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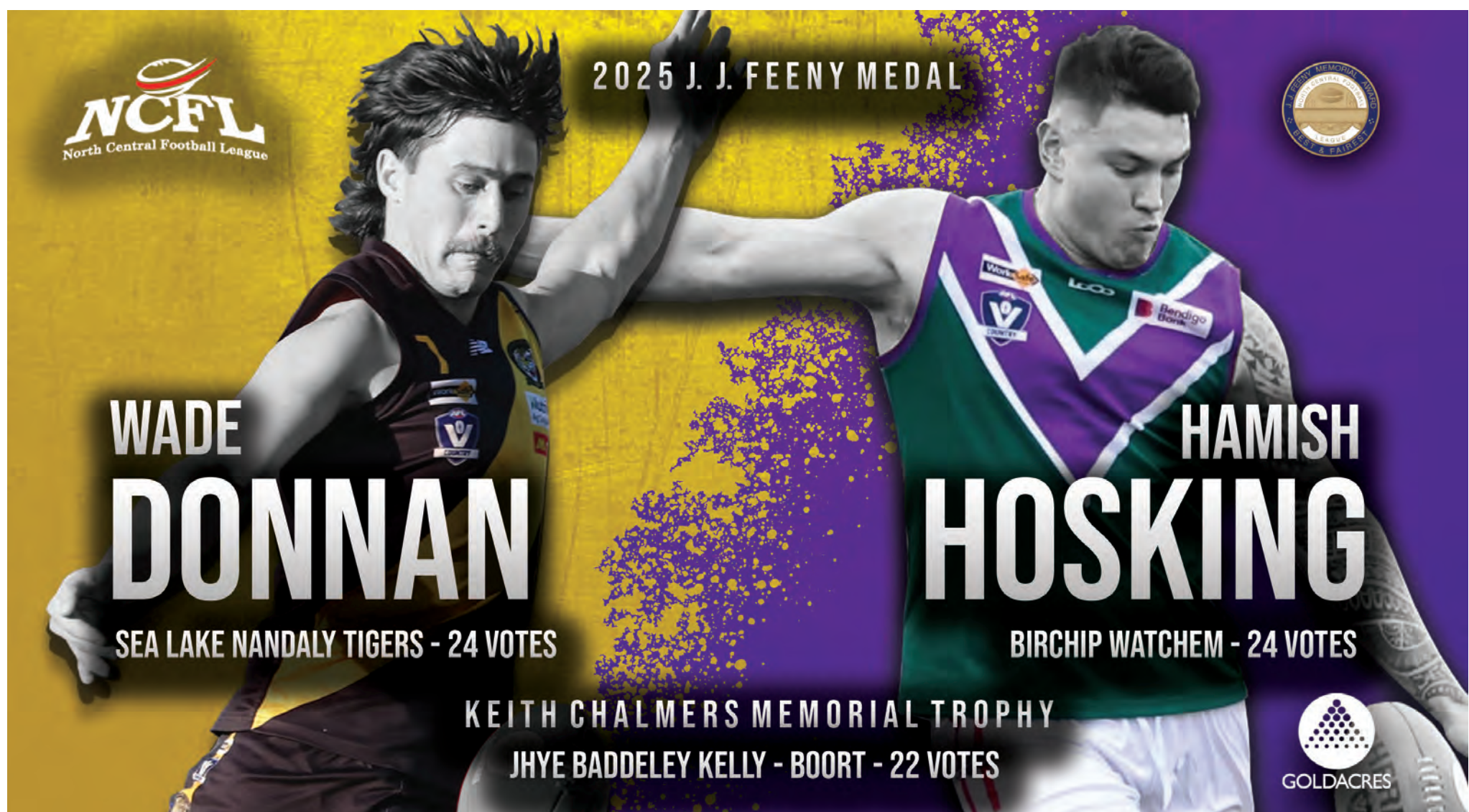
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Tuesday, August 19, 2025

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

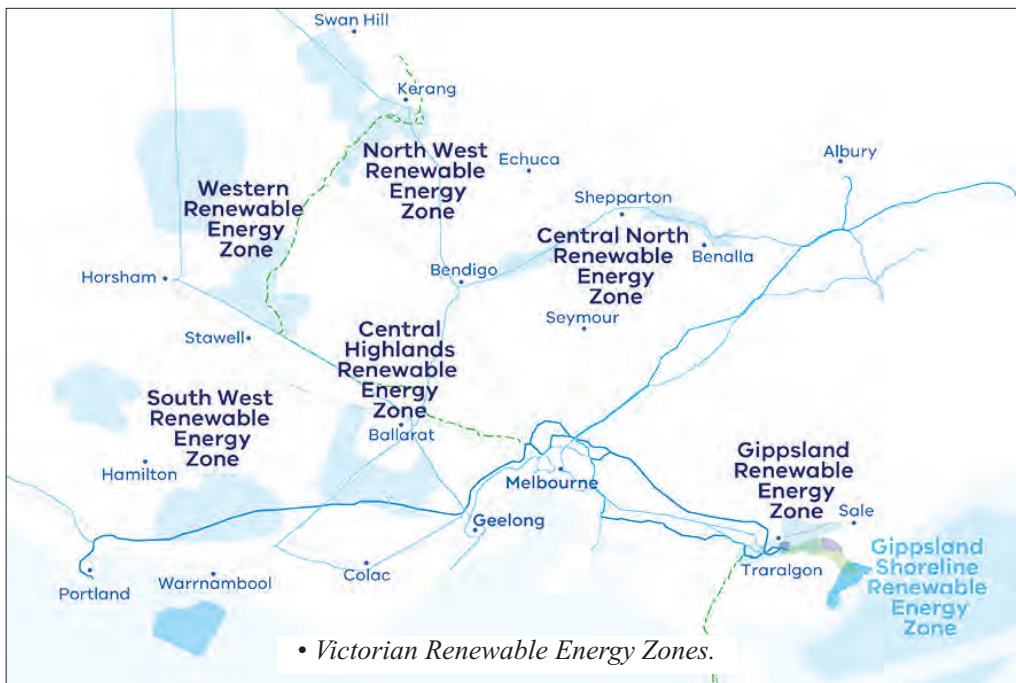


Feeny Medal Shared

1: Adam Postle (WFC),
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Charlie Campbell (DFC),
Dale Pearce (CU), Ethan
Coleman (BFC), Isaac Holt
(WFC), Jake Pallpratt (x)
(WFC), Keiren Wilson (x)
(BFC), Lachlan Ryan
(BWFC), Luca Rice (DFC),
Matt Austin (BFC), Max
Hungerford (STA), Mitch
Egan (STA), Rhys Thompson
(CFC), Scott Driscoll (STA).

2025 Victorian Transmission Plan Released

• Continued on page 2.



Friends and Neighbours Society August Report

Long serving president, Gavin Young, presented his annual report below, and then took nominations for president for the coming year.

Michael Flagg was duly elected president, vice president is Rosemarie Larcombe, secretary is Melissa Drum and treasurer Kellie Petrie.

Gavin's report is as follows:

"Many families in Donald are continuing to have difficulty with the cost of living pressures growing, and this means our role of providing both financial, social and emotional support remains most important.

"Just some of the ways we have assisted the community over the past 12 months include funding for school camps and school uniforms, membership and equipment for children to participate in local sports, driver education for secondary school students, fuel vouchers, psychological appointments for troubled children, medical costs and bereavement assistance for families as well as our 'big

ticket item' of supplying Christmas hampers to tens of families around town. We are proud of how this eases the financial burden for these families through supplying food as well as presents which we strategically allocate.

"We also supported the Donald Show by assisting families in need with vouchers for entrance fees and rides as well as maintained the facilities at the back of the bank and supported the Community Garden.

Facebook Page

"We have just recently set up our Friends and Neighbours facebook page which we can start getting community members attached to.

"I would like to thank all of our committee members for their ongoing support of Donald Friends and Neighbours. All of our members are very busy with their own tasks and family concerns, so your commitment to our group is much appreciated.

"I'd like to particularly thank Melissa Drum for her role as secretary and Kelly Petrie our treasurer for the extra time and effort they've put into their positions.

"Thanks again to to everyone for their continued support to this group which does have a big impact on the Donald community."

Community Hub

The Donald Friends and Neighbours supports the community Hub and Library at 72 Woods Street and is open by Donald Friends and Neighbours workers on Fridays or

on demand from the contact point on the front door.

Donald Friends and Neighbours is a registered gift deductible recipient (D.G.R) a charitable organization that is registered with the government to acknowledge charitable donations.

The Donald Friends and Neighbours meets quarterly and welcomed a couple of new members at its annual meeting, further information is available from Rosemarie at the Hub, 72 Woods Street.

Any contributions or further information is available at Donald Friends and Neighbours or from treasurer Kellie Petrie.

The Donald Friends and Neighbours is always available to accept donations or contributions especially in the weeks before Christmas when a giving tree is available in Weirs and Donald Friends and Neighbours distributes hampers and gifts.

The Donald Friends and Neighbours committee recognizes change in Donald's Socio Economic conditions and the need charitable benevolent societies has increased in the district.

Donald Friends and Neighbours attracts contributions from former residents and foundations sympathetic to the Donald area located outside the area and from the capital cities.

Some foundations have contributed up to \$10,000 but all local and ex-local contributions, small and large, are recorded and appreciated.



• Donald Friends and Neighbours held their August meeting at the Hub. Present were, clockwise from left: Kelly Petrie, Michael Flagg, Jackie Richards, Marlene Davidson, Christine Burfitt, Rosemarie Larcombe, Sandra Harris and Graeme Harris (obscured). Behind the camera is Gavin Young. Absent: Shane Wall, Colin and Del Gilmour, Charmaine Delaney, Melissa Drum.

2025 Victorian Transmission Plan Released

• Continued from page 1.

renewables from being connected, which would push up energy prices, put Victoria's energy security at risk and cost the economy \$9.6 billion over the next 30 years.

In response to feedback following the release of the draft Victorian Transmission Plan in May, VicGrid has adjusted the size and shape of renewable energy zones and refined some of its transmission projects.

Some areas have been removed from or added to zones, and new separate sections have been added in the South West REZ and Central North REZ.

The Wimmera Mallee REZ has been expanded to allow for an increased number of projects currently in development and will now join the

Grampians Wimmera REZ as one Western REZ, despite not being physically connected.

Mr Parker said feedback from communities and regional stakeholders about sensitive areas, including new information about broilga habitats and irrigated agricultural land, had resulted in a number of areas being removed from the renewable energy zones.

Feedback

There was also clear feedback from industry stakeholders about the size of zones.

"Industry stakeholders consistently told us the size of zones and the amount of energy generated from each zone needed to be at a level that enabled the development of technically and commercially viable renewable projects," he said.

The area covered by proposed renewable energy zones in the 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan takes up approximately 7.9% of Victorian land. Less than 1% of land will be needed to host physical infrastructure like wind turbines, solar panels and access roads.

Landholders, communities and Traditional Owners within zones will soon have another opportunity to provide feedback and seek more information through a six-week consultation process to formally declare renewable energy zones.

To read the 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan and supporting documents, visit VicGrid's website.

For media enquiries, please email vicgridmedia@deeca.vic.gov.au.

The Buloke Times

Coloured Photographs

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

Photos not published may also be available.

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

Letters to the Editor

Landcare

(The Editor, "The Times") Dear Editor.- In the wake of National Landcare Week, I want to acknowledge the many Landcare volunteers and facilitators in our region who dedicate their time and skills to restoring and enhancing our environment.

Landcare is an outstanding program that allows local communities to improve ecosystems and protect biodiversity. From tree planting and weed and pest control, to erosion prevention and habitat restoration, their work makes a remarkable difference on both public and private land.

It is important to note that for an investment of just \$4.5 million, Landcare delivers an impressive \$31.5 million economic return – a result that speaks for itself. Yet despite this success, the program is forced to continually lobby the State Government for long-term funding and certainty. This short-term approach is a missed opportunity to strengthen regional

communities and the environment for generations to come.

The Nationals will continue to strongly back Landcare and the incredible people who make it possible. Their contribution is invaluable, and it deserves the recognition and long-term support it needs to thrive.

Warm regards,
Jade Benham.
MP.

Parliamentary Question Time

(The Editor, "The Times") Dear Editor.- I was delighted to welcome local student, Blake Lee, to Parliament House recently.

Blake is participating in the Parliament of Victoria's youth writing program, "Parliament Express", and interviewed me on how communities can contribute to legislative change, particularly in relation to renewable energy projects.

We also discussed how I bring the voices of constituents to Parliament, and

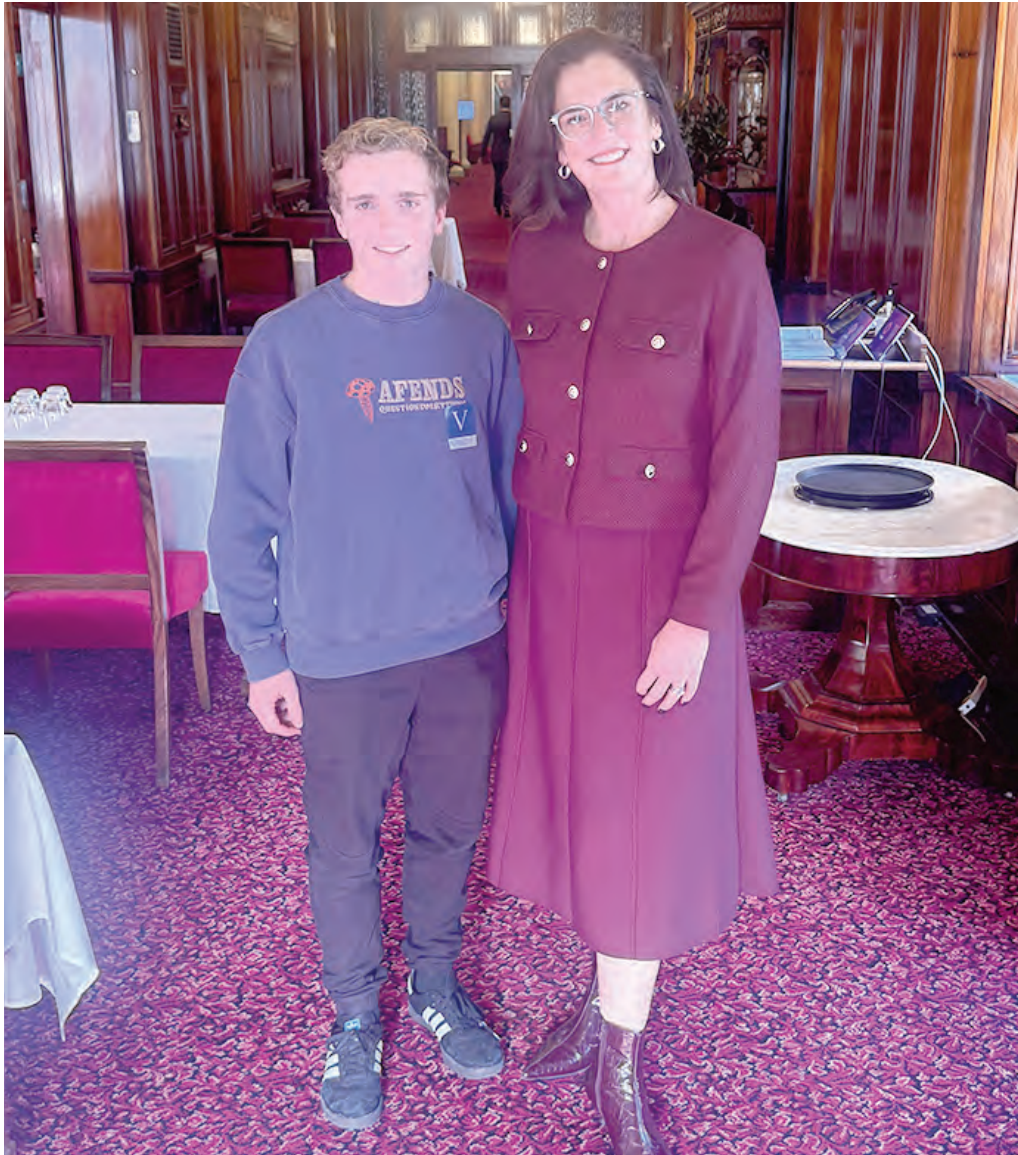
the importance of ensuring that regional Victorians have their perspectives heard.

It's wonderful to see young people like Blake taking such an interest in politics and wanting to make a difference in their community. Programs like "Parliament Express" give students the chance to see democracy in action and build the skills and confidence to be the leaders of tomorrow.

When young people engage with the political process, they help shape a stronger, fairer future for us all. With his enthusiasm, curiosity and thoughtful approach, I have no doubt Blake has a bright future ahead of him.

Warm Regards,
Jade Benham, MP.

• Editor's Note: Blake recently spent several days as a reporting member of the "Buloke Times" staff. We agree wholeheartedly with Ms Benham's observations, neatly encapsulated in her final paragraph.



• Jade Benham, MP, and Blake Lee at Parliament House.

WestWind Energy Welcomes Victorian Transmission Plan

[From WestWind Energy]

Victoria’s premier wind farm developer, WestWind Energy, welcomes the Victorian State Government’s commitment to the renewable energy transition with the release of the Victorian Transmission Plan.

WestWind’s Managing Director, Tobi Geiger, says “Today’s announcement by VicGrid follows months, if not years, of meaningful engagement and considering feedback from many stakeholders. It puts in place a comprehensive plan to build the necessary infrastructure in the right place to support the energy transition.

“The VTP is an important step towards ensuring that Renewable Energy Zones and upgrades to the electricity transmission network are adequate to host new renewable energy generation.”

WestWind commends the Victorian Government on its meaningful engagement with communities, traditional owners and industry in the preparation of this important plan. WestWind also acknowledges the leadership of

the Hon. Lily D’Ambrosio, MP, Minister for Energy and Climate Action, and her support for renewable energy generation industry across the state.

Focus Area

“The Wimmera and Mallee are areas of outstanding renewable energy resources – both solar and wind – and for that reason they have become a focus area for us. The establishment of the Western Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) confirms our thinking and has the potential to become one of six green energy powerhouses in Victoria for generations to come,” said Mr Geiger.

“The Western REZ will contribute significantly to meeting Victoria’s – and Australia’s – renewable energy targets and will also bring billions of dollars in investment,

including shared benefits to these important regions.”

Several Wind Farms

WestWind has several wind farms already in development in Victoria. Two in the Western REZ – Warracknabeal Energy Park and Wilkur Energy Park – and another in the North West REZ – Normanville Energy Park. Combined, these projects could drive more than \$5 billion dollars of investment into regional Victoria and supply green energy to more than 1.8 million Victorian households, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 6.4 million tonnes per year.

Mr Geiger stated, “The west and north-west of Victoria can play a critical role in addressing climate change and securing Victoria’s future energy needs with minimal impacts to biodiversity and existing land uses such as agriculture.

“The selection of Renewable Energy Zones in the VTP demonstrates Vic Grid’s and the Victorian Government’s appreciation of these regions for their remarkable potential to generate renewable energy in appropriate locations.”

WestWind has been successfully developing wind farms in Victoria since 2004. These include Lal Lal Wind Farm, Moorabool Wind Farm and Mt Mercer Wind Farm in central Victoria, as well as Golden Plains Wind Farm, currently under construction. When complete, Golden Plains will become the largest wind farm in Australia, capable of meeting 9% of Victoria’s electricity demand. For more information, please visit w-wind.com.au



• Kevin, Gail, Tara and Brad Sharp with the trophy.

Another Triumph for Sharp’s Bakery

Sharp’s Bakery has reclaimed the title of Australia’s best vanilla slice at the Great Australian Vanilla Slice Triumph on the weekend.

Sharp’s Bakery have been consistent high achievers earning multiple wins in the past, specifically in 2009, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2022 and again this year.

A full report will appear in Friday’s “Buloke Times”.

Reaction to Unexpected REZs Expansion: Council’s Deep Disappointment

[From Buloke Shire Council]

Buloke Shire Council has expressed deep disappointment with the State Government’s handling of a major expansion to Victoria’s Renewable Energy Zones (REZs), which now push significantly into Buloke communities.

The major extension of the Grampians-Wimmera REZ now extends into Buloke’s

west near Curyo and Wilkur and the North West REZ has shifted closer to the north-east of Charlton.

“When change of this scale is introduced with little-to-no warning, it doesn’t just raise concerns, it has significant impacts on our community,” said Buloke Shire Council Mayor, Alan Getley.

“Council objects to VNI West in its current form. We remain firmly aligned with our community and have called on the State Government to engage genuinely and constructively with our community and Council.”

Trust Diminishes

“This announcement from VicGrid further diminishes trust in the State from our community.

“We were given little time to understand the full impact. We know that people will be upset, and so are we.”

REZs are planned around transmission infrastructure, and projects within REZs will retain open access to the transmission grid, making connections easier, faster, and often cheaper.

In the Dark

“It’s one thing to shift the goalposts, but this feels like

moving the entire field, handing the rulebook to one team (renewable energy companies) and leaving the other team, our community, in the dark,” the Mayor said.

Council acknowledges that some local landholders have chosen to participate in renewable energy projects.

“We encourage everyone to share their views respectfully,” the Mayor continued.

“These conversations must run in parallel so that whatever destination we arrive at, we arrive at transparently.”

Council’s submission to the Draft 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan is now available on its website at www.buloke.vic.gov.au.

For more information about the REZ extension, visit the VicGrid media page and online interactive map.

Send your feedback to VicGrid: email at vicgrid@deeca.vic.gov.au, or via post to VicGrid, GPO Box 527, Melbourne VIC 3001

For further information contact 1300 520 520 or media@buloke.vic.gov.au

“Times” Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8189 - SOLUTIONS

Across - 6, Washington. 8, Kite. 9, Aged. 10, Vital. 11, Elan. 12, Remainder. 16, Nightmare. 20, Data. 22, Chair. 23, Roll. 24, Urdu. 25, Triplicate.
Down - 1, Bangle. 2, Cheddar. 3, Uneven. 4, Statue. 5, Ankle. 7, Steal. 13, Dog. 14, Embrace. 15, Carry. 17, Italic. 18, Hurtle. 19, Relate. 21, Acute.

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or Birchip (5492 2735);
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“Garage Girls” Coming to Rex

The Charlton Neighbourhood House in conjunction with Regional Arts Victoria, is proud to present a fantastic night of entertainment with the live production of Garage Girls: A night of storytelling magic with five actors playing many colourful characters.

Meet Alice Anderson. Mechanic. Trailblazer. Entrepreneur. She’s the girl who knows her way around a Hups, Dodge and Austin better than anyone.

Imagine... it’s the 1920s! Society reels from the aftermath of war and a second wave of Spanish ‘flu wreaks havoc on the streets. Women’s fashion sets startling trends and the city hums with the music of the motorcar. One small woman defies convention and makes her mark.

Inspired by Alice Anderson’s short but eventful life,

Garage Girls will take you from Melbourne’s mysterious underbelly to the remote deserts of Alice Springs. An energetic and fast-paced 70 minute theatrical romp, showcasing dynamic sound design, Garage Girls is a rollicking ride celebrating an Australian icon. Welcome to Miss Anderson’s All Girl Garage!

Book your tickets now for this amazing show at the Rex Theatre on Friday, August 22, at 7 p.m.. Tickets available via Humanatix or by calling the Charlton Neighbourhood House on 0473 759 456.

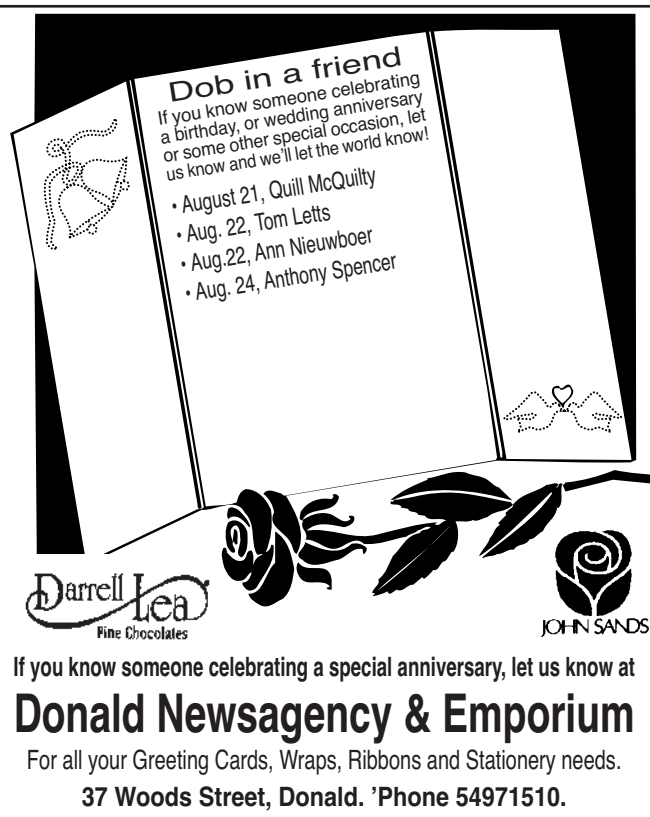


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Friday's Issue: Classified advertisements (single column), 10 a.m. Thursday. Display advertisements (2 or more columns), 3 p.m. Wednesday prior.



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**DEATH
BAIRD.**—
Christopher "Chris".
1905112

Member of
Watchem Fire Brigade.

The Chairman, Board, Management and members of CFA regret the passing of their colleague and offer their deepest sympathy to his family.

IN MEMORIAM
*Mabel Elizabeth
Coughlin*

Born January 28, 1923
Died August 19, 2002

Thinking of you.
Always. Every day.
— Gordon



**DONALD
ANGLING CLUB
AGM**
Wednesday, August 20
6 p.m.
at DAC CLUBROOMS
General meeting to follow
*Philip Pearse -
Admin Officer*

Notice of
**DONALD LAWN
TENNIS CLUB INC.**
**Annual
General
Meeting**
WED., AUGUST 27
**BULLOCK'S HEAD
TAVERN**
7.30 p.m.
2024-25 financial
members, life members
and committee mem-
bers all welcome.
—S. Potter, president.

E-Mailers!

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

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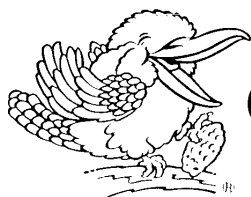
- Enjoy strong support and leadership allowing you to focus on what you love - working with children!
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- Generous staff discounts, including 95% off childcare fees
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Marg Harrison on 0499 510 265 or email marg.harrison@yballarat.org.au

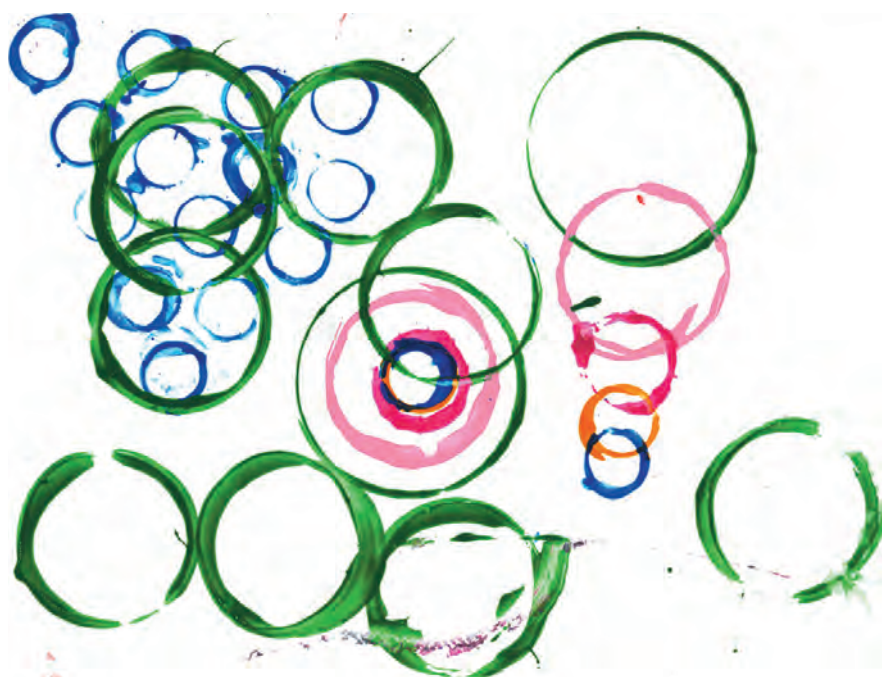
To apply please follow the link at
<https://yballarat.org.au/careers/> and search
Y Ballarat - scroll to find Educators Role:
Birchip/Donald/Wycheproof and click apply.

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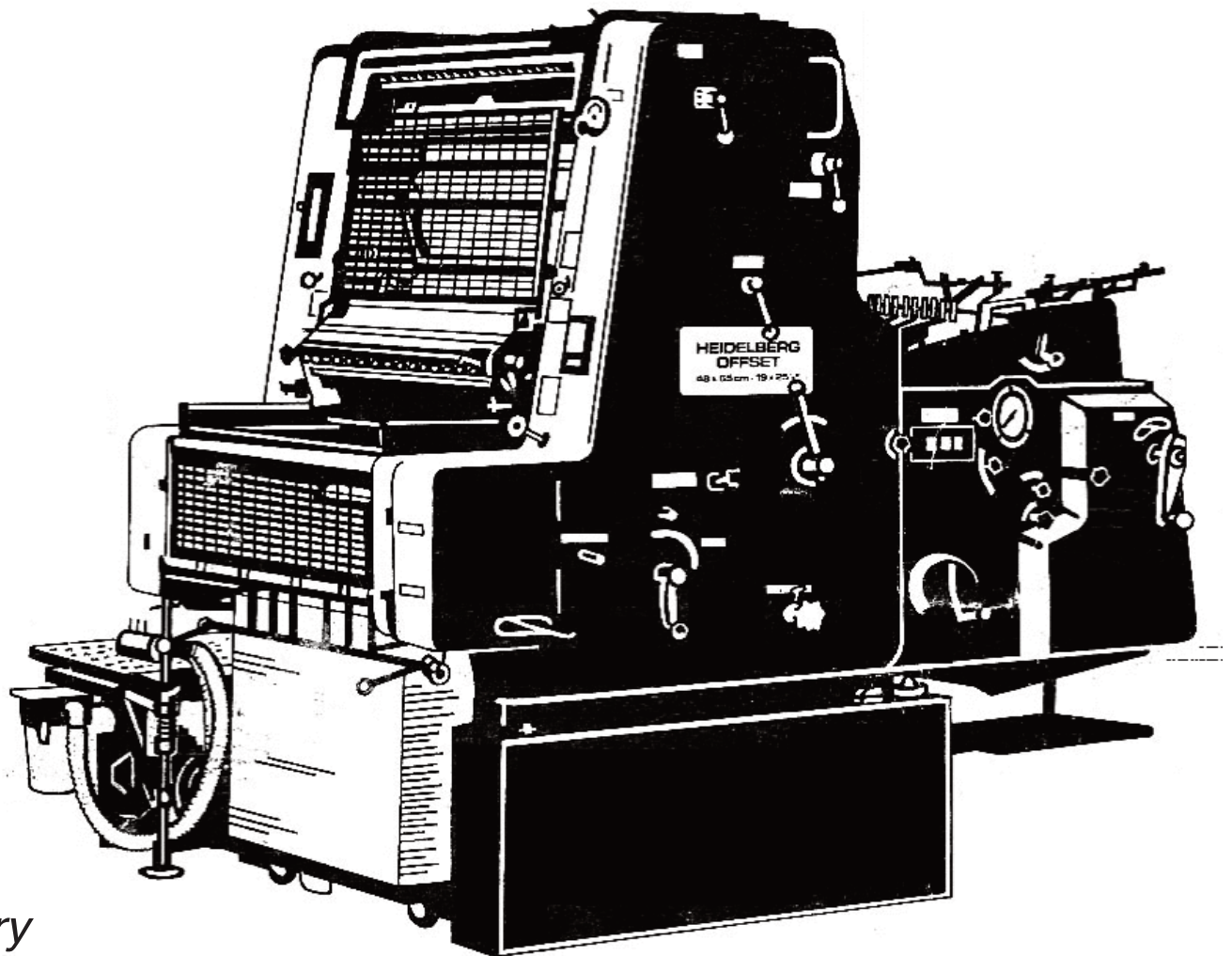
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Vietnam Veterans Day was quietly observed in Birchip on Monday, of last week, a day set aside to reflect on the service and sacrifice of those who fought in the Battle of Long Tan in 1966, one of Australia's most challenging conflicts.

At the cenotaph, Geoff Smith placed sprigs of golden wattle, the nation's floral emblem, and raised both the Australian and RSL flags in recognition of the day. At 11 a.m., he paused to recite the Ode of Remembrance, a heartfelt gesture of respect to the local men who served and to those who are no longer with us.

This year's observance carried added weight for the Birchip community. With the passing of Ashley Lindsay in 2024, Birchip's last local surviving Vietnam veteran, the town now remembers its Vietnam servicemen only in spirit and memory. Ashley's passing marked the end of an era, but his courage and that of his fellow veterans remain deeply

Though no formal service was held, the simple act of remembrance ensured that the sacrifices made more than half a century ago continue to be honoured. The quiet tribute stood as a reminder that while Birchip may no longer have living Vietnam veterans, their service will never be forgotten.

The Nationals' Member for Mildura, Jade Benham, is encouraging locals to take advantage of the latest round of the Power Saving Bonus.

The \$100 payment is now available to all eligible households, including those who received the bonus in previous rounds.

“Families, pensioners and small businesses are dealing with continued power price hikes, so I urge everyone eligible to take advantage of the Power Saving Bonus,” Ms Benham said.

“The cost of living continues to spiral out of control.

and a \$100 saving can mean the difference between putting food on the table or going hungry. While this is by no means a cure-all for the hip-pocket pain Victorians are enduring, it's cash back at a time when people need it most."

Ms Benham said the program was a simple but effective way for households to put a little extra back in their pockets.

"It's one of the quickest applications you can make, and it's worth the short time it takes to get it done. Every bit helps when budgets are stretched this far," she said.

To apply, eligible households will need a recent residential electricity bill and must hold a Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card, Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card, or Veterans' Affairs Gold Card.

Applications open on August 25, 2025. For further information, eligibility criteria and to apply, visit the Victorian Energy Compare website at <https://compare.energy.vic.gov.au>.

Locals who need assistance with their application are welcome to visit Ms Benham's office at 35a Deakin Avenue, Mildura.



- *Geoff Smith pictured with the Birchip War Memorial.*

ABN Discount Prices



MY 2025.25 Ranger DualCab, Wildtrak, 3.0 Ltr V6 Dsl, 10 Spd Auto 4x4, Meteor Grey, Leather Accented Seats, Wildtrak Premium Pack **\$77,600** Drive Away

MY 2025.25 Ranger DualCab/Cab Chassis, XLT, 3.0 Ltr V6 Dsl, 10 Speed Auto 4x4, Meteor Grey, Premium Cloth Seat Trim, Upfitter Aux 6 Switch Pack, Bull Bar, Scrub Bars & Air Bags **\$76,400** Drive Away (Tray extra)



MY 2025.50 Everest SUV Trend, Tremor, 3.0L V6 Dsl, 10 Speed Auto 4x4, Command Grey, Premium Tremor Embossed Leather Accented, Touring Pack/Premium Towing Pack, Rough Terrain Pack.

\$90,500 Drive Away

MY 2025.00 Mustang Fastback GT, 5.0L Petrol,
10Spd Auto, Oxford White, Sport Seat (Black Onyx Leather Accented)
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Please call
Duane Johns 0434 566 830 or
Tye Sibley 0409 286 614 for further information

Michaels of Donald
13-15 McCulloch St. DONALD Ph. 54971203 LMCT 6873

CFA Chief's Lifesaving Push

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan is encouraging members to roll up their sleeves as the Emergency Services Blood Drive enters its final days.

Leading by example in Mount Waverley earlier this week, Jason donated whole blood, joining nearly 800 CFA donations so far, equating to more than 2,300 lives saved.

"We are the leading fire service nationally in this year's drive, but there's always scope to do a little more," Jason said.

"One in three Australians will need blood in their lifetime, yet only one in 30 donates. If you're able, now is the time to step up."

Crucial Role

The Emergency Services Blood Drive plays a crucial role over winter, when dona-

tions often drop due to colds, flu and other seasonal illnesses. By donating now, CFA members can help boost supplies when they're needed most.

Nationally, the drive has recorded more than 11,000 donations from emergency services personnel.

Last year, CFA volunteers and staff contributed 635 plasma, 396 whole blood and 28 platelet donations, over 1,000 donations in total, saving more than 3,000 lives.

The national competition wraps up on August 31, and Jason said there's still time to

beat last year's tally.

"Every donation counts, and every donor can make a difference," Jason said.

"Bring a mate along, register under Team CFA, and let's finish strong."

To book your donation, visit lifeblood.com.au, call 13 14 95, or download the Donate Blood app. Lifeblood can tell you your blood type and the best donation for you.

Find your nearest donor centre at lifeblood.com.au/donor-centre.



• CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan donating blood.

The Marvel of Flight

On a recent winter's day I observed a pelican skimming along just one metre above the surface of a lake for several hundreds of metres on a "cushion of air" barely flapping a wing.

This "cushion of air" or more technically known as "ground effect" is well used by pelicans and occurs when the air flowing under a low flying bird's wings is compressed by the water surface, thus acting like a cushion that provides extra lift and less drag thus reducing the amount of energy needed for sustained flight.

Eventually the pelican flight came to an end with the bird adjusting its 2.5metre wingspan to control its descent and lowered its webbed feet on to the water surface and "skied" for near 10 metres before settling into the water very close to me – a magnificent landing!

As well as pelicans flying at very low altitude, they can also fly high, in fact well over 1000 metres in altitude, using wind currents and thermal updrafts to navigate and conserve energy, creating a sense of grace and effortless flight. Every feather of their large wings helps the bird fly well and is a miracle of creation, being composed of a main shaft, barbs, barbules and hooked barbules.

The hundreds of thousands of hooks and barbules in the feathers of a large bird like the pelican are, "arranged so they prevent air going through them when the wing is pushed downwards, but they allow air to pass through them when the wing is being pulled upwards" (Stuart Burgess PhD. "Hallmarks of Design"), all part of the amazing structure

of a wing designed by our Creator enabling birds to fly.

The Bible says, "For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse" (Romans 1:20).

The incredible complexity of creation, including the flight capability of a bird, points toward the existence of a "Designer" and "Creator".

In these modern days there are hundreds of scientists around the world who recognise that there is a Creator who made creation and has also revealed Himself through His Son Jesus Christ. Dr Francis Collins is one of them, he was a former Director of the National Human Genome Research Centre, who had been on a search for truth for a long period of time and his final commitment to faith came one day while trekking in a National Park.

Dr Collins shares, "The remarkable beauty of creation was overwhelming. I could no longer resist. I fell on my knees and asked Christ to be my Saviour. My days of wilful blindness towards God were gone. The search was over. That was the most significant moment in my life". Dr Collins in his world leading research on the human genome project described DNA as the "Language of God" as he observed and



• Bruce Stewart

studied its wonder and complexity.

Another scientist, Professor Andy C. McIntosh, formerly of the University of Leeds, says this: "May many see that the argument from design shouts powerfully of the Creator who spans the Heavens and yet stooped to become Man, in order to be our Saviour".

Louis Pasteur, one of the most significant scientists in history, particularly biology, medicine, and chemistry, wrote, "The more I study nature, the more I stand amazed at the work of the Creator". The Bible says, "How great is our Lord! His power is absolute! His understanding is beyond comprehension!" (Psalm 147:5).

Might we be like Louis Pasteur and many others too, who recognised the beauty and complexity of creation (damaged as it is now) around us and give thanks and praise to the One who designed it all. We have much to be grateful for.

Bruce Stewart.

Sacking of Pest and Weed Team: Victorian Regionals Punished

(From the Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Emma Kealy)

The State Government is once again punishing regional Victorians, this time by sacking Agriculture Victoria's pest and weed team.

From December, Victoria will be the only state in Australia with no plan, no rules and no resources to deal with destructive pests like blackberries, rabbits and gorse.

These invasive pests will be able to spread unchecked through our roadsides, public reserves and farms – destroying crops, damaging the environment and threatening livelihoods.

Labor is making these cuts simply because it can't manage money with debt rocketing toward \$194 billion

– with Victorians paying the price of \$1.2 million each and every hour to pay the interest bill.

These cuts are a direct attack on regional communities, causing irreversible harm to our landscape, our farmers, families and regional Victorians' way of life.

This decision is nothing short of environmental vandalism.

The State Government must wake up, stop the cuts and start standing up for regional Victorians.



• Emma Kealy.



A 2.5 metre wingspan pelican lands using its wings as brakes and webbed feet as skis before settling gracefully on the water

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History of Red Gate Community Garden

The Donald History Society was well attended for the August meeting at the old Courthouse, and everyone greatly enjoyed the address by Jenni Campbell, who is a current member of the Red Gate Garden.

Jenni's speech is presented as written and she provided some beautiful photographs for members to look at. After her speech, all walked across to the Garden and were shown around and then served with a cuppa in the very pleasant outdoor area. The afternoon sun was beautiful and the chairs were very comfy. There was not much thought of gardening in the visitors by this stage.

Jenni's Address

In September, 2011, the idea to establish a community garden behind the Bendigo Bank was born. John Russell had purchased the Bendigo Bank site from the NAB when it closed, on behalf of Donald Friends and Neighbours, for the princely sum of \$1. He and Margaret and fellow members of Friends and Neighbours, Sandra Harris, Andrew Bird and Col and Del Gilmour helped get the project started.

The Vision

The vision was, and still is "To grow and cook with produce from the garden, learn and impart skills and socialize together. We also aim at a mild level of exercise".

In late November of that year a working bee was held to commence construction. Some of the early members were Raelene Gooch, Marie Bower, Shirley Letts, Betty McMillan, Ros Olle, Julian Smith, and Jono Ingram.

Funding for the project originally came from a Federal Government grant which was obtained through the East Wimmera Health Service. At that stage the project was known as the East Wimmera Health Service Kitchens and Gardens.

Metal Art Work

Kerry Punton was employed for 12 months to

oversee the project and it was Kerry who made the Red Gate which replaced the original corrugated iron one. Metal art work was made with the help of the Men's Shed, using their plasma cutter, and mosaic tiles were made for further beautification of the area. Buffalo lawn was planted in August 2012 and quickly filled in the area. The disused well was partly filled in with bricks and surrounded by bicycle wheels to deter anyone who was keen to venture there. Recently it was completely filled in and lemon grass was planted over the centre. A three-post trellis was placed over the spot and three white ice berg climbing roses were planted at each post.

In September 2012, during Donald High School's community week, students from the school helped with some of the setting up and they also painted the exterior of the fence. The raised beds were added in stages. Trellises were erected for espaliered fruit trees and we now have espaliered apricots, plums, nashis and apples and pears as well as lemons, limes, oranges and bay trees that are dotted throughout the garden.

The Aims

The aims of the garden are to manage our waste on site, e.g composting, to use sustainable materials such as "coffee grounds" from Woods St Café, straw and animal manure, to be as organic as possible, to share all plots with members, to make the yard a productive, aesthetically pleasing and interesting place to spend time and to share our knowledge with other members.

We also aim to be water wise and to this end we have installed drippers on all beds and we use weekly timers to



• Left to right: Jenny Whitfield, Shirley Letts, Jono Ingram, Marion Bayles, Leonie Harvey, Alan Sands, Jan South, Christine Leader, Marie Bower. Pictured here is an early group of Red Gate Gardeners on a "produce swap" day in their outdoor area, which is attached to the former CBC/NAB Bank car garage.

manage the flow. Fortunately, we don't pay the water bill as this is paid by Donald Friends and Neighbours. A shade house was built in 2016 and this year we replaced the cover with new shade cloth, thanks to a generous donation by Bowen Harvey and the company where he works. We grew all our brassica seedlings in the shade house this year and shortly we'll be planting tomato and capsicum seeds there. Unfortunately, the brassicas haven't done very well at all this year. We think it's due to the unusual weather over May and June.

Donations

We received generous donations from the Garden Club when it closed, and further donations from the Look First Op Shop and Cuisine in the Crop. We have also received grants from EWHs for tools and from the Buloke Shire for a mulcher. We also have people drop in with extra produce from their own gardens to swap with us or to donate and occasionally someone will call in off the street to buy our produce. We've also had travellers passing through

who have seen our gate open and come in out of curiosity.

We have established relationships with EWHs, the Men's Shed and Donald Family Precinct all of whom occasionally visit us for morning tea.

As mentioned above an offshoot of the project was the community kitchen where, on the last day of the month produce from the garden was cooked by the members. However, this hasn't continued, although we do occasionally cook something on the barbecue, such as pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.

Membership

Over 100 members have passed through the Red Gate over the past 14 years, with some

of them being only involved in the kitchen project or in the original construction. Our longest serving member is Shirley Letts, who still comes to the garden occasionally. We generally get from 6 to 8 members each week and our current membership stands at 12.

Produce is distributed to all members at the end of the morning and if there is any left-over it is taken to the Look First Op Shop to be given freely to anyone who wants it, and some has also been donated to the Good Feed which cooks up to 70 meals on Monday nights at the VRI hall. We meet every Tuesday morning from nine till approximately eleven with a cuppa to finish off the session.

Benefits

The benefits of the Community Garden?

- Fresh produce.
- Social connections.
- Physical and mental health.
- Utilisation of otherwise unused space.
- Learning from like-minded people.

Our annual membership fee is a whopping \$5 and we are always on the look-out for new members. You don't have to be a gardener to join. We'll teach you anything you want to know and if we don't know it Mr Google will help us. So if you have a spare couple of hours on a Tuesday morning, call in and you will be made very welcome and you will be put to work if you so desire.

Time to Nominate for Multicultural Awards

The Nationals' Member for Mildura, Jade Benham, is encouraging locals to nominate hardworking individuals and organisations for the 2025 Multicultural Awards for Excellence.

The awards honour those who promote inclusion, strengthen community connections, and help build a fair and welcoming Victoria for all. The awards are open to both paid and voluntary contributions, with winners to be celebrated at a special ceremony later this year.

Ms Benham said the awards were an opportunity to celebrate the strength and diversity of communities right across the state.

"Multicultural communities are a vital part of our region, and these awards are a chance to recognise the everyday leaders who make Victoria a

more inclusive and connected place," Ms Benham said.

There are 14 award categories in 2025, including Arts, Business and Employment, Emergency Services, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Sport, Youth Leadership, the Multicultural Honour Roll and the Premier's Award for Community Harmony.

"If you know someone who is quietly making a difference – mentoring young people, supporting new arrivals or helping break down barriers – I encourage you to nominate them and help shine a light on their contribution," Ms Benham said.



• Jade Benham.

Nominations close on August 27, 2025. For more information or to submit a nomination, visit multicultural-awards-for-excellence.com.au.

VicHealth Grants Now Open

The Nationals' Member for Mildura, Jade Benham, is encouraging community groups, sporting clubs, cultural organisations, and not-for-profits in the region to apply for VicHealth's Growing Healthy Communities grants.

The grant program supports projects that build stronger social connections, increase physical activity, and improve access to healthy and affordable food.

"These grants are a fantastic opportunity for our local groups to deliver programs

that promote both physical and mental wellbeing," Ms Benham said.

"Community organisations are the backbone of our region, often working with limited resources. These grants help break down barriers so everyone, regardless of background or postcode, can

lead a healthier, more connected life."

Two Tiers

The Growing Healthy Communities grants are available in two tiers:

Tier 1: \$10,000 – \$50,000

Tier 2: \$50,001 – \$150,000

Eligible applicants include sporting clubs, community and cultural organisations, creative projects, local councils, and other not-for-profit groups.

Previous rounds of funding have supported a variety of successful projects in regional Victoria, helping to create more inclusive and active community spaces.

Opportunity

"This is a great opportunity for local groups with ideas to improve health and inclusion in regional Victoria. My office is available to provide letters of support to assist with applications," Ms Benham said.

Applications close on October 30, 2025. For more information and to apply, visit: vichealth.vic.gov.au/funding/growing-healthy-communities-grants-round-2.

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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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Donald or Birchip**
or phone 5497 1222 for details.

As Environmental Assessments Continue... Communities Encouraged To Share Local Insights

[From TCV]

Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) is encouraging landholders and community members to share their local knowledge of environmental and social values to help inform technical studies for the VNI West Environment Effects Statement (EES).

A series of community sessions will be held across the project area in August. These sessions will give people the chance to speak directly with TCV and technical experts, learn more about the EES process, and share insights about local land use, environment, and community values.

TCV spokesperson Mick Douge said community input is critical to a comprehensive and accurate EES for VNI West.

“Local people understand the places in which they live and work better than anyone,” Mr Douge said.

“Their knowledge helps ensure our assessments reflect real conditions on the ground and what matters to the people who live in the area.”

Most Rigorous

The EES is Victoria’s most rigorous and transparent environmental assessment process. It describes the project,

explains why it’s needed, and examines potential environmental and social effects.

The process is administered by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) on behalf of the Minister for Planning, who determined in April 2024 that an EES would be required for VNI West.

VNI West will connect Victoria and New South Wales with high-voltage

transmission infrastructure to support renewable energy and maintain grid reliability. The project must complete the EES and obtain Victorian and Commonwealth approvals before construction can begin.

Technical Studies

The VNI West EES is currently being prepared, with technical studies under way on topics like ecology, agriculture, traffic and transport, landscape and visual amenity, social factors, and Cultural Heritage.

“These studies help identify potential impacts and explore how they can be avoided, reduced or managed,” Mr Douge said.

Two Stages

There are two formal stages of EES engagement. The first took place in

November 2024, when draft scoping requirements (investigation topics) were released for public comment. The second stage will be the public exhibition of the EES, expected in late 2026.

Engagement during the current EES preparation phase is informal but plays an important role.

“Community feedback has already helped refine the project easement and identify areas for initial environmental investigation,” Mr Douge said.

“We’re now encouraging anyone with local knowledge – whether it’s about native vegetation and animals, roads, heritage or other values – to come along to an upcoming EES community session or

get in touch in a way that suits them.”

Community sessions will be held in:

- Kerang: Tuesday, August 19, 3-6 p.m., Kerang Memorial Hall.

- Murrabit: Tuesday, August 26, 3-6 p.m., Murrabit Public Hall.

- Charlton: Wednesday, August 27, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 3-6 p.m., Charlton Park Complex.

- Stawell: Thursday, August 28, 3-6 p.m., Stawell Entertainment Centre.

To share your local knowledge via TCV’s interactive map, or for more information on the EES, visit www.transmissionvictoria.com.au.

Community members can also email enquiries@transmissionvictoria.com.au or call 1800 824 221 (free call).

At Wimmera Careers Expo . . . Year 10s Explore Their Futures

Twelve Year 10 students, Miss Cavanagh and Mrs Griffiths recently took part in the Wimmera Victorian Careers Expo, held at Longerenong College.



As country Victoria’s largest careers expo, the event offered a valuable opportunity for students to explore a wide range of future pathways.

The expo, which attracts more than 2,000 attendees each year, is a one-stop shop for vocational and tertiary information across Western Victoria. Students were able to speak directly with career, industry, and course advisers from a broad range of local, regional, metropolitan, and interstate organisations.

Over 20 universities from Victoria and South Australia were represented, alongside a variety of training providers, employers, and industry groups. The students made the most of the chance to ask questions, gather information, and gain insight to the opportunities available to them after school.



• Kailie Krause and Chelsea Hart.



• At the Ambulance Victoria stand: from left, Alyssa Hepworth, Aidy Hogan, Shaine Mansibang and Shanae Rotherham.

“Life Of Chuck”

Based on a short story by author Stephen King, “The Life of Chuck” is a drama/fantasy movie screening at The Rex this weekend.

Covering three chapters in the life of an ordinary man named Charles “Chuck” Krantz, the story unfolds in reverse order in three striking “acts,” each more intimate than the last, ultimately revealing that every human life, a financial planner’s, a dancer’s, a child’s, is a universe unto itself.

Tom Hiddleston in the role of “Chuck” is at the end of his time on earth. As things around him begin to stop making sense, we move backwards through his life to discover the paths he ventured, the ones he chose to ignore, and the experiences that moulded him. As the movie progresses we learn more about the layers which make up the man and experience the ups and downs of life.

Directed by Mike Flanagan, this is a movie about acceptance, about living life to the fullest, and the importance of human connection. “The Life of Chuck” is thought provoking and touching in its observance of reality and what it means to be human.

“The Life of Chuck” (M 110 mins) screens: Saturday, August 23, 8 p.m. | Sunday, August 24, 2 p.m. | Tuesday, August 26, 8 p.m..

“Garage Girls”

Don’t forget to grab some tickets for the live production of “Garage Girls” coming to

The Rex stage on Friday, August 22, at 7 p.m..

Presented by the Charlton Neighbourhood House this entertaining show features five dynamic actors who will take you from Melbourne’s mysterious underbelly to the remote deserts of Alice Springs. A show for car-

lovers, story-lovers, history-lovers and audiences young and old, “Garage Girls” is inspired by the short but eventful life of Alice Anderson – mechanic, trailblazer, entrepreneur.

Tickets: \$25. Bookings: <https://events.humanitix.com/garage-girls>



• Shanae Rotherham, Alyssa Hepworth and Shaine Mansibang check the Forest Management truck.

MICHAELS OF DONALD

Belvedere By George Crenshaw
www.belvedere-cartoons.com

3-9

“You must be hearing things. My phone wasn’t ringing.”

Charlton 100 Years Ago



• 1900s Teddywaddy State School, back: M. Jolly, K. J. Thompson, C. Sait, G. Jolly, W. Sait. Middle: xxx, I. Sait, D. Churchill, E. Sait, E. Sait, D. Sait. Front: xxx, xxx, N. Sait, J. Sait. In front of door: xxx, H. Curnow, xxx, L. Thompson, H. Sait.

(Information from “East Charlton Tribune”)

August 8 to 12, 1925.

Charlton East: Mr A. Maher drew the attention of the Shire Council to the fact that the formation of the Charlton-Marmal Road would have the effect of cutting off the water supply from his dam. He asked if something could be done in the matter. Cr W. Williams moved, Cr P. Rogan seconded and it was agreed to, that Mr Maher be supplied with pipes for culvert, provided he is prepared to put same in to the satisfaction of the Engineer.

Enjoyable Evening: The Yeungroon Presbyterian Church concerts have established their name, and the latest in the local hall, on behalf of the Church funds, well maintained it. The attendance was a very large one, including numerous visitors from Charlton. Encores were the rule throughout. Rev. W. G. Fitzgerald presided. A hearty vote of thanks to the artists was moved by Mr G. M. Bennett, and carried by acclamation. He also particularly thanked the residents of Charlton who had placed their cars at the disposal of the artists. During the interval, sweets were sold by Misses Olive Cossar, Annie and Doris Bennett, Lila and Linda Parry, and May McIntyre.

Successful Dance: The dance held in Mr P. Maher’s barn was an unprecedented success, and the local State School and the River Tennis Club funds should benefit appreciably. Good music was supplied by Messrs R. Sait and Benson. The supper

tables were daintily arrayed in the vestibule of Mr Maher’s house, and the decorative scheme reflected credit on the local ladies. At midnight, supper was thoroughly enjoyed and then dancing was indulged in until the first streaks of dawn appeared in the East. Mr Joseph O’Donnell officiated in his usual capable manner as M.C., and Mr Con Maher carried out the secretarial duties.

Low Water Bridge: The subject of the proposed low water bridge came up for discussion at the special meeting of the Charlton Council. After the matter, on the latest information available, had been gone into, Cr S. Wood moved, Cr C. H. Churchill seconded and it was resolved, that the Secretary be authorised to enter into an agreement with Mr Irwin to erect a low water bridge at the price of £4 per lineal foot, and that the length of the bridge be approximately 100 feet.

The Trotting Track: With P. Glasheen, the leading reinsman (formerly of Buckrabanyule) and Grand Voyage, the premier horse of the season, the Belmont Trotting Stud Farm at Huntly has achieved a record that appears to be unique. P. Glasheen’s placed performances are 23-15-14; and Grand Voyage placed performances are 11-5-1.

Charlton Basketball Champions: Bendigo High School entertained the Charlton “A” team, who left by the 1.20 train on Friday, and met their rivals on the Saturday morning. The visitors were in the charge of their Sports Mistress, Miss L. Soding. Charlton was represented by: Freda Edwards, back; Alice Arundell, half-back; Ida Hando, back wing; Susie Lang, centre; Gwen Edwards, forward wing; Edna Arundell, 2nd goaler; Lorna Jeffrey, 1st goaler; eighth player Edie Paterson. The game was a closely contested one. Charlton won by 22 goals to 17 and the visitors are a credit to their school. They rose to the occasion, showing brilliant marking and defence. The visitors returned home that day.

Among the Athletes: The 4 miles Sealed handicap run under the auspices of the Charlton Harriers over an out and home course attracted the following field: J. Foxwell, R. Curnow, E. Owen, E. Arundell, E. Landers, J. McIntosh. Foxwell led to the railway. At the half-way turn for home, 2 miles to the Post Office, Foxwell was still in the lead and with a headwind against him, made the pace to the Bridge with Curnow on his heels. Through having dined in less Spartan-like fashion than such a long race demanded, Foxwell was overtaken with a feeling of sickness. Curnow finished strongly and won well. Details: R. Curnow, 1 min. 30 sec. handicap, 25 mins 1st.

COMMUNITY UPDATE Buloke.

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.

TOUGH TOPICS

Buloke Shire Council is proud to be featured among local contributors in the National Centre for Farmer Health’s Tackling the Tough Topics planner.

A big thanks to the Buloke Community Recovery Team, Birchip Cropping Group and Donald Scouts for leading safe spaces for vital conversations in this publication. This guide supports planning impactful events in farming communities, recognising that locals best understand their own needs. It outlines best practices to foster wellbeing while safeguarding vulnerable individuals.

Together, we’re building stronger, more connected communities. For a copy visit www.farmerhealth.org.au.



Planning a mental health and wellbeing event in your farming community?

- ▶ 14 key planning questions
- ▶ Practical templates
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COMMUNITY ADVOCACY

Passionate community members from across our shire from different locations, industries and experiences recently came together to discuss the future of our roads, facilities and financial planning, as for the first session of the Buloke Community Reference Group, held at Wycheproof Shire Hall. This group is investing their valuable time to help shape Council’s Asset and Financial Plans with real community voice.

From understanding how government grants work, to navigating rate caps and planning for long-term sustainability, this is grassroots advocacy in action.

SPOT IT WHILE YOU DRIVE

Council has received funding to manage weeds and rabbits on rural roadsides.

If you’re out driving keep an eye out for any hotspots on your local roads. Your observations are incredibly valuable.

Our community plays a vital role in helping us spot invasive weeds and rabbit activity beside rural roadsides and considering Buloke Shire covers over 8,000 km² it’s a vast area to monitor.

While reports often come from Landcare groups or from staff out on the road, we also rely on local knowledge to guide our efforts.

The priority weeds impacting our region listed below are identified in our Roadside Weed and Pest Management Plan: Wheel Cactus, African Boxthorn, Horehound, Bathurst Burr, Paterson’s Curse, Bridal Creeper and Amsinckia.

If you spot listed weeds or rabbit activity on rural roads (outside townships, typically 100km/h zones), please fill out the online form www.buloke.vic.gov.au/pest-control.

ON-FARM KANGAROO CONTROL

Farmers who have livestock competing with kangaroos for fodder can apply for the On-Farm Kangaroo Control Rebate now.

Eligible farmers across the state can access up to 3 rebates of \$450 each (ex-GST) with a 25% co-contribution.

Rebates are to be used to engage professional harvesters (authorised by the Game Management Authority) to control eastern and western grey kangaroos under an Authority To Control Wildlife.

For more information about drought support visit: www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or call 136 186.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH BULOKE

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

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

Applications can be lodged by:
Mail - PO Box 1, Wycheproof
VIC 3527 or Email - recruitment@buloke.vic.gov.au

EOI – LIFEGUARD

Casual - Band 2 - \$23.16-31.27 per hour (plus casual loading)

→ EOI Applications Close: 24 August 2025

Be part of the casual lifeguard team across our pools in Charlton, Watchem, Donald, Birchip, Berriwillock, Sea Lake & Wycheproof.

Whether you’re experienced or just starting out, we welcome applicants of ALL ages.

* Must be aged-16 and over during pool season.

If you’re CPR & First Aid certified, great with people and ready to help keep our pools safe and fun, we’d love to hear from you!

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More info, visit: www.buloke.vic.gov.au/lifeguard



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Potassium Project To Improve Crop Nutrition

Australian growers are removing more potassium (K) from their soils than they are putting back, putting crop performance at risk.

To help address this, the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) is investing \$5.8 million in a project led by The University of Queensland (UQ). The aim is to help growers manage potassium loss and adjust fertiliser decisions accordingly.

GRDC Sustainable Cropping Systems Manager Dr Cristina Martinez said crops often remove more potassium, a nutrient vital for water regulation and nutrient transport in plants, than what is added as fertiliser.

This ongoing loss is making more farmland marginal or deficient in potassium. It's been a known issue in sandy soils, but now we're seeing it in heavier soils too," Dr Martinez said.



• Professor Michael Bell, Photo: GRDC

"Adequate potassium nutrition helps plants withstand stress from drought and disease pressure, while deficiencies can result in stunted growth, reduced root development and overall yields.

"This project will help growers spot potassium deficiency early and apply the right fertiliser, in the right place, at the right time. It's about giving them practical tools and advice to improve fertiliser use efficiency and get the best return on investment."

The four-year project, with a total value of \$9.4 million, will deliver clear recommendations and testing guidelines for growers, backed by new research to ensure the advice is up to date and reliable.

It will establish a clear understanding of the issue in eastern Australia – measuring how well crops take up potassium fertiliser in different soils over multiple years. It will also look at how soil type and mineralogy affect potassium availability, using lab work, glasshouse studies and field trials.

This project complements research already under way in Western Australia through the Soil Water and Nutrition (SWAN) collaboration, where the focus is on lighter, sand-textured soils.

"Even though crops absorb a lot of potassium (similar to nitrogen), only a small amount is actually removed when the crop is harvested. The exception is when crops are harvested for hay which removes nearly all the potassium," Professor Bell said.

"For grain crops, most of the potassium stays in the left-over plant material and returns to the soil. In sandy soils, it can move deeper with water. But in heavier soils, potassium tends to stay near the surface.

"How potassium is spread through the soil affects how well crops can access it, especially depending on when and where the soil is moist.

"The relationship between soil test potassium status and fertiliser responses will be used to improve indicators of deficiency and likely responses to future fertiliser application," he said.

"We'll also undertake more detailed research to explore the effectiveness of different application strategies (broadcast, drilled, deep banded and foliar), the residual value in subsequent crop seasons and the efficiency of recovery of applied K fertiliser."



• K deficient soybeans. Photo: Mike Bell.



• K deficiency symptoms in chickpeas. Photo: Mike Bell.

Emerging Markets for Low-Oil Oats

South Australian oat breeders are embracing new technologies to breed better varieties that meet growing domestic and international demand for the grain.

Australia's reputation as a high-quality oat producer offers a significant opportunity for growers to tap into emerging value-added markets for oats.

The Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) has invested in the Oat Grain Quality Consortium (OGQC) – a national research effort to help growers make the most of emerging oat opportunities.

Crop and Pasture Improvement program leader, Dr Janine Croser, with the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI, the research division of the Department of Primary

Industries and Regions), said oats continue to gain popularity with consumers for their unique nutritional benefits.

"Oats are high in protein, vitamins, minerals and antioxidants, and contain beta-glucan, a soluble dietary fibre known to support heart health," she said.

"Oats also offer a versatile option for people with dietary sensitivities, providing a nutritious alternative to allergy-prone food sources and help meet the market demand for sustainably sourced food."

Dr Croser leads Program 3 of the OGQC which focuses on the development of lower-oil oat varieties. While oil is a natural part of oat grain, high oil content can lower the efficiency of milling and processing.

Lowering oil content could open the door to new product streams such as oat rice, noodles and alternative plant-based proteins.

Dr Croser said there is a huge potential in these markets, but current varieties are not well suited to these end-uses.

"By developing oats with lower oil content, we expect to expand their use in a wider range of value-added products, thereby giving growers access to broader market opportunities".

To fast-track progress, SARDI researchers are working with novel oat lines made available through a global partnership between GRDC and Traitomic®, a crop trait development company based in Denmark.

The SARDI project team has taken delivery of novel oat seed with targeted mutations that have the potential to significantly accelerate the breeding of low oil oat varieties in Australia. These lines have been rapidly identified using proprietary Traitomic® technology.

While the research is at an early stage, Dr Croser and her team are already growing the first of these lines at SARDI and are optimistic about their potential.

SARDI oat researcher Dr John Harris said the



• SARDI researchers Dr Hailey Phan (left) and Dr John Harris (right) are leading research to develop lower-oil oat varieties to help growers access new markets. Photo: SARDI

Traitomic® platform gives them rapid access to novel targeted genetics.

"This enables us to set much shorter-term goals within the oat oil program so we can assess and refine our approach much earlier," he said.

Dr Croser said the team was excited to leverage this new technology to deliver value back to growers.

"The more we understand about the genetics that underly oat quality, the better we can work with breeders to tailor new varieties to meet market demand," she said.

"That means greater profitability and flexibility for Australian oat producers."

What's On

AFREN Webinar: Effective Use of Fungicides

Starting August 29, 2 p.m. and ending at 3 p.m..

Contact: Bridget Penna.

Contact Email: events@agcommunicators.com.au

Phone Number: (08) 8332 3277

Join AFREN and leading cereal research and extension agronomist Nick Poole, FAR Australia, for a practical webinar on optimising your fungicide program. Nick will unpack the principles of effective fungicide use including best-practice application, timing, rotation and dosage to improve disease control and reduce the risk of resistance.

Register online for free at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ljT8kicRKyVuGmrAnR1rg#/registration

Your Blood is Worth Bottling

If you are visiting Ballarat or Bendigo and have a bit of time to spare, a trip to the Blood Bank would be a very rewarding experience. You will need to book, by phoning 13 14 95.



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Plan to Keep Lights On Leaves Farmers in Dark

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) says the State Government’s new Victorian Transmission Plan looks more like a roadmap for developers than a fair deal for regional communities.

VFF President Brett Hosking said many farmers believe in deep, economy wide emission cuts, and the industry has already made huge steps forward, but the way the Government is going about it is leaving families in the regions facing an uncertain future.

“This plan has been sold as a way to keep the lights on, but it still leaves farmers in the dark,” he said. “The Government has redrawn the Renewable Energy Zones to suit developers, yet we still don’t know how much power will actually be built, what protections farmers will get,

or what benefits will flow back into local communities.

See-Sawing Costs
“We keep seeing the see-sawing cost of these projects and you must wonder where it will end. How is a plan a plan if it fails to outline even the basic details of how much it will cost?”

The plan shows that renewables in the new zones could either double what’s in the ground now, or grow by more than ten times by 2040. But the Government admits it hasn’t set any firm limits.

“That means a farming family can wake up and find themselves mapped into a zone, but have no idea whether they’ll see a few turbines or a wall of projects built around them,” Mr Hosking said.

The zones now cover nearly two million hectares of farmland, yet the rules on compensation, community benefits and fair consultation are still missing.

Green Light for Developers
“Right now, developers are getting the green light, while farmers are told to sit tight, and that’s completely unacceptable.

“If you want a fast and fair transition, you’ve got to bring communities with you and not just bulldoze past with a plan to have a plan.

“The government is forgetting that in the path of

these mega-projects are generational farming families, utilising some of the most productive farmland in the country. They matter and we won’t let the government forget that,” Mr Hosking said.

Simple Message
Mr Hosking added the VFF’s message was simple:

the government needs to stop leaving farmers guessing and be transparent.

“Farmers can work with change. But we won’t cop being treated as second-class citizens on our own land. If the government wants to get this transition done, it needs to put communities at the centre, not at the end of the queue,” Mr Hosking concluded.



• Brett Hosking.

North-Central Hockey

Results of round 16 —
Under-12 Calder United 6 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 0; Birchip-Watchem 5 d. Donald 0; Boort 0 def. by Charlton 3; Wedderburn 1 def. by St Arnaud 3.
Underage Calder United 0 def. by Sea Lake-Nandaly 1; Birchip-Watchem 3 def. by Donald 7; Boort 0 def. by Charlton 5.
Women Calder United 10 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 0; Boort 0 def. by Charlton 5; Wedderburn 1 def. by St Arnaud 3.
Men Calder United 6 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 0; Boort 9 d. Charlton 2; Wedderburn 1 def. by St Arnaud 5.

Table with 11 columns: Team, P, W, D, L, F, For, Agst, SD, Pts, WR. It contains league tables for Women, Men, Underage, and Under-12s.

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

North-Central Netball

Last Saturday's results:
“A” Grade
Birchip-Watchem 62 d. Donald 42; Calder United 36 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 32; Wedderburn 94 d. St Arnaud 35; Boort 53 d. Charlton 35.
“B” Grade
Boort 49 d. Charlton 27; Wedderburn 85 d. St Arnaud 41; Birchip-Watchem 63 d. Donald 36; Calder United 59 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 28.

“C” Grade
Boort 52 d. Charlton 40; Wedderburn 59 d. St Arnaud 46; Birchip-Watchem 42 d. Donald 19; Calder United 57 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 34.
“C” Grade Reserves
Wedderburn 54 d. St Arnaud 22; 42 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 37.
Seventeen-and-Under
Wedderburn 29 def. by St Arnaud 63; Calder United 60 d. Sea Lake-

Table with 11 columns: Team, P, W, L, D, B, FWL, F, A, Pts, %. It contains league tables for A, B, and C grades.

Table with 11 columns: Team, P, W, L, D, B, FWL, F, A, Pts, %. It contains league tables for C Grade Reserves, Seventeen-and-Under, and Fourteen-and-Under A and B.

It's so NATURAL

Exercise for a Healthy You

Most people are always thinking of, or looking for, some way to improve their health.

The first step is a positive resolve to bring balance into your life, and be good to yourself to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Concentrate on the overall picture: getting the diet right is only a step in the right direction. Exercise brings a whole range of benefits apart from an increase in physical fitness.

Regular exercise is crucial for maintaining overall health and well-being through improved sleep and increased concentration and stamina. Most important, it offers numerous benefits as well, including improved physical and mental health, weight management, and reduced risk of chronic diseases. By engaging in physical activity, you can strengthen your body, boost your mood, and improve your quality of life.

However, before embarking on an exercise regime it is important to choose a programme that fits your lifestyle, and once you have chosen it, do it regularly.

For successful weight loss through exercise, you need to expand energy in a way that is “aerobic” – in other words, engage in an activity that increases your body’s oxygen needs, thereby exercising your heart and lungs. An exercise programme that uses the large muscles of the body – thighs,

trunk and shoulders – over an extended period, is excellent for body conditioning.

When you exercise aerobically on a regular basis and maintain a well-balanced, healthy diet, you may also notice that the scales show no weight loss at all, and in some circumstances you may even show a weight gain. There is no need to hit the panic button, nor become discouraged. As you exercise and lose fat you will be replacing this fat with heavier muscle, and your muscle-to-fat ratio will also increase. Instead of relying on your scales, rely on a measuring tape and how your clothes fit.

Most importantly, exercise increases your metabolic rate, which accounts for some 70% of kilojoule expenditure. Muscle strength and joint flexibility is improved – this is an important consideration in fighting osteoarthritis – and the risk of bone fracture, and women developing osteoporosis, is reduced.

Mildly hypertensive individuals will benefit from exercise, because it helps to reduce blood pressure and to lower blood cholesterol, including a portion of the dangerous LDL-cholesterol fraction. Blood glucose levels are also reduced, and diabetics will benefit as well because exercise



• Alan Hayes

increases the effectiveness of insulin.

When choosing an exercise programme, find an activity that is convenient, enjoyable and can be sustained for at least thirty minutes or more as a continuous movement. Start at beginners’ level, and as you develop stamina and condition, gradually increase your activity. Most important, tailor your exercise programme to your physical condition and lifestyle. If unsure, or unfit, check with your health practitioner first before embarking on a vigorous exercise regime.

For a better activity regime, walk more often, instead of catching a bus or driving a car. Walk up the stairs instead of taking a lift, and invest in an exercise bike. Pedal daily while you read or watch television. Go for a daily walk in the evening – just before retiring is a good time – and take regular short breaks at work to stretch and use inactive muscles.

Why not join a social dance group and spend as much time as you can on the dance floor? Visit Alan on the Net - www.itssonatural.com

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Magpies Get Job Done

Much like their AFL namesakes, Boort’s Magpies are stumbling towards finals – a remarkable contrast to the side that demolished Charlton’s Navies in the opening weeks of the 2025 North Central Football League season.

Maybe it’s testament to the improvement of the Navies as they look towards 2026. Maybe it was one last push to send outgoing coach Mitch Collins out on a high – the Navies digging deep to play with some of the passion and determination that Collins displays week on, week off as he leads from the front. Whatever it was, it was a much more competitive game, and if not for some poor kicking going forward, the Navies would have found themselves in it up to their necks.

With Jhye Baddeley-Kelly playing deep forward, engaged in an entertaining battle with Charlton’s Bailey Dixon, it was a game-long tussle well worth watching. The classy Baddeley-Kelly was unable to free himself of Dixon for most of the day, the developing Charlton defender more than holding his own, showing his growth and development from the start of the season. Boort’s aspirations were not helped by an early ankle injury to key forward Peter Barbopoulos, landing awkwardly in a marking contest.

The battle in the midfield was intriguing all day, Charlton throwing regular key defender Jed Thompson in as a big bodied mid, shouldering some of the load off Collins, and older brother Rhys. Charlton was physically matching it with Magpies’ experienced campaigner Jarrod Fitzpatrick, Jayden Dick and the younger Tom Potter. The Navies’ Ben Lanyon was

getting his hand on most ruck contests, regularly out-pointing James Wilson and providing his onballers with plenty of opportunity. That advantage nullified for Boort with Charlton lacking a real presence inside forward 50. What they wouldn’t have given for a big marking forward on Saturday!

The Magpies skipped away to an early break, constantly turning Charlton’s forward thrusts into attacking forays for themselves. Their break and run from half back hurt the Navies early. Kayne Rutley proved elusive at half forward, allowed far too much space by the Navies defence for a player of his class, ably supported by Ryan McGhie, dominant on his wing, a regular link in the chain from defence to attack.

Charlton enjoyed perhaps its most competitive quarter of football against a top-four side in the second term. Players were desperate, accountable and in for the fight, and while the spectacle of pure football was not at a premium, the game was certainly fit for watching. Bailey Kemp provided a target for the Navies, his hard running hit up from half-forward regularly rewarded, but deep forward entries rare for either side. Boort was only able to grow its quarter time lead by a solitary behind to the main break, the Magpies 26 points to the good.

The game opened up in the second half, Boort beginning

to find more space as Charlton’s close checking began to wane. Rutley became increasingly damaging, Fitzpatrick and young Lachlan Hall breaking the shackles, driving the Magpies into attack. For Charlton emerging defenders, Elliott Fitzpatrick and Patrick Soulsby were providing plenty of rebound, their strong attack on the football impressing the Navies’ faithful.

As Charlton’s season wound to an end, tired legs allowed Boort to dominate the last term, the structure of the first half a distant memory as time and space were far too often afforded to their Magpie opponents. Lanyon an almost solitary candle still burning strongly to the end, his ground work as impressive as his aerial prowess, finished his year as strongly as he started. Boort’s McGhie and Matt Austin continued to push hard through the middle, creating numerous turnovers, leading to scoring opportunities. Rutely finished his day with six goals, complemented by Baddeley-Kelly’s four to be the main scoring thorns in the Navies’ side, Boort eventually grinding its way to a flattering 77-point victory, 15.10 (100) to 2.5 (23).

Best for Boort: Jarrod Fitzpatrick, Kayne Rutley, Matt Austin, Ryan McGhie, Jhye Baddeley-Kelly, Lachlan Hall.

For Charlton: Bailey Hooper-Dixon, Ben Lanyon, Elliott Fitzpatrick, Jed Thompson, Rhys Thompson, Bailey Kemp.



• Winter racing continues on in the ‘25-’26 season.

From Flemington to the Wimmera: Cup Tour Coming to Warracknabeal

The thunder of hooves, the clink of glasses, and the shimmer of solid gold will all meet in Warracknabeal on Saturday, August 30, as the Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour arrives in town for the 2025 Sheep Hills Cup.

This iconic event will see two Melbourne Cup-winning champions, Prince of Penzance and Twilight Payment, visit the Wimmera alongside the coveted 18 carat gold Lexus Melbourne Cup. Racegoers will have a rare chance to meet true racing royalty and capture their moment with one of the most recognisable trophies in Australian sport.

Warracknabeal is one of just 36 destinations selected to host the 2025 Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour, placing the Wimmera proudly in the

national spotlight. The tour brings not only the legends of the turf, but also the spirit and stories of the race that stops the nation.

Among other Victorian towns to be visited by the Cup will be Donald (August 31 and September 1), and Bridgewater on Loddon (September 2).

Local Significance
For the Warracknabeal Racing Club, this moment carries deep local significance. Lance Huebner, a long-standing committee member and the only member to have witnessed races at both Sheep Hills and Warracknabeal, reflected on the event’s evolution:

“Most of the community was there that warm summer’s day in 1966 to see Justice win the Cup in a three-horse field on a flint-hard dirt track. It was the last time they raced at Sheep Hills after more than a century. This year’s meeting at Warracknabeal, with the Melbourne Cup on course and two champions in tow, will be the biggest highlight in the Sheep Hills Cup’s long history.”

Sheep Hills Lunch
Honouring this legacy is the return of a beloved tradition, the Sheep Hills Lunch, reimagined in 2025 as the 150km Feast Lunch in collaboration with Horsham Agricultural Society and 150km Feast.

Inspired by the hearty turkey luncheons once served at the original Sheep Hills track, this all-inclusive dining experience showcases the best of Wimmera Mallee produce. Guests will enjoy four courses paired with local wines, served alongside live music in a warm indoor setting. The luncheon runs from midday to 4 p.m. and includes race admission and access to the Living Legends experience.

Whether you’re heading trackside to meet the champions, or reliving history with the premium 150km Lunch experience, the 2025 Sheep Hills Cup promises to be a standout moment on the region’s event calendar.

Tickets are on sale now – from general admission to the 150km Feast Lunch experience.

Explore your options at country.racing.com/warracknabeal/calendar/sheep-hills-cup.

Redbacks’ Flying Start

The Redbacks locked out any chance of the Saints recording a win in the final round of the 2025 home-and-away season when they piled on ten unanswered goals in the opening term.

It was the Redbacks who took the initiative right from the opening minutes of the game, with the ball continually being sent into their forward line at lightning pace producing positive results. The Redbacks continued their assault at the goals in the first quarter with many players getting chances at getting on the goal kicking list. Mitch Jensen chimed in with three, Darcy Jackson, Noah Furlong, Hamish Lockhart two each and Jake Miller one.

In the process of building a winning score at the other end, the Redbacks’ defence was holding strong and limited the Saints to just the three minor scores, and at the end of the quarter the Redbacks had kicked out to a lead of over sixty-points.

The second term started as the first finished, with the home side attacking the goals but with minors scores being added until Zach Pullpratt kicked the first goal of the term. Hamish Lockhart was dominating at all parts of the ground where he was gaining many possessions and being

instrumental in setting up opportunities for the Redbacks and being able to kick the odd goal or two.

In this quarter the Redbacks were again able to restrict the Saints’ scoring opportunities, resulting in them adding just the one major score for the quarter.

Many easy opportunities went begging for the Redbacks with points outscoring the goals two to one in the term. At the half-time break there was little chance that the Saints would get back into the game as the Redbacks’ lead had extended above one-hundred points.

After the long break could things improve for the Saints? Not in the early minutes of the quarter, as the Redbacks were back peppering the goals but again some shots missing the major target. The Redbacks added two goals and by halfway through the quarter, they had extended their lead further before the Saints returned fire with a much-needed goal to Torin Petrie, who had doubled up from duties in the reserves.

Two more goals to the Redbacks before the three-quarter time break gave them a lead of twenty goals.

The feature of the Redbacks’ game to this point was their willingness to support their teammates. Sharp and accurate hand passes and field kicking were a major force towards their high score over a depleted Saints’ side which has suffered multiple season-ending injuries during their year.

Out to end their season on a real high the Redbacks were quickly into attack but their efforts were only rewarded with minor scores. From then on it was all systems go as they went on the attack again and this resulted with a twelve-goal unanswered last quarter. Mitch Jensen added four goals in this term to reach his tally of eight for the game.

Wedderburn had eleven goal scorers in its win to finish on a high and they did it in style.

On a day when the Redbacks kicked over thirty goals and nearly as many points,

this win was a real team effort with every player making a solid contribution to the win and you would struggle to find any non-contributors.

The Saints were behind the eight ball from the start with players having to double from the reserves due to their depleted list of available players. While this was not the way they wanted to end their year, they were out there giving it their best shot for their club, which will be hoping for better results in 2026.

Wedderburn 32-26 (218) defeated St Arnaud 2-5 (17).

Best for Wedderburn in a team effort: Hamish Lochart, Jackson McEwen, Mitch Jensen, Darcy Jackson, Mitch McEwen, and Jake Miller.

Goals: Mitch Jensen 8, Hamish Lockhart, Darcy Jackson 5, Noah Furlong, and Jake Miller 3 were the major scorers.

Saints best: Jay Kirkwood, Harley Durward, Jake Male, Matthew Goode, Luke Jackson, and Daniel Gifford. Goals: Bailey Nicholas and Torin Petrie.

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Good Luck to all teams competing in the finals series of the North-Central football, netball and hockey. From the staff at the “Buloke Times”.

North-Central Football Roundup

Goldacres Seniors

SEA LAKE-NANDALY	3.3	6.3	9.4	10. 8	(68)
CALDER UNITED	2.3	5.7	7.9	8.12	(60)

Goals for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Josh Jenkins 3, John Summerhayes 3, Lachy McClelland 2, Andrew Collins, Bryce Delmenico. For Calder United: Koby Hommelhoff 3, Jack Exell 2, Rick Allan, Mitch Farmer, Darcy Munro.

Best for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Trent Donnan, Ryan O'Sullivan, Bryce Delmenico, Max Cahoon, Kane Donnan, Adam Pattison. For Calder United: Daniel Watts, Zane Keighran, Boe Bish, Matthew Wade, Darcy Munro, Matthew Trzeciak.

BIRCHIP-WATCHEM	7.6	12.9	19.13	26.18	(174)
DONALD	0.0	0.0	0. 1	0. 1	(1)

Goals for Birchip-Watchem: Ben Edwards 8, Jacob Christie 5, Marshall Rippon 3, Rhona Conboy 2, Tom Gibson 2, Hamish Hosking 2, Lachy Foott, Charlie Frank, Dale Hinkley, Riley Hogan Jr.

For Donald: Nil.

Best for Birchip-Watchem: Jacob Christie, Marshall Rippon, Tom Gibson, Charlie Frank, Hamish Hosking, Samuel Simmons. For Donald: Harry Forrest, Daniel Pearce, Charlie Campbell, Brady Griffiths, Dyson Bell-Warren, Jett Adams.

BOORT	4.3	5.5	9.8	15.10	(100)
CHARLTON	0.2	1.3	3.5	3. 5	(23)

Goals for Boort: Kayne Rutley 6, Jhye Baddeley-Kelly 4, Peter Barbopoulos, Ethan Coleman, Jarrod Fitzpatrick, Tom Potter, Tyson Rutley, Harry Weaver, Nick Whyte.

For Charlton: Bailey Kemp, Archer Patterson, Ben Xiriha.

Best for Boort: Jarrod Fitzpatrick, Kayne Rutley, Matt Austin, Ryan McGhie, Jhye Baddeley-Kelly, Lachlan Hall. For Charlton: Bailey Hooper-Dixon, Ben Lanyon, Elliott Fitzpatrick, Jed Thompson, Rhys Thompson, Bailey Kemp.

WEDDERBURN	10.5	16.16	20.21	32.26	(218)
ST ARNAUD	0.2	1. 4	2. 5	2. 5	(17)

Goals for Wedderburn: Mitch Jensen 8, Darcy Jackson 5, Hamish Lockhart 5, Noah Furlong 3, Jake Miller 3, Zach Pallpratt 2, Mackenzie Smith 2, Danny Benaim, Oscar Holt, Mitch McEwen, Tom Metherell. For St Arnaud: Bailey Nicholas, Torin Petrie

Best for Wedderburn: Hamish Lockhart, Jackson McEwen, Mitch Jensen, Darcy Jackson, Mitchell McEwen, Jake Miller. For St Arnaud: Jay Kirwood, Harley Durward, Jake Male, Matthew Goode, Luke Jackson, Daniel Gifford.

Haeusler’s Reserves

CALDER UNITED	2.0	3.0	8.1	12.4	(76)
SEA LAKE-NANDALY	0.2	5.5	5.7	5.8	(38)

Goals for Calder United: Cody Green 4, Heath Senior 2, Brett Barker, Les Cooper, Dude Kelly, Sol Kelly, Tom Trewin, Joel Turner For Sea Lake-Nandaly: Brody Weir 2, Joel Clohesy, Connor Michael

Best for Calder United: Jack Morrison, Billy Forrester, Cody Green, Thomas Trewin, Sol Kelly, Brett Barker. For Sea Lake-Nandaly: Connor Michael, Codey Elliott, Brody Weir, Brandon Stadon, Rylee McGarry, Chase Tait.

BIRCHIP-WATCHEM	2.4	4.5	9.7	12.9	(81)
DONALD	0.0	1.2	1.2	2.2	(14)

Goals for Birchip-Watchem: Alexander Hay 4, Tison Wiantara 3, Bodie Colbert 2, Matthew Rickard 2, Alex Noonan 1. For Donald: Glen Burke, Glenn Pearse.

Best for Birchip-Watchem: Bodie Colbert, James Lindeback, Tison Wiantara, George Addis, Joe O'Donnell. For Donald: Joe Sheridan, Glen Burke, Brod Harrison, Jam Borden, George Morgan, Daniel Tatarskyj.

BOORT	5.1	7.5	11.9	15.14	(104)
CHARLTON	0.2	0.2	2.2	2. 3	(15)

Goals for Boort: Alex Cockerell 7, Jack Baker 4, Pat O'Rourke 2, Max Beattie, Chris O'Rourke.

For Charlton: Zack Dean, Ashton Wood.

Best for Boort: Angus Trethowan, Cameron Ross, Nick Scott, Alex Cockerell, Fraser Millar, Malachi Coleman. For Charlton: Luke Dunne, John Leathan, Ashton Wood, Joseph Durie, Tyler Catherine, Nicholas McCallum.

ST ARNAUD	3.2	7.4	9.7	13.9	(87)
WEDDERBURN	2.2	3.3	6.3	7.4	(46)

Goals for St Arnaud: Torin Petrie 4, Josh Hicks 3, Jake Hlcks, Carl Leach, Jake Male, Heath McNally, Hayden Torney, Tristan Ward. For Wedderburn: Jacob Piccoli 3, Chris Hargreaves 2, Noah Winslett, Mitchell Woods.

Best for St Arnaud: Simon Elliott, Heath McNally, Tommy Moore, Tristan Ward, Ash Craddock, Jake Hicks. For Wedderburn: Ashley Younghusband, Robert Tonkin, Mitchell Woods, Rhordan Holt, Samual Carroll, Noah Winslett.

Community Bank Charlton & District Under-Seventeens

SEA LAKE-NANDALY	6.3	12.7	12.10	14.15	(99)
CALDER UNITED	0.0	0.0	0. 1	1. 6	(12)

Best for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Brayden Allan, Angus Renney, Brody Kelly, Hugo Warne, Ryder Newick, Cooper Kelly. For Calder United: Max Fawcett, Darcey Poyner, Rhett Hogan, Darcy Coles, Tynan Perry.

DONALD	1.1	2.2	6.6	11.8	(74)
BIRCHIP-WATCHEM	1.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	(20)

Best for Donald: Not Supplied. For Birchip-Watchem: Oliver Cook, Cameron Jones, Noah Dean, Bayley Kemp.

BOORT	3.1	7.2	9.3	12.8	(80)
CHARLTON	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	(3)

Best for Boort: Brodie McPherson, Chaise Hird, Darby Perryman, Riley Wagner, Cooper Gooding, Jake O'Flaherty

For Charlton: Isaac Bourke, Ethan Soulsby, Leigh Van Boven, Joseph Monaghan, Jarvis Wright, James Fitzpatrick.

ST ARNAUD	2.3	3.5	7.9	10.18	(78)
WEDDERBURN	1.0	2.0	2.1	2. 1	(13)

Best for St Arnaud: William Thomas, Rylan Leach, Ethan Hilton, Austin Lowe, Archie Batters, Jack Batters.

For Wedderburn: Noah Winslett, Aaron Smith, Deacon Tansley, William Cunningham, Blaz Cramp.

Next Round

First Semi Finals at Birchip, Saturday August 23-

Senior: Sea Lake-Nandaly v. Boort	Reserves: Birchip-Watchem v. Sea Lake-Nandaly
Under-17: Boort v. Calder United	Under-14: Donald v. Boort

Uniting Church Under-Fourteens

SEA LAKE-NANDALY 8.6 (54) d. CALDER UNITED 1.4 (10)

Best for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Randy Bailey, Kaiden Wight, Seth Pearce, Messer Bailey, Hamish Landry, Henry Cox.

For Calder United: Tyler Harrison, Harry Humphreys, Griffin Vearing, Van Harrison, Jai Poyner, Ryder Harrison.

BIRCHIP-WATCHEM 2.6 (18) d. DONALD 0.8 (8)

Best for Birchip-Watchem: Not Supplied

For Donald: Emmett Geddes, Samuel Mortlock, Nullah Clapham, Larou Clapham, Caleb Michael, Riley Jones.

BOORT 11.9 (75) d. CHARLTON 0.1 (1)

Best for Boort: Liam King, Tyler Stringer, Luca Lanyon, Jackson Durie, Whyatt Brooks.

For Charlton: Darcy Olive, Charlie Zagame, Isaac Roberts, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Joshua Bartlett.

ST ARNAUD 7.8 (50) d. WEDDERBURN 2.1 (13)

Best for St Arnaud: Chase Hendy, Charlie Kirk, Maddox Stewart, Sami Weir, Xavier Taylor, Finn Wilson.

For Wedderburn: Blaz Cramp, William Huismann, Luke Martin, Caleb Gault, Bastian Noordennen, Jack Dierickx

Positions of Teams

Goldacres North-Central Seniors

Teams	P	Pts	%	W	L	D	For	Ag
Birchip-Watchem	16	64	347.06	16	0	0	2242	646
Calder United	16	48	268.24	12	4	0	1934	721
Sea Lake-Nandaly	16	48	261.08	12	4	0	1885	722
Boort	16	40	150.64	10	6	0	1639	1088
Wedderburn	16	32	162.84	8	8	0	1573	966
Charlton	16	16	27.28	4	12	0	560	2053
St Arnaud	16	8	32.97	2	14	0	657	1993
Donald	16	0	11.16	0	16	0	289	2590

Haeuslers Reserves

Teams	P	Pts	%	W	L	D	For	Ag
Calder United	16	60	468.41	15	1	0	1616	345
Boort	16	52	298.73	13	3	0	1413	473
Birchip-Watchem	16	48	268.32	12	4	0	1465	546
Sea Lake-Nandaly	16	36	177.09	9	7	0	1337	755
St Arnaud	16	32	127.41	8	8	0	1069	839
Charlton	16	12	33.79	3	13	0	491	1453
Wedderburn	16	12	30.64	3	13	0	466	1521
Donald	16	4	8.55	1	15	0	180	2105

Community Bank Charlton and District U17s

Teams	P	Pts	W	L	D
St Arnaud	16	56	14	2	0
Sea Lake-Nandaly	16	56	14	2	0
Boort	16	48	12	4	0
Calder United	16	36	9	7	0
Charlton	16	28	7	9	0
Donald	16	20	5	11	0
Wedderburn	16	12	3	13	0
Birchip-Watchem	16	0	0	16	0

Uniting Church U14s

Teams	P	Pts	W	L	D
St Arnaud	16	56	14	2	0
Sea Lake-Nandaly	16	56	14	2	0
Donald	16	36	9	7	0
Boort	16	36	9	7	0
Wedderburn	16	32	8	8	0
Birchip-Watchem	16	20	5	11	0
Calder United	16	16	4	12	0
Charlton	16	4	1	15	0

Tooleybuc Sporting Club Presidents’ Award

Voting for round 16

Sea Lake-Nandaly: Trent Donnan 3, Wade Donnan 2, Max Cahoon 1.

Calder United: Zane Keighran 3, Koby Hommelhoff 2, Steven Kennedy 1.

Birchip-Watchem: Not Supplied

Donald: Not Supplied

Boort: Jarrod Fitzpatrick 3, Kayne Rutley 2, Matt Austin 1.

Charlton: Ben Lanyon 3, Bailey Dixon 2, Elliott Fitzpatrick 1.

Wedderburn: Hamish Lockhart 3, Jackson McEwen 2, Mitch Jensen 1.

St Arnaud: Jay Kirwood 3, Kurt Torney 2, Max Hungerford 1.

Saturday’s Leading Goal Kickers

Seniors	Reserves
Ben Edwards (B-W) 8124	Joel Clohesy (SLNT) 149
Jhye Baddeley-Kelly (Boort) 472	Alex Cockerell (Boort) 749
Jack Exell (CU) 263	Alexander Hay (B-W) 433
Mitch Jensen (Wedd) 861	Matthew Berry (B-W) -29
Max Cahoon (SLNT) -55	Heath Senior (CU) 227
Kayne Rutley (Boort) 639	George Forrester (CU) -26
Nicholas Rippon (B-W) -34	Zachary Wemyss (SLNT) -24
Jordan Humphreys (CU) -30	Joshua Hicks (St A) 323
Adam Pattison (SLNT) -27	John Summerhayes (SLNT) -23

CHS Broadbent Club Championship

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

	Snr.	Res.	U-17	U-14	Ttl.
Sea Lake-Nandaly	10	0	4	2	268
Calder United	0	6	0	0	252
Birchip-Watchem	10	6	0	2	242
Boort	10	6	4	2	244
St Arnaud	0	6	4	2	152
Wedderburn	10	0	0	0	126
Charlton	0	0	0	0	88
Donald	0	0	4	0	44

Bulls Tune Up for Finals

• Continued from page 16.
another tilt at the premiership. Donald, meanwhile, will re-group and aim to return as a more competitive side in 2026.

Final scores: Birchip-Watchem 26.18 (174) Donald 0.1 (1).

All attention now turns to George Cartwright Oval again this Saturday as finals action begins.

Awards for Birchip-Watchem: Jacob Christie (Nutrien Ag), Marshall Rippon (Donnellon's Bulk Haulage), Tom Gibson (YBS Ag), Charlie Frank (O'Connors), Hamish Hosking (Mick Foot Haulage), Sam Simmons (Birchip Hotel).

For Donald: Harry Forrest, Daniel Pearce, Charlie Campbell, Brady Griffiths, Dyson Bell-Warren, Jett Adams.



• Tom Gibson fends off Harry Forrest. Others pictured are Riley Hogan (B-W) and Charlie Burke (D).



• Nathaniel Clark attempts to spoil the kick to Ben Edwards as Rhona Conboy also competes in the contest. In the background is Donald's Daniel Pearce.



• Snapshot of the tournament with Trevor Bassett (Cooks River) and Lois Kirk (Quarry Hill).

Players from Near and Far: Charlton's High Quality Croquet Tournament

Charlton Croquet Club held its annual Association Croquet Tournament on the 9th and 10th of August, welcoming a strong field of talented players despite a slight dip in participant numbers.

The standard of competition remained high, with several competitors boasting experience representing Victoria in past events. Play began early each day, under a sky barely rid of the moon, and stretched well into the evening on Saturday,

concluding under lights with the moon once again rising above the courts. The long days were matched by an atmosphere of friendly rivalry and determination. Players travelled from across Victoria and beyond, representing clubs from

Brunswick, Cooks River (NSW), Quarry Hill, Bendigo, Kyabram, Rich River, and of course, Charlton. Adding to the unusual charm of the weekend, a train featuring "The Overland" carriages passed through Charlton on both Saturday and Sunday, making some wonder if they'd been transported somewhere else entirely. The tournament came down to an exciting final match between Trevor Bassett and Lindsay Patullo, with Lindsay securing a well-deserved victory. The club extends its sincere thanks to Bendigo Bank for its sponsorship, and to the Vale for its support. Special thanks also go to the dedicated local members who helped organise and run the event, making it another successful chapter in Charlton's croquet tradition.



• The moon rising over the days on the court with Lindsay Patullo (in foreground), and Phil DeAraugo (Bendigo).



• T. Basset (left) was the tournament runner-up to L. Patullo, the tournament winner.

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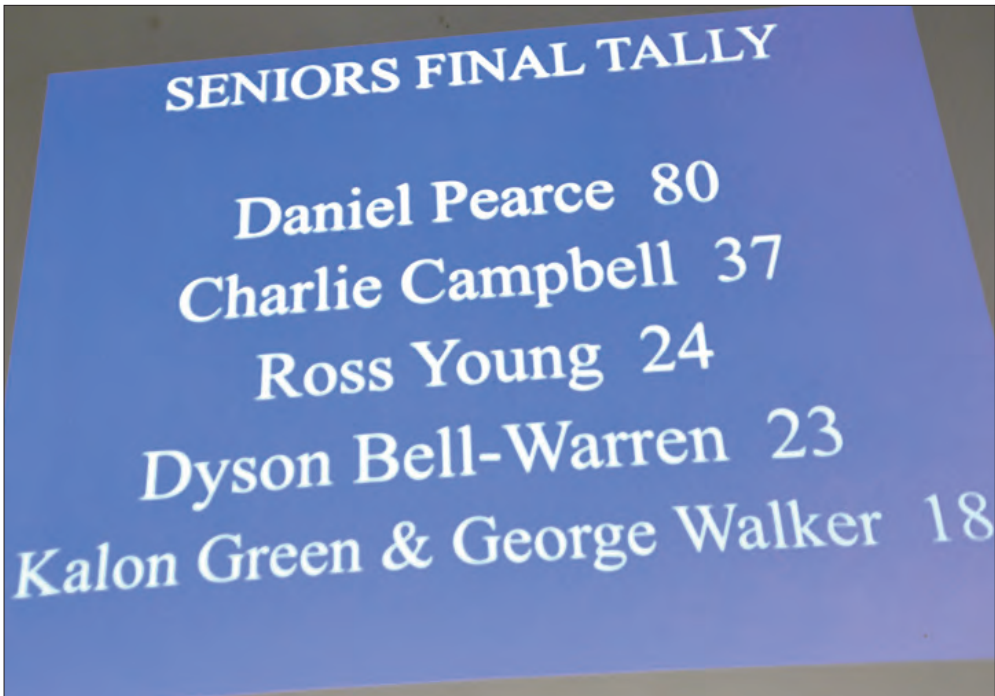
13 Enterprise Dr, Donald

AMBULANCE

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"The Buloke Times", Tuesday, August 19, 2025 — PAGE 15



• Daniel Pearce.

• Charlie Campbell.

While On-field Success Avoids Royal Blues... Club Loyalty Runs Deep

For the entire home-and-away senior football season, Donald failed to register a single win, but the scene in the Anderson Blue Room overlooking the Goff Letts Oval on Saturday night would have done credit to any post-grand final assemblage.

More than 120 players and supporters occupied the beautifully decorated long tables, and savoured the superb two-course meal prepared and served by members of the Donald Show committee and their helpers.

During a four-hour presentation evening, the Royal Blues screened in full the votes won by hockey, netball, and football players from the first games on April 5, to the last pre-finals matches on Saturday last.

Daniel's Double

Not only did playing coach Daniel (Tex) Pearce win Donald's "best and fairest" award for the 2025 season.

He also won the Tooleybuc Sporting Club President's Award, which is competed for by all North-Central players.

Football president, Danny Forrest, spoke positively of the players' determination against the odds, and was convinced that every effort would be made to lift the club's standing in the months ahead.

Encouraging observations were also made by hockey and netball leaders, as trophies were presented to their respective players.

• More details from Donald's football, netball, and hockey presentation night will appear in Friday's "Buloke Times".

Bulls Tune Up for Finals

(By Blake Lee)

Birchip-Watchem and Donald closed out their home-and-away campaigns much as they began – the Bulls winning comfortably, and the Royal Blues unable to find a breakthrough.

For Birchip-Watchem, Saturday's 26.18 (174) to 0.1 (1) result sealed a sixteenth straight win and an undefeated season. For Donald, it was another heavy loss to

round out a year without reward.

Joint 2025 North Central Feeny Medal winner Hamish Hosking set the tone early. His strength around the stop-

pages and control of the ruck gave the Bulls first use all afternoon. Teammates got around him on Saturday night to acknowledge his medal win, though Hosking was quick to point out that the team's focus remains on chasing a premiership in four weeks' time.

Daniel Bell regularly linked up from Hosking's taps to drive the ball forward, as Donald's backline was forced to absorb constant pressure. Despite the best efforts of Dyson Bell-Warren and Brady Griffiths, the visitors struggled to repel repeated attacks. The first goal came from Charlie Frank, who soccered through a clever major and continues to impress with his presence at senior level.

Full-forward Ben Edwards eventually found his rhythm after several early misses, finishing with eight goals to take his season tally to 124. Around him, captain Dale Hinkley and Rhona Conboy pushed the ball forward and capitalised on turnovers to keep the scoreboard ticking.

Nick Rippon sidelined by injury, brother Marshall Rippon stepped up, collecting plenty of possessions and kicking three goals in a strong display. Jacob Christie was

another standout, throwing himself into contests and finishing with five goals, to be named best-on-ground.

Donald shuffled players to try to break the momentum, with Samuel Arho moved into the ruck and Jett Adams applying pressure around the ground, but the Bulls maintained control. The Blues' only real chance came from a set-shot by Brent Arho, but his kick was cut off in defence by Jake Noonan. Donald went

into half time scoreless, 7.6 (48) to 0 (0).

After half-time, the Bulls kept their pace, with Hinkley and Bell linking well through the middle and Angus Butterfield driving the ball out of defence to launch fresh attacks. Up forward, Harry Cook and Austin Dean were active, while Donald's Harry Forrest worked hard to apply pressure with strong tackles.

The Bulls also gave younger players a chance to

stand out. Riley Hogan J.r nailed a long goal on the run, and Charlie Frank, Connor Lee, along with Cook and Dean, all showed they could influence the contest at senior level.

The final siren brought a close to Donald's season, one the club will want to put behind it. Birchip-Watchem now looks ahead to finals, where it will focus on managing injuries and preparing for

• Continued on page 15.

FIRST SEMI FINALS

SATURDAY AUGUST 23 AT BIRCHIP

SENIORS | 2:30PM
SEA LAKE NANDALY V BOORT

RESERVES | 12:35PM
BIRCHIP-WATCHEM V SEA LAKE NANDALY

UNDER 17'S | 10:55AM
BOORT V CALDER UNITED

UNDER 14'S | 9:30AM
DONALD V BOORT

A | 3:15PM
B | 1:50PM
C | 12:30PM
C RES | 11:10AM
17&U | 10:00AM
14&U 'A' | 9:00AM
14&U 'B' | 8:00AM

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

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

DONALD V BOORT
CHARLTON V WEDDERBURN
DONALD V BOORT
CHARLTON V ST ARNAUD

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• Ben Edwards and Charlie Campbell have eyes on the Sherrin.