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The Buloke Times

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



• Mt. Wycheproof Racecourse is in prime condition for Cup Day thanks to a handy 20mm of rain last weekend.



• Major sponsors of Cup Day, Elders Wycheproof, hosts its annual Spring Store Sheep Sale today, Friday, October 31. Pictured in the pens with the Cup at last year's sale is team member Matty Rowlands.

Giddy Up! Wycheproof's Big Weekend is Here

From the saleyards to the racecourse, it's set to be a bumper weekend of country tradition and community spirit in Wycheproof.

The Elders Wycheproof Annual Spring Store Sheep Sale takes centre stage today, followed by the Elders Mt. Wycheproof Cup – Derby Day in the Country tomorrow.

A well-timed 20mm of rain last Sunday has the racetrack in pristine condition and ready for a fantastic day of country racing.

Gates open at 11 a.m. for the Elders Mt. Wycheproof Cup,

with the first of seven races set to jump at 1 p.m.. The racing program is headlined by the prestigious \$40,000 Elders Mt. Wycheproof Cup.

Family-Friendly

Trackside, it's all about the relaxed and family-friendly atmosphere, with live music on the main stage by Mildura's Paul Trevaskis, Fashions on the Field, children's entertainment and a host of delicious food and drink options.

Mt. Wycheproof & District Racing Club is delighted to welcome back racecaller Rick McIntosh, who returns for his 21st

Mt. Wycheproof Cup, Dayne Barry, who will MC the day, and former contestant on The Voice, Elias Lanyon, who will again perform the national anthem prior to the running of the Cup.

Tickets Available

Marquee and umbrella packages are now sold out, but general admission tickets are still available online or at the gate on the day.

From the saleyards to the racecourse, Wycheproof is ready to put on a show – see you trackside for Derby Day in the Country!

Responsible Serving of Alcohol Workshop

Due to a high demand of expressions of interest for "Responsible Serving of Alcohol" courses to be conducted in the Mallee Sports Assembly region, Rhonda Allan of the Mallee Sports Assembly approached the Charlton Golf Club to host a workshop in the Buloke Shire.

Rhonda liaised with club member Anthony Hargreaves who made the necessary arrangements for the course to be held at the club's venue. Anthony also organized the light refreshments/food for the evening. A big thank you to him for his support and assis-

tance to promote the workshop and make a concerted effort to ensure it went ahead. Thank you also to the Charlton Golf Club for the use of its wonderful venue.

Peter Rosenthal of Short Courses Australia (Melbourne) was the qualified

facilitator for the course which was conducted on Monday, October 27, 2025. Peter has had previous experience in facilitating these courses for the Mallee Sports Assembly. It was an ideal opportunity for club members to

• Continued on page 2.



• Peter Rosenthal of Short Courses Australia (Melbourne) was the qualified facilitator for the responsible service of alcohol course which was conducted on Monday, 27th October, 2025, at Charlton Golf Club.

Sealed and Unsealed Rural Roads Neglected: M.P. Slams Plan to Slash Speed Limit

"How about they just fix the bloody roads?" That's the immediate reaction of The Nationals' Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Dr Anne Webster, MP, to the Albanese Labor Government's plan to reduce default national speed limits to as low as 70 kilometres an hour on sealed and unsealed roads.

"Let me be crystal clear – we do not want to see a single life lost on any road in Australia," Dr Webster said, "Reducing speed limits is the lazy approach to road safety reform, where road upgrades and appropriately resourcing

law enforcement can make a far longer-lasting difference."

The Federal Government's plan includes changing the Australian Road Rules so that 100 kilometres an hour is not the default limit on some regional Australian roads. One

scenario under consideration would see the default upper limit on sealed and unsealed roads to become 70 kilometres per hour.

The Member for Mallee in north-west Victoria said the Albanese Government's plan adds

insult to injury for regional Australians, who suffer from poorly funded regional roads.

Survey

Dr Webster's recent 5,000 plus survey of her Mallee electorate saw over 74 per cent of residents rating roads in the electorate as being in poor condition.

"Across my own electorate, councils have imposed temporary speed limits at potholed or crumbling roads be-

cause repair work is taking months to occur. We can't accept a national regional slowdown because Labor Governments won't spend a penny in the bush," Dr Webster said.

"Regional Australians are being left to drive on dangerous roads because the Albanese Labor Government raids regions to buy votes in the capital cities.

• Continued on page 2.



• Anne Webster.

Renewables in Retirement – What Happens to Them?

[From RE-Alliance]

“What happens to large scale renewable energy technologies – such as wind turbines, solar farms and batteries – when they reach retirement age?” has become an increasing topic of conversation in regional communities across Australia.

Recent research from the Renewable Energy Alliance (RE-Alliance), an independent not-for-profit working for more than a decade with regional communities at the centre of the shift to renewables, highlighted what industry and governments need to do to harness the opportunities available for Australia to refurbish and repower assets, and to build public confidence in the decommissioning process.

With different legislation across state jurisdictions and no one place to turn for trusted information, regional communities have been asking for clarity on how projects are decommissioned and who is financially responsible for removing infrastructure and restoring the land to its original state.

Important Step

This week’s release of a “Decommissioning Security Framework” by two peak bodies for the renewable energy industry – the Clean Energy Council (CEC) and Queensland Renewable Energy Council (QREC) – is an important step towards clarity for regional communi-

ties. It builds on the expectations outlined by the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner Tony Mahar through the Commissioner’s Position Statement earlier in the week.

RE-Alliance National Director Andrew Bray said RE-Alliance had been advocating to industry and state and federal governments to provide rules to build stronger public confidence in renewables retirement.

“We recommended that industry develop a consistent and industry-wide Financial Assurance Framework for decommissioning to help increase public confidence and the CEC and QREC’s Decommissioning Security Framework is a good start,” Andrew Bray said.

Transparency

“We are pleased to see a big focus on transparency. We urged industry peak bodies to increase the transparency of decommissioning clauses and commitments in agreements to assist farmers and communities to understand what to expect when a project needs decommissioning – and this clearly steps out a process to do this.”

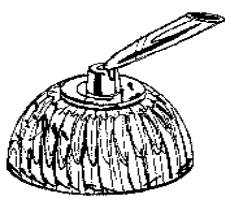
Andrew Bray said questions remain on how farmers would be able to access funds in the very unlikely event that a project owner defaulted on its responsibilities, and the strength of recommendations CEC and QREC are making for existing projects.

Increased Confidence

“We’re looking forward to working with industry and state and federal governments to build on this work to increase confidence in the national decommissioning process, but also to identify opportunities for refurbishment, make repowering easier and provide leadership on reuse and recycling.

“Communities deserve transparency. We have the time to ensure that renewables retirement is done right in this country and this is worthwhile progress from industry,” he said.

Mr Bray encouraged anyone living in a regional community where large scale renewable energy projects are being built or proposed to access RE-Alliance’s toolkit on retirement age renewables, via the RE-Alliance website: re-alliance.org.au.



Letter to the Editor

Best Wishes to Year 12s

(The Editor, “The Times”)

Dear Editor:– As their schooling journey draws to a close, I would like to extend my best wishes to Year 12 students across the region who will finish their studies or sit their final exams over the coming weeks.

You are to be commended for your hard work and commitment to your studies. You should all feel incredibly proud of how far you’ve come and all that you’ve achieved over the past 13 years of schooling.

You will look back on this year, maybe now or maybe years from now, and realise that what you learned was more than English or economics. You learned how determined, resilient and capable you really are.

Exams can feel challenging, stressful and a little overwhelming all at once. Remember, they are just one part of your journey. Do your best and don’t forget to look after yourself along the way. While exams are important, they don’t define who you are or what your future looks like. They’re simply one step along a much bigger journey. Whether your next adventure takes you to university, a trade, further training, or straight into the workforce, everyone’s path to success is different.

I would also like to thank the parents, families and teachers who have supported this year’s cohort with encouragement and guidance.

Throughout the year I’ve had the pleasure of visiting many local schools and meeting an impressive group of young people. I know first-hand that our local schools are full of bright, capable and community-minded students who will go on to do great things.

To all our future leaders I say congratulations on reaching this milestone and good luck for the exciting future ahead.

Warm regards,

Jade Benham, MP.



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Police Beat



Gannawarra

Using a telecommunications device to harass: Kerang Police are investigating a report of a social media group post being used to harass a member of the community. The police were made aware of the post on the 24th of October. Using a phone or other form of communication to harass, threaten or intimidate someone is a criminal offence. Social media platforms also have the ability to block accounts deemed to be being used inappropriately.

Burglary: Just prior to midnight on Saturday the 18th of October, windows were smashed at a school in Cohuna. The offenders have gained entry to a room and caused damage. The incident was reported to police on Monday the 20th. The investigation is ongoing.

Possession: At about 9.40 a.m. on Friday the 24th of October, police intercepted a vehicle travelling on the Loddon Valley Highway. The male driver refused to undergo a preliminary oral fluid test. A search of the vehicle he was driving was conducted and a quantity of a crystal-like substance was located. The male was arrested and interviewed in relation to possession of a drug of dependence and methyl amphetamine. He was released pending summons.

Bicycle theft: Between 10.30 a.m. on Friday the 24th

of October, and 9 a.m. the following day, an orange Giant mountain bike has been stolen from an address in Maunder Street, Koondrook.

Theft: Between 11.30 a.m. on Sunday the 26th of October, and 7 a.m. Monday, offenders have forced entry to a yard of a business in Grigg Road, Koondrook, and stolen tools and timber slabs.

Buloke

Fire: A red Toyota Hilux was located damaged by fire on the side of the Charlton St. Arnaud Road, Charlton, on Monday, the 20th of October. It appears to have been stolen from a nearby address.

Theft: Between 3 p.m. Thursday the 23rd of October, and 11.30 a.m. the following day, it appears offenders have cut a fence to gain access to a yard on Depot Road, Donald. Between 10 and 12 car batteries have been reported stolen from the location.

Vehicle theft: In the early hours of Wednesday the 22nd of October, it is reported that a maroon 2003 Holden Rodeo ute was stolen from Aitken Avenue, Donald.

Swan Hill

Burglary: Mid-morning on Sunday the 26th of October, it is reported that offenders have attended a residence in McCallum Street, Swan Hill. It appears they have forced entry and marked graffiti in the home.

M.P. Slams Plan to Slash Speed Limit

• Continued from page 1.

“As Shadow Minister for Local Government I know that rural and remote shires are in diabolical financial shape due to cost-shifting, misapplication of federal Financial Assistance Grants and shrinking rate bases,” Dr Webster said.

Starved of Resources

“Shires would love to improve their roads to a safe standard – they simply can’t get all the necessary work

done due to being starved of resources by Federal and State Labor Governments.

“The solution to regional road safety is to improve the roads, not to further exacerbate the tyranny of distance.”

Dr Webster backed the sentiments of NSW rural doctor Dr Amy Kelly, who told “Farm Weekly” this week: “My concern is that once those speed limits are reduced, it then legitimises any level of government to defund these

roads and not maintain them at the standard that we expect as taxpayers.”

“Dr Kelly is exactly right – reducing speed limits will not improve regional roads, it will do the opposite,” Dr Webster said.

Provide the Evidence

“I demand the Government provide the evidence that the roads they intend to target are the roads where the greater proportion of bad accidents are occurring, and also to show that the condition of the road contributed to the accident.

“Ultimately, Governments have a duty of care to protect citizens and if they are negligently leaving Australians at risk, they are obliged to spend the money to make the roads safer – not to throttle the regional Australian economic engine room.”

Commitment

The Nationals secured in the federal Coalition agreement a commitment to maintain the \$20 billion Regional Australia Future Fund that was taken to the May election, which includes a commitment to pay for regional infrastructure.

“How do we develop regional Australia if we are slowed down and restricted at every turn?” she said.

• Drivers Given More Time – Page 8.

Responsible Serving of Alcohol Workshop

• Continued from page 1.

get this skill to legally serve behind the bar, people employed at licenced venues and older students which will give them extra employment opportunities to supplement their study allowances (once they are 18 years of age).

Congratulations to the 15 participants from nine different sporting clubs for being very pro-active to learn another skill and increase the volunteer capacity for their respective sporting clubs.

Peter covered the following RSA principles in the course:

- Recognize and refuse liquor service to intoxicated patrons.
- Drunk and disorderly patrons are not allowed on premises.
- Do not supply liquor to anyone under 18 years of age.
- Discourage patrons from taking part in activities that may cause harm to themselves and others.

Peter also informed the participants the offences as according to the “Liquor Control Reform Act 1998” (from July 2017) and the relevant penalties.

Thank you to him for travelling up to the “bush” to facilitate this workshop.

MICHAELS

OF DONALD

bring you

Belvedere By George Crenshaw
www.belvedere-cartoons.com

“Wouldn’t you be happier at some other school ?!”

“Times” Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8199 - SOLUTIONS

Across - 1, Budapest. 6, Look. 8, Ibis. 9, Scribble. 10, Organ. 11, Thanks. 13, Winnow. 15, Liking. 17, Mitten. 19, Essay. 22, Stimulus. 23, Rapt. 24, Acid. 25, Redolent. **Down** - 2, Umber. 3, Abstain. 4, Ease. 5, Throttle. 6, Libya. 7, Oilskin. 12, Swindler. 14, Idiotic. 16, Kestrel. 18, Timid. 20, Aspen. 21, Used.

Birchip Forum Reflects On a Productive Year

Birchip Community Forum Inc. held its annual general meeting on Monday, October 27, with president Steve Nottle delivering a heartfelt report that reflected on a busy and rewarding 2025 for the community group.

Steve opened his report by thanking all members and volunteers who had contributed their time and energy throughout the year.

"It is the efforts of so many that make Birchip a better place," he said.

Among the highlights was the success of the Australia Day celebrations, which saw strong community participation and recognition for local achievers. Steve congratulated all award recipients and noted that the introduction of new award categories.

Special praise was given to the Mali Heart subcommittee of Jess Bidstrup, Carol Reid, Maureen Donnellon, Sharee Dobson and Em Noonan for their work in delivering another outstanding festival. "Having been involved in the festival in previous years, I know how much work goes into it, so I really appreciate everything you did," Steve said.

Calendar

The Forum's annual community calendar project also drew thanks, with Sharee Dobson and Maureen Donnellon recognised for their continued efforts. The calendar not only showcases Birchip through local photography but also

provides valuable income for the group. Steve also thanked Sharee and Maureen for their commitment to the restoration of "Bills Trough" which is proudly restored and reinstated as another example of community pride in action.

He thanked Seamus Lowry for taking charge of signage projects and for "always being keen to get involved in just about everything." Appreciation was extended to the full committee, including outgoing members Rachel Ferrier, Eddie Rickard and Kylie Walsh, along with Rachel Colbert, Em Noonan and Amy Walder who stepped down during the year.

Steve also acknowledged the support of Buloke Shire councillors Bernadette Hogan and Graeme Milne, describing their knowledge and advice as invaluable, particularly as a conduit to the operations of local government.

Tribute

A special tribute was paid to the executive team treasurer Hayden Collin, described as the "Master of Coin", secretary Marian Hadrack and vice-president Alison Noonan for their support, reliability and commitment.

Steve's closing remarks were personal and sincere, thanking his wife Bridget and all who had sent kind messages, including former councillor Gail Sharp.

"There have been times I thought of stepping away," he said. "But thanks to Bridge, close friends, the executive team and just Birchip in general, I found the resilience to get through it. It has not been easy, but it has made me stronger, more grounded, and I believe a better person and hopefully a better president too."

Focus

The Forum will continue its focus on community projects and partnerships into 2026, with the executive team of Steve Nottle, Alison Noonan, Marion Hadrack and Hayden Collins returned for another term. They will be supported by committee members Carol Reid, Maureen Donnellon, Seamus Lowry, Jess Bidstrup, Zoe Weir and Diona Cooper.

Steve concluded by encouraging everyone to keep building on the achievements of the past year and to continue working together for Birchip's future.

Daryl Takes the Reins

Buloke Community Enterprises Limited conducted its annual general meeting on Tuesday evening, at which reports were presented by Board chairman, John Stuchbery, branch manager Kirby Richmond Davis, in addition to the branch's annual financial report from auditor AFS & Associates Chartered Accountants.

After 10 years as chairman of Board, John Stuchbery stepped down, handing over the reins to fellow Board member, Daryl Warren.

John was thanked for his tireless work on behalf of the Board and the community. He will continue his Board involvement, having accepted the role of secretary, replacing Leo Tellefson.

John, Leo and incoming chairman Daryl Warren were all re-elected to the Board for a further three-year term.

After several years of tough times, banking wise, the branch has generated a small profit for the second successive year.

Staffing is settled, under manager Kirby Richmond Davis, and the branch is able to offer regular opening hours. The availability of a business banker on a regular basis from November is also good news for branch customers and the wider population.

Apart from supporting the community in the usual ways, such as grants and sponsorship, this year Buloke Community Enterprises will

sponsor Donald High School Year 12 students to complete their RSA (Responsible Serving of Alcohol), so they have the ability to secure part time work or support community events or clubs in the future.

Fourteen years after its opening on October 13, 2011, Community Bank Donald and District is looking forward to a major milestone next year, when it will celebrate 15 years of service to the Donald and district community.



• Outgoing chairman John Stuchbery (left) with new chairman Daryl Warren.

Thousands Stranded Without Emergency Call Coverage

This week marks one year since the disastrous 3G shutdown, which still leaves countless numbers of Australians stranded without emergency call coverage.

On this grim anniversary, the Albanese Labor Government still has no answers and no fixes for the chaos it caused.

Instead of protecting Australians, Labor undermined confidence in our telecommunications system by pressing ahead with a rushed and premature shutdown, ignoring repeated warnings about the risk to Triple Zero connectivity.

Shadow Minister for Communications, Melissa McIntosh, MP, said, "For over a year now, and well before the Government's forced and premature 3G shutdown, the Coalition has been warning the Albanese Labor Government that regional Triple Zero connectivity would be threatened by the network's closure."

Priority

"Putting Australians first should be the number one priority of any government. The on-going 3G network shutdown issues plaguing regional Australians must be fixed. The Albanese Labor Government rushed the network shutdown and put the safety of the public at risk."

Shadow Minister for Regional Communications, Dr Anne Webster, MP, said, "The Prime Minister's campaign slogan is 'nobody held back, nobody left behind', but Australians have been catastrophically left behind by this

Government, unable to connect on emergency calls and left with poorer connectivity after the 3G shutdown.

Bungle

"The Labor Government bungled the 3G network closure without all the checks and balances in place. The Communications Minister had power to delay the shutdown until she was absolutely certain no negative emergency connectivity issues would arise, and yet here we are with countless Australians lacking connectivity. We have no clear picture of how the shutdown impacted coverage with the National Audit of Mobile Coverage not concluding until 2027."

"The Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport inquiry heard evidence into the 3G shutdown and recommended, prior to the October 28, 2024 shutdown, that the Albanese Government delay the shutdown until 'the 4G network provides coverage equivalent to or better than the coverage provided by the licensee's 3G network'."

Shadow Assistant Minister for Communications, Mr Aaron Violi, MP, said, "Why has it taken 12 months to discover that thousands of Australians are unable to make a potentially lifesaving phone call, all because this Labor



• Anne Webster.

Government's 3G shutdown has not gone to plan?"

Response

In its response to the interim report the Albanese Government said:

"Telstra has committed to ensuring 3G-only areas within its published coverage area will have equivalent 4G coverage prior to its 3G network switchover, and has informed the Government that it is undertaking independent testing in impacted areas to confirm there will be no loss of coverage."

Optus has also indicated that there will be no loss of coverage following its 3G switchover and that it will continue to operate a small number of sites in regional areas while upgrades are carried out in order to meet this commitment.

Evidence given to the inquiry after October 28, 2024, and anecdotal evidence since, demonstrates connectivity is poorer, consumer confidence is lower, and some customers remain unacceptably at risk of not being able to access Triple Zero on certain devices.

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

Expression of interest to the selling agent by Friday 14th November 2025, by 10 a.m.

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"Times" Classifieds

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Deadlines:—

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

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

DEATH

LITT.— Allan James
Passed away peacefully
at Bendigo Health on
Monday, October 24.

Loved husband of Lorna.
Loved father of Tony.

Rest in peace.

DEATH

LITT.— Allan

Members of the Tchum
Lake Aquatic Club were
saddened to learn of the
passing of long time mem-
ber Allan.

Allan's presence was a
constant at Tchum Lake,
where he was always lend-
ing a hand and putting
forward his ideas. His con-
tribution and character
will be remembered and
talked about for years to
come.

The committee and mem-
bers extend their sincere
condolences to Lorna and
Tony.

FUNERAL

LITT.—

A graveside service for
Allan James Litt will
be held at the Birchip
Cemetery on Thursday,
November 6, at 2 p.m.

*The service will be live-
streamed. (Please go to the
livestream tab).*

A tribute can be left on
our website: [kellyfunerals
birchip.com.au](http://kellyfuneralsbirchip.com.au)

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Damon John Coats and
Valetta May Johnston,
c/- the undermentioned
solicitor, to send particu-
lars of their claims to
them by the 21 January
2026 after which date
the executors may con-
vey or distribute the as-
sets, having regard only
to the claims of which
they then have notice.

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Preliminary Notice

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Saturday, November 15th
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10 a.m. start
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- 7pm for a 7.30pm start
- Wedderburn Town Hall
- Ladies: \$15
- Secondary Student Ladies: \$5

*Exceptional Supper
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BIRCHIP COMMUNITY FORUM PRESENTS

Birchip GARAGE SALE

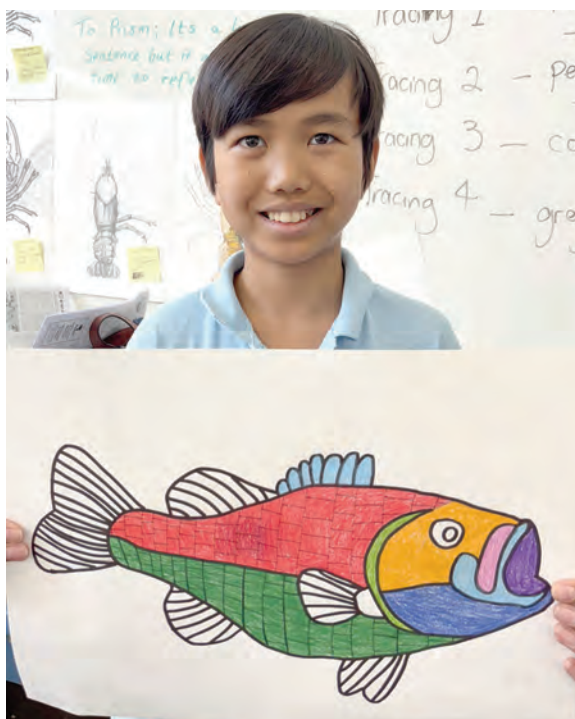
**SUNDAY 2ND NOVEMBER
9AM – 2PM**

Participants hold a garage sale at their own home on the day. A town map will be created with all participating addresses. Shoppers can visit multiple sales in one day - why not walk the town loop?

MAP LOCATED AT BIRCHIP CAFE & BIRCHIP FORUM FACEBOOK PAGE

Got questions? Contact Steven Nottle
steven.a.nottle@gmail.com

ASSOCIATION NUMBER A00481093



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

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

Victor Sak
DONALD HIGH SCHOOL

Mensland

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• Free barbeque lunch supplied for the kids •

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Any enquiries contact Philip 0427 978 252

DONALD 2000's

Ladies Shopping Night

Friday, November 14

Theme: *Spirit of Christmas*

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

Starting: Buloke Hire (Racecourse Rd) at 5.30 pm

Finish: Supper at the Mount Jeffcott Hotel. **Tickets:** \$25

11 businesses participating

Tickets can be purchased at: *Harvest Café,*

The Clothes Bin, Bev's Baubles/Shared Shop or Love Shack.

Donald Show 'n' Shine Results

A collection of beautifully maintained and restored vehicles was on display on the oval at Donald's Show, on October 11.

Results previously published in the "Buloke Times" were incomplete, so a more detailed list of the award winners is as follows:

Best Vintage, Warren King with his T Model Ford; Judge's Choice, Colin and Tanya Clark's Chevy Truck from Minyip; Best in Show, Geoff Taylor's Jag; Best Original, was Harry Baird with his Premier.

Congratulations to everyone involved with the Show 'n' Shine. It is always a well received addition to the local show and popular with so many in the region.



• Pictured is the winner of best original, Harry Baird driving in the parade with his Premier.



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“Rollin’, Rollin’, Rollin’”

On Sunday, October 21, the Wimmera Rollers celebrated a major turning point with a lively roller disco at the Warracknabeal stadium.

The event marked the club’s official transition from competitive roller derby to a new focus on recreational skating for fun, fitness and community connection.

Skaters of all ages and abilities joined in, including children who had the rare chance to skate alongside their parents and friends. The atmosphere was joyful as participants rolled across the polished floor to upbeat music, refuelling with afternoon tea and a celebratory cake.

A raffle was also held on the day, raising \$917 for suicide prevention organisations, Stand By Suicide Support and Roses in the Ocean, with donations still being accepted via the club’s Facebook page.

During the event, club president Stacey Drage reflected on the group’s derby history and presented a commemorative necklace to Pru Cook, also known as “Hurtie Beetle”, the final skater to join the former Wheat City

Derby Angels before the competitive chapter came to a close.

Recognition

The club continues to honour its roots, with special recognition given to founding members Stacey “Stace Invader” Drage and Darlene “Demolition Darls” Goodwin, who have helped sustain the sport in the region for over a decade. Although the group no longer competes, it remains committed to creating a welcoming, inclusive space for adults to learn to skate, build fitness and enjoy a vibrant social environment.

The roller disco drew strong community interest and was seen as such a success that plans are already in motion to hold similar events once a term in the year ahead. For those over 18 looking for a regular fitness activity, weekly adult skating sessions are held in Dimboola on Mondays and Warracknabeal on Wednesdays.

Open to All

Skate Fit sessions are open to all skill levels, including complete beginners. Equipment is available to borrow at no cost, and the focus is on participation, enjoyment and community. While the current program is limited to adults, there is hope to expand offerings to juniors in the future, pending the availability of more qualified coaches.

Wimmera Rollers invites those curious about skating to get in touch via the Facebook page or email (wimmerarollerderby@gmail.com) to find out more or register for upcoming sessions. With a new name, a renewed purpose and strong local support, the group looks ahead with enthusiasm and energy for what’s to come.



• All aboard the Wimmera Rollers Train, led by Darlene Goodwin, followed in succession by Rebecca Lewis, John Goodwin, Pru Cook and Millie Cook.



• Celebration skate cake.



• All participants enjoyed skating and even falling, with protective gear lessening the impact.



• Wimmera Rollers fundraising Roller Disco, left to right: Karly Kirk, John Maher, Laura Maher, Darlene Goodwin, Mel Douglas, Stacey Drage, Pru Cook (white tee), Amber Healy, Jorge Healy, Darcy Kirk (bobbing down in white tee), Sonya Martinalli, Jade Taylor, Melissa Evans, John Goodwin.



• Tracey Rigney and Parni Rigney-Read.



• Melissa Evans.



• John Goodwin back on skates for the first time since he can remember.



• A bit of derby history on display on the day.

Year 10 Work Experience

During Week 3 of Term 4, fourteen Year 10 students took part in a week of work experience with an employer of their choice.

Many students took the opportunity to venture beyond Donald, with placements in Melbourne, Bendigo, St Arnaud, and Warracknabeal.

This was a fantastic experience for our students. For some, it affirmed their interest in a particular career, while

for others, it helped them realise that perhaps it wasn't the right fit.

Regardless of the outcome, it was a valuable experience that will support their ongoing career planning.

The student evaluations I have received from employers

have been extremely positive, with most students receiving glowing feedback.

Sincere thanks must go to all the employers who generously hosted our students — we could not do it without their support.

Kim Griffiths,
Year 10, Co-ordinator.



STUDENT	EMPLOYER
Jasmine Anderson	St Arnaud Veterinary Clinic
Parker Bicket	Paul Brooks Building
Charlie Burke	Driscoll Ag - Bendigo
Marty Burke	BM Constructions Group
Hayden Clark	Donald Family Butcher
John Clapham	Donald Steel
Brady Cumming	1G building
Lyric Davis	Buloke Plumbing
Alyssa Hepworth	Wimmera Mallee Veterinary Services - Warracknabeal
Aidy Hogan	Donald Primary School
Kailie Krause	Vets on Parker - Melbourne
Jesse Lydom	QA Electrical
Shaine Mansibang	Choose Food
Shanae Rotherham	East Wimmera Health Service – Wycheproof campus



• Jesse Lydom – QA Electrical.



• Hayden Clark – Donald Family Butcher.



• Brady Cumming – 1g building



• Shaine Mansibang – Choose Food



• Shanae Rotherham – East Wimmera Health Service, Wycheproof campus.



• Jasmine Anderson – St. Arnaud Veterinary Clinic.



• Parker Bicket – Paul Brooks building.



• Lyric Davis – Buloke Plumbing.

Birchip Crop Inspection

(By Adrian Lawrie)

Kemp Farming hosted a well-attended crop inspection on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, attracting growers from across Victoria and interstate – some travelling more than 500 km to attend, and witness exceptional crops for a tough year – only 160mm rain in cropping season.

Colin Kemp said, “I’m pleased with our wheat yield estimate; all going well with the rest of the season we expect 3.5 t/ha. The heads are filling well – four grains across and a good size for the season. Most of our barley is expected to yield around 5 t/ha. It is satisfying to again get good quality and quantity of grain, since we have tweaked our system – combined synthetic and biological fertilisers.

“I spend more time on the boom now, but it is not poison I am putting out, but good nutrition for our crops and our soil microbes. We are now seeing earthworms and mushrooms in the paddock, which I have not seen since I was a kid.”

Highly compacted soils are common across Birchip’s broadacre farms, but on the Kemp properties, that compaction is now steadily easing.

Trialling

Nathan Kemp explained: “We began trialling bio-fertilisers, biostimulants, and microbial inoculants eight years ago – as seed dressings, concentrated humus applications, and in-furrow replacements for some synthetic fertiliser. We also apply these across stubbles and use foliar nitrogen across the farm. Most of our chemical applications now include products containing nutritional and buffering compounds that help protect and enhance soil microbial activity. It’s high-tech but simple to use, low-cost, and it works for us.”

He added, “Integrating biostimulants with in-crop liquid nutrient technology has come a long way – it’s enabling us to grow stronger, more even crops. As a bonus, we’re rebuilding soil organic carbon and now accumulating Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs).

Nitrogen Cost

“Our nitrogen cost is only 25 per cent of what it used to be. Using LawrieCo’s Biological Boost, PhosCal, and trace elements with foliar N eliminates crop burn. We’ve proven this part of the LawrieCo Soils Alive farming system over the past five years, and we’ll never go back to broadcasting urea. This year we made three spray applications, no broadcast urea, and for the rainfall, these are the most uniform and productive crops we’ve ever grown.

“Our overall input budget is like what it was when we were broadcasting 200–300 kg of urea, but grain quality and yield have improved, soil health continues to build, and the carbon credits we’re generating will far exceed the emissions from our farming business. Whether we like it or not, it’s clear we all need to prepare for being accountable for our farm emissions.”

The Kemps are smiling – with harvest set to begin in three weeks, an excellent grain yield and quality result is expected.

Nathan enjoys sharing methods they are using to get “best crops by far, we have grown in dry years”.



• Nathan Kemp discusses how rebuilding soil biodiversity has improved the health of the grain, soil, and piggery systems.



• Rodney Capon (left), LawrieCo Agronomist, with Nathan Kemp (right) discussing the fusion of biological and synthetic inputs – now standard practice in the Kemp cropping program.



• Wheat filling four grains across with just 160 mm of in-season rainfall. Left to right: Rodney Capon, Hannah Kemp, Colin Kemp.



• Described as “tennis court clay”, the Kemp’s soil is now friable to a depth of 40 mm when dry.

Regional Road Speed Limits Consultation: Drivers Given More Time

The Coalition has secured an additional two weeks’ consultation on the Albanese Labor Government’s plan to cut default regional road speed limits to as low as 70 kilometres per hour, after the Infrastructure department quietly extended the closing deadline by 14 days.

The morning after Regional Development Shadow Minister Dr Anne Webster called for an extension of time – and following Transport Shadow Minister Senator Bridget McKenzie writing to Minister King seeking the same – the Coalition noted the extension of time on the consultation website. The “Participate” progress bar was showing zero days remaining, now there are an additional 14 days.

“Regional Australians need more than a sneaky shifting of the consultation dial, pretending nothing was amiss here,” Dr Webster said.

Heavy Lifting

“The Coalition has done the heavy lifting making all Australians aware of Labor’s plan to slash road speed limits

from 100 to as low as 70 kilometres an hour. The Minister didn’t even bother doing a media release, even though she had promoted other consultations.

“The consultation now runs for the usual length of 42 days, not the abysmally short 28 days.

“I said yesterday and repeat today, this looks like a Clayton’s consultation. The Government appears to want to bring regional Australia to a grinding halt.

“Labor’s speed limit proposal remains an outrageous, lazy solution to a serious issue facing cars and trucks across the country,” Dr Webster said.

“How About It?”

“As I have said all along, ‘how about they just fix the bloody roads?’ Labor is cutting the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program from 1 July next year, which councils and shires rely upon to improve local roads. Re-painting white lines, installing rumble strips, improving road shoulders and visibility at intersections and corners, and fixing potholes can save lives at minimal cost – yet Labor’s preference is to change the



• Anne Webster.

default speed limit with the stroke of a pen and pretend they’ve made everyone safer.”

Dr Webster urged transport operators, small businesses, farmers and councils to make submissions to the Government’s consultation by the new deadline of Monday, November 10, about how their communities would be impacted by speed limit reductions on rural, regional and remote Australian roads.

To make a submission, go to the “Have your Say” section of the infrastructure.gov.au website (<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/have-your-say/regulatory-impact-analysis-reduce-open-road-default-speed-limit>).



Church Notices

ANGLICAN “Parish of Charlton-Donald”

Enquiries: Rev’d Judi Bird 0435 593 395

Friday, October 31
St. Paul’s, Birchip, 5 p.m.

Sunday, November 2
St. Martin’s, Charlton, 9 a.m.
St. George’s, Donald, 11 a.m.
Holy Trinity, W’burn, 3 p.m.

DISTRICT CATHOLIC CHURCHES “East Wimmera Parish”

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

Fr. Gerry Prunty
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Parish Co-ordinator
– Noeline Hogan: 0476 617 976



National Water Week Poster Competition: Local Students Shine

GWMWater is proud to announce the winners of the 2025 National Water Week Poster Competition, celebrating creativity and water awareness among students across the region.

This year’s competition attracted an outstanding response, with more than 530 entries from kindergartens and schools throughout the Grampians, Wimmera and Mallee regions.

Congratulations to our category winners:

- Kindergarten (Individual): Evie – Green Park Kindergarten.
- Kindergarten (Collaboration): Green Park Kindergarten.
- Prep: Valentina – Donald Primary School.
- Grade 1 & 2: Angela – St Patrick’s Catholic Primary School, St Arnaud.
- Grade 3 & 4: Sadie – St Patrick’s Catholic Primary School, St Arnaud.

- Grade 5 & 6: Matilda – St Patrick’s Catholic Primary School, St Arnaud.

Evie, the individual kindergarten winner, also achieved third place at state level, a remarkable accomplishment that highlights the talent and passion of GWM’s youngest water champions.

All category winners received a sports bag filled with prizes, had their artwork featured in the upcoming 2026 GWMWater National Water Week Calendar and earned \$400 for their school and \$200 for their kindergarten.

GWMWater Chairperson, Caroline Welsh, joined Phil the Bucket in celebrating the winners, presenting awards

and viewing the inspiring artwork from St Patrick’s and Donald Primary School, including honourable mentions.

“We’re thrilled by the enthusiasm and creativity shown by students across the region,” said Ms Welsh. “Their artwork reflects a deep understanding of the importance of water in our lives and communities.”

The National Water Week Poster Competition is part of GWMWater’s commitment to education and engagement, encouraging young people to think about water conservation and sustainability in fun and meaningful ways.

For more information about the competition, visit gwmwater.org.au/nww



• GWMWater Chairperson Caroline Welsh joined Phil the Bucket in celebrating the winners, presenting awards and viewing the inspiring artwork from Donald Primary School, including honourable mentions. Left to right: Mr Russell Marland Acting Principal, Jenny Goldsmith, GWM Water Chair Caroline Welsh, Valentina Harris (winner) Phil the Bucket (mascot) Pippa Pearse, Luna Hawkes, Indi Goldsmith (honourable mentions).



• Evie was the individual kindergarten winner, Green Park Kindergarten.



• Awards and honourable mentions from St Patrick’s Primary School, listed left to right: Eva, Lily, Matilda, Caroline Welsh (GWMWater Chair), Phil the Bucket, Trinity Johns (principal), Fran Scarce (Art/Science Teacher), Angerla, Sadie & Darcy.

Quitting can be hard, but you’ve got so many reasons.

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Children’s Week Celebrations

Not even the wet weather could wipe the smiles off dozens of children’s faces on Sunday, October 26, as the sun broke through just in time for the Children’s Week celebrations at the Birchip Memorial Park.

The event brought local and nearby families together for a free and fun afternoon of games and activities, supported by the Victorian Government Children’s Week grants program.

Birchip Playgroup President, Carling McEvoy, said the celebration, held on the final day of the nationally recognised Children’s Week, played an important role in bringing locals together for engaging and educational experiences.

“Events like this help to bring people together, particularly in rural areas such as Birchip,” Carling said.

“Being able to host events in our own towns means that families don’t have to travel long distances to large regional centres, and they can establish connections with other local families.”

As clear skies arrived around midday, Jay from Little Moments Productions kept the energy high with a range of activities designed to get children active and interacting with one another.

Whether it was showing off their moves in the dancing

corner, testing their throwing skills at the beanbag station or bouncing on the jumping castle, children aged from 0-12 enjoyed the opportunity to have a go at a variety of challenges.

The “High Scorers” board added a touch of friendly competition, while parents were able to sit back, relax and catch up with other parents and carers.

Adding to the fun, members of the Birchip SES paid a visit with their mascot, Paddy, much to the excitement of the children, and offered families a chance to grab a photo with the platypus.

Birchip Neighbourhood House Manager, Simone Christie, said events for young people are all about encouraging play and friendship.

“Days like this are so valuable for children,” she said. “They’re not just about the games but rather giving kids the chance to play freely, make new friends and build confidence in a relaxed environment and it is great that

Birchip Playgroup is so active in seeking out opportunities.

In rural towns like Birchip, Children’s Week activities help strengthen those early friendships and connections that can last for years and they help to educate communities to ensure children’s voices are heard and their rights respected all year round.

Children’s Week

The theme of Children’s Week 2025 is “Everyone should know about Children’s Rights”, based on Article 42 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which ensures that all members of society – adults and children alike – are aware of children’s rights.

This year, the Victorian Government contributed \$225,000 to 240 not-for-profit organisations including the Birchip Neighbourhood House to deliver Children’s Week activities and promote awareness across the state.

Minister for Children, Lizzie Blandthorn, said hundreds of events across Victoria gave families the chance to celebrate together.

“Children’s Week is all about celebrating our littlest Victorians – giving families a chance to come together, play, learn and have fun,” she said.

“We’re proud to support hundreds of local organisations to bring Children’s Week to life right across Victoria, creating free and inclusive events for families everywhere.”

Ongoing Local Involvement

Birchip Playgroup continues to enjoy strong membership numbers, with Buloke Shire supporting sessions each fortnight and the Playgroup committee running alternate weeks.

Events held outside of regular sessions give children the chance to mix across different age groups, while parents can form new connections and strengthen community ties.

Everyone is welcome to attend the sessions on Mondays and Fridays at the Birchip St Mary’s Parish Centre.



• All hands on deck for the jigsaw challenge.



• Children enjoy the activities as parents socialise.



• Jude McLoughlan and Jay from Little Moments Productions.



• SES Volunteers with Paddy the Platypus.



• Thomas Noonan and Logan Wood test out their throwing skills.



• Felicity Coffey has a go at cup flipping.

Donations Lift CHARTSEC Upgrade

The Charlton Driver Traffic Safety Education Centre (CHARTSEC) has received a generous donation to support much-needed track upgrades and safety improvements – strengthening its mission to deliver high-quality driver training and road safety education to regional communities.

The contribution, made by Charlton Community Op Shop, will fund gravel resurfacing works across the driver training gravel portion of the track. In addition another great supporter over the years of CHARTSEC, Boral Charlton have donated 200 tonnes of gravel.

CHARTSEC plays a vital role in educating young drivers, about safe driving skills and techniques, road safety and hazard awareness, and responsible road use. The improved facilities will enhance the learning experience for hundreds of students who use the track each year.

“This donation means we can continue providing a safe, realistic training environment that helps prepare new drivers for real-world road conditions,” said Brett Schofield, CHARTSEC Manager.

“We’re incredibly grateful for this support – it’s an investment in the safety of our young drivers in rural and regional communities.”

The Charlton Driver Traffic Safety Education Centre is a crucial community driver training facility operated with support from community groups and businesses, such as Charlton Community Op Shop. It provides essential training programs for pre-learner, learner drivers and schools, throughout the region.

The track improvements have now been completed by Aaron Watts and his team at AP Earthmoving, not possible without the generous donation of gravel from Boral Charlton. The upgrade will ensure the centre continues to meet modern safety standards while providing a top-quality

training environment for all participants.

“Our mission has always been to provide crucial driver safety training, ensuring that it will save lives through our driver safety education,” added Brett. “Upgrading our facilities ensures that message reaches more people and has an even greater impact.”

About CHARTSEC

CHARTSEC provides driver education and road safety training programs designed to reduce accidents, promote responsible driving behaviour, and improve community safety.

The centre delivers hands-on training in a controlled environment, giving learners practical experience before taking to public roads.

The Centre is a costs neutral operation, relying solely on donations and grants for major expenses such as maintenance for track, buildings and new vehicles, equipment and machinery

There is an immediate need for funding of a new classroom project – any local business, community group, corporate group, anyone, who would like to support the Traffic Driver Safety Training facility, please contact manager. Any contribution will be greatly appreciated.



• Learning about the planned project are Leonie McGurk (from Op Shop Committee), Brett Schofield (CHARTSEC), Gill Gretgrix, Deb Whykes.



• Boral Charlton, another great supporter over the years of CHARTSEC, has donated 200 tonnes of gravel.



• A contribution made by Charlton Community Op Shop, will fund gravel resurfacing works across the driver training gravel portion of the track.

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New Recruits Bolster Our Fire Fighting Resources

Forest Fire Management Victoria's (FFMVic) newest recruits are gearing up for the summer bushfire season, undertaking intensive training camps across the state.

The training camps ensure seasonal forest and fire operations officers are well-prepared to respond to emergencies and carry out vital work to reduce bushfire risk.

This summer, FFMVic is welcoming 636 seasonal firefighters who will work alongside our experienced permanent crews to help protect communities and the environment.

"Our seasonal forest and fire operations officers join us from diverse backgrounds, reflecting the communities we serve," said Forest Fire Management Victoria Chief Fire Officer, Chris Hardman.

"They play a critical role alongside our experienced crews, responding to bushfires in some of the state's most remote and challenging environments to keep communities safe.

"This summer, they'll be part of a team of nearly 1800 frontline personnel and 1200 accredited incident management staff."

Training Camps

Fourteen training camps are being held across the state over the coming weeks.

Recruits complete two weeks of classroom and field-based learning, covering topics such as fire behaviour, safety and survival techniques, fire suppression, working around aircraft, and planned burning.

The camps offer hands-on experience, including operating water pumps and chain-saws, and driving specialised firefighting vehicles.

Beyond emergency response, seasonal forest and fire operations officers also carry out important land management tasks such as mulching, mowing, slashing, and spraying.

They help maintain fuel breaks, public land roads, trails, recreation sites, and assist with planned burns.

"With an increased risk of bushfires forecast for the region, our seasonal firefighters are an important and valued addition to our firefighting resources this summer," said Forest Fire Management Victoria Acting Deputy Chief Fire Officer – Loddon Mallee, Aaron Gay.

"New recruits train and work alongside our permanent firefighting crews, responding to bushfires rapidly to keep communities safe this summer.

"Last year, Forest Fire Management Victoria responded to 233 bushfires in the Loddon Mallee region, also delivering priority planned burns which will help reduce the impact of bushfires this summer."

Loddon Mallee

This summer, 92 seasonal firefighters will be based in the Loddon Mallee Region, working from depots across the region.

Last year, FFMVic firefighters responded to more than 1,265 bushfires across Victoria and delivered priority planned burns to help reduce the impact of future fires.



• Above and below: Forest Fire Management Victoria's (FFMVic) newest recruits are gearing up for the summer bushfire season, undertaking intensive training camps across the state.



• This summer, FFMVic is welcoming 636 seasonal firefighters who will work alongside experienced permanent crews to help protect communities and the environment.



As Disaster Season Begins... Be Prepared!

The Salvation Army Emergency Services (SAES) are encouraging Australians to be alert and prepare for the upcoming summer season, as the risk of natural disasters increases heading into the warmer months.

The Bureau of Meteorology has released the outlook for this year's High Risk Weather Season (October to April), showing increased risk of bushfire in parts of Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria, increased risk of extreme heat in far northern Australia and increased risk of flooding across eastern Australia.

Highest Likelihood

"Severe weather events can happen at any time during the year, but the highest likelihood of extreme disasters like flooding, tropical cyclones, heatwaves and bushfires to occur is between October and April," said Daryl Crowden, Head of The Salvation Army Emergency Services. "The Salvos have seen this impact first hand, as we have supported individuals, families and communities for the last 130 years who have been impacted by natural disasters.

"This is why we are encouraging Aussies to get themselves and their homes ready. We don't want people to be alarmed, but to be pre-

pared for the potential risks that this season can bring.

"There are really practical ways you can prepare; make an emergency 'go bag' with key personal documents, ensure you have a few days supplies like food, water and even cash on hand, in case a disaster affects access to key services, and much more."

Credible History

The SAES teams have a long and credible history supporting Aussies during national disasters, both with meals and practical support when disasters strike as well as long-term emotional and financial support as communities recover and rebuild. This has included supporting people during Cyclone Tracy over 50 years ago, and more recently the 2019 Black Summer bushfires, the 2022 Queensland and New South Wales floods, and countless others.

In the past three years alone, SAES teams have distributed over 380,000 meals and refreshments and supported over 75,000 people, all of which wouldn't have been possible

without the 68,000 volunteer hours completed by over 10,000 incredible volunteers.

Practical Resources

The Salvos have developed a number of practical resources that are available on The Salvation Army's website, which will help people prepare themselves and their homes for this disaster season.

"Small, practical steps in preparation can make a huge difference for you and your family if a disaster strikes; it means you are ready to spring into action if needed, and you will have peace of mind knowing you have done all you can. The Salvos also want to encourage people to reach out to those around you, particularly your elderly or vulnerable neighbours, or those who live alone, ahead of this disaster season. We can get through anything if we do it together," said Daryl Crowden.

For more information about The Salvation Army's resources for disaster preparedness, or to find out more about the work of the SAES, visit salvationarmy.org.au/emergency-services

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It's Time for Connecting with Culture:

Though the weather was as wet and grey as predicted, the inside of the Memorial Hall was the complete opposite; bright, warm, and full of colour for the Donald Multicultural Festival!

The day began with Lisa Woods welcoming all and thanking the sponsors and volunteers who help make events such as these a possibility. Also introduced was the CEO for Neighbourhood house Victoria, Keir Paterson.

After the introductions the show began in earnest, with the Bendigo Australian Indonesian Klub taking the stage.

With their colourful outfits and incredibly eye catching dance moves, the members of the club kept everyone's gaze locked on them.

After the dancing came some music, with the St. Arnaud Norman Simpson Memorial Pipe Band!

Playing the unique sound of the bagpipes. The band showcased an entirely different culture from the previous group, something that truly makes the festival special.

Indian Dancers

Once again the audience was transported across the globe, this time with the help of the Ararat Indian Dancers.

The beautiful colours of the dancers' clothes was a perfect contrast to the grey and dreary weather. Shining a light through for all to see.

Neighbourhood Houses

Shortly thereafter Keir Paterson, Neighbourhood House CEO, came on to discuss an important and relevant topic, Neighbourhood Houses. His speech was about how much they do for the community and how little they have to do it with. He also touched on a campaign that all could assist with, a way for the community to showcase how much events like the multicultural festival matter, and how everyone can ensure events

such as these continue in the future. The speech was met with a round of applause, one just as big as any of the performances drew!

African Drummers

With the show continuing on, the both rhythmic and engaging Bashiri African Drummers came out with their collection of drums. With seemingly enough drums for all of Donald, they entertained young and old alike in a sort of musical "Simon Says". Asking the audience to drum along to their beat, and even sing at times!

Filipino Dance

The Wimmera Filipino Australian Club followed the drums with their own beautiful dance, and quite the array of dancers! Changing from a group dance into a solo act showcased the hard work and talent that continued to be on display from each of the many performers of the day.

Breaking for lunch, Lisa Woods directed all to enjoy the food brought by many volunteers, giving many a chance to taste food whose place of origin would be many miles away. But for those who wanted something that reminded them a little more of Australia, the Donald Lions were prepared with their barbecue.

In addition to the performances there was also a consistent entertainment for the kids in what was known as the Connected Circus. Face painting and games galore, the kids present were never without something to do!

"Shocktober"

Also present was the Ambulance Australia booth,

promoting their "Shocktober" demonstrations and instruction on how to use a defibrillator were available the whole day.

To everyone's enjoyment there was a repeat act from the African Drummers, who once again brought the rhythm to the masses in a collective way. Letting all embrace their inner drummer once more before the final act of the day.

Horsham Pipe Band

The act that closed the book on the 2025 Multicultural Festival was the Horsham Pipe Band, bringing all the flare and aplomb one might expect. However, as they marched out with their final song, the day came to a close. Enjoyed by all, and an event that tries to get bigger and better year after year, this year's festival showcased how every community is built by so many people. People who hail from all over the globe, and is that not the best way to be?

Special Thanks

Thanks to all the sponsors: Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal, The Maple-Brown Family Foundation, The Buloke Shire, and The Donald Learning Group.

Thanks to all community members, performers and volunteers for making this event possible.

Thanks to Ruzel the DG and all community members for their contribution for this event.

And last but not least, a thank-you to all performers for their colourful, vibrant and fun performances.



• Wimmera Filipino Australian Club.



• Ambulance Victoria's "Shocktober" booth. Left to right: Jo "Mackley" Pohlner, Elijah Young, Anne Maree Wright, Dave Edyean, Kerri Hepworth.



• Ararat Indian Performers and Horsham Pipe Band.



• Food from the many cultures present both in the crowd and on the stage was free for all who attended.

Dancing, Drumming – and Defibrillators!



• St Arnaud Pipe Band.



• Performers from the Ararat Indian Dancers.



• Keir Paterson, Cr Teli Kaur, Ararat Indian Performers all holding the Neighbourhood House campaign signs.



• The drummers didn't just get the kids playing along, many older people in the community took the chance to show off their rhythm!

Stereotypes Holding Back Regional Fishing Future

(From Charles Darwin University)

Outdated stereotypes about who a “real fisher” is could be costing Australia’s recreational fishing industry valuable talent, creativity, and growth, new research from Charles Darwin University (CDU) suggests.

Published in Maritime Studies, the study is the first of its kind to explore women’s experiences of recreational fishing in the Northern Territory – the only Australian jurisdiction where women and men participate in the sport at equal rates.

Lead author and CDU Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods (RIEL) researcher Dr Jenny House said the Northern Territory’s inclusive fishing culture offers a glimpse of what a more balanced, equitable recreational fishing sector could look like.

Masculine Lens

“Recreational fishing has often been framed through a masculine lens, all about competition, strength, and

dominance over nature,” Dr House said.

“But when women’s stories are missing or stereotyped, we lose sight of how diverse, social and empowering this activity can be. That limits the sector’s potential to grow and evolve.”

Drawing on in-depth interviews with 21 women anglers across the Top End, the study reveals that for many, fishing is as much about connection, confidence and wellbeing as it is about the catch.

“Therapy”

Participants described fishing as “therapy,” a way to strengthen family ties, and a chance to break free of everyday roles and expectations.

Despite progress, the research found subtle barriers persist, from gender norms in

families, through to limited visibility of female fishers in the media and industry leadership.

“The NT shows that when fishing is seen as everybody’s business participation flourishes,” Dr House said.

“If we want the sector to be sustainable, we need to recognise and value the full diversity of people who make up the fishing community.”

Dr House said the findings have implications beyond the Territory, offering lessons for other outdoor recreation sectors striving to attract more women and younger participants.

“A more inclusive fishing culture isn’t just good for gender equality, it’s good for the future of the industry,” he said.



• A competitor at Girls Gone Fishin’ on the Daly River shows off her catch with several teams visible behind her. Photo: Samantha Nowland.

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

Kokoro to Win
“Wyche” Cup

Mt Wycheproof Racing Fields

(By Peter Hibberd)

The race meeting that brings not only racing fans, family friends and people who just want to say, “I have been to ‘Wyche’ races” is on again.

Derby Day in the Country as it is promoted, is on the “bucket list” of every racing fan from all parts of Victoria. The feature race is the Elders Mt Wycheproof Cup of \$40,000 in prize money.

Previous Winners
2024 Bannerton; 2023 Meeting abandoned; 2022 Meeting abandoned; 2021 Don’t Make Me Wait

Trainer Austy Coffey has a very good winning strike rate in this race, winning 3 of the last 6 times it has been run.

As usual the club’s promotion of this meeting will see a huge marquee village, umbrella area and plenty of seating for the big crowd expected on course.

The club received 303 nominations. The first race is at 1.23 p.m. with a 7 race card. the track is rated a good 4 with the running rail in the true position.

The feature race has a full field of 8 runners. Kokomo from the Corstens-Larkin stable at Flemington is the horse to beat. It has strong recent form in metro. class, including a second placing at Flemington.

Dangers are Samurai Star and Maktoob. The same stable should start off the day with Durham Legacy in the first race.

The other best bet for the day is Emmcee in race 4. Formerly with the Hayes stable, it recently transferred to Austy Coffey and has had two important gear changes. Have a great day and don’t forget sunscreen!

Selections

- Race one:** Durham Legacy, My Boy Lollipop, Wheat King.
Race two: Rhinestone Rory, Plastic Dreams, Kiamana Gal.
Race three: Royal Infantry, Saraya, Tikken.
Race four: Emmcee, Brave Charm, Diamond War.
Race five: Pendante, Where Ya Bean, Brassi Road.
Race six: Kokoro, Samurai Star, Maktoob.
Race seven: Kulina, Sandrine, Lou Lous Choice.
Best bets: Durham Legacy, Emmcee.

Harness Racing

With spring racing, there is action in all codes. The Charlton Harness Racing Club is holding races next Monday, with a cup event promotion. With a long weekend for some, come along for another good day out.

Melbourne Cup Runners

Over many years there has always been some local interest in “the race that stops a nation”. This year all this has changed with a local jockey, ownership and the community of Donald all involved.

The jockey, Harry Coffey, well known to all, has a goof ride in this year’s cup. The horse is called Onesmoothoperator who won last Friday’s Moonee

Valley Gold Cup. Harry is riding in top form, winning the Bendigo Cup on Wednesday.

St. Arnaud identity Damien Drum is involved in the ownership of Torranzino, a last start Geelong Cup winner. Trained by Paul Preusker in Horsham, this will be his third attempt to win this race.

Another ownership in this famous race is the horse Middle Earth, with former Beulah and Birchip identities, Bronc Shannon and Denis O’Connor.

The Donald community is in this year’s Melbourne Cup Tour National Sweep. The town will have the horse which draws barrier 7. The registered charity is Donald Friends and Neighbours and the cash prize is \$50K.

Tomorrow will see the running of the Victoria Derby. Observer is the logical pick with chances to options, Azalea and One Step Closer.

1. BUSBIZ MAIDEN PLATE 3-Y-O & Up. Mdn. Set Weights 1050 Metres \$25,000 1.23 PM					
1	Renege (Tom Conlan)	S M Brown	1	59.5	
2	Wheat King (Austy Coffey)	N Punch	6	59.5	
3	Durham Legacy (L. & T. Corstens & W. Larkin)	L Riordan	9	58.0	
4	My Boy Lollipop (Bill Cerchi)	Ms A K Kelly	7	58.0	
5	Echuca Moama (Tom Conlan)	V Le Boeuf	4	57.5	
6	Explosive Style (Andrew Bobbin)	Ms C A Taylor	2	57.5	
7	Girl's Got Class (Andrew Bobbin)		3	57.5	
8	Manhattan Darling (Arthur Pace)	Ms S K Kennedy(a2)	5	57.5	
9e	Wyman Lake (Andrew Bobbin)		8	57.5	
2. NUTRIEN AG SOLUTIONS MAIDEN PLATE 3-Y-O & Up. Mdn. Set Weights 1800 Metres \$25,000 1.58 PM					
1	Plastic Dreams (Jarrod Robinson)	Ms C Jokic	2	59.5	
2	Proud Chief (Andrew Bobbin)		4	59.5	
3	Rhinestone Rory (James Dodgson)	L Riordan	1	59.5	
4	Hayai Tsuru (Patrick Keane)	Ms A K Kelly	5	57.5	
5	Kaimana Gal (NZ) (Cameron Templeton)	N Punch	6	57.5	
6	Miss Solar Hart (Helen Burns)	Ms C A Taylor	7	57.5	
7	Rouge Eclair (Warren Cochrane)	Ms S Clarke(a0)	3	57.5	
3.BET365 BET BOOST MAIDEN PLATE 3-Y-O & Up. Mdn. Set Weights 1400 Metres \$25,000 2.42 PM					
1	Calusa's Fury (Andrew Bobbin)		3	59.5	
2	Jonii Diamond (Jamie Edwards)	N Punch	8	59.5	
3	Kiss'n Dance (Andrew Bobbin)		1	59.5	
4	Ludo (NZ) (Dean Saxon)	Ms S Clarke(a0)	4	59.5	
5	Tikken (Richard Cully)	L Riordan	2	59.5	
6	Colandcarmel (Ben O'Farrell)	Ms A K Kelly	7	57.5	
7	Muddy Puddles (Andrew Bobbin)		5	57.5	
8	Saraya (Nathan Hobson)	Ms M A Salter(a2)	6	57.5	
9e	Royal Infantry (Patrick Kearney)	Ms C A Taylor	9	59.5	
4. JAN MILLER TRIBUTE BM56 HANDICAP 3-Y-O & Up. BM56. 1400 Metres \$20,000 3.22 PM					
1	Diamond War (Bill Cerchi)	S M Brown	4	63.5	
2	Milo (Andrew Bobbin)		7	62.0	
3	Dark Lager (Jeff Searle)	L Riordan	6	61.5	
4	Emmcee (Austy Coffey)	Ms M A Salter(a2)	1	61.0	
5	Vaderlee (Simon Zahra)	Ms S Clarke(a0)	5	61.0	

6	Explicable (Garret Lynch)	Ms T Hutchinson(a2)	8	60.5
7	Final Boy (Austy Coffey)	Ms C A Taylor	2	60.0
8	Brave Charm (Yoshitomo Shima)	Ms A K Kelly	3	59.0

5 HAYDEN KELLY & FAMILY BM52 HANDICAP 3-Y-O & Up. BM52. 1800 Metres \$20,000 4.02 PM				
1	Where Ya Bean (Tyson Barton)	S M Brown	7	62.0
2	Dusty's Deel (Jess Gleeson)	Ms S Clarke(a0)	3	60.5
3	Pendante (Rod Symons)	Ms S K Kennedy(a2)	1	59.0
4	Greatestofease (Garret Lynch)	Ms T Hutchinson(a2)	2	57.5
5	Mummiesie (Andrew Bobbin)	L Riordan	5	57.5
6	Brassi Road (Nathan Hobson)	Ms M A Salter(a2)	6	56.5
7	Luna One (Barry Crofts)	Ms C A Taylor	4	55.0

6. ELDERS MT. WYCHEPROOF CUP 3-Y-O & Up. 1800 Metres \$40,000 4.47 PM				
1	Maktoob (GB) (Simon Zahra)	Ms S Clarke(a0)	4	61.0
2	Tyndrum Gold (GB) (Brett Charry)	Ms A K Kelly	1	60.0
3	Kokoro (Leon & Troy Corstens & Will Larkin)	L Riordan	5	57.5
4	Samurai Star (Mitchell Freedman)	V Le Boeuf	6	57.5
5	Bellakai (Helen Burns)	Ms C A Taylor	3	55.0
6	Paltinian (Jarrod Robinson)	Ms C Jokic	8	55.0
7	Bannerton (Austy Coffey)	N Punch	7	55.0
8	Rasputina (Kevin Adcock)	Ms S K Kennedy(a2)	2	55.0

7. MCLENNAN BULK FUEL BM52 HANDICAP 3-Y-O & Up. BM52. 1050 Metres\$20,000 5.26 PM *** Weights Raised 1.0 ***				
1	Island Rock (Austy Coffey)		5	59.0
2	Lou Lou's Choice (Jamie Edwards)	N Punch	12	59.0
3	Sandrine (Erin Maher)	L Riordan	7	59.0
4	Flying Straz (Rodney Foster)		9	58.5
5	Raging Monkey (L. Robertson)	Ms Kennedy(a2)	3	58.0
6	Stirrup (Mark Stephenson)	Ms S Clarke(a0)	10	57.5
7	War Of Wisdom (Tyson Barton)	Ms A K Kelly	11	57.5
8	Kulina (Don Dwyer)	Ms C A Taylor	6	57.0
9e	Crimosa (Garret Lynch)	Ms Hutchinson(a2)	1	57.0
10e	Sir William Bruce (IRE) (John D Pearson)		4	56.5
11e	Toojay (Nathan Hobson)	Ms M A Salter(a2)	2	56.0
12e	Leica Rock (John Markovic)		8	55.5

Ballots: My Haruconi, Macristal House, Sea Mist.

Camera at the Cricket



• Southern Mallee Giants congregate prior to the match at Birchip on Saturday. (Photos by “Wimmera Mallee News”.)



• Mark Trollope (left) and Will Marks combined for a partnership of 100 runs during the Birchip Swans v. Southern Mallee Giants match.



• Mark Trollope, 40 runs.



• Will Marks, 70 runs.



• Part of the large group at the final session.

Support for People of All Abilities

Once again, a big thank you to the Donald Lawn Tennis Club for the use of its great venue and equipment and also the Donald High School for its continued support to all abilities physical activity programs during 2025.

During the year the staff and students have assisted with the facilitation and encouraging the participants during the various sporting activities.

The final 4-week program was conducted at the Donald Lawn Tennis Club. Rhonda Allan of the Mallee Sports Assembly liaised with club member Stuart Potter to conduct another 4-week tennis

program for people of all abilities. This has allowed people of all abilities to enjoy the opportunity to have an informal hit of tennis on the magnificent lawn tennis courts in Donald. We all thank the club for their wonderful and continued support to all abilities tennis programs.

Participants attended from McCallum Day Services (St Arnaud), Woodbine (Warracknabeal) and Donald. Overall, over 50 people have been involved/participated, which is excellent. Apart from the third week, the weather was ideal for the outdoor program activities. Everyone has fun both physically and socially, and that's what it's all about.

Rhonda attended the final session and presented two "Certificates of Appreciation" to Donald High School staff member Anthony Tatchell, one for the club and the other for the school for their continued support to inclusive sport and recreation for all levels of abilities; much appreciated by all.

This program is an initiative of the "Access for All Abilities" program (funded by Sport & Recreation of Victoria).

Once again, thank you to this newspaper for publishing these articles during 2025 to raise the awareness and promote inclusive sport and recreation opportunities for people of all abilities.



• Action and lots of fun on the courts.

E-Mailers!

Contributors sending stories and photos to the "Times" via E-mail are reminded to include identifications of any people in photographs.

Murray Downs Too Strong

Birchip had the bye in the Tyrell Bowls competition and in the Northern Valley Pennant its players travelled to NSW to take on Murray Downs, in a tough day on the rink.

Birchip crossed the Murray into NSW to take on Murray Downs in round three of Northern Valley Pennant. Birchip's win-loss record stood at one win and one loss going into the match and was hoping to tip the ratio in its favour on the weekend.

However, the Welshmen were very good and held a slight advantage for most of the day and unfortunately for the visitors, the gap widened as the match played out.

Rink 1

Tony Doran, Owen Reid, Roger Bragg and skipper Richard Haddrick took on the team skippered by Josh Thornton. This was a tight tussle for much of the day. Birchip was strong early and held a slight advantage for a while, but by lunch Murray Downs players had fought back and had their noses in front by the narrowest of margins. Scores were level again after the seventeenth end. Murray Downs dug deep, won multiple ends and took control of the match. It widened the gap to eight shots by the time the end scores were tallied to win 22-14.

Rink 2

Mark Bowen, Mick Spicer, Kevin Reid and Wayne Clark came up against the John Caldwell-led foursome. The Caldwell unit got off to a flyer and was leading by seven shots after five ends. The Birchip boys didn't panic though and started winning

consecutive ends, which enabled them to hold a 15-12 lead at lunch. The match remained close right to the end with scores level again with one end to play. Murray Downs managed to pick up two shots though, and grabbed the win 22-20

Rink 3

Blue Wight, Adam Louttit, Andrew Lee and Des Ryan had a tough day against Brian Mansbridge's crew. Brian was lucky enough to have the legend Buck Lehmann as his third. Birchip picked up two shots on the first end, but it got much tougher after that. Murray Downs led by nine shots at the break and things didn't get better when play

resumed. Murray Downs took complete control, extending the margin out to twenty-two shots to win 31-9. Overall, Murray Downs was too good and comfortably won 75-43 and grabbed all the match points.

Scribes Observations

- Eddie had a practice roll with the opposition on Friday night. Did he give our game plan away?
 - Birchip had a bye in Tyrrell Pennant, so a few players made the trip to Swan Hill to support their club
 - Players are getting used to the live scoring app.
 - Birchip takes on Barham at home next week.
- "You Gotta be Up"

Wyche Outplays Donald

In midweek bowls pennant, Donald skipper Beryl Milne and team was up against strong team of Dale Groves, Lorraine Milburn, Shirley Mckenna and John Richie.

Lunch break, 13 shots each, 12 ends to go, Donald could only score a shot to 13, going down: 26-22.

Lindy Megan and crew took on Jono Grylls, (mum) Jeanie, Des Nicholls and Steve Barratt. Not only is Jono a champion golfer but a classy bowler also. Donald really had its work cut out, going down 35-4.

Marg Quick's team was 13 down on 13th end and fought back to 2 down on the 22nd end, going down 28-18 to Matt Nicholls, Alan Jones, Vince Grant, and Lynette Nicholls. Today, at 3 p.m. Ian McEwen takes on young gun Hunter Wingfield in final of 21 up. Come along and view some precise draw bowling. Enjoy a drink and a barbecue tea.

North-Central Pennant Bowls

This Week's Selected Club Teams

DIVISION ONE Round 4, Saturday, November 1 Wedderburn v. St Arnaud Country Club WEDDERBURN No teams available. ST ARNAUD CC S. Atkinson, A. Marland, C. Webb, W. Rodger (s). F. Rodger, G. Shaw, L. Lynch, J. Nevill (s) D. Moulday, R. Pole, M. Esmore, T. McDonald (s) Cards: T. McDonald. Team manager: D. Moulday. Charlton v. Donald Golf CHARLTON P. Watts, J. Cox, L. Southwell, K. Willey (s) M. Hamley, D. Gretgrix, D. McCallum, S. Perry (s) J. Ong, M. O'Brien, J. Headon, W. Southwell (s) Side captain: Kevin Willey. Everyone on duty. DONALD GOLF G. Geddes, T. Dionisopoulos, R. Adams, G. Rigby (s) W. Livingston, B. Murray, S. Hollis, P. Hibberd (s) L. Kelly, A. Humphrey, D. Peake, R. Reseigh (s) Boort v. Wycheproof BOORT K. Walton, G. Hudson, W. Keenan, K. Depiazza (s) K. Birt, S. Nelson, C. Newsome, S. Morris (s) G. Carrall, A. Matley, T. Moresi, K. Ritchie (s) WYCHEPROOF M. Nichols, N. Coles, P. Wellington, D. Groves (s) D. Nichols, P. Connolly, E. Rayes, A. Mead (s) P. Coles, A. Coatsworth, J. McKay, Jon Grylls (s) St. Arnaud v. Donald ST ARNAUD D. Petrie, C. Marchment, P. McRae, A. Dyke (s) T. Amos, G. McNally, G. Hancock, S. Zsigmond (s) T. Marland, M. Wood, A. Welsh, T. McSwain (s) DONALD J. Meyer, M. Kelly, L. Morgan, H. Wingfield (s). I. McEwen, M. Harris, W. Hegarty, N. Hollis (s). M.Quick, N. Barber, B. Milne, K. Adamson (s).	DIVISION TWO Round 4, Saturday, November 1 Wedderburn v. St Arnaud Country Club WEDDERBURN No teams available. ST ARNAUD CC L. Watkins, K. Pole, P. Marland, D. Goode (s) T. Coloe, P. Mullins, N. Robinson, D. Mullins (s) G. White, D. McAllister, A. Bond, J. Needs (s) Cards: G. White. Team manager: J. Needs. Charlton v. Donald Golf CHARLTON R. Gahan, E. Rosewall, S. Harper, D. Finlay (s) B. Chester, Z. Irwin, G. Barnard, G. Bateson (s) R. Porter, J. McGrath, B. Bailey, B. Laffin (s) Side captain: L. Southwell. Emerg.: Roberts, Thompson. DONALD GOLF B. Brasier, S. Donnellon, B. Bayles, L. Borden (s) W. Nelson, J. Slater, G. Stopps, G. Wood (s) E. Brasier, M. Raynes, A. Bayles, S. O'Shea (s) Boort v. Wycheproof BOORT I Allison, L. Newsome, J. Hampson, G. Smith (s) L. Carrall, C. Wood, S. Rollinson, Y. Cashen (s) L. Cameron, A. Gould, P. Waters, J. Earl (s) WYCHEPROOF J. Ritchie, V. Grant, L. Milburn, D. Denney (s) R. Grylls, J. McLean, G. Coatsworth, A. Jones (s) S. Wellington, P. Bagley, S. Barratt, P. Allan (s) St. Arnaud v. Donald ST ARNAUD J Barron, W. Rourke, D. Shepherd, L. Goddard (s) P. Duncan, G. McIntyre, C. Coates, L. Goodwin (s) C. Cheesman, J. Prendegast, P. Micallef, K. Dyke (s) DONALD K. Wyllie, E. Adams, P. Wyllie, D. Romeo (s). S. Robertson, M. McEwen, A. McEwen, J. Howley (s). D. Knight, B. Subprom, B. Hollis, R. Gravestocks (s).
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Birchip’s Battle Down to the Wire – Again

Birchip’s tennis luck came down to the wire for the second week running, with Charlton claiming eight points despite both teams finishing locked on 100 games apiece.

A countback handed Charlton the overall win after taking out the Men’s and Mixed sections, while Birchip secured



• Birchip’s Fiona Best serving during her match on Saturday.

the Women’s honours. Charlton’s men were nearly flawless, winning five of their six matches for a 43-22 game advantage. A dominant 8-0 victory by Joe Nhill and Mason Heenan helped seal the section for the home side, while Birchip’s Des Coffey and Blake Lee scored an 8-3 win to keep their side in touch.

Birchip’s women were in commanding form, sweeping all their matches. Top pairing Fiona Best and Steph Coffey overcame Michelle Jenkyns and Jo Southcombe 8-5, while Stacey Hamilton and Archie Tyler edged out Mikaylah Crisp and Claire Smith 8-6 in the closest match of the section. Birchip claimed the Women’s 48-23 games.

Trailing by four games heading into the mixed, Birchip shuffled the lineup, with Blake and Stacey moving up the order. Charlton started strong, with Joe and Michelle, and Mason and Joe, taking wins 8-3 and 8-2 respectively. But Birchip hit back, as Denley Tyler and Steph Coffey, along with Des Coffey and Archie Tyler, both notched convincing 8-1 victories.

It all came down to the final court, where Charlton’s Josh Sullivan and Jess McGurk faced Birchip’s Blake and Asha Lee. After a tense



• Concentrating on the ball is, above, Birchip’s Archie Tyler; right, Charlton’s Mason Heenan in Saturday’s matches.



battle, Josh and Jess rallied late to claim a tiebreak win, securing the Mixed section 34-30 games for Charlton.

With both teams finishing on 100 games overall, Charlton’s two section wins secured eight of the ten available points.

Tomorrow, both Birchip teams return home to take on Richardson and Avon.



Mixed Results for Donald Tennis

Round 3 of North-Central tennis saw the two Donald sides playing at home for the first time in the season.

Avon came up against Nullawil in the first match. In the top men’s section. Richard Reilly and Mark Mortlock had an early win 8-6 against David Watts and Liam Wayman. David reversed the result in his second set combining with Gemma Fawcett to defeat Richard and Samuel Mortlock 8-6. Mark and Samuel Mortlock defeated Liam and Gemma 8-5.

In the bottom men’s section Tony and Dane Bartram defeated Stuart Potter and Chris Rodger 8-5. Stuart and Jack Reilly defeated Tony Bartram and Marcia Pollington 8-3. Jack and Chris then defeated Dane and Marcia 8-3 in the final men’s set. The final score in the men’s section was Avon 43 games defeating Nullawil 33 games.

The women’s section was a more lopsided affair with Nullawil easily taking the two points on offer. In the top women’s section, the experienced Simone Fawcett and Melissa Gilchrist defeated Jess Nunn and Macie Mortlock 8-3. Simone and Jessie defeated Jess and Cherie Reilly 8-6. Melissa and Jessie win their second

set for the day defeating Macie and Cherie 8-5.

In the bottom women’s section Lana Fawcett and Lauren Thomson defeated Lainey and Jenny Mortlock 8-1. Lauren and Marg Pollington then defeated Liney and Max Reilly 8-2, before Jenny and Max struck back with a hard fought 8-6 win over Lana and Marg in the final women’s set. The final score in the women’s section was Nullawil 46 games to Avon 25 games.

Despite the loss in the men’s section Nullawil had still established a slight 11 game break by the start of the mixed. David Watts and Simone Fawcett were too strong for Richard Reilly and Jess Nunn, winning 8-2. Father-daughter combination Mark and Macie Mortlock won their set 8-5, as did Samuel Mortlock and Cherie Reilly, who defeated Gemma and Jessie Fawcett 8-6. In the bottom mixed section, Tony Bartram and Lauren Thomson defeated Jack Reilly and Lainey Mortlock 8-4. Avon finished strongly to win the mixed section with Stuart Potter and Jenny Mortlock

defeating Dane Bartram and Marg Pollington 8-1, while Chris Rodger and Max Reilly defeated Marcia Pollington and Lana Fawcett 8-6. The final score in the mixed section was Avon 38 games to Nullawil 34 games.

Overall scores were Nullawil 6 points (113 games) defeating Avon 4 points (106 games) by 7 games in a very close result. Reflecting the close contest between the two sides, there were few three set winners. For Avon, Mark Mortlock won all his three sets, while for Nullawil Simone Fawcett and Lauren Thomson were the only three set winners.

Richardson v. Wycheproof

In the other match, a strong Richardson outfit came up against a depleted Wycheproof side. In the men’s section, Richardson won all five sets played. Derek ad Dawson Hollis were far too strong for Ben Brennan and Wendy Pollard winning 8-0, while Braxton Hollis and Joe Melini had a comfortable 8-2 win over Riley Afford and Mary Anne Pollard. Myles and Braxton

	Played	Total pts	Games For	Games Against	%
Kara Kara	3	26	462	357	129.41%
St Arnaud	3	20	424	304	139.47%
Nullawil	3	18	343	300	114.33%
Avon	3	14	324	367	88.28%
Birchip	3	12	335	337	99.41%
Richardson	2	10	181	197	91.88%
Wirrim	2	10	213	244	87.30%
Charlton	2	8	194	221	87.78%
Wychenproof	3	2	236	385	61.30%

• Results after round 3.

Hollis won their set 8-1 against Mitchell Coatsworth and Ryley Afford. Derek and Joe were comfortable winners against Ben and Mary Anne winning 8-2, while Dawson and Myles defeated Wendy and Mitchell 8-4. The final score in the men’s section was Richardson 40 games to Wycheproof’s 9 games.

In the women’s section, Richardson won all five sets played. Jasmine Hollis and Annabel Melino had a comfortable 8-2 win, while Josh Talty and Kalon Green defeated Jenna and Kelly Hogan 8-0. Carmel Lowry and Josh Talty also won 8-0 as did Jasmine and Kalon in the second set. Annabel and Carmel completed the clean sweep for Richardson winning 8-1. The final score in the women’s section was Richardson 40 games to Wycheproof’s 3 games.

In the mixed, Richardson won four of the five sets

played. Derek and Jasmine Hollis defeated Ben Brennan and Kath Brennan 8-5, while Dawson Hollis and Annabel Melino defeated Wendy Pollard and Priya Coatsworth 8-4. Braxton Hollis and Josh Talty defeated Ryley Afford and Janna Hogan 8-3, while Joe Melino and Kalon Green won their set 8-4. In Wycheproof’s only set win for the day, Mitchell Coatsworth and Sandy Pollington defeated Myles Hollis and Carmel Lowry 8-5. The final score in the mixed section was Richardson 37 games to Wycheproof 24 games.

Overall scores were Richardson 10 points (117 games) defeating Wycheproof 0 points (36 games) by 81 games. Three set winners for Richardson were Derek Hollis, Dawson Hollis, Braxton Hollis, Joe Melino, Jasmine Hollis, Annabel Melino, Josh Talty and Kalon Green.

Round 4

In Round 4 this coming Saturday, both Donald sides travel for the third time in four weeks, this time to Birchip. Avon will be playing Wirrim while Richardson will be playing Birchip. Donald players should meet at the Post Office by 12.15 p.m. to organise transport to Birchip.

The Avon team for this week is:

Men: Richard Reilly, Mark Mortlock, Hamish Guthrie, Samuel Mortlock, Jack Reilly, Paul Sheridan, Stuart Potter, Max Reilly.

Women: Cherie Reilly, Jenny Mortlock.

The Richardson team is:

Men: Derek Hollis, Dawson Hollis, Braxton Hollis, Joe Melino, Josh Talty, Kalon Green, Myles Hollis, Andrew Falla.

Women: Jasmine Hollis, Annabel Melino, Sarah McDonald, Carmel Lowry.

Golf Tees Off at Boort

Donald Golf leapfrogged the previously undefeated Boort to the top of North Central Playing Area’s midweek pennant ladder after a huge 63-shot round 4 win on Tuesday.

Skippers Peter Hibberd and Geoff Rigby and their charges did the damage with big wins over John Gibson and Thelma Moresi respectively. Boort’s only saving grace came from Wayne Keenan’s rink, which secured a 2-shot win over Shane O’Shea.

Host Wedderburn and the visiting St. Arnaud contested the closest battle of the day, with just 2 shots separating the two when the final bowl was delivered.

Wedderburn picked up 2 points when Alan Jackson’s combo doubled the score of Phil McRae’s rink, winning 26-13, but that was cancelled out by wins to St. Arnaud’s Lloyd Goddard by 8 shots over Amy Roberts and Paul Micallef by 7 shots over John Grant.

Wedderburn and St. Arnaud make up the top four, both on 26 points, but are only 1 point ahead of Charlton and Wycheproof, both on 25.

Wycheproof banked 12 points against Donald, comfortably winning all three

rinks, Matt Nicholls finishing 5 shots to the better of Margaret Quick and Dale Groves outscored Beryl Milne by 4. Jono Grylls’s foursome provided Wyche. with an overall winning margin of 38 shots when they blitzed Lindy Morgan’s crew by 29 shots.

Charlton conceded only one point to St. Arnaud Country Club when it scored a 34-shot win, spearheaded by Lynne Southwell, who got the better of Heather Esmore by 22 shots, and Kevin Willey, who outscored Arnold Bond by 12. Amanda Marland secured Country Club’s point with a draw against Wayne Southwell.

Details of Round 4 Boort 48-2 lost to Donald Golf 111-10.

Lynn Carrall, Yvonne Cashen, Craig Newsome, Thelma Moresi (s) 9 lost to Shirley Evans, Luke Kelly, Robert Reseigh, Geoff Rigby (s) 41.

Louise Newsome, Gillian Tweddle, Joan Earl, Wayne Keenan (s) 27 d. Corozon Stopps, Merilyn Frank, Stewart Hollis, Shane O’Shea (s) 25.

Sarah Polack, Tania Noles, Dorothy Gibson, John Gibson (s) 12 lost to Bill Livingston, Brenda Dixon, Joyce Hollis, Peter Hibberd (s) 45.

St. Arnaud Country Club 53-1 lost to Charlton 87-11.

Leigh Abbott, Patricia Goode, Colleen Bond, Heather Esmore (s) 15 lost to Jenni McGrath, Jeff Cox, Dale McCallum, Lynne Southwell (s) 37.

Dianne Fullarton, Steve Atkinson, Faye Rodger, Arnold Bond (s) 22 lost to Eily Rosewall, Doug Gretgrix, John Headon, Kevin Willey (s) 34.

Yvonne Templar, Greg Fullarton, Rhonda Pole, Amanda Marland (s) 16 drew with Gary Bateson, Wendy Laffin, Mark Hemley, Wayne Southwell (s) 16.

Wycheproof 84-12 d. Donald 46-0.

Lynette Nicholls, Vince Grant, Alan Jones, Matt Nicholls (s) 23 d. Bo Subprom, Marg Kelly, Beth Hollis, Margaret Quick (s) 18.

Steve Barratt, Des Nicholls, Jeannie Grylls, Jono Grylls (s) 35 d. Alison McEwen, Deborah Knight,



• Boort skipper Thelma Moresi delivers her bowl, watched by Geoff Rigby. On the next rink are Boort skipper Wayne Keenan applauds one of his team’s bowl, watched by Shane O’Shea.

MIDWEEK PENNANT BOWLS

Positions of Teams, after round 3

	P	W	L	D	Bye	F	A	SD	%	Pts
Donald Golf	4	3	1	0	0	317	250	67	126.8	31
Boort	4	3	1	0	0	263	304	-41	86.5	30
Wedderburn	4	2	2	0	0	278	271	7	102.6	26
St Arnaud	4	2	2	0	0	256	256	0	100	26
Charlton	4	2	2	0	0	303	254	49	119.3	25
Wycheproof	4	2	2	0	0	292	249	43	117.3	25
Donald	4	1	3	0	0	266	285	-19	93.3	18
St Arnaud CC	4	1	3	0	0	225	331	-106	68	11

Marion McEwen, Lindy Morgan (s) 6.

John Ritchie, Shirley McKenna, Lorraine Milburn, Dale Groves (s) 26 d. Kay Wyllie, Joan Wood, Ev

Adams, Beryl Milne (s) 22.

Wedderburn 60-2 lost to St. Arnaud 62-10.

Helen Stephenson, Lance Standfield, Sandra Steel, Alan Jackson (s) 26 d. Andrea

Tyler, Diane Ostarcevic, Allan Welsh, Phil McRae (s) 13.

Lynette Don, Sandra Standfield, Joan Murnane, Amy Roberts (s) 18 lost to Anne McNally, Margaret McRae, Marie Hufer, Lloyd Goddard (s) 26.

Robina Little, Judy Matthews, Ruth Hall, John Grant (s) 16 lost to Heather Stevenson, Margaret McIntyre, Sandra McIntyre, Paul Micallef (s) 23.



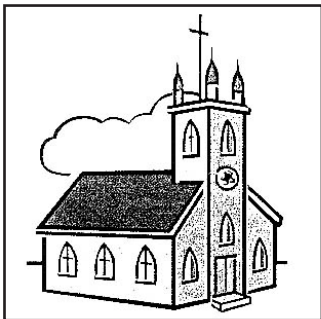
• Boort bowler Louise Newsome, a recent addition to the club, delivers her bowl. Watching on is her husband Craig.



• Two bowlers who have enjoyed the sport of bowls for a very long time. Donald Golf’s Shirley Evans (left) and Boort’s Gillian Tweddle.



• Every club has many behind the scenes people who do a lot of work for the club. One of these in the Boort club is Joan Earl. Here she is waiting her turn to bowl.



CHURCHES

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Wycheproof, 10 a.m.
Birchip, 10 a.m.
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Basketball Returns!

Donald basketball has started for the 2025-26 season this week.

Kim Griffiths has taken on the president role again this year with her executive Matt Godkin, Emma Burke and

Kathy Campbell, supported by some experience and some new faces on the committee. This year boys and men compete

on Monday nights, with under-12s, girls and women on Wednesday nights. Spectators are more than welcome to cheer on the teams or come to watch some competitive games.

Basketball is happy to boast just over 120 registrations for the year's play, and looks forward to attracting more players in the future and develop our competition!

(No boys or men next week, November 3, due to schools having a long week-end public holiday Tuesday).

Aussie Hoops

Aussie Hoops, the 8-week introduction to basketball fun skills program for future stars will start on Nov 10. Still time to register for this, please contact Emma Burke on 0428 978 244 for more information.

Round 1 was fast paced and sporadic as the competition looks forward to what the coming weeks bring once the "cobwebs" are out of the players' systems.

Results for Round 1

Monday, October 27

Boys:

Devils 40 d. Dodgers 32.
Devils: H. Funcke 18, A. Acantilado 11. Dodgers: O. Brennan 27.

Panthers 57 d. Midgets 34.
Panthers: E. Geddes 29, J. Reilly 16. Midgets: S. Mortlock 14, E. Mansibang 13.

Men:

Wildcats 52 d. Olympics 25.
Wildcats: C. Campbell 22, I. Gill 10, J. Lydom 10. Olympics: J. Dixon 13, H. Funcke 11.

Devils 66 d. Midgets 30.
Devils: R. O'Shannessy 20, J. Smulders 19. Midgets: J. Borden 19, C. Burke 8.

Panthers 36 d. Saints 31.
Panthers: B. Campbell 12, G. Pearse 10. Saints: G. Smith 17, L. Rice 8.

Under-12s:

Dodgers 20 d. Devils 10.
Midgets 18 d. Wildcats 14.

Girls:

Olympics – BYE.
Dodgers 43 d. Devils 20.
Dodgers: L. Griffiths 27,



• Emma Burke evades pressure by Sophia Stirling to a cutting Abby Griffiths tracked by Emma Downes. Sophie Sarre watches from behind.

H. Rice 16. Devils: A. Brennan 8, C. Italia 6.

Women:

Wildcats – BYE.

Midgets 24 d. Devils 5.

Midgets: H. Werner 14, A.

Griffiths 10. Devils: S. Stirling 4.

Thank you to everyone who has helped get the league started for another magnificent summer of

DABA basketball. The clublooking for people who are wanting umpire or are willing to learn, please contact Matt Godkin on 0409 236 769.



• Rory O'Shannessy rises for a layup with Charlie Burke challenging. Will Noble and Nullah Clapham await the chance of a rebound.



• Jett Adams attempts a driving jump shot, contested by Luca Rice and Ethan Clapham.



• Joe Sheridan creates separation for the fading jump shot as Lyric Davis and Chase Campbell contest. Cooper Anderson watches on.

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