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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

Northern Grampians Withdraws from Five-Council Alliance

Northern Grampians Shire Council has withdrawn from a five-council alliance created to collectively advocate to State Government on issues including transmission lines, renewable energy and mining.

The alliance, formed in February this year, also includes Buloke, Gannawarra, Yarriambiack and Loddon councils, which are all directly impacted, by or near to, the proposed alignment for the Victoria to New South Wales

Interconnector, VNI West, transmission line and proposed renewables.

Northern Grampians Shire deputy mayor Justine Hide said alliance members had been exploring common ground in relation to challenges

created by transmission line, renewable energy and mining projects in their regions.

She said after further discussions, Northern Grampians councillors had decided to withdraw from the alliance.

"Our shire is in quite a different position to the other four councils," she said.

"The vast majority of our farmers are strongly opposed to the proposed VNI West transmission line project, which is not necessarily the case in all the other shires.

"Our overriding priority as a council is to strongly support the wellbeing and resilience of

our farming community, given its vital importance to our municipality and the fact that agriculture overwhelmingly underpins our local economy."

Cr Hide said for an alliance to work, all parties needed to have common interests.

"After our initial two meetings, it became apparent that our council has less in common than the other councils

involved, particularly when it comes to VNI West," she said.

"That doesn't mean we won't work with other councils moving forward. For example, for the past two years we have run monthly online transmission forums, which have proven a valuable source of information for all stakeholders, including other councils."

• **Buloke's Clarification – Page 2**

North-Central is Netball Association of the Year

The winners of Netball Victoria's 2024 Community Awards were announced last week, celebrating the contributions of individuals, clubs, and associations to the sport across the state.

Five individuals, three associations, and two clubs received honours across eight categories, after being nominated by peers and selected by a panel of up to four in each category. The evening was officially opened and welcomed by Netball Victoria President, Carol Cathcart, during the Community Awards presentation.

The North Central Netball Association (NCNA) was named Association of the Year, a testament to its progressive leadership, innovative programs, and unwavering commitment to its members.

The prestigious accolade was accepted by NCNA's 2024 Board of Management President, Kylie Walsh, on behalf of the Board and its members. In her acceptance speech, Kylie highlighted the extraordinary volunteer efforts that have been pivotal to the association's success. "The countless hours given

by our Board volunteers, along with their unique talents and passion they bring to their roles, have set NCNA on a positive trajectory," she said.

Board of Management

After years of careful planning, NCNA transitioned to a formal Board of Management in 2023.

This innovative governance model includes volunteer delegates from each NCNA club, ensuring equal representation and fair decision-making. By reducing the administrative burden on individual clubs, the Board fosters collaboration and sturdiness in its roles, enabling the association to strengthen.

"The continuity into our second year of the Board has brought stability and a renewed sense of direction," Kylie shared. "This recognition reflects the strength of our governance model and

the expertise we've been fortunate to gain, including guidance from AFL Central Victoria during the Board's formation and over the past two years."

Pathway for Juniors

Addressing the evolving needs of the association, particularly amongst the top age junior cohort, to name but one area. NCNA introduced a new "C" reserve competition in 2024. This grade blends junior and senior players, offering a pathway for juniors to transition into senior netball, while regaining confidence and developing skills. Mentorship from senior players in this competition has been pivotal, fostering growth and camaraderie among all participants. The success of "C" reserve has strengthened NCNA's player development pipeline and demonstrated the association's commitment to providing opportunities for players at all stages of their netball journey.

NCNA's Umpire Development Program has become a benchmark for fostering a supportive umpiring culture. Over the past two years, the association has awarded 24 "C" badges, supported a "B" endorsed tester, and trained three "C" endorsed testers, significantly raising the standard of umpiring. This growth has been driven by the tireless efforts of NCNA's Umpire Co-ordinator, who has dedicated countless hours arranging mentoring, testing, workshops, and collaborating with Netball Victoria. Netball Victoria also recognised NCNA earlier this year and its successful injection of badged Umpires and the Umpire Development Program, which is against the grain of many associations and leagues.

"Our Umpire Co-ordinator Nicole Amos, has been instrumental in creating an environment where umpires feel supported and valued," Kylie said.

"Her passion, time management expertise to assign NCNA mentors and testers

• **Continued on page 2.**



• Current president, Kim Fitzpatrick (left) and 2023/24 president, Kylie Walsh with the recently received trophy for the Netball Victoria Community Awards "Association of the Year".

Our Only Bible Museum Reopens

(From Jean Reid)

Its pleasing to let the community know, that Australia's only Bible Museum has re-opened.

The museum was established in St Arnaud in 2009, but the collection officially began in 1981, when museum director Ellen Reid and her family spent 6 months collecting Bibles in the UK. Having well and truly been bitten by the collecting bug, her obsession has continued into her 80s.

Since opening the museum in St Arnaud, the eclectic collection has tripled in size,

now comprising over 3,000 items, including 3,000 year old archaeological artefacts, 16th century Bibles and numerous rare and interesting books and models.

Unlike other Bible Museums around the world, the Australian Bible Museum includes a large section of Aboriginal Bibles and extracts, including a very rare

• **Continued on page 2.**



• Ellen Reid.



• Room of Prophecies.

Buloke's Clarification

[From Buloke Shire Council]

Recent media reporting has incorrectly suggested that Buloke Shire Council, along with neighbouring councils, has entered into a \$100 million deal with VicGrid in relation to the VNI West transmission project.

This is incorrect.

A Five Shire Alliance — comprising Buloke, Yarrambiack, Northern Gram-pians, Hindmarsh, and West Wimmera — met last Thurs-day to agree on three major regional priorities to advocate for in relation to VNI West. They are:

1. Fair and equitable com-pensation for all affected farmers along the route.
2. Access to wholesale electricity prices for commu-nities hosting new generation and transmission assets.
3. Legacy housing projects to deliver long-term benefit to our rural towns.

The Five Shire Alliance will be meeting with the Vic-torian Minister for Energy on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, to advance these priorities on behalf of our region.

Buloke Shire Council has NOT entered into any deal with VicGrid, AEMO, or any other entity. Advocacy is on-going to ensure that the inter-ests of our farming and wider communities are fully pro-ected and respected.

Additionally, comments attributed to Buloke Mayor Cr Alan Getley in recent media coverage were taken out of context. Cr Getley's remarks

related to the importance of securing tangible and lasting benefits for affected commu-nities, not to the acceptance of any funding offer or agree-ment.

Buloke Shire Council re-mains fully committed to transparency, to standing up for our landholders and resi-dents, and to ensuring that any future developments respect the wishes and wellbeing of our communities.

If residents have concerns or would like further clarifica-tion, they are encouraged to contact Council directly.

Painting Workshop

Tarli Bird is the Guest Artist at the Donald Art and Photography Show.

Tarli is an artist whose work reflects a deep love for travel, often inspired by the sights and moments ex-perienced on her journeys.

Growing up in Donald, she developed an appreciation for the outdoor environment and how it changes with the seasons.

After leaving Donald, Tarli pursued her passion, studying Visual and Fine Art at Univer-sity. She has travelled exten-sively, recently completing

artist in residency in Kenya. All these travels have inspired her art in various ways.

Using a combination of spray paint, acrylic paint, and thread, Tarli builds layers to create rich textures that evoke the depth and movement of ever-changing landscape.

Workshop

Tarli is conducting a Paint-ing Workshop during the Art and Photography Show.

Tarli writes: "Mixed media landscape combining acrylic paint and hand sewing. Throughout the workshop you will create an abstract textured landscape ready to take home."

What to bring: You are en-couraged to have a photo of a landscape you have taken on your phone as inspiration to use. All other materials are provided. Cost: \$5. Bookings: Ph Charmaine 54971707 Ali-son 040313648.

North-Central is Netball Association of the Year

• Continued from page 1.

across the association, whilst mentoring emerging umpires have played a key role in ele-vating umpiring standards and ensuring the sustainability of the program."

NCNA actively acknowl-edges the achievements of its members and supporters through a robust social media presence, strengthening com-munity engagement and unity. This has been a particular focus from the Board and a specific role this season, which created an astonishing media footprint and positive environment for members and supporters alike.

"This award is a well-de-served recognition of the hard

work and dedication of every-one involved in NCNA," Kylie said. "It reflects our commitment to creating a supportive, inclusive, and for-ward-thinking environment for our members and support-ers."

Congratulations to the North-Central Netball Asso-ciation for this outstanding achievement and recognised for setting an inspiring example for community sport by Netball Victoria.

Representative Squads

The recently named squads for the NCNA Representative Teams:

17-&-Under:

Zali Angel, Jessie Fawcett, Millie Hando, Beau Haslam,

Gracie Humpreys, Lily Humpreys, Maggie Riley, Tessa Sheahan, Jada Symes, Libby Thompson. Coaches, Kylie Walsh and Claudia Lee.

15-&-Under

Milla Adams, Lana Angel, Erin Blair, Sienna Carroll, Evie Donnellon, Lana Fawcett, Asha Lee, Stella Nicolson, Prue O'Sullivan, Halle Rice. Coach, Aliza Lockhart.

13-&-Under

Rosie Fitzpatrick, Heidi Hogan, Victoria Lanyon, Grace McAuliffe, Bridget Perryman, Ashlei Poyner, Si-enna Richmond, Gemma Tynan, Willow Vearing, Imo-gen Watts. Coach, Roxy Train.



Gannawarra

Theft from motor vehicle: Between April 17 and 22, 2 heavy vehicle batteries were stolen from a vehicle parked at a business in Lyons Road, Cohuna.

Vehicle theft: At 5 a.m. on Tuesday, April 22, a white Mitsubishi Triton ute was stolen from King George Street, Cohuna. The vehicle was located later that day in Dickson's Road, Cohuna.

Vehicle theft: Between Saturday, April 26, and 9 a.m., Monday 28, a green 1998 Holden rodeo ute was stolen from a shed off Peacock Road, Kerang.

Vehicle theft: Between 10 p.m. on Sunday, April 20, and 9 a.m., Monday 21, a white 2016 Toyota Landcruiser wagon was stolen from Grigg Road, Koondrook.

Burglary: Between 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 26, and 9.30 p.m. the following day, offenders have forced entry to a home in Charlton Street, Quambatook.

Swan Hill

Arrest: At about 1 a.m. on Tuesday, April 29, police

intercepted a vehicle on Woorinen Road, Swan Hill. A quantity of what is believed to be methyl amphetamine was found in the vehicle. The 42-year-old male driver was ar-rested, charged with drug related offences and released pending summons to attend court at a later date.

Bicycle theft: Between 7.30 p.m. and 9.30 p.m. on Thursday, April 24, the victim left their black Avanti moun-tain bike in a bike rack near

the pedestrian crossing on the northern end of Campbell Street, Swan Hill. The bike was later located in Gray Street and returned to the owner. Police are yet to iden-tify the offender.

Bicycle theft: Between 4.30 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, an of-fender has stolen a blue/green mountain bike from a drive-way off Campbell Street, Swan Hill.

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Our Only Bible Museum Reopens

• Continued from page 1.

translation into Ngarrindjeri from 1864.

Tourists and visitors need several hours to take in the guided tour, with even just highlights taking an hour to observe. You don't have to be religious to enjoy a visit to the Bible Museum though, with history, unusual artworks, along with smelling biblical incense and discovering the possible fate of the lost "Ark of the Covenant" all in the mix.

A new foreign languages library has been added, which includes many early Bibles, including a very large Dutch Bible from 1702, featuring an incomplete map of Australia, and a very battered Russian Bible in early church Slavonic, from 1779, which

survived the Russian Revolu-tion in 1918.

A new addition to the museum is the world first "Room of Prophecies", which includes a 10ft tall statue from a Biblical prophecy, with the Ishtar Gate from Babylon set-ting the scene, providing a unique experience.

The spiritual aspect of being "born again" is repre-sented by the butterflies in the Butterfly Garden and flight house. Ellen, and her daughter Jean, have been breeding but-terflies since the 1970s and in their spare time, nurture cater-pillars and maintain the nectar supply in the garden. The But-terfly Garden is only open from November to May, due to the weather.

So we're thrilled to have re-opened, having been shut for covid and then flooding

repairs caused a further lengthy delay. We've had a good number of visitors in through Easter, looking for-ward to more to come.

With best wishes and praying for decent rain, Jean and Ellen.

The Bible Museum is a registered non-profit charity.

ABN: 12 873 139 250

125-133 Napier Street, St Arnaud, VIC 3478

Ph: 03 5495 1169

M: 0499 545 149

www.thebiblemuseum.co m.au/

www.facebook.com/bible-museumaustralia/

Current opening hours: Friday and Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday: 12 p.m.-2 p.m..

Other days we open by ap-pointment. Groups are strictly by appointment only.

Corack East Wind

Renewable Energy from ACEN

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

Drop-in information hub

Every Wednesday 1pm-6pm

Meet the project team, find out more and provide feedback

30 April - Birchip Leisure Centre

7 May - Charlton Park Community Bank Complex

14 May - Charlton Park Community Bank Complex

21 May - Charlton Park Community Bank Complex

www.corackeastwind.com.au

1800 498 550

info@corackeastwind.com.au

Corack East Wind



• St Arnaud Bible Museum.

Rain Holds Off for Wycheproof Ceremony

(By Roy Daykin, Communications Officer Wycheproof Sub Branch)

A significant crowd gathered in Wycheproof Centennial Park at 1045 hours under an overcast sky providing a comfortable wind free event.

There was trepidation amongst the crowd given the district is in desperate need of rain, but also hoping for the ANZAC ceremony to proceed without having to be rained off.

The event commenced at 1100 hours with a march to the Cenotaph. The Wycheproof Sub-Branch RSL marching squad was honoured to be accompanied by Ben Burrow, the guest speaker.

Graeme "Tige" Allan, President of Wycheproof Sub-Branch RSL opened the formalities by inviting placing of flags, laying of wreaths, and giving the chairman's introduction.

Mr Allan introduced Bruce (Ben) Burrow, the guest speaker to the stand.

Mr Burrow spoke with passion, punctuated with appropriate humour which kept the listeners fully engaged and informed.

Forebears

Mr Burrow gave listeners details of his forebears, some of whom came from the St Arnaud and surrounding districts, who served in the Australian Defence Forces over time. Mr Burrow made dedicated mention of descendants of local people, namely Ormond (Bill) Hetherington, James Arthur Giddings and George Edward Coatsworth, whose proud descendants were in fact in the crowd.

Mr Burrow ended his speech by reiterating the importance of the Australian Nation and its Armed Forces in



• Guest speaker, Ben Burrow.

maintaining strength, focus and dedication in our security given the uncertain global geopolitical situation we face.

Graeme Allan chaired further proceedings by inviting Corey Harrison to play "The Last Post".

Thanks

Mr Allan thanked "Gypsy" Gilleland for his dedicated organisation and execution of the Dawn Service, which Mr Gilleland organises every year. Mr Allan gave further thanks to the dedicated band, the Buloke Shire, the Wycheproof Lions Club and to Jackie Noonan for erecting the display in the Main Street of Wycheproof.

The official proceeding ended at 1140 hours just as much needed rain began to fall, with the Calder Lions Hockey Club kindly providing hot drinks and barbecue between the sporadic showers.

The crowd enjoyed the refreshments and chatting with the guest speaker and other members of the RSL and wider community.



• Cenotaph Dawn Service.



• Wycheproof RSL Sub-Branch President Graeme "Tige" Allan.



• Charlton/Wycheproof Brass Band.

As Enrolments Open for 2026... More Kinders and More Free Hours

The State Government is opening more kinders and adding more free kindergarten hours for families across Victoria – adding to the \$630 million that busy Victorian families have already saved through Free Kinder.

Premier Jacinta Allan and Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn this week visited Lollypop Creek Kindergarten in Werribee to announce the locations for new kinders on school sites and the opening of kinder enrolments for 2026.

The State Government will open new kinders at Seville Primary School, Willow Grove Primary School and Rochester Secondary College in 2027.

All three will be on school sites – helping more families ditch the dreaded double dropoff and increasing the number of kinders on school sites by 13 in 2027, creating more than 1,900 kindergarten places.

In 2026, the Government is also opening Pre-Prep – additional hours for four-year-old kinder – to 12 new local government areas. This means another 3,000 children at 130 services eligible for up to 20 hours of kinder per week.

Buloke Included

Families in the 12 local government areas of Benalla,

Buloke, Corangamite, East Gippsland, Horsham, Loddon, Mansfield, Mitchell, Pyrenees, Strathbogie, Wangaratta and Wodonga will join families in the six local government areas which started Pre-Prep this year.

The Government is also giving up to 25 free kinder hours each week to priority demographics, no matter where they live. This will help more than 5,000 children including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from a refugee or asylum seeker background and those who have had contact with Child Protection.

More than 145,000 children and their families are saving up to \$2,600 per child each year through the State Government's Free Kinder program, which is available at 97 per cent of funded kindergartens across the state.

Profound Effects

It's important. With 90 per cent of a child's brain devel-

oping before the age of five, early education has a profound effect on the way children develop and gives them the best start in life.

Since Free Kinder started in 2023, the Government has picked up the bill for Victorian families and saved them about \$630 million in education fees. This year, they'll save another \$350 million.

Enrolments are now open for 2026 – for more information families can go to www.vic.gov.au/sending-child-kinder.

Best Start in Life

"We know Victorian families are doing it tough, and Free Kinder puts \$2,600 back in their pockets every year," said the Premier.

"Free Kinder gives our littlest Victorians the best start in life but it also gives parents, particularly mothers, the freedom to go back to work if and when they choose."



Community Bank Charlton & District Grants Program

Submissions can be via the link

<https://communitybankcharlton.smartygrants.com.au/communitygrantsprogram>

Submissions close 5PM on Wednesday, May 7, 2025

"Times" Classifieds

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

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

BIRTH BURKE - HOWE

Blair, James, Layla and Tommy are delighted to announce the arrival of –

Marli Lou,
8lb - 8ozs,
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Wimmera Base Hospital.
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child for Gerard and Ali,
Allen & Carolyn to love.

Rosie Rickard is
90!

Open House
Sunday, May 4
2 p.m. onwards for
afternoon tea.
9 Campbell St, Birchip
All Welcome

DEATH CRUTCH.–

William Robert "Bill"
29/04/1941 – 28/04/2025
Bill passed away
peacefully on the eve of
his 84th birthday, with his
family and close friends
by his side.

Loved Husband of Beth.
Dearly loved father of
Sarah and Andrew.
Future father-in-law of
Lianah.
Treasured brother, brother-
in-law, uncle, great-uncle,
and friend.

In God's Care.

DEATH

DAVIDSON.— Graeme
01/06/1939 - 19/04/2025
Dearly loved husband, soul-
mate and best friend of
Marlene.
We had 60 wonderful years
together. All I have now
are beautiful memories to
keep.
I will love and miss you
forever. RIP my love.
— Marlene.

DEATH STANNARD.—

David William
Passed away peacefully
on April 26, 2025
Aged 103 years.

Devoted husband to Gwen
for 76 wonderful years.
Dearly loved father and
father-in-law of Barbara
(dec.), Dot and Garry, Ted
and Marita, Roger and
Mandi, Wally and Clare,
and Melinda and Noel.
Treasured grandfather of
14 and great-grandfather
of 21.

FUNERAL CRUTCH.–

William Robert "Bill"
A Thanksgiving Service to
celebrate Bill's life will be
held at St. Martin's Angli-
can Church, 3 Armstrong
St, Charlton on Friday,
May 9, 2025 at 2 p.m.
Following the service,
the cortege will leave for
the Charlton Monumental
Cemetery.

A Livestream of the
Service will be available
to view at
www.napierpark.com.au

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FUNERAL STANNARD.—

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vited to attend the Funeral
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Bookings: 5493 7409

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Donald Art and Photography Show Painting Workshop With guest artist, Tarli Bird

Sunday, 11th May, 2025

at 1.30 p.m. DONALD MEMORIAL HALL

Cost: \$5

See article for more details

Bookings: **Alison 0407313648** or
Charmaine 54971707

Exhibition Opening

Ri Van Veen

EDGE OF
TRANSFORMATION

Saturday, May 3
2 p.m.

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Ri Van Veen

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Exhibition closes June 22



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“Times” Classifieds

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Unit 1

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UNIT FEATURES

- 2 bedroom unit.
- New carpet and paint.
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- Camera system supply and installation
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- Underground wiring
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- Shearing Shed wiring and Maintenance
- Underground wiring
- Generator Back up Systems
- Camera system supply and installation

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Friday, May 2

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

Sunday, May 4

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

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

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

DISTRICT CATHOLIC CHURCHES “East Wimmera Parish”

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

Boort 10.30 a.m.
(Livestream in)

Banyena No Mass

Charlton 10.30 a.m.
(Livestream in)

Donald 8.30 a.m.

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

Wycheproof 10.30 a.m.
(Livestream in)

Fr. Gerry Prunty
0419 247 779

Parish Co-ordinator
— Noeline Hogan: 0476 617 976

Keep Abreast with Local Happenings!

Don't forget Your
Local Newspaper



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

Watchem Remembers

The ANZAC day in Watchem this year again started at the Hall for the march/stroll to the Cenotaph, led by ex Lance Corporal Lynne Blair and husband, Les (who is from local stock and had trained for Vietnam).

There the community assembled for the short but important service to honour those who have served, those who are still serving and those who gave their life and way of life for us.

Watchem Progress Association again conducted the service with president Graeme Milne and vice president Jim Petrie sharing the job. Jim gave another of his

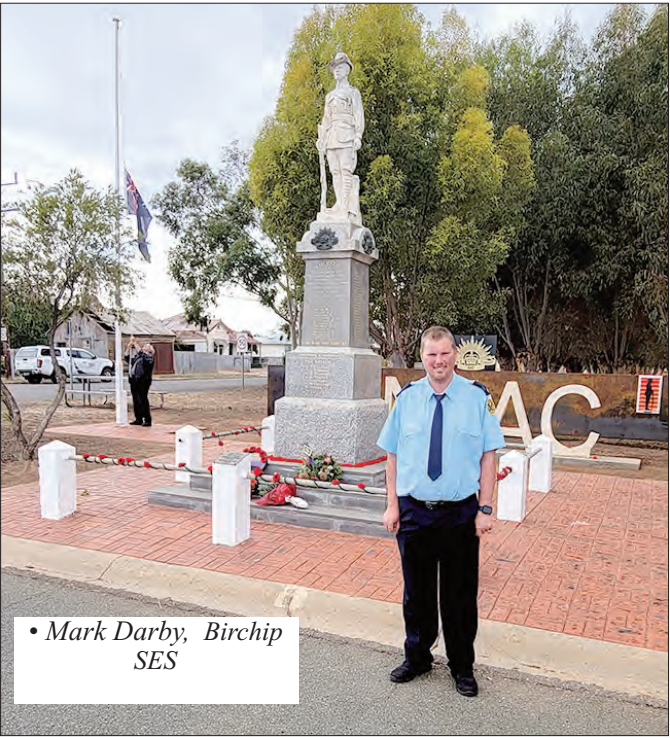
researched addresses to the gathering about a particular battle that involved Albert Jacka and tanks and the mess that they found themselves in under control by command from other countries. The address was informative and well received by those present. Following this was the wreath laying by Birchip SES, Buloke Shire by Stephen Cummins and locals as well.

The Ode was read by Mark Darby from Birchip SES and the flag man was Dean Woods. Sam Milne provided “The Last Post” and “The Rouse” as well as the National Anthems of Australia, New Zealand and “God Save the King”.

At the end of the service at the monument, the gathering returned to the hall for a cuppa and a bite to eat. The hall is significant on ANZAC Day as it holds the Honour Boards from Watchem, plus Watchem, Watchem West and Massey School districts.

The ANZAC Precinct was further enhanced by Jim’s ongoing project to signify the area, with the new backwall, the Rising Sun and the Soldiers on Guard. This backdrop gives the area a great definition. There is more work planned to continually improve the precinct.

Heather Jones, local store operator, again adorned the area with her homemade poppies that add real splash of colour and remind us of the sacrifice made. Jim thanks his helpers who had worked with him to erect the backdrop and the refurbished flagpole. Thanks to all who attended and welcomed some new locals to their first service in Watchem.



• Above and below: The crowd at the Watchem Cenotaph.



What are Cold Calling Scams?

[From Bendigo Bank]

Scammers call customers and appear to have previous knowledge of the customer. This is usually falsified information.

They are convincing in detail and generally engineer the call to align with their claim to be from the Bank’s fraud or cyber security team.

CLI Overstamping

Sometimes an SMS alert is also sent prior to a “cold call scam”, seemingly appearing like it’s from a legitimate business such as Bendigo Bank. They use a method called “call line identification overstamping” (CLI overstamping). CLI overstamping allows the person calling you to display a

different number from the number they are calling from.

For example, an Australian company operating an overseas call centre may overstamp their calls. These calls, even though they originate overseas, appear to be from an Australian number, so that you recognise it as such, and return the call.

CLI overstamping is legal in Australia and the Bank has no authority or ability to counteract it. Please check our “things to remember” when-

ever you receive a call from anyone saying they are from the Bank.

What to Look Out For

There is a sense of urgency or threat to the call – “your bank account has been accessed”; “your bank account has been locked”; “a payment has been made from your account”.

You are asked to provide personal and/or account information, for example your password or OTP (one time PIN).

You are asked to transfer funds into a safe account.

Requests to click a link within a text or email, for example “check your settings”.

During these types of calls scammers may already have some of your personal and/or account information, potentially obtained illegally elsewhere, or from a data breach.

How to Protect Yourself

Don’t be pressured into taking action.

Never provide your password or PIN to anyone even if they are claiming to be from Bendigo Bank and have personal information about you.

Contact your bank or company directly using phone numbers you find yourself (for example, official website).

Always access the official website or mobile app directly, not via a link.

Don’t open or download any attachments or apps.

Don’t click on links in text messages or emails – we will never send a link in an SMS.

We will never ask you to transfer money into another account to “keep it safe”.

Let us know ASAP if you think you have been the victim of a scam

Things to Remember

Never provide your 6-digit e-banking security code to anyone – in person, over the phone or online, even if they claim to work for your bank and have personal information about you.

Never provide a caller with remote access to your computer.

We will never ask you for your e-banking PIN, e-banking password or 6-digit e-

banking security code.

We will never ask you to log in to e-banking via a link sent in an SMS or sent in an email.

We may call from time to time and ask to verify your identity by asking for your verbal password. However, we will never ask you for any PIN, password or security code relating to your e-banking. If you feel uncomfortable, you can always verify our branch contact details on our website and call us back.

YOUR HEALTH, OUR COMMUNITY!

East Wimmera Health Service

2025/28 Strategic Plan Stakeholder Engagement Meeting

JOIN US IN SHAPING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES!

EWHS is planning for the next three years of health services, and we want to hear your thoughts on local healthcare needs and priorities.

Come along to one of our Community Forums and be part of the conversation

See below dates/times for each town:

- Monday 5 May, 5.00pm - 6.00pm - Charlton Campus, Meeting Room
- Tuesday 6 May, 5.00pm - 6.00pm - Wycheproof Town Hall
- Wednesday 7 May, 5.00pm - 6.00pm - Birchip Campus, Meeting Room
- Thursday 8 May, 5.00pm - 6.00pm - Donald Campus, Large PAG Room
- Friday 9 May, 5.00pm - 6.00pm - St Arnaud Campus, Meeting Room

Together, we can shape a stronger, healthier future!

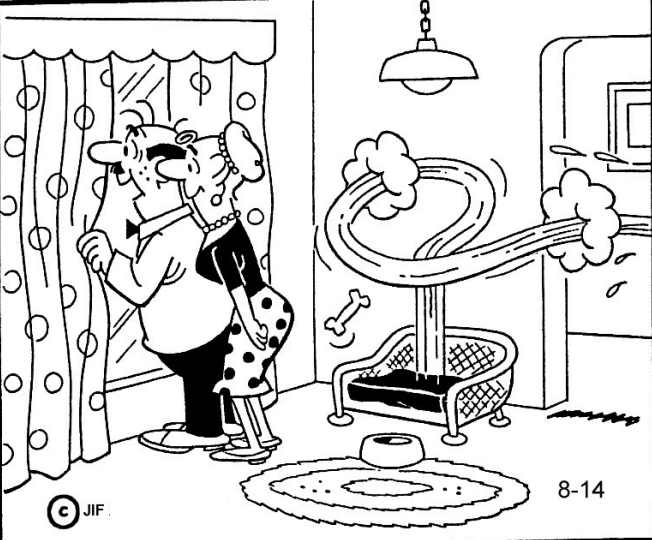
RSVP to Mandy Campbell via email starnauda@ewhs.org.au or call 5477 2100



MICHAELS OF DONALD

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By George Crenshaw
www.belvedere-cartoons.com



“Wow, is that a French Poodle moving in next door?”

Eighty Years of CFA Fire Stations

From tin sheds, red brick buildings to weatherboard structures and ex-army Nissen huts, the home base for CFA brigades across Victoria has evolved significantly over the last 80 years.

CFA volunteers work hard to protect the growing Victorian community, so it is important they have adequate facilities to support their fire response.

When CFA made its impact throughout Victoria in the early 1950s, and postwar shortages had ended, large numbers of tin shed fire stations began to appear across rural Victoria. Now, to cater for growing communities and response efforts, state-of-the-art features are being rolled out statewide in fire stations.

CFA General Manager Infrastructure Services, Paul Santamaria, said CFA first made the decision to borrow funds from the government in 1951 to put toward the construction of new fire stations.

“While farm sheds were the garages for rural fire brigades pre the 1950s, some primitive stations were also made of fibro cement,” Paul said.

“From 1953, CFA embarked on building galvanised iron sheds for rural brigades, renovating and extending urban fire stations and building several new ones.

“We borrowed £50,000 to build 40 sheds for rural fire trucks and urgently needed urban fire stations. Brigades

often erected the two bay or single bay prefabricated iron buildings themselves.”

The tin sheds have become landmarks throughout Victoria, appearing in clearings without a house in sight, and were deemed a public sign of a community prepared to defend itself.

“Back then, brigade members lent horses, ploughs and scoops to level the ground of the new sites, and working bees took place to build the stations. Local fundraisers were held to pay for sirens and connect electricity,” Paul said.

“All CFA stations conformed to the building standards at the time that they were constructed to ensure alignment with building codes and to provide adequate housing for appliances that were developed for various risk environments.

“Over time, these station design standards have changed and have been amended to include additional functional requirements to support remote rural, rural, semi urban, and fully urbanised areas.”

Over the 2000s, a new generation of modern sheds and stations with additional facilities replaced older stations around the state, with

greater consideration for sustainability and of diverse communities and membership.

Today, the latest, fit-for-purpose facilities can include drive-through motor bay rooms and ancillary sheds for equipment, separate toilet facilities and turnout areas that ensure privacy for CFA members.

“It is really pleasing to see the improvements our fire stations have seen over the years. Whether brigades are receiving renovations or a brand-new station, all enhancements will go a long way in accommodating the future needs of the brigade,” Paul said.

“Some stations now have adequate room for kitchens, multi-purpose rooms, privacy areas, gender diverse amenities, administration areas, workshops, breathing apparatus maintenance spaces, ICT equipment, laundry facilities, storerooms and hose drying towers.

“The larger, and improved facilities will be of great benefit to our Victorian towns as a whole, with members efficiently able to continue responding to incidents in the local area and surrounding neighbourhoods.”



• Ballan



• Huntley



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Tribute to World War II Veteran:

At the Birchip RSL Sub-Branch 2025 Commemorations, the following presentation was provided by Kylie Walsh; honouring her grandfather, Warrant Officer Kenneth Kemble Kemp, Distinguish Flying Cross, World War II Flying Officer.

For as long as I can remember, during these services, I would stand across from our beloved Grandad; Ken Kemp and wonder what was going through his mind. What memories stirred as he listened to the words of other veterans? It was always hard to fathom that this quiet, gentle man had once lived through the horrors of World War II.

Like many veterans, Grandad didn't speak of the war, at least not until later in life, and only to a few family members. Yet today, as I stand beside this very monument where his name is etched — Kenneth K. Kemp D.F.C., alongside his titles as a WWII RAAF Flying Officer. A Life Member of the RSL. A passionate Legacy supporter and fittingly, it is 80 years next month, that Grandad was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his efforts when his Halifax III Bomber was hit over Essen in November 1944.

Today, I am honoured as one of his many proud grand and great-grandchildren, to share a small part of his story.

Forgive me for referring to him as Grandad rather than "Ken", it just doesn't feel right otherwise. And while I've thankfully never experienced war, I remain deeply grateful to those who have. Our forefathers, our current servicemen and women, and even the animals, who have served and sacrificed, so that we may live peacefully in this wonderful country.

Part of a Legacy

Grandad's courage was part of a legacy. His father, Lance Corporal Robert Arthur Kemp, served in the First Australian Division, 6th Battalion, 20th Reinforcement. At just 21, he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for an act of extreme bravery in the face of the enemy as a Mark V Tank

crewman during the Battle of Albert in France, August 1918.

The citation from Commonwealth of Australia reads:

"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on 23rd August 1918 at Herleville Wood during The Battle of Albert, France. His volunteers for tank work in the attack, and when his tank ran into a tree near a dugout and burst into flames under heavy fire, the occupants scrambled out half-suffocated and were met by point-blank machine gun and rifle fire. Grasping the situation, he and a few men dashed forward and, in hand-to-hand struggle, captured the position, rescuing three wounded tank crew members who had been taken prisoner."

So, when Kenneth Kemp enlisted, he was walking in the footsteps of courage. At just 17, he joined the Australian Military Forces. Too young to enter the Royal Australian Air Force, but once turning 18, he formally joined the RAAF on October 10, 1942 and began training at Somerset Wireless School in Ballarat, followed by gunnery training in Sale.

Lucky Charm

Imagine the feelings of his father, retired Lance Corporal Robert Kemp DCM, watching his son prepare for war. As Grandad boarded the ship to England to join RAAF 77 Squadron in Yorkshire, his father handed him a small pouch, inside a "lucky broad bean" he'd carried throughout World War I. It had brought him home safely and he hoped it would do the same for his son.

True to form, Grandad kept that lucky broad bean, and many other treasures from his service. He was a meticulous man, and these mementoes now hold immense meaning for our family.

Tail Gunner

Grandad spoke about how badly he wanted to be a navi-

gator. When 90 enlistees were lined up on parade, the first 30 were told they'd be pilots, the next 30 navigators, and the final 30 gunners. Grandad was number 61 in line. He became a gunner, specifically, a tail gunner, one of the most dangerous roles in Bomber Command.

To put it in perspective:

- The average tail gunner completed just 3 sorties (missions).
- The average Bomber Command airman completed 10 sorties.
- If you survived 30 sorties, you were allowed to return home, your services rendered complete.

Grandad flew 33 sorties (missions) and he had survived 33 missions, against all odds and could have returned home. But he chose to stay and continue serving until the war's end, which was a testament to his selfless devotion to his crew and country.

Based at Full Sutton in Yorkshire, he spent 402 hours in the air as a rear gunner and tucked into the most vulnerable part of the Halifax III Bomber. Reading through his flying logbook, written in his own hand, is both fascinating and deeply humbling.

Near-Death Experiences

Grandad had two near-death experiences that shaped his journey.

In the first, he became seriously ill with a burst appendix right before a scheduled mission. The illness nearly killed him, but it also saved his life. His entire crew was tragically lost in a crash over Halifax. Had he flown that day, he likely wouldn't have returned home.

The second incident is documented in detail:

On the night of November 29, 1944, after dropping bombs over Essen, Germany,



• Ken Kemp's children laying a wreath in remembrance. Carol Kemp (Representing Robert), Robina Burke, Barb Bolden, Jackie Cartwright.

his Halifax III Bomber was hit and burst into flames. Despite the chaos, the fire, the smoke, the explosions; Flying Officer L.E. Smith heroically flew the damaged aircraft 150 miles across enemy territory before ordering the crew to bail out behind Allied lines.

Grandad described this event in detail: "When the bomber was hit, the cushions on the rest positions burst into flames. The crew used extinguishers and even coffee from six vacuum flasks; they could not put the fire out. The draught from the open bomb doors fanned the flames and soon the fabric on the floor and wooden supports of the rest position were ablaze. Part of the oxygen system exploded and the rubber oxygen tubes caught fire. Even the insulation round the bomber's heading system burned away. The "intercom" failed and the fire reached within an inch or two of the main fuel balance line running along the rear spar. It was then impossible to transfer fuel from the starboard wind tanks because the wires had become too hot. With the cockpit so filled with smoke Flying Officer L.E. Smith could not see his instruments, he flew with the main bomber stream until he reached Allied lines. By this time the electrical system had burned away and all navigational aids had been destroyed. Under the darkness and in such tight spaces the Flying Officer L.E. Smith gave orders to abandon the bomber, unfortunately Flight Sergeant E.C. Norvall's (who was the radio operator) parachute opened inside the plane."

Grandad and another crew member were able to assist to gather up the opened parachute, Flight Sergeant EC Norvall then held his canopy in his arms whilst the two crew members threw him out of the plane. Grandad; Warrant Officer K Kemp, was then able to abandon the aircraft, and where he landed in Belgium (as noted in Grandad's flying log book), his parachute became tangled in a tree. He managed to cut himself free, keeping the ripcord (which he kept for his entire life), he then found refuge with a local family.



• Kylie Walsh honouring her grandfather.

Telegram

Back home, his parents, Robert and Margaret received a telegram from RAAF:

"428325 Warrant Officer KK Kemp missing STOP regret to inform you that your son, Warrant Officer Kenneth Kemble Kemp is missing as a result air operations 29th November 1944 STOP known details are he was member of crew Halifax III aircraft detailed to attack enemy target at Essen Germany STOP the crew were forced to bale out and all members with the exception of your son are reported safe in Allied territory STOP your son is stated to have made parachute jump and is presumed safe STOP this information is confidential"

Second Telegram

Three agonising days passed before a second telegram arrived from RAAF:

"Pleased to inform you that your son 428325 Warrant Officer Kenneth Kemble Kemp previously reported missing is now safe and uninjured at his unit."

And then imagine the emotions, when a handwritten message written by Grandad arrived:

"Safe in England. Don't worry. Love, Ken Kemp."

A moment of sheer relief for his parents Robert and Margaret, and siblings Norman, Gerald, and Pauline.

On December 1st, 1944, with Grandad found, he was flown from Brussels to Swindon in a Dakota aircraft. His logbook records the flight as simply: "passenger." Grandad and crew members were allocated seven days' "survivor leave", he then resumed flying as a rear gunner. His records show 265 hours of day flying and 137 night hours over 33 sorties (missions).

Medals

On May 29, 1945, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, alongside Flight Officers L.E. Smith and R.B. Sprinall. Other crew members received the Distinguished Flying Medal. Grandad also received a gold caterpillar pin as was now a member of the Caterpillar Club, given to airmen whose lives were saved by parachute.

At the age of just 20 or 21, he had already reached the rank of Warrant Officer which is an extraordinary achievement, especially considering that today, most warrant officers are in their 40s or 50s. Even during the war, this was rare. It spoke to his character, leadership, and dedication.

• Continued on page 9.



• Ella Walsh, Troy Morris, Bella Morris, Brooke Morris, Rowena Bolden, Robina Burke, Barb Bolden, Jarrod Kemp, Dave Walsh, Sam Kemp, Michael Burke, Kylie Walsh, Grant Cartwright, Jackie Cartwright, Carol Kemp, Piper and Lexi Kemp, Daisy Kemp.

Warrant Officer Kenneth Kemble Kemp

• **Continued from page 8.**
And yet true to his nature, he never sought recognition. He simply wanted to serve his country.
Grandad was formally discharged on January 25, 1946. His service earned him the:

- Distinguished Flying Cross.
- 1939-45 Star.
- France and Germany Star.
- Defence Medal.
- British War Medal.
- Australian Service Medal.
- And a lifetime membership in the Caterpillar Club.

One More Treasure
He also brought home one more treasure: his English rose and bride, Joan Smith, returning to the Kemp family

farm where they raised four children Robina, Barbara, Jacqueline, and Robert.
Despite what he endured, Grandad remained a kind, and a gentle soul. He didn't speak much about the war, but when he did, it was always with a smile and a bit of humour. I can still picture him telling stories about his time in the UK, laughing at the funny moments, and showing the photos and his "treasures" that meant so much to him. Those are the moments that keep his memory alive for us, in the most beautiful way.

Story of Courage
Today, as I hold a poppy close to my heart, I'm reminded that every petal holds a story of courage, of sacrifice, of loss, and of love. Our

Grandad's story is just one of so many. But to our family, it means everything.
"The poppy reminds us that even in the darkest soil, beauty can grow. That from conflict, peace can bloom. And from the bravery of those who served, we inherit not only freedom but a responsibility to remember".
Thank you for allowing me to honour Grandad – Warrant Officer Kenneth Kemble Kemp D.F.C. Thank you to all who have served and who continue to serve.
Lest we forget.

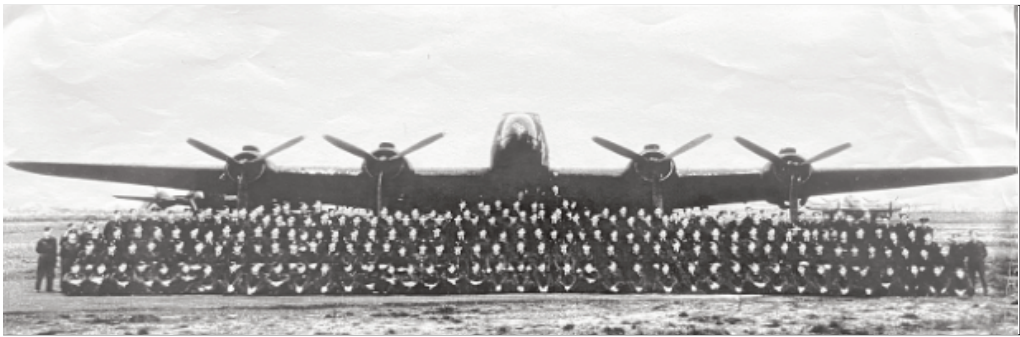
Poem read by Sammy Floyd and written by his brother Graham Floyd, a fellow veteran:

*As dawn breaks over the country side,
I hear the sounds of muffled drums
And out of the mists of history
The shadowy figures come.
From the bloodstained beaches of Gallipoli,
From the Killing Fields of France
From Tobruk and Greece,
The ghostly figures advance.
They were the men from the Island Campaigns,
From New Guinea, Malaya and Singapore.
Diggers from Korea and Vietnam,
From East Timor, Afghanistan and Iraq,
Those were some of the men I saw.
They came to the cenotaph.
I heard the cry "Eyes Right";
Then into the mists of sunrise,
The figures marched out of sight.
Sailor, Soldier, Airman
Each has given their all.
They gave their lives for freedom,
When they answered their country's call.
So, let us hope that
At roll call today,
We may hear an answer
From ghosts patrolling past
And let us be ever mindful that
Greater love has no man than this,
That he lay down his life for others.*

CHURCHES



UNITING CHURCH
(North Central Living Waters Cluster)
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Wycheproof, 10 a.m.
Birchip, 10 a.m.
Contact Number: 5497 1033



• Bomber Command.

One Hundred Years Ago

From the "Birchip Advertiser", May 1, 1925.

Local and General
Park Rotunda: The Soldiers' Memorial Park Rotunda is nearing completion. The building, when completed, will present an ornate appearance and will greatly add to the attractiveness of the park.

Court News
Vermin Destruction: On Wednesday, April 22nd, several landholders in the district appeared before the Police Magistrate (Mr. H.R. McDonald), to answer charges under the above act.

The first case was Inspector Patland against John McClelland.

The Inspector said that this was a bad case, as the adjoining landholders had kept their land free of thistles and rabbits, and defendant had neglected his to a marked degree notwithstanding the customer notices and personal interviews by the inspector.

The Police Magistrate, on fining defendant £4 13s, said that he would take a much more serious view of the case if the defendant did not comply with the directions of the inspector.

Tennis
St Arnaud wins Hawkes Cup: The final match between St Arnaud and Birchip

resulted in the unexpected easy win to St Arnaud by 7 rubbers to 2. When it was found on Saturday morning that J. J. Feeny was ill, and Mr. A. V. Kames was not available, supporters of St Arnaud were inclined to be pessimistic, but the players on this occasion in fine style inflicted on Birchip the severest defeat since forming the association, writes the "St. Arnaud Times."

After the match, Mr. W. A. McClelland (secretary of the Birchip Club), in a few well chosen words, congratulated St. Arnaud on their victory, and handed over the Hawkes cup to Mr. T. R. Richie (president of the St. Arnaud Club).



• A photo of the rotunda taken in 1933 by the "Weekly Times".



• Original rotunda in Memorial Park. Built after the park was established after World War I and the Birchip Brass Band used it for recitals. Photo taken 1966 by Janet Lee.



• Time for a break.



• Warrant Officer Kenneth Kemp.



• The Bulls Harper Noonan takes the ball off Arlo Donnan.

Bulls and Tigers Share Junior Hockey Spoils

Minkey

Two teams of excited minkey players started the day's proceedings on the hockey field at Sea Lake on Saturday and both games were played in the spirit minkey hockey is expected to be played. Everyone had fun, and parents got involved as coaches and umpires, to ensure that two minkey games be played and that clubs can develop umpires and coaches to ensure the progression of their children into higher grades.

Hamish Noonan showed lots of promise in his first game for the Bulls and he had lots of support from his cousins Imogen Noonan and Harper Noonan, with Imogen showing lots of determination in goals and Harper running to space on the wing. Remi Bowen, Jaylah Haslam and Charlie McAuliffe were also actively involved in game one, having lots of fun contesting the play and trying to score.

In the second game there was lots of improvement from all players as the game progressed and the players were well supported by De Ferrier as coach and Steve Haslam as umpire. Thanks to the parents who are stepping up each week to help coaches Julie McClelland, Frances McClelland and Archie Tyler.

Birchip-Watchem awards Imogen Noonan (Troy & Brooke Morris), Olive McLoughlan (BWHC Canteen).

Sea Lake-Nandaly awards: players of the day, Tessa and Lacey; other awards, Lara and Milo.

Under-12s

The under-12 Birchip-Watchem hockey team ran out full of zest for their game against Sea Lake-Nandaly. The Tigers were undermanned and undersized, but to the Bulls' credit three players, Ivy Bourke, Jett Hinds and Addison Hamilton were loaned to Sea Lake-Nandaly to ensure a game could proceed.

It was not long into the game before the attacking prowess of the Bulls was demonstrated and it remained on show time and time again. At half-time, Birchip-Watchem had scored 4 goals to Sea Lake-Nandaly 0.

At half-time, coach Tim McClelland praised his team but also outlined strategies for easier goal scoring, which included passing off to team mates when the goal keeper had been drawn, more sharing of the ball and running away from the ball to create space.

Within the first minute of the second half, Tim was rapt that his coaching instructions had been followed by the Bulls and an impressive passage of attacking play was observed. Oscar Sharp won the ball in attack, passed it off to Denley Tyler who then drew the defence and then he passed off to Lucy Coffey who scored a well-timed goal.

Goal scoring reigned supreme in the final half with another 8 goals being scored and the final scores saw Birchip-Watchem 12 defeat Sea Lake-Nandaly 0.

Birchip-Watchem awards: Jakoby Saggars (TMC Enviro) and Jude McLoughlan (Birchip Hardware).

Sea Lake-Nandaly awards: Ormonde Farms Cash Award, Charli.

Underage

In round 3 of the home-and-away season the Bulls lent Sea Lake-Nandaly some players to allow a 9-a-side game to proceed, which made for an open game and lots of goals.

The Tigers stared off strongly with a few short corners and a

couple of quick goals by Benjamin Barbary and Elise Barry, who were able to wrong foot the Bulls' defence despite their best efforts.

The Bulls rebounded and rearranged, with several valiant attempts to even the score.

With Birchip down three, the second half opened with tight competition between each team's refreshed mid-field. For Birchip, Elise Cox and Grace McAuliffe defanged key Tigers, forcing play out wide and along the edge of the field. Their strategy allowed a much-needed morale boost, coming through the combined efforts of Archie Tyler, Max Field and Michael Darby.

The game progressed with a fierce back-and-forth. For Birchip, Archie Tyler hammered a decisive hit that arched just too high of the backboard and went unscored, and some tight opportunities by goal-side wings went unsecured. For Sea Lake, the offensive play was polished in the D, but showed some positioning weaknesses outside. By the close, both sides had reluctantly relinquished a pair more goals to short corners and quick advances.

Birchip-Watchem's Frances McClelland and Jed Coffey demonstrated exceptional conduct, doing their best playing for the Tigers, on loan to ensure that a game could be played due to thin player numbers and injuries. It was highly encouraging to see some new players starting to find their positions on the field and supportive team play being implemented.

Birchip-Watchem and Sea Lake-Nandaly fought hard all game, challenging each other with some nice cross-field passes and great turnovers with the final score seeing Sea Lake-Nandaly 7 defeat Birchip-Watchem 3.

Birchip-Watchem awards: Elise Cox (Andy & Sarah Barber) and Max Field (Birchip Hardware).

Sea Lake-Nandaly awards: Ormonde Farms Cash, Dean; Daytrap Ag Cash, Ben.

“Beyond Bitumen” is Coming to Victoria

Beyond Blue's longest running community-led fundraiser, the annual Beyond Bitumen car rally is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year with the launch of a new rally in Victoria.

Beyond Bitumen organisers, Peter and Trish Fehon say they are excited about the new adventure through approximately 1,500 kilometres of Victoria from May 22 to 26, 2025 where they will visit: Bendigo, Mildura, Horsham, Ararat, Ballarat.

“We're excited about the 10th anniversary of Beyond Bitumen this year, especially the launch of the new Victorian car rally this May,” said Trish Fehon.

However, the 10th anniversary of the family's much-loved Beyond Bitumen rally is bittersweet, as it also marks the 20th anniversary of the death of their daughter, Beth, who took her own life in 2005.

Meaningful Event

“Beyond Bitumen has always been about creating a meaningful event to remember Beth, bring people together and talk about their mental health in a safe and supportive environment.

“We didn't know Beth was struggling; if we had, we certainly would have sought help for her, so we want people to know that there are people who care and will listen to you when you reach out.”

Since its inception in New South Wales 10 years ago,

Beyond Bitumen has been life-changing for many.

“Rally participants have told us how much the camaraderie within the event has meant to them and given them something to look forward to, and we hope to replicate this in Victoria,” said Peter Fehon, who emphasises the importance of the event's accessibility and inclusivity.

For Everyone

“We want this event to be welcoming for everyone, which is why we say, ‘Come as you are in your family car’. You don't need a rally car or a 4WD – a regular car is more than enough to join in.”

Peter Fehon said the rally is also an opportunity to support local communities in the areas they visit.

“We know local communities in some of the regions we'll be visiting have struggled as a result of bushfires, floods and droughts in recent times, we want to show them our support.

“We stay in local motels and local community groups will be catering for us. It's about giving back.”

Since its inception in 2015, Beyond Bitumen has raised \$4.5 million for Beyond Blue. Funds go towards running the Beyond Blue Support Service,

providing free 24/7 mental health support to people across Australia.

Beyond Blue CEO Georgie Harman said she is deeply grateful for the Fehon's efforts.

New Chapter

“For a decade, Trish and Peter's dedication has transformed lives, ensuring people have access to critical support. The Victorian rally adds a new chapter to their incredible story, highlighting the importance of acting early to get on top of poor mental health, so you can bounce back quicker.

“The money raised through Beyond Bitumen goes towards Beyond Blue's Support Service, which is staffed by mental health professionals who are there for anyone who needs to talk, at any time. Every dollar can really help to turn someone's life around,” Ms Harman said.

Beyond Bitumen Victoria starts in Bendigo on Thursday evening, May 22, and ends in Ballarat at around lunchtime Monday, May 26, 2025.

Registrations for the Beyond Bitumen Victoria rally are still open.

To donate or for more information, visit beyondbitumen.com.au/victoria

Amy Speaks on Winter Pruning

At the April meeting of Wycheproof Probus, Amy Turnbull from Amy's Buds and Blooms gave an informative and entertaining talk about her new business and a detailed report on winter pruning.

All members were aware that Amy had taken on the large task of establishing a new gardening and supply business in Wycheproof, and were most impressed by having such an enterprising person in their midst.

Her talk commenced with an explanation of why we should prune – to remove dead and diseased limbs, promote new growth and increase air flow and light. Most deciduous plants benefit from a big prune in winter, including fruit trees, roses and many ornamentals like crepe myrtle and ornamental pears.

She gave an insight to treating diseases and unwanted bugs, as well as the various options on the treatment of stimulants to the plants.

Watering in Dry Year

Amy moved on to talk about watering and the dry year we are encountering at the moment.

Members were most impressed by Amy's extensive knowledge of horticulture as she was able to provide answers to a wide range of questions from the audience. Questions such as, how the Melbourne Race Clubs have huge rose blooms on the actual race days were easily addressed by Amy.



• Amy was presented with a little thank-you gift following her talk.

The members queried the products and services that Amy provides from her new business, and were not surprised to hear that her bookings for her services to prune and seasonally maintain

various people's gardens is quickly filling up.

Amy was warmly thanked for her sharing of some of her gardening knowledge in a friendly and straight forward manner.

Church Notices



www.granitecommunitychurch.com

At Granite Church
10.30 a.m.

With Ross Barnes
Baptist Union of Victoria

Netballers’ Twilight Time

(From Charlton Netball Club)

A special day for both teams. Taking on some wet weather, under the lights and the honour of playing on ANZAC Day.

Well done to all teams and to the Charlton Club for hosting.

14-&-Under “A”
Charlton 5 d. by St Arnaud 22.

With wet conditions this week the girls showed great teamwork adjusting to the weather and backing each other up the entire game.

Rosie Fitzpatrick and Maddie Lanyon worked very hard to get out for our centre passes and made some nice moves on the line.

Lila Schofield showed great leadership keeping the goal ring rotating. Our ring defenders (Marley, Marilly and Lily) all positioned themselves nicely against their opponents in the ring. Sophie Roberts read the play well while keeping with her player. Well done girls!

Charlton awards: (TeeJet Best) Marley McGurk, (FHN Ladies Auxiliary Coaches) Lily Lane; (NWAG & Charlton Caravan Park “Have a Crack”) Maddie Lanyon.

St. Arnaud awards: (Canteen) Hannah Stones, (Weirs IGA) Charlie James.

17-&-Under “A”

A great team effort in wet conditions, although finding it tough to get clear drives, Charlton girls continued to work as hard as they could. Taylah Giles moved well in the goal circle along with Sarah Blair who shot beautifully all game. The defenders had another strong game getting hands to plenty of ball. Well done to the team, lots to work on in the coming rounds.

Charlton 30 d. by St Arnaud 41.

Charlton awards: (IGA Charlton Best) Sarah Blair, (FHN Ladies Auxiliary Coaches) Erin Blair, (Caffeinated Chaos Captains Coffee) Lacey Smith.

St. Arnaud awards: (Collins Fencing) Jade Shields, (St Arnaud Physiotherapy) Talisha Johns.

“C” Grade

The rain holding off, the Navies worked hard all game being very close until half-time, when St Arnaud proved to have better control of the ball. Charlton had some accurate shooting from the goalers which kept it in touch during the first half. Rolling subs proved useful with fresh legs

coming on to provide great movement. All defenders worked hard picking off and chasing loose balls, with goal defenders working well together to stop the ball coming into the circle.

Charlton 22 d. by St Arnaud 46.

Charlton awards: (Jack Thompson Construction Best) Zoe Carney, (S&D Consulting Coaches) Brooke Prior, (Caffeinated Chaos Captains Coffee) Annie Olive.

St. Arnaud awards: (Gilmac) Steph Smith, (Hendy Tyres & Batteries) Amanda Campbell.

“B” Grade

The girls faced challenging conditions on Anzac Day, contending with wet weather during their twilight match. Despite the tough environment, they executed their team strategy from the first whistle, starting the game with great intensity.

The team worked cohesively, making strong leads and creating space to ensure effective ball delivery to its goalers, Tahli Roberts and Emily Olive. Charlton’s defenders once again worked tirelessly to generate turnovers and transition the ball down the court efficiently.

Abby Mulquiny led the midcourt with excellent communication and vision into the ring, while Sarah Blair provided crucial links between attack and defence. In the defensive end, Holly Thompson delivered another dominant performance, well supported by U17 player Anika Holmes-Brown, who made a significant impact after coming on in the second half.

Trailing at half-time, the girls fought back strongly in the third quarter to narrow the margin to just a few goals. However, in the final quarter, St Arnaud capitalised on a few early mistakes and managed to pull away to secure the win.

Charlton 28 d. by St Arnaud 38.

Charlton awards: (Teys Charlton Feedlot Best) Abby Mulquiny & Holly Thompson, (Teys Charlton Feedlot Coaches) Anika Holmes-Brown, (Caffeinated Chaos Captains Coffee) Abby Mulquiny.

St. Arnaud awards: (Weirs IGA) Bridgette Douglas, (St Arnaud Physiotherapy) Marley Griffith.

“A” Grade

The “A” grade girls started strongly, maintaining a clear focus on their game strategy while remaining mindful not to underestimate St Arnaud or the challenging weather conditions that would impact play.

A flurry of early goals signaled a promising start, with the midcourt combining well and Remi Jefferys effectively linking the attacking and defensive ends. St Arnaud, however, applied considerable pressure throughout the match, narrowing the margin to just a few goals. Charlton’s defensive trio of Claire Smith, Megan Bruns, and Isabel Soulsby responded brilliantly, maintaining relentless pressure, capitalising on turnovers, and securing valuable rebounds. A special mention goes to Isabel Soulsby, who dominated the defensive midcourt, leading by example with every turnover.

In attack, Charlton’s goalers were highly effective. Claudia Lee created space, enabling midcourt players Lacey Smith and Remi Jefferys to work the ball skilfully on to the circle edge, while Chloe Walsh maintained composure and converted with a strong shooting percentage.

Despite extremely testing weather conditions, the team maintained its momentum and secured its first win of the season.

This week’s Walsh Motors Best on Court was awarded to Megan Bruns for her outstanding leadership, communication, and defensive strength. The Walsh Motors Coach’s Award went to Remi Jefferys for her leadership and resilience in the Centre position under difficult conditions.

Charlton 33 d. St Arnaud 30.

Charlton awards: (Caffeinated Chaos Captains Coffee) Isabel Soulsby, (Connect Coffee and Stacy’s Dental Lucky Volunteer of the Day) Michelle Jenkyn.

St. Arnaud awards: (O’Connors) Molly Hendy, (Bendigo Bank) Jess McNamee.



• “B” Grade: Tahli Roberts (GS) putting shot up with Emily Olive (GA) watching on.

Weirs IGA Donald Classic Tomorrow

(By Peter Hibberd)

One of the feature events on the Donald Race Club calendar, the Weirs IGA Donald 2-year-old Classic, will be run at the Donald Racing Centre tomorrow.

The prize money for the race is \$16,500 to the winner, but if the winner is fully VOBIS qualified, an additional \$62,000 in cash and vouchers is also available. The club received 389 nominations for the meeting.

The track rating is currently a good 4, which should not change with forecast weather. The first race is at 11.51 a.m. with 9 races. All the races have full fields.

The Classic is as expected; a lot of unraced horses. Regal Vision from the Hayes stable has performed well at the jump outs, but has drawn wide. Betting moves could be the way to go.

Best bets on a hard program are Eau De Cologne,

Neons Last and Bon Shadow – all each way.

Selections

Race one: Eau De Cologne, Vidachi, Garnet Bay.

Race two: Barbecue Sauce, Harbour City, Miss Delightful.

Race three: Regal Visions, Ardesha, Wiser.

Race four: Ancho, Spirit Angel, Smart Elissim.

Race five: Albanian Star, Warlist, Khant Bee.

Race six: Neons Last, Machinegunrhon, Funny Impact.

Race seven: Whitson, Capital Lover, Blaiken.

Race eight: Bergason, Finnhugh, Eyes To Me.

Race nine: Bon Shadow, Beuakati, Magnea.

Best bets: Eau De Cologne, Neons Last, Bon Shadow.

Vale Greg Sugars

The racing industry, especially harness racing, is mourning the passing of Greg Sugars last weekend at the age of only 40 years.

Greg was in the mould on the late Gavan Lang. “The Candyman” as he was known, will be a big loss to the industry.

Charlton Golf

Wednesday 30th April; seven players entered the 12 hole competition, with Kim and Diane opting to play 18 holes in the Veterans season opening day competition which ran concurrently at Charlton.

Winner was Marj Bartlett with 22 points, runner-up Wendy Hargreaves 21 points, and nearest the pin 7th, Eily Rosewall.

Reminder that ladies Kara Kara pennant starts Monday 6th May at Wedderburn, bring your own lunch. Good luck to all golfers who are involved in this competition.

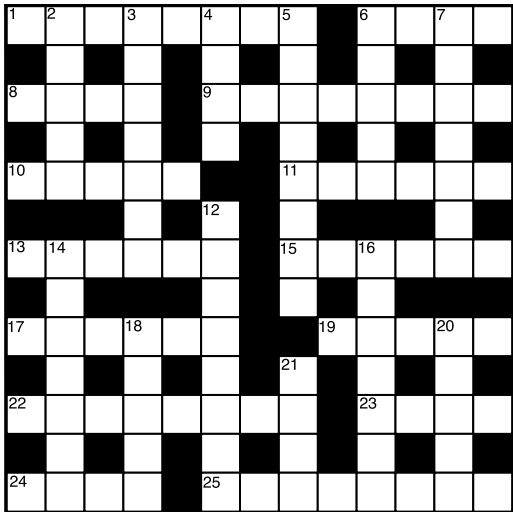
Next Wednesday is a stableford event.



• “C” Grade: Brooke Prior (WD) passing to Emmy Nelson (GA).

“Times” Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8175



ACROSS

1. Caught (8)
6. Say sadly (4)
8. Satellite (4)
9. Gas (8)
10. Big (5)
11. Material (6)
13. Squeal (6)
15. Plaid (6)
17. Run (6)
19. Bid (5)
22. Horse (8)
23. Fill (4)
24. Metal (4)
25. Plateau (8)

DOWN

2. Smell (5)
3. Ancestry (7)
4. Affluent (4)
5. Dainty (8)
6. Fish (5)
7. Boat (7)
12. Brush (8)
14. Fraction (7)
16. Denial (7)
18. Claw (5)
20. Consumed (5)
21. Hitch (4)

• Solution next issue.

Tiger Juniors Hold Top Places

Under-14s

Weather conditions were excellent, and the oval was just a touch damp following the very welcome ANZAC Day rainfall, for the first foot-ball game of the day at the Sea Lake Recreation Reserve last Saturday.

Eager footballers awaited the umpire to throw the ball up to begin the first quarter, and when he did, the contest around the ball was even as both sides worked hard to win the ball.

It wasn't too long however, before the taller Tigers demonstrated some dominance kicking the ball forward to strong marking forwards at centre half forward. Milton Bailey pushing up the ground kicked the first goal of the quarter, and it wasn't too long before another goal was scored by Sea Lake from a snap 10 metres out. Archie Tyler from Birchip-Watchem managed a desperate tackle to save another likely goal and stop the onslaught. Late in the quarter, key Bulls player, Willow Ryan headed to the bench with a leg injury but made a welcome return in the second. At quarter-time Sea Lake-Nandaly led 2 goals, 1 point to Birchip-Watchem 0.

In the second quarter Birchip-Watchem worked

hard in the centre to try and win the ball, with Denley Tyler winning many ground balls but, as was the case for much of the day, Sea Lake-Nandaly was able to sling shot many of the Bulls' attacks and send them quickly back to the Sea Lake forwards, where the Tigers players were sharing the ball with their smaller team mates in the forward line. At three-quarter time the home side had kicked 3.4 (22) and continued to keep the Bulls scoreless.

Some classy passages of play by Sea Lake-Nandaly finished off with precision kicking and clean marking was evident in the third quarter. Again, the Tigers moved the ball quickly from attack to defence while River Ryan and Des Coffey tried desperately, keeping a close check on their opponents all day. The Tigers continued to moved ahead, 5.6 (36) to 0 at the last change.

In the final term, Denley Tyler kicked the ball to Sammy Ferrier who marked the ball 40 metres out from goal. Sammy took a bounce before a shot for goal. The ball was touched on the line, but the Bulls were excited to score their first point of the day. The Tigers managed two more majors in the final quarter to be victorious 7.8 (50) to Birchip-Watchem 0.1 (1).

Best players for Birchip-Watchem were Archie Tyler (Noonan Tyres and Jake and Billy Noonan), Willow Ryan (TMC Enviro), Des Coffey (Bulls' Canteen), Dakota Atkinson (IGA Birchip). For Sea Lake-Nandaly: Harry Wight, Aydan Smith, Jimmy Cox, Brodie Barry, Tom McClelland, Jesse Cox.

Under-17s

After welcome rain fell across the region overnight, the Sea Lake Recreation Reserve turned into a slick and slippery battleground for the Bulls' Under-17s, who faced tough conditions from the first bounce.

The Tigers were a well drilled unit, with strength and skill all over the field. After amassing 6.5 (35) in the first quarter they added a further 4.5 (29) in the second, with their only flaw being their errant kicking in front of goal.

Despite the challenges, the team displayed remarkable determination and resilience, never backing down from the contest, but Ryder Newick was steadfast at centre half-back, preventing the Bulls from getting it anywhere within scoring range.

At the half-time break Rider Newick swapped to a whole new role, playing at centre half-forward with the Bulls along with Angus Renny and Cruz O'Sullivan, which made the contest a much more even affair and the Bulls' players stepped up and played with more enthusiasm.

Consequently, the highlight of the day came in a sensational third quarter. Ollie Cook played well on the ball and Max Field in the forward line, and Jack Knights played well behind the ball to keep the Tigers scoreless for the quarter. Cam Jones kicked a goal and Ben Perry kicked to the goal line where Toby Kemp ensured it went across the line to add to the Bulls' four unanswered goals.

In the final term the Bulls had the benefit of Taj Borlase and Brayden Allan from the Tigers and the match was played on even terms. Sea Lake-Nandaly's accuracy returned and it was able to kick



• Tigers' Cruz O'Sullivan evades the grip of Birchip-Watchem's Jack Knights in the under-17s match on Saturday.

5 straight, which was the only difference between the teams in the quarter as the Bulls added 3.3.

Final score: Sea Lake-Nandaly 16.11 (107) to Birchip-Watchem 7.4 (46). While the result didn't go the

Bulls' way, the team's effort was second to none. Standout performances came from Ollie Cook, (sponsored by Noonan Tyers with Brad and Connely Ryan), Jack McAuliffe (sponsored by YBS), Max Field (sponsored

by Birchip Café), and Jack Donnellon (sponsored by Bulls canteen).

Best for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Cruz O'Sullivan, Brayden Allan, Angus Renney, Jacob Cox, Cooper Kelly, Charlie Mitchell.



• Bulls' Willow Ryan leaps for the Sherrin as it flies past the Tigers' Finn Austerberry in the under-14s match on Saturday.

Bernie Wins Gold

Former Wooroonook local, Bernie McLoughlan followed up his athletics medal result at the 2024 World Masters Athletics Championship in Sweden by winning a gold medal at the recent Australian Championships in Adelaide.

Representing Victoria, he also won a silver medal in the M70 age group 200m, in a personal best time of 30.23 seconds and a Bronze medal in the M70 400m.

On day 3 of the competition, he came away with the gold in the M70 Pentathlon, finishing ahead of the 2024 Australian M70 champion. The Australian Pentathlon is made up of Long Jump, Javelin, 200m, Discus and 1500m.

Bernie also earlier this year won a silver medal for the M70 age group at the 2025 Decathlon event held in Brisbane and consisting of 10 events including the pole vault.

After competing in upcoming State events, he will return to Brisbane for the Oceania Masters Athletics Championship in September, before setting sights on the 2026 World Masters Championships in South Korea.

• Right: Bernie McLoughlan winning gold at the recent Australian Championships.



I believe Victory had a great time and is looking forward to next year's camp!



• Group lesson at the Victorian Junior Girls Development Camp at Tocumwal Golf Club.

Happy Mother's Day to all the Mothers on Sunday, May 11, 2025.

Boort Netballers Bring The Best to Donald

[From Donald Netball Club]

Under-14 “B”

Quarter 1: Boort Started out strongly with consistent goaling and passage of play. Donald fought hard but struggled to get the ball into its goalers. Boort ended the quarter with a handy 10 goal lead. Donald 0, Boort 10.

Quarter 2: Donald’s defence held up Boort’s attacking line with constant pressure and there were some very lovely intercepts in the centre, showing some good hunger for the ball. Donald 0, Boort 16.

Quarter 3: Donald got on the board this quarter, Charlee with 1 goal and Indi with 2. The girls worked well together as a team. The defensive end kept the pressure on, however, Boort continued to play a seamless game. Donald 3, Boort 23.

Quarter 4: Donald kept trying right to the end. Boort’s strong goaling and passages of play proved to be to strong for Donald. Donald 4, Boort 32.

Awards: Charlee Williams Spuds Cafe & Anabel Robertson, Donald Family Butcher’s Shop.

Boort awards: Tracey & Adam Bird Award, Scarlett Crilly; Donut Award, Becky Stringer.

Under-14 “A”

Quarter 1: After a week off over Easter, the Donald girls were excited to get back out on the court. It took a little while for the team to settle back into the game, and unfortunately, an early injury meant some quick adjustments were needed. Despite the challenges, the girls worked hard in the attacking ring, facing a tall Boort defence that made it tough to get the ball through. Donald 3, Boort 4.

Quarter 2: In the second quarter, Donald really found its rhythm across the court. The defenders put in a fantastic effort, keeping Boort to just one goal for the quarter.

The girls made strong leads and showed great teamwork as they started to link their passes and play with more confidence. Donald 9, Boort 5.

Quarter 3: Boort came out firing in the third quarter, lifting its intensity and putting pressure on Donald’s shooters with some strong intercepts. Even so, the Donald girls didn’t give up, they continued to fight hard and kept working across the court, showing great determination and resilience. Donald 11, Boort 14.

Quarter 4: In the final quarter, Donald players lifted again, picking their heads up and playing their own game. The defenders battled hard in Boort’s attacking ring, while the attackers worked tirelessly to move the ball down the court and feed it into the shooters. Although the result didn’t go Donald’s way, the girls should be proud of the way they fought right until the final whistle. Their teamwork, positive attitude, and continued growth as a group were clear to see, and they are only getting stronger with every game. Donald 18, Boort 21.

Donald awards: The Clothes Bin, Layla Hepworth: Love Shack Giftware, River Stirling.

Boort awards: Bendigo Sportspower, Amelia Hosking; Boort Newsagency, Victoria Lanyon.

Under-17 “A”

Quarter 1: Game started well with both teams equally contesting for the ball. Donald was adjusting to some new positions and came out strongly. Boort went into the lead early, but Donald didn’t make it easy at the beginning with some strong defence being played. Alyssa Hepworth put some early points on the board for Donald. Donald 5, Boort 17.

Quarter 2: Some changes to the GK position for Donald with Asha Pearse heading into the defensive position, saw

Boort having to work hard to get the ball into the shooting ring. There was some great play by both teams through the mid court and some great contests in both shooting rings. Boort again proved its strength in this quarter, but Donald did not give up. Donald 8, Boort 30.

Quarter 3: A strong defence change in this quarter was made with Halle Rice demonstrating her versatility by stepping out of the C bib and into GD. Halle held out strongly and the combination of her and Asha was strong, with both Jaya and Kallie sharing the WD bib, made the defence very strong and Boort had to work that bit harder. The ball was moved effortlessly through the mid court by both teams but the defence at both ends made it hard to push the ball into the goal circle. Donald 12, Boort 41.

Quarter 4: Boort held a strong lead and now Donald’s main focus was to go out enjoy their netball and put as many goals in as they could. The umpires were fair and the girls responded well to the calls that were being made which meant the ball was turned over quickly and play wasn’t interrupted too much. Both teams played very well and it is always great to host Boort at home. Donald 17, Boort 58.

Donald awards: Gilchrist & Co., Asha Pearse; Harvest Cafe, Jaya Sterling.

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

“C” Grade

Was set to be a tough battle for Donald as Boort has come away with 2 wins to start the season. Donald started well with play flowing nicely. Boort however held its own and was shooting very accurately. Donald 5, Boort 12.

Donald defenders worked

very hard with hands over every ball. Boort found a little momentum and utilised its opportunities well. Donald 9, Boort 30.

Some changes came from Donald to help try and combat Boort’s strength. Donald had a great quarter with pressure all through the court. Donald used rolling sub to their advantage with fresh legs on the court when needed. Donald 16, Boort 36.

Donald worked hard in the last quarter and continued to work the ball through the court. Donald defended well and made some nice space at times, fighting to the end of the game. Boort proved to be too strong, taking away another win. Donald 21, Boort 46.

Best on court: Belicia Francis (sponsored by Jasper & Co) and encouragement award Tiarnah Hepworth (sponsored by Mensland).

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

“B” Grade

Quarter 1: Donald started strong with the mid court feeding the ball into its goalers giving them lots of goal opportunities. Was goal for goal most of the quarter. Boort utilised the ball to the best of its ability with a couple of quick turnovers. Donald 10, Boort 12.

Quarter 2: No changes for Donald going into the 2nd quarter. Boort played a fast

game and Donald did a great job to keep up. Jess and Courtney worked well in defence. Megan fought for every ball, set up quick turnovers for Donald, resulting in a goal the difference at half-time. Donald 23, Boort 24.

Quarter 3: Boort got off to a good start in the 3rd quarter getting 3 quick goals to open the quarter. Donald’s defence tried hard to keep that from happening, getting lots of hands on the ball. Donald 34, Boort 38

Quarter 4: Opening out the 4th quarter, Boort got some quick goals in the first 5 minutes. Donald played well, but could not quite keep up. Boort’s strong defence stuck tight to Donald’s goalers and saw Boort sneak away to an 11 point win. Donald 42, Boort 53.

Donald awards: Gilchrist & Co., Megan Tonkin; Bev’s Baubles, Jess Nunn.

Boort awards: DWT Transport, Isabelle Hosking; Boundary Bend Olives, Anna Lanyon.

“A” Grade

Quarter 1: Boort settled into the game quickly, scoring the opening goals before Donald found their rhythm. Both teams fought fiercely for every loose ball, with Anna Sudholz and Ally Doak creating key turnovers for Donald.

At the first break, Boort held a narrow lead. Donald: 12, Boort: 14.

Quarter 2: In the second quarter, Boort’s defensive pressure ramped up, limiting Donald’s opportunities. Boort applied intense across the court, but Donald steadied and rose to the challenge. Scarlett Funcke opened up play beautifully in attack, shooting accurately to keep Donald in touch. At the half time break Boort clung to a slim 1-goal lead. Donald 25, Boort 26.

Quarter 3: Boort made several changes to both its attacking and defensive ends heading into the 3rd quarter, forcing Donald to adjust. Abby Griffiths worked tirelessly in the centre, driving the ball well through the court. The quarter saw hotly contested play across every position, with both sides going goal for goal. Heading into the final break, Donald edged ahead. Donald 38, Boort 36.

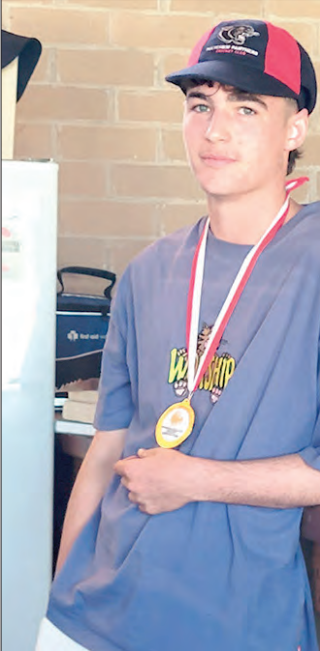
Quarter 4: Boort found another gear in the final term, capitalising on a few Donald errors and creeping away on the scoreboard. Despite Donald’s determined fight for every possession, Boort kept its composure to secure a hard-fought win. Donald 45, Boort 52.

Donald awards: IGA, Scarlett Funcke; Donald Hotel, Milla Adams.

Boort awards: Meering West Wind Farm, Georgia Weaver; North West Ag, Georgia Haw.



• President Jeremy Dean, Ty Colbert, Jam Borden. Riley Hogan, Jim Petrie.



• Captain Connor Boyle.

Panthers Celebrate Premiership

Watchem Panthers “B” grade Wimmera Mallee Cricket premiers held their end of season break-up and presentation day on Sunday, March 30 at 2 p.m. in the club rooms at the Recreation Reserve.

The day was well supported by players, partners, family and supporters with a fine spread of afternoon tea available.

Club president Jeremy Dean welcomed everyone along, including life members and recorded the apology of one of those, Barry Johnson, and acknowledged that he was very happy indeed to be standing there as the leader of a club which has just won a premiership, after working toward it for ten years, with good mates, supporters and the winning team. He spoke about the journey to this point and that a couple of players, Sam Milne and Seamus Lowry, had been with the club through its whole journey. These two both reached their respective 100 game milestones this season.

Jeremy talked about the memory of being skittled for

14 runs against St Mary’s, the times when the team was still chasing players the night before or the morning of the game, picking bindii’s out of knees, and other individual happenings that have been part of getting to this premiership. He agreed that the Bus trip home from Marnoo would never be forgotten, nor would the hard work by many club people who have helped along the way.

Presentations

Presentations followed with the following players being recognised. Leading run scorer was Ty Colbert 507 runs (average 50.7). Leading wicket taker was Austin Dean (apology on the day) with 28 (average 9.03). The Charlie Petrie memorial trophy for the best junior went to Jam Borden, Best in Finals (sponsored by the Woods Family) was

also Austin Dean. Most Determined went to Riley Hogan who also picked up the prestigious Best Club Person award for his willingness to get in and help in so many ways.

Other significant presentations went to Jam Borden with his hat trick against Charlton, Austin Dean for his double hat trick against Donald Jeffcott in the early round, 50 runs scored were noted for Ty Colbert (62) and (71), Danial Tatarskj (51), Captain Connor Boyle also with 2 x 50s and the unfortunate Daniel Slater who on 98 found the edge and saw the finger go up from Ump, his dad, Andrew. 100 runs were recorded by Ty Colbert with 127.

Five wicket hauls were noted for Ty Colbert 5/14 (6) and Austin Dean 6/40 (8) and 6/15 (8).

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Mixed Results for Bulls Netballers

The Bulls had some mixed results in their netball this week, after starting the season off with an impressive win/loss ratio.

All awards for the matches against Sea Lake-Nandaly Tigers at their home courts were sponsored by Kawaii Kids.

Net Set Go

This week saw the Birchip-Watchem Go team take on the Tigers at Sea Lake. The Bulls started out strongly, with Ari Richmond and Olive McLoughlan in goals. Ari was on fire this week, hardly missing a goal and it was wonderful to see Olive get her first goal of the season.

Sadie Bourke and Greta McClelland were strong through the centre and wings, along with Ava Boyle, Amelia Baker, Harper Noonan and Remi Bowen. Remi was also strong in the goals with Ava, and Jock Richmond hit the court for the second half, which was awesome to see.

After a strong game, the team finished with Harper and Greta in goals. It was a fabulous match that was lots of fun for players and spectators.

Under-14 “B”

Birchip-Watchem proved too powerful for Sea Lake-Nandaly in a commanding 16-0 victory that showcased skill, structure, and discipline from start to finish.

Right from the first whistle, the Bulls were switched on, with goalers Isla Ferrier and Hannah Hogan forming a formidable combination in the ring. Their sharp shooting and clever positioning saw them pile on nine unanswered goals in the opening quarter, giving the Bulls early momentum and a healthy 9-0 lead.

In the second quarter, the Bulls continued to dominate possession. Issy Sharp was everywhere in the centre, driving the ball forward with precision, while Georgia Tynan applied relentless pressure in wing defence, picking off passes and disrupting the Tigers’ flow. The Bulls added another four goals to stretch their lead to 13-0 at half-time.

The third quarter was a more evenly matched contest, with both teams tightening up defensively. Addison Hamilton was instrumental in stopping the Tigers’ advances, repeatedly reading the play and intercepting key passes. The Tigers, led by Indie Landry and Sarah McClelland in defence, responded with their best period of the game, denying the Bulls any scoring opportunities. However, The Tigers were also unable to add to the scoreboard, and the Bulls retained their 13-0 buffer going into the final term.

Birchip-Watchem finished the match strongly, refusing to let up. Frankie McClelland brought energy and spark in the centre, while Tilly Hogan capped off a brilliant performance at goal keeper with a series of crucial intercepts. The Bulls added three final goals to seal a comprehensive 16-0 victory.

It was a dominant all-round display by the Bulls, who combined strong defence with effective teamwork in attack, leaving the Tigers unable to break through at any stage.

Awards for Birchip-Watchem: Tilly Hogan & Georgia Tynan.

Awards for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Noraa (Canteen Voucher/Gift), Arli (Canteen Voucher).

Under-14 “A”

The Bulls 14“A” started off strongly with a 10-2 lead at quarter time due to Alana Caldwell’s strength in defence, providing extra goaling opportunities for the Bulls, which the goalers Gemma Tynan and Anieka Boyle took full advantage of. Mia Sharp, Sienna Richmond and Gemma Tynan were working seamlessly together across the centre, appearing as if they have been playing together for decades.

Issy Sharp and Lucy Coffey both took the court in the second quarter, as some of the older players took a rest after filling in for the 17s. It was Lucys first ever 14“A” game, and she did well getting many taps and intercepts in GK. Issy Sharp had great leads in WA resulting in lots of easy and quick passes into the ring, but the Tigers were up to the challenge and both teams scored 7 goals each. At half time Birchip-Watchem was ahead 17 to 9.

Isla Ferrier, another 14“A” debutante, took the court in the third quarter and didn’t take long to find her groove, leading for the ball well and shooting accurately. Awhina Kahakura stepped it up taking plenty of intercepts, helping the Bulls to a 13-5 advantage, with three quarter time scores being Birchip-Watchem 30 to Sea Lake-Nandaly 14.

In the final quarter the Bulls extended their lead further with Sienna Richmond and Grace McAuliffe taking lots of intercepts, winning the quarter 12-2. Final scores: Birchip-Watchem 42 defeated Sea Lake-Nandaly 16. Birchip-Watchem awards: Sienna Richmond and Issy Sharp.

Awards for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Ruby (Canteen Voucher & Gift), Elise (Canteen Voucher).

Under-17 “A”

Birchip-Watchem saw a few different players take to the court with some moving up for their first game of U17s.

The Tigers started the game off strongly with a few goals from their shooters Keira Barton and Georgia McClelland, forcing the Bulls to make some small alterations of positions during second quarter to try to change things up. Anieka Boyle had a turn at shooter and Elise Cox moved from keeper to mid court to give the Bulls some more options.

At half-time Tigers had a 7-goal lead which the Bulls continued to try to counteract by moving Alana Caldwell into the goal keeper position and utilising the fresh legs and the versatility of Beau Haslam at Goal Attack.

The Tigers shooter was definitely on the mark despite the Bulls defence’s best efforts to stop as many goals as possible and the Tigers made a change in the Goal Attack to keep the Bulls guessing.

Throughout the whole game both teams demonstrated great game skills, playing up and down the court and they all worked smoothly together as a team. It was a very high scoring game and definitely not one to be missed with the Tigers winning by just 5 goals, with the end score being Sea Lake-Nandaly 44 defeating Birchip-Watchem 39.

Bulls’ best on went to Beau Haslam and Elise Cox.

Awards for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Jada (Skymirror Milkshake Voucher), Remi (Hair On Best Voucher).

“C” Reserve

It was an even first quarter with both teams getting a lot of play down the court. Birchip-Watchem’s defenders Emily Barber and Ada Bourke worked hard to shut down Sea Lake shooters Natalie Prange and Chevaun Wright. At the first break Birchip-Watchem 5 trailed Sea Lake-Nandaly 6.

Coming into the second quarter both sides were determined to keep the momentum from the first quarter up, but Sea Lake-Nandaly defenders Isabella Shepherd and Cecilia Hearn tightened their defence on goalies Jay Connelly and Lauren Robinson and they surged ahead 17 to 8.

Sea Lake-Nandaly continued to step up the intensity all down the court in the third quarter making Birchip-Watchem WD Zoya Rickard work hard to try to turn over as many balls as possible before they could get it into the goal ring, but it was proving a tough assignment. At the last change Sea Lake-Nandaly was ahead 33 to 11.

The Bulls gave their all right to the end of the game but Sea Lake-Nandaly was the dominating side winning 50 to 13.

Birchip-Watchem awards went to Ada Bourke and Emily Barber.

Awards for Sea Lake-Nandaly: whole team (Swan Hill Wholesaler Voucher), Lilly Collins (Jarrod Arentz Electrical Club Glass).

“C” Grade

It was also a tough game for the “C” grade girls on Saturday, with the Tigers’ height prevalent all over the court. Ash Tierney and Stephanie Coffey tried hard in the defensive end making some great intercepts but the Tigers had all the answers, out-working

the Bulls, bringing it back to goal. Eliza Kervin and Asha Lee worked hard around the ring to outmanoeuvre their taller defenders and made the most of their chances close to goal. Overall it was a good game, but Sea Lake-Nandaly was too strong, winning 35 to 29 to upset the Bulls after their two wins against Charlton and Donald.

Awards for Birchip-Watchem Steph Coffey and Asha Lee.

Awards for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Abby McDonald (Mortimer Petroleum Travel Mug), Emily Weir (Anden Stud Club Mug).

“B” Grade

The first quarter started with a cool and calm Birchip-Watchem working through its game plan. Megane Greenaway was a prominent target in GS and when the ball was placed into her hands by mid-courtiers Samantha Mitchell and Tylah Haslam she could not miss. At the other end of the court, this was counteracted by Sea Lake-Nandaly shooter Bec Delminico who was also accurate at the other end.

The second quarter began with Birchip-Watchem playing its starting 7. Its midcourt was still moving the ball down into attack, but Sea Lake’s Dayna McKenzie was relentless in attacking and defending throughout the mid-court making Birchip-Watchem work harder to deliver the ball into the goal ring. Sea Lake’s defensive end worked hard in the ring

all game taking numerous intercepts making it difficult for the Bulls.

After the half-time break Birchip-Watchem knew it had to keep working hard to maintain its lead against a competitive Sea Lake-Nandaly. Defensive sister duo Stacey Hamilton and Meghan Noonan used their height and tight pressure to contain Sea Lake’s shooting attempts and never stopped their pressure throughout the whole game. Birchip-Watchem’s Beau Haslam was using her speed to work the ball up the court and was finding good position in the goal ring and took numerous rebounds under the post.

The fourth quarter started in much the same fashion as the previous. Meghan Noonan and Stacey Hamilton had been strong in defence all day and some key intercepts throughout the game ensured Birchip-Watchem’s lead was increased. Sea Lake continued to apply pressure across the court for the entire game, but at the final siren Birchip-Watchem ran out victorious 60-35.

Birchip-Watchem awards went to Megane Greenaway and Beau Haslam.

Awards for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Lorraine Wight (Agri Lending Solutions Voucher); Ads Funcke (Swan Hill Asbestos Club Glass).

“A” Grade

In testing humid conditions, Birchip-Watchem “A” grade fought hard but ultimately fell short against a dominant Sea Lake-Nandaly side.

Despite Birchip-Watchem’s determined efforts, they trailed at every quarter break, struggling to match Sea Lake’s relentless pace and physicality. Wing defence Claudia Cox was making it difficult for the Bulls to gain forward momentum and defender Gabbi Munari was adding to the Bulls’ frustration in the goal circle.

As the game progressed and the Bulls tried to mix it up, the Tigers had all the answers to capitalise on their early momentum, with their attackers positioning themselves well and leading to the ball, which ensured they continue to build on their lead throughout the game.

Final scores: Sea Lake-Nandaly 49 defeated Birchip-Watchem 33.

Awards for Birchip-Watchem were awarded to Sophie Parfrey and Khiana Brooks.

Awards for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Claudia Cox (Nutrien Ag Tigers Backpack), Ebony McLean (Bryce Delmenico Building Club Glass).

Adding to Birchip-Watchem’s woes, key defender Romi Miller sustained an ankle injury late in the game, casting a shadow over an already disappointing result. Birchip-Watchem will now turn its focus to regrouping ahead of next week’s match up against Calder United, hoping to bounce back stronger despite the setback.



• Khiana Brooks and Gabby Munari compete for the netball.

Big Win for Bulls Reserves

Birchip-Watchem reserves claimed a confidence boosting win against Sea Lake-Nandaly at Sea Lake last Saturday, the first time the Bulls have beaten the Tigers in the reserves since 2022.

Both teams were blessed with a blend of youth and experience. The more mature bodies for the Bulls included Alex Noonan, Julian Liston and Tom Sheridan, while the Tigers could look to the leadership of Brandon Staddon, Zachary Wemyss and Joel Clohesy.

The first quarter represented a strong start for Sea Lake-Nandaly as it used the aid of a slight breeze to take the early ascendancy. Son-of-a-gun Cruz O’Sullivan was one of multiple Tigers to play the reserves game after also playing U17s and his legs remained fresh enough to boot his team’s first goal. Wemyss also opened his account with a classy kick and the Tigers were away.

At the other end of the ground, the Bulls were not without their chances but appeared to have difficulty with the swirly nature of the breeze. They managed three behinds for the term before Matt Berry finally broke through for a goal, limiting the Tigers’ lead to four points at the first change.

Birchip-Watchem was aided by the wind in the second quarter, and it used it effectively. George Addis began to take control of the ruck, allowing midfielders Jack Lee and Charlie Frank to start dominating the clearances. Bodie Colbert and Charlie Frank streamed forward from stoppages to kick

important goals for the Bulls, their leg speed a worry for the Tigers.

Stay at home forwards Liston and Berry also added majors in what was a game-defining quarter for the Bulls. Their midfield dominance ensured the ball rarely went into the Tigers’ forward half and hence they were kept goalless for the term. At half time Birchip-Watchem led by 20 points.

Sea Lake-Nandaly needed to respond quickly if it was to stay in the contest and it did so in the third term. Spenser Seward spent the first two rounds of the 2025 season playing seniors for Mildura in the Sunraysia FL and made a seamless transition to N-C.F.L. reserves. He was clean and classy in the midfield for the Tigers and was able to find more of the ball in the third quarter, giving the Tigers’ forwards more opportunities.

Wemyss took full advantage, kicking his second and third goals for the day and kickstarting the Tigers’ chances. When Callan Noonan followed suit the Bulls’ lead was back to single digits. To the visitors’ credit they were able to respond with steady goals from Harry Cook and Matt Berry who kicked his third. Birchip-Watchem led by 15 points at the final change.

With a decent lead and kicking to the scoring end,

Birchip-Watchem was in the box seat going into the last quarter. Jack Lee and cousin, Connor Lee, took back control of the midfield battle and the Bulls looked the more energised team.

Matt Berry capped off a solid match at full-forward by kicking his fourth goal, Charlie Frank kicked his second from his midfield post, and Tom Sheridan also joined the list of goalkickers to give the Bulls an unassailable lead.

Five members of Sea Lake-Nandaly’s team were backing up from the U17s match, so chasing down a final quarter deficit was always going to be a tough test. Nevertheless, the Tigers continued to fight hard and ensured the result wasn’t a blowout.

The Bulls were able to keep the Tigers scoreless in the last quarter, a pleasing result that provided an excellent conclusion to one of the Bulls’ reserves biggest wins in recent years.

Final score: Birchip-Watchem 10.10 (70) defeated Sea Lake-Nandaly 5.5 (35)

Best for Birchip-Watchem: Jack Lee (O’Connors), Charlie Frank (YBS Ag), George Addis (Agrifac), Connor Lee (Donnellon’s Bulk Haulage), Bodie Colbert (Nutrien Ag), Harry Cook (Ryan Commodities).

For Sea Lake-Nandaly: Spenser Seward, Brandon



• Birchip-Watchem’s Alex Noonan is on the run as he fends off Sea Lake-Nandaly’s Zachary Wemyss.



Charlie Frank grabs hold of Tye Griffiths during Reserves as he looks to get the ball off to Spenser Seward.

Staddon, Ethan Ellis, Brayden Allan, Isaac Durie, Rylee McGarry.

Opportunity Awaits Saints and Royal Blues

• Continued from page 16. being created by ruck powerhouse, Hamish Hosking.

Calder United coach Daryl Wilson will be looking to his own midfield giant, Dean Putt, to limit Hosking’s influence in the ruck. If he can halve the contest, it will give the Lions’ ground level contingent plenty of opportunities to surge the ball deep into attack to the dangerous Jack Exell and Mitch Farmer.

Another crucial challenge for Calder United will be limiting the impact of Birchip-Watchem’s key forwards, Ben Edwards and Joe Reid, with the potential outcome depending heavily on the influences of the Lions’ key defenders, Oscar Madden, Joe Walsh and Boe Bish.

The Bulls have won all three of their contests thus far, and their consistent performances over four quarters should see them well placed to secure a win, with the potential to move them into ladder leadership.

Woosang Challenge

In recent times, the annual clash between Wedderburn and Charlton has been dubbed the Woosang Challenge, in recognition of the rich shared football history between the two communities.

Wedderburn’s recent form has been encouraging and includes a win over St. Arnaud, while Charlton chalked up its first victory of the season, also at St. Arnaud’s expense.

Both combinations will need to bring their “A” grade

game to secure victory in what promises to be a desperate and unrelenting struggle.

A late surge by the Redbacks against the highly fancied Calder United last Saturday, might be an indication that collectively, they are getting their game together.

If Wedderburn can take that effort into tomorrow’s clash, with Jake Pallpratt, Jackson McEwen, Corey Lowry, Hamish Lockhart and Jye Mortlock gaining the upper hand early, as well as key forwards Mitch Jensen and Oscar Holt taking advantage by hitting the scoreboard consistently, the Redbacks should win and build the level of positive momentum they will need in coming rounds.

Charlton, buoyed by last Saturday’s success, and facing its old foe, Wedderburn, needs no greater incentive to produce four quarters of its best football.

Tom Finlay continues to grow in confidence as he enjoys much needed game time to regain full fitness, coach Mitch Collins, Ben Xirah, Archer Patterson and Sam Woods are playing good football on a consistent basis, and teenager Sebastian Zagame, promoted from the under-17s, continues to impress as he develops into a very handy goal kicking forward (much to grandfather Steve’s delight).

It augers well for an entertaining battle at Donaldson Park, with the home town Redbacks likely to reign supreme.

Hockey at Donald

Women’s

Donald went into the match against Boort fighting hard for the ball. Isobelle Rowe was able to get the first goal of the game for Donald after a pass from Bec Cumming. Newcomer to the Donald team, Hannah Werner was a welcome addition and helped keep the ball away from Donald’s end.

Unfortunately even with the good runs down the field by Louise Barber and Lauren Hawkes, Boort’s Jacqui Challis was able to get passed goalie Charlotte Bicket and score Boort’s first goal. A short corner followed not long after and Boort’s Ella Lanyon was able to score another goal. There was a lot of middle of the field, back and forth that occurred for a lot of the game by Lily Nuske, Lauren, Isobelle and Kailie Krause, with great defending in the back end by Erika Bicket and good saves in goal by Charlotte. Hannah received a green card for a bad tackle and Boort’s Ella subsequently scored two more goals to end the match with a 4-1 win Boort’s way. Donald women should be congratulated on their great teamwork and playing. They have come a long way already this year and are only on game two.

Donald Awards: Best on, Erika Bicket; Dellavadova: Isobelle Rowe and Hannah

Werner. Boort awards: Pharmacy award went to Ella Lanyon and Chelsea Challis Broad received the Boort Natural Therapies Award.

Men’s

What a game! This was such a fast paced game right from the onset. Both these teams had numerous missed opportunities to put scores on the board, yet such strong defensive play from both sides kept this from occurring and kept the goalies on their toes.

Donald’s newer looking team this year seems to be coming together well, blending its existing strengths and developing news skills for new positions as its clear that this team has amazing defensive players, but needs to further develop its midfield but even still, such a minor issue when this game was so entertaining to watch.

This week saw the team more complete as many players returned from commitments that have kept them away the first few rounds. If today’s game was any indication of the season to come, its definitely going to be some good hockey viewing. Final score: Donald 1 d. Boort 0.

Donald awards: Best On, Curtis Rice; Dellavedova: Parker Bicket. Boort awards: Chaise Hird, Nutrien Ag Award; Joe Vellely took home the Godfrey & Bear Award; Brenton Henderson got

Camel’s Music Award.

Underage

It was a fast-paced start to the underage match. The first goal came from Oakley Brennan, followed up by a quick goal from Boort.

Great defence by Sophie Burke, Darnell Clapham and Larou Clapham to get the ball out after repeated attacks by Boort. Oakley took another shot at goal, but the Boort goalie stopped it. Oakley scored a second goal. Great midfield tackling from Lily Nuske, Victory Davis and Ellie Burke. Darcy Burke took a few runs up the field, working with Oakley. Boort ran it down the field and scored a fast goal. Another shot on goal by Boort with good defence by Donald.

In the second half, Boort started strongly, getting the ball down to its end quickly. Boort shot for goal several times but didn’t convert. Defenders Kailie Krause, Sophie, Darnell and Larou were kept busy. Donald players worked together to get control of the ball, where Darcy pushed the ball into goals.

Boort took the ball and after some scrappy play, Oakley took it back down the sideline. Back and forth up the field. Great tackling by Nakyra and Ellie as Donald tried to regain control. More shots on goal by Donald, but defended well by Boort’s



Opportunity Awaits Saints and Royal Blues

(By Shane O'Shea)

It's been a frustrating start to North-Central's 2025 season for St. Arnaud and Donald, both remaining winless after three rounds. But all that can change for the better tomorrow, when the two arch rivals do battle at St. Arnaud's Lord Nelson Park in what has become the annual Chris "Pa" Wall tribute game.

St. Arnaud went close to breaking through for its first win against Charlton in last Friday night's Anzac Day clash.

Unfortunately for the Saints, they were unable to hold out the Navy Blues, whose growing confidence enabled them to storm home for a morale-boosting victory.

The Saints' opponent tomorrow, Donald, has been hammered from pillar to post on the scoreboard in all three games so far, despite displaying admirable desperation and determination.

Barring a drawn result, either the Saints or Royal Blues will savour a much-needed victory, providing a small reward for their respective dedicated supporters.

The arrival of former Geelong VFL footballer Darby Schilder and the return of two former coaches and onfield leaders, Jacob Tillig and James McNamee, is just the fillip the Saints need in their

time of struggle, also helping to cover the absence of current coach, Scott Driscoll.

Their influence, combined with the consistent form of Harley Durward, Mitch Egan, Matt Goode and ruckman Zac Phillips, could prove to be the deciding factor in tomorrow's outcome.

For Donald, the availability of the mercurial Ross Young, and the return of dashing Dyson Bell-Warren and his brother-in-law, Callum Van Den Driest, to support coach Daniel Pearce, Eddie Landwehr and Ryan Bath, could be enough to tip the scales in the Royal Blues' favour.

The vast expanses of St. Arnaud's home ground at Lord Nelson Park should provide the Saints with the platform to use their pace to create plenty of scoring opportunities.

If they can capitalise, they should win, but if Daniel Pearce and his fellow defend-

ers can hold tight for four quarters, as they did in the final stanza of last Saturday's game against Boort, they can put the Royal Blues in a position to secure their first premiership points, with big forward Brent Arho capable of booting them home.

Acid Test for Magpies

Boort currently sits on top of the North-Central ladder, with three consecutive wins to its credit, but will face its biggest challenge to date, from Sea Lake-Nandaly, the past master of applying intense pressure, when they meet at Boort Park.

The Magpies have been impressive in all three outings, but will need to take their game to a much higher level if they are to match the Tigers in every aspect of the game.

To be honest, Boort should have beaten Donald by a much greater margin last Saturday, its inability to execute accurate delivery of the



• Tigers' Tyson McKenzie get his kick away as he is bumped by Bulls' Nic Rippon in Saturday's match. Other players are Tigers Joel Donnan (left background) and Bulls' Meyrick Buchanan.

Sherrin consistently under limited pressure undid a lot of its impressive team work.

A repeat of that sometimes-lacklustre disposal against Sea Lake-Nandaly will invite a level of physical pressure the Magpies have yet to experience, from the likes of the Tigers' Wade Donnan, Thomas Cox, Bryce Delmenico, defenders Trent Donnan and Billy McInnes.

That having been said, Boort has several potential match winners, including dynamic small forwards Jhye Baddley-Kelly and Kayne Rutely, rover Carlos Egan, speedster Jayden Dick, in combination with the ever-reliable Wilson brothers, James in the ruck and Keiren across half-back.

Sea Lake-Nandaly will start favourite to win, but if Boort can eliminate a majority of skill errors, it has the potential to be able to push the Tigers to the very limit.

Important Test for Lions

Calder United is another team that will be facing a searching examination of its credentials when it visits near neighbour, Birchip-Watchem tomorrow.

The Lions have two wins from their three games, but lost a fiercely contested clash with Sea Lake-Nandaly, which, as with the Bulls, is one of the competition's benchmarks when it comes to strength, talent and consistency.

To build on the foundations the new combination has been building, Calder United would dearly love to claim a big scalp, and after Birchip-Watchem secured a meritorious 10-point win over the defending title holding Tigers last round, they don't come much bigger than the Bulls.

For that to be achieved tomorrow, the Lions' strong on-ball brigade, led by Matt Wade, Steven Kennedy, Koby Lloyd and Rylee Smith, will need to match the Bulls' powerful combination, which features Nic and Marshall Rippon, Meyrick Buchanan and Daniel Bell, who are thriving on the opportunities

• Continued on page 15.



(By Course Language)

The first Monthly Medal and Pies Putting for the year were played last weekend and despite all the encouraging forecasts for rain, the event was played on a dry course.

It turned out to be a real "father v. son" event with Peter and Luke Kelly being the leading contestants in both events. Kelly, the younger got the better of the "wily old veteran" to win both the Donald Pharmacy Monthly Medal and the Pies Putting. Both had 68 nett and 22 putts, with Luke winning both count-backs.

The "Nearest The Pins" were: The Donald Auto Elec 3rd, Luke Kelly; Weirs IGA 7th, Peter Kelly; Nufarm 14th, Brad Bath; Bendigo Bank 16th, Peter Kelly.

The Donald Golf Club wishes the Berry family all the best in their move to Geelong. Geoff was a previous committee member and handicapper of our club. Bezza, if you get sick of playing on lush, green, perfectly manicured courses you are always welcome to come back for a round or two on a course that builds real character.

There's always plenty of different ways to fire up a

golfer on the course. The scribe accidentally hit Geoff Harvey in the ankle with the scraper when cleaning up the scrape. He went on to par the last two holes, hitting the ball better than he had all day. Then he complained that I should have done it earlier in his round. Some people are never happy.

Many thanks to Harbergers for a loan of their telehandler last weekend for some course maintenance. Certainly saved wearing out a shovel.

Dad's Army

Last Thursday was the first skirmish for the Veterans who make up Dad's Army. The winner was Dave Wylie, a visiting recruit, down from Townsville to enjoy a hit of golf on a course that resembles a desert rather than a tropical jungle that he would be used to up there. Well played, Sir.

Coming Up

The first round of the singles knock out will be

played this weekend if there's enough interest. It will also be a Stableford round sponsored by Nutrien Ag Solutions.

Dad Jokes

There's a huge sale at the Lego store – there's people lined up for blocks.

I saw a bloke the other day going up a hill with a trolley full of horseshoes, four leaf clovers and rabbit's feet – I thought to myself, he's pushing his luck.

RIP to a mate of mine, his wife sent him out to get some sowing thread but he ended up in the pub all day – gone but not for cotton.

I went to a restaurant on the weekend and they had pelican on the menu – I was going to order it but the bill would have been huge.

Farmers have discovered that cows produce more milk if you talk to them – it's a case of in one ear and out the udder.

GOLDACRES NORTH CENTRAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

ROUND 4

SATURDAY MAY 3RD, 2025

BOORT MAGPIES	VS	SEA LAKE NANDALY TIGERS
BOORT PARK		
ST ARNAUD SAINTS	VS	DONALD ROYAL BLUES
LORD NELSON PARK <i>Chris "PA" Wall Memorial Game</i>		
WEDDERBURN REDBACKS	VS	CHARLTON NAVIES
DONALDSON PARK		
BIRCHIP-WATCHEM BULLS	VS	CALDER UNITED LIONS
GEORGE CARTWRIGHT OVAL		