

DONALD

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The Buloke Times

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

A Day of Remembrance and Commemoration

(By Police Sergeant Martin Nunn, speaker at Donald's Anzac Day Dawn Service).

We have gathered here before the war memorial to remember and commemorate the men and women of the Australian armed forces who have paid the ultimate sacrifice during all conflicts.

The memorial shows that 53 military personnel from the Donald district lost their lives during World War 1 and 18 military personnel lost their lives during World War 2. We also remember all those who returned home and were scarred by conflict both physically and mentally.

Great War

The first world war was also known as the Great War was in its time the most destructive conflict yet experienced by humanity. When it began in August 1914, few imagined the course that it would take, or foresaw its terrible toll. From a population of just under 5 million Australians, more than 400,000 Australians enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force.

Gallipoli

110 years ago, following four-and-a-half months of training in Egypt, before dawn on 25th April 1915, 16,000 Australian and New Zealand Army Corps troops (ANZACS) landed on the shores of the Gallipoli peninsula.

The men were part of a British and French led invasion. The allies' mission was to destroy Turkish guns that were preventing naval ships from reaching and bombarding the Turkish capital, Constantinople. If they succeeded, Turkey might be forced out of the war and Germany would lose an important ally. Some 2000 Australians were killed or wounded on April 25.

• Continued on page 2.



• Police Sgt. Martin Nunn.

To Honour World War I Soldier...
Local Historian Donates
Framed "Death Penny"

In a heartfelt act of remembrance, Glen Ireland of Boort has painstakingly assembled a stunning framed tribute to World War I soldier Hugh Grace, incorporating a rare and poignant artefact, the original "Death Penny" awarded to Grace's family after his death.

Hugh Grace was born in Bangerang and served in the 8th Australian Light Horse Regiment in the First World War. Hugh was killed in action at 25 years of age, on 7th August, 1915, in Gallipoli after only 8 days of action.

Following his death, the Next of Kin Memorial Plaque, also known as the "Dead Man's Penny" or "Death Penny", was issued to his family.

All families of British and Empire service personnel killed during World War I received a circular, bronze memorial plaque, 120 mm in diameter bearing the inscription "He died for freedom and honour" and the name of the deceased.

It was nicknamed "Dead Man's Penny" or "Death Penny" due to its resemblance to a penny coin, and its significance in commem-

orating the sacrifice of those who died in the war.

Glen Ireland's father came across this "death penny" in a box of books he purchased in a deceased estate sale in Bendigo over 35 years ago. Knowing Glen's interest in war history, Glen's dad passed the memorabilia on to Glen.

Birchip Connection

Further clues to Grace's past emerged when Glen discovered a Birchip calendar tucked among the items, which provided valuable insight to the soldier's local connections. With the help of Brad Margo from Myers Creek, Glen researched Grace's story and applied for replica medals to include in the commemorative piece.

The final montage includes the original "Death Penny", a copy of the accompanying note from Buckingham

Palace, signed by George R. J. with the words, "I join with my grateful people in sending you this memorial of a brave life given for others in the Great War" and the replica service medals – beautifully arranged and framed to honour a life lost too soon.

Glen travelled to Birchip to coincide with ANZAC Day commemorations and presented the dedication to Birchip RSL Sub-Branch president Shane McLoughlan on the eve of ANZAC Day.

Thanks to Glen Ireland's dedication and generosity, a powerful piece of local and national history will remain in Birchip as a lasting memorial to Hugh Grace's sacrifice.

"It's a privilege to return this part of history to where it belongs," Glen said. "Hugh's story deserves to be remembered and honoured by the community he came from."



• Boort historian Glen Ireland (left) presents Shane McLoughlan, Birchip RSL sub-branch President with an original framed "Death Penny".

Rural and Remote Health Care Needs More than a Band-Aid



• RFDS Federation Chief Executive, Emma Buchanan.

In the lead up to the federal election, with plenty of community conversations rolling out across the country (but few rural and remote health election promises), the new Royal Flying Doctor Service Federation Chief Executive, Emma Buchanan, hopes that politicians from all persuasions have a clear understanding of the important role of primary healthcare service and emergency medical retrievals for those living in country Australia.

Ms Buchanan says there are distinct and unique needs across the nation, and any future Federal Government should be pledging they will see that all Australians have access to the health care they deserve.

• People in remote areas

are likely to die 14.3 years earlier.

• Higher rates of death from preventable conditions such as heart disease diabetes, lung cancer and suicide.

• People from rural and remote areas are 2.8x more likely to be hospitalised for reasons that are preventable.

Ms Buchanan is happy to discuss how the RFDS is committed to continuing its partnership with the Australian Government to improve the health of rural, regional and remote Australians and to meet both current and future national health needs.

A Day of Remembrance and Commemoration

• Continued from page 1.

It was a day of confusion and fear. One soldier called it “a day of sorrow” as he remembered the dead and wounded. At Anzac cove, the Australians were the first to land. The New Zealanders followed later in the day.

Stalemate

They advanced about a mile in some places, less in others, but they could go no further. For the next eight months, the campaign was a stalemate. Between 15th and 20th December, the Allied forces successfully withdrew 36,000 troops from ANZAC cove and Suvla. By then 8700 Australians and almost 2700 New Zealanders had been killed. They were some of at least 130,000 soldiers on both sides who lost their lives at Gallipoli, along with 18,000 Australian troops wounded. Approximately 60,000 Australian soldiers, along with New Zealander soldiers fought at Gallipoli.

Following the evacuation, the ANZACS re-grouped in Egypt before being transported to other theatres of World War 1, primarily the Western Front and Middle East. When an armistice

ended the fighting on 11th November.

World War II

In 1918 people hoped, even imagined, that the great war would be the last war – “the war to end all wars”. But this was not meant to be. Two decades later in 1939 the world was again plunged into a second global conflict, Australian and New Zealand service men and women again enlisted, serving their country for peace and freedom.

In 2025 we remember 80 years since the end of World War 2 in 1945.

Since World War 2 Australian forces have been involved in numerous conflicts and peacekeeping operations, including the Korean War, Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Afghanistan, and the war on terror.

Anzac Day has been one of the most important dates on Australia’s calendar since 1916. At first, it gave people a chance to honour the original Anzacs – the Australian and New Zealand service personnel who fought in Gallipoli. Then it became a day for those who served in the First World War. With Australians experiencing the

Second World War, and wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations that have followed, Anzac Day has become an occasion to honour all who have worn our country’s uniform in service. Today we reflect on that service.

We recognised more than a hundred thousand Australian service men and women who have lost their lives in military operations carried out in our country’s name. We honour the values courage that have been invested in the original Anzacs – loyalty, selflessness – and the ways in which later generations have measured their own achievements against those of the soldiers who have fought on Gallipoli.

I would like to end this commemoration with this poem:

This day of days again we keep

In memory of those who sleep

Forever by the quiet sea

Away in far Gallipoli.

’Tis Anzac Day! ’Tis Anzac day!

Oh, soldier comrades far away

You died in war; may we live in peace,

So live and love that war may cease.



• St Arnaud library patrons and librarian Belinda Huggins attempt to make smoothies using a push bike, courtesy of East Wimmera Health Service.

“Smoothie Bike” a Welcome Treat

East Wimmera Health Service’s “smoothie bike” was in hot demand during the school holidays, when it made a scheduled stop at St Arnaud library.

Health service staff estimated people made 60 smoothies between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., pedalling the bike to mix their fruity concoctions to mix their fruity concoctions.

Northern Grampians Shire mayor, Karen Hyslop, said library staff reported a massive increase in patronage on the day.

“They were expecting about 80 people, but instead welcomed 193 people to the branch,” she said.

“The event was incredibly popular with families and the kids proudly showed off their concoctions to our library staff and discussed their fruit of choice.”

Cr Hyslop said the council was keen to continue its partnership with EWHS, promoting healthy choices for shire residents.

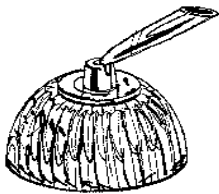
“The education around healthy eating and supporting youth with a healthy holiday

activity was a fabulous initiative,” she said.

“On behalf of council and the community, we would like to thank Maddison and Stacey from EWHS for bringing the smoothie bike to the library and supporting the health and wellbeing of the St Arnaud community.”



• Librarian Belinda Huggins operates the Smoothie Bike.



Letter to the Editor

Still Serving

(The Editor, “The Times”)

Dear Editor.– Well done to Donald RSL on the presentation of the Anzac Day dawn service and the Lions cooked gunfire breakfast which just completed the morning.

The atmosphere and large crowd and the lone piper still sends a shiver up the spine.

Congratulations RSL and Lions still serving.

We need you.

Name and address supplied

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

Meet the project team, find out more and provide feedback

30 April - Birchip Leisure Centre

7 May - Charlton Park Community Bank Complex

14 May - Charlton Park Community Bank Complex

21 May - Charlton Park Community Bank Complex

www.corackeastwind.com.au

info@corackeastwind.com.au

1800 498 550

Corack East Wind

Special Day for Bulls and Lions

This Saturday, May 3, will be a historic day for the neighbouring communities of Birchip, Watchem, Corack, Wycheproof, Narraport and Nullawil.

In days gone by, all of these six communities had their own football teams and they all enjoyed many years of success.

However, as time has progressed, and farms have got bigger and more automated, families smaller and rural population has declined, these six clubs have become two and they will meet for the first time when the Birchip-Watchem Bulls play the Calder United Lions at the George Cartwright Oval.

100 Years

Coincidentally, this season is also 100 years since many of these teams won premierships in their own right. Maurice (Blackie) Hogan has compiled information and photographs from 1925 and will have them on display on Saturday at the game between the Bulls and the Lions.

In the North Western D.F.A. Birchip 15.12 (102) defeated Donald 10.18 (78), after kicking nine goals to two in the final quarter. Clubs in the North Western D.F.A. at this time were St Arnaud, Donald, Laen/Litchfield, Watchem, Birchip and Curyo. Games were played on a Wednesday, and players used the train line between towns to make the trip.

In the Wycheproof D.F.A. Narraport 8.5 (47) defeated Wycheproof 4.7 (31). Other teams in this league were Charlton and Woosang, in a four team association.

In the Northern Mallee D.F.A. Nullawil 8.5 (47) defeated Culgoa 4.13 (37). This was also only a four team association with Berriwillock and Sea Lake. Ironically, all these teams except Nullawil have now combined as Sea Lake-Nandaly Tigers.

In neighbouring associations, Pier Milan 4.9 (33) defeated Nandaly 2.9 (21) in the Mittyack D.F.A.. These teams also played Daytrap, Kulwin and Mittyack.

Bangerang 5.8 (38) defeated Wilkur South 2.8 (20) in the Boolite D.F.A. where the competition was played between Boolite, Minyip Juniors and Sheep Hills.

On Saturday, players and supporters with a long association with these Mallee teams will be in full voice as they witness a full program of junior and senior football, netball and hockey matches.

Rivalries

The rivalries between neighbouring towns and families are still as prevalent as ever in these merged teams,

with the same local names featuring as strongly in the current day teams, as they did one hundred years ago.

The future of rural sporting teams in country Victoria will continue to be shaped by a mix of tradition and innovation. If population shifts and urbanisation persist, many small towns will continue to face ongoing challenges in maintaining player numbers and volunteer involvement.

However, there's a strong sense of resilience and pride in local clubs, which serve as social hubs for their communities and these rural clubs and associations will adapt like they have in the past.

It might take more than mergers though; there will need to be a more concerted focus on inclusive programs and embracing flexible formats to ensure sustainability of our association and junior competitions that foster development, enjoyment, and safety.

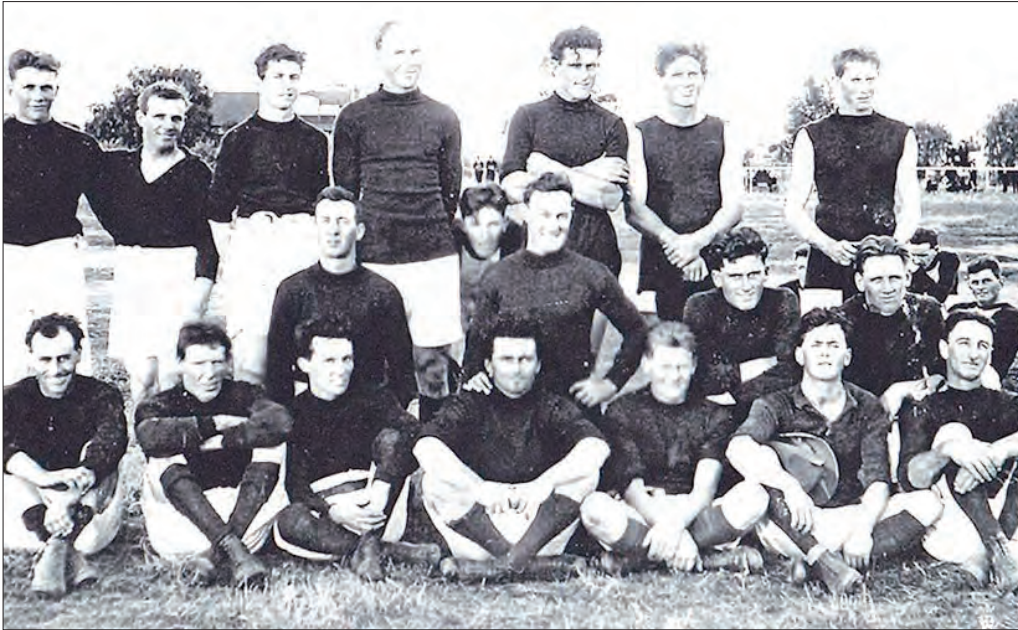
Despite the obstacles, the future of rural sport looks promising, driven by dedicated community members with a deep-rooted love for the games and a commitment to keeping community spirit alive.



• Narraport Football Club 1925. Back row: Gus Currie, Bill McMaster, Jim Stahl, Denny Dillon, Mart Sheahan, Roger Dillon, Dan Sheahan, Frank Sheahan, Maurie Sheahan, Mart Ryan, Snowy Currie, Phill Allan. Middle row: Jack Currie, Aust Dillon, Arthur Allan, Mike O'Keefe, Mart Dillon, Gordon Allan, W. T. Allan, Jim Durie, Vince Dillon, Ned Mulquinny. Front row: Jack O'Keefe, Joe Dunn.



• Birchip 1925 Premiers: Back row: A. Smith (trainer), T. McIntosh (trainer), C. Hogan, C. Peverill, M. Sheahan, I. Ryan (pres), I. Callaghan, W. Benton, Mr Beasley (trainer), Mr McClelland (trainer). Middle row: Mr Buckley (trainer), C. Toomey, V. Connelly, W. Hogg, C.C. Connelly, A. Hogan, L. Joyce, L. Barber, T. Hampton, H. Lockwood. Front row: Eric Wearne, P.G. Phelps, W. Allen, J. Evans.



• Nullawil 1925 Premiers. Back row: Frank Routley, Ralph Bartram, Bryan Hogan, Leigh Duncan, Aust. Hogan, L. Richardson, Tim Forrester. Centre row: Phil. Hommelhoff, Dick Walsh (head only), Phonse Connelly, Con Hogan, Les Perris. Front row: Jack Cassidy, Jim Matheson, Bill Foley, Jack Hogan, Ernie Caldwell, Keith Routley, Stan Pierce.

“Small Things Like These”

Cillian Murphy stars in the historical drama “Small Things Like These” screening at The Rex this weekend.

The story, adapted by Enda Walsh from the 2021 novel by Claire Keegan, revolves around Bill Furlong (Murphy) who, while working as a coal merchant to support his family, discovers disturbing secrets kept by the local convent – and uncovers truths of

his own – forcing him to confront his past and the complicit silence of a small Irish town controlled by the Catholic Church.

Set in 1985 the film reveals truths about Ireland's Magdalene laundries – horrific asylums run by Roman Catholic

institutions from the 1820s until 1996, ostensibly to reform “fallen young women”.

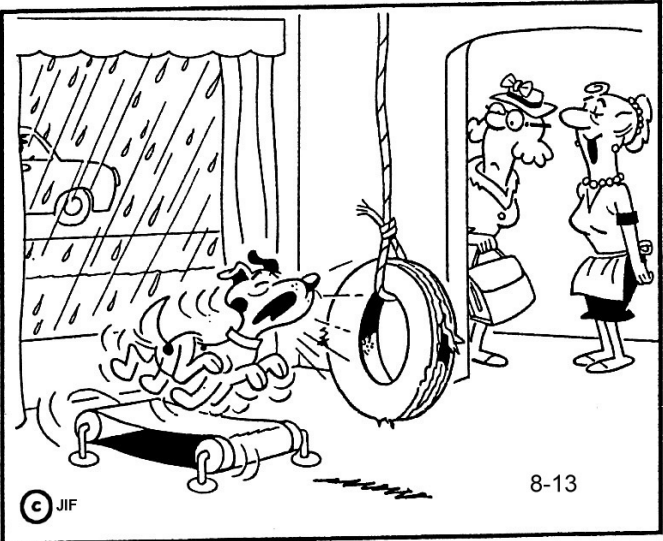
Murphy delivers a masterful performance in this poignant and understated movie, as he grapples with a moral dilemma that threatens to shatter his comfortable existence. He isn't a hero in the conventional sense – he's an ordinary man, a provider, someone who simply wants to get through life without making waves. But as the story unfolds, we see the quiet, growing resolve within him, making his ultimate choice feel all the more moving.

Critics have unanimously praised Murphy's controlled handling of the role in this small, but powerful film. Ably supported by Emily Watson, Michelle Fairley and Ciarán Hinds, this is an absorbing movie with the exploration of morality at its heart.

“Small Things Like These” screens Saturday 3 May 8 p.m. | Sunday 4 May 2 p.m. | Tuesday 6 May 8 p.m..

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www.belvedere-cartoons.com



It's his way of 'keeping his form' when it rains.

Letter to the Editor

Bumper Easter

(The Editor, “The Times”)
Dear Editor.— What a bumper Easter we celebrated here in Tropical North Victoria!

It was impossible not to be drawn into the fantastic atmosphere among our community, as locals and visitors came together to celebrate Easter and enjoy the region's beautiful

weather and numerous attractions. It was fantastic to see our region buzzing with energy as we welcomed visitors from near and far.

The influx of visitors saw accommodation providers at capacity, our riverbanks brimming with campers, and our streets alive with excitement.

A highlight for many was the “Show and Shine”, which drew thousands. This surge in tourism not only showcased the best of our region, it also delivered a welcome boost to our local economy.

From sports and art to community events and family gatherings, there really was something for everyone. Our businesses and

tourism operators did a remarkable job of creating a memorable experience and reinforcing why this region is such a special place to visit.

Whether you celebrated the religious meaning of Easter or simply enjoyed the chance to unwind, I hope the break offered a meaningful opportunity for reflection and quality time with loved ones.

Thank you to the volunteers, emergency services, local businesses, and event organisers who contributed to make this Easter weekend such a success. The Mildura region continues to be the Easter events capital of Victoria.

Jade Benham. MP

“Times” Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8174 - SOLUTIONS

Across - 1, Tuba. 7, Courgette. 8, Arid. 9, Gnat. 10, Lard. 11, Pint. 14, Accusation. 16, Fallacious. 19, Tidy. 22, Eton. 24, Veto. 25, Sank. 26, Albatross. 27, Yell.
Down - 1, Tramp. 2, Brian. 3, Cognac. 4, Gratis. 5, Meal. 6, Starboard. 12, Infantile. 13, Tail. 15, Test. 17, Cavort. 18, Obtuse. 20, Image. 21, Yokel. 23, Near.

"Times" Classifieds

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Deadlines:—

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

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

Rosie Rickard is
90!

Open House
Sunday, May 4
2 p.m. onwards for
afternoon tea.
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DEATH
DAVIDSON.— Graeme
Passed away on
April 19, 2025

Loved brother of Dot
Thompson and uncle to
Kim, Glenn, Karen (dec.),
and Cindy.

Rest in Peace
Love to Marlene and
family.

DEATH
DAVIDSON.— Graeme
1/6/1939 - 19/4/2025

Loved brother of Des
"Shorty", and brother-in-
law of Marion, Uncle
Graeme to Matthew (dec.),
Fiona, Paul, Peter, Ken,
Thomas and Jesse. Fond
memories of growing up
together.

RIP Graeme

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 29, Melanie Parkinson
- April 30, Rhiannah Dunstan
- April 30, Verna Harris
- April 30, Cooper Anderson
- May 1, Brian Bayles
- May 1, Maree Sands
- May 1, Allan Coatsworth
- May 3, Freddie Coatsworth
- May 4, Rosie Rickard (90)
- May 5, Willa McGilvery

Darrell Lea
Fine Chocolates

JOHN SANDS

If you know someone celebrating a special anniversary, let us know at
Donald Newsagency & Emporium
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37 Woods Street, Donald. 'Phone 54971510.



Donald Races

SATURDAY, May 3
Weirs IGA 2 y.o Donald Classic
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Gates open at 11 a.m.,
For all enquiries contact Penny 0418 124 289
ALL WELCOME

2025 DMS Sponsorship Program

**The DMS Donald Project's 2025 Community
Sponsorship & Donations Program is now open.**

We're inviting funding applications from not-for-profit community
groups in and around Minyip, Murtoa, Donald, and Rupanyup.
Application forms and guidelines are available:

On the website: www.thedonaldproject.com.au

By email request to: sue.horn@donaldmineralsands.com.au

In person: DMS office, 23 Church Street, Minyip

Applications close: 30 May 2025, 5pm.



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

THE 2025 DEBUTANTE BALL

Friday 2nd of May

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Students \$10 - Adults \$15
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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

Together, we can shape a stronger, healthier future!

RSVP to Mandy Campbell via email starnauda@ewhs.org.au or call 5477 2100



Donald Golf Club RAFFLE WINNERS

Wood: Geoff Jane

Easter Eggs:

Colleen Raynes

Thanks to Weirs IGA for
donating the Easter Eggs.
The raffle raised \$572 for
the Good Friday appeal.
Thank-you to the Donald
Community for your
support.

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Employment —
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COMING ATTRACTIONS



SMALL THINGS LIKE THESE

M 98 mins | Drama | History

Sat 3 May 8pm

Sun 4 May 2pm

Tue 6 May 8pm

COMING:

BAD GENIUS
M 97 mins | Thriller



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\$100,000 INGOING CONTRIBUTION

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Chief Executive Officer

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MY 2025.25 Ranger DualCab Pickup, Sport, 3.0 Ltr V6 Dsl, 10Spd Auto 4x4, Meteor Grey, Sport Embossed Seats, Touring Pack, Mandatory Pro Trailer Backup Assist **\$73,700** Drive Away

MY 2025.25 Ranger DualCab, Wildtrak, 3.0 Ltr V6 Dsl, 10Spd Auto 4x4, Arctic White, Leather Accented Seats, Wildtrak Premium Pack **\$76,900** Drive Away

My 2024.50 Mustang Fastback Dark Horse, 5.0l Petrol, 10Spd Auto, Blue Ember, Sport Seats, Dark Horse Appearance Pack **\$129,990** Drive Away

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

Michaels of Donald

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

In Unity and Reflection . . . Birchip Remembers

Though the Birchip Cenotaph stood in quiet solitude at 11a.m. on the 25th April, 2025, the spirit of ANZAC was alive and well within the walls of the Birchip Public Hall, where a community united in remembrance, gratitude, and hope.

Moving the service into the Hall due to the threatening skies proved a thoughtful choice, allowing attendees to be seated in one place, creating a united and solemn atmosphere that underscored the significance of the occasion.

From 11 a.m. to the final rendition of the Australian National Anthem the spirit of remembrance was profound as the community came together to mark the 110th anniversary of the landing of Australian and New Zealand Army Corps troops at Gallipoli.

Defining Moment

ANZAC Day commemorates a defining moment in a major military campaign for soldiers from Australia and New Zealand. The young men who landed that day at Anzac Cove handed on a torch of service and sacrifice passed across the generations of Australians who honour them.

Birchip RSL President Shane McLoughlan opened the Birchip ANZAC day service, welcoming the crowd

and inviting Sammy Floyd to read a heartfelt poem written by his brother Graham, also a veteran. Graham's poem set the tone for a service marked by dignity, reflection, and shared memory.

Guest Speaker

This year's guest speaker was Kylie Walsh, granddaughter of Warrant Officer Kenneth Kemp, who served with the Royal Australian Air Force in the Second World War.

A man of quiet strength and deep commitment, Ken served his country with courage and dedication and this legacy lives on not only through his military medals, but through the stories shared by his family.

Kylie delivered a moving tribute to her grandfather's service, offering personal insight to his time at war from extracts from his diary. A full account of Ken's story, as presented by Kylie, will feature in an upcoming edition of the "Buloke Times".

Wreaths were respectfully laid on a makeshift cenotaph by representatives of the Buloke Shire, Birchip P-12 School, local emergency services, Victoria Police, RSL, Legacy, and the Kemp family in honour of all who have served.

Xavier Liston recited the Ode of Remembrance, which was followed by the playing of "The Last Post" and the New Zealand National Anthem and a minute's silence was observed, allowing attendees to reflect deeply. The service concluded with Birchip P-12 student Bambi Nevaro's touching rendition of the Australian National Anthem, accompanied by her own guitar playing.

In his final remarks, Shane McLoughlan thanked all who contributed to the service and encouraged the community to support the RSL through membership. Shane informed the audience that the Birchip RSL Sub-Branch, and in particular Noeline Hogan and Debbie McLoughlan, are working on a major project to refurbish and reinvigorate the Birchip Cenotaph area at the entrance to the Birchip Memorial Park.

Shane thanked Birchip Cargill Cares and cropping managers Andrew Lee and Andrew Barber for their generous donation of \$25,000 towards the project which has been matched by a further \$27,000 grant from Department of Veteran affairs.

Call for Peace

As has become customary Shane concluded the service with a heartfelt call for peace, expressing hope for a swift end to the conflicts currently unfolding around the world.

Following the services RSL members, families and guests adjourned to the RSL clubrooms for refreshments, a chat and a game of Kelly pool. Some stayed on to watch the traditional Collingwood v. Essendon ANZAC day match.



•Brad Sharp shoots in Kelly Pool



• Left to right: Ronda Bell, Debbie McLoughlan, Noeline Hogan, Lyn Blair, Kylie Walsh.



• The lonely cenotaph.



• President Birchip RSL Sub-Branch Shane McLoughlan, Guest Speaker Kylie Walsh, Soloist Bambi Nevaro and Xavier Liston who recited the Ode.



• Mark Darby laying wreath for SES.



• Left to right: Daryl Cooper, Garry Quirk, Ken Reid, Trevor Grogan, Sammy Floyd, and Geoff Brown.

Do you know how to make your vote count?

Federal election, Saturday 3 May 2025

It's important that you understand how to vote correctly.

On election day you need to complete two ballot papers:

- a green one for the House of Representatives
- a large white one for the Senate.

On the green ballot paper you are voting for a representative of your local area or electorate in the House of Representatives.


On the white ballot paper you are voting for representatives of your state or territory in the Senate.

Don't worry if you make a mistake.
Just ask for another ballot paper and start again.

Green ballot paper – number **every** box in the order of your choice



House of Representatives
Ballot Paper



State
Electoral Division of Division Name

Number the boxes from 1 to 8 in the order of your choice

2

SURNAME, Given Names
INDEPENDENT

LOGO

3

SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

LOGO

7

SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

LOGO

8

SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

LOGO

1

SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

5

SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

LOGO

6

SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

LOGO

4


SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

Remember... number **every** box to make your vote count


SAMPLE

Sample ballot paper

White ballot paper – you can choose to vote either above or below the line



Senate Ballot Paper
State – Election of 6 Senators



You may vote in one of two ways

Either

Above the line

By numbering at least 6 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).

A

LOGO

5

PARTY

B

LOGO

2

PARTY

C

LOGO

1

PARTY

D

LOGO

PARTY

E

LOGO

3

PARTY

F

LOGO

6

PARTY

G

4

Or

Below the line

By numbering at least 12 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).

PARTY

1

SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY

PARTY

8

SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY

PARTY

3

SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY

PARTY

6

SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY

PARTY

10

SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY

PARTY

4

SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY

PARTY

7

SURNAME
Given Names
INDEPENDENT

PARTY

5

SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY

PARTY

2

SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY

PARTY

12

SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY

PARTY

9

SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY

PARTY

11

SURNAME
Given Names
PARTY

PARTY

SURNAME
Given Names

UNGROUPED

SURNAME
Given Names
INDEPENDENT

SAMPLE

Sample ballot paper

EITHER

Vote above the line
Number **at least 6** boxes
for parties or groups,
in the order of your choice.

OR

Vote below the line
Number **at least 12** boxes
for individual candidates,
in the order of your choice.

Your vote will help shape Australia. Practise voting at aec.gov.au

To learn more

aec.gov.au 13 23 26



Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, 10 Mort Street, Canberra

Personal Memories Inspire

(By Jenny Pollard)

Reflections on past acts of service formed the core messages of ANZAC Day addresses at the 2025 Charlton commemoration which took place between the High Street cenotaph and the Charlton Hall last Friday.

The 110th commemoration of the Gallipoli landings saw community support for the day of remembrance continue to grow with a large crowd and school attendances increasing the generational acknowledgement of defence service by, and for, our country.

From RSL members to emergency services personnel, Red Cross members to the town's youngest citizens, a wide cross-section of the community lined the street and later filled the Charlton Hall as the sacrifices and deeds of the original Australian and New Zealand Army Corps continue to inspire, guide and stir the imaginations of succeeding generations.

Wreaths

Under grey skies the formalities began at the cenotaph, commemorating the fallen with wreaths laid by RSL members, school captains from Charlton College and St. Joseph's Primary School, Red Cross personnel, and Charlton Fire Brigade

representatives. Bugler, Corey Harrison played "The Last Post" before the call to order brought participants together for the march to the Hall. As traffic on the highway was brought to a standstill, the march progressed down High Street to the accompaniment of the Charlton/Wycheproof Community Band and the applause of the crowd.

MC Troy Heenan welcomed a packed Hall to the 2025 commemoration service, briefly touching on the significance of both the historical and contemporary contributions by defence force personnel and the values which the ANZAC spirit continues to embody.

Guests

Official guests were introduced, including: Charlton RSL president, Allan McGillivray and secretary Bill Freeman, Padre Reverend Judi Bird, Buloke Shire Councillor, Bruce Stafford and guest speaker, Squadron Leader Michael Lowe, along with his wife, Tara. Recognition was also accorded to

OAM attendees Bruce Hodgson and Brian and Rae Heenan.

A new component of this year's service saw students from Charlton College and St. Joseph's come forward to place a poppy on rows of miniature white crosses placed in front of the stage. This gesture of respect and remembrance continues the connection between the generations as the ANZAC legacy is perpetuated.

Address

Buloke Shire Councillor, Bruce Stafford then presented a reflective address in which he acknowledged the service of two family members at Gallipoli, the loss of another family member during a World War II RAAF training exercise and of his wife's grandfather who perished at Borneo's notorious Sandakan Prisoner of War Camp. Reflections on their duty, the sacrifices and the hardships for those both at home and abroad, along with acknowledgement of the support organisations such as Legacy and Red Cross rounded out his presentation.

The Reverend Judi Bird (RSL Padre) then led the proceedings with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer, an introduction to the choir singing "Abide with Me" and the reading of the 23rd Psalm by Charlton College School Captains, Emmersyn Nelson and Fletcher Holmes-Brown.

Guest speaker, Squadron Leader Michael Lowe, was then introduced by RSL secretary, Bill Freeman.

A resident of St. Arnaud since 2010, with a busy legal practice, Michael's distinguished Australian Defence Force career began with the Air Force from 2001 where he was commissioned as a legal officer. Following numerous Australian postings, he was deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Catalyst in 2006, and after discharge from the permanent Air Force in 2007 he was re-engaged on contract to deploy to Kandahar Airfield (Afghanistan) in 2008/09 in support of Operation Slipper.



• Participants in the Charlton 2025 ANZAC Day are pictured near the cenotaph prior to formalities at the Hall: (left to right) Bill Freeman (RSL Secretary), Allan McGillivray (RSL President), Michael Lowe (guest speaker) and his wife Tara, Councillor Bruce Stafford (Buloke Shire representative), Padre Reverend Judi Bird and MC Troy Heenan.

Michael and his wife, Tara met whilst she was a serving Air Force member; she commissioned as an officer and served until 2010.

Joining the Air Force as part of a scholarship program while studying law at university, Michael said the decision was an easy one as "being paid to study, travel and meet new people" held great appeal.

Outlining why the choice was the Air Force and not other sections of the services, the reasoning was that while the Army sleeps under the stars, the navy navigates by the stars, the Air Force choose their accommodation by the number of stars, "and that was all the convincing I needed," he said!

Middle East

As a legal adviser to commanders, many opportunities arose including deployment to the Middle East in 2006 for the rehabilitation and stabilisation of Iraq, and Afghanistan in 2008 – 2009 as part of the international campaign in the so-called war on terror. Expanding on his experiences in Afghanistan, the accommodation attraction so desired earlier was in sharp contrast to the cosy ideal – the reality was

rudimentary living conditions, targeted rocket attacks and 24/7 noise from the close-at-hand airstrip.

Stories

Sharing two incidents, both of which left an indelible mark, but which exemplified the highest ideals of the ANZAC spirit, Michael related these stories from his Afghanistan deployment.

Reading from the Victoria Cross citation for SASR Corporal Mark Donaldson, whose courage, gallantry and disregard for his own welfare in an ambush situation saved lives in the face of sustained enemy fire. Michael said, "If there's a better story that epitomizes the ANZAC spirit, I've yet to hear it." By repeatedly acting as a decoy, returning fire and administering medical care to the wounded, Mark's exceptional gallantry saved lives and ensured the safety of other members of the Afghan, US and Australian force.

The second story involved 21-year-old Corporal Mathew Hopkins, who was on an eight-month deployment to Afghanistan. Returning home for a two week break, he married and became a father to his

first child. On his return to Afghanistan he was shot dead four weeks later when he and his team were engaged by a group of Taliban. The statement posted by his wife, Victoria read in part: "Mat had the most important job – he was father to our son Alex, my husband and my best friend. He only got to spend four days with our son before he had to go back overseas. I'm so glad he got to meet his son and experience fatherhood."

In concluding, Michael said, "My decision to share these two stories is not to diminish the many other stories that could be told. I share these two stories because they remind me of the reason we stop and pay our respects on this day."

Music

Musical contributions are always an important part of the Charlton service and the inclusion of the Charlton Choir (under the leadership of Gill Gretgrix) and the Charlton/Wycheproof Community Band (under the leadership of Brian Heenan) once again brought a valuable dimension to the morning's ceremony. With the band supplemented

• Continued on page 9.



• Judi Bird showcases the new initiative of the Memory Box containing objects related to the involvement of those who served and prompting conversations about the times of conflict in Australia's history.



• Under grey skies the ANZAC parade heads off down High Street to the applause of onlookers and with the accompaniment of the Charlton / Wycheproof Community Band.



• Bugler Corey Harrison plays the Last Post following the wreath-laying at the cenotaph.

Charlton Anzac Address

• Continued from page 8.
by a number of young participants this year, and the addition of members who travel some distance to be involved, it is a commitment which is much appreciated.

Initiative

Another new initiative at this year's service were static displays of ADF related objects and oral histories revealing the involvement of those who

served and those on the home front during periods of conflict in the nation's history. RSL member Judi Bird explained that the displays were a way for young people to connect with the commemoration process, to ask questions and build their knowledge about these periods of time in the nation's history. Next year student art work will also be added to the Hall display.

Concluding the morning the crowd was invited to stand for the National Anthems of New Zealand and Australia before the Grace was pronounced and thanks were expressed to all involved in presentation of the day. Morning tea and refreshments were then available in the RSL clubroom for guests, visitors and the local community to share.



• RSL Secretary Bill Freeman addresses the crowd at the Charlton Hall during the ceremony.



• Youth involvement continues to be an important part of the ANZAC ceremony with school representatives pictured (back, left to right) Fletcher and Emmersyn (front, left to right) Tom and Tom with Daniel and Toby.

Light Shines on Dawn Service

Minutes before daybreak on Friday, a huge crowd gathered the illuminated monument dedicated to those who have served Australia in times of war.

There to welcome people of all ages was the president of the Donald RSL sub-branch, Carmel Dugan, who described the annual ceremony as “a symbol of commemoration to those who have fallen”.

“Since early times, the half light of the dawn was one of the most favoured times to attack an adversary,” said Carmel.

“Dawn’s misty shadows played tricks with the soldiers’ eyes giving an attacker some advantage. World War I was no different.

“In the trenches of Gallipoli and the Western Front, and on the front lines in the Middle East company’s orderly officer and sergeant

woke those soldiers on active duty an hour or so before dawn.

“In the dark, the troops would fix their bayonets to guard their position against enemy attack, which they were very aware was very common at dawn.

“The first landing on Gallipoli was pre-dawn on 25th of April, 1915; 110 years later we use the dawn of the 25th April to gather together to commemorate those who fought, those who fell, those who suffered, and those whose lives were changed forever.”

“Acknowledgement”

Following an “acknowledgement to country” by

Zeike Rayner, Fr. Gerry Prunty led the assemblage in prayer, piper Hamish Pearse played “The Dark Island”, and Police Sergeant Martin Nunn spoke of “those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice during all conflicts”. Wreaths were laid at the monument, and poems were read by Donald students.

Donald RSL member Brian Williams recited the Ode, and the crowd sang the National Anthem.

Thanks to all concerned were conveyed by the sub-branch president, after which those present moved to the Donald Bowling Club’s rooms for breakfast served by members of the Donald Lions Club.



• Pictured looking through the oral history display are (left to right) Tara Lowe, Leonie McGillivray and the Smyth family, Archie, Harry, Sophie and Freddie with parents Rachael and Tim.



• At the Donald Cenotaph, wreaths were laid by Donald High School captains, Abby Griffiths and Texas Davis. Pictured are school vice-captains, Indy Gill and Tiarnah Hepworth, reading poems during the service.



• Donald RSL sub-branch president Carmel Dugan, with wreaths at the Donald Cenotaph on Sunday morning.

Warrack. Hosts Easter Convention

Travelling from all corners of Victoria, including Warrnambool, Melbourne, Underbool, Willaura, Castlemaine, young and old arrived in Warracknabeal for Easter. One couple from Cranbourne taking seven hours! What was the attraction? To attend the Wimmera Easter Convention.

Josiah Watson, catching the young people's attention opened his first talk with an amusing game – hoop and a stuffed bunny.

Volunteers kicked the bunny through the hoop – 2 winners and then a call for 2 others to take the prize in their place – very hot, spicy chewy – they sacrificed their taste buds to save the two winners from the pain!

The message of Good Friday – Christ Jesus took the punishment for our sin through the Crucifixion. The teenagers, camped in the Brim Recreation Reserve, enjoyed further talks from Josiah, as did the young adults, who were camped at the Warracknabeal Community Centre, Anzac Park.

Between them they enjoyed a bonfire, Hunt the Leader, dressing up as Protective Services, tunnel ball, under and over the table and

lots of laughs. The juniors, having their day camp at the beautiful Warracknabeal Education Precinct, enjoyed hockey, craft, making and riding billy carts, and stories.

Meanwhile, the adults enjoyed meeting old and new friends at the Warracknabeal Town Hall.

David Cook, speaker from Sydney, spoke on Romans. He reported that once, a survey had been taken on what was the most significant piece of writing ever written. It stated that: 1. Magna Carter, 2. Handel's Messiah, and 3. the Beatles' "Help".

David went on to say, in his opinion that Romans Chapter 5 was the most significant piece of writing. His messages continued to expound Romans 1 to 8.

Of interest, was the appointing of a Parliamentary Secretary, in Victoria, for

"Changing Men's Behaviour" – is this the answer? Great social change in the world came from the Revivals – John Wesley's preaching in the 18th Century, taming of the out of control America's West with the 3 Spiritual Awakenings in 18th, 19th Century and our own 1959 Billy Graham's MCG meeting with over 130,000 people attending (the overflow sitting on the grass). It is a personal faith in Jesus Christ that changes men's and women's hearts.

The Convention was full of interest with a concert by Steve Messers' Band, Friday night, great singing and music, Electives – Audiologist, Teaching in Madagascar, Coping with "Discomfort", the War in Ukraine and the effect on Church members, cross-cultural speakers, book stall and great meals! Plan to come next Easter.



• Brad Pearse (Donald), Wendy Watts (Nullawil), cooking for Junior Camp.



• Left to right: Jeanette Pearse, Laurie Pearse (Donald), Rhonda Leske (Bendigo).



• Crosscultural Speakers, left to right, Owen Prout, Lynda Prout, Jennifer Langford.



• Glen Pearse, Junior Camp leader.



Casting a Dark Shadow Over ANZAC Day... Homeless Veterans a National Disgrace

(By Janna Voloshin, CEO, Vasey RSL Care)

Each ANZAC Day, Australians rise early in the cold dawn, light a candle, and bow their heads in solemn remembrance.

We honour courage, mateship, and sacrifice. We say "Lest We Forget."

But too often, we do forget – especially those who came home.

As the CEO of Vasey RSL Care, I see the reality behind the sentiment. Veteran's – those same people we applaud on ANZAC Day – are disproportionately homeless, unemployed, and dying by suicide. They are three times more likely to sleep rough than other Australians. That is not just unacceptable, it is a national disgrace.

These aren't nameless faces. They are people who committed their lives to the protection of ours. And yet, as

we approach another federal election, veterans are once again forced to fight – not for their country, but for basic support.

Empowerment Program

At Vasey RSL Care, we built the V Centre Veteran Empowerment Program to change that. We couldn't wait a single day longer and see one more life lost. It is the only service in Australia directly aligned with the Royal Commission's call for veteran-specific housing and integrated support. And yet, despite the clear need, despite the recommendations, we are still footing the bill alone, running it on a shoe-string budget.

If this country can't help the people who helped it, what has it come to?

In the lead up to the election, vulnerable Australians are crying out to be heard. But some cries come from the depths of desperation – and our veterans' cries must not go unanswered.

This ANZAC Day, we remembered the dead. But let's also protect the living. It's time for our elected leaders to put words into action and fund programs that give our veterans what they truly deserve: dignity, stability, and hope.

Because no one who served Australia should be abandoned.

Charlton 100 Years Ago

(Information from "East Charlton Tribune")



• 1920s Fred Edwards and George Babidge.



• 1927 Methodist Sunday School.

April 25 to 29, 1925.

Anzac Day: 25th April – a day of imperishable memory. It was proclaimed a Bank Holiday. On 24th April, Anzac Day was specially recognised at the school. In the morning lessons were as usual; but in the afternoon, history and geography lessons suitable to the occasion were expounded; patriotic songs were sung, patriotic recitations rendered, and addresses given by the Chairman of the School Committee (Mr A. E. Bilton, and Rev. A. G. Day). The pupils assembled in the grounds, saluted the Flag and sang the National Anthem, and "The Last Post" was sounded by Mr H. Grinham.

Methodist Sunday School: A sumptuous tea and public meeting marked the 48th Anniversary of the Sunday School. Each child attending Sunday School received a prize. The principal percentages were: Miss Edna Curnow's class: Doris Clark and Myrtle Jenkins, equal, 100%; Millie Judd and Lorna Jeffrey, equal, 95; Jean Clark and Mavis Jason, equal, 91. Miss Hilda Jenkins' Class: Rita Clark, 100; Leila Rotherham, 95; Freda Judd, 90. W. Curnow's Class: Ron Dew and Wm Day, equal, 98; Jack Dew, 90; Colin Winsall and Robert Edwards, 75. Ray Croft's Class: Harold Richards, 96; Horace Dew, 95; Alan Day, 93. Miss C. M. Curnow's Class: Janet Gilmore, 99; Alma Jeffrey, 96; Leila Judd, 92½. Kindergarten (girls): Joyce Gilmore 1, Lila Lambert 2, Joan Grove 3; (boys) Walter Jeffrey 1, Harold Judd and Robert Richards (equal) 2, Fenton Burton and Howard day (equal) 3.

Charlton's Electricity: In recent times, the Charlton Electric Light and Power Co. Ltd, of which Mr A. C. Bertoli is the able manager, has made great strides. The town of Charlton has also advanced to no small extent, and the ever-growing demand for electrical energy has brought the question of increasing its plant under the earnest consideration of the Company. At the monthly meeting of the Directors, and presided over by Mr E. N. Peverill, Chairman of the Board, it was unanimously resolved to purchase a crude oil engine and dynamo. This decision is important for the future electrical supply of Charlton, and is a sign that the Coy is alive to the prospective progress of the town.

Niblick and Mashie: Mr R. E. Finn (vice-president) and Mr C. O. Williams (hon. sec.) of the Charlton Golf Club, visited the course, and marked out two new holes, located in the vicinity of the club-house. The effect of the making of these will be to alter the whole course, with the result that the first tee and last hole will be convenient to the club-house. This is an improvement which has long been desired, and should be heartily appreciated by all players. The recent rain had helped to soften the course; but the fall was not sufficient to make it absolutely congenial to golfers yet. The greens are all in good condition.

The Croquet Lawn: A pleasant time was spent on the green when the final game for the "B" grade, assisted by the "A" grade, was completed. After a very exciting contest, which lasted about three hours, Mrs G. Day defeated Mrs Frahm by 3 points. While partaking of a very dainty afternoon tea, provided by the members, the prizes won up to date for the season were presented. The singles championship and trophy (a handsome mallet, the gift of the president, Mrs Luth), was won after a very hard fought battle, by Mrs Raynor, Mrs Procter being runner-up. An "A" grade doubles is now being played.

Coonooer Bridge: The Hall was filled when Mr and Mrs E. Mills and family were entertained at a farewell social. The popularity of the guests, who are natives of Coonooer Bridge, was manifested by the genuine enthusiasm which prevailed throughout. Entertainment items were greatly enjoyed. During an interval, Mr Sturrock presented the guests with a silver tea service. A dance followed. Supper was provided by the ladies of the district.

Community Update

Buloke.



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.



BULOKE
SHIRE COUNCIL



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



bagMUSTER is here!

This industry-led, not-for-profit bagMUSTER program is now in Buloke Shire to help farmers, growers, and agricultural businesses recycle single-use polypropylene bags responsibly.

Eligible bags purchased from participating retailers after 1 October 2024 can now be dropped off at the following collection sites in the Shire.

You can now recycle all eligible single-use plastic bags from the following locations:

- Birchip Landfill and Transfer Station
- Charlton Transfer Station
- Donald Landfill and Transfer Station
- Sea Lake Transfer Station
- Wycheproof Waste Transfer Station

Learn more about the program, find your nearest collection site, or register your bags at www.bagmuster.org.au

Community Grant Recipients

Congratulations to the following recipients who were awarded funds under our Community Grants Program, at the April Council Meeting:

- Birchip Playground for the Birchip Buds – \$2,000 for the Planting the Seeds of Sustainability project
- Donald Senior Citizens Centre Incorporated – \$180 for a Mahjong Table and Tile Set

Do you have a project that benefits the Buloke Shire community? You could be eligible for a Council grant too! Email grants@buloke.vic.gov.au to find out more or call 1300 520 520.

Notice of an Application for a Planning Permit

The land affected by the application is located at **39 Corack Road, Donald VIC 3480.**

The application is for a permit for **amendment to planning permit PPA962/21 to remove fuel canopy and reduce amount of above ground tanks.**

The application reference number is **PPA962/21-1.**

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: **15 May 2025.** If you object to the application, the Responsible Authority will tell you it's decision.

Navies Triumphant in Wet ANZAC Day Clash

• Continued from page 16.

Charlton’s playing coach, Mitch Collins, in everything from the opening bounce, put his side in front, eight minutes into the second term, while resting forward, calmly slotting what would be the only major of the term. Scoring goals becoming increasingly different with the wet, slippery yellow Sherrin, that single goal to Collins in amongst a run of seven behinds, six of those belonging to Charlton, who despite dominating play for long periods of the term were not able to break the St Arnaud defence, Matt Goode standing strong and denying easy passage, and with regular defender Harley Durward playing off a wing in a largely defensive role, Charlton’s forward entries were wide and shallow, making a night of already challenging scoring conditions even more difficult. Home side supporters, though, excited to be watching a competitive game of football after the opening two weeks, and even more so to have their side in front at half time.

Charlton leading by 5 points as players sought the refuge of the changerooms to reset before resuming hostilities under the gloomy, weeping night sky. Charlton 2.6.18 to St Arnaud 2.1.13.

Third Term to St Arnaud

St Arnaud stalwart Mitch Egan giving the visitors the perfect start after the break, putting the Saints back in front shortly after the resumption of play. Charlton’s lack of winning experience looking likely to bite hard as the Saints wrested control of the tempo and possession of the ball, responding to the Charlton challenge laid down to end the first half. Recruits Jay Kirwood and Darby Schilder

prominent through the middle of the ground, as was big man Zac Phillips in conditions that were conducive to the taller man’s talents – engaged in an enthralling duel with young Charlton ruckman Ben Lanyon, who is developing into a fine footballer in his own right.

For Charlton, co-Captain Sam Woods was willing his troops on from across half-back, his sure ball handling on full display, his defensive comrade Archie Patterson showing his wares for his new side as well – his straight ahead style perfect on a night of wet weather football. While those two were doing well for Charlton, it was the St Arnaud defenders who winning the battle, led by Goode and well supported by Bailey Durward and Torin Petrie, the Saints were impenetrable during the ‘premier-ship’ term, denying Charlton as their scoring opportunities completely dried up. Forward entries few and far between for the home side as their forward line became congested, playing into the hands of the St Arnaud defenders, turning defense into attack, the Saints kept on coming, a two goal, two behind quarter enough to take a game high nine point advantage into the final stanza.

Final Quarter Blitz

Charlton’s first score in over a quarter of football, was yet another behind, play bouncing between defensive half back lines – Sam Woods intercept marking a feature at one end, Torin Petrie seemingly having the ball on a string at the other. However, with Charlton starting to get a little desperate, taking greater risks to move the ball forward resulting in turnover after turnover a sense of helplessness seemed to have fallen on

the Charlton faithful. And when Schilder kicked truly for the Saints from a somewhat contentious free kick, the Saints had stretched the lead to 14 and with the home side having only kicked two goals to that point, kicking a winning score looked unlikely. Enter the Charlton youngsters, and Mr. Dependable Tom Finlay. Kicking to the town, and crowd, end, second year Charlton defender, Elliott Fitzpatrick made a telling, dashing run from defence to send the ball sailing through the big sticks to help the Charlton crowd once again find their voice, and breath some life back into the home sides sails, reducing the margin to eight points. Then the veteran Finlay was thrown into the middle by the Charlton bench, and had an immediate impact, willing himself to the ball, he won countless possessions to drive the Navies forward. Second gamer Zagame marking strongly and converting with a kick straight from the Stephen Kernaghan book of mongrels – registering his second of the night and getting the home side back to just two points behind.

The Saints had a chance to steady and re-establish the lead, however a gilt-edged opportunity went begging, when 100 game McNamee’s effort was rushed through on the line. It was then Finlay’s turn to show his wares in front of goal, winding back the clock to produce a sterling effort on his non-preferred left boot to put the home side back in front for the first time since early in the third term. The heat coming onto the ice cool 16 year old Zagame, already the only multiple goal kicker on the ground, earning a



• Charlton’s Ben Lanyon looks for his options of team-mates Luke Dunne, left partially obscured, or Archie Patterson, right, as the Saints players Max Hungerford and Jake Tillig apply pressure.

chance to ice the game, receiving a free kick for a hold in a marking contest, no doubt a strong mark on the lead moments earlier further up the ground fresh in the mind off his direct opponent. The young man playing up to the crowd after coolly going back, taking his full allotment of time and putting his side up by nine points with 23 minutes and 30 seconds gone in the quarter, Charlton had kicked three goals in 9 minutes to storm to home and record an unlikely victory.

Both sides though not coming out unscathed, Charlton losing co-captain Billy Sexton to a gruesome thumb injury just as his side hit the front, having already been a player down when Rhyen Woods limped from the ground. St Arnaud also forced to count the cost – Mitch Birthisel with an apparent arm injury, and

young Owen Lowe suffering an ankle injury that brought his night to an early end.

Final Score: Charlton 6.8.44 to St Arnaud 5.5.35

Best for Charlton: Sam Woods, Tom Finlay, Seb

Zagame, Mitch Collins, Ben Xiriha, Archie Patteron, Bailey Kemp

St Arnaud: Matt Goode, Jay Kirwood, Harley Durwood, Zac Phillips, Torin Petrie, Mitch Egan.

Call for Urgent Fire Services Reform

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) is calling on the Victorian Government to immediately abandon its proposed expanded tax for emergency services and instead focus on urgently reforming the existing Fire Services Property Levy to ensure it is fair, transparent and sustainable for all Victorians.

VFF President Brett Hosking said it comes after widespread community backlash to the government’s new tax proposal, which would see families, farmers, and businesses slugged with massive bills, without any guarantee of improved services.

“Victorians are already doing their fair share and this latest tax grab is unjustified and deeply out of touch. Farmers don’t support it, firefighters don’t, nor do businesses and local governments.”

“Instead of piling on a new tax, the government should be fixing the broken levy system we already have,” Mr Hosking said.

The VFF is urging the government to commit to meaningful reform, including:

- A cap on levy increases: Introduce a legislated cap so the Fire Services Property Levy cannot increase by more than the consumer price index year-on-year, similar to the rate cap applied to local councils.
- Protection against levy shock: Implement an individual capping mechanism to prevent property owners from facing levy spikes due to extreme land value revaluations.
- Fairer classification and rate setting: Conduct a full review of current land use classifications and rate structures



• Brett Hosking.

to ensure they are equitable – particularly considering differing service levels between metropolitan and regional communities.

• Implement the rebate for CFA volunteers: The government should keep its plan to provide a levy rebate to CFA volunteers to the existing fire services levy.

“Our CFA volunteers, so many of them being farmers, are disproportionately giving of their time and their funds to serve the community. It is only right that we look at providing a rebate against their fire services levy bill.

“Scrapping this expanded tax and committing to genuine levy reform would be a win for transparency, equity and trust,” Mr Hosking said.

Tight Contest Goes Lions’ Way

The Calder United Lions hosted Wedderburn for the first time at Wycheproof in great conditions after some welcome rainfall.

It was a tight contest between the arcs early, with neither team able to impact the scoreboard. The Redbacks finally broke the deadlock with a behind, however it was the Lions who answered with the first goal of the day through Jack Exell. The rest of the quarter was played out in much the same fashion, with only Exell able to manage another major before the break.

The arm wrestle continued in the second term although the Lions were able to extend their lead to 24 points at half-time.

The Redbacks fought back early in the third with the first 2 goals before Calder was able to steady and retain a 3-goal lead at the end of a heated third quarter.

It was again the Redbacks who came out firing in the

final term and a goal by Jye Mortlock got them within 6 points at the half way mark of the quarter. Both teams had their chances late in the game, but it was the Lions who were able to make the most of them, with goals to Rylee Smith and Dean Putt. In the end the home team ran out 14-point winner in a tight contest.

Final scores: Calder United 11.11 (77) to Wedderburn 8.14 (63).

Best for Calder United were Matthew Wade, Oscar Madden, Zane Keighran, Zachary Caccaviello, Steven Kennedy, Rylee Smith.

Best for Wedderburn were Jake Pallpratt, Jackson McEwen, Corey Lowry, Hamish Lockhart, Jye Mortlock, Noah Furlong.

North-Central Hockey

Results of round 3 – Under-12s: Sea Lake-Nandaly 0 def. by Birchip-Watchem 12; Donald 0 def. by Boort 1; Charlton 1 d. St Arnaud 0; Calder United 1 d. Wedderburn 0.

Underage: Sea Lake-Nandaly 7 d. Birchip-Watchem 3; Donald 3 d. Boort 2; Charlton 1 d. St Arnaud 0.

Women: Donald 1 def. by Boort 4; Charlton 0 def. by St Arnaud 3; Calder United 3 d. Wedderburn 0.

Men: Donald 1 d. Boort 0; Charlton 0 lost to St Arnaud 8; Calder United 5 d. Wedderburn 1.

POSITIONS OF TEAMS

Women											
	P	W	D	L	F	For	Agst	SD	Pts	WR	
Calder United	3	3	0	0	0	16	1	15	9	100	
St Arnaud	3	3	0	0	0	12	4	8	9	100	
Charlton	2	1	0	1	0	9	4	5	3	50	
Wedderburn	3	1	0	2	0	6	6	0	3	33	
Boort	3	1	0	2	0	7	16	-9	3	33	
Sea Lake-Nandaly	2	0	0	2	0	1	7	-6	0	0	
Donald	2	0	0	2	0	1	14	-13	0	0	
Men											
Calder United	3	3	0	0	0	16	2	14	9	100	
St Arnaud	3	2	1	0	0	11	2	9	7	78	
Donald	2	1	0	1	0	2	5	-3	3	50	
Wedderburn	3	1	1	1	0	6	7	-1	4	44	
Boort	3	1	0	2	0	16	3	13	3	33	
Sea Lake-Nandaly	2	0	0	2	0	1	10	-9	0	0	
Charlton	2	0	0	2	0	0	23	-23	0	0	
Underage											
Charlton	3	3	0	0	0	20	2	18	9	100	
Donald	3	2	0	1	0	13	11	2	6	67	
St Arnaud	2	1	0	1	0	11	1	10	3	50	
Sea Lake-Nandaly	2	1	0	1	0	7	6	1	3	50	
Calder United	2	1	0	1	0	5	4	1	3	50	
Birchip-Watchem	3	1	0	2	0	11	25	-14	3	33	
Boort	3	0	0	3	0	3	21	-18	0	0	
Under-12s											
Calder United	3	3	0	0	0	10	0	10	9	100	
Charlton	3	3	0	0	0	6	0	6	9	100	
Birchip-Watchem	3	2	0	1	0	24	2	22	6	67	
St Arnaud	3	2	0	1	0	6	1	5	6	67	
Boort	3	1	0	2	0	1	8	-7	3	33	
Wedderburn	3	0	1	2	0	0	3	-3	1	11	
Sea Lake-Nandaly	3	0	1	2	0	0	17	-17	1	11	
Donald	3	0	0	3	0	1	17	-16	0	0	

Boort Does the Job

After three rounds of the 2025 season, Boort has grabbed poll position on the ladder following a decisive victory over host, Donald.

In a year that will obviously produce some one sided affairs, the Magpies will be well aware they now have a busy month ahead, with Sea Lake Nandaly, Calder United, Birchip Watchem and Wedderburn to follow. Led by spearhead Jhye Baddeley Kelly with ten goals, Boort will be pleased with the outcome, the only concern being the easing up towards the end, something

the other top sides haven't been doing. Forward Kayne Rutley with five goals and cheeky rover Carlos Egan with four for the Maggies helped build their thirty goal tally with plenty of supply from the likes of Jayden Dick, Jarod Fitzpatrick and ruckman, James Wilson. Although a tough day in the office for Donald, football



• 500 games for umpire Michael Shea.

can go in cycles and it can be pleased with the efforts and endeavours of its players. Runners Ryan Bath and Jett Adams were in everything, and their second efforts didn't go unnoticed.

Playing coach, Dan Pearce, was the organiser down back with several clearing dashes out of defence. Captain Eddie Landwehr and Josh Talty did what they always do, crashing packs and landing tackles in a game which had its fair share of physical encounters.

With the absence of Seth Pearce, Charlie Campbell stepped up to assist spring heeled Brady Griffiths in the ruck and both were more than competitive against Boort's James Wilson.

Although results might not be favourable on the field for Donald at the moment, it is heartening to witness the efforts which make a club tick. To continually fill so many grades of football, netball and



• The big men fly: Boort's James Wilson and Donald's Brady Griffiths contest the centre bounce. Others pictured from left are Donald's Tom Letts and Josh Talty and the Magpies' Carlos Egan and Jye Baddley-Kelly, and umpire Michael Shea.

hockey takes a mighty effort from countless volunteers, and a club can be thankful for the players, particularly those who travel long distances, in helping to keep the show running.

Of particular interest for Donald was the first senior game for Josh Smulders, who grew in confidence as the game progressed, and Glenn

Meulendyks, who seems to relish the contest. Congratulations also to central umpire Michael Shea on reaching the milestone of five hundred games. Rather than throwing the ball up to commence the senior game, Michael bounced it, a thing of beauty as it rocketed straight into the air. He was later presented with the ball by

Donald president Dan Forrest. Results: Boort 30.9 (189) to Donald 3.4 (22). Best for Boort: Jhye Baddeley Kelly, Jayden Dick, James Wilson, Matt Austin, Kayne Rutley, Jarrod Fitzpatrick. For Donald: Ryan Bath, Dan Pearce, Eddie Landwehr, Rob Walker, Jett Adams, Charlie Campbell.



• Donald's skipper Eddie Landwehr contests the ball with Boort's Ryan McGhie.

North-Central Netball

Last Saturday's results:

"A" Grade Sea Lake-Nandaly 49 d. Birchip-Watchem 33; Donald 45 lost to Boort 52; Calder United 28 lost to Wedderburn 44. "B" Grade Sea Lake-Nandaly Tigers 35 lost to Birchip-Watchem 60; Donald 2 def. by Boort 3; Calder United 36 lost to Wedderburn 45.

"C" Grade Sea Lake-Nandaly 35 d. Birchip-Watchem 29; Donald 21 def. by Boort 46; Calder United 50 d. Wedderburn 24. "C" Grade Reserves Sea Lake Nandaly 50 d. Birchip-Watchem 13; Calder United 45 d. Wedderburn 7. Seventeen-and-Under Sea Lake Nandaly 44 d. Birchip-Watchem 39; Calder United

87 d. Wedderburn 11; Donald 17 def. by Boort 58. Fourteen-and-Under "A" Calder United 26 d. Wedderburn 3; Donald 18 def. by Boort 21; Sea Lake-Nandaly 16 def. by Birchip-Watchem 42. Fourteen-and-Under "B" Calder United 5 def. by Wedderburn 10; Donald 4 def. by Boort 32; Sea Lake-Nandaly 0 def. by Birchip-Watchem 16.



• The Magpies' Jayden Dick is tackled by Donald's Ryan Bath. Other Donald players are Brady Griffiths and Jett Adams. The two Boort players are Lachlan Hall and Jim Wilson.

Results of round 3:

"A" GRADE												
	P	W	L	D	B	FWFL	F	A	Pts	%		
Wedderburn	3	3	0	0	0	0	155	82	12	189		
Boort	3	3	0	0	0	0	181	128	12	141		
Birchip-Wat	3	2	1	0	0	0	143	119	8	120		
Sea Lake-Nan	3	2	1	0	0	0	127	106	8	120		
Calder United	3	1	2	0	0	0	109	135	4	81		
Charlton	3	1	2	0	0	0	107	155	4	69		
Donald	3	0	3	0	0	0	131	145	0	90		
St Arnaud	3	0	3	0	0	0	90	173	0	52		
"B" GRADE												
Birchip-Wat	3	3	0	0	0	0	164	85	12	193		
Wedderburn	3	3	0	0	0	0	183	107	12	171		
Boort	2	2	0	0	0	0	98	61	8	160		
Calder United	3	2	1	0	0	0	141	113	8	125		
St Arnaud	3	1	2	0	0	0	114	163	4	70		
Sea Lake-Nan	3	0	3	0	0	0	108	164	0	66		
Donald	2	0	2	0	0	0	58	97	0	60		
Charlton	3	0	3	0	0	0	71	147	0	48		
"C" GRADE												
Boort	3	3	0	0	0	0	131	92	12	142		
Sea Lake-Nan	3	3	0	0	0	0	110	86	12	128		
Calder United	3	2	1	0	0	0	154	75	8	205		
Birchip-Wat	3	2	1	0	0	0	118	79	8	149		
St Arnaud	3	1	2	0	0	0	116	103	4	113		
Wedderburn	3	1	2	0	0	0	97	129	4	75		
Charlton	3	0	3	0	0	0	83	137	0	61		
Donald	3	0	3	0	0	0	60	168	-4	36		

"C" GRADE RESERVES												
Sea Lake-Nan	3	3	0	0	0	0	147	55	12	0.89		
Boort	0	1	0	0	0	0	58	12	4	5		
Calder United	2	1	1	0	0	0	71	42	4	0.85		
Wedderburn	3	1	2	0	0	0	65	138	4	0.16		
Birchip-Wat	1	0	1	0	1	0	13	50	0	0.26		
St Arnaud	2	0	2	0	0	0	43	100	0	0.22		
SEVENTEEN-AND-UNDER												
Calder United	3	3	0	0	0	0	271	50	12	542		
Boort	3	3	0	0	0	0	137	83	12	165		
Birchip-Wat	3	2	1	0	0	0	178	110	8	162		
St Arnaud	3	2	1	0	0	0	134	100	8	134		
Sea Lake-Nan	3	2	1	0	0	0	115	159	8	72		
Donald	3	0	3	0	0	0	60	234	0	26		
Charlton	3	0	3	0	0	0	99	146	-4	68		
Wedderburn	3	0	3	0	0	0	80	192	-4	42		
FOURTEEN-AND-UNDER "A"												
Birchip-Wat	3	3	0	0	0	0	97	32	12	303		
Boort	3	3	0	0	0	0	85	37	12	230		
St Arnaud	3	2	1	0	0	0	57	36	8	158		
Calder United	3	2	1	0	0	0	68	43	8	158		
Donald	3	1	2	0	0	0	72	54	4	133		
Sea Lake-Nan	3	1	2	0	0	0	40	85	44	0.6		
Wedderburn	3	0	3	0	0	0	18	74	0	24.32		
Charlton	3	0	3	0	0	0	15	91	0	0.16		
FOURTEEN-AND-UNDER "B"												
Birchip-Wat	2	2	0	0	1	0	42	1	8	21		
St Arnaud	2	2	0	0	1	0	35	7	8	2.5		
Wedderburn	3	1	1	1	0	0	19	37	6	0.17		
Boort	2	1	1	0	1	0	36	13	4	1.38		
Calder United	3	0	1	2	0	0	18	23	4	0.26		
Sea Lake-Nan	3	0	1	2	0	0	11	27	4	0.14		
Donald	3	0	2	1	0	0	13	66	2	0.07		



• Firing out a handball, Boort's Ryan McGhie is surrounded by the Royal Blues' Tom Letts, Nick Atkins and George Walker.

North-Central Football Roundup

Goldacres Seniors

BIRCHIP-WATCHEM	2.2	6.5	9.8	12.10	(82)
SEA LAKE-NANDALY	4.2	6.2	8.4	11. 6	(72)
Goals for Birchip-Watchem: Ben Edwards 4, Dale Hinkley 2, Joseph Reid 2, Tom Gibson, Hamish Hosking, Marshall Rippon, Nicholas Rippon.					

For Sea Lake-Nandaly: Max Cahoon 2, Thomas Cox 2, Bryce Delmenico 2, Wade Donnan, Lachy McClelland, Tyson McKenzie, Adam Pattison, Brody Weir.

Best for Birchip-Watchem: Hamish Hosking, Ben Lakin, Nicholas Rippon, Dale Hinkley, Meyrick Buchanan, Daniel Bell. For Sea Lake-Nandaly: Jack Poulton, Billy Mcinnes, Thomas Cox, Wade Donnan, Adam Pattison, Joel Donnan.

BOORT	8.3	17.3	27.5	30.9	(189)
DONALD	0.0	0. 2	2. 4	3. 4	(22)

Goals for Boort: Jhye Baddeley-Kelly 10, Kayne Rutley 5, Carlos Egan 4, Peter Barbopoulos 3, Ethan Coleman 2, Tom Potter 2, Matt Austin, James Byrne, Lachlan Hall.

For Donald: Ben Arho, Brent Arho, Robert Walker.

Best for Boort: Jhye Baddeley-Kelly, Jayden Dick, James Wilson, Matt Austin, Kayne Rutley, Jarrod Fitzpatrick. For Donald: Ryan Bath, Daniel Pearce, Eddie Landwehr, Robert Walker, Jett Adams, Charlie Campbell.

CHARLTON	1.2	2.6	2.6	6.8	(44)
ST ARNAUD	2.0	2.1	4.3	5.5	(35)

Goals for Charlton: Sebastian Zagame 3, Mitchell Collins, Thomas Finlay, Elliott Fitzpatrick.

For St Arnaud: Mitch Egan, Sam Male, Bradley Organ, Zac Phillips, Darby Schilder.

Best for Charlton: Sam Woods, Thomas Finlay, Mitchell Collins, Ben Xiriha, Archer Patterson, Bailey Kemp.

For St Arnaud: Matthew Goode, Jay Kirwood, Harley Durward, Zac Phillips, Torin Petrie, Mitch Egan.

CALDER UNITED	2.3	5.6	8.9	11.11	(77)
WEDDERBURN	0.3	1.6	5.8	8.15	(63)

Goals for Calder United: Jack Exell 3, Darcy Munro 2, Mitch Farmer, Charlie Fawcett, Zac Kelly, Steven Kennedy, Dean Putt, Rylee Smith

Goals for Wedderburn: Danny Benaim 2, Jye Mortlock 2, Louis Holt, Darcy Jackson, Hamish Lockhart, Mackenzie Smith.

Best for Calder United: Matthew Wade, Oscar Madden, Zane Keighran, Zachary Caccaviello, Steven Kennedy, Rylee Smith.

For Wedderburn: Jake Pallpratt, Jackson McEwen, Corey Lowry, Hamish Lockhart, Jye Mortlock, Noah Furlong.

Haeusler’s Reserves

BIRCHIP-WATCHEM	1.3	5.5	7.8	10.10	(70)
SEA LAKE-NANDALY	2.1	2.3	5.5	5. 5	(35)

Goals for Birchip-Watchem: Nick Ryan 3, Charlie Frank 2, Matthew Berry, Bodie Colbert, Harry Cook, Julian Liston, Tom Sheridan.

For Sea Lake-Nandaly: Zachary Wemyss 3, Callan Noonan, Cruz O’Sullivan.

Best for Birchip-Watchem: Jack Lee, Charlie Frank, George Addis, Connor Lee, Bodie Colbert, Harry Cook.

For Sea Lake-Nandaly: Spenser Seward, Brandon Staddon, Ethan Ellis, Brayden Allan, Isaac Durie, Rylee McGarry.

BOORT	4.3	14.4	21.7	31.11	(197)
DONALD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0. 0	(0)

Goals for Boort: Harry Weaver 8, Max Beattie 4, Alex Cockerell 4, Chris O’Rourke 4, Malachi Coleman 2, Ben Ellis 2, Jacob Mulquiny 2, Angus Trethowan 2, Sam Barraclough, Cooper Gooding, Patrick O’Rourke.

For Donald: Nil.

Best for Boort: Jacob Mulquiny, Harry Weaver, Brendon Hewlett, Max Beattie, Jaxson Vella, Malachi Coleman.

For Donald: Daniel Atkins, Brod Harrison, Jye Johnson, Marty Burke, Ethan Clapham, Dion Hawkes.

ST ARNAUD	1.1	3.3	7.3	10.4	(64)
CHARLTON	1.1	4.1	5.5	5.5	(35)

Goals for St Arnaud: Jarryd Kell 3, Keegan Cuolahan 2, Scott Driscoll 2, Beau Knight, James McKenny, Tristan Ward.

For Charlton: Tyler Bates, Lachlan Holmes-Brown, Bailey Hooper-Dixon, Angus Johnstone, Benjamin Roberts.

Best for St Arnaud: Jackson Needs, James McKenny, Ryan Bigmore, Scott Driscoll, Jarryd Kell, Keegan Cuolahan.

For Charlton: Marcus Campbell, Jackson Zagame, Patrick Soulsby, Josh Harris, Bailey Hooper-Dixon, Benjamin Roberts.

CALDER UNITED	5.3	8.8	14.11	16.22	(118)
WEDDERBURN	0.0	0.0	0. 0	0. 0	(0)

Goals for Calder United: Hunter Connolly 3, Heath Senior 3, Angus Forrester 2, George Forrester 2, Billy Forrester, Alexander Hogan, David Isbister, Dude Kelly, Jack Morrison, Joel Pardella.

For Wedderburn: Nil.

Best for Calder United: David Isbister, Dude Kelly, Hunter Connolly, Dane McLennan, Samuel Hogan, Heath Senior.

For Wedderburn: Robert Tonkin, Joshua Hall, Matthew Lockhart, Chris Hargreaves, Dylan Caruana, Aaron Smith.

Community Bank Charlton & District Under-17s

SEA LAKE-NANDALY	6.5	10.11	10.11	16.11	(107)
BIRCHIP-WATCHEM	0.0	0. 0	4. 1	7. 4	(46)

Best for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Cruz O’Sullivan, Brayden Allan, Angus Renney, Jacob Cox, Cooper Kelly, Charlie Mitchell.

For Birchip-Watchem: Oliver Cook, Jack McAuliffe, Max Field, Bayley Kemp.

BOORT	5.1	5.1	10.4	11.5	(71)
DONALD	0.2	4.3	4.3	6.5	(41)

Best for Boort: Cooper Gooding, Brodie McPherson, Chaise Hird, Cooper Gould, Flynn O’Rourke, Jake O’Flaherty.

For Donald: Ethan Clapham, Chase Campbell, Hayden Clark, Jam Borden.

ST ARNAUD	4.2	6.7	9.11	13.12	(90)
CHARLTON	0.1	0.1	1. 1	1. 3	(9)

Best for St Arnaud: Aidan Wickham, Bob Donald, Tynan Thomas, Nathan Saludes, Ethan Hilton, Talan Berryman.

For Charlton: Cooper Phillips, Jarvis Wright, Liam Monaghan, Ethan Soulsby, Samuel Olive, Joseph Monaghan.

CALDER UNITED	6.6	9.13	12.14	16.15	(111)
WEDDERBURN	0.0	0. 1	1. 2	6. 5	(41)

Best for Calder United: Rhett Hogan, Darcy Coles, Logan Pollington, Tiger Vearing, Max Fawcett, Tynan Perry. For Wedderburn: Noah Winslett, Caleb Gault, Oliver Huismann, William Cunningham, Trav Lowe.

Next Round

Round 4, Saturday May 3 -

Boort v. Sea Lake Nandaly	St Arnaud v. Donald
Wedderburn v. Charlton	Birchip-Watchem v. Calder United

Uniting Church Under-14s

SEA LAKE-NANDALY 7.8 (50) D. BIRCHIP-WATCHEM 0.1 (1)

Best for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Harry Wight, Aydan Smith, Jimmy Cox, Brodie Barry, Tom McClelland, Jesse Cox.

For Birchip-Watchem: Archie Tyler, Willow Ryan, Desmond Coffey, Dakota Atkinson.

DONALD 11.6 (72) D. BOORT 3.1 (19)

Best for Donald: Emmett Geddes, Noah Michael, Jake Italia, Jhonrick Vincent Embate.

For Boort: Connor McNally, Tristan Broad, Tyler Stringer, Jed Perryman, Sunny Soumelidis.

ST ARNAUD 10.16 (76) D. CHARLTON 0.0 (0)

Best for st Arnaud: Duncan Kirk, Jesse James, Lewis Lowe, Finn Evans, Xavier Taylor, Sami Weir.

For Charlton: Liam Monaghan, Xav Good, Rhys Gahan, Oliver McPhee, Thomas Fitzpatrick.

WEDDERBURN 3.0 (18) D. CALDER UNITED 2.2 (14)

Best for Wedderburn: Calvin Jones-Moore, Zane Polkinghorne, Blake Collins, Abraxas Noordennen, Luke Martin.

For Calder United: Morgan Beattie, Desmond Polzin, Harry Humphreys, Tyler Harrison, Finbar Polzin, Jed Harrison.

Positions of Teams

Goldacres North-Central Seniors

Teams	P	Pts	%	W	L	D	B	For	Ag
Boort	3	12	560.87	3	0	0	0	516	92
Birchip-Watchem	3	12	451.30	3	0	0	0	519	115
Calder United	3	8	194.04	2	1	0	0	293	151
Sea Lake-Nandaly	3	8	137.65	2	1	0	0	223	162
Wedderburn	3	4	105.24	1	2	0	0	201	191
Charlton	3	4	19.72	1	2	0	0	86	436
St Arnaud	3	0	44.85	0	3	0	0	122	272
Donald	3	0	9.53	0	3	0	0	57	598

Haeuslers Reserves

Teams	P	Pts	%	W	L	D	B	For	Ag
Calder United	3	12	1595.65	3	0	0	0	367	23
Boort	3	12	1091.89	3	0	0	0	404	37
Birchip-Watchem	3	12	843.18	3	0	0	0	371	44
Sea Lake-Nandaly	3	4	132.32	1	2	0	0	217	164
St Arnaud	3	4	79.19	1	2	0	0	137	173
Wedderburn	3	4	18.84	1	2	0	0	62	329
Charlton	3	0	17.95	0	3	0	0	56	312
Donald	3	0	0.75	0	3	0	0	4	536

Community Bank Charlton and District Under-17s

Teams	P	Pts	W	L	D	B
Sea Lake-Nandaly	3	12	3	0	0	
St Arnaud	3	12	3	0	0	
Donald	3	8	2	1	0	
Boort	3	8	2	1	0	
Calder United	3	4	1	2	0	
Charlton	3	4	1	2	0	
Wedderburn	3	0	0	3	0	
Birchip-Watchem	3	0	0	3	0	

Uniting Church Under-14s

Teams	P	Pts	W	L	D	B
Sea Lake-Nandaly	3	12	3	0	0	
St Arnaud	3	8	2	1	0	
Donald	3	8	2	1	0	
Wedderburn	3	8	2	1	0	
Boort	3	4	1	2	0	
Birchip-Watchem	3	4	1	2	0	
Charlton	3	4	1	2	0	
Calder United	3	0	0	3	0	

Tooleybuc Sporting Club Presidents’ Award

Voting for round 3:

Birchip-Watchem: H. Hosking 3, B. Lakin 2, N. Rippon 1.
Sea Lake-Nandaly: J. Poulton 3, T. Cox 2, W. Donnan 1.
Boort: J. Baddeley-Kelly 3, J. Dick 2, J. Wilson 1.
Donald: R. Bath 3, D. Pearce 2, E. Landwehr 1.
Charlton: S. Woods 3, B. Xihira 2, T. Finlay 1.
St Arnaud: M. Goode 3, T. Petrie 2, J. Kirwood 1.
Calder United: M. Wade 3, O. Madden 2, R. Smith 1.
Wedderburn: J. Pallpratt 3, J. McEwen 2, C. Lowry 1.

Saturday’s Leading Goal Kickers

Seniors	Reserves
Ben Edwards (B-W) 4	Harry Weaver (Boort) 8
Jhye Baddeley-Kelly (Boort) 10	Alex Cockerell (Boort) 4
Kayne Rutley (Boort) 5	Heath Senior (CU) 3
Joseph Reid (B-W) 2	Chris O’Rourke (Boort) 4
Mitch Jensen (Wedd) -	Matthew Berry (B-W) 1
Jack Exell (CU) 3	Joel Clohesy (SLNT) -
Peter Barbopoulos (Boort) 3	George Forrester (CU) 2
Nicholas Rippon (B-W) 1	Alexander Hay (B-W) -

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	0	58
Birchip-Watchem	10	6	0	0	50
Sea Lake-Nandaly	0	0	4	2	44
Calder United	10	6	4	0	42
St Arnaud	0	6	4	2	22
Wedderburn	0	0	0	2	20
Charlton	10	0	0	0	16
Donald	0	0	0	2	12

Bulls Prevails in Clash of Titans

• Continued from page 16.

neighbours, usual stuff, both just proud community clubs who are passionate about their footy and there was plenty of niggles again in this clash but no spite; Riley Hogan and Joel Donnan saying hello to each other, don't think the cousins exchange Christmas cards these days. Just a white hot contest.

Byrce Delmenico was able to slip between a pack of players in the goal square and kick a handy one off the ground, then another after finding space across half forward. Tigers had scoreboard ascendancy again but not winning the ball near as easily as in the first stanza. The Bulls had tightened up substantially and standing out for them in defence was Horsham newcomer, Ben Lakin, equally terrific in the air or at ground level with a boot to behold, often clearing out with a 50 metre kick, in fact a couple landed in the centre zone when he was kicking out from full back.

Play was frenetic, Hosking dominant, both midfields running hard, both forward and back, accountable, Tigers very well organised down back, playing one up now with the luxury of gun Trent Donnan slingshotting off half back with his brother, Joel, rolling back the years, also playing a fine defensive game and often Edwards found himself up against 3 others. Their captain Jack Poulton just had the uncanny knack of being under the ball when it was lobbed in. Time and again the Bulls somehow found him and not one of their own. He was terrific all day for the Tigers, perhaps the Bulls might pay him more respect next time, for he did the same thing in last year's grand final.

With the Bulls' mids getting more of it and amongst a mad scramble of play, just pushing it forward contest after contest, Edwards was on the end of it again and snapped truly before then slotting from a set shot for another; Bulls up by 3 points as the bell sounded. Where did that come from? Ripper first half of footy! The ball whipped around, both defences getting overworked, midfielders in and at each other, Bulls tackle count much improved, their spread from contests on display, Tiger Tyson McKenzie starting to find his wheels.

Hosking was playing a blinder for the Bulls and ultimately he proved the difference with "Sully" off injured for the second half not helping the Tigers' cause, though his young understudy Conor Michael continues to develop, willing to provide a body contest with Hosking. Hosking is just a different player in 2025, much more mobile, his ability to back up after the ruck contest and win the ball at ground level was impressive and then some of his tapwork had to be seen to be believed, Nic Rippon the recipient of a deft tap from a ruck contest at start of the third stanza, where he slotted a magnificent running goal hard up against the boundary just one example. Then goals in quick succession from Tom Gibson, a nice find from the Hinkley farm and Hinkley himself again pushing down from halfback had the Bulls out by a handy 3 goal margin, the Bulls spread working well but importantly getting their hands on the pill first.

The never-say-die Tigers then found a way, McKenzie at the forefront, silky class he is, winning the ball through the midfield and weaving his way forward then delivering with a penetrating kick. Cox and Donnan provided plenty of run and carry, Tait and Elliot played their role across the wings, Donnan a goal then McKenzie with a 45 metre cucumber cool set shot just before the siren brought them



• Ryan O'Sullivan gets the hands out to Wade Donnan under pressure from the Bulls' Hamish Hosking

fore the siren brought them within a goal. Game on, scene set for another classic.

Within two minutes that man Cox delivered a long bomb, Tigers on the sidelines found their voices and away we were, 9 goals apiece, just a tough, unrelenting high pressure game, neither side allowing the other room or space, contest after contest, still a high spectacle though, no place for the faint hearted and there weren't any. The Bulls bombed it in, Poulton underneath it repelling the attacks, Lakin and Hinkley doing the same for the Bulls, Christie and Marshall Rippon with a chain of handballs from the wing able to find Edwards who snapped truly despite McInnes bearing down on him before Lachy McClelland delivered a timely tough 45 metre set shot from the boundary to get the Tigers back on terms. Sling shot footy, nothing in it.

With the might of Hosking the Bulls' mids were able to win a couple of key contests around their forward half, with Marshall Rippon delivering a fine running goal from the boundary 45 metres out at the 20 minute mark to give the Bulls a 10 point breather before Reid snapped truly to push them out to near 3 goals. Still the Tigers weren't done, again they came; Cox, McKenzie, Donnan willing it forward, peppering the arc, Cahoon missed a set shot, then McKenzie missed a set shot before Cahoon atoned and delivered, but the clock was against them, Bulls home by 10 points in yet another classic. All this for a \$10 entry fee.

Forget the rubbish of atonement for losing the '24 flag, that horse has bolted, this is only April, atonement can only come in September and the Bulls appear driven for the challenge, but don't worry

about the Tigers, they too are still hungry for success and are extremely well drilled with a couple of keys to come back, including Jenkins and Brownless. McInnes to full-back has been a masterstroke, he held gun Edwards to 4 goals in a titanic struggle.

Both sides are still the top echelon of North Central and both seem to have gone up a notch from 2024 for the others to chase. Another mouth watering appetiser faces the Bulls next Saturday in the merged Calder United, two

rivals in one, that's a hamburger with the lot and more, whilst the Tigers face new look and unbeaten Boort. Alive and well is North Central footy.

Final score: Birchip-Watchem 12.10 (82) d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 11.6 (72)

Best players: Birchip Watchem; Hamish Hosking, Ben Lakin, Nic Rippon, Dale Hinkley, Meyrick Buchanan, Daniel Bell

Sea Lake-Nandaly: Jack Poulton, Billy McInnes, Thomas Cox, Wade Donnan, Adam Pattison, Joel Donnan



• Hamish Hosking and Connor Michael in the ruck contest. – Photos by Blake Lee.



• Dale Hinkley runs clear of the Tigers' Tyson Mckenzie.



• Adam Pattison reaches in front of the pack of Ben Lakin, Hamish Hosking and Connor Michael.



• Tyson Mckenzie attempts to evade Marshall Rippon while the Bulls' Bill Lee and Riley Hogan also apply pressure

Bulls Prevails in Clash of Titans

Birchip-Watchem's bright start to season 2025 continued on Saturday with a hard fought 10 point victory over fierce rival Sea Lake-Nandaly, away from home and overcoming a blistering 4 goal to none start by the Tigers, who flew out of the blocks simply stunning the Bulls. Shell shocked were their supporters on the hill and players similarly so.

Coming off the back of consecutive 30 goal victories this was different fishing for the Bulls, more like big game Marlin hunting, wrestling monsters in the Bermuda triangle than shooting fish in a barrel, the Tigers had warmed up for the Grand Final rematch of 2024 with a tough win over newly merged Calder United and were battle ready. It seemed the Bulls weren't, no easy waltzing through witches hats as has been the case past two games and the Tigers smacked them in the opening ten minutes. Bulls didn't know which way to look, Tigers running amok.

It started in the middle for the Tigers despite Bulls man mountain Hamish Hosking, nicknamed Hammer for good reason, winning the all important ruck contests, just that the Tigers silky Thomas Cox and hard nut Wade Donnan in particular were able to shark his tapouts and deliver further

downfield. They were popping handballs out the back or overhead to a plethora of runners and the Bulls just didn't lock down, hardly a tackle laid and the Tigers made them pay early stages.

A bullet pass from Cox to Adam Pattison playing out of the square with Josh Jenkins missing got the Tigers off to the best possible start in the opening minutes. Then goals to Donnan, Max Cahoon and Cox himself in quickfire succession stretched the Tigers out to a 4 goal lead, super impressive stuff, the Bulls barely having touched the ball never mind bothered the goal keeper. Such a well drilled unit these Tigers, they've trained and played together for years now bleeding youngsters along the way.

After much head scratching in the Bulls' middle (as this was where they were getting spanked), they slowly but surely picked up the pieces,

Hosking on top against the evergreen Ryan O'Sullivan (and isn't he just the epitome of the legend Anzac ode "They shall grow old but she shall not weary them", he's edging closer to Methuselah in age and still shouldering first ruck duties, quite incredible), Meyrick Buchanan, Nic Rippon and Jacob Christie started to find some ball and get it into their forward arc. At the 22 minute mark, Joe Reid on the end of some good work from further afield was able to slot the Bulls first and then Hosking, Tom Hawkins-like, just shoved out the way his opponent from a ruck contest 20 metres out from goal and went bang. Finally a contest, Bulls at least in touch on the scoreboard and showing some appetite for the contest.

New Bulls coach Ash Connick hasn't had to raise his voice yet this season and despite the slow start, his demeanour barely changed much



• Hamish Hosking is under pressure from Bryce Delmenico.

at his quarter-time address. No fireworks when he was well entitled to, just an analytical assessment of where his charges were failing and what they needed to rectify to get back in the contest. Tackle count was high on his list, the Tigers were running through untouched.

And change they did. Hosking to Buchanan and

down to Ben Edwards being worn closely by joint coach Billy McInnes, who's revelled in the change from forward to key back. Bulls off to a flyer with a goal in the opening two minutes, then Dale Hinkley coming from down back slotting another a minute later and the Bulls were back level pegging, intensity up 4 notches, another battle royale on be-

tween these two protagonists. In five years there hasn't been a blowout, always a belter match, this developing into one.

The sides have built a healthy disregard for each other in a short space of time and whilst some rivalries take decades to evolve, this one has appeared in no time, families,

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Navies Triumphant in Wet ANZAC Day Clash

Charlton has returned to the winners list – celebrating victory for the first time in 611 days.

The solemn occasion of the 110 year anniversary of the landing of ANZAC troops into Turkey, served as a perfect night for a clash between two of North Central Football League's greatest rivals, Charlton's Navies and the St Arnaud Saints. Following a short commemoration conducted by Charlton RSL Sub Branch members and bugler Corey Harrison, where players from all three codes came together to pay their respects, Senior footballers took to the rain soaked, flood lit field to assume their own hostilities, the first time a 'night' match has been played at Charlton Park.

With both sides winless after the first two rounds of the 2025 season, a hotly contested match was expected, supporters of both teams coming out in great numbers despite the conditions, heavy rain being experienced during the reserves encounter, lightening off for the main game, but still having an impact on players' ability to handle the ball, and keep their feet. As is often the case in such conditions, the most committed team would most likely prevail – Charlton at home, producing a stirring effort to claim their first victory since round 17, 2023.

It was a day of celebration of locally produced talent,

Charlton's Kris Clifford bringing up game 250 in the Navy jumper, while for St Arnaud it was James McNamee and Sam Male reaching their 100 and 50 game milestones respectively. The Saints from neighbouring St Arnaud were always going to respond to whatever Charlton threw at them, arriving at the struggling Navies home ground, the Saints were close to unbackable favourites, despite also not having won in season 2025. Matches between these two sides are always played in fierce spirit, the sense of occasion not lost on the players, both sides showing a commitment befitting an ANZAC day fixture.

Youngster on the Board Early

With the ground still looking in great condition despite the heavy rain, Charlton got on the board early through emerging youngster Seb Zagame, just two minutes into his 2nd senior game, kicking the first goal of the game, calmly converting his set shot after illegal contact during a marking contest. The next period of play saw players from both sides feeling each other out, no quarter asked or given, players throwing themselves at the contest, the ball spending most time on the ground.

Zac Phillips finally getting the Saints on the board, some 6 minutes into the first term, a clever snap from the big man bouncing through to level up the scores. Despite the declining conditions making ball handling challenging, when Sam Male, in game 50, kicked the Saints second, also from a clever snap on his non-preferred, the Saints found themselves in front by that goal, only three scoring shots had been registered and incredibly all through the middle of the big sticks.

Charlton were having more of the play in the last part of the opening quarter, however with two behinds their only further scores, they were left to rue missed opportunity to bridge the gap and take a lead into the first break, instead it was the Saints in front by four points.

Stalemate in Second Term

Game plans were pretty obvious from both sides, with neither side looking like being finals contenders this season, simple footy was the order of the night, don't over possess, or try to do anything too fancy, the game was all about metres gained through whatever means necessary, a somewhat, similar message as of our ANZAC heroes so long ago.

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• Lachy Foott and Chase Tait compete for the Sherrin.



• Cormac Wilson attempts to get the hands out under pressure from Tyson McKenzie, Adam Pattison and Thomas Cox