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

VFF Calls for Urgent State Budget Support

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) is calling on the Victorian Government to urgently ramp up drought support measures as farmers across the state face worsening conditions and the real threat of business failure.

With the Victorian State Budget fast approaching, the VFF says the government must seize the opportunity to deliver immediate relief to drought-affected regions and invest in long-term preparedness and resilience.

This is on the back of the South Australian Government

delivering a \$73 million drought package – including direct support for farmers, small businesses, and investment in water infrastructure.

The VFF says Victoria risks falling behind and without immediate action, the impacts on regional communities and the

state's vital food and fibre supply chains could be devastating.

What's Needed

The VFF is calling for:

- An increase and expansion of the Drought Support Package currently targeted at South West Victoria to include

Central Victoria, South Gippsland, and West Gippsland, where drought conditions have intensified;

- Increased and extended funding for the Farm Business Resilience Program to strengthen farm preparedness for future droughts;

- Additional funding for rural financial counselling services to support farm businesses under stress;

- Joint State and Commonwealth investment in strategic water infrastructure projects, particularly pipelines, to secure stock and domestic water supply and investment in establishing and upgrading emergency water supply points; and,

- Increased kangaroo harvesting quotas in drought-affected regions to reduce pressure on fragile pasture and water supplies.

Driest in Decades

VFF/UDV President Bernie Free said Victoria's farmers are facing some of the driest conditions seen in decades.

"Feed is becoming increasingly scarce, water sources are drying up, and financial pressure is mounting. We now have multiple dairy regions across the state affected. Without further support from the

• Continued on page 2.

Mallee Swings to The Nationals

Member for Mallee, Dr Anne Webster MP, says that while the national federal election results are extremely disappointing, Mallee voters have re-elected The Nationals in a strong rejection of Labor's appalling treatment of the electorate.

"I am humbled that Mallee has voted for me to represent them for the next three years," Dr Webster wrote to supporters on Sunday morning.

"I am so grateful for that honour, and for the many of

you who supported my campaign – from the bottom of my heart, I thank you.

"Not only has there been a swing towards The Nationals in Mallee this election, it looks likely that we have won Mallee on first preferences

and now hold Mallee with one of the largest margins for a Coalition seat in the nation."

On the latest counting, The Nationals' hold on the seat on a two-party preferred basis had risen over half a per

cent to 69.6 per cent, against an apparent nationwide swing of 3.2 per cent to Labor. Mallee was one of only a few seats that had a swing towards the Coalition, instead of swinging to Labor.

Dr Webster said she would hold Labor accountable for their solitary commitment to Mallee, \$4.5 million for the Maryborough pool, and committed to supporters she would keep fighting for them.

"Labor robs regions to buy votes in regional Australia – they did it in Mallee this election campaign, and I will be vocal in Mallee and in Canberra to ensure Mallee gets its fair share and is not railroaded by Labor's agenda.

"From Opposition, The Nationals will keep fighting for you, your community and regional Australia."



• Anne Webster.

Lions Learn of Kooka's Progress

As work continues on the new factory for Kooka's Country Cookies on Donald's Industrial Estate, Donald Lions Club members welcomed to their April Meeting, as guest speaker, Kooka's board member and shareholder, Craig Henderson, and shareholder Trevor Campbell.

Acknowledging Lion Graeme ("Pickles") Harris as a "former manager of Kooka's, and my first boss", Craig spoke of "good and bad times", as the major project progressed.

"There were financial problems, but losses have turned to profits," he said.

"The plan was to move the original plant into the new building, but the new German and Italian machinery will

produce more than the old one.

"Lots of work and money have been involved, and the overall cost could be \$8 million. On a positive side, a staff of more than 30 has been employed – and it's not always easy to create and maintain employment in country towns. Furthermore, all necessary work on the building and surrounds has been carried out by local tradesmen."

One of those tradesmen, Donald Steel's John McConville (the current project manager), made reference to the giant kookaburra now positioned at the front of the new factory.

Thanking the boards Craig Henderson and Kelvin Clark, for "making it all happen", John added, "The new kookaburra was designed to be a tourist attraction – and it's already working.



• Left to right: John McConville, Michael Raynes (Lions President), Graeme Harris, Craig Henderson



• Melissa Drum presents Jay Kirwood with the Chris Wall Memorial Award for best on ground.

Jay's Day at Lord Nelson Park

One of the most prized awards of the North-Central Football League season is the Chris Wall Memorial Medal for best afield when Donald plays St. Arnaud at Lord Nelson Park.

Described in today's "Times" match report as "a class act, and clearly best on ground" was Jay Kirwood, who capped a brilliant performance with five goals in his side's commanding victory over the Royal Blues.

Keeping an eye on the day's events (left) is noted sports writer, Shane O'Shea.

• Four rounds into seniors football, Boort shares the lead with Birchip-Watchem. Over the first three weeks the Magpies have chalked up victories

against St. Arnaud, Charlton and Donald. On Saturday it enhanced its credentials with an 8-point win over reigning premiers, Sea Lake-Nandaly.

• Saturday's football results are in today's sports pages.

Telstra Conducting Maintenance in Donald

Telstra will be conducting maintenance on its mobile site that services Donald.

Telstra mobile services in the area will be temporarily affected while the works are under way.

Temporary Disruptions
Telstra mobile customers will receive texts advising of the upcoming work.

Landline services, NBN internet services, and mobile coverage from other providers will not be impacted.

The site will need to be switched off during the following periods: Wednesday, May 7, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m..

Tips
Tips for improving connectivity while works are under way.

Telstra customers can continue to make calls and send texts during disruption to mobile services by switching on

Wi-Fi Calling. This is a free setting on most popular mobile phones and allows your mobile to make and receive mobile calls while connected to Wi-Fi.

Telstra also encourages business owners talk to their bank about connecting their EFTPOS terminals to their NBN or Wi-Fi connection to prevent delays in processing transactions.

For Someone Receiving Allowance... No Affordable Rentals

Anglicare's Rental Snapshot released this week again shows there are no affordable rentals for someone receiving JobSeeker or Youth Allowance nationwide.

Of the 51,238 rentals listings Anglicare reviewed, just three rooms in share-houses were affordable for someone receiving the \$56 a day JobSeeker Payment and the maximum rate of rent assistance.

None was affordable for someone receiving Youth Allowance, which is just \$48 a day. Only 73 (0.1%) listings nationwide were affordable

for a single parent with one child under 5 years of age.

Damning Report
"This is another damning report that shows how inadequate social security payments like JobSeeker are, and how it exacerbates the housing crisis", said ACOSS CEO Dr Cassandra Goldie, AO.

"If you receive JobSeeker or another social security payment, the data shows you have virtually no chance of avoiding housing stress if you need to rent in the private market.

"People end up going without food, medication and essential healthcare to try to keep a roof over their head.

Most Important
"The most important thing the next Federal Government should do to reduce the deep financial stress experienced by more than 1.5 million people in Australia is to raise the rate of social security payments like JobSeeker so that they meet basic needs. This should be the first priority of all candidates concerned about cost of living in this election.

"With just days to go, we call on all candidates to support Raise the Rate, and commit to lifting JobSeeker, Youth Allowance, Parenting Payment and related income support payments to at least \$82 a day so that people have a chance of keeping a roof over their head."

Letter to the Editor

Election Results
(The Editor, "The Times")
Dear Editor.— The federal election results, while extremely disappointing in the overall national result, has nonetheless seen Mallee voters elect me to represent them for the next three years. I am so grateful for that honour, and for the many of you who supported my campaign — from the bottom of my heart, Thank you.

Not only has there been a swing towards The Nationals in Mallee this election, it looks likely that we have won Mallee on first preferences and now hold Mallee with one of the largest margins for a Coalition seat in the nation.

This election, I committed to fight for you — fighting for farming communities, fighting for food and energy you can afford, and fighting for the healthcare you deserve. I will continue to fight for you with everything I have.

I must clarify that the Liberal Party's failure to hold, let alone win, seats across metropolitan Australia means there will not be a Coalition Government to deliver the election funding commitments I made in Avoca, Beulah, Boort, Dunolly, Horsham, Kaniva, Mildura, Nhill, Rainbow, St Arnaud

and Wycheproof. I am devastated by this and will continue to fight for those projects and more over the next three years. I will also hold Labor to account for the single project they promised for Mallee, \$4.5 million for the Maryborough swimming pool.

At the time of writing, it appears The Nationals have held all of their seats across Australia — and in seats like Mallee, The Nationals have benefited from a swing against an Albanese Labor Government that robs regions to buy votes in the inner cities. Even so, the shape of the Coalition Opposition remains up in the air at this time.

I am writing to you this morning to give you this commitment — I will fight for you. From Opposition, The Nationals will keep fighting for you, your community and regional Australia.

My office will reopen this week in a limited capacity and I encourage you to keep in touch and provide your feedback on how we can get Australia back on track.

Dr Anne Webster MP
Federal Member for Mallee,
Shadow Assistant Minister for Regional Health.

"Bad Genius" at the Rex

A group of entrepreneurial high school seniors take matters into their own hands in The Rex movie "Bad Genius" this coming weekend.

This high-octane movie, which is an adaptation of the 2017 Thai film of the same name, follows a brilliant young Chinese American girl Lynn (Callina Liang), a first-generation immigrant whose parents came from China with the hope of a better life, if not for themselves, then for their daughter.

Lynn receives a scholarship to a prestigious Seattle school where she is befriended by rich girl Grace (Taylor Hickson). Lynn is slowly pulled into the rich kids' world where she devises an ingenious cheating scheme to help her friends pass their exams. As their underground operation expands, she soon finds herself at the centre of a high-stakes game that tests her morals and pits her against the American education system.

What begins as a favour to one mate morphs into a

financial opportunity for Lynn. As the scheme grows, so does the danger. In a system that is entirely rigged by and for the wealthy, why not beat them at their own game?

The screenplay is fast-paced and undeniably thrilling.

Callina Liang as "Lynn" effortlessly leads the cast, giving the character a slick confidence from start to finish. An additional player in this story is Bank (Jabari Banks), another brilliant student on a scholarship, who Lynn needs to convince to put his own future on the line to aid in the scheme.

While moral direction is also a factor in the movie, "Bad Genius", with its twists and turns, is edge-of-the-seat entertainment.

"Bad Genius" screens Saturday, May 10, 8 p.m. | Sunday, May 11, 2 p.m. | Tuesday, May 13, 8 p.m.

VFF Calls for Urgent State Budget Support

• Continued from page 1.
state government, we risk long-term damage not just to

farming families, but to entire rural communities," Mr Free said.

VFF Livestock Group President Scott Young said that both longer term and short-term assistance is required.

"We need longer term programs to help us prepare for the next drought," Mr Young said.

"But new troughs won't help when there's no water to put in them today. We need serious investment in immediate financial relief, and programs that actually reflect the reality on the ground."

The VFF continues to provide direct feedback to the Victorian Government and urges stronger, immediate action to support farmers and rural communities facing one of the most challenging seasons in decades.

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bring you

Belvedere

By George Crenshaw
www.belvedere-cartoons.com

8-15

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"Don't worry about your grip. Hit him !!!"

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 1pm-6pm

Meet the project team, find out more and provide feedback

30 April - Birchip Leisure Centre
7 May - Charlton Park Community Bank Complex
14 May - Charlton Park Community Bank Complex
21 May - Charlton Park Community Bank Complex

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Praise for Emergency Services

The Nationals' Member for Mildura, Jade Benham, has praised the dedication, co-ordination, and technical skills of local emergency services personnel after attending a joint training day held at the Victoria Emergency Management Training Centre Sunraysia training grounds.

The event, hosted by the CFA Sunraysia Group of Brigades, brought together volunteers and staff from the Country Fire Authority (CFA), the State Emergency Service (SES), and Ambulance Victoria (AV).

The training exercise was designed to strengthen inter-agency co-operation and showcase the skills and responsiveness of the region's first responders in simulated emergency scenarios.

"It was genuinely impressive to witness our emergency services working together so seamlessly," Ms Benham said.

"The capabilities and teamwork shown by our first responders is nothing short of phenomenal. Watching them in action – responding swiftly, communicating clearly, and demonstrating expert technical

knowledge – reminds me just how lucky we are to have such dedicated individuals serving our region."

She also commended the ongoing commitment of volunteers and frontline staff who continue to train and prepare for all types of emergency situations.

"These men and women give so much of themselves to protect others. Whether it's fire, flood, accident, or medical emergency, they are there – ready, trained, and willing," Ms Benham added.

"I know I say it a lot, but I can't help but be in total awe of what we, as a community, receive from our first responders."

Ms Benham said she would continue to advocate for the resources and recognition these essential services need to operate effectively.



• Jade Benham.

"Our emergency services are the backbone of community safety, especially in rural and regional areas like ours," she said.

"They deserve our full support – not only through words but through action and investment."



• Emergency Services personnel in action during the VEMTC training day



• Lot 185: Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies vintage horse drawn horse rack. Approx. overall width 3040.



• Lot 400V: Plymouth Sedan. Vehicle No. P23-2585. Chassis No. 03055696. Good Donor Car. No Reg, No RWC. As is, where is.

Sentimental Parting of Vintage Farm Machinery

Either way, Sunday, May 18, will be a day of mixed emotions for Wedderburn identity, Tony Hansen, because on May 18 he hopes to sell his collection of iconic items of vintage farm machinery.

These relics of the pioneering past are like "best mates" to Tony, who has arrived at that point in time to see his "best mates" move on to another collector, or possibly a machinery museum.

Tony has decided to auction his lifetime collection of motoring and farm machinery. Auctioneer Martin Evans reports there has already been considerable interest from local, and overseas buyers.

Auction catalogue lists 575 different lots including vintage horse drawn farm implements, caravan, trucks and s/wagon, collectables including signs, auto spares and the list goes on.

According to Martin the standout in the auto selection is the Plymouth sedan, circa early 1930s. This classical King of the Road features bold designs, pronounced headlights and was assembled by Chrysler Australia at its Keswick plant, South Australia. "All it needs is a dedicated owner offering lots of tender loving care," commented Martin Evans.

Public Inspection: Friday May 16 @ Wedderburn, 2-4 p.m..

Online Auction: Sunday, May 18, from 10 a.m..

Details: 0418 509 134.



• Lot 400V: Plymouth Sedan. Vehicle No. P23-2585. Chassis No. 03055696.



• Lot 400V: Plymouth Sedan. Vehicle No. P23-2585. Chassis No. 03055696.

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DEATH CRUTCH.— William "Bill" (2990334)

Member of
*Buckrabanyule
Fire Brigade.*

The Captain and members of Buckrabanyule regret the sudden passing of our colleague.

A dedicated and active member for over 65 years, and much loved member of the local community. Our deepest sympathies are with Beth and family.

Rest in peace Bill.

IN MEMORIAM

Trevor Robert Hollis
08/05/1955 - 06/05/2024

One year today since we said goodbye.

Time slips by and life goes on.

But from our hearts you have never gone.

We think about you always,

And talk about you too.

We have so many memories of all of us with you.

*—Love always,
Margie, Sara, Luke,
Josh and families.*

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

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**DONALD HISTORY
SOCIETY INC.**

FURTHER INFO: 0427 976 208

Meeting

**Monday, May 12
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Speaker:
Rhonda Russell,
Wood family history.

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12 noon

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ROYAL BLUES

Round 5
MAY 10

Billy Anderson Day

The Donald Football Club invite past players, supporters,
Life Members, and community members to

celebrate Bill's 70 years of volunteering

- 11.45 a.m.** Special presentation in the home rooms.
12.05 p.m. Further presentations in the Anderson Blue Room
2.15 p.m. Guard of honour before senior game and Bill to toss the coin

All welcome

In Bills own words *"The Donald Footy Club has been my life, I love being part of it, I love my footy!"*

Donald Art and Photography Show

DONALD MEMORIAL HALL

Friday, May 9 to Monday, May 12

Entries still being received. See schedule on:

Web Page: Donald Learning Group/Events

Facebook: Donald Art and Photography Show

Opening night: 6.30 p.m. \$20 early bird or \$25 at door

~ Complimentary glass of wine and nibbles ~

~ Background Live Music ~

~ Ticket is a pass for Saturday, Sunday and Monday ~

Judges announcement: 7.30 p.m.

Guest Artist: Tarli Bird

**Painting Workshop with Tarli Bird,
Sunday, May 11. 1.30 p.m. \$20**

Bookings close: Fri., May 2. Ph 0407313648 or 54971707

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2025/28 Strategic Plan Stakeholder Engagement Meeting



JOIN US IN SHAPING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES!

EWHS is planning for the next three years of health services, and we want to hear your thoughts on local healthcare needs and priorities.

Come along to one of our Community Forums and be part of the conversation

See below dates/times for each town:

- Monday 5 May, 5.00pm - 6.00pm - Charlton Campus, Meeting Room
- Tuesday 6 May, 5.00pm - 6.00pm - Wycheproof Town Hall
- Wednesday 7 May, 5.00pm - 6.00pm - Birchip Campus, Meeting Room
- Thursday 8 May, 5.00pm - 6.00pm - Donald Campus, Large PAG Room
- Friday 9 May, 5.00pm - 6.00pm - St Arnaud Campus, Meeting Room

Together, we can shape a stronger, healthier future!

RSVP to Mandy Campbell via email starnaud@ewhs.org.au or call 5477 2100



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- ☐ NEVER OVERLOAD POWERBOARDS
- ☐ CHECK SMOKE ALARMS MONTHLY
- ☐ CLEAN CHIMNEYS AND FLUES YEARLY
- ☐ TURN OFF ELECTRIC BLANKET BEFORE BED
- ☐ CLEAN THE LINT FILTER OF YOUR CLOTHES DRYER AFTER EACH LOAD

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Letter to the Editor



KUDOS to the Buloke Shire.

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Editor.— On our way to Mildura, we camped overnight at both Donald and Birchip.

Donald free camp was great with enough room for 6 to 8 vans, and the amenities where very clean and well maintained. The lights shining up into the trees and the windmill with lights on the legs gave enough light to make the area feel safe and secure.

The Birchip free camp had a heap of area for caravans

etc. The J E Taylor camp reserve free electric barbecue was a winner with us, what a great addition to a free camp area. The one toilet was extremely clean, as was the barbecue.

I always check the water quality with a handheld "parts per million meter", before using the water. The Birchip water tested at 42 p/m, which is fantastic, as compared to the bottled water purchased from supermarkets reads 138 p/m.

Please keep these free camps open as us Grey

Nomads enjoy them and helps keep us travelling, so we do not need to pay the caravan park fees, which at times can be a bit expensive. We always spend money in the towns that have free camps, as do other travellers. If the town goes to the effort to provide us with free camping, the town should benefit for our money spent, either in groceries or as we also did in the local Café, which was a great steak sandwich.

Regards,
Ralph Lester.

Call to Scrap Unfair Emergency Services Tax

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) is encouraging local community members to contact their local Members of Parliament to demand they vote to scrap the Victorian Government's proposed new emergency services tax.

VFF president, Brett Hosking, said the unfair proposed tax hike has sparked unity among farmers, fire-fighters, regional councils, and Victoria's business community who are all campaigning against the tax and calling for it to be dumped.

Out of Step

"This tax is unfair, unnecessary, and completely out of step with what Victorians expect from their government," he said.

"It's time for the community to raise their voice and let politicians know they won't stand for yet another hit to the household and business bottom line."

With the legislation yet to pass the Upper House and set to be revisited in the coming weeks, the VFF is calling on concerned Victorians to contact their local members and crossbench representatives to voice their opposition and demand a vote against the bill.

"No Support"

"This tax has no support, not from the fire services, not from local councils, and not from the people who'll be forced to pay it.

"The Upper House has the chance to stop it in its tracks, but they need to hear loud and clear from the people they represent," Mr Hosking said.

Rather than introducing a new layer of tax, the VFF is



• Brett Hosking.

urging the Victorian Government to focus on fixing the current Fire Services Property Levy system by introducing CPI caps, protecting households from levy shock due to inflated land values, and ensuring regional communities aren't overcharged for the services they provide as volunteers.

"This is a moment for the Victorian community to stand up and say 'enough is enough'. Don't burn regional Victoria with more taxes," Mr Hosking said.

"We encourage everyone to contact their MPs this week and make their voice heard."

More information, including a letter template how to contact your local MP can be found on the VFF website.

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Est. 1875

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

Photos not published may also be available.

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President Downs Captain's Team

It was a one-sided contest for the annual Presidents vs Captain matchplay event held at Charlton on Sunday.

The President's team, ably led by Jamey Soulsby, showed no mercy in defeating Captain Clinton Olive's team, 4 matches to 1. While there was some evenly contested matches, the end result was still a whitewash.

Results for the President's men listed first: J. Soulsby def. C. Olive. A. Hargreaves def. T. McGurk. Benno Catherine def. J. Headon. I. Jenkins def. J. McLoughlan. R. Postlethwaite lost to J. Cox.

Nearest the pins: J. Soulsby 7th, T. McGurk 14th.

Next week's event is set down for Saturday, May 10th to avoid clash with Sunday Mother's Day.

Victorious President's team from left: Roy Postlethwaite, Ian Jenkins, Benno Catherine, Jamey Soulsby, Anthony Hargreaves.



I Lift My Eyes to the Mountains

Planet Earth has some amazing scenery, some of the best is in the Aoraki-Mt Cook National Park located in the South Island of New Zealand.

Our son Paul and I completed the 12 km. return "Hooker Valley" trek in this National Park in approximately 3 hours plus photography time.

One tourist said concerning the amazing scenery on this trek: "Picturesque icebergs, glaciers and majestic mountains will have you reaching for your camera at every turn."

Of course, the most eye catching feature of all in the National Park is New Zealand's highest mountain, Mt Cook, which climbs skyward to an altitude of 3724 metres. By comparison Mt. Kosciusko, Australia's highest mountain is 2228 metres in height.

The walking track is well formed and provides a pleasant trek as it meanders up and

down and around rocky outcrops and in one section, there is an extensive boardwalk across a tussock plain.

One meets literally dozens of trekkers on the track – many of them internationals – all admiring the views and enjoying the occasion.

The Hooker Valley Track ends at the Hooker Glacier lake where one can usually find some icebergs which

have broken away from the glacier above.

Swing Bridges

On the journey to the Hooker Glacier lake there are three impressive steel cable supported swing bridges crossing high above the Hooker River. They are constructed by the New Zealand National Parks service; they bounce quite a lot when walking on them. Lateral cable stays prevent too much side movement.

Another notable feature of the Hooker River and many other streams in New Zealand's glaciated areas is the colour of the water – a "milky colour". I was told that this colour comes from the grinding of rocks with the movement of the glacial ice. The grinding and breaking down of the rocks releases minerals which colour the water, in fact some people call it "glacial milk". When this milky coloured water enters lakes it seems the sediments settle over time and the stunning turquoise blue characterising so many New Zealand lakes is the result.

On the day we trekked heavy overcast obscured the high mountain peaks above. On cloudless days as one advances along this track the horizon is dominated by the magnificent Mt Cook. One's eyes are constantly drawn to it. I am reminded of some verses from the Bible:

1. I lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from?

2. My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth (Psalm 121:1,2).

Difficult Times

Through the journey of life we experience difficult times, even times when we despair with circumstances way out of our control. Then it is good to be reminded of these truths, "I Lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth." The Maker of heaven and earth has also revealed Himself through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. If we come to Jesus in repentance and faith,

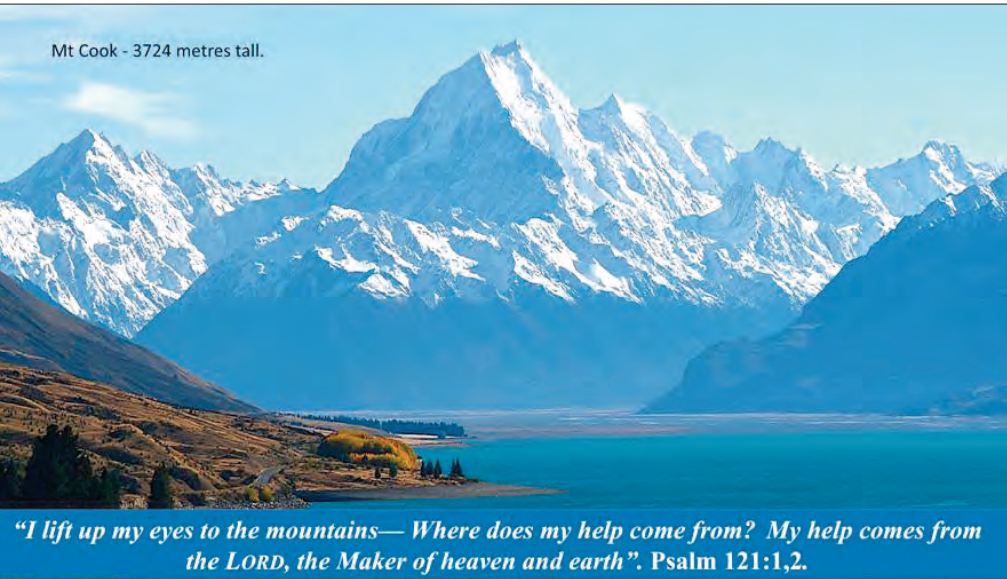


Bruce Stewart

then His presence and help can carry us through the challenges and joys of life. "Cast our care on to Him because He cares for us" (1 Peter 5:7). We are not designed to bear the burdens of life alone.

Next time you are walking or driving near the mountains, you might like to lift your eyes, enjoy the view and be reminded that our ultimate source of hope and help in the journey of life comes from the Maker of Heaven and Earth. I hope you get the opportunity to look to some mountains soon!

Bruce Stewart.



One Hundred Years Ago

From the "Birchip Advertiser", May 8, 1925.

Birchip Tennis Club Third Annual Tournament Pronounced a Success: The third annual open tournament was played at Birchip on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday last, and was a complete success. Fine weather prevailed throughout. Record entries, numbering 300, were received. Much praise is due to the secretary, Mr. W. McClelland, who spared no efforts to make this year's tournament the success it was. He was ably supported by the president, Mr. E. G. Cutts, and a number of enthusiastic workers. Mrs. McClelland won the ladies championship in convincing style in straight sets. She won 48 games and lost only 13. Mr. C. Woodham annexed the gents' championship and played delightful tennis throughout the tournament. Other outstanding competitors were W. Small and H. O'Donoghue whose performances were very consistent. The afternoon tea arrangements were splendidly carried out, and the tournament com-

mittee were very grateful to all the ladies who assisted, especially the organisers- Mesdames Ackland, O'Donnell, A. J. Porter and R. Crombie.

Football

Birchip v Wycheproof: The above teams met at Birchip last Wednesday in a friendly match, and after an evenly contested game, Birchip won by 11 behinds.

The scores were: First quarter, Birchip 3.3, Wycheproof 3.2; Second quarter, Birchip 5.6, Wycheproof 4.5; Third quarter, Birchip 7.8, Wycheproof 5.10; Final quarter, Birchip 7.10, Wycheproof 5.11.

Dinner at The Birchip Hotel: After the game match Mr. Harry Gook entertained the footballers and club officials at a dinner at the Birchip Hotel. After doing justice to all the good things provided by the genial host, a toast list was proceeded with.

Mr. F. E. D. Rankin, vice president of the Birchip Club,

ably proposed the toast to the Wycheproof club. He congratulated the visitors on their fine systematic play.

Mr. T. Moore, president of the Wycheproof club, in response, congratulated the Birchip team on its win. He also complimented umpire Brockett for the manner in which he handled the game and for the way in which he interpreted the new rules.

Mr. Moore then proposed the toast to the Birchip Club.

Mr. C. O'Donnell in responding referred to the generous hospitality of the host (Mr. Gook) in providing such a fine dinner.

Mr. Gook suitably acknowledged the remarks of the previous speakers.

H. E. School, Tennis: Roy Brockett won the boys' championship and Betty Reseigh, the girls' championship at the annual tennis tournament on Wednesday. Silver cups were generously donated by Mr. W. McClelland.



On the journey to the Hooker Glacier lake there are three impressive steel cable supported swing bridges crossing high over the Hooker river. Care must be taken on this trek as severe weather, including snow storms can impact at short notice on the 12 km long Hooker Track walk.



AMBULANCE PHONE NO. 000

"Times" Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8175 - SOLUTIONS
Across - 1, Collared. 6, Sigh. 8, Moon. 9, Chlorine. 10, Great. 11, Cotton. 13, Squeak. 15, Tartan. 17, Canter. 19, Offer. 22, Stallion. 23, Sate. 24, Iron. 25, Highland.
Down - 2, Odour. 3, Lineage. 4, Rich. 5, Delicate. 6, Sprat. 7, Gondola. 12, Skirmish. 14, Quarter. 16, Refusal. 18, Talon. 20, Eaten. 21, Snag.

Enjoyment & Employment — Have Both, Shop in Your Own Town!

Sustainable Communities Commence with Compost

From tackling climate change to increasing food security, water quality and strengthening biodiversity, one simple, thoughtful act delivers big, positive impacts – COMPOST!

May 4–10, 2025, marks this year’s International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) – a global celebration of compost and its power to build stronger, healthier, and more sustainable communities.

“Composting organic residuals and creating compost is proven to tackle climate change, while also helping grow nutrient-dense food and support healthy soils,” said John McKew at the Australian Organics Recycling Association (AORA).

Add to this, it can also bring communities together, support local food systems and help achieve sustainability goals.

This year’s theme, “Sustainable Communities Begin with Compost!” drives home a powerful truth that every banana peel, coffee ground and lawn clipping we compost, instead of throwing them in the rubbish, delivers great environmental gains by:

1. Reducing Methane Emissions: Organic waste in

landfills generates methane, a greenhouse gas with 86 times the global warming potential of CO₂ over 20 years. Diverting organic waste to composting or anaerobic digestion can drastically cut these emissions.

2. Increasing Soil Health: Compost produced from organic recycling improves soil structure, enriches soil with nutrients, enhances water retention, minimizes soil erosion and strengthens biodiversity.

3. Fighting Climate Change: Compost’s return to the soil serves as a “carbon bank”, helping to store carbon thereby removing it from the atmosphere and mitigating climate change.

Globally, composting is the heart of the circular economy and currently:

- Recycles over 85 million tonnes of biowaste every year.
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions by more than 9 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents a year, through storing carbon in soil and offsetting fertilizer use (an equivalent to driving an average petrol/gas-powered car for 36 billion kilometers (23 billion miles); almost 95 thousand times the distance between the earth and the moon!
- Naturally recycles over 1 million tonnes of plant macro

nutrients, supporting improved productivity and farm profitability.

And yet, while all this good is well known, landfilling and incineration continue as the main ways to manage unavoidable organic residuals, wasting enormous potential to address global and local sustainability goals and stopping climate change.

Transformation
“Compost is more than waste management – it’s community transformation,” remarked John McKew from AORA.

“When we compost, we invest in more than soil – we invest in cleaner air, stronger communities, and a healthier planet for future generations. Through International Compost Awareness Week, compost advocates around the world are united in highlighting the immense potential of composting and compost for building sustainable communities.”

Ten Reasons to Love Compost!

1. It turns waste into treasure. Food scraps and yard waste become rich, life-giving soil. It’s the ultimate upcycle! Over 30% of what we toss could be composted. Composting lightens the load on our landfills – and our planet.
2. It reduces greenhouse gases. Composting prevents

organic waste from rotting in landfills, where it produces methane – a super potent greenhouse gas.

4. It feeds the soil, not the landfill. Composting produces compost, the single most important ingredient for healthy and productive soil. Compost contains lots of slowly released plant nutrients.

5. Improve soil structure. Healthy compost not only adds nutrients, but it also improves soil structure reducing erosion and brings life back to tired earth.

6. It supports local food systems. Compost helps grow more resilient, nutrient-rich fruits and vegetables – right in our communities.

7. It’s free and easy to start. Whether you live in an apartment or on a farm, there’s a composting method for you (hello, worm bins!). You can turn your leftover organics into a valuable soil amendment without spending a dime.

8. It saves water. Compost improves soil’s ability to retain moisture, which means

less watering and more drought resistance.

9. It builds community. From school gardens to neighbourhood compost hubs, composting brings people together for a common cause.

10. It’s the future of sustainable living. If we’re serious about fighting climate change and protecting ecosystems, composting must be part of the solution.

Bonus Reason? It just feels good to know you’re making a difference – one banana peel at a time.

The Benefits of Stock Containment

Agriculture Victoria is encouraging livestock producers to consider effective stock containment strategies to help maintain core herd or flock numbers and support pasture recovery.

Agriculture Victoria’s Land Management Extension Officer, Kerri Goschnick, said dry seasonal conditions and limited rainfall continue to place pressure on grazing operations, impacting pasture growth and causing bare ground across many paddocks.

“Stock containment refers to confining livestock in designated areas, where farmers can effectively manage feed, water and shelter.

“This allows farm paddocks to rest until an autumn break causes pastures to recover and withstand livestock grazing.

“Stock containment doesn’t necessarily require a complicated system; it can be as simple as a sacrifice paddock with good quality water and access for feeding.

“Farmers should be aware that there is a higher risk of weed infestation when importing feed to supplementary feed livestock.

“Establishing a stock containment area to use supplementary feed will contain the weed seeds to a manageable area.

“Weeds to look out for include parthenium weed, particularly in fodder sourced from parts of Queensland and NSW.



“It is important that animals in containment have their nutritional, water and shelter needs met.”

Agriculture Victoria can assist in planning feed budgets and stock containment area design and management.

Further information can be found by searching for these items on the Agriculture Victoria website.

For more information about drought and dry seasonal conditions support, head to agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons

ADVERTORIAL Your say on Wilkur Energy Park



Have your say

WestWind Energy has developed a survey to help understand what the local community thinks about Wilkur Energy Park.

Complete the survey & enter the draw to WIN a \$250 supermarket voucher!

We’re particularly interested in hearing local thoughts on what the potential impacts and benefits for the area might be.

You’ll see we’re offering a prize in the hope of hearing from as many people as possible.

The survey covers:

- any queries or concerns you have about the project
- what you think could be done to improve local benefits and opportunities from the project (and/or reduce impacts), and
- how you think Birchip could best make use of the \$4.8-5.8 million of funding possible over Wilkur Energy Park’s lifespan.

Drop by in May

We’re back in Birchip in May to talk directly with locals, answer questions and share the latest project information.

Drop by to talk to the team – including local engagement officer, Cara (pictured).

While there, you can also drop off your completed survey or complete a survey on site.



Where: Birchip Leisure Centre
Morrison Street, Birchip
Dates: Wed 7 May, Wed 14 May
Hours: 9:30 am–2:00 pm



Take the survey

- Scan the QR code at right to complete the survey online.
- Email info@WilkurEnergyPark.com.au to request a hard copy to complete at home.
- Complete a hard copy at the Leisure Centre on 7 or 14 May.



Responses are due by **Sunday 1 June** (before midnight), and the prize winner will be advised in the following week. All responses are confidential.



PO Box 433, Gisborne Vic 3437 | (03) 5421 9999
info@WilkurEnergyPark.com.au | www.w-wind.com.au



VicGrid is releasing the first draft Victorian Transmission Plan

Stay connected with us! 
Find out more and subscribe to our newsletter
www.vicgrid.vic.gov.au or call our team
on 1800 418 341



Students Visit DCIRS Community Care in Donald

Last week, students from the North Central Trade Training Centre (Charlton) VET Community Services class had the opportunity to visit DCIRS Community Care in Donald.

The visit was a valuable learning experience, offering students insight to the essential services provided by the organization.

Emily Mills, owner and director of DCIRS Community Care, warmly welcomed the students and shared information about the services they offer, including Disability Services and Aged Care Packages. Emily explained how the organization tailors its services to meet the individual needs of clients, highlighting the importance of personalised care and support.

During the visit, Emily also provided practical advice to students about working in the community services sector, stressing the value of certain personality traits and lived experiences when engaging with

diverse individuals. Her insights were invaluable for students considering careers in this vital field.

The students were also joined by Zoe, a recent school leaver who is currently employed as a trainee at DCIRS Community Care. Zoe spoke about her journey from school to the workplace, linking her current studies to her real-world work experience. Her story served as an inspiring example for the students, showing how practical experience complements academic learning.

The visit was an eye-opening experience for the students, further enhancing their understanding of community services and the important work done by organizations like DCIRS Community Care.



• Left to right: Zoe, DCIRS employee; Emily Mills Manager and Director DCIRS; Paige Johnstone-McCloud, Shyann Wilson, Chanelle Badenhorst, Drew Duncan (back), Tahlia Hoffmann (front), Maretta Aurisch.

New Experiences for Students

(From Kim Griffiths, Careers Teacher)

On Wednesday, April 30, Donald High School Year 9 students participated in VIC VICE run by Julie Bourke and Mary-Ann Sait from the North Central LLEN.

VIC VICE is a cutting-edge virtual reality platform that offers students in Victorian classrooms a chance to experience various workplaces in a fully-immersive, interactive and multi-sensory way.

Aligned with the Victorian Curriculum, VIC VICE supports career awareness and

aspiration, unlocking new experiences and opportunities for students.

The VR platform also considers the findings of the Firth Review and is designed to engage students in their middle years.

With 360 degree video and video-game style simulations, VIC VICE provides a more

accessible alternative to traditional work experience and industry tours.

Our students were able to choose interactive 3D careers experiences in jobs such as Early Childhood education, Diesel mechanic, Healthcare and Agriculture (Dairy farming, Cropping) to name a few.



This experience was engaging and well received by the students, and we thank Julie and Mary-Ann from the NCLLEN for providing our students with this opportunity.

• Right: Arleea Sarre and Mary Ann Sait (from North central LLEN).



Donald High School House Cross Country

(By Tony Gaskin)

On Wednesday, April 30, Donald High School students competed in their annual Inter-house cross-country event.

In perfect conditions and on a 3-km course along the Federation Trail, we witnessed some outstanding efforts.

This year Banyenong was the overall winner in a tight encounter that saw Jeffcott finish a close second and Meyer third.

Banyenong's high level of participation contributed significantly to its aggregate points win.

House total scores: 1st, Banyenong, 374; 2nd, Jeffcott, 350; 3rd, Meyer, 219.

Overall, the day was a great success, and all participants are to be congratulated for their efforts and their support to each other.

The Inter-school team has been selected and names of those students who have the opportunity to compete in the North Central District Cross Country at St. Arnaud on Friday May 16, are listed below.

Thank-you to all students and supporters who participated and embraced this event.

2025 Inter-School Cross Country Team

Junior girls: Layla Griffiths (year 8), Evie Donnellon (8), Ellie Burke (7).

Junior boys: Noah Michael (8), Samuel Mortlock (8), Max Reilly (7).

Intermediate girls: Milla Adams (9), Victory Davis (9), Halle Rice (9).



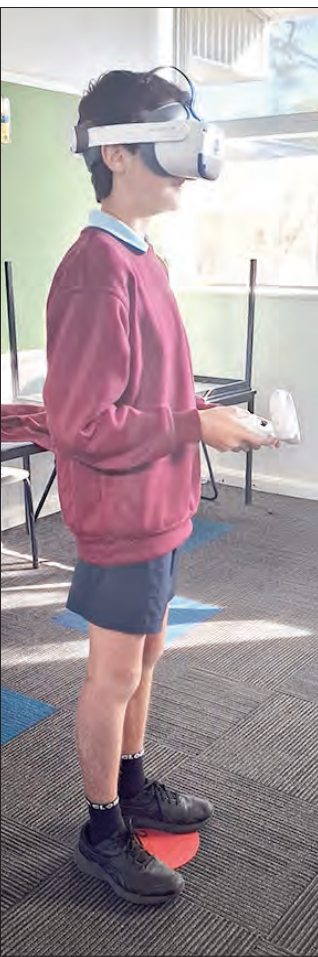
Intermediate boys: Hugo Funcke (9), Baxter Donnellon (11), Jessie Lydom (10), Jack Reilly (9).

Senior girls: Abby Griffiths (12).

Senior boys: Curtis Rice (12), Toby Smith (12), Judd Geddes (VM).



• Zachariah Clapham.



• Jack Reilly.



• Elijah Mansibang.

Event	Winner	Time	House
Junior Girls	Layla Griffiths	14.45	Meyer
Junior boys	Samuel Mortlock	13.57	Jeffcott
Intermediate Girls	Milla Adams	15.34	Jeffcott
Intermediate Boys	Hugo Funcke	12.04	Jeffcott
Senior Girls	Abby Griffiths	14.02	Jeffcott
Senior Boys	Indy Gill	13.54	Jeffcott

• Individual age group champions and their times.

Charlton 100 Years Ago



• Buick Sedan.

(Information from “East Charlton Tribune”)
May 2 to 6, 1925.

Charlton’s First Sedan: An object of interest in Charlton is the splendid new Model 25-6-27 5 passenger Buick Standard Six Sedan, which is the first sedan to be owned in this vicinity. The car, which is in the ownership of Mr J. T. Dwyer, of the Vale of Avoca Hotel, is a very handsome automobile indeed. It is electrically equipped throughout; has electric light in the rear compartment; electric foot-warmer; and electric cigar lighter. On the doors are double locks. The upholstery is of an expensive type. The automobile is absolutely rainproof. The windows may be wound up and down, so as to transform the Sedan into an open car in suitable weather.

House Warming: In spite of the large number of functions in Charlton and district, fully 30 residents paid a visit to the residence of Mr and Mrs R. H. Klunder, Clifton Hill, to welcome them home, offer wedding congratulations, and wish them happiness and prosperity. Mr W. Halligan was voted to the chair and the felicitations of the party were conveyed in the happiest terms by the chairman. In responding, Mr Klunder returned warm thanks on behalf of his wife and himself for kindly sentiments and good wishes. A musical programme followed. An excellent supper, provided by the host and hostess, was done full justice to.

Everybody’s Doing It: The world moves on in a succession of fads and fancies; and the “Cross Word Puzzle” is “It” at the moment. For the time being, it seems to have superseded wireless waves, brain waves, feminine waves and everything else. There is, however, this to be said for the Cross Word Puzzle: unlike some of the crazes of the past, it affords interesting exercise for the brain.

Teddywaddy: A fire, involving the loss of a double-seated Ford car, 2 years old, broke out in the garage at Mr Gerard Walsh’s place; and the only possible theory of the origin seems to be that mice may have been nibbling at the wires. At the time (12.30 a.m.) a train was passing; but when the crew saw the blaze, the engine driver pulled up, ran across to the house, and woke Mr Walsh. The train crew, reinforced by four men who were employed on the bridge, rendered splendid assistance. But for their fine work, the adjoining building might have caught fire too. In the garage Mr H. Sait and Mr Con Healy had a set of harness there. Both these were destroyed.

Mark Masonry: The installation of the W. M. Elect, Bro. J. S. Bennett, and Investiture of Officers, of Gladstone Mark Lodge No. 72, Charlton took place in the Masonic Temple. Afterwards a banquet was held in the Victoria Hall. For the first time in the history of Charlton freemasonry this was provided by the wives, daughters and lady friends of the brethren – and it was, as everyone said, magnificent. The usual Masonic toasts were honoured.

Big Eagle Shot: While motoring near his property at Dooboobetic (Mrs White being at the wheel), Mr A. J. White shot a wedge tailed eagle, the gigantic bird measuring 7ft 6 inches from tip to tip. When seen, these eagles are generally in pairs; and it was so in this case. The eagle shot was sitting on a fence, and as the car approached, it spread its wings and rose. It is a pity the “kill” was not effected somewhere within reasonable distance of a museum, as doubtless the specimen would have been deemed well worth preserving.

Football Agreement: Nineteen members of the Charlton Senior and Junior Football Clubs’ Executives met in conference at Flockhart’s Cricket Club Hotel. The discussion centred on the question of whether the Seniors should take over the Junior Club’s debts, and the Juniors be run as a Second Eighteen to the Seniors. It was proposed and carried that one Club be formed. Mr Halligan offered to donate 2 footballs for practice, and Mr McAuliffe 2 footballs for the first match – one for each 18. These offers were accepted with thanks.

Birthday Party: Master Jack Halligan’s ninth birthday party was celebrated by a Children’s Party at the Telegraph Hotel, the young guests present numbering 21. Sumptuous indeed was the spread and to sandwiches, trifles, jellies, salads, lollies, etc, etc, the company did the full justice that is the distinguishing mark of youth. The candles on the birthday cake were lit to exclamations of delight breaking from one and all. Wearing their jazz caps with pride, pulling crackers with gusto, and playing the games dear to the hearts of children, the guests found that time had wings, and at the finish declared they had a glorious party. Numerous beautiful birthday presents were received by Master Halligan.

Community Update



EcoBatt now in Buloke Shire

We have partnered with EcoBatt to roll out new battery drop-off points at the Wycheproof Customer Service Centre and all our Transfer Stations.

Batteries thrown in household bins can leak harmful chemicals, cause fires, and pollute the environment. So next time your batteries go flat, don’t just bin them – drop them off at a one of our collection points and help keep our community clean, safe, and sustainable.

Buloke.

CONTRACT No. C129 2024/25 Design, Construct & Delivery Of Unregistered Movable Dwellings In Buloke

The Buloke Shire Council invites tenders from experienced contractors for the design, construction, supply, delivery and installation of unregistered movable dwellings in Buloke.

Further details are available at www.buloke.vic.gov.au/tenders.

Tender documents are available for downloading from <https://portal.tenderlink.com/bulokeshire> Tenders close 2:00pm AEST 4 June 2025.



Employment Opportunities with Buloke

Council is an equal opportunity employer. Our roles are non-gender specific, and Council encourages all suitably qualified applicants to apply. For more information on equal opportunity, call Human Resources on 1300 520 520. You can find all current employment opportunities at www.buloke.vic.gov.au/employment

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

Manager People and Culture
Permanent (Full Time) - Salary package in the range of \$130k - 146k
→ 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.

Heavy Plant Operator (Road Services)
Permanent (Full Time) - From \$31.75 per hour (+ statutory superannuation)
→ Applications Close: 23 May 2025

We are seeking a self-motivated individual, responsible for the safe and efficient use of heavy road plant, operating as part of our Road Services crew.

The successful applicant will carry out routine, preventative maintenance and improvements to local Council roads to ensure safe local road networks in accordance with Council’s Road Management Plan.

Coordinator Community Development and Facilities - Charlton
Permanent (Full Time) - \$100,000 - \$111,500 pa (+ statutory superannuation)
→ Applications Close: 12 May 2025

This is an exciting opportunity to lead the coordination of Council’s community development projects, grant programs and community facilities and engage with the community on current and emerging community development needs and opportunities.

The successful applicant will manage a range of programs and activities that support our local community groups and organisations, stakeholders and volunteers

to create a well-connected, resilient and engaged community.

Coordinator Recreational Places and Spaces - Charlton
Permanent (Full Time) - \$100,000 - \$111,500 (+ statutory superannuation)
→ Applications Close: 12 May 2025

We are looking for an enthusiastic individual to manage and coordinate our recreational places and spaces (incl. aquatic facilities) to ensure the provision of council owned and managed facilities and services continue to meet current and future community needs.

The successful applicant will work in partnership with the community and all stakeholders, including committees of management, in the coordination, development and implementation of recreational policies, masterplans, leases and licenses.



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

Bill's Football Record Like No Other

The Donald Football Club invites all past players, supporters and life members, and community members to join in celebrating the club's most dedicated volunteer Bill Anderson and recognise his over 70 years' volunteer service just four days before Bill's 90th birthday anniversary.

The format for the morning is:

11:45 a.m. Special presentation in the Home Rooms.

12:05. Further Presentations in the Anderson Blue room.

2:15 Guard of honour before senior game and Bill to toss the coin.

In Bill's own words: "The Donald Footy Club has been my life, I love being part of it, I love my footy!"

Bill's involvement with the Donald Football Club is nothing short of remarkable. Since his earliest playing days (over 200 games), he has given his heart and soul to the club, filling nearly every role imaginable.

As a player, he was a fierce competitor, representing Donald with distinction. But his contributions extended far beyond his playing career – he has served as a selector, secretary, treasurer, and mentor to generations of players, ensuring the club's ongoing success. His leadership and commitment were recognized early when he was awarded

Life Membership of the Donald Football Club at just 28 years of age, a testament to the impact he had even in the early stages of his service.

Selector

Beyond the club level, Bill's influence reached deep into the NCFL. He served as a league selector for a decade, playing a crucial role in shaping representative teams and fostering talent within the competition. His keen eye for the game and deep knowledge of football saw him further honoured as a Victorian Country Football League (VCFL) selector at the first-ever country interstate carnival – an historic milestone for regional football.

While Bill's legacy is already firmly cemented in the NCFL, his contributions have never ceased. Even now, approaching his 90th birthday anniversary, he continues to dedicate himself to the game he loves. For the past 30 years and still to this day, he has worked tirelessly at the Donald Football Club's Footy Farm, an initiative that has become an integral part of the

club's culture and sustainability. Rain, hail, or shine, Bill remains a fixture at the club, offering his time, knowledge, and support to ensure the continued success of football in our region.

The Donald Football Club firmly believes that Bill Anderson's unparalleled service and devotion to the game make him worthy of having a day named after him. His story is one of passion, commitment, and unwavering dedication to country football. As a club and a league, Donald owes so much to individuals like Bill, whose lifelong contributions have shaped and strengthened our great game.

A snapshot of Bill's achievements:

Bill "Billy" Anderson's Football Achievements:

- Over 70 years of dedicated service to the Donald Football Club and North Central Football League (NCFL).
- Life Member of the Donald Football Club – awarded at just 28 years of age.

- Played seniors at just 14 years old in 1949, showcasing exceptional talent from a young age.
- Played over 200 senior and reserves games for Donald Football Club.
- Premiership player in Donald's famous 1963 Triple Premiership victory, a historic achievement for the club.
- Donald Reserves best and fairest winner in 1963, recognizing his excellence on the field.
- Joined the Donald Football Club committee at just 18 years old, beginning a lifetime of service to the club.
- Served in multiple club roles, including: selector, secretary, treasurer, and NCFL Representative at the 1954 Carnival in Wangaratta/Albury, proudly representing the league at a high level.
- NCFL Selector for 10 years, contributing to representative team selections.
- Selected as a Victorian Country Football League (VCFL) selector for the first-ever country interstate carnival in Canberra. (Coached by Graeme Arthur Hawthorn coach).



• Bill Anderson.

- Selector for the NCFL's "Finest Hour" 1974 team and organizer of the 50-year reunion in 2024, celebrating the league's rich history.
- North Melbourne Football Club recruiter for the North Mallee Zone, identifying and fostering regional talent.
- Instrumental in the success and operations of Donald Football Club, volunteering in countless ways over decades and continues to this day.
- Key figure in the establishment and ongoing work of the Donald Football Club's "Footy Farm", which celebrates 30 years in 2025.
- Continues to work at the club daily, demonstrating

- unwavering commitment to local football by starting work at 9 a.m. to lunchtime daily at the footy farm.
- Inaugural Legend status in the first class of Donald Football Clubs Hall of Fame, still volunteering even after this milestone a decade ago.
- The Social room named after his family, Anderson Family Blue Room – recognising his family's, over 1000 games across sporting codes and club administration over the years.
- Upcoming 90th birthday milestone (May 14, 2025), with plans to honour his contributions on Round 5, May 10, with Bill Anderson Day.

The Importance of Wearing a Helmet

RACV is reminding Victorians about the importance of wearing a helmet while using active transport such as bicycles and e-scooters, as new data from Victoria Police reveals thousands of riders continue to ignore safety rules, risking severe head injuries.

the start of Calendar Year 2025. Over the last five years, an average of four Victorian bike riders have lost their lives riding each year. RACV General Manager Mobility Julia Hunter said wearing a helmet is a simple but crucial step to reducing the risk of life-threatening injuries. "A helmet can be the difference between a minor fall and a catastrophic head injury, and this Victoria Police data shows that too many Victorians are still putting them-

selves at risk unnecessarily," Ms Hunter said. According to research cited by Transport Victoria, helmets can reduce the risk of serious head injuries by almost 70 per cent. Despite this, thousands of fines issued each year indicate that some riders are still taking unnecessary risks. "We want to see a shift in rider behaviour where wearing a helmet is second nature, just like wearing a seatbelt in a car," Ms Hunter said. "The reality is that crashes can happen to anyone, regard-

less of experience or confidence. Wearing a securely fitted helmet is not just the law in Victoria – it's a vital protection against serious harm." Victorian road laws require all bike and e-scooter riders to wear an approved helmet whenever they ride. RACV also encourages Victorians to ensure their helmet is correctly fitted, as an ill-fitting helmet can reduce its effectiveness in a crash. For more information on choosing the right helmet, visit: RACV's helmet guide.

North-Central Hockey

Results of round 4 – Under-12s: Boort 0 def. by Sea Lake-Nandaly 1; St Arnaud 7 d. Donald 1; Wedderburn 0 def. by Charlton 1; Birchip-Watchem 3 d. Calder United 2. Underage: Boort 8 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 0; St Arnaud 6 d. Donald 0; Birchip-Watchem 0 drew with Calder United 0. Women: Boort 10 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 0; St Arnaud 2 d. Donald 0; Wedderburn 1 def. by Charlton 4. Men: Boort 8 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 0, St. Arnaud 1 def. by Donald 2; Wedderburn 4 d. Charlton 1.

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

Victoria Police issued 2,329 fines last year to Victorians for failing to wear a securely fitted and approved bicycle helmet, totalling more than \$528,000. Over the past five years, more than 12,000 Victorians have been fined for not wearing a helmet. This comes as already two bike riders have lost their lives on Victorian roads since



• RACV says over the past five years, more than 12,000 Victorians have been fined for not wearing a helmet.



• Dr David Henry from Murdoch University will lead a new GRDC investment into soil water repellence. Photo: Evan Collis/GRDC

Project Delves into Water Repellent Soils

Australian grain growers will be able to better manage and mitigate soil water repellence and its impact on crops thanks to a new research project exploring management options.

Soil water repellence is where soils temporarily resist wetting, restricting the water available for crops.

It affects more than five million hectares of cropping area in Western and Southern Australia, costing growers an estimated \$100 million each year in reduced yield due to poorer germination, nutrient storage and availability, and plant-available water.

The five-year, \$3.9 million Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) investment led by Murdoch University will explore the relationship between soil repellence and crop and pasture species, stubble and farming systems across different seasons and soil types.

Murdoch University will partner with The University of Queensland, Leibniz University, the University of Adelaide, the South Australian Research and Development Institute, a division of Primary Industries and Regions

South Australia, and grower groups across each region.

Professor David Henry from the Centre for Sustainable Farming Systems at Murdoch University leads the project. He said the spatial and seasonal variations in soil water repellence create significant challenges for growers.

“Australian growers are aware of existing amelioration and mitigation methods available for managing soil water repellence, largely due to previous GRDC-invested research in this space,” Professor Henry said.

“However, there are gaps and issues remaining including the dependence on applying soil wetters each year, the ‘patchiness’ of areas affected and the impact of stubble.

“The project team will explore how common crop types (wheat, canola, barley, oats, and pulses) as well as pasture species (ryegrass and clover) contribute to soil water repellence both within and across crop rotations.”

GRDC Manager Sustainable Cropping Systems Rowan Maddern said issues related to soil water repellence continued to be raised by growers at GRDC National Grower Network (NGN) meetings.

“GRDC has undertaken previous projects looking at the available management options for soil water repellence including wetter placement, application rates, wetter tie ups on stubble and practical methods for applying clay,” Dr Maddern said.

“But the unpredictable and transient nature of soil water repellence, coupled with gaps in understanding of where and when to target soil amelioration, means that wetters are often applied by growers as an insurance option, which can be expensive and is not always effective.

“This project will explore these gaps and issues to develop management options for growers focusing on crop type and environmental conditions, cost-benefit analysis and the biological and wetter chemistries currently available.”

Information and resources generated by the project will support growers to manage soil water repellence both strategically and tactically.

They will include recommendations on crop sequence and strategic soil tillage such as spading, as well as optimal sowing times, direction of sowing and the use of soil wetters.

Field trials for the project will start this year in the Geraldton and Wickepin regions in WA, the Mallee region in SA and the Mallee/Wimmera region of Victoria across a range of non-wetting soil types.

Research findings are expected to be available from the second year of the project (2026) and will be communicated to growers via GRDC, grower groups and agronomists.

Giving Crops a Competitive Edge

[With Maurie Street, CEO, Grain Orana Alliance]

Can increasing wheat sowing rate maintain yield and suppress weeds in low rainfall areas?

Crop competition is one of the cheapest and most broad-spectrum weed control tactics broad-acre grain growers can deploy without compromising yield.

There are six ways to give the crop a competitive edge – the easiest and often the cheapest is to increase the crop density through a higher sowing rate.

Maurie Street, a research agronomist and CEO of Grain Orana Alliance (GOA), says many growers in the central western grains regions of NSW and other drier cropping areas may lose wheat yield if the plant density is below the recommended range.

“In drier cropping regions, there is a common perception that establishing higher density crops comes at a risk of the crop haying off if the end of the season is hot and dry, losing yield and increasing screenings,” he says.

“Many growers choose lower than recommended sowing rates to avoid this perceived risk. However, an unintended consequence of this practice is increased weed establishment and seed set, including problematic weeds like fleabane, milk thistle and ryegrass.

“Plenty of research shows that increased crop density suppresses weed numbers and seed production. GOA was concerned that growers in the Central West were missing out on the benefits of crop competition, relying more on herbicides and potentially missing out on wheat yield.

To test the theory, GOA conducted wheat plant density trials with support from the Grains Research and Development Corporation from 2018 to 2024. This period included the end of the 2017–19 drought when late breaks and low stored moisture were common.

“Crop competition is hard to see and hard to measure. Research conducted in a wide variety of environments, crops and soil types repeatedly demonstrated that increasing crop density maintained or increased grain yield and grain quality whilst suppressing weeds,” says Maurie.

“When crop competition is coupled with the other WeedSmart Big 6 tactics, weeds no longer call the shots, even in low rainfall regions.”

Registrations are now open for WeedSmart Week 2025 in Geraldton, WA on July 29 and 30, showcasing how the Big 6 tactics are safeguarding the profitability of large-scale cropping enterprises.

What effect did increasing plant density have on wheat yield and screenings?

The 12 trials included 15 common mid-season wheat varieties, tested at a range of

crop densities to measure the impact on crop yield and quality. At each trial site, all varieties were sown on the same date.

Four plant densities (from the region’s lowest common density to a non-commercial high density) were tested in lower rainfall environments where hotter and drier grain-filling conditions are more common.

Analysis of the data showed that in 99 per cent of yield and 97 per cent of screenings comparisons, moving from the lowest plant density to the next highest had no negative impact, for example, a change from 60 to 100 plants/m² or from 30 up to 70 plants/m². Conversely, yield loss was common at the low crop density of 30 plants/m².

There were cases where yields did decline when crop density increased, mainly in extreme circumstances, such as in the 2018 trials that were sown very late (July 5) with little to no subsoil moisture. Even under these circumstances, the negative impacts were marginal, and the poorest result was not necessarily from the highest crop density.

This result should give growers the confidence to move towards the higher target plant populations that NSW DPIRD recommend for wheat in lower rainfall environments, i.e. 70–90 plants/m².

Did higher plant populations create a more competitive crop?

The trials were maintained weed-free, so the research team used a handheld normalised differential vegetation index (NDVI) meter to compare the competitiveness of each variety x plant density treatment across the 12 trials.

In all cases, increasing plant populations increased the vegetative index (VI), suggesting increased competitiveness. Different varieties had different responses to plant density, and some varieties may provide better weed competition earlier in the crop cycle when weeds first establish and have the greatest impact on the crop.

A clear learning from this set of 12 trials is that growers

should increase sowing rates to establish 70+ plants/m², even in lower rainfall years.

When calculating the sowing rate (kg/ha) for a target plant density (plants/m²), consider the seed weight and germination rate of the planting seed.

Can I increase crop competition without financial risk?

In low rainfall regions, profit margins are often slim and understandably, growers are often reluctant to spend money on more expensive or complex weed control options.

Low crop density has been seen as a risk management strategy to protect yield. However, this research suggests that increasing crop density will give a “free kick” for weed control without losing yield. Moving up from the lowest crop density often resulted in higher yields and less screenings.

Increasing sowing rates is easy, but it does incur some additional costs for seed, seed dressing, seed storage and transport. The sowing rate can be adjusted to suit the weed pressure in each paddock, and is much easier and cheaper to adopt than altering row spacing.

Higher crop density through increased sowing rate is a proven tool to drive down the weed seed bank and to keep it low, reducing weed control costs in the current and future seasons.

WeedSmart promotes six tactics that growers can use to increase crop competitiveness – higher sowing rate, narrow row spacing, east-west orientation, vigorous crop traits, minimising soil constraints, and sowing early in the recommended window.

In most situations, several competitive tactics can be adopted for an additive effect. As a rule of thumb, competitive crops can halve weed seed production.

How to ask a WeedSmart question: Ask your questions about using the WeedSmart Big 6 to manage the weed seed bank on social media using @WeedSmartAU (Twitter, Bluesky and Facebook).

What's On

BetterBeef and BestWool/BestLamb

Agriculture Victoria's BetterBeef and BestWool/BestLamb network are hitting the road!

The 2025 Beef and Sheep Network Roadshow will bring top industry experts to four locations across Victoria, delivering the latest insights on pastures, livestock, and farm business management.

When: Wednesday, May 28.

Where: Edenhope and District Community Centre.

Setting Strategies for Farm Business Success

The 2 days will discuss and examine areas that make for an effective farm business strategy. Topics will cover financials, farm resources, human relationships, setting business goals and the tools and skills that will get you to where you want to go.

Dale Grey will be presenting Climate risk and Natural Resource Management and Brendan Williams will lead a session on the latest in Agricultural Technology.

When: June 30 and July 1, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: Underbool Bowling Club, Reservoir Road, Underbool.

Keep Abreast with Local Happenings!

Don't forget Your Local Newspaper



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

Two Points Separate Bulls and Lions

(By Blake Lee)

With rivalries dating back over a century, Saturday’s match of the round was always destined to thrill – and it delivered, with the Bulls clinching a match-winning goal against Calder United in the final minutes in what will go down as one of the most exciting contests of the season.

Once six separate clubs, Birchip-Watchem and Calder United continue to bring with them strong community support and fierce rivalries shaped by family ties and neighbouring towns. A large crowd gathered at George Cartwright Oval to witness top-tier country footy on a perfect day for football.

From the first bounce, it was clear this would be a tight contest. Bulls ruckman Hamish Hosking and the Lions’ Dean Putt battled hard all day in a gritty arm wrestle that saw neither gain a clear advantage, providing the foundation for the tense struggle that followed.

Calder’s Kobe Lloyd opened with energy, laying tackles and delivering clean passes, but the Bulls’ defence from Charlie Frank and Daniel Bell provided stern resistance. Nick Rippon impressed through the middle, while young Ty Colbert played his role.

With Ben Edwards absent due to a wedding, Joe Reid stepped into the key forward role, wrestling with Spencer Allan, who consistently reached the contest first, frustrating the Bulls’ forward entries.

Rhona Conboy kicked the opening major from a set shot after a high tackle. The game moved quickly end-to-end, with Calder tackling hard and the Bulls occasionally missing targets in the forward half.

Calder struggled with accuracy early, scoring two behinds in succession, while Bill Lee linked up with Reid for a clever soccer-style goal. A sharp centre clearance saw Matt Wade drive the ball to Lloyd, who scored Calder’s first major midway through the term.

Rylee Smith stood out for the visitors, his pace helping him break away and slot a goal to bring Calder within two points. Jake Noonan and Dale Hinkley held firm in defence, allowing Rippon to add another for the Bulls. The home side led by eight points at quarter-time, 4.0 (24) to 2.4 (16), in a fast-paced and high-quality opening term.

In the second term, Calder lifted. Co-coach Darryl Wilson urged patience and control, and the Lions delivered. Jordy Humphreys made a strong return from injury, winning contests and setting up Koby Hommelhoff for an early goal. Wade and Steven Kennedy helped Calder get the ball to Mitch Farmer, who put the Lions in front for the first time.

Zane Keighran was influential in defence, spoiling multiple Bulls entries. Calder looked clean and fast, with Humphreys, Kennedy and Charlie Fawcett linking up well. Daniel Watts added grunt, winning contests and helping Calder dominate possession across the middle.

The Bulls appeared sloppy, missing opportunities to capitalise, but Rippon capitalised at the back of a pack to regain the lead. The margin remained tight, never exceeding 12 points.

Hosking narrowly missed a long set shot, while Josh Walsh stood tall in Calder’s backline. Austin Dean read the play well and connected with Sam Simmons, who passed to Bell for Birchip’s seventh goal. Calder responded quickly through Humphreys, showing great composure.

As half-time approached, both teams refused to slow down. Despite the intensity, the Bulls held a narrow two-

point lead at the break, 50-48, with the game very much up for grabs.

The third quarter intensified. Calder came out strong, with Mitch Farmer and Putt stepping up. Watts found Humphreys in the forward line for a goal, putting Calder back in front.

Bill Lee kept applying pressure, but Calder remained composed with ball in hand, outpacing the Bulls in transition. Tempers flared with a ripped jumper and a shove, typical of a fierce rivalry and high stakes. Rippon continued to find the ball, while Keighran was relentless, creating key moments in both defence and attack.

Calder’s inaccuracy became costly as they failed to convert multiple chances, missing opportunities that could have broken the game open. The Bulls struggled to hit a forward target, with Keighran repelling attacks.

Hosking and Putt continued their battle, while Sam Simmons moved the ball forward, only to be met by solid Calder defence.

In a scrappy but entertaining quarter, Bill Lee found Conboy for a goal that pushed the Bulls 12 points ahead. Keighran again responded, marking strongly and helping Calder reduce the margin to five at the final break, setting up a thrilling final term – and a result that would be much harder to predict than the election.

Wilson encouraged the Lions to focus on accuracy, while Bulls coach Ash Connick urged greater pressure and composure in contested situations. The players responded with everything they had.

• Continued on page 13.



• Birchip-Watchem’s Marshall Rippon is under pressure from Dean Putt and Charlie Fawcett as he looks to get the handball out, while Bill Lee puts a block on Kobe Lloyd.



• David Isbister clears the Sherrin from the Bulls’ forward 50 in the final few minutes while Jack Lee and Dale Hinkley apply pressure.



• Tom Gibson slots the match-winner for the Bulls in a crowded forward line, despite smother attempts from Josh Walsh and Spencer Allan.



• Daniel Bell flies high over Josh Walsh for an attempted mark. (Photos by Blake Lee).

Two Points Separate Bulls and Lions

• Continued from page 12.

The final quarter was electric. Steven Kennedy scored within 30 seconds to level the scores. Hinkley and Dean linked up in defence, moving the ball forward with urgency, while Rippon pushed into the forward line. Putt cleared well from the centre, and Lloyd was sharp in Calder's attack, kicking truly to reclaim the lead.

Calder looked the fitter team, getting to the ball first and applying forward pressure. But Birchip-Watchem was more accurate and composed when opportunities arose. A goal to Jack Marlais gave Calder a handy buffer

with 10 minutes to play. The hill crowd grew louder, calling "ball" at any chance they could get.

The ball stayed in Birchip's forward half late, but Calder's defence stood firm. Farmer laid crucial tackles, but young Charlie Frank was pivotal in holding back Calder's attacks. Hinkley and Bell worked hard to drive the ball forward, while Keighran and David Isbister continued to battle for every possession.

As the clock wound down, Calder clung to a four-point lead. Then, in a packed contest near goal, Hosking's attempted soccer kick fell short, but Tom Gibson pounced and snapped truly.

An extraordinary goal under immense pressure sealed the win for the Bulls not long before the siren sounded, igniting celebrations from players and supporters alike.

Final score: Birchip-Watchem 14.5 (89) defeated Calder United 13.9 (87).

Birchip-Watchem best: Meyrick Buchanan (Nutrien Ag), Nick Rippon (Donnelon's Bulk Haulage), Dale Hinkley (YBS Ag), Rhona Conboy (O'Connors), Hamish Hosking (Agrifac).

Calder best: Zane Keighran, Jordy Humphreys, Rylee Smith, Daniel Watts, Josh Walsh, Dean Putt.



• Matthew Wade gets his kick away from the centre as Nick Rippon reaches for the tackle.



• Rhona Conboy is under pressure from Matthew Wade.

Wedderburn Hits Top Form

Charlton entered this contest after a come-from-behind win last week against the Saints and was keen to go back-to-back with the scalp of the Wedderburn Redbacks in their sights.

The Redbacks on the other hand had gone down narrowly in their game against the Lions and were out to redeem themselves with a win over the Navy Blues.

Right from the opening bounce the signs were there that both meant business with some heavy clashes occurring as they competed for the ball in a game that started at a hectic pace.

The Redbacks made a couple of early entries but were unable to convert. Wedderburn continued to attack the goals and five minutes into the game Darcy Jackson got the Redbacks' first major score. Shortly after Jackson McEwen split the tall sticks for full points as the Redbacks started on their way.

It was the Redbacks who were doing all the attacking, and the Navies were having trouble to get the ball beyond their half forward line.

Wedderburn dominated the scoring in the opening term to set up a handy lead. Charlton's only score for the quarter came just prior to the sounding of the siren to end the first term to cut back the Redbacks' lead to three goals.

In the early part of the second quarter the Redbacks could have put the Navies out of the contest, but their inaccuracy in front of goal kept the Navy Blues within touch. The Redbacks were defending well and cut off any forward moves presented by Charlton and as the ball was turned back the Redbacks' midfield took full advantage and

rushed the ball into their forwards resulting in two further goals as they pushed their lead out to around thirty points.

From the restart the Navies went forward, and Ben Lanyon took a solid mark and converted for full points.

Both sides had the opportunity to add to their goals tally but neither was able to convert. At the half-time break the Redbacks' lead was twenty-two points, but to the Navies' credit they had been able to keep the Redbacks to a measurable total and keep themselves in the game. Earlier the game looked like it may be a bit of a blowout result, but the Redbacks' inaccuracy also helped the Navy Blues' chances as their poor kicking at goal resulted in eleven behinds in the first half.

During the break, the Redbacks copped a good old fashioned spray from the coach, and it looked like it had got the message through as the game changed dramatically right from the restart.

Within the first two minutes of the term the Redbacks had posted two goals, and this set the pace for the rest of the quarter as they stepped up their work rate and started to control the game in a reversal of form from the first half.

Wedderburn started to get on top all over the ground and when they worked together as a team, they looked good, and it showed on the scoreboard by three quarter time.

In this quarter they had posted eight goals to the Navies' one and extended their half-time lead out from twenty-two points to over ten goals and virtually put the Navies right out of the contest.

The Navies did suffer a couple of injuries in this term which did not help their cause, with just one term and a huge deficit facing them heading to the final quarter.

Starting the last term with a handy lead the Redbacks did not ease off the pressure as they kicked the first two goals to go further ahead. Midterm Charlton's Mason Heenan chimed in to kick his side's only goal for the final term. The Redbacks continued their attack on the ball and with many players getting involved they were able to run the game right out, finishing the quarter with eight goals to give them a big win of over one hundred points.

This was a good second half by the Redbacks going on to kick sixteen goals which was a big turnaround after a poor second term.

Final scores: Wedderburn Redbacks 20.15 (135) defeated Charlton 4.1 (25).

Better players for the Redbacks: Hamish Lockhart, Jackson McEwen, Zach Pallpratt, Mitch McEwen, Mark Robinson, and Darcy Jackson.

Best for Charlton: Ben Lanyon, Elliott Fitzpatrick, Jed Thompson, Ben Xiriha, Mitch Collins, and Mason Heenan.

North-Central Netball

Last Saturday's results:

"A" Grade
Birchip-Watchem 45 d. Calder United 44; Wedderburn 47 d. Charlton 26; Boort 47 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 37; St Arnaud 36 def. by Donald 57.

"B" Grade
Wedderburn 57 d. Charlton 13; St Arnaud 38 d. Donald 32; Boort 56 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 41; Birchip-Watchem 44 def. by Calder United 57.

"C" Grade
Wedderburn 57 d. Charlton 26; St Arnaud 53 d. Donald 13; Boort 36 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 34; Birchip-Watchem 36 def. by Calder United 52.

"C" Grade Reserves
Boort 30 def. by Sea Lake-Nandaly 31; Birchip-Watchem 21 def. by Calder United 37.

Seventeen-and-Under
St Arnaud 73 d. Donald 16; Boort 44 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 23; Birchip-Watchem 33 def. by Calder

United 57; Wedderburn 32 def. by Charlton 42.

Fourteen-and-Under "A"
Birchip-Watchem 26 d. Calder United 11; Wedderburn v. Charlton; Boort 32 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 2; St Arnaud v. Donald.

Fourteen-and-Under "B"
Birchip-Watchem 13 d. Calder United 6; Boort 24 d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 6; St Arnaud v. Donald.

Results of round 4:

"A" GRADE												
	P	W	L	D	B	FW	FL	F	A	Pts	%	
Wedderburn	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	202	108	16	187	
Boort	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	228	165	16	138	
Birchip-Watchem	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	188	163	12	115	
Sea Lake-Nan	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	164	153	8	107	
Donald	4	1	3	0	0	0	0	188	181	4	104	
Calder United	4	1	3	0	0	0	0	153	180	4	85	
Charlton	4	1	3	0	0	0	0	133	202	4	66	
St Arnaud	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	126	230	0	55	

"B" GRADE												
	P	W	L	D	B	FW	FL	F	A	Pts	%	
Wedderburn	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	240	120	16	200	
Boort	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	207	145	16	143	
Birchip-Watchem	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	208	142	12	146	
Calder United	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	198	157	12	126	
St Arnaud	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	152	195	8	78	
Donald	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	133	188	0	71	
Sea Lake-Nan	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	149	220	0	68	
Charlton	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	84	204	0	41	

"C" GRADE												
	P	W	L	D	B	FW	FL	F	A	Pts	%	
Boort	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	167	126	16	133	
Calder United	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	206	111	12	186	
Sea Lake-Nan	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	144	122	12	118	
St Arnaud	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	169	116	8	146	
Birchip-Wat	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	154	131	8	118	
Wedderburn	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	154	155	8	99	
Charlton	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	109	194	0	56	
Donald	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	73	221	-4	33	

"C" GRADE RESERVES												
	P	W	L	D	B	FW	FL	F	A	Pts	%	
Sea Lake-Nan	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	178	85	16	0.52	
Calder United	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	108	63	8	0.57	
Boort	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	88	43	4	1.02	
Wedderburn	3	1	2	0	1	0	0	65	138	4	0.16	
St Arnaud	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	43	100	0	0.22	
Birchip-Wat	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	34	87	0	0.20	

SEVENTEEN-AND-UNDER												
	P	W	L	D	B	FW	FL	F	A	Pts	%	
Calder United	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	328	83	16	395	
Boort	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	181	106	16	171	
St Arnaud	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	207	116	12	178	
Birchip-Wat	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	211	167	8	126	
Sea Lake-Nan	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	138	203	8	68	
Charlton	4	1	3	0	0	0	0	141	178	0	79	
Wedderburn	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	112	234	0	48	
Donald	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	76	307	0	25	

FOURTEEN-AND-UNDER "A"												
	P	W	L	D	B	FW	FL	F	A	Pts	%	
Boort	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	117	39	16	300	
Birchip-Wat	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	123	43	16	286	
St Arnaud	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	57	36	8	158	
Calder United	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	79	69	8	114	
Donald	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	72	54	4	133	
Sea Lake-Nan	4	1	3	0	0	0	0	42	117	4	36	
Wedderburn	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	18	74	0	24	
Charlton	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	15	91	0	16	

FOURTEEN-AND-UNDER "B"												
	P	W	L	D	B	FW	FL	F	A	Pts	%	
Birchip-Wat	3	3	0	0	1	0	0	55	7	12	2.62	
St Arnaud	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	35	7	8	2.50	
Boort	3	2	1	0	1	0	0	60	19	8	1.05	
Wedderburn	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	19	37	6	0.17	
Calder United	4	0	2	2	0	0	0	24	36	4	0.17	
Sea Lake-Nan	4	0	2	2	0	0	0	17	51	4	0.08	
Donald	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	13	66	2	0.07	

Happy Mother's Day to all the Mothers on Sunday, May 11, 2025.

North-Central Football Roundup

Goldacres Seniors

BOORT	0.0	4.3	9.3	11. 4	(70)
SEA LAKE-NANDALY	1.2	3.4	5.8	8.14	(62)
Goals for Boort: Jhye Baddeley-Kelly 4, Ethan Coleman 2, Jayden Dick, Carlos Egan, Jarrod Fitzpatrick, Ryan McGhie, Tom Potter.					
For Sea Lake-Nandaly: Thomas Cox 3, Max Cahoon 2, Joshua Jenkins 2, Tyson McKenzie					
Best for Boort: Keiren Wilson, Ryan McGhie, Matt Austin, Jayden Dick, Tom Potter, Kieren Jaksic.					
For Sea Lake-Nandaly: Thomas Cox, Trent Donnan, Wade Donnan, Jackson McMahon, Jack Poulton, Max Cahoon.					
ST ARNAUD	4.6	7.9	12.15	16.20	(116)
DONALD	1.0	3.1	4. 2	7. 5	(47)
Goals for St Arnaud: Jay Kirwood 5, Scott Driscoll 3, Sean Holroyd 2, Sam Male 2, Harley Durward, Max Hungerford, Luke Jackson, Darby Schilder					
For Donald: Robert Walker 3, Ben Arho, Brent Arho, Kalon Green, Luca Rice.					
Best for St Arnaud: Jay Kirwood, Zac Phillips, Sean Holroyd, Mitch Egan, Scott Driscoll, Jackson Needs.					
For Donald: Daniel Pearce, Luca Rice, Dyson Bell-Warren, Kalon Green, Robert Walker, Callum Vandendriest.					
WEDDERBURN	3.6	4.10	12.14	20.15	(135)
CHARLTON	1.0	2. 1	3. 1	4. 1	(25)
Goals for Wedderburn: Oscar Holt 4, Darcy Jackson 3, Noah Furlong 2, Joe Lockhart 2, Jackson McEwen 2, Mackenzie Smith 2, Joshua Hall, Isaac Holt, Hamish Lockhart, Mitchell McEwen, Zach Pallpratt.					
For Charlton: Mason Heenan 2, Ben Lanyon, Sebastian Zagame.					
Best for Wedderburn: Hamish Lockhart, Jackson McEwen, Zach Pallpratt, Mitchell Mcwen, Mark Robinson, Darcy Jackson.					
For Charlton: Ben Lanyon, Elliott Fitzpatrick, Jed Thompson, Ben Xiriha, Mitchell Collins, Mason Heenan.					
BIRCHIP-WATCHEM	4.0	8.2	11.2	14.5	(89)
CALDER UNITED	2.4	7.6	9.9	13.9	(87)
Goals for Birchip-Watchem: Nicholas Rippon 4, Rhona Conboy 2, Tom Gibson 2, Joseph Reid 2, Daniel Bell, Meyrick Buchanan, Jack Lee.					
For Calder United: Jordan Humphreys 3, Kobe Lloyd 3, Mitch Farmer, Charlie Fawcett, Koby Hommelhoff, Steven Kennedy, Jack Marlais, Rylee Smith, Daniel Watts.					
Best for Birchip-Watchem: Meyrick Buchanan, Nicholas Rippon, Dale Hinkley, Rhona Conboy, Hamish Hosking.					
For Calder United: Zane Keighran, Jordan Humphreys, Rylee Smith, Daniel Watts, Josh Walsh, Dean Putt.					

Haeusler’s Reserves

BOORT	4.2	8.3	14.7	18.9	(117)
SEA LAKE-NANDALY	0.1	0.1	1.1	1.3	(9)
Goals for Boort: Max Beattie 4, Alex Cockerell 3, Harry Weaver 3, Chris O’Rourke 2, Cameron Ross 2, Alex Chamberlain, Fraser Millar, Nick Scott, Willem Toose.					
For Sea Lake-Nandaly: Zachary Wemyss.					
Best for Boort: Max Beattie, Alex Chamberlain, Cameron Ross, Harry Weaver, Alex Cockerell, Fraser Millar.					
For Sea Lake-Nandaly: Harry Pitchford, Tye Griffiths, Jacob Cox, Brayden Allan, Nathan Wight, Wayne Landry.					
ST ARNAUD	3.3	7.6	8.8	14.11	(95)
DONALD	0.1	0.1	1.5	2. 5	(17)
Goals for St Arnaud: Jarryd Kell 4, Joshua Hicks 2, James McKenny 2, Heath McNally 2, Riley Burke, Simon Elliott, Carl Leach, Zach Notting.					
For Donald: Benjamin Krause, Joe Sheridan.					
Best for St Arnaud: James Mckenny, Benjamin Greenaway, Riley Burke, Joshua Hicks, Zachary Notting, Jarryd Kell.					
For Donald: Will Noble, Thomas Reekie, Sam Goldsmith, Joe Sheridan, Braxton Hollis, Benjamin Krause.					
WEDDERBURN	2.0	5.2	7.5	10.8	(68)
CHARLTON	6.2	6.3	8.5	10.5	(65)
Goals for Wedderburn: Cameron Lang 3, Chris Hargreaves 2, Rohan McHugh 2, Luke Last, Matthew Lockhart, Joshua Turnbull.					
For Charlton: Ethan Needs 5, Angus Johnstone 3, Travis Salmon 2.					
Best for Wedderburn: Ashley Younghusband, Robert Tonkin, Rohan McHugh, Samual Carroll, Luke Last, Cameron Lang.					
For Charlton: Jackson Zagame, Ethan Needs, Benjamin Roberts, Cooper Boyle, Tyler Bates, Angus Johnstone.					
CALDER UNITED	5.3	6.7	12.9	18.12	(120)
BIRCHIP-WATCHEM	0.0	1.0	3.2	3. 6	(24)
Goals for Calder United: Heath Senior 4, Angus Forrester 3, Hunter Connolly 2, George Forrester 2, Dude Kelly 2, Thomas Trewin 2, Billy Forrester, Rowan Jones, Sol Kelly.					
For Birchip-Watchem: Matthew Berry, Connor Lee, Nick Ryan.					
Best for Calder United: Thomas Trewin, Jed Bish, Billy Forrester, Hunter Connolly, Heath Senior, Jack Morrison.					
For Birchip-Watchem: Matthew Rickard, Bodie Colbert, Edward Rickard, Alexander Noonan, Riley Hogan, Joshua Woods.					

Community Bank Charlton & District Under-17s

BOORT	3.2	5.2	6.4	9.6	(60)
SEA LAKE-NANDALY	1.3	2.4	3.7	5.7	(37)
Best for Boort: Cooper Gooding, Brodie McPherson, Flynn O’Rourke, Riley Wagner, Chaise Hird, Cooper Gould.					
For Sea Lake-Nandaly: Cruz OSullivan, Brayden Allan, Nate McClelland, Riley Hender, Jack Hedley, Cooper Kelly.					
ST ARNAUD	5.1	8.3	10.4	11.8	(74)
DONALD	0.1	2.4	3.4	4.4	(28)
Best for St Arnaud: Bob Donald, Tyler Medlyn, Christopher Chaplin, Rylan Leach, Frankie Donald, Chase Zander.					
For Donald: Jam Borden, Jack Reilly, Oakley Brennan, Hugo Funcke.					
CHARLTON	0.0	6.3	7.7	8.7	(55)
WEDDERBURN	0.0	1.0	3.3	6.7	(43)
Best for Charlton: Jordan Chamberlain, Isaac Bourke, Murphy Fitzpatrick, Xav Good, Owen Burr, Sebastian Zagame.					
For Wedderburn: Slater Piazza, Tyson Blair, Aaron Smith, Oliver Huismann, Blaz Cramp.					
CALDER UNITED	9.4	11.6	12.9	18.12	(120)
BIRCHIP-WATCHEM	0.0	0.0	0.0	0. 0	(0)
Best for Calder United: Max Fawcett, Tynan Perry, Ollie Daykin, Darcey Poyner.					
For Birchip-Watchem: Oliver Cook, Noah Dean, Ben Perry, Kobe Hamilton.					

Next Round

Round 5, Saturday May 10 -

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

Donald v. Charlton
Calder United (W) v. Boort

Uniting Church Under-14s

SEA LAKE-NANDALY 5.7 (37) D. BOORT 2.1 (13)
Best for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Henry Cox, Brodie Barry, Riley Allan, Finn Austerberry, Max Conlan, Gerrin Durie.
For Boort: Tristan Broad, Noah Howe, Archer Lee, Luca Lanyon, Tarlin Trinchi.
ST ARNAUD 8.3 (51) D. DONALD 4.2 (26)
Best for St Arnaud: Finn Wilson, Charlie Baldwin, Patrick Zsigmond, Duncan Kirk, Riley Batters.
For Donald: Samuel Mortlock, Max Reilly, Nullah Clapham, Lithil Hitihamillage, Darnell Clapham, Jake Italia.
WEDDERBURN 8.9 (57) D. CHARLTON 2.3 (15)
Best for Wedderburn: Jimi Read, Jack Dierickx, Caleb Gault, Blaz Cramp, Zane Polkinghorne.
For Charlton: Oliver McPhee, Chace Dixon, Joshua Bartlett, Isaac Roberts.
CALDER UNITED 2.6 (18) D. BIRCHIP-WATCHEM 2.5 (17)
Best for Calder United: Desmond Polzin, Morgan Beattie, Van Harrison, Harry Humphreys.
For Birchip-Watchem: Willow Ryan, Archie Tyler, Denley Tyler, Jed Coffey, Eligh Dean.

Positions of Teams

Goldacres North-Central Seniors

Teams	P	Pts	%	W	L	D	B	For	Ag
Boort	4	16	380.52	4	0	0	0	586	154
Birchip-Watchem	4	16	300.99	4	0	0	0	608	202
Calder United	4	8	158.33	2	2	0	0	380	240
Wedderburn	4	8	155.56	2	2	0	0	336	216
Sea Lake-Nandaly	4	8	122.84	2	2	0	0	285	232
St Arnaud	4	4	74.61	1	3	0	0	238	319
Charlton	4	4	19.44	1	3	0	0	111	571
Donald	4	0	14.57	0	4	0	0	104	714

Haeuslers Reserves

Teams	P	Pts	%	W	L	D	B	For	Ag
Boort	4	16	1132.61	4	0	0	0	521	46
Calder United	4	16	1036.17	4	0	0	0	487	47
Birchip-Watchem	4	12	240.85	3	1	0	0	395	164
St Arnaud	4	8	122.11	2	2	0	0	232	190
Wedderburn	4	8	32.99	2	2	0	0	130	394
Sea Lake-Nandaly	4	4	80.43	1	3	0	0	226	281
Charlton	4	0	31.84	0	4	0	0	121	380
Donald	4	0	3.33	0	4	0	0	21	631

Community Bank Charlton and District Under-17s

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

Uniting Church Under-14s

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

Tooleybuc Sporting Club Presidents’ Award

Voting for round 4:
Boort: K. Wilson 3, R. McGhie 2, M. Austin 1.
Sea Lake-Nandaly: T. Cox 3, W. Donnan 2, C. Michael 1.
St Arnaud: J. Kirwood 3, Z. Phillips 2, J. Needs 1.
Donald: D. Pearce 3, D. Bell-Warren 2, L. Rice 1.
Wedderburn: H. Lockhart 3, J. McEwan 2, Z. Pallpratt 1.
Charlton: B. Lanyon 3, E. Fitzpatrick 2, M. Collins 1.
Birchip-Watchem: M. Buchanan 3, N. Rippon 2, H. Hosking 1.
Calder United: Z. Keighran 3, J. Walsh 2, O. Madden 1.

Saturday’s Leading Goal Kickers

Seniors	Reserves
Ben Edwards (B-W) -32	Harry Weaver (Boort) 317
Jhye Baddeley-Kelly (Boort) 428	Alex Cockerell (Boort) 314
Kayne Rutley (Boort) -16	Heath Senior (CU) 414
Joseph Reid (B-W) 216	Chris O’Rourke (Boort) 211
Nicholas Rippon (B-W) 413	Matthew Berry (B-W) 110
Mitch Jensen (Wedd) -13	Max Beattie (Boort) 410
Jack Exell (CU) -12	George Forrester (CU) 29
Peter Barbopoulos (Boort) -10	Joel Clohesy (SLNT) -8

CHS Broadbent Club Championship

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

	Snr.	Res.	U-17	U-14	Ttl.
Boort	10	6	4	0	78
Birchip-Watchem	10	0	0	0	60
Calder United	0	6	4	2	52
Sea Lake-Nandaly	0	0	0	2	46
St Arnaud	10	6	4	2	44
Wedderburn	10	6	0	2	38
Charlton	0	0	4	0	20
Donald	0	0	0	0	12



• Behind the barriers before the start of the first race. It takes a lot of Racing Victoria staff to get the horses ready for the start, these include medical team, veterinarian, starters, barrier attendants and clerks of the course.



• The trip home to Gawler in South “Oz” would have been very short for trainer Brett Campbell, with horse Boltonova. Ridden by Logan McNeil, it scored a comfortable win in the Goldacres Handicap. This was Brett’s first ever winner at Donald.



• Leading country jockey, Dean Yendall, returned to the winners list on Turfie, trained by Patrick Keane, in the Buloke Plumbing Handicap. Dean has had plenty of non-winners in his previous 38 race rides.



• Closest finish of the day: In the middle, Ancho ridden by Brittany Button, defeats (hidden on the inside) Spirit Angel, ridden by Linda Meech. And on the outside, And She Was, ridden by Chelsea Jokic. This was her Brittany’s first ever win on the Donald track.

Unique Double for Winning Trainer

• Continued from page 16.
only had 10 race rides at Donald in a long career.
Two owners, Mrs M. T. and Mr. J. W. Knight from South “Oz” had a double on the day with Neons Last for the McEvoy training team and Boltonova for Brett Campbell. Neons Last was formerly trained by Brett Campbell before being transferred to the McEvoy.

Results

Race one: Punters got off to a good start when the favourite Eau De Cologne led all the way, with jockey Will Gordon holding a big lead on the final bend, it won by a comfortable margin.

Race two: Another Mornington-based trainer, Jason Warren, also had success with Friendzoned, ridden by Paul Gatt. Another horse that led all the way, was supported at good odds.

Race three: Donald Classic.

Race four: Gerard Egan and Brittany Button combined to win with Ancho in a very close finish, coming from well back in the field to win. It won at its previous start at Tocumwal.

Race five: Stawell trainer, Andrew Bobbin’s run of winners continues. After winning



• Chairman Jack Alexander with strapper Faye Winteti after the win of Diamond Gust in the Weirs IGA Donald 2-Y-O Classic. Faye is an ex-New Zealander, holding the beautiful trophy.

two feature races at Warrnambool, he scored a victory with Khant Bee, with jockey Jack Hill. Sat back in the field and came with a strong run in the final stages.

Race six: Not having raced since June last year did not stop Neons Last. Jockey Jake Duffy had to weave some magic in the straight to win. Now trained by the McEvoy, its last win was at Port Augusta.

Race seven: One of the most in-form jockeys at the moment has to be Lachlan King. He’s had winners on 3 occasions last week, combined with Grinzinger Love for Flemington trainer, Danny O’Brien. Sat outside the leader and controlled the speed to win narrowly.

Race eight: A very solid pace set up the race for Turfie, ridden by Dean Yendall. In

the early and middle part of the race was last in the run. On the home bend was wide, but overpowered his rivals. Trained by Patrick Keane at Pakenam, another trainer from the other side of Melbourne to have a winner.

Race nine: The long trip was well worth it when Boltonova won the last race. Although not racing very well in the home straight, it won by just over a length for jockey Logan McNeil.

Jump Outs

Such is the popularity of the Donald track that after nine races on Saturday, there was 13 jump outs, with 80 horses yesterday.

Tips

Hope some followed the tips in Friday’s edition, with 2 winners and 1 second in the three best for the day.

Trash to Treasure

One person’s Trash is another’s Treasure!

Turn your Trash into Cash by advertising it for sale in the “Times” classified pages. Phone the Donald office (5497 1222), or Birchip (5492 2735); email advertising@buloketimes.com

Saints Open Their Account

With the federal election behind them, the Donald Football Club headed south to take on local rivals St Arnaud in a much-anticipated match-up.

Both sides were eager to claim their first win of the season, with Donald welcoming back a couple of players from round one and the Saints coming off a narrow loss to Charlton.

Played in ideal conditions with a slight breeze favouring the hockey ground end, Max Hungerford got things rolling as he marked and goaled five minutes in for St Arnaud. This was soon matched with a fine passage of play involving youngster Luca Rice, Brent Arho and eventually George Walker who provided a key target all day. The Saints' Harley Durward then drifted forward from his wing and goaled from a free. Sean Holroyd, one of St Arnaud's best, snapped a beauty and coach Scott Driscoll added another to have them secure a handy three goal lead at quarter time.

Donald then had the breeze but soon lost Ross Young and captain Ed Landwehr, both to leg injuries. Jay Kirwood for the Saints then slotted two and was setting up opportunities for team mates. Kirwood is a class act and with five goals from this outing was clearly the best on ground and worthy winner of the Chris "Pa" Wall memorial award. Dan Pearce was a tower of strength in defence for Donald and repelled numerous attacks, Darcy Harrison prominent with his trusty left boot and Luca Rice growing in confidence and looks set for a bright future in senior footy. Donald big forward Ben Arho goaled and George Walker marked strongly and made no mistake and at half time it was St Arnaud holding a four goal lead.

St Arnaud hit its straps in the third with majors to Sean Hilroyd, Jay Kirwood (2),

Darby Schilder and Scott Driscoll while Donald's solitary goal came from Ben Arho.

Donald had a fair crack early in the final term but couldn't hit the scoreboard. Sam Male bobbed up for St Arnaud kicking a couple of his side's five for the quarter. Eventually a few moments of joy, which had Anne Marie Wright's car horn blowing, when Luca Rice, Kalon Green and George Walker added some respectability to the scoreboard.

Scores: St Arnaud 16.20 (116) to Donald 7.5 (47).

Best players for St Arnaud: Jay Kirwood (Chris Wall memorial medal), Zac Phillips, Sean Holroyd, Mitch Egan, Scott Driscoll, Jackson Needs.

For Donald: Dan Pearce, Luca Rice, Dyson Bell-Warren, Kalon Green, George Walker, Callum Vandendriest.



• Pictured colliding are Donald's Harry Forrest and the Saints' Max Hungerford and Mitch Egan.



• Battling for the ball are Donald's Ryan Leeder and St. Arnaud's Darby Schilder with George Walker at right.



• Donald's Ben Arto attempts to mark the Sherrin as Saints' Jake Male goes the spoil in front and Matthew Goode spoils from behind. At ground level are Kalon Green (Donald #46) and Mitch Birthisel (Saints #44).



• Weirs IGA Donald 2-Y-O Classic winning jockey Adam McCabe relaxing in the Dean Holland memorial garden. As the plaque says, it is just over 2 years since his passing "never to be forgotten".

Unique Double for Winning Trainer

(By Peter Hibberd)

Mornington trainer, Matt Laurie, achieved what must be called a unique or rare double by winning the Weirs IGA Donald 2-Y-O Classic with Diamond Gust.

Last year, he won the Donald Cup with Chartres. The other amazing fact is that some of the part-owners in Diamond Gust are also in the ownership of Chartres. This horse was purchased for \$280,000 and being fully paid up for VOBIS bonuses, received a big pay day for winning.

Ridden to victory by Adam McCabe, it sat behind the leaders when entering the home straight and this big horse came away for an easy win. Speaking to Adam after the race, he was asked when was the last time he rode at Donald. His response was, "I

can't remember! It was that long ago."

Looking at his record, he started riding in 2007, has only had 15 rides on the track, 3 wins and 2 placings. Based at Mornington, he does most of his riding in that area. The Donald track has a very good reputation, hence trainers come from all parts of, not only Victoria, but also interstate.

Two trainers achieved their first ever victories at Donald last Saturday. Gerald Egan, who trains at Mansfield, has only had five runners at Donald and won with Ancho

in the Donald Motor Lodge Handicap.

Brett Campbell, who trains at Gawler in South "Oz" also had success with his first winner at the track, with Boltonova in the last race. He has only been to Donald on one previous occasion.

The day of firsts did not stop there. Lady jockey Britany Button had her first ride at the Donald track, riding Ancho to victory. She has only been race riding for just over 12 months.

Jockey Paul Gatt also had his first ever winner at Donald with Friendzoned. He has

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