

DONALD

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The Buloke Times

Est. 1875

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Tuesday, April 15, 2025

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

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



• Testing out the new irrigation system at Donald Racecourse, left to right, Terry Chesters (Donald Race Club), Kim Spencer (Donald Committee), Lachlan Holmes-Brown (track manager Donald Race Club), Jackie Alexander (chairman, Donald Race Club), the Hon. Anthony Carbines (Minister for Racing), Penny Penfold (manager Donald Race Club), Leigh Newton (Regional Services manager Country Racing Victoria).

Nothing But Winners for Wimmera Racing Clubs

Wimmera racegoers and visitors will have even more reasons to visit their local track thanks to an infrastructure funding boost of more than \$660,000 from the Victorian Government.

Minister for Racing, Anthony Carbines, visited the Ararat Turf Club, Donald and District Racing Club and St Arnaud Turf Club, which are all receiving upgrades to deliver high-quality racing events all year round in the region.

"It's great to visit the region and see all the improve-

ments of our western race clubs which contribute so much to their communities," said Mr. Carbines.

"The regional racing industry plays a vital role in Victoria's economy, generating \$1.17 billion and helping sustain more than 9,000 jobs. We'll always back them in."

More than \$315,000 from

the Victorian Racing Industry Fund (VRIF) has gone into upgrading Ararat's irrigation system, with Racing Victoria and the club contributing more than \$157,000 each for the new system.

An additional \$36,000 has been provided to help install four new permanent shade umbrellas at Ararat, with the

club matching the Government's contribution. Ararat holds up to seven race meets a year and conducts five official trials and jump-out meetings per season.

The Government has invested more than \$310,000 to upgrade the irrigation system at Donald, with Racing Victoria and the club contributing more than \$155,000 each towards the project.

The new irrigation system is already helping the club

manage its watering programs, improving overall track consistency ahead of race and trial meetings.

It will help save money on labour, water and additional wear and tear to the tracks, while minimising water lost to evaporation. The club holds race meets up to six times a year, and conducts up to six official trials and jump-outs per year.

"We thank Racing Victoria and the Donald and District

Racing Club for their contributions to this worthwhile project, and I look forward to getting back here for the races as soon as I can," said Mr Carbines.

Chairman Jack Alexander warmly thanked the Victorian Racing Industry Fund and Racing Victoria for the financial support in helping to see the installation of the new irrigation system.

• Continued on page 2.

What Are Online Shopping Scams?

[From the Bendigo Bank]

Online shopping scams will pose as a buyer or seller and attempt to trick you into making a payment to them.

This includes puppy scams, buyer/seller disputes and difficult to find or highly popular items, such as concert tickets.

Unfortunately, scammers love online shopping too and can easily create very convincing yet fake websites for you to complete your purchases.

A key thing to look for is an unusual method of payment such as a wire transfer,

prepaid cards or cheques. Online retailers would not ask you to make payments for goods through an online store via these methods.

How to Spot a Scam

Be wary of any offer that seems too good to be true, such as luxury items or popular brands being offered at unusually low prices.

Don't rush or be pressured by "limited offers" or end of sale "countdowns" – scammers

always try to create a sense of urgency.

Online stores or classifieds that request you use non-secure payment methods. These include wire or bank transfers, money orders, preloaded gift cards and electronic currencies like Bitcoin. It's rare you'll be able to recover money sent this way.

Websites may lack credentials such as a privacy policy, ABN or ACN, or T&Cs and there may be no contact or escalation details.

Issues with the URLs (mis-spelt or similar names) and unregistered/recently registered websites.

How to Protect Yourself

If you need to create accounts with online stores, make sure you use strong and unique passwords. Don't reuse your internet banking, email or social media passwords.

Navigate directly to online stores using your web browser, rather than by clicking on email or social media link.

Be cautious of missing privacy policies, terms and conditions or refund information. It should be easy enough to contact customer service if you need help – even better if they have a phone number or physical address.

Only make payments for products via the website's secure payment method you should not need to pay via wire transfer, prepaid card or cheque.

Look for websites with a https and a closed padlock symbol.

Make sure you complete regular software updates on your devices and ensure that anti-virus software installed on devices is up to date.

Regularly check your statements. If you've been shopping online, keep an eye on your transaction history and report anything suspicious as soon as possible.

If shopping for second hand items from social media or another online marketplace, ask as many questions as possible upfront, look at the seller's profile and past feedback.

Let us know ASAP if you think you have been the victim of a scam.

Things to Remember

Never provide your 6-digit e-banking security code to

anyone; in person, over the phone or online, even if they claim to work for your bank and have personal information about you.

Never provide a caller with remote access to your computer.

We will never ask you for your e-banking PIN, e-banking password or 6-digit e-banking security code.

We will never ask you to log in to e-banking via a link sent in an SMS or sent in an email.

We may call from time to time and ask to verify your identity by asking for your verbal password. However, we will never ask you for any PIN, password or security code relating to your e-banking. If you feel uncomfortable, you can always verify our branch contact details on our website and call us back.

Next Week's "Times"

With the Easter break beginning on Friday of this week, April 18, there will be no issue of the "Buloke Times" on Tuesday, April 22.

The one issue next week will be on Friday, April 25.

Heart Health Check Kit

(The Editor, "The Times") Dear Editor.— I would like to commend La Trobe University on the wonderful news they have secured funding to co-design a Heart Health Check Kit for rural Australians. This important initiative will enable individuals to monitor their heart health from home – an especially vital service in regions where access to cardiac care is limited.

Championed by dedicated local heart health advocate Katrina Umbach, the project will address the significant barriers rural communities face in accessing timely and effective heart health screening. The kit has the potential to save countless lives, particularly in communities like Mildura, where there is no Catheterisation Lab or accessible heart disease screening program.

Katrina's tireless efforts to raise awareness about heart disease and expand cardiac services across regional Victoria deserve special recognition. Her advocacy continues to make a real difference in the lives of many.

I encourage anyone interested in participating in the

trial phase of this project to reach out to La Trobe University at hearthealthcheck@la-trobe.edu.au.

Congratulations to all involved in making this life-saving initiative a reality.

Jade Benham, MP.

Clarification

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Editor.— Last week the local newspapers published a letter from the CEO of the Buloke Shire titled Planning Clarification.

The CEO seems to be confusing a number of issues in his "clarification" in which he refers to the "independent" Municipal Building Surveyor.

And I quote from the Municipal Building Surveyor – Victoria Charter:

"An integral and crucial part of the building compliance and building enforcement role and functions of a municipal council in Victoria is carried out by the statutory office of the municipal building surveyor ('MBS')."

"Every municipal council must appoint an MBS in order to fulfill the Council role and functions under the Act. Section 212 of the Act makes a municipal council responsible for the administration and enforcement of Parts 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 of the Act and the building regulations within its municipal district".

(MUNICIPAL BUILDING SURVEYOR – VICTORIA CHARTER)

As the Charter attests this is a Statutory Office, nothing independent about it, the role is required by Legislation and is part and parcel of the Council; as such the role comes under the direct control of the CEO who according to the: Local Government Act Sec 46 (3) (b) is responsible for all staffing matters, including appointing, directing, managing and dismissing members of Council staff.

Going further into the CEO's "clarification" he notes that the Municipal Building Surveyor informed the organisers that they would not be granted a "building permit" for the event.

If we refer back to the media release that Buloke Shire Council issued on the

Friday prior to the March 3 meeting:

"An Ordinary Council Meeting has been scheduled for Monday, March 3, 2025 to present the recommendation for the refusal of the application for a planning permit to Councillors for consideration. However, even if the planning permit is issued, the organisers will require a POPE-OP, which is likely to also be refused due to similar concerns with the health and safety of patrons".

The CEO is ill informed about what has transpired here and could be playing word games to spin his way out of the fact that Esoteric Festival didn't occur in 2025.

In trying to clarify the Council position and deflect blame, he has actually brought into focus the fact that the Council never had any intention whatsoever to issue the necessary permits for the Esoteric Festival for 2025.

The sad part about this story is that Council left it to the very last minute to hold a Council meeting about the Planning Permit, which if the elected Councillors had adopted the Officer's recommendations to refuse the permit, would have made their role as Councillors untenable for their term on Council.

Look at the timelines offered by the CEO after the Council meeting had agreed to grant a Planning Permit with 47 conditions (which concluded at 5.55 p.m.) the Municipal Building Surveyor advised the organisers at 8.30 a.m. the next morning that there were 33 more reasons why it would be stopped.

Whist the CEO is trying to distance himself from the actions of the Municipal Building Surveyor by indicating that he is "independent", that is not the reality as indicated by the Building Act and the fact that Sec 46 of the Local Government Act gives the CEO the power over staff.

All the CEO has done by clarifying matters has focussed attention on the short comings of the Buloke Shire Council.

Regards,
Daryl Warren

Congratulations

(The Editor, "The Times") Dear Editor.— I would like to congratulate the Charlton RSL Sub-Branch on receiving a grant to assist with the restoration of the Charlton Cenotaph. The funding will support important work to re-point and clean the memorial, ensuring this special site continues to honour the service of local veterans for years to come and preserving this important site of remembrance.

The Charlton RSL team's effort in obtaining the grant is reflection of the dedication, hard work, and community spirit that the team shows time and again. Local RSL sub-branches like Charlton's play such an important role – not just in commemorating those who have served, but also in supporting veterans, their families, and the wider community.

Whether it's through well-being programs, commemorative services, or simply offering a welcoming place for people to connect, the RSL continues to go above and beyond.

It's great to see their efforts being acknowledged and supported. Well done to everyone involved.

Jade Benham, MP.

Are you looking forward to the Easter break? Be encouraged to include the Wimmera Easter Convention held at Warracknabeal in your plans!

This Convention features one of the best convention speakers in Australia.

David Cook, a Presbyterian minister before serving for 26 years as Principal of Sydney Missionary and Bible College will bring the Bible teaching messages on each of the four days. David not only teaches the skills of preaching, but encourages and mentors others who have a calling to preach.

Josiah Watson, who has a heart for young people, will bring relevant messages for the young in years and also for the young at heart. He is passionate for young people to build relationships with each other and with the Lord.

The Youth Camps are enjoyed by Year 1 to Year 6 children. This is a Day Camp (Wheatlands Church, Werrig St). Also the Teens look forward to their camp at the Brim Recreation Reserve and the Young Adults at the Warracknabeal Community Centre.

Special feature, this year is Steve Messer's "Strange Country" Band playing at 8.30 p.m., Good Friday, in the Warracknabeal Town Hall.

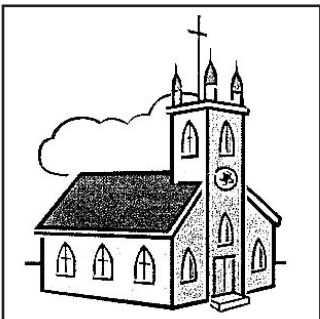


Josiah Watson will be bringing passionate messages for the young at heart and the young in years.

Crosscultural speakers, lively music, and good fellowship will contribute greatly to the Easter Convention. Come and enjoy. There is no registration fee.

For detail www.wimmeraeasterconvention.org or pick up a pamphlet at Look First Op Shop, Donald.

CHURCHES



ANGLICAN "Parish of Charlton-Donald"

Enquiries: Rev'd Judi Bird
0435 593 359

Friday, April 18
Good Friday

St. Paul's, Birchip, 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 20
Easter Day

St. Martin's, Charlton, 9 a.m.
St. George's, Donald, 11 a.m.
Holy Trinity, W'burn, 3 p.m.

Nothing But Winners for Wimmera Racing Clubs

Continued from page 1.

"The automatic watering system has certainly streamlined the track maintenance process and is a welcome addition to the club's infrastructure," said Donald and District Racing Club chairman, Jack Alexander.

Customer Facilities Upgrade at Donald

Minister Carbines has also recently approved \$23,000 to support the first stage of the customer facilities upgrades at Donald through the Victorian Racing Industry Fund.

The first stage involves increasing the size of the ticket box, upgrading the entrance by providing undercover shelter, paving, landscaping, signage and safety bollards.

These upgrades will improve the customer experience by providing all abilities access and an appealing and welcoming environment to attract patrons to the Donald Racecourse. The project is expected to be completed by June 2025.

"We know the importance of maintaining racing and training infrastructure for racing clubs across the state, and that's why we're so pleased to help Donald with these essential upgrades to ensure the region continues to play a critical role," said Mr Carbines.

Wimmera Upgrades

In the North-West, the thoroughbred racing industry generates more than \$63 million for the Victorian economy and helps sustain over 500 full time jobs in the area.

The government is supporting the industry, and its

infrastructure needs to ensure participants have the quality facilities they need to succeed.

At St. Arnaud

St. Arnaud received \$125,000 through the VRIF to support upgrades to the club's race day administration building and jockey rooms, with Racing Victoria and the club providing \$62,500 each towards the project.

The upgrades will include a new portable building for a female jockey room providing better facilities for the growing number of female riders.

St. Arnaud's dining room and kitchen recently received an upgrade, thanks to a \$19,000 contribution from the

VRIF as well as more than \$19,000 each from Racing Victoria and the club. The club races once a year on Cox Plate Day and conducts up to four official trials and jump-outs meetings per year.

Since 2014, the Government has provided more than \$740,000 to Ararat, \$528,000 to Donald and more than \$240,000 to St Arnaud to support new infrastructure builds at each club.

"Regional racetracks are an important hub for our communities and support hundreds of jobs – which is why we'll keep helping them to put on great events year-round," said Member for Ripon Martha Haylett.

Corack East Wind Renewable Energy from ACEN

ACEN Australia is in the early stages of investigating a large-scale wind energy project in Buloke Shire in Western Victoria, called **Corack East Wind**. The development is proposed to be located on privately owned land between Donald, Birchip and Wycheproof.

Drop-in information Hub Every Wednesday 1pm-6pm

Commencing 19 March, 2025

Meet the project team, find out more and provide feedback

Charlton Park Community Bank Complex Boardroom

Charlton Park Community Bank Complex Calder Hwy, Charlton

www.corackeastwind.com.au 1800 498 550 info@corackeastwind.com.au Corack East Wind

CHURCH NOTICES

DISTRICT CATHOLIC CHURCHES "East Wimmera Parish" Easter Service Thursday, April 17 Holy Thursday

Live-streamed out from St. Mary's Birchip. 7.00 p.m. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMqUdLT0T7CPqfGWhlISJ7g>

Friday, April 18 Good Friday

Charlton LLA 10.00 a.m.
Donald 3.00 p.m.
(with Fr Gerry)
St. Arnaud LLA 3.00 p.m.
Birchip LLA 3.00 p.m.
Wycheproof LLA 3.00 p.m.
Boort LLA 3.00 p.m.

Saturday (night), April 19 Easter Vigil

Wycheproof 5.00 p.m.
Charlton 7.00 p.m.
St. Arnaud 9.00 p.m.

Sunday, April 20 Easter Sunday

Birchip 8.30 a.m.
Banyena. 12 noon.
Boort 5.00 p.m.

Live-streamed out from St. Mary's Donald 10.30 a.m. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-7KMG-nnvs-fjpGqN39qKnw>

Fr. Gerry Prunty 0419 247 779
Parish Co-ordinator
- Noeline Hogan: 0476 617 976



• Locomotive J254 is receiving a facelift, thanks to Donald Lions Club working with Buloke Shire Council pictured here part way through painting.

New Paint Job for Locomotive J254

Donald Lions Club, working with Buloke Shire Council, has obtained funding to give one of Donald's major tourists stop-overs, the Lions initiated train park, best exhibit J254 steam train a paint job.

It started with the Donald High School (supervised by Donald Lions hitting the rust spots with rust inhibitor) then the Donald Fire Brigade, organized by Lion President Mick Raynes, having fun on a hot day pressure washing the train.

Then Geoff Blake sprayed the train all over; an excellent job.

Community member William Carr touched up the silver components and rust spots and Lions members are starting to fix up some of the metal flooring. With still a bit of red paint to go on by

Easter, the old J254 is starting to look schmick!

Whilst, working on the train park the amount of use the train park exhibits get from visitors and locals, the count was 12 cars stopping with over 40 visitors one afternoon, one of Donald's best tourist attractions.

The funding from the Buloke Shire community grant program is a great example of the Shire and community clubs working together to support local business and carry out maintenance on local assets by trusting the local organizations to get the best value

from funding on what is most needed projects.

Art Show Support

Donald Lions Club members have also thrown their support behind Donald's upcoming Art Show, with a donation of \$1,000 towards exhibition prizes.

Making the presentation to Art Show Committee representative Alison McEwen, club president Michael Raynes said that it was the club's aim to support other clubs and organisations when it comes to making Donald a better place to live and to celebrate what the town and its districts have to offer.



• Geoff Blake, spray painter, with Lions president Michael Raynes, pumping up the spray gun.



• Alison McEwen, Chairperson of Donald Art Show Committee with Donald Lions President Michael Raynes and Lions David James. The Lions supported the art show with a donation of \$1000!



Police Beat



Kerang

Criminal Damage: Between 10.30 p.m. 2nd and 3 p.m. on the 3rd April, Unknown Offender/s have attended at an address in Boundary Street, Kerang and attempted to steal a White 2008 Ford Ranger. Fortunately the vehicle was secured and properly locked. Damage was sustained, however, where implements were used to try and force entry.

Robinvale

Theft of Motor Vehicle:

The victim visited an address in Robin Street, Robinvale around 11:15 a.m. on the 2nd April. He left the vehicle parked and running out the front of the address. The victim returned to his car shortly after to find it gone. Shortly after, while he was reporting this at Robinvale Police Station, a shaken motorist called through the stolen vehicle being driven erratically along the Murray Valley Highway which had narrowly missed colliding with their vehicle. The offending driver and stolen vehicle were later located by NSW Police 10 kilometres west of Hay, after it was involved in a minor collision.

Swan Hill Magistrate's Court at a later date.

Burglary: Between 5 p.m. on the 4th of April, and 11 a.m. on the 6th of April, unknown offender/s have attended at the Ken Harrison Reserve sporting precinct in Yana Street, Swan Hill. The offender has forced entry to a maintenance shed and stolen various items. Then on Monday 7th April between 3 a.m.-6 a.m., offender/s have again returned and forced entry to the same premises and stolen further items. Equipment stolen include an industrial pressure washer, Makita drill kit and fuel can. They have also caused damage to doors and windows. Combined the damage and items stolen are estimated to be valued at around \$2000.

Cohuna

Burglary: at approximately 9:08 p.m. on the 3rd of April a male has entered the Cohuna Laundromat and forced entry into the locked office area. The offender had used force to remove the coin machine from the wall, and caused extensive damage in the process. The offender has taken both the machine and its contents of about \$1000 in mixed coins and notes. The machine itself was worth about \$6000 while the damage to door and wall is estimated to be around \$1000.

Swan Hill

Drug and Weapon Possessions:

In the early hours of Saturday 31st March, Police carried out a number of vehicle intercepts in Gray Street and the CBD. This resulted in a woman being charged with possession of Methamphetamine, Ecstasy and prescription medication. Also as a result of the vehicle intercepts, police seized a flick knife from a male's vehicle, he was charged with offences relating to carrying a prohibited weapon. Both individuals are required to attend

Easter Church Notices

UNITING CHURCH (North Central Living Waters Cluster) Easter Services

Friday, April 18
Good Friday

Donald, no service. Invitation to join Anglicans at St Georges at 7 p.m.
Birchip, 9.30 a.m.

Sunday, April 20
Easter Sunday

Donald, 10 a.m., with Jan Flett. All Welcome.
Wycheproof, 10 a.m.
Birchip, 10 a.m.

Contact Number: 5497 1033

For School Holidays... “A Minecraft Movie”

Plan a school holiday outing to The Rex with the fantasy adventure comedy “A Minecraft Movie” screening this weekend with two matinee sessions on the following Friday and Saturday.

Once again boosting the 2011 video game Minecraft theme, this movie sees “four misfits – Garrett “The Garbage Man” Garrison (Jason Momoa), Henry (Sebastian Eugene Hansen), Natalie (Emma Myers) and Dawn (Danielle Brooks) – finding themselves struggling with ordinary problems when they are suddenly pulled through a mysterious portal into the Overworld: a bizarre, cubic wonderland that thrives on imagination.

To get back home, they'll have to master this world (and protect it from evil things like Piglins and Zombies) while

embarking on a magical quest with an unexpected, expert crafter, Steve (Jack Black).

Together, their adventure will challenge all five to be bold and to reconnect with the qualities that make each of them uniquely creative... the very skills they need to thrive back in the real world (quoted from Rotten Tomatoes).

The movie, which celebrates creativity, revolves around the blocky world of Minecraft and marries live-action with CGI.

Almost a parody of its previous incarnations, the addition of Jack Black opens the way for musical integration as

he shines as the game's default player, Steve, a role that would be unimaginable without his signature charm and energy.

“A Minecraft Movie” holds all the fun and imaginative quirks which will make it ideal viewing for the young and the young-at-heart this school holiday season.

Don't forget the additional matinees on Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26.

“A Minecraft Movie” screens Saturday, April 19, 8 p.m. | Sunday, April 20, 2 p.m. | Tuesday, April 22, 8 p.m. | Friday, April 25, 2 p.m. | Saturday, April 26, 2 p.m.

"Times" Classifieds

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

Dob in a friend
If you know someone celebrating a birthday, or wedding anniversary or some other special occasion, let us know and we'll let the world know!

- April 16, Nick McLennan
- April 16, Robert Young
- April 17, Bill Hegarty
- April 19, Laurel Mitchell

Darrell Lea
Fine Chocolates

JOHN SANDS

If you know someone celebrating a special anniversary, let us know at
Donald Newsagency & Emporium
For all your Greeting Cards, Wraps, Ribbons and Stationery needs.
37 Woods Street, Donald. 'Phone 54971510.

REX THEATRE



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

COMING ATTRACTIONS



A MINECRAFT MOVIE

CTC 101 mins | Adventure

Sat 19 April 8pm

Sun 20 April 2pm

Tue 22 April 8pm

***Fri 25 April 2pm**

***Sat 26 April 2pm**

COMING: **SPIT**
M 102 mins | Comedy

SMD

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13 Enterprise Dr, Donald



BEREAVEMENT THANKS

ALLAN.- Fay

We wish to thank everyone for your heartfelt wishes and messages in cards, text and phone calls, the lovely visits, beautiful flowers and delicious and much appreciated baking we so kindly received following the passing of our loved Mum, Grandma and Great-grandma Fay. Your support and thoughtfulness truly meant so much to us all.

- Marlene, Christine, Brenda and families.

DONALD URBAN FIRE BRIGADE

Royal Children's Hospital

Door Knock Appeal

TUES., APRIL 15
6 p.m. onwards.

Also in street, Thursday, April. 17, with raffles and donations.

Eftpos available or donations can be made using QR code



Organizer,
Dale Anderson



AMBULANCE PHONE NO. 000



Good Friday Service
at the
GRANITE ROCKS RESERVE
at 9.30 a.m.
Morning tea to follow
No Church Service on Sunday.

DONALD LIONS CLUB 2025 Driver Reviver Roster

The Driver Reviver site will be at the heritage listed Old Police Camp, Woods Street.

The Donald Lions Club have been doing this community service for over 40 years.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

8 a.m. To set up: David James, Norm & Beth Hollis.

9-11 a.m., Stewart & Joyce Hollis.

11 a.m.-1 p.m., Brian & Enid Brasier.

1-3 p.m., Allen Postlethwaite & Beth Hollis.

3-5 p.m., Alan Berg, Andrea Mason & Colleen Harmer.

MONDAY, APRIL 21

8-10 a.m., Michael Raynes & Graeme Harris.

10-12 noon, David Elsom & Chris Rodgers.

12- 2 p.m., Graham & Jenni Shilton.

2-4 p.m., Peter & Leslie Pendlebury.

4-6 p.m., Shane O'Shea, Norm Hollis, David James.

Should you be unable to attend, contact Norm Hollis 0419 281 742.

We thank all these members who have volunteered to help with the Driver Reviver roster.

Locals and visitors are most welcome to drop in for a cuppa and the Old Police Camp is open at these times to see through the Cottage and all displays.

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



86th

Wimmera Easter Convention

Town Hall, Warracknabeal
Friday, 18th April - Monday, 21st April

Speaker: David Cook

Former Presbyterian minister, followed by 26 years as Principal of Sydney Missionary and Bible College. David is now retired but is also an accomplished writer and has authored Bible commentaries, ...

Youth Speaker: Josiah Watson

Lead Youth Pastor at Follow Baptist Church, Officer and Design and Tech Support Worker.

Josiah is passionate about seeing youth develop relationships with each other and with God.

Camps: Junior, Day Camp Years 3-6

Teens, Years 7-12

Young Adult, 18+

*Details and Register Online

www.wimmeraeasterconvention.org.au

Cross cultural Speakers

*Adult Accommodation & Meals available

*Enquiries: Hugh Keam Ph 0437016454

*Email: mhkeam@gmail.com



AmbulanceVictoria



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Birchip CERT

Please contact ph: 0429 985 819 or scan the QR code



Ambulance Victoria is looking for enthusiastic, community-minded people to join our team in **Birchip**.

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For more information visit our **website** or email: bulokegannawarra.pcsc@ambulance.vic.gov.au

ambulance.vic.gov.au

PCSCBuloke

Scam Awareness Session

Wednesday 23rd April 2025
9am - 10am
Donald Learning Group

RSVP to Donald Bendigo Bank
03 54 971 194

Bendigo Bank

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"Times" Classifieds

Deadlines:—

Tuesday's Issue:

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

Friday's Issue:

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

E-Mailers!

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

Donald & District Community Bank

Easter & Anzac Trading

Thursday 17th - OPEN till 4.30pm
Friday 18th - CLOSED
Monday 21st - CLOSED
Tuesday 22nd - OPEN 11-4pm
Wednesday 23rd - OPEN 11-4pm
Thursday 24th - OPEN 11-4pm
Friday 25th - CLOSED

Bendigo Bank

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• Guest speaker Bronwyn Simpson alongside K. Wishart and S. Walsh.

Charlton Probians Meet

On a beautiful autumn morning 43 members attended the Charlton Probos Club April meeting.

The meeting began with a Minute's Silence for former member Shirley Crossley. Shirley was a member from 2007 to 2022.

Congratulations to Margaret Byrne, who celebrated her 90th birthday anniversary on 7th April.

Anne Kenny gave a 2-minute talk on the "e-Prepared" session available at Neighbourhood House, and encouraged members to take advantage of this service which is offered to all.

Footy tipping has started and we are grateful to Greg Barnard, and his assistant, Jenny, for taking on this task. The leaders after 4 rounds with 24 wins are Noreen Ryan, Robyn Good and Pat Mathews.

Charlton entered a team in the Hopetoun Probos lawn bowls competition. The first touch of the jack was won by Eily Rosewall (as lead), Greg

Barnard (as second) and Greg Wain (as third). David Beatty was also a member of the team.

Guest Speaker

The guest speaker was Bronwyn Simpson, a former Buloke Shire Councillor. Bronwyn grew up in the Upper Yarra Valley and her mother instilled in her that if you want a community to thrive, you have to participate. Bronwyn began her volunteering as a member of the Yarra Junction Girl Guides.

After moving to Charlton she joined the local CWA Cabbaritta Branch and rose to the CWA position of State vice president. She learnt a lot about governance as a member of the Boort Hospital Board. She was encouraged by friends to "throw her hat into the ring" in 2016 when local government elections were held. Although unsuccessful, the resignation of a councillor saw a vote

countback of the Avoca Ward candidates and Bronwyn was successful. So began Bronwyn's journey as a Councillor. Some things of note for a Councillor are: Codes of Conduct, project updates, changes to government legislation, budget preparation, Finance and Risk, being a delegate on committees, attending Forum meetings, attending events eg. Australia Day, Anzac Day, Festivals. Some challenges were: the major changes to the Aged care packages by the Federal Government, changes to the Maternal and Child Health Service delivery, VNI West and the ongoing concerns of renewable energy and mining.

Bronwyn finished her term on Council as Deputy Mayor. She will not miss the hours spent reading the prepared information prior to each Council briefing and Council meeting.

YOUR HEALTH, OUR COMMUNITY!

East Wimmera Health Service

2025/28 Strategic Plan Stakeholder Engagement Meeting



JOIN US IN SHAPING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES!

EWHS is planning for the next three years of health services, and we want to hear your thoughts on local healthcare needs and priorities.

Come along to one of our Community Forums and be part of the conversation

See below dates/times for each town:

- Monday 5 May, 5.00pm - 6.00pm - Charlton Campus, Meeting Room
- Tuesday 6 May, 5.00pm - 6.00pm - Wycheproof Town Hall
- Wednesday 7 May, 5.00pm - 6.00pm - Birchip Campus, Meeting Room
- Thursday 8 May, 5.00pm - 6.00pm - Donald Campus, Large PAG Room
- Friday 9 May, 5.00pm - 6.00pm - St Arnaud Campus, Meeting Room

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At Australia’s Largest Heritage Festival... Victorian Stories Unearthed

Victoria’s biggest celebration of heritage returns on Friday, April 18, with the launch of the Australian Heritage Festival (Victoria) – presented by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) and proudly supported by the Heritage Council Victoria and the Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Bid.

Running until Sunday, May 18, the festival features more than 300 free and ticketed events across Victoria and invites visitors to explore the people, places and cultures that have shaped the state’s rich story.

This year’s theme, Unearthed, brings to light hidden histories and untold stories – highlighting the contributions of migrant and queer communities, as well as the lasting legacy of women who helped build and shape our cities and towns.

The month-long program offers something for everyone, with walking tours, exhibitions, workshops, and family-friendly experiences spanning urban centres and regional towns. Visitors can step inside historic homes, board vintage trains, or uncover the secrets of Victoria’s gold rush past.

Highlights
Festival highlights include The Alchemy of Gold forum in Campbells Creek from May 16 to 18, which will examine how the 1850s gold rush transformed Victoria. Historians, experts, and community members will explore the profound and lasting impact of this era on the state’s identity.
In Geelong, The Heights Heritage Skills & Traditions

Autumn Fair on, April 26 offers visitors a chance to step back in time with heritage gardens, traditional crafts, and hands-on demonstrations that showcase skills passed down through generations.
In Bendigo, families can enjoy The Heritage Fiesta on May 17, with free entry to iconic sites including the Central Deborah Gold Mine, Bendigo Tramways, and the Bendigo Joss House Temple.

At Melbourne’s Trades Hall, special heritage tours on April 21 and 28, and May 5 and 12, invite visitors to walk in the footsteps of labour movement icons such as John Curtin, Zelda D’Aprano and Bob Hawke, while learning about more than 150 years of workers’ rights history.

Visitors can also gain exclusive access to behind-the-scenes Tours of the See Yup Temple in South Melbourne on May 4. Historian and curator Dr. Sophie Couchman will guide guests through the fire-damaged temple, sharing insights to its restoration and showcasing rare heritage objects up close.

Gold Rush Legacy
The 2025 Festival also comes at a significant moment for Victoria, following the addition of the Victorian Goldfields to

Australia’s World Heritage Tentative List – a major milestone in recognising the global significance of the state’s gold rush legacy.
The Australian Heritage Festival runs from Friday April 18, to Sunday May 18, 2025. Full program details are available at: www.national-trust.org.au/ahf/vic
The festival is proudly presented by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) in partnership with the Heritage Council Victoria and the Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Bid.

About National Trust of Australia (Victoria)
The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) (NTAV) is the state’s premier community-based heritage advocacy organisation. It actively works to protect and conserve places of heritage significance for future generations to enjoy.
The NTAV opens some of Australia’s most culturally significant places to the public. With regular tours, events and exhibitions at iconic sites including the Old Melbourne Gaol, Rippon Lea Estate, Como House, Polly Woodside, Barwon Park, and Gulf Station. The NTAV brings history to life through vivid storytelling and immersive visitor experiences.



• Murtoa Stick Shed.



• Alex Morrison, the mastermind behind the initiative, and committee member of the Friends of Mount Wycheproof (FoMW), provides an artwork peek of the official Mount Wycheproof sticker, which FoMW are actively promoting this Easter long weekend.

Mt. Wycheproof Stickers Have Landed: “Big Ideas Stick”

Straight from the Summit, news and updates from the Friends of Mount Wycheproof.

Whether you are a proud local, a passing traveller, or just love flaunting the smallest registered mountain in the world, now is your chance to grab a unique sticker souvenir of Mount Wycheproof.

Initiative Launched
Friends of Mount Wycheproof (FoMW), recently launched the promotional marketing souvenir over the March long weekend, coinciding with the popular Lions Club of Wycheproof “Show and Shine” event, an occasion where a bumper bar on a vehicle isn’t just a car part, it’s a moving billboard with personality.
Placing a Mount Wycheproof sticker on a vehicle can mean one is taking small-town pride on a big adventure. It can catch someone’s eyes at traffic lights, turn heads in drive-throughs, and might even spark a conversation at a service station. The question? “Where’s Wycheproof?”, the reply? “It’s home to the world’s smallest registered mountain, mate!”

Where to Stick It?
Whilst a bumper bar isn’t the only option... one can get creative. Some suggestions on where to proudly feature a Mount Wycheproof sticker (besides the trusty vehicle or bumper bar) include: laptops, eskies, water bottles, tool or tackle box, wheelie bins, utility trays, the fridge in the farm shed, mailbox, guitar case, helmets, and even inside the caravan door – so every road trip comes with a little reminder of where you’ve been and where you should visit again.

Easter Long Weekend
What better time to continue further promotions around availability towards locals and visitors alike, than over the Easter long weekend? With many tourists and family rolling into town and often searching for a souvenir (or a conversation starter), it’s the ideal time to stick some local pride around. All are encouraged to stick it, share it, and show off your passion for Mount Wycheproof.

Easter time also presents the perfect opportunity to encourage people to climb the world’s smallest registered mountain. Hop to it, folks, Mount Wycheproof stickers are waiting for you.

Availability
The stickers are available locally from the following

local outlets: Bakery on Broadway, Wycheproof Community Resource Centre, Wycheproof Caravan Park and the Wycheproof BP Service Station. Priced at \$10.00 each with funds being re-invested into various initiatives across the community. Once they’re gone, they’re gone! Well, there could be a second print run, fingers crossed.

• With special thanks to Joy Morrison for her photographic prowess in capturing the unique landscape image featured on the final sticker design and brought to life locally via the team at Signwise Solutions in Charlton, a perfect “Buy in Buloke” advertisement. In support of “Discover, Support and Celebrate Local”.



• Victorian Colonial Express.



• National Wool Museum, Geelong.

Home Safety Tips



Between school holidays, and with more of us working from home than ever before, making sure we are being fire safe in the home is more important than ever.

Some simple tips to keep your home safe while working and the kids are at home are:

- Ensure your home office is set up safely.
- Check you’re not over-

- loading power-boards or have loose cables.
- Ensure monitors, laptops, televisions and other equipment have a good air flow around them and are not in confined spaces or covered.
- Don’t leave electronic equipment like laptops and phones sitting or charging on beds.
- Ensure that electronic equipment is switched off at the wall when not being used.
- Test your smoke alarms to ensure they are in working condition.

Charlton 100 Years Ago

(Information from "East Charlton Tribune")

April 18 to 22, 1925.

Buckrabanyule: The large size of the attendance was a notable feature of the dance held in the local hall on behalf of the Tennis Club. There were about 10 car-loads from Charlton, 4 from Wedderburn, 2 or 3 from Marmal, 1 from Boort – and, in fact, cars came from everywhere throughout the surrounding district. The floor was excellent, as was the music. The duties of M.C. were efficiently discharged by Mr W. Crutch. A splendid supper was provided by the ladies of the district. The financial result of the effort was eminently satisfactory. The hall, it may be mentioned, had been charmingly decorated for the occasion by the ladies.

Lake Marmal: Serious was a fire that occurred here, when the premises on the farm of Mr J. McGrath, and occupied by Mr Walter Figitt, were completely destroyed. The building consisted of two rooms and the only articles saved were a gramophone, sewing machine and two suit cases. A young son of Mr Figitt was badly burned owing to a piece of blazing hessian falling on him, and Mr Figitt was also burned about the arms while putting out the flames which had ignited the child's clothing. Mr Figitt is a returned soldier and has been employed by Mr McGrath for about three years. The sympathy and good-will of the public is freely extended to him in the hour of his adversity.

Woosang's "Best Ever": The Annual Sports of 1925 saw all figures hitherto recorded at this gathering eclipsed. Beautiful weather favoured the fixture, and there was truly an immense concourse of people – and an imposing array of well over 300 motor cars, which were parked 3 and 4 deep, while gigs and buggies were very numerous for these benzine-dominated days. Visitors came from everywhere, even from far-away New Zealand, Western Australia, Wagga, N.S.W, Melbourne, Ballarat and Bendigo. All towns in this part of the north helped to swell the crowd. After expenses have been paid, one half of the total receipts go to the Woosang Hall, while one-half will be divided equally between the Inglewood and Wycheproof Hospitals.

Glenloth's Greatest: The Race meeting, held in Mr Gibb's paddock on Easter Saturday, was attended by the greatest crowd in the history of the fixture. The gate receipts amounted to £30. Member's tickets at 7/6 to the number of 120 were sold. Excellent work was done by each of the officials, headed by an energetic president in Mr L. Owens, with good right-hand men in vice-presidents W. Carson and J. Donaldson. Hon. Sec. A.G. Ives got through a power of work. Other officials were: Treasurer, Mr A. McIver; Judge,

Mr Alex Robertson; Clerk of Scales, Mr H. McConnell; Clerk of Course, Mr C. Sly; Stewards, Messrs W. Ryan, S. Snibson, A. Pyers, E. Spalding, D. Snibson; Saddle Cloth Steward, Mr T. Ryan; Handicapper, Mr C. E. Moore; Starter, Mr Robert Moore; Stipendiary Steward, Mr W. Cashen.

St Martin's S.S: A happy evening was spent in the Parish Hall on the occasion of the social evening and distribution of prizes in connection with the Sunday School. Senior Class – 1. Ida Johnson; 2. Albert Giles; 3. Alice Arundell. Second Intermediate (girls) – 1. Edna Arundell; 2. Rose Arundell; 3. Amy Bertoli and Florence Smith (equal). Second Intermediate (boys) – 1. Len Rowlands; 2. Harry Giles; 3. Clem Day. First Immediate (girls) – 1. Margaret Giles; 2. Avis Madden; 3. Jean Gane. First Immediate (boys) – 1. Ron Smith; 2. Robert Arundell; 3. Charlie Raynor. Infant Class - 1. Douglas Arundell; 2. Bessie Gane; 3. Betty Clarke. Games were played by the children, then supper was handed round by the Sunday School teachers (Mrs Lewis, Misses V. Bilton, L. Giles and R. Chalmers).

Obituary: Keen sympathy is felt throughout the district with Mr and Mrs R. Johnstone, in the loss of their infant son, Harry Hugh, which sad event occurred on Thursday last. The little one, who was



• 1918 Buckrabanyule Hall.

aged but 7 months, had been ailing for about 6 months; and in spite of the best medical skill and devoted attention, he passed away.

Mice Mischief: There is no doubt the mice plague descended upon Charlton with a vengeance. A few minutes' inspection of any wheat stacks that happen to be unprotected at the railway station, and at the West Siding, would soon convince anyone on that point. The work of loading trucks from unprotected stacks is delayed by the havoc wrought by the mice among the bags. With

so many holes in the bags, due to the depredations of the little thieves, the task of sewing these and making them fit for transport is no small matter.

The difference it means can be judged from the time occupied in loading off protected and unprotected stacks respectively.



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Birchip Probus Elects Officers

(By Maureen Donnellon, Probus Secretary)

Nineteen members were welcomed and the main business was the election of Office Bearers for the year.

All positions were filled as follows: President, Brian Lea; vice-president, Ros McClelland; secretary, Maureen Donnellon; assistant secretary, Valerie Lee; treasurer, Jan Jeffery; assistant treasurer, Helen Barber; door and raffles, Barb Bolden and Jackie Cartwright; programme, trips and tours, Lorraine and Brian Lea.

Guest Speaker, Merv Keane

Many of Birchip Probus members knew Merv Keane as a football player of great skill and took an interest in his career as a local lad from Wycheproof area, but we didn't know about all his other achievements until he was our guest speaker after our AGM meeting in the last week of March.

Merv spent his Primary School days at St Michael's in Wycheproof while his family lived on the farm near Corack. One of a family of eight and he went to Wycheproof High School for secondary education. He was much more interested in kicking a footy than school work in those days.

The biggest day of the year was the North Central Catholic Sports Day held annually at Birchip for summer sports, and at Sea Lake and later Warracknabeal, for netball and football. Tunnel ball and sprints were highlights and Joe Logan from Ouyen was the boy to beat.

Merv realised that to have a career, school subjects were important and spent a second year in Yr 11 to pass enough subjects. He was then able to get a job in the P.M.G.

At Richmond

He was lucky enough to catch the eye of Richmond Football club and eventually spent 48 years as a player and then in recruitment for 14 of those years, as well as several years at Essendon.

When first in Melbourne, he knew little about the place, ended up training with the wrong team while trying to find his way around. He lived for several years as part of the Sheedy household while also doing training with the PMG. Those years turned out to be

wonderful years and he managed to find jobs within football after his playing days were over. He was always interested in young players and helping them settle in as others had helped him.

Huge Impact

He took particular interest in some of the indigenous players who found life so very different to their original homes, as he did. One who made a huge impact was Anthony McDonald Tippingwuti and he has featured him in his recently written book entitled "You Don't Understand". Tippu was from the Tiwi Islands, loved kicking empty coke bottles around with bare feet and eventually was taken under the wing of a Victorian lady, Jane McDonald, who spent time in the Tiwi Islands. She brought him back to Victoria to the Gippsland area near Drouin, where she adopted him. School was very difficult for him as he had spent so little time there, but he managed to achieve several years' learning in about three years. He was drafted as a rookie to Essendon and became the "Face of Essendon".

Many in the Tiwi Islands have no jobs, eat wrong food, don't work and rely on free medicine, and hand-outs. Tippu wanted better for himself and worked hard at school classes and football. When he came to Essendon, he could kick goals from the centre of the ground, but barely run a lap of the ground. He worked to change all that and became a very successful and skilled player, admired by all and a role model for indigenous players.

Merv travelled widely throughout the states recruiting and enjoyed trips to the Tiwi islands and Northern Australia looking for players always taking an interest in the boys from his former home area as well as the Tiwi Islands and other indigenous players who came to Melbourne.

Tragedy

In 2017, tragedy struck his own family when his loved daughter lost her battle with

alcohol and died. She was an obstetrician and gynaecologist, who tried many times to recover by joining programmes. Merv feels that while doctors are amazing in helping others with all sorts of welfare, medical and mental problems, there is very little available for themselves. She had been addicted for five years and it seemed no amount of counselling could help, or was even available at times.

Twenty-five days later his wife also died. It seems she felt she had let down their daughter some way by not being able to help her more. Merv knew she was grieving as they all were, but no idea she would take her own life, believing there was no way she could help.

Since then he has spent years helping with mentor programmes for young doctors, trying to help others realise the pressure these young people work under and trying to make things better.

He decided to come back from Melbourne to the old family farm and set some new goals. The farm had lain dormant for 30 years so has needed a lot of renovation but has finally taken on a new lease of life.

Questions

Many questions were asked and Merv answered all, filling in details of his many years within football administration, playing days, trips to recruit players and his most inspiring times spent in the far north with the indigenous players and their families.

The journey from a country farm kid back to a country farm has been one of many adventures, great highlights and several very low times. Striking a balance is just as important for all now as it has ever been. The pressures are always there as they always have been, and it is finding the balance in life to cope with the highs and lows that makes such a difference.

Merv was thanked for his most inspiring talk and joined us for a Sharp's bakery lunch, where he was able to talk further with people.



• Brian Lea thanks guest speaker Merv Keane at Birchip Probus AGM.

Blast from the Past

(From the "Donald Times", April, 1925)

April 3 Cost of Coaches. Statistics prepared show that the cost of coaches in the eight Wimmera District Football League teams for the coming season will exceed £1,500.

April 7. Litchfield. As a result of a meeting of about thirty residents of Litchfield the movement instituted by the Railway Department for renaming the station has been advanced a further stage. The Department recently informed the Council that Pap, one of the names originally suggested, was not considered suitable, but suggested that Papville might be considered. The aforementioned meeting, after some discussion, agreed to recommend Papfield in preference to Papville, with Bonaville and Jydina as alternatives. The latter is a native name meaning "a bald hill", and was in the early days applied to a hill on the property known as Bunting's, portion of it now being owned by Mr. J. H. Reith.

The feeling of those present at the meeting was that, if none of the names suggested suited the Department, the Commissioners should try their own hands at country nomenclature, and fix a name to suit themselves.

April 10, Technically Defective. Game and Fisheries Act. Defendant Acquitted. At the Donald Police Court on Thursday last, James McLaughlin was charged with having shot native game i.e. wild duck, during the closed season. Senior Constable Tully conducted the prosecution, and Mr. J. Robinson appeared for the defence. Wilfred Robinson, farmer of Stawell, gave evidence of having seen McLaughlin lower his gun after having shot a wild duck at 7 p.m. on Sunday, February 15. He had taken the gun from the defendant and handed it to Sergeant Power. Mr C. J. Robinson said that the defendant was pleading guilty to the facts, he having already been fined for shooting on Sunday. He was, however, pleading not guilty

to the present charge of shooting in the close season, as it was contended that the prosecution could not produce any evidence to show that Sunday, February 15, was portion of the close season. An inspection of the gazette by the prosecuting officer and the clerk of courts failed to disclose any definite information to the effect that February 15 was included in the close season, whether it fell on a Sunday or not. Mr. Robinson then urged that there was no case, remarking that, under the Act, defendant could technically, shoot the "full bag" if he so desired, although he would still be liable for shooting on a Sunday. The case was dismissed.

April 17. New School Committee. There was a fair attendance of parents at the Higher Elementary school on Thursday, April 9, for the purpose of electing a School Committee for a period of three years. The following were elected or re-elected: Messrs. G. Weinberg, J. Crone, J. Barker, E.A.Harris and B.M. Draffin; Crs. G. Coats and R.A. Adams.

April 21. Personal. Mr. F. O'Brien of Melbourne, passed through Donald on Saturday last, en route to Birchip, where he will remain for a few weeks. Mr. O'Brien was employed on the "Donald Express" twenty-five years ago, and was most surprised at the evident progress which had been made since his departure. He was warm in his praise of the manner in which the streets of the town have been laid down and improved

by the planting of trees, and is of the opinion that, in the whole of his travels, which have taken him to practically every State, the only country town to approach Donald in this respect is Queanbeyan.

April 24. Personal. Senator Guthrie, general manager of Dalgety and Co. in Geelong, has ordered the first motor car to be turned out by the Ford Company in Australia. The Ford representatives are confident that a large section of the buildings at North Shore will be completed within five months. Yesterday they leased from Dalgety and Co, a considerable amount of storage space, which will be used by the Ford Company for assembling and painting cars. The lease is to September 30.

April 28. Rich Avon. The hall at Rich Avon West presented a gay spectacle on the night of Friday, April 24, when the Tennis Ball of the local club was staged. Though the heavens smiled not, some one hundred and eighty patrons from many adjacent districts journeyed thither to enjoy the comprehensive programme. There was a sprinkling of novelty dances, the winner of the apple dance being Mrs. W. Gray, and the "Lucky Spot" dance, Miss M. Summerhayes. The many beautiful frocks elicited a larger measure of admiration, and the music supplied by Northley's orchestra was of a very high order. Throughout the function Rich Avon lived up to its reputation, the fixture being a great success socially, sartorially and financially.



• Lorraine and Brian Lea, Jan Jeffery, Maureen Donnellon, Ros McClelland, Helen Barber.

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• The late Laurie McSwain.

District Loses Popular Piper

Family, friends and admirers from far and wide have been saddened by the death of Laurence Stuart McSwain on February 24.

Widely known for his activities in the St. Arnaud and Donald areas, Laurie was for years a piper in both St. Arnaud's Norman Simpson Memorial Pipe Band, and the former Donald District Pipe Band.

Among his many memorable outings was as a member of the Donald Band when it travelled to Alice Springs in 1959. It was there that, at a packed-out concert, he thrilled the crowd with his skills as a solo piper.

Eulogies

Among tributes paid at Laurie's funeral at St. Arnaud on Monday, March 3, were those from family members, including the following from one of his loving daughters.

I'm Corinne, the youngest of four children born to Laurie and our mum Heather McSwain. Rhonda first, then Doug, Neale and 7 years later me.

So dad, or Pop as I will refer to him as he became fondly known, was born at home in Burnside Rd, St Arnaud on the 15th October, 1932.

Pop was one of six children born to mum Wilva and dad Angus, oldest being Evie, Eddie then the boys Kevin, Johnny, Pop and Barry.

Wilva was a wonderful mum to Pop and the family, doing the best she could with what they had. She was supported by her mother Emma

Flenley who lived next door. Pop adored his grandma Emma. Angus was a wood-cutter/labourer and World War One veteran. He sadly came home from the war shell shocked, which wasn't recognized back then as all were told not to talk about it.

Pop attended St Arnaud Primary and Secondary Schools, but being left handed and being forced to write with his right hand proved very frustrating. When he left school he continued to write with his left hand.

He often spoke about rabbiting and camping in the surrounding bush with his brothers. They enjoyed going to the pictures (as they were known), and complained that they had to walk home afterwards in the dark.

At around the age of 14 he started taking bagpipe lessons with the St Arnaud pipe band, I believe his dad Angus loved the pipes, so this could have been the reason for a lifetime love of piping. These lessons took place in the St Arnaud Uniting Church Sunday School hall.

Pop's first piping gig was at the age of fifteen at a neighbour's wedding. Some sixty years later we were approached by their family to surprise them at their anniversary in Melbourne, with Pop playing and Katrina and Melissa dancing.

Pop's first job after leaving school was in a garage; he then was a farmer doing some bus driving on the side.

Bus Run

The opportunity then came up when we shifted into Donald from the farm in 1967 to become owner operator of the Corack school bus run. Pop was successful in this bid and loved every minute of his thirty-seven years driving and caring for his buses and the school kids. In-between school hours he would work in the local garage, and also the local meat works on maintenance. Pop retired and sold the bus business in 2004 and came to live in Ballarat in Lydiard Street North, just up the road from Nan, so that went down really well!

Pop was extremely involved with our lives and turned up to everything, be it dancing, horse events and everything in between. He would just turn up and sleep in the car sometimes. He would pull up wherever he wanted, usually driving through the warm up ring or somewhere inconvenient for everyone else!

Pop had horses as a child and later on the farm. He finally gave in to my whinging as a ten-year-old and brought me my first pony called Sam. He also brought my present horse, Banjo, some fifty years later. He did

wait though, until he turned out all right – well more than all right – before handing over the cash!

At Skipton

It's pretty safe to say that Pop's bagpipes were his life. Having played in the St Arnaud and Donald pipe bands, he was always in demand for the local Anzac and St Patrick's days, funerals, weddings, parties anything. Pop played for the highland dancing forever, and in later years with his mates Frank, Bruce and Jim, and today Frank is playing Pop's pipes.

Pop's swansong from playing the big pipes was at Melissa's wedding in 2014. He was finding it too difficult to blow them up so he purchased a set of electronic pipes which he played 24/7 at home, and in the nursing home until a week before he left us. When the care staff came to help him shower when he was still at home, he would say, "Don't worry about that!" And made them listen to him play instead.

In 2023, after a few stints in respite when I was away, Pop went to live at the Skipton nursing home. He loved it there and he loved the nurses and staff.

He was on a curfew at Skipton, so no playing before 10 a.m. as playing bagpipes at 3 a.m. was not ideal. He managed to wear out 3 chanterers and accumulated 4 amplifiers. Over the last say eighteen

months he fiddled and stuffed around with cords, plugs and speakers until he actually drove us all mad trying to fix them. This included the poor nurses and staff at Skipton who were always trying their best to help him. I'd tell him to stop annoying them, as it was not their job to fix bloody bagpipes; but they tried anyway, as they all just wanted him to be happy.

Pop passed away very peacefully at 12.35 a.m. Monday 24th February, 2025, with family and a dear friend by his side. I will miss the phone calls and visits, but miles of memories remain in everything we do because you were always a part of it. I love you Pop, Sleep tight.

Other Tributes

From the next generation of family came eulogies from three grandchildren, Katrina concentrating on overseas trips she had shared with her grandfather. One of these took in the Gallipoli Peninsula, a few days before Anzac Day.

Melissa spoke of the early days, "when we were kids, and Pop would drive the school bus".

Lucy touched on her childhood, "when Mum, Pop and I travelled all over Victoria for Highland dancing competitions".

Central to all of these memories was Laurie's love of his family – and his bagpipes.

Honouring Victorian Veterans: Buloke Communities Share Project Grants

The Victorian Government is honouring the service and sacrifice of veterans by investing in projects that preserve their legacy and strengthen their communities.

Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes announced the successful recipients of two grant programs funding local government, ex-service organisations and community groups to upgrade their facilities and create welcoming, accessible places to commemorate and support Victoria's veterans.

The Veterans Capital Works 2024-25 grant program is providing 26 recipients across the state with a share in

funding to upgrade or develop facilities for veterans and their families.

Swan Hill RSL Sub-Branch will receive around \$4700 for the removal of a disused underground fuel tank and rehabilitate the soil. This will allow for a future redevelopment of the venue.

Sea Lake RSL Sub-Branch will receive around \$2500 to renovate and upgrade the facility by installing a disable/ambulant toilet.

The Restoring Community War Memorials and Avenues of Honour 2024-25 grant program is delivering 16 grants across the state to restore, preserve, and update war memorials, honour rolls, and avenues of honour.

Birchip RSL Sub-Branch will receive around \$2770 to revitalise the seating and lighting facilities at the Birchip cenotaph.

"By preserving memorials and upgrading veteran facilities, we're helping future generations understand the legacy of service. These projects make sure the stories of our veterans live on, not just in memory, but in every



• Jaclyn Symes, MP.

community they helped shape."

For a complete list of grant recipients and for more information, visit vic.gov.au/veterans-capital-works or vic.gov.au/restoring-community-war-memorials.

"The Buloke Times" would like to congratulate three other recipients to this award.

Charlton RSL Sub-Branch and its Charlton Cenotaph restoration project; St. Arnaud RSL Sub-Branch with money going towards replacement of the Liberty Hall lighting; Stawell RSL Sub-Branch, with their shed restoration project.

Leadership Opportunities

Wimmera Southern Mallee Development (WSMD) is set to deliver an exciting year of leadership development, offering valuable opportunities for individuals across the region.

The highly regarded Wimmera Leadership Changemakers Program returns this June, continuing its mission to cultivate strong, community-focused leaders.

Facilitated by Leading Teams, the 10-month program will feature a dynamic mix of immersive workshops, social awareness training, leadership development activities, and a group retreat. Participants are required to attend one-day sessions every few weeks.

Places Available

With 20 places available, businesses can invest in their future by sponsoring a team member's participation. Additionally, a number of scholarships will be available to support accessibility for aspiring leaders.

"The Changemakers Program is designed for established and aspiring leaders – whether they own or manage a business or lead a team in the workplace or community," said WSMD Program Manager Binesh Tholath.

"Participants will gain in-depth leadership skills, refine their personal leadership

'brand', and develop strategies to make a lasting impact."

WSMD is also collaborating with the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation (ARLF) to deliver a Community Leadership Program at Longerenong College this May and June.

Focus

This grass-roots program is ideal for individuals passionate about making a difference in their communities. It focuses on fostering collaboration, building resilience, and developing innovative problem-solving techniques while promoting holistic well-being.

"This year's ARLF program is made possible thanks to a grant from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, which also funded a similar two-day program in Natimuk last November," Mr Tholath explained.

"For this round, we have up to 24 places, and the program will run over two and a half days each month, including overnight stays."

The Buloke Times

Coloured Photographs

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

Photos not published may also be available.

Call in to our offices, McCulloch Street, Donald, phone 5497 1222; or Cumming Avenue, Birchip, phone 5492 2735.

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

Cleaning Carpets the Natural Way

Carpets trap residue dirt, dust from our feet, pet fur and all sorts of other fine particles, which can quickly build up and leave carpets smelly and drab.

Whilst there are plenty of commercial carpet cleaners and deodorising products on the market, they can be expensive and often come packed with unnecessary chemicals and artificial fragrances. They should be avoided.

Carpets need regular vacuuming and cleaning, but it is quite often one of those chores that many people don't give a second thought to until there is

an unpleasant odour. Other times, it takes a trigger to get the vacuum cleaner out and give them the once over, which should be done weekly.

In my home we only have carpet in two rooms – the formal lounge area and where we watch TV; the rest of the house has floor tiles and timber flooring, yet I'm still not a fan of vacuuming. A recent event, however, had me thinking it was now time to get the vacuum cleaner out.

My wife and I were enjoying a glass of red wine whilst watching TV. Not being careful when I picked up my glass, I managed to spill some wine on the carpet. Without a second thought, I leapt out of my

chair and headed to the refrigerator for the bottle of soda water that is kept for such a disaster. A liberal splash of soda water over the stained area and the red wine was quickly mopped up – dabbed with a thick towel – completely removing the stain. The affected area was then covered with powdered borax and left until the carpet was dry. In the interim period I sprinkled bicarbonate of soda over the rest of the carpet, and once the treated area was dry, gave the entire carpet a good vacuuming – it looked like new.

There are times, however, when a stubborn stain needs a little more coaxing to remove them. I have found that the

following general, all-purpose stain remover for all carpets gets rid of even the most stubborn stain – even those marks that have gone unnoticed for some time.

To make your stain remover dissolve half a cup of pure soap flakes or grated soap in boiling water. Allow to cool, then whip until stiff and store in an suitable container with a tight-fitting lid. To remove the stain, apply the cleaning paste to a small area at a time, allow it to dry, then remove the residue and wipe with a damp cloth. When the carpet is almost dry, brush up the pile.

Animal indiscretions, such as excreta and vomit, need to

be attended to immediately. Remove as much of the excreta or vomit from carpet as you can by using a spatula or piece of cardboard, being careful not to push any solid material into the pile. Mop up any moisture with an old cloth or paper towels.

Next, blend together two cups of soap flakes, half a cup of methylated spirits and 30-millilitres of eucalyptus oil, then dissolve two tablespoons of the mixture in four litres of warm water. Saturate a cloth in this solution and sponge the dirty area with the wrung-out cloth until all signs of staining have disappeared. Store



• Alan Hayes

the remaining undiluted mixture in an airtight glass jar.
Visit Alan on the Net - www.itssonatural.com



Community Update

Buloke.



Council Services over Easter and ANZAC Day:

CLOSED:

• Wycheproof Customer Service:

Friday 18 April – Good Friday
Monday 21 April – Easter Monday
Friday 25 April – ANZAC Day

• Buloke Library Services:

Friday 18 April to Friday 25 April (inclusive)

• Maternal & Child Health Services – Not available

Friday 18 April – Good Friday
Monday 21 April – Easter Monday
Friday 25 April – ANZAC Day

If families require any immediate support, please contact one of the following services:

Maternal and Child Health Line on 13 22 29 – 24hrs a day, 7 days a week, or Nurse on Call on 1300 60 60 24 – 24hrs a day, 7 days a week

CHANGES:

• Bin Collection - Donald & Corack Rural

No collection on Good Friday – Friday 18 April

Bins will be collected one day earlier – Thursday 17 April

Easter Monday (21 April) collections will go ahead as usual

Please remember to put your bins out the night before to ensure they're collected.



Employment Opportunities with Buloke

Council is an equal opportunity employer. Our roles are non-gender specific and Council encourages all suitably qualified applicants to apply. For more information on equal opportunity, call Human Resources on 1300 520 520.

You can find all current employment opportunities at www.buloke.vic.gov.au/employment

Applications can be lodged by:

Mail - PO Box 1, Wycheproof VIC 3527 or Email - recruitment@buloke.vic.gov.au

Cleaner - Based in Wycheproof Temporary (Part Time/Casual) - From \$29.69 p/hr (+ statutory superannuation)

→ **Applications Close: 2 May 2025**

We are seeking applications for casual/part time work as a cleaner based in our Wycheproof office. The role is based on classification Band 2.

Coordinator Road Services Permanent (Full Time) - From \$ 100,000.00 pa (+ statutory superannuation)

→ **Applications Close: 2 May 2025**

We are seeking a dynamic and proactive individual to join the Buloke Shire Council team as the Coordinator Road Services. This role holds the responsibility of overseeing a range of transport and drainage infrastructure assets through coordination of staff and resources, ensuring efficient and effective maintenance and prevention works to Councils' Road service network.

Tchum Lake – Blue Green Algae Alert

Recent water testing at Tchum Lake has revealed excessive levels of Blue Green Algae.

Warning signs have been installed around the lake to advise visitors of the risk of contact with the affected water and that swimming is currently not permitted.

Please do not enter the water until further notice.

The algae can also be harmful to pets so please avoid letting your animals swim or drink in the lake.

We will continue to monitor the water quality and provide updates as conditions improve.

Notice of an Application for a Planning Permit

The land affected by the application is located at **15-21 Stevens Street, Birchip VIC 3483.**

The application is for a permit for the **use and development of land for a store (domestic shed).**

The application reference number is **PA25009.**

You may view the application and supporting documents on the Buloke Shire Council Website <https://buloke.greenlightopm.com/planning> or by making contact with the office of the Responsible Authority, Buloke Shire Council, Wycheproof on 1300 520 520.

This can be done during office hours and is free of charge. Any person who may be affected by the granting of the permit may object or make other submissions to the Responsible Authority.

An objection must be made to the Responsible Authority in writing, include the objectors name and contact details, include reasons for the objection, and state how the objector would be affected. An online submission form is available on the Planning page of the Buloke Shire Council website.

The Responsible Authority will not decide on the application before: **1 May 2025.**

If you object to the application, the Responsible Authority will tell you it's decision.

Notice of an Application for a Planning Permit

The land affected by the application is located at **25 Cumming Avenue, Birchip VIC 3483.**

The application is for a permit for the **construct a building or construct or carry out works (domestic shed associated with dwelling) in a Commercial 1 Zone.**

The application reference number is **PA25010.**

You may view the application and supporting documents on the Buloke Shire Council Website <https://buloke.greenlightopm.com/planning> or by making contact with the office of the Responsible Authority, Buloke Shire Council, Wycheproof on 1300 520 520.

This can be done during office hours and is free of charge. Any person who may be affected by the granting of the permit may object or make other submissions to the Responsible Authority.

An objection must be made to the Responsible Authority in writing, include the objectors name and contact details, include reasons for the objection, and state how the objector would be affected. An online submission form is available on the Planning page of the Buloke Shire Council website.

The Responsible Authority will not decide on the application before: **1 May 2025.**

If you object to the application, the Responsible Authority will tell you it's decision.

One Hundred Years Ago

From the "Birchip Advertiser", April 17, 1925.

Dangerous Animal: A pet lamb has caused considerable annoyance to residents during the past fortnight. Women and children who frequent Sherwood Street, were often attacked and compelled to beat a hasty retreat. However, the lamb has been impounded and will be sold by auction if not claimed and the expenses paid by May 9th next.

Quail Shooting: A party of eight local sportsmen bagged over 200 brace of quail in the Thalia district last Wednesday afternoon.

Tennis: The Birchip Tennis Club will hold its annual tournament on the Bowling Green on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, May 2nd, 4th and 5th.

There are seven events on the programme Men's Singles Championship, Men's Single's Handicaps A and B grades; Men's Doubles Handicap's; Ladies and Mixed Doubles Handicaps.

The Committee is confident that the Tournament will be even more successful than the previous years, as already players from Mildura, Warracknabeal, St Arnaud, Rupanyup, Horsham and Minyip have notified their intention of competing. Intending competitors are reminded that entries close with the Hon. Secretary, W. A. McClland, on Friday, April 24th.

Obituary – Ian Grant Macintosh: The death occurred of Ian, the second son of Mr. and Mrs J. S. Macintosh, on Tuesday, April 7th, after a lingering illness extending over a period of 2 years. Throughout his long illness he displayed remarkable fortitude and cheerfulness. He received his early education at the Birchip State School where he won a scholarship, which entitled him to two years education at the Melbourne High School. After concluding his course at the high school he returned to Birchip with the prospects of a bright future, but unfortunately, he became ill and although he subsequently received the best medical attendance in Melbourne, he never recovered.

His parents, two brothers, Stuart and Hector; three sisters, Janet of Willung, Belle (Mrs. F. Fielding of Rainbow), and Jean are left to mourn their loss.

The funeral took place on the following day. The Rev. A. J. Porter officiated at the graveside and the mortuary arrangements were carried out by Mr. W. H. Fielding.

Trash to Treasure

One person's Trash is another's Treasure!

Turn your Trash into Cash by advertising it for sale in the "Times" classified pages. Phone the Donald office (5497 1222), or Birchip (5492 2735); email advertising@buloketimes.com



Phone: 1300 520 520
www.buloke.vic.gov.au





Supply “Fragility” in Urea Market

[From Rabobank]

Global urea supplies currently sit in a fragile state, with several key suppliers exporting lower volumes year-on-year, which creates a “ripple effect” for available volumes for Australian fertiliser importers, Rabobank says in a newly-released report.

The agribusiness banking specialist says urea is by far the most widely-traded fertiliser in the world and, for Australia, represented nearly half (46 per cent) of total fertiliser imports in 2024.

In the report, “What tight urea supplies mean for global prices and Australian farmers”, the bank’s RaboResearch division says due to minimal volumes of urea produced domestically, Australia is particularly sensitive to global events.

Report author, RaboResearch farm inputs and commodities analyst, Paul Joules, said the urea market is expected to remain volatile due to complex supply chains and geopolitical influences, with prices elevated compared to historical averages. “Ongoing supply issues in key exporting regions and the sensitive nature of natural gas markets – the predominant feedstock for urea production – suggest that urea prices will likely stay high,” he said.

Mr Joules said given complex supply chains, urea prices tend to trade with considerable volatility. “At present, prices are trading around

the five-year average. However, if we were to compare current prices with the pre-Russia-Ukraine war five-year average price, they are 40 per cent higher,” he said.

Mr Joules said in addition to geopolitical issues impacting fertiliser prices and availability, natural gas is the other key influence within the market.

“The sensitivity of natural gas markets – to both weather and geopolitical events – adds to the volatility of urea prices,” he said.

The RaboResearch report said while the majority of the chief urea-producing regions and countries (Europe, Iran, Egypt and China) that are experiencing supply issues do not directly supply Australia, “they still account for global losses to the supply, which creates a ripple effect for available volumes for Australian importers”.

In 2024, 79 per cent of Australian urea imports came from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Indonesia and Oman.

Australian Dollar

Mr Joules said although global supply and demand factors will continue to

influence Australian urea prices, the other major impact is foreign exchange rates.

“The bank expects the strong outlook for the US dollar is likely to keep the AUD weak in 2025,” Mr Joules said.

“RaboResearch anticipates the Australian dollar to remain relatively weak, with the cross expected to reach 0.65 on a 12-month view. Ultimately, for urea – and other imported goods – this means farmers will most likely continue to face a currency headwind throughout 2025.”

Mr Joules said, in terms of urea price outlook – “when we combine the 12-month view of a relatively weak Australian dollar, alongside the tight supply outlook, it’s difficult to justify a call for lower prices for Australian farmers in 2025”.

The bank’s base case view is for urea prices to likely remain around current elevated levels in 2025.

Local Production

The report said 3.85 million tonnes of urea was imported into Australia in 2024 (which represents over 90 per cent of its usage) – making it

by far the most imported fertiliser locally.

Mr Joules said the local farm-inputs sector is questioning whether Australia can successfully reduce its import dependence via local urea production in the near future.

“At present, there is not a definitive answer to this question, however there are a number of ongoing projects, which make use of Australia’s natural gas resources,” he said.

“Two of the most promising projects are planned in South Australia and Western Australia. Assuming these projects were both to go ahead, that would mean production would total 3.3 million tonnes – 0.55 million tonnes behind Australia’s total imported volume of urea in 2024.”

However, Mr Joules said, it is unlikely Australia would switch from relying largely on imported to volumes mainly on domestic supplies in the near future.

“This is due to the economics of internal shipping versus international exports,” he said. “Freight costs from



• RaboResearch farm inputs and commodities analyst Paul Joules.

South Australia and Western Australia to agricultural regions in other states are high and, from a urea producer’s standpoint, shipping at least some volumes overseas – via well-established international shipping networks – would likely be viewed as the most economically-viable option.

“At certain times of the year, high demand from South-East Asia and India could potentially absorb a sizeable amount of any Australian-produced volume, and it may well make more economic sense to export volumes abroad, as opposed to shipping to parts of Australia which are far away from the proposed plants.”

And while Australia may increase internal urea production, Mr Joules said, it is unlikely to completely eliminate reliance on imports.

“Although the proposed domestic urea projects can provide some benefits – especially during supply shocks – significantly lower prices are not anticipated solely from these proposed developments,” he said.

“Domestic urea prices are expected to align closely with global levels, as it is anticipated Australian producers will base pricing on global benchmarks.”

Mr Joules said the primary drivers for urea prices in Australia will continue to be global supply and demand factors.

Beef and Wool Outlook Favourable

The agricultural outlook for April is favourable for beef and wool, while croppers keep an eye on the sky ahead of the seeding window.

A recent release of Bendigo Bank Agribusiness’ Monthly Commodity Update finds that US tariffs should have less impact than initially expected, however dry conditions across key cropping regions still have grain producers on edge.

Lamb markets are stable with wool a bright spot, while supply chain issues for fruit and vegetables have seen a lift in wholesale prices on the east coast and a struggle to get new crops in the ground due to soggy conditions.

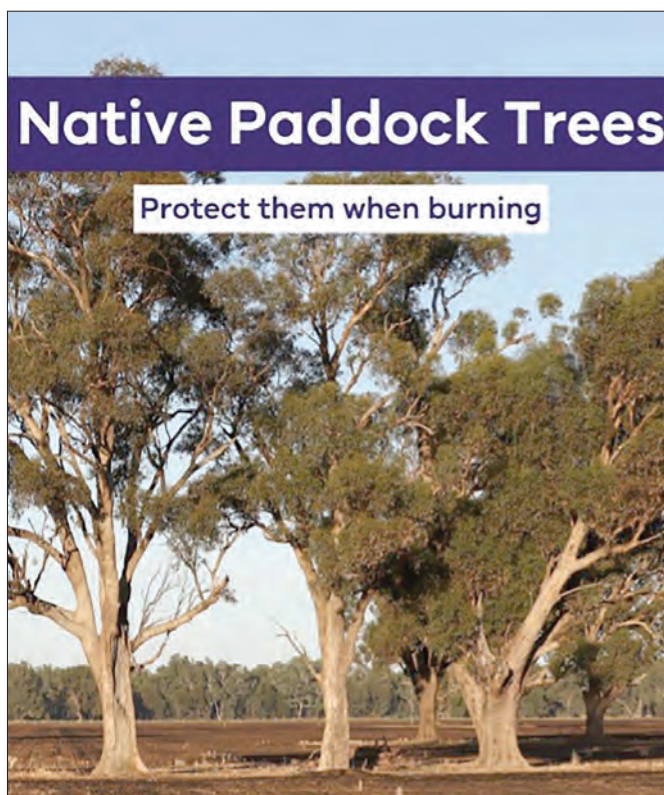
Senior Manager Industry Affairs, Bendigo Bank Agribusiness, Neil Burgess said: “The imposition of the ten per cent US tariff is expected to translate into only a minimal reduction of Australian beef export volume to that market, with beef export

volumes to the USA expected to continue at high levels. At this stage, the only limiting factor to exports is the processing capacity of local centres due to supply chain issues.

“Barley and canola exports are running well ahead of pace, helped by strong early-season shipments, but wheat is lagging, with China mostly absent from the market and appetite for wheat imports remaining soft, held back by large domestic supplies and soft quota limits.

“Weather will remain in focus as we head into the seeding window, particularly across southern cropping regions where conditions remain critically dry.

“Australian wool has been a welcome bright spot with the market gaining ground over the past month and the AWEX EMI finishing higher in five out of the last six weeks to now sit at 1,249c/kg. This has resulted in the EMI gaining 54 cents since the last selling week in February, now up +9.4 per cent from this time last year,” Mr Burgess concluded.



Remember to Protect Paddock Trees

Remember to protect paddock trees if you’re burning to manage stubble on your property this autumn.

Tips to help protect the trees:

- slash around trees to establish an adequate fire break.
- wet the area around trees before beginning your burn.
- be prepared with enough people, water and the right equipment to extinguish the fire.

A permit is required during Fire Danger periods.

Visit the CFA website to check restrictions in your area, or register a burn by calling 1800 668 511, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Report any concerns about the destruction of paddock trees during stubble burning to your local council.

Animal Disease Courses

(By Dr Jeff Cave, Senior Veterinary Officer, Northern Region.)

During March, Agriculture Victoria ran three Animal Disease Investigation (ADI) courses. The regionally based courses were held in Ellinbank, Bendigo, and Hamilton.

Each course hosted 12 private livestock veterinarians. The majority of participants came from local veterinary clinics in each of the regions.

The courses were presented by a combination of local Agriculture Victoria veterinary officers along with a pathologist from Agriculture Victoria’s state laboratory Agribio, located in Bundoora, Melbourne.

The 2-day intensive courses focus on up-skilling livestock veterinarians across Victoria to conduct disease investigations, and to be especially on the lookout for exotic diseases such as Foot and Mouth disease.

The courses have a strong practical theme, with

veterinarians getting hands-on experience in learning new techniques and procedures, as well as being given a refresher of their existing skills and knowledge.

Agriculture Victoria has been running ADI courses for well over 10 years, training upwards of 50 private veterinarians a year, and in doing so, strengthening the skills of Victoria’s veterinary profession and overall biosecurity preparedness for emergency animal diseases.

The courses have been made possible thanks to the Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program, which is funded through duties generated by the sale of cattle, sheep, goat and pigs and their carcasses in Victoria.



Jensen’s Ten Goals Make the Difference

Both the Wedderburn Redbacks and St. Arnaud Saints were coming off losses in the opening round and were keen to atone for their round one performance.

The home side got off to a flyer in the first quarter, moving the ball forward where Jye Mortlock finished off the clever work from the midfielders with the first goal of the game.

The Saints looked a little flat footed early in the term and the Redbacks took full advantage.

Redbacks’ full forward Mitch Jensen was on target in the opener finishing the quarter with three majors, and at the quarter time break the Redbacks had opened up a twenty-nine point lead, which could have been greater if their kicking at goal had been a little more accurate. The Redbacks in creating a handy lead had also defended well and had kept the Saints scoreless in the first quarter.

The second term was similar to the first with the Redbacks doing all the scoring adding a further four goals to stretch the lead out to over fifty points before the Saints registered their first score.

Zac Phillips kicked the Saints’ first major score late into the quarter, but the Redbacks struck back with two more goals before the main break. Jensen was causing the Saints plenty of pain with four more goals to take his half-time tally to seven and the Saints had no answer to the skill of this lively forward.

The Saints had not made any inroads to cutting back the Redbacks lead and at half time they had dropped back from twenty-nine points in arrears to sixty-four points and the game looked a little out of reach.

St Arnaud had not given up and the likes of Zac Phillips, Mitch Egan and Brad Organ were doing their best to rally the troops and this had some positive results, but when the ball went into their attacking zone, the Redbacks were able to turn back any forward moves.

With two quarters to go the Saints appeared to come out with a different mind set and early in the term, they attacked the goals which resulted in their second goal and a couple of points.

The Redbacks took a little while to get back into the game, but when they did, they were able to send the ball forward for positive results and using Jensen as their main avenue to goal and he did not let them down finishing the quarter with a further three goals to bring up his tally to ten for the game.

Late in the term the Redbacks, whose lead had gone out to eighty points, appeared to lift the foot a little and the Saints were able to step up their efforts to break through for two late goals and reduce the deficit back to seventy-points at the final break.

With the game out of reach for the Saints and a term to play, the Saints would look to regroup and give it their best shot in the final term.

All players were looking a little on the tired side and were keen for the break as the hot conditions were taking toll on the players.

Right from the first bounce of the final quarter the Saints went on the attack and sent the ball forward, but unfortunately their first two attempts only registered minor scores.

It was the Redbacks’ turn as they cleared the ball from the backline with a string of handballs and a kick landing with Hamish Lockhart. From his shot, he brought up both flags and their lead got back out to eighty points.

From the restart the Saints captain, Mitch Egan, gave the fans a little bit of joy when he posted his first goal.

With some tired bodies from both sides playing out the game, the Saints could only manage points in their final attempt to reduce the Redbacks lead and at the final bell, the winning margin to the Redbacks was seventy-two points.

Even with the large margin on the scoreboard the effort from the Saints did not really show, as they have plenty of the ball and throughout the game had some good passages of play, but found the Redbacks’ defence hard to crack.

Wedderburn had many contributors in its win, but the win was soured with full forward Mitch Jensen limping off the ground with what appeared to be a serious knee injury.

With ten-goals to his credit Mitch Jensen was named as the Redbacks’ best player with strong support coming from the McEwen brothers, Jackson, and Mitch, Jye Mortlock, Darcy Jackson and Noah Furlong.

The Saints well represented by Zac Phillips, Brad Organ, Mitch Birthisel, Jay Kirkwood, Harley Durward and Daniel Gifford

Final score: Wedderburn 16-14, (110) defeated St Arnaud 5-7, (37).

North-Central Netball



Last Saturday’s results:

“A” Grade

Boort (62) d. Charlton (47); Calder United (35) def. by Sea Lake-Nandaly (48); Wedderburn (73) d. St Arnaud (24); Birchip-Watchem (47) d. Donald (43).

“B” Grade

Boort (45) d. Charlton (20); Calder United (48) d. Sea Lake-Nandaly (37); Wedderburn (82) d. St Arnaud (35); Birchip-Watchem (40) d. Donald (27).

“C” Grade

Boort (47) d. Charlton (37); Calder United (27) lost to Sea Lake-Nandaly (32); Wedderburn (43) d. St Arnaud (36); Birchip-Watchem (45) d. Donald (20).

“C” Grade Reserves

Wedderburn v. St Arnaud; Calder United (26) def. by Sea Lake-Nandaly (35).

Seventeen-and-Under

Calder United (82) lost to Sea Lake-Nandaly (24); Wedderburn

(31) def. by St Arnaud (58); Boort (40) d. Charlton (31); Birchip-Watchem (74) d. Donald (28).

Fourteen-and-Under “A”

Boort (38) d. Charlton (9); Birchip-Watchem (24) d. Donald (15); Calder United v. Sea Lake Nandaly; Wedderburn v. St Arnaud.

Fourteen-and-Under “B”

Birchip Watchem (26) d. Donald (1); Calder United v. Sea Lake-Nandaly; Wedderburn v. St Arnaud.

Results of round 2:

“A” GRADE

	P	W	L	D	B	FW	FL	F	A	Pts	%
Wedderburn	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	111	54	82.06	
Birchip-Wat	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	110	70	81.57	
Boort	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	129	83	81.55	
Sea Lake-Nan	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	78	73	41.07	
Calder United	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	81	91	40.89	
Donald	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	86	93	00.92	
Charlton	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	74	125	00.59	
St Arnaud	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	60	140	00.43	

“B” GRADE

	P	W	L	D	B	FW	FL	F	A	Pts	%
Birchip-Wat	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	104	50	82.08	
Wedderburn	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	138	71	81.94	
Boort	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	98	61	81.61	
Calder United	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	105	68	81.54	
Sea Lake-Nan	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	73	104	00.70	
Donald	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	58	97	00.60	
St Arnaud	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	76	135	00.56	
Charlton	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	43	109	00.39	

“C” GRADE

	P	W	L	D	B	FW	FL	F	A	Pts	%
Birchip-Wat	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	89	44	82.02	
Sea Lake-Nan	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	75	57	81.32	
Boort	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	85	71	81.20	
Calder United	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	104	51	42.04	
Wedderburn	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	73	79	40.92	
St Arnaud	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	70	81	00.86	
Charlton	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	61	91	00.67	
Donald	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	39	122	00.32	

“C” GRADE RESERVES

Sea Lake-Nan	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	97	42	82.31	
Boort	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	58	12	44.83	
Calder United	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	26	35	00.74	
Wedderburn	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	16	62	00.26	
St Arnaud	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	12	58	00.21	
Birchip-Wat	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	00.00	

SEVENTEEN-AND-UNDER

Calder United	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	184	39	84.72	
Birchip-Wat	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	139	66	82.11	
Boort	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	79	66	81.20	
St Arnaud	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	93	70	41.33	
Sea Lake-Nan	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	71	120	40.59	
Charlton	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	69	105	00.66	
Wedderburn	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	69	105	00.66	
Donald	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	43	176	00.24	

FOURTEEN-AND-UNDER “A”

Birchip-Wat	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	55	16	83.44	
Boort	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	64	19	83.37	
Sea Lake-Nan	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	23	10	42.30	
Donald	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	54	33	41.64	
Wedderburn	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	10	23	00.43	
St Arnaud	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	10	26	00.38	
Calder United	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	9	39	00.23	
Charlton	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	10	69	00.14	

FOURTEEN-AND-UNDER “B”

Birchip-Wat	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	26	1	426.00	
St Arnaud	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	9	4	42.25	
Calder United	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	8	8	21.00	
Sea Lake-Nan	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	6	6	21.00	
Wedderburn	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	6	6	21.00	
Donald	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	9	34	20.26	
Boort	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	4	9	00.44	

Cyclists to Enjoy New Tourism Trail

Great Western residents and visitors can now enjoy an iconic cycling experience that showcases world-class wineries alongside historically significant aspects of the renowned wine village.

Senator Jana Stewart officially opened the Great Western Wine and Heritage Cycle Trail, which connects Best’s and Seppelt wineries and incorporates the township, on Thursday (April 10).

The \$425,000 project was funded by equal contributions from the Federal Government’s Building Better Regions Fund and Northern Grampians Shire Council.

Mayor Karen Hyslop said the council was grateful for the government’s support of the project, which offered a wealth of benefits from improved safety to economic opportunities.

“Previously, there was no connection for pedestrians or cyclists from town to the two major wineries,” she said.

“While people could cycle between the wineries, they were sharing the roads with cars, trucks and other agricultural vehicles.

“The need for a purpose-built trail was highlighted in the Great Western master plan, so funding was sought to complete a shared path.

“The two-metre-wide trail provides a safe route for cyclists and pedestrians, reducing traffic-related risks and improving accessibility for all users.”

Benefits

Cr Hyslop said the trail also provided tourism and community recreation benefits.

“We anticipate there will be a mix a local use and tourism use, with people rid-

ing and walking to the wineries at either end of the path, as well as residents using the path for recreation purposes,” she said.

“The cycling trail will help to attract more visitors to the Grampians region and give a reason to stay longer in the village, helping to grow the economy.

“The trail enables people to leisurely, safely and easily make their way between two of the town’s three wineries via the village centre. The route takes cyclists past the shops of the village to capitalise on spending opportunities for the pub, cafes and stores.”

The trail also includes interactive signs and a large map in Memorial Park, which showcases some of the region’s significant heritage sites and provides a wealth of information.

“Great Western is a beautiful little village that is blessed with strong heritage values in its buildings, gardens, shop fronts and verandahs,” Cr Hyslop said.

“This town is full of passionate people who want to harness all it has to offer to help build a sustainable future.

“Attracting more visitors to Great Western means additional investment in the region, greater business opportunities, more local jobs and a greater sense of civic optimism.”

Cr Hyslop said residents could also make the most of



• Northern Grampians Shire mayor Karen Hyslop, Senator Jana Stewart and Great Western Future Committee member Bill Kilpatrick celebrate the official opening of the Great Western Wine and Heritage Cycle Trail.

the new infrastructure, contributing towards a vibrant and active rural lifestyle while creating opportunities for improved health and wellbeing. Senator Stewart congratulated everyone who helped bring the project to fruition, including the council for advocating for important infrastructure works for their communities.

“It takes a team to deliver a project such as this, from the planners to the people on the ground delivering the works, so well done to everyone involved,” she said. “It’s great

for us to be able to partner with local government to invest in projects the community are really passionate about.

“It’s also fantastic to have funds such as the Building Better Regions Fund to facilitate important projects like this in our regional centres. I love seeing investment in our regions - I grew up in Swan Hill so I’m definitely a country kid at heart.”

Long-serving Great Western Future Committee member Bill Kilpatrick thanked the council and the

government for their contributions to the wine and heritage cycle trail. The future committee has been instrumental in the trail’s development. “This project was added to our 10-year Great Western Future Plan in 2014 as one of the priority projects for the community and we’re thrilled to see it officially opened,” Mr Kilpatrick said.

“I’ve just bought an e-bike, and as two of the heritage plaques are located on our property boundary, I look forward to enjoying the new trail along with everybody else.”

Big Day Out in Boort

Boort’s Magpies enjoyed a day out in the April sun on Saturday at Boort; the slick Magpie outfit feasting on the hapless Navies of Charlton.

While Charlton has added a number of new faces, early season results suggests it will be another long year for the boys in the navy blue. Boort too, has added a few new cast members as it builds in its quest to play finals in 2025. With winners across the park, the Magpies were able to move the ball forward with relative ease for the majority of the day.

The most competitive passage of play was the opening minutes of the game, those who only saw the first four minutes of play would not have expected the final score-line when picking up the Sunday morning paper. In the warm conditions, play was centred around the middle of the ground as neither midfield could exert any ascendancy, opposing ruckmen Jim Wilson and Ben Lanyon effectively nullifying each other, causing stoppage after stoppage in the early going. Some clean ball movement finally coming some four minutes or so into the game, Boort stringing a chain of short kicks together before James Byrne marked in the goal square to open the scoring. Byrne doubled the Magpies’ advantage moments later, Byrne kicked his second inside a minute to get the them rolling.

The Navies were winning their fair share of the ball, but with the ever reliable Kieren Wilson controlling the air in the Navies’ forward half, forays forward were proving fruitless for the boys from Charlton. At the other end, Boort’s forwards led by James Keeble and recruit Peter Barbopoulos provided reliable

targets, Barbopoulos though not having things his own way in the first quarter, well held during the term by Charlton’s Jed Thompson. All of the scoring was being done by the Magpies, kicking into what slight breeze there was, it wasn’t until the 17 minute mark, though, that the floodgates opened, five goals in quick succession and the Magpies had eight on the board in the first term while holding the Navies scoreless – a 54 point margin – 14 scoring shots to nil, setting the precedence for the remainder of the game.

With Jhye Baddeley-Kelly considerably more time forward of the ball than expected, Boort had far too much fire power for the undermanned and undersized Navies’ defensive unit. Baddeley-Kelly showing his considerable talent, slamming through a game high 10 goals while giving off a number of others. The Magpie midfielders, while being matched out of the stoppages by their Navies’ counterparts, the willingness to run and spread from the contest saw Boort continue to flood the ball towards goal, giving the Charlton defenders little to no chance of stemming the flow, best on ground Kayne Rutley kicking eight goals of his own to outshine Baddeley-Kelly in the bright sunshine and even brighter orange boots.

The home side extended the margin to over 100 points by half time, slamming through another eight goals for the quarter, the Navies finally got on the scoreboard,

a solitary behind their only return from the best part of an hour of football, Boort leading 106 to 1 at the long break.

Ben Lanyon was doing everything that he could in the ruck for the Charlton side, matching the more experienced, spring heeled James Wilson and leaping over Byrne when he was spending time on the ball, coach Mitch Collins also doing everything he could to make his side competitive. Unfortunately, though, there were far too many passengers aboard the Charlton train, unable to match the run and drive being provided by the Boort midfield and half back line, the Navies at times becoming witches hats for the Magpies’ training drill. The third quarter was the most positive for the Navies, at least on the scoreboard, as they finally found the middle of the big sticks, Rhys Thompson scrambling the Navies first from the top of the goal square to give their travelling supporters something to smile about for a moment.

The Navies scoring didn’t slow the Magpies down at all, though, testament to how free flowing the game had become, the home side belting through nine goals for the term. Barbopoulos finally breaking free, eventually finishing with six goals of his own. Tom Potter, Baddeley-Kelly, Jarrod Fitzpatrick, Rutley and crew continued to run hard through the middle of the ground despite the temperatures reaching into the early 30s and draining players’ reserves. Matching his midfield teammates, Kieren Jaksic was outstanding across half-back, strong runs finishing with numerous forward entries.

With the warmth of the day well and truly taking the heat out of the game, the last quarter was played out with the tempo down a notch. That didn’t stop the Magpies from kicking a further eight goals – remarkably after half time the home side kicked an amazingly straight 17 goals, 1 behind for the half. The margin ballooned out to 188 points, not what supporters from either side would have expected before the game, or after watching the first four minutes of the opening stanza.

Boort will be looking to maintain its terrific start to the season after the Easter break when it takes on Donald. Charlton on the other hand will be looking to the Easter break and something special from the Easter Bunny, before taking on the St Arnaud Saints, most likely on Friday – ANZAC day under lights.

Best for Boort: Kayne Rutley, Jhye Baddeley-Kelly, Keiren Wilson, James Keeble, Kieren Jaksic, Lachlan Hall

Best for Charlton: Ben Lanyon, Mitchell Collins, Ben Xiriha, Ashton Wood, Billy Sexton, Darcy McCallum

By Getting Vaccinated... Stay Safe This Winter

(A statement by Professor Anthony Lawler, Australian Government Chief Medical Officer.)

As the weather cools down in most parts of Australia, I’d like to remind you to protect yourself against serious illnesses by booking your vaccinations this winter.

Influenza is the most common vaccine-preventable disease in Australia. Free influenza vaccines are now available through the Australian Government’s National Immunisation Program for people most at risk of complications. For those not eligible for a free vaccine, you are able to purchase the vaccine through your vaccination provider.

Other Diseases

I encourage you to also book vaccinations against other respiratory diseases at this time. This includes respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and whooping cough if you are pregnant, and COVID-19 if you are in a group for whom it is recommended. It is safe to receive all of these vaccines at the same time as the influenza vaccine.

You can get your influenza, RSV and COVID-19 vaccines at general practices (GP), pharmacies, community health centres, Aboriginal Medical Services and immunisation clinics. Many workplaces also offer annual influenza vaccines.

Although we cannot predict the 2025 influenza season, we

can learn from the data collected during the 2024 influenza season.

Last Year

Last year, the highest notification rates for influenza were in children under 9 years, and worryingly the vaccine uptake was low in this group. The number of RSV cases was higher in 2024 than 2023, and most were in children aged 0-4 years. The highest notification rates for COVID-19 were in people aged 70 and over.

In 2024, there were more deaths involving influenza and RSV than in 2023. This is an important reminder that influenza, RSV and COVID-19 are not the common cold. These are very serious viruses that can cause severe illness, hospitalisation and even death among otherwise healthy children and adults.

So far in 2025, there has been a higher proportion of influenza B cases than seen at this time in recent years, particularly in school-aged children and young adults. Influenza B is often more common in children, and can result in more severe infections in children.

The good news is that all the influenza vaccines available in Australia cover both influenza A and B, making the seasonal influenza vaccine very effective at protecting people from needing to go to hospital or visit their GP due to complications from influenza.

It is important that everyone from the age of 6 months get vaccinated against influenza every year. I also encourage pregnant women to get vaccinated against RSV and whooping cough and people 65 years and over to stay up to date with regular COVID-19 vaccinations.

By getting vaccinated, you are protecting yourself and those around you from serious illness.

People Eligible

People eligible for a free influenza vaccine include:

- children aged 6 months to less than 5 years.
- pregnant women at any stage of pregnancy.
- First Nations people aged 6 months and over.
- people aged 65 years or older, and
- people aged 6 months and over with certain medical conditions.

Letter to the Editor

Salvos Easter Letter to the Editor

(The Editor, “The Times”)

Dear Editor.– We live in a time where bad news seems to be everywhere. Whether it is international conflicts and politics, a national cost of living crisis or personal devastation, our world seems to sometimes be more focused on the bad as opposed to the good.

Indeed, the idea of “good news” often seems like an afterthought; a short segment to wrap up the evening news bulletin, or an attempt at offering a “silver lining” after hearing a story of devastation and loss.

However, as we look towards the Easter season, The Salvation Army are preparing to experience and celebrate good news - for us, that good news is found in the Easter story through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

When Jesus died on a cross on Good Friday, it was the ultimate bad news for all of those who followed Him. All hope seemed lost, but the story didn’t end there.

On Easter Sunday, Jesus rose from the grave into new life. This good news brought with it hope and joy back then, and this good news can offer the same for us today. We believe that through the good news of Jesus, God can take our tragedy and turn it into joy.

For The Salvation Army, every day we have people reach out to us who are looking for help. We are seeing new faces come through our doors, those who have never had to reach out to a charity before, who are only just making ends meet.

We see how the most simple things like offering a meal, assistance paying bills, a safe bed to sleep in, or a listening ear, can be the ultimate good news for someone. It is that good news that brings people hope.

So, as we all face struggles right across the country, whether they are big or small, perhaps a little good news

would go a long way.

This is why this Easter, regardless of your faith, the Salvos invite you to explore the good news of Jesus with us.

To find out more about your local Easter activities through The Salvation Army, visit salvationarmy.org.au

The Salvation Army.

North-Central Hockey

Results of round 2 –

Under-12s: Calder United 5 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 0; Birchip-Watchem 12 d. Donald 1; Boort 0 lost to Charlton 4; Wedderburn 0 lost to St Arnaud 2.

Underage: Calder United 3 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 0; Birchip-Watchem 7 d. Donald 6; Boort 1 def. by Charlton 7.

Women: Calder United 3 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 1; Boort 1 def. by Charlton 9; Wedderburn 2 lost to St Arnaud 3.

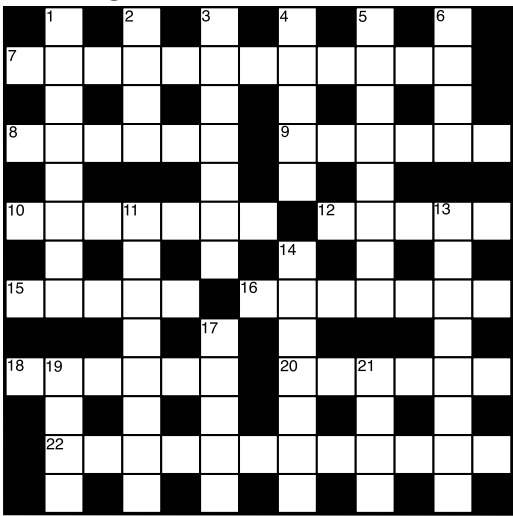
Men: Calder United 6 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 0; Boort 15 d. Charlton 0; Wedderburn 1 drew with St Arnaud 1.

POSITIONS OF TEAMS

Women											
	P	W	D	L	F	For	Agst	SD	Pts	WR	
Calder United	2	2	0	0	0	13	1	12	6	100	
Charlton	1	1	0	0	0	9	1	8	3	100	
St Arnaud	2	2	0	0	0	9	4	5	6	100	
Wedderburn	2	1	0	1	0	6	3	3	3	50	
Sea Lake-Nandaly	2	0	0	2	0	1	7	-6	0	0	
Donald	1	0	0	1	0	0	10	-10	0	0	
Boort	2	0	0	2	0	3	15	-12	0	0	
Men											
Calder United	2	2	0	0	0	11	1	10	6	100	
Wedderburn	2	1	1	0	0	5	2	3	4	67	
St Arnaud	2	1	1	0	0	3	2	1	4	67	
Boort	2	1	0	1	0	16	2	14	3	50	
Donald	1	0	0	1	0	1	5	-4	0	0	
Sea Lake-Nandaly	2	0	0	2	0	1	10	-9	0	0	
Charlton	1	0	0	1	0	0	15	-15	0	0	
Underage											
Charlton	2	2	0	0	0	19	2	17	6	100	
St Arnaud	1	1	0	0	0	11	0	11	3	100	
Donald	2	1	0	1	0	10	9	1	3	50	
Calder United	2	1	0	1	0	5	4	1	3	50	
Birchip-Watchem	2	1	0	1	0	8	18	-10	3	50	
Sea Lake-Nandaly	1	0	0	1	0	0	3	-3	0	0	
Boort	2	0	0	2	0	1	18	-17	0	0	
Under-12s											
Calder United	2	2	0	0	0	9	0	9	6	100	
St Arnaud	2	2	0	0	0	6	0	6	6	100	
Charlton	2	2	0	0	0	5	0	5	6	100	
Birchip-Watchem	2	1	0	1	0	12	2	10	3	50	
Wedderburn	2	0	1	1	0	0	2	-2	1	17	
Sea Lake-Nandaly	2	0	1	1	0	0	5	-5	1	17	
Boort	2	0	0	2	0	0	8	-8	0	0	
Donald	2	0	0	2	0	1	16	-15	0	0	

“Times” Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8173



ACROSS

- 7. Servility (12)
- 8. Strong (6)
- 9. Take (6)
- 10. Comfort (7)
- 12. Rap (5)
- 15. Advantage (5)
- 16. Entertainment (7)
- 18. Savage (6)
- 20. Parent (6)
- 22. Foreboding (12)

DOWN

- 1. Funny (8)
- 2. Land (4)
- 3. Chatter (7)
- 4. Last (5)
- 5. Snake (8)
- 6. Jump (4)
- 11. Plant (5,3)
- 13. American Indian (8)
- 14. Fabric (7)
- 17. Glossy (5)
- 19. Mature (4)
- 21. Volume (4)

• Solution next issue.

North-Central Football Roundup

Goldacres Seniors

SEA LAKE-NANDALY	2.4	4.9	10.12	10.15	(75)
CALDER UNITED	4.2	6.5	6. 9	7.10	(52)

Goals for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Adam Pattison 3, Lachy McClelland 2, Tyson McKenzie 2, Thomas Cox, Wade Donnan, Brody Weir.

For Calder United: Matthew Wade 2, Zachary Caccaviello, Jack Exell, Mitch Farmer, Dean Putt, Rylee Smith.

Best for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Thomas Cox, Trent Donnan, Wade Donnan, Max Cahoon, Adam Pattison, Billy McInnes.

For Calder United: Brent Sheahan, Daniel Watts, George Turner, Matthew Wade, Steven Kennedy, Boe Bish.

BIRCHIP-WATCHEM	9.4	16.13	29.16	37.23	(245)
DONALD	0.0	0. 2	2. 4	3. 4	(22)

Goals for Birchip-Watchem: Ben Edwards 15, Joseph Reid 10, Nicholas Rippon 4, Rhona Conboy 3, Daniel Bell 2, Lachy Foott, Samuel Simmons, Cormacc Wilson.

For Donald: Brent Arho 2, Ross Young.

Best for Birchip-Watchem: Ben Edwards, Joseph Reid, Hamish Hosking, Nicholas Rippon, Rhona Conboy, Cormacc Wilson.

For Donald: Charlie Campbell, Ross Young, Kalon Green, Robert Walker, Eddie Landwehr, Daniel Pearce.

BOORT	8.6	16.10	25.11	33.11	(209)
CHARLTON	0.0	0. 1	2. 2	3. 3	(21)

Goals for Boort: Jhye Baddeley-Kelly 10, Kayne Rutley 8, Peter Barbopoulos 6, James Byrne 2, Carlos Egan 2, James Keeble 2, Ethan Coleman, Jarrod Fitzpatrick, Tom Potter.

For Charlton: Elliott Fitzpatrick, Rhys Thompson, Ashton Wood.

Best for Boort: Kayne Rutley, Jhye Baddeley-Kelly, Keiren Wilson, James Keeble, Kieren Jaksic, Lachlan Hall.

For Charlton: Ben Lanyon, Mitchell Collins, Ben Xiriha, Ashton Wood, Billy Sexton, Darcy McCallum.

WEDDERBURN	4.5	10.10	14.13	16.14	(110)
ST ARNAUD	0.0	1. 0	4. 3	5. 8	(38)

Goals for Wedderburn: Mitch Jensen 10, Noah Furlong, Hamish Lockhart, Jackson McEwen, Tom Metherell, Jye Mortlock, Zach Pallprat.

For St Arnaud: Max Hungerford 2, Scott Driscoll, Mitch Egan, Sean Holroyd.

Best for Wedderburn: Mitch Jensen, Mitchell McEwen, Jackson McEwen, Jye Mortlock, Darcy Jackson, Noah Furlong.

For St Arnaud: Zac Phillips, Bradley Organ, Mitch Birthisel, Jay Kirwood, Harley Durward, Daniel Gifford.

Haeusler’s Reserves

CALDER UNITED	3.6	5.8	11.8	13.10	(88)
SEA LAKE-NANDALY	0.2	1.5	3.5	3.5	(23)

Goals for Calder United: Zac Kelly 4, Angus Forrester 2, Sol Kelly 2, Hunter Connolly, Charlie Fawcett, George Forrester, Heath Senior, Thomas Trewin.

For Sea Lake-Nandaly: Jet Newick, Cruz O’Sullivan, Zachary Wemyss.

Best for Calder United: Charlie Fawcett, Hunter Connolly, Zac Kelly, Sol Kelly, Thomas Trewin, Jed Bish.

For Sea Lake-Nandaly: Joel Clohesy, Tom Considine, Callan Noonan, Brandon Stadon, Joss Tait, Nathan Wight.

BIRCHIP-WATCHEM	5.7	10.14	18.16	26.22	(178)
DONALD	0.1	0. 3	0. 3	0. 3	(3)

Goals for Birchip-Watchem: Matthew Berry 7, Alexander Hay 4, Bodie Colbert 2, Callum Goode 2, Riley Hogan 2, Tom Sheridan 2, Connor Boyle, Harry Cook, Jack Lee, Archie Lewis, Nick Ryan.

For Donald: Nil.

Best for Birchip-Watchem: Austin Dean, Jack Lee, Riley Hogan, Harry Cook, George Addis, Alexander Hay.

For Donald: Sam Goldsmith, Jesse Lopes, Braxton Hollis, Joe Sheridan, Brod Harrison, Daniel Tatarskyj.

BOORT	5.1	9.4	16.8	19.11	(125)
CHARLTON	0.0	2.3	2.4	2. 4	(16)

Goals for Boort: Harry Weaver 5, Jack Weaver 4, Alex Cockerell 3, Chris O’Rourke 3, Max Beattie, Jacob Coleman, Jett Hird, Jacob Mulquiny.

For Charlton: James Dean-Gilley, Mason Heenan.

Best for Boort: Jacob Mulquiny, Alex Cockerell, Jack Weaver, Angus Trethowan, Max Beattie, Harry Weaver.

For Charlton: Mason Heenan, Benjamin Roberts, Joseph Durie, Angus Johnstone, Angus Soulsby, Marcus Campbell.

WEDDERBURN	0.5	2.7	3.10	7.14	(58)
ST ARNAUD	1.4	3.5	6. 8	7.10	(52)

Goals for Wedderburn: Jake Hayes 3, Ashley Younghusband 2, Jackson Hubbard, Lachlan Rae.

For St Arnaud: Simon Elliott, George Gorrie, Jarryd Kell, Carl Leach, James McKenny, Heath McNally, Harrison Meagher.

Best for Wedderburn: Mitchell Woods, Jake Hayes, Robert Tonkin, Rhordan Holt, Chris Hargreaves, Luke Last.

For St Arnaud: James Mckenny, Harrison Meagher, Heath McNally, Sam Penfold, Benjamin Greenaway, Riley Burke.

Community Bank Charlton & District Under-17s

SEA LAKE-NANDALY	4.0	8.0	8. 0	10. 6	(66)
CALDER UNITED	0.4	2.8	5.14	6.15	(51)

Best for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Cruz O’Sullivan, Brayden Allan, Hugo Warne, Angus Renney, Hamish Landry, Milton Bailey.

For Calder United: Tiger Vearing, Jonty Cavalier, Max Fawcett, Darcy Coles, Angus Cowell.

DONALD	5.3	10.6	14.10	16.15	(111)
BIRCHIP-WATCHEM	0.0	0.0	0. 2	0. 3	(3)

Best for Donald: Jesse Lydom, Jam Borden, Chase Campbell, Ethan Clapham.

For Birchip-Watchem: Oliver Cook, Willow Ryan, Jack McAuliffe, Hamish Jones.

BOORT	1.3	4.9	8.12	13.15	(93)
CHARLTON	1.1	2.1	3. 2	4. 3	(27)

Best for Boort: Chaise Hird, Cooper Gooding, Brodie McPherson, Jacob Malone, Flynn O’Rourke.

For Charlton: Murphy Fitzpatrick, Mitchell Boyle, Sebastian Zagame, Jarvis Wright, Joseph Monaghan, Jordan Chamberlain.

ST ARNAUD	4.3	7.7	11.10	12.12	(84)
WEDDERBURN	0.0	2.0	3. 0	6. 0	(36)

Best for St Arnaud: Bob Donald, Frankie Donald, Nathan Saludes, Austin Lowe, Sean Bridgeman, Aidan Wickham.

For Wedderburn: Aaron Smith, Trai Clarke, Caleb Gault, Tyson Blair, Noah Winslett.

Next Round

Round 3, Saturday April 26 -

Sea Lake Nandaly v. Birchip-Watchem	Donald v. Boort
Charlton v. St Arnaud (Friday 25/4 tbc)	Calder United v. Wedderburn

Uniting Church Under-14s

SEA LAKE-NANDALY 13.8 (86) d. CALDER UNITED 1.0 (6)

Best for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Gerrin Durie, Lenny Landry, Messer Bailey, Finn Austerberry, Tom McClelland, Milton Bailey.

For Calder United: Ryder Harrison, Smith Morrison, Emma Kilby, Riley Muir, Van Harrison, Levi Hall.

BIRCHIP-WATCHEM 5.8 (38) d. DONALD 5.6 (36)

Best for Birchip-Watchem: Willow Ryan, Hamish Jones, Liam Spezza, Archie Tyler.

For Donald: Joshua Joseph, Emmett Geddes, Jhak Burke, Blake Michael.

BOORT 7.11 (53) d. CHARLTON 1.3 (9)

Best for Boort: Seth Muller, Sunny Soumelidis, Tarlin Trinch, Jackson Durie, Casey Gleeson.

For Charlton: Isaac Roberts, Liam Monaghan, Sam Cossar, Rhys Gahan, Hudson Mcgrath, Thomas Fitzpatrick.

WEDDERBURN 5.4 (34) d. ST ARNAUD 3.7 (25)

Best for Wedderburn: Miller Polglase, Jagger Benaim, Matilda Rose, Wayde Collins, Brodie Turnbull.

For St Arnaud: Charlie Kirk, Charlie Baldwin, Xavier Taylor, Arley Reyne, Lewis Ezard, Riley Batters.

Positions of Teams

Goldacres North-Central Seniors

Teams	P	Pts	%	W	L	D	B	For	Ag
Birchip-Watchem	2	8	1150.00	2	0	0	0	437	38
Boort	2	8	467.14	2	0	0	0	327	70
Sea Lake-Nandaly	2	8	188.75	2	0	0	0	151	80
Calder United	2	4	245.45	1	1	0	0	216	88
Wedderburn	2	4	121.05	1	1	0	0	138	114
St Arnaud	2	0	38.16	0	2	0	0	87	228
Charlton	2	0	10.47	0	2	0	0	42	401
Donald	2	0	7.33	0	2	0	0	30	409

Haeuslers Reserves

Teams	P	Pts	%	W	L	D	B	For	Ag
Birchip-Watchem	2	8	3762.50	2	0	0	0	301	8
Calder United	2	8	1082.61	2	0	0	0	249	23
Boort	2	8	559.46	2	0	0	0	207	37
Sea Lake-Nandaly	2	4	193.62	1	1	0	0	182	94
Wedderburn	2	4	29.38	1	1	0	0	62	211
St Arnaud	2	0	52.90	0	2	0	0	73	138
Charlton	2	0	8.47	0	2	0	0	21	248
Donald	2	0	0.88	0	2	0	0	3	339

Community Bank Charlton and District Under-17s

Teams	P	Pts	W	L	D	B
Donald	2	8	2	0	0	
Sea Lake-Nandaly	2	8	2	0	0	
St Arnaud	2	8	2	0	0	
Boort	2	4	1	1	0	
Charlton	2	4	1	1	0	
Calder United	2	0	0	2	0	
Wedderburn	2	0	0	2	0	
Birchip-Watchem	2	0	0	2	0	

Uniting Church Under-14s

Teams	P	Pts	W	L	D	B
Sea Lake-Nandaly	2	8	2	0	0	
St Arnaud	2	4	1	1	0	
Donald	2	4	1	1	0	
Boort	2	4	1	1	0	
Birchip	2	4	1	1	0	
Charlton	2	4	1	1	0	
Wedderburn	2	4	1	1	0	
Calder United	2	0	0	2	0	

Tooleybuc Sporting Club Presidents’ Award

Voting for round 2:

Sea Lake-Nandaly: Trent Donnan 3, Thomas Cox 2, Billy McInnes 1.

Calder United: Brent Sheahan 3, Daniel Watts 2, Boe Bish 1.

Birchip-Watchem: Hamish Hosking 3, Ben Edwards 2, Joseph Reid 1.

Donald: Charlie Campbell 3, Ross Young 2, Kalon Green.

Boort: Jhye Baddeley-Kelly 3, Kayne Rutley 2, Keiren Wilson 1.

Charlton: Ben Lanyon 3, Mitch Collins 2, Ben Xirhia 1.

Wedderburn: Mitch Jensen 3, Mitchell McEwen 2, Jackson McEwen 1.

St Arnaud: Mitch Birthisel 3, Brad Organ 2, Zac Phillips 1.

Saturday’s Leading Goal Kickers

Seniors	Reserves
Ben Edwards (B-W) 15	Joel Clohesy (SLNT) -
Jhye Baddeley-Kelly (Boort) 10	Matthew Berry (B-W) 7
Mitch Jensen (Wedd) 10	Heath Senior (CU) 1
Joseph Reid (B-W) 10	Alexander Hay (B-W) 4
Kayne Rutley (Boort) 8	Alex Cockerell (Boort) 3
Jack Exell (CU) 1	Zac Kelly (CU) 4
Nicholas Rippon (B-W) 4	Harry Weaver (Boort) 5
Peter Barbopoulos (Boort) 6	George Forrester (CU) 1

CHS Broadbent Club Championship

(Senior win 10 pts., Reserves 6, Under-17s 4, Under-14s 2)

	Snr.	Res.	U-17	U-14	Ttl.
Boort	10	6	4	2	38
Sea Lake-Nandaly	10	0	4	2	38
Birchip-Watchem	10	6	0	2	34
Calder United	0	6	0	0	22
Wedderburn	10	6	0	2	18
Donald	0	0	4	0	10
St Arnaud	0	0	4	0	10
Charlton	0	0	0	0	6

Reigning Premiers Still Set the Standard

The highly anticipated game between the reigning premiers, Sea Lake-Nandaly, and the newly amalgamated Calder United was held in front of a huge crowd at Nullawil.

The Lions were fresh off a thumping win over Donald, whilst the Tigers had done a number over Wedderburn, so both teams were expecting a much closer contest in round 2.

With unseasonably hot conditions reaching above the 30-degree mark, all players and umpires were going to be feeling the pinch from the first bounce. The Tigers had some notable outs, including Oscar Brownless, BOG in round 1, and Josh Jenkins who has caused grief for key defenders in recent seasons. The Lions are still missing their playing coach, Jordy Humphreys, but still looked a good outfit on paper.

Brent Sheahan set the tone of the day in the early moments with a crunching tackle, which was rewarded with a holding the ball to send United forward. Its speed through the midfield was too

much for the Tigers early, as Zac Caccaviello and Matt Wade got on the end of some quick breaks and kicked truly.

Lachy McClelland was the danger up forward for the Tigers, with 2 first quarter goals to keep them in touch. The immense pressure of the Lions had them 2 goals up at the first break, but could have been further ahead if they were cleaner with possession in the forward half.

Sea Lake steadied the ship in the second quarter as its backline was able to quell any surging breaks from Calder. The speed had dropped out of the game as the heat took its toll on both sides. A squared ball to Tyson McKenzie put the Tigers in front late in the quarter, before 2 quick majors to Matt Wade and Mitch Farmer put the Lions up by 8 points at the main break.

It was all to play for in the second half with the highly

physical contest not giving either forward line a sniff for the first half of the quarter.

Tyson McKenzie finally broke the deadlock, which opened the floodgates for the Tigers who piled on the next 6 goals. Adam Pattinson was a presence up forward with 3 strong marks and goals, whilst Thomas Cox was going to work in the middle, winning most of the centre breaks himself in a best-on-ground performance.

Calder needed a big final effort to bring the game back to parity, but the Tigers' defence held out brilliantly. The running game the Lions had early in the game was gone, causing a contested scrappy affair suiting the Tigers who held a 4-goal lead. Dean Putt kicked the only major of the quarter which was ultimately a consolation prize in the end, Sea Lake ran out as the deserved winner by 23 points.



• Tigers double the pressure in this contest. Max Cahoon (left) and Jack Poulton (right) spoil this marking opportunity for Lions Jack Exell.



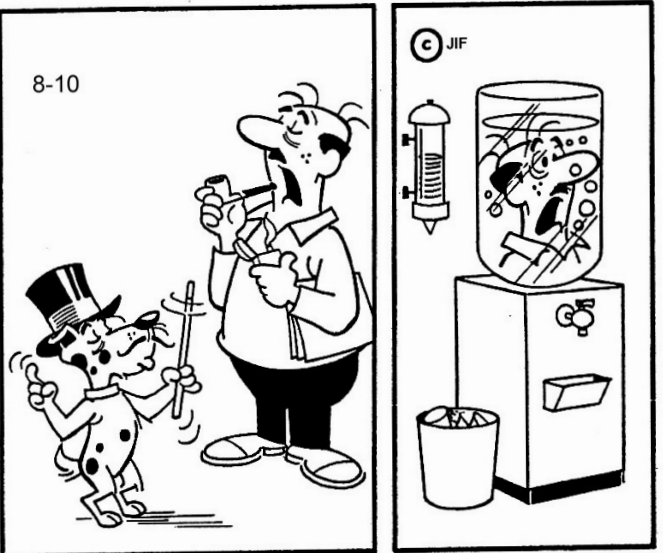
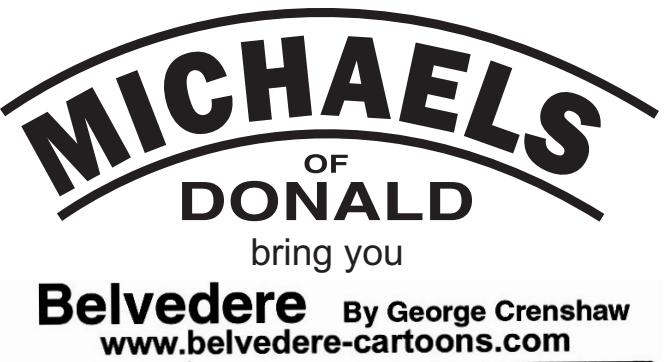
• Lions Dean Putt uses his team-mate, Spencer Allan, to mark over Tigers Adam Pattison. Also pictured are Tigers Thomas Cox (far left) and Lions Brent Sheahan.



• Lions Dean Putt swoops down to gather the Sherrin as Tigers Billy McInnes is ready to tackle.



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At Granite Church
Good Friday Service
Ross Barnes
at Granite Rocks Reserve
9.30 a.m. with morning tea
to follow.
No Easter Sunday Service



"You have learnt a new trick have you? Well what is it?"



• The talls get higher in this ruck contest. Lions Dean Putt and Tigers Ryan O'Sullivan battle in the air while Thomas Cox (Tigers #17), Steven Kennedy (Lions), Matt Wade (Lions #5) and Wade Donnan (Tigers) battle at ground level.

Rampant Bulls Demolish Royal Blues: Edwards Another Big Bag

An impressive Birchip-Watchem dished out a good old fashioned 35 goal thumping to a very undermanned Donald on its home deck in a warm 30 degree-plus day reminiscent of summer days, not relenting at any stage with big forward Ben Edwards equalling his highest tally ever of 15 goals. The more he gets the more he wants.

It wasn't just the Benny show though, Joe Reid delivered his best senior performance in the Bulls colours really asserting himself in the pivotal centre half-forward post, presenting as the leading target, clunking his marks, kicking beautifully and deservedly finished with a big bag of 10 goals.

The two big forwards just had opportunities delivered silver service by a dominant midfield, and battle and swarm the Bulls forward area as the Royals did, they just were unable to stop the flood-gates opening.

Let's not get too carried away though with their absolute dominant win as the opposition is vastly undermanned, a mere shadow of the power club that it has been for decades. A mass exodus of players from its recent finals sides at end of 2024 has decimated its playing ranks and left it languishing, albeit they were missing three or four senior players Saturday, but they need ten to be competitive. Their supporters were missing in droves as well. And it was a glorious day, what happens in the middle of winter when you really need to stick fat? At least Donald royalty rolled up, "Mr & Mrs Pickles" in attendance. Thank God for grandkids.

New coach Ash Connick had impressed upon his charges not to be complacent, because they were playing an undermanned opposition and the need to take early command. He needn't have worried, his players just dominated from the start and gassed the opposition. It started with the ruck dominance of the man mountain Hamish Hosking, he's clearly fitter and injury free in 2025, which he wasn't to commence to 2024 when he arrived with a huge reputation. He paved the way for a midfield group of Nic Rippon, "Mud" Buchanan, Jacob Christie, Bill Lee, Riley Hogan to rack up huge possessions which just pumped ball entries into their forward line.

Such was the Bulls' dominance the game could have been played on a three quarter size oval, the ball rarely got past the centre square, Donald content to park one and two players loose down back and move its full forward line out to centre half forward as it tried in vain to counter the Bulls huge forward entry numbers. Coach Daniel Pearce bravely took first crack at Edwards conceding a large height difference and

despite trying to make life uncomfortable as he does for any opponent, he's such a competitive beast, Edwards swatted him away after a four goal opening tally. Charlie Campbell then was handed the challenge and again Edwards dominated with another four despite the brave efforts of Campbell, who looks a player.

The addition of another roving tall marking forward in Rhona Conboy to go alongside Reid has added to the Bulls' firepower up front and that just meant if Edwards or Reid was double manned, which was often the case, Bulls' players from upfield lowering their eyes had another option and their pinpoint passes didn't miss. They weren't singularly focused on Edwards and the Bulls in 2025 aren't as reliant on him. They had 8 individual goal kickers and multiples from 4 players prepared to share and work hard despite the lack of opposition.

Impressive from the Bulls was their willingness to spread from the contest, it seems to be a feature of Connick's game plan, but easier said than done to actually implement, it requires total faith in their fellow players to win the contest and run forward of it. Looks brilliant when it works as it has done in past weeks with inferior opposition, the challenge will be in coming weeks up against the creme de creme.

Its execution is helped enormously when Hosking is as dominant as he was. He just carved a way forward and then got motoring himself, often taking the ball directly out of the ruck contest, swatting away like flies those trying to drag him down and either banging a handball to advantage or swinging on to a raking left foot. Rippon, Buchanan, Christie, Hogan and Lee were then relentless with their run and carry, breaking the lines creating the opportunities.

Stalwart Ross Young tried valiantly for the Royal Blues, indefatigable still, outstanding player, a couple of solo efforts from the centre to the goal-mouth exceptional, his goal in the third quarter where he won the ball in the midfield, dazzled around a couple and finished with a 6-pointer reminiscent of the superb player that he's been; he just didn't have the quality support around him. Without him the Bulls may well have finished with 40 goals, willing to work hard and spend large parts of

his day parked down back trying to help out his under the pump younger teammates.

Up by 16 goals at the main break the Bulls never relented as sometimes sides do when well in front, and who would have blamed them playing in almost oppressive heat conditions? But put their pedal to the metal they did with a super impressive 13 goal (and only 3 points) third quarter effort.

The goal spree was spread everywhere, Rippon nabbed 3, as dangerous up forward as he was lurking around the midfield. Just relentless, spread, run, deliver, hitting their targets, not deviating off the plan.

The last quarter a repeat of the previous three, Bulls just dominant, playing on auto-cue, win the contest, pump the ball out to runners, players making space ahead, targets hit, Royal Blues down on their knees, undermanned as any Donald side of the past 30 years. They say they are trying a different path playing their local kids, but these kids will get despondent if they aren't provided some support with better quality key recruits, and their supporters won't come back if they keep copping shellackings like this one. They will need to be careful they don't slip into the big dark abyss from where it's very hard to come back. Can take years, player points make it challenging to come off the bottom quickly, the competition doesn't need one of its longest reigning powerhouses to be languishing in the doldrums.

Connick has a terrific playing group to work his magic with, more quality and depth than 2024, supporters about to find out in the next two outings where they sit with matches against league giants in the Tigers and Lions. They are playing a relentless running brand of football which is impressive to watch, hard in and under shouldered by the monster Hosking, their defensive group yet to be tested, but it will be in the next few weeks. Should be fantastic viewing.

Final scores: Birchip-Watchem 37.23 (245) def Donald 3.4 (22).

Best for Birchip-Watchem: Ben Edwards, Joe Reid, Hamish Hosking, Nic Rippon, Rhona Conboy, Cormac Wilson

Best for Donald: Charlie Campbell, Ross Young, Kalon Green, Robert Walker, Eddie Landwehr, Daniel Pearce.



• Birchip-Watchem's ruckman Hamish Hosking leads Donald's Luca Rice to the ball.



• Nic Rippon (B-W) and Jett Adams (Donald) battle for the ball. Also pictured are Donald's Brady Griffiths and Ross Young, and Birchip-Watchem's Hamish Hosking.



• Nic Rippon (B-W) and Will Noble (Donald) lead the chase for the ball. The Bulls' Bill Lee is pictured behind.