICT CATHOLIC CHURCHES "East Wimmera Parish"

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

Fr. Gerry Prunty
0419 247 779

Parish Co-ordinator
- Noeline Hogan: 0476 617 976

Corack East Wind
Renewable Energy from ACEN

ACEN Australia

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

Drop-in information hub every Wednesday 1-6pm

Dates and venues

9 July Charlton	6 August Charlton
16 July Donald	13 August Charlton
23 July Charlton	20 August Donald
30 July Birchip	27 August Birchip

Meet the project team, find out more and provide feedback.

Venue information

Donald - Scout Hall, Racecourse Road, Donald

Birchip - Birchip Community Leisure Centre, Morrison St, Birchip

Charlton Charlton Park Community Bank Complex, Calder Hwy, Charlton

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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 JONES

Genevieve and Chris welcome —

Clementine Grace,
on July 31, 2025.

Sister for Meredith and Vincent.

Much loved addition to the cousin group and equally loved by uncles, aunts and grandparents.

DEATH JOHNSON.— Barry

Watchem Panthers Cricket Club mourn the loss of our first President and major contributor of the reforming of the Cricket Club.

Barry was instrumental in making the vision of getting the club up and running again after 3 young blokes dug out a pitch to start the journey. From laying a new synthetic to religiously mowing the oval and much much more. Barry was also our first Life Member and saw our dream of winning the "B" grade grand final last season. Supported by his wife Karen, he was able to live his cricket over the 10 years till the end.

Thanks Baz.

Sympathy to Karen, your family and friends.

DEATH LETTS.—

Ewan Donald

10/02/1932 Donald, VIC
01/08/2025 Canberra, ACT

Known as Mick to many, Ewan passed away at Canberra Hospital after a short illness.

Treasured and loved husband of Marjorie and father of Martine, Michael, Christina, Peter. Loved brother of Malcolm and Goff (both dec.) and Robin; sisters-in-law Diana, Joyce, Shirley, Joan and Sandra, and brother-in-law Antony. Ewan was a leader, friend, mentor and benefactor to his extended family, community and large circle of friends around the world. A true Australian citizen, he will be terribly missed by all.

Canberra Memorial
Service, date TBA.

FUNERAL LETTS.—

A service to celebrate Ewan Donald "Mick's" life will be held in St Andrew's Uniting Church, Donald on Friday, August 29, 2025, at 1.30 p.m. The cortège will then leave for the Donald Lawn Cemetery

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

THANK YOU

Thank you to all of the people who acknowledged my recent Order of Australia Medal and Bush Champion nomination. There are so many good people living in regional areas who volunteer and keep our wonderful country towns alive.

—Mancel "Mick"
Giddings - OAM.

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<https://ewhs.org.au/careers>

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Tigers Face Donald Netballers

[From Donald Netball Club]

Under-14 "B"

Great start to the day with Donald having an early lead; excellent team work from its shooters. A few changes for Donald in the second term, brought some fresh legs to the court. However, Sea Lake-Nandaly came strongly back in this quarter, with some good play down the court.

In the third term the Tigers came out fighting, making the scores very even. Donald kept pushing and made some big impact with good play down the court.

Final quarter, Donald shooters worked well together, with some great goals. The Tigers continued to fight and worked well as a team. But Donald proved to be too strong for Sea Lake-Nandaly to take away its second win for the season. Donald 15 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 11.

Donald awards: Gilchrist & Co., Annamary Joseph; Harvest Café, Ellie Burke.

Sea Lake-Nandaly awards: Lenny Donnan and Brooklyn Wight (canteen vouchers).

Under-14 "A"

It was great to welcome the Tigers back to Donald on Saturday. The 14"A" game was a fantastic contest, with both

teams working tirelessly throughout the match. Donald made a few positional changes, with two of their 14"A" players stepping up into the 17s – a credit to the depth and adaptability of the squad.

There were some strong passages of play through the court and excellent defensive efforts from the Donald defenders. The shooting trio of Layla Griffiths, Sophie Burke, and Chloe Italia continued to impress with their accuracy and commitment, showcasing their growing confidence and cohesion in the circle.

Donald 39 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 17.

Donald awards: Awards: Donald's Family Butcher, Sophie Burke;

Bev's Baubles, Nevaeh Pearce. Sea Lake-Nandaly awards: Charlotte O'Conner (club hat) and Milana Barry (canteen).

Under-17 "A"

The Donald U17s came out firing in the first quarter, showcasing some beautiful passages of play. Their defensive pressure was strong, and the goalers worked tirelessly to keep pace with a fast-starting Sea Lake-Nandaly side.

By the first break, the Tigers had only managed to edge ahead by three goals.

As the game progressed, Sea Lake-Nandaly's strength and consistency began to shine through, gradually extending its lead. Despite this, Donald never dropped its intensity. The players kept their heads high and focused on their own game, demonstrating great teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship.

Mid-court players linked well through the centre, creating solid leads and clean transitions, while defenders made the Tigers work for every pass. The Donald girls should be proud of their effort and determination – it was a tough contest, but they played with heart right to the final whistle.

Donald 36 def. by Sea Lake-Nandaly 52.

Donald awards: The Clothes Bin, Alyssa Hepworth; Harvest Cafe, Jasmine Anderson. Sea Lake-Nandaly awards: Jada Sume (club hat) and Georgia McClelland (Haueslers).

"C" Grade

Donald started strongly against the third-placed Sea Lake-Nandaly, showing great composure and patience at the centre pass. The mid-courtiers trusted their feeds into the ring, while the attacking end worked hard to counter the Tigers' height with smart front cuts and strong drives to the ball. The Tigers applied relentless pressure and were fierce at the contest, capitalising on turnovers and shooting with impressive accuracy. Despite Donald's solid efforts, the Tigers proved too strong.

Donald 25 def. by Sea Lake-Nandaly 62.

Donald awards: IGA, Jenna McCallum; Donald Hotel, Kiera Lopes; Coaches Awards (Choccy Bar), Belicia Francis.

Sea Lake-Nandaly awards: Emily (C&MPearce), Abby (Col Durie Plumbing).

"B" Grade

Donald's defence worked hard in the ring to get each rebound. However, Sea Lake-Nandaly took an early lead

after getting a few quick turnovers. A few changes for Donald in the second term with Tori Kelm going into centre. Shooters Jess Nunn and Millie Lydom began to find their rhythm and worked well together. It was a very fast paced quarter with rolling subs being used to bring on fresh legs.

A few more changes for Donald in the second half to try and help it reflect on the scoreboard. Donald did well to keep the Tigers from scoring under 10 in the third term.

Final term Donald changed the team to how they started the game. Jess and Millie continued to work well in the goal ring and Megan and Rachel worked the centre court. Sea Lake-Nandaly took away a good win.

Donald 35 def. by Sea Lake-Nandaly 54.

Donald awards: Jasper & Co, Courtney Doak; Mensland, Jess Nunn. Sea Lake-Nandaly awards: Lacey (Royal Hotel), Lorraine (Haeusler's).

"A" Grade

Donald faced a tough challenge against a strong Sea Lake-Nandaly outfit. The Tigers came out firing, applying a full-court pressure in the opening quarter that forced multiple turnovers and disrupted Donald's usual flow. In the second quarter, Donald adjusted well, moving the ball quicker from stoppages and preventing the Tigers from setting up their defensive structures. Donald's defenders put in a determined effort, getting hands to plenty of passes and rebounding strongly throughout the match. The final quarter opened up into a more free-flowing contest, with Donald lifting its intensity to produce its highest-scoring term of the game. Despite the improved finish, the Tigers proved too strong.

Donald 26 def. by Sea Lake-Nandaly 46.

Donald awards: Gilchrist & Co, Emma Downes; Goldy's Patch, Ally Doak. Sea Lake-Nandaly awards: Nakia (MortimerPetroleum) and Grace (Allan Ag).

Charlton's Putter Day a Success

Putter Day as first event of Charlton's tournament was played in sensational sunshine, the course was presented magnificently and played well whilst presenting some challenges.

Winning pair was Mandy Male and Deanne Free, 70 points. Runner-up pair was their playing mates, Lyn Boyle and Heather Hogan, 69 points. Division 1 winner was Julie McLennan, 35 points. Runner-up was Brenda Proctor 34 points. Division 2 winner was Leonie Boxall, 35 points. Runner-up was Alison Tormey, 33 points on a count-back from Chris Livingston. Nearest the pins: 7th, Jan Walklate; 2nd and 14th, Anne Kenny. The lunch of meats and salads followed by apple crumble was a delicious finale to a social golf day.



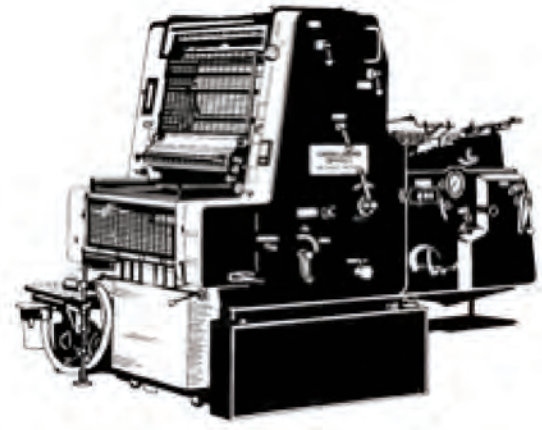
• Deanne Free (left) and Mandy Male, winners of the putter.



• Left to right: Heather Hogan, Lyn Boyle, Deanne Free, Mandy Male, Brenda Proctor, Leonie Boxall, Julie McLennan.

The Buloke Times

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Snow Camp at Bogong

During Week 1 of Term 3, nineteen excited Year 9 and 10 students embarked on the highly anticipated Snow Camp at Bogong Outdoor School.

With recent snowfall creating perfect conditions and snow levels reaching 93cm at Falls Creek, the stage was set for an unforgettable experience.

Students experienced a full range of weather conditions during the camp – from rain and howling winds while cross-country skiing, to poor

visibility and snowfall while downhill skiing, and finally, a perfect sunny morning on the last day.

They had the opportunity to immerse themselves in both cross-country and downhill skiing. While both activities were met with enthusiasm, downhill skiing quickly became the favourite.



On the third day, students were able to choose their preferred activity, and many opted for another thrilling day on the chairlifts. They practised their snow ploughs, snow plough turns, and some even progressed towards parallel turns.

For many, this camp was their first time seeing snow and experiencing the joy of skiing. The excitement among the students was evident throughout the week.

A big thank you to Bogong Outdoor School and their fantastic staff for providing such a memorable experience. Special thanks also to Mr Tatchell for his support and participation in making the camp a success.

It's hoped this adventure has sparked a lasting interest in the alpine environment – one the students may choose to explore further in the future.



• Jasmine Anderson and Shanae Rotherham.



• Halle Rice, Shaine Mansibang, and Alyssa Hepworth atop a mini mountain of snow.



• The “blue group” posing with their gear (left to right): Mrs Kim Griffiths, Milla Adams, Alyssa Hepworth, Lyric Davis, Halle Rice, Shaine Mansibang, Jesse Lydom and Hugo Funcke.



• Jack Reilly gearing up for another run down the mountain.



• Getting out of the foul conditions at Windy Corner, (left to right): Alyssa Hepworth, Lyric Davis, Hugo Funcke, Jesse Lydom, Milla Adams, Shaine Mansibang and Halle Rice.

Wind Farms Mythbusting

Myth: Wind farms are not compatible with agriculture

Reality: Once constructed, a wind farm typically takes up less than 2% of the project site, and is highly compatible with agricultural operations. Livestock grazing and cropping can continue right up to the edge of all turbines, hardstands and access tracks. When the wind farm is decommissioned, the land is returned to its previous condition

Myth: Renewable energy is increasing the cost of electricity

Reality: In 2024, electricity made from fossil fuels was typically around twice the cost of renewables. The Climate Council has found that power prices are high and rising in Australia because of the ongoing reliance on expensive fossil fuels and continued operation of ageing coal-fired power stations, as well as the need for more renewables and more storage (like batteries) for renewables

Myth: Landholders pay for the costs of decommissioning

Reality: The costs of decommissioning are 100% the wind farm owner's responsibility. This is a requirement of all planning permits for wind farm development. We include conditions in our commercial lease agreements with landholders, so it's clear from the beginning of the project that the wind farm will have the funds to decommission the project. Additionally, the wind farm must pay lease fees to host landholders until all infrastructure is removed.

Myth: Wind farms cause health issues

Reality: Reviews conducted by leading health and research organisations from all over the world, including the Australian Medical Association and Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council, have found no direct link between wind farms and health effects. This is true for both noise impacts and electromagnetic fields.

Myth: Electromagnetic interference (EMI) from turbines affect nearby dwellings and mobile users

Reality: Modern blades are typically made of synthetic materials which have a minimal impact on the transmission of electromagnetic radiation. The strength of the electromagnetic fields around common turbine electrical infrastructure elements (like generators, transformers and electrical conductors) is very low and become indistinct from background within 2 metres of the base.

Myth: Wind farm buffer zones stop neighbours from building new homes

Reality: The setback distances from turbines (sometimes referred to as 'buffer zones') exist to avoid amenity impacts on neighbour e.g. turbine noise. A new dwelling within the setback distance can achieve planning approval where an agreement has been reached between the landowner, wind farm operator and Council to address reduced amenity.

Myth: Host landholders are liable if a turbine catches fire

Reality: Wind farms have their own public liability insurance which will cover damage caused by the wind farm should that occur.



Myth: Renewable energy projects won't benefit regional communities

Reality: A joint study by the Clean Energy Council and Farmers for Climate Action expects large-scale renewable energy projects to contribute around \$1.9 billion to regional communities and councils by 2050. Beyond host landholder payments, WestWind provides funding for neighbour benefits, community benefits and Council rates. Community benefits funding alone for Wilkur Energy Park could total \$5.8 million for the community around Wilkur and Birchip over the project's lifespan.

Myth: WestWind Energy receives government subsidies

As a developer, WestWind Energy does not receive any Government subsidies. However, renewable energy projects under construction may attract Government support to build and mature the renewable energy sector. The amount of support provided will vary by project. At the same time, the fossil fuel industry also continues to receive billions in subsidies.

To find more facts, please visit www.w-wind.com.au/FAQ or send your question to info@WilkurEnergyPark.com.au





• Prep student Alex Tischler sorts 100 items in Maths.

100 Days of School

Excitement filled the air on Wednesday, July 23 as Wycheproof P-12's Prep/1 class marked a major milestone – 100 Days of School!

To celebrate, students came dressed in t-shirts they had designed and decorated with 100 items of their choice. From pom-poms to buttons and stickers, every shirt was colourful and unique, and Prep/1s were able to show off their creations to the whole school during a mini fashion parade at general assembly.

The day was jam-packed with fun and educational activities all centred around the number 100.

Adding to the fun, the class welcomed some very special guests – Wycheproof P-12's very own “senior citizens”. Dressed up with walking sticks, spectacles, wigs, and cardigans, the visiting “elders” (Year 12 students Keely Allan, Whitney Jones, Mason Sheahan, Gracie Humphreys and Savannah Nicholls) joined in the celebration, sharing laughs and stories with the younger students.



• Athena Harris-Zinko and Fletcher Pardella show off their 100 day shirts. Athena chose to decorate with flowers and Fletcher chose sea creature stickers.



• Year 1 student Jayden Wright decorated his shirt with 100 \$100 notes.



• Scottie Allan's decorated shirt featured 100 pretty ribbons.



• Aaron Lacey (Prep) with his STEM project, created as part of 100 Days of School celebrations.



Share Your Local Knowledge to Inform the Environment Effects Statement

Local knowledge is extremely valuable for a thorough environmental and social assessment of the VNI West project area — and we're looking for your input into existing conditions.

The Environment Effects Statement (EES) covers a range of topics, including:



VNI West Environment Effects Statement 2025 community session details

Kerang	Murrabit	Charlton	Stawell
Tue 19 August 3–6pm	Tue 26 August 3–6pm	Wed 27 August 9am–12pm 3–6pm	Thu 28 August 3–6pm
Kerang Memorial Hall	Murrabit Public Hall	Charlton Park Complex	Stawell Entertainment Centre

- Speak with the TCV team and technical experts
- Learn about the EES and what it means for VNI West
- Get involved: Share your insights on the local environment, land use, and community values in the VNI West project area

Scan the QR code or visit the project website to learn more and share your input into existing environmental and social conditions in the VNI West project area.



Contact us
Have a question? Reach out using the contact details below:

Email: enquiries@transmissionvictoria.com.au
Free call: 1800 824 221
Website: transmissionvictoria.com.au



• Group: Wycheproof P-12's youngest and oldest students – Prep/1 and Year 12 – celebrate 100 Days of School on July 23.



• Year 12 students Keely Allan, Whitney Jones, Mason Sheahan, Gracie Humphreys and Savannah Nicholls offer some safe advice to the Prep/1s.

Nullawil's Living Heritage Day –

A Living History Day to celebrate the 100th anniversary the historic Auchmore Home, will be held at the Nullawil Heritage Centre on Sunday, August 17.

Nullawil Historical Society members are looking forward to welcoming visitors to the day with an opportunity to “step back in time”. President Wendy Spry puts out the invitation to everyone to “Come and share the hospitality of a community that continues to care for the site as those who went before us did”.

Auchmore was built in 1925 by William Henry Bennett (“Stumpy”) to live in with his new wife, Eliza Marguerita Winfield (Rita). (Full history in previous article)

During 1993, the Watts family offered the Nullawil Historical Society use of Auchmore as an Historical Museum.

Since then, Historical Society members have set about adorning the house with antique furniture and decor used by early pioneers and characteristic of the era.

In the 32 years of caretaking, dedicated Historical Society volunteers have worked to maintain the integrity of the house with minimal disturbance to the original character of the home.

Heritage Centre

While Auchmore is considered the centrepiece, the Nullawil Heritage Centre has continued to expand and there

are now 23 buildings at the site.

Over the years there have been significant “Living History” days where visitors have had the opportunity to step back in time and get a glimpse into the pioneering past of the Nullawil and district. Historical members and school children have dressed in period costumes with an ever-expanding array of displays and working demonstrations depicting a century of Mallee life. The upcoming centenary celebration gives yet another opportunity for the public to visit.

Living History Day

The Heritage Centre gates will open at 10.30 a.m.. With their customary hospitality, Historical members will welcome visitors in the catering area. The coppers will be “fired up” and morning tea will be available with tea and coffee accompanied by scones with jam and cream. An overview will be given into the origins and establishment of the Nullawil Historical Society.

Following morning tea, guests will be invited to wander over to the former Winston Church to enjoy a performance on the restored Estey Reed organ. There will be some musical items and even the opportunity for a

sing-a-long at the church.

A program of events will be prominently displayed on the day, allowing attendees to select activities of personal interest. Volunteers will be available in the machinery sheds for those who prefer viewing machinery displays before lunch.

There will also be time for visitors to explore the Grange Stable, Drop Log Cabin, old Post Office and Blacksmith Shop. Drop into the Mathske Collection Barn, Gallery Barn and “Holey” Barn displaying items from St Joseph’s Catholic Church.

Lunch is scheduled between 12:30 and 1:00 p.m.; giving visitors time to catch up with old friends, and reminisce about days gone by.

Inspection

The Auchmore homestead will open for inspection after lunch.

Visitors will have the opportunity to wander through the beautiful 100-year-old homestead and appreciate its historical ambiance. Each room offers inviting displays, with a new exhibit in the children’s and mothers’ room with sewing machines, cots, dolls, and other items of interest.

The house gives a glimpse into a “simpler” existence,

• Continued on page 9.



• Auchmore: Aerial view of Auchmore House and Heritage Museum.



• Coppers: The coppers will be “fired up” and kettles boiling with morning tea available on arrival.



• Drop Log: There will be time to explore the Drop Log Cabin, Blacksmith shop, old Post Office and more.



• The recently restored Mallee roller pulled by horse or bullock, early settlers used to clear Mallee scrub.

Jade Benham MP

The Nationals' Member for Mildura

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#JBMP

Celebrating Auchmore's Centenary

• Continued from page 8.

without the modern conveniences enjoyed in the present era. The “pioneering spirit” of our early settlers is on display, with a resourceful and resilient approach to the everyday challenges they faced. Their ability to find creative solutions is evident, with a “make do attitude”, when money was tight and resources scarce. You will see a “high chair” made with a plough seat; cake tins and drawers made out of kerosene tins, a homemade preserving outfit and other homemade furniture and fittings. The wash house and outhouse are separate from the home, the bathroom is on the verandah with chip heaters for hot water.

Garden

The Remembrance Garden out the front features Nullawil's War Memorial, the World War 1 Centenary Soldier, Gallipoli Roses and the Lone Pine.

The recently painted mural and framed WWI flags will be displayed in the Remembrance Room.

The Towaninnie School is also open for exploration, showcasing original desks, books, and school cases that evoke strong memories of the past.

Machinery displays, including demonstrations of grain gristing, a hand-operated baler, and chaff cutter, will take place at intervals throughout the afternoon, and the Bulldog tractor will also be operational.

Afternoon tea will be served for those wishing for a hot beverage and a light snack before their departure.

The aim of the day is to create a relaxed atmosphere in which guests can fully enjoy the unique ambience of the Nullawil Heritage Centre.



• High chair made with a plough seat.



• Homemade preserving outfit made from Kerosene tin.



• President Wendy Spry and Joan Smith offering their customary hospitality.



• Above: There will be opportunity for a sing-a-long in the Winston Church. Glenys Rickard (nee Watson) playing the restored Estey Reed Organ.

One Hundred Years Ago

From the “Birchip Advertiser”, August 7, 1925.

Local and General Business Notice

Mr. C. J. O'Donnell, a well known farmer and grazier, for many years resident of this district, has joined the firm of F.M. O'Donnell and Co. Mr. O'Donnell will devote special attention to the land and stock part of the firm's business.

Church Notices

ANGLICAN “Parish of Charlton-Donald”

Enquiries: Rev'd Judi Bird
0435 593 395

Friday, August 15

St. Paul's, Birchip, 5 p.m.

Sunday, August 17

St. Martin's, Charlton, 9 a.m.

St. George's, Donald, 11 a.m.

Holy Trinity, W'burn, 3 p.m.

**

Silver Wedding

On Friday evening last Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Sheehan entertained about 200 people at an “at home” at their residence “Summer Hill”, Birchip, the occasion being the anniversary of their wedding.

A beautiful new ballroom, which is the latest in modern home crafts, has just been added to their home, and the occasion served the dual purpose of an official opening and a reception to their guests.

Visitors and friends of the host and hostess were present from Melbourne, Maryborough, Mildura, Wycheproof, Donald and Birchip and neighbouring districts. The ballroom, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion, presented a happy throng of dancers, which cards were indulged in by parents and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Sheehan received and welcomed the guests as they arrived. Mrs. Sheehan wore a black silk taffeta frock with red and

black in relief with cabochon at waist. Dancing was engaged in by young and old until midnight. The host and hostess then invited the guests into a spacious marquee which had been erected for the purpose. The tables, on which were set a sumptuous banquet, were arranged daintily the marquee. The decorative scheme was most attractive and was the subject of universal comment by the guests as the whole of the catering and decorating was done in inimitable style by the family.

Mr. H. G. Glenny presided, and called on Mr. P. Donnellan to propose the toast of the host and hostess.

In a neat and appropriate speech Mr. Donnellan expressed pleasure at being present, and added that Mr. and Mrs. Sheehan and family were his life-long friends and had always extended the hand of hospitality and goodwill to neighbours near and far. The family, he added, was a model one, and he hoped that the coming years would bring

further happiness to the host and hostess until they should have another such reunion at their golden wedding.

Mr. J. O'Donnell, J. Green, M. Steedman, T. O'Halloran, M. Coffey and J. M. Green, supported the toast, which was honoured enthusiastically.

Mr. R. Sheehan briefly responded on behalf of his parents and expressed the hope that the guests would all remain until dawn.

Dancing was then continued until the happy, but tired, throng dispersed homewards at dawn.

**

Dancing De Luxe

Something hitherto lacking in the social life of the Birchip residents is the knowledge of modern dancing. Mr. E. H. Percival, who is an authority and teacher, of modern English and American dances, is holding classes in the A. N. A. hall, and judging by the large attendance, and exhibition given by him during the lesson, one is certainly impressed by his claim, that this class of dancing is the spice of life.

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Wycheproof Hosts Mt. of Prevention Round



• The Charlton and Calder United men's and women's hockey teams with WCRC manager Marney Durie.



• The Charlton and Calder United "A" Grade netball teams with Mt of Prevention trophy.

Calder United Netballers Dominate Charlton

Another special round for Charlton's netball club as it celebrated its 5's reunion and book launch.

There was a great turnout of past players, their families and friends to reminisce on the club's past successes and watch the current teams as they faced a strong opposition.

A big congratulations to the reunion and netball committees for organising such a great event for the Charlton club – your efforts shone on Saturday with many people attending and enjoying their day.

14-&-Under "A"
Charlton 1 def. by Calder United 31.

Charlton awards: Steels Butcher Best, Rosie Fitzpatrick; FHN Ladies Auxiliary Coaches, Sophie Roberts; NWAG & Roberts Windrowing "Have a Crack", Lila Lanyon.

Calder United awards: WMA Award, Willow Vearring; Wyche Op Shop, Kelly Hogan; Access Grain, Ashlei Poyner and Cheven Barlett.

17-&-Under "A"
A tough contest this week for Charlton coming up against a well drilled Lions' opposition. Navy attackers worked well against a tall and strong defence, adjusting well to changes, playing their best. Charlton's defenders were putting on as much pressure as they could, with accurate shooting from the opposition there were little opportunities to gain ball, but when there was a chance the Navy Blues got hands to every ball. Another solid effort from the full team.

Charlton 18 def. by Calder United 62.

Charlton awards: Bendigo Bank and Ergo & Mane Best, Erin Blair; FHN Ladies Auxiliary Coaches, Lucy Gretgrix; Caffeinated Chaos Captains Coffee, Taylah Giles.

Calder United awards: WMA, Jessie Fawcett: IGA Wycheproof, Lily Humphreys.

"C" Grade
A few change ups this week, firstly welcome back to Charlton's Lily Campbell returning for her first game since welcoming baby #3! Leading the way in attack, the girls and a lot of strength and drive this week. Tahlia Holmes-Brown made a change into GS & GA this week (as a posed to the usual GK!), Jac Leslie and Taylah Boyle also worked well together again working around the ring. Annie Olive and Zoe Carney combined well in defence with Annie holding good strength and Zoe keeping her hands in every contest. Charlton's girls worked hard as a team keeping the score gap low in the early quarters. Fantastic to see some new positions as we near the end of the season.

Charlton 23 def. by Calder United 77. Charlton awards: Vale of Avoca and Ergo & Mane Best, Talia Holmes-Brown; JS Plumbing Coaches, Lily Campbell; Caffeinated Chaos Captains Coffee, Emily Wright.

Calder United awards: Regan Kelly, Kasie Mathe-son, Ruby Scott.

"B" Grade
Despite the scores, Charlton's "B" grade girls played a great team game again this week. In warmer conditions they pushed themselves to keep going. Holly Thompson and Bec Sexton applied great pressure to cause a lot of loose balls in Charlton's defence end. A competitive game that showed some great team plays.

Charlton 26 def. by Calder United 53.

Charlton awards: Tey's Charlton Feedlot and Ergo & Mane Beauty Best, Kate Stuchbery; Tey's Charlton Feedlot Coaches, Rebecca Sexton; Caffeinated Chaos Captains Coffee, Tori Hutchins.

Calder United awards: Holly Fawcett, Paige Arnel, Grace Scott.

"A" Grade
A slow start for the young "A" grade side this week compared to the last time Charlton faced Calder United. With Chloe out sick and Remi away Charlton welcomed a debut for the 2025 season, Sarah Blair. Along with Sarah there was a total of four U17s girls playing; great to see netball's future stars already shining!

Unfortunately, Charlton struggled in goals to consolidate or keep it down its end defensively; however, some great attacking moments between Claudia Lee, Lacey Smith and Sarah Blair and Charlton mids feeding into the ring.

Megan Bruns moved back to GK feeling unwell and Bec sexton managed the first quarter before rolling her ankle. Charlton's defenders were up against it, but despite this, they continued to play wonderfully, as usual. When the opportunity arose for rebounds and tips they hand hands on everything; however, there were few as they were up against some very accurate shooters. Some good passages of play but not enough this week to match the strength and intensity of the Lions.

Charlton 24 def. by Calder United 73.

Charlton awards: Walsh Motors and Ergo & Mane Beauty Best, Claudia Lee;

Walsh Motors Coaches, Lacey Smith; Caffeinated Chaos Captains Coffee, Claire Smith. Connect Coffee and Stacy's Dental Volunteer of the Day, Laura Fitzpatrick.

Calder United awards: Ella Sheahan, Meg Hogan, Gracie Humphreys, Libby Thompson.

The WCRC facilitated the Mt of Prevention Community Charter between the Charlton Navy Blues and Calder United Lions football, netball, hockey clubs on Saturday, at Charlton.

The Mt of Prevention Respect Round stands against domestic violence against women, children, and families, with a zero tolerance stance. Each year the Charter serves to remind local people to be accountable in keeping safe their own person, individuals, friends and family, and whole communities, and to know that help is always available for anyone experiencing violence at home.

Domestic abuse extends beyond physical assault and includes emotional abuse, sexual abuse, financial abuse, elder abuse, and coercive control.

The community charter seeks to educate local communities about the prevalence of this abuse locally, whilst promoting awareness of support services for victims that are available across the Buloke Shire and Wimmera Mallee region.

The day welcomed Sergeant Martin Nunn to address the gathered crowd and players after the seniors football, with the trophy presented to the victorious Lions. Sgt Nunn spoke openly of his encounters with domestic violence, the harrowing statistics of reported abuse, and consequences for abusers. His career experience with domestic abuse was testimony to the worth of the Mt of Prevention Respect Round and Charter in stopping violence at home in rural communities.

At the time of writing, 78 women have lost their lives to domestic violence in Australia this year, where statistically one woman is killed at the hands of domestic violence each week. Mt of Prevention asks everyone to stand together to say zero tolerance to abuse in our communities.

It's never ok, and help is always available.



• The crowd.

Celebrating the 5's Premiers

Saturday August 2nd 2025

A Grade 1975

Charlton 37-def St Arnaud 20
Helen Bennett, Jan Cossar, Kate Bennett, Kathy Ryan, Leonie Lanyon, Di Giblett, Cathy Rapkins (Coach), Noelene Rogan & Jenny Kelly



B Grade 1975

Charlton 25-Boort 24
Debbie McGurk, Debbie Strong, Val Mulquiny, Margaret Thompson, Bernadette Noonan, Cathy Rapkins (Coach) & Lorraine Watts



Under 16 1975

Charlton 46-Def St Arnaud 21
Carmel Thompson, Pam Robinson, Julie Cossar, Joan Cossar (Coach) Lynne Cossar, Pauline Sullivan, Liz Burton, Marea Noonan & Judith McGrath



Under 14 1975

Charlton 24-Def St Arnaud 22
Anne Donaldson, Jayne Cameron, Carmel Thompson (Coach), Robyn Strong, Jenny Robinson, Angela Mulquiny, Janelle Smart, Elizabeth Farrell & Leonie O'Connor



Field & Game August Shoot

As club president Jeremey Jardine stated at the start of presentations, it was perfect weather for Donald Field and Game's August shoot held on Sunday, the 4th.

Thirty-seven shooters participated in the 75 ASF Handicap Shoot.

Thank you to Nutrien Ag Solutions (Donald), a recently new sponsor.

Highgun Off the Gun: Roy Schram (Grampians), 63.

Highgun Handicap: Harry Denovan (Natimuk), 71.

All other scores include shooters' handicaps (count back for tied scores).

AA: 1st Trent Grant (Donald), 65; 2nd Geoff Newall (Minyip), 65.

"A": 1st Kim Walters (Donald), 66; 2nd Wayne Piera (Donald), 66.

"B": 1st Andrew Shaw (Grampians), 70; 2nd Bradley Plowright (Natimuk), 67.

"C": 1st Terence Deason (Dunolly), 69; 2nd John Sprigg (Natimuk), 67.

Ladies: 1st Julie Shaw (Grampians), 53; 2nd Alison Denovan (Natimuk), 25.

Veterans: 1st Lyle Streeter (Grampians), 67; 2nd Ken Schurmann (Minyip), 57.



• Juniors: 2nd placed local Charlie Burke.

Juniors: William Hodder (Grampians), 67; 2nd Charlie Burke (Donald), 60.

The next Donald Field & Game's shoot will be its Father's Day shoot on Sunday 7th September, a 50 target



• Highgun OTG: Roy Schram

shoot (great for beginners), followed by a novelty Side x Side event.

The Donald Field & Game AGM will be held at Bullock's Head Tavern on Saturday, September 6.



• AA Grade: Trent Grant taking out the win (president Jeremy Jardine and 2nd place winner Geoff Newall in the background).



• Group shoot, back row: Geoff Newall, Trent Grant, Wayne Piera, Terence Deason, Julie Shaw, Alison Denovan, Bradley Plowright, Charlie Burke, Andrew Shaw, William Hodder. Front row: Lyle Streeter, Harry Denovan, Roy Schram, Ken Schurmann.

Donald Hosts Women's Hockey

Right from the opening moments against Sea Lake-Nandaly, Donald took control of the ball and was determined to keep control of it throughout the game.

Louise Barber, Kailie Krause, Hannah Werner, Carly Pearse and Lauren Hawkes were able to keep the ball within the Donald scoring half for most of the game. Kailie assisted Lauren to get the ball past Sea Lake's goalie, Ali-Jane Thompson for a score.

Erika Bicket moved up throughout the field to get a break from being a back and was able to get the ball out of the Donald goal scoring end when it made its way down the field. Donald was able to score multiple short corners, but was unfortunately unable

to convert them, meaning at the end of the game the score was 1-0 Donald's way. Both Sea Lake-Nandaly and Donald should be commended on their playing skills as it was evident that everyone had improved. Sea Lake-Nandaly's Charli McClelland impressed in her senior debut.

Donald goal: Lauren Hawkes.

Donald awards: Best on, Kailie Krause; Dellavedova, Hayley Smulders.

Sea Lake-Nandaly awards: Jenna Alday (Nutrien Ag), Brydie Reid (Poulton Shearing).



(By Course Language)

With tournaments on, as well as the Kara Kara men's Shield Day at St Arnaud last Sunday, there was only a small field for golf in Donald last weekend.

The winner on 29 points was Brad Payne with Debbie Burton next on 27. Anthony Hogan wasn't too far off the pace with 23 points, but the fourth golfer had to withdraw after four holes with an injury. (Robert's story below.)

The "Nearest The Pins" were; The Donald Auto Elec 3rd, Brad Payne; Weirs IGA 7th, Brad Payne; Nufarm 14th, Brad Payne; Bendigo Bank 16th, Debbie Burton.

CHURCHES

UNITING CHURCH (North Central Living Waters Cluster)

Donald, 10 a.m., Holy Communion with Jan Flett
Next Birchip and Wycheproof Services, 10 a.m. Sunday, August 17
Contact Number: 5497 1033

After a big week on the mower, mowing the rough around the course, Robert Burton found that his elbow could be in better places than between a tree and the roll bar of the John Deere mower. Did a great job though, Robert.

This week has been massive in preparing for our tournament. A huge thank-you to all the members for all their work, not only out on the course, which is looking fabulous, but in the clubhouse with the preparation for catering for what should be a great weekend's golf, with fine weather predicted.

Dad's Army

With 8 veterans playing Dad's Army last week on a wet battle field, the youngest private prevailed, with Luke Kelly winning with 22 points.

Junior Golf

Oakley Brennan took the honours in the first week of

Junior Golf for the year, closely followed by Lyric Davis and Myles Hollis. Abe Beavis was the winner in "B" grade.

No Junior golf this weekend due to our tournament. See you the week after.

Coming Up

This weekend is our 101st Annual Tournament – 8th, 9th and 10th. Friday (today) is the Men's and Ladies' 4BBB, Saturday is the Men's 27-hole event with an 18-hole Men's and Ladies' as well, if you don't want to play the 27. Sunday is a 2-person am-brose, any combination. More information about the tournament is on the club's Facebook page "Donald Golf Bowls Club inc 3480".

This weekend is also the Culgoa tournament. Next week's tournament sees Royal Wycheproof take its turn in

the Kara Kara roster with golf next Friday and Saturday.

Also, keep your eye out for more information to follow about our "Chicken Run" starting in a few weeks' time on a Friday at 4.30 p.m.. From all the talk the chicken might get a good run.

Dad Jokes

I asked my friend what his three favourite things in life are? – He said eating my family and not using commas.

A truck loaded with Vicks Vapour Rub overturned on the highway the other day – amazingly there was no congestion for 8 hours.

I went to that new restaurant "Karma" the other day; there's no menu, you just get what you deserve.

The school I went to many many years ago was sponsored by Ikea – assembly took hours.



• Brad Bath getting his ducks in a row on the dam on the third fairway, in preparation for the tournament starting today and concluding on Sunday.

Netball in the Wet at Boort

(Apologies to Birchip-Watchem on inadvertently missing its report on the July 26, round 13 games).

On a freezing cold and rainy day, the Bulls took to the courts against Boort with determination and grit in tough winter conditions as their sponsors and supporters looked on from the warmth and comfort of the viewing room of the Birchip Community Leisure Centre.

GO: Wisely the Go Game was called off due to the inclement weather.

14“B”: The rain poured down and the court was slippery but that didn’t stop the teams from giving it their all.

The first quarter was a tight and low-scoring battle, with both teams adapting well to the weather. The Bulls’ defenders were solid and the shooters made the most of their opportunities, finishing the quarter locked at 2-all, a great effort in such difficult conditions.

Last week’s awards went to Stacey Bowen, who played an excellent game in Goal Attack, shooting well and moving smartly in the ring despite the weather, and to Lucy Coffey, who was outstanding in defence, applying strong pressure, taking intercepts and helping keep Boort’s shooters on their toes all game.

Well done to both Birchip-Watchem and Boort for a great game played in tough conditions.

14“A”: It was a close game between the top 2 teams, with Birchip-Watchem giving its absolute best to try and overcome the undefeated Boort.

For the first half of the game Birchip-Watchem managed to keep within a goal of Boort and no team was game to make any changes. However, in the third quarter the Bulls made some changes in the mid-court to try and get the upper hand. There was little change to the score board, though there was great communication throughout the court.

The last quarter was the most impactful on the score board with Boort making no changes to its line up during the whole game, which seemed to work in its favour. Indiana Gooding and Hayley Stringer were committed to staying on top, with their goal shooting on target and Boort managed to stretch out its lead.

The Bulls played with all they had and gave their absolute best to stop as many goals as possible with Sienna Richmond showing great positioning and change, moving from defending to shooting. Although the game was a very low scoring one, the effort put in by all on the court highlighted lots of determination and teamwork.

Boort took the win by 4 goals, defeating Birchip-Watchem 14 to 10. Awards for Birchip-Watchem: Mia Sharp & Sienna Richmond.

17 “A”: The Bulls got away to a good start, adapting well to the wet conditions, gathering an early 10 goal lead with Asha Lee and Zara Lowry getting the ball quickly into goalers Zali Angel and Beau Haslam, who shot six goals each for the quarter.

However, Boort worked hard to reduce the deficit and by the quarter-time lead it was only 3 behind with Anna Lanyon goaling accurately for the Maggies.

The visitors rotated their midfield players with Hayley Yasa coming on into C and the Bulls brought on Eva Coffey and Esther Bourke in defence and the game ebbed and flowed. Both teams made several positional changes, but the Bulls maintained the upper hand and stretched out their lead as the game progressed, winning 40 to 30. Birchip-Watchem awards went to Gracie Ferrier and Eva Coffey.

“C”-Res: The Birchip-Watchem team put up a valiant effort against Boort, but ultimately fell short, losing in a challenging match. With the weather being wet and cold the Bulls found it difficult to find their footing in the first quarter, allowing Boort to build a significant lead.

The defence was strong in the second half of the game with Zoe Wilson in goal keeper and Amy McEachern in goal defence standing strong, to intercept the ball but the Bulls couldn’t close the gap and Boort ran away with the game defeating Birchip-Watchem 50 to 7.

The Bulls will analyse their performance and work on their weaknesses to bounce back this week against St Arnaud and prepare for their finals campaign. Award winners were Cassie Tynan and Amir McEachern.

“C” Grade: Birchip-Watchem and Boort both fought hard in a close “C” grade game that could play a big part in the final four. The match remained tight throughout with scores level at half time and again at the end of the third quarter, when a light rain began to fall. Hannah Wilson was tireless in centre, keeping the momentum going for Birchip-Watchem and Meg Greenaway



• Under-17 netball Birchip-Watchem’s Beau Haslam looks for her team mate Gracie Ferrier, Boort players looking to intercept are from left, Laci Streader, Hayley Yasa, and Eliana Haw.



• Boort’s Carly Isaac leaps to receive the ball, following closely are Birchip-Watchem’s Romi Miller and Boort’s Sophie Perryman and Grace Hosking.

and Immy Boyle combined well in goals.

Ellie Kenna and Maddy worked hard through the mid-court, and in defence Steph Coffey and Ash Tierney applied strong defensive pressure, but despite the effort, they fell just two goals short, being defeated 33 to 35 and now sit four points out of the four behind Boort, but the Bulls do have a good run home. Awards went to Immy Boyle and Ashlee Tierney.

“B” Grade: The first quarter started with a cool and calm Birchip-Watchem working through its game plan. Jenna Angel was a prominent target in GS and when the ball was placed into her hands by midcourters Sammi Mitchell and Tylah Haslam; she didn’t miss. At the other end of the court, Boort shooters Tayla Gooding and Britney Sykes were also accurate, and at the first break the score was 12-7, Birchip-Watchem’s way.

Second quarter began with both teams playing the starting 7. Boort’s Phoebe Malone worked hard in the defensive ring all game, taking numerous intercepts where she could. Birchip-Watchem’s midcourt was still moving the ball down into attack, but Boort’s Bridie Doyle was relentless throughout the midcourt making Birchip-Watchem work harder to deliver the ball into the goal ring. At half-time Birchip-Watchem had maintained its lead with scores 26-17.

Defensive duo Stacey Hamilton and Meghan Noonan used their height and tight pressure to contain Boort’s shooting attempts and never released their pressure throughout the whole game, Toni Jones was using her speed to work the ball up the court and was finding good position in the goal ring alongside Jenna Angel, who took numerous rebounds under the post. Heading into

the fourth quarter Birchip-Watchem led 41-21.

Sophie Parfrey had been strong in defence all day and some key intercepts from her throughout the game ensured Birchip-Watchem’s lead was increased. At the final siren the Bulls ran out victorious, 55-32. Birchip-Watchem awards went to Jenna Angel and Toni Jones.

“A” Grade: The rain looked like it would hold off for the last game of the day, but the cold breeze was there to stay.

Boort was a commanding presence from the first whistle, determined to get a win and stay in touch with second spot and the coveted double chance come finals.

Birchip-Watchem executed some great passages of play down the court with Suberia Sailor and McKenzie Ryan finding space and dictating court structure in the midfield, but Boort’s height at both

ends of the court was proving difficult for the Bulls.

Steph Wilson dominated the air space in Boort’s goal ring and Roxy Train and Georgia Haw the defensive rebounds. Although a change that saw Bulls’ reliable and tall shooter Zali Angel move into defence midway through the game, enabling the Bulls to collect more rebounds and apply more pressure at the high ball. Ultimately it would turn out to be a frustrating day at the office for the girls in purple.

The Bulls weren’t able to win any of the 50 50 balls and struggled to claw back the deficit against the odds that were quickly stacking against them. The Magpies got a run on and did not slow down until the final whistle, pushing the score line out to a convincing 62 to 38 goal win. Bulls awards went to Zali Angel and Khianna Brooks.

Awards were sponsored by O’Connors.



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Troy's Eighth, Naomi's First: Charlton Badminton Championships

On Wednesday, July 30, seventeen players contested the Charlton Badminton Club singles championships in two grades of men and one grade of ladies.

In the men's "A" grade, Troy Heenan made it singles championship number eight by winning all of his five matches, including the final against Thomas Bibin 25-14. Thomas was successful in his other four matches. Lachlan Holmes-Brown and Soni Easo finished with two wins each, while Seb Zagame and Brian Heenan each secured one win for the night.

In the ladies "A" grade, Naomi Fitzpatrick successfully won her first club singles championship title by winning all her five matches, including against runner-up, Sandra Fanning 25-17. Sandra's only loss for the night was against Naomi. Brooke Thompson had three wins, Claudia Lee finished with two, Lara Thompson, one, and Lauren Riley, although winless, had two very close matches.

The men's "B" grade championship was hotly

contested between five players. Lachlan Start and Leigh Van Boven each had three wins, Lachlan defeated Leigh 25-21 in the round robin, but the title went to Leigh with a better percentage on the night. Ethan Soulsby and Mat Thompson both finished the night with two wins apiece and Jordan Start, although not cracking a win for the night, had four very close matches.

The mixed doubles championships will be played on Wednesday, August 20, and the club dinner is to be held on Wednesday, September, 10.

Ladies' Tournament

On Friday, July 25, ladies gathered from Geelong, Macedon, Ballarat, Bendigo, Horsham, St Arnaud, Boort and Charlton for the Annual Ladies' Badminton Tournament.

There were 36 ladies playing in five different sections and competition was strong all day



• The stadium was full of activity at the Ladies Tournament.

long, Good sportsmanship and fellowship was experienced from all those present.

Winners were:

Section 1: Maxine Andrews (Ballarat). R/up Morgan Crisp (Charlton). Section 2: Mikaylah Crisp (Charlton). R/up Ilona Moore (Ballarat). Section 3: Karen Lopaz (Geelong). R/up Shirley McDonald (Boort). Section 4: Norbil Binti Abuil Jalil (Horsham). R/up Courtney Paterson (Ballarat). Section 5: Noime Powell (Horsham). R/up Joan Velthuis (Horsham).

Many thanks to the sponsors – East Charlton Hotel, Charlton Pharmacy, Charlton Newsagency, IGA, Steels Butchers.

The club also thanks members who supplied food for



• 2025 Singles Championships: left to right, Sandra Fanning, Naomi Fitzpatrick, Troy Heenan, Leigh Van Boven, Thomas Bibin and Lachlan Start.

lunch, and Marj and Marea for their help in the kitchen.

If anyone is interested in

playing ladies badminton, it is on Friday mornings at 9o'clock in the Stadium at the

Charlton College; small children are most welcome and will be looked after.

Saints Outplay Bulls Reserves

Birchip-Watchem reserves took on St Arnaud at Lord Nelson Park last Saturday.

Leading into the game, Birchip-Watchem sat in third position on the N-C.F.L. ladder with a finals spot secured.

St Arnaud was in fifth position with five wins and although finals were a mathematical possibility, the Saints were essentially playing for pride. As the match unfolded it was clear that whatever motivation was driving St Arnaud it outweighed whatever was driving Birchip-Watchem.

The first quarter suggested an evenly matched contest beckoned, with the two teams going goal for goal. In ideal conditions, brothers Ty Colbert and Bodie Colbert were in their element for Birchip-Watchem. The brothers' clean skills and speed helped give the Bulls plenty of early chances and they capitalised with goals to Lochy Sirett and Callum Goode.

St Arnaud midfielders Ben Greenaway and Jacob Tillig were instrumental in their team's fortunes, ensuring the Saints narrowly won the clearance battle. St Arnaud outdid the Bulls by kicking three goals for the quarter courtesy of Joshua Hicks, Torin Petrie and Hayden

Torney and led by three points at quarter-time.

The second quarter was a strong one for the home team. Jake Male, a regular in the Saints' senior line-up, was relegated to the reserves team for the first time since 2021. The tall and athletic Male played in the ruck and played an excellent game, often giving his midfielders first use. Hicks, Petrie and Torney provided a potent three-pronged attack for the Saints and helped their team to another four goals for the term.

The Bulls provided some resistance with goals from Sirett and Ty Colbert, but it was St Arnaud holding sway with a 17-point lead at half time.

The situation looked ominous for Birchip-Watchem and while they managed some pleasing passages of play they couldn't make any meaningful dents in St Arnaud's lead. Saints' veterans Heath McNally and Luke Ezard were supreme in the backline for the home team, ensuring that the Bulls had difficulty earning forward fifty entries and when they did it was frequently rebounded.

Lochy Sirett managed the Bulls' only goal for the third quarter, but frustratingly, the Bulls also scored four behinds. To the Bulls' credit they also restricted St Arnaud's scoring somewhat, but the Saints took their opportunities. Two goals for the quarter saw their lead push out to 20 points at the final change.

Just prior to the three-quarter-time siren, a melee broke out with numerous players from both teams involved in the fray. Bulls' forward Alex Hay received a yellow card for his involvement, meaning the Bulls would be a man down for much of the last quarter as they tried to reverse their fortunes.

The Bulls brought good energy into the start of the last quarter, with George Addis competing manfully to quell Jake Male's influence in the ruck. The Colbert brothers continued to contribute well, while the youth and fitness of Connor Lee and Connor Boyle allowed them to cause their opponent some headaches.

Goals to Callum Goode and Joshua Woods reduced the deficit to single figures, but St Arnaud was not done with yet. Goals to Riley Burke and Torin Petrie extinguished Birchip-Watchem's chances and the Saints' players were cock-a-hoop. Brady Paley kicked a neat goal from a tight angle to finish the game for the Bulls, but the damage had been done. St Arnaud finished the day victorious by 19 points.



• Birchip-Watchem's Bodie Colbert lays a tackle on Ben Greenaway. Photos by Blake Lee.



• The Bulls' Ty Colbert looks to run through the middle as Beau Knight and Ben Greenaway apply pressure.

Final score: St Arnaud 11.10(76) defeated Birchip-Watchem 8.9(57).

Best for St Arnaud: Jake Male, Ben Greenaway, Heath

McNally, George Gorrie, Luke Ezard, Hayden Torney.

For Birchip-Watchem: Ty Colbert (O'Connors), Bodie Colbert (YBS), George Addis

(Mick Foott Livestock & Grain Haulage), Connor Lee (Donnellon's Bulk Haulage), Connor Boyle (Nutrien Ag), Matthew Rickard (Ryan Commodities).

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Saints Too Strong for Young Bulls

Under-17s

Under an unseasonably bright and sunny sky in St Arnaud, the local Saints proved far too strong for a depleted Birchip-Watchem Bulls outfit, recording a comprehensive 12.17 (89) to 6.0 (36) victory in front of a spirited crowd.

With the Bulls light on for numbers, they received six top-up players from the Saints to help fill the side. Despite the imbalance, the game began with plenty of competitive spirit from both camps.

It was the Saints who struck first, with Declan Kay breaking the deadlock just four minutes into the first term, slotting a confident set shot to get the home side on the board. The Bulls found their moment late in the quarter, when Jack McAuliffe pounced on a loose ball and snapped truly two minutes before the siren to register their first.

At quarter-time, St Arnaud held sway with 3.7 (25) to Birchip-Watchem's 1.0 (6), their inaccuracy keeping the Bulls within arm's reach.

The Saints found their rhythm in the second quarter, with Chase Zander kicking truly five minutes in to stretch the margin. Despite the defensive efforts of Noah Dean and Koby Hamilton, who battled valiantly in the back half for the Bulls, St Arnaud added another three majors to head into the main break with a commanding lead: 7.12 (54) to 1.0 (6).

Birchip-Watchem opened the third quarter with promise, as Ollie Cook launched a long bomb from 50 that dropped short but was brilliantly marked by Jack Knights, who made no mistake with the finish. However, St Arnaud responded immediately through Rylan Leech, reasserting its dominance.

Two more goals from the Saints pushed the margin further before the Bulls were able to reply with a much-needed major. By the final break, the Saints had surged to 11.17 (83), while the Bulls sat at 3.0 (18).

The Bulls started the final quarter with renewed energy, as Cook got reward for effort with his first goal. Charlie Baldwin, one of the Saints helping fill the Bulls' ranks,



• Bayley Kemp reaches to apply pressure on St Arnaud's Aidan Whickham. —Photos Blake Lee.

followed up with a classy finish of his own.

With five minutes remaining, St Arnaud's Jack Batters took a strong mark directly in front and slotted the Saints' twelfth goal. But the Bulls weren't done yet, Finn Green, another Saint stepping up for Birchip-Watchem, answered at the other end, and Frankie Donald added one more for the Bulls before the final siren.

Final scores: St Arnaud 12.17 (89) def. Birchip-Watchem 6.0 (36).

Best for the Bulls: Ollie Cook, Noah Dean, Jack Knights, and Cameron Jones. For St Arnaud: Chase Zander, Archer Reyne, Frankie Donald, Aidan Wickham, Rylan Leach

Under-14s

Ladder leader St Arnaud proved far too strong for a developing Birchip-Watchem outfit in their most recent clash as they kicked a massive score, on the expansive St Arnaud field.

The opening quarter saw the play swing back and forth, but it was the Saints who hit the scoreboard first with a behind, setting the scene for their errant kicking, but they quickly capitalised on early opportunities to kick two majors. Birchip-Watchem fought hard but couldn't register a score, as the Saints took a 3.2 (20) to 0.0 (0) lead into quarter-time.

The second quarter continued in a similar fashion. St Arnaud added another two goals and five behinds, despite strong defensive efforts

and multiple smotherers by the Bulls, particularly from Eli Dean and Archie Tyler. At the main break, they had begun to build a commanding lead: 5.9 (39) to 0.0 (0).

The third term saw the Bulls continue to apply pressure, rewarded briefly with a free kick following a great tackle. However, they struggled to break through the Saints' structured defence and St Arnaud extended its lead with a further three goals and two behinds, while Birchip-Watchem remained scoreless going into the final change.

In the last quarter, the Bulls dug deep and showed resilience, finally breaking through for their first and only score, albeit a behind, after a strong passage of play and a push into the forward line. Meanwhile, the Saints added another three goals and four behinds to close out the game 11.15 (81) to Birchip-Watchem 0.1 (1).

The Saints showcased their depth with seven individual goal scorers, including multiple goals from Finn Wilson (3), Duncan Kirk (2) and Chase Hendy (2). Despite the impressive scoreboard pressure, they'll be looking to straighten up in the lead up to the final series.

Best for St Arnaud: Finn Wilson, Samuel Greenaway, Patrick Zsigmond, Isaac Johns, Spencer Kay, Sami Weir.

Best for Birchip-Watchem: Archie Tyler, Toby Kemp, Eli Dean, Indya-Rose Atkinson.



• Ollie Cook handballs to Toby Kemp under pressure from Chase Zander.



• Lewis Lowe is under pressure from Michael Darby.

Junior Hockey at St Arnaud: One Win Each

On a lovely day and a lovely St Arnaud field, the hockey players shared one convincing win each in the junior grades and two fun games of minkey.

Underage

Second placed St Arnaud showcased its attacking firepower with a dominant 9-0 victory over Birchip-Watchem.

The first half saw relentless pressure from the home side, with numerous short corners testing Birchip-Watchem's defence. Despite the onslaught, Birchip-Watchem's backline, anchored by Max Field, worked tirelessly to shut down set plays and limit scoring opportunities. St Arnaud took a 5-0 lead into half-time, but it was a scoreline that didn't fully reflect the Bulls' effort and defensive pressure.

After the break, St Arnaud continued to dominate possession and added four more goals, sealing a convincing win. But Birchip-Watchem never gave up, with Lana Angel and Frankie McClelland continuing to push forward with determination, creating attacking chances and showing real intent in transition. In defence, goalie Shaylee Field put in a courageous performance under heavy fire, making a number of important saves. However, it was tough to stop the onslaught, particularly from Lewis Lowe who slotted an impressive five goals, leading a well-structured forward line.

Birchip-Watchem's teamwork and improved structure were evident, led by Willow Ryan and Des Coffey in the

midfield, consistently challenging St Arnaud's defence and linking play. Despite the defeat, Birchip-Watchem's skills and cohesion continue to improve each week, and their commitment across the field was clear to see. Awards Willow Ryan (Fiona Best & Lobe Candy) and Des Coffey (TMC Enviro).

Under-12s

The first half of the match started with impressive teamwork from the Bulls, as Addi Hamilton opened the scoring after a perfectly timed pass from Denley Tyler. The second goal came from a well-rehearsed short corner, with Oscar Sharp and Denley Tyler combining to find the back of the goals. Another followed shortly after, again from a short corner where Des managed to push the ball past the St Arnaud goalkeeper, who had shown great defence throughout the match.

Goals were coming thick and fast, as Oscar Sharp capitalised on the pressure from the defensive "wall" setup, breaking through and finishing off the play. Grace McAuliffe was a defensive rock, consistently keeping the opposition at bay with key intercepts and clearances.

The second half saw some strong individual performances with Jakoby Saggars showing his defensive strength by stopping a sure goal with his quick reactions.

Zayvier Saggars also made a crucial save to keep the ball from going through, but St Arnaud managed to score with a well-placed ball that looped over Zayvier's head.

The Bulls responded with another goal as a result of Lucy Coffey and Grace McAuliffe's continued dominance in defence. Sammy Ferrier created multiple attacking opportunities and River Ryan worked tirelessly to create space and options for the team. His efforts earned him the first award for the match. Ryan Goss also had an outstanding performance, making numerous key tackles and earning the second award for his unwavering support and defensive work.

Coach Tim McClelland was particularly impressed with how the team executed set plays and short corners, which proved to be effective and well co-ordinated throughout the game.

Overall, a fantastic team effort, with everyone contributing to a solid and well-deserved 5-1 victory!

Minkeys

The Minkey games continue to allow the younger players a chance to develop a wide range of physical, social, and cognitive skills in a fun and low pressure environment. The awards went to Savannah Ryan (Bulls' canteen), and Bridget McAuliffe (Troy & Brooke Morris).



• Matilda Kirk blocks Oscar Sharp in his pursuit towards goal.

Bulls and Saints Share Netball Spoils

Birchip-Watchem and St Arnaud netballers shared the spoils on St Arnaud’s home courts on a glorious Saturday for winter sport.

GO: Birchip-Watchem recruited some grade ones for the bench as they had the bare seven that had travelled to St Arnaud. Thanks to Imogen ad Lucy Noonan for helping out. Both took to the court throughout the game as there was an injury in the warm up.

The Saints and Bulls had a good tussle with both sides playing well. Birchip-Watchem awards: Ava Boyle whose determination never let up and Amelia Baker who must have taken a netball away on holidays with her because she was on fire. The statisticians lost count on how many intercepts these two got between them. Well done also to Ada Bourke who stepped up and did a great job as coach while Lauren was away.

14“B”: Under-14“B” were tested all game as St Arnaud was playing well all over the court, ending the game with a 13 – 9 win. Birchip-Watchem awards went to Lucy Coffey and Tilly Hogan.

14“A”: After the 14“B” and under-17 teams had played, the 14“A” teams were ready and pumped to play. Throughout the game Birchip-Watchem Bulls was leading but at some stages throughout the game, St Arnaud fought back and the scores were close. As the game progressed with flow and intensity the Bulls edged

further ahead and by game’s end they recorded a 38-11 win. The awards for the Bulls were Grace McAuliffe and second award was given to Mia Sharp.

17“A”: The Bulls got off to a flying start in the first quarter, with Zali Angel and Beau Haslam on fire in the goal circle collectively scoring 18 goals in the opening term, giving their team a solid early lead and setting the tone for what looked like a dominant game.

But credit to the Saints – they weren’t going to let it slip away that easily. In the second and third quarters, they turned things around, working hard through the midcourt and making the most of their chances in attack. By three-quarter time, the Saints had not only caught up but were actually in front.

Heading into the final quarter, the Bulls made some key changes. Lana Angel stepped into Goal Shooter and Zali Angel back into Goal Keeper. Zali linked up brilliantly, with Eva Coffey and Esther Bourke in defence the trio working hard to shut down the Saints scoring and win back the ball at crucial moments. That defensive pressure paid off, and the Bulls managed to sling the momentum back in their favour. They stayed com-

posed in the final minutes and managed to edge out the Saints by just three goals, 51 to 48 in an absolute nail-biter. Awards went to Eva Coffey and Zali Angel.

“C”-Reserve: Both sides came out firing and Birchip-Watchem defenders, Emily Barber and Amy McEachern, made St Arnaud goalies, Georgie Wander and Emily Hilton work hard to score. Birchip-Watchem’s Kimberly Phelan’s speed through the attacking end granted Birchip-Watchem the first goal. Changes were made throughout the game forcing both sides to work hard to score. A few turnovers from the Bulls gave them a 12-goal lead at half-time.

St Arnaud put the challenge to the Bulls and they responded, being the stronger side on the day, winning 31 to 21. Awards for Birchip-Watchem: Emily Barber and Kimberley Phelan.

“C” Grade: It was a tough loss for the Bulls “C” girls who were missing a few players and the results most likely put paid to their 2025 finals aspirations. The Bulls had some good passages of play and were close for some of the game, but they just couldn’t break the Saints momentum often enough and were defeated 47 to 33.

Keira Lowry got the first award for directing play down the court and the second award for Birchip-Watchem went to Asha Lee as she gave every position she played 110%.

“B” Grade: The Bulls had a convincing 67-50 win in the “B” Grade in the battle between the 4th and 5th placed teams, which gives them a guaranteed place in the finals, enabling them to solidify their team structure and game plan in the remaining two weeks of the home-and-away season. Award winners were Toni Jones and Stacey Hamilton.

“A” Grade: Birchip-Watchem’s “A” grade netball team produced a dominant four-quarter performance to overcome a spirited St Arnaud side in sunny conditions. With sharp ball movement and defensive pressure across the court, the Bulls led at every break; 19-6, 30-15, 43-29, before closing out the match with an emphatic 62–36 win.

The game featured an exciting showdown between two tall young goalers, Zali Angel for the Bulls and Chloe Needs for the Saints. Both shooters displayed strong form under the post, converting with confidence and composure. However, it was the Bulls who gained the upper hand by winning more of the ball through the defensive prowess of Romi Miller and Cheyenne Parsons. Their ability to create turnovers and disrupt St Arnaud’s attacking flow proved crucial in maintaining momentum throughout the match.

St Arnaud’s defensive duo, Ava Wilson and Aleshia

Petrie, worked tirelessly in the circle to contain Birchip-Watchem’s attacking speed. Despite their efforts, the Bulls’ relentless transition and quick ball movement into their goal third proved too much to consistently hold back.

The Saints found their rhythm in the third quarter, their strongest term after introducing Millie Hando into goal attack. Her movement and connection with Needs added variety to St Arnaud’s shooting circle, momentarily unsettling the Bulls’ defence. However, after adjusting to the change, Birchip-Watchem regained control and finished the game strongly.

Award winners for the Bulls were Romi Miller and Cheyenne Parsons, both recognised for their defensive intensity and ability to turn possession into attacking opportunities.

This week’s awards were sponsored by Wimmera Mallee Accounting.



• Ava Wilson and Zali Angel compete for the rebound as Rebecca McKenny watches on.



• Millie Hando attempts to defend the pass to Birchip-Watchem’s Cassie Tynan.

Down the Middle?

Only 6 ladies played completed the 9 holes on Wednesday. Refreshed from holidays, Jo Beavis was the winner with a score of 18.

Nearest the Pins went to Beris Jones on Donald Auto Electricals’ 3rd, Jo Beavis on Weir’s IGA 7th.

Donald Tournament this week: Friday, Men’s and Women’s 4BBB; Saturday, Men’s 27 holes. 18 holes women Sunday, 2 person Ambrose.

Friday, August 22nd, 9 hole, Chicken Run – tee off 4.30 p.m. bar open.

Everyone welcome, including beginners.

Ladies, names to Kerry Raven.

Highlights and Lowlights

Jo and Ev didn’t want to talk about their swishes! So we won’t mention it.

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

Sting in the Tail from Redbacks

• **Continued from page 16.** Their appointment provides a positive focus for the young playing group which has been decimated by injuries this season.

Tomorrow the Saints host Boort, hoping to add to the Magpies’ recent run of losses, but it will take the very best current coach Scott Driscoll can extract from his charges.

Boort faces a race against time to turn its fortunes around, in readiness for a cut-throat first semi-final appearance.

The Magpies must win at least one of their remaining games, against the Saints or Charlton, and should win both.

With players of the calibre of Jhye Baddeley-Kelly, Keiren Wilson, Jayden Dick and Tom Potter at his disposal, coach Dale Cameron will be looking for his midfielders to fire up very early in tomorrow’s contest at Lord Nelson Park.

But if Durward, Schilder, Kurt Torney and Jay Kirwood can get off to a flyer, anything is possible.

Correction: In previous information in regard to the number of North-Central foot-ballers to have kicked 100 goals or more in a home-and-away season, several footballers were inadvertently overlooked from seasons where more than one player achieved that feat.

The following is a list of the nineteen times 100 or more goals have been kicked in North-Central home-and-away seasons and the years: 1967: Greg Kennedy (Wyche-proof-Narraport) 113. 1977: Warren Coles (Wyche-proof-Narraport) 103. 1980: Alan Jackson (Wedderburn) 132. 1983: Greg Anderson (Wyche-proof-Narraport) 107. 1985: Tony Doran (Birchip) 108.

1985: Tony Ryan (Birchip) 100. 1992: Paul Morgan (Donald) 123. 1992: Shaun McCormick (Wedderburn) 109. 1992: Luke Taylor (Wyche-proof-Narraport) 100. 1995: Paul Morgan (Donald) 112. 1998: Bruce Hando (St. Arnaud) 117. 2000: Kristian Shevlin (Wedderburn) 102. 2001 Kristian Shevlin (Wedderburn) 118. 2001: Phil Bramley (Charlton) 108. 2003: Phil Bramley (Charlton) 103. 2006: Cliff Ryan (Birchip-Watchem) 114. 2008: Mark Perryman (Boort) 109. 2008: Darren Stenhouse (Wedderburn) 108. 2025: Ben Edwards (Birchip-Watchem) 105+.

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Sting in the Tail from Redbacks

(By Shane O'Shea)

Wedderburn might have misjudged its run to North-Central finals action, but the Redbacks can exert a significant influence on the finishing order of the top four, with third-placed Sea Lake-Nandaly firmly in their sights tomorrow.

The Tigers must win if they are to have any chance of overtaking second placed Calder United to secure a "double chance" in the forthcoming finals. A loss tomorrow will restrict Sea Lake-Nandaly to a first semi-final showdown against Boort.

The clash at Sea Lake between the Tigers and Redbacks is the only game of any potential consequence in round 15, the second-last of the home-and-away series, with the results of the other three likely to be very predictable.

After a confidence building thrashing of Donald in round 13, Wedderburn added more bite to its game against the finals-bound Boort, and inflicted the Magpies' fourth successive loss.

Just one more positive result for coach Tom Metherall and his Redback charges earlier in the season would have seen them pressing hard for a finals berth. And while it is still mathematically possible for them to displace Boort, they are now relying on either St. Arnaud or Charlton to cause an upset against the Magpies.

For Wedderburn to keep its season alive, it must defeat

Sea Lake-Nandaly, on the vast expanses of the Tigers' home turf.

The return from injury of Lachy McClelland has strengthened the Tigers' attack, McClelland working in tandem with Max Cahoon to boot a combined 18 goals against a luckless Donald.

And with Kane Donnan and Cooper Roberts strengthening its defence, Sea Lake-Nandaly is getting back to something like its strongest line-up, and a combination that will really test Wedderburn's mettle.

Being able to match the Tigers' goal kicking output might prove to be the Redbacks' Achilles heel, although Jye Mortlock has stepped up in recent weeks to take some of the pressure off Mitch Jensen.

For Wedderburn to get the better of its hosts, consistent performers the McEwen brothers, Jackson and Mitch, Darcy Jackson and Zach Pallpratt, are going to need the unrelenting support of all around them.

This close to the finals, and needing to keep winning to improve its position, Sea

Lake-Nandaly will be almost impossible to beat.

No Respite for Royal Blues

Donald is in the middle of taking on the competition's top three, in what is the toughest run to season's end for any North-Central team.

Tomorrow, the Royal Blues host Calder United, which will be focused on winning by the biggest margin possible, to bridge the percentage game that separates it from Sea Lake-Nandaly.

The current form of Feeny Medal contenders Steve Kennedy and Zane Keighran, together with the goal kicking of Jack Excell, and the strong midfield work of Koby Hommelhoff and George Turner, has the Lions well placed to press deep into the finals.

And the possible return tomorrow of ruckman Dean Putt, Dale Pearce and Jack Marlis will add to the seemingly insurmountable challenges that await an undermanned Donald.

Coach Daniel Pearce and his fellow defenders, including Dyson Bell-Warren, Charlie Campbell and Harry Forrest, have shown resilience against all opposition, but



• During Round 13, Wedderburn's Oscar Holt struggles to hold the mark from the spoil pressure of Donald's Nick Atkins. On the ground are Donald's Callum Van Den Driest and Wedderburn's Jye Mortlock.

sheer weight of opportunities being directed to the advantage of their opponents eventually erodes even their steadfast resistance.

Charlton to Feel the Heat

Birchip-Watchem ticked off one major achievement last Saturday, when full-forward Ben Edwards registered his 100th. goal of the season, but that personal milestone pales in comparison to the team goal that the Bulls are desperate to achieve.

Premiership glory has eluded the Bulls in recent times, and this season, they are undefeated and destined to have a major say on who holds aloft the Halfhide Premiership Cup on grand final day.

Birchip-Watchem should have few problems overcoming Charlton tomorrow, to maintain its current winning streak, with Edwards, the Rippon brothers, Dale Hinkley and big ruckman Hamish Hosking all capable of dominating proceedings.

Charlton coach Mitch Collins continues to lead by example, and is receiving strong support from the likes of Rhys Thompson, Patrick Soulsby and Mason Heenan, but the Navy Blues lack the depth of overall team talent to really test their opponents and cause an upset.

• Congratulations to two long serving Charlton footballers, Aaron Walklate and Anthony Judd, both of whom were recognised for their loyalty and leadership by having

Life Membership bestowed on them last weekend, during a club reunion.

Saints Strike Early Blow

St. Arnaud is getting in early for next season with the appointment of talented local Harley Durward and recent recruit Darby Schilder as joint coaches for 2026.

Harley Durward has played over 260 games with the Saints, mainly as a key defender.

Darby Schilder joined the Saints this season from Melton South in the Ballarat FL, and prior to that played with Modewarre. He also played three games with the Geelong Cats VFL team.

• Continued on page 15.

GOLDACRES NORTH CENTRAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

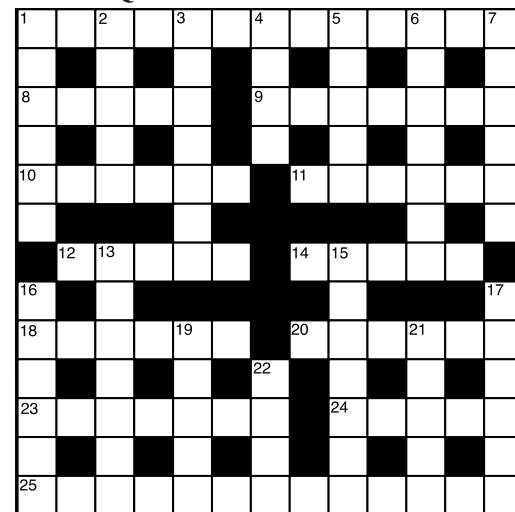
ROUND 15

SATURDAY AUGUST 9TH, 2025

SEA LAKE NANDALY TIGERS	VS	WEDDERBURN REDBACKS
SEA LAKE COMMUNITY COMPLEX		
DONALD ROYAL BLUES	VS	CALDER UNITED LIONS
GOFF LETTS OVAL		
CHARLTON NAVIES	VS	BIRCHIP-WATCHEM BULLS
CHARLTON PARK		
ST ARNAUD SAINTS	VS	BOORT MAGPIES
LORD NELSON PARK		

"Times" Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8188



ACROSS

- Mismanage (13)
- Shifts (5)
- Upper limit (7)
- Metal (6)
- Strain (6)
- Friendship (5)
- Spy (5)
- Stop (6)
- Lithe (6)
- Free time (7)
- Suave (5)
- Pleasure-boat (6-7)

DOWN

- Plant (6)
- Flat (5)
- Course (7)
- Yearn (4)
- Fool (5)
- Instruction (7)
- Rough (6)
- Wed (7)
- Complain (7)
- Thump (6)
- Sore (6)
- Paddle (5)
- Hymn (5)
- Street (4)

• Solution next issue.