

**DONALD**

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# The Buloke Times

Est. 1875

**BIRCHIP**

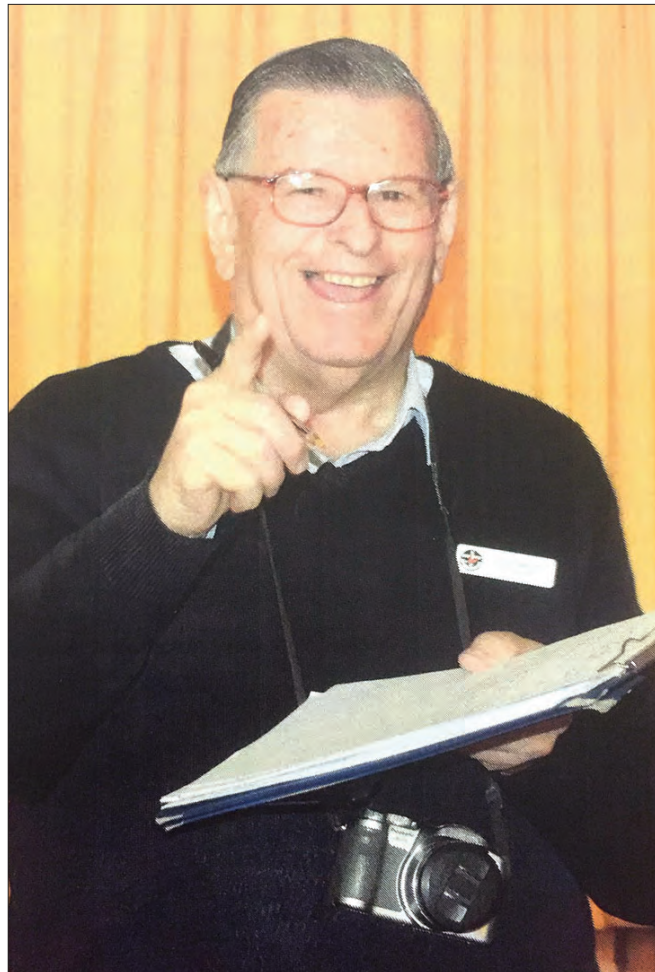
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Tuesday, September 2, 2025

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



• The late Neil Short.

## Farewell to Esteemed Community Leader

(From Dorothy Reid)

Friends and acquaintances were saddened to learn of the passing of Neil Short on July 23, 2025.

Neil was an English and Geography teacher at Birchip High School from 1973 to 1983 and was Senior Master.

He was very community minded and when the Birchip Primary School building was deemed unfit to repair he was instrumental in having those classes relocated into suitable modular rooms in the grounds of the High School and become the Birchip Community Education Complex with two Principals in Term 3, 1980.

### Apex and Lions Clubs

Neil was instrumental in forming the Birchip Apex Club for men under the age of 40 years, which became an important Service Club in the

town for many years. He served as District Governor for Apex. He later joined the Lions Club.

With his strong faith in God, he was a popular lay preacher in the Uniting Church and preached in many of the local churches as well as further outlying ones.

In 1982, he was the secretary of the Birchip Town Centenary, being very meticulous with every detail.

### Football

He had a great love for football, was goal umpire for the Birchip Swans, and was responsible for the Junior Football Club, being an excellent administrator. He arranged the roster for rides for the boys for their away games.

He believed in keeping young people involved and active and started up the Friday table tennis games in the Public Hall after school. It was unfortunate that no one continued to follow this tradition after he left.

### Teaching

Neil started his education at Strathbogie South, attended secondary school at Euroa then Melbourne Boys' High School before his teaching degree at University. His first teaching appointment was at Mansfield, then Tallangatta before Birchip. On leaving Birchip he was Principal at Rushworth before transferring to Kyabram.

On retirement he moved back to Rushworth where he

became very involved in the Lions Club, playing lawn bowls, contributing and editing the community newspaper called the "Waranga News" and broadcasting on Shepparton's FM community radio. Throughout all this busy time he continued his lay preaching.

### Citizen of the Year

Several years ago he received the Waranga Shire Citizen of the Year, being a worthy recipient.

He fondly remembered his life in Birchip, remaining in contact with several members of the Uniting Church for quite some time, most of them having predeceased him by now.

## Emergency Services Tax Rally is Coming

[From CFA Volunteers Group]

Here's your chance, at Bendigo on Sunday, September 14, to show how you feel about the new Emergency Services Volunteers Fund tax!

The CFA Volunteers Group has previously supported the Across Victoria Alliance and organised similar rallies in Melbourne, Warrnambool, Camperdown, Ballarat and recently in Werribee.

We are focusing our campaign in areas and seats where the most impact will be felt.

We shall continue to apply pressure on the Government to SCRAP THE TAX!

This time we are coming to the Premier's home town of Bendigo to let her know that the CFA is standing together with all Victorians, CFA and SES, farmers, businesses and town residents.

### Members Can Help

Your Brigade members can help by bringing your

tanker and some of your crew to the rally. We are reaching out to all brigades in a 200 + km radius of Bendigo to join the convoys into town and meet us at the oval. We have some informative speakers to engage with us, with the Lions Club providing a barbecue.

We will supply participating brigades with logistic and planning details once they have registered their intentions of support.

We would appreciate if you could help to support the rally by helping to spread the word through your group.

### Contribution

To assist with the production of promotional material such as banners, posters and

flyers that are used to assist brigades, we are seeking a small contribution from supportive Brigades and Groups. Different packages are suggested as options with additional T-shirts and caps also available.

We hope that you will assist us to spread the message and information about the rally, with distribution through your Groups.

We are expecting a massive show of strength from our CFA brigades and we look forward to seeing you in Bendigo.

For further information contact CFA Volunteer Group co-ordinators: John Houston; 0438 654244, Leigh Harry; 0429 302056, Brad Marson; 0467 174636.

### Charging More for ESVF

Residential 100% Increase  
 Rural 150-200% Increase  
 Industrial 66% Increase  
 Commercial 100% increase

Every Victorian Will Get This Tax!!!

But Spending Less On Emergency Services

CFA \$42 Million Cut!  
 000 \$72 Million Cut!  
 FRV \$150 Million Cut!  
 SES \$9 Million Cut!

## BENDIGO RALLY

Weeroona Oval, Napier St. | Sunday 14 September 11am



**DEFEND  
 YOUR CFA  
 VOLUNTEERS**

**DEFEND  
 THE  
 FARMERS**

**DEFEND  
 THE VICTORIAN  
 COMMUNITY**

**VICTORIANS  
 TOGETHER**

## "Another Insult to Rural Communities"

The Victorian Government's divisive VicGrid energy transmission legislation has passed Parliament with the support of crossbench MPs from the Greens, Cannabis Party and Animal Justice Party.

The Nationals' Member for Mildura, Jade Benham, said the new laws give the government unprecedented powers that erode property rights, silence regional voices and undermine transparency.

"Jacinta Allan has now weaponised VicGrid into a cost-passing, land-grabbing energy enforcer, with the power to charge Victorians, acquire land, and override communities," Ms Benham said.

"This is a government telling regional Victorians they no longer have control over their own land."

Under the new laws, government-appointed operators

can issue "special orders" without consultation, cut locks, enter farms without consent and impose heavy fines if landholders refuse access.

### "Kick in the Guts"

"This is a real kick in the guts for country people, especially communities across the Wimmera Mallee who are

already battling a lack of transparency from developers on energy and mining projects.

"Labor's energy rollout has been plagued by delay, mismanagement and a complete lack of genuine engagement with rural communities."

Ms Benham said The Nationals support renewable energy and transmission projects,

but not at the expense of country people.

"We are not anti-renewables, but we are pro-farmers and pro-fairness."

The Nationals have committed that, if elected in 2026, they will repeal Labor's VicGrid legislation and restore landholder rights, including reinstating access to VCAT.



# BCG Has New Partnership

BCG has announced a new partnership with iconic Australian workwear brand RB Sellars, officially launched at BCG's Chair's Breakfast on Thursday, August 21.

The event brought together growers, advisers and community members to hear from RB Sellars CEO, Jim Gall, whose message centred on the power of optimistic innovation, contagious positivity, and the belief in a bright future for agriculture and regional Australia.

Jim spoke about agriculture as more than just an industry, describing it as an "identity finder" that provides people with a deep sense of place, purpose, and connection.

"Agriculture tells real stories – stories that matter. When we share them authentically, they give us brightness, hope, and a tangible vision for the future. That's what we want to celebrate through this partnership with BCG," he said.

### Connection

BCG, known nationally for its strong connection to

farmers, is proud to share this same commitment with RB Sellars.

The collaboration sees BCG staff proudly wearing new uniforms provided by RB Sellars, which reflect not just practicality, but also the shared values of community, authenticity, and connection to the land.

BCG chairperson, John Ferrier, said the partnership was a natural fit.

"BCG and RB Sellars share a commitment to celebrating agriculture and supporting the people who make it thrive," he said.

RB Sellars' commitment to genuine storytelling, and business and environmental sustainability, was highlighted at the event.

Jim Gall noted how the company has worked closely with cotton growers to improve environmental outcomes and create



• A new partnership between BCG and RB Sellars was announced at BCG's Chair's Breakfast on Thursday, August 21. Left to right: BCG CEO Fiona Best, Chairman John Ferrier, RB Sellars CEO Jim Gall, BCG Board members Ian McClelland, Cameron Warne, Brett Hosking.

transparency in the supply chain, cutting the journey of a cotton shirt from 24 steps down to just two.

### Real Value

"Farmers should be attributed real value for the

work they do. We're not in the business of fashion, we're in the business of agriculture. The partnership with BCG is about recognising that and driving prosperity for rural Australia," Jim said.

RB Sellars will have a

pop-up shop at BCG's Main Field Day at Birchip on Wednesday, September 10, when attendees can try on and purchase clothing.

BCG's Main Field Day provides growers, advisers

and research with the latest in local agronomic research.

Entry is free for BCG members and \$50 for non-members. To secure your ticket or to become a BCG member please visit the BCG website [bcg.org.au](http://bcg.org.au).

In Parliament on August 25, Member for Mallee, Dr. Anne Webster shared the following, in relation to "Women's Economic Security":

## Wendy from Donald's Story

**This Labor motion is about a better future for Australian women, but let me tell you about one woman, Wendy, from Donald in my electorate of Mallee.**

Her future is not looking better under this government. For more than three years now the Prime Minister has repeated the mantra "nobody held back, nobody left behind". But Wendy has been utterly left behind by the combination of state and federal Labor governments in regional Victoria.

Wendy is a 75-year-old pensioner who lives in Donald, 277 kilometres from Melbourne. Wendy contracted the superbug *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* during spinal surgery at Royal Melbourne Hospital in March 2024. In Wendy's own words: "After attending rehab, where my surgery site split open, I was rushed back to the Royal Melbourne Hospital and subsequently had 3 washouts and drains inserted by the plastic surgery team. A number of other patients in my ward also suffered a similar fate, although the spine is unique in that the metalware cannot be removed until fusion occurs."

"This bug attaches to and hides on metal and other surgical items."

She goes on to say that it is aerobic and anaerobic forming a covering and when opportunity arises, it may jump out, attach to the atrium valve of the heart and eat it until it turns to mush or may move to other organs causing death.

### Only One

There is only ONE antibiotic medication that can suppress it, namely Bactrim /Resprim Forte.

Wendy believes that a person who has caught this bug has a 54 per cent chance of survival, diminishing with age and other comorbidities. She goes on: "My condition has been managed by an Infectious Disease consultant from Switzerland as well as the orthopaedic team, but this causes some grief, as there is little opportunity to use public transport in Donald."

Now, if anyone doesn't know where Donald is, I invite you to look it up on a map.

### No Taxi

No taxi and a better resourced ambulance is at least 45 minutes away.

Wendy goes on to explain that her medical consultant has encouraged her to move closer to Royal Melbourne Hospital in case the bug causes a life-threatening infection. So, with regret, she told me last week in a mobile office in Donald that she has sold her home and is moving to Melbourne. Remembering the Prime Minister's slogan, let's call that part of her story the "nobody held back part".

It gets worse. Wendy has also been left behind.

Again in Wendy's own words: "Recently I suffered a heart condition which meant being taken by ambulance to Bendigo hospital. It took 45 minutes' wait time for the ambulance to arrive and a 2 hour bumpy journey to Bendigo hospital and a further wait to see a doctor — such are the issues with living remotely,



• Anne Webster.

suffering from a potential life-threatening condition. There was no GP doctor working that evening."

This is a story I have heard all too often as the member for Mallee and in my previous shadow ministry role in regional health. I remain passionate about giving a voice to the people of Mallee and ensuring that they receive better health care.

### What About...?

So when this motion speaks about the Albanese Labor government "investing in women's health", I ask: What about Wendy? What about everyone like her? What about the women in Donald? What about the women in Buloke Shire? What about all the women in Mallee, and all the women in regional Australia?

Mallee women certainly feel invisible to the Albanese Labor government. I am giving people like Wendy a voice today because all Australian women deserve better.

## VFF Slams VicGrid Power Play

The Victorian Federation (VFF) has written to state MPs to vote down the contentious VicGrid Amendment Bill that would pave the way for police-backed powers to force entry on to farms and slap landholders with fines of up to \$12,100.

VFF President Brett Hosking is reiterating previous calls to halt the Bill ahead of it being debated in State Parliament Thursday, August 28.

"The transition to renewable energy has already faced delay after delay as the government's approach to farmers, landholders and communities appears only to involve coercive powers and threats. It's time for a new approach."

"If Victoria is to make serious, economy wide reductions to our emissions then we need to partner with each other to achieve this, particularly our farmers who are being asked to carry most of the burden of this change."

"The VicGrid amendments are deeply concerning. Handing police powers to enforce access and threatening farmers with fines for protecting their own land doesn't build trust, it shows exactly why trust has been lost," Mr Hosking said.

### Eroding Confidence

Mr Hosking said the government's approach to push ahead with major transmission projects, such as the Western Renewables Link (WRL) and Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West (VNI West), without genuine consultation is eroding community confidence and jeopardising the projects themselves.

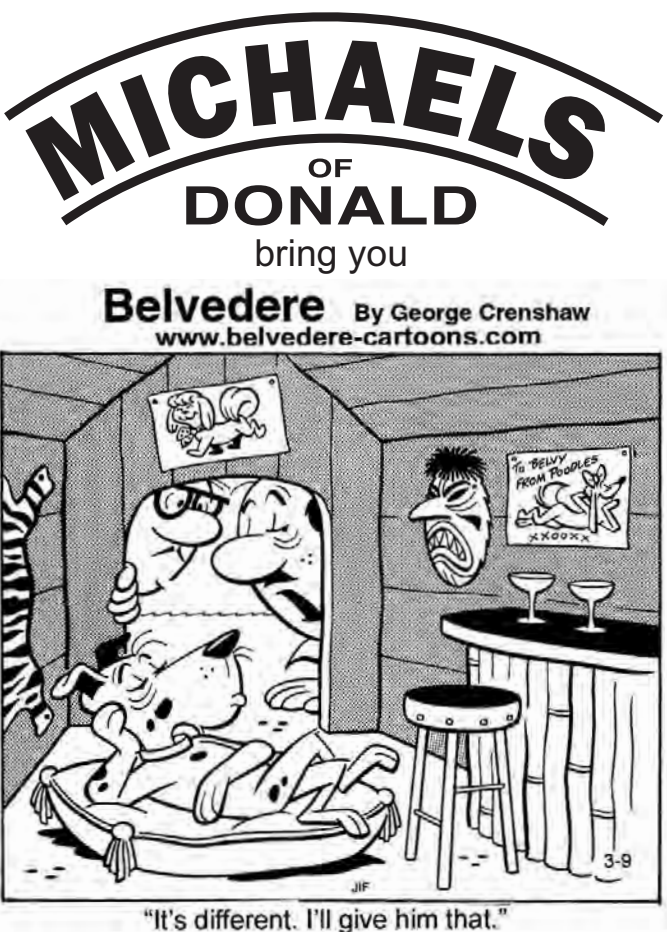
"The WRL and VNI West have failed from the start and should be abandoned. They've been poorly managed and communities have made it clear they won't accept transmission lines being forced across their farms."

"These projects are too important to ram through. By taking this approach, the government risks derailing the renewable transition. The only way forward is to admit mistakes and start again."

"The VFF has raised these concerns directly with the government and written to every MP, urging them to vote down the VicGrid Reform Bill," Mr Hosking said.



• Brett Hosking.



**Happy Father's Day to all the Fathers on Sunday, September 7, 2024.**



# At Birchip Playgroup: Stories, Sport, Art and Sustainability

**Birchip Playgroup recently joined in the spirit of Book Week, with a Supported Playgroup session led by facilitator Carolyn Morrison.**

Children came dressed as their favourite storybook characters, proudly carrying their much-loved books, and took part in themed art and play activities designed to encourage children to explore stories in a fun and engaging way.

The Book Week morning was just one of the supported playgroup activities hosted by Buloke Shire Supported Playgroup Facilitator Carolyn Morrison. Supported Playgroup themes this term have ranged from space, shapes and colours to birds, bugs and insects, ensuring plenty of variety for children aged 0–5.

In addition to Supported Playgroup held every second Friday, parents and visiting presenters have been hosting a range of innovative sessions at the alternate Friday playgroup sessions, also held at the St Mary’s Parish Centre between 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

Funding from the Buloke Shire Council’s Sustainability Grants has supported hands-on learning experiences for families, including a session delivered by The Earth Crusaders.

The session featured the Earth Crusaders’ 4R’s Eco-Incursion, where children explored how to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Refuse in a creative and engaging way.

Children had the chance to make their own beeswax wrap as a sustainable alternative to plastic, decorate a calico library tote bag perfect for borrowing books and reducing waste, and learn simple sustainability habits through storytelling and hands-on activities.

The playful program sparked curiosity and encouraged children to care for the planet, while enjoying the chance to get crafty for a better world.

Term 3 has also featured energetic sessions with Kelly Sports, encouraging children to build skills and confidence through movement, and art sessions with Jess from Young Expressions facilitating a popular messy play activity.

Birchip Playgroup remains a friendly and welcoming space where families can come together, children can learn and grow, and the community can share in the joy of play.

Buloke Shire Supported Playgroup Facilitator Carolyn Morrison said, “it is wonderful to see children learning, creating and having fun, and for families to make those all-important connections. Playgroup is here for everyone, and we love welcoming new faces.”



• Carolyn Morrison, Hattie McLoughlan and Rebecca Elliott.

## Lights On at Lord Nelson Park

**Sporting facilities in Stawell and St Arnaud will remain lit up on Monday nights, and now Wednesday mornings, following the success of the inaugural Northern Gramps Girls Can campaign.**

The lights will be on at Lord Nelson Park oval in St Arnaud and North Park athletics track in Stawell on Monday nights between 6 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. and on Wednesday mornings from 6 a.m. until sunrise.

Northern Grampians Shire mayor Karen Hyslop said due to positive feedback, the council had decided to extend the outdoor lighting program until Daylight Saving Time started on Sunday, October 5. The venues have been lit up on Monday nights since the end of May as part of the Northern Gramps Girls Can campaign, which ran until July 16.

Council created the campaign, which was modelled on state health foundation VicHealth’s “This Girl Can” campaign, in partnership with Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly.

### Activities

Along with the outdoor lights program, the campaign also included a range of activities throughout the shire that attempted to remove barriers preventing women and girls from being physically active.

“The decision to extend the lights beyond the eight weeks of the original campaign followed positive feedback from the community,” Cr Hyslop said.

“Not only did residents want to see the lights extended, some also requested a morning session to help cater for their shift work schedules.

“We hope having a morning and evening option will cater for more families, shift workers, and people preparing for sporting finals or wanting to remain active in the off-season.

“Despite the lighting program initially catering for women and girls, it is a fantastic opportunity for anyone in the community wanting to be active in a safe and welcoming space.”

### Police Support

Cr Hyslop thanked Stawell and St Arnaud police officers

for supporting the Northern Gramps Girls Can campaign with an increased presence.

She said she was pleased to see so many women and girls taking up the various opportunities made available to them throughout the campaign.

“More than 25 girls attended free Wednesday afternoon gym sessions at Stawell Sports and Aquatic Centre, including several girls who game from outside our shire to participate,” she said.

“A lot of these girls had not stepped foot inside a gym before because they didn’t feel confident or capable. They said they were unsure about how to properly and safely use the gym equipment and would have felt uncomfortable around male members.

“Feedback on these sessions was great. The girls said they thoroughly enjoyed the classes, which were well-run by excellent instructors. We’ve loved hearing that so many girls felt safe and supported and appreciated the campaign.”

Organisers gave away a one-month Stawell Sports and Aquatic Centre membership to the person who attended the most gym sessions, which was won by Sophie Buijs.

Cr Hyslop said the SSAC team would look at the possibility of running female-only gym, swim and stadium times to encourage women and girls to remain physically active across different disciplines.

She said this was one of the questions on the Northern Gramps Girls Can public survey, which closed at 5 on Sunday, August 31.

People who complete the survey, available online at [www.ngshire.vic.gov.au/Community/Northern-Gramps-Girls-Can](http://www.ngshire.vic.gov.au/Community/Northern-Gramps-Girls-Can), go into the draw to win a three-month membership to the gym of their choosing.

The survey is aimed at the people who participated in the



• Sophie Buijs won a one-month membership to Stawell Sports and Aquatic Centre by participating in the Northern Gramps “Girls Can” campaign.

Northern Gramps Girls Can social media campaign by completing weekly fitness challenges.

## What’s Next For Sea Lake Recreation?

**Buloke Shire Council is supporting the Sea Lake community to take the lead in shaping the future of sport and recreation through the development of a new Sea Lake Recreation Master Plan.**

The project aims to reflect the community’s aspirations that reflect local recreational needs and priorities, including opportunities for informal recreation and leisure activities.

Council has engaged Otium Planning Group, to assist with the development of the Master Plan and support the engagement process with the local community throughout the project.

Early engagement has already commenced this week with initial conversations held with local residents, sport and recreation groups and schools.

While the timing has been set to get things started, this is just the beginning and there will be more opportunities for the community to shape the process moving forward.

Community members are encouraged to provide input to the project by attending one of the upcoming Community Drop-In Sessions on Monday, September 15:

• 2:30 p.m.– 4:00 p.m. – Sea Lake IGA.

• 4:30 p.m.– 6:00 p.m. – Former Sea Lake Visitor Information Hub.

“We’re grateful to everyone who participated in the first round of discussions,” said Buloke Shire Council Mayor Cr Alan Getley.

“These upcoming drop-in sessions aim to continue these conversations by providing more opportunities for the community to share ideas and help create a plan for Sea Lake that reflects local recreational needs and priorities.”

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

## “The Friend”

**Academy Award nominees Naomi Watts and Bill Murray lead the cast of this weekend’s Rex movie “The Friend” in a story which explores love, friendship, grief and healing.**

New York City writer Iris (Watts) finds her comfortable, solitary life thrown into disarray after her closest friend and mentor Walter (Bill Murray) bequeaths her a Great Dane named Apollo.

After Walter’s current wife, two ex-wives and his adult daughter refuse to take the dog, Iris has to contend with the new arrival. The huge 70kg dog immediately creates practical problems for Iris, from furniture destruction to eviction notices, as well as more existential ones.

Yet as Iris finds herself unexpectedly bonding with Apollo, she begins to come to terms with her past, and her own creative inner life.

As both Iris and Apollo process their respective changes, Iris sees the situation evolving into an “emotional support human working with a dog that can’t cope”. Thanks to Apollo’s imposing presence Iris’s life is gradually reinvigorated – both creatively and

otherwise – and she is able to process questions about Walter’s decision to commit suicide.

As the ABC review by Jasmin Jeffery says: “The film goes to great lengths to consider the impact suicide has on the people left behind, and beautifully articulates the hopelessness of grief, particularly when it comes to mourning complicated figures and the messy relationships that often come with such types.”

Based on the bestselling award-winning novel by Sigrid Nunez, “The Friend” is retold through flashbacks, and explores an unexpected and heartwarming journey.

Watch out for the undisputed star of the show – the adorable Great Dane, “Bing” – who is an outstanding “talent” as “Apollo”!

“The Friend” (M 130 mins) screens: Saturday, September 2, 8 p.m. | Sunday, September 3, 2 p.m. | Tuesday, September 5, 8 p.m..



# "Times" Classifieds

Phone Donald 5497 1222, Birchip 5492 2735

Email [admin@buloketimes.com](mailto: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.

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Corazon & Geoff  
Stops  
02/09/2025

Six years of love and understanding.

Love you my princess.

—You pest, Geoff.

## DEATH HOLLIS.— John

Deepest sympathy to Dawn, Cynthia and families.

Beloved older brother of Ronnie, Judyth (dec.) and Cheryl. Much loved uncle of Kaye, Tina, Vicky and families.

*A golden heart  
stopped beating  
Hard working hands  
at rest  
God broke our hearts  
to prove  
He only takes the best.  
Sleep peacefully John.  
We will miss you.*

## DEATH

SHORT.— Neil Robert  
12/02/1943 - 23/07/2025

Loved son of Jesse and Cliff. Loved brother and brother-in-law of Ian, and Lorraine, Bruce (dec.) and Mely. Loved uncle of Terri, Lynne, Dayle, Renee (dec.), Pearl, Clydie and their families.

*Neil will be greatly missed.*

RIP

Privately family burial was held as per Neil's wishes.



DONALD HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

FURTHER INFO: 0427 976 208

## Meeting

Monday, September 8

Meet at Donald Mall  
at 1.15 p.m.

Meeting at Watchem Hall  
after trip to Jim Petrie's  
stonemason shed.

ALL WELCOME

## CHOOK RUN Ballarat Chooks

Pullets/Chooks for Sale  
Sexed and Vaccinated  
Hyline Browns

**DELIVERY  
Thursday, Sept 11**

Dropping of at: Ararat,  
St Arnaud, Donald, Birchip  
and Wycheproof.

Contact Kelvin to pre-order  
Ring or message on  
0400 559 559



## Coloured Photographs

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

Photos not published may also be available.

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

## Grade 6 to Year 7 - 2026 Parent Information Night



*Learning. Respect. Resilience. Responsibility.*

**Wednesday, September 10**  
7.30p.m.

DONALD HIGH SCHOOL

*All interested families welcome.*

## HARVEST SEASON WE'RE READY

### Grain, Hay & Harvest Freight

B-Double & Road Train services, local site deliveries or across Victoria & interstate.

Let's come up with a solution that works!

Call/text: Owen & Wendy **0417 304 007**

Find us on Perry Contracting Transport & Spraying

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

**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!

- Sept. 5, Kerrie (Hepworth) Richards
- Sept. 7, Luna Hawkes
- Sept. 8, Layla Hepworth

**Darrell Lea**  
Fine Chocolates

**JOHN SANDS**

If you know someone celebrating a special anniversary, let us know at  
**Donald Newsagency & Emporium**  
For all your Greeting Cards, Wraps, Ribbons and Stationery needs.  
**37 Woods Street, Donald. 'Phone 54971510.**

**DONALD**  
Carer Connection  
Lunch

Many people don't see themselves as carers, yet one in eight people in Australia are.

A carer is someone who provides unpaid support to a family member, friend or partner with disability, mental illness, a medical condition or who is frail due to age.

**Carers are invited to take a well-deserved break and enjoy a complimentary lunch while connecting with other carers.**

**Wednesday, 3 September**  
Lunch 12noon - 2pm

**Donald Hotel**  
126 Woods St, Donald  
Registration by Monday, 1 September 2025 is essential

**Bendigo Health Carer Support Services**  
Scan the QR code or visit  
[www.bendigohealth.org.au/css/events](http://www.bendigohealth.org.au/css/events)  
(03) 5454 7719  
[carersupportservices@bendigohealth.org.au](mailto:carersupportservices@bendigohealth.org.au)

**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.



Evie "Clowning Around" in preparation for The Wizard of Oz production.

The Textiles students were planning to help with the production wardrobe and were just getting into "character".

Evie Donnellon  
**DONALD HIGH SCHOOL**

# Mensland

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Mensland  
for

## FATHER'S DAY

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**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**  
Goodwin Village operates a 38 place residential aged care facility, has 35 independent retirement living units, and 6 community care clients.

**PERSONAL CARE WORKER  
CERTIFICATE 3 OR 4**  
16 to 38 hours per week (full or part-time)

Goodwin Village currently has a position for a Personal Care Worker Cert 3 or 4 (full or part-time). The position involves being rostered approximately 2 to 5 days per week. Roster includes weekdays, weekends, mornings, evenings & night shifts. Access to training for Certificate 3 or 4 in Individual Support can be provided to the right unqualified applicant at no cost to them. Progression pathway for committed staff.

**Key Selection Criteria**

Applicants need to be reliable and interested in working in aged care, with an ability to work to established duty lists. Meeting all individual care needs of residents and clients is important. Applicants must have empathy for elderly people, a commitment to continuous improvement, and an ability to work in a team environment.

**Applications for the positions must be made in writing by 5 p.m., Friday, September 12, 2025.**

Further particulars, including the position descriptions for the role, are available from the:

Chief Executive Officer, Goodwin Village,  
22 Camp Street, Donald,  
**Telephone:** 5497 1304 **Facsimile:** 5497 1769.  
**Email:** [ahogan@goodwinagedcare.org.au](mailto:ahogan@goodwinagedcare.org.au)

*Anthony Hogan,  
Chief Executive Officer.*

# Charlton 100 Years Ago

(Information from "East Charlton Tribune")

August 29, to September 2, 1925.

**Ex-Charltonite wins:** Mr W.T. Glasheen, brother of Mr P. Glasheen, has been elected to the Western Australian Legislative Council. He is a farmer of Harrismith. The new member is a comparatively young man, and was born and educated at Charlton. He has had a wide and varied experience, becoming associated with the Primary Producers' Association about 12 years ago. At present he is secretary of the Harrismith branch of the association, and chairman and founder of Yil-liminning Kondinin Co-operative Company, W.A. He is very well known in the Lake Marmal district.

**Bowling Club:** The Bowling Club met in the Mechanics' Hall to elect the office holders for the coming season. Those elected are: president, F. Edwards; vice-presidents, S. Woods and A. Dabron; secretary, B. Raynor; treasurer, J. W. Morris; committee, G.

Day, P. Spain, C. Proctor, W. A. McGuffie, W. Biggs; Auditor, B. Wood (Vic Bank); Green Committee, G. Day, E. Tormey, A. H. Grove and W. A. McGuffie. A hearty vote of thanks to the retiring president, Mr G. Day, was given.

**Shire Council Meeting:** At the Council Meeting Cr P. Rogan was elected President for the ensuing year. Before the election it was moved that the president's allowance be increased to £80 for this year on account of the many extra expenses to be met, such as the new bridge, for one. The new President, Cr Rogan, moved a hearty vote of thanks to the ex-president for the most efficient manner in which he carried out his duties during the past year. He thanked the Council for the honour they had accorded him in electing him, president. He felt sure that he would have the co-operation of councillors and officers in all matters.

**Picture Framing:** Mr Chas Smith, painter, paper-hanger, decorator and picture framer, has secured one of the latest picture framing machines. He also has a large variety of picture mouldings and mounts in stock. He wishes to notify the public that he has in stock lead, oils, paints, varnishes, wall paper, glass and all other painting requisites. He will be pleased to quote for plates glass or mirrors, plain or bevelled.

**Electric Supply:** Charlton has advanced with the times and so extensive additions to the existing power plant have become imperative. Additions to the plant costing £1500 are being carried out. The excavating of earth for, and the laying down of the foundation for the new engine and dynamo are well in hand, and over 50 tons of concrete will be used. The new engine is to use crude oil and is expected the first week of September. The electric generator is expected a few days later. Two 1000 gallon corrugated galvanised tanks are to be installed. The oil will be conveyed from the railway station by "Furphy" tank, thence pumped to storage tanks by semi-rotary pump. The existing plant has done excellent work for the past 14 years.

**Rovers' Easy Win:** The match at Woosang between the home team and Teddy-waddy resulted in a decided victory for the visitors. The



• William Glasheen, in 1925.

play was very congested, the main cause of this being the strong cross wind which blew steadily throughout the game. The final scores were Teddy-waddy, 5 goals 5 points; Woosang, 1 goal 8 points. Without exception the whole of the Teddywaddy team played an excellent game, particularly Jack O'Donnell and the captain, J. Wright. Of the Woosang players, those outstanding prominently were Les parry (captain), W. Round, W. Baker and H. White. After the match, tea was supplied by the Woosang ladies, and was much appreciated by all present.

**Odds and Ends:** The new tennis courts are well underway. The contractor is making a first-class job of them. A splendid idea is the green-coloured cement with white cement court lines let in. No need to bother about marking the courts. Charlton possesses one of the finest recreation reserves across the river to be found in Victoria.

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**Coping with Grief and Loss.**  
(The Editor, "The Times")  
Dear Editor.—Coping with the loss of someone or something you love is one of life's biggest challenges; it is something we will face at some point in our life. Often, the pain of our loss can feel overwhelming, plus we may experience all kinds of difficult and unexpected emotions, from shock or anger to disbelief, guilt, and deep sadness.

Our grief is a natural response to our loss; it's the emotional suffering felt when something or someone we love is taken away. The more significant our loss is, the more intense our grief will be. We may associate grieving with the death of a loved one or something we love — which is often the cause of the most intense type of grief — but any loss can cause grief, including, loss of one's health, financial instability or the death of a treasured pet, loss of a farm or business. Even subtle losses in our life can trigger a sense of grief. For example, we might grieve after moving away from home, graduating from college or university, or certain employment situations. Whatever our loss may be, we should not feel ashamed about how we feel or believe that it's somehow only appropriate to grieve for certain things.

**The Grieving Process**  
Grieving is an individual experience. There is no right or wrong way to grieve. How each of us grieve often depends on many factors, in-

cluding one's personality and coping style, life experience, spiritual faith, and how significant the loss was to you. The grieving process takes time, healing happens gradually; it can't be forced or rushed and there is no "normal" timetable for grieving. Some people start to feel better in weeks or months, but for others, the grieving process is measured in years. Whatever your grief experiences may be, it's important to be patient and allow the process to naturally progress.

**Stages**  
Mr. Editor, an individual's grief is measured in stages based on the 1969 studies of the psychiatrist, Elisabeth Kübler-Ross. The five stages of grief when someone is faced with a terminal illness or death as outlined in her teaching are — Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression and Acceptance. If someone is experiencing any of these emotions following a loss, it may help to know that their reaction is natural and that time will heal. However, not everyone who grieves goes through all of these stages — and that's okay.  
Apart from grief experienced when someone or something has died, a normal grief is measured in four stages — shock/numbness, yearning/searching, disorganisation/despair, and reorganisation/recovery. During our lifetime we will experience various types of grief such as disenfranchised grief, complicated grief, anticipatory grief, breakup grief, and traumatic grief.

Complicated grief for example is a prolonged grief disorder that prevents a bereaved person from overcoming a loved one's death. It severely impacts the sufferer and limits their ability to live a full and satisfying life. Complicated grief is also known as complex grief. Complicated grief is most often caused by an unexpected or sudden death of a loved one, especially the death of a close family member, child, or friend. Symptoms include overwhelming emotional pain and an intensified focus on the lost loved one. Many people suffering from complicated grief experience feelings of bitterness about their loss. They lose the ability to enjoy their life and can develop into depression.

**Sources**  
The most common sources of grief we experience are:  
1. Bereavement (the death of a loved one).  
2. Death of a pet.  
3. Divorce or relationship breakup.  
4. Loss of health.  
5. Losing a job.  
6. Loss of financial stability.  
7. A miscarriage.  
8. Retirement.  
9. Loss of a cherished dream.  
10. A loved one's serious illness.  
11. Loss of a friendship.  
12. Loss of safety after a trauma.  
13. Selling the family home.

The pain of grief can also disrupt our physical health, making it difficult to sleep, eat, or even think straight. These are normal reactions to a significant loss, but while there is no right or wrong way to grieve, there are also healthy ways to cope with the pain that in time can ease our sadness and help us come to terms with our loss, find new meaning, and move on with our life.

**Ways to Cope**  
Whatever your loss may be, it's personal to you, so don't feel ashamed about how you feel, or believe that it's somehow only appropriate to grieve for certain things. Whatever your grief may be there are healthy ways to cope with the pain that, in time, can ease your sadness and help you come to terms with your loss, find new meaning, and eventually move on with your life.

Allow yourself to express emotions freely, maintain a healthy routine with good diet and exercise, seek support from friends, family, or professional counsellors, and find ways to honour the memory of your loved one.

Be patient and gentle with yourself, as there is no set timeline for grief, and it is normal to experience good days and bad days and it's ok to cry.

Although the death of a loved one can feel overwhelming, many people make it through the grieving process with the support of family and friends. Take care of yourself, accept offers of help from those around you, and be sure to get counselling if you need it.

**Coping**  
Mr Editor, the loss of someone or something is challenging and painful, but with proper coping techniques and an understanding of the grieving process, individuals will be better prepared to handle their grief and loss.

Remember that everyone grieves differently. If you feel like you're struggling, reach out to your friends and family. They might be able to help you find some comfort in older memories or even just a listening ear. You can also join an online community or seek out support groups where people share their experiences with grief and loss — don't be afraid of reaching out!  
Thank you,  
**Kenneth King**  
Birchip.

**Daffodil Day**  
(The Editor, "The Times")  
Dear Editor.— I'm writing to share my appreciation and thanks to every Victorian who supported Cancer Council's Daffodil Day.

Nearly all of us have been impacted by cancer, whether directly or through the experiences of a loved one, and it's incredibly sad that about one in two of us will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85.

But, each year, the Daffodil Day message is one of hope. Not just for today, but for the future too.

When we urged Victorians to get behind our campaign and its goal of raising \$4 million nationally for life-saving cancer research, we also asked them to share hope across the community.

The response was humbling, and it was heartwarming to see the immense level of generosity shown, far and wide. Whether it was fundraising, volunteering, raising awareness, participating in the Daffodil Day Dip, or supporting the efforts of others, including buying a daffodil, every single person who contributed can feel proud they have helped drive positive change.

Thanks to this kindness, I'm pleased to share we were able to reach, and exceed, our fundraising target.

Last year, Cancer Council Victoria invested approximately \$27 million in research to discover the next cancer breakthroughs. And now, thanks to community support for Daffodil Day, we can do even more to grow world-class research, helping increase survival rates and give hope for a cancer-free future.

To everyone who got involved, thank you.

**Todd Harper AM,**  
CEO of Cancer Council Victoria.

**Residents of Donald may have noticed the Red Gate at Community Garden has had a face lift.**

The Gate was made by Kerry Punton when the Community Garden was established and was in need of a little TLC. It has now been restored to its former glory by Geoff Blake and stands out once again in its new coat of Fire Engine red.  
The Red Gate gardeners thank Donald Friends and

Neighbours, who funded the project in its entirety and for their ongoing support.

Members meet on Tuesday Mornings between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. and follow with a cuppa, and anyone interested in coming along to see what it's all about would be very welcome.



• Donald Red Gate Community Garden.

## Cuts to Agriculture Research Scientists

[Statement from the Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Emma Kealy]

**Labor promised no frontline service cuts, yet the Premier is now targeting Victoria's incredible team of agricultural research scientists.**

This is a total disregard for the 21,300 farm businesses across Victoria — the lifeblood of our regional communities — who generate well over \$14 billion in agricultural produce and drive around 27 per cent of Australia's total food and fibre exports, worth \$20.1 billion.

Labor has only budgeted \$537.2 million for Agriculture Victoria in 2025-'26 — down from \$614.8 million in 2024-'25.

These budget cuts, along with the loss of critical staff, gut the very people who protect Victorian agriculture and the scientists whose blue-sky research is vital to keeping our farmers competitive in a global market.

It is a huge blow to an industry already under pressure.

Adding insult to injury, the State Government's new emergency services tax will hit farmers with a tax increase of up 150 per cent on their rates bills.



• Emma Kealy.

At a time when farmers are grappling with skyrocketing input costs, drought and economic uncertainty, Labor just keeps slugging them harder.

These cuts to research scientists, on top of the emergency services tax, highlight the contempt the Allan Labor Government has for our hard-working farmers, who are once again paying the price for Labor's incompetence.

Victorian agriculture deserves better. Our farmers deserve better.

## Farmers' Rights Trashed

**The Allan Labor Government has stripped farmers and landowners of their rights so power lines can be built on their property.**

With the support of the Greens, Animal Justice Party and the Cannabis Party, Labor rammed through legislation last week that gives officials the power to use reasonable force to enter land deemed necessary for the construction of electricity transmission towers across large swathes of the state.

Officials will have the power to remove any obstruction, with authorisation to cut locks and break open gates when undertaking involuntary entry on to properties.

The highest penalty remains for farmers and landowners who resist, with fines of up to \$12,210.

The Government also refused to provide detailed costings of the Victorian Transmission Plan to refute the \$28 billion estimate made by Professor Bruce Mountain of the Victoria Energy Policy Centre at Victoria University.

Leader of The Nationals, Danny O'Brien, said regional Victorians continue to be snubbed, bullied and disrespected by Labor.

"In the relentless rush to renewables farmers and landowners have become the victims," Mr O'Brien said.

"In government we will repeal this legislation, hand back the rights of rural people



• Danny O'Brien.

and give them the respect they deserve.

"We will reintroduce a 2 km buffer zone between wind turbines and homes and bring back the right of appeal against these projects. Regional Victorians must have a voice."

Shadow Minister for Energy and Resources David Davis said the Liberals and Nationals had opposed the legislation.

"After 11 years in power, the Jacinta Allan Labor Government is showing its contempt for democracy and regional Victoria," he said.

"People shouldn't lose the right to decide who enters on their property because of Labor's failed ideologically driven energy policy.

"The Liberals and Nationals will restore those lost rights and respect democratic norms."



# Frosty Reception for Our State and Federal Leaders

Member for Mallee, Dr. Anne Webster, was shoulder-to-shoulder with farmers in Ballarat on Friday, as protestors from Mallee and across regional Victoria gave a frosty reception to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Premier Jacinta Allan at the Bush Summit.

Joining farmers and Victorian Senator Bridget McKenzie in tractors protesting at the event, Dr Webster said there was a stark contrast between, on one hand, the Prime Minister gaslighting Australians with his claims about energy policy, while the Leader of the Opposition showed empathy with farmers.

“The morning after Victorian Labor rammed through draconian powers imposing fines of up to \$8,000 for farmers refusing to allow TCV on their farms to build VNI West, the Prime Minister had the nerve to tell the

Summit farmers deserve respect,” Dr Webster said.

### Nothing More Disrespectful

“Nothing is more disrespectful than taking away property rights without any consultation. I am so proud to stand with our farmers in Ballarat, Melbourne, Canberra – wherever we need to be – because they are doing a superb job, at great cost, making their voices heard. I look forward to sharing Mallee’s Biggest Survey results soon that show the farmers absolutely represent the views of Mallee voters.

“Farmers were justified heckling Premier Jacinta Allan for her government’s aggressive railroading of their farms and communities to push on with VNI West with heavy-handed statutory powers.

“The Prime Minister also gaslit the audience claiming his government had never regulated coal out of the energy market in Australia, and that the ‘market’ was electing to move away from coal.

### Underpinning Our Energy

“Coal-fired energy generation continues to underpin our

energy grid despite Labor demonising coal every chance it gets.

The Prime Minister said in 2020: “I don’t think there’s a place for coal-fired power plants in Australia, full stop.”

The National Energy Market dashboard shows that over the last 12 months, black and brown coal has contributed 61 per cent of Australia’s energy.

Leader of the Opposition Sussan Ley later told the Summit: “If a farmer doesn’t want a high powered transmission line to happen across their farmland it should not happen.”

Dr Webster said Ms Ley’s comments were very encouraging for Mallee farmers.

“I welcome the very clear statement from the Leader of

the Opposition supporting, in effect, a farmer right of veto. I continue to fight for farmers’ property rights in Canberra – and wherever I need to be – to ensure Mallee voices are heard loud and clear,” Dr Webster said.

“The passage of the Victorian Government bill on Thursday night is by no means the end of this sorry saga in sham community consultation on VNI West.”



• Anne Webster.

## A Working Group to Guide Mining Energy Futures

**Horsham Rural City Council (HRCC) is pleased to announce the formation of a dedicated Mining, Renewables and Energy Working Group.**

This initiative underscores Council’s commitment to proactively managing the complex social, economic, and environmental considerations associated with mining, renewable energy, and broader energy-related developments in the region.

### Key Objectives

- To carefully evaluate the impacts of both risks and opportunities of mining, renewable energy, and energy infrastructure in the region.
- To ensure Council is fully informed and able to meaningfully engage in submissions, Environmental Effects Statement (EES) processes, and policy discussions affecting the community.
- To provide Councillors, the community, and relevant experts with a structured forum for balanced information, collaborative dialogue, and informed decision-making.
- To elevate the representation of the community’s voice in addressing issues under Federal and State regulatory frameworks.

### Influx

The region is experiencing a significant influx of mining, renewable energy, and energy projects, reflecting broader State and national transitions. With many expressing concerns about their potential impact on local agriculture, land use, and community well-being, Council is committed to ensuring that all voices are represented and that’s why this working group is so important.

“Our region stands at a pivotal juncture. The establishment of this Working Group reflects our duty to ensure that when large-scale mining, renewable energy, and energy projects emerge, they are met with informed scrutiny, genuine community engagement, and responsible advocacy,” said Mayor Cr Ian Ross.

“We must navigate this transition thoughtfully, balancing the need for economic opportunity with safeguarding agricultural lands, environmental values, and social cohesion. By bringing together Council leadership, expert advice, and community insight in one forum, we are ensuring every decision is made transparently, collaboratively, and for the long-term benefit of our community.”

As Victoria continues its significant energy transformation across the Wimmera and Southern Mallee, local input and oversight have never been more crucial.

This Working Group represents a constructive step forward, enabling HRCC to actively shape outcomes that are socially responsible, environmentally sound, and economically resilient.

## COMMUNITY UPDATE

## Buloke.

### BIRCHIP BLITZ & FOOTY FINALS

Buloke has been buzzing with activity and we’re proud to say Birchip was looking its best thanks to our recent town blitz efforts!

A huge shout out to the members of the community and Council staff and who rolled up their sleeves to mow, whipper snip, clean gutters and mulch garden beds — all in preparation for the North Central Football League first Semi Final held at the Birchip Recreation Reserve on Saturday 23 August. Birchip was the only town in Buloke to host a North Central Football League final this season and it was fantastic to see the



community and Council come together to make sure the town put on its best for the big day. Congratulations to the winners, who have kept the finals hopes of Buloke-based teams alive.

### STORYTIME DONALD LIBRARY

Join us Friday 5 September at 10am for a delightful book reading and fun activities for little book lovers!

### A LIFE OF SERVICE

Buloke Shire Council joins the Charlton community and the wider harness racing family in mourning the passing of Matt Donaldson, a respected leader, mentor and community champion.

Matt served as a Councillor for the Lower Avoca Ward in the 1997, 2000 and 2003 elections, following the formation of Buloke Shire Council in 1995. His time on Council was marked by a deep commitment to community wellbeing and regional development.

### SPRING FIREWOOD COLLECTION IS ON

The spring firewood collection season is now open.

Spring collection period: 1 September – 30 November 2025. Firewood collection is not allowed outside these dates.

A permit is required to collect firewood from roadsides in Buloke Shire. Penalties apply for non-compliance. Apply on council’s website: [www.buloke.vic.gov.au/collection-of-firewood](http://www.buloke.vic.gov.au/collection-of-firewood).

Maps for designated collection areas in state forests are now live at [ffm.vic.gov.au](http://ffm.vic.gov.au).

### PROTECTING OUR TOWNSHIPS

Buloke Shire Council, in partnership with the CFA, is working to reduce fire risk around our townships. If your property borders a township, now is the time to act.

What You Need to Do:

- Create firebreaks inside your fence line along property boundaries.
- Do not clear roadside reserves without a permit — contact Council or RRV for permission.
- Urban properties next to rural land must:
- Clear flammable undergrowth and grass to 100mm height
- Brush cut along boundaries
- Maintain fire-safe conditions throughout the Fire Danger Period

Rural Fringe Properties (farm, industrial, commercial) must follow CFA’s Grassland Interface Project guidelines to reduce radiant heat exposure to dwellings.

Inspections begin in October Council’s Fire Prevention Officers will inspect township boundary properties. If your land poses a fire risk, you’ll receive a notice with required works.

Questions? Call Council’s Municipal Fire Prevention Officers on 1300 520 520

Let’s work together to keep Buloke fire-safe this season.



### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH BULOKE

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

You can find all current employment opportunities at [www.buloke.vic.gov.au/employment](http://www.buloke.vic.gov.au/employment)

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### TEAM LEADER ROAD SERVICES (NORTH)

**Permanent (Full Time) - From \$92,000 per annum (+ statutory superannuation)**

→ **Applications Close 14 September 2025**

This is a role for a proactive individual to lead and support the Road Services Team, ensuring the effective planning and coordination of maintenance and construction crews, essential to maintaining the quality and safety of Council’s road network. This role is suitable for a person experienced in coordinating grading, patrol activities. It involves supervision of staff as well as assisting in preparing budget estimates and recommendations for annual road maintenance and capital improvement programs.

### 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’re someone who thrives in the fresh air, enjoys hands-on work and takes pride in creating beautiful public spaces — 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’re interested in full-time or part-time work, you’ll be 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. What matters most is a great work ethic and a passion for making our towns vibrant and welcoming.



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SHIRE COUNCIL



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# Melbourne Cup Calls in at Donald

(By Quill)

Donald and District Pony Club members were thrilled to welcome the Lexus Melbourne Cup tour to its August rally, specifically rescheduled to coincide with the iconic cup's arrival to Donald on Sunday, August 31.

"Ten minutes until the cup gets here," was called across the yards to all riders frantically saddling their horses for the opportunity of a lifetime – the chance to get up close and personal with the Lexus Melbourne Cup; the iconic trophy won each year in November by one of the world's most elite thoroughbred racehorses, in "the race that stops the nation".

It certainly made its mark on Donald's humble little pony club, with members, visitors and supporters showing in full force to celebrate the occasion. Upon its arrival some of the district's littlest riders were given the chance to don the famous silks of previous Melbourne Cup winning jockeys, all while astride their trusty, yet tiny steeds.

Ambassador of the Cup, Joe McGrath, was accompanied by Melbourne Cup Carnival security manager Simon Ogden and Joe Agresta,

renowned track rider for twelve-time Melbourne Cup-winning trainer Bart Cummings.

### History

Perhaps igniting a passion for things to come, Joe told the youngest equestrians a little about the history of the Melbourne Cup while everyone else gathered to listen in: When did the Melbourne Cup first race? 1861. What it is the Cup made of? 18 carat gold! This year, mined in Western Australia. Where does it go on its tour? EVERYWHERE, all over the world! (But most importantly, the Donald Pony Club). And what is it worth? Only \$850,000 (Woops! My idea of holding it on horseback danced away like my nervous little pony's feet – best not risk dropping that baby – security Simon certainly agreed.)

Photo opportunities were then rampant. Lined up in fine style, the riders of Donald and

district looked fantastic, proudly flanking the cup and its keepers. Many individuals took the chance of holding it for themselves, gloved to prevent tarnish to the remarkable gleaming finish and exclaiming over the weight of the solid gold trophy, envied by the world's best.

Personally, it was simply the closest I could ever dream of getting my short-legged little cob to a racing cup of any kind, much less the Melbourne Cup. Solomon, however, might have thought I was asking him to win it and backed away quickly from the shiny object held in his face, like, "No way, Human! My legs don't go that fast!" With the racecourse only a hop, skip and a jump from the pony club grounds, I can't say the thought hadn't crossed my mind and horses can supposedly pick up on these things.

Morning tea was the perfect end to the celebration and a chance for catch-ups among those who had attended. Many thanks to the volunteers who donated delicious home-made treats to share around the table, along with good

• Continued on page 9.

• Right: Pony Club members and visitors heard a little about the Cup, at least one from the back of an excited cob.



• The oldest and youngest pony club members: Beryl Pearse holding the cup and Jessie Adams on Ollie.



• Talking about the history of the Lexus Melbourne Cup at Goodwin Village, Simon Ogden, Joe Agresta and Joe McGrath.



• Donald Pony Club members and visitors with the Melbourne Cup, left to right: Tayla Wyllie holding Sapphire, Quill McQuilty on Solomon, Chelsea Hart on Bomber, Melinda McEwen on Fred, Kallani Fisher on Mumsie, Charlii Grant, Beryl Pearse, Keeper of the Cup Joe McGrath, Joe Agresta, Jessie Adams on Ollie, Linda Adams, Marlie Adams, Maggie Melino on Bandit, Annabel Melino, Charlotte Stewart (Charlton Pony Club) on Husson Eagle and leading Jess, Paige Brusnahan on Chilli, and Sonya Dennis on Boots.



# — Welcome from Ponies and People

• Continued from page 8.

conversation. The grounds were also immaculate thanks to the efforts of a busy band of members attending the day before, working hard to ensure the club was as immaculate as the golden trophy.

## Not Just the Cup

It wasn't just about the visiting Melbourne Cup, though it certainly attracted those needed to make the morning as special as it was.

Multi-generational equestrian families were present, some with ties to the racing industry in their past and pre-

sent, and some seeing children and grandchildren take to the saddle, while grandchildren and great-grandchildren rested in the arms of mums, dads, uncles, aunties and friends.

It was truly a treasured morning for many to gather and celebrate the grass roots of the sport while viewing the iconic symbol of Australia's elite. Even for those who will never entertain such ideas of grandeur; for those of us who feel privileged just to be in the saddle, it was still momentous to be so close to a piece of proud Australian history.

## Other Stops

Following the morning visit, the Melbourne Cup was then on its way to Goodwin Village and Donald Hospital for the residents to enjoy the same thrill as those at the Pony Club had enjoyed. Even more so, after missing out on the Cup's last visit during covid restrictions. Before departing and on its way to the next town on the tour map, Donald 2000's Jodie Hollis was presented with a token replica of the Cup and of course was reminded that Donald now secures a barrier in the big race in November, with a chance to win \$50,000 should the horse in

that barrier be first to cross the finish.

## Cups to Come

Donald 2000, the Donald Pony Club, Goodwin Village, the Donald Hospital and the wider district thanks Joe McGrath, Simon Ogden, and Joe Agresta for their time in visiting with the iconic Melbourne Cup and sharing a little of the racing spirit with our population. Now we all look forward to the big race in November, as well our upcoming local Cups at Donald and Wyche- proof, in country communities where the racing spirit is clearly alive and thriving.



• Donald Pony Club members and visitors in famous racing silks, left to right: Chelsea Hart with Bomber, Kallani Fisher, Charlii Grant, Marli Adams.



• Kallani Fisher holds the cup on Mumsie, with Charlii Grant, both wearing famous racing silks of Melbourne Cup-winning jockeys.



• Donald 2000's Jodie Hollis was presented with a small token replica of the cup by Ambassador Joe McGrath.



• At Goodwin Village, Gerry Hazewinkle and Simon Ogden with the Melbourne Cup.



• Three generations of horse people: Chris Guthrie with his daughter and grandchildren, Annabel Melino holding Ted, Maggie on Bandit with the cup, and Will standing.



• Donald Pony Club district commissioner Jill McEwen with daughter and PC treasurer, Melinda McEwen on Fred.

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## One “Industry Good” Organization Delivering More for Aussie Grain Growers

**Australian grain growers are set to reap the benefits of a long-term commitment by the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) to unify and strengthen ‘industry good’ services nationally.**

GRDC has announced a \$12 million annual commitment over the next decade to streamline critical trade and market functions through the integration of Grains Australia Limited and the Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre (AEGIC) into a single entity working domestically and internationally across all grains. This is an increase of \$4.2 million on the current annual spend by GRDC in ‘industry good’ functions.

The integration is designed to focus on what matters to growers. It will drive collaboration, improve co-ordination and deliver ongoing efficiencies across the key areas of classification, trade and market access, market information and insights, as well as innovation for the Australian grains sector.

GRDC Managing Director Nigel Hart said the integration into one body under the Grains Australia banner was a logical, efficient move that would create a stronger national grains industry.

“It makes sense to bring these agencies together, effectively combining the work being done to explore and understand emerging and current market needs, with critical ‘industry good’ activities such as classification, market access and market information,” Mr Hart said.

“Ultimately this will streamline activities and ensure operations are aligned, delivering a set of ‘industry good’ services through all parts of the grain supply chain for the benefit of Australian grain growers and building our relationships with trade and market networks internationally.”

Grains Australia and AEGIC have been separate entities since establishment. AEGIC was formed as an initiative of the Western Australian State Government (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development) and GRDC. Grains Australia replaced GRDC as a member of AEGIC in 2023.

Mr Hart said the decision to integrate Grains Australia

and AEGIC had been informed by independent analysis and feedback from growers and industry, which identified opportunities for increased efficiencies and ultimately more value for the grains industry.

“GRDC invests on behalf of Australian grain growers, and this integration will ensure growers are positioned to seize new and existing market opportunities and have increased market options which all helps manage price risk, especially in a time where we have a level of global uncertainty,” Mr Hart said.

“Understanding what customers and markets want now and into the future enables us to focus research and development effort and inform decisions about plant breeding, classification and grain production, so Australian growers are supplying the grain that domestic and international markets want.”

Since its establishment in 2020 as an initiative of GRDC, Grains Australia has played a pivotal role building

relationships and advancing agreements with strategic international organisations to maintain and improve markets for Australian grain growers.

Grains Australia Chief Executive Officer Richard Simonaitis said the organisation was now well-established domestically and internationally as the key provider and co-ordinator of ‘industry good’ services on behalf of the Australian grains industry. It also has a national network of staff and is governed by an independent, skills-based board.

“GRDC has shown great vision and leadership in the establishment of Grains Australia. This further enhances its commitment to the ‘industry good’ functions critical to the long-term profitability and competitiveness of the Australian grains industry,” Mr Simonaitis said.

“This is a significant investment commitment, the likes of which have never been seen before in these functions supporting our markets, customers and the long-term future of the industry.

“Ultimately this integration is about ensuring Australia is best placed to understand the needs of customers and markets, so through classification we can inform and enable breeding programs which in turn deliver varieties for our grain growers that will meet future requirements and ensure we

can differentiate Australian grain from our competitors on the global stage.”

Grains Australia’s key achievements during the past year include: playing a crucial role supporting the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) in the establishment of an Australian wheat protocol with Indonesia; being instrumental in building stronger trade relationships with South Asia; signing a new memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Academy of National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration in China; and

investing in a strategic initiative to position Australia to deal proactively with ‘non-tariff measures.

Domestically Grains Australia has also driven the development of the first national varietal classification framework for oats; and completed the consolidation of Wheat Quality Australia, Barley Australia, the Grains Industry Market Access Forum and Pulse Australia. This complements the coordination and funding of the National Working Party on Grain Protection, and the establishment of Commodity Councils across several commodities and a Grains and Market Access Council.

Grains Australia is currently progressing the transition plan for critical AEGIC functions that are valued and supported by stakeholders.



• *GRDC Managing Director Nigel Hart said integration between Grains Australia and AEGIC will ensure growers are positioned to seize new and existing market opportunities and have increased market options. Photo: GRDC*

Current funding for AEGIC expires in June 2026 and the WA Government has indicated it will exit at that time.

“Grains Australia is working closely with AEGIC to manage an effective and considerate transition plan, most importantly, for the AEGIC team which has done a commendable job for growers,” Mr Simonaitis said.

“We want to reassure customers that support for markets will remain an important function and in fact be stronger and more targeted and aligned by this move. It is also critical to maintain the important functions that AEGIC deliver through this transition process, while also honouring AEGIC’s existing project commitments.”

## AgVic and VicPol Working Together for Livestock Producers

**The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) is Australia’s method for identifying and tracking of cattle, pigs, sheep and goats for disease control, food safety and market access purposes.**

It uses an electronic ear tag or device, marking each animal with its own, individual identification number.

Agriculture Victoria Livestock Traceability Manager Ben Fahy said all cattle, sheep, goats and pigs must be tagged with an NLIS accredited tag, device or tattoo before leaving a property.

“While Agriculture Victoria is the lead agency in relation to livestock traceability related offences and issues, we work closely with Victoria Police when investigating traceability issues that may involve stock theft or possible deception or fraud issues,” Mr Fahy said.

Agriculture Victoria and Victoria Police staff are authorised under the Livestock Disease Control Act 1994 as well as the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986.

Mr Fahy said Victoria Police have defined Farm Crime Liaison officers who offer expertise and interest in agriculture matters and on farm crime, including stock theft issues.

“Officers of both agencies undertake regular joint training in relation to the National Livestock Identification System

and the use of the database which provides excellent data when there are alleged theft cases or fraud and deception cases involving livestock.

“Agriculture Victoria and Victoria Police (VicPol) regularly share information in relation to traceability and movements in the livestock sector and work closely in the field where required for current investigations.

“In the last 12-18 months, working alongside VicPol we have completed some high-profile prosecutions where charges were set under the Livestock Disease Control Act 1994 and the Crimes Act 1958.

“Because of industries and governments commitment to the NLIS, Australia is able to provide assurance that livestock selected specific markets are traceable throughout their life. Our access to valuable export markets relies on our trading partners having confidence the livestock they are importing are backed by a robust traceability system and are healthy, disease-free and residue-free,” he said.

All livestock owners or businesses trading in livestock



have these obligations under the Livestock Disease Control Act 1994 and Livestock Disease Control Regulations 2017. False or misleading information about the movement of livestock affects both the industry and government’s ability to trace livestock in an emergency disease or food safety incident, or to provide good evidence to trading partners that the origin and ultimately the safety of the livestock product are verifiable.

## What's On

### BCG Main Field Day

*When: September 10, 2025 8:30 a.m. and ending at 4 p.m.  
The BCG Main Field Day is a cornerstone event on the broadacre cropping calendar, bringing together leading researchers, agronomists, growers and industry to share the latest in agronomic research, on-farm innovations and practical solutions. Held at BCG’s main research site in Birchip, this year’s event will showcase trials addressing key challenges and opportunities in north west Victoria.*

*Ticket Price: Free for members, non members \$50.*

*Secure your tickets online at:*

*<https://www.bcg.org.au/event/bcg-main-field-day-2025/>*

## Animal Health and Biosecurity Boost

**The Victorian Farmers Federation’s (VFF) Stock Sense project will continue to work with Victorian livestock producers and strengthen the state’s biosecurity preparedness following an extension of project funding.**

The total \$1.660 million dollar project extension consists of a three-year agreement made up of farmer levies from the Cattle Compensation fund of \$1,245,000, as well as a one-year agreement from the Sheep & Goat Compensation fund worth \$415,000, that will see the project extended until 2028.

VFF Livestock President Scott Young welcomed the joint-funding announcement and said the project has become a vital resource for farmers since launching in 2021.

“We’ve been amazed by the response to our events, with recent numbers continuing to grow and that makes them a great networking opportunity.”

“This funding is a welcome boost and ensures Stock Sense can continue its crucial role in strengthening Victoria’s livestock industry and safeguarding against ongoing biosecurity risks.”

“Over time, the VFF’s Stock Sense has become a trusted go-to for livestock biosecurity and animal welfare education, delivering benefits that extend across communities and the state.”

“Our events bring together leading experts to share practical knowledge on everything from stock handling, fencing, and feeding, to animal ownership and supply chain management, particularly valuable for peri-urban and small-scale farmers.”

“With biosecurity challenges growing more urgent, these initiatives are vital both now and for the future,” Mr Young said.

The VFF’s Stock Sense project helps Victorian livestock producers and peri-



urban landholders maintain and improve their animal health and welfare and farm biosecurity. Resources including free online tools, webinars, factsheets, and facilitated educational workshops across the state.

This year, there has been an average of 26 attendees at Stock Sense’s in-person workshops, and 151 registrations on average per webinar.

The VFF Stock Sense team is encouraging farmers or those wanting more information to contact the team on [stocksense@vff.org.au](mailto:stocksense@vff.org.au) or visit <https://www.vff.org.au/stock-sense/>



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# North-Central Honours Rising Netball Talents

The Birchip-Watchem Netball Club had plenty to celebrate at this year’s North Central Netball Association awards, with two of its rising talents honoured for their outstanding contributions both on and off the court.

Seventeen-year-old Zali Angel was named the 2025 Rising Star Award recipient, a recognition of her talent, versatility and commitment to the game.

Having first represented the club in 2019, Zali has steadily built a reputation as one of the region’s most promising young netballers, becoming a dominant force in both “A” grade and 17-&-under competitions.

Zali’s combination of height, skill and court awareness has seen her excel as a leading goal shooter while also showing her adaptability when she is shifted into defence.

Her representative journey began in 2022, when she was selected in the NCNA 15-&-under team and invited to trial for the Northern Zone Academy. Building on that foundation, in 2023 she played both “A” grade and

17-&-under, represented NCNA and Wimmera Mallee at 15-&-under, participated in the Bendigo Academy of Sport, and again received an invitation to trial for the Northern Zone Academy.

In 2024, her development continued as she balanced roles in “A” grade, “B” grade and 17-&-under, while representing NCNA and Wimmera Mallee at 17-&-under. Her performances at the Association Championships saw her identified as a standout talent, leading to an invitation to the Netball Victoria 17-&-under State Screening.

By 2025, she had cemented her place as a key “A” grade player, while once again representing both NCNA and Wimmera Mallee at 17-&-under level, confirming her standing as one of the region’s most exciting young prospects.

Zali is a formidable opponent, and her maturity, poise and sportsmanship have set her apart as a role model for younger players.

## Youth Incentive Award

The newly renamed Maddison Fitzpatrick Youth Incentive Award, a tribute to the late Charlton netballer whose passion and dedication left a lasting legacy was awarded to Tylah Haslam, of Birchip-Watchem.

Since beginning her netball journey in 2019, Tylah has been a tireless contributor to her club in a wide variety of roles.

A committed “A” and “B” grade squad member, she also coaches the 14-&-under “B” team, umpires regularly at both club and representative level, and achieved her “C” grade Umpiring Badge in 2024.

Tylah umpired her first “A” grade game in 2025 and has also umpired at Association Championships and in the NCNA finals series.

In addition, she serves as the club’s 2025 media co-ordinator, responsible for game write-ups, photography, and the end-of-season audio visual presentation.

Balancing her Year 12 studies with her many responsibilities, Tylah has demonstrated remarkable dedication, maturity and leadership. Whether coaching, umpiring or volunteering, she approaches each task with enthusiasm and a willingness to learn, making her a role model for younger players and a highly valued member of the Birchip-Watchem community.

## A Bright Future

Both Zali and Tylah embody the values of their club and the wider Association demonstrating talent, commitment, respect and altruism. Their achievements highlight the depth of young talent emerging in North-Central netball and the important role clubs like Birchip-Watchem play in developing the next generation of leaders, both on and off the court.



• Maddison Fitzpatrick Youth Incentive Award, Tylah Haslam (Birchip-Watchem), and Rising Star, Zali Angel (Birchip-Watchem).

# All Abilities Table Tennis Completed

A four-week table tennis program for people of all abilities in Donald has now just completed.

This was conducted at the stadium at the Donald Primary School. We thank them very much for their continued support to inclusive sport and recreation.

Each week staff and students from the Donald High School has facilitated the sessions and supported the participants as required. Principal Paul Aikman and 6 students were on deck for the final session. Rhonda Allan of the Mallee Sports Assembly also attended the final session

and presented both schools with a laminated “Certificate of Appreciation” as a small token of the great appreciation from all of us for their support. Most of the participants travelled from McCulloch Day Services –St Arnaud, Woodbine–Warracknabeal and other individuals who have enjoyed this opportunity to test their skills out playing table tennis.

The beauty of these all-ability programs is that there is no pressure for how good

you are, it’s all about participating and mixing with other people which is great for one’s health and well-being. As mentioned previously, this program is an initiative of the Access for All Abilities program funded by Sport & Recreation Victoria. Once again thank you to the staff of both the day services for their encouragement to their participants to increase physical activity participation.

Another great Access for All Abilities program completed.



• Life Member Brenda Doran with 17-&-under best and fairest, Millie Hando (St Arnaud), and runner-up Zali Angel (Birchip-Watchem).



• Anthony Spencer (left front) and student Hunter Wingfield enjoying a hit. Participants Damian Sheahan (back left) and Doug Walker also having a go.



• Principal Paul Aikman (front left) and Ray Hincliffe keeping active playing table tennis.



# Donald Juniors Shine at Presentation Night

After the success of the senior presentation day, it was time for Donald’s junior football, netball and hockey players to celebrate their season, with the Royal Blues junior presentation night held recently.

## Junior Hockey

The evening began with president Katie Bicket thanking the many sponsors and trophy donors, as well as the volunteers who keep the club thriving. She also congratulated the 13 juniors who represented the North Central Hockey Association (NCHA) at Junior Country Championships, with special thanks to Horizons and Beyond (Look First Op Shop) for subsidising costs. Seven juniors were also successful in JSC tryouts and proudly represented Donald at Junior State Championships this year. It was then on to the awards.

**Under-12s**  
First-time coaches Ben Krause and Isobelle Rowe presented the under-12 awards, sharing a few words about each player’s efforts throughout the season.

**Coach’s Award** (trophy donated by Isobelle Rowe): Latoya Rayner – recognised for her willingness to learn and thoughtful approach to the game.

**Coach’s Award** (Ben Krause): Zoe Nuske – for her dedication, turning up consistently to training and games and giving her all.

**Most Consistent** (Warakirri Cropping): Isaiah Stirling – the “gun” of the team, always on the move.

**Most Improved** (Harvest Café): Kyetta Rayner – for bravely taking on the goalie role and excelling.

**Best Team Player** (Raeanne O’Shea): Darcy Burke – praised for his encouragement and direction on the field.

**Rising Star Award** (Glen and Susie Burke): Anabelle Robinson – for her determination and potential for a bright future in hockey.

**Underage**  
Despite a technical hiccup with the vote count file, the underage awards were announced with strong support from the crowd. The Best and Fairest, now named the Kathy Hose Memorial Best and Fairest in honour of life member and tireless supporter Kathy Hose, was presented by the Hose family.

**Kathy Hose Memorial Best and Fairest** (Hose Family): Oakley Brennan.

**Runner-up Best and Fairest** (Hose Family): Victory Davis.

**Coach’s Award** (Trent Allen): Nevaeh Pearse.

**Donald Duckling Award** (Buloke Lawn and Garden – Cam Pearse): Jaxon Krause.

**Most Improved** (Kayla Allen): Sophie Burke.

**Most Determined** (Glen and Susie Burke): Anabelle Robinson.

**Leadership Award** (Trent Allen, Victory Davis, Sophie Burke and Oakley Brennan): Lilly Nuske.

**Best in Finals** (Leo Allen): TBC.

**Underage Medallions** were awarded to Ellie Burke, Sophie Burke, Victory Davis, Lilly Nuske, Nevaeh Pearse, Zoe Nuske, and Kailie Krause for stepping up to ensure teams could take the field – often playing two or even three games before joining the women’s side.

**Acknowledgements**  
Katie also thanked team managers Charlotte Bicket (U12) and Susie Burke (Underage), presenting them with blankets, and acknowledged the coaches: Victory Davis and Gavin Krause (Minkey), Ben and Isobelle (U12), and Trent Allen (Underage).

Although Katie formally closed the evening, her daughter Erika took the microphone to thank her and acknowledge her tireless efforts.

With the underage team still in finals, the season is still going for the juniors, but the awards capped off another memorable season for the Royal Blues juniors.



• Under-12 award winners: Anabelle Robinson, Darcy Burke, Zoe Nuske and Isaiah Stirling.



• Underage hockey and special awards: Anabelle Robinson, Nevaeh Pearse, Oakley Brennan, Sophie Burke and Jaxon Krause.

## Junior Netball

The Donald Netball Club recently celebrated its Junior Vote Count and Presentation Night, recognising the hard work, development, and achievements of its younger players across the season.

In the 14-&-under “B” team, the Coaches Award went to Holly Goldsmith, while Karleisha Anderson was named Most Improved.

In the 14-&-under “A” team, the Coaches Award was presented to Chloe Italia, with Layla Griffiths taking out Most Improved.

For the 17-&-under team, the honours went to Kailie Krause (Coaches Award), Halle Rice (Best & Fairest), and Alyssa Hepworth (Runner-Up Best & Fairest).

**Highlight**  
The highlight of the evening was the announcement of Halle Rice as the Best

Junior Club Person for 2025. Halle has shown outstanding commitment both on and off the court – stepping into a leadership role by helping to coach the 14-&-under “B” team, arriving early on home game mornings to assist in the canteen, umpiring each week, and always lending a hand where needed.

On top of this, Halle had an exceptional playing season, winning the club’s Best & Fairest for 17-&-under, representing the North Central League 15-&-under squad, and earning her “C” grade umpiring badge. Halle was surprised but very appreciative when presented with the award.

**Special Mention**  
A special mention also goes to Lucy Robinson and Halle Rice, who both received their “C” grade umpiring badges this season. Their dedication and passion for the game at such a young age is an inspiration to fellow juniors.

The Donald Netball Club now turns its focus to the finals, with the 14-&-under “A” team progressing to the preliminary final in St Arnaud on Saturday, September 6. The club encourages everyone to get behind the girls and show their support.



• 14-&-under “A”: Chloe Italia, Layla Griffiths.



• Halle Rice – Best Junior Club Person.



• 17-&-under: from left to right; Kailie Krause, Alyssa Hepworth, Halle Rice.



# for Royal Blues Football, Hockey and Netball

## Junior Football

The Royal Blues recently held a joint junior football, netball and hockey presentation night, recognizing the year that was for the junior Royal Blues.

Football Awards for 2025:

- Under-14 Best and Fairest, Emmett Geddes.
- Under-14 runner-up Best and Fairest, Samuel Mortlock.
- Under-14 Most Consistent, Noah Michael.
- Under-14 Joint Coaches and Captains Award; Justin Hepworth.
- Under-14 Most Improved, Josh Joseph.
- Under-14 Warren Fraser Club Award, Max Reilly.
- Under-14 Best in Finals, Samuel Mortlock.
- Under-17 Best and Fairest, Jesse Lydom.
- Under-17 runner-up Best and Fairest, Ethan Clapham.
- Under-17 Most Consistent, Hugo Funcke.
- Under-17 Most Improved; Brady Cumming.
- Under-17 Best First Year Player, Josh Nuske.
- Under-17 Coaches Award, Jack Reilly.
- Under-17 Captains Award, Samuel Mortlock.

Nugget Cullen Memorial Award was awarded to Jesse Lydom for his commitment to the Royal Blues both on and off the field in 2025.

A special presentation was made to Kelly Petrie for all her work around the club as junior trainer, where she was available every Thursday and Saturday to support the under-14 and under-17 team.

The Donald football committee also recognized Shaun Geddes and Jason Rice for their contribution to junior football over the many years.

The night ended with a disco at which parents and players were seen dancing the night away. A big thank you to everyone who has helped with the Donald Junior Football Club in 2025. The club looks forward to a bigger and better 2026.



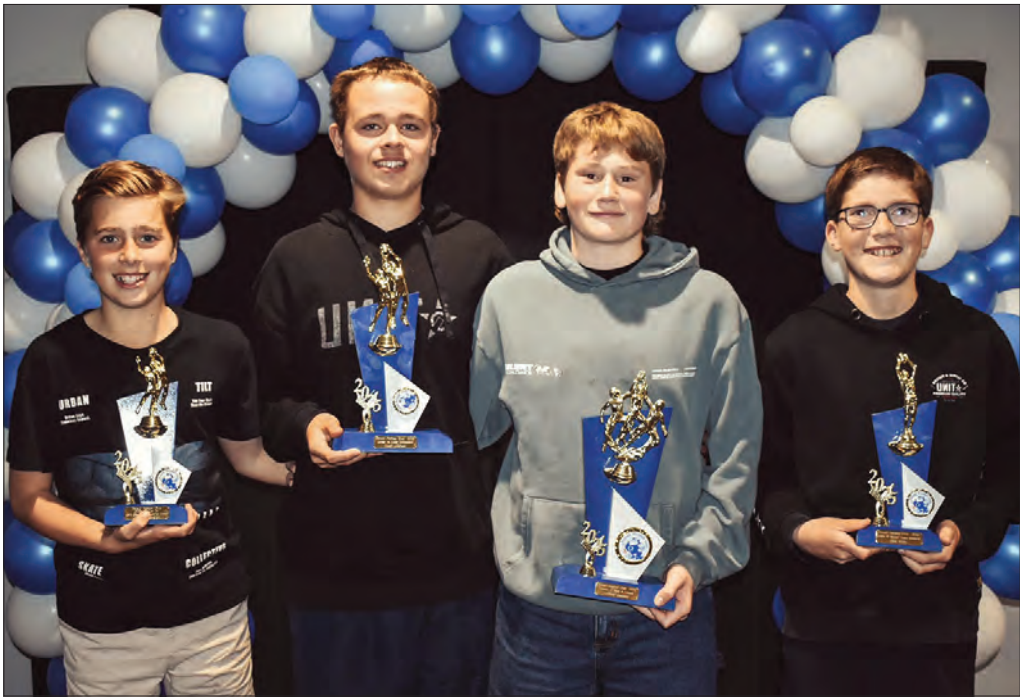
• Josh Joseph – under-14 Most improved.



• Kelly Petrie.



• Under-17 left to right: Jesse Lydom, Brady Cumming, Josh Nuske, Ethan Clapham, Hugo Funcke, Jack Reilly.



• Winners of under-14 Donald Football Club Junior awards, left to right: Justin Hepworth, Noah Michael, Emmett Geddes, Max Reilly (Samuel Mortlock absent).



• Shaun Geddes and Jason Rice.



• “C” badged netball umpires: from left to right; Lucy Robinson, Jo Beavis, Halle Rice.

**Good Luck to all teams competing in the finals series of the North-Central football, netball and hockey.**  
**From the staff at the “Buloke Times”.**



# Forty-Year Anniversary of North-Central Netball Win

On Sunday at the North-Central presentation day, the association acknowledged the forty-year anniversary of NCNA winning the “A” Reserve Premiership of the Country Championships held at Royal Park in Melbourne.

Coach Barb Toma, from Charlton called the five players present from that team on to the stage and spoke glowingly of their winning achievement. Players were presented with a laminated team photograph, and they enjoyed reminiscing throughout the day.

The “Recorder” article from the successful result read as follows:

**Country Weekend Triumph: North-Central is on the Map!**

Over the Queen’s Birthday weekend, a combined North-Central netball representative team – North-Central Red – was successful in winning the “A” Reserve Premiership of the Country Championships held at Royal Park in Melbourne.

It was a special victory not only because the Association has been runner-up in this section twice before, but also because it was a just reward for the dedication, time, effort and financial support given by a collective body of coaches, players and officials all involved in the N.C.N.A. Inc..

Of the three N.C.N.A. representative teams to compete over the weekend, only North-Central Red was able to advance to the finals.

Creditable performances were given by North-Central White and the under-18 teams, but a series of injuries throughout the day and top class competition in their respective sections proved to be too great a hurdle and they were unable to advance any further than the preliminary rounds.

North-Central Red, capably coached by Barb. Toma, from Charlton, was able to improve its standard of play

over each game in the quarter and semi-finals to advance confidently to the grand final.

The results of these finals matches were as follows:

- North-Central 6 defeated by Shepparton (2) 8.
- North-Central 18 defeated Wonthaggi 7.
- North-Central 24 d. Corio 3.
- North-Central 15 d Shepparton (2) 13.
- North-Central 19 d. Maryborough 13.
- North-Central 12 d. N.C.G.F.L. 10.
- North-Central 15 d. Shepparton (2) 7. (Grand Final.)

This strong combination was then reaching its peak form and its performance to win the grand final so convincingly, was nothing less than outstanding. In a fine team effort with every player contributing her best, North-Central defeated Shepparton (2) in the grand final 15 goals to 7.

A large crowd of North-Central supporters was ecstatic, after the win and very happy bus trip home crowned a successful and memorable weekend for all involved.

An informal evening has been arranged at the Charlton Motel on June 29 for all players, coaches, officials and any interested supporters of

the N.C.N.A. Inc., to congratulate all representative players and coaches, particularly the North-Central Red team.

The shield presented to the team, and photos of the weekend, will be on display, and a video of the grand final and presentation of trophies by Judy Joy Davies will be viewed. Further details can be obtained from club secretaries.

The victorious North-Central Red team consisted of captain Jayne Burton G.D. (Charlton), vice-captain Heather Jeffery G.S. (Boort), Julie Tuck G.A., Julie Coffey G.S. (Birchip), Sally McLean W.D. (Donald), Rhonda Thompson C. (Charlton), Valma Sanford G.K. (Wyche-proof-Narraport), Deanne Scarce W.D. (St. Arnaud) and Jenny Goldsmith W.A. (Watchem-Corack).

These fine netballers are to be congratulated on their outstanding performance in so impressively winning the “A” Reserve final.

The N.C.N.A. Inc., is justly proud of their achievement.

\*Foot(ball) note: On behalf of the N.C.F.L. the “Recorder” adds its congratulations to these netballers and officials who brought such credit to the name of North-Central. Good on you, girls!



• Reunion team; Jenny, Julie, Rhonda, coach Jayne, Margaret.



• An impressive crowd had been gathered for the 40-year anniversary.

## E-Mailers!

Contributors sending stories and photos to the “Times” via E-mail are reminded to include identifications of any people in photographs.

## Goldacres North-Central Football League Second Semi-Final Results

Gate at Boort \$18,245

### GOLDACRES SENIORS

CALDER UNITED.	5.0	8.1	10.3	10.5	(65)
BIRCHIP-WATCHEM	0.1	2.2	6.3	8.6	(54)

Goals for Calder United: Dale Pearce 4, Mitch Farmer 3, Zane Keighran, Jack Marlais, Matthew Wade.

For Birchip-Watchem: Rhona Conboy 2, Lachy Foott 2, Tom Gibson 2, Meyrick Buchanan, Ben Edwards.

Best for Calder United: Daniel Watts, Charlie Fawcett, Oscar Madden, Zane Keighran, Matthew Trzeciak, Matthew Wade.

For Birchip-Watchem: Ben Lakin, Charlie Frank, Marshall Rippon, Austin Dean, Tom Gibson, Jacob Christie.

### HAEUSLER’S RESERVES

CALDER UNITED.....	1.4	3.4	6.8	8.10	(58)
BOORT .....	0.1	3.3	5.3	5.3	(33)

Goals for Calder United: Heath Senior 2, Brett Barker, Hunter Connolly, Cody Green, James Ison, Dude Kelly, Tiger Vearing.

For Boort: Jack Baker, Malachi Coleman, Jacob Mulquiny, Patrick O’Rourke, Harry Weaver.

Best for Calder United: Jack Morrison, Joel Turner, Sol Kelly, Billy Forrester, Tiger Vearing, James Ison.

For Boort: Jack Baker, Cameron Ross, Fraser Millar, Angus Trethowan, Sam Toose, Dylan Hatcher.

### COMMUNITY BANK CHARLTON & DISTRICT UNDER-SEVENTEENS

SEA LAKE-NANDALY	2.2	4.6	4.7	5.9	(39)
ST ARNAUD.....	1.0	1.1	4.2	4.4	(28)

Goals for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Hugo Warne 3, Taj Borlase, Jacob Cox.

For St Arnaud: Sean Bridgeman, Declan Kay, Archer Reyne, Chase Zander.

Best for Sea Lake-Nandaly: Nate McClelland, Judd Durie, Angus Renney, Hugo Warne, Brayden Allan, Jacob Cox.

For St Arnaud: Sean Bridgeman, Austin Lowe, Jack Batters, Aidan Wickham, Finn Wilson, Fraser Burke.

### UNITING CHURCH UNDER-FOURTEENS

ST ARNAUD.....	2.2	4.5	4.6	5.7	(37)
SEA LAKE-NANDALY	0.0	0.0	2.2	5.4	(34)

Goals for St Arnaud: Private Player 2, Charlie Baldwin, Chase Hendy, Duncan Kirk.

For Sea Lake Nandaly: Henry Cox 2, Randy Bailey, Hamish Landry.

Best for St Arnaud: Patrick Zsigmond, Chase Hendy, Jesse James, Duncan Kirk, Arley Reyne.

For Sea Lake-Nandaly: Henry Cox, Riley Allan, Finn Austerberry, Harry Wight, Hamish Landry, Jack Hodgson.

### HOCKEY

**Women:** St. Arnaud 2 d. Calder United 1.

**Men:** Calder United 4 d. St. Arnaud 3.

**Underage:** Charlton 1 d. St Arnaud 0.

**Under-12:** Calder United 3 d. Birchip-Watchem 2.

### NETBALL

**“A” grade:** Wedderburn 46 d. Boort 45.

**“B” grade:** Wedderburn 57 d. Calder United 31.

**“C” grade:** Calder United 59 d. Wedderburn 44.

**“C” grade reserves:** Boort 43 d. Sea Lake-Nan 34.

**Under-17 “A”:** Calder United 62 d. Birchip-Watchem 44.

**Under-14 “A”:** Boort 20 d. Birchip-Watchem 17.

**Under-14 “B”:** St. Arnaud 21 d. Boort 7.

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## “Times” Crossword

### QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8191 - SOLUTIONS

**Across** - 7, South America. 8, Hammer. 9, Supper. 10, Dispute. 12, Snips. 15, Strip. 16, Satchel. 18, Charge. 20, Lentil. 22, Obstreperous.

**Down** - 1, Vocalist. 2, Atom. 3, Narrate. 4, Feast. 5, Hispanic. 6, Gale. 11, Primrose. 13, Previous. 14, Gallops. 17, Weird. 19, Hoop. 21, Norm.



# Blistering Start Propels Calder Lions Into Big One

• Continued from page 16.  
flickering but still a long way behind.

Then the Pearce show hit town, he dazzled with his athleticism, turning veteran Jake Noonan inside out, just too quick with lightening leads. Noonan didn't get enough assistance from those further afield; his task was made even more difficult with precision passing from those aforementioned midfielders. And in a blink Pearce had two majors in a row, chock full of confidence and the Bulls again on the back foot. Lachy Foott with a banana kick got one back for the Bulls and ever so slightly the Bulls had tightened the contest up, Lakin playing a blinder down back. With Ryan doing a good job shadowing Farmer, the focus became all Pearce and with just minutes remaining on the clock, he was again hit up 40 metres out, and duly slotted the set shot. Lions a quite incredible 8.1 with the windy conditions at the long break, a comfortable 6-goal margin in front of the Bulls with a ton of work to do to get back in the contest.

The Bulls had at least got themselves up off the floor and were making a contest of it, willing to run, to tackle and put themselves into the heat of the battle and it was a fierce battle, no more so than the ruck contests with the 130kg gorillas continuing to bang into each other. Watts and Conboy were going at it, Humphreys, the clearing master, got plenty of support across halfback from the evergreen Boe Bish; he can't wear deodorant, as nobody goes near him and that's been the case for over 10 years now. He relishes finals football and still remarkably finds himself as the creative loose playmaker, oppositions don't seem to learn, or he's just too smart.

Connick chucked the magnets around, forward line re-balanced, Lakin to Pearce down back, by contrast his opposite number Darryl Wilson had no cause to change things up. His side settled and played beautifully, despite this being the first year of the combined Nullawil and Wyche-Narraport. Plenty of new players in 2025 who looked to have been playing years together, almost an intuitive understanding down

back between Humphreys, Watts, Bish, and Munro.

If nothing more, the Bulls had pride to play for and next week to prepare for, if the game was a foregone conclusion, which it seemed with a six-goal margin. They set about their task admirably beginning in the middle, Hosking and Putt still nullifying each other, the ball a hot potato at ground level and the Bulls burrowed in. Jacob Christie was in at the heat, Rippon and Meyrick Buchanan same, getting busy and some ball at least getting into their forward arc. Youngster Charlie Frank and Austin Dean got busy around the ball, Frank mature beyond his years became a playmaker, Dean harassing and coralling, won a few critical balls and suddenly the Bulls were up and about. Where had they been in the first half; they just hadn't brought the heat.

Tom Gibson, relatively quiet in the first half, though he had plenty of mates, got busy playing deeper forward and with a fine competitive pack mark inside 10 metres, duly got the Bulls off to the start they desperately needed. Then Conboy, just a competitive beast, hard to keep a good man down, got two in a row, Bulls at last giving a yelp. Conboy's second was the result of their best play thus far, from down back with a Lakin gather, then a series of kicks hitting Bill Lee, Frank and then Conboy's hard run and goal. Keighran, who had been everywhere, roaming the ground gathering possessions at will, then popped one through with a receive from a questionable Putt mark to restore Calder's wide lead before Gibson, again with strong work upfront, dragged in another and scored. The margin was back to 3 goals and the wind favouring the northern end beginning to die down. Could the Bulls pull off the impossible? Inexplicably the Bulls allowed Jack Marlais to drift from deep down back and lob around half-forward, where with a receive, he was able to launch a beautiful running shot to provide a strong buffer. Calder seemed to have the required responses whenever the Bulls challenged, though the Bulls had cut the margin back to 4 goals at the last change from 6 at half-time; had a sniff at least.

Wilson preached calmness, trust our systems, trust your teammates, no heroics required, game ours to lose, Bulls with the massive task ahead and indeed they took challenge front on. They surged, peppered the big sticks but couldn't thread the needle. A couple of near misses, oh so close, but no cigars. Then Foott again bent one through, he'd been having a good day, a sniff still there, 17 points down but with 15 minutes still to play. Lions desperate, the ball predominantly in the Bulls' forward half, youngster Charlie Fawcett pushing down back from his wing to provide assistance in the clinches, he too had been enjoying a good day out, chip off the old block. Lakin mopped up anything that ventured into Calder's forward arc. Buchanan who was building with each quarter returning after a 5 week layoff, marked on a tight angle 20 metres out and slotted it, under 2 goals in it, but the clock winding down. The Bulls had kept coming but the siren saw them short. Calder United into an historic grand final in its first year, a huge effort to bind and mould a united team; and that's what they were.

Their first quarter had been sublime and effectively from there, they had established their remarkable victory, orchestrated from the middle but with winners across the park especially in the first half. They have some serious top end talent, Humphreys, Kennedy, Wade, Pearce, though worryingly he was sitting on the pine from midway through the third quarter, but perhaps Wilson had put him on ice mindful of his recent return from injury. Add to this an incredible depth, not a single passenger on the train and into the big dance they are, where they will be difficult to beat.

The Bulls have 7 days to seek redemption, some serious soul searching to do, they had not turned up to play and were spanked in a lacklustre opening, which simply saw them on the backfoot from the get-go. Do that again against the Tigers this weekend in what promises to be blockbuster, and they'll be blown out of the park.

However, their second half demonstrated what they are capable of and surely they couldn't play as poorly again, for they were poor. Connick won't allow them and on the wide open expanses of St Arnaud's Lord Nelson Park next week's prelim final should be a belter between two premier sides who don't particularly like each other.

Final scores: Calder United 10.5 (65) d. Birchip Watchem 8.6 (54).

Best players for: Calder United: Daniel Watts, Charlie Fawcett, Oscar Madden, Zane Keighan, Matthew Trzeciak, Matthew Wade

For Birchip-Watchem: Ben Lakin, Charlie Frank, Marshall Rippon, Austin Dean, Tom Gibson, Jacob Christie.



• Lion's speedster Rylee Smith gets boot to ball under pressure from Bulls' Ben Hogan.



• Calder United's Matt Wade gets his kick away under pressure from the Bulls' Lachie Ryan as Birchip-Watchem's ruckman Hamish Hosking runs in from the right.

## New Challenge for Birchip Bowlers

**As the winter sports head towards finals and go into recess for another year, it will time to turn our thoughts to summer sporting pursuits and for the Birchip Bowling Club it will be a new era.**

At the clubs annual general meeting it was decided to take up an offer to enter a side in the Northern Valley Premier League as well as still having two division sides in the Tyrrell Association.

Birchip will have a division 1 and 2 teams in Saturday Pennant in the Tyrrell Association, with 1 Midweek team and 1 team in the Northern Valley Premier League.

Entering a team in the premier league offers the club an exciting new challenge, giving those selected a chance at playing at a higher level while still maintaining two competitive sides in the Tyrrell Association.

It is exciting to know the club has embraced the move and the players are looking forward to the challenge.

The Tyrrell Association will start on the October 4,

whilst Northern Valley will kick off on October 11.

A premier league side will be selected to play a practice match against Swan Hill Racecourse Bowls Club on October 4 at Birchip, while Division 1 and 2 Birchip will start the pennant season off against Woomelang at Woomelang.

The club will also be playing a practice match against neighbours Beulah on Sunday, September 21, with assembly at 11.45 for a barbecue and play commencing at 12.30. Players will play 21 ends before afternoon tea and a beverage or two.

### Coaching Sessions

On September 19, Luke Hoskin will be in Birchip for a coaching session starting at 3.30 in the afternoon. Luke is a registered coach and plays premier league bowls with the

Bendigo Bowling Club in Campaspe Goldfield's and premier league bowls in the Melbourne Premier League.

Luke is a highly sought after coach and this presents an opportunity for members and visitors alike to learn and develop skills.

The club would also like to extend a very warm welcome to anybody interested in taking up the game, either competitively or socially, to come along and have a go.

There will be somebody available to help you get started and hopefully get you involved in the game of bowls.

We look forward to the 2025/26 season with a great deal of excitement and know that due to the commitment of the members the Birchip Bowls Club will have another successful season.

*The Ol' Grey Bowler.*

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## Blistering Start Propels Calder Lions Into Big One

Calder United is into North Central's grand final in its first season as an amalgamated club, with a triumphant 11-point win over a plucky Birchip-Watchem.

The Lions routed the Bulls with a blistering five goal-to-zip opening quarter in the face of a stiff breeze, setting up their meritorious victory on the lush surface of Boort Park. The Bulls rallied bravely in the second half but the horse had bolted with that brilliant first-quarter Calder blitz.

The Lions just came to play, executing with aplomb, particularly in their brilliant first-quarter effort, Kitchenaid, sliced and diced the Bulls like they were bananas and apples, razor sharp, aggressive in at the contest and then clinical with their disposal as they surged the ball forward. Mitch Farmer ran riot with 3 opening quarter goals, including his first in the opening minutes of play to stun the hitherto unbeaten Bulls. Not so anymore, their brains trust has plenty of thinking to do in the next 7 days.

It was Calder United's dynamic mids who had them up and running from the get-go, completely dominating their counterparts. Steve Kennedy, Matt Wade, and Zane Keighran were in everything and everywhere, winning the ball at will across the park and then delivering with precision, breaking through the Bulls' defensive zone, hitting up hard leading forwards with Bulls' defenders offering too much room and space.

Farmer was dynamic and acutely accurate, his mastery at shooting set shots into the difficult breeze was exceptional. Mid-season gun recruit Dale Pearce was looking ominous early too, and then he exploded in the second term. If it wasn't for the intercepting efforts of Ben Lakin, who

shone like a beacon down back all day for the Bulls, it would have been an even more ugly scoreline at quarter-time. He was a colossus all day, dragging in contested pack marks, smothering the impossible at ground level, running off and creating play further afield; kept the Bulls in the contest and then some.

By contrast, whenever the Bulls moved the ball forward, kicking with the aid of a solid breeze, the Lions' back six were impenetrable helped significantly by the Bulls' poor and inaccurate disposal. They just coughed the ball up too often, groans from the crowd audible, time after time.

Calder captain Jordan Humphreys at centre half-back was able to reel in uncontested marks and deliver forwards and, if he didn't, then it was stalwart Daniel Watts doing much the same, whilst blanketing Bulls' hard nut Rhona Conboy, no easy task. Making matters even more difficult for the Bulls was the snow job Oscar Madden was doing on century goalkicker Ben Edwards, though his job was made easier by the Bulls' slow and inaccurate ball movement inwards.

Dean Putt, back in the side after a number of weeks sidelined, was crucial to the Lions' performance. He took the ruck challenge right up to Bulls' colossus Hamish Hosking, providing a solid contest, matching the physical hulking force of Hosking, and he had the luxury of sidekick Matt Trzeciak in tandem to wear Hosking over. Without Hosking's usual dominance the Bulls' mids had trouble getting their hands on the pill

first and their task in the middle was exacerbated further with gun playmaker Nick Rippon missing with injury.

The Lions' opening quarter simply stunned the Bulls, five goals straight into a stiff breeze to the Bulls' solitary point. Some quarter of football they had played, first to the ball, players surging forward to create space further afield, Bulls' on the back foot, bruise free and just not reacting to the situation. Bulls' coach Ash Connick read the riot act, laid out in no uncertain terms his thoughts, but importantly, what his charges had to do to get back in the game; take risks, play-on at all costs, lockdown when required, lay a tackle for they had barely laid one in a poor quarter of football, but that would also be taking away credit from the complete dominance of the Calder boys, who had been rampant.

He swung some changes, Lach Ryan moved to Farmer, Marshall Rippon into the mid-field heat and the Bulls started to give a yelp. Rippon provided a contest, no longer was the ball flipping out uncontested to unmarked Lions, Bulls suddenly reactive, whereas in the first stanza they were like rabbits in the spotlight. Their forwards were in at the contest and when a ball floated to the cauldron of their goal square, Edwards dragged in a big contested pack mark, then made no mistake with the kick, Bulls on the scoreboard and the lights

• Continued on page 15.



• Calder United's Dale Pearce drags in a hanger over the Bulls' Lachlan Ryan.



• Matt Wade pounces on the ball for the Lions, watched by Ben Hogan (Bulls), Rick Allan (Calder United) and Lachie Ryan, (Bulls). —Photos Clare Letts.

### PRELIMINARY FINALS

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6 AT ST ARNAUD

<p><b>SENIORS   2:30PM</b> BIRCHIP-WATCHEM V SEA LAKE NANDALY</p> <p><b>RESERVES   12:35PM</b> BOORT V BIRCHIP-WATCHEM</p> <p><b>UNDER 17'S   10:55AM</b> ST ARNAUD V BOORT</p> <p><b>UNDER 14'S   9:30AM</b> SEA LAKE NANDALY V BOORT</p>	<p><b>A   3:00PM</b></p> <p><b>B   1:45PM</b></p> <p><b>C   12:30PM</b></p> <p><b>C RES   11:15AM</b></p> <p><b>17&amp;U   10:00AM</b></p> <p><b>14&amp;U 'A'   9:00AM</b></p> <p><b>14&amp;U 'B'   10:00AM</b></p>	<p><b>BOORT V SEA LAKE NANDALY</b></p> <p><b>CALDER UNITED V BIRCHIP-WATCHEM</b></p> <p><b>WEDDERBURN V BOORT</b></p> <p><b>SEA LAKE NANDALY V CALDER UNITED</b></p> <p><b>BIRCHIP-WATCHEM V BOORT</b></p> <p><b>BIRCHIP-WATCHEM V DONALD</b></p> <p><b>BOORT V BIRCHIP-WATCHEM</b></p>
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**MENS | 3:15PM**

**WOMENS | 1:40PM**

**UNDERAGE | 12:30PM**

**UNDER 12 | 11:30AM**

**ST ARNAUD V DONALD**

**CALDER UNITED V WEDDERBURN**

**ST ARNAUD V DONALD**

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