

**DONALD**

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# The Buloke Times

Est. 1875

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Published Tuesdays and Fridays

PP331336/0000 1

Friday, July 11, 2025

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

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

## BCG's Ag Tech Expo Coming to Charlton: Looking Ahead to "200 More Seasons"

From the green revolution after WWII to GPS-guided tractors and today's explosion of sensors, satellites and AI, agriculture has undergone significant technological transformations at key points in time.

What began as mechanical innovation has evolved into a data-driven revolution – reshaping how farmers grow, manage, and make decisions on the land.

The BCG Ag Tech Expo at Charlton Park on Wednesday, July 16, will open with a keynote that captures this evolution, and looks ahead to what the next 200 seasons could hold for Australian agriculture.

### Guest Speaker

Hamish Munro, co-founder and CEO of Pairtree Intelligence, is from Orange in New South Wales and is the first guest presenter on the agenda with "200 More Seasons" a thought-provoking session that explores how far farming has come and why data, and the stories it tells, will define the farmers of the future.

"We've come through Ag 2.0, the post-war green revolution, through to Ag 3.0 and

4.0, where GPS, sensors, robotics and AI have entered the scene," Munro said. "But if we want technology to work for us in the future, we need to feed it the right information now."

### Experience

Drawing on his own experience as a fifth-generation farmer and tech entrepreneur, Mr. Munro will explore why data matters – not just for today's decisions, but for the next 200 seasons.

"Just like we've inherited the decisions made by our parents and grandparents, the next generation will inherit ours," he said. "The quality of the data we collect now will shape the tools they use to grow food, manage risk, and adapt to climate and market change."

### Keynote

The keynote sets the tone for a day of practical, farmer-first conversations around automation, sensors, remote

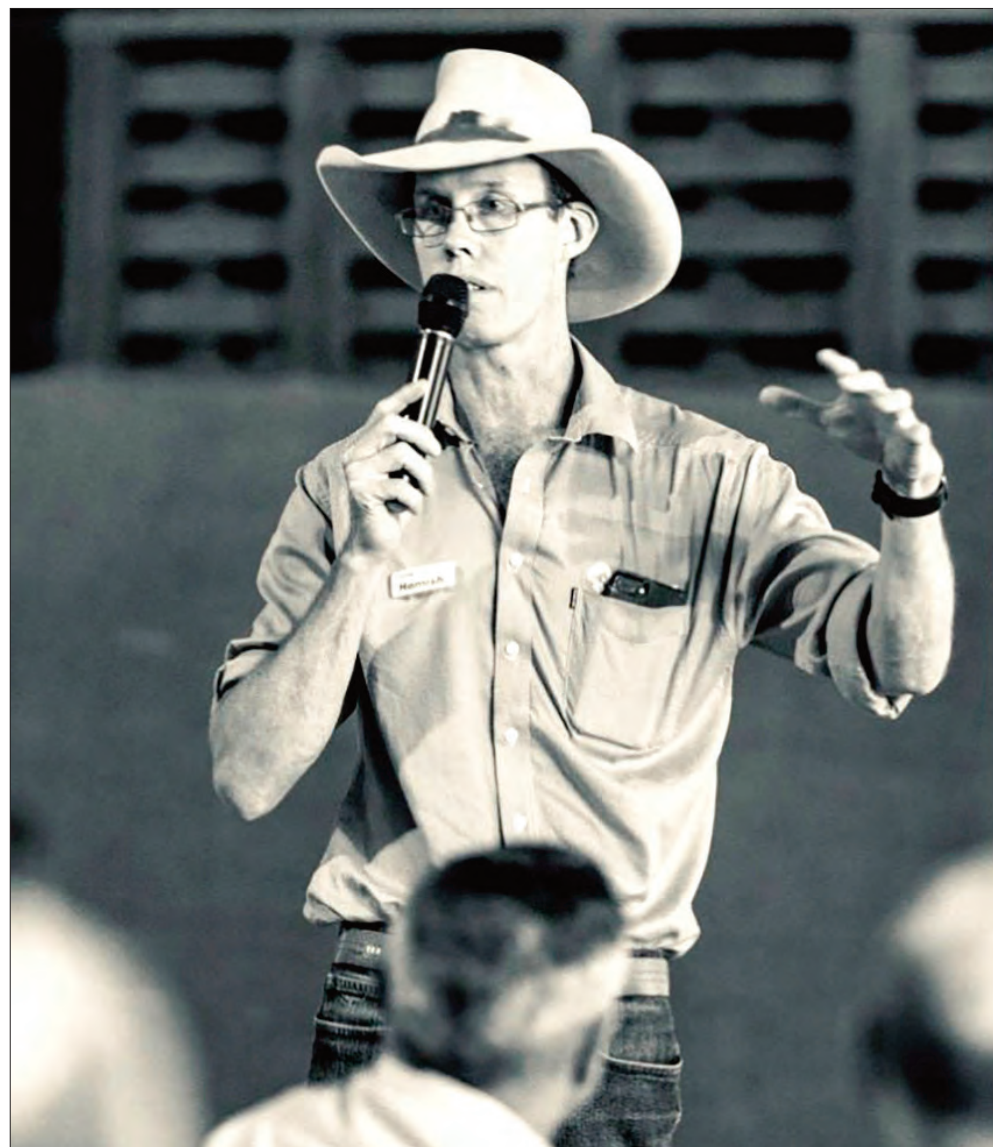
management, livestock technologies and innovative approaches to weed control.

BCG Communications Officer and Expo co-ordinator Jess Bidstrup said Mr. Munro's message resonates with growers across the Wimmera and Mallee.

"Hamish reminds us that this isn't just about the latest tech – it's about combining our lived experience with quality data to build a stronger future. When we connect tradition with innovation, we create a legacy that helps the next generation farm smarter, not harder."

### July 16

The BCG Ag Tech Expo will be held on Wednesday, July 16, 8.30 a.m.–3 p.m. at Charlton Park. Entry is free and open to all members of the farming community. Attendees are encouraged to register on the BCG website. For more information or to register, visit [www.bcg.org.au](http://www.bcg.org.au).



• Hamish Munro is a fifth-generation farmer from Orange, NSW and will explore why data matters – not just for today's decisions, but for the next 200 seasons.

## New Tourism Campaign Calls on Locals: "YOU" are the Reason



• Penny Penfold is the face of the Western Grampians campaign. Donald residents will recognise Penny as the manager of the Donald and District Race Club.

A new campaign is calling on locals across the Grampians and Wimmera Mallee to help support the region's bushfire recovery by doing something simple but powerful – inviting their friends and family to visit.

Launched on July 6, the YOU campaign reminds locals that, sometimes, the most impactful thing you can do is extend a personal invitation. A long-overdue catch up with a friend from the city, a cousin from interstate, or a mate in need of a weekend away. People are more likely to travel when there's someone waiting to welcome them. And that someone is YOU.

The campaign highlights the Visiting Friends and Relatives market, one of the strongest and most reliable drivers of regional tourism. These visitors often come midweek, stay longer and engage more with our local cafés, shops, cellar doors and attractions. While many are hosted by locals, many book accommodation, especially when travelling in groups or for longer stays.

### Simple Message

"Recovery doesn't always come from big gestures. Sometimes, it starts with a simple message. Come stay with us!" said Marc Sleeman, CEO of Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism.

"When friends and family visit, they don't just see the sights. They support small businesses, help sustain local jobs and bring energy back into our regional communities."

This important initiative is made possible thanks to the strong support and investment of local governments across the Grampians and Wimmera Mallee. Their funding of this campaign demonstrates real leadership and a shared commitment to helping communities bounce back – backing local businesses, protecting local jobs and ensuring the region continues to thrive.

### Local Legends

At the heart of the campaign is a group of local legends, whose familiar faces and vital local insight are helping to spread this message through posters, postcards, digital and social media content. A short survey will also run alongside the campaign, helping build a better understanding of this important visitor group.

With many businesses still feeling the long tail of recovery and asking, "What can we do?" The answer might be as simple as opening your door and proudly showing off the place you call home.

Locals can visit [www.visitgrampians.com.au/YOU](http://www.visitgrampians.com.au/YOU) to explore the ready-made itineraries from the campaign's local legends, find deals to share with friends and family, and access easy-to-use invitation templates to help get the word out.



# Buloke CEO Resigns

**Buloke Shire Council Chief Executive Officer Wayne O’Toole has this week announced his resignation.**

Mr O’Toole has accepted a position in the not-for-profit sector, where his operational expertise, balance of corporate acumen and community focus will continue to serve the broader Victorian community.

Appointed CEO in January 2022, Mr O’Toole brought a steady hand to the role, having served in other senior positions since joining the organisation in 2017.

This included Director of Works and Technical Services, where he was instrumental in delivering critical infrastructure, flood recovery programs, and the successful rollout of the Working for Victoria initiative during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### 2022 Floods

Mr O’Toole’s leadership was evident during the October 2022 flood event, where his community-first insight ensured a co-ordinated and compassionate response – helping to steer the organisation through the complex recovery process, supporting both immediate needs and long-term rebuilding efforts.

### Reform

Under his tenure, Buloke Shire Council underwent

significant organisational reform, aligning with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020. This included internal restructuring to better reflect modern governance and community expectations, improved service delivery models and a stronger emphasis on financial sustainability and customer satisfaction.

### Oversight

His strategic oversight contributed to enhanced project delivery outcomes and improved confidence in Council operations.

Mr O’Toole’s influence was also pivotal during a period of oversight by a Municipal Monitor, providing the experienced guidance needed to support Councillors, restore stability and strengthen the organisation’s strategic and operational foundations.

Prior to his time at Buloke, he held leadership roles at Mount Alexander Shire, contributing to planning, environmental health, and statutory services over a seven-year period.

“I would like to acknowledge Wayne’s immense contribution over the past eight



• Wayne O’Toole

years and thank him for his unwavering commitment to our region,” said Mayor Alan Getley.

“Council extends its sincere appreciation to Wayne for his dedicated service and leadership.

“We wish him every success as he takes on this new opportunity to continue supporting community in the not-for-profit sector.”

Council will now begin the process of appointing an interim Chief Executive Officer while preparations are made to formally advertise and recruit for a permanent appointment.



• Kate Clark is pictured with her successor, Simon Rohde, who will continue supporting the Donald region with apprenticeships and traineeships.

## Celebrating a Remarkable Career: Kate Clark Calls “Time”

**After nearly a quarter of a century, Skillinvest Apprenticeship Consultant Kate Clark will retire on August 8, 2025, marking the end of an exceptional career supporting apprentices, trainees, and businesses across the Donald region and throughout Victoria.**

Since stepping into her role in June 2002, Kate has been a driving force behind the success of over 1,000 apprentices and trainees, working closely with host employers to create meaningful employment pathways. Her dedication and unwavering commitment have shaped careers, strengthened industries, and built lasting relationships across the Wimmera Mallee region.

### Influence

Kate’s influence has extended far beyond Donald. She has supported host businesses across Victoria, often travelling long distances to ensure apprentices and trainees received the guidance they needed.

Her work with major contracts – including O’Connors, VicRoads, the Department of Transport, and Jobs Victoria placements – has been instrumental in connecting young people with opportunities across the state.

Reflecting on her time with Skillinvest, Kate shared:

### Friendships

“Over the 23 years with Skillinvest, the friendships I’ve made will stay with me forever. It’s been a pleasure to work with all the host employers and apprentices/trainees – travelling from one countryside to the other, seeing some wonderful sights along the way.

“Not once have I woken up and said, ‘Oh golly, I must go to work today.’ One of the most rewarding parts of this role has been seeing apprentices and trainees complete their qualifications. I’ve worked with big companies and one-man businesses, and each experience has been special.”

### An Icon

Skillinvest General Manager of Operations Glen Pohlner said:

“Kate is not just a respected professional – she is

an icon in the community. Her deep local connections, tireless advocacy, and genuine care have made her a trusted partner to businesses and a mentor to generations of apprentices and trainees.”

As Kate prepares for retirement, she will be working alongside her successor, Simon Rohde, to ensure a smooth transition and continued support for the Donald region.

With Kate’s retirement, the organisation remains fully committed to servicing the area, combining in-person visits with remote support to maintain the high level of service the community expects.

Simon Rohde brings extensive experience in the employment sector and a strong passion for supporting regional communities. He is excited to continue Kate’s

legacy and build new relationships across Donald and surrounding areas.

### Vibrant Community

“I’m honoured to take on this role and continue the incredible work Kate has done,” said Simon. “Donald is a vibrant and resilient community, and I’m looking forward to working closely with local businesses, apprentices, and trainees to support their growth and success.”

Skillinvest thanks Kate for her extraordinary contribution and wishes her all the best in her retirement. Her legacy will continue to inspire the team and the community for years to come.

For more information about Skillinvest’s services in Donald, please contact Simon Rohde on 0458 706 272 or [simon.rohde@skillinvest.com.au](mailto:simon.rohde@skillinvest.com.au).

## Letters to the Editor



### Deafening Silence

(The Editor, “The Times”)

Dear Editor.– With news that drought affected farmers in Victoria’s south will receive a 40 percent rebate on their rates, it is time the Labor Government turned its attention to the North West and Southern Mallee, where farmers are facing one of the most challenging seasons in recent memory.

Our region’s farming families are under immense pressure. They are not just managing tough seasonal conditions, but doing everything they can to hold on through an extremely difficult time. And yet, the silence from the State Government has been deafening.

What farmers need is not more bureaucracy or long-term strategies for future droughts. They need immediate and practical support. That means emergency financial assistance for those experiencing severe crop and stock losses, rates relief to ease the burden of rising costs, freight subsidies for fodder and water, mental

health outreach to isolated farmers doing it tough, and a simplified process for accessing support that does not exclude people through dollar-for-dollar requirements.

These are not just numbers on a spreadsheet. They are people, families, and communities growing the food and fibre that support this state, this country, and beyond. They are resilient. They do not ask for much. But right now, they need a hand up.

Warm regards,  
**Jade Benham, MP.**

### Red Gate Community Garden Theft

(The Editor, “The Times”)

Dear Editor.– Produce from the Red Gate Community Garden has been systematically plundered by persons known and perhaps even by persons unknown.

Our orange tree was recently stripped bare in a single raid. Similarly, our entire crop of broccoli plants was surreptitiously harvested before reaching anything like maturity. Our Chinese cabbages

have been pillaged over the past fortnight and other plantings have also been picked over.

In summer our very few rock melons were taken as well as a huge number of passion fruits.

We are happy to share our excess produce with all and sundry, but to be wiped out by persons not associated with our hardworking crew of amateur gardeners is both selfish and unconscionable.

Although hardly a capital offence it is nonetheless theft. And although there is no tangible punishment to mete out, the perpetrator/s run the risk of being permanently ostracized by the very community they live in.

The purpose of any Community Garden is to encourage social interaction combined with a little gentle exercise. Participation is key to fostering a sense of community spirit – anti-social behaviour of this nature cannot be tolerated.

Please stop taking and try a little giving!

**The Members of the Red Gate Community Garden**



**AMBULANCE PHONE NO.  
000**

## Next Week’s Times

**Tomorrow, July 12, there will be no North Central football, netball or hockey, because of the school holiday bye.**

That being so, there will be no edition of the “Buloke Times” on Tuesday next, July 15.

The one edition of the “Times” next week will be on Friday, July 18.

# MICHAELS

OF DONALD

bring you

**Belvedere** By George Crenshaw  
[www.belvedere-cartoons.com](http://www.belvedere-cartoons.com)

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“He’s always looking for that winning edge.”



# Police Beat



## Buloke

**Burglary:** During the month of June, offenders have forced entry to the silo control rooms at Warne, Teddywaddy and Boigbeat and stolen copper wiring. Police are also investigating a possible attempted theft at the Berri-willock silo that occurred during the same period. These incidents appear to be part of a series of targeted thefts.

**Wilful and Obscene Exposure:** The victim was walking along the river track in Charlton towards the footy ground at about 10 a.m. on Saturday, the 5th of July. She observed a male who was also on the track and who appeared to be masturbating. The male saw the victim but continued with his behaviour.

## Gannawarra

**Theft from Motor Vehicle:** Between 2.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. on Saturday,

the 5th of June, offenders attended the Kerang-Leitchville Road, Leitchville, and syphoned about 800 litres of diesel from a heavy vehicle.

**Parcel theft:** Between 8.30 and 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, the 1st of July, the victim had a parcel delivered to their home in Mokana Street, Kerang. During that time, an offender has attended the address and taken the parcel before the victim had had a chance to collect it.

## Swan Hill

**Damage:** Just prior to 11 p.m. on Saturday, the 5th of July, a 34-year-old male is alleged to have punched and broken the side mirror of a vehicle parked in Campbell Street, Swan Hill. Police attended and interviewed the male who was still in the vicinity. He is expected to receive a summons to appear in court at a later date.

**Vehicle Theft:** At about 3.30 p.m. on Wednesday, the 2nd of July, the victim attended a service station in Swan Hill and put fuel in his 2010 grey Holden Berlina sedan, left the keys in the vehicle (but not in the ignition) and went to pay for the fuel. Whilst in paying, an unknown offender has gotten into the vehicle and driven off. At the time of reporting, the vehicle had not been located.

## Your Blood is Worth Bottling

If you are visiting Ballarat or Bendigo and have a bit of time to spare, a trip to the Blood Bank would be a very rewarding experience. You will need to book, by phoning 13 14 95.



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13 Enterprise Dr, Donald

## Corack East Wind

(Renewable Energy from ACEN)



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

### Drop-in information hub every Wednesday 1-6pm

#### Dates and venues

9 July Charlton  
16 July Donald  
23 July Charlton  
30 July Birchip

6 August Charlton  
13 August Charlton  
20 August Donald  
27 August Birchip

#### 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

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

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

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

1800 498 550

Corack East Wind



• Nicole Nunn, President of the Donald Show, with Ben Krause, Wimmera group finalist for the Junior Show Ambassador Award.

# Agricultural Society Achievers Recognised

In February of this year, Ben Krause from Donald participated in the Wimmera group final of the Junior Show Ambassador Award.

Representing both the Donald Show and his community, Ben showcased his pride and enthusiasm, embodying the spirit of a young man deeply connected to his community.

Nominations for this year's Rural Ambassador and Junior Show Ambassador competition are now open. Interested candidates are encouraged to reach out to Nicole Nunn for more information.

## Dusty Rain McIntyre

The winner of the Junior Competition at the group level was Dusty Rain McIntyre, who represented the St Arnaud Agricultural Society. Dusty will go on to represent Wimmera at the state finals

this weekend, during the Victorian Agricultural Shows State Convention in Bendigo.

Additionally, the Donald Show has been recognized as a top 10 finalist for the Most Popular Show, receiving a nice share of an impressive 1,865 votes. Other finalists include shows from Bendigo, Berwick, Boort, Clunes, Corryong, Foster, Kyneton, Noorat, and Whittlesea. The winner will be revealed at this year's state convention in Bendigo on Saturday evening.

## Nicole Nunn

Nicole Nunn, president of the Donald Show, is also a

finalist for the Outstanding Individual Contribution to a Show Society in the 40 Years and Over category. With 20 years of service to the Donald Show, Nicole has held every executive position, including treasurer from 2005 to 2007, secretary from 2008 to 2015, and president since 2019. Known as a quiet achiever with innovative ideas, Nicole is approachable and well-respected among her peers.

Nicole played a pivotal role in organising the 2015 VAS Convention in Donald, demonstrating that a small

town could successfully host such an event. She is also the current president of the Wimmera Group, with a passion for shows that stems from her grandparents, the late Alan and Marie Hendy. Her dedication has been recognized with a Life Membership to the Donald Show in 2022 and the title of Donald Citizen of the Year in 2023.

The announcement of the Outstanding Individual Contribution award will take place on Saturday evening at the Victorian Agricultural Shows State Convention gala dinner.



## VAS Show Awards Outstanding Individual Contribution 40 Years & Over Section

# FINALIST

## Nicole Nunn

### Donald Show



Showcasing  
Excellence

• Nicole Nunn, President of the Donald Show, is also a finalist for the Outstanding Individual Contribution to a Show Society in the 40 Years and Over category.



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

- July 16, Heather Flood
- July 18, Lindsay Sommerville
- July 19, Gene Brooks
- July 20, Isabella Griffiths

**Darrell Lea**  
Fine Chocolates

**JOHN SANDS**

If you know someone celebrating a special anniversary, let us know at  
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**Deadlines:—**

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

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

**BIRTH**  
*It's a boy!*  
**BURKE - GRANT**  
Ash and Az are delighted to welcome –  
Noah Gerard Graeme,  
6lb 8oz, on July 3, 2025,  
at St John of God Hospital, Geelong.  
Another gorgeous grandson and fifth grandchild for Gerard and Ali to love.

**BIRTH**  
*It's a girl!*  
**CAMPBELL - DE THOMASIS**  
With love and happiness, Kendra and Giuliano celebrate the arrival of –  
Aurelia Rose,  
born Sunday, June 8, 2025.  
We are overjoyed to welcome our little one into the world. First grandchild for Heath and Anne.

**DEATH**  
**BLIGHT.– Ross**  
Much loved brother-in-law of Margaret Quick. I will miss our visits.  
*Rest Peacefully*



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**DEATH**  
**HICKS (Cook).– Coral Elizabeth**  
passed away peacefully on July 7, 2025, aged 88 years.  
Beloved mother of Stephen; Brett & Wendy; Brenden & Sally; Paulene & Warren. Cherished grandma of Rachel, Griffin, Will, Ben, Molly, Abbey and Nash.  
*Always in our hearts*

**DEATH**  
**HICKS (Cook).– Coral Elizabeth**  
passed away peacefully on July 7, 2025  
Loved daughter of Herbert and Ruby Cook and sister and sister-in-law of Aubrey, Gwen and Ron Storer, Mervyn and Eily, Shirley and Ted Ekberg, Lyle and Gladys, Avril and Ray Taylor, Errol, Don McNaughton (all dec.), Thelma, Graeme and Lesley, Lorna and Ian (dec.) Hommelhoff.  
A much-loved auntie to her many nieces and nephews.  
*Now resting in peace*

**HICKS (Cook).– Coral Elizabeth**  
Much loved sister and sister-in-law of Lorna and Ian (dec) Hommelhoff. Adored Auntie of Phil and Suzanne, Jo-anne and Neil, Donna and Jeremy and families.  
*Rest in peace*

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

**DEATH**  
**HICKS (Cook).– Coral Elizabeth**  
Aged 88 years  
Loved sister of Graeme and Lesley Cook, aunt to their family.  
Loving sympathy to Stephen; Brett and Wendy; Brenden and Sally; Paulene and Warren Syamanond and their families.

**DEATH**  
**PEMBERTON.– Robert "Cranky"**  
Peacefully, in Darwin on July 7, 2025  
Our thoughts are with Kaye, Anthony, Jessie, Kellie and families.  
*Ol' mate, cobber of Des, Aileen, Amy and Kelsey.*

**PEMBERTON.– Robert "Cranky"**  
The Friends of the RACC are saddened by the loss of past player "Cranky". He was a vital part of the B-Grade team in its early days with his fun-loving approach to the game.  
"Cranky" was always remembered, even after his move to Darwin, as the donor of the BBQ plate that we enjoyed for decades.  
*Vale "Cranky"*

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


**FUNERAL**  
**HICKS.–**  
A service of celebration for Coral will be held at the Donald Golf Clubrooms on Friday, July 18 at 11 a.m. The cortege will then leave for the Donald Lawn Cemetery.  
*In lieu of flowers, donations to cancer research. envelopes at service. The family request a "touch of pink" be worn.*

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**IN MEMORIAM**  
**BISH.– Howard**  
10/07/2015  
It's been 10 years, but your absence is still deeply felt. You were more than a friend - you were family.  
Forever missed, forever loved and always in our thoughts.  
*–Roger, Fiona, Thomas and Leon.*

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**HUTCHEON.– Gordon William**  
16/11/1930 - 17/07/2015  
*10 years on*  
Remembered so often, loved and missed by Wendy, Trevor, Jane, Julie, Lindley, Peter, Kaz, Neale, Eve and seven grandchildren.  
*It's still nice to be nice to nice people.*

  
**DON'T PLAY WITH FIRE**  
SAFEGUARD YOUR HOME



Coloured pencil on black card.

Year 7 students were asked to create artwork about any subject that started with the letter P.

Victor Sak  
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**Donald Races**

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**Gates open at 11 a.m.,**  
*For all enquiries contact Penny 0418 124 289*  
**ALL WELCOME**



**The Donald Tractor Pull at this year's Show!**

Dust off your old tractors and get them ready for ...

Competitors are encouraged to enter their classic tractors with prizes awarded in various classes and for participation. Limited local transport assistance is available at a reasonable cost, but spaces are limited, so be sure to book early.

Want to get involved? Contact:  
**Neil McEwen on 0428 915 259 or James Doak on 0427 503 551.**

Major sponsors, North West Ag and Adams Family Farms



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**AT DONALD:** Every Friday at the Wool Store, Hammill Street, all day.



**Rainfall**

Rainfall for the 7 days to 9.30 a.m, Thursday, July 11:

Birchip	n/a
Charlton	18
Donald	19
St. Arnaud	n/a
Warracknabeal	12
Wycheproof	n/a

**Join our team!**



Are you a confident communicator, passionate about community safety?  
 Do you thrive in roles that make a real impact?

CFA are on the search for passionate and community-focused individuals to become **Community Liaison Bushfire Engagement** presenters. This rewarding role delivers fire safety information and advice in person, to local communities at a range of field events. These casual paid positions, offer a mix of day, evening and weekend working hours. Holding a current driver's licence and Working With Children Checks is essential.

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**St Arnaud**  
 Endorsed Enrolled Nurse  
 Associate Nurse Unit Manager  
 Registered Nurse  
 Food and Domestic Service Assistant

**Further information available at <https://ewhs.org.au/careers>**

*EWHS is an Equal Opportunity Employer, we welcome applications to all positions from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, LGBTQI+ People, and People of All Abilities.*

**Keep Abreast with Local Happenings!**

Don't forget Your Local Newspaper



Available from all district newsagents, or direct from the “Times” Offices, Donald or Birchip; or ring the Donald office (5497 1222) to arrange email or postal delivery.




**Peter Mac**  
 Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation

*Should you come across Jack or any of the other friendly Peter Mac staff visiting the region, be sure to stop and have a chat to them about the life-saving research being done at this wonderful hospital.*

**Worthy of Everyone’s Support**

**Seen around the streets in the Buloke region in the last week, were staff from Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.**

They were engaging with the community and sharing the important work this incredible hospital does for those facing cancer, and their families. In case you missed them, more information can be found at [www.petermac.org](http://www.petermac.org)



**FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE**

**Independent Member Opportunity at East Wimmera Health Service**

East Wimmera Health Service (EWHS) is pleased to invite applications for a part time Independent Member position for our Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. The position will commence on 1 September 2025 and appointments are for up to three years.

EWHS is a rural health service that delivers a range of programs and services for our local communities. The Health Service has 5 campuses located in the townships of St Arnaud, Donald, Birchip, Wycheproof, and Charlton. Further information is available on our website <http://ewhs.org.au>

The EWHS Board of Directors (BOD) established the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee as a subcommittee of the Board to fulfil its governance responsibilities as they relate to:

- EWHS compliance with all legislative and statutory reporting and other requirements, including the Financial Management Act 1994 (Victoria) and the Standing Directions of the Minister of Finance.
- Develop internal controls and auditing of controls affecting the operations of EWHS.
- Implementing processes for identifying, assessing and responding to risks.
- Identifying and monitoring procurement compliance
- Asset Management
- Information Management

Finance, Audit & Risk meetings are held bi-monthly on the third Wednesday of the month from 4.00 pm. Meetings are conducted on-line and are approximately two hours long.

All applications will be considered, however EWHS would particularly welcome applications from people with the following capabilities/ experience:

- CA, CPA, or other relevant qualification
- Demonstrated Board experience and a genuine interest in EWHS and our work
- A solid professional background in risk management and finance
- The ability to independently review and assess the effectiveness of the EWHS systems and controls for financial management, performance and sustainability, including risk management.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate the capabilities identified in their applications.

Independent Members are remunerated for their attendance of Finance, Audit & Risk meetings.

**Enquiries to:** Mandy Campbell, Executive Assistant to CEO [starnaud@ewhs.org.au](mailto:starnaud@ewhs.org.au) or 03 5477 2100

**To apply:** An application incorporating a response to the listed capabilities and a CV/resume including the names of two professional referees, is to be e-mailed to Mandy Campbell, Exective Assistant to CEO [starnaud@ewhs.org.au](mailto:starnaud@ewhs.org.au).

**Applications close at midnight Wednesday, 6 August 2025.**



# For Victorian Water Businesses . . . Regulator Approves Water Prices

[From Essential Services Commission]  
The Essential Services Commission has confirmed the maximum prices Victoria’s 18 water businesses can charge their customers for specific services in 2025–2026.

The average annual water bill for owner-occupier households will increase by around \$32 in Melbourne and by around \$33 in regional Victoria (compared to 2024–25).  
Water bills vary depending on factors such as water usage, changes in borrowing costs and inflation. Inflation (2.4%) is the main driver for the increase in 2025–26 owner-occupier bills.

South Gippsland Water customers will see the greatest increase in their average bill, of around \$80 per year for a typical annual water bill. Barwon Water customers will see the least increase in annual bills at around \$12 per year.  
South East Water has the lowest typical annual water bill in Melbourne (\$1,057) and Goulburn Valley Water has the lowest in Victoria (\$1,027).

Melbourne Water’s waterways and drainage charges will increase for residential properties by \$3 to \$125.

The commission also approved the recovery of costs associated with the 50 GL desalinated water order via a pass-through to metropolitan Melbourne customers. As a result, Melbourne metropolitan customers will have an extra charge of around \$12 to be applied in 2025–26.  
The Essential Services Commission releases approved tariff schedules for Victorian water businesses every year following a review of their respective pricing proposals. The schedules outline the maximum prices each water business can charge their customers for specific services.  
Victorians can estimate their annual water bills (based on usage) by using the commission’s Water Bill Calculator.  
The new maximum tariffs will take effect from July 1, 2025.  
More information for water consumers can be found at: <https://www.esc.vic.gov.au/water/information-for-water-consumers>.

## Statement on Apartheid Bill

[From One Nation Victoria]  
The Labor/Allan government in Victoria has proposed legislative measures that would give special privileges and financial advantages to so-called “First Nation” people.

This proposed “Statewide Treaty Bill” is to be introduced into parliament before the end of 2025 and, if passed by both houses, will have far-reaching consequences for all Victorians.

One Nation Victoria opposes this discriminatory legislation, which only elevates the perceived grievances of a small group of activists. The Allan Labor Government shows blatant disregard for the expressed democratic will of the people they serve, who have clearly rejected and voted against Labor’s proposed Voice to Parliament in the 2023 referendum.

During a party meeting on July 2, 2025, One Nation’s State President Warren Pickering described the proposed legislation as “Jacinta Allan’s Apartheid Bill”.

“Premier Allan has no democratic mandate for this divisive, far-reaching, and expensive piece of legislation. If Labor indeed pushes this through parliament before next year’s state election, we will do everything we can to rescind Labor’s Apartheid Bill,” said Mr. Pickering.

In her media release on March 24, 2025, One Nation leader Senator Pauline Hanson said most Australians rejected racial privilege and exceptionalism at the 2023 referendum, and wanted an



• Pauline Hanson

equally fair go for all regardless of race.  
“The referendum was a blatant attempt to insert race-based privileges in the Constitution, and it was overwhelmingly rejected,” Senator Hanson said.  
“All Australians want better outcomes for disadvantaged indigenous people, but that does not extend to exclusive race-based privileges that are denied to the rest of us. Generations of Australians have fought for equal rights for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and they have achieved complete success.  
“That’s where it should have stopped, but the activists and their confederates in Labor, the Coalition and the Greens didn’t stop. They kept on going, determined to make non-indigenous Australians second-class citizens in our own land.”

Indicative household bills – water and sewerage – for typical residential owner-occupiers, based on average consumption in each region					
Water business	Average annual usage (kL)	Typical bill in 2024–25 (\$, nom)	Typical bill in 2025–26 (\$, nom)	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Metropolitan					
Yarra Valley Water	150	\$1,079	\$1,114	\$35	3.2%
Greater Western Water (Central region)	150	\$1,038	\$1,070	\$32	3.1%
South East Water	150	\$1,027	\$1,057	\$30	2.9%
Greater Western Water (Western region)	150	\$1,134	\$1,149	\$15	1.3%
Average		\$1,053	\$1,085	\$32	3.0%
Regional					
South Gippsland Water	121	\$1,324	\$1,405	\$81	6.1%
Coliban Water	190	\$1,562	\$1,632	\$70	4.5%
Wannon Water	142	\$1,247	\$1,288	\$41	3.3%
North East Water	200	\$1,081	\$1,114	\$33	3.1%
Goulburn Valley Water	260	\$998	\$1,027	\$29	2.9%
GWMWater	240	\$1,447	\$1,489	\$42	2.9%
East Gippsland Water	141	\$1,385	\$1,420	\$36	2.6%
Lower Murray Water	480	\$1,142	\$1,171	\$29	2.5%
Central Highlands Water	150	\$1,353	\$1,386	\$34	2.5%
Westernport Water	88	\$1,366	\$1,394	\$28	2.1%
Gippsland Water	165	\$1,465	\$1,492	\$27	1.9%
Barwon Water	160	\$1,171	\$1,183	\$12	1.1%
Average		\$1,277	\$1,311	\$33	2.6%

## One Hundred Years Ago

From the “Birchip Advertiser”, July 10, 1925.  
**Local and General:** Residents are warned by a special Council notice not to dispose of rubbish on any roads, reserves, or vacant allotments. It is the intention of the Council to prosecute offenders without further notice.  
\*\*\*  
**Accidently Shot:** Jack Anden, an overseas lad who is engaged as a farm worker at Watchupga, met with a painful accident last Sunday. He and his mate were out shooting and Anden tried to take a fully loaded repeater rifle from the latter. A friendly tussle ensued, which caused the rifle to be discharged and Anden was shot in the abdomen. He is at present receiving treatment by Dr. Garrett of Woomelang but will be conveyed to St Arnaud hospital to have the bullet extracted when able to travel.  
\*\*\*  
**Soldiers Memorial Park:** The painting of the newly erected Rotunda in the Park is nearing completion. The benefit of this ornamental and spacious structure will be greatly appreciated during the summer months. The park paths have been treated with Vallo weed poison with very noticeable results at the small cost of thirty shillings for material and labour.  
\*\*\*  
**Birchip Gun Club:** Three “miss out” sweepstakes were held on Wednesday the 8th inst. The first was divided by J. Lean and H. Gray on the 6th round. The second by H. Taylor and Heritage on the 5th round. The last (one barrel only allowed) was won by E. Hampton outright. Best averages H. Gray 5 first barrel kills out of 6, E. Hampton 4 first barrel kills out of 4.  
\*\*\*

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St. Paul’s, Birchip, 5 p.m.  
**Sunday, July 20**  
St. Martin’s, Charlton, 9 a.m.  
St. George’s, Donald, 11 a.m.  
Holy Trinity, W’burn, 3 p.m.

**UNITING CHURCH**  
(North Central Living Waters Cluster)  
  
Donald, 10 a.m. with Harold Flett  
  
Next Birchip and Wycheproof Services,  
10 a.m. Sunday, July 20  
  
Contact Number: 5497 1033

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## Working Together: Supporting Landholders Through the Next Stage of VNI West

As planning for the VNI West transmission line continues, we want to keep you — especially landholders along the proposed corridor — informed every step of the way through this next phase. The big news this month is the rollout of the **Land Easement and Access Package**, which provides key information and invites landholders to discuss what the project might mean for their property, and what support is available.

Landholders along the project easement are now receiving their personalised package, which includes:

- The proposed easement terms
- Property-specific compensation information
- Details about the Landholder Benefit Payment
- A breakdown of how survey access works and what it means for each individual property

### What does voluntary access really mean?

Right now, we're reaching out to landholders to request access for important survey work as part of the planning process for VNI West.

**Providing voluntary access does not mean you support the project, or that you're committing to anything beyond allowing surveys to take place.** What it does mean, is that you get a say in how and when surveys are carried out on your land — including preferences around access points, biosecurity measures, and how you're notified. It also confirms your eligibility for access payments and the Landholder Benefit Payment.

Voluntary agreements can be entered into at any stage of the project's development.

### Here to help — every step of the way

Every landholder has a dedicated Landholder Liaison who can talk through the package, answer questions, and connect you with independent advice if needed. There are big decisions to be made, and we want you to feel informed and supported throughout the process.

We also know many community members across the region are keen to understand what's happening and what VNI West means for them. If you're a neighbour, community member, or local business with questions, we're here for you too. You can reach us using the contact details below.

### A quick note on timing

You may have heard the VNI West project timeline has recently changed. The new forecasted completion date for construction is November 2030 (previously 2028). This change reflects the scale and complexity of delivering a project like VNI West, and gives us the time we need to continue detailed planning, environmental studies, and ongoing engagement with landholders and communities.

It also gives us more time to listen, adapt, and work closely with those affected — helping to shape how the project is delivered.

VNI West is a critical part of Victoria's energy future. It will help unlock renewable generation, maintain energy security across states, and support the transition to a more reliable, sustainable grid.

We'll continue sharing updates as the project develops. To learn more about the revised timeline, visit: [transmissionvictoria.com.au](https://transmissionvictoria.com.au)

## "Kids Save Lives" Program Offered to More Students

Ambulance Victoria's Kids Save Lives program has been expanded, offering life-saving CPR skills to even more Victorian students, and all schools are encouraged to sign up to the life-saving program.

The Australian-first program has been developed by Ambulance Victoria for teachers to deliver and aims to improve cardiac arrest survival rates by showing students how to do cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and use an automated external defibrillator (AED).

Last year Ambulance Victoria paramedics responded to 7,545 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests. While Victoria has one of the best cardiac arrest survival rates in the world, every day about 20 Victorians suffer a cardiac arrest, but only one in 10 people survive.

Around 80 per cent of Victorian cardiac arrests occur in residential settings. Ambulance Victoria Executive Director of Regional Operations Danielle North said it is important that both adults and young people know CPR and how to use an AED.

### Essential Skills

"Our Kids Save Lives program contains essential learning and life-saving skills," Ms North said.

"Students will not only be able to share their knowledge with friends and family, but also with their wider community.

"We hope this training will help save many Victorian lives."

Tammy Nancarrow, Secondary School Nurse at Crusoe College in Kangaroo Flat is delivering the training as part of the Year 9 Health curriculum.

"These skills are vital for everyone to learn, especially adolescents.

"We've had lots of hands on, lots of questions. The students have really engaged with the learning," she said.

Through Kids Save Lives, students are taught to recognise when someone is in cardiac arrest and to learn the three simple steps of Call (call Triple Zero 000), Push (perform CPR) and Shock (use an AED).

### Partnership

The program is conducted in partnership with the Heart Foundation, Monash University, Australian Resuscitation Council, Department of Education and Training and Heart of the Nation and was established by original Yellow Wiggle, Greg Page, who survived a cardiac arrest in January 2020.

The Heart Foundation's Victorian General Manager, Chris Enright, said Heart Foundation-funded research shows only half of Australian adults are trained in CPR, but that those trained are more willing to help others in emergency situations.

"Educating children is a successful way to reach the entire population as children can be encouraged to teach others. We know that CPR training programs in schools that have run overseas in Sweden, France, Denmark, Norway and the UK, have equipped participants with

life-saving knowledge; these countries now have some of the highest bystander CPR and survival rates internationally," Ms Enright said.

"Working alongside our project partners, and with the support received from The Lionel and Yvonne Spencer Trust, and the Danks Trust, we are confident students will learn the skills that could save the life of someone in their community."

### Pilot Program

More than 5,300 students from 35 schools have already enrolled in the expansion pilot program, and we are calling on more Year 7-10 schools to get involved to help bring these life-saving skills to even more students in 2025.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends starting CPR training for children as early as age 12, and ideally, annually. The "Kids Save Lives" position statement, supported by the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR) and WHO, advocates for this approach.

"You don't have to be a paramedic to save a life — you just need to be able to perform CPR and know how to use an AED."

Victorian teachers who are interested in learning more about the free of charge Kids Save Lives program can email [community.engagement@ambulance.vic.gov.au](mailto:community.engagement@ambulance.vic.gov.au)



## Ag Tech Expo

8:30am – 3:00pm  
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• Stella Wheeler and Richard Flude.



• Indya Rose Atkinson being supported by Richard Flude to drop in.

# Skateboarders Roll Into School Holidays

Young people and families in Birchip and Wycheproof kicked off the school holidays in action-packed style with two energetic skateboarding workshops, facilitated by Richard Flude from Skateboarding Victoria and Own Life.

A few participants were disappointed 14-year-old Gold Medal winner Arisa Trew wasn't present, but they all embraced the chance to learn new skills, under the guidance of Richard with many mastering their first ollie or kick turn.

Monday afternoon the sessions were hosted at the Birchip Skate Park and kids, parents and even a few grand-

parents joined in. Whether it was mastering a new trick or simply giving skateboarding a go for the first time, all were having fun with their friends.

On Tuesday morning, the action rolled into Wycheproof at the new skate bowl at the Recreation Reserve, but unfortunately the rain clouds and chilly winds deterred all but the keen skaters.

With encouragement and expert tips from Richard, even hesitant participants gained confidence as they cruised along the flats and tackled small transitions. The beginners learned how to balance on their decks and ride confidently, while the more experienced skaters tackled drop-ins on the ramps and tested their skills on the rails with smooth grinds.

The supportive atmosphere

made it easy for everyone to progress at their own pace and celebrate each new trick landed.

Simone Christie manager of the Birchip Neighbourhood House, said, "Skateboarding is a sport where young people in our communities can express themselves while they exercise and have fun, and there are no winners and losers."

Stacey Keller and Maddie Hendy from the East Wimmera Health Service Health Promotion team were on hand at both events, helping to fuel

the fun with healthy fruit snacks and smoothies. Using the popular smoothie bike, they encouraged kids and adults alike to hop on, pedal hard, and blend up a refreshing treat, all while reinforcing the importance of healthy eating and active lifestyles.

With boards underfoot and smiles all around, the sessions

were a celebration of active living, community connection, and safe, inclusive spaces for young people.

The events were proudly funded by Birchip Neighbourhood House's Amplify (formerly FReeZA) and Local Drug Action Team (LDAT) projects.



• Lucy Noonan makes a smoothie under the watchful eye of Stacey Keller EWHS Health Promotion Co-ordinator.



• Harriet Cunningham.



• Sadie Cunningham.





• Coach Joan Smith (left) instructed the older riders in a dressage lesson in the morning: Quill McQuilty on Solomon (Donald PC), Ingrid Gould on King (Bealiba PC), and Charlotte Stewart on Eagle (Charlton PC).

# At Charlton, They Came and Tried

Charlton Pony Club hosted a “Come and Try” day on Sunday, July 6, attracting visiting riders from neighbouring clubs, Bealiba and Donald.

Charlton Pony Club boasts magnificent grounds which have been the envy of many other clubs for a number of years, particularly with its widely-known cross country course, revamped since the 2011 floods. However, this quiet little club has something else to boast about as well – its small but very friendly and dedicated band of volunteer members, working tirelessly to keep their little club alive.

Like many of the smaller clubs in the region, Charlton Pony Club currently has only a few riding members and as a result, has not been able to host regular rallies. In the hopes of attracting new riders to the club, the “Come and Try” day was held in gorgeous riding conditions. It began with a lesson in the round yard for the little kids and their ponies, while the adults had a dressage lesson with Joan Smith, a well-known and long-serving Charlton member. With her wealth of knowledge she is an asset to the club.

## Lessons and Games

The lessons were very casual, going at the riders’ own pace to suit their level of experience, or their horses’ level of discipline. Joan was a very easy-going coach, tailoring

her instructions to suit the different combinations and helping riders to feel at ease. And when you put a bunch of friendly, relaxed people together, sharing what they love, you end up with a very fun day of friendship and connection.

After the lunch break, it was time for some more fun activities. Adult members helped the kids try out the games, leading the little ponies, Lulu and Pumpkin, with their riders Thomas and Patrick Pridgeon. The coach who worked with the smaller riders was Jay France from Hurstbridge Pony Club. He is an accomplished and talented games rider who has represented Victoria in Mounted Games and is keen to pass on his knowledge and experience and love of games to young pony club members. Some of the games skills they tried were Litter Scoop, Ball and Cone, Flag races, bending through cones, picking up and hitting balls through cones using a polo stick.

Then it was time for the more experienced horse and rider combinations to pick up the pace, venturing out on to Charlton’s fantastic cross country course. Ingrid Gould from Bealiba Pony Club riding King and Charlotte Stewart



• Charlotte Stewart flying over one of the cross country course obstacles on Eagle. (Husson Eagle is an ex-race horse from the Patrick Payne stables and ridden by Michelle Payne, won the Magic Millions.)

(Charlton) on Eagle bravely explored the course, attempting jumps together and testing out their horses over the challenging obstacles, rounding out the fun-filled day with some excitement too.

## Local Opportunities

It is so encouraging to see these small clubs coming together and supporting each other, not to mention creating more local opportunities for riders to improve their horsemanship and expose their horses to new and different environments. Charlton Pony Club members should be commended for their efforts in connecting with their neighbouring clubs and inviting new riders to get involved.

You don’t have to be competitive to be a part of pony club; any ages, abilities and disciplines are welcome to come along and join in for the fun and connection gained in meeting others with similar interests in the district. You don’t even have to ride, or even own a horse to become involved! Pony Club Victoria has non-riding memberships available for those who might want to learn more about horses, but might not have the opportunity to get up close and personal. Rallies create a perfect environment for complete beginners to be introduced and learn how to interact with horses, in a safe and friendly environment, under the guidance of others more experienced.

## How to Get Involved

There are benefits for anyone getting involved, from complete beginner to advanced level, up to the age of 80 years. Please get in contact with one of the district commissioners, Carolyn Stewart (Charlton) 0428927609, or Jill McEwen (Donald) to find out more.

The next local pony club rally will be held at Donald on Sunday, July 20, commencing at approximately 10 a.m.. Charlton’s next rally will be on August 3, starting at that same time, approximately 10 a.m.. Newcomers, fence-sitters and spectators will be warmly welcomed and are encouraged to contact the appropriate district commissioner to register their interest.



• The young Pridgeon brothers are all smiles after a fun morning of pony rides! Thomas on Pumpkin and Patrick on Lulu (Charlton).



• Kids’ games activities. Patrick Pridgeon on Lulu being led through a polo activity by mum Gemma Pridgeon (Charlton).



• Thomas Pridgeon on Pumpkin (Charlton) being led by Ingrid Gould (Bealiba).



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# Taming the Tongue

How fascinating it was to observe the near half metre long tongue of a giraffe reaching out to a green plant leaf near young Joshua who was watching closely.

In a brief moment the long tongue had wrapped itself around the leaf drawing it back into the giraffe's mouth for some good nourishment.

The giraffe tongue is of great benefit to its owner out in its natural environment, enabling it to reach higher and consume food that other animals can't reach. It's length also enables it to wrap around acacia tree leaves while navigating between the many thorns on the acacia branches. The giraffe tongue is exceptionally long, strong, and equipped with thick papillae that help protect it against thorns, and sunburn, and also enables the giraffe to clean its nostrils, eyes and ears making sure these features are properly cleansed and sanitised!

Our human tongue is also of great benefit to us because it not only allows us to speak words, swallow and suck in a co-ordinated way, but also it is a sensory organ enabling us to appreciate the taste of foods and drinks. All this makes the tongue a very unique and special item – especially as far as communication is concerned. The Bible uses the tongue as a metaphor to illustrate the profound impact of speech. "Gentle words are a tree of life; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit" (Proverbs 15:4). A gentle, truthful, and encouraging tongue is compared to a tree of life, symbolizing its power to nurture, uplift and build up, while a deceitful, harsh, or perverse tongue is likened to something that crushes the spirit, wounds, causes harm, discouragement and broken heartedness.

The Bible says we need to ask our Creator for help to use our tongues wisely and well. A bit of self control is necessary too. One of the most encouraging things we can do with words is express appreciation to one another. Everybody needs appreciation, for example, "That was an awesome meal you prepared. Thankyou!" or "Thanks for washing the car. It looks great!" or "Thanks for mowing the back lawn so neatly". "Thanks for listening to me, it means a lot to me."

What does it mean to appreciate? To appreciate means to raise its value. When your home appreciates, it rises in monetary value. Whenever you appreciate your wife/husband/friend, relative, co-worker or even a stranger, you encourage them, giving them hope showing the world is not such a bad place after all!

Recently I visited a public bathroom where I noticed there was a cleaner working inside, I noted how clean the bathroom was. Sometimes public bathrooms are not clean places! I said to the cleaner, "Thankyou for cleaning this bathroom so well. It is spotless – much appreciated!" The cleaner beamed! The world is full of put-downs so we can choose to be encouragers. Is there someone I can give a word of encouragement or kindness to today? Use these words to brighten someone's day – thank a neighbour, or let a friend know you're thinking of them. The power of praise is awesome. It is much more effective than nagging. People blossom under affirmation.

Seemingly there are a lot more critics than there are encouragers in the world, so how often should I express appreciation? "Encourage one another daily" (Hebrews 3:13). Someone said, "An appreciation a day helps keep the lawyer away!" It is good for family relationships – in fact it is good for any relationship! Together we can help create a ripple of kindness and encouragement that reaches those closest to us in our family and the world



• Bruce Stewart

around us. Have a great day and let's tame our tongues and use our tongues wisely and well, to the benefit of humankind.

Bruce Stewart.

The Bible uses the tongue as a metaphor to illustrate the impact of speech.. "Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful" Ephesians 4:29



• How fascinating it was to observe the near half metre long tongue of a giraffe reaching out to a green plant leaf near young Joshua (our grandson) who was watching closely. In a brief moment the long tongue had wrapped itself around the leaf drawing it back into the giraffe's mouth for some good nourishment.

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# Bulls Netballers Head for Nullawil

[From Birchip-Watchem Netball Club]

The juniors started the day off well for the Bulls on Saturday at Nullawil, but Calder overturned the ledger to record strong wins in all of the senior games.

The Go game was another fun day for the players with everyone enjoying the run around prior to their week off.

**14B:** Birchip-Watchem proved too powerful for Calder United in a commanding 14-5 victory that showcased skill, structure, and discipline from start to finish.

Right from the first whistle, the Bulls were switched on. Addison Hamilton was ferocious in defence, making life very difficult for the Lions' attackers. At the other end of the court, goalers Isla Ferrier and Stacey Bowen formed a formidable combination in the ring for the Bulls. Their sharp shooting and clever positioning saw them score six goals in the opening quarter, giving the Bulls early momentum and a healthy 6-1 lead.

In the second quarter, the Bulls continued to dominate possession. Frankie McClelland (Bulls) played goal defence against her sister Greta (Lions), which was an entertaining match-up with neither sister wanting to give an inch. Ivy Bourke was everywhere in the centre for Birchip-Watchem, driving the ball forward with precision, while Issy Sharp applied relentless pressure in wing defence, picking off passes and disrupting the Lions' flow. The Bulls added three unanswered goals to stretch their lead to 9-1 at half-time.

The third quarter showcased another excellent defensive display from Birchip-Watchem, with Lucy Coffey and Hannah Hogan teaming up at GD and GK. Together they helped ensure a scoreless quarter from the Lions, while the Bulls scored four more goals of their own. Birchip-Watchem held a 13-1 buffer going into the final term.

The fourth quarter was the Lions most productive. They tightened up defensively, with Millie Poyner, Tory Pollington and Ava Boyle securing multiple intercepts. They restricted the Bulls to one-goal

which was their lowest scoring quarter for the match. For their own part, the Lions scored four goals of their own to finish the game on a high note.

However, Birchip-Watchem had done enough in the first three quarters to ensure it went home with the win. It was a pleasing all-round display by the Bulls, who combined strong defence with effective teamwork in attack, leaving the Lions unable to break through at any stage.

**14A:** The early start was worth it for the Bulls girls as they recorded a good win in under 14A. Despite a sloppy start by the Bulls they got better throughout the quarter. The scores at the end of the first quarter saw the Bulls up by 5.

During the second quarter the Bulls were doing well, with many amazing intercepts and goals. There was great support on the sideline with Frankie's big voice booming from the bench. By the third quarter the Bulls had extended their lead to 10.

After a good talk and snack during the three-quarter break the Bulls hopped back on the court for the final quarter and after a few trips and stumbles, Gemma started shooting some unbelievable shots, with the goals going in one after another. Down the other end in defence the Bulls were getting multiple intercepts and in the end, the Bulls won 25-9.

**17A:** The Bulls 17A team continued on its winning way with an impressive win over previously undefeated Calder United. In a very close game, displaying some very talented junior netballers, the Bulls came out on top by two goals, giving them a two point buffer in second spot on the ladder. Final score Birchip-Watchem 51 defeated Calder United 49.

**"C" Reserve:** The Bulls took on a very strong Lions side. Despite a tough match, there were plenty of positives

to take away. The final score was 14-37 in Calder's favour. In defence, Emily Barber was outstanding, constantly disrupting play and applying relentless pressure. Keira Lowry controlled the centre with energy and smart ball movement. Amy McEachern and Zoe Wilson worked hard on the wings, providing drive and support across the court. Up front, Jay Connelly showed determination as shooter.

**"C" Grade:** In another tough game against a really strong team, the Bulls' spirits were high but it was a battle from the outset. Suzanna Fawcett defended strongly and the Lions' goalers used their height to their advantage and rarely missed.

The Bulls tried some positional changes to try to gain some advantage, and while they had some really good moments, they weren't enough to overcome the strength of Calder all over the court. Asha Lee displayed some awesome athleticism and skills in the mid-court, and Ash Tierney worked hard in defence earning them the awards, but ultimately they lost 59 to 23.

**"B" Grade:** The Bulls anticipated a close contest with the two teams positioned third and fourth, but after a 38-28 loss, the Bulls have taken away a few things to work on during the break before they meet top-placed Wedderburn in round 13.

There were some fantastic passages of play down the court by Sophie Parfrey and Tylah Haslam, but some small errors here and there let the team down. Megan Noonan and Stacey Hamilton worked super hard all day, picking up the minimal rebounds and loose balls Calder provided. The shooters did well coming



• "A" Grade: Birchip-Watchem's Cheyenne Parsons and Calder United's Gemma Fawcett compete for the rebound.

against some tough defenders, and managed to put up 28 goals for the game, but it wasn't enough to overcome a slick Calder team.

**"A" Grade:** Calder United kept Birchip-Watchem's one goal victory at their last meeting fresh in their minds as they stepped on to the court for redemption. First quarter showed that both the Bulls and Calder were not going to give each other any easy passages of play, applying pressure all the way down the court. Neither team was able to push to any significant lead on the score board after the first fifteen, however Calder had the slight upper hand.

Birchip-Watchem came out firing in the second quarter with Cheyenne Parsons

leading the defensive charge for the girls in purple, launching at any ball that came near the goal ring and bringing the margin down to two goals. Despite Cheyenne's relentless defence, Calder's goal attack Gemma Fawcett showed no signs of slowing, rotating in the ring well and being aggressive at the rebound.

The third quarter proved to be the tipping point for Calder United with their defensive end led by Brittany Burns putting the foot down and succeeding at breaking down Birchip-Watchem's attacking end. The light at the end of the tunnel seemed to fade for the Bulls, as Calder punished every Birchip-Watchem error with a conversion, allowing them to hit a ten goal lead at the end of the third.

As a last ditch attempt to change the trajectory of the game, the Bulls made some changes to their line up for the last 15. The strength and smarts of Stacey Hamilton coming into WD, combined with the speed of Suberia Sailor in WA, saw Birchip-Watchem attack the scoreboard hard and fast, dominating possession in the first half of the quarter, looking for a late comeback.

Although the glimpses of a turn-around were there, Calder United remained hungry at the ball and Meg Hogan in the centre ensured the Bulls' late run to the finish line wasn't effective. In the end it was too little too late for Birchip-Watchem going down 42 to Calder United 55.

## Navies Host Redbacks Netballers

[From Charlton Netball Club]

**14-&-Under "A"**  
A great team effort this week by our U14 girls. Showing some great drives down the court and finishing well with a solid win.

Charlton 32 def Wedderburn 16.

**17-&-Under "A"**  
Attackers worked hard to score off all opportunities. Shooters rebounded well and they all worked really hard to apply defensive pressure when they made a mistake to gain the ball back. Up the other end, Charlton's defenders worked hard using plenty of rotations.

Anna Fitzpatrick applied strong pressure with hands over the ball allowing circle defenders to gain plenty of intercepts. Anika Holmes-Brown once again had a standout game, creating

plenty of opportunities for the team.

Overall the girls started really strong and continued to work with lots of positional changes.

Charlton 36 d. Wedderburn 20.

**"C" Grade**  
A very strong first half by Charlton's girls, with just 1 goal separating the two sides at half-time. Emmy Nelson and Jac Leslie worked well together again this week with great splits across the goal ring and support from Taylah Boyle, Taylah Giles and Mikaela Wilkinson.

The Navy defenders kept the pace against some very experienced shooters with great rebounds. Annie Olive and Brooke Prior did well together again this hold their own! A great game to watch but with a solid second half

Wedderburn edged the scores out by the final whistle.

Charlton 46 def. by Wedderburn 63.

**"B" Grade**  
An impressive start by Charlton's girls with Holly Thompson and Kate Stuchbery combining extremely well to stop the quick plays between Wedderburn's attackers. With a few positional changes in the attack end the Navy Blues girls held strong in the first quarter shooting very well. Some great shooting by Sarah Blair and Emily Olive with the strong addition of Tahli Roberts as well.

Unfortunately heading into second half the girls slowed up and Wedderburn's strength started to show. Some great plays down the court, especially with some new positions/players.

Charlton 27 def. by Wedderburn 61.



**"A" Grade**  
A slower start from Charlton's girls with a newer attack end but worth ethic still strong. The defenders put the pressure on very early especially at the centre passes. Claire Smith came out of defence in the second quarter to GA and provided height to help on the second phase and relieved some of the pressure from Wedderburn.

Megan Bruns and Issy Soulsby combined well in the defensive ring with many tips and rebounds going Charlton's way. Overall it was a tough game against a very in-form side, however Charlton was able to try some new combinations and showed some great passages of play.

Charlton 27 def. by Wedderburn 84.

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Adjusting to Changing Winter Conditions:  
The Key to Road Safety

The ability to adjust your driving to suit wet and frosty road conditions across Victoria is crucial to lowering the winter road toll, according to RACV.

As of July 7, 2025, 159 people have lost their lives on Victorian roads in 2025 – a 12 per cent increase on the same date last year.

RACV Head of Policy, James Williams, said wet and slippery conditions dramatically increase the risk of crashes, especially when drivers fail to adjust their behaviour to suit the changed conditions.

“During winter, roads are often slick from rain, frost or black ice, and that means you need to allow for longer stopping distances,” Mr Williams said.

“Tailgating – following too closely behind another vehicle – is especially dangerous in these conditions, and we urge all drivers to leave plenty of space between their vehicle and the one in front.”

The warning comes as recent Victorian Government data shows that 60 per cent of wet weather fatalities in 2024 had occurred at night and across regional Melbourne – further highlighting the dangers drivers face and the need for caution at this time of year.

Black Ice

In addition to driving cautiously in the wet, Mr Williams cautioned motorists who may be driving on roads that are covered by black ice.

“Black ice is a dangerous proposition for motorists because it’s difficult to detect and can lead to a loss of control over your vehicle,” Mr Williams said.

RACV recommends that when in cold conditions, to keep an eye out for a “glossy surface” on the road, which can be black ice.

Recommendations

For motorists who encounter black ice on the road, RACV recommends:

- Gently lower your speed.

A sudden and forceful hit on the brakes cause the vehicle to skid.

- Try to keep the steering wheel straight (if possible).
- If the rear of the car slides to the right or left, gently adjust your steering wheel to the direction of the slide.

This helps realign the front wheels with the direction of travel.

Mr Williams also reminded motorists to check their vehicle’s condition ahead of the winter months to reduce the risk of breakdowns and improve safety on the road.

“Basic maintenance goes a long way. Check your tyres have sufficient tread, make sure your lights and windscreen wipers are working, and top up your coolant and washer fluid,” Mr Williams said.

“It’s also worth checking your battery, which can struggle in colder temperatures.”

Top Safety Tips

RACV’s top winter driving safety tips include:

- Increase following distance in wet or icy conditions to allow more time to stop.
- Avoid sudden acceleration or braking, especially on slippery surfaces.
- Never drive through floodwaters – it’s not worth the risk.
- Prepare your car for winter by checking tyres, lights, wipers, and fluids.
- Slow down and drive to the conditions, particularly in fog or low visibility.

- If entering a Victorian alpine resort in winter, you must carry snow chains, not only for your safety, but you can face substantial fines if you do not comply.

“Most importantly, plan ahead, check the weather and traffic reports before heading off, and be patient on the roads,” Mr Williams said.

For more information on winter driving safety, visit the RACV website.



• RACV is urging Victorian motorists to safely adjust to winter driving conditions.

Donald Racing Fields

1. PACIFIC FUEL SOLUTIONS MAIDEN PLATE					8 Goin' Rogue (NZ) (Paul Preusker) C MacRedmond 1 57.5				
Mdn. Set Weights					9 Ranselot (Ciaron Maher) Ms L Meech 2 57.5				
1206 Metres \$27,000 11.41 AM					10 Shasam (Stephen Lenehan) 5 57.5				
1 Alltogethernow (Michael Townsend)			8	59.5	11e Bernie Beel (Allan Peterson) 8 59.5				
2 August Bonus (Paul Preusker)	Ms J E Weatherley(a1.5)	15	59.5		12e Vision Thing (Renee Pola) 7 57.5				
3 Bishop's Choice (Peter Chow)	T Madden	12	59.5						
4 Call Me Phil (Damien Hunter)	R J Hurdle	3	59.5						
5 French Navy (Symon Wilde)		2	59.5						
6 Imacreedytwo (Bob and Kane Post)	N Farley	13	59.5						
7 Kilmer (Tim Fitzsimmons)	W Gordon	9	59.5						
8 Crickwood (GB) (M. Raymond & Patrick Bell)	J Duffy	11	57.5						
9 Disco Talk (Darryl Dodson)		6	57.5						
10 Dolce D'amour (Andrew Bobbin)	J D Hill	17	57.5						
11 Murrullo (Trent Busuttin & Natalie Young)	W T Price	14	57.5						
12e Briseis Eclipse (Paul Preusker)	Ms L Meech	16	57.5						
13e Paulsin (Jane Duncan)	Ms S Field(a2)	7	57.5						
14e I'm Batman (Helen Burns)	Ms J Beriman	10	59.5						
15e Calabash (Trent Busuttin & Natalie Young)		5	57.5						
16e Nicaloha (Rachel Samsonenko)	C MacRedmond	1	59.5						
17e L'il Biddy (Belinda O'Loughlin)		4	57.5						
2. RUSS STUDIO JEWELLERS MAIDEN PLATE					6. BET365 0 - 58 HANDICAP				
Mdn. Set Weights					2-Y-O & Up. 0 - 58.				
1356 Metres \$27,000 12.16 PM					2218 Metres \$27,000 2.36 PM				
1 Dibalta (Maddie Raymond & Patrick Bell)	J D Hill	1	59.5		1 Loyal Consul (Shane Jackson)	T Madden	11	59.5	
2 I'm A Swinger (Mathew Smerdon)	W Gordon	12	59.5		2 Makusha (Rod Symons)	Ms C Jokic	12	59.5	
3 Mallee Gold (Andrew Bobbin)	W T Price	2	59.5		3 Max Rock (Maddie Raymond & Patrick Bell)	J Duffy	13	59.5	
4 Ess Ay Jewel (Tayne Foster)	Ms C Jokic	14	57.5		4 Ready By Design (Sharni Julian)	Ms M K Julius	7	59.5	
5 Fox Charm (Ciaron Maher)	Ms L Meech	4	57.5		5 Cherokee Brave (Danny O'Brien)	Ms L Meech	15	59.0	
6 Frosty Night (Jamie Barry)	Ms A L Herrmann	7	57.5		6 Savaboo (Paul Preusker)	C MacRedmond	6	59.0	
7 Howaboutthis (Jeff Searle)	E J Walsh	16	57.5		7 Shrewsbury Road (IRE) (Simon Zahra)	J D Hill	16	59.0	
8 Just Swift (Mitchell Freedman)	V Le Boeuf	13	57.5		8 Palentino Heights (Thomas Carberry)	N Farley	5	58.5	
9 Miss Solar Hart (Helen Burns)	Ms S C Duric(a3)	11	57.5		9 Forever Well (NZ) (Symon Wilde)	R J Hurdle	14	58.0	
10 The Climb (Shay Keating)	C MacRedmond	10	57.5		10 Cradle Of Jazz (Andrew Bobbin)	Ms S Field(a2)	2	57.5	
11 Sabi Storm (Trent Busuttin & Natalie Young)	R J Hurdle	5	57.0		11e Catching Stars (Liam Howley)	E J Walsh	9	56.5	
12e Buzzaroon (Aaron Purcell)	T Madden	15	59.5		12e Prince Beejay (NZ) (Michael Jones)	L N McNeil	3	58.0	
13e Here Comes Wozza (Gwenda Johnstone)	Ms H Spitse(a4)	9	59.5		13e Finnugh (Paul Preusker)	W T Price	4	57.0	
14e Theria (Steven Noble)	Ms S J Noble	8	57.5		14e Groshawk (Aftab Shaikh)		8	57.0	
15e The Noble Steed (Peter R Gray)		3	59.5		15e Final Quarter (Austy Coffey)		1	54.5	
16e Twilight Glow (Shayne Fisher)		6	57.5		16e Odyssey Arrow (Paul Kourmis)		10	54.5	
3. DONALD STEEL METALAND MAIDEN PLATE					7. BULOKE PLUMBING 0 - 58 HANDICAP				
Mdn. Set Weights					2-Y-O & Up. 0 - 58.				
1356 Metres \$27,000 12.51 PM					1006 Metres \$27,000 3.16 PM				
1 Harbour City (Darryl Dodson)	Ms M K Julius	7	59.5		1 Fox Man (Andrew Bobbin)	J D Hill	11	60.0	
2 Mythic (Gwenda Johnstone)	Ms H Spitse(a4)	1	59.5		2 El Salto (Leslie Robertson)	Ms S K Kennedy(a3)	6	59.5	
3 The Printer (Matt Cumani)	E J Walsh	15	59.5		3 Struggle Street (Paul Preusker)	Ms L Meech	13	58.0	
4 Bologna Baby (Jamie Barry)	Ms A L Herrmann	10	57.5		4 Kaniva (Rod Symons)	W Gordon	7	57.5	
5 Frisky Freyja (Dean Binaisse)	J D Hill	9	57.5		5 Logo Logic (Brian & Ashley McKnight)	Ms AJ Warren(a2)	1	57.5	
6 Kunawar (NZ) (Tom Dabernig)	N Farley	4	57.5		6 Shadow Black (Sean Mott)	Ms C Jokic	10	57.5	
7 Lady Of Steel (Shay Keating)	J Duffy	2	57.5		7 Per Ivy (NZ) (Colin Scott)	Ms J Beriman	5	56.5	
8 Layin' Up (Jeff Searle)	T Madden	16	57.5		8 The Last Judgement (Helen Burns)	N Farley	9	56.5	
9 Lisa Lass (Aaron Purcell)	Ms L Meech	3	57.5		9 Galaxy Turf (John Rowe)	W T Price	8	54.5	
10 Miss Maverick (Andrew Bobbin)		12	57.5		10 Perfect Costa (John Rowe)		2	54.5	
11 Supido's Littleone (Helen Burns)	S H Pang(a2)	5	57.5		11 First Division (Helen Burns)	Ms S C Duric(a3)	12	54.0	
12e Stellar Madame (Chris Calthorpe)		8	57.5		12e Superior Force (Helen Burns)	S H Pang(a2)	3	54.0	
13e Rush Fortyfive (NZ) (Nick Ryan)		13	59.5		13e Raging Monkey (Leslie Robertson)	Ms C Puls	4	54.0	
14e Sharoha (Raharna McDonald)		14	57.5		8. WEIR'S IGA DONALD 0 - 58 HANDICAP				
15e Dunleer Lad (Amy Small)		6	59.5		2-Y-O & Up. 0 - 58.				
16e Highstrung (NZ) (T. Busuttin & Natalie Young)	R J Hurdle	11	57.0		1356 Metres \$27,000 3.56 PM				
4. DONALD MOTOR LODGE MAIDEN PLATE					1 Fil (Tayne Foster)	Ms C Jokic	17	60.0	
2-Y-O & Up. Mdn. Set Weights					2 Gusty Way (Sue & Jason Jaensch)	Ms M K Julius	7	60.0	
2218 Metres \$27,000 1.26 PM					3 Peak (NZ) (Colin Scott)	W Gordon	4	60.0	
1 Bismarck (NZ) (Patrick Kearney)	W Gordon	7	59.5		4 Royal Inference (Peter Chow)	T Madden	3	60.0	
2 Just Riff Raff (Alicia MacPherson)	J A Keating	3	59.5		5 Surfy Pete (Andrew Bobbin)	W T Price	8	60.0	
3 Ocean Symphony (NZ) (Ciaron Maher)	Ms L Meech	9	59.5		6 Budjik Boy (Paul Preusker)	J D Hill	11	59.5	
4 Slomo (NZ) (Symon Wilde)	R J Hurdle	5	59.5		7 Gusmao (Mitchell Freedman)	V Le Boeuf	1	59.5	
5 Translucent Angel (Gwenda Johnstone)	N Punch	2	59.5		8 Summer Night (Shane Fliedner)	S M Brown	16	59.5	
6 Bebe's Legacy (Mitchell Freedman)	J Duffy	10	57.5		9 Whiskey Hangover (Jeff Searle)	E J Walsh	14	59.5	
7 Fiora (Ciaron Maher)	E J Walsh	1	57.5		10 Cheeky Blinders (Daniel Williams)	Ms R Lamont(a4)	5	57.5	
8 Preferred Assassin (Paul Preusker)	T Madden	4	57.5		11 She Flies (NZ) (Archie Alexander)	R J Hurdle	6	57.0	
9 Rock On Foxy (Shayne Fisher)		12	57.5		12e Phair Plan (Shaun Muir)		9	58.5	
10 Tosen Snowfall (Austy Coffey)	J D Hill	8	57.5		13e Gargantuan (Erin Maher)		2	57.5	
11e Circa (Anne Blackburn)	Ms C Jokic	11	59.5		14e Magic Edition (Brian & Ashley McKnight)		12	54.5	
12e Wyndinthewillows (NZ) (Paul Preusker)	Ms J E Weatherley(a1.5)	6	57.5		15e Mr Ferrari (Scott Irlam)	Ms AJ Warren(a2)	13	56.5	
5. GOLDACRES MAIDEN PLATE					16e Shocking Habit (NZ) (Raharna McDonald)		15	54.0	
2-Y-O & Up. Mdn. Set Weights					17e Silent Thunder (Emma Church)		10	56.0	
2218 Metres \$27,000 2.01 PM					9. MEGELEC ELECTRICAL 0 - 58 HANDICAP				
1 Obstructionist (NZ) (Patrick Kearney)	W Gordon	12	59.5		2-Y-O & Up. 0 - 58.				
2 Quick Qudos (GB) (Ciaron Maher)	T Madden	4	59.5		1628 Metres \$27,000 4.31 PM				
3 Smokin' Rohie (Nell Carter)	E J Walsh	10	59.5		1 Bruzani (Peter Chow)	W Gordon	3	60.0	
4 You Rower (Michael Harrison)	Ms J Beriman	9	59.5		2 Cortain (Helen Burns)	Ms L Meech	14	60.0	
5 Brydan (Dan Cunningham)	N Farley	6	57.5		3 Dashing Rebel (Brian & Ashley McKnight)	C MacRedmond	8	60.0	
6 Crater Lake (Liam Howley)		3	57.5		4 Ex Machina (Matt Cumani)	E J Walsh	12	60.0	
7 Deedee's Award (Archie Alexander)	W T Price	11	57.5		5 Jandami (Darryl Dodson)	T Madden	15	60.0	
					6 Pulveriser (Andrew Bobbin)	J D Hill	9	60.0	
					7 Track Patcher (Ben, Will & JD Hayes)	J Duffy	4	60.0	
					8 Quizlet (Lucinda Boyd)		7	59.0	
					9 Moscow Red (NZ) (Henry Dwyer)	W T Price	2	58.0	
					10 Pendante (Rod Symons)	Ms S K Kennedy(a3)	10	57.0	
					11 Tarshin (Charles Cassar)	N Farley	5	57.0	
					12e Reservoir Dog (Logan McGill)		16	59.0	
					13e Rasputina (Kevin Adcock)	J B Webb	17	57.0	
					14e I Could Do Better (IRE) (Julie Taylor)	Ms C Jokic	11	59.0	
					15e Celtic Knot (NZ) (Paul Preusker)	Ms J E Weatherley(a1.5)	6	58.5	
					16e Firm As A Rock (Graham Donaldson)	Ms S Field(a2)	1	55.0	
					17e Penny Bazaar (Sean Mott)		13	54.0	
					TOTAL ENTRIES: 136				





• Calder United's Max Fawcett gets the hands out towards Daniel Murray as the Bulls' Jack Lee tackles.

# Bulls Reserves Aim for Top Two Place

Birchip-Watchem has kept its top-two hopes alive with a commanding 38-point victory over previously undefeated Calder United in a high-quality reserves clash at Nullawil on Saturday.

With both sides fielding a host of players boasting senior experience, the standard of football was exceptional. The Bulls' line-up featured Lochy Sirett, Ben Hogan, Sam Simmons, James Lindeback and Stefan Pye, while the Lions called on Brett Barker, Angus Forrester, Alexander Hogan, Joel Turner and Jed Bish to bolster their ranks.

Kicking with the wind in the opening term, Birchip-Watchem took early control. Harry Cook's pace on the wing was electric, constantly breaking lines and creating opportunities, while Ty Colbert provided a slick and skillful presence on the opposite flank. Despite some inaccuracy in front of goal, the Bulls opened up a 22-point buffer, with majors to Jack Lee, Sam Simmons and Nick Ryan.

Calder United fought back in the second quarter with the breeze behind them. Brett Barker was dominant at full

forward, booting three goals in a standout display of strength and composure. Young gun Dude Kelly also chipped in, but the Bulls responded strongly against the wind. Lee, Sirett and Alex Hay all hit the scoreboard to limit Calder's gains, and Birchip-Watchem maintained a 20-point lead at half-time.

The Bulls put the foot down in the third term, dominating clearances through the combined efforts of Hogan, Simmons, Lee and Pye. Their midfield ascendancy kept the Lions pinned in defence, where Rhylie Botheras worked tirelessly to stem the tide. Still, Birchip-Watchem added goals via Lee and Simmons while keeping Calder scoreless, taking a commanding 35-point lead into the final break.

Calder United rallied in the last quarter, led by the powerful Joel Turner through the middle and another two goals from the ever-dangerous

Barker, who finished with five for the day. Daniel Murray added another for the Lions, but the Bulls weren't done. Goals to Connor Boyle, Riley Hogan and Stefan Pye ensured they edged the final term and secured a well-deserved 38-point win.

It was a statement victory for the Bulls, who not only snapped Calder United's unbeaten run, but did so in emphatic fashion, announcing their credentials as premier-ship contenders in the reserves competition.

Final score: Birchip-Watchem 11.16 (82) defeated Calder United 7.2 (44).

Best for Birchip-Watchem: Harry Cook (O'Connors), Ben Hogan (YBS), Jack Lee (Agrifac), Stefan Pye (Donnellon's Bulk Haulage), Ty Colbert (Nutrien Ag), Riley Hogan (Ryan Commodities).

For Calder United: Joel Turner, Rhylie Botheras, Brett Barker, Jack Morrison, Alexander Hogan, Jed Bish.

# Junior Hockey at Nullawil

On a modified size field on the tennis courts, the hockey at Nullawil was interesting, with the minkey players the first to test how well they could adapt their game.

The Noonans were in good form with Thomas and Hamish winning the respective awards.

## Under-12s

Led by Greta McClelland as captain and Jude McLoughlan as goal keeper, the Bulls had a close match against Calder United.

Denly Tyler had a quick run straight out of the middle, passing the ball to Des Coffey right on the D, but Calder was able to tackle strongly and turn the ball over. Jakoby Sagers had a nice stop and cleared the ball out of the Calder forward line, followed closely with a fantastic save by new goalie Jude who cleared it out to the side, textbook perfect.

Calder regained possession only to be thwarted again by Jude. Denly took the ball straight up the middle passing to Oscar Sharp, who worked his way to the top of the D weaving through the Calder players on to be tackled cleanly by a Lions' defender. Calder had a nice hit down the centre line and a short corner resulted. Jakoby was strong out of the baseline to clear the short out wide and Denley took the ball up the middle again before Calder was able to force another short corner on the shortened field. The Bulls remained strong and kept the ball out, as did Lions' goalie Riley Beattie with three great saves and the score remained nil all at half time.

Calder moved the ball well to gain a short corner from a foot penalty and Des Coffey and Ivy Bourke worked as a great team to clear the ball. However, the ball was moving from end to end quickly and a foot penalty the other way saw Tyler Harrison score a goal for the Lions.

River Ryan pushed the ball out of the centre hit out down

to Denley who had a chance to score, but it was again saved by the Lions' keeper. As play progressed Des Coffey was granted a free hit, which he passed off to Denley who hit the Bulls' only goal for the game. There were many more scoring opportunities, and both goalies worked hard to keep the ball from going through, until Tyler Harrison was able to score his second to give Calder a 2-1 win.

Both teams showed how much their skills are improving week by week, making the games enjoyable to watch and be part of.

Award winners for Birchip-Watchem: Jude McLoughlan (Birchip Hardware) and Jakoby Sagers (Andy and Sarah Barber).

Calder United: Riley Beattie (Newsagency voucher), Ryder Harrison (Wycheproof Op Shop).

## Underage

The reduced ¾ size pitch and 9-a-side game took the Bulls a bit to get used to, as the Lions started strongly from the first whistle and had the majority of the play for the whole first half.

The Coatsworth twins were instrumental in keeping it in the Lions' attack with Priya scoring the first goal. Eligh Dean was working hard as goal keeper and saved a lot of shots, but the quick entry from the reduced '25' made it hard for the goal keeper and showed up the Bulls' back-line, which was leaving too many players unmanned and it wasn't long before Ollie White scored the Lions' second goal.

Jed Coffey, Frankie McClelland and Sadidas Gardiner did well with some good tackles and passes in an attempt to get it into their forward half, however Levi Hall and Ryder Harrison were like

a wall and wouldn't let them through. Before half time, Ryder was able to weave his way through the Bulls' back line to score the Lions' next goal.

The second half saw a much more competitive Bulls take to the field in an effort to win the chocolate bar that coach Xanthe Fitzpatrick had promised to anyone who could score a goal.

Max and Shaylee Field were blocking the Lions' charge into their forward D, laying some good tackles and attempting to clear out; however, again Ryder Harrison showcased his skills, cutting off the hit outs and taking the ball in to score another goal. Elise Cox took a ball to the ankle and had to come off which was a loss to the Bulls, as her speed into attack was missed.

The Bulls had a good break away with nice passing from Jed Coffey to Frankie McClelland, eliminating the Lion defenders as they forged forward. Unfortunately, Frankie took a stick to the face, which also saw her leave the field and the Bulls were unable to convert their drive into goals. The Lions took advantage of the lapse and Priya Coatsworth directed play down the wing to provide another Lions goal.

The Lions ran out the game strongly scoring another couple of goals, including one after the whistle from a short corner, which although Eligh Dean was able to get his pad to the ball, was deflected into goals. Final scores were 7 to 0 in favour of the Lions.

Birchip-Watchem award winners: Jed Coffey and Frankie McClelland.

Calder United awards: Mitchell Coatsworth (Brett & Lauren Thompson), Kiarah B. (Wycheproof Op Shop).



• Des Coffey hits the ball forward under pressure from Tyler Harrison.

### Burn-off checklist:

- ✓ Check restrictions
- ✓ Check weather
- ✓ Have water nearby
- ✓ Never leave a fire unattended
- ✓ Put the fire out properly

**Check. Apply. Notify.**  
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# A Win Apiece for Juniors

At Nullawil, Birchip-Watchem and Calder United had one win each in the junior football games.

In a low scoring under-14s game, between two evenly matched teams the Birchip-Watchem boys will enjoy the bragging rights when they are back at school with a win over their Calder United Lions peers.

From the first bounce, Birchip-Watchem brought intensity and pressure, locking the ball in their forward half and registering multiple entries inside 50, but the strong wind was making it hard for them to score. River Ryan eventually broke the deadlock with a goal, to register the only score of the first quarter.

The Bulls’ mosquito fleet with Denley Tyler leading the way dominated both possession and field position when they had the wind in the second, allowing Willow Ryan and Archie Tyler to capitalise, both adding a goal to extend the Bulls’ lead to 3.3 (21) to 0.1 (1).

With the wind again in the third, Calder was able to gain some momentum, with Jed Harrison and Smith Morrison winning the ball in the mid-field. The Lions were rewarded with a goal but Toby Kemp and Aki Norton were good in defence, negating Calder’s good work and preventing any further majors for the home team.

The final term was another miserly one on the scoreboard as Calder’s Harry Humphries and Smith Morrison defended dourly, making it difficult for the Bulls to score. For the whole quarter there were only three behinds amassed, with the Bulls scoring two of these.

In the end, Birchip-Watchem’s early dominance proved the difference, running out 16-point victors over the spirited Calder United Lions. Final score Birchip-Watchem 3.6 (24) to Calder United Lions 1.2 (8).

Now with three wins each for the season, the Bulls will be looking to maintain their momentum after the break when they play Boort, which is only one game ahead of them on the ladder, whereas Calder United Lions will have a tougher assignment against the third placed Redbacks.

Birchip-Watchem awards: Denley Tyler, River Ryan, Aki Norton, Toby Kemp, Willow Ryan, Archie Tyler

Calder United: Harry Humphreys, Smith Morrison, Levi Poyner, Jed Harrison, Van Harrison, Griffin Vearing.

### Under-17s

The young Calves were up against a strong Calder United side and the Lions were out to prove their strength from the opening bounce.

Despite early tackling pressure in the midfield, the backline was soon under pressure and Rhett Hogan and Tiger Vearing made their presence felt. Solid play in the middle of the ground by Ben Perry, Jack Knights and Bayley Kemp allowed the visiting team to keep the ball in the forward line, and just before the first break a snap from the pocket by Kobe Hamilton sailed through to open their account. At quarter-time the signs were ominous though as Calder led 5.2 (32) to 1.0 (6)

In the middle Max Fawcett and Tynan Perry were dominant for the home team as they extended their lead. The Bulls’ effort continued during the second term, but the sheer weight of possession began to take its toll as Calder United peppered the goals. Good pressure from Archie Tyler, Liam Spezza and Jack McAuliffe resulted in Calder kicking as many behinds as they did goals this term, but they still had a ten-goal buffer at the long break.

The third term was much like the second term, but Coach Lee was impressed with the Bulls’ endeavours to stay in the contest and limit Calder’s scoring opportunities. Jackson Goss and Taio Atkinson were battling hard for control of the ball, despite the relentless Calder United attack and the returning Charlie Barber began to light up across the ground, intercepting several marks and setting up the Bulls’ attack. However, Darcey Poyner was determined to make his presence felt against his classmates and, despite Ollie Cook providing much run in the middle, the rewards were yet to come by way of scores for the Bulls.

In the last quarter, the young Bulls managed to put some respectability back into the scoreboard, outscoring the opposition. Goals to Willow Ryan and Jack Knights early in the term provided a highlight for the visiting faithful. Liam Spezza nailed a good goal while Jack Knights kicked his second on the run from long range. The players were valiant in their efforts throughout the day against a well-drilled Lions team who registered an emphatic victory. Final scores were: Calder United 16.15.(111) to Birchip-Watchem 5.1 (31).

Birchip-Watchem awards: Ollie Cook (Noonan’s Tyres), Charlie Barber (TMC Enviro), Jack Knights (Birchip Café) and Taio Atkinson (Bulls Canteen).

Calder United awards: Max Fawcett, Tynan Perry, Rhett Hogan, Beau Chapman, Tiger Vearing, Darcey Poyner.



• Locke Coles runs clear from the grip of Ollie Cook.



• Toby Kemp and Finbar Polzin in the ruck contest. Sadidas Gardiner-Paikea and Elijah Dean looking on for the Bulls

## Church Notices

[www.granitecommunitychurch.com](http://www.granitecommunitychurch.com)  
At Granite Church  
10.30 a.m.  
Baptist Union of Victoria

**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



(By Course Language)

Golf in Donald last weekend was played in great weather, a bit breezy Saturday, but perfect Sunday.

With the grass on the course starting to thicken up, not quite enough for another mow yet, and the scrapes recently oiled and putting perfectly, there was no reason for not having a good score.

Richard Gallagher had the best round for the weekend, finishing on 40 points and was lucky enough to be drawn with Geoff Harvey on 26 points in the Secret Partners draw, to finish on 66 points, two ahead of Brad Bath and Andrew Bayles.

Dick continued his good round with birdies on both the 2nd (Donald Tyre and Exhaust) and the 11th (Matthew “Smiley” Spencer) holes.

The “Nearest The Pins” were: The Donald Auto Elec 3rd, Brad Bath; Weirs IGA 7th, Kelvin Clark; Nufarm 14th, Andrew Bayles; Bendigo Bank 16th, Brad Bath.

With the tournament season under way, Luke Kelly came away with a couple of

prizes from the Birchip tournament last weekend. Unfortunately for him his luck ran out on the last hole of his knock-out match last Sunday, going down by one with his last putt just short.

Plenty of Collingwood supporters getting a bit nervous over the weekend. The Cats are coming fast and playing good footy. Then again, Collingwood supports aren’t that astute, Geelong only played the Tigers.

There could be a new sign going up on the course. The 6th hole has the sign “Leneghan’s pain – Sheridan’s gain” for the amount of balls John used to hit into their paddock across the road. Another couple of shots like last week, Leneghan’s pain may be replaced with “Harvey’s pain”. Just keeping an eye on you, Geoff.

### Dad’s Army

A roll call of 8 fronted for Dad’s Army last Wednesday

with 28 points being the best score for the 12 holes by Robert “Kamikaze” Burton.

### Coming Up

Berriwillock tournament is on this weekend, while at home we will have a Stableford event off the Red Markers for something different, by Peaco Foods.

### Dad Jokes

I bought a second-hand time machine next Sunday – they don’t make them like they’re going to anymore.

A mate of mine is making a new documentary series about flying an aeroplane – he’s filming the pilot now.

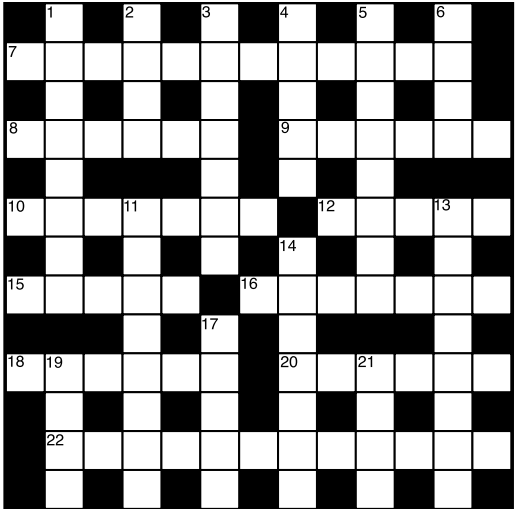
How do you stop a dog from barking in the back of a car? – You put him in the front.

What is a small pigeon called? – a smidgen.

Did you hear about the actor who broke his leg on stage? – he’s still in the cast.

## “Times” Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8185



### ACROSS

- 7. Unsettled (12)
- 8. Pain (6)
- 9. Capital city (6)
- 10. Flourish (7)
- 12. Trail (5)
- 15. Gush (5)
- 16. Wrongdoer (7)
- 18. Coming (6)
- 20. Deadly (6)
- 22. Police (12)

### DOWN

- 1. Flower (8)
- 2. Dress (4)
- 3. Plotter (7)
- 4. Card game (5)
- 5. Runway (8)
- 6. Nil (4)
- 11. Military rank (8)
- 13. Gallantry (8)
- 14. Song (7)
- 17. Condition (5)
- 19. Fish (4)
- 21. Lean (4)

• Solution next issue.



# Donald and St. Arnaud Share Netball Success

[From Donald Netball Club]

### Net Set Go

Another big week for Donald's Net Set Go team with a break up from their weekly sessions on Monday night, and 12 girls taking the court against a strong St Arnaud team.

It's been fabulous to watch the growth of all the girls over the last 10 weeks, with lots of improvement in passing, foot-work and general netball skills. There were some great

passages of play, but most importantly, lots of smiles.

Thanks to the St Arnaud girls for travelling over and giving us the chance to put our skills into practice.

### 14-&-Under "B"

The 14 "B" girls had a big challenge playing St Arnaud since it holds the top position on the ladder. The Donald players took the court with enthusiasm and gave it their all. However, St Arnaud came

out firing and was too good for Donald.

Well done to the Donald girls for their encouragement and sportsmanship through out the game

Donald 2 def. by St Arnaud 31.

Donald awards: Anabel Robinson, Gilchrist & Co; Aria Brennan, Harvest Cafe.

St Arnaud awards: Hailey (Canteen), Dres (Anne Ezard), Mayah (Coches).

### 14-&-Under "A"

Both Donald and St Arnaud started out strong with goal for goal during the first quarter. Donald came back together in the second quarter and was playing some strong cohesive netball. Donald started to take the lead during this quarter and continued to get stronger and stronger throughout the game.

In the last quarter Donald mixed it up with attackers taking on some defending or shooting positions, and Patience Beavis from defence and Chloe Italia in attack changing positions. It was great to see the Donald girls having some fun and enjoying netball as a team.

Well done to St Arnaud for always providing tough competition. Big thanks to Halle Rice our Donald umpire for the game; umpiring is never easy, she did a great job.

Donald 36 d. St Arnaud 16.

Donald awards: Lucy Robinson, Donald Family Butcher; River Stirling, Spud's Cafe.

St Arnaud awards: Sienna C. (Canteen), Tasha B. (Weirs IGA).

### 17-&-Under "A"

The Donald under-17 girls continue to take the court each week with resilience and a growing sense of teamwork. In their latest match against St Arnaud, both teams played with great spirit, making for a tough contest across the court. Donald's defenders worked hard to contain St Arnaud's sharp shooters, applying consistent pressure throughout. Meanwhile, the attacking end



• "C" Grade: Donald's Alyssa Hepworth GS and St Arnaud's Scarlett Hand. Donald's Laila Reilly GS watches on.

played smart netball, moving the ball well and creating solid scoring opportunities. It was Donald's highest-scoring game of the season so far; a real testament to its progress and growing confidence on court. While the scoreboard margin didn't reflect the effort and cohesion shown, the girls continue to build connections and gain valuable experience each week.

Donald 47 def. by St Arnaud 81.

Donald awards: Laila Reilly, The Clothes Bin; Alyssa Hepworth, Love Shack.

St Arnaud awards: Millie Hando (Colins Fencing Solutions), Scarlett Hand (St Arnaud Physiotherapy).

### "C" Grade

Donald's "C" grade side battled hard on the weekend, despite a few late withdrawals

due to illness and work commitments. A big thank you goes to youngsters Laila Reilly and Alyssa Hepworth who stepped in and played with confidence and maturity. The team continues to go from strength to strength, with the third quarter showcasing their best netball yet – fast-paced and skilful. Donald held a one-goal lead at one stage in the third quarter, but St Arnaud found its rhythm in the last fifteen minutes and finished strongly, taking the win 48 to 40.

Donald awards: Jenna McCallum, IGA; Claire Adams, Donald Hotel; Jorjah Roberts, Coach's Chocolate.

St Arnaud awards: Tori Tillig (Gilmac), Sophie O'Donnell (Hendy Tyre & Battery).

### "B" Grade

Donald's "B" grade side put in a strong four-quarter performance against a competitive St Arnaud team. The attackers worked hard early, navigating tight defence with sharp passing and smart decision-making to find their shooters, who finished accurately. Defensively, Donald applied pressure across the court, especially in the second quarter, combining well to disrupt St Arnaud's attacking plays. In the third, the team pushed hard to close the margin, with key intercepts and fast transitions down the court.

The attackers continued to time their passes well into the ring, keeping the scoreboard ticking. The final quarter saw both teams dig deep, chasing down every loose ball and creating turnovers. Donald showed great determination, with defenders continuing to apply pressure and the whole team working together to finish strongly. A great effort from a group that continues to develop week by week.

Donald 57 def. by St Arnaud 62.

Donald awards: Tori Kelm, Jasper & Co; Millie Lydom, Mensland.

St Arnaud awards: Scarlett Hand (Weirs IGA), Millie Hando (St Arnaud Physiotherapy).

### "A" Grade

Donald's "A" grade team put in a fierce and focused performance against St Arnaud in a fast-paced, high-intensity match. From the outset, both teams went hard for the ball, but it was Donald's defenders who stood tall, gaining early turnovers and applying consistent pressure. The mid-court worked hard to control the tempo, reading the play well and delivering clean feeds into the attacking ring. Donald's shooters were composed and accurate, linking well with their feeders.

Throughout the second and third quarters, Donald kept up the pressure across the court, while St Arnaud lifted to challenge the Donald attackers. Both teams displayed smart passages of play, making it an exciting game to watch. Donald's defenders continued to shine, causing crucial turnovers and turning defence into attack. In the final term, both teams showed grit, but Donald's composure and teamwork helped it maintain control until the final whistle. Another strong performance as the team continues to build chemistry each week.

Donald 69 d. St Arnaud 38.

Donald awards: Zoe Grigsby, Gilchrist & Co; Ally Doak, Bev's Baubles.

St Arnaud awards: Molly Hendy (JJ O'Connors), Chloe Douglas (Bendigo Bank).



• "B" Grade: Donald's Zara Staples and St Arnaud's Scarlett Hand. Melinda Jardine is the umpire.



• Under-14 "B": Donald's Anisia Podasca GS and Indi Goldsmith GA, with St. Arnaud's Dresden Dix GK defending.



• "A" Grade: Donald's Zoe Grigsby lunges to receive, defended by St Arnaud's Rebecca McKenny GK.





## July 4 at Charlton Trots

(By Peter Hibberd)

The Charlton Harness Club with one of its major sponsors, Ames Australasia, continued their annual Independence Day meeting.

C.F.O. of the company, Dale McGrath, was on track to celebrate the day with a big array of American-style food. But it was the winning trainers of each race who really enjoyed the day, with each person receiving \$1000 of gardening products. Some of the items included wheelbarrows, hose reels, clothes lines, plus an assortment of garden tools and equipment.

Leading driver on the day was again James "Herbie" Herbertson, who has only recently returned from an overseas trip and drove 3 winners on the day. Such is the demand for this driver, he drove in Tasmania the previous night.

Australia's leading lady driver, Kerry Manning, completed a rare feat. The Charlton Club runs 4 major races for the year, the Pacing, Trotting a Dja Dja Cups, and the Independence Day race. Kerry drove the three winners of the latter mentioned races.

Punters had a bad day with some long-priced winners.

For instance, the quaddie paid over \$14K.

### Results

Race one: The Ainsworth stable regularly attends the Charlton meetings. Optimal, trained and driven by Jason Ainsworth, won the race. But the winner was decided in the stewards' room; the protest was dismissed.

Race two: Stylish Gem, owned and trained by Birchip trainer, Gary Living, returned to winning form, with a very strong finish to win. Driven by Jackie Barker, it sat back in the field, and with a strong pace which suits this horse, it won at the price of 6 to 1.

Race three: The first of Herbie's three winners was Nothing Sweeter; starting at a very short price, it led all the way.

Race four: A big local group of owners have a share in a pacer called Into The Harkness. Trained by the McNaulty brothers at Kooreh, it returned from a spell with an

easy win, with a 1-56.2 mile rate. Only lightly raced, it has now won four races. This was Herbie's second winner.

Race five: The biggest priced winner on the day was Modern Hope paying \$45 for the win. Driven by Ian White, this trotter won its first race. The White family from Bendigo is basically a stable for trotters. The name goes back a long way in the local area, with a lot of success.

Race six: Driver Ellen Tormey showed her brilliance again with the winning drive on Alfie Always. Starting off the 20-metre handicap, it was away very quickly and found the lead after a short distance. Over the last 600 metres, was tackled very strongly, but with Ellen driving hard, it had a neck victory. After the win, trainer David Van Ryn said, "This horse is for sale."

Race eight: I know it's been mentioned a lot of times over many years, some horses love racing at Charlton. Another horse to do this is the



• Presentation of winner RVG to driver Kerry Manning by Dale McGrath, C.F.O. of AMES Australasia after the win of the Sportz Star.

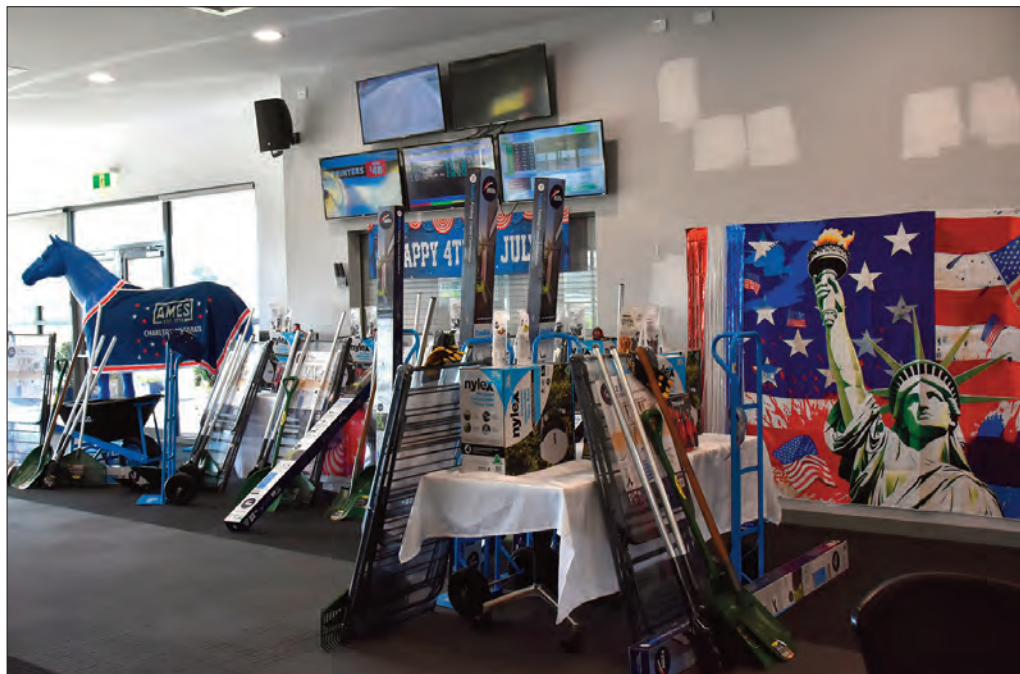
Kerry Manning owned, trained and driven, The Sportz Star. Having won on Cup Day

at the big odds of \$21, it blew punters away at \$35. Its recent form did not really deserve

this big price. Kerry said for some reason, he always races well at Charlton.



• Approaching the finish line is Into The Harkness driven by James Herbertson defeating Redbank Molly driven by Kerry Manning. Both horses are trained by the McNaulty Brothers form Kooreh. The winner is part owned by a big local group. This was the second of 3 winners for "Herbie".



• A large display set up by AMES (Aust.) in association with the Charlton Harness Racing Club displaying the various gardening products presented to all winning trainers.



• One of the keenest races on the day was the land of the Free Trotters Handicap. On the inside Alfie Always driven by Ellen Tormey defeats Night Whisperer driven by James Herbertson.



• Winning driver Jackie Barker with Birchip owner/trainer Gary Living after the win of Stylish Gem in the Stars and Stripes Pace.

## Trash to Treasure

One person's Trash is another's Treasure!

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