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The Buloke Times

Est. 1875

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Published Tuesdays and Fridays

PP331336/0000 1

Friday, July 4, 2025

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

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

At July 16 BCG Ag Tech Expo: Weed Management at the Forefront

With increasing pressure on growers to improve sustainability and manage herbicide resistance, the upcoming BCG Ag Tech Expo will showcase technology such as camera sprayers, autonomous robotics, drone-based weed mapping, and real-world grower applications that are already making an impact in the paddock.

Growers, advisers and researchers will gather at Charlton Park on July 16, to explore these technologies, where the spotlight will be firmly on the future of weed management.

"Farmers are looking for real solutions that work in the paddock, not just ideas, and there's a strong appetite to adopt smarter, more sustainable practices," said BCG event organiser Jess Bidstrup.

"This year's Expo showcases tools that are already being used to improve efficiency, reduce chemical use, and target weeds more precisely."

Key Feature

A key feature of the event will be a panel session facilitated by weed science expert Professor Michael Walsh (Charles Sturt University), bringing together leaders in the ag tech space including

Single Agriculture and SwarmFarm Robotics, with on-ground experience from Warakirri Cropping site manager Jono Robinson.

The panel will explore how sensor technology, automation, and data-driven insights are reshaping weed management strategies, while also grounding the conversation in practical, on-farm realities.

• Continued on page 2.



• Weed science expert Professor Michael Walsh from Charles Sturt University will facilitate a panel on the day, featuring the latest weed control technologies and farmer experience.

Date Shift for VNI Transmission Project

Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) has this week advised landholders that the expected completion date for the VNI West transmission project is shifting from 2028 to late 2030.

The VNI West updated construction timeline coincides with release of new Land Easement and Access Package to be shared with landholders.

TCV Spokesperson, Claire Cass, said the updated timeline reflects revised planning, design and construction assumptions for one of Victoria's most significant energy infrastructure projects.

"The new construction completion target allows more time for detailed environmental,

geotechnical and cultural assessments, along with more meaningful landholder engagement on access and easement arrangements," Ms Cass said.

"We know this updated timeline may be frustrating, but we're committed to working with landholders respectfully and providing the support they need to consider what is best for them, their properties, and farming or business operations.

"While the timeline has shifted, the critical purpose of VNI West remains the same – to deliver the infrastructure needed to keep Victoria's lights on, and help put downward pressure on electricity prices."

Land Easement and Access Package Delivery

The timeline update coincides with the upcoming release of the VNI West Land Easement and Access Package,

which will be delivered directly to landholders along the project easement.

Landholder Liaisons will begin contacting landholders in the project easement to arrange in-person discussions and to personally deliver the Package. Support will be tailored to meet each landholder's needs – whether that's help reviewing the Package in detail, or guidance on accessing independent professional advice.

The Land Easement and Access Package reflects landholder feedback, and months of detailed planning and assessments required to provide



accurate, property-specific information about compensation, project benefit payments, and field survey access terms.

"For the first time, landholders will receive detailed information about the project benefit payments they can receive, indicative property-specific impact compensation and field survey access terms," Ms Cass said.

"This is what landholders have been asking for, and we look forward to unpacking the total benefits available."

Reviewing the Land Easement and Access Package, meeting with a Landholder Liaison, or agreeing to survey access, does not indicate support for the project.

• Continued on page 2.

Kevin Joins the Centenarians

Keeping busy and avoiding alcohol might be among the keys to a St Arnaud man's longevity.

Kevin Allen turned 100 on Thursday, June 19, celebrating with a few cups of his favourite black tea.

"I've never drunk beer or anything, but I love my black tea, I'd have 10 cups a day," he said.

"Sometimes with a biscuit."

A love of tea and biscuits and a desire to stay active have paid off for Mr Allen.

Still sharp as a tack, he and his wife Ruby, 94, still live at home together in a house they purchased more than 75 years ago.

Mr Allen grew up at Gowar East, just outside St Arnaud, and was the only boy in his household, growing up alongside four stepsisters.

He joined the Airforce aged 17 and nine months and was enlisted for three years, visiting places such as New Guinea and Borneo during the war.

Upon returning home to the St Arnaud area, Mr Allen met Ruby Castleman at the picture theatre after seeing a film. They were both having a cup of tea; Ruby's sister worked at the theatre.

Mr Allen said he walked Ruby home that night after striking up a conversation, but quickly ran home after her dad came out to greet them on arrival, booming, "You best get out of here now, lad."

The pair married at the Church of England in St Arnaud on April 30, 1949.

"We were meant to get married on April 1, but her sister went and had a baby, so we had to shift it," Mr Allen said.

The Allens have two daughters, Cynthia and Aileen, four grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Mr Allen loves spending time outdoors and being active, which is why he became a farm hand for a few years at a place near Birchip.

However, as his wife neared the delivery date of their second daughter, he moved back home to be with his family.

Mr Allen went on to work at St Arnaud Flour Mill for

• Continued on page 2.



• Northern Grampians Shire mayor Karen Hyslop, centre, and Cr Karen Probst congratulate St Arnaud's Kevin Allen on his 100th birthday anniversary.

Challenges Facing Country Newspapers

[From Country Press Australia]

Country Press Australia has welcomed the release of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's final report from its Digital Platform Services Inquiry, describing it as a landmark moment that recognises the systemic challenges facing regional and local news publishers in the digital age.

CPA president, Andrew Schreyer, said the report confirms what independent publishers have known for years, that global tech giants are using their market dominance to control how journalism is accessed, valued and monetised in Australia, to the detriment of local news.

"This report confirms what our members have experienced for a long time," Mr Schreyer said.

"Local and regional publishers continue to face deeply entrenched power imbalances in their dealings with the major digital platforms. This has real consequences for the sustainability of journalism in our communities."

Mr Schreyer said the federal government must now move quickly to implement the News Bargaining Incentive legislation, especially in light of Meta's refusal to renew deals with publishers since announcing their withdrawal from news arrangements last year.

"Meta has walked away from compensating publishers entirely, and others like TikTok have never come to the table at all," he said.

"The incentive legislation is essential to ensure that all major platforms are required to contribute to the journalism they benefit from, either by negotiating in good faith or by making a fair payment."

He also emphasised that public funding support for journalism, including through the News Media Assistance Program (NewsMAP), must be directed to publishers who are actively producing local public interest journalism.

The Buloke Times

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FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2025

"Funding should go to the journalists and newsrooms who are on the ground covering councils, courts, community stories and local sport," Mr Schreyer said.

"These are the voices that hold local institutions to account and help communities stay connected. They need direct and meaningful support."

The ACCC report draws attention to a range of broader issues threatening journalism, including a lack of dispute resolution options for small publishers, harmful practices by dominant platforms, and the growing use of AI tools that can devalue or displace credible news.

"We support stronger platform obligations to prevent scams and fake reviews, and we also support enforceable transparency requirements that ensure fair treatment of news content," Mr Schreyer said.

"We need to see the major platforms treated as gatekeepers with clear responsibilities when it comes to how news is ranked, labelled and monetised."

"We urge the government to consider the rise of AI and its use of publishers' content and the need for publishers to be fairly compensated for this as part of the News Bargaining Incentive framework."

He said the rise of AI-generated content and the continued spread of misinformation on social media made it more important than ever for Australians to understand what credible journalism looks like.

"Improving digital literacy must be a national priority," Mr Schreyer said.

"Australians need the tools to distinguish fact-based journalism from misinformation, especially in an environment where AI and algorithms are shaping so much of what people see."



• Andrew Schreyer is the President of Country Press Australia, and publisher of the Warragul and Drouin Gazette.

Country Press Australia represents almost 240 independently owned newspapers that serve regional, rural and suburban communities across the country. These publishers are embedded in the communities they serve and continue to provide vital public interest journalism in an increasingly disrupted media environment.

Mr Schreyer said the ACCC report provides a clear path forward and urged the government to act.

"We strongly support the ACCC's push for a new digital competition regime and external dispute resolution so our members can operate on a level playing field," he said.

"Our regional, rural and local news outlets are the backbone of Australia's democracy and they must be supported through practical reforms and fairer digital market conditions."

Weed Management at the Forefront

• Continued from page 1.

"We're seeing growers drive change by trialling and adopting technologies that reduce their reliance on blanket spraying. The Expo puts these innovations front and centre," said Jess.

Direct Feedback

"The event program has been shaped in part by direct feedback from farmers."

"We asked growers what they wanted to see more of,

and drone-based weed mapping came up again and again.

"In response, we've secured Single Agriculture to present their innovative weed mapping and sensing technology."

Attendees will also be able to explore a range of technologies, speak directly with exhibitors, and gain insight into what other growers are applying on their own farms.

Registration for this event is essential and now open at www.bcg.org.au.

Kevin Joins the Centenarians

• Continued from page 1.

more than 28 years before retiring in 1980.

A keen footballer, he played for Landsborough Football Club for many years and won a "best and fairest" award at some stage.

Mr Allen now enjoys being outside in his garden, which is immaculate, and still cuts his own firewood.

"I don't do it all myself these days, though," he said.

"I've got a guy who comes to cut the front grass and a friend who gets me wood from a farm. I can't do those things anymore."

When asked what advice he had about living to such a milestone, he mentioned the importance of keeping busy.

"You've got to keep active, keep your body moving," he said.

"I don't like sitting still for too long."

Northern Grampians Shire mayor Karen Hyslop and councillor Karen Probst paid Mr Allen a visit on his special day, presenting a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the council.

"It was fantastic to visit Kevin and Ruby and celebrate such a remarkable occasion," Cr Hyslop said.

"Kevin still has such a great memory and his message about keeping active is an inspiration to all of us. We wish him the happiest of birthdays."

Date Shift for VNI Transmission Project

• Continued from page 1.

"It's important to understand that reviewing the Land Easement and Access Package with professional advisers, or agreeing on property access requirements for field surveys, does not mean landholders support VNI West," Ms Cass said.

"The approach simply provides landholders with more say on how the project may affect them and their properties, so that compensation accurately reflects the impact."

Landholders with questions are encouraged to contact their Landholder Liaison or phone the VNI West project team on 1800 824 221.

Community Benefits Under Development

TCV is currently developing a program to recognise neighbours – those living near, but not directly hosting, infrastructure – who are affected by the project. The program will align with VicGrid's draft Renewable Energy Zone Community Benefits Plan and ensure these impacts are appropriately acknowledged.

A Social Value Strategy is also being developed to guide broader community benefits, funded directly by the project and separate to the Victorian Government's community and Traditional Owner benefits programs.

The draft strategy is being co-developed with a reference group of local representatives and shaped through ongoing community and stakeholder input. It will be released publicly for feedback in the coming months.

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Belvedere By George Crenshaw
www.belvedere-cartoons.com



"With Belvedere at home alone, I am scared it may look like this when we get back!"

Corack East Wind
Renewable Energy from ACEN

ACEN Australia

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

Drop-in information hub every Wednesday 1-6pm

Dates and venues

Venue information

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

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

Donald – Scout Hall, Racecourse Road, Donald

Birchip – Birchip Community Leisure Centre, Morrison St, Birchip

Charlton Charlton Park Community Bank Complex, Calder Hwy, Charlton

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

www.corackeastwind.com.au

info@corackeastwind.com.au

1800 498 550

Corack East Wind

Church Notices

ANGLICAN
"Parish of
Charlton-Donald"

Enquiries: Rev'd Judi Bird
0435 593 395

Friday, July 4
St. Paul's, Birchip, 5 p.m.

Sunday, July 6
St. Martin's, Charlton, 9 a.m.
St. George's, Donald, 11 a.m.
Holy Trinity, W'burn, 3 p.m.

“Securing Gas Supply, Slashing Energy Bills”

[From the Office of the Victorian Premier, Jacinta Allan, MP.]

Gas is part of Victoria’s energy transition, but supplies from the Bass Strait are dwindling and prices are going up.

That’s why the Allan Labor Government is securing our gas supply, protecting local jobs, and helping households save.

Premier Jacinta Allan and Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D’Ambrosio this week announced reforms to:

- Secure our gas supply – to protect jobs and ensure industry has the gas it needs, as guaranteed in our Gas Security Statement.
- Drive down energy bills – with commonsense regulations for homes and businesses to drive down energy bills, plus rebates to make the switch more affordable.
- Make rental homes more comfortable and affordable – with new minimum standards to help renters cut their bills, plus rebates for rental providers.
- Back local manufacturing – by supporting Victorian businesses and workers to build efficient appliances.

Securing Our Gas Supply

We are not just making sure Victoria has the gas it needs – we are reserving it for industry.

The Government’s Gas Security Statement, released today, outlines the steps we’re taking to avoid the gas shortfalls forecast by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) for south-eastern states by 2029.

The Statement confirms our reforms will deliver major gas savings, supported by more Victorians switching to efficient electric appliances

and existing rules that require new homes to be all-electric. By reducing household demand, we reserve gas for industry.

By 2029, these reforms will unlock just under 12 petajoules (PJ) of gas every year, more than the annual production of Beach Energy’s Enterprise field.

By 2035, they’ll deliver 44 PJ annually – enough to meet 85 per cent of Victoria’s forecast industrial demand.

That means more of Victoria’s gas – the cheapest in the nation – will be used by Victorian manufacturers, supporting jobs and keeping local industry strong.

These new reforms to secure supply and reserve it for industry build on our previous work to secure the gas Victoria needs, including:

- Streamlining decision-making for new gas projects under the Development Facilitation Program.
- Passing the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Act 2024 in October 2024, allowing gas to be stored offshore in Victorian waters in underground reservoirs.
- Approving production from Beach Energy’s Enterprise field last year, the only application received in a decade.
- Legislating in 2018 that producers in Victorian waters must offer their gas to the domestic market on reasonable terms.
- Continuing to work with the Commonwealth and other

state and territory Ministers on options to expand powers for AEMO to address East Coast gas supply issues.

Since the beginning of the year, we’ve seen over \$2 billion in announcements for new gas production and exploration for the Victorian market.

This includes Esso and Woodside (\$550 million), Amplitude Energy and OG Energy (\$500 million), Conoco Phillips, 3D.

Energi and the Korean National Oil Corporation (\$100 million) – on top of GB Energy’s \$900 million underground offshore storage project.

Together, our reforms to secure gas supply and reserve it for industry will ensure Victoria avoids forecast gas shortages – keeping our economy strong and our future secure.

Driving Down Energy Bills

The Labor Government is making existing homes cheaper to run with electric hot water systems.

Under new regulations from March 1, 2027, when a gas hot water system reaches the end of its life, it must be replaced with an efficient electric alternative like a heat pump.

Electric hot water systems will save households around \$330 a year, or \$520 with solar.

Electric hot water systems are also often cheaper up front than gas systems, with rebates available from the Labor Government’s Victorian Energy Upgrades and Solar Victoria programs of up to \$1,400.

Gas hot water systems can still be repaired if they break down – this is about the gas system’s end of life. Gas systems can also be temporarily removed and reinstalled during renovations.

There are no changes to heating for owner occupiers.

There are no changes to gas cooking in existing homes.

The Government is also making sure new homes and buildings are built for the future.

From January 1, 2027, all new homes will be built all electric. This will put around \$880 per year back in the pockets of new homeowners, or \$1,820 if they have solar.

From January 1, 2027, all new commercial buildings (other than industrial, manufacturing and agricultural buildings) will also be required to be built all electric.

There are no changes to rules regarding end-of-life replacement for gas appliances in all existing commercial buildings.

The use of LPG for households or business is also unchanged.

We’ve also rolled out of the SEC’s Home Electric Planner where Victorians can access trusted and easy to understand information on installing electric appliances – it calculates all the upfront costs, annual bill savings, return on investment and applies government discounts and rebates.

To see what rebates and discounts are available visit, energy.vic.gov.au/households/save-with-all-electric-home or to use the SEC planner visit, powerup.sec.victoria.com.au.

In a cost-of-living crisis, renters shouldn’t be stuck with the highest energy bills – everyone deserves a safe, comfortable and affordable home.

New Standards

From March 1, 2027, new Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards will apply to rental properties and public housing – saving renters potentially thousands of dollars a year:

- Hot water systems must be replaced with efficient heat pumps at end of life – saving up to \$220 every year.
- Gas heaters at end of life must be replaced with reverse-cycle air conditioners – saving up to \$215 every year.
- A minimum 4-star Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) rated shower head must be installed at the start of a new lease – saving renters up to \$38 every year.
- Minimum R5.0 rating ceiling insulation must be installed at the start of a new lease where there is no ceiling insulation already in place – saving around \$450 every year.
- Draught sealing, including weather seals on all external doors, windows and wall vents must be installed at the start of a new lease – saving over \$110 every year.

Main living areas are already required to have heating. Additionally, from March 1, 2027 at the start of a new lease, main living areas must also have an efficient electric cooling system. Installing a reverse-cycle air conditioner will acquit both the heating and cooling requirements.

Every single upgrade a property may need under the new minimum efficiency standards is eligible for a discount under our Victorian Energy Upgrades program. Exemptions also apply, including if installation costs are too high or if there is not enough space.

The rental standards have been set following extensive consultation to make sure they are achievable and keep costs affordable for rental providers.

Backing local Manufacturing

To make sure Victoria’s appliance manufacturing industry is ready to meet the demand for energy efficient hot water appliances, we’re investing \$9.5 million towards an Industry Diversification Program.



• Jacinta Allan.



• Lily D’Ambrosio.

This will support existing businesses to ride the wave of the expansion of electric appliance manufacturing and

help the gas appliance manufacturing supply chain upgrade their facilities and reskill their workforce.

Police Beat



Gannawarra

Theft: Between Friday, June 20 and Monday, June 23, offenders have attended the Gunbower State Forest Cohuna and syphoned diesel from a heavy vehicle doing construction work.

Attempted vehicle theft: Between Friday, June 20 and Monday, June 23, offenders have attended a business off the Murray Valley Highway, Cohuna, and smashed the window of the vehicle. It is believed the offenders were attempting to steal the vehicle but were not successful.

Theft: Between 5 p.m. Monday, June 23, and 7.30 a.m. the following day, offenders have forced entry to a vehicle parked on the Leitchville-Kerang Road, Leitchville, and stolen diesel.

Theft: Between 3 p.m. Sunday the 22nd of June and 2.30 p.m. the following day, offenders have attended a property on the Lalbert-Kerang Road, Bael Bael, and stolen copper wire.

Damage: Between June 20 and 25, offenders have attended the Kerang Showgrounds and damaged the locks and latches on sheds. It appears nothing has been stolen.

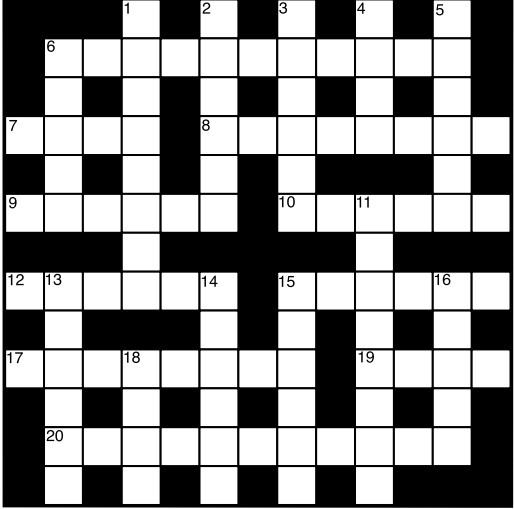
Attempted vehicle theft: During the day on Tuesday the 24th of June, offenders have smashed the window of a vehicle parked off Boundary Street, Kerang. Victim returned to the vehicle to find the bonnet ajar. It appears this was an unsuccessful attempt to steal the motor vehicle.

Buloke

Burglary and theft: Between May 27 and June 24, offenders have forced entry to an old building off the Barrakee Road, Barrakee, and removed copper wiring from the building. Mid June there was a similar incident at Buckrabanyule and Glenloth, with copper wire stolen from a building that has just been reported.

“Times” Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8184



ACROSS

- Unaffiliated (11)
- Grain store (4)
- Captivate (8)
- Flog (6)
- Stores (6)
- Insect (6)
- Laugh (6)
- Calamity (8)
- List (4)
- Climber (11)

DOWN

- Drink (8)
- Talk (6)
- Grab (6)
- Back end (4)
- Impassive (6)
- Nationality (5)
- Lawyer (8)
- Puzzle (6)
- Being (6)
- Vegetable (6)
- Penetrate (5)
- Lily (4)

• Solution next issue.



“Times” Classifieds

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

Deadlines:—

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

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



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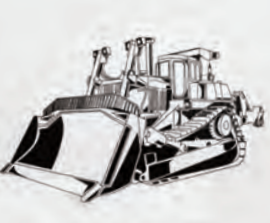
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Ball 2025**

Friday, July 4
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TICKET PRICES:
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Doors open at 7.30 p.m.
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“Times” Classifieds



Cultivating Healthy Communities

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Home Support Assessment Officer

St Arnaud

Food and Domestic Service Assistant

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

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Truck Driver

Reeves Earth Moving Pty Ltd are currently seeking experienced Truck Drivers to join our growing team.

Reeves Earth Moving are a family-owned business based out of Wedderburn, Victoria. We operate trucks and machinery, carting quarry products and completing earthworks including but not limited to shed pads, driveways, sheep yards, dams etc.

Essential Requirements:

- Current HC or MC Drivers Licence
- Ability to work unsupervised and follow directions.
- Available Monday-Friday with optional Saturday work

Non-Essential Requirements:

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VR4823596

A Miraculous Rescue...

We hear a lot about submarines in recent times because of Australia's decision to buy nuclear powered submarines under the terms of the AUKUS deal.

Australia has owned and used various submarines for military service for many decades now. Some of the earlier submarines were of the Oberon class and I am reminded of this regularly because a de-commissioned 90 metre long Oberon is on display at the town of Holbrook, just off the Hume Freeway north of Albury, which I and thousands of other people have observed.

Thinking about submarines Rick Bundschuh tells us of an amazing story.

The story begins with Tex who had spent much of his life at sea as a professional fisherman. One deceptively calm night Tex guided his 13 metre fishing boat toward the beach of an inhospitable island. He agreed to allow some friends to go ashore using the vessel's small skiff while he and the rest of the crew did some night fishing. Returning to the rendezvous spot early the next morning for the pick up the conditions had deteriorated. Huge waves ripped through the channel, nearly capsizing the fishing boat and damaging it. The small skiff full of other fishermen wait-

ing on the shoreline had its hull torn by rugged rocks. With great difficulty a tow line was brought to the shivering fishermen who, while holding on to floating objects, were dragged by the boat's winch through the surf to the fishing vessel. All got there safely.

Exhausted, Tex went below deck to sleep. A few hours later he was woken by his panicking friends. The boat was sinking. By the time Tex got to the deck there was nothing he could do except order everyone into the water. They only had life jackets and inner tubes to keep them afloat.

The men were in trouble and currents were sweeping them out to sea. By morning the situation had worsened. A tube was losing air. There was no food and water. Overhead planes did not see them. It was then that Tex decided to call a prayer meeting. No one objected. With all hope gone this group of tough sailors had only one place to turn. They pleaded for God to intervene. The moment the last man finished his prayer Tex looked up.

"A stick", he cried out. The "stick" was standing vertically

out of the water and was moving in their direction. The six men gazed stunned and puzzled and stopped paddling. Seconds later there was a huge sound and a monster emerged from the depths. Unbelievably it was a nuclear powered submarine!

The hatch opened and the captain of the sub came to the observation deck. Rescued! Huddled below deck and nursing hot coffee, the survivors listened awestruck as the captain explained it was against orders for him to surface his sub anywhere outside Pearl Harbour, and he expected to face disciplinary action for what he had done.

Writer Rick Bundschuh records the captain as saying, "Something beyond my control told me to go to the surface. I can't explain. Something, (Some One?) just told me to bring the sub right up, right then and there. I did... and you were there."

This astonishing submarine rescue story reminds me of some very wise information passed on to me long ago, "When in a fix, remember Philippians 4: 6". Philippians 4:6 is a Bible verse which says, "Do not be anx-



• Bruce Stewart

ious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God".

When we are in a "fix" our Lord welcomes us to talk to Him in prayer as Tex and his crew did. The answer may not always be as stunning as in this story and sometimes it may seem God is not answering at all. God's answer may be a "yes", "no" or "not yet". Sometimes we have to be patient and wait.

You never know what might happen when people genuinely reach out to our Creator God in humility, repentance, thanksgiving and prayer. Have a great week and remember "When in a fix, remember Philippians 4:6!"

Bruce Stewart.



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

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• A decommissioned Oberon, stretching an impressive 90 metres, is on display at Holbrook NSW.

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Urban water and wastewater tariffs



GWMWater

In accordance with the provisions of Section 260 of the *Water Act 1989*, notice is given by GWMWater of the making of a resolution setting the following tariffs for 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026. The price changes have been approved by the Essential Services Commission, the independent regulator for the water industry. The tariffs have been calculated in accordance with the 'Essential Services Commission 2023, GWMWater Determination: 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2028, 23 June'.

Tariffs consist of a Service Availability Charge (SAC) and a Consumption Charge per kilolitre. Accounts are issued quarterly. Tariffs are due and payable 28 days after issue of account. Accounts outstanding on due date may attract interest on unpaid amounts. Tariffs apply to properties within declared water and sewerage districts. GST does not apply to water and wastewater tariffs. Customers outside the water and wastewater districts are supplied by agreement, which are reviewed annually by the Corporation. The State Government provides concessions for non-profit organisations and holders of concession cards. Assistance is also available through the Utility Relief Grant Scheme.

Please phone 1300 659 961 or visit our website gwmwater.org.au/billing for any enquiries regarding your account, current prices or available concessions.

A copy of our Schedule of Tariffs and Miscellaneous Charges 2025/26 is available on our website at gwmwater.org.au/charges or by contacting us on 1300 659 961 during business hours.

Water charges

Drinking water in the following towns/districts

Ararat, Beulah, Birchip, Brim, Charlton, Dimboola, Donald, Edenhope, Elmhurst, Great Western, Halls Gap, Hopetoun, Horsham, Jeparit, Lake Bolac, Manangatang, Minyip, Murtoa, Natimuk, Nhili, Ouyen, Pomonal, Quambatook, Rainbow, Rupanyup, Sea Lake, St Arnaud, Stawell, Ultima, Underbool, Warracknabeal, Willaura, Woomelang, Wycheproof

Residential Water ¹ Availability Charge #	Non Residential Availability Charge #	Volumetric Charge ²	Concessional Service Availability Charge
\$471.20	\$450.04	\$1.8545	\$304.96

Regulated (untreated) water in the following pipeline towns/districts

Antwerp, Berrilllock*, Chillingollah, Chinkapook, Culgoa*, Doon, Glenorchy, Jung, Lalbert, Lascelles, Marnoo, Nandaly, Nullawil, Patchewollock, Pimpinio, Speed, Tarranyuk, Tempy, Waitchie, Walpeup, Watchem, Yaapect

Residential Water ¹ Availability Charge #	Non Residential Availability Charge #	Volumetric Charge ²	Concessional Service Availability Charge
\$419.16	\$398.00	\$1.6876	\$304.96

Regulated (untreated) water in the following Eastern Grampians towns/districts

Buangor, Moyston*, Wickliffe

Residential Water ¹ Availability Charge #	Non Residential Availability Charge #	Volumetric Charge ²	Concessional Service Availability Charge
\$419.16	\$398.00	\$1.3664	\$304.96

Regulated (untreated) groundwater in the following towns/districts

Apsley, Cowangie, Gorokey, Harrow, Kaniva*, Kiata, Lillimur, Miram, Murrayville, Serviceton, Streatham, Westmere

Residential Water ¹ Availability Charge #	Non Residential Availability Charge #	Volumetric Charge ²	Concessional Service Availability Charge
\$417.04	\$395.88	\$1.0384	\$304.96

New Customer Contributions - Developer Charges

Connection Application Fee	\$ 69.10
Water Tapping / Connection Charges #	\$499.40
Water and Recycled Water	By Agreement

Fire Service / Standpipe^A

This fee applies to all of the above-listed townships	\$563.68
Industrial Fire Service Charge (per service)	\$674.56

1 Recreation Contribution Charge - Includes annual recreation contribution of \$21.16 or \$10.58 for concession card holders.

2 Recreational, Sporting Club and School Discounts - The following volumetric discounts will apply to eligible recreational, sporting clubs and schools: Consumption up to 5 ML per annum - 40% discounted volumetric rate; Consumption between 5 to 10 ML - 25% discounted volumetric rate; Consumption greater than 10 ML will be charged at the full volumetric rate.

Night Watering Consumption Rebate receives a 15% discount from the relevant town volumetric rate and can be used in conjunction with the recreation, sporting club and schools discount.

Recreational and sporting clubs not receiving the discounts should contact GWMWater to discuss eligibility and to obtain an application form.

All tariffs are based on a standard 20 mm meter size. Meter sizes larger than standard 20 mm attract higher tariffs. The maximum residential tariff applied is 25 mm.

Refer to GWMWater New Customer Contribution Negotiating Framework located on our website for guidelines.

* Town moving to a drinking water tariff once declared.

^A Water taken from fire services for fire fighting purposes does not attract a charge. Any consumptive water drawn from standpipes / fire services attracts a volumetric charge of \$3.0152 per kL for fully treated water and \$1.8290 per kL for non potable water.

Recycled water

Annual Amount Tariff (per ML) Standard Price (By Agreement)	\$308.13
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Wastewater charges

Charges for wastewater in the following towns/districts

Ararat, Birchip, Charlton, Dimboola, Donald, Edenhope, Gorokey, Great Western, Halls Gap, Hopetoun, Horsham, Jeparit, Kaniva, Lake Bolac, Minyip, Murtoa, Natimuk, Nhili, Ouyen, Rainbow, Rupanyup, Sea Lake, Serviceton, St Arnaud, Stawell, Warracknabeal, Willaura, Wycheproof

Wastewater Service Availability Charge	Concessional Service Availability Charge
\$569.44	\$329.20

New Customer Contributions - Developer Charges

Sewer By Agreement

Wastewater Connection Charges

Connection Application Fee	\$ 69.10
Residential	\$138.60
Commercial and Small Industrial	\$208.00
Large Industrial	\$416.00

Pressure Sewer Unit Charge (Residential) *	Pressure Sewer Unit Charge (Residential) **
\$8,704.14	\$724.13

Pressure Sewer Unit (Commercial - Materials Only) On Application
--

Trade Waste Application Fees

Trade Waste Application Fee (Minor)	\$485.83
Trade Waste Application Fee (Category 3 and 4)	On Application

Trade Waste Fees

Minor Trade Waste (Minor)	\$305.88
Major Trade Waste	By Agreement

* Unit Commissioning and Materials excluding Boundary Kit.

** Boundary Kit only.

Refer to GWMWater New Customer Contribution Negotiating Framework located on our website for guidelines.

Vacant land

Development rates in the following towns/districts

Ararat, Great Western, Halls Gap, Horsham, Pomonal, Stawell

Water	\$219.88	Wastewater	\$253.12
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General

Information Statements

Application Fee	\$ 69.20
Application Fee (Priority)	\$138.60
Disconnection / Reconnection Fees	\$ 96.97
Non-Core Miscellaneous Services	At Cost

Debt Collection Fees

Includes field call fees, skip trace fees and company search fees	At Cost
Build Over Easement Application Charge	\$174.20

Developer Plan Checking Fee (0.75%) and Review and Inspection Fee (2.5%) = 3.25% of the cost of works for water and wastewater charges.

Charges also apply for miscellaneous services provided by GWMWater.

Mark Williams
Managing Director

11 McLachlan Street | PO Box 481 | Horsham Vic 3402
Enquiries: 1300 659 961 - bh | Faults: 1800 188 586 - 24 hrs
info@gwmwater.org.au | www.gwmwater.org.au

Families Hit by Car and Ute Tax

The Albanese Government's tax on family cars, utes and hybrids commenced on Monday, July 1, which will add up to \$17,000 to the cost of new petrol and diesel fuelled cars by 2029.

Dr Anne Webster MP said Mallee families and small businesses will start paying Labor's tax every time they buy a new car, particularly because Mallee people are more than 7 times less likely to have an EV that benefits from the new tax arrangements.

"This is an unfair Labor tax on families in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis, who need to buy a car to meet their needs or small businesses looking to invest in a new car to grow their business," Dr Webster said.

"The Albanese Government's car and ute tax will drive up the price of new and second hand cars and make life harder for Australian families to get the vehicles they need."

"Labor's tax reduces choice for Australians by taxing families and business who don't want to or can't purchase an EV, or where there simply is not an EV ute or other vehicle fit for purpose for regional Australians."

Perverse Impacts

"There will be perverse impacts of Labor making new cars more expensive to buy, with many people likely to keep their current car on the road for longer, resulting in older, less efficient and less safe cars on our streets and highways than might otherwise have been the case."

Dr Webster added that Labor's new car and ute tax



• Anne Webster:

will further entrench the tax inequity between those who can afford to buy or are given a company car to drive, and those forced by work, location or circumstance to use petrol, diesel and hybrid cars.

"EV drivers are able to opt out of paying fuel excise used to fix and maintain the roads they drive on, while everyone else is taxed when they fill up at the bowser as well as hit with Labor's hefty tax when they buy a new car."

"Labor's tax is estimated to add up to \$7,400 to the cost of a Ford Ranger in 2026 and up to \$14,400 by 2029."

"The popular RAV4 hybrid family vehicle will incur almost \$5,000 additional cost by 2029 as a result of Labor's tax."

Dr Webster said the Coalition opposed Labor's car and ute tax because Australians do not want the Government in Canberra dictating what vehicles they should buy.

CHURCH NOTICES



UNITING CHURCH (North Central Living Waters Cluster)

Donald, 10 a.m.

Wycheproof, 10 a.m.

Birchip, 10 a.m.

Contact Number: 5497 1033

DISTRICT CATHOLIC CHURCHES

"East Wimmera Parish"

Birchip 10.30 a.m.
(Livestream out to churches without Mass)

Boort 10.30 a.m.
(Livestream in)

Banyena No Mass

Charlton 10.30 a.m.
(Livestream in)

Donald 8.30 a.m.

St. Arnaud (Sat.) 7.00 p.m.

Wycheproof 10.30 a.m.
(Livestream in)

Fr. Gerry Prunty
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Parish Co-ordinator
- Noeline Hogan: 0476 617 976



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• Dimboola chef Cat Clarke hosted a workshop for Stawell Secondary College students as part of NAIDOC Week celebrations. The students made bush foods for their friends from Stawell West Primary School.

Council Celebrates NAIDOC Week: Strength, Vision, Legacy

A cooking workshop with chef Cat Clarke on Wednesday kick-started NAIDOC Week activities in Northern Grampians Shire.

Mayor Karen Hyslop said the council had partnered with Stawell Secondary College to run the workshop for the school's Marrung students.

"Under Cat's guidance they prepared a range of bush foods for family and students from Stawell West Primary School," she said.

"NAIDOC Week officially starts on Sunday, but we wanted to involve our indigenous students, so we arranged the workshop ahead of the school holidays.

"It went really well. The kids all seemed to enjoy the cooking – and of course, the treats."

More than 50 people attended from the schools, along with staff from Goolum Goolum and Budja Budja Aboriginal co-operatives and two Koori education support officers.

There was also a range of indigenous artworks on display – including some from a Stawell Skate Park mural project stencil workshop hosted by the council earlier this year

– along with creative activities, books and artefacts.

"We think it's very important to include youth in our NAIDOC celebrations, particularly as this year's theme is, The Next Generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy," Cr Hyslop said.

"It celebrates not only the achievements of the past but the bright future ahead, empowered by the strength of our young leaders, the vision of our communities, and the legacy of our ancestors."

NAIDOC Week, July 6 to July 13

The NAIDOC journey started as a movement for recognition and rights, sparked by indigenous communities who saw a future built on justice and equality.

Over the decades, it has grown into a powerful national celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements.

Cr Hyslop invited the Northern Grampians community to

attend flag raising ceremonies in Stawell and St Arnaud next week.

The ceremonies will be at Pleasant Creek Historic Precinct, Stawell, on Monday from 9.10 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and at Market Square, St Arnaud, on Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 9.15 a.m..

Stawell and St Arnaud library branches will also celebrate NAIDOC Week with book displays and NAIDOC-themed story times.

Stawell story time is on Thursday and Friday at 10.30 a.m., while St Arnaud story time is on Thursday at 10.30 a.m..

Artwork from the workshop day will also appear in Stawell Library next week.

"If you have time to attend a flag raising ceremony or story time session, I encourage you to come along and show your support for NAIDOC Week and celebrate our region's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples," Cr Hyslop said.



• Stawell Secondary College Marrung students created this artwork for NAIDOC Week. It is on display at Stawell Library.

Farmers Deserve Respect, and... "Labor's Transmission Targets Unachievable"

Member for Mallee, Dr Anne Webster, says Monday's news that TCV were pushing back the VNI-West completion date 2 years showed landowners have always deserved greater respect, and that both the Albanese and Allan Labor Governments' political energy targets are unachievable.

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) through their company Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) said on Monday that the Victoria–New South Wales Interconnector West (VNI-West) would only be completed in 2030, with spokesperson Claire Cass saying: "The new construction completion target allows more time for detailed environmental, geotechnical and cultural assessments, along with more meaningful landholder engagement on access and easement arrangements." (Emphasis added.)

Admission

Dr Webster seized on the news as an admission that, to date, social licence and landowner consultation had been substandard.

"Mallee constituents have been telling me they are very unhappy with how they have been treated by TCV and 'VicGrid', the Victorian Government's deployment arm for VNI-West," Dr Webster said.

"As I wrote last month, Energy Minister Lily D'Ambrosio and VicGrid's CEO received frosty receptions in the electorate due to the division their plans are causing in our communities. Mallee residents feel their evidence of personal and local impacts simply has not been listened to, to date.

"Mallee residents strongly believe farmers and landowners deserve, and are not getting, a fair go. They are horrified to hear the Victorian Government are threatening fines of up to \$12,000 if landowners do not comply with the railroading of energy projects, through a radical new bill in State Parliament."

The 2-year delay announcement on VNI-West follows the late April announcement the Western Renewables Link (WRL) which VNI-West connects with, will itself, be delayed until after the November 2026 state election, while the public are consulted on environmental effects and planning approvals.

"Mallee people have spoken and protested in Melbourne and elsewhere and where possible I have joined them. With a united voice we have made it crystal clear that Mallee will not be railroaded. I have been saying time and again and again and again that farmers, landowners and their communities need to be respected, and our harmonious communities must not be divided by energy cowboys and aggressive governments," Dr Webster said.

Dr Webster said the VNI-West and WRL delays, combined, now demonstrated the Albanese and Allan Labor Government's political energy targets are off the mark.



• Anne Webster.

"Net Zero"

"The Albanese Government wants 'net zero' by 2050 and 82 per cent electricity generation from 'renewables' by 2030, while the Allan Government is even more out-of-touch, wanting 'net zero' for Victoria by 2045 and 95 per cent 'renewable' energy generation by 2035," Dr Webster said.

"Meanwhile the same governments continue to be mugged by the reality that we need gas in the energy transition, rolling back Labor's previous anti-gas measures and yesterday the Albanese government launched yet another gas market review, this time to 'strengthen domestic supply'.

"There is no justification for dividing and railroading regional communities for clearly unachievable political energy targets."

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• James Doak is looking forward bringing a couple of his classic John Deere tractors to Donald Show in October. Pictured here, he is driving his 143 horse power, Vintage 1968 John Deere 5020, at the Quambatook Tractor Pull earlier this year. James is a regular at Quambatook and does quite well on the track there. -Photo Impact Media.

Tractor Pull Gains Traction

The Donald Tractor Pull is getting all geared up for this year's Donald show – it seems all it needed to gain traction was a couple of major sponsors, so with North West Ag and Adams Family Farms offering to support the new event, organisers can move full throttle towards providing some new and exciting entertainment.

The committee was thrilled these two major sponsors got behind them, and it just goes to show what can be done when these community groups gain the funding they need; all it takes is a little push (or pull, maybe).

Already organisers have been able to book the sled used in the vintage tractor pull at Quambatook each year, manned by an experienced crew of three, to ensure these classic machines have substantial weight to put them to the test.

Additionally, work at the show grounds has commenced, with machinery taken in to fill in holes and prepare the 100 metre long by 10 metre wide surface, alongside the fire brigade running track, where these tractors in action will be displayed. It will be quite the show indeed, with ten participants already preparing their entries. One can expect to see vintage tractors up to 200 horse power, like a 930 Case from the '80s, 4010 and, 5020 John Deeres from the '60s, Massey Fergusons and more.

Why Not?

If you have one of these classic tractors sitting idly in your shed, why not give it another day of glory? You might have an old Massey Ferguson or Case retired on the farm, all it needs is a minor repair or a new part to get it going again... now is the time to start fixing up the old workhorse to see what it's still got left in it.

Charlton Too

The committee is hoping for up to 30 entries in the Donald Tractor Pull, and being held in conjunction with Charlton's Show the following weekend, enthusiasts can take advantage of two local events in which to par-

ticipate; October 12 and 19 respectively.

Even for those who might want to give it a go for the first time, what better opportunity than at your local show? Support is available for anyone wanting to try it out, and assistance with local transport can be arranged at a reasonable fee, for those who have no way to bring their tractors in to town from the farm. Spaces for this service are limited, however, so bookings are essential and its best to get in early for a pick up schedule to be arranged.

Competitors are encouraged to enter their vintage or classic tractors up to 200 horse power, with prizes awarded in various classes and for participation. Anyone who would like to get involved should get in contact with Neil McEwen on 0428 915 259 or James Doak on 0427 503 551.

Donald Tractor Pull committee members would like to thank the Donald P & A Show for its support in getting behind the new event and providing space for a track to be built for purpose.

High-Powered Excitement

Nicole Nunn, president of the Donald P & A Society, said the tractor pull is a great addition to the Donald Show because it brings high-powered excitement, showcases local farming talent, and draws big crowds with its thrilling, family-friendly entertainment – and it's all made possible thanks to the generous support of sponsors, whose backing helps create a memorable experience for the whole community.

Once again, much appreciation should go to major sponsors, North West Ag and Adams Family Farms for getting behind this new event and creating new opportunities for locals to experience the excitement of opening up these little "engines that could" – and certainly did, back in their day.



• For Corack East farmer, Mark Brennan, it will be the first time driving in a tractor pull at Donald this year. He has been fixing up his 1956 Massey Harris 55K for a while, hoping to get the machine in working order well before the show so he will have plenty of time to practice with it.



• Standing on the new track being prepared at the showgrounds, the Donald Tractor Pull committee whole heartedly thanks its major sponsors, Adams Family Farms and North West Ag, for helping this new event gain some traction. Left to right: Chris Clark (committee), Neil McEwen (committee), Debbie Huey and Robert Adams (Adams Family Farms, major sponsor), Brad Bath (North West Ag, major sponsor), James Doak (committee), Tony Phillips (committee), Andrew Falla (committee), and Keith Brusnahan (committee).



Donald Football Club presents its **ONLINE**
GOODS & SERVICES
AUCTION



AUCTION OPENED FRIDAY, JUNE 27
CLOSES 9 P.M., SATURDAY, JULY 5

To view items and register to bid, go to galabid.com/donald

We are still accepting donations, that can even be added while auction is open.

Auction closes with a function in the Anderson Blue Room and a live stream projection of the auction bidding on the big screen Saturday, July 5. There will be a meal available. Look out for links and feature items across the Royal Blues social media platforms over the coming days and throughout the auction.

No.	Goods or Service item	Supplied By	No.	Goods or Service item	Supplied By
1	Donate now option		108	Trailer load of wood	DFC
2	King Deluxe Dream ambient firm 28cm mattress	Forty Winks Horsham	109	Box of mixed slices	A & B Grade netball
3	6 bottles of wine, 3 reds, 3 whites	Marc & Sara Adams	110	Box of mixed slices - gluten & dairy free	A & B Grade netball
4	3 nights accommodation @ "The Shop"	Dion & Lauren Hawkes	111	Shuttle of firewood	Robinson family
5	Semi load of cartage	Jackson's Transport	112	Coaches special	Tex
6	8 hrs labour	Eddie Landwehr	113	Fully dressed lamb	DFC
7	Hamper of groceries	Junior netball players	114	6 bottles of Block Series 2021 Heathcote Shiraz	Young family
8	Learn how to distill & BBQ day, all inclusive for 4	Donald South Blue Duck Inn	115	6 bottles of Block Series 2021 Heathcote Shiraz	Young family
9	Load of premium Buloke firewood	Didak & Bear	116	Kids fishing set	Didak & Julz
10	House clean	DAMS	117	Trailer load of wood	Kalon Green & Brenton Dixon
11	Yabby day all inclusive for 3 people	Joe Sheridan & Darcy Harrison	118	Trailer load of wood	DFC
12	2% share of a "Tiger of Malay X Foxy Free"	Club Sport Syndications	119	1 day hire Dingo digger	Buloke Hire
13	4 hrs labour	Downes Carpentry	120	Filled sponge	Maree Cullen
14	Evaporative Aircon service & sanitisation	Ascot Heating Sos Donnellon	121	Family photography session valued @\$300	Julia Pearse Photography
15	Full vehicle service	Michaels of Donald	122	Hydro plant	Sara Adams
16	1 day scissor lift hire	Leeder Carpentry	123	Death by chocolate 1	Junior football players
17	1 fully dressed lamb	DFC	124	Death by chocolate 2	Junior football players
18	Trailer load of wood	DFC	125	4 hrs labour on JCB	Shaun Sellick STS Mechanical
19	5 x pizza meal deals - large pizza, garlic bread & 1.25L drink	Harvest Café	126	2 nights accom Echuca + full car detail	Echuca Auto Group
20	Portable single toilet hire 1 weekend	Buloke Hire	127	Triple hat hanger	Sara Adams
21	Batch of yo-yo's	Rachel Meulendykes	128	Single hat hanger	Sara Adams
22	1 fully dressed lamb	DFC	129	Kids fishing set	Didak & Julz
23	2 stools	Greg & Maree Egan	130	10 tonne seed cleaning with cruiser treatment	Luke Maffescioni
24	2 LED HI BAY Shed Lights	Reece Poyner Electrical	131	Load of firewood	Jett Adams
25	JCB esky	JCB Donald	132	Kids yellow Sherrin footy	Didak & Julz
26	240V electric cable reel	Jesse & Kiera Lopes	133	Shuttle of firewood	Jacob Donnellon
27	10 dozen sausage rolls	Bev Darcy	134	Fully dressed lamb	DFC
28	Trailer load of wood	DFC	135	Esky	North West Ag
29	2 dozen party pies & 2 dozen party sausage rolls	Donald Bakery	136	1 fully dressed lamb	DFC
30	1 day labour	Harry Forrest	137	6 pack I get bars	Dyson Bell Warren
31	Delivery of 100 lambs to Warracknabeal	Shags Sheridan	138	B-double of grain cartage locally at harvest	Brad & Carly Pearse
32	B-double of grain cartage locally at harvest	Brad & Carly Pearse	139	Trailer load of wood	Mak & Cam Anderson
33	Pamper hamper	C Grade Netball	140	Kids green Sherrin footy	Didak & Julz
34	2 dozen party pies & 2 dozen party sausage rolls	Donald Bakery	141	LSKD pack	Rebecca Cumming
35	Elders esky	Elders Insurance & Livestock	142	SZADE sunglasses	Mensland
36	1 fully dressed lamb	DFC	143	SZADE sunglasses	Mensland
37	Full vehicle service	Michaels of Donald	144	SZADE sunglasses	Mensland
38	Membership & merch pack	Donald Jeffcott Cricket Club	145	SZADE sunglasses	Mensland
39	7 days hire 3m3 skip bin	Buloke Hire	146	Fully dressed lamb	DFC
40	4 piece bar set, wine, glasses & serving board	Garry Young	147	Night for 2 people deluxe suite	Donald Motor Lodge
41	2024/25 taxation return x 2	Gilchrist & Co.	148	Light up archery set	Didak & Julz
42	Smoked meat, beer & bonfire day	Newelly, Webby & Brady	149	Fully dressed lamb	DFC
43	Shuttle of firewood	Richard & Cherie Reilly	150	Butter chicken family meal (or 6 individuals packs)	Xanthi Rice
44	1 day painting labour only	Burke Painting Group	151	Axe throwing game	Didak & Julz
45	\$500 voucher	Cabinets & Stone Horsham	152	24 mixed cookies	Sarah MacDonald
46	Weekend in brand new caravan park family cabin	DFC	153	2 bales oaten hay	Mark Mortlock
47	2 hrs labour	Bowles Mowing & Maintenance	154	1 Cheesecake	Belicia Francis
48	House cleaning (up to 2 hrs)	A & B Grade Netball	155	General car service	Josh Smulders
49	Oven cleaning - 1 oven cleaned back to 95%	Jess Nunn	156	10 x free sessions to Active Farmers	Sam Beavis
50	Ski day	Hayden & Logan Geddes	157	Fully dressed lamb	DFC
51	General car service	Josh Smulders	158	Butter chicken family meal (or 6 individuals packs)	Xanthi Rice
52	2 bales vetch hay	Josh/Col Gilmour	159	Lemon-lime cheesecake	Kim Griffiths
53	1G merch pack	IG Building	160	Fully dressed lamb	DFC
54	Wood heater flue clean	Buloke Plumbing	161	Saltbush lamb	David Manifold
55	10 dozen sausage rolls	Bev Darcy	162	2hrs labour	Bowles Mowing & Maintenance
56	Wood heater flue clean	Buloke Plumbing	163	24 mixed cookies	Sarah MacDonald
57	Box of mixed slices	A & B Grade Netball	164	AFL tin bucket with drinks - Essendon	Fraggle
58	10 tonne seed cleaning	Luke Maffescioni	165	AFL tin bucket with drinks - Carlton	Fraggle
59	Bradman's Invincible print	Pazza	166	AFL tin bucket with drinks - Richmond	Fraggle
60	Weekend in brand new caravan park family cabin	DFC	167	AFL tin bucket with drinks - Geelong	Fraggle
61	Water skiing day all inclusive	Dennis Adams	168	DFC Mini pennant flag - established 1882	Fraggle
62	\$300 worth of tyres	Harbergers	169	DFC Mini pennant flag - Thirds 1963	Fraggle
63	4 hrs concreting labour only	Leigh Nunn Building	170	DFC Mini pennant flag - Reserves 1963	Fraggle
64	Night for 2 people deluxe suite	Donald Motor Lodge	171	DFC Mini pennant flag - Seniors 1963	Fraggle
65	Superbox for 8 people all inclusive	DFC	172	DFC Mini pennant flag - Seniors 1979	Fraggle
66	Heritage bird house	Anne Snowy Landwehr	173	DFC Mini pennant flag - Seniors 1980	Fraggle
67	1 year subscription to Buloke Times (no postage included)	Buloke Times	174	DFC Mini pennant flag - Seniors 1987	Fraggle
68	500L diesel delivered	McLennan Bulk Fuel	175	DFC Mini pennant flag - Seniors 1992	Fraggle
69	A week powered site	Donald Caravan Park	176	DFC Mini pennant flag - Seniors 1993	Fraggle
70	Weekend in brand new caravan park family cabin	Donald Caravan Park	177	DFC Mini pennant flag - Seniors 2002	Fraggle
71	Retractable hose reel	Donald Timber Yard	178	DFC Mini pennant flag - Seniors 2004	Fraggle
72	Lakers corporate day, 4 people all inclusive	Rohan Brown	179	DFC Mini pennant flag - Seniors 2006	Fraggle
73	1 load of 27 tonne St Arnaud gravel delivered	Wilkins Bulk Haulage	180	Case of Montepulciano Rose	Young family
74	Beef packs, scotch fillet, porterhouse, rump valued over \$1200 rrp	Your Regional Butcher	181	Round of golf with cart @ Horsham 2 people	Luca Rice & Chase Campbell
75	Fully dressed lamb	Adam Flood	182	10 x small cereal straw bales	Litchfield Community Club
76	JCB pack	JCB Ballarat	183	10 x small pea straw bales	Litchfield Community Club
77	Mirror	Beaumont Tiles Swan Hill	184	5L + 500ml Inox	Motion Ag Swan Hill
78	Gun safe rrp \$595	Buloke Firearms	185	Mixed relish & jams	Brent Barber & Alex Bouchier
79	2 tray slices caramel and hedgehog	Joylene Newell	186	3 bags garden compost delivered locally	Louise Barber
80	Set of Mongrel boots, any size	Mensland	187	\$100 voucher	Industry & Co. Hairdressing
81	Kids pack	Love Shack Giftware	188	Shear 12 sheep	Brent Barber
82	50 lambs shorn	John Gretrix	189	\$100 voucher	Industry & Co. Hairdressing
83	Semi load of gravel supplied & delivered	Ben & Karen Clark	190	\$300 voucher for Kat the Label	Liston Newton
84	9 bottles of Yellow	DFC	191	Yeti esky full of Carlton Dry	Oak Lea Agriculture
85	Fully dressed lamb	DFC	192	Rock art	Sara Adams
86	Case of Montepulciano Rose	Young family	193	3 pot hangers	Sara Adams
87	Scissor lift hire 3 days	Landwehr Electrical	194	Ultimate steakhouse experience 2 people	Ryan Leeder
88	Winter warmer pack	Jasper and Co.	195	45t Reeves gravel carted locally	Glen Burke
89	Superbox for 8 people all inclusive	DFC	196	1 junior personalised Royal Blues hoodie	Krause family
90	Car service	Harbergers	197	1 senior personalised Royal Blues hoodie	Krause family
91	Additional 10% off battery rebate	Megelec	198	Family lasagne	Michelle Donnellon
92	Family photography session with Julia Pearse	Sponsored by Leigh Hawkes	199	Mixed slices	Michelle Donnellon
93	3 hrs labour	Dunstan Engineering	200	2 Umbrellas	Bear & Tracey
94	Kelpie puppy	Alex Bouchier	201	Side of pork	Josh Gilmour & Cam Pearse
95	Filled sponge	Maree Cullen	202	Side of pork	Josh Gilmour & Cam Pearse
96	Wheelbarrow load of garden goodies	Donald Hardware	203	Junior size 12 Essendon Anzac Day guernsey	Fraggle
97	3hrs labour	Donald Auto Electrical	204	Large youth Essendon dreamtime guernsey	Fraggle
98	Royal Blues cookies box	Kiera Lopes	205	XL Essendon dreamtime guernsey	Fraggle
99	Voucher to Summerfield Winery	Joan Pearse	206	Drink Bevies Play Fessies shirt	Fraggle
100	Beef packs, scotch fillet, porterhouse, rump valued over \$1200 rrp	Your Regional Butcher	207	Supercar hot laps at Sandown	QA Electrical
101	Evaporative Aircon service & sanitisation	Buloke Plumbing	208	Netset go netball	Sarah Macdonald
102	Custom DFC fire pit	Josh Talty	209	4 hrs babysitting - up to 3 kids	Abby & Layla Griffiths
103	Trailer load of wood	DFC	210	Midnight club hat #69	Donald Jeffcott Cricket Club
104	Evaporative Aircon service & sanitisation	Buloke Plumbing	211	Mummy & Me attendee voucher	St Arnaud Physiotherapy Centre
105	Signed Carlton guernsey	Ross Young	212	Macrame cap holder	Sara Adams
106	5 dozen mini chicken pies	Bev Darcy	213	Macrame hat holder	Sara Adams
107	Round of golf @ Murray Downs 4 people 2 carts	Ryan Bath & Liv Wollerman	214	Hydro plant	Sara Adams

Merger Will Not Restore Deleted Emergency Capability

[By Victorian Fisheries Media Centre]

The anticipated merger of the Victorian Fisheries Authority with the Game Management Authority this week – reported online by “The Weekly Times” – might salvage some enforcement clout from the recent sacking of almost half the state’s Fisheries Officers, but it will not make up for a separate decision to bar all remaining officers from responding to emergencies.

On May 20, 2025, the fisheries authority (VFA) finalised an organisational restructure, under which it has since shed 30 (44 per cent) of the state’s 69 Fisheries Officers; leaving just 39 officers to patrol Victoria’s 2,512-kilometre coastline, 10,000 square-kilometres of ocean waters and 170,000 kilometres of inland water frontage along 85,000 kilometres of rivers and creeks.

Then in a separate decision, on Friday, June 13, 2025, the VFA stripped the remaining officers of their duties to “respond to any emergency” by deleting these duties from their Position Descriptions.

This decision was communicated by email from the authority’s human resources manager to an organiser at the state branch of the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU Vic) at 5:13 p.m..

Controversy

It also came amid statewide controversy over the Allan Government’s new Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) and whether it will actually deliver value for rural ratepayers, or subsidise Fire Rescue Victoria service provision to urban areas and metropolitan Melbourne.

When interviewed on ABC Statewide Drive in Ballarat on June 25, 2025, the new Emergency Management Commissioner, Tim Wiebusch, was asked whether Fisheries Officers fell within his “remit” – and under his management – in an emergency.

Co-ordination

“The role that I’m in now has a role in providing co-ordination across all our government departments and agencies and that does include the likes of the Victorian Fisheries Authority... because they provide support to a range of emergencies,” Commissioner Wiebusch said.

“They have a high level of on-water capability.”

Under Section 8(kc) of the Victorian Fisheries Authority Act 2016, it is a statutory function of Fisheries Officers “to respond to any emergency...”

The June 13 decision of the fisheries authority will have the effect of permanently preventing Fisheries Officers from providing that function in future, regardless of the Emergency Management Commissioner’s expectations when the next emergency happens.

The fisheries authority on May 20 confirmed, in response to a Freedom of Information request, that it implemented its 2025 workplace changes – which involve both the shedding of frontline personnel and reductions in the duties of remaining staff – without a risk assessment.

Mr Wiebusch told the

ABC that SES, Catchment Management authorities, Lifesaving Victoria and Victoria Police also operated boats and could be called upon, if the Victorian Fisheries Authority could no longer be called out.

No Contact

None of these organisations or agencies have been contacted to confirm their equivalence to the “high level of on-water capability” of professional Fisheries Officers, nor has the Allan Government announced supplementary funding for this purpose.

However, the Premier’s Office did reportedly tell Ballarat newspaper “The Courier” that the Victorian Fisheries Authority is “not an emergency service.”

Neither the Catchment Management authorities, Lifesaving Victoria, Victoria Police, nor the Victorian Fisheries Authority are funded for their emergency work from the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund, and neither do they fall under the jurisdiction of the Inspector-General for Emergency Management.

An entire page of the Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) website is filled by the Role statement – Victorian Fisheries Authority. It specifically details the critical roles of Fisheries Officers in responding to multiple categories of general and specialist emergencies.

Serious Gap

Permanently stripping Fisheries Officers of their duties to “respond to any emergency” will leave a serious capability gap in the State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP) and significantly undermine Victoria’s counter-disaster resilience.

Former Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police, Kel Glare, his Community Advocacy Alliance and more than 12,900 concerned Victorians have so far hit back with an on-line petition for an inquiry into the fisheries authority, because the restructure had gone ahead without a risk assessment.

Skills and Experience

In the past five years alone, the skills and experience of Fisheries Officers were not only of critical and strategic importance, but indispensable in the safe and expeditious execution of co-ordinated emergency responses to at least two major disasters in this state: the 2020 East Gippsland bushfires and the 2022 Goulburn Valley floods.

In October 2022, Greater Shepparton was impacted by significant and widespread flooding due to intense rainfalls in the catchment areas of the Goulburn and Broken rivers.

Veteran retired Supervising Fisheries Officer and sometimes Regional Manager (North East), Greg Sharp, was

the Operations Lead for the Victorian Fisheries Authority, in the Incident Control Centre, during the 2022 Goulburn Valley floods.

He said the rainfall caused the rivers to rise rapidly, leading to extensive flooding in urban and rural areas.

“Fisheries Officers, having specialist skills and experience in the operation of suitable vessels for the circumstances, were mustered from all over Victoria,” Mr Sharp said.

Support

“Our boat crews provided round-the-clock support to Ambulance Victoria and GV Health, and relief agencies – Salvation Army, Society of St

Vincent de Paul – delivering food and emergency medicine to householders stranded by flood waters in and around Shepparton and Tatura.

“Fisheries Officers also assisted with wildlife management in the weeks after the floods receded, assisting professional shooters to euthanise stranded wildlife otherwise facing a slow lingering death from starvation. This was no fly-by-night operation, it went on for weeks!”

Mr Sharp said Fisheries Officers also provided indispensable water-borne transport services during and after the January 2020 Mallacoota bushfires which destroyed 123 houses – including five owned by CFA volunteers – and 65 sheds.

“In the immediate aftermath of the 2020 fires, the only road into Mallacoota was utterly impassable; littered with debris and lined with scorched trees ready to shed limbs at the slightest breeze,” Mr Sharp said.

Skills and Experience

“It was therefore necessary for Fisheries Officers – in Kevlacat patrol vessels – to ferry supplies, personnel and essential equipment into the town by sea from Lakes Entrance. There was so much smoke in the air, flying in was not an option. Aircraft were grounded!”

He said personnel ferried in and out by Fisheries Officers included Country Fire Authority relief crews, needed to complete the mopping-up after the initial major firefight and to respond if smouldering tree roots or other hidden detritus flared-up again.

And when the Fisheries Officers were not boating into Mallacoota, they were just as busy landing supplies and Forest Fire Management Victoria firefighters on to beaches in the remote Croajingolong National Park via Mallacoota Inlet.

“Not even the navy could get in. Our vessels provided the necessary shuttle service between offshore vessels and

onshore landing points; whether they be the wharf, a jetty or one of the beaches,” Mr Sharp said.

“Of course, our people did not just turn up after the event. They went in while the fire was still raging, to engage in a daring race against time, to capture and evacuate by sea many critically endangered eastern bristlebirds nesting in the paths of approaching fire fronts.”

Mr Sharp said that while these fires and floods had happened within the past five years, they also typified a long history of major-disaster emergency responses by a great many Fisheries Officers who, since the 1950s, were subsequently decorated for their extraordinary service.

“Yes, I was awarded an NEM (National Emergency Medal) for my participation as a Fisheries Officer in responding to the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires,” Mr Sharp said.

The Ettamogah Pub Mob



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“Listen Fred ... tell your mates they’re wasting their time tryin’ to break you out ... th’ trees made of concrete!”

Bulls, Tigers Share the Netball Spoils

The Go players and Under-14 “B” had a fun day out playing against the Sea Lake-Nandaly, with Greta McClelland and Ava Boyle receiving the awards in Go, and Addison Hamilton and Georgia Tynan receiving the awards in a good 2 to 7 win for under-14 “B”.

Under-14 “A”

The under-14 “A” teams played netball early in the morning with a start at 9:15 a.m.. Throughout the game Birchip-Watchem was ahead by 13 goals each quarter until the third and fourth quarters when the Bulls started to step up the pace.

The Bulls were in front by goals, which meant the mercy rule was introduced and the score remained at 34-1, Birchip-Watchem’s way. Overall, the game was still played with intensity and encouragement, which was shown by everyone. However, the two who stood out the most on the Bulls’ side was Gemma Tynan and Lucy Coffey.

Sea Lake-Nandaly awards to Charlotte, (Haeuslers beanie); Layla (Player of the day award - canteen voucher).

Under-17 “A”

Birchip-Watchem was determined to make amends for its first round loss against the Tigers and in a close game, tightly contested, the Bulls came out winners 48 to 42. Awards for Birchip-Watchem went to Lana Angel and Cassie Tynan.

Sea Lake-Nandaly awards to Prue, (Milkshake voucher by Sky Mirror); Sienna, (Hair on Best voucher).

“C” Reserves

The Sea Lake-Nandaly “C” reserve team is undefeated in 2025 and continued its unbeaten run on Saturday with a resounding victory over the Bulls’ counterparts.

The Tigers led by 17 goals to 8 at the end of a frenetic first quarter, shooting with tremendous accuracy. They continued this momentum into the second quarter, building an 18-goal lead by the half-time break.

Despite a valiant effort, the Bulls were unable to claw back the Tigers’ advantage on

the scoreboard. Sea Lake’s defenders worked exceptionally hard and restricted the Bulls to only four goals in the second half, while the Tigers took every opportunity to convert their possession into goals. At the end of the game, Sea Lake-Nandaly defeated Birchip-Watchem 64 to 21.

Awards for Birchip-Watchem: Amy McEachern and Jay Connelly (Kawaii Kids) and for Sea Lake Nandaly: Jenna Alday (Seed Ability) and Ellie Stacey (Cropsmart).

“C” Grade

Both teams put up a great contest in a close game. For moments of the game it was goal by goal where each centre pass was crucial to put their score ahead. The Bulls managed to come out on top with a win 45-40. Hannah Wilson and Steph Coffey were the award winners for the Bulls in a good competitive game for all.

Sea Lake-Nandaly awards to Em Weir (Club towel by Bailey Family Ag.); Belle Shepherd (Club glass by Allan Ag.).

“B” Grade

With a determined start from the Sea Lake-Nandaly Tigers’ GK Lauren Donnan, they were off to a good start shutting down the attack end early while the Bulls took a while to settle into the game. However, captain coach Stacey Hamilton was having a ripper game and by quarter time they had snuck ahead 13-9.

Maddy McQueen showed her strength in the attack and with great drives and precision passing from Issy Atkins, they combined well in the mid court to help get the Bulls’ mojo back.

The Tigers’ GA Dayna McKenzie worked hard all day creating opportunities for her team, but the Bulls held their ground taking an 8 goal lead into the fourth quarter. The Bulls maintained this lead and finished the game off strongly with a 43 to 36 goal win over Sea Lake-Nandaly. Birchip-Watchem awards: Stacey Hamilton and Maddy McQueen.

Sea Lake-Nandaly awards to Lauren Donnan (Nutrien

Ag. Berriwillock backpack); Zaida (Club glass by Haeuslers).

“A” Grade

The “A” grade team took to the court determined to put up a fierce competition against Sea Lake-Nandaly.

The game started at a fast pace but Sea Lake capitalised on the turnovers, taking the lead early on in the game. Birchip-Watchem’s midcourt of Khiana Brooks and Mackenzie Ryan worked tirelessly to transition the ball smoothly, with sharp leads and precise feeds into the ring but the Bulls trailed at the end of the first quarter 18-10.

Going into the second term, the Bulls knew they had to apply more pressure. The defensive end consisting of Tylah Haslam, Eva Coffey and Cheyenne Parsons applied relentless pressure, providing turnovers that were essential to a comeback for the Bulls. At the other end of the court Tiger Claudia Cox proved too strong in defence, gaining possession where she could, providing more scoring opportunities for shooters Nakia Nunn and Grace Farrell. Going into half-time, the Tigers led 31-20.

The third quarter saw some positional changes for the Bulls, with Mackenzie Ryan moving back into GK and Cheyenne Parsons into the centre. Birchip-Watchem used shooters Zali Angel and Toni Jones’s height to their advantage, popping in lobs where they could, but Tigers Gabby Munari and Milli Seward were too strong in defence and sent the ball back into their attack. Going into the last term, Sea Lake-Nandaly had extended its lead 51-29.

Some more positional changes saw Meghan Noonan step into the defensive ring for Birchip-Watchem and with new found energy the Bulls gained some momentum. In a new line up the Bulls worked hard with strong leads and safe passing to maintain their possession, but Sea Lake saw the opportunity to put Lorraine Wight and Prue O’Sullivan into their midcourt, and their fresh legs enabled the Tigers to stretch the lead in the last quarter. At the final whistle Sea Lake-Nandaly had run out victorious 66-39.

Birchip awards: Tylah Haslam and Toni Jones. The Bulls awards were all proudly sponsored by Kawaii Kids.

Sea Lake-Nandaly awards to Nakia Nunn (Tatts Pack by Colin Durie Plumbing), Ash Roberts (Club glass by Colin Durie Plumbing).



• Bulls’ Elise Cox defends against the pass to the Tigers Georgia McClelland.



• The Tigers’ Prue Sienna (GD) attempts to intercept the ball from the Bulls’ Cassie Tynan (GA) while Isla Ferrier (GS), and Ruby Gniel (GK) watch on.



• Bulls’ Eva Coffey (GD) and Tigers Grace Farrell (GA) square off for the ball.

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Third Term Burst Gets Bulls Reserves

The Birchchip-Watchem Bulls reserves overcame a slow start to produce a stirring second-half performance and claim a 29-point win over the Sea Lake-Nandaly Tigers on Saturday, at George Cartwright Oval.

The Tigers came out firing in the opening term, making the most of their forward entries to slot three straight goals through John Summerhayes, Wayne Landry and Ethan Ellis. Tom Considine was instrumental across half forward, linking play with poise and precision. Despite the Tigers' early dominance, the Bulls remained in touch thanks to goals from Riley Doran and Matt Berry, trailing by just five points at the first break.

Birchip-Watchem looked set to take control in the second quarter, dominating possession off the back of George Addis's strong ruck work. The midfield, fed by cousins Riley and Ben Hogan, delivered repeatedly into attack. However, poor conversion cost the home side, who

could only register five behinds. The Tigers also struggled to score, adding just a single behind, but held on to a slender one-point lead at half-time.

The third quarter proved decisive as the Bulls finally found their range in front of goal. Ty Colbert impressed with his composure and kicked a brilliant major to ignite the home crowd. He was joined on the scoreboard by Connor Boyle, Jack Ryan, Riley Hogan and Riley Doran, as the Bulls surged to a 23-point lead. Summerhayes kicked his second for the Tigers, but momentum was clearly with Birchchip-Watchem.

The Tigers fought gallantly in the final term, with Brandon Stadon working tirelessly in defence to stem the flow.

Tom Considine and Summerhayes both added goals to keep the visitors' hopes alive. But the Bulls weren't to be denied – two more goals from the dangerous Matt Berry and a third from Doran sealed the result, capping off a convincing second-half display.

Final score: Birchchip-Watchem 10.10 (70) defeated Sea Lake-Nandaly 6.5 (41).

Best for Birchchip-Watchem: Riley Hogan (O'Connors), Ben Hogan (YBS), George Addis (Agrifac), Ty Colbert (Donnellon's Bulk Haulage), James Lindeback (Nutrien Ag), Alexander Hay (Ryan Commodities).

For Sea Lake-Nandaly: Brandon Stadon, Jack Stacey, Ethan Ellis, Bryce Baskin, Tom Considine, Harry Pitchford.



• Bulls' Alex Noonan spoils the kick to Tigers' John Summerhayes.



• Bulls' Sam Simmons gets the hands out towards Riley Hogan under pressure from Luke Martin, Isaac Durie (14) and Rylee McGarry (far left).

Auskick Season Wraps Up With a Bang

Term two is often a busy season for school-aged kids, filled with sports, activities, and community fun – and for 25 local legends, that meant ten weeks of footy skills, teamwork, and laughter at Auskick!

With a record sign-up of 25 participants, this year's program was led by newly appointed coach Dion Woods, who certainly had his hands full. Thankfully, he was ably assisted by his wife Lisa and fellow parents, Scott Tait and Paul Watson, creating a supportive, fun-filled environment for all involved.

Over ten weeks, kids developed their footy skills through drills, games, and plenty of practice, making memories and forming friendships along the way. Whether it was learning to handball or kicking their first goal, each week brought something new.

The season ended on a high with the much-loved

Parents v. Kids match – a spirited and often hilarious game that saw parents trying to keep up with their energetic young opponents. Spoiler alert: the kids may have taken the win (and the bragging rights!).

A big thank you to Donald Bakery for the donation of some delicious donuts, to Greg Nunn for being our goal umpire and Trish Nunn for heating the pies and sausage rolls.

A huge thank you to the families, volunteers, and coaches who made the season possible. The Auskick kids can't wait to see what next year brings!



• Some of the parents and the Auskick kids.

Bulls Juniors in Top Hockey Form

Two minkey games opened the hockey at Birchip-Watchem on Saturday in delightful winter conditions.

The games were played with enthusiasm and endeavour and there were lots of smiling faces. Awards for Birchip-Watchem: Harper Noonan (Troy & Brooke Morris) and Heidi Kilroy (BWHC Canteen). Sea Lake-Nandaly: Tessa Allan and Mayah McClelland (Player of the day), Jimmy Cox and Hugh (Daytrap AG).

Under-12s

The Bulls started well with a long hit out and Oscar Sharp was able to collect the loose ball and hit a nice early goal. The Tigers took the centre hit out and were able to get it down into their forward line but the Bulls' defenders were too strong and turned it over. Birchip-Watchem was able to convert this into a short corner but was not successful this time. Both teams showed skills that are increasing as the season is progressing. River Ryan worked the ball wide, but wasn't able to get it into the back of the net. First half was Birchip-Watchem 1 to Sea Lake-Nandaly 0.

The second half saw Birchip-Watchem take the ball quickly into its left wing, deep beside the D, where River Ryan was able to have a soft shot into the goal face but no score resulted. All players from both teams were

crowding the top of the Bulls' attacking D to get their chance to touch the ball. Sea Lake-Nandaly converted it into a 16 yard hit out but Grace McAuliffe was too strong and was able to stop the ball. She passed off to Addi Hamilton who had a chance to score but it was defended well.

Birchip-Watchem was the dominant side and held most of the attacking play. Lucy Coffey enjoyed her foray playing higher up the field and Sadie Bourke persisted in front of the goalie and was making sure she got the loose balls off the goalie pads; this was great as she scored the second goal this way. Addi Hamilton and Des Coffey showed great teamwork and forced a short corner not long after, and then Jakoby Sagers was able to slip the ball past the goalie for the last score of the game. The Tigers' Lenni Donnan worked hard till the very end of the game with a last clear run up the field into their attacking D but the Bulls were too strong.

Awards for Birchip Watchem: Logan Cullen (O'Connors Birchip) and Lucy Coffey (Fiona Best and Lobe Candy). For Sea Lake-Nandaly: Stella Hodgson and Will (Ormonde Farms), Alexa Horn (Goal Keeper Award).

Under-15s

The Bulls were strong out of the blocks on Saturday and rewarded their coaches Xanthe Fitzpatrick, Sasha Salzano and Allie Knights for their patience and persistence showing lots of improvement.

Lana Angel was quick out of the centre and had the ball nice and strong on her fore-stick and forced a short corner for the Bulls. Sea Lake-Nandaly was strong and the ball changed over to a Tigers' 16-yard hit out.

Max Field showcased his growing defending skills and stopped the ball going into the Tigers' D, which allowed the Bulls another run into their attacking D, but there was another quick turnover. Lana Angel's persistence paid off and she was able to score the Bulls' first goal with a lovely run and carry passage of play.

The centre hit out saw the Tigers have a quick run up their left wing, but the ball went out on the sideline. Grace McAuliffe was light on her feet and when the Tiger goalie went to ground she was able to hit a goal into the net across the face from the left.

The Tigers were able to take advantage of a near empty field, but Max Field kept a calm and strong mindset and was too strong for the



• Bulls' Max Field attempts to run clear of Seth Pearce.

forward player who was trying to get it into their D. Frankie McClelland and Jed Coffey were playing for the Tigers and showcased their growing skills, taking the ball together up the left wing into the Tigers' forward D. The Bulls' defence was too strong and stopped any hopes of a score.

The Tigers had the first hit out for the second half, but the Bulls counter attacked and took advantage, while the Tigers were replacing their goalie who wasn't feeling well. Garth Kilroy from Birchip-Watchem padded up

and stepped in to play the role of goalie for the Tigers.

Archie Tyler had a big run across the field from right to left, but Jack Hodgson from the Tigers was too strong and was able to force the ball out of the field on the left side. The Tigers had a few plays into their D which gave them some scoring opportunities, but they didn't pay off due to strong defence of Michael Darby and the Bulls' defenders.

Archie Tyler had another run in for shot but it was way too wide and missed on the left. Lana Angel continued to

run the ball downfield and use her strength to accurately push the ball to her teammates, and the pressure forced a short corner penalty for the Bulls. Jack Hodgson was a tough defender and applied lots of pressure, but Lana Angel showcased impressive skills and hit the last goal.

Birchip-Watchem won 5-0. Awards for Birchip Watchem: Max Field (Andy and Sarah Barber) and Michael Darby (Sharp's Bakery). For Sea Lake-Nandaly: Seth Pearce (Ormonde Farms), Jack (Day-trap AG).



(By Course Language)

With good weather and a golf course starting to "green up" nicely after the recent rains, it was good to see a good field both on Saturday and Sunday for the final weekend of the Club Championships.

The winner for the week-ends event was Kelvin Clark with 90-17-73 closely followed a shot further back with nett 74s by the two Brads, Payne and Bath with Brad Payne being the runner-up on a countback.

The Nearest the Pins were: Donald Auto Elec 3rd, Robert Burton; Weirs IGA 7th, Kelvin Clark; Nufarm 14th, Brad Bath; Bendigo Bank 16th, Brad Bath.

To the results of the championships: In "A" grade the winner with rounds of 76-76-79 - 231 was Brad Bath. Robert Burton was runner-up on 255 with rounds of 81-86-88.

The "B" grade winner was Kelvin Clark 91-89-90 - 270. Next was Sam Beavis on 99-90-96 - 285.

The winner of the Ross Freeman trophy for the best nett score over the 3 rounds was Brad Bath on 216, one shot behind was Richard Gallagher with 217 and 2 shots further back on 219 was Robert Burton and Kelvin Clark.

This was Brad's third "A" grade win in a row and was Kelvin's third win in "B" grade in 5 years.

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all those who competed.

Welcome back to the course to Brad Payne for his first hit of the year. It's amazing how that green stuff on the fairways brings people out again. Brad definitely enjoyed his day out, not only picking up the runner-up prize, but I was reliably informed that the further Hawthorn got in front of the "Roos" the better his golf game got as well. Could be a battle of the birds come this September, the only thing that may spoil the party may be a couple of felines both big and small. Don't count out the Doggies as well.

I'm still trying to verify a rumour that a couple of golfers may have had the dreaded 13 on a hole last week. I will keep you updated next week as to who they were, unless a little bit of bribery comes into play and then, like Shultz, "I know nothing."

Dad's Army

Seven answered the call last week for Dad's Army with "Air Warden" R. J. Gallagher winning with 21 points. Just a reminder that Dad's Army now holds its manoeuvres on Wednesdays, hitting off at 12.30.

Coming Up

With the serious stuff of championship over for another year, there will be a much more relaxed game of Stableford played over the weekend. A change to the program will see this being a Secret Partners event sponsored by O'Connors, Birchip.

Dad Jokes

You definitely don't want to go to jail if you stutter - you'll never finish your sentence.

If you boil a funny bone - does it become a laughing stock?

My neighbour was too frightened to grow an apple tree - I told him to grow a pear.

A mate of mine used to work as a programmer for auto correct - but then they fired him for no raisen.



• 2025 Donald Golf Club champions, Kelvin Clark ("B" grade) and Brad Bath ("A" grade and Ross Freeman Trophy).

Support Services

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

Tigers Juniors Triumph

A fresh but pleasant morning provided ideal conditions for football as Birchip-Watchem under-14s hosted Sea Lake-Nandaly.

The morning may have been cool, but the intensity was high from the opening bounce. Birchip-Watchem came out with a strong defensive mindset, applying early pressure across the ground.

Sea Lake-Nandaly controlled much of the territory early, spending significant time in its forward half, but the Bulls' defence stood tall. Despite repeated inside-50 entries from the Tigers, Birchip-Watchem's backline remained determined, restricting its opponents to just a few points for most of the quarter. It wasn't until the dying seconds that Sea Lake-Nandaly Tigers finally broke through for the first goal of the game. At quarter-time Birchip-Watchem 0 was trailing Sea Lake-Nandaly Tigers 1.4.(10).

The Tigers began to flex their experience and class in the second term, particularly through their forwards who linked up beautifully with slick handballs and quick movement. Their attacking play was sharp, displaying composure and precision as they pushed for scoreboard impact.

Birchip-Watchem, to their credit, never backed down. They fought hard at every contest and pressured every disposal, making Sea Lake-Nandaly earn every possession. This quarter, however, was played almost entirely in the Tigers' forward half, leaving the Bulls with limited opportunities to attack.

Right on the brink of half-time, the Tigers delivered a telling blow, securing a contested mark just before the siren and converting a goal seconds after, extending their lead and momentum heading into the main break with a 5.9 (39) to 0 lead.

The penultimate quarter belonged entirely to the visitors. Their midfield got on top, and their forwards capitalised on their dominance,

keeping the ball locked in their attacking half for nearly the entire term. Birchip-Watchem struggled to gain any forward momentum and were held scoreless, as Sea Lake-Nandaly's relentless pressure and superior ball use took control of the game. At the final change they had scored 9.13 (67) and the Bulls remained scoreless.

Despite the scoreboard pressure and fatigue, the Bulls lifted in the final term, showing true grit and resilience. From the opening bounce, they looked more composed and began to find run through the midfield. A clean chain of play resulted in Oscar Sharp kicking a well-deserved goal for the Bulls, providing a spark for the home side.

Bulls defence combined well to clear the ball out of defence, moving it with purpose and setting up further attacking opportunities. One of the highlights of the match came shortly after, when Archie Tyler soared for a brilliant, contested mark and calmly slotted Birchip-Watchem's second goal of the quarter.

On the other side of the field, Birchip-Watchem's defensive unit lifted again, applying smotherers, tackles, and spoils to keep Sea Lake-Nandaly scoreless for the quarter, a strong way to finish the match and a testament to the Bulls' never-say-die attitude.

While the Tigers ultimately took control with their experienced side, Birchip-Watchem showed incredible spirit, particularly in the final term. With promising performances from both their defenders and young forwards, the Bulls can take plenty of positives into their next match. Final score Birchip 2.0.(12) defeated by Sea Lake-Nandaly Tigers 9.13.(67).

Awards for Birchip-Watchem: Oscar Sharp (Noonan Tyres & Jake and Billy

Noonan), Des Coffey (TMC enviro), Eligh Dean (Bulls Canteen), Logan Cullen (IGA Birchip).

Best for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Henry Cox, Hamish Landry, Tom McClelland, Milton Bailey, Gerrin Durie, Riley Allan.

Under-17s

The still wintry conditions continued at the Bull pen for the under-17s, and a well-drilled Sea Lake-Nandaly team proved to be too strong for the undermanned Bulls side.

The Tigers started strong, dominating the first quarter with clean skills, precise ball movement and superior game sense, scoring a goal in the first few minutes. Sea Lake scored another 2 quick goals despite the pressure of the Bulls' back line led by Koby Hamilton, Jackson Goss, Jack McAuliffe and Archie Tyler.

The Bulls were bolstered by the loan of Seth Heladay and they showed some good passages of play from the backline but couldn't get the ball past a strong Sea Lake midfield and the score board told the story early. Bulls 0.0(0) to Tigers 4.5 (29).

The Bulls struggled to find momentum in the second quarter with the Tigers' consistent strength out of the pack sending the ball into their forward line for another 4 goals for the quarter. Tiger Ryder Newick kicked 2 goals straight despite the hard work of the Bulls' backline under intense fire.

Towards the end of the quarter the Bulls finally got a break with a nice passage of play into their forward line. Garth Kilroy took a free kick in front of goals and although it fell short, the Bulls were on the board with a minor score. At the half time break Tigers had pulled away to a 56-point lead. Bulls 0.1(1) Tigers 8.9 (57).

The Bulls had a stronger start in the third quarter getting the ball into their forward line early and keeping it there, putting 2 behinds on the score board before Willow Ryan managed to put it through the big stick to score the Bulls' first goal. Archie Tyler had the job of tagging Henry Cox and was instructed to be tight when the ball hit the ground.

Tigers' Brayden Allan was strong up the other end of the ground taking a mark 30m out in front and kicking it through for a goal. The Tigers put in a solid effort for the quarter, showcased their class in the midfield and forward line. Bulls 1.3 (4) Tigers 11.10 (76)

Coach Bill Lee insisted that the tackling and pressure around the ground needed to improve, and the Bulls needed to play smarter footy, because their work rate was good. With five in the midfield the Bulls were strong out of the centre at the beginning of the fourth, moving the ball into their forward line with Koby Hamilton, who usually



• Bulls' Archie Tyler fends off Ryder Newick whilst also under pressure from Brayden Allan.



• Tigers' Hugo Warne evades the grip of Jack McAuliffe and Taio Atkinson.



• Bulls' Jed Coffey is under pressure from Gerrin Durie as he gets his kick out of the middle.



• Bulls' Oscar Sharp tackles the Tigers Toby Kiley.

plays in the backline, kicking a goal from a set shot in front. The Bulls also had Archie Alday and Brodie Kelly for the quarter which helped.

The Bulls saw more of the ball this quarter, coming together as a team, moving the ball in and around the forward line leading to 2 goals late in the 4th quarter from Jackson

Goss and Jack Knights. The Tigers finished off with 2 quick goals but the Bulls outscored them in the final quarter, showcasing their resilience and never-give-up attitude. The final scores Bulls 4.4 (28) Tigers 13.12 (90).

Goals Tigers: Hamish Landry (3), Brayden Allan (3), Henry Cox (1), Ryder Newick (2), Hugo Warne (2),

Brody Kelly (1). Goals Bulls: Koby Hamilton, Willow Ryan, Jack Knights, Jackson Goss.

Awards Bulls: Bailey Kemp, Koby Hamilton, Jack Knights and Jackson Goss.

Awards Tigers: Hugo Warne, Nate McClelland, Cooper Kelly, Callum Mott, Aydan Smith, Brayden Allan.

Magpies Swoop on Donald Netballers

[From Donald Netball Club]

Net Set Go

Donald's Net Set Go netballers travelled to Boort for another competitive match against a talented opposition. It was wonderful to see the girls putting into practice the skills they were focusing on each quarter; passing, creating space and hands over defence. Each player got to have a try at a number of different positions and it has been wonderful to see their skills develop each week. This week sees the last of our weekly skills sessions and we are very grateful for our helpers Megan, Belicia, Jennifer, River and Charlee in providing lots of fun opportunities to play each week.

Under-14 "B"

The Donald girls faced a tough test against a strong Boort side, currently sitting second on the ladder. The opening quarter was tightly contested, with both teams applying solid defensive pressure. Donald held its own, only trailing by three at the first break: Donald 2 – Boort 5. In the second quarter, Boort made a few strategic changes that shifted the momentum. Despite Donald's efforts, it was unable to add to its score, with Boort pulling ahead to a 10–2 lead by half-time. The third quarter saw Donald work hard defensively, creating multiple intercepts and rebounds. However, breaking through Boort's midcourt proved difficult, resulting in just one goal for the term: Donald 3 – Boort 13. The final quarter was another hard-fought battle, but Boort gradually extended its lead to seal the win. Final score: Donald 3 – Boort 20.



• "B" Grade: Donald's Scarlett Funcke.

Donald awards: Karleisha Anderson, The Clothes Bin; Holly Goldsmith, Loveshack Giftware.

Boort awards: Tracey & Adam Bird Award, Summer Nuttall; Donut Award, Ava Davidson and Hannah Talbot.

Under-14 "A"

Donald and Boort both started off strongly, going goal for goal in the first quarter. Donald was playing some solid netball and was working hard against Boort's strong attacking team. Boort was able to optimise on Donald's errors and was getting goals from every turned over ball. It was a great strong game of netball by both teams and was a well fought out win for Boort.

Score Donald 26 to Boort 37.

Donald awards: Chloe Italia, Gilchrist & Co; Sophie Burke, Harvest Cafe.

Boort awards: Boort Newsagency, Zoey Gooding; Bendigo Sportspower, Amelia Hosking.

Under-17 "A"

Donald's U17 netball team started its match strongly, displaying some impressive passages of play across the court. From the first whistle, the defence put Boort under pressure, contesting every ball, grabbing rebounds, and disrupting its attacking rhythm. In attack, Donald's forwards worked cohesively, creating space and delivering some beautiful, well-timed passes into the goal ring. Their teamwork was evident and rewarded with steady scoring early on. Fatigue began to show in the third quarter, but the Donald girls pushed through, continuing to put in a deter-

mined effort. Boort's consistency, however, shone through, as it maintained strong play across all four quarters.

It was a great game of netball, with both teams showing grit, skill, and sportsmanship throughout.

Score: Boort 80 to Donald 27.

Donald awards: Halle Rice, Donald Family Butcher; Arleea Sarre, Bev's Baubles.

Boort awards: Graeme Hayes Real Estate, Laci Streader; Streader Constructions, Bella Quinn.

"C" Grade

"C" Grade faced another tough contest this week against third-placed Boort. On a warm and sunny day, rolling subs were a valuable asset, allowing fresh legs to rotate through the court. Donald responded well to coaching feedback, using it to create space and flow through the midcourt. The defenders worked tirelessly all game, earning numerous intercepts and making life difficult for the Boort attackers. Despite the loss, the team showed strong improvement and commitment throughout the match.

The final score was Donald 27 to Boort 43.

Donald awards: Hyacinthe Ipassou, Gilchrist & Co; Molly Harrison, Goldy's Patch; Tiarnah Hepworth, Coaches' Chocolate.

Boort awards: Matt Wilkinson Plumbing, Anna Marcus; Boort Natural Therapies, Anna Lanyon.

"B" Grade

Starting out, Donald's midcourt started strongly, bringing the ball down the court. In the defensive end Courtney Doak and Jess Nunn got their hands on plenty of rebounds. With Jess Nunn and Kim Griffiths intercepting well, the netball game was a tight competition. By half-time Donald had narrowed Boort's lead bringing it back to just 8 goals. Donald goalers shot with great accuracy and managed to keep within reach of Boort. Boort continued to lead the game at each break but Donald did not give up, only going down by 10 goals.

Score: Donald 41 to Boort 51.



• "B" Grade: Boort GK Caitlin Hogg, Donald GA Zoe Grigsby, Boort WD Isabelle Hosking, Boort GD Emma Darker.

Donald awards: Megan Tonkin, Weirs IGA; Zoe Grigsby, Donald Hotel.

Boort awards: DWT Transport, Caitlin Hogg; North West Ag, Britney Sykes.

"A" Grade

From the first whistle, it was clear that the "A" grade clash between Donald and Boort was going to be a high-pressure, fast-paced, and physical contest. Boort applied relentless defensive pressure early, forcing several turnovers and capitalising on Donald's mistakes. Despite the early setbacks, the Royal Blues regrouped and began playing smarter, more composed netball as the game progressed. Their determination never wavered, and they continued to fight hard right to the final whistle. In the end, Boort's consistency and defensive pressure proved too strong for Donald.

Score: Donald 34 to Boort 68.

Donald awards: Emma Downes (Jasper & Co) and Milla Adams (Mensland).

Boort awards: Meering West Wind Farm, Steph Wilson; Cobram Estate, Georgia Haw.



• "B" Grade: GS Zara Staples, Donald; GK Caitlin Hogg, Boort.

Down the Middle?

On Wednesday, 11 players enjoyed 12 holes of Ambrose.

They played in groups of two and one group of three. The winners for the day were Jenny Leishman and Brenda Brennan with a score of 62 – 22 – 40 nett, with runners-up Marcee Egan and Mary Herben having 60 – 18 ½ – 41 ½. The "Nearest the Pins" were: The Donald Auto Elec 3rd, Mary Herben; Bendigo Bank 16th, Jo Beavis.

Shoppers, support your local traders — use them or lose them!

Highlights and Lowlights

Office work tested the brains working out ⅔ of hand-icaps!

It was so foggy at tee off so a unanimous decision was made to reduce play to 12 holes! This meant missing out on joining Dad's Army for a social presentation of the day's events. Players look forward to socialising each week in the future.

The club wishes Jo, Sam and family a great trip!

Many players today spoke of Pete Kelly and the enormous contribution he has made to golf course. It's starting to green up beautifully!

Next week

There will not be golf played on Wednesday, but there will be a meeting at 4 p.m. to prepare for a big day on Thursday. This is Champion of Champions, Shield and Association Day at Donald. That means "TEN" players are needed! Plus, a plate please.

www.granitecommunitychurch.com

At Granite Church
10.30 a.m.
Speaker: Ross Barnes
Baptist Union of Victoria



Battle of the Century?

(By Shane O'Shea)

The 2025 season brings up the hundredth year that the name North-Central has been in use to identify the local football playing area in north west Victoria.

Only two of the original members of that competition, Donald and St. Arnaud, continue to play as stand-alone clubs.

And while both are currently feeling the pinch in terms of a lack of onfield success and not having an over-abundance of top end talent in comparison to others in the competition, tomorrow's clash between the pair at Donald's Goff Letts Oval can take on grand final-like significance for the combatants.

For the record, Goff Letts, after whom the oval is named, the late editor of the "Donald Times", now the "Buloke Times", father of current editor, Robin Letts, and great-grandfather of Donald footballer, Tom Letts, was one of the players who represented Donald in the 1926 grand final, the first season decider conducted under the North-Central name, and ultimately won by St. Arnaud, 8.17 (65) to Donald 5.7 (37).

This season, successes have been few and far between for the Saints, who defeated Donald back in round 4, and even rarer for the Royal Blues, who are yet to secure a win.

Tomorrow, the opportunity to savour a team lifting victory will ensure a pitched battle, fought desperately from the opening bounce to the final siren, and no doubt

reminiscent of many previous battles between the fierce rivals, dating back over the North-Central century and even earlier.

To reverse the result of their previous encounter this season, Donald will need to field a near full strength line-up, including Ross Young, the Royal Blues' most influential midfielder.

He can provide the attacking momentum and scoring opportunities key forwards Brent, Sam and Ben Arho need to post a winning score.

Likewise, the visiting St. Arnaud will be looking to Zac Phillips, Kurt Torney, Brad Organ and Owen Lowe to replicate that winning performance achieved by the Saints earlier this season and way back in 1926.

Grand Final Prelude?

Spectators at Nullawil's Community Complex Oval tomorrow will witness a clash between two of North-Central's most talent-laden combinations in what could well be a dress rehearsal for a future finals showdown.

Both combinations are stacked with skill, from the respective attacks, Birchip-Watchem's featuring Ben Edwards, Rhona Conboy and Joe Reid, and Calder United's comprising Jack Excell, Mitch Farmer and Dale Pearce, who will be pitted against two of the best per-

formed defences in the league, the Bulls' led by Dale Hinkley and Ben Lakin, while the Lions' back six features Joe Walsh and Oscar Madden.

But the real highlight of the day will be played out in between these two intense battles for scoring supremacy, when two powerful midfields go head-to-head, as Birchip-Watchem's Hamish Hosking, Nic and Marshall Rippon, Meyrick Buchanan and Daniel Bell attempt to assert their authority over the Lions' Dean Putt, Koby Lloyd, Steve Kennedy, Daniel Watts, Zac Caccaviello, Koby Hommelhoff and, possibly, Matt Wade.

It's a mouth watering feast of North-Central football at its best, helping to set the scene for the forthcoming finals, with the final result likely to go right down to the wire.

Birchip-Watchem won a thriller by 2 points in round 4, and should repeat the feat tomorrow.

Magpies to Swoop Again?

Boort gave notice of its significant improvement this season when it outscored Sea Lake-Nandaly last time they met. Tomorrow, at Sea Lake, the Magpies are primed to

GOLDACRES NORTH CENTRAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE			
ROUND 11			
SATURDAY JULY 5TH, 2025			
SEA LAKE NANDALY TIGERS	VS	BOORT MAGPIES	
SEA LAKE COMMUNITY COMPLEX			
DONALD ROYAL BLUES	VS	ST ARNAUD SAINTS	
GOFF LETTS OVAL			
CHARLTON NAVIES	VS	WEDDERBURN REDBACKS	
CHARLTON PARK WOOSANG CHALLENGE			
CALDER UNITED LIONS	VS	BIRCHIP-WATCHEM BULLS	
NULLAWIL REC RESERVE			

repeat that achievement against a significantly depleted Tiger line-up.

Sea Lake-Nandaly is coming off a second successive loss, and will be hoping to regain several of its better players, including Jack Poulton to strengthen its defence, and Tom Cox, to provide more depth in its midfield rotations.

If Boort can control the midfield and take full advantage on the scoreboard, through Jhye Baddeley Kelly, Tom Potter, Jayden Dick, Lachlan Hall and Kayne Rutley, it will be well placed to grab the four premiership points.

The Tigers may be down, but they are certainly not out, and have a habit of bouncing back strongly when challenged, especially when playing at home, and should

regain forward momentum at the Magpies' expense.

Woosang Challenge

Charlton and Wedderburn enter tomorrow's clash at Charlton Park coming off very different lead ups, the Navy Blues having secured a morale-boosting victory over St. Arnaud, while the Redbacks suffered another disappointment after being overrun by Calder United.

Wedderburn will start favourite to win, with Jye Mortlock, Noah Furlong, Isaac Holt, Darcy Jackson and Corey Lowry capable of providing the stability, plus run and carry, that can create plenty of scoring opportunities for Mitch Jensen and his fellow forwards.

Defence has been one of Charlton's strengths this

season, with Pat Soulsby, Jed Thompson and Elliott Fitzpatrick bonding tightly, but the Navy Blues' forwards, including Rhys Thompson and Bailey Kemp, will need to make the most of every opportunity if the hosts are to savour success for a second successive Saturday.

• Sincere apologies for the stuff up in last week's preview, in particular to Sea Lake-Nandaly, which I had playing two games (no wonder the Tigers ran out of petrol tickets at Birchip), and Calder United, which I overlooked altogether. With the editor's assistance and eagle eye, today's contribution might be a true reflection of teams competing in round 11. Something to do with DOB!?

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• Plenty going on here in round 4. Left to right: George Morgan (Donald), Sean Holroyd (St Arnaud), Josh Talty (Donald), Ryan Leeder (Donald), Bailey Durward (St Arnaud).