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

Connecting Council with Community

Buloke Shire Council has last week announced the reopening of comments on Facebook posts, following a period aimed at safeguarding the wellbeing of both the community and staff.

Comments were paused due to overwhelming and, at times, harmful online interactions, which Council's small team cannot monitor around the clock.

"As a public body Council has a responsibility to make sure that its online spaces are safe and respectful, in line with the Local Government Act 2020 and other digital media guidelines," said Buloke

Shire Council Mayor Cr Alan Getley.

"We know people are under pressure and want to be heard. That's important to us too.

"We're opening comments again, but please think about what you write before you post," he added.

"Let's make this a space where we can proudly share our community voice and be constructive on matters that

are important to us. It's not the place for personal attacks or open rants."

Council's renewed social media moderation approach invites community members to engage in public discussion with empathy and consideration, helping to make Council's platform a space where people feel safe to share ideas and concerns — not just about Council services, but also the broader issues affecting our

communities that we want to bring attention to.

"We're asking our community to work with us as we navigate the many external pressures affecting our region right now, and to help keep conversations respectful and constructive," the Mayor said.

Council will continue to monitor engagement and welcomes community input as it evolves its approach to digital participation.



• Buloke Shire Council Mayor Cr. Alan Getley.



David's Ambulance Service Recognised

Charlton Ambulance Community Officer (ACO) David Pollard was awarded a 3rd clasp for the National Medal at last week's Ambulance Victoria Loddon Mallee Region Staff Recognitions Awards held at the All Seasons Resort in Bendigo.

The medal, which recognizes diligent long service in organisations that protect life and property at some risk to their members is conferred only by nomination and only after fifteen years of service.

Clasps are available for each additional ten year period, but again are only conferred through nomination. David's third clasp denotes a 45 year period which also incorporates his 35 year service to the CFA for which the National Medal was originally conferred.

In introducing the awards evening, Director Regional and Clinical Operations for Loddon Mallee, Matt McCrohan, thanked responders for their work and families for their support in dealing with the disruptions which being a paramedic brings to home-life.

Citation

In presenting David's award Matt outlined the scope of contributions in the following citation.

"A First Responder since joining the Ambulance Victoria in 1993, David's outreach has extended well beyond the call of duty.

"Holding a representative role on the First Responder State Forums for many, many years, along with more recently playing a leading role in the Heart Safe Program in his home-town of Wycheproof, David has also volunteered with the Charlton and District Ambulance Auxiliary for over thirty years, and is currently the president.

"Helping raise crucial funds for healthcare equipment and facilities for local outlets, David has promoted health education issues and

fostered a sense of community in health-related matters."

Listing David's additional community involvement including his terms as a Councillor and Mayor of the Buloke Shire and his forty years of volunteering at Charlton's Rex Theatre, Matt said: "His contribution to the community, and clearly with AV is well beyond — and is an outstanding achievement. Congratulations David."

• More Awards — page 2.

• Charlton Community Ambulance Officer (ACO) David Pollard (left) was presented with a 3rd clasp for his National Medal at the recent Ambulance Victoria Loddon Mallee Staff Recognition Awards held in Bendigo. Pictured with David is Director Regional and Clinical Operations, Matt McCrohan.

MOBILE OFFICE

Monday, August 18th

DONALD

at 12:30pm

CHOOSE FOOD

51 Woods St

CHARLTON

at 2:00pm

EAST CHARLTON HOTEL

53 High St



Anne **WEBSTER** MP
Federal Member for Mallee

INATIONALS
for Regional Australia

TAKE THE
SURVEY





• Toby Smith leads the boys open 800 metres race ahead of Curtis Rice and Lachie Clark. The Donald High School sports were held last Wednesday, August 6. Full report on page 12.

“Friendship”

It’s been called an “absurdist comedy” and the “funniest film of the year”, so patrons can make up their own minds when “Friendship” screens at The Rex this weekend.

The story revolves around Craig (Tim Robinson) – a socially awkward marketing executive whose wife, Tami is in remission from cancer. With his life slowly rolling down a hill, he becomes fast friends with the new neighbour Austin (Paul Rudd), a quirky local weather man who plays in a punk band.

Craig’s taste of friendship quickly becomes romanticized and just as quickly he ruins it. Bringing both comic relief, along with heart-wrenching pathos, Craig’s vulnerability is exposed for the world to see. Rather than just being awkward – he was crumbling under the weight of loneliness and unspoken pressure.

Robinson, best known as the star of the Netflix sketch show, “I Think You Should Leave”, has a particular brand of comedy which for some may be an acquired taste. However, given the uniformity of reviews which “get” the humour and have praised its appealing “cringeworthy” feel, it might be a style which resonates much more broadly.

Be it “bromance” or building a friendship, this is a movie which one reviewer quoted “is a 100-minute spiral into insanity”. Why not try it and see?

“Friendship” (M 100 mins) screens: Saturday, Aug 16, 8 p.m. | Sunday, Aug 17, 2 p.m. | Tuesday, Aug 19, 8 p.m..

Corner Cutting Amid Road Repairs Sell-off

The State Government continues to take short cuts on fixing Victoria’s appalling roads, its latest move to privatise a key road maintenance agency.

Government-owned Sprayline Road Services, which repairs roads across the Loddon-Mallee, Grampians and eastern metropolitan Melbourne areas, will be off-

loaded to a private operator by July 1 next year.

Maintenance services will be “re-tendered” to private contractors and Sprayline’s spray sealing operations will

be sold through a bidding process.

The sell-off comes amid a backdrop of crumbling roads and savage cuts to maintenance in recent years.

Despite spruiking a record spend on roads, the government will in the next year undertake 93 per cent less patching works than it did last year.

That’s on top of a 13 per cent reduction to road re-sealing and rehabilitation activities.

Leader of The Nationals and Shadow Minister for

Roads and Road Safety, Danny O’Brien, said the privatisation of the key body underlined Labor’s attitude to the state of our roads.

“How will privatising Sprayline benefit Victorians and improve the state of our roads? Labor has a lot of explaining to do given we’re all sick and tired of dodging potholes,” Mr O’Brien said.



• Danny O’Brien.

Dramatic Cuts

“Despite all the spin, the cuts to the maintenance budget in recent years has been dramatic. This must not impact on repair works.

“Labor should guarantee that any proceeds of the sale go back into fixing our roads.

“Funds from the sale should not get sucked into the budget black hole that Labor has created through waste and irresponsible spending.”

Mr O’Brien said the sale of Sprayline – established by the former Kennett government in 1997 as a government-owned entity – was a stunning example of hypocrisy.

“Labor continues to rail against privatisation when undertaken by the Liberals and Nationals, but flogs off anything that isn’t nailed down when it needs the money,” Mr O’Brien said.

Emma Speaks at Charlton Probus

The Charlton Probus Club held its general meeting at the Senior Citizens Club on Friday, August 8, with 32 members in attendance. Apologies were received from 16 members, and two guests, Marj and Bevan Olive, were warmly welcomed.

Gill Gretgrix, who missed the previous meeting, was presented with her 10-year membership badge.

Sue Walsh gave an informative talk about Concession stamps available to holders of various government cards. Sue also read a round of light-hearted one-liner jokes that entertained the group.

Pam Rosewall leads the Footy Tipping competition with 125 points, just ahead of

Pat Mathews on 124. Eily Rosewall was the monthly winner.

The lucky number winner was president Kim Wishart.

The guest speaker was Emma Burke, an Occupational Therapist (O.T.) from EWHS, who spoke about promoting independence in daily living. An O.T.’s goal is to increase people’s independence in managing everyday tasks and living skills to enable

them to be involved at home, work and in the community.

Emma highlighted the natural decline with age of our senses of sight, touch, hearing and smell. She discussed practical home modifications, such as elevated garden beds, and general safety tips like reducing clutter. Emma also outlined support options available through EWHS and external services such as My Aged Care.

More Awards

• Continued from page 1.

Another familiar face at the Charlton AV Branch is paramedic Matt Brown, who also received a 15 year Service Medal, 20 Year Service Medal, 20 Year Safe Driving plaque and was nominated for a National Medal (no clasps) for his 15 years of service.

ACO Dede Williams from Wedderburn, who occasionally carries out a shift at the Charlton AV Branch, was the recipient of a Peer Excellence

Award for Clinical Excellence and Leadership.

The evening also saw the presentation of 8 Graduate Certificates along with the Best Care story in which a patient and First Responder shared their unique story of twice being brought together in a critical care situation.

Given the large geographical area covered by the Loddon Mallee region, award presentations were held at the major centres of both Bendigo and Mildura.



• Sue Walsh and Emma Burke.



• Paramedic Matt Brown also received a number of medal’s recognizing his contributions towards Ambulance Victoria. Matt is also pictured with Matt McCrohan.



• The Sea Lake Silo Art Illumination, combined with strategic infrastructure like the kiosk, is extending visitation beyond the peak season and generating new opportunities for local businesses.

Kiosk Insights Reveal Peak Visitor Boost

Fresh data from the Lake Tyrrell digital kiosk, installed in early June, reveals active visitor engagement throughout June 2025 – a time that traditionally sees a lull in regional tourism.

Sea Lake’s glowing silo art has done more than brighten up the night sky. With around 260 interactions recorded and up to 68 unique users per week, the kiosk’s analytics offer a clear indicator that Sea Lake’s investment in art, storytelling and nighttime experiences is paying off.

While a kiosk was originally included in the scope of the Lake Tyrrell Tourism Infrastructure Project, it wasn’t

able to be delivered at the time due to funding constraints.

The vision was finally brought to life through a \$480,000 grant from the Victorian Government’s Visitor Servicing Fund, secured by Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism to deliver three off-grid digital kiosks across the region.

Buloke Shire Council was fortunate to be one of the

three recipients, with the Lake Tyrrell kiosk now playing a key role in supporting visitor servicing and capturing tourism data.

The interactive touch-screen kiosk at the Lake Tyrrell viewing area serves as a 24/7 digital visitor hub.

It provides real-time information on local attractions, accommodation, dining, and cultural experiences, while also capturing valuable data on visitor interests to inform future tourism planning.

In June, over 25 per cent of users searched for Lake Tyrrell, while 21 per cent explored Sea Lake Silo Art tours, highlighting growing interest in the area’s blend of natural beauty and cultural storytelling.

Other frequently accessed topics included the Sea Lake Hotel and Motel, the Art Trail, cafés, and the Rodeo Photo Exhibition.

“These numbers are especially encouraging in our quieter season,” said Mayor Cr Alan Getley.

“The kiosk is not just a digital guide – it’s a window into what visitors want, and it’s showing us that the Silo Art Illumination is helping attract and retain visitors even in the cooler months.”

The Sea Lake Silo Art Illumination, combined with strategic infrastructure like the kiosk, is extending visitation beyond the peak season and generating new opportunities for local businesses.



Changing of the Guard

At the recent Donald Public Cemetery Trust Annual General meeting, Shane O’Shea was elected as chairman, with Rhonda Russell and Helen Sheridan sharing the position of secretary/treasurer.

They will be taking over from Vivienne Davidson, who has held the secretary position for more than 30 years.

The Trust thanks Vivienne for all her amazing work and for keeping all trustees up to

date with the numerous changes and new regulations that cemeteries have undergone over this time.

Her effort is greatly appreciated and can be seen in the continued development of the

cemetery, the Donald Trust having recently completed the development of a new lawn section, made possible through Vivienne’s hard work in sourcing funds and the workers to complete the project.



• Rhonda Russell, Shane O'Shea, Helen Sheridan viewing the new lawn section.

Letter to the Editor

Birchip Silo Art Project

(The Editor, “The Times”)

Dear Editor.– The Birchip Silo Art Project (with the support of the Birchip Forum) would like to thank Regional Development Victoria for its Tiny Towns Grant, the Buloke Shire for its Tourism Business Innovation Grant, as well as Cargill Cares and all the local

donations that have been received from around the district.

The project now has the required funds to move forward and we are pleased to announce St Arnaud artist, Kyle Torney, has been engaged to paint the murals.

The subject of the murals is Ray Neville, winner of the

1948 Melbourne Cup. We believe his Cinderella story will appeal to people from all walks of life.

And congratulations to the “Buloke Times” team on their 150 year milestone.

Thanking you,

Rod Glen,
Birchip Silo Art Project.

Corack East Wind
Renewable Energy from ACEN

ACEN | Australia

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 1-6pm

Dates and venues

9 July Charlton	6 August Charlton
16 July Donald	13 August Charlton
23 July Charlton	20 August Donald
30 July Birchip	27 August Birchip

Meet the project team, find out more and provide feedback.

Venue information

Donald – Scout Hall, Racecourse Road, Donald

Birchip – Birchip Community Leisure Centre, Morrison St, Birchip

Charlton Charlton Park Community Bank Complex, Calder Hwy, Charlton

www.corackeastwind.com.au

info@corackeastwind.com.au

1800 498 550

Corack East Wind

"Times" Classifieds

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

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

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

DEATH

DYKE (Shepherd).—
Betty Noreen

Passed away peacefully
in St. Arnaud on
Friday, August 8, 2025.
Aged 91 years.

Loving wife of Geoff (dec).

Loved mother of Mervyn
& Robyn, Ashley & Linda,
Glenda & Michael and
Kerryn & Mark.

Adored Nanna Betty of
Justin, Melissa, Daniel,
Jesse, Samuel & Thomas.
Great-grandmother of Zack,
Abby, Sami, Lexi, Otis,
Birdie, Hattie, George &
Ted.

*A life well lived,
a rest well earned.*

R.I.P.

DEATH

BAIRD.— Christopher
Alan "Toph" "

22/11/1964 - 07/08/2025
Aged 60 years

Passed away suddenly at
home after watching his
beloved Hawthorn
Football Club thrash
Collingwood!

Cherished and much loved
son of Alan and Marilyn
and loving brother of
Jeffery and Graham
"Bear" (all dec.) and
Stephen "Beaver" and
Tammie.

Adored and loved uncle to
Ashleigh and Luana.

I have been so fortunate to
have had a brother like
you to share my life with
♥.

*Take care Toph,
till we meet again.*

BAIRD.— Christopher
Alan "Toph" "
Aged 60 years

Our hearts are broken and
there is a piece missing
following the sudden pass-
ing of our much loved
cousin and mate, "Toph".
"Toph", you were not
just a cousin but more like
a brother. We were lucky
to have grown up together
and shared so many good
times over the past 60
years, with plans for many
more.

We send our love to
Beaver, Tammie, Ashleigh
and Luana xx

Much loved nephew of
John and Beryl (both dec.)
and cousin and friend to
Daryl & Penny, Harry &
Mitzi, Patsy & Gary and
their families.

*Another one gone to soon
— fly high and free
"Toph" like your beloved
Hawks! xxx*

DEATH

McLEAN.—
Malcom "Macca"

Husband of Velia, nee
Hogan (dec.).

Brother/son-in-law of the
Tchum Lake Hogans.

One time manager of the
Commercial Bank in
Birchip, where Ian and
Anne McClelland live now.
Treasurer of Birchip Foot-
ball Club.

A true gentleman at rest.

FUNERAL DYKE.—

The funeral for the late
Mrs. Betty N. Dyke will
be held at the Uniting
Church St. Arnaud, on
Friday, August 15, 2025
at 11 a.m.

The cortege will then
leave for the St. Arnaud
Lawn Cemetery.

KELL FUNERALS
ST. ARNAUD 5495 1043
NFDA EST. 1860

Preliminary Notice DONALD BASKETBALL A.G.M.

to be held
TUESDAY, SEPT. 9
6 p.m. VENUE TBA
—Emma Burke, Sec.

FREE Yoga class with Santhosh

Wednesday, Aug. 13

5.30 to 6.30 p.m.

**ST MARY'S FITNESS
ROOM BIRCHIP**

Please stay on
afterwards for a
catch-up/reunion
with Santhosh

Bring a plate to share

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

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!

- August 12, Jake Burke
- August 13, Megan Godkin
- August 14, Layla Griffiths (14)
- August 14, Judd Hawkes
- August 17, Luke Kelly
- August 18, Patricia Lever

Darrell Lea
Fine Chocolates

JOHN SANDS

If you know someone celebrating a special anniversary, let us know at
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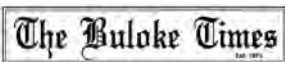
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Coloured Photographs

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

Photos not published may also be
available.

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



Office: 03 5494 3120
Mike: 0408 316 394
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Don't forget Your Local Newspaper



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



Jack

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, DONALD

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• The street where Mr William McConnell's tinsmith was.

Charlton 100 Years Ago

(Information from "East Charlton Tribune")

August 1 to 5, 1925.

The Hand of Death: Death has claimed one of the best known men in Charlton and District, in the person of Mr William McConnell, who passed very peacefully away at the residence of his wife, in Melbourne. Deceased was born at Geelong. In 1878, he came to Charlton, and had resided here practically ever since. At his trade of plumbing and tinsmith he was an acknowledged expert. Of a quiet, retiring disposition, he took little part in public affairs, but he was highly esteemed for his good qualities shown in private life. It was only from a fortnight previously that he went to Melbourne, where he received devote attention until the end. The funeral took place at the Charlton Cemetery.

A Narrewillock Success: A very enjoyable time was spent by those who attended the dance held in Mr P. Carmody's barn. The barn had

been artistically decorated for the occasion. Coloured streamers hung from the ceiling, and were looped to the walls, which were covered with greenery. About midnight the supper room was opened and the dancers, trooping in were invited to partake of a delightful repast. The tables had been decorated with Iceland poppies and gumnuts. When justice had been done to the good things, dancing was resumed and was brought to a successful conclusion about 3 a.m.. Au Revoirs were exchanged and all wended their ways homewards.

Are You Going? For the Australian Steeplechase, a Buick Six will leave Charlton on Friday at 1.30 p.m., returning on Sunday. The return fare is £2 10/-, and seats may be booked at Messrs H. J. Jackson and Son.

Runabout Car for Sale: The special entries for Messrs

Thos Morrow and Co.'s sale will include a single seater Renault car, the owner of which is leaving the district. The car is in perfect running order and the tyres are good. Messrs Morrow and Co. will also offer 130 4-year-old merino ewes, with 85 marked lambs at foot; and 100 come-back ewes, 4 and 5 years old, with 100 per cent marked lambs at foot.

Well Done! A new record in regard to the size of a working bee in connection with the Presbyterian Church was created when 18 members of the Board of Management and the congregation practically completed the task of painting the Hall. The colour scheme is light cream for the walls, and yellow brown for the mountings. The work accomplished also included the painting of the exterior of the supper room. A splendid lunch for the volunteers was provided by Mesdames W. G. Fitzgerald, I. A. O'Donnell, J. Paterson, J. Bieder, J. Arundell and Miss Annie Paterson.

St Martin's Annual Meeting: The financial report received by the Vestry of St Martin's Church of England showed a satisfactory state of affairs. The splendid efforts of the ladies throughout the year resulted in between £250 and £300 – very creditable. Mr J. S. Bennett was elected Vicar's Warden; Messrs A. E. Giles and G. A. Babidge are people's wardens. It was decided to tender Mr J. J. Ogburn, who has just resigned from the Vestry, a presentation in appreciation of past services. It has been decided to recommend to the Vestry the purchase of a new organ for the Church and a piano for the Hall. These will be the objects of this year's effort.

Football: The narrow hilly ground of the Wycheproof Juniors once again proved the downfall of Charlton Juniors, as it has done of other teams. The game was fairly well contested up till half-time, but after that the home side established a clear advantage, and finally won by 7.7 (49 pts) to 3.6 (24 pts). The Charlton captain was H. Gamble and vice-captain L. Cassell.

Politics and Sport Should Never Mix: How Donald Was Affected in 1980

(By Kevin Darcy)

Over the years we have seen our politicians make fools of themselves on the sporting arena, and this scribe always cringes when he sees our Prime Ministers roll up in a footy jersey for a team they know nothing about.

In the year of 1980, there is a story, a true story, how both political and sport on the global arena greatly affected the lives of a group of people from the Donald district.

This scribe was watching Fox News earlier this week when a story was aired going to be addressed later in the week. The Australian Olympic athletics, all 121 of them, were to be recognized by the Australian Government for participating in the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

The question to be asked: How does this recognition affect the Donald residents of 1980? This is that story:

There are a few of this group still with us, as well as children and grandchildren running around the Donald area. This scribe will re-live this story, as in a very small way, he crossed paths with the group on his journey.

In 1976, shortly after the Montreal olympics, a Donald based group began planning to attend the 1980 Moscow Olympics. To this day, am not sure whose idea it was to form this group, only to say that three members of the group were Mike Molan, Alan Sparrow and Des Darcy.

The discussion may have started at the Shamrock Hotel with Alan Sparrow talking racing, or maybe the Donald Hotel with Mike Molan talking the fortunes of the Collingwood Football Club.

Bank Account

After many discussions over time, a group was locked in with members committing to deposit a monthly amount into a local Olympics bank account, with all members fully committed to partake in this wonderful adventure.

Many meetings were had over the next 2-3 years. sporting events were identified for the group to attend, swimming and athletics high on the agenda.

All members continued to build up the bank account.

By early 1979, the expectations were high and pub chats were constant. The chats were full of excitement, this scribe can confirm this, over-hearing chats in the Shamrock Hotel, late chats in the Donald Hotel and of course the Sunday blue note/barrel sessions in the Donald Football Club football sheds.

Invasion

Early in December 1979, Russia invaded Afghanistan, much like the invasion of Ukraine today. The United States became involved eventually demanding that all their athletes boycott Moscow's Olympics, which

after many discussions, they decided to do. Malcolm Fraser, the then prime minister, directed the Australian athletes to do the same in support of the United States.

They refused to do so, the issue went to high court, and the athletes led by Rob De Castella won the case, the 121 athletes were off to Moscow despite much negative feeling from the Australian public.

Some athletes even received death threats, in the media, they were labelled "traitors".

Positives and Negatives

Back in Donald, there were many meetings discussing the positives and negatives to make the Moscow trip happen. The main negative was access to sporting events preferred by all visitors, would be nowhere near as free to watch because of certain global restrictions.

It was decided in January 1980 that the Donald group would drop the Moscow sector of their proposed itinerary and proceed with the remainder of their trip. London was going to be their base, travelling through Europe, back to London, three days in Hong Kong on their return, flying back into Melbourne over 3 weeks later. The countries visited were to be Italy, France, Scotland, Switzerland and Germany.

All thirty-seven nominations for the trip left Melbourne at 7 p.m. the first week of August 1980, the same week the Olympics started.

Des Darcy did not fly out, as he passed away not long before he could make the trip, but I know for a fact his spirit was carried within of the group.

Three Months Leave

How did this scribe become involved? After his dad passed away, his employer granted him three months leave. He decided to go on his own European trip. Arriving in London, early morning, catching the underground tube to Piccadilly Circus where he would be staying for 3 days before heading off to Europe.

The scribe decided to sample an English pint that early afternoon, walking down to the nearest pub only to learn that back in the '70s/'80s all pubs in central London closed 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. daily.

"Bugger" he thought, he decided to walk down the strand to Ozzie house and catch up on the news via any newspapers. Approaching Ozzie house, he could see a group standing outside the building; believe it or not, it

was the Donald group going for a walk in the sunshine.

Mike and Dulcie Molan, Robin and Shirley Letts, Bernie and Faith Walsh, Russ Reseigh, Marita and Peter Ryan (Dad's sister and her husband) and others.

Such a small small world, one final word. Yesterday, July 30, all the living Moscow Olympics athletes were presented to all members of parliament. The current prime minister officially apologized to all present on the way they were treated by the country leading up to those Olympics.

A gesture appreciated by all present. Australia won one gold medal – Michelle Ford swimming. When interviewed after the apology she was still emotional with the ordeal.

This story highlights that how politicians should never interfere with sporting events and how one decision can affect many people globally, even a regional town like Donald.

The following is the list of travellers who made this trip. Many names are well known to current Donald and district residents.

God bless them all!

Donald Overseas Group Passenger List

Mr. L. Broughton, Mr. A. Dunstan, Mrs. L. Dunstan, Mr. L. Gillahan, Mrs. G. Gillahan, Mr. K. Gneil, Mrs. N. Gneil, Mr. A. Griffith, Mrs. U. Griffith, Mr. R. Letts, Mrs. S. Letts, Mr. M. Molan, Mrs. D. Molan, Mr. K. Moore, Mrs. L. Moore, Mr. K. Mc Carthy, Mrs. B. Mc Carthy, Mr. R. MacNee, Miss L. Mc Neil, Mr. J. Phillips, Mrs. M. Phillips, Mr. P. Ryan, Mrs. P. Ryan, Mr. R. Reseigh, Mr. E. Schaper, Mrs. E. Schaper, Mr. W. Shearer, Mrs. W. Shearer, Mr. A. Sparrow, Mr. R. Sunderland, Mrs. M. Sunderland, Mr. J. Walder, Mrs. H. Walder, Mr. J. Wisneske, Mr. B. Walsh, Mrs. F. Walsh, Mrs. D. Wooding.

Editor's note: The 1980 trip was promoted by the then "Donald-Birchip Times" several years ahead of the Moscow Olympics. Those interested in making the trip would contribute a very manageable amount weekly to a fund to help meet the travel and accommodation costs.

As time passed, I asked my dear wife, Shirley, why she didn't seem too keen to go to Moscow.

Her response: "You want me to go to Moscow, and I haven't even been to Mildura!"

Problem solved. I took her to Mildura on a footy club weekend.

She thoroughly enjoyed both trips.

A Gift to Last a Year!

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The Buloke Times

Est. 1875

is an ideal gift for your son or daughter who is about to leave the family home.

It can also enable family members and friends living elsewhere to keep in touch with news and developments occurring throughout the region.

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Tue 19 Aug 8pm

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M 110 mins | Drama | Fantasy

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Friday 22 Aug 7pm
Tickets \$25



• Horsham's Paul Christopher.

Appointment to Saleyards Board

Horsham Rural City Council is proud to announce that Council employee Paul Christopher has been elected to the Board of Directors of Saleyards Australia Limited, marking a significant milestone for both Paul and the Horsham region.

Paul's appointment was confirmed following a national member ballot, prompted by seven available Board positions. With more nominations than vacancies this year, the election process was highly competitive, highlighting the esteem in which Paul is held by his peers across the industry.

Paul will serve on the Board for the 2025-2026 term, bringing decades of experience and leadership to the national body. His election is a notable achievement not only for him personally, but for Horsham, placing the region firmly on the map as a key player in the national saleyards industry.

Mayor Cr Ian Ross said Paul's appointment reflects his long-standing dedication and influence within the livestock sector.

"Paul's election is a remarkable achievement and one that brings national recognition to Horsham," said Cr Ross.

"His presence on the Board means Horsham will now have a voice at the top level of industry decision-making, including key government committees."

Paul has previously served for 18 years on the Board of the former Australian Livestock Saleyards Association, where he established a strong reputation for strategic, industry-focused leadership.

Saleyards Australia Limited was formed in 2024 following the merger of the Australian Livestock Markets Association and the Australian Livestock Saleyards Association, creating a unified, national body to represent the industry.

With more than 35 years of hands-on experience in the livestock sector, from running his own stock to leading industry initiatives, Paul brings a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities within the saleyards network. His journey began at just 16 years old in the shearing industry, and since 2005 he has been a key figure at the Horsham Livestock Exchange.

In addition to his role at Council, Paul serves on several other boards and committees including the Longerenong College Animal Ethics Committee and National Saleyards Quality Assurance. His commitment to professional development has seen him travel internationally to research best practices, from studying foot and mouth disease management in Nepal to exploring electronic ear tagging in Europe.

"This appointment comes as Paul marks his 20th year at the Horsham Livestock Exchange. Being elected by his peers to a national leadership role is a fitting way to celebrate his two decades of service and continued commitment to advancing the industry," said Cr Ross.

COMMUNITY UPDATE Buloke.



BULOKE YOUTH ADVISORY

The newly formed Buloke Youth Advisory Group (YAG) is a dynamic team of six young leaders aged 15–24 who will help shape the future of our community.

Formed through a community-driven recruitment process, the group was established in response to the Buloke Shire Council's Children, Youth and Families Plan, which identified the need for stronger youth engagement in local decision-making.

The members of the group include: Keely Allan (Chairperson, Wycheproof), Savannah Nicolls (Wycheproof), Les Cooper (Nullawil), Darcey Poyner (Nullawil), Fletcher Holmes-Brown (Charlton) and Beau Johnstone (Charlton).

Keely and Les presented the YAG objectives for the next 12 months at Council briefing last week in Nullawil, including:

- Amplifying youth voices in Council planning and policy;
- Promoting youth leadership and wellbeing; and
- Strengthening connections between young people and community leaders.

Their first major initiative is the Buloke Youth Fest, coming this September, supported by State Government funding and delivered in partnership with the Buloke Youth Network.

Stay tuned for updates on their projects, profiles, and new youth-focused content on Council's website and social media.

NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PLANNING PERMIT

The land affected by the application is located at **252 Racecourse Road, Donald VIC 3480**.

The application is for a permit for **the development of land for a store (shed for storage of maintenance equipment)**. The application reference number is **PA25020**. 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 Office, 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 at <https://www.buloke.vic.gov.au/planning-applications-on-exhibition>.

The Responsible Authority will not decide on the application before **28 August 2025**.

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

NEW MUNICIPAL BUILDING SURVEYOR SERVICES

Council has appointed a new Municipal Building Surveyor and Municipal Building Inspector to oversee the administration and enforcement of the requirements under the Building Act 1993 and Building Regulations 2018.

These services ensure buildings within Buloke Shire maintain safety standards for all owners, occupiers, and the public.

The new team will be available on Thursdays and Fridays only.

For more information or to book an appointment, email building@buloke.vic.gov.au or phone Customer Service on 1300 520 520.

BIRCHIP VEGETATION WORKS

As part of the Birchip RSL Cenotaph Upgrade, planned vegetation removal was brought forward last week to take advantage of contractor availability in the area. This included removing a pine tree that was placing pressure on the historic Lone Pine, an essential step to support the upgrade, preserve the value of the memorial site and keep the project progressing without delays.



BABY & CHILD FIRST AID + CPR WORKSHOPS

Learn essential first aid skills for babies and children, including CPR, burns, choking, head injuries, poisoning, bites and more. CFA will also present on fire safety.

Birchip Recreational Reserve
Tuesday, 9 September from 1–3pm

Donald Recreational Reserve
Wednesday, 10 September from 9–11am
Charlton Park

Wednesday, 10 September 1–3pm
Please note: This is a non-accredited course. Children are welcome to attend. Bookings are essential as places are limited. Visit www.thesisterhoodproject.com.au to secure your spot. For more information, phone: 5478 0185.

Santhosh's Yoga Class Reunion

It is hoped you haven't forgotten Yoga in the 8 years Santhosh and Sue Davis were away from Birchip, because they haven't forgotten a single one of you guys!

They are planning on running a FREE Yoga class for everyone at 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on the 13th August and afterwards, have a bite and socialise. This is a FREE event and all who are interested can come join the Yoga class even if you haven't been before.

Santhosh and Sue are just so excited to come back to the town that made them who they are and want to meet all their friends.

If you know anyone who used to come to the original Yoga classes that used to run from around 2012 until 2017, please let them know because they really can't wait to catch up with you guys.

Details

Date: 13th August, 2025.
Time: 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Location: St Mary's fitness room Birchip.
Please bring a plate to share!
No need to RSVP, just show up with all your friends!



BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL
PO Box 1 Wycheproof VIC 3527
367 Broadway, Wycheproof. Victoria, 3527
T: 1300 520 520 E: buloke@buloke.vic.gov.au W: buloke.vic.gov.au





• Miss Kiahn Chapman lead the St. Mary's students on the songs "I can sing a rainbow" and "Lean on Me" to the enjoyment of the crowd.

Donald Schools' Music Festival

On Monday night August 4, Donald Memorial Hall was packed for the Music Festival incorporating all three Donald schools, and the St. Arnaud Citizens Band.

The festival featured items from the St Arnaud Band, choirs from St Mary's, the Donald Primary and High Schools, along with some individual and band performances.

The High School choir sang three songs: "Rest", "7 Minutes" and "That's So True."

Solos were contributed by Sophie Burke ("Looks Like

Me"), Evie Donnellon ("I Miss You I'm Sorry").

Year 7 singers Isabelle, Marnie, Ellie, Erin, Karleisha and River performed "2002", and Mr Potter sang "Living on a Prayer", backed by Victor Sak on drums and Elijah Mansibang on guitar.

The high standards of all performances was a reflection of the enthusiastic practice sessions prior to the festival itself.



• The St. Arnaud Band.



• Stuart Potter singing, Victor Sak on Drums, Elijah Mansibang guitar, Geoff Rigby tambourine. Halle Rice and Evie Donnellon (not pictured) also on guitar.



• Jasmine Anderson, Erin Clark, Isabelle Sandy, Ellie Burke, Evie Donnellon, River Stirling, Nevaeh Pearse, Sophie Burke and Victor Sak on Drums.

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"And the trophy for finally catching Belvedere goes to Officer Hooper. And we will present it to him when he gets out of hospital.

"Times" Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8188 - SOLUTIONS

Across - 1, Maladminister. 8, Moves. 9, Ceiling. 10, Silver. 11, Strive. 12, Amity. 14, Agent. 18, Arrest. 20, Supple. 23, Leisure. 24, Bland. 25, Paddle-steamer.
Down - 1, Mimosa. 2, Level. 3, Dessert. 4, Itch. 5, Idiot. 6, Tuition. 7, Rugged. 13, Married. 15, Grumble. 16, Wallop. 17, Tender. 19, Scull. 21, Psalm. 22, Mews.

“Tchum Lake — An Apex Project

(From Maureen Donnellon, Birchip Probus Secretary.)

Brian Lea, Birchip Probus president was guest speaker on the role played by Birchip Apex Club, from 1975, without whom, the Tchum Lake we know and love, may never have been created.

Brian was the original treasurer of Apex at that time and has had an interest ever since in the story of the development of the lake. It is a long and involved story, still being written, so I will give a brief history of its early days on the opposite side of the road and then the Apex story as told by Brian.

In a second “episode” I will add some more years covering the dry lake years, the Waranga channel water system being changed to the Wimmera Mallee pipeline and an update to what is the “hope for future”. There are so many sites to google with information for campers, photos and history, but none feature the huge amount of continual planning, financial and time commitment that has continued for well over 60 years to keep a very precious asset available for all of us and so many visitors to enjoy.

In The Beginning! 1880s To 1970s

The Tchum Lake’s area has been there for thousands of years and the North Lake side was the local swimming, picnic, recreation area for school and church picnics and summer gatherings from the late 1880s, as well as an area well known for the bird habitats, but always dependant on water from the rain in good seasons. The whole area was prone to flooding and the Wycheproof Road had to be cut every few years, at least six times. Some things haven’t changed!

After WW2 in 1939, a public meeting was held and plans to deepen the lake for

swimming while the lake was dry and to build a bank across a narrow portion, were put into motion. The summer of 1940 saw the North Lake full and swimming with full use and a Tchum Lake Aquatic Carnival held on Boxing Day. Nearby schools of Birchip, Narraport, Carapugna and Whirily held picnics, and churches held special days there. There were novelty events such as catching the goose and greasy pig and running races, greasy pole fights. A dressing shed, shelters and a small diving platform were built as well as picnic areas, but it was always too small, just as Lake Karyrie and Lake Marlbed had been previously, and always water was a problem. Green Lake became popular in later years but was also too far.

In 1956 the new local swimming pool was built in Birchip and the Lake was less used. Floods in 1956 also damaged a lot of the area and killed trees that had stood in water for too long. Both sides of the road were damaged and again in 1973, the Country Roads Board had to pay \$40,000 to cut and restore the Wycheproof Road again. Many more trees died.

Apex to the Rescue

A committee of locals formed, most of them Apex members, with some plans to ask for funds for excavating the south side of the road, remove trees and build banks from the excavated sand and clay to lower the level of the water. Water was still going to be a problem, but it was decided to try to proceed so all

would be ready if and when it rained. Cr A.D. Hillgrove was one of the keenest and had earthmoving equipment, some men and enthusiasm for such a project.

Apex, Lions and Council were approached and Apex, which was looking for a project as it did in every year, decided to put up its hands and take on the building of Tchum Lake North as a new, if longer term project, hopeful of it being ready for the Apex Golden Jubilee. A Committee with Peter O’Connor as president, John Chandler as secretary and Brian Lea as treasurer began negotiations and further committee members were added and actually became the forerunner of the Tchum Lake Committee, which still runs the Lake and has members who are descendants of the first committee members from the 1970s. Red tape abounded and local politicians were called in to help negotiate.

Every few years a better deeper lake had been mentioned, but a new area was needed. The area across the road where the present lake is now, was looked at as well as channel water from the Waranga channel, but that was vetoed several times from S.R. and W.S.C. which was the Water Resources organisation of the time. Apex did not give up and took on other small projects, but always with a lake in mind.

The engineer for Birchip Shire, Fred Brocklebank, Cr A.D. Hillgrove and the local service club worked well together, whether or not all permits were in place. They cleared, by many working bees, all the dead trees and rubbish and excavated with 5 graders and just about every truck and owner in Birchip to form an 80 acre proposed lake area. Plans were made to lower the channel by two feet, so the lake could be a more suitable depth. Cr Hillgrove worked night and day to see the lake appear. Although the work could be done, money was needed, so an official lake committee was required to obtain more government grants.

In 1978 a public meeting was called and the committee finally elected, with 6 of the nine being Apex members from the original group of members who had taken on the project. Sixty people attended. The 9 elected to the Tchum Lake Aquatic Committee of management were Peter O’Connor, Jon Chandler, Ken Watson, Ian Ryan, Harold Gould, Brian Lea, Barry Rickard, Roger Lehmann and Graeme Cunningham. The committee met and then suggested a further 6 people be elected to work with the committee of management as a development committee. So Michael Ryan, David Lee, John Murphy, Murray Malcolm, Trevor Gould and Jim Rickard were



• Cr AD Hillgrove Memorial at Tchum Lake.

added. The committee elected Peter O’Connor as president, John Chandler as secretary and Brian Lea as treasurer. Engineer Fred Brocklebank worked hard to see that no further charges were to be added for surplus channel water for the lake.

The Death of Councillor A.D. Hillgrove

The sudden death on 30th June, 1979, of Councillor Hillgrove was a huge blow to the committee and his family. The whole district mourned the loss of such a great man, leader and practical solver of solutions with no need of outside consultants, lengthy red tape deliberations and expensive time wasting of any kind. The Apex Club worked harder and was ably assisted by Lions and other organisations.

The Financial Help for the Tchum Lake Work Ahead

The Apex and Lions Clubs set the pattern for the A.D. Hillgrove Tchum Lake Appeal by donating \$1500 each. Members of the Birchip High School Students Representative Council donated \$200 from their funds and Apex organised with other service clubs for a town and community door knock. Wheat donations from 16 farmers raised another \$3000 and the amount for fuel, labour and plant was donated by J.J. O’Connor. It seemed that every business in town and every resident donated as much as they could.

On a previous occasion, the Premier Mr Hamer was so impressed with the work done and the sight of 16 boats assembled at the edge of the planned water bank and the incredible work done by Mr A.D. Hillgrove, Apex, Lions and other organisations that he pledged \$30,000 in a dollar-for-dollar grant so the door knocks, raffles etc needed to raise at least \$30,000. The local member of government Mr Alan Wood was also in favour and a great help.

Working bees continued all through 1979 and 1980 so that when water was agreed to, all would be in readiness and all sorts of grants were sought for all other amenities needed, such as ramps for



• Brian Lea, Birchip Probus President and guest speaker on the APEX project to establish Tchum Lake in 1975.

boats, barbeques, seating, shelters, toilets, car parking, camping facilities. All was slowly achieved with local Council help and local members of parliament, as well as local engineer Fred Brocklebank and then came long and lengthy negotiation with the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission through the work of Mr K. Mills.

Good News About Water

In August Mr Mills announced that flood water from the Richardson River could be received by Tchum Lake. A massive working bee was announced immediately. No consultants, no experts, no feasibility studies, no other time consuming expensive waste of personnel and finance. By 5.15 p.m. the lake had been cut at the north west side and water began flowing. Mr Don Cozens of the local S.R. and W.S.C. cut the channel bank to let the water out and his son Robert, driving one of A.D. Hillgrove earthmoving machines, cut the lake bank to let the water in. Lions Club had spent many hours constructing the boat ramp, Apex cleaned up all sorts of other wood, rubbish

and helped everywhere else as well, also with other Tchum Lake Committee members. It was a most exciting and memorable day and one at which the late A.D. Hillgrove was missed and remembered.

The Lake Begins

After needing water for so long, it finally began to rain heavily and made access tracks and work on shelters very tricky, but it also meant swans and water birds and the lawn and trees began to grow, so complaints were few. The money was all spent and the Birchip Council agreed to provide bridging funds to a maximum of \$5000. The Premier was let know that his funds were well used and that Council had also helped as much as they were able and to look favourably on all future grant applications.

The Opening of Tchum Lake

In September, 1980, a crowd attended the local Public Hall to elect a Tchum Lake Boating Club and to choose an opening date on 9th November, 1980, 5 years after the Apex Club had taken on creating a suitable swimming and boating lake as its project.

• Continued on page 9.



• Signage at Tchum Lake co-ordinating boat usage during the busy times.

That Keeps on Giving, from 1975”



• Tchum Lake in 2025.



• Wildlife, including swans can often be seen enjoying the area.



• Above and below: Movement at the lake.

• Continued from page 8.

The official Tchum Lake Aquatic Club had its inaugural meeting as a boating club. Those elected were president Jim Rickard, secretary Mrs Lorraine Cunningham, treasurer Ted Stannard. Other committee members were Andrew Hewitt, David English, Barry Rickard, Roger Lehmann, Roy Kelly, Alec Walder, Allan Litt, John O'Connor. Memberships were set at \$10 a family, \$5 single and \$2 student.

The proceeds from the sale of the old Carapugna Hall of \$1550 were donated to the Tchum Lake Aquatic Club in November 1980 by Wyche-proof and very gladly accepted.

On September 12, 1980, the lake was full with 80 acres of water and an average of 9 feet of water, which could be up to 20 feet in places where clay had been removed. A

constant stream of cars, bikes and picnickers visited the lake. Apex planted 100 trees around the edge for future shade including willows, poplars, claret and golden Ash, white cedar and eucalypts.

It was decided to accept the offer of the Warracknabeal and Watchem Ski Clubs, to give demonstrations with their power boats and skiers on the opening date in November. The Tchum Lake Development Committee, which was in charge of the actual building committee, was also consulted about their plans for the opening function.

Between 1500 and 2000 people assembled with approximately 30 boats and one yacht, dozens of skiers and enthusiastic water lovers.

Mr Colin Russell, Shire President, and one of many lake working bee attendees,

welcomed all present and asked Mr Wood MLA to officially open the lake. Both mentioned that the absence of Mr AD Hillgrove was the one sad aspect of the day, as when the very important meeting between Mr Borthwick, Mr Jock Granter and the Premier Mr Harmer, the late Councilor had spoken so eloquently about the lake and its need, that no objections were left.

Fifty years have passed since that 1975 Apex pledge and more years will be covered in part 2, because Tchum Lake has many stories to tell of its life so far. Without the Apex Club, which sadly no longer exists and whose members have moved on or been absorbed into other clubs and activities, Tchum Lake South could still be a large area of dead trees, flood plain and grazing ground.

It was a very timely talk by Brian on the practical project suggested by Apex just 50 years ago and the story needs to be told, so that all who enjoy its facilities these days can appreciate the facility better and hopefully will volunteer their time and funds to help out, as expenses are so much more and our population less, but our lake bigger and better than ever, with different problems to face.

• Episode 2 to follow soon.

One Hundred Years Ago

From the “Birchip Advertiser”, August 14, 1925.

Farmer visits America

When in America recently, Mr. Thomas McClelland made an inspection of the International Harvester Company's works, where harvesting machinery and tractors are manufactured, and he was very much impressed with what he saw, particularly so in regard to the power drive reaper thrasher.

**

Thanks

The secretary of the St Arnaud Hospital desires us to acknowledge, with very special thanks, receipt of the sum of £551/7/6 from Joseph Lockwood, Esq., being net result of the Hospital Sunday movement conducted by Birchip Band.

**

The thanks not only of the board of management, but of the residents in the hospital district are due to the bandmen for their splendid efforts in the interests of our most deserving charity, and also all those who helped the bandmen in attaining the very fine results referred to.

**

Golf Tournament

Fate for the nounce seems unkind to the Birchip golf tournament as the committee has been reluctantly compelled to again list an alteration of dates. This has been

brought about by our neighbours at Hopetoun securing one of the original dates, The new dates are Thursday 27th; Friday, 28th; and Saturday 29th August.

Both the tournament and ball promise to be most successful in the history of the club's activities, and a large and enthusiastic committee is working for that end and to afford entertainment for the large influx of visitors to the town.

Mr. Caldwell attended the Wimmera championships during the week and obtained 3rd place in the championship and men's foursomes.

**

Recreation Reserve Trustees

A meeting of the above trustees was held on Monday evening.

Mr. R. J. Barber asked that the trustees pay the interest in the A & P overdraft which had been created by erection of improvements on the reserve.

After a lengthy discussion the following resolution, moved by Mr. Carlisle and seconded by Mr. H. Lockwood, was carried as this body has no jurisdiction in the doings of the Agricultural Society, they cannot take any action in the matter of paying interest on the overdraft.

Messrs. J. Lockwood and S. Barber were appointed to attend the next meeting of the society and explain the position.

It was resolved on Mr. Carlisle's motion, seconded by Mr. McLoughlan, to call a public meeting on Friday evening, September 11, to consider the question of a grandstand.

**

Birchip Golf Club

The fever for the “royal and ancient” appears to be at its height in the local club, as large numbers of players are to be seen in practice on the links for the forthcoming tournament, whilst at the matches the greatest enthusiasm is displayed by all and new members.

On Wednesday last a bogey competition was played.

Mr. Jenkin won the men's event being square with the bogey.

Miss L. Barber and Mrs. Hutchinson tied for the lady's prize – 2 down on bogey. Saturday's matches saw the largest number of competitors for the year and was voted by all present a most pleasant function.

The match took the form of a mixed foursomes, 18 holes.

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Keeping it Clean

Did you know that once the juice of the stems and leaves of the common garden herb, lemon balm, was used to give aroma and a shine to furniture and that the juice extracted from sweet cicely seeds was used to polish and scent timber furniture and panelling?

Before we had supermarkets that sell almost everything, all household cleaners were made at home using whatever natural ingredients were close at hand.

Those simple solutions from the past are still just as effective for cleaning your home. Many easy to obtain, safe and simple ingredients can be used to make your own cleaning products, so why not try the following natural alternatives to keep your home clean?

An effective all-purpose liquid cleaner can be made by thoroughly mixing together four litres of hot water, 100 millilitres of household ammonia*, 100 millilitres of white vinegar and 200 grams of bicarbonate soda. You can increase

or decrease the amount of cleaner you wish to make by proportionately changing the quantities given. Store your cleaner in a tightly sealed bottle for future use.

In my home, I make up eight litres of the liquid at a time, and then transfer a small amount of it into one of those pump-spray bottles. This makes its application easy and simple. *You should note, however, that the household ammonia used in the cleaner only contains about two per cent ammonia and when diluted further, as in this cleaner, it is not environmentally dangerous. Once dispersed it converts quickly to neutral salts.

Not only is the all-purpose cleaner suitable for most

cleaning chores around the home, it will strip floor wax, dissolve dirt, grease and resinous substances, and clean silver, glass, sinks, bathrooms and drainpipes, stoves, microwave ovens, refrigerators and other white goods.

Herbs and essential oils are useful as household disinfectants because of their wonderful aromatic qualities. They are also antibacterial, anti-fungal and antiviral, which makes them an excellent natural choice to use on kitchen benches, bathroom tiles and other surfaces that just need a quick wipe or mop over.

Any of the following herbal essential oils can be used, and are listed in descending order

of their antiseptic power: lemon, tea tree, thyme, bergamot, juniper, clove, lavender, peppermint, rosemary, sandalwood and eucalyptus.

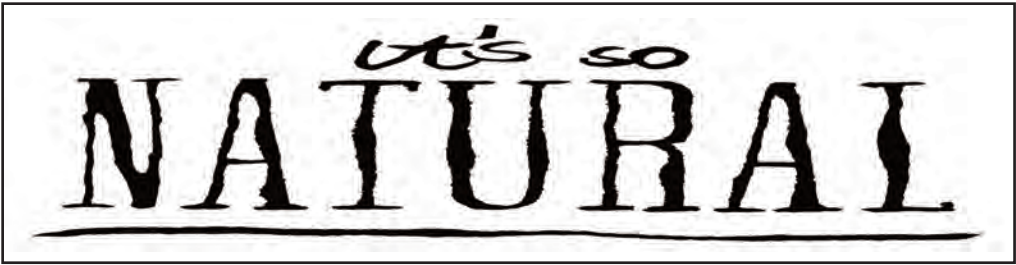
To make your disinfectant, dissolve 30 drops of your selected essential oil in one teaspoon of methylated spirits and then add to a pump-spray bottle containing 500 millilitres of water. Use on a fine mist setting, then wipe over with a soft, clean cloth.

For mopping over floors, add three-quarters-of-a-litre of white vinegar to a medium size bucket of warm water – or proportionately for your needs. As with the essential oil disinfectant, this can also be stored and

used as a universal cleaner for almost everything: glass, mirrors, ceramic tiles, enamel surfaces, chrome, refrigerators, and washing machines. To clean window sills and remove mould, soak a cloth in this vinegar and water solution and wipe over.

Bicarbonate of soda is also an economical cleaner for windows and stainless steel, chrome and laminate surfaces. Apply with a wet sponge, then polish off with a soft cloth. Mixed with warm water, bicarbonate of soda makes a gentle but effective cleanser for refrigerator and freezer surfaces.

These natural solutions are not only as effective as store-



• Alan Hayes

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YOUR THREE-DAY TV GUIDE

Tuesday

ABC (2) 6:00 News Breakfast 9:00 ABC News 10:00 Australian Story 10:30 Compass (PG) 11:05 Miss Austen (M) 12:00 ABC News 1:00 Brian Cox - Seven Days On Mars 2:25 Back Roads (PG) 2:55 Guy Montgomery's Guy Mont Spelling Bee (PG) 3:45 Grand Designs Transformations (PG) 4:40 Long Lost Family (PG) 5:30 Antiques Roadshow 6:30 Hard Quiz (PG) 7:00 ABC News 7:30 7.30 (PG) 8:00 Foreign Correspondent 8:30 Dr Ann's Secret Lives 9:00 Dr Karl's How Things Work 9:30 Earth	SBS (3) 5:00 Worldwatch 9:00 Susan Calman's Grand Day Out (PG) 9:55 Charles I - To Kill A King (PG) 11:00 Rick Steve's Europe (M I) 12:00 Worldwatch 2:05 Curse Of The Ancients (PG) 3:00 Grand Tours Of Scotland's Rivers 3:30 Plat Du Tour 3:40 The Cook Up With Adam Liaw (PG) 4:10 Bettany Hughes (PG) 5:05 Jeopardy! (PG) 5:30 Letters And Numbers 6:00 Mastermind Australia (PG) 6:30 SBS World News 7:30 Great Continental Railway Journeys (PG) 8:30 Insight (PG)	PRIME (6) 6:00 Sunrise 9:00 The Morning Show (PG) 12:00 Seven Noon News 1:00 The Voice (PG) 2:35 Motorbike Cops (PG) 3:00 The Chase UK (PG) 4:00 Seven News At 4 5:00 The Chase Australia (PG) 6:00 Seven News 7:00 Home And Away (PG) 7:30 The Voice (PG) 8:50 Boyzone - Life, Death And Boybands (M I) 9:50 Below Deck Down Under (M) 10:50 The Agenda Setters 11:50 Police Custody USA (M I,v) 12:50 Fairly Legal (PG) 2:00 Home Shopping 4:00 NBC Today	NINE (8) 6:00 Today 9:00 Today Extra (PG) 11:30 NINE News Morning 12:00 The Block (PG) 1:15 Getaway (PG) 1:45 My Way 2:00 Pointless (PG) 3:00 Tipping Point (PG) 4:00 NINE News Afternoon 4:30 Tipping Point Australia (PG) 5:30 WIN News 6:00 NINE News 7:00 A Current Affair (PG) 7:30 The Block (PG) 8:40 Paramedics (M) 9:40 Footy Classified (M I) 10:40 NINE News Late 11:10 La Brea (M v) 12:00 Tipping Point (PG) 1:00 Let's Eat With George 1:30 Home Shopping	TEN (5) 8:00 The Bold & The Beautiful (PG) 8:30 Deal Or No Deal (PG) 9:00 Lingo (PG) 10:00 Judge Judy (PG) 10:30 MasterChef Australia (PG) 12:00 Everyday Gourmet 12:30 Family Feud (PG) 1:00 10 News: Lunchtime 2:00 Wheel Of Fortune 2:30 Lingo (PG) 3:30 10 News: Afternoon 4:00 Neighbours (PG) 4:30 The Bold & The Beautiful (PG) 5:00 10 News 6:00 10 News Plus 7:00 Deal Or No Deal (PG) 7:30 MasterChef Australia (PG) 9:30 The Cheap Seats (M I) 10:30 10's Late News
ABC ENTERTAINS (23) 2:05 ER (PG) 2:50 Heartbreak High (PG) 3:35 A Bite To Eat With Alice 4:05 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 4:40 MythBusters (PG) 5:30 Car S.O.S (PG) 6:15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent 7:05 Claire Hooper's House Of Games (PG) 7:35 QI (PG)	SBS VICE (31) 4:15 France 24 International News 4:45 PBS News Hour 5:45 The Fast History Of (PG) 6:10 The Ride Life With Sung Kang 7:05 Jeopardy! 7:30 NITV News Update 7:35 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown (M I,s) 8:30 Alone (M) 9:40 Hoarders (M)	7TWO (62) 1:00 Escape To The Country 2:00 Creek To Coast 2:30 Australia's Deadliest (PG) 3:00 The Real Seachange 3:30 Harry's Practice 4:00 The Zoo 4:30 Better Homes And Gardens 5:30 Escape To The Country 6:30 Bargain Hunt 7:30 Call The Midwife (PG)	GEM (81) 12:00 Midsomer Murders (M v) 2:00 Death In Paradise (M v) 3:00 Antiques Roadshow 3:30 Movie: "I Believe In You" (PG) (52) Stars: Celia Johnson 5:30 Yorkshire Auction House 6:30 Antiques Roadshow 7:30 New Tricks (M I,s,v) 8:40 Agatha Raisin (PG)	PEACH (52) 2:00 Becker (PG) 2:30 Frasier (PG) 3:30 The Neighborhood (PG) 4:00 Everyday Gourmet With Justine Schofield 4:30 The King Of Queens (PG) 5:00 Becker (PG) 5:30 Frasier (PG) 6:30 Neighbours (PG) 7:00 Friends (PG) 8:00 The Big Bang Theory (PG)
ABC FAMILY (22) 3:30 Ready, Steady, Wiggle! 4:00 Play School Science Time 4:25 Mecha Builders 5:00 Peppa Pig 5:35 Peter Rabbit 6:10 PJ Masks Power Heroes 6:30 The Adventures Of Paddington 7:05 Phippenguins 7:30 Do Not Watch This Show	SBS MOVIES (32) 3:45 Movie: "Mark Felt: The Man Who Brought Down The White House" (M) (17) Stars: Liam Neeson 5:40 Movie: "Where Is Anne Frank" (PG) (21) Stars: Sebastian Croft 7:30 Movie: "The Lost King" (M I) (22) Stars: Sally Hawkins	7MATE (63) 2:00 Outback Crystal Hunters (PG) 3:00 Aussie Gold Hunters (PG) 4:00 Swamp People (PG) 5:00 American Restoration (PG) 5:30 Storage Wars (PG) 6:00 American Pickers (PG) 7:00 The Agenda Setters 8:00 Outback Truckers (PG) 10:00 Aussie Truck Rehab (PG)	GO! (82) 2:30 The Nanny (PG) 3:30 Seinfeld (PG) 4:30 The Addams Family 5:00 Bewitched 5:30 I Dream Of Jeannie 6:00 The Golden Girls (PG) 6:30 The Nanny (PG) 7:30 Seinfeld (PG) 8:30 Movie: "Skyfall" (M I,v) (12) Stars: Daniel Craig 11:30 Seinfeld (PG)	BOLD (53) 8:00 Tough Tested (PG) 9:00 Numb3rs (PG) 10:00 JAG (PG) 12:00 Days Of Our Lives (PG) 12:45 The Young And The Restless (PG) 1:30 Fire Country (PG) 2:30 JAG (PG) 4:30 Numb3rs (PG) 5:30 JAG (PG) 7:30 NCIS (M v) 9:25 FBI International (M v)

Wednesday

ABC (2) 6:00 News Breakfast 9:00 ABC News 10:00 Four Corners 11:00 Antiques Roadshow 12:00 ABC News 12:30 National Press Club Address 1:35 Media Watch 1:55 Anh's Brush With Fame (PG) 2:30 Back Roads (PG) 3:00 Guy Montgomery's Guy Mont Spelling Bee (PG) 3:45 Grand Designs Transformations (PG) 4:45 Long Lost Family (PG) 5:30 Antiques Roadshow 6:30 Hard Quiz (PG) 7:00 ABC News 7:30 7.30 (PG) 8:00 Hard Quiz (PG) 8:30 Shaun Micallef's Eve Of Destruction	SBS (3) 5:00 Worldwatch 9:00 Susan Calman's Grand Day Out (PG) 9:55 Charles I - To Kill A King (PG) 11:00 Rick Steve's Europe (M I) 12:00 Worldwatch 2:00 Dateline (PG) 2:30 Insight (PG) 3:30 Plat Du Tour 3:40 The Cook Up With Adam Liaw (PG) 4:10 Bettany Hughes (PG) 5:05 Jeopardy! (PG) 5:30 Letters And Numbers 6:00 Mastermind Australia (PG) 6:30 SBS World News 7:35 Wonders Of Volcanoes With Dara O Briain (PG) 8:25 Aerial Australia (PG) 9:20 Smilla's Sense Of Snow (M)	PRIME (6) 6:00 Sunrise 9:00 The Morning Show (PG) 12:00 Seven Noon News 1:00 The Voice (PG) 2:25 Border Security - International (PG) 3:00 The Chase UK (PG) 4:00 Seven News At 4 5:00 The Chase Australia (PG) 6:00 Seven News 7:00 Home And Away (PG) 7:30 The 1% Club UK (PG) 8:30 The Front Bar (M I) 9:30 Unfiltered (PG) 10:00 Armed And Dangerous (M v) 11:30 Border Security - International (PG) 12:00 Imposters (M I,s,v) 2:00 Home Shopping 4:00 NBC Today	NINE (8) 6:00 Today 9:00 Today Extra (PG) 11:30 NINE News Morning 12:00 The Block (PG) 1:00 Paramedics (M) 2:00 Pointless (PG) 3:00 Tipping Point (PG) 4:00 NINE News Afternoon 4:30 Tipping Point Australia (PG) 5:30 WIN News 6:00 NINE News 7:00 A Current Affair (PG) 7:30 The Block (PG) 8:40 Clarkson's Farm (M I) 9:40 The Grand Tour (MA15+) 11:00 NINE News Late 11:30 Damian Lewis - Spy Wars (M v) 12:20 Tipping Point (PG) 1:15 Innovation Nation	TEN (5) 8:00 The Bold & The Beautiful (PG) 8:30 Deal Or No Deal (PG) 9:00 Lingo (PG) 10:00 MasterChef Australia (PG) 12:00 Everyday Gourmet 12:30 Family Feud (PG) 1:00 10 News: Lunchtime 2:00 Wheel Of Fortune 2:30 Lingo (PG) 3:30 10 News: Afternoon 4:00 Neighbours (PG) 4:30 The Bold & The Beautiful (PG) 5:00 10 News 6:00 10 News Plus 7:00 Deal Or No Deal (PG) 7:30 Gordon Ramsay's Secret Service (PG) 8:30 Elsbeth (M v) 10:30 10's Late News 10:55 10 News Plus
ABC ENTERTAINS (23) 2:10 ER (PG) 2:55 Heartbreak High (PG) 3:40 A Bite To Eat With Alice 4:05 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 4:40 MythBusters (PG) 5:30 Car S.O.S (PG) 6:15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent 7:05 Claire Hooper's House Of Games (PG) 7:35 QI (PG)	SBS VICE (31) 4:15 France 24 International News 4:45 PBS News Hour 5:45 The Fast History Of (PG) 6:10 The Ride Life With Sung Kang 7:05 Jeopardy! 7:30 NITV News Update 7:35 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown (M I,s) 8:30 Movie: "Blood Work" (M I,v) (02)	7TWO (62) 1:00 Escape To The Country 2:00 Sydney Weekender 2:30 The Yorkshire Vet (PG) 3:30 Harry's Practice 4:00 The Zoo 4:30 Better Homes And Gardens 5:30 Escape To The Country 6:30 Bargain Hunt 7:30 Heartbeat (PG) 8:45 Lewis (M v)	GEM (81) 12:00 Midsomer Murders (M v) 2:00 New Tricks (M) 3:00 Antiques Roadshow 3:30 Movie: "Steptoe And Son Ride Again" (PG) (73) Stars: Harry Corbett 5:30 Yorkshire Auction House 6:30 Antiques Roadshow 7:30 As Time Goes By (PG) 8:40 Midsomer Murders	PEACH (52) 2:00 Becker (PG) 2:30 Frasier (PG) 3:30 The Neighborhood (PG) 4:00 Everyday Gourmet With Justine Schofield 4:30 The King Of Queens (PG) 5:00 Becker (PG) 5:30 Frasier (PG) 6:30 Neighbours (PG) 7:00 Friends (PG) 8:00 The Big Bang Theory (PG)
ABC FAMILY (22) 3:30 Ready, Steady, Wiggle! 4:00 Play School Science Time 4:25 Mecha Builders 5:00 Peppa Pig 5:35 Peter Rabbit 6:00 Octonauts 6:30 The Adventures Of Paddington 7:05 Phippenguins 7:30 Do Not Watch This Show	SBS MOVIES (32) 3:40 Movie: "Hum Do Humare Do" (PG) (21) Stars: Rajkummar Rao (In Hindi) 5:55 Movie: "All At Sea" (AKA "Wide Blue Yonder") (PG) (10) Stars: Brian Cox 7:35 Movie: "A Walk In The Woods" (M I,s) (15) Stars: Robert Redford	7MATE (63) 2:00 Outback Truckers (PG) 4:00 Swamp People (PG) 5:00 American Restoration (PG) 5:30 Storage Wars (PG) 6:00 American Pickers (PG) 7:00 Pawn Stars (PG) 7:30 Highway Patrol (PG) 8:30 The Force - Behind The Line (PG) 9:30 Caught On Dashcam (M I)	GO! (82) 2:30 The Nanny (PG) 3:30 Seinfeld (PG) 4:30 The Addams Family 5:00 Bewitched 5:30 I Dream Of Jeannie 6:00 The Golden Girls (PG) 6:30 The Nanny (PG) 7:30 Seinfeld (PG) 8:30 Movie: "Spectre" (M v) (15) Stars: Daniel Craig 11:30 Seinfeld (PG)	BOLD (53) 8:00 What's Up Down Under (PG) 9:00 Numb3rs (PG) 10:00 JAG (PG) 12:00 Days Of Our Lives (PG) 12:45 The Young And The Restless (PG) 1:30 Fire Country (PG) 2:30 JAG (PG) 4:30 Numb3rs (PG) 5:30 JAG (PG) 7:30 NCIS (M v)

Thursday

ABC (2) 6:00 News Breakfast 9:00 ABC News 10:00 Foreign Correspondent 10:30 Back Roads (PG) 11:00 Shaun Micallef's Eve Of Destruction 11:35 Nigella Bites 12:00 ABC News 1:00 Silent Witness (PG) 2:00 Anh's Brush With Fame (PG) 2:30 Back Roads (PG) 2:55 Grand Designs (PG) 3:45 Grand Designs Transformations (PG) 4:45 Long Lost Family (PG) 5:30 Antiques Roadshow 6:30 Hard Quiz (PG) 7:00 ABC News 7:30 7.30 (PG) 8:00 Back Roads (PG)	SBS (3) 5:00 Worldwatch 9:00 Susan Calman's Grand Day Out (PG) 9:55 Lady Jane Grey - Murder Of A Child Queen (PG) 11:00 Rick Steve's Europe (M I) 12:00 Worldwatch 2:00 Those Who Serve 3:00 Grand Tours Of Scotland's Rivers 3:35 Plat Du Tour 3:40 The Cook Up (PG) 4:10 Bettany Hughes (PG) 5:05 Jeopardy! (PG) 5:30 Letters And Numbers 6:00 Mastermind Australia (PG) 6:30 SBS World News 7:30 Great Australian Road Trips (PG) 8:25 Into The Amazon With Robson Green (PG)	PRIME (6) 6:00 Sunrise 9:00 The Morning Show (PG) 12:00 Seven Noon News 1:00 Movie: "Secrets At The Inn" (M v) (22) Stars: Tamara Almeida 3:00 The Chase UK (PG) 4:00 Seven News At 4 5:00 The Chase Australia (PG) 6:00 Seven News 7:00 AFLW: Round 1: Carlton v Collingwood "Live" From IKON Park 9:10 AFLW: Round 1: West Coast v Gold Coast "Live" From Sullivan Logistics Stadium 11:15 Kick Ons 11:45 Code Blue (M v) 12:45 Life (M v) 2:00 Home Shopping 4:00 NBC Today	NINE (8) 6:00 Today 9:00 Today Extra (PG) 11:30 NINE News Morning 12:00 The Block (PG) 1:00 Ski Rescue Down Under (PG) 2:00 Pointless (PG) 3:00 Tipping Point (PG) 4:00 NINE News Afternoon 4:30 Tipping Point Australia (PG) 5:30 WIN News 6:00 NINE News 7:00 A Current Affair (PG) 7:30 NRL: Panthers v Storm "Live" 9:45 NRL: Knock Off (M) 10:30 NINE News Late 11:00 Outback Opal Hunters (PG) 12:00 First On Scene (M) 12:30 Tipping Point (PG) 1:30 Home Shopping	TEN (5) 8:00 The Bold & The Beautiful (PG) 8:30 Deal Or No Deal (PG) 9:00 Lingo (PG) 10:00 Entertainment Tonight 10:30 Gordon Ramsay's Secret Service (PG) 11:30 Judge Judy (PG) 12:00 Everyday Gourmet 12:30 Family Feud (PG) 1:00 10 News: Lunchtime 2:00 Wheel Of Fortune 2:30 Lingo (PG) 3:30 10 News: Afternoon 4:00 Neighbours (PG) 4:30 The Bold & The Beautiful (PG) 5:00 10 News 6:00 10 News Plus 7:00 Deal Or No Deal (PG) 7:30 The Dog House Australia (PG)
ABC ENTERTAINS (23) 2:05 ER (PG) 2:50 Heartbreak High (PG) 3:35 A Bite To Eat With Alice 4:05 QI (PG) 4:40 MythBusters (PG) 5:30 Car S.O.S (PG) 6:15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent 7:05 Claire Hooper's House Of Games (PG) 7:35 QI (PG)	SBS VICE (31) 4:10 France 24 International News 4:40 PBS News Hour 5:40 The Fast History Of (PG) 6:05 Over The Black Dot 6:35 Travel Man (PG) 7:05 Jeopardy! 7:30 NITV News Update 7:35 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown (M I,s)	7TWO (62) 1:00 Escape To The Country 2:00 The Real Seachange 2:30 Air Crash Investigations (PG) 3:30 Harry's Practice 4:00 Better Homes And Gardens 5:00 Escape To The Country 6:00 Bargain Hunt 7:00 Home And Away (PG) 8:30 Father Brown (M)	GEM (81) 12:00 Midsomer Murders (M v) 2:00 As Time Goes By (PG) 3:10 Antiques Roadshow 3:40 Movie: "Carry On Constable" (G) (60) Stars: Sidney James 5:30 Yorkshire Auction House 6:30 Antiques Roadshow 7:30 RBT (PG) 8:30 Emergency (M I) 9:30 A&E After Dark (M I)	PEACH (52) 2:00 Becker (PG) 2:30 Frasier (PG) 3:30 The Neighborhood (PG) 4:00 Everyday Gourmet With Justine Schofield 4:30 The King Of Queens (PG) 5:00 Becker (PG) 5:30 Frasier (PG) 6:30 Neighbours (PG) 7:00 Friends (PG) 8:00 The Big Bang Theory (PG)
ABC FAMILY (22) 3:30 Ready, Steady, Wiggle! 4:00 Play School Science Time 4:25 Mecha Builders 5:00 Peppa Pig 5:35 Peter Rabbit 6:00 Octonauts 6:30 The Adventures Of Paddington 7:00 Supertato 7:05 Phippenguins 7:30 Do Not Watch This Show	SBS MOVIES (32) 3:05 Movie: "Murder Party" (PG) (22) Stars: Alice Pol (In French) 5:00 The Movie Show (PG) 5:35 Movie: "The Chaperrone" (PG) (18) Stars: Elizabeth McGovern 7:35 Movie: "Hope Springs" (M s) (12) Stars: Tommy Lee Jones	7MATE (63) 2:00 Highway Patrol (PG) 3:00 The Force - Behind The Line (PG) 4:00 Swamp People (PG) 5:00 American Restoration (PG) 5:30 Storage Wars (PG) 6:00 American Pickers (PG) 7:00 Pawn Stars (PG) 7:30 Towies (PG) 8:30 Clarkson's Who Wants To Be A Millionaire UK	GO! (82) 2:00 The Golden Girls (PG) 2:30 The Nanny (PG) 3:30 Seinfeld (PG) 4:30 The Addams Family 5:00 Bewitched 5:30 I Dream Of Jeannie 6:00 The Golden Girls (PG) 6:30 The Nanny (PG) 7:30 Seinfeld (PG) 8:30 Movie: "No Time To Die" (M) (21) Stars: Daniel Craig	BOLD (53) 8:00 What's Up Down Under (PG) 9:00 Numb3rs (PG) 10:00 JAG (PG) 12:00 Days Of Our Lives (PG) 12:45 The Young And The Restless (PG) 1:30 Fire Country (PG) 2:30 JAG (PG) 4:30 Numb3rs (PG) 5:30 JAG (PG) 7:30 NCIS (M v)



Growers Winning War on Weeds

A new report reveals that Australian grain and cotton growers are achieving productivity gains by investing in smarter, long-term weed management strategies, proving weeds can be beaten.

A decade on from the last national estimate, new CSIRO research funded by the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) and Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC) has found that weeds cost the grain and cotton industries an estimated \$4.43 billion per year.

Taking into account inflation and adjusted values, this is a 7% increase in costs for grain growers, however despite this increase in costs, growers are reaping the rewards of their investment.

Through proactive management and innovation, the impact of weeds on crop yield has fallen, from 2.8 million tonnes in 2016 to 1.2 million tonnes in 2025 translating into higher production and income.

“Weed control remains one of the biggest annual costs for growers, but the investment is paying off,” said Rick Llewellyn, CSIRO Research Scientist who co-authored the report led by Jackie Ouzman. “By staying ahead of the weed seed bank, resistance and adopting smarter, more targeted practices, growers are protecting long-term profitability and enabling flexibility in their system.”

Australian growers lead the way with integrated weed management, combining pre-emergent herbicides, harvest weed seed control, crop rotation and new precision technologies such as camera-guided spraying.

One of the biggest gains comes from improved summer fallow weed control,

which helps conserve valuable soil moisture and supports better crop establishment in drier seasons, an essential part of farming in a changing climate.

“Effective weed control is a critical part of climate adaptation,” said Dr Llewellyn.

“With increasingly variable rainfall and larger cropping programs, growers need to sow crops when conditions are right without delays for weed control.”

The 2025 study also includes cotton production for the first time, offering a fuller picture of weed impacts across Australia’s two largest cropping sectors.

Weeds cost producers on average \$4.3 billion (\$203 per ha) in grain crops and \$145 million (\$445 per hectare) in cotton crops – with cotton growers shown to invest heavily in keeping weed densities exceptionally low.

“Australian growers are showing global leadership in weed management, but the cost increases are real. We need to keep supporting research and find ways to stay ahead of evolving weed challenges while also reducing these costs,” said Dr Llewellyn.

The study reaffirms continued investment in weed management research, not just for reducing losses, but for unlocking gains in productivity, climate resilience and sustainable land use.

“The only reason we’re not seeing widespread yield



• Report Co-author, CSIRO Research Scientist Rick Llewellyn. – Photo: GRDC

losses from weeds today is because of years of sustained research and grower innovation,” Dr Llewellyn said.

“This is a quiet success story, but it’s a battle where you can’t pause – the weed challenge keeps evolving and demanding new solutions.”

Results by region
Cropping regions vary across Australia and are grouped into similar zones – see table for specific impact and costs per cropping zone.

The full report, Impact of weeds on Australian grain and cotton production, is available online at <https://grdc.com.au/resources-and-publications/all-publications/publications/2025/impact-of-weeds-on-australian-grain-and-cotton-production>.

Find out more about the Weed Management Initiative at <https://grdc.com.au/research/partnerships-and-initiatives/major-initiatives/weed-management-initiative>



• A wheat harvest with wild oats present in the background. Photo: Chris Stacey/GRDC

Table 24: Cost of weeds from yield losses and weed control expenditure in grain and cotton combined, expressed as total and average per hectare, by region and agroecological zone.								
	Yield loss (t)	Revenue loss (\$)	Expenditure (\$ million)	Total cost of weeds (\$ million)	Yield loss per hectare (t/ha)	Revenue loss per hectare (\$/ha)	Expenditure per hectare (\$/ha)	Total cost of weeds per hectare (\$/ha)
Northern	362,736	198m	1260	1458	0.05	29	187	216
Old Central	33,930	15m	51	67	0.11	49	165	213
NSW NE / Old SE	112,441	58m	407	465	0.06	29	204	233
NSW NW / Old SW	41,814	19m	203	221	0.04	18	201	219
NSW Vic Slopes	94,333	56m	336	392	0.05	30	178	208
NSW Central	80,218	50m	263	314	0.05	33	170	203
Southern	447,545	18m	1159	1348	0.07	28	174	202
SA Midnorth-Lower Yorke Eyre	137,418	50m	272	322	0.08	29	160	189
SA Vic Mallee	165,952	7m	486	560	0.06	26	174	201
SA Vic Bordertown-Wimmera	120,632	53m	335	388	0.07	29	185	214
Tasmania Grain	878	414k	2	2	0.1	47	188	235
Vic High Rainfall	22,665	11m	64	76	0.06	33	183	216
Western	370,572	189m	1438	1628	0.05	23	178	202
WA Central	198,180	98m	783	881	0.05	23	182	205
WA Eastern	64,324	31m	210	241	0.05	25	168	193
WA Northern	57,656	30m	251	281	0.04	20	167	187
WA Sandplain/Mallee	50,413	31m	194	225	0.05	30	190	220
Total	1,180,853	576m	3857	4434	0.05	27	180	206

• Cost of weeds from yield losses and weed control expenditure in grain and cotton combined, expressed as a total and average per hectare, by region and agroecological zone. Source: CSIRO

Farmers’ Voice Key to “State of the State” Survey

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) is urging farmers and regional Victorians to have their say on the biggest issues and opportunities facing their communities through the first ever *State of the State: Farmer Priorities Survey*.

VFF President Brett Hosking said the VFF-led survey comes at a time when frustration in farming communities is reaching boiling point.

“We know that our members are coping it from all sides, whether it’s the drought, conflict over land use, or new taxes. The feedback from communities I visit is that they’re not being heard.

“We know we have a big task ahead to cut through with decision makers. This survey is about getting the data to support our advocacy for the next 12 months as we head towards a state election.

“We want the facts and figures to demonstrate where there’s widespread concern to help us focus the minds of decision makers. We also want to make sure our advocacy is

on-target and delivering maximum impact for members,” Mr Hosking said.

Mr Hosking urged people across regional Victoria to take a moment to share their thoughts and share the survey through their networks.

“Five minutes is all it takes to share your thoughts on issues that could well and truly shape our industry for decades to come,” Mr Hosking said.

The survey is open now until August 14 and survey participants have the opportunity to win a Combo Smart Antenna and Telstra GO bundle prize pack valued at more than \$1600 from our generous partners, Zetifi and Telstra.

The survey can be accessed by visiting the VFF website <https://www.vff.org.au/category/vff-news/>

Urea Use for Boosting Winter Growth – Webinar

Urea use has proven to be a successful option to boost winter growth, helping farmers to grow more grass, which is vital during the current drought conditions.

Agriculture Victoria Livestock Industry Development Officer Nick Linden said after a poor spring and summer and a late autumn break, the need to grow more feed is a top priority.

AgVic is holding a webinar on Monday, August 11 at 12 p.m., for livestock farmers focused on using urea to boost pasture growth this winter and spring.

Urea is a proven option for increasing pasture growth rates through winter. For those who haven’t used urea before, this might be the year to try it.

In similar conditions to this year, the Weed Managers Producer Demonstration Site (PDS) trialled urea test strips on a fertile annual ryegrass paddock in the Upper Murray. Urea was applied in early July and late August 2024 using two different rates, 75kg urea/ha and 100kg urea/ha.

Pasture growth and accumulation were measured 6 weeks after each application.

Mr Linden said where there was no urea applied, daily pasture growth rates

through July and into August averaged 5 kg DM/ha/day; typical for mid-winter pasture growth.

“Pasture growth rates increased with urea applications and were greatest at the higher urea rate (100 kg Urea/ha), however, the higher rate did not give the best cost/benefit.

“We found that a 75kg/ha urea application lifted pasture growth rates to 17kg DM/ha/day, and the 100kg application lifted growth rates to 23 kg DM/ha/day, compared to 5kg DM/ha/day without urea.”

This increase in pasture growth rate and subsequent availability represented the difference between a pasture that would not maintain weaners or lactating stock, to one that would fully feed either stock class.

Learnings from the urea application trial include:

- Select a pasture that has sufficient leaf area, is not lacking in fertility or soil moisture and has a high proportion of desirable species.

- Applying urea early, when the pasture is growing, provided increased early growth and higher residual growth rates in late winter/early spring.

- An early application of 75kg/ha urea in mid-winter, delivered the best cost/benefit.

- Later application delivered little difference in growth between 100kg urea/ha and 75kg urea/ha, especially when growth rates had increased due to higher temperatures and longer days.

- In all cases, the energy cost from additional feed grown using urea was cheaper than the cost of energy if sourcing grain or hay.

More information on the trial can be found on our website.

Register for the AgVic urea webinar at <https://tinyurl.com/5286pf7x>

Trash to Treasure

One person’s Trash is another’s Treasure!

Turn your Trash into Cash by advertising it for sale in the “Times” classified pages.

Phone the Donald office (5497 1222), or Birchip (5492 2735); Fax direct (5497 1407); or email advertising@buloketimes.com

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



• Captains Abby Griffiths and Indy Gill raising the winning trophies.



• Champions from all age groups. Milla Adams (front), Abby Griffiths (rear), Evie Donnellon (front), Indy Gill (rear), Samuel Mortlock (front), Charlie Burke (rear).

Donald High School Athletics

On Wednesday the 6th of August, Donald High School held its annual House Athletics for 2025.

In perfect conditions students demonstrated their athletic skills to complete the schedule of all track and field events.

There were some outstanding efforts throughout the day, none better than that of Abby Griffiths, who won the maximum of 11 individual events

on the day to score 77 championship points.

Other outstanding efforts came from Milla Adams, Evie and Baxter Donnellon all win-

ning 6 individual events and Indy Gill 5.

The age group champions were as follows:

• Junior 12, 13,14 years: Evie Donnellon and Samuel Mortlock.

• Intermediate 15,16 years: Milla Adams and Charlie Burke.

• 17 years, Open: Abby Griffiths and Indy Gill.

Overall house points for the day:



- 1st Jeffcott = 646.
- 2nd Banyenong = 379.
- 3rd Meyer = 378.5.

Congratulations to Jeffcott for convincingly winning the 2025 Donald High School athletics sports.

A big thank you to all the staff, house captains and students for devoting their time to make the day run smoothly. Thanks to parents for coming along to cheer and support all students involved.

The Interschool Athletics sports will be held in Charlton on Friday, the 15th of August. A list of students who have qualified has been sent out via Xuno and posted on the notice-board at school.



• Sam flying at the long jump.



• Evie Donnellon at the high jump.



• Noah Michael winding up for the discus throw.



• Geordie Smith firing off the javelin.



• Pictured enjoying the first Rock Up to Pickleball event at St Arnaud are, from left, back, Linda, Tracey, Terence, Jane, Lisa and Caleb; and front, Kim, Sheryl, Marie, Rose, Lea and V. Rock Up to Pickleball sessions are on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. at St Arnaud Sports Stadium and are open to the community.

Rock Up To Pickleball

Following the success of an introductory Rock Up to Pickleball session at St Arnaud, the latest sporting craze is set to continue.

Northern Grampians Shire Council’s Thrive 50+ Healthy Ageing Hubs team will host ongoing pickleball sessions at St Arnaud Sports Stadium on Wednesdays at 10 a.m..

The sessions are free of charge and all equipment is supplied.

Pickleball is a mix of tennis, table tennis and badminton played on a badminton-size court with a paddle and a small, perforated plastic ball.

It can be played in singles or doubles format, but the big draw is the ease at which a new player can pick up the game.

Mayor Karen Hyslop said the come-and-try event was well-attended, with plenty of interaction between participants.

“It was great to see people of all abilities and fitness levels come along and give pickleball a go,” she said.

“A couple came along just to watch, due to existing injuries, but they were able to participate and loved it.”

Great Feedback

Cr Hyslop said organisers had received great feedback from participants, including from Tracey.

“I wasn’t sure my knees would be able to cope with the game, but I felt really good and had so much fun,” Tracey said.

Linda said she also enjoyed the rock-up event.

“I had physio on my leg the day before and thought I’d just pop in to see what the hype was all about,” she said.

“I loved it. I played and felt great.”

Cr Hyslop said an after-hours session could be arranged if there was enough interest and that people could call the Thrive team on (03) 5358 8700 for more information.

She said the council had introduced the casual pickleball sessions at St Arnaud following the successful introduction of the sport in Stawell, through a partnership between council, Pickleball Victoria and Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly.

Stawell Sports and Aquatic Centre continues to host casual pickleball sessions on Tuesday mornings between 10 a.m. and noon, Thursday afternoons between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Saturday mornings between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m..

Sessions are \$5 per person and bookings are not required.

Council is also investigating the possibility of a formal competition in the region, at Stawell Sports and Aquatic Centre.

People can visit www.ng-shire.vic.gov.au/Sports-Recreation-and-Leisure/Stawell-Sports-and-Aquatic-Centre/Play to express their interest.

Sometimes Things Are Not As They Seem!

I was enjoying a walk along the Loddon river near Kerang and glanced at the end of a dead branch of a tree. I looked again because the branch did not seem quite right.

Sure enough, my second glance revealed a Tawny Frogmouth bird pretending to be the end of a broken branch!

The Tawny Frogmouth is a master of camouflage. The bird’s strategy is to sit motionless, its cryptic plumage and unbirdlike silhouette, including eyes that close to just a slit, bears a remarkable resemblance to the dead branch of a tree.

The purpose? The reason why was demonstrated as I observed a large insect settling on the end of the “broken branch”. The large mouth of the Tawny Frogmouth opened and the insect disappeared inside. The insect was deceived because things were not the way they seemed!

Shopping

People can get caught out too when things are not as they seem. The story is told of an elderly woman who went to the grocery store to do some shopping. When she returned to her car she noticed four

strange men getting into it. The woman dropped her shopping bags, reached into her purse and pulled out a small handgun that she carried for her protection. She ran to the front of her car, aimed the pistol at the men and began yelling at them. She ordered them out of the car and warned them that if they didn’t move, she would shoot! “I know how to use this gun and don’t think I won’t!” she warned. The four men didn’t hesitate. They threw open the car doors, scrambled and ran! The woman was trembling but kept her composure.

When the woman was certain the men were gone she put the gun back into her purse, picked up her bags and loaded them into the back seat of the car. She then climbed into the driver’s seat and decided to go immediately to the police station to report the incident. However, she struck a problem. Her key wouldn’t fit into the ignition.

Oops!

A quick glance around the interior confirmed she was in the wrong car! Then she spied her vehicle parked four spaces away. She loaded her bags into her own car and drove to the police station to confess what she had done. When she told the story to the officer he couldn’t control his laughter. He just pointed to the other end of the counter where four very shaken men were reporting a car jacking by an elderly woman. The woman apologised profusely and no charges were laid. The woman thought she was in her own car but things were not as they seemed!

Have you ever jumped to conclusions prematurely? You may not have jumped into another person’s car thinking it was your own, but you may have had the wrong attitude toward someone or drawn the wrong conclusion and then found out you did not have all the information.

We are all capable of making these kinds of mistakes. Some-

Tigers Eyes On Double Chance

At Sea Lake, the Tigers kept the opportunity alive to challenge the Calder Lions for the double chance in this year’s finals series when they defeated the fifth placed Wedderburn Redbacks.

In the game that started at a blistering pace both the Tigers and Redbacks were keen to get on to the board.

The Redbacks had the first opportunity, but blew it and the Tigers cleared the ball and sent it forward, where Cruz O’Sullivan chimed in and posted the first major.

From the restart the Redbacks were able send the ball forward where Jackson McEwen marked and booted through the Redbacks’ first goal with his kick from outside the fifty, and locked the scores up.

The Redbacks had a further chance, but were not able to convert and when the Tigers got possession, they took full use of the ball with a nicely timed kick landing in the hands of Bryce Delmenico, and he made no mistake with his kick.

From this point the Tigers took control and ended the first term leading with four goals.

In the opening minute of the second quarter the Tigers got things moving from the centre bounce and John Summerhayes got the first goal of the term.

Wedderburn struck back with a goal to Jensen to keep the Redbacks in the mix, but it was short lived as Pattison and Cahoon returned fire to extend the Tigers’ lead of over forty points.

The Redbacks were able to add a goal when Mitch McEwen was awarded a free and he brought up both flags.

Just prior to half-time Max Cahoon and Austin Mertz added goals for the Tigers and went into the break forty-two points ahead of the Redbacks.

Holding on to a forty-plus lead the Tigers were not keen to see that margin evaporate in the second half, with the double chance still on the table.

Max Cahoon and Adam Pattison added goals to extend Sea Lake-Nandaly’s lead and at the other end, its defence was standing strong until a minor lapse in concentration let the Redbacks break through for a couple of goals to the Mitches, Jensen and Mc-Ewen.

The Tigers regrouped and John Sumerhayes and Cruz O’Sullivan added goals. With the game in hand, the Tigers went to the final break holding a lead of just under ten goals.

The Redbacks, knowing they had the job in front of them, were just keen to cut the Tigers’ lead back to a respectable margin. But that all started wrongly with Cruz O’Sullivan slotting through his third goal of the game.

With some frustration creeping into the game and both sides feeling they were being denied some calls by the men in green, the game became physical and some spot fires developed regularly, as it appeared the whistles had been retired for the day on hard calls.

Wedderburn won a free and a fifty that resulted in its only goal in the term, but it

was well too late, as the Tigers went on to record a win of sixty-five points.

This win keeps the Tigers second chance alive. The Redbacks have one game to go against the Saints to end their season, and they will be keen to end on a high, while the Tigers look like they will cause some concerns to any side they meet during the finals series, when they look to defend their 2024 premier-ship.

Final score: Sea Lake Nandaly 16-11 (107) def. Wedderburn 6-6 (42).

Best for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Wade Donnan, Trent Donnan, Cruz O’Sullivan, Adam Pattison, Kane Donnan and Jack Poulton.

Best for Wedderburn: Jackson McEwen, Corey Lowry, Danny Benaim, Issac Holt, Mitch McEwen, Noah Furlong.

North-Central Hockey



Results of round 15 —

Under-12 Sea Lake-Nandaly 0 def. by Wedderburn 4; Donald 0 def. by Calder United 6; Charlton 2 drew with Birchip-Watchem 2; St Arnaud 7 d. Boort 0.

Underage Donald 1 drew with Calder United 1; Charlton 17 d. Birchip-Watchem 1; St Arnaud 7 d. Boort 1.

Women Sea Lake-Nandaly 1 def. by Wedderburn 5; Donald 1 def. by Calder United 2; St Arnaud 5 d. Boort 0.

Men Sea Lake-Nandaly 2 drew with Wedderburn 2; Donald 1 def. by Calder United 3; St Arnaud 9 d. Boort 1.

POSITIONS OF TEAMS

Women												
	P	W	D	L	F	For	Agst	SD	Pts	WR		
St Arnaud	13	11	0	2	0	49	12	37	33	85		
Calder United	13	11	0	2	0	41	15	26	33	85		
Charlton	12	9	0	3	0	59	16	43	27	75		
Wedderburn	13	6	1	6	0	28	25	3	19	49		
Boort	13	5	0	8	0	27	42	-15	15	38		
Donald	13	2	1	10	0	12	51	-39	7	18		
Sea Lake-Nan	13	0	0	13	0	3	58	-55	0	0		

Men												
	P	W	D	L	F	For	Agst	SD	Pts	WR		
Calder United	13	10	1	2	0	56	15	41	31	79		
St Arnaud	13	9	2	2	0	58	13	45	29	74		
Donald	13	9	1	3	0	35	17	18	28	72		
Boort	13	6	2	5	0	52	22	30	20	51		
Wedderburn	13	4	3	6	0	26	29	-3	15	38		
Sea Lake-Nan	13	2	1	10	0	13	55	-42	7	18		
Charlton	12	0	0	12	0	7	96	-89	0	0		

Underage												
	P	W	D	L	F	For	Agst	SD	Pts	WR		
Charlton	13	13	0	0	0	95	8	87	39	100		
St Arnaud	13	10	1	2	0	71	12	59	31	79		
Donald	13	6	1	6	0	36	46	-10	19	49		
Boort	13	5	1	7	0	36	47	-11	16	41		
Calder United	13	3	3	7	0	20	25	-5	12	31		
Sea Lake-Nan	12	2	1	9	0	16	63	-47	7	19		
Birchip-Wat	13	2	1	10	0	21	94	-73	7	18		

Under-12s												
	P	W	D	L	F	For	Agst	SD	Pts	WR		
Calder United	15	12	2	1	0	47	9	38	38	84		
Birchip-Wat	15	12	1	2	0	75	13	62	37	82		
Charlton	15	11	3	1	0	38	12	26	36	80		
St Arnaud	14	7	1	6	0	36	24	12	22	52		
Wedderburn	15	6	1	8	0	30	16	14	19	42		
Boort	14	2	1	11	0	5	45	-40	7	17		
Sea Lake-Nan	15	2	1	12	0	4	55	-51	7	16		

times things are not always as they seem. Don’t be too quick to judge.

Don’t judge the Christian faith by looking at some who claim to call themselves “Christian”. We all “slip up” at times but some deliberately hurt the name of Jesus by their hypocrisy or “churchianity”. Instead look to the person of Jesus. He is the only perfect One who ever lived. There is no deception with Jesus. He said, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but by Me” John 14:6. What you see written about Him in the Bible is what you get in reality if you submit to Him as Saviour and Lord. Check Him out and see. You will have no regrets.

Bruce Stewart.



• Above and below: I was enjoying a walk along the Loddon river and glanced at the end of a dead branch of a tree. I looked again because the branch did not seem quite right. Sure enough, my second glance revealed a Tawny Frogmouth bird pretending to be the end of a broken branch! Sometimes things are not as they seem!

Bulls Roll On

• Continued from page 16. and the equally imposing Geoge Addis, his work at ground level making him the best of the big men on the day.

The Bulls had solid contributors across the ground. Sam Simmonds was in fine touch, adding three goals to his solid work through the middle of the ground. Daniel Bell, Austin Dean, Jacob Christie and Riley Hogan were all busy either on the ball or when resting forward. Tom Gibson showed his class across half-forward and captain Dale Hinkley is building towards his dominating best across half-back, sneaking forward to add to the Navies woes.

The Bulls will be looking to finish off the home-and-away season in style next week at home, as they will want to put the exclamation mark on a perfect season, hoping to finish with an un-

blemished record as they come up against the winless Royal Blues. Charlton will travel to Boort to finish its season, the Magpies locking in a top-four finish after beating St Arnaud and watching fellow top four aspirant Wedderburn fall to Sea Lake-Nandaly. The Navies will be hoping the Magpies ease off and go into protection mode as they prepare to play finals for the first time in a number of years.

Finals result: Charlton 1.3 (9) to Birchip-Watchem 27.18 (180).

Best for Charlton: Ben Lanyon, Jackson Zagame, Pat Soulsby, Rhys Thompson, Jed Thompson, Josh Harris.

For Birchip-Watchem: Nicholas Rippon, Sam Simmonds, Daniel Bell, Ben Edwards, Austin Dean, Tom Gibson.



• Charlton’s Billy Sexton surrounded by Bulls as he tries to get a kick away.

Lindsay’s Singles Tournament Win

Congratulations to Charlton’s Lindsay Patullo who won the Goulburn Valley Association Croquet Singles Tournament played at Rich River on August 2 and 3.

After very cold starts, both days became sunny and quite warm – ideal conditions. Ten entries played in two blocks with the block winners playing off for first place. The playoff between Lindsay and Kerri-Ann Organ couldn’t

have been more exciting. At one point Lindsay had made 18 hoops and Kerri-Ann hadn’t started yet. But when Kerri-Ann got her chance, she was off like a shot. The final score was Lindsay 26 to Kerri-Ann 25. What a game!

Due to a late withdrawal, Naomi Patullo stepped up from Section 3 (to Section 2) and played very well, winning one game. On 4th and 5th August Naomi then played in the Section 3 Tournament – 10 games over 4 days. Well done.



• Goulburn Valley Russell Smyth, Philip deAraugo, Lindsay Patullo (Div. 1 winner), Kerri-Ann Organ.



• Goulburn Valley Association Croquet Singles Tournament winner, Lindsay Patullo.



• Birchip-Watchem star Nic Rippon feeding out a handball to the waiting Ben Lakin (#24), Charlton’s Ben Xiriha about to lay the tackle, Rhys Thompson is the other Charlton player in shot.

North-Central Netball

Last Saturday’s results:		“C” Grade		Charlton 22 def. by Birchip-Watchem 48; Donald 4 def. by Calder United 112.	
“A” Grade		Charlton 30 def. by Birchip-Watchem 56; Sea Lake-Nandaly 47 def. by Wedderburn 53; St Arnaud 25 def. by Boort 39; Donald 20 def. by Calder United 83.		Fourteen-and-Under “A”	
Charlton 54 def. by Birchip-Watchem 63; Sea Lake-Nandaly 26 def. by Wedderburn 46; St Arnaud 28 def. by Boort 73; Donald 27 def. by Calder United 51.		“C” Grade Reserves		Charlton 2 def. by Birchip-Watchem 32; Donald 22 d. Calder United 16; St Arnaud v. Boort; Sea Lake-Nandaly 35 d. Wedderburn 5.	
“B” Grade		Sea Lake-Nandaly 61 d. Wedderburn 26; St Arnaud 20 def. by Boort 77.		Fourteen-and-Under “B”	
Charlton 29 def. by Birchip-Watchem 51; Sea Lake-Nandaly 41 def. by Wedderburn 65; St Arnaud 45 def. by Boort 46; Donald 16 def. by Calder United 48.		Seventeen-and-Under		Donald 7 d. Calder United 8; Sea Lake-Nandaly 7 def. by Wedderburn 15; St Arnaud v. Boort.	
		St Arnaud 51 d. Boort 40; Sea Lake-Nandaly 48 d. W’burn 34;			

Results of round 15:										“C” GRADE RESERVES									
“A” GRADE										Boort 11 10 1 0 1 0 0 632 225 40 0.26									
Wedderburn	15	15	0	0	0	0	0	871	465	60	187	Sea Lake-Nan	11	10	1	0	4	0	591 244 40 0.22
Boort	15	11	4	0	0	0	0	818	606	44	135	Calder United	10	6	4	0	0	0	364 259 24 0.14
Sea Lake-Nan	15	11	4	0	0	0	0	654	497	44	132	Birchip-Wat	10	4	6	0	4	0	258 420 16 0.06
Calder United	15	9	6	0	0	0	0	702	577	36	122	Wedderburn	11	2	9	0	4	0	313 593 8 0.05
Birchip-Wat	15	8	7	0	0	0	0	768	731	32	105	St Arnaud	11	0	11	0	2	0	195 612 0 0.03
Donald	15	4	11	0	0	0	0	609	742	16	82	SEVENTEEN-AND-UNDER							
Charlton	15	1	13	1	0	0	0	516	832	6	62	Calder United	15	14	1	0	0	0	1068 343 56 311
St Arnaud	15	0	14	1	0	0	0	442	930	2	48	Birchip-Wat	15	13	2	0	0	0	791 530 52 149
“B” GRADE										St Arnaud 15 9 5 1 0 0 0 744 594 38 125									
Wedderburn	15	15	0	0	0	0	0	943	519	60	182	Boort	15	9	5	1	0	0	649 531 38 122
Calder United	15	12	3	0	0	0	0	713	544	48	131	Sea Lake-Nan	15	7	8	0	0	0	601 668 28 90
Boort	15	11	4	0	0	0	0	704	645	44	109	Charlton	15	5	10	0	0	0	482 597 16 81
Birchip-Wat	15	10	5	0	0	0	0	738	615	40	120	Wedderburn	15	2	13	0	0	0	407 815 8 50
St Arnaud	15	5	10	0	0	0	0	645	743	20	87	Donald	15	0	15	0	0	0	367 1031 0 36
Sea Lake-Nan	15	4	10	1	0	0	0	558	672	18	83	FOURTEEN-AND-UNDER “A”							
Donald	15	2	12	1	0	0	0	546	725	10	75	Boort	14	14	0	0	0	0	420 165 56 255
Charlton	15	0	15	0	0	0	0	383	767	0	50	Birchip-Wat	15	13	2	0	0	0	420 147 52 286
“C” GRADE										Donald 15 11 4 0 0 0 0 429 224 44 192									
Calder United	15	14	1	0	0	0	0	893	390	56	229	Calder United	15	8	7	0	0	0	313 240 32 130
Wedderburn	15	11	4	0	0	0	0	717	608	44	118	St Arnaud	14	6	8	0	0	0	293 247 24 119
Sea Lake-Nan	15	10	5	0	0	0	0	663	536	40	124	Sea Lake-Nan	15	3	12	0	0	0	162 423 12 38
Boort	15	10	5	0	0	0	0	619	553	40	112	Charlton	15	2	13	0	0	0	154 433 8 36
Birchip-Wat	15	8	7	0	0	0	0	662	550	32	120	Wedderburn	15	2	13	0	0	0	109 421 8 26
St Arnaud	15	5	10	0	0	0	0	577	597	20	97	FOURTEEN-AND-UNDER “B”							
Charlton	15	1	14	0	0	0	0	443	864	4	51	St Arnaud	12	11	1	0	2	0	244 61 44 0.33
Donald	15	1	14	0	0	0	0	366	842	0	4	Boort	12	11	1	0	2	0	222 79 44 0.23

Percentage Boost for Calder United

Leading into next week's crucial game against Sea Lake-Nandaly, Calder United has gained valuable percentage in its quest for the double chance in North Central senior football.

It's still a long shot, as the Lions are twelve per cent behind the Tigers but, regardless, it promises to be a high-class final round game in a season that has produced numerous one-sided affairs.

Calder United entered this clash against Donald with a few noticeable regulars absent, including ruckman Dean Putt and on-baller Matt Wade. Nevertheless, they were quickly out of the blocks with an eight-goal first quarter including four from full forward Jack Exell, who went on to reach ten by the game's end. The Lions' Steve Kennedy

(four goals), Zac Caccaviello and Koby Hommelhoff were running riot and continually drove the ball forward. Donald was actually competitive, but continued to turn over the ball. Kalon Green, Ross Young, Dan Pearce and ruckman Sam Arho were prominent and Charlie Burke was doing a fine job of following Lions' speedster Rylee Smith to minimize his influence.

Donald continued to apply pressure in the second period and kept Calder to three goals with the visitors rueing their inaccuracy with eleven points.

Donald's Ben Arho and full back Charlie Campbell were playing well as was Harry Forrest, who never takes a backward step and continually lays tackles; but it was Calder's running through Zane Keighran, Jordan Humphreys, Tiger Vearing and George Turner among many others that always had the Royal Blues under the pump.

It was all Calder United in the third quarter as it piled on ten unanswered goals, which included two to Rick Allan (three for the game), two to Koby Hommelhoff and two to Jack Exell.

Into the last quarter, and Calder slammed on another eleven goals, with several players reaching multiple individual goal tallies, including Jordan Humpries (3), Mitch Farmer (4) and Oscar Madden (2). The loudest cheer of the day came when Donald's Ben Arho slotted its sole goal; a brief moment of joy on a tough afternoon.

Scores: Calder United: 32.26 (218) d Donald 1.4 (10).

Best for Calder United: Koby Hommelhoff, Zane Keighran, Jack Exell, Steve Kennedy, Jordan Humphreys, George Turner.

For Donald: Ross Young, Ben Arho, Charlie Campbell, Dan Pearce, Sam Arho, Harry Forrest.



• With doubt for availability next week, Dyson Bell-Warren was thanked for his loyal service for the past four years.



• Calder United's Zane Keighran is tackled by Donald's Jett Adams.



• Lions' speedster Zane Keighran takes a bounce with Donald's coach Dan Pearce in pursuit.

Bulls Roll On

Birchip-Watchem cruised through its round 15 match against Charlton at Charlton Park on Saturday, in North Central Football League action.

Fresh from a dominant 15-goal performance last week against St Arnaud, Birchip-Watchem spearhead Ben Edwards added another double digit bag to his collection, 11 goals taking him to 116 goals with one round remaining in the home-and-away season.

Unlike Edwards's outing the previous week where most goals came from no further out than 15 to 20 metres, the tall forward was made to earn every set shot against Charlton young defender Pat Soulsby, with most forward entries being sent Edwards's way. If not for the efforts of Soulsby, it could have been 20 or more goals for the league's premier forward this season.

The Bulls were in cruise mode most of the day, afforded the luxury of resting Nicholas Rippon, who appeared to pull up sore early in the second half; no risk taken as he watched on from the sidelines for the remainder of the match, not in any obvious

discomfort, and quite possibly right to front cellar dweller, Donald, next match if he and the Bulls' brains trust see fit. More of a concern could be an apparent lower leg injury to Lachlan Ryan, also leaving the field just after half-time and seeing no further action.

While the Charlton Navies were clearly outclassed by the talent laden Bulls, its players, led by coach, the never-say-die, Mitch Collins, never stopped trying. While Collins leads from the front, the Navies don't have to look far for inspiration, 17-year-old Jye Roberts providing that in bucket loads, back on the football field, less than 10 months after suffering horrific injuries in a brutal accident while on work experience – his resilience, mental fortitude and bravery for getting on with life, an ongoing inspiration for all pulling on the Navy guernsey, regardless of code. Great to have him back on field and donning his

beloved #2 jumper in the under-17s.

Along with Soulsby down back, Jackson Zagame played possibly one of his finest games in his fledgling Navies career, with the reliable Jed Thompson giving his all whether in a key defensive post, or as a big bodied mid after half-time. Josh Harris continued his run of recent good form, performing well on his wing, and while the midfield was well beaten, Rhys Thompson was again strong for the Navies, and Mason Heenan continued his development as an onballer, his tackling and ability to lock the ball in being a key strength.

Perhaps Charlton's greatest win for the day was the form of ruckman Ben Lanyon, who has put together a fine second season in Navies colours. He competed strongly all day against man mountain Hamish Hosking

• Continued on page 16.



• Birchip-Watchem's Dale Hinkley (#10) sensationally flying for the mark over Charlton's Billy Sexton (observed), other Bulls players are Harry Cook (#31) and Ben Lakin (#24). Waiting in front is Charlton's Isaac Bourke.