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The Buloke Times

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Phone: 5492 2735
Fax: 5492 2863
Email:
birchipblc@
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Published Tuesdays and Fridays
PP331336/0000 1

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

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

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

Honour for Bill Livingston

On Saturday night the Donald Golf Club held a casserole tea night to farewell member Matt Clarke and his family, who have recently moved to Yarrawonga for the next stage of their lives, and the club and its members wish them well.

This was somewhat of a decoy for another reason for the gathering, and that was to present Life Membership of the Donald Golf and Bowls Club to a very deserving recipient, William (Bill) Livingston.

When the announcement was being made, a very surprised Bill looked on, and with the arrival of his grandkids and great grandkids, the realization kicked in and the emotion showed.

Geoff Rigby and Brad Bath spoke on Bill's contribution to the bowls and golf club respectively and a message from Committee of Management chairman, Peter Raynes, was read out in his absence.

Bowls Club speech from Geoff Rigby.

I am very pleased to be asked to comment on Bill Livingston's excellent contribution to Donald Golf Bowls

and the qualities he has shown which have made him an outstanding candidate for Life Membership.

Bill has been a bowls member for just under 30 years. In that time, he has always been a very willing worker, both around the green and on various committees. He is always a quiet achiever, doing necessary work around the Club with minimum fuss and never seeking acclaim for his efforts.

He has been a member of the grounds committee for a number of years and always attends working bees to top dress the greens, mow the surrounds and does a lot of odd jobs. His latest project has been to construct a new gate to allow greater access to the bowling green to facilitate top dressing of the "A" green.

Bill has also been on the bowls general committee and



• Presenting Bill Livingston (centre) with his Life Membership Certificate are Golf president Brad Bath (left) and Bowls president Robert Reseigh.

pennant selection committee for many years and has always been a valuable contributor.

Bill has always supported the club by playing in all the events on offer, with considerable success. He has won

six club singles championships, the pairs and triples twice and the club fours once. He has been victorious in the club 100-up twice and 21-up on five occasions. He has also been very successful in winning North Central events such as the mixed

pairs and state triples and fours on two occasions each. He has provided brilliant leading in the club's pennant matches over the years and has been instrumental in helping the club win eight Division 1 flags and one mid-week Pennant.

Bill has regularly promoted Donald Golf Bowls by being an avid tournament participant in the North Central and surrounding clubs and is a regular winner. He attends tournaments when he

• Continued on page 2.



• Members of the Buloke Youth Advisory Group planning upcoming youth activities, from left to right, Les Cooper, Darcey Poyner, Savannah Nicholls, Fletcher Holmes-Brown.

Funding for Youth Fest

Young people across Buloke Shire will have the chance to take the lead in shaping a new youth festival to be held later this year, following a successful grant from the Victorian Government.

Buloke Shire Council has received \$2,000 through the Victorian Youth Fest 2025 program to support "A Celebration of Buloke Young People", an event planned for September that will be led by the newly formed Buloke Youth Advisory Group.

The festival is expected to include live music, interactive activities and workshops, and will be timed to coincide with the school holidays.

In the coming months, the Youth Advisory Group will work closely with Council and local community organisations to design a program that celebrates young people's talents and contributions and provides opportunities for them to have their voices heard.

Fresh and Meaningful

Youth Advisory Group member Fletcher Holmes-Brown said the grant will help deliver something fresh

and meaningful for local young people.

"I am super stoked for the Shire to have been able to receive a Youth Fest grant, and for the opportunity to harness this money and implement something new into the Buloke community that the youth actually want!" Fletcher said.

Fellow Youth Advisory Group member Les Cooper

• Continued on page 2.

headspace Message to Community: "Stronger Together"

Headspace centres in Swan Hill, Bendigo, and Horsham are teaming up for this year's headspace Round on June 21, in partnership with the North Central Football, Netball, and Hockey Leagues.

The round aims to spread a clear and powerful message: "Stronger Together".

Headspace Round promotes positive mental health and wellbeing by encouraging players, clubs and communities to come together and check in with each other on and off the field.

As part of the round, all players will have the opportunity to win a headspace-branded match ball or hockey stick by demonstrating real sportsmanship and supporting their teammates. To mark the occasion, all players will wear green armbands.

Survey

Playing sport, exercising, or winning a sports game or competition was reported as the third most common "little win" in headspace's National Youth Mental Health Survey, which surveyed more than 3,000 young Australians on their attitudes towards mental health.

Spending time with family and friends (17%) and speaking with loved ones (13%) were the top-two most common responses, highlighting

the positive impact of both physical activity and connection to community on mental health

Connections

With just over half (53%) of young people experiencing mental health challenges on their own rather than reaching out for support, the three headspace centres are highlighting the importance of building strong, supportive connections – both on and off the field. Just as teammates rely on one another during a game, offering support to each other during tough times is just as crucial.

Whether you drop a mark or pass, or miss a kick or shot, your teammates are there to lift you up. This year's headspace Round aims to highlight just how important this is to continue away from sport.

Crucial Role

CEO of headspace National, Jason Trethowan, said: "Sporting clubs are often the heartbeat of local communities – they play a crucial role in connecting young people to their communities, and we

know that staying active and socially connected is vital for good mental health."

Headspace Swan Hill's senior clinician, Connor Gibbins, said: "headspace Rounds are a powerful reminder of the role sporting clubs play in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of young people. It's a chance for clubs to show that we are truly stronger together – when we look out for one another, both on and off the field. No matter the outcome of the game, we can all show the values that define our communities: kindness, connection, and true sportsmanship.

"At headspace we are absolutely committed to ensuring all young people have the tools and confidence they need to be more proactive and open in managing their mental health and wellbeing.

Simple steps – like staying connected to others, building coping strategies, staying active, and doing things you enjoy – play a crucial role in building resilience and maintaining a healthy headspace."

Letters to the Editor



Time to Reflect

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Editor.— The recent rainfall across the region has been a welcome relief for many in our farming communities. After months of dry and difficult conditions, even a little rain can lift spirits and offer a glimmer of hope. While we are grateful for what we have received, the broader drought challenge remains, and so does the need for real and targeted support from the Allan Labor Government.

The government's current approach to drought assistance continues to fall short. Our farming families are resilient, but they need more than token gestures. They need support that is practical, immediate and delivered where it is needed most. Help should be reaching people on the ground now, not buried in bureaucracy or delayed by red tape needing dollar for dollar funding for infrastructure.

This week also marks Men's Health Week, and it is a timely reminder that looking after our communities includes looking after ourselves, especially the men who often put their health last.

Tragically, men are more likely than women to suffer strokes, yet fewer know the common signs. The Stroke Foundation's "Bloke Beside You" campaign is all about changing that by encouraging men to talk to their mates and families about the warning signs of stroke: Face, Arms, Speech, Time (F.A.S.T.).

The National Centre for Farmer Health also deserves a shout out this week. Their work in supporting the physi-

cal and mental health of our rural communities is more important than ever, so if you have a chance to stop and have a health check at an event the centre is attending, I encourage you to do so.

So while the rain gives us a reason to be hopeful, it is also a moment to reflect on the health and wellbeing of the people who make our region what it is and do whatever it is you need to do to nurture your own mental health.

Let's look out for one another, on the land and in life.

Warm regards,

Jade Benham.

Red Shield Appeal

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Editor.— I am constantly amazed by the ability of Australians to come together when it matters most.

We have seen it countless times in our history as a nation, during times of national crisis, natural disaster, financial unrest and so much more. Aussies know how to come together and help out a mate.

As The Salvation Army, we have also seen this time and time again. We have been helping people doing it tough for over 145 years in Australia, through times of extreme hardship, and the common thread during all those times has been the ability for people to help each other out when they are struggling.

Indeed, we have seen it once again through our Red Shield Appeal this year. While there is still a long way to go, we have been blown away by the generosity of Australians to our Appeal so far. It is

through Aussies digging deep and giving what they can that allows the Salvos to help one person every 17 seconds in Australia.

Editor, to all your readers who have supported the Red Shield Appeal, on behalf of The Salvation Army and all those we support every day, we want to offer an enormous thank you.

We know times are tough for so many right now, which makes the generosity we have seen so much more powerful. We can't do our work without your support, so again, thank you.

But it's not over yet. The Salvation Army are still calling on Aussies to dig deep for our Red Shield Appeal, which aims to raise \$38 million by June 30. These funds will ensure we can continue to support those in our community doing it tough into the future.

You can be the hope people desperately need right now. We trust that Aussies will once again be generous to the Red Shield Appeal this month, and this isn't a blind trust. It is founded on the fact that we have seen it many times before, and we believe we will see it again.

So once more, to all those who have supported the Red Shield Appeal so far, and to all those who will, we say thank you.

To make a tax-deductible donation to The Salvation Army's Red Shield Appeal, please visit salvationarmy.org.au or call 13 SALVOS. You can also donate at any Salvos Store.

Colonel Rodney Walters
The Salvation Army.

Mental Health Crisis For Boys?

Kids Helpline is encouraging boys and young men to take time to prioritise their mental health this week, as part of International Men's Health Week.

Yourtown CEO Tracy Adams says this is an important date for all members of the community, but particularly young men and those with young men in their lives, to build a positive culture around mental health and emotional wellbeing.

Males are shown to have significantly reduced help-seeking for mental health concerns compared with females.

Kids Helpline recorded 57 contacts from males on an average day in May 2025, when compared with 195 females on the same day.

Counsellors at Kids Helpline respond to 21% males and 79% females on any given day, with males aged between 19 to 25 years

of age representing the largest (37%) male help-seeking group.

Societal Stigma

"Unfortunately, young males aged between 15 – 18 years of age are the least likely to seek mental health support due to societal stigma, often delaying seeking professional counsellor help until they are in crisis," Ms Adams said.

"Many boys – though certainly not all – have trouble talking about emotions and feelings because social norms have encouraged them to conform to a masculine ideal that emphasizes values like stoicism, toughness, and competitiveness.

"These social dynamics have long-term implications for their mental health. We need to twist the prism a little bit about how boys view mental health and their own emotional health," said Ms Adams.

Safe Space

Kids Helpline offers boys and young men a safe, inclusive space to open-up and connect with our free, professional, confidential 24/7 service to support self-awareness, and tools to help manage strong emotions when they struggle.

"As a community, weeks like these give as a great opportunity to engage with boys and young men their wellbeing," Ms Adams concluded.

Honour for Bill Livingston

• Continued from page 1.

can, as he believes this to be necessary to attract others to our own tournaments.

In sum, Bill has been a very valuable club member for many years in a range of fields. Bill loves playing bowls and has been very successful but he has always been prepared to put so much back into the club.

Congratulation Bill on your achievement of Life Membership at our club. It is fully deserved.

Golf Club speech from Brad Bath.

William (Bill) Livingston first became a member of the Donald Golf Club back in 1971. And no doubt back then, as it is now, his golf swing is a smooth sweet swinging action that many golfers wish they had, hence he was given the complimentary nickname of SSW – Sweet Swinging Willy.

On the course Bill has represented the club with distinction for many years at District level in pennant and at shield days. He has been a vital member for our club helping us win many of these events through his competitive and never give up attitude. Any opponent who had to do battle with Bill knew it wasn't going to be an easy day. At home Bill has been a single figure golfer for most of his golfing career and has been "A" grade champion runner up more times than can be remembered. He has won many board events within our club and is a reliable regular every weekend and on trips away representing our club at tournaments. Some of Bill's highlights have been an Albatross at Warracknabeal and a hole in one on the 16th here at Donald.

Bill has had an outstanding career playing golf, however, as one would be well aware, Life Memberships aren't usually awarded for just your ability to play sport, but for what you contribute to that sport and what you contribute to your club. Bill is a "quiet

achiever" and the type of person that never looks for praise or recognition for what he's done – but let me tell you, he's done plenty.

Without any fuss Bill just "does what needs to be done". He can do any job on the course from mowing to cutting up trees and clearing rubbish, to spot spraying and watering the tees. He's also a huge asset when it comes to repairs or maintenance as his steady, calm attitude sees the job done with no fuss or drama. An example of this is the gate under construction at the moment on the bowling green and the way he has shaped, seeded and watered around the 9th scrape this summer.

Bill has served on many committees over the time but in particular the grounds committee, which has been right up his alley with his knowledge and skills in this area. His enthusiasm for the club has never waned and he is the type of club person we should all strive to become.

Bill's love for, and the work that he has done for the Donald Golf Club has demonstrated his worthiness for Life Membership to the Donald Golf / Bowls Club and as such, I would like to call on William (Bill) Livingston to accept this well-earned Life Membership.

Message from Peter Raynes

I congratulate Bill Livingston on being awarded a Life Membership of the club.

Bill is a member who has worked and played over many years for both the golf and bowls sporting clubs. Well done Bill.

Bill is a member who sees a job that needs doing and then quietly goes about the business of getting the job done.

• True to form, before leaving the clubhouse on Saturday night Bill was organising for first thing Sunday morning to get a tyre off one of the tractors to be repaired and learn how to adjust the new mower.

Funding for Youth Fest

• Continued from page 1.

said the funding brings exciting possibilities.

"Receiving this grant is very exciting as it means we could potentially organise activities for Buloke's youth that aren't necessarily things we have available to us in our Shire," said Les.

Planning and Delivery

The event will align with the aims of Victorian Youth Fest 2025 by involving young people in its planning and delivery, promoting positive images of youth, and creating spaces for them to express their ideas and connect with their community.

It will also join a series of youth events and activities

across the shire with Birchip Neighbourhood House, Charlton Neighbourhood House, East Wimmera Health Service, and Tyrrell College also receiving funding through the Victorian Youth Fest 2025 program.

Buloke Shire Council acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government.

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Skills and Enthusiasm at Early Learning Centre

(By Blake Lee)

The Birchip Early Learning Centre has expanded its workforce in recent years, welcoming new staff who contribute fresh skills and enthusiasm at a time when Australia faces a major shortage of early childhood educators.

Jobs and Skills Australia reports a current shortfall of around 21,000 qualified Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) professionals across the country. Despite this challenge, Birchip has succeeded in attracting and retaining a committed group of educators from both the local community and beyond.

Professor Barney Glover AO, Commissioner of Jobs and Skills Australia, emphasised the severity of the workforce gap when the organisation’s Early Childhood Education and Care study was launched in September last year.

“Australia needs 21,000 more qualified ECEC professionals to meet current demand,” he said.

“That number only increases when looking at what we’ll need in the future.

“Current workforce levels are not sustainable. We need growth of 8 per cent to meet sustainable staffing levels, and another 8 per cent growth to meet unmet demand for services.”

One of the newest additions to Birchip’s team is Yasmin Begum, who recently began working two days per week as an early childhood teacher. Originally from India, Yasmin moved to Melbourne two years ago and is currently completing her Master of Teaching while raising two children, aged 7 and 9.

To make the role in Birchip possible, she rents a house in town during the week while her husband and children remain in Melbourne.

Having previously worked as an educator, Yasmin is enjoying her new role in a regional setting.

“There’s a lot of competition for jobs in Melbourne,” she said.

“I’ve always lived in the city, so I wanted to experience

life and work in the countryside. I’m really liking the calmness, fresh air and the community.”

The Birchip Early Learning Centre is managed by the Y and provides long daycare, as well as three- and four-year-old kindergarten services, supporting 35 families from across the region.

The three- and four-year-old kindergarten programs are currently free in Birchip with families encouraged to register for 2026 before the first-round closing date of June 30, 2025.

Interested families are able to arrange a tour of the ELC and meet the team by calling the centre on 4311 1505. More information is available at ykinders.org.au.

For long-time staff member Janine Paley, who has worked at the centre for 19 years, the benefits of early learning extend beyond the children.

“The Early Learning Centre gives young children

the chance to develop vital social and emotional skills,” she said.

“It also gives parents the opportunity to work and build on their careers.”

Birchip local Ash Smith joined the team almost two years ago.

“I saw a need in the community, and I missed having young kids around,” she said.

There’s also a growing focus on training the next generation of educators.

Sophie Cox, a student from Birchip P-12 School, is completing a school-based apprenticeship at the centre. “My favourite part of coming here is seeing the children’s faces light up when they see you,” she said.

“It’s definitely a career I’m considering once I leave school.”

Hannah Cook is in her second year of a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Primary) degree at Federation University in Ballarat.



• Katrina Soulsby works as a casual educator across the region.

She currently works Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the Birchip Kindergarten, gaining real-life experience and practical skills to support her future career.

From nearby Minyip, Caitlin Funcke joined the team just over a year ago.

“I hope to make a positive impact on the children’s growth and teach them new skills,” she said.

To maintain flexibility, the centre also employs casual

educators as needed. Among them is Katrina Soulsby, a Donald resident with over 20 years in the early childhood sector.

“I’ve enjoyed getting to know the families and building those relationships,” she said.

While many regional communities face difficulties staffing early learning services, the Birchip Early Learning Centre has built a stable and diverse team – offering not only high-quality education

for local families but also opportunities for people looking to enter or continue in the ECEC field.

Professor Glover said the sector will continue to offer real prospects for jobseekers.

“Anyone counselling young people on their career choices should be aware of this,” he said.

“There are fulfilling and rewarding jobs available now in ECEC and there will be even more in the future.”



• Ash Smith, pictured with Jack Sheridan, has been working at the Early Learning Centre for almost two years.



• Sophie Cox, pictured with James Watts, is working at the Birchip Early Learning Centre as part of her school based apprenticeship.



• Caitlin Funcke and Charlotte.



• Yasmin Begum is completing her Masters of Teaching in Melbourne whilst working two days per week at the Birchip Early Learning Centre and is pictured with Charlotte Sheridan and Eloise Noonan.

“Times” Classifieds

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

Deadlines:—

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

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

DEATH

McGURK.—

Shane “Wiz” Robert

Loved and treasured son of Alan and Lynette.

Adored brother and brother in law to Michael & Caitlin and Kate & Troy.

Special Uncle to Emily and George.

Dedicated friend to many.

Forever in our hearts.

DEATH

McGURK.— Shane Robert

Passed away June 5, 2025, Aged 40 years

Dearly loved nephew of Greg & Leonie McGurk, Deb & Gerald Feeny.

Much loved cousin of Andrew, Erin, Marcus; Olivia and Maya and families.

So many happy memories will be treasured forever.

FUNERAL

McGURK.—

Shane “Wiz” Robert

The family and friends of the late Mr Shane “Wiz” McGurk are invited to attend his funeral service, being held in its entirety at Yakka Park, Lucindale on Monday, June 23, 2025, commencing at 11 a.m.



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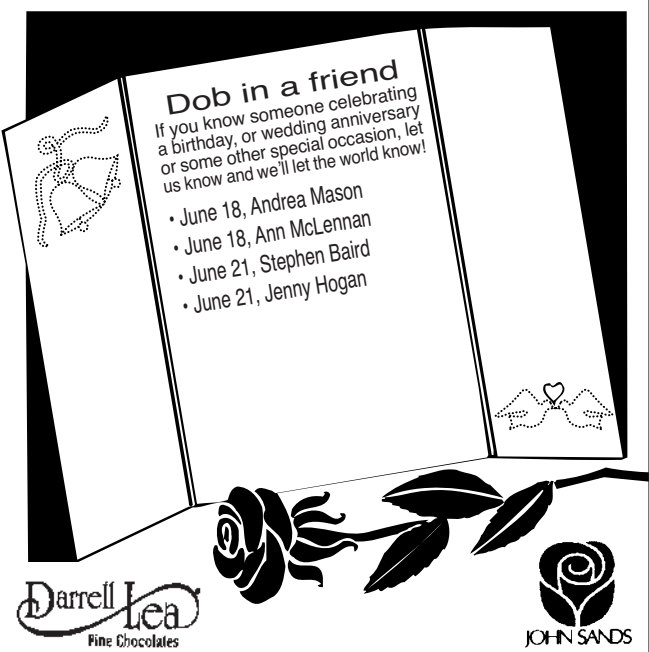


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Buloke Neighbourhood Houses encourage people of all ages to connect, learn and be active participants in their local community through social, educational, recreational and support activities.



Houses in Buloke	Web Site
Birchip Neighbourhood House	www.birchip.vic.au/about-neighbourhood-house
Charlton Neighbourhood House	www.charltonnh.org.au
Donald Learning Group	www.donaldlearninggroup.com.au
Sea Lake Neighbourhood House	mthcs.com.au/services/community-services/neighbourhood-house
Wycheproof Community Resource Centre	www.wycheproofcrc.org.au

This Saturday, June 21st North Central are hosting Headspace Round.

Mental health doesn't discriminate. It affects boys & girls and men & women of all ages, in all walks of life. And sadly, many feel they can't speak up, even among friends.

It's not about being perfect– it's about being present. It's about checking in with your teammates – and encouraging them to get help when they need it - from their GP or support services like Headspace, Lifeline or Beyond Blue.

It takes courage to speak up. And it takes courage to be the mate who listens.

Contact your local Neighbourhood House for more information on support services available in Buloke.



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Learn more about the Neighbour Benefit Scheme on our website.

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**WestWind
ENERGY**



• Birchip P-12 Year 9 Students are announced Podcast Challenge winners for 2025. Pictured with Emily Noonan from headspace.

Podcast Challenge Success

Last Wednesday, Year 9 students travelled to Kerang for the final event and celebration of the Podcast Challenge.

Birchip P-12 School proudly announces that their Year 9 cohort won the challenge with over 2,000 podcast listens, earning \$3,000 in podcasting equipment.

They enjoyed a luncheon with Anglicare staff and students from Cohuna, sharing their experiences. Congratulations to all students, the staff Mr. Salzano, Ms. Dagleish, and to Anglicare staff for organizing the challenge.

Pre-Service Teachers

Birchip P-12 School has recently hosted several pre-service teachers. Among them

was Isabella Stacey, originally from Torquay, who is training to become an English Humanities teacher. Isabella appreciated her first visit to Birchip, particularly the morning sounds of kookaburras and the clear visibility of stars at night.

During her time at the school, Isabella engaged in classroom observations, refined her teaching skills, and participated in broader school community events such as Athletics Day. She remarked that the intimate nature of a small school fosters the development of genuine connections with students and staff.

Birchip P-12 School looks forward to hosting pre-service teachers across the year and fostering the new teaching staff of the future.



• Pre-service teacher Isabella Tracey at Birchip P-12 School.

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Charlton 100 Years Ago



(Information from “East Charlton Tribune”)

June 13 to 19, 1925.

Tree Planting: The 35 trees sent by the State Forestry Department from Macedon have been planted at the Charlton School. These include mahogany gums, pinus insignis, pepper trees and silky oaks. Almost all are doing well.

Winter Feature: The euchre parties and dances held fortnightly in St Joseph’s Hall have established themselves as a pleasant feature of Charlton’s winter life. On Wednesday 30 tables were occupied for the euchre. The ladies’ first award (a handsome bedroom clock) was secured by Miss V. Bilton; and the ladies’ secret prize (a pretty fruit dish) by Miss M. Sweeney. The gentlemen’s first award (a set of hairbrushes) was won by Mr Frank Soding. For the dance some 50 couples took the floor. Without supper, such occasions would be deprived of half their pleasure. The arrangements were in the hands of Mrs Tormey and Mrs Donaldson.

Football 1: Teddywaddy Rovers put up a remarkably good show against the strong-going Charlton second eighteen at Charlton. The game, on the whole, was fairly well contested, and interesting to watch. Charlton had 11 scoring shots against the Rovers 5, but the young blue-and-whites did not make good use of these as did the Rovers of theirs. Charlton is about the hottest stuff in the competition to date. Final result: Charlton 3.8; Rovers 3.2. Goals and minors were kicked as follows: Goals: Charlton: G. Wilmot 2, L. Jenkins; Teddywaddy: H. Sait 2, T. Maher. Behinds – Charlton: L. Jenkins3, Frank Soding, Arundell, Wilmot, Cassell, McAuliffe; Teddywaddy: W. Sait, Glasheen.

Football 2: As Buckrabanyule Football Club were unable to get a team this season, they amalgamated with Wychitella. For geographical reasons, it was not convenient for a number of the Buckrabanyule footballers to play in the Gladstone area, and some went to other clubs. It seems rather a pity Buckrabanyule had to retire this year; but there was no way out.

The Tennis Ball: From the social point of view the Tennis Club Ball, held in the Victoria Hall, has not been surpassed in Charlton this season. The attendance was smaller than might have been expected with the object in view – assisting to provide the new concrete courts. But the occasion was all the more ideal from the dancing point of view. The ladies who prepared the supper, which consisted of fruit salads, jellies, sandwiches of seven varieties, cakes in profusion, were Mesdames Wilson, McMaster, O’Donnell, Luth, White, Lynas, Robertson, Babidge, Bowe, Reynolds, Raynor, and Wood; Misses Frahm, Jean Wood, Blanche Wood, Elsie Wood and B. Morris.

Presbyterian Mutual Improvement Society (M.I.S.): An attendance well filled the Presbyterian Hall for the musical and elocutionary evening. A feature was the clever Highland dancing by Miss Winnie Paterson. Other items were: Songs, Mrs J. Norris; recitations, Miss E. P. Grewar, Master Ken Clarke, Miss M. Frost; duet, Mrs Henry Davies and Miss E. Philpott; solo, Mrs Davies. Games paved the way for the splendid supper that rounded off the evening to perfection.

Cookery Centre: When the ladies’ School Improvement Committee met lately, a small grant was made to the Cooking Mistress (Miss M. Sweeney), to provide little additions to the Cooking Centre, to make it more comfortable for parents and friends who come to sample the skill of the girls.

Ladies’ Golf Club: The opening day was a foursome match played over 9 holes. A large number took out cards; and there was a very close finish, the winners being Mrs Alex Robertson and Mrs Reynolds, 66-18-48. Afterwards players and visitors were entertained at afternoon tea in the club house by Mrs Frahm. On Thursday a singles match was played over 12 holes, Miss E. Robertson handing in the winning card, 77-24-53.

Community Update

Buloke.



Employment Opportunities with Buloke

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

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

Applications can be lodged by:

Mail - PO Box 1, Wycheproof
VIC 3527 or

Email - recruitment@buloke.vic.gov.au

Aquatic Team Leader - Charlton

Permanent (Full Time) - From \$45.22 per hour (+ statutory superannuation)

→ Applications Close: 6 July 2025

We are looking for a motivated person to oversee the coordination and operations of our outdoor swimming pool facilities in full compliance with industry standards and guidelines, adopted policies, budget allocations and service standards.

Events Officer - Charlton

Permanent (Part Time - 0.6 FTE) - From \$37.24 per hour (+ statutory superannuation)

→ Applications Close: 6 July 2025

This is an exciting opportunity to be the primary liaison for event-related enquiries within Council and provide support and guidance to community event organisers to enable them to meet the relevant regulatory requirements, policies and objectives.

Temporary closure of Charlton Hall

Recent routine asbestos testing has been undertaken at the Charlton Hall with further testing still required. As a precaution the hall will be temporarily unavailable for bookings and library use until testing is completed.

A reduced library service will be operating from the mobile Library Service Van every Tuesday from 10am to 2pm until further notice. The van will be located outside the Charlton Shire Office with services limited to book drop-off and pick-up, and a reduced book range however inter-library services will still be available as well as online resources via BorrowBox.

Ministerial Visit by Lily D'Ambrosio MP

The Minister for Climate Action, Energy and Resources, and the State Electricity Commission Lily D'Ambrosio MP made a ministerial visit to Buloke Shire last week. Minister D'Ambrosio was also joined by Alistair Parker, CEO of VicGrid.

The visit by Minister D'Ambrosio and Mr Parker provided the opportunity for Councillors, CEOs, council staff and community representatives from Buloke Shire Council and Northern Grampians Shire Council to ask questions, and raise local concerns, about the renewable transmission infrastructure proposed across the region.

Funding Available for Victorian Seniors Festival Events

Local seniors’ groups and Neighbourhood Houses are encouraged to apply for funding to support new and inclusive events as part of the 2025 Victorian Seniors Festival in October.

This one-off funding is designed to increase participation from priority groups and cannot be used for events already planned for the general community.

Funding is available to:

- Neighbourhood Houses: Up to \$2,000
- Seniors Groups: Up to \$200

Applications close 30 June 2025 and must be submitted via Council’s SmartyGrants portal:

<https://buloke.smartygrants.com.au/VicSeniorsFestival2025>

For further information or assistance with applying please contact: grants@buloke.vic.gov.au



Phone: 1300 520 520
www.buloke.vic.gov.au



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EST. 1975

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

**Call in the “The Times” Offices,
Donald or Birchip**

or phone 5497 1222 for details.

“No Go Cubico” Rally

Woomelang was a sight to behold last Thursday June 12, as vehicles, farm machinery, fire trucks and an extensive range of protest signs and banners lined the streets to mark Cubico Sustainable Investments’ first public visit to the district.

The “No Go Cubico” rally, organised by dozens of unwilling neighbours to the proposed Curyo Wind Farm, saw over one hundred impacted neighbours accept the invitation to attend.

A barbecue breakfast kicked off the day’s proceedings, ahead of the first of Cubico’s three scheduled Neighbour Information Sessions.

Whilst Cubico only mailed an invitation to a small number of impacted neighbours, the Woomelang Memorial Hall’s supper room was soon filled to capacity as six Cubico employees found themselves hosting an impromptu question and answer session spanning an hour and twenty minutes.

Both the Wimmera Mallee Environmental and Agricultural Protection Association Inc (WMEAP) and Billboard Battalion live-streamed the occasion on social media, drawing in a wide audience from across the district and beyond.

ABC Radio’s Angus Verley also attended, having previously covered the topic on the Country Hour and Rural Report.

Though neighbours’ knowledge of the proposal’s existence spanned anywhere from several years to just a matter of months, all were armed with questions they have been desperate to receive answers for.

Through persistent questioning, the audience were able to learn that all potential hosts had only signed access agreements to date, allowing Cubico to conduct monitoring on their land. As no lease agreements have currently been signed, potential hosts don’t yet have caveats placed on their land titles.

VicGrid’s May 2025 draft proposal has deleted the Buloke Shire, home to three

wind farm proposals, as a Renewable Energy Zone due to the intense landowner opposition to renewables and the delayed VNI West transmission line.

Though the project was originally designed to coincide with the delivery of VNI West, Cubico revealed that they are now seeking to connect their 1000MW proposal to the at-capacity Horsham-Red Cliffs transmission line, crossing through farmland in the Rosebery/Beulah area.

Projects such as Cubico’s, that fall out of the draft REZ zones, now have to undertake a Grid Impact Assessment to access existing transmission lines.

Cubico is also competing with WestWind Energy’s proposed 1,575 MW Warracknabeal Energy Park proposal and Horsham’s under construction SEC Solar Park for access to any future line upgrades.

An isolated pocket of proposed turbines, just 2.5 kilometres north west of Woomelang, is also in doubt due to the difficulties in laying underground cables across neighbouring paddocks. The town still faces close range turbines two kilometres to the south, however, drawing concern from residents regarding, noise, infrasound and shadow flicker.

Fire Safety

Fire safety, from the turbines and co-located battery storage, was of high importance with the many CFA members in attendance stating their unwillingness to attend turbine or battery fires due to safety concerns.

Cubico proposed to have a team of up to ten employees on hand, trained to volunteer firefighter standards, to combat any incidents.

The impact on farmers’ ability to spray crops, BPA

blade shedding reducing crop yields, grain and livestock contamination, and changes to the local climate, were questions that Cubico promised to provide more information on at a later date.

Health and Safety

Health and safety concerns such as infrasound and electromagnetic radiation were swiftly countered with studies claiming no impacts on human health.

Cubico assured that they were responsible for decommissioning the project at the end of its life, pledging to also remove some of the concrete from each turbine location.

A smaller group of eight neighbours attended the Saturday session, which coincided with weekend sport.

Cubico confirmed that potential hosts were quoted on the maximum number of turbines that could fit on their land, but were made aware that environmental, noise and other studies would more than likely reduce the number of turbines they could actually expect to receive.

Cubico proposed to work with impacted neighbours to have turbines moved in the case where one kilometre buffer zones impact a neighbour’s ability to build a new dwelling on their land, a stark contrast to other developers in the region who have headed to VCAT to protect their project boundaries.

The Cubico staff thanked the community for their passionate response to the consultation, promising to take the feedback to the company.



• An aerial view of the protest, with signs and trucks on full display.



• ABC Radio’s Angus Verley with Julie Weir (left) and Brenda Doran (right).



• Julie Weir addressing the crowd.



• The crowd’s sentiment was quite clear.



• A breakfast barbecue to start the day.

Charlton’s Courthouse Gallery —

The Charlton Courthouse Gallery was very busy over the June long weekend as visitors poured in for “Pieced Together – A Collaboration of Charlton & District Quilters”.

Despite chilly temperatures and the “welcome” rain, people travelled from across the district to see the exhibition – a testament to the dedication of quilters and their love of sharing and celebrating each other’s work.

It was the first time the historic Courthouse Gallery has hosted a quilt exhibition, and for many visitors, it was also their first time stepping inside the beautifully restored build-

ing. The gallery’s high walls and charming interior made the perfect backdrop for the vibrant display of quilts.

Guests were impressed by the range of work on show – from traditional patterns to contemporary designs – and the skill and creativity behind each piece. While the walls were adorned with quilts of every style and size, every other surface was also covered with patchwork pieces

and textile creations.

Gallery secretary, Carolyn Olive, contributed a couple of her own quilts. “I haven’t made a quilt for quite a while,” she said, “but being surrounded by all the beautiful quilts has inspired me to dig out my stash of fabric and get sewing again.”

Exhibition co-ordinator Jodie Quinn said the response exceeded expectations.

“We’re thrilled with the

turnout and the fact that people travelled from far and wide to visit. The local quilters really enjoyed seeing their work on display. We may have to do it again – but next time we might need a bigger venue!”

Due to its popularity, the gallery left the quilts up for an extra week and the exhibition was open again on Sunday June 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m..



• The main gallery room.



• Liz Richardson’s patchwork dress was popular.



• Mary Shaughnessy, Kelly Hamlyn-Harris and Denise Rhook from Boort enjoying the display.

To Benefit Drought-hit Farmers: Streamlined Permits – and Fast-Track Fodder

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) has welcomed the Victorian Government’s announcement of a streamlined permit system for kangaroo management and fodder deliveries and an expanded road train network in South West Victoria.

VFF President Brett Hosking said the announcement follows the second meeting of the Victorian Government’s Drought Response Taskforce, and the decision will benefit drought-hit farmers.

“Farmers in the South West can’t get their hands on fodder quick enough,” he said. “This expanded road train network will remove red-tape and allow larger trucks into the region to deliver much-needed fodder for stock.

“Farmers and transporters have been telling us the barriers around getting fodder into these drought-hit areas in the quantities needed has been one of their major frustrations and this move will go a long way to fixing that.”

Mr Hosking added the move to enhance measures to improve the management of kangaroo populations and streamline the Authority to

Control Wildlife permit process was also welcome.

Impact

“These updates reflect growing concern across rural and regional communities about the impact of overabundant kangaroos on pasture availability, animal welfare, in the light of a sustained drought across Victoria.”

“Farmers need more practical and timely solutions to control kangaroo numbers, and this decision by the government gives producers the means to controls kangaroos on farm,” Mr Hosking said.

The VFF has been working closely with the government, industry stakeholders and farmers to deliver targeted relief as Victoria’s record drought continues.

Road Train Network

“We’ve been working on the expansion of the road train network and the cut to red-tape for some time. Farmers



• Brett Hosking

have enough to deal with at the moment and this is a step in the right direction,” Mr Hosking said.

“This is a great example of industry, farmers, regulators and the government working together to get things done. The impact of this drought will be with us for some time and we need to ensure all levers are pulled to support those doing it tough,” Mr Hosking said.

Patchwork of Colour and Creativity



• Elaine Wicks with her quilt.



• Donna McCallum with her quilt.



• A selection of Christmas themed quilts.

More Grants for Volunteer Groups

Hardworking volunteers right across Victoria will benefit from more money for trucks, equipment and modern facilities to help keep themselves and their communities safe with the Federal Government’s Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) now open.

Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes announced that \$30 million is available for this year’s grants – double last year’s amount and the most ever available in one round – thanks to the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund.

Over the next four years, an additional \$62 million is being provided from the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund to double the VESEP – just one of the ways money raised through the Fund is being used to support volunteers.

Every single dollar raised by the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund will support our emergency and disaster recovery services.

Annual Program

VESEP is an annual grant program that helps Victorian emergency services volunteer groups to purchase essential equipment or make facility improvements so that they can strengthen and support their vital work in emergency response.

Groups can apply for a grant of up to \$250,000 – a \$100,000 increase on the previous maximum – with the Government contributing \$2 for every \$1 raised by the local volunteer group.

Volunteer groups can purchase equipment including generators, pumps, utility vehicles, tankers and rescue trucks. They can also fund minor refurbishments or amenity upgrades to their station, club or unit.

Eligible services include the Country Fire Authority (CFA), Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES), Life Saving Victoria, and Volunteer Marine Search and Rescue units.

Over the past decade, the Government has invested more than \$138 million in VESEP grants to volunteer groups across the state.

Recipients

Recent VESEP recipients include CFA Bullengarook, Forrest, Laharum and Toongabbie brigades, which all received more than \$140,000 each for new ultra-light tankers, and VICSES Warracknabeal, Goroke, Sunbury and Terang units, which received more than \$100,000 each to replace utility vehicles.



• Jaclyn Symes.

The 2025-26 VESEP applications are now open and close on 28 July 2025. For more information about VESEP and to find out how to apply for a grant visit emv.vic.gov.au/vesep.

One Hundred Years Ago

From the “Birchip Advertiser”, June 19, 1925.

Local and General
Wheat Pool: The State Government are opposed to a compulsory wheat pool and announce that no action will be taken to introduce such a measure.

Seeding operations are nearing completion throughout the district under most favorable conditions. Early sown oats present a healthy condition and are making good progress. Rain is now necessary to keep the grass moving.

The Snooker tournament at Mr. Frawley’s billiard room is now nearing completion. The following players will compete at an early date, L. Harper, B. Paine, C. Peverill, T. Collins, J. Taylor and W. McClelland.

Birchip Agricultural Society, Annual Meeting: The annual meeting of the Birchip Agricultural Society was held at the Shire Hall on Saturday afternoon.

The retiring president, Mr. Peter Sexton, occupied the chair.

Correspondence: From the Victorian Railways, stating that the earnings on last year’s special show trains were £15 7s 4d short of the amount of guarantee-received.

Financial Statement: The secretary submitted a statement showing a loss for the year of £5, and advised that there was a sum of 1.16 outstanding for annual subscriptions. He thought that the whole of that amount was collectable and would make a

special effort to receive same before next meeting.

Messrs. A. Barber and P. Coffey moved that Messrs. R. J. Barber and P. Sexton form a special committee to assist the secretary in the matter of collection of outstanding subscriptions. -Carried.

Election of Officers: President. Mr. Alex Barber; senior vice president, Mr. Peter Sexton; Vice presidents, Messrs. P. Coffey and R. C. Hannah.

Auditors-Messrs. E. G. Cutts and W. Bastin.

Sub-Committees.

Schedule Committee:

Messrs. C. O’Donnell, J. Lockwood, M. Taylor, R. C. Hannah, J. B. Hillgrove, T. M. Grace, J. McClelland, S. Barber, R. Coffey, R. J. Bennett, W. J. Stevens, D. W. Paine, J. King, P. Sexton, A. Barber, W. Brown, J. Glen and R. C. Dean.

Canvassing Committee:

Messrs. R. J. Barber, C. O’Donnell, R. C. Hannah, J. McClelland, J. B. Hillgrove, P. Sexton, A. Barber and H. Taylor.

Date of next Show: The next annual show will be held on Wednesday, September 16, 1925. Before the meeting closed Mr. A. Barber thanked members for honouring him with the position of president, and stated that he would do his utmost to further the interests of the society.

Mr. Barber moved a vote of thanks to the retiring president for the good services rendered, which was carried by acclamation.

Mr. Sexton in responding regretted to say that the past year not been a greater success financially.

“Times” Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8181 - SOLUTIONS

Across - 1, Bullfrog. 6, Comb. 8, Step. 9, Trombone. 10, Droop. 11, Bleach. 13, Crayon. 15, Riches. 17, Hooter. 19, Globe. 22, Stoppage. 23, Pork. 24, Tray. 25, Hydrogen.
Down - 2, Utter. 3, Leprosy. 4, Rite. 5, Gaoibird. 6, Cable. 7, Manacle. 12, Encroach. 14, Rooster. 16, Calypso. 18, Topsy. 20, Barge. 21, Read.

Lavender in the Home

The smell and feel of freshly laundered bed sheets is surely one of life’s greatest pleasures.

One of the best-known and well-loved herbs, which has been used for centuries to keep clothes and linen smelling fragrantly fresh, lavender has a plethora of beneficial properties. The many different varieties of this herb are found growing in gardens everywhere, even when no special thought has been given to herbs as such.

To perfume your sheets and make them a fragrant delight

to slide between, just add 5 drops of lavender essential oil to the softener compartment of your washing machine. If your machine is not quite so modern, simply put a few drops of the oil on a face washer and throw that in with the rest of your wash, or pop it in the clothes drier if you use one.

A drop of lavender oil on a pillow case will tantalise the senses for a romantic interlude, or exert a soporific effect and lull you off to sleep.

When Ironing

You can also use lavender oil when ironing pillow cases and bed linen. Dissolve 3 to 4 millilitres of the oil or blend in 10 millilitres of methylated spirits and blend this with 500 millilitres of distilled water. Store in a pump-spray bottle and spray on linen, using a fine mist setting, as you iron.

For bed linen that is to be stored away, add a couple of drops of lavender oil to a number of different cotton wool balls and put them in between the layers of the sheets – it will keep moths away.

Dried lavender flowers can also be used to keep clothes and linen smelling fragrantly fresh. Made into lavender bags, they can be hung in wardrobes or cupboards, tied to the end of the bed or dressing table, and placed in drawers or amongst stored sheets in

your linen press. Make the bags from scraps of cotton material about 150 millimetres square. Then, in a ceramic bowl, mix together 4 tablespoons of dried lavender flowers, half a teaspoon of orrisroot powder and 3 drops of lavender oil. Fill your bags, gather them in and tie with a piece of cotton or a rubber band and cover with a piece of coloured ribbon.

And to maximise lavender’s sleep-boosting properties, use dried lavender flowers in a cotton sachet and place it underneath your bed linen to create a soft, relaxing scent that emanates its delightful fragrance as you snooze.

First Choice

Lavender oil is also the first choice for that relaxing bath, when you just want to chill out and forget about the rest of the world. Considering how

relaxing a hot bath is to begin with (studies show it can be as effective as 30 minutes of stress-busting exercise), adding lavender oil will only add to your melted state of bliss. Add 6 to 8 drops of lavender essential oil under a running tap, or mix it first with Epsom salts to create your own bath soak. When added to your bath water, it will also relieve sore muscles and prevent skin dryness.

Lavender is far more than just a delightful scent — it’s a multipurpose herb with benefits that aid restful sleep, calm stress levels, and relieve skin problems. Its versatility enables to you to use it in various forms, such as an essential oil,



• Alan Hayes

a herbal tea, and even to use its dried flowers in recipes. Lavender is a universal herb that has a place in every home.

Visit Alan on the Net - www.itssonatural.com

Trash to Treasure

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YOUR THREE-DAY TV GUIDE

Tuesday

ABC (2) 6:00 News Breakfast 9:00 ABC News 10:00 Australian Story 10:30 Compass (PG) 11:05 If You're Listening 11:20 Gruen 12:00 ABC News 1:00 Call The Midwife (M) 2:00 Restoration Australia 3:00 Claire Hooper's House Of Games 3:25 Anh's Brush With Fame (PG) 3:55 Love Your Garden (PG) 4:45 Long Lost Family (PG) 5:30 Antiques Roadshow 6:30 Claire Hooper's House Of Games 7:00 ABC News 7:30 7.30 (PG) 8:00 Walking With Dinosaurs	SBS (3) 5:00 Worldwatch 9:15 Expeditions With Patrick McMillan (PG) 9:45 Australia With Julia Bradbury (PG) 10:45 Mountain Vets (M) 12:00 Worldwatch 2:00 The Supervet (PG) 2:55 Jerusalem - Builders Of The Holy City (PG) (In English/ French) 3:55 Plat Du Tour 4:00 The Cook Up With Adam Liaw (PG) 4:30 SBS50 (PG) 4:35 Jeopardy! (PG) 5:00 Letters And Numbers 6:00 Mastermind Australia (PG) 6:30 SBS World News 7:30 Who Do You Think You Are? (PG)	PRIME (6) 6:00 Sunrise 9:00 The Morning Show (PG) 12:00 Seven Noon News 1:00 Farmer Wants A Wife (PG) 2:30 Border Security - International (PG) 3:00 The Chase UK (PG) 4:00 Seven News At 4 5:00 The Chase Australia (PG) 6:00 Seven News 7:00 Home And Away (PG) 7:30 Farmer Wants A Wife (PG) 9:00 Doc (M) 10:00 The Agenda Setters 11:00 Accused: Eugene's Story (M) 12:00 Fairly Legal: Priceless/ Benched (PG) 2:00 Home Shopping 4:00 NBC Today	NINE (8) 6:00 Today 9:00 Today Extra (PG) 11:30 NINE News Morning 12:00 LEGO Masters Grand Masters Of The Galaxy (PG) 1:20 Getaway (PG) 1:50 Talking Honey (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 LEGO Masters Grand Masters Of The Galaxy (PG) 8:45 Footy Classified (M I) 9:45 Ski Rescue Down Under (PG) 10:45 NINE News Late	TEN (5) 10:00 Entertainment Tonight 10:20 MasterChef Australia (PG) 11:30 Judge Judy (PG) 12:00 Good Chef Bad Chef 12:30 Family Feud (PG) 1:00 10 News First: Lunchtime 2:00 Wheel Of Fortune 2:30 Lingo (PG) 3:30 10 News First: Afternoon 4:00 Neighbours (PG) 4:30 The Bold & The Beautiful (PG) 5:00 10 News First 6:00 Deal Or No Deal (PG) 6:30 The Project (PG) 7:30 MasterChef Australia (PG) 8:40 The Cheap Seats (M I) 9:40 FBI: Most Wanted (M v) 10:30 10's Late News
ABC ENTERTAINS (23) 4:05 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 4:40 MythBusters (PG) 5:30 George Clarke's Remarkable Renovations 6:15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent 7:05 Hard Quiz (PG) 7:35 QI (PG) 8:10 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 8:40 Upstart Crow (M s)	SBS VICE (31) 3:15 NITV News Update 3:20 BBC News At Ten 3:50 ABC World News Tonight With David Muir 4:15 PBS News Hour 5:10 The Toys That Built The World (PG) 6:00 Alone Germany (PG) (In German) 7:05 Jeopardy! 7:30 NITV News Update	7TWO (62) 2:00 Creek To Coast 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 Call The Midwife (PG) 8:45 Foyle's War (M)	GEM (81) 12:00 Midsomer Murders (M s.v) 2:00 Maritime Masters (PG) 3:00 Antiques Roadshow 3:30 Movie: "I've Gotta Horse" (G) ('65) Stars: Billy Fury 5:30 The Travelling Auctioneers 6:30 Antiques Roadshow 7:30 New Tricks (M I) 8:40 Dalglish (M) 10:40 The Closer (M v)	PEACH (52) 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)
ABC FAMILY (22) 4:00 Andy's Dinosaur 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 7:35 Star Wars: Young Jedi Adventures 8:05 Junior Vets	SBS MOVIES (32) 4:25 Movie: "The Life And Death Of Colonel Blimp" (PG) ('43) Stars: Roger Livesey 7:30 Movie: "The Lighthorsemen" (PG) ('87) Stars: Peter Phelps 9:40 Movie: "12 Strong" (MA15+) ('18) Stars: Chris Hemsworth	7MATE (63) 1:30 Outback Opal Hunters (PG) 2:30 Gem Hunters Down Under (PG) 3:30 Billy The Exterminator (PG) 4:00 Frozen Gold 5:00 American Restoration (PG) 5:30 Storage Wars (PG) 6:00 American Pickers (PG) 7:00 The Agenda Setters	GO! (82) 2:30 The Nanny (PG) 3:30 Seinfeld (PG) 4:30 The Addams Family 5:00 Bewitched 5:30 I Dream Of Jeannie 6:00 The Golden Girls (PG) 6:30 The Nanny (PG) 7:30 Seinfeld (PG) 8:30 Movie: "Inception" (M v) ('10) Stars: Cillian Murphy 11:35 Seinfeld (PG)	BOLD (53) 6:00 Home Shopping 8:00 Buy To Build 8:30 Pat Callinan's 4X4 Adventures 9:30 Numb3rs (PG) 10:30 JAG (PG) 12:30 Numb3rs (PG) 1:30 FBI (M v) 2:30 JAG (PG) 4:30 Numb3rs (PG) 5:30 JAG (PG) 7:30 NCIS (M v) 9:25 FBI (M v) 12:15 Home Shopping

Wednesday

ABC (2) 6:00 News Breakfast 9:00 ABC News 10:00 Four Corners 10:50 Long Lost Family (PG) 12:00 ABC News 12:30 National Press Club Address 1:35 Media Watch 2:00 Restoration Australia (PG) 3:00 Claire Hooper's House Of Games 3:30 Anh's Brush With Fame (PG) 3:55 Love Your Garden (PG) 4:45 Long Lost Family (PG) 5:30 Antiques Roadshow 6:30 Claire Hooper's House Of Games 7:00 ABC News 7:30 7.30 (PG) 8:00 Gruen 8:35 Guy Montgomery's Guy Mont Spelling Bee (PG)	SBS (3) 5:00 Worldwatch 9:20 Expeditions With Patrick McMillan (PG) 9:50 Australia With Julia Bradbury (PG) 10:50 Mountain Vets (M) 12:00 Worldwatch 2:00 Dateline (PG) 2:30 Insight (PG) 3:30 Going Places With Ernie Dingo (PG) 4:00 The Cook Up With Adam Liaw (PG) 4:30 SBS50 (PG) 4:35 Jeopardy! (PG) 5:00 Letters And Numbers 6:00 Mastermind Australia (PG) 6:30 SBS World News 7:30 The Titan Sub Disaster - Minute By Minute (PG) 9:10 The Veil (M I.v)	PRIME (6) 6:00 Sunrise 9:00 The Morning Show (PG) 12:00 Seven Noon News 1:00 Farmer Wants A Wife (PG) 2:30 Jabba's Movies School Holiday Special (PG) 3:00 The Chase UK (PG) 4:00 Seven News At 4 5:00 The Chase Australia (PG) 6:00 Seven News 7:00 Home And Away (PG) 7:30 The 1% Club UK (PG) 8:30 The Front Bar (M I) 9:30 Unfiltered (PG) 10:00 Unbelievable Moments Caught On Camera (PG) 11:00 Born To Kill? (MA15+) 12:00 Movie: "Deadly Seduction" (M v) ('21)	NINE (8) 6:00 Today 9:00 Today Extra (PG) 11:30 NINE News Morning 12:00 LEGO Masters Grand Masters Of The Galaxy (PG) 1:15 Find My Country House Australia 1:45 My Way 2:00 Pointless (PG) 3:00 Tipping Point (PG) 4:00 NINE News Afternoon 4:30 Tipping Point Australia (PG) 5:30 WIN News 6:00 NINE News 7:00 NRL: State Of Origin: Game 2 'Live' 10:00 NRL: State Of Origin: Post-Match 11:00 NINE News Late 11:30 The Equalizer (MA15+) 12:30 Tipping Point (PG)	TEN (5) 10:00 Entertainment Tonight 10:20 MasterChef Australia (PG) 11:30 Judge Judy (PG) 12:00 Good Chef Bad Chef 12:30 Family Feud (PG) 1:00 10 News First: Lunchtime 2:00 Wheel Of Fortune 2:30 Lingo (PG) 3:30 10 News First: Afternoon 4:00 Neighbours (PG) 4:30 The Bold & The Beautiful (PG) 5:00 10 News First 6:00 Deal Or No Deal (PG) 6:30 The Project (PG) 7:30 MasterChef Australia (PG) 8:40 Elsbeth (M v) 9:40 FBI: International (M v) 10:30 10's Late News 10:55 The Project (PG)
ABC ENTERTAINS (23) 4:05 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 4:40 MythBusters (PG) 5:30 George Clarke's Remarkable Renovations 6:15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent 7:05 Hard Quiz (PG) 7:35 QI (PG) 8:10 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 8:40 Unforgotten (M I)	SBS VICE (31) 3:00 NITV News Update 3:05 BBC News At Ten 3:35 ABC World News Tonight With David Muir 4:05 PBS News Hour 5:10 The Toys That Built The World (PG) 6:00 Alone Germany (PG) (In German) 7:05 Jeopardy! 7:30 NITV News Update	7TWO (62) 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) 10:45 The Yorkshire Steam Railway (PG)	GEM (81) 12:00 Midsomer Murders (M s.v) 2:00 Maritime Masters (PG) 3:00 Antiques Roadshow 3:30 Movie: "Some People" (G) ('62) Stars: Kenneth More 5:30 Yorkshire Auction House 6:30 Antiques Roadshow 7:30 Yes Prime Minister 8:40 Midsomer Murders (M s.v)	PEACH (52) 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)
ABC FAMILY (22) 4:00 Andy's Dinosaur Adventures 4:40 Ariel 5:00 Peppa Pig 5:35 Peter Rabbit 6:10 Octonauts 6:30 The Adventures Of Paddington 7:05 Dino Dex 7:35 Star Wars: Young Jedi Adventures 8:05 Junior Vets 8:40 Abbott Elementary (PG)	SBS MOVIES (32) 4:25 Movie: "The Band's Visit" (M I) ('11) Stars: Sasson Gabai (In Hebrew/ Arabic/ English) 6:00 Movie: "Malcolm" (PG) ('86) Stars: Colin Friels 7:40 Movie: "Bad Eggs" (M v) ('03) Stars: Mick Malloy 9:30 Movie: "Mad Max" (M) ('79)	7MATE (63) 1:30 Outback Truckers (PG) 2:30 Train Rescue Down Under (PG) 3:30 Billy The Exterminator (PG) 4:00 Frozen Gold 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)	GO! (82) 3:00 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: "New Year's Eve" (PG) ('11) Stars: Zac Efron 11:00 Seinfeld (PG)	BOLD (53) 6:00 Home Shopping 8:00 Buy To Build 8:30 Pat Callinan's 4X4 Adventures 9:30 Numb3rs (PG) 10:30 JAG (PG) 12:30 Numb3rs (PG) 1:30 FBI (M v) 2:30 JAG (PG) 4:30 Numb3rs (PG) 5:30 JAG (PG) 7:30 NCIS (M v) 10:20 Seal Team (MA15+) 11:15 CSI: Vegas (M v)

Thursday

ABC (2) 6:00 News Breakfast 9:00 ABC News 10:00 Stuff The British Stole (PG) 10:30 Back Roads 11:00 Guy Montgomery's Guy Mont Spelling Bee (PG) 12:00 ABC News 1:00 The One That Got Away (M I) 2:00 Restoration Australia (PG) 3:00 Claire Hooper's House Of Games 3:25 Anh's Brush With Fame (PG) 3:55 Love Your Garden (PG) 4:45 Long Lost Family (PG) 5:30 Antiques Roadshow 6:30 Claire Hooper's House Of Games 7:00 ABC News 7:30 7.30 (PG) 8:00 Joanna Lumley's Danube (PG)	SBS (3) 5:00 Worldwatch 9:20 Expeditions With Patrick McMillan (PG) 9:55 Australia With Julia Bradbury (PG) 10:55 Mountain Vets (M) 12:00 Worldwatch 2:00 The Supervet (PG) 2:55 Living Black 3:25 Going Places With Ernie Dingo (PG) 3:55 Plat Du Tour 4:00 The Cook Up With Adam Liaw (PG) 4:30 SBS50 (PG) 4:35 Jeopardy! (PG) 5:00 Letters And Numbers 6:00 Mastermind Australia (PG) 6:30 SBS World News 7:35 Treasures With Bettany Hughes (PG)	PRIME (6) 6:00 Sunrise 9:00 The Morning Show (PG) 12:00 Seven Noon News 1:00 Movie: "Secrets In The Wilderness" (AKA 'Remote Danger') (M v) ('21) Stars: Stephanie Bennett 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: Pre-Game 7:30 AFL: Round 15: Fremantle v Essendon 'Live' 11:00 AFL: Post Game 11:30 Kick Ons 12:00 TBA 2:00 Raines (M h.v) 3:00 Home Shopping 4:00 NBC Today	NINE (8) 6:00 Today 9:00 Today Extra (PG) 11:30 NINE News Morning 12:00 Movie: "How To Win A Prince" (PG) ('23) Stars: Anna Hopkins 2:00 Pointless (PG) 3:00 Tipping Point (PG) 4:00 NINE News Afternoon 4:30 Tipping Point Australia (PG) 5:30 WIN News 6:00 NINE News 7:00 A Current Affair (PG) 7:30 NRL: Under 19's State Of Origin 'Live' 9:35 NRL: Under 19's State Of Origin: Post-Match 10:00 NINE News Late 10:30 Outback Opal Hunters (PG) 11:20 Next Stop	TEN (5) 10:00 Entertainment Tonight 10:20 MasterChef Australia (PG) 11:30 Judge Judy (PG) 12:00 Good Chef Bad Chef 12:30 Family Feud (PG) 1:00 10 News First: Lunchtime 2:00 Wheel Of Fortune 2:30 Lingo (PG) 3:30 10 News First: Afternoon 4:00 Neighbours (PG) 4:30 The Bold & The Beautiful (PG) 5:00 10 News First 6:00 Deal Or No Deal (PG) 6:30 The Project (PG) 7:30 Airport Australia 24/7 (PG) 8:30 Law & Order: SVU (M) 9:30 10's Late News 9:55 The Cheap Seats (M I)
ABC ENTERTAINS (23) 4:05 QI (PG) 4:40 MythBusters (PG) 5:30 George Clarke's Remarkable Renovations 6:15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent 7:05 Hard Quiz (PG) 7:35 QI (PG) 8:05 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 9:10 Gruen 9:45 Planet America	SBS VICE (31) 3:20 NITV News Update 3:25 BBC News At Ten 3:55 ABC World News Tonight With David Muir 4:25 PBS News Hour 5:25 The Toys That Built The World (PG) 6:15 Over The Black Dot 6:45 Travel Man (PG) 7:15 Jeopardy! 7:40 NITV News Update	7TWO (62) 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) 7:30 Father Brown (M) 8:30 Line Of Duty (MA15+)	GEM (81) 12:00 Midsomer Murders (M s.v) 2:00 Maritime Masters (PG) 3:00 Antiques Roadshow 3:30 Yorkshire Auction House 4:30 Antiques Roadshow 5:30 NRL: Women's Under 19's State Of Origin 'Live' 7:30 Paramedics (M I) 8:30 Emergency (M) 9:30 TBA	PEACH (52) 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)
ABC FAMILY (22) 4:00 Andy's Dinosaur Adventures 4:40 Ariel 5:00 Peppa Pig 5:35 Peter Rabbit 6:10 Super Monsters 6:30 The Adventures Of Paddington 7:00 Supertato 7:35 Star Wars: Young Jedi Adventures 8:05 Junior Vets 8:40 Secrets Of The Zoo (PG)	SBS MOVIES (32) 4:15 Movie: "Children Of Heaven" (G) ('97) Stars: Mohammad Amir Naji (In Farsi) 5:50 Movie: "Poms" (PG) ('19) Stars: Diane Keaton 7:30 Movie: "The Year Of Living Dangerously" (M v) ('82) Stars: Mel Gibson 9:40 Movie: "Two Hands" (M) ('99)	7MATE (63) 1:30 Highway Patrol (PG) 2:30 The Force - Behind The Line (PG) 3:30 Billy The Exterminator (PG) 4:00 W/BBL Draft 5:30 Storage Wars (PG) 6:00 American Pickers (PG) 7:00 Pawn Stars (PG) 7:30 Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly (PG) 8:30 Movie: "Hidden Figures" (PG) ('16)	GO! (82) 2:00 The Golden Girls (PG) 2:30 The Nanny (PG) 3:30 Seinfeld (PG) 4:30 The Addams Family 5:00 Bewitched 5:30 I Dream Of Jeannie 6:00 The Golden Girls (PG) 6:30 The Nanny (PG) 7:30 Seinfeld (PG) 8:30 Movie: "Bruce Almighty" (M I.s) ('03) Stars: Jim Carrey	BOLD (53) 6:00 Home Shopping 8:00 Buy To Build 8:30 Pat Callinan's 4X4 Adventures 9:30 Numb3rs (PG) 10:30 JAG (PG) 12:30 Numb3rs (PG) 1:30 FBI (M v) 2:30 JAG (PG) 4:30 Numb3rs (PG) 5:30 JAG (PG) 7:30 NCIS (M v) 10:20 Seal Team (MA15+) 11:15 CSI: Vegas (M v)



Investments Target ‘New Normal’ Of Mouse Activity

The ongoing threat of mouse activity to Australian grain growers is the focus of two key investments aimed at reducing the impact of mice in crops.

The Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) and partners will invest \$11 million in multi-year collaborative projects to enable continued cutting-edge research led by Australia’s national science agency, CSIRO.

Elevated mouse populations in key grain-growing regions have led to substantial economic losses for growers over many years. While advancements in farming systems have resulted in tremendous benefits, they have also inadvertently contributed to increasing the pest problem.

GRDC Pest Manager Leigh Nelson explained that modern systems provide more cover (from retention of crop residues), more food (from in-

creased cropping intensity), and less disturbance (from reduced tillage).

“This has changed the face of mouse management on grain farms. However, there are a range of management practices that can be used to reduce the impact,” Dr Nelson said.

“Over the years, GRDC initiatives have improved mouse surveillance techniques, refined predictive models, and promoted the widespread adoption of effective management practices through robust communication and extension activities.

“We will continue to work with key research partners such as CSIRO to tackle the challenges posed by mice to grain production through

investments like those announced today.”

Senior Research Scientist Dr Wendy Ruscoe is leading the research on mouse ecology to increase understanding of house mice in zero and no-till cropping systems.

Over the next five years, CSIRO research will develop a range of impact mitigation strategies by investigating:

How different farming practices (e.g. stubble management, strategic cultivation, grazing) can reduce food availability and habitat quality for mice, thereby lowering breeding success and survival.

The effectiveness of baiting strategies, including how to increase toxic bait encounter rates and reduce background food competition to improve kill rates.

Novel bait formulations (e.g. coloured or pelletised bait) and how bait appearance or substrate might influence detectability and uptake by mice.

The use of non-lethal deterrents, such as seed coatings or “chemical camouflage,” to protect freshly sown seed from mouse predation at crop establishment.

The role of invertebrates and other high-protein food sources in supporting rapid mouse population growth, with a view to informing broader pest management strategies.

The impact of non-crop habitats (e.g. field margins and pasture paddocks) as refuges or breeding grounds during low-resource periods, and their contribution to crop reinfestation.



• Mouse heading home after being tagged as part of the Mouse Ecology project.

Some of this research will be conducted in partnership with the University of Sydney, including collaborative work on novel deterrents and bait visibility based on mouse visual perception.

“The more we know about mouse behaviour in these systems, the more we can help grain growers reduce their economic impact through leading crop protection practice and mouse management techniques,” Dr Ruscoe said.

Map of bottom half of Australia with mouse monitoring sites labelled in various locations in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.

Investment from GRDC will also support ongoing monitoring and surveillance of

mice throughout cropping zones to predict seasonal mouse population outbreaks. This work is being led by CSIRO Research Scientist Dr Peter Brown and will include:

Monitoring mouse activity at over 200 sites in key grain-producing areas, three times per year, to provide consistent, region-specific data.

Enhancing spatial forecast models and developing interactive mapping tools to help growers assess mouse risk and make timely, informed management decisions.

Field-testing and optimising remote monitoring devices that automatically detect and record mouse activity in real-time.

Ongoing facilitation of the grower-led National Mouse

Group, an information-sharing forum bringing together growers, industry and researchers.

Producing and distributing seasonal “Mouse Updates” with management recommendations agreed by the National Mouse Group.

“This comprehensive portfolio of research will deliver grain growers the latest evidence-backed information on how to reduce the impact of mice in crops,” Dr Brown said.

The investments will have access to CSIRO’s recently redeveloped rodent research facility in Canberra. The facility houses wild pest rodent species, enabling groundbreaking research into rodent management.



• Mouse heading home after being tagged as part of the Mouse Ecology project.

Helping Victorian Farmers Access Interstate Fodder

Importers looking to bring fodder into Victoria from interstate can go through Agriculture Victoria to apply for a Plant Biosecurity Permit (PBP) to ensure biosecurity risks are properly managed.

Agriculture Victoria is providing a free service to suppliers, transporters and farmers to navigate permit requirements and expedite access to fodder.

Ongoing drought conditions have created serious challenges for Victoria’s livestock industry, particularly a critical shortage of hay and fodder - so farmers are needing to look interstate for source supplies.

All imported fodder requires a PBP to manage key biosecurity risks from entering Victoria from interstate, including Annual Ryegrass Toxicity (found in all states but NT and Tasmania), Green Snail (found in WA), Red Imported Fire Ant (found in

QLD), and Electric Ant (found in QLD).

Agriculture Victoria Chief Plant Health Officer Dr Stephen Dibley said all fodder imports will require a PBP, except for NT and Tasmania.

“Given the ongoing tough conditions across the state, Agriculture Victoria is prioritising permit applications for fodder to make sure essential transport can be fast tracked,” Dr Dibley said.

“Once a Plant Biosecurity Permit is submitted, our team will be in touch within 2 working days to discuss and assess the specifics of your import request,” he said.

Costs associated with the inspection of interstate fodder by Agriculture Victoria where it is required, will be waived.

Find more information and to apply for a plant health permit visit: <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/moving-plants-and-plant-products/plant-biosecurity-permit> or email it directly to market.access@agriculture.vic.gov.au

Agriculture Victoria is actively monitoring seasonal, economic and social conditions across the state, and this information is used to continuously inform the Government on current and emerging conditions and pressures in our farming community.

Farmers under financial stress as a result of drought or other pressures can access support and resources 365 days a year. This includes:

- Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) – free and confidential business planning support.

- Farm Household Allowance (FHA) program – a fortnightly Commonwealth Government payment.

- Regional Investment Corporation – low interest drought loans of up to \$2 million - to assist farmers to prepare for, manage and recover from drought.

Local governments also offer rate hardship policies.

Ongoing supports are outlined in Agriculture Victoria Resource Directory.

For the most current information available see drought and dry seasonal conditions support or call 136 186.

What's On

Know Your Number, Control Your Future

Join North Central CMA to learn how understanding your farm’s number can help you improve efficiency, boost soil health, and gain access to emerging markets, while providing practical insights to help future-proof your business and maintain profitability.

Free workshops will feature locally relevant strategies and be delivered by people who have practical experience in agriculture.

Where: Boort, 18 June; Kerang, 19 June; St Arnaud, 2 July; Castlemaine, 3 July.

To register, visit: <https://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/projects/agriculture/know-your-number-control-your-future/>

Setting Strategies for Farm Business Success

Join Gavin Beever from Cumbre Consulting for a Setting Strategies for Farm Business Success 2 day workshop series commencing in Underbool Wednesday 23 July followed by workshops in Ultima and St Arnaud.

Where: St Arnaud Sporting Club, 26 Dunstan St, St Arnaud
When: Wed., July 23 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thur., July 24.

For more information or to book visit:

St Arnaud - <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1373643>

Ultima - <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1373631>

Robyn Howarth Visits Donald

The Senior Citizens Centre Donald was filled to capacity on Friday June 6, when well known Author of “Faraday”, Robyn Howarth, was the guest of the Donald Combined Probus Club, and spoke to a most enthusiastic audience about her book. Robyn was accompanied by her husband David Mark.

It was earlier in the year that Probus member Margaret Arnel had heard Robyn being interviewed on the radio, and in that interview it was mentioned that Robyn was going to speak in Horsham. Margaret attended that session and invited Robyn to speak at one of Donald Probus Club’s meetings with the intention of making it an

open meeting, inviting those in our area to join us. Invitations were forwarded to neighbouring clubs and it was widely publicised. There were approximately 100 in attendance with morning tea being served by members of East Wimmera Campus Donald Group. Probus is indebted to these ladies who serve Morning Tea at each of

the meetings and have done so for 23 years. Following the meeting approximately 70 were booked in for a very nice lunch with our hosts of the Mt Jeffcott Hotel, Sally and Nick, whose efforts are also appreciated, as they have gone through difficult times lately. Visitors were welcomed from Charlton, Birchip, St. Arnaud, Wycheproof, and Rupanyup and apologies were received from Minyip and Wycheproof Probus Clubs .

Robyn Howarth grew up at Faraday and along with her sisters attended the Faraday State School 797. Little did they know how October 6 1972 would change their lives forever when two masked men burst into the school, and kidnapped their young female teacher and 6 female students.

Robyn was aged 10 at the time and told her story of growing up on the farm, and the effect this terrible crime had on her in later life.

It has taken her 62 years to acknowledge with pride that she came from Faraday, and was educated at this school.

To top off a great day, rain was a welcome sight for all present.



• Left to right: David Mark, Author Robyn Haworth, Ian McEwen President of Probus Club, and Margaret Arnel organiser of the speaker.



• Robyn Howarth.



• The audience.

Weekend To Inspire At Rex

A heart-warming tale of family and an afternoon of quality music and song makes an ideal winter program at The Rex this weekend.

The generational movie “Funny Birds” (a tale about three generations of women), plus the live performance of “In A Persian Garden” (an ode to love and life) will captivate audiences with their passion and humanity.

In A Persian Garden

Rachel Buckley – Director of the Dunolly Gilbert and Sullivan Society, which is co-presenting “In A Persian Garden” with The Rex – shared her thoughts on the production and the importance of creating opportunities for rural communities to have access to quality music.

Having seen the production in Melbourne, Rachel was smitten – especially as the work was created by a female composer.

“While I hadn’t heard of Lisa Lehmann before, this piece really impressed me,” said Rachel.

Set for four voices – soprano, contralto, tenor and bass – the work sets to music quatrains (verses – rubaiyats) from the ancient Persian poem “The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam.”

Translated in 1859 by Edward Fitzgerald, the poem created massive interest and became hugely popular throughout the English-speaking world at the time.

Vocalists

The Rex performance will be brought to life by four

experienced vocalists from Melbourne – Amelia Le Plastrier (soprano), Helen Hill (contralto), Brett O’Meara (tenor) and Ian Woolford (bass). The quartet will be accompanied by pianist, Geoffrey Urquhart with narration by Rachel Buckley.

Rachel is certain that audiences will be captivated by the work, with the piece being sung in English and the words being available in the program.

“The first half of the program will feature general works by Lisa Lehmann, and the second half will be the performance of “In A Persian Garden”,” Rachel said. “I believe that rural audiences should get to see the high quality performances which city people can regularly access, so we are working to make that a reality with presentations such as this.”

In A Persian Garden – Saturday, June 21, 2 p.m. | Tickets: \$35 | Bookings: <https://www.rextheatre.org.au/live-shows.html> | boxoffice@rextheatre.org.au | at the door

Funny Birds

Exploring three generations of women and their last chance at reconciliation, “Funny Birds” stars French actress Catherine Deneuve in this story about family and relationships.

The story unfolds with young Charlie (Morgan Saylor)

returning home from boarding school to take care of her sick mother Laura (Andrea Riseborough) – the owner of a small organic egg farm in the New Jersey countryside.

It’s a struggle to look after her mother, run the farm on her own and keep up with her studies. Their day-to-day life on the farm, already strained by years of unspoken resentment, is turned upside down when Laura’s mother Solange (Catherine Deneuve) shows up unannounced.

Solange is an eccentric French feminist who left America many years ago. She’s never had much of a relationship with her daughter. Laura’s sudden illness motivates her to reconnect.

But can these three women, opposite in so many ways, learn to live together? To combat the unexpected bird flu epidemic that threatens the farm, they must rise above conflict. Only love and laughter can heal old wounds and help them to accept each other’s differences.

A movie to touch the heart, with a spark of light comedy thrown in, “Funny Birds” is sure to charm and engage.

“Funny Birds” (M 97 mins | Drama | Comedy) screens Saturday, June 21, 8 p.m. | Sunday, June 22, 2 p.m. | Tuesday, June 24, 8 p.m.

Warning from Wood Heater Fire

A wood heater fire that tore through the home of a Tatura family has Victoria’s fire services calling for vigilance when warming homes this winter.

With the cooler weather arriving with force in recent weeks, one Tatura household had a lucky escape when bed-linen drying in front of a wood heater quickly became engulfed in flames.

The fire burned through blankets before hitting the floor and spreading into the living room.

Thankfully, the family was alerted to a fire in their home, due to their newly installed smoke alarms.

Tatura Fire Brigade Captain and Incident Controller Peter Bevan hoped this common incident reminds residents to keep items drying at least one metre away from all heating sources.

Alarms

“The family had only headed outside to the back shed for an hour before they heard the smoke alarms going off,” Peter said.

“They couldn’t see any smoke or flames until it started coming through the air conditioning swamp cooler on the roof, which is initially what they had thought caught fire.

“Once the clothes horse had fallen on the floor, the flames travelled right across the room into a cupboard where the switchboard was and then made its way up into the ceiling.

“There is extensive damage to the living area, and the curtains and carpets are all destroyed. The smoke managed to affect 80 per cent of the house.

Radiant Heat

“To set the scene more clearly for people, the radiant heat alone was so strong, it blew out a couple of the glass windows in the kitchen.”

Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) and CFA responded to more than 150 heater fires through May 2024 to March 2025, with sleeping and living areas the most common room of fire ignition for incidents that result in serious injuries or death.

Just One Example

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said this is just one example of how leaving portable heaters and fireplaces unattended can have distressing impacts in a matter of moments.

“We are so pleased the family had just installed working smoke alarms to alert them to safety. It is really important all households have them in every bedroom, hallway and living area to ensure you have enough time to safely evacuate,” Jason said.

“It goes without saying, but please reconsider where you place your washing to dry. It’s a popular set up to place them near our heaters and wood fires, but a mistake that can be easily avoided.”

FRV Deputy Commissioner, Community Safety, Joshua Fischer said now that we are spending more time indoors, heaters should be turned off before you leave the house.

“Taking a few moments to check your heaters and fireplace before you head out the door could make all the difference to the safety of your family,” Joshua said.

Recommendations

When it comes to home heating, CFA and FRV recommend:

- Drying clothes and other items that can burn must be kept at least one metre away from all heat sources.
- Always use a fire screen in front of an open fire.
- Children must be supervised near all types of heating. Maintain a safe distance between children and heating.
- Never leave portable heaters and fireplaces unattended; turn off heaters and make sure fireplace embers are extinguished before leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Residents should have their gas heaters inspected and serviced every two years to ensure the safety of loved ones from carbon monoxide poisoning or fire.
- If you suspect a fault in a heater, have it serviced or replaced immediately. Replace old portable heaters with models that incorporate automatic cut-out, thermostat control and anti-roll features.
- Ensure home heating, including flues and chimneys, are regularly cleaned and serviced by a certified technician.



• Charlton Probos club posing in front of the Bendigo tram.

Charlton Probians at Bendigo Gold Mine

Charlton Probos Club's latest outing was to Bendigo on Friday, May 16. Members travelled by car to the Central Deborah Gold Mine precinct and had a walk around the surface displays.

Some of the highlights were the Blacksmith's Shop, the Winding Engine, the Hand of Faith gold nugget replica, the Crushing Battery and the Poppet Head.

They then boarded a Vintage Talking Tram tour to learn about the city's golden heritage, and to see spectacular landmarks and monuments along the route. The tram they boarded was used in Melbourne in the 1940s. Some of the landmarks were: Charing Cross, Pall Mall, the Cenotaph, Rosalind Park, Soldiers' Memorial, Law Courts, the Chinese precinct, St Killian's Church, Lake Weeroona, the Joss House and the Shamrock Hotel.

After an enjoyable lunch they visited Sacred Heart Cathedral, where they were given brief details of its history. Work was begun on the cathedral in 1896 and it enabled the church to give out-of-work miners employment. The Cathedral is, architecturally, English Gothic. The Tower and spire were completed in 1977.

General Meeting

The club's general meeting held on June 13, went smoothly even with a last-minute change of venue to the Uniting Church Hall. There were 36 members present.

Margaret Byrne gave a two-minute talk about author Robyn Howarth who spoke in Donald recently. On Friday, October 6, 1972, two masked men burst into the Faraday school room and kidnapped the young female teacher and 6 female students, Robyn being one of those students. Robyn spoke about the horrors they went through. Counselling was unheard of at that time but a few years back Robyn undertook counselling and can now hear the word "Faraday" without trembling.

Guest Speaker

The guest speaker was Doug Gretgrix who spoke about his involvement with Harness Racing. He was pestered by Matt Donaldson and his brother Stanley, both trainers, to join the committee.

Which he did in 1979 and immediately became the assistant starter in the local area. In 1980 Doug started his first race meeting. The mobile barrier in those days was primitive compared to the computerised version today.

In 1987 Harness Racing Victoria called for starters. There was a starter in Echuca and Horsham and Doug was appointed to do the area in between, but when the roster came out one of the first places he was listed for was Geelong. Sometimes he was in Melbourne as a back-up starter. There are 28 clubs in the state and within 3 or 4 years he had started at most tracks.

His next goal was to be starter at the A. G. Hunter Cup – the biggest standing start race in Australia at that time. He achieved this goal in 2009.

In 2017 Doug was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, which is presented to those within the industry who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve Victorian Harness Racing. Some people Doug mentioned were Kerryn Manning as a driver at only 17 years of age and Gavin Lang – the best male driver Doug has seen. Doug mentioned Jane Bunn and Danny Frawley as two of the celebrities who have ridden in the back of the mobile. Many local people have also had this experience.

Harness Racing Victoria is currently finding it hard to stay afloat. Charlton used to have 16 meetings a year but has been cut back to 12. In

two years' time there will be no harness racing in the afternoon, and it would cost \$2m - \$3m to put lights at Charlton.

Charlton has a great Training Centre and is one of the best clubs – set up well and very friendly.

Doug had on display Ted Lambert's and Stanley Gretgrix's colours and other memorabilia.



• Pictured above and below, some memorabilia brought by the guest speaker, Doug Gretgrix.



• Guest speaker Doug Gretgrix, addressing attendees.



• Memorabilia.

North-Central Football Roundup

Goldacres Seniors

SEA LAKE-NANDALY	4.2	6.3	8.4	16.6	(102)
WEDDERBURN	1.2	3.3	4.6	7.9	(51)

Goals for Sea Lake Nandaly: Adam Pattison 5, Joshua Jenkins 4, Max Cahoon 2, Brodie Adcock, Trent Donnan, Jarvis Keogh, Jackson McMahon, Cruz O'Sullivan. For Wedderburn: Mitch Jensen 4, Jye Mortlock 2, Hamish Lockhart.

Best for Sea Lake Nandaly: Wade Donnan, Billy Mcinnes, Adam Pattison, Oscar Brownless, Jack Poulton, Charlie Cox. For Wedderburn: Joe Lockhart, Jackson McEwen, Jye Mortlock, Darcy Jackson, Isaac Holt, Ben Bacon.

CALDER UNITED	6.5	12.9	18.20	23.29	(167)
DONALD	0.0	0.1	0. 1	0. 1	(1)

Goals for Calder United: Jack Exell 8, Rylee Smith 4, Mitch Farmer 3, Cody Green 2, Zane Keighran 2, Steven Kennedy, Darcy Munro, George Turner, Tiger Vearing. For Donald: Nil.

Best for Calder United: Rylee Smith, Steven Kennedy, Zane Keighran, Jack Exell, Josh Walsh, Koby Hommelhoff. For Donald: Charlie Campbell, Brady Griffiths, Daniel Pearce, Joshua Smulders, Thomas Reekie, Dyson Bell-Warren.

BIRCHIP-WATCHEM	5.5	11.9	16.16	21.18	(144)
CHARLTON	0.0	0.1	0. 1	1. 1	(7)

Goals for Birchip-Watchem: Ben Edwards 6, Nicholas Rippon 3, Daniel Bell 2, Meyrick Buchanan 2, Jacob Christie 2, Marshall Rippon 2, Lachy Foott, Riley Hogan, Jack Lee, William Lee. For Charlton: Sebastian Zagame.

Best for Birchip-Watchem: Nicholas Rippon, Ben Lakin, Cormacc Wilson, Rhona Conboy, Hamish Hosking, Lachlan Ryan. For Charlton: Jed Thompson, Rhys Thompson, Bailey Hooper-Dixon, Elliott Fitzpatrick, Patrick Soulsby, Archer Patterson.

BOORT	2.8	4.8	10.13	12.16	(88)
ST ARNAUD	0.0	4.0	6. 0	8. 3	(51)

Goals for Boort: Jhye Baddeley-Kelly 3, Peter Barbopoulos, Jayden Dick, Carlos Egan, Lachlan Hall, Kieren Jaksic, James Keeble, Tom Potter, Kayne Rutley, Harry Weaver. For St Arnaud: Max Hungerford 3, Lucas Bridger, Luke Jackson, Jake Male, Bradley Organ, Brayden Phillips.

Best for Boort: Lachlan Hall, Harry Weaver, Peter Barbopoulos, James Keeble, Jarrod Fitzpatrick, Jhye Baddeley-Kelly. For St Arnaud: Max Hungerford, Bailey Durward, Mitch Birthisel, Kurtis Torney, Darly Schilder, Luke Jackson.

Haeusler’s Reserves

SEA LAKE-NANDALY	6.3	12.4	17.8	23.11	(149)
WEDDERBURN	0.1	1.4	1.4	2. 5	(17)

Goals for Sea Lake Nandaly: John Summerhayes 6, Zachary Wemyss 5, Joel Clohesy 4, Brayden Allan 2, Isaac Durie 2, Tye Griffiths, Luke Martin, Harry Pitchford, Brody Weir. For Wedderburn: Levi Sims, Ashley Younghusband.

Best for Sea Lake Nandaly: Brody Weir, Connor Michael, Joel Clohesy, Zachary Wemyss, John Summerhayes, Rylee McGarry. For Wedderburn: Chris Hargreaves, Dylan Caruana, Andrew Roberts, Levi Sims, Noah Winslett, Ashley Younghusband.

CALDER UNITED	7.7	12.11	19.13	23.18	(156)
DONALD	0.0	0. 1	0. 1	0. 1	(1)

Goals for Calder United: Angus Forrester 5, George Forrester 4, Alexander Hogan 4, Billy Forrester 2, William Ison 2, Jack Morrison 2, Rowan Jones, Dude Kelly, Daniel Murray, Joel Pardella. For Donald: Nil.

Best for Calder United: Thomas Trewin, Angus Forrester, Zac Kelly, George Forrester, Dude Kelly, William Ison. For Donald: Jesse Lopes, Zackery Menhenett, Jack Tellefson, Chase Campbell, Hayden Clark, Jesse Lydom.

BIRCHIP-WATCHEM	7.2	9.3	12.8	14.11	(95)
CHARLTON	0.0	1.1	1.3	2. 3	(15)

Goals for Birchip-Watchem: Matthew Berry 4, Tom Gibson 3, Stefan Pye 2, Lochlan Sirett 2, Tison Wiantara 2, Archie Lewis. For Charlton: Isaac Bourke 2.

Best for Birchip-Watchem: Tom Gibson, Lochlan Sirett, Stefan Pye, Nick Ryan, Joshua Woods. For Charlton: Luke Dunne, John Leathan, Billy Sexton, Fergus Bourke, Ethan Needs, Marcus Campbell.

BOORT	0.1	4.3	7.7	8.11	(59)
ST ARNAUD	1.3	1.4	2.4	4. 5	(29)

Goals for Boort: Alex Cockerell 3, Chris Hatcher 3, Max Beattie, Jacob Mulquiny. For St Arnaud: Hayden Torney 2, Heath McNally, Harrison Meagher.

Best for Boort: Chris Hatcher, Max Beattie, Jacob Mulquiny, Cameron Ross, Nick Scott, Jack Hall. For St Arnaud: Jake Hicks, Joshua Hicks, James Mckenny, Hamish Darby, Jarryd Kell, Zachary Notting.

Community Bank Charlton & District Under-17s

SEA LAKE-NANDALY	7.3	13.6	14.11	17.15	(117)
WEDDERBURN	0.1	0.1	0. 1	1. 1	(7)

Best for Sea Lake Nandaly: Brayden Allan, Henry Cox, Nate McClelland, Cruz Dowler, Callum Mott, Brody Kelly.

For Wedderburn: Tyson Blair, Benjamin Cunningham, William Cunningham, Trav Lowe, Ashton Bellman.

CALDER UNITED	2.4	5.8	6.8	13.8	(86)
DONALD	0.1	1.2	3.6	5.6	(36)

Best for Calder United: Beau Chapman, Angus Cowell, Tynan Perry, Tiger Vearing, Jacob Harrison, Darcy Coles.

For Donald: Luca Rice, Jesse Lydom, Chase Campbell, Hugo Funcke.

CHARLTON	6.4	10.11	16.13	19.21	(135)
BIRCHIP-WATCHEM	0.0	0. 0	0. 1	0. 2	(2)

Best for St Arnaud: Sean Bridgeman, Aidan Wickham, Chase Zander, Chase Hendy, Rylan Leach, Hamish Tannock.

For Birchip-Watchem: Oliver Cook, Noah Dean, Willow Ryan, Jackson Goss

CHARLTON	4.3	7.5	9.6	12.12	(84)
BIRCHIP-WATCHEM	0.0	0.1	1.1	1. 1	(7)

Best for Charlton: Sebastian Zagame, Leigh Van Boven, Isaac Bourke, Murphy Fitzpatrick, Rhys Gahan, Mitchell Boyle.

For Birchip-Watchem: Noah Dean, Willow Ryan, Bayley Kemp, Liam Spezza.

ST ARNAUD	1.0	2.4	3.5	5. 6	(36)
BOORT	2.3	2.3	3.6	3.10	(28)

Best for St Arnaud: Austin Lowe, Chase Zander, William Thomas, Nathan Saludes, Sean Bridgeman, Jack Batters.

For Boort: Deklan King, Cooper Gooding, Jake O'Flaherty, Darby Perryman, Deacon Hird.

Next Round

Round 9, Saturday June 21 -

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

Uniting Church Under-14s

SEA LAKE-NANDALY 7.2-44 D. WEDDERBURN 2.3-15

Best for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Henry Cox, Riley Allan, Randy Bailey, Messer Bailey, Harry Wight, Finn Austerberry.

For Wedderburn: Zane Polkinghorne, Jack Dierickx, William Huismann, Atilla Clarke, Archie Polkinghorne, Luke Martin.

DONALD 9.9-63 D. CALDER UNITED 1.1-7

Best for Donald: Nullah Clapham, Noah Michael, Jhonrick Vincent Embate, Darnell Clapham, Emmett Geddes, Max Reilly.

For Calder United: Harry Humphreys, Smith Morrison, Emma Kilby, Riley Beattie, Desmond Polzin, Levi Hall.

BIRCHIP-WATCHEM 11.8-74 D. CHARLTON 4.1-25

Best for Birchip-Watchem: Morgan Greenaway, Liam Spezza, Toby Kemp, George Greenaway.

For Charlton: Charlie Zagame, Cooper McGrath, Xav Good, Henry Lanyon, Tamsyn McGurk.

ST ARNAUD 6.13-49 D. BOORT 4.5-29

Best for St Arnaud: Chase Hendy, Lewis Lowe, Finn Wilson, Charlie Kirk, Jack McNally, Sami Weir.

For Boort: Archer Lee, Connor McNally, Seth Muller, Liam King, Jed Perryman.

Positions of Teams

Goldacres North-Central Seniors

Teams	P	Pts	%	W	L	D	B	For	Ag
Birchip-Watchem	8	32	325.43	8	0	0		1139	350
Calder United	8	24	313.77	6	2	0		1048	334
Sea Lake Nandaly	8	24	298.28	6	2	0		1038	348
Boort	8	24	154.39	6	2	0		880	570
Wedderburn	8	12	127.27	3	5	0		658	517
Charlton	8	8	23.45	2	6	0		265	1130
St Arnaud	8	4	41.54	1	7	0		383	922
Donald	8	0	11.37	0	8	0		159	1399

Haeuslers Reserves

Teams	P	Pts	%	W	L	D	B	For	Ag
Calder United	8	32	745.76	8	0	0		880	118
Boort	8	28	347.64	7	1	0		737	212
Birchip-Watchem	8	24	240.84	6	2	0		749	311
Sea Lake Nandaly	8	20	189.74	5	3	0		721	380
Wedderburn	8	12	34.95	3	5	0		267	764
St Arnaud	8	8	81.01	2	6	0		384	474
Charlton	8	4	38.74	1	7	0		277	715
Donald	8	0	8.28	0	8	0		94	1135

Community Bank Charlton and District Under-17s

Teams	P	Pts	W	L	D	B
St Arnaud	8	32	8	0	0	
Sea Lake Nandaly	8	24	6	2	0	
Calder United	8	20	5	3	0	
Boort	8	20	5	3	0	
Charlton	8	16	4	4	0	
Donald	8	12	3	5	0	
Wedderburn	8	4	1	7	0	
Birchip-Watchem	8	0	0	8	0	

Uniting Church Under-14s

Teams	P	Pts	W	L	D	B
Sea Lake-Nandaly	8	28	7	1	0	
St Arnaud	8	28	7	1	0	
Donald	8	20	5	3	0	
Wedderburn	8	20	5	3	0	
Calder United	8	12	3	5	0	
Boort	8	8	2	6	0	
Birchip-Watchem	8	8	2	6	0	
Charlton	8	4	1	7	0	

Tooleybuc Sporting Club Presidents’ Award

Voting for round 8:

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

Wedderburn: J. Lockhart 2, J. McEwan 2, J. Mortlock 1.

Calder United: R. Smith 3, S. Kennedy 2, J. Excel 1.

Donald: C. Campbell 3, D. Pearce 2, T. Reekie 1.

Birchip-Watchem: N. Rippon 3, B. Lakin 2, C. Wilson 1.

Charton: J. Thompson 3, R. Thompson 2, B. Dixon 1.

Boort: L. Hall 3, C. Egan 2, K. Rutley 1.

Saturday’s Leading Goal Kickers

Seniors

Ben Edwards (B-W) 6	64
Jack Exell (CU) 8	42
Jhye Baddeley-Kelly (Boort) 3	38
Max Cahoon (SLNT) 2	23
Nicholas Rippon (B-W) 3	21
Lachy McClelland (SLNT) -	20
Kayne Rutley (Boort) 1	20
Mitch Jensen (Wedd) 4	20
Thomas Cox (SLNT) -	18

Reserves

Zachary Wemyss (SLNT) 5	23
Harry Weaver (Boort) -	20
Heath Senior (CU) -	20
John Summerhayes (SLNT) 6	20
Alex Cockerell (Boort) 3	20
Alexander Hay (B-W) -	19
George Forrester (CU) -	18
Matthew Berry (B-W) 4	18
Joel Clohesy (SLNT) 4	

CHS Broadbent Club Championship

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

	Snr.	Res.	U-17	U-14	Ttl.
Calder United	10	6	4	0	132
Sea Lake-Nandaly	10	6	4	2	128
Boort	10	6	0	0	126
Birchip-Watchem	10	6	0	2	120
St Arnaud	0	0	4	2	68
Wedderburn	0	0	0	0	62
Charlton	0	0	4	0	44
Donald	0	0	0	2	22

Lions Take Second Place

In the coldest playing conditions experienced on game day so far for season 2025, the Calder United Lions came out victors on Saturday as the North Central Football, Netball and Hockey Leagues acknowledged “Maddi’s Round”.

As mentioned in the scripted speech given to both senior teams at the beginning of the Senior match by president Ricky Allan, followed by a minute’s silence, “no one fights alone,” and this is what the Lions showed from the first bounce. The Lions put up a united front and kicked their way to second position on the NCFL ladder.

Jack Exell managed to add another 8 goals to his tally for the season, whilst Rylee Smith managed to kick 4 goals.

Smith, along with Steven Kennedy and Zane Keighran, were named the top three best players for the Lions. Kennedy continues to show

his consistent talent and was observed leading the way in the middle with his class and skill for the entirety of the match.

Fifteen-year-old Calder Lions player Tiger Vearing played his first senior match and did not disappoint. Tiger managed to kick a goal in the final term of the game which is sure to imprint his first senior match for the Lions in his mind for a long time to come.

For the Royal Blues, Daniel Pearce continues to work tirelessly week in, week out, and led from the front, with Charlie Campbell and ruckman Brady Griffiths putting in recognisable on field performances.

Full Time: Calder Lions 23. 29 – (167) defeated Royal Blues 0.1 – (1).

Calder Lions best players: Rylee Smith, Steven Kennedy, Zane Keighran, Jack Exell, Josh Walsh and Koby Hommelhoff.

Goal-kickers: Jack Exell (8), Rylee Smith (4), Mitch Farmer (3), Zane Keighran (2), Cody Green (2), Steve Kennedy (1), George Turner (1), Darcy Munro (1), Tiger Vearing (1).

Royal Blues best players: Charlie Campbell, Brady Griffiths, Daniel Pearce, Joshua Smulders, Thomas Reekie and Dyson Bell-Warren.



• Donald’s Tom Reekie and Calder’s Darcy Munro ruck watched on by rovers Eddie Landwehr and Daniel Watts.



• Battling each other for the Sherrin are Donald’s Eddie Landwehr and Lions’ Charlie Fawcett. Donald player in the background is Samuel Arho.



• Both Donald’s Charlie Campbell and United’s Jack Exell get hands on the Sherrin. Other players, left to right, Rylee Smith (Calder), Dyson Bell-Warren (Donald) and Cody Green (Calder).



• Rylee Smith gets the kick away just in time from the pressure of Brady Griffiths.

North-Central Netball

Last Saturday’s results:

“A” Grade
Calder United 43 d. Donald 39, Birchip-Wat 67 d. Charlton 43, Wedderburn 52 d. Sea Lake-Nan 34, Boort 73 d. St Arnaud 28.

“B” Grade
Calder United 48 d. Donald 41, Birchip-Wat 51 d. Charlton 24, Boort 53 d. St Arnaud 48, Wedderburn 70 d. Sea Lake-Nan 29.

“C” Grade
Calder United 70 d. Donald 10, Birchip-Wat 85 d. Charlton 27, Boort 59 d. St Arnaud 40, Wedderburn 49 d. Sea Lake-Nan 35.

“C” Grade Reserves
Boort 81 d. St Arnaud 15, Wedderburn 23 def. by Sea Lake-Nan 75.

Seventeen-and-Under
Boort 39 drew with St Arnaud 39, Wedderburn 26 def. by Sea Lake-Nan 67, Calder United 87 d. Donald 17, Birchip-Wat 50 d. Charlton 31.

Fourteen-and-Under “A”
Birchip-Wat 30 d. Charlton 0, Wedderburn 21 d. Sea Lake-Nan 12, Calder United 18 def. by Donald 23, Boort 34 d. St Arnaud 12.

Fourteen-and-Under “B”
Calder United 16 d. Donald 4, Wedderburn 23 d. Sea Lake-Nan 2, Boort 9 d. St Arnaud 8.

Results of round 8:

	P	W	L	D	B	FW	FL	F	A	Pts	%
Wedderburn	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	436	258	32	169
Boort	7	5	2	0	0	0	0	367	312	20	118
Birchip-Wat	8	5	3	0	0	0	0	417	355	20	117
Sea Lake-Nan	8	5	3	0	0	0	0	337	296	20	114
Calder United	8	5	3	0	0	0	0	359	320	20	112
Donald	8	2	6	0	0	0	0	338	378	8	89
Charlton	8	1	7	0	0	0	0	283	423	4	67
St Arnaud	7	0	7	0	0	0	0	212	407	0	52

	P	W	L	D	B	FW	FL	F	A	Pts	%
Wedderburn	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	493	281	32	175
Boort	8	7	1	0	0	0	0	416	328	28	127
Calder United	8	6	2	0	0	0	0	395	324	24	122
Birchip-Wat	8	5	3	0	0	0	0	398	328	20	121
St Arnaud	8	3	5	0	0	0	0	329	390	12	88
Donald	8	1	6	1	0	0	0	310	374	6	83
Sea Lake-Nan	8	1	6	1	0	0	0	301	401	6	75
Charlton	8	0	8	0	0	0	0	186	402	0	46

	P	W	L	D	B	FW	FL	F	A	Pts	%
Calder United	8	7	1	0	0	0	0	467	198	28	236
Wedderburn	8	6	2	0	0	0	0	375	304	24	123
Sea Lake-Nan	8	6	2	0	0	0	0	320	260	24	123
Birchip-Wat	8	5	3	0	0	0	0	375	279	20	134
Boort	8	5	3	0	0	0	0	336	308	20	109
St Arnaud	8	2	6	0	0	0	0	300	324	8	93
Charlton	8	0	8	0	0	0	0	238	460	0	52
Donald	8	1	7	0	0	0	0	183	461	0	40

	P	W	L	D	B	FW	FL	F	A	Pts	%
Sea Lake-Nan	6	6	0	0	2	0	0	325	127	24	.43
Boort	6	5	1	0	1	0	0	340	120	20	.47
Calder United	3	2	0	2	0	0	0	178	117	12	.30
Birchip-Wat	5	2	3	0	2	0	0	123	210	8	.12
Wedderburn	6	1	5	0	2	0	0	140	312	4	.07
St Arnaud	6	0	6	0	1	0	0	121	341	0	.06

	P	W	L	D	B	FW	FL	F	A	Pts	%
Calder United	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	601	184	32	327
Birchip-Wat	8	6	2	0	0	0	0	431	287	24	150
Boort	7	5	2	0	0	0	0	303	247	20	123
Sea Lake-Nan	8	5	3	0	0	0	0	338	345	20	98
St Arnaud	7	4	3	0	0	0	0	337	270	16	125
Charlton	8	2	6	0	0	0	0	271	338	4	80
Wedderburn	8	1	7	0	0	0	0	235	469	4	50
Donald	8	0	8	0	0	0	0	174	550	0	32

	P	W	L	D	B	FW	FL	F	A	Pts	%
Boort	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	233	84	32	277
Birchip-Wat	8	7	1	0	0	0	0	235	84	28	280
Donald	8	6	2	0	0	0	0	217	92	24	236
Calder United	8	4	4	0	0	0	0	161	138	16	117
St Arnaud	8	3	5	0	0	0	0	142	142	12	100
Charlton	8	1	7	0	0	0	0	64	214	4	30
Sea Lake-Nan	7	1	6	0	0	0	0	50	207	4	24
Wedderburn	7	1	6	0	0	0	0	38	179	4	21

	P	W	L	D	B	FW	FL	F	A	Pts	%
St Arnaud	7	6	1	0	1	0	0	132	36	24	.52
Boort	7	6	1	0	1	0	0	121	52	24	.33
Birchip-Wat	6	4	2	0	2	0	0	98	57	16	.29
Wedderburn	6	2	3	1	1	0	0	57	90	10	.11
Calder United	7	1	4	2	1	0	0	49	69	8	.10
Donald	7	1	5	1	1	0	0	50	125	6	.06
Sea Lake-Nan	6	0	4	2	1	0	0	22	100	4	.04

Bulls Remain Unbeaten

(By Blake Lee)

Birchip-Watchem’s 137-point win over Charlton might have looked one-sided on paper, but the Navies showed grit throughout the contest, holding off what could have been an even greater blowout.

Despite going goalless until the final term, Charlton’s persistence never wavered. The Navies chased, tackled and pushed to the siren – a show of character in a match dominated by the home side.

The Bulls got off to a solid start. Ruckman Hamish Hosking used his strength against Charlton skipper Ben Lanyon to feed the ball to Daniel Bell, who drove it forward early. Birchip-Watchem’s midfield clicked into gear, and the scoreboard started ticking.

In defence, Darcy McCallum stood tall for the Navies, trying to spark transitions from the backline. But the Bulls had answers. Dale Hinkley repeatedly cut off Charlton’s forward entries and launched attacks of his own.

Meyrick Buchanan was sharp at ground level, scooping up the footy cleanly to slot the Bulls’ first major.

Young Riley Hogan made his first Senior appearance for the year and impressed with his courage around the contest, while Charlie Frank and Austin Dean continued to build on solid seasons, playing their roles with maturity.

Charlton coach Mitch Collins brought strong pressure around the ball early, laying tough tackles before being forced from the game after a

high hit. The Navies earned several free kicks through high contact but struggled to convert territory into scoring chances against the Bulls’ rock-solid backline.

At the other end, Ben Edwards loomed large but was kept to six goals for the match – a strong defensive effort from Bailey Hooper-Dixon, especially considering Edwards slotted 13 in their last encounter.

Birchip-Watchem led 5.5 (35) to nil at quarter-time. Collins urged his players to keep believing and to push harder beyond the 20-minute mark.

The Bulls only grew stronger in the second, with Hosking and Bell continuing their slick midfield connection, and Lachie Ryan pushing forward from defence with run and carry.

Charlton’s Archer Patterson was unlucky to miss a set shot after a strong grab, while Birchip-Watchem kept surging. Jacob Christie and Bill Lee linked up well through the corridor, giving the Bulls constant forward momentum.

McCallum and Mason Heenan tried to lift the Navies upfield, but turnovers and wayward kicking hurt. Despite efforts from Liam O’Keefe, Jed Thompson and Patrick Soulsby, targets

proved hard to find inside 50.

Lachie Ryan intercepted a Charlton kick-in and set up another Bulls goal. Cormacc Wilson also stood out with smart intercepts and composed play.

By halftime, Birchip-Watchem had restricted the Navies to just one point.

Charlton rallied in the second half. Ben Xiriha cleared from the centre with intent, while young Seb Zagame impressed with courageous play. Buchanan and Nick Rippon kept the Bulls ticking over, but their dominance was challenged more often.

Dixon continued his excellent work down back, spoiling Ben Edwards and limiting his influence. Meanwhile, Elliott Fitzpatrick and Angus Johnstone helped clear the ball out of the defensive 50 for the visitors.

The Bulls kicked five goals in the third quarter, but Charlton’s defensive efforts lifted, restricting further damage. Lachy Foott’s pace along the wing created more scoring opportunities, though the Navies held up well.

A final-quarter set shot gave Charlton fans hope, but it fell short – cleared by Ben Hogan. Not long after, Rhys Thompson gathered and found Zagame on the move, who slotted the Navies’ first and only goal to well-earned cheers from the hill.

The Bulls closed the match strong. Jack Lee went hard into contests, Wilson kept intercepting, and Ben Lakin was a wall in defence, continually rebounding Charlton’s attacks. Marshall Rippon added two goals, while brother Nick finished with three in a complete team performance.

Birchip-Watchem sealed a commanding 21.18 (144) to 1.1 (7) victory, keeping the ball locked in their forward half for much of the day.



• Birchip-Watchem’s Dale Hinkley runs clear from Josh Harris

Awards for Birchip-Watchem: Nick Rippon, Ben Lakin, Cormacc Wilson, Rhona Conboy, Hamish Hosking, Lachie Ryan.

Charlton: Jed Thompson, Rhys Thompson, Bailey Hooper-Dixon, Elliott Fitz-

patrick, Patrick Soulsby, Archer Patterson.

But Saturday was about more than just the scoreboard. Across the league, Maddi’s Round and All Cancers Round gave clubs a chance to pause and reflect on causes

that reach far beyond the game.

Inspired by that spirit, Charlton played with heart, holding firm until the final siren. For the Bulls, it was another confident stride toward a promising finals campaign.



• Mitch Collins covers the mouth of Marshall Rippon as Nick Rippon demands the footy.

North-Central Hockey

Results of round 8 —

Under-12s: Wedderburn 1 d. Sea Lake-Nan 0, Calder United 6 d. Donald 0, Birchip-Wat 7 d. Charlton 0, Boort 1 drew with St Arnaud 1.

Underage: Calder United Lions 2 d. Donald 1, Birchip-Wat 1 def. by Charlton 10, Boort 1 def. by St Arnaud 5.

Women: Wedderburn 3 d. Sea Lake-Nan 0, Calder United 2 d. Donald 1, Boort 1 def. by St Arnaud 5.

Men: Wedderburn 3 d. Sea Lake-Nan 1, Calder United 1 def. by Donald 2, Boort 1 drew with St Arnaud.

POSITIONS OF TEAMS

Women

	P	W	D	L	F	For	Agst	SD	Pts	WR
Calder United	7	6	0	1	0	27	9	18	18	86
St Arnaud	7	6	0	1	0	24	9	15	18	86
Charlton	6	5	0	1	0	24	8	16	15	83
Boort	7	3	0	4	0	22	25	-3	9	43
Wedderburn	7	2	1	4	0	12	13	-1	7	33
Donald	7	1	1	5	0	7	22	-15	4	19
Sea Lake-Nan	7	0	0	7	0	1	31	-30	0	0

Men

Donald Men	7	6	0	1	0	18	7	11	18	86
Calder United	7	5	0	2	0	32	11	21	15	71
St Arnaud	7	4	2	1	0	25	6	19	14	67
Boort	7	3	1	3	0	28	9	19	10	48
Wedderburn	7	3	1	3	0	14	13	1	10	48
Sea Lake-Nan	7	1	0	6	0	6	33	-27	3	14
Charlton	6	0	0	6	0	4	48	-44	0	0

Underage

Charlton	7	7	0	0	0	43	4	39	21	100
St Arnaud	7	6	0	1	0	39	2	37	18	86
Boort	7	3	0	4	0	23	27	-4	9	43
Donald	7	3	0	4	0	20	25	-5	9	43
Calder United	7	2	1	4	0	8	13	-5	7	33
Birchip-Wat	7	1	1	5	0	13	50	-37	4	19
Sea Lake-Nan	6	1	0	5	0	7	32	-25	3	17

Under-12s

Birchip-Wat	8	7	0	1	0	52	6	46	21	88
Calder United	8	6	1	1	0	27	6	21	19	79
Charlton	8	6	1	1	0	18	9	9	19	79
St Arnaud	8	4	1	3	0	21	13	8	13	54
Wedderburn	8	3	1	4	0	11	8	3	10	42
Boort	8	1	1	6	0	2	26	-24	4	17
Sea Lake-Nan	8	1	1	6	0	1	33	-32	4	17
Donald	8	1	0	7	0	7	38	-31	3	13



• Jack Lee is under pressure from Jed Thompson as he gets the handball to Jacob Christie who is on the run.