

## DONALD

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## The Buloke Times

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



• Left to right: Dr Paul Telfer, Barley Breeder, AGT Breeding; Mr Aaron Barnett, Riordan Grains; Ms Maggie Yang, Austrade, Beijing, China; Ms Mary Raynes, Markets Manager – Lead, AEGIC (Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre); Mr Mark Lewis, Chief Commercial Officer, Riordan Grains; Mr Simon Tickner, Yellow Grain, Warracknabeal.

# Mary Leads Delegation to China



• Mary Raynes speaking at the seminar.

**Former Donald resident, Mary Raynes, was among speakers at the 2025 AEGIC Australian barley seminars in China, early this month.**

The daughter of Donald's Peter and Colleen Raynes, Mary was the leader of the delegation representing the Australia barley supply chain delivering the two major seminars.

A delegation representing the Australian barley supply chain delivered two major technical seminars for the Chinese brewing and malting industries, supported by the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations (NFACR).

The AEGIC-led Australian malting barley technical seminars for China are a highlight of the calendar and reflect the importance of the Chinese market for Australian barley.

China is a major market for Australian barley, worth almost \$1.2 billion on average.

The fully booked seminars in Guangzhou (July 8) and Beijing (July 10) were received well by the Chinese industry which appreciates staying connected with the Australian barley industry and receiving the latest technical insights on barley production, breeding and varieties.

The Beijing seminar was opened by Mr Scott Dewar, Australian Ambassador the People's Republic of China

The seminars also featured:

- Mary Raynes; AEGIC Markets Manager – Lead (delegation leader).
- Dr Paul Telfer; Australian Grain Technologies Senior Barley Breeder.
- Dr Silvina Baraibar; InterGrain Barley Breeder.
- Simon Tickner; Australian barley grower.
- Mark Lewis; Riordan Grain Chief Commercial Officer.
- Megan Edwards; Feed nutrition expert and AEGIC consultant.

AEGIC collaborates with the Australian grain trade and the breeding sector to ensure organisations have fair opportunities to take part in these annual events.

## Panel Discussions

Each seminar also featured panel discussions with representatives of the Chinese malting and brewing industries, including the China Alcoholic Drinks Association (CADA), Dalian Xingze Malt and CBH Grain Asia.

The audiences were highly engaged and the content prompted energetic discussion and questions.

In between the seminars, the delegation visited a number malting and brewing

companies and industry organisations, including Guangdong Hai Da Group, Supertime Malting, COFCO Grains Holdings Limited, Chinese Alcoholic Drinks Association (CADA), CR Beer (Snow Brewery), Malt-Europ (Baoding). Delegation members were also guests of Yanjing Brewery's 34th Beijing International Yanjing Beer Culture Festival 2025.

## Consistent Quality

All companies AEGIC met with reaffirmed the strong reputation and consistent quality of Australian malting barley.

The Chinese malting and brewing industry expressed a clear interest in accessing deeper technical insights to new and upcoming Australian barley varieties.

There is strong interest in building long-term technical and commercial relationships with Australia to support variety selection, improve brewing outcomes, and enhance supply chain confidence.

The Chinese industry places strong value on the AEGIC-led Australian barley technical seminars, considering them a key fixture in their annual calendar for accessing up-to-date insights on barley quality, variety development, and brewing performance.

In Memory of Jacob Walsh...  
**A Special Gift to Geelong Hospital**

Birchip’s Kylie and David Walsh, in honour of what would have been their late son Jacob’s 21st birthday in June, donated a “Cuddle Cot” to the Maternity Unit, a lasting and meaningful gesture in memory of Jacob.

Jacob Walsh was born on June 7, 2004, and although his time on earth was heartbreakingly short, his presence has remained ever cherished by his family.

The Cuddle Cot donation, valued at \$6,500, was made possible after many years of Kylie and David quietly working towards this goal. It reflects Jacob’s legacy and the Walsh family’s hope to offer comfort to others walking a similarly devastating path.

**Precious Time**

A Cuddle Cot is a cooling bassinet system that allows bereaved families precious time to spend with their baby after loss. It gives parents the opportunity to say both hello

and goodbye in the same breath, to create memories, take photographs, and grieve at their own pace. Time, which Kylie and David remember not having enough of with Jacob, is the most valuable gift such a device can provide.

Kylie met privately with Josephine Crowe, Midwifery Unit Manager for the Birth Suite & Maternity Assessment Unit at Barwon Health, along with midwife Riley. Together, they toured the maternity unit where both Jacob and his younger sister Ella were born.

**Redevelopment**

The hospital is currently undergoing a significant rede-

velopment, with construction under way for a new, state-of-the-art birthing suite. Within that space, a purpose-built private area for grieving parents will be created, where Jacob’s Cuddle Cot will be made available, providing dignity, time, and space for families enduring unimaginable loss.

**Special Service**

As part of the hospital’s ongoing support of families, Kylie has also been invited back in October to participate in a special candlelight service. Held during Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month, this annual event gives hospital staff and families a moment to pause and reflect on all the precious babies who left too soon, and to acknowledge the deep imprint they leave on our lives.

Kylie and David extend their deepest thanks to Toni Watson from “Bears of Hope Pregnancy & Infant Loss Support” for her compassion, communication, and care throughout the process of purchasing the Cuddle Cot. They also thank her for arranging the embroidery on the bassinet and commemorative plaque that ensure Jacob’s name and memory are forever tied to this gift. Thanks also go to Josephine and the midwifery team for their warmth and care during the private presentation.

While it is a gift they hope is seldom used, Kylie and David find comfort in knowing that Jacob’s Cuddle Cot will be there for other families in their most fragile moments, a quiet legacy in the memory of their late son.



• Riley, Geelong (Barwon Health) Hospital Midwife; Kylie Walsh, Josephine Crowe, (Midwifery Unit Manager Birth Suite & Maternity Assessment Unit).

**Jenny’s Creativity On Show**

The Charlton Courthouse Gallery will come alive with colour, wit and creativity this August as it hosts a major retrospective of the work of local artist and storyteller, Jenny Pollard.

The exhibition opens officially on Sunday, August 3, at 2 p.m., with all art lovers, family and friends invited to attend.

While many will know Jenny as a long-time correspondent and photographer for the “Buloke Times”, or for her iconic mural in the Charlton Shire Hall, this exhibition offers a much broader glimpse into her remarkable creative journey.

Spanning decades and a multitude of mediums, Jenny’s work ranges from expressive life drawings and whimsical cartoons to abstract collages, textile pieces and large-scale murals. Her distinctive style is playful, thoughtful and deeply personal, often blending technical skill with a strong sense of narrative and humour.

“We are really looking forward to showcasing Jenny’s vast array of work,” says Courthouse Gallery secretary, Carolyn Olive. “Her creativity has touched so many areas of our community – this is a wonderful chance to see it all in one place.”

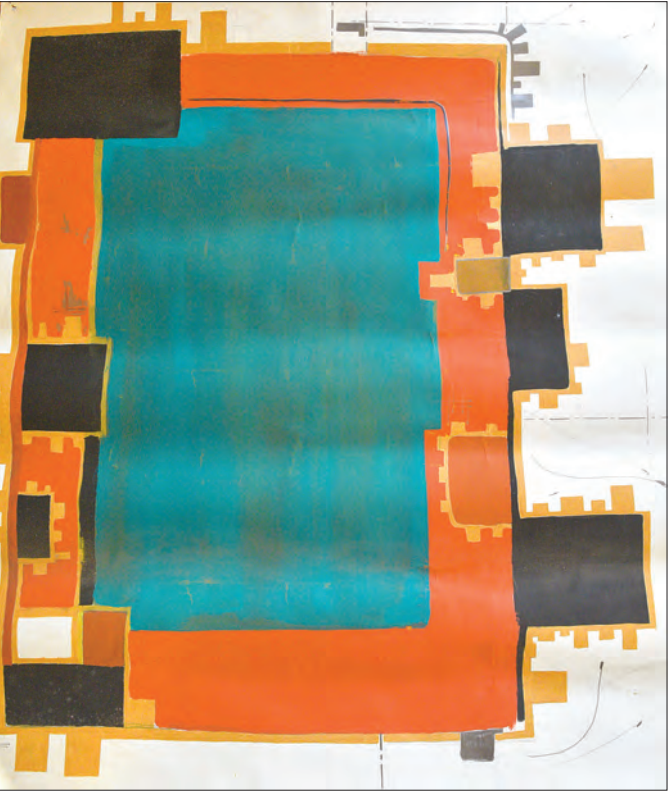
Jenny’s formal training in art and design, combined with

her wide-ranging interests – from photography and silver-smithing to cake decorating and digital design – has resulted in a body of work that is both diverse and deeply engaging – whether through a finely inked cartoon or a bold brushstroke mural, her ability to capture the quirks and

character of life shines through.

The exhibition will be open on Saturday and Sunday, August 9 to 17, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.. Entry by donation.

Don’t miss this opportunity to see this celebration of work from one of Charlton’s most prolific creatives.

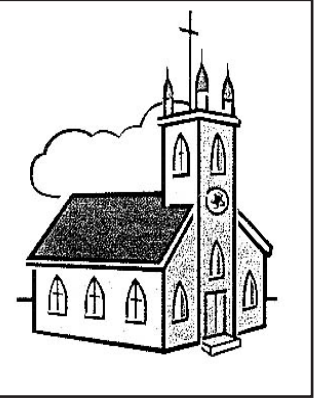


• An abstract image by Jenny Pollard.



• The Cuddle Cot, donated by Kylie and David Walsh in honour of their son Jacob Walsh.

**Church Notices**



**ANGLICAN  
“Parish of  
Charlton-Donald”**  
Enquiries: Rev’d Judi Bird  
0435 593 395  
**Friday, August 1**  
St. Paul’s, Birchip, 5 p.m.  
**Sunday, August 3**  
St. Martin’s, Charlton, 9 a.m.  
St. George’s, Donald, 11 a.m.  
Holy Trinity, W’burn, 3 p.m.

**Police Beat**



**Gannawarra**

**Theft:** Between 2 p.m. and 2.15 p.m. on Monday, July 14, it is reported that offenders attended a property on Mawson’s Road Cohuna and stole an angle grinder, rattle gun and radio.

**Damage:** At about 5.30 p.m. on Friday, July 18, windows at the Kerang Magistrates Court. The female responsible has been identified and is yet to be interviewed by police.

**Deception:** In early July, it is reported that the victim was contacted by a person on the phone multiple times, purporting to be from the bank. They convinced the victim to transfer a total of over \$140,000 from her account,

into an account number provided by them over several days. Swan Hill detectives are investigating.

**Buloke**

**Burglary:** Between 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, July 17, and 12.40 p.m. the following day, it is reported that offenders have forced entry to a building at a recreation area on Hammill Street, Donald, and stolen a small safe.

**Theft:** At about 5 p.m. on Friday, July 18, it is reported that the victim was driving towards his address in Sea Lake, when he saw a male loading plants into a vehicle. The victim approached the male and stopped him taking, allegedly, his plants. A theft investigation is ongoing.

**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 |                    | Venue information                                                       |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9 July Charlton  | 6 August Charlton  | <b>Donald</b> – Scout Hall, Racecourse Road, Donald                     |
| 16 July Donald   | 13 August Charlton |                                                                         |
| 23 July Charlton | 20 August Donald   | <b>Birchip</b> – Birchip Community Leisure Centre, Morrison St, Birchip |
| 30 July Birchip  | 27 August Birchip  |                                                                         |

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

# ChatBCG Launched

AI powered research support is now at farmers’ fingertips.

BCG has officially launched ChatBCG, a cutting-edge digital tool giving farmers and advisers instant access to more than 30 years of trusted, local research any time, anywhere.

The first tool of its kind in Australian farming systems research, ChatBCG is designed to support faster, more confident decision making on farm by delivering evidence-based answers in seconds.

Unveiled to more than 120 attendees at the BCG Ag Tech Expo in Charlton on Wednesday, July 16, ChatBCG is set to transform how farmers access and apply insights in real time. The Expo was supported by the GRDC Grains Automate program through the Society of Precision Agriculture Australia.

ChatBCG allows users to type a question and receive fast, practical answers

grounded in decades of BCG research. Whether it’s managing dry sowing, interpreting gross margins, or exploring nitrogen strategies, the tool delivers timely support in plain language.

“This tool puts the full weight of BCG’s research behind every question a farmer might ask, whether they’re in the paddock, at the kitchen table, or working with an advisor,” said Fiona Best, BCG CEO. “It’s part of our commitment to staying at the cutting edge of agricultural innovation and supporting our members through changing conditions and technologies.”

“We wanted to make it easier for farmers to access the insights they need, without having to trawl through old reports,” said Jess Bidstrup, BCG’s Communications & Engagement Officer and ChatBCG project manager. “The beauty of



• Jess Bidstrup unveils the AI powered tool, ChatBCG, to more than 120 attendees at the BCG Ag Tech Expo.

ChatBCG is that it distills complex research into clear, practical answers, and it’s available 24/7.”

For a limited time, non-members can trial ChatBCG

free for one month before it becomes a members-only benefit. With a BCG membership, users gain ongoing access to the tool alongside the full suite of research updates, technical bulletins, events, and extension activities.

Farmers can trial Chat BCG now or sign up for membership at [www.bcg.org.au](http://www.bcg.org.au).

# With an Ugly Twist... Farmers Tax Grab Battle Reignites

The 48th Parliament has commenced with great ceremony in Canberra but the show has been stolen by leaked Treasury advice that the Albanese Government needs to raise taxes, bringing Labor’s superannuation tax into the spotlight, Member for Mallee Dr Anne Webster said this week.

“The Nationals are not taking a backward step in fighting Labor’s retirement savings tax grab – we defeated it in the 47th Parliament, and we will fight to defeat it again,” Dr Webster said.

Labor’s plan to impose an additional 15 per cent on money in self-managed superannuation funds with balances over \$3 million was halted due to a dynamic Senate blocking it in the last parliamentary term, but Labor could pass the legislation with the support of the Greens alone. The Greens have indicated they want to capture more superannuants, lowering the balance to \$2 million, while Labor’s threshold is not indexed.

The National Farmers Federation reports the Superannuation Fund Association estimates there are around 17,000 super accounts holding farmland and of those 3,500 have land valued over the \$3 million threshold.

Treasurer Chalmers said recently that the tax grab is “an important way that we fund some of our other priorities.”

The Parliamentary Budget Office projects that the Albanese Government’s asset tax grab could reap a rapidly increasing yield, from an initial \$300 million in the first year to \$7 billion per annum within 10 years.

“The ugly twist here is that for the first time, and without

precedent anywhere in the world, Labor wants to tax ‘unrealised capital gains,’ Dr Webster said. Your farmland might have increased in value, but you haven’t sold it – and you may never sell it – but Labor wants you to pay tax on that gain in capital value – every year. This tax grab is on increases on paper value alone.”

### Drought Conditions

“Labor is proposing tax on unrealised capital gains during very dry or drought conditions in western Victoria, adding insult to injury when Victorian Labor are imposing an ESVF levy on land values as well – and were embarrassed into a one-year reprieve in south-western Victoria due to drought.

“Labor does not comprehend that if there is no crop or there are low flock numbers, when the rain isn’t falling, farmers will not have the cashflow to pay the new super tax and the impost on unrealised capital gains.

“Young farmers will be deterred from returning to the industry and this once again shows Labor is out of touch with the consequences of this reckless policy – so much so that even superannuation architect and former PM Paul Keating and the Australian Council of Trade Unions have been urging a re-think.”

### Survey Results

Dr Webster said her recent Mallee’s Biggest Survey



• Anne Webster.

results continue to come in and while final results are some weeks away, the clear indication is a vast majority of Mallee residents are worried about Labor’s plans to tax retirement savings, and feel both personal income and business taxes are already too high.

“As I say, The Nationals are not taking a backward step after the May 3 election, as we demonstrated in ensuring the Coalition would stand strong for better regional telecommunications, protection for farmers in their dealings with supermarkets, a Regional Australia Future Fund and nuclear energy as part of our future energy mix,” Dr. Webster said.

“These positions, and what I am saying today on Labor’s retirement tax grab, are entirely consistent with the view of Mallee residents.”

# Pte Singh Graduates

Pte (GNR) Gursimran M. Singh, age 20, of Donald, graduated from the ADF Army boot camp at 1RBT Kapooka on July 11, 2025.

PTE (GNR) Singh completed 10 weeks of intensive basic training at 1RBT Kapooka as one of the recruits in 36 Platoon D COY.

Following 2 days of leave, she reported to Puckapunyal Military for 6 weeks of specialized training in drone operations and aviation before continuing that training at her new posting in Brisbane.



• Gursimran M. Singh.

# Transmission Plan Removes Landholder Property Rights

The Nationals’ Member for Mildura, Jade Benham, has condemned the Allan Labor Government’s proposed National Electricity (Victoria) Amendment (VicGrid Stage 2 Reform) Bill 2025, warning it strips regional landholders of basic property rights.

Labor’s transmission plan removes landholder property rights

Under the Bill, authorised officers would be given extraordinary powers, including the use of force to enter farmland, the authority to cut locks, open gates, and remove any obstacles in their path to push through energy transmission projects.

Landholders who refuse could face fines of up to \$12,210 and for businesses up to \$48,842. Other offences include failing to provide identification or interfering with notices of entry.

“This is a government telling regional Victorians they no longer have control over their own land,” Ms Benham said.

### Threats

“Instead of working with farmers and property owners, Labor wants to intimidate

them with threats of forced entry and fines. “This is not consultation. It’s coercion.”

Ms Benham said Labor’s misguided, heavy handed approach to energy developments had divided communities, causing immense fear and angst.

“Regional communities understand the need for energy transition and resilient infrastructure, but they deserve transparency, respect, and proper consultation throughout the process.

Ms Benham said the Bill is a direct result of Labor’s failure to deliver key energy projects on time and on budget.

### Steamrolling

“Labor’s energy rollout has been plagued by delay, mismanagement and a complete lack of genuine engagement with rural communities,” she said. “Now they’re trying to fix



• Jade Benham.

their mess by steamrolling our farmers, not working with them.”

Ms Benham said the Liberals and Nationals will oppose the Bill and fight to restore fairness for regional Victorians, including reinstating landholders’ appeal rights through VCAT and introducing a 2km buffer zone between homes and wind turbines.

### Support services

| Adult                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Youth                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Other resources                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lifeline:</b> 13 11 14   Text 0477 13 11 14<br><a href="http://lifeline.org.au">lifeline.org.au</a><br><b>Suicide Call Back Service:</b> 1300 659 467<br><a href="http://suicidecallbackservice.org.au">suicidecallbackservice.org.au</a><br><b>Beyond Blue:</b> 1300 224 636<br><a href="http://beyondblue.org.au/forums">beyondblue.org.au/forums</a><br><b>MensLine Australia:</b> 1300 789 978<br><a href="http://mensline.org.au">mensline.org.au</a><br><b>StandBy Support After Suicide</b><br>1300 727 247 | <b>Kids Helpline:</b> 1800 551 800<br><a href="http://kidshelpline.com.au">kidshelpline.com.au</a><br><b>headspace:</b> 1800 650 890<br><a href="http://headspace.org.au">headspace.org.au</a><br><b>ReachOut:</b> <a href="http://ReachOut.com">ReachOut.com</a> | <b>Head to Health:</b> mental health portal<br><a href="http://headtohealth.gov.au">headtohealth.gov.au</a><br><b>Life in Mind:</b> suicide prevention portal<br><a href="http://lifeinmindaustralia.com.au">lifeinmindaustralia.com.au</a><br><b>SANE:</b> 1800 187 263 (10am-10pm)<br>online forums: <a href="http://saneforums.org">saneforums.org</a> |
| <b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander:</b> 13YARN.org.au or 13 92 76<br><b>Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and/or intersex:</b> 1800 184 527 <a href="http://qlife.org.au">qlife.org.au</a><br><b>Culturally and linguistically diverse:</b> <a href="http://embracementalhealth.org.au">embracementalhealth.org.au</a>                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

# “Times” Classifieds

Phone Donald 5497 1222, Birchip 5492 2735

Email [admin@buloketimes.com](mailto:admin@buloketimes.com)

## Deadlines:—

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

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



## DONALD HOCKEY CLUB 60th Celebration Saturday, August 2

Come and enjoy the hockey, followed by the annual casserole tea and quiz night.

## CHOOK RUN

### Ballarat Chooks

Pullets/Chooks for Sale  
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## DELIVERY

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Dropping of at: Avoca,  
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# The Buloke Times



“The  
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**Tuesday, July 29**

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



Coloured pencil on black card.

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

River Stirling

**DONALD HIGH SCHOOL**

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

## “Times” Classifieds



Cultivating Healthy Communities

### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

#### Campus Negotiable

Allied Health Team Leader

Enrolled Nurse Trainee

#### Birchip

Endorsed Enrolled Nurse

#### Charlton

Resident Lifestyle Coordinator

#### St Arnaud

Resident Lifestyle Coordinator

Acting Campus Manager

Endorsed Enrolled Nurse

Associate Nurse Unit Manager

Registered Nurse

Food and Domestic Service Assistant

#### Wycheproof

Food and Domestic Service Assistant

Junior Food and Domestic Service Assistant

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



### 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, Executive Assistant to CEO [starnaud@ewhs.org.au](mailto:starnaud@ewhs.org.au).

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

# Monthly Historial Enquiries

Belinda Sloothaak, from the Mornington Peninsula brought her 82-year-old father up for a visit to see if he could find the “Hyll’s Coffee Lounge” which his parents, Herbert and Madge Hill, ran in 1946 and 1947. The archives was closed, unfortunately, but her father found the shop, next to the hardware store, located just where he remembered. Belinda contacted the archives after returning home and there was plenty of information to be sent about the Hill family’s brief stay in Donald. You could say that the Hills gave the kickstart to the very successful café which lasted for many years. It was built by W.H. Gray in 1927, replacing a former Café and fruiterers, operated by Syd Blay, which had been destroyed by fire. Syd Blay leased the new shop

from Gray, briefly, before re-locating to his own shop in McCulloch Street. “Hyll’s Coffee Lounge” introduced a dry cleaning service associated with King’s Dry Cleaning, a Bendigo business. The Provincial Roadways daily bus service between Warracknabeal and Bendigo, stopping at Carron, Donald and Charlton, stopped at Hyll’s Coffee Lounge and articles could be left there to be delivered by the bus service. They also introduced fresh fish, ice cream and remained as fruit and vegetable suppliers.

Barry and Marjorie Hansen with son, David and his wife Sara, visited Donald on the King’s Birthday weekend and they were also from the Mornington Peninsula. They were unaware of the Donald and District Archives, but they were noticed, spoken

to and referred on when they decided to attend Saturday Night Mass at St Mary’s, Donald. The next morning saw them at the archives by special appointment, where they found a wealth of information about the family’s time in Donald. Barry’s parents, Tom and Patricia Hansen owned the Donald Hotel in 1944-47. Barry and his brother, John, attended St Mary’s School, but the “Donald Times” also showed that they spent some time at the Watchem School, where their uncle, Albert Hansen, owned the Watchem Hotel at the same time. The Watchem Picnic sports held on October 9th, 1946 had Barry and John competing and running in the sports alongside such names as Howley, Reither, Connelan, Barbetti, Pearce, Beacom, Vincent, Cannard, Dickie, Berry, Cross, Mitchell, Zimmer, Belleville, Guy, Lang, Fitzgerald, Grant, Stebbins and O’Connor. It was hard to think of anyone who attended St Mary’s, Donald in those years, but at Saturday night Mass in June, 2025, Barry Hansen was in the church with John Howley, Brenda Brennan and Peter Barbetti and they were all listed in the Watchem Picnic races on that same day in 1946. Later the Hansen family owned a hotel in Bairnsdale. Marjorie and Barry met during this era and Marjorie said that in this pre-motel era, busloads of tourists would arrive and stay at the hotels. She said that Patricia Hansen was a fine pianist and used to entertain the guests. Her husband, Tom, could make a very realistic trumpet sound and he used to erect a

white sheet and then stand behind it with a light shining on it, looking and sounding very like he was playing a trumpet in the silhouette. Marjorie thought that it was very entertaining and amusing. Tom Hansen was a trained hairdresser and for a short while he also offered hair cuts at the Donald Hotel. What a great combination that would have been!

Leoni Pary was passing through and called in to see if we had any information on her family, the Jamiesons. Her sister, Maree was born in “Ivanhoe Hospital” Bush Nursing Hospital, Woods St, Donald in 1952. Leoni said that her parents were briefly farmers in the Donald district. They were possibly share or lease farmers. If anyone can remember the Jamiesons, we would love to hear from you.

A woman came into the archives. She was passing through and had known Ray Fricke. She was very impressed with the plaques on the shops giving the history of each shop and looked for Ray’s name, but was unable to find it. We were able to tell her that Ray was in the bakery at 29 Woods Street (now Harvest Café) in 1959 and 1960, after the Carrodus family and before Don McKenzie. Don bought the business, but already owned the bakery at the other end of town, so this was temporarily leased to the Jess family and others as a residence, and then it became the first Donald premises for F.W. Michael and Sons. In 1969, McKenzies bakery opened here, later bought by H.E Whiting and it remained a bakery until 1984.



### LANDCARE FACILITATOR WANTED

Make an impact on our local environment!

The Buloke Northern Grampians Landcare Network is seeking a passionate Landcare Facilitator to support local Landcare groups, run workshops, and drive environmental projects across our region.

#### Why you'll love this role:

- ✓ \$50-60/hr contractor rate
- ✓ \$1000 professional development budget
- ✓ 19-22 hrs/week, work from home

**What we're looking for:** Experience in community development, natural resource management, or related field. Strong communication and project management skills essential.

6-month contract starting October 2025 (likely extension to 2028)

#### Questions?

We're happy to chat via phone or email.

#### APPLY NOW!

Maddie Grant

President BGNLN

[madeleine.a.grant@gmail.com](mailto:madeleine.a.grant@gmail.com) / 0479 035 646



### NOW HIRING

Harberger Pty Ltd are seeking an experienced admin person to assist with the Spare Parts and Vehicle Servicing departments.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- Front of house reception.
- Preparing customer sales and invoices.
- Ordering and receiving local stock for upcoming vehicle service work.
- Assisting with Machine Spare Parts when required.
- Cost capturing and price setting.
- Assisting with site OH&S responsibilities.

#### REQUIREMENTS AND SKILLS:

- Proven working experience within an administration.
- Knowledge of accounting principles and procedures.
- Understanding of inventory management.
- Understanding of MYOB, Excel and MS Office.
- Excellent time management and organisational skills
- Ability to work independently and within a team environment

This position is Monday to Friday from 8am-5pm. **If you wish to apply, please send your resume to: [stuart@harberger.com.au](mailto:stuart@harberger.com.au) Or drop your resume into Harberger, 16-18 Racecourse Rd, Donald.**

## MICHAELS OF DONALD

bring you

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



“Oh, don't be so mean. Give him the comic pages.”

## 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)

# News of the News on the News!

(By Quill)

Featuring in local news this month has been the 150th anniversary of this very publication – the “Buloke Times”; however, this remarkable milestone is destined for more than its local audience, and will gain national attention in the very near future.

Amidst the 150th celebrations has been a special visit from ABC Landline journalists, Tim Lee and Andrew Alltree-Williams, covering the history of our humble paper from its first edition as the “Donald Times” on July 29, 1875, right up to its current bi-weekly publication as the “Buloke Times”.

It seems Tim Lee found this to be a story of national interest, not only the long history, but the generational aspect of one family’s commitment and dedication to bringing its community a local and relevant newspaper over such an extensive period.

From its first edition in 1875, the paper had operated under the ownership of the Morgan and Letts families, handed down the generations from Godfrey Morgan, to Goff Letts, then Robin Letts (current editor), and now David Letts, the current director, in charge of printing and distribution (and keeping the rest of us in line).

Of particular interest to the visitors from “Landline” was Robin Letts’s contribution, an incredible 76 years – more than half of the paper’s lifespan – since he began in his early days as a football reporter in 1947. He then stepped into the role of editor, following his father, Goff’s death in 1987 and there he remains to this day. Quite incredible for a gentleman of such advanced years.

Tim and Andrew thought so too, and they set about capturing footage of Robin in

his natural environment in the hopes of reporting his remarkable journey to the rest of the country. Now, this sounds a simple enough task, but anyone who knows Robin Letts will know of his aversion to being photographed or filmed. In fact, all of the “Buloke Times” staff are far more accustomed to looking through the viewfinder, rather than staring down the lens of a camera. Landline journalists (and editors) had a very tough job indeed. Understanding the importance of the story itself and hoping to shine a light on the “Buloke Times” and its history, staff were “good sports” and did their best to be accommodating of their guests, despite their nervousness.

The afternoon of their arrival, the visiting pair followed Jenny Pollard and me to capture footage of us “on the job” at BCG’s Ag Tech Expo held at Charlton Park. The following day (Thursday), they got amidst the action of print day where it was “all hands on deck” to bring out Friday’s edition, from editing and layout, to folding and distribution. Long term staff member Brian Bayles was also very happy to be called back in from retirement to take them on a journey back in time, explaining the old equipment used in publishing the paper prior to the invention of computers and modern tech.

Andrew and Tim didn’t stick to the “Times” office though, they went to see the

big kookaburra and of course had a chat with John McConville.

Later that afternoon David was followed out on his delivery run to Corack then Wycheproof, capturing drone footage to convey the vast distances travelled to bring the community its news.

On Friday, they stopped into the Donald and District Archives which has bound copies of the “Times” right back to 1882, neatly organised and proudly displayed. This visit was of importance in relaying the history captured in the pages of this local paper for a century-and-a-half, proudly displayed and rightly so. Considering the day after print day is relatively quiet, this was the opportunity Tim and Andrew needed to interview Robin and David Letts, and succeeded after much cajoling; this, you will have to wait to air on television to see for yourself.

So last Friday, July 18’s edition of the “Buloke Times” was all brought out under the scrutiny of ABC journalists. Not uncomfortable at all! To be fair, Tim and Andrew are both very nice people, genuine and easy to get along with. Andrew’s asset as a cameraman is an engaging personality which immediately puts you at ease (and then he shoves a camera in your face). He thoroughly enjoyed the energy in the office on print day, helping him re-

• Continued on page 7.



• A sneak peak of David and Robin Letts’s interview through Andrew’s viewfinder.



• Andrew and Tim discussing the next shot at the printing press.



• At the big kookaburra as major works continue on the inside of the factory, John McConville took a minute of his busy schedule to talk to Tim Lee about the importance of rural newspapers such as the “Buloke Times”.



• Folding the papers: Andrew and Tim captured the whole process of bringing out the “Buloke Times” from layout and editing, to printing and folding, and much more!

# ABC Landline Journalists Visit

• Continued from page 6.

flect on the days he worked in a country newsroom.

Tim Lee sets his subjects up for success, as he says, “If you look good, we look good” and I, for one, will cling to that ideal and pray they can work miracles.

Tim’s interest was in the importance of rural news outlets such as our very own “Buloke Times” and the sus-

tained impact over the past century-and-a-half.

“The local paper is really the heartbeat of the community,” he said. “It’s entertaining, informative, locally relevant and an historical resource.”

“And this one family’s devotion to the journalism through the generations is remarkable,” he added. “It’s a really special story.”

We think so too, and in ad-

dition to celebrations within the pages of the “Buloke Times”, we hope readers will tune in to ABC Landline, and continue to enjoy the coverage

of this significant milestone in the region’s history. Many thanks to Tim Lee and Andrew Alltree-Williams for your interest, time and patience in

telling this story. And many thanks to the community itself, for continued readership, contributions and involvement which make our paper as

about as local as it can get; it’s the community’s continued support that keeps it going.



• Above: Reporting on reporting on reporting Confused? So were we! Quill takes a photo of Andrew filming Jenny taking a photo of Jess Bidstrup and John Ferrier at BCG’s Ag Tech Expo. – Photo by Lucy Giles

• Left: ABC Landline guest visited District Archives where they had cameras pointed at cameras and then pointed at me! “Times” staff are not used to this view.



• Out on the newspaper delivery run, stopping at the Corack Hall, Andrew captures David’s arrival dropping papers to me to deliver to Birchip and Watchem, while he continued to Wycheproof and Charlton.



• Andrew gathering footage of “Buloke Times” reporter Quill at work interviewing John Ferrier at the BCG Ag Tech Expo held at Charlton Park last week.



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## Share Your Local Knowledge to Inform the Environment Effects Statement

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

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



Amenity



Biodiversity and Environment



Community and Land Use



Land and Water



Heritage

### VNI West Environment Effects Statement 2025 community session details

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

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

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



#### Contact us

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

Email: [enquiries@transmissionvictoria.com.au](mailto:enquiries@transmissionvictoria.com.au)

Free call: 1800 824 221

Website: [transmissionvictoria.com.au](https://transmissionvictoria.com.au)

“The Buloke Times”, Friday, July 25, 2025 — PAGE 7

# BCG's Ag Tech Expo —

**Birchip Cropping Group (BCG) held an Agricultural Technology Expo on July 16, at the warm and inviting Charlton Park complex.**

The purpose of the event was to bring together leading growers, advisers, researchers and innovators for a hands-on exploration of the tools shaping the future of farming.

It was a well-attended event, with approximately 150 farmers from all over the country taking the opportunity to see some of the new agricultural technology in action and to see how it might benefit their own farming enterprise.

As with many emerging technologies, it can sometimes be daunting trying out something new, and a myriad questions accompany any decision to adopt different practices on farm. Particularly the farmers themselves are often found to be “set in their ways” and reluctant to try anything that challenges the routine which has worked for them through many seasons.

That is why BCG organised leading experts in fields of sensor technology, weed management and automation support, including interactive panels with leading tech-savvy growers to answer any questions that arose on the day. Peer-to-peer learning was a key focus of the day, as discussion between farmers turns knowledge into practical insight – BCG organised for a farmer to be part of each session to ensure they remained relevant to what really happens in the paddock.

## 200 More Seasons

Hamish Munro, fifth-generation farmer from Orange, NSW and co-founder of Pairtree Intelligence, shone a light on the rapid technological developments of the agriculture industry over time. His message to farmers was clear: “The data we collect today will be the data that we use to train AI models and algorithms that will help us make decisions on farm in the future. It’s important that we

prioritise collecting and storing high-quality data, to create a legacy for our farm that we can pass on to the next generation.”

## Sensor Technology

Andrew Minnikin and Brendan Nolan from Sydney-based sensor technology provider INCYT presented a range of technology to growers on the day, featuring soil moisture probes, asset tracking devices, weather stations and more. The INCYT team were joined by Banyena farmer Frank Burchell, who uses INCYT sensors on his property to make decisions based on the stored soil moisture across his farm.

## Weed Management

Professor Michael Walsh, of Charles Sturt University, expert in novel weed management technologies, facilitated a panel of representatives from different sectors of the weed control industry: Bailey Kilpatrick (SwarmFarm Robotics), Shane Kable (Single Agriculture), and Jono Robinson (farm manager of Warakirri Cropping’s Baingarra site and 8-year user of the Weed-IT system). The panel discussed the different technologies available and received lots of questions from growers about the practical uses of these technologies on farm and future developments to expect.

## Grain Automate

Grain Automate is a Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) initiative on behalf of Australian grain growers aimed at accelerating the adoption of machine automation, autonomy and digital technologies in the Australian grains industry. Facilitated by the Society of Precision Agriculture Australia (SPAA), Edward Scott discussed the different types of automation on farm, how growers can assess where they are along the journey to full automation, and some tips

and tricks for ensuring the technology they already have on-farm is performing the best it can for their operation. Ed was joined by Jordan Lee (Verge Ag) who demonstrated boundary mapping technology that is compatible across all brands of machinery. Key messages from Ed’s session included gathering a team of people to help with the technology, identifying quick wins to add value with lower effort, and the value of putting time and effort into creating a “master digital farm” that is exactly the same as the real farm. “Get support in the right areas on the journey. You don’t have to do it all,” he said.

## Economics of Automation

Roger Lawes (CSIRO) presented his work to date to create a calculator for farmers to use, that will enable them to understand the costs associated with implementing automation within their farm businesses. “What is right for your neighbour, may not be right for you. Understanding economics of automation is essential,” he said.

## Technical Exhibitors

Technology providers Weed-IT Australia, Pairtree Intelligence, O’Connors, Single Agriculture, SwarmFarm Robotics, SPAA, Verge Ag and MagrowTec showcased their products on the day. Farmers and advisers in attendance had the opportunity to create connections with the providers and learn more about their solution’s fit into broadacre farming systems.

The entire event was very well received, not only as an exhibition of the latest advances in precision agriculture, but also a marvellous networking opportunity for farmers and other agronomy firms to get together and discuss these latest advancements.

Following a delicious catered lunch, the audience

• Continued on page 9.



• Founding member and current Chair of BCG, John Ferrier (r) joined event co-ordinator Jess Bidstrup during a break in last Wednesday’s program. John spoke about the huge changes he’s seen in farming over the past 33 years of the Birchip Cropping Group’s development, saying that there is now greater environmental awareness, more attempts to fine-tune the work and that farms were much more business-focused.



• A section of the crowd in the main conference room at Charlton Park listens to the panel discussions on the future of weed control as speakers present a range of options during the morning session.



• Robert Elder (l) discusses aspects of INCYT’s moisture monitoring system with Cain Halliwell (R & D) (r) during the morning Stream 1 Session: “Smarter Decisions with On-Farm Sensors”. Presenters included Andrew Minnikin (Head of Operations) and Frank Burchell (farmer) who discussed the INCYT application on his own farm.



• Bringing together specialists and leaders in grain-growing technologies enabled growers to explore and discuss the future of the industry at the recent BCG Ag Tech Expo. Pictured with BCG Event co-ordinator Jess Bidstrup (centre) are (left to right) Bailey Kilpatrick (SwarmFarm Robotics), Professor Michael Walsh (Charles Sturt University), Shane Kable (Single Agriculture) and Jono Robinson (Warakirri Cropping).

# Farmers from New and Far

• Continued from page 8.

heard from a panel of four, discussing the pros and cons of different on-farm technologies and the value they add to growers. A highlight of the panel was fifth-generation Donald farmer Kyle Pearse sharing his experience with his automated SwarmBot sprayer, which certainly has its benefits in certain conditions on the farm – it also doesn't mind working overtime, is never hung over and doesn't complain about the early starts. Besides coming on board as an extra staff member, Kyle likes that the spot-spraying technology in the unit only targets the weeds in the paddock and putting chemical where it is needed, as opposed to a blanket spray. Kyle has previously described his business as "typically very slow to adopt new technology" but saw the SwarmBot as a "game changer". His advice for other farmers? "Don't be scared by the process."

Western Australian farmer Brett Whealan joined Kyle on that panel and also shared his advice for farmers looking to implement technology on their own farms: "The issues that slow things down is the value proposition. Get the data and economics on whether it's going to be of value on your farm or not," he said.

**ChatBCG**  
Closing the day was a major announcement from

event organiser Jess Bidstrup. Using data and research collected by Birchip Cropping Group over its 33 years of operation, Jess's brainchild ChatBCG was officially launched. With the same idea as ChatGPT, ChatBCG is an interactive AI platform that can answer questions related to Wimmera-Mallee farming systems using BCG's database as its reference (or brain, if you prefer to imagine it that way). Just like chatting with a human, you could ask questions like: "What should I spray to target fleabane in crop?" or "How much nitrogen should I apply to my wheat for a decile 2 finish in Charlton?" and get answers grounded in BCG data.

The concept itself is quite mind-blowing, providing a user-friendly agricultural resource which is locally-specific to the Wimmera-Mallee region. More on this on another page of today's edition of the "Times."

Birchip Cropping Group and the organisers of this event should be commended in facilitating a relaxed and engaging exhibition of the latest technologies for local farmers in the region.

BCG continues to have a positive impact in the advances of agriculture and the Wimmera-Mallee farming community. If you haven't already, check out the website <https://www.bcg.org.au/>



• Attendees had the chance to see the autonomous SwarmBot robotic equipment up close, as well as talk with SwarmFarm representative Bailey Kilpatrick (pictured second left). Kyle Pearse (owner of the equipment) was a panelist during the afternoon session of "Ag Tech in Practice" and spoke about the value of the machinery in their farming program.



• Shane Kable (at the podium) discusses details about the drone mapping capabilities of the Single Agriculture products during the Stream 2 the "Future of Weed Control" session. Also on the panel were (left to right) Professor Michael Walsh (Charles Sturt University), Bailey Kilpatrick (SwarmFarm Robotics) and Jono Robinson (site manager Warakirri Cropping). Other topics discussed included non-chemical options and automation.



• BCG CEO Fiona Best acknowledges the presenters, the crowd and BCG staff as the Expo drew to a close.



• A crowd in excess of 150 people attended the Birchip Cropping Group Ag Tech (BCG) Expo last Wednesday with positive comments reflecting the interest in the presentations on the day.



• Shane Kable from Single Agriculture is pictured with one of the large weed mapping drones.



## A New Chapter for Landcare in Our Region

[From Maddie Grant, President Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare Network]

Across the paddocks and back roads of our region, quiet but powerful work is being done to care for the land we all depend on.

Whether it's planting shelterbelts, controlling rabbits and weeds, or restoring native vegetation along creek lines, Landcare has long been the backbone of community-driven environmental action in our area.

The Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare Network plays a vital role in making this happen. It brings together local Landcare groups, landholders, and volunteers to share resources, knowledge, and support.

For farmers, this often means practical help – advice on sustainable land management, access to funding for revegetation or fencing, or simply a hand co-ordinating a planting day. For the wider community, it's a way to connect, learn, and be part of something bigger than ourselves.

### Project

A key part of the network's recent activity has been the launch of the Windharp Horizons Project, initiated last year. This ambitious initiative

brings together farmers, Traditional Owners, community members, and environmental experts to imagine and plan for the future of our landscapes. At its heart is the Landscape Action Plan for a 2043 Vision, a roadmap for creating healthy, resilient, and productive country over the next two decades.

This kind of long-term thinking is exactly what Landcare is about – caring not just for today, but for future generations. It means planning for more than the next season – it means building soil health that lasts, preserving biodiversity, and managing water wisely.

### Now's the Time

If you're a landholder wanting to start a new project, or you've been thinking of joining your local Landcare group but weren't sure where to begin, now's the perfect time. Our Landcare groups are always keen to welcome new members – whether you have a hundred acres or a

backyard, there's something for everyone.

As the network looks ahead, it's also entering a period of change. Andrew Borg, who has been the network's facilitator for the past several years, will be stepping down in September. Andrew has been a familiar and friendly face at countless field days, workshops, and community events. His dedication, energy, and practical support have helped dozens of local projects take root and thrive. He'll be missed, and we thank him sincerely for his outstanding contribution.

### Opportunity

With Andrew's departure, the Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare Network is now seeking a new facilitator – a role that's central to keeping the network strong and active. It's a unique opportunity for someone who's passionate about the land and working with community, with a focus on supporting local groups, co-ordinating



• Supporting the monitoring and protection of threatened species such as this Marbled Marshwort, is a vital component of the networks role.

projects, and helping to shape the future of our landscape.

The position is being advertised in this paper. If you or someone you know might be interested, please get in touch – this is a chance to be part of something meaningful and lasting.

As we look toward a future shaped by the 2043 Vision, let's continue working together to care for the land that sustains us all. Because when the community and the land thrive together, everyone benefits.



• Andrew Borg, our dedicated Landcare Facilitator whose passion, knowledge and networking skills has had such a positive impact in our region.



• On farm field days help to educate and inform.



• Revegetation along waterways – with great social and environmental outcomes.

# A Good Chocolate Story

Seeing our grandchildren, Mikayla, Joshua and Chloe, enjoying some Cadbury Chocolates very recently, reminds me of the great story of one of the pioneers of modern chocolate, George Cadbury.

Historians tell us that George was born in England in 1839. When just 14 years of age, his mum died and naturally, this impacted him hugely. He had dreams of becoming a surgeon and worked hard at school to achieve this, but at age 15 he had another discouragement, his father took him out of school and set him to work in the family business. The business was going badly especially since his mother's death, but despite this, by 22 years of age George and his brother Richard were put in charge of the business.

There were 12 people working for George and Richard at this particular time and most were on a very low wage, but with determination they set out to make the business successful and make things better for their employees. They developed a new cocoa that was better than any other product on the market. People laughed at them and said it would never sell, but Bournville cocoa became a household name all over the world.

## "Bournville"

In 1893, when the premises became too small, George decided to build a factory in the country. They called this new site "Bournville". On this site the

brothers provided football and cricket fields, a huge playground for children, swings and even an open air swimming pool! Utterly unheard of at the time! All this was for the benefit of the growing community around them.

The company continued to prosper with the cocoa and Cadbury chocolates. Did George get spoilt with wealth? No. He became famous for his work amongst the poor. He built houses for his employees and set up gardens around the homes – unheard of. He set up social security programs way ahead of their time. George also became involved in Sunday school teaching in the Birmingham slums. He took people who were very poor and taught them to read and write, as well as teaching them stories from the Bible about Jesus Christ.

## Houses for the Poor

He built thousands of additional houses for the poor as well as setting up libraries and schools. Right up to the end of his life he never stopped sharing the good news of Jesus and helping his neighbour. He died in 1922 and 16,000 people attended his funeral.

This is briefly some of the story of a young boy who lost his mum at age 14, had to leave school and let go his



• Bruce Stewart

ambition to become a surgeon. He could have asked, "Why God, why?" But by setting up the famous Cadbury cocoa and chocolates company, he used the wealth to God's glory and benefited thousands of people.

Next time you enjoy some Cadbury chocolates be reminded of this story and be grateful for those of earlier generations who have left behind wonderful legacies. George had much adversity to overcome – especially earlier in life. All of us will face adversity too at different times in life so the Bible says... "persevere with the journey set out before us – looking unto Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12:1,2). Good verses for George and for each of us too as we live our lives in these challenging times.

**Bruce Stewart.**

# Opposition to Proposed Renewable Energy Zones

Northern Grampians Shire Council will advocate against the introduction of a proposed Renewable Energy Zone in the municipality following a vote at an unscheduled council meeting on Monday, July 21.

Cr Murray Emerson presented a Notice of Motion at the meeting, moving that council opposes the introduction of the proposed Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) for the Northern Grampians Shire region and continue to:

- Advocate against the introduction of a Renewable Energy Zone in its current

form, which encompasses extensive areas of prime farming land.

- Advocate for the rights of occupants to be in charge of their own destiny.

In May this year, VicGrid published the draft 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan for community consultation.

The draft plan identifies proposed Renewable Energy Zones for Victoria, as well as the transmission projects the State Government believes are needed in the next 15 years to "deliver reliable and affordable power to Victorians".

The draft plan includes a Grampians Wimmera Renewable Energy Zone, which is almost entirely within Northern Grampians Shire.

The motion was carried, and the council is advising VicGrid of its resolution on the proposed REZ, ahead of the finalisation of the 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan.

People can visit [www.ng-shire.vic.gov.au/Projects-and-Consultation/Have-Your-Say/Draft-2025-Victorian-Transmission-Plan](http://www.ng-shire.vic.gov.au/Projects-and-Consultation/Have-Your-Say/Draft-2025-Victorian-Transmission-Plan) for more information, including a copy of the draft plan.

A livestream of the meeting is available online, via the council's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCH47WbeTJY>

## † Church Notices †

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

Donald, 10 a.m.  
Next Birchip and Wycheproof Services,  
10 a.m. Sunday, August 3  
Contact Number: 5497 1033



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

At Granite Church  
10.30 a.m.

Speaker: Ross Barnes  
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                                  | 10.30 a.m. |
| (Livestream out to churches without Mass) |            |
| Donald                                    | 10.30 a.m. |
| (Livestream in)                           |            |
| St. Arnaud                                | 8.30 a.m.  |
| W'proof (Sat.)                            | 7.00 p.m.  |

Fr. Gerry Prunty

0419 247 779

Parish Co-ordinator  
– Noeline Hogan: 0476 617 976

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# Bulls and Redbacks Share Netball Honours

The Bulls’ juniors were the shining light in the netball at Donaldson Park on Saturday, winning all grades, while the seniors had a tough day against quality opposition.

All the Bulls awards were sponsored by Noonan Contracting.

**GO:** The youngest Bulls players had a fun day out, and Sadie Bourke and Ari Richmond were awarded prizes for their games on Saturday.

**14 “B”:** The Bulls put on a dominant performance against Wedderburn in their under-14 “B” clash, coming away with a convincing 27-12 win.

The tone was set early in the first quarter, with goal shooter Isla Ferrier on fire, netting 9 goals to give the Bulls a strong lead. Wedderburn struggled to break through the Bulls’ solid defence, only managing 3 goals in the opening term.

Hannah Hogan was outstanding in defence, applying relentless pressure and creating several turnovers. The Bulls also showed great teamwork through the midcourt, with a smooth passage of play that highlighted their growing confidence and cohesion.

As the match progressed, the Bulls continued to build their lead with accurate shooting and tight defence. Wedderburn fought hard, but couldn’t match the Bulls’ intensity and consistency.

Final score: Bulls 27 defeated Wedderburn 12.

Birchip-Watchem best players: Issy Sharp and Isla Ferrier.

Wedderburn best players: **14 “A”:** The under-14 “A” girls also had a strong win, extending their lead as the game progressed to win 35 to 5. The awards went to Grace McAuliffe and Sienna Richmond.

**17 “A”:** Birchip-Watchem’s Under-17 netballers continued their strong run on Saturday, pulling away in the final quarter to secure a 51–29 win over Wedderburn.

The Bulls got off to a fast start, leading 11–4 at quarter time thanks to sharp midcourt work from Zara Lowry, who controlled play through the centre. Wedderburn lifted in the second quarter, with Amelia Buschmann proving dangerous in goal attack and keeping the Birchip-Watchem defence busy. Despite the Redbacks’ fightback, Birchip-Watchem held a 26–14 lead at the main break.

The third term was more evenly contested, with Indi Simpson and Emily Neave working tirelessly in defence for Wedderburn, slowing Birchip-Watchem’s attacking flow. At the other end, Beau Haslam was a standout for the Bulls, playing a key role in both defence and attack, while

Elise Cox added pressure with several timely intercepts.

Heading into the final quarter with a 34-25 lead, the Bulls stepped up a gear. Asha Lee was influential in both wing attack and goal attack, delivering strong feeds into the ring. Lana Angel capitalised on the supply, producing a confident shooting display to help her side pile on 17 goals in the last term, while Wedderburn was restricted to just four.

The final scoreline didn’t reflect Wedderburn’s work rate, with strong individual efforts throughout the match.

However, the Bulls composure, depth and fitness ultimately saw them finish the stronger side and claim a well-earned 22-goal win. Award winners for Birchip-Watchem were Zara Lowry and Beau Haslam.

**“C” Reserves:** Birchip-Watchem secured a strong and convincing win over Wedderburn in the “C” reserve, taking control early and building momentum throughout to finish with a 62–38 victory.

The Bulls’ Eloise Black and Jay Connelly were standouts in the goal ring, combining with accuracy and composure to keep the scoreboard ticking over. Their



• Suberia Sailor (Birchip-Watchem) reaches for the lob as it goes over Olivia Lockhart (Wedderburn).

movement and connection in the circle created plenty of opportunities and were key to Birchip-Watchem’s dominant offensive performance.

The Bulls’ defensive unit was just as impressive, with Emily Hotker, Emily Barber, Zoe Wilson and Elise Cox all working tirelessly to restrict Wedderburn’s scoring options. Their pressure across all four quarters forced multiple turnovers and allowed Birchip-Watchem to regain possession time and again.

In the middle of the court, Keira Lowry and Kimberly Phelan showcased excellent endurance and skill in the centre for the Bulls, providing smooth transitions between

defence and attack while maintaining strong defensive pressure through the mid-court.

On the wings, Amy McEachern and Sophie Cox played with speed and precision for Birchip-Watchem, delivering well-timed feeds into the goalers and providing critical support across both ends of the court.

Wedderburn’s Jemma Fawcett stood out in defence, taking several strong intercepts and applying consistent pressure on Birchip-Watchem’s attackers.

It was a well-rounded team performance from Birchip-Watchem, with contributions from every player leading to a well-earned 24-goal win. Birchip-Watchem Awards went to Sophie Cox and Emily Hotker.

**“C” Grade:** Wedderburn starting off strong, making Birchip-Watchem fight even harder for the ball. Despite the Bulls’ positive attitude, Wedderburn defenders made it crack under the pressure giving them 12-10 lead at the first change.

Bulls had a great start to the second quarter, but Wedderburn’s defenders rebounded strongly setting up multiple turnovers and scores at half time were 28-18 Wedderburn’s way.

After half-time the Bulls came out fired up, hungry for the ball. Ellie Kenna in defence worked hard to get the ball back in the Bulls’ favour and the Bulls worked extra hard to narrow the gap. In the ring Immy Boyle and Eloise Black worked beautifully together to keep Birchip-Watchem in the contest and at three-quarter time, the scores were tight with only one goal the difference going into the fourth quarter.

However, Wedderburn was just too hard to contain and ended up beating Birchip-Watchem by 4 goals, 43 to 39. Birchip-Watchem awards: Hannah Wilson and Eloise Black.

**“B” Grade:** Birchip-Watchem knew it was going to be a hard game against Wedderburn in the “B” grade and defenders Megan Noonan and Stacey Hamilton shut down plenty of shots from Wedderburn’s goal shooter Aliza Lockhart. Sophie Parfrey

worked tirelessly in the defence end, gaining plenty of intercepts and tip offs and at quarter-time the Bulls trailed 12-13.

The second quarter saw Madeline McQueen step into wing attack, using her strength and strong drives to feed the ball down the court, and shooter Jenna Angel continued to shoot accurately and work the ball around the ring with goal attack Beau Haslam. However, Wedderburn was starting to assert its dominance increasing their lead to 11 at the half-time break.

The third quarter saw a change in attack with Megane Greenway stepping into goal shooter and Suberia Sailor stepping into wing attack, but Wedderburn’s defenders Alice Hubbard and Tess Jackson continued to shut down the Bulls and Wedderburn led 43-21 at the last change.

During the final quarter the Bulls continued to push with mid-courtters Sammi Mitchell and Tylah Haslam working hard to feed the ball and channel it down the court, but the Redbacks kept at it with their hard attacking game to win 57-33. Birchip-Watchem awards Sophie Parfrey and Beau Haslam.

**“A” Grade:** Despite a strong effort, Birchip-Watchem went down by 8 goals after a tight four quarters of netball.

In defence, Cheyenne Parsons and Romi Miller played well, working hard to shut down Wedderburn’s attack. They made several important stops and were consistent throughout the game and up front, the Angel sisters were reliable in the ring, scoring most of Birchip-Watchem’s goals.

Although the Bulls were only two goals down at the first change, the Redbacks are hard to overcome as they are consistent all over the court and have options at their disposal. Their defence was tight, especially in the second half, and they moved the ball well through the midcourt. They stayed composed when the game was on the line and managed to edge ahead in the final quarter to win 58-50. Birchip-Watchem awards: Cheyenne Parsons and Romi Miller.

# Three Wins To Charlton Hockey

With a very cold start to the day, Donald’s Under-12 team started out strong regardless. Luckily, this team is made up of all Minkey kids – already warmed up and ready to go.

These young players have developed nicely as the season has progressed, with their training clearly paying off. Their calls are loud, passes clean, and defence nearly on point. Both teams made this a game well worth watching. Goalies from both sides were put through their paces, with many successful goals defended.

With a few missed opportunities from the Donald team to score, there’s no doubt that working on their timing and placement will see more improvement.

Final score: Charlton 4 d. Donald 1.

Donald goal scored: Toby Bourke.

Donald best on ground: Zoe Nuske; Coach’s Champion, Anabelle Robinson.

Charlton goals scored: Sophie Roberts, Mia Wright, Ruby Wright

Charlton best on: Tom McGurk and Megg Fitzpatrick; Kiosk Award, Ruby Wright; Coffee, Flynn Zagame; IGA Mars Bar, Archie Smyth.

## Underage

With a cool breeze building and the sun disappearing in the second half, Donald’s underage team put in a gritty performance against a strong Charlton side.

The game started at speed, with Charlton earning back-to-back short corners. Donald

defenders, Oakley Brennan, Sophie Burke, Lily Nuske, and Victory Davis, held their ground well, blocking several strong attempts. Despite their efforts, the Navies eventually broke through for the first goal of the game. The play swung from end to end before Charlton earned another short corner, which was again well defended by Donald. But persistent pressure from Charlton saw it sneak through two more goals.

The Royal Blues kept up their intensity, tackling and blocking bravely. Their hard work paid off when they earned a short corner just before half-time, and Oakley Brennan slotted through a well-earned goal to get Donald on the board.

After the break, the weather took a turn, with the wind picking up and conditions becoming more difficult. Charlton came out strong, converting two quick short corners and pushing its lead to 6–1. Donald pushed back through the midfield efforts of Nevaeh Pearce, Darcy Burke, Victory Davis, and Isaiah Stirling, trying to feed the ball into attack – but Charlton’s defence proved tough to crack.

The Navies went on to score three more goals, despite Donald’s determined defence. It was a tough match, but players fought right to the final whistle.

With several under-12 players stepping up to help fill the team – some playing their second or even third game of sport for the day – their efforts should applauded on a tough day.

Final score: Charlton 9 d. Donald 1.

Donald goal scored: Oakley Brennan.

Donald best on: (Weirs Voucher), Nevaeh Pearce; Coach’s Award (Socks), Annabelle Robinson; Encouragement Award (Canteen voucher), Victory Davis.

Charlton goals scored: Amali Fitzpatrick 4, Murphy Fitzpatrick 2, Ruby Wright 2 and Rosie Fitzpatrick 1.

Charlton best on: Jordan Chamberlain; Auxiliary Kiosk, Rhys Gahan; Charlton Bakery Award, Amali Fitzpatrick; Connect Coffee Hot Choccy, Murphy Fitzpatrick.

## Women’s

Donald’s women’s team faced a tough day out against a determined Charlton side that came out firing from the first whistle and didn’t let up all game.

Charlton applied relentless pressure, crowding the goal area and making life especially tough for goalkeeper Charlotte Bicket, who battled to see the ball through the congestion. Despite this, Charlotte made several crucial



• Birchip-Watchem's Harry Cook attempts to evade the grip of Josh Hall.

## Bulls Reserves Build Percentage

**Birchip-Watchem Bulls proved far too strong for Wedderburn in their reserves clash on Saturday, storming to a commanding 109-point win in blustery conditions at Wedderburn.**

With a strong breeze blowing to the southern end of the ground, Wedderburn had first use of the wind and made an ideal start. Chris Hargreaves slotted the opening goal, while Rhordan Holt looked lively through the midfield. Robert Tonkin was pivotal across half-back, repelling repeated Bulls' attacks. However, Birchip-Watchem made the most of limited opportunities into the wind, with Alex Hay, Ty Colbert and Callum Goode all goaling to give the visitors a 12-point quarter-time lead.

Kicking with the wind in the second quarter, the Bulls turned up the pressure. Midfielders Stefan Pye, Connor Lee and Riley Hogan took control, surging the ball forward at will. The only blemish was inaccuracy, with the Bulls kicking 3.7 for the term. Lee, Hogan and Hay each

added a major, while Wedderburn was held scoreless. At the main break, Birchip-Watchem had opened up a 37-point advantage.

Despite the breeze now favouring Wedderburn, the Bulls continued their dominance in the third term. Ruckman George Addis gave his midfielders first use, and the likes of Pye, Lee and Hogan capitalised.

The Bulls slammed through five goals, with Hay adding two more to his tally. Pye, Matt Rickard and Alex Noonan also hit the scoreboard. Lachlan Maher managed a goal for the Redbacks, but with Bulls leading by 63 points at the final change, the game was effectively over.

The final quarter saw Birchip-Watchem finish in style. With the wind once again at their backs, they piled on further scoreboard pain.

Alex Hay capped off a superb performance up forward with three final-term goals, finishing with seven for the match. Pye, Lee and Colbert each added their second majors in a rampant finish.

The Bulls' emphatic win not only underlined their depth but served as a strong statement heading into the back end of the season.

Final score: Birchip-Watchem 18.14 (122) defeated Wedderburn 2.1 (13).

Best for Birchip-Watchem: Alex Hay (O'Connors), Stefan Pye (YBS), Connor Lee (Agrifac), Riley Hogan (Donnellon's Bulk Haulage), Ty Colbert (Nutrien Ag), George Addis (Ryan Commodities).

For Wedderburn: Robert Tonkin, Rhordan Holt, Joshua Hall, Chris Hargreaves, Aaron Smith, Levi Sims.



• James Lindeback outruns Wedderburn's Andrew Roberts.

## Tough Going for Bulls Juniors

**It was another tough day for Birchip-Watchem at a cold and windy Donaldson Park on Saturday, where both teams struggled against stronger opposition.**

### Under-14s

The Birchip-Watchem Under-14s started well, containing third placed Wedderburn, but in the second quarter, the Redbacks got on top and extended their lead as the game progressed, denying the Bulls any joy.

The Bulls knew it was going to be tough from the outset with the Ryan brothers, Will and River out, enjoying sunnier climates and learning a new sport, but they started well in the first quarter with Denley Tyler and Oscar Sharp leading the way and at the first change they led by two points.

There wasn't much height on either team but Wedderburn's mid-field was able to dominate on the ground with Jagger Benaim leading the way and they had plenty of forwards to kick goals. The wind was making scoring reasonably problematic, with the Redbacks adding 3.3 to their tally to give them a 4.3 (27) to 1.2 (8) lead at the half-time break.

It was promising for the Bulls to see Fred Hogan in the purple and green and although his preferred sport is soccer he was eager to get amongst it. Des Coffey was also trying to lift the Bulls but it was far from their best game.

Liam Spezza took a few good marks across centre half forward, but the Bulls couldn't get it close enough to goal to score and the Wedderburn defenders were miserly, not letting the Bulls have any joy on the scoreboard after the first quarter.

Jed Coffey played well in the backline, being a brick wall to the Wedderburn attack, stopping several goals and providing run out of the backline, but it was hard to keep the Redbacks down for the whole half with a good spread of talent across the team. With several generational Wedderburn names featuring in their best, the future looks promising for the Redbacks who went on to win 10.7 (67) to 1.2 (8).

Best for Wedderburn: Jagger Benaim, Zane Polkinghorne, Blaz Cramp, Wayde Collins, Bastian Noordennen. Best for Birchip-Watchem: Denley Tyler, Jed Coffey, Desmond Coffey, Fred Hogan.

### Under-17s

The Bulls Under-17s had a closer tussle, but the final result was the same, and the Redbacks were delighted with their second win of the season, after suffering through the four previous seasons with no wins.

Birchip-Watchem started well, restricting Wedderburn's efficiency with the wind with returnees Chriswin Daniel and Charlie Barber playing well in the midfield. At the first break the Bulls' coaches were enthusiastic, hoping they could make up the two goal deficit.

Noah Dean lit up the quarter and provided the spark the Bulls needed adding two goals and the Bulls had lots of play with Kobe Hamilton winning the ruck contests, giving the Bulls' mids first use of the ball. Unfortunately, the Bulls' kicking was hindered

by the wind and they added 2.4 to Wedderburn's 1.1 and at the half-time break they still trailed, but only by 5 behinds.

Wedderburn took advantage of the wind in the penultimate quarter with Aaron Smith dominating in the mid-field and across half-back. As victory came within reach, Wedderburn's determination grew stronger and the Bulls' midfield lost momentum, allowing the Redbacks to seize control of the game and by the last break the home team was ahead 6.8 (44) to 2.5 (17).

The Bulls restored some credibility to the score line as they added two goals in the final term and kept Wedderburn scoreless with Max Field and Taio Atkinson tackling well and taking some great marks, but it wasn't enough to reel in the deficit and Wedderburn on 6.8 (44) to 4.8 (32).

Awards for Birchip-Watchem: Chriswin Daniel, Noah Dean, Kobe Hamilton, Taio Atkinson. For Wedderburn: Aaron Smith, Benjamin Cunningham, Jye Dingfelder, Trav Lowe, Max Dean.



• Birchip-Watchem's Oscar Sharp attempts to fend off Brodie Turnbull.



• Wedderburn's Trav Lowe has eyes on the Sherrin as Max Field begins the chase.

# Charlton Hosts Donald Netballers

[From Charlton Netball Club.]

**14-&-Under “A”**  
A tough game against a strong Donald side, however Charlton’s girls kept fighting all game and had some great leads down the court into their attacking end.  
Charlton 11 def. by Donald 38

Charlton awards: Steels Butcher Best, Anna Fitzpatrick; FHN Ladies Auxiliary Coaches, LilyMae McPhee; NWAG & Roberts Windrowing “Have a Crack”, Rosie Fitzpatrick.  
Donald awards: Clothes Bin, Chloe Italia. Love Shack Giftware, Evie Donnellon.

**17-&-Under “A”**  
Charlton’s attackers worked well with a few different combinations. They moved the ball well down the court and goalers did their best in windy conditions. Down the court our defenders worked hard against a tall opposition and applied pressure which created many turnovers for us.

Overall, the girls played well as a team. It was great to see Anna Fitzpatrick and Lila Schofield step up and play majority of the game. It was also wonderful to see the girls encourage them and provide direction to make them feel comfortable on the court.  
Charlton 43 def. Donald 39.

Charlton awards: Bendigo Bank and Ergo & Mane Best, Lacey Smith; FNH Ladies Auxiliary Coaches, Stella Nicolson; Caffeinated Chaos Captains Coffee, Anika Holmes-Brown.

Donald awards: Harvest Cafe, Kailie Krause. Gilchrist & Co., Asha Pearse.  
**“C” Grade**  
With goal for goal in the first quarter Charlton shooters, Jac Leslie and Emmy Nelson showed some great accuracy that continued throughout the whole game.

Up the other end defenders, Annie Olive and Tahlia Holmes-Brown capitalised on rebounds and plenty of intercepts as well giving our attackers some great opportunities to score. Last quarter saw a tight contest with Charlton 4 goals down with just 4 minutes left on the clock. We worked hard to hold our possessions and chased every loose ball down to end up getting the first win of the season by 2 goals! A fantastic and well-deserved win!

Charlton 37 def. Donald 35.  
Charlton awards: Vale of Avoca and Ergo & Mane Best, Jac Leslie; JS Plumbing Coaches, Brooke Prior; Caffeinated Chaos Captains Coffee, Talia Holmes-Brown.

Donald awards: Jasper & Co., Belicia Francis; Mensland, Julia Pearse.

**“B” Grade**  
A new look attack end for “B” grade this week with Tahli Roberts sidelined with injury (hopefully not for too long!), welcoming in Loretta Thompson to the side, who combined well with Sarah Blair in the goal ring with good accuracy coming from both shooters. As usual Kate

Stuchbery and Holly Thompson played a strong game together in the defence ring. Overall, Charlton showed some great passages of play and hands over pressure to keep the score line minimal at the final whistle.  
Charlton 27 def. by Donald 36.  
Charlton awards: Teys Charlton Feedlot Best, Rebecca Sexton; Teys Charlton Feedlot Coaches, Loretta Thompson; Caffeinated Chaos Captains Coffee, Sarah Blair.  
Donald awards: Gilchrist & Co., Jess Nunn. Donald Caremore Pharmacy, Millie Lydom.

**“A” Grade**  
A great first quarter for Charlton attackers going goal for goal with Donald. Strong leads coming from Lacey Smith and Remi Jeffrey to help deliver the ball into our shooters. Some strong defence from Donald, however, saw some turnovers.

Down the other end “A” grade saw another debutant in under-17s player Anika Holmes-Brown (congratulations Anika) combine well with Claire Smith and Issy Soulsby, who worked tirelessly all game. Anika starring in her first game with many rebounds and intercepts going her way.  
Unfortunately, the second half saw Charlton fall away from Donald which took out the win.  
Charlton 35 def. by Donald 52.  
Charlton awards: Walsh Motors Best, Claire Smith; Walsh Motors Coaches, Anika



• “C” Grade Tahlia Holmes-Brown (GK) and Annie Olive (GD) defending in their side’s first win of the season. Tiarnah Hepworth (GS) pictured looking on.

Holmes-Brown; Caffeinated Chaos Captains Coffee, Lacey Smith. Connect Coffee and Stacy’s Dental Lucky Volunteer of the Day, Abby Mulquiny  
Donald awards: Weir’s IGA, Emma Downes. Donald Hotel, Abby Griffiths.



• U17s: All eyes on the ball with Taylah Giles (GA) putting up a shot with Lila Schofield (GS), as Jaya Stirling (GD) and Sophie Burke (GK) watch it fly.



(By Course Language)

**With no golfers playing last Saturday at home, Sunday was the day for the Donald Pharmacy sponsored Monthly Medal and Pies Putting.**

With a busy week behind us with work on the course and catering, some golfers were out to just enjoy a round of golf.  
Richard Gallagher has been in fine form of late and that form continued with him taking out the monthly medal with 82-14-68 by a few shots from Brad Bath on 76-5-71. Brad did win the Pies Putting with only 20 putts for the day.  
The “Nearest The Pins” were: The Donald Auto Elec 3rd, Richard Gallagher; Weir’s IGA 7th, Colin Cullen; Nufarm 14th, no one claimed this prize; Bendigo Bank 16th, Brad Bath.

On Monday just gone, the Wimmera Vets took on the Kara Kara Vets in Donald, playing for the Peter Kelly Shield. The shield is in honour of the late Peter Kelly whose idea it was for the challenge match. It was a show of great respect for Peter to have the president of the Victorian Veterans Committee, Ern Kraulis and secretary John Robertson in attendance. There were 79 golfers play with 49 from the Wimmera and 30 from the Kara Kara.

After the results were in and the top 10 scores from both associations were added up, the winner of the inaugural Peter Kelly shield were the Wimmera side by 2 shots. The day was enjoyed by everyone in attendance with the catering on point once again. Kara Kara is looking forward to challenging for the shield next year.  
While doing the right thing and throwing a gumnut off the scrape on Sunday, Richard tossed the nut off but forgot he had his ball in that hand as well, and has to fetch it back from under a bush 30 metres away. The thought was there, hey, Dick!  
Brad Payne may have put a couple of balls out on the 10th last Sunday. We heard at least four bounces on the roof with his first one.  
The winner of our wood raffle was a very excited Geoff Pearse.  
**Dad’s Army**  
Seven Veterans assembled for golf on Wednesday with the return of Peter Barbetti (the Civil War Veteran) and the first appearance of our newest recruit, Des Wood.

Unfortunately, they were all outclassed by Richard Gallagher with 25 points.  
**Coming Up**  
Wedderburn Tournament is this weekend, while at home, depending on the weather, there will be a stableford event sponsored by Peaco Foods on Saturday. Sunday, again depending on the weather, which sounds likely to be wet, will be the Maurie Tranter Mixed board event. If the course is too wet for play, this will be played at a later date.

**Dad Jokes**  
I’ve got this really, really long joke about underwear – but I’m just going to keep it brief.  
Did you know that buffet is a French word that means – get up and get it yourself.  
You know the thing about a one armed butler – they can take it but they can’t dish it out.  
Why was the Italian chef locked out of his kitchen? – because he had gnocchi.  
What’s the difference between Batman and a shoplifter – Batman can go into a shop without Robin.

## Down The Middle

**Eight players took to the Donald course for a “fun challenge Wednesday”. The day’s winners of the 12-hole event was Helen Wee Hee and Kerry Raven.**

Nearest the pins, Kerry Raven on Donald Auto Electrical’s 3rd; Ev Adams and Beris Jones on Nu Farm’s 14th; and Beris Jones on the Bendigo Bank’s 16th.  
A few players attend the Boort tournament last week trying their best to look great on camera and win the \$10,000 hole in one up for grabs.  
The Donald club is truly appreciative of the wonderful turn up of 79 players for the inaugural Peter Kelly-Wimmera v. Kara Kara veterans golf challenge last Monday, with Wimmera taking home the shield. It was a wonderful way to honour Peter and his love of golf and playing at “Vet” events.  
**Next week:** Sunday: Maurice Trantor memorial Mixed.

Monday golf: Assemble at 9.45 a.m.. Tuesday: Kara Kara Vets at Donald, 9.30 a.m. assembly. Wednesday 30th: stableford.  
**Charlton Tournament Highlights and Lowlights**  
Ev Adams avoiding the addition of putting to her game

with a well-deserved gobbler.  
Helen and Brenda Brennan couldn’t resist the call of Margie Quick’s Dam at tee off both noting the welcome addition of water in the dam. Luckily for them Deb Burton was able to retrieve their balls.

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Golfers' Tribute to Peter Kelly

Continued from page 16. Park) and 4 Janice Midgley (Minyip) – all on 38. 5th went to Tubby Drendel (St Arnaud) with 36 on a 3 way countback. “B” Grade winner was Diane Roberts (Charlton) with 37, on a countback, with runner-up Neil Slocombe (Birchip/Toolondo) also with

37. Third went to Ian Ruwoldt (Horsham), with 35 on a 3 way countback to 4th Sue Krause (Sheep Hills) and 5th Roy Liersch (Warracknabeal), all also on 35. NTPs: on the 3rd: Jo Donnelly (Dimboola) and John Neville; 7th: Heather Hogan

(Birchip) and Peter Hallam (Hopetoun); 14th: Heather Hogan and Ian Hair (Natimuk); and on the 16th: Jo Donnelly and John Headon. Thank you again to everyone for attending and a big thank you to the wonderful Donald volunteers, for making it such a special day.



A fantastic turnout for the inaugural Wimmera and Kara Kara Veterans Challenge.



Inaugural winners, Wimmera/Kara Kara Veterans Challenge; Wimmera, David Baker and Ian Hair presented with the trophy by Evelyn Adams in memory of Peter Kelly.

Juniors Hold Hockey Fort

It was a quiet day on the hockey field with the Bulls having no senior teams and Wedderburn no underage.

The early games of minkey showed there is plenty to look forward to though, with lots of young players enjoying the chance to play a friendly but competitive game of sport on Saturdays with their friends and family.

Award winners for Birchip-Watchem were Lucy Noonan (Troy and Brooke Morris) and Jaylah Haslam (BWHC canteen).

Under-12s The Birchip-Watchem Bulls emerged victorious in a

tightly contested Under-12 hockey match against the Wedderburn Redbacks on Saturday, holding off a determined home side to secure a 3-2 win.

Played in front of an enthusiastic crowd at Wedderburn, the Bulls made an early statement with first-half goals from Des Coffey and Denley Tyler, displaying their sharp attacking form. The Redbacks responded through Heath Polkinghorne, who found the back of the net with a well-

timed finish, leaving the visitors up 2-1 at the break. The second half saw the intensity lift even further. Tyler struck again for the Bulls with his second goal, extending their lead and putting pressure back on Wedderburn. But the Redbacks refused to back down, with Nate Turnbull’s goal closing the margin and setting up a thrilling final few minutes.

Birchip-Watchem’s win was built on a strong team performance. Coffey and Tyler dominated in the inner positions, showing excellent ball control and composure under pressure. Lucy Coffey and Grace McAuliffe were reliable in defence, putting in solid tackles and disrupting Wedderburn’s forward momentum.

Along the wings, Ryan Goss and Milla Haslam played smart positional hockey, providing key link-up play and maintaining structure during attacking pushes.

Despite the loss, Wedderburn had impressive performances of their own. Goalkeeper Annalise Tate was a standout, making several crucial saves to keep her side in the contest and earning high praise for her efforts between the posts.

The Bulls’ narrow win keeps their momentum building as the season progresses, while the Redbacks will take confidence from a spirited performance against quality opposition.

Awards for Birchip-Watchem: Ryan Goss (Sharp’s Bakery), Denley Tyler (Fiona Best & Lobe Candy).



Left to right: Diane Roberts, Ian Ruwoldt, Anthony Jones, Janice Midgley, Mark Hamley, Niel Slocomb, Ian Hair, Tubby Drundel, Roy Liersch.

“Times” Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8186

ACROSS

- 1. Fasten (4)
- 7. Fruit (9)
- 8. Naked (4)
- 9. Difficult (4)
- 10. Bean (4)
- 11. Aid (4)
- 14. Esteem (10)
- 16. Flawless (10)
- 19. Discourteous (4)
- 22. Burden (4)
- 24. Rafter (4)
- 25. Butt (4)
- 26. Boatman (9)
- 27. Orchestra (4)

DOWN

- 1. Zodiac sign (5)
- 2. Bend (5)
- 3. Obeisance (6)
- 4. Creature (6)
- 5. Minus (4)
- 6. Dog (9)
- 12. Game (9)
- 13. Story (4)
- 15. Row (4)
- 17. Metal (6)
- 18. Glass (6)
- 20. Extreme (5)
- 21. Receded (5)
- 23. Team (4)

• Solution next issue.



Redbacks’ Sullivan Steel attempts to move forward under pressure from Bulls’ Jett Hinds.



## Pecking Order in Place?

(By Shane O'Shea)

With just four rounds of North-Central's home-and-away series remaining, and following last Saturday's results, the current positioning of teams on the league ladder is more than likely to be the finishing order leading into the finals.

Making up the top four, Birchip-Watchem will finish on top, followed by either Calder United or Sea Lake-Nandaly, the outcome of the clash between the Lions and Tigers at Wycheproof in round 16 potentially deciding which team finishes second and secures a "double chance" in the finals.

Boort, which a month ago was in the running for a top two finish, has lost consecutive games against Sea Lake-Nandaly and Calder United, and faces the daunting challenge of having to defeat Birchip-Watchem at the Bull Pen tomorrow, to arrest that losing streak.

Taking into consideration the home run of the Tigers and Lions, the Magpies will be hard pressed to overtake either of them if they lose tomorrow.

### Bulls Gather Pace

Premiership favourite Birchip-Watchem has answered every challenge put to it this season, and under coach Ash Connick continues to develop its game with great confidence.

Any combination that can boast the Bulls' tight defensive unit, a potent multi-faceted attack and one of the most dynamic midfields in the

competition, is always going to be a challenge, especially for those further down the order.

Everything will need to go right for Boort to upset Birchip-Watchem, but there's no denying that the Magpies' best football is good enough. Producing it consistently over four quarters is just one of the many challenges awaiting coach Dale Cameron and his charges at the George Cartwright Oval.

### Lions and Tigers Go in Search of Percentage

For the four teams locked out of the top four, Wedderburn, Charlton, St. Arnaud and Donald, there's not a lot to look forward to over the coming weeks, and these teams are likely to feel the full brunt of the scoring fury of Calder United and Sea Lake-Nandaly, as they strive for every bit of additional percentage they can build in the lead-up to their clash in round 16.

### Redbacks Ready

Tomorrow, however, Wedderburn has the opportunity to go on the offensive against a battling Donald combination, with the Redbacks unlikely to show a great deal of sympathy for the winless Royal Blues.

Coach Tom Metherell's combination that includes Mitch Jensen, Jackson McEwen and Hamish Lockhart, should be able to overpower Donald's handful of ultra-consistent contributors, including coach Daniel Pearce, Charlie Cameron, Ross Young (if available) and Dyson Bell-Warren.

Getting invaluable game time into several up-and-coming juniors, including Jet Adams, Brady Griffiths, Ben Arho and Luca Rice, is a theme concurrent in most of the teams at the lower end of the ladder, but should pay dividends in years to come.

Charlton, which outgunned Donald on the back of an impressive first quarter last Saturday, continues to look to the future through Jackson and Sebastian Zagame, Elliott Fitzpatrick and Mason Heenan.

### Boost for Navies

The inclusion of Liam Collins, brother of coach Mitch Collins, provides a noticeable boost to the Navy Blues' midfield, and tomorrow, the Collinses, Archie Patterson and Tom Finlay will need to get involved against Sea Lake-Nandaly, at Sea Lake, with the Tigers clearly



• Lion Matthew Wade boots the ball during the St Arnaud v Calder United match-up in round six. Also pictured, St Arnaud's Daniel Gifford and Jimmy McKenny.

building towards a big finish to their premiership crown defence.

The benefit derived from the inclusion of Kane Donnan, Oscar Brownless, Josh Jenkins, Jack Poulton, Brodie Adcock and Cruz O'Sullivan last Saturday was accentuated by the return from long-term injury of Austin Mertz, a proven premiership player, and the arrival of former AFL footballer Andy Collins.

### Form Favours Lions

With just 4 premiership points and only 9 percentage points separating Calder United from Sea Lake-Nandaly, the Lions will be looking to "put the pedal to the metal"

against a luckless St. Arnaud at Wycheproof.

Injuries have reduced the Saints to the bare bones of their best possible line-up. And if by some divine intervention, St. Arnaud was to defeat the Lions, it would be one of the biggest upsets in local football history.

While hope springs eternal, and any result is possible in our game of Aussie Rules, Calder United should strengthen its grip on second place on North-Central's pecking order.

### Feeny Medal

With the end of the home-and-away season almost upon us, attention will turn to the live streaming of the 2025

Feeny Medal vote count, to take place on Saturday, August 16.

Potential candidates include previous winners, Wade Donnan and Trent Donnan (Sea Lake-Nandaly) and Nic Rippon (Birchip-Watchem), while dynamic Boort goal-kicking midfielder, Jhye Baddeley-Kelly has enjoyed a stellar season.

Or could Calder United's Zane Keighran or Steve Kennedy be the first Lion to be awarded North-Central football's highest individual honour?

With four rounds remaining, there's still plenty of time for the competition's best to add to their respective vote tallies.

## Band Together for Road Safety

#TACBandTogether

GOLDACRES NORTH CENTRAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

## ROUND 13

SATURDAY JULY 26TH, 2025

|                            |    |                    |
|----------------------------|----|--------------------|
| SEA LAKE NANDALY TIGERS    | VS | CHARLTON NAVIES    |
| SEA LAKE COMMUNITY COMPLEX |    |                    |
| WEDDERBURN REDBACKS        | VS | DONALD ROYAL BLUES |
| DONALDSON PARK             |    |                    |
| CALDER UNITED LIONS        | VS | ST ARNAUD SAINTS   |
| WYCHEPROOF REC RESERVE     |    |                    |
| BIRCHIP-WATCHEM BULLS      | VS | BOORT MAGPIES      |
| GEORGE CARTWRIGHT OVAL     |    |                    |

## Golfers' Tribute to Peter Kelly

What a fantastic turnout for the inaugural Wimmera / Kara Kara Veterans Challenge in memory of Peter Kelly at Donald on Monday, July 21.

There was a total of 79 competing in a Stableford round, with 49 representing the Wimmera Vets and 30 from Kara Kara Vets, the winners of the days Veterans District Challenge going to the Wimmera Vets. Thank you to everyone attending, and big thank you to Ern Kraulis (president) and John Robertson (secretary) of the Victorian Veterans Committee for attending.

Winners of the day were: "A" Grade – Ian Hair (Nattimuk) with 38 points, on a 4 way countback. Runner-up was Mark Hamley (Charlton), 3rd Anthony Jones (Moor) • Continued on page 15.



(• In memory of Peter Kelly)