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The Buloke Times

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



• 2025 Senior Premiers Calder United Lions: Back row from left, Harry Humphreys (waterboy), Dale Pearce, Charlie Fawcett, Mitch Farmer, Logan Pollington (waterboy), Jack Exell, Darryl Wilson (joint coach), Matt Trzeciak, Koby Hommelhoff, Daniel Watts. Middle row: Boe Bish, Zac Caccaviello, George Turner, Oscar Madden and Josh Walsh. Front row: Jack Marlais, Matt Wade, Rylee Smith, Kobe Lloyd, Dean Putt, Jordy Humphreys (joint coach), Ricky Allan, Zane Keighran, Steve Kennedy.

Calder Lions Celebrate!

Until this season, Wycheproof-Narraport footballers were known as the Demons, while those from Nullawil were the Maroons.

As with many other country clubs, dwindling numbers of available players had eventually convinced them that amalgamation would be their best pathway to continued competitiveness.

The wisdom of that decision could hardly have been more dynamically illustrated than on Saturday at Wedderburn, when the two merged clubs, with the new title, "Calder United Lions", became the toast of the football world with victories in both senior and reserves grand finals, against the worthiest of opposition from the Birchip-Watchem Bulls.

• More details of North-Central football, netball and hockey grand finals can be found in today's sports pages, and in Friday's issue of the "Times".

Hunt Family Wins BCG's Highest Honours

The Birchip Cropping Group (BCG) has celebrated the extraordinary contribution of the Hunt family at its 2025 Main Field Day on Wednesday, September 10, with Professor James Hunt receiving the prestigious Harm van Rees Award and his parents, Geoff and Bronwyn Hunt, awarded Life Memberships.

Together, these honours recognise more than three decades of commitment, innovation, and leadership by the Hunt family in advancing farmer-led research and strengthening agricultural communities across north-west Victoria.

James Hunt Awarded the 2025 Harm van Rees Award

The Harm van Rees Award is reserved for individuals who have made a truly outstanding contribution to BCG

and the farming community through clear, practical, and inspiring communication.

Professor James Hunt, now a leader in agricultural science at the University of Melbourne, has built a career dedicated to bridging the gap between research and practice. Early in his career at BCG, James played a pivotal role in the development and extension of Yield Prophet, a decision-support tool that has transformed how growers assess risk and make cropping decisions. He also pioneered N Banking, a

practical nitrogen management strategy now widely used across farming systems.

BCG chair John Ferrier said James's contribution embodies the spirit of the award.

"James has a unique ability to translate complex science into practical, real-world applications for farmers," she said.

"His impact is felt not only through his research, but also in his teaching and his commitment to guiding the next

• Continued on page 2.



• James Hunt was awarded the Harm van Rees award. Pictured: Harm van Rees, James Hunt, BCG CEO Fiona Best.

At This Year’s Donald Show: Shining a Light On Health and Wellbeing

The Donald Show is once again proving it’s more than just an agricultural showcase – it’s about looking after the whole community.

On Friday, October 10, the Showgrounds will come alive with “Shining a Light on the Health and Wellbeing of our Community”, a feature event proudly supported by Donald B’n’S and the National Centre for Farmer Health.

From 4 p.m. Friday, visitors can take part in a range of free activities:

Free Skin Checks with Mandy from In2skinCo – walk away not only reassured, but also with a bag full of goodies.

First Aid Demonstrations with Casey Kosch First Aid Training – practical knowledge that could make all the difference.

Free Smoothies on the pedal-powered Smoothie Bike – healthy, fun, and delicious.

The evening also features guest speaker Kristy Kelly, who will share her powerful journey of resilience, hope, and the importance of mental wellbeing. Her message is set to inspire and remind us all to look after ourselves and each other.

Something for Everyone

To cap it all off, the Donald skies will light up with a spectacular fireworks display – a celebration of connection, community, and hope. Kids’ activities, entertainment, and plenty more will ensure there’s something for everyone.

The Donald Show committee extends heartfelt thanks to all the sponsors who make events like this possible. Your support brings the show

to life and ensures our community continues to thrive. And it’s not too late to get involved – if you’d like to support the 2025 Donald Show, reach out to the committee today and be part of something special.

This year’s program promises to be one of the most exciting yet, with a focus on both traditional favourites and new initiatives that strengthen our community spirit. The Donald Show is built on volunteers, sponsors, and the energy of locals coming together – and in 2025, it’s set to be bigger and brighter than ever.

The Donald Show runs Friday 10th and Saturday 11th of October, 2025 – don’t miss it!



• Pictured from left, Meaghan King (teacher), Fletcher Holmes-Brown, Craig Kelly (acting principal).

VCE Leadership Awards: Fletcher a Finalist

Fletcher Holmes-Brown travelled to Melbourne recently as he was a finalist for the 2025 VCE Leadership Awards.

Those of us who know Fletcher are already familiar with what makes him a superstar, but take a moment to read the impressive bio featured in the official brochure:

“As a young person in rural Victoria, Fletcher has been an advocate for youth in Charlton and across the Buloke Shire.

Fletcher has brought student voice to the College Council, advocating for his peers when meeting with parents and staff. He has focused

on addressing toxic masculinity in schools, embracing being a positive role model for peers and younger students.

“In 2023 Fletcher’s studies were disrupted when he sustained a serious brain injury playing for Charlton Football Club. Fletcher developed a Bill, which was passed by the Victorian Youth Parliament, calling for improved safety against concussion in sports and better management of concussion in regional sports.



“He also teaches guitar to students and adults as part of his pledge to build connections across the school and within the community.”

Well done Fletch! We are proud of you!

Hunt Family Wins BCG’s Highest Honours

• Continued from page 1.

generation of agronomists. He has stayed true to his roots, always keeping farmers at the centre of the conversation.”

James has also given back directly to BCG, serving on the Board and Research Committee, where his leadership has helped shape the organisation’s direction with both scientific rigour and on-farm relevance.

Geoff and Bronwyn Hunt awarded Life Memberships

Alongside James’s recognition, BCG was proud to honour his parents, Geoff and Bronwyn Hunt, with Life Memberships, the highest honour the organisation can bestow.

Life membership is reserved for individuals whose service has been outstanding and enduring. For more than 30 years, Geoff and Bronwyn have exemplified these qualities, helping to lay the foundation for BCG’s success. Among their many achievements, they were:

• Founding members of the Normanville FM500 farming group, and early farmer members of BCG.

• Founding members of the BCG Research Committee, embedding scientific discipline into farmer-driven research.

• Hosts of numerous BCG trials and visitors, generously opening their farm at Normanville to share knowledge and ideas.

• Active participants at BCG events, always ready to initiate and contribute to critical agronomic discussions.

• Representatives of BCG on the international stage at the Farming Design Conference in Lanzhou, China.

• Champions of farmer voices, with Geoff serving on the GRDC Southern Panel to ensure local priorities were represented.

BCG CEO Fiona Best said the Hunts’ contribution has left an enduring legacy.

“Geoff and Bronwyn have been pillars of BCG since its inception,” she said.

“Their generosity, insight, and leadership have strength-

ened this organisation and supported countless farmers to make better-informed decisions. Recognising them as Life Members is a fitting tribute to their extraordinary service.”

Though now retired from farming, Geoff and Bronwyn’s passion for agriculture and farmer-led innovation remains strong, and their influence continues to shape BCG today.

A Family Legacy

BCG’s recognition of James, Geoff, and Bronwyn at the 2025 Main Field Day highlights the intergenerational commitment of the Hunt family to farmer-led research and innovation.

“The Hunt family has given so much to BCG – from Geoff and Bronwyn’s leadership in our formative years, to James’s contribution as both a researcher and communicator,” John Ferrier said. “Together, they embody the values that have made BCG what it is today: curiosity, collaboration, and a deep commitment to improving farming for all.”



• Geoff and Bronwyn Hunt were awarded BCG Life Memberships. Pictured: John Ferrier, Geoff Hunt, Bronwyn Hunt, Ian McClelland.

Hop Along to “Kangaroo”

School holidays kick off at the Rex this weekend with the heart-warming Australian family comedy, “Kangaroo” beginning on Saturday and including an additional 2 p.m. matinee on Tuesday, September 23.

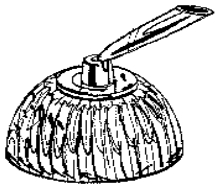
Screening just two days after national release, “Kangaroo” isn’t just great entertainment – attending the movie could also put you in the running to win \$5,000. To be part of this promotion all you need to do is purchase your ticket, upload proof of your purchase, select your cinema, complete the required details and hit submit! You’ll automatically be entered into the draw. Just go to the Rex website: rextheatre.org.au (where all movie tickets can now be pre-purchased) and “hop to it”!

In the STUDIOCANAL production (which also brought “Paddington” to the big screen), “Kangaroo” tells the story of ex-TV personality, Chris Masterman, who becomes stranded in an Outback town outside Alice Springs after a car accident on his way to Broome. There, he teams up with 12-year-old indigenous girl, Charlie.

The pair form an unlikely friendship and work together to rescue and rehabilitate orphaned joeys in a remote but stunning Outback community – an endeavour that proves to be life-changing for them both.

Inspired by the life of Chris “Brolga” Barns, founder of The Kangaroo Sanctuary, Alice Springs, “Kangaroo” stars Ryan Corr, Deborah Mailman, Ernie Dingo, Brooke Satchwell, Wayne Blair, Roy Billing along with newcomer Lily Whiteley. Showcasing the stunning Australian outback, “Kangaroo” will touch your heart as well as bring a smile during this holiday season. Don’t miss it!

“Kangaroo” (PG 107 mins) screens: Saturday, September 20, 8 p.m. | Sunday, September 21, 2 p.m. | Tuesday, September 23, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m..



Letter to the Editor

Machete Bins

(The Editor, “The Times”)

Dear Editor.– With regard to the National Party page 3 press release in the “Buloke Times” on Friday, it would have been pertinent for both the writer and publisher to have better acquainted themselves with the facts by viewing last week’s edition of “Media Watch” on the ABC.

Of course the “machete bins” did not cost anything approaching \$290,000 each, the actual figure being in the \$2000 range, but never let the facts get in the way of a good story, eh?

Peter Knight
St Arnaud.

Accountability Lacking On Bail Law Failures

The Nationals’ Member for Mildura, Jade Benham, has condemned Premier Jacinta Allan for refusing to take responsibility for Victoria’s weak bail laws during Question Time in Parliament last week.

Ms Benham raised two shocking cases in Mildura, where repeat young offenders accused of violent crimes were granted bail despite strong police warnings and magistrates acknowledging the high risk of reoffending.

“In one case, a 14-year-old girl, who had already been cautioned by police 14 times, was granted bail after a home invasion, with the magistrate admitting police concerns that she would offend again were ‘entirely well-founded’,” Ms Benham said.

“In another case, a young boy accused of stealing a car in a home invasion and driving it at 140 kilometres an hour was also bailed, despite police warning of the real risk he may end up killing someone. The magistrate described the situation as a ‘tragedy

waiting to happen’ and admitted there were no bail conditions that could adequately protect the community.”

Ms Benham pressed the Premier on how community safety was being prioritised in these cases, given Labor’s repeated claims that its bail reforms ensure “community safety comes first”.

“How is the Allan Labor Government putting community safety first when repeat offenders are being released straight back on to our streets? This is another deeply concerning example of the outcome of weakened bail laws and Labor being soft on crime,” Ms Benham said.

Safety First

“Instead of taking responsibility, the Premier ducked, weaved and shifted blame back to the courts. This government has failed to



• Jade Benham.

protect Victorians, neglected regional communities, and shown a shocking disregard for the safety of every Victorian.

“Communities deserve a government that takes crime seriously, not one that passes the buck when people’s safety is on the line. The Liberals and Nationals Government will always put community safety first.”



• The current Church was built in 1993, after an unfortunate fire on New Years Day destroyed the birch Church in 1991.

Anniversary Coming Up

On Sunday, October 26, St Joseph’s Charlton, now part of East Wimmera Parish, will celebrate 140 years since its establishment as a Parish on Sunday 26th October.

Following 10.30 Mass there will be a luncheon for attendees.

The first Catholic Church in Charlton was built in 1875 but it wasn’t until 1885 that the Charlton Mission was established, and St Joseph’s became a parish. It had its own

Parish Priest and assistants until the year 2000 when Fr Paul Mercovich was appointed Parish Priest of Charlton and St Arnaud.

St. Joseph’s continued as a separate parish until 2018 when Catholic parishes in

Wycheproof and Nullawil, Birchip, Donald, Charlton and Wedderburn, Boort, and St Arnaud and Banyena districts, combined to create a new parish, now called East Wimmera Parish. Please contact Sandra, 0407 320 633, for catering purposes.

Lunar Eclipse, Blood Moon

On Monday, September 8, I joined thousands of early rising sky-watchers around Australia to witness and photograph a “blood moon”, a phenomenon that happens when the moon passes through the earth’s shadow, taking on a deep red hue.

Astrophysicists tell us that as the sun’s rays pass through the earth’s atmosphere, some colours in the light spectrum are filtered out. This is the same mechanism that causes colourful sunrises and sunsets of which red is a predominant colour. Red wavelengths are least affected by this effect, so the light reaching the moon’s surface has a reddish hue, hence the “blood moon” effect.

The more we explore, the more benefits we can see the moon having for inhabitants on planet earth. The Bible reminds us that a major purpose of the moon is to “shine on the earth” at night time. Genesis 1:16 records, “God made two great lights – the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night”. The moon’s diameter is around one quarter of that of the earth and so the reflective surface of the moon is much bigger than any other space body close to earth, so it is true to say that the moon’s light is by far the most dominant night light on planet earth.

Science writer Russell Griggs reminds us of another major benefit the moon is to

planet earth and that is the gravitational pull of the moon which causes tidal movement. As the moon orbits the rotating earth, it produces a cycle of two high tides and two low tides about every 25 hours. Tides are necessary to cleanse the ocean’s shorelines and help stop the ocean water from stagnating.

Scientists have learnt in more recent times that the moon has a vital role in stabilising the earth and keeping it tilted at an angle of 23.5 degrees in relation to the sun. This tilt is essential in providing us with our seasons, necessary for the growth of seasonal crops and giving us wonderful variety in temperature and weather with our summer, autumn, winter and spring seasonal conditions.

The more we learn about our universe we more we realise how amazing it all is and how suitable Earth is for human life. The wonderful design in our Creation does not so much speak of a “big bang,” but the orderly creative acts of an Almighty Creator who made the sun, the moon, the stars – everything. The Bible says: “When I look at the night sky and see the work

of Your fingers – the moon and the stars You set in place, what are mere mortals that You should think about them, human beings that you should care for them?” (Psalm 8:3,4).

The size, wonder and complexity of the universe around us speaks of an incredible Creator God. The Bible says, “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge” (Psalm 19:1,2). The creation points to God as the Creator, just as a painting reveals the artist’s skill and handiwork. Professor Andy C. McIntosh formerly of the University of Leeds says, “May many see that the argument from design (the wonder and complexity of the universe) shouts powerfully of the Creator who spans the Heavens and yet stooped to become Man, in order to be our Saviour”.

We have much to be grateful for. I hope you can find a few moments occasionally to moon gaze or star gaze, too. There is a massive universe out there!

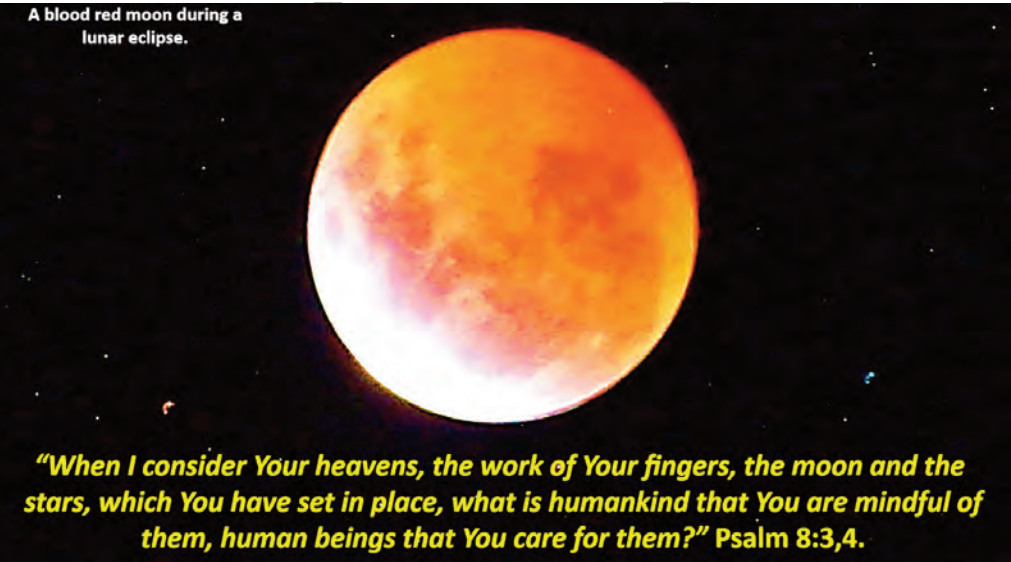
Bruce Stewart.



• The brick Church was built on the site of the original wooden one, with it’s foundation stone laid in February 1907 and it was dedicated in September of that year. Both the architects and contractors were from Bendigo.



• Standing in front of the what is believed to be the first Church is a group of schoolboys. Erected circa 1875, this Church was also used as a school.



A blood red moon during a lunar eclipse.

“When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is humankind that You are mindful of them, human beings that You care for them?” Psalm 8:3,4.

"Times" Classifieds

Phone Donald 5497 1222, Birchip 5492 2735 Email admin@buloketimes.com

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!

- September 16, Alex Sheridan
- Sept. 18, Soft
- Sept. 19, Ryan Bath
- Sept. 22, Corey Donnellon
- Sept. 22, Debbie French



If you know someone celebrating a special anniversary, let us know at
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Tuesday, Sept. 30

9.30 - 10.30 a.m.
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Old bottles with town or company names. Marble bottles, ginger beers, milks etc. Cash paid. Ph. 0405 264 661.

Litchfield Public Hall ORDINARY MEETING

Thursday, September 18th
at 7:30 pm



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COMING ATTRACTIONS



KANGAROO
PG 107 mins | Adventure

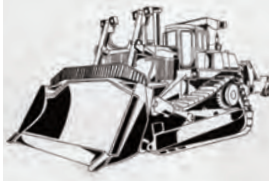
Sat 20 Sept 8pm
Sun 21 Sept 2pm
Tue 23 Sept *2pm & 8pm

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For a confidential discussion please contact
Marg Harrison on 0499 510 265 or email marg.harrison@yballarat.org.au

To apply please follow the link at
<https://yballarat.org.au/careers/> and search
Y Ballarat - scroll to find Educators Role:
Birchip/Donald/Wycheproof and click apply.

Keep Abreast with Local Happenings!

Don't forget Your Local Newspaper



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

HARVEST SEASON WE'RE READY

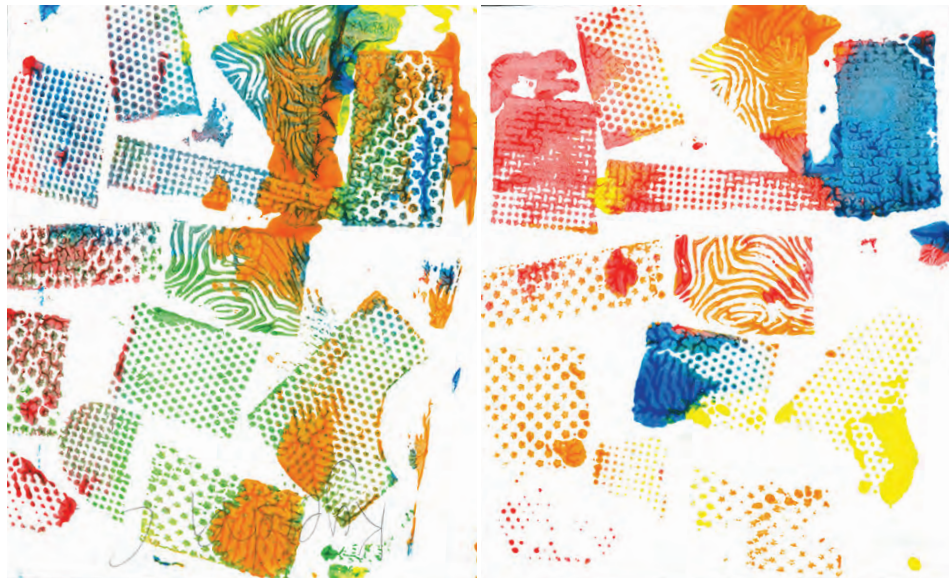
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- **HARVEST WEED SEED CONTROL**



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Take care on the roads — no one is safe from careless drivers.

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

One Hundred Years Ago

From the "Birchip Advertiser", September 18, 1925.

Golf

The recent rains enabled golfers to revive their flagging interest in the game. An Official Final Day has been arranged for next Saturday, 19th inst., but this will not necessarily mean the end of the season. Saturday's programme will comprise 9 holes stroke handicap for both ladies and gents for trophies presented by Mr. and Mrs. Caldwell. These events will be followed by a 9 hole four-somes handicap for trophies presented by Mrs. Hannah. Partners for this event will be drawn for.

Birchip Show

The Birchip District Agricultural and Pastoral Society's annual show was held on Wednesday last.

The society was again unfortunate in having this year's exhibition marred with unsettled weather conditions. Showers fell throughout the day and patrons had to seek shelter several times during the afternoon.

The gate takings, which amounted to £61/12/6, were £40 less than anticipated had

the day been fine. The special trains were poorly patronized and will show a considerable loss. Notwithstanding this society will show a fairly good profit for the year, owing to the fact that there is a substantial increase in membership and donations.

Good entries totalling 700 were received, but quite a few were not exhibited on account of the uncertainty of the weather about the time exhibits usually arrive.

In the drought stock section, there were some very fine exhibits. Mr. G. Oxley Jr, of Gre Gre North, St Arnaud, took the two blue ribbons for champion draught stallion and mare; also, six first awards.

Entries were poor in the blood stock and harness section and it would be advisable for the society to consider the question of eliminating these sections and providing more gymkhana items.

Mr. H. Atkinson with his fine team of hacks, hunters and high jumpers carried off the main ring events by winning the weight carrying back, open hunters, pony hunters and high jump.

In the poultry section the Speed Poultry Farm, R. R. Cochran (Maryborough), H. N. Shearer and G. Moore (Donald) exhibited high class birds. The first named won the blue-ribbon event. Mr. W. T. Jenkins was the most successful local exhibitor and carried off the prize for the best district bird.

Competition was keen in the shed exhibition with the exception of the painting section. In school work 118 entries were received.

The work of judging was very capably carried out by the following: draught stock, Mr. A. T. Stephens; light stock, Mr. R. Forcus; cattle, Mr. J. Crone; dairy cows, Mr. T. Taylor; sheep, Mr. G. Pope; poultry and dogs, Mr. J. S. Cook; dairy produce, grain and vegetables, Mr. J. Hodgson; cookery, Mrs. A. E. Bassett and Mrs. H. Spencer; flowers, painting and children's work, Mr. W. D. McPhie; fancy work, Mrs. J. Hodgson and Miss Hodgson.

The president (Mr. A. Barber), vice-presidents (Messrs. P. Sexton and P. Coffey), secretary (Mr. J. H. Lester), assistant secretary (Mr. S. Stevens), and the many stewards spared no effort to make for the smooth running of the show.

Weight Guessing.

Mr. J. Morris (105 lbs) won the sheep guessing competition and was 11lb short of the actual weight.

"Times" Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8193 - SOLUTIONS

Across - 1, Mediocre. 6, Trip. 8, Mass. 9, Nickname. 10, Stoat. 11, Vacant. 13, Slater. 15, Timber. 17, Stress. 19, Gnome. 22, November. 23, Rude. 24, Unit. 25, Withhold. **Down** - 2, Exact. 3, Instant. 4, Cane. 5, Excavate. 6, Tunic. 7, Immense. 12, Crossbow. 14, Let-down. 16, Monarch. 18, Eject. 20, Medal. 21, Fret.

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Michaels of Donald
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GRDC Harvester Workshop Coming

To support growers to reduce harvest losses and improve operations at harvest, Mackillop Farm Management Group, Birchip Cropping Group and Mallee Sustainable Farming are hosting a series of free harvester workshops in 2025.

These Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) funded workshops will be delivered across the western Victoria and eastern South Australia region.

The full day workshops, facilitated by state-based farming systems groups, will bring together harvester specialists, industry experts and researchers to discuss preventable harvester grain losses and how to measure these, improvements in efficiency and output, methods of harvest weed seed control (HWSC), the prevention of harvester fires and calibrating harvester technology.

“These field days are invaluable – you can talk to other growers to understand what their challenges are and talk to the operators who are using these machines. It gives you confidence in your decision-making,” said WA grower Noel Fowler, who attended a workshop run in 2020 at Cuballing, south of Perth.

“We’ve seen and heard now that implementing harvest weed seed control methods can give you a return in three to five years, and after that, it’s money in the bank.”

Content and Scope

Victorian grower Jack Gall was impressed with the content and scope the 2023 workshops covered and the confidence he was given to directly apply what he had learnt to his harvest operations.

“The adjustments we have made as a result of attending the workshop has helped us achieve two key goals – improve harvest efficiency and minimise losses, which has been great,” he said.

The Program

The program will cover:

- Understanding the impact of harvest loss, how to measure it and how to change your harvester to reduce losses.

- HWSC latest information, sharing how to set-up for effective HWSC using mills systems (iHSD, Seed Terminator, SCU) chaff decks and chaff lining.

- Reducing the risk of harvester fires.
- Improving harvester capacity and efficiency.

- Managing harvest operations, productivity, and economics.

- Grain storage considerations.

Victorian Date and location:

- Horsham, Tuesday September 23, 2025.

Time: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. AEST

Register at: <https://grdc.com.au/events/list/2025/09/grdc-harvester-set-up-workshop-horsham>

For more information, contact Birchip Cropping Group on (03) 5492 2787 or info@bcg.org.au.

(Further details provided after registration)



• Free GRDC Harvester workshops coming up in Western Victoria and Eastern South Australia.

COMMUNITY UPDATE Buloke.



BULOKE YOUTH FEST – A FUN FAMILY CELEBRATION IN CHARLTON!

The Buloke Shire Youth Advisory Group (YAG) is excited to invite the community to the Buloke Youth Fest, a free to attend, family friendly celebration filled with games, food and entertainment for all ages.

When: Wednesday, 24 September 2025 from 4pm – 8pm

Where: Charlton Park

What to bring: Picnic blanket or chair and your best smiles and energy!

Features include:

- Pop-up stalls from local young people
- Carnival style games
- Boss Empire Food Truck serving up dinner – at truck prices!
- Smoothie Bike & Water Station – make your own smoothie with fresh fruit available
- Headspace will be on site for youth support and engagement
- Movie on the BIG screen – ‘Inside Out’ (6PM start)

For more information about the Buloke Youth Fest call 1300 520 520 or email www.buloke.vic.gov.au

Proudly supported by Victorian Youth Fest, the National Centre for Farmer Health and the Victorian Government, and was developed in collaboration with the Buloke Youth Network.

NEW RENEWABLES ENERGY WEBPAGE

A new webpage has been added to Council's website titled - Renewable Energy.

The webpage provides all the advocacy work that Council have done around renewables energy projects in Buloke Shire as well as provide links to the relevant government agencies responsible for these projects.

It also aims to provide one central point for the community to visit and learn more about renewables projects in Buloke Shire and present more transparency on what Council currently knows and are doing.

The new webpage will continue to be updated to eventually include everything in the renewable space (i.e. windfarms and solar) as well as latest news and updates.

The Renewable Energy webpage can be viewed at: www.buloke.vic.gov.au



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

OPEN SPACES MAINTENANCE OPERATOR Part time and full time - from \$62,751 per annum, Band 2 (+ statutory superannuation) Based in Birchip, Charlton and Sea Lake

→ Applications close 19 September 2025

If you are someone who thrives in the fresh air and enjoys hands-on work – this could be your dream job!

We are on the look out for an enthusiastic team player to help maintain and enhance the visual appeal of our parks, footpaths, streetscapes and public spaces across Birchip, Charlton and Sea Lake.

Whether you are interested in full-time or part-time work, you will be a part of a supportive team that values skill development and community impact.

Experience with ride-on mowers, garden tools or larger vehicles is a bonus – but not essential.

NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PLANNING PERMIT

The land affected by the application is located at **21 High STREET, Charlton VIC 3525.**

The application is for a permit for the **proposed extension to an existing commercial building and car parking waiver.**

The application reference number is **PA25025.**

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

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

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

The Responsible Authority will not decide on the application before: **2 October 2025.**

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



BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL

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W: buloke.vic.gov.au

Not getting your paper delivered?



Why not receive it online, emailed or posted direct.

Call the “The Times” Office, Donald

For further information, phone 5497 1222 or via email, admin@buloketimes.com

Stay up-to-date and informed in all the local news.

The following tribute to the late Ewan Letts was delivered by his daughter, Martine, at the funeral service in St. Andrew's Uniting Church, Donald, on Friday, August 29.

Lebenskünstler or “master of life” describes someone who handles life’s challenges with grace, equanimity, and optimism, making the best of any situation without complaint. A Lebenskünstler approaches life with zest and creativity, finding solutions and embracing experiences rather than being overwhelmed by them.

It might also describe a man who managed to walk both sides of the road throughout his life – of a boy from the bush who was so deeply connected to his country – the country where we are gathered today and to his family, while representing the best Australia has to offer to the world as a diplomat. He was equally at home in both settings.

There are so many adjectives which I have heard of Ewan since trying to put together this tribute to him. There is not enough time to craft something which will truly represent the man, but I hope you will recognise him in these descriptions and smile and feel happy and blessed to have known him.

Family minded. Generous but also thrifty. Resourceful and endlessly curious. An optimist and a fixer. Funny, impish. Wily as a fox. A mentor and a teacher. An extraordinary memory for people, AFL footy facts, lyrics to the entire American song book. Loyal, to family, community, the Melbourne Football Club. An irritating stickler for language, borne from great love of language. Stubborn – as an 87-year-old forcing me to traipse around Rome to find his favourite ice creamery – and succeeding.

Finding impossible to source elusive tickets for the 1960 Rome Olympic Games during his assignment in Rome, to hunting down the last available supply of his wife Marjorie's favourite bath gel.

Teaching his sister-in-law how to read a map in Rome, to correcting my special friend Gavan Desmond's Italian pronunciation and grammatical constructions without really causing offence. Correcting his native French speaker wife and sister-in-law Joan's letters for grammatical and spelling errors. Spending hours with his children with their homework, supporting and funding their education, travel and extracurricular activities, guiding and supporting us in every possible way. While he could be very strict, he was always loving and forgiving.

Ewan Letts was a devoted husband, father, community leader, patriot, inveterate explorer, mentor, philanthropist and friend to so many. He was a boy from the bush and a man of the world – quite literally as he mastered so many languages, starting with

French and German, but also Italian, Swedish and some early studies of Bahasa Indonesia, which helped him understand and deal successfully with people and cultures all over the world.

He was a man of high principle, a supporter of the Polish Solidarity movement, Indo Chinese refugees. His high principles also made him pretty tough to deal at times, but he was consistent and fair. A good neighbour – he shared with his wife Marjorie an intense interest in their neighbourhood. A man of great generosity, a genial host who always made people feel at their ease, a raconteur, a mister fix-it, whether it was to help his Polish-born father in law recoup unpaid piano lesson fees from the Small Claims Court, or helping his sister-in-law Joan reclaim her Australian identity and passport when she was already well into her 60s, through some typical bureaucratic mess up. He was the eternal optimist and a wonderful guide.

His trajectory from the bush to the international conference table was achieved through diligence, determination, sheer talent, which provided rich rewards in the post WWII years for all Australians, no matter how modest their means.

Like his older brothers, Ewan repaid his parents' encouragement to be high achievers in academia and in sport by making the most of every opportunity. They knew the value of a good education and never took it for granted.

In the order of service insert you will see a tribute to Ewan's life from the E.H. Flack Trust. The Flack scholarship provided access to a quality education at Melbourne Grammar for rural Victorian boys, which led to a First Class Honours degree in French and German at the University of Melbourne with a subsequent scholarship to Bonn University, followed by an illustrious career in foreign and public service in Australia. He was preceded by his brother Malcolm as the first ever recipient of the Flack award. His brothers Goff and Robin were also high achievers in their respective fields of endeavour.

Back in Donald, his father Goff clocked up an astonishing 66 years as editor of the family paper with son Robin and grandson David keeping the family tradition going. The August 3 episode of “Landline” on the 150 year anniversary of the “Buloke Time” – highly recommended to anyone who has not yet seen it and available on YouTube – is such a fascinating story about change and continuity and devotion to community. It is also my father’s story.

No matter how far away Ewan was, he never forgot about Donald, his beloved mother Marion, or "Maisie" whom he took to Scotland to retrace her family roots, to the needs of rural Australia. He supported the community financially, represented their interest in Canberra and wrote leaders for the "Buloke Times" as did his late brother Goff. Much to the amusement of his extended family in other parts of Australia and almost anywhere overseas, he would manage to come across people from Donald, or an association with the district.

He rubbed shoulders with leaders of all nationalities as a diplomat and trade negotiator, but was equally happy and at ease having a drink on a Sunday morning with fellow members of the SPASMS Club of Donald, or pursuing his other hobbies, mainly cricket or football. He loved hunting for bargains in the market as much as attending a classical music concert or policy forum organised by the St Thomas Moore Church in Canberra in the company of his wife Marjorie.

As my special friend Gavan observed, "It is a paradox that a man so unwaveringly wedded to his regional roots, a champion of the Polish Solidarity movement and a proud Victorian, always came across as an Australian first and foremost. In the Polish context, he was Mick Ladomirski; at home he was salt of the earth".

He embraced Marjorie's large Polish family and was an enthusiastic participant in its biennial reunions all over Poland – he seemed to get more out of these reunions than she did. He was adored and admired by all of Marjorie's Dutch, Polish and French families and was always available to help them. He just loved learning, helping and connecting.

Ewan was an enigma, a man of mystery, a man of multiple parts.

His brother, Robin, recently published a book, in which he wrote: "Though Ewan had been in Rome for three years, I'd never been able to establish exactly what his appointment entailed, so that when people asked me about him, I was always unsatisfactorily hazy. Once I'd discovered what he was up to, my very shame prevented me from telling anyone. I mean to say! It's no secret about Immigration officials. They're the no-hopers who, when a robbery, stabbing, bashing or murder anywhere in Australia features foreign offenders, 'should have had more bloody sense than to send them out here!'

“I found it safer to say he’d gone over to join the Mafia.”

That was as good a cover as any, given he was working

for the "Attorney-General's Department", screening migrants to Australia. He had been picked as one who would be suitable for the role upon his return from his scholarship year in Germany.

On his second posting in Bonn, now a Trade diplomat, Mick formed a friendship with David Cornwall, otherwise known as John le Carre, who showed him the proofs of the novel which catapulted him to fame, "The Spy who came in from the Cold", while John le Carre was still at MI6. They last exchanged letters on the occasion of their 80th birthdays, le Carre's written carefully in ink on exquisite paper.

He was introduced to Marjorie, his beloved wife of 67 years, as Mick Letts, in Canberra by a mutual friend, in the mid-1950s. She was excited to meet an Australian who spoke her mother tongue and who seemed completely attuned to her European sensibility. But it was his smile which really bowled her over, and his gallantry.

Theirs was a mixed marriage – in every sense – she, born to a Dutch mother and Polish father, with French as her mother tongue, educated as a Catholic, married him in a Presbyterian Church, which as many of you will appreciate was pretty radical at the time, but a sign of her devotion. She also found a man who worshipped on the altar of football and cricket. She never really learned to love either, but in later years would always hang out a Melbourne Football Club scarf on the door when he returned from the Club following an all too rare Melbourne victory – 2022 being a notable exception of course.

She always encouraged him to look after the women in his life. A great dancer, like all his brothers, he would often find himself being the only man available to dance with his wife and two daughters, which he always did with gusto. He had a special place in his heart for his sisters-in-law, Diana and Joyce, who remarkably, are both with us here today, and Shirley, who is with us via video link. The feeling was mutual.

We thought Ewan and his twin "Mick" would go on forever. He was a life force and seemed to be carried on by sheer optimistic energy. Stoic to the end, he did not want to leave his beloved Marjorie and family. And he still had that wonderful smile when she came to see him at the hospital not long before he passed on August 1, after a short illness.

Thank you to so many friends and family for their tributes, including Gavan, friends like Gordon Matthews and Marlies Johnson who are with us today and dear, long-



- *The late Ewan Donald Letts.*

standing Canberra friends like Jean Higgle, fellow passionate Melbourne Football Club supporter, who is joining us online wearing her Melbourne Football Scarf, and to Canberra neighbours, like Bob Brown and Mohamed and Kate Elrouby.

I have sought to weave your reflections, or the spirit of your reflections, into my remarks today.

And of course to Marjorie, his wife of 67 years, our mother, who is not able to join us here today, as the trip is simply too arduous to make. She and her oldest son, Michael, who looked after Ewan and has been looking after Marjorie at the family home in Jacka Crescent, Campbell, are with us today via the video link.

MICHAELS
OF
DONALD
bring you
Belvedere By George Crenshaw
www.belvedere-cartoons.com

3-13

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Kicking the Coffee Habit, Naturally

Love the kick from a hot cup of coffee but can’t stand the sluggish feeling that happens as the kick begins to wear off?

Researcher has shown that too much caffeine can increase the stress hormone cortisol, which may have negative effects on the body. Studies have revealed that caffeine raises the adrenal system and stays in the nervous system for approximately four to six hours, disrupting regular sleeping patterns. It has also been determined that caffeine reduces the ability of the kidneys to store magnesium, calcium, zinc and other vital minerals. Coffee has many antioxidants,

but what happens if there is more than the body can handle? Most people are aware of the adverse effects of caffeine on the body from drinking too much coffee, and that a healthier alternative is to substitute it by drinking a herbal tea. But did you know that there are also natural replacements to coffee as well, which are not only caffeine-free but also provide a refreshing taste alternative?

Dandelion coffee substitute, made from the dried,

roasted and ground roots of this humble weed, is readily available from health food stores and some supermarkets. This healthy alternative is a virtual storehouse of vitamins, minerals, enzymes, proteins and other valuable elements, making it a wholesome plant food. Taken on a regular basis, it acts as a general tonic to the body systems.

If you prefer to make your own dandelion coffee substitute, gather fresh roots in Autumn from an area that has not been affected by herbicide or insecticide spraying – these elements can become even more harmful after heating. Cut the roots into rings about two centimetres thick and dry them in the sun on drying trays – muslin cloth stretched over a timber frame will suffice. Do

not leave the Dandelion roots out overnight where they will attract moisture.

Once completely dry, roast the pieces of root in a hot oven (200°C) for 20 minutes. Reduce to granules in a coffee bean grinder or blender, and store in an airtight jar. Use in the same way as instant coffee.

For those of you who don’t have the time or desire to process the dandelion roots into coffee, it is available ready to use from health food stores.

Other natural alternatives to coffee are chicory, sunflower seeds and wattle seeds. Chicory coffee substitute can be purchased from health food stores and supermarkets. This perennial herb is a lovely plant to have growing in the garden, with tall blue stalks of flowers over most of the summer. Its



• Alan Hayes

seeds are bitter – so taste them first. If they taste sweet, dry them, grind them up and use just like instant coffee.

Visit Alan on the Net - www.itssonatural.com

Trash to Treasure

One person’s Trash is another’s Treasure!

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

YOUR THREE-DAY TV GUIDE

Tuesday

ABC (2) 6:00 News Breakfast 9:00 ABC News 10:00 Australian Story 10:30 Planet America 11:15 Britain's Great Cathedrals 12:00 ABC News 1:00 I, Jack Wright (M l,v) 1:55 Grand Designs Australia (PG) 2:55 Anh's Brush With Fame (PG) 3:25 Grand Designs (PG) 4:10 Long Lost Family (PG) 5:00 Antiques Roadshow 6:00 Spicks And Specks (PG) 6:30 Hard Quiz (PG) 7:00 ABC News 7:30 7.30 (PG) 8:00 Foreign Correspondent 8:30 Take 5 With Zan Rowe (M l) 9:00 PNG: The Road To Independence	SBS (3) 5:00 Worldwatch 9:10 Great Lighthouses Of Ireland (PG) 10:10 Curious Traveller 11:10 Susan Calman's Grand Week By The Sea 12:00 Worldwatch 2:00 World's Most Scenic River Journeys (PG) 2:55 Garage Dreams (PG) 3:25 Plat Du Tour 3:35 The Cook Up With Adam Liaw (PG) 4:05 Every Family Has A Secret (PG) 5:05 Jeopardy! (PG) 5:30 Letters And Numbers 6:00 Mastermind Australia (PG) 6:30 SBS World News 7:30 Great British Railway Journeys (PG) 8:30 Insight	PRIME (6) 6:00 Sunrise 9:00 The Morning Show (PG) 12:00 Seven Noon News 1:00 My Kitchen Rules (PG) 2:30 Border Security - International (PG) 3:00 The Chase UK (PG) 4:00 Seven News At 4 5:00 The Chase Australia (PG) 6:00 Seven News 7:00 Home And Away (PG) 7:30 My Kitchen Rules (PG) 9:10 Grosse Pointe Garden Society (M s) 10:10 The Agenda Setters 11:10 TikTok - Murder Gone Viral (M) 12:10 Pretty Hard Cases (M s,v) 1:10 Travel Oz (PG) 2:00 Home Shopping	NINE (8) 6:00 Today 9:00 Today Extra (PG) 11:30 NINE News Morning 12:00 The Block (PG) 1:15 Getaway (PG) 1:45 The Garden Gurus Moments 2:00 Pointless (PG) 3:00 Tipping Point (PG) 4:00 NINE News Afternoon 4:30 Tipping Point Australia (PG) 5:30 WIN News 6:00 NINE News 7:00 A Current Affair (PG) 7:30 The Block (PG) 8:40 Footy Classified (M l) 9:40 Athletics: World Championships Tokyo: Day 4 'Live' 11:30 La Brea (M v) 12:30 Tipping Point (PG) 1:30 Home Shopping	TEN (5) 8:30 Deal Or No Deal (PG) 9:00 Lingo (PG) 10:00 Entertainment Tonight 10:20 The Amazing Race Australia Celebrity (PG) 11:30 Judge Judy (PG) 12:00 Everyday Gourmet 12:30 Family Feud (PG) 1:00 10 News: Lunchtime 2:00 Wheel Of Fortune 2:30 Lingo (PG) 3:30 10 News: Afternoon 4:00 Neighbours (PG) 4:30 The Bold & The Beautiful (PG) 5:00 10 News 6:00 10 News Plus 7:00 Deal Or No Deal (PG) 7:30 Talkin' 'Bout Your Generation (PG) 8:30 The Cheap Seats (M l)
ABC ENTERTAINS (23) 3:35 Richard Osman's House Of Games 4:05 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 4:35 MythBusters (PG) 5:30 George Clarke's Old House New Home (PG) 6:15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent 7:05 Richard Osman's House Of Games	SBS VICE (31) 3:45 BBC News At Ten 4:15 France 24 International News 4:45 PBS News Hour 5:45 The Food That Built The World (PG) 6:35 Jeopardy! 7:25 NITV News Update 7:30 Athletics: World Championships: Day 4 'Live' 11:30 Calipari: Razor's Edge (M)	7TWO (62) 2:00 Creek To Coast 2:30 Impossible Builds (PG) 3:30 Harry's Practice 4:00 RSPCA Animal Rescue 4:30 Better Homes And Gardens 5:30 Escape To The Country 6:30 Bargain Hunt 7:30 Call The Midwife (PG) 8:45 Foyle's War (M) 10:45 The Yorkshire Vet (PG)	GEM (81) 3:00 Antiques Roadshow 3:30 Movie: "The Captive Heart" (PG) (46) Stars: Michael Redgrave 5:30 Yorkshire Auction House 6:30 Antiques Roadshow 7:30 New Tricks (M l,s,v) 8:35 Athletics: World Championships Tokyo: Day 4 'Live' 9:40 Agatha Raisin (PG)	10 COMEDY (52) 2:30 Becker (PG) 3:00 Frasier (PG) 4:00 Everyday Gourmet With Justine Schofield 4:30 The King Of Queens (PG) 5:00 Becker (PG) 5:30 Frasier (PG) 6:30 Neighbours (PG) 7:00 Friends (PG) 8:00 The Big Bang Theory (PG) 10:00 Becker (PG)
ABC FAMILY (22) 3:30 Ready, Steady, Wiggle! 4:00 Play School Science Time 4:25 Mecha Builders 5:00 Peppa Pig 5:35 Peter Rabbit 6:10 PJ Masks Power Heroes 6:30 The Adventures Of Paddington 7:00 Supertato 7:35 Ninjago Dragons Rising	SBS MOVIES (32) 4:25 Movie: "The Legend Of Longwood" (PG) ('14) Stars: Lucy Morton 6:15 Movie: "A River Runs Through It" (M) ('92) Stars: Craig Sheffer 8:30 Movie: "Hail Caesar!" (PG) ('16) Stars: Josh Brolin 10:35 Movie: "I Want You Back" (M l) ('22)	7MATE (63) 2:00 Outback Crystal Hunters (PG) 3:00 Aussie Gold Hunters (PG) 4:00 Swamp People (PG) 5:00 American Restoration (PG) 5:30 Storage Wars (PG) 6:00 American Pickers (PG) 7:00 The Agenda Setters 8:00 Outback Truckers (PG) 10:00 Outback Pilots (PG)	GO! (82) 2:00 The Golden Girls (PG) 2:30 The Nanny (PG) 3:30 Seinfeld (PG) 4:30 The Addams Family 5:00 Bewitched 5:30 I Dream Of Jeannie 6:00 The Golden Girls (PG) 6:30 The Nanny (PG) 7:30 Seinfeld (PG) 8:30 Movie: "Mad Max: Fury Road" (MA15+) ('15) Stars: Tom Hardy	10 DRAMA (53) 10:00 JAG (PG) 12:00 Days Of Our Lives (PG) 12:45 The Young And The Restless (PG) 1:30 FBI International (M v) 2:30 JAG (PG) 4:30 The Living Room (PG) 5:30 JAG (PG) 7:30 NCIS (M v) 9:25 Blue Bloods (M v) 12:15 FBI International (M v)

ABC (2) 6:00 News Breakfast 9:00 ABC News 10:00 Four Corners 11:00 Wan Kantri - The Next 50 Years 12:00 ABC News 12:30 National Press Club Address 1:35 Media Watch 1:55 Grand Designs Australia (PG) 2:50 Anh's Brush With Fame (PG) 3:20 Grand Designs (PG) 4:10 Long Lost Family (PG) 4:55 Antiques Roadshow 5:55 Spicks And Specks (PG) 6:25 Hard Quiz (PG) 7:00 ABC News 7:30 7.30 (PG) 8:00 Hard Quiz (PG) 8:30 Shaun Micallef's Eve Of Destruction (PG)	SBS (3) 10:10 North Sea Wonders - A Coastal Journey (In English/ German) 11:10 Susan Calman's Grand Week By The Sea 12:00 Worldwatch 2:00 Dateline (PG) 2:30 Insight (PG) 3:30 Living Black 50 Years Of SBS Indigenous 3:35 Plat Du Tour 3:45 The Cook Up With Adam Liaw (PG) 4:15 My Grandparents' War (PG) 5:05 Jeopardy! (PG) 5:30 Letters And Numbers 6:00 Mastermind Australia (PG) 6:30 SBS World News 7:30 James May - Our Man In India (PG) 8:30 DNA Journey (M l)	PRIME (6) 6:00 Sunrise 9:00 The Morning Show (PG) 12:00 Seven Noon News 1:00 My Kitchen Rules (PG) 2:40 Motorbike Cops (PG) 3:00 The Chase UK (PG) 4:00 Seven News At 4 5:00 The Chase Australia (PG) 6:00 Seven News 7:00 Home And Away (PG) 7:30 The 1% Club UK (PG) 8:30 The Front Bar (M l) 9:30 Unfiltered (PG) 10:30 Surveillance Oz - Dashcam (PG) 11:00 Chicago Fire (M v) 12:00 Imposters (M l,s,v) 1:00 Travel Oz (PG) 2:00 Home Shopping 4:00 NBC Today	NINE (8) 6:00 Today 9:00 Today Extra (PG) 11:30 NINE News Morning 12:00 The Block (PG) 1:00 Find My Country House Australia 2:00 Pointless (PG) 3:00 Tipping Point (PG) 4:00 NINE News Afternoon 4:30 Tipping Point Australia (PG) 5:30 WIN News 6:00 NINE News 7:00 A Current Affair (PG) 7:30 The Block (PG) 8:45 Athletics: World Championships Tokyo: Day 5 'Live' 11:30 The First 48 (M v) 12:30 Tipping Point (PG) 1:30 Home Shopping 4:00 Religious Programs	TEN (5) 9:00 Lingo (PG) 10:00 Entertainment Tonight 10:30 Talkin' 'Bout Your Generation (PG) 11:30 Judge Judy (PG) 12:00 Everyday Gourmet 12:30 Family Feud (PG) 1:00 10 News: Lunchtime 2:00 Wheel Of Fortune 2:30 Lingo (PG) 3:30 10 News: Afternoon 4:00 Neighbours (PG) 4:30 The Bold & The Beautiful (PG) 5:00 10 News 6:00 10 News Plus 7:00 Deal Or No Deal (PG) 7:30 Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly Australia (PG) 8:30 Gordon Ramsay's Secret Service (M)
ABC ENTERTAINS (23) 3:35 Richard Osman's House Of Games 4:05 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 4:40 MythBusters (PG) 5:30 George Clarke's Old House New Home (PG) 6:15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent 7:05 Richard Osman's House Of Games	SBS VICE (31) 3:10 NITV News Update 3:15 BBC News At Ten 3:45 France 24 International News 4:15 PBS News Hour 5:15 The Food That Built The World (PG) 6:05 Jeopardy! 6:55 NITV News Update 7:00 Athletics: World Championships: Day 5 'Live'	7TWO (62) 2:00 Sydney Weekender 2:30 The Yorkshire Vet (PG) 3:30 Harry's Practice 4:00 RSPCA Animal Rescue 4:30 Better Homes And Gardens 5:30 Escape To The Country 6:30 Bargain Hunt 7:30 Heartbeat (PG) 8:45 Lewis (M v) 10:45 Air Crash Investigations (PG)	GEM (81) 3:00 Antiques Roadshow 3:30 Movie: "It Shouldn't Happen To A Vet" (G) ('76) Stars: John Alderton 5:30 Yorkshire Auction House 6:30 Antiques Roadshow 7:30 As Time Goes By (PG) 8:30 Athletics: World Championships Tokyo: Day 5 'Live'	10 COMEDY (52) 2:30 Becker (PG) 3:00 Frasier (PG) 4:00 Everyday Gourmet With Justine Schofield 4:30 The King Of Queens (PG) 5:00 Becker (PG) 5:30 Frasier (PG) 6:30 Neighbours (PG) 7:00 Friends (PG) 8:00 The Big Bang Theory (PG) 10:00 Becker (PG)
ABC FAMILY (22) 3:30 Ready, Steady, Wiggle! 4:00 Play School Science Time 4:25 Mecha Builders 5:00 Peppa Pig 5:35 Peter Rabbit 6:00 Octonauts - Above And Beyond 6:30 The Adventures Of Paddington 7:05 Piripenguins 7:35 Ninjago Dragons Rising	SBS MOVIES (32) 4:50 Movie: "Where Is Anne Frank" (PG) ('21) Stars: Sebastian Croft 6:40 Movie: "Welcome Home, Roxy Carmichael" (PG) ('90) Stars: Winona Ryder 8:30 Movie: "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" (M v) ('00) Stars: George Clooney	7MATE (63) 2:00 Outback Truckers (PG) 4:00 Swamp People (PG) 5:00 American Restoration (PG) 5:30 Storage Wars (PG) 6:00 American Pickers (PG) 7:00 Pawn Stars (PG) 7:30 Highway Patrol (PG) 8:30 The Force - Behind The Line (PG) 9:30 Caught On Dashcam (M l)	GO! (82) 2:30 The Nanny (PG) 3:30 Seinfeld (PG) 4:30 The Addams Family 5:00 Bewitched 5:30 I Dream Of Jeannie 6:00 The Golden Girls (PG) 6:30 The Nanny (PG) 7:30 Seinfeld (PG) 8:30 Movie: "There's Something About Mary" (MA15+) ('98) Stars: Cameron Diaz	10 DRAMA (53) 10:00 JAG (PG) 12:00 Days Of Our Lives (PG) 12:45 The Young And The Restless (PG) 1:30 FBI International (PG) 2:30 JAG (PG) 4:30 The Living Room (PG) 5:30 JAG (PG) 7:30 NCIS (M v) 10:20 FBI International (PG) 11:15 CSI: Vegas (M v)

ABC (2) 6:00 News Breakfast 9:00 ABC News 10:00 Foreign Correspondent 10:30 Back Roads (PG) 11:00 Shaun Micallef's Eve Of Destruction (PG) 11:40 If You're Listening 12:00 ABC News 1:00 Silent Witness (PG) 2:00 Grand Designs Australia (PG) 2:55 Anh's Brush With Fame (PG) 3:25 Grand Designs (PG) 4:15 Long Lost Family (PG) 5:00 Antiques Roadshow 6:00 Spicks And Specks (PG) 6:30 Hard Quiz (PG) 7:00 ABC News 7:30 7.30 (PG) 8:00 Back Roads (PG)	SBS (3) 5:00 Worldwatch 9:10 Great Lighthouses Of Ireland (PG) 10:10 North Sea Wonders - A Coastal Journey (In English/ Dutch/ Flemish) 11:10 Susan Calman's Grand Week By The Sea 12:00 Worldwatch 2:00 Tickettyboo 3:30 Plat Du Tour 3:40 The Cook Up With Adam Liaw (PG) 4:10 My Grandparents' War (PG) 5:05 Jeopardy! (PG) 5:30 Letters And Numbers 6:00 Mastermind Australia (PG) 6:30 SBS World News 7:30 9/11 - One Day In America (M) 9:25 Snowpiercer (MA15+)	PRIME (6) 6:00 Sunrise 9:00 The Morning Show (PG) 12:00 Seven Noon News 1:00 Movie: "Killer Stepmom" (AKA 'A Stepmother's Secret') (M) ('19) Stars: Julia Terranova 3:00 The Chase UK (PG) 4:00 Seven News At 4 5:00 The Chase Australia (PG) 6:00 Seven News 7:00 Home And Away (PG) 8:30 Clarkson's Who Wants To Be A Millionaire UK (PG) 9:30 Why Bridges Collapse (PG) 10:45 What The Killer Did Next (M v) 11:45 Kick Ons 12:15 Life (M) 1:15 Travel Oz (PG) 2:00 Home Shopping	NINE (8) 6:00 Today 9:00 Today Extra (PG) 11:30 NINE News Morning 12:00 The Block (PG) 1:15 Our State On A Plate 1:45 My Way 2:00 Pointless (PG) 3:00 Tipping Point (PG) 4:00 NINE News Afternoon 4:30 Tipping Point Australia (PG) 5:30 WIN News 6:00 NINE News 7:00 A Current Affair (PG) 7:30 Athletics: World Championships Tokyo: Day 6 'Live' 11:30 Chicago Med (MA15+) 12:30 Tipping Point (PG) 1:30 Home Shopping 4:00 Religious Programs 4:30 A Current Affair (PG)	9:00 Lingo (PG) 10:00 Entertainment Tonight 10:20 The Amazing Race Australia Celebrity (PG) 11:30 Judge Judy (PG) 12:00 Everyday Gourmet 12:30 Family Feud (PG) 1:00 10 News: Lunchtime 2:00 Wheel Of Fortune 2:30 Lingo (PG) 3:30 10 News: Afternoon 4:00 Neighbours (PG) 4:30 The Bold & The Beautiful (PG) 5:00 10 News 6:00 10 News Plus 7:00 Deal Or No Deal (PG) 7:30 Gogglebox Australia (PG) 8:30 The Gilded Age (PG) 9:30 The Cheap Seats (M l)
ABC ENTERTAINS (23) 3:35 Richard Osman's House Of Games 4:00 Maggie Beer's Chef Challenge 4:40 MythBusters (PG) 5:30 George Clarke's Old House New Home (PG) 6:15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent 7:05 Richard Osman's House Of Games	SBS VICE (31) 2:30 Insight 3:30 NITV News Update 4:05 France 24 International News 4:35 PBS News Hour 5:35 Over The Black Dot 6:05 Jeopardy! 6:55 NITV News Update 7:00 Athletics: World Championships: Day 6 'Live'	7TWO (62) 2:00 South Aussie With Cosi (PG) 2:30 Air Crash Investigations (PG) 3:30 Harry's Practice 4:00 RSPCA Animal Rescue 4:30 Better Homes And Gardens 5:30 Escape To The Country 6:30 Bargain Hunt 7:30 Father Brown (M) 8:30 Line Of Duty (MA15+)	GEM (81) 1:50 NRL: National Schools Grand Final: Patrician Brothers Blacktown v Keebra Park State High School 'Live' 3:30 Movie: "She'll Have To Go" (PG) ('62) Stars: Anna Karina 5:30 Yorkshire Auction House 6:30 Antiques Roadshow 7:30 Clarkson's Farm (M l)	10 COMEDY (52) 2:30 Becker (PG) 3:00 Frasier (PG) 4:00 Everyday Gourmet With Justine Schofield 4:30 The King Of Queens (PG) 5:00 Becker (PG) 5:30 Frasier (PG) 6:30 Neighbours (PG) 7:00 Friends (PG) 8:00 The Big Bang Theory (PG) 9:30 Becker (PG)
ABC FAMILY (22) 3:30 Ready, Steady, Wiggle! 4:00 Play School Science Time 4:25 Mecha Builders 5:00 Peppa Pig 5:35 Peter Rabbit 6:00 Octonauts - Above And Beyond 6:30 The Adventures Of Paddington 7:00 Supertato 7:35 Ninjago Dragons Rising	SBS MOVIES (32) 4:35 Movie: "Hail Caesar!" (PG) ('16) Stars: Josh Brolin 6:40 Movie: "RBG" (PG) ('18) Stars: Ruth Bader Ginsburg 8:30 Movie: "A Serious Man" (M d,l,n,s) ('09) Stars: Michael Stuhlbarg 10:35 Movie: "While We're Young" (M l) ('14)	7MATE (63) 2:00 Highway Patrol (PG) 3:00 Talking W (PG) 3:30 The Force - Behind The Line (PG) 4:00 Storage Wars (PG) 5:00 American Restoration (PG) 5:30 Storage Wars (PG) 6:00 American Pickers (PG) 7:00 Pawn Stars (PG) 7:30 Family Guy (PG)	GO! (82) 2:00 The Golden Girls (PG) 2:30 The Nanny (PG) 3:30 Seinfeld (PG) 4:30 The Addams Family 5:00 Bewitched 5:30 I Dream Of Jeannie 6:00 The Golden Girls (PG) 6:30 The Nanny (PG) 7:30 Seinfeld (PG) 8:30 Movie: "RoboCop" (M v) ('14) Stars: Joel Kinnaman	10 DRAMA (53) 10:00 JAG (PG) 12:00 Days Of Our Lives (PG) 12:45 The Young And The Restless (PG) 1:30 Numb3rs (M v) 2:30 JAG (PG) 4:30 The Living Room (PG) 5:30 JAG (PG) 7:30 NCIS (M v) 10:20 Numb3rs (M v) 11:15 CSI: Vegas (M v)



Farmer Frustration Highlighted In Inaugural Farmer Survey

More than 700 Victorian farmers have had their say in the first State of the State: Victorian Farmer Priorities Survey.

Nine in ten farmers don't believe the Victorian Government understands local issues or has a positive plan to grow the industry.

Farmers have outlined increases to the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund, the state of regional roads, maintaining our biosecurity safety net and steamrolling of renewable energy infrastructure developments as the top issues across the state.

Huge Increase

Huge increases to the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund, crumbling regional roads, maintaining our biosecurity and forcing renewable energy infrastructure developments on communities topping the list of concerns in the Victorian Farmers Federation's (VFF) inaugural State of the State: Victorian Farmer Priorities Survey.

More than 700 Victorian farmers also outlined their lack of trust in the Victorian Government, with nine in ten saying they don't believe the state government understands their issues or has a positive plan to grow the \$20 billion dollar industry.

VFF President Brett Hosking said the frank results should ring alarm bells for the



Victorian Government and be a "wake up" call for genuine engagement and discussion with farmers and rural communities.

"Farmers and our regional communities have sent a blunt message that they aren't being listened to and have lost faith that our Victorian Government has their back."

"From massive increases to the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund, roads literally falling apart and communities being steamrolled in the face of renewable energy infrastructure, farmers have a lot to worry about.

"More than 92 per cent of farmers don't believe the Victorian Government understands or is even listening to the concerns of farming communities. That's a massive indictment and it must change, because they've lost the trust of these farming communities," Mr Hosking said.

Considerable Opportunity

Despite the blunt results of the survey, Mr Hosking said there remains considerable opportunity and a bright outlook for Victorian agriculture.



• Brett Hosking, VFF president.

"Victorian farmers are the best in the nation at what they do. We produce 25 per cent of Australia's food and fibre value using just 3 per cent of Australia's farmland. We employ more than 150 thousand people and contribute more than \$20 billion to Victoria's and Australia's economy.

"When we have the nation's best farmers working on the nation's best farmland, imagine what we could achieve if our Victorian and Australian governments supported our farmers to achieve even more.

"We're just over 12 months from the next state election. We want to support all sides of politics to get solutions to these issues and grow Victoria's farming future."



• Angus Gidley-Baird, senior animal proteins analyst.

Australian Beef Exports at Record-Breaking Levels

A combination of stronger global beef markets, favourable seasonal conditions in key Australian beef-producing regions and higher local cattle inventory is supporting record-breaking production volumes, according to a new research report by agribusiness banking specialist Rabobank.

Rabobank

In its Q3 2025 Global Beef Quarterly, the bank's RaboResearch division says second quarter Australian cattle slaughter numbers were up 10 per cent year-on-year (YOY) and with heavier carcass weights, this meant production volumes were up 11 per cent YOY for the quarter, setting a new record.

June was a new record volume for Australian beef exports at 134,596 tonnes shipped weight (swt), but volumes in July jumped a further 11 per cent to 150,435 tonnes swt – the highest monthly volume ever recorded.

Report lead author, RaboResearch senior animal proteins analyst Angus Gidley-Baird said export volumes for the year to the end of July were up 17 per cent, with volumes to the US up 23 per cent, China up 43 per cent and South Korea up nine per cent. Japan was one of the few markets with a contraction, down 14 per cent.

"Given current Australian cattle inventory and seasonal conditions, we believe production volumes will continue at current levels, allowing exports to maintain their strong volumes," he said.

Mr Gidley-Baird said the Australian market waits to see the impact of additional US tariffs on Brazil and whether that reduces Brazilian exports to the US and results in increased demand for Australian product.

Global Outlook

The Rabobank report said geopolitics and seasonal conditions are shaping global beef trade flows.

"Global cattle prices keep rising as global production volumes are contracting," Mr Gidley-Baird said.

"Imports from Brazil into the US were up 107 per cent compared to last year in the first half of 2025, but higher tariffs will have a material

impact on the trade between Brazil and the US," he said. "In Europe, the tight market is also attracting higher imports."

Global Prices

Global cattle prices all continued their rise through quarter two, the report said.

"Northern hemisphere countries continue to stand out at record prices," Mr Gidley-Baird said. "But prices in the US and Canada moderated in July, suggesting some of the heat is going out of the market."

Meanwhile, he said, prices in southern hemisphere countries continue to increase.

"The reduced volumes of beef in the North American market, plus what appears to be a slight improvement in the Chinese market, have generated stronger demand for southern hemisphere beef suppliers. This demand is now flowing through to cattle prices."

Production Contracting

Led by contractions in Europe, New Zealand and US, global beef production continued to decline into quarter two, with total volumes down in the first half of the year, Mr Gidley-Baird said.

"Australia and China have increased production in the first half of the year, compared to 2024.

"RaboResearch analysts believe that production is likely to continue following these trends with an overall contraction of two per cent expected for 2025."

US Tariffs and Brazil's Beef Trade

Mr Gidley-Baird said the latest round of US tariffs

included an additional 40 per cent on the already existing 10 per cent and 26.4 per cent on Brazilian beef imports.

"Brazil supplied a record volume of beef into the US in the first half of 2025 and RaboResearch believes this additional tariff will have a material impact on the trade between Brazil and the US.

"But nearly a month after the US began applying further import tariffs on Brazilian beef, shipments to the US have remained relatively stable even after the tariffs have taken effect.

"Projections of rising live cattle prices in Brazil for the second half of the year may explain the current appetite from American importers for Brazilian beef, but RaboResearch believes the volume the US imports from Brazil may drop an estimated 10,000 tonnes to 15,000 tonnes per month as we progress through the remainder of the year."

Changes in Cuts

Mr Gidley-Baird said the main challenge with declining volumes to the US lies in operational adjustments at processing plants.

"Consumers in Brazil prefer hindquarter cuts, making the export markets a valuable outlet for processors. The US is Brazil's largest buyer of trimmings, and redirecting this volume to other markets would require changes in how cuts are processed.

"Markets like China, the Middle East and Egypt have historically been major importers of forequarter cuts from Brazil."

Grower Meetings in Regional Victoria

Grain growers in Victoria are being urged to attend upcoming regional grower meetings to discuss issues around grains research and development, levy rates and reviews and the impact on growers.

The Grains R&D: Your levies, your views consultation, organised by Grain-Growers as part of its representative organisation (RO) role with the GRDC, will take place at Horsham, Warracknabeal, Swan Hill and Echuca from October 1-3.

• October 1, Horsham, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., Royal Hotel

• October 2, Warracknabeal, 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m., Warracknabeal Neighbourhood House & Learning Centre Inc.

• October 2, Swan Hill, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., Swan Hill Club.

• October 3, Echuca, 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m., Quest Echuca Apartment Hotel.

In total, meetings will be held in 18 regional centres across five states from September 2 through until October 16.

GrainGrowers CEO Shona Gawel said the meetings are an ideal opportunity for growers to consider the current situation, to put forward their thoughts on the issues and raise questions that they would like considered and answered.

Ms Gawel said in recent months there had been many discussions about grains research and development, and it was important to engage as widely as possible with growers.

"As a grower member organisation, direct engagement is in our DNA, and these meetings are designed to allow us to listen and to reflect carefully on the next steps," Ms Gawel said.

"While our members are free to contact us at any time,



• Shona Gawel, Graingrowers CEO.

growers across Australia now have multiple opportunities to come together to discuss."

"The full schedule of consultations is available via our website. For anyone unable to attend, we will be holding a virtual session at a later date to encourage the widest possible consultation."

Register at: <https://events.humanitix.com/copy-of-grains-r-and-d-your-levies-your-views-maitland-sa>



AMBULANCE PHONE NO.
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Charlton Probians Meet

The Charlton Probus Club held its monthly meeting on Friday, September 12, with 36 members and 3 guests in attendance.

The meeting began with a Minute's Silence in memory of Foundation Member Matt Donaldson, who served two terms as president and remained an active member until moving to Bendigo a few years ago. Vale Matt.

The guest speaker was Je-Anne McVicar-Williams, branch manager of the local Bendigo Bank, who spoke on the topic of Scam Awareness. Je-Anne discussed how scams are targeting people via mobile

phones, Facebook, Instagram, and other platforms. She recommended helpful resources such as ScamWatch and The Little Book of Scams.

Warning Signs

She outlined key warning signs of scams and stressed the importance of acting quickly if you believe you have been scammed. Je-Anne also clarified that if the Bank contacts you, it will ask for your verbal password, not

other sensitive details. She answered numerous questions from members and reminded us to protect ourselves from scams just as we do our homes – with vigilance and preparation, like insurance.

Outings officer Sandra reported on a successful carpet bowls outing. Gill Gretgrix gave a two-minute talk encouraging members to be proactive about the temporary closure of our Shire Hall. Garry Larmour provided some

light-hearted entertainment with his jokes.

Congratulations to Pat Mathews for winning the footy tipping competition with 143 picks. Runners-up were Pat Clifford and Pam Rosewall on 141. The Lucky Number Winner was Wendy Vandenelst.

Finally, Deb Cleary fittingly read the Travellers' Farewell, as she and Ray prepare to move to Kerang. We wish them all the best in their new chapter.



• Guest Speaker Je-Anne McVicar-Williams is thanked on behalf of the club, by Sandra Patton.



• The meeting was well attended.

Wycheproof Seniors Share Food and Friendship

As the Victorian Seniors Festival gets set to roll out across the state this October, it's the perfect moment to shine a light on a local group who truly live the 2025 festival theme of Connect, Create, Celebrate.

The Wycheproof Senior Citizens Club recently gathered for its monthly luncheon, with the local clubrooms buzzing over plates of hearty corned beef (or silverside, as many fondly call it), mashed potatoes, and a spread of vegetables, alongside sweet treats to follow. Add in steaming

cups of tea and coffee, and the real magic ingredient, plenty of laughter and good conversation, and you have the recipe for an ideal luncheon experience on Broadway in Wycheproof.

As one happy attendee summed it up: "Our Wyche

community spirit is always on the menu here."

While numbers in rural towns may be smaller than they once were, the resilience and heart of the Buloke community was shining brighter than ever in Wycheproof. A constant strength is the way volunteers rally together to

support good causes and ensure occasions like this remain a highlight for local seniors.

This month's luncheon was generously hosted by the St Michael's Catholic Ladies, who may be small in number, yet are certainly big in heart. Volunteers not only cooked up a delicious feast but also channelled some of the day's proceeds to Assisi Aid Projects, an organisation providing economic support for women and

their communities across the Asia-Pacific region and will use remaining funds to support local level Wycheproof initiatives.

A big thank you was extended to everyone who lent a hand, from kitchen helpers to menu planners and those who quietly contributed behind the scenes. And, most importantly, to the Senior Citizens themselves – the elder statesmen and women of Wycheproof –

many who have given so much of their time and energy to community service over the years. If anyone deserves to sit back, relax, and enjoy a beautiful lunch, it's this remarkable group.

Here's to many more shared meals, stories, and monthly senior citizens gathering still to come.

For more information on the Victorian Seniors Festival visit: www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au

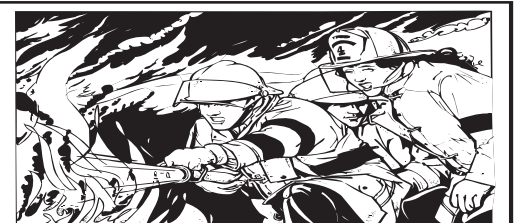


• Table talk was made brighter with wattle and words. National Wattle Day was recognised during the lunch via individual printed placements positioned at each table setting, featuring a "Words of Gratitude" verse. Text included: Words of Gratitude – We give thanks for the gift of friendship, for the warmth of the Wycheproof community, and for the kindness shared among us. May today's gathering and shared meal, remind us of the joy in simple moments, the strength we find in one another, and the blessings of laughter, love, and care.



• Proof that good company and a hearty lunch are the real secret to staying young at heart. Wycheproof's finest enjoying a fabulous get-together. Pictured left to right, a snapshot section of members: Marie Harrison (obscured), Win Tunstall (obscured, back to camera), Diane McNaughton (on mic), Sheila Powell (obscured, back to camera), Clare Keane, Ian Marquis, Will Russ (behind florals).

To call the
Fire Brigade
Ring
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New Season for Donald Bowls

Donald Bowling Club opened its 2025/26 season with significant numbers for their first organised game for the season. Ideal weather conditions enabled an enjoyable game on an excellent green.

The season was opened by president, Alison McEwen, and secretary/treasurer Ian McEwen. Alison welcomed all the players and family members who were present, extending a special welcome to visitor, Mrs Margaret Flagg, visiting family from Wagga Wagga.

A minute's silence was held in remembrance of three club members who have passed on in the past months: Peter Kelly, Jack Collins, and Graeme Davidson.

Alison thanked the members who assisted in the preparation of the green and the improvements in the grounds, namely the work on the leaking concrete tank –

leaked stopped by installing a new tank. Thank you, Norm Hollis, John Howley and Bill Hegarty and all who prepared the grounds and club house for the opening.

Alison encouraged everyone to look forward to enjoying the new season, with emphasis on sportsmanship, friendship, and community as well as being competitive.

Ev Adams was presented, belatedly, her certificate for being the most valued player for Division 2 for last season.

Wishing everyone good bowling and enjoyment, Alison declared the Donald Bowling Club's 2025/26 season officially open. Alison threw the first kitty and Ian

bowled the first bowl.

The winners on the day, having won all three games of Triples, were David Romeo, skipper, Joan Wood, second and Max Harris, lead. Max was warmly welcomed back after missing two seasons for health reasons.

Next Saturday, a practice match will be played against Nyah Bowls Club.

Barbecue lunch 11.45 a.m., roll up 12.45 p.m. for 1.00 p.m. start. Afternoon tea will be served after 13 ends.

Names in by Wednesday, 4.00 p.m. to Marg Kelly, 040002236.

New players are always welcome.

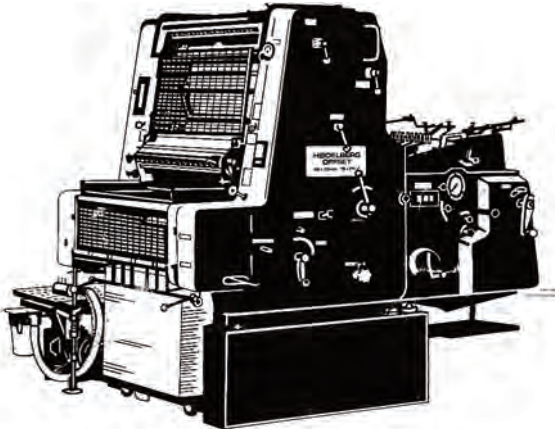


• The winning team from left: David Romeo, Joan Wood, and Max Harris.

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• Bill Hegarty and Kevin Adamson enjoying a moment while skipping their teams.



• Ian and Alison McEwen opening Donald Bowling Club season.

Nita Runs First Hoop

The Charlton Croquet Club officially opened its 2025-26 season on Thursday, September, 4.

President Lindsay Patullo warmly welcomed everyone and wished all members a successful and enjoyable season ahead.

A special highlight of the day was Nita Perry, who recently celebrated her 90th birthday, being invited to run the first hoop – a task she performed with great skill and grace.

Golf Croquet members enjoyed two friendly games, while

Association players explored a new and engaging format called Kingball.

Following two hours of fun and friendly competition, the day concluded with a delightful afternoon tea shared among members.

Here's to a fantastic season of croquet at Charlton!



• Charlton Croquet members watching Nita Perry doing the run of the first hoop.

A Very Big Weekend For Sport:

The weather turned it on for Donald and District’s first race meeting for the 2025/26 season, drawing a hearty crowd to the track to celebrate spring racing in the country.

While many were over at Wedderburn for the winter sport grand finals, some attended the warm afternoon at Donald and District Race Club with sporting club celebrations; some with kids in tow, having a family fun day out; others just soaked up the sunshine and the friendly atmosphere of a quality country race meeting.

Trackside was spotted a rowdy group of racegoers, who, let’s face it, were pretty easy to spot. These guys were clearly there to party and didn’t necessarily need one of them to be wearing the same jumper as Peter Hibberd as an icebreaker; we were going to approach them anyway.

Footballers from the Newbridge Club were not there to close out their season, but rather to send off their friend Donald, who is moving to Canada to work on the ski slopes of Mount Harper. So they brought Donald to the Donald races for his “going away” party and by all accounts had a great afternoon, with the safety of a van and driver to return them home at the end of their celebrations.

Donald Debuts

“Chat GTPete” had a list of much-needed racing information ready for me upon my

arrival at the track, including a list of jockeys racing at Donald for the first time: Liam Riordan, Carleen Hefel, Cian MacRedmond, Dylan Dean, Zoe Waller, Chelsea Taylor, Ryan Hurdle, Melea Castle, Bailey Kinninmont, and Jade Smith.

These first-timers to Donald had some success on the day, with Liam Riordan winning twice; Ryan Hurdle had a win and two third placings; Carleen Hefel had two second placings; Dylan Dean had a second and third; Cian MacRedmond had a second placing; and Jade Smith gained third place in the final race.

Jade Smith was of particular interest at the young age of 18 years; she is still completing Year 12 at Stawell Secondary College. Her teachers and principal are said to be incredibly supportive of Jade’s interests, showing up in full force to cheer her on her first ride at Warracknabeal recently, where she won the Sheep Hills Cup riding Spylark from father Dane Smith’s training stable.

Jade has attended jumpouts at Donald before, and enjoyed being on a familiar track on Saturday. Though it was not as exciting

as her debut, she achieved a third placing in the last race.

It is of no wonder that Jade is taking to race riding like the proverbial duck to water, with generations of racing enthusiasts in her family, starting with her trainer parents, Dane and Heidi Smith. Not only have they been involved with racing since their early teens, Heidi is the daughter of Bruce Blenheim, who trained the famous harness racer, Night Pistol, winning 15 races with him before his transfer to the Manning stable. He then went on to be one of Victoria’s top trotters.

Heidi was only too proud of Jade’s achievements on the track so far, stating that compared to other teenage girls these days who might argue with their parents over social outings and boys, Dane and Jade tend to argue over horses instead. No doubt, her passion will take her far in the industry and we all look forward to seeing her career progress following her high school graduation this year.

Results

The first race was the Pacific Solutions Maiden Plate over 1200 metres. First time racing at Donald, Liam Riordan rode the favourite Centu Cavaddi to victory in its first race start, trained by Trent

Busutin and Natalie Young. A late burst of speed overtook Bakersbend in second place by a head and neck, ridden by Jack Hill. A length back and paying \$8.90 for third place was the front runner, Zamora ridden by Dylan Dean.

The second maiden was run over 1350 metres, sponsored by Russ Studio Jewellers. Bangalow Road, trained by Thomas Sadler and ridden by Rhys McLeod, maintained a very good position throughout the run, challenging along the straight to win by two lengths. A photo decided the second and third place getters, with front runner No One Else ridden by Jarrod Fry awarded second place and Tarcoola Belle ridden by Jack Hill gaining third. In fourth place, Testy Nic.

The Michaels of Donald Maiden Plate over 1620 metres was won by the clear favourites in leading positions. The Mitchell Freedman-trained Oraqua, ridden by Jarrod Fry, drove through the middle of the pack with 200 metres to go, winning comfortably by four-and-a-half lengths. In second place, Emperor Tzu ridden by Carleen Hefel, with three lengths separating third and fourth place getters, Madesian ridden by Ryan Hurdle, and Dharam Shalaa ridden by Will Price, respectively.



• The RM Williams jumper icebreaker, Peter Hibberd (left) with William Daly.

The track was racing well and was upgraded from a Good 4 to a Good 3 following race 3, with no evident pattern or bias. Donald Motor Lodge-sponsored fourth race, the 0-56 Handicap over 1620 metres, produced one of the closest finishes of the day, with head and neck margins between the first four. There was a late betting change with the scratching of the early favourite, Hey Bella, and support turned to Chesapeake Babe with a \$3 starting price. Almost in a straight line at the post and after a photo decider, first place was awarded to Ripper, trained by Paul Preusker and ridden by Campbell Rawiller. A head behind in second was front runner, Bookman, ridden by Dylan Dean. In third place, Bow Ribbon ridden by Ryan Hurdle, with the favourite in fourth, Chesapeake Babe.

The distance race sponsored by Goldacres was the BM56 Handicap over 2200 metres. Long shot Kelly Ann set a cracking pace, but dropped out of the bunch at the home turn, allowing those running behind to take a wider course and challenge along the outside of the straight. First and second place were decided by a photo with Larryoctane ridden by Liam Riordan and trained by Luke Oliver winning by a head margin over Space Equity ridden by Carleen Hefel. A length behind the first two place getters a photo also decided third and fourth positions with Smokin’ Rohie ridden by Tom Madden awarded third and Larsen Bay in fourth.

In the Bet365 Bet Boost 0-56 Handicap over 1350 metres, the heavily supported Count Ida trained by Michael Jones and ridden by Ryan Hurdle was one of the first out of the gates, settling into a leading position on the inside. Leaving the challenge a little too late, Hidden Witness ridden by Cian MacRedmond put

on a burst of speed with two hundred metres to go, and barely half a length behind, gained second place. The Lucy Boyd trained and ridden Quizlet came in third place with Game Theory taking fourth.

The final race of the day, the Donald Steel Metaland 0-56 Handicap over 1200 metres was run at a cracking pace. Paying \$7.60 for the win, Air-clash trained by Jarrod Robinson and ridden by Chelsea Jokic took the lead at the 200 metre mark and ran strongly for home to win by over four lengths. In second place came the favourite Whitson, ridden by Jarrod Fry, with one of the front runners, Zuetoro, a length back, ridden by Jade Smith, staying well after a big run to take third position.

Coming Up

Manangatang Cup: \$40,000 prize money, Saturday, October 11.

St Arnaud Cup: \$30,000 prize money, Saturday, October 25.

Mt Wycheproof Cup: \$25,000 prize money, Saturday, November 1.

Donald Cup: \$70,000, Sunday, November 16.

Club News

The new ticket booth at the Donald and District Racing Club looks fantastic, vastly improving the look of the entrance into the grounds in readiness for the upcoming cup on November 16.

The club urges the public to get their cup bookings in early as tickets are selling fast, particularly the “Views Package” in the clubhouse, so don’t miss out.

Additionally, with the start of the new season comes the time for membership renewals, and new members will be warmly welcomed. At a reasonable cost of \$50 per year and \$80 for doubles, it is well worth supporting your local racing club which supports so many in your community.



• One of the best finishes of the day. On the inside, Ripper, ridden by Campbell Rawiller defeats Bookman, ridden by Dylan Dean and on the outside, Bow Ribbon ridden by Ryan Hurdle. Hidden in the middle, Chesapeake Babe in a four-way photo.



• Jockey Liam Riordan urges Larryoctane to a narrow win, defeating Space Equity ridden by Carleen Hefel. This completed a riding double for Liam, who was racing at Donald for the first time in his career. (Photos by Peter Hibberd.)

This was Donald's Race Meeting



• Trainer and barrier operator Dane Smith with jockey daughter Jade Smith and assistant trainer/mum Heidi Smith.



• The flash new entrance and ticket booth at Donald Racecourse.



• Trying to contain these Newbridge footballers to get their names for the caption was like trying to corral kittens We did our best though, left to right: Corey Holland, Donald Cerrone, Vincent Simpson, Ash Mayo, Laurie Duckworth, Jack Murray, Theodore Mosby, Dan Hooker, Brody McDowell, Riley Petrascu. Kneeling front: Nathan Cordell, William Daly, Braden Stewart and Tyler James.



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Four Hockey Premierships Decided:

Under-12 Calder United v Birchip-Watchem

Calder United was first to attack, wasting no time in stating its purpose. Ryder Harrison fired a ripping shot early, but it went just wide. Birchip-Watchem responded quickly, a strong 16-yard clearance finding its way into attack where Oscar Sharp broke through the Lions' defence to score ten minutes in. Oscar nearly doubled the lead soon after, only to be denied by a timely kick from Lions' keeper Riley Beattie.

Calder United kept pressing through Ryder, Ollie White, and Ashton Wright, but the Bulls' defenders and keeper stood firm. The Bulls controlled much of the remainder of the half, though it was still just a single goal separating the sides at the break.

The second half was more even, both teams earning penalty corners but unable to convert. Calder came close through Arlee Hogan and Dean Bennett, while Birchip-Watchem threatened again via Des Coffey and Denley Tyler. Calder threw everything forward in the final minutes, but the Bulls held on grimly to preserve their 1-0 lead and claim the premiership.

Underage Charlton v St Arnaud

The Saints were first into attack, but Charlton's Jordan Chamberlain and Rhys Gahan scrambled well to deny an early goal. From there, Charlton began to turn the tide — Amali Fitzpatrick drove the ball forward with purpose, setting up repeated attacking opportunities. After a frantic scramble when the ball spilled loose, Toby Bourke pounced to slot home the opener for the Navies eight minutes in. St Arnaud nearly equalised through Ned Ezard, who carried the ball all the way into the D, but Charlton held firm to take a 1-0 lead into half-time.

After the break, Charlton started Darcy Olive in a symbolic gesture, allowing him a brief touch despite his broken collarbone. He soon came off the field to loud applause from the Charlton supporters. Charlton pressed hard and Forbes Kirk was quick, absorbing three successive shots rising from the ground to block each one. The Saints lifted late, with Amelia Watts equalising from close range with just eight minutes remaining. Both teams pushed harder in the dying minutes — the Saints forced a string of penalty corners, but Charlton keeper held strong, and the 1-1 score remained at full time.

The shootout brought the contest to its sharpest point. Charlton sent in Rosie, Murphy, and Amali Fitzpatrick, joined by Toby Bourke and Jordan Chamberlain, with Rhys Gahan guarding the net. Saints countered with Jesse James, Sam Greenaway, Lewis Lowe, Duncan Kirk, and Ned Ezard. Both goalkeepers were outstanding, keeping the scores close, until

Lewis Lowe calmly converted which was enough to seal the premiership for the Saints. Best in finals were Amali Fitzpatrick and Duncan Kirk.

Women's St Arnaud v Calder United

The opening quarter saw Calder United press early, earning a penalty corner within the first three minutes of play. The Saints' defenders did their job, and they soon found their rhythm, as both sides earned short corners but were unable to convert. Brylea Knight was lively for Saints, while Calder's defenders, led by Sue-Anne Beattie, stayed composed. The nil-all deadlock stretched into half-time, with neither team giving an inch. The half-time talk was intense.

Two minutes into the third quarter, Kate Gifford finally broke through for the Lions, lifting the crowd. They continued to attack strongly, winning corners and forcing several shots, but the Saints' backline, Sophie Male and Nicola Kirk, held firm. A good run of play for Calder saw Sarah Botheras at the end of the chain. No score that time, but Morgan Beattie scooped the ball up before it crossed halfway and fired it back into contention. The scare was enough to spur the Saints into action, and they began to attack with intent.

The crowd stepped the noise up and the players responded. The bouncy field claimed a few scalps along the way, and a solo run from Querida Pearse was only just thwarted by Calder's Keely Allan. Saints continued to press. Kate Gifford took a knock to the hand and came off, and the Saints scrambled to take advantage of the personnel change. Eventually, Johanna Meagher pounced to equalise late in the third quarter.

With 11 minutes to go, Saints earned a short corner. A hard ball went to the post and found Priya Coatsworth, but it had too much momentum and rebounded wide.

The final minutes were very physical, with both sides desperate to find a winner. At one apiece at full time, the premiership came down to a shootout.

Saints lined up with Brylea Knight, Querida Pearse, Georgia Douglas, Johanna Meagher and Addison Wright, with Sophie Male in goals. Calder countered with Sue-Anne Beattie in goal, and Tanya Goddard, Kate Gifford, Sarah Botheras, Mary-Anne Pollard and Laura Harrison stepping up.

Sarah Botheras and Mary-Anne Pollard both converted their chances, and that was enough to secure the premiership for Calder United.

Best in finals was awarded to Calder United's Sarah Botheras.

Men's Calder United v St Arnaud

The men's final was fierce from the outset, St Arnaud

• Continued on page 15



• Denley Tyler, Sammy Ferrier, Oscar Sharp, River Ryan and Des Coffey celebrate their win in the Under-12s hockey. (Photo Blake Lee.)



• Men's Premiership winners, Calder United Lions: back row from left: Marcus Williamson, Angus Connolly, James Ison, Nick Rowley, Ben Williamson, Matthew Hall, Will Ison, James Paley, Xavier McKersie. Front: Padraic Eccles, Max Rowley, William Walker, Corey Harrison, Jacob Harrison, Mitchell Coatsworth, Brett MacDonald (coach), and Jacob Moresi.



• Underage Best in finals winners Duncan Kirk (St Arnaud) and Amali Fitzpatrick (Charlton) with NCHA Life Member, Glendon Rusk.

Two Wins to Calder United Lions

• Continued from page 14

moving quickly through the middle while Calder earned the first short corner, only for the shot to fly high. Both sides struggled with the bounce of the field, passes skidding or hopping away, leaving much of the play scrappy and physical. Xavier McKersie and Edward Parry both spent time off after infringements.

The second quarter lifted in pace, Calder United pressing hard and forcing repeated saves from St Arnaud's Sam Cook. The Saints tried to counter with long, hard hits but couldn't build their usual passing game. By half-time it was still 0-0.

The third quarter was equally tight, Ben Greenaway solid in the midfield for St Arnaud using his aerial to good effect, while Thomas Watts was dangerous in transition. Chances came at both ends, but no clean finish was found.

The crowd swelled and lifted with the football final over, and the last term was played with desperation. The Lions pressed but grew frustrated tempers starting to flare, while St Arnaud's composure created late chances, including a penalty corner with two minutes left, only to be shut down.

With no score after four quarters, the match went to a shootout, just as it had in the second semi-final. Calder United lined up Ben Williamson, Paddy Eccles, Max Rowland, Nick Rowland and James Paley, with Will Ison in goals. St Arnaud answered with keeper Sam Cook, Joe Watts, Hamish Pearse, Thomas Watts, Ben Greenaway and Edward Parry. In the end, Calder United converted enough, clinching the premiership.

Best on ground was awarded to St Arnaud's Ben Greenaway.



• Under-12s Premiers, Birchip-Watchem Bulls: back row from left, Addison Hamilton, Sadie Bourke, Ivy Bourke, Jude McLoughlan, Tim McClelland, Ryan Goss, Jett Hinds, Denley Tyler, Greta McClelland. Sammy Ferrier, Zayvier Saggars, River Ryan, Lucy Coffey, Des Coffey, Grace McAuliffe, Milla Haslam, Jakoby Saggars, Oscar Sharp.



• Men's Best in finals, St Arnaud's Ben Greenaway.



• Underage Premiers, St Arnaud Saints: back row from left, Maeve Patton, Lewis Lowe, Amelia Watts, Sami Weir, Mara Reynolds, Finn Evans, Zach Green, Finn Green, Duncan Kirk and Coach Nicola Kirk. Front, Betty Batters, Samuel Greenaway, Isabella Bigmore, Ned Ezard, Brisbane Neilson, and Jesse James. Goalkeeper, Forbes Kirk in front.



• Women's Best in finals, Sarah Botheras (Calder United) and NCHA Life Member, Claire Phylind.



• Women's Premiers, Calder United Lions: back row from left, Priya Coatsworth, Ruby Ison, Coach Corey Harrison, Rebecca Botheras, Laura Harrison, Kiarah Browne, Tanya Goddard, Sandy Pollington, Mckellar Knights, Sue-Anne Beattie. Front: Sarah Plowright, Morgan Beattie, Phoebe Paley, Rebecca Botheras, Cassie Pardella, Keely Allan, Mary-Anne Pollard and Kate Gifford.



• 2025 Reserves Premiers Calder United Lions: back row from left, Darcy Munro, Cody Green, Zac Kelly, Jack Morrison, Tom Trewin, Rowan Jones, Brett Barker, Spencer Allan and James Ison. Middle Row: Rhyllie Botheras, Charlotte Botheras (child), Tommy Turner (child), Joel Turner, Tom Bickley, Brett Barker, Dan Murray and George Forrester. Front Row: Tiger Vearing, Heath Senior, Hunter Connolly, Angus Forrester, Sol Kelly, Billy Forrester, Les Cooper and Dane McLennan.

Lions Roar in Reserves Grand Final

Calder United stamped its authority on the reserves grand final in its first season as a merged club, outclassing Birchip-Watchem in front of a record crowd on a perfect day for football at Donaldson Park.

The Lions burst out of the blocks with the aid of the breeze, capitalising on the scoreboard from the outset. Hunter Connolly had the first two scoring shots, scoring a major from the boundary on his second attempt, then Darcy Munroe followed with two of his own, and the signs looked ominous for the Bulls.

Connor Lee, Ty Colbert and Bodie Colbert combined in the midfield to give Birchip-Watchem some drive,

but goals were alluding the Bulls, with Stefan Pye adding two behinds. Down back, Alex Noonan worked tirelessly, but Calder United's slick ball movement and precision kicking cut through the Bulls' defence, with Heath Senior adding another before Connolly slotted his third on the quarter-time siren. The Lions finished the quarter ahead 5.4 (34) to 0.2 (2).

At the huddle, coach Jake Noonan urged his Bulls to

take pride in their possessions and his charges responded. James Lindeback set up a passage of play out of defence that ended with Joe Reid snapping their first from a kick outside 50 and then George Addis kicked a goal to get the crowd back involved.

Lochlan Sirett and Tom Trewin were fighting it out in the ruck and the Bulls looked to be lifting, but Joel Turner took control around the contest and Calder struck back

swiftly through Connolly once more.

Despite the efforts of Matt Rickard and Lindeback in defence, the Bulls couldn't get reward for their efforts and four consecutive behinds only added to their frustration. Even after Riley Hogan was awarded a 50-metre penalty, the Bulls still couldn't score a goal, and Calder made them pay.

Zac Kelly earned a free, drew a 50, and Heath Senior slotted a goal on the siren and at the main break, Calder United held a commanding 7.8 (50) to 2.2 (14) lead.

The Lions' midfield continued to dominate in the third term, and George Forrester used his pace on the

wing to get the ball quickly into their dominant forwards. Connolly goaled early and their relentless pressure kept the Bulls under the pump, with Senior and Tiger Vearing adding further majors.

Birchip-Watchem refused to lie down though, and Stefan Pye tried to provide a spark. Callum Goode was getting plenty of it deep forward, but Tyson Wiantara's miss from point-blank range summed up their day. He did redeem himself shortly after kicking a goal and late in the quarter, Jack Lee converted after strong defensive work from Edelstein and Lindeback, but the Bulls still trailed heavily, 4.4 (28) to 10.10 (70) at the last change.

The first half of the final term was all Calder. Dane McLennan won the clearances, Senior and Connolly kept the scoreboard ticking, and Cody Green chimed in with two goals as the Lions ran rampant.

The Bulls rallied in patches, with George Addis back in the ruck and Pye and Hogan scrapping to the end. Connor Lee, Jack Lee and Connor Boyle combined out of the centre but attempts to score went unrewarded. Alex Noonan was working hard in the backline to repel it forward, and Matthew Berry finally broke the shackles of Spencer Allan to score. Callum Goode also kicked a late goal to add some credibility to

• Continued on page 16



• Brothers George, Angus and Billy Forrester.



• Stefan Pye is under pressure from Calder's Joel Turner as he gets the hands out. (Photo by Blake Lee.)



• Calder United reserves break through their banner. (Photos by Blake Lee.)



• Reserves Best on Ground: Hunter Connolly, Calder United.

• **Continued on page 16**
the Bulls' score line, but it was never enough.

Calder United Lions, in just their first year together as a merged Wycheproof-Narraport and Nullawil team, were simply too polished and too quick, recording an impressive 14.10 (94) to 9.7 (61) victory.

Best players for Calder United: Hunter Connolly, Joel

Turner, Dane McLennan, Billy Forrester, Zac Kelly, Heath Senior.

For Birchip-Watchem: Riley Hogan Jr, Stefan Pye, Jack Lee, Lochlan Sirett, James Lindeback.

• **Pictured right:** Birchip-Watchem's Riley Hogan gets boot to ball watched on by Bulls' Ty Colbert and Calder United's Daniel Murray.



• The Bulls' James Lindeback applies a tackle to Lions' Dane McLennan, at left is Bulls' Bill Lee.





• Two angles of a hanger by Calder United's Dale Pearce. At ground level are Bulls' Ben Lakin, Laclan Ryan and Jake Noonan. —Photos by Jason Smith and David Letts.

Classic Calder Combine in Historic Grand Final Win

• Continued from page 19.
forward creating a loose player. Still plenty of time if the Bulls were good enough, 15 minutes to go.
The Lions knuckled down, locked on to any running Bull, contest after contest, Bulls couldn't get free air, Lions desperate and ferocious, Bulls same, the contest just giving and giving, clock ticking down. Edwards grabbed a mark 50 metres out but didn't make the distance, then another, same result, oh it was some game, stakes couldn't

be higher, players spent but still giving.
Then Smith took the game to heights it hadn't been with the most spectacular leap and contested grab right in front of the big crowd. Touched the clouds he did. Quite unbelievable and he was having an unbelievable second half, it was his across the park running that had got them back into the contest and then in front. Just when you thought the game couldn't go any higher, it had. Phew, an absolute blockbuster.

Still the Bulls attacked, still the Lions held out, the ball continually in the Bulls' front half but no cigars. Clock past 24 minutes, it couldn't go much longer and didn't. Lions home in one of the best grand finals of all time. Sensational match, there can be only one winner and Calder United had landed a heralded result in their first season. Just unreal, wild scenes enveloped Donaldson Park as their ecstatic supporters stormed the pitch to celebrate their milestone victory with players. It had

been epic, no other word for it.
The Bulls endured another narrow grand final loss, no shame, they had played their hearts out, they are a proud strong club and will bounce back hard have no doubt, Coach Connick was philosophical after the game and announced that he would lead the club in 2026.
Calder United was simply magnificent, bounced back after a slow start and delivered. The Lions had significant talent across every line rewarding

their big recruiting program and completed the fairytale result for ebullient supporters.
Final score: Calder United 11.14 (80) d. Birchip-Watchem 10.10 (70).
Best players for Calder United: Steve Kennedy, Zac

Caccaviello, Kobe Lloyd, Rylee Smith, Koby Hommelhoff.
For Birchip-Watchem: Ben Lakin, Meyrick Buchanan, Ben Edwards, Nick Rippon, Hamish Hosking, Lach Ryan.



• Rookie of the Year: Boort's Lachlan Hall.



• Birchip-Watchem's Ben Lakin gets the hands out under Calder United's Boe Bish.

Goldacres North-Central Football League Grand Final Results

Gate at Wedderburn \$45,838

GOLDACRES SENIORS

CALDER UNITED	3.2	5.5	10.9	11.14	(80)
BIRCHIP-WATCHEM ...	5.3	7.5	8.7	10.10	(70)

Goals for Calder United: Zane Keighran 2, Steven Kennedy 2, Rylee Smith 2, Rick Allan, Mitch Farmer, Kobe Lloyd, Dale Pearce, Matthew Wade.
For Birchip-Watchem: Ben Edwards 5, Tom Gibson 2, Meyrick Buchanan, Lachy Foott, Marshall Rippon.
Best for Calder United: Steven Kennedy (Des Darcy Memorial Medal), Zachary Caccaviello (AFLCV Medal), Kobe Lloyd, Rylee Smith, Koby Hommelhoff, Daniel Watts.
For Birchip-Watchem: Ben Lakin, Meyrick Buchanan, Ben Edwards, Nicholas Rippon, Hamish Hosking, Lachlan Ryan.

HAEUSLER'S RESERVES

CALDER UNITED	5.4	7.8	10.10	14.11	(95)
BIRCHIP-WATCHEM ...	0.2	2.2	4.4	9.7	(61)

Goals for Calder United: Hunter Connolly 5, Heath Senior 4, Cody Green 2, Darcy Munro 2, Tiger Vearing.
For Birchip-Watchem: George Addis, Matthew Berry, Callum Goode, Riley Hogan Jr, Jack Lee, Stefan Pye, Joseph Reid, Tison Wiantara.
Best for Calder United: Hunter Connolly (AFLCV Medal), Joel Turner, Dane McLennan, Billy Forrester, Zac Kelly, Heath Senior.
For Birchip-Watchem: Riley Hogan Jr, Stefan Pye, Jack Lee, Lochlan Sirett, James Lindeback.

COMMUNITY BANK CHARLTON & DISTRICT UNDER-SEVENTEENS

SEA LAKE-NANDALY.	2.2	4.5	8.7	10.7	(67)
BOORT	0.1	3.1	5.1	7.2	(44)

Goals for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Ryder Newick 4, Angus Renney 2, Nate McClelland, Cruz O'Sullivan, Hugo Warne, Coby Wight.
For Boort: Brodie McPherson 4, Cooper Gooding, Seth Muller, Flynn O'Rourke.
Best for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Judd Durie (AFLCV Medal), Ryder Newick, Cruz O'Sullivan, Nate McClelland, Hugo Warne, Cooper Symes.
For Boort: Cooper Gooding, Brodie McPherson, Luke Boyd, Rylan Chislett, Riley Wagner, Jake O'Flaherty.

UNITING CHURCH UNDER-FOURTEENS

ST ARNAUD	3.2	5.4	9.5	12.8	(80)
BOORT	0.2	2.2	2.3	2.5	(17)

Goals for St Arnaud: Finn Wilson 6, Charlie Baldwin 2, Isaac Johns 2, Arley Reyne, Jack Wait.
For Boort: Noah Howe, Connor McNally.
Best for St Arnaud: Finn Wilson (AFLCV Medal), Duncan Kirk, Samuel Greenaway, Chase Hendy, Patrick Zsigmond, Jesse James.
For Boort: Archer Lee, Tristan Broad, Noah Howe, Luca Lanyon, Connor McNally, Seth Muller.

HOCKEY

Women: Calder United 3 d. St Arnaud 1.
Best: Sarah Botheras (Calder United)
Men: Calder United 3 d. St Arnaud 1.
Best: Ben Greenaway (St. Arnaud).
Underage: St Arnaud 2 d. Charlton 1.
Best: Female, Amali Fitzpatrick (Charlton); male, Duncan Kirk (St. Arnaud)
Under-12: Birchip-Watchem 1 d. Calder United 0.

NETBALL

"A" grade: Wedderburn 46 d. Sea Lake-Nan 38.
Best: Gabby Munari (Sea Lake-Nandaly).
"B" grade: Wedderburn 51 d. Calder United 30.
Best: Aliza Lockhart (Wedderburn).
"C" grade: Calder United 46 d. Wedderburn 43.
Best: Stephnanie Cooper (Calder United).
"C" grade reserves: Boort 48 d. Calder United 20.
Best: Sophie Gilmore (Boort).
Under-17 "A": Calder United 51 d. Birchip-Watchem 47.
Best: Jessie Fawcett (Calder United).
Under-14 "A": Boort 22 d. Donald 18.
Best: Victoria Lanyon (Boort).
Under-14 "B": St. Arnaud 25 d. Birchip-Watchem 14.
Best: Jaylah Campbell (St. Arnaud).



• An aerial view of Saturday's grand finals at Wedderburn's Donaldson Park.

Classic Calder Combine in Historic Grand Final Win



• Des Darcy medal for Best on Ground, Steve Kennedy, Calder United.



• AFLCV Medal winner, Calder United's Zac Caccaviello.

• Continued from page 20.

Bulls had been ferocious, winning the contests with their pressure and their outside speed from down back, hurting the Lions on the rebound. Captain Dale Hinkley was intercepting everything that came in and then driving it forward with aplomb. Not to be outdone, president Rick roaming hard and far across half forward, with a good strike, got his Lions off to a perfect start within 5 minutes before Edwards with a miracle banana kick, off a step using all his guile slotted the impossible. It was a Hail Mary before the dangerous forward Mitch Farmer replied almost instantly. This was developing into all time classic, despite the intense pressure being applied, unreal skills were present, Zac Caccaviello across half-back active and busy mopping up the many contested balls as they hit the ground to repel the Bulls' many forward entries. Big gun mid-season recruit Dale Pearce pulled in a specky, leaping high, but was unable to finish the set shot. The Bulls had started their big

time finals player Ben Lakin on Pearce, and he was keeping him subdued whilst delivering many an attacking forward thrust; this game had everything. Edwards then slotted his fifth for the half, some game he was having, leading hard, pulling in the contested marks, providing a critical target and kicking truly.

Knuckling down, the Lions had pulled the contest back to two goals by the long break, halting the Bulls' momentum. Wade, Lloyd and rhinoceros tough joint captain Koby Hommelhoff just buried in at the contest and hurt on the outside, Wade was building a high possession count and Lloyd was creative breaking lines. These Lions were up for the contest but the Bulls had their noses in front.

Talent packed Lions just strutted their stuff in a super impressive third quarter, often referred to as the championship quarter and so it proved to be. Zane Keighran, a dangerous, possession gathering midfielder got them off to a perfect start and then Smith,

getting very active roaming across the park, those long summer runs around Tchum Lake providing him the endurance with a superb set shot deep up against boundary levelled up the goal tally. This was going down to the wire. Tom Gibson rewarded the hard running work of youngster Austin Dean with a goal after he'd been hit up, the Bulls back with a buffer before Pearce broke a hard tackle and snapped truly. Ding dong battle, neither side giving an inch before the Lions powered away with two more to end a terrific quarter for them. Not a minute after Pearce's major, Lloyd slotted another and then at the 24-minute mark Keighran, cool as a cucumber, with a 50-metre set shot, pushed out their lead to a game high 14 points and with all the momentum, Bulls supporters forlorn.

What did they have? Coach Ash Connick pleaded for one last giant commitment, they needed to bury in, attack. True to an indomitable spirit the Bulls came hard. Hosking started winning the midfield ball-ups, banging it forward at every opportunity as his coaches demanded. Gibson, who'd been getting better the further the game went, up forward with a strong mark, got them off to the best start possible, goaling at the 2-minute mark. Then the hard working Buchanan goaled, two goals in four minutes, this game having more swings and roundabouts than Bangkok in peak hour, now the Bulls with all the momentum. Just 4 points in it, brilliant, absorbing contest, at least 20 minutes to play, more injury drama for the Lions, the high flying forward Pearce grounded with a ham-



• Harry Cook is under pressure from Rylee Smith.

string tear as he stretched just a little too much leading to mark, which he had, tried to take his shot but to no avail and forlorn headed to the bench. Done for the day.

When the going gets tough, the tough get going and Lions' hard heads did exactly that. Daniel Watts down back in everything, whether it be spoiling the mark coming in or burying in hard at ground level, Kennedy who'd had a

brilliant match, continued to gather possessions refusing to lie down; in fact nobody was, there wasn't a poor player on the park. Caccaviello who'd apparently been under pressure to hold his spot, just marshalled the defensive area, clearing out ball after ball as the Bulls continued to pummel ball inwards, but they couldn't score against a thoroughly determined Lions defence.

Kennedy, superb, commanding from the midfield and rightfully judged best afield with the Des Darcy medal then added to his sublime performance with a cucumber cool 40 metre set shot at the 10 minute mark to take the sting out of the Bulls' momentum. He'd been everywhere, roamed the ground like the Leyland brothers; down back helping his defenders, up

• Continued on page 18.



• Birchip-Watchem's Nick Rippon fends off Calder United's Rick Allan.

Classic Calder Combine In Historic Grand Final Win

(By Chris Lee)

Calder United has pulled off a remarkable grand final win in its first season as a combine of the old Nullawil and Wyche-Narraport teams with a 10 point victory over a gallant Birchip-Watchem in what was an enthralling contest, epic in fact, held at Wedderburn's Donaldson Park.

Picture perfect were conditions and the two protagonists dished up an absolute classic for the huge crowd. A record number was in attendance with the contest going down to "edge of your seats" stuff, where the Lions determinedly dug in to hold out the Bulls who kept coming but ultimately fell short in a gripping finish. A game for the ages, it just delivered in spades, multiple lead changes, white hot contest, pressure everywhere, brilliant individual plays, spectacular marks, intrigue; it'll be talked about in hushed tones for years, much like the famous 1989 grand final between Hawthorn and Geelong.

A brilliant five goal third quarter by Calder set up its historic victory, turning around a two-goal half-time deficit into a 14-point three quarter-time lead, which the Bulls were unable to reel in despite kicking two in the opening four minutes of the absorbing last quarter, to bring it back to a four point ball game. Momentum was running the Bulls' way, but those brave Lions stuck in, defended as if their lives depended on it and when the

day's outstanding player, Steve Kennedy coolly slotted a set shot from 40 metres out at the 10 minute mark, curtailing the Bulls' run, that was it for scoring. Thereafter the Lions just locked down, Wallabies' rugby style. Scrum after scrum across the park, piling in over the top, defending at all costs, the Bulls chucked everything at it but still the Lions held out, remarkable, brave, talented, out on their feet but victors.

Both sides are supremely talented and to a man nothing was left in the tank. A physically taxing game, players spent at the end, supporters spent as well, roaring, on their players but there can only be one winner and that was Calder United. It was an extraordinary feat in its first year as an amalgamated club; huge achievement to put two rival clubs together, overcome fierce differences, meld the personalities, some of them big, and then deliver on the park which they did in style, winning the reserves premiership as well for good measure.

To do so has taken astute leadership and there's none better than Rick Allan. He was emerging years ago as he



• *Fly United: Lions' Rylee Smith pulls in a spectacular pack mark over team-mate Matthew Trzeciak and Birchip-Watchem's Ben Lakin.*

faced a herculean challenge to keep his beloved Wyche-Narraport Demons afloat for a number of years, when plenty wanted to fold, and now has successfully welded Nullawil and the Demons together. Huge achievement and even more amazing that at 38 years of age he too was out on the park playing a significant role.

The Lions had chucked everything, including the kitchen sink, into having a successful inaugural season, recruiting hard and large and that paid in spades Saturday with victory. No doubt it tasted even sweeter in knocking off their nearest neighbours the Bulls, who yet again have to lick their wounds, with a narrow grand final defeat, second in a row by less than two goals and they've

played off in six of the last seven, winning only the one.

It was Birchip-Watchem who came out hard and fast first. Unlike their previous second semi-final encounter where the Lions completely dominated the first stanza, it was the Bulls' turn to inflict first damage. Within a minute of play commencing, big forward Ben Edwards, who'd been having a quiet finals campaign, had marked and goaled and then not two minutes later was on the end of a downfield free to Nick Rippon with another, a brilliant start and up and about. Disaster for the Lions, their inspiring captain and brilliant playmaker Jordy Humphreys down and out with a hamstring tear limping off; Dad Wade, the club powerbroker down to the bench, on the

phone, impossible to bring back the genius masseur Pat Allen from the grave though. Jordy had been instrumental in their second final win.

The midfield contest was white hot as expected, the big, big men Hamish Hosking and Dean Putt locking horns and going at it. Kobe Lloyd, Kennedy, Matt Wade opposed to Marshall Rippon, Daniel Bell and Meyrick Buchanan, talent packed, tough as teak, no quarter given, every possession hard fought. The Bulls just found a way through, needle through threads, their back six streaming forward, creating space and they had command. Kennedy with a 45-metre set shot with a slight breeze at his back got the Lions off the mark before Lachy Foott finished off some good end-to-end work where

the Bulls had moved the ball with polish, beginning with Angus Butterfield on to Marsh Rippon, Lach Ryan and Nick Rippon to wind out the lead.

Rylee Smith with a decent strike at the 18-minute mark got the Lions within range but the Bulls were dominating; such a change from the second semi, they were crisp with their ball movement, hard at the contest, pouncing on loose balls and looking the goods. Edwards with his third for the quarter pushed them out to a 3-goal margin before Wade, with a big 50-metre set shot, got the Lions third just prior to the bell. Ripper contest, stage had been well and truly set for a classic encounter, punters in for a day out.

• **Continued on page 19.**



• *Coin toss, Roger Paterson.*



• *Wedderburn's Donaldson Park, grand final day. The photograph speaks for itself.*