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The Buloke Times

Est. 1875

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Published Tuesdays and Fridays

PP331336/0000 1

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

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

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

Ahead of Global Sheep Congress . . .



• Veterinarians who visited Rich Avon on Friday, October 17.

International Vets Visit Rich Avon

In the lead-up to the International Sheep Veterinary Congress in Wollongong, a group of visiting veterinarians took part in a pre-conference tour of Rich Avon, hosted by Dr Peter Windsor.

The congress, running from October 27 to 31, drew around 500 delegates from across the globe, with 30 of them taking the opportunity to visit the renowned Merino property of the Guthrie family.

The visitors represented a truly international mix, travelling from Canada, the United States, Scotland, Sweden, Norway, New Zealand, Australia, as well as a Spanish vet.

Among them was a Canadian veterinarian who attracted particular interest for her dual enterprise – running a sheep dairy alongside an artificial insemination breeding centre. Her dairy specialises in milking Friesian sheep, while her breeding work incorporates Australian Merino genetics to strengthen her clients' flocks back home, underscoring the global influence of Australian sheep breeding.

The tour coincided with the annual shearing at Rich Avon, where five shearers were hard at work on 3,000 Merino ewes. Visitors observed the process firsthand and examined the sire battery, which included both Merino and White Suffolk sires.

Midweek, the shearing team briefly downed tools and headed to Glendemar at Marnoo to witness history in the making. There, they joined others in supporting shearer Nikki Lyons as she achieved a world record, shearing 502 Merino ewe lambs in a nine-hour day – a remarkable feat that added a memorable highlight to the visiting vets' Australian experience.

Lives Saved as Fire Destroys Historic Hotel at Lascelles

Working smoke alarms have saved the lives of four people who woke to their building engulfed in flames overnight at Lascelles.

CFA was called to the hotel fire on Henty Highway at 2.10 a.m. on Thursday, October 23.

When firefighters arrived at the two-storey building it was well alight.

Due to issues with accessing water, several trucks were called to the scene.

CFA Commander Dennis Thomas said the four occupants in the building were able to escape safely.

"Smoke alarms save lives and that's exactly what's happened here overnight," Dennis said.

"We would have arrived to a very different scene if this building didn't have working smoke alarms."

Dennis said the historic building was completely destroyed.

Massive Loss

"This hotel was the local pub, post office and bottle shop to the town. It was the place locals went for dinner. This is a massive loss for the town and they're devastated," he said.

"The four occupants also lost everything."

The local power company had to turn off the town's power between 4 a.m. and 7 a.m..

Victoria Police also closed the Sunraysia Highway which has since been reopened.

The fire was brought under control at 5.25 a.m..

CFA had 11 vehicles on scene supported by FRV's ladder platform which assisted greatly with extinguishing the fire.

The cause of the fire is not suspicious and will be investigated.



• Historic town hotel destroyed by fire in Lascelles.

Marking a Year of Growth and Gratitude: Birchip Year 12 Valedictory Dinner

Birchip P-12 School held its annual Year 12 Valedictory Dinner at the Birchip Leisure Centre on October 20, bringing together students, parents, teachers, and School Council members to celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2025.

Dressed in their finest, the 17 graduating students enjoyed a night of reflection, laughter, and gratitude as they marked the end of their 13-year educational journey. Principal Andrew Sayle addressed the group, reminding them of how far they’ve come since their first day of school in 2013. He also recognised the enduring support of parents and carers, the vital role of the school community, and the professional commitment of the Birchip P-12 staff who have guided the students along the way.

Each student took the microphone to share heartfelt reflections and memories of their time at Birchip P-12. They spoke with warmth and humour about the friendships formed, lessons learned, and defining moments that shaped their years of schooling. Teachers were thanked for their encouragement and dedication, while parents were praised for their unwavering support – from endless school lunches and early morning drop-offs to late-night study sessions.

Guests enjoyed a delicious two-course dinner catered by Tuscan on Calder from Wycheproof. The evening was supported by the Year 11 students, who demonstrated teamwork and leadership as

they served guests in their black and white uniforms. Year 11 parents also lent a hand behind the scenes, ensuring the night ran smoothly.

Later Years Manager Travis Knights closed the formalities by encouraging the graduating class to make wise choices as they step into their futures.

“If you are prepared to work hard,” he reminded them, “the rewards will follow.”

The celebrations continued the following morning with the annual final assembly, where the Year 12s hosted a lively and creative farewell performance. This year’s event took the form of a “Fake Emmy Awards Ceremony,” revisiting the highlights and humorous lowlights of their high school journey. The morning concluded with a light-hearted treasure hunt across the school to “find the missing Principal,” culminating in students discovering the “skeleton of Mr Sayle” guarding a stash of lollies – a fitting finale to a day full of laughter and joy.

The Class of 2025 has shown the Birchip P-12 School values of respect, responsibility, and resilience in how they have finished their schooling – with gratitude, humour, and pride. As they



• Above: Year 12 Graduates, back row: Sophie Cox, Shaylee Field, Amanda Bradley, Torey Atkinson, Kayla Rodda, Tylah Haslam, Ada Bourke, Emily Braine, Hannah Wilson, Imogen Boyle, Keira Llowry and Allie Knights. Front row: Brodie Cross, John Brooks, Les Cooper, Harry Cook and Austin Dean.

now turn their focus to exams and life beyond school, the Birchip community wishes them every success in the years ahead.

Letters to the Editor

Bendigo Bank Wycheproof Agency Closure

(The Editor, “The Times”) Dear Editor.– Thank you for putting that article and photograph in a recent edition of your paper, about the concerns of the Wycheproof community on the intended closure of the Bendigo Bank agency.

It is due to your article and some correspondence we sent to the Charlton and Donald Community Banks, that I was invited to a video conference with some senior people at the Bendigo Bank and the Charlton Community Bank.

Unfortunately the session did not result in even a few half days of face-to-face service being made available in Wycheproof. And the agency closed on October 21.

Some of the reasons given were that the Regulations around agency banking has become more difficult; the Bendigo Bank technology cannot be secure enough for such agencies (but the Community Bank branches are secure) and their statistics showed there is a low usage of the Wycheproof agency.

I raised the fact that my wife and I had not been written to with the advice of the closure, nor the offer of ongoing transaction fee subsidisation, even though we have been back as residents in Wyche for 7 years, and members of the Bendigo bank for at least 25 years.

It seems a key component is that our account is not “domiciled” in Wycheproof. Rather in the branch we signed up with initially. And we had not asked for it to be transferred.

At the end of the conversation the senior bank staff asked for me to encourage the Wycheproof residents to continue banking with the Charlton Community Bank to keep it sustainable and thus Wycheproof be eligible for their grant process.

If you or any of your readers have knowledge of a banking organisation that would provide some level of regular face-to-face banking services in Wycheproof, I am sure our community would positively examine the opportunity.

Yours sincerely,
Martin Duke.
President, Wyche Alive, Town Forum.

The Loss of The Minapre Hotel

(The Editor, “The Times”) Dear Editor.– I join the community in expressing my deep dismay at learning of the fire that destroyed Lascelles’ iconic Minapre Hotel. The Minapre was more than just a pub. It served as the town’s post office and bottle shop, but above all, it was the social heartbeat of the town. A place where locals gathered, stories were shared, friendships were forged, and countless memorable moments unfolded.

The loss of The Minapre is heartbreaking for not only its proud owners, but also the wider community. Generations of families have enjoyed its warmth and hospitality, while travellers were welcomed with friendly faces and left with fond memories of their visit.

While the road ahead may be uncertain for the owners, whether they choose to rebuild or not, the spirit and

legacy of The Minapre will endure in the memories of everyone whose lives it touched. It stands as a reminder of the unique charm and resilience of small-town life, and the importance of gathering places that nurture community connection.

On behalf of the people of the Mildura electorate, I extend my heartfelt support and solidarity to the owners and everyone affected by this loss.

Warm regards,
Jade Benham, MP.

Thank You

(The Editor, “The Times”) Dear Editor.– On behalf of the Charlton Agricultural Show Society, a large thank you goes to every one in our Community who helps make our 2025 show very successful.

To all our sponsors, without whom we would not be able to run our show.

To our great committee and all the helpers who came to the working bees and help set the show up, and packing up.

To our pavilion secretaries and their stewards and helpers on show morning; very much appreciated.

To Neighbourhood House for all the printing for cards, schedules, and gate maps.

The local service clubs for the volunteers at the gate, afternoon teas, and any other that helped out in any way.

Lastly, big thank you to each and everyone who helped and sponsored in any way.

Wendy Laffin
Secretary, Charlton Show

“Rocky Horror” to Screen at The Rex

It’s NOT a midnight screening, but the perennial cult classic, “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” will be up on the Rex screen this Friday night at 8 p.m. to usher in Halloween. Just to be clear – this is a movie screening, not a live show.

And patrons are invited to attend in costume (if they so desire). Rex Board members are gearing up to wear outfits which are being fine-tuned and co-ordinated from Op Shop “finds” and wardrobe searches, so a night of hilarity and fun awaits for those who plan on heading “over to the Frankenstein place” for this ghoulish night of Halloween.

Rex manager, Hayden McKinnon, said creativity is the key in costume development, and he’s hoping that people are ready to jump on board and enter into the spirit of the evening. Check out your local Op Shop for ideas, come as a group and get ready to party

So, make sure you book a date with “Brad and Janet” and suspend reality for the 50th anniversary of “The

Rocky Horror Picture Show”. Tickets are \$12; the screening starts at 8 p.m. and bookings can be made online: www.rextheatre.org.au/whats-showing.html

Movie: A Big Bold Beautiful Journey

While “Rocky Horror” occupies Friday night, The Rex movie for the weekend is the romantic fantasy “A Big Bold Beautiful Journey”, starring Colin Farrell and Margot Robbie.

The story is about two lonely strangers – Sarah (a non-committal type) and David (a hopeless romantic) – and their journey together in a car with a magical GPS.

As single strangers the pair meet at a mutual friend’s wedding and soon, through a surprising twist of fate, find themselves on A Big Bold

Beautiful Journey – a funny, fantastical, sweeping adventure together where they get to re-live important moments from their respective pasts, illuminating how they got to where they are in the present... and possibly getting a chance to alter their futures.

Their magical journey is about making choices, about getting a second chance and the possibility of revisiting certain formative moments in the characters’ past.

A tale of love, “A Big Bold Beautiful Journey” uses abstract and surreal imagery to draw the audience into a magical space.

“A Big Bold Beautiful Journey” (M | 109 mins) screens Saturday, November 1, 8 p.m. | Sunday, November 2, 2 p.m. | Tuesday, November 4, 8 p.m..

The New Emergency Services and Volunteers Tax: Where’s the Money Really Going?

[By CFA Volunteers Group Inc.]

From July, Victorians will have noticed a new charge on their rates notices — the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF). The Victorian Government says every dollar raised by this new levy will “equip our emergency services for the future.”

That’s a powerful promise, but when we look at the numbers, a different picture starts to emerge.

A Tax That’s Bigger Than It Looks

According to the State Revenue Office, the ESVF will raise well over \$1.5 billion in 2025-26, replacing the old Fire Services Property Levy.

Residential ratepayers will now pay 17.3 cents per \$1,000 of capital improved value, up from 8.7 cents previously, along with fixed charges of \$136 for homes and \$275 for businesses.

In total, Victorians – from suburban households to farmers and small businesses – will be contributing hundreds of millions of dollars

more than under the old system.

That’s a major new impost on communities who already contribute their time, equipment and local fundraising efforts to support our volunteer brigades.

Where the Money Goes

The Government’s own figures show that the ESVF will fund up to 95% of the Country Fire Authority’s budget and up to 87.5% of Fire Rescue Victoria’s budget.

Yet when you look at those agency budgets, a very large share is already tied up in employee costs.

Fire Rescue Victoria’s latest annual report lists \$929 million in employee benefit expenses for 2023-24 alone. Across emergency-related departments and agencies, the

figure approaches \$900 million annually.

So, while the Government says every dollar of the ESVF will “equip” our emergency services, it’s clear that a substantial portion of this new tax will be used to cover existing wages and administrative overheads – not necessarily to put new boots, trucks or radios on the ground.

Volunteers Deserve Transparency

CFA volunteers make up the backbone of fire and emergency response across Victoria. We turn out in all conditions, often with aging equipment and limited funding, to protect our neighbours and communities.

We don’t begrudge paid staff their salaries – they do vital work. But we do believe that Victorians deserve honesty about where their money is going.

If this new levy is truly about “equipping emergency services for the future”, then let’s see exactly how much of it is going to:

- Frontline firefighting equipment,
- Volunteer training and support, and,
- Community-based infrastructure.

And equally, how much is simply being used to meet the recurring employee and administration costs of departments and agencies that

already receive significant state funding?

Accountability, Not Spin

The Government’s messaging makes it sound as if this new levy is an investment in our future capability – in better trucks, radios, safety gear and stronger communities.

But right now, there is no publicly available breakdown showing what percentage of the \$1.5 billion raised will actually reach volunteer brigades or frontline assets.

It’s easy to talk about “equipping for the future.” It’s harder to explain to Victorians why a household in regional Victoria should pay more each year while their local

CFA still relies on sausage sizzles to fund new breathing apparatus or protective gear.

A Fair Ask from Volunteers

We’re simply asking for transparency. Publish the numbers. Show us how much of this tax will directly benefit the volunteers and frontline responders who are the face of Victoria’s emergency services. And ensure that future increases in this levy don’t just feed bureaucracy but actually strengthen our community protection.

Victorians have always stood shoulder-to-shoulder with their emergency services. Now it’s time for the system to stand with them.

To Get Kids Back in the Game... Cost of Living Boost

The State Government is helping families with \$200 vouchers so their children can get active and play the sports they love this summer.

Member for Northern Victoria, Jaclyn Symes, has announced the next round of Get Active Kids vouchers are now available to eligible families in Northern Victoria.

The popular program, which had a \$15 million boost in the Victorian Budget 2025/26, ensures cost is not a barrier for kids to play sports with more than 65,000 vouchers expected to be distributed over the next two years.

Since launching in 2020, almost 190,000 vouchers have already been snapped up by families to help cover the costs of sporting memberships, registration fees, uniforms and equipment.

More than half of families say their kids would not have been able to participate in sport without the voucher, and almost 20 per cent of children have used the voucher to join



• Jaclyn Symes.

a local sporting club for the first time.

From Soccer to Dancing

From soccer to dancing, there are more than 70 sports and more than 2,300 activity providers included in the program across the state.

Families can apply for the vouchers online before redeeming them at an activity provider like a local sporting club for a reimbursement of up to \$200 per child.

Children must be 18 years and under who are named on a Commonwealth Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, and named on a Medicare Card.

A special consideration is also available to support children in care, temporary or provisional visa holders, migrants and international students.

A second 2025/26 round of the Get Active Kids Program will open early next year, giving even more families a chance to get their child involved in sport. For more info or to apply, visit getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers

Students at Regional Athletics

Birchip P-12 School has had plenty to celebrate recently, with students showcasing both their elegance and athleticism in two standout events; the annual Presentation Ball and the Regional Athletics Carnivals.

Details of the Presentation Debutante Ball were featured on the front page of the “Buloke Times” on October 17, 2025. Meanwhile, Birchip P-12’s student athletes have also been making their mark beyond the dance floor.

The school enjoyed a very successful day out at the Loddon Mallee Region Athletics Carnival in Bendigo last week, with students competing strongly and achieving excellent results.

Then, on Friday, October 10, a group of Grade 4, 5, and 6 students travelled to Ballarat to take part in the Regional Athletics Carnival. All students performed brilliantly and represented Birchip P-12 with great sportsmanship and spirit.

A special mention goes to Stacey Bowen, who sprinted her way to first place in the 100-metre event and will now compete at the State Athletics Carnival in Melbourne in November. This marks the second consecutive year Stacey has qualified for state level in the 100 metres, an outstanding achievement and a source of great pride for the school.

With such a dynamic mix of talent, effort, and community spirit, Birchip P-12 School continues to show that learning extends well beyond the classroom.



• Millie Poyner with Stacey Bowen at the Regional Athletics Carnival.

“Times” Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8199

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ACROSS

- Capital city (8)
- Peep (4)
- Bird (4)
- Scrawl (8)
- Musical instrument (5)
- Gratitude (6)
- Sift (6)
- Fondness (6)
- Glove (6)
- Composition (5)
- Incentive (8)
- Ethralled (4)
- Biting (4)
- Suggestive (8)

DOWN

- Brown (5)
- Refrain (7)
- Relieve (4)
- Strangle (8)
- Country (5)
- Cloth (7)
- Cheat (8)
- Foolish (7)
- Hawk (7)
- Fearful (5)
- Tree (5)
- Hand-me-down (4)

• Solution next issue.

Country Policing Session

Victoria Police are hosting an online information session aimed at country policing within the Western Region.

This session will run through:

- The recruitment process to join Victoria Police as a Police Officer.
- The benefits in choosing country policing as a career path and how to select a location.
- Specific town highlights within Western Region.
- Financial benefits and allowances.
- How recruit employee placements work and the locations.

The focus will be on the following regional locations throughout this session: Mildura, Horsham, Swan Hill.

Members from the above regional locations will join us throughout the session to provide you insight and outline the benefits of these particular towns and will be participating in an exclusive Q&A session to answer your questions to help guide you on taking that step in applying for a country location.

When: Wednesday, October 29, 2025.

Where: This session will be conducted online. Attendees will receive a link on the day of the event.

Start: 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. including Q&A session with members.

To find out more about Country Policing with Victoria Police visit: <https://www.police.vic.gov.au/country-and-regional-policing>

"Times" Classifieds

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

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



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. 29, Frank O'Shea
- Oct. 31, Carolyn Edwards
- Nov. 3, Jenni Murray
- Nov. 3, Michael Raynes

Darrell Lea
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If you know someone celebrating a special anniversary, let us know at
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37 Woods Street, Donald. 'Phone 54971510.

BIRTH FALLA



Kathleen & Andrew are excited to announce the birth of their son –

Ronald John,
on October 9, 2025
3756g (8lb 30z)

First grandchild for Andy & Sue Gillahan and Marj & David (dec.) Falla.

DEATH BLACKLEY

Family and friends of the late Mr John Blackley are respectfully informed that his funeral service will be conducted at the Chapel of North West Funerals, 596 Deakin Avenue, Mildura, on Monday, November 3, 2025, at 1.30 p.m.

A private cremation will follow.



DEATH BLACKLEY.—

John Wilfred Charles
Passed away peacefully
at Regis Sunraysia,
Mildura,
on October 17, 2025,
aged 75 years.

Much loved husband of Kerry. Loving father of Minnie.

*Sadly missed by
all who knew him.*



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BIRCHIP NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Friday, October 31, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
(please note change of date)

To recognise **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**,
Get online Week and to celebrate the end of the
Seniors Festival.



Birchip Neighbourhood House
At the Shamrock, 77 Cumming Avenue Birchip3483
Ph. 5492 2735 Mobile: 0429 922 735
Email: birchipblc@bigpond.com Web: www.birchip.vic.au
Neighbourhood Houses
The heart of our community

DONALD SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

OPEN DAY **GAME DAY** PLAY DAY

Where: **Donald Senior Citizens Centre** 4 Hammill St

When: **Thursday, October 30** commencing at 11.30 a.m.

Featuring lunch (with a special supplementary course) and afternoon tea. This is a completely FREE event open to all.

Funding provided by the Victorian Seniors Festival

There will also be substantial lucky door prizes to be won as well as prizes for playing Mahjong, 500 and Bridge

Don't miss out!

Circle the date on your calendar now!

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW
M 100 mins
Friday 31 Oct 8pm

A BIG BOLD BEAUTIFUL JOURNEY
M 109mins | Drama
Sat 1 Nov 8pm
Sun 2 Nov 2pm
Tue 4 Nov 8pm

COMING: THE TRAVELLERS M 97 mins | Drama

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Charlton 100 Years Ago

(Information from “East Charlton Tribune”)

October 24 to 28, 1925.

Show Day: Everything connected with the working of the show proceeded smoothly throughout the day. The gate takings were £175 and this was augmented by members’ tickets. It was estimated that the attendance was well over 1000 people. The members’ luncheon was most satisfying and the afternoon tea and refreshments booth was very well patronised. The sight of the hundreds of fine cars encircling the ground was a wonderful testimony to the prosperity of the Charlton district. Special trains were run from Bendigo, Boort, Sea Lake and intermediate stations. During the afternoon an aeroplane circled over the ground and eventually landed just outside the show ground.

Aeroplane Flights: The Cubitt Aeroplane that arrived on Wednesday is remaining until Monday and will give passenger flights during Saturday and Sunday at 10/- and £1. Two passengers are carried each trip side by side.

The Charlton Minstrels: The concert given in the Victoria Hall on show night was a brilliant success. Seating accommodation was taxed to the limit and many people, lacking a seat, stood in the aisles and back of the hall. The members of the company were: Messrs W. Morse, J. Wright, C. Fanning, L. Cassells, R. Lethlean, R. Jefferies, C. O. Williams, D. Nabb, H. Gamble, F. Edwards, W. Wood, G. Babidge and E. Dabron. Between the

songs many humorous jokes and stories concerning local, as well as other folk, were told. After the conclusion of the vocal and musical part the troupe enacted two bright and comical farces.

Yeungroon Comedy Co. staged their three-act comedy at the Yeungroon Hall. As the hour for commencing drew near, headlights could be seen in all directions presenting a magnificent spectacle. Then began the task of providing accommodation for such a gathering – gentlemen who had resigned their seats to ladies had to resort to the open door and window spaces. Some of the cast were Rev. John Smith, Messrs David Stewart, John Kennedy, W. Cossar Junr, Dick Desmond, A. Bartlett, and Les Parry, Misses Doris and Annie Bennett, Linda Parry and Ollie Cossar. At the conclusion the actors were requested to repeat the performance in Charlton.

A Good Time: A very enjoyable dance was held in Maher’s Barn in aid of the Bendigo Base Hospital appeal. Notwithstanding that the weather was somewhat warm, there was a large number present and the floor space was at a premium. Many cars from Charlton and other nearby centres contributed their leads of gay jazz imps to the occasion. Dancing lasted until the small hours of the morning. Truly, a real good country dance. During the evening the Irish Jig was excellently

rendered by Messrs D. Dew and Con Maher. The music was provided by the good old concertina and a banjo-mandolin and could not have been better.

Well-known Property to be Sold: On October 28 under instructions from Mr R. M. Klunder, the well-known property, “Cobham Hall”, together with 57 acres of land will be offered by public auction. The residence is a substantial one, well built and is exceptionally well situated, being only ¾ of a mile from the town of Charlton. There is a charming view from the homestead. The rooms are spacious and lofty and there is a 9 foot verandah all round, commodious cellar, maids’ and man’s room, motor garage and other outhouses. On the property there is a 5000 yards capacity dam. There is also a 16,000 gallon underground tank, and water is laid on the bathroom, kitchen and washhouse.

Shire Council Monthly Meeting: *Concerning the cost of tar painting in High Street the secretary reported that it would cost 3d per square yard for the tar and 6d for labor. The length to be tarred will be 2400 feet and the width 18ft.

*A petition objection to the extra rate of one penny to provide the Council’s quota for the Bendigo Base Hospital appeal and signed by a number of ratepayers was received.



• Cobham Hall c1900.



• All Star Comedy Co., October 21, 1922. Back row: Ted Dabron, Ike Richard, Charlie Carrick. Front row: Mabel James, Eileen Dillon, Violet Wood.0

One Hundred Years Ago

From the “Birchip Advertiser”, October 23, 1925.

Local and General Bad Practice

The practice of throwing orange peel and banana skins on the footpaths is a dirty and dangerous one. In the interests of life and limb it should be discontinued at once.

Popular Football Trainer

At the recent football smoke social, which medals were presented to the local football team, Mr. S. Bailey was also the recipient of a medal for the very efficient services rendered as head trainer.

Post Office Boxes

Inconvenience and annoyance are being caused to holders of post office boxes and to

postal officials by mischievous persons tampering with the locks. Any person detected will be prosecuted and severely punished.

R. S. Pensioners

The Travelling medical Board of the Repatriation

Department, under Colonel Studee, held an examination of all returned soldiers’ pensioners at the Birchip Court House on Monday last. Applicants will be advised on the results from Headquarters in the near future.

Staying Home?

The Buloke Times
EST. 1975

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This Melbourne Cup Weekend... The Careless Campfire Could be the Real Upset

As Victorians venture into our forests and parks this Melbourne Cup weekend, the Conservation Regulator Victoria, CFA, Parks Victoria, and Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) are urging campers to learn about campfire safety before they go.

“We encourage everyone to get out and enjoy Victoria’s incredible natural spaces, but it’s important to remember that unsafe campfires can have devastating consequences,” said Chris Mercier, Manager, Enforcement Capability, Parks Victoria. “Just one person ignoring the rules can put entire communities and the environment at serious risk.”

Even though the nights remain cool at this time of the year, days can be warm and often windy. Just one unattended or poorly managed campfire can cause serious environmental damage and put lives and property at risk.

Check the Forecast

It’s important that Victorians take a moment to check the weather forecast – especially the projected wind speeds – before heading out.

“Before heading out this weekend, campers must check the weather conditions and be aware of any Total Fire Bans in place,” said CFA

Chief Officer, Jason Hefferman. “It’s essential to understand what is permitted at their destination to avoid putting people and the environment at risk.”

People need to make sure that their campfire is put out correctly by extinguishing it completely with water, not soil. Fires that haven’t been properly extinguished can smoulder under soil for days and reignite in the warm and windy conditions.

“We want everyone to enjoy their visit to our forests and parks this weekend, but if you have a campfire, it’s crucial that you put it out properly when you leave,” said Scott Turner, Acting Chief Fire Officer, Forest Fire Management Victoria. “Putting soil on top of a campfire does not extinguish it – you must use water.”

Check the Fire Restrictions

Before you light a fire always check fire restrictions,

including whether a Total Fire Ban is in place. Download the VicEmergency app or go to www.emv.vic.gov.au.

“We’ll have authorised officers visiting our parks and forests this weekend to make sure that campers are following the rules and to make sure that everyone has a safe and enjoyable long weekend,” said Kate Gavens, Chief Conservation Regulator.

People who breach campfire regulations on public land face a maximum penalty of \$19,759 if the matter is prosecuted in court. The maximum penalty for lighting or maintaining a fire during a day of Total Fire Ban is \$47,421.60 and/or 2 years in jail.

Report unattended campfires to DEECA at 136 186 or call 000 to report a bushfire.

For more on campfire rules go to: <https://www.vic.gov.au/campfires-stoves-and-bbqs>



**AMBULANCE PHONE NO.
000**

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

Botanical Survey Results Revealed

On Tuesday evening, October 14, 2025, Birchip Landcare Group held an informative evening showcasing the result of their recent botanical survey undertaken by ecologist and botanist Paul Foreman throughout the Birchip area.

Fourteen environmental volunteers gathered to hear Paul present his finding at the Birchip Cropping Group Conference Room.

In 1994 Lynn Bailey undertook a botanical survey of endangered species of parts of the Buloke Shire. The project was a collaboration between the Birchip Landcare Group; Buloke Shire and Natural Resources & Environment. The project was sponsored by Save The Bush (National Landcare Program).

Ninety-seven sites were surveyed including 10 Public Reserves; 48 Private Properties and 39 Road Reserves. The survey results became a report compiled by Lynn and Paul Foreman named “Remnant Vegetation Survey and Botanical Inventory of Part of the Buloke Shire.”

A total of 558 vascular plant taxa from 74 families were recorded from within the study areas of which 387 (70%) were indigenous and 171 (30%) were introduced. Each site was each given a category ranking 1, 2 or 3 depending on the indigenous, exotic, rare and threatened species found at each site; vegetation description, quality, management recommendations and species list, and a map showing the distribution was developed.

Approximately 12% (47) of the indigenous taxa were then listed as rare or threatened within Victoria and five are of national significance. Over 39% (152) of all recorded indigenous flora were present in generally low numbers at only one or two sites within the study area (frequently only one individual), and many of these species could become regionally extinct if no action was taken to protect remnant vegetation over the following decade (1994-2004).

The key threats to remnant vegetation include rabbits, cultivation for cropping and fire protection, inappropriate stock grazing (over-grazing), weed invasions and modification of floodways.

Funding

Fast forward 30 years and the Birchip Landcare Group this year received funding to revisit the botanical survey. Members of the group gathered and selected 31 sites from the previous survey within a 30-kilometre radius from the township of Birchip based on their classification to be revisited. Landholder permission was consented for each of the selected sites.

Paul Foreman was contracted to undertake the survey work in Spring time.

The follow up survey included revisiting 18 sites on private property (and some crown reserves) and 11 roadside sites were reassessed. The sites revisited were developed into case studies and copies of the case studies were provided to the landowners.

Overall the survey showed that some species have increased and others have decreased.

Reasons for these decreases were presented in the case studies to provide greater insight to the types and patterns of change (both threats as well as restoration measures) experienced across the sites over the last three decades.

Each case study draws on data from the two revisits (1996 and 2024) plus the historic imagery and other data sets to help draw conclusions about the past and make limited recommendations for future conservation stewardship.

In some cases, the owners were able to provide further insight and information about past management actions and species records.

Certified Importance

A selection of 11 roadsides were reassessed under this project primarily three chain easements of some length and regarded as being of critical biological importance due to:

- The significance and scale of remnant habitats retained.
- The number of threatened species present.
- The contribution they make towards connectivity and other vital ecosystem process in the region.

In many respects the network of biodiversity retained along local roadsides is fundamental to the local region’s landscape, history and environmental health.

A wide range of threats continue to adversely impact remnant roadside biodiversity, including weed invasion, fire break disturbances (both ploughing and spraying), overgrazing, roadside grading, upgrades and the reduction of publicly funded control programs

The data supports concerning increases in a number of environmental weeds across the study area. While this comparison isn’t especially rigorous and not restricted to roadsides, it is indicative of the likely trends and is also supported by anecdotal observations of relevant remnants from locals.

The survey found that Nationally threatened and endangered species *Sporobolus carolii* Yakka Grass may have increased; *Austrostipa puberula* Fine-hairy Spear-grass may have increased; *Acacia oswaldii* Umbrella Wattle may have increased; *Maireana cheelii* Chariot Wheels may have decreased; *Eryngium paludosum* Long Eryngium (Blue Devil) may have decreased; *Swainsona swainsonioides* Downy Swainson-pea may have decreased and *Eleocharis obicis* Striate Spike-sedge may have increased and *Swainsona Murrayana* – Murray Swainson-pea – may be now locally extinct?

Overall it was difficult to make completely definitive assumptions based on only a selection of the sites from the original survey being able to be revisited due to the lack of funding for environmental monitoring. The affects of climate change, flood and dry periods is evident in the results of the survey. There is new monitoring technology and aerial mapping technology available now that wasn’t available when the 1994 survey was undertaken.

Aerial Imagery

Paul included a selection of aerial imagery comparing Dorothy Reid’s property in 1948, 1988, 2011 (while in flood) and 2025. It was great to see that there had been very little major change over this period.

Paul provided some methods to increase conservation stewardship which include:

- Expanding the scale and effectiveness of environmental flows via the Wimmera-Mallee Pipeline scheme including new sites and increase the volumes being supplied to existing sites to ensure whole wetlands are routinely watered rather than just the dams.
- Continuing this monitoring to revisit more of the original sites.
- Educating landholders to avoid negative risks/impacts to improving hydrology, connectivity, site diversity and complexity and primary productivity and targeted threatened species monitoring .
- Develop broad collaborations in the community to ensure all those interested in protecting our environment for future generations are actively engaged in finding and delivering solutions eg. Protecting and restoring native vegetation; revegetation and connectivity with roadsides; re-introducing species; protecting large old trees, leaving habitat logs for native fauna and ending roadside ploughing and spraying.

The evening was very inciteful with some really engaging conversation followed on from Paul’s presentation while enjoying a delicious supper provided by the Birchip Landcare Group volunteers and Sharp’s bakery.

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Buloke.

POP-UP READING ADVENTURES

Pop-Up Story Walks are a fun and active way for families to enjoy stories together outdoors. Pages from a children’s book are displayed along a walking path, encouraging movement, curiosity and shared reading.

These temporary installations will soon be popping up around Buloke, an initiative in partnership with Mallee Family Care playgroups across the Shire.

Recent windy weather has caused some delays.

The Story Walks will be available for a few weeks once installed at these locations:

- Birchip Memorial Park
- Sea Lake Apex Park
- Donald Memorial Park
- Wycheproof Centenary Park
- Charlton Gordon Park

Take your time on each page before moving to the next, and enjoy being active while reading together!

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont, and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.

GAZANIA WEED ALERT

Gazania, a vibrant flowering plant native to Southern Africa, is now classified as an Environmental Weed in Buloke Shire. Though not listed under the CaLP Act 1994, it poses a serious threat to farmland and environmental land and should be controlled by landowners.

!

Important:

- Do not slash if seed has set – this can spread the weed further.
- Gazanias spread rapidly via wind-blown seed, water, rhizomes, and dumped garden waste.
- One flower can produce 60+ seeds, which may travel up to 1km.

Control Tips:

- Winter and spring are ideal for control, especially after rain.
- Physical removal (including roots) is most effective. Bag and dispose of plants properly.
- Chemical control works best when sprayed between August and December while actively growing. Use care around native vegetation.

Let’s work together to protect our landscapes—early action makes a big difference!

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 0.6FTE) – From \$38.73 per hour plus statutory superannuation

→ Close of applications extended to: 9 November 2025

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

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

REMINDER TO HAVE YOUR SAY

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 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.**

A hard copy of the Draft can be viewed at the Wycheproof Customer Service Centre 367 Broadway, Wycheproof, VIC 3527 or by request by calling 1300 520 520.

The Draft can also be downloaded from the Have Your Say section on Council’s website, visit: www.buloke.vic.gov.au.

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



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Conquering the Corrugations —

(By Sarah O'Brien)

As I sit in my backyard in Donald and play back the last 17-day adventure, it brings a smile to my face.

Who says you need months to plan and get to the Tip (Pajinka)? Why not just wing it and give yourself three weeks? It's "doable", and you still get to see plenty. That's what Wingman (Courtney), myself, and her trusty ute "Betty" did.

Two bucket-list items were, to stand on the northernmost "Tip" of Australia and complete Conquer the Corrugations.

I've heard stories of everyday cars making it to the Tip (Cape York) — even a HQ Holden ute! Though, I can say a 4WD definitely helps. If you're going via the Old Telegraph Track, a 4WD is a must. We took the Peninsula Development Road — there are still plenty of corrugations to deal with, trust me!

Another reason for the trip to Far North Queensland (FNQ) was to visit my dad, Stevie, and try to understand why, for the last six years, he's headed up north to camp anywhere between three to seven months. He's recently upgraded from a tent to a camper trailer — we had our very own FNQ tour guide. It's a beautiful part of the country where local people embrace the land and work with it. The way they backburn is so well planned, Stevie said, "that if you were to look from up above the landscape would be a patchwork".

Pajinka: The Tip

We caught up with Stevie at Alau camp situated in Umagico. We meet his mate Tracy Sands, author of "Explore Cape York" who was also camping at Alau. Courtney and I called this book our Cape Bible. Stevie guided us through water crossing and then the mangroves to the Tip, where we were joined by about 20 motorcyclists. Yep,

you can actually do a motor-cycle tour (six days) from Bamaga to the Tip and challenge the corrugations and water crossings on two wheels — if you dare!

On our way back from the Tip over the rocks, we gained a "local" tour guide, Mr Goanna, who carefully picked a smooth track back to Betty, where a celebratory beverage quenched our thirst. There's so much history up there, and so many beautiful beaches. But don't go swimming at those beaches; keep it to the pools which are croc and stinger free.

Conquer the Corrugations

This was my second bucket-list item. Why not walk 42 km along corrugations in the stinking heat and dust to raise awareness for mental health? On the plus side, there wasn't a single fly in sight!

Conquer the Corrugations Mental Health Awareness Walk strives to raise awareness of the "corrugations" in life, to support and remember those affected, and to help remove the stigma that still surrounds mental health. Their theme is year was "Be the Light" — I noticed that the Donald Show Wellness bags had a similar theme — "Shining the Light".

Conquer the Corrugations started in 2015 by the Jackson family of Wolterton Station, a year after 18-year-old Dillon Jackson took his own life. Determined not to let Dillon be forgotten, and to break the stigma, the Jackson family and the large "Conquer Crew" family ensure the event continues each year.

Courtney and I joined 195 others who all shared a common goal — to raise awareness

around mental health and suicide prevention. It was challenging and darned hot at times; hips, feet, and knees hurt, but the support was ten-fold. I met some of the kindest, most down-to-earth people along the walk. As you passed people (or they passed you), you'd have a bit of a yarn, learn a little about each other, and find common interests. Everyone was there to support each other — and in a way, the journey was yours: what did you personally have to "conquer"?

We camped at Wolterton Station, situated between Archer River and Coen. It was a two-day hike 26 km on the first day and 18 km on the next so the 42 km became 44 km! Stevie featured as our tour guide again; at the end of each day's walk, he'd chauffeur us down to a beautiful creek (Peach Creek) to cool off and soak our well-worked muscles.

The event is incredibly well organised. Two minibuses run constantly for anyone needing a rest; a portable loo stopped every few kilometres; and a water truck carted cold water and Hydralytes. Every 2-3km there was a "protein stop" — a ute with nuts and drinks. Two nurses stopped every few kilometres and ensured we were sun screened and blisters attended to. Did you know there is a product called "Blister wool"? Everything except breakfast and tea was catered for! Courtney and I were so surprised at our first stop on day 1 (9.5km into the hike) we were munching on fruit and realised the box of mandarins were labelled Chislett Farms — located in Tooleybuc, Victoria! The look on our faces was priceless and we

• Continued on page 9



• Showing the planned trip, "yep, it's this far!" (Sarah).



• Kilometres of corrugations to conquer.



• Termite mound in Bamaga.



• Indigenous Rock Art (just outside of Cobar).

Rollicking Road Trip to the “Tip”

• Continued from page 8
were super proud of the local to our area fruit – that’s 3,077 kms away from where we were sitting.
The experience, memories, and people I met will last a lifetime.

The walk is a time to remember loved ones, meet new people, and come together as one – and just walk. Sometimes in life it’s just one foot in front of the other, just as long as you keep moving.

Betty’s Adventures and Bush Fixes

The wildlife you see along the way is insane and this is just when driving: Kangaroos, wallabies, 1000s of goats, echinidas, snakes, emus, horses, kites, eagles, hawks, pigs,

cattle, a few sheep, bearded dragons and shinglebacks. Did you know a flock of hawks is called a kettle?
Driving 7,250kms with approximately 900kms of dirt road plus a ton of corrugations, there is sure to be the odd mechanical hiccup.
If you ever get stuck in FNQ, there’s always someone willing to lend a hand, as we found out. On our return trip, Betty couldn’t decide whether she wanted to be in 2WD or 4WD. A quick phone call to Tracy Sands, gave us the name of local Bamaga mechanic, Bernie, and within 30 minutes he had Betty, and us, back on the road, armed with the knowledge of how to “reset” her back into 2WD.

When travelling in the out-back, it’s always handy to have some duct tape and zip ties. On our trek back south, about halfway through the corrugations, the UHF aerial bracket decided it had had enough and fell off. Betty halted pretty quickly, and with some duct tape and zip ties, we were back in business – still with UHF reception and a secured aerial! Betty has since received some well earned TLC with a wash and a mechanical service.
If there’s one thing I took from this trip, it’s that no matter how rough the road gets, we’re never alone – there’s always someone willing to walk beside you.



• Courtney Tepper, Sarah O'Brien and Stevie O'Brien at the Tip.



• River crossing for Betty heading to Muttee Head.



• We did it – we conquered the corrugations.



• Home safe in Victoria.

Grants Open For Safer and Stronger Multicultural Spaces

The Nationals’ Member for Mildura, Jade Benham, is encouraging local multicultural and multifaith organisations to apply for grants under Round 1 of the Multicultural Infrastructure and Security Program.

The program provides grants of up to \$400,000 for maintenance, renovations, and security upgrades for multicultural and multifaith community facilities. Priority will be given to regional projects, new and emerging communities, and organisations that have not previously received multicultural grant funding from the department.
Organisations can use these grants to improve existing facilities, including upgrades to buildings, security measures, and outdoor spaces.

Ms Benham said the program could make a significant difference for organisations across the region.
“Our local multicultural and multifaith organisations are such an important part of our communities. They bring people together, celebrate diversity, and make our region a richer, more inclusive place.”
The grants will support organisations to celebrate culture, access opportunities, and maintain safe, welcoming spaces for gatherings and worship.

“It’s important that local groups have safe and appropriate spaces to meet, worship and celebrate culture. These grants go a long way to helping achieve that,” said Ms Benham.
Applications for the Multicultural Infrastructure and Security Program are now open and close on Monday, January 5, 2026.
For more information or to apply, visit: www.vic.gov.au/2025-26-multicultural-infrastructure-and-security-program.

The Accidental Historian

As Remembrance Day, November 11, approaches, the Donald Lions Club invited R.S.L. members, and others interested, to join in its monthly meeting at Donald’s Mount Jeffcott Hotel last Thursday evening.

Welcomed by the Donald club president, Lion Michael Raynes, and introduced by Lion Brian Brasier, the guest speaker was long-term Dimboola resident, Pam Cupper. Former principal of the Donald High School, Lion Brian spoke briefly of Pam’s career in teaching, and of her profound interest in the history of World War I.

The following is the text of Pam’s address to Thursday’s gathering.

*

In 1979, I went to London. It was a fairly typical thing for young Australians to do: I’d spent five years at Monash University and taught for three years in Hopetoun. I sent my teaching qualifications to London ahead of me, although I had only vague ideas of what I’d do.

Soon after, the man who was to become my husband, Phil Taylor, followed me to London. A year or so earlier, Phil and a mate had been talking, and Andy asked, “What do you really want to do, Phil?”

Bikes on the Battlefield

His reply: “I want to ride a push bike around the First World War battlefields on the Western Front.”

We lived in London and mostly taught there. but we also bought bicycles and fitted them out for cycle touring. In mid-1979, we headed for the Western Front, intending to cycle around a little, take some film, explore.

Before leaving Australia, Phil had brought the only guidebook he could find to the Western Front, “Before Endeavours Fade”, written by Rose Coombs, who worked for the Imperial War Museum in London. We set off with Coombs’s book, a Michelin map to northern France and Belgium, and not much else.

Western Front

During 1979 and into early 1980, we visited bits and pieces of the battlefields. Phil had read widely and thought he knew plenty about Australians on the Western Front 1916 to 1918; on the other hand, I had only a basic appreciation of it. We found Rose Coombs’s book to be great – it would point us in the right direction, give us “then and now” photographs – something we loved and still love – helped us grasp a little understanding of how the war on the Western Front unfolded.

Mediterranean

We continued to teach in London. In the summer of 1980, we took a cycle touring holiday to the Mediterranean area. We planned to spend time on the Greek islands, soaking up the sun and ouzo as Australians did. When we reached Greece, Phil said, “since we are so close, why don’t we hop over to Turkey and visit Gallipoli?”

We didn’t think we’d like it. Most young Australians had seen a film popular at the

time “Midnight Express”, in which western tourists in Turkey get caught up in the prison system: it was Third World stuff, pretty terrible. We thought Turkey would be like that, so we’d get quickly to Gallipoli, see Australia’s most sacred ground and skidaddle out.

Night Ferry

On the night ferry from Greece to Turkey, we got talking to an Englishman who worked in Turkey; in response to our fears about going to the country of “Midnight Express” and to boot a Muslim country, he said, “Turkey is as Muslim as England is Christian.” In other words, yes, a Muslim country, but quite secular.

Arriving in Turkey, we quickly realised how right he was. Although we’d planned to “get in and get out” quickly, it was actually a month before we reached Gallipoli. We found the Turkish people to be friendly and helpful – I don’t know how many times we were helped out, taken into homes in isolated villages and fed. So many times when we rode along highways and quiet byways, we were picked up by lorry drivers – our bikes put in the back of the truck, us up front, and taken to the next turn off or closer to our destination.

Eventually we figured we should get to Gallipoli. It had taken us a month.

Different World

I must paint a picture of the world in 1980, because the world isn’t like that now. No internet, (it was to be another eleven years before the world wide web went public), no GPS, no mobile phones.

The Cold War was full on: Turkey, which had borders with the Soviet Union, was a friend of the United States and there were US and NATO military bases in Turkey.

For people wanting to visit Turkey this meant a few things:

- We couldn’t get decent maps.
- There were areas, especially around the Gallipoli Peninsula, where photography was forbidden.

The other key point I suppose: Gallipoli was an almost-forgotten aspect of Australia’s history. In the 1970s, newspaper articles predicted the demise of Anzac Day. In 1976, in my first year at Hopetoun Highschool, a few days before Anzac Day I asked in the staffroom, “What does this school do for Anzac Day?”

I heard sniggers.

Gallipoli

So, let’s get to the Gallipoli battlefields.

We knew so little that we rode to Gelibolu – the Turkish version for the town of Gallipoli. Only when we got there did we realise it was miles away from the battlefields that carry its name!

Eventually, we rode across the Gallipoli Peninsula and made our way towards the

coastline where the Australians had landed on April 25, 1915. Remember, few signs, no detailed maps; we actually rode straight past Anzac Cove without realising it. After a while, we stopped, looked around and fortunately Phil had some memories of 1915 photographs showing the outline of the points each side of the cove. We finally realised the tiny indentation was Anzac Cove – although no signs announced it.

Anzac Cove

We spent two weeks at Anzac, we sat above the beach, watching the sun sink over the island of Samothrace, perhaps as thousand soldiers had done sixty-five years before. We reflected on our day, how hard it had been to find our way around, to locate significant places.

If we found it so hard, imagine what it must be like for Australians who know little about the campaign?

“What this place needs,” said Phil, “is a guidebook, like Rose Coombs’s.”

“Why don’t we write it?” I responded. Over the past forty-odd years, there have been arguments over who said what.

We imagined a pamphlet, a few pages with a simple map to orient visitors, give them a potted history background to what they were seeing.

Teaching and Touring

We returned to London, continued our teaching and touring, but always in the back of our minds, this pamphlet we would write. We visited the Imperial War Museum again, we picked up the odd second hand book about the Gallipoli campaign.

We began to fall in love with this work.

The following year, 1981, we took another plane to Athens. This time we got quickly to the battlefields, loaded our cameras with black and white film – in those days, publishing photographs in colour was unimaginable – and gathered more material for our once-pamphlet, now perhaps small booklet.

Back Home

We returned to Gallipoli again and again. After three years in London, and seeing an Australian film festival made us long for home, we returned in 1982. The book grew: we both worked full time in Melbourne and later in Horsham, but every spare moment went on the book. We became obsessed. The Australian War Memorial granted us small financial help to support our research visits to Canberra and New Zealand, and back to Turkey and Lemnos in 1984.

Guidebook

The guidebook and companion – half a million words, roughly completed by 1986.

I like to think the Education Department got its moneys worth from both Phil and me – we were dedicated

teachers. But always, we worked away on the book. So many late nights, weekends, most school holidays. Our families despaired.

Most people saw no use for our book.

I’m reminded of those who mocked: in the Hopetoun High School staffroom, sniggers in response to my question, “What does this school do for Anzac Day?”

In 1980, returning from our first visit to Gallipoli, we were on a train through Switzerland one night, and shared a dog box with an Australian. As one does, we swapped stories about “where’ve you been?”

When we told her we’d been to Gallipoli, she nearly fell off her seat laughing. “Why would you want to go there?”

She seemed much happier when we responded that Gallipoli had some of the best beaches on the Mediterranean.

Obsessed

Even at Horsham High-school in the 1980s, our colleagues, dare I say even our friends there, thought we were obsessed with a useless part of Australia’s history.

We were obsessed.

You must remember that most people thought we had been flogging a dead horse, that Gallipoli was fading, that Anzac Day would soon no longer be commemorated. We struggled to find a publisher, there were *no* guidebooks to Gallipoli at that time, but few saw the need for one anyway.

But in 1990, Prime Minister Bob Hawke arranged for the 75th anniversary of the Landing to be commemorated.

Suddenly, perhaps there was a need.

In the end, David Rosenberg of Kangaroo Press contacted us and we negotiated publication. Most of our half a million words could not be printed, it was just too long for publishing a book that no one thought would sell. By 1989, we had trimmed the book to one-fifth its original – 120,000 words, translated into 262 pages, including a comprehensive index.

Anniversary

The book was published in 1989 and I took a backpack full of copies to Gallipoli for the 75th anniversary in April 1990.

New Site

The whole Gallipoli story changed greatly after 1990: in the ’80s, a few hundred annually visited the peninsula, in 1990, a few thousand. From that year, the numbers visiting Gallipoli grew and grew, until they became too much for Anzac Cove and a new commemoration site was built on North Beach, to help protect the cove.

But so much had already been destroyed – new roads, bus parking bays – the cove is now in danger of eroding into the sea. I returned for a week in March this year: Anzac Cove now has a retaining wall; Brighton Beach, where Phil and I camped in 1980,



• Pam at the Lions Club Meeting.

has been eroded to the road and you can’t camp in the sea there now!

So what has all this to do with the “accidental historian”?

Eight Years

If Phil and I had sat down and understood what writing a pamphlet to the battlefields actually meant, we would not have started. We had no intention of making it eight years of our lives, nor spending \$40,000 that was largely unrecovered, of devoting our young marriage to this venture.

If we had wandered the battlefields in 1980 and said, “What this place needs is a guidebook” and then returned to London and in time, Victoria, and devoted our lives only to the Education Department and perhaps buying a house years earlier than we finally did. Well, it would be quite a different story.

For few years there, we were Australia’s Gallipoli battlefield experts. Just the other day, I read this little statement in a British Gallipoli guidebook published in 2000 – eleven years after ours was published – in the acknowledgements page of their guidebook, the Holts wrote:

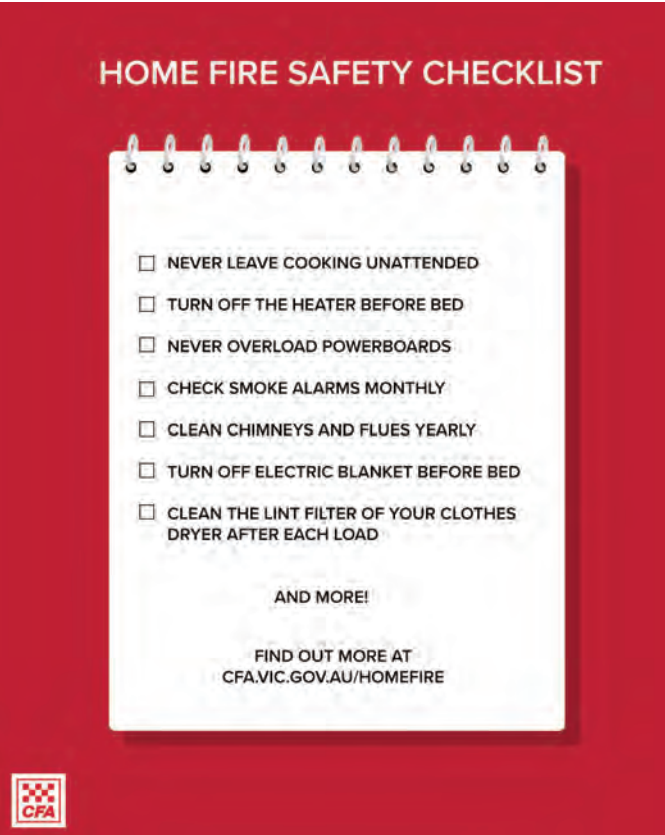
“As the inimitable Rose Coombs blazed the trail for battlefield guides on the Western Front, so Phil Taylor and Pam Cupper produced the ‘Bible’ of Gallipoli Guides in 1989 and we acknowledge their research and dedication.”

Life takes strange twists, and I found myself immersed in Australia’s involvement at Gallipoli.

Rich Lives

As a result of work, those eight years when so many thought we were nuts, we have had rich lives. I’ve returned to Gallipoli on numerous occasions: I was a teacher-chaperone for Spirit of Anzac prize winners in 2007, and again for the Victorian government’s commemoration in 2015, when they sent 80 students over for the Centenary. Those experiences laid the foundation for tours I have led: in 2017, a group of mostly Western Victorians to the Western Front, and in 2019 to Gallipoli and the Western Front. In March of this year, I spent a week on Gallipoli, renewing old friendships and checking out the battlefields again.

Next year, I’m off again. An accidental historian, but it’s been a great life.



Charlton Show Results

Whole Pavilion

Pavilion Aggregate Perpetual trophy donated by Ken Lynas family, Janet Stafford.

Flowers

Champion Single Flower, Jacey Ferguson; Champion Rose, Bernice Kenny; Flowers Betty Finlay Perpetual Trophy donated by the Finlay family, Michelle Jenkyn.

Floral Art

Open: Floral Art Highest aggregate points trophy donated by John & Alison Tormey, Bernice Kenny.

Beginners: Beginners Floral Art trophy donated by Anne Calnin, Ivy Sexton.

Best Floral arrangement: Pavilion Aggregate Perpetual trophy donated by Ken Lynas family, Bernice Kenny.

Vegetables, Fruit & Produce

Vegetables, Fruit & Produce Highest aggregate points trophy donated by Charlton Medical. Lucas Sexton.

Craft & Needlecrafts

Needlecrafts trophy donated by Giles Family in memory of Peg, Janet Stafford.

Craft Highest aggregate points trophy donated by Charlton Creative Quilters, Shirleen Stafford.

Craft & Needlecraft Highest aggregate points Perpetual trophy donated by Charlton C.W.A., Janet Stafford.

Art

Open: Water Colour or Acrylic, any subject, Julie McGrath; Any medium, Judy Stephen.

Beginners: Any medium, Lorraine Zino – Charlton EWS.

Photography

Open: Photography Open Highest aggregate points trophy donated by Aileen Allan, Rebecca Cossar.

Novice: Primary School B/W & Colour Photos Aggregate trophy donated by Jenny Pollard, Wyatt Steenhuis & William Donaldson; Year 7-10 B/W & Colour Photos Aggregate trophy donated by Charlton Newsagency, Stella Nicolson.

Preserves

Preserves Highest aggregate points trophy donated by Opportunity Shop, Frances Stahl.

Cookery

Open: Charlton Show Pumpkin Fruit Cake trophy donated by Marea Judd, Frances Stahl; Cookery Open Highest aggregate points trophy donated by Cossar family in memory of Nola, Lyndy Fitzpatrick.

Junior: Grade 3 & 4 Cooking Highest aggregate points, trophy donated by Bernadette Zagame, Eli Cossar.

Junior Craft & Art

Year 7 & 8 Craft Highest aggregate points trophy donated by Charlton Newsagency, Clancy Bourke; Grade 5 & 6 Craft Highest aggregate points trophy donated by Charlton Newsagency, Isabella Stahl; Grade 3 & 4 Craft Highest aggregate points trophy donated by Charlton Newsagency, Abbie Scoble; Foundation, Grade 1 & 2 Highest aggregate points trophy donated by Chris McGurk, Jack Scoble; Preschool & Under Section Highest aggregate points trophy donated by Charlton Bakery, Reggie Bourke; Best Juvenile exhibit Rosette, Tom McGurk.

Creative Writing & Handwriting

Creative & Hand Writing Highest aggregate points trophy donated by Russell King, Tom McGurk.

Farm Sculpture

Up to 12 yrs, Trophy in memory of Terry Lane, Archie Smyth; 18 yrs & over, Trophy in memory of Terry Lane, Julie McGrath.

Crops

Sheaf of green wheat, Chase Dixon; Sheaf of green barley, C & A Coles; Sheaf of green oats, Eli Cossar; Sheaf of any legume, Chase Dixon; Sheaf of canola, Ryan Stewart; The biggest weed, Sophie & Harry Smyth.

Sheep & Fleeces

3 Prime Lambs, shorn, Trophy donated by Bourke's Family Butchers, Trevor Pole; 3 Prime Lambs, unshorn, Trophy donated by Charlton Trophies; Vinnie Roberts; 3 Export Lambs Trophy donated by Bill & Joy Freeman, Jacey Ferguson; 3 Ewes, Trophy donated by Charlton A & P Society, Ashton Bartlett; 3 Merino Ewe

Weaners, Trophy donated by North West Ag, Shane & Kim Fitzpatrick; 3 Merino Wether Lambs, Trophy donated by FP Nevins & Co, Tom Fitzpatrick.

Best Flock Merino Ram's Fleece, Trophy & Sash donated by Fitzpatrick's Transport, Shane Fitzpatrick; Best Fine Merino Ewe or Wether Fleece, Trophy & Sash donated by Oakbank Merino Stud, Brian Dickson; Best Medium Merino Ewe or Wether Fleece, Trophy & Sash donated by Fitzpatrick's Transport, M. Rosa; Best Strong Merino Ewe or Wether Fleece, Trophy & Sash donated by PRS Farming, Terry Fitzpatrick; One Merino Lamb's Fleece, Trophy & Sash donated by PRS Farming, Shane Fitzpatrick; Most Stylish Fleece, Sash donated by Oakbank Merino Stud, James Fitzpatrick; Champion Fleece Sash & Trophy donated by the Hilliard Family, Charlotte Stewart.

Pets (Animal Nursery)

Best Family of Pets (Pet & Litter) Sash donated by Noeline Sullivan, Clancy Bourke.

Shetlands & Miniature Ponies

Shetland Class 8.2h & Under Champion Shetland Male 8.2h & under, Janette Wain; Champion Shetland Female 8.2h & under, Ivah Saunders; Champion Shetland Gelding 8.2h & under, Janette Wain; Champion Shetland Yearling 8.2h & under, Ivah Saunders; Supreme Shetland 8.2h & under Exhibit, Janette Wain; Champion Shetland Male over 8.2h & not exceeding 10.2h, Robyn Garrard; Champion Shetland Female over 8.2h & N.E 10.2h, Ivah Saunders; Supreme Shetland Exhibit over 8.2h & N.E 10.2h, Robyn Garrard.

Champion Miniature Pony Female N.E 8.2½h, Peta Bickford; Champion Miniature Pony Yearling N.E 8.2½h, Ivah Saunders; Supreme Miniature Pony Exhibit N.E 8.2½h, Peta Bickford; Champion Miniature Horse Female N.E 8.2 ½h, Casey Lambrick; Champion



• Barry Finch, winner of Best Light Tractor and Best Medium Tractor.

Miniature Horse Yearling N.E 8.2 ½h, Vicki Passalacqua; Reserve Champion Miniature Horse Yearling N.E 8.2 ½h, Jacqui Longhurst; Supreme Miniature Horse Exhibit N.E 8.2 ½h, Vicki Passalacqua; Champion Small Horse Gelding 8.2½ NE 9.2h, Vicki Passalacqua; Supreme Small Horse Exhibit Over 8.2½ NE 9.2h, Vicki Passalacqua.

Champion Colour Exhibit,



• Paul Philips won Best Contribution for his 3 Fordson Ma-

Ivah Saunders; Reserve Champion Colour Exhibit, Robyn Garrard; Champion Wheel Harness, Peta Bickford.

Tractor Pull

Best light tractor-Barry Finch, Case DEX; Best medium tractor-Barry Finch, WD6Super; Best heavy tractor-Neil McEwen, John Deere 4850; Best original tractor, Will Fitzpatrick, N model Lanz Bulldog; Best restored-Harry

Working Dog Trials

1st, Steve R. with Trip/China, 98 + 96 = 194; 2nd, Joel D. with Sue, 85 + 92 = 177; 3rd, Zac J. with Rose, 91 + 84 = 175; 4th, Mark I. with Delta, 92 + 82 = 174; 5th, Gav s. with Roy, 84 + 87 = 171.



• Farm sculptures.



• Show Committee member Clinton Riley presents the winner of Best Original Tractor, Will Fitzpatrick, his trophy for his N model Lanz Bulldog.



• The junior section of the pavilion at Charlton show was well attended by parents, family and friends checking out the skills of local youngsters.

Tennis Wins
to Nullawil

Fire Danger Period Looms

Nullawil had another away game for Round 3 where players travelled down to Donald to face the Avon side. The weather was threatening to rain, but nothing eventuated.

This week the Sheahan family was not available, but a few other ladies were welcomed back. Still a couple of men short, Gemma Fawcett and Marcia Pollington joined the men’s side of the team sheet.

The men had a tough outing, managing to win 2 of the 6 sets. Putting up a good fight, they only went down by 10 games.

The women only dropped the 1 set. With a couple of strong wins, they were able to walk away with a strong victory by 21 games.

Going into the mixed with an 11-game lead, Nullawil unfortunately only won 2 sets. But there were a few close sets. At the end, Nullawil only lost the mixed by just 4 games.



Congratulations to Simone and Lauren for winning 3 sets for the day.

The final score: Nullawil 113 d. Avon 106.

Next week Nullawil will be playing against Kara Kara. This is meant to be played in Nullawil, but as this is the Mt Wycheproof Race Day, the Wycheproof club is kindly allowing use of its courts on Saturday morning, so players can attend the races in the afternoon.

The Fire Danger Period will commence at 1 a.m. Monday, November 10, 2025, for the Buloke Shire Council.

The Fire Danger Period will commence at 1 a.m. Monday, November 3, 2025 for the following municipalities: Yarriambiak Shire Council (including D17 portion), Swan Hill Rural City Council, Gannawarra, Loddon, Campaspe.

Residents in these areas are encouraged to use this time to prepare their properties ahead of the Fire Danger Period (FDP). This includes cleaning up dry grass, leaves, and other flammable materials, as well as completing safe private burn-offs while they are still permitted.

Deputy Chief Officer for the north west region, Trevor Weston, stressed the importance of taking early action as conditions continue to dry across the region.

“Now is the time for residents to act by clearing around their homes and ensuring any private burn-offs are completed safely before restrictions come into effect,” Trevor said.

“Even though grasslands might still look green in some areas, the ground underneath is much drier than in previous years, which makes fires more likely to spread.

“After much consultation, there was strong support for introducing the fire danger period now to keep our communities as safe as possible,” he added.

Burn-offs

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

To find out what you can and can’t do during FDP, visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/can or by calling VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

Buloke Shire Council

The Fire Danger Period will commence at 1 a.m. Monday, November 10, 2025, for the Buloke Shire Council. Residents in this area are encouraged to use this time to prepare their properties ahead of the Fire Danger Period (FDP). This includes cleaning up dry grass, leaves, and other flammable materials, as well as completing safe private burn-offs while they are still permitted.

CFA Assistant Chief Fire Officer for District 18, Gavin Wright, said the window for safe preparation is closing quickly.

“With the landscape drying out rapidly, now is the time for communities to get ready,” he said.

“We’re asking residents to clean up around their homes, remove flammable materials, and ensure any private burn-offs are completed safely and responsibly before restrictions come into effect.”

He warned that despite some areas still appearing green, the underlying soil is significantly drier than in previous years, increasing the likelihood of fast-moving grassfires.

“Don’t be fooled by the green you can see, conditions beneath the surface are primed for fire,” he said.

“Our priority is community safety

“By acting early, we can all play a part in reducing the risk of fire this season.”

For more information on preparing your property and understanding local fire restrictions, visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au.



Natural Ways to Combat an Ant Invasion

Most households suffer from ant invasion at some time, especially in dry weather, and my home is no exception. The first line of defence is to try to discourage them from staying in or entering your house.

To eliminate ants naturally, use white vinegar to clean surfaces and disrupt ant trails, apply food-grade diatomaceous earth to dehydrate them, or create borax and sugar baits to attract and eliminate the colony. You can also repel ants with essential oils like peppermint or eucalyptus, or use strong-smelling substances like cinnamon and coffee grounds to create barriers.

It’s also important to remove food sources and keep kitchens and food storage areas clean – wipe up spills immediately, and seal food containers tightly. And don’t forget entry points: seal cracks and crevices in walls, windowsills, and doorways where ants might enter your home. Lastly, clean pet food bowls: wash pet food bowls regularly, and don’t leave pet food out overnight.

When the little black ants came marching into my kitchen I use an easy-to-make vinegar spray. Mix equal parts of white vinegar and water in a pump-spray bottle, and, using the fine mist setting, spray it on ant trails, entry

points (like windowsills and skirting boards), and surfaces to disrupt their pheromone trails and deter them.

Diatomaceous earth is best used in dry areas where ants gather. I found it to be extremely effective around the base of the solar hot water tank, which is located internally in my home, because the powder dehydrates and kills ants by damaging their outer shells.

If you prefer to use an environmentally-friendly bait, which is suitable for indoor use, borax or sugar is the answer. To make the borax bait, mix two cups of sugar and two tablespoons of borax together, then dissolve the mixture in one cup of water. Pour into jars loosely filled with cotton wool, pierce holes in the jar lids and locate wherever you find ants. Borax can be purchased from the laundry aisle of supermarkets and from some chemists.

A sugar bait can be made by dissolving three tablespoons of sugar in one of warm water, allow to cool, then stir in one tablespoon of bicarbonate of soda. Store in a bottle in the refrigerator until needed. Put bottle capsful on ant nests and trails – anywhere ants gather, including the inside of the house – and cover if wet. This type of bait works on the insect’s body heat.

Improving the soil structure around your house will encourage ants to move their



• Alan Hayes

nests elsewhere. Ants love sandy soil, so if you add plenty of humus, such as compost, you’ll end up with dark, moist, friable soil and no ants. Underground composting is by far the simplest way in which to do this. Simply dig a hole, fill it with kitchen scraps, sprinkle a cup of dolomite over it, slightly dampen with water, and cover again with soil. After a couple of weeks or so, earth worms will have the soil workable, giving you a high quality humus. The same procedure can be followed where there is lawn. Simply can a square of turf and gently remove it before digging your hole, follow the previous procedure, then replace the grass.

These natural solutions will not only keep ants away, as it did for me, but are safe to use.

Visit Alan on the Net – www.itssonatural.com



• Above and below: Fire Danger Period begins in Buloke.



Wimmera-Mallee Cricket

Scoreboard

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Round 1:		“A” Grade	
Charlton def. by Watchem		Birchip def. by Southern Mallee Giants	
CHARLTON		BIRCHIP	
P. Soulsby, lbw: C. Boyle	1	H. McCredden, run out: J. Kiem	1
E. Soulsby, c: Fill-in b: C. Boyle	6	M. Trollope, b: S.Kasaram	40
B. Sexton, c: D. Slater b: S. Lowry	1	W. Marks, c: J. Moore b: S.Kasaram	70
H. Sait, c: C. Boyle b: Fill-in	19	R. Doran, lbw: J. Flavel	23
C. Boyle, c&b: Fill-in	1	J. Paley, c: L. Hateley b: J. Moore	6
S. Sreekala, b: A. Dean	54	J. Randall, c: J. Kiem b: K. Bellinger	3
L. Van Boven, st: D.Slater b: N. Dean	7	B. Paley, b: J. Moore	0
A. Soulsby, c: A. Dean b: Fill-in	4	C. Lee, c: P. Hallam b: L. Weir	9
E. Needs, b: Fill-in	0	K. Hamilton, lbw: J. Moore	2
M. Fitzpatrick, b: C. Boyle	0	J. Knights, c: Z. Robins b: K. Bellinger	0
M. Boyle, not out	5	L. Angel, not out	0
Sundries	11	Sundries	9
TOTAL (for 10 wickets)	109	TOTAL (for 10 wickets)	163
Fall of wicket: 8, 9, 9, 13, 83, 90, 94, 94, 95, 109.		Fall of wicket: 1, 101, 142, 144, 149, 149, 153, 156, 163, 163.	
Bowling: A. Dean 1/5 (8), C. Boyle 3/11 (8), S. Lowry 1/16 (6), Fill-in 2/30 (6), Fill-in 2/20 (6), J. Borden 0/14 (2), N. Dean 1/9 (2).		Bowling: J. Flavel 1/42 (8), J. Moore 3/20 (8), L. Mitchell 0/28 (5), S.Kasaram 2/55 (8), K. Bellinger 2/12 (4.1), L. Weir 1/6 (1).	
WATCHEM		SOUTHERN MALLEE GIANTS	
Fill-in, c: S.Sreekala b: C. Boyle	2	L. Hateley, not out	48
D. Slater, b: C. Boyle	1	L. Mitchell, st: M. Trollope b: R. Doran	59
Fill-in, b: C. Boyle	9	J. Flavel, lbw: R. Doran	10
A. Dean, c: S. Sreekala b: C. Boyle	32	S.Kasaram, c: W. Marks b: J. Randall	10
N. Dean, c: B. Sexton b: E. Soulsby	0	Z. Robins, not out	24
J. Borden, b: C. Boyle	25	Sundries	13
C. Boyle, not out	28	TOTAL (for 3 wickets)	164
Fill-in, b: M. Boyle	10	Fall of wicket: 70, 84, 95.	
J. Woods, run out: S. Sreekala, Fitzpatrick	0		
Sundries	14	Bowling: J. Randall 1/24 (8), W. Marks 0/39 (8), R. Doran 2/36 (8), C.Lee 0/24 (4), J. Paley 0/13 (7), K. Hamilton 0/17 (1.5).	
TOTAL (for 8 wickets)	121		
Fall of wicket: 4, 11, 16, 19, 74, 84, 107, 121.			
Bowling: P. Soulsby 0/18 (8), C. Boyle 5/15 (8), L. Van Boven0/25 (7), E. Soulsby 1/11 (2), A. Soulsby 0/11 (2), M. Fitzpatrick 0/16 (2.5), H. Sait 0/15 (5), M. Boyle 1/3 (1).			

Donald’s Day Against Boort

Another good day for Donald bowls club at home to Boort on very good green and threatening rain did not arrive to spoil the day.

Division one won well again against the visiting Boort team, 83 shots to 44, two rinks winning and one draw.

Hunter Wingfield led the outstanding team with Lindy Morgan, Marg Kelly, and Jimmy Meyer, a great team effort well in control with 15 ends restricting the Kevin Depiazza lot to winning only singles and one two, in the end winning 36 to 11.

Acky Adamson with Beryl Milne, Nev Barber and Marg Quick also had a good win 28/14 against K. Richie’s four with 17 winning ends.

Norm Hollis with Bill Hegarty, Max Harris and Tige McEwen took a while to get started against the crack Shane Morris quad, down 2 to 12 on the 7th end, gradually pegging them back and in front by 4 shots on the 22nd end, but losing 5 shots in the last 3 ends to draw 19/19.

The seconds succumbed to the visitors in another close one, winning one rink each and a draw, but Boort gained more points 77/67.

John Howley with Alison McEwen, Bo Subprom and Joan Wood had the closest of games against Yvonne Cashen winning by just one shot with a three on the last end 24/23.

David Romeo with Peter Wyllie, Jo Bishop, and Kay Wyllie were down to the wire

against the J Hampson lot, losing the last end to draw 22/22.

Ocker Gravestocks lot unfortunately went down 11 shots to J. Earl 21/32. Over all, a pleasant and competitive day on the green.

“Tiger in the Ditch”

Mixed Results for Donald Golf

Donald Golf played host to Wedderburn in Weekend Pennant on Saturday.

In Division 1, Golf won two of the three matches to win 76 shots to 56, picking up 10 points to 2.

Peter Hibberd’s team had a hard-fought victory over Alan Jackson’s rink. After 21 ends played, Golf led by two shots, but they rallied to pick up 6 shots over the remaining four ends to win 32 shots to 20.

Geoff Rigby’s men jumped to a 18-5 lead at afternoon tea and eventually won 26 shots to 12 in a pleasing effort against Andrew Caserta’s team. Daniel Pettifer’s team played Laurie Witham’s men and lost 24 shots to 18 in a low scoring match. Golf trailed by 10 shots at the half-way mark but rallied to go down by six shots.

Overall this was a pleasing win by Golf over experienced opponents.

Golf’s Division 2 team had a good battle losing 67 shots to 77, gaining 2 points. Lindsay Borden’s team was the only winner, defeating “Butch” Burnside’s team 28-21. Golf won 15 of the 25 ends played, picking up two “5’s” along the way. Shane O’Shea’s team bowled very well to establish a 19-7 lead after 13 ends.

The Wedderburn team, led well by skipper John Grant, powered home to win all but two of the remaining ends, to defeat Golf 31 shots to 24. George Wood’s team won eleven of the 25 ends, but eventually lost 15 to 25 shots against the wily skipper Lance Standfield.

The day finished with a meal of savs and dim sims put on by the social committee.



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Donald-Jeffcott Outscores Horsham Tigers

In a commanding display of batting and bowling in its second Horsham Association game, Donald-Jeffcott secured a comprehensive victory over Tigers “A” grade at the Jeffcott Oval.

Batting first, Donald posted a formidable total of 236 for 4 from its 40 overs. Koby Westerland led the charge with a solid 59, supported by Dylan Ruurds’s 42 and Cooper Anderson’s 38. Skipper Eddie Landwehr finished unbeaten on 41 from just 25 balls, maintaining a brisk strike rate of 164. Lachlan Jones contributed a quick 9 not out, helping Donald-Jeffcott set a challenging target. The innings featured aggressive stroke play and disciplined running between the wickets.

The Tigers’ bowlers struggled to contain the scoring, with Prabath Bandara taking 1 for 29, David Puls 1 for 36, and Dale Dridan 1 for 28. Extras, including six wides, added to Donald-Jeffcott’s advantage. Key partnerships included a 73-run stand between openers Jake Needs and Cooper Anderson and a 62-run partnership between Dylan Ruurds and Koby Westerland, which solidified the innings.

Chasing 237, the Tigers faltered early, losing wickets at regular intervals and finishing all out for 82 in 29

overs. Koby Westerland and Cooper Anderson were the main destroyers with the ball, taking 2 wickets each. Callum Jackson was the top scorer for the Tigers with 29 runs, but no other batter managed to make a significant contribution.

“B” Grade

The Panthers “B” Grade side faced off against Donald-Jeffcott “B” Grade. For the Panthers, the innings got off to a steady start, with Hugh Weidemann anchoring the effort with a patient 62 before being run out by Will Noble. Brent Hudson (24) and Ryder Hudson (18) provided valuable support, while Nicholas McIntyre’s unbeaten 30 not out and Scott McCurdy’s 13 not out helped the side reach a competitive total of 163 from 40 overs. Extras contributed just three runs, reflecting disciplined bowling from Donald-Jeffcott.

In the bowling department, the Panthers’ bowlers were accurate and penetrative. Scott McCurdy and Hugh Weidemann were standout performers, both claiming three wickets, while Ryder Hudson chipped in with two. Collectively, the Panthers

maintained pressure with smart fielding and consistent line and length, conceding only 102 runs in 24.4 overs and dismissing Donald-Jeffcott’s side for a modest total.

Josh Gilmour played the innings’ standout knock with 52 off 61 balls, supported modestly by Bayley Burke (11) and Niluka Nanayakkara (13), but wickets fell regularly at crucial moments. Extras added 12 runs, including 7 no-balls, which reflected some discipline issues. Overall, the innings lacked consistency and was repeatedly disrupted by the Panthers’ disciplined bowling, particularly from Hugh Weidemann, Scott McCurdy, and Ryder Hudson, making it difficult for Donald Jeffcott to chase the target.



• Donald-Jeffcott’s Koby Westerland has ‘keeper Martyn Knight ducking for cover during his half century.



• Ryder Hudson claimed 2/20 for the Panthers against Donald-Jeffcott “B” grade. The umpire is Jack Tellefson.



• Above: Donald-Jeffcott’s “A” grade captain Eddie Landwehr during 41, not out.



• A big day out for Panthers’ Hugh Weidemann. The 16-year-old contributed 62 runs and 3 wickets in their win over Donald-Jeffcott in the “B” grade.



• Cody Stewart bowling for Tigers’ “A” grade against Donald-Jeffcott.

Horsham Cricket Association

ROUND 2

“A” Grade

Donald-Jeffcott d. Horsham
DONALD-JEFFCOTT

C. Anderson, c: D. Pulsb: T. Iredell-Burke	38
J. Needs, c: ?b: P. Bandara	31
D. Ruurds, b: D. Dridan	42
K. Westerland, c: D. Dridan b: D. Puls	59
E. Landwehr, not out	41
L. Jones, not out	9
Sundries	16
TOTAL (for 4 wickets)	236
Fall of wicket: 73, 73, 153, 215.	

Bowling: D. Puls 1/36 (7), A. Knight 0/40 (8), C. Stewart 0/48 (6), P. Bandara 1/29 (8), T. Iredell-Burke 1/19 (3), C. Jackson 0/15 (3), A. Punia 0/11 (2), D. Dridan 1/28 (3).

HORSHAM

B. Hallam, c&b: N. Atkins	2
C. Jackson, c: J. Needs b: K. Westerland	29
A. Punia lbw: E. Landwehr	1
P. Bandara, c: Westerland b: C. Anderson	19
Fill-in, lbw: C. Anderson	2
M. Knight, run out	6
A. Knight, c: R. Funcke b: J. Landwehr	2
D. Puls, c: ?b: K. Westerland	2
C. Stewart, b: J. Landwehr	3
T. Iredell-Burke, b: G. Pearse	9
D. Dridan, not out	0
Sundries	7
TOTAL (for 10 wickets)	82
Fall of wicket: 7, 8, 41, 3, 54, 63, 65, 73, 74, 82.	

Bowling: E. Landwehr 1/15 (5), N. Atkins 1/15 (6), C. Anderson 2/16 (5), J. Landwehr 2/19 (8), K. Westerland 2/2 (3), G. Pearse 1/10 (2).

“B” Grade

Rup-Minyip d. Donald-Jeffcott
RUP-MINYIP

H. Weidemann, run out: W. Noble	62
N. Hudson, b: N. Nanayakkara	0
R. Hudson, c: W. Noble b: B. Burke	18
C. Leith, b: B. Burke	0
B. Hudson, c: W. Noble b: C. Rice	24
J. McKenzie, c: W. Noble b: C. Campbell	6
J. Boschen, b: B. Burke	0
A. McCurdy, b: C. Campbell	0
H. Funcke, b: N. Nanayakkara	7
N. McIntyre, not out	30
S. McCurdy, not out	13
Sundries	3
TOTAL (for 9 wickets)	163
Fall of wicket: 1, 30, 30, 70, 85, 86, 88, 105, 130.	
Bowling: N. Nanayakkara 2/46 (8), B. Burke 3/14 (8), D. Letts 0/29 (8), C. Rice 1/45 (8), C. Campbell 2/17 (5), W. Noble 0/11 (3).	

DONALD-JEFFCOTT

J. Tellefson, c: J. McKenzie b: Weidemann	3
R. Needs, c: C. Leith b: H. Weidemann	2
W. Noble, b: C. Leith	0
J. Gilmour, c: C. Leith b: S. McCurdy	52
C. Campbell b: H. Weidemann	4
D. Letts, c: C. Leith b: J. McKenzie	2
B. Burke, c: H. Weidemann b: R. Hudson	11
N. Nanayakkara, c: McCurdy b: Hudson	13
O. Brennan, c: Weidemann b: McCurdy	1
C. Rice, b: S. McCurdy	2
D. Cooper, not out	0
Sundries	12
TOTAL (for 10 wickets)	102
Fall of wicket: 6, 7, 7, 19, 37, 72, 91, 98, 100, 102.	

Bowling: C. Leith 1/18 (5), H. Weidemann 3/15 (5), R. Hudson 2/20 (7.4), J. McKenzie 1/27 (3), S. McCurdy 3/19 (4).

Donald Joins Ladder Leaders

Donald underlined improvement in its consistency this season and moved into third place on the Div. 1 ladder with a comfortable win over Boort.

Driving the hosts' win was emerging talent, Hunter Wingfield, whose rink secured a commanding win, the margin of which enabled host Donald to eventually outscore the visiting Boort by 43 shots and bank 11 of the 12 points on offer.

Wingfield is benefitting from some astute coaching, leading his team to a 36-11 win over Kevin Depiazza, to which Kelvin Adamson added a 14-shot win over Kelvin Ritchie. Boort's only point came from a 19-all draw between skipper Shayne Morris and Donald's Norm Hollis.

Donald Golf also secured an important victory, outscoring the visiting Wedderburn by 20 shots overall. Geoff Rigby laid the foundations with a 14-shot win over Andrew Caserta, to which Peter Hibberd added 12 by defeating Alan Jackson. Daniel Pettifer was the only Golf skipper to lower his colours, going down to Laurie Witham by 6 shots, Golf winning by 20 shots overall.

To avoid a clash with the town's annual Cup race meeting on Saturday, cross town rivals St. Arnaud Country Club and St. Arnaud played on Friday evening, with

visitor St. Arnaud emerging with a comfortable 83 shot win and securing 10 points to 2.

Terry McSwain was the big winner for St. Arnaud, accounting for Bill Rodger by 27 shots, while Steve Zsigmond defeated Jason Abbott by 7, the combined winning margins more than compensating for Ashley Dyke's 1 shot loss to Trevor McDonald.

Wycheproof achieved one of the biggest winning margins in recent memory when it accounted for the visiting Charlton by 102 shots, 129 to 27, skippers Dale Groves, Aaron Mead and Jono Grylls all securing big wins over Kevin Willey, Ken North and Wayne Southwell respectively.

Details

St. Arnaud v Country Club 53-2 lost to St. Arnaud 86-10.

Bill Rodger 11 lost to Terry McSwain 38, Jason Abbott 21 lost to Steve Zsigmond 28, Trevor McDonald 21 d. Ashley Dyke 20.

Donald Golf 76-10 d. Wedderburn 56-2.

Daniel Pettifer 18 lost to Laurie Witham 24, Peter Hibberd 32 d. Alan Jackson 20,

Geoff Rigby 26 d. Andrew Caserta 12.

Wycheproof 129-12 d. Charlton 27-0.

Dale Groves 47 d. Kevin Willey 11, Aaron Mead 48 d. Ken North 8, Jono Grylls 34 d. Wayne Southwell 8.

Donald 87-11 d. Boort 44-1.

Hunter Wingfield 36 d. Kevin Depiazza 11, Norm Hollis 19 drew with Shayne Morris 19, Kelvin Adamson 28 d. Kelvin Ritchie 14.

Division 2

Wycheproof and Boort remain undefeated in Division 2 after securing round 3 wins against Charlton and Donald respectively.

Donald Denney defeated Charlton's Gary Bateson by 2 shots and Alan Jones securing a 29-shot win over Eily Rosewall to set Wyche. on the path to victory, while Grant Allan went down to John Headon by 5 shots.

The visiting Wedderburn contingent banked 10 points after defeating host Donald Golf by 10 shots, Lance Standfield accounting for George Wood by 10 shots, John Grant getting the better of Shane O'Shea by 7 shots, while Lindsay Borden's team did its best to reduce the overall margin, defeating Geoff Burnside by 7 shots.

St. Arnaud Country Club revered the result of the Div. 1 encounter, outpointing the visiting St. Arnaud by 20 shots and 10 points to 2.

Chris Webb finished 10 shots to the better of Laurie Goodwin, and Danny Mullins finished 11 shots in front of Lloyd Goddard. Kerryn Dyke's rink was St. Arnaud's only winner, by the narrowest margin of 1 shot over Arnold Bond.

Ten shots separated Donald and the visiting Boort, with the former picking up 3 points after John Howley defeated Yvonne Cashen by 1 shot, and David Romeo and John Hampson had to settle for a 19-all draw. Joan Earl guided Boort to overall victory, downing Ray Gravestocks by 11 shots.

Details

St. Arnaud Country Club 75-10 d. St. Arnaud 55-2.

Chris Webb 27 d. Laurence Goodwin 17, Danny Mullins 31 d. Lloyd Goddard 20, Arnold Bond 17 lost to Kerryn Dyke 18.

Donald Golf 67-2 lost to Wedderburn 77-10.

George Wood 15 lost to Lance Standfield 25, Shane O'Shea 24 lost to John Grant 31, Lindsay Borden 28 d. Geoff Burnside 21.

Wycheproof 93-10 d. Charlton 67-2.

Donald Denney 28 d. Gary Bateson 26, Alan Jones 39 d. Eily Rosewall 10, Grant Allan 26 lost to John Headon 31.

Donald 67-3 lost to Boort 77-9.

Ray Gravestocks 21 lost to Joan Earl 32, John Howley 24 d. Yvonne Cashen 23, David Romeo 22 drew with John Hampson 22.

	P	W	L	D	Bye	F	A	SD	%	Pts
Wycheproof	3	3	0	0	0	0	271	162	109	167
Wedderburn	3	2	1	0	0	0	235	189	46	124
Donald	3	2	1	0	0	0	222	193	29	15
St. Arnaud	3	2	1	0	0	0	220	184	36	119
Donald Golf	3	2	1	0	0	0	210	187	23	112
Boort	3	1	2	0	0	0	209	201	8	104
St. Arnaud CC	3	1	2	0	0	0	200	236	-36	85
Charlton	3	0	3	0	0	0	115	330	-215	35

• Division 1: Positions of Teams, after round 3.

	P	W	L	D	Bye	F	A	SD	%	Pts
Wycheproof	3	3	0	0	0	0	255	174	81	146
Boort	3	3	0	0	0	0	205	188	17	109
Wedderburn	3	2	1	0	0	0	204	207	-3	98
St. Arnaud	3	1	2	0	0	0	191	199	-8	96
Donald Golf	3	1	2	0	0	0	213	196	17	107
St. Arnaud CC	3	1	2	0	0	0	193	192	1	100
Donald	3	1	2	0	0	0	181	228	-47	79
Charlton	3	0	3	0	0	0	177	235	-58	75

• Division 2: Positions of Teams, after round 3.



• Concentrating on his delivery is Andrew Caserta, watching intently is his opposition in Geoff Rigby. Geoff's team had a very good win on the day.



• There is many individual styles of delivery in bowls. Donald Golf bowler "AJ" Humphrey and Wedderburn's Sandra Steel show theirs, watched on by both teams members.



• Wedderburn's Tony Benaim delivers his bowl. Behind on the next rink Judy Matthews, Allan Noordennen, Brian Bayles and, with her back to the camera, Ruth Hall.



• Friendships in the sport of bowls last for a lifetime. Donald Golf's Daniel Pettifer renews his friendship with Wedderburn skipper Laurie Witmam.

MICHAELS

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By George Crenshaw

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3-8

“Still have a cold do we ?!”

“New Look” Wimmera-Mallee Cricket

With cricket associations undergoing major restructures for this summer, Wimmera-Mallee will field just six teams, all of them “A” graders.

This means that three one-day games will be scheduled each week, with semi-finals to be played on Saturday, February 21, 2026.

Last Saturday, only two first-round games were played. The other, listed as St. Arnaud versus Marnoo, was postponed to the following day because it would have clashed with St. Arnaud Cup Day. Ultimately, however, the game had to be abandoned because of heavy rain on Sunday, so the two sides will share the premierships points.

Watchem Panthers d. Charlton

Charlton’s batting frailties proved costly as Watchem Panthers claimed a hard-fought

13-run victory in the opening round of the Wimmera-Mallee Cricket Association season at Charlton Park on Saturday.

Winning the toss and electing to bat, Charlton never really found its rhythm, losing early wickets in clusters and slumping to 4/13 before a spirited middle-order fight-back. The innings was steadied by Sujeesh Mohan Mohanan Sreekala, who played with confidence and timing to post an entertaining 54 from just 46 deliveries, including five boundaries and three sixes. His knock gave Charlton some much-needed momentum, but once he fell at 83, the side again faltered, eventually dismissed for 109 in the 38th over.

For the Panthers, captain Connor Boyle led from the front with a superb spell of controlled seam bowling, finishing with 3/11 from eight overs. Austin Dean (1/5 off 8) was equally miserly, while Seamus Lowry and two fill-in bowlers each chipped in with valuable breakthroughs to keep the pressure on throughout.

In reply, Watchem faced its own challenges on a slow pitch, eventually reaching 8/121 in the 36th over to secure victory. The lower-order contributions proved crucial, as Charlton’s bowlers worked hard to stay in the contest.

Despite the defeat, Charlton captain Hugh Sait can take positives from the team’s effort in the field and Sreekala’s standout innings. For Watchem, the disciplined bowling and composure under pressure set a strong early-season tone. Both sides will look to build on this opening encounter, with plenty of lessons to take forward as the summer unfolds.

Southern Mallee Giants d. Birchip Swans

Top-order batsmen held sway at the Birchip Recreation Reserve, where Mark



• Watchem Panthers’ Austin Dean, on his way to 32. In the background is Charlton’s Murphy Fitzpatrick & Billy Sexton, wicket keeping. – Photos Kim Fitzpatrick.

Trollope’s 40, Will Marks’s 70, and Riley Doran’s 23 gave the Swans a solid start, only to see the rest of the innings fade to a total of 163 in 34.1 overs.

Multiple wicket-takers for the Giants were Jackson

Moore 3/20 (8), Srikanth Reddy Kasaram 2/55 (8), and Kybe Ballinger 2/12 (4.1).

The Giants’ reply was a commanding 3/184 in 36.5 overs, with no batting failures, as Luke Mitchell scored

59, Leighton Hateley 48 not out, Zach Robins 24 not out, and Jack Flavel and Srikanth Reddy Kasaram 10 each. Birchip’s successful bowlers were Jonty Randall 1/24 (8), and Riley Doran 2/36 (8).



• Charlton’s Sujeesh Mohanan Sreekala (54 runs).



• Cooper Boyle, 5 wickets for Charlton.



• Connor Boyle bats for Watchem. In the background is fieldsman, Ethan Needs.

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