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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

Horticulture is Clarice's Choice

At the end of the final year at Secondary School, the Year 12 students have their Valedictory Dinner photos in the local newspaper, and after their exams, the Dux is announced and graces the front page.

Some receive some worthy awards at Speech Night and after receiving their first or second choice, they head off to their tertiary education or apprenticeship. After prolonged years of study, the general community may see a photo of a few of the students holding their degree.

Clarice Bennett, younger daughter of Doug and Annette Bennett, has been successful with her choice of tertiary education and is enjoying her horticultural course in Geelong.

Before Clarice left for Geelong, she was presented with a Thompson Bible from the Birchip Uniting Church. It has been the tradition for more than 40 years to present a Bible to teenagers who have continued to attend Church with their families during their teenage years.

When Church services began again after the Covid lockdown, the form of having worship changed with the need to have the technical knowledge to use a computer, a USB stick, and to screen the service for all to see. Clarice

stepped up to the mark and has been largely responsible for projecting the services that have been prepared by Presbytery Ministers.

Backed up by Elaine McCallum or Robyn Ferrier, Clarice has faithfully served the Lord at nearly every Birchip Uniting Church Service since lockdown ended. The congregation is extremely thankful to Clarice for her dedication and congratulates her for her successful achievement in gaining a place in Geelong to further her studies.



• Clarice Bennett was presented with a Thompson Bible from the Birchip Uniting Church.



• Pictured at the Wycheproof Seniors Rooms admiring the wool craft display are Red Hat members (left to right, standing) Marie Englemann, Susan Morse, Sandra Patton, Francie Stahl. Sitting, left to right: Elaine Palmer, Lyn Cossar, Juliya Ambrizas. Behind the camera: Aileen Wolfe. At the time of the photo other members were busy checking out the Wycheproof Op Shop. (Photo: supplied).

Red Hatters Visit Wyche. and Nullawil

Wycheproof and Nullawil were the destinations for the Charlton Red Hatters Group as members trekked up the Calder Highway for their May outing.

First stop was the Seniors Rooms in Wycheproof for a display and presentation of wool-inspired crafts by local artisans, featuring Juliya Ambrizas, who shared her knowledge of spinning and weaving with the visiting group. A long-term proponent of this craft, Juliya showed her spinning techniques using a spindle, along with presenting her diverse range of woven articles.

Also showcasing her wool-craft talents was Diane McNaughton, who had a colourful display of rugs made from home spun yarn.

With the cooler weather approaching the knitted beanies by Lyn Cossar were also appreciated. Lyn generously knits these cosy items of apparel for charity.

Adding to the visitors' day was a drop in at the Wycheproof Op Shop which opened especially for the Red Hatters to browse and scan the aisles for a "treasure" or two!

A tasty meal at the Royal Mail Hotel saw the group fortified to head on to Nullawil for a look at the Trickbots Metal Art and Sculpture Garden. An incredible array of sculptures fashioned from "found" objects had the visitors fascinated by the ability to create recognizable articles from rejected materials.

Charlton Red Hatter, Aileen Wolfe said members had thoroughly enjoyed the diversity of their day's outing.

The Red Hatters aim to support all the local communities, with members drawn from most of the surrounding Buloke towns.

As Seatbelt Fines Raise Serious Concerns... RACV Says "Buckle Up"

RACV is urging all Victorians to wear their seatbelts every time they are in a vehicle, following alarming new figures that show more than 8,500 drivers were caught not wearing a seatbelt in the first quarter of the 2024-25 financial year, totalling over \$3.3 million in fines.

Victorian Police data suggests that the state could be on track to record more seatbelt offenses than the 34,744 record in the last financial year.

Concerningly, 118 Victorians

have lost their lives in 2025 (as at midnight 20 May 2025), up 8.3 per cent, and over the last five years, 130 lives have been lost in Victoria where the occupant was not wearing a seatbelt.

RACV Head of Policy, James Williams, said the figures were a stark reminder of the risks associated with ignoring seatbelt rules.

"Failing to wear a seatbelt is a simple, but deadly mistake,"

Mr Williams said.

"Seatbelts save lives. Choosing not to wear one puts you, your passengers, and other road users at risk."

In Victoria, the penalty for not wearing a seatbelt correctly is a \$395 fine and three demerit points.

"Crashes can happen anytime, anywhere – and the

consequences of not being restrained can be fatal."

RACV is calling on all drivers and passengers to prioritise their safety every time they enter a vehicle by:

- Ensuring seatbelts are worn properly and by all occupants.

- Adjusting seatbelts to sit snugly across the chest and lap.

- Checking that children are using appropriate restraints for their age and size.

"Wearing a seatbelt is one of the simplest actions we can take to reduce road trauma. It takes just seconds to click in – and it could save your life," Mr Williams said.

For more information on seatbelt safety, visit the RACV website.



Letters to the Editor



Keep It Clean

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Editor.— We at the Donald Community Precinct would like to remind all residents and visitors about the importance of respecting our shared public spaces – particularly when it comes to walking dogs and cleaning up after them.

Unfortunately, we have received multiple complaints about dog waste being left behind in our parks and around the facility. Quite frankly, stepping in dog faeces is not only unpleasant, it's entirely avoidable. This lack of consideration is disappointing and poses a health risk to children, other pets, and all users of our public areas.

We are currently working in partnership with the local council to install clear signage and provide dog waste bag dispensers in high-traffic areas around the precinct. These efforts are aimed at encouraging responsible pet ownership and ensuring our shared spaces remain clean, safe, and enjoyable for everyone.

As a reminder, under current local laws, dog owners must carry waste bags at all times while walking their pets in public. Failing to do so is not only irresponsible – it is illegal.

We thank the many responsible dog owners who do the right thing every day. Let's work together to ensure that all members of our community can continue to enjoy our beautiful public spaces.

Sincerely,

Donald Community Precinct Committee.

ESVF

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Editor.— I am writing about the so called ESVF.

From July 1, 2025, the Victorian Government is scrapping the old Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) and replacing it with a new tax: the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF). The FSPL was already included in our rates – but it was capped, predictable, and

based on basic property classification. The ESVF is not that. It's a completely different system, designed to charge a fixed fee AND add a variable fee based on your property's full Capital Improved Value (CIV) – that's the house + the land + every structure on it.

Farmers will be disproportionately affected, however if it affects all property owners, and will also add to cost of living as landlords will pass some or all of the increase in the levy onto tenants.

Given that it will be charged via council rates notices and collected by council, surely councils can decide to NOT charge or collect the new "levy".

I recall asking the Buloke Council during covid about state government mandates (including lockdowns) and was disappointingly told that council had to follow said mandates, despite the fact there were councils in other parts of the country which chose not to follow the mandates and did so successfully avoiding much of the catastrophic fall out of those mandates.

I sincerely hope our council draws a line in the sand and takes a stand. If all councils did this, the "levy" would be dead in the water. Just as the state government covid mandates would've been if councils had taken a stand.

The state government is out of control and has forgotten they are public SERVANTS. Perhaps the grass roots local councils can put the brakes on the oversized bureaucracy that has become the state government. Thereby operating as one of the checks and balances that exist in our system of government.

Wouldn't that be encouraging?

Sincerely,

Name and Address Supplied.

Regional Victoria Under Attack

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Editor.— During the last week of political turmoil regarding the Fire Service

Levy, the Jacinta Allan Government has taken CFA Volunteers and all Victorian residents for granted when it comes to a money grab.

The proposed increase for agriculture was 189 % (now 150%) and residential properties 99%. For farmers it means that the tens of thousands of dollars, which potentially will not be spent in the regions, but will be used to help the Government Budget.

The Premier has done a deal with the minor parties to get the numbers to pass this bill, all of which when finalized, will still be detrimental to the majority of Victorians.

The proposed bill was so bad that even the United Firefighters Union secretary called it out as outrageous and playing dirty politics.

Margaret Thatcher once said, "The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money."

Regional Victoria is under attack from the Allan Government with the proposed Mining, Transmission Lines, Wind Turbines and Solar Factories which will affect 70% of Victoria's agricultural land. Has our Government considered a Food Security Policy?

As Landowners continue the push back on these proposed foreign investments the Labor Party remains blasé about the effects on our environment, wildlife and in particular, farmers' mental health, which suggests gross negligence by the Labor Government.

With our 1% carbon factor and the cost of renewables we will supposedly save the World but not ourselves.

While Labor has been in power they have introduced sixty new or increased tax policies which will affect everyone, Families, Farmers, Business and Renters.

May common sense prevail at the next State Election and the Allan Government will be voted out and save us from more National embarrassment.

Colin Coates,
Traynor's Lagoon.

Reconciliation Week

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Editor.— As we mark National Reconciliation Week, I wish to take a moment to honour this important time of reflection, learning, and commitment to unity across our nation.

Reconciliation Week reminds us of the urgent need to build respectful relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians. The theme this year, "Bridging Now to Next" speaks to the enduring connection between our past, present, and future and calls on all Australians to walk forward together.

Here in our own community, we are fortunate to have local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and

organisations leading the way. Their tireless efforts in education, culture, health, advocacy, and community development are central to the fabric of reconciliation.

Reconciliation demands more than acknowledgement. It requires listening, learning, and sustained commitment from all of us. As your local representative, I remain dedicated to supporting initiatives that advance truth-telling, close the gap, and foster genuine partnerships with First Nations communities.

I encourage all Australians to use this week as a time for reflection, growth, and unity as we take the next step together in bridging now to next.

Warm regards,
Jade Benham, MP.



Police Beat

Gannawarra

Police attended an incident in Adams Court, Kerang, on the 24/5/25 – regarding a deliberately lit fire. The fire began over a disputed property item. A 51-year-old female was taken into custody and assisted Police with their enquires.

Two burglaries were reported in the Kerang area over the last week, one at a private residence where an amount of cash was stolen. The other on a commercial premises where a white Ford Ranger was stolen. This vehicle remains stolen.

There were reports of two vehicles having items removed from them. Police encourage all vehicle owners when leaving a vehicle unattended, please be sure that the vehicle is locked.

On 20/5/25, Police responded to reports of erratic driver in Murray Street, Kerang. The driver, a 37-year-old female from Kerang, underwent an Evidentiary Breath Test where she recorded a reading of .306%. The driver's vehicle was impounded and the driver's licence was suspended immediately. The driver will face court at a later date.

Swan Hill

On 25/5/25 a 38-year-old male was arrested by Police as a result of a shop steal that had occurred earlier in the day. On his arrest the male also had a small quantity of a white crystal substance on him. The male was processed by way of caution.

A male and a female have attended a large Hardware premises in Swan Hill on the 22/5/25, where they have removed a number of items without paying for them. Police are conducting enquires regarding this matter.

A 22-year-old female was processed by Police for the theft of a number of fragrances from a local pharmacy – Police are conducting enquires regarding this matter.

Three young males wearing school uniforms attended a commercial premises in Swan Hill where they stole a number of confectionary items. All males are to receive cautions for their behaviour.

A 22-year female has entered a bottle shop on 2 occasions, removing alcohol, without paying for the items. The female was arrested by police, charged and bailed to a later court date.

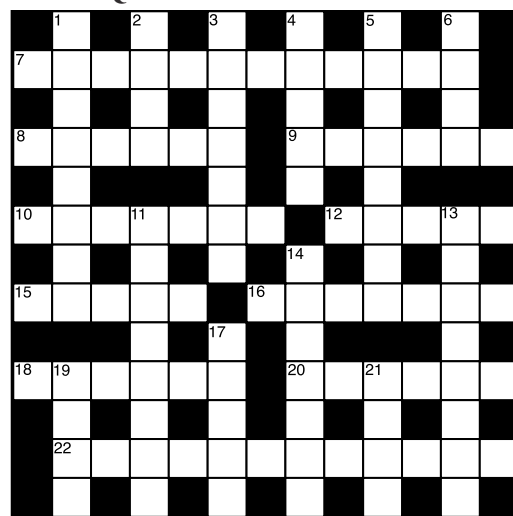
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Belvedere By George Crenshaw
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"Let me know if Belvedere bothers you."

"Times" Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8179



ACROSS

- 7. Fruit (12)
- 8. Container (6)
- 9. Scattered (6)
- 10. Fish (7)
- 12. Slink (5)
- 15. Minimum (5)
- 16. Rope (7)
- 18. Wolf (6)
- 20. Bird (6)
- 22. Plain (12)

DOWN

- 1. Apportion (8)
- 2. Tail (4)
- 3. Cry (7)
- 4. Tuft (5)
- 5. Guarantee (8)
- 6. Dish (4)
- 11. Treacherous (8)
- 13. Rough (8)
- 14. Warlike (7)
- 17. Irritable (5)
- 19. Work (4)
- 21. Pace (4)

• Solution next issue.

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

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

Wed, 28 May - Donald 12-5pm*

Scout Hall, Racecourse Road

* please note different time for this session

4 June - Birchip 1-6pm

Birchip Leisure Centre

11 June - Charlton 1-6pm

Charlton Park Community Bank Complex

www.corackeastwind.com.au

info@corackeastwind.com.au

1800 498 550

Corack East Wind

Charlton Club Ticks Off 125 Years

In 1900 Australia was still a number of individual colonies, the Boer War was still taking place, and in China the Boxer Rebellion was drawing nations across the world into that conflict.

In Charlton ten members of the community from different walks of life met in a small room behind a shop, and with the taking of minutes, banking and a constitution the Charlton Club was born on May 21st; the first President being local solicitor Ben Green.

Even from the very early years membership was very select and difficult to obtain with a strict processing system in place.

The inaugural year saw 115 members pay a subscription of 10 shillings and 6 pence per annum. Once you became a member any breaching of the rules would

result in expulsion, with future readmission unlikely.

In December, 1916, a Liquor Licence was obtained that was extended to a 24-hour licence in 1917; this licence still exists today.

Many extensions and alterations to the small rooms at 37 High Street were made over the years with the last major one being done in 1972. A cleaner was employed for 12 shillings per week, which increased to 16 shillings if flood waters from the Avoca River came in.

The clubs magnificent full size billiard table was purchased in the early 1900s from Melbourne firm Alcock

and Pierce, with the building being purchased outright in 1913. "Ballarat Bertie" beer was the drink of choice for members. The club purchased the burnt out café site where the Bendigo Bank now stands for use as a car park, and in 1972 spent \$12,000 on further internal work and purchases for the comfort of members.

From the First World War until 1966, hotels were forced to close at 6 p.m. each day, but the Charlton Club's unrestricted licence made membership an attractive option. Oldtimers still recall 4 bar staff serving patrons 3 deep along the bar. Record memberships were recorded in the 1980s, but with a downturn in patronage in the 1990s, only one bar steward was employed. With the installation of poker machines in mind, a motion was put forward to open membership to females; that was carried 105 to 75. Current vice-president Rodney Heritage nominated his mother as the first female member, and this was successfully adopted.

Today the Charlton Club still opens Friday evenings and for functions, meetings and events as required, and is totally run by volunteers. It is a popular spot for visitors to drop into from the rear Travellers Rest Caravan Park with many regular return patrons enjoying the friendly atmosphere. Those early pioneering members would be proud of the continuing tradition that they first started one hundred and twenty five years ago.



• The 125th cake.



• President Markus Phillips watches Rodney Heritage cut the cake.



• Adam Perrett from Shed Shaker Brewing in Castlemaine samples his brews.

Elmhurst Project Wins Water Award

GWMWater is pleased to announce that its project, GWMWater's First Fully Off-Grid Facility, The Elmhurst Water Treatment Plant, has won the Infrastructure Project Innovation Award (Regional) at the 2025 Australian Water Awards.

The project involved successfully upgrading Elmhurst's water supply to meet drinking water standards by implementing a new off-grid water treatment plant. The stand-alone energy system provides a reliable and low-cost solution to power the site, enabling GWMWater to supply customers with cost-effective drinking water while utilising clean energy and minimising emissions.

The Australian Water Association (AWA) water awards recognise and celebrate excellence in the water sector across Australia. The awards program, which includes state and territory awards, as well as national awards, highlights innovation, leadership, and positive change in the water industry.

Dedication

AWA Chief Executive Corinne Cheeseman congratulated all the winners and finalists, acknowledging their dedication to shaping a more sustainable and resilient water future. "These awards recognise not only excellence, but the commitment our sector has to continually improving how we manage, protect and value water. Each winner has demonstrated how innovation and collaboration can deliver lasting impact," Ms Cheeseman said.

GWMWater Managing Director, Mark Williams, con-

gratulated all staff involved in the project.

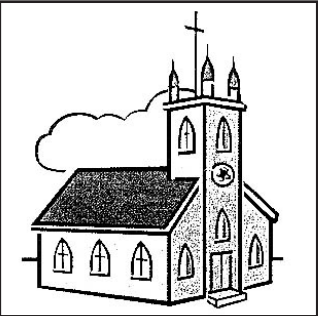
Commitment

"Having our project recognised at the Australian Water Awards is a testament to our staff's unwavering commitment to sustainable water solutions and forward-thinking innovation. This recognition reflects the passion, collabo-

ration, and technical excellence that drives everything we do for the future of our community," said Mr Williams.

The Australian Water Awards continue to spotlight the people, organisations and ideas that are advancing the sector and delivering real outcomes for communities across the country.

CHURCH NOTICES



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



www.granitecommunitychurch.com

At Granite Church
10.30 a.m.

Baptist Union of Victoria



"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.

BEREAVEMENT THANK YOU TUNSTALL.— Sue

Win, Cameron, Wendy, Deb, Ken & families would like to thank everyone for their generous support, thoughts, prayers, food & flowers on the passing of Sue – our daughter, mother, sister, nan, aunt, great-aunt & valued SES member and work colleague.

Please accept this as our personal thank-you.

DONALD FIELD & GAME Shoot

75 ASF HCP

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

10 a.m. start

Proudly sponsored by
*Regional Touring &
Warakirri*

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

SHED CLEAR OUT

5 Corack Road, Donald

Friday, May 30

12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, May 31

from 10 a.m.

until sold out

All the usual bits and pieces you would find in a country shed, as well as household goods and garden equipment — **everything must go!**

Enter via the back gate on Elizabeth St. Cash Only.

GARAGE SALE
3/122 Woods St, Donald
Saturday, May 31
8 a.m. start

Everything must go - priced to sell.

Fridge, washing machine, couch, roll-top desk, kitchen table (round) & chairs, bedside drawers, kitchen cabinet, single beds and more.

DONALD SOCIAL TABLE TENNIS Competition

All ages and abilities welcome

Venue: Donald Lawn Tennis Club

Wednesday nights

June 4, 11, 19 & 26

7 P.M.

Cost \$5 per week

BYO table tennis bat

Drinks at bar prices

ALL WELCOME

Register your interest with Joe Sheridan

0400 700 232

WEIR'S **IGA** **plus LIQUOR**

WINTER CLOSING HOURS

Weir's IGA Donald and St Arnaud stores will be closing at 6 p.m. from Monday June 2 until Sunday August 31.



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Campus Negotiable

Nurse Practitioner

Birchip

Resident Lifestyle Coordinator

St Arnaud

Maintenance Officer

Payroll Officer

Education Coordinator

Director of Finance and Administration

Associate Nurse Unit Manager

Registered Nurse

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

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



DONALD FAMILY CLINIC

EXTENDED CLINIC CLOSURE INFORMATION

The Donald Family Clinic will be **CLOSED**
from **5:30pm Thursday 19th June 2025**
and will re-open **8:30am Monday 14th July 2025**

WHO TO CONTACT WHEN WE ARE CLOSED

EWHS - Donald Campus will have an Urgent Care on-call doctor available, they can be contacted on **5478 6200**

For After Hours advice contact -
GP Helpline **1800 022 222** or Nurse On Call **1300 606 024**

For EMERGENICES call **000**

MORE INFORMATION

5497 1100

reception@donaldfamilyclinic.com.au

Please be aware
of your
**Prescription and
Referral needs
well ahead of
time.**

MARNOO PRIMARY SCHOOL 150TH ANNIVERSARY

You're invited!

Friday, 27th June 2025
2:00pm – 4:00pm at the school

- ★ Unveiling of a commemorative plaque
- 🎭 Performance by current students
- 🗺 Self-guided tours of school and ~ & exhibition
- ☕ Afternoon tea thanks to the Marnoo CWA community
- 🎲 Old-fashioned games
- 👥 Reconnect with old friends, past students, and teachers

- Optional lunch from 12:00pm at the Marnoo Hub (former football grounds) text Bernadette on 0428 824 732 To book

Please register your attendance here:

Marnoo Primary 150th Celebration.
<https://forms.gle/PgbTad64YDhf3Cny8>



#MarnooPrimary150 #MarnooCelebration

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“Times” Classifieds



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Promotion for Mallee Member

Member for Mallee Dr Anne Webster says she is humbled to have been appointed Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Regional Communications, Local Government and the Territories in a re-formed Coalition shadow ministry team announced in the past week.

“When I was elected as the Federal Member for Mallee in 2019, in my maiden speech to Parliament I said ‘community is built on communication, if you don’t have it, the result is entrenched isolation. Nobody thrives in isolation’,” Dr Webster said.

“It is my great honour to be appointed Shadow Minister for Regional Communications. Driving across the 83,412 km2 of Mallee, I know like the back of my hand where many black spots are. Despite the former Coalition Government’s significant effort leading up to 2022 filling 43 Mallee mobile black spots, since 2022 Labor have not filled one in their first three years in office.

Taking Up the Fight

“I will be taking up the fight to the Albanese Government not only for Mallee, but all regional Australians on regional mobile and internet connectivity to overcome the tyranny of distance, enable remote work and working from home, and adopt best practice technology in agriculture and small business.

“The Nationals fought hard at the last election, and since in negotiation with the Liberal Party, to ensure there is a universal service obligation on telcos so we have re-

liable coverage in regional Australia. I am excited to lead the charge taking this policy forward towards the next election.”

Dr Webster also shared her excitement advocating for regional development and other ministerial responsibilities, emphasising that her fight to ensure Mallee get its fair share from Labor governments would not only continue locally, but shape how she takes up the fight for all regional Australians.

Roads, Rail, Bridges

“In my maiden speech I also said ‘Roads, rail and bridges are essential for productivity and community life. Locals and tourists alike, need safe passage to travel throughout this vast electorate. Our farmers and industry need efficient transport mechanisms and systems to access domestic and export markets.’

“I am incredibly proud to be also appointed Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories. I was Shadow Assistant Minister for Regional Development during 2022/23 and I work frequently with local government – I have 12 shires in Mallee alone!

“Councils and shires have an impossible burden with low ratepayer bases and

crumbling infrastructure. The Nationals, as we did on regional mobile coverage, stood firm at – and since – the election securing a Coalition commitment to a Regional Australia Future Fund to finance, in perpetuity, shires fixing roads, improving infrastructure, providing local health training opportunities, closing childcare deserts and meeting many other vital regional needs.”

Dr Webster thanked the stakeholders who had engaged strongly with her in her former role as Shadow Assistant Minister for Regional Health, including participating in two national summits in Mildura on the Regional Health Workforce and Regional Aged Care crisis.

“As Member for Mallee I will be working with my Nationals Party Room and parliamentary colleagues to progress policy I developed as Shadow Assistant Minister, which regional Australia desperately needs to address our poorer health outcomes and dire workforce shortages in the regions.”

Welcome Reforming

Dr Webster also welcomed the reforming of the Coalition with the Liberal Party saying, “The Nationals have fought for and secured important reform for regional Australia. I



• Dr. Anne Webster.

am a strong advocate for principle, and the principle in the wake of the election is that The Nationals made promises to regional Australians we expected the Coalition to keep. We stood firm for regional mobile coverage, a Regional Australia Future Fund, a big stick of divestiture powers to hold the supermarket duopoly accountable and keeping nuclear energy as a future option in our energy mix.

“After some debate, we have secured those major wins for regional Australians, and history will hardly notice what – in the end – was arguably not a formal break in the Coalition, or at worst a few days in limbo during negotiations.

“The Nationals make no apology in taking bold steps to stand up for regional Australians and we will continue to do so.”

LET’S KEEP GOING

2025

DONATE NOW

35 YEARS OF CLEANING UP OUR ENVIRONMENT



SCAN TO DONATE
[CLEANUP.ORG.AU](https://cleanup.org.au)

Clean Up



Varieties Galore at Donald Shared Shop

Donald Shared Shop is constantly evolving, bringing in new vendors and interesting items for sale.

Vic Chere has joined the team located at Bev's Baubles in Woods Street, and he brings a collection of music, art and vintage collectables.

Vic is a certified antique, collectables, rare books and art wholesaler with over 35 years' experience within auction houses. He comes from

Sydney where he had regular dealings with artists such as David Boyd, Norman Lindsay and various Archibald prize winners.

Currently available at the shop are Norman Lindsay prints, coin and war medal collections, musical instruments including a clarinet and flute, plus several guitars.

There are also Tiffany reproduction leadlight lamps and hand carved tribal statues. Plus for the dedicated fans, there is a range of Doctor Who and Star Wars figurines.

The Shared shop also welcomes local Sue Gillahan, trading as Crafter's Muse. She has beautiful hand knitted baby/toddler jumpers and booties, as well as some quirky soft toys. Sue has been knitting for many years and has recently mastered the art of crochet to add to her range of items. She also has a variety of hydroponic indoor plants and small succulent gardens.

Call in to the Donald Shared Shop, you never know what you might find amongst the eclectic mix of goods.

The Shared Shop is always looking for newcomers to join their team, or you might be interested in volunteering to work at the shop and help keep a local business to remain open.

Any queries, you can contact Bev, Kez or Patrick Timmons for more details.

• Pictured on this page is the incredible variety on display at the Donald Shared Shop. Call in, you never know what you might find amongst the eclectic mix of goods.



Safer Health Care for All Victorians

The State Government is improving safety across Victoria's health system – with thousands of Victorians already benefiting from work to enhance patient care as part of the landmark 100,000 Lives Program.

Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas this week welcomed the release of the latest progress update on the 100,000 Lives Program, which shows clear improvements in patient outcomes across the state's health services.

Established in 2021, the 100,000 Lives Program is a partnership between Safer Care Victoria and health services to enhance safety, reduce avoidable harm and address disparities – particularly in regional and diverse communities.

The initiative also aims to alleviate pressure on acute care services by focusing on the delivery of preventive care, cost-effective interventions and empowers health services and individual clinicians to continually learn, innovate, improve and contribute to sustainable change.

Almost 70,000 Victorians have already had better care

experiences since the program began – including more than 18,400 people in the past year alone.

Key Highlights

Key highlights of the 100,000 Lives Program 2023-24 report include:

- Safer maternity care for 13,500 mothers, including better early recognition and improved responses to post-partum haemorrhages and pre-term births

- Safer cardiac care for 2,770 Victorians, including virtual care and improving access to specialist care in regional Victoria

- Safer antibiotic use for 800 patients, by removing low-risk penicillin allergy labels on medicines, ensuring first-choice antibiotics aren't overlooked for use due to low-risk allergies.

Made possible via a \$58.34 million investment from the Government, the 100,000 Lives Program uses

data-driven insights and is co-designed with health services, clinicians and consumers to ensure improvements are practical, targeted and patient-focused.

Collaboration

By focusing on system-wide collaboration, the program means that what works well in one part of Victoria, can be shared and scaled across the entire health system.

The State Government continues to invest in the people delivering this work, growing Victoria's public healthcare workforce by nearly 50 per cent over the past decade – with more than 40,000 additional nurses, midwives, doctors, allied health professionals and hospital staff now working in the state's health services.

For more information, visit safercare.vic.gov.au/publications/100000-lives-impact-report-2023-24.

One Hundred Years Ago

From the "Birchip Advertiser", May 29, 1925.

H.E.S Hostel: In our last issue Mr. E. Reseigh drew attention to the urgent need of a hostel for higher elementary school scholars and teachers, and the suggestions he offers, regarding ways and means of establishing the much-needed building, should receive urgent consideration by the many town and district residents, who are anxious to see our school progress and mature into a fully-fledged high school. Parents of prospective scholars find it difficult to arrange suitable board and lodgings, and in a number of instances the splendid educational facilities often have been denied through their inability to obtain suitable lodgings.

The head teacher (Mr. Dean) and the energetic school committee have great hopes of establishing a suitable hostel in the near future provided residents generally give the proposal their whole-hearted support. If the expense is shared by everyone in a position to contribute, the financial burden will be comparatively light.

We would suggest that an exhaustive canvass be made for donations and the balance, if any, be liquidated by the issue of debentures bearing interest at 6 per cent.

Knowing the urgent need for the immediate establishment of a hostel, we shall be pleased to hand over our donation of £25 towards the cost

of erection, and if sufficient donations are not received, we will purchase debentures for a similar amount.

Throwing of Confetti Prohibited: Mr. Kenna, our local station master, has handed us a copy of a recent gazette by-law of the Victorian Railways which strictly prohibits the throwing of confetti, etc., on railway premises.

Mill Crossing: The mill crossing has been permanently closed on the grounds that it is a source of danger to persons using it, and that the land on opposite sides of the railway, at the crossing, is now held by different owners.



AMBULANCE PHONE NO. 000

Basketball for All Abilities

A four-week basketball for people of all abilities program commenced last Wednesday at the great Donald Community Precinct, and it is not too late to join in.

Thank you again to the Donald Amateur Basketball Association and the Donald High School. The Donald High School staff and students are facilitating this popular activity with great support from the Donald Amateur Basketball Association, which has kindly supplied the venue and equipment. Rhonda Allan, of the Mallee Sports Assembly, once again liaised with DABA member Kath Campbell and the staff from the Donald High School to make the necessary arrangements. Rhonda attended the first session in which a good crowd attended, which is excellent. The first session included a warm up, ball drills, dribbling, shooting goals and hand control of the ball drills. There was plenty of energy burned during the session. Each week staff and

clients from McCallum Day Services (St Arnaud) and Woodbine (Warracknabeal), plus other community members will attend to enjoy the opportunity to play basketball. Well done to the Donald Amateur Basketball Association for once again supporting inclusive sport and recreation. This program is an initiative of the “Access for All Abilities” program (funded by Sport and Recreation of Victoria), which focuses on inclusive sport and recreation for all levels of abilities. Just a reminder that these programs are always open for any who would like to attend – the more the merrier.



• Each week staff and clients from McCallum Day Services-St Arnaud and Woodbine-Warracknabeal plus other community members will attend to enjoy the opportunity to play basketball.



• The first session included a warm up, ball drills, dribbling, shooting goals and hand control of the ball drills.

A Program To Improve St. Arnaud Shopfronts

St. Arnaud businesses can apply for help to improve the look of their shopfronts through a Northern Grampians Shire Council program.

Following the success of a pilot in Stawell last year, Shopfront Improvement Program leaders have turned their attention to St Arnaud in 2025. Mayor Karen Hyslop said Main Street in Stawell looked far more vibrant following the program’s introduction and she looked forward to seeing the results in St Arnaud. “Six businesses in St Arnaud will be selected to participate based on their needs and desire for improvement,” she said. “Participants can receive help with professionally designed business branding, updated signs, visual merchandising for window displays and other general improvements, depending on their situation.

“Any business owners with shopfronts in St Arnaud’s retail precinct who are interested in improving the presentation of their business are invited to make an expression of interest.” **Beatification Plan** Pop Creative Collective will consult with the successful applicants, helping them develop and implement a beautification plan. To kick-start the program, representatives of all St Arnaud businesses are invited to attend a visual merchandising workshop on Wednesday, June 11. The workshop will be in the Perry Room, St Arnaud Town Hall, from 5.30 p.m. to 7 p.m.. “Pop Creative Collective will run the workshop, which

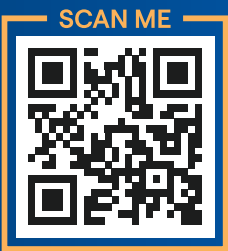
will include tips and tricks to help business owners and staff visually improve the look and feel of their businesses,” Cr Hyslop said. “Following the workshop, we will open up expressions of interest to participate in the Shopfront Improvement Program. “This is a fantastic opportunity for St Arnaud businesses and I encourage them to make the most of it.” The workshop is open to all St Arnaud businesses; however, the Shopfront Improvement Program is restricted to businesses in Napier Street and adjoining side streets. The visual merchandising workshop is free of charge, but bookings are essential.



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Boot-Scootin' Fun at Wycheproof

Wycheproof P-12 school students put their best foot forward on May 14, as they got into the spirit of the school's biennial Bush Dance.

Students from Prep through to Year 12 gathered in the Sports Stadium for the hour-long event, led by teachers Mrs Elder and Miss Smith.

Each primary class demonstrated a dance that they have been practising during Term 2, before inviting the rest of

the school and family members to join in.

The dances included classics such as the Heel and Toe Polka, Gallopede, Waves of Tory and Troika.

As always, it was lots of fun for students, staff and families, and they look forward to the next Bush Dance in 2027.



• Students from Prep to Year 12 partner up for a dance.



• Ryder Harrison and Fletcher Pardella.



• Tex Coles and Henry Pardella do the do-si-do.



• Athena Harris-Zinko and Scottie Allan ready for the 2025 Bush Dance.



• Prep/1 students Adeline Brennan, Sadie Cunningham and Mina Aerbboon.

Volunteers Recognised

Northern Grampians Shire Council gave thanks to some of the municipality’s “most generous and inspiring” people during National Volunteer Week celebrations last week.

Council celebrates dedicated volunteers during National Volunteers Week, May 26, 2025.

The council hosted afternoon teas for volunteers in Stawell and St Arnaud, with more than 40 people attending each event.

The volunteers represented a wide range of organisations and activities, including Meals on Wheels delivery, visitor information centres, Riding for the Disabled, Probus and Senior Citizens clubs, U3A and historical societies.

Mayor Karen Hyslop spoke of her experience as a volunteer and how it had enriched her life.

Attendees in Stawell also heard from guest speakers Sonny Gellie, Mal Nicholson and Geoff Erwin, all Country Fire Authority volunteers, along with Grampians Community Health volunteer David Morris.

“It was great to hear about their experiences. Sonny is a young volunteer, representing the next generation – it’s so important to have young people stepping into these roles,” Cr Hyslop said.

“They also benefit from the wealth of experience of long-term volunteers, particularly in organisations such as the CFA.”

St Arnaud

In St Arnaud, long-time volunteer Marg Batters shared

some of her experiences helping the community, while Trish Egan was recognised for 20 years of volunteer work.

“The afternoon teas were just a small token of appreciation to say thank you,” Cr Hyslop said.

“Across our towns and neighbourhoods, volunteers are the backbone of community life. Whether someone is helping out at the visitor information centres, delivering Meals on Wheels, sharing their time in our libraries, assisting in opportunity shops, coaching local sport, supporting animal rescue or involved in countless other ways – they are keeping our community strong, connected and compassionate.”

Special Mention

Cr Hyslop also gave a special mention and heartfelt thank-you to the region’s incredible CFA and emergency services volunteers.

“With the recent fires that affected our shire, your courage, dedication and tireless efforts were nothing short of extraordinary,” she said.

“Quite simply, we could not have got through with such a good outcome without you. These volunteers provided protection and support when we needed it the most.”

Cr Hyslop said volunteers provided thousands of hours of free service every year, ensuring events could run, clubs

could operate and support could reach people in need.

“From young children to our most senior residents, their work touches every age and every corner of our community,” she said.

“I know firsthand how fulfilling it is to be involved. Over the years, I have had the privilege of volunteering in many ways, such as working at the Visitor Information Centre, or jumping at the chance to help deliver Meals on Wheels.

“Every time I do, I am reminded of the simple yet powerful difference a friendly face and helping hand can make, and the deep importance of giving back to our community.”

Cr Hyslop encouraged people to consider putting up their hand to help.

“Volunteering can bring so many benefits, including to the volunteers themselves,” she said.

“It is a powerful way to connect, to contribute and to feel part of something bigger than ourselves.

“Together we make a difference.”

• *Right: Northern Grampians Shire mayor Karen Hyslop with Stawell volunteers and guest speakers, from left, David Morris, Sonny Gellie, Mal Nicholson and Geoff Erwin.*



• Northern Grampians Shire mayor Karen Hyslop thanks Trish Egan, who has completed 20 years of volunteer work for the St Arnaud community.



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Never a Dull Moment

Laughter and plenty of local spirit were on display at the return of the Donald High School Fete held on Friday, May 23, drawing a fantastic crowd and delivering a day full of fun, food, and festivities.

The school grounds buzzed with excitement as families, primary school students and the public explored a range of creative and crowd-pleasing stalls.

One of the biggest hits of the day was the Haunted House, a spooky student-run attraction that had a constant line of thrill-seekers. The level of detail and imagination impressed all who dared to enter.

Other popular attractions included face painting, which kept the younger crowd smiling with colourful designs, a cosy coffee shop offering barista-made brews and sweet treats, hearty baked potatoes that satisfied hungry visitors, and a classic lucky dip stall full of surprises.

Assistant Principal, Tony Cashin said: “It was great to see students take ownership and step up to run their activities.”

Bake Sale
The bake sale was a sight to see, with families donating impressive creations. The school wholeheartedly thanks the parents and school community for these donations that raised over \$1200. The monster grocery raffle was also donated by families and school community which raised over \$700. Congratulations to the Krause family which was lucky enough to



take home this haul. Thank you to Loveshack Giftware and Choose Food for adding donations to our hamper as well.

All funds raised from the fete will be spent with the guidance of SRC on something for student use.

Thanks

“It was great to see so many families and members of the community come along and support our fete day,” said Principal, Paul Aikman.

“Thank you to Miss Cavanagh, who organised with the assistance of Carolyn Potter, Ange Donnellon and Belicia Francis. And thanks to our students and all DHS staff for contributing.”

Thank you to the primary schools and community members for attending and supporting our school.



• Elijah Mansibang and Jack Reilly at the haunted house.



• Evie Donnellon, Samuel Mortlock, Milla Adams and Halle Rice.



• Marnie Harmer, Erin Clark, River Stirling and Ellie Burke.



• Year 12 students Georgie Smith and Ben Perry on the spinning wheel.



• Liam Stopps and Aria Brennan getting served at the soft drinks/lollies by Karleisha Anderson and Isabelle Sandy.



• Abby Griffiths and Millie Lydom with the monster grocery hamper.

at High School Fete



• Aria Brennan at the temporary tattoos.



• Haunted house sign. Thanks to Mrs Medlyn for helping create all the signs and decorations.

Year 11 Quiz Night

Wycheproof P-12 College's Year 11 students hosted a successful Quiz Night recently.

A highlight of the school's social calendar for more than 30 years, Quiz Night brings together the local community for a fun evening of trivia and raising funds for the Year 11 Work Experience Program.

This year the event was held in the school complex and 13 tables battled it out for the top spot, answering questions ranging from sports to history.

It was a close finish, but in the end Jordy Howell's table took out first place, winning a \$150 voucher donated by the Royal Mail Hotel, Wycheproof.

Wycheproof P-12 thanks the local businesses which



generously donated prizes and everyone who supported the fundraiser by coming along and/or buying raffle tickets.

Year 11 students are looking forward to their trip to Melbourne with VCE and Work Experience Co-ordinator Mrs Ison at the end of Term 2, to spend a week undertaking work experience in their chosen fields.



• This year's cohort of Year 11 students ready to host Quiz Night. Jack Cowell, Nicola Hobbs, Ruby Ison, Libby Thompson, Rhys Redmond, Jessie Fawcett, Max Fawcett, Angus Cowell and Olivia Driscoll.



• Jessie Fawcett and Nicola Dobbs read out a round of quiz questions.



• Max Fawcett and Angus Cowell run the spinning wheel.

Down the Middle?

Thirteen players took part in the first round of the Club Championships with two of those opting to play only nine holes.

The day's winner was Kerry Raven with a 72 nett and runner-up was Maree Egan on 77 nett. Kerry also won the putting with 22. Nearest the pins were Debbie Burton on Donald Auto Electrical's 3rd, Kerry Raven on Weir's 7th, and Maree Egan on both Bendigo Bank's 16th and Nu Farm's 14th. Well done to all the winners and thanks to the "Buloke Times" for its sponsorship.

Other results: Congratulations to the pennant team which came home victorious on Monday with a 2/1 win against Wedderburn to seal the win. Celebrations continued at the Donald Hotel that evening.

Next week:

Monday golf: Assemblé at 9.45.

Wednesday 28th: 2nd round of the Club Championships, stroke and putting, sponsored by D.C.I.R.S. (one of our new sponsors).

Highlights and Lowlights

Bill Livingston, filling in for the mid-week pennant team, almost didn't make it on time. He took a wrong turn at Charlton and headed for Wedderburn instead of Boort.

Robert Burton's partner, Kerry Raven thought Robert would be better off without

his clubs and drove her cart off, leaving him behind.

Debbie Burton lost a ball on the 13th, found it when she was playing the 14th then lost another ball on the 14th. Beris Jones preferred to play on the tracks instead of the fairways.

It was a day of gobblers Kerry Raven – 1, Debbie Burton – 1, Jo Beavis – 2, Mary Herben and Jenni Campbell – 1.

Player Profile

Mary Herben

For how long have you been playing golf? 18 months.

What do you enjoy about golf? Walking between the holes and the social interaction.

What's the best part of your game? Track patching.

What advice would you give to anyone who is thinking of taking up golf? Don't die wondering. Have a go at it.

What's your best score? It's still to come.

What's the best shot you've ever played? On the 15th scrape the flag had fallen over and my approach shot rolled along the flag and into the hole.

Who is your favourite golfer? Brenda Brennan and Min Jee Lee.

What is your current position in the club? Track patcher and dish washer.

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Tribute to the Late Bob Baker

At 98 years of age, popular Donald resident, Robert Frances (Bob) Baker died on May 15, 2025.
The following obituary was read by a member of his family at the funeral service in Donald on May 20.

I am Bob's eldest daughter Sue, and even though my siblings all like to have their say, they decided that today, I am the family spokesperson, which is an honour.

Over the last few years Dad has written "his story" and while it was saved in various places, first on his old computer and then on pieces of paper, we hope we've done it justice.

Dad was born in Donald on the 27th of February in 1927. He was the first born child to Frank and Doris Baker. They lived 3 miles east of Donald on the family farm, which incidentally has only just been recently sold after being farmed by four generations of Bakers. Over the next 10 years his siblings Max, Patty and Valma were born.

As a child Dad used to ride Bluey the pony to school in Donald. They often picked up other kids, and so then a jinker was needed. (For those who don't know, a jinker is a cart that is harnessed to the horse.)

His jobs around the farm included milking the cows, separating the milk, rabbiting for skins, plucking dead wool, collecting horse hair and selling bottles to make money.

Apprenticeship

In 1942 after completing his schooling, Dad started an apprenticeship with Alec Hunter. He also completed a Diploma of Automotive Engineering. His transport at this time was a trusty bike which he would ride into to work each day from the farm. This was also how he got to footy training at Wofoonook and to nearby towns for dances and balls. When he finished his apprenticeship, he moved to Melbourne to work, where he saved enough to buy his first car – a 1927 Oakland 2-door sedan, which was converted to kerosene due to petrol rationing at the time.

Story has it, he met Peggy, who was from Melbourne at a rodeo in St Arnaud. They quickly became an item, though none of us could ever fathom what on earth Mum would've been doing at a rodeo.

In 1950 he got a job back in Donald at Whitney Motors Holden. A house was supplied with the job although it only had the bare essentials, no fridge, no hot water and an outhouse. A big shift for Mum when they got married in February 1951. I was the first

born, incidentally in the same hospital as Dad, followed by Cheryl.

Minyip

In 1954, we moved over to Minyip, as Dad had taken a job to work for Ralston Mackenzie Holden Motors. Debra, Mandy and eventually John (the white haired wonder son and heir) were all born. During their time in Minyip both Mum and Dad were heavily involved in many organisations in their community. So much so that at one time Dad was secretary or president of 8 different organisations.

Freemasons

In 1961, Dad was inducted into the Freemasons and regularly attended meetings as a member of at least 8 different lodges over the next 60 years. In fact, he attended his last meeting in St Arnaud while living in the village.

We all have great memories of Dad heading off to what we referred to as his "grand Poo Bah" meetings, wearing his penguin suit with the secret squirrel black case, which we brought along to share today.

Back in Donald

In 1970, Dad took a job back home in Donald, so back the family moved, into a house they purchased in Napier Street. Dad's new job involved the management of the local swimming pool and kiosk. I'm sure most kids from that era can recall Dad bellowing at them over the loudspeaker and "banning" them for the day if they were doing the wrong thing. He ran the pool for 4 years until he was offered the position of Shire foreman with the local council, where he worked until retirement in 1989. Once again, they dedicated many hours to the Community Fire Brigade, Meals on Wheels and the Golf and Bowls Clubs.

Once he retired, bowls was Dad's life and he continued to play pennant up until 2 years ago. If you glance around the room you will see R.F. Baker featured on the honour boards several times.

Travel

Mum and Dad had been talking about a trip around Australia when Mandy jumped on the bandwagon, offering the house for sale to one of her close friends, who said "Yes", therefore, Mum and Dad were homeless. By this time we had all left home.

Dad bought a monstrous caravan, the Statesman Deville, which we all referred to as "The MAFIA Staff Car". For a few months they lived in the Donald Caravan Park, until Dad officially retired.

Then off they went on the trip of their lifetime. First South Australia, then New South Wales and then on to Queensland, where, as Dad unhitched the van, he "did" his back and ended up in the Gladstone Hospital for 10 days, leaving Mum stranded in the Boyne Tannum Caravan Park.

Park Life at Gladstone

As happens in "The Park Life" everyone wandered across to help Mum, putting up the annex and helping with trips to visit Dad in Gladstone. These same people became life-long friends of Mum and Dad. The plan to go around Australia was put on hold and they were now permanent residents of the Park – Dad managing the grounds and Mum the office and kiosk. Eventually, the owners of the park asked them to take on full management and move into the house. They continued to live there until new owners took over the park and they then moved into town. They were also able to continue their dream of travelling in their van and made several trips, covering most of Australia.

Both Mum and Dad once again involved themselves in the local community. It was here they clocked up 40 years of Meals on Wheels service.

Sports Medal

Dad was very involved in the BITS Golf and Bowls Club and in 2000 was honoured with receiving an Australian Sports Medal. In 2013 he was nominated by the Gladstone Regional Council for Sports Official of the year, Senior Sportsperson of the year and Citizen of the year.

Every year by about late October, Mum and Dad would tow, by now a much smaller van back to Victoria, visiting us all for a couple of months over Christmas.

Early 2015, as a family we decided that because we all lived interstate and Mum was needing regular care, which Dad was trying to manage alone, the time had come (the Walrus said) for them to move again. While I make light of this today, I personally found this one of the hardest things I've had to do. Expecting them to pack up their life as they had known it for almost thirty years and move back to Victoria was a difficult time for everyone; however, back to Donald they came. We all wanted to spend more time with them and make Dad's life easier. Dad had always said that if they required regular assistance with life becoming too hard for them to manage in Queensland, they would eventually move to the village units like Nana and Pop Baker had before them.

Goodwin Village and Men's Shed

Mum passed away in 2016, so then Dad moved into Unit 20 at the Goodwin Village. He continued to play pennant bowls, spending mornings at the Men's Shed and keeping involved in the community. He moved into the home in 2020, where the car was replaced with the trusty gopher – not sure this was actually a safer option given Dad was regularly tested and told to slow down! But he had to be the first at the Men's Shed in time for smoko.

Dad was always extremely thankful that he got the "penthouse suite" at the Village. for those unfamiliar, this was a new wing that had been built and Dad was amongst the first residents to move into one of the new rooms. He loved his new home and very much appreciated the amazing staff who were always willing to listen and have a yarn with him. Dad knew a lot of the staff's parents or many had gone to school with either Debra, Mandy or John.

Geographically being the closest, it fell to me to be Dad's carer, which has been my privilege over the years. When my circumstances meant I couldn't get to Donald, it was both a relief and comfort to me to know that he was being looked after



• The late Bob Baker.

with care and compassion. As a family, we will be forever indebted to every single staff member of the Goodwin Village.

Throughout his 98 years Dad's memory for facts and events was incredible. He loved the rich history of the Donald area and beyond, and an outing with Dad was a fact-filled history lesson.

He was a great resource for linking the past with the future for both his family and the community.

Our dad lived his life to the fullest. He loved his family and he certainly set us the greatest example in how to live life and encouraged us always to give it a go.

We will never forget his extraordinary achievement of skydiving for his 90th birthday with four generations making national news.

By living to the grand age of 98, he has definitely set the bar high.

And that was our Dad.



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Marnoo Marks School Milestone

Marnoo Primary School is proudly preparing to mark an extraordinary milestone this year – 150 years of education, community, and local history.

As part of the celebrations, students have embraced the opportunity to explore and document the rich heritage of their school and township.

With support from teachers and community members, students are enthusiastically investigating the stories and landmarks that have shaped Marnoo. They have begun their journey by learning about local Anzac history, including the memorial gates at Marnoo and the school’s own Lone Pine, a lasting tribute planted within the grounds.

Their research has also taken them to significant local sites such as the Woods Museum, to discover the area’s deep farming roots, and the Marnoo Community Hub Information Shelter, where they traced the school’s original location and early development.

In addition, students are exploring old photographs, archived documents, and precious memorabilia from the school’s own collection and items generously loaned by local residents. A key part of their learning has involved exploring “The Fruitful Years: History of Marnoo 1873–1973”, a community history compiled by Mrs. A. K. Campbell.

Students are also set to interview former staff and students to gather personal recollections and stories, which will form a unique part of the upcoming 150th Anniversary Exhibition of Works.

Marnoo Primary School is now calling on past students, staff, and community members to contribute to the exhibition. Vintage school photographs, uniforms, textbooks, awards, and other historical items are being

sought to help tell the full story of the school’s journey across a century-and-a-half.

The project is proving to be an invaluable learning experience, providing students with a deeper understanding of their school’s legacy while building skills in research, interviewing, and community collaboration.

The school’s anniversary event, to be held on June 27, 2025, promises to be a memorable day of celebration. Guests can look forward to a variety of activities and opportunities to reconnect with the people and stories that have defined the Marnoo community.

All are warmly invited to join Marnoo Primary School for this historic celebration. Mark the date, be part of the occasion, and help honour both the past and the future of the school.



• Marnoo students Thomas and Sophie



• Marnoo students Thomas, Sophie and Jessica.



• Marnoo students Sohie, Thomas and Jessica.

Students Test Their Stamina

On Tuesday, May 27, three students competed in the Loddon Mallee Region Cross country held in St Arnaud.

All students competed over 3km and performed to the best of their ability, achieving some satisfying results.

Hugo Funcke finished 7th in the 15-year-old male event and Layla Griffiths finished 15th in the 14 years female event. Donald’s third competitor was Halle Rice who finished a very commendable 33rd in the 15-year-old girls’ 3km event.

Hugo has now qualified for the State Cross Country to be held in Melbourne in July.



• Left to right: Halle Rice, Layla Griffiths, Hugo Funcke.

Support services

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

Wedderburn Netballers at Donald

[From Donald Netball Club]

In a tight contest and evenly matched game, both Wedderburn and Donald showed strong form.

Under-14 “B”

Numerous turnovers kept the crowd engaged from start to finish.

Donald kept things interesting with frequent positional changes and showcased several impressive passages of play that highlighted the team’s ongoing development and adaptability

Despite the back and forth battle, Wedderburn began to edge ahead in the final term, ultimately securing a 19-13 win. The match maintained a friendly and positive atmosphere throughout, with plenty of takeaways for both teams as they continue to build.

Donald: 13 def. by Wedderburn: 19.

Donald awards: Holly Goldsmith (coaches award), Mackenzie Wild (Bev’s Baubles).

Wedderburn awards: Fish N Chip Award, Elizabeth Marr; The Locksmith Store Choc, Mia Collins.

Under-14 “A”

Quarter 1: From the very first whistle, Donald made an impressive statement on the court, showcasing its strength and strategy in the opening quarter. The combination and teamwork displayed between the attacking and defensive units were strong.

Particularly noteworthy were the performances of the Wedderburn Centre and Goal Defence, who exhibited remarkable situational awareness. They were able to read the play effectively, anticipating Donald’s movements and positioning themselves strategically to disrupt its flow.

Quarter 2: As the second quarter unfolded, Donald maintained its momentum, but Wedderburn showed resilience, determined to turn the tide. The Wedderburn players were able to find their rhythm and connect better, which facilitated a more engaged and competitive spirit.

In response, Donald continued to fight hard, demonstrating its competitive edge despite the changes on the opposing side. This quarter highlighted the spirit of young athletes, where determination and adaptability were on display, keeping spectators on the edge of their seats.

Quarter 3: Known for its strength in the third quarter, Donald did not disappoint. The strategic changes made to its centre position fueled its momentum as it aimed to capitalize on its prior lead. The energy and flow of the game decidedly favoured Donald, as it effectively maintained

pressure on the Wedderburn defence.

Donald’s players exhibited exceptional teamwork and cohesiveness, blending their skills in both attacking plays and defensive edge. Donald built upon its advantage, turning opportunities into points. Both teams continued to work hard.

Quarter 4: As the match unfolded, the game between Donald and Wedderburn was not only a display of athletic skills, but also a testament to the spirit of competition and teamwork. The transitions between quarters emphasized how important strategy and collaboration are in the game. As Donald showcased its strength and dominance, particularly in the latter part of the match, Wedderburn’s ability to respond and adapt should not be underestimated. This game provided invaluable experience for all young players on the court, contributing to their growth and love for netball. Always wonderful to play Wedderburn at home.

Donald 32 d. Wedderburn 2.

Donald awards: Nevaeh Pearse (Clothes Bin), River Stirling (Love Shack).

Wedderburn awards: Wedderburn Fish Shop, Destiny

King; The Locksmith Store Choc, Gypsy Derks.

Under -17 “A”

The first quarter kicked off with high intensity. The Centre, Jaya Stirling, worked hard in a new position, adjusting quickly and doing an excellent job of presenting as a passing option for her teammates. She linked well with Wing Attack Jasmine Anderson, who delivered sharp, well-timed feeds into the circle. Inside the ring, Goal Shooter Arleea Sarre and Goal Attack Alyssa Hepworth worked hard together, finding space and combining smartly. The attacking end was well-supported by strong midcourt play. In defence, Goal Keeper Asha Pearse and Goal Defence Halle Rice applied consistent pressure, creating turnovers and making Wedderburn earn every goal. At the first break, the scores were even, highlighting the tight contest.

In the second quarter, Donald’s shooting circle continued to shine. Arleea positioned herself beautifully, holding space and giving her feeders clean targets, allowing for confident passes into the ring. Goal Attack Layla Griffiths remained busy around the circle edge, providing support and contributing to the attacking flow. In defence, Wing Defence Kailie Krause stuck closely to her player, continuing to apply pressure and stay in the contest. While Wedderburn found some rhythm, Donald’s defensive circle remained composed, with Asha and Halle reading the play well and combining to win back valuable ball. Although a few small errors allowed the opposition some opportunities, Donald maintained its intensity and worked hard to stay in the game, despite some tough match-ups across the court.

The third quarter was a turning point. Donald lifted across the board and outscored Wedderburn for the term. Layla worked tirelessly, creating space with smart leads and making herself an easy and reliable option for her teammates. Her accurate shooting was a highlight, giving the team valuable momentum. The Centre, Halle Rice, Wing Attack Evie Donnellon, and Wing Defence Lucy Robinson combined well through the midcourt, producing smooth transitions and solid link-ups. In defence, Alyssa Hepworth stepped into the circle and teamed up with Asha, continuing the strong pressure on Wedderburn’s shooters. Encouragement from the bench, including Jaya, Jasmine, and Kailie, added to the team’s strong sense of unity.

In the final term, Wedderburn came out determined and applied heavy pressure. Donald continued to fight for every ball, though signs of fatigue began to show. Despite the challenge, defenders Asha and Alyssa battled until the end, working tirelessly to shut down Wedderburn’s attack. The shooters, Sophie Burke and Layla, kept moving and working for every opportunity, under increasing defensive

pressure. The girls showed their trademark determination, kept their heads high, and finished the game with pride.

Final score: Donald 33 def. by Wedderburn 45.

Each week, the Donald U17s grow in skill, confidence, and connection, and this performance was another step forward in their journey as a team.

Donald awards: Asha Pearse (Donald Family Butcher), Alyssa Hepworth (Bev’s Baubles).

Wedderburn awards: Phil Caruana W’Burn Tyre Service, Kayla; Redbacks Canteen, Alexis; The Locksmith store choc, Amelia.

“C” Grade

Quarter 1: Stepping out on the court Donald girls showed some lovely skills down the court. Working the ball well into the goalers, however, took them a little while to get into the rhythm, with Mak Dillon and Olivia Wollermann working hard in the defence end and rebounding well.

Quarter 2: Megan Godkin-Briggs and Belicia Francis worked hard at the centre passes, setting up some good play and getting the ball into goal shooter Tiarnah Hepworth. Molly Harrison always making herself an option helped the Donald girls down the court. Donald put some fresh legs on the court during this quarter and they adapted well.

Quarter 3: With continuous pressure down the court Donald was able to get a bit of rhythm in this quarter with Julia Pearse stepping into goal attack. Shooting for the first time in the season. Julia and Tiarnah worked well in the ring together. However Wedderburn proved to be too strong.

Quarter 4: Donald went out with determination to reach 20 goals in this quarter set by coaches Kim and Abby Griffiths. They did not give up and got the points they were looking for. A well hard fought out game with the Donald girls never giving up.

Donald 22 def. by Wedderburn 64.

Donald awards: Mak Dillon (Jasper & Co), Molly Harrison (Mensland).

Wedderburn awards: W’Burn Hotel, Sarah Turnbull; The Locksmith Store Choc, Ash Woods; F45/FS8 Players Choice, Chloe Looby & Carly Drinkwater; Coffee 2 Di 4, Ash Woods.

“B” Grade

Quarter 1: Taking the court Donald defenders put up a hard fight, getting rebounds and intercepts in the defence, Kim Griffiths and Jess Nunn working well together, and Zara Staples and Millie Lydom shooting with great accuracy at the other end of the court.

Quarter 2: Donald had good use of channels down the court, using the attackers Megan Tonkin and Tori Kelm on the ring. Defenders Kim and Courtney offering their assistance on the centre passes. The play was flowing nicely.

Quarter 3: With solid defence from Kim and Jess, Wedderburn was forced to shoot from anywhere in the ring. Donald goalies’ shooting accuracy was on fire. However Wedderburn’s continuous defence down the court gained it a good lead into the final term.

Quarter 4: Donald didn’t give up despite the lead. The attacking end moved the ball really well between all of them, Megan, Tori, Millie and Zara, Jess, down the other end of the court, with 4 turnovers in the first few minutes. Tori and Megan really opened up and moved the ball down the centre and feed the shooter well in the ring.

Donald 47 def. by Wedderburn 66.

Donald awards: Millie Lydom (Gilchrist & Co), Jess Nunn (Goldy’s Patch).

Wedderburn awards: JH Builds, Alce Hubbard; Coffee 2 DI 4, Grace Lockhart; The Locksmith Store Choc, Rebecca Turnbull; F45/FS8 Players Choice, Paige Stephenson.

“A” Grade

Quarter 1: Donald started out with some good defensive pressure down the court forcing Wedderburn to work extra hard. Milla Adams worked hard to gain that front stop and positioned herself well.

Quarter 2: Abby Griffiths’ play in the centre applied some great defensive pressure down the court, Rachael Meulendyks in wing defence was doing a great job blocking passages of play and blocking up passes. Ally Doak and Sara Adams applied some great pressure in the goal ring that worked really good.

Quarter 3: Ally and Sara never gave up a tough fight in the defence ring and rebounded well to try to assist their team to get some goals. Zara Staples stepped on to the court in this quarter to help Milla out in the goal ring. Wedderburn proved to be a lot more settled into its game than Donald.

Quarter 4: With a big margin to claw back from, Donald didn’t give up. Milla continued to find that front position and drove well to the ball on centre passes. Jess Nunn stepped up to help out “A” grade and found herself working well with Milla. Wedderburn was too strong for Donald.

Donald 24 lost to Wedderburn 75.

Donald awards: Milla Adams (IGA), Sara Adams (Donald Hotel).

Wedderburn awards: F45/FS8, Holly Lockhart; Mara Metal Art, Maddison Postle; The Locksmith Store Choc, Sophie Cockerell Coffee 2 Di 4; Kelsey Pallpratt Drisco Douglas East Players Choice, Maddison Postle.

House Athletics

The participation in sporting events has dominated the school calendar at Birchip P-12 School over the past two weeks.

The House Athletics were held over two days: Monday (field events), and Wednesday (track events).

It was great to see the effort put in, not just by the winners, but also by others attempting to do the best they could, with the aim of gaining points for their house.

Even though Young House won the swimming competition this year, the 2025 House Cup goes to Fraser, which won both the cross-country and the track and field events this year.

Cross Country

The North Central Division Cross Country was held last week in St Arnaud. Eight secondary students from Birchip P-12 School competed, displaying some excellent performances on the track.

Among the highlights was Asha Lee, who finished first place, and Sienna who placed second in their respective age groups.

Congratulations to all students on their efforts. Some successful students have qualified for the Loddon Mallee finals.

Birchip students, from Grade 4-6, competed at St Arnaud in the Black Ranges Cross Country. It was a challenging course, but all the runners put in their best effort and enjoyed the experience.

Congratulations to Millie Poyner, Oscar Sharp and

Lucy Coffey who all qualified to represent the school at the Greater Western Region Cross Country which will take place in Warrnambool.



• Fraser House Captains Tylah Haslam and Austin Dean hold the House Cup for 2025.



Birchip-Watchem Football Club Inc.

Goods & Services Auction

Saturday, May 31



BIRCHIP LEISURE CENTRE
Pizza & Pasta Dinner at 6 p.m. Auction 7.30 p.m.

Goods and Services for sale include:

Donated by

Nick Rippon
Randall family
Randall family
“Budgie” Russell

Sue Cozens
Ben Edwards

Birchip IGA
BWHC
Mandy Valentine / Acrylic Arts
Matt Berry
Richard & Cherie Reilly
Lachlan Barber
Traction Ag
Michael’s Donald
Hinkleys
Tony Ryan
Donald Steel & Fabrication
Jim Sheahan
Jim Sheahan
Sam Kemp
Rhona Conboy & Ben Lakin
Rhona Conboy & Ben Lakin
Royal Mail Hotel-Wycheproof
Robbie & Jo Lee
Robbie & Jo Lee
Matt & Zoya Rickard
Birchip Café
Chris & Melissa Rickard
Mallee Branded
Noonan’s Builders
Brad Ryan & Sam Simmons
Nutrien Ag
Chris Lee & Multi Bev

Chris Lee & Multi Bev
Linc Lehmann
David & De Ferrier
David & De Ferrier
David Elson / Donald Auto-Elec
Danny & Paul Lowry
Peter Noonan
Ward Davidson
Ward Davidson
Rickard Farms
Rickard Farms
Andrew & Julie Slater
Hamish Hosking
Sharp’s Bakery
Birchip Newsagency
Birchip Hardware
Chris Lee & Multi Bev
Chris Lee & Batch & CO
Leon Hogan
Bourke’s Butchers
LP & SM Noonan
Andrew & Michelle Lee
Andrew & Michelle Lee
Mick & Kerrie Hogan /
Wall Imaging Australia
Bailey Baxter
Ben Hennequin
Jayden Pickering
O’Connors
Jayden Noonan
Tim Ward
Tim Ward
Jarrod Tyler Mallee Landscape
Birchip Pharmacy
The “Buloke Times”

Dale & Holly Hinkley
Dale & Holly Hinkley
Lowry Bros
Lowry Bros
Lachlan Barber
Glenn Hogan
Noonan’s Haulage
Bern & Chris Hogan
Danny & Paul Lowry
Matt Norton Plumbing
Dunstan Wool
Dunstan Wool
Buloke Hire (Jak Goldsmith)
Buloke Hire (Jak Goldsmith)
Dan & Mel McLoughlan
Dale Hinkley
Tom Sheridan & Carling McEvoy
Tison Wintara
Tim Coffey
Peter, Brenda, Riley & Maddy Doran
Mallee Root Round Up
Birchip Hotel

Chris Lee & NAK
Chris Lee & NAK
Chris Lee & Batch & CO
Sam Simmons
Sharp’s Bakery
Sharp’s Bakery

Item

Fine print "All Feeny, No Gas"
1 dressed lamb - packed ready for freezer
1 dressed lamb - packed ready for freezer
1 night's accommodation for 2 including dinner and breakfast
National Hotel Motel, Bendigo
Relish-a-Mallee-Moment gift basket
Farm tour of Edwards Farm Minlaton (Yorke Penninsula SA) plus a fishing tour on a boat out from Bluff Beach with beers and whiting for dinner for 4 people
Gift pack
Bulls’ rugby jumper and scarf
Resin art piece
10 x 8 trailer load wood
Shuttle of wood, supplied and delivered
1 joy flight for up to 3 people for 2 hours
Jaxmax Poly Tipper Trailer - tow behind vehicle or pull along
1 full car service
B Double Bluestone Road finisher - supply & deliver
1 x 44 tonne cartage of grain to local storage
4 hours labour
1 dressed lamb - packed ready for freezer
1 dressed lamb - packed ready for freezer
2 doz decorated cookies
12 x 7 load wood (2m)
12 x 7 load wood (2m)
Afternoon for 5 people, drinks & bar snacks for 3 hours
1 dressed lamb - packed ready for freezer
1 dressed lamb - packed ready for freezer
Yeti esky
\$200 voucher
Big Daddy swag
Workwear pack, boots & socks
4 days rough terrain scissor lift hire. 12m working height
Supply & install 2.5kw MHI split system air-con
DeLonghi Magnifica Start coffee machine
Muscle Nation energy drink
strawberry, pineapple & grape energy x 2 packs
Muscle Nation energy drink- strawberry, pineapple & grape energy x 2 packs
Kinchrome tool kit
Supply & cart 1 load gravel 28 tonnes
Supply & cart 1 load gravel 28 tonnes
3 hours labour
1 x 44 tonne St Arnaud gravel - supplied and delivered
5 semi loads duck manure
Market crutch 200 sheep
Shear 100 sheep and provide rouse-a-bout
1 B Double load gravel supplied & delivered (44 tonne)
1 B Double load gravel supplied & delivered (44 tonne)
Supply & cart 44 tonne gypsum
Mystery box
Daily coffee for remainder of 2025
Gift pack
Mystery
Sachi 8 - pineapple - 2 packs of 4
Sachi 8 - lemon & lime - 2 packs of 4
Vehicle pack including jumper leads, tools, ratchet etc.
Freight, processing & packaging of 4 private sheep/lambs
Repair 6 tubeless truck tyres
1 dressed lamb - packed ready for freezer
1 dressed lamb - packed ready for freezer

3 m square wall imaging eg. company logo, photo
5 woolpacks & wool bale fasteners
Pregnancy testing 200 ewes
120 ha urea spreading
\$600 worth of servicing, labour only
100 hectare spraying
1 hr remedial massage
1 hr remedial massage
Seafood banquet for 8 at 15 Corack Road
Gift pack
1 year's subscription “The Buloke Times”
(hard copy or emailed electronic version - postage not included)
1 dressed lamb - packed ready for freezer
1 dressed lamb - packed ready for freezer
1 dressed lamb - packed ready for freezer
1 dressed lamb - packed ready for freezer
1 marquee at Wycheproof Races for 8 - includes entry
500Ltr diesel or petrol
100 hectare urea spreading
28 tonne St Arnaud gravel supplied and delivered
150 yds of gypsum spreader hire
4hrs excavator & tipper hire, driver supplied (tip fees not included)
10 woolpacks & fasteners
10 woolpacks & fasteners
3m skip bin for 1 week
Portable toilet for 1 weekend
Hand held jump starter
Sunday crop tour for 4 - 6 people including refreshments
\$500 Voucher at the Euston Club (can be used on accommodation or F&B)
6 x 4 trailer load wood
6 x 4 trailer load wood
Webber BBQ
1 entry pack including ticket & merchandise
1 night’s accomodation in king room
Bottle of wine, dinner in the dining room & cooked breakfast for 2.
Vodka Nak (watermelon) - 1 pack
Vodka Nak (lemon & lime) - 2 packs
Tommy Lemoncello spritz - 1 pack
Mystery prize
Party pack (includes 10 dozen pieces)
Party pack (includes 10 dozen pieces)

Donated by

Jon Haslam
Dan Boyle & Andrea Harrison
Emsly Bakes (Em Hotker)

Steve Nottle
WMA Accounting
Three Elephants (Laki)
Three Elephants (Laki)
Steph & Shan Coffey
Deb & Cam Barber
Jack Ryan & Sam Simmons
Greg’s Digging
Conways Gypsum
Gary Quirk
Justin Cullen
Randall family
Randall family
Jacob & Harry Christie
Birchip Automotive
Darcy Reid
Peter and Kerrie Walder
Peter and Kerrie Walder
Clayton Hinkley & Marshall Rippon
Andrew & Sarah Barber
Jarrod Tyler

Harry & Ollie Cook
YBS
Plaza Auto Sales Bendigo
Plaza Auto Sales Bendigo
Sam Goldsmith
Tanya Hogan Massage
Tanya Hogan Massage
Chris Colbert
Chris Colbert
Jim & Kellie-Anne Sheahan
Jim & Kellie-Anne Sheahan
Donald Mensland
BWFC Catering Committee
Mallee Steel
Noonan’s Haulage
Jack Quirk
Matt Ryan
Mick Foott
Mick Foott
BCG
Wade Humphreys Access Grain
Dan Coffey & Tim Coffey
Bingham’s Agriculture
Daniel Bell
Paul Barclay
Matt Lade, Angus Butterfield
Kawaii Kids
Kawaii Kids
BW Netball Club
Crop Smart
North West Ag
Cargill / Birchip Site
Mud Buchanan
Tim & Julie McClelland
Sare Store
Jeremy Hayes

WMA Accounting
Mallee Shearing Shed
BWFC & Accredited Distributors
BWFC & Accredited Distributors
Frank family
Frank family
Frank family
Frank family
Adama
Dan Boyle & Andrea Harrison
Dan Boyle & Andrea Harrison
Ash Connick
Jarrod Tyler Mallee Landscape
Bill Lee & Under-17 footballers
Charlie F, Connor L, Riley H,
Harry C, Austin D & Josh W
Olive Joy
Olive Joy
Joe Reid
Ben Hogan
Bill & Jack Lee
Sam Goldsmith
Roger Lehmann
Sew Fantastic Quilts / Jenny Hennequin
Demi Foott Group Training
Nick Ryan & Jack Ryan
Marshall Rippon
James Lindenback

Item

10 x 5 trailer load of wood
LG 55" Smart TV
Decorated cake or cupcakes -
buyer’s choice of occasion, flavour, fillings and decoration
2 players 18 holes golf & 1 cart at the Dunes in Rye (midweek)
MasterPro 6.5L digital air fryer
Frozen curry packs to serve TWO people for a week + 6 pack Lion Lager
Frozen curry packs to serve FOUR people for a week + 6 pack Lion Lager
Framed Birchip vintage print
4 nights in a 3-bedroom cabin at Magnetic Island
10 x 8 trailer load wood
8 hrs of backhoe work or grader hire
Supply 44 tonnes gypsum (not cartage)
3 hrs grader/ scraper hire
6 x 4 trailer load of wood
1 dressed lamb - packed ready for freezer
1 dressed lamb - packed ready for freezer
1 dressed lamb - packed ready for freezer
1 car service
1 toy X 9 header
1 semi load chook manure
1 semi load chook manure
1 night's accommodation at Wilka Eco Escapes near Heathcote
1 night's accommodation at Madison Spa Resort for 2
A guided fishing day for 2 people at local lake
rods, lures & refreshments included
10 sleepers cut up for garden edging
Robotic lawn mower installed in garden
Jamie Elliot Collingwood football jumper - signed with personal message
Mitch Lewis Hawthorn football jumper - signed with personal message
2 tickets to Esoteric Festival
1 hour reflexology
1 hour reflexology
1 dressed lamb - packed ready for freezer
1 dressed lamb - packed ready for freezer
1 dressed lamb - packed ready for freezer
1 dressed lamb - packed ready for freezer
Thomas Cook shirt and embroidery
1 meal voucher for every home game 2026
4 hours labour
44 tonnes gypsum cartage only
100 hectare windrowing
Back load of fertiliser (freight only) 44t
Transport 1 deck lambs
Transport 1 deck lambs
2 paddocks soil sampling
45 tonne grain cartage to Access Grain only
100 hectares of spraying
3 rotar hours of harvesting
100 hectares Horsch Cultro
2 x 16 inch 4 wheel drive tyres
Labour for 6 paddocks of soil sampling
1 boy’s pack
1 girl’s pack
Bulls sporting club pack of Bulls’ merchandise
\$400 voucher
20ltr truck wash
Warehousing of 300 tonne, for 3 months
Fine print “The Dan McLoughlan”
Lunch for 10 at Cambrae, with some drinks provided
Voucher
1 night camping Myrtle Creek Shack, camp oven tea,
breakfast & clay target shooting for 4
Tefal Easy Rice & Slow Cooker 5L
Hair package
Lolly hamper
Lolly hamper
1 dressed lamb - packed ready for freezer
1 dressed lamb - packed ready for freezer
1 dressed lamb - packed ready for freezer
1 dressed lamb - packed ready for freezer
Esky with drinks
A9 Prime Stick vacuum
All in one multi surface cleaner
Mystery prize
Plants
1 days' work from Under-17 footballers & Bill

1/2 day's lamb marking
Coffee card - 10 coffees
Coffee card - 10 coffees
4 hours welding
4 hours electrical work
1 load wood, cut & split 10 x 8
1 ticket to Donald B&S
Tools
\$200 voucher for quilt
10 x class pass Exp 6 months after first class
Patio heater
Fine print “The Marshall Rippon”
Mystery prize

Terms: Payment must be made on the night, eftpos facilities available.
Nominee is responsible on fall of hammer, GST applicable on price paid on the night.

This list will be subject to minor changes and alterations prior to the night. For further details contact: Alex Noonan 0439 568 550 or Matt Ryan 0418 569 717

Reserves Off Target

Behinds were the order of the day at Boort Park for the Birchip-Watchem v. Boort reserves match. Between the two teams 27 behinds were kicked and only nine goals.

With both sides having registered four wins for the season to date, the match promised to be an entertaining contest. Unfortunately, wayward kicking put a dampener on the game as a spectacle. Nevertheless, strong performances around the ground and a ding-dong battle in the midfield ensured there were was still something entertaining to watch.

Boort kicked to the northern end of the ground in the first quarter and had the aid of the breeze. However, it was Birchip-Watchem which took the early ascendancy. Bullocking midfielder Jack Lee took charge at stoppages, his strength and willingness to put his head over the ball invaluable for the Bulls. Outside runners Austin Dean, Bodie Colbert and Riley Hogan took full advantage, streaming forward and giving their team multiple forward fifty entries.

Shots on goal soon followed, but it was only Lee

who was able to convert a major. Five behinds were also kicked by the Bulls with a range of forwards having wayward shots. Boort had fewer opportunities, but was able to score a goal through Jordan Bell. At quarter-time the Bulls led by four points.

In terms of possession, Birchip-Watchem continued to hold sway in the second term. Again the midfield quartet of Lee, Dean, Colbert and Hogan was prominent. Lee also kicked his second goal for the day, and when Archie Lewis also kicked truly the Bulls appeared to be building momentum.

Birchip-Watchem's defence was steadfast, giving Boort minimal opportunities. Patrick Lakin has taken the full back post for the Bulls this season and had another strong performance. Alex Cockerell was able to sneak through one goal for the Magpies, but at half-time the Bulls were in a good position, 12 points up.

Boort lifted its efforts in the third quarter. Despite playing predominantly in the midfield, Harry Weaver is currently leading the reserves' league goal kicking. He showed why in the third quarter, slamming home two goals to get the Magpies back in front. Sam Toose also goaled for Boort, while Birchip-Watchem could manage just three behinds. Jordan Sheahan was reliable in the backline for Boort, doing well to nullify his opponents.

Boort's third quarter dominance was such that it could have buried the Bulls by the end of the term. Chris Hatcher joined Weaver in racking up midfield possessions, while Jacob Mulquiny provided a useful outlet on the wing. Nevertheless the scores remained relatively close, with the home side kicking eight behinds, which limited its lead to 11 points at the final change.

Birchip-Watchem had the breeze in the last quarter and



• *Tison Wintara scoops up the ball, Alex Noonan (behind), Tom Lakin, Matt Lade, Matt Rickard Boort players, left to right are Nick Scott and Brodie Arnold.*

was close enough, if good enough. Once again the Bulls gave themselves enough opportunities, wresting some of the ascendancy that Boort had gathered in the third term. The Bulls kept blazing away in front of goal and five behinds for the quarter would have had coaches Matt Ryan and Jake Noonan tearing out what little hair they have left.

Boort had fewer scoring shots than the Bulls in the final term but Chris O'Rourke's goal was enough

to give them the lead they needed to seal the win. Amazingly, Birchip-Watchem kicked zero goals and eight behinds in the second half. If even a couple of those behinds had been goals who knows how the result of the game may have been affected?

At the final siren it was Boort victorious by 15 points with the Magpies also securing a top two position on the league ladder.

Final score: Boort 6.12 (48) defeated Birchip-Watchem 3.15 (33).

Best for Boort: Harry Weaver, Chris Hatcher, Jordan Sheahan, Jacob Mulquiny, Brendon Hewlett, Angus Potter.

For Birchip-Watchem: Jack Lee (O'Connors), Austin Dean (YBS), Bodie Colbert (Agrifac), Riley Hogan (Donnellon's Bulk Haulage), Patrick Lakin (Nutrien Ag), Matthew Rickard (Ryan Commodities).

Charlton 100 Years Ago

(Information from "East Charlton Tribune")

May 23 to 27, 1925.

The Ex-Students Association was re-formed at a meeting held recently, and officers were elected. The president will be the incoming headmaster, Mr Marshallsea; and the vice-presidents are Miss B. Bennett and Miss V. Bilton; hon. secretary, Miss Elsie Wood; treasurer, Miss L. Soding; committee, Misses Eileen Robertson, Violet Wood, Jean Wood, Dulcie Dew, Doris Dew, and Ruth Burton.

A Mark of Esteem: Prior to her wedding, the Ladies Guild of St Martin's Church of England are tendering a kitchen tea to Miss Lucy Giles, who has been an esteemed and active worker for the Guild, and a member of the choir.

Hospital Sunday: Although a gloomy morning was succeeded by a fine afternoon, the attendance at Hospital Sunday was smaller than in the previous year. The event was held at the Triangle. The Brass Band mustered well. The Chairman, Cr. W. Williams, noted that the Government auditors and inspectors had commented upon the able management of the Wycheproof Hospital and its staff. It cost between £1500 and £1600 per annum to maintain the institution. The Hospital has a resident doctor, and honorary medical officers and the nurses were equal to any in the State. The Hospital has been in existence for 25 years. During the last

financial year 135 patients were treated, including a number of returned soldiers, who were treated free. Private donations last year amounted to £644, and £130 was received from the Government, the rest being made up in special appeals.

Brighter Days: The Brass Band's annual meeting held in the Band Room was marked by probably the best attendance on record – 25. New blood made its presence felt. While discussion was frank, enthusiasm revived, and good feeling was the keynote. The balance-sheet showed a deficit of £7 13/10. It was decided that a thorough canvass of the town be made. Officers elected: President, Mr J. M. Smith; vice-presidents, Messrs C. J. Gane, Alex Robertson, and J. McAuliffe; Hon. secretary, Mr Jenkins; treasurer, Mr C. J. Dew; committee, Messrs J. Spain, W. Halligan, F. Gilmore, H. E. Wood and G. W. Kirk. The committee is to fix the places where the Band will play until the rotunda is built.

Glenloth Property Changes Hands: Messrs Edward Trenchard and Co. report having sold 320 acres at Glenloth East, account of Miss Schefferle, to Messrs R. J. and J. Fradd, at a satisfactory figure.

Football: There was quite a good muster of players, senior and junior, at the Re-

serve on Saturday; and, the ball not being so tricky as the rain might have led one to expect, some quite good form for a kick-off was shown. The practice match took the place of the match with Quambatook, of which Charlton telephoned postponement owing to the condition of the roads, and the likelihood of a further downfall. The Blues and Whites were very keen to go – but they did not desire to court a premature demise in the quagmires on the return journey. An effort is being made to arrange a game for King's Birthday, 8th June.

Successful Start: Both from the social and financial points of view, the first of St Martin's Church of England euchre parties and dances for the season, held in the Victoria Hall, was eminently satisfactory. For the euchre 20 tables were occupied, and the prize winners were – Ladies' first (handsome leather shopping bag), Miss K. Ryan; gents' first (suede wallet), Mr Frank Dodd; ladies' secret table (butter dish), Mrs N. Shannon; gents' secret (black silk knitted tie), Mr G. H. Worcester. For the dance, 50 couples who took the floor thoroughly enjoyed themselves. A new scheme marked the supper, and arrangements pertaining thereto. Four ladies are appointed for each function, and they are responsible for finding assistants to wait on the tables, for the prizes, and general supervision.



• *1920c Band Hospital Sunday. Back row, left to right: Sid. Rumble, Ted. Dabron, Ike Richards, Jim Fanning, Ernie Smith. Front row: Sid Rumble's daughter, Arthur Cooper (band master), Jack Gane's son, Jack Gane, Mick Fox, Con Fanning.*



• *1890 Rock tank school. Left to right: Alf Giles, Joe Bennett, Maggie Carr (Mrs Walsh), Ada Bennett, Lucy Giles, Fanny Giles, Eily Bennett (Mrs Goding), Hugh Carr, Tom Carr, Harry ?, Ted Carr, Rita Giles.*

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VICTORIA
State Government

Charlton Netballers Host Sea Lake-Nandaly

14-&-Under “A”
Well done Charlton girls; the first win of the season and what a great game it was! The hard work is paying off with some fantastic teamwork across the court.

Charlton 30 def. Sea Lake-Nandaly 8.

Charlton awards: Steel’s Butcher Best, Sophie Roberts; Ladies Auxiliary Coaches, Marly Morkas; NWAG & Roberts Windrowing “Have a Crack”, Lila Schofield; Connect Coffee, Isabella Stahl.

Sea Lake-Nandaly awards to Charli McClelland (canteen voucher and gift) and Layla Kiley (canteen voucher).

17-&-Under “A”
Charlton’s attackers worked hard all game, but unfortunately it just wasn’t their day for shooting, however, even with some positional changes, the girls adapted well, with Stella Nicolson stepping up when in GA. Down the other end the defence worked just as hard, with Anika, Maggie and Erin combining well to create many turnovers. Overall, the Charlton girls worked tirelessly. A huge thank you to Anna Fitzpatrick and Lila Schofield from U14s for coming up to help out with Lila playing her first U17s game!

Charlton 22 def. by Sea Lake Nandaly 33.

Charlton awards: Bendigo Bank Best, Erin Blair; Ladies Auxiliary Coaches, Anika Holmes-Brown; Caffeinated Chaos Captains Coffee, Lacey Smith; Holmes-Brown “Have a crack”, Stella Nicolson.

Sea Lake-Nandaly awards to Darcey Hodgson (Nutrien Ag Berriwillock Tigers backpack) and Georgia McClelland (Sky Mirror voucher).

“C” Grade
This week Charlton’s goalers had the tough challenge of shooting against some tall defenders, however, with strong and consistent moves from its wings, the shooters kept the ball down our end where possible. Zoe, Annie, Emily and Mia kept their hands over all balls and worked hard to keep players out of the ring. What looked to be a tough game on the scoreboard, the girls kept fighting, running and challenging the game!

Charlton 31 def. by Sea Lake Nandaly 50.

Charlton awards: Vale of Avoca Best, Zoe Carney; JS Plumbing Coaches, Taylah Boyle; Caffeinated Chaos Captains Coffee, Taylah Giles.

Sea Lake-Nandaly awards to Nat Hickey (Mortimer Petroleum Travel Mug) and Teale Mott (Bailey Family Ag Club Mug).

“B” Grade
A tough game for Charlton’s “B” grade girls with Sea Lake getting an early break, which put the pressure on Charlton’s goalers. A couple of long bombs from Tahli landed, but a strong defence from Sea Lake made it very hard for the Charlton girls in the attack end. The Navy Blue defenders, however, did not stop winning plenty of ball back, with Holly leading the charge with some beautiful rebounds. It was a great combination across the court in the last quarter showing some great flow – something the team can work on over the coming weeks.

Charlton 20 def by Sea Lake Nandaly 42.

Charlton awards: Teys Charlton Feedlot Best, Abby Mulquiny; Teys Charlton Feedlot Coaches, Bec Sexton; Caffeinated Chaos Captains Coffee, Anika Holmes-Brown.

Sea Lake-Nandaly awards to Lauren Donnan (C and M Pearce Electrical Club Hat) and Milli Seward (Kaniera Hotel Club Mug).

“A” Grade
With Remi missing this week Charlton saw young guns Lacey and Maggie step up in the midcourt, combining well together. Second quarter saw a change in Charlton’s lineup, with Maggie stepping into GA shooting very well and Claudia hitting the C where she directed play and her feeding into Chloe was beautiful to watch! Down the other end Megan’s long vision and passes down the court from GD were amazing and she still managed to get her hands on plenty of balls creating some great turnovers. Issy and Lacey applied strong pressure on the centre passes. A great game of versatility and development for the juniors. Well done to the whole team for adapting so well with positional changes.

Charlton 27 def. by Sea Lake-Nandaly 48.

Charlton awards: Walsh Motors Bes, Megan Bruns; Walsh Motors Coaches: Maggie Riley; Caffeinated Chaos Captain’s Coffee, Claire Smith. Stacy’s Dental and Connect Coffee Lucky Volunteer of the Day, Mikaela Wilkinson.

Sea Lake-Nandaly awards to Grace Farrell (Swan Hill Wholesaler voucher) and Claudia Cox (Allan Ag Club Mug).



• “B” Grade: Bec Sexton (WD) Passing to Abby Mulquiny (WA).



• “C” Grade: Taylah Boyle (WA) passing into Jac Leslie (GS).

Donald, Wedderburn Share Hockey Wins

Women
Donald’s position on the women’s ladder certainly doesn’t represent the significant improvements that this team has made so far this year. Under the coaching of Lauren Hawkes, the Donald girls are going from strength to strength, putting all their training into their play on game day and this week really showed that the women are here to play.

There was a lot of action in the middle of the field throughout the match, with both Donald and Wedderburn players making good saves at shots at goal.

Wedderburn’s Brittany F. was able to work a short corner in and was able to catch Donald goalie Charlotte off guard and pop a goal in, almost before anyone could even notice.

Short corners were called multiple times throughout each quarter and it was on one of these short corners that Donald’s Kailie Krause, who was playing in a new position, was able to push the ball to Hannah and then went on to fight to get the ball past the Wedderburn goalie. This secured not only a goal for Donald, but also got its first draw of the season. With this upward motivation driving the team it can now secure a win.

Final score: Donald drew with Wedderburn 1.

Goals for Wedderburn: Brittany F. For Donald: Kailie Krause.

Wedderburn awards: Turnball award, Tahlia; Coffee award, Britt; F45 best team player, Maddie; Locksmith store chocolate, Ayla.

Donald awards: Best on, Isabelle; Della Vedova, Miranda Sy.

Men
After a little break it was good to see the men take the field again. This game began very fast paced with a lot of energy on display. Wedderburn showed cohesive team work with clean passes and communication managing to monopolise the ball in the first quarter, yet failed to score. Despite scoring a goal from a stroke, it feels whatever game plan Donald had, looked to be failing as the team appeared to lack communication and unison. Despite the amazing game play from Wedderburn definitely keeping Donald on its toes, something just seemed to be missing from its men’s team.

Final scores: Donald 2 d. Wedderburn 0.

Goals scorers: Glenn Pearse, Aiden Goode.

Donald awards: Best On Field, Lincoln Westerland; Della Vedova, Alex Bouchier.

Wedderburn awards: Reeves Award, Dale Jackson; Canteen Award, Zane Polkinghorne; F45 Best Teammate, Jacob Ward; Locksmith Store choc, Ben Krause (Donald).

Under-12
Both under-12 teams took to the field full of energy and eagerness. Its always great to see the development of the children and their skills as the season progresses.

Wedderburn has definitely got some young talent on the field, their passes were clean and concise, communication was clear and the players worked well as a team. It was no surprise that they dominated the play on the field. Though the Donald team did not make winning as easy as the scores would seem. Its defensive play has improved greatly over the weeks. For such a young developing team once it finds a strategy that works, it will be great.

Final scores: Donald 0 def. by Wedderburn 5.

Goals for Wedderburn: Nate, Zane and Heath.

Donald awards: Best On Field, Nakyra Clapham; Coaches Champ, Allegra Morton.

Wedderburn awards: W Garden & Produce, Nate; Locksmith Store, Zane.



• “A” Grade: Megan Bruns (GD) and Claire Smith (GK) defending the pass into Sea Lake’s goal ring.

Bulls Appreciate Boort's Hockey Field

The Bulls day at hockey began on the beautiful Boort field with lots of excited minkey players being cheered on by a large crowd of spectators.

The Boort hockey field, unlike Birchip-Watchem's is in a great position for parents and spectators to watch the hockey and football simultaneously, which is handy for those who have interests in concurrent games.

The Birchip-Watchem awards for the minkey game went to Charlie McAuliffe (Troy & Brooke Morris) and Olive McLoughlan (BW canteen). Boort awards went to Levi and Isabel Melville.

Under-12s

From the opening whistle at Boort it was evident that Birchip-Watchem's U12 team meant business. With an impressive squad of 18 players rotating through the line-up each week, coach Tim McClelland has the young Bulls well-drilled and well-disciplined. Their precise play came to the fore at Boort Park.

Des Coffey played at centre-half-back for the Bulls and instigated a number of their forward forays. He was also first to score with a firm push that the goalie couldn't stop. The Bulls continued to attack relentlessly and bring their wingers into play. Ivy Bourke and Addison Hamilton positioned themselves perfectly to slot in a goal apiece. Birchip-Watchem led 3-0 at half-time.

The second half continued in a similar vein with Birchip-Watchem dominating possession. Boort's Pearl Muller and Millie Pink were among the

Magpies who showed great endeavour to will their team into the contest, but the Bulls' defence was steadfast. Jakoby Sagers and Sadie Bourke were among those who tackled strongly and cleared the ball out of danger.

Des Coffey scored a brace, taking the Bulls' lead to 4-0. Denley Tyler has been a prolific goal scorer for the Bulls this season and he was again able to add to the scoresheet. Greta McClelland and Jude McLoughlan also took the chance to show their attacking nous, each finding the back of the net to great excitement from their teammates.

Boort was able to execute some promising passages of play, including a strong dribble from Scarlett Crilly and strong passes from Beau Kane. However, they were unable to get past the Bulls' goalie Zayvier Sagers. The final score was a 7-0 victory for Birchip-Watchem.

Awards for Birchip-Watchem: Ivy Bourke (Sharp's Bakery), Des Coffey (Birchip Hardware). Alisha Henderson and Lilian Broad both received the Boort awards this week.

Underage

The first half opened with the Bulls' Lana Angel and Jed Coffey dominating the midfield, but they were unable to find an angle into the Boort defensive 25.

The Boort Magpies leveraged their quick legs to push

the Bulls' frontline rearward, necessitating Birchip-Watchem's defensive play and limiting their options. While overall Birchip-Watchem's defensive short corners were a success, co-ordinated by Shaylee Field, a number of goals snuck past in unprepared moments to lean Boort into an early and persistent lead with Chaise Hird the most prolific for the home team, ending his day with five.

The Bulls fought back hard in the second half, cementing space in the offensive quarter of the field. A well-placed goal by Willow Ryan buoyed spirits and demonstrated the Birchip-Watchem capability to manoeuvre around the Boort goals. Finding space, Ben Horton and Michael Darby extended the field for the Bulls, providing clear opportunities outside the main cluster of play. Ultimately, however, Birchip-Watchem was unable to land any more in the net and Boort won the day, having secured 8 goals to Birchip-Watchem's 1.

For Birchip-Watchem, Sadas Gardiner-Paikea won best on for his consistent and strong plays moving the ball up the field, and Eligh Dean was the second award winner having stopped a series of tricky goals and co-ordinating the firm Birchip-Watchem defence.

Boort's awards: Abby Potter and Cleo Vellelly.



• All the minkey players (except 2) clustering around the ball.

Percentage Playing Its Part

• Continued from page 20.

gap the Redbacks might find impossible to bridge.

Should the Tom Metherell-led Wedderburn get the upper hand, however, adding to the opposition's run of outs, the Redbacks will find themselves back on level terms, points-wise, and possibly inside the top four on percentage.

Only a handful of games over the remainder of the season hold a similar significance or promise a contest of equal intensity, including Sea Lake-Nandaly at home to Calder United in round 9, Birchip-Watchem at home to Sea Lake-Nandaly in round 10, Calder United at home to Birchip-Watchem in round 11, and Calder United at home to Sea Lake-Nandaly in round 16.

Can Redbacks Clip Magpies' Wings?

Injuries continue to plague Wedderburn and prevent the Redbacks from fielding anywhere near a full-strength line-up, with ruckman Mark Robinson failing to see out a full game last Saturday.

He joins Jayden Jones, Mitch Jensen, Mackenzie Smith, Jake Pallpratt and Jake DeAraugo on the sidelines, unlikely to take the field tomorrow.

What was most impressive about Wedderburn's win over Donald was the contribution of the McEwen brothers, Jackson and Mitch.

Their run and carry, combined with the tenacious work of Zach Pallpratt, Joe Lockhart, Ben Bacon, Jye Mortlock and Hamish Lockhart, was outstanding. If they can continue to work at that high level, alongside big man Adam Postle, and key forwards Oscar Holt and Darcy Jackson, it should ensure the Redbacks are able to go stride for stride with their much-improved opponents.

To maximise its chances of winning, Wedderburn must isolate dynamic Magpie defender Keiren Wilson, and prevent him from impacting their forward thrusts.

Coach Tom Metherall will also play a pivotal role in the Redbacks' defence, which must nullify Boort's goal kicking mainstay, Jhye Baddeley-Kelly, as well as limiting the influence of Kayne Rutley, James Keeble and Ethan Coleman.

After a promising start to the season, and a couple of recent reality checks, Boort needs to recapture the fast-flowing brand of football, which won it early games, if it is to answer tomorrow's probing challenge.

Ruck options Peter Barbopoulos and James Wilson, in tandem with Jayden Dick, Carlos Egan and Tom Potter, will need to get involved and influence the flow of play throughout, if the Magpies are to turn their fortunes around.

If Boort can start tomorrow's contest in a similar vein to the way it began against Birchip-Watchem, it will be hard to beat, but if the Redbacks can keep them in check early, the result will be in the balance right to the end.

Northern Exposure

Life keeps getting tougher for the undermanned Donald, which travels north to the Sea Lake Oasis, where it takes on a Tiger outfit which exploded on the scoreboard against Charlton last Saturday, kicking its season-high of 34 goals.

Sea Lake-Nandaly should be able to further increase its percentage, at the visitors' expense, given its potent attack that features Adam Pattison, Lachy McClelland, Tyson McKenzie, as well as boasting a bevy of goal kicking midfielders, led by Tom Cox, Wade and Trent Donnan and Max Cahoon.

If Donald can follow the outstanding example being set by inspirational coach Daniel Pearce, supported by hard nut midfielders Eddie Landwehr and Josh Talty and dashing defenders Charlie Campbell and George Walker, it will make the contest as tight as possible.

But with Dyson Bell-Warren and Callum Van Den Dri-

est expected to miss the journey north, the Royal Blues will struggle to maintain pressure, enabling the Tigers to dominate.

Calder Clash

Nullawil will be the setting for the clash between Calder Highway entities, Calder United and the visiting Charlton, with the latter facing an uphill battle to match the extensive talents of the former.

Unfortunately for the Navy Blues, coming off a football lesson from Sea Lake-Nandaly, they are likely to be subjected to a similar scenario, given the outstanding form of opposition forwards Jack Excell and Mitch Farmer, and the influence of talented midfielders Steven Kennedy, Daniel Watts and Koby Lloyd.

Tom Finlay's return is providing much needed run and carry for Charlton, but to cause an upset, tireless contributors including Jed Thompson and Ben Lanyon, together with emerging young talents Mason Heenan and Elliott Fitzpatrick, are going to need all team-mates to take their game and contributions to a much higher level.

Bulls to Charge Again

Birchip-Watchem should finish the first full round of home-and-away fixtures undefeated when its takes on St. Arnaud at the George Cartwright Oval.

There is no doubting the young Saints' determination and willingness to make a contest of every issue, led by Zac Phillips, Kurt Torney, Brad Organ, Mitch Birthisel, as well as impressive young footballer, Owen Lowe.

Tomorrow will see them pitted against the strong bodied Bulls, including ruckman Hamish Hosking, and footballing powerhouses Meyrick Buchanan, Nic and Marshall Rippon and Bill Lee, whose delivery to mobile key forward Ben Edwards and those around him is capable of stretching even the strongest defences to breaking point.



(By Course Language)

There was no golf played on the Donald links last weekend. You would like to say it was called off because the course was too wet to play on, but unfortunately, that wasn't the case.

With people away, touring this dry and dusty continent (unless you've travelled north where it's anything but dry), and 5 members off representing the club at weekend pennant, no-one took up the stableford challenge.

Well done to the Wyche-proof Golf Club on hosting the pennant this year and to Andrew Kane for running the day for the Kara Kara. He's stepped into Barry Kennedy's shoes nicely after him doing the job for a mere 42 years. Congratulations to St. Arnaud on its win for the second year in a row.

Although our weekend (male) pennant team didn't

fare that well, a big congratulations to our Monday (ladies) pennant team on its title defence at Boort this week. I hope you didn't celebrate too late into the night.

Dad's Army

Six veterans answered roll call last Thursday, with Geoff Stopps completing the 12 holes on 20 points, to take the win in a very tight finish.

Coming Up

This weekend, thanks to Michaels of Donald, sees the start of our club championships. This event is to be played over the next four weeks (excluding King's birthday weekend) with the

winner of all grades submitting their best 3 rounds of a possible four for their chance to be crowned champion.

Good luck to all those competing and let's try for a good roll up of contenders.

One last note – All the best to Peter Kelly who's laid up in hospital at the moment. We wish him a speedy recovery. No doubt he'll be disappointed at missing the upcoming championships as he's won more "A" grade titles than some people have had hot dinners.

Dad Jokes

What is the most groundbreaking invention? – A shovel.

Did you hear the joke about paper? – It's tearable.

What vegetable should you never take on a boat? – A "Leak".

A mate of mine has just opened a new restaurant called "Peace and Quiet" – the kids meals are only \$150.

The inventor of the crossword puzzle has just moved into my neighbourhood – He lives 5 streets down and 2 houses across.

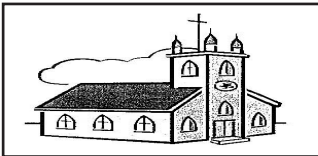
CHURCHES

ANGLICAN "Parish of Charlton-Donald"

Enquiries: Rev'd Judi Bird
0435 593 395

Friday, May 30
St. Paul's, Birchip, 5 p.m.

Sunday, June 1
St. Martin's, Charlton, 9 a.m.
St. George's, Donald, 11 a.m.
Holy Trinity, W'burn, 3 p.m.



UNITING CHURCH (North Central Living Waters Cluster)

Donald, 10 a.m.
Wycheproof, 10 a.m.
Birchip, 10 a.m.

Contact Number: 5497 1033

Big Challenge for Bulls Netballers

It was a tough day on the courts in Boort for Birchip-Watchem with only two grades registering wins.

Net Set GO

The Birchip-Watchem Go netball team faced off against Boort in an eagerly anticipated match, where a group of enthusiastic players took to the court with energy and determination.

The game was alive, with impressive hand co-ordination, as teammates executed many accurate passes. The players showcased their developing footwork skills, with plenty of pivots and precise landings on their grounded foot, helping them maintain balance and control.

Both teams displayed fantastic intensity, with players consciously using the three-foot rule to stay close to their opponents. Hands were constantly raised to block passes and disrupt the flow, making it a challenge for the passing player to find an open teammate.

Jock Richmond and Olive McLoughlan showcased their versatility by playing multiple positions throughout the game and both took home the awards sponsored by Troy and Brooke Morris and Birchip-Watchem Canteen. Boort awards: Boort Newsagency, Isabel Crilly; Associated Distributors, Lexie Kane.

14-&-Under “A”

The Birchip-Watchem 14-&-under “A” girls left early for Boort in the hope of defeating their counterparts, but they started off a bit sloppily in the first quarter. The scores for the first quarter saw the Bulls down by three, but they were determined to keep going. During the second quarter they were doing much better with many amazing intercepts and goals, with great support on the sideline and Frankie’s big voice booming from the bench.

By the third quarter Boort was stretching the lead, ahead by six, but after a good talk and snack during the three-quarter time break, they hopped back on the court for the final quarter full of enthusiasm.

After a few trips and stumbles, the Bulls got up and started to play amazingly, with Sienna Richmond and Gemma Tynan shooting some unbelievable shots, just going in one after the other. Down the other end in defence, the Bulls were getting so many intercepts and turn overs that were too numerous to count. In the end the Bulls sadly lost by 5.

Everyone played well and Sienna Richmond and Alana Caldwell got the awards for Birchip-Watchem. Boort awards: Boort Newsagency, Bridget Perryman; Bendigo Sportspower, Indie Gooding.

14-&-Under “B”

The 14-&-under “B” game was the closest match of the day, with the intensity high from the get go. The close results reflected accurately the teams’ second and third positions on the ladder.

Both Birchip-Watchem and Boort are now on 4 wins after Boort won by two goals 15 to 13. Birchip-Watchem still retained second place, but only by .01 on match ratio. Award winners for Birchip-Watchem were Frances McClelland and Tracey & Adam Bird Award, Scarlett Crilly; Donut Award, Lucy Lanyon.

17-&-Under “A”

It was an important match for the 17-&-under to see if Birchip-Watchem was able to take second place on the ladder. Luckily, it was a nice winter’s day with the sun shining and no wind to affect play.

The first quarter was a close contest between the two sides, going goal for goal for the majority of the quarter. Towards the final minutes, the Bulls were able to gain a slight lead with some handy turnovers in defence, which Zali Angel and Beau Haslam capitalised on, quickly converting them into Bulls goals. Both goalers were moving well in the ring, and making Milly Scott and Abby Potter work hard to get a turnover. First quarter scores were Birchip-Watchem 16 to Boort 11.

The second quarter saw the Bulls making some changes on the court and settling into the game. Zali Angel continued to dominate in the goal ring while Elise Cox’s speed and Esther Bourke’s pressure were welcome additions in defence, helping to restrict the Boort goalers to only 6 goals for the quarter. Half time scores were 31 to 17.

The third quarter saw both teams making some changes which worked in Boort’s favour as it outscored Birchip-Watchem 11 goals to 7 for the quarter.

The Bulls made a number of changes throughout the final quarter to finish out the game with a strong win of 20 goals. Asha Lee demonstrated her fitness throughout the match, consistently helping the ball through the midcourt to find the goalers with some nice passes.

Final scores Birchip-Watchem 54 to Boort 34. Birchip-Watchem awards: Lana Angel and Esther Bourke. Boort awards: Graeme Hayes Real Estate, Bella Quinn; Streader Constructions, Milly Scott.

“C” Reserve

The match between Birchip-Watchem and Boort was an intense battle on the court, and although Boort dominated on the score board, the Bulls put up a good contest.

Key highlights included Zoe Wilson’s defensive stance, intercepting play through the centre and Emily Hotker’s dominant performance over the whole court as she played many positions.

The match showcased exceptional skill, sportsmanship, and teamwork, but Boort

was too strong, winning 69 to 13. Awards for Birchip-Watchem: Zoe Wilson and Emily Hotker. Boort awards: Cobram Estate, Stacey Streader; Spot On Ag, Brooke Arnold.

“C” Grade

The Bulls “C” grade team delivered a strong and consistent performance on Saturday, maintaining the lead over Boort from the first whistle to the final siren. The final score reflected their dominance, with the Bulls finishing ahead 43-34.

Megane Greenaway led the charge in the shooting circle, proving instrumental in keeping the scoreboard ticking. Her positioning under the post was outstanding, and she was always ready to pounce on any rebound opportunity. Partnering her in the circle, Immy Boyle impressed in goal attack, using her movement to create space and drive play both in and out of the ring.

In the midcourt, Hannah Mattiske delivered precision feeds into the goal ring, while Maddy McQueen applied relentless defensive pressure, disrupting Boort’s transitions. Hannah Wilson once again starred in the centre, driving the ball down the court with control and making several key turnovers to shift momentum in the Bulls favour.

Down the defensive end, Steph Coffey and Ash Tierney worked seamlessly together to apply pressure on the Boort shooters. Their tight marking, strong rebounding, and ability to create intercepts were crucial in holding off any comeback attempts. Birchip-Watchem awards: Megane Greenaway and Hannah Wilson. Boort awards: Matt Wilkinson Plumbing, Anna Lanyon; Boort Natural Therapies, Anna Marcus.

“B” Grade

The first quarter started with a cool and calm Birchip-Watchem working through its game plan. Beau Haslam was a prominent target in GS and when the ball was placed into her hands by midcourters, Samantha Mitchell and Tylah Haslam, she could not miss. At the other end of the court, Boort shooters Amy Dridan and Georgia Weaver were also accurate, with the score being 16-14 Boort’s way.

The second quarter began with both teams playing their starting 7. Boort’s Caitlin Hogg worked hard in the defensive ring all game, taking numerous intercepts where she could. Birchip-Watchem’s midcourt was still moving the ball down into attack, but Boort’s Annie Perryman was relentless in attacking and defending throughout the midcourt, making Birchip-Watchem work harder to deliver the ball into the goal ring. At half-time Boort had maintained its lead with scores 34-22.

After the half time break Birchip-Watchem knew it had to keep working hard to maintain its lead against a



• “A” Grade: Georgia Weaver (GA) trying to line up the shot while Stacey Hamilton (GD) looks to intercept, supported by Sassia Coffey (GK).



• “B” Grade: Boort’s Caitlin Hogg attempting to pass to Kaitlin Broad while Birchip-Watchem’s Eva Coffey tries to intercept.

competitive Boort. A positional change saw Eva Coffey into GK and using her height and tight pressure to contain Boort’s shooting attempts and never lessened the pressure throughout the whole game.

Birchip-Watchem’s Toni Jones was using her speed to work the ball up the court and was finding good position in the goal ring alongside Lana Angel in her senior debut, who took numerous rebounds under the post. Heading into the fourth quarter Boort led 46-30.

The fourth quarter started in much the same fashion. Cheyenne Parsons had been strong in defence all day and some key intercepts from her throughout the game gave Birchip-Watchem the hope it needed. Boort continued to apply pressure across the court for the entire game and at the final siren, Boort ran out victorious 61-40.

Birchip-Watchem awards went to Tylah Haslam and Stacey Hamilton. Boort awards: DWT Transport, Caitlin Hogg; Cobram Estate, Britney Sykes.

“A” Grade

Boort Magpies versus Birchip-Watchem Bulls has always made for a fiercely competitive game to watch and this one would be no exception.

The Bulls got a break at the opening whistle allowing them to put the pressure on the ‘Pies early. Birchip-Watchem’s Meghan Noonan, who has snuck back into the “A” grade defence line up this season, was showing her skill and experience shutting down Boort’s tall shooting combo with her co-defender Sassia Coffey.

Despite the immense turnover tally from the defensive end, Birchip-Watchem struggled to convert from every intercept, making it hard to make any significant impact on the scoreboard and scores were tied at 11 apiece at the end of the first quarter.

Carly Issac and Bridie Doyle were providing some extreme pace through the mid-court for Boort, finding its goal ring quickly and effectively, but the Bulls started to take charge of the court, with their attacking end settling in and putting their foot on the gas.

Strong court presence and play direction from new recruit Mackenzie Ryan in the Centre position, allowed the Bulls to take the lead on the score board coming into the half-time break.

Unfortunately, the third quarter saw the Bulls’ lead start to unravel with Boort gaining confidence to let the ball fly into its skilled and sea-

soned tall goalers Steph Wilson and Georgia Haw.

Angel sisters Jenna and Zali were moving in the goal circle well, but the tenacity of Boort’s Roxi Train in the keeper position started to create issues for Birchip-Watchem’s young attacking end.

Boort was able to gain a foothold in the third quarter and the momentum of the game looked to shift in its favour.

Birchip-Watchem needed a big last quarter to claw back its six-goal deficit and it certainly showed signs of doing so. Sassia Coffey stepped up a gear and was proving to be difficult to get past in the ring and allowed her team to make some valuable conversions on the score board.

However, in the end it was Boort which remained more poised under pressure, and the Bulls ran out of time for a comeback.

Final score was Boort 57 defeated Birchip-Watchem 5. Awards for Birchip- Mackenzie Ryan and Sassia Coffey.

Birchip-Watchem netball awards were sponsored by Sharp’s Bakery and Mallee Branded.

Boort awards: Meering West Wind Farm, Roxy Train; North West Ag, Belle Hosking.



Percentage Playing Its Part

(By Shane O'Shea)

Six rounds into North-Central football's 2025 season, massive winning margins in games between teams in the top half of the ladder and the teams at the tail end have become a reality during a very uneven season of competition.

And that cannot be healthy for teams struggling to compete with the ladder leaders, which will be focused on amassing big scores at every opportunity.

Last Saturday's results only served to highlight the great divide that continues to develop, with the closest game, between Birchip-Watchem and Boort, being decided by 39 points, in favour of the undefeated Bulls.

Those significant winning and losing margins are reflected in the respective percentages of the current ladder standings, which see Birchip-Watchem on top with 24 points and 254.5% (the Bulls did lose 34% because the Magpies were able to score 12 goals), followed by Calder

United 16 (230.3), Sea Lake-Nandaly 16 (223.3) and Boort 16 (163.0).

As a result of last weekend's outcomes, Calder United increased its percentage by 32%, Sea Lake-Nandaly added 57%, and Boort dropped 36%, huge swings from just one game.

Fifth-placed Wedderburn 12 points (162.3) also boosted its percentage by 39% at Donald's expense, but still has ground to make up on its nearest rival, Boort.

Given the evenness of the teams occupying positions two through to four, and even five, percentage is likely to play a significant role in deciding their positioning at the end of the home-and-away season.

The Bulls, Lions and Tigers seem almost certain to occupy the top three places on the ladder. That would leave one seat at the finals table available to either current incumbent, Boort, or Wedderburn, adding even greater importance to tomorrow's contest between the Magpies and Redbacks.

Consecutive losses for Boort have seen it plummet from outright second place to hanging on to fourth spot by four premiership points and a very slender .7 of a per cent, and vulnerable to falling out of the top four – almost unthinkable a month ago.

If the Magpies regain their composure and win tomorrow's clash, it will open up a

• Continued on page 18.



• Calder United's Matt Wade kicks forward flanked by St. Arnaud's Daniel Gifford and Jimmy McKenny. Photo by Jason Smith.

Boort Juniors Too Strong for Bulls

Under-17s

The Birchip-Watchem coaches expressed sincere gratitude to Boort coaches James Byrne and Will Perryman for embracing the spirit of shared player arrangements.

Their co-operation helped balance the game and it created valuable development opportunities for players on both sides which is why the rule was introduced.

In each quarter the Bulls were bolstered by two Boort players, including some of their players who featured in their best players on the day, also highlighting that Boort recognises its players for their skills and effort, regardless of which team they are playing for throughout the match.

From the outset the Bulls defenders were under extreme pressure with Jake O'Flaherty dangerous up forward. Koby Hamilton was up for the challenge though, and defended well all day, competing in the air, running off his man and providing drive into the forwards.

Boort got away to a strong lead on the score board kick-

ing 4.3 (27) in the first term and albeit with some errant kicking they also amassed scores in the second, racking up a further 3.7 to finish the first half 46 points ahead.

The third term though was a good one for the Bulls and coach Bill Lee said, "it was the best quarter the boys have played for the year. The boys combined well, playing with more endeavour and were prepared to chase down any loose balls, which was helped by the inclusion of the two Boort players who gave their all regardless of the colours they were playing in".

Ollie Cook was again solid through the middle and Jack Knights had his best game of the season at centre half forward, contesting well and creating opportunities for other forwards to score. Bailey Kemp was also good up forward for the Bulls and was prepared to follow up even if the ball was kicked over his head, and he was rewarded with multiple goals. Archie Tyler also had success in front of the goal sticks for the Bulls.

Boort's success sees it sitting second on the ladder on equal wins and losses with Sea Lake-Nandaly. St Arnaud is dominating the competition remaining undefeated with one game left of the first round, which will be against the Bulls on Saturday.

Final score: Boort 11.14 (80) to Birchip-Watchem 5.2 (32). Best for Birchip-Watchem: Kobe Hamilton, Oliver Cook, Jack Knights, Bayley Kemp. For Boort: Jake O'Flaherty, Luke Boyd, Jacob Malone, Deacon Hird, Joseph Ketterer

Under-14s

Boort came away with a solid 47 to 8 win over Birchip-Watchem in Saturday's under-14s match, showing composure and class across four quarters to claim the points.

The game began with Boort settling quickly into its rhythm, kicking two goals and a behind in the opening term, while holding the Bulls scoreless. Clean ball movement and ability to win the contest early gave Boort control, as Birchip-Watchem struggled to generate any forward momentum.

The Bulls found their feet in the second quarter, lifting their intensity and getting reward for effort when Oscar Sharp slotted a goal midway through the term. Despite improved pressure and a more competitive showing, Birchip-Watchem was unable to close the gap, with Boort still



• The Bulls' Kobe Hamilton gets the ball out of defence away from Deacon Hird, Pranav Sharma and Luke Boyd, in Saturday's under-17s game.

maintaining the edge going into the main break.

After half-time, Boort continued to apply scoreboard pressure, adding another three goals while holding the Bulls to just two more behinds for the remainder of the game. Boort's ability to link up through the middle and deliver cleanly inside 50 proved the difference, with Birchip-Watchem unable to match Boort's consistency or aerial strength.

Boort's best players were Liam King, who led from the

front with his work around the ball, and Jed Perryman, who provided run and drive. Cruz Nuttall was dangerous up forward, while Brady Gilmore and Zeb Gould made important contributions across the ground.

For the Bulls, Oscar Sharp delivered his best game of the season. His goal was a highlight, and his effort across four quarters didn't go unnoticed. Aki Norton and River Ryan were both impressive, showing grit and determina-

tion, while Logan Wood continued his reliable form.

Archie Tyler worked hard in defence under constant pressure. Des Coffey floated across the backline, offering good support and smart decision-making. Denley Tyler showed glimpses of his skill, and Liam Spezza put in a tireless effort through the mid-field. Jed Coffey battled hard in an undersized match-up against Boort's tall ruck Noah Howe.

Final scoreline saw Boort win 7.5 (47) to 1.2 (8).

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