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

Wyche Cup Day's Winning Style

Pamela Harrington's smile says it all as the Elders Mt. Wycheproof and District Cup Day unfolded in perfect weather last Saturday.

Pamela's black and white ensemble showcased the traditional monochrome colours of Derby Day and later caught the judges' eyes during the Fashions on the Field.

Taking out the Most Stylish Millinery category, the uniquely shaped hat carried

the floral motifs of the dress, shawl and accessories across the whole outfit, which was also complemented with an antique equestrian brooch. Comprised of mostly Op Shop finds, Pamela's toast to the big race day was an acknowledgement of the community spirit

and input which flows throughout this event.

- A full social coverage of last Saturday's race day will appear in Friday's edition of the "Times".

- Racing results can be found in the sport's pages of today's edition.



• Kokoro winning the Wycheproof Cup ridden by Liam Riordan. (Photo by Matthew Rigby.)



• Pamela's black and white ensemble showcased the traditional monochrome colours of Derby Day and later caught the judges' eyes during the Fashions on the Field. (Photo by Jenny Pollard.)



• Thousands flocked to the fence line, adding to the excitement and speed, the thunder of hooves, cheering on their winner and revelling in the sunshine at Mt Wycheproof and District's annual cup meeting on Saturday, November 1. (Photo by Blake Lee.)

To Facilitate Time-Critical Ecological Surveys... Access Notices Issued

[From TCV]

Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) has started issuing Notices of Access to a small number of landholders, to facilitate access to land where time-critical ecological surveys are required and voluntary access has not been agreed.

These Notices of Access formally commence the Section 93 land access process under the Electricity Industry Act 2000 (Vic) and will enable non-invasive ecological surveys to proceed for VNI West.

The surveys are intended to identify and record native vegetation and wildlife habitats, to help ensure the project is designed responsibly through a comprehensive Environment Effects Statement (EES).

In July, landholders along sections of the Project Easement were advised of the need for spring and summer ecology surveys. In October, TCV followed up with reminders outlining the benefits of voluntary access and the available pathways for this important work.

VNI West Program Director Mick Douge said where agreement has not yet been possible, the Notices of Access confirm survey timing and approach in line with statutory requirements – also detailed comprehensively in TCV’s Landholder Guide.

“Our strong preference is that wherever possible, we work with landholders to set access conditions that suit their operations, considering aspects such as biosecurity, access points, timing and seasonal requirements,” Mr Douge said.

“These surveys are a necessary step to keep VNI West on schedule to support Victoria’s future energy need. We’ve agreed on voluntary access conditions for 165 properties in the project region so far and conducted more than 270 surveys on private property.

“For a small number of properties where we haven’t been able to reach



agreement, these Notices of Access confirm our legal ability to access for surveys. However, that doesn’t close the door on voluntary discussions.”

All survey activities will be undertaken in accordance with the Land Access Code of Practice (LACoP), which sets strict standards for notice periods, respectful conduct, safety and biosecurity management such as “Come Clean, Go Clean” procedures for each property accessed.

“Safety for our teams, landholders and the broader community is not negotiable,” Mr Douge said.

“Access will only occur under clearly defined conditions and always with qualified ecologists and trained Landholder Liaisons present.

“We know this is a busy time of year for farmers, and we’ve worked with landholders through their access agreements to schedule surveys that avoid disruption wherever possible.

“Access conditions are best defined through agreement, however landholders receiving a Notice of Access can discuss adjustments to access dates or times directly with their Landholder Liaisons.”

Where Section 93 access is used for season-specific ecology surveys, landholders can choose to return to a voluntary access pathway at any time.

Voluntary access agreements unlock clear benefits for landholders, including



• Program Director Mick Douge.

eligibility for 20 per cent of the Landholder Benefit Payment upfront (set at \$46,000 per hectare of easement) and a scaled access payment of \$10,000–\$50,000 depending on the area made available for surveys.

Short-form access agreements are also available for one-off survey activities where landholders want more time to consider the full Enablement and Access Deed.

“Compulsory access remains our last resort,” Mr Douge said.

“The Notices of Access being issued now are not using newly legislated enforcement powers. At all times our focus is on reaching agreement on access arrangements with landholders, that best support each property, farming or business operation.

“Our goal is to keep this project moving responsibly: maintaining open communication, minimising disruption, and designing VNI West with input from the people who know the project region best.”

A Night of Halloween Fun

A night of ghouls and ghosts, of monsters and mischief, of tricks and treats, roaming the Donald streets!

With laughter in the air and lollies to be found, the Donald streets were abuzz with creative costumes of all sorts. A creepy and colourful arrangement of monstrous proportions was found going house to house in search of lollies and other delightful treats.

Houses draped in cobwebs, protected by giant skeletons and ghostly apparitions, welcomed the collection of costumed kiddies, with all the joyful fun associated with Halloween.

• For a better look at the costumes, from funny ranging all the way to spooky, check out the upcoming article in the next edition of the “Times”.



• Posing alongside the pup Louie, the ghastly Ghostface Harvey Hayhurst, and his witchy sister Claire!

Regional Funding Slashed – Again

The State Government continues to slash grants to support jobs and community infrastructure in regional Victoria.

The Regional Development Victoria (RDV) annual report has revealed grants have been cut by \$15 million, or 11 per cent, compared to the previous year.

Four years ago, RDV had a total grants pool of \$370 million to support development in the regions. Last year, it was just \$118 million – a 70 per cent drop.

But what is just as damning is the staffing wages bill at RDV.

Employee expenses in the last financial year totalled \$27.9 million – up 17 per cent from \$23 million the previous year.

To put it simply, regional Victorians are paying more for public servants, but getting less in return in development grants.

Leader of The Nationals and Shadow Minister for Regional Development and Liveability, Danny O’Brien, said Labor is continuing to ignore regional Victorians.

“The great divide continues. Labor is leaving regional Victorians out in the cold,” Mr O’Brien said.

“It is impossible to justify a 70 per cent cut in grants for regional development across the past four years.

“These grants are so important in supporting jobs, infrastructure and helping local economies flourish and thrive.”

Mr O’Brien also questioned the staffing cost blow-out.

“If RDV is delivering less grants and programs, why is it spending more in wages?

Clearly, there’s less work to do,” he said.

“This is a double-edged sword. Regional Victorians are receiving less and paying more for the privilege because Labor can’t manage money.”

EWHS Board Meets

The East Wimmera Health Service (EWHS) Board of Directors convened on Monday, October 27, and discussed a wide range of strategic, operational, and governance matters, with a strong focus on future planning and service improvement.

The Australian Government introduced the Aged Care Bill 2024 to Parliament on September 12, 2024. It passed Parliament on November 25, 2024 and will become the new Aged Care Act from November 1, 2025.

The new Act introduces a rights-based framework for the delivery of aged care which focuses on the people accessing funded aged care services, and their rights in relation to that care.

EWHS is actively working to ensure it is well-prepared to implement the requirements of the new Aged Care Act, both through its residential and its community-based services.

“Through ongoing reviews of our aged care standards,

gap analysis reporting, and strategic planning, we are aligning our practices with the forthcoming legislative changes,” the board writes.

“Our commitment to continuous improvement and compliance reflects our dedication to delivering safe, high-quality care to older Australians across our communities.”

The Board reviewed several reports including finance and workforce metrics.

The EWHS Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 6.30 p.m. on Monday, November 24, at the Donald Campus. All members of the public are invited to attend.

“The Travellers”

Australian movie, “The Travellers”, is the featured film at The Rex this weekend, directed by acclaimed filmmaker Bruce Beresford.

With hits including “Driving Miss Daisy”, “Mao’s Last Dancer” and “Ladies in Black”, Beresford is also an accomplished opera director and weaves this art form and music through this weekend’s film.

Starring Bryan Brown and Susie Porter, the story revolves around Stephen Seary (Luke Bracey), a charismatic and successful stage designer who returns to his small hometown in Australia to say goodbye to his dying mother. What was to be a quick trip descends into chaos, drama, and at times downright funny moments as Stephen navigates family responsibilities,

a difficult relationship with his father Fred (Bryan Brown), old friends and past lovers, all while trying to return to Europe for a major opera production. In the process he’s forced to confront what really matters.

Bryan Brown revels in the role of grumpy, older, blokey dad who is now sliding into decline, while Susie Porter stars as “Nikki”, Stephen’s sister. It falls to this pair to make decisions on how to juggle the emerging family situation.

Filmed in regional Western Australia – Perth, Fremantle, the Swan Valley, York, and

the Perth Hills – this drama is a moving portrait of family, identity, and the inescapable pull of home. Poignant, funny and heartwarming, “The Travellers” explores themes about ageing, family responsibilities, father/son bonds and navigating relationships from the past. It also aims for emotional depth in the rural homecoming.

An Aussie movie, with plenty of heart, “The Travellers” is a film to savour.

“The Travellers” (M | 97 mins) screens Saturday, November 8, 8 p.m. | Sunday, November 9, 2 p.m. | Tuesday, November 11, 8 p.m.

Farmers Slam Transmissions Compulsory Access Coercion

Farmers in the path of the controversial VNI West Transmission Project are set to be steamrolled following the issuing of Section 93 notices to landholders along the proposed VNI West transmission project route, effectively granting compulsory access to private land.

Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) President Brett Hosking said the timing and manner of this move is deplorable and demonstrates a complete lack of respect for farmers' rights and businesses.

"Forcing access to farms at one of the busiest times of

year, at the height of harvest, a time when biosecurity and protection of the crop is paramount shows just how out of touch this process has become," Mr Hosking said.

"They don't care, they won't listen and at this point, it seems they will move heaven and earth to drive a

bulldozer through generational farming families in their way. Shame on them for swinging a wrecking ball at some of the best farming land in the country."

Rights

Mr Hosking reminded farmers of their rights when

faced with compulsory access notices, saying transmission companies must abide by the Land Access Code of Practice.

"These companies must consult with landholders on site-specific biosecurity needs before they access land.

"I would encourage farmers to clearly communicate your biosecurity requirements, such as wash-downs, restricted areas, and harvest schedules in writing before

transmission company access and if access needs to be delayed to ensure biosecurity is maintained, then communicate this as well.

"Biosecurity is paramount when it comes to farming and these transmission companies must not come anywhere near the front gate if they haven't consulted with landholders.

"We'll keep fighting to ensure farmers' voices are heard and their rights upheld."



• Brett Hosking.



• Lucy Noonan, Imogen Noonan, Bridget McAuliffe, Amber Hogan, Jaylah Haslam, Phoebe Tyler.



• Ollie Cook and Zara Lowry leading the group.

Halloween Fun On Birchip Streets

Birchip's annual Halloween Trick or Treat Walk on Thursday afternoon brought colour, laughter and just the right amount of fright, as around seventy children took to the streets in their spooky and creative costumes.

From "eshays" to witches, skeletons, bloody victims and superheroes, the night was filled with scary fun and sugary excitement.

Youth Group members kindly volunteered to walk with the children, ensuring everyone stayed safe as they made their way around town, from Watchem Road to Watson Street, visiting designated homes along the way.

Families, teachers, community members and the Nursing Home opened their doors with bowls of treats, juice boxes, eyeballs, skulls and more, delighting the trick-or-treaters.

Highlight

A highlight of the evening is always the special stop at East Wimmera Health Service, where the children brought big smiles to the residents, especially those lucky enough to see their own grandchildren who they snuck some extra treats to.

The event was a true community effort, with thanks going to the hosts who decorated their homes and gave out treats, the Youth Group for their support, and all who helped make the event such a safe, happy and fun night for Birchip's young people and those not so young.

Priceless Joy

Simone Christie, Manager of the Birchip Neighbourhood House, said, "There might have been a little too much sugar, but you can't beat seeing so many kids laughing and having fun together under the supervision of the secondary youth group members, and the joy it brings to our older community members is priceless."



• Witches: Jaylah and Milla Haslam.



• Eshays Aneika Boyle and Mia Sharp.



• Flynn Boyle and Charlie Ferrier.

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Dob in a friend
If you know someone celebrating a birthday, or wedding anniversary or some other special occasion, let us know and we'll let the world know!

- Nov. 5, Blake & Sophie Hogan
- Nov. 8, Elsie Bath (2)
- Nov. 8, Doreen Telleison
- Nov. 9, Marty Coffey

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

Birchip-Watchem Netball Club
A.G.M.
Thurs., November 6
7 p.m.
AT BIRCHIP COMMUNITY LEISURE CENTRE



DONALD HISTORY SOCIETY INC.
FURTHER INFO: 0427 976 208

A.G.M.
Monday, November 10
DONALD COURTHOUSE
7.30 p.m.
ALL WELCOME



CHARLTON R.S.L. REMEMBRANCE DAY 2025
Remembrance Day will be commemorated at CHARLTON RSL CLUBROOMS, 11 ARMSTRONG ST, CHARLTON
Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 10.45 hrs
The lives of Frank Reginald Elder, Gordon McGillivray and Frank Stewart Rich, given in the service of our country, will be recognised.
—Charlton RSL sub-branch

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

Donald Netball Club Inc. 5215



Annual General Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 6
@ ANDERSON BLUE ROOM
7 p.m.
All positions open
Apologies to Jess:
donaldbnetballclub@gmail.com




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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday, November 24, 2025 at 6.30 p.m.
East Wimmera Health Service
DONALD CAMPUS - LARGE PAG ROOM
EVERYONE WELCOME

Business:

- To confirm the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
- Guest speaker – Cheryl Martin, Strategic Manager (Loddon Mallee Integrated Cancer Service (LMICS) and Professor Leigh Kinsman, Chair of Rural Health Research (Latrobe University) to discuss Regional Partnerships in Cancer Service Improvements: A Focus on Skin Cancer
- To receive the Report of the Board of Directors and Audited Statements of Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2025.
- Acknowledgement of Board of Management Appointments.
- Acknowledgement of staff 20 years of service.
- Presentation of staff and volunteer awards.

To transact any other business of which at least seven (7) days' notice in writing has been given to the undersigned.

RSVP: Advise your attendance by November 10, 2025.
T: 5477 2129 or E: starnaud@ewhs.org.au

Please send questions for the AGM to the above email address by Monday, November 17, 2025.

By Order of the Board of Directors
Trevor Adem,
Chief Executive Officer

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CONTRACT No. C135 – 2025/26
FRRW – Watchupga West Road

The Buloke Shire Council invites tenders from competent and experienced Contractors for Flood Recovery Reinstatement Works, with works involving the reinstatement of seal, pavement and subgrade to pre-flood condition on Watchupga West Road.

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 p.m. AEDT Wednesday, December 3, 2025.**



Board director opportunities at
East Wimmera Health Service

The Minister for Health, the Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas MP, is pleased to invite applications for part time board director positions at **East Wimmera Health Service**. The positions start on 1 July 2026, for up to three years.

East Wimmera Health Service is a rural health service that delivers a range of programs and services for our local communities. The Health Service has 5 campuses located in the townships of St Arnaud, Donald, Birchip, Wycheproof, and Charlton. Further information is available on our website <http://ewhs.org.au>

Directors are required to attend a monthly board meeting of approximately 2 hours duration. East Wimmera Health Service meets on the fourth Monday of the month from 4 p.m. Directors are also required to participate in board subcommittees and be available for other events requiring board representation.

These positions provide an exciting opportunity for persons with an interest in making a difference in the health sector and have the knowledge and skills for ensuring health care is delivered safely and effectively, with public money used to the benefit of all Victorians.

As a director you will be doing more than just contributing your time or knowledge. Being appointed to a hospital board places you in a position of trust. You will play an important role in providing leadership, accountability and integrity in the delivery of healthcare across Victoria.

Applicants are selected for their capabilities, including personal and professional experience, knowledge, and skills that contribute to the strategic leadership and oversight of healthcare for the Victorian community. It is preferable that applicants reside in Victoria or, within the border community of those hospitals near the New South Wales and South Australian borders.

While Victorian public health boards are based on capabilities, boards are more effective when these capabilities also represent the richness of the diverse voices of Victorian communities. We encourage First Nations people, people living with a disability, people from culturally diverse backgrounds, people who identify as LGBTIQ+, gender equality, and upholding human rights.

Applications close **at Midnight, Sunday, November 23, 2025.** Further information about Victorian health service boards and how to apply, please go to the following website: www.health.vic.gov.au/board-applications.



St. Arnaud | Birchip | Charlton | Donald | Wycheproof

Wycheproof Leads the Way

A convincing Division 1 round 4 win to Wycheproof over Boort sees it on top of the ladder, two points clear of its nearest rivals, Donald Golf and Wedderburn, both on 34 points, followed by St. Arnaud, which makes up the top four, on 32 points.

On a perfect day for lawn bowls, Wycheproof finished 24 shots ahead of Boort, and banked all 12 points, with wins by Dale Groves over Kevin Depiazza, Eric Rayes over Shayne Morris and Jono Grylls over Kelvin Ritchie, across the three rinks.

Donald Golf also secured all 12 points against Charlton (see club report for details), while Wedderburn picked up 10 to St. Arnaud Country Club’s 2.

Trevor McDonald was Country Club’s only winning skipper, defeating Laurie Witham by 10 shots. Neale Holt and Alan Jackson secured the day for Wedderburn, with wins over Bill Rodger and John Nevill respectively, the Jackson quartet in particular dominating scoring with a 24-shot victory.

St. Arnaud picked up 10 points to 2 with a 17-shot win against Donald (see club report for details).

Details:

Wedderburn 75-10 d. St. Arnaud v Country Club 54-2.

Neale Holt 24 d. Bill Rodger 17, Alan Jackson 34 d. John Nevill 10, Laurie Witham 17 lost to Trevor McDonald 27

Charlton 45-0 lost to Donald Golf 92-12.

Kevin Willey 18 lost to Geoff Rigby 29, Stephen Perry 11 lost to Robert Reeseigh 40, Wayne Southwell 16 lost to Peter Hibberd 23.

Boort 61-0 lost to Wycheproof 85-12.

Kevin Depiazza 22 lost to Dale Groves 25, Shayne

WEEKEND PENNANT BOWLS										
Positions of Division One Teams, after round 4										
	P	W	L	D	Bye	F	A	SD	%	Pts
Wycheproof	4	3	1	0	0	356	223	133	159.64	36
Donald Golf	4	3	1	0	0	302	232	70	130.17	34
Wedderburn	4	3	1	0	0	310	243	67	127.57	34
St Arnaud	4	3	1	0	0	294	241	53	121.99	32
Donald	4	2	2	0	0	279	267	12	104.49	25
St Arnaud CC	4	1	3	0	0	254	311	-57	81.67	16
Boort	4	1	3	0	0	270	286	-16	94.41	15
Charlton	4	0	4	0	0	160	422	-262	37.91	0

WEEKEND PENNANT BOWLS										
Positions of Division Two Teams, after round 4										
	P	W	L	D	Bye	F	A	SD	%	Pts
Wycheproof	4	4	0	0	0	344	228	116	150.88	42
Wedderburn	4	3	1	0	0	276	273	3	101.10	32
Boort	4	3	1	0	0	259	277	-18	93.50	31
St Arnaud	4	2	2	0	0	289	241	48	119.92	28
Donald Golf	4	2	2	0	0	315	235	80	134.04	26
St Arnaud CC	4	1	3	0	0	259	264	-5	98.11	16
Donald	4	1	3	0	0	223	326	-103	68.40	13
Charlton	4	0	4	0	0	216	337	-121	64.09	4

Morris 21 lost to Eric Rayes 34, Kelvin Ritchie 18 lost to Jono Grylls 26.

St. Arnaud 74-10 d. Donald 57-2.

Ash Dyke 232 d. Norm Hollis 18, Steven Zsigmond 28 d. Hunter Wingfield 15, Terry McSwain 23 lost to Kelvin Adamson 24.

Division 2

Wycheproof also holds a comfortable lead on top of the Div 2 ladder, having banked 10 points to 2 against host club Boort.

Alan Jones gave the visiting Wyche. A sizeable advantage when his rink outscored Yvonne Cashen by 21 shots. Donald Denney’s combination also enjoyed a big win, defeating Greg Smith by 17 shots. Joan Earl picked up 2 points for Boort when her rink finished 3 shots to the better of Steve Barratt.

Wedderburn scored a narrow 6-shot victory over St. Arnaud Country Club, led by wins to Geoff Burnside and John Grant, who defeated Danny Mullins and John Needs respectively, their combined winning margins more than covering Lance Standfield’s 5-shot loss to Denis Goode.

Charlton struggled against the visiting Donald Golf, and lost by 63 shots overall shots (see club report for details).

St. Arnaud enjoyed a productive day on the green at the visiting Donald’s expense, winning all three rinks by a combined margin of 56 shots (see club report for details).

Details:

Wedderburn 72-10 d. St. Arnaud Country Club 66-2.

Lance Standfield 20 lost to Denis Goode 25, Geoff Burnside 26 d. Danny Mullins 22, John Grant 26 d. John Needs 19.

Charlton 39-0 lost to Donald Golf 102-12.

Gary Bateson 13 lost to Shane O’Shea 41, Doug Finlay 15 lost to George Wood 34, John Headon 11 lost to Lindsay Borden 27.

Boort 54-2 lost to Wycheproof 89-10.

Yvonne Cashen 15 lost to Alan Jones 36, Joan Earl 23 d. Steve Barratt 20, Greg Smith 16 lost to Donald Denney 33.

St. Arnaud 98-12 d. Donald 42-0.

Lloyd Goddard 36 d. David Romeo 17, Laurie Goodwin 41 d. John Howley 10, Kerryn Dyke 21 d. Ray Gravestocks 15.

State Fours

North Central’s men’s State Fours were contested at St. Arnaud Bowling Club on Sunday.

In the preliminary rounds of Section 1, Wedderburn’s Rob Guelfo, Alan Holt, Alan Noordennen and Bob Montebello (s) defeated St. Arnaud’s Phil McRae, Greg McNally, Terry McSwain and Ash Dyke (s) in game 1 and St. Arnaud Country Club’s Bill Rodger, John Nevill, Trevor McDonald and Simone Elliott (s) in game 2 to progress to the final.

In Section 2, round 1, Tony Marland, Paul Wellington, Hunter Wingfield and Steve Zsigmond (s) d. Boort’s Greg Carrall, Craig Newsome, Kevin Depiazza and Shayne Morris (s). Round 2, Donald Golf’s Brian Bayles, Shane O’Shea, Tony Dionisopoulos, David Peake (s) d. Carrall, Newsome, Depiazza, Morris (s). Round 3, Bayles, O’Shea, Dionisopoulos, Peak (s) d. Marland, Wellington, Wingfield, Zsigmond (s).

The final of the North Central State Fours will be contested at St. Arnaud Bowling Club on a date to be agreed to by the skippers of Wedderburn and Donald Golf.

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beyondblue.org.au/forums

MensLine Australia: 1300 789 978
mensline.org.au

StandBy Support After Suicide
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kidshelpline.com.au

headspace: 1800 650 890
headspace.org.au

ReachOut: ReachOut.com

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander: 13YARN.org.au or 13 92 76

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and/or intersex: 1800 184 527 qlife.org.au

Culturally and linguistically diverse: embracementalhealth.org.au

Other resources

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

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

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

At Tchum Lake Aquatic Club AGM: Positive Progress

The Tchum Lake Aquatic Club held its annual general meeting recently, with a strong turnout of members and plenty of positive news about improvements and future plans for the popular local recreation spot.

The meeting began with the election of office-bearers for the coming year, with Alex Noonan continuing his role as president and Jak Goldsmith as vice-president. Edward Rickard was re-elected secretary and Kylie Walsh will continue as treasurer, but she gave notice that this would be her final term. Rounding out the executive team are membership co-ordinator Simone Christie and camping co-ordinator Monique Saggars

The maintenance committee will consist of Blair Hogan, Jak Goldsmith, Roger Lehmann, Darren Hogan, Alex Noonan, Edward Rickard, Georgia Lee and Monique Saggars.

Treasurer Kylie Walsh presented the balance sheet and profit and loss statement, which showed the club's finances are still healthy despite making a loss in the 2024/25 season.

The weed cutting equipment and expenses were a large component of the loss and there was a considerable decline in the camping fees due to the weed and algae issues last summer, which fortunately are under control this season thanks to the dedication of a large number of volunteers.

Cabin Developments
A major highlight of the meeting was the announcement that the new cabin at Tchum Lake is now ready for bookings via Netbookings on the Tchum Lake page on the Birchip website.

President Alex Noonan thanked Buloke Shire Council for its support and effort in delivering the project and said, "It is a great asset for Tchum and the wider Buloke Community and we look forward to seeing a second cabin

installed beside the existing one in coming months".

Caretaker Monique Saggars will take over the management of the camp site bookings from Kylie Walsh, which will include managing the cabin bookings. The camping co-ordinator has a dedicated phone number and can be contacted on 0447 557 837.

The cabin rate has been set at \$150 per night, with flexibility to adjust as needed with a minimum of a two night stay. The committee also supported the purchase of a new lockbox for key access and discussed future security improvements, including possible internet connection for surveillance.

Working Bee and Maintenance Updates
Recent working bees focused on concreting posts at the front of camping sites to prevent vehicles from parking on the lawns, cleaning out the cabin ahead of bookings and general site maintenance.

Future working bee tasks will include spreading gravel, fixing the fence around the fire prevention area, weed removal and reattaching buoys in the swimming zone. The club also discussed the issue of local dogs and waste, suggesting the installation of waste bag dispensers and removal of "no dog" signs that are not being followed.

Environmental and Weed Management
Jak Goldsmith reported on discussions with Buloke Shire staff about ongoing weed and algae issues. Approximately 30 percent of the lake will be marked as a protected area under an upcoming environmental management plan. The club will need to formalise this plan as part of its ongoing care of the lake.

Membership and Fees
Camping fees were confirmed at \$30 per night for powered sites and \$20 for unpowered sites and membership rates will remain at \$40 single, \$25 senior and \$100 family (2 parents/guardians and children under 18).

While membership numbers were slightly down due to the removal of discounts for campers, community members and lake users are encouraged to join to support the ongoing maintenance and improvement of facilities. Membership payments can be made to the usual Tchum Lake account, with details unchanged from previous years or dropped off at the Birchip Neighbourhood House.

Georgia Lee will take over the management of the club's Facebook group, which provides regular updates on activities and news. Members and visitors can join the group by searching "Tchum Lake Aquatic Club Inc" and looking for the page featuring a beautiful Tchum Lake sunset photo.

Regional Lakes Alliance
Alex Noonan and Jak Goldsmith represented Tchum Lake at the Regional Lakes Alliance meeting, which brings together communities connected through the GWM pipeline network. All recreational lakes have been allocated full water supply for the 2025-'26 year.

Looking Ahead
With new facilities, a motivated committee and continued community backing, the Tchum Lake Aquatic Club is well placed for another successful year. The meeting was closed by Alex, with a final thanks to all volunteers and members for their efforts in maintaining and improving one of Birchip's most loved destinations.



• The cabin where the AGM was held. (Photo by Blake Lee.)

As Crime Crisis Rolls on... Vulnerable Youth in Need of Help

Vulnerable young Victorians are suffering as the Alcohol and Drug (AOD) treatment system is overwhelmed by chronic demand under the watch of the State Government.

A Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA) Sector Demand Survey has revealed alarming hold-ups for youth-specific AOD treatment.

On any day during September, there were 415 vulnerable young people waiting for treatment – almost 100 more than the figure in 2023.

The waiting list blowout for young Victorians comes in the midst of a youth crime crisis.

Staggering
Overall, on any day during September, there were a staggering 4550 Victorians on waitlists for various forms of funded AOD treatment.

This is the second-highest figure recorded since the survey began and is just below the peak of 4615 in 2024.

Additionally, 1858 people were waiting to be admitted to treatment via the intake and assessment processes – more than double the 2020 figure.

The Minister dodged questions in Parliament on the reasons for the alarming spike in numbers.

Waiting List
Shadow Minister for Mental Health, Emma Kealy, said the waiting list numbers were disturbing. "We are in a youth crime crisis and when our youth need help for drug and alcohol treatment too often they can't get it," Ms Kealy said.



• Emma Kealy.

The Victorian Government must start taking this growing issue seriously – it is clear an increase in capacity in necessary.

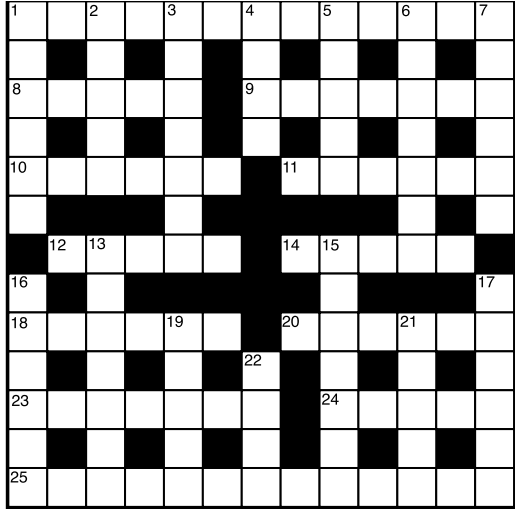
"A suitably resourced AOD sector would surely have a positive impact on tackling the youth crime crisis."



• Tchum water view from the cabin.

"Times" Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8200



ACROSS

- Flower (13)
- Bird (5)
- Passage (7)
- Scream (6)
- Abuse (6)
- Cinder (5)
- Exhausted (5)
- Disturbance (6)
- Eraser (6)
- Cruel (7)
- Hang (5)
- Aplomb (4-9)

DOWN

- Stroke (6)
- Stream (5)
- Genuine (7)
- Pleasant (4)
- Throw (5)
- House (7)
- Fish (6)
- Official (7)
- Loot (7)
- Game (6)
- Mourn (6)
- Dance (5)
- Intellect (5)
- Burden (4)

• Solution next issue.

The Buloke Times

Coloured Photographs

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

Photos not published may also be available.

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

Your Blood is Worth Bottling

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

Australian Red Cross



BLOOD SERVICE

The Friendly Games

(By “Donald is my second name”)

The Donald Senior Citizens Club Open Day, made possible under the Victorian Seniors Festival funding, attracted 52 attendees, a strange coincidence – we have 52 paid-up members and it’s also the exact number of cards in a regular deck.

Not as many as last year’s 56 and less than the expected 70, which was never anything more than an unrealistic goal. From a crowd management perspective, it was the perfect number.

Everyone and everything flowed smoothly throughout the day with smiling faces in abundance. The gender breakdown of 15 males to 37 females was of some concern – come on you guys!

Mahjong and 500 attracted most interest and Mary Herben hosted a steady flow of predominantly female first time Snooker players to the full-sized table. Alas my game

of choice, Bridge, was beset with technology issues and largely ignored – an expo for another time maybe. Everyone loves Bridge – they just don’t know it... yet!

Number One

As predicted, Mahjong looks as though it will be the Club’s number one attraction for possibly... eternity! A really great and fun game – not a single game goes by without some innocent faux pas causing peals of laughter, and there’s just enough menace present to catch out even the most seasoned players. If you didn’t get a chance to experience it firsthand make



• Lunch crowd.

sure you put it on top of your immediate to-do list.

Lunch

Lunch was perfectly catered by Rachael Grant – and because we catered for 70 everyone took full advantage of the opportunity to over-indulge. So much so that when Ting’s delightful dumplings were served, most stomachs were already stretched to capacity. No-one even attempted the sumptuous afternoon tea we had prepared. I’m reliably informed that the Thursday evening Bingo crowd pronounced the few leftover dumplings to be equally delicious eaten cold as hot. Thank you, Rachael. Thank you, Li-Yan.

Door Prizes

The more than generous Lucky Door prizes were eagerly anticipated and drawn by Joan Wood who unfailingly managed to pull her own ticket out to claim one of the major prizes. Pat Hepworth has a lot of explaining to do, choosing chocolates over a bottle of Scotch –

Barry was almost beside himself imploring her to choose alcohol of any sort and was left deep in grief and nothing to drown his sorrow with. Whereas the expertly trained Jenni Dennis had no such qualms and headed straight for the Scotch, allegedly to appease the absent Alan.

Treasurer, Wendy Harvey, made an impassioned speech to thank Li-Yan Warren for bringing Mahjong to us in addition to dumplings and the possibility of Tai Chi down the track and heaven only knows what else from such as this multi-talented dynamo. Li-Yan was presented with a floral arrangement as a show of gratitude.

Birthday Cake

The president was then unpleasantly surprised by Mrs Rollinson and her intrepid regular Bridge partner, the ubiq-

uitous Wendy, with a birthday cake bedecked with a single sparkler. I hasten to add that October 30 is not the actual date of that unfortunate birth – it being a tightly held state secret. (Of course, I could tell you – but then I’d have to kill you. So, what would be the point?) Only an idiot would attempt to blow out that sparkler in the customary manner and this particular village’s very own, duly obliged – sending a shower of sparks into Pam’s face and hair in what could only be construed as a deliberate attempt to incinerate her as retribution for the embarrassment and hurt she caused.

As stated previously, any thought of afternoon tea was dispensed with and, in a display of perfect harmony which was on show throughout the day, the dishes were done and the packing up completed

without anybody needing to ask. Thank you all – especially Terry Russell who went above and beyond the call of duty!

In Conclusion...

And this is an excerpt from the speech I would have given had I been blessed with the gift of oratory –

“...and in conclusion I would like to thank our 52 wonderful members for the enjoyment, the fun and the laughter they have given each other throughout the year. We consider ourselves indeed fortunate to have found our way to a place where fun reigns supreme and we’re open to share what we have with anyone looking to enjoy themselves on a regular basis. Come join us!”

Follow us on Facebook – Donald Senior Citz.

I know who killed JFK but I’m no snitch.



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Brendan: 0427 794 479
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Mother’s Club Comedy Concert: Celebrating 70 Fabulous Years

Not all good things come to an end! The Mother’s Club Concert that hit the stage 7 decades ago is going to celebrate its 70th anniversary with a BIG BANG on Friday, November 7, at the Wedderburn Town Hall.

Doors open at 7 p.m. for a 7.30 p.m. start, and admission to the female-only show is \$15 adults and \$5 for high school students.

Chris Tonkin, joke teller extraordinaire, is back to reprise her role as the “hostess with the mostess”. Chris, as compere of the show, is in prime form to ensure no member of the audience is

spared a night of side-splitting laughter.

Golden oldies are back on stage to present the “Best Of” skits – of course the entire objective of the show is to ensure the laughs don’t stop.

Grab your sister, aunty, mother, cousin, friend, work colleague, grandmother, daughter (must be Year 7 and above), neighbour and your

mother-in-law and come and discover the magic of old-fashioned female comedy.

Doors open at an earlier time this year to encourage our dearly adored older generation to attend the show and revisit some of their favourite former skits.

All proceeds from the concert go to Wedderburn College.



• Alison McEwen in a classic Snooker stance.



• The seriousness of fun – anti-clockwise (an inside Mahjong joke) from bottom Fanny Cinaglia, Leonie Harvey, Alison Butler and Li-Yan Warren.



• Five decades of the Mother’s Club Concert was celebrated in 2005.



• An awkward moment – village idiot attempts to set fire to Mrs Rollinson.

October — What a Month

[From St. Joseph's School]

October has been an action-packed month at St Joseph's School, filled with adventure, creativity, and community connection.

Our students have truly shone in so many ways, both at school and beyond!

Animal Husbandry – Growing Responsibility and Care

Mrs Bianca Winslade, teacher at Charlton College, visited with the Animal Husbandry students and the animals in their care. Our students loved learning all about the animals and spending time with them afterwards – chickens, rabbits, guinea pigs, lambs, goats and more! From feeding routines to grooming and handling, it's wonderful to see how much pride and responsibility these students take in their work. Thank-you for sharing your animals with our students.

Scott's Amazing Bike Circus

We were thrilled to attend Scott's Amazing Bike Circus this month! Students were amazed by the daring tricks, balance, and co-ordination on display. Riding backwards, riding forwards, riding forwards backwards, juggling and so much more. There was laughter, gasps, and plenty of inspiration for those who love a good challenge on two wheels! Scott also provided brilliant messaging for students about chasing their dreams and never giving up!

Singing at the Nursing Home

Our students brought joy and smiles to local residents with a heartfelt singing performance at the Nursing Home. It was a beautiful example of how kindness and music can brighten someone's day. Students shared a set of songs from the school's recent school musical. "Blue Suede Shoes" seemed to be the favourite. It was great to have residents remembering and re-connecting with individuals from our previous visits.

Art on Show – Creativity in the Community

Our talented young artists proudly presented their creations at the Charlton Art Show, the Charlton Agricultural Show, and the Wyche-proof Art Show. The variety

and imagination in their artwork were outstanding, and it was wonderful to see their efforts recognised by our wider community. Many thanks to Miss Thompson, and all staff, for facilitating these displays.

Grade 5/6 – Blast Cricket Fun!

Grade 5/6 students enjoyed a fantastic day at Blast Cricket in Boort, demonstrating teamwork, sportsmanship, and exemplary behaviour throughout the day. They were great ambassadors for our school, showing that fun and respect go hand in hand. Students from all participating schools mixed to make teams for the day – a great way to meet new friends!

Parish 140th Celebrations

St Joseph's Church celebrated 140 years since its establishment on Sunday, 26th October, with a Mass of celebration at 10:30 a.m.. Many families attended, with students singing "An Irish Blessing" for the congregation and a song of celebration "Shine Among Them" to conclude the Mass. Students were treated to a special celebration cookie, and those in attendance were invited to gather in the school's multi-purpose room for morning tea.

F/1/2 Excursion to Ballarat Wildlife Park

Our youngest learners from F, 1 and 2 had a wonderful time exploring Ballarat Wildlife Park last Thursday. From seeing snappy, slippery, slimy and cuddly creatures, to feeding kangaroos and seeing koalas up close; as well as learning about Australia's unique wildlife, it was an exciting and educational day. The students returned with big smiles and lots of stories to share!

Catholic Mission Month Fundraiser – Colour Run and Sausage Sizzle

To finish off the month, our Catholic Mission Month fundraiser was a huge success! The Colour Run, snake coin line, sausage sizzle, and treats of fairy floss and

slushies brought the whole school together in a spirit of fun and giving. Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, and supported this event – together, we've made a real difference raising a total of \$476.75. An absolutely amazing effort by all! Special thanks to the Senior Classroom staff and students for setting up the Colour Run course and organising the day.

October has truly been a month that celebrates learning, creativity, and community. A big congratulations to all our students and staff for their hard work and enthusiasm. We can't wait to see what November brings!



• Art Show winners: Macey Revell, Mia Wright, Flynn Zagame and Daniel Johnstone.



• Puna Mohan.



• Jovvakim Niju and Sophia Sait with class mascot Larry the Lemur.



• After the Colour Run!



• Megg Fitzpatrick.

at St. Joseph's, Charlton!



• Enjoying sausages and slushies: Oli Power-Hall, Wyatt Steenhuis, William Donaldson, Jaidan Niju and Shepherd Mills.



• Art Show winners: Tessa Wright, Franklin Holmes-Brown and Ethan Jince.



• Miss Lara Thompson pouring some well-earned slushies



• Ms Brown, zoo keeper and friend!



• Toby Bourke, Mr Sean Lanyon, Sophie Roberts, Ruby Wright, Daniel Johnstone, Patrick Winslade and Mrs Emily Lanyon.



• The head of the money snake coin line.

Charlton 100 Years Ago

(Information from “East Charlton Tribune”)

The State Government has been ca

Reinforced Concrete Houses: Attention is drawn to the fact that Mr S. M. O’Brien, builder and contractor, announces that he has purchased a power plant for the erection of reinforced concrete houses. There is no concerning the stability and coolness in summer and warmth in winter of these concrete houses. Anyone intending to erect this or any other class of residence or building, should communicate with Mr O’Brien and obtain further particulars.

The Annual Methodist Banquet was held in the Sunday School Hall. The banquet was followed by an enjoyable social evening. Items were:

Piano solo, Miss P. Dew; songs by Miss E. Curnow, Messrs J. S. Norton, R. Lethlean, J. Tippet and Rev. A. G. Day; recitations were given by the Misses J. Wood and Miss Edith Curnow. During the evening a presentation of a wallet of notes was made to Mr J. S. Norton, who is leaving the district, in appreciation of the splendid services rendered by him. Mr Norton’s efforts have been with the church choir, the tennis club, Sunday School, the Guild and many other things.

District Bowling Association: A meeting of the North Western Association was held at the Wycheproof Bowling Club. The object of

the meeting was to consider the formation of an association. Delegates from Donald, Birchip, Wedderburn, Boort, Charlton and Wycheproof were present. The clubs will be divided into two sections, Charlton, Boort and Wedderburn in one section, and Donald, Birchip and Wycheproof in the other. At the end of the season the winners in each section will play off for the premiership. A champion of champion match will be played sometime before next Easter.

The Power of the Wind: After several days of sweltering weather a rather abrupt change took place about 7pm on Wednesday, when, after some thunder and a spectacular display of lightning the wind started blowing with tremendous force. In High

Street the dust clouds were so thick for about 20 minutes that it was impossible to see further than a few feet ahead. At Noske Bros Mill about 90 or 100 sheets of iron were ripped off the roof of the large grain shed. The ground was a litter of corrugated iron sheets, twisted into various shapes and often over 100 feet away.

Picnic at Jeffcott: The annual picnic and sports were held at Jeffcott. There was a very fair attendance, and the weather was ideal. The jumble stall was the centre of attraction and combined with the sale of sweets and “lucky dip” takings amounted to approximately £23. Races for children were run during the afternoon, adults taking part in cricket, football, twos and threes etc. An exciting event

for ladies, catching the rooster, lasting about 20 minutes, was won by Miss Melva Coats. The high jump was won by Cliff Coats, 5ft 1½ ins, P. Hogan 2nd. Much thanks is due to the ladies who provided tea, which was greatly appreciated by all.

Obituary: Another old resident of the district, Mr William McCaffrey, of Narrewillock, died at the age of 57 years. Mr McCaffrey was the step-son of the late Mr P. Caspani, and the son of the late Mrs Caspani. He had been ailing for the last few years from an internal complaint and eight months ago was taken to the Bendigo Hospital. He leaves a sister, Miss Annie McCaffrey. The mortal remains were brought by train from Bendigo and laid to rest

in the Catholic portion of the Charlton cemetery. The service at the graveside was conducted by Rev. Fr Kelly.

A Worthy Cause: The Grand Plain, Fancy and Poster Ball was held in the Victoria Hall in aid of the Charlton school quota to the Bendigo Base Hospital. A record attendance of both dancers and on-lookers numbered approx. 250. The balloon dance caused plenty of amusement. The balloons had to be attached to the lady’s ankle more than 4 inches above the floor. The winners were Miss M. Seaton and Mr J. Windsor. Prizes: Best Fancy Dress – Mrs Walker (Persian Princess); Best Dressed Gent – Mr A. McIntosh (Don Juan); Best Comic Character – Mr E. White (Charlie Chaplin).

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Buloke.

SPORTING CLUB GRANTS

Sporting clubs and organisations across Victoria can now apply for funding through the Sporting Club Grants Program.

This initiative supports local clubs to:

- Purchase essential uniforms, equipment, and safety gear
- Build and retain a skilled volunteer and paid workforce
- Promote equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Strengthen governance and club operations
- Increase participation among underrepresented groups
- Create flexible opportunities for all Victorians to get active
- Support athletes in achieving sporting success

Funding Categories:

Category 1: Uniforms & Equipment

Up to \$1,000 for on-field gear, safety, and first-aid equipment.

Category 2: Volunteers & Officials

Up to \$5,000 to train and retain volunteers, coaches, and officials.

Category 3: Access & Engagement

Up to \$5,000 for adult sport sessions, or \$2,500 for single events for children/youth.

Category 4: Travel

Up to \$750 to support athletes attending representative events or training.

Category 5: Governance

Up to \$1,500 to improve club governance and long-term sustainability.

Don’t miss this opportunity to grow your club and support your community!

Apply by 26 November 2025. Apply and learn more: <https://sport.vic.gov.au/funding/sporting-club-grants-program>

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE & EMERGENCY WATER ACCESS

The Victorian Government is offering grant support to help drought-affected communities, including funding for water cartage and essential infrastructure improvements.

Emergency Water Supply Points (EWSPs) are available across Victoria for stock and domestic use during dry conditions. These include:

- Council bores
- Urban standpipes
- Rural standpipes

For more information, visit www.water.vic.gov.au/for-agriculture-and-industry/emergency-water-supply-points



FARM DROUGHT SUPPORT GRANTS

Primary producers across the state are using Farm Drought Support Grants to set themselves up for the current and future droughts. Farmers can claim expenses on eligible activities since 30 September 2024.

For program guidelines, a full list of eligible activities, and to apply visit

<https://www.ruralfinance.com.au/grants/>.

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

- Keep gutters free of debris
- Move flammable items (like wood piles) away from your house
- Maintain a defensible space around buildings

A well-maintained yard can make all the difference in protecting your home and loved ones during bushfire season.

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

EVENTS OFFICER (RE-ADVERTISED) – CHARLTON
Permanent (Part-time 0.6FTE) –
From \$38.73 per hour plus statutory superannuation

→ **Close of applications extended to:**
9 November 2025

Council is looking for a motivated person to provide support and guidance to community event organisers to enable them to meet the relevant regulatory requirements, policies and objectives.

The successful applicant will need to demonstrate an understanding and knowledge of event planning, withing a local government environment and have experience working with event managers and volunteers.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
Casual – From \$48.42 per hour plus statutory superannuation

→ **Applications close 28**
November 2025

Are you a creative communicator with a passion for storytelling? Council is seeking a communications professional to elevate our community’s voice and share the stories that make our Shire unique.

We are seeking someone who is committed to authentic and effective communication, eager to be part of a dynamic, supportive team that values innovation, collaboration and community impact.

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WISHES to inform the Public that he has purchased a power plant for the erection of Reinforced Concrete Buildings, and will be pleased to give quotations for same or any other class of building.

Government “Giving Up” on Fixing Roads

The State Government has been caught out as new figures reveal a dramatic decline in road maintenance across Victoria, leaving motorists dodging potholes and driving on roads that resemble goat tracks.

The Department of Transport and Planning’s latest annual report tabled on Friday shows major patching works on regional roads fell by 45 per cent last financial year, while outer metropolitan areas saw a staggering 73 per cent drop.

Leader of The Nationals and Shadow Minister for Roads and Road Safety, Danny O’Brien, said the report confirms what drivers already know – Victoria’s roads are deteriorating faster than the government is maintaining them.

“Labor claimed it allocated \$964 million its annual road maintenance last year, but the annual report shows only \$692 million was actually spent on road asset management – a shortfall of more than \$270 million,” Mr O’Brien said.

“That’s hundreds of millions that should have gone into sealing shoulders, repairing potholes and rebuilding dangerous sections of road.

Goat Tracks

“Instead, Victorians are left navigating goat tracks while the government pretends everything’s fine.”

Mr O’Brien said the government’s failure to prioritise road safety is costing Victorians in time, money and lives.

“From farmers hauling produce to parents driving kids to school, everyone in Victoria knows how bad the roads have become,” he said.

“These aren’t just rough patches – they’re hazards that damage cars and put lives at risk.

“Labor’s priorities are completely wrong. Instead of maintaining the roads Victorians rely on every day, they’re cutting budgets and spinning excuses.”



BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL

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W: buloke.vic.gov.au



• GRDC's Grain Adopt – Regional Development and Extension open call invites applications for short term projects that deliver practical solutions to locally identified challenges. (Photo: Nicole Baxter/GRDC.)

Out-of-the-box solutions wanted: GRDC seeks proposals through Grain Adopt

The Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) has launched the Grain Adopt – Regional Development and Extension (D&E) open call, inviting applications for short-term projects that deliver practical solutions for grain growers to locally identified challenges.

An initiative of GRDC's National Grower Network (NGN), Grain Adopt seeks proposals that respond to grower-identified issues and priorities that align with GRDC's Research, Development and Extension Plan 2023-28.

Projects can be up to 40 months' duration with an indicative budget of up to \$300,000.

GRDC Senior Regional Manager – West, Peter Bird, said the Grain Adopt Regional D&E open call is about prob-

lem-solving at the regional level, empowering the regions to take ownership of adoption.

"We know the best ideas often come from the ground up, and Grain Adopt provides a pathway for those ideas to become reality," Mr Bird said.

"We're looking for projects that go beyond traditional approaches – activities that show creativity in how research is translated into practice. Whether it's peer-to-peer learning, innovative demonstration sites, or new ways of

engaging growers, the focus is on impact and adoption."

The open call seeks proposals that:

- Enable adoption of existing knowledge and proven practices.
- Address locally relevant, grower identified challenges.
- Deliver clear, measurable benefits to profitability, sustainability and resilience.
- Explore innovative approaches to extension and engagement that drive practice change.

Examples of eligible activities include validation or demonstration sites and on-farm trials; grower forums, workshops and peer-to-peer learning; and regional initiatives that strengthen capability and accelerate adoption.

GRDC projects that have delivered impact for growers in recent seasons include a Victorian Wimmera-based initiative led by Frontier Farming Systems addressing faba bean yield instability through grower-led forums and discussion groups.

The project combined on-farm demonstrations with peer-to-peer learning and economic analysis to support

growers to identify agronomic levers to improve yield stability and profitability across variable seasons.

Another project based in Western Australia led by South Coast NRM focused on the application of subsurface drainage in high rainfall zones to better manage waterlogging. By pairing engineering solutions with in-paddock grower extension and case studies, this project demonstrated productivity gains and supported more confident, economised decision-making onfarm and led to further strategic investment.

Applications are open now and close at 5.00 p.m. on

Thursday, November 20, 2025.

To apply for the Grain Adopt – Regional D&E open call, submit your proposal through the GRDC Grains Investment Portal.

For procurement and application enquiries, email lyn-dal.gordon@grdc.com.au.



Tips for Farming Safe and Well

Farming can be challenging. But you aren't alone and don't need to navigate the challenges or handle the stress by yourself.

During this Mental Health Awareness month, check in with yourself and your mates.

Keep yourself, your family, and your workers safe and well – know how to manage the risks.

Visit National Centre for Farmer Health for advice on managing stress on the farm: <https://farmerhealth.org.au/managing-stress-book>

Managing Stress on the Farm walks farmers, farming families, farm workers, and farming communities through

the common causes of stressors on farms, and offers practical ways to deal with them.

It also now includes the Steering Straight plan, which is an action plan that helps individuals manage their mental health with practical, valuable steps.

While farmers are very willing to volunteer and help others, they are often less inclined to ask for help themselves. The tendency is not to openly talk about problems or ask for support until things are absolutely desperate.

Consider Distance When Transporting Livestock

In Australia, livestock often travel many kilometres, in some cases even thousands of kilometres interstate for processing.

This long-distance travel often occurs where producers have long standing contracts that need to be fulfilled or species specific or specialised requirements that can only be met at a particular abattoir.

Agriculture Victoria District Veterinary Officer, Cathy Bunter, said where transport journeys are projected to be long, it is important to have animals well prepared for the journey in terms of their nutrition, hydration and heat management.

"It is also essential for producers to introduce their livestock to water troughs prior, so their animals can recognise and be able to drink from troughs both during and at the end of the journey," Dr Bunter said.

"Shorter transport journeys for livestock have many benefits apart from the obvious lower transport costs."

Dr Bunter said shorter transport distances reduce the risks of injury, disease and death. There is a substantial increase in livestock welfare incidents in stock travelling greater than 400km or undergoing journeys longer than 30 hours.



"Producers and transporters are reminded the Land Transport Standards are nationally agreed mandatory animal welfare standards and guidelines developed co-operatively by the livestock industries and government."

Anyone who is preparing livestock for transport or transporting livestock must follow these standards which can be found at <https://animalwelfarestandards.net.au/welfare-standards-and-guidelines/land-transport/>

Dr Bunter said other motivations for shorter transport distances include better meat quality, because less stress means the meat is tenderer and consumer satisfaction is increased. The producer also benefits from heavier carcass results.

"Regardless of the distance travelled, having animals better prepared to take the journey results in better animal welfare outcomes. This is especially important where livestock are still recovering from the prolonged impacts of drought."

What's On

Boosting Livestock Performance with eID

Sheep eID allows for tracking individual animal performance with precision. By leveraging this data, farmers can unlock new opportunities to increase productivity across the flock and reduce emissions by identifying and managing high-impact animals. Suitable for farmers just starting with eID or more experienced farmers looking to refine your data strategy.

Presented by Elise Bowen, a trusted expert in sheep production, with years of industry experience helping producers lift performance through her business Sheep Data Management. Elise specialises in supporting farmers to collect and analyse sheep data to boost efficiency gains and fast-track genetic performance.

Topics: Key benefits of adopting eID technology; Practical tips for effective data management; Aligning data collection with your farm's strategic goals; Building a data collection calendar tailored to your business; Turning raw data into actionable insights.

Date: November 7, 2025. Time: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Register: <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=A1pdau2eD0-vm2vhZa3TAYZjgx3ZEzIKkj-JefMzJp2RURDFOVtZYV0Y1M0JaRTNCUIIxTjNNR-FJHTy4u&route=shorturl>

Hamilton MultiMix Field Day

Introducing the new research project MultiMix, a newly developed agronomy and livestock trial at the Hamilton Smart Farm.

Join us to hear about how multispecies pasture have the potential to improve sheep production, reduce methane emissions and extend the resilience of pastures in the Southern regions of Australia.

The field day will showcase the trial platform with presentations from research scientists explaining the aims of the MultiMix project. The event will conclude with a free barbecue lunch.

Date: December 1, 2025. Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: Hamilton Smart Farm, 12 Research Station Rd, Hamilton.

Register: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/1490151/sessions/5990783/sections/2867148/tickets>

Donald Golf Victorious

Donald Golf Bowls Pennant teams journeyed to Charlton on Saturday and were victorious in both Divisions.

In Division 1, Peter Hibberd's men had a good battle against Wayne Southwell's troops to win 14 of the allotted ends to win 23-16. Robert Reseigh's team won 15 ends to win convincingly against "Snake" Perry's team 40-11. Geoff Rigby's team led all day against Kevin Willey's team. Charlton fought back after afternoon tea to close the gap to two shots; however, a brilliant drive by Tony Dionisopoulos gave Golf three shots to steady the ship and come out victors 29 shots to 18. Overall Golf won 92 shots to 45, to secure 12 points to 0.

In Division 2, George Wood's team had a resounding win against Doug Findlay's team 34-15, winning 14 ends. Shane O'Shea's team won 19 ends against Gary Bateson's team to win convincingly 41 shots to 13. Golf opened up a huge 15 shots to

0 and continued the rout after that. Lindsay Borden's team had a good battle with John Headon's team but wore down the home side to win 27-11. Overall, Golf won 102 shots to 39, to secure 12 points to 0.

The wins in each Division consolidates Golf's position on the premiership ladder. Golf's Mid-week Pennant team is also going well, snatching top spot on the ladder from Boort after defeating Boort on its home green.



Specialized equipment is now helping bowlers enjoy the sport. Donald Golf's Lindsay Borden sits in his mobile chair. With him is Charlton's John Headon. It was also Lindsay's birthday last Saturday, 86 years old.

Giants Overpower Saints

Southern Mallee Giants produced a strong all-round performance to defeat St Arnaud Saints by seven wickets in their Wilken Group "A" grade round 2 clash at Hopetoun Recreation Reserve on Saturday.

The Giants' bowlers laid the foundation for victory, maintaining tight lines and keeping the Saints' scoring in check for most of the innings. Luke Mitchell (1/19), Jack Flavel (1/22) and Jackson Moore (1/37) all contributed with disciplined spells, supported by sharp fielding that prevented easy runs.

St Arnaud's innings was held together by veteran Jacob Patching, who compiled a composed and vital 69 not out from 73 balls. After a promising start from Andrew Shovan (26) and Bradley Williams (16), the Saints stumbled mid-innings and looked unlikely to post a competitive total. When Jason Smith joined Patching at 7/107, few runs appeared left in the tank, but the pair combined to push the total to 7/142, batting sensibly through to the close. Their final eight overs lifted St Arnaud from a vulnerable position to a target that at least offered something to bowl at.

In reply, the Giants were briefly tested early, with Jacob and Lachlan Patching claiming the first two wickets to leave the home side 2/27. But from there, the contest swung decisively. Jack Flavel

and Srikanth Reddy Kasaram steadied the innings and gradually took control through a match-winning partnership that combined composure and class.

Flavel compiled a steady 58 from 80 balls, anchoring the chase, while Kasaram's fluent 61 not out provided the acceleration required. The pair's partnership effectively took the game away from St Arnaud before a special moment came late in the day – 13-year-old debutant Charlie Kirk claiming his maiden senior wicket, removing the well-set Flavel to the warm applause of both teams.

Kasaram was joined by Jayson Kiem, who guided the Giants home comfortably at 3/143 in the 31st over.

The result continued the Giants' strong start to the season and highlighted their batting depth and composure under pressure. They now turn their attention to next week's clash with the Watchem Panthers.

For the Saints, Patching's leadership and the emergence of young talent like Kirk provided bright spots as they prepare to host the Birchip Swans at King George's Park next weekend.



Srikanth Reddy Kasaram contributed 61 not out for Giants.



58 runs from Giant's Jack Flavel.



Luke Mitchell, Jake Patching (Batting), Daven Pulham (WK).



Charlton bowler Jeff Cox about to deliver his bowl. Next to him is Stephen "Snake" Perry, is he scratching his chin? In the background is Sue Donnellon, Brian Brasier and Eily Rosewall.



David Peake from Donald Golf about to deliver his bowl. Watching on is Doug Gretgrix. The scoreboards tell the story of the match.



About to follow his bowl is Donald Golf's Tony Dionosopolous. Tony is enjoying his first year of division one pennant bowls.

Fishing Results

[From Donald Angling Club.]

The following are results of the Noel Gust Memorial Fishing competition on Saturday, November 1.

Total of 6 fish caught for the day. Gary "Narra" Dunstan won the competition with a whopper yellow belly of 53 cm. Paul Amos held the lead early in the day with another whopper of 51cm

The club had 18 senior members and one junior member attend the memorial. The club also honoured to have members Michelle and Peter (Noel Gust's children attend along with their "better halves" Peta and Dave, who have travelled from different states to attend.

Sunday Club comp.: 4 members fished and no fish caught.

Thanks to Peter Newall our organiser, and everyone who could make it.



Noel Gust's children Michelle Tobin and Peter Gust with the winner of the Noel Gust Memorial fishing competition, Gary "Narra" Dunstan (middle).

Runs Galore at Jeffcott Ground

Quality batting was the order of the day when West Wimmera took on Donald-Jeffcott “A” grade in round 3 of Horsham Association cricket in Donald on Saturday.

Batting first Donald-Jeffcott made a steady start with 15 runs from Jake Needs and 16 from Dylan Ruurds, before Koby Westerland took over with an outstanding innings of 80 (including 10 fours and a six). Valuable support came from Lachie Jones, 36, Sam Postlethwaite 26 and Jack

Landwehr 12 not out, and the total reached an impressive 7/210 from 40 overs. Top bowling figures were those of West Wimmera’s Brooke Cramer, 3/52 (8).

On most days, Donald-Jeffcott’s total would have been a winning one – but not this

time. Despite figures of 2/31 by Nick Atkins, and 3/43 from Bronte Campbell, West Wimmera’s openers took up the challenge, with a partnership of 136, of which Bradley Alexander contributed 124 not out (9 fours and 6 sixes), and Mitchell Dahlenburg 51. Other wickets fell cheaply but the damage had been done and West Wimmera took the points with a score of 7/211 in 38.4 overs.

“B” Grade

On Donald’s Goff Letts Oval SGW was among the runs against Donald-Jeffcott, with Rick Oliver scoring 79, Stewart MacPherson 42, Ryder Sullivan 19, Jack Harney 18 not out, and captain Leon Moloney 15 not out for a total of 5/203. Wicket-takers were Niluka Nanagakara 2/27 and Chase Campbell 2/29. The home team’s reply included double figures from Josh Gilmour 19, Chase Campbell 13, Anthony Tatchell 13, and Baxter Donnellon 8. Colby Anderson added a hard-hitting 40, but the total still fell short at 121. Multiple wicket-takers for SGW were Ryder Sullivan 4/26, Jack Harney 3/24, and Stewart MacPherson 2/34.



• Tim Braendler bowls for West Wimmera with Donald-Jeffcott’s Dylan Ruurds at left.



• 36 runs for Donald-Jeffcott’s Lachie Jones. Mitch Dahlenburg is the ‘keeper’.



• Donald-Jeffcott’s Dylan Ruurds.



• Another big score of 80 from Donald-Jeffcott’s Koby Westerland.



• Josh Lee’s bowl for West Wimmera. At left is Donald-Jeffcott batsman Cooper Anderson and umpire Keith Kemp.

Hunter Wins 21 Up

Over 25 ends, 100 bowls each, experienced Ian McEwen versus young gun Hunter Wingfield in 21 up.

That was the situation at the Donald Bowling Club at the weekend.

With precise draw bowling, 11 ends and 11 all, then 18 all it was 3 shots needed to win this game. Hunter with 3 great bowls nestled close to kitty, Ian not far away and one bowl to go it just missed leaving Hunter the winner.

Please check for your name on window or in “The Buloke Times” for Saturday’s pennant.

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“I would love to hear that weather report again.”



• Hunter Wingfield 21 Up winner and Ian McEwen runner-up.

Birchip’s Day at Charlton Park

After a solid start by openers Hudson McCredden, 31 and Mark Trollope, 19, Saturday’s Wimmera-Mallee “A” grade outcome at Charlton belonged primarily to Birchip’s Riley Doran, whose unbeaten 126 steered the Swans to grand tally of 5/231, with Connor Lee also contributing 17, and Jonty Randall 11 not out.

Sharing the wickets for Charlton were captain Patrick Soulsby 1/33, Ethan Soulsby 1/20, Leigh Van Boven 1/22, and Billy Sexton 1/13.

Whilst Billy Sexton then led a brave attempt to match that total it ended at 5/173 in 40 overs. Other Charltonians among the runs were Cooper

Boyle 30 Sujeesh Mohaman Srukala 25 and Leigh Van Boven 14 not out.

At Hopetoun, home ground of Southern Mallee Giants, St Arnaud totalled 7/142, due mainly to the batting of Jacob Patching 69 not out (with 10 fours and a six), Andrew Shovan 24, Bradley Williams 16, and Ned Gorrie 11.

Giants’ openers took the bowling honours with Jack Flavel and Jackson Moore claiming two wickets each. In reply Jack Flavel completed a memorable double with 58 runs in a 95-run partnership with Srikanth Reddy Kasaram, 61 not out, the team total being 3/143.

Watchem Panthers forfeited to Marnoo.



• Murphy Fitzpatrick to Hudson McCredden. (Photos by Kim Fitzpatrick.)



• Riley Doran 126 runs.



• Bats for Ben.

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.



• 1 minute silence.

Wimmera-Mallee Cricket Scoreboard

proudly sponsored by **WILKEN GROUP**



Round 2:		“A” Grade	
Charlton d. Birchip		Southern Mallee Giants d. St. Arnaud	
BIRCHIP		ST. ARNAUD	
H. McCredden, c: P. Soulsby b: E. Soulsby	31	B. Williams, b: L. Mitchell	16
M. Trollope b: L. Van Boven	19	K. Torney, b: J. Moore	2
J. Knights, run out: Fill-in	3	A. Shovan, run out	24
R. Doran, not out	126	J. Patching, not out	69
J. Paley, c: P. Soulsby b: B. Sexton	0	N. Gorrie, c: C. Castleman b: J. Moore	11
C. Lee, b: P. Soulsby	17	L. Patching, b: J. Flavel	2
J. Randall, not out	11	B. McKinnon, lbw: J. Flave	0
Sundries	24	C. Kirk, b: C. Castleman	0
TOTAL (for 5 wickets)	231	Fill-in, not out	1
Fall of wicket: 39, 57, 121, 122, 180.		Sundries	17
Bowling: P. Soulsby 1/33 (8), C. Boyle 0/57 (8), M. Fitzpatrick 0/31 (5), E. Soulsby 1/20 (5), L. Van Boven 1/22 (4), A. Soulsby 0/25 (4), B. Sexton 1/13 (4), S. Sreekala 0/24 (2).		TOTAL (for 7 wickets)	142
CHARLTON		Fall of wicket: 9, 33, 64, 90, 101, 101, 107.	
P. Soulsby, c: M. Trollope b: J. Paley	0	Bowling: J. Flavel 2/18 (8), J. Moore 2/19 (8), L. Mitchell 1/17 (6), S. Kasaram 0/39 (8), C. Castleman 1/27 (8), Private player 0/18 (2).	
C. Boyle, c: J. Knights b: C. Lee	30	SOUTHERN MALLEE GIANTS	
B. Sexton, c: H. McCredden b: R. Doran	79	L. Weir, c: K. Torney b: J. Patching	0
S. Sreekala, b: J. Paley	25	L. Mitchell, b: J. Patching	12
E. Soulsby, c: J. Paley b: H. McCredden	8	J. Flavel b: C. Kirk	58
L. Van Boven, not out	14	S. Kasaram, not out	61
Fill-in, not out	7	J. Kiem, not out	1
Sundries	10	Sundries	11
TOTAL (for 5 wickets)	173	TOTAL (for 3 wickets)	143
Fall of wicket: 2, 69, 104, 132, 156.		Fall of wicket: 0, 27, 122.	
Bowling: J. Randall 0/21 (8), J. Paley 2/22 (8), B. Paley 0/5 (3), C. Lee 1/46 (8), R. Doran 1/36 (8), H. McCredden 1/19 (3), W. Ryan 0/9 (1), L. Angel 0/6 (1).		Bowling: J. Patching 2/30 (8), L. Patching 0/35 (7), T. Spear 0/9 (2), A. Shovan 0/20 (3), Fill-in 0/9 (3), B. McKinnon 0/24 (5), C. Kirk 1/7 (2), B. Williams 0/6 (0.5).	
		Watchem Panthers forfeited to Marnoo	



• Mark Trollope.



• The youngest racegoers were able to enjoy the pristine racing surface at the end of the day with the kids’ races ensuring all that energy was left at the track. (–Photo by Blake Lee.)



• Race 4 Alana Kelly after her win on Brave Charm.



• Cup presentation: Winning horse Kokoro, with left to right: assistant trainer Nisham and strap-per Isaac representing the Corstens stable and jockey Liam Riordan.



• South Australian jockey Tala Hutchinson winning race 5 on Greatestofease.

Kokoro Wins Mt. Wycheproof Cup

• Continued from page 16.

Cup run over the testing 1800 metre distance. Favourite punters would have been happy with the outcome of the well-backed Kokoro in first place. Sat a few lengths back from the front runners to challenge on the home turn, holding on to that lead to the post to win by three quarters of a length. In second place, Bel-lakai, trained by Helen Burns and ridden by Chelsea Mac-Farlane; Rasputina, half a length back, took third place, ridden by Sam Kennedy, with a very close challenge by Maktoob in fourth.

The final race of the day, the McLennan Bulk Fuel (Bm52) 1050 metre sprint Sandrine came out hard and fast, challenging the front runner Island Rock at the home turn and taking a narrow lead; holding on, it passed the post less than half a length ahead of Stirrup, ridden by Sheridan Clarke. Very closely behind in third place, War Of Wisdom, ridden by Alana Kelly did well to recover ground from the rear of the pack, with Flying Straz taking fourth.

The Kids

The only race left on the cards was the kids’ race, which is always met with enthusiasm by the younger racegoers, while their parents and carers look on, with a knowing smile as they burn off all the excess energy of the day. The exquisite condition of the track would have tempted many to tickle their toes in the grass, thus ending a relaxed day of country racing in the most joyful way possible – full of family fun.

Well done to the Mt Wycheproof and District Racing Club and its many staff and volunteers who put together another successful Derby Day in the Country event. If you haven’t already checked out this incredible local race meeting, be sure to mark it on the calendar as “not to missed in 2026”.



• Race 7 Liam Riordan after his third win.

The Race That Stops The Nation

Stumpy’s selections for the Melbourne Cup race running today at 3 p.m.: Presage Nocturne, Chevalier Rose, Absurde, Half Yours.



Horsham Cricket Association

ROUND 3

“A” Grade

Donald-Jeffcott def. by West Wimmera	
DONALD-JEFFCOTT	
C. Anderson, c: ? b: T. Braendler	5
J. Needs, c: ? b: B. Cramer	12
D. Ruurds, c: ? b: B. Cramer	16
K. Westerland, c: B. Alexander b: J. Lees	80
S. Postlethwaite, b: A. Merrett	26
L. Jones, c: B. Cramer b: J. Dickinson	36
N. Atkins, b: Brodie Cramer	8
J. Landwehr, not out	12
W. Burke, not out	1
Sundries	14
TOTAL (for 7 wickets)	210
Fall of wicket: 7, 34, 44, 79, 142, 159, 208.	
Bowling: J. Lees 1/36 (8), T. Braendler 1/41 (7), B. Cramer 3/52 (8), A. Merrett 1/20 (5), J. Dickinson 1/32 (8), B. Alexander 0/23 (4).	

WEST WIMMERA

B. Alexander, not out	124
M. Dahlenburg, lbw: B. Campbell	51
B. Cramer, lbw: B. Campbell	0
L. Preston, c: ? b: J. Landwehr	11
J. Dickinson, b: N. Atkins	6
B. Jensz, b: B. Campbell	12
J. Lees, b: N. Atkins	0
B. McQueen, c: J. Needs b: C. Anderson	1
T. Braendler, not out	15
Sundries	15
TOTAL (for 7 wickets)	211
Fall of wicket: 138, 138, 159, 167, 176, 185, 194.	
Bowling: N. Atkins 2/31 (8), C. Anderson 1/30 (7), J. Landwehr 1/51 (8), K. Westerland 0/23 (3.4), B. Campbell 3/43 (8), W. Burke 0/13 (2), L. Jones 0/15 (2).	

“B” Grade

Donald-Jeffcott def. by Swifts Great Western	
SWIFTS GREAT WESTERN	
C. Marrow, c: B. Burke b: C. Campbell	8
R. Sullivan, c: B. Burke b: C. Campbell	19
J. Martin, run out	0
R. Oliver, b: N. Nanayakkara	79
S. MacPherson, c: J. Gilmour b: N. Nanayakkara	42
L. Moloney, not out	15
J. Harney, not out	18
Sundries	24
TOTAL (for 5 wickets)	203
Fall of wicket: 24, 24, 48, 159, 171.	
Bowling: N. Nanayakkara 2/27 (8), B. Burke 0/16 (8), C. Anderson 0/15 (3), C. Campbell 2/29 (8), C. Rice 0/27 (2), A. Tatchell 0/28 (3), L. Rice 0/40 (6), B. Donnellon 0/15 (2).	
DONALD-JEFFCOTT	
J. Gilmour, b: S. MacPherson	19
G. Pearse, b: S. MacPherson	0
C. Campbell, b: J. Harney	16
L. Rice, c: J. Martin b: J. Harney	13
A. Tatchell, c: C. Marrow b: J. Harney	13
B. Burke, b: R. Sullivan	0
B. Donnellon, c: M. Brilliant b: J. Martin	8
C. Anderson, c: J. Sullivan b: R. Sullivan	40
N. Nanayakkara, b: R. Sullivan	0
C. Rice, b: R. Sullivan	0
J. Tellefson, not out	1
Sundries	11
TOTAL (for 10 wickets)	121
Fall of wicket: 4, 37, 39, 56, 65, 69, 83, 85, 85, 121.	
Bowling: M. Brilliant 0/15 (5), S. MacPherson 2/34 (8), J. Harney 3/24 (6), R. Sullivan 4/26 (6.1), J. Martin 1/18 (4).	



• The start of the Elders Mount Wycheproof Cup, on Saturday, November 1. Shout out to the barrier attendants for all the behind the scenes work they do in racing.

Kokoro Wins Mt. Wycheproof Cup



• Race 7 Sandrine, Liam Riordan's third win for the day. (Photo's by Matt Rigby.)



• An essential behind-the-scenes team in the racing industry is the vet team, in charge of pre- and post-race swabbing. Pictured here with race 2 winner, Proud Chief, trained by Andrew Bobbin, is vet assistant Lisa Cartwright and on-course vet Graeme Walker.

Wycheproof could not have asked for more glorious weather than that which shone upon its Cup Day celebrations on Derby Day in the Country, Saturday, November 1.

Patrons could be heard exclaiming things like: "Couldn't get a better day for it!" and "Bloody brilliant weather!" Rightly so, with clear skies, warm sunshine, and just the hint of a breeze to cool things off, it was a wonderful day to visit Wycheproof for its annual Cup Day event.

There was no room along the fence for the first of the seven race program, as enthusiastic spectators were drawn with anticipation to the track. Would their chosen horse win? Or would it be their favourite jockey? Maybe a particular trainer swayed their choice of galloper. Regardless of their reasons, those trackside all contributed that special quality that brings the romance of racing to life; even if just swept up in the excitement. As always, the thunder of hooves is best accompanied by the roar of an appreciative crowd. Those trackside at Wycheproof on Saturday understood the assignment and brought their best to the day, making country racing just about all it can be.

The racing surface was pristine! Some said it was the best they'd ever seen it, and rated a good 4, it raced well and looked about as lush as grass could look in the drier conditions of the season.

The day's voice from on high was Ric McIntosh, calling his 21st Mt Wycheproof Cup, and many others behind the scenes contributed to the success of the day. One team of people often overlooked but an essential part of the racing process is the vet team. Two vets and two assistants acted as swabbers at the course, carrying out the tests required to keep everyone in the industry honest and boost the confidence of those placing money on these athletes.

The winner of every race is swabbed on course post-race,

as well as one runner selected at the discretion of the team, tested pre-race. Urine samples are collected if possible, otherwise bloods are taken to be tested. Vets on course at Wycheproof on cup day were Graeme Walker and Jim Hancock with assistants Lisa Cartwright and Helen Benger. This team is to be commended for the work they do, though one of the less favourable jobs on course.

Three of the Best

Jockey Liam Riordan had an impressive treble on the day. To start his racing card off well, he rode Durham's Legacy into first place for the Corstens/Larkin training stable in the first race. The Elder's Mt Wycheproof Cup made it a double for this jockey/trainer combination with the victory of the well-backed favourite Kokoro. Liam's third win came in the final race with Sandrine for trainer Erin Maher.

Results

The first race of the day, the Busbiz Maiden Plate was run over 1050 metres. The winner, Durham Legacy, for the Riordan/Corstens/Larkin combination, came out of the gates quickly and held a front running position until the final turn where it burst ahead of the pack and won by a comfortable 3 length margin; perhaps the addition of winkers paying off. In second place, Renege, ridden by Stephen Brown Jnr for trainer Thomas Conlan. And in third position, Manhattan Darling, ridden by Sam Kennedy for trainer Arthur Pace, with Echuca Moama in fourth.

The second race, sponsored by Nutrien Ag Solutions was a maiden plate over 1800 metres. The Andrew Bobbin-trained Proud Chief, ridden by Stephen Brown Jnr won by over a length to the favourite Hayai Tsuru, trained by

Patrick Keane and ridden by Alana Kelly. In third place, Plastic Dreams, ridden by Chelsea Jokic with favourite Rhinestone Rory taking fourth.

The third race on the program was the Bet365 Bet Boost Maiden Plate over 1400 metres. The Patrick Kearney-trained Royal Infantry, ridden by Chelsea MacFarlane, won by a comfortable 2 and a half length margin over the heavily back favourite, Tikken, ridden by Liam Riordan. In third place, Calusa's Fury, with Colandarmel in fourth.

The Jan Miller Tribute race over 1400 metres was won by Brave Charm for the Yoshitomo Shima stable, ridden by Alana Kelly. The winner challenged favourite runner Vaderlee along the outside of the straight, to take the win by a neck. In second place was Vaderlee, ridden by Sheridan Clarke, two lengths ahead of third and fourth place getter, Explicable and Dark Lager, respectively.

Warning

The stewards reported that prior to the Hayden Kelly & Family 1800 metre distance race, winner Greatestofease was unruly in the mounting yard and the Garret Lynch stable was issued a warning for her behaviour. On the track however, Greatestofease settled fourth back in the pack, and got up on the inside just before the turn for home, finding the lead with 200 metres to go. In second place, Dusty's Deel, ridden by Sheridan Clarke, with Brassi Road in third and the favourite Pendante taking fourth place. Margins were close to half a length between each placegetter, with three quarters of a length separating first and second place.

The Cup

The feature of the day was the Elders Mt Wycheproof

• Continued on page 15.