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The Buloke Times

Est. 1875

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

Birchip School Sets the Example

Birchip P-12 School is setting a powerful example for how rural schools can successfully prepare their students for life beyond the classroom, with a growing focus on career pathways, hands-on opportunities, and direct links with tertiary institutions.

Recently, Year 12 student Allie Knights made her mark by graduating from the prestigious Step-Up Program run by the Australian Catholic University (ACU).

The program, designed to give high school students a head start on university study, saw Allie attend ACU's Ballarat campus for two intensive six-day sessions – once in the July 2024 holidays and again in January 2025.

During her time on campus, Allie completed two first-year university units in Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine. These units count toward further study in a number of ACU degrees, including the Bachelor of Nursing, Bachelor of Midwifery, Bachelor of Paramedicine, and the combined Bachelor of Nursing/Paramedicine. By successfully completing these units, Allie has not only gained valuable insight to university life and academic expectations, but also strengthened her eligibility for early university entry.

Programs like ACU Step Up are helping students gain early exposure to academic writing, university-level coursework, and student support systems, all while still at school – an advantage that Birchip P-12 School actively promotes.

Careers Expo

Meanwhile, Birchip's Year 11 students recently took part in the Western Victorian Careers Expo at the Wimmera Events Centre in Longerenong, where they explored a wide range of post-school options. From university degrees to apprenticeships and skilled trades, the expo offered something for everyone.

Students were able to meet representatives from universities across Australia, engaging in meaningful conversations about courses, campus life, and future careers. A wide variety of TAFE providers were also in attendance, opening students' eyes to vocational opportunities in sectors such as agriculture, hospitality, community services, and more.

Displays

Perhaps the most exciting part of the day was the presence of interactive industry displays, where students got hands-on experience trying out different trades – from construction and electrical work to automotive technologies.

"We want students to leave school with a strong sense of direction and real-world knowledge," said a staff member from Birchip P-12. "Whether it's university, TAFE, apprenticeships or work, we are committed to giving them the tools and exposure to make informed decisions."

As Birchip P-12 School continues to invest in programs that support students' transition into adulthood, it's clear that their efforts are paying off. Through academic extension opportunities like Allie's Step-Up Program and practical experiences like the Careers Expo, students are gaining confidence and clarity about their futures.



• Allie Knights, ACU Step Up Course graduate.

Council Seeks Improved Transparency

At its July Council Meeting, Buloke Shire Council moved a motion for Council to write to relevant Ministers and Departments to seek genuine engagement between Council, the Government and the Buloke Shire community following the recent visit of the Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio, MP, Minister for the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action on June 11, 2025.

The Notice of Motion expressed disappointment in the Minister for failing to inform Councillors of major legislative changes tabled just eight days later on June 19, when the National Electricity (Victoria) Amendment (VicGrid Stage 2 Reform) Bill 2025

was brought before Parliament.

This Bill grants authorised officers greater access to private land and issue infringement notices to facilitate electricity transmission projects, including the VNI West route through Buloke.

"This is not how a respectful partnership looks," said Mayor Cr Alan Getley.

Grappling

"Our community is already grappling with the aftermath of multiple floods, deepening drought, rising emergency

levies, and now divisive energy projects."

The Mayor said that those present at the meeting with the Minister attended in good faith, expecting open and meaningful dialogue. However, no indication of the proposed legislation, which directly targets landowners including those in the Buloke Shire, was mentioned.

Council continues to take the position that they are against the VNI transmission line in its current form and that

these energy projects must not adversely impact neighbours or restrict their right to use and develop their land, and has called on the Minister, DEECA, VicGrid, Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and Transmission Company Victoria to engage openly and constructively with Council and community.

Serious Concerns

The Premier, Leader of the Opposition, and Western Victorian Parliamentarians will also be invited to meet with

Council to hear firsthand the serious concerns of the Buloke community.

"Being the closest tier of government to our community, we rely on trust and mutual respect to function effectively. When that trust is eroded, so too is the connection between state government and the very people it is meant to support and serve," the Mayor added.

"Sadly, this erosion has already begun."

In the Battle of the Blues . . . Archer Hits the Target

As they have done for ages, the Charlton Navy Blues met the Donald Royal Blues in North-Central winter sports on Saturday at Charlton Park.

This time it was the home team which claimed the Bunter's Cup, named in honour of the late Bill "Bunter" Baird, a legend in post war football both as a player and administrator.

Winner of Saturday's "best player" trophy was Charlton's Archer Patterson, who capped a top performance with 4 goals.

Right: Archer is pictured with Bill's wife, Julie, and their son, Clinton.

• All football details are in today's "Times" sports pages.



“Elvis and Buddy” Rock & Roll Sensation

Mods and Rockers, get ready to join the action this Friday night as the “Elvis and Buddy Rock & Roll Sensation” Show lights up The Rex stage. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with the feature performance kicking off at 7:30 p.m..

Those blue suede shoes will be jumping in what will be an unforgettable two-part theatrical experience. Featuring electrifying performances by Mark Caligiuri and a very talented cast of musicians, the charisma of Elvis Presley and the charm of Buddy Holly will be brought to life.

The undisputed “King” will be “in the building” sharing the hits such as “That’ll Be There Day”, “Peggy Sue”, “Rave On”, “That’s Alright Mama”, “Suspicious Minds”, and “American Trilogy”.

Mark has been performing as Elvis and Buddy for 20 years, having taken his two-part action-packed show around the world.

This ultimate tribute to two of the greatest entertainers of all time is one show you don’t want to miss. Tickets are selling fast, so book now to secure a seat!

“Elvis and Buddy Rock & Roll Sensation” Show | Friday, July 25, 7:30 p.m. | Tickets: \$40 General | \$35 Concession.

Bookings:<https://www.rextheatre.org.au/live-shows.html>; email: boxoffice@rextheatre.org.au; or at the door.

Jurassic World: Rebirth

Impressive visuals and a solid cast led by Scarlett Johansson is set five years after “Jurassic World: Dominion” (2022), as an expedition

braves isolated equatorial regions to extract DNA from three massive prehistoric creatures for a groundbreaking medical breakthrough.

The storyline follows Zora Bennett (Johansson) who leads a team of skilled operatives to the most dangerous place on Earth, an island research facility for the original Jurassic Park. Securing genetic material from dinosaurs whose DNA can provide life-saving benefits to mankind, the top-secret expedition becomes more and more risky, as they soon make a sinister, shocking discovery that’s been hidden from the world for decades.

Edge-of-your-seat thrills, fresh dangers and heart-pounding action also reveals an emotional narrative that ties the old and new generations of the Jurassic story together seamlessly.

This is a cinematic experience to settle down with and enjoy!

“Jurassic World: Rebirth” screens Saturday, July 26, 8 p.m. and Tuesday, July 29, 8 p.m..

No Sunday screening due to the Charlton Arts presentation of “Jazz in July” featuring the Hot B’Hines.

“F1 The Movie”

From flash-backs to the present day, the film is filled with adrenaline-rush scenes and, surprisingly Pitt and Idris did their own driving.

Be ready for some jaw-dropping racing sequences. The movie also moves beyond the speed and spectacle, and dives deep into the personal sacrifices, rivalries, and passion that fuel the sport.

Even if you are not a racing fan you will be captivated by the human drama, the tension, and the heart-pounding excitement.

As one reviewer said, “This is a cinematic thrill ride!”

“F1 The Movie” screens: Saturday, July, 19, 8 p.m. | Sunday, July 20, 2 p.m. | Tues, July 22, 8 p.m.

Don’t forget the “Elvis and Buddy” Rock & Roll Sensation – Live at The Rex on Friday July 25, 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.)

Guaranteed to be a night of memory making music and dynamic energy, this is a show which will captivate music lovers of all ages!

Tickets: \$40 General | \$35 Concession | Bookings: rextheatre.org.au/live-shows.html; email: boxoffice@rextheatre.org.au; or at the door.

Council Takes Buloke Priorities To Canberra

Buloke Shire Council’s Mayor Cr Alan Getley and CEO Wayne O’Toole recently joined over 1,200 local government leaders in Canberra for the 2025 National General Assembly of Local Government.

Their visit formed part of Council’s broader advocacy to ensure Buloke Shire’s needs are heard with a focus on four priority areas:

- Building Sustainable and Diverse Housing – a call for targeted investment and variable funding to address critical housing shortages that threaten the viability of workforce attraction, local services, and community stability.

- Drought Support Funding – a push for equitable access to federal drought

funding after recent rounds excluded Buloke, despite ongoing impacts to productivity, water security, and community wellbeing.

- Victorian Emergency Services Volunteer Levy – advocacy against cost burdens being passed to rural communities already supporting emergency response through volunteerism and fundraising.

- Renewable Energy Infrastructure – a strong message on the need for rural voices to be central in planning the energy transition,

with fair return and meaningful engagement.

“Whether it’s securing drought funding, addressing the rural housing crisis or standing up for our volunteers, it is critical that Buloke’s voice is heard at the national level,” said the Mayor.

“Our aim is to work in partnership with all levels of government to secure the investment, recognition and policy support our communities deserve.”

Funding Opportunities for Rural Communities

Rural community organisations across Australia are invited to apply for funding to upgrade local hall and community centre facilities through Rabobank’s newly-launched Community Hub Improvement Program.

The program – which is planned to run annually – has an overall pool of \$120,000 available, providing the opportunity for 12 selected applicants to receive funding of \$10,000 each to go towards improvements to their local rural hall or community centre.

The program is being funded by food and agribusiness banking specialist Rabobank’s Rabo Community Fund, which – since launching in 2021 – has invested into initiatives designed to support the vitality and sustainability of rural and regional communities.

Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration, the local hall or community centre must be: based in rural Australia, defined as a building or space that is open and accessible to the local community, provide services that the local population wants and needs, and is seen as playing a vital role in supporting vibrant and inclusive communities.

Launching the new program, Rabobank Australia

CEO Mark Wiessing said as a bank focussed on agriculture and rural communities, Rabobank recognised the important role community hubs and halls play in regional Australia, where halls and community centres can be far more than just buildings and can be the “heartbeat” of the community.

“The Rabobank Community Fund is very pleased to make this funding available to help local halls and community centres continue to function as key locations that foster community participation and engagement in rural areas,” he said.

Key Meeting Places

“These venues are often key meeting places for farming communities – providing safe, trusted spaces for locals to gather, especially in isolated areas. They can also serve as important places of refuge and recovery centres in times of emergency and natural disasters as well as venues for training sessions and workshops for local communities to access valuable education opportunities.”

Mr Wiessing said many halls and hubs have deep roots in their communities, built by locals working co-operatively and pooling resources.

“As a bank which is a global co-operative, we recognise the value of working co-operatively in local communities,” he said.

“These hubs and halls may be modest in size, but their impact can be monumental. They’re where memories are made, resilience is built, and community spirit thrives.”

Mr Wiessing said the Rabobank Community Hub Improvement Program funding could be used for any work that improved the interior or exterior of the nominated hub.

As part of the application process, applicants will need to provide details and share photos of how the building is currently used, what they would do with the funds, the community’s contribution to the project and how the proposed improvements would help increase the facility’s usage.

Applications

Rabobank Community Hub Improvement Program applications open on Thursday, July 17, 2025, and close on Sunday, August 24, 2025. Funding recipients will be announced in early October 2025.

To apply, and for further information on the Rabobank Community Hub Improvement Program, please visit the Rabobank website.

Mr Wiessing said the Rabo Community Fund is funded by an annual contribution from Rabobank Australia and New Zealand and guided by the Rabo Client Councils (comprising 90 of the bank’s farming clients, who are passionate about contributing to their local communities). The fund is focused on helping address key agribusiness industry and community challenges. These relate to six key themes, focusing on agri education, rural wellbeing, sustainability, adaption and creating rural/urban connections.

Your Blood is Worth Bottling

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



Letter to the Editor



Budgets and Advice

(The Editor, “The Times”)

Dear Editor.– At the Council meeting of the July 16, 2025, I asked the following question:

“Council adopted its 2025/2026 Council Budget on June 18, 2025.

“Can you please indicate all amounts that were allocated to cover legal and professional costs in the Budget for the next 12 months?”

I was gob smacked when the Mayor provided the response that the Council had allocated \$785,000.00 in the 25/26 Budget to cover these costs.

It seems our Council values “advice” from outside the organisation more than support for local projects when it has only budgeted \$463,000.00 for recreation, leisure and community facilities.

Recently Council put out a call for locals to join a Community Reference Group for the following:

Buloke Shire Council is calling for Expressions of Interest from community members who want to help shape the future of our roads, facilities, and financial planning.

I will be an apology for that group, but here is a bit of “free advice”:

Why not go and employ a Graduate Law student to provide the legal and professional advice internally? According to the Financial Review they only cost \$100,000.00 per annum.

It’s a “win win” for everyone, a graduate gets a job and moves to Buloke, Council can save about \$685,000.00 per annum, which they could invest in recreation, leisure and community facilities.

Regards,
Daryl Warren

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

Community Satisfaction Survey Results Released

Buloke Shire Council noted the 2024 Community Satisfaction Survey results at its July Meeting of Council, acknowledging the findings present valuable insights and highlight specific areas for improvement.

The Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey is conducted annually by JWS Research on behalf of the Department of Government Services.

It gathers feedback from a representative sample of residents across Victorian councils to measure performance

in key service areas, identify trends over time and benchmark results against councils of similar size and across the state.

While Council showed a notable improvement in unsealed road maintenance, historically Council's lowest-performing area, with a four-

point increase on the 2023 result, the performance across seven other key service areas have declined. These include: community decisions, local law enforcement, planning and building permits, lobbying, consultation and engagement, tourism and business and community development.

Council's best-performing area continues to be its recreational facilities, which were frequently mentioned by community members as the stand-out feature of Council service. Waste management and the appearance of public areas also rated relatively well, followed by emergency and disaster management.

Best Areas

When benchmarked against other municipalities, Buloke

Shire performs in line with State and Small Rural group averages on recreational facilities and State averages on waste management, but overall fell 12 and 13 points below the State and Small Rural areas for overall performance (41) respectively.

Commitment

"These results don't reflect the standard we want to meet," said Mayor Cr Alan

Getley, "And we are committed to doing better."

"We thank those who took the time to share their views. Your feedback doesn't fall on deaf ears. It drives the improvements we know we need to make."

The 2024 Community Satisfaction Survey Report is now available on Council's website: www.buloke.vic.gov.au

Temporary Hall Closure Explained

Recent testing at Charlton Shire Hall found deterioration in wall cavities within decorative brickwork, prompting safety concerns.

The testing followed a routine Hazardous Materials Audit in May 2025 by Safety Systems Bendigo Pty Ltd, which identified materials within the wall cavities as potentially containing friable asbestos-containing materials (ACM).

Council was advised of the laboratory analysis by a NATA-accredited facility on June 11, 2025, confirming the presence of Amosite asbestos within the cavity of the decorative brick work sections on the north, east and west walls of the hall.

Visual inspection indicated deterioration of the poorly bonded ACM surfaces within the cavity increasing the risk of airborne fibre release or transfer to other areas.

Precaution

As a precaution, Buloke Shire Council temporarily closed the hall and commissioned further air and surface sample analysis testing by Safety Systems Bendigo on June 12, 2025. Settled dust samples were collected from the hall floor, stage floor, hall and wall vents, entrance, and library.

Laboratory results confirmed no asbestos was detected in the dust, nor any trace of respirable asbestos fibres.

Additionally, air monitoring conducted inside the hall at the north and south ends, as per the Certificate of Analysis for Asbestos Airborne Fibres for Volumetric Air Sampling, did not detect airborne asbestos fibres.

These findings indicate that hall users were unlikely to have been exposed to airborne asbestos from historical dust accumulation.

The hall's temporary closure has been extended while Council explores treatment options and ensures safe works. The Charlton RSL remains open and unaffected.

Charlton Library

To minimise disruption, a mobile library will continue operating outside the Charlton Shire Office every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., offering returns, pick-ups, and inter-library loans.

Community members can also access Council's online



• Charlton Shire Hall brickwork.

library services anytime at www.buloke.vic.gov.au/libraries.

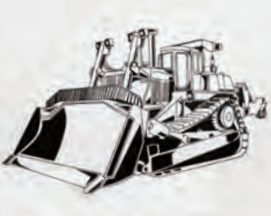
Council remains committed to clear communication and a safety-first approach and thanks the community for its patience and understanding. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet is available on Council's website and about the audit process and findings.

For more information, contact Council on 1300 520 520 or visit www.buloke.vic.gov.au.

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To Help Ensure Show's Success... Money Mania!

The Donald Show is calling on the community to get behind its latest fundraiser – Money Mania – to help ensure the success of the 2025 event.

With only 50 numbers left out of 200, now is the time to get in quick.

At \$50 each, participants go into the running to win cash prizes every Friday for six weeks, starting July 25. Each week, three numbers will be drawn live on Facebook at midday – with \$250 awarded to the first number drawn, \$150 to the second, and \$100 to the third.

Donald Show organisers say the fundraiser is a fun and rewarding way for locals to show their support for one of the region's most loved annual events.

"These kinds of fundraisers are so important. They help us cover costs, attract great entertainment, and continue growing the show for future generations," a committee member said.

Participants must pay for their number by July 24 or risk it being reallocated.

Payment Details: Donald P & A Society, BSB: 633 000, Account: 155 565 401, (Bendigo Bank).

To secure your number or find out more, contact Sarah on 0455 187 867.



• ABC Landline pays a visit in readiness for the 150th anniversary of the "Buloke Times". Left to right, Andrew Alltree-Williams (ABC Landline cameraman), Tim Lee (ABC Landline journalist), David Letts ("Buloke Times" owner/operator), and Robin Letts ("Buloke Times" Editor). More details will appear in Friday's "Times".

"Times" Anniversary Coming Up

As the "Buloke Times" approaches the anniversary of 150 years in operation, it caught the attention of ABC Landline journalists Tim Lee and Andrew Alltree-Williams, who visited Donald last week to report on the momentous occasion.

The duo arrived in Charlton on Wednesday in a timely enough fashion to catch "Buloke Times" reporters "on the

job" at BCG's Ag Tech Expo.

Tim and Andrew then followed the staff of the "Times" for the next two days, collecting information and recording relevant highlights to bring their story to air in the beginning of August.

A full report of the experience (from one of the "Buloke Times" reporter's perspective) will appear in this Friday's edition.

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

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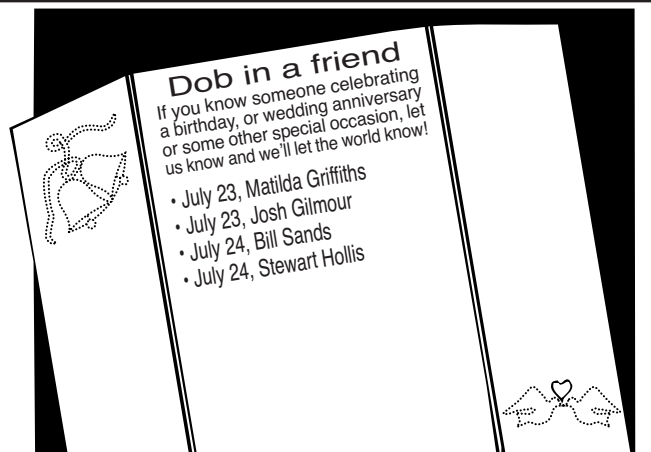
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Planning and
Environment Act 1987

BULOKE PLANNING SCHEME

Notice of the preparation of an
amendment to a planning
scheme. **Amendment C44blok**

Overview

The amendment is required to implement the recommendations of the *Buloke Planning Scheme Review (2023)*. The amendment also corrects obvious and technical errors, including mapping anomalies in the planning scheme.

For further details, refer to the explanatory report about the amendment.

Details of the amendment

The Buloke Shire Council as planning authority has prepared Amendment C44blok to the Buloke Planning Scheme.

The land affected by the amendment is all land in the Buloke Shire.

The amendment implements the recommendations of the *Buloke Planning Scheme Review (2023)*. The amendment also corrects obvious and technical errors, including mapping anomalies.

You may inspect the amendment, any documents that support the amendment and the explanatory report about the amendment, free of charge, at:

- the Department of Transport and Planning website www.planning.vic.gov.au/public-inspection or by contacting 1300 520 520 to arrange a time to view the amendment documentation.
- during office hours, at the office of the planning authority, Buloke Shire Council, 367 Broadway, Wycheproof.

Any person may make a submission to the planning authority about the amendment. Submissions must be made in writing giving the submitter's name and contact address, clearly stating the grounds on which the amendment is supported or opposed and indicating what changes (if any) the submitter wishes to make. Name and contact details of submitters are required for the planning authority to consider submissions and to notify such persons of the opportunity to attend planning authority meetings and any public hearing held to consider submissions.

The closing date for submissions is **1st September 2025**. A submission must be sent to the Planning Department, Buloke Shire Council, PO Box 1, Wycheproof VIC 3527 or via email planning@buloke.vic.gov.au. The planning authority must make a copy of every submission available at its office and/or on its website for any person to inspect free of charge until the end of the two months after the amendment comes into operation or lapses.

WAYNE O'TOOLE

Chief Executive Officer Buloke Shire Council
1300 520 520

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Highlights: Wonderland by Night, Norfolk Island tour, Fletchers Mutiny Cyclorama, Bounty Bar & Grill, Barney Duffy BBQ, Island Fish Fry, Over the Cattlestops, Green Fingers Tour, Convict Settlement Tour, South Pacific Resort Hotel, Progressive Dinner, Glass Bottom Boat Cruise, Christian's 4WD Tour, Night as a Convict Dinner, Breakfast Bush Walk.

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Buloke Sports Clubs Share State Grants

The Victorian Government is backing the heartbeat of local communities with a new wave of sport club grants – providing more opportunities for people to get involved in the community and sports they love.

Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes announced funding for sports clubs in the region through the Sporting Club Grants Program.

The successful clubs located in the district of Mildura include:

- Birchip-Watchem Netball Club.
- Charlton Hockey Club Inc.
- Charlton Neighbourhood House Inc.
- Charlton Neighbourhood House Inc.
- Donald Netball Club Inc

- Birchip Neighbourhood House Inc.
- Donald Golf and Bowls Club Inc.
- Helenic Sporting Club Mildura United Inc.
- Imperial Football & Netball Club Inc.
- Irymple Football and Netball Club Inc.
- Irymple Swimming Club.
- Meringur Football Netball Club Incorporated.
- Mildura City Soccer Club Inc.
- Mildura District Canoe Club INC.

- Mildura Motorcycle Club Inc.
- Mildura Pistol Club.
- Red Cliffs Swimming Club.
- Three Colours Soccer Club Inc.
- Wanderers Baseball Club Inc.
- Werrimull Football and Netball Club Inc.
- Border Western Horse Group Inc.
- Eagles Baseball Club (Mildura) Inc.
- Mildura District Canoe Club INC.
- Mildura West Cricket Club.
- Mildura Roller Derby League Inc.
- Mildura Swimming Club Inc.
- Robinvale Lawn Tennis Club Inc.
- Beulah Bowling and Croquet Club Inc.
- Waratahs Hockey Club.

Equipment and Uniforms

The program provides funding for equipment and uniforms, taking the financial burden off clubs and support for volunteers and officials to learn new skills and deliver new programs – helping local clubs grow.

Since 2014, The Sporting Club Grants Program has invested more than \$19.5 million in local communities to



• Jaclyn Symes.

support thousands of sport and recreation clubs across the state.

The program is backed by the Regional Community Sport Development Fund which is delivering infrastructure upgrades and other programs including the Regional Community Sport Infrastructure Fund to help more regional Victorians to get active and be a part of their local sporting clubs.

The Victorian Budget 2025/26 is investing in real cost of living help for families, with \$15 million to deliver the popular \$200 Get Active Kids Vouchers for another two years – helping more kids get involved in local sport and stay active.

For more information on the grants and a full list of recipients sport.vic.gov.au.

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MASP Shines a (Night) Light

[From Mallee Accomodation Support Program]
MASP staff will don their PJs on Friday, July 25 – National Pyjama Day – to raise awareness of the barriers children in out of home care face when it comes to education.

Statistics reported by the Pyjama Foundation, a not-for-profit that supports the educational outcomes of Children in Out of Home Care, show:

- More than 45,000 Australian Children are currently in out of home care.
- 92% of children in foster care are below the average reading level by age 7.
- 57% of young people who grow up in care manage to complete Year 12 or equivalent, compared to the national average of 85%.

Challenges
MASP CEO Charmaine Calis said these statistics showed the need for better

understanding of the challenges faced by children in out of home care – such as the disruptive impact of placement changes and difficulty in educational engagement.

“These statistics are in no way reflective of our wonderful foster carers, who open their hearts and homes to vulnerable children in need,” she said.

“But they are a stark reminder of the barriers these children face to achieve the same level of education as their peers. We remain committed to supporting our carers and the children to get the best outcomes for their education and their futures.”



• MASP Foster Care Senior Worker Ash Munn, Team Leader – Placement and Support Louise Smith, Foster Care Case Managers Nicole Crouch and Louise Fell and Foster Care Recruitment and Training Worker Annie Power get set for this week's National Pyjama Day.

For Older Victorians... Free RSV Vaccination

[From Royal Australian College of GPs]
The Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) has welcomed a new Victorian Government program to provide free respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccines to residents aged 60 and over in public and Aboriginal community controlled aged care services.

“This is an important new initiative that’ll protect thousands of our most vulnerable patients,” said Deputy Chair of the RACGP Victoria Faculty, Dr Palmyra De Banks.

“Every year, a raft of respiratory infections, including RSV, sweeps through aged care centres, putting older Victorians at risk.

“Protecting aged care residents, who are often among the most vulnerable members of our communities, from these life-threatening illnesses is vital. This is an excellent move by the Victorian Government.”

This follows national advocacy for free RSV vaccinations for older patients by the RACGP.

RACGP President, Dr Michael Wright, said: “We continue to advocate for free RSV vaccines for all of our at-risk populations, and it’s fantastic to see programs like this being introduced.

“Respiratory syncytial virus has a huge impact on our communities each year. It’s highly contagious – babies are at greatest risk, but other children, seniors, and patients with chronic health conditions can experience a severe infection too.

“We welcomed free RSV immunisation for babies as a fantastic move last year, but we can keep more Victorians safe.

“Just this morning, I was on the radio with a Gippsland woman who’d had to take three-and-a-half weeks off work. She said it seemed like the worst virus she’d had in her life and was still experiencing exhaustion and other symptoms. As we say about the flu, it’s not just another cold.

“Nationally, we have already seen RSV case notifications to state health services pass 100,000 this year. More than 20,000 of those were in

Victoria, and around 20% of cases were in patients over 60 – so this program is very timely.

“While providing protection for around 5,000 older Victorians is an excellent start, vulnerable patients need governments to expand their vaccination programs further to ensure all at-risk populations can, and do, access recommended vaccines to keep all our communities safe.

“The other patients recommended for vaccination in the Australian Immunisation Handbook are patients with chronic conditions that increase the odds of a severe infection aged over 60, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over 60, and all Victorians over 75. They should be able to get a recommended vaccination without facing financial hardship.

“Free RSV vaccines are available for pregnant women thanks to the Federal Government, complemented by state- and territory-funded immunisations for babies who do not already have protection from RSV through the mother’s vaccination.

“We continue to call on all governments to expand their programs to include all patients identified as being at risk in the Australian Immunisation Handbook.”

Help Improve On Farm Connectivity Program

The Australian Government is seeking input from community and industry stakeholders on the popular On Farm Connectivity Program to ensure it is delivering the best possible outcomes for primary producers through the upcoming third round.

Through over \$30 million in rebates provided over the first two rounds, thousands of primary producers have been able to extend connectivity and take advantage of connected machinery and sensor technology.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts has commenced public consultation on design aspects of Round 3, ahead of opening applications later this year.

The department is requesting feedback on options to adjust the Program to ensure opportunities are optimised for primary producers to address connectivity gaps, particularly in light of the unprecedented demand in Round 2.

Changes
Proposed changes to the Program including refining the scope of equipment eligible for rebate, and streamlining processes by providing rebates directly to primary producers.

The public consultation builds on discussions already under way with state and Commonwealth government agencies and industry representatives, including the National Farmers’ Federation, as well as feedback already received following delivery of the first two rounds.

The Government has allocated \$53 million across all

three rounds of the Program over 2023-24 to 2025-26, as part of the Government’s Better Connectivity Plan for Regional and Rural Australia.

For more information and

to have your say on the proposed changes for Round 3, visit the On Farm Connectivity Program Round 3 consultation page. Consultation closes on Tuesday, August 26, 2025.

Delay to New Aged Care Act: Win for Older Australians

Ageing Australia congratulates the Government on the decision to commence the New Aged Care act on November 1.

Ageing Australia has been advocating for months for sensible implementation timelines, to ensure smooth transition for older people and providers.

“This decision is the result of months of intense discussions and calls for practical timelines for the sector. We know that rushed reforms would put levels of care at risk for older people,” Ageing Australia CEO, Tom Symondson, said.

“We applaud the Government for listening to the concerns of the aged care sector and putting the needs of older Australians first.

“We fully support the new rights-based Aged Care Act, but the simple truth is, we’re not ready to introduce all the sweeping reforms by July 1.

Providers have been working around the clock to ensure a smooth transition, but we just haven’t received all the information we need in order to proceed.

“The additional time will give us the critical space we need to finalise agreements, systems, and processes.

“This is a win for the 1.4 million older Australians, who rely on aged care. We need to do this reform once and do it right. We hope this extension will help us get closer to that goal.”

Ageing Australia congratulates the Albanese Government, new Aged Care Minister Sam Rae, and Minister for Health and Ageing and NDIS Mark Butler for this decision – which puts older Australians first.

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ATO App Gives Protection

Help for Drought-Hit Victorians

[From the Australian Taxation Office]

As millions of Australians are preparing to lodge their tax returns, scammers are actively seeking new ways to exploit personal information.

If successful, they can use stolen details not only to commit fraud against the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), but also carry out broader identity theft and financial crimes across the community. The ATO has reported a sharp rise in impersonation scams, with a 150 per cent increase over the last 12 months; 90 per cent of ATO impersonation scams are currently being sent via email. Scammers are constantly enhancing their methods to impersonate the ATO, making it increasingly difficult for individuals to recognise fraudulent messages. Staying informed and vigilant is essential to protecting personal information.

To help keep your personal information safe and protected, the ATO's app now has powerful new safety features designed to give users real-time control over their tax affairs, through alerts and instant account locking, to help stop fraudsters in their tracks. The app enhancements bolster the ATO's existing fraud controls that have been in place for some time to detect unusual or out of pattern behaviour on taxpayers' accounts. **Stop, Check, Protect** "This is the time of year when people are awaiting

their tax returns or expecting to hear from the ATO, and scammers know it," said ATO Assistant Commissioner, Rob Thomson. "That's why we've strengthened the ATO app with new security features. It's fast, free, and puts security in your hands, giving you the power to monitor your account in real-time and instantly lock it if something doesn't feel right. "Downloading the ATO app is a simple and effective way to stay one step ahead. "If you receive a notification and something doesn't feel right, lock your account immediately in our app, and verify and report the interaction on the ATO website or by calling 1800 467 033 during business hours to discuss any suspicious activity." **Fraudsters Getting Smarter** Fraudsters are getting smarter, but so are the protective features in the app. The ATO app now includes new security features designed to help you stay protected, such as:

- Real-time messages when changes are made to your ATO record.
- Quick account locking when you receive a real-time message to prevent unauthorised access or fraudulent refunds.

These features provide peace of mind, knowing your account is protected and you remain in control of your tax affairs anytime, anywhere. The ATO works closely with the National Anti-Scam Centre (NASC), which operates under the ACCC, to protect Australian's identity information from scams through awareness and education that focuses on three simple steps – stop, check, protect. This partnership strengthens our ability to detect and respond to scam threats, especially during peak periods like tax time. "If you receive an unsolicited contact claiming to be from the ATO and offering any of these options, it's very likely a scam. Scammers may also use spoofed phone numbers, fake caller IDs, and convincing email templates to appear legitimate," said ACCC Deputy Chair Catriona Lowe. "Don't let scammers pressure you. We urge all Australians to 'stop, check and protect' before reacting to an unexpected call or message and keep front of mind that the ATO and myGov do not use links in their messages." **Unique to You** Fraudsters and scammers plan on you being distracted and thrive on weak security. Your first line of defence is

the ATO app, followed by:

- Using a digital ID like myID to securely access online services. It's unique to you and helps protect you from identity theft and fraud across platforms like tax, education, and government services.
- Knowing how to spot and report scams impersonating the ATO. It only takes a few seconds to stop and check an interaction is legitimate. Remember, the ATO will never send you a link asking for your personal information or for you to log into online services.
- Turning on multi-factor authentication wherever possible.
- Using strong and unique passwords or passphrases.
- Keeping your devices and software updated to block the latest threats.
- And most importantly, never share your TFN, myGov login, or bank details even in private messages or emails. These are keys to your identity.

If you've received a suspicious call, SMS, email or social media message: Visit verify or report a scam to check or report it. If you've shared personal information or paid a scammer, call the ATO immediately on 1800 008 540. Find out more at ato.gov.au/scamsafe.

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) has partnered with Nutrien Ag Solutions to provide Victorian farmers with dedicated drought support resources as they continue to face record-breaking drought conditions.

The new Nutrien Ag Solutions-funded initiative is dubbed the Victorian Drought Support Program and will support the VFF to employ a dedicated Drought Support Adviser to help farmers to access existing drought support grants, co-ordinate well-being events, and act as a critical link between farmers and decision makers to identify potential gaps in drought support. VFF President Brett Hosking said the initiative aims to act as a "one-stop-shop" for farmers seeking drought assistance and to identify future areas of support to lend farmers a helping hand. "Farmers in every corner of Victoria are telling us they need a central point they can contact when it comes to drought assistance and the issues they're facing. Thanks to Nutrien Ag Solutions for helping us to make this happen," Mr Hosking said. "Farmers can directly contact the VFF's Drought Support Adviser, Kim Tupper, who will help streamline individual drought applications, connect farmers with financial counsellors and mental health services, and provide risk management support.

"We know the impact of this drought is far-reaching and will linger for years. It's so important we have a resource on the ground listening to farmers every day and feeding that back, so we can direct support to where it's needed and most effective." David Wood, General Manager – Western Victoria, Nutrien Ag Solutions said, "Our business is built around supporting Australian farmers, and we know how tough it's been this season across Victoria. "By partnering with the VFF, we're investing in meaningful, practical support that will make a real difference in helping farmers navigate the challenges they're facing today, and building resilience for tomorrow." Farmer feedback received from the initiative will be used to help guide decision making regarding further drought support administered by the VFF's Disaster Relief Fund. More information, including drought assistance resources and how to contact the Drought Support Adviser can be found on the VFF website.

Those Magnificent Men and Women in Their Flying Machine

At an Avalon International Airshow, a while ago now, one of the more unconventional presentations our son Paul and I viewed, along with nearly 80,000 other people, were two Scandinavian wing walkers, Jenny Frarsson and Elizabeth Pedderson, performing a unique wing walking act while the aircraft was in flight.

The plane used for this world renowned performance was the Grumman Ag. Cat aircraft powered by a 450 hp Pratt and Whitney engine. While the Skycats do their presentation, a pyrotechnic smoke display exudes from the wing tips as the pilot manoeuvres the plane through a series of loops and barrel rolls. The "Skycats" in real life are two very athletic women, who perform skilfully on the aircraft wings while combating a 150 kph slipstream as the plane flies through the sky. This presentation by these women and pilot in their flying machine was a crowd favourite. This airshow event reminds me of another even more unconventional flight, which comes not from an airshow, but a quiet back yard. The story is told of a 33-year-old truck driver Larry Walters who had a habit of spending his weekends in his Los Angeles backyard, just south of LA International airport, drinking Pepsi and eating peanut butter sandwiches. He would sit in his favourite deck chair staring at the houses around him in the subdivision where he lived. **Balloons and Helium** Feeling bored one day Larry bought some balloons and a tank of helium. He figured on tying the balloons to

his lawn chair, filling them with helium, and floating up for an aerial view of the neighbourhood. He judged he would get no higher than 30 metres, but just in case, he got out his pellet gun and loaded it so that he could regulate his altitude by shooting out a couple of balloons if necessary. Larry went out and bought 45 big weather balloons, a large tank of helium and some rope. Larry then secured his deck chair to the ground and filled the balloons with helium and, one by one, he tied them to his deck chair. Before liftoff he went into the house and got another 6 pack of Pepsi. Then he went out and sat in his deck chair and instructed his neighbours to cut the ropes securing the chair when he was ready. "Lets go!" he yelled and the ropes were cut. Larry didn't go up to 30 metres, he went up to 4900 metres! He ascended straight up to the aircraft approach path for the LA International airport. The pilot of an approaching commercial jet aircraft reported that he had just passed a man in a deck chair! Eventually Larry returned to planet earth unscathed, and a news reporter from a TV crew thrust a mike under his nose, "Why did you do it?" Larry thought about this for a



• Bruce Stewart

while and said, "Well, you can't just sit there." The Bible says: "So be careful how you live... Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do" (Ephesians 5:15-17). So the message is that to live life don't just watch from the sidelines, don't just sit there. Jesus said, "I have come that you might have life and life in all its fullness" (John 10:10). In coming to know and follow Jesus, we soon discover that life has purpose, hope and joy as we spend our time serving with honesty, integrity and good work ethic in the work place, our homes, community, local church and even while relaxing at an International Airshow! Carpe Diem – seize the opportunity and live each day wisely and well. **Bruce Stewart.**



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• The "Skycats" in real life are two very athletic women who perform skilfully on the aircraft wings while combating a 150 kph slipstream as the plane flies through the sky. This presentation by these women and pilot in their flying machine was a crowd favourite.

Charlton 100 Years Ago

(Information from "East Charlton Tribune")

July 4 to 8, 1925.

Terraptee: Successful was the dance held in aid of the local School funds. All concerned are to be congratulated on the result of their efforts.

Fourteenth Annual Golf Open Tournament: The Tournament is recognised as one of the leading fixtures of its kind in the State of Victoria. The number of entries has never been excelled. The links were in fine order, and the conditions, on the whole, were excellent for the pastime of the niblick, the cleek and the mashie. Metropolitan and provincial golfers were among the competitors. The Men's Championship was secured by F. Jennings. The convenience of the enlarged, remodelled Club House, with its dining room, kitchen and two dressing rooms, was greatly appreciated. The President, Mr John Windsor, and the Secretary, Mr C. O. Williams, carried out the arrangements. The Ball, held in the Victoria Hall, was enjoyable. The supper was something to write home about.

Grand Going: Motoring has its joys (many of them) and its sorrows – fortunately few. Singularly free from the latter has been Mr W. Crutch, who owns a fine Buick. Including the distance covered in taking it from Melbourne to Charlton, this automobile has done fully 10,500 miles to date; and never once in that distance has the pump had to be applied to the lefthand front tyre.

Health Regulations: In the Court of Petty Sessions Charles Hando and Leonard Cassell, butchers, were proceeded against. The first charge was that they had allowed certain swine to have access to offal which had not been boiled for at least one hour. The second charge was failure to keep their slaughtering premises in the condition required. Mr Crowe, for the defendants, pointed out that they were tenants of the property and the defects had since been remedied. A new concrete floor had been put in the killing pen. The offal had not been fed to the pigs, but they gained access to it owing to defects in the fence of the pig yard. The yard has now been completely enclosed with a pig-proof fence.

Marmal's Brilliant Night: For once the organiser and Committee of a social function were thankful for bad roads and showers which

prevented many people from attending the Marmal Fun Frolic held on behalf of the School. Otherwise, the Hall could not have held the number. As it was, the crowd was too dense to make dancing a pleasure, but some novelty dances and "Back to Childhood" games kept the fun ball rolling. It was the largest attendance seen in the Marmal Hall since the opening, over 20 years ago. Carnival novelties were distributed at the commencement of the evening. The costumes were varied and beautiful and the judges had a hard time. The prize of the night was secured by Miss M. A. O'Meara.

Third in Motor Sales: From Lane's Motors Pty Ltd, Melbourne, Messrs H. J. Jackson and Son, local agents for Buick cars, received a letter expressing satisfaction in regard to the sales of that celebrated make of car effected by the well-known Charlton firm during the past year. An abstract of the numbers of Buick cars sold and delivered in that period by all dealers in Victoria shows Charlton third on the list for the State. The placings are: Bendigo 1, Geelong 2, Charlton 3, Ultima 4, Horsham 5, Ballarat and Warrnambool equal 6, Warracknabeal 7, Jeparit 8, Casterton 9, Castlemaine and Nhill equal 10, Cobram 11, Colac 12. The position is one of which Messrs Jackson and Son have reason to be proud.

Football – Charlton Chatter: Jock Windsor originally put his shoulder out when, at harvest time, a horse pitched Jock on to his shoulder with the result that he was knocked out. When the renewal of the mishap occurred at Woosang, Windsor put the shoulder back in place. He was a spectator this week and it is the first time he had been absent from the Charlton team through injury since 1919. To keep them eligible for the Junior Competition, Frank Robertson and R. Curnow appeared for the Second Eighteen at Teddywaddy.

Football – Teddywaddy Tattle: An acquisition to the Rovers has proved Jack O'Donnell, last season's Buckrabanyule footballer, can always be depended on to give a good account of himself. Against Charlton, Jack Sait on the wing played his best game of the season. Alf Spicer (centre half back) and Dick Sait (back line) are a reliable pair.



• Marmal State School.

Call for Eligible Criteria Review on Drought Funding

Northern Grampians Shire and Horsham Rural City councils are calling on the State Government to thoroughly review its eligibility criteria for its latest round of drought funding, which excludes the municipalities' farmers despite some of the most challenging conditions in recent memory.

Earlier this month, the government announced an additional \$75 million in drought support for farmers in Victoria's south-west, including \$35.8 million for Primary Producer Support Payments to provide eligible farmers with the equivalent of a 40 per cent reduction on their property rates.

The payments will provide much-needed cash-flow relief for farmers in 12 Local Government Areas (LGAs), including Ararat, Southern Grampians and southern parts of West Wimmera, but not Northern Grampians or Horsham Rural City.

Inequitable Application

Northern Grampians Shire mayor, Karen Hyslop, said both councils were concerned and disappointed about the inequitable application of drought grants and assistance packages, including Farm Drought Support Grants (formerly On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Grants).

"The drought support grants provide farmers in our shire, and Horsham Rural City, with grants of up to \$5000, while farmers in neighbouring LGAs may access up to \$10,000," she said.

"Now the additional \$75 million drought assistance package, which includes rate rebates, and food and grocery support among other relief, is not available to us at all.

"Given both LGAs are experiencing ongoing drought conditions across the region, we are advocating for equitable access to financial support for all affected farming communities."

Cr Hyslop and Horsham Rural City mayor Ian Ross have written letters to Premier Jacinta Allan and Agriculture Minister Ros Spence respectively, advocating for their municipalities to be made eligible for further drought relief.

Soaring Costs

Cr Ross said livestock maintenance costs had soared, while the depletion of pasture and seed banks had made it nearly impossible for farmers to sustain their operations without external support.

"Our farmers are battling conditions far worse than we've seen in recent history," he said.

"With the high cost of maintaining livestock and the long-term implications for local farming families, we are deeply disappointed by the exclusion of our southern regions from the Primary Producer Support Payments.

"To have these areas excluded from the new support measures is a blow to our agricultural community, and council is calling for a review to address this oversight.

"These farmers need assistance now more than ever."

Cr Ross said he believed the exclusion of Horsham municipality's southern and western areas from the latest drought support measures, not only contradicted previous decisions, but also undermined the hard work and resilience of local farmers.

"The contradiction between being included in earlier drought relief programs and then being excluded from the latest support payments is creating unnecessary confusion," he said.

"We are calling on the government to ensure that all drought-affected farmers, regardless of location, receive the support they need."

Latest Measures

The latest drought support measures, which along with the Primary Producer Support Payments, include \$2 million for Country Women's Association to deliver household payments of \$1000 in eligible LGAs; \$5.9 million to continue technical decision-making support, mental health services, farm-debt mediation and engagement activities for another 12 months; a \$6.3 million fee-and-duty-relief package; waiving indexation on biosecurity fees; and \$15 million towards extending the East Grampians Rural Pipeline, also known as the Mininera Rural Pipeline – stem from the government's new drought response taskforce.

Taskforce members include government ministers and representatives from local government, banks and the Victorian Farmers Federation.

Regional Cities Victoria and Rural Councils Victoria have also been advocating heavily on behalf of local councils, including Horsham Rural City and Northern Grampians Shire, and are represented on the taskforce.

In her letter to the premier, Cr Hyslop extended her appreciation and support for the taskforce, which she said she believed had strong potential to deliver meaningful and lasting outcomes.

"However, we are concerned by the absence of direct representation from the Wimmera region on the task-

force and the absence of communication to date regarding its activities, plans and opportunities for engagement," she said.

"Regular updates, clear lines of communication and access to any emerging support programs would greatly assist council in co-ordinating local efforts and ensuring our communities are informed and connected to the process."

Invitation

Cr Hyslop said she would welcome an opportunity to work with the taskforce and extended an invitation to host a taskforce meeting in Northern Grampians Shire.

"Here, we could facilitate engagement with local farmers, enabling taskforce members to hear firsthand the concerns of our agricultural community and better understand how support packages can meet local needs," she said.

"As our areas have been experiencing the effects of drought for quite some time, our region is experiencing significant economic, social and mental health pressures.

"We welcome the government's commitment to supporting farming communities and believe the taskforce has strong potential to deliver meaningful and lasting outcomes."



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Blast from the Past

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

"Common" for cows. It will be remembered that, some time ago, the Council applied to the Lands Department for permission to use that piece of land between the cricket ground and the river as an enclosure where owners of cows within the town might place them at night. At last, after the usual amount of red-tape being unwound, the following communication has been received: "With reference to the water reserve area situated in the north of the town of Donald, we have to inform you that the offer of the Shire Council to pay £1 per annum for the right to graze this reserve is accepted". It was resolved to forward the fee at once.

July 7. Unfortunate Accident. While in Minyip on Saturday last, Mr. Alf. Lewis had an unfortunate experience while backing his lorry in the main street. When he commenced to back, the coast was clear, but a little boy who had been playing on the other side of the street must evidently have followed one of his companions across towards the moving lorry. Mr Lewis had no idea the lad was about until after the accident happened. The unfortunate youngster was negotiating a "scooter" at the time, and was evidently unable to get clear when he found himself running into the back of the vehicle. The wheel did not pass over him, but in some way he became entangled under the back axle with his scooter and suffered abrasions to the side of

the head. Later news has been received to the effect that the accident has ended fatally. (The boy was Philip Rowan, aged two-an-a-half, who was riding a trike.)

July 10. School Sports. On Saturday last, a football team from St. Joan of Arc's Convent, Donald, visited Cope Cope to compete with the boys of the local State School. As each team had only nine or ten men a side, the game was not overcrowded. From the start the local boys took the lead and this they maintained right through the game. The contest was played in a friendly and manly way, and some good football was displayed by both teams. The head teacher of the local State School umpired the game, and gave general satisfaction. The final scores were, Cope Cope State School, 16.11; St. Joan of Arc's Convent 9.6. The teams were, Donald Convent: W. Byrne, G. Small, W. Clayton, A. McCreddin, C. Scott. F. Bellett, T. Danaher, C. Byrne, R. Clayton, F. Fox. Cope Cope State School: L. Sullivan, R. Goldsbury, E. Edgoose, A. Goldsbury, C. Sullivan, H. Edgoose, C. Foreman, R. Dunstan, A. Foreman. The best players for the Convent were W. Byrne, W. Clayton, A. McCreddin, G. Small. Cope's best were V. Edgoose, A. Goldsbury, L. Sullivan, R. Goldsbury. The other boys all put in good solid work and there were no passengers. At the conclusion of the game, the visitors were provided with refreshments prior to their departure for Donald.

July 14. McCracken Fund. At the last meeting of the Donald Shire Council, Cr. McNab said that the disposal of the remainder of the McCracken Fund, after the erection of a brass tablet at the Shire Hall, had been left in the hands of Crs. McPherson, Cantwell and himself. As a result of enquiries made, and after consultation with Mrs. McCracken, they had come to the conclusion that the best course to adopt would be to devote the surplus (£30) to equipping a cot in the St Arnaud hospital. This course had been considered preferable to placing the money in a trust account for the use of the late Mr. McCracken's son.

July 17. Correspondence. Disgraceful Dancing. Dear Sir, – Being a lover of dancing I attended the Scouts' Masked Ball and the Soldiers' Ball, held recently in the Memorial Hall, and was surprised at the way several couples were allowed to conduct themselves on both occasions. I think a competent "Master of Ceremonies" should be appointed, and should see that the hideous exhibitions I witnessed on both occasions be not allowed in future. The fact of a couple dancing (if it can be called by that name) together all the evening, and, irrespective of what music was played and what dance was specified, doing the same hideous thing from start to finish will not tend to make any future dance a social success. One of the most important features of a graceful dancer is Deportment, and I am sorry to say it was noticeable by its absence in the couples I mention. If such people insist on flouting the rules of decency, I think they should be refused admission to any future dances in Donald. Yours, etc., Admirer of Graceful Dancing

July 21. Correspondence. Dear Sir, – It was with disgust more than amusement that I read the letter of "Admirer of Graceful Dancing" in your paper of the 17th inst. "Where has this person been living lately?" – the cry goes round, "that he can find fault with the conduct of the couples at the two balls mentioned!" "Couples dancing together all the evening"; "Hideous exhibitions"; "Flouting rules of decency" are terms used in the "Admirer's" letter. One is amazed at the expressions as every couple was well conducted as is usual at balls in Donald. As for needing a "Master of Ceremonies" – what next – chaperones or one's nurse, I suppose? "Admirer of Graceful Dancing" must surely be a Rip Van Winkle that isn't awake to the fact that it is quite correct to dance with one partner all the evening if they so desire. I hope the public won't get a wrong impression of our Donald dancers from our "Admirer's" letter. Yours etc. FOX TROT

July 28. In the Nick of Time. Fire Fiend Defeated. At about 6.15 on Saturday evening, the unmistakable note of the fire bell rang out over the town, bringing residents from their homes in "double quick" time. No sign of flames could be seen, and the more energetic spirits made their way to the fire station, and thence to the main street, where a crowd had assembled in front of Messrs. Hannah Bros' business establishment. The brigade was quickly on the spot, but fortunately the services of its members were not required. The outbreak had started in the showroom being caused, it is thought, by a spark from the fire lodging in a box of ribbons and cuttings. When Mr. J. A. Gardiner entered the building after tea, he soon saw that something was amiss, and after deluging the box with water he rang Mr. Hannah, the fire bell being tolled shortly afterwards. Although the establishment was filled with smoke, no damage was done beyond the burning of the box and a coat belonging to one of the employees. Had the outbreak not been discovered until later, it is certain that serious damage would have resulted.

July 31. Watchem. At the last meeting of the Donald Shire Council, Cr. Borden drew attention to the length of time which elapsed before any move was made in Watchem to repair burst water pipes. He knew of instances in which pipes had been broken for three months, with water flowing continuously, forming pools in the street and otherwise damaging the road-way. At his suggestion it was agreed to write to those responsible in Birchip, bringing the matter beneath their notice, and requesting more prompt attention.

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Buloke.

CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

Buloke Shire Council proudly welcomed four new Australian citizens at a special Citizenship Ceremony held last Wednesday, at the Wycheproof Hall supper room. Among them was Hasan (pictured on right with Mayor Cr Alan Getley), who joined many others at the celebration.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH BULOKE

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

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



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

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH NURSE – CHARLTON

Permanent (Part Time) – from \$59.79 per hour (+ statutory superannuation)

→ Applications Close: 27 July 2025

This is a role for a highly motivated and enthusiastic Maternal and Child Health Nurse to provide high quality services to young families in Buloke Shire. The position is suitable for an experienced MCH Nurse looking to make an immediate impact in a new team or a graduate nurse who is keen to advance their skills alongside experienced MCH Nurses.

GRANTS READY WORKSHOP

Free Online Session - Learn how to navigate Local, State, Federal, and philanthropic funding applications with Keith Whelan, The Grants Guy.

When: Monday 28 July 6–8pm (Online)

Zoom link - <https://bit.ly/3GsE6E4>

Perfect for community groups seeking funding support!

DRAFT BIRCHIP MASTER PLAN

The Draft Birchip Recreation Reserve Master Plan, developed in partnership with the community and key stakeholders, outlines current needs and future opportunities, from upgraded sporting facilities to more inclusive community spaces. It builds on the 2010–2019 Plan and continues the vision of a vibrant, connected hub for all.

Have your say!

The draft plan is available to view and for feedback during the public exhibition period from **Wednesday 16 July to Tuesday 5 August 2025** at Council's Wycheproof Customer Service or visit: www.buloke.vic.gov.au/birchip-recreation-reserve-master-plan

Feedback can be submitted online or in writing during the exhibition period. Hard copies available on request by contacting Customer Service on 1300 520 520.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

At the July Council Meeting, Councillors awarded \$2,000 in funding to support two local projects that foster creativity, fun, and connection in our towns.

Congratulations to:

- Donald Pastoral & Agricultural Society Inc – \$1,000 for the Donald Show Photo Board Project, helping expand the much-loved photography competition at the annual Donald Show
- Charlton Neighbourhood House – \$1,000 for Pickleball for All: Serving Community Connection Across the Court, bringing laughter, movement and new sport opportunities to Charlton's courts

Have a great idea that benefits your local community? You could be eligible for a Council grant too!

Apply now: www.buloke.vic.gov.au/community-grants. Questions?

Reach us at: grants@buloke.vic.gov.au

BULOKE INTERIM CEO TRANSITION

Buloke Shire Council's CEO transition is now well underway, with Chief Executive Officer Wayne O'Toole providing an extended notice period through to the end of August.

This lead time allows Council to undertake the necessary process to appoint an interim CEO, which as a general guide can take up to six weeks.

COUNCIL POLICY UPDATE

Buloke Shire Council has adopted its updated Fraud and Corruption Policy at its July meeting, reinforcing its commitment to integrity and accountability. The updated policy is available for viewing on Councils website, visit: www.buloke.vic.gov.au/policies



BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL

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



Keep Abreast with Local Happenings!

Don't Forget Your Local Newspaper



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

The Many Uses of Vinegar

Over centuries vinegar has been used in various concoctions for a variety of purposes, but, not surprisingly, it still has a place within the modern home.

Commonly available white vinegar is a safe and natural product that can be used as an anti-mould agent, as a mild disinfectant, as a bleach or deodorant, as a general purpose cleaner and, in the garden, as a natural herbicide. Best of all, it

is environmentally safe and simple to use. In the laundry vinegar can be used to fix the colour in new clothing by soaking the item in a weak vinegar solution for two hours before a normal wash. As a fabric softener it is excellent;

simply soak the garment overnight in a solution of one part vinegar to three parts water, then rinse well. By adding half-a-cup of vinegar to the wash and rinse cycles of your machine, you will remove all traces of soap from your clothes. To eliminate fluff or lint on your sheets add one cup of vinegar to the final rinse instead.

When it's time to give your washing machine and the hoses a good clean, add three cups of vinegar to a normal water cycle with no clothes in the machine. Repeat this procedure about every three months and you'll save on costly repair bills.

Vinegar also makes an excellent cleanser and disinfectant for use in the bathroom. To sanitise your toilet and leave it smelling fresh, just pour some

white vinegar in the bowl and leave overnight. It is completely safe to use in septic systems, since it won't harm the microbes that break down the sewerage in the tank.

Vinegar and cooking salt will clean baths and sinks, or use it on its own to clean shower curtains, to remove rust stains from baths and sinks, and to eliminate mould and mildew from bathroom surfaces. To remove mould, leave it overnight before scrubbing off and wiping clean.

Around the outside of the home, vinegar can be used as a weed killer due to the acetic acid it contains, which damages and dries out plant tissues. A common DIY recipe involves mixing white vinegar, salt, and liquid soap. The vinegar acts as a contact herbicide, meaning it



• Alan Hayes

Vinegar is a far better choice that the myriad of readily chemical products and will the job just as well!

Visit Alan on the Net - www.itssonatural.com

YOUR THREE-DAY TV GUIDE

Tuesday

ABC (2) 6:00 News Breakfast 9:00 ABC News 10:00 Australian Story 10:30 Compass (PG) 11:00 TBA 11:20 Gruen 12:00 ABC News 1:00 Call The Midwife (M) 2:00 Parliament Question Time 2:55 Love Your Garden (PG) 3:45 Fake Or Fortune? 4:45 Long Lost Family (PG) 5:30 Antiques Roadshow 6:30 Hard Quiz (PG) 7:00 ABC News 7:30 7.30 (PG) 8:00 Foreign Correspondent 8:30 Dr Ann's Secret Lives 9:00 Dr Karl's How Things Work 9:35 Earth 10:35 ABC Late News 10:50 The Business	SBS (3) 5:00 Worldwatch 9:05 Great Lighthouses Of Ireland (PG) 11:05 Boswell And Johnson's Scottish Road Trip (PG) 12:00 Worldwatch 2:05 SBS50 (PG) 2:10 Engineering Reborn (PG) 3:00 Going Places With Ernie Dingo (PG) 3:35 SBS50 (PG) 3:40 The Cook Up (PG) 4:10 Jeopardy! (PG) 5:00 Letters And Numbers 6:00 Mastermind Australia (PG) 6:30 SBS World News 7:30 Great Continental Railway Journeys (PG) 8:30 Insight (PG) 9:30 Cycling: Tour de France: Stage 16 "Live"	PRIME (6) 6:00 Sunrise 9:00 The Morning Show (PG) 12:00 Seven Noon News 1:00 Movie: "Danger In The Spotlight" (AKA "Paralysed By Danger") (PG) ("21) Stars: Jessica Morris 3:00 The Chase UK (PG) 4:00 Seven News At 4 5:00 The Chase Australia (PG) 6:00 Seven News 7:00 Home And Away (PG) 8:30 Stranded On Honeymoon Island (PG) 11:30 The Agenda Setters 12:30 Fairly Legal (PG) 2:30 Home Shopping 4:00 NBC Today	NINE (8) 6:00 Today 9:00 Today Extra (PG) 11:30 NINE News Morning 12:00 Parental Guidance (PG) 1:30 Getaway (PG) 2:00 Pointless (PG) 3:00 Tipping Point (PG) 4:00 NINE News Afternoon 4:30 Tipping Point Australia (PG) 5:30 WIN News 6:00 NINE News 7:00 A Current Affair (PG) 7:30 Paramedics (M I) 8:30 Murder Down Under (MA15+) 9:30 Footy Classified (M) 10:30 NINE News Late 11:00 La Brea (M v) 11:50 Tipping Point (PG) 12:40 Pointless (PG) 1:30 Home Shopping	TEN (5) 10:00 Entertainment Tonight 10:20 MasterChef Australia (PG) 11:30 Judge Judy (PG) 12:00 Everyday Gourmet 12:30 Family Feud (PG) 1:00 10 News: Lunchtime 2:00 Wheel Of Fortune 2:30 Lingo (PG) 3:30 10 News: Afternoon 4:00 Neighbours (PG) 4:30 The Bold & The Beautiful (PG) 5:00 10 News 6:00 10 News Plus 7:00 Deal Or No Deal (PG) 7:30 MasterChef Australia (PG) 8:40 The Cheap Seats (M I) 9:40 FBI: Most Wanted (M v) 10:40 10's Late News 11:05 10 News Plus
ABC ENTERTAINS (23) 2:00 ER (PG) 2:45 Doctor Who (PG) 3:45 A Bite To Eat With Alice 4:10 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 4:40 MythBusters (PG) 5:30 Car S.O.S (PG) 6:15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent 7:05 Claire Hooper's House Of Games (PG) 7:35 QI (PG)	SBS VICE (31) 4:15 BBC News At Ten 4:45 France 24 International News 5:15 PBS News Hour 6:15 The Food That Built The World: Pop Stars (PG) 7:05 Jeopardy! 7:30 NITV News Update 7:35 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown (M I,s) 8:30 Alone: Fortune (M)	7TWO (62) 1:00 Escape To The Country 2:00 Creek To Coast 2:30 My Impossible House (PG) 3:30 Harry's Practice 4:00 The Zoo 4:30 Better Homes And Gardens 5:30 Escape To The Country 6:30 Bargain Hunt 7:30 Call The Midwife (PG) 8:45 Foyle's War (M)	GEM (81) 12:00 Midsomer Murders (M v) 2:00 Recipes For Love And Murder (M I,v) 3:00 Explore 3:10 Antiques Roadshow 3:40 Movie: "Mister Ten Per Cent" (G) ('67) Stars: Charlie Drake 5:30 Yorkshire Auction House 6:30 Antiques Roadshow 7:30 New Tricks (M I,s,v)	PEACH (52) 3:30 Rules Of Engagement (PG) 4:00 Everyday Gourmet With Justine Schofield 4:30 The King Of Queens (PG) 5:00 Becker (PG) 5:30 Frasier (PG) 6:30 Neighbours (PG) 7:00 Friends (PG) 8:00 The Big Bang Theory (PG) 10:00 Becker (PG)
ABC FAMILY (22) 3:30 Ready, Steady, Wiggle! 4:00 Andy's Global Adventures 4:25 Mecha Builders 5:00 Peppa Pig 5:35 Peter Rabbit 6:10 Super Monsters 6:30 The Adventures Of Paddington 7:00 Supertato 7:30 Do Not Watch This Show 7:55 Junior Vets	SBS MOVIES (32) 3:20 Movie: "Hum Do Humare Do" (PG) ('21) Stars: Rajkummar Rao (In Hindi) 5:40 Movie: "The Last Wave" (M) ('77) Stars: Richard Chamberlain 7:40 Movie: "Liebesding" (AKA "Love Thing") (M) ('22) Stars: Marco Albrecht (In German)	7MATE (63) 2:30 Gem Hunters Down Under (PG) 3:30 Billy The Exterminator (PG) 4:00 Counting Cars (PG) 5:00 American Restoration (PG) 5:30 Storage Wars (PG) 6:00 American Pickers (PG) 7:00 The Agenda Setters 8:00 Train Rescue Down Under (PG) 9:00 Outback Truckers (PG)	GO! (82) 2:30 The Nanny (PG) 3:30 Seinfeld (PG) 4:30 The Addams Family 5:00 Bewitched 5:30 I Dream Of Jeannie 6:00 The Golden Girls (PG) 6:30 The Nanny (PG) 7:30 Seinfeld (PG) 8:30 Movie: "Goldfinger" (M v) ('64) Stars: Sean Connery 10:50 Seinfeld (PG)	BOLD (53) 8:00 Roads Less Travelled 8:30 So Help Me Todd (PG) 9:30 Numb3rs (PG) 10:30 JAG (PG) 12:30 Numb3rs (PG) 1:30 So Help Me Todd (PG) 2:30 JAG (PG) 4:30 Numb3rs (PG) 5:30 JAG (PG) 7:30 NCIS (M v) 9:25 FBI International (M) 12:15 So Help Me Todd (M)

Wednesday

ABC (2) 6:00 News Breakfast 9:00 ABC News 10:00 Four Corners 11:00 Antiques Roadshow 12:00 ABC News 12:30 National Press Club Address 1:35 Media Watch 2:00 Parliament Question Time 2:55 Love Your Garden (PG) 3:45 Fake Or Fortune? 4:45 Long Lost Family (PG) 5:30 Antiques Roadshow 6:30 Hard Quiz (PG) 7:00 ABC News 7:30 7.30 (PG) 8:00 Hard Quiz (PG) 8:30 Guy Montgomery's Guy Mont Spelling Bee (PG) 9:20 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 9:50 Spicks And Specks (PG)	SBS (3) 5:00 Worldwatch 7:00 Cycling: Highlights 8:00 Worldwatch 11:00 Cycling: Highlights 1:00 Worldwatch 2:00 Insight: Gone Missing (PG) 3:00 The Day The Rock Star Died (PG) 3:30 SBS50 (PG) 3:35 The Cook Up With Adam Liaw (PG) 4:05 Jeopardy! (PG) 4:30 Letters And Numbers 5:00 Cycling: Highlights 6:00 Mastermind Australia (PG) 6:30 SBS World News 7:35 How Disney Built America (PG) 8:30 Air India Crash - What Went Wrong? (In English/ Hindi)	PRIME (6) 6:00 Sunrise 9:00 The Morning Show (PG) 12:00 Seven Noon News 1:00 Movie: "Party From Hell" (M v) ('21) Stars: Jackie Moore 3:00 The Chase UK (PG) 4:00 Seven News At 4 5:00 The Chase Australia (PG) 6:00 Seven News 7:00 Home And Away (PG) 7:30 The 1% Club (PG) 8:30 The Front Bar (M I) 9:30 Unfiltered (PG) 10:00 Ashley Cain - Into The Danger Zone (MA15+) 11:20 Stags (MA15+) 12:20 Imposters (M I,s,v) 1:20 Touching Evil (MA15+) 2:30 Home Shopping	NINE (8) 6:00 Today 9:00 Today Extra (PG) 11:30 NINE News Morning 12:00 Paramedics (M I) 1:00 Space Invaders (PG) 2:00 Pointless (PG) 3:00 Tipping Point (PG) 4:00 NINE News Afternoon 4:30 Tipping Point Australia (PG) 5:30 WIN News 6:00 NINE News 7:00 A Current Affair (PG) 7:30 Tipping Point - The Block (PG) 9:00 Murder Down Under (MA15+) 10:00 NINE News Late 10:30 Ski Rescue Down Under (PG) 11:30 Damian Lewis - Spy Wars (M v) 12:15 Tipping Point	TEN (5) 10:00 Entertainment Tonight 10:20 MasterChef Australia (PG) 11:30 Judge Judy (PG) 12:00 Everyday Gourmet 12:30 Family Feud (PG) 1:00 10 News: Lunchtime 2:00 Wheel Of Fortune 2:30 Lingo (PG) 3:30 10 News: Afternoon 4:00 Neighbours (PG) 4:30 The Bold & The Beautiful (PG) 5:00 10 News 6:00 10 News Plus 7:00 Deal Or No Deal (PG) 7:30 MasterChef Australia (PG) 8:40 Elsbeth (M v) 9:40 FBI: International (M v) 10:40 10's Late News 11:05 10 News Plus
ABC ENTERTAINS (23) 1:55 ER (PG) 2:40 Doctor Who (PG) 3:40 A Bite To Eat With Alice 4:10 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 4:40 MythBusters (PG) 5:30 Car S.O.S (PG) 6:15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent 7:05 Claire Hooper's House Of Games (PG) 7:35 QI (PG)	SBS VICE (31) 4:15 BBC News At Ten 4:45 France 24 International News 5:15 PBS News Hour 6:15 The Food That Built The World (PG) 7:05 Jeopardy! 7:30 NITV News Update 7:35 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown (M I,s) 8:30 Dopesick (M I,s)	7TWO (62) 1:00 Escape To The Country 2:00 Sydney Weekender 2:30 The Yorkshire Vet (PG) 3:30 Harry's Practice 4:00 The Zoo 4:30 Better Homes And Gardens 5:30 Escape To The Country 6:30 Bargain Hunt 7:30 Heartbeat (PG) 8:45 Lewis (M v)	GEM (81) 12:00 Midsomer Murders (M v) 2:00 New Tricks (M I,s,v) 3:00 Antiques Roadshow 3:30 Movie: "Our Miss Fred" (PG) ('72) Stars: Danny La Rue 5:30 Yorkshire Auction House 6:30 Antiques Roadshow 7:30 As Time Goes By (PG) 8:50 Midsomer Murders (M v)	PEACH (52) 3:30 The Neighborhood (PG) 4:00 Everyday Gourmet With Justine Schofield 4:30 The King Of Queens (PG) 5:00 Becker (PG) 5:30 Frasier (PG) 6:30 Neighbours (PG) 7:00 Friends (PG) 8:00 The Big Bang Theory (PG) 10:00 Becker (PG)
ABC FAMILY (22) 3:30 Ready, Steady, Wiggle! 4:00 Andy's Global Adventures 4:25 Mecha Builders 5:00 Peppa Pig 5:35 Peter Rabbit 6:00 Octonauts 6:30 The Adventures Of Paddington 7:05 Pteripenguins 7:30 Do Not Watch This Show 7:55 Junior Vets	SBS MOVIES (32) 3:45 Movie: "The Emperor's Club" (PG) ('02) Stars: Kevin Kline 5:45 Movie: "Whisky Galore" (PG) ('16) Stars: Gregor Fisher 7:35 Movie: "Living" (M) ('22) Stars: Bill Nighy 9:30 Movie: "Ali & Ava" (M I) ('21) Stars: Adeel Akhtar	7MATE (63) 2:30 Train Rescue Down Under (PG) 3:30 Billy The Exterminator (PG) 4:00 Counting Cars (PG) 5:00 American Restoration (PG) 5:30 Storage Wars (PG) 6:00 American Pickers (PG) 7:00 Pawn Stars (PG) 7:30 Highway Patrol (PG) 8:30 The Force - Behind The Line (PG)	GO! (82) 2:30 The Nanny (PG) 3:30 Seinfeld (PG) 4:30 The Addams Family 5:00 Bewitched 5:30 I Dream Of Jeannie 6:00 The Golden Girls (PG) 6:30 The Nanny (PG) 7:30 Seinfeld (PG) 8:30 Movie: "Thunderball" (PG) ('65) Stars: Sean Connery 11:15 Seinfeld (PG)	BOLD (53) 8:00 Roads Less Travelled 8:30 So Help Me Todd (PG) 9:30 Numb3rs (PG) 10:30 JAG (PG) 12:30 Numb3rs (PG) 1:30 So Help Me Todd (PG) 2:30 JAG (PG) 4:30 Numb3rs (PG) 5:30 JAG (PG) 7:30 NCIS (M v) 10:20 So Help Me Todd (PG)

Thursday

ABC (2) 6:00 News Breakfast 9:00 ABC News 10:00 Foreign Correspondent 10:30 Back Roads (PG) 11:10 Guy Montgomery's Guy Mont Spelling Bee (PG) 12:00 ABC News 1:00 Silent Witness (PG) 2:00 Parliament Question Time 2:55 Love Your Garden (PG) 3:45 Fake Or Fortune? 4:45 Long Lost Family (PG) 5:30 Antiques Roadshow 6:30 Hard Quiz (PG) 7:00 ABC News 7:30 7.30 (PG) 8:00 Back Roads (PG) 8:30 Griff's Great American South (PG) 9:15 Culture By Design	SBS (3) 5:00 Worldwatch 7:00 Cycling: Highlights 8:00 Worldwatch 11:00 Cycling: Highlights 1:00 Worldwatch 2:05 SBS50 (PG) 2:10 Engineering Reborn (PG) 3:00 Living Black 3:35 The Cook Up With Adam Liaw (PG) 4:05 Jeopardy! (PG) 4:30 Letters And Numbers 5:00 Cycling: Highlights 6:00 Mastermind Australia (PG) 6:30 SBS World News 7:35 Treasures With Bettany Hughes (PG) 8:30 Cycling: Tour de France: Stage 18 "Live" 2:00 SBS50 (PG) 2:05 World's Most Secret Homes (PG)	PRIME (6) 6:00 Sunrise 9:00 The Morning Show (PG) 12:00 Seven Noon News 1:00 Movie: "Top Of The Class" (AKA "Killer Competition") (M v) ('20) Stars: Jacqueline Scislowski 3:00 The Chase UK (PG) 4:00 Seven News At 4 5:00 The Chase Australia (PG) 6:00 Seven News 7:00 AFL: Round 20: Hawthorn v Carlton "Live" From The MCG 10:30 AFL: Post Game 11:00 Kick Ons 11:30 Autopsy USA (M) [s] 1:30 Life (M v) 1:30 Harry's Practice 2:00 Home Shopping 4:00 NBC Today	NINE (8) 6:00 Today 9:00 Today Extra (PG) 11:30 NINE News Morning 12:00 Movie: "Sister Dating Swap" (PG) ('23) Stars: Megan Hutchings 2:00 Pointless (PG) 3:00 Tipping Point (PG) 4:00 NINE News Afternoon 4:30 Tipping Point Australia (PG) 5:30 WIN News 6:00 NINE News 7:00 A Current Affair (PG) 7:30 NRL: Roosters v Storm "Live" 9:45 NRL: Post-Match 10:30 NINE News Late 11:00 Outback Opal Hunters (PG) 12:00 Next Stop 12:30 Tipping Point (PG) 1:30 Home Shopping	TEN (5) 10:00 Entertainment Tonight 10:20 MasterChef Australia (PG) 11:30 Judge Judy (PG) 12:00 Everyday Gourmet 12:30 Family Feud (PG) 1:00 10 News: Lunchtime 2:00 Wheel Of Fortune 2:30 Lingo (PG) 3:30 10 News: Afternoon 4:00 Neighbours (PG) 4:30 The Bold & The Beautiful (PG) 5:00 10 News 6:00 10 News Plus 7:00 Deal Or No Deal (PG) 7:30 Airport 24/7 (PG) 8:30 Law & Order: SVU (M v) 9:30 The Cheap Seats (M I) 10:30 10's Late News 10:55 10 News Plus
ABC ENTERTAINS (23) 2:00 ER (PG) 2:45 Doctor Who (PG) 3:35 A Bite To Eat With Alice 4:05 QI (PG) 4:40 MythBusters (PG) 5:30 Car S.O.S (PG) 6:15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent 7:05 Claire Hooper's House Of Games (PG) 7:35 QI (PG)	SBS VICE (31) 4:05 BBC News At Ten 4:30 France 24 International News 5:00 PBS News Hour 6:00 Over The Black Dot 6:30 Travel Man (PG) 7:00 Jeopardy! 7:25 NITV News Update 7:30 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown (M) 8:30 The Curse Of Oak Island (PG)	7TWO (62) 1:00 Escape To The Country 2:00 South Aussie With Cosi (PG) 2:30 Air Crash Investigations (PG) 3:30 Harry's Practice 4:00 Better Homes And Gardens 5:00 Escape To The Country 6:00 Bargain Hunt 7:00 Home And Away (PG)	GEM (81) 12:00 Midsomer Murders (M) 2:00 As Time Goes By (PG) 3:10 Antiques Roadshow 3:40 Movie: "Two Way Stretch" (G) ('60) Stars: Peter Sellers 5:30 Yorkshire Auction House 6:30 Antiques Roadshow 7:30 RBT (PG) 8:30 Emergency (M) 9:30 A&E After Dark (M I)	PEACH (52) 3:30 The Neighborhood (PG) 4:00 Everyday Gourmet With Justine Schofield 4:30 The King Of Queens (PG) 5:00 Becker (PG) 5:30 Frasier (PG) 6:30 Neighbours (PG) 7:00 Friends (PG) 8:00 The Big Bang Theory (PG) 9:30 Becker (PG)
ABC FAMILY (22) 3:30 Ready, Steady, Wiggle! 4:00 Andy's Global Adventures 4:25 Mecha Builders 5:00 Peppa Pig 5:35 Peter Rabbit 6:00 Octonauts 6:30 The Adventures Of Paddington 7:00 Supertato 7:30 Do Not Watch This Show 7:55 Junior Vets	SBS MOVIES (32) 4:00 Movie: "Living" (M) ('22) Stars: Bill Nighy 5:50 Movie: "Mrs Lowry And Son" (PG) ('19) Stars: Vanessa Redgrave 7:30 Movie: "In The Heat Of The Night" (M I,s,v) ('67) Stars: Sidney Poitier 9:30 Movie: "Begin Again" (M I) ('13)	7MATE (63) 2:30 The Force - Behind The Line (PG) 3:30 Billy The Exterminator (PG) 4:00 Counting Cars (PG) 5:00 American Restoration (PG) 5:30 Storage Wars (PG) 6:00 American Pickers (PG) 7:00 Pawn Stars (PG) 7:30 Clarkson's Who Wants To Be A Millionaire UK (PG)	GO! (82) 2:30 The Nanny (PG) 3:30 Seinfeld (PG) 4:30 The Addams Family 5:00 Bewitched 5:30 I Dream Of Jeannie 6:00 The Golden Girls (PG) 6:30 The Nanny (PG) 7:30 Seinfeld (PG) 8:30 Movie: "You Only Live Twice" (PG) ('67) Stars: Sean Connery 11:00 Seinfeld (PG)	BOLD (53) 8:00 Roads Less Travelled 8:30 So Help Me Todd (PG) 9:30 Numb3rs (PG) 10:30 JAG (PG) 12:30 Numb3rs (PG) 1:30 So Help Me Todd (PG) 2:30 JAG (PG) 4:30 Numb3rs (PG) 5:30 JAG (PG) 7:30 NCIS (M v) 10:20 So Help Me Todd (PG)



Experts Sought for Drought Services

Agriculture Victoria is continuing to back our farmers and regional communities through the drought, with more one-on-one support services and practical workshops.

Acting Executive Director Agriculture Sector Development and Services, Kate Linden, said agriculture organisations, service providers and consultants are encouraged to apply their expertise to help support farmers across the state.

“Agriculture Victoria is seeking quotes from service providers with specialist farm management technical expertise to work with us in delivering one-on-one consultations and group-based events.

“Every farm is different, so it’s critical that we have a range of service providers to deliver the professional business and technical advice our farmers need right now.

“Technical specialists such as agronomists, livestock nutritionists, veterinarians, pasture and grazing specialists, and farm business advisers are encouraged to submit a

quote to deliver practical advice on subjects such as feed budgeting, farm business and financial management and managing farm water shortages.

“We are looking for specialists to deliver our one-on-one service, which offers farmers the opportunity to sit down one-on-one with a consultant to discuss the best way forward for their business in the current season.

“The one-on-one advisory service has been well received in south west Victoria, with 140 farmers taking up the opportunity since last October. It’s been pleasing to hear that 90% of participants have already implemented the action plan created with their consultant.

“We are also seeking partners to deliver farm group events in local farming districts across the state, to discuss topical drought



management issues and opportunities, and connect with like-minded farmers.

“Having access to specialists and sharing challenges and approaches with other farmers at a workshop, field day or farm walk is incredibly valuable.

“Between September 2024 and June 2025, a series of 45 workshops were held across the south west, attended by 955 farmers.

“The events provided practical, science-based support to manage feed and water supply, animal nutrition, and pasture planning,” said Ms Linden.

Request for quotes are invited up until Thursday, July 31.

For more information and to register visit the Agriculture Victoria website.

Improved Farm Water Calculator Now Available

Agriculture Victoria’s online farm water calculator has been a reliable tool for land managers to keep an eye on their farm water supplies.

It has now been upgraded and offers an even more user-friendly and accessible experience.

This valuable tool helps farmers estimate:

- Water requirements across the farm.
- Storage capacity in tanks and dams.
- Water supply potential from sources like shed roofs, waterways, groundwater and catchment runoff.

Agriculture Victoria Climate Change Development

Officer, Heather Field, said by adjusting rainfall inputs, users can explore how their water supply might perform under different climate scenarios, helping them plan for dry seasons or unexpected shortages.

“The calculator now works seamlessly on mobile phones and tablets, making it easier to perform in-field assessments.

“It complements the existing Summer Water Calculator, which focuses on livestock water needs and dam longevity during hotter months.



“For the most accurate results, farmers are encouraged to use the calculator alongside regular monitoring of water use, storage and supply.” Ms Field said.

Try the upgraded tool today: <https://go.vic.gov.au/44llzBj>

Across the state any farmer can access technical information and advice to help manage the impacts of increasingly difficult seasonal conditions.

These services will be delivered in partnership with a range of technical experts, including farm business advisers, livestock nutritionists, soil, water and pasture specialists and veterinarians.

The technical decision-making, support program provides tailored advice through one-on-one consultations, webinars, workshops, field days, and online tools and information.

Find more information on drought support at www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or call 136 186.

Regional Livestock Exchange Sale Update

[from Horsham City Council]

The Horsham Agents Association, in partnership with the Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange (HRLE), wishes to advise all vendors of an important update to the sheep market schedule.

Effective from Wednesday, July 16, 2025, and continuing fortnightly thereafter, the Horsham sheep market will commence 90 minutes after the conclusion of the Hamilton sale, but no earlier than 12:30 p.m. (until further notice).

These changes have been made to ensure the best possible outcomes for vendors by

allowing a full gallery of buyers to attend both the Hamilton and Horsham sales on the same day.

Please note that on the alternate weeks, the HRLE sheep market will begin at the regular time of 9:30 a.m..

For any questions or further information, please contact your livestock agent directly.



Photo by Joe Pee on Unsplash

Managing Kangaroos On Your Farm

The Victorian Government is providing \$1.8 million to help drought-affected farmers control eastern and western grey kangaroos under an approved authority to control wildlife (ATCW).

Farmers whose livestock are competing with kangaroos for fodder can apply for rebates to engage professional harvesters to manage kangaroos under an ATCW.

Key Points

- Rebates of up to \$450 (ex-GST) per farm, up to 3 claims.
- Farmers to contribute at least 25% of the cost.
- Fast-track ATCW permit processing by the Conservation Regulator.

• Funding until June 30, 2026 or until funds are exhausted.

Apply at: <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/drought-support/managing-kangaroos-on-your-farm>

Who Can Apply

You must:

- Own, share or lease a primary production business in Victoria.
- Hold a current Australian Business Number (ABN).
- Have an approved authority to control wildlife (ATCW).
- Engage an accredited professional harvester authorised by the Game Manage-

ment Authority (no tag purchase needed).

What Will be Funded

- Fees for the authorised professional harvester.
 - Related costs, such as harvester travel and ammunition.
 - On-farm disposal expenses.
- Guidelines can be found on the Agriculture Victoria website.

Apply online for an ATCW if you don’t have one. Engage an accredited professional harvester from Services Victoria. Complete the online rebate application form. Attach your ATCW plus invoices, receipts or statements showing costs.

For help or more information, email kangaroorebate@agriculture.vic.gov.au

What's On

GRDC Grains Research Update

The GRDC Grains Research Update events are for growers, advisers and researchers to hear and discuss new and relevant information including: Herbicide resistance levels and management of sowthistle and annual ryegrass; Steps towards implementing precision agriculture and autonomous vehicles; Alternative weed control; Protecting allies: reducing impact on beneficial insects; Trade-off and tensions.

When: Thursday, August 7, 2025

Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. followed by lunch (doors open at 8.30 a.m.)

Where: Dimboola Golf Club, Old Racecourse Rd, Dimboola.

Free admission, registration is essential for catering purposes. Morning tea, lunch and proceedings provided.

For more information contact ORM Pty Ltd on 03 5441 6176 or email admin@orm.com.au.

Workshops for an Adaptive Farming Future

Consultant Dr Kate Burke will present the ‘In good times and bad: adaptive skills for your farming future’ workshops funded through the Farm Business Resilience (FBR) program.

When: 8.30 a.m. for 9 a.m. start to 3 p.m.

Where:

July 22-23, Dookie
August 14-15, Rutherglen
August 18-19, Wonwondah
August 21-22, Dunkeld.

These workshops are free and include morning tea and lunch, but numbers are limited so registration is essential.

For more information, visit www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/events



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Volunteer Fire Body Slams Lack of Answers

The key body supporting volunteer firefighters has slammed the Victorian Government's lack of budget transparency and cruel emergency services tax.

After the Liberals and Nationals called out Labor for refusing in Parliament to confirm cuts to the Country Fire Authority's budget, Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) has launched its own stinging attack.

Budget cuts to the CFA, SES and Fire Rescue Victoria were revealed by the Treasurer in a Government Gazette, but the Minister and the Premier have refused to acknowledge them.

In its monthly newsletter, VFBV chief executive officer, Adam Barnett, has mocked Labor for secrecy on CFA budget cuts as it hits Victorians with a new emergency services tax.

"If 'I love you' are the three hardest words in the English language according to Hollywood and boybands,

then 'The CFA budget is....' must be the four hardest words for a Victorian MP to utter," Mr Barnett wrote in reference to Labor's secrecy.

In Question Time in Parliament and across two weeks of public estimates hearings, neither the Premier, Treasurer or Emergency Services Minister would confirm the CFA's budget – nor that of the SES or Fire Rescue Victoria.

Handball

"Each handballed to the other, with the Premier's testimony, in particular, a sickening example of meaningless rhetoric dressed up as compassion and empathy that ultimately ignores the very people they claim to support," Mr Barnett wrote.

Labor is taking more – through the cruel emergency services – and giving less.



• Danny O'Brien.

"Despite documenting a record tax hike under its new emergency services tax, less of that money is making its way to the CFA than ever before," Mr Barnett wrote.

"The extra money collected is now being diverted to government departments and public sector employees, making a mockery that this new tax would be supporting Victoria's front line emergency services.

Reality

"This is the reality of the new emergency services tax. Gouging the eyes out of Victorian property owners without actually addressing the fundamental issues of Victoria's creaking old fire truck fleet."

Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Danny O'Brien, said volunteers were being consistently short-changed.

"The VFBV is confirming what we all know – Labor is cutting the CFA budget while hitting us with a new tax," Mr O'Brien said.

"Labor keeps denying there's a cut to the CFA, but there's only one way to back up the denials – give us a straight answer to a simple question.

"The Nationals and Liberals will scrap the emergency services tax in government and will continue to fight for all volunteers."



• RACV is highlighting the need for caution around schools as students return from holidays. Picture: Getty Images.

Call for Safety Around Schools

RACV is reminding all road users to exercise extra caution around school zones as students return to classrooms across the state.

RACV Head of Policy, James Williams said motorists need to be careful when driving and parking around schools.

"When we obey speed limits and exercise patience and caution, we are role-modelling road safety behaviours," he said.

According to the Transport Accident Commission (TAC), approximately seven children aged 0-15 die each year on Victorian roads. Children are particularly vulnerable around roads due to their reduced visibility, limited ability to judge speed and distance, and tendency to act impulsively.

RACV is highlighting the following road rules to prioritise safety around schools:

School Speed Zones

Most Victorian schools have designated speed zones reducing limits to 40km/h where regular limits are below 80km/h, and to 60km/h where regular limits are 80km/h or higher.

Time-based school zones typically operate 8:00-9:30 a.m. and 2:30-4:00 p.m. on weekdays during school terms.

Research shows that pedestrians hit by a vehicle travelling at 40km/h have significantly higher survival rates than those hit at 50 or 60km/h.

Motorists face fines and demerit points for failing to comply with posted limits.

Children's Crossings

• Recognisable by bright orange "Children Crossing" flags.

• All vehicles must stop for pedestrians waiting to cross when flags are displayed.

• Drivers must remain stopped until crossing is completely clear.

• Crossing supervisors may be present but the rules apply regardless.

Parking and Drop-off Areas

• Parents should familiarise themselves with school-specific parking arrangements.

• "Kiss and Go" zones allow for quick drop-offs without leaving vehicles (two-minute maximum).

• Parking is prohibited within 20 metres before and 10 metres after school crossings.

• Double parking, stopping in bus zones, or in "No Stopping" areas is illegal.

• Safety tips for walking and cycling.

RACV notes a concerning decline in active transportation to schools. According to Victoria Walks, only about 15 per cent of Australian students regularly walk or ride to school today, compared to 45 per cent in 1974.

Recommendations

For families choosing active transportation, RACV recommends:

• Supervising primary-aged children until around age 12.

• Holding hands with children under five near any roadway.

• Teaching children to remain alert and avoid distractions.

• Meeting children on the school side of the road during pick-up.

• Ensuring all cyclists wear helmets (children under 12 and accompanying adults may ride on footpaths).

• Ensuring children under the age of 16 do not ride on e-scooters outside of private property.

"School zones exist for the safety of our youngest and most vulnerable road users," added Mr Williams.

"Everyone shares responsibility for creating a safe environment around schools, whether you're a parent, teacher, or simply a passing motorist.

"Congestion at school drop off is a point of frustration for many parents and carers. It is worth considering parking a block away and walking the last part of the journey to the school. It's a great way to avoid congestion while increasing active travel."

Over the past 12 months RACV has educated 15,220 students from more than 140 schools as part of its RACV Safety Squad program. The program focuses on safety tips for pedestrians, passengers and bike-riders. Schools that aim to empower students to stay safe both at home and on the roads can learn more through the RACV Website.

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www.belvedere-cartoons.com

Global Appetites for Red Meat Continues

Australia's red meat industry exported new record volumes of beef and mutton in the 2024-2025 financial year.

According to Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA), total beef and veal exports for the financial year reached 1.4 million tonnes, the highest annual volume ever. Mutton exports also hit a new record at 256,104 tonnes. Lamb exports totalled 363,109 tonnes, making it the second-largest financial year for lamb exports.

June 2025 alone saw 134,593 tonnes of beef exported, marking the highest monthly beef export volume ever. This figure represents a 4% increase from May, and a 27% rise compared to June 2024.

According to MLA Managing Director Michael Crowley,

these results reflect the strength of global demand for Australia's red meat sector.

Not Just a Milestone

"Achieving record exports across both beef and sheepmeat in a single financial year is not just a milestone – it's a reflection of Australia's resilience and agility in a competitive global market," Mr Crowley said.

"We've seen double-digit growth in chilled and frozen exports, strong performance across both grassfed and grainfed beef, and significant increases in key markets like Mainland China, South Korea, and the United States.

"These results are underpinned by the industry's commitment to quality, sustainability, and innovation, as well as the strength of our trade relationships."

Total red meat exports in June 2025 reached 209,074 tonnes, 20% higher than the same month last year. Chilled exports rose 11% year-on-year to 44,715 tonnes, while frozen exports increased 22% to 164,359 tonnes.

Beef exports to the United States were particularly strong, totalling 35,343 tonnes in June, which is 23% higher than the same month last year.

Strong Demand

"Despite facing the 10% imposed tariff by the United States, Australian red meat continues to command strong demand, enhanced by our international reputation for product quality, safety, and supply chain integrity," Mr Crowley said.

Other key markets also saw significant growth in June, including South Korea and South-East Asia which recorded increases of 16% and 20% respectively.

Lamb exports in June totalled 32,437 tonnes, 4% higher than June 2024 despite a seasonal dip from May. Exports to Greater China rose 53% year-on-year, and exports to Canada jumped 93%.

Grainfed beef exports rose 29% year-on-year to 39,886

tonnes, and grassfed exports climbed 26% to 94,707 tonnes.

Global Leader

"These figures show that Australia is maintaining its position as a global leader in red meat exports but expanding upon it," Mr Crowley said.

"With continued focus in sustainability, quality assurance, and strategic market access, Australia is well-positioned to build on this momentum through the second half of 2025 and beyond."

• Bike riders: Use your brains and protect them as well – wear your helmets.

World-First Kiosks for the Grampians and Wimmera-Mallee

Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism, with the support of the Victorian Government and local councils including Southern Grampians Shire Council, Northern Grampians Shire Council, and Buloke Shire Council, is thrilled to announce the installation of three world-first off-grid Digital Inspiration Kiosks powered entirely by renewable energy sources – solar and wind – using sodium ion batteries to address the harsh Australian environment.



• One of the three new kiosks, this one installed at Lake Tyrrell.

“This groundbreaking initiative aims to enhance the visitor experience and promote economic recovery in the beautiful Grampians and Wimmera Mallee regions,” said Marc Sleeman, CEO of Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos encouraged visitors and locals alike to experience the kiosks first-hand that were supported through the Victorian Government’s Visitor Servicing Fund.

“These kiosks sum up what Grampians and Wimmera Mallee tourism is all about, delivering world-class, innovative experiences that make the region special.”

Dimopoulos added, “There’s so much on offer through the Grampians and Wimmera Mallee and this initiative will help visitors to experience more of this breathtaking part of Victoria.”

Made in St. Arnaud

Designed and assembled in the Northern Grampians Shire in St Arnaud, the kiosks will provide visitors with essential information about events, attractions, dining options, and nature trails in the region. The

kiosks are now installed in Halls Gap, Dunkeld and in Lake Tyrrell and are already being embraced by visitors eager to explore.

Delivered by Specialist Apps, the kiosks serve as vital hubs of knowledge, showcasing nearby businesses to encourage longer stays for visitors. Each kiosk includes a wheelchair-accessible ramp, ensuring inclusivity for all, while an intuitive touch-screen interface with adjustable navigation options caters to users of varying heights.

Key Features

Key features of the kiosks include:

- Proximity Awareness Sensor – Activates audio cues upon approach to engage visitors.
- Free Wi-Fi and Mobile Charging Points – Keeps visitors connected while enjoying the sights.
- Safety and Security – Equipped with CCTV for added security and access to emergency management feeds and warnings.
- Voice-Activated Features – Allows users to interact

through audio exchanges to discover attractions or get directions.

“The kiosks, accompanied by a new Visitor App tailored specifically for our region, aim to create an interactive and enriching experience that truly highlights the charm and diversity of our area,” Mr. Sleeman added. Designed with flexibility in mind, these kiosks can be relocated based on usage and visitor feedback to ensure optimal service. These are the world’s first transportable/foldable off-grid kiosks.

Calder United Strengthens Grip on Second Place

The first quarter at Boort saw an even battle with the Calder Lions backline players holding up the Magpies’ forward line as best they could.

Boort was winning the ball out of the middle with its ruckman playing well. The Magpies walked off at quarter-time, one point in front with 3 goals, 2 (20) points to the Lions 3 goals, 1 point (19).

The second quarter saw Cloke move in to the ruck for the Lions, which resulted in the Maroon and Navy getting a lot more of the ball out of the ruck. This changed the game and allowed co-coach Jordy Humphreys to focus on dominating up forward. Steve Kennedy stepped it up in the second quarter, as did Zane Keighran, who played well in

the middle, providing a lot more opportunity for the Lions to trudge forward. Half-time saw a 15-point lead for the Lions.

Despite only being 3 goals up at the three-quarter time break, the Calder Lions ran away with the game in the second half, looking the fitter side and displaying their endurance. It was evident that the Magpies’ ruckman was beginning to fatigue and this impacted the game greatly. The Lions took control of the midfield, creating more attractive options going forward. This led to a last quarter

run over, with the Lions coming out comfortable victors.

Lions young runners, Tiger Vearing and Koby Hommelhoff, played well in the second half.

Best players for the Lions: Zane Keighran, Tiger Vearing, Josh Walsh, Jordy Humphreys, Jack Marlais and George Turner.

Best players for the Magpies: Jhye Baddeley-Kelly, Carlos Egan, Matt Austin, James Keeble, Kayne Rutley, Kieren Jaksic.

Final score: Boort 9.10 (64) lost to Calder United 18.12 (120).

Tips to Protect Farm Waterways

Sensible decisions to protect farm waterways, and the farm as a business, are among a new set of practical tips from EPA Victoria and Agriculture Victoria.

EPA Director of Operations for Regional Victoria Jessica Bandiera, says if your farm fronts a creek, stream or body of water, the document “Reducing the impacts of grazing on water quality” is a collection of what works best in preventing erosion, sediment and loss of vegetation.

“This is about making choices on managing stock, land and vegetation that become lasting, passive protections for the waterway,” Ms Bandiera said.

“It explains the risks to waterways from grazing and offers practical measures to prevent them without hampering normal operations of the farm,” she said.

The Risks

The risks to riparian land can include:

- Overgrazing, especially during winter or drought.
 - Feeding stock too close to waterways.
 - Allowing animals with calves or lambs on to riparian land.
 - Allowing stock to directly access waterways.
 - Allowing runoff with sediment, nutrients and contaminants to flow into waterways.
- The practical tips include:
- Fencing to keep stock away from river or creek banks.
 - Installing of off-stream watering.
 - Revegetation to stabilise banks and fight erosion.

- Carefully managing grazing rates.
- Keeping stock feed, fertiliser and manure away from waterways.

The Signs

The guidance also explains the signs to watch out for, so you can protect the waterway, native plants and wildlife, and your land, before the problem becomes critical.

It was produced to support farmers and build their understanding of how to comply with the Environment Protection legislation, and minimise their environmental risks so far as reasonably practicable.

“Reducing the impacts of grazing on water quality” is an easy download from the EPA website.

Support services

Adult

Lifeline: 13 11 14 | Text 0477 13 11 14
lifeline.org.au

Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467
suicidecallbackservice.org.au

Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636
beyondblue.org.au/forums

MensLine Australia: 1300 789 978
mensline.org.au

StandBy Support After Suicide
1300 727 247

Youth

Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800
kidshelpline.com.au

headspace: 1800 650 890
headspace.org.au

ReachOut: ReachOut.com

Other resources

Head to Health: mental health portal
headtohealth.gov.au

Life in Mind: suicide prevention portal
lifeinmindaustralia.com.au

SANE: 1800 187 263 (10am-10pm)
online forums: saneforums.org

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander: 13YARN.org.au or 13 92 76
Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and/or intersex: 1800 184 527 qlife.org.au
Culturally and linguistically diverse: embracementalhealth.org.au

North-Central Hockey

Results of round 12 —

Under-12s: St Arnaud 2 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 0; Charlton 4 d. Donald 1; Wedderburn 2 def. by Birchip-Watchem 3; Boort 1 def. by Calder United 3.

Underage: St Arnaud 3 drew with Sea Lake-Nandaly 3; Charlton 9 d. Donald 1; Boort 1 drew with Calder United 1.

Women: St Arnaud 10 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 0; Charlton 16 d. Donald 1; Boort 0 def. by Calder United 3.

Men: St Arnaud 3 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 1; Charlton 1 def. by Donald 6; Boort 1 lost to Calder United 2.

POSITIONS OF TEAMS

Women

	P	W	D	L	F	For	Agst	SD	Pts	WR
St Arnaud	11	10	0	1	0	44	9	35	30	91
Charlton	10	8	0	2	0	48	11	37	24	80
Calder United	10	8	0	2	0	33	11	22	24	80
Boort	11	5	0	6	0	25	34	-9	15	45
Wedderburn	10	3	1	6	0	14	21	-7	10	33
Donald	10	1	1	8	0	8	43	-35	4	13
Sea Lake-Nan	10	0	0	10	0	1	44	-43	0	0

Men

St Arnaud	11	8	2	1	0	49	10	39	26	79
Calder United	10	7	1	2	0	40	14	26	22	73
Donald	10	7	1	2	0	28	13	15	22	73
Boort	11	5	2	4	0	47	13	34	17	52
Wedderburn	10	4	2	4	0	23	21	2	14	47
Sea Lake-Nan	10	1	0	9	0	8	48	-40	3	10
Charlton	10	0	0	10	0	6	82	-76	0	0

Underage

Charlton	10	10	0	0	0	62	6	56	30	100
St Arnaud	10	7	1	2	0	49	9	40	22	73
Donald	11	5	0	6	0	29	42	-13	15	45
Boort	11	4	1	6	0	29	39	-10	13	39
Calder United	10	3	2	5	0	16	15	1	11	37
Sea Lake-Nan	10	2	1	7	0	13	44	-31	7	23
Birchip-Wat	10	2	1	7	0	19	62	-43	7	23

Under-12s

Calder United	12	10	1	1	0	38	8	30	31	86
Charlton	12	10	1	1	0	29	10	19	31	86
Birchip-Wat	12	10	0	2	0	66	10	56	30	83
St Arnaud	12	7	1	4	0	34	16	18	22	61
Wedderburn	12	3	1	8	0	13	16	-3	10	28
Boort	12	2	1	9	0	5	39	-34	7	19
Donald	12	2	0	10	0	15	58	-43	6	17
Sea Lake-Nan	12	1	1	10	0	1	44	-43	4	11

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North-Central Football Roundup

Goldacres Seniors

SEA LAKE NANDALY	9.8	10.12	18.17	21.23	(149)
ST ARNAUD	0.0	2. 0	2. 0	3. 0	(18)
Goals for Sea Lake Nandaly: Max Cahoon 6, Trent Donnan 3, Andrew Collins 2, Adam Pattison 2, John Summerhayes 2, Oscar Brownless, Kane Donnan, Wade Donnan, Joshua Jenkins, Ryan O'Sullivan, Chase Tait. For St Arnaud: Zac Phillips, Darby Schilder, Chase Zander.					

CHARLTON	4.1	10.6	13.11	14.13	(97)
DONALD	0.0	1.1	3. 2	5. 5	(35)
Goals for Charlton: Archer Patterson 4, Kris Clifford 2, Thomas Finlay 2, Sebastian Zagame 2, Liam Collins, Mitchell Collins, Mason Heenan, Bailey Kemp. For Donald: Brent Arho, Ryan Bath, Kalon Green, Luca Rice, Joshua Talty.					

BIRCHIP-WATCHEM	6.5	10.7	15.12	15.14	(104)
WEDDERBURN	1.0	5.4	8. 5	12. 9	(81)
Goals for Birchip-Watchem: Ben Edwards 7, Rhona Conboy 4, Nicholas Rippon 2, Jacob Christie, Hamish Hosking. For Wedderburn: Mitch Jensen 4, Mitchell McEwen 2, Jake Miller 2, Danny Benaim, Isaac Holt, Oscar Holt, Jackson McEwen.					

CALDER UNITED	3.1	8.6	10.9	18.12	(120)
BOORT	3.2	6.3	7.9	9.10	(64)
Goals for Calder United: Jordan Humphreys 6, Zach Caccaviello 2, Steven Kennedy 2, Darcy Munro 2, Koby Hommelhoff, Zane Keighran, Rylee Smith, George Turner. For Boort: Ethan Coleman 3, James Keeble 2, Jhye Baddeley-Kelly, Carlos Egan, Tom Potter, Tyson Rutley.					

SEA LAKE NANDALY	1.0	3.4	6.4	11.7	(73)
ST ARNAUD	3.3	3.5	4.8	6.8	(44)

CHARLTON	1.0	2.2	5.4	9.7	(61)
DONALD	1.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	(15)
Goals for Charlton: Lachlan Holmes-Brown 3, Luke Dunne 2, Ethan Needs 2, Jac Boyles, Byron Rogers. For Donald: George Morgan, Jeremy Pearce.					

BIRCHIP-WATCHEM	3.0	6.7	11.9	18.14	(122)
WEDDERBURN	1.0	1.0	2.0	2. 1	(13)
Goals for Birchip-Watchem: Alexander Hay 7, Ty Colbert 2, Callum Goode 2, Connor Lee 2, Stefan Pye 2, Riley Hogan, Alexander Noonan, Matthew Rickard. For Wedderburn: Chris Hargreaves, Lachlan Maher.					

CALDER UNITED	2.2	3.2	7.6	9.8	(62)
BOORT	0.0	2.2	2.2	3.2	(20)
Goals for Calder United: Charlie Fawcett 3, Rick Allan 2, Brett Barker, George Forrester, Thomas Trewin, Joel Turner. For Boort: Jack Baker 2, Chris Hatcher.					

SEA LAKE NANDALY	3.0	5.2	5.2	7.7	(49)
ST ARNAUD	2.1	2.2	5.7	5.7	(37)

CHARLTON	3.3	4.4	5.6	7.8	(50)
DONALD	0.1	0.2	0.2	2.2	(14)
Goals for Sea Lake Nandaly: Brody Kelly, Brayden Allan, Hugo Warne, Oscar Conlan, Benjamin Barbary, Callum Mott.					

WEDDERBURN	2.2	3.3	6.8	6.8	(44)
BIRCHIP-WATCHEM	0.2	2.4	2.5	4.8	(32)
BOORT	2.4	7.6	8.6	12.13	(85)
CALDER UNITED	0.2	0.3	3.4	4. 4	(28)

Best for Wedderburn: Aaron Smith, Benjamin Cunningham, Jye Dingfelder, Trav Lowe, Max Dean. For Birchip-Watchem: Chriswin Daniel, Noah Dean, Kobe Hamilton, Taio Atkinson.					
Best for Boort: Cooper Gooding, Luke Boyd, Darby F Perryman, Chaise Hird, Cooper Gould, Brodie McPherson.					
For Calder United: Tynan Perry, Tiger Vearing, Angus Cowell, Jonty Cavalier, Zac Cavalier, Beau Chapman.					

Next Round

Round 13, Saturday July 26-

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

Uniting Church Under-Fourteens

ST ARNAUD 5.7-37 D. SEA LAKE NANDALY 1.3-9
Best for St Arnaud: Chase Hendy, Finn Wilson, Lewis Lowe, Isaac Johns, Spencer Kay, Xavier Taylor. For Sea Lake Nandaly: Finn Austerberry, Jack Hodgson, Max Conlan, Lenny Landry, Milton Bailey, Gerrin Durie.
DONALD 2.6-18 D. CHARLTON 2.2-14
Best for Donald: Charlie Zagame, Liam Monaghan, Darcy Olive, Flynn Zagame, Joshua Bartlett, Matthew Elso. For Charlton: Jake Italia, Samuel Mortlock, Joshua Joseph, Ross Clark, Isaiah Stirling, Darcy Burke.

WEDDERBURN 10.7-67 D. BIRCHIP-WATCHEM 1.2-8
Best for Wedderburn: Jagger Benaim, Zane Polkinghorne, Blaz Cramp, Wayde Collins, Bastian Noordennen. For Birchip-Watchem: Not Supplied.
BOORT 11.8-74 D. CALDER UNITED 1.1-7
Best for Boort: Noah Howe, Tarlin Trinchi, Brady Gilmore, Casey Gleeson, Whyatt Brooks. For Calder United: Zac Cavalier, Harry Humphreys, Morgan Beattie, Levi Hall, Beau Hogan, Tyler Harrison.

Positions of Teams

Goldacres North-Central Seniors

Teams	P	Pts	%	W	L	D	For	Ag
Birchip-Watchem	12	48	272.07	12	0	0	1578	580
Calder United	12	36	232.18	9	3	0	1407	606
Sea Lake Nandaly	12	32	223.08	8	4	0	1363	611
Boort	12	32	160.71	8	4	0	1313	817
Wedderburn	12	20	139.04	5	7	0	1097	789
Charlton	12	16	33.06	4	8	0	491	1485
St Arnaud	12	8	42.05	2	10	0	555	1320
Donald	12	0	14.74	0	12	0	276	1872

Haeuslers Reserves

Teams	P	Pts	%	W	L	D	For	Ag
Calder United	12	44	451.16	11	1	0	1164	258
Boort	12	40	374.16	10	2	0	1115	298
Birchip-Watchem	12	40	288.26	10	2	0	1179	409
Sea Lake Nandaly	12	24	136.82	6	6	0	877	641
St Arnaud	12	20	125.85	5	7	0	774	615
Charlton	12	12	44.80	3	9	0	444	991
Wedderburn	12	12	29.33	3	9	0	342	1166
Donald	12	0	8.06	0	12	0	133	1650

Community Bank Charlton and District U17s

Teams	P	Pts	W	L	D
St Arnaud	12	44	11	1	0
Sea Lake Nandaly	12	40	10	2	0
Boort	12	32	8	4	0
Calder United	12	28	7	5	0
Charlton	12	24	6	6	0
Donald	12	16	4	8	0
Wedderburn	12	8	2	10	0
Birchip-Watchem	12	0	0	12	0

Uniting Church U14s

Teams	P	Pts	W	L	D
St Arnaud	12	44	11	1	0
Sea Lake Nandaly	12	40	10	2	0
Wedderburn	12	32	8	4	0
Donald	12	28	7	5	0
Boort	12	20	5	7	0
Birchip-Watchem	12	12	3	9	0
Calder United	12	12	3	9	0
Charlton	12	4	1	11	0

Tooleybuc Sporting Club Presidents' Award

Voting for round 12
Sea Lake Nandaly: Max Cahoon 3, Trent Donnan 2, Wade Donnan 1.
St Arnaud: Harry Saunders 3, Tom Bertalli 2, Harley Durward 1.
Charlton: Liam Collins 3, Ben Xirha 2, Archie Patterson 1.
Donald: Kalon Green 3, Ross Young 2, Jett Adams 1.
Birchip-Watchem: Ben Lakin 3, Ben Edwards 2, Rhona Conboy 1.
Wedderburn: Mitch Jensen 3, Isaac Holt 2, Mark Robinson 1.
Calder United: Jordan Humphreys 3, Zane Keighran 2, Tiger Vearing 1.
Boort: Jhye Baddeley-Kelly 3, Carlos Egan 2, Matt Austin 1.

Saturday's Leading Goal Kickers

Seniors	Reserves
Ben Edwards (B-W) 7	Alex Cockerell (Boort) -
Jhye Baddeley-Kelly (Boort) 1	Alexander Hay (B-W) 7
Jack Exell (CU) -	Matthew Berry (B-W) -
Mitch Jensen (Wedd) 4	Zachary Wemyss (SLNT) 1
Max Cahoon (SLNT) 6	John Summerhayes (SLNT) -
Kayne Rutley (Boort) -	George Forrester (CU) 1
Nicholas Rippon (B-W) 2	Joel Clohesy (SLNT) 4
Jordan Humphreys (CU) 7	Heath Senior (CU) -

CHS Broadbent Club Championship

(Senior win 10 pts., Reserves 6, Under-17s 4, Under-14s 2).	Snr.	Res.	U-17	U-14	Ttl.
Calder United	10	6	0	0	188
Birchip-Watchem	10	6	0	0	186
Sea Lake-Nandaly	10	6	4	0	186
Boort	0	0	4	2	182
St Arnaud	0	0	0	2	116
Wedderburn	0	0	4	2	92
Charlton	10	6	4	0	84
Donald	0	0	0	2	30

Rolling Bulls Defy Brave Burners

• Continued from page 16. Mitch McEwen continued to gather possessions, assisted by the bullocking Natte Bealiba recruit Jye Mortlock, who was a solid presence at the coalface.

The Burners got back into the contest by getting back on level terms in the middle, where their relative newcomer to Aussie Rules, rugby convert Mark Robinson, was able to hold his own against Bulls’ mountain Hosking. Without Hosking’s usual dominance, the Bulls’ mids struggled to gather clear ball, and supply to their forwards was constrained.

Robinson is only three years into his Aussie rules career and is going great. A big unit, he was able to stand his ground against Hosking’s bullocking (no mean feat that) and also tapped his fair share of ball to midfielders.

After an opening salvo from Jacob Christie shot the Bulls out to a six-goal advantage, the Burners got motor-ing. Into the face of the breeze, which had died down considerably from the first half, they harassed, ran, made space further afield. Spirited efforts and goals resulted to Oscar Holt, Jensen, and Mitch McEwen. Impressive. Game back to just a two-goal margin.

Then Edwards imposed himself, leading hard, honoured, and duly delivered, hitting up three goals in a row.

The lad is back in town. The magical 100 in close sight. The midfield battle was a highlight. Bulls’ youngster Austin Dean continues to shine from out on the wing, gaining confidence every week and shows some real dash; well able to read the play. He regularly gathered ball from a contest and then delivered with precision further afield. He’s been a real find in 2025.

Rippon and Lee brothers in close. Same for McEwens and Holts. Mortlock dishing out. Darcy Jackson getting involved with a couple of raking left foots gaining territory. The ageless Benaim continued to show his guile from a wing. No hiding the plus-40-year-old close to goal.

Though the Bulls had probably done enough with a seven-goal three-quarter-time margin to put the cue in the rack.

Still, the Burners came. Lying down not their style in 2025 under Metherell, who wisely has been signed to continue in 2026.

Isaac Holt, with the aid of a confusing 50m penalty, split the big sticks. Then Sam Carroll, backup ruck for Robinson, playing as a tall marking forward, hit up a good set shot before Jackson McEwen ended a good chain of work from deep down back with another. Burners back within four, but the clock running against them.

Jensen, with one at the 23-minute mark, gave the Bulls a scare, but the buzzer sounded shortly after. Bulls home in an entertaining match. Lots to like about the Burners’ honesty, running right until the end, spirits high. Just a tad light in the high-end talent, but plenty of depth. If they can snag a couple of A-Graders in the off-season and maintain what they have, lookout for a resurgence in 2026. Especially if they can keep Jensen, he is a genuine excitement machine.

The Bulls’ train rolls on. Hard to maintain the high intensity for an entire season, but coach Connick has them in a great place. There’s a genuine commitment to each other. Conboy and Lakin, terrific recruits from Horsham, both have added a hardness the Bulls lacked in 2024. They have a real shot for September glory.

They have a target on their back though and will need to keep at it until finals time, where they will be thoroughly tested.

Final scores: Birchip-Watchem 15.14 (104) def Wedderburn 12.9 (81).

Best for Birchip-Watchem: Ben Lakin, Ben Edwards, Rhona Conboy, Lachlan Ryan, Austin Dean, Bill Lee.

Wedderburn: Isaac Holt, Mitch Jensen, Jackson McEwen, Mark Robinson, Zach Pallpratt, Jye Mortlock.

North-Central Netball



Last Saturday’s results:

“A” Grade
St Arnaud 12 def. by Sea Lake-Nandaly 58; Charlton 35 def. by Donald 52; Boort 51 d. Calder United 40; Wedderburn 58 d. Birchip-Watchem 50.

“B” Grade
Charlton 27 def. by Donald 36; St Arnaud 41 def. by Sea Lake-Nandaly 42; Boort 28 def. by Calder United 45; Wedderburn 57 d. Birchip-Watchem 33.

“C” Grade
Charlton 37 d. Donald 35; St Arnaud 37 def. by Sea Lake-Nandaly 42; Boort 25 def. by Calder United 45; Wedderburn 43 d. Birchip-Watchem 39.

“C” Grade Reserves
Boort 37 d. Calder United 31; St Arnaud 5 def. by Sea Lake-Nandaly 71; Wedderburn 38 def. by Birchip-Watchem 62.

Seventeen-and-Under
St Arnaud 53 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 47; Boort 29 def. by Calder

United 57; Wedderburn 29 def. by Birchip-Watchem 51; Charlton 43 d. Donald 39.

Fourteen-and-Under “A”
Charlton 11 def. by Donald 38; Wedderburn 5 def. by Birchip-Watchem 35. St Arnaud 31 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 4; Boort 29 d. Calder United 12.

Fourteen-and-Under “B”
Wedderburn 12 def. by Birchip-Watchem 27; Boort 23 d. Calder United 3; St Arnaud 31 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 1.

Results of round 12:

“A” GRADE												
	P	W	L	D	B	FW	FL	F	A	Pts	%	
Wedderburn	12	12	0	0	0	0	0	705	385	48	183	
Boort	12	9	3	0	0	0	0	647	488	36	133	
Sea Lake-Nan	11	8	3	0	0	0	0	489	392	32	125	
Birchip-Wat	12	6	6	0	0	0	0	605	579	24	104	
Calder United	12	6	6	0	0	0	0	511	503	24	102	
Donald	12	4	8	0	0	0	0	538	577	16	93	
Charlton	12	1	10	1	0	0	0	417	661	6	63	
St Arnaud	11	0	10	1	0	0	0	343	670	2	51	

“B” GRADE												
	P	W	L	D	B	FW	FL	F	A	Pts	%	
Wedderburn	12	12	0	0	0	0	0	742	425	48	175	
Boort	12	10	2	0	0	0	0	605	486	40	124	
Calder United	12	9	3	0	0	0	0	569	469	36	121	
Birchip-Wat	12	7	5	0	0	0	0	565	504	28	112	
St Arnaud	12	5	7	0	0	0	0	517	587	20	88	
Donald	12	2	9	1	0	0	0	489	577	10	85	
Sea Lake-Nan	12	2	9	1	0	0	0	442	575	10	77	
Charlton	12	0	12	0	0	0	0	305	611	0	50	

“C” GRADE												
	P	W	L	D	B	FW	FL	F	A	Pts	%	
Calder United	12	11	1	0	0	0	0	695	323	44	215	
Wedderburn	12	9	3	0	0	0	0	570	493	36	116	
Sea Lake-Nan	12	8	4	0	0	0	0	491	440	32	112	
Birchip-Wat	12	7	5	0	0	0	0	540	438	28	123	
Boort	12	7	5	0	0	0	0	496	451	28	110	
St Arnaud	12	4	8	0	0	0	0	481	487	16	99	
Charlton	12	1	11	0	0	0	0	372	668	4	56	
Donald	12	1	11	0	0	0	0	302	647	0	47	

“C” GRADE RESERVES												
	P	W	L	D	B	FW	FL	F	A	Pts	%	
Sea Lake-Nan	10	9	1	0	2	0	0	530	218	36	0.24	
Boort	8	7	1	0	1	0	0	414	178	28	0.29	

Calder United	9	5	4	0	2	0	0	322	250	20	0.14	
Birchip-Wat	8	3	5	0	3	0	0	220	349	12	0.08	
Wedderburn	9	2	7	0	3	0	0	268	442	8	0.07	
St Arnaud	8	0	8	0	2	0	0	146	463	0	0.04	

SEVENTEEN-AND-UNDER												
	P	W	L	D	B	FW	FL	F	A	Pts	%	
Calder United	12	11	1	0	0	0	0	845	295	44	286	
Birchip-Wat	12	10	2	0	0	0	0	652	429	40	152	
St Arnaud	12	8	3	1	0	0	0	618	454	34	136	
Boort	12	8	3	1	0	0	0	533	417	34	128	
Sea Lake-Nan	12	5	7	0	0	0	0	477	559	20	85	
Charlton	12	4	8	0	0	0	0	403	463	12	87	
Wedderburn	12	1	11	0	0	0	0	308	705	4	44	
Donald	12	0	12	0	0	0	0	311	825	0	38	

FOURTEEN-AND-UNDER “A”												
	P	W	L	D	B	FW	FL	F	A	Pts	%	
Boort	12	12	0	0	0	0	0	376	148	48	254	
Birchip-Wat	12	11	1	0	0	0	0	358	117	44	306	
Donald	12	8	4	0	0	0	0	335	188	32	178	
St Arnaud	12	6	6	0	0	0	0	263	205	24	128	
Calder United	12	6	6	0	0	0	0	244	201	24	121	
Charlton	12	2	10	0	0	0	0	131	347	8	38	
Wedderburn	12	2	10	0	0	0	0	94	323	8	29	
Sea Lake-Nan	12	1	11	0	0	0	0	87	359	4	24	

FOURTEEN-AND-UNDER “B”												
	P	W	L	D	B	FW	FL	F	A	Pts	%	
St Arnaud	10	9	1	0	2	0	0	214	50	36	0.43	
Boort	10	9	1	0	2	0	0	191	62	36	0.31	
Birchip-Wat	10	8	2	0	2	0	0	183	83	32	0.22	
Calder United	11	3	6	2	1	0	0	76	119	16	0.06	
Wedderburn	10	3	6	1	2	0	0	111	148	14	0.08	
Donald	10	1	8	1	2	0	0	57	198	6	0.03	
Sea Lake-Nan	11	0	9	2	1	0	0	41	213	4	0.02	

Charlton Wins Bunter’s Cup

• Continued from page 16. Charlton’s Seb Zegame appeared dangerous around goals and he, along with Liam Collins and Mason Heenan, added majors to their total.

Into the last period and Charlton’s Kris Clifford kicked his second before the Royal Blues’ Luca Rice went streaming down centre

half-forward to match this. Donald’s best passage of team football ended with the final goal of the game to Brent Arho.

Over all it was an entertaining game and it was great to see Julie and Clinton Baird present to hand Charlton’s coach Mitch Collins the “Bunter’s Cup”.

Scores: Charlton 14.13 (97) d. Donald 5.5 (35).

Best for Charlton: Liam Collins, Ben Xiriha, Mason Heenan, Mitch Collins, Archer Patterson, Jackson Zagame.

For Donald: Kalon Green, Ross Young, Jett Adams, Brady Griffiths, Josh Talty, Dyson Bell-Warren.



• Charlton coach Mitch Collins accepts the Bunter’s Cup from Julie and Clinton Baird. At left is Charlton president Kris Dixon.



• Donald’s Charlie Campbell attempts to nullify a goal. Adjudicating is goal umpire Kelvin Baird. Other players are Donald’s Brady Griffiths and Dyson Bell-Warren and the Navies’ Liam O’Keefe and Tom Finlay.



• Charlton’s Liam Collins and Donald’s Kalon Green pounce on the ball. Donald’s Jett Adams is also pictured.

Rolling Bulls Defy Brave Burners

Birchip-Watchem continued its unbeaten season run with a hard-fought, gritty 23-point win over a brave Wedderburn, which never stopped committing at a chilly Donaldson Park.

Despite a magnificent newly-built \$8 million club-room complex for perfect viewing, many brave supporters instead chose to huddle around a couple of drum fires strategically placed beside their respective coaches' boxes on the sidelines. Go figure.

But then, that's the allure and magic of bush footy: up close and intimate with the action, a catch-up on the week's events, "What's Trumpy done now?" God help us all. Good-natured ribbing, some sarcasm, the occasional wisecrack. Seems Julie Lowry has been shopping in that renowned upmarket menswear institution, Harolds, with Danny wearing a new blue overcoat. Flash, but when you are regularly walking around Flemington's mounting yard, you've got to look the part; might have to polish the boots though.

The biting winter wind kept a few supporters away. Clearly, both sides were a

little light on the ground, though perhaps many were wisely parked up in cars with the heaters blowing. The Burners' finals chances now snuffed out, some of theirs have taken the opportunity to get away. Stalwart Bobbie Steel, with caravan in tow, can't leave the sunny north. Meanwhile, Andrew and Sharon Lockhart are cruising around Europe. That must have taken some persuasion by Shaz; Andrew hasn't left Wedderburn, never mind got as far as Bendigo, and now he's chewing some bloke's ear in Ireland. Shaz's still trying to recruit netballers.

Despite the gulf in ladder positions, with the unbeaten Bulls coming off two impressive victories against their closest opponents in Calder and the Tigers – the Burners, out of the finals race, put in a much closer game than many expected. It was hard-fought to the end. The Burners just kept coming and coming, reeling in a quarter-time five-

goal deficit to go down fighting by a brave three goals.

The Bulls kicked with a clear wind advantage to start proceedings but could not puncture the big sticks. A resolute Burners' defence held firm – Adam Postle wearing Benny Edwards, Isaac Holt holding fort from the key defensive post, and coach Tom Metherell marshalling troops across half-back. Twelve minutes passed before a rewarded Edwards lead resulted in a set-shot goal. Bulls off the mark and then the gates came ajar.

Edwards, hungry after a couple of quiet weeks by his lofty standards, slotted two more. This rewarded the hard work from further afield, where the Bulls just couldn't shake the determined Burners, who were harassing at every opportunity.

Rhona Conboy, who gets better and better every week as a contested marking forward, showed his class with a long bomb. The Bulls, from



• Hamish Lockhart is airborne as he gets the hands away under pressure from Tom Gibson.

nowhere, had put on a five-goal gap. Hard to stop good sides, and this side is impressive.

Burners were not done though. Heads up and bums down; plug away they did. Their midfield group in and under, prepared to run. They've got a good group. The McEwen brothers gathered plenty of possessions, as did hard nut Zach Pallpratt. The Bulls were a little cavalier, not wanting to hold the ball in contest.

Louis Holt, who had started wing, moved forward to be an attacking target. After a solid mark, he duly delivered to get the Burners off to a perfect start for the second stanza.

Then the Bulls were stung into action. Hamish Hosking hooked a big strike into the wind. Then majors to Nic Rippon and another to Edwards had the Bulls out to a game-high seven-goal margin.

Hot contest. Midfield battles everywhere. Corey Lowry tried to contain the gun Rippon, who was up for the challenge. How versatile he must be. In the first round, he had the task of containing Edwards and did a mighty job.

The veteran Danny Benaim showed all his guile, drifting down from the wing, reading the play beautifully, finding space, hit up and goal. Then the electric Mitch Jensen, who the Bulls had tasked attacking half-back Lach Ryan to mind, got off the chain for two goals in a minute; his second after a ripping mark.

The guy can play. Ryan had his hands full all day but was up for the task, and both deservedly featured in their respective best. Jensen fast and athletic, as good overhead as at ground level. Shame he was out injured for much of the early part of the season.

Ryan thwarted many of the one-on-one duels. The Burners went to their man at every opportunity, and to hold him to four goals was an essential element of the Bulls' win. Fortunate too that he had Ben Lakin bravely backing back to plug the gap, assisting many a time and repelling the ball time and again.

A bit of Conboy magic from a contested pack – ball on the ground, gather, tackled, again gathered – and then goal. This restored the Bulls' five-goal margin just as the siren sounded. Good contest. Could the Burners maintain the rage?

Indeed, they did. Outscoring the Bulls seven goals to five in an entertaining second half. Their task was assisted by the Bulls being down to only 19 fit men after half-time. But nevertheless, they achieved the result by perseverance, prepared to run and make space.

• Continued on page 15.



• Wedderburn's Jackson McEwen is under pressure from Bill Lee.

Charlton Wins Bunter's Cup

On a cold, overcast day Charlton collected its fourth win for the season, over Donald at Charlton Park.

Both sides were competing for "Bunter's Cup", a tribute to Bill Baird who had long connections to both towns and clubs.

The victory was set up early in the game when the Navies compiled six unanswered goals in the first term. Although the breeze crossed the ground, the northern end still seemed to be the favoured end for scoring.

Archer Patterson got the ball rolling for Charlton with the first goal of the match, and he went on to boot four in total and deservedly receive the award for best player on the ground.

It didn't take long for Donald's Ross Young and Dan Pearce to show their experience in gathering possessions, but most of the play remained in the Navies' forward half and further goals mounted to Tom Finlay, Liam Collins, Seb Zegame, Archer Patterson and Mitch Collins.

After quarter-time things tightened up and both sides provided an interesting duel. Charlton's Mitch Collins found Kris Clifford for a goal and Archer Patterson added another. Donald's Kalon Green, Jett Adams and Brady Griffiths were performing well, and Ryan Bath slotted their first.

For Charlton, Mason Heenan, Ben Xiriha, Liam and Mitch Collins and Jackson Zagame were prominent and Archer Patterson and Bailey Kemp added two more goals to see a nine-goal lead at half time.

After the long break it was interesting to note that both sides kicked four goals each, a reflection of the evenness that came over the contest. Donald's Sam Arho moved into the ruck and Dyson Bell-Warren was notable with his long, clearing dashes out of defence and Kalon Green and Josh Talty capitalised with a goal each.

• Continued on page 15.



• Battling for the ball are Donald's Dan Pearce and Charlton's Liam Collins. Others pictured are the Navies' Ben Xiriha and Ben Lanyon.