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The Buloke Times

Est. 1875

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Published Tuesdays and Fridays
PP331336/0000 1

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

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

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

Jade Joins Students on Kokoda Trail



• Jade Benham, MP, with Hannah Saunders and Rhiannon Jack at Owers' Corner.

The Nationals' Member for Mildura, Jade Benham, has joined scholarship recipients, Hannah Saunders and Rhiannon Jack, in successfully completing the Kokoda Trail, marking the end of a profound journey honouring Australia's wartime history and the enduring values of courage, mateship, endurance, and sacrifice.

The trio returned from Papua New Guinea this week after trekking the historic 138 kilometre Kokoda Trail, as part of the Farnsworth Lochhead Lowe Scholarship – an initiative auspiced by the Mildura RSL Sub-Branch and proudly supported by Ms Benham, the Mildura Gateway

Tavern, Sunraysia Petroleum and Wentworth Military Museum.

The scholarship is named in honour of local soldiers Private Raymond Farnsworth, Warrant Officer John Lochhead and Lance Corporal Edward Lowe, who each made the ultimate sacrifice. It

holds special significance for scholarship winner, Rhiannon Jack, who is the great granddaughter of Warrant Officer Lochhead.

Rhiannon was privileged to be the first member of her family to visit her great grandfather's final resting

place and pay tribute to his remarkable service.

"It was deeply meaningful to pay tribute to someone who gave so much," Rhiannon said. "I felt proud to stand there and honour his memory on behalf of my family."

Ms Benham said the experience was both physically and emotionally demanding but deeply rewarding.

Challenging

"This was one of the most challenging and moving experiences of my life," Ms

Benham said. "To complete the trek alongside Hannah and Rhiannon, and to honour the memory of our fallen soldiers from Sunraysia, was incredibly powerful. These young women displayed remarkable resilience, teamwork, and a deep respect for the significance of Kokoda."

Hannah and Rhiannon were selected for their outstanding community involvement and strong connection to the values embodied by the Kokoda Trail.

"Walking the Kokoda Trail challenged me in every way," Hannah said.

"It taught me so much about resilience, leadership, and the strength that comes from supporting others."

Ms Benham praised both students for representing the region with pride and integrity.

"They have made our community proud," she said. "This experience has shaped them in ways that will last a lifetime."

Police Mental Health Must Be a Priority

The Nationals' Member for Mildura, Jade Benham, has called on the Victorian Government to reinstate funding for the Western Region Health and Wellbeing Hub.

Speaking in Parliament, Ms Benham said the vital mental health service was scrapped just 12 months after being established, despite strong evidence it was delivering real, measurable outcomes for police officers across regional Victoria.

"I am dumbfounded by this decision. It shows complete

disregard for the mental health of our police officers," Ms Benham said. "Pulling the plug now is not just irresponsible, it is dangerous."

The hub embedded mental health clinicians within regional police stations, providing early, trusted and confidential support for officers experiencing the daily

trauma and pressure that comes with frontline policing.

Never a Luxury

"This was never a luxury, it was a necessary service that helped keep our officers safe and well," Ms Benham said. "If we are going to require our police to be subject to confronting and traumatic situations, we must offer them the appropriate support."

"The decision to scrap the hub flies in the face of Victoria Police's own business case, which showed the embedded model reduced WorkCover claims, improved wellbeing outcomes, and created a culture where members felt supported to speak up and seek help.

"Not a Priority"

"By removing this support, Labor is sending a clear message that the mental health of our regional police officers is not a priority."

Ms Benham said the Well-being Hub was backed by recommendations from the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System, Beyond Blue, and leading experts, all of whom have championed embedded, localised mental health services for first responders.

"To take it away now will only lead to more burnout, more resignations, and fewer officers available to protect our communities."



• Jade Benham.

Letters to the Editor



Salvos Homelessness Week

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Editor.— August 4-10 marks Homelessness Week in Australia – a time to take a moment to think about those in our community who are facing some of the most challenging circumstances and realise that it may be affecting people that we don't expect.

The Salvation Army is one of the largest providers of homelessness services in the country, and in our over 140-year history in Australia, we have seen it all.

We support over 8,000 people every month across Australia who are experiencing homelessness, but what can sometimes shock me more than these numbers is the individual stories behind each person who reaches out to us for help.

We have seen people reach out to our homelessness services who have been donors to the Salvos in the past. We have seen people who are perceivably "well off", but due to one unforeseen personal crisis, like a family member falling ill, they have slipped into homelessness.

Recently, we have started to see increased numbers of women and children reaching out to us. In fact, one in seven people who reached out to us for homelessness support this year have been children under 14. This breaks our hearts.

Homelessness isn't just sleeping rough on the streets. It manifests in a number of ways, like couch surfing, staying in emergency accommodation or sleeping in your car. In a recent survey of people who reached out to the Salvos for financial support, one in five (19%) had couch surfed or lived in their car at some point in the past 12 months.

That is why, this Homelessness Week, we want to shine a light on what homelessness really looks like in Australia. At the Salvos, we want to encourage people to reach out to their friends and family, notice the signs, and know where to go if you or someone you know is experiencing homelessness.

And where can you go? The Salvos are a great place to start. The Salvation Army are here for those experiencing hardship, including those at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness. We don't judge and don't discriminate. It has been our privilege to come alongside Aussies in their time of need for the past 140 years, and we look forward to doing so in the future.

Mark Campbell.

Commissioner, The Salvation Army

Celebrating a Legacy

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Editor.— As you celebrate the remarkable milestone of 150 years in print, Council writes to acknowledge the extraordinary legacy and contribution of the "Buloke Times" to our region.

Council at its July 2025 Council Meeting acknowledged this remarkable accomplishment.

From its beginnings as the "Donald Times" in 1875, founded by your forebear Godfrey Morgan, through to successive generations of the Letts family, the "Times" has stood as a symbol of unwavering service to community.

From hot-metal presses to digital layouts, the heart of your newspaper has never wavered from its deep commitment, and always guided by a wisely held instrument of insight – whether pen, pencil, or

keyboard – it has stirred reflection and steered consideration through every era.

Your presence at Council meetings over the years and your coverage of civic matters have played a vital role in upholding transparency and public trust.

We have particularly valued your editorial voice, balanced in perspective and sensibility.

Your willingness to give up your front page for critical community information and your follow-up on matters-that-matter all speak to a deep understanding of what it means to serve.

Few can claim such a legacy and fewer still can say they have remained locally owned and operated.

Thank you for your partnership, your integrity and your lasting presence.

Congratulations to Robin, David and the entire "Buloke Times" team on this remarkable upcoming anniversary and here's to many more editions still to be published.

Yours sincerely,

Cr Alan Getley.

Mayor

Significant Achievement

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Editor.— I recently had the privilege of touring the newly constructed Dr Julie Zrna Centre, a state-of-the-art accommodation facility supporting those receiving radiation treatment at the Mildura Health Icon Cancer Centre.

This 10-apartment centre has been made possible thanks to the generosity of our local community and the tireless work of the Mildura Health Foundation. The self-contained, fully furnished one- and two-bedroom apartments include practical features like kitchenettes, lounge areas, workstations, TV and Wi-Fi and offer a home-like environment. These simple but important details mean that patients, their families and carers can arrive to a space that is ready to support them, allowing them to focus on treatment and recovery.

Finding suitable accommodation during a time of illness can be a significant source of stress for families during what is already an emotionally challenging time. Having this facility in our region helps alleviate that added pressure, making it easier for people to stay close to the care they need.

Congratulations to the Mildura Health Foundation and to everyone involved in bringing this project to life. The result is a credit to the hard work and dedication of the team behind it, and a reflection of the generosity and care of the wider community. It's a significant achievement and one that will make a real and lasting difference to people in our community.

Warm regards,
Jade Benham.
MP.



• From left, Top of the Town Beauty Salon's Meagan Harvey consults with Pop Creative Collective's Ching Ching Lee and Wendy Twigg as part of Northern Grampians Shire Council's Shopfront Improvement Program.

Uptrend for St. Arnaud Shopfronts

Six businesses in St Arnaud will receive a helping hand to improve the vibrancy of their shopfronts, stimulate economic growth, and enhance the overall look and feel of the town.

Northern Grampians Shire Council is delivering the Shopfront Improvement Program in St Arnaud this year after a successful pilot program in Stawell in 2024.

Mayor Karen Hyslop said six businesses were selected to participate in the St Arnaud program, based on their need and desire for improvement.

"The program garnered great interest from businesses in Napier Street and connecting side streets," she said.

"We had 17 businesses submit an expression of interest, so it was an incredibly competitive process for the six available spots.

"We hope to deliver this program again in St Arnaud in the future, given the amount of interest from businesses seeking support to improve."

The six businesses chosen by the assessment panel are: Ramjac, St Arnaud Books, Country Kitchen, St Arnaud Community Resource Centre, Top of the Town Beauty Salon and The Bible Museum and Butterfly Centre.

Workshop

Pop Creative Collective, which ran a visual merchan-

dising workshop in St Arnaud in June, will work with the selected businesses to improve their shopfront presentation through new branding, signs, painting, window displays and more.

Pop Creative Collective's Ching Ching Lee said it was great to see so many businesses wanting to improve their shopfronts and engage in the program.

"This is the biggest number of expressions of interest I have received for the Shopfront Improvement Program," she said.

"I'm very excited to be working with the six applicants and can't wait to see the results."

Ms Lee started the one-on-one process with program participants last week.

"It has been great to speak with each of the businesses and hear their business journey, what drives them and what they want to achieve," she said.

"Connecting with them helps us to create their shopfront improvements and inspires us to provide our best

work, which will benefit the whole St Arnaud streetscape.

"We have been blown away with what St Arnaud has to offer – it has been a wonderful experience learning about the town and its many treasures."

Opportunity

Top of The Town Beauty Salon's Meagan Harvey said she applied for the program because she thought it provided St Arnaud businesses with a fantastic opportunity.

"It will be great to have a bit of a revamp and it's great working with the Pop Creative Collective team," she said.

"The process so far has been so much fun and the ideas are great. Thank you to Northern Grampians Shire Council for the opportunity to be a part of this program."

Council's Economic Development team offers a range of services to help the municipality's businesses to thrive.

People can visit www.ng-shire.vic.gov.au/business for more information, and to subscribe to council's monthly Business E-News.

"Smurfs"

The mushroom-hatted, blue characters are back! The smurfs return to the screen in this live-action animated, musical fantasy of the same name which is heading to The Rex this weekend.

Featuring the voices of Rihanna (Smurfette), John Goodman (Papa Smurf) and James Corden (No Name Smurf), the storyline sees Papa Smurf taken by evil wizards Razamel and Gargamel in mysterious circumstances.

As the young Smurfette takes the lead in setting up a mission into the real world to save him, new friends are co-opted and teamwork shows that success comes from working together. At the same time the Smurfs discover what defines their destiny in the saving of the real world.

With references to a magic book named "Jaunty" and

transitions between different portals, the loveable group meets characters such as Mama Poot and the Snooterpoots who help in the quest to bring Papa Smurf home to Smurf Village.

Based around the Belgium comic book series, "Smurfs" is a fun and lighthearted outing with some catchy music and a G rating which is ideal for viewing by young family members.

"Smurfs" (G 92 mins) screens: Saturday Aug 2, 8 p.m. | Sunday Aug 3, 2 p.m. | Tuesday Aug 5, 8 p.m..

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Corack East Wind

Renewable Energy from ACEN

ACEN | Australia

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

Drop-in information hub every Wednesday 1-6pm

Dates and venues

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

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

Venue information

Donald – Scout Hall, Racecourse Road, Donald

Birchip – Birchip Community Leisure Centre, Morrison St, Birchip

Charlton Charlton Park Community Bank Complex, Calder Hwy, Charlton



www.corackeastwind.com.au



info@corackeastwind.com.au



1800 498 550



Corack East Wind

Noted Chef Shares Culinary Wisdom with Birchip Students

Many long-term Birchip residents would be familiar with renowned chef Stefano de Pieri.

Recently, the first and second-year cookery students at Birchip P-12 School were incredibly fortunate to spend two days learning the foundations of traditional Italian cooking under his expert guidance.

Stefano's connection to Birchip spans several decades, beginning from his friendship with Eddie and Frances Lee. His affinity for championing regional tourism and showcasing locally grown produce eventually led him to being a board member of the Birchip Cropping Group (BCG) between 2020-2023.

It was through this connection, at the BCG's 50-year celebration dinner, that Birchip P-12 School VETiS Cookery Teacher, Kristy Knights, had the opportunity to meet Stefano.

Stefano was catering for the event at the Birchip

Leisure Centre in 2022 and, in need of some help in the kitchen, Stefano engaged Kristy and her hospitality students. That evening sparked a conversation that inspired Stefano to offer a return visit to Birchip, to spend a few days cooking with, and teaching, Birchip P-12 School students.

Return Visit

The visit began in the classroom with warm introductions, followed by a discussion led by Stefano on what he considers to be the ideal pantry. He spoke passionately about the importance of preparing affordable, nutritious meals, especially relevant for students as they look towards independence and life beyond home-cooked meals.

Together, the group took a short walk to the local IGA and Bourke's Butcher, where

Stefano spoke about locally-sourced produce including cereals, meats, and the seasonal availability of fruits and vegetables. His immense knowledge, paired with his relaxed and friendly nature, made everyone feel immediately comfortable and engaged.

All Hands On Deck

Back in the kitchen, it was all hands on deck. Students were each given a task and got straight into cooking a range of delicious dishes: traditional Bolognese, potato gnocchi, potato soup, hand-made pasta, mushroom risotto, Santiago cake, bread rolls and focaccia, lamb ragù, and farfalle with broccoli.

Highlight

A highlight of the lessons was learning about soffrito, a base mixture of onions, carrots, and celery that forms the foundation of many Italian dishes. This technique, along with many others, was not only demonstrated but actively practised and enjoyed by all.

The two days passed with lots of laughter, learning, and the joy of sharing food. Cooking together created a powerful sense of connection and community and highlighted one of the most meaningful ways we build relationships with family and friends.

Appreciation

Birchip P-12 School is incredibly grateful for this opportunity. Kristy said: "We deeply appreciate Stefano's generosity, not only with his time, but also with his passion for food, his willingness to share his vast knowledge, and his genuine warmth. It was an enriching and tasty experience for our students, who don't have the luxury of visiting fine dining establishments in Birchip."

"We certainly hope this isn't the last visit from Stefano, and with a bit of luck, we'll welcome him back to Birchip again in the future."

"Thank you, Stefano!"



• Toby Kemp, Ollie Cook, Kobe Hamilton, Noah Dean Stephano de Pieri, Kirah Mitchell.



• Zara Lowry, Gracie Ferrier, Ollie Cook, Kobe Hamilton, Stephano de Pieri.



• Kirah Mitchell, Ollie Cook, Georgia Hogan, Stefano de Pieri, Beau Haslam, Kristy Knights, Noah Dean, Zara Lowry, Kobe Hamilton, Gracie Ferrier. Absent Allie Knights.



• Zara Lowry, Gracie Ferrier.



• Toby Kemp, Kobe Hamilton, Noah Dean, Stephano de Pieri.



• Ollie Cook, Jack McAuliffe, Beau Haslam, Noah Dean, Stephano de Pieri

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

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



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THANK YOU

Karen Johnson and family would like to thank Dr. Daniel for his care and support of Barry over several years. Also the Birchip Hospital staff, and especially the nurses who came into our home, offering loving care with a smile and laughter. Thanks also to the folk who came when we called, and Kenny, who always told Barry he was looking good, and left him feeling better about himself.



DONALD HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

FURTHER INFO: 0427 976 208

Meeting

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FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

**Independent Member Opportunity
at East Wimmera Health Service**

East Wimmera Health Service (EWHS) is pleased to invite applications for a part time Independent Member position for our Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. The position will commence on 1 September 2025 and appointments are for up to three years.

EWHS is a rural health service that delivers a range of programs and services for our local communities. The Health Service has 5 campuses located in the townships of St Arnaud, Donald, Birchip, Wycheproof, and Charlton. Further information is available on our website <http://ewhs.org.au>

The EWHS Board of Directors (BOD) established the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee as a subcommittee of the Board to fulfil its governance responsibilities as they relate to:

- EWHS compliance with all legislative and statutory reporting and other requirements, including the Financial Management Act 1994 (Victoria) and the Standing Directions of the Minister of Finance.
- Develop internal controls and auditing of controls affecting the operations of EWHS.
- Implementing processes for identifying, assessing and responding to risks.
- Identifying and monitoring procurement compliance
- Asset Management
- Information Management

Finance, Audit & Risk meetings are held bi-monthly on the third Wednesday of the month from 4.00 pm. Meetings are conducted online and are approximately two hours long.

All applications will be considered, however EWHS would particularly welcome applications from people with the following capabilities/experience:

- CA, CPA, or other relevant qualification
- Demonstrated Board experience and a genuine interest in EWHS and our work
- A solid professional background in risk management and finance
- The ability to independently review and assess the effectiveness of the EWHS systems and controls for financial management, performance and sustainability, including risk management.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate the capabilities identified in their applications.

Independent Members are remunerated for their attendance of Finance, Audit & Risk meetings.

Enquiries to: Mandy Campbell, Executive Assistant to CEO
starnaud@ewhs.org.au or 03 5477 2100

To apply: An application incorporating a response to the listed capabilities and a CV/resume including the names of two professional referees, is to be e-mailed to Mandy Campbell, Executive Assistant to CEO starnaud@ewhs.org.au.

Applications close at midnight Wednesday, 6 August 2025.

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- Excellent time management and organisational skills
- Ability to work independently and within a team environment

This position is Monday to Friday from 8am-5pm. If you wish to apply, please send your resume to: stuart@harberger.com.au Or drop your resume into Harberger, 16-18 Racecourse Rd, Donald.

Inaction Puts Children at Risk

The Nationals’ Member for Mildura, Jade Benham, has condemned the Victorian Government’s failure to address serious and ongoing issues within Victoria’s childcare sector, saying children are being placed at risk while families are left in the dark.

Ms Benham said repeated warnings have been ignored and critical safety concerns remain unresolved, with alarming figures revealing a 45 per cent increase in complaints to the state’s childcare regulator since 2018, while enforcement actions have dropped by 67 per cent over the same period.

“This is completely unacceptable. Parents deserve answers, children deserve protection, and Victorians

deserve leadership,” Ms Benham said.

“Instead of taking responsibility, Labor is yet again launching another review while refusing to take immediate action.”

Six-point Plan

In response, The Victorian Nationals and Liberals have put forward a clear six-point plan to deliver urgent and practical reforms aimed at improving safety and restoring trust in early learning settings.

The plan includes:

- Fixing Working With Children Check loopholes by giving assessors the power to act on all relevant information.

- Providing parents access to live safety and compliance data for individual centres.

- Creating a central register of all early childhood workers to raise workforce standards.

- Establishing an independent childcare safety watchdog to investigate, enforce, and report transparently.

- Banning personal phones and supporting secure CCTV installation in childcare centres.

- Linking federal funding to safety performance, as already done in aged care and schools.

Practical Measures

“These are practical measures that can be implemented



• Jade Benham

immediately. We are ready to legislate reforms that put the safety of children first,” Ms Benham said.

“The time for reviews and excuses is over. If Labor won’t act, we will.”



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Michaels of Donald

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At BCG’s Main Field Day on September 10 . . .

Lunchbox Legends Will Serve Healthier Choices

Visitors to BCG’s flagship Main Field Day at Birchip on Wednesday 10 September won’t just take home the latest insights in agronomy and farming systems – they’ll also take home ideas for healthier lunchboxes.

As part of the Lunchbox Legends initiative, BCG will partner with Birchip P-12 School to deliver healthy, affordable lunches to field day attendees.

Hospitality students, led by teacher Kristy Knights, will prepare a fresh menu based on National Centre for Farmer Health (NCFH) guidelines, helping fuel conversations about diet, wellbeing, and the critical role of health on-farm.

BCG’s Main Field Day attracts 500 growers, advisers, researchers and secondary students each year, to explore

research trials and network with experts and other farmers.

“We know the most valuable asset on any farm is its people,” said Louisa Ferrier, BCG project manager and Main Field Day co-ordinator. “Lunchbox Legends is about starting conversations around making small, healthier choices during busy periods like sowing and harvest, that can have a big impact over time.”

The initiative builds on other BCG health-focused efforts, including free water refills, sunscreen stations, free

health checks, and special guest speakers such as Mark Modra, who spoke about the importance of fatigue management at the 2024 event.

Lunchbox Legends is supported by the Look Over the Farm Gate Community Grants program, funded by Agriculture Victoria under the Victorian Government’s 2025 Drought Support Package.

For more information about the BCG Main Field Day and Lunchbox Legends, visit the BCG website www.bcg.org.au.



• Birchip P-12 School students, led by Kristy Knights, will serve up healthy lunches at BCG’s Main Field Day on September 10.

Free Fishing Forums Coming Up

The Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) will host 11 free fishing forums at angling clubs across the state, connecting recreational fishers with the latest on topics tailored to their patch.

VFA CEO Travis Dowling said the popular annual forums provide a great chance for fishers and their families to pick up new information, while building relationships with a local club and sharing ideas to make fishing even better.

Each forum will highlight how the VFA is reinvesting recreational fishing licence

fees locally, and details on the Victorian Government’s \$96 million Go Fishing and Boating plan to improve fishing, boating, piers and aquaculture.

“We always look forward to catching up with locals, who know their waterways best, and hearing what matters most to them,” Mr Dowling said.

Ten Million Fish
“We’ve just stocked 10 million fish again, more than all other states and territories combined, we’ve removed commercial nets from Port Phillip and the Gippsland Lakes and we’ve made it free to launch and park at all of Victoria’s public boat ramps. “On top of that we’re tripling the size of our Arcadia hatchery and undertaking fascinating monitoring of much-loved recreational species like black bream, snapper, King George whiting and Murray cod – so there’s plenty to discuss.

“The forums are also a great chance to ask our experts those burning questions and settle any longstanding debates with mates.”

Held on weeknights in August and September between 7 and 9 p.m., the forums will open with expert presentations from VFA staff, followed by audience questions and discussion.

First Forum
The first of the forums will be hosted at Werribee on Tuesday, August 5, followed by others at Frankston, Casterton, Warrnambool, Mount Beauty, Nathalia, Mildura, Bendigo, Preston, Loch Sport and Marlo.

Presentation topics will include Victoria’s record-breaking fish stocking program, Gippsland’s estuarine fisheries, the science behind offshore species, and the VFA’s efforts to bring back iconic native species such as Macquarie perch, trout cod, blackfish and catfish.

Each forum will also include information about how the VFA’s Better Boating division is progressing the state’s biggest ever boat ramp construction program.

The fishing forums are free, with no registration required. Find out more at www.vfa.vic.gov.au/localforums

Mallee Machinery Field Days Begin Tomorrow

(From Hayley Scott)

For those of you I haven’t had the opportunity to meet, I’d like to introduce myself as the new Group Marketing Manager for the Haeusler Group.

Most of you are likely already aware, Haeusler’s is Northwest Victoria’s John Deere machinery dealer, supporting local producers through our dealerships in Mildura, Sea Lake, Echuca, Shepparton and Robinvale. Looking forward to building connections with you all over the coming weeks and months.

Highlights
I’m getting in touch to share our exciting plans for the Mallee Machinery Field Days this week. The highlights are:

- John Deere’s new 9RX Tractors will be revealed to Victorian farmers for the first time at the Haeusler’s stand.
- The grand unveiling of the John Deere 9RX 830 Tractor will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 6, at the Haeusler’s stand.
- The 9RX Series has only recently arrived in Australia and Haeusler’s is proud to provide Victorian farmers with their first chance to see this super intelligent, high-horsepower, precision agriculture tractor up close.
- The John Deere 9RX tractor is the headline attraction at Haeusler’s technology themed interactive display.

• Through a touch screen TV, visitors will be able to engage with live John Deere Operations Centre and Connected Support demonstrations.

• There will also be a farming simulator game, a John Deere HarvestLab display, ExactApply spraying display, Precision Essentials technology package and brand new JDLink Boost module on display.

• Visitors can take advantage of our John Deere Parts OnSite offering, a program designed to keep frequently used parts readily available at a customer’s location to minimise downtime.

Supercar Driver
Adding to the excitement of Haeusler’s high-powered high-tech display will be V8 Supercar driver Jack Perkins, who will be on-site for two days with his V8 Commodore – a great opportunity for motorsport fans to meet the man behind the wheel, enjoy a walkaround of his car and take home an autographed poster. There will be two walkaround sessions – 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday 6th and 10.00 a.m. Thursday 7th August.
Visitors can go into the draw to win Hot Laps with

Jack just by answering a simple tech-related question when visiting the Haeusler’s site.
The promotions keep coming with a bonus gift bag filled with John Deere merchandise valued at \$40 for anyone who spends more than \$100 on toys or merchandise.
If you can’t make it to Speed, we’ll be recording four podcast episodes while we’re there, focusing on our long connection to the Mallee Machinery Field Days, our digital technology partners, the 9RX 830 Tractor and women in ag.

MICHAELS OF DONALD

bring you

Belvedere

By George Crenshaw
www.belvedere-cartoons.com

“Yes, I asked Belvedere to spread the fertiliser. Why?”

“Times” Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8187 - SOLUTIONS

Across - 1, Cucumber. 6, Move. 8, Bulk. 9, Belittle. 10, Slump. 11, Vernal. 13, Bottle. 15, Nickel. 17, Humane. 19, Match. 22, Belgrade. 23, Item. 24, Star. 25, Espresso.

Down - 2, Usual. 3, Unkempt. 4, Baby. 5, Relevant. 6, Motor. 7, Village. 12, Renegade. 14, Opulent. 16, Cyanide. 18, Anger. 20, Chess. 21, Seep.



• 9RX 830 Tractor with C850T Air Commodity Cart 62966.



• John Deer JD Link Boost.

Jenny's Creativity Shines

The Charlton Courthouse Gallery was filled with warmth and colour on Sunday, August 3, as visitors gathered for the official opening of “Retrospective”, an exhibition celebrating the remarkable artistic journey of local creative, Jenny Pollard.

Jenny's vast catalogue of work, spanning back to her student days, was on full display – a rich mix of caricatures, cartoons, paintings, life drawings, and delicate embroidery.

Gallery chairperson, Win Scott, officially opened the exhibition before an appreciative crowd. Jenny, in turn, shared her reflections on her artistic life, thanked everyone for attending and thanked the gallery committee for giving her the opportunity to showcase her work. When asked about the recurrent subject of emus in her work, Jenny explained, “My family farmed emus, so I had the rare opportunity to study them up close and capture their character in my work.”

This quirky link is just one example of the playful humour that shines through in much of her work.

Guests remarked on the impressive breadth of mediums on display, admiring the wide-ranging subjects, noting how Jenny moves effortlessly between humour, observation, and heartfelt expression.

Adding a special touch to the afternoon, friends Dana Czarski on piano and Eleanor

Healy on electric bass, performed “Just the Way You Are” in Jenny's honour. Light refreshments followed, with guests lingering to enjoy the art and each other's company.

“Retrospective” is open for the next two weekends from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – a perfect opportunity to experience Jenny's creativity and charm for yourself.



• Jenny Pollard (left) with Gallery Chairperson, Win Scott.



• Jenny pictured with her painting – a commission for the former Wycheproof Shire (on loan).



• Visitors enjoying the exhibition.



• Jenny discussing her work with Chris Wyatt and Jackie Noonan.

At BCG Chair's Breakfast... RB Sellars CEO to Share Lessons in Leadership

From growing up on his family's farm at Euroa to leading one of Australia's most recognisable rural clothing brands, Jim Gall knows firsthand that success in agriculture isn't just about what we produce – it's about how we lead, adapt, and tell our story.

Watching his dad diversify into many niche markets, such as chickens and garlic, taught Jim “if you make it, you need to sell it,” a lesson that sparked a career that has taken him from working on-farm to building brands, leading creative agencies, and now steering iconic rural clothing company RB Sellars.

On Thursday, August 21, starting at 8 a.m., Jim will share his story as keynote speaker at BCG's annual Chair's Breakfast in Birchip.

From growing prime lamb for local butchers to running a national brand, Jim has seen firsthand the power of knowing your customer, telling an authentic story, and aligning your team around a shared purpose. He believes that no one is better placed to tell agriculture's story than farmers themselves, and in today's digital world, consumers actively seek out brands and producers whose values and origins they understand.

Practical Ideas

Beyond marketing, Jim will share practical ideas on building resilient businesses, drawing on his experience leading teams through growth and change. He will explore the value of what he calls “radical candour”, creating psychological safety for teams to deliver and receive honest feedback that accelerates growth.

He will also speak on the importance of stepping back from day-to-day demands to lead strategically, think generationally, and strengthen businesses: How do we lead better? How do we keep our teams engaged? And how do we keep telling our story, especially when conditions test us?

Renewed Optimism

“Recent rainfall, around 30mm across the region, has renewed optimism for many, but as every grower knows, challenges still lie ahead,” says BCG Chairman, John



• Jim Gall.

Ferrier. “That's why Jim's message feels so timely – true sustainability isn't just environmental, but about building businesses, teams and cultures that can keep adapting and thriving for generations to come.”

The Chair's Breakfast invites growers, advisers and community members to pause and reflect on the bigger questions that strengthen our businesses. How do we tell our story? How do we build cultures that retain great people? And how do we keep evolving in a changing world?

The Chair's Breakfast is a free event and registration on the BCG website is essential. For more information or to register please visit bcg.org.au.



Charlton 100 Years Ago



• Presbyterian Hall and Church c1980s.

(Information from “East Charlton Tribune”)

July 18 to 22, 1925.

Friendly Rivalry: The Presbyterian Hall was the scene of an interesting miniature rifle contest between teams representing the Charlton Branch A.N.A. & Tent Austral I.O.R. The shooters numbered 13 a side, the best 8 in each team to count. Mr A. C. Dabron returned the best individual score. The total for A.N.A. was 326 and for I.O.R. 322.

Dainty Dresses at the Band Ball: Never in the history of the band has the town got behind the organisation as it has done this year. The Victoria Hall was decorated with wedding bells and vari-coloured streamers. From start to finish the floor was thronged. The ball should clear over £40. The preparation of the floor included the use of candle grease and “elbow grease”. The music fitted into the scheme of things perfectly. The supper was on an elaborate scale and included fruit salads, trifles, jellies, sausage rolls, ham and tongue sandwiches, cream lilies and puffs and devilled almonds. A feature of the ball was the number of beautiful dresses worn eg. Miss M. Bennett – flame charmeuse, with handmade flowers, and cabochon at waist.

Jeffcott: A meeting of the local Football Club took place at the North School. Mr R. Clements being in the chair. The chief topic concerned the medal donated to the club by Mr R. N.

Wadsworth. After lengthy discussion it was resolved to award it to the best player for the season, the honour to be decided at the end of the campaign by a vote of the members of the club. Voting tickets will shortly be distributed by Messrs J. Brennan and R. Clements.

Wooroonook: The Secretary of the Wycheproof Hospital notified that Mr M. Mulquiny, of Wooroonook had forwarded him a cheque for £13 13/6, being money collected for the upkeep of the institution. The list of subscribers is as follows: £1 1/- each: Messrs Jas Nolan, Wm Wright, M. Mulquiny, Arthur Lynas, E. P. Tormey. £1 each: Messrs F. McLoughlan, Gretgrix Bros, Geo Wright, W. O’Brien Sen. 11/-: Mr W. Thomas. 10/-: Messrs Jas Lane, P. McKenna, Jas McKenna, W. J. O’Brien, Jas O’Brien and John Bourke.

Willing Workers: When the members of the Presbyterian Church Board of Management met recently, it was resolved to have a working bee, to carry out the repainting of the Presbyterian Hall. This was held and the working bee numbered about 16 – one of the largest and best in connection with the Church for many years. Some who were not able to be present sent donations. The first coat of paint was applied; and the good work will go on. An excellent afternoon tea was provided by Mrs Biender, to whom a hearty vote of thanks (with three cheers) was passed.

Buckrabanyule: At a final meeting of the Buckrabanyule Sports Committee the balance sheet was read. This revealed a nett profit of £179 11/-. The following were successful in winning the various competitions: Bread fork, Mr W. Ryan; table centre, Mr M. Schier; cushion, Mr W. Keating; cushion, Miss Essie Douglass; shadow cushion, Mr C. Bird; pipe, Mr W. Mitchell; turkey gobbler, Mr C. D. Grose; turkey hen, Mr D. Smale; pig, Mr John Sheehan; duck, Mr J. T. Hurley; gate, Mr T. Whittaker; bridle, Mr D. Pretty; case of soft drinks, Mr H. H. Crawford.

Traffic Signals: The necessity of drivers of all classes of vehicles giving correct traffic signals is becoming more urgent every day. A device invented by an Irishman consists of a white hand carried some 12 inches from the off side of the body of the car by a strong steel arm. By means of a cable, the hand can be pointed in any required direction either forward, to the right, to the left, vertically upwards, or even straight backwards. For night use the hand is illuminated by a small, conveniently located electric bulb, which is lighted from the car batteries.

COMMUNITY UPDATE Buloke.

TOURISM IN ACTION

Councillors recently community representatives at the 2025 Buloke Tourism Board AGM, held at the Culgoa Hall. The event was a great opportunity to reflect on the past year’s achievements and collaborative tourism efforts across the Shire.

Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism also shared exciting updates on regional projects and their work promoting Buloke as a must-visit destination. The Buloke Tourism Board continues to play a vital role in connecting our towns, businesses and

organisations to grow local tourism and highlight the incredible experiences across our region.



HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN

Over 25 passionate community members, health providers, and emergency services came together in Wycheproof to help shape Buloke’s new Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. This standalone Plan will focus solely on improving the health and wellbeing of our community. It is a vital step under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008. A draft will be available for public feedback in September.

NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PLANNING PERMIT

The land affected by the application is located at **Saits Road, Charlton VIC 3525**.

The application is for a permit for the **two lot subdivision of land (realignment of common boundary)**.

The application reference number is **PA25021**.

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

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

An objection must be made to the Responsible Authority in writing, include the objectors name and contact details, include reasons for the objection, and state how the objector would be affected. An online submission form is available at <https://www.buloke.vic.gov.au/planning-applications-on-exhibition>.

The Responsible Authority will not decide on the application before **21 August 2025**.

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

SEA LAKE ASTROFEST 2025

The Astronomical Society of Victoria is excited to announce the return of Sea Lake AstroFest for 2025!

Held over the AFL Grand Final Long Weekend, this one-of-a-kind festival brings a weekend of stargazing, science, and astrophotography to the stunning dark skies near Lake Tyrrell in north-western Victoria.

Across the weekend, you’ll enjoy a packed program of astronomy activities, engaging talks, and hands-on experiences led by ASV volunteers.

Safely observe the Sun through specialised solar telescopes during the day, then explore the night sky through our large telescopes after dark.

Event Highlights Include:

- Day and night telescope viewing sessions
- Astrophotography training sessions (sunset imaging and night-sky imaging at Lake Tyrrell)
- Q&A dinner event with guest speakers
- Pub quiz night
- Astronomy presentations for all levels of experience

Whether you’re picking up a telescope for the first time or looking to improve your astrophotography skills, Sea Lake AstroFest 2025 offers something for everyone under some of the darkest skies in the state. To book visit: <https://asv.org.au/SeaLake2025>

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

Please be advised that Baileys Road, leading to the Upper Car Park toilets and viewing platform at Lake Tyrrell, will be temporarily closed from: Midday Friday, 26 September to midnight Saturday, 27 September.

This closure supports the safe operation of Sea Lake AstroFest 2025, hosted by the Astronomical Society of Victoria. Attendees can park in the designated car park near the toilets and walk along the footpath to the viewing area.



BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL

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• Part of the large group that attended the first session.

For People of All Abilities: Table Tennis at Donald School

[From Mallee Sports Assembly]

Once again, the Donald Primary School has provided its great stadium for another physical activity program for people of all abilities.

We thank them for their continued support for inclusive sport and recreation. This time, table tennis was on the “menu”. Rhonda Allan, of the Mallee Sports Assembly, also contacted the Donald High School where the students once again assisted the participants, mainly from McCallum Day Services (St Arnaud) and Woodbine (Warracknabeal) with the skill of playing table tennis. Teacher Anthony Tatchell accompanied his

students, Hunter Wingfield, Judd Geddes, Asha Roberts, Ben Krause, Ethan Clapham, Charlotte Bickett and Lita Riley-Read, and we thank them all for their great enthusiasm and involvement.

Rhonda thanked everyone for the support and looks forward to the upcoming sessions. Thirty-two people attended on the first day which included a variety of skill levels. It doesn’t matter

how good you are, it’s all about being active. This is an initiative of the Access for All Abilities program funded by Sport & Recreation Victoria. Once again thank you to the staff of both the day services for their encouragement to their participants to increase physical activity participation. It is not only good for one’s health and physical condition, but also great for social interaction and improved well-being.



• Donald High School student Judd Geddes (centre) leading the warmup drills before the games started.

Thoughts on Organ Donor Week

(From Alison McEwen)

To be a donor of one’s organs is not something very prevalent in most of our minds. And yet if you are on a waiting list for one, it is very foremost in your thinking.

To promote the concept of being an Organ Donor, the Donald Learning Group hosted a Morning Tea, last Wednesday, 30th July. It was Organ Donor Week. The four speakers enlightened the group gathered to hear what is involved in being an organ donor.

Ambulance Victoria was represented by Elliot Walton. He was reassuring that everyone is resuscitated. Every attempt is made to resuscitate a patient. If it is believed that the patient may not respond, resuscitation and life support have the important value of enabling the family of the patient to be able to be present to say good-bye. However, resuscitation is very dramatic on the person and so Elliot encouraged older persons to talk to their GP on whether they wish to be resuscitated or not. This decision is recorded and becomes known as NFR – Not For Resuscitation. It is important to have the conversation with the family, stating what you prefer and whether you have registered as an

organ donor. Elliot encouraged each person to register as an organ and tissue donor and no one is too old to register. It doesn’t matter how old you are, your medical history, your lifestyle, what country you’re from or how healthy you are – you can still register as an organ and tissue donor. The group was told of one 90-year old deceased lady who was able to donate one of her eyes.

Decision

Anne Maree Wright shared that she and her family were able to decide to donate her husband, Greg’s organs. Greg died of an aneurysm in the brain. There was time – a number of hours on life support to enable the family to decide whether the person’s organs and tissues would or not be donated. It takes time to match compatibility of the donor with the recipient. Anne Marie shared that six people received organs that Greg was able to donate. Six people from 17 to 74 years old with renewed life. She received thank you letters from five.

One, 30 year old man received both lungs and had 10 more years of good quality of life. He was a father of 4 and so the children were able to grow, knowing their father. The question was asked, “After the donations, was it possible to have ‘a viewing of the person’ at the time of the funeral?” The answer was, “of course”. The donor person is treated with the utmost dignity and respect, as is the recipient.

Each year a thanksgiving service is held in Melbourne where the donors’ families and the recipients are able to gather and be thankful for the people who gave their organs and for the renewed lives of those who received the organs.

Yearly Test

David Thomas spoke of his life on the waiting list for a donor kidney and on dialysis in the meanwhile. His message to everyone is to have a yearly blood and urine test. The fact is that one kidney can lose 90% of its function and there be no

symptoms. David spoke of being called twice to come to Melbourne – a kidney was available – only to receive a phone call to say that the donor organ was not suitable, or was diseased. The operating surgeon has the final say. One kidney was flown from Perth! David has been on the waiting list for three years. He also spoke of people donating a healthy kidney as it is possible to live with one kidney. A family member or friend or someone not known to the recipient can decide to donate. It is called “pairing”. Although dialysis – cleaning of the toxins from the blood stream – enables the patient to live a better life, it is very limiting as it requires the procedure to be done 3 times a week for 4 hours at a time. It is a very physically and mentally draining procedure.

Blood Pressure

Margaret Arnold spoke of her daughter-in-law, Lisa, being diagnosed with a lung condition described in layman’s terms as high blood pressure in the lungs. This was at the time of her pregnancy. Lisa was on the waiting list for 4 and half years. She had her lung transplant in 2007. Overnight Lisa’s colour turned from yellow to pink.

Lisa had good quality of life for 17 months, but unfortunately was diagnosed with pneumonia and died. Margaret spoke of the wonderful community spirit with the fundraising and support that assisted Lisa and Shane.

Margaret encouraged everyone to register as an organ and tissue donor. One 40-year-old man received a kidney and lived to 80 years. Anne Maree advised that we need to check our registration as the change over from Vic-

Roads receiving the registrations to Medicare seems to have caused the loss of registered names as she had to re-register and has received her card. Amazingly, having heard this on the Wednesday and thinking we must check our registration, Ian and I received our new cards the next day, on the Thursday! How did that happen?

The message is: Please register as an organ and tissue donor and give life to someone else.

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Victorian Students Top NAPLAN Class

Victorian students have achieved their strongest NAPLAN results ever, leading the nation and proving Victoria truly is the Education State.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, Ben Carroll, this week announced that Victorian students are top of the class – ranking first or second in 18 of 20 measures and significantly improving on 2024 results.

Victorian students are smashing records with an average of 70 per cent falling in the “strong” or “exceeding” bands, while all age groups ranked first or second in all 10 domains.

In the Education State high performing students are supported to further excel, and this year more students reached the two highest bands.

Thanks to our hardworking teachers and education support staff, the 2025 results

also show that fewer students are needing additional support – with less students in the bottom band than in 2024 on 16 of 20 measures.

Victoria achieved its highest NAPLAN participation rate since 2008, with 96.6 per cent of students completing at least one assessment in 2025.

These outcomes are a testament to the rollout of key reforms by the Victorian Government – including the introduction of mandatory phonics and the grade 1 phonics check in government primary schools. The statewide government school rollout of explicit teaching will further strengthen student learning.

The Government is also funding the essentials so that

no student misses out with free school dental checkups, free glasses and vision checks for young students and free school breakfasts.

While celebrating these excellent results, work continues in lifting outcomes for disadvantaged students and to close the attainment gap for First Nations students – the Government is rolling out targeted programs including the \$18.5 million Koorie Literacy and Numeracy Program.

The Government has invested more than \$38 billion to support student learning, health and wellbeing and our school workforce – to ensure every Victorian student has access to a world-class education in the Education State.

VNI West Blowouts Means... “Rewiring the Nation” Plan Must Be Dumped

Mallee residents – both energy customers and farmers alike – should be protected by Labor dumping its “Rewiring the Nation” plans, Member for Mallee Dr Anne Webster said at the weekend after the latest massive blowout in the cost of the Victoria-New South Wales Interconnector – West (VNI-West) transmission project.

“The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) released a report late this week indicating VNI-West could cost up to \$11.4 billion, a huge increase on the \$3.6 billion in the 2024 grid blueprint,” Dr Webster said.

“Labor’s radical rewiring plans are now an evident failure after VNI West recently also pushed back its completion date by two years.

“No matter what spin and diversion Energy Minister Chris Bowen tries in Question Time, such as citing wholesale not retail, i.e. household energy prices, power prices are going up and will keep climbing rapidly if the Albanese Government backs the Allan Victorian Labor Government’s aggressive push to build VNI-West, come hell or high water.”

Victorian Energy Police Centre director Bruce Mountain told “The Australian” VNI-West’s cost revisions could increase power bills for households by at least 50 per cent, and for large customers between 2.5 to 3.5 times current levels.

Fines

The Allan Government’s National Electricity (Victoria) Amendment (VicGrid Stage 2 Reform) Bill 2025, carrying fines of over \$12,000 for farmers who lock their gate to

the government’s Transmission Company Victoria obstructing construction of VNI-West, passed Victoria’s House of Assembly last night and is now before the Legislative Council.

Protest

A thousand farmers and Melbourne residents protested on the steps of Parliament House on Spring Street, Melbourne, against the draconian measures in the Bill, following previous protests against the Allan Government’s new farm land tax, called an ‘Emergency Services Volunteer Fund’ Levy.

“I am so proud of Mallee farmers and their supporters in Wimmera, Grampians and other regions – and now in the city – who are joining my fight to make their voices heard in Melbourne,” Dr Webster said.

“Sadly we have to fight Labor’s condescending attitude to regional Australia on two fronts, in Canberra and in Melbourne, but the message is getting through – not only for the sake of our farmers and food security, but for the affordability of electricity, which impacts everyone.

Still Processing

“I’m still processing the 5,000+ Mallee’s Biggest Survey responses and well over 50 per cent so far have said they prefer affordability as a



• Anne Webster.

priority in our energy grid, ahead of reliability and reducing emissions at less than 9 per cent.” (Mallee’s Biggest Survey responses can still be posted in or entered at www.annewebster.com.au)

Origin Energy chief executive Frank Calabria said on Wednesday that transmission and distribution costs make up about 40 per cent of household power bills.

VNI West still faces energy regulator approval, where it must demonstrate a net benefit to consumers.

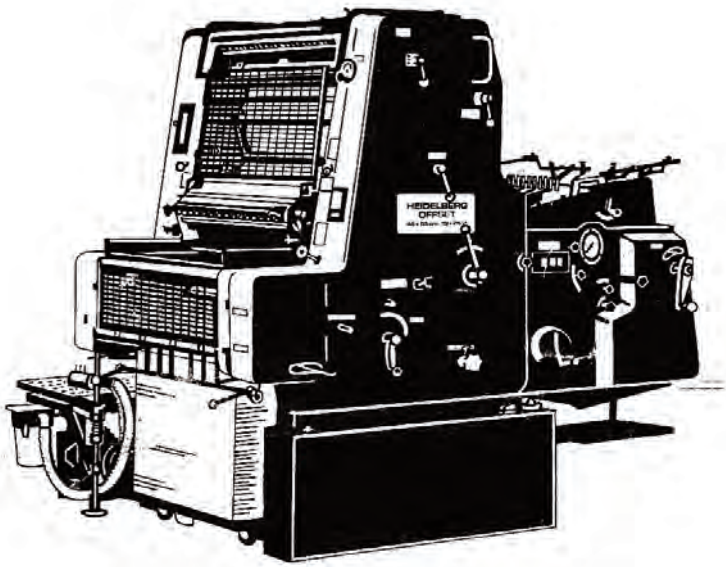
While VNI West comprises 240 kilometres of 500 kilovolt transmission lines from Bulgana to Kerang – entirely within the Mallee electorate – Labor’s “Rewiring the Nation” plans require 28,000 kilometres of transmission lines to be built across the nation in pursuit of “net zero” emissions by 2050.

The Buloke Times

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John Speaks To Probian

Guest speaker at Donald Combined Probus Club’s meeting for its August meeting was John Stuchbery who spoke on his recent trip to South America.

The itinerary was planned by John’s wife Carol, who accompanied him, and mainly included Argentina.

Travelling by bikes, they saw some lovely views of the countryside, including mountains and the Pacific Ocean. They travelled on good roads and enjoyed a fishing trip, a ferry ride, also a rodeo. They had a variety of campsites and were away for most of March.



• John Stuchbery, speaker at the August meeting for the Donald Combined Probus Club.

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,
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Grants to Back the Heart of Agriculture

Victorian agricultural and pastoral societies will receive greater support from the State Government to upgrade infrastructure and participate in regional shows.

Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes encourages applications for this year's Agricultural and Pastoral Society Grants Program, helping organisations with projects that encourage community involvement and promote Victoria's rich agriculture industry.

The grants provide successful applicants with up to \$10,000 to support infrastructure development and upgrades to celebrate Victoria's agricultural communities, industries and produce.

The grants can be used to upgrade or establish new facilities, enhance public amenities, improve essential infrastructure, improve business management activities, biosecurity planning and promote reporting of livestock movements.

Shared Interest
Agricultural and Pastoral Societies are community

groups with a shared interest in agriculture, horticulture or livestock.

These groups can be found across rural and regional areas, dedicating their time to a wide range of roles in their communities, such as hosting events and fundraisers to support local priorities and agricultural activities.

With over 100 societies across the state, the grant program plays a significant role in regional Victoria's vibrant calendar of events – building community spirit by celebrating agriculture in a fun, entertaining, educational and inclusive environment.

Applications for the latest round of grants close September 12, 2025.

For more information or to apply, please visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/funds-grants-programs/agricultural-and-pastoral-society-grants



• Jaclyn Symes.

Challenging Times

"Agricultural shows and events are an integral part of rural communities, especially during challenging times such as drought, allowing communities to come together," said Minister for Agriculture, Ros Spence.

"Events are also often used to support services and dedicated drought initiatives, as well as raising awareness on work that's being done to support communities."

Grants to Support and Connect Carers

The Victorian Government is backing grassroots initiatives that support unpaid carers – with grants available for projects that boost social connections and open up work and study opportunities.

Member for Northern Victoria, Jaclyn Symes, encourages applications for the 2025 Connecting Carers in their Community program, with more than \$760,000 in funding available.

Delivered in partnership with Carers Victoria and the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO), the program offers grants of up to \$25,000 for small organisations, First Nations-led groups and community organisations.

More than 700,000 unpaid carers across Victoria provide vital care to family, friends and others, sometimes leaving little time to focus on their own health, connect with their

community or pursue education and employment.

Last year's program supported more than 40 projects across the state, including Albury Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council, which established a carer support group for the multicultural community that involves ongoing support, regular connections, reduction of social isolation, and upskill awareness sessions.

Carer support groups, community health services, councils, neighbourhood houses and other grassroots organisations are encouraged to apply, especially those supporting carers in regional and rural areas.



• Jaclyn Symes.

Applications are open until August 18. For more information or to apply, visit carersvictoria.org.au or vaccho.org.au.



• Andrew Kane (left) accepts his win from Charlton Captain Clinton Olive.

Charlton Golf Tournament

Exactly 100 golfers turned out for the four ball event on Friday, August 1.

The players were blessed with sunshine, blue skies and green grass over the 4-day tournament.

The 50 pair were competing in 2 divisions with the results as follows: Division 1 winners: Byron Bird/ Robbie Tonkin 44 points survived a countback from runners-up Steve and Warren McGurk, also on 44 points.

Division 2 winners: Peter Sanderson/Ron Weston 44 points were 1 point clear of runners up Benno Catherine/Piston Clydesdale 43 points.

Nearest the pins: 2nd Keith Bird, 7th Sam Newth, 14th David Landon. Best 2nd shot on 17th Keith Lewis; sponsor, Vale of Avoca.

Longest drive, Steve McGurk; sponsor, Charlton Newsagency.

Winners of the Peter Tindley/Newton Turner perpetual shield were Tim Kelly/Paul

Crannage with 40 points on countback from Wayne Townsing/Robert Rosenow also 40 points.

Saturday

Men's Day results: 64 players.

Div. 1 30 hole scratch: Andrew Kane 51-74-125 Div. 2 30 hole scratch: Jamey Soulsby 55-91-146, Div. 1 30 hole hcp Robert Rosenow 44 1/3-70-114 1/3.

Div.2 30 hole hcp Brett Smyth 48 2/3 -70-118 2/3, Div 1 18 hole scratch Steve Valentine 73, Div 2 18 hole scratch Tony Holt 88, cb Trevor McGurk 88; Div 1 18-hole hcp Graham Nesbit, 65 net Div 2 18 hole hcp Trevor McGurk 70 nett, Div 1 12 hole scratch Jon Curnick 49, Div 2 12 hole scratch John Headon 55, Div 1 12 hole hcp Owen Bailey 47 nett, Div 2 12-hole hcp Benno Catherine 46 nett, NTP 2nd S.One, 7th D.Lanyon, 14th B.Anstey,

longest drive and best 2nd shot on 17th, J.Curnick.

Dr Geoffrey Wilson trophy: Charlton vs Kew, won by Robert Rosenow 114 1/3

Sunday

Ambrose results 22 pair entered.

Winners: Mary Headon/ Peter Whitmore 62 1/2, runners up: Wendy and Anthony Hargreaves 64 1/4.

NTP: 2nd K.Bird, 7th C. McNaughton, 14th W.Hargreaves. Best 2nd shot on 17: P.Noonan/K.Laffin.

The success of the tournament was supported by our valuable sponsors and club members in the preparation of the course. The next major event is on the weekend of August 23 & 24 where Charlton will host the Victorian sand green championship. An influx of visitors from all parts of the State will put a spotlight on Charlton bringing benefits to the town.



• Captain Clinton Olive presents president Jamey Soulsby (right) with the Division 2 win.

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Bulls Steamroll the Saints:

Birchip-Watchem’s brilliant undefeated season continued apace on the wide expanses of St Arnaud’s Lord Nelson Park.

Under glorious winter sunshine local crops were starting to burst away after magnificent season saving rain the weekend before, just as the Bulls did out on the park, putting the torch to the Saints with a scintillating 11 goal first quarter. Purring are the Bulls as they roll towards September.

The day, however, was much about their big forward, Ben Edwards. He capped a remarkable goal kicking season to hit the magical 100, equalling the fastest 100 kicked in North Central history in just 14 games (13 and a half to be technical), with 15 goals for the day if you don’t mind, 10 of them in a brilliant first half effort with the 100 up just before half-time as he gobbled up the neat pass from youngster Austin Dean and cool as a cat, slotted the 35-metre angle set shot.

Take a bow Big Ben, becoming only the fourteenth player in North Central history to have shot 100 in a home and away season (Edwards achieved the 100 mark in 2024 during the finals series), yes that’s only the fourteenth in history, rarefied air is the 100 Club and even more so now with flooding defenders and seven up defences often played. Emphasising the point further is that Edwards’s 100 is almost 20 years since last achieved by the mercurial Mark Perryman of Boort way back in 2008. Goes without saying that he’s had a tremendous year in front of the big sticks.

Poor Max Hungerford, no slouch either, commenced with the task to curtail Edwards and for a while had his measure, for the Bulls had 3 goals on the board before the Benny show took over and once it did, wow, bang, bang, bang before a clever Nick Rippon roved off Edwards’s hands, (who else?) interrupted the sequence and then again bang, bang with another just before half-time. Six to open proceedings, business he

meant, his Mum and partner Abbie had travelled the long road from Adelaide in expectation, and he was going to make their drive worthwhile. Just four to go with three quarters to get it done. And with a 10-goal wide margin already that’s where the crowd interest was focused. Former Bull Cliff Ryan’s fastest league one hundred under threat, though fair to say Cliff had more far more shots on goal to get his hundred; wonderful player but he could spray them.

Whilst the Saints were being clinically torn apart by rapid ball movement one who was doing his utmost to stop the momentum was unheralded big man Simon Elliot up against Bulls monster Hamish Hosking, Elliot giving away inches but just prepared to shoulder in to the contest and go pound for pound against the big man, Hosking not getting things all his own way. However, the fleet footed Bulls mids, particularly Nick Rippon and Daniel Bell, were able to win the contested ball once it hit the ground regularly and pump it forward.

A clever intercept mark by Rhona Conboy across half-forward and a hop, step and jump around a couple of Saints then goal showcased what this tough high marking forward can do, (it’s not just the Benny show on display), before Edwards stepped up to the plate again with two in a row, the Bulls powering away, 14 goals the margin and only halfway through the second quarter. Getting ugly was the scoreboard, but the Saints plugged away, their mids stepped up, Jay Kirwood with a flash of blond locks hard to miss around the stoppages, Darby Schilder a power built tall midfielder also under notice getting active as they needed to for it was the Bulls mids that were pumping ball inwards, for Edwards and Co to reap the rewards.

Zac Phillips was able to get on the end of some good

work by the Saints mids and rewarded the harder work with a goal.

It wasn’t that the Saints weren’t trying, just a gulf between the high end talent of both sides. Really pleasing for both sides was the form and willingness of their respective younger group of players, the Bulls four eighteen-year-olds in Austin Dean, Charlie Frank, Harry Cook and Riley Hogan Jr shining, Cook and Dean’s pace from out on the wing providing drive and energy, a rundown tackle from afar by Cook reminiscent of a leopard stealthing its prey, out of nowhere and then gotcha, Hogan’s gutsy efforts in and under as well as forward pressure on the ball carrier, Frank cool under pressure. Likewise for the Saints’ young Sam Male off half back or a wing cool under pressure, smart at the fall of the ball, Owen Lowe who showed plenty last year as an under-age continues to develop into a class player right in amongst the midfield action, and there’s no better opposition in the league than the Bulls’ elite group to go up against, Jackson Needs down back in amongst the contested pack marks with plenty of skill belying his young years, Austin Lowe thrown in at centre half-back just kept throwing himself into the fray. Lots to like.

Edwards’s third for the quarter at the 20-minute mark bought him ever so close, just get it done lad, the Bulls young supporters had gathered behind the goal to help celebrate and then at the 23 minute mark Dean won the ball across half forward, burst through and hit up the fast lead of Edwards. Thirty-five out, slight angle, not a breath of wind but the mind to deal with, Edwards nonchalantly heads in and slots the shot, in front of Mum and Abbie parked on the fence, kids out onto the ground, momentous, swamped by his teammates. Bulls out by 90 points, just



• Ben Edwards, celebrating his 100th goal with some of his greatest supporters.

prepared to run, spread and pepper the forward arc. Impressive. Contest effectively over.

Except the Saints kept plugging away, so easy to not continue to have a crack when getting slammed but have a crack they did. Bailey Durward down back to assist his brother stem Edwards found plenty as the ball hit the deck, Austin Lowe continued to contest the marking contests as the ball continued to rain in, Hungerford without Edwards as his direct opponent able to be second up at the contest and cause the ball to hit the ground, the ball constantly in the Bulls’ forward arc, scoring continued but shared around as the Saints attention turned to contain Edwards.

With focus on Edwards, Tom Gibson was able to revel, dancing around half-forward, sure hands and amongst the goals, his first of the quarter bought up his fourth, Conboy shouldering the contests making life easier for him, young Riley Hogan rewarded for his hard work slotted a nice set shot before the hard working Kurt Torney broke the Bulls sequence, the Saints

working harder around the contests, making space and sharing the ball frustrating the Bulls. Just they couldn’t get it across their half forward line with the Bulls backs impenetrable. Captain Dale Hinkley across half-back had leather poisoning, he just kept finding the ball. How he gets in and around players a sight to behold and then able to deliver further afield, breaking the contest wide open. That he has such solid support from the likes of Ben Lakin and Angus Butterfield just allows him to get off the chain and into attack mode.

And then Edwards entered the fray again, quiet on the goal front for fifteen minutes, better get back to action and righted the order with three more if you don’t mind, doing it every way, plucking them out of the air, off the ground, hit up leads, 13 for the game, three quarters down, Allan Jackson’s league record of 18 for decades under some threat, Bulls mids still powering through, Rippon the little brother leading the way, Bell up and about, Cook and Dean continuing to shine, Hicks and Hosking relishing the contest against one another, despite the wide margin

still entertaining, especially on such a glorious day. Even stalwart Brett Douglas had found his way out from the bar on the hill, that stool not part of his anatomy after all, word must have got around that the Birchip Nutrien man was poking around looking at some crops in his St Arnaud patch, better up the game, Dougo. The hills of Sutherland looked rather enticing to Rick.

With the match well and truly cooked as a contest most interest lay in whether Edwards could achieve the impossible and nab a long held league record but alas wasn’t to be, Durward continued to harass, Hungerford there to assist making life difficult and the foot came off the Bulls pedal but in fairness it would have been difficult to maintain the rampant relentless pressure they had been displaying throughout. Bulls home by a massive 183 points.

The Bulls’ march towards September glory which has been somewhat elusive for them despite their long held top end positioning throughout the last 20 years continues apace, they have two weeks of

• Continued on page 13.



• Players and supporters join in the celebrations.



• Ben Edwards celebrating his 100th goal.

Edwards 15 Goals, 100 Up

• Continued from page 12.

fine tuning, some key players to come back in and the real action can't start soon enough. Coach Connick has them purring and his playing group have really bought in to his methodology, players around the contest, win it and then spread. Helps that he has such mouth watering high end talent right across the park, not often one sees a combination of Hosking and Rippon lining up in bush footy.

The Saints have endured another long year, but with some good kids amongst their group in the Lowe brothers, Needs, Luke Jackson and the Male boys, there's definitely light at the end of the tunnel, they've just got to recruit some genuine A-graders in the key spots Schilder, Kirwood and Bridger, a solid marking forward, are all good additions in 2025 but they've got to add some more. Raising \$70,000 at their recent goods and services auctions suggests that the club is getting into a good spot. Get off that stool Dougo, and get back amongst it.

The day, however, was all about Edwards's wonderful 100, as it should be, moments like these deservedly should be celebrated. The personal glory done with, the Bulls focus now all about September. Final scores: Birchip-Watchem 33.11 (209) def St Arnaud 4.2 (26)

Best players: Birchip-Watchem; Ben Edwards, Tom Gibson, Nick Rippon, Dale Hinkley, Daniel Bell, Harry Cook
St Arnaud; Bailey Durward, Simon Elliot, Jay Kirwood, Thomas Bertalli, Sam Male, Lucas Bridger.



• Thomas Bertalli gets the handball out as he is tackled by Nick Rippon.



• Zac Phillips grabs hold of Birchip-Watchem's Ben Lakin.

Call for Fairer ESVF Levy

Northern Grampians Shire Council will continue to advocate for a fairer way to fund emergency services amid ongoing concerns about the impact the State Government's controversial new tax will have on the region's residents.

Council updates rates notices; continues to advocate for fairer ESVF levy July 31, 2025

The Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund, ESVF, levy came into effect on July 1, 2025, with local government mandated to collect the tax on behalf of the State Government despite many councils opposing it.

Northern Grampians Shire rates notices – to be delivered from mid-August – will feature a new structure this financial year to help ratepayers differentiate between council fees, including general rates and rubbish, and State Government tax.

Cr Hyslop said despite the widespread protesting of the ESVF, which replaces the Fire Services Property Levy, FSPL, ratepayers were mandated to pay it.

No Control

"It is important to understand that we don't have any control over how the money our residents pay towards their rate notices is distributed," she said.

"Legally, council is obligated to pay a portion of your rates money to the State Government. So, while the ESVF tax amount is clearly differentiated from council's general rates and kerbside collection charges on your rates notice, it isn't possible to charge the ESVF separately.

"Ratepayers would also risk falling into arrears, which council is then legally obligated to retrieve, and it will cost them more in the long run."

Cr Hyslop said under the direction of the State Government, the levy would be applied to all council rates notices; however, rebates were available for volunteers of the Country Fire Authority and Victorian State Emergency Service.

"We have also had some success with the lobbying we have done for the farming

community, which was to be hardest hit by the new levy," she said.

Levy Cap

"The government has agreed to cap the levy at the 2024/25 rate for primary production properties this financial year. It's a small win, but the concern is what happens after that."

Cr Hyslop said councillors had advocated against the introduction of the ESVF for months and would continue to push for a fairer way to fund emergency services.

"Our council has joined many others in protesting the ESVF due to our concerns about residents' capacity to pay, council's ability to collect it and the region's already-stressed economy," she said.

Several councillors attended various rallies and protests in the lead-up to the official implementation of the levy on July 1. At the June council meeting, councillors resolved to write to the Premier, outlining their concerns and asking her to 'scrap' the unjust new ESVF. They also called on the Premier to have the ESVF collected by the State Revenue Office and not be the responsibility of local government.

At the weekend, Cr Jack Blake attended a meeting with representatives of 21 other councils from across the state, organised by United Firefighters Union Victoria, in a bid to co-ordinate further opposition and joint advocacy efforts.

"We will continue to advocate for a fairer way to fund emergency services, however, councils are currently mandated to collect the ESVF," Cr Hyslop said.

"All money collected through ESVF charges will go directly to the State Revenue Office – no ESVF money will be retained by council."

Cr Hyslop said council's 2025/26 Budget included a

rate rise of three per cent, in line with the State Government's rate cap for this financial year.

She said people could visit www.ngshire.vic.gov.au/Residents/Rates-and-valuations/How-rates-are-calculated for more information about how rates were calculated.

Waste collection charges are also increasing, which will be clearly identified on rates notices.

Collection Costs

Collection costs for 2025/26 (compared with 2024/25) are as follows:

Compulsory bins (one waste and one recycling): \$480 per annum (previously \$467).

Additional waste: \$164 per annum per bin (previously \$159).

Additional recycling: \$195 per annum per bin (previously \$190).

At St. Arnaud

FOGO (Food Organics/ Garden Organics), St Arnaud residents only: \$52 per bin. Previously at no cost due to trial period, which has now ended. Council is keeping the fee below the full cost of delivering the service to support St Arnaud households during the transition period. Cr Hyslop said she understood many residents were feeling financial pressures and reminded people that council offered hardship support.

"We encourage anyone needing assistance to reach out and have a conversation with our team," she said.

"We have payment options available that can be customised depending on your individual circumstances and can also help with referrals to financial counselling services in the event you need additional support."

People can visit www.ngshire.vic.gov.au/Residents/Rates-and-valuations/Financial-hardship-assistance for more information.



• Edwards celebrates his 100th goal.



• Jay Kirwood gets the hands out towards Jackson Needs while under pressure from Sam Simmons.

North-Central Football Roundup

Goldacres Seniors

SEA LAKE NANDALY	6.9	12.15	23.16	31.19	(205)
DONALD	0.0	0. 2	0. 2	0. 2	(2)
Goals for Sea Lake Nandaly: Max Cahoon 13, Lachy McClelland 5, John Summerhayes 3, Bryce Delmenico 2, Jarvis Keogh 2, Cruz O'Sullivan 2, Jai Wright 2, Wade Donnan, Chase Tait. For Donald: Nil.					

Best for Sea Lake Nandaly: Max Cahoon, Cruz OSullivan, Bryce Delmenico, Wade Donnan, Jack Poulton, Charlie Cox. For Donald: Daniel Pearce, Charlie Campbell, Dyson Bell-Warren, Jett Adams, Harry Forrest, Ben Arho.

CALDER UNITED	6.3	10.13	16.15	21.20	(146)
CHARLTON	2.1	2. 3	4. 4	4. 6	(30)

Goals for Calder United: Jack Exell 7, Jordan Humphreys 2, Zane Keighran 2, Rylee Smith 2, George Turner 2, Daniel Watts 2, Zach Caccaviello, Mitch Farmer, Cody Green, Heath Senior. For Charlton:

Best for Calder United: Steven Kennedy, Jack Exell, George Turner, Koby Hommelhoff, Tiger Vear-ing, Zane Keighran. For Charlton: Mitchell Collins, Patrick Soulsby, Rhys Thompson, Mason Heenan, Josh Harris, Dan Whykes.

BIRCHIP-WATCHEM	11.5	17.8	21.11	33.11	(209)
ST ARNAUD	1.0	3.1	4. 1	4. 2	(26)

Goals for Birchip-Watchem: Ben Edwards 15, Tom Gibson 7, Rhona Conboy 3, Riley Hogan 2, Hamish Hosking 2, Nicholas Rippon 2, Daniel Bell, Ben Lakin. For St Arnaud: Lucas Bridger 2, Zac Phillips, Kurt Torney.

Best for Birchip-Watchem: Ben Edwards, Tom Gibson, Nicholas Rippon, Dale Hinkley, Daniel Bell, Harry Cook. For St Arnaud: Bailey Durward, Simon Elliott, Jay Kirwood, Thomas Bertalli, Sam Male, Lucas Bridger.

WEDDERBURN	3.5	5.11	8.13	13.17	(95)
BOORT	3.1	3.2	7.3	8.5	(53)

Goals for Wedderburn: Jye Mortlock 6, Mitch Jensen 2, Mitchell McEwen 2, Danny Benaim, Oscar Holt, Zach Pallpratt. For Boort: James Keeble 2, Kayne Rutley 2, Jhye Baddeley-Kelly, Peter Barbopoulos, Max Beattie, Jayden Dick.

Best for Wedderburn: Jye Mortlock, Noah Furlong, Jackson McEwen, Zach Pallpratt, Hamish Lockhart, Isaac Holt. For Boort: Jack Smith, Kayne Rutley, Carlos Egan, James Keeble, Max Beattie, Jhye Baddeley-Kelly.

Haeusler’s Reserves

SEA LAKE NANDALY	3.7	7.12	16.17	22.21	(153)
DONALD	0.0	0. 0	0. 0	0. 0	(0)

Goals for Sea Lake Nandaly: Joel Clohesy 12, Codey Elliott 4, Brody Weir 2, Jacob Cox, Brody Kelly, Jack Stacey, Brandon Stadon. For Donald: Nil.

Best for Sea Lake Nandaly: Joel Clohesy, Brody Weir, Matt Elliott, Connor Michael, Codey Elliott, Isaac Durie. For Donald: George Morgan, Glen Burke, Dion Hawkes, Chase Campbell, Daniel Tatarskyj, Braxton Hollis.

CALDER UNITED	5.4	10.6	14.8	19.11	(125)
CHARLTON	0.0	0.0	0.0	2. 0	(12)

Goals for Calder United: Brett Barker 4, Angus Forrester 3, George Forrester 2, Dude Kelly 2, Joel Turner 2, Rick Allan, Billy Forrester, Sam Hogan, James Ison, Sol Kelly, Dane McLennan For Charlton: Zack Dean, Darby Fitzpatrick.

Best for Calder United: Charlie Fawcett, Dane McLennan, Dude Kelly, Brett Barker, Billy Forrester, Joel Turner. For Charlton: Thomas Finlay, Luke Dunne, Angus Soulsby, Zack Dean, Fergus Bourke, Joseph Durie.

ST ARNAUD	3.1	7.4	9.5	11.10	(76)
BIRCHIP-WATCHEM	24	4.5	5.9	8. 9	(57)

Goals for St Arnaud: Joshua Hicks 3, Torin Petrie 2, Hayden Torney 2, Riley Burke, Heath McNally, Jacob Tillig, Brad Williams. For Birchip-Watchem: Lochlan Sirett 3, Callum Goode 2, Ty Colbert, Brady Paley, Joshua Woods

Best for St Arnaud: Jake Male, Benjamin Greenaway, Heath McNally, George Gorrie, Luke Ezard, Hayden Torney. For Birchip-Watchem: Ty Colbert, Bodie Colbert, George Addis, Connor Lee, Connor Boyle.

BOORT	4.2	10.5	11.7	13.7	(85)
WEDDERBURN	0.2	0.4	2.6	4.7	(31)

Goals for Boort: Jack Baker 5, Jacob Mulquiny 3, Alex Cockerell 2, Chris O'Rourke, Nick Scott. For Wedderburn: Riley Dole, Chris Hargreaves, Levi Sims, James Van de Wetering.

Best for Boort: Jacob Mulquiny, Jack Hall, Bryce Leslie, Fraser Millar, Luke Boyd, Jack Baker. For Wedderburn: Noah Winslett, Jayden Jones, Robert Tonkin, Chris Hargreaves, Rhordan Holt, Matthew Lockhart.

Community Bank Charlton & District Under-Seventeens

SEA LAKE NANDALY	1.5	4.7	6.12	10.15	(75)
DONALD	1.1	1.1	1. 1	1. 1	(7)

Best for Sea Lake Nandaly: Judd Durie, Brody Kelly, Cooper Kelly, Cooper Symes, Taj Borlase, Nate McClelland. For Donald: Ethan Clapham, Hayden Clark, Brady Cumming, Jesse Lydom.

CALDER UNITED	2.0	5.2	8.2	8.4	(52)
CHARLTON	1.2	1.2	2.3	4.5	(29)

Best for Calder United: Angus Cowell, Rhett Hogan, Tiger Vearing, Tynan Perry, Jonty Cavalier. For Charlton: Xav Good, Leigh Van Boven, Liam Monaghan, Jarvis Wright, Ethan Soulsby, Samuel Olive.

ST ARNAUD	3.6	7.11	11.17	12.19	(91)
BIRCHIP-WATCHEM	1.0	1. 0	3. 0	7. 2	(44)

Best for St Arnaud: Chase Zander, Archer Reyne, Frankie Donald, Aidan Wickham, Rylan Leach. For Birchip-Watchem: Oliver Cook, Noah Dean, Jack Knights, Cameron Jones.

BOORT	3.3	5.4	9.8	13.9	(87)
WEDDERBURN	0.2	1.3	1.5	3.7	(25)

Best for Boort: Brodie McPherson, Cooper Gould, Luke Boyd, Chaise Hird, Darby F Perryman, Jake O'Flaherty.

For Wedderburn: Noah Winslett, Benjamin Cunningham, William Cunningham, William Huismann, Tyson Blair.

Next Round

Round 15, Saturday, August 9 –

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

Uniting Church Under-Fourteens

SEA LAKE NANDALY 8.5 (53) d. DONALD 3.2 (20)
Best for Sea Lake Nandaly: Riley Allan, Harry Wight, Jack Hodgson, Henry Cox, Hamish Landry, Aydan Smith.
For Donald: Noah Michael, Jake Italia, Max Reilly, Darcy Burke, Emmett Geddes, Toby Lydom.

CALDER UNITED 4.4 (28) d. CHARLTON 4.3 (27)
Best for Calder United: Desmond Polzin, Jed Harrison, Levi Hall, Beau Hogan, Ryder Harrison, Levi Poyner.
For Charlton: Sam Cossar, Rhys Gahan, Darcy Olive, Chace Dixon, Flynn Zagame, Campbell Riley.

ST ARNAUD 11.15 (81) d. BIRCHIP-WATCHEM 0.1 (1)
Best for St Arnaud: Finn Wilson, Samuel Greenaway, Patrick Zsigmond, Isaac Johns, Spencer Kay, Sami Weir.
For Birchip-Watchem: Archie Tyler, Toby Kemp, Eligh Dean, Indya-rose Atkinson.

BOORT 9.6 (60) d. WEDDERBURN 0.4 (4)
Best for Boort: Brady Gilmore, Cruz Nuttall, Connor McNally, Sunny Soumelidis, Maxwell Twigg.
For Wedderburn: Jensen Mcdonnell, Brodie Turnbull, Logan Roberts, Zane Polkinghorne, Luke Martin.

Positions of Teams

Goldacres North-Central Seniors

Teams	P	Pts	%	W	L	D	For	Ag
Birchip-Watchem	14	56	296.86	14	0	0	1888	636
Calder United	14	44	257.54	11	3	0	1656	643
Sea Lake Nandaly	14	40	275.81	10	4	0	1710	620
Boort	14	32	137.81	8	6	0	1396	1013
Wedderburn	14	28	155.94	7	7	0	1313	842
Charlton	14	16	29.78	4	10	0	528	1773
St Arnaud	14	8	36.03	2	12	0	588	1632
Donald	14	0	12.65	0	14	0	278	2198

Haeuslers Reserves

Teams	P	Pts	%	W	L	D	For	Ag
Calder United	14	52	438.76	13	1	0	1347	307
Boort	14	48	343.25	12	2	0	1246	363
Birchip-Watchem	14	40	239.17	10	4	0	1270	531
Sea Lake Nandaly	14	32	174.09	8	6	0	1149	660
St Arnaud	14	24	121.51	6	8	0	887	730
Charlton	14	12	38.46	3	11	0	475	1235
Wedderburn	14	12	31.23	3	11	0	401	1284
Donald	14	4	9.07	1	13	0	166	1831

Community Bank Charlton and District U17s

Teams	P	Pts	W	L	D
St Arnaud	14	52	13	1	0
Sea Lake Nandaly	14	48	12	2	0
Boort	14	40	10	4	0
Calder United	14	32	8	6	0
Charlton	14	24	6	8	0
Donald	14	16	4	10	0
Wedderburn	14	12	3	11	0
Birchip-Watchem	14	0	0	14	0

Uniting Church U14s

Teams	P	Pts	W	L	D
St Arnaud	14	52	13	1	0
Sea Lake Nandaly	14	48	12	2	0
Donald	14	32	8	6	0
Wedderburn	14	32	8	6	0
Boort	14	28	7	7	0
Calder United	14	16	4	10	0
Birchip-Watchem	14	12	3	11	0
Charlton	14	4	1	13	0

Tooleybuc Sporting Club Presidents’ Award

Voting for round 14

Sea Lake Nandaly: Max Cahoon 3, Cruz O'Sullivan 2, Jack Poulton 1.
Donald: Daniel Pearce 3, Charlie Campbell 2, Dyson Bell-Warren 1.
Calder United: Steven Kennedy 3, Zane Keighran 2, Jack Exell 1.
Charlton: Mitchell Collins 3, Rhys Thompson 2, Pat Soulsby 1.
Birchip-Watchem: Ben Edwards 3, Tom Gibson 2, Nick Rippon 1.
St Arnaud: Simon Elliott 3, Darby Schilder 2, Harry Saunders 1.
Wedderburn: Jye Mortlock 3, Noah Furlong 2, Jackson McEwen 1
Boort: Jack Smith 3, Kayne Rutley 2, Carlos Egan 1.

Saturday’s Leading Goal Kickers

Seniors		Reserves	
Ben Edwards (B-W) 15	105	Joel Clohesy (SLNT) 12	42
Jhye Baddeley-Kelly (Boort) 1	61	Alex Cockerell (Boort) 2	39
Max Cahoon (SLNT) 13	52	Alexander Hay (B-W) -	29
Mitch Jensen (Wedd) 2	51	Matthew Berry (B-W) -	29
Jack Exell (CU) 7	51	Zachary Wemyss (SLNT) -	24
Kayne Rutley (Boort) 2	31	George Forrester (CU) 2	24
Nicholas Rippon (B-W) 2	31	Heath Senior (CU) -	23
Jordan Humphreys (CU) 2	27	John Summerhayes (SLNT) -	23
Adam Pattison (SLNT) -	25	Angus Forrester (CU) 3	20

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	6	4	2	230
Calder United	10	6	4	2	226
Birchip-Watchem	10	0	0	0	206
Boort	0	6	4	2	206
St Arnaud	0	6	4	2	134
Wedderburn	10	0	0	0	116
Charlton	0	0	0	0	84
Donald	0	0	0	0	38

Calder Crashes Party

On a day of celebration at Charlton Park, the Calder United Lions came with one intention only – a focused determination to lock in a top two finish in their establishment season, 2025.

A large crowd was in attendance on a magnificent July day to celebrate Charlton’s 2005 Premiership team. Adding to the celebration, Rhys Thompson was bringing up game 200 and Isaac Bourke was making his debut.

With that Lions commitment prevalent at the opening bounce, a clean clearance finished with a perfect kick inside 50 to Jack Exell – who duly finished the clinical foray. A second goal to Exell followed soon after with a clever finish from the left forward pocket, and when Mitch Farmer kicked truly moments later it was three goals in five minutes, and the Navies were looking for ways to get themselves into the contest. With the Navies effort unquestionable, the reward finally came, a strong forward 50 chase and

tackle was converted for the home side’s first goal by Josh Harris.

While the possession count would have been in the Lions favour in the first quarter, Charlton was finding its share; however the quality of ball movement was vastly different, Charlton’s rushed and dirty, making the forwards job even harder, while the Lions were running in waves, drive coming off half-back through Matt Wade, Koby Hommelhoff and Zach Caccaviello. Charlton’s only really clean passage of play involving both milestone men – a strong mark a staple of Thompson’s 200 games followed by a precision pass to first gamer Bourke, who calmly went back and kicked truly from 45.

The gulf in class continued to be evident early in the second, clean centre clearances a feature of Calder United’s day, and Jordan Humphreys kicking his first moments into the term. Charlton then enjoyed some control of the footy, that could not result in scoreboard pressure; however, it was then all United, wastefulness in front of goal the only barrier to a scoreboard blow out, Exell in particular, kicking a wayward one goal four behinds for the term, Calder adding four goals 10 behinds to take a 58 point advantage to the main break.

The second half was all about finals preparation for the visiting Lions, with a talent laden side at their disposal; player positioning will be paramount if they are to challenge the charging Birchip Bulls come September. With so many options to run through the middle of the ground, finding the right balance of defensive minded mids will be key. Goal scoring, even without midyear recruit Dale Pearce, does not seem to be a concern, 10 individual goal kickers testament to that on the weekend, Exell leading the way with seven, complemented by Humphreys, the ever present Daniel Watts and the plethora of forward running mids and half backs, Zane Keighran, Rylee Smith, Boe Bish and George Turner among others.

In another tough game for Charlton’s Navies, coach Mitch Collins again led from the front, his determination and want to win the footy, an example plenty of Charlton’s youth can follow, aided by Rhys Thompson and Mason Heenan working hard across the day to remain competitive. Calder United’s Steven



• Flying in from side is Billy Sexton (Charlton), Mason Heenan (Charlton) in front, Cooper Boyle (Charlton) on ground beside Boe Bish (Calder).

Kennedy continues to dominate through the midfield, even without regular big man Dean Putt, his output and class a pleasure to watch, he in turn giving Calder’s younger brigade, including Tiger Vearring and Hunter Connolly an example to follow.

Charlton’s defence held up reasonably well under the

immense pressure and weight of ball that flooded it, youngster Pat Soulsby combining with Jed Thompson and Bailey Dixon to do what they could to hold back the wave. In the end though, a resounding victory to Calder United, tuning up nicely for their run at first year premiership glory for the newly combined club.

Final scores: Charlton 4.6 (30) to Calder United 21.20 (146). Best for Charlton: Mitch Collins, Pat Soulsby, Rhys Thompson, Mason Heenan, Josh Harris, Dan Whykes. For Calder United: Steven Kennedy, Jack Exell, George Turner, Koby Hommelhoff, Tiger Vearring, Zane Keighran.



• Jack Exell (Charlton) trying to turn Bailey Dixon inside out.

One Hundred Years Ago

From the “Birchip Advertiser”, July 31, 1925.

Bakery Business sold: Mr. R. E. Trevena has disposed of this bakery business to Mrs. J. L. Bales.

Rainfall: To 9 o’clock yesterday morning 98 points of rain were recorded at Birchip for July. Steady rain set in at noon and up to 6 p.m. 19 points fell.

Shire Council Vacancies: Crs. R. Cossens, north riding, Wm Barber, central riding, and F. J. Bolden, south riding,

retire by effluxion of time after next Monday’s meeting.

Fortnightly Socials: A series of fortnightly socials will be held at St Paul’s Parish Hall. Arrangements for the first social, the date of which yet has to be fixed, will be carried out by Mesdames Whitworth, Holland, Miss Justin, Messrs. Rand, Pearson and Mansell.

Birchip Gun Club: A successful shoot was held at the Birchip Gun Club on Wednesday, the 24th inst., when six “miss out” sweepstakes were decided. Results 1st (sparrows) divided by Turner and Sexton; 2nd by Macintosh and Turner; 3rd by Macintosh and Turner; 4th (Starling) by heritage and Eyeckens on fourth round; 5th (Sparrows) by Heritage and Sexton on seventh round and then made the outright by Sanders on fourth round.

Re opening of the Presbyterian Church: Presbyterians of the district attended in large numbers the re-opening of their building last Sunday, after the complete restoration of its interior walls. The new cream colour has greatly brightened the inside of the church, the effect being particularly noticeable at night under the electric light. Services were conducted at three in the afternoon and again in the evening by the Rev. F. Chisholm, of Geelong, whose sermons were attentively listened to and appreciated by large congregations. Mr. Chisholm alluded to the rightful pride that Presbyterians must now have in their building as a beautiful and seemly place of worship. Solos were rendered by Miss E. Symth and Miss H. Christie in the afternoon and evening respectively.



AMBULANCE PHONE NO.
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North-Central Netball

Last Saturday’s results:		“C” Grade		18 def. by Calder United 62; Donald 36 def. by Sea Lake-Nandaly 52.	
“A” Grade		Charlton 23 def. by Calder United 77; Boort 49 d. W’burn 43; St Arnaud v. Birchip-Watchem; Donald 25 def. by Sea Lake-Nandaly 62.		Fourteen-and-Under “A”	
Charlton 24 def. by Calder United 73; St Arnaud v. Birchip-Watchem; Donald v. Sea Lake-Nandaly; Boort 36 def. by Wedderburn 52.		“C” Grade Reserves		Charlton 1 def. by Calder United 31; Donald 39 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 17; Boort 30 d. Wedderburn 7; St Arnaud v. Birchip-Watchem.	
“B” Grade		Boort 89 d. W’burn 19; St Arnaud 11 def. by Birchip-Watchem 21.		Fourteen-and-Under “B”	
Charlton 26 def. by Calder United 53; St Arnaud v. Birchip-Watchem; Donald v. Sea Lake-Nandaly; Boort 21 def. by Wedderburn 59.		Seventeen-and-Under		Donald 15 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 11; Boort 14 d. Wedderburn 4; St Arnaud v. Birchip-Watchem.	
		Boort 46 d. W’burn 21; St Arnaud 48 def. by Birchip-Wat. 51; Charlton			

Results of round 14:										“C” GRADE RESERVES									
“A” GRADE										Boort 10 9 1 0 1 0 0 554 205 36 0.27									
Wedderburn 14 14 0 0 0 0 0 825 439 56 188										Sea Lake-Nan 10 9 1 0 4 0 0 530 218 36 0.24									
Sea Lake-Nan 13 10 3 0 0 0 0 582 425 40 137										Calder United 10 6 4 0 3 0 0 364 259 24 0.14									
Boort 14 10 4 0 0 0 0 745 578 40 129										Birchip-Wat 9 3 6 0 3 0 0 227 399 12 0.06									
Calder United 14 8 6 0 0 0 0 651 550 32 118										Wedderburn 10 2 8 0 4 0 0 287 531 8 0.05									
Birchip-Wat 13 6 7 0 0 0 0 643 641 24 100										St Arnaud 9 0 9 0 2 0 0 154 504 0 0.03									
Donald 13 4 9 0 0 0 0 556 645 16 86										SEVENTEEN-AND-UNDER									
Charlton 14 1 12 1 0 0 0 462 769 6 60										Calder United 14 13 1 0 0 0 0 956 339 52 282									
St Arnaud 13 0 12 1 0 0 0 378 795 2 48										Birchip-Wat 14 12 2 0 0 0 0 743 507 48 147									
“B” GRADE										Boort 14 9 4 1 0 0 0 609 478 38 127									
Wedderburn 14 14 0 0 0 0 0 878 478 56 184										St Arnaud 14 8 5 1 0 0 0 692 554 34 125									
Calder United 14 11 3 0 0 0 0 665 528 44 126										Sea Lake-Nan 14 6 8 0 0 0 0 553 634 24 87									
Boort 14 10 4 0 0 0 0 658 600 40 110										Charlton 14 5 9 0 0 0 0 460 549 16 84									
Birchip-Wat 13 8 5 0 0 0 0 620 536 32 116										Wedderburn 14 2 12 0 0 0 0 371 767 8 48									
St Arnaud 13 5 8 0 0 0 0 550 630 20 87										Donald 14 0 14 0 0 0 0 363 919 0 40									
Sea Lake-Nan 13 3 9 1 0 0 0 494 598 14 83										FOURTEEN-AND-UNDER “A”									
Donald 13 2 10 1 0 0 0 521 654 10 80										Boort 14 14 0 0 0 0 0 420 165 56 255									
Charlton 14 0 14 0 0 0 0 354 716 0 49										Birchip-Wat 13 11 2 0 0 0 0 368 131 44 281									
“C” GRADE										Donald 14 10 4 0 0 0 0 407 208 40 196									
Calder United 14 13 1 0 0 0 0 810 370 52 219										Calder United 14 8 6 0 0 0 0 297 218 32 136									
Sea Lake-Nan 14 10 4 0 0 0 0 663 561 40 118										St Arnaud 13 6 7 0 0 0 0 279 227 24 123									
Wedderburn 14 10 4 0 0 0 0 580 527 36 110										Charlton 14 2 12 0 0 0 0 152 401 8 38									
Boort 14 9 5 0 0 0 0 573 473 28 121										Sea Lake-Nan 14 2 12 0 0 0 0 127 418 8 30									
Birchip-Wat 13 7 6 0 0 0 0 505 525 16 96										Wedderburn 14 2 12 0 0 0 0 104 386 8 27									
St Arnaud 13 4 9 0 0 0 0 413 808 4 51										FOURTEEN-AND-UNDER “B”									
Charlton 14 1 13 0 0 0 0 346 759 0 46										Boort 12 11 1 0 2 0 0 220 79 44 0.23									
Donald 14 1 13 0 0 0 0 346 759 0 46										St Arnaud 11 10 1 0 2 0 0 231 52 40 0.40									
										Birchip-Wat 11 8 3 0 2 0 0 196 98 32 0.18									
										Wedderburn 12 4 7 1 2 0 0 134 165 18 0.07									
										Calder United 12 3 7 2 2 0 0 78 136 16 0.05									
										Donald 12 2 9 1 2 0 0 75 228 10 0.03									
										Sea Lake-Nan 12 0 10 2 2 0 0 52 228 4 0.02									

Max Cahoon Enjoys Baker’s Dozen

Thirteen goals to Sea Lake-Nandaly’s forward Max Cahoon highlighted Saturday’s senior game at Donald.

After last week’s muddy grind it was a welcome change for the players to run out under blue skies and sunshine. Donald had a new face in its side with fifteen-year-old Charlie Burke, making his senior debut, showing positive signs of a bright future ahead.

As expected, the Tigers demonstrated their class from the start. Cruz O’Sullivan was everywhere and was enjoying silver service from his ruckman father, Ryan. Backman Jack Poulton was also driving the ball forward and Max Cahoon cashed in with four goals for the quarter. Donald’s Dan Pearce was continuing his brilliant form and his duel with Sea Lake Nandaly’s Wade Donnan was a beauty.

After quarter time, Donald’s Jett Adams moved on to Cruz O’Sullivan to curb his influence and it was great to witness these two young players applying their skills. Donald’s Ben Arho and Harry Forrest were attacking the ball and Charlie Campbell and Dyson Bell-Warren bravely defending the constant forward entries into the Tigers’ forward line. For Sea Lake Nandaly it was Bryce Delmenico and Charlie Cox racking up plenty of the pill and at half-time the Tigers held a twelve-goal lead.

After the long break it was the Max Cahoon show as he banged on five individual goals for the third term with Sea Lake Nandaly’s adding another five.

Into the final period and with Jett Adams reaching for the pickle juice, Ryan Bath had a stint on the dangerous Cruz O’Sullivan and he capped off a solid game for the Blues. Unfortunately the home side couldn’t manage a goal while the Tigers produced nine more through Lachie McClelland (2 more and five for the match), Max Cahoon (3), John Summerhayes (2) and Chase Tait.

Scores: Sea Lake Nandaly 31.19 (205) d Donald 0.2 (2). Best for Sea Lake Nandaly: Max Cahoon, Cruz O’Sullivan, Bryce Delmenico, Wade Donnan, Jack Poulton, Charlie Cox. For Donald: Dan Pearce, Charlie Campbell, Dyson Bell-Warren, Jett Adams, Harry Forrest, Ben Arho.



• Donald’s Charlie Burke gets his kick away in his senior debut game. Team-mate Ryan Bath attempts to shepherd Tigers’ Jai Wright as Bryce Delmenico comes in attempting to smother the ball. Other players in the background are Tigers’ Chase Tait and Donald’s Jett Adams.



• Above: ready to pounce on the ball are Wade Donnan (Sea Lake-Nandaly 7), Dan Pearce (Donald), Seth Pearce (Donald), Jai Wright (Sea Lake-Nandaly 39), Chase Tait (Sea Lake-Nandaly 41), Lachy McClelland (Sea Lake-Nandaly 38), and Josh Smulders (Donald 34).

• Left: a day out for the Tigers’ Max Cahoon with 13 goals. Here he marks under pressure from Donald’s Josh Smulders and Charlie Campbell.



• Screenshot of the video of the hanger mark taken by Donald’s Daniel Pearce over Tigers Wade Donnan. Players staring at the action are, left to right, Donald’s Dyson Bell-Warren, Tigers John Summerhayes, Donald’s Ryan Bath, and Tigers Jai Wright.

North-Central Hockey

Results of round 14 —
Under-12 Donald 0 def. by Sea Lake-Nandaly 3; Charlton 0 drew with Calder United 0; St Arnaud 1 def. by Birchip-Watchem 5; Boort 0 def. by Wedderburn 4.
Underage Donald 6 d. Sea Lake Nandaly 3; Charlton 3 d. Calder United 1; St Arnaud vs. Birchip-Watchem.
Women Donald 1 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 0; Charlton 3 def. by Calder United 4; Boort 1 def. by Wedderburn 3.
Men Donald 4 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 0; Charlton 0 def. by Calder United 11; Boort 4 d. Wedderburn 0.

POSITIONS OF TEAMS												
Women												
	P	W	D	L	F	For	Agst	SD	Pts	WR		
St Arnaud	12	10	0	2	0	44	11	33	30	83		
Calder United	12	10	0	2	0	39	14	25	30	83		
Charlton	12	9	0	3	0	59	16	43	27	75		
Wedderburn	12	5	1	6	0	23	24	-1	16	44		
Boort	12	5	0	7	0	26	37	-11	15	42		
Donald	12	2	1	9	0	11	49	-38	7	19		
Sea Lake-Nan	12	0	0	12	0	2	53	-51	0	0		
Men												
Calder United	12	9	1	2	0	53	14	39	28	78		
Donald	12	9	1	2	0	34	14	20	28	78		
St Arnaud	12	8	2	2	0	49	12	37	26	72		
Boort	12	6	2	4	0	51	13	38	20	56		
Wedderburn	12	4	2	6	0	24	27	-3	14	39		
Sea Lake-Nan	12	2	0	10	0	11	53	-42	6	17		
Charlton	12	0	0	12	0	7	96	-89	0	0		
Underage												
Charlton	12	12	0	0	0	78	7	71	36	100		
St Arnaud	11	8	1	2	0	55	11	44	25	76		
Donald	12	6	0	6	0	35	45	-10	18	50		
Boort	12	5	1	6	0	35	40	-5	16	44		
Calder United Lions	12	3	2	7	0	19	24	-5	11	31		
Birchip-Wat	11	2	1	8	0	20	68	-48	7	21		
Sea Lake-Nan	12	2	1	9	0	16	63	-47	7	19		
Under-12s												
Birchip-Wat	14	12	0	2	0	73	11	62	36	86		
Calder United	14	11	2	1	0	41	9	32	35	83		
Charlton	14	11	2	1	0	36	10	26	35	83		
St Arnaud	14	7	1	6	0	36	24	12	22	52		
Wedderburn	14	5	1	8	0	26	16	10	16	38		
Boort	14	2	1	11	0	5	45	-40	7	17		
Sea Lake-Nan	14	2	1	11	0	4	51	-47	7	17		
Donald	14	2	0	12	0	15	70	-55	6	14		