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The Buloke Times

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

Mancel's Medal

As "best and fairest" in the North-Central Football League, he has four "Feenys" to his name. These he won in 1958, 1960 and 1961 (with Narraport), and in 1966 (with Wycheproof-Narraport).

Last Monday, as Victoria celebrated the King's Birthday, it was announced that Wycheproof's Mancel ("Mick") Giddings had been awarded an OAM (Order of Australia Medal), "for service to the Wycheproof community".

And what could be more appropriate than to have this achievement relayed across the country (and abroad) by another Wycheproof celebrity – and Sky News broadcaster – Peta Credlin?

Believe it or not, there are still those of us around who can remember, with the greatest of admiration, the on-ball skills of Mancel Giddings. And "on-ball" they really were – he so seldom lost his grip of the Sherrin!

The following are the briefest of details of his incredible football career.

Mancel Giddings, winner of a record four Feeny trophies for North-Central's "best and fairest". He began

with Narraport when 15 in 1954, and finished playing with Wycheproof-Narraport in 1974, at 35 years of age, after a total of 330 games, first as rover-forward, and later in the back pocket. Coached Narraport in 1961 and 1962. Played ten inter-league and championship games.

But Wait, There's More

Whilst "modesty" is Mancel's second name, the "Times" has still managed to track down more complete details of his matchless contribution to sport and the community in general, as follows:

Community - Local

- Volunteer \$1 Rent a Farmhouse Project.
- Volunteer Meals on Wheels.
- Former member Wycheproof Golf Club.
- Committee Member "Friends of the Mount".

- Volunteer Wycheproof South Fire Brigade and Country Fire Authority Victoria.
- Former member Wycheproof Farmer's Federation.
- Member Wycheproof Men's Shed.
- Volunteer Wycheproof Primary School and Wycheproof Kindergarten.
- Former committee member and steward of Wycheproof Agricultural and Pastoral Show Society.
- Former committee member and volunteer Wycheproof Men's Basketball Club.
- Former Captain and volunteer Wycheproof Tennis Club and associated Labour Day Tennis Tournaments.
- Former committee member Wycheproof VISION.
- Former committee member and volunteer "Back to Wycheproof" 1967 and 1991.
- Member of Wycheproof RSL.
- Participant (1978) and volunteer Wycheproof King of the Mountain Events.



• Mancel Gray Giddings, OAM.

Community - History

- Founder and owner of Willandra Museum (Wycheproof Local and Pioneer History) 1991.
- Founding member of Wycheproof HES/PS Community Museum at Wycheproof P-12 College.

- Wycheproof Historical Society Committee Member.

- Friends of the Wycheproof Railway committee member and volunteer.

- Initiated recent recognition of Waltzing Matilda Jet

Engine Truck (World Speed Record in Wycheproof).

Wycheproof-Narraport Football Club

- Former Junior President.
- Former Committee Member.

• Continued on page 2.

BCG at Heart of Town Progress

(By Blake Lee)

To the casual traveller passing through on the Sunraysia Highway, Birchip might look like just another small country town – a pub, a bakery, a footy oval.

But talk to locals, and a different story emerges. Since 1992, the Birchip Cropping Group (BCG) has been at the heart of the town's progress – not only transforming agriculture in the region, but also strengthening the fabric of its community.

Founded by a handful of farmers keen to trial new research in their own paddocks, BCG has grown into a nationally respected organisation. Today, it employs 27 staff, has over 400 members, and conducts field-leading research and extension work that stretches far beyond the Mallee.

"It's grown from an organisation that represents local Birchip farmers to one with a really big geographic footprint," CEO Fiona Best said.

Social and Economic Contributions

But for Birchip, the impact goes beyond what's happening in the paddocks.

The BCG is a major contributor to Birchip's social and economic life. Staff rent and buy homes, spend locally, join sporting teams and take on volunteer roles – bringing fresh faces, skills and spirit to a town where community is everything.

Issy Atkins, a research agronomist, made the move from Melbourne and has quickly made herself at home.

"I always wanted to work in ag since I was a kid, so Birchip was the place," she said.

Her colleague, Amy McEachern, had lived in Warrnambool and studied in Canberra before taking the job – and wasn't sure what to expect.

"Everyone's really friendly and it's a really nice community – I've never really been part of a small town before," Amy said.

Both now play for the local netball club and are enjoying the pace and friendships that come with regional life.



• BCG staff. Left to right: Amy McEachern, Ben Edelsten, Angus Butterfield, Zoe Wilson, Lucy Giles, Issy Atkins, Matt Lade.

Lucy Giles also relocated from Melbourne earlier this year to start as a research agronomist.

"The culture here at the BCG is just like the community – very friendly and welcoming," she said.

"I'd heard good things about the town – and when you have a bakery as good as Sharp's, why wouldn't you?"

Broader Shift

A broader shift is taking place across Australia – one

that towns like Birchip are already benefiting from. According to the Regional Australia Institute, 25 per cent more people moved from capital cities to regional areas than the reverse in the March 2025 quarter.

Claire Pickles, who has worked at BCG since 2007, says the organisation has long been a magnet for people wanting to live and work rurally.

"I grew up in a town much smaller than Birchip,

so I always saw myself working in a small country town," she said.

"It's a very fun and energetic workplace with a great team environment."

More Than a Workplace

BCG's impact also shows in the number of locals who've built long-term lives around their work there. Many raise families, volunteer in community clubs and

help keep the town active and vibrant.

Operations manager Kelly Angel, originally from Melbourne, moved to Birchip with her husband Darren and their three kids.

"It's hard not to get involved in the community," she said.

"The first question people were asking when I moved here was whether I was a netball or hockey player, so it

• Continued on page 2.

BCG at Heart of Town Progress

• Continued from page 1.

doesn't take long to get involved."

Steve Nottle, who grew up on the Mornington Peninsula, didn't expect to work in agriculture.

"Even after moving to Birchip, I didn't imagine myself getting involved in the agricultural industry," he said.

Steve and his wife Bridget have bought a house, are raising their son Rudy, and Steve is president of the Birchip Community Forum.

"People see Birchip as a small town, but I've never been busier," he said.

"There's always something going on, whether that be a social event or sporting activity."

Putting Birchip on the Map

BCG's community role is matched by its economic and scientific contributions.

The group's activities and events such as the annual Field Days and Young Farmer Network bring in thousands of visitors. Its research helps farmers make better decisions in the face of changing conditions – work that supports the resilience of the entire region.

"Hopefully the information that's being generated through the research is supporting farmers to make better decisions and become more prosperous," Fiona Best said.

"That obviously has a flow-on effect into the local community."

"Nexus"

And it's not just locals taking notice. Researchers and ag professionals from across the country travel to Birchip to learn from the group – and a bold new project could soon allow them to stay longer.

A proposed \$6 million accommodation hub called "Nexus" would provide short-term housing for PhD students, researchers and industry professionals, enabling extended on-the-ground collaboration.

"There's an opportunity to bolster what we currently have in town," Fiona said.

"It would really allow us to grow our research capacity."

With five students already completing work experience placements this year, BCG is also investing in the future.

"If someone has a genuine connection to agriculture and a vested interest in the health and wellbeing of communities, I couldn't recommend it more."

She believes the BCG's success is proof of what can happen when locals lead with vision – and a "can-do" attitude.

"To think that it came about from an idea generated by several Birchip farmers over thirty years ago – it's remarkable," she said.

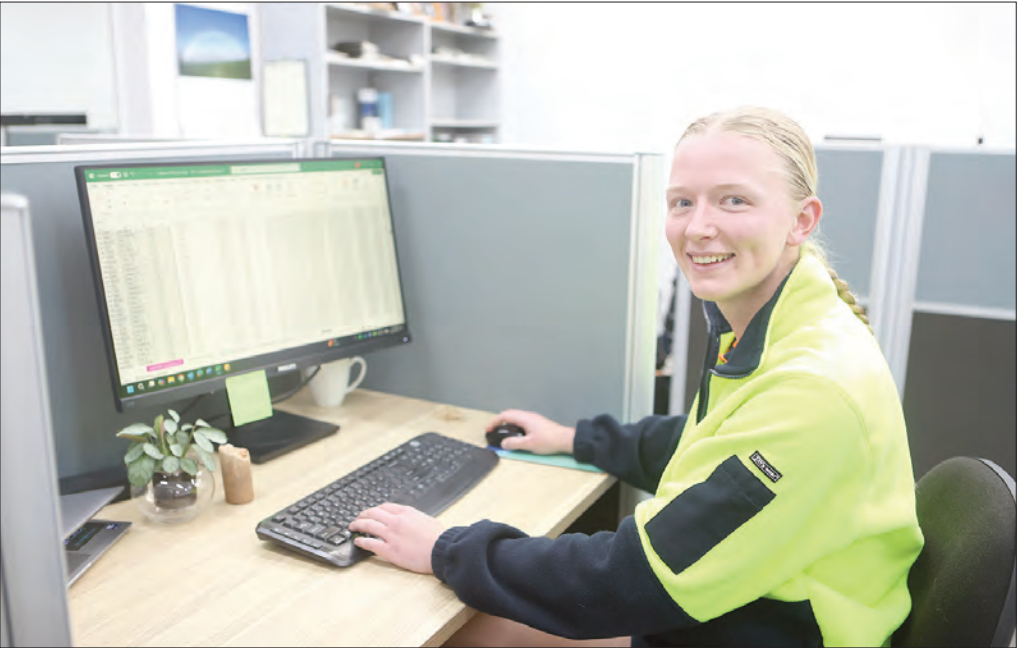
"It really has put Birchip on the map."



• Fiona Best CEO (centre) with researchers Felicity Harrop, Soil SRC; Dr Hassan Sadar, Murdoch University; Professor Richard Bell, Murdoch University; Professor Frank Agbola, University of Newcastle; and BCG staff Alison Frischke, and Ashlee Tierney.



• Steve Nottle working in the lab.



• Lucy Giles moved from Melbourne to the BCG earlier this year.

Mancel's Medal

• Continued from page 1.

• Former Coach (10 years+) 1979-1986 Under 16s/17s.

• 5 Premierships (1 Narraport, 4 Wycheproof Narraport) and a few? Runners-up.

• Former player and winner of 5 Senior Best and Fairest Awards and two Runner-Up Awards.

• Played over 300 games.

• Life Member.

• Recipient of a still-standing record of North Central Football League 4 Best and Fairest Awards (1958, 1960, 1961, 1966) and two runner-up awards.

• Vice-captain Wycheproof-Narraport seniors.

• Last playing coach and captain Narraport Football Club 2 years.

• North Central Interleague vice-captain 2-3 times?

• 10 North Central Interleague matches.

• Coach of winning North Central Under-18s curtain raiser team against the Mallee.

Awards and Recognition include:

• Wycheproof and District Citizen of the Year Award 2012.

• "Herald Sun Weekly Times" front page "Best Country Footballers" 2023.

• Asked to train with numerous VFL Football Clubs.

• Order of Australia Medal Recipient 2025.

\$2.57 Million Upgrade For St. Arnaud Swimming Pool

St. Arnaud community will be able to enjoy redeveloped swimming pool facilities this summer, with upgrades officially under way.

Northern Grampians Shire Council is delivering the \$2.57 million St Arnaud Swimming Pool redevelopment project in two stages.

Stage one includes a refurbishment of the change rooms, which started last month. Work is on track to be completed in time for the opening of the 2025-26 summer season.

Stage two, which includes repairs to the pool, will start in early 2026 – at the end of the summer period – meaning the peak swimming season will not be inconvenienced by construction works.

Northern Grampians Shire mayor Karen Hyslop said while the region's residents would greatly benefit from the redevelopment, the council did

not want construction works to restrict access throughout summer.

"The reason we are not delivering both parts at once is to avoid delays that could result in the pool opening late or not at all, which would be disastrous for the community and not a risk we are willing to take," she said.

"This redevelopment is a big win for the people of St Arnaud and surrounding areas and we are excited about the entire project being completed ahead of the 2026-27 summer season."

Government Grant

The project is being funded by a \$1,947,853 grant from the State Government's Regional

Community Sports Infrastructure Fund and \$650,000 from the council.

Kelly Architects completed the design stage and Build Forth is delivering stage-one works.

"Council engaged with St Arnaud Swimming Club and the schools that use the facility to help determine the project's priorities and objectives," Cr Hyslop said.

"Once completed, the St Arnaud community will have access to modern change rooms with upgraded shower and toilet facilities; new tiling and painting of pools; and an upgraded administration, first aid and kiosk area."

Cr Hyslop said the project was aligned with the council's

Sport and Recreation Strategy 2024-2034.

Key Element

"A key element of stage two is a new access ramp to the pool, which will help us to support the health, wellbeing and social inclusion of more of our residents," she said.

Cr Hyslop said swimming pools were wonderful community assets for people of all ages, with more than 8000 visits to the St Arnaud pool throughout the 2024-25 summer period.

Commitment

"The redevelopment is part of council's commitment to ensuring we offer the pool facilities our community needs over the swimming period, beyond casually cooling off after school or on a weekend," she said.

She said the council was always looking for ways to improve or add to services, with swim teachers delivering Learn to Swim lessons for infants and preschoolers for the first time during the 2024-25 summer period.

"We had more than 130 students participate across all lessons last season, which is an increase on previous years. We will be looking to run them again when the pool reopens later this year," she said.



• "These boots were made for kickin'!"



Letters to the Editor



Signs of the Times

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Editor.— I am deeply concerned that our community is forgetting what it truly means to live in a democratic society.

We are seeing an erosion of the basic principle that everyone has the right to express their views – especially on matters that affect the land we live on and the lives we lead. Some have chosen to express their opposition through signs on their cars and fences. These are not threats. These are opinions – deeply held and peacefully expressed – about developments that stand to alter the landscape, health, and livelihoods of our community.

Lately, some have claimed that these signs make others feel "threatened" or "victimized."

Let's be clear: disagreement is not violence. A differing opinion is not a personal attack. If someone feels uncomfortable seeing a public display of opposition, perhaps they should consider how uncomfortable it is to live with decisions made without consultation – decisions that can have long-term consequences on people's homes, wellbeing, and lives.

Public spaces belong to all of us. That includes the right to dissent. Democracy requires disagreement – and it requires respect for others' rights to voice that disagreement, even when it challenges our own views.

What's truly threatening is not the sign on a fence – it's the silence that comes when a community is pressured into submission.

Alana Woods.

Man of Courage

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Editor.— I write to

acknowledge the passing of Dennis Ryan, a man whose name is known and respected by many within the policing community and beyond.

Though I did not have the honour of knowing Dennis personally, his legacy speaks volumes. He was known a man of great courage, conviction and perseverance, one of the rare few who stood up when it was hardest to do so, even while enduring personal sacrifice. His integrity and bravery helped shape important conversations in this state around justice, accountability, and the protection of children. That kind of strength leaves a lasting imprint, not just within the police force, but across the broader community.

To those who served with him, to those who called him a friend, and to the many who looked up to him, please accept my deepest sympathies.

We have lost a good man, and we are all the poorer for it.

Warm regards,

Jade Benham.

Supporting Community Expression Through Banners and Stickers

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Editor.— When communities face challenges, remaining silent can be mistaken for acceptance or complacency. This is why visible expressions such as the banners, stickers, and signs rapidly spreading across our towns and roadsides, are so essential. These visible expressions remind us that people care, tell us that people are engaged, and that our communities refuse to be overlooked. If concerns are left unspoken, they risk being ignored. But when individuals come together to express their perspectives publicly, they create momentum, awareness,

and meaningful conversations that might otherwise never happen.

Unfortunately, some critics dismiss these displays as aggressive or unnecessary. But this perspective overlooks the bigger issue: the ongoing disregard by governments and corporations for the voices and needs of everyday people. When communities feel powerless against decisions made without their input, having an outlet for expression becomes crucial – not only for raising awareness but for mental well-being. Suppressing public displays of frustration does nothing to solve the underlying problems; it simply forces people to internalise their concerns, leading to greater distress and disillusionment.

Banners and stickers are not acts of hostility, they are responses to an environment where people feel unheard. If someone takes issue with these signs, rather than rushing to criticise and denounce the presence of signs as bullying, perhaps they should reflect on why they feel triggered. Is it truly about the signs themselves, or does their discomfort stem from the harsh reality these expressions expose? Instead of focusing on silencing visible frustration, more energy should be spent addressing the root causes and ensuring that government and the corporations wishing to industrialise our landscape, listen to the communities they impact.

Expression is not the enemy, silence is. When individuals feel powerless, taking action, raising awareness, and making their voices seen and heard can restore a sense of agency. Communities thrive when people stand together, not when they are pressured into silence. Let us respect and protect the right of individuals to advocate for what matters to them, free from fear of being dismissed or misrepresented.

Sincerely,

Maddy and Tom Rumbold.

Foggy conditions impact visibility. Slow down



• TAC urges road users to prepare for winter conditions.

Buloke Shire, Tuesday Morning?

Not really, but that's how it looked as Victorian road users rounded out the King's Birthday long weekend.

Victorian road users are being urged to prepare for winter driving conditions as intrastate travel is expected to increase over the King's Birthday long weekend.

The Transport Accident Commission (TAC) is reminding Victorians to plan ahead, slow down and adapt to the challenge of the wetter, slipperier and darker conditions brought on by winter.

It has been a devastating year so far on our roads, with

134 lives lost – 15 more than the same time last year and 24% above the five-year average. It has been a particularly tragic year on regional Victorian roads where 80 people have lost their lives.

Last winter in Victoria, 72 people lost their lives on the roads including 15 motorbike riders and 15 pedestrians.

Responsibility

Vulnerable road users are more at risk in winter months due to shorter days with less sunlight, and it is the responsibility of all motorists to slow down, take extra care and adjust to potential hazards like black ice, fog, rain and landslides.

Motorists are urged to switch on their headlights in low-light conditions, stay vigilant and share the road. Bicyclists, motorcyclists and pedestrians are encouraged to stay visible and predictable by wearing bright or reflective clothing and crossing at the safest points.

Plan Ahead

"We're asking Victorians to plan ahead and adapt to winter driving conditions to ensure everyone arrives at their destination safely.

"It's always best to avoid driving in severe weather, however, if you find yourself on the road; slow down, be predictable, be visible and look out for other road users," said Ms Slatter.

The start of winter also sees many Victorians making plans for a ski trip. Drivers are encouraged to regularly check their tires, brakes, lights and

wipers, and consider using snow tires or chains to improve grip on slippery surfaces. Those travelling in Alpine areas must carry snow chains and fit them when directed, and should adjust their speed to suit the conditions, with stopping distances significantly increased on wet or icy roads.

Black ice can be common during winter months in Victoria, and motorists who encounter it should avoid sudden braking or steering and make themselves visible to other drivers by turning on their hazard lights.

Ice-detection stations, which activate warnings to drivers if black ice is present, are installed on the Great Alpine Road, Woodend Avenue of Honour, Midland Highway, Western Freeway, Black Forest Drive and Calder Freeway.

Real-time traffic conditions including black ice warnings, road closures and other hazards are available at traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au

Your Blood is Worth Bottling

If you are visiting Ballarat or Bendigo and have a bit of time to spare, a trip to the Blood Bank would be a very rewarding experience.

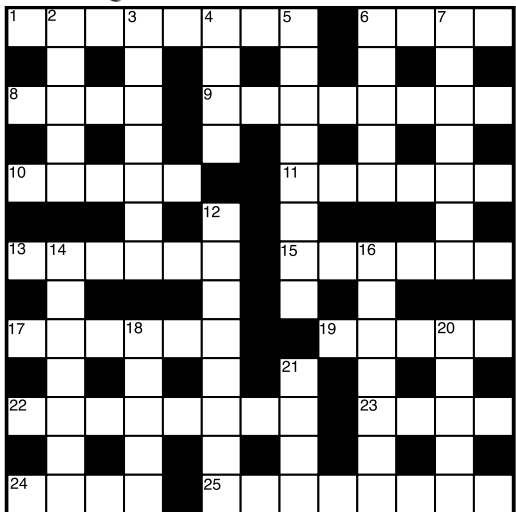
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"Times" Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8181



ACROSS

1. Creature (8)
6. Search (4)
8. Stage (4)
9. Musical instrument (8)
10. Sag (5)
11. Whiten (6)
13. Pencil (6)
15. Wealth (6)
17. Siren (6)
19. Sphere (5)
22. Obstruction (8)
23. Meat (4)
24. Salver (4)
25. Gas (8)

DOWN

2. Absolute (5)
3. Disease (7)
4. Ceremony (4)
5. Convict (8)
6. Rope (5)
7. Handcuff (7)
12. Intrude (8)
14. Fowl (7)
16. Music (7)
18. Intoxicated (5)
20. Push (5)
21. Peruse (4)

• Solution next issue.

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

DEATH
HARVIE.— Laurie
June 4, 2025

The members of Charlton Oasis Club, mourn the passing of a mate and long term member of the Apex/Oasis Clubs.

Rest in Peace Laurie

BEREAVEMENT
THANKS

Davidson.— Graeme

Marlene, Terri, Suzanne, Anthony & Penni and families, would like to thank everyone for their support, thoughts, prayers, phone calls, food and flowers on the passing of Graeme, loved husband, father, father-in-law, Pa, and uncle.

Please accept this as our personal thank-you.

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someone will buy the business from
us so we can enjoy a well earned
retirement.

Thank-you,
Paul & Kate Clements.

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2014 Case IH 8230 2019 Macdon FD145 and Trailer
2017 Macdon D65 45FT And Nev Hamilton Trailer
2023 Elmer Haulmaster 41Tonne Chaser Bin X Demo
2022 Akron GTT 4010 Grain Bag In Loader
2017 Geringhoff Rota Disc Elite XL Corn Front
2005 Capello Corn Front And Trailer
AGI X16 – 125 Ft Swingaway Auger
2004 Case IH 2052 39' Front And Trailer
2023 Case IH 3016 15' Pick Up Front And Trailer

SPRAYING

2018 Case IH 4430 Patriot 120 Ft Aim Command Flex
2017 Miller Nitro 6333
2023 Sonic Croplands Weed IT 7030
2021 Sonic Croplands Weed IT 7030
2019 Stoll S6 6000L 36m Trailing Sprayer
2011 Goldacres 7536 Prairie Evolution
Croplands 6000L 120FT Trailing Sprayer

TRACTORS

2022 Fendt 933 G7 Profi +
2015 New Holland T8.320 FWA Tractor
2018 Case IH Maxxum 110 FWA Tractor
2020 Case IH Maxxum 135 CVT Ultimate FWA Tractor
2017 Case IH Maxxum 140 FWA Tractor
2014 John Deere 6140M FWA Tractor & H360 Loader
Case IH 7230 Magnum

TRUCKS

2009 Kenworth K108 6X4 Prime Mover
2003 Kenworth T404S Prime Mover
2002 Kenworth K104 Aerodyne Prime Mover
2004 Sterling + Hamlex White Tipper

SPREADING

2021 AgriSpread 2150T SC
2011 Amazone ZA-M Ultra Spreader
Sulky X40 3PL Spreader

PLANTING & TILLIAGE EQUIPMENT

2024 Brookfield D130D Disc Chain Bar X Demo
2023 Brookfield D185D Disc Chain Bar X Demo
Simplicity TQ2 12000L Air cart
Janke Universal Bar and Simplicity 6000L Air Cart
2015 Multiplanter 50FT on 12 Inch
Simplicity 3000Ltr Trailing Air Cart

GENERAL FARM EQUIPMENT

2012 Isuzu Medium 155 Service Truck
2021 Highline Fastrac 1200 Bale Stacker X Demo
2020 NDE CO FS 700 Mixer
2018 Gason Delta 15Ft Mower
2017 JCB 531.70 Agri
2023 Grizzly Track Renovator
2010 Ahrens Sherwell Fertiliser Field Bin
2016 Ahrens Sherwell Fertiliser Field Bin with Auger
VEHICLES & TRAILERS
2021 Toyota Landcruiser 200 series
2020 Nissan Navara RX D23 Auto 4x4 Dual Cab Ute
2020 Nissan Navara RX D23 Man 4x4 Space Cab Ute
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The Pride of Teddywaddy



• 1930 Teddywaddy Rovers Football Premiers. Back row: Pat Powell, Jim Wright, Jack Prater, George Flynn, Vic Sait, Martin Fitzpatrick, Tom Reed, W. Tobin, Hugh Powell, Arthur Storey, Gerry Walsh, Tom Gleeson. Middle row: Tom Murphy, Con Powell, Pat O'Brien, Ned Ryan, Dick Sait (Cap't), Walter Sait, Harold Baird, Mr McGuffie, Adam Baird. Front: Steve "Jack" Laffin, Tosh Gleeson, C. Maher, H. Sait, Eddie Sait (mascot), T. Maher, J. Sait, Barney Baird, B. Ryan, P. Walsh, Bob Storey. Lying: Clem Powell, Tony Gleeson

Charlton 100 Years Ago

(Information from "East Charlton Tribune")

June 6 to 10, 1925.

Ninyeunook: The late Mr William Paton, whose demise at the venerable age of 92, was born at Gamrie, Banffshire, Scotland, and left home when a lad of 14 for Australia. He followed the seafaring line until he was 18, landing at Portland in the "Bonaven-

ture". At a later period he resided for a time at War-nambool, from which he came to Ninyeunook many years ago. He followed mixed farming and grazing pursuits. He leaves 3 daughters, namely Mrs Ross, Nullawil; Mrs T. Williams, Melbourne;

and Mrs Pymer, Ninyeunook; and one son, William, Ninyeunook. Mrs Pymer and her husband resided with the late Mr Paton, and looked after him until his death.

The Hand of Death: At the early age of 28, Mr William Owen passed away. He was born in Charlton, in the house ("Riversleigh") in which he died. He attended the local school. For some time he worked in the bicycle shop of Mr Johnson. When he was old enough he joined the Fire Brigade. In 1918 he enlisted when he was 21, and was training at Broadmeadows when the Armistice was signed. He was caretaker at the Charlton Soldiers' Club for about 15 months. The regulations of the Fire Brigade provide that on the death of a member, the flag shall be flown at halfmast; the bell tolled at the funeral hour; and the firemen attend in uniform. This was carried out and a beautiful wreath was sent.

Ex-Charlton Resident: Fatal injuries were sustained by Mr Allan Fox, aged 31, of Fitzroy, when he fell from a North Melbourne tram. Suffering from concussion and several injuries to the skull, Mr Fox was admitted to Melbourne Hospital but succumbed to his injuries. The deceased was the husband of a local lady, his widow prior to marriage being Miss Jean Giles, daughter of Mrs Fred Giles. Mr Fox was formerly in the Bank of Victoria at Charlton, and regularly visited the town to take part in the annual Golf Tournament.

First-Class Catering: Mrs J. E. Pollard, proprietress of the Piccadilly Café, makes a speciality of first-class catering, only the best materials being employed. Pure butter (no margarine, dripping or other substitutes) is used in all baking. Try having your catering requirements met by the Piccadilly Café – you will thereby ensure satisfaction.

Top Dressing Pastures: Under the auspices of the Agricultural Society, an event

which should be of great interest and considerable value, will take place when a top-dressing demonstration will be conducted on Mr Hando's block, between the Homestead and the railway station. The demonstration is to be carried out by means of the Federal Manure Spreader. The local agents (Messrs T. Curnow and Son) are giving the use of the machine free of charge. The value of fertiliser has been proved both in wheat-growing and on pastures; but till now super has not been at all extensively applied in this district in the case of grass lands.

Teddywaddy: The Ball in aid of the funds of the Teddywaddy Rovers was originally arranged for Friday evening; but, owing to the state of the weather, was postponed until Monday evening, when it was very successfully held in the Glenloth Memorial Hall. As a result, the Club should materially benefit. Excellent music was supplied and the dancers thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The supper, which was provided by the Teddywaddy ladies, was of the best.

On the Links: Under the most auspicious circumstances the Golf Club's Opening Day – President's Day was held. The weather was ideal. There was an entry of 50, with Wycheproof sending representatives. Trophies, donated by the President (Mr John Windsor) were first pair, gold medal each; second pair 10/6 each. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

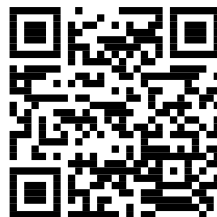
The course, which is now one of the finest in Victoria, was in excellent order. Extensive improvements have been made to the links and the plan is to enlarge the club house. The contest saw the victory by Wycheproof golfers. Third place was P. Rogan and Miss A. Klunder. A delightful afternoon tea was provided by the wife of the president, who was assisted by the ladies of the club in waiting upon the guests, etc.



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FRIDAY 27TH JUNE



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For more information please contact Bailey Kemp via the office

charlton.p12@education.vic.gov.au

(03) 5491 1280

<http://www.charlton.vic.edu.au>

Op Shop Support for Rex

Putting back into the local community and boosting positive outcomes is a “must” for the Charlton Neighbourhood House Opportunity Shop, with the organisation’s gains helping to enrich the town’s fabric and potential.

From recycle to renewal, the Op Shop has offered largesse to many local organisations over the years, with applications for donations enabling the acquisition of much-needed items or enabling of a service to be offered.

Charlton’s Rex Theatre has been a recent beneficiary of a \$2,000 donation which assisted with the purchase of new equipment for a new point of sale (POS) system.

Chairman of The Rex Board and theatre manager, Hayden McKinnon, said the co-contribution enabled The Rex to provide online ticket sales for both movies and live shows and will ultimately facilitate the integration of loyalty and membership programs along with gift card purchases.

With the online ticketing facility already operational, the additional services are expected to be added in the coming months.

Significant
“Enabling The Rex to provide these new features to our customers and to our wider communities has been a significant bonus,” said Hayden.
“Not only does it provide convenience for the customer and bring The Rex in line with modern POS systems, but based on feedback from our recent Strategic Plan the availability of online ticketing was a recurrent item brought up by the community. We are pleased that this has now been implemented, and it is thanks to the support from the Charlton Op Shop that we have been able to do so. On behalf of The Rex Board, I would like to express our sincere thanks for this generous donation.”

Ability to Reinvest
Manager of the Charlton Op Shop, Gill Gretgrix spoke passionately about the outlet’s ability to reinvest back into the Charlton community.
“For a venue like The Rex, which is community owned,

and community operated we were very happy to support this application and help it with its operations,” Gill said.

“The Op Shop has supported many local groups such as the Driver Education Centre, and junior winter sports clubs.

We would love our local organisations to apply for support – just drop into the shop or alternately, make contact with me to discuss your ideas,” Gill said.

In the meantime, The Rex will be putting its new equipment to good use with a string of upcoming live shows (see website – rextheatre.org.au) and great movies to while the winter days away.

Charlton Neighbourhood House Opportunity Shop:
Contact Gill Gretgrix – (0427 911 308).

Open: Wednesday | Thursday | Friday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. | Saturday, 10 a.m. – 12 mid-day.



• Hayden McKinnon (left, Rex chairperson and manager) is pictured with Gill Gretgrix (CNH Op Shop Manager), showing the online availability of POS options which the venue can now provide for customers.

“In A Persian Garden”

The Rex Theatre, in association with the Dunolly Gilbert and Sullivan Society, is pleased to present the rare song cycle “In A Persian Garden” by Edwardian composer Lisa Lehmann on Saturday, June 17, at 2 p.m..

A household name during the late 1800s and early 1900s, English-born Lehmann trained as a singer and composer, but found her singing career stressful, and retired without regret on her marriage. At this time, she turned to composition as a creative outlet.

At her husband’s suggestion, she set a selection of verses from Edward Fitzgerald’s translation of the Rubáiyat of Omar Khayyám, (a twelfth century Persian poem) which was hugely in vogue in the English-speaking world at the time. In the work a philosopher-poet contemplates the beauties of nature, the essence of love, the mysteries of existence, the joys of wines, and the necessity of seizing the day. “In a Persian Garden”, published in 1896, rapidly became extremely popular in Britain and North America.

First Triumph

This first triumph was the gateway to a long and successful career as a song composer of considerable fame. As well as writing about 300 individual songs, Lehmann continued to compose six more song-cycles in the quartet form, the most famous of

these being The Daisy Chain (1900).

Lehmann was highly conscious of her rare status as a female composer, and in 1911 became the first president of the Society of Women Musicians, a highly influential group set up to foster mutual cooperation between women composers and performers, at a time when opportunities were limited.

Four Voices

“In A Persian Garden” is a work for four voices – soprano, contralto, tenor and bass – and will be performed at The Rex by four accomplished vocalists from Melbourne. Along with Dunolly performer, Rachel Buckley as the narrator and musical director/pianist Geoffrey Urquhart, this will be a treat for music lovers with its exquisite harmonies.

Tickets: \$35 Bookings: <https://www.rextheatre.org.au/live-shows.html> | boxoffice@rextheatre.org.au or at the door.

“Mission Impossible: The Final Reckoning”

High energy action, stunning underwater scenes and Tom Cruise’s spectacular stunts will have patrons gripping on to their seats when

“Mission Impossible: The Final Reckoning” screens at The Rex this weekend.

Cruise returns one last time as “Ethan Hunt” – reprising his role with the Impossible Mission Force team as the franchise winds to a close after seven previous outings.

“The Final Reckoning” is epic in running time (169 mins) and sees Hunt on his most dangerous mission yet: To track down a terrifying new weapon that threatens all of humanity before it falls into the wrong hands.

Picking up from the cliff-hanger ending of 2023’s “Mission Impossible – Dead Reckoning” the thrilling action and epic stunts of “Final Reckoning” have all the impact which franchise followers know and love.

Filmed across the UK, South Africa, Norway and Italy, the movie is filled with pulse-pounding action and high-stakes espionage. So, grab some popcorn and settle in for the very last installment of this thrilling franchise!

“Mission Impossible: The Final Reckoning” M 169 mins | Action | Thriller screens Saturday, June 14, 8 p.m. | Sunday, June 15, 2 p.m. | Tuesday, June 17, 8 p.m..

Voting for Victoria’s Top Tiny town: Help Crown Halls Gap

Halls Gap is in the running to be crowned Victoria’s Top Tiny Tourism Town for 2025 – but the town needs your help.

Public voting for the coveted award opened Friday, June 6, and Northern Grampians Shire mayor Karen Hyslop has called on residents and visitors to help Halls Gap secure the most-loved title.

“We are thrilled to have Halls Gap named a finalist in these awards, which recognise towns that offer exceptional visitor experiences and demonstrate a strong commitment to tourism, local community and storytelling,” she said.

“We encourage locals and visitors to jump online to cast their vote and help Halls Gap claim the Top Tiny Tourism Town crown.”

The Victorian Top Tourism Town Awards, presented by the Victorian Tourism Industry Council, VTIC, recognise excellence in tourism across the state, highlighting the vibrant and diverse destinations that make regional Victoria shine.

The awards are presented in three categories: Top Tourism Town, those with a population of more than 5000 people; Top Small Tourism Town, those with a population between 1500 and 5000 people; and Top Tiny Tourism Town, those with a population of fewer than 1500 people.

“Halls Gap’s recognition reflects the passion of our community and the unique natural beauty of our region,” Cr Hyslop said.

“Halls Gap might be small in size, but its visitor appeal is

enormous. From the breathtaking landscapes of Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park to wildlife encounters, boutique accommodation, local eateries, and a strong connection to culture and community.”

Halls Gap is a destination that brings together nature lovers, adventurers, families and foodies alike, whether for a weekend retreat or an active holiday immersed in the outdoors.

“Our nomination is a testament to the tireless efforts of our community, local businesses, volunteers and tourism operators,” Cr Hyslop said.

“They are the heart of the visitor experience – offering warm welcomes, curating

memorable experiences, and working together to share what makes Halls Gap so special.

“If you love Halls Gap, now is your chance to show it, as public votes count towards the final result.”

Cr Hyslop encouraged people to spread the word ‘far and wide’ and share the voting link with family and friends.

People can vote online at www.vtic.com.au/toptourism-town/2025finalists/halls-gap/ by 5pm on Friday, June 27.

By voting, people will go in the draw to win a luxury Melbourne escape, including two nights at a top hotel and dining experiences at some of the city’s best restaurants.

Calling On Local Clubs to Tackle Road Safety

The Victorian Government is calling on grassroots football and netball clubs to promote road safety in their communities for a share of \$700,000 thanks to the Transport Accident Commission’s (TAC) Club Rewards Program.

This year’s program aims to empower clubs to develop a culture where all players and members consider road safety before getting behind the wheel.

Now in its sixth year, the TAC Club Rewards Program allows AFL Victoria-affiliated football and netball clubs to apply for rewards of up to \$10,000 to spend on club initiatives like club transport, new equipment and uniforms or facility upgrades.

A further \$100,000 has been added to this year’s

funding pool to support more clubs in spreading the message.

More than 230 clubs earned a share of last year’s pool, with many motivated to take part after being affected by road tragedy.

As part of this year’s program, clubs will be asked to start conversations and be part of the campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding, with the tagline – “Be the difference”.

Broadford Football Netball Club, Rutherglen Football

Netball Club and South Mil-dura Sporting Club are previous recipients, and were rewarded for their campaigns and road safety themed initiatives.

Today’s launch comes as 133 people have lost their lives on Victorian roads, with more than 60 per cent of deaths happening on the same regional roads that footballers and netballers travel on for games every week. More information on the Club Rewards Program can be found

at play.afl/victoria/tacclubrewards

“Last year we supported more than 230 grassroots clubs for shining a light on road safety,” said Member for Northern Victoria, Jaclyn Symes. “We want more clubs in Northern Victoria to get involved this year to ensure every journey on our regional roads is a safe one.

“Footballers and netballers often drive hundreds of kilometres every year, travelling to and from training and matches, so road safety is something that needs to be front of mind.

“Grassroots football clubs are full of leaders. Now is the



• Jaclyn Symes.

chance for everyone to Be The Difference by becoming road safety ambassadors, making safe decisions and acting as role models to their fellow members.”

Emergency Services Blood Drive: O-Positive Start for CFA

CFA is off to a fast and meaningful start in this year's Emergency Services Blood Drive, holding strong in second place for national plasma donations and currently sitting in third place overall.

Crucially, a significant amount of CFA's 60 donations so far (equating to 180 lives saved) have been O-Positive blood types, one of the most urgently needed red cell supply levels, according to Australian Red Cross Lifeblood.

Running from 1 June to 31 August, the Lifeblood campaign sees emergency service organisations across Australia compete to give the highest number of blood and plasma donations, all while helping save lives.

CFA Deputy Chief Officer Rohan Luke joined representatives from other emergency services at an event at the Melbourne Donor Centre on June 1, to launch the blood drive.

"One donation can save up to three lives," Rohan said.

"33,000 blood and plasma donations are needed across Australia every week to meet demand.

Right now, levels of O negative and O positive blood have dropped to their lowest point since 2023.

"If you've been thinking about donating, now's the time."

125 Times

Bittern Fire Brigade member Jackie Crow, who has the

universal O-Negative blood type, has donated blood and plasma more than 125 times and is once again rolling up her sleeves for the cause.

"I first started donating because a friend asked me to come along and give it a go and I've been doing it ever since," Jackie said.

While each donation is extremely important, in February of this year Jackie was contacted for an extremely important donation, which stands out from the rest.

"The blood bank called and said my blood was urgently needed for a specific patient, not just a general supply," she said.

"I went in the very next day. I don't know who it went to, but just knowing it was going straight to someone in desperate need was incredibly special."

Jackie encourages others to get involved, especially those who may be feeling uncertain.

Quick and Safe

"It's quick, it's safe, and it's so rewarding."

In 2024, more than 14,000 donations were collected as part of the Emergency Services Blood Drive nationally,

with almost one third coming from Victoria.

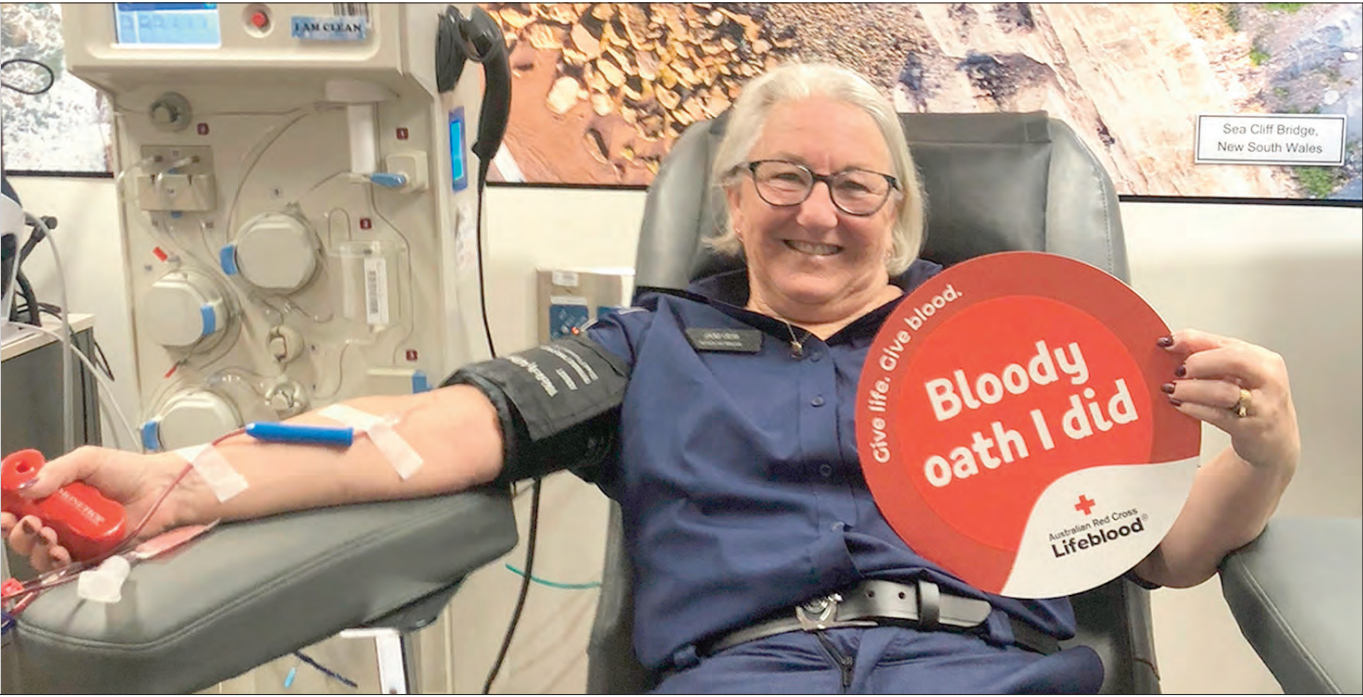
To book your donation, visit <https://link.lifeblood.com.au/DheA>, call 13 14 95 or download the Donate Blood app.

Please share this message to help Lifeblood find the donors needed most.

To find your nearest donor centre, visit www.lifeblood.com.au/donor-centre.



• Emergency services blood drive.



• Jackie Crow after donating blood.

More hours, more learning, more play



Children in Buloke Shire can now have more time to learn through play, with 16-20 hours of free Pre-Prep every week.

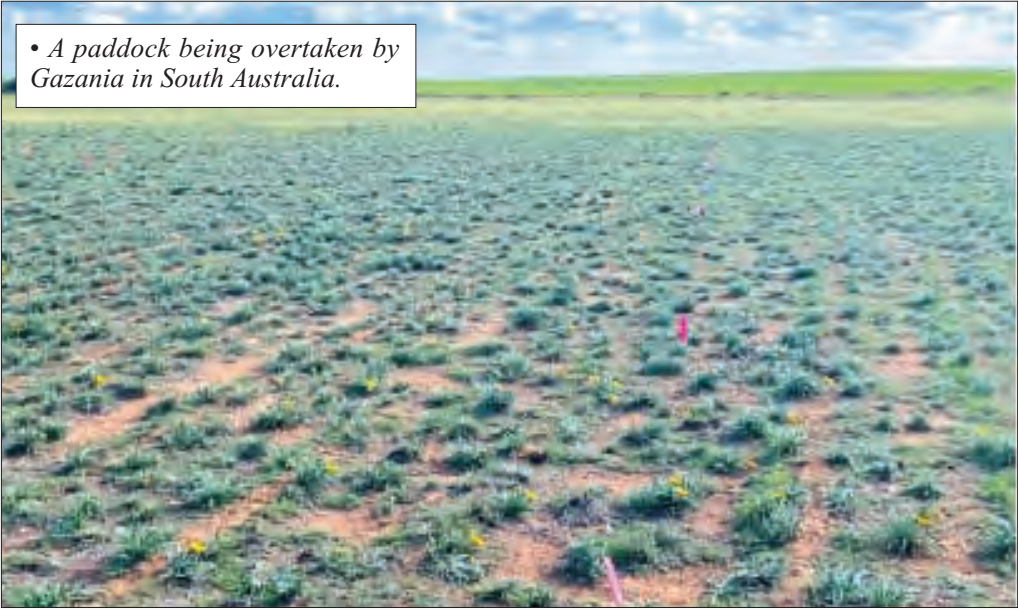
Learn more at vic.gov.au/pre-prep



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Imported Flower Poses Huge Risk: A Weed of Trouble

A La Trobe University study has found the invasive South African flower *Gazania* is more resilient than previously understood, with its ability to adapt to different environments making it one of the biggest weed threats to Australian native grasslands and grain production.

Weeds and invasive plant species, such as *Gazania*, are responsible for considerable economic losses in agriculture, estimated to cost Australia over \$5 billion annually.

Due to its flexible growth requirements, *Gazania* is now widespread in a variety of habitats including coastal sand dunes, stream banks, wastelands, open grasslands, along roadsides and on cultivated and irrigated sites in southern Australia and parts of Western Australia.

Two Varieties

Two varieties of *Gazania* were first brought to Australia as ornamental flowering plants in the 1950s and 1970s, however ended up in garden

waste as lawn clippings, seeds or other live plant material which helped them proliferate along roadsides and native vegetation.

While the flower has long been considered an environmental weed in Australia, it is now infesting grain crop production fields in low rainfall regions of South Australia, with farmers finding it difficult to control with common herbicides.

Marginal sandy lands with heavy infestations of *Gazania* are quickly becoming unproductive with crops quickly failing to compete with the drought hardy and vigorous weed.

Study

Muhammad Adnan, a PhD student in Dr Ali Bajwa's Weed Science group at La Trobe Institute for Sustainable Agriculture and Food (LISAF) and the Department of Ecological, Plant and Animal Sciences collected thousands of seeds from environments across Australia and studied how they grew under various conditions.

The study, published in *Frontiers in Agronomy*, found the seeds had a high tolerance for a large range of environmental factors, including light levels, hot and cold temperatures, seed burial depth, salt and acidity levels in the soil, and moisture.

Mr Adnan said this showed the seeds had adapted to germinate over a wide range of environmental conditions, suggesting they could become a problematic weed across all seasons in most parts of Australia, leading to potential high infestation levels.

"While further populations should be compared for emergence response under field conditions, these preliminary findings suggest this weed has the potential to develop significant seedbank in Australian no-till grain production systems," Mr Adnan said.

Management

Dr Bajwa said this knowledge of seed germination triggers and emergence dynamics should help to predict potential regions of spread of *Gazania* and help develop and apply management strategies with respect to different environmental conditions.

"While this information is crucial for managing this highly problematic weed at the establishment stage (germination and emergence), further research is needed on growth and reproductive response of *Gazania* to different environmental conditions," he said.

"This will help understand the invasion ecology and develop long-term management strategies for different land-use scenarios for this weed, which is rapidly spreading across Australia."

Rural Men Urged to "See Your GP"

This International Men's Health Week (9-15 June), the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) is backing the national "See Your GP" campaign launched by Healthy Male and the Centre for Male Health.

The campaign urges men to prioritise their wellbeing and book a health check.

ACRRM President Dr Rod Martin says the campaign's message, "Before you take everyone else's advice, talk to your doctor", is especially vital for men in rural, remote, and First Nations communities.

"Too often, rural men put off seeing a doctor, whether it's due to distance, busy workloads, or the old attitude of 'she'll be right'," Dr Martin says.

"But the truth is, early checks and conversations with your doctor can save your life – and your Rural Generalist (RG) doctor is there to help you, not judge you."

"Recent data shows men living in very remote areas die up to 13 years earlier than those in cities, and rates of potentially avoidable deaths are two and a half times higher.

"Many of these deaths are entirely preventable.

"When you live outside the urban footprint, you can't afford to delay your healthcare," Dr Martin emphasises.

"Having a regular check-in with your RG is one of the most important things you can do for yourself and your family.

"RG's live and work in rural and remote communities, and they have knowledge and understanding of the unique mental and physical health risks men face."



• Dr. Rod Martin.

ACRRM continues to advocate for a strong RG workforce, better access to services, and training that ensures RGs have the unique and advanced skills needed to serve rural and remote communities who are most in need of specialised healthcare.

While Supporting 189,000 Jobs... Red Meat Industry Sets New Records

The Australian Meat Processor Corporation's (AMPC) recent Socio-economic Impact Report (The Report) reveals red meat processing's significant contribution to Australia's national economy and employment.

The industry now proudly supports a record 189,487 jobs across the nation, an increase of over 50,000 since 2022.

Over the past five years, red meat processing has seen sales revenue, average income per employee and industry employment all climb to new heights nationwide. The impressive results reflect the key role local red meat processors play in the Australian economy and the significance of their contribution, especially to regional communities.

AMPC research indicates that over the last five years, sales revenue from the red meat processing industry has increased by 37.7 per cent. This supports recent data that revealed 2024's volume of red meat sales broke new records across key categories, including beef, lamb, goat, and mutton – the first time that all varieties shattered records in the same year.

As a globally recognised, high-quality product, Australian red meat was supplied to over 50 countries in 2024, proving that the sector continues to benefit from strong demand from both domestic and diversified export markets.

The financial stability a career in red meat processing offers individuals and communities is unlike any other industry in our regions, and processors are proud to be an economic pillar of regional Australia. The industry's contribution to national employment is significant, with The Report revealing that local red meat processors directly employ 39,500 Australians, with a greater 189,000 FTE jobs supported across all industries.

There has been a 6.8 per cent increase in employment in the last five years, with this

impressive growth reflecting an industry that proudly prioritises the training, development and wellbeing of its growing workforce. In 2024, the Australian red meat processing industry contributed over \$24 million to household income from employed persons across all industries, a contribution of 1.32 per cent of total Australian household income in the same year.

AMPC Interim CEO Edwina Toohey said, "The impact of red meat processing on regional Australia goes far beyond the data conveyed in the AMPC Social-economic Impact Report.

"It is important to quantify the tremendous contribution that red meat processors make to the livelihoods and health of regional communities. The results deepen the understanding that our work is essential to the prosperity of rural towns.

"It is the entire red meat

supply chain that keeps regional Australia afloat. Whether you're involved in livestock, processing, transport, retail or purchasing, every individual makes a difference to the world-class standards of our industry.

"The red meat processing industry has a role for everyone. No matter your background, skills or qualifications, we encourage all Australians to reach out to their local processor to find out how to get involved," she said.

The Report provides further, in-depth data on red meat processing's contribution to Australia's prosperity, revealing the total monetary value of sales, value added, industry employment and household income at a national, state and territory and for the first time, local government level. This information will help processors convey their value to local communities and economies.

Letters to the Editor



Real Aussies

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Editor.— In response to the letter in the *Buloke Times* by Tim – I don't think you realise how passionate we are about our way of life, our livelihoods and the love for agricultural farming that we have here in our communities.

Maybe you have never put in the blood, sweat and tears that makes us love what we have and feel an immense sense of pride in what we have achieved by persevering through good and bad times.

These are the real Aussie battlers who are prepared to face all obstacles, and fight for their land in any way they can.

Margaret Stebbins.

The Signs

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Editor.— Since the debate on turbines, mines and lines has been reopened in the "Buloke Times", albeit regarding how we discuss our differences, I would like to offer an argument in favour of the signs placed around the community.

As I stated in a previous letter, Sir Thomas More, ven-

erated in the Catholic Church as Saint Thomas More, said, "Silence gives consent."

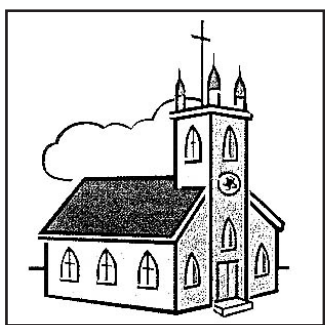
I feel the only redress we have to the fact that these projects have been progressed for so long in secrecy, now that we know about them, surely we have the right to give our opinion. Signs are just signs, not as destructive or ugly as turbines visible nearly to the horizon, huge towers and lines across neighbours' land [compulsorily acquired], mines [also compulsorily acquired], and buffer zones affecting neighbours' land.

As a personal example, I fear for the future of Tchum Lake, with the possibility of a mining company having first preference on water [as has happened in the past] and the dust and contamination, lights, trucks and activity 24/7 unimaginable next to a popular lake.

We have been lied to, misled and often ignored by governments and companies, and signs seem a legitimate way of getting our message across to the wider community.

Judy Living,
Birchip

† 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 8.30 a.m.

Boort 10.30 a.m.

(Livestream in)

Banyena No Mass

Charlton (Sat.) 7.00 p.m.

Donald 10.30 a.m.

(Livestream out to churches without Mass)

St. Arnaud 10.30 a.m.

(Livestream in)

Wycheproof 10.30 a.m.

(Livestream in)

Fr. Gerry Prunty

0419 247 779

Parish Co-ordinator

– Noeline Hogan: 0476 617 976

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THE UNSAID
SAYS A LOT



Blast from the Past

(From the "Donald Times", June, 1925)

June 2, Postmaster on Trial. At Donald General Sessions. On Wednesday, May 27, before Wilfred C. McOwan, postal inspector, detailed the result of his inspection of the accused's money order cash account in April last, and the finding of the deficiency which the accused admitted. He stated that, apart from the deficiency, the office had been managed very satisfactorily.

The accused pleaded guilty, and was committed for trial at Donald General Sessions on 16th June. Bail was allowed on the accused's own of recognisance of £50. Mr. J. G. Freeland offered himself as surety, and was accepted.

Detective Holland of the Postal Department, prosecuted for the Commonwealth, and Mr. A. McLuckie (instructed by Mr. J. E. Don) represented the accused.

June 5. Duck Shooting. Local sportsmen have seized the opportunity presented by the King's Birthday on Monday next to organize another "opening" at Lake Buloke in the early hours of the morning. In order that it may be more successful, shooters in the St Arnaud, Birchip and Charlton districts have been notified of the proposal, and those responsible for organising the "day out" are hopeful that they will turn out in large numbers, "the more the merrier".

June 9. Holland's Bank. Stawell Still Protesting. At last week's meeting of the Kara Kara Shire Council, a

letter was received from the Shire of Stawell, intimating that at the last meeting of the council consideration was given to the matter of Holland's Bank in the Kara Kara Shire Council's territory. It was decided to draw Attention to the necessity of making provision for a waterway through the Bank to provide for the discharge of flood waters. It was requested that the matter be given immediate attention. Cr. Petrie moved and Cr Arbuckle seconded that in view of the decision of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, no action be taken. The motion was carried.

June 12. A Double Misfortune. A few weeks ago Mr. S. Peters of St Arnaud was kicked by a horse, and was forced to spend some time in hospital. On Monday evening last he was engaged in unharnessing the same horse, when he received another kick, sustaining very severe injuries, which necessitated immediate medical attention.

June 16 Obituary. The Late Mrs. M. G. Loughery.

Once again death has visited the district, removing from our midst one of the oldest and most its highly respected residents in the person of Mrs. Mary Gertrude Loughrey. The deceased lady was born at Corg, County Mayo, Ireland, on Christmas Day, 1843, and was then 81 years of age in December last. She came to Australia by the sailing vessel "Charles Gladstone" fifty-five years ago,

landing at Geelong on Christmas Day and going later to Camperdown and Mt. Moriac. She was married to the late John Todd, and after his demise, came to Donald from Lilydale, thirty years ago. Twenty-seven years ago she married Mr P. Loughery. During her long residence in Donald she had been prominently identified with business activities, and retired from the bakery business in 1921. Mr. and Mrs. Loughery then took up their residence at the corner of Woods and Campbell Streets where they again opened up in business. The deceased lady was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jno. Sweeney, of County Mayo, Ireland, and left no family, the late Mr. P. Sweeney and Mr. John Sweeney, of Litchfield, being brothers. During her residence in this district the late Mrs. Loughrey was distinguished as a capable and industrious citizen, living on to a respected old age, and being prominent in all matters connected to the church. Her death occasioned widespread regret and deep sympathy is felt for Mr. Loughery in his bereavement.

June 19. Annual Band Ball. "And the night shall be filled with music, and the cares that infest the day, shall fold their tents like Arabs, and as silently steal away.

"Devotees of the "light fantastic" are eagerly awaiting that great annual event in the local dancing world – the Band Ball. This is unfailingly one of the most popular social events of the year, and the arrangements made on this occasion reveal that every effort has been made to maintain the favourable reputation already gained. The floor will be "shinoleumed" up to the highest degree, the Donald Citizens' Band will provide tuneful music throughout the evening, supper will be provided, and the whole evening should be one of terpsichorean delectation (terpsichorean means relating to dancing).

June 23. Circus in Town. It is four years since Lloyd's circus last visited Donald, but on that occasion they earned many complimentary references as to the excellence of their entertainment. They are once more in Donald, and will show to-night and to-morrow night (Tuesday and Wednesday). Their company includes 25 start artists and 55 trained animals, and a perusal of the prize list for the riding of Gentle Annie, the docile mule, "Tomato", the school-boys' favourite, and "Rainbow", the quiet ring horse, is sufficient to advise that the fun will be "fast and furious". Popular prizes will prevail, and, although following so soon after last week's circus, the management is confident that the standard of the programme will ensure crowded houses. The location is the Railway Reserve, and the prices are 4/-, 3/-, 3/- and 1/- (plus tax).



• DHES boys marching down the street in front of the Royal George c. 1960. Brian Basset is second from the left.



• Taken c. 1952 at St. Mary's and shows Joy Bandy, Ann Sheridan, Maree Bertalli and Kathryn Young (now known as Kate). The lady speaking to them is Mrs. Alice Helene Dellavedova.

June 26 Masquerade Ball. What promises to be a most interesting fixture in the Dancing season, is the Masquerade Ball which will take place in the Memorial Hall on Friday, July 3. All MUST wear masks, and prizes will be given for various sections as advertised. Novelty dances will be held, and a set supper will be served. A limited number of stage seats for onlookers may be obtained at a cost of 1/- each. Admission charges for those taking part are advertised elsewhere.

June 30 Accident at Flour Mill. A wave of deep anxiety swept through the town when it became known that a serious accident had befallen Mr. C. Henderson, an employee of the Burnley Flour Mill, Donald. It is not known definitely how the accident had occurred, as the injured man was found unconscious in the basement among the machinery. Nobody was at hand when the unfortunate affair took place, but, when the unconscious man was discovered, it was at once discerned that he was seriously injured. Medical aid was immediately summoned, and the sufferer was ordered to the St. Arnaud Hospital. At about 6 o'clock on Friday evening he was taken on a goods train, which pulled up at the north-western crossing. Mr Henderson was then taken out of the guard's van and placed in the ambulance which was in readiness. When admitted he was in a low condition suffering from a fractured jaw and severe

contusions to the head. His condition continued to be a serious one over the weekend, and enquiries made previous to going to press elicited the fact that a very slight im-

provement was perceptible. Mr Henderson is well known in this district and in Wedderburn. In 1920 and 1921 he was the captain of the Donald football team.

May Historial Enquiries

Greg and Fiona Fox visited the Donald archives as they are interested in compiling the Fox Family History. Greg is one of the six sons of Danny Jr. and he grew up in Donald, attending St Marys and McAuley College and then left with the family for Queensland, as a teenager. The Fox family farmed at Laen for 4 generations and there was plenty of information at the Archives to get them started.

Kaye Wade wanted information on the Kent family who settled in the Granite Flat area, Corack East. Her Great Grandfather, Thomas Kent, selected land very near to the current Granite Flat church in 1874. In 1894, he selected further land near Lalbert, in the County of Tatchera, and the Kents subsequently left Corack East and moved up to that land. There was little to tell Kay except that her forebears would have attended the first Granite Flat School, which was next to their selection.

Christina Manuel, daughter of Harry who taught at St Marys School in the 1970s

would like photos of her father if there are any. The archives does not have many St Marys class photos for the 1970s and 1980s so if someone was willing to bring theirs in we would love to make copies and see if we can help Christina in her quest.

Rae Martin brought in some lovely old Bibles and religious books from the early 1900s. They were each inscribed to members of the Perry family of Hopetoun, as were a couple of colourful Certificates from the Hopetoun Methodist Sunday School. We have offered the items to the Hopetoun Historical Society and are awaiting an answer.

Sharon Basset Douglass has sent some more farm and other photos of the Arthur Basset family. One is of DHES boys marching down the street in front of the Royal George c. 1960. Brian Basset is second from the left. It will be interesting to see if anyone else can pick themselves out in the photo. It looks like the DHES (or DHS) house teams were on parade.



Neighbour Benefit Schemes are entirely optional

As we develop a wind farm, we work with the neighbours of our host landholders to answer questions and concerns. For many projects, we develop a Neighbour Benefit Scheme to provide an annual financial incentive to those living close to wind farms.

The Neighbour Benefit Scheme is entirely optional. It's an opt-in scheme designed to share the financial benefits of the project with nearby neighbours.

Eligible participants can join or exit the scheme at any time. Being part of the NBS does not prevent a neighbour from having their say to any approvals required for the project.

At no point will anyone be pressured to sign. Our priority is simply to ensure all eligible neighbours are informed of this opportunity.



Learn more about the Neighbour Benefit Scheme on our website.

www.w-wind.com.au
reception@w-wind.com.au
03 5421 9999



Remember When . . ?

It is a fair assumption that Victoria has ever held such an historic Clearing Auction of motoring memorabilia and rare farm equipment, including stationary engines. Over 450 lots are assembled over three paddocks, over two properties at Yandoit and Muckleford, all to be auctioned online, Sunday, June 22.

Ringmaster of the auction, Murray Evans explains how the mega size clearing auction fell into place.

The starting point was when local identity Stephen O'Connor decided to step back from his passion projects, his vast collection of passenger cars, vintage trac-

tors and cropping equipment is up for auction.

Stephen is President of the local Mount Alexander Vintage Engine Club who mentioned his auction and other members wanted to list their rare tractors, and machinery, so the vendor list doubled overnight. Only a few items

have a reserve price, so there are bargains to be had at yе olde, yesteryear's prices.

The auction catalogue has something for everyone, from normally impossible to find spares, tractors to be rebuilt and re-purposed and passenger cars just longing for a spruce up.



• Lot 164, early 1960's Vanguard 4 door sedan. 6cyl engine. 4 speed manual. Cannot get bonnet open, rust in usual place, no reg no rwc. As is where is.



• Lot 200, 1952 Fordson e27n tractor. Has some componentry. Petrol/kero tank. Good for restoration. As is where is.



• Lot 200a, 1975 Dodge dn5 400 truck. 4spd manual. 6354 perkins. 53706 miles. Tray approx.-4700. Vendor assures it runs, but hard to get going. Missing passenger door. Vehicle no. dn54780a/fk12-0762. No reg no rwc.



• Lot 115, International harvester stationary engine no. bx2884. speed 600. 3hp. In running condition.



• Lot 128, Fordson tractor with grader blade attachment. Blade approx. 2130w. Does not run, needs work. Good restoration project.



• Lot 285a, Universal 445 tractor with fork attachment. 2419 hours. 3pt linkage, pto & tow hitch. Does run, but has clutch issue so won't drive. No reg no rwc. As is where is.



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Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

The Victorian and Federal governments are acting in concert to raid desperate farmers for money when they are on their knees, Member for Mallee Dr Anne Webster said this week.

“Meanwhile, the Federal government’s greedy land tax is only off the table for one year due to farmer protests, but there are two common themes here.

“It’s no coincidence that Victorian Labor’s struggle to



"While we need to drought-proof Mallee and regional Australia, we also need a Labor-proof fence to protect Mallee farmers from greedy, out-of-touch and uncaring Labor governments."

The Nationals' Member for Mildura, Jade Benham has welcomed the announcement of a new Youth Crime Prevention Program (YCPP) for Mildura.

Sunraysia Community
Health Services and Hands

“This is a welcome step, but the work doesn’t stop here. We must continue backing local solutions, listening to community voices, and



ensuring programs like this are properly resourced and here to stay.”

† CHURCH † NOTICES †



Speaker: Ross Barnes
Baptist Union of Victoria

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

† Church Notices †

**2025.25 | 7 YEARS ROADSIDE
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MY 2025.25 Ranger DualCab, Wildtrak, 3.0 Ltr V6 Dsl, 10 Spd Auto 4x4, Meteor Grey, Leather Accented Seats, Wildtrak Premium Pack **\$77,600** Drive Away



MY 2025.25 Ranger DualCab/Cab Chassis, XLT, 3.0 Ltr V6 Dsl, 10 Speed Auto 4x4, Meteor Grey, Premium Cloth Seat Trim, Upfitter Aux 6 Switch Pack, Bull Bar, Scrub Bars & Air Bags **\$76,400** Drive Away (Tray extra)

MY 2025.50 Everest SUV Trend Tremor, 3.0 Ltr V6 Dsl, 10Spd Auto 4x4, Command Grey, Premium Tremor Embossed, Leather Accented, Touring Pack, Premium Towing Pack, Rough Terrain Pack

\$89,000 Drive Away



MY 2025.25 Ranger DualCab Pickup, Sport, 3.0 Ltr V6 Dsl, 10Spd Auto 4x4, Meteor Grey, Sport Embossed Seats, Touring Pack, Mandatory Pro Trailer Backup Assist **\$73,700** Drive Away

MY 2025.25 Ranger DualCab, Wildtrak, 3.0 Ltr V6 Dsl, 10Spd Auto 4x4, Arctic White, Leather Accented Seats, Wildtrak Premium Pack **\$76,900** Drive Away

MY 2025.00 Mustang Fastback GT, 5.0L Petrol,
10Spd Auto, Oxford White, Sport Seat (Black Onyx Leather Accented)
\$89,500 Drive Away

Michaels of Donald

13-15 McCulloch St, DONALD Ph. 54971203 LMCT 6873



• Birchip Probuss president, Brian Lea, with the May meetings guest speaker Kath Horton.

Satellite-to-Mobile Messaging: *A Giant Leap Forward*

Shadow Regional Communications Minister, Dr Anne Webster, says Telstra’s team-up with Starlink to deliver rural, regional and remote mobile connectivity is a “fabulous step forward” for people in the bush.

“This is the biggest breakthrough we’ve had in regional communications for some time. I’ve been talking about working through satellite as being the only real solution for a long time,” Dr Webster said.

Great Innovation

The Shadow Minister met with Telstra executive for technology engagement, Channa Seneviratne, in Mildura, and other executives who were excited about this great innovation linking Telstra devices to Starlink’s Direct to Cell satellites.

For now, Telstra customers can text message using the satellite service on Samsung

Galaxy S25 handsets but Apple devices, and full voice call capability, is expected by 2027. Finally providing connectivity where there is no mobile coverage.

TPG and Optus are understood to be also developing their own mobile-to-satellite capability with Lynk Global and Starlink respectively.

“Labor’s UOMO (Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation) needs to be defined ensuring there is, at the latest, a 2027 timeline for voice calls.

Unique Nation

“Australia is a unique nation with small population and large distances. This is a

genuinely regional solution for a ubiquitous problem we all experience if we live and work in the regions,” Dr Webster said.

“I hear from locals about it often. I thoroughly support this great leap forward for rural Australians.

“This will also be an important development for our emergency services employees and volunteers in the bush where it is dangerous to have black spots during natural disasters or accidents. Even so, travellers in remote areas should always let family or friends know their plans or take extra communications precautions.

New Emergency Services Tax: “Premier Refuses to Answer”

The Nationals’ Member for Mildura, Jade Benham, has slammed Premier Jacinta Allan for refusing to justify why farmers are being charged up to four times more than other landholders under Labor’s new emergency services tax.

During the Parliamentary Accounts and Estimates Committee (PAEC) Inquiry into the 2025 26 Budget Estimates, Ms Benham repeatedly asked the Premier to explain why primary producers were being unfairly targeted while facing the compounding pressures of drought, skyrocketing input costs and tightening margins.

“The Premier has chosen to make our farmers pay the highest price, without any justification,” Ms Benham said. “These are people who endure blood, sweat and tears to feed and clothe us, yet the Government chooses to pun-

ish them by taxing them more.

“When asked directly, the Premier had no answer. The Premier’s lack of regard speaks volumes about her priorities, and our primary producers are clearly not one of them.”

Clarity Needed

Ms Benham later addressed the Minister for Emergency Services, pressing for clarity around the base funding level for the Country Fire Authority (CFA), a basic figure she said should be transparent and readily available. The Minister was unable to provide an answer.

“If this tax is truly about supporting our emergency services, then the Minister should be able to clearly state what the base level of funding for the CFA is,” Ms Benham said. “Labor’s continued evasive answers only reinforce the fact that they cannot explain or defend this decision.”

Ms Benham said the government continues to dodge critical questions, revealing that the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund is not about strengthening services, but about repairing a broken budget caused by Labor’s financial mismanagement.

Probians Welcome Kath Horton

Guest speaker to Birchip Probuss’s May meeting was Kath Horton who with a power point presentation, showed many interesting pictures to illustrate her talk about her family’s work and life in the Arnhem land area during the years between 2006 and 2015.

Many of us have met Kath over the years as she and her family visited the late John and Bev Horton, parents of Kath’s husband David.

Kath was born in Alice Springs in 1972, so the top part of Australia is well known to her. Her father was a police officer. After Kath and David married in 2002 they began their missionary work together with the MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) and then Arnhem Land became their homeland and Nhulunbuy their main home base. Planes used were World War 2 planes when the Mission began in 1951 and they operate in 31 countries worldwide.

Needs

The spiritual and physical needs of the people who live in isolated communities are the work areas of the MAF. Until 1935, many indigenous people in remote area of Timor, New Guinea and islands had not had contact with white people. The early Dutch explorers were their first contact as well as Maccasans and Indonesians. Kath felt that it took her a couple of years to be fully accepted, partly because she was a stay-at-home mother, which was unusual to the people there.

Eventually she was “adopted” by one of the Elder

women and accepted into her family. There were many problems that she could help with as a mother and teacher and often had extra people to help look after. David was working on maintenance of the planes used. Some family violence and problems with drink were all too familiar, also gambling; and help was needed with children and young women from time to time.

It was very hot and the humidity was hard to get used to, but the beaches were lovely, the sunsets incredible and the people were friendly and grateful for help.

Festivals

Festivals such as Christmas and its Christian traditions were accepted very willingly. Christmas carols were popular and part of the celebration. Kath’s photos and film by the Christian Film Industry were very interesting and showed us what the country they lived in looked like.

Mail was sometimes delayed but generally food supplies were pretty good. Turtle eggs were a treat as well as cassava, which was a potato substitute and tasted delicious Kath said.

The Horton children attended the Yukala school for a while but generally Kath home schooled them. There is a lack of work, particularly for men, who then can become unused to actual work and want “sit down” jobs. The children played happily with the local children and gained lots of friends. Shady Beach was beautiful but also a haven for buffalo, so a bit dangerous.

Yothu Yindi, the band, is well known from there. There is some mining for minerals as well as some farms, bananas and cassava being two crops.

Kath answered lots of questions and we all felt more aware of the part of Australia they have called home for such a long time. Kath was given a small gift and joined members for a delicious Sharp’s Bakery lunch.

“Times” Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8180 - SOLUTIONS

Across - 1, Chef. 7, Scoundrel. 8, Rung. 9, Palm. 10, Aria. 11, Isis. 14, Phlegmatic. 16, Astrologer. 19, Ease. 22, Stem. 24, Room. 25, Prop. 26, Contralto. 27, Slay.
Down - 1, Corgi. 2, Ennui. 3, Scrawl. 4, Nutmeg. 5, Idea. 6, Delicious. 12, Sensation. 13, Spur. 15, Acre. 17, Lariat. 18, Grotto. 20, April. 21, Empty. 23, Moth.



Come and talk to us

VicGrid has released the draft 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan.

It sets out proposed renewable energy zones and transmission projects our state will need to keep Victorians connected to safe, reliable and affordable power.

Want to learn more and have your say?

Visit our community hub in Kerang

36 Victoria St, Kerang

Every Tuesday, 20 May to 17 June 2025, 10am to 3pm

To find out more or request an appointment, visit: engage.vic.gov.au/vicgrid
Or call us on 1800 418 341



Living Life with an Attitude of Gratitude

It was 43 years ago when the parents of Nick Vujicic were shocked and devastated after seeing their baby son born into the world without arms or legs!

They had no warning. They had never seen anyone without arms and legs before. How could their young son ever scratch an itchy spot on his skin let alone walk or run or even write with a pen? How could he ever clean his teeth, blow his nose or even comb his hair?!

Nick Vujicic's life without limbs scenario was confronting news. It is a reminder that all sorts of issues, good and bad, may impact us in the journey of life.

Choices

Perhaps you know of someone who has just heard tough news from their local doctor about a devastating

health diagnosis or disappointing news from a bank manager who says you have reached your overdraft limit!

Other people are struggling with a relationship breakdown or an ugly bullying situation in the workplace or school or enduring drought conditions on the farm. All difficult challenges in the journey of life.

Nick Vujicic's lack of limbs birth was caused by the very rare Tetra Amelia syndrome. As Nick grew, he had to make major choices in life. He could respond two ways to this disability – give up in despair, or use his "Life without Limbs" as a platform to share

a message of example and hope to the world. Thankfully he chose the latter!

Many years ago my wife and I, as part of a local church in northern Victoria, invited Nick to tell his story at various meetings around the district including the local secondary college. In this college with hundreds of students present Nick spoke on the topics of depression, self-esteem, bullying and hope – very relevant topics for young people in today's world.

Nick also shared many stories and demonstrated a repertoire of skills. For example, he can type 43 words a minute on a keyboard with his "flip-

per" (the remnants of a foot). He had us all fully engaged, and shocked silence reigned as he shared how he was bullied terribly at school because he was seen to be "different". He also struggled with depression, loneliness and purposelessness.

One day Nick's mum had him read an article about a severely disabled man. She told him, "Nick, God's going to use you. I do not know how. I do not know when, but God's going to use you."

Nick came to the conclusion, "I have a choice, to either be angry at God for what I do not have or be thankful for what I do have. That's when I started seeing that there is no point in being complete on the outside when you are broken on the inside.

I found out that God can heal you without changing your circumstance. So I gave my life to Jesus Christ."

Why?

Nick read in the Bible about a man who was blind from birth. People asked Jesus, "Why was this man born that way?" Jesus answered, "It was done so that the works of God may be revealed through him." (John 9:3).

Nick realised that if God could use a man born blind then He could use Nick without arms and legs! Nick learnt to live life with "an attitude of gratitude", being grateful for what he had rather than focus on what he did not have. Life is still not easy for Nick, but he has had the privilege of sharing his story to literally millions of people around the world, including the Prime Ministers of nations, the inmates of gaols and

crowds in sporting pavilions. In the northern Victorian Secondary College presentation I witnessed such was the impact of his message and persona that at the close of the meeting there was a standing ovation from the whole student body and every student lined up to give Nick a hug. Nick jokingly replied, "Sorry I can't hug you back!"

Now Nick can honestly say that he is grateful that he was born without limbs because this has given him a platform to share his message of hope.

When we despair of the circumstances of life – reach out to Jesus – as Nick did and seize the opportunities which life provides for us.

Live life with an attitude of gratitude being thankful for what we have rather than focussing on what we don't have. Have a great day and use it wisely and well.

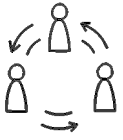
Bruce Stewart.

Community Update



L-R – Members of the Buloke Advisory Group - Les Cooper, Darcey Poyner, Savannah Nicholls, Fletcher Holmes - Brown

Buloke.



Employment Opportunities with Buloke

Council is an equal opportunity employer. Our roles are non-gender specific, and Council encourages all suitably qualified applicants to apply. For more information on equal opportunity, call Human Resources on 1300 520 520.

You can find all current employment opportunities at www.buloke.vic.gov.au/employment

Buloke Youth Festival on the way

Young people across the Shire will help shape a brand-new event this September, following a successful funding boost from the Victorian Government.

Buloke Shire Council has received **\$2,000** through the **Victorian Youth Fest 2025** program to support A Celebration of Buloke Young People — a youth-led festival being planned by Council's Youth Advisory Group.

The festival will be held during the school holidays and is expected to feature live music, hands-on activities and opportunities for young people to share their ideas, talents and interests.

The project will promote positive images of young people, create inclusive spaces for connection, and give local youth a leading role in shaping an event for their community.

Council acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government.

NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PLANNING PERMIT

The land affected by the application is located at **Boort-Charlton Road, Charlton VIC 3525.**

The application is for a permit for the **Three-lot subdivision of land (re-subdivision).**

The application reference number is **PA25018.**

You may view the application and supporting documents on the **Buloke Shire Council Website** <https://buloke.greenlightopm.com/planning> or by making contact with the office of the Responsible Authority, **Buloke Shire Office, Wycheproof** on 1300 520 520.

This can be done during office hours and is free of charge. Any person who may be affected by the granting of the permit may object or make other submissions to the Responsible Authority.

An objection must be made to the Responsible Authority in writing, include the objectors name and contact details, include reasons for the objection, and state how the objector would be affected. An online submission form is available at <https://www.buloke.vic.gov.au/planning-applications-on-exhibition>.

The Responsible Authority will not decide on the application before **26 June 2025.**

If you object to the application, the Responsible Authority will tell you it's decision.

Final Reminder for Pet Registration

There are still around **120 pet owners** in Buloke who have yet to register their furry friends for 2025.

Pet registration renewals were due on **10 April**, and any outstanding registrations must be finalised within the next **7 days** to avoid a **\$395 infringement notice.**

Payment can be made:

- **In person** at our Wycheproof Customer Service Centre (8.30am – 5.00pm, Mon–Fri)
- **By mail** Buloke Shire Council, PO Box 1, Wycheproof VIC 3527

Keeping pets registered ensures our records are up to date and helps us return lost pets home safely.

2025–2026 Recycling Collection Calendars Now Available

The updated Waste and Recycling Collection Calendar for the 2025–2026 financial year is now available.

There are no changes to the collection schedule from the previous year.

Printed copies can be picked up from the Wycheproof Customer Service Centre during business hours.



Phone: 1300 520 520
www.buloke.vic.gov.au



Call for Urgent Consideration

Statement from Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Emma Kealy.

As drought continues to spread across Victoria, I am hearing from an increasing number of producers who are managing the demands of livestock, farm finances, household costs, the wellbeing of their families and their own mental health.

Ahead of the Drought Response Taskforce's first meeting tomorrow, I am calling for it to urgently consider:

Access to affordable stock water from all possible water points, including the desalination facility as well as treated waste water from Western and Eastern Water Treatment Plants.

Freight assistance for fodder, water and livestock agistment.

Expand access to existing mental health supports across the state, including allowing the family members of students to access the mental health practitioners in schools program to support farming families, and to work with Mental Health Victoria to unlock and expand both professional and evidence-based grassroots mental health support and resilience programs.

These measures will provide much needed support to primary producers as they battle ongoing drought conditions.

These drought conditions are impacting now and anticipated to last for the foreseeable future.

The Victorian Government must stand ready to immediately fund all recommendations put forward by the Drought Response Taskforce and assist producers with meaningful and ongoing support in a timely and effective manner.

The Liberals and Nationals will continue to support and engage with primary producers and provide their valuable feedback directly to government.

Order Your Rubber Stamps

from the

“BULOKE TIMES”

**McCULLOCH STREET,
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Range of type to choose from





• Part of the large group that attended the final session.

High School Staff and Students Excel Again

A four-week basketball program for people of all abilities has now been completed at the Donald Community Precinct.

Once again thank you to the Donald Amateur Basketball Association (Kathy Campbell) for their continued support, and the Donald High School staff (Anthony Tatchell) and students for facilitating this popular activity. The sessions were tailored for people of all abilities and backed up by some very motivating music. The students did an excellent job in encouraging and assisting the participants, and we thank them very much for their involvement.

Rhonda Allan, of the Mallee Sports Assembly (who co-ordinated the program), attended the final session. It was great to see so many people running around and having fun. Staff member Anthony could not attend the final session due to being on a school camp, so Principal Paul Aikman stepped in to assist and demonstrated that he is still very active. There was plenty of energy burned during the session. Each week staff and clients from McCalum Day Services (St Arnaud)

and Woodbine (Warracknabeal) plus other community members attended and appreciated the opportunity to play basketball once again. Well done to the Donald High School and the Donald Amateur Basketball Association for once again supporting inclusive sport & recreation. This program is an initiative of the "Access for All Abilities" program (funded by Sport & Recreation of Victoria) which focuses on inclusive sport and recreation for all levels of abilities.



• Principal Paul Aikman (far left) and student Hunter Wingfield (centre, front) assisting the participants.



• Plenty of action on the court.



• Lana Angel at Boort Veterinary Service.

Birchip Students' Work Experience

Year 10 and 11 Birchip P-12 School students recently took part in a wide range of work experience placements across the state, gaining valuable insights into various careers.

Birchip P-12 School thanks all the employers who generously hosted our students and supported them during their week of work experience.

Students travelled all over the state to complete their placements. Some students were placed in the same town; Gracie Ferrier completed a placement at Boort District Health and Lana Angel worked at the Boort Veterinary Service.

One student, Beau Haslam, reflected on her time at Swan Hill Primary School. "My favourite part of work experience was socialising with the kids and becoming friends with them," she said. "The staff were very welcoming, and I enjoyed doing my work experience with them. I would highly recommend attending Swan Hill Primary School for work experience if you're interested in teaching."

Another student, Zali Angel said, "During my work experience at Macchia Jewellers in Horsham, I had the chance to learn about jewellery making and customer service. I practised polishing rings, which helped me understand the effort involved in bringing out the shine and beauty of each piece. I also created a wax mold of a fingerprint for a silver pendant necklace, which demonstrated the personalized nature of some jewellery items."



• Gracie Ferrier at Boort District Health.

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rextheatre.org.au

COMING ATTRACTIONS

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: THE FINAL RECKONING

M 170 mins | Action

Sat 14 June 8pm

Sun 15 June 2pm

Tue 17 June 8pm

COMING: **FUNNY BIRDS** M 97 mins

In A Persian Garden

SAT 21 JUNE 2PM

TICKETS: \$35

Birchip Hosts Renewables and Mining Meeting

The community of Birchip, an epicentre of three wind farm proposals and four significant mineral sands mining retention licences, played host to a community meeting addressing turbines, lines, mines and property rights on Sunday, June 1.

Three key speakers addressed an audience exceeding three hundred people from across Western Victoria, who filled the Birchip Leisure Centre to capacity.

Birchip community member, Marian Haddrick, emceed the afternoon's events, bringing the crowd up to speed on the latest developments whilst demystifying the dizzying array of acronyms that landowners and communities are currently dealing with.

These included AEMO (Australian Energy Market Operator), TCV (Transmission Company Victoria), REZ (Renewable Energy Zone), WRL (Western Renewables Link), and VNI West (Victoria to NSW Interconnector).

Marian outlined the purpose of the information gathering event to the diverse crowd.

"We want today to be about knowing your rights as landholders and community members," she said. "We want to help you to advocate for your best interests."

VicGrid's Draft 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan, released last May, no longer includes Buloke Shire as a REZ due to the lack of existing transmission lines.

Intense Opposition

Intense landholder opposition to both the Western Renewable Link and VNI West transmission lines has seen both projects significantly delayed.

VicGrid's draft map fails to acknowledge the three proposals of West Wind Energy's Wilkur Energy Park, Cubico Sustainable Investment's Curyo Wind Farm, or ACEN's Corack East Wind.

The plethora of mining overlays across prime agricultural land has many Victorian farmers worried.

The link between critical mineral mining and the production of turbines, solar panels and batteries has been confirmed by Victorian Government's Critical Minerals Roadmap and has recently featured on the Minerals Council of Australia's billboard campaign in Melbourne.

"Would You be Happy?"

In contrast, Marian discussed the community-produced No REZ Map.

"Volunteers went out into the community and sat down with people in cafes, or rang them on the phone, and then they asked the question, 'Would you be happy to host transmission lines or renewable energy zones on your land?'" explained Marian.

The vast swathes of land marked in red for "no" shows that, of the landholders contacted to date, the overwhelming majority do not support the use of rural areas as renewable energy zones.

"This document is a powerful tool and has been used to advocate to government," Marian said. "This is what true community consultation looks like."

Dominica Tannock, Principal Lawyer at DST Legal, shared her wealth of experience with the audience.

Her professional achievements have included negotiating deals for neighbours of the Bald Hills Wind Farm under nuisance laws and reducing the number of turbines at Golden Plains Wind Farm, due to its significance as a brolga habitat.

Members of the Goshen district's "Mine Free Mallee Farms", for whom she has acted, were among those in attendance.

Dominica explained that wind farm corporations are property developers proposing to, in the short term, monetise and industrialise prime agricultural land.

Noise Levels

Wind farm noise levels were of particular concern to the audience, prompting Dominica to share strategies being used around Australia to hold developers to account.

Frustratingly, the Victorian Government's recent changes to the Public Health and Well-being act now exclude people from making nuisance complaints in relation to wind farms.

Will Elsworth, Smeaton Farmer and advocate against the WRL, was refreshingly honest as he recounted the "slow moving train crash" that saw his local community implode in the face of the proposed Tuki Wind Farm.

The lure of money, especially to community organisations, proved to be a short-lived developer strategy as the town's social cohesion rapidly plummeted.

Fortunately, the proposal was no match for local resistance to the project, and the developer scrapped the proposal in late 2012.

Will, along with many in the community, worked hard to save the social fabric of Smeaton, though many wounds have been slow to heal.

Ironically, overwhelming resistance to transmission lines is proving to be one of the most uniting factors in restoring the local community of Smeaton.



• Dominica Tannock during her speech.

Mining

Mining was the final topic of the day as Ouyen Farmer, Scott Anderson, spoke of his experiences living with Iluka's Woorack, Rownack, Pirro WRP Mine on his own, and neighbouring, farmland for the past fifteen years.

The WRP Mine, a strip mine, has operated twenty four hours a day with lights, rivalling the light towers at the MCG, visible from a distance of more than ten kilometres at night, since it commenced.

While many of the affected landholders sold their land to Iluka due to inability to stop the project, Scott and his family, who had recently come home to work on the farm, stayed and commenced the lengthy process of working with lawyers and ensuring that the terms of the contract were as agreeable as possible.

With a long family connection to the land, Scott has worked hard to ensure that the land is rehabilitated correctly, providing detailed examples of challenges in doing so, including the redistribution of sub and top soils, along with ongoing salinity issues.

Scott, a long-standing member and past Chairman of Ouyen Inc., was fair and balanced in his assessments of where the community has and hasn't benefited from the mine over the life of the project.

The well attended event, funded entirely by members of the Birchip community, exceeded the expectations of the organisers and provided a timely update on the current state of renewables and mining in Victoria.



• Will Elsworth giving a passionate speech to the gathered crowd.



• Ross Johns asking questions with Marian Haddrick to his left.



• Dominica Tannock speaking in front of the large audience.

One Hundred Years Ago

From the "Birchip Advertiser", June 12, 1925.

Local and General

School Sports: The students of the High School played the ex-students football and basket-ball on Wednesday, the former winning both. He scores were basket-ball, High School 12 goals, and ex-students 8 goals. Football High School 18 goals 14 points, ex-students 2 goals one point.

Tennis: At the Mildura Carnival Tournament, Miss Connellan, of Morton Plains, won the ladies singles championship. Miss Connellan and C. W. Woolman also reached the final of the mixed doubles championship. J. J. Feeney, of St Arnaud defeated W. A. McClelland in the final of the special singles championship 6-3, 4-6.

Court News: At the recent sitting of the local Police Court, F. M. O'Donnell was granted a farm produces agent's licence. Archibald Eykens was granted an auctioneer licence. Alfred Theobald was granted a carrier's licence. About 10 cases were obtained by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission against defaulting landholders for payment of water rates and interest.

Petrol Bowser: Our enterprising garage proprietor, Mr. J. Crosbie, has installed a petrol bowser in front of his garage in Cumming Avenue.

Birchip v Donald: Football followers will have the pleasure of seeing Birchip and Donald, the leading teams, in action next Wednesday at the local football ground. As Donald are fairly confident of defeating Birchip, a close and exciting game is anticipated.

H. E. S. Hostel, an Enthusiastic Meeting: A public meeting in conjunction with the building of the High School Hostel was held on Thursday, June 6th. Amongst those present was a representative of the teachers, Shire council, and School Committee.

The meeting took the form of a round table conference in which the practicality of a scheme was discussed.

The chairman, Mr. E. Releigh, who just returned from a conference with the Minister, and director of Education, and also other leading Cabinet Members, stated that the most sympathetic support would be given by the Government, and that later

Legislation might be passed which would result in substantial financial support.

Plans were also submitted which with, modifications would be suitable for a local hostel.

The point was stressed that the success of the high school was bound up with the building of the hostel-in order to ensure a satisfactory attendance. It was stated that its absence already was preventing 12 students from Watchem attending the local school.

Two resolutions were moved and carried that the hostel be built on the High School grounds, and that it be administered by the Education Department, and that Mr. G. Genny and Mr. Lester, be appointed to interview the local residents and enlist monetary support.

The chairman, at conclusion of the meeting promised a substantial donation, and if a number of others of like mind amount are received, committees would be formed in other district towns to help to raise the full amount required.



• Back row, left to right: Cher Brien, Rhonda Porter, Marg Hobbs. Sitting, left to right: Kaye Blanchard, Penny VanBoven, Diane Wood, Mary McLoughlan, Maree Hooper, Bernadette Zagame, Dee McKenzie, Rae Heenan, Rachel Smyth holding son Freddie, Vedang Ovalekar (Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly – Horsham) Absent: Val Bourke, Jeanette Wain.

Pickleball's First Time in Charlton

It all started from the Buloke Women's Day that was conducted at Charlton Park recently.

Local Mary McLoughlan expressed a strong interest to the audience that day in starting a pickleball program. Rhonda Allan of the Mallee Sports Assembly-Wycheproof was also in attendance on that day, and discussions continued from there.

Down the track, Rhonda and Mary met up to discuss the prospect of conducting a Come 'n' Try Day to determine what interest was out there for this new, very popular activity (especially for older people, but also the younger sector).

The Charlton College stadium was the ideal venue which already has the right lines/markings for a game of pickleball. Thanks to the college for its support and assistance for the first ever pickleball session, which was conducted on Wednesday, June 4, 2025.

Fourteen keen ladies attended (men are also most

welcome) to try their skill at pickleball. It is a sport that can be "picked" up very easily, and it is not too hard on the body.

Rhonda arranged for Vedang Ovalekar from Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly, Horsham, to come along to assist with the first session. Vedang had the paddles, nets and balls for the session. He had previously assisted in getting this sport up and running in Stawell, so he was the right person to take charge for the first session. Vedang explained the rules and demonstrated where to stand on the court etc for a game of pickleball. On behalf of everyone sincere thanks to Vedang for coming along.

There will be another session next week if you could not make it the first one. Please contact Mary McLoughlan for further details. Hope to see you then.



• Plenty of action in the Charlton College stadium.



(By Course Language)

With some fantastic rain falling over the weekend there was no golf played in Donald, last weekend with the course being closed. This didn't upset anyone, as the rain was more important for the course, and the farmers in the district, than anything else.

The club did have the support of the football club on Sunday, with a great turn out for a relaxing afternoon in the clubhouse. With the club having a tough time of it on the field this year it was great to see that the team spirit is still there and we all hope that next year will see them return up to the top half of the ladder.

This Saturday night the club is holding a farewell for Matt and Berlinda Clarke. Both the golf and bowls members are invited to come as not only has Matt held many positions within the golf club, he is also the current top committee vice president. If members could bring a casserole to

share that would be greatly appreciated. Starting at 6.30.

Coming Up

This weekend is the 2nd round of the Club Championships. Also, this weekend is the Donald Pharmacy Monthly Medal and Pies Putting.

Dad Jokes

Why do spy's never break wind in bed – It would break their cover.

A mate of mine has replaced his rooster with a duck – now he wakes up at the quack of dawn.

How much does a chimney cost? – nothing, it's on the house.

My mate Phillip had his lip removed last week – now we just call him Phil.

Charlton Croquet Meets

A good number of members were present at the Charlton Croquet Club's AGM on June 3, 2025.

President Lindsay Patullo reported on a year of consolidation and that our membership has remained strong. He noted that we had a busy calendar of events and members represented the club with distinction. Lindsay commented on club improvements including updated signage which was funded through a legacy left to the club by the late Rosealie Curnow.

The Committee for 2025/26 comprises: president, Lindsay Patullo; vice-president, Barb Dalrymple; AC Captain, Anne Kenny; GC Captain, Margaret Bowen; secretary, Val Bourke; treasurer, Pat Mathews; ordinary member, Judy Stephen.

The club looks forward to another successful season in 2025/26.

• Right: Croquet Committee Standing left to right: Pat Mathews, Anne Kenny, Val Bourke. Seated: Margaret Bowen, Lindsay Patullo. Absent: Barb Dalrymple, Judy Stephen.



Down The Mid-

Twelve players took part in the third round of the Club Championships and monthly medal.

Players enjoyed the chance to play the “muddy ball rule” thanks to some recent rains. The day’s winner was our captain Kerry Raven (75 nett) with Carmen Bath (73 nett) in fine form on her return to play. Debbie Burton was our putter winner.

Nearest the pins were: Carmen Bath on Donald Auto Electrical’s 3rd, with Kerry Raven on the remaining - Weir’s 7th; Bendigo Bank 16th; Nu farm’s 14th.

Well done to all the winners and thanks to our weekly sponsor.

Keep an eye out for upcoming tournaments.

Saturday June 14th, is a Bowls/Golf Club function to farewell Matt and Berlinda Clarke. All players and life members welcome. All members please bring along a warmed casserole to share.

Wood raffle will be operating this week down the street so please contact Robert Burton if you can assist.

Next week:

Monday golf - Assemble at 9.45.

Wednesday, June 17th, 4th round of the Club Championships, stroke and putting. BYO afternoon tea to share with all players, past and present welcome to come along.

Highlights and Lowlights

Margot Paynter took the introduction of the Eagles nest literally with her trick shot still in the tree waiting to be played.

It was Maree Cullen’s turn to lose control of her buggy putting Margot in harms way.

Carmen Bath saved her energy, by utilizing her fellow players scrapes.

Brenda Brennan did her best to keep focused amid the distractions of Carol Stuchbery and Kerry Wood’s laughter a plenty golf games. Brenda finding herself in unfamiliar territory up against a tree and her putter letting her down, finding it difficult to find the “bucket” several times.

Player Profile Debbie Burton

For how long have you been playing golf? 46 years.

What do you enjoy about golf? Social side.

What’s the best part of your game? Drive and putting.

What advice would you give to anyone who is thinking of taking up golf? Just do it – good exercise.

What’s your best score? 87.

What’s the best shot you’ve ever played? Eagle on the 8th.

Your favourite golfer? Aussie Golfers.

What is your current position in the club? Player. Match Committee.



• Brenda Brennan is focused on her swing.



• A trickshot from Margot Paynter sees the ball wedged in the tree (circled in photo).

Season Reaches Halfway Mark

• Continued from page 20. misstep by the home team, Calder United should bank the four premierships points and increase its percentage.

Donald is getting plenty of game time into young footballer Brady Griffiths, Ben Arho, Luca Rice, Tom Reekie and Josh Smulders, as well as several older players with limited senior exposure, including the Atkins brothers, Nick and Daniel. But they lack the experience and physical presence of the likes of Dean Putt, Jordy Humphreys, Daniel Watts, Matt Wade and Mitch Farmer, to mention just a few.

Royal Blues’ supporters can expect a fierce contest

from their team, which needs their presence on game day, as well as plenty of vocal encouragement, so they can continue to take the fight to their opposition, even if the result may not be what they crave.

Spring in Magpies’ Sights

Boort firmed up its grip on a top four berth by outlasting Wedderburn last round, and has the opportunity to enhance its prospects of playing September football, provided it defeats the visiting St. Arnaud.

What the Magpies can ill afford to do is take the visiting St. Arnaud too lightly by anticipating the result will be

similar to their first-round meeting.

The Saints haven’t fared favourably in terms of injuries to key personnel, but their unrelenting efforts have enabled them to push most teams, culminating in a much-needed victory in round 4.

Recent additions to coach Scott Driscoll’s playing list, including Lucas Bridger, combined with the greater impact being exerted by experienced campaigner Max Hungerford, and the continued development of home-grown talents Owen Lowe and Luke Jackson, should enable St. Arnaud to be more competitive this time round.

Among the biggest challenges facing the Saints will be restricting the influence of the dynamic Jhye Baddeley-Kelly, as well as Keiren Wilson, Jimmy Keeble and Kayne Rutley.

At home, the Magpies should be able to swoop on another four valuable premierships points.

Stop press: Congratulations to Mancel Giddings, who was awarded an Order of Australia Medal as part of the King’s Birthday Weekend awards for his contribution to his community. Richly deserved recognition for a gentleman who was an outstanding footballer (four Feeny medals) and continues to be a tireless worker for his town.

Women’s Hockey Breaks Drought

The Donald women’s hockey team seems to be going from strength to strength, last week securing a draw and this week a win.

Facing the bottom team on the ladder, the Donald women’s team went into the match knowing there was a real chance to secure a win if they played their cards right.

From the opening moments, the game was on – and for most of the match, the ball stayed down in the Donald scoring end, leaving its defence largely unused, which must have been a welcome change.

Hannah Werner was first to find the net, securing Donald’s opening goal. Shortly after, a stroke was awarded against Sea Lake-Nandaly’s goalie, Jess. Unfortunately, Hannah’s shot went just wide, missing the opportunity to add a second. Donald soon earned another short corner, where Hannah made no mistake and slotted another goal past the opposition.

Sea Lake-Nandaly managed to earn a short corner themselves and got the ball into the goal, but it was ruled “no goal” due to the ball being too high. Charlotte Bicket made a great save soon after, keeping the score in Donald’s favour. Carly Pearce, Kailie Krause and Erika Bicket also stepped up, keeping the Tigers from pushing any further forward.

Louise Barber capped off the scoring, slotting Donald’s

final goal and sealing a 3-0 win. It marked the women’s first victory of the season – and with the way they’re playing, it surely won’t be their last.

Donald goals: Hannah Werner (2), Louise Barber (1).

Sea Lake-Nandaly awards: \$20 Swan Hill Wholesalers Voucher, Janelle Barbary; Club glass sponsored by Bryce Delmenico, Tristen Pogue.

Donald awards: Della Vedova, Louise Barber; Best on, Hannah Werner.

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From Donald Hockey Club: A Friendly Reminder

The Donald Hockey Club kindly asks all community members to clean up after using the facilities.

We’re lucky to have a beautiful, grassed field with secure fencing – making it an inviting spot for a walk or to let the dog off the leash. However, recently we’ve noticed dog poo being left behind.

It’s not only disrespectful, it’s upsetting. Our players – especially kids – use that field every week. They sit, lie, and play on the grass. It’s a sporting ground, not a dog toilet.

Please do the right thing. Pick it up.

Thank you for helping keep our community space clean and safe for everyone.



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Season Reaches Halfway Mark

(By Shane O'Shea)

North-Central football resumes tomorrow, when round 8 will mark the halfway point of the 2025 home-and-away season, which, unfortunately, has developed into one of the most uneven in the league's long history.

For the history buffs, this year marks the centenary of the name North-Central coming into use to identify local football.

Prior to the competition's annual meeting on April 20, 1926, held at Donald's Mt. Jeffcott Hotel, local football had been known as the North-Western District Football Association.

Delegates representing competing clubs Birchip, Watchem, Litchfield-Carron, Donald, Cope Cope and St. Arnaud, considered it advisable to change the organisation's name to North-Central District Football League (the word District has since been deleted). There is some suggestion the name change was made to bring it into line with the North-Central Fire Brigade Competition operating at the time.

It's interesting to note that only Donald and St. Arnaud remain as stand-alone clubs, with all other clubs having merged/amalgamated to survive or have disappeared from the local sporting landscape altogether.

Tomorrow

Back to the future, and tomorrow the most significant game will be the one between second placed Sea Lake-Nandaly and fifth placed Wedderburn.

The Tigers are coming off a massive percentage-boosting victory over Donald, which was nothing more than

a training drill for the victors. The Redbacks suffered a narrow loss to Boort in round 7, and now find themselves two games adrift of the top four and in danger of falling further behind.

When the two teams clashed in round 1, Sea Lake-Nandaly prevailed by 48 points. Current form suggests that after being stung into action following a round 4 loss to Boort, the Tigers have refocused themselves on the task of defending their premiership crown.

With that in mind, it will take the very best Wedderburn can produce, the home ground advantage likely to play just a small part in the day's outcome.

Stopping the array of scoring options joint coaches Billy McInnes and Bryce Delmenico have at their disposal, from Max Cahoon and Lachy McClelland, to brilliant "small" Tom Cox, means Redback coach Tom Metherell and his fellow defenders, including Ben Bacon, Corey Lowry and Sam Lockhart, will need to be right on their game.

Wedderburn's backline is also going to need the unrelenting support of its midfielders, combatting the Tigers' plethora of hard running ball carriers, while its forwards, appreciating the return of Mitch Jensen and the recent inclusion of club premiership player Andrew

Chalkley, will be confronted by the most fugal defence in the competition.

Wedderburn stormed home against Boort a fortnight ago, almost snatching victory from the Magpies' grasp. But if the Redbacks allow the Tigers to establish a similar early scoring dominance, their chances of playing finals football may well become negligible.

Sea Lake-Nandaly to win.

Gap to Widen

There's no sugar coating the potential outcomes of the three remaining round 8 games, with ladder leader Birchip-Watchem, Calder United and Boort odds-on to record significant wins over Charlton, Donald and St. Arnaud respectively.

That observation is not questioning the commitment or determination of the Navy Blues, Royal Blues or Saints. First round performances point to the fact that try as they might, they just don't have the same high level of top end talent that their opponents currently possess.

But an upset result in any of these games is just what the competition needs, to restore confidence in players and supporters.

Edwards on Record Pace

In addition to maintaining its unbeaten run this season, there is a rare opportunity for Birchip-Watchem to help one team member break a long-



• Charlton forward Billy Sexton leaps from behind Birchip-Watchem's Ben Lakin and James Lindeback, as he attempts to mark. Also pictured from left are the Bulls' Jake Noonan, the Navy Blues' Elliott Fitzpatrick and Birchip-Watchem's Lachlan Ryan during round one.

standing individual record by ensuring prolific goal kicker Ben Edwards becomes the player to achieve 100 goals in the least number of games.

Currently the record is held by former Birchip-Watchem footballer Cliff Ryan, who brought up his 100th goal in his club's 14th game of the 2006 season.

Edwards has 58 goals from just 6 games (he was unavailable in round 4), at an average of just under 10 per outing, with plenty of games and opportunities remaining to eclipse the Ryan record.

It's also worth noting that Wedderburn's Alan Jackson holds the honour of having kicked the most goals in a home-and-away season, 132

(and 1 in a semi-final), in 1980.

Football is a team game, however, and Ben Edwards is the consummate team player, so thinking about his 100th goal would be the furthest thing from his mindset.

Tomorrow, coach Ash Connick will ensure all his Bulls are focused on the challenges presented by Charlton, and the need to continue and build on their pre-bye form in the lead-up to a crucial fortnight encompassing rounds 10 and 11.

Individually and collectively, Birchip-Watchem has the depth of talent that will stretch the Navy Blues to breaking point, but not before

a determined battle, as the likes of Tom Finlay, Bailey Kemp, Bailey Dixon, Mason Heenan, Rhys Thompson and coach Mitch Collins throw everything at the Bulls in an attempt to create an upset.

Another Tough Day at the Office

Donald heads to Nullawil to confront a rampaging Calder United on its home deck, coach Daniel Pearce and his charges aiming to push the Lions every step of the way.

As with the previous game, however, the current talent divide between the Royal Blues and Lions is significant, and barring a major

• Continued on page 19.



• Calder United defender Spencer Allan bombs the ball forward, chased by Donald's Luca Rice.

GOLDACRES NORTH CENTRAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE			
ROUND 8			
SATURDAY JUNE 14TH, 2025			
	WEDDERBURN REDBACKS		SEA LAKE NANDALY TIGERS
DONALDSON PARK			
	CALDER UNITED LIONS		DONALD ROYAL BLUES
NULLAWIL REC RESERVE			
	BIRCHIP-WATCHEM BULLS		CHARLTON NAVIES
GEORGE CARTWRIGHT OVAL			
	BOORT MAGPIES		ST ARNAUD SAINTS
BOORT PARK			