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The Buloke Times

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BIRCHIP

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Friday, October 17, 2025

PRICE (inc. G.S.T.) \$2

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



• Back Row: Connely Ryan (trainer), Noah Dean, Darcey Poyner, Kobe Hamilton, Oliver Cook, Kyan Wallace, Jacinta Connelly (significant person). Second Row: Carol Reid (trainer), Bill Lee (significant person), Georgia Hogan, Bayley Kemp, Zali Angel, Lana Angel, Jack Knights, Elise Cox, Tim McClelland (School Council president), Julie McClelland. Front Row: Max Field, Bambi Navarro, Kirah Mitchell, Ayana Joseph, Zara Lowry, Marcus Atkinson. Sitting: Beau Haslam, Eva Coffey, Gracie Ferrier.

Elegant Evening for Birchip Students

An enchanting sense of celebration filled the Birchip Public Hall on Friday, October 10, as Year 10 and 11 students from Birchip P-12 School were presented to their family and friends at this year's Presentation Ball.

Under the theme "The Enchanted Garden," the venue was transformed into a glowing wonderland of greenery,

fairy lights, tulle and floral touches that beautifully set the scene for an elegant evening.

With a smaller group of Year 11 students this year, it was decided to combine the Year 10 and 11 students and

move the date to the start of Term 4, a compromise that worked perfectly for both year levels.

The combined set trained under the professional guidance of Carol Reid and Connely Ryan, who supported

the students with patience and encouragement throughout their many training sessions.

The presentation set included Zali Angel, Eva Coffey, Elise Cox, Georgia Hogan, Kirah Mitchell, Bambi Navarro and Kyan

Wallace from Year 11, and Lana Angel, Marcus Atkinson, Ollie Cook, Noah Dean, Gracie Ferrier, Max Field, Kobe Hamilton, Beau Haslam, Ayana Joseph, Bayley Kemp, Jack Knights, Zara

• Continued on page 2.

"It's OK to Say No"

A powerful and earnest community conversation unfolded in Wycheproof on Saturday night when Shanna Whan, founder of the national charity Sober in the Country and 2022 Australian Local Hero, shared her story and encouraged rural Australians to rethink how they support mates who choose not to drink alcohol.

The Sober in the Country movement is not about prohibition. It is about acknowledging that "It's OK to say no" and challenging the deep-rooted drinking culture in rural Australia and reducing the stigma around addiction.

"A good mate does not pressure others to drink," Shanna said. "You're not a good mate if you encourage others with phrases like, 'just

have one more', 'one more won't kill you'. A real mate supports someone's choice to stay sober, because for some, one drink could kill them."

Statistics show that rural Australians are 1.4 times more likely to drink alcohol at levels that pose a lifetime risk of harm, compared with people in major cities. The

• Continued on page 2.



• Committee members of Wycheproof Community Resource Centre (left to right), Sandra Ryan and Ronda Allan, guest speaker Shanna Whan, manager Marnie Durie, and chairperson Anne Durie.

Pam Cupper, OAM, to Speak at Donald

The Lions Club meeting on October 23 will feature a talk by author Pam Cupper. Pam is a retired teacher with a passion for military history.

After teaching at Hopetoun High School for three years, she and husband Phil Taylor went to London in 1979. During this time they explored on cycling tours some of the World War 1 battlefields.

Following a visit to Turkey, Pam and Phil wrote “Gallipoli: A Battlefield Guide”, which was one of the first guidebooks written on the subject.

In 1983 Pam resumed her teaching career at Horsham High School before returning to Hopetoun where she finished her career as Assistant Principal.

She has led tours to Gallipoli and the Western Front and has always tried to relate these events to the Wimmera communities from which the soldiers came. In the 2021 Queen’s Birthday Honours she became a Member of the Order of Australia (O.A.M.) in recognition of her service to education and the preservation of military history.

The Lions meeting will start at 7 p.m. and Pam will speak sometime after 8 o’clock. Interested members of the public are welcome to join in at the Mt Jeffcott Hotel for dinner (order off the board), or just for the speaker.

Elegant Evening for Birchip Students

• Continued from page 1.

Lowry and Darcey Poyner from Year 10.

Proud parents, grandparents, siblings and supporters watched as the students were presented with grace and confidence to the official party, consisting of Tim and Julie McClland (School Council President and wife) and Bill Lee and Jacinta Connelly, who were chosen by the group for the special role they have played in their lives.

Stephanie Coffey guided the evening seamlessly as Master of Ceremonies, while School Captains Imogen Boyle and Les Cooper provided the formal introductions of each student, sharing their aspirations and role models.

The students performed a selection of beautifully rehearsed dances including the “Progressive Jive” to Gwen Stefani’s “Sweet Escape”, “Pride of Erin” to Michelle

Williams’s “Tightrope”, and the “Evening Three Step” to Sophie Ellis-Bextor’s “Murder on the Dance Floor”. The “Oxford Waltz” to Bruno Mars and Lady Gaga’s “Die With a Smile” and the themed group dance “All Good” drew warm applause from an appreciative audience, with Ollie Cook’s lift of Zara Lowry a highlight of the evening.

The formal dancing concluded with the presentees inviting two special people of their choice to join them for the “Pride of Erin”, danced to “100 Miles and I’ll Be There”.

The success of the evening reflected months of commitment from students and organisers alike.

On behalf of the set, Eva Coffey thanked presentation trainers, Mrs Connelly Ryan and Mrs Carol Reid, for their time and guidance in preparing them for the presentation ball. Ball co-ordinators Mrs Connelly Ryan and Mrs Brooke

Letter to the Editor



National Carer’s Week

(The Editor, “The Times”) Dear Editor.— This week marks National Carers Week (12–18 October 2025), a time to stop and recognise the selfless work of the more than 750,000 unpaid carers across Victoria. These are the people who support family, friends, and loved ones living with disability, health challenges, mental illness, or age-related conditions.

Many of us know what that caring role looks like. In my own family, my grandmother lived with us for many years. I saw firsthand the love, patience and time that goes into caring for someone you love. It’s deeply rewarding, but it can also be tough – physically, emotionally, and some-

times financially.

Too often, carers say they feel worn out, lonely and unrecognised. That’s why National Carers Week is so important; it’s our chance to say thank you and to remind carers that we see them, and we value what they do.

This year, Carers Victoria is encouraging everyone to “Care for a Carer”. Check in on someone you know who’s in a caring role, offer a hand, or just let them know they’re not alone. Even the smallest act of kindness can mean the world.

Across Victoria, local events, social media campaigns, and initiatives like the “Light-Up Victoria” campaign are shining a light on the incredible work carers do. Across the region, I encourage everyone to get involved, show your support, and remind our carers that they are seen and appreciated.

We’re fortunate within the Mildura electorate to have local carer support groups who are always ready to listen and lend a hand. Please contact my office if you would like information on a carer support group in your area.

To find out more or get involved, visit www.carersvictoria.org.au.

Warm regards,
Jade Benham, MP.



Police Beat

Buloke

Burglary: Between October 6 and 8, it appears offenders have attended a facility on the Charlton-St Arnaud Road, Charlton, and forced entry to a building. A Samsung tablet and a blue mountain bike have been reported stolen from the address.

Gannawarra

Burglary: Between 5.30 p.m. on Friday the 10th of October and 10.30 a.m. the following day, it appears offenders have attended a property on Tuck Road, Kerang. It is reported that at this location a Stihl chainsaw has been stolen from a vehicle.

Damage: Between October 6 and 10, it is reported that offenders have attended a facility on Wyndham Street, Kerang, and damaged machinery in what appears to be an attempt at stealing fuel.

Burglary: Between October 3 and 6, it is reported that offenders attended a business in Punt Road, Koondrook. It appears offenders have forced entry to a shed and stolen a Stihl 661 chainsaw. A jacket with the business logo was also reported stolen.

“It’s OK to Say No”

• Continued from page 1.

impact on families, mental health and local emergency services can be profound, yet conversations like this are helping to shift attitudes, one community at a time.

Focus

Shanna said, “We’re taking the focus off the problem and instead focusing on the solution, so we can get to work behind the scenes supporting those who suddenly feel less ashamed to acknowledge they’re not doing so great.”

Drawing on her lived experience, Shanna spoke openly about her unhealthy relationship with alcohol, which began at aged 18.

“The more I drank, the funnier I got, and the funnier I got, the more popular I became, so I drank more,” she said, “and gradually it turned into a traumatic and life-threatening dependency.”

She added that in the end red wine was her downfall: “I thought drinking good red wine from a nice glass made

me look sophisticated, and not like an alcoholic.”

But addiction does not discriminate. It can look like a local sporting hero, a farmer, a mum unwinding on the couch after bedtime, or a friend who never says “no” to one more.

Sober in the Country rejects stigmatizing labels and emphasises that people don’t need to be defined as “an alcoholic.” Instead, Shanna encouraged communities to talk about people with alcohol addiction in a respectful and nonjudgmental way.

Inclusive Language

The use of inclusive language that removes shame and encourages compassion, helps to improve understanding and connection and ensures better outcomes for individuals and rural communities.

Shanna suggested that even small, practical changes can make a big difference. Simple things such as offering sophisticated non-alcoholic alternatives or two ticket prices at all-inclusive functions, one price for those drinking alcohol and another for non-alco-

hol drinkers can make community gatherings more welcoming and inclusive for everyone.

Resource Centre

This entertaining and informative event was hosted by the Wycheproof Community Resource Centre, led by manager Marnie Durie, as part of its Local Drug Action Team (LDAT) project funded by the Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF) and catered for by Tuscan on Calder.

Operating across Birchip, Wycheproof and Sea Lake, the LDAT initiative focuses on prevention, inclusion and building community awareness around reducing harm from the misuse of alcohol and other drugs in rural settings.

Marnie said, “It was a heartfelt address from Shanna that highlighted that we all have a role to play in supporting our mates who choose not to drink, and by hosting inclusive, respectful events, small towns like ours can lead real cultural change and help create safer, healthier and more connected communities.”

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“Is there something you are trying to tell me ?!”

All Aboard for Spectacular Steamrail Visit:



• A previous Steamrail Victoria visit to Wycheproof drew strong interest from rail enthusiasts, with crowds gathering along Broadway to capture the memorable moment. – Photo Simon Yeo.

Wycheproof Welcomes Steam Weekender

There’s a real buzz building in Wycheproof ahead of this weekend’s Steam Weekender Welcome, as a Heritage Sleeper Train makes its way into the heart of the Mallee.

In an exciting tourism boost for the Buloke region, Steamrail Victoria will operate an exclusive overnight journey behind the magnificent Steam Locomotive R711, bound for Wycheproof on October 18-19. This marks the locomotive’s first-ever visit to the town – famous for its unique railway design where the line runs down the centre of Broadway, the main street. The active railway line carries both freight and the occasional heritage passenger train.

The visit promises a one-of-a-kind experience for passengers and spectators alike, featuring scenic trips to the nearby town of Charlton and opportunities for visitors to explore Wycheproof’s welcoming local businesses, heritage landmarks, and country hospitality.

Beyond the sheer spectacle of the steam engine, the event is expected to deliver a positive tourism and economic boost to the Buloke Shire — generating valuable media exposure and encouraging increased visitor spend.

Steamrail Victoria’s dedication to preserving Australia’s rich rail heritage continues to inspire new audiences, and this weekend’s event is set to be one for the history books — celebrating both nostalgia and the enduring charm of rail travel in regional Victoria.

Summary extract below courtesy of www.steamrail.com.au

Day 1: Saturday, October 18, 2025

After picking up at Newport and Sunshine Stations, the train will gather speed through the Western Suburbs and head out across the grasslands towards Geelong. After skirting Port Phillip Bay on

the edge of the city of Geelong, the R class steam locomotive (with diesel assistance) will work hard to lift the heavy sleeper train through the hills of the Golden Plains, travelling along the original mainline between Ballarat and Geelong from 1862.

Following a pick up stop at Ballarat, the train will venture north through the Goldfields to Maryborough, the station with a town attached. Here there will be a short stop to wander into town and have lunch while the locomotive takes on water. The train will take a spirited run through Dunolly and into the rolling hills of the Mallee, before arriving at Wycheproof, 344 kilometres from Melbourne by rail.

Passengers will disembark the train at leisure for dinner at one of the local pubs before settling into accommodation at the Mount Wycheproof Motor Inn.

Day 2: Sunday, October 19, 2025

Time is provided to take a morning walk through town and to enjoy a complimentary buffet style breakfast at the Royal Mail Hotel. Many will undoubtedly enjoy views of R711 steaming up and down Broadway before rejoining the train in style; all passengers will board the train in the middle of the main street. A unique sight to see. Departure for Melbourne will be mid-morning.

Once the train is under way, a complimentary boxed lunch will be provided on-board, courtesy of Bakery on Broadway. After another brief stop at Maryborough, and all is scheduled to arrive back into Ballarat.

An express run back to Melbourne will be made via “the straight” – via Bacchus

Marsh – descending the famous 1 in 48 Ingliston Bank, providing spectacular views back towards Melbourne and across the Werribee Gorge State Park before passing over the iconic 357-metre Melton Viaduct, built in 1885 to traverse the Werribee River. The train will arrive back at Sunshine and Newport Stations after an exciting steam hauled weekend away.

A Vintage Train Opportunity for Locals

Steamrail Victoria invites all to a relaxing steam hauled journey from Charlton to Wycheproof on Saturday, October 18, or Wycheproof to Charlton on Sunday, October 19, 2025. Bus transfers from and to Wycheproof are included.

Enjoy a short and scenic steam train ride between Charlton and Wycheproof.

Steam over the Avoca River, past Mount Deboobetic and across the plains. Keep an eye out for the forgotten stations of Teddywaddy, Glenloth and Fairview – and wave to the locals and photographers as one travels in style.

Ride onboard “The Vintage Train”, fully restored by Steamrail as an important part of Victoria’s rail heritage. Such steam locomotives are coal or oil fired and date from 1889 to 1952, while the carriages range from as early as 1906. The train features beautiful timber work and pressed-tin ceilings, walk-through corridors, comfortable compartment style seating, a licensed bar and kiosk, and toilets with washrooms. All rail seating is reserved.

Timetable for Locals: Saturday, October 18

Complimentary bus service will depart Wycheproof Station 4:30 p.m. (Camp

Street Side at Grain Silo), arriving at Charlton Station 5:00 p.m. to meet the Steam Train.

The Steam Train will depart Charlton Station at 5:20 p.m. (Arundell Square side), all passengers should be on the platform at Charlton 15 minutes before departure.

Arriving back into Wycheproof Station Siding (Camp

Street Side at Grain Silo) at 6:00 p.m..

Sunday, October 19

The Steam Train will depart Wycheproof Main Street (outside Post Office) at 10:00 a.m., all passengers should be outside the Post Office 15 minutes before departure.

Arriving into Charlton Station (Arundell Square side) at 10:50 a.m..

A complimentary bus service will depart Charlton Station at 11:00 a.m., arriving back at Wycheproof Post Office at 11:20 a.m..

Contact Details

Steamrail Victoria Inc. 03 9397 1953 (Monday to Friday 9am until 3 p.m.) or email info@steamrail.com.au

Fares: Adult \$45; under 17, \$25.



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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.

Multicultural Festival Sunday, October 26 **FREE Family Fun Day**

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Law Notice

Margaret Bloomfield late of 2171 Traynor's Lagoon Road, Cope Cope, VIC 3480, Home Duties, deceased.

CREDITORS, next of kin, and others having claims in respect of the will of the above named deceased, who died on 6 July 2021 are required by the administrator, Timothy Earl Bloomfield, c/- the under-mentioned solicitor, to send particulars of their claims to him by the 9 January 2026, after which date the administrator may convey or distribute the assets, having regard only to the claims of which he then has notice.

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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

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



INVITATION

President Michael Raynes from Donald Lions Club and Donald R.S.L.



invite you to an evening with Pam Cupper OAM noted World War I Historian and Tour Guide of the WWI Field of Conflict

Where: Mount Jeffcott Hotel

When: Thursday, October 23

Time: 6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m. start

Meals available from the dining room

ALL WELCOME

School children, history buffs, RSL people and interested public.

Further information contact

Graeme Harris 0419 547 597 or Brian Brasier



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Don't forget Your Local Newspaper

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

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

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

Isabelle Sandy
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“Times” Classifieds

DONALD SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

OPEN DAY GAME DAY PLAY DAY

Where: Donald Senior Citizens Centre 4 Hammill St
When: Thursday, October 30 commencing at 11.30 a.m.

Featuring lunch (with a special supplementary course) and afternoon tea. This is a completely FREE event open to all.

Funding provided by the Victorian Seniors Festival
There will also be substantial lucky door prizes to be won as well as prizes for playing Mahjong, 500 and Bridge

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11 a.m. doors open | 11.30 a.m. Light lunch available (incl. Devonshire afternoon tea) \$15 | 12.15 p.m. free sausage sizzle for children.
Displays, exhibits, market stalls, fashion parade, activities and sweets for children.
Transport to and from event available
call Emily on 0488 101 772

142nd CHARLTON SHOW
Saturday, October 18, 2025

Timetable of Events
Estimated times - program subject to change

TIME	EVENT
11.30 a.m.	Miniatures & Shetlands horses
from 1 p.m.	Coffee van Tractor Pull Working dog trials Food vans Sideshow alley: dodgem cars, amusement rides, show bags, market stalls, exhibitors, vehicle displays SES, Fire & Ambulance displays
2 p.m.	Pavilion Opens (closing at 6 p.m.)
from 2 p.m.	CWA serving Afternoon Tea Tasting & sales: Lake Meran Brewery, Timboon Distillery Animal nursery
2.30 p.m.	Bubble Tonic show
3 p.m.	Live Music from Dannielle Simonsen
3.30 p.m.	Official Show Opening followed by Miss/Master Showgirl/Boy judging
4 p.m. & 5 p.m.	Bubble Tonic show
5 p.m.	Grand Parade followed by raffle draw winners announced
& pavilion	Food vans offering a variety of options: Boss Food Truck, The Vale Pizzas, Hot Potatoes, Paella & Margaritas, Roast Meat Rolls, Dumplings, Ice-cream.
5.30 p.m.	Outback Stockman Show
6.30 p.m.	Boot Hurl Competition
8.30 p.m.	Fireworks
(or on dark)	More music from Dannielle

ADMITTANCE
Adults: \$15 Family: \$40
Students: \$5 Aged Pensioners \$10
Under School Age: Free

The Charlton A. & P. Society committee would sincerely like to thank all its sponsors, trophy donors and volunteers for their contribution to the 2025 Charlton Show.

The Buloke Times

Coloured Photographs

Copies of "Times" photos can be purchased from our office/s.

Photos not published may also be available.

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

Church
Notices

UNITING CHURCH
(North Central Living Waters Cluster)

Donald, 10 a.m., "Frontier Services" - Outback Stories
Wycheproof, 10 a.m.
Birchip, 10 a.m.

Contact Number: 5497 1033

Visitors are Welcome to Wedderburn Open Gardens

To celebrate the coming of spring, the Wedderburn Community House is holding an Open Gardens event on Sunday, October 26, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m..

Registration at the Wedderburn Community House, 24 Wilson Street, Wedderburn, where a coffee van will be situated; \$20 admission will include a Devonshire tea.

Six gardens will be open to the public to meander through and admire all that spring has to offer. Using the natural topography and local resources each garden has been created with its own unique style.

From the serene one-acre retreat set among native bushland is the beautiful cottage garden of Taryn and Andrew Roberts, to the amazing charm and tranquillity of Owen Rule and Wendy

Smith's haven surrounded by Peppercorn and Elm trees. Julie Ritchie and Jon Chandler's garden nestled amongst gum trees, indigenous scrub and old diggers holes has a vibrant display of colour and design.

Jude and Rick Raftis have created a native and exotic garden and installed many of Jude's spectacular mosaic creations adding colour and style. Andrew and Vicki Bainbridge's oasis provides flowing stone garden beds filled with a combination of native and exotic plants. A water feature attracts a multitude of wildlife.

While Susan and Graeme Smith have created their piece of paradise full of seasonal colour with a diverse range of evergreen and deciduous trees, with a magnificent orchard.

Gardening in Wedderburn presents its challenges – summer heat, harsh soil, severe frosts and more recently, a growing number of kangaroos and wallabies. However, with a bit of creativity, hard work and resourcefulness, it's surprising what can be achieved.

For further information contact Wedderburn Community House, phone 03 54 943 489 or email: admin@wedderburnch.org.au



• One of Wedderburn's six open gardens.

A Creswick Camp Experience: Students Strike Gold

On Wednesday, September 17, twenty-four excited Grade 3 and 4 students from Birchip P-12 School set off on a journey packed with adventure, discovery, and learning.

Their destination, Creswick and Ballarat, offered the perfect blend of history, science, and culture, as the students explored some of the most fascinating chapters of Australia's past while building new friendships and confidence.

The group stayed at Log Cabin Camp in Creswick, where they challenged themselves through a range of physical and team-building activities. For many of the Grade 3 students, this was their very first school camp, an exciting milestone that encouraged independence and resilience. The Grade 4 students embraced their role as leaders, helping younger peers and modelling co-operation and maturity.

Highlight

A highlight of the trip was the visit to Sovereign Hill, where students stepped back in time to experience the gold rush era. They learned about the lives of miners, the hardships faced by early settlers, and the ingenuity that fuelled the discovery of gold.

One unforgettable moment was the AURA night show, a 3D immersive experience exploring how gold and the Earth were formed.

"After dinner on the second night, we went back to Sovereign Hill to watch the 3D movie about how gold and the Earth were made," said student Hamish.

"It was so cool how it looked like asteroids were flying around the room. I had to pinch myself to know I wasn't dreaming because it looked so real. It made me wonder how diamonds are made."

Panning

The hands-on gold panning was another favourite activity, giving students a chance to test their luck just like the miners of the 1850s.

"When you pan for gold, you must put some gravel and water from the creek and tip all the water out of the pan. Then look for something shiny — it could be gold!" explained student Amelia. "The water was super cold, so everyone was freezing, but it

was still really cool and amazing."

Learning about daily life during the 1800s left a big impression on the group.

"At Sovereign Hill we had a talk about living in the 1800s gold rush era by a man called Benjamin," said Thomas N. "He explained how hard life was back then without all the things we take for granted now. He told us they had chamber pots under their beds for toilets — and in the morning they tipped them out into the street! That was why the sidewalks were so high."

The camp was a wonderful opportunity for students to explore Australian history in an engaging and memorable way, while also developing teamwork, problem-solving, and resilience.

The group returned home to Birchip on Friday, September 19, with plenty of stories, a wealth of new knowledge, and twenty-four tired but happy campers ready for their well-earned holiday break.



• Stella Wheeler, Matilda Hogan, Amelia Baker, Chalie McAuliffe and Sam Ferrier pose with a mannequin from Sovereign Hill.

VFF Welcomes Federal Backdown on Super Tax

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) has welcomed the Federal Government's significant amendments to its proposed superannuation tax, describing the changes as a substantial improvement that will protect thousands of farming families from the worst impacts of the original policy.

VFF president, Brett Hosking, said the announcement represented a common-sense response to the sustained concerns raised by the agricultural sector over nearly two years.

"It's a common-sense outcome for a tax that never should have existed in its original form in the first place," he said.

"So much unnecessary concern and worry could have been avoided if they consulted with the industry before wheeling this out.

Sigh of Relief

"Victorian farmers are breathing a sigh of relief. They faced the very real prospect of being forced to sell their land to pay tax bills on paper gains they had never actually realised.

"The Government's decision to tax only realised earnings, rather than unrealised capital gains, addresses the fundamental flaw in the original

proposal that would have created impossible liquidity pressures for farming families."

Mr Hosking added the decision to index the \$3 million threshold was equally important, preventing bracket creep from progressively capturing more family farms over time as land values naturally increased.

The original proposal threatened over 3,500 self-managed superannuation funds holding farmland across Australia from day one, with thousands more at risk as property values rose.

Many Victorian farming families structure their operations through SMSFs, allowing older farmers to lease land to the next generation while funding their retirement.

Succession Planning

"The VFF, working closely with the National Farmers Federation and our members,



• Brett Hosking.

has consistently highlighted how this tax would undermine farm succession planning, with the next generation of farming families paying the price," Mr Hosking said.

"While some farmers will still face additional tax obligations under the revised policy, this is a vastly better outcome than the original proposal which would have set a hugely worrying precedent in our tax system.

"This is a great example of the power of VFF membership. When farmers speak with a united voice and present evidence-based arguments, governments listen."



• Group photo of students panning for gold.

“Goodbye, and Thank You!”

[From Wycheproof P-12 College]

It is that time of year at Wycheproof P-12 College when we say goodbye to our current “crop” of Year 12 students.

We wish all the best to our nine Year 12 students finishing this year: Keely Allan, Jacob Harrison, Gracie Humphreys, Lily Humphreys, William Ison, Whitney Jones, Savannah Nicolls, Mason Sheahan and James Yasa.

We look forward to hearing about their progress as they navigate this stage of their lives into the world of being an adult.

We have greatly appreciated the way in which they have all helped build our proactive school culture over many years. This group of Year 12s (in particular) have been impressive in the way in which they have contributed to fostering a sense of positive school spirit.

They have also been fabulous role models in demonstrating effective student voice and agency. In an era that rewards action (not just



ideas), these young ones are ready to take on the world.

They left us with some departing advice at our recent whole school assembly at the Mount: “So, remember to always be kind to your teachers who guided you, to your peers who stood beside you, and most importantly, to yourself. Because kindness, above all, is what makes the world and you, truly great.”

We wish our VCE students all the best with their exams, and look forward to celebrating with our Year 12s at their Valedictory Dinner on November 14.



• The 2025 Year 12s say goodbye, the Wyche-P12 way.



• Wycheproof P-12 students gather in the amphitheatre on the slopes of Mt. Wycheproof for the Year 12s final general assembly on Monday.



• Year 12 students James Yasa, Mason Sheahan, Savannah Nicholls, Keely Allan, Gracie Humphreys, Whitney Jones, Lily Humphreys and William Ison (absent: Jacob Harrison) have all been wonderful role models at Wycheproof P-12.

HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

- ☐ NEVER LEAVE COOKING UNATTENDED
- ☐ TURN OFF THE HEATER BEFORE BED
- ☐ NEVER OVERLOAD POWERBOARDS
- ☐ CHECK SMOKE ALARMS MONTHLY
- ☐ CLEAN CHIMNEYS AND FLUES YEARLY
- ☐ TURN OFF ELECTRIC BLANKET BEFORE BED
- ☐ CLEAN THE LINT FILTER OF YOUR CLOTHES DRYER AFTER EACH LOAD

AND MORE!

FIND OUT MORE AT
CFA.VIC.GOV.AU/HOMEFIRE

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



Inspiration Blooms at Open Gardens Day

(By Jenny Pollard)

An amble down the garden path brings joy to most gardeners – especially when it means viewing someone else's patch!

Creative layouts, thriving plants and quirky nooks provide a residual collection of ideas which can be reapplied to one's own outdoor vision when time and the inclination call.

So last Sunday, despite the cool and overcast conditions, gardeners from near and far trekked to the North Central Garden Club's (NCGC) annual Open Gardens Day in Charlton.

Six gardens – five in town and one out of town – were available for viewing. And six owners were on hand to take visitors through their individual journeys in achieving the transformations on display.

Visitors

With car loads of visitors navigating the town circuit there was an air of expectation, as questions and discussions on plant specifics or growing tips unfolded on arrival at each destination. All were eager to relate their transitional story. From barren, weed-infested spaces to plots of carefully tended restoration, the tales of individual endeavour were not just confined to the physical input.

Special places in the garden were apparent at the Waugh Street home of Damien Hellard. The paved, sunken fire-pit (the site of a former tank) had become a

place where friends visiting from Melbourne can come and kick-back.

"In the summer when mates come to visit, we sit around here and talk about the days when we all played American football, and stories just keep getting better with age," laughed Damien.

Move to another section of the garden, and his daughter, Amelie has created a fairy garden which began with just one piece and has continued to grow. At night it lights up, creating a magical scene.

For Trish Johns, a recent arrival in Charlton, her Mildura Way home has offered an exciting chance to establish a new garden as she looks forward to seeing it grow to maturity. Enjoying a late afternoon sit-down, Trish talked about the pleasure of being in the garden, the joy it brings her and the involvement of the birds – black birds in particular – which she views as an asset rather than a hinderance. "Their scratching around doesn't bother me," she said. "They are aerating the ground and they're really tame."

Kath and Dennis Carlson's established garden in Watson Street was a picture of perfection – a real showpiece of dedication and commitment which drew many compliments from visitors. The

xpansive property features trees which tolerate the harsh summer climate – including crepe myrtles, crab apple, smoke bush and ornamental pears. Helping keep the garden in tip-top shape is the installation of 16 water timers, all set to come on at different times.

Re-vitalising their neglected corner block in Armstrong Street has been a labour of love for Arlene Winter and Peter Younger as their emerging vision is still in its infancy. Having purchased the property 14 months ago, clearing out, planning and planting has seen the pair choose roses for the garden frontage with magnolias lining the side fence. Lemon, lime and apple trees will also provide produce, and the surrounds feature a selection of garden art and sculptures. The couple share their home with their excitable three-year-old dog, "Daisy".

Other properties open for inspection included Sue and David Livingstone's home in Arundell Square with its beautiful roses and rose bowers, and the rural allotment of Russell and Judy Stanley on the Borung Highway.

Reflecting on the this year's Garden Day, NCGC president Aileen Allan said that while attendance was down on last year it had still been a "wonderful day" which people have "really enjoyed". While the weather and the many other events earmarked for the same weekend may have had an impact there was no question that those who attended gained something from the experience.

"I also want to acknowledge the amazing work our committee has put in," said Aileen, "along with thanking



• Visitors from St. Arnaud: (left to right) Dee Freeman, Lyn Freeman and Nola Lloyd are pictured with Kath Carlson (second left) after admiring the Carlson's Watson Street property. The trio regularly attend the Charlton Open Gardens Day, finding inspiration from the diversity of locations open to the public.



the six participants for making their gardens available for viewing."

Over a delicious afternoon tea, discussions flowed from the day's viewing with inspiration knocking at the door for many a garden upgrade!

• Trish Johns takes the opportunity to sit back and enjoy her garden space after a busy day of welcoming visitors to her home. Trish says her garden is a "work of joy in progress" which she happily shares with the visiting blackbirds which drop by!



• Leaders of the hard-working NCGC team take a break at the conclusion of the 2025 Open Gardens Day: (left to right) Jenny Mead (treasurer), Aileen Allan (president) and Sue Walsh (secretary).



• A market stall provided visitors with both plants and produce with Garden Club members (left to right) Janette Wain, Sheila Grenfell and Lynne Southwell surrounded by luscious offerings.



• Joy Davies (left) from Wycheproof and Leonie Lewis (right) take time to appreciate the roses at the Livingstone's Arundell Square garden. The garden attracted a large number of visitors.



• An oasis in a suburban backyard: Damien Hellard is pictured with his daughter Amelie in the sunken fire-pit area which was the former location of a water tank. The space now provides a stunning retreat for visitors and guests from afar to enjoy the balmy summer Mallee evenings.

Donald Tractor Pull: A Crowd-Pulling Success

The addition of the Tractor Pull to this year’s Donald Show proved to be an overwhelming success, drawing a steady stream of spectators throughout the day.

Far more than just a test of horsepower, the event was an impressive display of classic and vintage machinery, captivating the crowd with raw power, distinctive noise, and old-school agricultural charm.

One of the standout attractions was the Lanz Bulldog, owned and driven by David Hodge, which drew attention with its rhythmic puffs of perfectly formed smoke rings, growing in intensity as the sled weight increased. The unmistakable sound of the engine alone was enough to attract curious onlookers from across the showgrounds.

Another standout was James Fritch’s steel-wheeled, John Deere Model D, which turned plenty of heads and sparked nostalgic interest. On display, Andrew Falla’s very small but popular John Deere LM was a crowd favourite, while on the track James Doak delivered a standout performance with a full pull (100 metres) on his powerful John Deere 6030, a highlight moment in the up-to-200hp category.

First Chance

The event wasn’t just about competition. It offered many participants their first chance to test their tractors in a live setting, with the unmistakable mix of petrol, diesel and dust lingering in the air well into Sunday morning, as some enthusiasts were still seen fine-tuning and firing up their machines long after the main event had concluded.

If the energy and excitement were anything to go by, a few new tractor pull converts were made, with at least one returning home declaring he “needs more horsepower” and he “might get a bigger tractor for next year”.

Results

With sled weight increasing for each class, results were as follows:

Up to 50hp: David Hodge (Numurkah), 95 metres on a Lanz Bulldog.

Up to 80hp: Laurie Pearse (Donald), 75 metres on a Case 970.

Up to 120hp: Graeme Pickering (Geelong), 94

metres on a Minneapolis Moline G1000.

Up to 200hp: James Doak (Donald), 100 metres (full pull) on a John Deere 6030.

The Donald Tractor Pull Committee extends sincere thanks to the event sponsors North West Ag, Adams Family Farms, and to Bild Group for the track preparation. Appreciation also goes to Buloke Hire for providing the water truck and temporary fencing, and to the Quambatook Tractor Pull team for operating the sled.

A special mention goes to Tony Phillips for stepping in as announcer on the day, and to all volunteers who worked tirelessly in the lead-up and on the day to ensure a smooth and successful event.

With such strong community support and spectator enthusiasm, the Donald Tractor Pull is already being looked forward to in 2026 – perhaps even bigger and better than before.



• Hard luck story Keith Brusnahan on his 35hp Massey Ferguson (purchased from the gun club to mow around the farm). Only after letting air from the tyres was he able to move the sled mere metres, still impressive for such a tiny tractor.



• Mark Brennan comes to a stop in the tractor pull on Saturday afternoon. A small section of the crowd to the right, that were impressed with the event for the first time at the Donald Show.



• The Tractor Pull drew a steady stream of spectators throughout the day.



• The winners of the various horsepower tractor pull events and best display tractor; left to right, David Hodge, up to 50hp; Graeme Pickering, up to 120hp; James Doak, up to 200hp; Laurie Pearse, up to 80hp and Robert “Crazy” Adams on behalf of Andrew Falla, best display tractor.



• Les Mellings in front of his Steiger Cougar CM-250.



• David Hodge seated on his Lanz Bulldog

Skills Galore at Donald Show —

Donald Show’s pavilion was again packed to the brim with talented and creative entries from the members of the town and its wider district. Below is a full list of the winning entries.

Class P. Fruit & Vegetables

Class 126 One Cabbage: 1st Chase Wilson; Class 129 Plate of Snow Peas (10 Pods): 1st Verna Harris, 2nd Chase Wilson; Class 130 Six Stalks Silver Beet: 1st Anne Walsh, 2nd Rebecca Postlethwaite; Class 131 One Bunch of Carrots (minimum 3): 1st Peter Hibberd; Class 135 One Bunch (5 sticks) Rhubarb (Pulled, Foliage Trimmed to 3cms): 1st Jodie Hollis; Class 137 Three Best Oranges, Navel, Leave Portion of Foliage on Stem: 1st Anne Walsh; Class 139 Three Best Lemons, Leave Portion of Foliage on Stem: 1st Mary Archbold, 2nd Chayse Adams; Class 141 General Collection of Vegetables (not less than 6 Varieties in a basket): 1st Peter Hibberd; Class 142 Collection of Herbs (named): 1st Mary Archbold, 2nd Rebecca Postlethwaite; Class 144 One Pumpkin any other Variety: 1st Paul Sheridan, 2nd Anne Walsh.

Class N. Preserves

Class 202 WASA Competition One jar of jam and one jar of jelly: 1st Rebecca Postlethwaite; Class 203 WASA Competition Jar of tomato relish: 1st Rebecca Postlethwaite, 2nd Glenn Davis; Class 204 Jar of chutney: 1st Anne Walsh; Class 205 Jar of relish, any other variety: 1st Margaret Arnel, 2nd Mary Herben; Class 206 Jar of pickled vegetables: 1st Rebecca Postlethwaite; Class 207 Jar of Pickles, any variety: 1st Kailie Krause, 2nd Anne Walsh; Class 208 Jar of Fruit Mince: 1st Lisa Woods; Class 209 Jar of lemon butter: 1st Margaret Arnel, 2nd Jessica Krause; Class 210 Jar of preserved fruit: 1st Rebecca Postlethwaite, 2nd Rebecca Postlethwaite; Class 211 Jar of jelly: 1st Rebecca Postlethwaite, 2nd Mary Herben; Class 212 Jar of berry jam: 1st Margaret Arnel, 2nd Rebecca Postlethwaite; Class 213 Jar of apricot jam: 1st Bernadette Clark, 2nd Anne Walsh; Class 214 Jar of any other variety of jam: 1st Margaret Arnel, 2nd Rebecca Postlethwaite; Class 217 Jar household marmalade: 1st Margaret Arnel, 2nd Mary Herben; Class 218 A basket of four mixed homemade preserves: 1st Margaret Arnel, 2nd Rebecca Postlethwaite; Class 219 Bottle of tomato sauce: 1st Bernadette Clark, 2nd Glenn Davis; Class 220 Bottle of plum sauce: 1st Anne Walsh, 2nd Rebecca Postlethwaite; Class 221 Bottle of homemade salad dressing: 1st Margaret Arnel, 2nd Rebecca Postlethwaite; Class 222 Bottle of sauce suitable for meat/pasta: 1st Rebecca Postlethwaite; Class 223 Bottle of homemade lemon cordial: 1st Ellie Burke, 2nd Margaret Arnel; Class 224 Bottle of dessert sauce: 1st Jessica Krause, 2nd Rebecca Postlethwaite; Class 225 Best half dozen eggs

(uniform colour): 1st Tommy Nunn, 2nd Chayse Adams.

Class O. Cookery

Class 301 VAS Ltd Rich Fruit Cake Competition: 1st Daryl Warren; Class 302 VAS Ltd Carrot Cake Competition: 1st Christine Burfitt, 2nd Jessica Krause; Class 303 WASA Competition, Four Sweet Muffins: 1st Jessica Krause, 2nd Stephanie Kessler; Class 306 WASA Competition, 4 Anzac Biscuits: 1st Helen Edwards, 2nd Stephanie Kessler; Class 309 WASA Competition, Orange Cake, iced (loaf tin): 1st Mary Herben; Class 311 Loaf of Bread: 1st Lisa Woods, 2nd Stephanie Kessler; Class 312 Four Yo Yo Biscuits: 1st Mary Herben, 2nd Margaret Arnel; Class 313 Boiled Fruit Cake: 1st Peter Hibberd, 2nd Christine Burfitt; Class 316 Plate of Four Plain Scones: 1st Christine Weaver, 2nd Helen Edwards; Class 318 Four Date Scones: 2nd Raelene Clarke; Class 319 Ginger Cake (iced): 1st Mary Herben; Class 320 Banana Cake (iced): 1st Jessica Krause; Class 322 Chocolate Cake (iced): 1st Christine Weaver; Class 325 Sponge Sandwich (not iced): 1st Helen Edwards; Class 328 Four Patty Cakes/Cup Cakes (decorated): 1st Stephanie Kessler, 2nd Helen Edwards; Class 330 Four Meringues: 1st Jessica Krause; Class 331 Plate of Shortbread: 1st Mary Herben; Class 332 Four Lamingtons (aprox 4 cm square): 1st Jessica Krause; Class 333 Plate of four Kisses (jam centre, iced top): 1st Margaret Arnel, 2nd Mary Herben; Class 334 Four pieces of a healthy slice (Supply Recipe): 1st Julie Bond; Class 335 Collection of Biscuits, 3 varieties: 1st Jessica Krause; Class 337 Two varieties of Cooked Slice, Two 5 cm x 2½ cm. pieces of each: 1st Jessica Krause, 2nd Stephanie Kessler; Class 338 Two varieties of Uncooked Slice, Two 5 cm. x 2½ cm. pieces of each: 1st Jessica Krause; Class 339 Afternoon Tea Tray for one: 1st Margaret Arnel, 2nd Margaret Arnel; Class 340 Four Nutritious Foods for a Lunch Box, homemade: 1st Julie Bond, 2nd Margaret Arnel; Class 341 Four pieces of a Gluten Free slice: 1st Victory Davis, 2nd Sophie Burke; Class 342 Decorated Marie Biscuits for over 18 years: 1st Julie Bond, 2nd Jessica Krause; Class 343 Open Class, not otherwise mentioned: 1st Alison Duynhoven, 2nd Lisa Woods.

Junior Cookery

Best Exhibit in Cookery Junior: Chase Wilson. Junior Cookery Encouragement Award (Donated By Mrs Kath Downes): Kailie Krause.

Class 346 VAS Junior Carrot and Sultana Muffins: 1st Marlie Adams, 2nd Kailie Krause; Class 349 Four pikelets, plain: 1st Esther Woods; Class 350 Four small cakes, 1 variety (not iced): 1st Jaxon Krause; Class 352 Plate of 4 biscuits, 2 varieties: 1st

Chase Wilson, 2nd Sophie Burke; Class 353 Four Meringues: 1st Jaxon Krause, 2nd Kailie Krause; Class 354 Four Sweet Muffins, under 8 years: 1st Jude McMaster, 2nd Jessie Adams; Class 355 Four Sweet Muffins, 8 and Over: 1st Cooper Wilson, 2nd Chase Wilson; Class 357 Four Decorated Marie Biscuits: 1st Marlie Adams, 2nd Lacey Talty; Class 360 Two varieties of uncooked slice, 5 cm. x 2.5 cm, 3 pieces of each: 1st Chase Wilson, 1st Kailie Krause; Class 363 Packet Cake: 1st Jaxon Krause; Class 364 Four Decorated Cup Cakes (not required to be baked by exhibitor): 1st Kailie Krause, 2nd Jaxon Krause.

A Class for the Blokes:

Class 501 One chocolate cake, cooked by a man, packet cakes are accepted: 1st Kalon Green, 2nd Ben Krause.

Class Q Flowers Roses

Champion Rose Win McClelland Perpetual Trophy: Samuel Woods.

Class 602 One full blown Rose (Must show stamens): 1st Olivia Robinson; Class 603 One red Rose (No buds): 1st Samuel Woods; Class 605 One pink Rose (No buds): 1st Bernadette Clark, 2nd Nicole Nunn; Class 607 One Yellow Rose (No buds): 1st Rebecca Postlethwaite.

Irises

Class 611 Dutch Iris One Stem: 1st Bernadette Clark, 2nd Bernadette Clark; Class 612 Bearded Iris one stem (Pale shades): 1st Bernadette Clark; Class 613 Bearded Iris one stem (Any other shades): 1st Bernadette Clark.

Flowers & Pot Plants

Class 614 Three varieties cut flowers: 1st Kerrie Flagg, 2nd Bernadette Clark; Class 615 Three distinct varieties bulbs, corms, rhizomes, not more than 3 of each: 1st Bernadette Clark, 2nd Bernadette Clark; Class 617 One Single Geranium (no more than 5 petals/floret): 1st Bernadette Clark, 2nd Bernadette Clark; Class 619 One Stem Ivy Geranium: 1st Bernadette Clark; Class 621 Four Pansies, on saucer: 1st Verna Harris, 2nd Verna Harris; Class 622 Collection of Margurites and/or Daisies: 1st Margaret Arnel, 2nd Bernadette Clark; Class 623 One Spike, truss or stem of flowers (no shrubs): 1st Iris Hunter-Conlan, 2nd Bernadette Clark; Class 625 One stem of flower not previously listed: 1st Raelene Clark, 2nd Raelene Clark; Class 626 Collection of foliage: 1st Rebecca Postlethwaite; Class 627 One cut of Shrub: 1st Raelene Clark; Class 628 Cut of 3 flowering shrubs: 1st Elsie Nunn; Class 629 One cut Eremophila (Emu Bush) (named): 1st Raelene Clark, 2nd Raelene Clark; Class 630 Cut of Australian Native Shrubs, 3 varieties: 1st Raelene Clark, 2nd Elsie Nunn; Class 634



• As always, the pavilion was heavily patronized.

One cut of Grevilia: 1st Elsie Nunn, 2nd Toby Nunn; Class 637 Foliage Pot Plant, not in decorative pot: 1st Rebecca Postlethwaite, 2nd Rebecca Postlethwaite; Class 638 Pot Plant/s in Flower: 1st Mary Archbold; Class 641 Pot Plant, Cactus: 1st Rebecca Postlethwaite; Class 642 Pot Plant, Succulent: 1st Rebecca Postlethwaite, 2nd Rebecca Postlethwaite; Class 643 “Open”: 1st Kerrie Flagg.

Decorative Division

Class 647 Miniature arrangement of flowers: 1st Margaret Arnel; Class 649 Container of mixed flowers, own foliage: 1st Bernadette Clark; Class 650 Container of Flowers own foliage (One Variety): 1st Bernadette Clark; Class 651 Informal arrangement of Native Flowers with own foliage: 1st Elsie Nunn; Class 652 Single colour arrangement with foliage: 1st Margaret Arnel.

Junior Section (18 years and under)

Class Q Flowers Champion Decorative Exhibit: Bernadette Clark.

Class 654 Floral Art, Decorated ‘Gardening Hat’: 1st Kailie Krause, 2nd Jaxon Krause; Class 655 Arrangement of flowers: 1st Ellie Burke, 2nd Ellie Burke; Class 656 Container of pink flowers: 1st Ellie Burke, 2nd Chase Wilson; Class 657 Miniature arrangement of Flowers diameter & height not to exceed 10cm: 1st Ellie Burke, 2nd Jude McMaster; Class 658 Container of Floating Flowers: 1st Jonathan Woods, 2nd Ellie Adams; Class 659 Tied Posy for Grandma (10 years and over): 1st Ellie Burke; Class 660 Tied Posy for Grandma (under 10 years): 1st Chase Wilson, 2nd Jonathan Woods; Class 661 Arrangement of flowers (& foliage) in a coffee mug: 1st Chase Wilson, 2nd Ellie Burke; Class 662 A One-Flower Arrangement, foliage permitted: 1st Olivia Robinson, 2nd Ellie Burke; Class 663 Vegetables or fruit, man or animal (with aid), Under 8 Years: 1st Toby Nunn, 2nd Tommy Nunn; Class 664 Veg-

(with aid), 8 Years & Over: 1st Elsie Nunn; Class 666 A necklace of horticultural material presented on a paper plate: 1st Jonathan Woods, 2nd Joshua Woods; Class 667 Most Impressive Gum Leaf: 1st Darcy Burke, 2nd Percy Burke; Class 668 Largest Geranium Leaf: 1st Samuel Woods, 2nd Jonathan Woods; Class 669 Single Rose: 1st Joshua Woods, 2nd Ben Krause; Class 670 Pot of Succulents: 1st Jonathan Woods; Class 671 “Open” Not otherwise Specified: 1st Valentina Harris, 2nd Jonathan Woods.

Class R Textiles & Handicrafts VAS Competition

Class 701 VAS Ltd Embroidery Competition: 1st Christine Burfitt; Class 702 VAS Ltd Crochet Competition: 1st Christine Burfitt; Class 703 VAS Ltd Knitting Competition: 1st Rhonda Laird, 2nd Christine Burfitt; Class 704 VAS Ltd Patchwork Competition: 1st Christine Burfitt; Class 705 VAS Ltd Sewing Competition: 1st Kerrie Flagg; Class 706 VAS Ltd Cross Stitch Competition: 1st Christine Burfitt.

Open

Class 707 WASA Competition, Crochet Article-made in Cotton: 1st Rhonda Laird, 2nd Christine Burfitt; Class 708 WASA Competition, Crochet / Hand-Knitted article in any ply yarn: 1st Rhonda Laird, 2nd Robyn Bennett; Class 709 WASA Competition, Hand knitted Baby Garment: 1st Patricia Walker, 2nd Rhonda Laird; Class 710 Baby’s crochet garment: 1st Patricia Walker, 2nd Patricia Walker; Class 711 Child’s crochet garment: 1st Rhonda Laird; Class 712 Crochet Rug/Blanket/Throw: 1st Rhonda Laird, 2nd Christine Burfitt; Class 713 Knitted/Crocheted headwear: 1st Alex Youssef, 2nd Patricia Walker; Class 714 Adult’s knitted garment, 8 ply or thicker yarn: 1st Patricia Walker, 2nd Rhonda Laird; Class 715 Knitted scarf: 1st Christine Burfitt, 2nd Rhonda Laird; Class 716 Crochet scarf: 1st Rhonda Laird, 2nd Christine Burfitt; Class 717

Child’s knitted garment, yarn 8 ply or thicker: 1st Rhonda Laird, 2nd Patricia Walker; Class 718 Child’s knitted garment, 5 ply yarn and under: 1st Rhonda Laird, 2nd Patricia Walker; Class 719 Baby layette, 2 pcs or more, knit or crochet: 1st Rhonda Laird, 2nd Patricia Walker; Class 720 Knitted Rug/Blanket/Throw: 1st Rhonda Laird, 2nd Patricia Walker; Class 721 Knitted Socks/Bed Socks: 1st Rhonda Laird, 2nd Rhonda Laird; Class 722 Knitted or crocheted soft toy: 1st Rhonda Laird; Class 723 Free form article done in yarn: 1st Rhonda Laird, 2nd Jo Malham; Class 724 Child’s machine-sewn garment, summer weight, hand finishing permitted: 1st Sarah Melton; Class 726 Any machine-made garment or article: 1st Kerrie Flagg, 2nd Kerrie Flagg; Class 727 Tea Cosie, any material: 1st Rhonda Laird, 2nd Cheryl McKenzie; Class 728 Coat Hanger, any medium: 1st Rhonda Laird, 2nd Cheryl McKenzie; Class 729 Beading, Any Article: 1st Jessica Krause; Class 730 Beading, Jewelry: 1st Rhonda Laird, 2nd Jessica Krause; Class 731 Covered Cushion: 1st Rhonda Laird, 2nd Christine Burfitt; Class 732 Child’s Safe Soft Toy, any material: 1st Rhonda Laird, 2nd Rhonda Laird; Class 733 Best dressed Doll, clothes to be made by exhibitor: 1st Kerrie Flagg; Class 734 Table Runner or Centrepiece: 1st Rhonda Laird, 2nd Jessica Krause; Class 736 Article of counted cross stitch: 1st Jessica Krause; Class 737 Quilted Article: 1st Christine Burfitt; Class 740 Novelty Pin Cushion: 1st Alex Youssef, 2nd Jessica Krause; Class 741 Christmas decoration, no bigger than 30cm: 1st Rhonda Laird, 2nd Jessica Kraus; Class 743 Article of machine-sewn patchwork: 1st Christine Burfitt; Class 744 Article of Embroidery: 1st Jessica Krause; Class 745 Article of Macrame: 1st Christine Burfitt;

• Continued on page 11.

Variety Enhances Pavilion Entries

• Continued from page 10.

Class 746 Any other article not fitting into any other category: 1st Christine Burfitt, 2nd Patricia Walker; Class 747 Any other article, Machine Sewn with Embroidery: 1st Kerrie Flagg; Class 748 Shopping bag made of any material: 1st Kerrie Flagg, 2nd Rhonda Laird; Class 749 Textile Repurposed Article, include photo of what it was: 1st Kerrie Flagg; Class 750 Article made by person 70 years or over: 1st Rhonda Laird, 2nd Robyn Bennett; Class 751 One Person’s Work: 1st Rhonda Laird; Class 752 Three distinct articles for a Fete made by one exhibitor, no cookery: 1st Rhonda Laird; Class 753 Open: 2nd Cheryl McKenzie, 2nd Cheryl McKenzie.

Novice

Class 754 Any Knitted Article: 1st Cheryl McKenzie, 2nd Cheryl McKenzie; Class 757 Any Other Article: 1st Cheryl McKenzie, 2nd Cheryl McKenzie.

Primary School Age Section

Best Exhibit – Textiles & Handicrafts + Arts, Crafts & Ceramics Primary School Age: Sylvia Foott.

Class 758 Beading, Any Article: 1st Jaxon Krause, 2nd Jaxon Krause; Class 759 Dyed article, eg; tie dyed: 1st Jax Staples; Class 760 Scarf, any medium: 1st Jaxon Krause; Class 761 Decorated Box Any Material: 1st Jaxon Krause, 2nd Kailie Krause; Class 763 Open: 1st Jaxon Krause.

Secondary School Age Section

Most Outstanding Exhibit in Textiles and Handicrafts: Christine Burfitt.

Best-Textiles & Handicrafts + Arts, Crafts & Ceramics Secondary School Age: Kailie Krause.

Class 770 Open: 1st Ben Krause.

Class T. Art, Craft and Ceramics Open Section: Oil, Water Colour or Acrylic

Class 802 Open Water Colours: 1st Rebecca Postlethwaite, 2nd Jessica Krause; Class 803 Open Any Acrylic medium: 1st Tarja Lipscombe, 2nd Rebecca Postlethwaite; Class 804 Open painting: 1st Rebecca Postlethwaite , 2nd Rebecca Postlethwaite.

Drawing

Class 807 Hand Decorated Card (Any Occasion): 1st Annie Edgerton, 2nd Jessica Krause.

Crafts/Visual Arts

Class 809 Any article of hand painted China: 1st Jessica Krause; Class 811 Any article of woodwork: 1st Jack Pearse; Class 812 A sculpture, any media: 1st Shae Coats, 2nd Shae Coats; Class 813 One Page of Scrapbooking: 1st Jessica Krause; Class 815 Article made with Lego: 1st Megan Jardine, 2nd Angus Coats, 2nd Megan Jardine; Class 816 Article made with Mini Bricks: 1st Debbie Hibberd , 1st Haz-Nan; Class 817 Any Article Made From a Kit: 1st Debbie Hibberd, 2nd Rebecca Postlethwaite; Class 818 Open Photographic Enlargement, no restrictions: 1st Jodie Drake.

Pre School Age Section

Class 819 “Texta Colour” Drawing: 1st Phoebe Jones, 2nd Jessie Adams; Class 820 Drawing, any medium: 1st Phoebe Jones, 2nd Jude McMaster; Class 821 Painting: 1st Phoebe Jones, 2nd Lacey Talty; Class 822 Decorated/Painted Paper Plate: 1st Jude McMaster, 2nd Jessie Adams; Class 823 Decorated Wooden Spoon: 1st Lacey Talty, 2nd Jessie Adams; Class 824 Christmas ornament, hung from tree: 1st Jude McMaster, 2nd Phoebe Jones; Class 825 Colouring In Picture: 1st Phoebe Jones, 2nd Phoebe Jones; Class 826

Necklace made from edible materials: 1st Lacey Talty, 2nd Millie Smulders; Class 827 Open: 1st Phoebe Jones, 2nd Jude McMaster.

Primary School Age Section

Class 828 Greeting card, computer made, A4 size: 1st Marlie Adams, 2nd Jaxon Krause; Class 829 Greeting card, handmade, A4 size: 1st Jaxon Krause, 2nd Jessie Adams; Class 830 Article made with Lego, under 10 years: 1st Harry Nunn, 2nd Toby Nunn; Class 831 Article made with Mini Bricks, under 10 years: 1st Harry Nunn, 2nd Jaxon Krause; Class 832 Article made with Lego, 10 years and over: 1st Cruz Hawkes, 2nd Cruz Hawkes; Class 834 Article made with Lego as per a Lego Set under 10 years: 1st Elsie Nunn, 2nd Harry Nunn; Class 835 Article made with Lego as per a Lego Set, 10 years and over: 1st Judd Hawkes; Class 836 A painting, any subject (No paint by numbers): 1st Judd Hawkes, 2nd Judd Hawkes; Class 837 A Paint by Numbers Painting, any subject: 1st Elke Rogers, 2nd Jaxon Krause; Class 838 “Texta Colour” drawing, under 10 years: 1st Luna Hawkes, 2nd Halia Rogers; Class 839 “Texta Colour” drawing, 10 Years and Over: 1st Millie Pearse; Class 840 Coloured Pencil drawing, under 10 years: 1st Kara Rogers, 2nd Pippa Pearse; Class 841 Coloured Pencil drawing, 10 Years and Over: 1st Bailey Morigan – coloured pencil drawing 10 years and over; Class 842 Black & white drawing, any medium: 1st Judd Hawkes, 2nd Jaxon Krause; Class 843 Coloured drawing, any medium: 1st Millie Pearse, 2nd Millie Pearse; Class 844 Necklace, made from edible materials: 1st Lucia Harris, 2nd Valentina Harris; Class 845 Decorated Rock, under 8

years: 1st Halia Rogers, 2nd Marlie Adams; Class 846 Decorated Rock, 8 Years and Over: 1st Sylvia Foott, 2nd Kara Rogers; Class 848 One Page of Scrapbooking: 1st Jaxon Krause; Class 849 Wind chime or dreamcatcher (Prep-Grade Two): 1st Phoebe Jones; Class 850 Wind chime or dreamcatcher (Grade 3-Grade Six): 1st Elsie Nunn, 2nd Jaxon Krause; Class 851 Painted/Decorated Paper Plate (Prep- Grade Two): 1st Marlie Adams, 2nd Marlie Adams; Class 852 Painted/Decorated Paper Plate (Grade Three-Grade Six): 1st Rosie Jones, 2nd Rosie Jones; Class 853 Decorated Wooden Spoon (Prep-Grade Two): 1st Marlie Adams; Class 854 Decorated Wooden Spoon (Grade Three-Grade Six): 1st Jaxon Krause; Class 856 Christmas Ornament (Grade 3 to Grade 6): 1st Jaxon Krause; Class 858 Any article made of wood: 1st Jaxon Krause; Class 859 Any article of Pottery or Ceramic: 1st Sylvia Foott, 2nd Jaxon Krause; Class 860 Cardboard Creation made with recycled materials: 1st Jessie Adams, 1st Marlie Adams, 2nd Jaxon Krause; Class 861 Open: 1st Judd Hawkes, 2nd Lucia Harris.

Secondary School Age Section

Class 862 Digital Image created on a device, Max A4: 1st Josie Nunn, 2nd Matei Podasca; Class 863 Still life painting: 1st Kailie Krause; Class 864 Portraiture painting: 1st Ellie Burke, 2nd Josie Nunn; Class 865 Landscape painting: 1st Asha Pearse, 2nd Ellie Burke; Class 866 Open painting: 1st Arleea Sarre, 2nd Madeline Morton; Class 867 Black & white drawing, any medium: 1st Patience Beavis, 2nd Ben Krause; Class 868 Sculpture, assemblage: 1st Suzie Stratton, 2nd Victor Sak; Class 869 Ceramic article: 1st Kailie Krause; Class

871 Article Made with Lego: 1st Kailie Krause, 2nd Kailie Krause; Class 872 Article made with Mini Bricks: 1st Kailie Krause, 2nd Ben Krause; Class 873 One Page of Scrapbooking: 1st Kailie Krause, 2nd Ben Krause; Class 874 Article of Woodwork: 1st Riley Jones, 2nd River Stirling; Class 875 Article of Metal Work: 1st Kailie Krause, 2nd Marty Burke; Class 876 Open (SPECIAL PRIZE \$100): 1st Sophie Burke, 2nd Arleea Sarre.

Class H. Poultry Bantams-Hardfeather

Class 4001 Modern Game Black Red Male: 1st Nigel Zanker; Class 4002 Modern Game Black Red Female: 1st Nigel Zanker; Class 4003 Modern Game Duckwing Male: 1st Nigel Zanker; Class 4007 Modern Game AOC Male: 1st K.& D. Zanker, 2nd K.& D. Zanker,; Class 4008 Modern Game AOC, Female: 1st K.& D. Zanker, 2nd Nigel Zanker,; Class 4011 OEG Black Red L/L Male: 1st Nigel Zanker; Class 4012 OEG Partridge (Lay Or Wheatan) L/L Female: 1st Nigel Zanker, 2nd Nigel Zanker; Class 4022 OEG Spangle Male: 1st Nigel Zanker, 2nd Nigel Zanker; Class 4023 OEG Spangle Female: 1st Nigel Zanker; Class 4024 OEG AOC Male: 1st Nigel Zanker; Class 4025 OEG AOC Female: 1st Nigel Zanker, 2nd Belinda Whiten; Class 4026 Indian or Jubilee Game Male: 1st Nigel Zanker; Class 4028 PIT Game Male: 1st K.& D. Zanker; Class 4029 PIT Game Female: 1st K.& D. Zanker; Class 4030 AOV Game Male: 1st Nigel Zanker; Class 4031 AOV Game Female: 1st Nigel Zanker.

Bantams – Softfeather

Class 4103 Belgian A/C Male: 1st Nigel Zanker; Class 4114 Pekin AOC Female: 1st Belinda Whiten; Class 4117

Leghorn A/C Male: 1st Nigel Zanker 2nd Nigel Zanker; Class 4118 Leghorn A/C Female: 1st Nigel Zanker, 2nd Nigel Zanker.

Standard Class Light Breed

Class 4203 Hamburg A/C Male: 1st Corey Oliver; Class 4205 Leghorn A/C Male: 1st Texas Davis, 2nd Texas Davis; Class 4211 OEG Black Red Male: 1st Nigel Zanker; Class 4212 OEG Black Red Female: 1st Nigel Zanker; Class 4217 OEG AOC Male: 1st Nigel Zanker , 2nd Nigel Zanker; Class 4218 OEG AOC Female: 1st Nigel Zanker, 2nd Nigel Zanker.

Standard Class Heavy Breed

Class 4303 Wyandotte A/C Male: 1st Nigel Zanker, 2nd Corey Oliver; Class 4304 Wyandotte A/C Female: 1st Charlotte Bicket; Class 4305 Indian or Jubilee Game Male: 1st Nigel Zanker, 2nd Nigel Zanker; Class 4306 Indian or Jubilee Game Female: 1st Nigel Zanker, 2nd Nigel Zanker; Class 4309 Plymouth Rock Male: 1st Chantel Walsh; Class 4309, 2nd Belinda Whiten; Class 4310 Plymouth Rock Female: 1st Belinda Whiten; Class 4312 Rhode Island Red Female: 1st Corey Oliver; Class 4317 Australorp Male: 1st Corey Oliver, 2nd Corey Oliver; Class 4318 Australorp Female: 1st Corey Oliver; Class 4319 AOV Heavy Male: 1st K.& D. Zanker , 2nd Texas Davis; Class 4320 AOV Heavy Female: 1st Chantel Walsh, 2nd Belinda Whiten.

Waterfowl

Class 4505 Muscovy A/C Drake: 1st Nakayla Arnold; Class 4506 Muscovy A/C Duck: 1st Nakayla Arnold; Class 4513 AOV Waterfowl: 1st Andy Flett, 2nd Belinda Whiten; Class 4514 AOV Waterfowl: 1st Andy Flett, 2nd Belinda Whiten.

Road Safety Crumbles

The Nationals’ Member for Mildura, Jade Benham, has slammed the Allan Labor Government for abandoning regional road safety, after government data confirmed local drivers are being forced to risk their lives on some of Victoria’s deadliest roads.

Australian Road Assessment Program (AusRAP) findings show nearly two-thirds of Victoria’s major roads are rated just one or two stars for safety. In regional Victoria, 29 per cent of roads are rated one star, and 91 per cent are in poor or very poor condition.

Confirmation

Ms Benham said the findings confirm what regionals Victorians already know.

“Anyone who travels our roads can see they’re falling apart with potholes, crumbling shoulders and ‘rough surface’ signs everywhere. These aren’t minor inconveniences, they’re daily dangers for local families, farmers and emergency services,” she said.

Key Routes

Across the Mildura electorate, several key routes have been given the lowest possible rating of one star, including:

- Mallee Highway – Ouyen to South Australian border.
- Hattah-Robinvale Road.
- Robinvale-Sea Lake Road.
- Hopetoun-Sea Lake Road.

Unsurprisingly, the Calder Highway, from Mildura to Bendigo, is rated mostly two stars, dangerously low for one of the state’s busiest regional roads.

“The government’s neglect continues to put lives at risk,” Ms Benham said. “This is a major freight and commuter route. Labor has left it to fall apart, forcing every driver and every family to navigate a road that isn’t safe.

“Labor keeps boasting about road maintenance blitzes, but the evidence is plain to see – regional roads are deteriorating faster than they’re being fixed. Meanwhile, billions are wasted on city projects running years behind schedule.”

• *Right: The Nationals’ Member for Mildura, Jade Benham, is concerned about Labor’s continued neglect of regional roads.*



A Major Feature of the Donald Show:

The Donald Show successfully delivered two full days of equestrian action on the main oval, featuring two open show rings, show jumping, and pony club classes.

Equine enthusiasts continue to return in strong numbers, with entries steadily increasing since the disruptions caused by COVID and past flood-related cancellations. This year saw an impressive turnout of approximately 100 horses, including 42 show ring competitors and 29 show jumpers.

However, it wasn't all smooth riding. Strong winds on Friday posed a significant

challenge, with gusts so forceful that show jumping had to be temporarily paused after jumps were blown over. Quick-thinking volunteers stepped up, organising a last-minute sand delivery and filling bags to weigh down the jumps, ensuring the competition could resume, albeit with a later-than-expected finish.

Windy conditions are notoriously unsettling for horses, as fluttering objects and sudden movements can easily

spook them, especially on already high-tension show days. Despite this, riders, handlers, and all involved deserve high praise for managing the difficult conditions with calm professionalism.

Remarkably, all other events ran smoothly, even continuing through Friday night's fireworks display, making for a memorable and resilient return to form for the Donald Show's equine program.

Results of Horse Events on Graincorp Arena

Fri., October 10, 2025
Brendarey Australian Whites Ring 1: Judges, Kerry Clarke, Steward Tayla Wyllie.

Champion Open Saddle Pony: Sirrah Silent Night, B Randle; Reserve Champion Open Saddle Pony: Rocky Hill Caramel Fudge. T Spiteri; Champion Show Hunter Pony: Wyuna Prada, B Randle; Reserve Champion Show Hunter Pony: Delbrae Vegas. G Karakaltsas; Champion Open Saddle Pony: Whitmere Bouquet, N Miller; Reserve Champion Open Saddle Pony: Wyoming Park Secret Affair. N Miller; Champion Show Hunter Pony: Argyl All Stars, S Greer; Reserve Champion Show Hunter Pony: Reigal Conchita Citron, T Spiteri. Champion Junior Rider: G Karakaltsas, Delbrae Vegas; Reserve Champion Junior Rider: S Mack, Tara Park The Gambler. Champion Intermediate Rider: Z Roberts, Rocky Hill Caramel Fudge. Champion Open Saddle Hack: Staughton Vale Henley, S Bufton; Reserve Champion Open Saddle Hack: JD Paradise, J Clark. Champion Show Hunter Hack: Niclins Park Dusty Dancer, P. Cameron. Champion Show Hunter Hack: Alpine Park Picasso, M Hosemans. Champion Show Hunter Galloway: Uhavta Stop & Stare, A Burns; Reserve

Champion Show Hunter Galloway: Winchester, M Hawkins. Champion Show Hunter Galloway: Westacre Matisse, B Baker.

Wimmera Mallee Vet Clinic Ring 2: Judges, Rob Clarke, Steward: Jill McEwen.

Racing Victoria Off The Track 25/26 Series Qualifier Open Led: MT Time Square, M Tabak. Champion Open Saddle Hack: Grand Aristocrat, M Ralph; Reserve Champion Open Saddle Hack: SLM Fascination, J Clarke. Champion Show Hunter Hack: Staughton Vale Winchester, S Bufton; Reserve Champion Show Hunter Hack: JD Goldmember, J Clarke. Racing Victoria Off The Track First Season OTT: MT Napoleon, I Thomson. Racing Victoria Off The Track Open Ridden Series: MT Time Square, M Tabak. Champion Senior Rider: M Ralph, Grand Aristocrat; Reserve Champion Senior Rider: W Alexander, Fritzio. Champion Open Saddle Galloway: Diamonds are Forever, B Randle; Reserve Champion Open Saddle Galloway: Whitmere Secret Dance, B Laupert. Champion Show Hunter Galloway: Lovida Vipa, B Laupert; Reserve Champion Show Hunter Galloway: Uhavta Stop & Stare, J Olinde. Champion Small Open Saddle Pony: Carlingford



Champion Pony Club Mount Penny, Amelia Smith.

Park Inessance, T Merygold; Reserve Champion Open Saddle Pony: Murraydale Park Maybeline, J Payne. Champion Small Show Hunter Pony: Imperial Beaujolais, H Young. Champion Large Open Saddle Pony: Murraydale Park Louie, J Payne.

LSB Contracting Showjumping Arena: Judge, Angela Hodgetts & Course Builder, Greg Stephens.

JH Penfold 50CM: 1st A Smith, Penny; 2nd L Standfield, Black Jack; 3rd A Smith, Jaffa; 4th A Maclaren, Yoshi Dynamite. Revtoy Transport 60cm: 1st, S Edwards, Napoleon; 2nd, M De La Rue, Kash; 3rd, J Smith, HV Bella; 4th, W Standfield, Zac; 5th, A Maclaren, Yoshi Dynamite. Driscoll Douglas East Rural Real Estate 75cm: 1st, C Morrison, Everlyn; 2nd, S Edwards, Napoleon; 3rd, L Bailey, Bindi; 4th, M De La Rue, Kash. Warakirri Cropping 90cm: 1st, L Bailey, Bindi; 2nd, S Walker, Exaggeration; 3rd, D Hill, Steel; 4th, M Buckner, Paris Avenues Queen; 5th E Bowman, CE Cajun, 6th C Box, Watchman. Emmetts John Deere 1.10cm: 1st, M Robertson, Glenara Sinatra; 2nd, C Morrison, Chatham Park Richard; 3rd, M Buckner, Park Avenue Queen; 4th, M Agnoletti, Jude. LSB Contractors Rescue Relay 80cm: 1st, C Morrison & L Bailey; 2nd, K Barnett & T Blanchard; 3rd, M De La Rue & Ellie Bowman; 4th, Stuart Walker & Lachie Bailey.



• Tegan Long competes in the Showjumping with Thunder Kitty.



• The hard-working horse events committee, back row, left to right: Carol Holland, Tayla Wyllie, Quill McQuilty, Jill McEwen, Carey Brennan. Front row: Liz Russell, Melissa Sellick, Melinda McEwen.



• Ellie Bowman with Fourwinds Corona.



• Champion Large Open Saddle Pony, Willow Standfield and Zac, Reserve Champion, Ella Gifford and Matilda.

• Continued on page 13.

Two Full Days of Equestrian Action



• *Champion Show Hunter Hack: Niclins Park Dusty Dancer, rider Phoebe Cameron.*

• **Continued from page 12.**

Sat., October 11, 2025

Peaco Foods Ring 1: Judges, Paris Fiedler, Steward: Asha Fiedler.

Champion Show Hunter Hack: Raphael Ferruccio, B Maddocks. Champion Junior Rider: E Gifford, Matilda; Reserve Champion Junior Rider: K Hall, Manavale Park Action Man. Champion Senior Rider: B Maddocks, Raphael Ferruccio. Champion Small Open Saddle Pony: Manovale Park Action Man, K Hall. Champion Large Open Saddle Pony: Zac, W Standfield; Reserve Champion Large Open Saddle Pony: Matilda, E Gifford. Champion Large Show Hunter Pony: HV Bella, J Smith; Reserve Champion Large Show Hunter Pony: Zac, W Standfield.

Warakirri Pony Club Ring 2: Judges, Lisa

Kennedy, Steward: Jill McEwen).

Champion PC Handler: Q McQuilty, King Valley Solomon; Reserve Champion PC Handler: E Gifford, Matilda. Champion Pony Club Combination: Arnie, K Hall; Reserve Champion Pony Club Combination: Matilda, E Gifford. Champion Pony Club Mount: A Smith, Penny; Reserve Champion Pony Club Mount: King Valley Solomon, Q McQuilty. Champion Pony Club Rider: Q McQuilty, King Valley Solomon; Reserve Champion Pony Club Rider: E Gifford, Matilda. Stockmans Challenge Under 18: 1st, E Gifford, Matilda; 2nd J Adams, Ollie. Stockmans Challenge Over 18: 1st K Barnett, The Ruckman; 2nd Q McQuilty, King Valley Solomon. The Beryl Pearse Encouragement Award: J Adams, Ollie.



• *13 year old Catherine Rowan handles her 18.1 hand high horse, SD Vincent, with ease around the Showjumping course.*



• *Nick Pearse Memorial Jump: 80cm Winner, Cindy Morrison, Glenara Evelyn. Sponsored by Janine Pearse & Family and Barastoc. Presented by Beryl Pearse (left) & Janine Pearse.*

LSB Contracting Showjumping Arena

(Judge, Angela Hodgetts & Course Builder, Greg Stephens)

Morrifield Farm 55cm: 1st, S Edwards, Sweet Like Honey; 2nd A Maclaren, Yoshi Dynamite; 3rd W Standfield, Zac, A Smith, Jaffa. North West Ag & A & Y Morrison: 1st, J Smith, HV Bella; 2nd, K Barnett, The Ruckman; 3rd, N Nisbet, Robusta; 4th, E Bowman, Fourwinds Corona. Nick Pearse Memorial Jump 80cm: 1st, C Morrison, Glenara Evelyn; 2nd, E Bowman, Fourwinds Peppermint; 3rd, M De La Rue, Kash; 4th S Briggs, Marengo Nouveau. Driscoll Douglas East Rural Real Estate & Donald Motor Lodge 90cm: 1st, E Bowman, CE Cajun; 2nd, W Alexander; 3rd, S Edwards, Knight Rider; 4th, C Morrison, Cleo. Brookside Horses 1.05cm: 1st, L Bailey, Coco; 2nd, S Edwards, Knight Rider; 3rd, M Agnoletti; 4th, C Rowan, Ellie. Peaco Foods 1.15cm: 1st, S Briggs, Marengo Valentino; 2nd, M Robertson, Glenara Sinatra. Showjumping Rider Aggregate (over 2 days): Equal 1st, L Bailey & C Morrison.

Many Thanks

The Horse Events Committee extends sincere appreciation to all volunteers who contributed their time and effort in the lead-up to the show and across both days of competition. Particular thanks are extended to Cindy Morrison for her valuable assistance with the program, advertising, and sponsorship co-ordination.

Gratitude is also extended to the event's generous sponsors whose support was instrumental to the success of the horse program. The major arena sponsor, GrainCorp, provided essential support, along with LBS Constructions as the showjumping sponsor. Show ring events were proudly supported by Brendarey Australian Whites (Friday, Ring 1), Wimmera Mallee Vet Clinic (Friday, Ring 2), Peaco Foods (Saturday, Ring 1), and Warakirri Cropping (Saturday, Ring 2).

In the showjumping arena, appreciation is extended to course builder Greg Stephens and judge Angela Hodgetts for their professionalism and dedication. Thanks are also due to the Donald Pony Club and the Midland Zone for organising and supplying the beautifully constructed jumps that enhanced the competition environment.

Acknowledgement is given to all stewards and volunteers for their efforts across both show rings. Thanks are also extended to the appointed judges: Kerry Clarke (Ring 1) and Rob Clarke (Ring 2) on Friday, and Paris Fielder (Ring 1) and Lisa Kennedy (Pony Club, Ring 2) on Saturday.

Horse Events Co-ordinators Melissa Sellick and Carol Holland wish to formally recognise the ongoing dedication and behind-the-scenes work of the Horse Events Committee, whose efforts are



• *LSB Contractors Rescue Relay Winners: Cindy Morrison & Lachie Bailey. Sponsored by LSB Contractors, Gilchrist & Co, Tyntynder Bailing, Ag Hydraulics Fitters & Fabricators, Gilchrist & Co, Trendz on Napier, Barastoc.*



• *Tony Blanchard with Chase.*

vital to the successful delivery of the event. Additional thanks are extended to Peter Pendlebury from the Men's Shed for his assistance with the transport and management of trailers before and after the show.

Producing a successful event of this scale requires the collective effort of many individuals and organisations. Each contribution is acknowledged and deeply appreciated.



• *Champion Senior Rider: Melinda Ralph, Grand Aristocrat.*



• *Emmetts John Deere Championship 1.10cm Winner: Melissa Robertson, Glenara Cinatra. Sponsored by Emmetts John Deere & Brendarey Australian Whites.*

Council’s Library Coup

One of Australia’s best-selling non-fiction writers Peter FitzSimons, AM, will discuss his latest book during an author’s talk at Stawell Library next month.

Northern Grampians Shire Council mayor Karen Hyslop said securing a visit from the prolific author was a coup for Northern Grampians Libraries.

“Peter has published at least 27 books, which show-case his passion for telling Australian stories, shining a light on great men and women along with major events in our country’s history,” she said.

“These stories include biographies of notable Aus-tralians including Sir Douglas Mawson and Nancy Wake, along with highly successful titles including Breaker Morant, Burke and Wills, Kokoda, Ned Kelly and Gal-lipoli.

Many Strings

“Peter has many strings to his bow. He has been a jour-nalist for more than 40 years, writing for the ‘Sydney Morn-ing Herald’ and the ‘Sun Her-ald’, and is also a radio and television personality.

“Before launching his ca-reer in the media, he was also a successful rugby union player, representing Australia in 1989 and 1999 before play-ing rugby for regional clubs in France and Italy for a few years.

“He is a fascinating man and so are his stories – I can’t wait to welcome him to Stawell to discuss his newest book, ‘The Courageous Life of Weary Dunlop’.”

FitzSimons will speak at Stawell Library on Monday, November 17 at 11 a.m..

“I encourage the commu-nity to make the most of this extraordinary event,” Cr Hys-lop said.

Church Notices

GRANITE Community Church

www.granitecommunitychurch.com

At Granite Church 10.30 a.m.

Speaker: Dave Lovell Baptist Union of Victoria

DISTRICT CATHOLIC CHURCHES

“East Wimmera Parish”

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

Fr. Gerry Prunty 0419 247 779

Parish Co-ordinator – Noeline Hogan: 0476 617 976

“To have an author of Peter’s calibre come to our shire is very exciting.”

In “The Courageous Life of Weary Dunlop”, FitzSi-mons shares the extraordinary story of the heroic doctor whose courage and leadership were a lifeline for thousands of Australian prisoners-of-war on the infamous Thai-Burma Railway of the Second World War.

In September 1939, young Australian surgeon Edward “Weary” Dunlop was working in London when the dogs of war were unleashed.

Signing up, he was com-missioned a captain in the Australian Army Medical Corps, AAMC, and sent to the Middle East, serving in Pales-tine, Greece, Crete, Egypt and Tobruk.

As the European war dragged on, an emboldened Japanese force captured Sin-gapore and marched closer to Australian shores.

“Weary” and more than 3000 others sailed back to Java to fight this new enemy.

At the No. 1 Allied General Hospital in Bando-eng, the Japanese were ready to murder the bedridden when “Weary” put his body in front of the bayonets.

From that moment his leadership, ingenuity and self-lessness became legend as Al-lied prisoners-of-war were sent to Singapore, Thailand and finally faced the hell of working as slave labour on the infamous Thai-Burma Railway.

In the POW camps, tropi-cal diseases, malnutrition and the brutal work regime im-posed by their Japanese cap-tors meant the death toll was horrific.

And yet, with little to no medical supplies, under ex-treme physical pressure, “Weary” Dunlop took risks and beatings to defy the Japanese and keep his men



• Author Peter FitzSimons.

alive in circumstances that tested the limits of human en-durance.

Gentle Giant

“Weary: was a gentle giant of a man. A boxer and former Wallaby, he could have been an elite sportsman but chose a different path – one that led him from rural Victoria to training as a pharmacist and then to medical school.

The Second World War was the fire that fuelled this remarkable hero. His coura-geous leadership and calm en-durance became beacons of hope to the POWs under his command.

“You can learn more about this amazing story at Stawell Library. The event is free of charge, but attendees are en-couraged to book their spot,” Cr Hyslop said.

Bus from St. Arnaud

“We are also providing the St Arnaud community with a free bus to and from this event.”

People can call Stawell Li-brary on (03) 5358 1274 to book their spot and RSVP if they wish to stay on for a light lunch.

St Arnaud residents can call St Arnaud Library on (03) 5495 2188 to RSVP and book their seat on the bus.

Copies of “The Coura-geous Life of Weary Dunlop” will be available for sale for \$49.99.

“The men would do anything for [Weary] and are proud to be with him”

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER RAY PARKIN

“To us he takes precedence... as the great Australian hero of all time”

KEITH FLANAGAN OAM, DUNLOP FORCE

PETER FITZSIMONS

THE COURAGEOUS LIFE OF WEARY DUNLOP

Surgeon, Prisoner-of-War, Life-saving Leader and Legend of the Thai-Burma Railway

North-Central Pennant Bowls



This Week’s Selected Club Teams

DIVISION ONE

Round 2, Saturday, October 18

Donald v. St Arnaud Country Club

DONALD

B. Milne, J. Meyer, L. Morgan, H. Wingfield (s)
I. McEwen, W. Hegarty, N. Barber, N. Hollis (s)
M. Quick, E. Adams, K. Adamson, G. Euvrard (s)

ST ARNAUD CC

S. Atkinson, P. Marland, L. Lynch, W. Rodger (s)
F. Rodger, G. Shaw, J. Nevill, J. Abbott (s)
D. Moulday, R. Pole, D. Mullins, T. McDonald (s)
Cards: T. McDonald. Team Manager: Des Moulday
Emerg: G. Fullarton, N. Bales

St Arnaud v. Donald Golf

ST ARNAUD

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

DONALD GOLF

R. Reseigh, G. Geddes, R. Adams, G. Rigby (s)
L. Kelly, A. Dionisopoulos, D. Peake, D. Pettifer (s)
W. Livingston, B. Murray, S. Hollis, P. Hibberd (s)
Cars: Pettifer, Hibberd, Rigby, Borden, O’Shea, Slater.
Emerg: J. Hollis, S. Donnellon.

Wedderburn v. Wycheproof

WYCHEPROOF

P. Coles, P. Connolly, J. McKay, Jon Grylls (s)
M. Nichols, G. Allan, N. Coles, D. Groves (s)
D. Nichols, A. Coatsworth, E. Rayes, A. Mead (s)

WEDDERBURN

Emerg: C. Jones, R. Coles, C. McLennan.

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

Boort v. Charlton

BOORT Shots: 91, 12 d. CHARLTON 41, 0

DIVISION TWO

Round 2, Saturday, October 18

Donald v. St Arnaud Country Club

DONALD

K. Wyllie, J. Bishop, P. Wyllie, D. Romeo (s)
S. Robertson, M. Harris, B. Hollis, O. Gravestock (s)
B. Subprom, D. Knight, A. McEwen, J. Howley (s)

ST ARNAUD CC

L. Abbott, M. Pole, D. Goode, C. Webb (s)
J. Jorgensen, P. Mullins, A. Marland, N. Robinson (s)
G. White, T. Coloe, D. McAllister, J. Needs (s)
Cards: G. White. Team Manager: J. Needs
Emerg: G. Fullarton, N. Bales

St Arnaud v. Donald Golf

ST ARNAUD

J. Barron, C. Cheesman, W. Rourke, L. Goddard (s)
P. Duncan, G. McIntyre, D. Petrie, L. Goodwin (s)
B. Eccles, J. Prendegast, P. Micallef, K. Dyke (s)

DONALD GOLF

B. Brasier, B. Bayles, G. Stopps, L. Borden (s)
W. Nelson, B. Dixon, A. Humphrey, S. O’Shea (s)
M. Raynes, M. Frank, J. Slater, G. Wood (s)
Cars: Pettifer, Hibberd, Rigby, Borden, O’Shea, Slater.
Emerg: J. Hollis, S. Donnellon.

Wedderburn v. Wycheproof

WYCHEPROOF

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

WEDDERBURN

Emerg: C. Jones, R. Coles, C. McLennan.

R. Little, J. Matthews, A. Noordennen, G. Burnside (s)
S. Standfield, A. Benaim, S. Steel, L. Standfield (s)
H. Stephenson, J. Murnane, M. Guelfo, J. Grant (s)

Boort v. Charlton

BOORT Shots: 65, 10 d. CHARLTON 63, 2

Birchip Bowls Off to a Great Start

With both the Tyrell and Northern Valley competitions under way, it’s great news for Birchip that they’ve made a fine start in both.

Tyrell

Tyrell Division 1 and 2 had good wins first up on October 4, defeating Sea Lake in both Divisions. That success was followed up on Saturday with another win in Division 1 and a narrow loss in Division 2 against Quambatook at Quambatook.

Division 2 and Smithy’s troops had a tight tussle all day, only to go down by four shots at the end, with Rob Ince scoring a three-shot win in his rink. Thanks go to Nick “Bobby” Noonan, Sam Teg-gins and Brad Ryan for filling in at the last minute.

It’s good to see Bobby back on the green again, and likewise Sam having another crack this year. Brad Ryan has been very helpful filling in at times over the last couple of years, and the club looks forward to seeing him as a per-manent fixture in the not-too-distant future.

Division 1 put its second win on the board at the ex-pense of Quambatook. Tom Gravestock’s rink came from behind to get home 22-16. Jennifer Blainey’s rink had a tight struggle all day, only to go down by one shot (21/22) on the last end.

Special mention to Kevin Hagely, leading. Kevin has worked hard to get a crack at Division 1 and was rewarded with a guernsey on Saturday. Great work, Kevin. Peter Gould’s rink came away with

a draw (23/23), and it was great to see Trevor “Waffle” Grogan back in action again after surgery a few weeks ago.

This is a great effort from all, as quite a few bowlers have taken up new roles in the teams now that Birchip has a side in Northern Valley. Keep up the great work and dedica-tion.

Northern Valley

The Northern Valley sea-son opener saw Birchip wel-come Cohuna and come away with a two-shot overall win, vindicating the club’s deci-sion to enter a team in the Northern Valley Premier League.

The game got under way in windy, trying conditions, but Birchip made a strong start and stayed in front all day.

The rink of Des Ryan was solid throughout, with his crew of Huey, Lewie and Duey (A. Louttit, A. Lee and S. Wight) all contributing to a 19-11 victory. Richard Had-drick’s rink, after a great start, was pegged back by Cohuna mid-match but held firm to win 19-16. Wayne Clark’s rink, after gaining early as-cendancy, went down 17-26.

Highlights of Birchip’s first day in Premier League included Sauce Hogan’s in-clusion to play with the “fluffy tails,” Huey, Lewie and Duey’s big day support-ing Des Ryan, the scribe putting one down on the

wrong bias on the very first end, and the great spirit in which the game was played.

Thank you to Caroline “Twiggy” Reid for organising the afternoon tea; great job, Twiggy!

Congratulations to those club members who’ve had success in the Tyrell fours and triples events held recently. Jackie Tierney, Pauline Bragg, Caroline Reid and Jen-nifer Blainey won the Tyrell fours, while Tash Hogan, Peg Hogan and Jennifer Blainey were successful in the triples. In the Tyrell men’s fours, Mark (Frogga) Bowen, Andrew Lee, Wayne Clark and Kevin Reid were victori-ous.

A great effort by all, prov-ing the strength of the Birchip Bowling Club.

Good luck to this week’s pennant teams.

CHURCHES

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, Wburn, 3 p.m.

Donald and Boort Lead the Way

Two rounds into North Central Playing Area’s Midweek Pennant season, participants are still waiting for the weather to warm up, but competition out on the bowling green is generating plenty of heat, as teams jostle for position.

Donald, which secured all 12 points against host St. Arnaud Country Club, currently shares top place with Boort, which banked 8 points against St. Arnaud.

The inclusion of Norm Hollis as a skipper strengthened Donald’s line-up, his rink securing a 7-shot victory over Des Moulday’s combo.

Bill Hegarty’s rink added another 7 shots to the winning total, at Amanda Marland’s expense.

And Beryl Milne and her team-mates added plenty of cream on Donald’s celebratory cake, eclipsing Rhonda Pole’s line-up by 20 shots.

Boort can thank wily veteran John Gibson, capably directed by wife Dot, and encouraged by Tania Noles and Glenda Charles, for its winning margin of 8 shots, after the foursome defeated Laurie Goodwin’s lot by 25 shots.

That margin more than compensated for the losses by Wayne Keenan to Lloyd Goddard by 7 shots and Thelma Moresi by 10 shots to master bowler, Phil McRae.

After enjoying a season opening win over Wycheproofin round 1, Charlton came back to earth with a thud when it was pipped by just 3 shots by Donald Golf, which recorded its first win of the new season.

All three games were close throughout, with Peter Hibberd’s team pulling away from Ken North after the lunch break to win by 12 shots.

Shane O’Shea’s combo added another 3 shots, a haul of 5 late in the contest against

Lynne Southwell’s lot virtually decided what had been a tight tussle.

Kevin Willey was like the cat that got the cream after his rink accounted for Geoff Rigby’s crew by 12 shots, the Charlton team digging deep late in the game after being headed briefly by Golf.

Golf picked up 10 points to 2.

Wycheproof secured early season bragging rights over Wedderburn when it finished 36 shots and 10 points to 2, to the better of its arch rival.

Skippers Matt Nicholls and Dale Groves set host club Wycheproof on the road to victory, accounting for Ruth Hall by 28 shots and Amy Roberts by 26 shots respectively, which more than covered for Jono Grylls’s 18-shot loss to Wedderburn maestro, Alan Jackson

Details of Round 2:
St. Arnaud Country Club 52-0 lost to Donald 86-12.

Dianne Fullarton, Suzanne Wright, Lyn Moulday, Des Moulday (s) 19 lost to Deb Knight, Marion McEwen, Ev Adams, Norm Hollis (s) 26.

Yvonne Templar, Greg Fullarton, Faye Rodger, Amanda Marland (s) 21 lost to Bo Subprom, Kay Wyllie, Beth Hollis, Bill Hegarty (s) 28.

Steven Atkinson, Leigh Abbott, Colleen Bond, Rhonda Pole (s) 12 lost to Margaret Quick, Joan Wood, Kelvin Adamson, Beryl Milne (s) 32.

Donald Golf 74-10 d. Charlton 71-2.

Corozon Stopps, Tony Dionisopoulos, Marilyn Frank, Shane O’Shea (s) 26 d.

Richard Porter, Jenni McGrath, Dale McCallum, Lynne Southwell (s) 23.

Debbie Adams, Enid Brasier, Robert Reseigh, Geoff Rigby (s) 19 lost to Eily Rosewall, Jeff Cox, John Headon, Kevin Willey (s) 31.

Sue Donnellon, Brenda Dixon, Stewart Hollis, Peter Hibberd (s) 29 d. Gary Bateson, Wendy Laffin, Mark Hemley, Ken North (s) 17.

Boort 70-8 d. St. Arnaud 62-4.

Glenda Charles, Tania Noles, Dorothy Gibson, John Gibson (s) 36 d. Heather Stevenson, Margaret McIntyre, Sandra McIntyre, Laurie Goodwin (s) 11.

Sarah Polack, Gillian Tweddle, Joan Earl, Wayne Keenan (s) 17 lost to Anne McNally, Margaret McRae, Paul Micallef, Lloyd Goddard (s) 24.

Lynn Carrall, Yvonne Cashen, Phyl Baker, Thelma Moresi (s) 17 lost to Andrea Tyler, Diane Ostarcevic, Marie Hufer, Phil McRae (s) 27.

Wycheproof 87-10 d. Wedderburn 51-2.

Lynette Nicholls, Vince Grant, Alan Jones, Matt Nicholls (s) 38 d. Robina Little, John Grant, Judy Matthews, Ruth Hall (s) 10.

Carol Jones, Des Nicholls, Jeannie Grylls, Jono Grylls (s) 11 lost to Helen Stephenson, Lance Standfield, Sandra Steel, Alan Jackson (s) 29.

Andrea Coatsworth, Shirley McKenna, Lorraine Milburn, Dale Groves (s) 38 d. Lynette Don, Sandra Standfield, Joan Murnane, Amy Roberts (s) 12.



• Enjoying her first year of midweek Pennant is Donald Golf’s Debbie Adams. Watching her intently is Charlton’s Eily Rosewall.



• Charlton bowler Wendy Laffin delivers her bowl watched by Donald Golf’s Brenda Dixon. In the background Stewart Hollis, Sue Donnellon, Gary Bateson, and Mark Hamley.



• Dale McCallum about to deliver his bowl. Behind him is opponent Marilyn Frank. This was the closest game of the day, with a 3-shot win to Donald Golf.



• Another two new bowlers to midweek pennant are Charlton’s Jenny McGrath and her Donald Golf opponent Tony Dionosopolous.

MIDWEEK PENNANT BOWLS										
Positions of Teams, after round 2										
	P	W	L	D	Bye	F	A	SD	%	Pts
Donald	2	1	1	0	0	153	128	25	119	16
Boort	2	2	0	0	0	146	129	17	113	16
Charlton	2	1	1	0	0	152	132	20	115	14
Wedderburn	2	1	1	0	0	145	142	3	102	14
St. Arnaud	2	1	1	0	0	130	131	-1	99	14
Donald Golf	2	1	1	0	0	135	139	-4	97	12
Wycheproof	2	1	1	0	0	145	132	13	109	10
St. Arnaud Country Club	2	0	2	0	0	107	180	-73	59	0

Donald Bowlers in Midweek Form

Donald midweek bowlers bagged all 12 points at Country Club.

With Lindy missing, Norm Hollis directed his team of Deb. Knight, Marion. McEwen and Ev. Adams to victory, 26-19.

Beryl Milne, Acky Adamson, Joan Wood and Marg Quick, all playing consistently, came storming home with a 20-shot win, 32-12.

Bill Hegarty and his side Bo, Kaye Wyllie and Beth

Hollis were up and down, but after lunch, settled to over-

come Amanda Marland’s team 28-21.

“Times” Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8197 - SOLUTIONS

Across - 7, Questionable. 8, Torrid. 9, Orator. 10, Trodden. 12, Dippy. 15, Stale. 16, Connect. 18, Claret. 20, Piffle. 22, Companionway.

Down - 1, Autocrat. 2, User. 3, Fiddler. 4, Snoop. 5, Abrasion. 6, Veto. 11, Doldrums. 13, Peculiar. 14, Dolphin. 17, Stray. 19, Lock. 21, Fang.

Tennis Hits the Court

The 2025-2026 NCLTA season got under way last Friday night, with Avon travelling to Charlton and coming away with a strong 10-0 win to start the season in style. The other Donald team, Richardson, had the bye due to the Donald Show.

In the top men's section, the contest was very close. Derek and Dawson Hollis defeated Joe Niall and Josh Sullivan 8-6, while Derek and Jesse Higgins combined to win a tiebreaker against Joe and Mason Heenan. Jesse won his second tiebreaker with Dawson against Josh and Mason. In the bottom men's section, Richard Reilly and Joe Sheridan defeated Wes Jenkyn and Harry Bourke 8-3; Richard and Paul Sheridan defeated Wes and Brian Heenan 8-5; father and son combination Joe and Paul defeated Henry and Brian 8-0. The final score in the men's section was Avon 48 games to Charlton 28 games.

Women

Donald's women's section was a far closer affair. Cherie Reilly and Stuart Potter lost to Jo Southcombe and Michelle Jenkyns 8-4, while Jo and Abby Thompson defeated Cherie and Meaghan King. The final set of the top women's section between Avon's Stuart and Meaghan and Charlton's Michelle and Abby was travelling at 3-3

when an unfortunate knee injury to Meaghan King forced the Avon pair to forfeit the match with a win to Charlton 8-3. In the bottom women's section Jess McGurk and Rae Heenan lost 8-2 to Myles Hollis and Dougal McAllister. Dougal McAllister and Maddie defeated Jess McGurk and Mikayla Crisp. In the final women's set, Myles Hollis and Maddie Grant defeated Rae Heenan and Mikayla. The final score in the women's section was Avon 37 games to Charlton 32 games.

Mixed

With Avon taking a 25-game advantage into the mixed, even with a 0-8 forfeit for Avon due to injury, it was going to take an almighty effort from Charlton to take out the night.

In the top mixed section, Derek Hollis and Cherie Reilly lost a close match 6-8 to Joe Niall and Michelle Jenkyn, while Dawson Hollis and Dougal McAllister won 8-4 over Josh Sullivan and Jo Southcombe. In the bottom mixed section Richard Reilly and Stuart Potter defeated

Wes Jenkyn and Jess McGurk 8-4; Henry Bourke and Rae Heenan defeated Joe Sheridan and Maddie Grant 8-6; Myles Hollis and Paul Sheridan won their final set 8-3 against Brian Heenan and Mikayla Crisp.

Overall scores were Avon 10 points (121 games) defeating Charlton 0 points (94 games) by 27 games.

Three set winners for Avon were Richard Reilly, Dougal McAllister and Paul Sheridan while Jesse Higgins won both the sets he played. For Charlton, Michelle Jenkyn was the only three-set winner.

In Round 2 this coming Saturday, both Donald teams will travel to St Arnaud. Avon will play Kara Kara while Richardson will open its season with a match against St Arnaud. Could players please meet at the Post Office at 12.20 p.m. to organise travel to St Arnaud?

The Avon team is:

Men: Richard Reilly, Mark Mortlock, Joe Sheridan, Jack Reilly, Samuel Mortlock, Stuart Potter, Max Reilly.

Women: Macie Mortlock, Jess Nunn, Cherie Reilly, Lainey Mortlock, Jenny Mortlock, Anna Brennan.

The Richardson team is:

Men: Derek Hollis, Braxton Hollis, Josh Talty, Paul Sheridan, Myles Hollis.

Women: Jasmine Hollis, Sarah McDonald, Alison Duynhoven, Carmel Lowry.

Working Bee

Last Sunday morning, the tennis club working bee was attended by a small group of enthusiastic members. Thanks to Derek Hollis, Anne-Maree Wright, Kelvin Adamson, Jasmine Hollis, Josh Talty, Kalon Green and Emma Green for their efforts. The courts and the surrounds look superb and are ready to go for Donald's first home game in Round 3.

	Played	Total pts	Games For	Games Against	%
Nullawil	1	10	131	81	161.73%
Avon	1	10	121	94	128.72%
St Arnaud	1	8	125	76	164.47%
Kara Kara	1	8	138	122	113.11%
Birchip	1	2	122	138	88.41%
Wirrim	1	2	76	125	60.80%
Charlton	1	0	94	121	77.69%
Wycheproof	1	0	81	131	61.83%
Richardson	0	0	0	0	0



• Red and Green teams cheer for the umpires after the game.

Charlton Basketball is Back!

On Monday night, the Women's Competition fired back up with 40 women taking the court.

Competition co-ordinators, Chloe Walsh and Remi Jeffrey, were pleased to see so many keen players return for another season, as well as many new faces joining the friendly competition.

Orange and Purple kicked off the night in a high scoring game. Many 3 pointers were shot from Tori Hutchins, Kelly Wright and Abby Mulquiny. Chloe Walsh redeemed herself after being fouled off in last year's grand final by scoring 34 points for the Orange team.

Young stars, Sarah Blair, Isabel Soulsby, Taylah Giles and Stella Nicolson showed that they have returned with more skills and confidence this season.

The final scores were Orange 37 to Purple 22. The second game played between Red and Green was fast and fiery from the first jump. Maddi Postle dominated from the start, with many drives down the court. Claudia Lee and Katie Lewis's accurate shots helped Green take the lead. Brooke Thompson and Remi Jeffrey worked hard for

Red and brought the scores back within two points. Claire Smith was powerful under the ring, utilising her height to take countless rebounds. When Green had too many team fouls, Remi helped her team take a late lead by shooting her rewarded free throws. With only seconds left of the game, Green was also repaid with two free shots from Red's team fouls. Tamsyn McGurk sank both her shots and brought the game to a draw of 27-27 on the buzzer.

Next week will see Red v. Purple and Orange v. Green.

Birchip Bowls Teams

Birchip (Northern Valley) v. Kerang at Kerang, October 18, at 1.30 p.m..

Division 1

S. Wight, A. Louttit, A. Lee, D. Ryan (s)
T. Doran, R. Bragg, O. Reid, R. Haddrick (s)
M. Bowen, G. Martin, K. Reid, W. Clark (s)
Emergency: T. Grogan.
Meet at bowling club at 10.45 a.m. for a 1.30 start.

Birchip (Tyrrell) v. Sea Lake, at Birchip October 18, at 1 p.m..

Division 1

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

Division 2

N. Hogan, S. Fraser, P. Hogan R. Ince (s)
L. Whitling, S. Teggin, P. Bragg, G. Smith (s)
Meet at bowling club 12.30 p.m.
Afternoon tea please.

Take care on the roads
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careless drivers.

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