

DONALD

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

The Buloke Times

Est. 1875

BIRCHIP

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

Published Tuesdays and Fridays
PP331336/0000 1

Friday, October 3, 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, left to right: Trainers Connely Ryan and Carol Reid, Locke Coles, Sophie Barraclough, Leyland Seddon, Mark Austin, Rhett Hogan, Darcy Coles, Max Fawcett, Mason Sheahan, Jacob Soulsby, Dianne Lang, Stephen Lang. Front row, left to right: Sadie Cunningham, Grace McKersie, Hayley Yasa, Lana Fawcett, Jessie Fawcett, Libby Thompson, Dakota Connolly, Tessa Sheahan, Olivia Driscoll, Kaylah Carrington, Ruby Ison, Scottie Allan.

Wycheproof Debs Dazzle

(From Wycheproof Lions Club)

Oh, what a night! Not a vacant seat in the hall that was beautifully decorated with simplicity, but elegance by the Debs and their families.

Lion Alex Morrison welcomed everyone and thanked the Debs and their partners, and also their parents for such a big commitment with all the training and running around to get them to this final night,

to be presented as the 2025 Debutantes.

He then handed over to Julie McLennan, who proceeded to welcome and present Lion President Steven Lang and his wife Diane, and

representing our local area, Jade Benham, MLA, from Mildura. We thank her very much for attending our Ball.

Julie then proceeded to introduce the two flower girls, followed by the Debutantes,

ably assisted by their partners, all with the spotlight shining brightly on them.

Excerpt from emcee Julie McLennan: Welcome to the 2025 Lions Club Debutante ball. A most important event on the calendar for our community. This event does not just happen tonight; it is the culmination of many hours of

training by the very committed and very talented Connely Ryan and Carol Reid. Thank you so much and I am sure this group will make you proud.

The Debutantes and partners are being presented to: Lions Club president Steve Lang, his wife and Lions Club member Dianne Lang, and the

Nationals member for Mildura, Jade Benham.

I am very proud to be presenting to you 20 gorgeous young people, and assisting them this evening are our delightful flower girls, Sadie Cunningham and Scottie Allan.

• Continued on page 2.

Johanna to Feature on Global Stage

(By Kate Fowles)

Former Donald resident Johanna Clark's bucket list is about to become shorter, as she tackles two world title events within three weeks.

The Torquay triathlete will compete in the Surf Coast Shire Council-supported UCI Gran Fondo World Cycling Championships in Lorne from October 16 to 19. She will then fly to Spain for the Ironman 70.3 World Championship in November.

"There aren't many 70.3s in Australia you can do, so because the Geelong one is right on my doorstep, I thought I'd do it again in March," she said.

"I won my age group and earned a qualifying spot for Marbella in Spain, so now I'm counting down to my second 70.3 world championships.

"Mix that in with this amazing opportunity to put on the Australian suit for the UCI World Championships in Lorne, and I'm living my

dream. The bucket list is getting ticked off."

While the pandemic meant Johanna's Ironman world championships debut in New Zealand fell through in 2020, there was a silver lining to the Taupō event being pushed back to 2024.

"Amy's Gran Fondo was a lead-up race for Taupō and one of my girlfriends said that we should do Amy's because it would be great preparation," she said. "So I did, and I managed to get the last qualifying spot for the Gran Fondo World Championships."

World's Best

The Surf Coast will welcome the world's best amateur road cyclists for the UCI Gran Fondo World Championships in Lorne, which will

coincide with Amy's Great Ocean Road Gran Fondo.

Johanna said the 131km world title road race would be ideal preparation for Spain.

"There are some great climbs through the Otways and the total elevation is about 2000m," she said.

"The bike course in Spain is 1700m elevation, so the Lorne race is going to help me.

"I do love the bike. It's my favourite leg, finding the stamina to push hard."

The naturopath and mother-of-three believes the preparation is just as exciting as the races themselves.

"The long training sessions, the setbacks, the discipline, and the quiet wins that no one else sees – that's

• Continued on page 2.



• Johanna Clark.

Wycheproof Debs Dazzle

• Continued from page 1.

Sadie is 6 years old and is the eldest daughter of Giles Cunningham and Amy Fay. Sadie has a sister Harriet and a brother Roy. She is in prep at the Wycheproof P-12 college and enjoys playing with her friends and dancing. Sadie wants to be an artist when she grows up.

Scottie is 6 years old and is the second child of Rick and Jenna Allan. She has an older brother, Cooper, and a younger sister, Blair. Scottie also attends Wycheproof P-12 College and is in prep with Sadie. She enjoys playing with her barbies and going to net set go on Saturday’s. When Scottie grows up she wants to be a doctor and fix people.

Both girls are wearing matching dresses with lace tops and tulle skirts.

Our first debutante is **Hayley Yasa** and her partner Sophie Barraclough.

Hayley is 16 and is the child of Adam Yasa and the niece of Rose. Her hobbies are watching movies, playing netball and running. After school Hayley hopes to work for the RSPCA or to become a forensic scientist. Her ambitions include having lots of puppies and cows on her future farm.

Hayley’s partner, Sophie is 16, and is the daughter of Peter and Nikki Barraclough. Her hobbies are playing soccer, wakeboarding, and solving puzzles. After school she is considering being a biomedical engineer or physiotherapist. Her ambitions are to travel.

Our second debutante is **Libby Thompson** partnered by Rhett Hogan.

Libby is 17 years old and is the second daughter of Suzi and Brett Thompson. Libby also has three younger brothers from her dad and his wife, Lauren. Libby is currently completing year 11 VCE at Wycheproof P-12 college and has a part time job at the hospital. In her spare time, Libby enjoys playing sports, such as netball and running, as well as spending time with friends. She is looking forward to taking a gap year after she finishes school and enjoying some travel and exploring new opportunities.

Libby’s Partner, Rhett is 17 and the oldest child of Paul Hogan and Trudy Mathieson. Rhett has a passion for farming and is currently working full time with Will Leslie on his farm. When he is not working, he enjoys playing football and hanging out with mates. In the future Rhett wants to continue a career in farming.

Our third debutante is **Kayla Carrington** and she is partnered by Jacob Soulsby.

Kayla is 17 years old and lives with her beautiful mum Danielle and 4 pets. In her spare time Kayla loves to sketch, paint and play her guitar. Currently she is attending school at Wycheproof P-12 College and plans to study at university to become a Mechanical Engineer or a future artist in the Fine Arts.

Kayla’s partner tonight is, Jacob Soulsby. He is 15 and lives with his father Mark and older brother; he also has a younger brother. Jacob is currently attending Maryborough Education Centre and is interested in computers and programming. After school Jacob isn’t exactly sure what he wants to do, but it will probably be something in the technology field.

Our next debutante tonight is **Tessa Sheahan** partnered by Max Fawcett.

Tessa is 16 years old and the youngest child of Ricky and Di Sheahan. She has five older siblings and a niece and nephew whom she adores. In her free time, Tessa enjoys playing netball for the Calder Lions, playing tennis, helping out on the family farm and spending quality time with her friends. She has part-time jobs working at Marlbro House and the Wycheproof Hospital. Tessa is planning to study VCE at Wycheproof P-12 College and hopes to attend the University of Melbourne after finishing school.

Tessa’s partner Max Fawcett is 17 and is the second youngest of Jed and Paul Fawcett. Max is currently completing year 11 at Wycheproof P-12 College and is doing work placement one day a week at his family farm. His interests are multiple sports, spending time with mates and working with his dad. After completing year 12, Max looks forward to doing some travelling then coming back to work on the family farm.

Olivia Driscoll is our next debutante and she is partnered by Mason Sheahan.

Olivia is the youngest daughter of Gary Driscoll and Donna Egan. Olivia is currently studying year 11 VM at Wycheproof P-12 College and is undertaking a certificate II in salon assistant at Charlton North Central Technology and Trade Centre. She is also working part time at the Wycheproof Bakery. In her free time, Olivia enjoys playing netball for Calder United, swimming in the summer, and playing her guitar. When Olivia completes school she hopes to become a hairdresser.

Mason Sheahan is 17 years old and is the youngest child of Darin and Narelle Sheahan and the younger brother of Spencer. Mason is currently completing year 12 VCE at Wycheproof P-12 College. Mason’s interests include running, listening to music, criticising films and enjoying the occasional social outing.

Mason is currently working part-time at East Wimmera Health in Wycheproof. He is planning to study a Bachelor of Nursing to become a nurse in the Air Force.

Our next debutante tonight is **Ruby Ison** partnered by Angus Cowell.

Ruby is 17 years old and is the youngest child of Jamie and Claire Ison. She has three older siblings Amelia, James and William. Ruby is currently completing year 11 VCE at Wycheproof P-12 College. Her hobbies include baking, netball, hockey and hanging out with friends. Once Ruby finishes school she wishes to travel and continue her studies overseas.

Ruby’s partner, Angus Cowell, is 17 and is the son of Heath Cowell and Keltia Lyn-dsay. Angus is currently completing his VCE certificate at Wycheproof P-12 College and is aiming to study sport and fitness at university after year



• Jade Benham (left), Lions Club member Dianne Lang, Lions Club President Stephen Lang.

12. His interests include playing football with mates, film and TV, spending time with family and running.

Our next debutante tonight is **Jessie Fawcett**, partnered by Mark Austin.

Jessie is 16 years old and is the youngest of six children to Simone and Colin Fawcett. Jessie is currently completing year 11 VCE at Wycheproof P-12 college. After year 12 Jessie hopes to pursue a career in the health field, following the footsteps of her older sisters. Jessie enjoys spending time with friends and family, playing netball for Calder United, and of course shopping, way more than saving.

Jessie’s partner is Mark Austin. Mark is 17 and is the son of Melissa Gaylor and Daryle Austin. Mark is currently studying VM at Wycheproof P-12 college and is completing a certificate 3 in a school-based apprenticeship. He aims to take over the family farm at the end of year 12. His interests include hanging out with mates, playing football, listening to music, playing the guitar and going for night drives.

Our next debutante is **Lana Fawcett** partnered by Leyland Seddon.

Lana is 15 years old and is the youngest of 4 children to Paul and Geraldine Fawcett. She loves playing sport especially netball. She also likes to holiday at the beach where she can swim and surf. Lana enjoys working at Bakery on Broadway and is excited to start work soon at the Wycheproof hospital. After completing Year 12, Lana intends to study at university.

Lana’s partner, Leyland Seddon is 16 and his parents are Jason and Danielle. He loves to ride motorbikes and play football. He loves to work and is planning on becoming a shearer after he finishes school.

Dakota Connolly is our next debutante and is partnered by Darcy Coles.

Dakota is the only daughter of Louise and Paul Connolly

and younger sister to Angus and Hunter. She is a year 10 student at Wycheproof P-12 College. Dakota enjoys being creative through her arts, being company to friends and family and loving every activity summer has to offer especially swimming, surfing and snorkelling. Dakota baby-sits her younger cousins and is excited to start work at the Wycheproof hospital. Dakota plans to pursue her passion of travel and complete a lap of Australia once finished school. She hopes to study abroad and aims to achieve a Bachelor degree in Environmental Science.

Darcy Coles is the youngest son of Tony Coles and Georgina Morrison and brother to Joe. He is 16 and currently studying year 10. Darcy enjoys football, fishing, camping and motorbike riding. He loves working on the farm with his family and would like to continue this as a career.

Our final debutante tonight is **Grace McKersie**, partnered by Locke Coles.

Grace is the only daughter of Christine McKersie and Christopher Duffy and is the younger sister of Xavier. She is currently in year 10 at Wycheproof P-12 College and aspires to study at university in Melbourne after completing her secondary education. Beyond school, Grace dreams of travelling and learning more about the world. She works part-time at the local IGA and also babysits Cooper, Scottie (one of the night’s beautiful flower girls) and her little sister Blair. In her free time, Grace enjoys spending time with friends, playing netball, and catching up with her extended family.

Grace’s partner, Locke Coles is the youngest son of Ross Coles and Sharon Nicholls, and brother to Louisa. Locke is 17 and in year 11. He is passionate about football, farm work and fitness and this year, his football team the Calder United Lions under-17s made finals. After completing year 12 at Wycheproof P-12 College, Locke would

like to pursue a career in farm work.

The debutantes’ first dance was the Tango to the song “Mercy by Duffy”. Second dance the progressive jive to ABBA’s “Waterloo”. Third dance was “The Pride of Erin” to the song “A Thousand Years” sung by Christina Perri.

This next dance the debutantes were joined by their flower girls, Sadie and Scottie, to dance the evening three step to the scissor sisters, “I Don’t Feel Like Dancing”.

After photos the debutantes took to the floor to dance to “Murder on the Dance Floor”.

The debutantes and partners concluded the official part of the evening dancing with their special guests to the song “Shotgun”, by George Ezra.

Johanna to Feature on Global Stage

• Continued from page 1.

where the real growth happens,” she said.

“As parents we so often pour all of our energy into helping our children achieve their goals, but it’s just as important to keep chasing our own.

“For me, the endorphins, the gratitude, and the perspective I gain from training and events are priceless. They remind me to live fully and to set an example of resilience and joy for my kids.

“My hope is that more women, in particular, will start seeking out adventures in our beautiful backyard and discover just how strong and alive it can make you feel.”

Training Spots

Swims at Cosy Corner and RACV Torquay, rides along the Great Ocean Road, and runs on The Esplanade and Surf Coast Walk trail are just some of Johanna’s regular training spots.

She covers about 200kms on the bike, 40kms on foot, and 5kms in the water each week, plus strength and mobility work.

“My husband Ed is an amazing support,” she said.

“We were both in Melbourne for 20 years but we’re country people at heart. COVID brought us to Torquay earlier than we planned and it’s been great. It ticks every box – being in nature and being around so many like-minded people.”

Home Town

Reflecting on her maiden triathlon in St Arnaud as a teenager on a yellow race bike from the local newsagency in her home town of Donald, Johanna is grateful she rediscovered the sport.

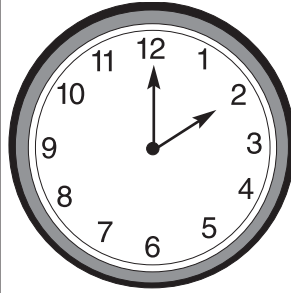
“Ed decided he wanted to try one of the local triathlons in Altona not long after I’d given birth to our twins,” she said.

“I thought ‘this looks awesome’ so I waited a year or two, borrowed one of my friend’s bikes and it quickly escalated from there. I got a bike, I got a coach, and then I started doing the 2XU series.

“To now be part of these world championships events and compete against the best is amazing.”

• Johanna is the daughter of Kate and Kelvin Clark, of Donald.

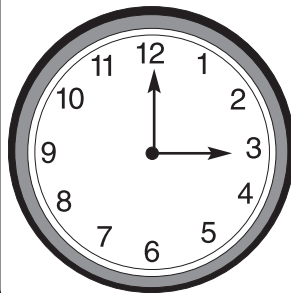
Start “Saving” Sunday



Daylight saving begins on Sunday next, October 5 (the first Sunday in October).

Before going to bed on Saturday night (or early Sunday morning), don’t forget to put your clock forward an hour.

You’ll lose an hour’s sleep, but gain an hour’s daylight.



Letters to the Editor

Let Councils Speak Freely on Climate – Not Just Echo Policy

(The Editor, “The Times”)

Dear Editor.– In Buloke and across regional Victoria, farming communities are facing an unprecedented wave of development; wind farms, solar installations, transmission corridors, and mining proposals. These projects are arriving fast, often with minimal consultation and maximum disruption. And yet, the Municipal Association of Victoria’s recent submission to the Select Committee on Information Integrity on Climate Change and Energy seems more concerned with controlling the message than listening to the people most affected.

The MAV calls for “consistent messaging” and warns of reputational risk when councillors express views that diverge from official climate policy. But this approach risks turning councils into echo chambers – where elected representatives are discouraged from raising legitimate concerns about how climate action is being rolled out on the ground.

Local government is meant to be the voice of the community. In Buloke, that voice is asking hard questions: Why are transmission lines cutting through productive farmland? Why are decisions made in Melbourne and Canberra without meaningful local input? Why are communities expected to absorb the impact

while others reap the benefits?

Silencing these questions by labelling them as “misinformation” or “off-message” is not just undemocratic – it’s dangerous. It breeds resentment, erodes trust, and undermines the very climate goals we’re trying to achieve.

Yes, councils have a role in supporting climate action. But they also have a duty to represent their communities, challenge assumptions, and advocate for fair outcomes. Councillors must be free to speak openly, especially when state-led projects clash with local priorities.

It’s worth noting that the Buloke Shire Council Budget for 2025-26 allocates some \$23,800 to the MAV as a membership fee. That’s a significant investment of ratepayer funds. Yet MAV’s submission reads less like a reflection of council views and more like a directive on what councils should say. Did MAV consult Buloke, or any rural council, before making this submission? If not, it raises serious questions about representation and accountability.

Perhaps it’s time for councils to reconsider their membership in organisations that speak over them rather than for them.

Climate policy without community consent is a recipe for backlash. If MAV wants to support councils, it should start by defending their right

to speak – not by managing their message.

Let’s empower local voices. Let’s protect democratic debate. And let’s ensure that climate action is not just top-down policy, but bottom-up progress.

Regards,
Daryl Warren.
Donald.

Charlton Library Or the Loss Of

(The Editor, “The Times”)

Dear Editor.– I have been driven to write this letter from concern, anger and sheer frustration.

Our library is unable to function in its own premises and hasn’t for many months now, because of the condition of the Shire Hall, the repairs required and the sheer paralysis or lack of care or urgency of the council.

Instead, we attend a tiny little van parked in the street with a set of steps into what is a transport van.

First let’s talk about the occupational safety and welfare of the librarian. She has only the driver’s seat to sit in for hours at a time, having to get out whenever a library patron attends. She checks out our books on a computer on the passenger seat, she stores our requests in crates, as are the returns in another crate. These obviously require juggling to allow readers to access the book shelves on the inside of the miniscule van. This might be not too bad on a lovely sunny day but in adverse weather is quite horrible and I would venture to say very unsafe. The steps to the van are, I am sure, acceptable to the “safety paperwork requirements”, but are far from suitable, especially when she has to load and unload heavy items. Apart from the physical risks to her, what are the psychological and mental health risks? I wish to emphasise here that she is an exemplary librarian and a true asset to the Shire. She is never seen without her smile, her friendliness and helpfulness. But how long can she put up this kind of workplace, and how long should she be expected to tolerate this?

As a member of the library I can access online book

availabilities, but so many cannot. The access to books in the van is strictly limited purely by the size of the van. If you have even minor mobility issues, you cannot access the van at all. I would also suggest the interior lighting is unsafe in the van causing further hazard risks to the public, let alone those with any form of visual impairment being able to see and navigate properly, let alone read words to choose a book.

So what are the choices? You cannot browse, you wait in the rain on the footpath while the librarian searches for you, slip in a puddle, drop books in a puddle. If you are a child or attending with children, where can they sit to read and explore stories, learn? You cannot have more than 2 people at a time inside, there is no room. You cannot browse at all, there is nowhere to sit, to just look and think.

The library has, or was, an informal community hub where people regularly met for a chat and a catch-up. A warm safe place for socially isolated people to meet, possibly the only human they have spoken to in days. All this is gone.

Meanwhile we have buildings standing empty, shops that are empty, why cannot the shire rent a shop until the repairs are done? Or here is an idea, we have offices owned by the Shire empty most of the week. We have a beautiful council chamber that has an occasional meeting, why should it sit there for the majority of the week doing nothing because somebody might want a meeting there sometime? WE HAVE A ONE DAY A WEEK LIBRARY! Surely we, the ratepayers could use what is essentially ours for ONE DAY A WEEK! Is that unreasonable?

I am saddened, frustrated and angry that the Shire is unable to pull themselves together enough to find one safe friendly space in our lovely town for one day a week to support what is essentially an important and precious resource for people of this Shire.

Yours sincerely,
Janet Stafford.
Charlton

Donald Show, 2025 – The Countdown is On!

[From Donald’s P & A Society]

It’s the most magical time of the year once again – the Donald Show is just around the corner.

With gates set to open on Friday, 10th, and Saturday, 11th October, the Donald Pastoral & Agricultural Society is gearing up for a weekend packed with entertainment, competitions, and community spirit.

Show Office Opens

From Monday, October 6, the show office will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Here, you can:

- Purchase your show tickets in advance (or online via the Donald Show website).
- Book disabled parking for convenient access to the grounds.
- Enter your pavilion exhibits across cooking, craft, art, produce, photography, and more.

Be sure to get organised early – some sections close sooner than you think.

Photography Entries

A key date to note for exhibitors is Wednesday, October 8 at 5 p.m. – the cut-off time for all photography entries. Judging will take place on Thursday, so entries must be received before the deadline to be included in the competition.

Friday Night – Shining a Light on Health & Wellbeing.

The excitement kicks off Friday evening with a vibrant program themed around “Shining a Light on the Health and Wellbeing of our Community.” There’s something for everyone, with fun, informative, and interactive activities designed to entertain and inspire.

Here’s just a taste of what’s planned:

- Smoothie Bike – Pedal, blend, and enjoy your very own free, healthy smoothie.
- First Aid Demonstrations – Learn practical lifesaving skills, from CPR and defibrillator use to snake bite bandaging.

• Skin Checks – Take a proactive step for your health with free skin checks from In2Skin Co.

• Guest Speaker: Kristy Kelly – Former Donald local Kristy Kelly shares a heartfelt talk on mental health and resilience in memory of her late husband, John.

• Health & Wellbeing Goodie Bags – Collect free resources and treats to support your health journey.

• Family Entertainment Galore – Enjoy carnival rides, kids’ games, food trucks, live music, face painting, market stalls, wrestling, and more.

• Fireworks Spectacular – Thanks to the Donald BNS, the night sky will light up at approximately 8.30 - 9.00 p.m., bringing colour, joy, and celebration to the showgrounds.

The Donald Show is more than just an event – it’s a celebration of everything that makes our region special. Whether you’re competing, exhibiting, learning, or simply soaking up the atmosphere, there’s no better place to be this October.

Mark the dates, gather your family and friends, and join us as we celebrate community, country life, and the vibrant spirit of Donald at the 2025 Donald Show.



SOLICITOR

116 Napier Street,
St. Arnaud

Experienced practical advice in plain English

Appointments also available in Charlton, Donald and Wycheproof

Ph. 5495 2595
Karen@klp.net.au

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

VicGrid

VICTORIA
State Government

"Times" Classifieds

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

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

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

DEATH

McEWEN.—

James "Jim" Andrew
4/04/1967 - 26/09/2025

Deepest sympathy to Grace, Hamish, Mary and Renee

Loved twin son of Ian and Alison McEwen, brother of Robert, Deborah and Karin.

Much loved uncle of Bill, Stephanie, Olivia, Rebekah, Levi, Cassandra, Georgina, Harrison and families

Raised with a shifter in his pocket, two stroke oil in his veins and a destiny and faith to fly like an Eagle.

Your sudden passing has left us heartbroken but know you are in the presence of the Lord

Rest in His peace

FUNERAL

McEWEN.—

James Andrew

Details to be announced.

THANK YOU

I have been deeply moved by the kindness, generosity, and support shown to me and my family during my illness and on receiving Life Membership of the Birchip Watchem Football Club.

Your texts, phone calls, flowers, visits, congratulatory messages and offers of help have meant more than I can ever express.

To those who have chipped in with the garden, lawns, and meals, as well as provided transport locally and to and from Geelong, it has helped enormously.

I was overwhelmed by the donations to "Sharee's Bucket List" and the beautiful letters shared. Plenty of tears were shed around the table reading them.

Your generosity gave me the opportunity to have a holiday in Cairns where I made some special memories with my family — something we will treasure forever.

It truly is a privilege to be part of such a special and unique community, and I am so grateful for the love and care you have shown. With all my thanks and love,

—Sharee Dobson

TCHUM LAKE

A.G.M.

MON., OCTOBER 13
6.30 p.m.

AT THE SHAMROCK
(77 CUMMING AVE,
BIRCHIP)

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

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



BULOKE AND
NORTHERN GRAMPAINS
LANDCARE NETWORK

AGM
FRIDAY, OCT. 17
@ 4pm Summerfield
Winery, Moonambel

All Welcome.

Guest Speaker: Rob Youl

DONALD GOLF AND
BOWLS CLUB INC.

Annual Meeting

Mon., October 20
7.30 p.m. following Top
Committee monthly
meeting at 7 p.m.

Business:

- President's report
- Presentation of financial statements
- Election of Office Bearers
- Setting of fees

All members are urged to attend.



BIRCHIP COMMUNITY
LEISURE CENTRE INC.
Annual General Meeting
Wed., October 22,
7 p.m. at
Birchip Community
Leisure Centre.

All members invited to attend

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

Email: secretary_bclc@protonmail.com

Donald Netball Club Inc. 5215



General Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 6
@ ANDERSON BLUE ROOM
7 p.m.

All positions open

Apologies to Jess:

donaldnetballclub@gmail.com

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

DONALD TYRE & EXHAUST CENTRE

Will be

CLOSED FROM
Thursday Oct. 2 to
Monday Oct. 20

Sorry for any inconvenience



To all past staff and directors of the Community Bank Donald & District
you are invited to celebrate the
15th Birthday
of our branch opening

When: Friday October 24
@ 6.30 p.m.

Where: Donald Golf Club
Meal provided.

Drinks at bar prices
Please RSVP to the branch by October 10th.

Ph. 5497 1194

DONALD FIELD & GAME 28th Anniversary Shoot

100 ASF
SUNDAY, OCT. 5
9 a.m. start

Proudly sponsored by
Liston Newton Advisory
and Wimmera Trophies & Gifts

Birds in Focus Stuart Giles

Official Opening
Sunday, October 5,
2p.m.

Opening Times

Sat/Sun 11th & 12th
10a.m. – 4p.m.

CHARLTON COURT-
HOUSE GALLERY
8 Camp Street, Charlton
Entry by Donation



Swap Meet & Market

Sunday, October 12
AT CHARLTON PARK
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Something for everyone:

Motor parts, Nursery,
Household items, Ice Cream
and the Lions Barbeque,
\$200 IGA raffle voucher.

*Site Fee \$15 | Admission \$5
(Children U16 free)*

Contact: Kevin Willey
5491 1830 or
G. Larmour 5491 1647

WATCHEM TOWN GARAGE SALE

Sunday, Oct. 12
8a.m. to 3p.m.

Maps available from
Watchem shop for a
gold donation.

Anyone wishing to
have a g/sale can text
address to Annie on
0428 287 116 so you
can be added to map.
**Out of town people
most welcome to set
up in town.**

Culgoa Catholic Church

Celebrating 100th Year

Sunday, Oct. 19
Mass 1 p.m.

Followed by
afternoon tea and
display of history

RSVP 0439 972 305

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

2025 Donald Show
Friday 10th & Saturday 11th October

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

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

Your Blood is Worth Bottling

If you are visiting Ballarat or Bendigo and have a bit of time to spare, a trip to the Blood Bank would be a very rewarding experience.

You will need to book, by phoning 13 14 95.



Australian Red Cross
BLOOD SERVICE



Quill
ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, DONALD

Mensland

OUTFITTING MEN SINCE 1959

AT MENSLAND

*We're still here just
having a go!*

BOYSWEAR CLEARANCE

\$25.00
AND
25% OFF
ITEMS

- FLEECY WINTER JACKETS •
- SUMMER SHORTS •
- T-SHIRTS •

Also, an odd range of toys and games
- look in the corner - watch out for things!

Just ring or email mensland@iinet.net.au and we will deliver your order.

For Promotions, Specials and Competitions, us on Facebook

Find us on

70 Woods Street, Donald — 5497 1211

As part of HISTORY MONTH
Donald History Society will be opening the
DONALD COURTHOUSE MUSEUM
(Woods Street, next to Post Office)

**Every Friday during October from
10 p.m. – 2 p.m.**

The Museum holds a vast collection of the district's rich history.
Come on in and view the recently completed
GEORGIE AH LING DISPLAY



Free Skin Checks

Donald - Sat. 4th & Sun. 5th October

Donald Recreation Reserve
Bookings Colleen 0417 501 447

Charlton - Sat. 11th & Sun. 12th October

Outside Shire Office Charlton
Bookings Harry 0427 911 407

St Arnaud - Sat. 18th & Sun. 19th October

Market Square - Behind Shire Office
Bookings Marg 0417 391 585

"Times" Classifieds

Phone Donald 5497 1222, Birchip 5492 2735

Email admin@buloketimes.com

CHARLTON Open Gardens Sunday, Oct. 12

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

\$20 | includes 6 gardens & afternoon tea

Registration at Uniting Church Hall, Halliday St, Charlton

Enquires to Lynne McRae 0408 113 104

Blessing Of The Animals' Services

BRING your pet, a PHOTO or a STORY about a pet or animal
that has given you unconditional love.

St Paul's Birchip

Friday 3 October 5pm

St Martin's Charlton

Sunday 5 October 9am

St George's Donald

Sunday, 5 October 11am

Holy Trinity Wedderburn

Sunday, 5 October 3pm

Enquiries:

Revd Judi Bird 0435 593 359



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

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

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

Want to get involved? Contact:

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

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



**ENJOY 3 FUN-FILLED DAYS OF
BRILLIANT ENTERTAINMENT**

Murtoa Big Weekend murtoabigweekend.com.au



CONTRACT No. C130 2025/2026- SUPPLY AND/OR DELIVERY OF ROADMAKING MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS

The Buloke Shire Council invites tenders from companies,
or individuals, with a proven ability in the ongoing supply
and/or delivery of roadmaking materials and products for
use in the construction and maintenance of Council's road
network. Further details are available at:

www.buloke.vic.gov.au/tenders. Tender documents are
available for downloading from: <https://portal.tenderlink.com/bulokeshire>. **Tenders close 2 p.m. AEDT Wednesday, 22 October 2025.**

DONALD LIONS CLUB

Spinning Wheel Roster for Donald Show

Thursday, October 9

1pm: Set Up trailer at showgrounds, near toilets.

Leigh Hawkes, Geoff Harvey, David James, Trevor Campbell,
Graeme Harris, Alan Berg.

Saturday, October 11

**10am - 10.45 am: SET UP MICROPHONES AND PUT
PRIZES ON TRAILER.**

Graeme Harris, Shane O'Shea, Alan Berg, Leigh Hawkes, Gary
Dunstan.

ON SPINNING WHEEL

10.45am - 12.30pm: Shane O'Shea (caller), Glenn and Emma
Gorin, Andrea Mason, Gary Dunstan, Sheree.

12.30pm - 2.00pm: David James (caller), Norm Hollis (caller),
Sarah Noonan, Matt House, Mick Raynes, Michelle and Alan
Berg, Jacki Richards.

2.00pm - 3.30pm: Arthur Tsakonas (caller), Graeme Harris
(caller), Colleen Harmer, Stuart & Joyce Hollis, Chris Rodgers.

3.30pm - 4.30pm: Norm Clark (caller), Graeme Harris (caller),
Kerri Flagg, Brian Brasier, David James, Graham Shilton, Mick
Raynes (collect money).

PACK UP

Graeme Harris, David James, Norm Hollis, Matt House.

Please arrange your own replacement if unavailable or
contact Graeme Harris 0419 547 897.

**Lions will be serving eggs and bacon breakfast from
7.30am on Friday morning at the show.**

All support appreciated thank you!



2026 NETBALL COACHES



- DNC Expressions of Interest -
Netball Coaching Applications Now Open

A GRADE / B GRADE / C GRADE / C RES
17A / 14A / 14B / NET-SET-GO



Email donaldnetballclub@gmail.com for expressions
Applications close October 30th



JOHNSON-GOODWIN MEMORIAL HOMES

Annual Meeting

NOTICE is hereby given of the 50th Annual Meeting to
be held 'face to face' and Zoom on Monday 27th Octo-
ber 2025, in Riverside Lounge at Goodwin Village. The
Meeting will commence at 8.00 pm after a meal.

DINNER

The Annual Meeting will be preceded by a meal at
7.15pm. This will cost \$10.00 per head and will include
a subscription to the organisation.

People not wanting to have the meal are welcome to
just come to the meeting for the 8.00 pm start.

GUEST SPEAKER

Jodie Drake (RN) will speak briefly on aspects of her role
at Goodwin Village.

MEETING

The Johnson-Goodwin Memorial Homes Annual Meet-
ing is a 'face to face' public meeting, but only people
who are members of the organisation can move mo-
tions, and vote on them during the meeting.

PARKING

Parking for the meeting attendees is available in the
Riverside carpark at Goodwin Village. Entry to the
carpark is by the riverside track beside the western side
of the Camp Street Bridge.

BUSINESS:

1. To receive the Board's reports.
2. To receive and adopt accounts.
3. Election of representatives to the Board.
4. Notices of motion.
5. Such other general business as may be
discussed at this meeting

Nominations in writing are invited for six positions on
the Board. Five positions are for a two-year term, and
one position is a casual vacancy for a one-year term.
Nomination forms are available from the Chief Execu-
tive Officer.

The following 5 members of the Board will have their
two-year term expire: Helen Amos, Gerard Burke, Mark
Donnellon, Margot Paynter, Leo Tellefson. These mem-
bers are all eligible for re-election.

Members are also informed that subscriptions of \$10.00
are now due.

A. Hogan,
Chief Executive Officer.

MASP to Provide Emergency Relief

Mallee Accommodation and Support Program (MASP) is now a regional provider for the Federal Government's Financial Wellbeing and Capability Activity – Emergency Relief Program.

The Financial Wellbeing and Capability Activity aims to assist financially vulnerable individuals and families by providing emergency relief services.

This includes immediate financial assistance, food parcels, clothing, and vouchers for essential items such as utilities and petrol.

MASP CEO Charmaine Calis acknowledged the Federal Government's support in providing the funding, which will help those facing crisis in north west Victoria and far west New South Wales rebuild their lives.

"The Emergency Relief program is designed to help people manage their immediate financial crises to then be able to be referred to relevant services that can help them further," Mrs Calis said.

"If you're in a financial crisis you can access this



• MASP CEO, Charmaine Calis.

emergency relief and with no citizenship or residency requirements we can ensure anybody is supported no matter their background."

For more information on the Financial Wellbeing and Capability Activity – Emergency Relief Program and how to access it go to <https://masp.org.au/how-we-help/emergency-relief-program/>

Victoria's Crime Crises Worsens

The latest figures from the Crime Statistics Agency (CSA) confirm that crime in Victoria is worsening, with Mildura now recording the fifth highest rate of criminal incidents in the state, up 5.5 per cent.

The Nationals' Member for Mildura, Jade Benham, said local families and communities are struggling to feel safe under the Labor Government.

"Serious offences continue to climb, and residents are paying the price for Labor's inaction, cuts, and weak policing policies," Ms Benham said.

"Crime across Victoria has reached record levels, with a new offence recorded every 49.4 seconds. Regional communities are feeling the impact, with crime surging across the state.

Funding Withdrawn

"Labor continues to withdraw vital funding, leaving our communities at risk. Youth

crime prevention funding has been slashed from nearly \$13 million a year to just \$541,000 over the past three years. On top of that, Labor has cut \$50 million from the police budget and left 2,000 frontline vacancies unfilled.

"Weak bail laws, unfilled police vacancies, and cuts to frontline services mean criminals face almost no consequences, while families continue to suffer."

The CSA reports that in the Mildura Local Government Area (LGA), serious assault has risen by 29 per cent and prohibited weapons offences by 34 per cent. Worryingly, significant increases have also been recorded across smaller municipalities in the elec-

torate: residential aggravated burglary is up 217 per cent in Swan Hill LGA, and 300 per cent in Yarriambiack LGA.

In Buloke

In Buloke LGA, motor vehicle theft has increased by 183 per cent, theft from a motor vehicle by 121 per cent, and prohibited weapons offences 200 per cent.

"Labor has abandoned key crime prevention programs. Crime is spiralling, and families in the Mildura electorate and across Victoria deserve to feel safe at home and in their communities," Ms Benham said.

"The Nationals and Liberals will be tough on crime. Our Safer Communities Plan is focused on delivering results across Victoria. It includes tougher laws, stronger



• Jade Benham.

support for local police, and targeted programs to divert young people away from crime.

"Labor can't manage money, can't manage our crime crisis, and regional Victorians are paying the price," Ms Benham said.

REX THEATRE
CHARLTON

30-34 High St. Charlton
03 5491 2333
boxoffice@rextheatre.org.au
rextheatre.org.au

COMING ATTRACTIONS

THE ROSES
MA15+ 105 mins | Drama
Sat 4 Oct 8pm
Sun 5 Oct 2pm
Tue 7 Oct 8pm

**COMING:
THE NAKED GUN**
M 85mins | Comedy

**LIVE
POLMUSICA**
Sunday 12 Oct 1pm
Free Event



• Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Charlton West.

"Birds in Focus"

On the back of Jenny Pollard's very successful Retrospective exhibition, the Charlton Courthouse Gallery is set to open its doors to another highly anticipated display.

Local farmer and keen photographer, Stuart Giles, returns with "Birds in Focus", a collection celebrating the beauty of our feathered friends.

Stuart has long been admired for his ability to capture the character and grace of birds in their natural habitats. With the help of his long-range lens, he manages to get up close and personal, producing striking images that reveal details often missed by the casual observer. His previ-

ous exhibition at the gallery was very popular, and this latest collection of work is expected to be equally impressive.

Opening in October to coincide with the Charlton Art and Photography Exhibition, "Birds in Focus" promises to both captivate and inspire, reminding us of the joy and fascination that birds bring to our daily lives. Official opening, Sunday, October 5, 2 p.m.. Entry by donation.

"Times" Classifieds

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

HARVEST SEASON WE'RE READY

Grain, Hay & Harvest Freight

B-Double & Road Train services, local site deliveries or across Victoria & interstate.
Let's come up with a solution that works!

Call/text: Owen & Wendy **0417 304 007**
[Find us on](#) Perry Contracting Transport & Spraying

East Wimmera Health Service

Cultivating Healthy Communities

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Birchip
Junior Food and Domestic Service Assistant

Charlton
Food and Domestic Service Assistant
Junior Food and Service Assistant

Donald
Resident Lifestyle Coordinator

St Arnaud
Endorsed Enrolled Nurse
Executive Assistant (Primary Care)
Deputy Director of Clinical Services

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

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

WIMPAK
An ETG Company

WE ARE HIRING!

2025/26 HARVEST STAFF

Duties will consist of:

- Unloading Trucks
- Operating belt shifters
- Operating Bunker Staker
- Bunker Duties
- Operating Drive Over hopper

Successful applicants will need to be self motivated and able to work autonomously, Be an Australian citizen or hold a valid work Visa

APPLY NOW
Email admin@wimpak.com.au
Call Damian: 0428 857 055

The Buloke Times

Est. 1875

- * Letterheads
- * Receipt Books
- * Statements
- * Posters
- * Business Cards

- * Brochures
- * Account Books
- * Pamphlets
- * Docket Books
- * Envelopes

- * Personalised Stationery
- * Programs
- * Membership Cards
- * Raffle Books

Commercial Printers

FULL COLOUR PRINTING

To discuss your printing needs, ring 5497 1222 (Donald), or call in at our office in McCulloch Street, or see Simone at the Birchip Business and Learning Centre, in Cumming Avenue, Birchip. **6 McCulloch Street, Donald Phone 5497 1222 Email: art@buloketimes.com**



• Ambulance Victoria will run Call, Push, Shock sessions in Donald and Birchip during Shocktober and locals are encouraged to attend.

Sign Up to Save a Life This Shocktober: It's Resuscitation Time

With more cardiac arrests in Victoria than ever before, Ambulance Victoria (AV) is encouraging Donald and Birchip residents to learn or refresh their cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills and sign up to be a GoodSAM responder.

A cardiac arrest occurs when a person's heart suddenly stops pumping blood effectively around the body.

This October marks the sixth year of AV's state-wide Shocktober campaign, which is dedicated to improving cardiac arrest survival rates.

AV Loddon Mallee Regional Director Matt McCrohan encouraged locals to learn CPR, how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED) and know where their closest defibrillator is located.

"Shocktober is about giving Victorians who have a cardiac arrest a better chance of returning to their loved ones," he said.

"CPR and defibrillation are critical. Every day, around 21 Victorians suffer the medical emergency but only one in 10 survive. For every minute CPR is delayed, survival decreases by 10 per cent.

"Cardiac arrest can happen to anyone, anytime, anywhere, at any age, health or fitness level, and often without symptoms.

Simple Message

"Our message is simple – you don't need to be a paramedic to save a life, just remember to Call (Triple Zero 000), Push (Perform CPR) and Shock (use an AED)."

Matt also encouraged locals to sign up to be a GoodSAM responder.

GoodSAM is a mobile app that connects patients in cardiac arrest with a nearby volunteer who is willing to start hands-only CPR while paramedics are on their way. There are currently more than 17,300 GoodSAM responders across Victoria – but we need more.

Last year, AV paramedics and first responders were called to 7,545 cardiac arrest patients. Victoria has the best cardiac survival rates in Australia and the third best anywhere in the world.

Donald and Birchip Sessions

AV will run Call, Push, Shock sessions in Donald and Birchip during Shocktober and locals are encouraged to attend:

When: From 9 a.m. Saturday, October 11.

Where: Donald Show.

When: 11:30 a.m. Friday, October 17.

Where: Birchip Flower Show.

For information about Shocktober, the GoodSAM app and how to learn CPR and use an AED (defib), visit ambulance.vic.gov.au/shocktober

62nd Elmore Field Days



Fun for the
whole family!



Gates open
8:30am - 5pm



Oct 7, 8, 9

Elmore Events Centre
48 Rosaia Rd

Buy tickets today elmorefielddays.com.au



• This October marks the sixth year of AV's state-wide Shocktober campaign, which is dedicated to improving cardiac arrest survival rates.

Police Beat



Gannawarra

Theft: It is reported that between 4 p.m. on Tuesday the 23rd of September and 7 a.m. the following day, a ramp has been stolen from the side of the Murray Valley Highway within the township of Cohuna. This is a 3m long pedestrian ramp that was being used to allow access over wet concrete.

Drug offences: On Wednesday the 24th of September, Kerang Police intercepted a small truck in Kerang. Police spoke to one of the occupants of the truck and located what is alleged to be methylamphetamine and a quantity of cash. A crossbow was also located in the vehicle. The 31-year-old male from the Shepparton area was arrested and charged with trafficking methylamphetamine and other offences. He was bailed to attend court at a later date.

Vehicle theft: It is reported that between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. on Sunday the 28th of September, a grey 2009 Mitsubishi station wagon was reported stolen from a rural property off the Kerang-Koondrook Road, Koroop.

Swan Hill

Vehicle theft: It has been reported that between 8 p.m. Friday the 26th of September and 8.30 a.m. the following day, offenders have attended a property in Coronation Avenue, Swan Hill. They have entered the rear yard and stolen a 2013 KTM motor-cycle from a trailer.

Classic Cars Shine Bright in Birchip

The Buloke Collectable Vehicle Club's annual Show 'n' Shine rolled into the Birchip Recreation Reserve on Sunday, September 21, attracting a steady stream of visitors and over ninety impeccably presented cars, trucks and bikes.

The weather put on a four-season display, shifting from rain to sunshine and everything in between, with snow the only element absent, but that didn't dampen the passion of the collectable vehicle community, with enthusiasts polishing their machines to perfection.

Shiny chrome, bright paintwork and the rumble of engines created an atmosphere that stirred memories for some and sparked curiosity in younger generations. From elegant vintage sedans to rugged trucks and finely restored motorbikes, each vehicle had a story to tell.

Swap Meet and Market

A lively swap meet and market added another layer to the event with the large crowd from the local area and visitors from all over the State including Mildura, Geelong and Echuca enjoying the array of stalls brimming with treasures. Ranging from spare parts and manuals to crafts and collectables, people wandered around, stopping to swap stories as well as goods.

Food vendors kept the crowd well fed, serving up breakfast, lunch and refreshments, while children enjoyed a range of activities designed to keep them entertained including the popular Rocker Cover Racing.

Prizes

The afternoon's presentation ceremony recognised stand-out vehicles across multiple categories. Judges admitted the standard was exceptionally high, with the time and dedication of owners evident in every detail.

Applause rippled through the crowd as awards and raffle prizes were announced and handed out, capping off a day that celebrated not only

the vehicles, but also the people who keep motoring history alive.

Organisers declared the Show 'n' Shine a great success and expressed thanks to volunteers, stallholders and exhibitors who made the day possible. Once again, Birchip proved itself an important stop on the collectable vehicle calendar, with many already looking forward to next year's gathering.

Congratulations to the Buloke Collectable Vehicle Club committee members and Nakita Scott, Lyn Blair and Matt Barr who do an amazing job co-ordinating this wonderful community event year after year.

Show 'n' Shine Winners 2025

Cars: Best Survivor (sponsored by R&J Batteries), Car No 62, Holden HQ Monaro 1973, owned by Rick Lang; Best Pre 40s (sponsored by Greg's Digging), Car No 11 1922 Model T, owned by Warren King; Best Pre 70s (sponsored by Noonan Tyres), Car No 67 Dodge Phoenix 1964, owned by Murray Broughton; Best 70s-2000 (sponsored in memory of Ross Atkinson), Car No 58 Mitsubishi Cegnum 1998 owned by Corey Bennett; Best Modern Post 2000 (sponsored by Geoffrey's Menswear), Car No 28 2003 Falcon, owned by Spencer Sheahan; Best Ladies Car (sponsored by Cma's Creations), Car No 52 Valiant Mexicana 1970, owned by Wendy Harns; Best Convertible (sponsored by Birchip Hardware), Car No 689 Austin Healy 1955, owned by John and Bev Paine; Best Modified (sponsored by Tim Ward Massage), Car No 10 2002 VU Commodore, owned by Rob Humphrey; Best

Light Commercial (sponsored by Sow Good Seed Cleaning), Car No 49 Ford XC Panel Van 1977, owned by Guy Ford; Best Pre 80s Truck (sponsored by Bourke's Butchers), No Entries; Best Post 80s Truck (sponsored by Mallee Steel), Car No 3 Kenworth 909, owned by Mick Foott; People's Choice (sponsored by M&M Cleaning Services), Car No 22 2005 Ford Falcon Devil R, owned by Rod Taylor; President's Choice (sponsored by Birchip Automotive), Car No 39 '62 Chev Belair, owned by Troy Blythman.

Motor Bikes: Best Bike (sponsored by Sharps Bakery), Bike No 64 Harley Davidson Street Bob 2020, owned by Dean Anderson; Best Modified Motorbike (sponsored by Birchip Bus Lines), Bike No 48 Harley Davidson 2014 Street Glide "Bagger", owned by Greg Crowe; Best Unrestored Motorbike (sponsored by Birchip Hotel), Bike No 54 Harley FLD 2016, owned by Glenn Singleton; Best Ladies Motorbike (sponsored by Mallee Branded), no entries.

Shannon's Trophy, Car/Bike No 68 1950 Jag Mark 2, owned by Geoff Taylor.



• The Buloke Collectable Vehicle Club's annual Show 'n' Shine rolled into the Birchip Recreation Reserve on Sunday, September 21, attracting a steady stream of visitors and over ninety impeccably presented cars, trucks and bikes.



• Left to right: Ray Barr, Alroy Chenoweth, and Kris Chenoweth from the Wimmera Mallee Burnout Community.



• Back row: Geoff Taylor, Wendy Harns, Rod Taylor, Spencer Sheahan, Rick Lang, Rob Humphrey, Warren King, Darren Taylor. Front row: Murray Broughton, Corey Bennett, Dean Anderson, Greg Crowe, Glenn Singleton. Absent: Guy Ford, Troy Blythman, John and Bev Paine. (Photos Lea Gould.)



• Shiny chrome, bright paintwork and the rumble of engines created an atmosphere that stirred memories for some and sparked curiosity in younger generations.

"Times" Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8195 - SOLUTIONS

Across - 6, Pomeranian. 8, Arch. 9, Damp. 10, Steep. 11, Tint. 12, Penniless. 16, Admirable. 20, Bush. 22, About. 23, Gate. 24, Chub. 25, Imminent.

Down - 1, Borage. 2, Serpent. 3, Vassal. 4, Biceps. 5, Inapt. 7, Scent. 13, Elm. 14, Naughty. 15, Ought. 17, Droopy. 18, Intent. 19, Latent. 21, Habit.

Mark and Raelene continue the Kelly and O'Halloran names, known and trusted for personal, dignified and professional service for over 60 years.

From two of the smallest family owned businesses in the Mallee.



5492 2547 90 Curlewis Street Swan Hill
swanhillfunerals.com.au
* * * 5032 1011

1 Morrison Street, Birchip 3483
kellyfuneralsbirchip.com.au 24 Hours 7 Days a Week

MARK & RAELENE O'HALLORAN
Member of Funerals Australia

Charlton Lions Swap Meet is Coming Up

Members of the Charlton Lions Club Swap Meet committee have told club members that plans are well under way for a great 2025 Swap Meet, which will be a follow-up to one of Charlton’s best ever Swap Meets, held last year.

The event will again be held on the second Sunday in October (12th) at Charlton Park, commencing at 8 a.m.. Members anticipate that the format of the Swap Meet will be similar to previous years with a variety of different sites, including Car Parts, Tools, Collectable Signs, Plants, LED Auto Lighting, and many other items amongst the early site bookings.

Event organiser, Lion Kevin Willey, said, “Its early days yet, but interest from stall holders has been very positive. It’s looking very

possible that it will be every bit as good as last year’s record number of stall holders.

“The stall holders were very happy with the 2024 meet (where we had a record 62 sites), many of whom have expressed a keen interest in attending this year’s event, so we are hoping to be bigger and better than ever.”

The committee has agreed to continue to promote the Static Car Display again and is providing two prizes of a \$75 for the two “Best Presented Vehicles”. The event

co-ordinator, Garry Larmour, said: “the success of the Static Car display at the 2019 to 2024 Swap Meets, supported by the many local car enthusiasts, has prompted the club to believe the static display has had a significant impact on the success the meet.”

Stall holder bookings will continue up to the day of the Swap Meet, so if you would like to have a stall this year, please contact Kevin Willey, Ross Lane or Garry Larmour, who will be very happy to make the necessary arrangements for you, or just rock up.



• Mark the date on your calender. The next Charlton Lions swap meet is on October 12!

Garry explained that “the Lions Swap Meet has shown significant growth and club members are keen to continue the push to make the event into one of Charlton’s popular social events of the year.

“Put October 12 in your diary/calender and help us

make it a day to remember; come along and help us celebrate another great Charlton Swap Meet.

“The North Central Garden Club’s Annual Open Garden

Day, the Charlton Arts (formally Rotary) Arts show and the Campdraft event will also be held on that day, so there will be heaps to do in Charlton; something for everybody”.



• Marcia Mallia (left) and Louise Lee.

Good Times for Good Causes

Whether it’s sipping tea, joining a scavenger hunt or strolling around Tchum Lake, Marica Mallia and the Birchip Branch of the Commonwealth Bank are showing that fun, friendship and fundraising make the perfect partnership.

On Saturday, September 27, with the grand final coverage on the big screen, creative residents gathered at the Senior’s Hall in Sherwood Street, Birchip, for Cuppa Time for Dementia.

The afternoon brought people together to share stories, enjoy a hot drink and delicious food, and take part in card making activities.

The day highlighted the importance of supporting those living with dementia and acknowledging that dementia affects not just the individual, but also their family and friends, who suffer alongside them.

Organiser Marcia Mallia expressed her gratitude to everyone who attended, noting how meaningful it was to see the community rally behind such a personal cause and raise funds for dementia awareness and support programs.

Donations

The event successfully raised \$300, with further on-line donations getting the total to over \$500. Those unable to attend can still contribute via the fundraising link: www.cuppafor dementia.com.au/fundraisers/marciamallia

Can4Cancer Walk Around Tchum Lake

This Sunday, October 5, Marcia, together with Louise Lee from the Birchip Branch of the Commonwealth Bank, is organising a Can4Cancer Walk Around Tchum Lake.

The walk will begin at 11.00 a.m., followed by a fundraising barbecue from 12.00 noon and it is geared up to be an excellent school holiday activity for the whole family.

Scavenger Hunt

Children will be encouraged to join in a scavenger hunt and the local branch of the SES will be on site with a

display tent, vehicles and their popular mascot, adding fun and learning to the day.

Marcia said: “We are very grateful to Sharp’s Bakery, Birchip IGA, and the Birchip Uniting Church who have donated bread, sauce and sausages so that all the proceeds from the day can go towards cancer research and support.”

Join Marcia and Louise for a day of hope, health and community spirit. Whether you are walking in memory of a friend or family member, in support of someone who is currently struggling or simply to support a good cause – every step makes a difference.

For more information or to donate call in at the Birchip Branch of the Commonwealth Bank or call the branch on 5492 2633.

Together, we can make strides against cancer.

Church Notices

UNITING CHURCH (North Central Living Waters Cluster)

Donald, 10 a.m., with Russell Dunlop

Wycheproof, 10 a.m.

Birchip, 10 a.m.

Contact Number: 5497 1033

Office: 03 5494 3120

Mike: 0408 316 394

Brendan: 0427 794 479

Nathan: 0409 525 805

For all Earthmoving works including:

- Shed pads, sheep yards, house pads
- Dam construction and fill in, channel fill in
- Driveways and roads
- Supply and Delivery of gravel, sands and quarry materials.

DRISCOLL DOUGLAS EAST RURAL REAL ESTATE

5938 Sunraysia Highway, St Arnaud VIC

driscolldouglaseast.com.au

03 5495 1166

DUNLUCE FARM LEASE

LEASE BY TENDER

TENDER FINISHES NOVEMBER 3RD AT 12PM

- Lot 1** - as a whole 1253 hectares*
- Lot 2** - Grants & Lane 767 hectares*
- Lot 3** - Keoghs 128 hectares*
- Lot 4** - Kellys 169 hectares*
- Lot 5** - Males 189 hectares*

Highly productive cropping and grazing land.

Natural water catchment across the allotments.

Excellent fencing. Highly arable.

Excellent fertiliser and soil ameliorant history.

Lease commencing 15th March 2026.

For more information and tender forms contact:

Agent Brett Douglas -

0447 162 455 / brett@driscollag.com.au



• It was eye-candy for motoring enthusiasts as the Charlton Wheels on A79 Club opened its first “Show ‘n’ Shine” event last Sunday at Charlton Park.

Autos Wow at Show ‘n’ Shine:

(By Jenny Pollard)

A collection of “show-stopping” vehicles vied for the attention of the large crowd which flocked to the inaugural “Show and Shine” held at Charlton Park last Sunday.

The day, which was run by the Charlton Wheels on A79 Club, tested the waters for interest in an event of this nature as they explore ways to grow membership, bolster club funds and showcase the fledgling organization.

President, Derek Lee, said the club was very happy with the response to Sunday’s event, with approximately 75 entries across the car, truck and tractor categories.

“This event is designed to help grow our club,” Derek said. “People have a great time showing their vehicles and we hope that everyone who came along had great day,” he added, saying that people should be very proud of what they had on display. “Today has seen a fantastic turnout, and we really appreciate that. Everyone is a winner in my eyes!”

Acknowledging the sterling work of club secretary Anthony Hargreaves, Derek also thanked Shannon’s Insurance, the Charlton Community Bank and the Buloke Shire for their support.

With participants hailing from across the state – Ballarat, Drouin, Bendigo, Melbourne, to name a few, plus surrounding towns and locales – it was an encouraging response for the club which was only established in early 2024.

Now featuring a membership of 30 (plus partners), regular activities include drives and day trips where social time is enjoyed and the traditional appreciation of vehicle quality is manifest.

Opportunity

With a mantra which aims to “provide members with an opportunity to share information about all things mechanical including tradespeople, parts, internet sites and also to meet up and engage socially with trips, shows, signs, member displays at the Charlton Show and the like”, last

Sunday’s event provided ample grounds for growth – especially given the diversity of cars, the large attendance and positive feedback from participants and visitors alike.

From the historic to the hyped up, it was a rainbow field of colours which greeted patrons as they entered the car-lined thoroughfare leading to the Charlton Park Complex. Fords, Holdens, MGs, Chevrolets, Commodores, a Jaguar, tractors and a posse of trucks grabbed the attention as people perused the sleek, the glamorous and the lovingly restored vehicles on display.

“Eye-Popping”

With gleaming duco and svelte profiles on all sides, possibly the most “eye-popping” auto belonged to Birchip resident Stuart McQuillan with his black and red (Bombers coloured) Mitsubishi Outlander (renamed “Outlandish”) and its myriad attachments.

Purchased for a bargain-basement price, the “boring little black car” (since named “Betty”) was previously the delivery vehicle for the Birchip newsagency. Keen to move on from its former association, Stuart has converted the auto from bland to bold with hundreds of external attachments including soft toys and stickers, along with air horns, laser lights in the door trims, a disco ball and disco lights in the back, a souped-up sound system and the piece de resistance – a bee under the bonnet! When asked “Why all of this?” the answer is simply, “To make people smile”.

Having lost mates to suicide, Stuart saw this as a way to “start conversations”. Nestled amongst the external paraphernalia on the car are suicide awareness phone contacts – a ready link to support if a helping hand is needed.

Bringing People Together

For Charlton local, Ross Lane, the Show and Shine

meant bringing like-minded people together.

“We never seem to get together and visit each other like we used to,” said Ross. “An event like this builds connections and networks and you learn a lot by talking with others who share a similar passion.

“Working on restorations and having the excitement of hunting for parts, then sharing those stories with others who have a similar interest is a great part of events like this”.

And everyone has a story to tell. From the trailer load of wreckage which transitions into the most awe-inspiring restoration these immaculately finished machines can be appreciated by everyone.

And as Derek said previously – every entrant is a winner!

The accompanying photos provide a visual coverage of this successful day.

For further information about Wheels on A79 contact Derek Lee: 0439 911 083 or 0429 911 270.

Show and Shine Category Winners

Cars: Best Modified Car, Rae Bridson, 1948 Ford Tourer A Model; Best Original and Restored Car with steel bumper, Randall Perry, 1969 Holden HK Yellow Monaro; Best original and restored with plastic bumper, Daryl Allen, 2009 Holden GTS White Commodore; Best Vintage pre-1950, Craig and Michelle Watts, 1934 Chev Roadstar.

Trucks: Best Truck Post 1960, Anthony Neil, 2023 Kenworth T909; Best Vintage Truck Pre 1970, Garry Pyers, 1948 Ford Tray truck.

Tractors: Best Modern Tractor post 1960, John Stiley, 1965 International A 554; Best Vintage Tractor pre 1960, John Leach, 1950 Massey Ferguson TEA.

Shannon’s Choice Award: Peter Knight, BMW E30 M3.



• Stuart McQuillan with his highly decorated Mitsubishi Outlander (“Outlandish”) grabbed the attention with piles of soft toys, cartoon figures and stickers embellishing the vehicle.



• Peter Knight (left) was presented with the Shannon’s Choice Award for his black BMW E30 M3 by Shannons’ representative Leon Yeates (right).



• Accepting the trophy for Best Truck (post 1960), Nick Coghlan is pictured with his daughters, Willow and Lexi (standing) in front of the 2023 Kenworth T909 owned by Anthony Neil.



• John Stiley was the winner of the Best Modern Tractor (post 1960) with his 1965 International A 554.

Show-Stopppers from Everywhere



• A new resident to Charlton, Rae Bridson was thrilled to win the Best Modified Car award for her purple 1948 Ford Tourer A Model. After taking eight years to restore, Rae holds photos of the car's transition from construction to completion.



• The Best Vintage Tractor (pre 1960) award went to John Leach with his 1950 Massey Ferguson TEA.

Celebrating Seniors in Victoria

This October, we celebrate the 43rd Victorian Seniors Festival, a statewide program recognising the valuable role older people play in our communities.

Shadow Minister for Disability, Ageing, Careers and Volunteers, Tim Bull, said the festival was a chance to embrace positive ageing and

highlight the importance of connection. "Seniors Week is about celebrating the contribution of older Victorians and the

wisdom, energy, and kindness they share with us all," Mr Bull said.

"It's also about promoting positive ageing and encouraging people to stay active, social, and confident in this stage of life.

"The festival provides countless opportunities to meet new people, enjoy social activities, and take part in something new. "We know that connection is one of the keys to good health, and this festival brings people together through events, dances, and celebrations right across Victoria."

To make it easier for people to participate, Seniors Card holders can enjoy free travel on all public transport from Sunday, October 5 to Sunday, October 12.



• Tim Bull.

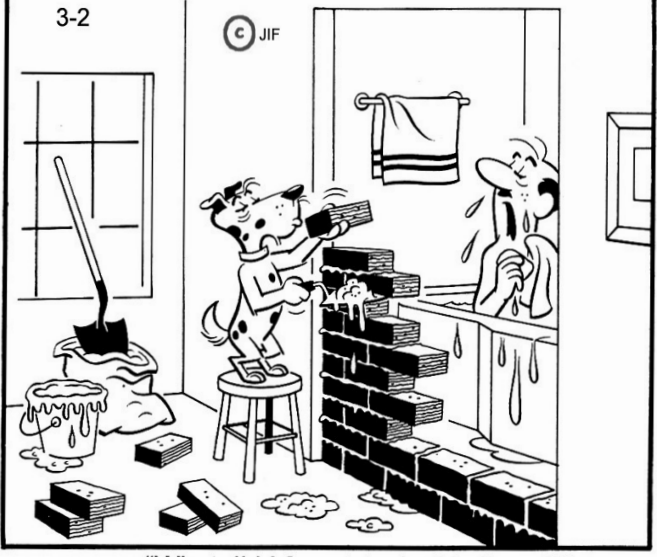
"Our seniors have given so much to our communities, and this is one way we can give back, by encouraging participation and celebrating their contribution," Mr Bull said.

The full festival program is now available via the website <https://www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/festival>, with events running throughout October across both the city and regional Victoria.

MICHAELS OF DONALD

bring you

Belvedere By George Crenshaw
www.belvedere-cartoons.com



"What did I forget to do this time ?!"

Donnellon's Bulk Haulage

Pty Ltd

BUYING ALL GRAINS

BULK CARRIERS of . . .

- Gypsum
- Fertilizer
- Gravel
- Woodchips
- Road Base Materials

Public Weighbridge 3008

Phone Bill
5492 2333 or 0428 136 483



Start of Hay Season Prompts Safety Warning

With hay season beginning in the west and north west parts of the state, farmers are being urged to take extra care in preventing haystack fires.

Between June 30, 2024, and July 1, 2025, CFA responded to 73 haystack and hay shed fires in regional areas, with 53 per cent occurring in the west and northwest of the state.

Haystack fires are often caused by spontaneous combustion when hay is baled with excess moisture. High moisture levels, combined with the compact nature of hay bales, can create internal heat, leading to ignition.

Factors

David Manifold, Buloke West Group Officer, 3rd lieutenant of Jeffcott Fire Brigade, and a local farmer said there are many factors which can lead to a haystack fire.

“What goes wrong is, essentially, hay is baled at a high moisture or what we have learned in recent times is leaving the hay out for longer to dry can actually increase the growth of yeast and moulds on the hay.

“The yeast and mould levels can get so high that any ingress of water is as good as throwing a match on it.”

David said he is utilising both new and old technologies to reduce the risk of haystack fires at his farm.

New Techniques

“We are using new techniques on the machinery side to get our window shorter for bailing in sub seven days which is the key to keeping the yeasts and moulds lower,” he said.

“We run plastic over the flooring which stops moisture from coming up into the hay which prevents damage to the hay but also prevents the risk of water ingress, particularly in heavy rainfall periods during summer.

“The spouts on the shed are well maintained, and the downpipes are key.

“Bunched up stacks are pretty volatile, keeping stacks well-ventilated is important.”

Temperature Probe

David also uses a new type of temperature probe that sends temperature data to a central bay station on the farm.

“I can check the temperature on an app on my phone at any given moment,” he said.

“I can also get it to send me alerts so I have it set to alert me if we reach 40 and 50 degrees.”

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan reinforced that early preparation and proper storage are essential in reducing the risk of haystack fires.

“With a large number of haystack fires in the past financial year, the impact on farmers and their livelihoods is clear,” Jason said.

“Haystack fires can have far-reaching effects beyond individual properties, impacting neighbouring farms and emergency services.

“Make sure you store your hay in separate stacks or in sheds away from farm equipment and other buildings to prevent the spread of fire.

“Farmers need to ensure they’re well-prepared – regular monitoring can prevent a small issue from becoming a much larger one.”

For more information, visit CFA’s website or contact your local CFA brigade for advice on haystack safety.

• This hay season the CFA is reminding all Victorians about preventing haystack fires.

COMMUNITY UPDATE Buloke.

VICTORIAN SENIORS FESTIVAL EVENTS IN OCTOBER

During October as part of the senior’s festival a number of events will be occurring across the Shire and across the State.

The Victorian Seniors Festival is held for — and with — older people and puts the emphasis on fun and good times. This year’s theme is “Connect, Create, Celebrate” — and invites older Victorians

to come together, discover new interests, celebrate positive ageing and take part in events and activities close to home and right across the state.

Booklets with information on events across the state are available from libraries and Neighbourhood houses in the shire.

The Victorian Seniors Festival Country Concert returns to bring the fun of the festival to Buloke Shire residents.



COMMUNITY EVENTS ACROSS THE SHIRE – OCTOBER 2025

Local groups are hosting a range of events. For event details, please contact the hosting group directly:

Birchip

- **Celebrating Your Age:** Activities all month, ending with a Halloween event (Birchip Neighbourhood House).
- **Seniors Go to a Show:** Subsidised trip to the Rodney Vincent Show (Probus Birchip).

Charlton

- **Probus Month:** Promoting Probus and its values (Charlton Probus).
- **Bring a Friend Day:** Lunch and club showcase (Charlton Senior Citizens).

Culgoa

- **Seniors Luncheon:** Meal, guest speaker, and local history (Culgoa Development Group).

Donald

- **Seniors Open Day:** Lunch, games, and activity demos (Donald Senior Citizens Club).
- **Victorian Seniors Festival Aged Care Tour:** will bring magic, music, and entertainment from Frankie Powell to aged care residents in Donald at Riverview Aged Care on 9 October.

Sea Lake

- **Seniors Go for Gold:** Mini Olympics and fun at the (Sea Lake Neighbourhood House).

Wycheproof

- **Roast & Rhyme Luncheon:** Lunch, bush poetry with Geoffrey Walker Graham, and open mic (Wycheproof Community Resource Centre).



FREE COLOUR MY WORLD BUS SERVICE

Two buses will run to the Birchip Shire Hall concert:

- Bus 1: Charlton → Donald → Watchem → arrive Birchip 1:00PM
- Bus 2: Sea Lake → Berriwillock → Culgoa → Wycheproof → arrive Birchip 1:00PM

Buses will depart for return trip at 3:00PM.

To book concert tickets or reserve a bus seat, visit Council’s website www.buloke.vic.gov.au or call **1300 520 520**.

BIRCHIP

Melissa Langton will perform at the Birchip Town Hall on 8 October starting at 1:30pm.

This music theatre favourite and star of the internationally renowned girl-group THE FABULOUS SINGLETES brings us a hand-clapping, toe-tapping tribute to the most commercially successful female singer in British chart history Petula Clark. Songs include: Downtown, Don’t Sleep in the Subway, Happy Together, My Favourite Things, I Know a Place, Here There and Everywhere, I Don’t Know How to Love Him & Colour My World!

This is a FREE event with free buses provided to transport individuals to the event and afternoon tea will also be provided following the concert.

“The Roses”

British acting royalty, Olivia Colman and Benedict Cumberbatch, star in this weekend’s Rex movie “The Roses”, a dark comedy based on the reimagining of the 1989 classic film “The War of the Roses”.

Based on the novel by Warren Adler, the story centres on couple Ivy (a rising chef) and Theo (once a successful architect) – whose careers, loving marriage and great kids all seem picture-perfect. They have impulsively married, moved to California, where Ivy raises their twin children, Hattie and Roy, and Theo has started a flourishing career.

But beneath the façade of their supposed ideal life, a storm is brewing. As Theo’s career nosedives, Ivy’s own ambitions take off and a tinderbox of fierce competition and hidden resentment ignites. What starts as a slow boil soon explodes into an all-out battle of egos, envy, and emotional warfare.

Where the 1989 film, starring Kathleen Turner and Michael Douglas, was about a divorce steeped in hatred, this 2025 version is more about a marriage that is loving underneath it all, even as it grows ever more combative.

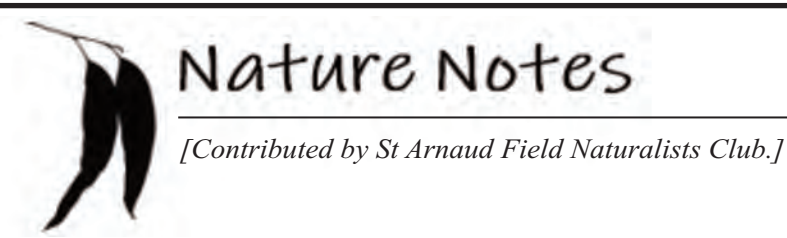
Colman and Cumberbatch are both charming and funny, trading barbs as their relationship gradually implodes. As one reviewer wrote: “‘The Roses’ shows what happens when a couple favour work-like ambitions rather than working on communicating with one another. The movie is genuinely hilarious, sweet and tragic all at the same time.”

While much of the film is about them arguing, then tearfully making up, the story only begins to turn darker near the end.

“The Roses” offers a smart, well-acted and at times very funny look at how success, ambition, and love can combust when left unattended. Take the time to see these two great actors at work in this darkly comedic film.

“The Roses” (MA15+ 105 mins) screens: Saturday, October 4, 8 p.m. | Sunday, October 5, 2 p.m. | Tuesday, October 7, 8 p.m..

Discover St. Arnaud’s Natural Treasures: A Great Place to See Local Flora



[Contributed by St Arnaud Field Naturalists Club.]

Did you know St Arnaud is home to some of Australia’s most fascinating plants and wildlife?

Much of our natural heritage often goes unnoticed, but the St Arnaud Field Naturalists Club is keen to share just how special our region really is.

One of our highlights is the Blue Mallee, found in only a few places in Australia – predominantly around West Wyalong in New South Wales, and in Bendigo, Stawell and St Arnaud. We’re also lucky to have a rare form of Yellow Gum and the impressive Grey Grass Trees. Even within the town itself, you can admire several magnificent Lemon-scented Gums, their smooth white bark and fresh scent a reminder of their rainforest origins in coastal New South Wales and southern Queensland.

Unique Site

A great place to see local flora is the Wax Garden. Declared a Flora Reserve in 1972, this unique site has been carefully protected and

maintained by the Field Naturalists Club and Parks Victoria.

Thanks to rabbit-proof fencing and years of care, the Wax Garden preserves a snapshot of what the landscape looked like before farming changed the region.

Bird Life

It’s not just plants that make the area special – the birdlife is equally remarkable. Over the past decade, some 47 species have been recorded here for the Bird Atlas, including a number of rare and threatened woodland birds. A regular autumn–winter visitor is the endangered Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*), which migrates from Tasmania to feed on the mainland. The critically endangered Regent Honeyeater, once more common in the region, was sighted here in the last decade, and the rare Painted Honeyeater (*Grantiella picta*) has also been recorded nearby.

For bird lovers and bushwalkers, the St Arnaud Range National Park offers plenty of forest tracks and opportunities to spot native species.

Excursions

The Field Naturalists Club runs regular excursions and warmly welcomes anyone interested in learning more about our local environment. On Saturday, October 11, members will be at the Wax Garden from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to offer guided tours and share their knowledge.

Access to the Wax Garden Reserve is via Centre Road, which can be reached from either the Wimmera Highway or Lock Road. If you’d like to explore further, the St Arnaud Visitor Information Centre also has a brochure with more details about the Wax Garden’s history and the species you might see.

Whether you’re a keen nature enthusiast or simply curious about what makes our local bush so special, the Wax Garden event is a wonderful chance to connect with the natural beauty of St Arnaud. Everyone is welcome – we hope to see you there!



• Spring wildflowers bring colour to the Wax Garden Flora Reserve, a special remnant near St Arnaud protected since 1972.



• St. Arnaud’s regional park The Wax Garden.

Professional Funeral Home

Providing a caring and compassionate service to the surrounding districts 24 hour service.

Philip and Karen Davey

A.G. ADAMS & Sons

OFFICE & CHAPEL Ph. 5452 1111
39 Fitzroy St, Kerang
info@adamsfunerals.com.au

“Times” Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8196

ACROSS

- 6. Unrealistic (11)
- 7. Note (4)
- 8. Memento (8)
- 9. Man’s name (6)
- 10. Fate (6)
- 12. Sea (6)
- 15. Withdraw (6)
- 17. Famous artist (8)
- 19. Praise (4)
- 20. Bird (7-4)

DOWN

- 1. Adversary (8)
- 2. Dog (6)
- 3. Hit (6)
- 4. Pain (4)
- 5. Fish (6)
- 6. Perfect (5)
- 11. Nationality (8)
- 13. Horrified (6)
- 14. Vegetable (6)
- 15. Loll (6)
- 16. Inebriated (5)
- 18. Kill (4)

• Solution next issue.



• Easy walking tracks wind through the 6ha Reserve.

Combined Meeting and Dutch Auction

(By Maureen Donnellon)

A good number of members met for Birchip Probians September meeting, having bypassed a meeting for August as the building was being used for the home renovation across the road for the TV Show “Budget Battlers”.

In our absence it was very pleasing to find brand new toilets installed thanks to Buloke Shire, making our loved Hall even more user friendly for us and others.

At the meeting the forthcoming Senior Citizens Week was discussed and members found that the free entertainment day will be held in Birchip this year on Wednesday, October 8, at 1.30 p.m. and will feature the songs of Petula Clark plus afternoon tea at our own Public Hall.

Active Living Grant

President Brian Lea was also able to announce that Birchip Probus had gained a Victorian Seniors Active Living Grant for \$200 to be used to enable members to attend some form of entertainment. A very helpful Buloke Shire lady, Alisha, helped ensure we could put in for a date we choose, as we don’t need one in Seniors’ Week. This will enable us to have a free bus to Warracknabeal to the Rodney Vincent concert on November 6, one of the performances being organised by our previous country music speaker, Alana Morrow. The travel component is always an issue as most usual venues are in either Horsham, Bendigo, Swan Hill or Ballarat, so

Warracknabeal and our own Hall will be great for more to attend who may have mobility and/or financial issues to contend with.

Three members had birthdays and were remembered – Judith Barclay, Pat Smith and Lorna Litt and condolences were also expressed to Lorraine Lea whose brother Ken and sister Sue had both passed away during the month.

In the absence of well-seasoned auctioneer Val Lee, I had the honour of being the auctioneer for the Dutch Auction of the pile of beautifully wrapped gifts. This was the first time that Probus had attempted this for entertainment in place of our usual door raffle, and what an amazing success.

Lorraine Lea had gone to a lot of effort to find suitable treasures, and a previous auction elsewhere had contained a pair of frilly red lace undies, so that may have spurred on the clients because nearly every new gift held up, went for the \$5 limit amount. Lorraine mentioned that the ones in brown paper were more “male oriented” and as there were only two men in attendance one in particular was like greased lightning. No red lacy apparel appeared though!

Lorraine was very busy adding up the total tally while buyers were like kids at a birthday party, opening their loot.

A delicious bakery lunch followed a very enjoyable morning. Names to Lorraine Lea a.s.a.p for the Rodney Vincent concert in November.



• Birchip Probus members celebrate with a cake and a Dutch Auction.



• Birchip Probus 20th Birthday cake made and decorated by Sharp’s Bakery



• Member Jackie Cartwright cutting the Birchip Probus 20th birthday cake in memory of her father Ken Kemp who was the inaugural president.

National Police Remembrance Day: Jade Benham Pays Tribute

The Nationals’ Member for Mildura, Jade Benham, was privileged to be invited to speak at this year’s National Police Remembrance Day Service at Mildura.

Addressing the attendees, Ms Benham reflected that the day is an important opportunity to acknowledge the courage, dedication and sacrifice of the men and women who serve and protect communities across Victoria and Australia.

The day also coincides with Victoria Police’s Blue Ribbon Day, when the broader community is encouraged to honour the memory of fallen officers and show support for the families they have left behind.

“National Police Remembrance Day is an important opportunity to reflect on those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to keep us safe,” Ms Benham said.

“We owe a debt of gratitude to all police officers who have given their life in service, and to the families, friends and colleagues they have left behind. Their loss is deeply felt and will never be forgotten.”

Ms Benham said it was also a time to acknowledge the ongoing commitment of serving police members who face challenges and risks every day in the line of duty.

“Our police officers go to work each day not knowing

what they will face, but with the knowledge that they carry the responsibility of keeping our community safe. That is an extraordinary service, and

it deserves our respect and recognition,” she said.

“Today, we honour those who have fallen, and we stand

in solidarity with all members of Victoria Police. Their dedication, bravery and sacrifice underpin the safety of our communities.”



• Jade Benham, MP, with Superintendent John O’Connor and Detective Sergeant Narelle Kolpin at the National Police Remembrance Day Service at Mildura.

EWHS September Board Meeting

The East Wimmera Health Service (EWHS) Board convened its September meeting on Monday, September 22, with a robust agenda focused on strategic planning, governance, and service enhancement across the region.

The 2024/2025 Annual Report and the final draft of the 2025–2028 Strategic Plan were presented for endorsement, marking a significant milestone in the organisation’s forward planning. These reports will be shared once finalised.

Reports from the Director of Finance, People & Culture, and Clinical Services were noted, alongside updates on recruitment, workplace safety, and medical staff engagement.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2025.

DUNSTAN WOOL

Woolgrowers, for

- PROMPT CLIP VALUATIONS
- COMPETITIVE PRICES
- PAYMENT ON WEIGHING

Phone Donald 5497 1003

a.h. Glenn Dunstan 5497 1815; mob. 0427 971 004

AT DONALD: Every Friday at the Wool Store, Hammill Street, all day.

Basin History Brought to Life: Sign of the Times

(Updates and insights from The Friends of Mount Wycheproof)

Allan “Prof” Milburn, tireless local historian and member of both the Wycheproof Historical Society and Friends of Mount Wycheproof (FoMW), has been on a mission.

Over the past year or more, he has worked hand-in-hand with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water (GWMWater) to ensure the historic Water Basin on Mount Wycheproof isn’t forgotten but instead recognised for generations to come. Prof has seen first-hand how GWMWater values rural communities like Wycheproof, with staff offering the encouragement and support needed to bring such a vision to life.

Their backing shows a genuine commitment not only to safeguarding history but to strengthening community partnerships into the future.

Prof commented: “The team at GWMWater has been outstanding, and the staff extremely helpful. My first contact was Kel Sleep, who arranged the removal of the old pipes across the area. From there, Adele Rhode and Colleen McCann provided invaluable support too. Colleen, in particular, I cannot speak highly enough of; she oversaw the creation of the storyboard artwork and, further, reached out to an avid mountaineer who has successfully

climbed both Mount Everest and Mount Wycheproof. This individual will be invited to take part in the formalities of acknowledging the works officially at a later date.”

A Vision Realised

Prof’s dream? To create an eye-catching, easy-to-read storyboard detailing the history of the water basin, and further acting as an education resource, a point of interest for walkers and tourists, and a permanent community tribute to Wycheproof’s heritage. Thanks to his research and GWMWater’s assistance, this dream has now become a reality.

Savvy Repurposing

The final display owes much to Alex Morrison, who helped install the storyboard in the rotunda, recognised as the ideal placement, within the barbecue precinct of Mount Wycheproof — the perfect spot for passing walkers and visitors to stop, read, and then explore Mount Wycheproof. Adding another layer of history, Alex created a custom frame using re-purposed skirting boards from his

home in Hillview Street, formerly owned by Don and Hanna Cockfield (both dec.), long-time Wycheproof residents. And in a further nod to local history, the rotunda walls themselves were originally built with timber from W.A. Allan’s Thalia farm.

Paying Thanks

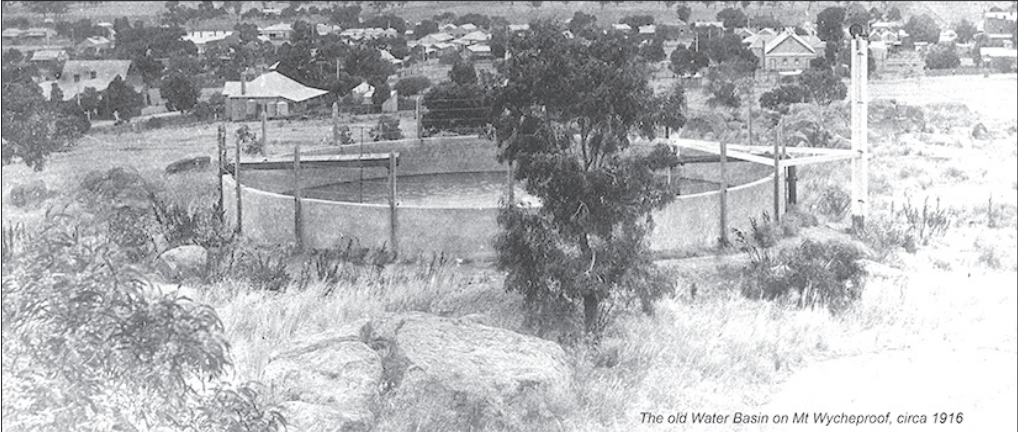
FoMW and the Wycheproof Historical Society extend sincere thanks to GWMWater for its contribution in bringing the project to life. Reiterating again that a formal acknowledgement is planned to occur later in 2025, with a special guest – a mountaineer adventurer from the Ouyen area, who has scaled many of the world’s tallest peaks (and of course, Mount Wycheproof!) to help mark the occasion in line with International Mountain Day celebrations.

Looking Ahead

This is just the beginning. FoMW is actively exploring other sites where creative, aesthetically designed signage could highlight local stories, ensuring Wycheproof’s past continues to inspire and educate long into the future.



• Dream to reality – Prof admires the storyboard sign he helped bring to life at the Mount Wycheproof rotunda – an eye-catching tribute to the town’s historic water basin and a lasting piece of history for locals, walkers and tourists alike.



The old Water Basin on Mt Wycheproof, circa 1916

Mt Wycheproof’s historical water basin

The water basin, known to locals as “The Basin”, was built in 1890 by the former St Arnaud Shire*. The Basin supplied the town’s water reticulation system, which was also established in the same year.

Engineering feat

Completed in 1891, The Basin stood 90 feet higher than the town. It was a remarkable engineering achievement, especially considering difficulties with rock extraction at the site.

Drought delay

Although construction works on The Basin were completed in 1891, a drought prevented its use with low water levels in reservoirs. It wasn’t until Christmas Eve in 1892 after a large storm that water was first pumped into The Basin.

Water supply

The Basin was designed to hold 30,000 gallons of water (around 113,560 litres), enough to supply the town of Wycheproof for two days.

Ownership transfer

The Wycheproof Shire transferred the management of the local water supply to State Rivers in 1908.

A new water storage

A water tank was constructed in 1953 which was used until it was decommissioned in 1986. A new concrete water tank, also built in 1986, sits on the peak of Mt Wycheproof. This water tank continues to be used in 2025, to provide drinking water to Wycheproof, after the water is treated at the Charlton Water Treatment Plant.

* St Arnaud Shire

In 1890s, the St Arnaud Shire encompassed more towns than today and included the township of Wycheproof until 1894, when the Wycheproof Shire was formed. In 1995 the Buloke Shire was created by the union of Birchip, Charlton, Donald, Sea Lake and Wycheproof.

Proudly sponsored by
GWMWater
gwmwater.org.au

In collaboration with
Friends of the Mount

Charlton 100 Years Ago

(Information from “East Charlton Tribune”)

September 26 to 30, 1925.

Local Poultry at Royal Show: Mr Edwin Davey met with gratifying success as an exhibitor of poultry at the Royal Show. He secured two firsts with Brahmas; one first with Old English game; and two thirds with Hondans. This is a most creditable performance, considering the class of birds exhibited at the show of shows. Mr Davey has been breeding and exhibiting birds at country shows for close upon 25 years, often making a clean sweep in whatever poultry he exhibited.

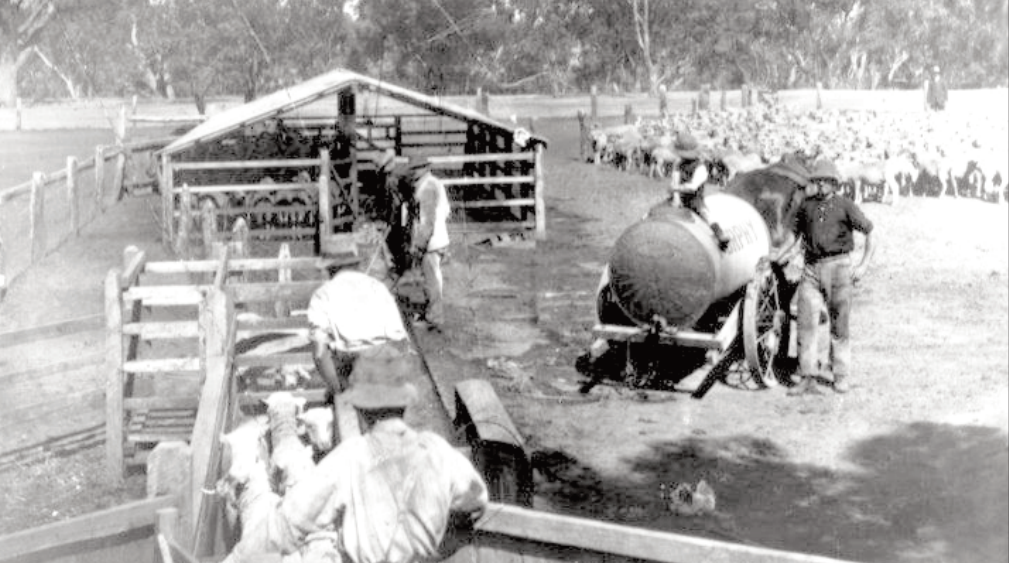
Strange But True: A remarkably strange and unheard-of incident occurred on

the farm of Mr P. Rogan, Lake Marmal. During shearing operations, one of the shearers on commencing to shear, discovered a young possum firmly ensconced in the wool of a ewe. The little animal was very much alive and cosy. Strange as it may seem, the ewe was quite content and suckling the “Joey.”

Late Mr Michael O’Connor: Mr O’Connor, at the early age of four years, came to Australia from Limerick, Ireland. His parents went to Tasmania, and at the age of 21, he came to Victoria, and after spending four years in the Ballarat district, he

selected 200 acres of land at Wooroonook. By perseverance and hard work, he had increased his holdings to such an extent that he was one of the largest landholders in the district. He was a fine type of man and up to the time of his last illness was always well and vigorous. The funeral cortege had over 90 cars as well as a large number of other vehicles. Mr O’Connor had been married for 48 years, and is survived by his wife and family of five sons and six daughters.

Charlton Progress Association: At the annual meeting the following were



• Edwin “Ted” Davey’s sheep dip at “Roselea” Charlton. Taken about 1914. “Ted” at right of dip near draining shed, son Tom on water tank. Owners of sheep being dipped are not known. Photo donated by daughter Marion. (Mrs F.J. Postlethwaite, Ballarat.)

elected:- President, Mr S. G. Bennett, vice-presidents, Messrs C. J. Dew, J. Spain and F. Gilmore; secretary and treasurer, Rev. A. Day. A carnival is to be arranged, the proceeds from which are to go towards schemes for the beautification of the town. The bathing shed is to be moved to a more suitable position down the stream. The secretary is to procure information concerning the University Extension lectures and Conservatorium concerts. These lectures and concerts would be of great educational benefit to the community.

A Delightful Ball: The Church of England Ball, held in the Victoria Hall, was a marked success from every point of view. In the large number present there were noticeable many visitors from all parts of the district. There were over 150 people present. The Charlton Jazz Trio provided a splendid program. Seated at tables daintily decorated, the guests, amid much laughter and happy chatter, partook of the excellent supper. As usual the charming

flocks of the ladies impressed the spectator. Some were: Miss Olive Lanyon – pale blue taffeta, trimmed with silver lace. Miss Molly Bourke – apricot georgette with russett trimmings. Miss Lucy fanning – strawberry satin with cream trimmings.

Shire Notes: A petition from a number of business people and residents against the closing of the road in front of the Mechanics’ Institute. The matter of the lights on the new bridge caused some discussion. It was carefully considered as to whether it was advisable or not to keep the four lamps burning all night. It was decided that Councillors could meet the ladies of the Croquet Club and the members of the Band Committee to consult about the Croquet Lawn and the Band Rotunda.

Buckrabanyule: A most enjoyable evening was spent when the friends of Miss Jessie Black entertained her at a kitchen tea in the Buckrabanyule Hall. She was the recipient of many useful and beautiful gifts. The prospec-

tive bridegroom, Mr Lang, on behalf of Miss Black, tendered thanks with a few well-chosen words. During the evening songs were rendered by Miss A. Paterson, Mr J. Crutch, Mr Pierce and a duet by Mr Wilson and Mr Benson. Dancing was carried on until the small hours of the morning.



CHURCHES

**ANGLICAN
“Parish of
Charlton-Donald”**

Enquiries: Rev’d Judi Bird
0435 593 395

Friday, October 3
St. Paul’s, Birchip, 5 p.m.

Sunday, October 5
St. Martin’s, Charlton, 9 a.m.
St. George’s, Donald, 11 a.m.
Holy Trinity, W’burn, 3 p.m.

Hail King Keegan, Queen Carly:

(By Quill)

In its third year since its resurrection from the '80s, Riordan's Wycheproof King of the Mountain is a testing and tough footrace up the world's smallest mountain shouldering a bag of the Mallee's finest wheat.

There seemed to be a trend appearing in the winners of the feature races, with Tom Rodgers and Matt Hall taking first and second places in '23 and '24. Many thought with Tom's absence in this year's 2025 competition, it was Matt's year for the crown. However, it was not to be, with newcomer Keegan Donovan powering past Matt to take the title.

Only signing up the night before the race, Keegan travelled from Shepparton, and got pre-race tips from Matt at the starting line. Matt shared pointers how to run the race, how to hold the bag and other guidance which ironically, may have helped Keegan over the line first, Matt taking the second place position for the third year in a row.

The women's races were again dominated by Boort's super sports star Carly Isaac, who remains the matriarch of the mount for three successive years, as well as being the first female across the line in the 5km mountain loop, and winner of wheel barrow relay in the Boort Magpies' team.

New Event

The juniors started the day's program with the new event – the 5km mountain loop – shivering at the starting line in the morning's cold conditions, runners would soon be warmed up taking the scenic course around the base of Mt Wycheproof before the final grind to the top. All entrants in both the senior and junior classes received participation awards for this fun run.

Next were the girls' and boys' mountain dash, a simple

sprint to the top for the smaller kids, won by Alvie Dix for the boys, and Delilah Dartnell for the girls.

Stepping it up from last year, the older kids were given a 1kg weight to carry in the junior king and queen of the mount races. Tyler Medlyn took out the boys' crown with Delilah Dartnell winning the girls' race.

Wheelbarrows

The wheelbarrow races, entertaining as ever, were won by a men's team from Melbourne consisting of Ben Elliot, Angus Hawker, and Rec Coatsworth. And in the women's, Boort Magpies' Carly Isaac, Emma Darker, Isabelle Hosking, and Jessica Van Sittert.

The gruelling King and Queen of the Mount races ended the program. Carrying



• The gruelling King of the Mountain race, with Matt Hall in front of Keegan Donovan, prior to being overtaken. (Photo Jason Smith.)

a massive 60kg bag of premium wheat in the men's race, Shepparton's Keegan Donovan was crowned this year's king crossing the line in a time of 6 minutes, 10 seconds; followed by Matt Hall in second place (6 minutes, 40 seconds), and Pascale Craig in third.

Queen of the Mount is third time winner Carly Isaac (4 minutes, 42 seconds), with Ema Iredell in second place (5 minutes, 15 seconds) and Zoe O'Meara in third.

At the top of the mountain, runners could collapse exhausted into the care of the

first aid officers, with SES volunteers providing support and an ambulance on standby in the event of an emergency. No such thing was required though, with the spirit of a whole community showing its support, the roar of the crowd seemed to lift the runners up that last taxing incline of the mountain.

Following the races, the competitors, family and friends all streamed back down the mountain en masse. One special thing about the morning of the King of the Mountain competition, is see-

ing so many in community, lining the streets, cheering their champions on to glory.

Additionally, its good to see so many tackling the mountain themselves, though not in a race, the walk up the mountain to find yourself the ideal position with which to spectate is still good for the legs and lungs; even those watching got a workout.

"Back Roads"

ABC's "Back Roads" crew was amongst those scaling the side of the mount on Saturday,

• Continued on page 17.



• King of the Mount family affair: All the way from Traralgon, Jim Stevenson (standing) with his son Gav Stevenson (right) and nephew Jordan Burke (left).



• Boys' mountain dash.



• Queen of the Mountain winners: First place Carly Isaac (centre), second place Ema Iredell (left), and third place Zoe O'Meara (right).



• Winner of the junior Queen of the Mount Delilah Dartnell out in the lead. (Photo Jason Smith.)



• Boort's Carly Isaac was crowned Queen of the Mount for the third successive year.

Crowds Meet Mountain Challenge

• Continued from page 16.

collecting footage of the community event for a story to be aired next year. Though unable to disclose the topic of the story, they were able to tell the “Buloke Times” that after recording the premiership glory of the newly amalgamated Lions, the television crew then spent the week following collecting footage in Wycheproof, interviewing

some of the personalities in the community and trying to capture the spirit of the small town. Keep an eye out for the “Back Roads” program on the ABC to be aired next year.

Community Barbecue

After a break for lunch, the community gathered again at the Centenary Park later in the evening for a community viewing of the grand final on the big screen and community barbecue; the evening picnic

in the park a terrific end to the community event.

“The day ran really well, and seems to be getting easier to organise each year,” said event organiser, Ricky Allan. “It’s becoming a real family day, which is what we were aiming for – we are very happy with its success so far and where the event is headed for the future. Many thanks to sponsors and volunteers who assisted with the running of the day.”



• King of the Mount Keegan Donovan powers to the finish. Matt Hall’s legs can be seen behind him, taking second place about 30 seconds behind.



• Carly Isaac in the last few steep metres of the Queen of the Mount race.



• Girls’ mountain dash.



• Recovering in the first aid tent, King of the Mount first place getter, Keegan Donovan (left) with second place getter, Matt Hall.



• Calder United’s Cassie Pardella getting encouragement from Jenna during the women’s wheelbarrow relay.



• Journalists from ABC’s Back Roads were staying in Wycheproof for the week, collecting information for a story to air next year. Pictured at the King of the Mount starting line, left to right, Campbell Miller, Angus Llewellyn, Ben Cunningham, Lisa Millar and Tony Hill.

'Tis the Season for Swooping Magpies!

I was riding along a local walking and bike track minding my own business when suddenly I felt a whoosh of air against the side of my face generated by swiftly moving bird wings, followed by the snap of a beak next to my ear. It only took a second to see the culprit, a local magpie!

Then another three times I was swooped; the most persistent magpie I have experienced for a long while.

All this was designed to intimidate me and drive me away from the proximity of the nesting site of its young. All credit to the courageous magpie tackling creatures many times its own size to protect its young!

It was only after this attack ceased that I saw a sign on a fence warning of swooping birds in the vicinity! This serves as a warning to us all that it is well worth wearing protective glasses along with a helmet when riding a bike in the magpie swooping season!

Springtime

Spring time is that time of the year when many birds build their nests and raise a brood of young. For example, mum and dad Wood ducks frequent the same area as the magpie attack I refer to.

If one gets too close to the young ducklings the parent ducks hiss at you, warning you to stay away from their family; just a gentle warning!

Most birds are not aggressively protective of their young although the spur

winged plover (now called the "Masked Lapwing") has drawn blood on the side of my head on an earlier occasion.

Over the years I have learned to admire and appreciate these birds. Their flying skills and parental courage is amazing.

Reminder

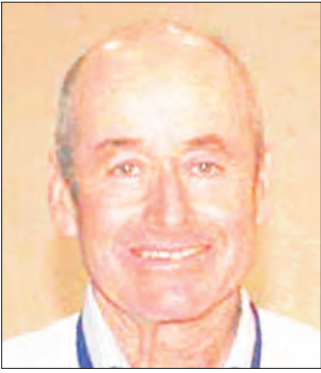
Thinking about birds reminds me of words Jesus said 2000 years ago, "Look at the birds of the air, they do not sow or reap or gather into barns – and yet our Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"

"Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his lifespan?" (Matthew 6:26,27).

Whenever our Creator encourages us to eliminate something, for example, worry, He always has something superior to put in its place – i.e., prayer. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6,7).

Most of us worry too much! A grandchild asked grandpa, "Why are you always happy?" Grandpa Keith replied, "I trust in Jesus, I try



• Bruce Stewart

not to worry about the future and I am grateful".

This grandchild went on to say, "Pa had a genuine joy, not just happiness based on circumstances but a deep joy found in knowing the hope of Jesus. It was so infectious...."

Slow Down

Slow down, look to the birds, enjoy their beauty and their song, take sensible precautions when one comes across swooping magpies, wear protective glasses, even carry an umbrella, avoid the area for a while until the magpie chicks are raised and a final reminder:

"When in a fix remember Philippians 4:6". "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God". More prayer and less worry is better by far!

Bruce Stewart.



Charlton's Junior Football Awards

• Continued from page 20.

Boyle most versatile, Tully Bourke coaches award, Jordan Chamberlain rising star and Michael Olive was the recipient of the Holmes-Brown have a crack award.

There was also a special presentation to Jye Roberts who played his first game in round 15, overcoming serious injuries and ongoing rehabilitation. The entire club is very proud of Jye and the courage and determination he has shown. Coaches Jake Lanyon and Brendan Bourke made the presentations and again acknowledged all players and volunteers for their contributions.



• Isaac Roberts.



• Charlie Zagame.

AMBULANCE
PHONE NO.
000

2025.25 | 7 YEARS ROADSIDE ASSIST & CAP PRICE SERVICING IN STOCK NOW

ABN Discount Prices



MY 2025.25 Ranger DualCab, Wildtrak, 3.0 Ltr V6 Dsl, 10 Spd Auto 4x4, Meteor Grey, Leather Accented Seats, Wildtrak Premium Pack **\$77,600** Drive Away

MY 2025.25 Ranger DualCab/Cab Chassis, XLT, 3.0 Ltr V6 Dsl, 10 Speed Auto 4x4, Meteor Grey, Premium Cloth Seat Trim, Upfitter Aux 6 Switch Pack, Bull Bar, Scrub Bars & Air Bags **\$76,400** Drive Away (Tray extra)



MY 2025.50 Everest SUV Trend, Tremor, 3.0L V6 Dsl, 10 Speed Auto 4x4, Command Grey, Premium Tremor Embossed Leather Accented, Touring Pack/Premium Towing Pack, Rough Terrain Pack. **\$90,500** Drive Away

MY 2025.00 Mustang Fastback GT, 5.0L Petrol, 10Spd Auto, Oxford White, Sport Seat (Black Onyx Leather Accented) **\$89,500** Drive Away

Please call
Duane Johns 0434 566 830 or
Tye Sibley 0409 286 614 for further information

Michaels of Donald
13-15 McCulloch St, DONALD Ph. 54971203 LMCT 6873

Family and Friends Remember

(By Peter Hibberd)

The harness racing family has many members, and many attended last Monday's harness meeting at Charlton to honour races in the names of the late Matt Donaldson and Jeff Garsden.

Also in attendance was a large group of Probus Club members from the local area.

It was great to see the function room with so many faces enjoying the facilities, and an excellent meal along with an 8-race program.

On The Track

Trainer Ben Pell, who has only been training for three years, achieved his biggest thrill with his first ever winning double, Valiente and Insider Trader.

Before training horses, Ben was involved in greyhound racing, as his parents and brother are well recognized names, but a lot of late nights and long days put him off.

He has long associated with the McNaulty brothers, David Van Ryn and Trevor Patching (all trainers), and farrier Tony Dillon. He said in a recent interview, he had no regrets.

His biggest win so far was with Valiente in this year's Central Victorian Championship at Wedderburn in January.

Vale Matt Donaldson

The Charlton Harness Club, community and harness racing family lost one of its legends recently. Matt Donaldson had achieved many prestigious awards in a long career. The highest, I think, was the Gordon Rothacker Medal in 2006. On the track he had many winners in both gaits. His reputation as a teacher stands alone, as many of the current trainers were educated by him. Administration was perhaps Matt's biggest achievement, having been president and secretary of the Charlton Club, a member of country clubs association and also played a major role in government funding and support of all country tracks.

Vale Jeff Gadsden

Although a Sunraysia resident, Jeff Gadsden is well known through the local harness racing family due to his son Charlton trainer, Michael having been in the industry for more than four decades. Jeff was introduced into harness racing by one of Sunraysia's harness legends Alby

Adcock, from Robinvale. In this current season he was having his best personal season with nine winners. Five of those were with a three-year-old pacer called To The Nines. This horse is now under the care of his son Michael. All the family was on course to witness the win of this pacer at Charlton last Monday.

Starters Discuss History

Former Charlton starters, Bevan Olive and Doug Gretgrix, are both what I would call veterans of the harness racing industry.

Bevan joined the committee in 1959. He then took over as starter in 1961, and had the honour of starting the first ever mobile start at the Charlton track. He was starter for 13 years, with 15 years on the committee. He said he still keeps in contact with the club. Doug's record is unbelievable in a career lasting 22 years; he has started nearly every major race in Victoria. Outside his starting career his association with the Charlton Harness Racing Club shows his dedication for the industry.



• One of the most impressive wins of the day was by a 2-year-old pacer called Out To Stay. Only having its second race start, sat outside the leader and won comfortably. This horse is trained by Aaron Dunn from Horsham and driven by Jackie Barker.

Monday's Results

Race one: Victoria's leading driver James Herbertson again showed his talent. Sitting behind the leader on the Jason Ainsworth's Hanover Jack, used the sprint lane to win.

Race two: This time it was trainer Ashley Ainsworth's turn to win a race. With brother Jason driving Paris Jamilla at the big odds of \$16, blew punters away, leading all the way.

Race three: Trainers from the Western Victoria area very rarely miss when racing at Charlton. This time trainer Julie Brimacombe with her pacer Ittakeslur and driven by Michael Bellman used the sprint lane to win.

Race four: James Herbertson made it a driving double with Valiente. He was able to lead all the way, recording a quick mile rate just outside the track record.

Race five: A tear was certainly shed when The Nines was able to win at its first start after the passing of trainer and part owner Jeff Gadsden. Sat outside the leader to score a very strong win, with Ryan Backhouse in the sulky.

Race six: A recent acquisition to the Aaron Dunn stable

is Out To Stay. Purchased for \$20K and was only having its second race start. Sat outside the leader and won easily. Has been entered for a race at Melton tomorrow night.

Race seven: The locals were cheering especially the owner when the locally owned Fair Chance won again. Sat

outside the leader and was too strong. Started at a short quote after very nice odds were originally bet.

Race eight: Benn Pells second winner for the day. Another brilliant drive by Kerry Manning using the sprint lane. This was the longest priced winner on the day.



• A total of approximately 35 years of starters duties in harness racing. Doug Gretgrix, 22 years and Bevan Olive with 13 years. Both Charlton residents. Bevan was official starter from the first mobile race ever at Charlton in 1961.



• Australia's leading female driver Kerry Manning with trainer Ben Pell after the win of Insider Trader. This completed a double for Ben, his first ever in a short training career.



• The Gadsden family with their winning pacer To The Nines. This horse was previously trained by the late Jeff Gadsden, and is now under the care of his son Michael.



• The Donaldson family was on track to recognise their late husband and father Matt Donaldson. Son Ian "Butch" with Ashlee and William, wife Elaine and son Gary.

A “First” For Birchip Harness Racing Club

Birchip, a town famous for its bull and Australia’s best vanilla slice, is now home to Victoria’s first harness slot race.

The \$125,000 Cargill Running of the Bulls on March 8 is the newest addition to the racing calendar, which will have country Victoria at its core.

Birchip Harness Racing Club secretary Brad Sharp said the concept was the realisation of a “dream that has been in the pipeline for four or five years”.

“We are over the moon to have reached this point,” Sharp said. “We are so proud of our once-a-year meeting, and this new race is an incredible addition to the day in 2026 and beyond.”

Thanks to the generous support of major sponsor Cargill, the feature event in Birchip will be run for \$125,000 in each of the first two years and boasts a unique set of conditions that asks slot holders to find the right horse at just the right time in their career.

Harness Racing Victoria CEO Matt Isaacs said it was a “terrific concept between the club and HRV, which will turn up the dial on what is already one of the great Sundays of country racing.

“I congratulate Birchip and its harness racing community in embracing this opportunity,” Isaacs said. “I am sure plenty will line up to be the first slot holder or trainer to win the Running of the Bulls, and that many more will flock to be trackside on March 8.”

Each horse in the final field will represent one of 10 slot holders, which will include the race sponsor Cargill. The remaining nine successful parties will be chosen based on criteria, including their previous engagement and co-operation with the

club and HRV, and their capacity to promote and attend the race.

Slots have been set at \$10,000 per year, with a two-year commitment for 2026 and 2027. Slot holder expressions of interest close on November 14, 2025, before a committee selects the successful applicants, who will then be tasked with finding their perfect horse.

The 2026 race conditions have been carefully crafted to draw a field of emerging types and country warriors.

They include:

- A 2150m pacing race for horses 4YO and older, with a preferential barrier draw (NR).

- Horses must have a national rating of no more than 90 and have not won a race worth \$50,000 or more since January 1, 2024.

- Horses with a national rating of 91+ are eligible, providing they haven’t won a race worth \$15,000 or more.

- The horse must be Victorian-trained from December 1, 2025.

Brad Sharp said the club had already received outstanding community support for the concept.

“The club thanks Cargill Cares for getting behind us, a small group of passionate club supporters for planting the seed, and HRV for its support to make it all happen.”

Andrew Lee is the co-chairperson of Cargill Cares, an arm of multinational food corporation Cargill that supports initiatives with local impacts.

“Cargill Cares is set up to support organisations and not-for-profit clubs, and we are really happy to get this project off the ground,” Lee said.

“Myself and fellow co-chairperson, Andy Barber, are thrilled to support this event along with Cargill Cares.

“The annual Birchip meeting is a special one for the local community, and it will now go to a whole new level with Victoria’s very first harness slot race.”

Donald Bowls

Donald Bowls Club teams for the games to be played at Donald Golf Bowls Club, Saturday, October 4.

Division One

H. Wingfield, L. Morgan, J. Howley, M. Harris.
N. Hollis, W. Hegarty, N. Barber, Ian McEwen.
G. Evruard, K. Adamson, E. Adams, J. Meyer.

Division Two

D. Romeo, P. Wyllie, K. Wyllie, M. Wolski.
B. Milne, B. Hollis, C. Perry, A. McEwen.
M. Quick, O. Gravestock, Bo, S. Robertson.

Better Late Than Never!

Pictured are the victorious Calder United Lions “C” grade and under-17 netball teams, which joined with their senior football colleagues in taking out their respective premierships in their first year as an organisation created by the amalgamation of the former Wycheproof-Narraport and Nullawil Clubs.



• Under-17s Calder United Lions Netball Club 51 defeated Birchip Watchem 47. Back: Ella Sheahan (Coach), Claire Harrison (Coach), Pria Coatsworth, Jenna Kelly, Grace McKersie, Georgia Hogan, Ruby Ison, Gracie Humphreys, Lily Humphreys, Nicola Dobson. Front: Tessa Sheahan, Jessie Fawcett (Best on Court), Libby Thompson, Lana Fawcett, Suzanna Fawcett (Coach).



• “C” Grade Calder United Lions Netball Club 46 defeated Wedderburn 43. Back: Meg Hogan (Coach), Lauren Thompson (Coach), Tessa Sheahan, Stephanie Cooper (Best on Court), Hayley Mathieson, Amy Smith, Ruby Scott, Lily Humphreys. Front: Kasey Mathieson, Lizzy McGrath, Reagan Kelly, Suzanna Fawcett, Claire Harrison, Holly Saul.

Charlton’s Junior Football Awards

On Sunday, August 17, the Charlton Junior Football Club held its awards day in conjunction with all other teams and codes which represent the entire Charlton Football, Netball Hockey Club.

A large crowd was there to acknowledge the achievements of both senior and junior players and also volunteers and dedicated club persons.

The under-14 vote count was an extremely close affair with only two votes separating three players with one round to go. Charlie Zagame came home strongest to win with 54 votes, from runner-up Isaac Roberts on 48 votes.

Other award recipients were Liam Monaghan most consistent, Cooper McGrath super boot, Darcy Olive golden fist, Flynn Zagame most determined, Rhys Gahan most improved, Henry Lanyon coaches award and Josh Bartlett rising star. Coaches Andrew McGurk and Anthony Bourke made the presentations and thanked all players and volunteers for their efforts through out the season.

In the under-17 vote count the pattern was similar for the first half of the season. Seb Zagame led Ethan Soulsby by just 5 votes after round nine, but Seb extended his lead in the remaining games to take out the Best and Fairest with 82 votes from Ethan, runner-up on 58 votes.

Other award winners were Jarvis Wright most determined, Leigh Van Boven most improved, Mitchell

• Continued on page 18.



• Under-17s left to right Michael Olive, Jarvis Wright, Mitchell Boyle, Seb Zagame, Leigh Van Boven, Ethan Soulsby, Jordan Chamberlain, Jye Roberts, Tully Bourke.