

DONALD

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The Buloke Times

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



• Rick McIntosh prepares to call his 21st Wycheproof Cup at last Saturday's meet.



• Last Saturday's on-course MC, Dayne Barry can trace his link to Wycheproof Cup Day back to 2014 when he made an auspicious start as a twelve-year-old race caller. Dayne kept the information flowing for the big crowd throughout the day last Saturday.



• Six-year-old Freddie Roberts loved the TAC ping pong and face painting activities, as well as watching the Cup Day races.

Trackside at the Wycheproof Cup

(By Jenny Pollard)

It mightn't be the race which stops a nation, but it is certainly the racetrack which brings families and friends together.

Mt. Wycheproof and District Racing Club Cup Day is a perennial highlight of the local events calendar and for many it's on the list for family reunions and fulfilling a desire to head to a unique country race meet.

It's "Derby Day" in the Spring Racing Carnival, and Derby Day in the country holds many attractions for the those benefitting from the "long weekend" of Melbourne Cup week.

As always, the Wycheproof Club presented an immaculate venue for the many punters who made their way trackside. Club president, Kevin Thompson, put it succinctly, praising all the volunteers for their input.

"We have an enormous amount of work to do," said Kevin, "and it's thanks to the

outstanding contribution of our volunteers that we have such a great result. Race day also gives a huge boost to our local economy, with many businesses reaping the rewards."

Clear, blue skies, warm weather and a light breeze made conditions favourable for the crowd which streamed through the gates from early afternoon. While maybe not as large as last year, a more casual, relaxed atmosphere was noticeable, with picnic rugs and family groups spread across the sun-shaded areas, and the marquee "city" humming with conversation.

Fashions

Across the concourse fashions tended to follow a less formal code this year, with more country casual and

lots of florals and pastel shades prevalent. Flowing long dresses were an obvious trend, featuring polka-dots and large swirling patterns. Tangerine was a dominant colour for some.

The Fashions on the Field brought forth the stylish, along with the pretenders – which included a buck's party groom-to-be wearing a pink mid-length A-line dress and a jockey and horse combo. For the judges Marie Coffey, Narelle Makepeace and Samantha Kemp, the task of assessing the many elegant ensembles was a difficult one – made even harder with a number of sweetly attired very young entrants.

Thanks to the sponsorship of Pan Pacific (Melbourne),

• Continued on page 8.



• A bucket list activity is ticked off for this Ballarat group with their visit to the Wyche races last Saturday – (left to right) Adrian Madden, Fiona Wakeling, and Linda and Alan Holland.

Increase in CFA Recruitment



Almost 500 Victorians have put their hands up to join CFA between October 3 and 29 on the back of the Get Fire Ready initiative.

The figure represents an 11% increase on new applicants during the same period last year.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said the lift in applications reflects the overall message of Get Fire Ready, which wraps up today on October 31.

"Get Fire Ready was all about informing Victorians

about their local fire risk, encouraging people to prepare early and make informed decisions ahead of summer," Jason said.

"To also see so many people wanting to take the next step and join their local brigade shows the strong sense of volunteerism that runs through this state.

"The more people who step up, the stronger CFA

becomes, which can only benefit the communities we protect."

Of the 499 new applicants, 61 per cent were men and 36 per cent were women, around 66 per cent of applicants want to serve as firefighters while 33 per cent preferred non-operational roles.

Younger Victorians led the way, with around 38 per cent aged between 18 and 34 and

27 per cent aged 17 or under.

Jason said it was encouraging to see people of all ages signing up, but particularly the number of younger Victorians showing an interest in joining.

"It's great to see so many young people wanting to get involved," he said.

"They bring new energy, skills and perspectives that help strengthen CFA for the future."

More than 530 CFA brigades across Victoria hosted Get Fire Ready events

throughout October. One of those being Bolinda-Monegetta, which sits in a high-risk bushfire area in the foothills of the Macedon Ranges.

The brigade tied its event into a community bonfire night on October 18.

Brigade Chairman David Allen said Get Fire Ready was a great way to connect with the local community.

"We had over 1,000 people come through. For a small brigade of 32 members, it

allowed us to speak with locals in a way we don't usually get to," David said.

The brigade has received four new applications to join CFA throughout October.

To learn more about volunteering with CFA visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteers.

Residents in high-risk bushfire areas can still order a Get Fire Ready information pack by visiting www.cfa.vic.gov.au/getfireready.

Temporary Speed Hump Installed

Horsham Rural City Council has installed a temporary speed hump at the hospital crossing in Baillie Street, following the need for maintenance on the long-term speed hump that was damaged.

The original speed hump was installed in 2020 after extensive discussions with the Hospital, which identified the need for a safety improvement at the crossing. This long-term measure was designed to slow traffic near the hospital for the safety of both pedestrians and motorists.

“The roads surrounding the hospital see heavy pedestrian use due to appointments, visitation and emergencies. It is important that these pedestrians feel safe and aren’t

competing with speeding traffic,” Acting Mayor Cr Brian Klowss said.

The proper, long-term speed humps, which will feature a gentler angle to accommodate vehicles more comfortably, are expected to be reinstated next week. These new speed humps will be slightly wider than the previous ones, designed to reduce the tendency of cars weaving around them, further enhancing safety for pedestrians and motorists.

“By widening the design, we’re addressing concerns raised by local drivers and continuing to prioritise safety in this key area.” Cr Brian Klowss said.

Council appreciates the community’s patience during this short-term disruption and encourages all road users to drive carefully near the hospital crossing.

For further information, please contact Horsham Rural City Council on (03) 5382 9777.

Warracknabeal Energy Park Raises Concerns

Horsham Rural City Council (HRCC) is concerned about the potential impacts of this major renewable energy project on housing, the local workforce, and roads.

Councillors last week endorsed the HRCC submission to the Environment Effect Statement (EES) Inquiry into the proposed Warracknabeal Energy Park.

Through Council’s advocacy work and this submission, Council is calling on both state and federal government and project proponents to make the strategic investment required to ensure Horsham and the broader region is ready for this energy and mining transition.

The Energy Park will comprise 219 wind turbines, 5 km northwest of Warracknabeal, and will potentially be the largest wind facility in Australia.

Together with other renewable energy, mining and major projects, the project has the potential to have significant impacts on the region and Horsham.

Key Issues

Council has identified three key issues for the municipality:

Worker Accommodation

The impact of major construction projects will impact on housing availability in the region, adding further pressure on existing challenges within the municipality relating to social and affordable housing, and short-term accommodation.

Employment

The region has a tight labour market and a small pool of available workers. This poses a substantial risk to the growth potential across all industries in the region if significant workforce shortages are not addressed and demand for new housing cannot be met.

Roads

Construction of the Energy Park will require components of the turbines (excluding wind blades) to be transported from Portland and through the lengths of HRCC using Council roads, rather than arterial roads, impacting local and regional traffic movements and road use.

“Horsham has a number of developed and planned renewable energy facilities in the region, and three mineral sand mines under development,” said Acting Mayor Brian Klowss.

“Our Rural City plays a key role in servicing and accommodating these major projects, and their cumulative impact presents challenges for the municipality.

“It is important we raise our concerns on behalf of our community in the appropriate manner and advocate for local solutions.”

Council’s endorsement of the submission will allow for the Warracknabeal EES Inquiry to appropriately consider these issues.

More than 90 submissions from members of the public have been lodged directly to the EES process.



• Morning tea was enjoyed by all. Back row left to right: Jacquie Rymer, Nita Wilson, Norma Khan, Anna King, Marlen Ryan, Jackie Cartwright. Front: Janice Ryan (back), Harold Bennett, Lyn Bennett, Lois Hallam, Jean Smith, Janice Randall.

Morning Tea Brings Community Together

Birchip Neighbourhood House wrapped up a busy October with a free morning tea and activities celebrating three great community initiatives including Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Victorian Seniors Festival and Get Online Week.

Guests enjoyed pink themed treats, bakery food, conversations and a few laughs with their neighbours thanks to the Birchip Neighbourhood House and funding from Good Things Australia and Buloke Shire Council.

The pink themed morning tea, featuring delicious cupcakes from Emsley Bakes, raised more than \$300 for the Cancer Council’s Pink Ribbon Appeal, helping to fund vital breast cancer research and support services.

October is also the month to celebrate Get Online Week, so it was a great opportunity to welcome community members into the Birchip Neighbourhood House, where locals regularly visit for help with digital devices and online information.

In addition, the morning tea was a fitting culmination of the Government’s Seniors Festival program, which celebrates older Victorians by promoting connection, creativity and community participation.

Throughout October, seniors across the Buloke Shire have taken part in a wide range of activities co-ordinated by their local Neighbourhood Houses, from Pickleball sessions and morning teas to mini Olympics and social gatherings, thanks to funding support from Buloke Shire Council and the Victorian Government.

Manager of the Birchip Neighbourhood House, Simone Christie, said, “There are a lot of important events and activities in October, whether it’s getting online, getting active, or raising awareness for important issues, so this was an opportunity for everyone to come together to celebrate.”



• Stacey Hamilton with the pink cup cakes (and some Halloween additions)

Letter to the Editor



Fair Go for Country Brigades

(The Editor, “The Times”)

Dear Editor.— As Victoria braces for what the CFA warns could be a dangerous fire season, country brigades are preparing for long days, sleepless nights, and tough conditions – often with ageing trucks, limited funding, and growing pressure on volunteers.

Out here in the country, the CFA isn’t just an emergency service – it’s part of the community. We’re the neighbours, farmers, and local workers who train, turn out, and fundraise to keep our towns safe.

But as fire seasons grow longer and conditions worsen, the strain on rural brigades is

real. Many still operate with outdated gear, long travel distances for training, and fewer volunteers. We don’t expect special treatment – just a fair go.

One-size-fits-all policies don’t work for the bush. What suits a city brigade doesn’t always fit a farming district, where the next truck might be 20+ kilometres away. Country brigades need country solutions – fair funding, modern equipment, and training that matches our reality.

A fair go for country brigades isn’t just about equity – it’s about keeping every Victorian community strong, safe, and ready for what lies ahead.

Leigh Harry.
CFA Volunteers Group Inc.

Police Beat



Buloke

Burglary: During the day on Thursday, October the 30th, it is reported that an offender has gained entry to a home on Menzies Street, Charlton, and stolen a set of keys to a blue Isuzu MUX. It is alleged that they have then taken the vehicle from the carport.

Gannawarra

Theft: Between 11.30 a.m. on Sunday the 26th of October and 7 a.m. the following day, it is reported that an offender has attended a business in Grigg Road, Koondrook, and stolen numerous items, including tools and timber slabs.

Swan Hill

Burglaries: In the morning of Wednesday the 29th of October, a guest of a motel in Swan Hill was using the bathroom and when he entered the body of the motel room, discovered that two laptops and an iPad had been stolen. The motel room door had been left unlocked. In the early hours of Thursday, the 30th of October, an offender has gained

entry to a home in Dellar Street, Swan Hill, through an unlocked door whilst the occupants slept. A handbag was reported stolen from the address. At about 3 p.m. on Wednesday, the 29th of October, the rear door of property in Boys Street, Swan Hill, was broken. It appears nothing was stolen from the address.

Obtaining property by Deception: On Friday, the 31st of October, the victim saw a trailer for sale in Swan Hill on an online site. They paid a \$50 holding deposit, but when they went to a Swan Hill address to view the item, they realised that they had been scammed and no trailer was at the property.

Robinvale

Warrant: On Monday, the 27th of October, police executed a search warrant on a residential address in Robinvale. A quantity of what is alleged to be cannabis was located. A 34-year-old female was arrested, interviewed and released pending summons to appear in court at a later date.

AMBULANCE
PHONE NO.
000



Cheaper, Better and Fairer Energy: Nats Walk Away from Net Zero

The Nationals are putting Australians first with cheaper electricity, secure jobs and lower emissions.

The Nationals are announcing an all-energy approach, to deliver the lowest possible electricity prices for Australian households and businesses, while maintaining reliability and lowering emissions.

Member for Mallee and Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Local Government, Territories and Regional Communications, Dr Anne Webster, MP, said Australia can't afford Labor's Net Zero all-renewables plan, which Labor cannot achieve anyway.

"Labor's Net Zero plan is costing Australians dearly — higher power bills, lost jobs, and damage to our farmland and environment. Under Labor, electricity prices are up 39 per cent, gas 46 per cent, and real wages have fallen

back to 2011 levels. Families and businesses are hurting and 7,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost," Dr Webster said.

Common Sense

"Here in Mallee and beyond, our environment is suffering with forests and farmland being destroyed. We are bringing common sense back to solving climate change.

"The Nationals' plan puts Australians first, with cheaper electricity and secure jobs, while still lowering emissions.

"The Nationals will abandon a net zero commitment. We will do our fair share to reduce global emissions, but not more than the rest of the world. This is a fair approach," Dr Webster said.

"If we continue down Labor's reckless path, Australians will only feel more pain, with the estimated cost of net zero at \$7 to \$9 trillion, or \$250,000 per Australian."

The Nationals have adopted a Cheaper, Better, Fairer energy and climate plan.

Six Principles

Six principles underpin The Nationals new pathway:

- Lower energy prices first. We should lower energy prices first and abandon Labor's net zero plan.

- Doing our fair share. We should reduce emissions in line with comparable nations, not ahead of them.

- A fair go for all. Costs should be distributed evenly, not concentrated on regions.

All carbon taxes and restrictions should be removed.

- Empowering local action. Let local communities lead initiatives such as waterway protection, land restoration and soil carbon.

- Supporting all technologies. A commonsense approach to renewables, embrace new technologies, including nuclear and advanced coal and gas.

- Protecting our security and prosperity. We should not compromise our quality of living, regional jobs and industries and national defence.

Emissions Cut

Australia has cut more emissions than other countries. On average, "rich" countries have cut their emissions by 14 per cent. OECD countries have been cutting their emissions by 1 per cent per year. Australia has been cutting its emissions by about

2 per cent per year — double the OECD rate.

Dr Webster said under The Nationals, Australia's emissions cuts will be capped and calibrated, which is common sense.

Responsibility

"The responsibility will be shared and transparent. There is a proven model, the Emissions Reduction Fund, that between 2014-2023 facilitated real emission reductions that didn't ruin the economy.

"We will incentivise lower emissions through a renewed Emissions Reduction Fund, to deliver between 2 and 9 million tonnes of annual abatement, at an estimated cost between \$200 to \$500 million per year, which includes assumptions of higher carbon prices. This will be a small fraction of the \$9 billion now being spent each year on net-zero subsidies, regulations, and administrative costs.



• Anne Webster.

"Our approach is better, and will increase investment in cheaper electricity by broadening the Capacity Investment Scheme to include all energy technologies and remove the moratorium on nuclear energy. This is about cheaper energy for households and businesses. Energy is the Economy.

"Labor's net zero has failed. We have a plan which is cheaper, better and fairer."

Charlton's "Sunday Sounds"

Charlton Neighbourhood House hosted a Sunday Sounds event at the The Vale of Avoca in Charlton on Sunday, October 26, for senior citizens month.

There was some initial concern about the weather, as it did not look promising for the outdoor event. However, the sun appeared later in the afternoon, just in time for "Sunday Sounds". This free event was sponsored by Buloke Shire Council through State Government funding for Senior Citizens Month.

The event was organised by Charlton Neighbourhood House in collaboration with Mallee Creatives and was hosted at The Vale, in its beautiful beer garden. Entertainment was provided by Elias Lanyon, a talented young performer from Boort, who delivered a wonderful compilation of songs. Having previously appeared on "The Voice", Elias impressed the judges with his talent and once again delighted the audience with an amazing performance.

With great entertainment, delicious food, and plenty of sunshine, the afternoon was a great success.

Charlton Neighbourhood House extends thanks to Beno and Carmel for hosting Sunday Sounds, to the incredibly talented Elias Lanyon for his terrific performance, and to all the community members who attended and supported the event.



• Boort's Elias Lanyon entertains the crowd.

Chips to Create Hundreds of Jobs

The Victorian Government is backing a major international food manufacturer to establish its first Australian production facility in Western Victoria, creating 250 new local jobs and driving economic growth in the Wimmera.

Minister for Economic Growth and Jobs Danny Pearson today announced Farm Frites Australia is establishing a \$300 million APAC manufacturing base in Dooen to manufacture its popular frozen chips using Australian produce.

Farm Frites Australia supplies frozen chips, fries and other potato-based products to takeaways, pubs, clubs, and fast-food restaurants including KFC and Hungry Jacks right across Australia.

"This is a huge investment that will see hundreds of jobs created for local workers, driving revenue for the Wimmera and right across the state," said Minister for Economic Growth and Jobs Danny Pearson.

"We're proudly backing companies to invest in advanced manufacturing because we know it is key to unlocking economic growth and creating more opportunities for all Victorians."

The 24-hour production facility, located next to the Wimmera Intermodal Freight Hub, will support Australian farmers, create jobs for local workers, and offer training and career opportunities for students in a region with a proud agricultural history.

"Regional Victoria has the resources and workforce that make it an ideal place to do business — which is why we've supported this new facility, because it creates more local jobs," said Minister for Regional Development Jaclyn Symes.

Once operational in 2027, the manufacturing plant will have capacity to process up to

250,000 tonnes of Australian-grown potatoes every year.

The new food processing facility was granted planning permit approval under the Labor Government's Development Facilitation Program which expedites planning decisions for eligible projects that will inject investment into the Victorian economy — creating new jobs and promoting economic growth.

After a national search, Farm Frites Australia settled on Dooen, near Horsham, to open the manufacturing facility — showing once again that Victoria is the nation's manufacturing powerhouse.

"Farm Frites Australia is delighted to have chosen Dooen — and the Wimmera — for our first Australian production facility and our \$300 million investment in Victorian jobs, Australian farmers and local manufacturing," said Farm Frites Australia General Manager Kieran Prestidge.

"Dooen is perfectly located between the best growing regions in Australia and has excellent road and rail links, which will help us put more Australian produce on plates and tables all around the country."

Victoria has the largest and most established food and

beverage manufacturing sector in Australia, generating more than \$44 billion in sales and service income and employing more than 76,000 people.

Victoria is the leading Australian investment destination for the food and beverage sector, attracting \$170 million in foreign direct investment in 2024.

The Labor Government's Economic Growth Statement received \$240 million in the Victorian Budget 2025/26 to deliver more than 40 initiatives in full, that will support investment, create jobs, drive exports and boost industry and innovation.

The new \$150 million Victorian Investment Fund will also drive business investment in the state, with \$50 million set aside for a regional stream to accelerate growth in priority sectors including advanced manufacturing and agribusiness.

"We're making good planning decisions faster through the Development Facilitation Program and this project fits the bill — not only because it will boost investment and jobs and growth, it will also enhance the Victoria's agricultural and manufacturing output," said Minister for

Church Notices

ANGLICAN "Parish of Charlton-Donald"
Enquiries: Rev'd Judi Bird 0435 593 395
Friday, November 14
St. Paul's, Birchip, 5 p.m.
Sunday, November 16
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., with Jan Flett
Next Birchip and Wycheproof Services,
10 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 16
Contact Number: 5497 1033

GRANITE Community Church
www.granitecommunitychurch.com
At Granite Church
Baptist Union of Victoria

"Times" Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8200 - SOLUTIONS
Across - 1, Chrysanthemum. 8, Raven. 9, Channel. 10, Shriek. 11, Revile. 12, Ember. 14, Spent. 18, Unrest. 20, Rubber. 23, Inhuman. 24, Drape. 25, Self-assurance.
Down - 1, Caress. 2, River. 3, Sincere. 4, Nice. 5, Heave. 6, Mansion. 7, Mullet. 13, Marshal. 15, Plunder. 16, Quoits. 17, Grieve. 19, Samba. 21, Brain. 22, Onus.

"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.



BIRCHIP R.S.L.

Sub-branch

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Tuesday, Nov. 11
BIRCHIP CENOTAPH
11 a.m.

LITCHFIELD PUBLIC HALL
100 Year Celebration

Social Evening

Saturday, November 15th
BBQ commencing 6 pm

An advertisement in
"The Buloke Times"
can cost as little as \$10, and up
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EWHS Birchip Campus Ladies Auxillary Annual General Meeting

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26
2.30 p.m.

MEETING ROOM,
BIRCHIP HOSPITAL
CAMPUS, DUNCAN ST
For more information
and to submit agenda
items please call -
Carol Reid
0417 854 232
All Welcome.

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



0439 285 653

- Permanent skip bins
- Short-term skip bins
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- Dingo digger
- Light tower generators
- Trailers
- Tilt Tray Transport
- Temporary fencing
- Site Hut
- JCB telehandler
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- Excavator
- Rotary Hoe
- Zero turn mower
- Dethatcher
- Whacker

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www.bulokehire.com.au

MOTHERS' CLUB 'BEST OF' COMEDY CONCERT

Celebrating 70 Years!

Golden Oldies coming out of Retirement to deliver some of your favourite acts!

- Friday, November 7th, 2025
- 7pm for a 7.30pm start
- Wedderburn Town Hall
- Ladies: \$15
- Secondary Student Ladies: \$5



- *Exceptional Supper
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- *Truckloads of Laughs

Ladies Only Event



A Wedderburn College Fundraiser
An Alcohol-free Event



Junior Fishing Competition

FOLLETTI CARAVAN PARK LAKE

SATURDAY, NOV. 8
9 a.m. until midday

- \$2.00 per child •
 - Free barbeque lunch supplied for the kids •
 - BYO chair, fishing rod, sunscreen and a parent
- Register at the clubhouse
Any enquiries contact Philip 0427 978 252



DONALD 2000's

Ladies Shopping Night

Friday, November 14

Theme: *Spirit of Christmas*

*Dress in your best Christmas outfits
to spread the Christmas cheer!*

Starting: Buloke Hire (Racecourse Rd) at 5.30 pm
Finish: Supper at the Mount Jeffcott Hotel. **Tickets:** \$25
11 businesses participating

Tickets can be purchased at: Harvest Café,
The Clothes Bin, Bev's Baubles/Shared Shop or Love Shack.

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Mensland

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In the recent art exhibition in Donald and on display at the Donald High School foyer, Year 7 Art students enjoyed exploring a variety of multimedia options.

These are some of the students whose work was in progress.



Karleisha Anderson
DONALD HIGH SCHOOL

“Times” Classifieds

PHONE Donald 5497 1222,
Birchip 5492 2735

Email admin@buloketimes.com

DECLARATION

Fire Danger Period

The Chief Officer of CFA will be introducing the Fire Danger Period for all land within the municipalities listed below.

The Fire Danger Period will commence at 0100 hours on the date shown and unless varied by a subsequent declaration, will end at 0100 hours on 1 May 2026.

Municipality	Date of Commencement
Mildura Rural City Council	27/10/2025
Yarriambiack Shire Council	03/11/2025
Swan Hill Rural City Council	03/11/2025
Buloke Shire Council	10/11/2025

Certain restrictions on the lighting of fires are in force during the Fire Danger Period.

Information about fire restrictions within the Country Area of Victoria can be obtained from www.cfa.vic.gov.au, your local CFA District Office or Municipal Fire Prevention Officer.



Jason Heffernan
Chief Officer – CFA

D031PA

FOR SALE

BY EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

BIRCHIP - CROPPING LAND 320 ACRES (129.5ha) approx.

A/c P & J Ryan



Situated close to Birchip on Three Chain Road; divided into 3 main paddocks; pipeline water connected to stock troughs. Soil is Mallee Loam with red rising types typical of the district.

EOI close: November 27, 2025 @ 2 p.m.
Elders Office, 30 Scott Street, Warracknabeal

Terms: 10% Deposit on acceptance of EOI - Balance March 2, 2026

All or any EOI not necessarily accepted.

Further details & EOI form contact Selling Agent



**Elders 30 Scott Street,
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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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St Arnaud

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<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.



OPERATIONS MANAGER

Do you want to work in a busy environment with a great group of people?

An opportunity exists to join this outstanding regional business based in Donald Victoria.

Peaco Foods Pty Ltd operates in the international and local pulse market. The business enjoys strong relationships with both suppliers and export and local clients. It is a long established, successful and respected business.

The position of Operations Manager is a hands on leadership role. You must be both a leader and a doer, able to manage relationships both within and outside of the business.

You will on a daily basis be leading a team that throughout the year, including at peak times, in receiving pulse grains and controlling and processing all receivables for sale.

Aside from your leadership and communications skills it is vital that you have a good handle on numerics, literacy and sound IT abilities. Suitable training will be undertaken for the successful applicant.

A suitable package for the right person including vehicle will be negotiated.

Your written application can be forwarded to:

shane@peaco.com.au

Further details and Job Description can be obtained by either: phoning 03 5478 6404 or emailing

melissa@peaco.com.au

Applications close: Monday, December 1, 2025

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it's so
NATURAL

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It's important to remember that what you use to clean the bath and toilet bowl eventually finds its way into our waterways.

A healthy bathroom prioritises hygiene through good ventilation and regular, non-toxic cleaning, while at the same time promoting well-being by prioritising hygiene through good ventilation and regular, non-toxic cleaning using eco-friendly cleaning products.

To start, bathrooms can be kept smelling fragrantly fresh and sparkling clean with easy-to-use homemade natural products and other simple substances that are usually found in the home.

Likewise, it's just as important to ensure that bathrooms are clear of bacteria and viruses, especially if the toilet is located there. Use any of these essential oils – cinnamon, clove, lemon, eucalyptus, lavender, pine, niaouli or thyme – in the final rinsing water when you wash all surfaces in the bathroom, including the bath, sink and toilet. These oils will kill germs and give the room a nice fragrance.

The following air-freshener spray will not only keep your bathroom and toilet fragrant and fresh, its disinfectant qualities will clear bacteria and viruses. Dissolve 20 drops of lavender oil, 5 drops of lemon oil, and 5 drops of rosemary oil in 10 millilitres of methylated spirits, add the mixture to a pump-spray bottle containing 500 millilitres of water. Use on a fine mist setting, whenever needed to kill airborne viruses and bacteria.

The air freshener spray can also be used as a disinfectant to wipe over bathroom surfaces to kill germs.

As an additional fragrance boost, a few drops of a concentrated fragrant oil or one of the previous concentrated oils

can be placed on the cardboard tube inside the toilet paper roll before placing it in the holder.

This eucalyptus cleaner is ideal for cleaning bathroom ceramics when all that is required is a quick wipe over with a disinfectant cleaner. It can also be used to remove mould from bathroom tiles and painted surfaces and to clean glass shower screens. Dissolve 4 millilitres of eucalyptus oil in 10 millilitres of methylated spirits. Add to a pump-spray bottle containing 500 millilitres of water to make a good disinfectant, cleaner and deodorising spray. Shake well to mix and use on a fine mist setting.

For a mild abrasive to clean baths, sinks, toilet bowls and tiles, make a light paste of bicarbonate of soda and water. Use a soft cloth to rub the paste over the bath's surface.

To prevent bath stains from occurring, once a week rub the bath's surface with a soft cloth dipped in methylated spirits.

Blackened grout between tiles, caused by mould, dirt and grime, can be whitened by applying a paste of bicarbonate of soda with a soft toothbrush and shower curtains can be cleaned by scrubbing with white vinegar. For really bad mildew stains on shower curtains, wash in hot soapy water, rub lemon juice over the stains and leave to dry in the sun. New shower curtains should be soaked in a bucket of salty water before use to prevent the growth of mildew.

Mould and mildew can also be removed from bathroom surfaces by applying white vinegar. Leave on overnight before scrubbing off and wiping clean. Install ceiling fans or open windows to eliminate dampness that causes mould.

Clean the inside of non-septic toilet bowls with a paste of borax and lemon juice. For septic systems use white vinegar, since it won't harm the microbes that break down the sewage in the tank.

To sanitise your toilet and leave it smelling fresh, pour some white vinegar into it and leave overnight. Throwing one cup of bicarbonate of soda down a septic toilet each week will clean the toilet, reduce acidity, and encourage the growth of waste-digesting bacteria.

These natural bathroom tips will keep your bathroom eco-friendly and sparkling clean!

Visit Alan on the Net –
www.itssonatural.com

Church Notices

DISTRICT CATHOLIC CHURCHES

“East Wimmera Parish”

Birchip	10.30 a.m.
(Livestream in)	
Boort	10.30 a.m.
(Livestream in)	
Banyena	No Mass
Charlton	8.30 a.m.
Donald (Sat.)	7.00 p.m.
St. Arnaud	10.30 a.m.
(Livestream out to churches without Mass)	
Wycheproof	10.30 a.m.
(Livestream in)	

Fr. Gerry Prunty
0419 247 779

Parish Co-ordinator
– Noeline Hogan: 0476 617 976

Continuous Support for Mental Health

Animal health company Zoetis is marking its tenth year of continuous support for mental health in rural and regional Australia, with \$1 million contributed to Beyond Blue since partnering together in 2016.

This milestone includes a new \$100,000 donation to Beyond Blue, which will help provide vital mental health services for people living outside the nation's major cities.

The partnership represents Zoetis' long-term commitment to improving wellbeing in farming and rural communities.

Each year, Zoetis donates \$5 from every sale of its livestock, pig, poultry and companion animal vaccines and parasiticide products, up to \$100,000, helping the partnership reach this significant \$1 million milestone in its tenth year.

Long-Term Commitment

Fred Schwenke, Zoetis Business Unit Director – Livestock, said it was a fantastic milestone and reflected

the company's long-term commitment to addressing mental health in regional areas.

"Zoetis works closely with rural Australia through interactions with the country's farming community, agricultural stores, veterinarians and their families. We are proud to once again be supporting Beyond Blue and the important work they do."

Mr Schwenke said the partnership between Zoetis and Beyond Blue goes beyond financial contributions.

"It's about making sure that no one in rural Australia feels alone in their struggle with mental health, and that help is readily available. We want to encourage early intervention and remind people that reaching out for support is a sign of strength, not

weakness. This donation will help ensure that those living in regional areas have access to support when they need it most.

"Improving mental health outcomes requires more than just awareness. It needs consistent, meaningful action and unwavering support. That's why, ten years on, Zoetis remains firmly committed to its partnership with Beyond Blue. Supporting rural Australia on its long journey to better mental health is not a quick fix – it's a sustained and compassionate effort."

Depression

Almost half of Australian farmers report experiencing feelings of depression, while 64 per cent say they have dealt with anxiety; 45 per cent of farmers say they have had thoughts of self-harm or

suicide, and nearly a third have attempted self-harm or suicide. Alarming, one farmer dies by suicide every ten days – a rate twice as high as that of the general population.

The situation is compounded by a reluctance to speak up. More than half of farmers say they stay silent about their mental health because they feel uncomfortable or fear they will burden others.

Recently released survey results from Beyond Blue Australia's Mental Health and Wellbeing Check indicate people are delaying seeking help for their mental health, with nearly half of those who sought professional mental health support (49 per cent) reporting they were "very distressed" or "extremely distressed" before they sought support.

Leading barriers to seeking help included waitlists,

affordability of treatment, shame and stigma, and people thinking their problem wasn't serious enough.

Data shows that after contacting the Beyond Blue Support Service, 75% of people felt less distressed and 82% of people felt heard and understood.

Changing Lives

Georgie Harman AO, CEO of Beyond Blue, said every contact was changing and saving lives.

"When someone in a remote community picks up the phone or jumps online to talk to Beyond Blue, it's often their first step towards feeling better," said Ms Harman. "Zoetis' decade-long commitment helps make that possible, funding real conversations that save lives and change outcomes."

Derek Schoen, a Corowa farmer and Beyond Blue spokesperson, said the pressure

on farmers remains immense.

"Life on the land can be incredibly rewarding, but also deeply demanding," he said

"While mental health conditions occur at similar rates across the country, people in rural and regional areas face unique pressures such as droughts, floods, isolation, financial stress, long work hours, and limited access to healthcare and mental health support. The emotional toll can be immense, with farmers often putting the wellbeing of their families, livestock, and communities ahead of their own.

"Whether it's watching your crops go under in a flood or facing another dry season, the emotional toll is enormous," said Mr Schoen. "That's why partnerships like this matter – they remind us that support is there, and that asking for help is a sign of strength."

The long-standing collaboration between Zoetis and Beyond Blue has directly supported more than 17,000 people in rural and regional areas, giving them access to free, confidential counselling and mental health advice through Beyond Blue's 24/7 Support Service.

The milestone was celebrated by Beyond Blue Chair Linda Dessau AC CVO, Beyond Blue CEO Georgie Harman AO, and Zoetis representatives Fred Schwenke, Lauren Rowston, and Mark Willis.

"Ten years on, our purpose remains the same," said Mr Schwenke. "To help make mental health support accessible to every person in rural Australia, no matter where they live."

If you or someone you know needs support, contact the Beyond Blue Support Service for free and confidential counselling, advice and referrals via 1300 22 46 36, or chat online at beyondblue.org.au.



• Left to right: Mark Willis Marketing Manager, Livestock at Zoetis; The Hon. Linda Dessau AC CVO; Beyond Blue Chairperson, Georgie Harman AO; Beyond Blue CEO, Lauren Rowston; Business Unit Director, Zoetis, Fred Schwenke.

M.P. Calls for Action on Rate Concessions

The Nationals' Member for Mildura, Jade Benham, has called on the Minister for Local Government to urgently review static pensioner concessions on council rates.

Speaking in Parliament, Ms Benham said skyrocketing council rates, combined with increased state government taxes and cost-shifting on to local councils, are placing an unfair burden on regional Victorians.

"In regional areas like Mildura, municipal rates are often double or even triple those in metropolitan Melbourne, yet the pensioner concession remains capped at just \$266 for council rates and \$50 for the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund," Ms Benham said.

"In regional towns where rates commonly exceed \$1,000 that leaves a huge gap

for pensioners to cover.

"The current concessions haven't kept pace with inflation or rising council charges, and that's simply unfair."

Ms Benham said the failure to adjust concessions means pensioners on fixed incomes are left paying hundreds of dollars more each year while their concession stays the same.

"The cap doesn't reflect the real cost of living in regional Victoria, where residents already pay more for essentials like groceries, fuel and power due to distance and freight costs," she said.

"It's time for the government to act. If Labor is



• Jade Benham.

serious about cost-of-living relief and regional equity, it must lift the cap on pensioner concessions and give country people a fair go."

Burn-off checklist:

- ✓ Check restrictions
- ✓ Check weather
- ✓ Have water nearby
- ✓ Never leave a fire unattended
- ✓ Put the fire out properly

Check. Apply. Notify.

call 1800 668 511

Protection for Wimmera’s Wetlands Landholders Lead the Way

Unique wetlands in Victoria’s Wimmera are getting a helping hand thanks to the local community.

Conservation organisation Trust for Nature, supported by the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and the Victorian Government, is working with landholders to protect and manage wetlands on their properties.

Last financial year, 240 ha of wetlands were protected with conservation covenants, safeguarding important habitat for threatened species like Brolgas. Over the next two years the project aims to protect another seven wetlands on private property.

“Wetlands are incredibly important habitat for wildlife, including threatened species like Brolgas,” said Laura McLean, Project Manager at Trust for Nature.

“We need to work with landholders to preserve the wetlands. They provide such important connectivity across the landscape,” says Luke Austin, Operational Delivery Manager at Wimmera Catchment Management Authority.

The Wimmera is home to over 3,000 wetlands, a quarter of non-flowing wetlands in Victoria. Over 90 per cent are found on private land. They include different plant communities such as Red Gum swamps, sedge and herbland, and lignum scrub.

Many of the wetlands periodically dry out. Even dry, they provide important habitat for other species of plants and animals.

Wetlands are threatened by draining and clearing for cropping, modifying water flow, livestock grazing and weeds.

The CMA is supporting landholders to enhance wetlands through 10-year management agreements.

“Having the right land management is really important,” says Laura. “Managing growth of vegetation through strategic grazing and ecological burning can help maintain diversity. Keeping weeds under control is also really important.”

Where suitable, properties are protected forever with conservation covenants through Trust for Nature. These agreements restrict threats such as clearing and intensive farming. Registered on a property’s title, the conservation covenant continues to protect habitat when the property is sold.

Wimmera farmer Sue Close and her family are protecting 220 ha of wetlands on their property through the project.

“I think it’s really highlighting the importance of the

vulnerability of a fragile landscape,” Sue says. “It will encourage better management, and add value to the property.

I hope that people can look over the fence and say, ‘That area is being managed differently’. It adds to production, it doesn’t take away from it.”

Trust for Nature is seeking expressions of interest from

landholders interested in protecting wetlands, and other habitats, on their properties. To make an expression of interest, please go to trustfornature.org.au/what-we-do/conservation-covenants/

Trust for Nature is one of Australia’s oldest conservation organisations, established to protect habitat on private land. It relies on the generosity of supporters to help protect Victoria’s biodiversity.



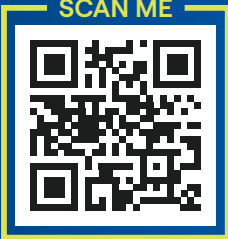
• Landholders Cynthia Watt and Xavier Close on wetlands on their property.



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Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

Trackside at the Wycheproof Cup:

• Continued from page 1.

Saré Store (Birchip), Innocence and Attitude (Swan Hill) and Swan Hill Women in Racing the following were named category winners:

Most Elegant Lady of the Day: Sheridan Jones.

Most Stylish Millinery: Pamela Harrington.

Best Dressed Gent of the Day: Dalton Burns.

Most Fashionable Junior Racegoer (female): Lola Durie.

Most Fashionable Junior Racegoer (male): Hunter Flack.

Musical interludes featuring Mildura artist, Paul Trevaskis, and his mate, Bill

Prell, had the crowd up and jiving as the popular hits of yesteryear surfaced, along with plenty of requests from the sidelines. And prior to the running of the Elders Mt. Wycheproof Cup former “The Voice” contestant, Elias Lanyon gave an a cappella rendition of the National Anthem.

End of Year Trip

For many of those trackside, coming to the Wyche Races was a “to-do” thing on their list of priorities. For the Moulamein netballers – race day was their end-of-year trip, with around 30 netballers – resplendent in distinctive team T-shirts – making the most of the day. With some of the girls

having talked up the event from previous years, the group decided this was where they would celebrate the end of their 2025 season.

For Ballarat friends Adrian Madden, Fiona Wakeling and Linda and Alan Holland, attending the Wycheproof Cup had been on their “bucket list” for some time, and having made it this year, they were looking forward to having a good day out at the races.

• The accompanying pictorial coverage captures many aspects of the off-course celebrations which combine to give Wycheproof race day its distinctive flavour.



• A fresh, young fashion look for the girls (left to right) Millicent McLennan, Emina Shaw and Florence McLennan pictured with Julie McLennan (far left).



• Groom-to-be, Bailey Pilgrim stepped out in buck’s party finery as an entrant in the Fashions on the Field. The Horsham resident is lined up for a December wedding in Ballarat to his partner, Maggie.



• Fashion finery. The winners of the Fashions on the Field competition which reflected a country casual theme are (left to right) Best Dressed Gent, Dalton Burns, holding Young Racegoer of the Day (male), Hunter Flack, Most Elegant Lady of the Day, Sheridan Jones, Most Stylish Millinery, Pamela Harrington, and (front) Young Racegoer of the Day (female), Lola Durie.



• Dancing to the beat! Music by Paul Trevaskis and Billy Prell (on stage in the background) got the crowd jiving between races.



• Lake Boga visitors Monique Clune (left) and Indi O’Brien (right) were ready to enjoy a good social time at the races last Saturday.

Support services

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

An Exciting Day Out for All Ages



• A tough call for the Fashions on the Field judges (left to right), Samantha Kemp, Narelle Makepeace and Marie Coffey, as entrants in the 2025 Fashions on the Field take their places on course.



• It was all a bit of a laugh for Geelong visitors, jockey, David “Worms” Mewett and horse, James Mewett. Friends of the Noonan family, the pair, when asked why they had come as a racing combo, responded with, “Well, why not?”



• Snapped before taking part in the Fashions on the Field judging, Sheridan Jones was on a winning streak in her elegant broderie anglaise outfit from Rebecca Vallance with the custom made millinery by “Jill”.



• A view from the “Birdcage” over the crowd at last Saturday’s Elders Mt. Wycheproof Cup.

One Hundred Years Ago

From the “Birchip Advertiser”, November 6, 1925.

Obituary. Thomas Connellan: As reported the death of Mr. Thomas Connellan, of Morton Plains, occurred on October 29th, at Sister Wheeler’s private hospital, St Arnaud.

Deceased had undergone an operation and was effecting a recovery when he contracted pneumonia, which hastened his end.

He was well known throughout the district and his unexpected death came as a shock to many relatives and acquaintances.

He was born at Geelong on September 1st, 1857, and arrived at Morton Plains in March, 1875. Six months later, he selected land and for a period of sixty years had success-

fully followed farming pursuits and had acquired an extensive holding.

For the past 32 years, the late Mr. T. Connellan was a wheat buyer at Morton Plains, and in this capacity, his honesty, straightforwardness, and business tact contributed largely to his success therein. His services were always at the disposal of his clients and of those who sought his advice.

Since the inception of the race club in Watchem he acted as judge, and his resignation last year was the cause of general regret. He was also a trustee of the Watchem cemetery since the beginning of its existence. During his long residence at Morton Plains he

was returning officer for the Federal, State and Municipal elections.

Being a particularly kind and sympathetic nature, all church and charitable appeals won his earnest support and help; in fact, he was ever ready to assist any worthy object and to give his services freely. His unfailing hospitality, kindness, generosity and goodwill won the respect and esteem of a large number of people throughout Victoria. This was attested to in the very large funeral of 105 cars, which followed his remains to the Watchem cemetery on Friday last and in the numerous telegrams and letters from sympathetic friends unable to be present.

He married Miss Margaret Sexton, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Peter Sexton of Morton Plains, on September 13, 1893, and is survived by a widow, three sons, John, Peter and Paul, and four daughters, Mrs. M. Naughton, Mrs. G. Wilkin-son, Misses Nellie and Sadie Connellan. Also by two brothers, Patrick and John, and three sisters, Mrs. T. Green, Mrs. Darcy and Mrs. Walsh. Two brothers, Michael and James, and one sister, Mrs. Smith, predeceased him.

The funeral took place last Friday when the remains were interred in the Watchem cemetery. The funeral procession of 105 cars was most impressive. The Rev. Father Barry officiated at the graveside and

was assisted by the Rev. J. Coughlin, of Donald, and the Rev. O’Connell, of Swan Hill.

Birchip Bowling Club. Opening Day: The opening of the local bowling club took place on Wednesday last in perfect weather. Great care had been exercised in the preparation of the green which presented a pleasing spectacle – not only for the trundlers, but also to the visitors.

Proceedings were enlivened with selections from the Fire Brigade Band.

Afternoon tea, which was provided by the ladies, was partaken of prior to the green being officially declared opened.

Cr. J. Lockwood, shire president, in declaring the green opened, expressed

pleasure at seeing so many present. He thanked the ladies for providing afternoon tea and the bandmaster, Mr. Scown, and members of the band, for their appreciable musical selections. Mrs. Glenny threw the first jack and Miss Lockwood trundled the first bowl.

The following players then took part in a pairs competition: H. Lockwood, Glenny; A. Barber, Lester; Harper, Tully; Leith, J. Lockwood; Saville, Bryant; Scofield, J. J. Ryan; Hampton, B. Paine; Evans, Jenkin; McClelland, Caldwell; E. and S. White.

In the final, E. and S. White (13) defeated H. Lockwood and Glenny (11).

I Hear the Rolling Thunder

There is something captivating about a thunderstorm, the lightning followed by rolling thunder which can make the windows of a home rattle.

Rain pours down on the roof and sometimes there is a strong, buffeting wind. After a while the lightning ceases, the sounds of thunder roll into the distance, the rain eases and the wind drops.

It is time to go outside and smell the fresh air and the beautiful odour coming from previously parched soil, now refreshingly damp.

To cap it all off, a stunning rainbow arches across the sky. Then the sun comes out fully and the birds begin to sing.

On a recent Sunday morning around one hundred of us gathered in a local church experienced such a thunderstorm. We were listening to the pastor speaking when suddenly a great clap of thunder occurred. The pastor paused saying, "That was quite a thunder clap, hey!" Then came more rolling thunder and flashes of lightning and heavy rain.

Children ask their parents: "How is lightning and thunder made?" Meteorologists tell us that lightning is a result of atmospheric conditions where turbulent winds cause collisions between ice crystals and water droplets generating static electricity.

Lighter positively charged ice crystals are carried to the top of the cloud, while heavier, negatively charged water droplets drop to the bottom of

the cloud. Eventually when the electrical charge becomes strong enough to overcome the atmosphere's insulating properties, it is released in a massive electrical discharge – a lightning bolt!

The Cause

What causes thunder? When a lightning bolt travels from the cloud to the ground it superheats the air in a narrow channel up to 20,000 degrees Celsius. There is rapid expansion of that air producing a shock wave producing the sound of thunder. One does not have to know all the details of the science to be impacted by the awesome power of a thunderstorm.

Back in 1865, in the countryside of Sweden, Carl Boberg witnessed such a storm with lightning flashing across the sky and the thunder pealing. In a little while the storm was over and a rainbow appeared and a thrush began to sing. The violence of the storm was replaced by calm.

This amazing scene of sights, sounds and experiences caused Carl Boberg to fall on his knees in praise and awe – some wonder and later to write some stanzas which decades later was adjusted and translated into English by Stuart Hine.

"O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder,

*Consider all the works Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed,
Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art".*

Reflecting on the calm tranquility after the storm, Carl wrote more:

"When through the woods and forest glades I wander

And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;

When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur

And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze"

"And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,

Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;

That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,

He bled and died to take away my sin:

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,

How great Thou art, how great Thou art"!

This great hymn has been enjoyed by literally millions of people over the decades and it all came from one who fell down on his knees in praise and wonder of our Creator, who has revealed Himself through the wonders of creation and through His Son Jesus Christ. A good reminder



• Bruce Stewart

to encourage us to do the same – even after a thunderstorm!

Bruce Stewart.



• I photographed this thunderstorm/lightning scene after an evening worship service at a local church quite a while go – a special occasion I remember. The lightning flashed constantly for a period of time and the thunder kept rolling.

WHAT KIND OF MAN DO YOU WANT TO BE?

We asked Victorian men about everything from fatherhood to relationships to online gaming to social media.

HEAR MEN'S STORIES



RESPECT VICTORIA



On October 31, as the day began to wane, and the night drew closer, the sounds of screaming could be heard all throughout the town... Halloween Night descended upon Donald.

mix with a incredible display of creative and creepy, the evening was one all could enjoy.

trick or treaters went along the list of houses in search of a lolly or three. What they found most assuredly shocked them to their core.

Giant spiders and skeletons, witches' cauldrons, and even what seemed to be body parts in a bloody mess!

For those with a keener sense for danger, two houses in particular added a few extra tricks among the treats. A shady shack of horrors, filled with devilishly devious contraptions and monsters that even attempted to go after their “owner”!

Further down the town, an entire hall was converted into a museum-styled house of horror. For those who wandered its halls a word of warning was given, for someone donning a ghost face mask was whispered to be roaming about, giving all who found him a scare.

Overall the night was warm and joyous, perhaps a stark contrast to the monstrous, creepy, and even devilish creatures which roamed the streets.

Many lollies were granted, and a few tricks as well no doubt, so for all who enjoyed the night of rambunctious roaming a big happy Halloween!



- *A colourful creation of horror, Zachariah Clapham came dressed to the nines!*



• Above: Left to right Kaz Clapham, Nevaeh Pearse, Layla Griffiths, Layla Hepworth, Evie Donnellon, Chloe, and Naomi Mills.



• *Right: What do you do when your decorations turn on you? Kaz Clapham wrestles with the Reaper.*



- *The guardian of the house of horrors!*

"Would someone tell my husband I've put th' car in for a service!"

Field & Game Christmas Shoot

[From Donald Field & Game]

It was Donald Field & Game's last shoot for 2025 and what a day to be outside smashing clays.

Even though Clunes held the three-day National Carnival on the same weekend as Donald, 80 shooters were in attendance for the 75 ASF Handicap shoot at Donald. That is 30 more than in 2024. The positive atmosphere around the club house was contagious.

Sponsors were Donald's Family Butcher and all the winners were very happy with the generous vouchers.

High Gun: Mick Purcell (Natimuk), 66.

All other scores include shooters handicaps.

High Gun Handicap: Phillip Jardine (Donald), 71.

AA: 1st Peter Teasdale (Minyip), 66; 2nd Leigh Raine (Dunolly), 65; 3rd Roy Schram (Grampians), 65.

A: 1st Mark Winter (Donald), 70; 2nd Nicholas Petrie (Donald), 68; 3rd Peter Thamm (Natimuk), 67.

B: 1st David Elsom (Donald), 67; 2nd Bill Higgs (Dunolly), 66; 3rd Greg Cooper (Grampians), 65.

C: 1st Terence Deason (Dunolly), 61; 2nd Jason Giddings (Donald), 61; 3rd Michael Whelan (Donald), 59.

Ladies: 1st Julie Shaw (Grampians), 61; 2nd Carey Brennan (Donald), 59; 3rd Larelle Souter (Natimuk), 59.

Veterans: 1st Barrie Crombie (Dunolly), 65; 2nd Peter Chace (Ararat-Stawell), 62; 3rd Neil Campbell (Benalla), 60.

Juniors: 1st Brendan Winter (Donald), 67; 2nd Hunter Stephenson (Minyip), 60; 3rd Kailie Krause (Minyip) – 57.

Targets Only: 1st Victor Cook, 2nd James Russell, and 3rd Riley Mahar.

That's it for Donald Field & Game for 2025, competition for Donald starts again in February 2026. Keep an eye out for information on Donald and Minyip's Poachers Weekend.

Donald Field & Game wishes all a Merry Christmas and hope that you have a safe and prosperous new year.



• Mick Purcell winning Highgun OTG.



• Phillip Jardine winning Highgun HCP.



• Peter Chace watching his grandson Wyatt shooting.



• Junior winners: Brendan Winter, Hunter Stephenson, (Phillip Jardine) and Kailie Krause.



• Ian and Sophie Longmire shooting with Joe Mahar's family.

Your Blood is Worth Bottling

If you are visiting Ballarat or Bendigo and have a bit of time to spare, a trip to the Blood Bank would be a very rewarding experience. You will need to book, by phoning 13 14 95.

Australian Red Cross
BLOOD SERVICE



FOR SALE

"Powerscourt"

GLENLOTH EAST/QUAMBATOOK DISTRICT

703 Hectares CROPPING/GRAZING 1740Acres

- ✓ 4 B/R Weatherboard home,
- ✓ Machinery shed (24mx10m) power connected
- ✓ Old Shearing shed
- ✓ Hayshed
- ✓ Cattleyards
- ✓ 4 main paddocks with excellent boundary fencing
- ✓ Pipeline connected (GWM)
- ✓ Ample poly tanks and troughs
- ✓ 23km South of Quambatook
- ✓ 27kms from Wycheproof
- ✓ 33kms from Boort

Expression of interest to the selling agent by Friday 14th November 2025, by 10 a.m.
Terms: 10% deposit on signing, balance 60/90 days with immediate working possession.



Nutrien Harcourts St Arnaud & BR&C Real Estate, Swan Hill
Kevin Thompson 0419 857 377
Joe O'Reilly 0427 329 911



An aerial photograph of the Powerscourt property, showing a large area of land with trees and a body of water.

Agents Comments: "Powerscourt has been in the same family since 1967. It's a dual-purpose property suited to both cropping and grazing and has a good balance of open country as well as timber and creeks. Powerscourt is well set up for cattle with a great bulk of feed plus shelter and water".

brcswanhill.nutrienharcourts.com.au

"The Buloke Times", Friday, November 7, 2025 — PAGE 13

Saints Be Praised, Weather Be Damned

St. Arnaud trio Terry McSwain, Phil McRae and Peter Duncan, conquered Donald Golf Bowls Club's annual Melbourne Cup Day Triples tournament, taking home turkey buffs provided by the event's major sponsor, Donald's Family Butcher.

Lawn bowlers are a hardy lot, and those gathered for Tuesday's event needed to be, challenged by very cold and extremely windy conditions, that tested the skill and endurance of all competitors.

A field of 22 teams from as far afield as Moulamein, Swan Hill Racecourse, Horsham Golf and Coughlin Park, Rupanyup, Warracknabeal and Warracknabeal Golf, Minyip-Murtoa, Birchip, Boort, Sea Lake, St. Arnaud, St. Arnaud Country Club, Charlton, Wycheproof, Donald and one Donald Golf combination, battled the conditions throughout the afternoon, saved only by a short break for afternoon tea and the running of this year's Melbourne Cup.

Challenging Surface

And while good fortune enabled several to share in the cup sweeps' prize money, out on the bowling green lucky was in short supply for many, as the strong and choppy wind, combined by an at times challenging surface on "B" green, saw only five teams survive to the halfway mark of the four-game round robin with two wins.

That number was reduced to just two for the final game, and when both lost, it opened up the way for the St. Arnaud

team to squeeze past on the running rail, much like Cup winner Half Yours, to claim an unlikely win after drawing its first game.

Nine teams were in the running for runner-up prizes, with the Donald combination of Norm Hollis (s), Graeme Euvrard and Ian McEwen finishing a nostril in front of the field with 19 shots up, five clear of their nearest rival.

To describe Tuesday and its weather conditions as creating an interesting day would be an understatement, but Robert Reseigh, Donald Golf president and tournament secretary, was full of praise for all who attended one of the club's most important tournaments.

He also thanked club members who assisted on the day, be it in the kitchen, behind the bar, preparing the greens prior to play, or helping to set up and pack up at day's end.

Cup Sweeps

Prominent during to the start of bowling, Geoff Rigby conducted the time-honoured Cup Sweeps.

And when it came to thanking the ladies for providing a sumptuous afternoon tea, Des Moulday, a well-known connoisseur of fine foods, suitably

conveyed the sentiments of the packed club house.

In a pointer to the event's meticulous organisation, planning and execution, designated disputes settler, Phil McRae, had a very quiet day, and was able to focus on his bowling rather than extinguishing spot fires, soothing fractured nerves or masaging bruised egos.



• Donald Golf's two bowling greens covered by bowls of many colours during Tuesday's Turkey Triples Tournament.



• St. Arnaud bowler and recently retired "North Central News" proprietor Peter Marland tries his hand at tournament bowls.

Donald Down to St. Arnaud

Donald Bowls club struck some stiff opposition to go down in both divisions on the synthetic green at St Arnaud on Saturday pennant.

The only rink to win by the narrowest of margins was "Acky" Adamson's lot with Beryl Milne, Nev Barber and Marg Quick defeating Terry McSwain, 24/23, in a great finishing burst, after being down 8/18 at the break and winning the last 6 ends and down one on the last end to score a 2 and clinch it, as Winston Churchill said in the shortest speech ever: "Never Give up".

Also in Div. one Norm Hollis with Bill Hegarty, Max Harris and "Tige" McEwen conversely were up well against Ashly Dyke's team 18/14 on the 21st end, to concede 9 in the last 4 ends to lose 18/23 and lose the plot and the game.

Hunter Wingfield struck his nemesis Steven Zigmund on his home green to go down 15/28. Over all division one down 57/74.

The second division went down across the board (green), with many players not able to cope with the strong side on the day and will no doubt have learnt a lot in the experience down 42/98 and all the points.

Overall a good win to St Arnaud on a perfect day weather-wise.

"Tiger in the Ditch"



• Turkey Triples winners, left to right, Phil McRae, Peter Duncan and Terry McSwain.



• Runners-up, Norm Hollis (left), Graeme Euvrard and Ian McEwen.

“Herbie” Drives Five Winners at Charlton

• Continued from page 16. Another winner for “Herbie”. **Race four:** Since coming from N.S.W. and joining the Julie Douglas stable, this three-year gelding called Randon Mahoney after a run of placings finally scored its first win, driven by Ellen Torney. This horse has very good bloodlines. Its mother won 9 races and her 3 foals to race so far have produced 21 wins and 40 placings. The Grand Dam from N.Z. won 11 races. It again proves a good bloodline will produce good racehorses.

Race five: Most trainers are happy to get a winner, but Glenn Bull trained the quinella in this race.

It is not her first time that Glenn has achieved this. Treacherous Times driven by “Herbie” defeated Favourite Highlight driven by Sean O’Sullivan. The margin between the stablemates was a head. **Race six:** Adam Stephens completed a training double when Icanmotor sat outside the leader to win by 5 metres. This gave “Herbie” his fourth win. **Race seven:** The last race was one of the best with 2 of Victoria’s best showing their driving talents. “Herbie” and Ellen Torney were both well back on the inside with 500 metres to go. With gaps starting to open up, both took advantage to be able to gain clear runs in the home

straight. In a stirring fight to the line “Herbie” driving Nothing Sweeter defeated Lets Go Lorna driven by Ellen by a nose margin. **St. Arnaud Cup This Sunday** This Sunday will see the running of the St. Arnaud Pacing and Trotters’ Cups. This once-a-year Club has received excellent support from owners and trainers with 9 races, the first at 12.42 p.m.. Both feature races have \$14,999 in prizemoney with the St. Arnaud Club adding additional money. All races have full fields. My best for the day is in race 7, horse 2; a horse called Williams should go very close.



• A section of the ladies who enjoyed the Charlton Harness Racing Club Spring Carnival High Tea last Monday.



• Ellen Tormey driving Randon Mahoney defeats Jilliby Utah driven by Lochie Cook in the three-year-old maiden. The winner is trained by Julie Douglas.

Tennis at Its Most Enjoyable

With the Melbourne Cup long weekend, Wycheproof races, beach escapes, northern grain harvest and countless parties across the state, it was always going to be a tough weekend for the Birchip tennis selectors.

Birchip’s inbox told the tale with 29 “unavailable” texts rolling in before Saturday morning. Nevertheless, four teams were fielded, and the two Donald sides made the trip to Birchip for what turned out to be a fantastic afternoon of tennis, laughter and sunshine.

Conditions could not have been better: the courts were greener than Greta Thunberg’s lifestyle, the mercury flirted with 30, afternoon tea could have outshone a CWA bake-off, and the kids were thoroughly entertained thanks to Carmel Lowry’s thoughtful donation of Donald’s “retired” plastic toys.

Close Games

On court, Birchip faced Richardson and managed to snag two points in the women’s section but fell narrowly overall by just nine games. Standouts included Denley Tyler and Sandie Richmond (Birchip), along with Derek and Braxton Hollis (Richardson), each winning three sets.

Meanwhile, Wirrim took on Avon and came heartbreakingly close in every section, falling by only ten games. No player managed a clean sweep of three sets which was testament to how evenly matched the contest was.

The day also saw several exciting NCLTA debuts: hard court specialist Rylee McGarry from Nandaly, Ramon Vilde all the way from Estonia, and Issy Atkins proudly representing Birchip. A last-minute withdrawal from Hamish Guthrie (Richardson) was reportedly due to a sick child, though rumours suggest he was simply intimidated by the Swans’ fierce reputation.

Tie-breaks

Four tie-breaks added to the afternoon’s drama, but the undisputed match of the day featured Fiona Best and

ten-year-old Denley Tyler taking on Annabelle Melino and Dawson Hollis. The mother-son duo triumphed 8-6 in their first match together, a result both humbling for Richardson and heartening for Birchip’s ongoing push toward premiership glory.

Next week, the Swans head to Donald for a rematch. Carmel promised a sponge cake, and all others have has promised to bring their best tennis. With spirits high and raquets ready, round two looks set to serve up another great afternoon on court.



• Fiona and Denley Tyler.



• Ramon Vilde all the way from Estonia, and Issy Atkins.

North-Central Pennant Bowls

This Week’s Selected Club Teams

DIVISION ONE

Round 5, Saturday, November 8
St Arnaud Country Club v. Charlton
ST ARNAUD CC
T. Coloe, K. Pole, D. Goode, W. Rodger (s)
S. Atkinson, A. Marland, J. Nevill, D. Mullins (s)
D. Moulday, R. Pole, M. Esmore, T. McDonald (s)
Cards: T. McDonald. Team Manager: D. Moulday.

CHARLTON
P. Watts, B. Bailey, L. Southwell, K. Willey (s)
M. Hamley, D. Gretgrix, D. McCallum, S. Perry (s)
S. Harper, D. Finlay, J. Headon, W. Southwell (s)

Donald Golf v. Wycheproof
DONALD GOLF
A. Humphrey, R. Rescigh, R. Adams, G. Rigby (s)
W. Livingston, B. Murray, S. Hollis, P. Hibberd (s)
L. Kelly, T. Dionisopoulos, D. Peake, D. Pettifer (s)

WYCHEPROOF
No team lists provided.

St. Arnaud v. Boort
ST ARNAUD
D. Shepherd, C. Marchment, P. McRae, A. Dyke (s)
T. Amos, G. McNally, G. Hancock, S. Zsigmond (s)
T. Marland, M. Wood, A. Welsh, T. McSwain (s)

BOORT
K. Birt, D. Gibson, C. Newsome, S. Morris (s)
K. Walton, G. Hudson, W. Keenan, K. Depiazza (s)
G. Carrall, J. Gibson, T. Moresi, K. Ritchie (s)

Donald v. Wedderburn
DONALD
J. Meyer, M. Kelly, L. Morgan, H. Wingfield (s)
W. Hegarty, N. Barber, I. McEwen, N. Hollis (s)
M. Quick, B. Milne, G. Evurard, K. Adamson (s)

WEDDERBURN
A. Roberts, S. Steel, B. Hargreaves, N. Holt (s)
D. Stephenson, L. Holt, A. Caserta, L. Witham (s)
R. Guelfo, A. Holt, B. Montebello, A. Jackson (s)

DIVISION TWO

Round 5, Saturday, November 8
St Arnaud Country Club v. Charlton
ST ARNAUD CC
P. Jorgensen, F. Rodger, P. Marland, C. Webb (s)
L. Abbott, D. McAllister, P. Mullins, G. Shaw (s)
L. Watkins, G. White, L. Lynch, J. Needs (s)
Cards: G. White. Manager: J. Needs. Emerg. G. Watts.

CHARLTON
No team lists provided..

Donald Golf v. Wycheproof
DONALD GOLF
B. Brasier, B. Dixon, P. Raynes, S. O’Shea (s)
S. Evans, M. Raynes, B. Bayles, L. Borden (s)
W. Nelson, J. Slater, G. Stopps, G. Wood (s)
Emergencies: D. Adams, M. Frank.

WYCHEPROOF
No team lists provided.

St. Arnaud v. Boort
ST ARNAUD
J. Barron, D. Ostarcevic, W. Rourke, L. Goddard (s)
P. Duncan, G. McIntyre, C. Coates, L. Goodwin (s)
C. Cheesman, J. Prendegast, P. Micallef, K. Dyke (s)

BOORT
I. Allison, S. Nelson, L. Newsome, G. Smith (s)
G. Charles, C. Wood, S. Rollinson, J. Hampson (s)
L. Cameron, A. Gould, P. Waters, J. Earl (s)

Donald v. Wedderburn
DONALD
K. Wyllie, J. Bishop, P. Wyllie, D. Romeo (s)
M. Harris, B. Subprom, E. Adams, J. Howley (s)
S. Robertson, M. McEwen, B. Hollis, R. Gravestocks (s)

WEDDERBURN
J. Murnane, R. Hall, A. Noordennen, G. Burnside (s)
R. Ashley, C. Mills, N. White, J. Grant (s)
H. Stephenson, M. Guelfo, T. Benaim, L. Standfield (s)



• The closest finish of the day, on the inside, *Nothing Sweeter*, driven by “Herbie” narrowly defeats *Lets Go Lorna* driven by Ellen Tormey. The official margin was a nose.



• The big winners at Charlton last Monday driver James Herbertson with five winners and trainer Adam Stephens with two winners. This is *Icanmotor* which completed Adam's double.

“Herbie” Drives Five Winners at Charlton

(By Peter Hibberd)

Another piece of history in the harness racing driving career of James “Herbie” Herbertson.

At Charlton last Monday on the seven-race program “Herbie” drove 5 winners and 1 placing. Over recent years he has achieved multiple winners on many occasions. One meeting at Charlton last year he had 4 winners.

His rise through the driving ranks has progressed from being a driver with potential, to the top. His rise probably started in the 2018/19 season when he drove 98 winners. Last year he achieved 369 wins. After Monday's meeting this current racing year stands at 284 wins.

Including this year, the previous 4 years' total is 1336 wins, which is totally amazing. He started his driving career at Terang in March 2016 where his first drive was a winner. He has stated on many occasions that without the support of owners and trainers he would not be able to achieve his success.

Some local trainers to whom he spoke, said that he can improve some horses between ten to twenty metres with his driving style.

Charlton Monday

Apart from “Herbie”, trainer Adam Stephens took the honours on the day with a double. Adam only has a small team of which most are family owned. He said, “Herbie drives most of my horses and has a very good strike rate.”

The track people again had the track in top condition with many good mile rates on the day.

In another initiative, the Charlton Club held a spring carnival high tea with 46 ladies attending.

Results

Race one: In a race with very quick early sectional times, it was made for horses

back in the field. *Metro Memory*, driven by George Chamouras who was 27 metres behind the leader at the 800-metre mark, came 4 wide on the last bend to win by over 6 metres.

Race two: *Sir Nippa* would have to be one of the most consistent horses racing in Victoria at the moment. In its last 8 starts has won 5 races with three placings. Trained at Maryborough by Gerard Jamieson and was driven by “Herbie” the first of five winners. Won by 15 metres.

Race three: Although a nine-year mare *Ruby Wingate* still loves racing. Having start number 192, she has recorded 19 wins, 23 seconds and 30 third placings. Trained by Adam Stephens from Alledale (near Ballarat) said this is a special horse, as it is named after his late grand mother.

• Continued on page 15.



• *White Lion*, driven by Matthew Craven on the way to the start. As you can see, he is cream in colour. The chief steward said he is the only registered cream horse racing that he knows of.

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