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The Buloke Times

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

The Faces Say It All

Charlton could hardly have wished for more favourable weather than that which greeted its hundreds of happy show-goers on Saturday.

From near and far they came to join in an almost endless program of activities for people of all ages, including those happily pictured at right.

• A "Times" report and photographs are on pages 8 and 9 of today's issue.



• Daphne Bradley (left) poses for a photo after winning the Miss Pre-Teen category and Poppy Fitzpatrick (right) took out the Miss Teen Showgirl section.



• Master and Miss Tiny Tot winners looked impossibly cute in their Show Day finery – as were all the entrants in this very well patronized category. Pictured are (left) Owen, with Mum, Chloe, and (right) Dottie, with Xanthe.



• Looking very stylish was young Renee Riley who was awarded Miss Junior Showgirl.

To Shape the Future of Australian Agriculture... BCG and CSIRO Unite

North west Victoria hosted some of the nation's leading agricultural researchers last week when 17 senior CSIRO scientists visited Birchip for a three-day think tank with the Birchip Cropping Group (BCG) focused on driving the next wave of innovation in broadacre farming.

The think tank brought together leading researchers from CSIRO's Farming Systems Program, BCG staff and local growers to share insights, strengthen partnerships and identify the next big opportunities for productivity, profitability and sustainability in Australian agriculture.

BCG Chief Executive Officer Fiona Best said the event reflected BCG's national reputation as a trusted voice for farmers and a key link between science and practice.

"We were thrilled to welcome CSIRO's leading minds to Birchip," Ms Best said. "Having scientists out here in the paddock, hearing directly

from growers, ensures future research reflects the realities of farming in our region."

Key Themes

The three day program, from October 14 to 16, explored key themes shaping the future of farming. Discussions were focused on how digital and data driven tools can improve nutrient use, pest management and compliance, as well as opportunities to reduce reliance on traditional chemical inputs through new products and data supported practices.

The meeting also served as a precursor to further discussions on the potential for regional nitrogen production hubs, looking at the innova-



• Birchip Cropping Group's main site.

tion and infrastructure required to make local fertiliser manufacturing a reality.

Participants visited BCG's trial sites to see farmer led research in action and take part in collaborative workshops designed to bridge the gap

between scientific innovation and on farm adoption.

Dr Ben Trevaskis, Research Director of the Farming Systems Program, said the collaboration marked a stronger national commitment to working directly with farmers.

"Our researchers are using research and innovation to tackle the challenges that Australian farmers are facing now and into the next two decades," Dr Trevaskis said. "To do that well we need to work with producers who un-

derstand what's happening on the ground now, with climate for example, and who can see where research can make a difference.

"We deeply value the partnership with BCG because

• Continued on page 2.

Daniel Leads Buloke Council

Buloke Shire Council has appointed Daniel McLoughlan as its new Chief Executive Officer, following a resolution of Council at the October Ordinary Meeting held last week.

Daniel has been serving as Interim CEO since September 2025, providing stability during a period of transition.

"His permanent appointment recognises his proven capability, deep community ties and unwavering commitment to the Buloke region," said Buloke Shire Council Mayor, Cr Alan Getley.

A proud Birchip local, Daniel returned to the district in 2012, and following six years at the helm of the family business, has since dedicated his career to public service within the Shire.

"Daniel brings an entrepreneurial mindset

grounded in practical experience and a strong focus on delivering real value through innovation and reform," said Cr Getley.

Daniel has held key leadership roles in Council including Director Infrastructure and Delivery, Senior Manager Assets and Flood Recovery Manager during the October 2022 event – where his deep community insight was instrumental in co-ordinating the Shire's recovery efforts.

Beyond Council, Daniel has always been an active contributor to community life through the Birchip Forum,

and as a passionate supporter of the Birchip-Watchem Bulls Football Club, where he's well-known for his hands-on involvement as a volunteer, fulfilling the role of match day secretary.

"Council is very pleased to appoint Daniel. We believe he has demonstrated authentic leadership, sound judgement during his Council tenure as well as an enduring passion for our communities," added the Mayor.

"His local knowledge and ability to engage with staff and residents make him an outstanding choice to lead Buloke into the future."

In accepting the role, Daniel acknowledged that it is a privilege to serve the Buloke community.

"I am excited by the opportunity to lead a high performing, engaged team in a community I know well and care deeply about," said Daniel.

"While broader government narratives may suggest our communities are fading, I believe Buloke's future is bright. With strong leadership, strategic partnerships, and community collaboration, we can continue to build a resilient and thriving region."



• Buloke Shire Council's newly appointed Chief Executive Officer, Daniel McLoughlan.

Litchfield Hall Centenary is Nigh

The Donald History Society met in the Courthouse for its first daylight saving meeting at 7.30 p.m..

Glenys Pope (nee Falla) attended the meeting, as she was visiting Donald, and she was delighted to announce to the meeting the birth of Ronald John Falla, great-grandson of the late Ronald Peter and Honor Falla, who both did so much for the collocation of history in Donald and surrounding areas. Ronald John is the son of Andrew and Katie Falla and the grandson of Marj and the late David Falla.

Anne Walsh was the guest speaker and her topic was the Litchfield Hall centenary, which will be celebrated with a community gathering in November of this year. Anne read an excerpt from the book “Litchfield Carron – a Century of Settlement” written by Ron and Honor Falla, which told of the origins of the hall, built for £700 and the various fundraising attempts to reduce the debt over the following years, such as the performances of “The Litchfield Comedy Company” and also a share farming arrangement, whereby Arch Green offered 140 acres on shares to the Hall committee.

A newly formed ladies auxiliary in the late 1950s catered at clearing sales to provide much needed amenities

for the hall and the 1970s saw the formation of the Litchfield Social Club which held regular Saturday night dances for about 20 years, attracting people from far and wide and raising a good deal of money for the hall. Peter Pendlebury, as one of the doormen for these functions in the latter years, interjected with some amusing anecdotes of his time “on the door”.

Functions

Anne then went on to list the various functions held in the hall over the years, The annual school concert was one and she told of her memories of her items in her first (and last Litchfield) concert in 1960. Anne has gathered a collection of school photos from 1948 -1976 and these were shown in a looped Powerpoint presentation along with several scenes of the main street of Litchfield over the years, showing the hall, the church, the school and the school house, the three railway houses and Melican’s house. There were also regular “kitchen teas”, as every Litchfield girl who married was afforded one by the community. The whole community came to the kitchen tea, bringing a gift, a band was hired and the evening was spent dancing before and after

the presentation of the gifts and the speeches. There were euchre nights, a cup day luncheon for several years and Cabaret dances. The hall still gets used for various community celebrations; the Melican 150th and the Walsh 100 years are just two in recent years. John Arnel was pictured at his 21st in the hall. Many others have used it for such an occasion and a couple of years ago Andrew Falla and Katie Gillahan celebrated their wedding at the hall. At least two children had their birthdays at the hall this year and the DFC also held a function there after their away match at Birchip. When the weather turns nasty, it is a quick alternative as it is always available and in good condition. The refurbished kitchen and the lightweight tables and chairs provided by fire brigade grants make it a very easy place to hire. The Litchfield Fire Brigade conducts its meetings in the hall.

Current State

Anne then attempted to bring people up to date with the current state of the hall, and Peter Pendlebury was again able to help with this. The hall was clad with hardiplank in the 1980s or ’90s and local resident, Bill



• The Litchfield Hall c.1930.

Pettifer, completed this job. He also repaired and remodelled the porch, giving it a skillion roof instead of the peaked one. Soon after this the hall was re-blocked. The upper parts of the interior walls were also lined at this stage, by a working bee, according to Peter Pendlebury. Up till then they were bare. Russ Gallagher, a teacher in the 1950s, was rehearsing the children for the concert and becoming very frustrated. He leapt on a table and wrote “LOOK” in chalk on the inside of the weatherboards on the wall above the main door. It remained there for about

thirty years until the boards were removed.

White Ants

After the 2011 floods there was white ant damage and this led to the front wall of the hall having to be rebuilt around the porch.

The Buloke Shire helped out with grants for this work. New windows and doors were put in and the new wall was clad with a new Colorbond exterior.

In recent years, the hall has been completely re-lined inside, including the ceiling, which was done following the roof line and leaving the

beams exposed. The wooden benches around the walls have been renewed, fans and split systems have been installed and a working bee organised over several weeks by secretary, Brian “Ralph” Melican has seen the whole interior of the hall freshly painted. Large offcuts of carpet were donated and these are put on the floor for use in the Pilates classes which are held in the hall weekly by Abbie Powell.

The hall is a fine facility and should serve the community for many years to come. Anne finished up her talk and supper was served.

“Kangaroo Island” Comes to Rex

The South Australian coastal setting is the highlight of this weekend’s Rex movie – “Kangaroo Island”.

Set against the breathtaking backdrop of South Australia’s famous tourist location, the film tackles the powerful themes of family estrangement, buried secrets, and the journey toward redemption.

The story revolves around Lou Wells (Rebecca Breeds) who once had a bright future in Hollywood, but her career has stalled and life has spiralled. Out of options, she accepts a flight home from her estranged father, Rory (Erik Thomson), and returns to the rugged beauty of Kangaroo Island. Tensions reignite between Lou and her sister Freya (Adelaide Clemens), whose conservative worldview contrasts with Lou’s fractured identity. Just as they begin to reconnect, a long-hidden family secret threatens to change everything.

The debut film for both director Timothy David and writer Sally Gifford, “Kangaroo Island” draws the viewer into confronting mortality, betrayal, and faith by cloaking them in wit and beauty. (And be prepared for the running gag that has been threaded throughout the entire film.)

When the audience is about to reach for their hankies, they are instead offered the opportunity to release any tension with a laugh.

This is a film with plenty of twists and turns, and a cinematic vision to-die-for using the natural beauty of Kangaroo Island itself.

Why not treat yourself to a viewing?

“Kangaroo Island” (M105 mins) screens: Saturday October 25, 8 p.m. | Sunday October 26, 2 p.m. | Tuesday October 28, 8 p.m.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show Halloween Screening

It’s time to pull on the fishnets and brush up the “Time Warp” for “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” screening at The Rex Theatre on Friday October 31, at 8 p.m..

Renowned for audience “participation”, The Rex is encouraging patrons to turn up dressed as a character or sporting a favourite Rocky outfit for this special Halloween screening. It will also celebrate the 50th anniversary of the film’s release in 1975.

“We are aiming for a night of fun,” said Rex manager, Hayden McKinnon. “We want the cosplay to be creative, outrageous and guaranteed to capture the spirit of the movie.”

Here’s an ideal opportunity to gather a group of like-minded “Time Warp”ers, head to the theatre and rage the night away!

“The Rocky Horror Picture Show” (M | 100 mins) screens Friday October 31, 8 p.m.. Tickets: \$12 | Bookings: rextheatre.org.au/whats-showing.html



• Jayden Noonan (treasurer), Brad Sharp, Nick Noonan, Josh Hamilton, Brad Smith, Heath Hogan, Lauchlan Foott, Mark Bowen, Kelsey Taylor (secretary), Matt Ryan (president), Carlee Hemley (secretary), Jake Noonan, Zena Coffey, Alison Noonan, Lauren Baker, Mick Love (vice-president), Ryan Hemley. Absent Jak Goldsmith, Lincoln Lehmann and Emily Smith.

Dedication Drives Mallee Root Round Up Triumph

Months of hard work, planning and co-ordination paid off for the Mallee Root Round Up committee as their sold-out B’n’S event drew huge crowds to the Birchip Trotting Track over the weekend.

From logistics and ticketing to setting up bars, camping areas and sound systems, volunteers worked tirelessly to create an unforgettable country music and party experience for the large crowd of party goers.

Featuring live performances from The Shorts, Ben Gunn and Disco Gold, the event was a hit from start to finish with boots stomping, drinks flowing and smiles all round.

Early feedback has praised the professionalism

of organisers and the lively, good-natured crowd that travelled from near and far to join in the fun.

A full wrap-up, including photos and highlights from the event, will appear in Friday’s “Buloke Times”.

BCG and CSIRO Unite

• Continued from page 1.

they are passionate about farming and they understand the benefits that science can bring to their industry.”

Local Touch

In a unique local touch, visiting scientists were billeted by local families, a gesture that highlights the community driven spirit behind BCG’s success.

“The generosity of our local families captures what

BCG is all about,” Ms Best said. “Our strength comes from connection between farmers, researchers and the community that supports them.”

The event underscores BCG’s pivotal role in positioning north west Victoria as a hub for innovation and collaboration, ensuring regional farming systems continue to lead national conversations about agricultural productivity and sustainability.

Author's Birchip Connection

Last week, the “Buloke Times” received a letter from Julian Lucas, of Brighton East.

The following are excerpts from Julian’s letter.

“Yesterday my wife and I watched the ABC ‘Landline’ program about the ‘Buloke Times’. We enjoyed the program very much and admired the very industrious and interesting people who keep the paper going.

“The program brought to my mind a matter raised in the paper some years ago.

“When I lived in Birchip sixty years ago I can recall acting as solicitor for the purchasers of the ‘Birchip Guardian’ newspaper and if my memory serves me well they were named Janet and Hazel.

“I have written a number of books since my retirement from legal practice and I am sending you here a copy of my latest book entitled ‘Our Australia Day’ – It is also available on Amazon.

“Best wishes for the future of your great paper!”

Julian’s letter continues:

Table Tennis

“On August 6, 2013, the newspaper for the township of Donald and surrounding areas, called ‘The Buloke Times’, published an extract from the ‘Birchip Guardian’ by courtesy of the Birchip Historical Society which had appeared fifty years earlier. The ‘Birchip Guardian’ had been the newspaper of Birchip but had apparently been long gone. The article was a report on the grand final in the Birchip table tennis competition for the year 1963.

“You will see that at the end of the night each team had won twelve matches. Each team had also won twenty-eight sets as all matches were best of three sets. In those days all sets went to 21 points or more if the scores were then tied as

the winning margin in each set had to be two points. This meant that the individual points had to be counted to determine the winner of the premiership for the year. Assuming a reasonable average tally would have been somewhere around 21-15 for each set, the number of points won in winning and losing sets on each side would have been close to 1000.

“You will see that at the end of the night the Presbyterian 1 team won by twenty-one points or a figure of about 1% of the total number of points played. When I first counted the points I thought that we had won and I thought at the time I must have been

among the best adders-up there. Sadly, we had graciously to concede defeat. As I had been appointed the president of the association it was my painful duty to present the shield to the winning team.

“This was the nearest I ever came in any sport to winning a premiership or championship with the exception of the Birchip men’s singles tennis championship, about which I shall tell you later. At school I would willingly have sacrificed a couple of high places in the class awards at schoolwork in exchange for a sporting trophy at any sport, but it never happened, although I played a lot of sport.”



• The cover of Julian Lucas’s most recent book.

Farmers Matter Amidst Rare Earth Mining Rush

As Anthony Albanese prepares to meet Donald Trump in Washington this evening, the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) is calling on the Federal and State Governments to ensure farmers and regional communities are not ignored in the rush to secure rare earth minerals, fuelled by mounting geopolitical pressure to exploit Australia’s resources.

Currently several rare earth mineral sand mines are proposed in parts of western Victoria and Gippsland, with dozens more exploration licences covering hundreds of thousands of hectares.

VFF President Brett Hosking said concerns are growing from landholders in the vicinity of proposed mines about the real impacts on their farms, communities and the natural environment in the race to secure the critical minerals.

One-Way Traffic

“This can’t be all one-way traffic where farmers and local communities are pushed aside, water is diverted, and irreplaceable farmland is damaged forever,” he said.

“The community feels they don’t have a voice in the process which is to the detriment of the projects and good planning. These are the people who know the land, community and environment better than anyone else.

“Some of the land earmarked for these mines is prime, irreplaceable farmland. Once it’s gone, it’s gone forever and we must protect it before it’s too late.”

“The government and these companies must listen to the community and genuinely consult with those set to be impacted, otherwise we’ll continue to see massive community opposition right across regional Victoria.”

Mr Hosking added the VFF is urging governments to strengthen consultation requirements, provide transparent information on environmental impacts, and ensure that agricultural productivity and water resources are not put at risk by mining operations.

“This can’t be a free-for-all driven by global politics,” he said.

Balanced Approach

“We need a balanced approach that respects property



• Brett Hosking.

rights, safeguards regional industries, and delivers lasting benefits to the communities that host these projects.

“We might be a small fish up against these huge mining companies driven by global superpower tensions, but this land and these farmers matter and help provide food for millions.

“We’re asking for genuine consultation and a voice to help safeguard generational farming families.”

Flood Recovery Delayed

The Victorian Government took an average of 214 days to process flood-related claims from local councils, according to the Victorian Auditor General’s Office (VAGO).



• Danny O’Brien

Lengthy wait-times had the potential to prolong the already painful recovery for both the Maribyrnong and regional communities, a VAGO report released today found.

The watchdog also found Labor could not meet its agreed timelines benchmarks for assessing flood relief claims, despite them improving over time.

Leader of The Nationals and Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Danny O’Brien, said the government must do better to support regional communities ravaged by natural disasters.

“At one stage, in May 2023, the average processing time for flood-related claims hit a peak of 429 days,” Mr O’Brien said.

“Although it has improved since then, councils are still waiting a long time for funding to help re-build their communities.

“The October 2022 floods were a significant event right across regional Victoria and Maribyrnong and the government needs to be a quick responder in helping with recovery.”

Shadow Minister for Water, Tim McCurdy, said the latest report is the second to be critical of the government’s flood response.

A parliamentary inquiry, released in August last year, slammed Labor for its failure to plan, prepare and respond to the October 2022 flood crisis.

“Today’s report again underlines Labor’s inability to take flood planning and flood response seriously,” Mr McCurdy said.



• Anne Webster.

harder and harder to save up to buy their own home. Home ownership is the best form of long-term personal financial security there is, and under Labor young Australians are sadly becoming conditioned to the idea home ownership isn’t for them.

“The Nationals stand with regional shires and residents pushing for real solutions to help more Australians achieve the great Australian dream of home ownership.”

Summit Demands Action on Housing Supply Chain

Builders and local government representatives have demanding Labor fix an 83,000 strong housing trade shortage at a summit in Bendigo on Tuesday, also calling for further help for first homebuyers.

The Nationals’ Leader David Littleproud, and Nationals Senator for Victoria, the Hon Bridget McKenzie, joined with the Housing Industry Association (HIA) to host the Regional Housing Roundtable, while key trades shortages forms arguably the largest regional barrier to delivering the Albanese Government’s faltering target of 1.2 million homes.

Member for Mallee, Dr Anne Webster, MP, said the Summit’s demands match what Mallee families are telling her.

“We’re not short of land to provide housing in Sunraysia, Swan Hill, the Wimmera and the Grampians – the supply chain is failing in securing the workers and materials to build the homes,” Dr Webster said.

The National Housing Supply and Affordability Council reports the supply of

new homes remains at the lowest in a decade, while only 177,000 new dwellings were completed in 2024, failing to meet national housing demand.

Rent Hikes

Within the last week the latest Domain Rent Report showed Swan Hill had led the annual hikes in median weekly asking rents, up 23.5 per cent in just a year, while Horsham rents have increased 10.5 per cent, Mildura rents rose 9.1 per cent and Central Goldfields up 5.6 per cent.

“The Reserve Bank Governor admitted at Senate Estimates last week that Labor’s first home buyer policy will push up prices, making houses even less affordable for families and first homebuyers,” Dr Webster said.

Dr Webster said younger Mallee residents were enduring greater housing stress and

rental stress than older residents, as her office finishes collating responses to Mallee’s Biggest Survey.

Survey respondents under 35 years of age were more likely to report mortgage and rent costs as major cost-of-living concerns, ranking them 4th and 5th behind groceries, energy and council rates as significant pressures.

By contrast, across all ages in Mallee, insurance and fuel costs ranked 4th and 5th highest cost pressures.

The HIA’s Housing the Regions report shows in the June 2024 quarter, 27 per cent more people moved from cities to regional areas, while around three-quarters of city dwellers moving to the regions have settled in regional New South Wales or Victoria.

Biggest Issues

HIA Chief Executive of Industry and Policy, Simon

Croft, said one third or 8.5 million people now live outside metropolitan areas and one of the biggest issues for regional areas is infrastructure, more roads and water.

“Getting labour is a big constraint with supply issues and actually getting the houses built,” Mr Croft said.

“These days it really also comes down to land and getting the land through the planning system, let alone getting stuck in environmental approvals for years and then it’s further compounded by navigating the web of over 2000 pages of the National Construction Code (NCC).”

Dr Webster said the Albanese Government had been missing-in-action on their housing targets and genuine reform to make owning your home a reality.

Rent Cycle

“Mallee residents are stuck in a rent cycle finding it

"Times" Classifieds

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



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CHARLTON PARK
Wed., October 22

7.30 p.m.

All members and supporters welcome.

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Please contact Hayden Collins, Julie Coffey or Fiona Best to obtain a nomination form to the committee or to an executive position.

Email: secretary_bclc@protonmail.com

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Further information Wedderburn Community House
Phone: 03 5494 3489 | admin@wedderburnch.org.au

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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!

- Oct. 21, Ronda Reither
- Oct. 22, Bernice Darcy
- Oct. 22, Jim Aitken (90)
- Oct. 25, Joan Hardingham
- Oct. 25, Hannah Hogan
- Oct. 26, Maree Egan
- Oct. 26, Kim Spencer
- Oct. 27, Greg Egan

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with Liquor Control Victoria (LCV)
Liquor Control Reform Act 1998

Applicant name: (person/partnership/company/ incorporated association)			
Display period for notice:	Start date (dd/mm/yyyy):	End date (dd/mm/yyyy):	
Type of application (Please include the application type and licence category)	Application number:		
Trading name and street address where liquor will be supplied:			
If moving a licence, the address of the prior premises:			
Description of the business: (Include info such as any entertainment that will be provided, how liquor will be supplied and any changes being made to the licence)			
Proposed days and hours liquor will be supplied:			
Will these hours apply to any external areas?	YES	NO	Will liquor be supplied on a kerbside or footpath?
If changing an existing licence, describe the current days and hours of trade:	YES NO		

How to object to a liquor application

All information in the objection is considered public information. Full details of the objection including full name and addresses will be given to the applicant.

When you can object

You have 30 days from the first date this notice was displayed. You can check the date at the 'Start date' field of this notice.

Grounds you can object to an application

When objecting you must state the reasons for your objection and provide supporting information. This may be how you are personally affected or examples of prior incidents.

You can object to a liquor licence application if:

- you believe it would detract from or be detrimental to the amenity of the area surrounding the premises.
- the application is for a packaged liquor licence, you can also object if you believe the application would increase the risk of alcohol related harm in the area.
- You cannot object for the following reasons:**
 - that the business would not be successful.
 - that another business will be affected if this business is allowed to supply liquor.
 - that there is no need or demand for this business in the area.
- LCV may refuse to accept an objection if:**
 - the person making the objection is not affected by the application.
 - the objection is frivolous or vexatious.
 - the objection is not otherwise in accordance with the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998*.

How to send your objection to LCV:

- **Online:** fill out our online objection form at liquor.vic.gov.au
- **Email:** send us your full name, home address and details of your objection to contact@liquor.vic.gov.au
- **Post:** mail us your full name, home address and details of your objection to:
Liquor Control Victoria, GPO Box 4356, Melbourne VIC 3001

Display requirements

This public notice must be displayed:

- as A3 size or larger.
- continuously for the whole display period as specified by LCV.
- at the address where liquor will be supplied.
- in a way that attracts public attention, such as on a main window or another surface, preferably at eye level.

Printing the notice

If you are unable to print the public notice yourself, you can ask LCV to send you one. Email us at contact@liquor.vic.gov.au or call 1300 182 457. You can print this notice in black and white.

Next steps

Once your display period has finished, you must send us a completed Statement of Display. You must not send it before the display period has finished.

This form can be found at liquor.vic.gov.au under 'Explore all forms'.



Liquor Control Victoria

GPO Box 4356, Melbourne VIC 3001
P: 1300 182 457 E: contact@liquor.vic.gov.au
liquor.vic.gov.au



July 2025

1 of 1

Birchip Flower Show 2025 a Blooming Success

The Birchip Friends of East Wimmera Health Service Flower Show once again brought colour, creativity and cheer to the Birchip Community Leisure Centre on Friday, October 17, highlighting the talents of local community members and the dedication of the countless volunteers who make the show such a resounding success.

Generations of families and friends came together to enjoy the exhibits, with many continuing traditions that span decades through trophies and prizes donated in memory of loved ones.

The venue was a feast for the senses, filled with floral fragrance, colourful displays and the sounds of friendly chatter and laughing children as attendees admired the wide range of flowers, art, photography, baking and produce.

Children eagerly searched for their winning entries in the school art and craft displays, proudly pointing them out to parents and grandparents. The excitement of seeing their work on display was a highlight of the day and a reminder of the creativity thriving in Birchip's young people.

The children enjoyed some delicious treats served by the Birchip Campus EWS staff and the ever-popular lucky dips on the verandah, while inside the leisure centre visitors were given an informative presentation from Ambulance Victoria personnel Elijah and Bree Young, who spoke about the importance of defibrillators and general first aid. Their visit was both engaging and educational,

adding a valuable new element to this year's show.

Fashion Parade

Throughout the afternoon guests enjoyed wandering around the exhibits and the market stalls and were entertained by the fashion parade with fashion from Bev's Baubles. Bev introduced the models and described their outfits, which featured lots of patterns and bright colours.

The day also featured lots of delicious food and home baking. Not only was the quality of the baking in the show outstanding, but the return of the traditional luncheon of cold meats and salads was delicious as were the scones and jam and cream and the impressive range of slices that followed for afternoon tea.

Prue McCredden and Trish Lehmann were thanked for co-ordinating the kitchen as were all their helpers and Charlotte McCredden, who managed the coffee machine, providing afternoon tea guests with delicious barista coffees.

Deliveries

Fifty takeaway meals were also delivered around town by Jenny and Emily Noonan, ensuring those unable to attend could still enjoy a taste of the occasion.

The cake stall, organised by Di Lehmann, proved as popular as ever, and the donations to the day's catering by East Wimmera Health Service staff and the Birchip P-12 Hospitality students was gratefully appreciated.

President of Birchip Friends of East Wimmera Health Service, Brooke Morris thanked everyone involved in organising, preparing and supporting the event, including the Auxiliary Ladies, stallholders, judges and donors.

Brooke said: "The day is a credit to the large number of people who give their time and effort each year to keep the show running smoothly and we are incredibly grateful to each and every one of you."

Major Award Winners 2025

Champion Rose: BCG; Best Exhibit Section 1: Anna King; Aggregate Trophy Section 1: Rhonda Cooper; Best Exhibit Section 2: Anna King; Aggregate Section 2: BCG; Grand Aggregate Sections 1 to 3: BCG; Section 3 Aggregate: Jacinta Bourke; Section 4 Food and Fibre: Linc Lehmann; Make Bake and Grow: Jacinta Bourke; Section 5 Cooking Best

• Continued on page 7.



• Bev Ryan, Laurene Abbott, Ronda Cooper, Peggy Hogan, Moya Connelly, Janice Ryan.



• Jo Page showing her prize winning entry to aunty Pat Colbert and cousin Kathryn Colbert.



• CEO of EWS Trevor Adem, secretary Auxiliary Carol Reid, Life Governor of EWS Robyn Ferrier, and president of Auxiliary Brooke Morris.



• Committee members left to right: Anne McClelland, Robyn Ferrier, and Dot Reid selling raffle tickets.



• Children rushing to find their entries.



• Elijah and Bree Young demonstrating the defibrillator with local emergency service personnel Keiko Nakamura Karlee Haslam and Rachel Ferrier looking on.

Leisure Centre “a Feast for the Senses”

• Continued from page 6.

Exhibit: Nancy Summerhayes; Aggregate Section 5: Sue Brennan; Photography:

Brooke Morris (Open), Sheryl Curran (Black and White and Enlargements), Jaymee Poyner (Primary Students).

Special Mentions: Bianca Abbott and Rhonda Cooper for roses, Pat Smith for orchid, May Ferrier for geraniums and Annette Bennett for stem of iris.

Hamper raffle winners: Des Coffey, Jenny Hogan, Janice Randell, Ann Page, Elaine McCallum, Lynne Leersen. Bev's Baubles: Sunny Slocombe and Eamon Wood. CWA: Colene Delaney (by 2), and Ariene Doran, Cake Stall: Colene Delaney. Cathy Lowry, Tanya Goan and Judith Barclay. Anne Warne: Jacinta Connelly. Mallee Shearing Shed: Sue Davis, Birchip Café: Vicky Hinkley.

As the final raffle prizes were drawn and the last cups of coffee poured, it was clear that the 2025 Flower Show had once again delivered a wonderful day filled with creativity, friendship, good food and the simple joy of coming together to celebrate community, while simultaneously raising funds for the Birchip Campus of East Wimmera Health Service.



• Sue Bremner with some of her winning entires.



• Ava Launar (left) next to Jayme Poyner showing her winning photograph, Ari Richmond, Hannah Vrhese, Savannah Ryan.



• BCG representative Ash Tierney Lucy Giles Alicia Gault and CEO Fiona Best with some of their prize winning entries.



• Gracie Ferrier with her first prize sponge.



• Flower show best exhibit winner Anna King.



• Prue McCreddon hard at work making scones.



• Brendan Beasley with his son Flynn.

Charlton Show Completes

The 142nd Charlton Agricultural and Pastoral Show was held on Saturday, October 18 at the Charlton Showgrounds, with warm and sunny weather providing the perfect backdrop for a day of family-friendly fun, rural tradition, and community celebration.

Families from Charlton and surrounding areas flocked to the showgrounds to enjoy a full and vibrant program that offered something for everyone — from agricultural competitions and entertainment to thrilling rides and community recognition.

Action-Packed Program

The show featured a fantastic mix of rural displays and interactive entertainment. Crowds gathered early for the

tractor pull, where powerful machines put on a noisy and exciting spectacle. Nearby, the working sheep dog trials drew plenty of interest, with skilled handlers and their dogs demonstrating incredible teamwork and control.

In the show ring, pony showing classes impressed judges and spectators alike, with both young equestrians and their well-presented ponies eagerly taking to the field. Shiny cars and trucks were on display, as well as

SES and CFA demonstrations to encourage the public to volunteer for the amazing emergency services protecting our district.

Meanwhile, in the cool air-conditioned main building, the virtual reality attracted youngsters and at least one scribe trying out the unique gaming experience for the first time (and at least one new addict created). The pavilion weaved its way through training rooms and displayed the region's creativity and talent across baking, craft, floral, photography, and produce categories. Judging also took place in the harness shed outside for the poultry, fleece, sheep and grain classes, and of course the highly coveted biggest weed. There was an array of high-quality local entries reflecting the strength and pride of the agricultural community.

Fun for All Ages

Sideshow alley was buzzing with excitement throughout the day. Kids and teens flocked to the showbags, dodgem cars, and jumping castle, while parents looked on with smiles (and maybe a few rides themselves) or browsed through market stalls (or perhaps beelined for the bar) in the main building.

There was something to suit everyone's palette with food vans, barista coffee, brewery and distillery tastings and more!

The atmosphere was festive and full of colour, laughter, and the unmistakable charm of a country show.

• Continued on page 9.



• Barry Finch of Wedderburn is pictured with his 1951 Case DEX along with his three additional vintage tractors taking part in the 2025 tractor pull. Barry also brought a 1957 AM7 Rowcrop, a 1953 International Super AW6 and a 1958 Chamberlain Country Meadows Mark 3. A member of the Wedderburn Engine Club, Barry loves the older machinery because it has no plastic and is easy to keep maintained. The tractor pull has gained popularity with the crowd with people enjoying the spectacle of the machines being put through their paces.



• Perc Templeton from Chinkapook puts his dog "Ridge" through his paces during the sheep dog trials at last Saturday's Charlton Show. — Photos by Jenny Pollard.



• Five-year-old Ivah Saunders is pictured with "Storm" following the judging of the miniature horses and Shetlands at last Saturday's show.



• The formal opening of the Show was undertaken by Charlton Citizen of the Year – Gill Gretgrix (left) and Young Citizen, Fletcher Holmes-Brown (right), pictured with newly appointed Life Members, Wendy Laffin (second left) and Chris Livingston (second right). Wendy as Show Secretary and Chris as Pavilion co-ordinator have contributed untold hours of work towards making the Show a success year after year, and are richly deserving of their accolades.



• The large crowd made good use of the shaded concourse and the selection of food vans and drink outlets nearby. People also commented on the delicious aromas circulating from food preparation in the vicinity.



• The crowds had plenty to view in the pavilion with exhibit numbers exceeding last years.

Spectacular Buloke Season

• Continued from page 9.

Official Opening and Community Recognition

As the sun climbed higher, attendees gathered on the lawn outside the main building, seeking shade under umbrellas for the official show opening. During the ceremony, Life Memberships were awarded to Chris Livingston and Wendy Laffin in recognition of their outstanding service and long-term commitment to the show.

Sponsors were also warmly thanked for their generous support, helping to make the event a continued success. The traditional Miss and Master Showgoer awards were announced, from Tiny Tots to Teen age groups, much to the delight of fami-

lies and the young winners themselves.

Entertainment and Grand Finale

Live music by Danielle added to the day's relaxed and joyful vibe, providing a perfect soundtrack for browsing, socialising, and taking in the sights. Later in the day, the crowd was entertained by the Bubble Tonic Show and the always-popular Outback Stockman's Show, which brought rural skills and humour together in a family-friendly performance.

The day concluded in spectacular fashion with the Boort Hurl Competition followed by a fireworks display, lighting up the evening sky and marking the end of another successful show with a bang.



• Always a hit with the crowds is the array of cakes on display and this year's show didn't disappoint.



• Shearer, Joel Theisz showed a smooth technique during the shearing demonstration which drew a large crowd of onlookers.



• A blaze of colour and a big attraction for the kids, Sideshow Alley had plenty of takers during the afternoon with the dodgems especially in demand!



• Champion Rose was awarded to Bernice Kenny for her beautiful "Eyes for You" specimen. Bernice also had success with her floral arrangements, winning Best Arrangement and the Aggregate for Decorative Floral Arrangements.



• Looking dapper and very elegant are Young Master, Leo Stahl and Miss Midi, Ivy Sexton.



• An extensive collection of Lego entries, along with a well-supported Photography section drew the crowd's interest.



• Above: Singer Danielle Simonsen kept the crowd entertained with music during the afternoon and evening sessions of the Show.



• Bubble Tonic was a great hit with the kids during the afternoon.



• Cabbaritta CWA had an extensive display of items under the heading of "Things Our Relatives Made or Taught Us". The collection also included photos of past members whose contributions continue to be valued.



• Right: The Lego entries made a colourful attraction, with many varied models of complex construction.

Charlton 100 Years Ago



• 1930c Methodist Tennis Club.

(Information from “East Charlton Tribune”)

October 17 to 21, 1925.

Methodist Tennis Club: There was a fair attendance of members at the opening day. The courts were opened by the Rev. A. G. Day. The chief event of the afternoon’s play was the mixed doubles tournament, which was won by Rev. A.G. Day and Mrs Edwards, with Mr R. Curnow and Miss G. Curnow, runners-up.

Brass Band: The usual monthly meeting of the committee was held. There was a very good attendance of committeemen present. The two main topics of discussion were the question of purchasing new instruments for the band and the question of the building of the rotunda.

Heigh Ho; Come to the Fair: The Church of England Flower Show and Grand Fete, held in the Victoria Hall, from every point of view was a brilliant success. A special innovation was the “Palais de Danse” in the supper room. The side-shows did brisk business – lucky dip, mystery stall, fish pond, hoop-la, and the shooting gallery.

The flower exhibits were many and beautiful. In the pastry and preserves sections there were some fine exhibits. Some winners were: Best Collection Camera Views, Miss A. Pater-son; Best Home-made article, Mrs Leech. The various stalls – plain and fancy, refreshment, produce, fancy, sweet, and ice-cream and fruit – did a lively business

Snakes: The scaly reptiles are likely to be numerous this season. Mr W. Tobin, of Teddywaddy, killed two about a mile and a half on the Wycheproof side of the Teddywaddy station. These snakes were not so small either, one being 5 feet and the other 4 feet, 6 inches in length. In the competition as to who will get the biggest number of reptiles for the season Mr Tobin has a good start with 2 up.

The Triangle: At the invitation of the Shire Council a meeting concerning the beautification and improvement of the Triangle and the rearrangements owing to the construction of the new bridge was held. It was decided to give the Ladies Croquet Club an additional piece of ground. With regard to the Band Rotunda, a site was decided upon, approximately midway between the entrance gate and the Mechanics’ Hall. It was also decided to continue the existing cyclone fence down to the rear of the bowling green. The present picket fence along the front of the bowling green will be removed to the side nearest the river.

Sparrow Championship: The Gun Club Championship winner, I. A. O’Donnell, shot remarkably well and deserved his meritorious win. He was closely followed by W. Bertoli. The second open sweepstake, five bird, was divided by N. Frahm, J. W. Smith and H. Wilson (Boort). Third miss out sweepstake was divided by W. Bertoli, A. C. Bertoli and H. Wilson. Fourth miss out sweepstake divided by “Terrapee”, W. Bertoli and W. Bid-destone. Fifth miss out sweepstake divided by I. A. O’Donnell, H. Wilson and “St Arno”.

Cricket: A committee meeting of the Cricket Club was held to discuss details of the new “town competition”. There will be three church teams playing in the competition, the Presbyterian, Methodist and a combined team from the Roman Catholic and Church of England. The membership fee for church teams was fixed at 5/-.

Sale of Show Privileges: The Show Privileges were purchased by the following: Luncheon, Klunder & Co; refreshments on ground, Mr S. Dew; publican’s booth, Mrs Prentice Wycheproof, £52/15/-; fruit and lolly stall, Mr Mathews Bendigo, £8/10/-; and saveloy stand, £3; temperance booth, S. J. Blay Doanld, £7.

COMMUNITY UPDATE Buloke.



NEW CEO APPOINTED

At its Ordinary Council Meeting in Wycheproof, on Wednesday 15 October 2025, Buloke Shire Council appointed Daniel McLoughlan as Chief Executive Officer, commencing Monday 20 October 2025.

Mayor Cr Alan Getley stated that the appointment reflected Daniel’s authentic leadership, sound judgement and unwavering commitment to the Buloke region.

HAVE YOUR SAY – BUILDING A BETTER BULOKE 2040: COMMUNITY VISION

The Draft Building a Better Buloke 2040: Community Vision is currently on public exhibition and open for submissions. It aims to assist in shaping the future of the Buloke Shire and enable a collective response to our challenges, aspirations and opportunities to deliver outcomes that benefit the whole community.

Submissions must be received in writing no later than 5pm on **Thursday 30 October 2025** and can be provided in the following ways:

- **Email:** buloke@buloke.vic.gov.au
- **In person:** Place a hard copy submission in the box at the Wycheproof Customer Service Centre, 367 Broadway, Wycheproof, VIC 3527
- **Mail:** Address your submission to – Buloke Shire Council - Submissions, PO Box 1, Wycheproof, VIC 3527.

To ensure your submission is valid please include your name, postal address, a contact phone number, email address (if you have one) and details of your submission.

Copies of the Vision can be downloaded from the Have Your Say section on council’s website - www.buloke.gov.vic.au

A hardcopy version can also be viewed at the Wycheproof Customer Service Centre, 367 Broadway, Wycheproof, VIC 3527 or by request by calling 1300 520 520.

MAYOR CR GETLEY RECEIVES AWARD

At the recent Municipal Association of Victoria Local Government Dinner, Mayor Cr Alan Getley was presented with the Mayoral Emeritus Award in recognition of distinguished service, having served three or more full terms as Mayor.

Congratulations to the Mayor on receiving this honour and thank you for your leadership and commitment to local government and the Buloke community.

2025/26 SWIMMING POOL SEASON

The dates for the 2025/26 Swimming Pool Season have been confirmed as **Friday 14 November 2025 to Sunday 15 March 2026**.

Note: All seven outdoor swimming pools will only open on days when the temperature is above 22°C (forecast is based on Wycheproof and is obtained from the Bureau of Meteorology at 4pm the previous day).

For more information on our pools and pool hire visit: www.buloke.vic.gov.au/swimming-pools

NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PLANNING PERMIT

The land affected by the application is located at **376 Mills Road, Whirily VIC 3483**.

The application is for a permit for the **construction of two sheds associated with a Section 2 use (pig farm) and increase in numbers from 1318 to 3534 pigs**.

The application reference number is **PA25012**.

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

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

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

The Responsible Authority will not decide on the application before: **6 November 2025**.

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



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH BULOKE

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

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

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

SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISOR - CHARLTON

Permanent (Part Time) – From \$29.57 per hour (allowances included) plus statutory superannuation

→ Applications Close: 31 October 2025

Love to be outdoors and enjoy working with children? We are seeking a friendly, reliable and responsible individual to assist children to travel safely to and from school and reduce their risk of being involved in accidents with vehicles.

The successful applicant will need to demonstrate knowledge of road laws and be willing to undergo necessary Working with Children and Police Checks.

EVENTS OFFICER (RE-ADVERTISED) - CHARLTON

Permanent Part-time (0.6 FTE) - From \$38.73 per hour plus statutory superannuation

→ Applications Close: 31 October 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, within a local government environment and have experience working with event managers and volunteers.



BULOKE
SHIRE COUNCIL



BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL

PO Box 1 Wycheproof VIC 3527
367 Broadway, Wycheproof, Victoria, 3527
T: 1300 520 520 E: buloke@buloke.vic.gov.au
W: buloke.vic.gov.au

The Buloke Times

Est. 1975

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**



Navigating Precision Agriculture for Weed Control

(From Cindy Benjamin, WeedSmart)

Precision agriculture is undoubtedly the new frontier of weed control. Although the capabilities of new technologies are astonishing, there are many challenges to navigate.

Chris Davey, WeedSmart's extension agronomist in South Australia, says that the rapid changes and complexity of many new technologies can make it difficult to know when to commit to substantial changes or investments.

"Sometimes it is 'hard to see the wood for the trees'," he says. "Emerging technologies are being developed at such a rapid pace that it is difficult to know when to adopt and how best to integrate new tools into your farming system. These days, autonomy, weed detection and drones are commonly mentioned in discussions about weed management strategies."

Since the emergence of herbicide resistance in broad-acre cropping systems in the 1980s and 1990s, the loss of various effective chemistries has always been associated with a tendency to rely too

heavily on a single solution. The advent of new herbicides or application techniques will never provide the panacea of complete weed control.

"Weeds are incredibly adaptive, and the only way to keep herbicides and other technologies working effectively is to focus on weed seed bank management," says Chris. "Objectively asking, 'how would this technology help me reduce weed seed set?' can cut through the complexity of choosing what technology to adopt."

The spring planning season is an excellent time for growers and their advisors to look at the overall weed management program and identify areas where new technology might have a good fit.

"The WeedSmart Big 6 framework is a straightforward way to look at your

weed control plan," says Chris. "There are technologies and systems that have the potential to achieve gains in each of the six pillars of the WeedSmart Big 6."

What crop rotation and crop competition technologies are there?

Plant breeding technologies continue to provide more options in herbicide tolerance and competitive advantage. Keep weeds guessing with crops and varieties that offer different planting timing, rapid canopy closure, vigorous early growth, and enable the use of diverse herbicide modes of action and or application timing. A robust crop rotation will underpin a successful weed management program and provide multiple benefits to the farming system, including stubble biomass, nitrogen fixation and friable soil structure.



• New technologies in automated weed detection and spot-spraying are bringing many benefits for weed control, herbicide stewardship and maintaining a willing workforce within reach for more cropping enterprises. (Photo: WeedSmart)

Crop competition technology is wrapped up in precision planting and variable rate applications of seed, fertiliser and ameliorants. Variable rate capability is now almost standard in new planting equipment. Many growers have realised benefits from mapping their soils and addressing soil constraints that allow weeds to outcompete crops. Row spacing, stubble management, crop safety and depth control all play a part in planter decisions.

What should I consider for a diverse herbicide program and effective spray application?

Diversity is also paramount within the herbicide program. The increasing availability of proprietary mixes is making it easier to incorporate more modes of action against a single cohort of weeds. Testing for herbicide resistance and susceptibility in weeds is going to

save money and keep you one step ahead of evolving resistance in weed populations.

Advances within the spray application realm are rapid – particularly in weed detection technologies. Investing in technologies that ensure accurate delivery of herbicides to the target under optimal plant and environmental conditions will make every drop count.

What are the best technologies to stop seed set and destroy weed seeds?

Once efficient spray capacity and logistics are in place, the next layer is knowing where weeds are and having a rapid response in place for managing patches. Low-tech scouting for weeds can be as simple as dropping a pin, and sometimes sacrificing a patch of crop using chemical fallow or cutting for hay or silage is the most economical and effective way to stop herbicide resistant weeds setting seed.

Weed detection in fallow and in the crop opens the door for targeted management that can also reduce the impact and cost of herbicides. New technologies in automated weed detection and spot-spraying are bringing many benefits for weed control, herbicide stewardship and maintaining a willing workforce within reach for more cropping enterprises.

Then finish the season with technologies that collect and destroy weed seeds that have evaded control. Harvest weed seed control decisions need to dovetail with your seeding system, header front, controlled traffic farming and stubble management.

Weed control will always be a numbers game. When considering any new technology, the big question is whether it will help you achieve 96 per cent weed control or better.



• Chris Davey, WeedSmart's extension agronomist in South Australia, says that the WeedSmart Big 6 is a valuable planning tool for assessing which precision ag technologies or practices have a good fit. (Photo: WeedSmart)

Monitoring Worms Essential This Spring

(By Alison Desmond, Project Leader, BestWool/BestLamb)

Drought conditions over winter may have compromised the condition of sheep and reduced their resistance to internal parasites. Short pastures and prolonged grazing close to the ground can increase the risk of worm larvae uptake.

Although pasture growth in spring typically lowers susceptibility, it remains essential to stay vigilant, particularly at and after weaning when young animals are most vulnerable.

Worm infection costs the Australian sheep industry an estimated \$436 million per year in lost production. Sheep infected with worms exhibit signs such as weight loss, poor wool growth, scouring, and in severe cases, anaemia or death. The cost of worm infections can be substantial, with losses in growth, wool, and survival, along with treatment expenses.

Weaners are the most vulnerable group of animals, as they have the highest susceptibility to internal parasites. Their natural immunity,

which protects them against worms, doesn't develop until about 12-18 months of age. Stressors associated with the weaning process can also compromise immunity.

Conducting regular worm egg counts (WECs) provides the best chance of detecting a worm burden and targeting appropriate treatments. A WEC shows the number of worm eggs in a sample of faeces and indicates the size of an internal worm burden.

Regular monitoring through worm tests is crucial. These tests help determine when sheep exceed the WEC threshold, indicating the need for treatment.

Active monitoring also guides decisions on when not to drench, preventing unnecessary chemical use, saving

the cost of treatment and reducing the risk of drench resistance.

The WEC at which you should drench varies based on the worm species and class of stock. Consult your private vet or refer to the Wormboss Drench Decision Guide once you have received your WEC results to decide whether a drench is required.

WEC kits can be provided by your veterinarian or laboratory and will include collection, storage, postage or drop off instructions. For a mob WEC, 20-30 samples of fresh (warm) faeces should be collected.

Some animal health labs can perform a larval culture to identify the type of worms present so you can treat your flock with the most effective drench.

Top tips and tricks for effective drenching:

- Test for worms – essential to be regularly conducting with regular WECs. A list of ParaBoss WEC Quality Assured and approved labs is available on wormboss.com.au.

- Use an effective product. The drench should kill 95% or more of the worms, contain at least two active ingredients and be used at the recommended dose rate.

- Calculate the dose rate based on the heaviest animals in the mob. If there is a significant weight range, split the mob to avoid over or under-dosing.

- Move sheep onto a clean paddock immediately after drenching, to maximise the benefits.

- Conduct a second WEC in 10-14 days after drenching, to check that the treatment has been effective.

- Continue to monitor your mobs for increases in WEC and treat as mobs reach

thresholds. Careful monitoring can prevent avoidable adverse events and keep your stock thriving.

- Know the relative susceptibility of the different classes of livestock on your farm and the types of worms you normally see (a larval culture will determine this).

Worm management is not a set and forget process. It's vital to be regularly monitoring flock health, WEC levels, and the effectiveness of management strategies. Be prepared to adjust the approach based on seasonal conditions, worm burdens, and sheep performance. Flexibility and responsiveness are key to successful worm control strategies.

Visit Agriculture Victoria Feeding Livestock Website: Worms – monitor, measure and manage for information on WECs, and short videos on the impact of worms and management strategies.

Agriculture Victoria and MLA are co-funding an Enhanced Producer Demonstration Site (EPDS) in East Gippsland demonstrating the application of best practice worm management, including drench resistance testing. For more information visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/on-farm-demos

Find more information about available drought support at www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or call 136 186.

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

Seniors Open Day Next Week

(By “In The Purple”)

The Donald Senior Citizens Club is holding an Open Day on Thursday, October 30, commencing 11:30 a.m. at the Senior Citizens Centre, 4 Hammill Street.

The Open Day is funded through the Victorian Seniors Festival and will be a FREE event. Lunch and afternoon tea will be provided.

The emphasis this year is on participation – sitting down or standing up to actually play a game – there will be substantial lucky door prizes as well as prizes awarded for playing games.

Mahjong and Bridge will be the feature activities but 500, Snooker, indoor bowls and perhaps Scrabble, Rummykins and Backgammon will also be on offer.

The club recently welcomed its 50th financial member (I won't mention any names, Val), which is a significant milestone – the Baby Boomers are booming! This is primarily due to the popularity of Mahjong which we've only been playing for a little over a year.

Popularity Surge

Mahjong is currently enjoying a surge of popularity among Gen Z'ers (I looked it up so you don't have to – they're the cohort born roughly between 1997 and

2012 and to dispel any possible ambiguity, I don't mean caesarean or difficult births). We have classy, purpose-built Mahjong tables with recessed felt playing area, tile trays and cup holders. Our Mahjong tiles are also of the highest quality – not only are we trendy, we're also very classy. You'd be mad to deliberately deprive yourself of these accoutrements and the opportunity to learn how to play a game which is gaining rapid popularity around the world – move over Pickleball!

It can get a little noisy from time to time – the misnomers applied to some of the Chinese terms and even to the more common ones coupled with some truly inscrutable missteps have been known to cause uproarious laughter, often! Sit down with us and join in the fun.

It would be remiss of us not to thank Li-Yan Warren for bringing Mahjong to us – it is a game with infectious drawing power. On a sombre note, Li-Yan's mother passed away in China last week and we offer Li-Yan, her Chinese family and Daryl our deepest

sympathy. Our thoughts are with you.

The Ultimate

We didn't get the opportunity to showcase Bridge and our automatic dealing machine at last year's Open Day so we will make a point of doing so this year. Bridge is the ultimate mind sport and, as such, requires a little time and effort to learn the intricacies involved. The sheer joy of watching players execute complex strategies whether they're partners or opponents is quite empowering to behold. The beauty of it is that each and every one of us (well, me not so much) is capable of producing these casual acts of genius. Watch and then play a hand or two – it may take a little longer to catch on, but we'll coach you and ultimately coax the genius out of you. The dealing machine does away with any need to either shuffle or deal the cards. That's all done for you – the machine dispatches the cards into slots within a board, all you need to do is extract the cards designated North, East, South and West to immediately start playing a hand. Because the dealing is controlled by a computer program, hands are recorded and even graded to evaluate the best possible contracts. Those hand records form the basis for the inevitable post-mortems that show us what we did wrong and sometimes what we did right.

500

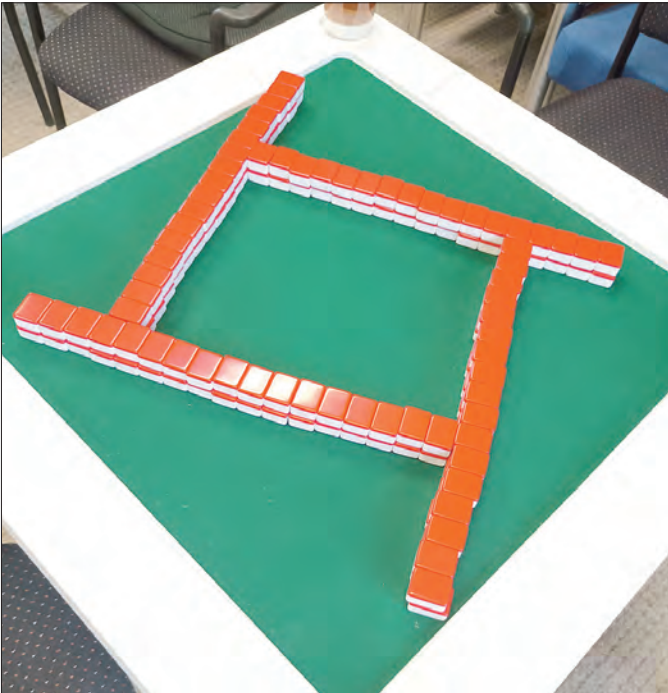
It seems everyone knows how to play 500 and our regular games are well attended – sit down to play and see if you can match wits with our experienced, skilled players.

We have an informal competition for the worst 500 hands which was instituted to address the manifestly overwhelming complaint that someone always seems to get the worst possible hand imaginable in absolutely every game played. We held off proclaiming a 4 player worst hand because they always seemed to add up to a lot of pips – the Jenni Dennis hand (pictured) was the original starting point and we all thought it would be toppled (or undermined) quickly; 70 pips all up seemed a bit extravagant at first but when you consider there are no 2s, no 3s and only two 4s – it may hold for a very long time. Very well done Jenni – yours is the worst and don't let anyone tell you otherwise until they can disprove it!

And for those who have already mastered 500, broaden your horizons with Mahjong and Bridge.

There are some great prizes to be won and some great food to be had.

So come along and join in the fun and share in the laughter.



• Mahjong Table and Tiles.



• Jenni's (un)lucky hand.



• CFA wants to remind Victorians that fire season has officially begun.

Fire Season Officially Begins

This year's Victorian fire season is set to officially begin with fire restrictions commencing in parts of the state this month.

CFA has declared the first Fire Danger Period (FDP) for the 2025-26 fire season, commencing at 1 a.m. on Monday, October 27, for the following municipalities in the north-west and southeast of the state:

- Mildura Rural City Council.
- Baw Baw Shire Council.
- South Gippsland Shire Council.
- Wellington Shire Council.
- East Gippsland Shire Council.
- Latrobe City Shire Council.

Victorians can expect a hotter and drier summer, and communities should be preparing their properties and creating a Bushfire Plan.

CFA will be introducing further FDPs for Victorian municipalities in the coming weeks and months based on assessments of the amount of rain, grassland curing rate and local conditions.

CFA Chief Officer, Jason Heffernan, said with most of Victoria experiencing low rainfall there is an increase in fuel, such as dead plant material and vegetation, which has the potential to support significant bushfire potential.

Have a Plan

“We need Victorians to play their part and ensure their properties are ready and they have a plan in place,” he said.

“It is going to be a challenging fire season and with the commencement of fire danger periods, it is a good reminder to ensure those last bits of preparation get done.”

Those conducting burn-offs must notify authorities online at the Fire Permits Victoria website (www.firepermits.vic.gov.au), or by calling 1800 668 511.

By registering your burn-off online, you allow emergency call takers to allocate more of their time taking calls from people who need emergency assistance immediately.

No burning off is permitted during the FDP without a Permit to Burn, which can be applied for through the Fire Permits Victoria website.

Fire Danger Period Information

A written permit is required to burn off grass, undergrowth, weeds or other vegetation during the FDP. You can apply for a permit at firepermits.vic.gov.au.

Lighting fires in the open without a permit can bring a

penalty of more than \$21,800 and/or 12 months imprisonment. For a full list of conditions, visit cfa.vic.gov.au/can

Farmers can find legal guidelines and practical advice at cfa.vic.gov.au/farms

More information about FDPs is available online at www.cfa.vic.gov.au/firedangerperiod



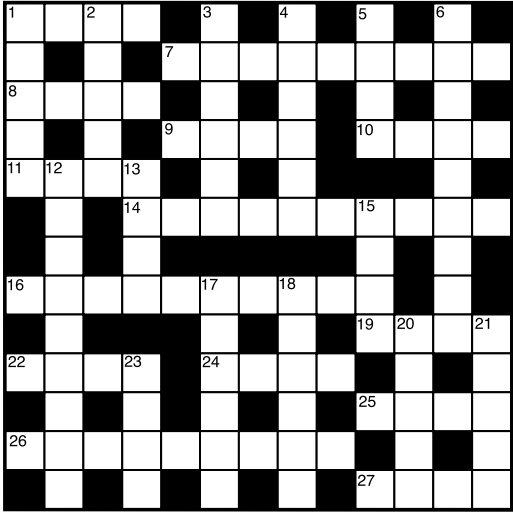
Office: 03 5494 3120
Mike: 0408 316 394
Brendan: 0427 794 479
Nathan: 0409 525 805

For all Earthmoving works including:

- Shed pads, sheep yards, house pads
- Dam construction and fill in, channel fill in
- Driveways and roads
- Supply and Delivery of gravel, sands and quarry materials.

“Times” Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8198



ACROSS

1. Unresponsive (4)
7. Cloth (9)
8. Relative (4)
9. Clothed (4)
10. Encounter (4)
11. Stalk (4)
14. Frighten (10)
16. Evil (10)
19. Type (4)
22. Mountains (4)
24. Title (4)
25. Port (Yemen) (4)
26. Deadlock (9)
27. Secure (4)

DOWN

1. Category (5)
2. Thrust (5)
3. Hammer (6)
4. Haphazard (6)
5. Cheese (4)
6. Amuse (9)
12. Tickle (9)
13. Exploit (4)
15. Twilight (4)
17. Generator (6)
18. Hostility (6)
20. Country (5)
21. Ballet (5)
23. Fish (4)

• Solution next issue.

As the Hay Season Ramps Up . . . Producers Urged to Focus on Quality, Storage and Safety

Hay producers are encouraged to consider feed quality testing, a critical activity for securing a marking and ensuring adequate storage to maintain quality and reduce the risk of haystack fires this year as production in North West Victoria ramps up.

At the “Hay to Market” session at BCG 2025 Main Field Day’s (MFD), approximately 80 percent of the attendees nominated hay production as an ongoing, established enterprise in their farming business. Many cited it as an alternative weed control option in the farming system, particularly for annual ryegrass, as well as a profitability diversification strategy, suppling both local markets such as the dairy industry and export markets for oaten hay.

This year however, a shorter growing season due to the later start, limited soil moisture, and strong hay prices have meant many crops initially grown for grain are now destined for hay.

The decision to cut for hay brings additional management considerations for many growers such as engaging additional labour or contractors to cut, rake, bale and stack the hay, and ensuring there is adequate storage to keep hay dry to prevent degradation and retain high hay quality.

Spreading Risk

During the MFD session, guest speaker Ella Lanyon, a Boort hay and grain producer, said that whilst hay production lengthens their harvest period from October through to December or January, and requires careful labour

management to avoid fatigue, it also spreads risk.

“I think long term, it [hay] has been one of our highest profiting enterprises, but ultimately, it goes hand in hand with our grain growing program because it allows us to spread our harvest and in doing so, hopefully our risk and vulnerability to some significant weather events that we’ve seen in the last few years,” she said.

Securing a Market

At the same session, Marcus Crawford from hay processing company, Balco, encouraged growers to consider their marketing options based on current market trends and capacity for on-farm storage.

“The domestic market price is often dictated by export market prices, however as fresh supply is entering the market, domestic prices often soften,” he said.

Marcus Crawford cautioned producers who don’t have storage to “make sure you secure a market now to sell directly out of the paddock. Having hay stacked outside is high risk and is a very short term solution. A rain event will see a reduction in quality of the top and bottom bales in the stack. It also means that you are exposed to the current market price and don’t have the option of

potential price increases later in the season.”

For growers who have storage, he said “demand from previous years ...has seen farm supplies nearly completely cleaned out so growers will be looking to replenish their stocks. If it is a dry summer and autumn, like conditions experienced in the current growing season, we can expect hay prices to increase again in mid-autumn next year.”

Hay Quality

Conducting feed tests to ascertain the quality of your product will help ensure growers receive the best marketing outcome. Crawford also indicated that at Balco, “With the export market, the two most common parameters are water soluble carbohydrates and neutral detergent fibre. Fibre digestibility is also highly regarded. From a domestic point of view, you need to talk to the end user. It’s all about metabolisable energy and crude protein” he said.

These sentiments were echoed by Swan Hill dairy farmer, Matt Glowery, who also presented at BCG’s MFD. He sources hay for his dairy herd from Mallee producers but also tries to grow as much as he can to reduce costs. Matt suggested digestibility was an essential



• Cutting Hay at Birchip.

factor when sourcing hay “looking at neutral detergent fibre, if it’s in the low 40s or ideally in the 30s that’s rocket fuel for us.” He added “But if I look at a cereal hay and it’s high 50s, or in the 60s, for us, getting milk conversion out of that is pretty hard”

Avoiding Hay Stack Fires

Rushing to get it into a bale when hay hasn’t completely cured, especially if there is inclement weather coming, is a possible cause for haystack fires.

Ella Lanyon advised testing for bale moisture was a priority for her business for both ensuring quality for export customers and for fire safety in their sheds. “We test every

single bale before it is stacked in our sheds” she said.

Agronomic Considerations

To produce profitable, high quality hay, many decisions are needed to drive biomass production, optimise crop cutting time for quality, and manage several levers that impact the cut crop, windrow and paddock conditions for safe baling at the right moisture and free of contaminants.

Spraying hay crops before cutting is becoming more common, Alison Frischke, BCG Project Manager said.

“A pre-harvest spray helps manage the regrowth of cut crop bases and weeds through the windrow and stalls further moisture use, helping to reduce the windrow drying



down time for baling,” Alison said.

Acknowledgements

Feel strongly about an aspect of hay production that needs more research? Have your say and help guide future research of hay production in Victoria and South Australia, in this grower, industry and advisor survey:

When Your Paddocks are Bare . . . Keeping Soil in Place

[From Kerri Goschnick, Land Management Extension Officer.]

Maintenance is the key to reducing soil and sediment movement in paddocks. While spring rain is valuable for pastures and replenishing farm dams, run off may also carry sediment into livestock dams, particularly where there is exposed soil in heavily grazed paddocks.

Hay bales or netting held together with steel posts or stakes to control sediment flow into dams can be a good starting point. Although the cost of hay and the hazard of steel posts should be considered. Coir logs are a potential alternative to hay bales.

Safe Option

Fibreglass posts and construction site hazard fencing (barrier mesh) are another, often safer option. Using 20 metres of barrier mesh and 4 fibreglass posts upstream of a dam is both highly visible and relatively low cost, at around \$85 per site.

Aim for mesh openings that are no smaller than 100 mm square. Smaller openings will block up with debris too quickly and the fence will fail. It is also important to remove stakes or mesh once the risk of sedimentation has reduced to avoid debris build up.

Building earthen banks to protect areas from sedimentation usually requires survey design, knowledge of soil type and risks, suitable equipment and expertise to successfully construct. A good understanding of catchment size and potential water volumes is necessary to avoid failure.

Road and Track Maintenance

Road and track maintenance is also important. Annual maintenance with a slight camber in the road surface to shed water to the side with the shortest distance possible will help to prevent wheel tracks from developing into drains and washing out the track surface.

Culverts and side drains should also be cleaned annually to prevent blockages and water from being redirected to less suitable discharge areas.

Visit the Agriculture Victoria website for articles on soil retention and sediment movement on agricultural land following drought, fire, strong winds and rainfall events.

Grants Available

Grants of up to \$5,000 are available for farmers to support investment in on-farm drought management activities and be better prepared for future droughts.

Eligible activities include water infrastructure upgrades such as pipes, tanks, troughs and dams, stock containment areas, grain and fodder storage, water carting and pasture re-establishment.

Visit www.ruralfinance.com.au/grants/ to apply.

Find more information about available drought support at www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or call 136 186.

Horsham Cricket Association

Round 1:

“A” Grade

Donald-Jeffcott d. Laharum
LAHARUM

S. Wouters, b: E. Landwehr 8
M. Bunworth, c: Westerland b: Campbell 58
M. Wynne, c: L. Jones b: J. Landwehr 33
J. Mahoney, b: J. Landwehr 0
J. Hutchinson, not out 39
J. Hoffmann, c: G. Pearse b: B. Campbell 3
M. Kerr, c: G. Pearse b: O.r Hier 6
S. Wouters, not out 1
Sundries 13
TOTAL (for 6 wickets) 161
Fall of wickets: 8, 96, 96, 121, 129, 148.

Bowling: E. Landwehr 1/29 (5), N. Atkins 0/4 (6), C. Anderson 0/35 (8), J. Landwehr 2/26 (8), B. Campbell 2/23 (7), O. Hier 1/38 (6).

DONALD-JEFFCOTT

C. Anderson, c: Hutchinson b: McInnes 16
J. Needs, c&b: M. Bunworth 22
D. Ruurds, c: M. Bunworth b: C. Cowan 68
K. Westerland, not out 26
E. Landwehr, c: Wynne b: Hutchinson 17
O. Hier, not out 4
Sundries 9
TOTAL (for 4 wickets) 162
Fall of wicket: 27, 105, 113, 154.

Bowling: J. Hoffmann 0/12 (5), J. McInnes 1/38 (6), J. Mahoney 0/23 (3), M. Kerr 0/19 (3.3), C. Cowan 1/22 (4), M. Bunworth 1/21 (5), B. Williamson 0/19 (3), J. Hutchinson 1/4 (1).

Round 1:

“B” Grade

Donald-Jeffcott d. Colts
COLTS

N. Keel, c: Campbell b: Postlethwaite 19
D. Carmody, c: Donnellon b: Rice . . . 49
T. Larkins, b: S. Postlethwaite 3
B. Purchase, c: Tatchell b: Donnellon 36
Fill-in, b: N. Nanayakkara 30
D. Collins, lbw: L. Rice 2
J. Potter, not out 4
A. Baker, not out 1
Sundries 17
TOTAL (for 6 wickets) 161
Fall of wicket: 24, 28, 106, 144, 147, 160.

Bowling: N. Nanayakkara 1/27 (8), S. Postlethwaite 2/19 (6), C. Rice 0/23 (4), D. Letts 0/12 (4), A. Tatchell 0/12 (8), C. Campbell 0/16 (2), B. Donnellon 1/28 (4), Luca Rice 2/14 (4).

DONALD-JEFFCOTT

J. Tellefson, lbw: T. Larkins 1
S. Postlethwaite, c: ? b: A. Baker 0
J. Gilmour, b: T. Larkins 5
L. Rice, b: T. Larkins 15
A. Tatchell, c: ? b: D. Carmody 58
D. Letts, c: ? b: D. Carmody 21
C. Campbell, not out 38
B. Donnellon, not out 19
Sundries 6
TOTAL (for 6 wickets) 163
Fall of wicket: 1, 1, 19, 24, 99, 106.

Bowling: A. Baker 1/23 (6), T. Larkins 3/38 (6.1), D. Carmody 2/36 (7), B. Purchase 0/35 (6), C. Potter 0/18 (2), D. Collins 0/12 (2).

Donald's Rare Bowls Success

Donald Bowls Club completed a rare treble on Saturday, when its Divisions 1 and 2 pennant teams defeated St. Arnaud Country Club, backing up the club's midweek success, also at Country Club's expense.

In the rematch of last season's Div. 1 grand finalists, St. Arnaud continued its run of success at Donald Golf's expense, while Wedderburn scoring a narrow three-shot victory over Wycheproof.

Boort and Charlton completed their round two commitment on the previous weekend, Boort banking all 12 points in a dominant. Display.

Playing on the slick Donald green, the host club's only loss saw Hunter Wingfield go down to Jason Abbott by 8 shots.

Kelvin Adamson and his charges finished 4 shots to the better of Trevor McDonald, and in the battle of the talented evergreens, Norm Hollis and his rink outsourced Bill Rodger's lot by 10 shots, contributing to Donald's 76-70 win and 10 points to 2.

Ashley Dyke was the only St. Arnaud skipper to lower his colours when Golf's Geoff Rigby-skipped rink finished 9 shots ahead. Both skippers produced a number of superb deliveries, Rigby in particular saving his team from potential defeat on numerous ends with his well weighted and pointed deliveries.

Steve Zsigmond and Terry McSwain guided their rinks to comfortable wins over Peter Hibberd and Daniel Pettifer respectively, to ensure St. Arnaud finished 13 shots ahead and picked up 10 points to 2.

The clash at Wedderburn between the host club and the visiting Wycheproof could not have been more keenly contested.

The highlight of the day from a Wycheproof perspective was Jono Grylls's 2-shot win over Alan Jackson, but on the adjoining rinks, Laurie Witham scored a 3-shot victory over Dale Groves and Neale Hole outsourced Aaron Mead by 2, to see Wedderburn

home by 3 shots and pocketing 10 points to 2.

Details:
Donald 76-10 d. St. Arnaud Country Club 70-2.

Hunter Wingfield 26 lost to Jason Abbott 34, Kelvin Adamson 23 d. Trevor McDonald 19, Norm Hollis 27 d. Bill Rodger 17.

St. Arnaud 68-10 d. Donald Golf 55-2.

Ashley Dyke 15 lost to Geoff Rigby 24, Steve Zsigmond 24 d. Peter Hibberd 16, Terry McSwain 29 d. Daniel Pettifer 15.

Wedderburn 69-10 d. Wycheproof 66-2.

Laurie Witham 24 d. Dale Groves 21, Neale Holt 21 d. Aaron Mead 19, Alan Jackson 24 lost to Jono Grylls 26.

Boort 91-12 d. Charlton 41-0.

Kevin Depiazza 28 d. Kevin Willey 13, Shayne Morris 36 d. Ken North 8, Kelvin Ritchie 27 d. Wayne Southwell 20.

Division 2

Wins have been few and far between for Donald's Div. 2 over recent years, making its 14-shot victory over the visiting St. Arnaud Country Club very enjoyable, skippers Ray Gravestocks and David Romeo accounting for Neil Robertson by 11 shots and John Needs by 17 shots respectively.

These margins more than compensated for John Howley's 14-shot loss to Chris Webb, and enabled Donald to bag the lion's share of the points.

Donald Golf struggled against a confident St. Arnaud on the latter's home surface, with the Saints winning all three rinks by a combined 24 shots and securing all 12 points.

The closest tussle of the day was contested between St. Arnaud's Lloyd Goddard

and Golf's Shane O'Shea, the final margin of just 3 shots reflecting the evenness of the battle.

St. Arnaud was well in control on the other two rinks, although Golf did manage to bridge the gap, resulting in Laurie Goodwin defeating Lindsay Borden by 9 shots, while Kerry Dyke finished 12 shots to the better of George Wood.

Wedderburn had no answer to the bowling of the visiting Wycheproof combinations, and suffered losses across the board, with Lance Standfield going down by 12 shots to Alan Jones, John Grant by 15 to Donald Denney and Geoff Burnside by 16 to Steve Barratt.

Boort secured a hard fought 2-shot victory over Charlton, the game being played on the previous weekend to avoid a clash with Charlton's annual show.

Details:

Donald 74-10 d. St. Arnaud Country Club 60-2.

John Howley 12 lost to Chris Webb 26, Ray Gravestocks 32 d. Neil Robinson 21, David Romeo 30 d. John Needs 13.

St. Arnaud 79-12 d. Donald Golf 55-0.

Lloyd Goddard 23 d. Shane O'Shea 20, Laurence Goodwin 27 d. Lindsay Borden 18, Kerryn Dyke 29 d. George Wood 17.

Wedderburn 50-0 lost to Wycheproof 93-12.

Lance Standfield 17 lost to Alan Jones 29, John Grant 17 lost to Donald Denney 32, Geoff Burnside 16 lost to Steve Barratt 32.

Boort 65-10 d. Charlton 63-2.

Greg Smith 29 d. Gary Bateson 17, Joan Earl 25 d. Cher Brien 16, Tony Matley 11 lost to John Headon 30.

Division 1: Positions of Teams, after round 2:

	P	W	L	D	Bye	F	A	SD	%	Pts
Wedderburn	2	2	0	0	0	179	113	66	158	22
Boort	2	1	1	0	0	165	118	47	140	14
Wycheproof	2	1	1	0	0	142	135	7	105	12
St. Arnaud	2	1	1	0	0	134	131	3	102	12
Donald Golf	2	1	1	0	0	134	131	3	102	12
St. Arnaud CC	2	1	1	0	0	147	150	-3	93	12
Donald 2	1	1	0	0	139	149	-10	93	12	
Charlton	2	0	2	0	0	88	201	-113	44	2

Division 2: Positions of Teams, after round 2:

	P	W	L	D	Bye	F	A	SD	%	Pts
Wycheproof	2	2	0	0	0	162	107	55	151	22
Boort	2	2	0	0	0	128	121	7	106	20
St. Arnaud	2	1	1	0	0	136	124	12	110	14
Donald Golf	2	1	1	0	0	146	119	27	123	12
Wedderburn	2	1	1	0	0	127	140	-13	91	12
Donald	2	1	1	0	0	116	151	-35	44	10
St. Arnaud CC	2	0	2	0	0	118	137	-19	92	4
Charlton	2	0	2	0	0	110	142	-32	77	2



• One of the best leaders in the local area competition is St. Arnaud's Tony Marland. Here he is about to deliver his bowl.



• About to deliver his bowl is one of St Arnaud's best sportsmen Maurie Wood. Watching on behind is, left to right, Ashley Dyke, Alan Welsh, Tony Marland and Tony Dionosopolous.



• A first game player for Donald golf is Warren Nelson. Formally from Jeparit has shifted to Donald. Watching his delivery is Jayson Barron.



• A social moment in their match St. Arnaud players Phil McRae (left) and Colin Marchment (right) with Donald Golf player George Geddes.

Naomi's Croquet Tournament Win

A big congratulations to Charlton's Naomi Patullo for her impressive win in Section 3 at the Quarry Hill Association Croquet Tournament held on October 11 and 12.

The tournament featured a modified format with games timed at one hour and a maximum of 14 hoops. Well done, Naomi!

Golf Croquet Update

Charlton's Golf Croquet team has completed three rounds of Pennant so far.

Although the competition has been tough, the team remains positive and is gaining valuable experience from each match.

Association Croquet – Social Games

The first of three scheduled social games was played at Charlton on Tuesday, October 14, with visiting players from Boort and Swan Hill.

It was a great opportunity to enjoy friendly competition and connect with players from other clubs.



• Quarry Hill tournament winner Naomi Patullo.

Pickleball Makes its Birchip Debut

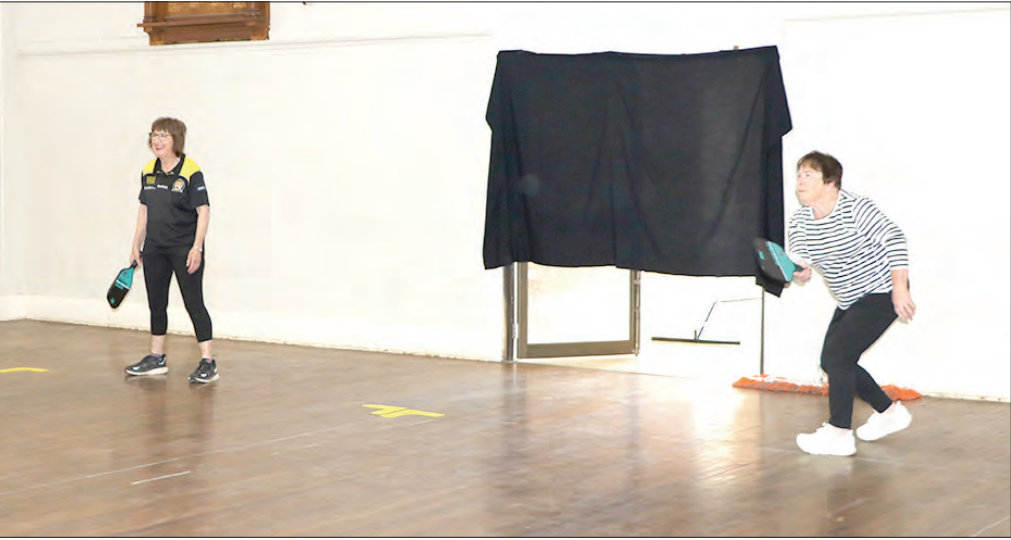
• Continued from page 16.

If you would like to be involved, but the current sessions don't suit, contact Simone at the Neighbourhood House and let her know your

preferred times or arrange for a time you and some friends can attend a private session.

As one participant summed it up after Tuesday's

session, "It's great to see something new happening in Birchip that everyone can join in with, no matter your age or ability. It's fun, it's social, and it gets you moving again."



• Christine Richmond a picture of concentration and Kaylene James waiting on.



• Kaylene James and Debbie McLoughlan.



• Above and below: Maddi showcasing her talent in the under-16 games.



Maddi's Basketball Success

At just sixteen years of age, Madison Ryan is already carving out a name for herself on the national and international basketball stage.

Maddi is the daughter of Steven and Vanessa Ryan and the granddaughter of Mick and Val Ryan, of Birchip, and she is continuing the Ryans proud and successful sporting connection to both basketball and football at state, national and international levels.

Representing Australia at the recent FIBA Under-16 Women's Asia Cup in Malaysia, Maddi played a key role in helping the Australian Sapphires create history and in recognition of her outstanding performance at the tournament, Maddi earned All-Star Five honours.

The Australian under-16 women's team claimed its fourth consecutive Asia Cup title, going undefeated and extending Australia's remarkable run of success across all levels of competition.

Standout

Maddi was a standout across the tournament, shooting 52.5% from the field, 36.8% from three on almost four attempts per game, and posted an assist-turnover ratio better than 3:1. She was just as impressive defensively, where her size and mobility unlocked a swarming Sapphires' defence and most importantly, in the finals she was the Sapphires' leading scorer with 22 points in their semi-

final win and 15 in the gold medal game.

Maddi's composure, maturity and skill drew praise from coaches and commentators alike. They said, "standing at around six foot one, Maddi's combination of size, speed and basketball intelligence makes her a versatile guard who can defend multiple positions and create plays at both ends of the court."

"Maddi has an incredible feel for the game and a work ethic that sets her apart," one coach said following the Sapphires' victory. "She plays for her teammates and always finds a way to lift the group."

Gold Medal

The Malaysian success capped a remarkable twelve months for the young star. In 2025 she also won a gold medal with Victoria Metro at

the under-18 National Championships, a silver medal with the Gems at the under-19 World Cup in Czechia, and impressed with her performances for Sandringham in the NBL1 South league.

Her proud grandparents, Val and Michael Ryan, said the family were thrilled by her achievements.

Val said: "We're all so proud of Maddi. She's worked incredibly hard, but she's still the same down-to-earth kid who loves coming back to Birchip and catching up with all the family. It is so lovely to be able to follow her journey even when she is overseas."

With her poise, athleticism and determination, Maddi looks destined for a bright future in Australian basketball.

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.

Donald-Jeffcott Cricket Double

No longer with the Wimmera-Mallee Association, Donald-Jeffcott celebrated its entry to the Horsham Cricket Association with hard-won first-round victories against Laharam in the “A” grade and Colts in the “B” grade division.

Batting first at home, Laharam scored 6/161 from its 40 overs, top scorers being Max Bunsworth 58, Josh Hutchinson 39 not out, and Monty Wynne 33. Leading wicket-takers for Donald-Jeffcott were Jack Landwehr 2/26 (8), and Bronte Campbell 2/23 (7).

In reply, Donald-Jeffcott batted to victory with 4/162 in 30.2 overs, those among the runs being Donald’s talented

former South African player, Dylan Ruurds, whose top score of 68 included 9 fours. Others with double figures were Koby Westerland 21 not out, Jake Needs 22, captain Eddie Landwehr 17, and vice-captain Cooper Anderson 16.

“B” Grade

On the Jeffcott oval in Donald, the Colts chose to bat first, reaching a total of 6/161 in 40 overs. Leading the way were vice-captain Drew

Carmody 49, captain Beau Purchase 36, fill-in 30, and Nathan Keel 19. Top wicket-takers for the home team were Sam Postlethwaite 2/19 (6), and Luca Rice 2/14 (4).

After the break, Donald-Jeffcott lost early wickets, before match-winning partnerships were built by Anthony Tatchell

58, Chase Campbell 38 not out, David Letts 21, Baxter Donnellon 19 not out, and Luca Rice 15. Sharing the wickets for the Colts were Thomas Larkins 3/38 (6.1), Drew Carmody 2/36 (7), and Alex Baker 1/13 (6).

• Wimmera-Mallee cricket begins next weekend.



• Drew Carmody, 49 runs and two wickets for Colts “B” grade. Drew is vice-captain of the Colts side and vice-president of the club.



• Luca Rice pulls for four during his innings of 15 for Donald-Jeffcott “B” grade.



• An impressive half century from Donald-Jeffcott’s Anthony Tatchell.

Pickleball Makes its Birchip Debut

A brand-new sport arrived in Birchip last week, with the first ever session of pickleball held at the Birchip Public Hall on Tuesday, October 15.

The “come and try” session, hosted by Birchip Neighbourhood House, attracted a great turnout from across the community, with participants of all ages and abilities eager to try the increasingly popular sport that is taking Australia by storm.

The Birchip Neighbourhood House received funding from the State of Victoria’s Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions through the 2024–25 Sporting Club Grants Program. The funding has enabled the neighbourhood house to purchase pickleball sets, including nets, bats and balls, as well as assist with the administration and marketing costs.

The introductory session was delivered under the guidance of Rhonda Allan from the Mallee Sports Assembly in Wycheproof and Vedang Ovalekar from the Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly in Horsham, and the venue was provided free of charge by the Buloke Shire Council, which was an ideal indoor venue for the new activity.

Fast-Growing

Pickleball is a fast-growing, low-impact sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis. It is easy to learn, social and adaptable for all skill levels, making it particularly appealing to people looking to stay active without the intensity of traditional competitive sports.

Neighbourhood House manager Simone Christie said “We know pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in Australia, and we thought it could help meet the needs of our ageing community and people who are no longer committing to traditional weekend sports. Being indoors and available at different times of the day makes it accessible for older adults, women and young mums.”

All Ages

Pickleball is perfect for all ages and abilities, and it was especially encouraging to see several participants who are no longer playing competitive sport enjoying the new activity.

The Birchip Neighbourhood House coincided the launch of Pickleball with the Victorian and Buloke Shire’s Seniors Festival, because turning 60 no longer means slowing down. In fact, for many people, it marks the beginning of a new and active chapter.

While some may shy away from being called a “senior,” reaching 60 today often means having more time to enjoy life, reconnect with friends, and discover new interests that help keep them fit and social.

Rather than stepping back, people over 60 are stepping into new opportunities for wellbeing, proving that staying active and engaged is the key to a vibrant and fulfilling lifestyle.

Simone said: “Around one third of Birchip’s population is over 60 and we hope Pickleball will be something they resonate with. But the good thing is Pickleball is great for people of all ages, and the hall is air-conditioned and heated and lockable, so parents who



• Christine Richmond, Barb Bolden, Brooke Morris, Noeline Hogan (hidden). In the background, Rhonda Allan from the Mallee Sports Assembly in Wycheproof and Vedang Ovalekar from the Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly in Horsham.

are at home during the day caring for children can also come along and bring their kids with them. Plus it is new, so everyone is at the same level, making people feel more comfortable. It also meant there were lots of laughs.”

Pickleball is now being played by an estimated

90,000 Australians, up from around 20,000 just two years ago. Its popularity lies in its accessibility, social nature and clear health benefits.

Another Session

Another “come and try” session will be held on Wednesday, October 22,

followed by an evening session at a date to be advised. After these introductory sessions, a regular daytime and evening competition will be established, giving locals even more opportunities to stay fit, have fun and connect with others in the community.

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