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# The Buloke Times

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



## In Memory of Griffin

At the end of Saturday's reserves football game at Charlton, and prior to the seniors taking to the field, players and spectators joined in honouring a greatly admired young man and Charlton footballer – Griffin House, who passed away on Monday, May 12.

A minute's silence was preceded by the following tribute from the president of the Charlton Football Club, Kris Dixon,

on behalf of football, hockey and netball communities.

"We are all gathered here today to honour one of our own, Griffin House. To those of us who knew him, he was a quiet and gentle natured young man who always had a smile on his face, and there was nothing that he loved more than playing the game of football with his mates.

"Griffin was the heart and soul of our reserves side, who gave his all every week. He was the first one to training almost

every night from pre-season sessions till the last game of the year, along with helping out the under-17 boys with training.

"Griffin was also a senior committee member who was a great clubman who always put his hand up to help out with a duty, never once hesitating, and our club along with our entire community will miss him greatly.

"To his family and friends, although he may be gone, he will never be forgotten, and he will forever be in our hearts.

"RIP Griffin".

## Cargill Cares: Birchip Leisure Centre Benefits

The Birchip Community Leisure Centre (BCLC) is celebrating a significant boost thanks to the generous support of Cargill Cares, which has donated \$25,000 to help fund the installation of a new and much-needed coolroom.

The coolroom will be a game-changer for the centre, improving food storage and service capacity for the many community events, sporting functions, and private gatherings held at the venue throughout the year.

BCLC President Fiona Best said the donation was a timely and welcome investment in

the town's key community asset.

"The Leisure Centre is a hub for Birchip. Whether it's footy or netball events, local celebrations, or fundraisers, this facility brings people together," she said.

"The new coolroom will make a real difference to how

• Continued on page 2.



• Leisure Centre Executive Fiona Best and Julie Coffey with Andrew Barber (Cargill Cares) and Brendan Beasley (project co-ordinator).

## Billions Cut from Public Education

The State Government has secretly cut billions of dollars in funding to Victorian public schools.

In March 2024, the State Government's Budget and Finance Committee agreed to quietly delay hundreds of millions of dollars a year in Student Resource Package (SRP) funding. The funding cut to public schools was signed off by Premier Jacinta Allan and hidden in the 2024-25 budget papers.

SRP funding represents the agreed split of government and non-government school funding between the Commonwealth and State Governments.

Under a November 2023 agreement, Victoria committed to fully fund its 75 per cent share of government school costs by 2028, which has been

quietly delayed to 2031 – representing an effective funding cut of \$2.4 billion to public schools.

### Lowest in Nation

These inexcusable cuts follow the recent National Report on Schooling in Australia which confirmed Victorian students at government

schools received the lowest level of funding in the nation.

Following a decade of financial mismanagement under Labor, Victoria's net debt is set to reach a record \$187.3 billion by 2027-28 and interest repayments will exceed more than \$1 million an hour.

Shadow Minister for Education, Jess Wilson, said: "These secret cuts have exposed

Labor's utter hypocrisy on public school funding and their failure to provide Victorian students with the education they need and deserve.

"Whilst spending years demanding the Commonwealth lift their proportion of government school funding beyond agreed levels, the Government was secretly cutting billions from public schools.

"Labor's cuts will cement Victoria as the state with the lowest funding rate for public schools per student in the nation.

"It's a test of the Deputy Premier's authority within the Government whether he can reverse these cuts in the upcoming Budget so that no public school is worse off.

# Mayors Say “Nay”

Shadow Minister for Local Government, Bev McArthur MP, has joined an unprecedented gathering of six Western Victorian mayors united in opposition to the Allan Labor Government’s controversial emergency services tax.

Participating mayors included: Cr Kate Makin (Corangamite Shire), Cr Karen Foster (Moyne Shire), Cr Ben Blain (Warrnambool City), Cr Jason Schram (Colac Otway Shire), Cr Tanya Kehoe (Pyrenees Shire), Cr Jo Armstrong (Ararat Rural City), Glenelg Shire Mayor Cr Karen Stephens and Southern

## “Scrap The Tax”

(By Becky Barry – formerly Becky Conlan from Donald, daughter of Gerard (dec.) and Maree formerly Clements).

Hey Jacinta, did you know,  
There’s more to Vic than city glow?  
We live where fences stretch for days,  
And dust hangs thick in a drought filled haze.

Our roads are rough, our tanks run dry,  
The clouds roll in, but they pass us by.  
And while we battle heat and dust,  
You tax us more and call it just.

You talk up free rides for all the kids,  
But we’re still stuck with what little there is.  
No trains at all, a bus a day,  
Looks good on paper, not out our way.

The ESVL tax will cut deep,  
On all country Victorians who can barely make ends meet.  
We fight to feed the state each day,  
And now you make us overpay.

The CFA, our local pride,  
Volunteers who stand side by side.  
They drop it all when the sirens sound,  
Now they’re pushed to lay their hoses down.

We feel like we’re worthless for you to attack,  
Yet we’re the ones who’ve always had your back.  
We stock your shelves, we raise your meat,  
We keep our country on its feet.

But drought’s still biting, fuel’s sky high,  
And now this levy, tell us why?  
It’s not just us who’ll feel the blow,  
Prices rise, and costs will grow.

So don’t pretend it’s just our fight,  
This hits the whole state overnight.  
You’ve forgotten us, that much is clear,  
But us country folk, we persevere.

Just know this truth before we’re through,  
The bush remembers what you do.  
And when the time comes back our way,  
We’ll speak the truth you pushed away.

\*\*\*

Becky lives on a farm with her husband Rob and 2 daughters at Kiata, which is between Kiata and Nhill, where they have run a duck farm and Becky is also a modern rural wedding and funeral celebrant. Becky and Rob also recently experienced first hand the Little Dessert National Park bushfires.

Grampians Shire Mayor Cr Dennis Heslin were unable to attend but expressed strong support for the cause.

The mayors called for a fairer funding model for rural communities – who will be hardest hit by the tax – along with clearer communication regarding the tax’s purpose and use. They also urged the Government to take responsibility for collection or provide compensation to councils acting on its behalf.

**Collective Action**  
Standing alongside the mayors outside the Mortlake CFA Station, Mrs McArthur commended their collective action.

“I have never seen a coalition of agreement like this,” Mrs McArthur said.

“I will stand with every municipality that will bear the brunt of this totally unfair new tax.

“Local government should not be the debt collector for this state.

“Funding the safety of citizens should be the government’s number one priority and should not require an extra tax.”

**Deceptively Named**  
Mrs McArthur said the tax was deceptively named: “It’s a brand new property tax on volunteers, not a fund for volunteers.

“The Minister couldn’t even guarantee during the debate in Parliament that the money would return to the communities that are carrying the burden of this tax.”

Mrs McArthur also highlighted the compounding pressures on rural Victorians, especially farmers already facing drought, livestock losses, high interest rates, and rising input costs.

“The only way we can defeat this tax is to defeat this government in 2026.”

# Letter to the Editor



## National Volunteers Week

(The Editor, “The Times”)  
Dear Editor.– As we celebrate National Volunteers Week, I’d like to acknowledge the dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly to support our local organisations, charities and emergency services.

With this year’s theme, Connecting Communities, we recognise the vital role volunteers play in fostering inclusivity and helping communities thrive. Our volunteers play an essential role in creating a more connected and compassionate community.

Locally, we are fortunate to have outstanding volunteer organisations including Sun-Assist, State Emergency Service (SES), Country Fire Authority (CFA) and

CHAILIS. These groups provide vital services across community transport, emergency response, cultural support, fire safety, and assistance for vulnerable families.

We also acknowledge the many other volunteer organisations and individuals across our region whose contributions are equally important. Whether it’s through involvement in sporting groups, enhancing community safety, protecting our environment, or supporting residents in need, volunteers shape the character and wellbeing of our region.

I have the highest respect for those who dedicate their time to volunteering and I encourage the wider community to show their support.

Every volunteer deserves recognition for the selfless work they do. This week is about celebrating them and also inspiring others to get involved.

Without volunteers, many local services and sporting clubs simply wouldn’t exist. Their dedication strengthens the fabric of our community and ensures vital programs continue to operate.

National Volunteer Week runs from May 19 – 25 and is a fantastic opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate the incredible work of volunteers across our communities.

Warm regards,

Jade Benham, MP.

# “Thunderbolts”

Strap in for the super-hero film based on the Marvel Comic’s Universe as “Thunderbolts\*” bursts onto the big screen at The Rex this weekend.

This high-octane adventure is a re-imagining of the superhero theme – this time featuring a group of anti-heroes, former villains, and morally ambiguous characters

who are forced to work together for a common cause.

Welcome to Yelena Belova, Bucky Barnes, Red Guardian, Ghost, Taskmaster

## Birchip Leisure Centre Benefits

### • Continued from page 1.

we cater for our community, and we’re incredibly grateful to Cargill Cares for their generosity and ongoing commitment to Birchip.”

Cargill Cares is the philanthropic arm of Cargill Australia, which supports grassroots initiatives that enhance the wellbeing of rural communities.

Local farmer and Cargill representative Andy Barber said the donation reflected Cargill’s strong connection to the region and belief in the power of community.

“We’re proud to support the Birchip Community Leisure Centre and help deliver practical improvements that will be used and appreciated by so many people in the town,” he said.

The coolroom installation occurred just in time for the Winter sports season, adding to ensuring the centre remains a vibrant and functional space for all.

The BCLC committee extends its heartfelt thanks to Cargill Cares for helping keep Birchip’s community spirit cool, fresh and strong.

and John Walker. After finding themselves ensnared in a death trap set by Valentina Allegra de Fontaine, these disillusioned castoffs must embark on a dangerous mission that will force them to confront the darkest corners of their pasts. Will this dysfunctional group tear themselves apart, or find redemption and unite as something much more before it’s too late?

Tension builds from assembling this squad of characters with questionable motives and checkered pasts. Add in the action-packed rollercoaster ride of epic show-downs, intense heists, jaw-dropping feats of strength with the stakes always being life-or-death. The missions they undertake are clever and often unconventional, requiring the team to think outside the box, make split-second decisions, and occasionally break some rules to win the day. The action is relentless, while the film is both emotional and raw.

With a cast led by Florence Pugh, “Thunderbolts\*” is an emotionally charged dive into the world of MCU, where the exploration of loyalty, trust, and heroism and villainy is brought to the fore.

Hang on for the ride!

“Thunderbolts\*” (PG 126 mins |Action) screens Saturday, May 31, 8 p.m. | Sunday, June 1, 2 p.m. | Tuesday, June 3, 8 p.m..

## Your Blood is Worth Bottling

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

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“All right, I’m waiting. Do your magic trick.”

## Corack East Wind

Renewable Energy from ACEN



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

### Drop-in information hub Every Wednesday

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

**Wed, 28 May - Donald 12-5pm\***  
Scout Hall, Racecourse Road  
\* please note different time for this session

**4 June - Birchip 1-6pm**  
Birchip Leisure Centre

**11 June - Charlton 1-6pm**  
Charlton Park Community Bank Complex

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

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

 1800 498 550

 Corack East Wind

Bringing Scientific and On-farm Expertise...

# New Directors for BCG Board

Birchip Cropping Group (BCG) is pleased to announce the appointment of two new members to its Board, Dr. Marisa Collins and Mr. Giles Cunningham, bringing deep scientific, educational, and on-ground production expertise to help shape the future direction of the organisation.

Dr. Marisa Collins, Associate Professor in Agronomy at La Trobe University, joins the BCG Board with over two decades of experience in agricultural research, education, and industry collaboration.

Hailing from a family farm in the Victorian Mallee, Dr Collins has worked across Australia's leading agricultural research institutions including the University of Melbourne, CSIRO, University of Queensland, and La Trobe University.

Research

Her research, funded by GRDC, AgriFutures and the Department of Agriculture, has focused on improving crop productivity through better water-use efficiency, understanding crop responses to heat and drought, and enhancing nitrogen fixation in legumes. Her leadership in tertiary education has shaped modern agronomy curricula across Australia, and her commitment to linking science with the paddock is a natural fit with BCG's mission.

"As a long-time admirer of BCG's role in supporting farmers with practical, farmer-led research, I'm excited to contribute more deeply," Dr Collins said.

"BCG's ability to attract and develop top-tier talent, while staying deeply connected to growers' needs, is

something I'm proud to support."

Corporate Manager

Mr Giles Cunningham, a corporate farm manager with more than 15 years' experience across dryland and irrigated systems, brings a commercial and operational lens to the BCG Board. With a background in strategic farm planning, agronomy, machinery investment, irrigation design, and financial governance, Giles offers critical insight into the practical and business realities of running high-performing farms.

"I've always believed the best innovation comes from applied research developed in close partnership with growers," Mr Cunningham said.

"BCG is a national leader in this space, and I'm thrilled to support and represent the region's growers on the Board."

"Thrilled"

BCG CEO Fiona Best welcomed the appointments, saying: "We are thrilled to welcome Marisa and Giles to the BCG Board. Their diverse skill sets and deep commitment to agriculture will be invaluable as we deliver on our mission to create enduring prosperity for farming communities. I'm really looking forward to working with them both as we continue to tackle



• Marisa Collins.

the challenges and seize the opportunities facing our region."

BCG chairman, John Ferrier, a Birchip-based farmer, also endorsed the appointments: "The strength of BCG lies in its people, and the appointment of Marisa and Giles adds to that strength. They each bring unique insights and energy that will help guide the organisation in its strategic direction. It's an exciting time to be part of BCG."

These appointments reaffirm BCG's commitment to strong, strategic governance and its enduring mission to ensure the long-term prosperity of farmers through regionally relevant, world-class research and extension.



• Giles Cunningham



• Local laws on burn-offs can apply year-round. Check with your local council before lighting up.

## Check Before Lighting Up

**Burning off grass, stubble, weeds, undergrowth or other vegetation is generally permitted outside the Fire Danger Period.**

Local laws on burn-offs can apply year-round. Check with your local council before lighting up.

Before burning off, ensure:

- You're following regulations or laws by CFA and your local council.

- You notify your neighbours if your activity will generate fire and smoke.

- Check the weather forecast for the day of the activity and a few days afterwards.

- Establish a gap in vegetation or fire break with no less than three metres cleared of all flammable material.

- There are enough people to monitor, contain and extinguish the burn safely and effectively.

Unregistered burn-offs can cause brigades to be called out unnecessarily.

Register Your Burn-Off

Notify Triple Zero Victoria of your planned burn:

- Online (Preferred) – Register online through the website. You can do so if your burn-off commences more than two hours from now.

- By Phone – If you wish to start your burn-off immediately, you may register your burn-off by calling Triple Zero Victoria on 1800 668 511, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. National Relay Service Users can ring 1300 555 727 and ask for Information to be relayed to Triple Zero Victoria

via 1800 668 511.

\* Please remember that emergency 000 calls will always take priority. Registering online is the fastest and simplest option.

Permits

Check CFA's Fire Permits page for information on permit requirements and application processes: <https://firepermits.vic.gov.au/>

## VFF Slams New Levy

**Despite strong opposition from the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF), the Country Fire Authority (CFA), and farmers from all corners of Victoria, the State Government's proposed Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund has passed a vote in Parliament.**

The VFF is deeply disappointed by this outcome and remains gravely concerned about the impact this levy will have on farmers, who are already under significant pressure from drought conditions and broader economic challenges.

While the government has announced a 16 per cent reduction in the levy for farmers and a temporary pause for those in drought-declared areas, these concessions do little to ease the broader burden that will be felt across regional and rural Victoria.

"The sheer reality is that this levy will create a crippling financial burden to farmers," said VFF president Brett Hosking. "This decision shows a clear disconnect between our state government and the day-to-day realities faced by those on the land."



• Brett Hosking

"It almost feels like the worse this drought gets, the harder the government pushes to take more from farmers," he added.

The VFF will continue to advocate for a fairer, more sustainable approach to funding emergency services, one that doesn't disproportionately penalise the very communities that rely on them most.

LET'S KEEP GOING

2025

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- May 28, Lynette Broughton
- May 29, Paul Brooks
- May 30, Jacob Bath
- May 31, Debbie Adams

If you know someone celebrating a special anniversary, let us know at  
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 M 98 mins | Drama

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# “Times” Classifieds

**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**  
**McDOUGALL.—**  
**John “Tosh”**  
 Passed away in Mackay, aged 74 years.

Dearly loved brother, brother-in-law and uncle of Pam, Yvonne and Joan and all their families.

*Rest in Peace John*

**BEREAVEMENT THANKS**  
*Robert “Bob” Baker*  
 27/02/1927 - 15/05/2025

Bob’s family would like to thank everyone who have offered their love and support following his passing. To every staff member of the Goodwin Village, we will be forever indebted to you for the care and respect which meant that Dad felt at “home” at all times. To those who spent time with Dad in his last week, we could not have asked for more. You were all exceptional. Thanks also to Dr. Oleg for your personal care.

We were able to celebrate Dad’s life and farewell from “the green” that had meant so much to him. Thank you to all the volunteers at the Donald Golf & Bowls Club who made this possible.

–Sue, Cheryl, Debra, Mandy, John and families.

**GARAGE SALE**  
 3/ 122 Woods St, Donald  
**Saturday, May 31**  
 8 a.m. start

Everything must go - priced to sell.

Fridge, washing machine, couch, roll-top desk, kitchen table (round) & chairs, bedside drawers, kitchen cabinet, single beds and more.

**SHED CLEAR OUT**  
 5 Corack Road, Donald  
**Friday, May 30**  
 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Saturday, May 31**  
 from 10 a.m. until sold out

All the usual bits and pieces you would find in a country shed, as well as household goods and garden equipment — **everything must go!**

*Enter via the back gate on Elizabeth St. Cash Only.*

**BIRCHIP LANDCARE**  
**Tuesday, June 3**  
**7.30 p.m.**  
 AT THE RAILWAY STATION  
**Discuss Nesting Boxes**

All interested welcome  
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 Karen@klp.net.au

## MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

**DATES** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June  
**TIMES** 9:30am - 4:30pm (both days)  
**COST** FREE  
**VENUE** Birchip Community Leisure Centre  
*Catering provided.*

Locals of Buloke and surrounds are encouraged to sign up for FREE Mental Health First Aid training.

A great professional development opportunity and an invaluable asset to any workplace or club.

**Attendance at both days is required to complete the course.** Places are limited so please confirm you place quickly!

Please call Stacey: **0467 746 606** or email: **stacey.keller@ewhs.org.au** to secure your place.

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SMD Automotive

Patience Beavis launching her teams's trebuchet with Ms. Hamlett recording results

Students researched, brainstormed at least 5 designs and trialled prototypes prior to the construction of a final trebuchet. Materials used: masking tape, small spoon or bottle top, icy pole sticks and elastic bands.

Trebuchet Design - Layla Hepworth, Patience Beavis and Layla Griffith  
**DONALD HIGH SCHOOL YR 8 TED**

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# Charlton 100 Years Ago

(Information from “East Charlton Tribune”)

May 16 to 20, 1925.

**Inspectors Pleased:** The Board of Secondary School Inspectors visited the Higher Elementary School for 2 days. They made a general inspection – records, equipment, etc – also an inspection dealing with the activities of the pupils and teaching staff.

Everyone of the individual teachers was highly commended, viz, Mr Keogh (Geography and Arithmetic); Miss L. Soding (History and Mathematics), Miss Shotton French and English); Mr Bowe (Science); and Mr Anson (Drawing). The Inspectors specially commented on the refined atmosphere of the School. They were particularly pleased at the attitude of the pupils towards their teachers. Special reference was made to the fine work of the ladies’ committee, and the commendable efforts of the Ex-Students Association.

**Splendid Success:** Brilliant was the Woosang Annual Football Ball, held in the entirely renovated and repainted Woosang Hall. The attendance was a large one, 60 couples being present, while the lovely dresses worn have probably never been surpassed. The floor was in good order; and excellent music was played. A supper that was both dainty and sumptuous was provided by the ladies. Messrs H. McGurk, J. T. Muntz and A. McFarlane acted as doorkeepers. The fi-

nancial result was satisfactory.

**Granite’s Gala Day:** The picnic and concert at Granite Flat was a decided success, beautiful weather making the outing very enjoyable. About 250 people attended the picnic. Three schools combined – Jeffcott North, Granite Flat and Teddywaddy West. Interesting races between the pupils of the respective schools were run. It was a great day for the children. Fruit and lollies were provided by the committee. A basket tea, provided by the ladies of the district at 5 o’clock, brought a very pleasant afternoon to a close.

**Methodist Young People’s Guild:** The Session of the Guild opened with a social evening in the Sunday School Hall. This year the competitive element is being introduced, and teams were chosen. The captains will be: Purple team, Miss Elsie Wood and Mr L. Curnow; Gold team, Miss Cassie Curnow and Mr R. Lethlean. A short musical and elocutionary programme was contributed to by Miss Edie Curnow (recitation), Rev. A. G. Day and Mr J. S. Norton (songs). Games etc filled in the evening, and a dainty supper, provided by the ladies rounded off a fine inaugural gathering. The Guild meets weekly.

**New Tennis Courts:** Members of the Tennis Club,

debenture subscribers, and others interested, met at the Presbyterian Hall. The meeting was held to consider the report of the committee concerning the construction of the two new concrete courts. The committee recommended the acceptance of Mr H. B. Irwin’s estimate for the construction of the courts at a cost of £185 per court. Figures given were: Cost of the 2 courts, £370; fence (being necessary to keep wandering cattle off) £50; provision of water to mix the concrete £20; total £440. The committee has in hand £300 in debentures, cash in bank £27, leaving £113 still to be made up. A ball is being held in June which is expected to raise at least £30. The increase in membership and profits from tournaments will ensure the debentures will be gradually paid off.

**A Mixed Bag:** Rather novel was the experience of Mr W. Halligan just lately. He had gone about 4 miles out the Glenloth Road, intent on the pastime of the moment – the gathering of mushrooms – when 5 ducks rose in the paddock. Having no weapon with him, he took the car back to the Telegraph Hotel for his gun. On his return thus armed, the first quarry that “rose” was a fox. Reynard being duly despatched, Mr Halligan then secured 3 of the 5 ducks he had originally seen.



• Above: 1925 Woosang Junior Premier Football Team.

• Right: 1925c school.





## Police Beat



**Fire Koondrook:** On Sunday the 18th of May, 2025, police were called to assist local CFA members with a small fire along the Murray River in Koondrook. The witness who reported the incident had seen some young people in the vicinity prior to noticing the fire. CFA attended and were able to extinguish the fire. There was damage to a small area of bushland but fortunately no damage to property. An exploded deodorant can was located in what looked like a small home-made campsite.

**Criminal Damage Robinvale:** On the 14/05 at approx. 6 p.m. three teenage males attended a supermarket in Robinvale. At retail worker observed them with 5 bottles of body wash or similar concealed inside the bottom of a pram.

When questioned the males become agitated and just walked out the store without paying, or making any attempts to pay for the items. While leaving the store, one male intentionally struck the glass of the entrance sliding door resulting in damage to the value of approx. \$1000.

A short time later, another male returned to the store. He verbally assaulted and threw one of the items at a security guard.

**Thefts from 5 motor vehicles, Swan Hill:** Between 5:00 p.m. on 13th May and 8 a.m. on 17th May, unknown offender(s) have attended Pritchard Street, Swan Hill, and accessed a white Holden Ute. An Engel Fridge valued at \$1,600, was taken from the vehicle.

Between midnight and 7 a.m. on 15th May, the victim has parked their white Mitsubishi Pajero in the driveway of their home in Haig Court, Swan Hill.

Upon returning to the vehicle in the morning they observed the vehicle unlocked, and money and seat divider had been stolen.

Between 5:00 p.m. on the 17th and 8:00 a.m. on the 18th of May, offenders attended Ellwood CT, Swan Hill, and stole items from a grey Mazda. The stolen items include a Target handbag and cash valued at approximately \$230.

At 05:30 a.m. on 17th May, an unknown male has been captured on CCTV footage attempting to access two vehicle parked in the owner’s carport in Palaroo Street, Swan Hill. One vehicle was rummaged through, while the other vehicle was locked and could not be accessed.

The male captured was wearing dark clothing, gloves,

and a baseball cap covering his face.

Between 8:30 p.m. on 18th May and May 19, 2025, 6:30 a.m., unknown offender(s) have attended an address in Naretha Street, Swan Hill. A white Toyota Land Cruiser has been accessed and stolen property includes a wallet containing assorted cards and licences.

**Diesel Theft, Cohuna:** Between 4:30 p.m. on 14/05/25 and 0730 15/05/25 unknown offenders have attended the intersection of Keely and Station Road, Cohuna, where road plant equipment was left overnight. Offenders have removed fuel caps to an Isuzu tanker truck, roller and a grader. A total of 400L of diesel was then removed from the vehicles. The following items were taken from the tanker: 20 tonne jack and jack accessories, truck wheel brace, set of 10 spanners (10mm-24mm), Stilson adjustable spanner 450mm long, phillips and flat head screwdriver, ball-peen hammer, 10m air hose with clip on tyre inflator and gauge, straight podgy bar, bucket of fittings and adaptors for 100mm hoses, yard broom, long handled shovel, 200L fuel pod with blue lid, fire extinguisher.

**Theft from Motor Vehicle, Kerang:** On May 15, 2025,

between 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., offenders attended Fitzroy St, Kerang, and accessed a black Ford Focus. They have stolen an Apple Macbook laptop valued at \$1,500.

**Shop Thefts:** On 18/05 at approx. 10 a.m. two unknown males attended an Auto Electrics Shop in Campbell Street, Swan Hill. One male engaged a staff member at the counter, while the other male grabbed a box containing a CCTV security system, valued at \$850, and left the shop without making any attempt to pay for it.

At approx. 3.30 p.m. on 11th May, an unknown male has attended ALDI in Swan Hill and picked up a box containing a Ninebot Kickscooter valued at \$399 and placed it next to an unused check out line. The male has then purchased a single drink with cash and walked to the unused register and slid the box under the gate. Male has then picked up box and left without any persons noticing.

The reporting staff member has realised the theft during stock count and viewed footage which clearly shows male taking the scooter without paying.

The offender captured on CCTV appears approx. 50 years old, European in appearance bald, tanned, with

grey stubble, and around 170cm tall. He was wearing a black collared shirt, black shorts, and black shoes.

At approx. 2:45 p.m. on 18/05/2025 an unknown female walked into a bottle shop in Beveridge Street and took 2x Jack Daniels 700ml bottles valued at \$57 each. She made no attempt to pay for the items and has left the store. CCTV shows a Caucasian looking female, in her 40s or large build, wearing a pink hoodie and carrying a pink bag. She was wearing black pants and white sneakers.

At 6:20 p.m. on 17/05/2025 an offender has attended a bottle shop in Campbell Street, Swan Hill, and stolen 1 ltr Bundaberg Rum priced at \$65. The offender is described as a dark skinned female approximately 30 to 40 years old with a camouflage hoodie with fur trim.

At approx. 10:45 a.m. on 15/5/25 an unknown female has entered Supercheap Auto in Swan Hill. She has spent some time walking around the store and placed engine oil and a sheep skin steering wheel cover in a bag and left without paying. Theft valued at approx. \$60. The female captured on CCTV footage appears Caucasian, red hair, large build with tattoos on her arm, 165. Black leggings,

white t-shirt, white shoes

**Recovered Stolen Property:** Swan Hill Detectives have had a good result in investigating and tracking down offenders responsible for the early hours burglary on a Swan Hill bike shop earlier this month. Two offenders have been arrested and 3 stolen bikes recovered.

Members of the public attended Swan Hill Police station on 15/5/25 to participate in a Neighbourhood Policing Forum. The event was a positive engagement and managers were able to answer questions and provide insight to police work and vice versa.

Overall Swan Hill and the surrounding area have low levels of crime on a state wide comparison.

Victoria Police also run a Community Issues Register. If there is a public safety issue, you can contact the station and discuss the issue. It can then be put as a task for members when out on patrol. It was reinforced that Crime Stoppers is always completely anonymous and reports untraceable. Phone 1800 333 000.

Sgt Nigel McDonald retired from Victoria Police after serving for just shy of 50 years.

He has most recently been stationed in Charlton.

# The George Wood Story

At the May meeting of the Donald Historical Society, guest speaker Rhonda Russell, told the following story of her father, George Wood, a life-time member of the Donald district community.

George's great grandparents, Thomas Wood Snr. and Mary Wood lived in North Kyme, England. His grandfather Thomas Wood Jnr. was born 25/7/1868 at North Kyme, Billingham, England and, at the age of 18, landed in Australia determined to make a new start for himself.

Feeling the call of the land, he commenced farming in the Charlton District, then Dunolly area. Selling his interests there he then came north to Donald. Here he met Elizabeth Ann Brown, and they were married at St Arnaud, 13/10/1892. They had nine children Mary, Herbert, Walter, Florence, Amelia, Doris, Gladys, Percy and Leslie. Walter James, born 4/11/1898, was George's father.

Walter James grew up on the family farm at Massey and married the girl next door, Margaret Isabelle Ross. The Ross family was also farming at Massey, their land selected by John Ross in 1883. George remembers his father telling him of how the two would chat while walking the fence line when they were courting, not being brave enough to cross the boundary.

## Seven Children

Walter and Maggie (as she was known) married on 6/4/1927 and they lived at Massey, they had 7 children – Maisie (Spry), Gwenda (Gwen Anderson), Rita (Trollope), Lindsay, Elvie (Cossens), Donald and Walter "George".

Walter George Wood (known as Georgie to most) was born 5th January, 1938, and that was 7 children under the age of 10 years old, sharing the house at Massey. It had two bedrooms, a dining room, kitchen, a sleepout and a bathroom on the corner of the veranda. The toilet was outside of course. The walls of the house were lined with paper and hessian. Water came from a dam a mile or so

away and was carted by a horse pulling a tank that was filled by bucket.

## School

All attended school at Massey School No.1907, George for just for a few weeks as the family moved into Donald shortly after he started. George recalls sitting on top of all the furniture that was piled into the back of a truck for the journey into Donald. After the shift to town, Walter continued to work on the farm (which was sold to Feenys), going out at the start of the week then returning to the family home at 2 Lewis Street each weekend. During the school holidays the three boys, Lindsay, Donny and George would all be taken out to the farm with him to help with the work, but also to make it easier for Maggie with them all at home. Georgie played marbles, footy, cricket and tennis as a youngster and loved going hunting with the dogs, staghounds – "Lady" and "Brindle", ferreting, digging out the rabbit and fox holes. (The rabbits were food for the dogs and the family. Roast rabbit was very nice.)

George left school in 1953 after completing Intermediate Certificate (Year 10), not really sure that he passed. He then went to work as a farm-hand with Stewart and Joey Dunn. He used to ride his bicycle to work out on the Single Tree Road, about 6 miles, until he bought Stewart's 500cc motorcycle which he then rode, without a licence. George remembers shortly after, hitting a stone on the way to footy practice; skinned his arm and legs and bent the fence he slid into, but all was OK, so kept going to training. He also got to drive the 5 tonne Austin Bulk truck at harvest, not having a license then either. George did eventually turn 18 and get his

licence for the bike, car and truck. He drove the truck full of wheat into town, parked it at the station, met his Dad, went for the licence test then back to empty the truck and straight back to the farm. My, how times have changed.

## Marriage

George married Betty Andison on 21/11/1959 at the Presbyterian church in Donald. When asked how they met the answer was, "We always knew each other." Betty was a friend of his sisters, played sport with them and George and all were members of PFA (Presbyterian Fellowship Association). They had both grown up within the Church family and it continued to be a large part of their own family life. They bought a house at 7 Elizabeth Street, Donald, from Uncle Sam and Auntie Lorna Ross and lived there before moving out to Swanwater, where George was working at Harold Bath's farm. They rented the house in town out to Gordon and Elaine Giles. It was whilst living at Swanwater that Owen (11/01/1961) and Rhonda (18/05/1962) were born.

Five years on, and back in town, while waiting for Gileses to get their new home, they lived in the house at the meatworks, Betty remembering that that was when the new grain storage bins were being constructed. Then they moved back to Elizabeth Street. During this time George was working on the Wood Bros. farm (Laurie, Ron and Keith Wood, who were cousins of his) at Laen and Rich Avon. There was also a stint driving for BSW Transport (owned by Lindsay Broughton, Don Stevens and Lindsay Wood), carting mainly cattle and sheep for farmers. Over summer they carted cases of fruit, primarily peaches and tomatoes from Cobram to Melbourne during the week and from Cobram to Sydney at the weekends.

He then started work at the Donald Water Board with Oscar Muir. After Oscar retired, George, ably assisted by the plumbers around town (Onley Holdings and Hardingham's) worked as the water management officer for over 30 years until he retired in 2000.

Not to waste any time George always worked two jobs. His part time ones for most of this time were at the Meatworks where he worked 3 or 4 shifts a week, loading trucks from 5.00 p.m. till midnight or a day shift on the Sunday. After the closure of the meatworks, he was hired by Donald Shire as a part time cleaner at the new stadium.

## Renovations

A true jack-of-all-trades George took to renovating the Elizabeth Street house, updating the kitchen and building a laundry, bathroom and toilet on to the rear. The twins Mark and Neville were born 10/06/1969, while we were living in Elizabeth Street, a 3-



• DHES Intermediate Class c.1953.

bedroom home. The search was now on for a larger home in the centre of town, that being 10 Meyer Street, which was a 2-bedroom house, with George selling us on the excitement of "it has lot of possibility" oh, and some great fruit trees. The 6 of us moved in at the start of the 1970s and more renovations commenced.

Over the next couple of years all pitched in as the back veranda came down and two new bedrooms, a new kitchen extension, renovated bedroom and lounge room appeared. We always had to light the old donkey burner for hot water, so it was very exciting to be connected to the electric hot water service at this time. Later a new toilet and laundry were added and solar hot water panels to boost the supply required in the busy household. Through all these works the back yard was a huge building site but somehow the ever-plentiful walnut, lemon, apple and apricot trees survived. In the mix a four-berth garage that housed the car, ute, trailer and caravan and a small tool shed also appeared. After retirement, alterations were made to the bathroom and kitchen and solar panels were added to boost the electricity supply.

Dad, as with most people of this generation, was apt at just getting on with life, not letting the ongoing back pain and migraines he suffered slow him down too much. Except...

We all remember the time George was up painting the roof and those inside heard the unmistakable sound of the ladder sliding down the roof, then the thump of a body hitting the ground. We ran out and found Dad lying on his back, having landed, luckily on clear ground, between the oil heater tank, the monkey play bars he'd made for Rhonda and the fence. He couldn't stand so he crawled round from the side of the house, up the back steps, down the passage and up to the bedroom and into bed.

When there was no sign of recovery, Mum called the doctor who arrived with the question "How are you feeling George?" "All right," replied Dad, still barely able to move. He might well have added the

immortal words of the knight in Monty Python's the Holy Grail, "a mere flesh wound".

I think Mum got a bit cross with his stoicism at this point and yes, he had to admit defeat and stay lying in bed for several weeks as the body healed.

## Hard Worker

Dad was a hard worker, ever keen to get on with the job and this sometimes led to him not always looking fully ahead at the outcome, or perhaps taking shortcuts that led to him being constantly covered in many bumps, bruises and cuts.

Like the reason that the ladder slid down the roof was due to the fact he hadn't thought to tie it down. We also remember hearing of the story... it was about six weeks after his first knee replacement and he was back at work for the shire, managing the water and sewage for the town, submitting the weather records to the Bureau of Meteorology and of course digging holes, when he finds himself at the bottom of a hole with the plumbers, probably after fixing another broken pipe. They all scrambled out, up the mound of dirt at the end of the trench but with his new knee he stood and wondered how the heck he was going to get out of there.

## Endless Supply

I remember always having an endless supply of food, milk, cream and ice cream, possible due to the eggs supplied by the chooks we always kept and the cow that George milked every morning, us turning the trusty old separator and Mum cooking up a storm.

## Travel

George and Betty loved travelling. They always enjoyed a summer beach break, an occasional visit to see snow and caravanned around Australia over many years with, then without, the four kids on board, but usually with the golf sticks and bowls bag packed.

There was a trip to New Zealand and Norfolk Island and they went on many adventures closer to home with Donald Probus Club, of which George was president 2012,

secretary 2019 and 2020 and trip organizer 2013. They also fitted in day trips to festivals and events closer by, in this area of Victoria, where they have always lived.

## Sport

One of George's greatest loves is sport. He has always played sport and been a keen spectator and it has been a big part of his family life. Firstly, with his own friends and siblings then along with Betty encouraging their four children to partake, often ferrying them far and wide in their competitions. He loved playing football and continued to umpire even after retiring (not sure whether that was due to knee injuries and concussions, of which he had quite a few, or age).

He played badminton in the old church hall, tennis in the Watchem competition with the St Andrew's Presbyterian Church team, playing with his siblings, Elvie, Rita and Donny and their partners and then later, running a junior competition with his children, nieces and nephews.

## Fire Brigade, Golf and Bowls

As a member of the Donald Fire Brigade, he raced at the district fire demos. and of course, there was golf and bowls. George loves golf and still has a hit around the Donald course, on which he has spent a lot of his life playing, as well as preparing and repairing the tees, fairways and scrapes.

He had his handicap down to single figures for a time and enjoyed many wins playing pennant and tournaments around the district. Owen, Mark and Neville always enjoy a game of golf with him when they visit, but I don't think they have beaten him yet?

Bowls was similar with George loving the game and competing in many Pennant wins and wins in singles and pairs championships.

Not just participating in the game, George also helped run the clubs, being on ground and selection committees and holding the position of Committee of Management secretary from

• Continued on page 7.



• George Wood and Betty Andison married 2nd November, 1959.

# — Told by His Daughter

• **Continued from page 6.**  
1978 to 1992 (14 years) and the Golf Bowls secretary from 1994 to 2013 (19 years).

In appreciation of his years of voluntary service George Wood was made a life member of Donald Golf Club Inc. in

2008, and the Donald Fire Brigade in 2012, with more than 50 years of service.

When asked in his early 80s about “future dreams”, George wrote: “Not a lot I would like to do that I have not already done. I have travelled far, enjoyed life, had

a wonderful 60 plus years with Betty, had a reasonably healthy life and not made any enemies that I know of.”

With George still an active member of the Donald Golf, Bowling and Probus Clubs, I’m sure there will be more adventures to come.



• Walter James Wood and Margaret Ross, 6th April, 1927.



• The Massey School. c.1943. Back: Rita Wood, Cliff Blair, Roy Gilchrist, Maisie Wood, Gwen Wood. Middle: Pat Colbert, Doug White, Wilma ?, Doreen Gilchrist, Lindsay Wood. Front: Jill Wilkinson, Dorothy Colbert, Mr. Rofe (teacher), Don Wood, Elvie Wood, George White.



• Colin Basset, George Wood, Glenda Curry, Frances Muir, Ray Flett, Brian Boadle.

## State Police Budget Slashed

**In the midst of a record-breaking crime wave, the Allan Labor Government has slashed the Victoria Police budget from \$4.55 billion to \$4.5 billion for 2025–26 – a decision that defies common sense and puts community safety further at risk.**

This cut comes at a time when over 1,100 police positions remain vacant, and 43 police stations across the state have either closed or reduced their hours since November 2023 due to chronic staffing shortages.

To make matters worse, key infrastructure projects – including promised police station upgrades and new facilities in Rochester, Melbourne, Ballarat, Geelong, Bendigo, and Shepparton – have been pushed back until at least the fourth quarter of 2027–28, well beyond the next state election.

### No New Money

While Labor has allocated funds for recruitment advertising, no new money has been committed to actually employing additional officers, raising serious questions about whether these recruits will ever hit the streets.

Alarming, public confidence in Victoria Police has plummeted to an all-time low

of just 55 per cent, as revealed in the 2025–26 State Budget papers – a clear reflection of the growing concern in the community about safety and Labor’s failure to act.

### Resources Needed

Shadow Minister for Police, David Southwick, said: “It’s madness that in the middle of a crime crisis, Labor would cut the police budget and fail to provide the frontline resources needed to keep Victorians safe.

“We still have police officers who are exhausted, unsupported, and leaving the job in droves. With more officers walking away than signing up, and with no real investment to fix it, Victorians are right to ask whether we’ll ever see these promised recruits on the beat.

“The Victorian Government must explain why it continues to underfund Victoria Police in the face of a growing crime crisis.”

## Championing the Needs of Regional Australia... The Nationals Stand Alone

**Member for Mallee, Dr Anne Webster, says The Nationals will continue fighting for Mallee and regional Australia by standing alone, for a time, from the Liberal Party of Australia outside of a coalition arrangement.**

Leader of the Nationals, David Littleproud, announced in The Nationals Party Room in Canberra, after careful, respectful consideration and a second Nationals MP meeting in a week, that the regional Australian party would not continue for now in the coalition opposition. Mr Littleproud left the door wide open to rejoining the coalition in future.

“Today, The Nationals took a principled position that with our strong, regionally focussed policy positions – on a permanent fund for regional Australia’s needs, on supermarkets, on nuclear as part of our energy mix and reliable mobile coverage – that it was best for now that we stand apart from the Liberal Party,” Dr Webster said.

### Package

“During the last term of Parliament, The Nationals fought hard for a package of sensible and important policies that will benefit regional Australia and the future of our nation. These were adopted as

Coalition policies and were strongly supported by local communities. Following discussions with the Leader of the Liberal Party, The Nationals do not have the assurance we need that these policies will be honoured in a future Coalition Agreement.

“We will not walk away from the \$20 billion Regional Australia Future Fund, which would provide up to \$1 billion extra funding every year for regional projects, from improving access to better health, child and aged care, through to fixing local roads and building new sporting facilities.

“We will not walk away from ‘big stick’ divestiture competition laws that keep the big supermarkets honest and deliver fairer prices for farmers at the farmgate and families at the checkout.

“We will not walk away from an improved Universal Service Obligation for communications, forcing a better minimum standard for regional mobile and internet access.

“We will not walk away from the potential of nuclear power as a necessary element of a balanced energy mix that secures Australia’s energy security.

### Health Policy

“As Shadow Assistant Minister for Regional Health in the previous parliament, I have developed comprehensive health policy that is regionally focussed, as it needs to be, because we have serious and urgent needs. The Nationals will now have the clear air to advocate without restraint for Mallee and for Regional Australians.

“Today’s bold decision shows The Nationals will never take a backward step in fighting for regional Australia’s best interests. Today’s number one focus is regional Australians – the best way we could take on the Albanese Labor Government without restraint was to make the move we did today.

“There have been three breaks in the Coalition agreement before, and every time



• Dr Anne Webster.

the Coalition has come back in a better position to govern for all Australians from the regions to the capital cities.

“In the meantime, as I have been doing in Mallee, The Nationals relish the opportunity to take up the fight for regional Australians to the Albanese Labor Government in the Parliament.

“The Albanese and Allan Labor Governments have been raiding the regions to buy votes in the inner cities. The Nationals are ready to rumble with the Albanese Government, giving Mallee a voice and ensuring regional Australians are not ‘held back’ or ‘left behind’, as the Prime Minister is fond of saying.”

# Students Do Well at District Cross Country

On Friday, May 16, eleven Donald High School students completed in the annual Interschool Cross Country competition held in St. Arnaud. All of the Donald students were extremely competitive across all age groups.

A big congratulations to Layla Griffiths finishing second in the junior girls, Hugo Funcke finishing third in the intermediate boys section and Samuel Mortlock 6th in the junior boys. The times that the

highest place getters finished the course in were as follows: Layla Griffiths (3km), second, 14.10 min.; Hugo Funcke (5km), third, 18.20 min.; Samuel Mortlock (3km), sixth, 13.06 min..



The other Donald student who finished in the top section for their age group and who qualified for the Zone Cross Country is Halle Rice. The team that will represent the school next Tuesday, May 27, is as follows: Samuel Mortlock, Layla Griffiths, Hugo Funcke, Halle Rice.

Whilst Donald High School came seventh overall, its competitors should be extremely proud of their efforts, as the school only took a small team of 11 students to the event. It has 4 competitors who have qualified for the Loddon Mallee Regional Championships that will be held at the same venue on Tuesday, May 27.

We wish them the best of luck.



• Team photo, back, left to right: Samuel Mortlock, Halle Rice, Curtis Rice, Hugo Funcke, Noah Michael, Jesse Lydom. Front: Ellie Burke, Layla Griffiths, Evie Donnellon, Max Reilly.



• Hugo Funcke.



• Halle Rice.

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# M.P. Calls Out Spin on Public Health Wait Times

The Nationals' Member for Mildura, Jade Benham has called out the State Government for misleading Victorians about the true state of the healthcare system, as new data from the Victorian Agency for Health Information (VAHI) paints a very different picture than the one presented by the Government.

While the Minister for Health claims emergency department wait times are the lowest on record, the Government is conveniently ignoring the growing backlog

in specialist appointments and surgery wait times in rural and regional areas.

"In Mildura alone, I've been contacted by numerous constituents struggling to access timely care," Ms Benham said. "One resident waited five months for an initial specialist appointment following a Category 1 bowel screening result. That's simply unacceptable."

Despite the Government's claim of "world-class care," the reality is that wait times are worsening, emergency performance targets are being missed, and thousands of Victorians are being left in pain and uncertainty.

**Data**  
According to the latest VAHI data:

- Category 2 surgeries now have a median wait time of 62 days, up from 54 days, leaving over 7,150 patients without care within the recommended timeframe.

- Category 3 surgeries have a median wait time of 119 days, up from 102 days – meaning more than 1,320 patients are enduring extended delays.

- Overall, median wait times for all planned surgeries surged by 18 per cent in the last quarter alone.

"These wait times are simply unacceptable. Regional Victorians already face significant barriers to healthcare access, and the system is failing them" Ms Benham said.



• Jade Benham.

"These latest figures are nothing to celebrate when over 60,000 Victorians are languishing on surgery waitlists and emergency response times are getting worse in communities across the state," Ms Benham said.

"No amount of spin can cover up Labor's failure to deliver timely care."



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

## Community Update

### Buloke Shire Council Opposes VNI West in Current Form

Buloke Shire Council acknowledges the concern across the community regarding the VNI West transmission line project.

Recent engagement with the Buloke community has revealed strong and widespread opposition to the VNI West transmission project in its current form. While some individuals are directly affected by the proposed alignment, many others have voiced concern about broader

issues including land use, farmland protection, consultation processes, and the cumulative impact of transmission infrastructure on rural communities.

Buloke Shire Council therefore wish to express that it formally opposes the VNI West transmission project in its current form.

This opposition reflects the dissatisfaction with the engagement and planning process to date, as well as a lack of confidence that the project will deliver fair and lasting outcomes for the Buloke community, Farmers, landholders and the environment.

## 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/](http://www.buloke.vic.gov.au/) employment

Applications can be lodged by:

Mail - PO Box 1, Wycheproof VIC 3527 or

Email - [recruitment@buloke.vic.gov.au](mailto:recruitment@buloke.vic.gov.au)

**Systems Administrator**

**Permanent (Full Time) - From \$100k pa (+ statutory superannuation)**

→ Applications Close: 30 May 2025

We are looking for a motivated person to provide support and assist with the design, implementation and management of ICT enabled projects on a permanent full-time basis. The position will be based out of Councils Wycheproof Office and has flexibility to support hybrid work.

**Manager People and Culture**

**Permanent (Full Time) - Salary package in the range of \$130k - 146k pa**

→ Applications Close: 30 May 2025

We are seeking someone to lead change, inspire our people, and foster a culture that supports high levels of employee engagement and performance.

The successful applicant will provide critical leadership to the organisation and our People and Culture Team. Responsibilities include organisational design and development, human resources, performance management, OH&S, reward and recognition and HR systems.



**BULOKE**  
SHIRE COUNCIL



Phone: 1300 520 520  
[www.buloke.vic.gov.au](http://www.buloke.vic.gov.au)

## State Budget's Heartless Blow

The State Government's Budget has delivered another heartless blow to hard-working regional Victorians.

On the day thousands protested a callous new emergency services tax that hits regional communities the hardest, Labor unleashed further blows on regional Victorians already reeling from a cost-of-living crisis.

Agriculture funding has been cut by \$77.6 million – almost 13 per cent – amid a crippling drought in many areas of the state.

Labor has pledged to spend \$537.2 million supporting agriculture – down from the \$614.8 million it spent last financial year.

Regional development funding has also taken a 17 per cent hit – Labor slashing it from \$296.7 million to \$245.6 million.

Labor has again cut its road maintenance spend in real terms as our roads continue to deteriorate.

Leader of The Nationals, Danny O'Brien, said the budget ignored the cost-of-living crisis and inflicted further pain on regional Victorians.

"Labor is whacking us with a great big new emergency services tax that the budget now shows will cost us all an extra \$3 billion in coming years," Mr O'Brien said.

"The Nationals and Liberals will scrap this tax if elected next year to ease the burden on regional Victorians.

"Debt gets worse and we will be paying \$28.9 million per day in interest – money that could be going to boosting regional hospitals, investing in schools and fixing our roads."



### Final Rates Instalment Due Soon

A reminder to all ratepayers that the fourth and final rates instalment is due on 31 May 2025.

Preferred payment methods are listed on Council's website at [www.buloke.vic.gov.au/make-a-payment](http://www.buloke.vic.gov.au/make-a-payment).

If you're having trouble making payment by the due date, please contact our Rates Department on 1300 520 520 to discuss suitable arrangements.

### Last Chance to Have Your Say on Council's Draft Plans

Submissions are closing soon for Buloke Shire Council's Draft Council Plan 2025–2029, Revenue and Rating Strategy 2025–2029, and Draft 2025/26 Annual Budget. These key documents are currently on public exhibition, and you can have your say until Thursday 29 May 2025.

Copies can be downloaded from the council website at [www.buloke.gov.vic.au](http://www.buloke.gov.vic.au)

Hardcopies can also be viewed at the Wycheproof Customer Service Centre, 367 Broadway, Wycheproof or requested by contacting Buloke Shire Council on 1300 520 520 or [buloke@buloke.vic.gov.au](mailto:buloke@buloke.vic.gov.au)

Submissions must be received in writing no later than 5pm on Thursday 29 May 2025 and can be provided in the following ways:

- Email to [buloke@buloke.vic.gov.au](mailto:buloke@buloke.vic.gov.au)
- In person by placing a submission in the box at the Wycheproof Customer Service Centre, 367 Broadway, Wycheproof.
- By mail addressed to Buloke Shire Council, PO Box 1, Wycheproof, Victoria 3527.

Following the public exhibition period, the Draft Council Plan 2025–2029, Revenue and Rating Strategy 2025–29 and 2025/26 Annual Budget are scheduled for adoption at the Council Meeting on Wednesday 18 June 2025.

### Notice of an Application for a Planning Permit

The land affected by the application is located at **10 Houston Street, Donald VIC 3480.**

The application is for a permit for the construction of a building (storage shed).

The application reference number is **PA25014.**

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

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

An objection must be made to the Responsible Authority in writing, include the objectors name and contact details, include reasons for the objection, and state how the objector would be affected. An online submission form is available on the Planning page of the Buloke Shire Council website.

The Responsible Authority will not decide on the application before: **12 June 2025.**

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

**The Buloke Times**  
Est. 1872

## Coloured Photographs

Copies of "Times" photos can be purchased from our office/s. Photos not published may also be available.

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



## Twin Lamb Disease

(By Dr Jeff Cave, Senior Veterinary Officer)

As we move towards winter sheep producers may begin to see cases of pregnancy toxæmia or twin lamb disease in their ewes.

Twin lamb disease occurs when ewes have an inadequate energy intake during the last 4 to 6 weeks of pregnancy.

During this final period of pregnancy, ewes' energy needs increase substantially, as she is providing energy for both herself, and her rapidly growing lamb.

Ewes that are carrying twins are particularly susceptible, hence the name. In fact a ewe carrying twins has one

and a half times the energy requirements of a ewe with a single lamb, and more than twice the energy requirements of a dry ewe.

Sheep fed in containment areas generally require 10–16% less energy compared with animals walking around paddocks looking for feed.

An outbreak of twin lamb disease is often triggered by stress and environmental conditions that cause a low intake

of food such as during yarding or holding off feed or severe weather conditions.

Affected ewes usually appear dopey, blind and unresponsive. The condition may progress over several days.

The presence of affected ewes is an indication that all is not well in the remainder of the flock.

Many other ewes may also be sub-clinically affected and may progress to become fur-



ther cases of twin lamb disease.

Twin lamb disease occurs because of a breakdown of body fat at a rate with which the ewe's liver is unable to cope.

As a result, on autopsy an affected ewe's liver will appear swollen, yellow, crumbly and greasy.

Affected ewes can occasionally be successfully

treated by an energy-rich drench such as glycerine provided the drench is given during the early stages of the disease.

More importantly, good quality supplementary feeding should be given to those ewes most at risk.

Increasing the ewe's energy intake through appropriate ration formulation during the last 8 weeks of pregnancy can

prevent twin lamb disease.

For further advice please contact your local veterinarian or Agriculture Victoria Veterinary or Animal Health Officer.

Further information on ewe nutrition can be found at [www.feedinglivestock.vic.gov.au](http://www.feedinglivestock.vic.gov.au)

For more information and support during drought and dry conditions visit [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons) or by calling 136 186.

| Sheep weight (without foetus) kg | Dry mature | Late Pregnant – single (twins) | Ewe and lamb – single (twins) |
|----------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Medium frame 50 kg               | 8          | 12 (15)                        | 19 (23)                       |
| Large frame 60 kg                | 9          | 14 (18)                        | 21 (27)                       |
| Large frame 70 kg                | 10         | 16 (20)                        | 24 (30)                       |

• Energy requirements in megajoules (MJ ME/day) for sheep maintained at Condition Score 3 with single lambs or twin lambs.

## Ewe Feed and Management Workshop

Wonwondah and district sheep farmers are set to benefit from a best practice ewe management and feed planning breakfast workshop on June 12.

Hosted by Agriculture Victoria, presenter and livestock consultant Dr Steve Cotton from Dynamic Ag will discuss how to manage and feed ewes for reproduction and lamb survival during dry seasonal conditions.

Agriculture Victoria Regional Manager Meat and Wool South West Kate McCue said Dr Cotton's tips would in-

form and support producers preparing for a late autumn break.

“Dr Cotton is well known to industry as both a speaker and consultant, as well as a coordinator of some of our Best-Wool/BestLamb groups,” Ms McCue said.

“This workshop is a great opportunity for producers to discuss their goals and concerns with Steve among fellow farmers and leave feeling equipped to meet their ewe and lamb demands this season.”

### Workshop Details

Thursday, June 12 from 8:30 a.m., commencing with a complimentary breakfast from 7:30 a.m..

The workshop is at Wonwondah. Registration is essential and the workshop location will be provided after registering.

### Topics

- Best practice ewe management.
- Improving reproduction and lamb survival.
- Ewe feed requirements before and after lambing.
- Lamb feed requirements.

- Management tips for a late autumn break.

Registration details and further information is available at [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/events](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/events)

This workshop is part of the Farm Business Resilience Program jointly funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Victorian Government's Future Agriculture Skills Capacity Fund.

Dry seasons support is available at [agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons) or by calling 136 186.



• Photo by Nick Fewings.

## What's On

### Weathering Disasters Webinar

Date: May 26, 2025. 11 a.m. – 12 p.m..

Where: Free, online.

Description: Topics include how to be business ready, lessons learned, doing business beyond disaster, key tips for success.

Speakers: Fiona Cameron (Farmer), Kristi Sullivan (Wimmera emergency co-ordinator), Maggie Bridgewater (Rural Financial Counselling Service), Ciara Cullen (Commonwealth Bank).

Register now by email to [simone.dalton@wsm.org.au](mailto:simone.dalton@wsm.org.au)

### Autumn/Winter Feedbase Planning

Date: June 3, 9:30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m..

Where: 388 Logan Rd, Langi Logan (near Ararat).

Description: Producers and industry stakeholders are invited to participate in a free workshop to help assess and plan feed requirements for autumn and winter under dry conditions.

Topics include: What pasture species are surviving, releasing livestock from containment, whole pasture feed budgeting, options and decisions.

Presenters: Lisa Miller and Michelle McClure, SFS

Find out more at [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons) or call 136 186.

### Insights Into Nitrogen Decision Making

Date: June 11, 2025, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m..

Description: Peter Hayman, SARDI Effective decision making and risk management is an essential component for any farm business. Peter provides insights from the nitrogen sub-project of the national GRDC funded RiskWiSe project.

GRDC online events are topic specific, interactive, interview style discussions that address the application of new and relevant information to the latest farming systems.

Contact: Matt McCarthy. Email [admin@orm.com.au](mailto:admin@orm.com.au) or phone 03 54416176

Registration: [https://events.humanitix.com/grdc-grains-research-update-online-insights-into-nitrogen-decision-making?utm\\_source=grdc&utm\\_medium=event\\_calendar&utm\\_campaign](https://events.humanitix.com/grdc-grains-research-update-online-insights-into-nitrogen-decision-making?utm_source=grdc&utm_medium=event_calendar&utm_campaign)

### GRDC Farm Business Update – Horsham

Description: The GRDC Farm Business Update events drive innovation and adoption of improved farm business management practices across the grains industry.

Date: June 18, 2025, 9:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m..

Location: Horsham Town Hall, 71 Pynsent Street, Horsham, VIC, 3400.

Contact: Jane Foster, email [admin@orm.com.au](mailto:admin@orm.com.au), or phone 03 5441 6176.

Registration: <https://remote.orm.com.au/EventProConnect/Registrations/Welcome.aspx>

## Cattle and Lamb Turn Off Surges As Seasonal Conditions Bite

Australia's red meat sector has recorded a significant lift in cattle and lamb slaughter volumes in the first quarter of 2025, with producers responding to varied seasonal conditions across the country, according to Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA).

### Cattle

Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has revealed that cattle slaughter reached 2.2 million head for the quarter, up 2% from Q4 2024 and 20% higher year-on-year.

This marks the largest quarterly cattle slaughter in Victoria since 1979, and in New South Wales since 2015, with volumes lifting 5% and 7% respectively. South Australia also recorded its highest quarterly cattle slaughter since 2017, up 16%, driven by tough seasonal conditions prompting early turnoff.

Despite recent flooding and cyclones, Queensland's cattle slaughter rate eased by 2%, reflecting improved seasonal conditions that allowed producers to retain stock longer. Western Australia saw a 4% decline, while Tasmania lifted 4%.

The female slaughter rate (FSR) rose to 52.7%, indicating elevated female turnoff, particularly in South Australia

and Victoria. However, according to MLA's Market Information Manager, Stephen Bignell, this is not indicative of widespread herd liquidation across the country.

“The elevated female slaughter rate reflects regional responses to seasonal pressures, particularly in the south where a prolonged and expanding drought is impacting numbers,” Mr Bignell said.

“While some areas are destocking, others are benefiting from improved conditions and holding on to stock.

“This is most evident in Queensland where generally good conditions are resulting in stock retention and even herd growth.”

Beef production rose 3% to 679,000 tonnes, with South Australia recording the largest lift at 16%. National average carcass weights increased by 1.5kg to 313kg, supported by growth in lot feeding and earlier turnoff of heifers.

The value of cattle production hit \$4.41 billion for the quarter, with the average value per head rising 3% to \$2,029. National average price per tonne was \$6.49, with South Australia leading at \$6.98/tonne.

### Lamb

Lamb slaughter surged to 6.86 million head, the second-highest quarterly figure on record, up 12% from the previous quarter and slightly above year-ago levels.

Victoria led the charge, processing a record 3.83 million head, while New South Wales lifted 27% to 1.48 million head.

Only Western Australia saw a decline, down 6%, though volumes remained above the five-year average.

Lamb production reached 166,800 tonnes, up 18% from Q4 2024, with Victoria producing a record 91,600 tonnes. National average lamb carcass

weights rose to 24.3kg, with South Australia leading at 26.1kg.

### Sheep

Sheep slaughter totalled 3 million head, a 14% decline on the previous quarter though remained 7% above year-ago levels.

While Victoria saw a year-on-year decline, most state turnoff lifted above year ago levels staying high following record turnoff in late 2024. Mutton production reached 74,700 tonnes, which was the third-highest quarterly volume in a decade.

The gross value of sheep and lamb slaughtered in Australia lifted once again across all states to an impressive \$1.58 billion.

This is likely due to an increase in throughput and production, however markets remained relatively strong in the first quarter despite the elevated supply.

# Bulls Respond to Determined 'Pies

**Birchip-Watchem maintained its unbeaten run with a hard-fought 39-point victory over a determined Boort on its magnificent home deck.**

The Pies bounced back from a drubbing at the hands of the emerging Calder United last week with a spirited showing, but the Bulls' class rose to the top after being severely challenged early in the match.

The Magpies got off to a flyer, kicking to the southern end with a slight breeze. Their midfield was prominent, led by new burly ruckman Peter Barbopoulos, who may have given up some inches to Bulls giant Hamish Hosking but certainly no pounds. He matched Hosking in strength and was prepared to monster him in the ruck contests. Hosking, used to swatting away opponents with his power, found no such advantage this time. The two big men had an absorbing duel throughout, with Barbopoulos's lack of match conditioning showing late – but if he gets fitter, he'll literally be a huge asset for Boort's top-four hopes, no small feat for a club recently in the wilderness.

With Hosking not dominating, the midfield battle was up for grabs and the Magpies wanted it more early on. First in at the contest and winning the ball, they gained clear advantage, pushing forward where gun Jhye Baddeley-Kelly led the Bulls a merry dance. He was everywhere – dynamic, lightning-quick with great hands – and caused the Bulls huge grief. He opened their account with a strong pack mark, then followed it up with another – all in the first five minutes, if you don't mind. The Bulls' defenders were scratching their heads. Even the unflappable Ben Lakin looked perplexed trying to get a handle on Baddeley-Kelly. The ball pinged around in a high-standard opening. The Magpies were clearly hungry and desperate for the ball.

Whenever the Bulls ventured forward, they were met with the determined force of stalwart Magpie Kieren Wilson, who continues to relish the contest, backed by Ryan McGhie and newcomer Kieren Jaksic. They built a fortress, repelling the Bulls, who barely broke through the half-forward line. The Pies kept building scoreboard momentum – Jarred Fitzpatrick

and Ethan Coleman slotting goals before Baddeley-Kelly snagged another right on the siren to give them a commanding five-goal lead at the first break.

Bulls coach Ash Connick was livid. His calm demeanour all season evaporated – filthy with the group effort, he demanded accountability and involvement at the contest. He made key changes: Dale Hinkley, who'd started in the midfield, returned to defence; Joe Reid shifted forward where he's been so effective this season; and Lach Ryan, returning from an injury sustained in Round 1, was sent to tame Baddeley-Kelly – and the Bulls straightened up.

Fair play to a new coach exploring his list, but Connick would now agree that Hinkley's home is down back, not in the middle. In the second quarter, he shone like a beacon – simply superb. Whether intercepting by peeling off his man or standing tall in a pack, he repeatedly took telling marks. The once-leaky back six became impenetrable.

After Connick's bake, the Bulls' appetite improved noticeably. The contest became fierce – bush footy at its finest. Players crashed in, Carlos Egan (another Pies recruit showing promise) lively through the middle and up forward, going toe-to-toe with Riley Hogan. Tempers flared briefly – just ruffled feathers, with the send-off rule in place. Hosking started getting the better of Barbopoulos, giving his midfielders first use, and the Bulls began to run.

Daniel Bell dashed from the centre and slotted their first, then Reid snapped another. Nick Rippon coolly nailed a set shot from 50, and Hogan dodged and weaved before adding another. The Bulls were nearly level. The Pies still pressed – Kayne Rutley covered ground and found the ball, while Tom Potter, fitter this year, got plenty of touches. But when they went forward, Hinkley thwarted every entry, with Ryan blanketing Baddeley-Kelly. A clean passage of handballs and accurate kicks set up Ben Edwards, who had been well held, to slot his first just before half-time.

The Bulls had turned a five-goal deficit into a two-goal lead by the long break – a big turnaround. No longer second to the ball, midfielders Bell, Hogan, Rippon, and the emerging Bill Lee gathered plenty and provided quality forward entries. Wilson and Jaksic had done brilliantly to hold the line, but the Bulls' effort and spread had improved immensely – regardless of the breeze.

Connick was thrilled with the shift in attitude and application, and demanded more. His talented group delivered. In the third, against the breeze, the Bulls put the pedal down. Hosking gave first service despite Barbopoulos's efforts, Buchanan became more noticeable, creative and hard-working, and Rippon started motoring – his class obvious. In a blink, he'd win the ball in traffic, deliver forward, then arrive for the next contest. His endurance is elite.

The third quarter turned into a shootout – Bulls adding seven goals to the Pies' four, which wasn't enough with the wind. After narrowly missing a goal following a brilliant run, Marshall Rippon repeated the effort and nailed it the second time, sending the ball sky-high over the hockey field in a "stuff-you-too" moment. Nick wasn't going to have all the glory. Marshall's confidence and nous around the arc were infectious.

James Keeble, more involved as the game wore on, looked dangerous when the ball entered Boort's forward 50. Ryan kept Baddeley-Kelly quiet, and Egan took a sensational contested mark over three defenders to slot one right on siren time. But the Bulls had slammed the gate – five goals clear at the final change.

Keeble offered a spark early in the last, weaving across half-forward and setting up Baddeley-Kelly's fourth. Egan added another with a spectacular leap and finish to keep things interesting. But the Bulls steadied, kicking a flurry of goals. Edwards booted two more to end with five, and Birchip-Watchem cruised home by six goals.

Plenty to like about Boort – they've added serious talent in 2025. Egan is a genuine A-



• Boort's Will Perryman has the ball. Nick Rippon, Joe Reid facing Ty Colbert over the ball. and Jack Smith is the other Boort player in the shot.

grader, lively and creative. Barbopoulos provides a strong contest. The next-gen Rutleys gather possessions, Jaksic supports the ever-durable Wilson, and local lads like Chamberlain, Hall, and Perryman are developing well – Hall won plenty of midfield ball.

Birchip-Watchem couldn't have asked for a better start. President Brad Ryan may not

have had hair to lose pre-season, but he'll sleep well. Connick's game plan has clicked quickly, and his side has bought in. Hosking keeps delivering, the midfield is red hot, Hogan played his best game in years, and Hinkley was brilliant down back. Best of all, they weren't reliant on Edwards and showed true resolve after being challenged early. The train rolls on.

Final score: Birchip-Watchem 17.15 (117) def Boort 12.6 (78).

Birchip-Watchem best: Dale Hinkley, Nick Rippon, Bill Lee, Ben Lakin, Hamish Hosking, Meyrick Buchanan.

Best for Boort: Kieren Wilson, Kieren Jaksic, James Keeble, Peter Barbopoulos, Kayne Rutley, Ryan McGhie.

## Despite Support Falling Short... Landcare Welcomes Budget Allocations

**Landcare Victoria has responded to last week's State Budget with cautious optimism, welcoming the \$17.3 million allocated over two years for Landcare and Coastcare programs.**

While this commitment maintains current funding levels, the organisation emphasises that without increased investment, the long-term sustainability of Victoria's community-led environmental movement remains uncertain.

Landcare Victoria acknowledges the continued support for the Victorian Landcare and Coastcare volunteer programs in the Budget, which includes a further two-year extension for the Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program.

However, the organisation is disappointed that its call for

long-term, secure funding has not been met.

**Extraordinary Work**  
"Landcare is delivering on its commitments and doing extraordinary work across the state, but government support is falling short of what's needed to ensure stability and growth," said Landcare Victoria CEO, Claire Hetzel.

Landcare has been uniting communities to achieve meaningful and sustainable land and environmental management outcomes since it was established in Victoria nearly four decades ago. At the heart of its success are the passionate volunteers and dedicated Landcare facilitators who provide critical on-the-ground co-ordination, advice and support.

"While this Budget hasn't provided the long-term funding Landcare needs, we will continue to advocate for a funding model that reflects the value and impact of Landcare across Victoria," Ms Hetzel said.

The current \$4.5 million State Government investment in the Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program yielded a \$31.5 million economic return on public investment in 2023.

**Critical Role**  
Landcare Victoria, as the peak body for community land care in the state, plays a critical role in enabling and



advocating for volunteers.

Landcare Victoria chairperson, Jane Carney, said that over the past four years, the organisation has strengthened its leadership capacity to better support the Landcare community.

"Our newly released Strategic Plan 2025-2027 outlines an ambitious vision: to double participation in community land care, enabled by deepening partnerships, strengthening support for Landcare groups and championing the value of community-led action," Mrs Carney said.

"This outcome cannot be achieved without the support from the State Government, as well as Landcare volunteers, facilitators and co-ordinators."

Landcare Victoria remains committed to working in partnership with government and community to support sustainable land and environmental management across the state. The organisation thanks the many Landcare volunteers, supporters and Members of Parliament who have championed the importance of ongoing support for land care in Victoria.



• Marshall Rippon (ball), Nick Rippon, Daniel Bell, Dale Hinkley (side), Lauchlan Ryan far side. Boort players: player number 2 is Matt Austin, James Keeble centre, Jack Smith chasing to the right. Carlos Egan is defending, Kieren Wilson running in behind.

# Tigers’ Class Counts at Charlton

Riding the emotional wave, paying tribute to their fallen mate, Charlton’s Navies started strongly against their more fancied visitors, the Sea Lake-Nandaly Tigers, in the Round 6 clash of North Central Football, played at Charlton Park bathed in Autumn sunshine.

Clearly outclassed by the Tigers, established stars on every line, and more on the sidelines and in the “Magoos”, Charlton’s developing youngsters, in combination with their experienced guns, took the game right up to the competition’s benchmark and most northern combatant.

In the absence of Josh Jenkyn in the goal square, Adam Pattison took up the post, not making the task any easier for Charlton’s 100 gamer Jed Thompson. With the breeze slightly favouring the town end to which Sea Lake-Nandaly was kicking, Charlton was doing well, moving the ball with seldom seen precision to think and pierce their way through the Tigers’ famous press. The Navies onballers, led by dynamic young ruckman Ben Lanyon, the developing Mason Heenan and recruit Ben Xiriha, were for the most part breaking even in the middle of the ground with the Tigers’ established seasoned midfield, Lanyon winning the battle with the ageless Ryan O’Sullivan. Had it not been for a couple of gettable missed set shots, the Navies could have been within 10 points at the quarter-time break, having had 6 scoring shots to the Tigers’ 8. Accuracy the telling difference, the Tigers not missing while the Navies went 50/50 in front of goal. Tigers by 27 at the first change.

Spurred into action, Sea Lake-Nandaly players locked in, lifting their defensive pressure and limiting Charlton’s ability to move the ball with the freedom they had been

afforded during the first term. Tyson McKenzie instrumental on a wing, was continually leading his young Charlton opponents to the ball and showing a clean pair of heels when breaking away from the contest. Trent Donnan upping his game, was notably spending more time on the ball than during the opening quarter and providing the grunt for the Tigers’ plethora of hard running mids, wings and half backs, the spread from the contest impressive. Elliott Fitzpatrick, Jed Thompson and veteran Kris Clifford playing out of back pocket, were working overtime down back for the home side to hold back the wave of ball coming in. Jarvis Keogh and Max Cahoon, along with Pattison were the beneficiaries of precise ball movement into the Tigers’ forward 50, each with multiple goals to half-time. Sea Lake-Nandaly Tigers extending the lead, held the Navies to a solitary Heenan goal for the quarter while adding seven goals four themselves to take an 11-goal buffer into the half-time break.

The third term was simply a masterclass from the dominant Tigers, Charlton’s resistance broken, the Tigers’ depth on full show, what Charlton wouldn’t give for a couple of Sea Lake-Nandaly’s second choice midfield... Thomas Cox, Wade and Trent Donnan turning up the heat, Charlton’s onball brigade battling as best it could, but unable to match the strength, speed and spread of those hard running, well drilled Tigers. Brodie Adcock controlling

proceedings from half back, Lachy McLelland one of five Tigers to kick at least four goals on the day. The Tigers did as they pleased in the third term, moving the ball with relative ease and Charlton’s runners ran out of legs, Tom Finlay did all his body would allow to lift his Navies off the canvas. The knock-out blow landed, however, as the Tigers slammed through 11 unanswered goals for the term, blowing the margin out well beyond a hundred points as the Navies were held scoreless.

The final term could be best summed up as junk time, both teams having spent plenty of petrol tickets, the Tigers running away with the contest, the Navies simply trying to keep up on the back of the emotional fortnight since Griffin’s tragic passing, a solemn reminder that no matter what happens on the football ground on a Saturday, it is just a game; a game to be played to enjoy, to enjoy time with your mates, making memories and mates that will last far longer than the memory of the last big defeat, or that last premiership for that matter.

Sea Lake-Nandaly eventually claimed victory by 187 points, adding a further eight goals to one in the last quarter.

Best for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Trent Donnan, Jarvis Keogh, Max Cahoon, Tyson McKenzie, Lachy McLelland, Brodie Adcock.

For Charlton: Tom Finlay, Jed Thompson, Ben Lanyon, Mason Heenan, Elliott Fitzpatrick, Kris Clifford.



• Charlton’s Ben Lanyon marks strongly in front of Tigers’ Cooper Roberts (#28) and Jack Poulton.



• Charlton’s Elliott Fitzpatrick marks over the top of Tigers’ Joel Donnan. Other players, left to right, Bailey Dixon (Charlton), Adam Pattison (Tigers) Aaron Schofield (Charlton), Chase Tait (Tigers).



• Tigers’ Billy McInnes marks behind Charlton’s Bailey Kemp. Obscured players are Tigers’ Jack Poulton and Charlton’s Cooper Boyle.

## The Natural Home

**Whether your home is humble, a palace or something in between, it is still your castle. And the task of keeping your home fresh and clean using natural alternatives, opposed to chemical products, is not only inexpensive but it is also good for the environment and your health.**

You can control household pests, keep the bathroom clean, remove unwanted cooking odours and remove stains without resorting to an array of harmful chemicals.

In the kitchen, you can remove strong smells on wooden chopping boards after chopping onions, garlic or fish by rubbing the surface with the cut side of half a lemon. It really is that simple. And odours can be removed from plastic food containers by filling them with crunched-up newspaper balls, and then placing them in the freezer for a few days.

If your hands smell strongly of garlic, good old English mustard powder will come to the rescue – just rub it into your hands before washing them and it will neutralise the smell.

To get rid of cooking odours and other nasty kitchen smells, bring to a boil one cup of white vinegar and one cup of water and continue to boil until the food smells are gone. The vinegar will neutralize the odour – works like a charm every time!

Two or three sprigs of

spearmint kept in a glass jar of water in the refrigerator eliminates smells. To deodorise your refrigerator after cleaning, place an open packet of bicarbonate of soda inside of it. This will keep it smelling fresh for up to three months.

To help neutralise disagreeing smells from a benchtop compost bin, scrub and rinse out with a solution of bicarbonate of soda and water, then splash vinegar or lemon juice in the bottom of the bin.

If cupboards and wardrobes feel damp, punch holes in the side of a coffee can, or something similar, and fill it with charcoal briquets. Replace the lid and leave in the cupboard.

And for those of you who may still use an old-fashion cast-iron fry pan on occasion – my Sunday breakfast in winter is cooked this way over the fuel stove – a film of rust on the inside surface of the pan can become a problem. To prevent this from happening, rub the surface with vegetable oil after washing, then dry thoroughly with kitchen paper. If, however,



• Alan Hayes

the rust is already there, rub the area with a solution of one tablespoon of citric acid in two cups of water – this will remove it. Rinse clean, then the same as you would after cooking.

To keep your oven clean, always wipe over the oven with a damp cloth after each use and while it is still warm. This will save unnecessary cleaning in the future. For any dirty spots, sprinkle with bicarbonate of soda, leave for 15 to 30 minutes, then wipe clean.

For ovens that need a good clean, mix sufficient bicarbonate of soda and water to form a stiff paste and spread it over the inside of the oven, then heat for 30 minutes. When the oven has cooled brush the bicarbonate of soda off – it will remove all traces of burnt fat and grease. And to loosen foods that have become baked on, place 4 tablespoons of bicarbonate of soda in the bottom of an enamel, ovenproof glass or ceramic baking dish and add just enough water to cover the bottom of the dish. Heat for 30 minutes, switch off, and leave the dish of bicarbonate of soda in overnight.

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

# North-Central Football Roundup

## Goldacres Seniors

|                  |     |      |       |       |       |
|------------------|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|
| SEA LAKE-NANDALY | 8.0 | 15.4 | 26.10 | 34.16 | (220) |
| CHARLTON         | 3.3 | 4.3  | 4. 3  | 5. 3  | (33)  |

Goals for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Jarvis Keogh 6, Max Cahoon 4, Trent Donnan 4, Lachy McClelland 4, Adam Pattison 4, Thomas Cox 2, Tyson McKenzie 2, Cruz O'Sullivan 2, Chase Tait 2, Bryce Delmenico, Joel Donnan, Jackson McMahon, Billy Poulton.

For Charlton: Elliott Fitzpatrick, Mason Heenan, Ben Lanyon, Aaron Schofield, Ben Xiriha.

Best for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Trent Donnan, Jarvis Keogh, Max Cahoon, Tyson Mckenzie, Lachy McClelland, Brodie Adcock.

For Charlton: Thomas Finlay, Jed Thompson, Ben Lanyon, Mason Heenan, Elliott Fitzpatrick, Kris Clifford.

|            |     |      |      |       |       |
|------------|-----|------|------|-------|-------|
| WEDDERBURN | 4.4 | 10.6 | 17.9 | 21.12 | (138) |
| DONALD     | 0.0 | 1.1  | 1.1  | 2. 1  | (13)  |

Goals for Wedderburn: Mitchell McEwen 5, Oscar Holt 4, Jackson McEwen 3, Darcy Jackson 2, Danny Benaim, Hamish Lockhart, Joe Lockhart, Jye Mortlock, Zach Pallpratt, Adam Postle, Mitchell Woods.

For Donald: Brent Arho, Samuel Arho

Best for Wedderburn: Mitchell McEwen, Jackson McEwen, Hamish Lockhart, Ben Bacon, Joe Lockhart, Isaac Holt.

For Donald: Daniel Pearce, Eddie Landwehr, Harry Forrest, Robert Walker, Ben Arho, Dyson Bell-Warren.

|               |     |      |       |       |       |
|---------------|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|
| CALDER UNITED | 4.2 | 12.5 | 17.10 | 29.13 | (187) |
| ST ARNAUD     | 3.0 | 4.1  | 7. 2  | 7. 2  | (44)  |

Goals for Calder United: Jack Exell 10, Mitch Farmer 5, Jordan Humphreys 3, Zachary Caccaviello 2, Steven Kennedy 2, George Turner 2, Koby Hommelhoff, Kobe Lloyd, Dean Putt, Matthew Trzeciak, Daniel Watts.

For St Arnaud: Max Hungerford 3, Jake Male, Sam Male, Jackson Needs, Brad Organ.

Best for Calder United: Steven Kennedy, Jack Exell, Daniel Watts, Charlie Fawcett, Kobe Lloyd, Matthew Trzeciak.

For St Arnaud: Owen Lowe, Matthew Goode, Kurtis Torney, Bradley Organ, Zac Phillips, Mitch Birthisel.

|                 |     |     |       |       |       |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| BIRCHIP-WATCHEM | 0.3 | 7.8 | 14.12 | 17.15 | (117) |
| BOORT           | 5.1 | 5.2 | 9. 3  | 12. 6 | (78)  |

Goals for Birchip-Watchem: Ben Edwards 5, Daniel Bell 2, Tom Gibson 2, Joseph Reid 2, Ty Colbert, Charlie Frank, Riley Hogan, Marshall Rippon, Nicholas Rippon.

For Boort: Jhye Baddeley-Kelly 4, Ethan Coleman 3, Carlos Egan 2, Peter Barbopoulos, Jarrod Fitzpatrick, Kayne Rutley.

Best for Birchip-Watchem: Dale Hinkley, Nicholas Rippon, William Lee, Ben Lakin, Hamish Hosking, Meyrick Buchanan.

For Boort: Keiren Wilson, Kieren Jaksic, James Keeble, Peter Barbopoulos, Kayne Rutley, Ryan McGhie.

## Haeusler’s Reserves

|                  |     |     |     |       |      |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|------|
| SEA LAKE-NANDALY | 2.2 | 6.4 | 8.8 | 14.11 | (95) |
| CHARLTON         | 1.2 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 3. 5  | (23) |

Goals for Sea Lake-Nandaly: John Summerhayes 4, Jordan Bath 2, Joel Clohesy 2, Zachary Wemyss 2, Brayden Allan, Tom considine, Isaac Durie, Brody Weir.

For Charlton: Tyler Bates, Fergus Bourke, Benjamin Roberts.

Best for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Brody Weir, John Summerhayes, Brayden Allan, Jordan Bath, Isaac Durie, Codey Elliott.

For Charlton: Angus Johnstone, Lachlan Holmes-Brown, Tyler Bates, Fergus Bourke, Declan Ryan, Travis Salmon.

|            |     |     |     |     |      |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| WEDDERBURN | 1.1 | 5.5 | 6.5 | 8.5 | (53) |
| DONALD     | 1.3 | 1.4 | 3.6 | 4.7 | (31) |

Goals for Wedderburn: Andrew Chalkley 5, Alex Grace, Chris Hargreaves, Jacob Piccoli.

For Donald: Sam Goldsmith 2, Dylan Gowlett, Jesse Lopes.

Best for Wedderburn: Andrew Chalkley, Robert Tonkin, Alex Grace, Chris Hargreaves, Levi Sims, Jacob Piccoli.

For Donald: Dylan Gowlett, Sam Goldsmith, Beau Morgan, Ethan Clapham, Braxton Hollis, Dion Hawkes.

|               |     |     |     |     |      |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| CALDER UNITED | 1.3 | 3.3 | 5.8 | 6.9 | (45) |
| ST ARNAUD     | 0.0 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 4.7 | (31) |

Goals for Calder United: Hunter Connolly 3, Jed Bish, Angus Forrester, Heath Senior.

For St Arnaud: Jarryd Kell 2, James McNamee 2.

Best for Calder United: Dane McLennan, Rowan Jones, Darcy Munro, Hunter Connolly, Brett Barker, Jed Bish.

For St Arnaud: Bailey Durward, Harrison Saunders, Jarryd Kell, Thomas Bertalli, Simon Elliott, James McNamee.

|                 |     |     |      |      |      |
|-----------------|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| BOORT           | 1.1 | 2.1 | 5. 9 | 6.12 | (48) |
| BIRCHIP-WATCHEM | 1.5 | 3.7 | 3.10 | 3.15 | (33) |

Goals for Boort: Harry Weaver 2, Jordan Bell, Alex Cockerell, Chris O'Rourke, Sam Toose.

For Birchip-Watchem: Jack Lee 2, Archie Lewis.

Best for Boort: Harry Weaver, Chris Hatcher, Jordan Sheahan, Jacob Mulquiny, Brendon Hewlett, Angus Potter.

For Birchip-Watchem: Jack Lee, Austin Dean, Bodie Colbert, Riley Hogan, Patrick Lakin.

## Community Bank Charlton & District Under-17s

|                  |     |     |     |      |      |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|
| SEA LAKE-NANDALY | 3.2 | 4.5 | 6.9 | 7.12 | (54) |
| CHARLTON         | 0.3 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 2.5  | (17) |

Best for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Brayden Allan, Scott Barbary, Jack Brown, Nate McClelland, Riley Allan, Seth Halliday.

For Charlton: Leigh Van Boven, Cooper Phillips, Liam Monaghan, Mitchell Boyle, Ethan Soulsby, Xav Good.

|            |     |     |     |       |      |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|------|
| DONALD     | 4.3 | 7.7 | 8.8 | 11.12 | (78) |
| WEDDERBURN | 0.1 | 0.1 | 1.2 | 3. 2  | (20) |

Best for Donald: Ethan Clapham, Chase Campbell, Luca Rice, Daniel Cooper, Hayden Clark.

For Wedderburn: Aaron Smith, Deacon Tansley, Tyson Blair, Jake Smith, Max Dean.

|               |     |     |     |       |      |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|------|
| ST ARNAUD     | 1.1 | 5.4 | 7.5 | 10.13 | (73) |
| CALDER UNITED | 2.3 | 4.4 | 6.5 | 6. 5  | (41) |

Best for St Arnaud: Chase Zander, Aidan Wickham, Austin Lowe, Bob Donald, Nathan Saludes, Chad Hendy.

For Calder United: Tiger Vearing, Max Fawcett, Tynan Perry, Mark Austin, Harry Humphreys, Angus Cowell.

|                 |     |      |      |       |      |
|-----------------|-----|------|------|-------|------|
| BOORT           | 4.3 | 7.10 | 9.11 | 11.14 | (80) |
| BIRCHIP-WATCHEM | 0.0 | 1. 0 | 3. 2 | 5. 2  | (32) |

Best for Boort: Jake O'Flaherty, Luke Boyd, Jacob Malone, Deacon Hird, Joseph Ketterer.

For Birchip-Watchem: Kobe Hamilton, Oliver Cook, Jack Knights, Bayley Kemp.

## Uniting Church Under-14s

SEA LAKE-NANDALY 6.9 (45) D. CHARLTON 0.1 (1)

Best for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Jesse Cox, Finn Austerberry, Hamish Landry, Henry Cox, Harry Wight, Milton Bailey.

For Charlton: Xav Good, Charlie Zagame, Isaac Roberts, Darcy Olive, Cooper Mcgrath.

DONALD 10.7 (67) D. WEDDERBURN 2.3 (15)

Best for Donald: Emmett Geddes, Samuel Mortlock, Nullah Clapham, Justin Hepworth, Toby Lydom, Larou Clapham.

For Wedderburn: Blaz Cramp, Archa Derks, Logan Roberts, Tyler Pearce, Travis Smith.

ST ARNAUD 11.13 (79) D. CALDER UNITED 0.2 (2)

Best for St Arnaud: Duncan Kirk, Finn Evans, Arley Reyne, Maddox Stewart, Samuel Greenaway, Charlie Kirk.

For Calder United: Emma Kilby, Harry Kilby, Ryder Harrison, Morgan Beattie, Levi Poyner, Beau Hogan.

BOORT 7.5 (47) D. BIRCHIP-WATCHEM 1.2 (8)

Best for Boort: Liam King, Jed Perryman, Cruz Nuttall, Brady Gilmore, Zeb Gould.

For Birchip-Watchem: Oscar Sharp, Aki Norton, River Ryan, Logan Wood.

## Positions of Teams

### Goldacres North-Central Seniors

| Teams            | P | Pts | %      | W | L | D | B | For | Ag  |
|------------------|---|-----|--------|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|
| Birchip-Watchem  | 6 | 24  | 254.55 | 6 | 0 | 0 |   | 812 | 319 |
| Calder United    | 6 | 16  | 230.35 | 4 | 2 | 0 |   | 721 | 313 |
| Sea Lake-Nandaly | 6 | 16  | 223.37 | 4 | 2 | 0 |   | 650 | 291 |
| Boort            | 6 | 16  | 163.06 | 4 | 2 | 0 |   | 693 | 425 |
| Wedderburn       | 6 | 12  | 162.34 | 3 | 3 | 0 |   | 513 | 316 |
| Charlton         | 6 | 8   | 28.81  | 2 | 4 | 0 |   | 238 | 826 |
| St Arnaud        | 6 | 4   | 47.31  | 1 | 5 | 0 |   | 308 | 651 |
| Donald           | 6 | 0   | 16.07  | 0 | 6 | 0 |   | 152 | 946 |

### Haeuslers Reserves

| Teams            | P | Pts | %      | W | L | D | B | For | Ag  |
|------------------|---|-----|--------|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|
| Calder United    | 6 | 24  | 582.52 | 6 | 0 | 0 |   | 600 | 103 |
| Boort            | 6 | 20  | 404.08 | 5 | 1 | 0 |   | 594 | 147 |
| Birchip-Watchem  | 6 | 16  | 219.75 | 4 | 2 | 0 |   | 534 | 243 |
| Sea Lake-Nandaly | 6 | 12  | 111.08 | 3 | 3 | 0 |   | 381 | 343 |
| Wedderburn       | 6 | 12  | 40.30  | 3 | 3 | 0 |   | 214 | 531 |
| St Arnaud        | 6 | 8   | 102.37 | 2 | 4 | 0 |   | 302 | 295 |
| Charlton         | 6 | 4   | 50.00  | 1 | 5 | 0 |   | 248 | 496 |
| Donald           | 6 | 0   | 9.26   | 0 | 6 | 0 |   | 73  | 788 |

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

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

### Uniting Church Under-14s

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

## Tooleybuc Sporting Club Presidents’ Award

Voting for round 6:

**Sea Lake-Nandaly:** T. McKenzie 3, J. Keogh 2, T. Donnan 1.

**Charlton:** J. Thompson 3, T. Finlay 2, B. Lanyon 1.

**Wedderburn:** M. McEwen 3, J. McEwen 2, H. Lockhart 1.

**Donald:** D. Pearce 3, H. Forrest 2, E. Landwehr 1.

**Calder United:** S. Kennedy 3, J. Exell 2, D. Watts 1.

**St Arnaud:** B. Organ 3, O. Lowe 2, D. Schilder 1.

**Birchip-Watchem:** D. Hinkley 3, N. Rippon 2, B. Lee 1.

**Boort:** K. Wilson 3, K. Jaksic 2, J. Keeble 1.

## Saturday’s Leading Goal Kickers

### Seniors

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Ben Edwards (B-W) 5           | .44 |
| Jhye Baddeley-Kelly (Boort) 4 | .32 |
| Jack Exell (CU) 10            | .25 |
| Joseph Reid (B-W) 2           | .18 |
| Kayne Rutley (Boort) 1        | .17 |
| Nicholas Rippon (B-W) 1       | .16 |
| Mitch Farmer (CU) 5           | .14 |
| Jordan Humphreys (CU) 3       | .14 |
| Tyson McKenzie (SLNT) 2       | .13 |

### Reserves

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Harry Weaver (Boort) 2   | .20 |
| Alexander Hay (B-W) -    | .16 |
| Alex Cockerell (Boort) 1 | .16 |
| Heath Senior (CU) 2      | .15 |
| Joel Clohesy (SLNT) 2    | .13 |
| Chris O'Rourke (Boort) 1 | .12 |
| Matthew Berry (B-W) -    | .11 |
| Jarryd Kell (St A) 2     | .11 |
| Zachary Wemyss (SLNT) 2  | .10 |

## CHS Broadbent Club Championship

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

|                  | Snr. | Res. | U-17 | U-14 | Ttl. |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Boort            | 0    | 6    | 4    | 2    | 90   |
| Calder United    | 10   | 6    | 0    | 0    | 90   |
| Birchip-Watchem  | 10   | 0    | 0    | 0    | 86   |
| Sea Lake-Nandaly | 10   | 6    | 4    | 2    | 84   |
| Wedderburn       | 10   | 6    | 0    | 0    | 60   |
| St Arnaud        | 0    | 0    | 4    | 2    | 56   |
| Charlton         | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 40   |
| Donald           | 0    | 0    | 4    | 2    | 20   |

### Next Round

### Round 7, Saturday May 31 -

Sea Lake-Nandaly v. Donald  
Birchip-Watchem v. St Arnaud

Calder United v. Charlton  
Wedderburn v. Boort

Lions’ Exell Excels!

Lions spearhead, Jack Exell has taken home a haul of 10 goals, as Calder United headed home with a strong win, at Lord Nelson Park.

Calder United came out of the gate strong, with Exell kicking the first two of the game, before the Saints hit back with 3 of their own, with Jackson Needs, Max Hungerford, and Brad Organ returning serve in a 3-minute burst of rather impressive ball movement, and control of the play from the Saints.

Unfortunately for the Saints, they had already lost two players to injury by this time, with chief livewire Jay Kirwood and defensive general Torin Petrie going down in the first 8 minutes of the game.

Mitch Farmer then kicked his first, with Exell following up soon after for his third.

At quarter time, the Lions held the lead, 4.2 to 3.0.

Kicking with (what punters described as) a 4-goal breeze down towards the hockey end, the Lions took that and more in the second term, piling on 7 unanswered goals in the first 20 minutes of the quarter (including 4 to Exell). Max Hungerford put one on for the Saints, before Calder United added one more of its own, to take a 52 point lead into the main break.

Half-time: Lions 12.5 to Saints 4.1.

Saints lifted again in the third term, kicking a further 3 goals throughout, to Hunger-

ford, Sam Male, and Jake Male; however the Lions also managed 5 for themselves, including goals to Exell, Farmer, and Dean Putt

Three-quarter time: Lions 17.10 to Saints 7.2.

When the final term began, it was clear the fatigue had set in for the Saints, who by this stage had played nearly 3 full terms of footy with just the single player on the interchange, and the Lions completely capitalised, going forward almost at will, to pile on a further 12 goals in the final term.

Final scores: Lions 29.13 (187) d. St Arnaud 7.2 (44).

For the Lions, it was Steven Kennedy masterful throughout the midfield, and was named best player, alongside Jack Exell, Daniel Watts, and Charlie Fawcett.

And for the Saints, it was young gun Owen Lowe named best, after having been moved to Jack Exell in the second half, keeping him to just the 3 goals. Stalwarts Matthew Goode, and 150th gamer, Kurt Torney were named in the best alongside him.

Reserves

In the Reserves, for the vast portion of the match, it looked like the competition may have had a boil over on its hands!

Calder United won the toss, kicking downbreeze to the scoring end. The St Arnaud midfield and defence held up well, restricting the opposition to just the single goal in the first term, by way of Angus Forrester.

Coach Jarryd Kell, and senior premiership coach James McNamee opened the account early in the second term for the Saints, and Kell added another 10 minutes in, before Hunter Connolly and Jed Bish steadied for the Lions.

Half time: Saints 3.4 to Lions 3.3.

Calder United had all the scoring throughout the third, with goals to Hunter Connolly (his 2nd) and Heath Senior, however the play was quite shared, with both half back lines holding up extremely well.

With a 16 point lead to the Lions, and a 4 goal breeze to favour the Saints, at 3 quarter time it was anyone’s game.

Unfortunately for the Saints, and thankfully for the Lions, despite having more than enough opportunities in front of goal, the Saints were unable to capitalise, and would ultimately go down by 14 points. McNamee kicked his 2nd throughout the term, while Connolly kicked his third for the Lions.

With a mammoth task in front of them heading into the game, it was a superb effort by the Saints! This was the first time for the year, that the Lions really looked tested.

Final scores: Lions 6.9 (45) d. Saints 4.7 (31).

Leading into the game, the Lions were averaging 111 points per game, with victories by 43, 65, 96, 118, and 161 points.

A lesson to the rest of the competitions – maybe they’re not quite as insurmountable as most thought they were.



• Calder Lions’ Jack Exell, 10 goals. – Photos by Jason Smith.



• The Saints’ Jake Male, and Calder United’s Matt Trzeciak.



• Saints’ Brad Organ, Jimmy McKenny with Calder United’s Jordy Humphreys.

“Times” Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8178 - SOLUTIONS
Across - 6, Practicable. 7, Pair. 8, Intrepid. 9, Nougat. 10, Hockey. 12, Winner. 15, Purple. 17, Spiteful. 19, Iota. 20, Disentangle.
Down - 1, Tarragon. 2, Strict. 3, Scotch. 4, Able. 5, Re-side. 6, Plato. 11, Carriage. 13, Impede. 14, Refine. 15, Pillar. 16, Litre. 18, Tusk.

North-Central Hockey

Results of round 6 –

Under-12s: Charlton 7 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 0; Donald 0 def. by Wedderburn 5; St Arnaud 2 def. by Calder United 3; Boort 0 def. by Birchip-Watchem 7.

Underage: Charlton 5 d. Sea Lake Nandaly 0; St Arnaud 3 d. Calder United 0; Boort 8 d. Birchip-Watchem 1.

Women: Charlton 5 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 0; Donald 1 drew with Wedderburn 1; St Arnaud 2 def. by Calder United 4.

Men: Charlton 2 def. by Sea Lake-Nandaly 4; Donald 2 d. Wedderburn 0; St Arnaud 5 d. Calder United 1.

POSITIONS OF TEAMS

Table with 11 columns (Team, P, W, D, L, F, For, Agst, SD, Pts, WR) and 10 rows of data for Women, Men, Underage, and Under-12s categories.

# Redbacks Dominate Round Six

A small but enthusiastic crowd witnessed the clash between Donald and Wedderburn at the Goff Letts Oval on Saturday.

Donald welcomed another Arho to its ranks, with Sam joining his brothers Brent and Ben, all lining up in the forward line. Another highlight for the Blues was Tom Reekie in the ruck. Whether it was the boots or a late growth spurt, Tom seemed to have gained a few inches since the last match a fortnight ago!

Wedderburn was too classy from the outset and had no shortage of goal scorers, with half of their side contributing to the tally. Mitch McEwen was menacing all day with five majors, Oscar Holt added four, Jackson McEwen kicked three, Darcy Jackson chipped in with two, and seven others joined the scoreboard with one each. The McEwen boys were outstanding, while Hamish “Hammer” Lockhart and Joe Lockhart used their run and carry to set up countless attacks.

For the home side, it was once again Dan Pearce leading from the front. Ed Landwehr and Harry Forrest attacked the ball with vigour, and Rob Walker and Ben

Arho are showing continued improvement with each game.

Although the scoreboard reflected Wedderburn’s dominance, the Royal Blues showed heart and persistence. Their only goals came from Sam Arho just before half-time, and Brent Arho in the third quarter, converting a clever pass after a blistering run from Dyson Bell-Warren.

Following the match, Coach Dan Pearce delivered a heartfelt speech that struck a chord with players and supporters alike. He spoke about the importance of unity and resilience, encouraging the group to stick together and keep building, regardless of results. Dan also expressed sincere gratitude to the club’s loyal supporters and members who turn up each week, rain or shine, reinforcing that their presence means more than they know.

Wedderburn continues to build strong momentum and puts pressure on the top four.

Scores: Wedderburn 21.12 (138) def. Donald 2.1 (13).

Best for Wedderburn: Mitch McEwen, Jackson McEwen, Hamish Lockhart, Ben Bacon, Joe Lockhart, Isaac Holt.

Best for Donald: Dan Pearce, Ed Landwehr, Harry Forrest, Rob Walker, Ben Arho, Dyson Bell-Warren.



• Luca Rice and Noah Furlong battle for the ball. Other players are left to right: Joe Lockhart (W), Jye Mortlock (W) (partly obscured), Dyson Bell-Warren (D), Callum Van Den Driest (D), Tom Reekie (D)and Mark Robinson (W).

• Right: The chase is on! Every picture tells a story, and here Wedderburn’s evergreen warrior, Danny Benaim, sets the example followed by the Redbacks throughout Saturday’s game against the Royal Blues. Donald players pictured are George Morgan and Dyson Bell-Warren.



• All eyes are on the Sherrin. Left to right are: Tom Reekie (D), Mitch Woods (W), Callum Van Den Driest (D) and Isaac Holt (W).



## North-Central Netball

Last Saturday’s results:

“A” Grade  
Charlton 27 def. by Sea Lake-Nandaly 48; Boort 57 d. Birchip-Watchem 51; St Arnaud 22 def. by Calder United 64; Donald 24 def. by Wedderburn 75.

“B” Grade  
Charlton 20 def. by Sea Lake-Nandaly 42; Boort 61 d. Birchip-Watchem 40; St Arnaud 43 def. by Calder United 49; Donald 47 def. by Wedderburn 66.

“C” Grade  
Charlton 31 def. by Sea Lake-Nandaly 50; Boort 34 def. by Birchip-Watchem 43; St Arnaud 27 def. by Calder United 66; Donald 22 def. by Wedderburn 64.

“C” Grade Reserves  
St Arnaud 20 def. by Calder United 43; Boort 69 d. Birchip-Watchem 13.

Seventeen-and-Under  
St Arnaud 36 def. by Calder United 66; Boort 34 def. by Birchip-

Watchem 54; Charlton 22 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 33; Donald 33 def. by Wedderburn 45.

Fourteen-and-Under “A”  
Charlton 30 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 8; Donald 32 d. Wedderburn 2; St Arnaud v. Calder United; Boort 26 d. Birchip-Watchem 21.

Fourteen-and-Under “B”  
Donald 13 def. by Wedderburn 19; St Arnaud v. Calder United; Boort 15 d. Birchip-Watchem 13.

### Results of round 6:

| “A” GRADE     |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |     |     |     |     |  |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|
|               | P | W | L | D | B | FW | FL | F   | A   | Pts | %   |  |
| Wedderburn    | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 331 | 180 | 24  | 184 |  |
| Boort         | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 323 | 259 | 20  | 125 |  |
| Sea Lake-Nan  | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 263 | 206 | 16  | 128 |  |
| Calder United | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 259 | 240 | 12  | 108 |  |
| Birchip-Wat   | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 287 | 274 | 12  | 105 |  |
| Donald        | 6 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 261 | 295 | 8   | 88  |  |
| Charlton      | 6 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 199 | 299 | 4   | 67  |  |
| St Arnaud     | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 174 | 344 | 0   | 51  |  |

| “B” GRADE     |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |     |     |     |     |  |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|
|               | P | W | L | D | B | FW | FL | F   | A   | Pts | %   |  |
| Wedderburn    | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 368 | 210 | 24  | 175 |  |
| Boort         | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 321 | 225 | 24  | 143 |  |
| Calder United | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 237 | 209 | 12  | 113 |  |
| Birchip-Wat   | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 290 | 264 | 12  | 110 |  |
| St Arnaud     | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 198 | 231 | 12  | 86  |  |
| Donald        | 6 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 224 | 281 | 4   | 80  |  |
| Sea Lake-Nan  | 6 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 227 | 286 | 4   | 79  |  |
| Charlton      | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 131 | 290 | 0   | 45  |  |

| “C” GRADE     |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |     |     |     |     |  |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|
|               | P | W | L | D | B | FW | FL | F   | A   | Pts | %   |  |
| Calder United | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 318 | 166 | 20  | 192 |  |
| Sea Lake-Nan  | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 228 | 185 | 20  | 123 |  |
| Boort         | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 229 | 215 | 16  | 107 |  |
| Birchip-Wat   | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 241 | 220 | 12  | 110 |  |
| Wedderburn    | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 209 | 199 | 12  | 105 |  |
| St Arnaud     | 6 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 228 | 216 | 8   | 106 |  |
| Charlton      | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 189 | 296 | 0   | 64  |  |
| Donald        | 5 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 125 | 270 | 0   | 46  |  |

| “C” GRADE RESERVES |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |     |     |     |      |  |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|-----|------|--|
|                    | P | W | L | D | B | FW | FL | F   | A   | Pts | %    |  |
| Sea Lake-Nan       | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0  | 0  | 250 | 104 | 20  | 0.48 |  |
| Boort              | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0  | 0  | 191 | 83  | 12  | 0.58 |  |
| Calder United      | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 178 | 117 | 12  | 0.30 |  |
| Wedderburn         | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0  | 0  | 95  | 169 | 4   | 0.14 |  |
| Birchip-Wat        | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0  | 0  | 78  | 186 | 4   | 0.10 |  |
| St Arnaud          | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0  | 0  | 82  | 215 | 0   | 0.10 |  |

| SEVENTEEN-AND-UNDER |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |     |     |     |     |  |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|
|                     | P | W | L | D | B | FW | FL | F   | A   | Pts | %   |  |
| Calder United       | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 455 | 145 | 24  | 314 |  |
| Birchip-Wat         | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 338 | 227 | 16  | 149 |  |
| St Arnaud           | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 307 | 227 | 16  | 135 |  |
| Boort               | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 241 | 221 | 16  | 109 |  |
| Sea Lake-Nan        | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 216 | 289 | 12  | 75  |  |
| Charlton            | 6 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 219 | 229 | 4   | 96  |  |
| Wedderburn          | 6 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 183 | 340 | 4   | 54  |  |
| Donald              | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 127 | 408 | 0   | 31  |  |

| FOURTEEN-AND-UNDER “A” |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |     |     |     |     |  |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|
|                        | P | W | L | D | B | FW | FL | F   | A   | Pts | %   |  |
| Boort                  | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 168 | 71  | 24  | 237 |  |
| Birchip-Wat            | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 176 | 71  | 20  | 248 |  |
| Donald                 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 164 | 74  | 16  | 222 |  |
| St Arnaud              | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 99  | 59  | 12  | 168 |  |
| Calder United          | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 90  | 94  | 8   | 96  |  |
| Charlton               | 6 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 61  | 151 | 4   | 40  |  |
| Sea Lake-Nan           | 6 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 50  | 177 | 4   | 28  |  |
| Wedderburn             | 6 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 37  | 148 | 4   | 25  |  |

| FOURTEEN-AND-UNDER “B” |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |     |     |      |  |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|------|--|
|                        | P | W | L | D | B | FW | FL | F  | A   | Pts | %    |  |
| St Arnaud              | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0  | 0  | 88 | 12  | 16  | 1.83 |  |
| Birchip-Wat            | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0  | 0  | 85 | 36  | 16  | 0.47 |  |
| Boort                  | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0  | 0  | 89 | 39  | 16  | 0.46 |  |
| Wedderburn             | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0  | 0  | 52 | 67  | 10  | 0.16 |  |
| Calder United          | 5 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 31 | 50  | 4   | 0.12 |  |
| Sea Lake-Nan           | 5 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0  | 0  | 19 | 83  | 4   | 0.05 |  |
| Donald                 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0  | 0  | 29 | 106 | 2   | 0.05 |  |