

**DONALD**

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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

## Donald Debutantes Dazzle



• Back row, left to right, Jasmine Anderson and Hunter Wingfield, Alyssa Hepworth and Jesse Lydom, Lita Riley-Read and Benjamin Krause. Middle row: Jennifer Stirling and Ethan Clapham, Aria Brennan and Luca Rice, Charlie Burke and Shaine Manisbang. Front row: Judd Geddes and Asha Pearse, George Anderson (Page Boy), Lacey Talty (Flower Girl), Willow Anderson (Flower Girl), Ruben Jane-Higgins (Page Boy), Kailie Krause and Parker Bicket.

– Photo by Andrew Dumesny, Creations School Photography, Horsham.

## A View From the Stage

(By Lisa Woods)

**From my vantage point as MC, standing on stage at the Donald Debutante Ball on Friday night, I had the absolute privilege of witnessing something special unfold.**

As each debutante and their partner stepped into the spotlight, the pride, nerves, and sheer joy on their faces told a story of weeks of preparation and a night they'll never forget.

The young people of our community did themselves proud – the girls were radiant in their beautiful dresses, and the boys looked incredibly sharp in their suits. Their poise and elegance were a credit not only to themselves but also to the amazing trainers who guided them with such skill and care.

One of the most moving moments for me personally was the special person's dance. Watching mums dance with their "little boys," and dads with their "little princesses" – now all grown

up and stepping into young adulthood – was truly beautiful. As a mum myself, it brought a reminiscent tear to my eye.

Grandparents and other special guests also took to the floor with pride and love written all over their faces. It was a real celebration of family, connection and community.

Another absolute highlight was watching our four junior attendants take the stage – their dance was not only adorable, but such a heart-warming addition to the night. The crowd loved every moment!

The entire event was superbly co-ordinated by Donald 2000, which once again brought together a night full of tradition, elegance and joy. The whole committee should

be commended for the hours they invested into this event, without which there would be no Deb.

We ended the evening on a high with fantastic live entertainment by Leo Tellefson and his talented crew, who had the dance floor full and the smiles wide.

From the stage, I saw not just a formal presentation, but a community coming together to celebrate the next generation with pride and love. It was an honour to be a part of the celebration of these debutantes and their partners as they take this memorable step into society.

### Format of the Evening

The evening began by welcoming official party: Mr. Daryl Warren and his wife, Yan Li – known to many as

Ting Mr. John and Mrs. Pam McConville; and Cr. Graeme Milne and his partner this evening, Mrs. Kim Griffiths.

Following these introductions, the official junior attendants were welcomed, and then the much-anticipated presentation of the debutantes and their partners.

### Flower Girls, Page Boys

Four very special young guests helped to celebrate the night's occasion – the flower girls and page boys.

Lacey Talty, partnered with George Anderson.

Lacey is the eldest daughter of Josh Talty and Jasmine Hollis. When she grows up, Lacey dreams of becoming a teacher like her friend Rosie... or perhaps a fairy!

Lacey was joined by George Anderson, the son of James Anderson and Katie Wright. When he grows up, George hopes to be a wildlife keeper who travels to schools

to show kids amazing animals.

Willow Anderson and her partner Ruben Jane-Higgins.

Willow is the daughter of James Anderson and Katie Wright. When she grows up, Willow would love to become a massage therapist.

Willow's partner tonight is Ruben Jane-Higgins, the eldest son of Jesse Higgins and Ashton Jane. And when asked what he'd like to do when he grows up, Ruben replied, "I haven't given it much thought... I'm only eight, you know!"

The junior attendants then presented the official party with a small token of appreciation – a gift to thank them for their presence and support.

### Debutantes

The first couple presented were Asha Pearse and her partner Judd Geddes.

Asha is a Year 11 student at Donald High School and the daughter of Phoebe

Roberts and Ben Pearse. When she grows up, Asha hopes to work with animals and become a veterinary nurse.

Asha was wearing the Addison Rose dress – a romantic, modern ballgown featuring a beaded lace bodice with sheer sides and back, and delicate lace trailing softly onto a full tulle skirt.

Asha was partnered by Judd Geddes, a fellow Year 11 student at Donald High School and the son of Shawn and Shannon Geddes. In the future, he aspires to become a boilermaker.

The next couple was Lita Riley-Read and her partner, Ben Krause.

Lita is a Year 11 student at Donald High School and the daughter of Rosa O'Brien and Keith DeJong. When she finishes school, Lita aspires to work in agriculture and farming. She was wearing the

• Continued on page 2.

## In the Beginning . . .

"The Times" newspaper printed in Donald will turn 150 near the end of this month. While time and space prevent us from going into too much detail, we must at least pay tribute to the founder of the publication, the late Godfrey Morgan, pictured here all those years ago with members of the staff and young family members.

In succeeding years, for reasons of necessity, the newspaper has progressed from being the "Donald Times" to the "Donald Birchip Times" and now the "Buloke Times".

"Past and Present", a 113-page publication by the "Donald Times" in June, 1926, contained an historical record of the Donald and district from 1845 to 1925. Included is a detailed history of the "Donald Times" in its first 50 years, beginning with the arrival in Australia of Godfrey Morgan, at the age of about 16 years.

First obtaining a position with the Melbourne "Argus", he later became associated, in turn, with the Maryborough "Advertiser", the Moonabel "Pioneer", and the "Landsborough Times".

From there, with his wife and family, he found his way to Donald, where, in a small premises at the northern end of the main street, the first edition of the "Donald Times" was printed on July 29, 1875.

For 49 years, the business was conducted by the Morgan family. In 1922, it was sold to its new editor Godfrey (Goff) Letts and foreman Charles E. Chessels, both of whom were at that time members of the "Times" office staff.

Born at Kalgoorlie, Mr Letts was a grandson of the founder of the newspaper, while Mr. Chessels was a native of Shepparton, where he learned his trade as printer and press operator.

At the time of his death, in 1987, at the age of 89, Goff Letts had served 66 years as editor of the "Times", after having begun his career as a journalist with the "Kalgoorlie Miner" newspaper.

Currently the "Times" staff includes two more members of the Godfrey Morgan newspaper dynasty, great-grandson Robin Letts and great-great-grandson David Letts.

Recently retiring after a highly-valued lifetime career with the "Times" are Donald residents Brian Bayles and Shane O'Shea, while further along the



• Staff of the "Donald Times" (estab. 1875) in Victoria's Mallee in 1884. Back row (from left): William Willey, William Cameron, Bob Odgers, J. Weblin. Front row: A. Simpson, Godfrey William (Goff) Morgan, Godfrey Morgan, John P. Morgan, George Carr (editor), William A. Morgan. Descendants of founder Godfrey Morgan still run the paper, now the "Buloke Times".

Sunraysia Highway, Simone Christie has followed in the footsteps of her cousin, the late Janet Lee, as indispensable manager of the Birchip office.

With country newspapers being largely dependent upon members of surrounding communities for reports of local events, the "Times" is also most appreciative of the writing and photographic skills of Jenny Pollard of Teddywaddy West, as well as the co-operation of many other contributors.

The "Times" management expresses its heartfelt thanks to all who have been associated with the progress of its bi-weekly publication since 1875.

As today's issue goes to press, those directly involved in making it possible in most recent times include staff members Patsy Dunstan, Candace Jay, Carmen Bath, Quill McQuilty, Alyssa Walker, Daniel Puentes and racing writer Peter Hibberd.

Which brings us back to the man whose vision made it all possible – the late Godfrey Morgan. No recollections would be complete without references to two of his other great grandsons Ewan Letts and the late Godfrey (Goff) Letts Jnr., whose brilliantly-written editorials featured regularly in the "Times" until this year.

## Donald Debutantes Dazzle: A View From the Stage

### • Continued from page 1.

Florence gown from the Ruby Collection – a beautifully soft and delicate gown featuring a beaded lace bodice, corset back, and a stunning layered tulle waterfall skirt.

Lita was partnered by Ben Krause, a Year 12 Vocational Major student at Donald High School. Ben is the son of Gavin and Jessica Krause. Upon completing his studies, Ben hopes to pursue a career in the disability sector.

The next couple was Jasmine Anderson and her partner, Hunter Wingfield.

Jasmine is a Year 10 student at Donald High School and the daughter of Cameron Anderson and Makere Dillon. After finishing school, Jasmine hopes to become a vet nurse and one day own her own horse ranch. She was wearing a white A-line dress featuring a sequin bodice and delicate string-detail back.

Jasmine was partnered by Hunter Wingfield, son of Siane Holland and Michael Wingfield. Looking ahead, Hunter is excited about joining a new bowls club and hopes to do some travelling.

The next couple was Kailie Krause and her partner, Parker

Bicket.

Kailie is a Year 10 student at Donald High School and the daughter of Gavin and Jessica Krause. After completing her studies, she hopes to attend Charles Sturt University and pursue a career as a veterinarian.

Kailie was wearing a stunning full ball gown featuring a multi-layered tulle skirt with a sparkling glitter overlay for a touch of glamour. The gown is gathered at the waist, with a curved neckline on an illusion bodice embellished with intricate sequin lace. Delicate lace straps flow down over the waist and onto the skirt, creating a beautiful, ethereal look.

Kailie was partnered by Parker Bicket, a Year 10 student at Donald High School and the son of Andrew and Katie Bicket. After school, Parker hopes to become a builder, own his own home, and see more of Australia.

The next couple was Jaya Stirling and her partner, Ethan Clapham.

Jaya is a Year 11 student at Donald High School and the daughter of Larissa Stirling. After finishing school, Jaya hopes to become a flight attendant and live on the Gold

Coast. Jaya was wearing a beautiful princess-style gown featuring a sweetheart neckline and a full skirt made from soft bridal tulle. The gown was highlighted by a stunning beaded pearl bodice that cascades elegantly down onto the skirt.

Jaya was partnered by Ethan Clapham, a Year 11 student at Donald High School and the son of Robert Smallwood and Tennille Clapham. After completing school, he hopes to pursue a career as both a football player and a carpenter.

The next couple was Alyssa Hepworth and her partner, Jesse Lydom.

Alyssa is a Year 10 student at Donald High School and the daughter of Kelvin and Kerri Hepworth. In the future, Alyssa hopes to attend university and pursue a career in nursing.

Jesse Lydom is also a Year 10 student at Donald High School and the son of Paul and Carlee Lydom. After school, Jesse hopes to become a carpenter.

The next couple was Shaine Mansibang and her partner, Charlie Burke.

Shaine is a Year 10 student at Donald High School and the daughter of Noel and Ruzel Mansibang. After school, Shaine hopes to travel the world and volunteer in Africa. She was wearing a stunning princess-style ball gown, featuring intricate lace, delicate beadwork, and a classic corset back – perfect for a night to remember.

Charlie is also in Year 10 at Donald High School and the son of James and Emma Burke. When asked about the future, he's not entirely sure – but thinks he might just end up on the farm one day.

The last debutante was Aria Brennan and her partner, Luca Rice.

Aria is a Year 10 student, attending the Warracknabeal Special Development School four days a week and Donald High School one day a week. She is the daughter of Paul Brennan and Megan Tonkin.

Her most memorable moment happened on the night, making her debut. Aria especially thanked Luca for always making her happy and helping her learn the dances. In her own words: "Thank you for making me the happiest girl in the world tonight, Luca."

Aria was wearing a classic ball gown with a soft, multi-layered tulle skirt gathered at the waist. The sweetheart neckline is complemented by delicate tulle straps and a stunning lace-up corset back. Floral lace embellishments on the bodice add a touch of elegance to this beautiful gown.

Aria was partnered by Luca Rice, a Year 11 student at Donald High School and the son of Jason and Xanthi Rice. After school he hopes to become a carpenter.

### Dancing Debs

Debutantes and their partners were then invited to take their places on the dance floor, to perform a number of prepared dances. The Merrilyn to 'Photograph' by Ed Sheeran; the Pride of Erin, danced to 'Iris' by the Goo Goo Dolls; the elegant Evening Three Step. Set to the iconic 'Dancing Queen' by ABBA; the lively Progressive Jive, performed to the ever-popular 'Footloose', a group dance was performed as well as special guest dances.

"What a beautiful evening it has been," said MC Lisa Woods.

"Thank you all for being here and to Leo Tellefson and his band for providing musical entertainment into the evening."

### Appreciation

Thank you to the following people for making the Donald Deb Ball a success. First, to the trainers Carol Reid and Connelly Ryan for all your efforts in training our Debs and their partners. Lisa Woods for being the MC for the evening. The Official Party, Flower Girls and Page Boys who gave up their time to be part of this event. "Weed" and his band for the music, Harvest Café for supper and Brandon for the lighting.

A special thank you to the Donald 2000 Committee, especially their Deb Committee, for all the hard work in ensuring this event took place and for the amazing stage. Also thanks go to those who gave up their time to help the committee with setting up the hall and packing and cleaning it all up. These events don't just happen and much appreciation goes to all those who have put in the hard work to ensure this event went ahead again this year.

# Wycheproof Lions Club Supports Good Causes

The Lions Club of Wycheproof has once again distributed funds to its community, as well as ongoing Lions “Health and Welfare” programs.

Members value their communities and are proud to see their funds supporting so many worthwhile causes. \$15,500 has been distributed.

**Donations 2024/2025**

Caring Kids \$200, DaVinci Surgical Robot \$1500, Fight Parkinsons \$200, Lions Hearing Dogs \$200, Lions Childhood Can-

cer \$200, Lions Cord Blood \$200, Lions Eye Health \$200, Lions Haemophilia \$200, Lions House Foundation \$200, Lions Prostate Cancer \$200, Lions Rheumatism & Arthritis \$200, Nullawil Historical Society \$1100, St Vincents Research Institute \$400, Vic Lions Foundation \$200,

Wycheproof Historical Society \$200, Wycheproof P-12 College \$500, Eddie Molloy Scholarship \$600, Wycheproof Pre-School \$3000, Wycheproof Landcare \$1000, Wycheproof Hospital Campus \$500, WCRC Library \$3000, Personal Hardship Donation \$1500.

# Movie Action at The Rex

Week two of school holidays, and there’s more movie action to grab the attention.

A matinee of “A Minecraft Movie” and the martial arts “Karate Kid: Legends” are heading to The Rex screen this week.

## “A Minecraft Movie”

(PG | 101 mins | Comedy)

Friday, July 11, 2 p.m.

Drop in for this single screening on Friday, July 11 at 2 p.m. to enter the blocky world of Minecraft as Jack Black and his gang of four use every ounce of imagination to help them survive in the bizarre cubic Overworld.

From struggling with ordinary problems, to mastering Minecraft, to embarking on a magical quest and finally building the skills they need to thrive in the real world, this is a fun afternoon’s entertainment guaranteed to capture the imagination.

## “Karate Kid: Legends”

(PG 94 mins | Action | Drama)

Screening: Saturday, July 12, 8 p.m. | Sunday, July 13, 2 p.m. | Tuesday, July 15, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

“Karate Kid: Legends” takes this well-loved franchise in a new direction as a kung fu prodigy Li Fong (Ben Wang) relocates to New York City with his mother to attend a prestigious new school, where he finds solace in a new friendship with a classmate and her father.

But his newfound peace is short-lived after he attracts unwanted attention from a formidable local karate champion. Driven by a desire to defend himself, Li embarks on a journey to enter the ultimate karate competition. Guided by the wisdom of his kung fu teacher, Mr. Han (Jackie Chan), and the legendary Karate Kid, Daniel LaRusso (Ralph Macchio), Li merges their unique styles to prepare for an epic martial arts showdown.

There’s plenty of action assured, along with joy and heartfelt emotion as the film explores themes of overcoming personal tragedy and the importance of family.

## Coming

“Elvis And Buddy – Rock & Roll Sensation – Live-On-Stage”

Friday, July 25, strap on your blue suede shoes for a night of rock and roll action as the “Elvis and Buddy: Rock and Roll Sensation” Show sets The Rex alight.

Re-live the music, re-live the era and get ready to shake, rattle and roll in a whirlwind of rock ‘n’ roll magic as we celebrate these two iconic legends of music.

Join highly acclaimed entertainer Mark Caligiuri and the Sensational Memphis Beat Show Band as they bring

to life the songs of Elvis Presley and Buddy Holly with one of the most energetic lineups of Melbourne’s most talented musicians and backing vocalists around!

You will be taken on the ultimate rock and roll journey with this dynamic group of entertainers. With the live band fuelling the energy and a stunning visual display that immerses you in the vibrant eras of the ‘50s ‘60s and ‘70s, this show is a must-see for music lovers of all ages.

Sing along to the songs from two of the most influential rock and roll performers of all time – from “That’ll Be The Day”, “Peggy Sue”, “Rave On”, “That’s Alright Mama”, “Suspicious Minds”, to “American Trilogy”.

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!

Elvis and Buddy Rock & Roll Sensation – Friday, July 25, 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.).

Tickets: \$40 General | \$35 Concession. Bookings: [rextheatre.org.au/live-shows.html](http://rextheatre.org.au/live-shows.html) | [boxoffice@rextheatre.org.au](mailto:boxoffice@rextheatre.org.au) or at the door

For all up-to-date information on The Rex head to – [rextheatre.org.au](http://rextheatre.org.au)

# Letter to the Editor



## Diabetes Week

(The Editor, “The Times”)

Dear Editor.– As we approach National Diabetes Week it’s an important time to recognise the growing impact of diabetes in our communities and what can be done to improve health outcomes.

Diabetes is now one of the leading drivers of serious health issues across Northern Victoria, behind only cardiovascular disease and cancer. As stepmother to an 18-year-old living with type 1 diabetes, I fully understand the challenges it brings and the ongoing need for community awareness and support.

People living with diabetes are significantly more likely to suffer heart attacks or strokes, and the condition is a leading cause of blindness, kidney failure and amputation.

This year’s National Diabetes Week theme, “Check today for a healthier tomorrow”, is a reminder to all of us to prioritise health checks. Whether it’s checking your risk, booking a GP appointment, or reviewing your annual cycle of care, every step matters.

Early detection and effective management of diabetes

can prevent life-altering complications. That’s why organisations like Diabetes Victoria are urging people to take action, not just during Diabetes Week, but all year round.

Raising awareness is key to making a difference. By talking about diabetes, encouraging regular checks, and supporting those affected, we can all play a part in reducing the toll of this growing health issue.

National Diabetes Week runs from July 13 to 19.

Warm regards,  
**Jade Benham, MP.**



• MASP staff (from left): Manager – Corporate Services Amy Nash, CEO Charmaine Calis, Aboriginal Practice Leader Briana Hayden and Director of Practice Amy Cupper unveil MASP’s first Reconciliation Action Plan.

# MASP Unveils First Reconciliation Plan

Mallee Accommodation and Support Program (MASP) is proud to unveil its first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) as the organisation strengthens its commitment to growing relationships, respect and opportunities with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Mallee and far west NSW.

MASP CEO Charmaine Calis said the plan would empower MASP to move forward and create better cohesion with Aboriginal communities across its service area.

“Developing our first ever RAP has been an eye-opening and thought-provoking process for MASP,” she said.

“MASP looks forward to strengthening our ties with our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members as we continue our purpose to empower our community to be free from homelessness, abuse, poverty and disadvantage.”

Reconciliation Australia oversees four different RAP types – Reflect, Innovate, Stretch and Elevate – to allow organisations to continuously develop their reconciliation commitments.

MASP has completed a Reflect RAP – which included engaging staff and leaders to understand the

importance of reconciliation while developing relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders.

“MASP’s Reflect RAP is the first step towards MASP engaging in reconciliation

meaningfully,” Mrs Calis said.

“We acknowledge this is only the beginning of MASP’s reconciliation journey and we look forward to continuing to progress as an organisation into the future.”

**Corack East Wind**  
Renewable Energy from ACEN

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

**Drop-in information hub every Wednesday 1-6pm**

| Dates and venues |                    | Venue information                                                          |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9 July Charlton  | 6 August Charlton  | <b>Donald</b> – Scout Hall, Racecourse Road, Donald                        |
| 16 July Donald   | 13 August Charlton |                                                                            |
| 23 July Charlton | 20 August Donald   | <b>Birchip</b> – Birchip Community Leisure Centre, Morrison St, Birchip    |
| 30 July Birchip  | 27 August Birchip  | <b>Charlton</b> Charlton Park Community Bank Complex, Calder Hwy, Charlton |

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

[www.corackeastwind.com.au](http://www.corackeastwind.com.au)

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[info@corackeastwind.com.au](mailto:info@corackeastwind.com.au)

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# "Times" Classifieds

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## Deadlines:—

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

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

## DEATH BLIGHT.—

Ross Francis  
of Donald  
passed away peacefully  
in Horsham on  
July 3, 2025,  
aged 80 years.  
Formerly of Beulah  
and Ballarat.

Adored husband of Elaine  
for 56 years. Loving father  
of Scott, Fiona, Mark and  
Sarah. Much loved PaPa  
of Skye, Julie, Oscar, Finn  
and great-grandfather to  
Amelia and Charlie.

*Rest easy my love,  
you're now pain free.*

## FUNERAL BLIGHT.—

A graveside service for  
Ross will be held at 11 a.m.  
at the Donald Lawn Ceme-  
tery on Tuesday, July 15,  
2025.

KELL FUNERALS  
ST. ARNAUD 5495 1043  
NFDA EST. 1860

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

## IN MEMORIAM RUSSELL.— Pat July 8, 2024

In loving memory of our  
beautiful Mum and much  
loved Granny.  
Holding you and our pre-  
cious memories in our  
hearts, knowing you walk  
beside us every day.

—Gary (dec.) and Sue,  
Colene and K.D., Rog,  
Peter and Jen,  
Terry and Rhonda,  
Trish and Anthony,  
Kathleen and Ron (dec.),  
Mary and Bruce,  
John and Tan  
and families.

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The bakery will be  
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**SHOW ROOM  
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Enquiries to  
Matt 0413 084 449 or  
Locky 0417 904 705  
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## Preliminary Notice VFF St Arnaud Meeting

THURSDAY, JULY 24

—Colin Coates

## BIRCHIP LANDCARE

### A.G.M.

TUESDAY, JULY 22

7.30 p.m.

BIRCHIP RAILWAY  
STATION

Enquiries to D. Reid  
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All Welcome



DONALD HISTORY  
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FURTHER INFO: 0427 976 208

## Meeting

Monday, July 14  
2 p.m.

Speaker: Beryl Milne -  
History of the Shirt Factory  
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- July 7, Ash Burke
- July 10, Bayley Burke

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[boxoffice@rextheatre.org.au](mailto:boxoffice@rextheatre.org.au)  
[rextheatre.org.au](http://rextheatre.org.au)

**COMING ATTRACTIONS**

**A MINECRAFT MOVIE**  
PG 101 mins | Comedy  
Fri 11 July \*2pm

**LIVE ON STAGE**  
Rock And Roll Sensation The  
**ELVIS & BUDDY** Show  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July 7:30pm  
\$40 General  
\$35 Concession

**KARATE KID: LEGENDS**  
PG 94 mins | Action | Drama  
Sat 12 July 8pm  
Sun 13 July 2pm  
Tue 15 July \*2pm & 8pm

**COMING: F1 THE MOVIE** M 155mins | Drama

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# Seasonal Firefighter Applications Now Open

Applications are now open for seasonal firefighter roles across Victoria.

Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) is employing 500 seasonal firefighters prior to the summer bushfire season.

FFMVic Chief Fire Officer, Chris Hardman, said seasonal firefighters boost Victoria's firefighting capacity in the lead-up to summer and during the peak fire season.

"New recruits will train and work alongside our permanent firefighting staff, responding to bushfires rapidly

to keep communities safe this summer," Mr Hardman said.

"They will be part of a team of close to 1800 front-line personnel and 1200 accredited incident management staff this bushfire season."

Last year Forest Fire Management Victoria firefighters responded to more than 1265 bushfires across the state, and delivered priority planned burns which will help reduce the impact of bushfires this summer.

"Emergency response deployments can occur anywhere across the state, providing opportunities to travel and work in different locations," Mr Hardman said.

"In previous seasons, some recruits have also been deployed to support firefighting efforts across Australia and internationally."

Loddon Mallee Region Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Scott Falconer, said seasonal firefighter roles provide

rewarding career opportunities for those with a passion for the outdoors, learning new skills and making a difference.

"In addition to responding to bushfires and helping to deliver planned burns, new recruits will also undertake pest and weed control works, and maintain recreational reserves, strategic fire breaks and forest roads," Mr Falconer said.

"They can also be called on to support other emergencies such as major floods, storms and biosecurity incidents.

"Many of the firefighters deployed to the current Canadian bushfires started their careers as project firefighters," he said.

Applications are now open for seasonal firefighter roles across 16 locations in the Loddon Mallee region including: Bendigo, Heathcote, Maryborough, Rushworth, St Arnaud, Castlemaine, Cohuna, Inglewood, Macedon, Mildura, Hattah, Hopetoun,

Robinvale, Swan Hill, Underbool and Werrimull.

FFMVic is committed to a diverse and inclusive workplace that reflects the Victorian community. As part of its ongoing commitment to support meaningful careers for current and future First Nations staff, designated positions are available.

Applications close July 27 and employment occurs between October and May, with some variations depending on seasonal requirements.

For information and to apply, visit [jobs.careers.vic.gov.au/pff](https://jobs.careers.vic.gov.au/pff) or call 136 186.

## Tyre Disposal Made More Affordable: Tackling Illegal Dumping

In a move to support a cleaner, safer community, Horsham Rural City Council has introduced a more affordable option for residents to dispose of unwanted tyres – helping to reduce illegal dumping and protect the local environment.

The initiative has been introduced to tackle the significant rise in tyre dumping across bushland, rural roadsides, and waterways observed over the past twelve months. To address this, the reduced disposal fee is now available at the Horsham Transfer Station.

Director Infrastructure, John Martin, said the change is part of council's broader effort to make responsible waste disposal more accessible for everyone.

"We know that the cost of disposal can be a barrier for some people, so we're doing

our part by lowering the fee for residents to drop off tyres at our waste facility," Mr Martin said.

"This is about making it easier for people to do the right thing. We want to give our community practical solutions – not just penalties.

"Dumping tyres not only looks terrible – it can leach chemicals into the soil, create fire hazards, and attract vermin," Mr Martin added. "We all benefit when our parks, roadsides and natural areas are clean and cared for."

In addition, Council is closely monitoring known

dumping hotspots and continuing to work with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to investigate and fine offenders.

To further support safe waste practices, council has also introduced a small charge for the disposal of whitegoods, particularly refrigerators. This covers the cost of professionally removing harmful gases from fridges before recycling, preventing environmental damage.

For more information or to report illegal dumping, visit [www.hrcc.vic.gov.au](https://www.hrcc.vic.gov.au) or call 5382 9777.

### The Buloke Times

#### Coloured Photographs

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

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



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**Michaels of Donald**

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# Combined Probus Celebrates

**Celebrating its 23rd birthday anniversary, members of the Donald Combined Probus Club welcomed visitors from neighbouring clubs to the Mt Jeffcott Hotel for a time of friendship and fellowship.**

As they had no music available, president Ian McEwen played those celebrating birthdays in July – Mary Archbold and Brian Lea – a special little tune on his phone. Ian also recited the poem “The Man from Snowy River”.

Memories were shared of a former Donald resident Ross Fitzmaurice, from Maryborough, a regular attendee at Donald Probus birthdays, who passed away recently.

A special welcome was also tendered to Janet Wood, who was inducted as the club’s newest member.

Guest speaker for the day was Emma Burke, who is an Occupational Therapist for East Wimmera Health, serving all our local hospitals; a position she has held for 18 years. Emma and her husband James live at Jeffcott and are parents of 3 sons, 2 having

moved away and one completing year 10 this year.

Her topic on the morning was “Safety In Your Home”.

Clients over 65 notice their senses decline and balance becomes an issue, including driving. There are simple precautions which can be taken, especially to prevent falls and specialist equipment is available.

Home is most important. Front and back doorways, bathroom lighting, and level paths. Enclosed doorways for carrying groceries in inclement weather, retractable hoses, level landings, doorbells, railings and ramps, are just a few, plus sliding doors. Emma then spoke about individual rooms and their needs for safety.

Bathroom: A stepless shower, chair or stool, slipless mats, railing and handles, a big enough shower to move

around in. Shower floor should dry quickly.

Bedroom: close to bathroom. Solid mattress. Telephone close by. Extras available if needed such as lift beds, bed stick, overhead pole.

Hallway: Nothing obstructive, good lighting.

Loungeroom: Suitable chair – maybe recliner.

Kitchen: Drawers instead of cupboards, keep frequently used items on bench. Use aids to open jars etc. Bigger cutlery, kettle tippers, armrest on chairs, heat resistant mats under plates.

Advised to REGISTER WITH MY AGED CARE.

Self: Personal alarm, suitable footwear, not slippers because of looseness, scooters, fire safety, fire plan – cooking and heating. Eating and sleeping well. Good exercise.

Medication: See doctor regularly. Balance and mobility.

Donald is well catered for with 2 podiatrists, 2 dieticians (who recommend eating lots of protein/meat); District nursing, trying to keep people in their homes; continence nurse; mental health social workers; grief counselling; home care-cleaning, helping shower; meals on wheels; home maintenance; speech pathology; housing; carers support and respite; and palliative care.

If you need any of the above contact the hospital, which will put you in touch with the correct person.

Emma gave a very informative talk to our age group and was thanked by Enid Brasier.

Following lunch, the usual birthday cake cutting ceremony was carried out by president Ian assisted by two of the club’s long-standing members, Betty Wood and Lorraine Pearse, which concluded another enjoyable event.



• Left to right: Betty Wood, Ian McEwen and Lorraine Pearse cutting the Probus Birthday cake.

# Drought Relief Package “Too Little, Too Late”

*(Statement from the Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Emma Kealy.)*

**The relief package for drought-hit farmers announced by the Allan Labor Government is a sad case of too little, too late.**

It is no more than a starting point and has come far too slowly, given farmers in the state’s south-west have been battling the big dry for two years.

After so much hardship, farmers have been handed financial relief that falls well short of recommendations by the Drought Relief Taskforce.

Although farmers are now eligible for a 40 per cent reduction in their rates, the taskforce recommended a 100 per cent reduction – total rate relief.

Despite recent rain, access to affordable water and feed remains a priority.

The package includes funding for the East Grampians Rural Pipeline. The government must now get on with the job of finishing the project in full – with no more delays.

The pipeline was promised in 2018 to supply the region with water year-round. There are no more excuses – this latest investment must finally finish the project.

Overall, this financial assistance package clearly doesn’t go far enough.

All Labor has managed, after months of dragging its



• Emma Kealy

feet, is to finally bring us in line with the support offered to South Australian farmers across the border.



• Chathura Silva with his former teachers Anne McClelland, Robyn Ferrier and John Richmond.

# An Enchanting Performance

**A spellbinding evening of classical guitar filled the Birchip Uniting Church on Saturday night, as Chathura Silva returned to the town where his musical journey began, to perform an intimate concert for an appreciative audience.**

The church proved to be an ideal setting for the concert; it was warm and cosy and the acoustics enhanced every delicate note and dramatic flourish.

Chathura’s repertoire ranged from traditional and baroque through to modern classical works, featuring pieces such as Romance (Traditional), Asturias (Albéniz), El Último Trémolo (Barrios), Tango en Skai (Dyens), Epitafios 3 (Theodorakis), Prelude 1007 (Bach), Clair de lune (Debussy), Koyunbaba (Domeniconi), and Sounds of Rain (Lovelady). Each piece was executed with technical brilliance and heartfelt expression, earning rapturous applause from the crowd.

Emceed by Robyn Ferrier, the evening was a celebration of both talent and gratitude.

Chathura’s words of thanks were heartfelt and sincere as he reflected warmly on his early years in Birchip, where his love for music first took root, and acknowledged former teachers Anne McClelland, Robyn Ferrier and John Richmond, who helped bring the performance in Birchip to fruition.

John Richmond informed the audience of Chathura’s impressive medical career, which has taken him from early roles as a Microbiology Registrar to becoming a specialist in Tropical Infectious Diseases.

After studies at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in the UK, Chathura returned to Australia to earn his Fellowship with the Australasian College of Tropical Medicine and later a Master of Medicine (Infectious Diseases and Immunology) from the University of Sydney. He now works as a panel physician, screening for infectious diseases such as tuberculosis.

Chathura shared how proud he felt to be back in Birchip reconnecting with people who had shaped his early years. He fondly recalled making music with childhood friends Brody Harrison and Cailan Welton, and while Brody couldn’t attend the concert, he encouraged his grandparents in Wycheproof to make the trip to hear Chath, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

Chath’s father, Ranjith accompanied him on the long

drive from Dandenong, and he appreciated catching up with community members after the concert, including Paul and Amanda Lomax from Bendigo, who in a lovely full-circle moment, reminisced of when Ranjith’s wife Rahini had cared for their children when she was a child carer in Birchip in the early 2000s.

The evening was a beautiful convergence of music, memory and generosity. Chath and Ranjith’s homecoming not only showcased Chathura Silva’s remarkable talent, but also the family’s enduring connection to the Birchip community.

Proceeds from the ticket sales were donated to the Birchip P-12 School and acting principal Russell Christie thanked Chath, advising him that the money would be used in the Music Program at the Birchip P-12 School, which is facilitated by Bern Smith and Amelia Scholtz.

Supper was generously provided by Robyn Ferrier, Christine Richmond and Anne McClelland, offering the perfect close to a heartfelt night of music and reconnection.



• Chathura Silva enchanting performance at Birchip on July 5.



• Beatrix Nottle climbs on the string frames.



• Hannah Cook helps Lucy Rickard and Violet Lehmann on the swings.

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

# Buloke.

## LEADERSHIP HONOURED

Buloke Shire Councillors have honoured Sergeant Nigel MacDonald, Victoria's longest-serving Municipal Emergency Response Coordinator, following his retirement after 25 years. Renowned for his calm leadership, Nigel's legacy of service, dedication, and integrity leaves an enduring impact on the region.

Pictured L-R: Cr Milne, Cr Delaney, Sgt Nigel MacDonald, Mayor Cr Getley, Cr Barratt and Cr Hogan.

## NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PLANNING PERMIT

The land affected by the application is located at **73 Corack East-Chirrup Road, Corack East VIC 3480.**

The application is for a permit for the use and development of land for a store.

The application reference number is **PA25007.**

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

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

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

**The Responsible Authority will not decide on the application before 24 July 2025.**

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

## 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](http://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](mailto: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.

### DIESEL MECHANIC – DONALD

**Casual – from \$43.18 per hour (+ statutory superannuation)**

→ **Applications Close: 11 July 2025**

We are currently seeking a fully qualified Diesel Mechanic to become a valued member of our Infrastructure and Delivery team. You will provide high quality of service that ensures the safety and efficiency of our operating fleet, that includes graders, rollers, water tankers, utilities, and mowers. The successful candidate will play a crucial role in ensuring the reliability and performance of our fleet of vehicles and machinery.

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# Fun at the Playground

On Thursday the Birchip Day Care students and staff had a fun-filled trip to the Birchip Memorial Park playground, where they climbed, swung, and slid on the vast playground equipment.

During Thursday's excursion the childcare children visited TMC Enviro where they were kindly gifted hats and jelly beans. They climbed on the rope frames and metal climbing bars, flew high on the swings, zoomed down the slides, played the musical instruments and balanced on the see-saw and whizzes.

"These visits to the park are important for boosting the children's gross motor skills, strength, balance and co-ordination, which supports their overall physical development," said childcare leader Janine Paley.

**Next Term**

Next term the children from Birchip Day Care and Kindergarten will be participating in lots of exciting outdoor excursions in a concerted effort to develop their gross motor skills, experience new environments, interact with community members, and enjoy time outdoors.

In addition to the Day Care group visiting Birchip Memorial Park, the kindergarten group regularly visits the Birchip P-12 School playground and fitness track, where they get to experience large play equipment and bush kinder activities that encourage exploration and connection with the natural environment.

**Active Learning**

Through these regular outings, the Birchip Early Learning centre staff continue to promote active learning and community engagement, ensuring the children benefit from a well-rounded early childhood experience.

Enrolment registrations for both the Long Day Care and Kinder are currently open and interested families can contact the centre on 4311 1505 to arrange a visit to meet the team and look around the facilities.

Kindergarten is free (3 year old and 4 year old programs), with the 4-year-old program increasing to 20 hours of Pre-Prep in 2026. For more information about the kindergarten program and online registrations, families can visit [ykinders.org.au](http://ykinders.org.au).

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# Birchip Golf Tournament

Fourteen pairs of men and eight pairs of ladies played a 4BBB Stableford event for the first event of the 2025 tournament.

Although the course is dry and desperately in need of a rain, it still played quite well and there were some good scores carded.

### Friday

Ladies results: Division One winners were Maree Cullen and Kerry Raven with 39 points. Kerry had an eagle on the 14th, which would have helped their score a lot. Runners-up were Dot Beattie and Lorraine Linehan with 36 points on a count back from Jenny Lanyon and Alison Fahey.

Division Two winners were Maureen Trollope and Leonie Boxall on 43 points and runner up were Vicki Hinkley and Maree Heenan on 42 points.

Nearest the pin on the third was Kerry Raven, the seventh, Sue Noonan, the eleventh, Alison Fahey and the seventeenth, Leonie Boxall.

Men's results: Division One winners were Ron Thouliss and Geoff Smith on 44 points. Runners up were Rod Bennett and Luke Kelly on 39 points.

Division Two was won by John Wegner and Mark Bowen with 45 points. Runners up were Brad Nicholls and Rod Challis with 42 points.

Nearest the pin on the third was Brad Nicholls, the seventh, Ron Thouliss, the eleventh, Stephen Reid and the seventeenth, Ken Schmidt.

### Saturday

Forty-five men played the Stroke event, either 27 or 18 holes.

27 Holes results were: Winner Division One Scratch, Stephen Reid, 116; Winner Division One Handicap, Andrew Clarke, 106.5; Winner Division Two Scratch, Mark Bowen 138; Winner Division Two Handicap, Brad Nicholls 109.5.

18 Holes results were: Winner Division One Scratch, Rod Bennett 84. Runner up was Jordan Lampard, 85; Winner Division One Handicap, Luke Kelly, 74; Runner-up was Matthew Reid, 77; Winner Division Two Scratch, Mark Bowen, 96; Runner-up was Rod Challis on 97; Winner Division Two Handicap, Rod Challis on 75 nett, on a count back from Cam Bennett and Joe Gianfriddo, also on 75.

Nearest the pin on the third went to Stephen Reid, the seventh to John Wood, and the eleventh to Jeff Simkiss and the seventeenth to Oscar Tuckfield.

The Mallee Root Trophy went to Brad Nicholls, 109.5.

The Kara Kara District Championship was won by Rod Bennett on 131.

### Sunday

Sunday's event was Ambrose, any combination. Conditions were perfect for golf, with sunny skies and no wind.

In Division One, Rod Bennett and Sue Noonan won on 68 nett, with runners-up Mark Bowen and John Wegner on 70.5.

In Division Two, the winners were Shannon Gerbes and Ryan Elvey on 66 nett, and runners-up were Cam Bennett and Janine Eagle on 70.75.

Nearest the pins on the third went to Leonie Boxall and Neil Slocombe, the seventh to Janine Eagle and Daryl Boxall, the eleventh and seventeenth to Leonie Boxall, the eleventh to Cam Bennett and the seventeenth to Rod Bennett.

Nearest the pins over the tournament were: the third, Kerry Raven, 3.20 m; the seventh, Sue Noonan, 2.58m; the eleventh, Geoff Simkiss, 700 cm; the seventeenth, Oscar Tuckfield, 1.78m.

Once again a highly successful tournament was held, with lots of socialising and some very good golf.

The Birchip Golf Club would like to thank the wonderful sponsors for their support, and thank those who participated in the tournament. There are many people who help put the event together and thanks go to anyone who helped. The course was well prepared, despite the dryness. There are a lot of non golfers who help out, so that all can play.

Neil and Beryl Feitz, and Michael Blencowe did a mighty job in the office, the ladies in the kitchen fed everyone so well over the three days, and Roger Lehmann manned the possum hut on Friday. Lastly a huge thank you to tournament secretary Heather Hogan for her impeccable organisation of the prizes and sponsorship.



• Kitchen helpers, Sue Davis, Kristy Knights, and Bev Ryan.



• Roger Lehmann in the possum hut.



• Maree Cullen and Leonie Boxall retrieving a not so successful shot.

# MICHAELS OF DONALD

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By George Crenshaw  
[www.belvedere-cartoons.com](http://www.belvedere-cartoons.com)

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"Good Heavens, Orville. Just LET him borrow the car tonight!"



### SUPPORT SERVICES

| Adult                                                                                                                       | Youth                                                                                                                    | Other resources                                                                                                       |
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| Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467<br><a href="http://suicidecallbackservice.org.au">suicidecallbackservice.org.au</a> | headspace: 1800 650 890<br><a href="http://headspace.org.au">headspace.org.au</a>                                        | Life in Mind: suicide prevention portal<br><a href="http://lifeinmindaustralia.com.au">lifeinmindaustralia.com.au</a> |
| Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636<br><a href="http://beyondblue.org.au/forums">beyondblue.org.au/forums</a>                         | ReachOut: <a href="http://ReachOut.com">ReachOut.com</a>                                                                 | SANE: 1800 187 263 (10am-10pm)<br>online forums: <a href="http://saneforums.org">saneforums.org</a>                   |
| MensLine Australia: 1300 789 978<br><a href="http://mensline.org.au">mensline.org.au</a>                                    |                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                       |
| StandBy Support After Suicide<br>1300 727 247                                                                               |                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                                                             | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander: <a href="http://13YARN.org.au">13YARN.org.au</a> or 13 92 76                      |                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                                                             | Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and/or intersex: <a href="http://1800.184.527.qlife.org.au">1800.184.527.qlife.org.au</a> |                                                                                                                       |
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# Celebrating Nita's Ninetieth

The Charlton Croquet Club had the great pleasure of celebrating Nita Perry's 90th birthday anniversary a day early, on July 3, 2025.

A cherished and long-standing member of the Charlton Croquet Club, Nita's contribution to croquet over the years has been nothing short of inspiring.

Nita joined the Croquet Club in the 1990/91 season, beginning her journey in Association Croquet in Section 4. With dedication and passion, she worked her way up to become a three-time Section 2 champion. Nita also achieved success as the Murray Valley champion in Sections 3 and 4, and claimed victory in the Peg McGrath Doubles four times. Her team spirit shone through as she contributed to five winning Pennant teams.

In golf croquet, Nita's achievements continued. She has been club champion on four occasions, and Section 6-8 champion three times. She was also crowned Murray Valley Section 2 champion twice, and part of two winning Pennant teams.

Beyond her success on the court, Nita has been a dedicated club member, serving as vice-president on numerous occasions and co-ordinating club catering for many years. In 2015, she was proudly presented with her 25-year badge, a testament to her loyalty and service.

Today, at 90, Nita still enjoys playing golf croquet, showing us all the value of passion, perseverance, and community spirit.

Happy 90th birthday, Nita! Your legacy continues to inspire us all.

## Charlton Players Compete in Round Robin

On Saturday, 14th June, five Charlton Croquet Club players travelled to Boort for the second of three Murray Valley Croquet Association

winter Round Robin social matches. The journey began in thick fog, and visibility was so limited that one could not see the lake on arrival.

Despite the cold conditions, players were grateful for the absence of wind. A total of 20 players from three clubs – Swan Hill, Boort, and Charlton – took part in the day's events. After two hours of morning play, participants enjoyed a delicious lunch, followed by another two hours on the courts and a welcome afternoon tea. A brief glimpse of sunshine in the afternoon was a welcome surprise.

Congratulations to the day's winners: golf croquet, Margaret Bowen; and Association Croquet, Anne Kenny.

The final round of the winter series will take place at Swan Hill on Saturday, July 12.

## Charlton Success in Wagga Wagga

Meanwhile, on the same weekend, Naomi and Lindsay Patullo represented Charlton in the inaugural Croquet NSW Association Croquet Hi-Lo Event in Wagga Wagga. Eighteen players filled the lawns and kicked off the competition briskly in cool weather.

Congratulations to the winners Kathy Moloney (Canberra) and Lindsay Patullo (Charlton)

Well done to all players representing Charlton across the weekend!



• Winners at Wagga Wagga, Kathy Moloney (Canberra) and Lindsay Patullo (Charlton).



• Nita Celebrates her 90th.



• Back left to right: Val Bourke, Moira Sheahan, Peter O'Brien, Ena Green, Jenny Smith. Front left to right: Dawn Mulquiny, Margaret Bowen, Nita Perry, Pat Mathews.

# The Buloke Times

Est. 1875

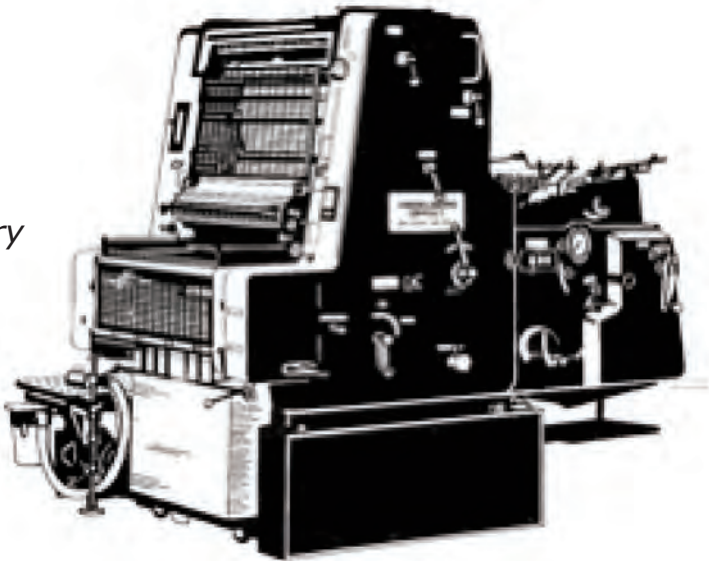
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Keep Your Home Fragrantly Fresh in Winter

During the winter months most homes are invariably kept shut tight to keep warm air in and cold air from entering. However, usually by the middle of winter, this can often lead to an accumulation of not-so-pleasant odours, especially cooking smells that have become stale.

The refreshing and aromatic properties of herbs and flowers can be used in many different ways to keep your home fragrantly fresh. They will not only remove those stale and unwanted odours, but will also make your surroundings pleasant. Their natural disinfectant properties will help to control airborne bacteria and viruses

that are prevalent during winter. This is especially important when homes are kept shut up for long periods. In my home one of our favourite ways to keep our surroundings fresh and aromatic is to burn homemade herbal incense. It is not only easy to make, but can be custom-made to suit your personal circumstance. Herb

mixtures, such as rosemary and lavender, mint, lavender or sage, and rosemary and thyme are suitable to use. They will not only impart a delightful fragrance but will also help to eliminate mustiness and staleness.

To make your incense, reduce one tablespoon of dried fragrant herb, or herb mixture, of your choice to a powder by rubbing it through a fine wire sieve. Next, thoroughly mix the powdered herb with one tablespoon of very fine sawdust, then add one tablespoon of water in which has been dissolved one teaspoon of Gum Arabic (available from artists' suppliers, craft shops and some chemists). When all ingredients have been mixed together, shape it into small cones and allow them to dry.

Place the incense cones on small metal or ceramic dishes, or other suitable objects, and light them. The incense will slowly smoulder, filling the room with its delightful fragrance.

Burning essential oils in a simmering pot (oil burner) is another simple way to keep your home smelling fragrantly fresh, while at the same time killing airborne bacteria and fungi. A simmering pot is a small ceramic vessel with a candle inside. A saucer containing a mixture of essential oil and water sits on top and the burning candle releases its fragrant vapours.

To use your simmering pot, 10 drops of your chosen essential oil to one cup of boiling water. Preheat the saucer by

lighting the little tea-light candle, then three-quarters fill the saucer with the fragrant water, topping up as required. Essential oils that have antibacterial properties and a fresh fragrance are thyme, lavender, pine, rosemary and eucalyptus.

You can also add a delicious fragrance to your wash by putting three to five drops of lemon grass or lavender oil on a face cloth and then dropping it into the washing machine with your laundry. For a more exotic perfume, try the essential oil ylang-ylang and neroli. When cold and influenza is about, add eucalyptus, rosemary or pine oil to the wash.

During this year's colder months, keep your home



• Alan Hayes

smelling fragrantly fresh with nature's herbs and essential oils!

Visit Alan on the Net - [www.itssonatural.com](http://www.itssonatural.com)

YOUR THREE-DAY TV GUIDE

Tuesday

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| <b>ABC (2)</b> 6:00 News Breakfast 9:00 ABC News 10:00 Australian Story 10:30 Compass (PG) 11:00 If You're Listening 11:20 Gruen 12:00 ABC News 1:00 Call The Midwife (M) 2:00 Anh's Brush With Fame (PG) 2:30 Back Roads (PG) 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 Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) 8:50 Whale Wisdom 9:40 I Was Actually There (M I) | <b>SBS (3)</b> 5:00 Worldwatch 7:00 Cycling: Highlights 8:00 Worldwatch 11:00 Cycling: Highlights 1:00 Worldwatch 2:00 Going Places With Ernie Dingo (PG) 3:25 Where The Dreamings Come From (In English/ Pitjantjatjara) 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 7:30 Great Continental Railway Journeys (PG) 8:30 Insight (PG) | <b>PRIME (6)</b> 6:00 Sunrise 9:00 The Morning Show (PG) 12:00 Seven Noon News 1:00 Movie: "Just Add Romance" (PG) ('19) Stars: Meghann Fahy 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 Stranded On Honeymoon Island (PG) 10:25 The Agenda Setters 11:30 First Dates UK (PG) 12:30 Fairly Legal (PG) 2:30 Home Shopping 4:00 NBC Today | <b>NINE (8)</b> 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 Footy Classified (M) 9:30 Tennis: Wimbledon: Pre Show 10:00 Tennis: Wimbledon: Day 9: Quarter Finals: "Live" 4:00 Getaway (PG) 4:30 A Current Affair (PG) | <b>TEN (5)</b> 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 |
| <b>ABC ENTERTAINS (23)</b> 4:05 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 4:40 MythBusters (PG) 5:30 Car S.O.S (PG) 6:15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent Down Under 7:05 Claire Hooper's House Of Games 7:35 QI (PG) 8:05 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 8:35 Upstart Crowd (M s)                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>SBS VICE (31)</b> 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) 8:25 Alone (M) 9:40 Hoarders (M)                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>7TWO (62)</b> 1:00 Escape To The Country 2:00 Creek To Coast 2:30 The Yorkshire Vet (PG) 3:30 Harry's Practice 4:00 Our Town: East Kimberley 4:30 Better Homes And Gardens 5:30 Escape To The Country 6:30 Bargain Hunt 7:30 Call The Midwife (PG)                                                                                                                                                              | <b>GEM (81)</b> 12:00 The Avengers (PG) 1:00 Yorkshire Auction House 2:00 Iconic Australia (PG) 3:00 Antiques Roadshow 3:30 Movie: "The Loves Of Joanna Godden" (PG) ('47) Stars: Googie Withers 5:30 Yorkshire Auction House 6:30 Antiques Roadshow 7:30 New Tricks (M I,s,v)                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>PEACH (52)</b> 2:00 Becker (PG) 2:30 Frasier (PG) 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)                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>ABC FAMILY (22)</b> 3:30 Ready, Steady, Wiggle! 4:00 Andy's Global Adventures 4:25 Rocket Club 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 8:00 Junior Vets                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>SBS MOVIES (32)</b> 3:40 Movie: "Sissi - The Young Empress" (PG) ('56) Stars: Romy Schneider (In German) 5:40 Movie: "Finding Graceland" (PG) ('98) Stars: Harvey Keitel 7:30 Movie: "A Bronx Tale" (M) ('93) Stars: Robert de Niro                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>7MATE (63)</b> 2:30 Gem Hunters Down Under (PG) 3:30 Billy The Exterminator (PG) 4:00 Full Custom Garage (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)                                                                                                                                                        | <b>GO! (82)</b> 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: "Bad Moms 2" (M d,I) ('17) Stars: Mila Kunis 10:35 Seinfeld (PG)                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>BOLD (53)</b> 6:00 Home Shopping 8:00 Pooches At Play 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 v)                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

Wednesday

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| <b>ABC (2)</b> 6:00 News Breakfast 9:00 ABC News 10:00 Four Corners 11:00 That Blackfella Show 12:00 ABC News 12:30 National Press Club Address 1:35 Media Watch 2:00 Anh's Brush With Fame (PG) 2:30 Back Roads (PG) 2:55 Love Your Garden (PG) 3:45 Fake Or Fortune? 4:40 Long Lost Family (PG) 5:30 Antiques Roadshow 6:30 Hard Quiz (PG) 7:00 ABC News 7:30 7.30 (PG) 8:00 Gruen 8:35 Guy Montgomery's Guy Mont Spelling Bee (PG) 9:25 Spicks And Specks (PG) 10:00 QI (PG) | <b>SBS (3)</b> 5:00 Worldwatch 7:00 Cycling: Highlights 8:00 Worldwatch 11:00 Cycling: Highlights 1:00 Worldwatch 2:00 Insight (PG) 3:00 Going Places With Ernie Dingo (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 7:30 How Disney Built America (PG) 8:20 Eat Smart - Secrets Of The Glucose Goddess 9:25 Cycling: Tour de France: Stage 5 "Live" | <b>PRIME (6)</b> 6:00 Sunrise 9:00 The Morning Show (PG) 12:00 Seven Noon News 1:00 Movie: "Written In The Stars" (PG) ('21) Stars: Kimberley Crossman 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 Border Security - Australia's Front Line (PG) 8:30 The Front Bar (M I) 9:30 Unfiled (PG) 10:00 Ashley Cain - Into The Danger Zone (MA15+) 11:20 Stags (MA15+) 12:20 Touching Evil (MA15+) | <b>NINE (8)</b> 6:00 Today 9:00 Today Extra (PG) 11:30 NINE News Morning 12:00 Movie: "Scented With Love" (PG) ('22) Stars: Rebecca Olson 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 NRL: State Of Origin: Game 3 "Live" 10:00 NRL: State Of Origin: Post-Match 11:00 Tennis: Wimbledon: Day 10: Quarter Finals: "Live" 12:00 Tennis: Wimbledon: Day 10: Quarter Finals: "Live" | <b>TEN (5)</b> 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 Elisabeth (M v) 9:40 FBI: International (M v) 10:40 10's Late News 11:05 10 News Plus |
| <b>ABC ENTERTAINS (23)</b> 4:05 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 4:40 MythBusters (PG) 5:30 Car S.O.S (PG) 6:15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent Down Under 7:05 Claire Hooper's House Of Games 7:35 QI (PG) 8:05 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 8:35 Unforgotten (M I)                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>SBS VICE (31)</b> 4:10 NITV News Update 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! 7:25 NITV News Update 7:30 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown (M I,s)                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>7TWO (62)</b> 1:00 Escape To The Country 2:00 Sydney Weekender 2:30 The Yorkshire Vet (PG) 3:30 Harry's Practice 4:00 Medical Emergency (PG) 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)                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>GEM (81)</b> 2:00 World's Greatest Transportation Marvels (PG) 3:00 Antiques Roadshow 3:30 Movie: "It Always Rains On Sunday" (PG) ('47) Stars: Googie Withers 5:30 Yorkshire Auction House 6:30 Antiques Roadshow 7:30 As Time Goes By (PG) 8:30 TBA                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>PEACH (52)</b> 2:00 Becker (PG) 2:30 Frasier (PG) 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)                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>ABC FAMILY (22)</b> 3:30 Ready, Steady, Wiggle! 4:00 Andy's Global Adventures 4:25 Rocket Club 5:00 Peppa Pig 5:35 Peter Rabbit 6:00 Octonauts 6:30 The Adventures Of Paddington 7:05 Dino Dex 7:30 Do Not Watch This Show 8:00 Junior Vets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>SBS MOVIES (32)</b> 3:55 Movie: "Sissi - Fateful Years Of An Empress" (PG) ('57) Stars: Romy Schneider (In German) 5:55 Movie: "Rabbit-Proof Fence" (PG) ('02) Stars: Evelyn Sampi 7:35 Movie: "The Delinquents" (M) ('89) Stars: Charlie Schlatter                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>7MATE (63)</b> 3:30 Billy The Exterminator (PG) 4:00 Full Custom Garage (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)                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>GO! (82)</b> 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: "22 Jump Street" (MA15+) ('14) Stars: Channing Tatum 10:45 Seinfeld (PG)                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>BOLD (53)</b> 6:00 Home Shopping 8:00 Pooches At Play 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

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| <b>ABC (2)</b> 6:00 News Breakfast 9:00 ABC News 10:00 Stuff The British Stole (PG) 10:30 Back Roads 11:10 Guy Montgomery's Guy Mont Spelling Bee (PG) 12:00 ABC News 1:00 Silent Witness (PG) 2:00 Anh's Brush With Fame (PG) 2:25 Back Roads (PG) 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 Joanna Lumley's Danube (PG) 8:50 Grand Designs Australia (PG) | <b>SBS (3)</b> 5:00 Worldwatch 7:00 Cycling: Highlights 8:00 Worldwatch 11:00 Cycling: Highlights 1:00 Worldwatch 2:05 Going Places With Ernie Dingo (PG) 2:35 Dylan Alcott Meets (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 8:30 Cycling: Tour de France: Stage 6 "Live" 1:55 Great Coastal Railway Journeys (PG) | <b>PRIME (6)</b> 6:00 Sunrise 9:00 The Morning Show (PG) 12:00 Seven Noon News 1:00 Movie: "Love On Safari" (PG) ('18) Stars: Lacey Chabert 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 18: Carlton v Brisbane 10:30 AFL: Post Game 11:00 Kick Ons 11:30 Evil By Design: The Man Behind The Curtain (M I,v) 12:35 Life: Let Her Go (M v) 1:35 Harry's Practice 2:00 Home Shopping 4:00 NBC Today | <b>NINE (8)</b> 6:00 Today 9:00 Today Extra (PG) 11:30 NINE News Morning 12:00 Movies: "Planning On Forever" (G) ('22) Stars: Emily Tennant 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 RBT (M I) 8:30 Emergency (M) 9:30 TBA 10:00 Tennis: Pre Show 10:30 Tennis: Wimbledon: Day 11: Semi Finals "Live" 12:00 Tennis: Wimbledon: Day 11: Semi Finals: Late "Live" | <b>TEN (5)</b> 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: High Alert (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 |
| <b>ABC ENTERTAINS (23)</b> 4:05 QI (PG) 4:40 MythBusters (PG) 5:30 Car S.O.S (PG) 6:15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent Down Under 7:05 Claire Hooper's House Of Games 7:35 QI (PG) 8:05 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 9:05 Gruen 9:45 That Blackfella Show (M)                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>SBS VICE (31)</b> 4:05 BBC News At Ten 4:35 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)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>7TWO (62)</b> 1:00 Escape To The Country 2:00 South Aussie With Cosi (PG) 2:30 The Yorkshire Vet (PG) 3:30 Harry's Practice 4:00 Better Homes And Gardens 5:00 Escape To The Country 6:00 Bargain Hunt 7:00 Home And Away (PG) 8:30 Father Brown (M)                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>GEM (81)</b> 2:00 As Time Goes By (PG) 3:00 Antiques Roadshow 3:30 Movie: "Loser Takes All" (PG) ('56) Stars: Glynis Johns 5:30 Yorkshire Auction House 6:30 Antiques Roadshow 7:30 NRL Women's: Tigers v Bulldogs "Live" 10:00 A&E After Dark (M) 11:00 Panic 9-1-1 (M v)                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>PEACH (52)</b> 2:00 Becker (PG) 2:30 Frasier (PG) 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)                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>ABC FAMILY (22)</b> 3:30 Ready, Steady, Wiggle! 4:00 Andy's Global Adventures 4:25 Rocket Club 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 8:00 Junior Vets                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>SBS MOVIES (32)</b> 4:20 Movie: "Lunana: A Yak In The Classroom" (PG) ('19) Stars: Sherab Dorji (In Dzongkha/ English) 6:20 Movie: "Bran Nue Dae" (PG) ('09) Stars: Rocky McKenzie 7:55 Movie: "A Hard Day's Night" (PG) ('64) Stars: John Lennon (In Various)                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>7MATE (63)</b> 2:30 The Force - Behind The Line (PG) 3:30 Billy The Exterminator (PG) 4:00 Full Custom Garage (PG) 5:00 American Restoration (PG) 5:30 Storage Wars (PG) 6:00 American Pickers (PG) 7:00 Pawn Stars (PG) 7:30 Towies (PG)                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>GO! (82)</b> 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: "Beetlejuice" (PG) ('88) Stars: Alec Baldwin 10:25 Seinfeld (PG)                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>BOLD (53)</b> 6:00 Home Shopping 8:00 Pooches At Play 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)                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |



## Bolstered Drought Cash... A Step in the Right Direction

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) says additional \$75m in Victorian Government drought support funding is a step in the right direction as parts of the state continue to face record drought conditions.

VFF President Brett Hosking said the continued support is sorely needed and testament to the sustained advocacy from VFF, farmers and the wider regional community.

"You can't overstate how devastating this drought has been to our regional communities and the only certainty we know is the recovery will take years," said Mr Hosking.

"Genuine support is what's needed and this announcement is a step in the right direction."

Highlights of the additional Victorian Government drought support include:

- \$35.8m for 12 South West Victoria councils to administer targeted drought relief.
- \$15m investment for the East Grampians Rural Pipeline.
- \$2m for the Country Women's Association to roll out of food and grocery support of up to \$1000 per household.
- \$6.3m to cover the cost of farmer exemptions on government fees and charges, such as livestock transaction fees.
- \$5.5m for standpipes, emergency and private bores.
- \$3.5m towards a South-

West water strategy.

- \$1m for Catchment Management Authority employment programs.
- \$5.9m to continue the Look over the Farm Gate program and continue funding of Agriculture Victoria's farm technical decision making program.

Mr Hosking added it's the VFF's expectation that the entirety of funding allocations to local councils is fully and promptly passed on to drought-hit communities without delay.

"Our communities are hurting right now and it's my expectation that this money goes directly to drought-hit farmers straight away and paid in full. Immediate rate relief is a good example of how that can be done and is something we've been calling for," Mr Hosking said.

Increased investment to complete the East Grampians Rural Pipeline is a welcome move and will help ensure the region is better placed to respond to future droughts.

"We've been calling for this for some time and have been working hard to make this key infrastructure a reality. We are now just waiting for the Federal Water Minister, Murray Watt, to



• Brett Hosking.

confirm their co-contribution and work can commence on getting this done.

"Government support is vital to help the industry at this time. We've seen initial support from the Victorian Government and now we need the Federal Government to step in and do their bit," Mr Hosking said.

"We're in this for the long haul and whilst we thank the Victorian Government for their support, by no means are we out of the woods just yet. VFF has employed a Drought Support Officer to be on the ground speak to speak with farmers and rural communities and we will continue to monitor conditions and ensure government is informed to provide further support to farmers as the season continues."

## Digging Deep into Microbiome Research

This World Microbiome Day, Agriculture Victoria is launching an expression of interest campaign to encourage farmers to donate soil samples to a National Soil Action Plan funded research project.

Funded by the Australian and Victorian governments, the "Soil biodiversity across landscapes" project will seek to implement priority actions from the plan under the National Soil Strategy.

Agriculture Victoria Principal Scientist, Tim Sawbridge, said he hoped to attract interest from at least 50 farmers statewide.

"We are looking at what microbiomes exist in soil and how they function across natural and farmed environments.

"A soil microbiome is a community of microbes, bacteria, invertebrates and other life forms that live within soil.

"To gain a deep understanding of their role in soil health, we're wanting a broad range of samples from various production zones and agricultural industries in Victoria," he said.

AVR is working alongside the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research (ARI) on the project to collect and analyse samples of soil from across the state.

ARI has provided over 200 samples from public land,

such as state forests and parks and reserves, to AVR for analysis.

Samples are being taken at Agriculture Victoria's SmartFarms including over time at the existing DairySoils study at Ellinbank SmartFarm.

"We anticipate that farmers who express interest in submitting samples to the project will have a natural curiosity about what is living within their soil," Dr Sawbridge said.

"Everyone is set to gain from this project – researchers, farmers and land conservationists will learn more about the benefits of this microscopic subterranean world.

"We may discover ways to influence the microbiome's effect on soil productivity, nutrient uptake, soil carbon and soil capacity to recover and maintain resilience in a changing climate."

To express interest in participating in the project, farmers should email [soil.microbiome@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:soil.microbiome@agriculture.vic.gov.au) by 5 p.m., Tuesday, September 30.

Soil samples will be taken from a single geo-location to a depth of 10 cm and 30 cm from a small area on the farm.

The soil structure, chemistry, botanical information and DNA will be analysed and barcoded for comparison with other samples in the dataset



## Kicking off Breakthrough Research and Development

The Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) is kick-starting engagement to shape the next phase of research, development and extension (RD&E) investment aimed at tackling long-term challenges and unlocking breakthrough opportunities for Australia's grain industry.

The engagement follows the completion of an expert, independent review to determine the "right-size" RD&E investment to continue the remarkable progress driven by Australian grain growers alongside GRDC.

The comprehensive review was instigated by GRDC in September 2024 and focused on levy revenue modelling, an RD&E capacity and ability assessment, and implications of changes to GRDC's RD&E investment levels.

GRDC Chair and South Australian primary producer Sharon Starick said the organisation and the broader Australian grains industry continued to be the beneficiaries of productivity growth, strong seasons and commodity prices and this was the driving motivator for the "right-size" review.

"GRDC is in an extremely favourable financial position. After a number of outstanding seasons coupled with strong prices, GRDC now has strong cash reserves of \$680 million," Mrs Starick said.

### Sharon Starick

GRDC Chair and South Australian grower Sharon Starick said the GRDC reserves were a result of the shared success of the grains industry and GRDC RD&E. She said this was an opportunity for growers and GRDC to work together to utilise the reserves for greater investment in RD&E that was innovative, transformational and delivering productivity and profitability for growers today and into the future.

"This extraordinary position was without question made possible by growers, whose readiness to adopt practice changes and embrace innovative technologies demonstrates the immense value of RD&E to the productivity and profitability of Australian farming enterprises. Independent analysis shows



• GRDC Chairperson and Australian grower Sharon Starick.

that for every dollar GRDC invests growers receive a \$6-9 return on investment.

"Critically the 'right-size' review, which was completed on schedule in June, provides strong direction on how GRDC's reserves may be strategically invested, aligned to GRDC's remit and purpose to ensure RD&E investment continues to drive growth and success for the grains sector."

Mrs Starick said GRDC would begin industry consultation later this month by liaising with growers' representative organisations, GrainGrowers Limited and Grain Producers Australia, before going out more broadly to growers over the next three months.

She said the industry consultation would build on the extensive work already undertaken by GRDC to inform the current RD&E Plan 2023-28, as well as the substantive investment areas and priorities already identified by grain growers.

"GRDC has just released our Annual Operational Plan 2025-26 which highlights the focus areas for RD&E investment for the next year and reflects our future-focused

approach. If you want to understand where we are investing, the AOP provides an overview of our extensive portfolio of RD&E projects and signals the priority areas for new investment," she said.

"We have already increased our annual RD&E investment from \$180 million to just over \$240 million per year over the past three years to meet the rising cost of delivering high-quality research. Like farm inputs research costs have continued to increase. Our RD&E investment is indexed to maintain investment in real terms and will increase to \$275 million or more over the next four years.

"Importantly, as part of our RD&E Plan 2023-28 we also have more than \$525 million in forward commitments. These research investments have been shaped by grower priorities, including direct input from our Regional Panels, and focus on delivering practical, on-farm impact."

Mrs Starick said, as part of the "right-size" review consultation, GRDC will ask grain growers and industry for their input into opportunities to identify "what's next" when it comes to strategic, transformational research.

She said it was important that GRDC continues to fill the front-end of the R&D pipeline, investing in new science and building the next generation of talent.

"GRDC reserves are a result of the shared success of the grains industry and GRDC RD&E. By working in partnership with growers and building on what we have achieved together, we can utilise the reserves to enable greater investment in RD&E that is innovative, transformational and delivering productivity and profitability for growers today and into the future," Mrs Starick said.

## What's On

### BCG Ag Tech Expo

The BCG Ag Tech Expo (Grain Automate Expo - Birchip) brings together a range of machinery, tech and data-driven solutions, from weed control innovations and autonomous equipment to precision ag tools and safety services. It's a chance to see things in action, ask questions, and hear directly from the people who use and develop the technology.

**Special Guests Include:** Professor Michael Walsh (CSU), Ben Single (Single Agriculture), INCYT, CSIRO, Verge Ag, SwarmFarm Robotics, BioScout, MagrowTec, WEED-IT Australia, Precision Ag, O'Connors, Jono Robinson (Warakirri Cropping), Pairtree Intelligence.

**When:** July 16, 2025, 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m..

**Where:** Charlton Park, Calder Hwy. Charlton, VIC 3525

# Wedderburn Rules Woosang Once More

The Annual Woosang Challenge match, played between traditional rivals the Wedderburn Redbacks and Charlton Navies, was held on Saturday last, played for this year at Charlton Park.

Retaining some of the foot-ball district history, the Woosang Challenge, largely though the efforts of Roger Paterson, has fittingly been played in good spirit, and regardless of ladder position, is keenly contested each year. The player adjudged best on ground during this match is awarded the Pappos Medal.

For the fifth consecutive year, Wedderburn has proven too strong for the Navies,

Charlton having to go back to 2019 for the last time they claimed the winners' shield. The Redbacks are clinging to hopes of a miracle run to sneak into the top four of the North Central Football League for season 2025, they will be relying on other results to allow that to happen, but did everything right at Charlton in this Round 11 match.

Young Charlton defender Bailey Dixon was again given

the task of matching up on the opposition's most likely forward, this time locking horns with the Redbacks' Mitch Jensen. Evenly matched for height and speed, Jensen provided Dixon another tough assignment, but a great opportunity to continue his growth and development in senior football. To his credit Dixon stuck to his task all day, despite Jensen finishing with a game- and season-high 10 goals, he was certainly made to work for them. Jensen justifiably earned himself the Pappos medal in the process.

While the scoreboard read differently, the first term was relatively even. Charlton's defenders, led by Jed Thompson, with Elliott Fitzpatrick and Pat Soulsby in support, were doing a great job of quashing forward entries. However, with the Redbacks' midfielders, Hamish Lockhart, Mitch and Jackson McEwen getting on top, and with Zach Pallpratt providing important link between defence and attack, the Navies' defence was under constant pressure.

Lack of a key forward clearly didn't do the Navies

any favours, with forward entries often rushed; high balls not suiting Charlton's brigade of mid-sized attackers. Jensen got the ball rolling for the 'Burn, scoring the first of the day, keeping the Navies in it. The Redbacks were wasteful for the next period of play, Charlton's Ben Xiriha left ruing a golden opportunity to level up after the Navies' best passage of play in the quarter.

Mitch McEwen finally straightened up the Redbacks before Charlton debutant Ethan Needs marked on a strong lead, unfortunately unable to convert with his first kick in senior football.

Not to be outdone, the Redbacks own debutant Aaron Smith did so shortly after, goaling after finding himself in space inside fifty, that kicked off a run of three goals in "red" time for the visitors, blowing the lead out to 28 points at the first change.

An opening second quarter goal to Charlton's Liam O'Keefe, his and Charlton's second momentarily broke the Wedderburn run; from there though, all red and black.

As has been the case on many occasions this season, Charlton was unable to stem the run and ball carry of its

opposition, often allowing opponents far too much latitude and paying dearly as a result.

Wedderburn exploded during the second term, slamming through eight unanswered goals in the run to halftime. Such was the domination from the visiting side, that early O'Keefe goal was Charlton's only score in the term as their opponents ran riot, kicking five behinds to go with the eight goals for the quarter. The Navies' hard work in the opening term counted for little as lapses in concentration hurt on the scoreboard. Wedderburn was the halftime leader to the tune of 75 points.

With the game as good as decided at the main break, Wedderburn piled on further pain for Navies' supporters early in the third term. A further two goals stretched the run of unanswered goals to 10, four of which came from the boot of Jensen, and could have been another four if not for the spoiling work of Dixon and the third man up provided by Jed Thompson.

The back half of the third term proved Charlton's most productive of the afternoon, finally showing some respect to its opposition and shutting down the numerous outlets Wedderburn had previously

been able to find with ease; ball movement for the visitors became difficult. Charlton goaled through two of Charlton's best for the day, Rhys Thompson and Ben Lanyon, toiling tirelessly in the ruck against the Redbacks' twin towers, brothers from other mothers. The lead grew slightly to 82 points by the end of the third.

The last quarter somewhat replicated the second, kicking to the town end with the breeze at their backs, after Charlton kicked the first of the term. A strong mark to young Seb Zagame, a wasteful Wedderburn then had all the play, bursting into space and running hard (a trademark of the Redbacks' day), they could easily have put through a further 10 goals in the last quarter except for inaccurate kicking. Smith kicked his third in a encouragingly lively first game.

Final scores Charlton 5.4 (34) defeated by Wedderburn 21.20 (146).

Best for Charlton: Liam O'Keefe, Ben Lanyon, Rhys Thompson, Mitch Collins, Ben Xiriha, Elliott Fitzpatrick.

For Wedderburn: Jhye Mortlock, Noah Furlong, Mitch Jensen, Zach Pallpratt, Corey Lourey, Danny Benaim.



• Mitch Jensen, best on ground, was awarded the Pappos Medal.

## North-Central Hockey

**Results of round 11 —**

**Under-12s:** Sea Lake-Nandaly 0 def. by Boort 1, Donald 0 def. by St Arnaud 8, Charlton 1 d. Wedderburn 0, Calder United 2 d. Birchip-Watchem 1.

**Underage:** Sea Lake-Nandaly 2 def. by Boort 4, Donald 1 def. by St Arnaud 6, Calder United 7 d. Birchip-Watchem 0.

**Women:** Sea Lake-Nandaly 0 def. by Boort 1, Donald 0 def. by St Arnaud 3, Charlton 2 d. Wedderburn 0.

**Men:** Sea Lake-Nandaly 0 def. by Boort 7, Donald 2 def. by St Arnaud 3, Charlton 1 def. by Wedderburn 7.

| POSITIONS OF TEAMS |    |   |   |   |   |     |      |     |     |     |  |  |
|--------------------|----|---|---|---|---|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|--|--|
| Women              |    |   |   |   |   |     |      |     |     |     |  |  |
|                    | P  | W | D | L | F | For | Agst | SD  | Pts | WR  |  |  |
| St Arnaud          | 10 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 34  | 9    | 25  | 27  | 90  |  |  |
| Charlton           | 9  | 7 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 32  | 10   | 22  | 21  | 78  |  |  |
| Calder United      | 9  | 7 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 30  | 11   | 19  | 21  | 78  |  |  |
| Boort              | 10 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 25  | 31   | -6  | 15  | 50  |  |  |
| Wedderburn         | 10 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 14  | 21   | -7  | 10  | 33  |  |  |
| Donald             | 9  | 1 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 7   | 27   | -20 | 4   | 15  |  |  |
| Sea Lake-Nan       | 9  | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 1   | 34   | -33 | 0   | 0   |  |  |
| Men                |    |   |   |   |   |     |      |     |     |     |  |  |
| St Arnaud          | 10 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 46  | 9    | 37  | 23  | 77  |  |  |
| Calder United      | 9  | 6 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 38  | 13   | 25  | 19  | 70  |  |  |
| Donald             | 9  | 6 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 22  | 12   | 10  | 19  | 70  |  |  |
| Boort              | 10 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 46  | 11   | 35  | 17  | 57  |  |  |
| Wedderburn         | 10 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 23  | 21   | 2   | 14  | 47  |  |  |
| Sea Lake-Nan       | 9  | 1 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 7   | 45   | -38 | 3   | 11  |  |  |
| Charlton           | 9  | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 5   | 76   | -71 | 0   | 0   |  |  |
| Underage           |    |   |   |   |   |     |      |     |     |     |  |  |
| Charlton           | 9  | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 53  | 5    | 48  | 27  | 100 |  |  |
| St Arnaud          | 9  | 7 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 46  | 6    | 40  | 21  | 78  |  |  |
| Donald             | 10 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 28  | 33   | -5  | 15  | 50  |  |  |
| Boort              | 10 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 28  | 38   | -10 | 12  | 40  |  |  |
| Calder United      | 9  | 3 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 15  | 14   | 1   | 10  | 37  |  |  |
| Birchip-Wat        | 10 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 19  | 62   | -43 | 7   | 23  |  |  |
| Sea Lake-Nan       | 9  | 2 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 10  | 41   | -31 | 6   | 22  |  |  |
| Under-12s          |    |   |   |   |   |     |      |     |     |     |  |  |
| Calder United      | 11 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 35  | 7    | 28  | 28  | 85  |  |  |
| Charlton           | 11 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 25  | 9    | 16  | 28  | 85  |  |  |
| Birchip-Wat        | 11 | 9 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 63  | 8    | 55  | 27  | 82  |  |  |
| St Arnaud          | 11 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 32  | 16   | 16  | 19  | 58  |  |  |
| Wedderburn         | 11 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 11  | 13   | -2  | 10  | 30  |  |  |
| Boort              | 11 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 4   | 36   | -32 | 7   | 21  |  |  |
| Donald             | 11 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 14  | 54   | -40 | 6   | 18  |  |  |
| Sea Lake-Nan       | 11 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 1   | 42   | -41 | 4   | 12  |  |  |



• Woosang Challenge winner of the Shield, left to right, Darcy Jackson (captain), Roger Patterson and Tom Metherell (coach).

# Saints' Secure Their Second Win

(By Brad Bath)

The Goff Letts oval was presented in magnificent order for the clash between seventh placed St. Arnaud and the eighth side Donald.

Both sides had to contend with an unusual wind blowing towards the old scoreboard; unusual because the prevailing winds normally come from the opposite direction.

Both sides came into the game missing some regular players, the Saints with 6 players missing from recent weeks and the Royal Blues notably missing Ross Young, who was a late withdrawal. On paper it looked like an even contest given the omissions from both sides.

The Saints won the toss and kicked with a 4- to 5- goal advantage to the river end. It took till the 11-minute mark for them to put their first goal on the board thanks to Kurt Torney, who then followed up with another later in the quarter to send the Saints into quarter-time with an 18-point lead.

One thought that St. Arnaud may rue the missed opportunities in this quarter, kicking 2 goals 7 to Donald's solitary point with many of the Saints' shots on goal being

relatively "gettable" despite the wind.

The second quarter saw an even contest, with it now being Donald's turn to miss out on taking advantage of the wind. Daniel Pearce goaled for Donald from the 50-metre line, but Jacob Tillig answered 30 seconds later from the goal square for the Saints. Two goals to St. Arnaud mid-way through the term gave it a handy lead. One of the goals to Max Hungerford was his first after kicking 6 behinds up until then. Brent Arho kicked his first just before half-time to give Donald a bit of hope going into the long break, with the Saints leading 5-11 (41) to Donald 2-2 (14).

Quarter 3 turned into a real arm-wrestle; both sides wanting to gain the authority with St. Arnaud looking to get its second win for the year, and Donald to get its first.

The standard of the game was being affected by the wind, but also the pressure from both sides was making mistakes commonplace. The

Saints had their chances but the Royal Blues' defence stood firm and battled hard, as it has done all year, to keep the Saints out.

A goal to Zac Phillips was the only major scored for the term, with both backlines on top as well as lots of pressure though the middle of the ground, making disposals difficult.

Three-quarter time: St. Arnaud 6-16 (52) to Donald 2-3 (15).

In an even last quarter Donald kicked 3 goals to St. Arnaud's 2, the highlight being a great running goal by Dyson Bell-Warren, where he ran and bounced the ball from the centre of the ground to within 15 metres of goal and slotted it through. Two goals for the Saints' Hungerford and a goal each to George Walker and Josh Talty for the Royals, saw the Saints run out winners by 29 points, 8-16 (64) to Donald 5-5 (35).

In a season where both sides have not been at their best, it was a very entertaining game. The wind made disposing of the ball difficult but the pressure displayed, particularly by Donald, made for an even contest. I also enjoyed the umpiring, as I felt that both umpires had control of the game at all times and paid free kicks that were there and showed an understanding of the way the game was being played. Well done.

St. Arnaud goals: Max Hungerford 3, Kurt Torney 2, Jacob Tillig 1, Lucas Bridger 1, Zac Phillips 1.

For Donald: Brent Arho 1, Dyson Bell-Warren 1, Daniel Pearce 1, Josh Talty 1, Robert Walker 1.

Best for St. Arnaud: Jackson Needs, Owen Lowe, Kurt Torney, Darby Schilder, Harrison Saunders and Max Hungerford.

Best for Donald: Robert Walker, Daniel Pearce, Dyson Bell-Warren, Josh Talty, Charlie Campbell and Tom Reekie.



• To commemorate his 250th senior game for the Saints, Matthew Goode with daughter Audrey, walk through the guard of honour at the beginning of the seniors game on Saturday, alongside, team-mate Jacob Tillig carrying his daughter, Ellidy, for the occasion of his 150th game.



• One of Donald's best for the day, Charlie Campbell, kicks out of defence under the pressure of St. Arnaud's Jackson Needs (left, named as Saints' best) and Jake Hicks.



• St. Arnaud's Bailey Nicholas gets his handball away as Donald's Brady Griffiths comes in to tackle.



• Pressure right down to the goal line, Donald's Charlie Campbell tackles Saints' Max Hungerford as he gets foot to ball for one of his three goals.



• Saints' Luke Jackson nearly has the Sherrin in the palm of his hand as he tries to gain control, but Donald's Luca Rice is ready to apply pressure. Other St. Arnaud player is Kurt Torney.

# North-Central Football Roundup

## Goldacres Seniors

|                  |     |     |      |       |      |
|------------------|-----|-----|------|-------|------|
| SEA LAKE-NANDALY | 4.2 | 5.6 | 8. 8 | 10.11 | (71) |
| BOORT            | 1.1 | 5.5 | 5.10 | 8.12  | (60) |

Goals for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Bryce Delmenico 2, Trent Donnan 2, Wade Donnan 2, Adam Pattison 2, Max Cahoon, Connor Michael. For Boort: Jhye Baddeley-Kelly 4, James Keeble 2, Kayne Rutley 2.

Best for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Adam Pattison, Wade Donnan, Trent Donnan, Jai Wright, Bryce Delmenico, Joel Clohesy. For Boort: Matt Austin, Keiren Wilson, Jhye Baddeley-Kelly, Alex Chamberlain, Jayden Dick, Carlos Egan.

|           |     |      |      |      |      |
|-----------|-----|------|------|------|------|
| ST ARNAUD | 2.7 | 5.11 | 6.16 | 8.16 | (64) |
| DONALD    | 0.1 | 2.2  | 2.3  | 5.5  | (35) |

Goals for St Arnaud: Max Hungerford 3, Jacob Tillig 2, Lucas Bridger, Zac Phillips, Kurt Torney. For Donald: Brent Arho, Dyson Bell-Warren, Daniel Pearce, Joshua Talty, Robert Walker.

Best for St Arnaud: Jackson Needs, Owen Lowe, Kurtis Torney, Darby Schilder, Harrison Saunders, Max Hungerford. For Donald: Robert Walker, Daniel Pearce, Dyson Bell-Warren, Joshua Talty, Charlie Campbell, Thomas Reekie.

|            |     |       |       |       |       |
|------------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| WEDDERBURN | 5.6 | 13.11 | 16.14 | 21.20 | (146) |
| CHARLTON   | 1.2 | 2. 2  | 4. 4  | 5. 4  | (34)  |

Goals for Wedderburn: Mitch Jensen 10, Oscar Holt 3, Aaron Smith 3, Noah Furlong 2, Jye Mortlock, Mitchell McEwen, Mark Robinson.

For Charlton: Liam O'Keefe 2, Ben Lanyon, Rhys Thompson, Seb Zagame.

Best for Wedderburn: Jye Mortlock, Noah Furlong, Mitch Jensen, Zach Pallpratt, Corey Lowry, Danny Benaim. For Charlton: Liam O'Keefe, Ben Lanyon, Rhys Thompson, Mitchell Collins, Ben Xiriha, Elliott Fitzpatrick.

|                 |     |      |       |       |       |
|-----------------|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|
| BIRCHIP-WATCHEM | 4.4 | 10.8 | 12.10 | 15.15 | (105) |
| CALDER UNITED   | 4.5 | 4.8  | 7. 8  | 9. 9  | (63)  |

Goals for Birchip-Watchem: Jacob Christie 3, Rhona Conboy 2, Tom Gibson 2, Ben Edwards 2, Daniel Bell, Lachy Foott, William Lee, Joseph Reid, Marshall Rippon, Nicholas Rippon.

For Calder United: Dale Pearce 3, Rylee Smith 2, Koby Hommelhoff, Zane Keighran, Steven Kennedy, Darcy Munro.

Best for Birchip-Watchem: Tom Gibson, Nicholas Rippon, Daniel Bell, Ben Lakin, Dale Hinkley, Jacob Noonan. For Calder United: Oscar Madden, Koby Hommelhoff, Josh Walsh, Matthew Trzeciak, Dale Pearce, Rylee Smith.

## Haeusler’s Reserves

|                  |     |     |     |      |      |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|
| BOORT            | 3.1 | 5.5 | 6.7 | 9.12 | (66) |
| SEA LAKE-NANDALY | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.3 | 2. 4 | (16) |

Goals for Boort: Alex Cockerell 5, Malachi Coleman, Chris Hatcher, Fraser Millar, Patrick O'Rourke. For Sea Lake-Nandaly: Charlie Mitchell, Thomas Mitchell.

Best for Boort: Alex Cockerell, Brendon Hewlett, Fraser Millar, Chris O'Rourke, Jack Hall, Angus Trethowan.

For Sea Lake-Nandaly: Tom Considine, Luke Martin, Wayne Landry, Joss Tait, Nathan Wight, Noah Barbary.

|           |     |      |       |       |       |
|-----------|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|
| ST ARNAUD | 0.7 | 5.11 | 13.14 | 17.18 | (120) |
| DONALD    | 1.0 | 1. 0 | 2. 0  | 3. 0  | (18)  |

Goals for St Arnaud: Joshua Hicks 5, Jarryd Kell 2, Zachary Notting 2, Hayden Torney 2, Tristan Ward 2, Luke Ezard, George Gorrie, Ben Greenaway, Harrison Meagher.

For Donald: Nathan Donnellon, Dawson Hollis, Jye Johnson.

Best for St Arnaud: Zachary Notting, Jarryd Kell, Ryan Bigmore, Simon Elliott, Riley Burke, Benjamin Greenaway.

For Donald: Brod Harrison, Jesse Lopes, Glen Burke, Nathan Donnellon, Glenn Meulendyks, Konor Trollop.

|            |     |     |      |      |      |
|------------|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| CHARLTON   | 4.2 | 7.2 | 12.5 | 14.6 | (90) |
| WEDDERBURN | 0.0 | 1.2 | 1.2  | 2.2  | (14) |

Goals for Charlton: Kris Clifford 6, Cooper Boyle 2, Luke Dunne 2, Angus Johnstone 2, Ethan Needs, Angus Soulsby.

For Wedderburn: Rhordan Holt, Ashley Younghusband.

Best for Charlton: Luke Dunne, Kris Clifford, Patrick Soulsby, Angus Johnstone, Cooper Boyle, Travis Salmon.

For Wedderburn: Ashley Younghusband, Rhordan Holt, Robert Tonkin, Riley Dole, Samual Carroll, Dylan Caruana.

|                 |     |     |      |       |      |
|-----------------|-----|-----|------|-------|------|
| BIRCHIP-WATCHEM | 3.5 | 6.9 | 8.12 | 11.16 | (82) |
| CALDER UNITED   | 0.1 | 4.1 | 4. 1 | 7. 2  | (44) |

Goals for Birchip-Watchem: Jack Lee 3, Samuel Simmons 2, Connor Boyle, Alexander Hay, Riley Hogan, Stefan Pye, Nick Ryan, Lochlan Sirrett.

For Calder United: Brett Barker 5, Dude Kelly, Daniel Murray.

Best for Birchip-Watchem: Harry Cook, Ben Hogan, Jack Lee, Stefan Pye, Ty Colbert, Riley Hogan.

For Calder United: Joel Turner, Rhylie Botheras, Brett Barker, Jack Morrison, Alexander Hogan, Jed Bish.

## Community Bank Charlton & District Under-17s

|                  |     |     |      |      |      |
|------------------|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| SEA LAKE-NANDALY | 1.3 | 2.9 | 3.10 | 5.14 | (44) |
| BOORT            | 0.1 | 2.2 | 3. 4 | 4. 4 | (28) |

Best for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Nate McClelland, Brayden Allan, Scott Barbary, Coby Wight, Cooper Symes, Zander Wight.

For Boort: Riley Wagner, Cooper Gould, Luke Boyd, Brodie McPherson, Darby F Perryman, Cooper Gooding.

|           |     |     |     |      |      |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|
| ST ARNAUD | 4.1 | 5.3 | 9.6 | 11.8 | (74) |
| DONALD    | 0.1 | 0.1 | 1.1 | 2.3  | (15) |

Best for St Arnaud: Jack Batters, Austin Lowe, Sean Bridgeman, Hamish Tannock, Frankie Donald, Rylan Leach.

For Donald: Jam Borden, Hugo Funcke, Charlie Burke, Myles Hollis.

|            |     |      |       |       |      |
|------------|-----|------|-------|-------|------|
| CHARLTON   | 6.2 | 9.10 | 11.12 | 14.14 | (98) |
| WEDDERBURN | 0.0 | 0. 0 | 4. 1  | 5. 4  | (34) |

Best for Charlton: Jarvis Wright, Ethan Soulsby, Leigh Van Boven, Sebastian Zagame, Murphy Fitzpatrick, Mack Dempster.

For Wedderburn: Jake Smith, Deacon Tansley, Benjamin Cunningham, Trav Lowe, William Cunningham.

|                 |     |      |       |       |       |
|-----------------|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|
| CALDER UNITED   | 5.2 | 10.7 | 13.12 | 16.15 | (111) |
| BIRCHIP-WATCHEM | 1.0 | 1.0  | 1. 1  | 5. 1  | (31)  |

Best for Calder United: Max Fawcett, Tynan Perry, Rhett Hogan, Beau Chapman, Tiger Vearing, Darcey Poyner.

For Birchip-Watchem: Oliver Cook, Charles Barber, Jack Knights, Taio Atkinson.

## Uniting Church Under-14s

SEA LAKE-NANDALY 7.5 (47) d. BOORT 6.4 (40)

Best for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Harry Wight, Henry Cox, Max Conlan, Riley Allan, Seth Pearce, Hamish Landry. For Boort: Seth Muller, Matthew Soumelidis, Liam King, Brady Gilmore, Tarlin Trinch.

ST ARNAUD 5.3 (33) d. DONALD 1.2 (8)

Best for St Arnaud: Finn Wilson, Ned Ezard, Lewis Lowe, Samuel Greenaway, Noah Hando, Bailey McNaulty.

For Donald: Justin Hepworth, Emmett Geddes, Jhonrick Vincent Embate, Darcy Burke, Ross Clark, Samuel Mortlock.

WEDDERBURN 5.10 (40) d. CHARLTON 1.2 (8)

Best for Wedderburn: Jack Dierickx, Atilla Clarke, Zane Polkinghorne, Nate Turnbull, Jye Laverty-Smith. For Charlton: Cooper McGrath, Rhys Gahan, Chace Dixon, Hudson Mcgrath, Finn Schofield.

BIRCHIP-WATCHEM 3.6 (24) d. CALDER UNITED 1.2 (8)

Best for Birchip-Watchem: Denley Tyler, River Ryan, Aki Norton, Toby Kemp, Willow Ryan, Archie Tyler.

For Calder United: Harry Humphreys, Smith Morrison, Levi Poyner, Jed Harrison, Van Harrison, Griffin Vearing.

## Positions of Teams

### Goldacres North-Central Seniors

| Teams            | P  | Pts | %      | W  | L  | D | B | For  | Ag   |
|------------------|----|-----|--------|----|----|---|---|------|------|
| Birchip-Watchem  | 11 | 44  | 295.39 | 11 | 0  | 0 |   | 1474 | 499  |
| Calder United    | 11 | 32  | 237.45 | 8  | 3  | 0 |   | 1287 | 542  |
| Boort            | 11 | 32  | 179.20 | 8  | 3  | 0 |   | 1249 | 697  |
| Sea Lake-Nandaly | 11 | 28  | 204.72 | 7  | 4  | 0 |   | 1214 | 593  |
| Wedderburn       | 11 | 20  | 148.32 | 5  | 6  | 0 |   | 1016 | 685  |
| Charlton         | 11 | 12  | 27.17  | 3  | 8  | 0 |   | 394  | 1450 |
| St Arnaud        | 11 | 8   | 45.86  | 2  | 9  | 0 |   | 537  | 1171 |
| Donald           | 11 | 0   | 13.58  | 0  | 11 | 0 |   | 241  | 1775 |

### Haeuslers Reserves

| Teams            | P  | Pts | %      | W  | L  | D | B | For  | Ag   |
|------------------|----|-----|--------|----|----|---|---|------|------|
| Boort            | 11 | 40  | 463.98 | 10 | 1  | 0 |   | 1095 | 236  |
| Calder United    | 11 | 40  | 463.03 | 10 | 1  | 0 |   | 1102 | 238  |
| Birchip-Watchem  | 11 | 36  | 266.92 | 9  | 2  | 0 |   | 1057 | 396  |
| St Arnaud        | 11 | 20  | 134.69 | 5  | 6  | 0 |   | 730  | 542  |
| Sea Lake-Nandaly | 11 | 20  | 134.67 | 5  | 6  | 0 |   | 804  | 597  |
| Wedderburn       | 11 | 12  | 31.51  | 3  | 8  | 0 |   | 329  | 1044 |
| Charlton         | 11 | 8   | 39.24  | 2  | 9  | 0 |   | 383  | 976  |
| Donald           | 11 | 0   | 7.43   | 0  | 11 | 0 |   | 118  | 1589 |

### Community Bank Charlton and District Under-17s

| Teams            | P  | Pts | W  | L  | D | B |
|------------------|----|-----|----|----|---|---|
| St Arnaud        | 11 | 44  | 11 | 0  | 0 |   |
| Sea Lake-Nandaly | 11 | 36  | 9  | 2  | 0 |   |
| Calder United    | 11 | 28  | 7  | 4  | 0 |   |
| Boort            | 11 | 28  | 7  | 4  | 0 |   |
| Charlton         | 11 | 20  | 5  | 6  | 0 |   |
| Donald           | 11 | 16  | 4  | 7  | 0 |   |
| Wedderburn       | 11 | 4   | 1  | 10 | 0 |   |
| Birchip-Watchem  | 11 | 0   | 0  | 11 | 0 |   |

### Uniting Church Under-14s

| Teams            | P  | Pts | W  | L  | D | B |
|------------------|----|-----|----|----|---|---|
| Sea Lake-Nandaly | 11 | 40  | 10 | 1  | 0 |   |
| St Arnaud        | 11 | 40  | 10 | 1  | 0 |   |
| Wedderburn       | 11 | 28  | 7  | 4  | 0 |   |
| Donald           | 11 | 24  | 6  | 5  | 0 |   |
| Boort            | 11 | 16  | 4  | 7  | 0 |   |
| Birchip-Watchem  | 11 | 12  | 3  | 8  | 0 |   |
| Calder United    | 11 | 12  | 3  | 8  | 0 |   |
| Charlton         | 11 | 4   | 1  | 10 | 0 |   |

## Tooleybuc Sporting Club Presidents’ Award

Voting for round 11:

Sea Lake-Nandaly: T. Donnan 3, W. Donnan 2, A. Pattison 1.

Boort: M. Austin 3, J. Baddeley-Kelly 2, A. Chamberlain 1.

St Arnaud: J. Tillig 3, M. Hungerford 2, Z. Phillips 1.

Donald: R. Walker 3, D. Pearce 2, D. Bell-Warren 1.

Wedderburn: J. Mortlock 3, N. Furlong 2, M. Jensen 1.

Charlton: B. Lanyon 3, L. O'Keefe 2, R. Thompson 1.

Birchip-Watchem: T. Gibson 3, N. Rippon 2, J. Christie 1.

Calder United: O. Madden 3, K. Hommelhoff 2, J. Walsh 1.

## Saturday’s Leading Goal Kickers Seniors

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Ben Edwards (B-W) 2           | .76 |
| Jhye Baddeley-Kelly (Boort) 4 | .59 |
| Jack Exell (CU) -             | .44 |
| Mitch Jensen (Wedd) 10        | .38 |
| Max Cahoon (SLNT) 1           | .29 |
| Kayne Rutley (Boort) 2        | .29 |
| Nicholas Rippon (B-W) 1       | .25 |
| Joseph Reid (B-W) 1           | .22 |
| Lachy McClelland (SLNT) -     | .20 |

## Reserves

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Alex Cockerell (Boort) 5  | .36 |
| Matthew Berry (B-W) -     | .27 |
| Zachary Wemyss (SLNT) -   | .23 |
| John Summerhayes (SLNT) - | .23 |
| Alexander Hay (B-W) 1     | .22 |
| Heath Senior (CU) -       | .21 |
| George Forrester (CU) -   | .21 |
| Harry Weaver (Boort) -    | .20 |
| Joel Clohesy (SLNT) -     | .17 |

## CHS Broadbent Club Championship (Senior win 10 pts., Reserves 6, Under-17s 4, Under-14s 2)

|                  | Snr. | Res. | U-17 | U-14 | Ttl. |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Boort            | 0    | 6    | 0    | 0    | 176  |
| Calder United    | 0    | 0    | 4    | 0    | 172  |
| Birchip-Watchem  | 10   | 6    | 0    | 2    | 170  |
| Sea Lake-Nandaly | 10   | 0    | 4    | 2    | 166  |
| St Arnaud        | 10   | 6    | 4    | 2    | 114  |
| Wedderburn       | 10   | 0    | 0    | 2    | 86   |
| Charlton         | 0    | 6    | 4    | 0    | 64   |
| Donald           | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 28   |

## Next Round

### Round 12, Saturday July 19

|                               |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| St Arnaud v. Sea Lake-Nandaly | Charlton v. Donald (Bunter’s Cup) |
| Wedderburn v. Birchip-Watchem | Boort v. Calder United            |



• Pictured (left-right) Zac Caccaviello (C), Angus Butterfield (B-W), Jack Exell (C), Riley Hogan (B-W), Jordan Humphreys(C), Daniel Watts (C), Zane Keighran (C), Dale Hinkley (B-W), and Rhona Conboy (B-W).

## Rivalry Showdown: Bulls Outplay Lions

• Continued from page 16.  
Bulls started to get on top late in the second quarter.

At half-time, Birchip-Watchem led 10.8 (68) to 4.8 (32) and promisingly its 10 goals had come from 9 different goal kickers

In the third the Bulls had their most impressive quarter despite an early fightback from Calder.

With Josh Walsh prominent in the centre and Dale Pearce dangerous when Calder was able to get it into him cleanly and give him a run and jump at the ball, it opened the penultimate quarter with the first two goals, both from Pearce.

Tom Gibson, who had been dominant all over the ground for the Bulls, kicked a goal to halt Calder’s momentum and the ensuing play was tight.

Both backlines absorbed the pressure in a high-quality contest between two talent-packed sides, much to the appreciation of the parochial crowds who were enjoying a classic day of country footy, and the only further majors for the term came in the final minutes with a goal apiece from Jacob Christie and Rylee Smith.

At the final change, with the Bulls leading by 32 points, coach Connick urged his players to keep their heads in the game and stay switched on to ensure they capitalised on turnovers. Meanwhile, Calder coach Darryl Wilson encouraged the Lions to take pride in their possessions.

Wilson reminded his players they were at their best when they didn’t overthink it, and with no lead to protect in the final term, they had the freedom to move the ball quickly and take the game on.

The Lions played with an extra back to provide energy around the stoppages, but it left the Bulls room to run off half-back and create forward entries. Dale Hinkley racked up possessions, and even with Oscar Madden keeping Ben Edwards to just two goals, the Bulls had plenty of players step up to fill the void, with Christie and Conboy kicking the opening two goals.

Calder added two of its own through Koby Hommeloff and Daniel Pearce, but the Bulls finished strongly with impressive performances all over the ground to win 15.15 (105) to Calder United Lions 9.9 (63).

With a bye coming up this weekend and only five games of the 2025 home-and-away season remaining, Calder will be looking forward to regaining some key players to finish off the season strongly as it now sits level on points with Boort in the battle for second spot and the coveted second chance in the finals.

Birchip-Watchem is now three games clear on top of the ladder heading into the bye and coach Connick urged the players to enjoy the rest and appreciate the position they were in, but acknowledged there was still a lot of work to be done.

Best players for Calder United: Oscar Madden, Koby Hommelhoff, Josh Walsh, Matthew Trzeciak, Dale Pearce and Rylee Smith

For Birchip-Watchem: Tom Gibson (Nutrien Ag), Nick Rippon (Donnellon’s Bulk Haulage), Daniel Bell (YBS Ag), Dale Hinkley (O’Connors), Jacob Christie (Agrifac), Jacob Noonan (Birchip Hotel).

Take care on the roads  
— no one is safe from  
careless drivers.

## North-Central Netball

### Last Saturday’s results:

**“A” Grade**  
Charlton 27 def. by Wedderburn 84, Calder United 55 d. Birchip-Watchem 42, Sea Lake-Nandaly 44 d. Boort 28, Donald 69 d. St Arnaud 39.

**“B” Grade**  
Charlton 27 def. by Wedderburn 61, Calder United 38 d. Birchip-Watchem 28, Sea Lake-Nan 34 def. by Boort 41, Donald 57 def. by St Arnaud 62.

**“C” Grade**  
Charlton 46 def. by Wedderburn 63, Calder United 59 d. Birchip-Watchem 23, Sea Lake-Nan 52 d. Boort 43, Donald 40 def. by St Arnaud 48.

**“C” Grade Reserves**  
Calder United 37 d. Birchip-Watchem 14, Sea Lake-Nan 27 def. by Boort 37.

**Seventeen-and-Under**  
Calder United 49 def. by Birchip-Watchem 51, Sea Lake-Nandaly 23

def. by Boort 48, Charlton 36 d. Wedderburn 20, Donald 47 def. by St Arnaud 81.

**Fourteen-and-Under “A”**  
Charlton 32 d. Wedderburn 16, Donald 36 d. St Arnaud 16, Calder United 9 def. by Birchip-Watchem 25, Sea Lake-Nan 12 def. by Boort 38.

**Fourteen-and-Under “B”**  
Donald 2 def. by St Arnaud 31, Calder United 5 def. by Birchip-Watchem 14, Sea Lake-Nan 4 def. by Boort 27.

### Results of round 10:

| “A” GRADE     |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |     |     |     |     |  |
|---------------|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|
|               | P  | W  | L  | D | B | FW | FL | F   | A   | Pts | %   |  |
| Wedderburn    | 11 | 11 | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 647 | 335 | 44  | 193 |  |
| Boort         | 11 | 8  | 3  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 596 | 448 | 32  | 133 |  |
| Sea Lake-Nan  | 11 | 8  | 3  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 489 | 392 | 32  | 125 |  |
| Birchip-Wat   | 11 | 6  | 5  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 555 | 521 | 24  | 107 |  |
| Calder United | 11 | 6  | 5  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 471 | 452 | 24  | 104 |  |
| Donald        | 11 | 3  | 8  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 486 | 542 | 12  | 90  |  |
| Charlton      | 11 | 1  | 9  | 1 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 382 | 609 | 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    | 11 | 11 | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 685 | 392 | 44  | 175 |  |
| Boort         | 11 | 10 | 1  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 577 | 441 | 40  | 131 |  |
| Calder United | 11 | 8  | 3  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 524 | 441 | 32  | 119 |  |
| Birchip-Wat   | 11 | 7  | 4  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 532 | 447 | 28  | 119 |  |
| St Arnaud     | 11 | 5  | 6  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 476 | 545 | 20  | 87  |  |
| Donald        | 11 | 1  | 9  | 1 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 453 | 550 | 6   | 82  |  |
| Sea Lake-Nan  | 11 | 1  | 9  | 1 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 400 | 534 | 6   | 75  |  |
| Charlton      | 11 | 0  | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 278 | 575 | 0   | 48  |  |

| “C” GRADE     |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |     |     |     |     |  |
|---------------|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|
|               | P  | W  | L  | D | B | FW | FL | F   | A   | Pts | %   |  |
| Calder United | 11 | 10 | 1  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 650 | 298 | 40  | 218 |  |
| Wedderburn    | 11 | 8  | 3  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 527 | 454 | 32  | 116 |  |
| Birchip-Wat   | 11 | 7  | 4  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 501 | 395 | 28  | 127 |  |
| Boort         | 11 | 7  | 4  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 471 | 406 | 28  | 116 |  |
| Sea Lake-Nan  | 11 | 7  | 4  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 449 | 403 | 28  | 111 |  |
| St Arnaud     | 11 | 4  | 7  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 444 | 445 | 16  | 100 |  |
| Charlton      | 11 | 0  | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 335 | 633 | 0   | 53  |  |
| Donald        | 11 | 1  | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 267 | 610 | 0   | 44  |  |

| “C” GRADE RESERVES |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |     |     |     |     |  |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|
|                    | P | W | L | D | B | FW | FL | F   | A   | Pts | %   |  |
| Sea Lake-Nan       | 9 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0  | 0  | 459 | 213 | 32  | .24 |  |
| Boort              | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0  | 0  | 377 | 147 | 24  | .37 |  |
| Calder United      | 8 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0  | 0  | 291 | 213 | 20  | .17 |  |
| Wedderburn         | 8 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 0  | 0  | 230 | 380 | 8   | .08 |  |
| Birchip-Wat        | 7 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 0  | 0  | 158 | 311 | 8   | .07 |  |
| St Arnaud          | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 0  | 0  | 141 | 392 | 0   | .05 |  |

| SEVENTEEN-AND-UNDER |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |     |     |     |     |  |
|---------------------|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|
|                     | P  | W  | L  | D | B | FW | FL | F   | A   | Pts | %   |  |
| Calder United       | 11 | 10 | 1  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 788 | 266 | 40  | 296 |  |
| Birchip-Wat         | 11 | 9  | 2  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 601 | 400 | 36  | 150 |  |
| Boort               | 11 | 8  | 2  | 1 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 504 | 360 | 34  | 140 |  |
| St Arnaud           | 11 | 7  | 3  | 1 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 565 | 407 | 30  | 139 |  |
| Sea Lake-Nan        | 11 | 5  | 6  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 430 | 506 | 20  | 85  |  |
| Charlton            | 11 | 3  | 8  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 360 | 424 | 8   | 85  |  |
| Wedderburn          | 11 | 1  | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 279 | 654 | 4   | 43  |  |
| Donald              | 11 | 0  | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 272 | 782 | 0   | 35  |  |

| FOURTEEN-AND-UNDER “A” |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |     |     |     |     |  |
|------------------------|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|
|                        | P  | W  | L  | D | B | FW | FL | F   | A   | Pts | %   |  |
| Boort                  | 11 | 11 | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 347 | 136 | 44  | 255 |  |
| Birchip-Wat            | 11 | 10 | 1  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 323 | 112 | 40  | 288 |  |
| Donald                 | 11 | 7  | 4  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 297 | 177 | 28  | 168 |  |
| Calder United          | 11 | 6  | 5  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 232 | 165 | 24  | 141 |  |
| St Arnaud              | 11 | 5  | 6  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 232 | 201 | 20  | 115 |  |
| Charlton               | 11 | 2  | 9  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 120 | 309 | 8   | 39  |  |
| Wedderburn             | 11 | 2  | 9  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 89  | 288 | 8   | 31  |  |
| Sea Lake-Nan           | 11 | 1  | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 76  | 328 | 4   | 23  |  |

| FOURTEEN-AND-UNDER “B” |    |   |   |   |   |    |    |     |     |     |     |  |
|------------------------|----|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|
|                        | P  | W | L | D | B | FW | FL | F   | A   | Pts | %   |  |
| St Arnaud              | 9  | 8 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0  | 0  | 183 | 49  | 32  | .41 |  |
| Boort                  | 9  | 8 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0  | 0  | 168 | 59  | 32  | .32 |  |
| Birchip-Wat            | 9  | 7 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0  | 0  | 156 | 71  | 28  | .24 |  |
| Calder United          | 10 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0  | 0  | 73  | 96  | 16  | .08 |  |
| Wedderburn             | 9  | 3 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0  | 0  | 99  | 121 | 14  | .09 |  |
| Donald                 | 10 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 0  | 0  | 57  | 198 | 6   | .03 |  |
| Sea Lake-Nan           | 10 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 0  | 0  | 40  | 182 | 4   | .02 |  |

## Sports Stars Share Their Experiences

**Sporting greats Anthony Koutoufides and Shelley O'Donnell were the key attractions at the Birchip Community Leisure Centre on Thursday night, sharing their knowledge and experience with locals.**

Koutoufides, a 1995 AFL premiership player, dual All-Australian and former Carlton captain (2004–2006), ran training sessions for the Bulls junior footballers, focusing on game-day skills and fundamentals.

Meanwhile, Shelley a former Australian Diamond with ten years at the elite level, three Netball World Cup gold medals, a Commonwealth Games gold, and a Netball Australia Hall of Fame and OAM recipient led separate training sessions for the U17 and senior netball squads.

Following training, players and guests enjoyed a delicious

Chinese feast cooked by Josh Richmond and his team, along with presentations from Shelley and Anthony.

The formal part of the evening was hosted by “Mouse” from Mouse Promotions, who interviewed both athletes about their careers, early experiences in sport and the importance of family and enjoyment.

There were prizes and auctions throughout the night adding to the fun. A signed Kouta guernsey was auctioned off, Denley Tyler won a framed print in the raffle and Brad Sharp took out the True or False quiz.



• Shelley O'Donnell, Anthony Koutoufides and Mouse entertained the large crowd on Thursday night.

## Rivalry Showdown: Bulls Outplay Lions

**Birchip-Watchem has asserted its dominance atop the North Central Football League ladder, defeating nearest neighbours and arch-rivals Calder United Lions by 42 points in a highly anticipated clash at Nullawil on Saturday.**

In a game that pitted first against second Calder started with the wind and within the opening minute, Steven Kennedy had the first goal on the board for the home team. However, the Bulls responded quickly with their quality midfield capitalising on Hamish Hosking's dominance in the ruck.

Nick Rippon was finding plenty of the ball for Birchip-Watchem, but it was new father Lachlan Foott who opened the Bulls' account with a long kick from the far wing. This was followed with goals from Daniel Bell and Tom Gibson, who was well placed at the front of the pack to benefit from Rhona Conboy's contested work, to kick a crafty goal off the ground.

Calder's Rylee Smith lit up the large and vocal crowd standing under the veranda with a long-range bomb to score the Lions' second and it was game on.

The Bulls' prominent teamwork and even spread of contributors soon swung the momentum though. Bill Lee cleared out of the centre and Austin Dean was classy on

the wing to get the ball to Daniel Bell up forward, who took an impressive one-handed mark. Unfortunately though, he couldn't finish off his magic as his shot at goal sailed out on the full.

Jake Noonan's tight defence was negating Dale Pearce's scoring efficiency, but Dale's mobility was able to set up some of the other Calder runners. Darcy Munroe found himself in open space after Dale cleverly eluded Jake and his goal saw Calder take back the lead.

Oscar Madden and Josh Walsh were steadfast for the home team in defence and although the wind wasn't helping the Bulls, they were wasting their opportunities in front of goal. Matthew Trzeciak had been moved into the ruck to try to negate Hosking's dominance and Calder was starting to use the ball better than the Bulls.

Jack Marlais was pivotal off half-back and set up a big goal from Zane Keighran, to extend Calder's lead. The Bulls persisted though, and some clever work from Jacob Christie and Lach Foott was

finished off with a freak goal from Nick Rippon on the boundary.

As they edged closer in the dying minutes, Bill Lee marked and had a set shot after the siren, but a point resulted and the Bulls trailed by one point at the first change.

Buoyed by their dour first quarter against the wind, the Bulls were up and about, with Jacob Christie scoring a goal on the run in the first twenty seconds of the opening bounce in the second stanza.

A tight battle was unfolding, befitting of the two top teams, and the defensive pressure and the wind were making it difficult for both teams to score majors. Six behinds followed before Joe Reid finally kicked it through the big sticks for the Bulls.

Unfortunately, this was his final score before a devastating knee injury saw him leave the field on a stretcher. The Bulls' community wishes Joe a speedy recovery after what has been a tough year already for the forward, injuring a shoulder earlier in the season.

After the restart Edwards kicked truly from the pack and the floodgates opened as the Bulls started lowering their eyes inside 50 rather than bombing away. Rhona Conboy kicked a good goal off the ground, Bill Lee followed up with one kicked across his body out of the pack and Nick Rippon kicked another great snap as the

• Continued on page 15.



• Bulls' Captain Dale Hinkley fends off Zac Kelly.



• Zachary Caccaviello is tackled by Bill Lee as he attempts to get the handball off.

### “Times” Crossword

#### QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8184 - SOLUTIONS

**Across** - 6, Independent. 7, Silo. 8, Enthral. 9, Thrash. 10, Hoards. 12, Beetle. 15, Titter. 17, Disaster. 19, Rota. 20, Mountaineer.

**Down** - 1, Advocaat. 2, Speech. 3, Snatch. 4, Rear. 5, Stolid. 6, Irish. 11, Attorney. 13, Enigma. 14, Entity. 15, Turnip. 16, Enter. 18, Arum.