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



• Jane Dyer holding up the cup at Goodwin Village.



• Melbourne Cup staff Patricia (Trish) Anderson and Srishti Rimal (right) "horsing" around.

Special Offer Follows Melbourne Cup Visit

The excitement of the Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour's visit to Donald may have passed, but the Victoria Racing Club (VRC) is keeping the spirit alive with a special offer for the Donald community: two-for-one General Admission tickets to any day of the 2025 Melbourne Cup Carnival.

This limited-time offer is a "thank you" to Donald for its warm welcome and enthusiastic participation in the national tour of the iconic Cup. Locals now have the chance to experience the thrill of

Flemington firsthand – whether it's the glamour of Cup Day or the tradition of Derby Day.

"This is a wonderful gesture from the VRC," said

Jodie Hollis, chairperson of Donald 2000.

Donald 2000 organised the visit on the August 31, and was very thankful of the support offered by the Donald

Pony Club, Goodwin Village and the Donald Hospital.

"We were proud to showcase our town's spirit, and now we're invited to be part of the Carnival in return," said Jodie.

To redeem the offer, visit Ticketmaster's website, click on the "Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour Offer" at the top of the page, and enter the code

DONALD. The offer applies to the following race days:

- Victoria Derby Day – Saturday, November 1.
- Lexus Melbourne Cup Day – Tuesday, November 4.
- Crown Oaks Day – Thursday, November 6.
- TAB Champion Stakes Day – Saturday, November 8.

The offer is open for a short time only, so residents

are encouraged to act quickly and share the news with friends and family.

"Whether you're a racing enthusiast or simply want to enjoy a day out at Flemington, this is a great opportunity to do it together – and at half the cost," Jodie added.

Donald's Cup Tour may be over, but the memories, and the invitations, continue.

National Award for Minyip Murtoa Club

In a remarkable achievement, the Minyip Murtoa Football Netball Club (MMFNC) has been named the national winner of the 2025 Toyota AFL National Community Club of the Year award.

The Minyip Murtoa Club, which also secured the state title, was celebrated for its innovative and dedicated approach to building a "destination club" in an area facing population decline.

Ange Ballinger (AFL Wimmera Mallee Region Manager), and Liam Brady (AFL Wimmera Mallee Club Development Lead) made the announcement last Thursday night, following training, to a room full of club faithful who celebrated both the State and National award with much enthusiasm.

Club president Chris Delahunty and his team were praised for their strategic planning and commitment to growth, particularly in junior and female participation.

Their win comes with an incredible prize package, including a three-night trip to Melbourne, an invitation to the "Welcome to Melbourne" function, attendance at the AFL Grand Final parade, and a reserved seat ticket to the 2025 Toyota AFL Grand Final. The club will also be celebrated at the AFL Victoria awards in October.

Key Initiatives

Chris Delahunty's vision has already led to significant advancements for the club and its community. Among their key initiatives:

- Junior Football Development: The club created a dedicated second playing surface for their Under-8 and Under-11 football teams, allowing



• Left to right: Daniel Smith (director of football), Nikki Hotker (director of netball), Liam Brady (AFL Wimmera Mallee club development lead), Chris Delahunty (president MMFNC), Liam Newall (committee member), Ange Ballinger (AFL Wimmera Mallee region manager).

them to play a full game at every home match, enhancing the experience for their youngest players.

- Auskick Expansion: Minyip Murtoa FNC established a satellite Auskick centre in nearby Horsham, leading to a remarkable 30% growth in Auskick numbers in 2025.

- Pioneering Female Football: The club was instrumental in influencing the Wimmera Football Netball League to start a female football competition. They entered a collaborative Under-14 girls' team with neighbouring Warrack Eagles FNC and a stand-alone senior women's team in 2025, growing their female

registrations to an impressive 46 players – up from zero.

- Facility Upgrades: Future-focused planning and significant financial co-contributions will deliver new lights at the Minyip ground, and new netball courts at Murtoa in 2026, which will further support participation and growth.

The club's success story serves as an inspiring example of how strategic leadership and community focus can sustain a local sports club and create a vibrant hub for all ages. Minyip Murtoa FNC has proven itself to be a "best practice" club, setting a new standard for clubs across the country.

Hindmarsh Councillors Tour Industrial Estate

Donald’s booming industrial precinct has caught the eye of Hindmarsh Shire Council, with Mayor Ron Ismay and five councillors touring the estate last week, alongside Economic Development Manager Mark Fletcher.

The group, led by Ismay – a respected businessman from Rainbow – was on a fact-finding mission to explore how Donald’s model of small business growth could be replicated in Hindmarsh.

From plumbing to pastries, the delegation visited a diverse lineup of enterprises, including Goldy’s Patch, SMD Automotive, Pacific Fuels, and B&B Harvesting. But it

was the newly completed Kooka’s Country Cookies factory and the towering big Kookaburra sculpture that stole the show.

“This is the kind of development that happens when council, community, and business work together,” Mayor Ismay said, praising the collaborative spirit behind Donald’s success.

The visit wrapped up with a nostalgic stop at the original Kooka’s outlet, where the councillors stocked up on sweet souvenirs for the road home.

Graeme Harris, of Donald 2000, co-ordinated the tour, which left Hindmarsh officials inspired and eager to bring similar energy to their own backyard.

Letter to the Editor

Chamber Hands Over to Donald 2000

(The Editor, “Buloke Times”)

Dear Sir.— I am disappointed to learn, but fully understand, that after not being able to attract sufficient interest from our local business community to form a committee, the Donald Chamber of Commerce and Industry will now be fully absorbed into Donald 2000, further increasing the demands on that dedicated and hard-working community-based organisation.

The incumbent administration, led by president Rachel Grant, has served the local business community very well over a number of years, but their individual circumstances have changed, and it was time for others in the business community to take the reins.

Donald’s Chamber of Commerce and Industry has for decades been a very proactive volunteer-based committee of like-minded business owners and their representatives, but in recent

years, the responsibility of running the Chamber fell increasingly to willing staff members.

Having been a member of the Chamber from the mid-1980s until my retirement, working with such dedicated community leaders as the late Harold Strickland, John Robinson, Kevin Allen, Owen Michael, Leigh and Joan Hardingham, John Lenaghan, Leanne Onley, Kez Duncan, Dee Bufton, Graeme and Sandra Harris, and more recently Rachel Grant, Nicole Nunn, Stacey Morris, Chloe Jane and Sarah Jardine, to mention just a few of the town’s tireless promoters, it is both sad and disappointing to see what was once a very strong and robust organisation ceasing to operate in its own right.

I commend Rachel and committee members, and all who came before, for presenting and promoting Donald’s business community in a very positive way.

Annual Christmas promotions were a highlight on the local calendar, with the major

prize draw attracting thousands of entries and rewarding those who supported local businesses.

For almost 30 years, the annual promotion attracted up to 80 participating businesses, with prizes ranging from a brand-new Barina car, to an overseas holiday, and in more recent times, \$10,000 in shopping vouchers each year, with a major prize of \$5,000.

From personal experience, organising that event takes countless hours of work preparing and co-ordinating, and relies heavily on the generous support of local businesses, from large enterprises to one-person operations.

I only hope that Donald 2000 has the capacity to take on the additional challenge of representing the local business community, in addition to the many other responsibilities it holds, working for the betterment of our town.

Shane O’Shea,
Past President,
Donald Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



• From left to right: Cr Ron Ismay (Mayor), Graeme Harris (Donald 2000), Cr James Barry, Cr Rosie Barker, Cr Roger Aitken, Cr Chan Uoy (Deputy Mayor).

Free Skin Cancer Checks for Donald, Charlton, St Arnaud

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world and Lions Clubs in Victoria and Southern NSW are doing something practical about reducing that level and its impact on families.

The incorporated charity, the Lions V District’s Cancer Foundation, has put a Skin Check and Awareness Unit on the road, following excellent financial support from Lions Clubs and generous public and private supporters.

The Lions Club of District V1-4 are proud to announce that the Skin Check van will be visiting Donald on October 4 and 5 (Recreation Reserve, Donald), Charlton on October 11 and 12 (1 High St, Charlton), and St Arnaud on October 18 and 19 (Market Square, St Arnaud, located behind Shire Office).

Fully Trained Volunteers

The van will provide a free skin checking service to local people and will be operated by fully trained, certificated and professionally supervised volunteers. The unit will also be a valuable resource for local people to access not only the skin check, but valuable and timely information

about skin care and self checking techniques.

We know early detection of skin lesions potentially saves lives, so this visit will be a timely support and reminder to local people of the need to take care of their skin.

Referral

Following the skin check, visitors will be issued with a referral to their GP if there are any suspect spots or lesions. The Unit is not a medical clinic, so diagnosis or treatment requirements are not discussed – it simply provides the

skin check and alerts the visitor to skin lesions that require further checking and attention: a great first step in ensuring urgent needs are addressed.

The airconditioned van has three fully equipped Checking Rooms and an entry foyer, as well as a disabled lift and entry at the rear.

To book a free Skin Cancer Checking, local and surrounding residents should contact Colleen Harmer (Donald) on 0417 501 447, Harry Brindley (Charlton) on 0427 911 407, or Marg Batters (St Arnaud) on 0417 391 585.

Call for Calendar Photos

The Birchip Community Forum has begun preparations for its seventh annual community calendar and is calling on locals to get snapping.

Over the years, the calendar has become a much-loved feature in homes and workplaces across the district, showcasing the beauty and character of the Birchip region.

Thanks to the generosity of local photographers, it has featured stunning images of landscapes, farm activities, weather events, wildlife, town scenes, and seasonal crops.

The Forum is once again seeking fresh contributions for the 2026 edition. Resi-

dents are encouraged to take new photos or browse through their collections for suitable images. Photos should be in landscape format, clearly named and captioned with their location, and feature local scenery only – as nearby towns produce their own calendars. Importantly, photos must not include recognisable people.

Submissions can be sent via email to birchipcommunitycalendar@hotmail.com by Friday, September 26, 2025. Event dates and community

meetings for inclusion in the calendar can also be sent to the same address.

Local businesses are invited to support the project through advertising, with spaces available at \$20 each. The Forum will be contacting all past advertisers from 2025, and new businesses are warmly encouraged to get involved. Any advertising or photo-related queries can be directed to the staff at Mallee Branded.

Calendars will again be available for \$20, with postage costs advised closer to distribution.

The Birchip Community Forum looks forward to creating another vibrant and unique calendar that captures the essence of the district, through the eyes of its community.

“Times” Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8192 - SOLUTIONS

Across - 1, Code. 7, Camembert. 8, Mink. 9, Oral. 10, Sane. 11, Lime. 14, Dish-washer. 16, Copenhagen. 19, Glee. 22, Crow. 24, Agog. 25, Free. 26, Eccentric. 27, Cent.

Down - 1, Camel. 2, Denim. 3, Walrus. 4, Bellow. 5, Ibis. 6, Orangeade. 12, Incorrect. 13, Edge. 15, Sing. 17, Hearty. 18, Goodie. 20, Large. 21, Event. 23, Whet.

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Paper Collection for Donald and District

The Donald Lions Cub is committed to organizing the waste paper collection of the Donald township and district.

Previously some Lions have been involved with the maintaining of the storage shed and stacking the papers at the shed in the hospital grounds.

In a letter from East Wimmer Health Services, CEO, Trevor Adem, was quoted: “Members of the Donald Lions Club, after receiving your request to obtain the paper shed located at the Donald Hospital Campus grounds, we wish to inform you East Wimmera Health Service is happy to donate the shed to the Lions Club of Donald.

“The Donald Hospital is to receive a multi-million-dollar hydrant upgrade and unfortu-

nately the only suitable place for pump sets to be installed is where the current paper shed sits. This upgrade is necessary for the protection of all people within the buildings and also the buildings itself.”

There are a couple of normal safety conditions which apply for the removal of the shed.

Alternatively, the Donald Lions Club is also investigating the opportunity to use a 20-foot or 40-foot container for storage, and would be happy to hear from anyone with this type of container available.

The club is also looking for a hard surfaced site for this relocation which allows truck



access and the possibility of available power.

So, any suggestions of where to keep your papers stored, until the Donald Lions get set up for recycling this valuable resource, or for further advice on collection or drop off of papers, contact David James, Michael Raynes or Graeme Harris.

Home Care Packages Released

After two days of sustained questioning in Parliament the Coalition has forced the Albanese Labor Government to belatedly release tens of thousands of home care packages for older Australians who have been left waiting for far too long.

Labor promised 83,000 new packages from July 1, 2025, but instead decided to withhold support – despite the sector and the Department being ready to deliver them.

Labor’s delays meant not one new home care package has been released this financial year.

As a result, the priority waitlist has blown out to more than 108,000, a 400 per cent increase in just two years, while wait times have tripled. Tragically, almost 5,000 older Australians died in the past year while waiting for care.

Pressure Campaign

Thanks to a co-ordinated pressure campaign from the

Coalition, the Government has caved into pressure and agreed to immediately release 20,000 home care packages – despite the Government voting against this requirement in the Senate.

Member for Mallee, Dr Anne Webster, said twenty thousand home packages released is a win for older Australians in desperate need for help.

“The Coalition has fought for older Australians to get the support they need and deserve.

A Choice

“Labor faced a choice today: listen to the Coalition and release these packages



• Dr. Anne Webster.

now, or deny vulnerable Australians the support they desperately need,” Dr Webster said.

“We forced this arrogant Labor Government to listen to older Australians and to the Coalition.

“But be under no illusion Labor has been forced into a humiliating backdown.”

The Coalition expects the Government to now release a further 20,000 home care packages by the end of the year, and the full 83,000 promised by the end of this financial year.

“Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Health Minister Mark Butler and Aged Care Minister Sam Rae must all now explain to Australians why it took the Coalition holding their feet to the fire in the Senate to release this much-needed support. This should have happened months ago,” Dr Webster said.

“This situation should never have happened. The money was in the Budget. The capacity was there. Only Labor stood in the way.

“Black Mark”

“It is a black mark on this Government that they withheld support from 108,000 older Australians who desperately needed it. Quite frankly, people were dying while they waited.

“The Coalition will continue to fight for older Australians, with one clear goal: no one should have to wait for the care they have been assessed as needing.”

CFA Volunteers Frustrated by Government’s “Disrespect”

Thousands of Country Fire Authority volunteers across the state have expressed their frustration with the Victorian Government, marking the government poorly on virtually every area of CFA management and operations in a key survey.

The annual Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) survey received responses from more than 2000 CFA volunteers, with six out of seven survey themes recording a drop in volunteer satisfaction with the government.

Drops were recorded in the areas of respect for the role of volunteers and support from the CFA, and particularly in training and the provision of up-to-date appliances.

Of particular concern is the worst-ever recorded response in relation to the Allan Labor Government providing sufficient funding for CFA trucks and stations.

Leader of The Nationals and Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Danny O’Brien, said the survey re-

flects the frustration of CFA volunteers.

“For more than a decade now, the Labor government has disrespected the CFA and particularly its volunteers,” Mr O’Brien said.

“It’s alarming to see the lack of confidence that our volunteers have in the Allan Labor Government.

“Clearly they don’t believe the government’s rhetoric about supporting appliances and new stations, with the survey recording the worst ever result on that issue.

“Worse still, the survey was completed before legislation creating the new emergency services tax had passed Parliament. All the evidence shows that tax is about filling budget black holes, not sup-



• Danny O’Brien.

porting our frontline firefighters.

“This new tax has been slapped on Victorians at a time of a cost of living crisis and that’s why the Liberals and Nationals will scrap it if elected next year, while restoring the independence of the CFA and giving respect back to our volunteers.”

Call for Energy Transmission Reset

Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) President Brett Hosking has slammed the current rollout of energy projects, warning that a multi-billion dollar show of good faith may now be the only way to reset and move forward.

“Right now, farmers and agricultural land are being left worse off. That’s the brutal truth.”

“These projects have failed every test. AusNet in particular has wasted years, engagement has been an unmitigated disaster and they have completely lost the trust of the very communities they need onside. That’s no way to deliver a cleaner and better future.”

Unacceptable

Addressing the Bush Summit in Ballarat last week, Mr Hosking said it was unacceptable that governments were ignoring the communities being asked to carry the load of Australia’s energy transition, and said the ball was now in their court to send a major signal to rebuild trust.

“Governments and project proponents need landholders at the table to get this done right. But right now the trust is so fundamentally broken that we’re not even having the conversation,” he said.

Commitment

“To my mind, we’d need a multi-billion dollar commitment on the table to reset this conversation. Currently we’re talking roads, hospitals and sporting facilities, but as people in the regions, I think we’re entitled to those things at a minimum.

“We need to move to big picture thinking, not just tapping into cheaper energy in the regions, but going the next step and underwriting investments in things like local fertiliser production, onshore processing plants or biofuels production. They’re big ideas

that will require serious investment.

Investments

“People expect to see investments that will strengthen displaced industries for generations to come.

“A commitment of that scale might then pave the way for hard conversations on compensation, land use protections and coexistence that would still need to happen.

“Farmers want to be part of the solution, but not at the expense of their livelihoods. If rural Victoria is carrying the weight of future power generation, then governments must



• Brett Hosking.

deliver the investment and protections to make sure our communities thrive.”

“Freakier Friday”

Join Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan in the comedy movie “Freakier Friday” screening at The Rex this weekend.

The fantasy/comedy, produced by Walt Disney Pictures, is a nostalgic, fun and heartfelt celebration of family.

Anna Coleman (Lohan) and her mother Tess (Curtis) are in another predicament when they swap bodies with Anna’s daughter. Now it’s up to the three of them to reverse the body swap.

This sequel, made 22 years after the original, sees single mum and music manager, Anna quickly fall head over heels for handsome single dad Eric (Manny Jacinto). The couple marry and move their blended family to the UK where Curtis (Tess) as the overbearing grandmother tries to “help” her daughter with endless parenting advice.

When a body swap sees Anna and Tess assume the bodies of the gen “Z” youngsters and the young ones become the older generations, the jokes flow thick and fast.

The movie is filled with plenty of fun and is focused on mothers and daughters. The message is about the intensity of mother/daughter love, while also emphasizing that all young people want is control over their own lives.

Based on the book of the same name, the original “Freaky Friday” movie first appeared in 1976 starring Barbara Harris and a young Jodie Foster, before it resurfaced almost three decades later with the 2003 remake. Both were smash hits, poking fun at the explosive relationship between Tess and her teenage daughter.

Now the sequel is here and there’s a chance to reconnect with these characters as they line up once more for this generational romp.

“Freakier Friday” (M 131 mins) screens: Saturday, September 9, 8 p.m. | Sunday, September 10, 2 p.m. | Tuesday, September 12, 8 p.m..

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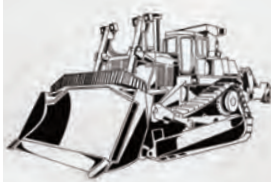
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The Fabulous Green and Gold

On April 19, 1984, the green and gold colours were officially declared Australia's national sports colours by the then Governor-General, Sir Ninian Stephen.

Since then the colours have been used by our national sporting teams, including our Olympians.

Why were the green and gold colours chosen? They are the colours of Australia's national floral emblem, the golden wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*), which grows widely around the continent, with its green leaves and golden flowers.

While driving through rural countryside very recently, I noted hundreds of Golden Wattle trees in full flower. These trees add fabulous colour to the landscape and remind us that the winter season is nearly finished and spring is coming soon.

The brilliant gold of the wattle flowers attracts, not only human eyes, but also the bees. Scientists tell us that golden wattle flowers do not produce a nectar for honey making by the bee, but they do produce a pollen rich in proteins which is ideal for the young bee larvae.

The bee has been called the most important insect in the world because of its pollinating of many flowers of various types of crops, vegetables, fruit trees and pasture. Without bees the food production of the world would decrease significantly.

Life of the Bee

Now a little about the life of the bee. Imagine that you are a honeybee. You leave your hive one fine spring morning with your wings buzzing at 200 times per second and cruising at 25 km/h and suddenly you notice a patch of flowers. You have

found a new pollen supply for your hive. So you fill your special pouch with pollen nectar and fly the 300 metres back to your hive. Up to this point, none of the thousands of other bees in your home hive know about this exciting find which you have made. So how do you communicate this good news to the other bees so they too can access this food source?

Pioneering Work

The world owes much to the pioneering work of the Austrian scientist Dr Karl von Frisch as far as understanding the communication skills of the bee is concerned. He spent over 25 years undertaking countless observations discovering much fascinating information and gaining the Nobel prize for Physiology in 1973 for his work.

Dr Frisch discovered that to communicate the location of a food source too distant from the hive to be smelt or seen by the other bees, the scout bee uses the "language of the bees". This includes performing a complex figure eight "dance". The dance waggles direction done in relation to the position of the sun communicates very clearly to other bees all details they need as far as direction is concerned, and intensity of the waggle determines the distance. Bees travel with minimum fuel load to a pollen collection spot so that they can have maximum payload on the return flight.

Startling Evidence

Writer Robert Doolan records, "Among the wonders of God's creation, the



• Bruce Stewart

honeybee provides some startling evidence for design and purpose by the Creator". We need to be grateful for the amazing achievements of the hard working bees.

Researchers tell us it takes approximately 556 worker bees visiting 2 million flowers to produce 450 grams of honey. One teaspoon full of honey is the lifetime work of 12 bees! So enjoy your honey!

Be grateful our Creator has endowed us with many blessings on planet Earth, including the bee and flowers of the Golden Wattle and other plants too. The Bible says: "How many are Your works, Lord! In wisdom You made them all" (Psalm 104:24).

The next time you see the blooming of the Wattle trees and the bees gaining pollen from them, pause and give thanks to our Creator, God, who has not only revealed Himself through the complexity and beauty of creation, sin damaged as it is now, but also revealed Himself through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. We have much to be thankful for.

Bruce Stewart.



Concern Over Shortage of Health Professionals

The Nationals' Member for Mildura, Jade Benham, recently met with Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV) Chief Executive Officer, Lauren Cordwell, to discuss the work of RWAV and the ongoing shortage of rural health practitioners in small Mallee towns.

The discussion focused on addressing GP shortages in rural communities and ensuring adequate housing for health professionals. RWAV, a not-for-profit, government-funded organisation, works to improve access to healthcare across regional Victoria, while supporting the recruitment and retention of health professionals in these areas.

Ms Benham said the meeting was an important and constructive step in understanding RWAV's objectives and the strategies they employ to attract medical professionals to regional areas.

"Here in North West Victoria, we are severely impacted by the rural GP

shortage. Smaller towns are struggling even further due to a lack of allied health professionals, such as physiotherapists, speech pathologists, and radiographers," Ms Benham said.

"RWAV plays a crucial role in supporting our communities by helping secure funding, providing suitable housing, and offering incentives for health professionals to work in rural areas.

"Towns like Hopetoun, which has newly constructed accommodation for health professionals, still urgently needs a GP as the current doctor plans to retire. Without these professionals, the community's access to essential



• Jade Benham.

services, including emergency care, is at risk.

"By focusing on practical solutions like funding support and accommodation, RWAV helps ensure regional communities can attract and retain the health professionals they need," Ms Benham said.

Victoria is Australia's Most Lawless State

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has confirmed what Victorians live everyday. That is, Victoria is the most lawless state in Australia.

Victoria has recorded increases of up to 58 per cent in the number of victims in eight out of 16 crime categories, including kidnapping/abduction, motor vehicle theft, armed robbery, and other offences including retail crime.

Leader of the Opposition, Brad Battin, said: "This is what happens when you underfund police, fail to have tough bail laws and drag the chain on banning machetes and dealing with retail crime.

"Today's data clearly demonstrates offenders believe it is their right to do whatever they want, whenever they want because there are no consequences.

"Only the Liberals and Nationals can deliver safer communities by introducing Break Bail, Face Jail, restoring police numbers, re-opening closed police stations and ensuring there are consequences for those who commit crime," Mr. Battin said.

Latest ABS Data

The crime crisis revealed by the state Crime Statistics Agency in June has been con-

firmed by the latest ABS data, which shows:

- Motor vehicle theft: Victoria recorded the fastest growth in victims, with a 41 per cent increase (+6,547 victims) compared to any other state or territory.

- Unlawful entry with intent: The state also suffered the fastest growth in these victims, rising by 25 per cent (+9,243 victims), which was more than any other state or territory.

- Armed robbery: Victoria experienced the fastest growth in armed robbery victims compared to all other states.
- Kidnapping/abduction: Victoria was the second-worst state for kidnapping and abduction, with the number of victims increasing by 58 per cent.

- Ranking by crime growth rate: For the 16 selected offences tracked by the ABS, Victoria's percentage increase in victims ranked as follows:

- #1 Fastest growth rate in eight offences.
- #2 Fastest growth rate in four offences.



• Brad Battin.

- #3 Fastest growth rate in two offences.

This places Victoria in the top three states for the fastest-growing crime rates in 14 of the 16 offences.

"Wild West"

Shadow Minister for Police, David Southwick, said: "Victoria is the wild west of Australia. It is a free for all because of the Allan Labor Government's failure to protect the community with tougher laws and proper funding for enforcement.

"People are living in fear. They are being attacked with machetes at shopping centres and having their cars stolen, sometimes with their children inside the vehicles."



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Charlton 100 Years Ago



• Egan and Spain's fashion display.

(Information from "East Charlton Tribune")

September 5 to 9, 1925.

Trotting Track Accident: While Mr "Mick" Scandolera, the popular trotting owner, was exercising a horse belonging to Mr Mart Fanning at the local track, the animal fell and Mr Scandolera was rendered unconscious for a number of hours. We are pleased to be able to announce he is now out of danger.

The Dance of the Season: The annual Catholic Ball held in St Joseph's hall was assuredly the ball of the season. The attendance was large, over 300 being present. Together with local people, parties of visitors from districts near and far, added to the gaiety of the occasion. The hall presented a wonderful spectacle, and one wondered on entering if it were fairyland. The decorative scheme was gold and blue. For the supper the guests were seated at tables laden with a plentiful supply. The guests partook of a "right Royal spread." The gorgeous colourings of the frocks blended with the darker shades of the gentlemen's clothing in harmonious contrast.

Granite Flat: The hare shoot at Granite Flat was very successful, about 170 hares and one fox being shot. On some squares, hares were very numerous, and good shooting was enjoyed by the 21 shooters who took part. Ray Owen, 21; Les Owen, 17; and H. Bish, 13; were amongst the best bags. A call of 2/- per shooter, and land owner, whose land was shot over, was made, the money to be equally divided between the local cricket and tennis clubs.

Agricultural Society: A meeting of the Agricultural Society was held in the Mechanics' Hall. Those present were: Messrs S. Wood (president), G. M. Bennett (vice-president), R. M. Klunder (treasurer), J. Nolan, F. Edwards, J. Wright, C. Storey, W. McGuffie, J. S. Bennett (secretary), H. E. Wood, A. R. Blackwood, F. Judd, G. Cox, T. R. Edyvean, W. Cossar, J. Peverill, S. Perry and G. Parish. In the Yard Committee's report, mention was made of the arrangements made for the erection of the special marquee for the school exhibits, as last year the shed used for this purpose was badly congested. Special trains will, as usual, be run from Sea Lake and Bendigo.

Brownies and Cubs' Concert: The concert display and operetta (The Fairy Chain) given by the Scouts, Cubs and Brownies, in the Victoria Hall was an extremely enjoyable and successful entertainment. The Brownies were dressed in their new brown and gold uniforms. A series of displays, morse and semaphore signalling, sending and receiving messages, quarterstaff drill, etc, was interspersed with several ably-rendered songs and a Scout play entitled "Won Over". Scoutmaster Grinham, on behalf of the scouts, presented a gold Scout Thanks badge to the Rev. A. E. Freeman, Chaplain, for his efforts in establishing the troop in Charlton. The gross takings for the concert, sale of sweets and programmes was approximately £30.

Fashion's Latest: At Wm Wylie's showrooms, most comprehensive arrangements have been made for the display of the new season's goods. The latest fashions in dresses, hosiery, handkerchiefs, boots and shoes will be shown.

Spring Fashions and Styles: With the spring comes the desire to dress and look well. Messrs Egan and Spain are showing a large and varied assortment of new season's goods. Ladies are specially catered for in the way of fashions, materials, dresses, millinery and footwear.

Little But Big: At the little shop for big bargains, R. J. Tippet has a spring display of all the latest styles in millinery, dresses, gloves, hosiery and all the odds and ends that delight the feminine heart. In material and design the new season's goods are calculated to please the most fastidious.

COMMUNITY UPDATE Buloke.

HAVE YOUR SAY – SEA LAKE RECREATION MASTER PLAN

The future of recreation in Sea Lake is in your hands and we want to hear from you! Council is supporting the Sea Lake community to help shape the future of sport and recreation through the development of a new Sea Lake Recreation Master Plan. Council wants to hear about your ideas and feedback that reflect local recreational needs and priorities, including opportunities for informal recreation and leisure activities will help guide this important work.

The Master Plan will guide future investment and development of sport and recreation facilities in Sea Lake. Council is working with Otium Planning Group and local stakeholders to ensure the plan is community-informed and future-focused.

Community Drop-In Sessions – Monday, 15 September 2025

- 2:30pm–4:00pm – Sea Lake Foodworks
- 4:30pm–6:00pm – Former Sea Lake Visitor Information Centre

Can't make it? An online survey is available. Visit Council's Have Your Say page for more details: www.buloke.vic.gov.au

STORYTIME ADVENTURES AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Join us for a magical morning of book reading and creative activities.

These sessions are perfect for little ones and their grown-ups. Whether you're a regular or visiting for the first time at our libraries, we'd love to see you there for a fun and educational morning focused on healthy smiles and healthy food! We have a special visitor from East Wimmera Health Service.

- Charlton at St Joseph's School - Thursday, 11 September 2025, from 9.30am to 11.00am.
- Birchip at IHOM - Friday, 12 September 2025, from 10.00am to 12.00pm.

BABY & CHILD FIRST AID PLUS CPR

Empower yourself with the skills to respond confidently in an emergency.

Learn life-saving skills for babies and children, including CPR, burns, choking, head injuries, poisoning, bites and more! Plus, hear from the CFA on fire safety.

- Birchip Recreational Reserve - Tuesday, 9 September 2025, from 1:00pm–3:00pm
- Donald Recreational Reserve - Wednesday, 10 September 2025, from 9:00am–11am
- Charlton Park - Wednesday, 10 September 2025, from 1:00–3:00pm

Children welcome to attend. Non-accredited course.

Bookings essential – spots are limited!

Visit www.thesisterhoodproject.com.au or phone 5478 0185 for more information.

BULOKE YOUTH FEST FAMILY FUN

Come along and celebrate with us—there's something for everyone!

From games and laughter to a cozy movie night under the stars, it's the perfect way to spend time together. Get ready for an unforgettable afternoon of fun for the whole family!

- Carnival-style games and activities
- Food and refreshments
- Family-friendly movie on the BIG screen

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

Where: Charlton Park

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

Supported by Victorian Youth Fest, National Centre for Farmer Health and the Victorian Government.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH BULOKE

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

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

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

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.

HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

☐ NEVER LEAVE COOKING UNATTENDED

☐ TURN OFF THE HEATER BEFORE BED

☐ NEVER OVERLOAD POWERBOARDS

☐ CHECK SMOKE ALARMS MONTHLY

☐ CLEAN CHIMNEYS AND FLUES YEARLY

☐ TURN OFF ELECTRIC BLANKET BEFORE BED

☐ CLEAN THE LINT FILTER OF YOUR CLOTHES DRYER AFTER EACH LOAD

AND MORE!

FIND OUT MORE AT CFA.VIC.GOV.AU/HOMEFIRE



BULOKE
SHIRE COUNCIL



BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL

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

North-Central Garden Club Supports Gardening Projects

The North Central Garden Club donated \$400 to a beautification project in Charlton, and also donated the same amount of money to Wycheproof, as there are seven active members in Wycheproof from the Garden Club.

This money was donated to the Wycheproof Historical Society, its project being beautification at the former Wycheproof Court House. For the creation of two flower beds, plants were purchased from Amy's Buds and Blooms nursery.

The Historical Society of Wycheproof thanks the North Central Garden Club for the generosity.



• Thanks to a \$400 donation from the North Central Garden Club, the former courthouse yard at Wycheproof has been revamped, with plants from Amy's Buds and Blooms Nursery.



• Lorraine Milburn prepares the second flower bed in readiness for new plants to go in.



• Lorraine Milburn (left) and Amy Turnbull hard at work digging holes for the new plants.



• The second flower bed in the former courthouse yards, revamped using donated funds from the North Central Garden Club.

Blast from the Past

(From the "Donald Times", September 1 to 11, 1925)

September 1 Valedictory. Mr. and Mrs. G. Pickering Snr. were recently made the recipients of a handsome silver tea service and an oak server, the presentation taking place at the residence of their son-in-law Mr. Thos. Blair. The guests of the evening are amongst the earliest pioneers of Watchem and helped to "blaze the trail" for the younger generation, recently retiring to live in Maryborough. Cr. H. Woods made the presentation, stressing the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Pickering in times of sickness and necessity. Most of their family were, he said, now married and settled in the district, and it was only on account of medical advice to the effect that a change of scene and climate was necessary, that Mrs. Pickering had to sever her connection with the district. The function was a very pleasant one, a large number of old friends being present. Messrs. John and Robert Blair and Mr. P. Connellan supported Cr. Wood's valedictory remarks, to which Mr. Pickering feelingly responded on behalf of his wife and himself. The hearty singing of "For They Are Jolly Good Fellows" brought the gathering to a close.

September 4. Donald Police

Court. (Before Messrs. A. Hepworth and W.G. Pearse, J's P.) William Small was proceeded against for failing to send a child to school for the required number of days during the week ending July 25. A fine of 10/- was imposed. On Thursday, August 27, Snr. Constable Gibson proceeded against the same defendant on a similar charge respecting the week ending June 29. A fine of 10/- was also imposed.

September 8. High Tea Function at Cope Cope. In connection with the Presbyterian Church, Cope Cope, a High Tea was held in the Public Hall on Wednesday, September 2. Tea was on the tables at 5.30 p.m. and it was well after 7.30 p.m. before the hall could be cleared for the concert which was to follow. The board fairly groaned beneath the weight of the good things which the ladies had provided, and each and every one was satisfied that the high standard of efficiency set by the Cope Cope ladies in the cooking line had been more than maintained. Among the visitors were Rev. McCoy and Mrs. McCoy who, owing to a previous engagement, were unable to remain to hear the concert. At the latter function the minister, Rev K. C.

Billinge, occupied the chair. The following splendid programme was rendered, each artist being encored, and the following items being rendered; Song, Mr. Swaby; Song, Miss Lyndon; Recitation, Mr. Sluggett; Song, Miss England; Song, Mr. H. Bath; Recitation, Ms. Bennet; Song, Miss Gladys Pope; Duet, Miss Langdon and Mr. Bath; Song, Mr. Adams; Recitation, Miss Bandy; Song, Miss Griffin; Humorous Sketches, Messrs. Bennet and Dunstan; Bruce Wilkins and Mrs. Swaby acted as accompanists. The officers of the church wish to convey their heartfelt thanks to all who, in any way, assisted to make the entertainment the success it was. The financial result was most satisfactory as it is expected that the funds will benefit to the extent of about £40.

September 11. Freezing Works Open. Killing operations at the Donald Freezing Works commenced yesterday, ten butchers occupying the board. A total of 826 lambs were slaughtered, among them being the show lambs exhibited by Messrs. W. Sproat, J. Hepworth and J. Barker. The pen of five lambs, sent in by Mr. Sproat averaged nearly 53 lbs. Additional butchers are arriving shortly.

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A Message on Driveway Measurements

[From CFA]

Fire trucks are large, heavy vehicles that need to quickly locate and access properties and water.

You can help us to help you by ensuring your gates and driveways are wide enough for a fire truck to fit through, and its doors to be opened safely.

Driveways that are longer than 30 metres:

If the driveway from the road to the building or static water supply, including gates, bridges and culverts, is longer than 30 metres, your driveway surfaces need to be 3.5 metres wide, plus another 0.5 metre on either side of the driveway clear of obstructions, such as gate posts, bushes and other structures.

It also needs to be clear of obstructions for 4 metres

above.

The driveway surface should be of all-weather construction with a load limit of at least 15 tonnes.

Driveways that are longer than 100 metres:

If your driveway or road is longer than 100 metres, you need to provide a place where fire trucks can turn around.

This could be a turning circle with a radius of at least 8 metres, or it could be a T- or Y-shaped turning area. The road must be at least 4 metres wide and the arms of the T or the Y must measure at least 8 metres from the centre of the intersection, as shown in the diagram. A compliant drive-

way that goes completely around the building would likely be suitable.

Driveways that are longer than 200 metres:

On longer driveways, vehicles including fire trucks may need to pass each other. If your driveway is longer than 200 metres and less than 6 metres wide it needs passing bays. Passing bays at least 6m wide and 20m long should be provided at minimum every 200 metres.

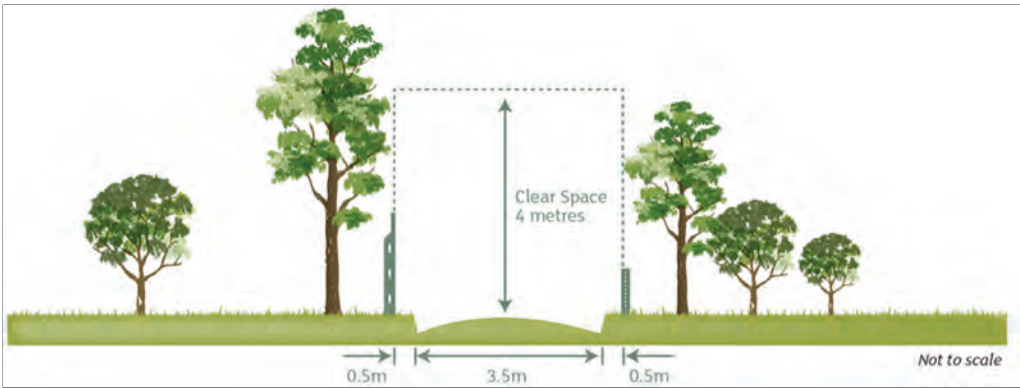
Urban Street Access

In urban areas, narrow streets can make it difficult for fire trucks and emergency vehicles to access homes quickly – especially during a fire. To ensure access to properties and fire hydrants is always available:

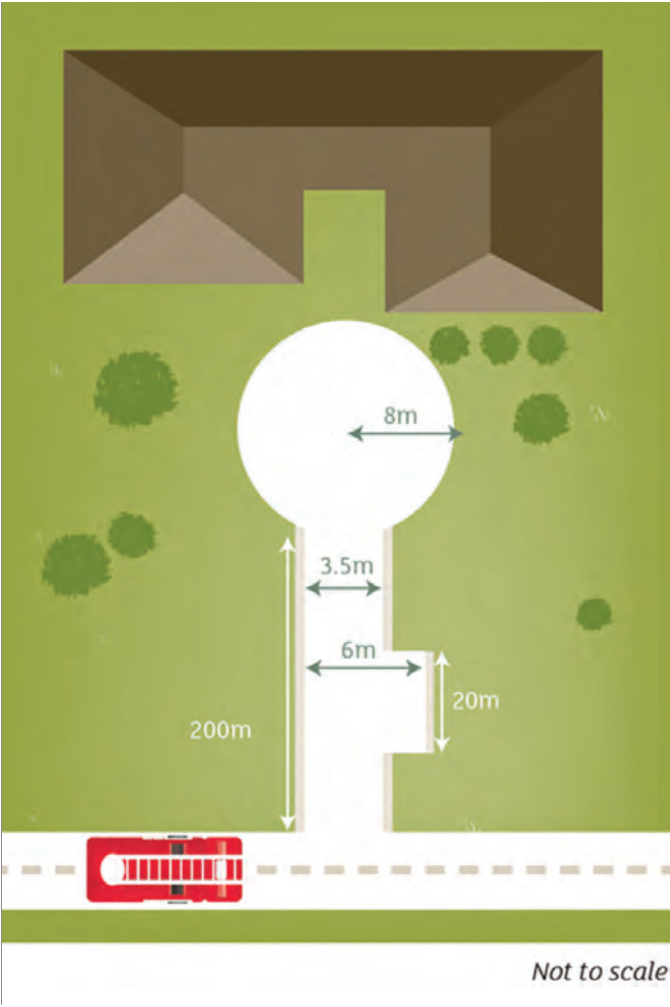
- Try to leave about 4 metres clearance between parked cars on either side of the road.
- Be mindful when parking opposite other vehicles, particularly on tight roads. Blocking access could delay emergency services – putting lives and property at risk.
- Consider parking on the same side of the road as other parked cars, leaving one side clear.



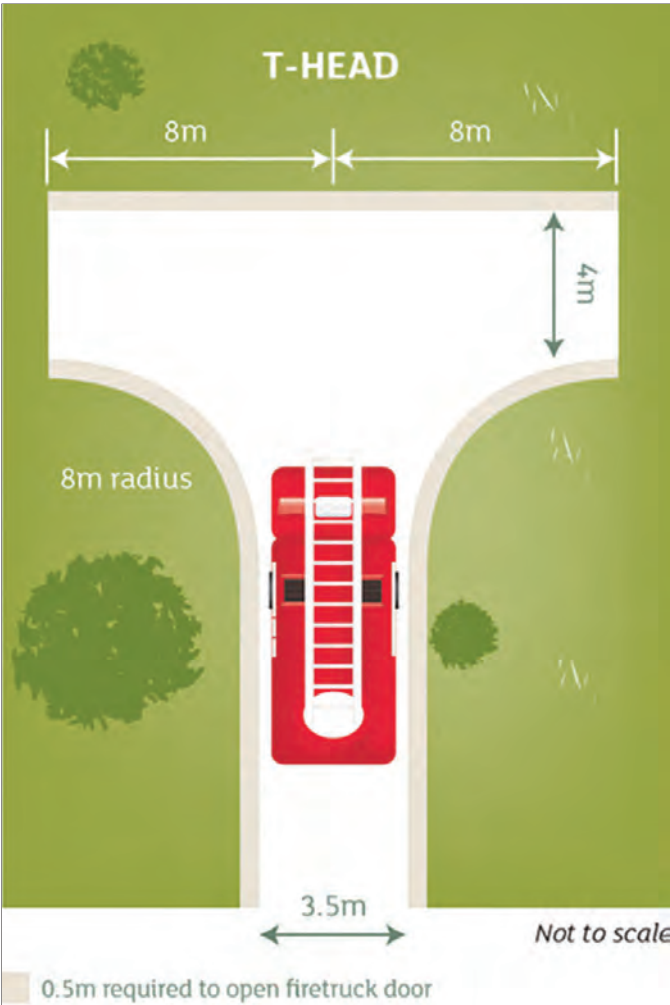
• In urban areas, narrow streets can make it difficult for fire trucks and emergency vehicles to access homes quickly.



• Driveways that are longer than 30 metres.



• Driveways longer than 200 metres.



• Driveways longer than 100 metres.

One Hundred Years Ago

From the “Birchip Advertiser”, September 4, 1925.

Railway Commissioners Visit

The Railway Commissioners passed through Birchip on Aug 25, on their annual tour of inspection. Crs. Lockwood, R. J. Barber and the Shire secretary (Mr. Lester) waited on the commissioners regarding the short stay of the early morning express for refreshments. Cr. Lockwood said the train only stopped for 7 minutes, which was not sufficient time for travellers to obtain refreshments. Mr. Clapp, the chief Commissioner, in a very curt reply said the stop at Birchip could not be lengthened, as it was not practicable. Mr. Lester remarked that numbers of travellers often failed to get served. Mr. Clapp said he could not help that, as 2 a.m. was not a regular time for refreshments.

Golf Ball

The eagerly awaited and much talked about Golf Ball was a brilliant success. The attendance was easily the largest on record, about 250 dancers being present in addition to a very large number of spectators who filled the stage to overflowing.

The hall was beautifully decorated for the occasion by the ladies committee under the direction of Mrs. Caldwell.

From a large inverted dome-shaped centrepiece, decorated in the colours of the club and suspended from the ceiling by multicoloured streamers arranged in web-like fashion and extended to the furthest corners of hall, shone a fairylight of festooned lights.

Baskets of flowers were placed in every corner of the hall and were also set in relief on the surrounding walls. The stage was set apart for the on-lookers, and was tastefully arranged as a lounge.

The orchestra was seated behind a trellis of streamers and discoursed excellent music under the direction of Mr. Dance.

A feature of the evening was the appearance of a bevy of debutantes who were chaperoned by Mr. C. J. O'Donnell. Their introduction to the guests took the form of a walt cotillion, which was gracefully danced by eight young ladies and their partners.

The supper room was temptingly arranged by the ladies committee, a special table being apart for the debutantes.

The secretarial arrangements were in the hands of Mr. G. Rumble, who was to be congratulated on the unparalleled success of the Golf Club's chief social function. During the evening, the prizes won during the tournament were presented for the successful competitors by Messrs. Crombie, Hannah and Steedman. Most of the tournament trophies were generally donated by club members and business people in the town.

The debutantes, Misses Midgely, Minyip, Landrigan, Ouyen, N. Sheean, Wyche-proof, I. Sheean, K. Sheean, N. Bricket, K. Ryan, and N. Connelly, were daintily frocked in white and each carried muffs of pink georgette, trimmed with white floral sprays.

Golf Tournament

The Birchip Golf Club annual tournament extended over three days concluded on Saturday last.

The entry for all events was very large, and players attended from Melbourne, Mildura, Maryborough, St Arnaud, Bealiba, Minyip, Warracknabeal, Hopetoun, Beulah, Rainbow, Wyche-proof and neighbouring towns.

The weather during the three days was perfect for golf and visitors expressed their highest appreciation of the work done by the committee and secretary in having brought the arrangements to such a high state of efficiency.

The onerous secretarial were carried out by Mr. R. Dean and it is due to his untiring efforts that the tournament went with a swing from start to finish.

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea were provided on the three days by the ladies committee, ably supported by a band of willing helpers and their untiring and valued assistance is much appreciated by the executive.

The Club Championship and the Open Championship were won by Mr. K. H. Crombie with a score of 100.

The Ladies Open Championship was won by Miss A. Midgely (Minyip), the Birchip ladies Championship Mrs. R. C. Hannah. Mr. F. fielding (Rainbow) won the coveted V. G. A. Medal.

In winning the Mixed Foursomes Mr. L. Barber and Mrs. Hutchinson created a

course record of the first nine holes, one stroke under bogey.

Mr. J. O'Donnell whose handicap was twice reduced during the tournament annexed two events, and obtained second place in two others.

Birchip won the Men's Teams Match, Mildura second, Minyip third.

The Ladies Cup was won by the Minyip team.

Birchip Gun Club

The Sparrow championship of the North West was held on the club grounds on Wednesday, August 28th, in ideal weather.

Notwithstanding the fact that the football premiership was held on the same day there was a field of 38 for the main event. The championship gold medal and £20 attached went to the secretary of the Boort Club, H. Wilson, who shot his 15 birds without a miss. The following then shot on for the second and third money: L. Waters, S. McCredden, S.A. Reseigh, Bertoli, and T. W. E. Bertoli dropped out on the last round. McCredden on the 17th, Reseigh on the 21st, T. W. E. and Waters then shot out, the former gaining second with 22 out of 23. L. Waters, third with a score of 21 out of 23.

The refereeing was carried out by Mr. A. O'Donnell, the luncheon supplied was unsurpassed and the club's thanks are herewith tendered to Mrs. McIntosh and her co-workers for the excellent results achieved.

CFA Celebrates Youth Fest

September not only marks the start of spring, it also marks Youth Fest, an annual celebration that champions young people and amplifies their voices.

CFA’s youngest first lieutenant, Brodie Hanks, is one of the many youths CFA is celebrating this youth fest.

The now 18-year-old Brodie joined Jancourt Fire Brigade when he was 16, signing up on his birthday, unable to wait any longer.

“I was elected to the role of first lieutenant in July when I was 17, and I am working hard to pursue becoming a career firefighter,” he said.

“CFA has given me a place to explore something I am passionate about, as well as giving me lifelong friends and skills.”

Grampians Fires

Brodie has been on multiple strike teams and was even deployed to the Grampians fires earlier this year to assist with community engagement.

“I loved being able to reassure and help those people who were going through a really stressful time,” he said.

Closer to home, Brodie attends all the call-outs he can, not missing one in his first year of being a volunteer.

“It is nice to be able to be there for your community in those moments,” he said.

“Occasionally I have had to put my gear on over my school uniform, but I just love it.”

Brodie said being part of CFA is a great opportunity for all young people.

“Everyone gets around each other, it is such a supportive environment, it looks great on a resume, and you have a lot of fun,” he said.

In the state’s south east, young people recently gathered at the Victorian Emergency Management Training Centre (VEMTC) to participate in a training day specifically for them.

Throughout the session participants took part in activities to improve their leadership and radio skills, they learned to use thermal imaging

cameras in search and rescue, had a chance to try breathing apparatus gear, and took part in a live fire drill.

“Sense of Self”

Sam Galvin from Gembrook Fire Brigade said they loved being a part of CFA and believed it was a great place to develop a sense of self as a young person.

“It is such an important opportunity that CFA has created for us,” Sam said.

“It is a chance to develop our skills as young people, to network and to build our confidence for our role in the future of CFA.”

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said CFA welcomed all young people and Youth Fest was a great chance to celebrate the wonderful contribution they make.

“CFA is full of incredible youth that bring enthusiasm and new perspectives to their brigades,” he said.

“I believe we offer a place where the youth in our communities are valued and supported to use their voices.

The Future of CFA

“They are the future of CFA and our aim is to empower them to take on any role and give them as many opportunities as we can.”

To be an active member of CFA you must be 16 years old; however, to find out about options for those aged 11-15 please visit: www.cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteers-careers/volunteer-with-cfa/junior-volunteers



• Youths engaged in live fire training.



• Participants even got to try out the breathing apparatus gear!



• Brodie Hanks.



• Many of the CFA youths who came to participate in the training at CFA’s Youth Fest.

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Don’t Let Mould and Mildew Get on Top of You

During the cooler months of the year, when homes are shut up for longer periods of time, mould and mildew can become a real problem. Dampness and poor ventilation is one of the primary causes of mould and mildew to grow.

Bathrooms, laundries, kitchens, closets, dresser drawers and book shelves are the most likely places for mould and mildew to be found. A greasy film build-up on kitchen walls and badly vented bathrooms will create the perfect atmosphere for those unsightly looking spores to spread. However, natural solutions are very effective in controlling this problem, but they should be done in conjunction with other preventive measures.

Most important, try to control areas of dampness around the house. Ensure that under-house areas are adequately vent-

tilated, replace cracked and defective mortar, and make sure that outside drainage is adequate. In crawl spaces under the house, spread a layer of moisture barrier material over the soil.

Clear away overhanging trees, creepers and shrubs from around the home, and check for leaking pipes or taps. Next, search out hidden areas inside of your home, such as the tops of blinds, pelmets, high windowsills and doorjambes for dust. These areas make an ideal growing area, as dust and mould tend to live together.

Solutions

When you have given your home the once over, you can then try the following solutions to solve any mould and mildew problems you may have.

You can get rid of dampness in the house by turning on a heater for a short time, then opening doors and windows to let out the moisture laden air. In bathrooms, kitchens and laundries, install effective ventilation, such as exhaust fans, if you haven’t already done so.

To dry the air in closets and other small storage areas burn an old-fashion, low wattage electric light bulb continuously until all signs of dampness have gone. The heat generated will be sufficient, provided the area is not too large. Keep clothing and other items away from the bulb to prevent the possibility of a fire hazard, and install some form of permanent ventilation to prevent the problem from reoccurring.

Mould that forms on walls, tiles and ceilings can usually be removed with bicarbonate of soda, vinegar and hot water. Mix a quantity of bicarbonate of soda in hot water and apply this solution to the affected areas with a clean cloth. Rinse off with another clean cloth and hot water, then apply a solution of vinegar and hot water with a third cloth. Rinse off with a fourth cloth and hot water, remembering to keep the rinsing cloths in separate buckets.

Shower curtains, which are most commonly affected by mildew, can be cleaned by scrubbing with white vinegar. For really bad mildew stains wash in hot soapy water, rub lemon juice over the stains and leave to dry in the sun.



• Alan Hayes

problem, but it is still essential to control moisture, ventilate your home well, and clean affected areas promptly.

Visit Alan on the Net - www.itssonatural.com

YOUR THREE-DAY TV GUIDE

Tuesday

ABC (2) 6:00 News Breakfast 9:00 ABC News 10:00 Australian Story 10:30 Planet America 11:05 Growing Up Jewish 12:00 ABC News 1:00 I, Jack Wright (M I, v) 1:55 The Piano (PG) 2:55 Anh's Brush With Fame (PG) 3:25 Grand Designs (PG) 4:10 Long Lost Family (PG) 5:00 Antiques Roadshow 6:00 Spicks And Specks (PG) 6:30 Hard Quiz (PG) 7:00 ABC News 7:30 7.30 (PG) 8:00 Foreign Correspondent 8:30 Take 5 With Zan Rowe (M I) 9:00 Midnight Oil (M I) 10:45 ABC Late News	SBS (3) 5:00 Worldwatch 9:00 Short History Of The English Garden 10:00 Curious Traveller 10:55 Rome - Rise Of Empire (PG) 12:00 Worldwatch 2:00 World's Most Scenic River Journeys (PG) 2:55 Garage Dreams (PG) 3:25 Plat Du Tour 3:35 The Cook Up With Adam Liaw (PG) 4:05 Every Family Has A Secret (PG) 5:05 Jeopardy! (PG) 5:30 Letters And Numbers 6:00 Mastermind Australia (PG) 6:30 SBS World News 7:30 Great Continental Railway Journeys (PG) 8:30 Insight (PG)	PRIME (6) 6:00 Sunrise 9:00 The Morning Show (PG) 12:00 Seven Noon News 1:00 TBA 2:35 Motorbike Cops (PG) 3:00 The Chase UK (PG) 4:00 Seven News At 4 5:00 The Chase Australia (PG) 6:00 Seven News 7:00 Home And Away (PG) 7:30 My Kitchen Rules (PG) 9:00 Grosse Pointe Garden Society (M s) 10:00 The Agenda Setters 11:00 TikTok - Murder Gone Viral: The Killing Of Sania Khan (M v) 12:00 Fairly Legal (PG) 2:00 Home Shopping 4:00 NBC Today	NINE (8) 6:00 Today 9:00 Today Extra (PG) 11:30 NINE News Morning 12:00 The Block (PG) 1:15 Getaway (PG) 1:45 The Garden Gurus Moments 2:00 Pointless (PG) 3:00 Tipping Point (PG) 4:00 NINE News Afternoon 4:30 Tipping Point Australia (PG) 5:30 WIN News 6:00 NINE News 7:00 A Current Affair (PG) 7:30 The Block (PG) 8:40 Paramedics (M) 9:40 Footy Classified (M I) 10:40 NINE News Late 11:10 La Brea (M v) 12:00 Tipping Point (PG) 1:00 Let's Eat With George 1:30 Home Shopping	TEN (5) 8:00 The Bold & The Beautiful (PG) 8:30 Deal Or No Deal (PG) 9:00 Lingo (PG) 10:00 Judge Judy (PG) 10:30 The Amazing Race Australia Celebrity (PG) 12:00 Everyday Gourmet 12:30 Family Feud (PG) 1:00 10 News: Lunchtime 2:00 Wheel Of Fortune 2:30 Lingo (PG) 3:30 10 News: Afternoon 4:00 Neighbours (PG) 4:30 The Bold & The Beautiful (PG) 5:00 10 News 6:00 10 News Plus 7:00 Deal Or No Deal (PG) 7:30 The Amazing Race Australia Celebrity (PG) 9:00 The Cheap Seats (M I)
ABC ENTERTAINS (23) 3:35 Richard Osman's House Of Games 4:05 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 4:40 MythBusters (PG) 5:30 George Clarke's Old House New Home (PG) 6:15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent Specials 7:05 Richard Osman's House Of Games	SBS VICE (31) 4:05 France 24 International News 4:35 PBS News Hour 5:35 The Fast History Of (PG) 6:00 The Food That Built The World (PG) 6:50 Jeopardy! 7:40 NITV News Update 7:45 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown (M) 8:45 Howards (M)	7TWO (62) 1:00 Escape To The Country 2:00 Creek To Coast 2:30 Impossible Builds (PG) 3:30 Harry's Practice 4:00 RSPCA Animal Rescue 4:30 Better Homes And Gardens 5:30 Escape To The Country 6:30 Bargain Hunt 7:30 Call The Midwife (PG)	GEM (81) 12:00 Death In Paradise (M) 1:00 Shakespeare & Hathaway (M v) 3:00 Antiques Roadshow 3:30 Movie: "We Joined The Navy" (G) (62) Stars: Kenneth More 5:30 Yorkshire Auction House 6:30 Antiques Roadshow 7:30 New Tricks (M I, s, v) 8:40 Agatha Raisin (PG)	10 COMEDY (52) 2:00 Becker (PG) 2:30 Frasier (PG) 3:30 Ghosts (PG) 4:00 Everyday Gourmet With Justine Schofield 4:30 The King Of Queens (PG) 5:00 Becker (PG) 5:30 Frasier (PG) 6:30 Neighbours (PG) 7:00 Friends (PG) 8:00 The Big Bang Theory (PG)
ABC FAMILY (22) 3:30 Ready, Steady, Wiggle! 4:00 Play School Science Time 4:25 Mecha Builders 5:00 Peppa Pig 5:35 Peter Rabbit 6:10 PJ Masks Power Heroes 6:30 The Adventures Of Paddington 7:00 Supertato 7:35 Star Wars: Young Jedi Adventures	SBS MOVIES (32) 2:55 Movie: "The Secret Garden" (PG) (20) Stars: Dixie Egerickx 4:45 Movie: "All Quiet On The Western Front" (PG) (79) Stars: Richard Thomas 7:30 Movie: "Barry Lyndon" (M s, v) (75) Stars: Ryan O'Neal	7MATE (63) 2:00 Outback Crystal Hunters (PG) 3:00 Aussie Gold Hunters (PG) 4:00 Swamp People (PG) 5:00 American Restoration (PG) 5:30 Storage Wars (PG) 6:00 American Pickers (PG) 7:00 The Agenda Setters 8:00 Outback Truckers (PG) 10:00 Outback Pilots (PG)	GO! (82) 12:00 Movie: "Nanny Dearest" (M v) (23) Stars: Liz Fenning 1:50 The Golden Girls (PG) 2:20 The Nanny (PG) 3:20 Seinfeld (PG) 4:30 The Addams Family 5:00 Bewitched 5:30 I Dream Of Jeannie 6:00 The Golden Girls (PG) 6:30 The Nanny (PG) 7:30 Seinfeld (PG)	10 DRAMA (53) 10:00 JAG (PG) 12:00 Days Of Our Lives (PG) 12:45 The Young And The Restless (PG) 1:30 FBI International (M v) 2:30 JAG (PG) 4:30 The Living Room (PG) 5:30 JAG (PG) 7:30 NCIS (M v) 9:25 Blue Bloods (M v) 12:15 FBI International (M v)

Wednesday

ABC (2) 6:00 News Breakfast 9:00 ABC News 10:00 Four Corners 11:00 Antiques Roadshow 12:00 ABC News 12:30 National Press Club Address 1:35 Media Watch 1:55 The Piano (PG) 2:55 Anh's Brush With Fame (PG) 3:25 Grand Designs (PG) 4:15 Long Lost Family (PG) 5:00 Antiques Roadshow 6:00 Spicks And Specks (PG) 6:30 Hard Quiz (PG) 7:00 ABC News 7:30 7.30 (PG) 8:00 Hard Quiz (PG) 8:30 Shaun Micallef's Eve Of Destruction (PG) 9:10 Would I Lie To You? (PG)	SBS (3) 5:00 Worldwatch 7:00 Cycling: Highlights 8:00 Worldwatch 8:50 Football: FIFA CONMEBOL Qualifiers: Ecuador v Argentina "Live" 11:00 Worldwatch 11:25 Always Listening (M) 12:00 Worldwatch 2:00 Dateline (PG) 2:30 Insight (PG) 3:30 Plat Du Tour 3:35 The Cook Up With Adam Liaw (PG) 4:05 Jeopardy! (PG) 4:30 Letters And Numbers 5:00 Cycling: Highlights 6:00 Mastermind Australia (PG) 6:30 SBS World News 7:30 James May - Our Man In India (PG) 8:30 DNA Journey (M)	PRIME (6) 6:00 Sunrise 9:00 The Morning Show (PG) 12:00 Seven Noon News 1:00 TBA 2:30 Border Security - International (PG) 3:00 The Chase UK (PG) 4:00 Seven News At 4 5:00 The Chase Australia (PG) 6:00 Seven News 7:00 Home And Away (PG) 7:30 The 1% Club UK (PG) 8:30 The Front Bar (M I) 9:30 Unfiltered (PG) 10:15 Surveillance Oz - Dashcam (PG) 11:15 Chicago Fire (M v) 12:15 Imposters (M I, s, v) 1:15 Travel Oz (PG) 2:00 Home Shopping 4:00 NBC Today	NINE (8) 6:00 Today 9:00 Today Extra (PG) 11:30 NINE News Morning 12:00 The Block (PG) 1:00 Paramedics (M) 2:00 Pointless (PG) 3:00 Tipping Point (PG) 4:00 NINE News Afternoon 4:30 Tipping Point Australia (PG) 5:30 WIN News 6:00 NINE News 7:00 A Current Affair (PG) 7:30 The Block (PG) 8:40 Clarkson's Farm (M I) 9:50 The Grand Tour (MA15+) 11:20 NINE News Late 11:50 Damian Lewis - Spy Wars (M v) 12:40 Tipping Point (PG) 1:30 Home Shopping	TEN (5) 8:30 Deal Or No Deal (PG) 9:00 Lingo (PG) 10:00 Judge Judy (PG) 10:30 The Amazing Race Australia Celebrity (PG) 12:00 Everyday Gourmet 12:30 Family Feud (PG) 1:00 10 News: Lunchtime 2:00 Wheel Of Fortune 2:30 Lingo (PG) 3:30 10 News: Afternoon 4:00 Neighbours (PG) 4:30 The Bold & The Beautiful (PG) 5:00 10 News 6:00 10 News Plus 7:00 Deal Or No Deal (PG) 7:30 The Amazing Race Australia Celebrity (PG) 8:40 Gordon Ramsay's Secret Service (PG)
ABC ENTERTAINS (23) 3:35 Richard Osman's House Of Games 4:05 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 4:40 MythBusters (PG) 5:30 George Clarke's Old House New Home (PG) 6:15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent Specials 7:05 Richard Osman's House Of Games	SBS VICE (31) 3:25 BBC News At Ten 3:55 France 24 International News 4:25 PBS News Hour 5:25 The Fast History Of (PG) 5:50 The Food That Built The World (PG) 6:40 Jeopardy! 7:30 NITV News Update 7:35 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown (M I, s)	7TWO (62) 1:00 Escape To The Country 2:00 Sydney Weekender 2:30 The Yorkshire Vet (PG) 3:30 Harry's Practice 4:00 RSPCA Animal Rescue 4:30 Better Homes And Gardens 5:30 Escape To The Country 6:30 Bargain Hunt 7:30 Heartbeat (PG) 8:45 Lewis (M v)	GEM (81) 12:00 New Tricks (M I, s, v) 1:00 Signora Volpe (M I, v) 3:00 Antiques Roadshow 3:30 Movie: "Billy Liar" (PG) (63) Stars: Tom Courtenay 5:30 Yorkshire Auction House 6:30 Antiques Roadshow 7:30 As Time Goes By (PG) 8:40 Midsomer Murders (M v)	10 COMEDY (52) 2:00 Becker (PG) 2:30 Frasier (PG) 3:30 Ghosts (PG) 4:00 Everyday Gourmet With Justine Schofield 4:30 The King Of Queens (PG) 5:00 Becker (PG) 5:30 Frasier (PG) 6:30 Neighbours (PG) 7:00 Friends (PG) 8:00 The Big Bang Theory (PG)
ABC FAMILY (22) 3:30 Ready, Steady, Wiggle! 4:00 Play School Science Time 4:25 Mecha Builders 5:00 Peppa Pig 5:35 Peter Rabbit 6:00 Octonauts - Above And Beyond 6:30 The Adventures Of Paddington 7:05 Piripenguins	SBS MOVIES (32) 3:45 Movie: "Bring It On" (PG) (00) Stars: Kirsten Dunst 5:35 Movie: "The Last Wave" (M) (77) Stars: Richard Chamberlain 7:30 Movie: "Death In Brunswick" (M I, s, v) (90) 9:30 Movie: "A Righteous Man" (AKA "Lansky") (M) (21)	7MATE (63) 2:00 Outback Truckers (PG) 4:00 Swamp People (PG) 5:00 American Restoration (PG) 5:30 Storage Wars (PG) 6:00 American Pickers (PG) 7:00 Pawn Stars (PG) 7:30 Highway Patrol (PG) 8:30 The Force - Behind The Line (PG) 9:30 Caught On Dashcam (M I)	GO! (82) 12:10 Movie: "Tempting Fate" (M) (19) Stars: Alyssa Milano 2:00 The Golden Girls (PG) 2:30 The Nanny (PG) 3:30 Seinfeld (PG) 4:30 The Addams Family 5:00 Bewitched 5:30 I Dream Of Jeannie 6:00 The Golden Girls (PG) 6:30 The Nanny (PG) 7:30 Seinfeld (PG)	10 DRAMA (53) 10:00 JAG (PG) 12:00 Days Of Our Lives (PG) 12:45 The Young And The Restless (PG) 1:30 FBI International (PG) 2:30 JAG (PG) 4:30 The Living Room (PG) 5:30 JAG (PG) 7:30 NCIS (M v) 10:20 FBI International (PG) 10:55 Seal Team (M)

Thursday

ABC (2) 6:00 News Breakfast 9:00 ABC News 10:00 Foreign Correspondent 10:30 Back Roads (PG) 11:00 Shaun Micallef's Eve Of Destruction (PG) 11:35 If You're Listening 12:00 ABC News 1:00 Silent Witness (PG) 1:55 The Piano (PG) 2:55 Anh's Brush With Fame (PG) 3:25 Grand Designs (PG) 4:15 Long Lost Family (PG) 5:00 Antiques Roadshow 6:00 Spicks And Specks (PG) 6:30 Hard Quiz (PG) 7:00 ABC News 7:30 7.30 (PG) 8:00 Back Roads (PG) 8:30 Grand Designs NZ (PG)	SBS (3) 5:00 Worldwatch 7:00 Cycling: Highlights 8:00 Worldwatch 10:00 Curious Traveller 11:00 World's Most Amazing Festivals (PG) 11:30 This Man's Worth (M) 12:00 Worldwatch 2:00 World's Most Scenic River Journeys (PG) 2:55 Garage Dreams (PG) 3:25 Plat Du Tour 3:35 The Cook Up With Adam Liaw (PG) 4:05 Jeopardy! (PG) 4:30 Letters And Numbers 5:00 Cycling: Highlights 6:00 Mastermind Australia (PG) 6:30 SBS World News 7:30 9/11 - One Day In America	PRIME (6) 6:00 Sunrise 9:00 The Morning Show (PG) 12:00 Seven Noon News 1:00 Movie: "Killer Secrets In The Snow" (AKA "Secrets In The Snow") (M v) (20) Stars: Aubrey Reynolds 3:00 The Chase UK (PG) 4:00 Seven News At 4 5:00 The Chase Australia (PG) 6:00 Seven News 7:00 Home And Away (PG) 8:30 Clarkson's Who Wants To Be A Millionaire UK (PG) 9:30 Why Trains Crash (PG) 10:40 What The Killer Did Next (M v) 11:40 Kick Ons 12:10 Life (M) 1:10 Travel Oz (PG) 2:00 Home Shopping	NINE (8) 6:00 Today 9:00 Today Extra (PG) 11:30 NINE News Morning 12:00 The Block (PG) 1:00 Space Invaders (PG) 2:00 Pointless (PG) 3:00 Tipping Point (PG) 4:00 NINE News Afternoon 4:30 Tipping Point Australia (PG) 5:30 WIN News 6:00 NINE News 7:00 A Current Affair (PG) 7:30 RBT (M I) 8:30 Emergency (M) 9:30 RPA (PG) 10:30 NINE News Late 11:00 Chicago Med (MA15+) 11:50 Tipping Point (PG) 12:40 Pointless (PG) 1:30 Home Shopping	TEN (5) 8:00 The Bold & The Beautiful (PG) 8:30 Deal Or No Deal (PG) 9:00 Lingo (PG) 10:00 Entertainment Tonight 10:20 The Amazing Race Australia Celebrity (PG) 11:30 Judge Judy (PG) 12:00 Everyday Gourmet 12:30 Family Feud (PG) 1:00 10 News: Lunchtime 2:00 Wheel Of Fortune 2:30 Lingo (PG) 3:30 10 News: Afternoon 4:00 Neighbours (PG) 4:30 The Bold & The Beautiful (PG) 5:00 10 News 6:00 10 News Plus 7:00 Deal Or No Deal (PG) 7:30 Gogglebox Australia (PG)
ABC ENTERTAINS (23) 3:35 Richard Osman's House Of Games 4:05 QI (PG) 4:40 MythBusters (PG) 5:30 George Clarke's Old House New Home (PG) 6:15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent 7:05 Richard Osman's House Of Games 7:35 QI (PG)	SBS VICE (31) 3:00 Insight 4:00 NITV News Update 4:05 BBC News At Ten 4:35 France 24 International News 5:05 PBS News Hour 6:05 Over The Black Dot 6:35 Jeopardy! 7:25 NITV News Update 7:30 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown (M I, s)	7TWO (62) 1:00 Escape To The Country 2:00 South Aussie With Cosi (PG) 2:30 Air Crash Investigations (PG) 3:30 Harry's Practice 4:00 RSPCA Animal Rescue 4:30 Better Homes And Gardens 5:30 Escape To The Country 6:30 Bargain Hunt 7:30 Father Brown (M)	GEM (81) 12:00 Midsomer Murders (PG) 2:00 As Time Goes By (PG) 3:10 Antiques Roadshow 3:40 Movie: "The Constant Husband" (G) (55) Stars: Rex Harrison 5:30 Yorkshire Auction House 6:30 Antiques Roadshow 7:30 NRL Women's: Roosters v Sharks "Live"	10 COMEDY (52) 2:00 Becker (PG) 2:30 Frasier (PG) 3:30 Ghosts (PG) 4:00 Everyday Gourmet With Justine Schofield 4:30 The King Of Queens (PG) 5:00 Becker (PG) 5:30 Frasier (PG) 6:30 Neighbours (PG) 7:00 Friends (PG) 8:00 The Big Bang Theory (PG)
ABC FAMILY (22) 3:30 Ready, Steady, Wiggle! 4:00 Play School Science Time 4:25 Mecha Builders 5:00 Peppa Pig 5:35 Peter Rabbit 6:00 Octonauts - Above And Beyond 6:30 The Adventures Of Paddington 7:00 Supertato	SBS MOVIES (32) 4:55 The Movie Show (PG) 5:30 Movie: "Queen Bees" (MA15+) (21) Stars: Ellen Burstyn 7:25 Movie: "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" (PG) (88) Stars: Steve Martin 9:30 Movie: "Goodfellas" (MA15+) (90) Stars: Ray Liotta	7MATE (63) 2:00 Highway Patrol (PG) 3:00 Talking W (PG) 3:30 The Force - Behind The Line (PG) 4:00 Swamp People (PG) 5:00 American Restoration (PG) 5:30 Storage Wars (PG) 6:00 American Pickers (PG) 7:00 Pawn Stars (PG) 7:30 Family Guy 8:30 American Dad (M)	GO! (82) 12:10 Movie: "Pool Boy Nightmares" (M v) (20) Stars: Jessica Morris 2:00 The Golden Girls (PG) 2:30 The Nanny (PG) 3:30 Seinfeld (PG) 4:30 The Addams Family 5:00 Bewitched 5:30 I Dream Of Jeannie 6:00 The Golden Girls (PG) 6:30 The Nanny (PG) 7:30 Seinfeld (PG)	10 DRAMA (53) 10:00 JAG (PG) 12:00 Days Of Our Lives (PG) 12:45 The Young And The Restless (PG) 1:30 FBI International (PG) 2:30 JAG (PG) 4:30 The Living Room (PG) 5:30 JAG (PG) 7:30 NCIS (M v) 10:20 FBI International (PG) 11:15 CSI: Vegas (M v)



At BCG's Main Field Day: Dig into Soil Challenges and Solutions for Growers

Farmers and advisors attending BCG's Main Field Day on Wednesday September 10 at Birchip will have the chance to step into a 20-metre-long soil pit to see first-hand what lies beneath their crops and how it impacts production.

BCG Senior Scientist Dr James Nuttall will lead the discussion, drawing on his extensive research into subsoil constraints, water movement and crop responses in Mallee farming systems.

Soils across the Wimmera and Mallee are typically alkaline, with subsoils often containing chemical and physical barriers such as salinity, boron, sodicity and compaction. These features can limit soil water movement and how far crop roots penetrate, reducing their ability to chase water deeper in the profile. As a result, growers are considering management practices such as deep ripping to address compaction and improve root access to moisture, though this can carry risks in alkaline soils where subsoil constraints may be brought closer to the root zone. The result can be water

sitting unused below the root zone – while crops above may be under stress.

“Wheat, barley, canola and pulses all have different rooting depths and tolerances to subsoil constraints,” Dr Nuttall explained. “If roots can’t access water and nutrients due to chemical toxicity or physical barriers, yield potential is lost – even if the water is there.”

At the Birchip soil pit, Dr Nuttall will walk growers through the typical characteristics of alkaline soils in the region, explain how subsoil properties affect the movement and storage of water, and show what soil water is currently available in the pit and what crops are using. He will also explore whether management of subsoil constraints can improve root growth and crop access to water, and highlight how

building well-structured soils can boost resilience and sustain production in dry seasons.

“Every millimetre of crop water use is valuable in our environment,” Dr Nuttall said. “Understanding how soil and roots interact is an important step in managing for efficient use of water in the system and improving the resilience of our cropping systems.”

The soil pit session will be one of the highlights of a full program at BCG's Main Field Day, bringing together growers, researchers, and advisors to share the latest knowledge and strategies to drive farm productivity and profitability.

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.



• Farmers will hear from BCG's Dr James Nuttall about managing soil water and subsoil constraints at BCG's Main Field Day on 10 September. Photo: BCG 2003

MLA's Combined LAMBPLAN: Genetic Evaluation for Sheep

Sheep Genetics, operated by Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) is releasing the new combined LAMBPLAN research analysis available from August 27.

This world-first, landmark advancement further reinforces Australia's status as a world leader in livestock genetic evaluation by significantly expanding and enhancing the multibreed capabilities of Sheep Genetics.

For the first time, producers will be able to directly compare the genetic merit of all maternal and terminal breeds (excluding Merinos and Dohnes) within a single, unified evaluation. Merino types will continue to be assessed through the MERINOSELECT analysis.

MLA's Sheep Genetics Manager, Peta Bradley, said the new evaluation reflects both industry progress in improving genetics of the flock and producer demand for greater clarity and consistency in genetic benchmarking.

“This is about delivering value to producers,” Ms Bradley said. “Combined LAMBPLAN is a game-changer for sheep producers. It simplifies genetic evaluation and gives breeders and commercial producers the ability to make more informed decisions across a wider range of production systems.”

“What makes this truly significant is that it enables producers to benchmark animals across breeds with greater accuracy and confidence, helping them select genetics that best suit their business goals, regardless of breed type.”

“The improved multibreed evaluation will support better benchmarking and selection, ultimately driving productivity and profitability on-farm and strengthening the competitiveness of the Australian sheep industry as a whole.”

The ability to have direct comparison of all terminal and maternal breeds, will pave the way for future com-

mercial tools such as flock profile for more breeds following its success for Merinos to date.

Each animal will receive one set of Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs), fully comparable across breeds, simplifying selection decisions and improving benchmarking accuracy.

“This new analysis and the subsequent tools that the enhancements provide are a prime example of our investment towards delivering on MLA's bold ambition to establish world leading multibreed evaluations that enable livestock to be described throughout the supply chain,” Ms Bradley said.

The combined LAMBPLAN analysis was developed by the University of New England's Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit (AGBU) and will be released initially as a research analysis for carcase, growth and eating quality traits from August 27.

Over the next 12 months additional trait groups will be added these include reproduction, worm egg count and lambing ease.

“Once all trait groups have been released the old terminal and maternal analyses will be decommissioned and be fully replaced by the combined LAMBPLAN analysis,” Ms Bradley said.

“It will be the one-stop shop for genetic benchmarking and evaluation of terminal and maternal breeds.”

“To prepare for the release of Combined LAMBPLAN, producers are encouraged to set clear breeding objectives and identify traits that are most important to their business,” Ms Bradley said.

Benchmarking current flock performance is critical, and re-benchmarking with the new percentile bands will ensure



• MLA's Sheep Genetics Manager, Peta Bradley.

alignment with the updated evaluation.”

To assist producers with the transition to the analysis Sheep Genetics has prepared a comprehensive package of videos and resources available on the Sheep Genetics website. For more information on Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) producers can register for a BredWell FedWell workshop in their area.

“The ability to combine Maternal and Terminal breeds into a single evaluation has been made possible through a series of strategic investments over the past decade,” Ms Bradley said.

“These include the foundational work of the Information Nucleus Flock under the Sheep CRC, the development and expansion of the MLA Resource Flock, the redevelopment of the Sheep Genetics Database, and MLA's continued long-term investment into the Sheep Genetics evaluations.”

These initiatives have laid the groundwork for a more robust, inclusive, and commercially relevant genetic evaluation system.

For more information and to access the resources, visit: www.sheepgenetics.org.au.

Prevention is Key: Vaccinate

(By Dr Jeff Cave, Agriculture Victoria Senior Veterinary Officer)

If you keep a calendar with key farm management dates, “vaccinate stock” could be a key entry at this time of year. But why, it's an annual vaccination after all, isn't it?

First, with abundant spring growth, losses due to enterotoxaemia, also known as pulpy kidney, become a distinct possibility.

Second, a feature of the enterotoxaemia vaccine is the duration of immunity it provides may be quite short. It may only give 3 or 4 months of protection. Therefore, a booster dose should be given before a high-risk period, i.e. before the beginning of spring.

Young stock in good condition, up to 2 years of age, are most affected by enterotoxaemia; however, deaths in older stock may also occur. Enterotoxaemia is caused by a toxin produced by Clostridium bacteria, which is found in the bowel of normal, healthy cattle and sheep.

Enterotoxaemia occurs when a large amount of readily fermentable feed is present in the gut, leading to the rapid



multiplication of bacteria and a lethal level of toxin production.

Due to the rapid progression of the disease, an animal affected by enterotoxaemia will typically be found dead in the paddock. On post-mortem, rapid decomposition of the carcass is seen.

Little can be done to treat an animal affected by enterotoxaemia; therefore, the emphasis should be on prevention. The key to prevention is to ensure all livestock are adequately protected through vaccination.

As with any vaccination program, adult cows and ewes should be vaccinated approximately 1 month before giving birth to give their calves and lambs maternal or passive immunity through colostrum.

Passive immunity typically lasts approximately 6 weeks; after this period, calves and lambs require vaccination to gain active immunity. This is achieved by giving 2 injections at least 4 weeks apart.

Hopefully, all producers will benefit from the upcoming spring conditions without being troubled by the problems they may bring.

For further advice, please contact your local veterinarian, Agriculture Victoria veterinary or animal health officer.

What's On

BCG Main Field Day – Birchip

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/>

GRDC Harvester Set Up Workshop – Horsham

When: September 23, 2025, at 9 a.m. and ending at 3 p.m.

Local growers, farm employees, advisors and industry are invited to join us for a free harvester workshop to share practices and hear from the experts on harvest loss reduction, harvest weed seed control and prevention of harvester fires.

Where: 907 Obrees Road, Vectis, VIC 3401.

Price: Free. Contact: Grace Hosking (04) 6751 8441 or email grace.hosking@bcg.org.au

Register: www.bcg.org.au/event/harvester-setup-clinic/

Primary Students “Glow in the Dark”

Birchip P-12 School’s VCE Vocational Major (VM) students have been making a meaningful impact on school life throughout the year, and their latest project was one to remember, hosting a “Glow in the Dark” primary school disco.

The event, held in the school stadium, was eagerly anticipated by the younger

students, who embraced the chance to dress up and dance the night away. Thanks to

community-donated disco lights and a sparkling mirror ball, the venue was transformed into a magical space. As children arrived, they were welcomed with glow sticks of all shapes and colours, as well as drinks and snacks to keep their energy high.

The senior VM students ran the night with great enthusiasm, showing impressive leadership and care. They organised games and competitions with prizes, encouraged participation on the dance floor, and made sure every child had a memorable time. The sight of senior students dancing alongside their younger peers created a genuine cross-age experience that highlighted the strength of the school community.

Supervising teacher Alison McCowan praised her students for their efforts.

“I was so proud of the way the class planned and ran the event,” she said.

“The turnout was fantastic, and the younger students were



• Hannah Wilson has two students ready for their dance off competition.

so excited to get on the dance floor. It was a real celebration of leadership and teamwork.”

This disco is just one of many initiatives VM students have delivered this year, from healthy lunch days prepared in the food room to car washing services. Each project demonstrates the real-world, hands-on approach of the VM program.

The VCE Vocational Major is a two-year program designed for students who prefer a practical style of learning. It combines academic study with vocational education and training (VET), helping students build skills in teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. For many, it also offers a pathway directly into the workforce without requiring an ATAR.



Events like the disco, not only enrich the school culture, but also showcase the high standard of leadership and initiative among Birchip P-12’s senior students.



• Birchip P 12 Disco Glow in the dark.

The Ettamogah Pub Mob

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www.ettamogah.com



“Excuse me fer bein’ in such a desperit. Flamin’ hurry gents ... but th’ pub shuts in ten minits!”

Hockey Association's Awards Night

On Monday, September 1, the North Central Hockey Association gathered to celebrate the 2025 season.

In attendance were NCHA Life Members, Simone Christie, Michelle Hargreaves and Angela Poxon, and NCNA president, Kim Fitzpatrick and myriad players from all clubs. Hosted by the Donald Hockey Club in the Blue Room, the evening was deliciously catered by the Donald P&A Society, with long tables enabling plenty of catching up between friends and clubs.

The night opened with president Janelle Barbary acknowledging the incredible efforts of players, coaches, volunteers, and families across the season. She also took a moment to reflect on the loss of treasured life member Kathy Hose, whose passing was deeply felt across the association. Kathy's contribution to hockey and to the North Central community was both profound and enduring and she is greatly missed.

The association celebrated individual achievements beyond the local competition, with Bridie Reid recognised by Hockey Victoria as Up and Coming Umpire, and Kate Gifford honoured as Community Coach of the Year after the 2024 season wound up. North Central also applauded the growth of the competition, now boasting over 650 participants, with newly minted Calder United Lions joining the fold and Wedderburn entering an under-12 and men's team after a few years hiatus. Entries into JCC and SCC, as well as numerous state and Junior State Championships representatives, once again showed the strength of the association and hockey in the area.

Special thanks were extended to the club presidents for helping shape flexible competition formats that keep the game thriving, and to the executive (Padraic Eccles, Julie Bourke, Candace Jay and Angela Poxon) for their ongoing support.

Award Winners
Underage B&F Boys: Murphy Fitzpatrick, Charlton.
Underage B&F Girls: Amali Fitzpatrick, Charlton.
Women's B&F: Brylea Knight, St Arnaud.

Runner-up: Elise Fitzpatrick: Charlton.
Men's B&F: Lincoln Westerland, Donald.
Runner-up: Jacob Moresi, Calder United Lions.
Junior Goalkeeper of the Year: Millie Pink, Boort.
Trainee Umpire of the Year: Emily Henderson, Boort.
Junior NCHA Champion: Frances McClelland, Birchip-Watchem.

Senior NCHA Champion: Candace Jay, Donald.

Teams of the Year
Always one of the most exciting moments of the evening, the Teams of the Year were unveiled, awarding the standout players across the association as voted by club leadership.

Women's Team of the Year
• Defenders: Nicola Kirk, Brylea Knight, Sophie Male (Goalkeeper), Lauren Hawkes (Donald), Brooke Thompson (Charlton).
• Midfielders: Georgia Douglas (St Arnaud), Emma Green (St Arnaud), Hannah Werner (Donald).
• Attackers: Elise Fitzpatrick (Charlton), Sarah Botheras (Calder United), Chelsea Challis-Broad (C) (Boort).
• Interchange: Chelsea Giorlando (Wedderburn), Ella Lanyon, Shelby Giorlando (Wedderburn), Kate Gifford (Calder United),
• Coach: Lauren Hawkes (Donald).
• Umpire: Henry Bouchier.

Men's Team of the Year
• Defenders: Blake Slatter (Boort), Padraic Eccles (Calder United), Jeremy Watson (Goalkeeper), Alexander Bouchier (C) (Donald).
• Midfielders: Henry Bouchier (Donald), Marcus Williamson (Calder United), Jacob Moresi (Calder United).
• Attackers: Luke Slatter (Boort), Thomas Watts (Saints), Glenn Pearce (Donald).
• Interchange: Harold Malone (Boort), Benjamin Greenaway (St Arnaud), Edward Parry (St Arnaud).
• Coach: Steve Giorlando (Wedderburn).

• Umpire: Kathy Durie.
The awards night was also an opportunity to reflect on a milestone: 60 years of North Central Hockey, with many clubs having already marked the occasion with their own celebrations, an extensive slide show scrolled on the big screen throughout the evening and small display of nostalgic photos were on show in the photo room.

Congratulations to all award winners, and to each club on another successful year of hockey.



• Underage Girls Amali Fitzpatrick.



• Men's B&F Lincoln Westerland.



• Underage Boys B&F Murphy Fitzpatrick.



• Women's Team of the Year: from left, Lauren Hawkes (Donald), Sarah Botheras (Calder United), Brylea Knight (St Arnaud), Chelsea Giorlando (Wedderburn), Elise Fitzpatrick (Charlton), Sophie Male (St Arnaud), Hannah Werner (Donald), Brooke Thompson (Charlton), Georgia Douglas (St Arnaud), and Henry Bouchier (umpire).



• Men's Team of the Year: from left, Ben Greenaway (St Arnaud), Alex Bouchier (Donald), Thomas Watts (St Arnaud), Glenn Pearce (Donald), Blake Slatter (Boort), Harry Malone (Boort), Lincoln Westerland (Donald), Edward Parry (St Arnaud), Jeremy Watson (SLNT), Henry Bouchier (Donald), Kathy Durie (umpire) and Padriac Eccles (Calder United).



• Women's best and fairest Elise Fitzpatrick (left, runner-up) and Brylea Knight.

Croquet Competitors Converge on Charlton

The annual Murray Valley Golf Croquet Tournament was held at Charlton Croquet Club on August 30 and 31, 2025, attracting 30 entries from 13 clubs: Ballarat West, Boort, Castlemaine, Colac, Eastern Park, Horsham, Maldon, Mildura, Quarry Hill, Sale, Swan Hill, Wangaratta, and Williamstown.

Despite cold, wet, and windy conditions on Friday, two lawns were set up on the bowling greens, and some dedicated players braved the weather for a practice session. Play commenced at 8:00 a.m. Saturday with 7 rounds

scheduled, but with smooth progress and games running ahead of time, players voted to add the 8th round, enabling an earlier finish on Sunday afternoon. In Section 1 going into the last round Andy Barbero

(Wangaratta) and Richard Parks (Williamstown – last year’s winner) were undefeated. Andy defeated Richard to take the Section 1 Shield, remaining undefeated. In Section 2 Alister McDougal (Boort) dominated the field, finishing undefeated with 7 wins. Gary Dykes (Maldon) was runner-up with 5 wins. Section 3 played in two blocks, followed by cross-block knockout finals. Lois Munro (Swan Hill) emerged as

the winner, defeating Karen Davidson (Mildura) in the final. Lois won a total of 6 games and Karen won 5 games. Special thanks to the Bowling Club for the use of their greens. Special thanks also to North Central Financial Services for sponsoring the tournament. Much gratitude goes to Leanne from Travellers’ Rest for donating the raffle prize – won by a delighted Lorraine Powell (Mildura).



• Left to right: Richard Parks, Karen Davidson, Andy Barbero, Alister McDougal, Lois Munro, Gary Dykes.

August Historial Enquiries

[From Donald and District Archives]

Lauren Marie Sherson (nee Reilly/Rielly) called in to the archives and wanted information on her ancestor William Leslie Pellow Reilly/Rielly. He was a worker at the flour mill when he married Elizabeth Harwood in 1920 and later became an engine driver with the railways and then a carrier. The most interesting entry from his “Donald Times” file was that his “lorry was used to take two obstreperous men to prison”.

Charles Green, grandson of H.A “Andy” Green called at the archives, delivering many interesting photographs and information. His mother died when he and his brother were young and they were virtually brought up by their Green grandparents. This meant lots of visits to the Litchfield Greens and the forming of a bond with Allan Green and his sons. Charles is a very enthusiastic family history researcher. One photo that he brought was of the 1945 Donald Football team, which was defeated by Wooroonook in the first semi-final of that year. There was no other photo of this team in our collection. Charles obtained it from Stuart Dunn’s daughter, and it is more than likely that her father was the cameraman. We have been able to name all of the men in the team and have found the front page write up of the match. Since then we have been told that Stephen Boyle, grandson of the 1945 Donald football Coach, F.M. Boyle, had recently written to the Football Club offering them a framed canvas with the football ground drawn out and showing the names of all of the players, in their positions, that he had coached during the year. (Stuart Dunn was amongst them.) The framed canvas was presented to F.M. Boyle in appreciation for his coaching efforts. This 80 year old story will be told in full in the “Buloke Times” sometime over the next few weeks.

Mark Boyd Graham emailed requesting information on his ancestors, John Graham and Louisa Robey, who married at “Richardson River” in 1852. This was too early for our records so we were unable to help.

Phillip Williams and his wife visited the archives to ask about his ancestors, Rowe and Nell Basset. He will return in a few weeks and is interested in driving past their house, now owned and lived in by Debbie and Robert Adams.

Goldacres North-Central Football League Preliminary Final Results

Gate at St Arnaud \$18,335

GOLDACRES SENIORS

BIRCHIP-WATCHEM...	2.6	5.10	8.13	8.17	(65)
SEA LAKE-NANDALY.	1.0	3. 4	6. 5	8. 7	(55)

Goals for Birchip-Watchem: Lachy Foott 2, Tom Gibson 2, Daniel Bell, Jacob Christie, Ben Edwards.
For Sea Lake-Nandaly: Joshua Jenkins 3, Bryce Delmenico 2, Max Cahoon, Tyson McKenzie, Ryan O’Sullivan.
Best for Birchip-Watchem: Ben Hogan, Ben Lakin, Meyrick Buchanan, Dale Hinkley, Harry Cook, Hamish Hosking.
For Sea Lake-Nandaly: Austin Mertz, Billy Mcinnes, Bryce Delmenico, Kane Donnan, Trent Donnan, Max Cahoon.

HAEUSLER’S RESERVES

BIRCHIP-WATCHEM...	2.2	4.4	6.4	9. 8	(62)
BOORT	1.3	1.4	3.7	4.10	(34)

Goals for Birchip-Watchem: Matthew Berry 2, Bodie Colbert, Ty Colbert, Riley Doran, Callum Goode, Connor Lee, Stefan Pye, Joseph Reid.
For Boort: Jack Baker, Willem Toose, Harry Weaver.
Best for Birchip-Watchem: Stefan Pye, Riley Hogan Jr, Ben Edelsten, Connor Lee, James Lindeback.
For Boort: Cameron Ross, Max Beattie, Jack Baker, Angus Trethowan, Angus Potter, Fraser Millar.

COMMUNITY BANK CHARLTON & DISTRICT UNDER-SEVENTEENS

BOORT	0.2	1.4	2.5	6.8	(44)
ST ARNAUD	1.3	4.5	4.8	5.9	(39)

Goals for Boort: Finlay Arnold 2, Owen Byrne, Cooper Gooding, Brodie McPherson, Darby Perryman.
For St Arnaud: Bob Donald 2, Chad Hendy 2, Declan Kay.
Best for Boort: Jake O’Flaherty, Cooper Gooding, Luke Boyd, Seth Muller, Riley Wagner, Brodie McPherson.
For St Arnaud: Ethan Hilton, William Thomas, Aidan Wickham, Frankie Donald, Chad Hendy, Chase Zander.

UNITING CHURCH UNDER-FOURTEENS

BOORT	2.1	3.1	5.4	8.7	(55)
SEA LAKE-NANDALY.	0.0	1.2	2.3	4.3	(27)

Goals for Boort: Seth Muller 3, Liam King 2, Connor McNally 2, Tyler Stringer.
For Sea Lake-Nandaly: Riley Allan 2, Henry Cox, Hamish Landry.
Best for Boort: Seth Muller, Archer Lee, Connor McNally, Jed Perryman, Tristan Broad, Liam King.
For Sea Lake-Nandaly: Henry Cox, Harry Wight, Riley Allan, Finn Austerberry, Jack Hodgson, Tom McClelland.

HOCKEY

Women: Calder United 2 d. Wedderburn 1.
Men: St Arnaud 3 d. Donald 2.
Underage: St Arnaud 4 d. Donald 1.
Under-12: Birchip-Watchem 1 d. Charlton 0.

NETBALL

“A” grade: Sea Lake-Nandaly 31 d. Boort 30.
“B” grade: Calder United 46 d. Birchip-Watchem 28.
“C” grade: Wedderburn 47 d. Boort 44.
“C” grade reserves: Calder United 45 d. Sea Lake-Nan 44.
Under-17 “A”: Birchip-Watchem 69 d. Boort 22.
Under-14 “A”:Donald 19 d. Birchip-Watchem 13.
Under-14 “B”: Birchip-Watchem 18 d. Boort 15.

NEXT ROUND

Saturday, September 13 – Grand Finals @ Wedderburn

Seniors: Calder United v. Birchip-Watchem
Under-17s: Sea Lake-Nandaly v. Boort

“A” Grade: Wedderburn v. Sea Lake-Nandaly
“C” Grade: Calder United v. Wedderburn
17-&-Under: Calder United v. Birchip-Watchem
14-&-Under “B”: St Arnaud v. Birchip-Watchem

Women: St Arnaud v. Calder United
Underage: Charlton v. St Arnaud

Reserves: Calder United v. Birchip-Watchem
Under-14s: St Arnaud v Boort

“B” Grade: Wedderburn v. Calder United
“C” Reserve: Boort v. Calder United
14-&-Under “A”: Boort v. Donald

Men: Calder United v. St Arnaud
Under-12: Calder United v. Birchip-Watchem

Good Luck to all teams competing in the Grand Finals of the North-Central football, netball and hockey.

From the staff at the “Buloke Times”.



• Lachy Foott celebrates a goal in the first quarter. (Photo Blake Lee.)



• Angus Butterfield attempts to defend the kick to the Tigers' Bryce Delmenico. (Photo Blake Lee.)



• Daniel Bell attempts to take a hanger on Jack Poulton. (Photo Blake Lee.)

Pressure Bulls Tame Tigers – and Off to the Big Dance

• Continued from page 16.
seemed to have the necessary responses.

Connick preached pressure, maintain the rage, Delmenico pleaded for risk, they had to take the game on, unfortunately for him and their supporter base, key play-maker McKenzie had gone for the day with a shoulder injury late in the third quarter, his explosiveness across the park had been key to lifting them back into the match, for he just has an ability to break open the contest and is so difficult to contain.

Bulls heeded the coach's message, continuing to lock down, tackle after tackle, youngster Harry Cook, back in the side returning from a short injury layoff, from nowhere pounced on a couple of Tigers with the poise and unwavering glare of a panther. Tigers still desperate, those Donnan boys just don't know how to die, the ball back and forth between the arcs, neither side able to gain scoreboard pressure. The Bulls' inaccuracy continued, Edwards inexplicably missed two set shots in a row; he never does that, but he had found himself in the contest at least.

Tiger pedigreed youngster Cruz O'Sullivan, he the son of Ryan, I cannot recall a father/son ever playing in

North-Central senior ranks, just a remarkable genetic feat at any level, Cruz still eligible for the under-17s had become noticeable running up and down the wing, his jet speed off the mark impressive and he very nearly slotted a majestic running angle goal grabbing the ball across half forward, the ball sliding ever so close across the face to the relief of Bulls' supporters. The Bulls had wrenched back control of the ball possessions through sheer hard work but still couldn't put the Tigers away, their inaccuracy upfront hurting.

Jenkins, Tom Hawkins-like with sheer strength, tore it out from the boundary throw-in close to goal and hooked his kick through the big sticks. Tigers alive, barely 2 goals in it and still at least 15 minutes to play. These two sides just don't know how to dish up a poor contest; edge of your seat stuff, no place for the faint-hearted, the big crowd getting their money's worth.

The Bulls wrenched back control of the ball possessions through sheer hard work but still couldn't put the Tigers away, their inaccuracy upfront hurting, the clock ticking down but the margin still within reach if the Tigers were good enough. Ryan O'-

Sullivan whose indefatigable star may just be starting to wane, but hell, he's had some career, showed what a warrior he is, bobbed up crucially with a mark deep in the forward pocket and coolly slotted the goal; 23 minutes down on the clock, Tigers under 2 goals, legend Leigh Matthews rule in play, a goal a minute required but possible, according to Lethal.

The Bulls weren't letting it happen, they had come too far in 2025 to let this one slip, unfinished business to take care of, desperate to have another crack at the Calder combine and they duly maintained their desperation to lock down the contest. Siren sounded, Bulls home by a 10-point margin in another classic Tiger/Bulls match; it's been some rivalry established since the Tigers joined North Central just a few years ago.

Hell of a footy club is Sea Lake-Nandaly; the Tigers are multiple flag winners and serial finals performers, they've just fallen short in 2025, key injuries cruelled them a little. Thomas Cox returned Saturday, but was a run short, so they'll be back amongst the leaders in 2026, no doubt. If indeed Sully has played his last game, hats off to an unbelievable career, just simply extraordinary he has been.

The Bulls with their chance to grab the Holy Grail this Saturday, and what a match it promises to be. They'll need to bring the same heat and intensity as they did in this encounter to match it with the Lions, and should they do so, they have a mighty chance.

Both sides have class right across the park, Nick Rippon is a huge in for the Bulls, Jack Exell could be same for Lions, it just should be a match for the ages, you would not want to be anywhere else.

Final scores: Birchip-Watchem 8.17 (65) d. Sea Lake-Nandaly 8.7 (55).

Best players Birchip-Watchem: Ben Hogan, Ben Lakin, Meyrick Buchanan, Dale Hinkley, Harry Cook, Hamish Hosking.

For Sea Lake-Nandaly: Austin Mertz, Billy McInnes, Bryce Delmenico, Kane Donnan, Trent Donnan, Max Cahoon.



• The Tigers' Jai Wright reaches for the Sherrin with the Bulls' Harry Cook and Ben Edwards. (Photo Blake Lee.)



• Wedderburn's Geoff Weston (left) and Owen Bailey (right) hand over the President's Cup to Charlton's Anthony Hargreaves and Trevor McGurk.

Charlton Regains President's Cup

Charlton golfers broke through for a hard fought win to finally wrestle the President's Cup back from arch rival Wedderburn on Saturday.

The Charlton team went into the contest as underdogs, starting without the availability of its president and captain; however, the lower order players were up for the challenge to record a stableford average of 31 points, to defeat the more fancied Wedderburn opponents on 29 points.

Individual good scores came from P. Sanderson, 37 points; R. Weston, C. McHugh, both 36 points; W. Southwell, I. Jenkins, B. Byrne, R. Walklate, J. McLoughlan, all 34 points; A. Tormey, 33 points.

Nearest the pins: 2nd, Christie Fitzpatrick; 7th,

Glenda Bird; 14th, T. McGurk.

Coming up: RSL Diggers' day, Sunday, September 14, from 10 a.m.. Two-person Ambrose, any combination. All proceeds to Bendigo Legacy.



• Tom Gibson, Jack Poulton and Kane Donnan compete for the Sherrin. (Photo Blake Lee.)

Pressure Bulls Tame Tigers – and Off to the Big Dance

(By Chris Lee)

A steely Birchip-Watchem gang tackled their way into next week's grand final defeating a brave Sea Lake-Nandaly by just 10 points in an absorbing low scoring affair on a near perfect football day at St Arnaud's Lord Nelson Park.

In doing so, the Bulls set up a salivating clash next week-end, with newly combined Calder United in what promises to be a match for the ages.

The Bulls and Tigers have delivered some epic contests in recent years and this was yet another in the storied chapter.

The Bulls were never headed once they reeled in the game's first goal by Tiger behemoth Josh Jenkins, but that took them 10 minutes and whilst the 10-point final margin may have been too close for comfort for their fan base, the Bulls were in control for much of the match except for an exciting 10 minute period to open the second half where the Tigers banged on 3 successive goals in 6 minutes to get within a point before the Bulls steadied the ship with remarkable maturity.

Spanked in a lack lustre first quarter opening the previous week, wily coach Ash Connick was never going to let that happen two weeks in a row and the Bulls duly came to play, their intent clear from the first bounce, banging into the Tigers from the opening, setting the standard for the rest of the day and that physicality set up their stoic victory.

It wasn't pretty football, finals footy rarely is; just an intense lockdown, neither side giving an inch, players rarely had space or time, a ball pinged out and then bang, tackle after tackle, umpires doing a terrific job to let the contest be a contest. White hot it was, the Bulls able to

nudge clear slowly but surely, with goals to Jacob Christie and then Daniel Bell on the end of a good chain of play from Sam Simmons who went on to have a good day, much improved from a quiet second semi, through Tom Gibson. But still inaccurate they were, with 6 points on the scoreboard and just the 2 goals, barely enough with the wind advantage blowing their way to the northern end. Whilst they might not have had a significant scoreboard advantage, they were controlling play around the ground.

Big man Hamish Hosking, all 130 kgs of muscle, was too physical for the evergreen indefatigable Ryan O'Sullivan, with the Tigers resorting to having to throw in their own giant Jenkins to counterpunch with Hosking, Jenkins more than able for the task. You could almost hear the ground quake when the two giants rumbled in the middle and the Bulls' midfield advantage from Hosking was nullified, though without Jenkins up front of the big sticks, their forward line became unbalanced. Again Ben Lakin was shining like a beacon down back for the Bulls, second final in a row, obviously a big game player, cucumber cool whenever the ball came his way, able to read the incoming ball a long way out, make the calculated decision to peel away, intercept and then deliver into attack. Oh, he's good.

The Bulls' pressure across the park just continued, relentless attack on the Tiger



• Meyrick Buchanan breaks free from Trent Donnan as Thomas Cox also applies pressure. (Photo Blake Lee.)

ball carrier and the resultant ball came out their way, their forward six just wouldn't let the ball out of the Tigers' defensive zone. Half-back Billy Poulton, who so often is able to find himself loose and under the ball, was being marked closely by the Bulls and wasn't having his usual influence but still they couldn't split the big sticks before Ben Edwards broke the scoring impasse with a striking 50 metre set shot into the face of the breeze ten minutes in. Lachy Foott with a downfield free slotted another and at the 20-minute mark, Meyrick Buchanan, who'd been having a productive day gathering possessions, delivered the Bulls three in a row and suddenly they had all the momentum and out to a 30-point advantage looking the goods.

Good leaders step up in adversity and that's exactly what coach Bryce Delmenico did. He'd been doing his utmost, his physical effort showing clearly as he threw himself with gusto into the midfield cauldron and with a Jenkins tapout from the middle to a running Tyson McKenzie who jiggled and reeled past a couple of Bulls then on to Delmenico, who goaled with an instant reply to Buchanan's. And then not two minutes later Delmenico busted his way to win ball on the half-forward line and slotted a difficult angle shot to give the Tigers a rare sniff; the door slightly ajar at least on the scoreboard, the ballgame back to a 2-goal margin on the half-time siren. Absorbing contest, Bulls clear winning the tackle count, the possession count, the forward fifty entries, but not quite delivering where it was most important, being the scoreboard. They'd had 14 scoring shots to double the Tigers' tally of 7, but were only up by 2 goals and some.

And then the Tigers came, hard, fast and furious, at their



• Josh Jenkins gets his kick away for Sea Lake-Nandaly, despite the tackle by Bulls' Ben Lakin. Others pictured are Lachy McClelland (SLN), Sam Simmons (BW), Bryce Delmenico (SLN), Angus Butterfield (BW).

sublime best. Adam Pattison who'd been quiet upfront was thrown into the ruck, McKenzie somewhat subdued by his illustrious standards, lifted breaking lines motoring through, aided by Donnan gathering midfield possessions, as was Austin Mertz out on a wing. After one set shot miss Max Cahoon, a revelation in 2025, wasn't about to let his next one miss and he duly delivered within a minute. McKenzie was getting more dangerous the longer the game went, winning possessions, roaming across the park slotted another; Tigers with two and only 4 minutes into the second half. Jenkins slammed through their third. In just 6 minutes of play they'd blown away the 17-point Bulls' lead and seemingly with all the momentum.

Until this point neither side could break open the game. It had just been a relentless

lockdown, both backlines on top, Billy McInnes keeping tight tabs on the century goal man Edwards, getting plenty of support from Kane Donnan peeling off and coming over the top to help spoil.

The Bulls, however, weren't about to let their unbeaten home-and-away season be about nothing. Their high intense pressure returned, knuckling down to the task, locking in at the midfield again where the Tigers had got hold of them with the ball coming out too easily. Their backs who had been superb retained their aerial superiority, Lakin, Hinkley, Angus Butterfield, some half-back line it is with Jake Noonan taking Jenkins, either shutting down their opponents and bringing the ball to ground or marking the inward coming ball and repelling it to attack.

Another of their backs, the unsung Ben Hogan, played the game of his life, not a bad

stage to do so, just gathered the possessions mopping up at ground level, locked down on a couple of danger Tiger forwards and then delivered with aplomb. His hit up pass had won the free from a strong tackle on the half forward arc, to Tom Gibson on the other side of the arc, through traffic, pinpoint perfect with Gibson finishing the work with an important goal. Lakin had moments earlier stormed down from half-back to receive a pass on the edge of the square and slot a long bomb which inspired. Bulls up and about, Nick Rippon back in the side after injury being managed, staying forward which had taken playmaker Charlie Cox deep to mind him lurking dangerously, was able to snag another and the Bulls headed to the last break with their 18-point margin back in hand. Whatever the Tigers could throw at them, the Bulls

• Continued on page 15.

GRAND FINALS

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13 AT WEDDERBURN

<p>SENIORS 2:30PM CALDER UNITED V BIRCHIP WATCHEM</p> <p>RESERVES 12:35PM CALDER UNITED V BIRCHIP WATCHEM</p> <p>UNDER 17'S 10:55AM SEA LAKE NANDALY V BOORT</p> <p>UNDER 14'S 9:30AM ST ARNAUD V BOORT</p>	<p>WEDDERBURN V SEA LAKE NANDALY</p> <p>WEDDERBURN V CALDER UNITED</p> <p>CALDER UNITED V WEDDERBURN</p> <p>BOORT V CALDER UNITED</p> <p>ST ARNAUD V BIRCHIP WATCHEM</p> <p>CALDER UNITED V BIRCHIP WATCHEM</p> <p>BOORT V DONALD</p>
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A | 3:30PM

B | 2:00PM

C | 12:30PM

C RES | 11:00AM

14&U 'B' | 9:45AM

17&U | 9:30AM

14&U 'A' | 8:30AM

MENS | 3:15PM

WOMENS | 1:40PM

UNDERAGE | 12:30PM

UNDER 12 | 11:30AM

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