

DONALD

Phone: 5497 1222

Articles to:
news@buloketimes.comAdverts to:
admin@buloketimes.com

The Buloke Times

Est. 1875

BIRCHIP

Phone: 5492 2735

Fax: 5492 2863

Email:
birchipblc@
bigpond.com

Published Tuesdays and Fridays

PP331336/0000 1

Friday, September 12, 2025

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

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

In Lead-up to 2025 Donald Show . . . Community Spirit Shines

[From Donald P. & A. Society]

As excitement builds for the 2025 Donald Show, the committee would like to take a moment to thank everyone who has been part of "Money Mania" throughout the past 6 weeks.

The weekly draw has not only created plenty of fun and anticipation, but it has also been a vital fundraiser to help us bring new and exciting attractions to this year's show. None of it would have been possible without the support of our dedicated volunteers.

A special thank you goes to Jason Italia and Peter Pendlebury, the steady hands behind the scenes each week, making sure the draws ran smoothly. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to our hard-working "Show Girls" – Megan Jardine, Rachael Grant, Chloe Jones, Nicole

Nunn and Sarah Jardine – whose energy and commitment week after week ensured that Money Mania was a success.

Sponsors

Just as vital to the success of the show are our sponsors. Their contributions help bring new attractions, support local competitions, and ensure we can continue to grow and improve each year. From funding major events to providing prizes and resources, our sponsors play a crucial role in making the Donald Show bigger, brighter, and better.

And it's not too late to jump on board – if you or your business would like to be part of the 2025 Donald Show, please reach out to any of the committee.

Most importantly, we thank the community for embracing the initiative, buying tickets, and showing once again the power of country spirit when everyone gets behind their local show.

The funds raised through Money Mania will go directly towards making this year's Donald Show – on Friday, 10th, and Saturday, 11th October – a truly memorable event.



• Left to right: Peter Pendlebury, Nicole Nunn, Rachel Grant, Megan Jardine (obscured), Sarah Jardine and Jason Italia.



• Nufarm representative Tom Jones (left) and Kinnabulla farmer Roger Lehmann (right) step into the 20-metre-long soil pit with BCG Research Agronomist Angus Butterfield (centre) to see first-hand what lies beneath their crops and how it impacts production.



• Inside the marquee for the afternoon sessions.

Hundreds Converge On BCG's Main Field Day

More than 500 farmers, advisers and industry representatives converged on BCG's Main Research Site on the Sunraysia Highway, Birchip, for the 2025 Main Field Day.

A highlight of the day was the acknowledgement of the Hunt family, with Bronwyn and Geoff Hunt inducted as BCG life members, and their son Dr. James Hunt presented with the prestigious Harm Van Rees Award by Harm himself.

The honours were warmly applauded by the large crowd, recognising the family's long-standing contribution to agriculture and the Birchip Cropping Group.

The event also featured insights from host farmer and agronomist Spencer Weir, who spoke on behalf of his family in the warmth of the marquee. Spencer answered

questions from BCG chairman John Ferrier on the paddock history and more generally on the Weir farming enterprise, including their decision to transition from fine wool Merino sheep to continuous cropping.

"It is great to see the trials and results in your own back yard, including the soil pit, which has provided some great insight and learnings for us," Spencer told the crowd.

"It's also been good to give back to BCG and support all the great work they are doing, both in research and in bringing people to the community."

Alongside the recognition and reflections, the day showcased hands-on trial tours, expert presentations, and discussions on disease control, herbicide innovation, yield optimisation and soil management.

Attendees also enjoyed a delicious hot lunch prepared and served by Mrs. Kristy Knights and Year 9 and 10 students from Birchip P-12 School, while making the most of the many networking opportunities and the trade stalls set up around the gathering area.

• A full report and photographs from the day will feature in the "Buloke Times" next week.

And Then There Were Two

Tomorrow they will battle it out for North-Central Football League's highest honour, the 2025 premiership and the Halfhide Cup.

The premiership posters, created by Charlton artist, Brian Townsend, will be available at the successful team's local newsagency next week.

• Grand final previews are on the back page of today's "Times".





Police Beat

Gannawarra

Vehicle theft: Between 2 p.m. on Monday the 1st of September and 10 a.m. the following day, it is alleged that offenders have attended a property in Cullen Street, Kerang. A 2001 silver Toyota Landcruiser wagon has been stolen from the address.

Buloke

Theft from motor vehicle: Between 10 a.m. on Thursday the 4th of September and 3 p.m. the following day, it is alleged that a number plate was stolen from a vehicle parked in Horace Street, Sea Lake. The offenders appear to have also gained entry to the vehicle, rummaging through compartments. At about 3.30 a.m. on Friday the 5th, it is alleged that a number plate was also stolen from a vehicle parked in Mudge Street, Sea Lake.

Swan Hill

Vehicle theft: At about 4.30 a.m. on Monday the 1st of September, it is alleged offenders have attended a carpark off High Street, Swan Hill. They have smashed the window of a 2024 white Toyota Rav4. They have then accessed a second Rav4 (2020 model) and stolen it, direction of travel unknown.

Vehicle theft: At about 11 a.m. on Friday the 5th of September, it is alleged a red Ford ute was stolen from a carpark in Beveridge Street, Swan Hill. Police observed the vehicle, which still hadn't been reported as stolen, being driven along the Murray Valley Highway, just south of Swan Hill. Police attempted to intercept the vehicle for a routine check, at which time it is alleged that the utility attempted to overtake a turning vehicle, colliding with the driver's door. Both vehicles left the roadway, with the occupants of the stolen vehicle fleeing the scene on foot. Several Police units responded, resulting in two 18-year-old males being arrested. One of the males was remanded in custody to appear in court on Monday. The male passenger was charged and bailed on a number of offences and will appear in the Magistrates Court at a later date. The driver of the second vehicle was assisted from the vehicle by the Swan Hill SES, due to damage to the driver's door and taken to hospital for assessment where she was later cleared by medical staff.

• **Take care on the roads**
— no one is safe from
careless drivers.

Letters to the Editor



R U OK? Day (The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Editor.— Thursday, September 11, marks R U OK? Day – an important reminder to check in with friends, family, colleagues, and neighbours. While it's an important day to raise awareness, the message is clear: Asking someone "Are you OK?" can make a real difference every day of the year.

Mental health and suicide are issues that have touched so many, and I feel deeply connected to this cause. Through my own lived experience, I know how much a simple question and genuine conversation can literally save a life.

Mental health pressures affect our entire community. Households are feeling the strain of rising energy bills, groceries, rent, and new taxes, while farmers manage the ongoing challenges of their seasons and livelihoods. Life can be tough, and the struggles people face aren't always visible.

It's ok to not be OK. It's also ok to be honest when someone asks if you are.

Research shows that people who are regularly asked how they're going report improved wellbeing, and nine in ten Australians feel supported when someone genuinely asks. Even a simple conversation can help someone feel less alone. A caring question from a friend, neighbour, or family member can be a lifeline.

There are many services available, not only for those experiencing difficulty, but also for those who want to help and support someone in need, including our own Lifeline Sunraysia call centre.

Visit www.ruok.org.au for more information on how to reach out and support others.

Warm regards,
Jade Benham, MP.

Dementia Week (The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Editor.— With an estimated 433,300 Australians living with dementia and 1.7 million people involved in their care, chances are you know someone who is impacted by dementia.

My mum was diagnosed with dementia about a year after she moved into the Goodwin Village. As a nurse, hearing her diagnosis was devastating. I was living in Queensland at the time and Covid meant I was unable to visit for long stretches. When the borders opened I realised that I was losing, not just little pieces, but chunks of my mum with each visit. I decided to move back to Donald, and it was one of the best decisions I've made. I got to spend the last 18 months of my mum's life seeing her on most days.

Being on the journey of dementia with my mum was hard, painful, but incredibly rewarding. I saw my regular visits having an impact on her. But I also realised that they had an impact on me, as I learnt to just be present with her. We didn't have to talk and most of our time together was walking around the Goodwin Village gardens as I recited Psalm 23, or played songs that she'd sing along to.

Next week is Dementia Action Week. In recognition of this, Goodwin Village is having an open morning tea.

If you have been impacted by dementia or just have a heart for those who are, please come along next Tuesday, September 16, from 10-11 a.m.. RSVP is not necessary, but if you'd like to know more call Goodwin Village on (03) 54971 304.

Sincerely,

Jodie Drake
Donald.

New Venue for Charlton Art & Photography Show

Due to the temporary closure of the Town Hall, the Charlton Arts Inc will be holding this year's Art and Photography show at the Charlton Park 20/20 building from Friday, October 10, through till the Monday 13.

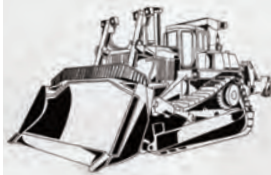
This change of venue will be something the committee will handle with the support of the Park Committee.

Maybe tradition didn't have to mean staying the same. Maybe like art, it could evolve; frame by frame, year by year.

R. & L. DOUGLAS EARTHMOVING

BULLDOZER WORKING IN THE DONALD AREA

- Filling in dams channels
- Digging new dams
- Shed pads
- Farm clean ups.



For all your earthmoving needs
CALL ROSS 0447 883 111



• Lisa Barr practises CPR while son Keith Barr and Mum Darlene Emblem look on.

Parents Practise Lifesaving Skills

Families across Buloke recently took part in three free baby and child first aid and CPR sessions, equipping parents, grandparents and carers with the skills and confidence to act in an emergency.

The free sessions were held in Birchip, Donald and Charlton in collaboration with the Sisterhood Project, the CFA and the Buloke Maternal and Child Health team.

Facilitator Sarah Duncan from PAEDS For Every Child delivered the training, sharing practical demonstrations on baby, child and adult CPR, and information on how to respond to anaphylaxis reactions, snake bites, poisoning, childhood illness, choking and other first aid scenarios relevant to young children in rural areas.

Immediate CPR or first aid provided at the scene can drastically improve survival

rates. The Sisterhood Project ensures that free training is available to those who need it most, saving lives and giving parents the confidence to act when it matters most.

Sarah said: "Courses like these delivered in rural areas and funded by the Sisterhood Project can prevent deaths from accidents, injuries and respiratory disease by empowering caregivers with the knowledge to respond when every second counts."

Fire Safety Advice

The CFA provided fire safety advice and promoted the use of long-life smoke detectors now available to households. Parents were

reminded that if children are sleeping in rooms with closed doors, they need a localised smoke detector in the room, because you cannot rely on being able to smell smoke through a closed door.

The CFA also stressed the importance of cleaning and maintaining smoke detectors, so they continue to work properly and give the earliest possible warning in an emergency.

Catherine Riddoch, Ellie McAuliffe and Katie Gillaghan from the Buloke Maternal and Child Health team said the strong turnout across all three locations showed how valuable the sessions were.



• Alie Glen, Holly Hinkley and Harriet Morgan practise their CPR.



Keep Abreast with Local Happenings!

Don't forget Your Local Newspaper

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

A Celebration of Sport, Community and Youth

Country sport is built on contributions, camaraderie and commitment and this weekend the Birchip-Watchem community will celebrate all three.

On Sunday at the Birchip Community Leisure Centre the Birchip Watchem junior and senior netball, hockey and football clubs will commemorate the 2025 season, which culminates on Saturday with five Birchip Watchem teams across the three codes playing in grand finals.

The day will begin with junior vote counts and presentations from 10 a.m., followed by a free two course luncheon featuring hot meat and a smorgasbord of salads and desserts served between 12 and 1 p.m..

Lunch packs with chips and nuggets and ice cream will be available on the balcony for the younger children, supported by a Look Over the Farm Gate grant provided by Agriculture Victoria under the Victorian Government’s 2025 Drought Support Package.

Children’s Entertainment

After lunch, young people will be able to enjoy entertainment on the oval, with a bouncy castle, rock climbing wall and cha cha, while the adult players, parents and volunteers can remain in the Leisure Centre for the senior vote counts and presentation of awards.

More than just an activity to keep children occupied, the entertainment is a thank you to acknowledge the vital role

young people play in community sport and the countless hours they and their families give throughout the season.

Partnership

The rides will be provided free through a partnership between the Birchip Neighbourhood House and the Birchip-Watchem netball, hockey and football clubs, with funding being provided by the Bulls’ joint catering committee, National Centre for Farmer Health “Look Over the Farm Gate”, the Neighbourhood House’s LDAT and Amplify programs and the State Government’s Youth Fest funding.

Manager of the Birchip Neighbourhood House, Simone Christie, said: “The partnership reflects our organisation’s commitment to supporting young people to be actively engaged in their community, while also giving parents and volunteers a chance to relax and enjoy the afternoon with their compatriots.

“The Australian Drug Foundation LDAT program works to build protective factors for young people and reduce the risks associated with alcohol and drug use, while Amplify gives young people opportunities to lead creative, inclusive activities in their community, so it is great

opportunity to combine these initiatives with the efforts of the local sporting clubs”.

Research shows that while alcohol can sometimes be normalised in sporting environments, community sport itself is a powerful protective factor. By engaging multiple generations together, it builds belonging, provides positive role models, and gives young people purposeful activity that reduces the risk of alcohol misuse.

Youth Fest

September is also Youth Fest, a Victorian Government initiative held every September to celebrate and support young people across the state, making it the perfect opportunity to highlight the importance of their involvement in sport and volunteering, by providing them with some fun activities they wouldn’t normally have access to in rural communities.

These programs and community partnerships underline the importance of recognising and celebrating the efforts of young people, not only on the sporting field but also as active, valued members of the community.

Community members of all ages are encouraged to attend, but children must be accompanied by an adult.



• Cha Cha time at Birchip Leisure Centre.

Vintage Treasures Set to Shine in Birchip

George Cartwright Oval in Birchip will be a sea of polished chrome, roaring engines and nostalgic style on Sunday, September 21, 2025, when the Buloke Collectable Vehicle Club hosts its annual Show ‘n’ Shine.

This flagship event has grown into one of the district’s most anticipated gatherings, attracting hundreds of cars, trucks and bikes from across the region. It’s not just a celebration for motoring enthusiasts, it offers something for everyone, with food vendors, markets, a swap meet, kids’ activities and raffles ensuring plenty of community fun.

Competitors will be vying for prizes across a wide range of categories, with trophies to be awarded for best original unrestored vehicle, best pre-’40s, best pre-’70s, best ’70s to 2000s, best modern post-2000, best ladies’ car, best convertible, best modified,

best light commercial, best pre-’80s truck and best post-’80s truck.

A new addition this year is the “Best Survivor” section, celebrating vehicles that have stood the test of time in their original form.

The motorcycle section promises to be just as competitive, with awards for best bike, best modified bike, best unrestored bike, best ladies’ bike and the ever-popular people’s choice award.

While the gleaming vehicles are the main attraction, visitors don’t need to be motoring experts to enjoy the day. The swap meet and market stalls will provide something for bargain hunters,

while families can take advantage of the children’s activities, along with a variety of food and drink options throughout the day.

Vehicle entry, including the driver, is ten dollars. Admission is five dollars for adults, while children under twelve are free. Swap meet and market sites are available for ten dollars per site.

Registrations will take place between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m., with presentations to follow at 1.30 p.m.. Pre-registration of vehicles and market sites can be arranged by emailing: BCVC.est2015@gmail.com.

For further enquiries, contact Nikita on 0437 846 988 or Lynn on 0427 922 691.

Call to Give Farmers Interest Free Loans

Farmers’ drought relief still hanging as Labor Government dithers on investment review.

This week’s Drought Forum in Gawler, South Australia, has only reiterated the need to restore the former Coalition Government’s initiative to give farmers interest free loans, Member for Mallee, Dr Anne Webster said on Wednesday.

“Farmers at the Drought Forum are crying out for action and outcomes, not just more talkfests, and I am hearing similar from farmers across Mallee” Dr Webster said.

“Drought conditions have been a major setback for Mallee and Wimmera farmers and I note Australian Dairy Farmers are reiterating our calls for interest free loans for a minimum of two years. Why is Labor hosting drought forums, but then not giving farmers what they are asking for?”

Two-Year Period

In 2020 the Coalition introduced a two-year interest-free period for loans up to \$2 million through the Regional Investment Corporation (RIC)

for farmers experiencing drought hardship.

The Coalition established the RIC in 2018 to support farmers and help them grow and diversify. It is important legacy funding, to support farmers through drought hardship.

The zero per cent interest rate applied to new and existing drought loans under the RIC, and enabled farm families to refinance existing debt from commercial lenders, to save on cashflow and give them time to restock and replant.

The measure helped farmers from going bankrupt.

Meanwhile farmers are waiting for the Albanese Labor Government to respond to a formal review into the RIC. The review began in November 2023 and a report was published 13½ months ago, but the Government has not published its full response.

“While the Minister stated the Government’s response to



• Anne Webster.

the RIC review will be released late this year, for many, that may be too late,” said Dr. Webster.

“Farmers complained to me this week that the RIC criteria is time consuming and restrictive, serving as a disincentive to access RIC – so much so, that farmers end up getting a quicker and better deal from their bank.

“I am very concerned that Labor’s mismanagement has meant RIC funding has not all been allocated in the recent reporting year – during drought conditions – and that RIC is not valued by the current Government like it was by the Coalition.”

\$13 Million Machete Bins Fiasco Slammed

The Nationals’ Member for Mildura, Jade Benham, has slammed the Allan Labor Government for wasting \$13 million on 45 “machete bins” across Victoria in a misguided attempt to reduce violent crime.

“Forty-five bins will be rolled out across Victoria at nearly \$290,000 each, alongside a public awareness campaign that runs for just three months,” Ms Benham said.

“Crime is escalating, Victorians are worried, and yet Labor has chosen to spend millions on a scheme that won’t stop criminals.”

Ms Benham said Labor’s priorities are completely out of touch.

“Victoria Police are critically underfunded. More than 1,100 frontline positions remain unfilled, mental health support services have been slashed, and regional courts are struggling to operate.

“In Mildura, the bin is so poorly placed it’s actually hidden behind a pillar, and

we’re told some bins were even allegedly constructed through the prison system, outside of Victoria. The government needs to answer the question: Where has this \$13 million gone? We want itemised costings and invoices.

“This is taxpayers’ money, and Victorians deserve to know why the bill is so high.”

Ms Benham said this wasteful program is a perfect example of misplaced priorities.

“This is exactly what happens when governments lose touch with the real issues facing Victorians. Regional communities do not have a machete problem. They have a law-and-order problem caused by insufficient police, under-resourced courts, and a



• Jade Benham.

government that fails to back our frontline officers.

“Instead of gimmicks, Victorians need proper investment in policing and community safety. The Liberals and Nationals will back our police, fill frontline vacancies, restore services, and make sure dangerous offenders face justice.”

"Times" Classifieds

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

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

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

BEREAVEMENT THANKS KELLY.— Peter

Evelyn, Luke, Brett and Leanne, Jason and Jo, Leigh, Shayne and Jacinta would like to thank everyone for their support, thoughts, phone calls, prayers, food and flowers on the passing of Peter — loved husband, father, father-in-law and grandpa. Please accept this as our personal thank-you.

WANTED TO BUY

Old bottles with town or company names. Marble bottles, ginger beers, milks etc. Cash paid. Ph. 0405 264 661.

Litchfield Public Hall ORDINARY MEETING

Thursday, September 18th
at 7:30 pm

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

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

DONALD PUBLIC CEMETERY TRUST GRAVE DIGGING CONTRACT

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

The contract is for a period of two (2) years commencing on January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2027.

For contract details please contact the secretary at email: secretary1875@outlook.com

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



2025 DONALD SHOW Show and Shine

Come along and enjoy the Show and Shine at the Donald Show!

Categories:

- Best Vintage
- Judge's Choice
- Best in Show
- Best Original

Judging starts 1pm,
Saturday, October 11.

1st Prize: \$50 cash +
prize pack in each section.
Proudly sponsored by
Traction Ag.

Exhibitors are to pay an
admittance fee in lieu of
competition entry fee.

BULOKE COLLECTABLE VEHICLE CLUB

SHOW N SHINE

OPEN TO ALL
CARS
TRUCKS
BIKES

FOOD VENDORS
BREKKIE
LUNCH
DRINKS

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21ST 2025
BIRCHIP LEISURE CENTRE
SWAP MEET & MARKET \$10 PER SITE

Vehicle entry inc driver \$10
Multiple categories & awards
Kids Activities
ADULT \$5 UNDER 12 FREE

Email for Pre registration of Vehicles, Swap Meet & Market Sites

Registrations 8am - 11am 1:30 pm Presentations

For more information: Phone 0437846988 or email BCVC.est2015@gmail.com



SHOW AND SHINE

Car, Truck And Tractor

Sunday, September 28



10 a.m. CHARLTON PARK
General Public enter via Calder Highway

\$10 per person

8 a.m. - 9.30 a.m. entry

10 a.m. judging (trophies awarded for each category)

For more information: Derek 0439 911 083



Wheels on A79

wheelsona79@gmail.com

All entries via 1 Lundy St
\$10 per vehicles
with maximum 2 people

DEMENTIA AWARENESS



WEEK "Dementia doesn't just impact the person living with the condition and their immediate carers; it also impacts their friends, family and wider social network".

Goodwin Village invites you to

a morning of bakery delights, conversation,
and entertainment by Claude.

Tuesday September 16, 2025

10-11 a.m. at Goodwin Village, Camp St Donald
No need to RSVP but for more information call Goodwin Village 54971 304. Look forward to seeing you Tuesday.

BIRCHIP-WATCHEM
BULLS

BULLS 2025
FOOTBALL - NETBALL - HOCKEY
presentation day

SUNDAY 14th SEPTEMBER

10am JUNIOR VOTE COUNT
11:45am KIDS' LUNCH
12pm LUNCH
Roast Meats & Salads
12pm FREE KIDS' ACTIVITIES on the oval
1pm SENIOR VOTE COUNT

BULLS BONANZA DRAWS THROUGHOUT THE DAY!

LET'S COME TOGETHER & CELEBRATE THE 2025 SEASON

HARVEST SEASON WE'RE READY

Grain, Hay & Harvest Freight

B-Double & Road Train services, local site
deliveries or across Victoria & interstate.

Let's come up with a solution that works!

Call/text: Owen & Wendy **0417 304 007**

Find us on Perry Contracting Transport & Spraying

Keep Abreast with Local Happenings!

Don't forget Your Local Newspaper



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

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

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



Paul Watson
DONALD HIGH SCHOOL

Mensland

OUTFITTING MEN SINCE 1959

ODDMENTS

Some shop
soiled

DOONAS

\$50 \$60 & \$80

TO CLEAR

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

For Promotions, Specials and
Competitions, us on Facebook

Find us on

70 Woods Street, Donald — 5497 1211

2026 COACHING APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN



We are seeking expressions of interest for 2026 netball coaches -

A Grade
B Grade
C Grade
C Reserve
17 & Under
14 & Under A
14 & Under B
Go/Net Set Go

Any enquiries and applications to be submitted to bwnc12@hotmail.com



Free Skin Checks

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

Donald Recreation Reserve
Bookings Colleen 0417 501 447

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

Outside Shire Office Charlton
Bookings Harry 0427 911 407

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

Market Square - Behind Shire Office
Bookings Marg 0417 391 585



Dust off your old tractors and get them ready for ...
The Donald Tractor Pull
at this year's Show, Saturday, Oct. 11.

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

Want to get involved? Contact:

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

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



Cultivating Healthy Communities

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Campus Base Negotiable

Planned Activity Group Assistant

Charlton

Junior Food and Domestic Service Assistant

Planned Activity Group Assistant

Donald

Junior Food and Domestic Service Assistant

St Arnaud

Acting Campus Manager

Nurse Unit Manager

Associate Nurse Unit Manager

Endorsed Enrolled Nurse

Registered Nurse

Wycheproof

Nurse Unit Manager

Associate Nurse Unit Manager

Planned Activity Group Coordinator

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

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

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

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



MARK & RAELENE O'HALLORAN
Funeral Directors AFDA

FOR SALE BY TENDER

Thalia district

"The High Gums" & "Nicholls"
827 AC - Ideal Cropping Land - 334 HA

To be offered in 2 separate parcels

Lot 1: "The High Gums" - 515 acres approx., currently sown to lentils.

Lot 2: "Nicholls" - 312 acres approx., currently sown to barley.

- Situated fronting Barbers Road, 18 km West of Wycheproof & 15 km SE of Birchip offering grain receival sites at both townships.

- Renowned Thalia district land with a fertile mix of red & grey soil types.

- Presenting in excellent condition having been managed with modern farming practices and crop rotations.

- Ideally suited to growing all types of cereal, pulses & canolas.

- Both lots well fenced with Wimmera Mallee pipeline connected, tanks & troughs included.

- Settlement February 2026, growing crops not included.

The offering of "The High Gums" & "Nicholls" presents an ideal opportunity to add to existing holdings.

Note: all land sizes indicated approx..

Inspection by appointment with the agent.

Tenders close 12 noon Friday, October 17, 2025.

Tender forms available from the selling agent



Elders Wycheproof 03 5493 6400
Jim Coffey 0419 830 682
Sam Crow 0455 506 622

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

WATCHEM-WARRACKNABEAL RD., WATCHEM WEST

Tightly Held Broadacre Cropping
529.91 HA / 1309.425 Ac

To be offered as a whole or in 3 separate contiguous lots

Lot 1: "Blair's" 282.48 HA / 698.025 Ac, 3 paddocks, soils consist of Wimmera grey & chocolate loams with very slight undulations of red loam. Includes residence, machinery sheds, grain storage inc 2 x new 80T silos, shearing shed with steel bugle sheepyards, Barley 2025, fronting sealed Watchem-Warracknabeal Road.

Lot 2: "Hill Paddock" 129.50 HA / 320 Ac, Wheat 2025, 1 paddock, Wimmera loams with undulations of red loams.

Lot 3: "Gwen's" & "Walder's" 117.93 HA / 291.40 Ac, 2 paddocks, Barley & Wheat 2025, fronting sealed Watchem West Road.

Recent cropping history includes Wheat, Canola, Chick Peas and Vetch in the rotations. Centrally located 31 linear kilometres Warracknabeal, 23 linear kilometres Birchip, 32 linear kilometres Donald.

Settlement 1st February 2026

Expressions of Interest

Closing Friday 3rd October, 2 p.m.

Inspection by appointment with the agent.



Jason Rice 0417 087 019
Rice Livestock Pty Ltd
- Elders Wycheproof

"Times" Classifieds



St. Mary's School, Donald

LEARNING SUPPORT OFFICER

12 MONTH PART TIME POSITION

Position Commences: Term 4, October 6, 2025

Hours: 8.30am - 12.30pm Monday to Friday or by negotiation.

Applications close: 5pm Friday September 19, 2025

St. Mary's, is a small rural catholic school in North Western Victoria.

The focus of the school is providing a quality academic, social and spiritual education for each student. The Teaching and Learning Curriculum aims to cater for each students' individual learning needs and acknowledges their interests, abilities and talents.

St. Mary's is a child safe primary school for students from Foundation to Year 6. We offer a diverse curriculum and have strong community partnerships.

The successful applicant will:

- have a demonstrated commitment to Catholic education and to the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.
- enjoy working with children to assist in achieving their goals
- have good organizational skills
- liaising with the classroom teacher to plan for student goals
- contribute to a child-safe environment and compliance of the School's Child Safety Policy and Code of Conduct
- have a current WWC check

A detailed position description is available from the Principal, Mrs Melissa Drum by emailing principal@smdonald.catholic.edu.au or calling 0418 701 650

Applications can be sent to:

principal@smdonald.catholic.edu.au or mailed to St. Mary's School, 134 Woods Street Donald Vic. 3480

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

"HARRISONS"

188.63 HA - Watchem West - 466.11 Ac
Productive Wimmera Cropping Opportunity

- "Harrison's" comprises 188.63 hectares (96% arable) cropped as one large paddock for ease of management and operating efficiencies.
- Productive mixed soils comprising fertile grey and chocolate loams, well managed utilising modern farming practices.
- "Harrison's" has been planted to Barley for the 2025 season, with possession after harvest at the completion of current Lease 28th Feb 2026
- Recent cropping history includes Lentils 2024, Wheat 2023 and Lentils 2022.
- All weather access via Massey-Bangerang Road and also fronting the sealed Watchem West Road on the East side.
- Centrally located 31 linear kilometres Warracknabeal, 27 linear kilometres Birchip, 27 linear kilometres Donald.
- Settlement 1st February 2026

Expressions of Interest

Closing Wednesday 8th October, 2 p.m.

Inspections by appointment with the selling agent.



Jason Rice 0417 087 019
Rice Livestock Pty Ltd
- Elders Wycheproof

“Times” Classifieds

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



Donald Races

SATURDAY, Sept. 13

— Full bar and dining facilities —

Gates open at 11 a.m.,

For all enquiries contact Penny 0418 124 289

ALL WELCOME

Reduced items at

THE CLOTHES BIN

1/2 PRICE Winter Dressing Gowns

20% OFF all Sleepwear

includes Flannel PJ's Nighties & Gingerlilly

20% OFF all Kids Clothes

50% OFF RACK
includes Jackets, Tops and Pants

20% OFF **\$20** Biz
WINTER T/Pants
SHOES with Zips

50 WOODS ST, DONALD 5497 1827
E: theclothesbin@bigpond.com

We've just opened! Need a service, repair, or new gear fitted? No fuss, just honest work and solid advice. Drop by and we'll sort it out!

- Servicing all makes and models
- Log book servicing (whilst maintaining your vehicles warranty)
- Diagnostics
- Auto electrical services
- Fitting of accessories to cars and 4x4's
- Air conditioning re-gassing, testing, servicing and repairs
- Battery testing and replacement
- Pick up/drop off service available

Specialising in Ford, Isuzu and Jeep
Senior Ford technician
Bronze level Jeep trained

Josh Smulders
Automotive Technician

 SMD Automotive

Ph. 0435 046 755
13 Enterprise Dr, Donald

***Good Luck to all
teams competing in
the Grand Finals of the
North-Central football,
netball and hockey.***

***From the staff at the
“Buloke Times”.***

**YOUTHFEST CELEBRATIONS AT
BIRCHIP WATCHEM
NETBALL, FOOTBALL AND HOCKEY
PRESENTATION DAY
@ BIRCHIP LEISURE CENTRE
SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER**

JUNIOR VOTE COUNTS FROM 10AM

LUNCH 12PM-1.PM

SENIOR VOTE COUNTS & PRESENTATION OF AWARDS FROM 1-4PM

**BOUNCY CASTLE, CHA CHA &
ROCK CLIMBING WALL ON THE OVAL
12.30-4.30PM**

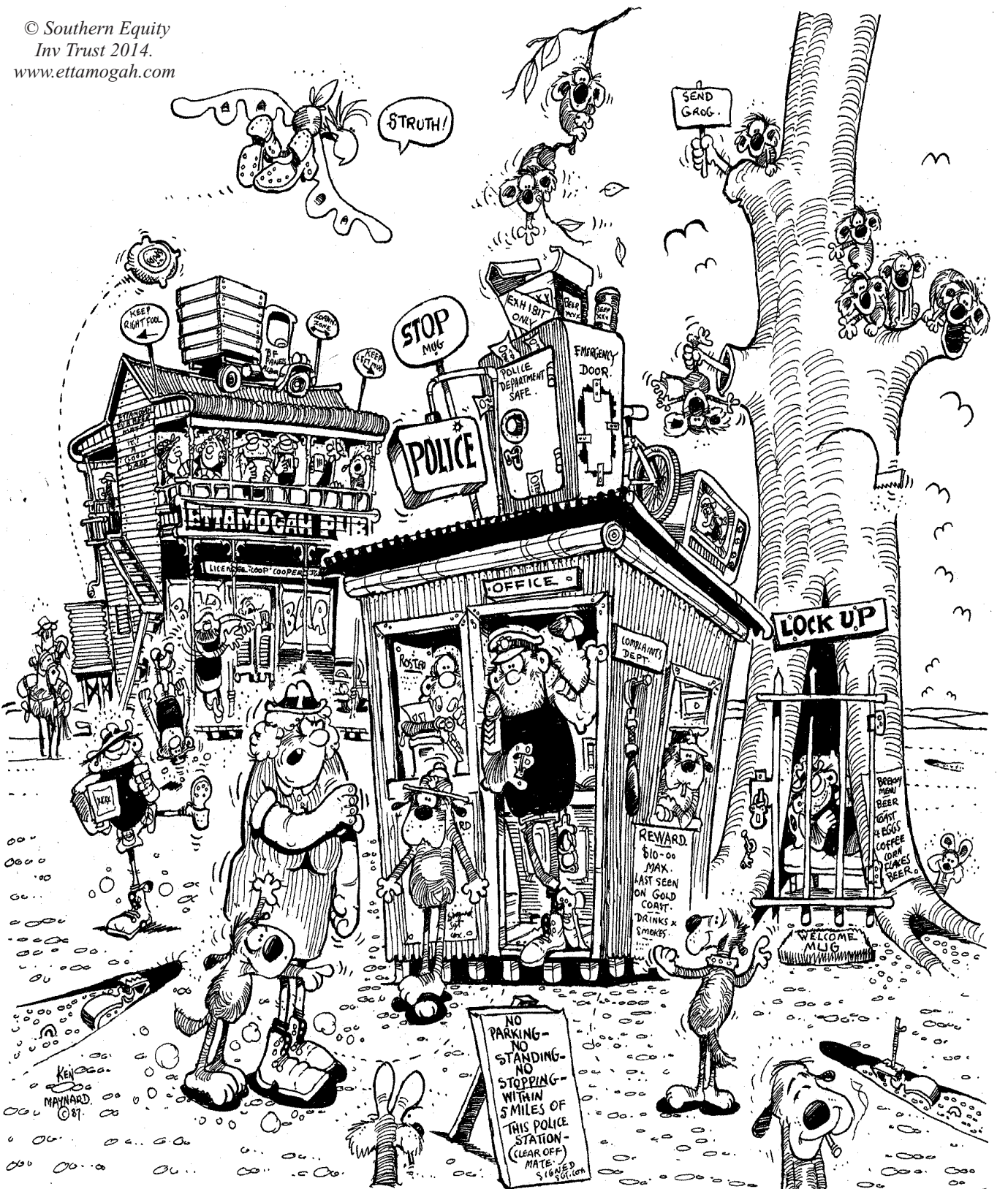


FREE LUNCH & RIDES SPONSORED BY:



The Ettainogah Pub Mob

© Southern Equity
Inv Trust 2014.
www.ettamogah.com



"Yes that description fits my husband alright. But. He won't fit that description when i finish with him!"

Lock, Stock and Two Smokin' Barrels!

In the past three weeks, Donald High School students have participated in two school competition shoots.

The North West Zones School Shoot Championships (DTL – Down the Line) were held on Thursday, August 21, at Horsham. Ripper of a day to be outside of the classroom in the sun and still learning skills.

Donald High School students competing were Charlie Burke, Marty Burke, Hayden Clark and Lyric Davis.

Five schools with 35 competitors shot on the day. Honourable mention to Marty, who shot very well.

Swan Hill Field & Game School Shoot

Monday, September 8, saw Charlie Burke, Marty Burke, Hayden Clark and Lyric Davis travel across to Mel-loul. Another pearler of a day with friendly flies. Overall, there were 66 students from 7 schools competing on the day.

Congratulations to Hayden for gaining third in the senior boys section against 40 other competitors.

Honourable mention to Charlie for smashing 10/12



targets in his second round.

Miss O'Brien along with Peter Pendlebury, both Donald Field and Game Club members, helped transport and offered coaching tips to the students.



• Stand 5: Hayden shooting, with Peter Pendlebury handing out the shells.



• Hayden Clark, senior boys third place winner.



• Trap 1: Hayden, (Marty hidden), Lyric and Charlie.



• Team Donald: Marty, Charlie, Hayden and Lyric.



• Squad 7: Lyric, Marty, Charlie, Hayden and Miss O'Brien.



BLUE RIBBON DAY
SEPTEMBER 29

**REMEMBERING LIVES
BY SAVING OTHERS**

Help fund life-saving hospital equipment,
and living memorials in the name of fallen officers.



Mike Bush CNZM
Chief Commissioner
Victoria Police



FIND OUT MORE:
remember.org.au



Donate today
Scan here to donate to the
Blue Ribbon Day Appeal



• Samantha Berton and Jayden Demanuele.

New Blood Helps CFA to Impressive Tally

CFA members from across the state have saved around 2,877 lives by making more than 950 donations during this year's Emergency Services Blood Drive.

Team CFA's contributions included more than 590 plasma, 330 whole blood and 30 platelet donations between June 1, and August 31, 2025.

Notably, there were 19 first time donors this year.

One of those donors was Mernda Fire Brigade member Stephanie Tamer, one of four members from her brigade to make their first donation.

Stephanie said donating plasma was an easy way to make a big difference.

"For me, it's just about being able to help someone," she said.

"We do much harder things to help people in our role as a CFA volunteer, so sitting down to give blood felt like such an easy way to make a difference for someone who might need it."

Simple Process

Stephanie said the process

was simple and supported every step of the way.

"The lifeblood team was fantastic. We had someone co-ordinating for our area and making sure we were organised, and both donation locations, Bundoora and Eltham, were lovely," she said.

Stephanie's already encouraging her fellow brigade members to get involved next year.

"I've been encouraging everyone in my brigade to give it a go. Anyone who has the capacity to donate should; you can't put into words how important it is," Stephanie said.

As for whether she'll return to the donor chair... "Absolutely, I'll be back. If you can do it as often as you're eligible, you should. It only takes about 10 minutes and it's such an easy way to help others."

Third Place

CFA finished the national challenge in a strong third place overall, behind only NSW and Victoria Police.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan, who also donated, said volunteers are always willing to go above and beyond.

"Our volunteers selflessly give up their time every day to help others, so it's great to see our members continuing to get behind this vital initiative," Jason said.

"I encourage our members and the broader community to continue to give blood all year round when they can."

For more information about the Emergency Services Blood Challenge and how to make a blood donation yourself, visit the Lifeblood website at www.lifeblood.com.au or call 13 14 95.



• Blake Brooks and Ben Hopgood (Mernda Fire Brigade).



• New St Arnaud playgroup facilitator Lisa Gillard, left, is excited to present the revamped format next month. She is pictured with fellow Northern Grampians Shire Council playgroup facilitator Lisa Wisby.

New Leader and Format for St. Arnaud Playgroup

St Arnaud playgroup will resume next month with a refreshed program, led by a new facilitator with extensive early years' experience.

The playgroup, launched by Northern Grampians Shire Council earlier this year, has been on hiatus for term three.

It will resume on Monday, October 6, at St Arnaud Early Learning Centre and run for the school term.

The playgroup has a new time slot, moving from a morning session to an afternoon session, between 1.30 p.m. and 3 p.m..

Mayor Karen Hyslop said she encouraged St Arnaud and district families to make the most of the shire's playgroup program.

"Our playgroup leaders have revamped the St Arnaud program, which now caters for children up to school age instead of being aimed at babies and crawlers," she said.

Wide Range

"Playgroups offer a wide range of benefits for parents as well as children, including opportunities for social connection between people in similar stages of life. They aim to remove barriers associated with leaving the house with young children, by offering a supportive environment with an experienced facilitator on hand."

Lisa Gillard, who spent 25 years working in early years roles in the UK, Northern Territory and Victoria, has been appointed St Arnaud playgroup facilitator.

Mrs Gillard first experienced playgroup as a mother of three young children and went on to work for Playgroup Victoria as a rural playgroup development consultant.

For three years she supported existing playgroups in

the Grampians and Wimmera, hosted pop-up sessions during Playgroup Library Week, worked with playgroups to host events during Children's Week and supported the creation of new playgroups.

At the end of the funded project, Mrs Gillard stepped in to run Playgroup Victoria's Rural Transition Playgroups Project.

"During this second project I worked directly with community members to start up new playgroups with the aim of actually transitioning myself out of the playgroup, as the parents now had capacity and skills to run these playgroups themselves. That was extremely rewarding," she said.

Role Models

"Parents are always children's first teachers and role models. I see my role as a playgroup facilitator as supporting that work by sharing my knowledge in the playgroup setting in a fun and relaxing environment."

"I do this in various ways, but my favourite is through play, singing and sharing stories through books and imagination."

"I'm excited to be stepping back into playgroups with Northern Grampians Shire Council and I'm looking forward to working with families in the shire, as well as our great playgroup team, to bring the annual Children's Week events to St Arnaud and Stawell later in the year."

People can follow Northern Grampians Shire Council on Facebook and Instagram for updates about Children's

Week, which runs from October 18 to 26.

New Faces

Cr Hyslop said "new faces" were welcome at all playgroups in the municipality.

"Our council playgroup leaders also work collaboratively with community playgroups throughout the shire, which families can attend on different days," she said.

"Our Maternal and Child Health team also plays a role at council-run playgroups and attend sessions to talk about topics such as feeding, sleeping and dental health. This means if new mums did not attend the more formal mothers group program, they are still receiving some of the same information."

Cr Hyslop said playgroup facilitators could also offer independent support for families.

In-home Support

"They can actually provide in-home support to anyone who may need an extra hand navigating situations such as challenging child behaviour or families navigating the changes that come with going from one child to two," she said.

"They focus on building parents' confidence and providing support that is less formal than seeing a GP or mental health practitioner."

People can visit www.ng-shire.vic.gov.au/Community/Family-and-Childrens-Services/Playgroup for more information about council-facilitated and community playgroups throughout the municipality.

Real help. Right now.

The Victorian Government is delivering real help, right now with a **\$100 Power Saving Bonus for eligible* concession card households** to help with energy bills.

Visit **compare.energy.vic.gov.au** or call 1800 000 832 to claim your bonus.



*Eligible households need to have a recent residential electricity bill and hold one of the following concession cards: Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card, Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card, or Veterans' Affairs Gold Card. One payment is available per household.



Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



Wycheproof Students Have Their Say

Wycheproof P-12 College recently hosted its annual Public Speaking Competition, where students from Years 4 to 12 showcased their skills in front of classmates, teachers and special guests.

Organiser Mr Paul Connolly said he was once again blown away by the quality of the presentations and praised all participants for their effort and courage.

“It’s always a tough job narrowing the field to just two finalists from each year level, particularly when so many students are keen to have a go,” he said.

The overall winners for 2025 were:

- Year 5/6: Kayley McLeod – “Animal Abuse”.
- Year 7/8: Ludah Harrison – “Body Shaming”.
- Year 9/10: Harlan Bartlett – “Verbal Child Abuse”.
- Year 11/12: Savannah Nicholls – “The Fall of Man”.

Special mention was also given to Year 4 students Edie Pellegrino and Essie Coles, who volunteered to present their speeches despite the competition formally begin-



ning at Year 5. Their willingness to step up demonstrated the enthusiasm and confidence the program inspires across all year levels.



• Year 5 finalist Charlotte Greco presents her speech on the topic of vaping.



• 2025 Public Speaking winners left to right: Kayley McLeod (Year 5/6), Savannah Nicholls (Year 11/12), Harlan Bartlett (Year 9/10) and Ludah Harrison (Year 7/8).



• Year 12 finalist Mason Sheahan spoke on the topic of men’s health and was awarded a runners-up prize from the English faculty.



• All of the 2025 Public Speaking finalists and guest speakers with their certificates.



• Tasked with one of the hardest jobs of all were this year’s judges: staff members Miss Ella McKersie, Miss Georga Munro-Foord and Paddy Eccles.

Call to Guarantee Future Egg Supply

In light of Coles’ decision to delay the phase-out of caged eggs until 2030, citing bird ’flu related supply issues, the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) is calling on retailers and the government to take a realistic approach to guarantee the future supply of eggs for consumers.

VFF Egg Group president Brian Ahmed said recent outbreaks have highlighted the need for all three farming systems (caged, barn and free range) to be maintaining food security and food affordability for all Australian families.

“The harsh reality is recent bird ’flu outbreaks decimated egg supplies across the country and it won’t be for the last time. Our biosecurity safety net is good, but due to the nature of migrating wild birds, we can’t stop everything.

“In times of bird ’flu outbreaks, caged egg systems are vital to ensuring a reliable supply of eggs across Australia. A phase-out of caged eggs only accelerates the uncertainty for farmers, disrupts supplies, and puts massive

pressure on food affordability for consumers.

“We encourage retailers and policymakers to work closely with farmers to ensure that animal welfare standards improve, without compromising farm viability or consumer access to affordable eggs.”

Mr Ahmed also called on farmers and domestic chicken

owners to remain vigilant as we enter the peak migratory bird season, which traditionally heightens the risk of diseases entering the country.

“Migratory birds from all over the world begin arriving en-masse during spring, which increases the risk of foreign diseases such as bird ’flu landing on our shores,” he said.

“We’ve seen how damaging bird ’flu can be and I’m encouraging everyone to have a biosecurity plan in place and alert authorities if your birds become sick.

“Biosecurity is a shared responsibility between everyone and is a vital defence to protect both our industry and the natural environment.”

“Cayley” and “Bailey” Lead the Way

Over four days Lead the Way ran three different programs at Donald High School.

Denise brought with her Cayley and Bailey and it was hard to pick a favourite.

Happy Paws

Eight sessions were run over 4 days. The Happy Paws was the small group program which consisted of eight students from Year 7, 8 and 9. As part of this program students created an artwork with Cayley or Bailey.

Happy Paws is a wellbeing group designed to help students improve their skills in managing stress, anxiety, and worry, and to build confidence working with others. Students learned about how to create a happy healthy life by learning the life lessons of dogs.

Denise guided the students through dog-led experiences, each linked to key wellbeing skills, including play, relaxation, dog-training, and developing an obedience/agility routine.

Friendly Paws

Twenty-two students from Year 7, 8 and 9 were involved in this program.

Friendly Paws is a wellbeing session designed to enhance engagement, acceptance and inclusion. Students met with Cayley and Bailey in small groups and developed an understanding of each dog’s different personality, strengths, preferences, learning style, and family situation.

After meeting the dogs, students worked together to create fun activities with the dogs that matched the dogs’ skills and abilities.

Peaceful Paws

This program is aimed at the older students and included 19 students from Year 10, 11 and 12.

Peaceful Paws is a wellbeing session designed to support students with managing stress through interactions

with therapy dogs. Students observed the unique ways that dogs manage physical and mental stress via “life lessons of dogs” such as living in the moment or “shaking it off”.

Thank you to Denise, Cayley and Bailey from Lead the Way in making this opportunity available to Donald High School students.



• Asha Pearse, Shaine Mansibang, Alyssa Hepworth and Chelsea Hart chilling with Bailey.



• Marnie with Cayley.



• Halle Rice, Isabelle Sandy, Marnie Harmer, Erin Clark, Denise (facilitator), Victor Sak with therapy dogs Cayley and Bailey.



• Peaceful Paws, back row: Texas Davis, Toby Smith and Hunter Wingfield. Middle row: Millie Lydom, Indy Gill, Tiarnah Hepworth and Ben Krause. Front row: Abby Griffiths, Bailey, Charlotte Bicket and Cayley.



• Friendly Paws, back row: Daniel Cooper, Sophie Burke, Zachariah Clapham, Patience Beavis, Xen Thomson, Milla Adams. Middle row: Susie Stratton, Layla Griffiths, Nevaeh Pearse, Chloe Italia, Darnell Clapham, Victor Sak, Caleb Michael. Front row: Marine Harmer, Cayley, Karleisha Anderson, River Stirling Bailey, Lithil Hithamillage, Liam Stopps.

Urgent Care Services

Victoria

If you need urgent healthcare now but it's not life threatening



Get free support with Virtual Emergency Care

- ✓ Free 24/7 urgent healthcare
- ✓ Video call from your mobile or computer anywhere, anytime
- ✓ Connect to highly skilled emergency doctors and nurses from Victoria's Virtual Emergency Department
- ✓ No GP referral, Medicare card or appointment needed
- ✓ Register now so you're ready to use us in the future



Scan the QR code to register now or visit:
vved.au/self_registrations



Find out more at **urgentcare.vic.gov.au**

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

“Down the Middle”

Fourteen ladies came dressed in their finest, most elegant pink ensembles to compete in the Pink Lady event for Breast Cancer.

Two person Ambrose was the chosen state of play with a few extra activities thrown in to confuse us. Stableford winners were Margot Paynter and Kate Clark on 82 and stroke winners were Jenny Leishman and Jo Beavis on 47. Nearest the pins were Jenny Leishman on Donald Auto Electrical’s 3rd and Kerry Raven on Donald Community Bank’s 16th, a brilliant effort Kerry, considering you were using your putter all the way. The annual awards were presented on Saturday night with the results as follows.

“A” grade champion, Kerry Raven (250); “B” grade, Maree Egan (291); “C” grade, Kerry Wood (314); Nett Eclectic, Maree Egan (64.5); Most Birdies, Debbie Burton (4); Putting, Kerry Raven (67); Most 3s, Jo Beavis (11); Most Gobblers, Kerry Raven (3); Captain’s Trophy, Maree Egan (99); Joan Beckham Award 3 best net scores over the Championship, Kerry Raven (226); Most consistent, Kerry Wood; Shot of the year, Margot

Paynter (the ball is still in the tree).

Next week: Monday September 15, Nine holes; assemble at 9.45 a.m.. Wednesday, September 17, Stableford; assemble at 9.45 a.m..

Saturday, September 13, patching at the Donald races; if you are available let Jenny Leishman know.

Saturday, October 18, trip to Barham; please let Debbie Burton know if you can go.

Highlights and Lowlights

Captain Kerry had organised an interesting twelve holes’ play with quite a twist and a bit of cheating, such as throwing the ball as far as you could if you landed in the rough, and putting with your eyes closed on the 18th. Thanks to Kerry for all your planning.

Mary Herben “walked on water” on the third and Beris Jones was spotted retrieving her ball from the water’s edge. She blamed her son Lachie for the bad drive because she had to hit off beside

the Buloke Plumbing advertising board on the men’s tee.

The two Jo B’s, Beavis and Bishop, had negative drives, i.e hit a tree and ended up much further back down the fairway. Sergeant Major Jo Beavis (club treasurer) made sure that players were fined for any misdemeanor, e.g., swearing, having a swish and 3 putting and as a result were able to donate \$411 to Breast Cancer research. Well done and thank you girls. Fashions on the Field at the Donald Cup isn’t a patch on the colourful and innovative costumes worn on the course on Wednesday. Welcome back to Kate Clark. We hope to see you back in action with us next year.

A delicious afternoon tea was devoured at Choose Food after golf where we were joined by ex-members Margie Quick and Val Shilton. The course is in such excellent condition that golf can still be played until the end of September, so don’t pack those clubs away just yet. Thanks to all those who have helped around the club in any capacity over the year. Your



• Back left to right: Jo Beavis, Jo Bishop, Carol Stuchbery, Beris Jones, Mary Herben, Ev Adams, Jenny Leishman, Kerry Raven, Maree Cullen, Kerry Wood, Jenni Campbell, Debbie Burton. Front: Margot Paynter, Kate Clark.

contribution is very much appreciated.

Player Profile Jo Beavis

For how long have you been playing golf? 14 years.

What do you enjoy about golf? The 19th hole and the thirty seconds before I hit my first shot.

What’s the best part of your game? Driving.

What advice would you give to anyone who is thinking of taking up golf? Keep going and keep turning up.

What’s your best score? 93.

What’s the best shot you’ve ever played? I’ve got within 2 inches of the hole several times.

Who is your favorite golfer? Lorraine Gollop from Avoca.

What is your current position in the club? Treasurer.



• Beris Jones retrieving her ball from the dam.



• Jo Bishop recovering from her “negative shot”.

(By Course Language)

With plenty of action happening on the football, netball and hockey fields in St. Arnaud last Saturday, there were 5 pairs of golfers that took part in the Maurie Trantor Memorial mixed Pinehurst at the Donald golf club.

The weather was perfect and the course was equally as well prepared as no doubt Lord Nelson Park was. In a very close event, Anthony Hogan and Kerry Wood combined to take out the “board” event with a fine 92-21-71 to be ¾ of a shot in front of Brad and Carmen Bath with 80-8 ¼ -71 ¾.

The latter paring won the Scratch with their 80 off the stick.

The “Nearest the Pins” were: Donald Auto Electric 3rd, Colin Cullen and Kerry Wood; Weirs IGA 7th, Des Jess and Kerry Wood; Nufarm 14th, Colin Cullen and Carmen Bath; Bendigo Bank 16th, Anthony Hogan and Kerry Raven.

After golf there was a casserole tea followed by the presentation of trophies to the

major event winners throughout the year.

It has been noted that over the last few weeks there has been a good number of adults and children playing on the course. This is great, but don’t forget to pay your greens fees at the office before you go out. If we go to the football we have to pay to get in and it’s the same at the golf course. No free golf please.

With only two more weeks of organised golf ahead for the year, make sure you get along and enjoy the course before it closes, as then you’ll be travelling to other courses for a round of golf.

Dad’s Army

No results to hand of Dad’s Army last week, perhaps the skirmishes were called off for the peace talks?

Junior Golf

A good roll up of juniors again last Friday, with a couple of new faces coming along to learn how to play golf. You are all encouraged to practise on the course, but if you are of primary school age, we would prefer to see an adult with you as well. The winners last week were Oakley Brennan, Abe Beavis and Liam Stopps.

Chicken Run

There were 15 golfers for the chicken run last Friday evening. Plenty of fun was had with a few drinks and some eats afterwards. There was an umbrella given out for the funniest story of the night, but I did promise not to mention him in the paper. Perhaps a few more rounds will help this person hit towards the right scrape next time?

Let’s get along tonight again between 4 and 4.30 and have an enjoyable end to the working week. All welcome.

Coming Up

This week is the last Monthly Medal and Pies putting for the year, generously sponsored by the Donald Pharmacy. With club members track patching this Saturday at the Donald races, let’s hope we can all get along Sunday for a hit as the weather is looking like being great.

Dad Jokes

They say it’s impossible to make a pun about vegetables – but that’s not ness-a-celery so.

A duck was about to cross the road, when a chicken ran up and said “Don’t do it, you’ll never hear the end of it”

A mate of mine wrote a book on snow – I think paper would have been easier.

What is a pirate’s favourite school subject? – ARRRT.



• Winners of the Maurie Trantor Memorial Mixed: Kerry Wood and Anthony Hogan.

At St Arnaud's Lord Nelson Park —

Under-14 "B" Boort v.

Birchip-Watchem

A very ferocious start from both Boort and Birchip-Watchem Under-14 "B" with Boort scoring the first goal of the match. The ball went up and down the court several times due to a few nervous footwork calls. Both teams were playing a strong defensive game, putting the goalers under all sorts of pressure. By the end of the first quarter both teams managed to settle down and find some rhythm, with Birchip-Watchem leading by two goals.

Birchip-Watchem started strongly in the second term with some very slick plays by its mid-courtiers. Boort was very good at working the ball around and waiting until the best opportunity presented itself. Boort had its chances to get ahead in the second quarter but inaccuracy under post meant its went into half time down by three.

Birchip-Watchem was very strong after half time, increasing its defensive pressure all the way down the court. It was goal for goal for most of the third quarter and the pressure certainly intensified. Birchip-Watchem maintained a two goal lead at the final break.

In the last quarter Boort scored off three crucial turnovers, scores drew back level with five minutes remaining. Birchip-Watchem regained its composure and had some great plays going down court. Birchip-Watchem took out a very hard fought win to defeat Boort by three goals. The Bulls will meet St Arnaud in the grand finals next week. Final score: Birchip-Watchem 18 d. Boort 15.

Under-14 "A"

Donald v.

Birchip-Watchem

Brilliant sunshine and perfect finals conditions welcomed all to St. Arnaud with a fast-paced start for the first

game of the day. Donald appeared to be the physically more dominant team with lots of height across the court, but Birchip-Watchem persevered with some good rebounding and team play down the court. Some accurate shooting from Birchip-Watchem saw the scores level out during the second quarter, before Donald scored a few quick goals to gain a small lead at half-time.

The Donald defence line was incredibly difficult to penetrate, causing several errors and turnovers from Birchip-Watchem. Although they had plenty of the play the Bulls just couldn't make it count. Donald continued to hold its lead for the remainder of the game, with solid ball skills and teamwork on display. Strong circle work by the Donald attackers saw the lead increase to the biggest margin of the game. Both teams put on a competitive display – the future looks bright for NCNA if this junior game is anything to go by!

Congratulations to Donald which will now meet Boort in the grand final at Wedderburn. Final score: Donald 19 d. Birchip-Watchem 13.

Under-17

Boort v.

Birchip-Watchem

A strong start by Birchip-Watchem gaining a six goal lead quickly within the first quarter. With beautiful shooting and dominance in defence and all the way down the court, the Bulls stretched this out to a large deficit, leading by 12 goals at the first quarter break. Boort tried some positional changes at both ends of the court but to no avail.

Birchip-Watchem continued to pile on the goals, with some of its shooting performances appearing almost effortless. The pressure and intercepts across the court were consistent throughout the game. Boort battled on but never looked close to challenging.

Tomorrow's grand final between Calder United and Birchip-Watchem is sure to be a terrific contest. Well done Bulls. Final score: Birchip-Watchem 69 d. Boort 22.

"C" Reserve Calder United v. Sea Lake-Nandaly

A quick start to Sea Lake before both teams settled into the game. Some early nerves and scrappy play occurred before the sides found their rhythm. With scores close and a small lead to the Tigers throughout the quarter, the difference appeared to be the tall GS for the Lions, who dominated play in the goal circle.

Calder United really picked up the pace in the second quarter, ultimately winning the quarter in goals scored and levelling the scores at half-time. The Lions' defensive pressure and hunt for the ball really picked up and saw them dominate the quarter. Some tactical changes in defence also made Sea Lake-Nandaly work much harder for every goal.



• Toni Jones and Calder's Grace Scott compete for the rebound. (Photo Blake Lee.)

The game was goal for goal, with few errors by either side. There were only a small number of rebounds or turnovers which really needed each team to capitalize on and try to find that elusive mini-lead. Sea Lake-Nandaly had a small lead of three goals going into the final quarter.

A thriller in the final quarter with critical turnovers going Calder United's way. Nerves took hold in the Lions' goal circle which allowed Calder United to edge in front at the most important time. A fantastic match that was competitive from start to finish. Congratulations to Calder United which will meet Boort in the grand final next week. Final score: Calder United 45 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 44.

"C" Grade

Boort v. Wedderburn

Wedderburn made a great start, blowing Boort out of the water before it had time to adjust. Boort settled in the second quarter after making

some positional changes and clawed back a few goals. Defensive pressure at both ends saw numerous turnovers. Half-time score had Wedderburn leading Boort 27 to 19.

In the third quarter Boort made some further positional changes and brought on some experienced players. The Magpies mounted a huge comeback in this quarter bringing the scores to 36-34, still just in favour of Wedderburn.

In the end Wedderburn was too strong, taking the win by three goals. Final score: Wedderburn 47 d. Boort 44.

"B" Grade

Calder United v. Birchip-Watchem

Calder United was focused and determined from the first whistle. Goals came easily to the Lions stretching to an early lead of nine goals. Accurate shooting from both ends of the court was a pleasure to watch.

The tight contest continued throughout the second quarter. The game was close, with good body contact and great pressure down the court, forcing some basic errors for both teams. A very even quarter in terms of scoring, but the deficit from the first quarter was proving difficult to claw back. Calder United still up by eight goals at half-time.

Calder United really pushed down the pedal in the third term. Dominant mid-court play, combined with excellent defence and accurate goaling allowed the lead to stretch out by 15 goals. The low-scoring and physical match was just not presenting enough opportunities for Birchip-Watchem to encroach on Calder United's strong lead.

The intensity dropped out of the last quarter as Calder United continued to enjoy a comfortable lead. Birchip-Watchem fought it out until

• Continued on page 14.



• Evie Donnellon and Sienna Richmond compete for the ball. (Photo Blake Lee.)



• Jenna Angel and Calder's Gabrielle Ives compete for the ball. (Photo Blake Lee.)



• Claudia Cox intercepts the pass to Bridie Doyle. (Photo Blake Lee.)

Seven Netball Preliminary Finals

• Continued from page 15. the end, but couldn't overcome the combination of accurate shooting and relentless pressure. Congratulations to Calder United on the win – it will meet Wedderburn next Saturday in the grand final. Final

score: Calder United 46 d. Birchip-Watchem 28. "A" Grade Boort v. Sea Lake-Nandaly A few minutes passed, with play from end to end before anyone scored a goal, Boort ended up with the first.

Several mistakes, missed goals, shooter contacts and more marred the first quarter, which ended up being a low scoring affair. A tough second quarter followed, with a few positional changes from Sea Lake-Nandaly. It managed to claw back the lead from Boort

finishing with a goal difference. The third quarter was a physical slog, Sea Lake-Nandaly and Boort both competing strongly and fairly for the ball. The defence and contest on the ball was top notch. The tide turned in the last quarter with Sea Lake-Nandaly nudging ahead. Boort appeared nervous and lacked

drive through the middle. Sea Lake-Nandaly had made its move when it counted most. Boort missed crucial goals when they counted. Multiple cautions were given to both teams by both umpires – the heat was really on in this game; it really was anyone's for the taking. A controversial decision which disallowed a late Boort

goal proved deadly in the end, with Sea Lake-Nandaly taking the match by one goal. A thrilling match. Sea Lake-Nandaly will meet Wedderburn in the grand final on Saturday, for what is sure to be great contest and end to a competitive season in 2025. Final score: Sea Lake-Nandaly 31 d. Boort 30.



• Gracie Ferrier competes for the ball with Hayley Yasa. (Photo Blake Lee.)



• Left to right: Georgia Haw (Boort), Nakia Nunn (SLN), Maya Arentz (SLN), Carly Isaac (Boort), Grace Hosking (Boort), Ash Roberts (SLN).

Donald Racing Fields

Spring Races at Donald

(By Peter Hibberd)

All the local race clubs have started their preparations for their biggest days of the year – their respective cup meetings – with spring racing already commenced in the metropolitan area.

The Donald Racing Centre will come back alive tomorrow with its first meeting of the new season. It was at this meeting four years ago that a horse called Hitotsu started a winning sequence that elevated him into equine history. After his maiden race win at Donald, it went on to win the Victorian Derby, Australian Guineas and the Australian Derby, amassing \$3.2 million in prizemoney. Could tomorrow's meeting unearth another superstar of the turf?

The club received 440 nominations and with the weather forecast looking good, the track is currently rated a good 4. That being said, there could be a turn around in horses' form. The running rail returns to the true position after being out by 3

metres for some past meetings. The respect in which the Donald track is held has been proven once again, with most of the leading stables running young horses for their first and second race starts. First race on a 7-race program is at 1.31 p.m.. Looking for a Winner? With plenty of chances in most races, the best each way bet for the day is Mr. Charismatic in race 6. Calusas Fury won a trial very well recently at Horsham and should be at nice odds. Madesian in race 3 is having its first race start. It has performed very nicely at the jumpouts. Good luck to all the sporting teams in the finals tomorrow!

Selections

Race one: Calusas Fury, Safe and Warm, Bakersbend. Race two: Bangalow Road, Proisecco Rose, Bust Etiquette. Race three: Madesian, McWoody, Pleasing Smile. Race four: Chesapeake Bab, Hey Bella, Bookman. Race five: Larryoctane, Spaceequity, Tekapo. Race six: Mr Charismatic, Don't Tell Sheriff, Melissa Kate. Race seven: Whitson, La Mer Bleue, Handsome Devil.

1. PACIFIC FUEL SOLUTIONS MAIDEN PLATE				
3-Y-O & Up. Mdn. Set Weights				
1200 Metres \$32,000 1.31 p.m.				
1 Bakersbend (Paul Preusker)	J D Hill	8	59.5	
2 Calusa's Fury (Andrew Bobbin)	R McLeod	7	59.5	
3 Seeing Red (Enver Jusufovic)	L N McNeil	17	59.5	
4 The Blonde Bomber (Carly Thomas)	Ms CH Hefel	11	59.5	
5 Pinkerton (Tom Dabernig)	W T Price	3	57.5	
6 Shame On Sue (Andrew Bobbin)	M T Aitken	5	57.5	
7 You Said What (Claire Patterson)	L King	15	57.5	
8 Centu Cavaddi (Trent Busuttin & Natalie Young)	L Riordan	2	57.0	
9 Safe And Warm (Ben, Will & JD Hayes)	F W Kersley	10	57.0	
10 Star Compass (Aaron Purcell)	T Madden	12	57.0	
11 Zetheros (NZ) (Aaron Purcell)	T Madden	9	57.0	
12 Port Kembla (Andrew Bobbin)		16	55.0	
13 Royal Muse (David Jolly & Justin Potter)	Ms S Potter(a3)	14	55.0	
14 She's Stargazing (Patrick Kearney)	C MacRedmond	1	55.0	
15e Villa Capitalista (Tom Dabernig)	J Fry	4	59.5	
16e Saraya (Nathan Hobson)	Ms J M Smith(a4)	13	57.5	
17e Zamora (Charles Cassar)		6	59.5	
2. RUSS STUDIO JEWELLERS MAIDEN PLATE				
3-Y-O & Up. Mdn. Set Weights				



• Austin Dean, Birchip-Watchem.



• Cruz O'Sullivan, Sea Lake-Nandaly.



• Seb Zagame, Charlton.



• Lachlan Hall, Boort.

Four Vie for Rookie Title

A field of four talented candidates has been nominated for North-Central football's 2025 Rookie of the Year Award, with the winner to be announced during the half-time break of tomorrow's grand final.

To be eligible for the award, candidates must be under the age of 20 as at January 1, 2025, must not have played more than 9 senior (open age) games (includes seniors and reserves) in any previous season or competition, and must have played at least nine senior games in the current season.

This season's candidates have made a very good impression during their introduction to senior football, two still being eligible to play at the under-17 level. Congratulations to Austin, Lachlan, Seb and Cruz on their nomination for one of North-Central football's prestigious individual awards.

They represent the future of their respective clubs and the North-Central league. Nominations, as entered by their respective clubs, are as follows:

Birchip-Watchem
Austin Dean: 18 years of age, 178 cm., 75 kgs.. Played 13 senior games in 2025, on a wing, forward flank; kicked 4

goals, named in best on 5 occasions; played 9 seniors games in 2024. Represented North-Central in the under-18 team against Maryborough District FNL, and named best on ground. Junior football: Birchip-Watchem.

Boort
Lachlan Hall: 17 years of age. Played 16 senior games in 2025, on-ball, half-forward, wing; kicked 10 goals; named in club best on 7 occasions; played 3 senior games in

2024. Named Boort's Rising Star and finished third in club "best and fairest" this season. Junior football: Boort.

Charlton
Sebastian Zagame: 16 years of age. Played 12 senior games in 2025, on-ball, half-forward, forward pocket, wing; kicked 9 goals. Also won North-Central under-17 "best and fairest" award for the second consecutive season. Trained with Bendigo Pioneers' under-16 squad during the

season. Junior football: Charlton.

Sea Lake-Nandaly
Cruz O'Sullivan: 16 years of age, 182 cm, 72 kgs.. Played 9 senior games in 2025, on a wing, forward flank, centre; kicked 10 goals; played 1 senior game in 2024. Represented North-Central in the under-18 team against Maryborough District FNL. Played 4 games with Bendigo Pioneers' Coates Talent League. Junior football: Sea Lake-Nandaly.

Field & Game's Father's Day Shoot

Sons, daughters and nephews shot alongside their dads, grandfathers and uncles at Donald Field & Game's Brendarey Father's Day Shoot.

After a little splash of rain it was a clear day for Donald Field & Game's September shoot. Sunday, September 7, was a 50 ASF HCP with a 30 Target Novelty Side by Side event with 37 shooters.

Thank you to sponsors Brendarey Australian Whites for supporting the shoot.

Event 1: 50 ASF HCP
High Gun (OTG): Peter Mitchell (Donald).
All other results include

handicap. Ties decided on count back.

High Gun (HCP): Jim Sawyer (Ararat-Stawell), 46.
AA: 1st Greg Deutscher (Minyip), 42; 2nd Trent Grant (Donald), 37; 3rd Stephan Krause (Minyip), 34.
A: 1st Nicholas Petrie (Donald), 39; 2nd Mathew

Sawyer (Ararat-Stawell), 38; 3rd Jeremy Jardine (Donald), 38.

B: 1st Tony Tudor (Dunolly), 45; 2nd Andrew Falla (Donald), 42; 3rd Carey Brennan (Donald), 42.
C: 1st Terence Deason (Dunolly), 43; 2nd Ben Krause (Minyip), 40; 3rd John Spriggs (Natimuk), 39.
Ladies: 1st Stacey Fritsch (Donald), 29.
Veterans: 1st Barrie Crombie (Dunolly), 39.

Juniors: 1st Kailie Krause (Donald), 39.

Event 2: Novelty Event, Side x Side (30 targets)
Seventeen shooters brought their SxS firearms along for this event. Results include handicap: 1st Mathew Sawyer (Grampians), 26; 2nd Michael Heffernan (Grampians), 23; 3rd Greg Deutscher (Minyip), 23; 4th Jason Parker (Grampians), 22; 5th Jim Sawyer (Ararat-Stawell), 22.

Donald Field & Game recently held its AGM. Congratulations to the following office bearers: president, Jeremy Jardine; vice-president, Wayne Piera; secretary, Andrew Falla; treasurer, Sarah Jardine; and sponsorship co-ordinator, Trent Grant.

Donald Field & Game's next shoot will be held on Sunday, October 5 – 28th Anniversary shoot – 100 targets.



• Father and son combo, Gavin and Ben Krause.



• Peter Mitchell with High Gun.



• Uncle and nephew duo: Jim and Mathew Sawyer.



• The Donald Field and Game lads: Peter Pendlebury, Jeremy Jardine, Wayne Piera and David Brennan (sponsor).

Stage Set for Hockey Grand Finals

The North Central Hockey Association’s preliminary finals were hosted in St Arnaud on Saturday, with the last spots in this week’s grand finals on the line.

Four hard-fought matches saw teams throw everything into the contest, with dramatic goals, desperate defence and plenty of tension for the packed crowd.

Under-12 Birchip-Watchem v. Charlton

Both teams opened nervously, trading turnovers in the midfield and struggling to find clean chances. Birchip-Watchem earned the first short corner after ten minutes, but Charlton’s defence countered through Toby Bourke, driving the ball back to the other end and threatening a goal for themselves. Birchip’s Oscar Sharp and Denley Tyler combined to threaten Charlton’s goals but a gripping save by goalie Archie Smyth kept the scores level heading into half-time.

The second half lifted in intensity immediately. Denley carried the ball forward and found Oscar on the spot inside Charlton’s D, whose sharp strike was only just saved by the keeper. Charlton replied instantly with the ball moving back into attack using Ruby Wright, but the backboard still couldn’t be found as Birchip’s keeper Zayvier Sagers stopped their scoring chances. The game turned when a slick 1-2 passing move between duo Denley and Oscar opened up space in the D, where Oscar managed to receive the ball behind keeper to slot the first goal with eleven minutes left.

Charlton surged desperately, driving the ball forward again, but Birchip-Watchem’s defence held. A series of saves by the Charlton keeper kept the match alive, but time ran out. Birchip-Watchem prevailed 1-0, booking its place in the grand final against Calder United.

Underage St Arnaud v. Donald

St Arnaud struck early and struck hard, Jesse James threatening with two dangerous chances connecting with Mara Reynolds on post with frantic work by Donald’s keeper Kailie Krause to keep it out. It wasn’t long before Lewis Lowe managed to break through though putting Saints up. Carrying that found momentum saw minutes later, a cross from Finn Green to Lewis, who coolly slotted his second. Saints carried a 2-0 lead into half-time despite Donald’s best efforts, with Lilly Nuske holding back the Saints’ tide.

Not ready to give up, Donald came out firing after the break, Oakley Brennan driving a shot on to the post for Ellie Burke to deflect home, cutting the margin to 2-1 inside a minute of the half

starting. This increased pressure from Donald and saw the Saints scrambling for several minutes before steadying and forcing the ball into a pointed attack on the goals. A shot from top came rocketing in and was deflected up by the Donald goalie’s pads, where the quick reactions by Jesse James saw the overhead ball volleyed back past the keeper’s stick and into the net, in what might be the goal of the year. The Saints didn’t look to be slowing down as they continued their assault and when Jesse found his second for the match minutes later, a solid buffer had been formed with 10 minutes of game left to play. Donald fought until the end, Oakley testing keeper Forbes Kirk with a rocket from a short, but the Saints held strong to win 4-1. They will now meet Charlton in the underage grand final.

Women Calder United v. Wedderburn

Calder United seized the initiative early, Sarah Botheras and Phoebe Paley linking to pressure the Wedderburn defence. After a scramble in front of goal, Sarah forced the ball across the line to give Calder the lead. Wedderburn responded through Shelby and Chelsea Giorlando’s overhead combinations, but Calder’s Laura Harrison and Mary-Anne Pollard broke down attack after attack. Desperate to tie up the score, Chelsea fired a shot destined for the top corner, only for Sue-Anne Beattie to pull off a spectacular stick save and send the ball back out. A short corner for Wedderburn at the end of the corner saw a penalty stroke awarded when the ball hit a defender’s foot behind the keeper, but Shelby Giorlando’s attempt was denied by Beattie to keep Calder ahead 1-0 at the break.

Wedderburn came close again in the second quarter, hitting the crossbar after a deflected shot from a short, but Calder’s defence scrambled and cleared it back out. With time running out in the quarter a penalty was earned by Calder before the whistle. Tanya Goddard stepped up to take it, but was unable to convert past Wedderburn’s keeper Cassandra Reeves.

The third quarter saw a lot of back and forth with no score before the third penalty for the game was awarded to Wedderburn. This time Chelsea converted the goal with a powerful flick to tie the match 1-1 with 17 minutes left in the game.

With time running down in the final quarter, and emotions getting high, Calder earned a decisive short corner in the dying minutes of the game. Kate Gifford stepped up and

drilled her strike into the bottom corner with three minutes left, putting the Lions back in the lead. Wedderburn pushed desperately and earned one last short where the ball was breathtakingly stopped from crossing the line by Laura Harrison, who cleanly cleared the ball. Calder United held on 2-1 and will face St Arnaud in the women’s grand final.

Men St Arnaud v. Donald

The men’s preliminary final had the crowd on edge from the opening whistle. Both sides created early chances, Donald earning the first short corner but unable to convert and the quarter ending with no scores. The breakthrough to the stalemate came late in the second quarter, with Glenn Pearse’s run up the field and pass across the D to set up Lyric Davis, who finished with a deft reverse stick to put Donald 1-0 up at half-time.

Donald doubled its lead early in the second half, Leo Nuske linking with Glenn Pearse who slotted a sharp-angle strike that snuck past the keeper. St Arnaud refused to be beaten, followed up with force earning a series of short corners. From one, Thomas Watts’s strike was stopped by keeper Sam Pearse, but the deflection was picked up by Ed Parry, who made no mistake finishing the ball to bring it back to 2-1.

The final quarter brought high drama. Just a minute in, Ben Batters converted a short to level the scores 2-2. A furious attack by Henry Bouchier was stopped by Saints’ keeper Sam Cook to keep the scores even. With only two minutes remaining, Hamish Pearse pounced on a turnover in the attacking half and driving home the third goal. Donald fought hard to equalise again and take it to shoot outs, but St Arnaud calmly controlled the ball until time was up, gaining a 3-2 victory.

The Saints’ resilience to fight back from a 2-goal deficit saw them book their spot at Wedderburn this weekend, where they will meet Calder United in a thrilling showdown.

Grand Final Awaits at Wedderburn

The stage is now set for the NCHA grand final clashes. Calder United will meet Birchip-Watchem in the under-12s, Charlton faces St Arnaud in underage, Calder United and St Arnaud square off in the women’s, and Calder United takes on St Arnaud in the Men’s. After the drama of the semi and preliminary finals, tomorrow promises to be a grand final day to remember.



• Oscar Sharp attempts to score past Calder United’s Archer Smyth. (Photos Blake Lee.)



• Toby Bourke advances forward under pressure from River Ryan and Denley Tyler.

One Hundred Years Ago

From the “Birchip Advertiser”, September 11, 1925.

Mr. T. P. Howley, of Port Fairy, paid a visit to Birchip last week and renewed acquaintances with this many Birchip and district friends who were pleased to see him looking so well. Mr. Howley was Postmaster here for several years and was transferred to Port Fairy about three years ago.

Birchip’s first S. M.

Mr. T. Cotter, Birchip’s first stationmaster, paid a visit to Birchip last week after an absence of 27 years. In the course of an interview Mr. Cotter said he opened the local station here for about five years. During that period Birchip was the terminus to which long tiresome journeys were made in order to catch the train for the city. In those days the S. M.’s practically made their own regulations and a rather crude state of affairs existed. Railway officials were a veritable law unto themselves and the things they did then would speedily earn them their dismissal if perpetuated in the present advanced era.

Mr. Cotter remarked that there was no railway platform during his stay here and all the buildings were portable ones, including the post office, which was dumped behind three other railway buildings. There was only one hotel (the Birchip), three stores, two banks, and a few private houses. Ten years after his arrival Birchip created a shire and a shire office, which

now stands near where the Birchip Hotel was erected.

Mr. Cotter expressed pleasure and surprise at the progress of the town and district since he left. He asked after a number of early settlers including Messrs. Lockwood, Barber Bros., N. McDonald, W. J. Stevens and J. Phelps.

Since retiring from the Department last year, Mr. Cotter has spent six months in Suva on a visit to his son, Robert.

Mr. Cotter worked his way to the top of the tree in the Railways Department and was S. M. at Spencer Street when he resigned.

† CHURCH † NOTICES †

ANGLICAN “Parish of Charlton-Donald”

Enquiries: Rev’d Judi Bird
0435 593 395

Friday, September 19

St. Paul’s, Birchip, 5 p.m.

Sunday, September 21

St. Martin’s, Charlton, 9 a.m.

St. George’s, Donald, 11 a.m.

Holy Trinity, W’burn, 3 p.m.

UNITING CHURCH (North Central Living Waters Cluster)

Donald, 10 a.m., with Rev.
Peter Welsh.

Next Birchip and
Wycheproof Services,
10 a.m. Sunday, September 21

Contact Number: 5497 1033

DISTRICT CATHOLIC CHURCHES “East Wimmera Parish”

Birchip 10.30 a.m.
(Livestream in)

Boort 10.30 a.m.
(Livestream in)

Banyena No Mass

Charlton 8.30 a.m.

Donald (Sat.) 7.00 p.m.

St. Arnaud 10.30 a.m.
(Livestream out to churches
without Mass)

Wycheproof 10.30 a.m.
(Livestream in)

Fr. Gerry Prunty
0419 247 779

Parish Co-ordinator
– Noeline Hogan: 0476 617 976



www.granitecommunitychurch.com

At Granite Church

10.30 a.m.

Baptist Union of Victoria

PAGE 18 — “The Buloke Times”, Friday, September 12, 2025.



• Under-17s: St Arnaud's Frankie Donald picks up the ball as Rylan Chislett tackles.

Junior Football's Preliminary Finals

The Sea Lake-Nandaly Under-14s tried their hearts out, but were outgunned by a bigger Boort outfit.

The mighty little Magpies continued their amazing run in the back half of the season, led all day, showing great team work and determination to earn their right to play off in Saturday's grand final against St Arnaud.

For the Tigers, Riley (2), Henry (1) and Hamish (1) were the leading goal kickers. Henry racked up the possessions through the middle. Harry and Jack held the back-line together and Riley had a great duel in the ruck. Finn, Tom and Hamish also came under regular notice around the ball. A big thanks to Nathan for his wonderful coaching again this year. His inclusive and positive approach ensures all Tiger Cubs

improve every year. Sea Lake-Nandaly trailed all day but was never far behind. The final margin of 18 points was not a true indication of the closeness of the game.

Final score: Boort 8.7 (55) d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 4.3 (27).

Best players for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Henry Cox (Towel), Harry Wight (Col Durie Plumbing \$5), Riley Allan (Jarrod Arrentz \$5), Finn Austerberry (Club Hat). Mentions: Jack Hodgson & Tom McClelland.

Best for Boort: Seth Muller, Archer Lee, Connor McNally, Jed Perryman, Tristan Broad, Liam King.

Under-17s

The under-17s certainly know how to leave the sup-

porters with their hearts in their mouths. After trailing the Saints by 15 points at three-quarter time and feeling like it should have been a bigger margin, the Boort boys got it together and stormed home with a 4 goal to 1 final term, recording a nail-biting 5 point win. Tomorrow they take on Sea Lake-Nandaly for the big one.

Final score: Boort 6.8 (44) d. St Arnaud 5.9 (39).

Best for Boort: Jake O'Flaherty, Cooper Gooding, Luke Boyd, Seth Muller, Riley Wagner, Brodie McPherson.

Best for St Arnaud: Ethan Hilton, William Thomas, Aidan Wickham, Frankie Donald, Chad Hendy, Chase Zander.



• Under-17s: St Arnaud's Rylan Leach (right) and Boort's Deacon Hird reach for the Sherrin.



• Under-14s: Harry Wight gets his kick away under pressure from Cruz Nuttall.

Lions Hunt Crowning Glory, As Bulls Seek Redemption

• Continued from page 20.

kicker Hugo Warne are prominent contributors.

In what promises to be a highly skilled contest, Sea Lake-Nandaly should win out, if the last meeting between the Tigers and Magpies is anything to go by.

Youngest Magpies Aim High

In unison with their older clubmates, Boort's under-14s defied the pundits by earning a berth in tomorrow's grand final against St. Arnaud after an inspired second half last Saturday saw the Magpies outgun the Tigers by 5 goals to 3.

Seth Muller, Archer Lee, Connor McNally and Jed Perryman showed the way, and will again need to be at their best if Boort is to overcome to highly fancied St. Arnaud, which has led the competition for most of the season.

The Saints' strong performances, including a second semi-final win over the

Tigers, has been driven by Pat Zsigmond, Chase Hendy, Jesse James and Duncan Kirk. If this quartet can again fire from the start, as well as receiving strong support from all around them, it could be a red, white and blue start to the day.

Redbacks Face a New Challenge

Many sporting pundits expected Boort "A" grade netballers to regroup and rebound strongly in last Saturday's preliminary final against Sea Lake-Nandaly, but it was the Tigers who roared, adding to the Magpies' finals pain with a second successive 1 goal defeat.

Now it's Sea Lake-Nandaly's turn to try to topple Wedderburn, the most dominant force in local netball, in the quest for the 2025 premiership.

For the Tigers to win, Nakia Nunn, Maya Arentz, Ash Roberts and Grace Farrell will need to be at their very best, to offset the influence of the Redbacks' guns, including

Kelsey Pallpratt, Maddison Postle, Paige Stephenson and Olivia Lockhart.

Wedderburn is undefeated so far, and the Redbacks should end their season as premiers and champions – by a goal.

• Donald's 14-&-under "A" netballers are the town's only representatives at Wedderburn tomorrow, and will be taking on Boort. Joint captains Lucy Robinson and Sophie Burke can provide the leadership needed to enable the team to upset their more highly fancied rival, which will be looking to Indiana Gooding, Becky Stringer and Amelia Hosking for steadiness when the pressure comes to bear late in the game.

Top Two to Tango – Twice

St. Arnaud and Calder United have been the top two teams in North-Central hockey this season, and they clash in both the women's and men's grand finals tomorrow.

When the women take the field, Brylea Knight, Johanna Meagher, Nicola Kirk, Georgia Douglas and goal keeper Sophie Male will need to be at their best if the Saints are to repeat their success of the second semi., but with the Lions' Kate Gifford, Laura Harrison, Sarah Botheras and veteran Sue-Anne Beattie in great form, the result should go right down to the wire, finishing in Calder United's favour.

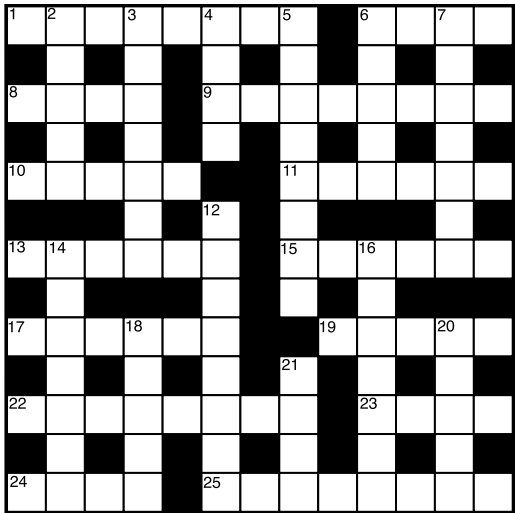
The men's clash promises to be fast and furious, with the action non-stop, as Calder United's Will Ison, proven finals performer Jacob Moresi, Marcus Williamson and Paddy Eccles go head-to-head with St. Arnaud's dynamos, including Thomas Watts, Russell Marland, Ben Greenaway and Edward Parry.

The Lions won a shootout a fortnight ago, and may need to repeat the performance if they are to overcome the Saints again.

Calder United to complete a hockey double.

"Times" Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8193



ACROSS

- 1. Middling (8)
- 6. Journey (4)
- 8. Chunk (4)
- 9. Pet name (8)
- 10. Animal (5)
- 11. Empty (6)
- 13. Woodlouse (6)
- 15. Lumber (6)
- 17. Accent (6)
- 19. Sprite (5)
- 22. Month (8)
- 23. Impolite (4)
- 24. One (4)
- 25. Keep back (8)

DOWN

- 2. Precise (5)
- 3. Immediate (7)
- 4. Walking stick (4)
- 5. Dig out (8)
- 6. Garment (5)
- 7. Huge (7)
- 12. Weapon (8)
- 14. Disappointment (3-4)
- 16. Sovereign (7)
- 18. Expel (5)
- 20. Decoration (5)
- 21. Worry (4)

• Solution next issue.



Lions Hunt Crowning Glory, As Bulls Seek Redemption

(By Shane O'Shea)

Premiership glory, the ultimate reward in any team sport, awaits Calder United and Birchip-Watchem tomorrow at Wedderburn, when they clash in North-Central football's 2025 grand final.

It promises to be a battle for supremacy worthy of a season defining clash between the competition's two best combinations.

The Lions have the rare opportunity to savour success in their first season, a tribute to the reconciliation achieved between two communities with fierce sporting rivalries.

The Bulls' focus is in reversing the result of their second semi-final loss to the Lions, the only combination to defeat them this season.

On review, it was only a brilliant first quarter at Boort by Calder United that brought about Birchip-Watchem's undoing.

During last Saturday's preliminary final, apart from one or two brief periods, the Bulls imposed their physical dominance over the Tigers, the previous game no doubt serving as a wake-up call.

Grand final day will be a very special occasion for North-Central's newest club, Calder United, an amalgamation of Nullawil and Wycheproof-Narraport.

The Lions have nine teams engaged in grand finals – two football, three hockey and four netball, out of a possible 15 – a remarkable achievement by any standards.

And Calder United served notice, via its 30-minutes of brilliance, that it has all the at-

tributes needed to finish its first season as North-Central's premiership team.

But that victory also served to provide the Bulls with the jolt needed to remove any complacency that may have set in after 16 consecutive victories, and reminded Ash Connick's charges that the biggest challenge of their season has arrived.

The return from injury of Nic Rippon has added a harder edge to Birchip-Watchem's attack that already features Ben Edwards, Rhona Conboy and Tom Gibson. And with Joe Reid also successfully completing a comeback via the reserves' preliminary final, the Bulls will have almost a full list from which to select their senior and reserves combinations.

A fortnight ago, Mitch Farmer ensured Calder United got off to a flyer with 3 quick goals. Dale Pearce also loomed large, supreme in the aerial duels, as the Lions dominated scoring in the first half. The potential return from injury of Jack Exell would add another scoring weapon to an already potent attack.

Defence will play a pivotal role in tomorrow's clash, and both combinations are well served in this crucial area.

A fortnight ago, Lions defenders, including Oscar Madden, Boe Bish, Daniel



• Calder United's Dale Pearce fends off Birchip-Watchem's Riley Hogan during round 11. Also pictured far left Angus Butterfield (B-W).

Watts and Dane McLennan, were able to keep a tight rein on the Bulls' key forwards. The possible return of Josh Walsh from an ankle injury would further strengthen what is a very resilient combination.

Last Saturday's dominance by Birchip-Watchem's defence over the Tigers, led by Ben Lakin, Ben Hogan (who produced possibly the best performance of his career), Angus Butterfield and Dale Hinkley, indicated very clearly that any lethargy from three relatively easy home-and-away lead up games and a week's rest had been replaced by the hard-nosed approach that contributed to the Bulls being the most frugal in the competition in terms of conceding opposition scores.

Calder United spearhead Pearce will again be a major challenge for the Bulls through his ability to mark incoming footballs at their highest point. His influence could be match defining, particularly if his midfielders, including Matt Wade, Steven Kennedy, Zane Keighran, the versatile Jordy Humphreys, Koby Hommelhoff and Kobe Lloyd, can control the flow of the game.

Their battle with Birchip-Watchem's ultra-impressive engine room that includes Daniel Bell, Marshall Rippon, Charlie Frank, Meyrick Buchanan, Sam Simmons, Jacob Christie and blonde-headed dasher Austin Dean, promises to be a rolling and relentless struggle for supremacy.

The ruck wrestle between Calder United's Dean Putt and Birchip-Watchem's Hamish

Hosking (these two giants no longer run at each other at centre bounces . . . they lock arms and grabble for best position), will be one of the most pivotal one-on-one battles of the overall contest.

Hosking was hampered by a leg injury last weekend, but continued to make his presence felt, and his influence around the ground will be telling.

Lions' coach Daryl Wilson showed part of his carefully constructed hand of cards a fortnight ago, but will have numerous strategies in place to combat opposition coach Ash Connick's equally considered game plan.

From a tactical perspective, the off-field contest between two very experienced coaches will add an element of intrigue to one of the most eagerly awaited clashes of the season.

Both teams are as well prepared as they can be, with the bounce of the ball being one of the very few things they cannot control.

A Calder United victory would strengthen the bonds of matrimony between Nullawil and Wycheproof-Narraport, each with an incredible record of premiership success. It is a union that now looks capable of forging a footballing dynasty that can launch its own significant record of achievement.

If Birchip-Watchem wins, it will be the crowning glory of a very impressive season. It will also be the realisation of the potential that has promised so much since the Bulls' last premiership, but so far has failed to materialise.

Scratcher's Lament: "You

never pick us" is the regular opening comment to this scribe from one of Calder United's most passionate supporters. Pre-empting any conversation tomorrow, if the Lions can reproduce their opening quarter burst of a fortnight ago (some of the best country football any unbiased spectator could wish to see), they can get the jump on the Bulls and will be almost impossible to run down. They just need to maintain the rage over four quarters.

Should Birchip-Watchem hit the ground running, however, the Bulls' momentum generated last Saturday, combined with the return of Nic Rippon, might give them a match winning edge.

Birchip-Watchem by 5 points.

Reserves' Reflection

In many ways, tomorrow's reserves grand final between Calder United and Birchip-Watchem is almost a mirror image of the senior game, the only difference being that it was the Bulls who inflicted the Lions' only defeat this season.

Calder United, due to an abundance of players with plenty of senior experience, has been the benchmark of reserves football all season, with players of the calibre of Joel Turner, Brent Barker, Billy and Angus Forrester, Tom Trewin, Spencer Allan, Rylie Botheras and Cody Green putting the Lions in a strong position to take out the premiership, potentially the new club's first ever football crown.

Birchip-Watchem has worked its way into premiership contention via two im-

pressive finals performances, and might be generating the necessary momentum needed to thwart its opposition's end goal.

Stefan Pye, James Lindeback, Callum Goode, Matt Berry and George Addis provide plenty of physical strength, while the young legs of Riley Hogan, Ty and Bodie Colbert and Connor Lee generate the pace needed to put enormous pressure on the Lions' defence.

The presence of Joe Reid, depending on how coaches Matt Ryan and Jake Noonan look to shape their final line up after the senior team has been selected, could add further weight to the Bulls' chances of success.

Calder United charged into the finals with a full head of steam, playing very impressive football, which should carry the day tomorrow, by 8 points.

Tigers in Magpies' Sights

Boort under-17s continued their meritorious quest for premiership glory when they inflicted St. Arnaud's second successive defeat in this season's finals series, earning a shot at the ultimate team prize against Sea Lake-Nandaly.

The Magpies' consistent recent form has been driven by a band of strong contributors, including Jake O'Flaherty, Cooper Gooding, Luke Boyd and Riley Boyd. They are going to need increased assistance from all team mates, however, if they are to overcome a very talented Tiger outfit, in which Nate McClelland, Judd Durie, Angus Renney and goal

• Continued on page 19.

GRAND FINALS

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13 AT WEDDERBURN

SENIORS | 2:30PM
CALDER UNITED V BIRCHIP WATCHEM

RESERVES | 12:35PM
CALDER UNITED V BIRCHIP WATCHEM

UNDER 17'S | 10:55AM
SEA LAKE NANDALY V BOORT

UNDER 14'S | 9:30AM
ST ARNAUD V BOORT

A | 3:30PM
B | 2:00PM
C | 12:30PM
C RES | 11:00AM
14&U 'B' | 9:45AM
17&U | 9:30AM
14&U 'A' | 8:30AM

WEDDERBURN V SEA LAKE NANDALY
WEDDERBURN V CALDER UNITED
CALDER UNITED V WEDDERBURN
BOORT V CALDER UNITED
ST ARNAUD V BIRCHIP WATCHEM
CALDER UNITED V BIRCHIP WATCHEM
BOORT V DONALD

MENS | 3:15PM
WOMENS | 1:40PM
UNDERAGE | 12:30PM
UNDER 12 | 11:30AM

CALDER UNITED V ST ARNAUD
ST ARNAUD V CALDER UNITED
CHARLTON V ST ARNAUD
CALDER UNITED V BIRCHIP WATCHEM

GATES OPEN AT 7:30AM **ADMITTANCE \$15** **RECORDER \$5**
 EFTPOS AVAILABLE FOR ENTRY & RECORDER

A GREAT DAY OF FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT, WITH COMPREHENSIVE CATERING FACILITIES AVAILABLE

NO B.Y.O ALCOHOL