

DONALD

Phone: 5497 1222
Articles to:
news@buloketimes.com
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admin@buloketimes.com

The Buloke Times

Est. 1875

BIRCHIP

Phone: 5492 2735
Fax: 5492 2863
Email:
birchipblc@
bigpond.com

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Friday, October 10, 2025

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

The Annual Show: More Than Just An Event

Each year as spring sweeps across the Wimmera and Mallee, there's one weekend that locals circle on the calendar with excitement, anticipation, and pride – Donald Show weekend.

It's more than just an event; it's a celebration of everything that makes our rural community strong, vibrant, and connected.

From its earliest days, the Donald Pastoral and Agricultural Show has been a showcase of country life – where tradition meets innovation, and where neighbours, families, and friends come together to celebrate the best of what our region has to offer. It's a place where children's eyes light up at the sight of showbags and sideshows,

where farmers swap stories by the cattle yards, where locals show off their baking, crafts, and photography, and where generations gather to share memories and make new ones.

A Reflection

The show is truly a reflection of the spirit of Donald – hard-working, welcoming, community-minded, and proud. It's a chance to pause from the busy pace of harvest, sport, and school life to enjoy a weekend filled with

• Continued on page 2.



• The Donald Show committee. Back row: Sarah Jardine, Peggy Coats, Nicole Nunn, Rachael Grant, Meagan Jardine, Melissa Sellick, Tayla Wyllie, Jessica Krause. Front: Chloe Jones, Debbie Hibberd.

Sweet Stopovers Put Birchip on the Map

Sharp's country baking excellence and their recent win in Australia's Best Vanilla Slice competition is proving a winning recipe for Birchip's tourism economy, with recent visitors arriving by rail, road and even by air to sample the town's famous treat.

During the week, passengers aboard the Vineland Slow Rail Journey made a special stop in Birchip as part of their six-day heritage tour from Melbourne to Mildura and back. The travellers were greeted with a special delivery of 160 freshly baked Sharp's Bakery vanilla slices, a delicious highlight on their leisurely regional adventure.

The Vineland experience, operated by Slow Rail Journeys and 707 Operations, has proven a sell-out success, offering passengers the

chance to explore Victoria's countryside at a relaxed pace.

Six Days

The six-day itinerary winds through the Goldfields, the Mallee and Sunraysia, featuring scenic rail travel, regional accommodation and off-train experiences such as the Mungo National Park tour and Murray River cruises. Birchip's inclusion as a refreshment stopover was a highlight for the guests, with many passengers promising to return for a longer visit.

• Continued on page 2.



• Members of the Bacchus Marsh Aero Club with Tara Sharp from Sharp's Bakery on their recent visit to Birchip.



• The Wycheproof Op Shop, supporting the community and district since 1999.

Wycheproof Op Shop Still Going Strong

The Wycheproof Op Shop started in approximately 1999, and is an independent organisation, working to support the Wycheproof and district community.

The Op Shop is made up of a team of volunteers, who all work together, all are different and have different views and ideas, but they all are respectful to each other.

By January 2023, the Wycheproof Op Shop had provided \$204,000 back into the community via the grant process. The shop has grant application forms on hand and they can be emailed out to organisations.

The review of the grant application is set up and worked through in a transparent manner.

There are a number of people from the community, who are not volunteers of the Op Shop, who look at grant applications at the grant evaluation time.

This makes it a very transparent process and applicants can be assured that each application is awarded on merit.

Grant Funding

During the past 25 years funding for the grants has been provided for, but not inclusive of: I.T. equipment, TVs, fridges, books (pre school), tables, chairs, outdoor settings, gazebos. As well as shade barriers at the Bowls Club, resources for the drop-in centre, Waltzing Matilda signage, assisted in the steam weeder project, white goods at the new library, a seat at

• Continued on page 2.

Wycheproof Op Shop Still Going Strong

• Continued from page 1.

St Michael’s, grant to upgrade furniture at a sporting facility.

Sponsoring

The Op Shop is now proud to be involved with sponsoring prizes, vouchers, etc. at sporting events and is so pleased to be continuing to provide support towards the end of year school awards.

Recently a garden seat has been installed at the local hospital in conjunction with the Friends of EWHS Wycheproof Campus (formerly Hosp Ladies Auxiliary), in memory of Mrs Beryl Dillon, who propagated a lot of plants and sold them through the Op Shop. The funds from these plant sales accumulated and were given towards the seat. A plaque in Mrs Dillon’s memory will soon be attached to the seat.

Recycling

The Op Shop, is a great place to recycle clothing, crockery etc., along with the Men’s Shed next door, which takes furniture and larger items. It becomes a place to visit and see what you can find.

Clothing and goods that are not suitable to be sold are cut up for rags, for businesses needing such items or are recycled through a Melbourne-based organisation that comes and removes the goods on a 4 to 6 weekly basis. This organisation sorts the goods and either sends overseas to support people in other countries, upcycles or recycles for another purpose.

The Op Shop in Wycheproof does not take IT Equipment; this can be recycled in other places. Children’s furniture such as car seats, high-chairs, prams, pushers etc. can be recycled through other businesses. The Op Shop is happy to supply suggested places for these.

The Op Shop is housed in front of the Wycheproof Men’s Shed and has a great partnership with the Men’s Shed which benefits both organisations.

Volunteers

Over the past 25 years there have been a number of volunteers who have worked very hard in the Op Shop. They are indebted to so many people who have made this op shop what it is today.

The Op Shop would be pleased to have people come along to volunteer; the more volunteers it has, the more days it can open. Come along in and have a talk to the volunteers, you might find this is your forte!

If you have items that you no longer need, please ensure they are clean and in good condition to sell, and staff would love to take them in the shop. Please do not leave donations on the footpath outside the shop; give one of the numbers available a call so they can be put inside.

Give the Wycheproof Op Shop volunteers and this community a pat on the back for being able to put so much back into the community.

Support your Op Shop today!

Sweet Stopovers Put Birchip on the Map

• Continued from page 1.

Flying Visit

Adding to the flurry of activity, the Bacchus Marsh Aero Club made a flying visit to Birchip over the weekend, landing at the local airstrip before heading straight to Sharp’s Bakery to sample the town’s famed slices.

Club members enjoyed morning tea and country hospitality before departing with boxes of vanilla slices packed carefully for fellow members waiting back home.

The Sharp family are always eager to serve visitors from all over the state, and as

Birchip’s reputation as the home of Australia’s most celebrated vanilla slice continues to grow, they are delighted to be contributing to the growth of the local economy, whether their guests arrive on a vintage train or in a small plane.

As more visitors seek authentic regional experiences, Birchip’s street art, local businesses, shady family-friendly park with its newly installed play equipment and water feature, scenic Tchum Lake, and Sharp’s award-winning vanilla slice are making the town a must-stop destination in the heart of the Mallee.

The Annual Show: More Than Just An Event

• Continued from page 1.

laughter, entertainment, and connection.

But beyond the attractions, it’s the people who make the show so special. The tireless volunteers who spend months planning and preparing. The local businesses and sponsors whose support makes the event possible. The exhibitors, competitors, and performers who bring their talents to the forefront. And of course, the crowds who fill the showgrounds, reminding us all why community matters.

Celebration

The Donald Show is a highlight of the year because it represents more than just a weekend of fun – it’s a celebration of who we are as a community. It’s where tradition lives on, where friendships grow stronger, and where the future of our region is inspired by the pride of its past.

Horse Events: Friday Action from the Saddle

The excitement kicks off early on Friday, October 10, with a full program of horse events from 9 a.m. onwards on the main oval. Riders and spectators alike can look forward to a full day of competition, showcasing the skill, partnership, and passion that define the equestrian community. From show jumping and hack classes to the always-popular ring events, the horse section is a true highlight of the Donald Show and a proud tradition that continues to draw competitors from across the region. Whether you’re ringside cheering on local riders or simply soaking up the atmosphere, it’s a perfect start to show weekend.

Friday Night Fun: Entertainment, Action & Fireworks

As the sun sets, the showgrounds come alive with Friday night entertainment. From 4 p.m. onwards, the front lawn and main arena abuzz with activities – including face painting, kids’ zones,

food stalls, and live music. Crowds will gather for the Show Opening and the high-energy thrills of MXW Pro Wrestling, before the sky explodes with a spectacular fireworks display lighting up the night. With sideshow alley, rides, Iron Man competitions and much more, Friday night is all about family fun, big laughs, and unforgettable memories under the lights.

Spotlight on Kristy Kelly: A Message from the Heart

One of the most powerful moments of this year’s Donald Show will come on Friday evening, when Kristy Kelly takes to the stage as a special guest speaker for our “Shining a Light on Health and Wellbeing” program.

A former Donald local with deep family ties to the region, Kristy is returning home to share a heartfelt and courageous story about mental health, resilience, and hope. Speaking from the heart – and in honour of her late husband, John – Kristy’s message is a reminder of the importance of looking after ourselves and one another. Her journey, marked by strength and compassion, resonates deeply with rural communities and highlights why open conversations about wellbeing matter now more than ever.

Kristy’s talk is part of a bigger focus on community health and connection at the showgrounds on Friday night, where alongside live entertainment, food, fireworks, and family fun, there’s also space for reflection, support, and shared stories. It’s an evening not to be missed – one that celebrates not only everything we love about showtime, but also the power of community to come together, support one another, and shine a light where it’s needed most.

Friday Night Fireworks: A Community Highlight

There’s nothing quite like the magic of fireworks lighting up a country night sky – and

this year’s spectacular display promises to be one of the best yet. At around 8:30 on Friday night, the Donald Showgrounds will burst into colour, with dazzling fireworks capping off an incredible day of events and entertainment. It’s a moment that brings the whole community together, celebrating everything that makes the Donald Show so special.

This much-loved highlight simply wouldn’t be happening without the support of the Donald B’n’S. Their generous contribution has made it possible to deliver a showstopping display that brings joy, excitement, and celebration to the heart of our community. Thanks to their ongoing support, families and friends can gather under the stars and watch the night sky come alive – a fitting finale to a Friday night full of fun, connection, and country spirit.

Saturday: A Day Packed with Tradition, Competition and Country Fun

Saturday at the Donald Show is when the showgrounds truly come to life, bursting with the sights, sounds, and spirit of country celebration. From the moment the shearing competition kicks off early in the morning, the day rolls on with a huge program of entertainment, displays, and community favourites. Engines will roar at

the always-popular tractor pull, where local legends and visiting competitors go head-to-head to see who can haul their way to victory. The Lions Club Spinning Wheel will keep the excitement high with prizes spinning throughout the day, while families explore everything from animal nurseries and photo booths to food stalls and sideshows.

It’s a day that blends tradition with fun – a place where old-fashioned show spirit meets new memories in the making.

Rhubarb Challenge

And of course, no Saturday would be complete without the hotly contested McClelland Warren Rhubarb Challenge. Will a seasoned champion defend their crown, or will a fresh face rise to the top? The competition is fierce, the bragging rights are huge, and the crowd is guaranteed to be cheering every step of the way. Saturday at the Donald Show isn’t just a day out – it’s the heart and soul of our community on full display.

At its heart, the Donald Show is more than just an event – it’s a celebration of community, connection, and country life, where memories are made, traditions are cherished, and there’s something special waiting around every corner for everyone who walks through the gates – and we can’t wait to see you there!

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For Sale by Public Tender closing Wednesday
12 November 2025 at 4pm (AEDT)



772.9* hectare cropping portfolio



Five properties, nine titles, currently leased



Cereal / canola / lentil rotation

*Approx



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damian@nutriensta.com.au

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• Opening day for Donald's Bendigo Bank Community Bank Branch on October 13, 2011.

Celebrating 15th Year of Community Banking

Monday, October 13, 2025, marks the start of the 15th year of operation of the Community Bank Donald and District, which was established by local shareholders to ensure the ongoing presence of face-to-face banking to service Donald and district residents.

The move to adopt Bendigo Bank's Community Banking model followed the 2009 announcement that the National Bank's Donald branch was to close.

A feasibility study indicated a strong desire and commitment from town and district residents to retain and support a local banking service.

And when the Prospectus was launched on May 13, 2011, within weeks, four hundred and twenty-nine pledges of financial commitment had been received, providing a strong shareholder base that committed the financial resources needed to open Donald's own Community Bank.

With support from Bendigo Bank's regional manager, John Siroli, and the bank's Community Strengthening Manager, the late Tracey Wilson, a Board of Directors was established to operate the new business entity, Buloke Community Enterprises Limited, which held its first meeting on November 15, 2010.

Board Members

Board members included Shane O'Shea (the inaugural chairman), vice-chairmen Harold Flett and Richard Reilly, secretary Robynlee (Bayles) Williams, treasurer Ange Donnellon, together

with Carmen Bath, Andrew Bird, David Falla, Colin Gilmour, John McConville and Leanne Onley.

Angie Donnellon, who retains the role of treasurer, and Colin Gilmour, are the only remaining members of the initial Board, which currently also comprises John Stuchbery as chairman, Leo Tellefson as secretary, Lynn Gilmour and Daryl Warren.

Within 12 months of the Board's formation, premises to house the new locally owned banking enterprise had been secured through Donald's Friends and Neighbours, ironically in what had become the vacated NAB branch building, centrally located on the corner of Woods and McCulloch Streets.

A recruiting campaign secured the appointment of manager Fern Hahn and staff members Maree Hughes, Jodi Mathews, Danielle Grant and Hannah Ellen.

Official Opening

And following an extensive refurbishment of the new premises and the training of staff, the branch's official opening took place with much celebration and ceremony on Thursday, October 13, 2011.

Fifteen years down the track, the Community Bank Donald and District continues to provide face-to-face banking services under the direction of Manager Kirby Richmond-Davies and staff members, customer services officers Kez Duncan, Anjalee Wijayathilaka and Tahlia Grey (on long term sick leave).

Priorities

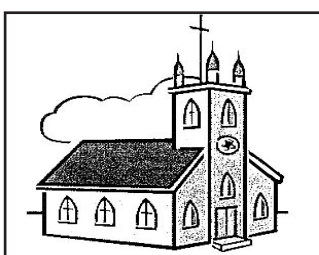
One of the priorities of Community Banking is to reinvest the Branch's share of profits from local banking back into the communities

from where it was derived.

From humble beginnings, the Community Bank Donald and District continues to provide support, both financial and other, to those who support it through their personal and business banking, with many groups, clubs and organisations sharing in hundreds of thousands of dollars of sponsorship and donations over 15 years.

In an ever-changing world, and because of the many challenges facing financial institutions due to a change in banking habits, it is only through Donald and district residents continuing to support Bendigo Bank via the locally owned and operated Community Bank Donald and District, that customers will continue to enjoy face-to-face interaction with locally employed staff, and access to the diverse banking services Donald's branch continues to provide.

• Buloke Community Enterprises Limited will conduct its annual general meeting at the Donald Railway Station building in Walker Street, starting at 7 p.m., on Tuesday, October 28, 2025.



**UNITING CHURCH
(North Central Living Waters Cluster)**

Donald, 10 a.m.
Next Birchip and Wycheproof Services,
10 a.m. Sunday, October 19
Contact Number: 5497 1033



• Donald's Bendigo Bank building today.

Aged Care Report Welcomed

Ageing Australia welcomes the release of the Community Affairs References Committee report into aged care service delivery, and its recommendations for improving access to Support at Home services.

"The recommendation to end the rationing of home care packages is particularly welcome. People should be able to access care as they need it and when they need it," Ageing Australia CEO Tom Symondson said.

"Revelations more than 200,000 older people are either waiting for home care packages, or waiting just to be assessed, were alarming. Clearing the wait list and ending the rationing of care packages is a priority."

The report also warned the introduction of new ICT systems continues to be a risk for both Government and providers ahead of the start of the New Aged Care Act on November 1.

"We know how much work has been done since the delay of the Act. Making sure it works is a top priority for everyone, to ensure older Australians enjoy seamless care," Mr Symondson said.

The concept of a Single Assessment System is a positive step forward, and the sector welcomed its introduction. However, with the large waiting list just to be assessed, clearly further work is needed before it's fit for purpose.

"We know that aged care reforms will not be perfect on day one of the new Act, and it's important that we keep striving for improvements to our systems."

† Church Notices †

**ANGLICAN
"Parish of
Charlton-Donald"**

Enquiries: Rev'd Judi Bird
0435 593 395

Friday, October 17
St. Paul's, Birchip, 5 p.m.
Sunday, October 19
St. Martin's, Charlton, 9 a.m.
St. George's, Donald, 11 a.m.
Holy Trinity, W'burn, 3 p.m.



www.granitecommunitychurch.com

At Granite Church
10.30 a.m.
Speaker: Phil Short
Baptist Union of Victoria



"Times" Classifieds

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.

DEATH BOTHERAS.— Clive

Loved brother and brother in law of Robert and Lyn (both dec.).

Loved and respected Uncle and friend of Wendy, Sheryl, Trevor and Jenny & our families.

We will always remember your smile, kindness, and sense of humour.

Rest peacefully Clive



DEATH BOTHERAS.— Clive

1905112

Member of

Narraport Fire Brigade

The Chairman, Board, Management and members of CFA regret the passing of their colleague and offer their deepest sympathy to his family.



DEATH FIELDS.— Ron

The members & supporters of the Charlton Football Hockey & Netball Club extend our deepest sympathies on the passing of one of our club greats Ron Fields.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to Diane, Jodie, Stephen, Anthony & extended family members. Sending our love at this sad time.

DEATH McEWEN.— Jim

Our sympathy to Grace, Hamish, Mary and Renee, Ian and Alison and all the family.

Greatly cherished nephew, and mate. We will miss his smiles and visits and all the crazy creative projects he dreamt up and achieved.

He lived his life to the full and had an amazing faith which he shared with his usual enthusiasm.

—Uncle George (Neil) and Jill, Jason and Shairini & family, Samantha and Chris & family, and Melinda.

FUNERAL COATSWORTH.— John "Ringo"

John's family would like to invite extended family, friends and work colleagues to attend a Grave-side Service for John Coatsworth to be held at the Wycheproof Cemetery, 232 Gretgrix Road on Saturday, October 11 2025, at 1 p.m.

Tuckers

GEELONG 52214788

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



BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

Michael John Gilligan
12/10/1982

Wishing you were here.

Miss you so much.

Sending love and kisses to you on your birthday.

*—Love Mum & Dad
xxx oo xxx*

IN MEMORIAM Joan Elizabeth Glen, OAM

30/03/1953 - 03/10/2021

You lit the room with your joyful smile, We felt your love each and every day.

How lucky we were to call you ours. Still missing you. Still loving you.

— Rod, Danny, Bridget, Brodie and Virginia xxxxx

FUNERAL

You are invited to
James Andrew McEwen
Memorial Service
Mon., October 13, 2025
1 p.m.

The Oliver Tree Southland Church,
2 Bayridge Drive, North Batemans Bay, NSW
Livestream:
<https://southland.org.au>

Further details:
Facebook Grace McEwen

Local Gathering:
Friends, Family, Neighbours
are invited to
Granite Community Church, 358 Bishs Rd, Granite Flat
Mon., October 13, 2025
1 p.m.
View Livestream together

TCHUM LAKE A.G.M.

MON., OCTOBER 13
6.30 p.m.

AT THE SHAMROCK
(77 CUMMING AVE,
BIRCHIP)

**All lake users welcome.
and encouraged to attend.**

Apologies to Sec. Ed Rickard or Pres Alex. Noonan.

DONALD COMMUNITY PRECINCT (DCP)

A.G.M.

6 p.m.

WED., OCTOBER 22
ANDERSON BLUE ROOM

All positions open.
New members most welcome.

BIRCHIP GOLF CLUB Annual Meeting

MONDAY, OCT. 20

AT THE
BIRCHIP RAILWAY STATION

commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Anyone who is remotely interested in golf continuing in Birchip please register your support by attending the AGM or an apology to

Sue Davis on 0428 430 967

Birchip-Watchem Netball Club

A.G.M.

Thurs., November 6
7 p.m.

AT BIRCHIP COMMUNITY LEISURE CENTRE



BIRCHIP COMMUNITY LEISURE CENTRE INC.

Annual General Meeting

Wed., October 22, 7 p.m. at

Birchip Community Leisure Centre.

All members invited to attend

Please contact Hayden Collins, Julie Coffey or Fiona Best to obtain a nomination form to the committee or to an executive position.

Email: secretary_bclc@protonmail.com

DONALD FOOTBALL CLUB

Annual Meeting

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14
8 p.m.

Nominations for the positions of president, vice-presidents, secretary, treasurer, committee members.

Nominations close with the secretary, P.O. Box 110, Donald 3480, 8 p.m. Monday, October 13.

Nomination forms available from the secretary.

P. Faulkner, Secretary.



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2025 Annual General Meeting of the Birchip Cropping Group Inc. (BCG), is scheduled for **Monday, October 27 5 p.m.** 73 CUMMING AVENUE, BIRCHIP

MEETING BUSINESS:

1. Reports (Chairperson; CEO; Treasurer)
2. Appointment of Board Members
3. Receipt of 2024/25 Audited Financial Reports
4. Acceptance of 2024 AGM Minutes
5. Appointment of Auditors

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME.

Members wishing to attend the AGM in person or remotely should RSVP by calling the BCG office on 03 5492 2787, or emailing info@bcg.org.au

Donald Netball Club Inc. 5215



Annual General Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 6

@ ANDERSON BLUE ROOM
7 p.m.

All positions open

Apologies to Jess:

donaldnetballclub@gmail.com

Live-Alones' Luncheon

Tuesday, Oct. 14
12 noon

HARVEST CAFÉ
29 Woods St, Donald
Ph 0447 235 482 to book your place.

Everyone welcome

An advert. in "The Buloke Times" can cost as little as \$10, and up to 5,000 readers will see it.



Evan

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, DONALD

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HATS

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Find us on [f](#)

70 Woods Street, Donald — 5497 1211

DONALD TYRE & EXHAUST CENTRE

Will be
**CLOSED FROM
Thursday Oct. 2 to
Monday Oct. 20**
*Sorry for any
inconvenience*

CHOOK RUN Ballarat Chooks

Pullets/Chooks for Sale
Sexed and Vaccinated
Hyline Browns
**DELIVERY
Monday, Oct 20**
Dropping of at: Ararat,
St Arnaud, Donald, Birchip
and Wycheproof.
Contact Kelvin to pre-order
**Ring or message on
0400 559 559**

"Times" Classifieds

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

2025 Donald Show
Friday 10th & Saturday 11th October



Limited Disabled Parking Available
Please Specify whether space is required
inside or outside of grounds when booking
**Book with Chloe
0400 275 737**



DONALD HISTORY
SOCIETY INC.
FURTHER INFO: 0427 976 208

Meeting

NOTE CORRECT DATE

**Monday, October 13
DONALD COURTHOUSE
7.30 p.m.**
Speaker: Anne Walsh -
100 Yrs of Litchfield Hall
ALL WELCOME

DONALD PUBLIC CEMETERY TRUST GRAVE DIGGING CONTRACT

Applications are welcome for the
services of a Grave Digger for the
Donald Public Cemetery.

The contract is for a period of two
(2) years commencing on January
1, 2026 to December 31, 2027.
For contract details please contact
the secretary at email:
secretary1875@outlook.com

**Tenders will close on October 24,
2025 at 5p.m.**



Cultivating Healthy Communities

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Birchip

Junior Food and Domestic Service Assistant

Charlton

Food and Domestic Service Assistant

Junior Food and Domestic Service Assistant

Donald

Resident Lifestyle Coordinator

St Arnaud

Endorsed Enrolled Nurse

Executive Assistant (Primary Care)

Deputy Director of Clinical Services

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.

CHARLTON Open Gardens Sunday, Oct. 12

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

\$20 | includes 6 gardens & afternoon tea

Registration at Uniting Church Hall, Halliday St, Charlton
Enquires to Lynne McRae 0408 113 104



Dust off your old
tractors and get them
ready for ...

**The Donald
Tractor Pull
at this year's
Show, Saturday,
Oct. 11.**

Competitors are encouraged to enter their classic
tractors with prizes awarded in various classes and
for participation. Limited local transport assis-
tance is available at a reasonable cost, but
spaces are limited, so be sure to book early.

Want to get involved? Contact:

**Neil McEwen on 0428 915 259 or
James Doak on 0427 503 551.**

Major sponsors, North West Ag and Adams Family Farms
Thanks to Bild Group for making the track.



Full Time Employment Consultant

We are expanding our team and have
exciting opportunities for someone to join
us at AXIS Employment!



Our Mid Murray team is hiring an Employment Consultant for a new role
in Donald, as part of the Inclusive Employment Assistance (IEA) program.
The consultant will work with participants and employers to achieve
sustainable employment outcomes, managing a caseload that includes:

- Delivering pre-employment support (job search, resume, interviews)
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our Staff Benefits Program also offers:

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 - salary packaging options
 - 5 weeks annual leave for eligible staff
 - 3 bonus days over Christmas
 - eligibility for an annual staff bonus
- Total value of the
package on offer is
equivalent to
\$95,820

For more info, contact Marcus Demaria (Regional Manager)
on 0487 004 242

OUT THERE | IN HERE



Transformative dialogues with nature by **Val Wilkinson**

OPENING 18TH OCTOBER 2PM
Queens Avenue, St Arnaud



Public Notice for Temporary Road Closure

The public is advised that **Nullawil-Meridan Road, Jil Jil, between Kellys Road, Jil Jil and Berriwillock-Birchip Road, Jil Jil**, will be closed from **7.00 am Tuesday 14 October to 5.00 pm 23 October 2025**.

The road will be closed to through traffic during this period to enable urgent interim maintenance works including ripping the sealed pavement and reverting to a 6m wide gravel surface — a temporary measure to improve safety for all road users.

The public is asked to take note of detours and roads closures that will be in place.

Daniel McLoughlan
Interim Chief Executive Officer

The Buloke Times

Est. 1875

Coloured Photographs

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Across - 6, Impractical. 7, Memo. 8, Souvenir. 9, Albert. 10, Kismet. 12, Baltic. 15, Secede. 17, Whistler. 19, Laud. 20, Sparrow-hawk.
Down - 1, Opponent. 2, Basset. 3, Struck. 4, Ache. 5, Plaice. 6, Ideal. 11, Sicilian. 13, Aghast. 14, Celery. 15, Sprawl. 16, Drunk. 18, Slay.



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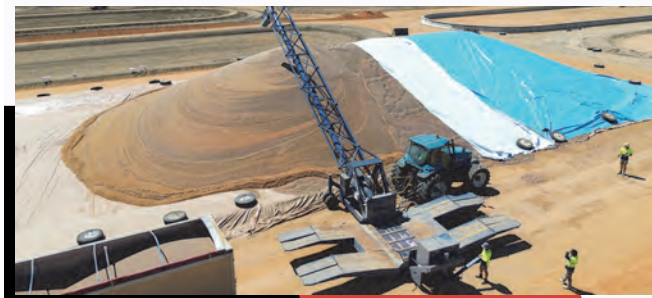
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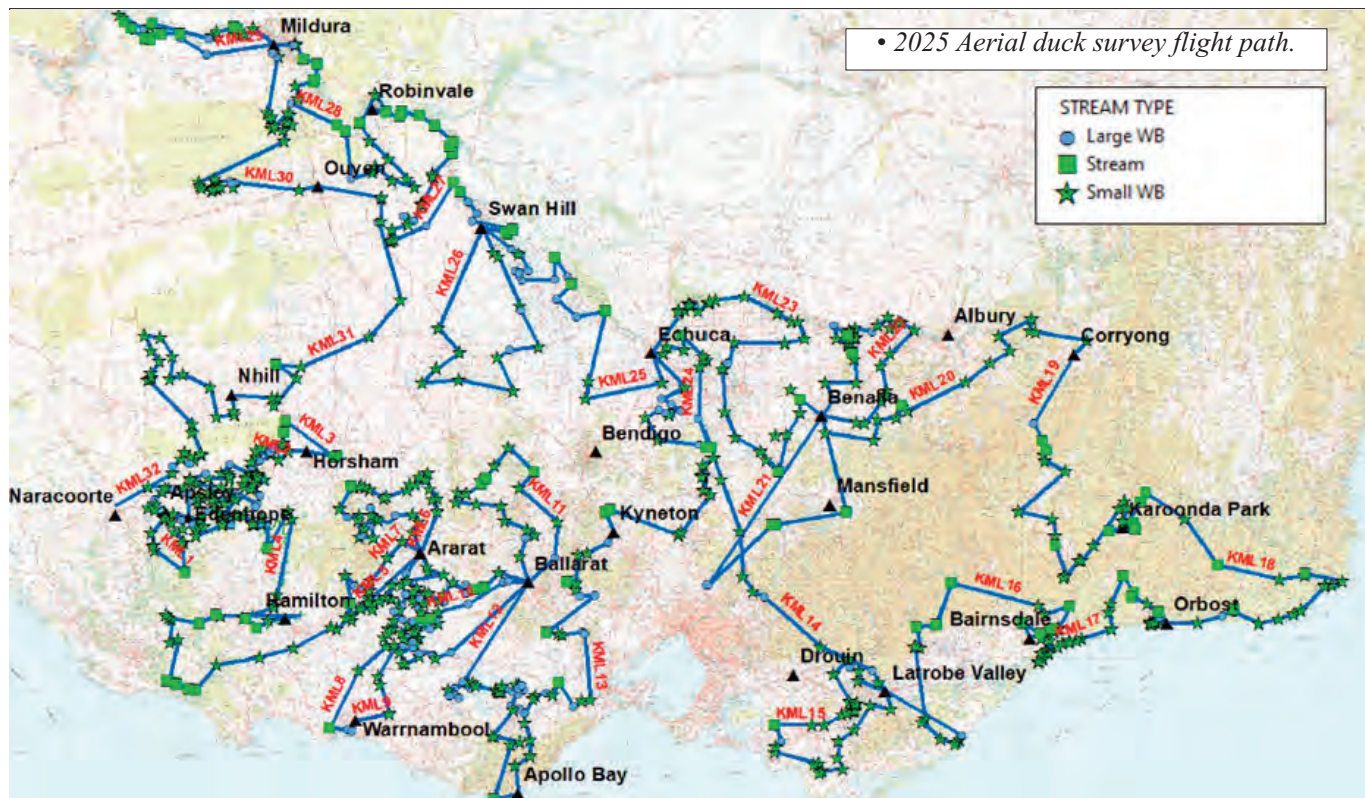
2025 Donald Show
Friday 10th & Saturday 11th October

PUBLIC NOTICE FIREWORKS NOTICE

As part of the 2025 Donald Show, a fireworks display is planned for Friday 10th October 2025 at approximately 8:30 pm.

This is an early notice so you have time to make arrangements for your animals. Please ensure they are safe and secure during this time.

Further details will be provided closer to the event.



Victoria's Duck Abundance Survey About to Begin

The Game Management Authority (GMA) will begin its annual survey of Victoria's game duck population on Tuesday, October 21, 2025.

The survey will be conducted by wildlife biologists, who will record the presence, species and number of game ducks at more than 850 waterbodies across Victoria, including wetlands, farm dams, sewerage treatment plants, streams and rivers.

The survey will also include ground counts where the helicopter is unable to operate.

Satellite imaging will be used to determine how much water is in game duck habitats in Victoria, which informs an estimate of the total abun-

dance of each game duck species in the state.

The GMA is continuing this research as part of the Victorian Government's Sustainable Hunting Action Plan. The results from the survey will be used as one of the key inputs to support Adaptive Harvest Management for setting sustainable duck hunting arrangements each year.

GMA Research Principal, Dr Jason Flesch, said regularly collecting data is critical to understanding what drives the abundance and productivity of game duck populations.

"Results from this survey will help to accurately estimate total game duck abundance, based on the environmental conditions at the time," Dr Flesch said.

"This research is the most comprehensive survey of game ducks undertaken in Victoria. It benefits wildlife conservation by increasing our understanding of the ecology of Victoria's game duck populations and the health of their habitats."

The 2025 survey is scheduled to take place from Tuesday, October 21, until

Saturday, November 8, inclusive. The flight schedule may change from day to day, depending on weather conditions or other factors.

Residents in surveyed areas may see a helicopter flying at low levels for a short time and for no longer than is necessary. Disturbance to livestock will be minimised or avoided. The safety of people and livestock is a priority.

The results of the survey will be published on the GMA website in 2026.

For more information, including a map of the proposed flight path, visit: gma.vic.gov.au/research/duck-research

What's on at the Donald Show

Friday 10th

Fun kicks off at 4pm

- Horse Events 9am Onwards **Main Oval**
- Show Opening Approx 7pm **Anderson Blueroom**
- Music - By Roadhouse 5pm Onwards Main Stage **Food Court**
- Face Painting 4pm Onwards **Front Lawn**
- MXW Pro Wrestling 4pm Onwards **Stadium**
- Kids Zone 4pm Onwards **Front Lawn**
- Professor Wallace Puppets 4pm Onwards **Front Lawn**
- Camels - User Pays pm Onwards **Jeffcott Oval**
- Balloonatic Bruce 4pm Onwards **Roaming**
- Furals 4pm Onwards **Front Lawn**
- Iron Man Competition Approx 7pm **Anderson Blueroom**
- Free Skin Checks 4pm Onwards
- First Aid Demos 4pm Onwards **Front Lawn**
- Smoothie Bike 4pm Onwards **Front Lawn**
- **Sideshow Ally** 4pm - 9pm
- **Food Court** 4pm - 9pm

Admission Prices

General Admission & Equestrian Competitors

Friday 10th October

Donald Show 2 Day Pass
2 Adults & Student Children - \$60
2 Day Single Ticket - \$40
Adults - \$20
Concession - \$15
Secondary School Students - \$5
Primary School Students - Free
Equestrian Competitors - \$20 Per
Vehicle with float, free entry for under 18 yrs

We request that all exhibitors and competition entrants pay an admittance fee

Saturday 11th October

Family Ticket 2 Adults & Student Children - \$60
Adults - \$25
Concession - \$20
Secondary School Students - \$15
Primary School Students - Free
Equestrian Competitors - \$20 Per
Vehicle with float, free entry for under 18 yrs

PUBLIC NOTICE FIREWORKS

Notice to all animal owners in and around Donald area. A Fireworks display will be held on Friday 10th of October 2025 Approx. 8:30 pm please ensure your animals secure at this time. Thank you. Further info contact 0430021100

Subject to change

Saturday 11th

Fun kicks off at 11am

- Horse Events 9am Onwards **Main Oval**
- Pavillion Viewing hours 12:30pm - 4pm
- Donald Hockey Club Luncheon 12pm Onwards **Anderson Blueroom**
- Music - By Darren Wardle & Jeff Woodward Main Stage **Food Court**
- Face Painting 11am Onwards **Stadium**
- Professor Wallace Puppets 11am Onwards **Front Lawn**
- Balloonatic Bruce 4pm Onwards **Roaming**
- Tiny Goats & Co 11am Onwards **Front Lawn**
- MXW Pro Wrestling **Stadium**
- Furals 11am Onwards **Stadium**
- Billabong Ridge - Animal Nursery 11am Onwards **Jeffcott Oval**
- Level up Gaming 12pm Onwards **Anderson Blueroom**
- Mel & Co Cookies 12:30pm Onwards **Stadium**
- Cupcakerella Cupcake Decorating 12:30pm Onwards **Stadium**
- Kids Zone 11am Onwards **Stadium**
- Victoria Police, CFA, SES, Ambulance 11am Onwards **The Triangle**
- Cartoon Portraits 11am Onwards **Stadium**
- **Free Skin Checks 12 Noon Onwards**
- Camels - User Pays 11am Onwards **Jeffcott Oval**
- Fair Dinkum Fauna 11am Onwards **Front Lawn**
- Laser Tag inflatable 11am Onwards **Jeffcott Oval**
- It's So Photo Booth 11am Onwards **Stadium**
- Show and Shine Judging 1pm **Jeffcott Oval**
- Shearing 9am Onwards **Shearing Shed**
- Donald Show Star 2pm Main Stage **Food Court**
- Grand Parade 4:30pm **Main Oval**
- **Sideshow Ally** 11am Onwards
- **Food Court** 11am Onwards



Donald Lions Invest in Community Health

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Editor.— Over the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, October 4 and 5, the Donald Lions Club hosted the Lions' Skin Check and Awareness Van, staffed by nurses with specialist training, knowledge and skills of the Dermoscopyists, supported by Harold and Marj Malone, from Maiden Gully-Marong Lions Club, who supervised the two-day event, assisted by members from our club.

Special thanks must be extended to secretary Colleen Harmer, who skilfully co-ordinated the advertising, took bookings and organised Harvest Café to deliver what I'm told were delicious morning and afternoon tea platters.

Also, many thanks must go to vice-president David James and the Men's Shed for use of their rooms during break times.

The response from the community members of Donald was huge, seeing as it was booked out a fortnight in advance and an extensive waiting list was compiled.

In excess of 60 tests were carried out each day, with 23 per cent of those screened on Saturday and 33 per cent on Sunday referred to be checked by a doctor.

Donald Lions Club is already in discussions regarding

the van returning in two years' time, I'm sure the response will be just as massive.

Providing accommodation and meals for the visitors over the two days was sponsored by our club and equated to \$20.86 per person checked, one of the club's most important reinvestments back into our community.

Thank you for supporting Donald Lions Club by taking advantage of the free skin checks, made possible by the voluntary work of members at many community activities from which the club fundraises, including race day barbecues, Show Day spinning wheel, Multi-cultural, B'n' S Ball and Chamber of Commerce Christmas promotion catering.

The weekend's skin checks are one of the most tangible examples of what the Donald Lions Club and its members are doing for our community.

One final word from the Lions Cancer Institute. All lesions must be treated as suspect until proven otherwise by further investigation.

Michael Raynes,
President, Donald Lions Club.

Bushfire Risk Management Program Under Way

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Editor.— Bushfires are a natural part of the Victorian

landscape, but with the right planning and action, we can reduce their impact on communities, the environment and critical infrastructure.

Right across the state, Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) crews are working hard to reduce the risk and impact of bushfires through a combination of planned burning, non-burn bushfire risk management and strategic preparation.

Leaves, small branches, long grass and undergrowth can fuel bushfires making them faster, more intense and harder to control. Bushfire risk management helps reduce this danger by removing excess vegetation (or fuel), protecting communities, the environment and critical infrastructure.

Less fuel means it's harder for a fire to start and spread, and easier for our crews to contain. That's why last season we delivered bushfire risk management works across more than 109,000 hectares of public land.

The seasonal bushfire outlook for spring asks Victorians to prepare for an increased risk, particularly in the state's west, but also the southern coast and areas around Melbourne. With low rainfall over the past 18 months, the outlook shows areas at increased risk stretch-

ing from the South Australian border across to Bendigo, the Otways, Melbourne including the Dandenongs and Yarra Valley and parts of south Gippsland.

As soon as favourable weather and forest conditions arrive, we'll make sure all available resources are delivering planned burning and non-burn bushfire risk management works.

Scientific Evidence

Our bushfire risk management program is underpinned by a significant body of scientific evidence, built over more than 35 years. We acknowledge bushfire science is continually evolving, and we continue to invest in research and the best available science to inform our bushfire risk management program.

We use science and modelling tools to choose the right time and approach for delivery of our bushfire risk management program in each location or landscape, combined with our understanding of the ecological needs of our forests and the plants and animals that depend on them.

Planned Burning

Planned burning plays a key role in our work in reducing bushfire risk. It involves the careful use of low-intensity fire to reduce dry vegetation like leaves and small branches that build up over

time and make forests more flammable.

Our crews look for opportunities to carry out planned burning throughout the year, and with drier conditions in parts of the state, we've already been able to deliver planned burns over winter, including at Anglesea Heath in the Great Otway National Park, Boggy Creek Nature Conservation Reserve, Gellibrand Bushland Reserve, Wilson Promontory and at Mountain Creek Education Area in Shelley.

Techniques

In areas where planned burning isn't suitable, such as near homes, on steep slopes or close to roads and towns, FFMVic uses non-burn bushfire management techniques. These include mowing and slashing long grass, mulching dense vegetation, targeted spraying of invasive weeds and maintaining public road networks in forests and reserves. Each method plays a vital role in reducing fuel loads and improving access for emergency services.

Over the coming weeks, you can expect to see our crews and contractors ramping up the mowing and slashing program. The timing of these works is important; if grass is slashed too early, before it has cured, it will only encourage regrowth.

Our top priority is to protect life, property and the environment from the risk of bushfires. While Victoria will always have bushfires, we want you to know that when fires happen, we are ready to respond. We have more than 1800 personnel on the front-line, including firefighters, fire lookout observers and fire support officers; firefighting equipment, including more than 500 ultralight tankers and close to 100 heavy tankers, and more than 50 aircraft contracted for the season ahead.

Shared Responsibility

But being prepared for the bushfire season is a shared responsibility. While FFMVic crews are working hard on public land, all Victorians are encouraged to start cleaning up around their properties to help reduce bushfire risk in their own communities.

Visit our website to learn more about how FFMVic manages bushfire risk.

And to keep up to date on planned burns near you, sign up to receive notifications at Planned Burns Victoria or download the VicEmergency app.

Chris Hardman, AFSM, GAICD.

Chief Fire Officer, Forest Fire Management Victoria.

Farm Drought Support Grants

Grants of up to **\$5,000** are available to **eligible primary producers** across Victoria.



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AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

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“Heart Safe” Communities: Wycheproof and Merbein Graduate

Merbein and Wycheproof are now well equipped to help save the life of someone in cardiac arrest – the towns graduating this month as Heart Safe Communities.

It comes as Rushworth and Red Cliffs begin the life-saving 12-month joint initiative by Ambulance Victoria (AV) and the Heart Foundation.

The Heart Safe Communities program aims to improve survival rates from cardiac arrest with a concerted effort in selected towns across Victoria to teach residents how to give cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and use an automated external defibrillator (AED), register publicly accessible AEDs, and increase the number of active GoodSAM responders.

GoodSAM is a life-saving smartphone app that connects Victorians in cardiac arrest with members of the community who are willing to start CPR before paramedics arrive.

Call, Push, Shock

Over the past year in Merbein, 306 community members learnt to Call, Push, Shock – 11 per cent of the town’s population – and three new publicly accessible AEDs were registered, two of them 24/7 accessible, bringing the total number of registered AEDs in the community to 13.

Meanwhile in Wycheproof, 260 community members learnt to Call, Push, Shock – 43 per cent of the town’s population – and three new publicly accessible AEDs were registered, one 24/7 accessible, bringing the total number of registered AEDs in the community to 10.

AV Loddon Mallee Regional Director Matt McCrohan congratulated everyone involved in the program, as work begins in Rushworth and Red Cliffs.

“The Heart Safe Communities program is all about

teaching Victorians that anyone can save a life – simply follow the three simple steps: Call Triple Zero (000), Push hard and fast on the middle of the chest to give CPR, and Shock using an AED,” he said.

Every Minute Matters

“Every minute matters in a cardiac arrest and it’s pleasing to know more people in our region will now feel confident to act while paramedics are on their way.

“We’re excited to get to work with community members in Rushworth and Red Cliffs and empower them with the skills to save a life.”

Victoria has Australia’s best cardiac arrest survival rate and the third best anywhere in the world, largely thanks to high rates of bystander intervention.

The Heart Safe Communities program launched in 2019 and there are now 54 Heart Safe Communities across Victoria, with another 12 towns commencing the program for 2025-26.

Heart Foundation Victoria General Manager Chris Enright said initiatives such as Heart Safe Communities are designed to support and encourage bystanders to take life-saving action in an emergency.

“In a Heart Safe Community, residents who’ve taken part in the initiative are equipped with the knowledge and tools to respond to somebody experiencing a cardiac arrest. This support includes giving people the confidence to step in and perform CPR, as well as the use of a life-saving AED to help increase someone’s chances of survival,” she said.



“The Heart Foundation is proud to work alongside Ambulance Victoria to provide communities with access to life-saving resources and training through the Heart Safe Communities program.”

Graduating 2024-25 Heart Safe Communities

- Dunkeld (Barwon South West).
- Fairhaven/Aireys Inlet (Barwon South West).
- Churchill (Gippsland).
- Toongabbie (Gippsland).
- Dimboola (Grampians).
- Halls Gap (Grampians).
- Corryong (Hume).
- Bright (Hume).
- Merbein (Loddon Mallee).
- Wycheproof (Loddon Mallee).
- Lang Lang (Metro).
- Kingsville (Metro).

New 2025-26 Heart Safe Communities

- Portarlington/Indented Head (Barwon South West).
- Koroit (Barwon South West).
- Briagolong (Gippsland).
- Noojee (Gippsland).
- Gorokey (Grampians).
- Edenhope (Grampians).
- Bonnie Doon (Hume).
- Nagambie (Hume).
- Rushworth (Loddon Mallee).
- Red Cliffs (Loddon Mallee).
- Moonee Ponds (Metro).
- Springvale (Metro).

2024-25 Heart Safe Communities Initiative

- 3902 community members trained in Call, Push, Shock.
 - 35 new AEDs registered, 21 of which are 24/7 publicly accessible.
 - There are now more than 17,300 Victorians registered as GoodSAM responders.
- Learn more about Shocktober, find your nearest AED and sign up as a GoodSAM responder by visiting: www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/shocktober



AMBULANCE PHONE NO.
000



• Families participate in a Teddy Bear Picnic at North Park in Stawell. The pop-up event was a great success. Northern Grampians Shire Council has arranged a calendar of fun activities aimed at young families to celebrate Children’s Week, from October 18 to 26.

National Children’s Week Celebrations: A Calender of Fun!

Families can participate in a range of free activities in Stawell and St Arnaud this month as part of national Children’s Week celebrations.

The week – led by Children’s Week Council of Australia – runs from October 18 to 26 and celebrates the talents, skills, achievements and rights of children.

Northern Grampians Shire mayor Karen Hyslop said the council’s Early Years team had been busy preparing a calendar of events.

“We will host a range of activities across the shire and encourage families to make the most of the opportunities the week provides,” she said.

The Children’s Week theme for 2025 is “Everyone should know about Children’s Rights”, which promotes awareness of children’s rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNCRC.

“It’s incredibly important to celebrate the rights, wellbeing and achievements of our region’s children and this week provides a perfect opportunity for us to reflect on the joy children bring to our families and community,” Cr Hyslop said.

Options

“We encourage families to not only get out and about to participate in council-run activities, but also to consider other options such as creative play at home, educational excursions, teaching kids about their rights, and making the most of the great outdoors.”

The shire’s formal activities kick off on Tuesday, October 21, with a sensory pool play session at Stawell Sports and Aquatic Centre from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m..

At 10.30 a.m., the action shifts to Stawell Entertainment Centre for a range of multicultural activities until noon.

“There will be music, dancing, craft and play activities, along with a traditional Chinese dragon – it’s going to be a great morning and I expect it to be quite popular,” Cr Hyslop said.

“On the Wednesday, it’s St Arnaud’s turn for a

multicultural adventure, with activities at the town hall from 10.30 a.m. to noon.”

The multicultural festivities are aimed at children up to five years of age.

On Thursday, October 23, St Arnaud and Stawell libraries will host special story time sessions at 10.30 a.m..

St Arnaud’s theme is “Celebration of difference”, which will feature a puppet reading the book Phoebe’s Feathers. The library team – and book-reading puppet – will also make a special trip to St Arnaud Kindergarten on the Wednesday.

Stawell’s story time theme is “A Tale from the South Pacific”, which will be repeated on Friday, October 24, also at 10.30 a.m..

“Story time is a popular event at both our libraries and our library staff love getting into the spirit of themed weeks,” Cr Hyslop said.

“St Arnaud branch will also offer a kids’ lucky dip, whenever you sign them up to the library. Children can also colour in their own bookmarks during the week and our library staff will laminate them.

“Craft activities are popular among the region’s

children, so we will be running a colouring competition with prizes for different age groups.”

Cr Hyslop said colouring competition sheets would be available at the region’s primary schools, libraries, maternal and child health offices, and Stawell Sports and Aquatic Centre.

The competition closes on October 10 and councillors will judge the winners on October 14.

The winning entries will be displayed at the Stawell and St Arnaud town hall events.

All events are free, but RSVPs are required for the multicultural events on October 21 and 22.

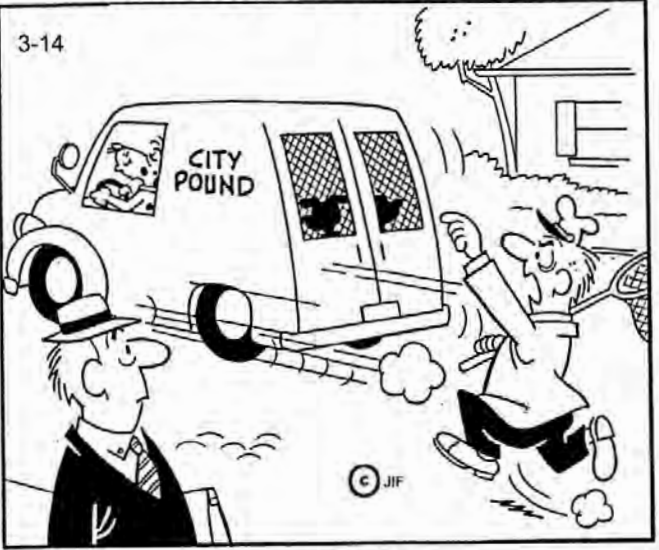
People can visit <https://forms.office.com/r/3ryWPh5sCe> to RSVP, or follow a link on the council’s Facebook page.

Local councils, not-for-profit organisations, schools and early childhood services organise a variety of events during Children’s Week each year.

People can visit <https://childrensweek.org.au> for more information.

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Tree Changers Urged to Get Fire Ready

Many Melburnians have left the city behind and embraced everything our regional areas have to offer in recent years, but CFA is urging our tree changers to ensure they’re fire ready.

According to the Regional Movers Index migration from Australia’s capital cities to the regions has remained high since the pandemic and in the quarter ending June 30, 2025, Melburnians made up 35 per cent of all Australians moving to regional areas.

The slower pace of life, access to nature, and close communities are all among the benefits of making a tree change; however, one of the risks is not being prepared for fires.

With forecasts pointing towards a challenging fire season across many parts of Victoria, and with recent research showing concerning levels of complacency, CFA is urging, especially those that may have never had to prepare before, to start clearing their properties.

Greg Staib is a CFA volunteer at Raglan Fire Brigade who was originally from Hawthorn in Melbourne’s eastern suburbs before moving to Ballarat and then Raglan in 2022.

He joined the local CFA as a way of ensuring he

understood the risks of living in the area, and completed his General Fire Fighting training just before the 2024 Bayindeen fires.

“That was definitely a sobering experience,” he said.

“It really drove home to me how important being fire ready was and learning about the risks of the area you have chosen to live in.”

Responsibility

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said fire safety is everyone’s responsibility.

“We can’t have a truck in every driveway,” he said.

“By doing things now like clearing your gutters, pruning trees, moving woodpiles, and mowing grass, you really help our firefighters, but you also give yourself and your property the best chance for survival.

“Our recent bushfire community survey found that 85 per cent of residents in high-risk bushfire areas still don’t have a written bushfire survival plan, and 50 per cent perceived the threat of bushfire to be small or very small.

“That complacency is concerning, especially with forecasts pointing to a challenging fire season across many parts of Victoria.”

Kalista Fire Brigade volunteer Talor Robertson moved to a heavily forested block of land in the area from a “concrete box” in Collingwood in 2023.

He joined CFA after feeling as though he had a responsibility to help protect the community living in a bushfire risk area.

“It comes with living out here,” he said.

“It’s not the same as living in Melbourne and people need to be aware of that before moving.”

Actions

Take the following actions to prepare yourself and your property:

- Move your winter woodpile away from the house or sheds.
- Prune tree branches so they are not overhanging the roof or touching walls.
- Clear your gutters.
- Keep grass shorter than 10cm.



• The “Get Fire Ready” initiative continues this October with the CFA reminding all rural residents no matter their experience prepare their property.

• Remove leaves and twigs from around your property.

• Test anything that is part of your fire plan such as sprinklers, pumps and generators.

• Register your burn off. The quickest and easiest way is by visiting the Fire Permits Victoria website at www.firepermits.vic.gov.au/notify,

or call Triple Zero Victoria on 1800 688 511.

• Make sure your household has a bushfire plan.

Find out how at: www.cfa.vic.gov.au/bushfire-plan.

CFA is holding a “Get Fire Ready” initiative in October, encouraging all Victorians to engage with local brigades to seek out information this

coming fire season and to connect with their local CFA brigade.

Activities across the state began last weekend.

Find out more by visiting cfa.vic.gov.au/about-us/cfa-events/get-fire-ready.

To find out more about your local Get Fire Ready Open Day, please visit: cfa.vic.gov.au/getfireready

One Hundred Years Ago

*From the “Birchip Advertiser”,
October 2, 1925.*

Hotel Changes Hands: Mr. George W. Leith has purchased the lease of the commercial Hotel from Mrs. Gent.

Local Goal Kickers: Birchip’s most accurate goal kickers this year were: Hampton 30, C. Hogan 24, A. Hogan 22, W. Allen 20, V. Connelly, 12, and C. Toovey, 10.

St Arnaud Show: A special train leaving Watchupga at 5.27 (and stopping all stations to St Arnaud) will run on the show morning, Wednesday, October 7th.

Notice to Owners of Private Crossings on Roads: “Notice is hereby given that after a period of one month from this publication (and without further notice) owners of culverts crossing roads must make same and keep same in repair in accordance with Shire’s specifications which is as follows.

“The bed for the pipes to be taken out to an even grade, the ground to be notched out to take the sockets so that the pipes may have a free and even bearing. The sprocket ends to be pressed well home into the sockets, and the pipes joined with good clay damped and worked into a consistency of putty and pressed well into

the joints. The ends to be timbered with sound durable timber, four sound guide posts to be placed in position, and having a height of not least 1ft. above the finished surface and to be painted with three coats of white paint, and the culvert to be not less than 20ft, grades of the approaches to the culvert is not to be less than 2 ft; grade of the approaches to the culvert is not less than 1 in 15 (if the filling above the pipes is one foot above natural road surface there must be 15ft of earth filling on both sides of the culvert and the whole of the work to be finished in a neat and workmanlike manner).

“The whole of the work must be carried out to the satisfaction of the Engineer. From time to time the owner shall keep the culvert properly maintained by replacing broken pipes, which will not be supplied free of charge by the council, retimbering the ends, repainting the guide posts, re making the formation, and doing any other necessary work (within 14 days) when so instructed by the engineer.

“No crossing, other than that specified, will be permitted.

“Extreme action against all offenders who do not implicitly comply with the before mentioned specifications will be taken without further notice.”

*From the “Birchip Advertiser”,
October 9, 1925.*

Birchip Football Club Complimentary Smoke Social to Players Shield and Medals Presented.

The local football club tendered a complimentary dinner and smoke social to players of this years champion team the winners at the N.W.D.F.A. competition, at the Mechanics Hall on Thursday of last week.

The president of the club, Mr. J. J. Ryan, presided over the gathering which included representatives of football clubs from many district towns, our local footballers, club officials and a large number of enthusiastic supporters.

An excellent dinner, preceded the lengthy toast list during which musical items were discoursed and presentations made.

The president of the association, Mr. W. Burton, was present and contributed in no small degree towards the success of the evening.

Club officials deserve praise for the manner in which the function was organized and brought to such a successful conclusion. Those present were more than pleased with the evening’s entertainment especially members of our all-conquering football team.

The chairman, Mr. Ryan, extended a hearty welcome to the visitors whose presence, he said, was a compliment to the Birchip team and a recognition of their very fine performance in going right through the season without suffering defeat. He expressed pleasure for having



• *Football Senior Premiers 1925: Back: A. Smith (trainer), C. Hogan, C. Peverill, M. Sheahan, J.J. Ryan (president), Callaghan, W. Benton, - -, Beasley (trainer), McClelland (trainer). Middle: - Buckley (trainer), C. Toovey, V. Connelly, W. Hogg, C.C. Connelly, A. Hogan, L. Joyce, S. Barber, Hampton, H. Lockwood. Front: - -, - -, - -, Phelan, W. Allen, J. Evans. (some names obscured).*

the president of the association (Cr. Burton) with them, and apologized for the unavoidable absence of the secretary (Mr. Goodon). He read a telegram of apology from the Donald Club which stated that they were unable to send a representative and congratulated the local team on its achievement. He hoped that all present would enjoy themselves and carry away many happy recollections of the function.

After honouring the Loyal Toast, Cr. J. Lockwood (shire president) proposed the Association coupled with name of president (Cr. Burton). He explained the manner of which the association was constituted. Six teams had joined this year, namely, Birchip, Donald, Litchfield-Carron, Cope Cope, Watchem and St Arnaud. Since the association had been formed the standard of football had

greatly improved. Birchip possessed a very good team and he paid tribute to the fine performance during the year by going through the season without being defeated. He felt sure that the affairs of the association had been wisely conducted by the delegates from the various clubs, and that the president was in every way fitted for the position he held; the association was fortunate in having such an able president.

Cr. Burton said that when elected president he didn’t think he would have the honour of attending such a function, which was a pleasant surprise to him. He had only been interested in the association for two years and considered it was the coming association and would be central to the best in the country in a few years’ time. As chairman of the association, he had perhaps a little more to say

than other delegates, and thought that matter reviewed during the year had been dealt with in a very fair manner. Last year the association handled a considerable amount of money, about £100 and each club had received £10 at the close of the season. Cr. Burton proposed the toast to the Birchip Football Club, said it was the most important toast of the evening. He then presented the shield to the Birchip Club.

Mr. Ryan said it was his pleasure to accept the shield on behalf of the club. Three years ago the local team failed to win match, last year it went very close to securing shield. He thought the chances of winning next year were very bright.

The club owes the donor of the shield an apology for the omission in not extending an invitation to the dinner.



Seniors Kick-Start Month Long Festival

Several Northern Grampians seniors donned their dancing shoes to kick-start a month-long festival in their honour.

Northern Grampians Shire Council is hosting or promoting a range of free or low-cost activities and events through-

out October as part of the Victorian Seniors Festival.

The festival, from October 1 to 31, celebrates the state's

senior residents and their contributions to our communities.

Mayor Karen Hyslop said the shire's festivities started

with concerts in Stawell and St Arnaud town halls, which were well attended.

"The afternoon included lunch and performances by Glenn Starr in Stawell and Rhiz and Pete in St Arnaud, who had the crowds singing along and up on their feet," she said.

"These concerts are always a highlight on the Seniors Month calendar, and they did not disappoint. We had some wonderful rock 'n' roll dancing

on display and we received so much positive feedback.

"This year's festival theme is 'Connect, Create, Celebrate' and there are plenty of opportunities to do just that throughout the month."

Northern Grampians Shire's Seniors Month brochures are available from Thrive 50+ hubs, council customer service offices and libraries in Stawell and St Arnaud, as well as the towns' senior citizens clubs.

The Victorian Seniors Festival includes eight days of free public transport across the state from October 5 to 12, for all Victorian Seniors Card holders. This includes travel across all metropolitan services, V/Line train and coach services, and selected regional bus services outside of the myki-enabled area.

People can visit www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/free-travel for more information.

For Rural Mental Health . . . Beyond Blue Teams Up With Just a Farmer

Beyond Blue is proud to announce the appointment of Leila McDougall, farmer, filmmaker, and mental health advocate, as Campaign Ambassador for Farming and Rural Communities as part of the Just a Farmer Regional Screening Project.

Leila's appointment to the campaign reflects a strong and genuine alignment with Beyond Blue's mission to support mental health in farming and rural communities, in addition to supporting small business owners who live and work in rural and regional Australia. As both a farmer and the creator and lead actress of the feature film Just a Farmer, Leila brings lived experience and authenticity to her advocacy. She understands firsthand the pressures of financial uncertainty, isolation, and mental health challenges that often affect farmers, their communities and rural small business owners.

"Living and working in a rural community, I've seen how mental health struggles can go unnoticed or unspoken," says Leila McDougall.

"Through 'Just a Farmer', I wanted to start conversations that matter and genuinely reflect what life is like on the farm and for rural communities.

"As a Beyond Blue ambassador for farming and rural communities, I'm proud to help to continue to break down stigma and encourage people to seek support. Beyond Blue is there for farmers and rural communities and offers support such as NewAccess for Small Business Owners (NASBO) – a free and confidential service, tailored to the realities of farming and small business life. It's exactly what our communities need."

Free Coaching

The NASBO program offers free, confidential mental health coaching designed specifically for small business owners, including farmers and agricultural operators, without the need for a GP referral. It supports early intervention for work and life pressures, helping individuals feel better, get well, and stay well.

Beyond Blue CEO Georgie Harman welcomed Leila's appointment in the campaign, saying: "Leila's deep connection to rural life and firsthand understanding of the challenges faced by farmers and communities in rural and regional Australia make her an invaluable voice in this campaign."

"Leila's compassion and commitment to mental health align perfectly with Beyond Blue's mission to support Australians wherever they live and work. Together, we can help encourage open conversations around mental health to reduce stigma and ensure more people can access the support they need, when they need it."

Regional Tour

Leila's regional tour of her film, Just a Farmer, traverses themes of mental health, suicide, resilience, and the realities of rural life, making it deeply relevant to Beyond Blue's mission to support people wherever they are in Australia. The film, which Leila is currently touring across regional Australia, offers a unique opportunity to



• Leila McDougall

engage local audiences, spark meaningful conversations, and promote the free support that is available in communities where support is often limited but urgently needed.

Her voice will resonate with the communities Beyond Blue seeks to support, helping to foster a culture of openness, resilience, and early intervention in regional Australia.

For details on how to request a screening of "Just a Farmer" visit www.vampaddockproductions.com/contact. To view the current nationwide screening schedule, visit www.vampaddockproductions.com/communityscreenings

For more information about the NASBO program or to access support, visit beyondblue.org.au or call 1300 945 301. The Beyond Blue Support Service is free and available 24/7, call 1300 22 4636 or beyondblue.org.au/getsupport



• From left, Tiny and Annette, John and Marita, and Peter and Barb take to the floor during a Seniors Month concert at St Arnaud Town Hall.



• Rhiz and Pete entertain the crowd at a seniors concert at St. Arnaud, which kick-started a month of activities shining a light on active ageing.

Have your say

The Victorian Government is setting new rules for how renewable energy projects engage with local communities and deliver lasting economic and social benefits.



This is part of new arrangements that will govern how projects access the state's transmission network. We're inviting feedback to help ensure the new engagement guidelines include what's important for your community.

Learn more
engage.vic.gov.au/victorian-access-regime



Government's Triple Zero Reforms: Regional Australians are "Not a Priority"

The Federal Government blocked The Nationals' attempt to ensure rural, regional and remote Australians got a specific focus from the legislated Triple Zero Custodian today, Shadow Minister for Regional Communications Dr Anne Webster MP said this week.

"I moved amendments this morning to the Government's bill to ensure regional Australians are not left hanging again by another Triple Zero outage," she said.

"Sadly, the Government was not interested in a specific focus on abysmal regional connectivity and, yet again, told Parliament it's their way or the highway."

The Government Bill was a belated response to the second Optus outage on Labor's watch, which this time claimed 4 lives. The Bill implemented a recommendation an independent review made 18 months ago to legislate a Triple Zero Custodian to investigate and monitor triple zero outages.

The Bill passed the House of Representatives unamended, despite Coalition efforts to strengthen the Bill and establish a public inquiry into the latest outage. The Coalition's proposed inquiry would also have publicly investigated the Albanese

Government, Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) and Optus responses to the latest outage.

"Yet again the Federal Government silenced regional voices by shutting down an inquiry, where regional Australians could have shared their stories of shocking connectivity.

"Even today I am hearing that matters I raised about Telstra Triple Zero connectivity issues are suddenly being urgently addressed by the telco.

"This is the value the Opposition brings by keeping heat on this very important issue and on the Minister responsible.

Amendments

Dr Webster moved amendments to the Bill to ensure that the new legislated Custodian examined "the deficiencies in connectivity in rural, regional and remote Australia that put Australians living there at risk from emergency



• Anne Webster.

communications services outage events" and investigated "the specific challenges and personal safety risks faced by (regional) Australians".

"Regional Australians live with shocking connectivity and the Albanese Government is relying on dumb luck that there haven't been any more fatalities from Triple Zero outages to date," she said.

"The Minister needs to be held accountable for a second shocking outage on her watch."

Waste and Recycling Survey Launched

Northern Grampians Shire residents can help shape the future of waste and recycling services in the municipality ahead of the introduction of additional recycling streams.

The organisation has launched a Kerbside Waste and Recycling Survey as part of a review into waste and recycling collection services.

Mayor Karen Hyslop encouraged residents to fill out the survey, which closes at 11.59 p.m. on Wednesday, October 15.

She said the survey would help the council determine how to best introduce additional recycling services, as mandated by the State Government's Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021.

"Under the Act, council is required to introduce new recycling services for glass recycling – including items such as jars and bottles – and food and garden organics (FOGO), recycling – which includes food scraps such as bones, fish, fruits and vegetables along with garden waste," she said.

"As part of our obligations under the Act, council is required to provide glass and FOGO recycling collection in primarily residential areas in the shire.

"We are working towards implementing a model that delivers these services by July 2027."

The Aim

Cr Hyslop said the aim of the new model was to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, improve recycling outcomes and create a more sustainable waste management system.

"The system will involve separate collections for each of the four household waste streams – three of which prioritise recycling efforts," she said.

"The glass and FOGO recycling services may be added alongside our existing mixed recycling service for items such as cardboard, cans and hard plastics, and our general rubbish service for residual household waste."

Questions

Cr Hyslop said the survey contained targeted questions for participants, depending on whether their property was in an urban or rural area.

"We help identify which residential area your property is in as part of the survey," she said.

"For some properties, the four streams may be compulsory, but for those who have properties in a rural non-compulsory area, there are several options under review.

"This review process could result in no kerbside collection for glass or FOGO recycling in these areas, or it could result in a fee-for-service model for these waste streams.

For St. Arnaud

"For residents in St Arnaud who have been part of the FOGO trial, this service remains unchanged for now, but is being assessed alongside the shire-wide implementation approach as part of this review process. This means there could be changes to your service at some stage in the future."

Cr Hyslop said the review would also involve an assessment of the organisation's financial capacity to meet its mandated requirements under the Act, while continuing to deliver viable and reliable services shire-wide.

"The review could also see a need to revise the existing collection frequency or the costs associated with delivering the services," she said.

Need to Hear

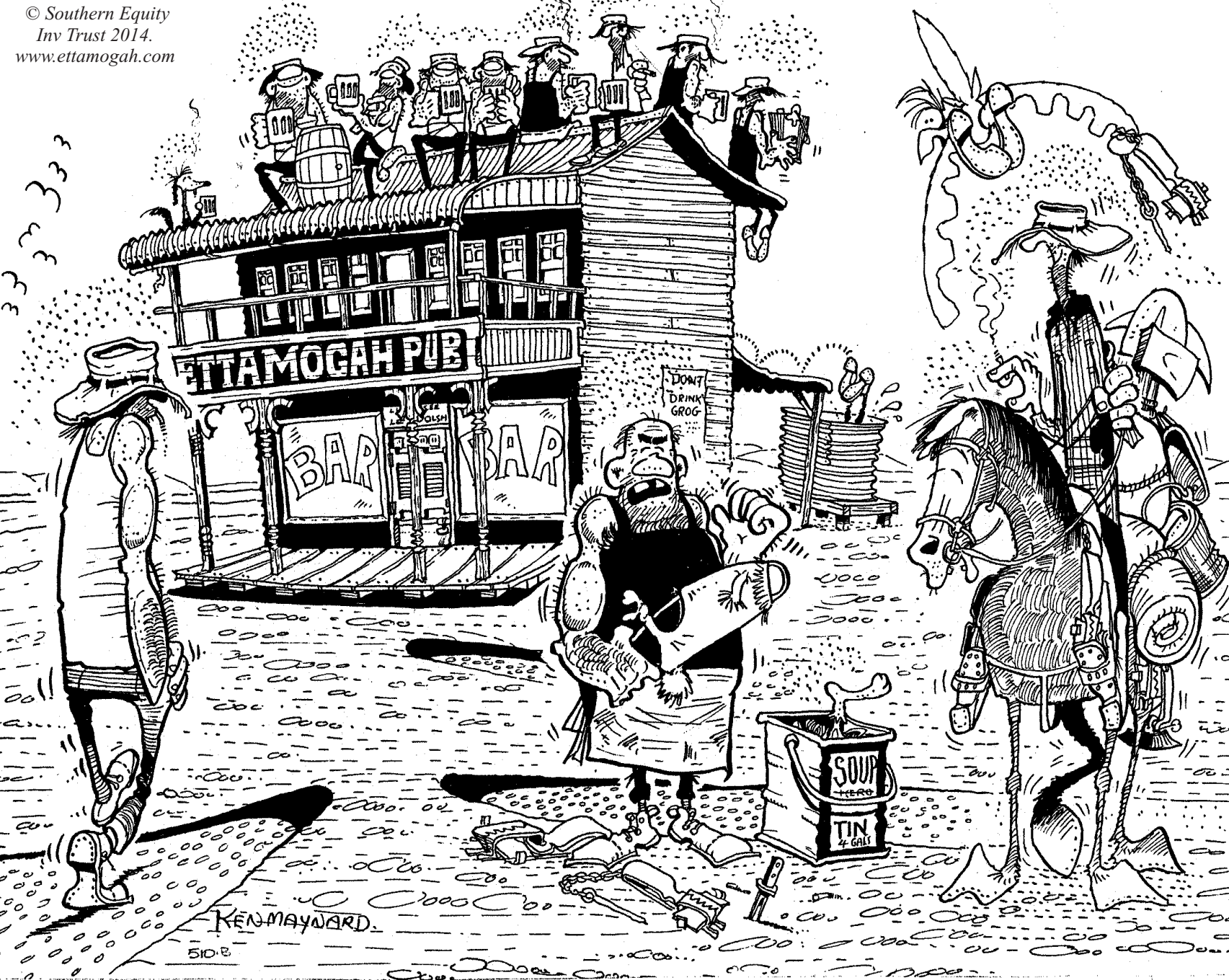
"That's why it's so vital we hear from our community throughout this review process – we want to hear what your waste and recycling priorities are, because your insights are critical."

The survey can be completed online via the council's website, www.ngshire.vic.gov.au/Projects-and-Consultation/Have-Your-Say/2025-Waste-and-Recycling-Service-Review-Open-for-community-feedback or by completing a hard copy available from council's customer service offices in Stawell and St Arnaud.

People can call council's Waste Management team on (03) 5358 8700 for more information about the waste management survey, review or waste and recycling services in general.

The Ettamogah Pub Mob

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www.ettamogah.com



"These funny jokers reckon th' only way they can say they've had a drink on the house is to buy their own and drink on the roof!"

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

Forgiveness Sets Us Free

We were on the viewing platform high up on the Cape Bryon Bay Lighthouse located at the most easterly point of Australia enjoying the stunning view when we were joined by a bunch of young adults who also climbed the long flight of stairs to the viewing platform.

One of this group was a young woman who approached me to take a photo of her and her friend. I did so and in conversation that followed I discovered she was from Holland. Her name was Trish and after some further conversation I asked, "Have you heard of Corrie ten Boom?"

She had, and we talked further about Corrie, a wonderful Dutch heroine who among many achievements in life involved risking her life many times to save others.

Corrie ten Boom, a Dutch watchmaker, was arrested by Hitler's Nazi forces along with her sister Betsie for their role in hiding and protecting Jewish people from the Nazi forces occupying Holland in the Second World War.

Corrie and Betsie were sent to Ravensbrück concentration camps where they experienced unimaginable cruelty and starvation, causing the death of Betsie. After Corrie's release at the end of the Second World War she

became an author and inspirational speaker sharing with thousands of people around the world.

Suffering

On one occasion Corrie encountered a former Ravensbrück guard after a speaking engagement in Germany, where she was speaking about God's forgiveness. The guard, now a Christian, asked for her forgiveness for his cruel acts. Corrie struggled to offer forgiveness as she remembered the horrific suffering he caused her sister Betsie.

"I stood there with coldness clutching my heart. But forgiveness is not an emotion – I knew that too. Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart. 'Jesus, help me!' I prayed silently and so woodenly, mechanically, I thrust my hand into the one stretched out to me, and as I did, an incredible thing took place. The current started in my shoulder, raced down my arm, sprang into our joined hands and then this healing warmth seemed to



• Bruce Stewart

flood my whole being, bringing tears to my eyes. 'I forgive you, brother!' I cried. 'With all my heart!' An incredible reconciliation took place that day!

Another Amazing Act

Another amazing act of forgiveness took place on the world stage a few weeks ago. Erika Kirk shared with the 90,000 people attending the memorial service of her assassinated husband Charlie Kirk some words which stunned the world, "On the cross, Our Saviour said, 'Father, forgive



• It was at the Cape Bryon Lighthouse that I, like others around me, was taking photos of the magnificent views at Australia's most easterly point.

them, for they not know what they do',” Erika went on to say about the murderer of her husband, “That young man, I forgive him.”

That statement was met with 45 seconds of applause from the huge crowd with Erika explaining she forgave because, “It was what Christ did and is what Charlie would do. The answer to hate is not hate. The answer we know from the gospel is love and always love. Love for our enemies, and love for those who persecute us.”

Reports have come in of many thousands of people around the world becoming followers of Jesus because of the impact of this story of forgiveness.

Forgiveness is often a difficult thing to offer to people around us but the rewards are life changing and it makes this world a much better place to live in. Unforgiveness leads to bitterness and resentment. Forgiveness sets us free. Two thousand years ago Jesus said: “If you hold to My teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31,32). Jesus is saying that in committing ourselves to following and obeying Him we can be set free and live life to the full. There is no better way to live.

Bruce Stewart.

Victoria's Disability Sector Left in Limbo

Victoria's disability sector has once again been thrown into confusion as the State Government backflips on plans to merge the state's disability watchdogs into a larger Social Services Regulator, a move strongly opposed by disability groups and the Disability Royal Commission.

Minister for Disability, Lizzie Blandthorn, embarrassingly withdrew her bill from Parliament after coming under fire from almost 20 disability organisations, but then, only hours later doubled down, saying the merger would still go ahead.

The Nationals' Member for Mildura, Jade Benham, said the government's constant backflips were leaving families and disability providers across the Mildura electorate frustrated and worried about the future.

“Our providers and families deserve support, not missed messaging and confusion. Labor's mishandling of the disability sector is leaving people who rely on disability services feeling ignored and let down,” Ms Benham said.

“Disability groups across the state have been very clear. They want a stand-alone disability complaints service, not a bigger, more cumbersome regulator that also handles housing, mental health and children's services.

“Minister Blandthorn believes she knows better than a



• Jade Benham.

Royal Commission. This level of hubris is simply astounding.”

Adding insult to injury, disability groups were not properly consulted in these decisions.

“The Minister's own slogan is 'nothing about us without us'. But once again Labor is doing exactly the opposite,” Ms Benham said.

“I encourage all local service providers, carers, and families across the Mildura electorate who have questions or concerns to contact my office. I will be more than happy to sit down with you and offer any assistance I can.”



Erika Kirk at the Memorial service of her husband, Charlie Kirk. Sept 21st 2025

Erika Kirk said at her husband's memorial service...
“On the cross, Our Saviour said, 'Father, forgive them, for they not know what they do,'” Erika went on to say about the killer of her husband...
“That young man, I forgive him”.

That statement was met with 45 seconds of applause with Erika saying she would forgive because - “It was what Christ did and is what Charlie would do. The answer to hate is not hate. The answer we know from the gospel is love and always love. Love for our enemies, and love for those who persecute us”.

• An amazing act of forgiveness took place on the world stage a few weeks ago. Erika Kirk shared with the 90,000 people attending the memorial service of her assassinated husband Charlie Kirk some words which stunned the world, “On the cross, Our Saviour said, 'Father, forgive them, for they not know what they do',” Erika went on to say about the murderer of her husband, “That young man, I forgive him”.



• A young woman beside me noticing my camera, asked me if I would mind taking a photograph, using her camera, of her and her friend. I was happy to oblige. We engaged in conversation. I soon discovered that her name was Trish (third from right) and she was with a group of young men and women serving locally with YWAM (Youth with a Mission). I also discovered that Trish came from Holland. I asked her, “Have you heard of Corrie ten Boon?”

The Buloke Times

Est. 1875

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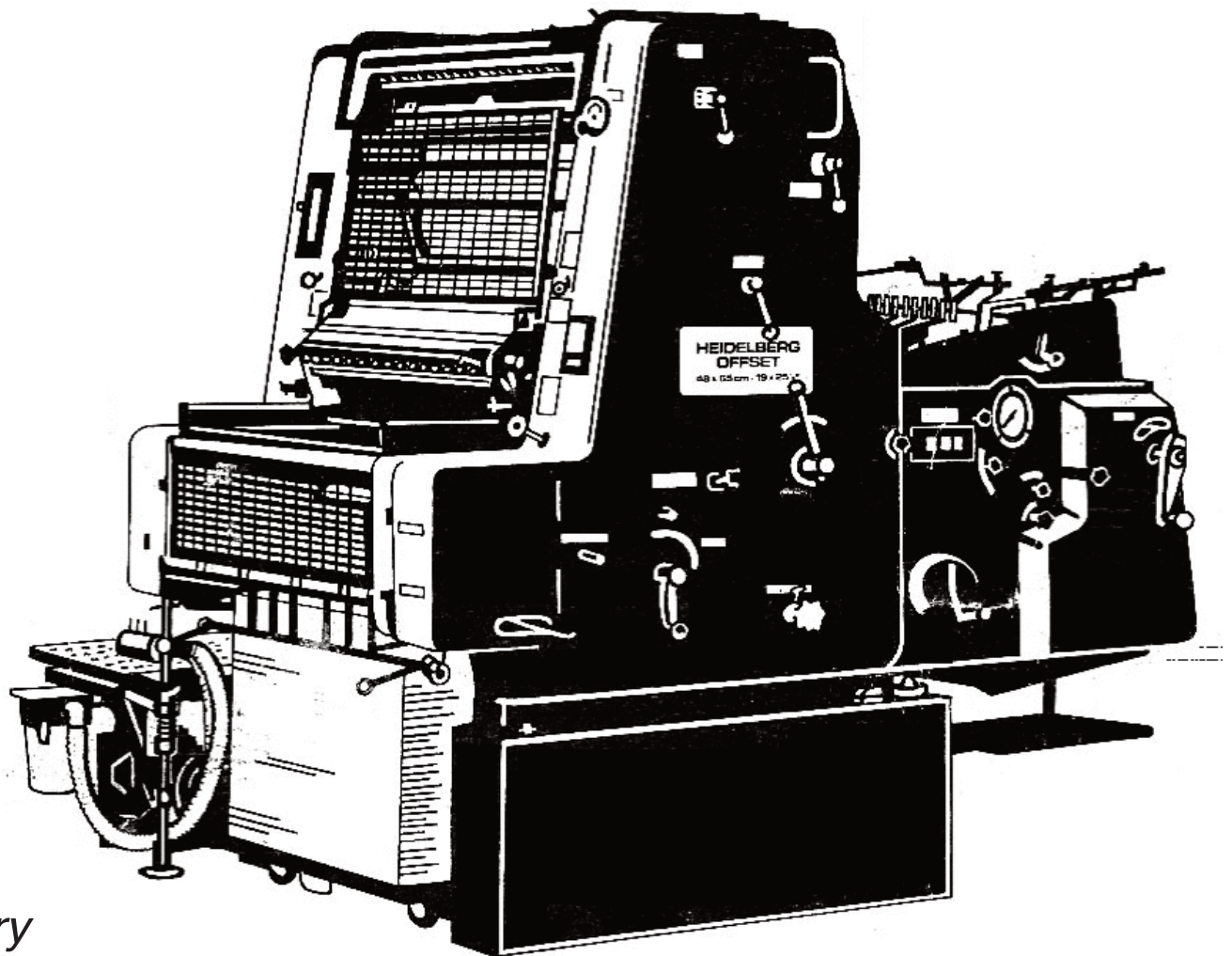
Photos not published may also be available.

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Donald Team Prepares for Taikwon-Do Titles

Four students from the Donald branch of Buloke Taikwon-Do, will be heading to Newcastle, NSW, to take part in the 2025 United ITF National Championships on Saturday, November 1.

The event will be held at Medowie Community Hall, with participants from across the country expected to attend.

Representing Donald this year are: Lisa Woods, Joshua Woods, Cameron Jones, Rubin Jane-Higgins.

All four are first-time competitors, and aside from their official event t-shirts, have self-funded their participation.

Instructor Phill Zdybel shared his thoughts:

“Will they do well? Let’s hope so. But sometimes, it’s not about the bling — it’s about what they bring back to the group as a whole.”

The Championships are open to all ITF and ITF-style

schools, with divisions for all ages and ranks. Events will include: Individual Sparring, Individual Patterns, Team Sparring, Team Patterns, Team Self-Defence Demonstration, Power Breaking, Special Techniques.

The United ITF National Championships is an annual event hosted by United ITF Taekwon-Do Australia Inc., bringing together practitioners from around the country to compete, connect, and test their skills in a spirit of discipline and camaraderie.

We wish Lisa, Joshua, Cameron, and Rubin the very best for their first Nationals — may it be a rewarding experience, both on and off the mats.



• Cameron Jones.



• Rubin Jane-Higgins.



• Lisa Woods and son Joshua.



North-Central Tennis Begins Under Lights

The North Central Tennis Association’s tennis season for 2025 - 2026 will commence tonight when Avon travel to Charlton to play under lights.

The Avon team for this week is:

Men: Derek Hollis, Dawson Hollis, Jesse Higgins, Joe Sheridan, Richard Reilly, Braxton Hollis, Paul Sheridan, Stuart Potter (c), Myles Hollis.

Women: Cherie Reilly, Meaghan King.

This week Donald’s other team, Richardson has the bye. Donald’s players have been allocated for the season to one

of the two entered teams listed on this page.

Could players heading to Charlton tonight please meet at the Post Office by 5.30 p.m.. Play begins at 6.15 p.m..

Richardson		Avon	
Men	Women	Men	Women
Derek Hollis Dawson Hollis Braxton Hollis Dougal McAllister Joe Melino Josh Talty Myles Hollis Kalon Green Andrew Falla	Jasmine Hollis © Annabel Melino Sarah McDonald Maddie Grant Katie Gillahan Emma Green Alison Duynhoven Carmel Lowry	Richard Reilly Joe Sheridan Mark Mortlock Jesse Higgins Samuel Mortlock Jack Reilly Stuart Potter © Max Reilly	Macie Mortlock Jess Nunn Laila Reilly Cherie Reilly Meaghan King Lainey Mortlock Jenny Mortlock Anna Brennan

Donald Bowls

Boort visits Donald for the first midweek pennant round.

W. Hegarty’s team B. Subprom, K. Wyllie and B. Hollis 27-12 on 19th end, Boort dug deep coming back to lose 26-29 to Donald.

Lindy Morgan and team were 7 up at lunch break, failing to keep that lead won 20-19.

B. Milne, Acky Adamson, G. Wood, and M. Quick 2 up on the 13th end, succumbed to pressure from W. Keenan’s crew to go down 31-18.

Enjoyment & Employment — Have Both, Shop in Your Own Town!

Cricket Restructure

Local cricket will take on a new look this season, with several clubs on the move.

Wimmera Mallee will now consist of six clubs, each entering one side filling one grade. This will consist of Charlton, Watchem Panthers, Southern Mallee Giants, Birchip, Marnoo and St Arnaud. The starting date will be Saturday, October 25, with seven rounds to be played prior to Christmas.

Donald-Jeffcott and St. Mary’s (Warracknabeal), formerly of the Wimmera Mallee Cricket Association,

have joined the Horsham Cricket Association. Three other clubs from the now defunct Grampians Cricket Association have also joined Horsham, being Halls Gap, Rhmney-Moyston and Swifts-Great Western.

Horsham Cricket Association consists of three grades (“A”, “B” and “C”), with Donald-Jeffcott and St. Mary’s entering sides in both “A” and “B”.

Birchip Bowls Teams

Birchip (Northern Valley) v. Cohuna at Birchip, October 11, at 1.30 p.m..

Birchip (Tyrrell) v. Quambatook at Quambatook, October 11, at 1 p.m..

Division 1

A. Louttit, A. Lee, S. Wight, D. Ryan (s)

M. Spicer, R. Bragg, O. Reid, R. Haddrick (s)

M. Bowen, M. Hogan, T. Doran, W. Clark (s)

Emergency: G. Martin.
Meet at bowling club at 12.45 p.m. for a 1.30 start. Afternoon tea please.

Division 1

N. Hogan, G. Trollope, D. Barker, T. Gravestocks (s)
K. Donnellon, G. Martin, T. Grogan, P. Gould (s)
K. Hagley, L. Scott, B. Hogan, J. Blainey (s)

Division 2

G. Hogan, R. Cooper, P. Hogan R. Ince (s)
E. Biender, P. Bragg, R. Barr, G. Smith (s)
Meet at bowling club 11.30 a.m.



• One of the most important outcomes in a game of bowls is who has got the shot bowl. Donald Golf's Marilyn Frank is measuring to who has the shot, watched by St. Arnaud's Sandra McIntyre.

Pennant Bowls Resumes

• Continued from page 16.
Meryllyn Frank, Shane O'Shea (s) 18.

Andrea Tyler, Diane Ostarcevic, Marie Hufer, Phil McRae (s) 31 d. Debbie Adams, Sue Donnellon, Brenda Dixon, Peter Hibberd (s) 11.
Anne McNally, Margaret McRae, Paul Micallef, Lloyd Goddard (s) 16 lost to Shirley Evans, Luke Kelly, Robert Reseigh, Geoff Rigby (s) 32.

Charlton 81-12 d. Wycheproof 58-0.
Richard Porter, Jenni McGrath, Dale McCallum, Lynne Southwell (s) 27 d. Lynette Nicholls, Vince Grant, Alan Jones, Matt Nicholls (s) 20.

Gary Bateson, Wendy Laffin, Mark Hemley, Ken North

(s) 29 d. Carol Jones, Des Nicholls, Jeannie Grylls, Jono Grylls (s) 18.

Eily Rosewall, Jeff Cox, Cherylene Brien, Kevin Willey (s) 25 d. Andrea Coatsworth, Shirley McKenna, Lorraine Milburn, Dale Groves (s) 20.

Donald 67-4 lost to Boort 76-8.
Margaret Quick, Joan Wood, Kelvin Adamson, Beryl Milne (s) 18 lost to Sarah Polack, Gillian Tweddle, Joan Earl, Wayne Keenan (s) 31.

Bo Subprom, Kay Wyllie, Beth Hollis, Hunter Wingfield (s) 29 d. Glenda Charles, Tania Noles, Dorothy Gibson, John Gibson (s) 26.

Deb Knight, Marion McEwen, Alison McEwen, Lindy Morgan (s) 20 d. Lynn Carrall, Yvonne Cashen, Phyl Baker, Thelma Moresi (s) 19.

Wedderburn 94-12 d. St. Arnaud Country Club 55-0.
Lynette Don, Sandra Standfield, Joan Murnane, Amy Roberts (s) 29 d. Leigh Abbott, Faye Rodger, Rhonda Pole, Bill Rodger (s) 24.

Robina Little, John Grant, Judy Matthews, Ruth Hall (s) 29 d. Yvonne Templar, Greg Fullarton, Lyn Moulday, Amanda Marland (s) 19.

Helen Stephenson, Lance Standfield, Sandra Steel, Alan Jackson (s) 36 d. Dianne Fullarton, Suzanne Wright, Colleen Bond, Des Moulday (s) 12.

Local Fishing Clubs Reel in Funding Grants

The State Government is giving local fishing clubs and associations the chance to reel in funding grants to help improve their facilities and attract new members.

Minister for Outdoor Recreation Steve Dimopoulos has announced applications opened on Wednesday, October 8, for the 2025/26 round of the Stronger Fishing Clubs Grant Program – encouraging clubs to apply for their share in up to \$600,000.

The funding can be used in a variety of ways, from clubroom and facility improvements to providing fishing tuition for multicultural groups, women and First Nations people, as well as open days, training, events and running guest speaker nights to share skills and attract new members.

In the most recent round, 32 clubs and associations

netted grants of up to \$10,000, made possible through the \$96 million Go Fishing and Boating Victoria plan.

Previous Recipients

Previous recipients include the Nathalia Angling Club, which scored a grant of \$10,000 to lay down a new floor at their clubrooms and make the facility more accessible by installing a ramp.

At Port Albert, the local fishing club upgraded its kitchen facilities to cater to new and existing members at special events.

In south-west Victoria, the Lake Purrumbete Angling Club put \$10,000 toward a new air conditioner and barbecue facilities to make

the rooms more comfortable and accessible over the warmer months.

Wonthaggi Angling Club made use of a grant to renovate the external walls of its clubrooms to modernise the facility, and the Geelong and District Angling Club was able to install a new roof.

This grant program is just one of the ways the Labor Government provides a supportive environment for newcomers to fish and embrace it as a hobby.

Applications for the grants are open until Sunday, November 30.

To learn more and to apply, visit vfa.vic.gov.au/stronger-fishingclubs

CFA Volunteers Group Unveils New Mascot:

“Buster” to Head the Fence Sign Campaign

Introducing Buster the Kookaburra – The New Feathered Face of the Fight to Scrap the Emergency Services and Volunteers Levy.

There's a new bird on the block – and he's not here to laugh, he's here to fight for fairness.

The CFA Volunteers Group Inc. is proud to introduce Buster the Kookaburra, the bold, cheeky, and unmistakably Aussie mascot of our new Fence Sign campaign. You'll be seeing Buster popping up on fences, gates, and front paddocks across Victoria – squawking out one very clear message: “Scrap the Emergency Services and Volunteers tax – it's time for a fair go!”

With his distinctive beak and no-nonsense attitude, Buster is more than just a pretty face. He's the visual voice of thousands of volunteers and supporters who believe that the Emergency Services Levy – is unfair, unbalanced, and needs to go.

“Buster cuts through the noise with a laugh and a message,” said a spokesperson for CFA Volunteers Group Inc. “He's a reminder that fire safety is a community responsibility – but funding it through an unjust property levy isn't.”

The Campaign That's Taking Flight

The Fence Sign campaign is designed to boost community awareness and grow support

for our long-running push to Scrap The Tax. With summer approaching and bushfire risk on the rise, there's never been a better time to back the volunteers who put their lives on the line – and to make sure Victoria's fire funding model is fair to all.

We're calling on property owners across the state to give Buster a home – right out front where he can't be missed.

Signs will be available from participating local CFA Brigades for \$30 per sign.



North-Central Pennant Bowls

This Week's Selected Club Teams

DIVISION ONE

Round 1, Saturday, October 11

Charlton v. Wedderburn
CHARLTON

R. Porter, D. Gretgrix, M. O'Brien, W. Southwell (s).
M. Hamley, D. Finlay, D. McCallum, K. North (s).
J. Cox, P. Watts, L. Southwell, K. Willey (s).
All teams are on duty.

WEDDERBURN
Team not available

Wycheproof v. St Arnaud
WYCHEPROOF

P. Coles, P. Connolly, J. McKay, Jon Grylls (s).
M. Nicholls, N. Coles, P. Wellington, D. Groves (s).
D. Nicholls, A. Coatsworth, E. Rayes, A. Mead (s).
Emerg: Jeannie Grylls, L. Nicholls, Andrea Coatsworth, S. Prater.

ST ARNAUD

D. Shepherd, C. Marchment, P. McRae, A. Dyke (s).
T. Amos, P. Duncan, G. Hancock, S. Zsigmond (s).
T. Marland, M. Wood, A. Welsh, T. McSwain (s).

Donald Golf v. Donald
DONALD GOLF d. DONALD

St. Arnaud Country Club v. Boort
ST. ARNAUD COUNTRY CLUB

S. Atkinson, P. Marland, L. Lynch, W. Rodger (s).
F. Rodger, D. Mullins, J. Nevill, J. Abbott (s).
D. Moulday, R. Pole, M. Esmore, T. McDonald (s).

BOORT

S. Rollinson, G. Hudson, W. Keenan, K. Depiazza (s).
G. Carrall, A. Matley, J. Gibson, K. Ritchie (s).
K. Birt, D. Gibson, C. Newsome, S. Morris (s).

DIVISION TWO

Round 1, Saturday, October 11

Charlton v. Wedderburn
CHARLTON

J. McGrath, B. Bailey, B. Laffin, C. Brien (s).
B. Chester, Z. Irwin, G. Barnard, G. Bateson (s).
R. Gahan, E. Rosewall, S. Harper, J. Headon (s).
All teams are on duty.

WEDDERBURN
Team not available

Wycheproof v. St Arnaud
WYCHEPROOF

R. Grylls, J. McLean, G. Coatsworth, A. Jones (s).
S. Wellington, P. Bagley, S. Barratt, G. Allan (s).
J. Ritchie, V. Grant, L. Milburn, D. Denney (s).
Emerg: Jeannie Grylls, L. Nicholls, Andrea Coatsworth, S. Prater.

ST ARNAUD

J. Barron, C. Coates, W. Rourke, L. Goddard (s).
M. McRae, G. McIntyre, J. Prendegast, L. Goodwin (s).
B. Eccles, C. Cheesman, P. Micallef, K. Dyke (s).

Donald Golf v. Donald
DONALD GOLF d. DONALD

St. Arnaud Country Club v. Boort
ST. ARNAUD COUNTRY CLUB

T. Coloe, A. Bond, N. Robinson, G. Shaw (s).
G. White, D. McAllister, K. Meade, J. Needs (s).
P. Mullins, K. Pole, D. Goode, C. Webb (s).

BOORT

I. Allison, L. Newsome, S. Nelson, G. Smith (s).
L. Cameron, C. Wood, P. Waters, J. Earl (s).
L. Carrall, A. Gould, J. Hampson, Y. Cashen (s).

To call the Fire Brigade Ring

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Harness Racing Honours the Late Gavin Lang

[By Harness Racing Victoria]

The late, great Gavin Lang was elevated to the 12th Legend of Victorian harness racing at Saturday night's Hall of Fame ceremony, capping a night that also saw six inductions and the first great families celebrated.

Gavin was only the sixth participant to be named a Legend, joining greats of the track Gordon Rothacker (2012), George Gath (2014), Vin Knight (2017), Bill McKay (2018), and last year's recipient Ted Demmler.

Gavin, who passed in 2020 after a battle with cancer, was a popular recipient of the honour, which was received by his sister Michelle and her daughter Alex. The pair spoke of his humble nature, which meant it was only after his

passing that they realised how much he was adored in the sport, having produced 6303 victories and won his owners almost \$50 million in stakes across 32,000 starts.

The late Gavin Lang is the son of Dorothy Lang (formerly Hose) of Laen, now Melton, and HRV Hall of Famer, the late Graeme Lang. Graeme and the late Ian McCallum both feature on Watchem's silo art, where they both originated.

Melton Entertainment Park's Legends room was fittingly at

capacity for the annual celebration, when associates Len Baker and Peter Wharton, participants John Caldow and Phonse Hickey, and horses Lennytheshark and Pure Steel were all inducted into the Hall of Fame.

The night's 15th ceremony was also special for the introduction of the Family category, with the Gaths, Rothackers, and Shinns all lauded for their generations of famous harness racing performers.



• The late Gavin Lang was elevated to the 12th Legend of Victorian harness racing at the Hall of Fame awards on Saturday night..



• The late Gavin Lang was a popular recipient of the honour, which was presented by HRV Chairman Bernard Saundry (left) to Gavin's sister Michelle (centre) and her daughter Alex (right).

Pennant Bowls Resumes

Spring has sprung and lawn bowls is back on the calendar for North Central bowlers, round 1 of the 2025-'26 midweek pennant on Tuesday, kicking off what promises to be a challenging but enjoyable season of competition, be it midweek or weekend pennant.

Last season's midweek grand finalists, Donald Golf and Wycheproof, found their respective opponents, St. Arnaud and Charlton keen to test themselves against the previous season's benchmarks.

St. Arnaud won two of the three rinks, with maestro Phil McRae in great touch, steering his rink to a convincing victory over Peter Hibberd, while Laurie Goodwin's four-some also enjoying an early win, picking up three shots on the last end against Shane O'Shea's combo to win a tussle that was even throughout, including after the 24th. end.

Geoff Rigby was Golf's only winner, teaming with club recruit Luke Kelly, club president Robert Reseigh and the indefatigable Shirley Evans to account for the Lloyd Goddard four.

St. Arnaud eventually emerged victorious by 7 shots

overall, 68 shots to 61.

Runner-up in 2024-'25, Wycheproof, also suffered a loss in its first outing in the new season, going down to a resurgent Charlton by 23 shots, at Charlton.

Skippers Lynne Southwell, Ken North and Kevin Willey all led their charges to victory over Matt Nicholls, Jono Grylls and Dale Groves respectively, to give their club a flying start to the new season, and picking up all 12 points in the process.

Donald lost narrowly to the visiting Boort despite winning two of the three rinks.

Hunter Wingfield guided his troops to a three-shot win over John Gibson, and Lindy Morgan scored a meritorious 1 shot victory over Thelma Moresi's crew, but the combined margins were not enough to offset Beryl Milne's loss by 13 shots to

Wayne Keenan, the overall points being Boort 76 to Donald's 67.

Wedderburn started its season with a dominant performance against the visiting St. Arnaud Country Club, claiming wins on all rinks by an impressive margin of 39 shots, to bank all 12 points.

Amy Roberts accounted for Bill Rodger by 5 shots, in the closest contest, while Ruth Hall finished 10 shots to the better of Amanda Marland. In a dismal day for Des Moulday, Alan Jackson's rink emerged victorious by 24 shots.

Details of Round 1:
St. Arnaud 68-10 d.
Donald Golf 61-2.

Heather Stevenson, Margaret McIntyre, Sandra McIntyre, Laurie Goodwin (s) 21 d. Corozon Stopps, Joyce Hollis,
• Continued on page 15.

MIDWEEK PENNANT BOWLS

Positions of Teams, after round 5

	P	W	L	D	Bye	F	A	SD	%	Pts
Wedderburn	1	1	0	0	0	94	55	39	171	12
Charlton	1	1	0	0	0	81	58	23	140	12
St. Arnaud	1	1	0	0	0	68	61	7	111	10
Boort	1	1	0	0	0	76	67	9	113	8
Donald	1	0	1	0	0	67	76	-9	88	4
Donald Golf	1	0	1	0	0	61	68	-7	90	2
Wycheproof	1	0	1	0	0	58	81	-23	72	0
St. Arnaud Country Club	1	0	1	0	0	55	94	-39	58	0



• Donald Golf Skip Geoff Rigby is about to deliver his bowl. Watching on is opposition skipper Lloyd Goddard. Geoff's team was the only winning team on the day for Donald Golf.



• St. Arnaud's Paul Micallef is set to deliver his bowl, with Robert Reseigh watching intently. In the background Corazon Stopps watching her delivery.